

## On the Horizon: What's Next at Portland Audubon

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Three Arch Rocks, photo by Roy W. Lowe, USFWS.

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Hello, Friends of Portland Audubon

by Stuart Wells, Executive Director

As we head into fall, we look back on a summer where Portland Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary was busy with activity of dedicated staff, devoted volunteers, and many joyful day campers. It has been great to see the community enjoying the trails while keeping an eye out for the glint of a Steller's Jay or noisy Pileated Woodpecker.

As I settle into my role as executive director, I am learning about Portland Audubon's incredible conservation legacy. Portland Audubon's founder William Finley respected nature and tirelessly dedicated his life to helping to maintain its vital habitats. Not only for bird species but also the abundance of wildlife that make Oregon home.

William Finley was an avid photojournalist. He documented seabird and sea lion mortalities caused by visitors to Three Arch Rocks, moving President Roosevelt to create the Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge in 1907, one of the country's first wildlife refuges. Finley followed that by advocating to establish Malheur Lake as a national refuge after he discovered the use of Great Egret feathers in hats had decimated their population (you can read more about that on page 18.)

Today Portland Audubon carries on this important legacy of conservation by advocating for the preservation of critical wildlife habitats across Oregon. We work to protect Oregon's forests, coastal marine areas, grasslands, high desert, and urban landscapes, coupled with education programs to broaden people's understanding of the natural world. Your involvement makes a difference, and joining our activist email list at [audubonportland.org/take-action](https://audubonportland.org/take-action) will alert you to opportunities to advocate for the wildlife and wild places we all care about. **Together, we'll continue building our conservation legacy.**

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# ON THE HORIZON



## What's Next at Portland Audubon

Exciting times are ahead. Over the next few years, big changes will come to Portland Audubon, each one helping us advance our work to inspire more people to love and protect wildlife and their habitat. We want to keep you updated on these important developments, and what the future of Portland Audubon will look like.

The biggest expansion will be Portland Audubon's acquisition of a second location in the Portland metro region to house a brand-new state-of-the-art Wildlife Care Center (page 4). Portland Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary has been our sole location since 1930, and we're thrilled to have the opportunity to branch out, reach more people, and improve our wildlife treatment and public education. We are thrilled to share more news about the recently established Wildlife Care Center endowment

provided by a generous donor that funds a full-time wildlife veterinarian, and improves our quality of care for our wild patients (page 5).

One project we're excited about is a complete overhaul of all signage and interpretation in our facilities and along trails (page 6). Through this effort we'll be able to transform how people learn about wildlife, conservation, and Portland Audubon while visiting our wildlife sanctuary. We anticipate completion in fall of 2023.

In addition, improvements continue to move forward at our headquarters on Cornell Road, with much-needed updates to our facilities. We look forward to updating you on those as they progress. Our sanctuary has been our home since the 1930s and continues to be our most effective tool at connecting people with nature. It's vital we take care of it.



## Wildlife Care Center Site Update

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The search for a new Wildlife Care Center site is well underway and running strong. Finding a site within the metro region that meets the complex specifications of a wildlife rehabilitation center is undoubtedly a challenge. We are searching for the proverbial unicorn: a large, developable site that is easily accessible by the community yet isolated enough that it is suitable for housing and treating wild animals, and one that is ideally low or no cost so that we can maximize our investment in developing the hospital, animal enclosures, and public educational areas.

The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive and exciting. We have received hundreds of suggestions from agencies, sister organizations, our membership, and the public at large. We have also retained an outstanding real estate firm, Apex, to help us identify and sort through sites. Tonkin Torp LLP has generously donated their services to help guide us through the regulatory and legal aspects involved with some of the sites we are exploring.

The upshot is that there are many intriguing sites on the landscape, and we have elevated about a dozen for advanced exploration. All are complex in one way or another. Many large, developable sites in the region are undeveloped today because of site constraints. Many are brownfields. Portland Audubon has worked for decades on the policy and advocacy side of remediating and revitalizing polluted urban sites. One aspect of this search is exploring the potential to actually acquire one of these sites and turn it into something that truly provides meaningful benefits to the community.

The search has also given us a chance to meet with dozens of community partners and talk with a huge range of individuals who have informally provided input and insights. Those conversations will inform the project as it moves forward, and opportunities for more formal community input will expand once we acquire a site and move into the design phase. One recurring theme is just how many people and organizations have had a positive personal experience with the Wildlife Care Center—brought us an animal, attended a release, called us for support or advice with a wildlife issue, learned about local wildlife through one of our ambassador animal programs. Perhaps this shouldn't be surprising—the current center was built in 1987, more than 100,000 wild animals have passed through our doors, and we have responded to nearly half a



million wildlife calls. The Care Center is woven deeply into the fabric of a community that cares passionately about its wildlife.

Additional benefits have already started accruing. A generous anonymous donor provided a million dollar fund to endow a veterinarian position. This allows us to increase veterinary staffing from half to full time in perpetuity, and we are pleased to welcome Dr. Linda Yang, who joins Dr. Connie Lo on our veterinary team (see article on page 5).

All the while, our existing Care Center continues to operate and has treated over 3,000 wild animals so far this year.

Parallel to the site search, we have selected Mahlum Architects and Jones & Jones Architects to lead the design process. Once we have a site, the design phase will kick into high gear. More on that to come!

