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Cedar Waxwing, photo by Tara Lemezis.

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

A Message from Judith Ramaley, Our New Board President

Let me take the opportunity to introduce myself. I have been a member of Audubon chapters everywhere I have lived. I became involved with Portland Audubon back in the 1990s when I was president of Portland State University. Going on Audubon trips was a welcome time to enjoy the company of others and see new places. When I returned to Portland in 2012, I came back to Portland Audubon as a volunteer.

I am in my second term on the board, and I look forward to serving as president and working with staff, board members, volunteers, and the larger community on our conservation and education goals, always guided by the commitment to being Together for Nature. Our work spans the entire Oregon landscape—urban, rural, and everywhere between—and we serve both the people and the other living beings that share those spaces with us.

Like everyone else, we are experiencing changes and new opportunities. As you'll see in the cover story, Executive Director Nick Hardigg is stepping down after an ambitious and exciting six years of achievements. The board has started the process of conducting a nationwide search for Portland Audubon's next leader. In the meantime, join us in welcoming Paul Lipscomb as Interim Executive Director. Paul has provided interim leadership for many organizations and brings that experience and wisdom to Portland Audubon.

I'm excited for my new role and to be a part of an organization with such a rich history: 119 years and countless achievements for both wildlife and people across the state.

Judith Ramaley, Board President

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Making Way for New Leadership at Portland Audubon

by Nick Hardigg, Executive Director

When I joined Portland Audubon in the spring of 2015,

I was amazed by both its remarkable history and future potential: a hundred-year track record of statewide conservation, a large and active membership, a dedicated volunteer program, and a central role in educating people about nature and supporting the birding community. It has been a joy and a privilege to help expand upon Portland Audubon's great legacy, supporting key investments to make us stronger, increasingly influential, and more expansive and inclusive. Our tagline, "Together for Nature," is both aspirational and becoming reality.

Now, after serving six years as executive director, I have decided to step down and make way for a new leader. Today's challenges require renewed energy and a fresh perspective so we can continue to innovate and grow. Portland Audubon is well positioned to successfully make that change.

When I arrived at our Cornell campus, we set in motion an ambitious five-year strategic plan that embraced a bold new vision for community engagement and

inclusive outdoor education, expanded our statewide presence and communications, and addressed critical needs in staffing and infrastructure, including our first major capital investments in over 25 years. We are nearing completion of that plan, having achieved the following:

- **Building the Marmot Cabin** camp for kids, a remote overnight facility to more affordably connect thousands of youth each year with nature through Outdoor School, overnight camps, and family programs.
- **Adding 22 acres of land** to the Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, stopping a housing development, and securing a land donation valued at over \$14 million.
- **Establishing diversity, equity, and inclusion** as a primary driver of our continued relevance and impact, launching a holistic equity program to evolve our culture, staffing, and programs to be more welcoming to everyone.
- **Rebranding to create a more inclusive and engaging communications program** to connect with new and existing audiences, complete with a new website, logo, Warbler, and other vital tools to bring us all “Together for Nature.”
- **Establishing a year-round presence in Eastern Oregon**, with a focus on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.
- **Achieving countless conservation wins**, from protecting forest, marine, wetland, urban, and sagebrush habitat, to fighting for imperiled species, addressing climate change, and creating more equitable access to nature by funding Outdoor School for every Oregon child.
- **Increasing wages and benefits for staff** to make careers in environmental education and conservation a viable and attractive option for more people.
- **Establishing the Naito Emergency Operating Reserve** to ensure financial stability through challenging times, and helping us to maintain job security through the pandemic.

Six years later, we are a stronger organization and recognize even greater potential for our next chapter. I am confident a new executive director will set an expansive vision for a more inclusive and impactful future, and work in our community to make this a reality. If there is anything I've learned about the Portland Audubon flock, it's that we rise together to achieve our greatest ambitions. I am excited to help this next chapter begin.

Over the next several months, I will focus my energy on the final leg of our strategic plan, which is to fund a revitalization of our campus and a new and expanded Wildlife Care Center—a valuable tool in connecting people with nature. We will have more to share on this exciting project in a special June edition of the Warbler, so stay tuned.

To support the transition during this capital campaign, our board of directors selected Paul Lipscomb as interim executive director as they begin a nationwide search for my successor. Paul comes to us with fifteen years of experience in that role, helping organizations thrive during leadership transitions. While the search takes place, our senior leadership, staff, board, and Paul are poised to carry us forward and continue their critical work in conservation, education, land stewardship, and wildlife rehabilitation.



Highlights from the Last Six Years

Photo captions: 1. Marbled Murrelet in nest; 2. Nick Hardigg and his daughter birding at Sauvie Island; 3. Kehoe ivy-cutting ceremony; 4. Abby VanLeuven, Educator, School & Outdoor Partnerships Specialist, leading an Outdoor School session at Marmot; 5. Marmot Cabin



A NEW MARMOT CABIN FOR YOUTH

In September 2018 we celebrated the completion of Marmot Cabin, a 3,200-square-foot educational camp in Sandy, Oregon. With the new facility, Marmot's capacity tripled, allowing for thousands of kids to experience the magic of the forest. The reimagined cabin allows us to reach more youth from diverse backgrounds and is ADA compliant so that more kids can have access to nature education.



ADDED 22 ACRES OF LAND TO THE PORTLAND AUDUBON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Portland Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the hills of NW Portland and adjacent to Forest Park, grew by 22 acres thanks to a generous gift by Portland businessman Marty Kehoe and his family. The Katherine Lynn Kehoe Sanctuary, previously slated for development and appraised at more than \$14 million, will be restored and protected, adding to the ecological value of our sanctuary and Forest Park.



ADVANCED OUR WORK ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

After passing our 2017 strategic plan, which put diversity, equity, and inclusion as a foundational goal, our staff went through a year-long training with the Center for Equity and Inclusion. We established a staff equity team, provided training for our board, and now continue the process of operationalizing this vital work through all of our programs and departments, as well as through our partnerships with community-based organizations, BIPOC-led organizations, and other systematically marginalized communities.



CONSERVATION WINS AND SUCCESSES

The list of successes is too long to summarize here, but a few highlights include banning wildlife poisons, passing Outdoor School for All, protecting the Elliott State Forest, banning new fossil fuel facilities, expanding our staffing to Eastern Oregon, completing the expansion of the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, helping pass the Portland Clean Energy Initiative, and helping pass the Nature for All Metro Bond Measure. This is in addition to all our work to protect imperiled species like the Marbled Murrelet and sensitive habitat like our old-growth forests and rocky shores.





Dungeness crab in eelgrass, photo by J. Brew.

Help Protect Oregon's Estuaries and Eelgrass

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist and Avian Conservation Manager & Paul Engelmeyer, Tenmile Creek Sanctuary Manager

Oregon's coastline is blessed with 22 major estuaries, from the mighty Columbia River Estuary that separates Washington and Oregon, to the small Winchuck River Estuary near the California border. Where Oregon's forests and rivers meet the ocean, estuaries are the engines that power salmon, waterbirds, Dungeness crab, oysters, cultural resources, and jobs for many walks of life in coastal communities. Estuaries are also key to the calculus of climate change in the region: protecting estuaries helps store greenhouse gases, mitigate ocean acidification, and safeguard coastal communities from increased storms and floods.

Fifteen of Oregon's bays and estuaries are recognized as Important Bird Areas, which are focal areas of conservation importance for bird species. These sites support thousands of migratory shorebird, waterbird, and waterfowl species, including species of concern like the Red Knot, Dunlin, and Black-bellied Plover. As a case in point, the Columbia River Estuary supports more than 20,000 migratory shorebirds of 15 different species every year as a vital staging area. The Yaquina Bay Estuary supports a variety of birds, including significant numbers of Pacific Black Brant, which are highly dependent on eelgrass beds as a food source.

Eelgrass—a marine flowering plant found in bays and estuaries—has particularly high value given the co-benefits this habitat provides for wildlife, people, and the climate. In addition to supporting migratory birds, the benefits of eelgrass include the following:

- **COASTLINE PROTECTION:** With the expected increase in coastal storms, estuarine habitats are key to absorbing wave action and minimizing sediment loss.
- **IMPROVED WATER QUALITY:** Helps purify water by absorbing pollutants and reducing harmful algal blooms.
- **FISH NURSERY:** Provide breeding grounds for commercially important species like salmon, rockfish, and Dungeness crab. This habitat is so important for fisheries that NOAA declared it as Essential Fish Habitat in 1996.
- **BUFFER AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE:** Eelgrass absorbs and stores carbon, acting as a "carbon sink." Eelgrass's carbon sequestration can moderate the impact of ocean acidification that inhibits some marine life, like oysters, to form shells.

