

Warbler





FROM OUR SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

After Two Long Years, Welcoming Folks Back

by Paul Lipscomb, Interim Executive Director Tumko Davaakhuu, Chief Operating Officer Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director Ali Berman, Communications Manager Emily Pinkowitz, Education Director Charles Milne, Development Director

It's been more than two years since Portland Audubon temporarily closed its offices due to the pandemic. We were grateful to enable many of our staff to work from home, and we reduced public access to indoor facilities to help keep our community safe. But that absence left our headquarters a little too quiet. We've missed the daily connection to all of you! Thankfully, that's about to change. Starting on May 1 we're taking major steps to open back up.

- All staff are returning to the office so we can join together in person. Portland Audubon has a new policy that invites staff to work from the office or from home when needed. This model recognizes the commitment of our staff, reduces greenhouse gasses, and improves work/life balance.
- Our Interpretive Center will reopen for rest and recuperation after you explore our Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Lower Macleay Trail is back open. After a lengthy closure, the public can again hike to our sanctuary.
- As we write this letter, the road detour to Portland Audubon is still in effect. We're told it will be lifted soon, so it might be over by the time you read this. Check our website for more information.

Thank you all for your patience and commitment to safety. We can't wait to see you again!

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Frenchman's Bar Regional Park

Lake Shore

Hazel Dell

West Hayden Island—The Time s Now Burnt Bridge

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

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Pier Park

Portland

NORTH PORTLAI

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Forest Park

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For decades, the 826 acres of wildlife habitat on West Hayden Island has been one of the most conflicted and contested parcels in the Portland metropolitan region. However, the stars have begun to align, and an unprecedented opportunity now lies before us to permanently protect one of the largest and most ecologically valuable unprotected natural areas in the region.



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Sitting just east of the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, West Hayden Island includes critically important shallow water and off-channel habitat for endangered salmon and steelhead using both the Willamette and Columbia River systems. It contains one of the largest intact stands of cottonwood and ash forest left on the Lower Columbia, representing a remarkable 4% of this habitat left between river miles 12 and 145. Its complex mosaic of bottomland forest, wetlands, and meadows provide habitat for more than 120 bird species including several species of concern. Virtually the entire parcel lies within the floodplain and was submerged during the 1996 floods. When fully protected, West Hayden Island will be one of the largest additions to the regional system of natural areas in decades and will be the third largest natural area in the City of Portland, behind only Forest Park and Smith and Bybee Lakes in size.

Over the past four decades, some of Portland's most epic conservation battles have been fought over this parcel. Portland Audubon first began advocating for its protection in the 1980s when it was still owned by Portland General Electric. Articles expressing concern first began appearing in the Warbler in 1982, and a December 1993 article noted that PGE was proposing to add 20 million cubic yards of fill to the island to

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raise it above 100-year flood levels and prepare it for development. In a historically amusing understatement, Mike Houck, Portland Audubon Urban Naturalist from 1980 to 2019, wrote, "The potential total destruction of this riparian and ash forest is an issue that Auduboners ought to be involved in." Three and a half decades of conflict ensued.

In 1994, the Port of Portland acquired West Hayden Island from PGE with the intent of developing large marine terminals. Throughout the 1990s, 2000s, and early 2010s, Portland Audubon and the Port would engage in multiple battles over the island. Over time, Portland Audubon was joined by multiple conservation and environmental justice groups, the Hayden Island Neighborhood Association (HINooN) and other neighborhoods, and most notably by the nearby Hayden Island Manufactured Home Community and the Yakama Nation. Hearings circa 2014 were so well attended that they had to be moved out of City Hall and held in the auditorium of the Portland Building with overflow rooms.

Over time, understanding of the ecological value of West Hayden Island only increased while the demand for port terminals decreased. Near the end of 2019, the Port first let Portland Audubon know that it no

longer intended to develop West Hayden Island for marine terminals, and in February 2021, Port of Portland Executive Director Curtis Robinhold announced it to the entire community in a Sunday Oregonian article, stating that "an industrial development on that site is unlikely" and noting that "several stakeholders have expressed an interest in making it green space, including Bob Sallinger and the Portland Audubon Society. I think they make strong arguments." We greatly appreciate Robinhold's leadership on this issue and the Port's evolving and innovative thinking around marine terminal land demand, natural resource protection, and shared prosperity.

After decades of disagreement, the Port and Portland Audubon have been working collaboratively to advance a permanent protection strategy for the acreage owned by the Port on West Hayden Island. In order to accomplish this goal, fair market value will need to be raised to compensate the Port. One of the most viable pathways forward is funding from the 2019 \$475 million Metro Greenspace Bond Measure. The parcel meets Metro's commitment to advance environmental protection, access, and equity. Additional funding sources may be needed as well, and we will be advocating for support from the state, federal delegation, and others. Long-term ownership and management strategies will also need to be developed with strong community input. The parcel will still need to accommodate other existing functions, including transmission line corridors, a City of Portland water treatment outfall, and a Port dredge material disposal area.

However, four decades after the battle over West Hayden Island began, a collaborative resolution is now within reach. West Hayden Island could quickly become one of the region's most unique and spectacular natural areas. Its permanent protection is among our top priorities and we look forward to continuing to work with the Port and other community stakeholders to make this a reality.



Anthropomorphism: The A-Word

by Graham Williamson, Wildlife Rehabilitator

We often talk about other animals, plants, and nonliving objects as if they have human emotions and motives. When a cat knocks a mug off a table, we might interpret it as an act of revenge. When we speak softly to an injured wild animal, because we intend to comfort them, we assume that sound is comforting to that animal. This is anthropomorphism, and it is often an unconscious part of our lives.