Please keep the site suggestions coming. Those we have received are good, but none are sure bets. Until a site is acquired we need to hear about as many opportunities as we can. Our basic criteria can be found here: <https://audubonportland.org/blog/wildlife-care-center-site-search-begins/>. **Potential sites should be sent to Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at [bsallinger@audubonportland.org](mailto:bsallinger@audubonportland.org)**





Anna's Hummingbird fledgling being treated at the Wildlife Care Center, photo by Bob Sallinger.

## Endowment Brings Second Veterinarian to Wildlife Care Center

by Dr. Connie Lo, Wildlife Care Center Veterinarian

At the Wildlife Care Center, we are seeing the benefits of a recent generous veterinary endowment in the form of a second veterinarian, Dr. Linda Yang, who immediately jumped in to assist during the busy summer season. This transformative gift from a donor permanently secures funding for full-time veterinary care at the hospital, allowing for consistent and timely patient assessment.

Dr. Yang is an Oregon native who acquired both her undergraduate and veterinary degree from Oregon State University. She brings with her a background in wildlife and zoo medicine, and she completed a vigorous year-long internship in emergency medicine. Dr. Yang is passionate about preserving and maintaining the relationship between wildlife and people while supporting efforts in conservation and education. Her other responsibilities include working as a staff veterinarian at VCA Rock Creek and being a cat mom to Ghee.

In addition to doubling the weekly hours of veterinary care, having a second veterinarian on staff allows for brainstorming between colleagues, staff collaboration, and minimizes the stress of finding coverage for vacation and sick time, which can be challenging in the animal care field.

The majority of cases presenting to the Care Center are trauma cases, where time is critical—having these patients evaluated quickly allows us to expedite specialized treatment that can only be performed by a veterinarian, such as wound management and repair. Early assessment of a fracture, for example, can lead to less risky, shorter surgical procedures and potentially better outcomes for patients.

A recent case involved an osprey arriving with lacerations and wounds consistent with a predator attack. Our competent and skilled rehabilitators provided initial care with pain medications, antibiotics, and fluid therapy. This was followed by veterinarian assessment: performing x-rays under anesthesia, wound assessment, debridement (removal of nonviable tissue), and wound closure. Although our rehabilitators are educated in wound management, without a veterinarian on staff they have limited options beyond it, which could lead to increased time in care and delayed release of the patient.

As noted, early assessment leads to early decision-making surrounding patient prognosis and releasability, as in the case of eye trauma, where an expert opinion may be needed. Currently, the part-time veterinary position has mainly focused on patient care, but with increased hours, additional endeavors can be pursued, such as more teaching time with volunteers, developing a volunteer veterinarian program, pursuing research projects, and advancing our diagnostic capabilities.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Yang to the team and are extremely fortunate to have received this endowment for injured wildlife veterinary care in the Portland area (and beyond). I have difficulty finding the correct words to express how lucky we are, especially with the new building on the horizon.



If you'd like to contribute with a significant gift to the Wildlife Care Center Endowment, please contact Charles Milne, Director of Development, at [cmilne@audubonportland.org](mailto:cmilne@audubonportland.org).



# New Signage and Interpretive Exhibits

by Ali Berman, Communications & Marketing Director

Every year, 40,000 people visit our Wildlife Sanctuary to hike trails, volunteer, attend camps, shop at the Nature Store, and so much more. Some we meet, and some we may never meet. But with every single person, we have the opportunity to teach them about nature, give them a safe space to enjoy the outdoors, and inspire them to protect wildlife and their habitat.

Thanks to the many donors who helped us successfully fund this part of the capital campaign, we're working on a complete overhaul of signage across the Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary. That means new indoor hands-on exhibits, outdoor wayfinding, and interpretive displays that teach people about native plants and wildlife, conservation, and history of the land.

In preparation for this project, we wanted to better understand the needs of our community, and what it will take to make the space as engaging and welcoming as possible. To achieve these goals, we did a great deal of work in two areas:

## I Listening Sessions

We knew that if interpretive signs and exhibits were going to be used by the community, the community needed to have a big role in what went on them. We had a long list of groups we wanted to hear from, including communities of color, the disability community, kids, scientists, people over 65, birders, Portland Audubon members, sanctuary visitors, and partner organizations. Each group not only revealed similar interests, but also shared with us specific barriers they face when visiting a natural area.

Every group highlighted that they want to better understand wildlife through help with identification, interpreting animal sign, and learning about natural history. Communities who have been historically marginalized shared what a welcoming and inclusive natural area looks and feels like to them: everything from signs with accessibility information at every trailhead, to being able to learn about the Indigenous history of the land, to multi-sensory and multilingual signs and exhibits.

This knowledge and wisdom will help us create education tools that are both fascinating and inclusive to all communities.

## I History of Native Uses of the Land

Portland Audubon (then the Oregon Audubon Society) first purchased 12 acres of land in 1930. Since then it's grown to 172 acres of protected habitat. Those 92 years account for only a fraction of the true history of the land, and this signage and interpretation project presented an important opportunity to take a much deeper look at that history. We reached out to Dr. David G. Lewis, PhD, an educator and researcher who focuses on the tribes of western Oregon and their history over the last 200 years, to see if he would help us tell that story. Dr. Lewis, a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, delved into the history of the Tualatin Hills, where our sanctuary is located. He created a 40-page foundational document that gathers together information on trade and foraging uses by tribes, relocation policies that removed tribes from the land, uses of native plants and animals, and other traditional lifeways of the Tualatin (Atfalati) Kalapuyans and the Chinookan peoples of the lower Willamette (Clackamas, Clowwewalla, Cascades, and Multnomah).