Yet eelgrass and other seagrasses are disappearing. Oregon has lost an estimated 24% of estuary habitat since the 1870s. This loss has slowed since the 1970s, but eelgrass in Oregon is still disappearing. Dredging harbors can destroy or degrade eelgrass beds. Pollution, particularly from toxic runoff, can add excess nutrients into the system causing harmful algal growth. Logging releases sediment into estuaries, reducing water quality and damaging eelgrass, and introduction of invasive non-native plants can outcompete eelgrass.

Soon we will have a new opportunity to help provide stronger protections for these special places. The State of Oregon is embarking on an effort to update its estuary management plans in the coming months. The original plans were written in the early 1980s and tend to emphasize development and minimize ecological concerns. They do not address climate change issues and were written before species like Coho salmon were listed as endangered. The old plans also do not embrace habitat restoration as a tool and did not involve coastal Tribes or address legacy impacts to the estuary, including disturbance of cultural resources. These needs must be addressed. The Yaquina Bay Estuary Management Plan will be the first to undergo the update process. It is just getting underway and, when completed, will be looked at as a blueprint for subsequent estuary plans in Oregon.

Portland Audubon will be engaging in this process, so stay tuned for public comment opportunities. We will alert you to upcoming meetings and presentations on the process. In the meantime, please visit our webpage, which has links to a number of resources on this issue so you can learn more: bit.ly/eelgrass-and-estuaries

Ultimately, we'd like to see Oregon update all estuary plans to provide the strongest habitat protections possible to ensure a vibrant economy. Contact Joe Liebezeit (jliebezeit@audubonportland.org) to learn more and sign up for our ocean conservation list.

Willamette Cove Update

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In a disappointing but not unsurprising decision released on the final day of March, Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) selected a cleanup plan for the 27-acre Willamette Cove site. The plan would allow up to 27,000 cubic yards of soil contaminated above human health risk thresholds to remain onsite in an underground confined disposal area covering the equivalent of more than two football fields. Portland Audubon, along with a multitude of community groups including the Portland Harbor Community Coalition, Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group, Willamette Riverkeeper, and the Yakama Nation, had urged DEQ to select an alternative that would remove all dangerous contaminated soils from the site.

We are respectfully calling
on the Metro Council to
listen to community voices,
including marginalized
voices that have been most
impacted, and pursue a
remedy that removes, not
consolidates, the legacy of
contamination at
Willamette Cove.

The North Reach of the Willamette River has been contaminated for generations. The Superfund cleanup process has already spanned more than two decades. When all is said and done, Willamette Cove will represent one of a very few sites in this 10-plus mile stretch of the river where the public will make substantial gains in terms of access and enjoyment of the river. It holds the potential for restoration and healing of both our environment and our communities. It is the wrong place to create a massive contaminated waste dump.

In selecting this remedy, DEQ chose an alternative that, according to DEQ's own evaluation criteria, is **less effective** and **less reliable** than Alternative 3b, which was strongly supported by the community

and would have eliminated the onsite consolidated disposal area. Retention of a massive onsite contaminated waste dump will require that Metro adopt permanent institutional controls and fund and implement a permanent monitoring and maintenance plan at the site to ensure that future exposures to the public and the environment are prevented. It leaves the river vulnerable to recontamination via groundwater channels, and it leaves the entire area vulnerable to major release events caused by flooding and earthquakes. Finally, it leaves the public deeply uncertain about their own safety if they utilize this site. We do not have confidence that the agencies will be able to keep up a level of due diligence to maintain a safe environment for the public in perpetuity. Nor do we believe it is appropriate to leave this responsibility to future generations.

It is now up to the Metro Council to step up and go beyond the cleanup approved by DEQ. Metro Council Resolution 20-5149 passed by the Metro Council on December 10, 2020, calls for Council to convene a work session within thirty days of the issuance of the DEQ record of decision for Willamette Cove to discuss additional and voluntary actions that Metro could take at the site to further improve its environmental condition. DEQ incorporated into its record of decision "a contingency remedy which allows for Metro, during remedial design and in consultation with DEQ, to perform additional measures including additional removal activities to align with final plans for use of the Willamette Cove Site. Under this framework, Metro can eliminate or greatly reduce the volume of soil to be consolidated onsite and instead transport the soil offsite for disposal at a regulated waste facility."

Metro Council has convened a work session on April 27 to discuss the DEQ decision. We are respectfully calling on the Metro Council to listen to community voices, including marginalized voices that have been most impacted, and pursue a remedy that removes, not consolidates, the legacy of contamination at Willamette Cove. As one of the only sites in the Willamette River Superfund Area to be coming into public ownership, we believe it is critical that Metro strive to attain the highest and most durable standards for cleanup. Metro can and must do better.



Willamette Cove, photo courtesy of Michael Pouncil.



Seeking Autistic Archipelagos

by Fern Wexler

Every year, Red Knots, a small shorebird in the *Calidris* genus, fly over 9,000 miles during the first leg of their migration. (They'll repeat the trip on the way back, sometimes going days over the endless Atlantic Ocean without stopping to rest or feed.) When they arrive at the very tip of South America, they gorge themselves on a buffet of mollusks and other invertebrates. Imagine flying for hundreds of hours on wings no more than 22 inches across. Menaced by predators, threatened by global warming, and intimidated by humans encroaching on all of your favorite stopping points. Nowhere feels safe. Food gets more and more scarce as the ocean gets more acidic. Exhaustion bombards you and overloads your senses. Maybe it would be easier to let sleep take you as you fly. You'd drop soundlessly into the waves and never be seen again. But you keep going. Something tells you that this is worth it. All the pain and weariness will mean something if you just get to where your instincts are telling you to go. You just have to keep moving.

That's what it was like for me growing up as an autistic person. Replace migration with the navigation of day-to-day life, and predators and global warming with the other kids in my school, and you have an idea of how difficult it was for me to make it through each day. Not that I knew why it was so hard. I wasn't diagnosed at the time, even though one of my teachers brought

it up to my parents separately. If you asked the kids who bullied me back then if they were doing it because I was autistic, they likely would have said no—a good percentage of the bullying of autistic kids doesn't happen because other kids hear the word and decide to lash out at an easy target; it happens because of everything that makes autistic people, well, autistic. I was targeted for my interests, my self-soothing behavior, and my lack of understanding of social cues. It felt like I was surrounded by people who were out to get me. I was bullied by my peers, picked on by my teachers, and because I tried to hide everything from my family, I was misunderstood by them, too. There weren't very many places where I felt safe and happy and completely at home—but one of the few spaces where I did was Portland Audubon.

I've always loved animals, and I do mean always; I was talking about them by the time I was 15 months old. As I grew up, that fascination and adoration expanded to nature in general before zeroing in on birds when I was about seven years old. When you're autistic, you have extremely intense interests that are part of the building blocks of who you are. Ornithology became mine. While I've had others, most of them for forms of media like TV shows and comics, my love of birds will always (literally) make me who I am. Birds made—and still make—more sense to me than other people. Especially as it became obvious to my younger self that whatever was “wrong”

with my brain wasn't something animals could pick up on. Only humans could do that. Ravens, jays, and juncos didn't care that I functioned differently from everyone else. To them, we're all just humans.

So, like any northwest Oregon kid who was interested in nature (especially birds), my family sent me up the hill to Portland Audubon every summer. Until I aged out at the start of high school, I went to every single camp I could squeeze into—Herpetology, Berry Berry Fun, Junior Wildlife Vet (that one was my favorite). I did just about all of them at least once. Some of my favorite memories come from the week-long overnight trip I did to Yellowstone National Park the summer before seventh grade. While I wasn't exactly cured of my social anxiety just because I was in a place where I felt safe expressing my interests, I felt free in a way I didn't when I was at school. I could express myself and indulge in the neurological stimulation of getting to gush about the things I was passionate about without being victimized for it.

