A Look Back at 2021
Much Accomplished, Much to Be Done
by Judith Ramaley, Board President

As we approach the end of the second challenging pandemic year, it is good to take a moment to reflect on what is going on in our own lives and how important our connections to Portland Audubon have been this year. As president of the board, I have enjoyed an especially wonderful vantage point from which to see the many ways we have supported our goal of being Together for Nature. My connection to Portland Audubon has brought me hope and the companionship of many others who share that vision.

This has been a busy year. We have reshaped our educational programs to make them more accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. We have worked with dozens of partners to pursue our goal of protecting wildlife and their habitat, as well as restoring natural landscapes both in the metropolitan area and across the state.

We are deeply grateful for the support you have given as our partners, donors, members, volunteers, and fellow travelers. We have been able to reach more people, care for orphaned and injured animals through the Wildlife Care Center, and work together to create an environment where birds, other wildlife, and people can flourish. As we reflect on what we have accomplished and think about what lies ahead, I hope you will continue your support of Portland Audubon. If you are not yet a member or a donor, I hope that you will decide to join us. There is much to be done, and the more people we reach, the bigger our impact will be.
Each December we have the chance to come together and reflect on how our collective efforts made a difference on the ground for wildlife, for people, and for our shared environment. Whether you volunteered, wrote to a decision maker, took a class, made a donation, or brought in an injured or orphaned animal, each of you played a pivotal role in making Oregon a place where both people and wildlife can thrive.

As we come to a close on 2021, we wanted to share some of our favorite moments, initiatives, and successes from the year. And to extend our sincere gratitude for everything you do to support Portland Audubon and build a sustainable world for current and future generations. We couldn’t do it without you.

Conservation

Marbled Murrelet Uplisted to Endangered
The uplisting sets in motion requirements for the state to develop a management plan and survival guidelines for the species to put it on the road to recovery.

Protection of Oregon’s Forests
Our work advocating for mature forests on the Elliott State Forest and increased stream protections on more than 10 million acres of private forestlands will help support the survival of imperiled Northern Spotted Owls, Marbled Murrelets, and salmon, and promote one of the most effective strategies for carbon sequestration.

Backyard Habitat
The Backyard Habitat Certification Program has grown to more than 8,000 properties, helping homeowners, renters, houses of worship, schools, and businesses restore the land with native plants, wildlife stewardship, and green gardening practices.

Urban Ecosystems
Over the past year we have advanced strategies to clean up the Portland Harbor Superfund area, remediate toxic brownfields, promote urban tree canopy, update Portland’s environmental zones, and permanently protect West Hayden Island.

Rocky Shores
Portland Audubon worked collaboratively to advocate for increased protections in eight important rocky habitats. These habitats are home to nesting seabirds, intertidal animals, and marine mammals. Two sites have been approved for designation and six sites are currently being reviewed.

Malheur NWR and the Greater Harney Basin
In addition to bird surveys and work with the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative, we launched the youth program Bird Scouts, continued our Christmas Bird Count for Kids, created Explorer Packs that can be checked out from the local library, and worked with the Rural Alliance for Diversity to create more diverse, equitable, and inclusive spaces in rural Oregon.

Photo above: Marbled Murrelet on nest, photo by Aaron Allred. Photo on the right: Jerod and Tith receiving their Backyard Habitat certification. Photo by Backyard Habitat volunteer Elizabeth Gutierrez.
Education

Virtual Programs for Kids and Adults
We hosted 72 virtual classes, educating 1,390 people about birds and other wildlife. These programs removed many barriers, allowing us to reach people across the Pacific Northwest and make our classes more accessible for people with disabilities. We also provided free virtual after-school programs for children from our long-standing partner, Hacienda CDC.

Green Leaders
Four young adults from Hacienda CDC attended over 90 hours of paid training in outdoor education, Pacific Northwest ecology, and environmental justice as part of our new Green Leaders program. They went on to lead over 120 hours of free camps, family events, and after-school programming for more than 40 children and families from the Hacienda community.