This document serves multiple important purposes. In addition to being able to integrate information about Indigenous history into our new signs and displays, we'll also be able to meaningfully bring that history into our educational programming with school groups, sanctuary tours, and camps.

This research is long overdue, and we're grateful to Dr. Lewis for working with us to tell the more complete story of the land and the people who have inhabited it since time immemorial.

Using the information from the listening sessions and Dr. Lewis's work, we have now hired Portland-based firm Sea Reach to bring our vision to life. Sea Reach's portfolio includes exciting displays and signage around the country, as well as right here at home at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve and Powell Butte Nature Park. Our knowledgeable staff will work hand in hand with Sea Reach to create compelling educational exhibits that introduce people to the wildlife, habitat, and forest we all care about so much. The work will take approximately a year to complete, from concept to fabrication and installation. We can't wait to show you our transformed space in late 2023!

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Shel Mae Reinwald



Annie Chrietberg



Sheila Evans



Olia Myroniuk

# The Wild Arts Festival Returns December 10 & 11

by Matthew Hushbeck, Assistant Director of Development

Last year there was apprehension about bringing the Wild Arts Festival back in person, so we carefully planned how to protect our community while providing critical funding for Oregon's wildlife and wild places and supporting local artists and authors, and the Wild Arts Festival turned out to be a massive success. More than 3,500 people attended the two-day festival, and thanks to your support of our COVID-19 protocols, no one reported symptoms following the event.

Building on last year, we are pleased to announce that the **Wild Arts Festival will be back at Portland State's Viking Pavilion on December 10 and 11.** We have 29 incredible new artists joining 33 returning artists who will share their love of nature through painting, woodwork, metal work, sculptures, jewelry, and many more art forms.

In addition, over 20 local and regional authors look forward to engaging with you and autographing your new books at the Book Fair. Their books illuminate living in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest with a specialization in nature, birds, hiking, history, and books for kids.

## Silent Auction Items Needed

The Wild Arts Festival Silent Auction carries on the tradition of providing beautiful art, terrific trips and adventures, and more unique items on display at the Wild Arts Festival. Registration and bidding for the Auction will again be online, and affordable art will be available for direct purchase at the Festival.

**We are accepting donations of nature-themed art or gift certificates whose fair market value is at least \$100.** If you are interested in contributing a piece or have questions, please email [wafsilentauction@audubonportland.org](mailto:wafsilentauction@audubonportland.org).

## Volunteers Make the Festival a Success

Looking for a fun way to connect with fellow birders, nature enthusiasts, and art lovers? You should join us as a volunteer! We need help with set-up on Friday, guest assistance on Saturday and Sunday, tear-down on Sunday evening, and wrap-up tasks on Monday. Running the Festival takes various skills, and many different shifts are available, most lasting about half the day. Of course, it's even more fun with a friend!

If you have joined us as a volunteer in the past, you will hear from us soon about the 2022 shifts. If you are a new volunteer, please get in touch with Volunteer Manager Vicky Medley at [vmedley@audubonportland.org](mailto:vmedley@audubonportland.org). If you have any questions about the shifts, contact **Volunteer Chair Kate Foulke** at [wafvolunteers@audubonportland.org](mailto:wafvolunteers@audubonportland.org).

## Want to Promote Your Business? Become a Sponsor!

Sponsoring the Wild Arts Festival is a great way to highlight your philanthropic priorities and engage with people who care about our wildlife and wild places. Own a business? We have sponsorships beginning at \$250 and are willing to adapt our promotions to meet your needs. Work for a business or know of one that might be a good fit? Learn more about sponsorships or recommend a potential sponsor by contacting Matthew Hushbeck at [mhushbeck@audubonportland.org](mailto:mhushbeck@audubonportland.org) or (971) 222-6130. Even if it isn't in your budget this year, we would love to discuss future opportunities.



Kristina Perry

We look forward to celebrating nature and art on December 10 and 11 at Viking Pavilion! Keep an eye on [wildartsfestival.org](http://wildartsfestival.org) for updates on artists, authors, the Silent Auction catalog, ticket sales, and our COVID-19 safety procedures.





## Reconnecting to Nature and Each Other at Summer Camp

by Tara Lemezis, Education Administrator & Marketing Liaison, and Emily Pinkowitz, Director of Education

On the morning of June 27, 69 children and their families peeled into Portland Audubon's Forest Park Sanctuary, filling our parking lots, buildings, and trails with laughter and chatter. It was the first day of a full camp season since 2019. After a canceled program in 2020 and a much condensed season in 2021, we were gearing up to navigate through 60+ camps traveling throughout our forests, throughout the metro region, and as far afield as the San Juan Islands and California.

Our staff was excited, curious, and a bit trepidatious to meet them. After all that children had been through over the last two years, our team wondered what each child was bringing with them to camp. Would they need extra coaching to connect with one another? Extra active time to burn through long pent-up energy? Extra space to adjust or process emotions?

The answer was yes AND. Yes, some children needed a bit more support, a bit longer to adjust, a bit more freedom to roam. AND, when they found their footing, the connection, learning, and growth that they built at camp was moving to witness.