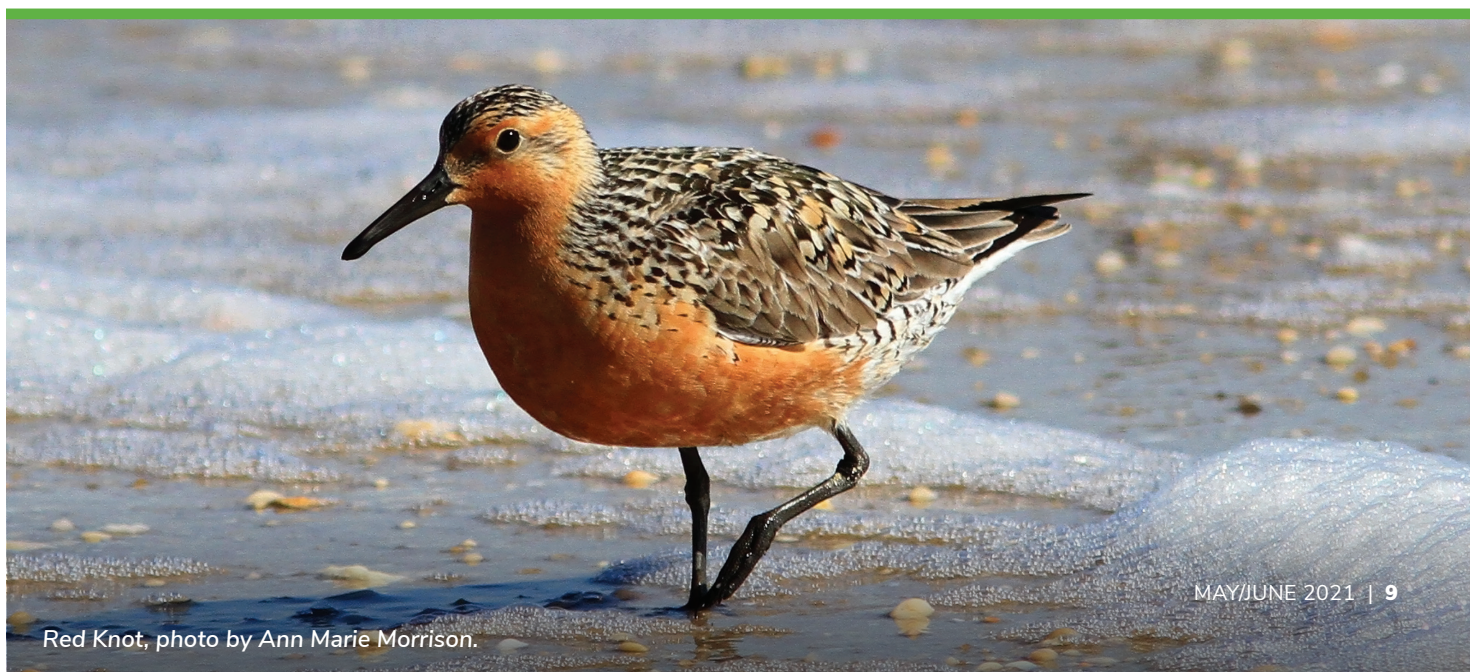
The social validation I got from knowing the things I only knew because of my autism was validating in a way that, at the time, I didn't know how to put into words. It's still difficult now. As you may have gathered from the opening paragraph, I struggle to describe my experiences without seeing them through the lens of the emotions birds stir in me—receiving compliments

feels like the song of a Western Meadowlark, disappointment is the sickening pain of watching a cat kill a fledgling, excitement is best compared to the rush I get when I see a rare bird, and so on. My autism and my interest in the natural world are deeply linked, and they're a central part of who I am. It was because of how this interest was fostered in me by Portland Audubon that I was able to become the person I am today.

My autism and my interest in the natural world are deeply linked, and they're a central part of who I am. It was because of how this interest was fostered in me by Portland Audubon that I was able to become the person I am today.

That's a part of why volunteering for Portland Audubon, especially being a camp counselor, means so much to me. I have no idea if any of the people I was taught by at camps were autistic. But simply by being there for me and curating an environment where it felt safe to be a true version of myself, they quite literally allowed me to make myself who I am. If I can do that for someone else, for anyone else...then that's worth just about anything to me.

As a Red Knot, you continue to fly, knowing that soon you'll have to do this journey all over again, this time in reverse, just to make it back to your breeding grounds. You're weaker by the second from resisting death, flying until your feathers are ragged. This is what instinct tells you to do. This is what Red Knots have always done and will do until there are no more left. Brave the constant danger and trust that there is something that will make the pain bearable. And finally, finally, after days on end, you crash into the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego. And for the very first time in your life...you feel like you have a place where you truly belong.



Red Knot, photo by Ann Marie Morrison.

Time to Get Involved in Community Science Projects Around the State!

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager; Candace Larson, Field Biologist; Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

Spring is in full swing and so are our community science projects. Portland Audubon's Community Science program spans the state, from the iconic coast, to the high desert of eastern Oregon, as well as the Portland metro region. We engage members of the public to help us better understand the ecology of birds and other wildlife as well as the habitats they depend on—and have fun doing it! These efforts enable us to accomplish our conservation initiatives, inform wildlife protection, and influence public policy. Because these projects are outdoors and can be done alone or in small groups, we are happy to encourage your participation using social distancing guidelines for COVID-19 safety. Here we highlight some of our projects to get involved in this spring/summer season.

Portland Metro

Washington County Greenspace Bird Surveys:

Portland Audubon and Clean Water Services are partnering on a series of surveys to understand how bird communities respond to habitat restoration and enhancement at Washington County greenspaces. If you love to bird—no matter your skill level—consider helping with surveys at Cook Park in Tigard, Fernhill Wetlands in Forest Grove, and PCC Rock Creek Greenspace in Bethany (this last site is currently closed due to COVID-19, but we are hopeful it will open for surveys this summer!). Use a simple, eBird-based protocol to log your observations, and help us better understand bird life in urban greenspaces and how restoration and management efforts support our feathered neighbors.

Coastal Projects

Brown Pelican Survey: This project is a joint effort of the West Coast Audubon network, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other partners. The goal is to conduct biannual surveys to help define distribution and abundance of Brown Pelicans and track shifts in population structure of this bird of conservation concern. This project is helping inform our efforts to protect forage fish species like anchovy—a key prey base for pelicans and other seabirds. In Oregon we survey at 18 historic roost sites, from Clatsop Spit on the north coast to

the Chetco River mouth near the California border. This year the survey will be on May 15. If you like pelicans and spending time at the ocean, consider helping out.

Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project: The oystercatcher is an iconic bird of coastal rocky habitats and also a species of conservation concern. Since 2015 Portland Audubon and partners, including coastal Audubon chapters, Friends groups, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have been monitoring oystercatcher nests along the entire Oregon coast. Findings from this monitoring have been included in an inventory now informing efforts to protect important rocky habitats from Ecola Point to Cape Blanco.

Plover Patrol: We partner with Oregon State Parks to help monitor this species at four Snowy Plover Management Areas on the north coast. The Western Snowy Plover is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, but its population is rebounding through intensive management efforts. In recent years, plovers have returned to nest at some north coast sites where they hadn't nested in decades. We need your help to conduct presence/absence surveys, resight color-banded birds, and monitor nests!

Eastern Oregon

Project IBIS: Help Portland Audubon and our partners, including the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative, better understand how ranchlands near Malheur National Wildlife Refuge are supporting birds. Over the past several years, conservationists have been working with ranchers on replacing aging flood-irrigation structures with newer structures that are expected to increase waterbird habitat. Follow our simple survey protocol next time you eBird one of Oregon's premier birding destinations and contribute to conservation!

Visit Portland Audubon's Community Science page to learn more about these and other projects. Contact Joe Liebezeit to get involved in the Portland metro and coastal projects (jliebezeit@audubonportland.org) and Teresa Wicks for Project IBIS (twicks@audubonportland.org). Upcoming trainings are on our events calendar. We record most trainings, so if you miss one we can share the recording.



Snowy Plovers, photo by Mick Thompson.

Create Your Own Birdathon Adventure

by Sarah Swanson, Birdathon Coordinator

Birdathon is underway and we are making progress toward our goal of raising \$150,000 to support Portland Audubon's important work. Your participation in Birdathon is critical to its success and funding the work of Portland Audubon. People give to people, and reaching out to your network for support helps us raise the critical funds needed as well as bring new people to engage with Portland Audubon and expand our community.

While there are lots of fun teams to join, creating a team also has its benefits. Starting your own team allows you to go birding exactly when and where you want to while still enjoying the social side of Birdathon. I asked some recent creators of teams about what their teams do and what inspires them to fundraise for Portland Audubon.

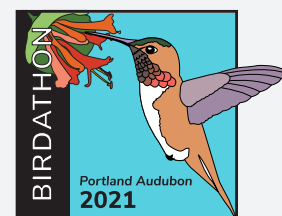
Dean Moberg, founder of the Waffles, Warblers, Wetlands, and Wine team, turned a long-standing day of fun with friends into a Birdathon. Food, drink, and birding are an unbeatable combination! Dean says that fundraising for Portland Audubon is a "no-brainer" because of its advocacy for wildlife, the Wildlife Care Center, classes, and newsletter. Birding also makes Dean feel connected to his late father, who instilled in him a love of birds and birding.

American Pip-pit Hooray! is a new team started this year by sisters Gina and Shannon Easley that includes their friends and family. The team plans to spread out across Portland over the course of a week to go birding, then meet up virtually to share photos and highlights from their adventures. Gina supports Portland Audubon because of the education and advocacy work that it does and the love and appreciation for birds and the natural world that it fosters. Watching birds helps her to slow down to appreciate the little things.