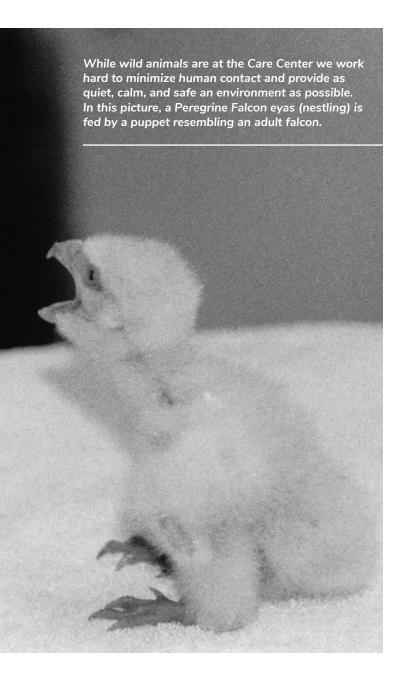
Perhaps it is so prevalent because of the way our human brains work. In psychology, pareidolia is the phenomenon that causes people to see faces on the moon or rabbits in cloud shapes. Loosely, pareidolia can be described as the projection of what we are familiar with onto what is unknown or unfamiliar. Our brains naturally fill in gaps of our perception. It's an autonomic response, and we do it with other people all the time. The wide adoption of the golden rule (treat others the way you want to be treated) is an example of this—until we learn differently, we assume others want and need the same things as we do. In light of these psychological forces, anthropomorphism makes sense. When we have so much trouble shifting our perspective to that of another human being, how much harder is it to do so for something as entirely alien as another species?

So why talk about anthropomorphism? Is it good or bad? There are certainly arguments for both sides, but in the context of wildlife rehabilitation. anthropomorphism is often a barrier to our goals. Animals are not people, and they don't experience the world the way humans do. If we want to better understand animal behavior and connect with them. we must first understand and question our own unconscious assumptions.

We are not so distinct from animals that there is no overlap: they feel hunger, keep themselves clean, and care for their young. Animals can have complex social interactions, be parentally protective, and learn from past experience. All of these observable behaviors are similar to our own, and it is not anthropomorphism to call a behavior what it is. We still need to apply our understanding of animal behavior and natural history, of course—lion cubs play to develop muscles and practice hunting and killing behaviors they'll need when they're older. But humans play to develop physical, mental, and social skills they'll need later in life as well, and we can reasonably make connections between the experience of play.



Anthropomorphism begins when we ascribe human motives and reasoning to behaviors, and it can lead to a serious disconnect. The internet is full of "cute animal" pictures and videos where the animal is exhibiting fear. People make similar assumptions when they find injured wildlife and hold them in their arms, wrapped in a blanket, on the drive over. Feeling securely wrapped and held may calm human babies, but not wild birds. which are not cradled or held by their parents or peers the way primates are. When we anthropomorphize animals, we are really telling ourselves what we want to think their behavior means, instead of interpreting the behavior for what it is. We are trying to save the animal, so we want to believe they understand our intentions and are holding still to aid us, instead of freezing in fear.



The truth is, the less human contact an injured wild animal experiences, the more comfortable and safe they will feel. With younger animals, reducing contact also reduces the likelihood of imprinting, which can make an animal unreleasable.

Another reason to push back against anthropomorphism is it can erase animals' natural value. A healthy planet relies on complex, balanced, and diverse ecosystems. Amazing animals and plants, fungi, and protists play varying roles in maintaining these incredible functioning systems. When we try to humanize wildlife, it begins to chip away in our own minds the distinct and irreplaceable position, value, and function these animals hold in our world. In wildlife rehabilitation, we need people who see a bird with a

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broken wing to understand that if they'd broken their arm, they would want help getting to the hospital; to recognize how urbanization and development displaces wildlife from their homes and introduces countless unfamiliar hazards; and act to personally and collectively live in a more harmonious way. This is truly empathy: a person being able to recognize another animal's pain without experiencing it themself. Can anthropomorphism help open the door to empathy? Perhaps. Finding similarity can sometimes make empathy easier. But boiling an experience down to only the similarities, or imposing false similarities, is not empathy and can also lead to harm.

Anthropomorphism is taught to us from a young age and normalized throughout our lives, so it is not something we can simply switch on or off. Through raising awareness and recognizing when we do it, we can unlearn what has been instilled in us and begin to appreciate wildlife behavior in a more authentic light. The point of discussing our natural tendency toward anthropomorphism and distinguishing it from empathy is to highlight how drastically different these animals' experiences are from our own—our exciting up-close encounter with an injured animal can be utterly terrifying for them. Empathizing with wildlife can be difficult because of how dissimilar they are from us, but the experience is always worth it. Empathy does not end with "look how similar you are to me." but with "I recognize what harm has been done, and I want to help." It is integral to wildlife rehabilitation and conservation, and our work will always improve the more we all learn to practice it.

Wildlife Care Center Site Search Begins

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Portland Audubon is excited to announce the beginning of our search for a new site within the Portland metro region on which to build a new Wildlife Care Center. We are reaching out to our community to seek sites that meet our needs.

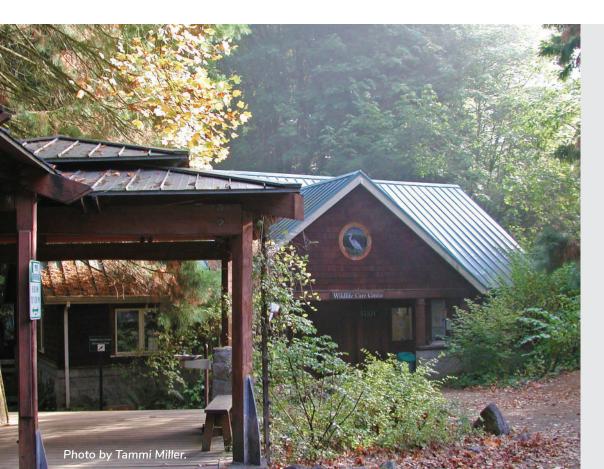
Our Wildlife Care Center is the busiest wildlife rehabilitation facility in the region, treating 3,000 to 5,000 wild animals each year. The current facility at our sanctuary on Cornell Road is 35 years old and no longer able to meet demand or modern wildlife care standards. Well over 100,000 wild animals have passed through this 1,400-square-foot building during its life, and it needs to be replaced.