Outdoor Birding Days and Trips
Physically distanced outdoor programs provided a place for people to safely gather and learn with our expert naturalists. We brought together close to 600 adults to be in community doing something they love, an experience that became all too rare during the pandemic.

BIPOC Outings
It is essential that communities who have been historically marginalized have supportive spaces to connect with nature together. This year, we partnered with three organizations dedicated to creating a sense of belonging in the outdoors for people who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Together with Wild Diversity, Outdoor Afro and People of Color Outdoors, we hosted outings for close to 100 people.

Virtual School Programs
We adapted our in-person programming to meet the virtual needs of schools, using specimens to help students learn about adaptations and animal habitats. With support from Outdoor School For All, we were able to create a fully virtual five-day Outdoor School program.

COVID-safe Camp
This year we celebrated the return of summer camp at our Sanctuary! Camps looked a bit different with limited group sizes, no traveling programs, and most of the day spent outside. But we were delighted to be able to explore, experiment, and play in our forests once again with 277 campers.

Wildlife Care Center
Response to the Heat Dome
During the June heat dome, a stunning 110 young Cooper’s Hawks passed through our door over just a few days in a phenomenon that some staff and volunteers began referring to as “hawkpocalypse.” As climate change continues to impact both people and wildlife, our Wildlife Care Center is exploring ways to better serve animals during events like the extreme heat.

Sanctuaries
Improving Our Trails
We partnered with Trail Keepers of Oregon to reroute and create nearly 500 feet of new trail on the Collins Trail, strengthening a partnership that will allow us to continue improving our trail systems.

Caring for the Land
Our weekly work party (Wednesday Work Crew) has added several new members, which has given us the ability to start tackling years of backlogged maintenance in our sanctuaries, from removing invasives to fire prevention.
The Nature Store is pleased to welcome you this holiday season!

As we look back on the past year, we are so grateful to have had such a supportive community of bird lovers and nature enthusiasts. We hope the Nature Store can help you check things off the holiday list while providing a quiet place to get away from the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping. Stop by to see our full holiday display as well as special new items and old favorites.

**Holiday Hours:**
Open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Closed: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day
- Limited Hours: Christmas Eve, New Year’s Eve (10 a.m.-3 p.m.)

**Shop online!**
The online Nature Store has some of our most popular items, and we are adding new products frequently.

[www.naturestorepdx.squarespace.com](http://www.naturestorepdx.squarespace.com)

**Questions?** Call us at 503-292-9453 ext. 3 or email store@audubonportland.org. Check our online store for updates and more info.

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**Zeiss Digiscoping Event**

**Saturday, December 4**
- 11 a.m. - Session 1
- 1 p.m. - Bird Walk
- 3 p.m. - Session 2

Want to take pictures through your binoculars or spotting scope? Join Nature Store staff and Zeiss representative Richard for a fun and informative demonstration of digiscoping. We will offer two sessions with a short bird walk in between. The sessions will be the same, and will hopefully split up the group and accommodate more people.

**Nikon Scope Sale!**

**November 15-December 5**
- $200 instant savings on the Nikon Monarch Fieldscope 20-60x82mm
  - $1,399.95 (regular Member Price $1599.95 )

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**Optics Focus: Portland Audubon Staff Picks**

**Sarah, Nature Store Buyer**

**Leupold BX-2 Alpine 8x42**

The Leupold Alpine binoculars offer an incredible price point for a pair of full-sized binoculars, and you get to support a local company! While Leupold offers an impressive array of optics, the Alpine is an unbeatable deal and an especially great introductory binocular for budding birders - an absolute favorite for Nature Store shoppers.

Member Price: $229.99

**Tim, Education Youth Programs Manager - Vortex Viper 8x42**

I love these binoculars! They’re fairly lightweight, have excellent image quality, a sturdy and comfortable design, and a locking diopter, and the company provides excellent customer service. They are my go-to bino when I head out birding and hiking. If you are looking for a mid-range priced bino, these are worth checking out—mine are over a decade old and going strong!