We watched as a group of 6th-8th graders moved from awkward distance to story sharing, bonding, and even flute playing(!) amid groves of 2,000-year-old redwoods. We celebrated as a child picked up his very first crowdad from Balch Creek while his entire camp cheered him on. And we silently cheered when another child on the autism spectrum went from fear of water skippers to catching seven in one day. We pushed our growing edges along with children, hiking trails at greenspaces from Dabney State Park to Trillium Lake and backpacking through the Goat Rocks Wilderness. We helped children move from anxiety to silliness to, finally, sleep on their very first night away from home.

This connection has been reflected in the feedback we've received. For long-time Portland Audubon families, this year was a homecoming. One parent shared, "We have been coming to Audubon for years and my kids love the sanctuary and feel a connection to it. It is a true treasure for Portland and for our family! When I gave my child a choice for camps this year, they chose Audubon because of that connection." So many camp families returned to greet old friends who were two inches taller and two years wiser.

At the same time, this connection was shared by new families as well. One noted, "I'm sure my kids learned a lot about nature, but more than that, I think the social aspects this camp focused on (teamwork, kindness, etc.) really had an impact on them." Another concurred, "My kids had a fantastic time! They came home happy and with a sense of confidence about them... They also spoke often of the friendships they were making, which can be a challenge for them."



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“We have been coming to Audubon for years and my kids love the sanctuary and feel a connection to it. It is a true treasure for Portland and for our family! When I gave my child a choice for camps this year, they chose Audubon because of that connection.”

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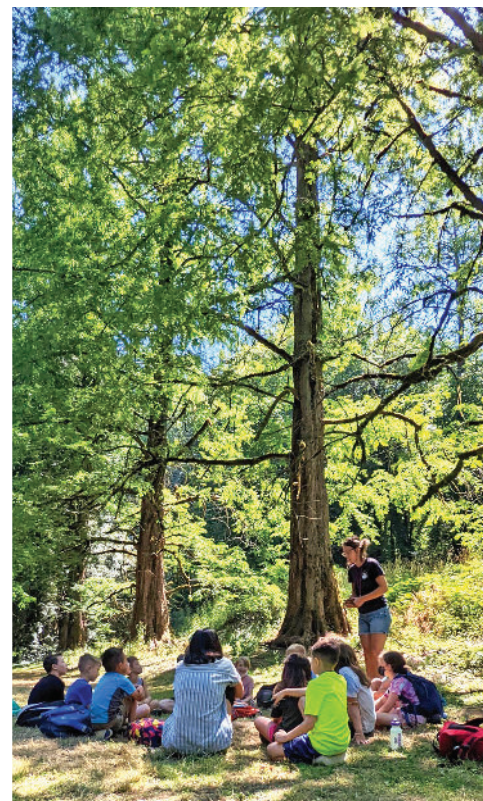
We were grateful to welcome so many new families as a result of our new sliding scale model. Many families called this out as a reason they were able to come to camp. One parent noted, “Sliding scale was a major decision factor on top of the fact that we already knew the excellent quality of the camp.” Another shared, “We love nature camps, but as a recently single mother, I thought I wouldn’t have the money for any camps. The pay-what-you-can was instrumental in both of my children being able to go to Audubon. Thank you so much!” We’re grateful to the Spencer Higgins Education Fund for making this sliding scale possible in perpetuity. **If you’d like to contribute to the Spencer Higgins Education Fund to support sliding scale programs, visit [audubonportland.org/ways-to-give](https://audubonportland.org/ways-to-give).**

Sliding scale also meant many campers were able to join us week after week. Thirty percent of families came for more than two weeks of camp—a significant shift from past years. This meant more time to deepen their relationship to our forests and to Portland Audubon’s mission to inspire all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment.

Educators taught campers about native plants and animals, Leave No Trace principles in the wilderness, and the complex ecosystem that connects water, plants, animals, and humans across our city and across the region. One parent shared, “Instead of learning one specific thing, what I noticed instead is that the camp really ignited his curiosity of plants AND animals. We had fantastic conversations each night after camp.” Another shared, “The wildlife education piece was important; there are a lot of outdoor camps, and a lot of educational camps, but I wanted her to learn more about nature.”

No matter which camp children joined this summer, they developed connections—to nature, to themselves, and to each other. Eight hundred children joined us for 10 adventurous and joyful weeks, sparking a relationship that we hope will last for years to come. Through teamwork and laughter, through nature-based art, through science investigations, through self-reliance in the outdoors, we grew together and reveled in the simplicity of a summer outside.

The last few years have been challenging for many of us, especially kids. Summer camp gave children a chance to reconnect with others and the outdoors in a safe, supportive, educational, and exploratory way. Along with the many intellectual, physical, and mental health benefits, we know that our camps are where so many kids plug in and access a new community. Enormous gratitude is owed to our Portland Audubon families, camp staff, and the natural world for teaching campers that they too are an important part of nature. Thanks for another memorable summer camp season!