Due to septic system limitations and other constraints at the Cornell Road site, we have decided to search for a new location. This will allow us to construct a modern wildlife rehabilitation center that meets demand for wildlife care services, expand outreach

to promote wildlife stewardship and reduce human-wildlife conflicts, increase opportunities for volunteers, researchers, and other wildlife professionals, and develop new partnerships and connections to our community.

The new Wildlife Care Center will deliver outstanding wildlife care, promote protection of the wild animals that share our landscape, reflect Portland Audubon's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, and model green, sustainable, wildlife-friendly building practices.

But we need your help! We will use several strategies to identify and secure a site, but our amazing community is often the best source of information and ideas. If you own or know of a site that you think would meet our needs, we want to hear from you. Please contact Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@audubonportland.org



DO YOU HAVE A SITE TO SUGGEST?

If you are aware of sites that are available and meet our criteria, visit bit.ly/Site-Suggestions and fill out the site suggestion form or contact Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@ audubonportland.org

Left: More than 100,000 wild animals have passed through our current Wildlife Care Center over the past 35 years!



The following are our minimum site criteria (these are intentionally broad in order to capture the widest range of potential sites):



LOCATION: Within a 15-mile radius of downtown Portland (Oregon side of the Columbia River only). Closer-in is preferred.



EXISTING STRUCTURES:

We will consider properties with existing structures.



PARCEL SIZE: Minimum of 4 developable acres, but a larger parcel is desired (not all acreage needs to be developable if larger than 4 acres)



COST: We welcome property donations (tax-deductible) but are prepared to purchase property



UTILITIES: Access to water, sewer, electricity, cellular service



CONTAMINATION FREE:

Free of significant contamination



ZONING: Industrial, commercial, conditional use or other compatible zones as appropriate by jurisdiction



OTHER CRITERIA

NATURAL AREA: Adjacent to a natural area would be helpful but not essential



PARKING: Minimum 30 cars onsite or immediately nearby



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Public

transportation accessibility would be helpful but is not essential

A More Democratic Camp: Response to Our New Sliding Scale

by Emily Pinkowitz, Education Director

Portland Audubon Education is dedicated to creating opportunities for all people to connect to nature in ways that are meaningful for them. Summer camp is a vital element of this platform, offering children the opportunity to explore, learn, and delight in nature for weeks at a time, while providing essential child care to families. However, the cost of camp programs has made them prohibitive for a significant number of families in our community. To address that barrier, this year we committed to expand access to camp by piloting a sliding scale payment model.

As we shared in the January Warbler, when families began registering for summer camp this winter they were presented with the opportunity to choose an amount that was feasible for them. Families also had the opportunity to give back by paying an additional amount, leveraging their privilege and abundance against the inequities that prevent many children from accessing nature education.

When we launched this pilot, we were unsure how it would be received. Would families opt to use the discounts? Would families choose to "pay it forward"? Would this truly shift who we welcomed to camp this year, creating a more democratic summer program?

Within days of opening registration, an answer started to emerge. Registrations poured in at record-breaking levels. Within one week, we had sold out close to half of camp! By four weeks out from launch, we were at 90% capacity. Now, three months from the start of the season, all but a handful of slots are full.

As we reviewed the data, we were excited to see how dramatically our audience had transformed. Over 250 campers will be coming to camp this summer using discounted rates, with 10% of families opting to pay less than \$50 for a week of camp. This change correlates with a shift in the zip codes represented by our camp audience. Close to 200 campers are now coming from zip codes with a median household income below the average in Portland. When we removed cost as a barrier for attending camps, families responded. As a result, this summer our programs will more fully represent the breadth of communities in our city.

With this shift come some financial costs, and we were also moved by the spirit of generosity and collaboration that was reflected in the registration process. Close to 5% of families chose to pay 125% of camp fees to help sustain this program into the future, and over 60% opted to support the true cost of camp, which was far more than we had projected. We are also grateful to supporters who donated to the Spencer Higgins Education Fund. Their support enables us to take bold action to more fully embody our mission to inspire all people to love and protect the natural world.

This summer, we'll be operating camp at normal capacity for the first time since the pandemic hit. We can't wait to see the Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary and our cabin at Marmot alive with hundreds of children laughing, playing, and learning. They'll make friends, build community, and spark a deep lasting love of the earth born from extended, rich time in nature. We're grateful that this year, these unparalleled natural spaces will be accessible to more families from across the city. Together, we are fostering a lasting, resonant sense of place in the outdoors for all.



If you would like to support this effort, donations can be made to the Spencer Higgins Education Fund on our website.



2022 Legislative **Session Recap**

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The 2022 Legislative Short Session is now in the rearview mirror. Although it lasted only 35 days, it resulted in some remarkable gains for conservation in Oregon. Portland Audubon's top two legislative priorities—advancing new stream protections under the Oregon Forest Practices Act and creating a new Elliott State Research Forest—passed with strong support from both conservation and timber interests and with strong bipartisan support. This seemed unfathomable only a few years ago and is testament to the intense and unprecedented negotiations that have occurred since then.

Passed: Senate Bill 1501

Creates strong new stream protections under the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA), which regulates more than 10 million acres of private forestland in Oregon. Portland Audubon has fought for decades to strengthen the OFPA. We are proud to have been part of the six-person environmental negotiating team that worked with six timber-industry representatives, in a process facilitated by the Governor's office, to develop the OFPA agreements. The other environmental groups directly involved in these negotiations were Wild Salmon Center, Oregon Wild, KS Wild, and Trout Unlimited. This legislation will provide much stronger protections on both fish-bearing and non-fish-bearing streams to benefit federally listed species such as salmon, steelhead, and bull trout as well as other species such as stream-dwelling amphibians. SB 1501 passed with a 22-5 vote in the Senate and 43-15 in the House.