Sign up for Birdathon!
birdathon.audubonportland.org



How to create a Birdathon team:



- 1 **Choose a time:** Your Birdathon can be a day, a weekend, or a week long. Any time between April 17 and June 6.
- 2 **Give your team a name:** Bird puns are popular!
- 3 **Register:** Go to bit.ly/birdathon2021 to create your team. You will get a link to your team page to send out to those who want to join or donate.
- 4 **Invite team members:** Recruit your friends, family, or coworkers and get them to join your team.
- 5 **Fundraise:** Share your reasons for participating in Birdathon and ask for support.
- 6 **Go birding:** The best part! (Follow our COVID-19 guidelines for safe birding.)
- 7 **Celebrate:** Join us for the virtual Birdathon Celebration on June 15 for recognition of our efforts, games, and music.

Questions? Contact Sarah Swanson at birdathon@audubonportland.org

Highlighted Teams:

Pintailgating | Sunday, May 30

Visit Willamette Valley birding hotspots with Portland Audubon Communications Manager Ali Berman and former Portland Audubon naturalist and educator Ian Abraham. Ankeny and Baskett Slough NWR are the perfect migratory hotspots to search for a variety of waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds (including breeding Black-necked Stilts!), woodpeckers, and songbirds. Every parking lot that overlooks a wetland is an opportunity for great birding and "pintailgating" right out the back of our cars with yummy snacks. This is a great trip for beginner or experienced birders.

Milwaukie Multi-modal Mergansers | Sunday, May 23

Micah Meskel, Activist Program Manager for Portland Audubon, will lead a day of birding and exploring parks and natural areas around Milwaukie. The full circuit of stops will be best reached by bike, while the most significant birding portion will include a 3-mile walking loop that begins and ends near a transit hub in downtown Milwaukie, so transit riders, walkers and drivers are more than welcome to join.

FIELD NOTES

by Gregory Smith, Adult Educator

The Tufted Puffin Returns Home

Okay, imagine you are a medium-sized stocky seabird. Your breeding plumage is coming in: Your face has gone white, and your ridiculously long golden plumes on the back of your head are finally sprouting. Your dull bill has grown in size and gained a vibrant red orangish color, and you are starting to feel the itch to return to your natal island.

After spending months out near the oceanic shelf feeding on lanternfish (a family that makes up 65% of deep-sea fish biomass), squid, Pacific saury, and krill, and a short journey to nearshore waters, you return to your breeding island. Upon arrival, around early April (as late as May 9 in higher latitudes), you look around and see your fellow seabird friends just not committed to island life quite yet. Definitely hesitant. This hesitancy makes sense; you haven't been here in almost six



Tufted Puffin, photo by Scott Carpenter.

months, and who knows what's on that island right now? It could be eagles or worse—some mammalian predator that has called this island home while you were away. After about a week of flyovers, you decide the coast is clear, and you finally land with your mate.

With the island free of predators and the coastal upwelling bringing in a ton of forage fish near shore, it becomes apparent to you and your fellow Tufted Puffins that it is time to get this year's breeding season started and welcome a new generation of pufflings.

SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott

In February, birders begin to dream of spring, with a trickle of reports of early migrants to fuel their imagination. We then spend two months remembering that spring starts in April.

A few noteworthy geese reminded us of the season, as a **Ross's Goose** was seen multiple times on Sauvie Island, mixed in with a roving flock of Snow Geese; and a **Brant**, quite rare for Portland, was found at Broughton Beach. The bird was very confiding for one day, and then was not seen again. Notably, a **Black-bellied Plover** was seen flying upriver at the same time as the Brant was found.

Our regular "early birds" didn't disappoint this year, with Western and **Mountain Bluebirds** being reported along with **Say's Phoebe** in March and into April, mostly at Powell Butte in SE Portland, their traditional stopover point, but across the region as well.

Black-backed Woodpecker and **Canyon Wren** were found in the Columbia River Gorge near Multnomah Falls in February, where both birds have been reported sporadically, but are rarely tracked down.



Mountain Bluebird, photo by Tara Lemezis.

In early March, a **Prairie Falcon** was photographed at Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, but unfortunately was not refund. Same goes for a very early **Swainson's Hawk** reported flying over a SE Portland neighborhood. **Bonaparte's Gulls**, more often reported in late fall, were found at both Fernhill Wetlands and Mason wetlands in late March.

The statewide rarity landscape was also notable, with Oregon's first **Winter Wren** reported outside of Corvallis. Considered the same species as Pacific Wren until just over a decade ago, the birds are nearly identical, but have markedly different calls that clued the observers into the identity of the bird. In early April, a **Lesser Nighthawk** was found perched and then foraging around Tillamook Bay, for a third state record.

Those are only a few of the rare 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.**

Let's Go Birding!

Pacific Northwest Trips

Northern Blues – Washington State's Forgotten Counties

May 21-25

Discover a lesser known part of the Pacific Northwest on this 5-day birding adventure, where we'll search different habitats for Green-tailed Towhee, Great Gray Owl, Gray Catbird, and more!

Fee: \$540 members / \$700 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

Woodpeckers of Wasco

June 12-13

Wasco County holds the distinction of having the most breeding species of woodpecker of any county in the United States, with all 12 of Oregon's breeding species represented. We'll try for all 12 (with 8-9 more likely).

Fee: \$350 members / \$450 non-members

Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott & Erin Law

Okanogan

June 14-20

On this unique trip to Washington State, we will explore boreal forest, pinelands, riparian, lush meadows, lakes, and rivers to seek out many Okanogan specialties: American Redstart, Tricolored Blackbird, Common Poorwill, and more!

Fee: \$800 members / \$1,050 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

Birds, Plants, and Bugs of Mt. Adams

July 2-4

On this self-catering trip around Mt. Adams area, we will have butterflies and dragonflies galore, wildflowers in full bloom, and of course, birds!

Fee: \$275 members / \$375 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick



Spruce Grouse, photo by Tom Murray.

Ecotours

Shorebirds and Boreal Birds of British Columbia

August 17-23

Join us on this late summer trip to search for passerine and shorebird migrants from coastal wetlands to the north Cascade Mountains.

Fee: \$1,695 members / \$2,295 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

Ice Age Floods

September 12-18

Travel the path of the great Ice Age Floods from Missoula to Portland on this popular geology, birding, and wildlife tour.

Fee: \$1,895 members / \$2,095 non-members

Leaders: Candace Larson and Mary Coolidge

Kenya

October 14-29

Join Portland Audubon on the wildlife trip of a lifetime! Kenya is renowned for its remarkable diversity of landscapes, animals, and cultures, with over 1,100 species of birds!

Fee: \$6,995 members / \$7,695 non-members

Leaders: Candace Larson and Dan van den Broek

Register for Pacific NW Trips
at bit.ly/pnwbirdtrips





Dr. Christopher Schell in the lab.

NATURE NIGHTS

Dr. Christopher Schell - It's All Connected: Wildlife, People, and the Intersectionality of Socio-Environmental Systems

May 11 | 7-8:15 p.m.

In his talk, Dr. Christopher Schell will discuss how ecological and evolutionary processes are fundamentally intertwined with human societies, and how transdisciplinary integration of human and natural systems is an organic pathway to achieve inclusivity and sustainability in the natural sciences.

Cost: Free, donation suggested



Sprinavasa Brown - Centering Justice and Identity: Build Inclusive Scientific Communities for Our Shared Future

June 1 | 7-8:30 p.m.

In 2015, Sprinavasa Brown co-founded Camp ELSO Inc. to bring forth a multicultural approach to STEAM education rooted in environmental justice and cultural history. Learn how she's decolonizing science to make the outdoors and environmental education more inclusive.

Cost: Free, donation suggested



Northern Red-legged Frog, photo by Colin Durfee.

ONLINE CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Amphibians and Reptiles: Beginner's Guide to Herping

May 13 | 6-7 p.m.

This class is an introduction to finding and identifying the common reptiles and amphibians of the Portland Metro Area.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



Intermediate Birding by Ear Series

May 10: Forests | 6-7 p.m.

May 17: East of the Cascades | 6-7 p.m.

June 7: Mountains | 6-7 p.m.

These intermediate classes will focus on vocalizations by habitat and are the perfect way to sharpen your birding by ear skills! Classes are standalone and must be registered for separately.

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



Dragonfly Basics

Part One: June 8 | 6-7 p.m.

Part Two: June 10 | 6-7 p.m.

A primer on dragonflies and damselflies between Eugene, Oregon, and Bellingham, Washington. Classes are standalone and must be registered for separately.