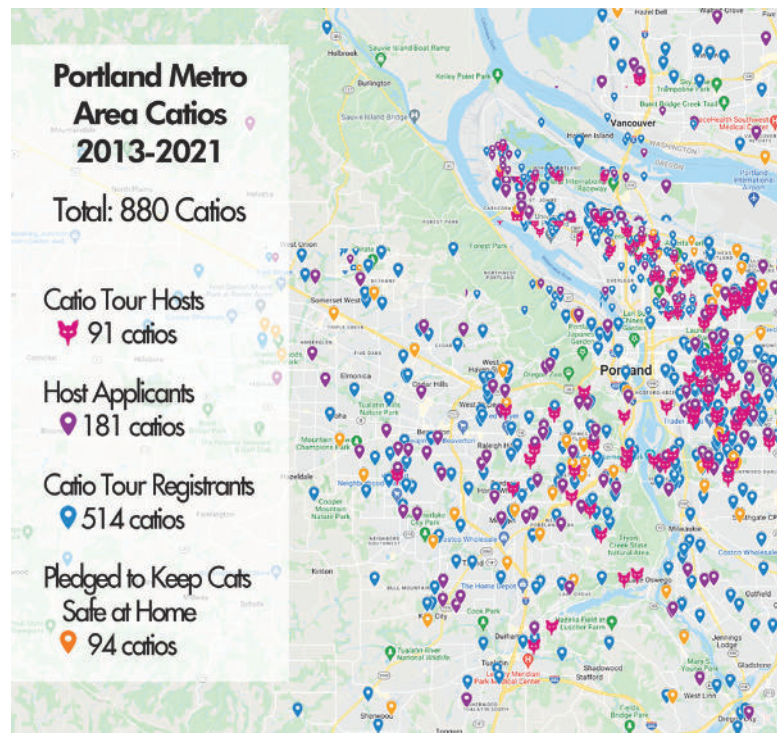


## Ten Years of Catio Tours

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

When Portland Audubon and the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon (FCCO) present the Catio Tour in mid-September it will mark the tenth anniversary of this event and more than a quarter century of successful collaboration between our two groups. The relationship between the FCCO and Portland Audubon is rare, almost unheard of for a feral cat advocacy group and a bird conservation group to work together, let alone maintain and build a relationship that spans decades. Some would say it is heresy. However, we work as closely with the FCCO as we do with many of our sister conservation organizations, and it's a relationship predicated on trust, creativity, and mutual respect for each other's priorities. At its core, it is about recognizing that we need to find solutions that advance the welfare of all animals. Catio Tour is a prime example of that ethic.

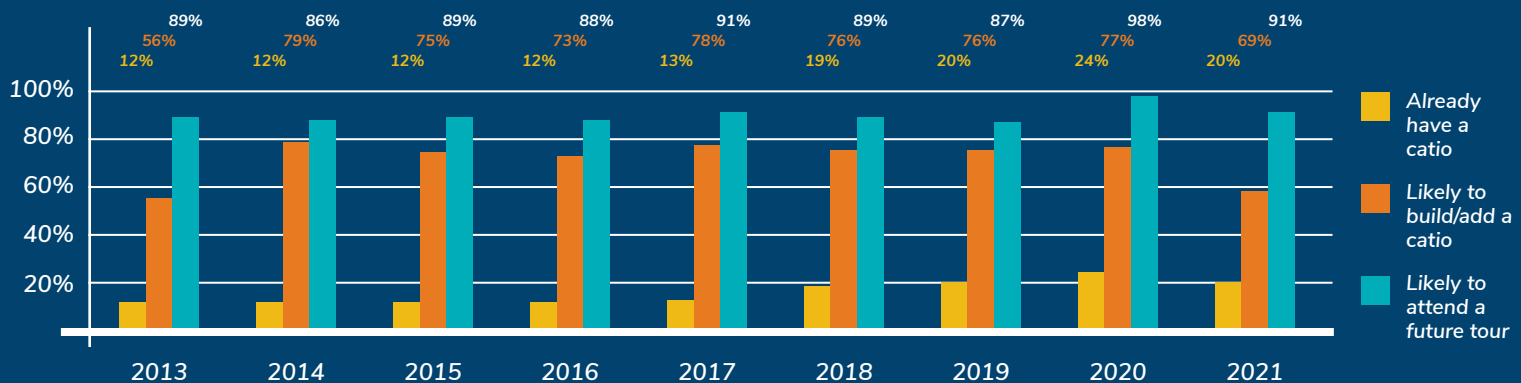
That cats harm wild birds is really not a question. While habitat loss and climate change present existential threats to avian populations, we know from extensive peer-reviewed research that a variety of anthropogenic (human-caused) hazards including window collisions, light pollution, pesticides, poaching, and, yes, cats, also put pressure on wild birds. Cats are regularly placed at the top of that list. In some cases cats threaten

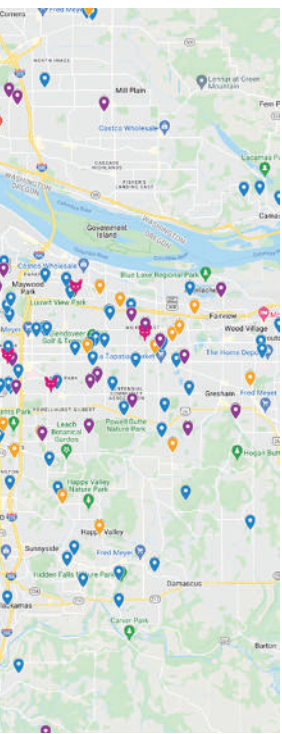


vulnerable populations, and in others they simply threaten the birds in our yards, neighborhoods, and natural areas. Cats are one of the most common reasons for phone calls from people concerned about local wildlife and for intakes of injured wildlife at our Wildlife Care Center.