Passed: Senate Bill 1546

Creates the Elliott State Research Forest with strong protections for the Elliott's old-growth forests, imperiled species, and water quality. The 82,000-acre Elliott Coast Forest is one of the crown jewels of the Oregon Coast Range stronghold for federally listed Marbled Murrelets, Northern Spotted Owls, and coho. It has also for decades been one of Oregon's most conflicted landscapes. Portland Audubon along with Cascadia Wild and Center for Biological Diversity have brought three lawsuits to prevent illegal clearcutting and liquidation of the Elliott. Portland Audubon and a coalition of conservation groups successfully fought an effort by the State to sell the Elliott to private timber interests circa 2016-17. For the past three years we have been part of a stakeholder advisory group that included conservation groups, tribes, timber interests,

recreational interests, rural counties, the Oregon School Board, the State of Oregon, and OSU that have been working intensively to develop a collaborative path forward for the Elliott. The Elliott State Research Forest locks in strong protections for the Elliott's older forests. streams, and imperiled species. It creates the largest reserve in the Oregon Coast Range at 34,000+ acres, plus smaller reserves throughout the rest of the forest. The legislation advances with unanimous support from the stakeholder advisory committee (something that seemed virtually impossible three years ago), strong support from more than 25 conservation groups, and bipartisan support in the legislature on a 22-4 vote in the Senate and 50-9 vote in the House. The legislature also allocated \$121 million to fully decouple the Elliott from the Common School Fund.

Passed: House Bill 4130

Allocates \$5 million for wildlife crossings in Oregon.

Passed: House Bill 4128

Helps prevent and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks linked to the import, trade, and handling of wildlife by strengthening state agency coordination, monitoring, and response plans.



Two bills that would harm wildlife failed to advance: House Bill 4127 would have allocated \$1 million for an unaccountable Wolf Compensation Fund and could have been used for payments for "missing" livestock that are not verifiable (as opposed to direct depredation loss). House Bill 4080 would have authorized formation of Predator Damage Control Districts to raise money to subsidize federal lethal wildlife control programs.

It was a remarkable short session, but we are already looking forward to the 2023 Long Session. Portland Audubon priorities will include advancing funding for urban wildlife biologists at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, funding to support marine reserves and rocky shorelines, reducing the risk of lead shot to wildlife, and protecting Oregon's dark skies.

FIELD NOTES

by Trevor Attenberg

Are Blue Birds **Truly Blue?**

Many of the most striking and loved birds are the blue-colored ones. These include jays, the uncommon Western Bluebird, and the soon-to-arrive male Lazuli Bunting. When we see the first spring bunting with its cerulean plumage, we are seeing a bird that survived winter and was healthy enough to migrate. And their arrival also signals warm days to come! While we admire these bright colors, closer inspection reveals this species isn't blue at all, at least not in the right light.

Perched together on a shrub in the sun, the earthy brown female bunting couldn't contrast more with the male, whose color may remind you of the semiprecious blue stone lapis lazuli. Most feather colors are created by pigments, chemicals that absorb light at the molecular level and re-emit it as specific colors. Yellow, red, and green feathers come from the carotenoid pigments that birds consume in their diet (think male



House Finch). But there is no blue pigment—blue feathers are the result of the feather's own structure. That doesn't mean jays, bluebirds, and buntings don't have pigment; their bodies generate melanin, a pigment that absorbs light and gives feathers a dark gray or brown tone, visible on the underside of the feather. But when lightwaves hit the topside of the feather, they interact with structures made of air and the protein keratin that amplify and reflect the blue light wavelengths, resulting in the blue color perceived by our eyes. Such feathers, when molted to fall to the ground, quickly lose brilliance, even in good light ephemeral, like so much sun.

SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott, **Educator & Trips Specialist**

Birding can take you to some beautiful places. Or, it can take you to the dog food factory, as was the case for many local birders who headed to the Purina factory in North Portland for the chance to see a Tricolored Blackbird, an endangered icterid that is all but impossible to see elsewhere in Portland but is nearly annual in winter at this location. The apparently leaky train cars delivering grain to the factory attract thousands of blackbirds, including Red-winged, Brewer's, and Yellow-headed, and Brown-headed Cowbirds, along with one or two "trikes" each winter.

A Brant was a fun neighborhood bird at Commonwealth Lake Park, where it spent the last week of March trying to blend into a flock of Cackling Geese. Another was found on Sauvie Island the same week.

Spring arrivals included a Columbia County-first Loggerhead Shrike just north of Scappoose, where it remained for a week. Just as surprising, a birder searching for the shrike turned up a Pacific Golden-Plover, which was only the second for the county, and one of a handful of March records for the state.



The annual **Mountain Bluebirds** on Powell Butte did not disappoint, with up to three birds being seen over nine days at their traditional location on the south slope. Another male was found on Oak Island Road on Sauvie Island in April.

The Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge was home to at least eight Black-necked Stilts from late March to early April. And while two weeks is quite a while for visiting stilts, the longevity award once again goes to the nearby **Northern Mockingbird** on Pleasant Valley Road, which continued into April on this, its fourth winter in the same yard.

Those are only a few of the rare birds reported across the region. For corrections, tips, and reports, email Brodie Cass Talbott at bcasstalbott@ audubonportland.org, and for a more detailed weekly report, visit audubonportland.org.

Audubon Birding Days and Field Trips

Audubon Birding Day: Birding by Ear East of the Cascades

May 20 | 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Travel to Oregon's "dry side" and learn to identify our grassland and shrub steppe species by ear!

Fee: \$98 members / \$128 non-members Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott



May 22 | 6 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Enjoy a full day of Wasco County on the east side of Mt. Hood. We will cross a variety of different habitats in what is probably the best time of the year to bird the area. Birdsong will be abundant! Targets are too many to mention, but include Gray Flycatcher, Long-billed Curlew, and Williamson's Sapsucker.