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

Leader: Stefan Schlick



Sign up for classes and trips at
bit.ly/pdxaudubon-classes



 Cost Involved

 Public Transit Available

 Free

 Family Friendly

 Wheelchair Accessible

 Virtual Event or Program



Western Meadowlark, photo by Tara Lemezis.



AUDUBON BIRDING DAYS & FIELD TRIPS

PLANT SALE

Field Trip: Birding by Ear at Tryon Creek State Natural Area

May 11 | 7:30-10:00 a.m.

Hone your ear birding with this field trip to one of our best urban forests.

Fee: : \$45 member / \$65 non-member

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott



Audubon Birding Day: Birding by Ear in Wasco County

May 18 | 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Head to Oregon's "dry side" to practice birding by ear with Brodie Cass Talbott. We'll explore dry prairie habitats in search of birds like Townsend's Solitaire, Vesper Sparrow, and Western Meadowlark.

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

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott



Audubon Birding Day: Klickitat River Butterflies and Birds

June 12 | 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Join Stefan in the Klickitat River region of Washington State. A highlight will be searching for the rare Goldhunter's Hairstreak and birds such as Nashville Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Lewis's Woodpecker.

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

Leader: Stefan Schlick



Native Plant Sale Benefits Portland Audubon

Mention Portland Audubon and 25% of proceeds will support our work! Book your appointment at sauvienatives.com.

May is a great month to add bird- and bee-friendly native plants to your yard. **Shop at Sauvie Island Natives between May 1 and May 31, and if you mention Portland Audubon, 25% of the sale will go to fund our work.**

There will be many choice plants, including three species of trillium, lewisia, and shooting star, propagated by Portland Audubon volunteers, for which the entire purchase price will go to Portland Audubon. Last May, Sauvie Island Natives raised \$10,000 for our conservation and education programs.

Sauvie Island Natives specializes in native Oregon trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and ferns for backyard habitats, providing food and shelter for birds, pollinators, and other species. Most plants are on the Portland Plant List and count toward Backyard Habitat certification.

Nursery visits are by appointment only, but same-day appointments are possible if time slots are available.

To book a time, see what plants are available, and get directions to the nursery, go to sauvienatives.com.

Green Leaders Initiative

by Emily Pinkowitz, Director of Education

This spring, Portland Audubon launched a brand-new, paid, nine-month youth leadership program in partnership with Hacienda Community Development Corporation. Through our new Green Leaders program, five young adults from Hacienda will act as educators and organizers, developing hyperlocal outdoor education in response to their neighbors' pressing needs during the pandemic.

In this work, Portland Audubon will draw from seven years of experience in youth development. From 2013 to 2019, we ran TALON, a program that engaged thirty youth from historically disenfranchised communities across the metro area in paid internships in education, conservation, communications, and operations. The Green Leaders initiative builds upon lessons learned from TALON, while focusing intentionally on engaging young adults as changemakers in their own communities.

The program grew out of conversations with our partners at Hacienda CDC, a Latinx community development corporation that “strengthens families by providing affordable housing, homeownership support, economic advancement and educational opportunity.” For over 15 years, Portland Audubon has collaborated with Hacienda CDC to deliver environmental education programs to hundreds of children and families. Each year, we have provided almost 100 hours of nature-based learning to children in grades 3-8 through afterschool and summer enrichment.

However, over the last year and a half, Hacienda staff have identified three key areas for growth in our partnership:

1. EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES TO HIGH SCHOOL:

In Portland, 1 in 10 young adults 16 to 24 years old become “disconnected,” meaning neither in school nor working. This disconnection can have drastic long-term consequences. According to the Social Science Research Council’s Measure of America, “by the time they reach their thirties, those who had been working or in school as teens and young adults earn \$31,000 more per year and are 45 percent more likely to own a home, 42 percent more likely to be employed, and 52 percent more likely to report excellent or good health than those who had been disconnected as young people.” By ending our partnership at eighth grade, we were aging youth out during a critical period.



2. **HIRE FROM THE COMMUNITY:** Children learn best when their educators understand and draw from lived experiences that mirror their own. Hacienda staff urged us to train and hire young adults from their properties who could act as critical mentors and role models in science.
3. **RESPOND TO THE PANDEMIC:** With COVID-19 continuing to shape our day-to-day lives, our programs need to be radically reimagined. We need to create real, two-way listening mechanisms that help us better understand how to provide viable, safe opportunities for children to get outside in this unprecedented time.

Through the Green Leaders initiative, we will respond to these needs by decentering Portland Audubon as the primary decision-maker regarding environmental education programming, shifting both narrative power and financial resources to Hacienda residents. Youth will participate in paid environmental education and



This entry-level professional experience is critical to breaking down long-time barriers to careers in the environmental education field, creating a pipeline for local young people of color to enter future roles in our department.

leadership training, earning \$500 a month from April to June and September to November. They will use stakeholder listening sessions as a guide to leverage Portland Audubon's resources to deliver free programming for their neighbors. They will draw from their lived experience to create new models of engagement that uniquely speak to their peers. And they will gain an authentic foothold in the environmental education field through summer educator positions with Portland Audubon, where they will earn an additional \$5,000 and enter a direct pathway to lasting employment in the field.

Green Leaders will join our new Educator, Youth & Family Partnership Specialist Zahir Ringgold Cordes in 80 hours of paid after-school training in Pacific Northwest ecology, education, and environmental justice. "I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to guide youth in the process of deepening their connection to the natural world, and using their innate knowledge and talents to become community leaders."

This training is also equally focused on reflecting with youth on their own backgrounds and experience, documenting and mapping their collective knowledge, and highlighting the ways in which they can draw from this experience to become changemakers in their own neighborhood.

At the same time, they will collaborate with Portland Audubon and a number of other nonprofit partners including Verde, Columbia Land Trust, and Girl Scouts to host a series of listening sessions with their neighbors. Leaders will then draw from these listening sessions to design new programs for children and families in local greenspaces. While the exact structure of these programs will be guided by the stakeholder listening process, we expect it to include a combination of afterschool programming, family events, summer enrichment, and stewardship opportunities.

After their spring training, Green Leaders will take up full-time, paid summer roles in our education team, helping to facilitate summer camp at our sanctuary. This entry-level professional experience is critical to breaking down long-time barriers to careers in the environmental education field, creating a pipeline for local young people of color to enter future roles in our department. Through this initiative, we will incorporate the voices and lived experiences of Hacienda CDC residents into all aspects of our work for years to come.

This feedback loop has never been more vital than it is right now, when the pressures on families are shifting daily in response to COVID-19. Families are struggling to coordinate remote school learning, identify out-of-school care, and find safe ways for their children to play. As environmental educators, we have a unique opportunity to support these families with safe outdoor experiences. Yet without listening directly to families, we will have little understanding of how exactly to structure these opportunities in a way that best meets their changing needs. Poised between childhood and adulthood, young adults have the unique potential to act as multigenerational connectors, listening and responding to the needs of both children and adults in their community. We are grateful and excited to welcome the Green Leaders to our team, and look forward to featuring their voices in future Warblers!



Bobolink, photo by Christian Fritsch.

Malheur: Home to the Largest Population of Breeding Bobolinks in Oregon

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

The spring soundtrack of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is filled with the sounds of migration, territorial song battles, courtship, and joy. As spring progresses from primarily waterfowl and migratory bird-dominated to breeding-bird dominated, the soundtrack transitions from the drums, baritones, and horns of waterfowl to the flutes, clarinets, and altos of breeding passerine bird species. But one bird, whose voice is more common over the tallgrass prairies of the Midwest, lends a bit of an electronic flair with their song.

The Bobolink, the backward-tuxedo-wearing star of Malheur's flood-irrigated wet meadows, has a fairly bubbly, mechanical song, whose echo-like quality often creates the illusion of multiple birds singing at once. The easiest way to find Bobolinks is by listening for their mechanical song over the fields of the southern end of Malheur, north of P Ranch. Males tend to sing while perched in the top of willow and other woody riparian vegetation, or while performing their flight display. These flight displays are achieved when the males fly high up into the air and then move, almost mothlike, in a gliding pattern while stiffly fluttering their wings.

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is home to the largest breeding population of Bobolinks in Oregon, which also happens to be the largest westernmost breeding population in North America. Bobolinks are related to blackbirds and meadowlarks and are similarly tied to North American grasslands and wetlands. In the Midwest, Bobolinks breed in mixed tallgrass prairie and spend the post-breeding season in and near wetlands, where they molt before heading south 12,500 miles to South America.