We can debate till the cows (or cats) come home whether the 2013 Smithsonian study estimates (based on 90 other studies) of 1.4 to 4 billion birds killed by cats in North America per year are accurate. It doesn't matter. The point is that the number is huge, and in a world in which avian populations, both rare and common, are plummeting, we cannot afford to ignore major causes of mortality. The 2019 report Declines of North American Avifauna, published in Science, concluded that North American bird populations have declined by nearly 3 billion birds since 1970. Portland Audubon focuses the vast majority of its avian conservation efforts on protecting and restoring wildlife habitat across Oregon's forests, grasslands, deserts, and urban landscapes, but we have also developed innovative campaigns to reduce the impacts of significant anthropogenic wildlife hazards.

Data from a survey of Catio registrants from 2013 - 2021





The question is not whether to address cat predation, but rather how to most effectively address it. Unfortunately, the avian conservation community has little progress to show for more than a century of advocacy. In recent decades, the discussion has been dominated by a death-match debate between avian and cat groups over whether feral cats should be rounded up (and for the most part, killed) or whether priority should be placed on trying to reduce feral cat populations through the approach of “trap, neuter and return” (TNR). City after city has become bogged down in this polarized debate, and free-roaming cats have proliferated.

The FCCO-Portland Audubon partnership was born of a desire to take a different approach—one that recognized that our community cares about the welfare of both cats and birds and wants humane approaches to resolving this conflict. It was also born of the recognition that real progress is only going to come when you truly engage the community. The number of free-roaming cats—feral, stray, or owned—is not going to go down until the community thinks about responsible cat ownership differently. FCCO and Portland Audubon work together toward that end.

Over the past 25 years, we have worked together on outreach and engagement, public policy, research, and resolving specific high-priority conflicts. When an issue comes up involving cats and birds, we sit down and work through it together. When an issue comes up within that cat welfare community that impacts birds, the FCCO is the first to flag it and give us a call.

And then there is Catio Tour! FCCO Executive Director Karen Kraus called me about a decade ago and announced that we should do a joint tour of outdoor cat enclosures modeled on Portland’s “Tour de (chicken) Coops.” We could recruit 10-12 people who have built catios to open their yards to the general public. FCCO and Portland Audubon would register people, provide them with a map, and host information tables at each site. My first take was “cute...weird...perhaps useful.”

Turns out, Catio Tour is like the Bruce Springsteen concert of feline welfare events. That first year, we

hoped that maybe we would get 250 registrants. Within a few weeks of opening registration, we had over 600 registrants and had to cap the event. In subsequent years we have regularly sold out at 1,400-1,600 registrants. I routinely get calls on the morning of the event from “friends of friends” who heard I “could sneak them in.” Disappointed host applicants that were not selected have threatened to do their own tours.

Multiple cities across the United States have created catio tours based on ours. Portland Community College developed a course on catios and featured it on the cover of their 2019 course catalog. However, we knew we had truly arrived when we were featured in Martha Stewart Living.

Today Catio Tour still features a wide range of exciting catios from innovative “do it yourself” jobs to professionally designed and built catios that are nicer than my house. It also features

online events, information, and access to catio resources. More than 15,000 people have gone on Catio Tours over the past decade, and a majority go to get ideas for building their own catios. Catios are springing up across the metro region, with more than 900 individual catios—and those are just the ones we know about.

It doesn’t solve the problem of cat predation on birds, but every catio means at least one less cat on the street and one more cat owner thinking about responsible cat ownership differently. No significant environmental problem lends itself to simple, quick solutions, but our partnership with FCCO has allowed us to explore a variety of creative new approaches to what has long been an intractable problem and harness the energy and enthusiasm of a community that values both cats and birds. **Please join us for this year’s Catio Tour and learn more about the Cats Safe At Home Campaign at [catssafeathome.org](http://catssafeathome.org)**



## Get Your Catio Tour Tickets!

September 10 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

[catssafeathome.org/catio](http://catssafeathome.org/catio)





## FIELD NOTES

by Mary Coolidge, BirdSafe Campaign Coordinator

# The Evolution of Radar Ornithology

Radar—radio detection and ranging—uses radio waves to detect objects and came into practical use during World War II to locate enemy aircraft. But there was noise in the system when radio waves bounced off objects like storm fronts, which gave rise to its use in forecasting weather. Another form of noise—pale wisps on radar called ghosts or angels—remained a mystery until the 1950s when they were successfully identified as migrant passerines, a breakthrough that evolved into the remarkable ability to track bird migration.

There are 143 Doppler radar stations around the continental United States, and these stations help ornithologists keep a watchful eye on migrants moving under a cloak of darkness. Birds have unique signatures on radar maps that set them apart from storms, insects, and bats, so scientists at both Colorado State University's AeroEco Lab and Cornell University are able to monitor migrant bird activity and translate this information into Lights Out alerts that help us mobilize local conservation campaigns.

## Radar classification

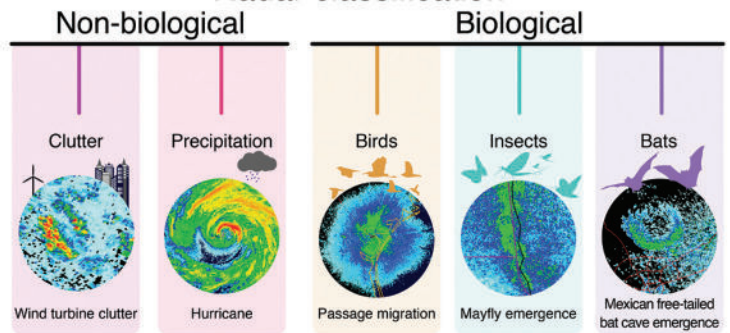


Image courtesy of Kyle Horton.