Fee: \$105 members / \$135 non-members Leader: Stefan Schlick

Audubon Birding Day: Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

May 27 | 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Join Portland Audubon for an exploration of this incredibly scenic national wildlife refuge. From estuary to forest, we are guaranteed a full day of birding and fun.

Fee: \$100 members / \$130 non-members Leaders: Tara Lemezis and Erin Law





Field Trip: Birding the Sandy River Delta

May 31 | 7:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Explore the unique open habitat of the Sandy River Delta and search for migrants and raptors.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott and Tara Lemezis

Field Trip: Biking and Birding the Columbia Slough

June 10 | 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Ride a fun 10-mile loop from Delta Park and back. We will stop at Vanport Wetlands, Raceway Ponds, Smith and Bybee Wetlands, and Force Lake, all great places for the specialty birds we will be looking for.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott and Tara Lemezis

Field Trip: Woodpeckers of Portland at Company Lake

June 30 | 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Spend a few hours at Company Lake to search for the woodpeckers who live in Portland.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

Field Trip: Dragonflies at Koll Center Wetlands

July 17 | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join Stefan to discover the stunning beauty of dragonflies at Koll Center Wetlands in Beaverton.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members Leader: Stefan Schlick



IN-PERSON ART & FIELD CLASSES

Saturday Bird Journals with Jude

Journaling in the Field, How to Record Moving Birds: May 21 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Seeing Shapes, Finding Colors: June 4 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Discover this wonderful way to notice and record the birds you love, wherever you may be.

Each class is self-contained. Take one or all! No art experience is required. For beginners and beyond.

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



Field Class: Birding by Ear, Singing and Nesting

June 9 and June 23 | 7-10 a.m.

In this two-session field class you'll get to know the songs and calls of resident and migrant songbirds such as Song Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, Swainson's Thrush, Black-headed Grosbeak, Common Yellowthroat, and more. Seasonal bonus: the unusual sounds of fledglings!

Fee: \$75 members / \$95 non-members *for both classes Instructor: Laura Whittemore



The New School of Birding, Module 3: The Wonders of Migration

Online classes: August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, September 7 | 6-7:15 p.m.

Field days: August 13, 27, and September 10 | 7 a.m.-12 p.m./4 p.m. (depending on destination)

In this module, we'll explore how and why birds migrate, delving into the mysteries of how birds stay on course, how scientists measure migration, systems of feather molt, the amazing journeys of long-distance migrants, and much more.

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





CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Watercolor Bird Painting with Ronna

The American Kestrel: May 9 | 6-7:15 p.m. The Sandhill Crane: May 23 | 6-7:15 p.m.

Birds are an excellent source of inspiration and a joy to paint in watercolor. Join these live, online classes to paint alongside Ronna Fujisawa, an experienced watercolor painter, art educator, and bird enthusiast. Please register separately for each class.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members Instructor: Ronna Fujisawa



Intermediate Birding by Ear Series

East of the Cascades: May 18 | 6-7 p.m. Mountains: May 31 | 6-7 p.m.

These intermediate classes are the perfect way to sharpen your birding by ear skills! Please register separately for each class.

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



Birds of Grasslands and Other Open **Habitats**

May 19 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will feature birds found in open habitats, helping you to identify them by sight and sound, and will direct you to the best sites around the Portland area.

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

















CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Introduction to Butterflies Series

Part One: May 24 | 6-7 p.m. Part Two: May 26 | 6-7 p.m.

This is a two-part series introducing the butterflies around Portland. Unlike dragonflies, there is little diversity in butterflies near cities, and one has to venture further afield to see them. Please register separately for each class.

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

Instructor: Stefan Schlick



Birds of the Forest

June 9 | 6-7 p.m.

The forests of the Coast Range and the western slopes of the Cascades are home to some of the most sought-after bird species in Oregon. This class will teach you to identify birds of the forest by both sight and sound and will give you tips for finding these elusive species.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



Wonderful World of Woodpeckers Series

Understanding Woodpeckers: June 20 | 6-7 p.m. Portland Woodpeckers: June 22 | 6-7 p.m. Oregon Woodpeckers: June 29 | 6-7 p.m.

Oregon is renowned for its diversity of woodpecker species. Join Brodie for all three classes in this series exploring the wonderful world of woodpeckers! Please register separately for each class.

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



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



PLANT SALE

Native Plant Sale: 25% of Proceeds Benefit Portland Audubon!

If you mention Portland Audubon when you check out at Sauvie Island Natives Nursery during May, 25 percent of your purchase will go to fund our programs, including the Backyard Habitat Certification Program.

This is the third year Portland Audubon has benefitted from this generous partnership. The nursery is owned by former board member Jane Hartline and her husband and current board member, Mark Greenfield, so supporting our cause is a natural fit.

Nursery visits are by appointment so that you get quality time to pick your plants and get advice if you want it.

Schedule online at sauvienatives.com/availability

Be sure to allow time for a spin around their pond and 3-acre habitat restoration area, which is filled with mature natives and alive with birds and other critters. Bring along binoculars if you have them, because the birding is excellent there.

The nursery has a large selection of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, etc. You can check out the list of available plants at sauvienatives. com/availability. Trilliums raised by Portland Audubon volunteers are featured at the sale, and 100% of the proceeds from these go to Portland Audubon.

Directions to the nursery are on their website, on the same page where you book your visit. Weekend times fill up quickly, so book soon!



ECOTOURS & PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRIPS

Pacific Northwest Trip: Rafting the Mighty **Deschutes**

May 24-27

Experience the grandeur and unique wildlife of the Lower Deschutes River Canyon on this three-day rafting trip!

Fee: \$895 members / \$1,095 non-members Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

Explore Beautiful Alberta: Prairies and Boreal Forest. Warblers and Fossils!

June 10-18

Come on an exhilarating journey to beautiful Alberta, Canada! From prairie badlands through aspen parkland to the boreal forest, we will find a fantastic assortment of bird species and other wildlife on this one-week exploration. Calgary is only a two-hour direct flight from Portland. Grab your passport and join us!