Member Price: $489.99

**Charles, Development Director**

**Swarovski NL Pure 10x42**

The new Swarovski NL Pure binoculars are amazing! They feel great in the hands, and have even better lenses than before. They also have a huge field of view, making the 10x feel like a traditional 8x. You have to see it to believe it!

Member Price: $3,029

“This is a book like no other—the only truly comprehensive, one-volume illustrated guide to all of the world’s birds, covering the complete International Ornithological Congress World Bird List.”

Member Price: $58.50

Birdpedia by Christopher W. Leahy

“Birdpedia is an engaging illustrated compendium of bird facts and birding lore. Featuring nearly 200 entries—on topics ranging from plumage and migration to birds in art, literature, and folklore—this enticing collection is brimming with wisdom and wit about all things avian.” Treepedia and Fungipedia available too!

Member Price: $15.25

A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds by Scott Weidensaul

“This breathtaking work of nature writing from Pulitzer Prize finalist Scott Weidensaul introduces readers to the scientists, researchers, and bird lovers trying to preserve global migratory patterns in the face of climate change and other environmental challenges. Drawing on his own extensive fieldwork, in A World on the Wing Weidensaul unveils with dazzling prose the miracle of nature taking place over our heads.”

Member Price: $28.80

Rise and Roar: A Guided Journal for Outdoor Adventure by Sharisse Steber

“Rise and Roar meets women where they are in life, and challenges and inspires them to get outside. Encouraging women to define their motivation, examine their fears, and create their own adventure manifesto.”

Member Price: $19.95

Look at that Bird!: A Young Naturalist’s Guide to Pacific Northwest Birding by Karen Dewitz

“Filled with fun and interesting kid-friendly facts and full-color photographs of over 50 birds that Northwesterners are most likely to see every day, this book encourages curious kids and their adults to go outside and learn more about nature. Kids will learn basic information about what makes a bird a bird, and specific information about each bird species, all of which can be used to help identify birds.”

Member Price: $17.99

My Friend Earth by Patricia MacLachlan

“Our friend Earth does so many wonderful things! She tends to animals large and small. She pours down summer rain and autumn leaves. She sprinkles whisper-white snow and protects the tiny seeds waiting for spring. Readers of all ages will pore over the pages of this spectacular book. Its enticing die-cut pages encourage exploration as its poetic text celebrates everything Earth does for us, all the while reminding us to be a good friend in return.”

Member Price: $16.19

Backpack Explorer: Bird Watch by Storey Publishing

“The third book in the Backpack Explorer series, Bird Watch leads kids through the basics or birding, includes 12 interactive field guides, and a variety of activities to engage with nature. Includes a mini magnifying glass, stickers, and a bird log.”

Member Price: $11.66
Ceramic Bird Feeder
These feeders, featuring artwork by local artist Dean Crouser, are sure to please the backyard birds.
Member Price: $29.20

Candle Holder
Anglaspel rotary candle holders have been a favorite in the Nature Store for many years. The unique decorations will reflect light and spread it around nearby walls and ceiling.
Member Price: $17.10

Cobane Ornament
Member Price: $14.40 - $18.90

Brushart Ornament
Member Price: $8.10

Swedish Dishcloth
100% biodegradable and made with organic materials and ink. They are quick to dry and become as soft as a cotton wash towel when wet. Durable, easy to clean, and eco friendly!
Member Price: $6.30

Seattle Chocolate Holiday Truffle Bars
Member Price: $4.05

The Nature Store has your holiday needs covered! From cozy home decor to stocking stuffers and gifts for the whole family, there is sure to be something to brighten your holiday space.