Unfortunately, throughout most of their range, Bobolink populations are declining. According to the Breeding Bird Survey, the Bobolink breeding population declined by 65% from 1966 to 2015. Most of this population decline has been linked to habitat loss associated with development and land-use change. Today, Bobolinks are more common in agricultural fields of mixed grasses and broadleaf plants, particularly legumes. At Malheur, this relationship is often between Bobolinks and *Thermopsis* species, commonly called false lupine.

As meadows and hayfields are converted to other forms of agriculture, houses, energy production sites like solar farms, etc., habitat for Bobolinks is lost. Additionally, according to climate and population models, much of the breeding habitat available to Bobolinks is predicted to decline as temperatures warm and annual precipitation becomes more variable.

Here at Malheur, Bobolink populations thankfully go against the national trend and appear to be stable or slightly increasing. In an effort to understand how to best support Bobolink populations at Malheur, Portland Audubon has been working with refuge staff and Klamath Bird Observatory to create a vegetation survey protocol. This protocol will record vegetation and land management metrics associated with the flood-irrigated wet meadows where Bobolinks breed at the refuge. These variables can then be analyzed in conjunction with landbird data, including Bobolink population data, to develop a better understanding of what management variables will best support a climate-resilient and continuing population of Bobolinks at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Keep Birds Aloft on Their Spring Journey

by Mary Coolidge, BirdSafe & Non-lead Campaign Coordinator

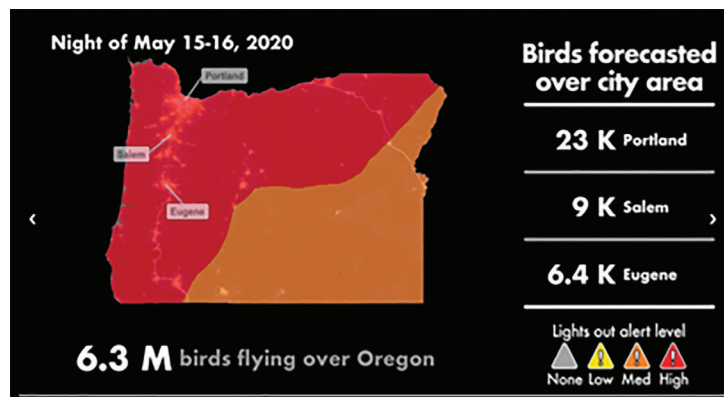
By the time you read this, songbird migration will be at its peak throughout gloriously temperamental springtime Oregon! Fully eighty percent of our terrestrial migrants in North America migrate at night, including warblers, thrushes, sparrows, kinglets, siskins, and grosbeaks. Migrating at night provides a number of benefits: birds can avoid daytime predators, preserve daylight hours for foraging, take advantage of a less turbulent atmosphere, and use the stars to navigate!

Unfortunately, this tactic also exposes them to an increasingly widespread threat—artificial light that is cast into the night sky all night long from unshielded and overly bright fixtures on our homes, streets, buildings, billboards, and empty parking lots. All of these sources accumulate to produce “sky glow”—the hazy dome of light over our cities and developed landscapes—which mars our view of the heavens and washes out the birds’ star map.

You may remember the story of 398 songbirds colliding with the 23-story Standard Insurance building in Galveston, Texas, in May of 2017. Or the 310 Chimney Swifts that hit the low-rise NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte, North Carolina, in October of 2019. These catastrophic collision events capture nationwide attention and heighten awareness of the hazard that light at night poses for migratory birds, but there are countless more common cases of birds being drawn off their nocturnal migration journeys that go largely unnoticed.

Thankfully, there are tools to help us reduce light pollution during peak migration season. Though songbird migration spans three months in both spring and fall, most of the birds that fly over Oregon will do so during a one-month period each season, from mid-April to mid-May and again between mid-September and mid-October. Researchers at Colorado State University’s AeroEco Laboratory are using radar technology to track movements of birds on migration, and then posting unequivocal alerts about peak movement nights on their website (aeroecolab.com). Red, orange, and yellow alerts signal large movements of birds, with red alerts representing the highest forecasts relative to total peak historic bird migration. There are generally fewer than ten red alert nights per season, and we encourage people to turn off all unnecessary outdoor lights at least on these peak movement nights, if not for the entire peak month in spring and fall!

Bear in mind, light pollution doesn’t just impact migrating birds. It impacts entire ecosystems, including both migrating and nesting birds, fish, mammals, amphibians, invertebrates, and plants as well as human health, safety, and culture. Portland Audubon is working to raise awareness about the importance of the night sky as a natural resource that is slipping away, little by little.



This image is from a Lights Out Alert from May 15-16 last spring on a night when 6.3 million birds were forecasted to pass over Oregon in a single night. This triggered a red alert for the northwest half of the state and an orange alert for the southeast half of the state.

Help save our night skies:

- Watch for our Lights Out Alerts on social media this May and turn off your unnecessary lighting
- Check out CSU’s AeroEco Lab for alerts in various cities and statewide
- Take the Pledge to Go Lights Out: bit.ly/pledge-to-go-lights-out
- Turn lights off when you’re not using them
- Make sure that all your lights are shielded and aimed down
- Switch to motion sensors (or motion sensor bulbs)
- Use bulbs only as bright as you need
- Choose warm bulbs (yellow > white)
- Close blinds/shades at night during migration seasons
- Help advocate for good lighting standards in your city

For more information, contact Mary Coolidge at mcoolidge@audubonportland.org

A Tale of Two Owlets: Adventures in Renesting

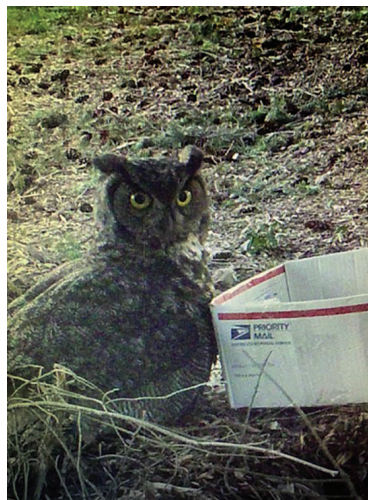
by McKenzie Joslin-Snyder, Wildlife Rehabilitator
& Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager

Imagine discovering a baby owl on the ground under a tree on your property. What would you do? This happened to a Good Samaritan on March 17. It was after 5 p.m., which is when our Wildlife Care Center closes for the night, so they brought the Great Horned Owlet to Dove Lewis Animal Emergency Clinic, who then transferred the owlet to us the next morning. However, the Good Samaritans' job was not yet finished; when they arrived home, they found another baby owl along with broken nest materials on the ground under the same tree! Since they had just returned from Dove Lewis and it was late, they did some research and decided to put the owlet in a small box under the tree for the evening, in hopes the parents would find it and continue caring for it.

The next day, the first owlet was transferred to us, and upon examination, we discovered a broken wing from the fall. Meanwhile, the trail cam the Good Samaritans put out at the second owlet's box showed the parents visiting the baby overnight.



Trail cam photos of the Great Horned Owl parents visiting the baby overnight.



Armed with this information, and after a discussion with the Good Samaritans, our staff decided to keep the first owlet and send a volunteer to evaluate and renest the second owlet to keep it safer from predators until it was ready to leave the nest.



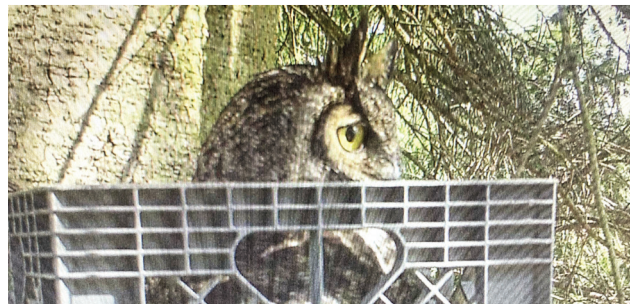
One of our marvelous volunteers climbing the tree to securely place the new nest.

Renesting raptors can be a fairly involved process, and we often rely on our volunteers to help because we must consider the placement, type, and security of the substitute nest and ensure it will be safe and suitable throughout the bird's development. Raptors are relatively heavy, and replacement nests often require more "infrastructure" to remain in place as the bird grows—for example, affixing a platform for the nest to rest on. Plastic milk crates or laundry baskets make good substitute nests because they won't fall apart and have small holes to drain water.

Great Horned Owls and other raptors also spend a few weeks of their development in the "brancher" stage, where they get out of the nest and explore, practice spreading their wings, and hop from branch to branch. At that age, the owlet will need to get out of the nest and reach nearby branches, or it may fall again. Although it is common for owls and other raptors at the brancher or fledgling stage to end up on the ground, and these older birds are mobile enough to climb back up their tree as long as they are unhurt, we don't want to set our renested birds up for an unnecessary fall.