Fee: \$2,245 members / \$2,895 non-members Leader: Stefan Schlick

Pacific Northwest Trip: Birds, Plants, and **Bugs of Mt. Adams**

July 1-3

This is the time to go to Mt. Adams! While bird song is winding down, there should still be lots of singers out and about. Butterflies and dragonflies will not be ignored on this trip!

Fee: \$310 members / \$400 non-members Leader: Stefan Schlick

Sign up for Ecotours at bit.ly/pdxaudubon-ecotours



Pacific Northwest Trip: Grays Harbor **Shorebirds**

September 9-11

Join Portland Audubon and explore the west coast birding hotspot of Grays Harbor! Early September is the perfect time to enjoy shorebird migration. From Marbled Godwit flocks in Westport to Sooty Shearwaters on the horizon, this trip will excite any birdwatcher and ocean lover.

Fee: \$495 members / \$645 non-members Leader: Stefan Schlick

Pacific Northwest Trip: Olympic Peninsula

November 3-6

Join us as we explore the Strait of Juan de Fuca in search of rarities, loons, alcids (murres, guillemots, auklets, puffins, and murrelets), and spectacular views.

Fee: \$595 members / \$795 non-members Leader: Stefan Schlick

Dominican Republic

January 15-27, 2023

Escape the rainy Portland winter to the warmth of the Dominican Republic. This incredible adventure takes us to a wide variety of ecosystems and the top birding sites. We will spend seven days looking for the 31 endemics of the island and then complete our comprehensive visit with a full day in Santo Domingo's Colonial Zone.

Fee: \$3,095 Members / \$3,965 non-members Leader: Stefan Schlick







Birdathon: Choose Your Birding Adventure

by Sarah Swanson, Birdathon Coordinator

It's not too late to take part in Birdathon, a fun spring tradition and important fundraiser for Portland Audubon. There are still spaces on a variety of teams that you can join, including the three below. Enjoy a Big Day tour of Multnomah County hotspots with veteran trip leaders, tour a local wetland with the author of Neighborhood Birding 101, or combine birding and yoga for a relaxed day outdoors. You can also start your own team or do a solo Birdathon.

Too busy for Birdathon this spring? Donate to your favorite team or participant or make a general donation to support Portland Audubon's vital work. Visit portlandaudubon.securesweet.com to register, donate, or read descriptions of all the Birdathon teams. Your support of Birdathon is vital to Portland Audubon's success at implementing our mission.

Mult Madness

Thursday, May 5 | Full-day

Wink Gross and Andy Frank lead a carpooling tour of birding hotspots among Multnomah County's many "pockets" of habitat that attract migrants and residents. Begin at Vanport Wetlands, 60 acres of open wetland with hummocks, then catch the migrant fallout at Mt. Tabor, which is one of the best places in the Portland area to view large flocks of mixed warblers, vireos, and flycatchers during spring migration. Seek high elevation forest birds such as pygmy-owl, solitaire, and Hermit and MacGillivray's Warblers in Larch Mountain's mature conifer forest and shrubby habitats. Travel all the way to Eagle Creek at the east end of the county for dipper, goldeneye, and Harlequin Ducks. Then, finish up at Sauvie Island. Expect 95 to 110 species. This is an intensive trip with a lot of fast-paced walking. Participants will drive themselves or carpool.

Seymore Butterbutts Saturday, May 14 | Half-day

Local author of Neighborhood Birding 101, Seymore Gulls will be your quide on a tour of his favorite urban oasis in NE Portland: Whitaker Ponds. We will meet for a relaxed morning of low-pressure birding. Whitaker Ponds is a surprisingly birdy habitat! Warblers, swallows, and ducks are all expected. This is a great spot for neotropical migrants like Western Tanager and Common Yellowthroat as well as year-round residents such as American Kestrel, Great Blue Heron and Black Phoebe. We'll also keep an eye out for "butterbutts" aka Yellow-rumped Warblers. This trip is a great opportunity for beginning Birdathoners. Seymore has binoculars to borrow and loves to take new birders to this area.

Warbling Yogis Monday, May 23 | Full-day

Join the Warbling Yogis—the Birdathon team with a twist (or maybe two)! Team leaders Christie Galen, Martha Gannett, and Tonya Garreaud will combine birding with yoga as we bird our way around a few of Portland's parks and natural areas. Beginning at Mt. Tabor Park, we'll be looking for songbirds, woodpeckers, and raptors. From there we'll head east to Powell Butte Nature Park to explore more open habitat and enjoy lunch with a view. As our last stop, we'll visit either Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden or Whitaker Ponds depending on current sightings and weather. Along the way, Tonya will lead us in simple yoga poses and stretches to ease the movement of neck and shoulders. No mats or yoga experience necessary—all poses will be done in our full birding gear.

Thank You To Our Birdathon Sponsors!











The Disability Community Must Be Included in the Environmental Justice Movement

by Ali Berman, Communications Manager

Environmental justice is an essential part of the conservation movement, responding to the stark reality that the people most harmed by environmental issues are people who have been historically marginalized. Examples can be seen across the country, from the South Bronx, where lowincome communities and communities of color are hospitalized for asthma at 21 times the rate of other New York City neighborhoods, to "Cancer Alley," an 85-mile stretch of land along the Mississippi River that is lined with oil refineries and petrochemical plants. Residents in Cancer Alley are predominantly Black and 50 times more likely to develop cancer than the average American.

Here in Portland, neighborhoods that had been redlined due to racist housing policies in the 1930s still feel the effects today, reaching temperatures up to 12 degrees hotter than largely white neighborhoods. These neighborhoods, made up of a high percentage of low-income communities and communities of color, have more pavement and fewer trees, causing the disparity in temperature. In the era of climate change when temperatures can rise to over 115 degrees, that difference can (and has) caused hospitalizations and even fatalities.

And yet, not all communities that are deeply impacted by today's environmental hazards have been adequately recognized as a frontline community. Disabled people have been largely omitted, despite a long history of facing disproportionate consequences from pollution, climate change, wildfires, and more.