Book Club is Back!
The Nature Store’s Book Club took a break at the start of COVID, but we have decided to start up again virtually. RSVP to arojo@audubonportland.org (subject line: Book club) for updates, dates, and times. Our first book of 2022 will be Fire & Water: Stories from the Anthropocene, edited by Mary Fifield and Kristen Thiel. This anthology of short fiction takes us through the journey of climate change, set not in the future but today. Join us and some of the book’s contributors and editors for a lively discussion! (January date and time TBD)
The Nature Store carries a variety of toys for all ages and interests. From at-home science kits to rainy-day puzzles, you’ll be sure to find the perfect holiday present for the young and young at heart in your life.

**Folkmanis Puppets**
Folkmanis has been making innovative and engaging specialty puppets since 1976, and the Nature Store is proud to carry a variety of your favorite birds and critters!

*Snowy Owl*
Member Price: $32.40

**Audubon Bird Call**
When twisted, this remarkable birchwood and metal instrument will make a variety of sounds to attract wild birds. Each one is handmade and individually tuned with Portland Audubon sketched on the call.

Member Price: $8.10

**Cavallini Puzzle**
Member Price: $19.80

**Build a Bird Bungalow**
Member Price: $14.40

**Rock Science Kit**
Member Price: $11.70

**Mini Building Blocks**
Bald Eagle
Member Price: $9.90

NEW ITEM!
There are many reasons to shop local, and the incredible artists and vendors in the Portland area make it easy with their unique offerings! Portland Audubon is proud to support artisans by carrying their products in the Nature Store.

**Birds by Ellie**

“Painting is my way of paying deep attention and respect to the beautiful birds around us.” —Ellie Neifeld, Artist

Member Price: $2.70 stickers
$3.60 notecards

**Sauvie Island Coffee**

“We believe in environmental, social, and economic stewardship, and maintaining a local focus, all while providing Beaverton’s best coffee to our customers and neighbors.” —Brenda Enyart, Owner and Roaster

Member Price: $13.45 ground or whole bean

**Ritual and Fancy**

“I pull inspiration for my eclectic candle fragrances and aromatherapy bath blends from my diverse ancestry and places I’ve called home.” —Shakira Mongul, Founder

Member Price: $12.60 3oz candles, $28.80 12oz candles

**Little Gold Fox**

“As a mother and nature lover, sustainability is a passion that I embrace at every level of life and business. Little Gold Fox is devoted to making sure that the products and packaging all meet green standards.” —Arrowyn Craban Lauer, Artist

Member Price: $4.50 individual cards, $18.00 boxed holiday cards

**Dragonfly DayDream Artisan Soap**

“Whimsical and sophisticated bath and body products for the eco-conscious individual. Our products are handcrafted in small batches in Portland, Oregon, using unique fragrances that will captivate your senses.” —Ree Lesher, Owner

Member Price: $7.20
Nature Night: Michelle Nijhuis - Finding Hope in Conservation History
December 14 | 7-8:30 p.m.

In the late 19th century, humans came at long last to a devastating realization: their rapidly industrializing and globalizing societies were driving scores of animal species to extinction. Over the decades since, the conservation movement has evolved from early campaigns to save charismatic species like the American Bison into an effort to defend life on a larger scale. Join journalist Michelle Nijhuis, the author of the book Beloved Beasts: Fighting for Life in an Age of Extinction, as she shares her research on the accomplishments, oversights, and outsized personalities of the conservation movement.

Cost: Free, donation suggested

Bird Journals: Create Simple Pages
January 8 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

With some easy drawing and painting tips, create satisfying birds and their surroundings. You will learn how to see in a new way and translate that vision onto paper. This class will help you understand that details are not what you think!

Fee: $55 members / $75 non-members
Instructor: Jude Siegel

Spectrum Savvy: How Birds Exist Outside of Heterosexual and Cisgender Norms
December 9 | 6-7 p.m.

Join us to learn about the birds that exist outside of heteronormative human ideas and family structures. From gay swan foster parents to matriarchal hawk families and same-sex penguin couples, birds have a diverse array of relationship and family styles just like us!