Migrants move through landscapes that are increasingly bright, which drowns out the stars they use to navigate and lures them into lit areas, where they get into trouble. Birds' motivation to move depends on atmospheric conditions like air temperature, wind speed, visibility, and atmospheric pressure, so just a handful of nights (approximately 9-11 nights per season) will carry 50% of the total passage! That means we concentrate our Lights Out efforts on the nights we can have the greatest impact on keeping birds aloft.

This fall, join us for our Lights Out launch night on Saturday, September 17, and keep your unnecessary outdoor lights off through October 19! Then think about whether you can reduce unnecessary overnight lighting every night of the year to save money, save energy, see stars, and help reduce the impact that light pollution has on entire ecosystems.

## SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott,  
Educator & Trips Specialist

Birders typically have three options in July, when local songbirds go quiet: head to the mountains, as many Portland birders did recently, searching for the flock of **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches** frequenting the slopes above Timberline; pay attention to other little flying wonders, like dragonflies and butterflies (it happens to the best of us); or start looking for early shorebirds who have already started their southbound migration, often failed breeders who only have one shot at nesting, given the short arctic season. That strategy worked out for birders visiting Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, who in early summer found a male **Ruff** in breeding plumage. Two weeks later, birders found a **Marbled Godwit**—possibly just the second record for Washington County. Amazingly, a small flock of only slightly more common Whimbrel joined the godwit, and all were gone by the next day.



Ruff (male in breeding plumage), photo by Steve Higgins

Perhaps even more surprising was the discovery of at least three **Grasshopper Sparrows** at the Metro site Penstemon Prairie, near Fernhill Wetlands. A traditional breeder in the Willamette Valley, habitat loss has caused their near-total absence in the northern part of the valley for decades. Similarly, a pair of **Western Kingbirds** has been documented raising young at Company Lake in Troutdale.

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](mailto:bcasstalbott@audubonportland.org), and for a more detailed weekly report, visit [audubonportland.org](http://audubonportland.org).**



Black Turnstone, photo by Peter Pearsall/USFWS.

## Audubon Birding Days and Field Trips

### Audubon Birding Day: Washington County Wetlands

**September 10 | 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.**

This trip will explore several wetland sites in Washington County. We should find migrating shorebirds and the raptors that hunt them, large flocks of swallows, returning waterfowl, and the first wintering sparrows.

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

Leader: John Rakestraw

### Audubon Birding Day: Clatsop Coast

**October 1 | 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Join expert birder Stefan Schlick in the field as we bird the beautiful Clatsop County coast.

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

Leader: Stefan Schlick

### Audubon Birding Day: Larch Mountain in Fall

**October 8 | 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Join Ross on a fall visit to the highest point in the Boring Lava Fields to search for Sooty Grouse, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Canada Jay, and Townsend's Solitaire.

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

Leader: Ross Barnes-Rickett

Sign up for trips at  
[bit.ly/pnwbirdtrips](https://bit.ly/pnwbirdtrips)



### Field Trip: Fernhill Wetlands for Beginners (3 sessions to choose from)

**October 9 | 7:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**

**October 9 | 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**December 11 | 8-11 a.m.**

Join Stefan for a 1-mile loop around Fernhill Wetlands. We will look at everything, but our focus is on the basics of the birds that are present. Waterfowl is most abundant, but there also should be some raptors, little birds, and maybe shorebirds.

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

Leader: Stefan Schlick

### Audubon Birding Day: Gulls of the North Coast

**November 5 | 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Join us on a trip to the north coast to study the year's biggest variety of gull species. Side-by-side comparisons will help you solidify your gulling skills.

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

Leader: John Rakestraw

### Audubon Birding Day: Baskett Slough and Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge

**November 19 | 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

We will search for Horned Lark, waterfowl, and Northern Shrike at Baskett Slough; then we will close the day at Ankeny searching for Short-eared Owl.

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

Leader: Stefan Schlick

## ACCESSIBLE BIRDING OUTINGS

Together we'll make our way by foot or by wheelchair, observing and learning about birds and other wildlife. We welcome all people who identify as disabled, neurodivergent, chronically ill, and/or have access challenges.

### Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

**September 11 | 10-11:30 a.m.**

### Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

**October 8 | 10-11:30 a.m.**

Fee: Sliding Scale, \$0-\$25

Leaders: Ali Berman, Fern Wexler, and Camelia Zollars





Catio tour, photo by Kelsey Kuhnhausen.

## NATURE NIGHT / CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Nature Night: Cats Safe at Home

September 13 | 7-8:30 p.m.

Join Portland Audubon and the Feral Cat Coalition to learn more about our unique and innovative 25-year partnership to reduce the number of free-roaming cats on the landscape.

Cat predation of birds by cats has long been a concern for conservation groups but progress on this issue has been mired down in conflicts between avian conservation and feline welfare groups. Portland Audubon and the Feral Cat Coalition have found common ground seeking solutions that are good for cats and birds. Learn more about this unique, nationally recognized collaboration and about our joint Cats Safe at Home Campaign.