Perhaps the most obvious example of exclusion can be seen in the government's own definition. The Environmental Protection Agency describes environmental justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." This definition includes many communities who have long been affected by environmental hazards, and vet it continues centuries of erasure of disabled people despite being one of society's most marginalized demographics.



How is the disability community affected by environmental hazards?

► Climate Change and Emergency Response

During Hurricane Katrina, one of the first big disasters in the United States to be attributed to climate change. disabled people were disproportionately affected because their access needs were either overlooked or completely ignored. For example, there was no preplanning for evacuating hospitals and nursing homes; most evacuation buses didn't have a wheelchair lift, leaving many people stranded; and no alternative communication materials containing information critical to safety and survival were provided for people who identified as blind, Deaf, or hard of hearing. For those who were able to evacuate, FEMA's temporary housing was not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities

Act (ADA). From evacuation to communication to shelter to recovery, the process completely failed to meet the needs of the disability community, with harmful and even fatal results.

Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters are a wake-up call, especially as climate change has accelerated the frequency and intensity of storms, flooding, and other natural disasters. However, at the local, state, and federal level, disabled people are still fighting to be accounted for in emergency response plans, even in Portland. In late 2021, a Portland auditor found that the city is unprepared to assist people with disabilities during emergencies, with Disability Rights Oregon citing many of the same issues seen seventeen years ago during Hurricane Katrina.

▶ Wildfires

As every Oregonian knows, wildfires have intensified over the last few years. Thousands have been forced to evacuate their homes, and millions have had to endure toxic smoke-laden air. For people who already have respiratory illnesses, hazardous air can worsen existing disabilities or create new ones. On top of that, evacuation is much more complicated for people with disabilities due to both a consistent shortage of ADAcompliant housing and because the homes of disabled people are often customized to meet their individual access needs.

Disabled people have been largely omitted, despite a long history of facing disproportionate consequences from pollution, climate change, wildfires, and more.

▶ Power Outages

For those with disabilities, losing power can mean losing access to powered wheelchairs, elevators (leaving people stranded), oxygen generators, refrigerated medications, and more.

▶ Pollution

Health issues are often brought up as a consequence of pollution, from cancer to asthma to heart disease. And yet, very little research has been done on how pollution affects people who already have disabilities, despite the fact that disabilities can be either exacerbated or created by pollution. Dr. Javaiit Chakraborty, a researcher and professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, wanted to address the need to understand the relationship between disability and pollution. His 2020 study in Harris County, Texas, found that people with disabilities are significantly more likely to live in neighborhoods that are close to Superfund sites and hazardous waste management facilities, making them more vulnerable to exposure.

Dr. Chakraborty's findings also show that people with disabilities near those sites frequently have multiple marginalized identities that overlap with other environmental justice priority groups, including communities of color as well as people who are elderly. By understanding these communities through a lens of intersectionality where we account for all identities, the environmental justice movement can better respond to the needs of the people who are most affected by environmental hazards.

It's impossible to solve a problem when both government agencies and nonprofits fail to acknowledge the problem even exists. If we do want a truly just and intersectional approach to environmental justice, disability must be embraced by environmental justice advocates both nationally and right here in Portland. And disabled people need to be at the table, working on solutions, alongside other impacted communities.

Portland Audubon has been expanding its work in the disability justice arena through plans to improve accessibility at our own Wildlife Sanctuary, increasing the accessibility of our adult education programs, creating new partnerships with disability organizations, and through our policy work and advocacy. We know we have room to grow and are committed to taking an intersectional approach to ensure that all frontline communities, including the disability community, are a part of the environmental movement and solutions.



Another Season of Drought Approaches at Klamath

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Writing about another season of water crisis on the Klamath Wildlife Refuges has become as predictable as the annual migration of the birds who depend on these refuges for survival. In the midst of what has been described in the journal Nature Climate Change as the worst megadrought in the western United States in 1.200 years, the Bureau of Reclamation has announced another year of severe water shortages in the Klamath Basin. Endangered sucker fish in Upper Klamath Lake, endangered salmon in the Klamath River, farmers, and the refuges will all compete again for scarce water, estimated to be less than a seventh of what is typically allocated in a wetter year. Everybody will lose. Because of complex water rights and other legal and political factors, the refuges will lose the most. In the hierarchy of farmers, fish, and birds, the birds come in dead last.

It is likely that at the Tule Lake Refuge, as in 2021. water from 9,000 acres of wetlands at Sump 1A will be pumped into Sump 1B. Concentrating water there will help protect its healthier wetlands and also reduce the risk of a botulism outbreak in Sump 1B from stagnant water conditions. While this may be the most practical path forward under the circumstances, it means that restoration efforts at Sump 1A will continue to languish, and the Klamath Basin Wetlands, once known as the Everglades of the West but have lost more than 80% of their acreage from conversion to agriculture, continue to lose ground.

Despite this, 2022 may also bring with it the risk of a severe botulism outbreak. Botulism flourishes under drought conditions. In 2020, an estimated 60,000 birds died on the Klamath Refuges due to a massive

botulism outbreak. It was believed that 2021 could be even worse, but it appears that the refuges were so dry that many birds bypassed them altogether. This is hardly positive news—the waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds that utilize the refuges need these wetlands for their survival, and the fact that they were bypassed has implications for the viability of the Pacific Flyway. We will again be working to help support Bird Ally X, which in past years has set up a field hospital for the Klamath Refuges to treat birds afflicted with botulism.

Even the most limited progress can be elusive under these conditions. In 2021, the California Waterfowl Association purchased water rights that could have delivered 3,750 acre feet of water to the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge. It is a tiny fraction of the need, but it is progress, and the purchase of water rights represents one of the paths forward that may help sustain the refuges. However, agricultural irrigators have challenged the water transfer, and a stay has been issued by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). Portland Audubon and others are urging OWRD to use its statutory powers to lift that stay on the basis that the stay would result in substantial harm to the refuges and the birds that depend on them.