Fee: $20 members / $30 non-members
Instructor: Kate Kohut

Winter Waterfowl
January 11 | 6-7 p.m.

Many species of waterfowl spend the winter in the Willamette Valley. This class will highlight field marks that enable you to identify ducks and geese from a distance.

Fee: $20 members / $30 non-members
Instructor: John Rakestraw

The New School of Birding, Module 1
Virtual classes: Wednesdays, January 12, 19, 26; February 9, 16, 23 | 6-7:15 p.m.
Field days: Saturdays, January 22; February 12, 26 8:00 a.m.-1 p.m./3 p.m.

Over six weeks of virtual lectures, quizzes, helpful handouts, live interaction with your instructors, and extensive field time, you’ll build your birding skills and gain a deeper understanding of what’s going on beneath all those feathers!

Fee: $450 members / $600 non-members
Instructors: Candace Larson and Dan van den Broek

Sign up for classes and trips at bit.ly/pdxaudubon-classes
Pacific Northwest Trip: Wallowa Winter Wonderland
January 27-30 | 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
Explore the winter wonderland of Wallowa County on this self-catering trip based in Enterprise. Exciting bird-sighting aspirations are Bohemian Waxwing, Gray Partridge, Snow Bunting, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, and Gyrfalcon.
Fee: $595 members / $795 non-members
Leader: Stefan Schlick

Pacific Northwest Trip: Owls by Day in Walla Walla
February 18-20 | 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
We'll explore the unique habitat along the Columbia River and adjacent to the Blue Mountains on this self-catering winter trip to see owls by day in the Walla Walla area.
Fee: $250 members / $310 non-members
Leader: Stefan Schlick

Pacific Northwest Trip: Skagit Valley Birding
February 25-27 | 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
The rich environment of Skagit Valley includes a variety of habitats, including tidal mudflats, marshes, and agricultural land, providing perfect viewing opportunities for a number of raptors and over-wintering geese, swans, and ducks!
Fee: $300 members / $390 non-members
Leader: Stefan Schlick

GO BIRDING!
January 2, 2022
Join the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) for a fun day identifying and counting birds seen in designated 15-mile diameter circles. This long-standing program of the National Audubon Society is lending important insight into the health and status of bird populations across North America.
The Portland CBC has been conducted since 1926 and is informing Portland Audubon's urban conservation efforts.
To participate, visit bit.ly/CBC-Portland to connect with an Area Leader.

COMMUNITY SCIENCE
Christmas Bird Count
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The Portland CBC has been conducted since 1926 and is informing Portland Audubon's urban conservation efforts.
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Give the Gift of a Portland Audubon Class or Trip!
Visit bit.ly/PAGiftCertificate to choose from a variety of gift certificate options that will provide a memorable experience for any lucky recipient!
Spring Getaways: Experience Peak Bird Migration

**Klamath Basin**

**Late March 2022**

Let's explore the Klamath Basin, home to six national wildlife refuges and one of the most important wetland ecosystems in the west! Our visit is timed to see the spectacular spring migration of geese, along with a great diversity of waterfowl and plenty of raptors too.

Fee: $945 members / $1,145 non-members

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**The Warbler Tour! Magee Marsh, Ohio & Michigan**

**May 7-14, 2022**

Enjoy up to 36 species of brilliantly colorful warblers along the famous boardwalk of Magee Marsh. We'll delight in watching up to 150 species as the marshes come alive with birds. Then we'll head to northern Michigan to find the incredible and rare Kirtland's Warbler to conclude this memorable midwest adventure.

Fee: $2,595 members / $3,395 non-members

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**Malheur Foray**

**June 1-5, 2022**

Explore remote and beautiful southeastern Oregon and visit a world-class birding paradise, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, during peak migration. We'll focus on both birds and the natural history of the vast refuge and surrounding areas, including Steens Mountain and the Alvord Desert.