One of our longtime volunteers and her son (pictured climbing the tree) went out to get the substitute nest safely in the tree so the owlet could be cared for by its parents again. We are happy to report that the Good Samaritans are continuing to monitor the nest remotely with the trail cam and binoculars, and this morning we received a report that the parent owl stayed with the baby in the nest for most of the night!

As we move further into spring, encounters with baby birds will become more and more commonplace, and determining the best course of action can be challenging. Since many species of birds go through a stage of development where they are mobile but not yet able to fly, they can appear to need help when they'd be best left alone. We never want to remove healthy baby animals from their parents, who are best equipped to take care of them and teach them what they need to know to survive in the wild. At the same time, we absolutely want to help injured or ill babies, and if the animal is too young to leave the nest, it may need a boost or a surrogate nest. We've made a flow chart to help (see below), and our Wildlife Care Center also has a cadre of trained volunteers ready to provide advice for specific situations at **503-292-0304**.

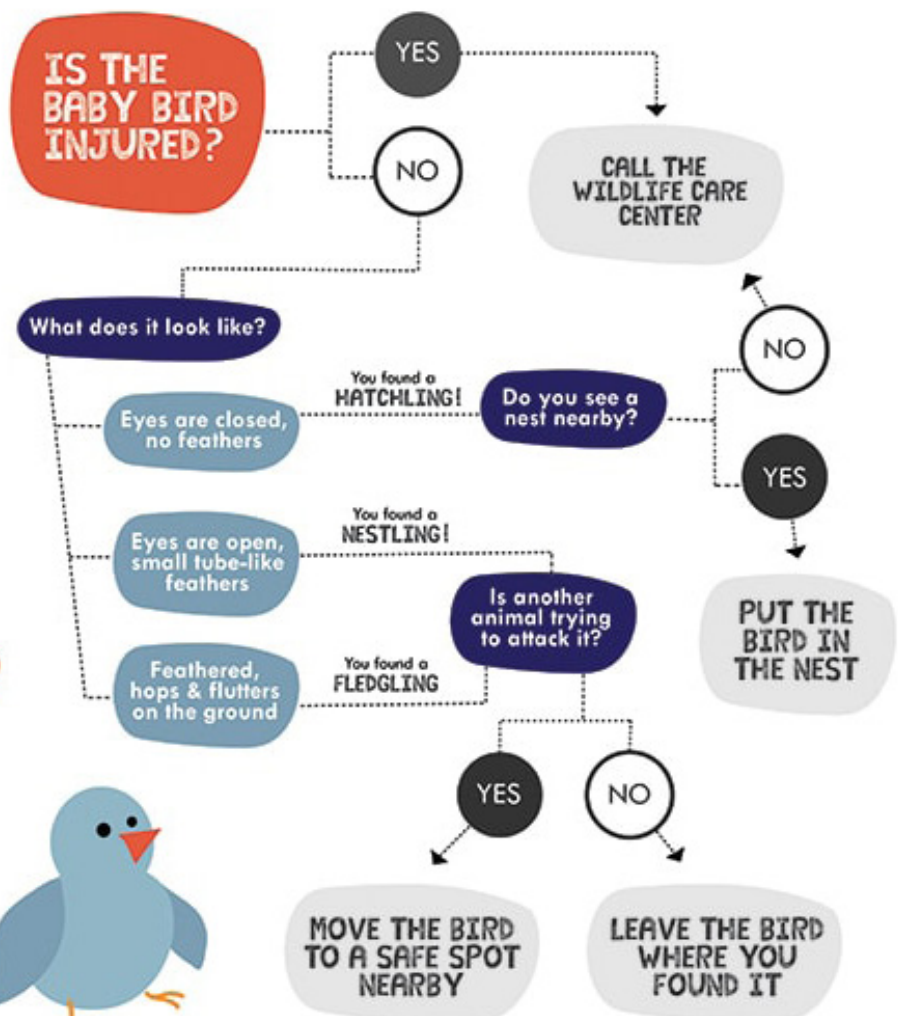


The new "nest" has been accepted by the Great Horned Owl baby and its parents.

SO YOU FOUND A BABY BIRD! NOW WHAT?

If you're still unsure if a baby bird needs care and you live in the Portland area, do not hesitate to call Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center.

503-292-0304



Mamie Campbell Award Winners

by Vicky Medley, Volunteer Manager

Each year Portland Audubon staff selects a cadre of volunteers to receive the Mamie Campbell award. Mamie Campbell was an important figure in the early years of Portland Audubon. A long-time and active volunteer, she was instrumental in establishing the Junior Audubon Club in Portland. Mamie also provided environmental education to Portland-area schools in the 1920s and 1930s, inspiring generations of children to love and protect wildlife.

Established in 1985, the Mamie Campbell Award is given to our most dedicated volunteers. Please join us in congratulating the 2021 Mamie Campbell award recipients:



Carol Fuller

Carol Fuller began as a volunteer in 2010, and has given over 1,700 hours of volunteer service. Carol primarily volunteers in the Wildlife Care Center and has also been involved in Swift Watch and special events. During COVID, Carol has helped in outdoor roles and in the kitchen at the Care Center.

Carol is an efficient and extremely hard worker who is always thinking of the health and safety of our patients and people. She has taken on numerous trainees over the years, who have then become great assets to the Care Center. Her precision and critical thinking skills make her indispensable to us!



Lin DeMartini

Lin DeMartini began volunteering with Portland Audubon in 2015 and has given more than 2,100 hours of volunteer service. Lin volunteers primarily in the Care Center, but also with Wild Arts Festival, the Ambassador Animals, and special events.

Lin is a constant friendly and helpful presence in the Wildlife Care Center. Her love of the work and her teammates shines through in all she does, whether she is taking on an extra shift to help us through a rough time, picking up an injured animal, or running to feed and clean at the flight cages with minimal notice. During COVID, Lin has helped outdoors in the mews and our off-site cages, and has cared for our turtle, Bybee. She is truly game to do anything that helps the animals that come to us, and her flexibility, dedication, and good humor are a gift.



Jill Turner

Jill Turner began volunteering in 2012, and has given over 1,200 hours of volunteer service. Jill is very active in the Sanctuary and as part of the Book Fair Committee for our Wild Arts Festival.

Jill is a powerhouse in our Sanctuary. She provides leadership and direction to the weekly work parties, and also comes up on her own time to clear invasive weeds and make sure our trails are safe for visitors. She has a knack for knowing the exact tool to use and can explain how to safely use it!

Jill is also a dedicated volunteer with several other trail maintenance groups, and she is the board vice president of Cape Horn Conservancy. The knowledge and skills she brings are a tremendous benefit to Portland Audubon.



Anne Woodbury

Anne Woodbury joined as a volunteer in 2012 and has given over 2,500 hours of volunteer service. The majority of Anne's volunteer service with Portland Audubon has been as a Wildlife Solutions Counselor in the Wildlife Care Center.

Anne takes her commitments and responsibilities seriously, and performs them exceedingly well. She never hesitates to ask questions and bring up concerns. Along with fellow volunteers Robin Carpenter and Roberta Jortner, Anne helped design and run a new training program for Wildlife Solutions Counselors. Thanks to Anne's diligent nature and commitment, the Care Center is able to provide better service to more people who need help with wildlife.



Planned Giving: Gifts from the Heart

by Donna Wiench, Leadership and Legacy Giving Manager

In polite conversation, a person's eventual demise is a topic commonly avoided. Yet here's the surprising thing: from my experience fundraising for Portland Audubon, donors—particularly those who have been on the planet multiple decades—are quite willing and sometimes even eager to talk about their passing and how they can continue to help Portland Audubon after they have gone. These are some of the most rewarding conversations I have because of their hopeful intent, depth, and meaning.

Portland Audubon would not have the reach, influence, or ability to do the quality work we do in conservation and education today without the legacy gifts of the people who came before us. It's that simple. Without these gifts we could do less for the environment, touch fewer human lives, and care for fewer wild animals. Because of these gifts, and the careful stewarding of the funds that come to us, Portland Audubon has been able to thrive in times of economic downturn and be innovative and responsive.

The clearest example of the power of a legacy gift is the seed money for the capital campaign for the Wildlife Care Center and Cornell campus that is being considered today. We have the confidence to pursue this campaign directly because of a multimillion dollar bequest. The full campaign will cost considerably more than the bequest, but the bequest allowed us to believe that this dream could become real.

Bequests come to Portland Audubon from folks who have found joy in the natural world and believe in what we do. These surprise gifts are humbling and fill us with gratitude. As we read supporting documentation that accompany the checks, we see a final expression of open-hearted, thoughtful generosity that gives additional meaning to that life.

Without these gifts we could do less for the environment, touch fewer human lives, and care for fewer wild animals.