Looking to the east, the news remains grim for birds. Lake Abert, a saline lake critical for shorebirds, is also suffering from severely reduced water levels exacerbated by years of inaction by the State of Oregon to address water rights and allocations. There is also a need for research at this site to better understand the changing dynamics of the water system. National Audubon played a lead role earlier this year in helping secure \$1.25 million for the U.S. Geological Survey to establish a regional Integrated Water Availability Assessment study program in the Great Basin of the American West, which will benefit Lake Abert. National Audubon is also playing a lead role in advancing the bipartisan Saline Lake Ecosystems in the Great Basin States Program Act and dedicating longer-term funding. This legislation is sponsored by Senators Jeff Merkley of Oregon and Mitt Romney of Utah. Portland Audubon is working with National Audubon, Oregon Natural Desert Association, and others to bring more attention to Lake Abert.

Portland Audubon already has a strong presence and powerful collaborative relationships out at Malheur including full-time and seasonal staff on the ground. In the coming year, we will look at establishing remote staff in south central Oregon to increase our capacity on the Klamath Refuges and Lake Abert. The water situation in Southern Oregon / Northern California is truly a wicked problem—one that will not lend itself to simple or easy solutions. However, the string of refuges running along the Oregon-California border are critical to the survival of birds on the Pacific Flyway, and raising their priority is imperative.



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- Gift card: Bonka Bird





State Considers New Drone Rules To **Protect Nesting Birds**

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager

The Oregon Coast supports over 1 million nesting seabirds as well as endangered species like the Snowy Plover. The iconic spectacle of 60,000 Common Murres nesting on Yaquina Head is one dramatic example of the importance of our coast to nesting birds. At the same time, people love to visit the coast, and visitation is steadily increasing. In recent years recreational drone use has skyrocketed, reflecting a nationwide trend. This has, in turn, led to increasing disturbances to birds, marine mammals, and other wildlife. The Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project, a community science program coordinated by Portland Audubon, documented a weekly average of over three drone disturbances at active oystercatcher nests across the coast in 2021, up from previous years.

Such disturbances have been documented to negatively impact nesting success of many bird species. In one dramatic case in California last year, a drone crash caused an entire colony of 3,000 Elegant Terns to abandon 1,500 active nests. In addition to wildlife impacts, drone usage can negatively impact the peaceful and safe experiences visitors to state parks and the coast seek when exploring and enjoying Oregon's natural places. To minimize such impacts we need to ensure drone rules are informed by the best science and take a precautionary approach given that recreational drone use is a relatively new phenomena and impacts are just beginning to be understood.

Currently, Oregon State Parks is leading a public process to develop drone rules for state parks and coastal areas as mandated by Senate Bill 109. This presents a golden opportunity to better manage drone take-off and landing areas in state parks and coastal areas that they manage. An important nuance is that regulations only apply to take-off and landing locations. The FAA has separate regulations for drones while airborne.

We appreciate the opportunity for public comment and the establishment of the drone Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) to bring in outside stakeholders to steer the development of rules. However, to date, there have been some serious flaws with this process. The initial RAC did not include representatives from Oregon conservation organizations, recreational user groups (other than drone users), or Tribal nations, all of which have interests affected by the rule. In addition, the RAC did not include representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages wildlife in the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge. Only after an outcry from the public about this lack of representation did State Parks add two conservation representatives (including from Portland Audubon) to the RAC. While this has made the process more of a challenge, we are now at the table urging recommendations to minimize wildlife disturbance while still allowing appropriate drone use.

Such disturbances have been documented to negatively impact nesting success of many bird species. In one dramatic case in California last year, a drone crash caused an entire colony of 3,000 Elegant Terns to abandon 1,500 active nests.

Most importantly, we recommend that drones be prohibited in all State Park–administered lands with the exception of designated take-off and landing areas. This has many advantages to the current draft rule which would, conversely, allow drone use unless prohibited. First, having designated allowable areas would better safeguard wildlife since it would improve

the ability to minimize wildlife disturbances by better limiting take-off and landing areas and thus how far and wide drones can move when in the air. Second, this recommendation is consistent with current State Parks regulations with respect to other activities that may have conservation impacts. Hunting, fishing, collecting living/non-living natural products from the ocean shore, and even the use of metal detectors is prohibited except in designated areas. Why should drone use be an exception? Finally, from a law enforcement perspective, it would be easier to regulate drone use in designated allowable areas. Everywhere else would be clearly illegal. We recommend State Parks create an independent technical working group to determine appropriate designated drone take-off and landing areas that minimize wildlife, cultural, and recreational impacts based on the best available science.

Finally, for areas that are approved for drone use, we recommend common sense measures including no drone take-offs or landing within 100m of any observed wildlife, drone use be discontinued if repeated wildlife disturbance events occur in the same location, and seasonal allowance in areas outside of the nesting season.

Please stay tuned for public comment opportunities on this issue in the coming weeks.







IN MEMORY

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

Robert Blomquist

Karen Blomquist

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Molly Dixon

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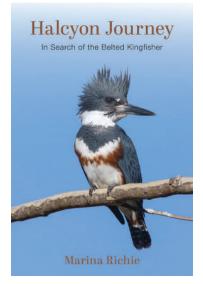
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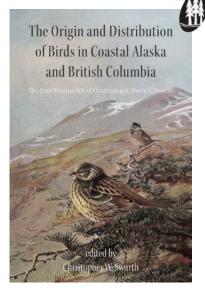
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On the Cover: Bald Eagle, photo by Andy Morffew.

On the Inside Cover: Long-billed Curlew, photo by Doug Greenberg; Disability Rights photo courtesy of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Tufted Puffins, photo by Isaac Sanchez.



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

Birdy Brain Buster!

According to the book Birds of Oregon, approximately 500 bird species have been recorded in Oregon. How many of these are species that regularly occur in the state (not occasional vagrants)?

A. 353

B. 427

C. 286

D. 398