Fee: $1,145 members / $1,395 non-members

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**The Birds and Natural History of Northeast Oregon**

**June 13-17, 2022**

Join us in ruggedly beautiful Northeast Oregon with spectacular mountains and gorges and plenty of birdlife too! We’ll explore the Grande Ronde River, Zumwalt Prairie, and Hell’s Canyon. While we are birding, we’ll also dive into the unique ecology of this amazing corner of the state.

Fee: $1,195 members / $1,495 non-members
PORTLAND AUDUBON

Gift Guide

This holiday season, give the gift of a stronger connection to nature, a gift that inspires you to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends. When you give a new pair of optics, a camp, ecotour, field guide, or donation to protect wildlife, you are also giving the gift of a healthier Oregon for animals and people!

The Nature Store Brings the Outdoors Closer Than Ever

Whether it is a new bird feeder bringing birds to your loved one’s backyard, a field guide transporting them to a new location, binoculars providing a different angle on their favorite birds and wildlife, or a toy or game bringing joy and engagement, the Nature Store is your one-stop shop. And if you are a member, you will receive a 10% discount on that perfect gift.

Youth Camps

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

Make Camps More Accessible with a Gift to the Spencer Higgins Education Fund

Camps at Portland Audubon allow kids to observe wildlife, explore Oregon’s landscapes, and connect with nature. You can help us offer our nature-based camps and school field trips to more children by donating to the Scholarship Fund. And when you do, you will foster the growth of future land stewards.

Classes, Field Trips, and Audubon Birding Days

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

Send Them on the Ecotour of a Lifetime

Many people have been waiting for the opportunity to travel again, and you can make that dream a reality by sending them on an ecotour with Portland Audubon. They will see firsthand the unique birds of the world, explore different ecosystems, and gain cultural experiences. (It doubles as a gift for yourself if you go together!) Send them on or join our expert-guided trip to Mongolia in 2022.

American Robin, photo by Mick Thompson.

This holiday season, give the gift of a stronger connection to nature, a gift that inspires you to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends. When you give a new pair of optics, a camp, ecotour, field guide, or donation to protect wildlife, you are also giving the gift of a healthier Oregon for animals and people!
Give a Portland Audubon Membership

From protecting imperiled species, to building climate-resilient landscapes, to creating the greenest metropolitan region, and inspiring people of all ages to explore and connect with the natural world, the members of Portland Audubon are helping Oregon’s wildlife, wild places, and people thrive. And when you provide a gift membership to a loved one, they will be joining a community of nature lovers and receive our Warbler newsletter as well as discounts at the Nature Store and on camps, classes, and ecotours.

Make a Donation in Honor of Someone You Love

When you care deeply about the environment, the perfect gift may not be a physical item. It could be a recognition of your values and love of the natural world. A tribute gift is a great way to honor or memorialize your loved one by building on their legacy of advocating for birds, wildlife, and wild places. When you make a tribute gift, your loved one will be recognized in the Warbler newsletter, and you can send them or their next of kin an elegant songbird-themed card with the option to include a personalized message.

Give the Gift of Saving a Life

Give injured and orphaned wildlife a second chance by making a donation to support the operation of the Wildlife Care Center. Every year our Wildlife Care Center treats 4,000 injured and orphaned native birds, mammals, and other native species. Your gift ensures we can provide the best care for our patients and serve as a hub for reducing wildlife/human conflicts all over the region.

Sponsor a Wild Thing

Ruby the Turkey Vulture, Aristophanes the Common Raven, Xena the American Kestrel, Julio the Great Horned Owl, and Bybee the Western Painted Turtle hold a special place in the hearts of visitors of all ages. Brought in for various reasons and unable to be released back to the wild, these Animal Ambassadors call Portland Audubon home, and you can help pay for their care. When you do, you can give or receive a membership to Portland Audubon along with a fact sheet on the Ambassador Animals, a photo, and a Wild Thing Sponsorship certificate.