Another form of legacy gift is a memorial, which typically comes from the family or friends of those who have passed rather than through a will. A family member may know that the mission of Portland Audubon was important to their loved one, so they will give in their loved one's name. Parents of young adults who passed way too early, Spencer Higgins and Amy Frank, have set up two different funds to support the work of our Education Department.

Sometimes donors give from their estate while still very much alive, allowing them to see Portland Audubon benefit from their generosity. A couple we worked with placed their home in a living trust, where it significantly increased in value. When the husband died, and the wife decided to move closer to her children in Leavenworth, the couple's investments financed her later years, and the proceeds of the house sale were given to Portland Audubon.

The significance of legacy gifts cannot be overstated. For the more than 145 people who have told us that Portland Audubon is in their will, and are part of the Legacy Circle, we are most grateful. For those of you considering making this step—thank you.





IN MEMORY

Portland Audubon gratefully
acknowledges these special gifts:

Steven Altshuld

Susan Brock
Vic & Toinette Menashe

Tom Boyer

Sue Brandt
Doris & Dave Cruickshank
Patrick & Susan FitzGerald
Dave Franey
Connie & Ronald Hutchison
Leo & Mary Krick
Mary Sue Macy
Ximena Orrego
James Ricketson
Patrick Swanick
Shirley Ward-Mullen & John Mullen
David Vicksta

Michael Champion

Claudia Hutchison

Roswell Coles, Sr.

Mary & Richard Fay

Marion Craig

Nicki Eybel

Pete Davidson, DVM

Gloria & Gil Bouchor Luzader
March Brooker
Barbara A. Kesel
Mary Sue Macy
Marguerite Cohen & Joe Roberts
Barbara Cogan Nedig

Amy Frank

Christine Haug-Chin
Eve & Alan Rosenfeld
Kathy L. Stewart

Gordon W. Gullion

Christina Gullion

Spencer Higgins

Nathan Beeghly

John Heydon

Margaret Heydon

Shelley L. Jones

Marian Cook

Kahler Martinson

Mary & Jeff Christensen

John K. McCauley

Sally Adelman
Todd Ames
Holly Axe
Dave & Patti Bailie
Neil Brooks
Andrea Cale
Rabiah Coon
Taylor & Clayton Ferbrache
Anne Goetz
Michael Hicks
Eric & Maxine Hoffman
Kathleen Honeycutt
Beth Johnson
Margy & Dan Johnston
Lynn & Janet Jones
James & Merilee Main
Donna McCauley
Donald McIntyre
Gretchen Moore
Madeline Ono
Tadadhiko Ono
Richard Poorbaugh
John & Justine Sutton

William Rollow

Nina Rollow & Scott Thayer

Deb Sheaffer, DVM

Ronald Earp

Glenn Scott

Carole Hardy

Ron L. Spencer

Tammy Spencer
Norma Stubbs

IN HONOR

Carol Chesarek

Donnalee Baudry

Michael Elliott

Judith Burns

Jules G. Evens

Emilie Strauss

Dew Harding

John Harding

Kiffi Harris

Dian Chute

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.

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**. **We encourage you to support the businesses that support us!**



Vernier



Sauvie Island Natives



Antler Gallery



Bob's Red Mill

Cindy Thompson
Event Production

Columbia Sportswear

The Commerce Group

David Evans and
Associates

Elk Cove Winery

Erath Winery

Eyes! On Broadway

Garden Fever

Grow Construction

JD Fulwiler & Co.
Insurance

KPFF

Labrewatory

Leatherman Tool
Group, Inc.

McCoy Foat &
Company PC, CPAs

McDonald Jacobs, P.C.

Miller Nash Graham &
Dunn LLP

Miller Paint Co.

Mountain Rose Herbs

Paxton Gate PDX

Portland General
Electric

Portland Nursery

Pro Photo

Sauvie Island Coffee
Company

Selco Community
Credit Union

Silver Rain Massage

Tilbury Ferguson
Investment

Urban Asset Advisors

Washman LLC

West Bearing
Investments

Find what you are searching for.

With an extremely wide field of view.

ZEISS

Seeing beyond



NEW: ZEISS Victory SF 32

With birds often hiding in dense cover, it's essential that you have a wide field of view to allow you to spot any slight movements. The wide field of view of the ZEISS Victory SF 32 results in a 20% larger area of observation compared to other leading brands, giving the user an impressive overview.

zeiss.com/morediscoveries

BIRD SAFE

BY GLASPRO

BIRD-FRIENDLY GLASS SOLUTIONS

- Bird Safe Ultraviolet Reflective Pattern - highly transparent to the human eye
- Nine Bird Safe Acid-Etched Patterns
- Three Bird Safe Frit Patterns

GlasPro offers a range of highly-effective Bird Safe glass to satisfy your local construction standards for bird-friendly architectural glass. Contact us for a Bird Safe sample.



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800.776.2368

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Welcome to the Nature Store!



We are happy to welcome back our summer visitors, from shoppers to families to hikers. We are excited to help you find the right products for your needs, whether it's a squirrel-proof bird feeder, the perfect pair of binoculars, or a local hiking guide. We love to share our favorite product recommendations, or tips and tricks to help on your next outdoor adventure.

Check out our online store for easy shopping (shipping and curbside pickup available) and for our most current in-store hours and COVID-19 protocols.

Shop online at naturestorepdx.squarespace.com

Questions? Email store@audubonportland.org or call us at 503-292-9453 ext. 3

Nature Store COVID-19 Protocols

- Masks must be worn indoors at all times
- Limit of four customers 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 indoor restrooms or water (porta potty available during business hours)

PNW Picks

Little Gold Fox Designs

The Nature Store loves to carry products made by local artists and vendors! We are always sourcing new products made in the Pacific Northwest, and love to support our local community.



Inspired by folk art and PNW nature, Little Gold Fox Designs takes hand-drawn sketches and paper-cut designs, and prints them on sustainable birch wood and natural fiber papers. Their abundant designs on bookmarks, postcards, and note cards feature native plants and some of our favorite birds. And their wooden earrings are a wonderful new addition!

Mourning Cloak Butterfly Wing Wooden Earring

Member Price: \$20.70

Optics Focus

Leupold Spring Sale

Purchase a Leupold SX-5 Santiam HD 27-60x80mm spotting scope and receive a Leupold Pro Guide Tripod Kit for FREE! (\$399 value)



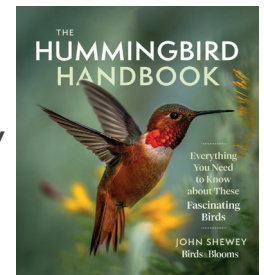
The Leupold SX-5 Santiam features amazing lenses and a tough, durable build. With great light transmission and lens coatings, views are clear and bright in even the toughest of lighting conditions. It's also fogproof, waterproof, and backed by Leupold's lifetime performance guarantee. Call or email for appointments to view optics or availability.

New Book

The Hummingbird Handbook by John Shewey

With astonishing facts, practical advice, and important ecological information, *The Hummingbird Handbook* is a must-have guide to attracting, understanding, and protecting hummingbirds. It features recommendations on feeders and plants, an identification guide with range maps, plumage variations, migration patterns, stunning photographs, and more.

Shewey is a lifelong birder and professional nature photographer. He has written for many birding and nature magazines. He is also the co-author of the popular field guide *Birds of the Pacific Northwest* from Timber Press. Check online for future events with John Shewey coming soon.



Member Price: \$22.46

Outdoor Adventures

Get outside with the whole family!

The Nature Store carries a variety of books, toys, and more to fully enjoy and experience the outdoors this summer. Play a game of Outdoor Bingo (2 pack, \$4.50 member price) or find new trails with *Grant's Getaways: Oregon Adventure's with the Kids*.



Member Price: \$16.19



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.



Anna's Hummingbird, photo by Audrey Addison.

May Native Plant Sale!

BENEFITING PORTLAND AUDUBON

May is a great month to add bird- and bee-friendly native plants to your yard. Shop at **Sauvie Island Natives** between May 1 and May 31, and **if you mention Portland Audubon**, 25% of the sale will go to fund our work.

Book your appointment at sauvienatives.com

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 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
with COVID protocols

Nature Store & Interpretive Center

503-292-9453 ext. 3

May be closed on Tuesdays; 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: Western Tanager, photo by Tara Lemezis

On the Inside Cover: Cedar Waxwing, photo by Tara Lemezis; Red Knot,
photo by Ann Marie Morrison; Northern Red-legged Frog, photo by Colin
Durfee; Bobolink, photo by Christian Fritsch.



Birdy Brain Buster!

Three of these bird species
primarily feed on insects. Which
one does not?

- A. Hairy Woodpecker
- B. American Goldfinch
- C. Brown Creeper
- D. Vaux's Swift



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

Answer: American Goldfinch