Support More Birds through the Backyard Habitat Certification Program

Give a gift that will be around all year long and help our urban environment by signing your loved one up for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program. It’s the perfect gift for your favorite gardener, providing the tools they need to turn their yard into a native habitat oasis for wildlife. And nothing brings birds to the yard better than native plants.
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.
$1,000,000 Gift Establishes Wildlife Care Center Endowment

by Charles Milne, Director of Development
with Nick Hardigg, former Executive Director, forever Portland Audubon supporter

We are thrilled to announce that a longtime donor has made a $1 million gift to establish what is now Portland Audubon’s largest endowed fund. Earnings from the endowment will provide additional resources for wildlife rehabilitation, with initial funding dedicated to increasing the presence of a wildlife veterinarian to full-time. Portland Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center is the busiest wildlife rehabilitation center in Oregon and the oldest program in the nation.

The donor, who has asked to remain anonymous, wanted to create an endowed fund not only to ensure continued exemplary medical care for our patients, but also to encourage endowment giving by other donors. “With your track record and history, I knew my gift would be in good hands and would help safeguard Audubon’s healthy future. I encourage others to consider making endowment gifts as well as a permanent investment to ensure that Portland Audubon thrives and grows for generations.”

“We with your track record and history, I knew my gift would be in good hands and would help safeguard Audubon’s healthy future.”

Endowed funds are invested and managed to last in perpetuity. Proceeds from endowment investments provide a steady stream of operating support to ensure that our work will continue without interruption. Portland Audubon has other open endowed funds that donors are welcome to contribute to, including our Sanctuary Stewardship Endowment (founded by the Collins family) in support of our 172-acre wildlife sanctuary on NW Cornell Road.

To learn more about making a gift to a permanently endowed fund at Portland Audubon, please contact Charles Milne, Director of Development, at 971-222-6117 or cmilne@audubonportland.org.
Band-tailed Pigeon Returns to the Wild
by Ashley Lema, Wildlife Rehabilitator

During the last week of August, we received a young Band-tailed Pigeon from Amity, Oregon, after a Good Samaritan found them in the road near a large clear-cut area. Their home had been destroyed.

Band-tailed Pigeons typically nest in coniferous or deciduous trees, building a messy platform of sticks to raise their young in. Not only does the dad help by bringing the mom nest-making materials, but they both care for, incubate, and feed their babies. Like other doves and pigeons, they produce “crop milk,” a secretion made in the esophagus that is fed to the nestlings. Although Band-tailed Pigeons have a long nesting season, sometimes raising up to three broods a year, each time they usually only have one chick, maybe two. This young pigeon was likely an only child and was being doted on by both parents before their home came crumbling down.

This big youngster was in no shape to be on their own and still needed parents for nutritional support and guidance. Once in our care, we were able to provide a specialized formula to mimic the crop milk, and pretty soon, the bird was picking up seeds and fruit unaided. After growing a bit more indoors, the pigeon was moved to a larger outdoor enclosure where they could practice flying.

After several weeks in care and now old enough to fend for themselves, the juvenile Band-tailed Pigeon was released back to the wild. While we did our very best to ready the chick for life out there, nothing compares to the knowledge a parent bird can pass on. My wish for this juvenile pigeon is to go on to raise young and live out a natural life. I know there are a lot of dangers they will face, but fingers crossed this was the last of the struggles caused by humans.

Before Band-tailed Pigeons had any protection, their population numbers were severely depleted by overhunting. After laws were put into place, they made a fair comeback but have been in decline for a while now—around a 60% loss since the 1960s. While these pigeons are still hunted in Oregon, habitat loss is likely reducing their numbers and putting them at risk. If you’d like to get involved in protecting the habitat of our region’s wildlife, sign up to become an activist: audubonportland.org/take-action/

Band-tailed Pigeons are common in forests along much of the Pacific Coast and in the mountains, where they move around nomadically in search of acorns, berries, or other wild food crops, as well as mineral sites. They are social birds, foraging in flocks of dozens to hundreds of individuals, even nesting in small, loose colonies. This flocking behavior can help protect them from predators, usually hawks, falcons, or owls. They may also get predators at their nest site when they don’t have the safety of numbers. In those cases, a parent can try to hold their ground, hissing, bristling their feathers, and even slapping the intruder with strong wings.

What If You Find an Injured, Ill, or Orphaned Animal?

The best thing you can do is contain the animal in a securely closed (but ventilated) box and keep the animal quiet and undisturbed until you can transport it to your closest wildlife rehabilitation facility. Do not offer food or water.
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!

Antler Gallery
Cindy Thompson
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Impacts of Giving, a Staff Perspective

“Thanks to the generous support of a donor, the new pond pavilion provides shelter for our youth programs, transforming this well-loved space into a year-round drip-free outdoor classroom! Donor support makes this outdoor classroom possible to educate thousands of youth a year.

Binocular donations make it possible for every camper to have their own pair to use to spot birds, salamanders, and butterflies up close. The excitement of learning how to use a new tool, observe the small details of their surroundings, and connect with nature is contagious!”

Tim Donner
Youth Programs Manager

“Donors make much of the work we do in Eastern Oregon possible. This includes our biological, outreach, and policy work. One of the most exciting efforts supported by donors was our Explorer Pack project with the Harney County Library and Friends of Malheur. We were able to create 15 Explorer Packs, complete with binoculars and ID guides. Five of these packs have been in circulation for local families to check out and go exploring since spring 2021.”

Teresa Wicks
Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

“Everything we do here at the Wildlife Care Center is possible entirely because of the generosity of donors! It isn’t cheap to care for injured wildlife; they need specialized foods, enclosures, medications, lab tests, surgeries, and trained staff, all of which are costly. Yet we’ll never charge anyone for the care of any animal; wildlife belongs to all of us and none of us! We are so grateful for everyone who contributes: for those who donate funds to keep our doors open, for those who donate time to get the hard work done, and for those compassionate souls who interrupt their day to intervene and bring injured animals in for care.”

Stephanie Herman
Wildlife Care Center Manager

“During the pandemic, the natural world has been a much needed respite, a place to care for our mental health, and a safe way to see friends and family. Yet, the past year has also called into stark relief inequities with regards to education and the outdoors. Families have struggled to coordinate remote school learning, identify out-of-school time care, and find safe spaces for their children to play. Donor support has enabled Portland Audubon’s Education team to facilitate over 100 hours of free programming in partnership with organizations led by and for low-income communities. Together, we’ve collaborated to lead free after-school programs, camps, and family events for dozens of youth and adults.”

Emily Pinkowitz
Director of Education

“Our conservation work on the coast depends on the generosity of donors, including substantial donations of optical equipment like spotting scopes and binoculars over the years. Our coastal community science stewards spend many hours in the field collecting information on birds and habitats we are working to protect. Donations play a huge part in helping us move forward with our conservation efforts. We couldn’t do our work without the gracious support of donors!”

Joe Liebezeit
Staff Scientist and Avian Conservation Manager
Portland Audubon inspires all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends.

Make a Gift Through Give!Guide and Get Perks!

Portland Audubon is honored to again be selected for the Willamette Week Give!Guide. Your gift through the Give!Guide will allow us to confront the mounting pressures on our ecosystems and create long-lasting protections for wildlife, wild places, and people.

Look out for communications around incredible Big Give Day prizes! And even if you don’t win, with a donation of $10 or more you will receive $4,000+ worth of free and discounted products.

Help protect Oregon’s diverse animals and landscapes by making a gift to Portland Audubon at giveguide.org/nonprofits/portland-audubon!

Birdy Brain Buster!

Which of these avian scavengers dominates a carcass, routinely driving other scavengers away?

A. California Condor
B. Golden Eagle
C. Common Raven
D. Turkey Vulture