Cost: Free, donation suggested



### An Introduction to Neotropical Birding: Trinidad & Tobago

September 12 | 6-7 p.m.

Curious about the birds of Central America, the Caribbean, and South America? Join Jason Radix, from Trinidad and Tobago, to learn about some of these popular birds.

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

Leader: Jason Radix



### The Basics of Bird Journaling: Birds in Their Habitat

September 24 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Suggesting water, woods, rocks, trees, and foliage is fun and simple if you know the tricks to use with pen, paints, and brush. Come find out how at this in-person journal session! No art experience is needed!

Fee: \$55 members / \$75 non-members

Instructor: Jude Siegel



Rough-legged Hawk, photo by Scott Carpenter.

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Beginning Birding and Sauvie Island Exploration

**Saturday Field Classes:** October 1, November 5, and December 3 | 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Sunday Field Classes:** October 2, November 6, and December 4 | 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join Greg Baker for three morning explorations at one of Oregon's most accessible Important Bird Areas, Sauvie Island Wildlife Area. This field class series is perfect for those interested in developing and sharpening their birding skills.

Fee: \$95 members / \$125 non-members (fee covers all three field classes in the Saturday or Sunday series)

Instructor: Greg Baker



### Raptors in Flight

October 4 | 6-7 p.m.

In this class, we'll break down identifying raptors by silhouette and flight style, allowing you to hone your skills for your favorite Hawkwatch location or enjoying raptors from your backyard.

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



### All About Owls

October 11 | 6-7 p.m., Understanding Owls

October 18 | 6-7 p.m., Owls of Portland

October 25 | 6-7 p.m., Owls of Oregon

Join Brodie once again for this previously sold-out online series of classes on owls. They are the perfect beginner's guide to learning what makes owls the unique nocturnal predators they are. Please register separately for each class.

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott





Northern Spotted Owl, photo by Chris McCafferty.

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Watercolor Painting with Ronna: The Barred Owl

October 13 | 6-7:30 p.m.

Join this live online class to paint the Barred Owl alongside Ronna Fujisawa, an experienced watercolor painter, art educator, and bird enthusiast. This class is appropriate for intermediate and ambitious beginners.

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



### The New School of Birding, Module 4: Bird Taxonomy and Population Dynamics


**Online classes:** October 26, November 2, November 9, November 16, November 23 and November 30 | 6-7:15 p.m.

**Field days:** November 5, November 19 and December 3 | 7 a.m.-12/4 p.m. (depending on destination)

In this module, we'll investigate bird origins and the evolving science of taxonomy, dive into the promise and perils of bird naming systems, and investigate how bird distribution and populations change over time. We'll also profile several of Oregon's most imperiled species and how you can support their recovery. Along the way, we'll practice our birding skills in the field, with a focus on winter residents and seabirds.

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



 Cost Involved

 Public Transit Available

**FREE** Free

 Family Friendly

 Wheelchair Accessible

 Virtual Event or Program

Sign up for classes and trips at  
[bit.ly/pdxaudubon-classes](https://bit.ly/pdxaudubon-classes)



Vaux's Swifts, photo by Tara Lemezis.

## SWIFT WATCH

**Don't miss the Vaux's Swifts this September as they funnel into the Chapman Elementary chimney to roost for the night!**

**September 1 - 30**  
**1445 NW 26th Ave, Portland**

**Here's what you need to know:**

- Arrive an hour before sunset any night in September.
- Bring a blanket or chair to stay comfortable on the lawn.
- You can track the nightly swift count numbers on our website.
- Street parking is extremely difficult during Swift Watch. We encourage folks to walk, bike, or use public transit.
- Please be a good neighbor by packing up any trash. And be aware that it's illegal to consume alcohol on school grounds.

[audubonportland.org/go-outside/swift-watch/](https://audubonportland.org/go-outside/swift-watch/)



## Mongolia | June 13-28, 2023

Join Portland Audubon on a trip of a lifetime! Enjoy traditional food in a communal setting and experience first-hand the unique Mongolian life by staying in ger camps. We will explore Mongolia's varied habitats, which include the Siberian Taiga in the north, the Mongolian Steppe and the Gobi Desert, and Gobi Altai Mountains in the south. Wildlife high points include Demoiselle Crane, Lammergeier, Wallcreeper, and Przewalski's Wild Horse.

Fee: \$6,195 members / \$6,795 non-members  
Leader: Stefan Schlick



Wallcreeper, photo by Hari K. Patibanda.

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRIPS & INTERNATIONAL ECOTOURS

#### Pacific Northwest Trip: Oregon's Wild Southern Coast

October 21-23, 2022

Oregon's southern coast features miles of rugged coastline, spectacular wildlife, smaller crowds, and the best fall coastal weather the state has to offer. Join Brodie as we explore from Coos Bay to Brookings in search of alcids (murres, guillemots, auklets, puffins, and murrelets), waterfowl, raptors, and more.

Fee: \$375 members / \$500 non-members  
Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

#### Pacific Northwest Trip: Olympic Peninsula

November 3-6, 2022

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

#### Tropical Texas: Birding the Rio Grande Valley

February 8-13, 2023

Join Portland Audubon on one of our most popular trips, to one of the best places in the country for birding. From the Green Jays of the Lower Rio Grande Valley refuges to the Roseate Spoonbills of the coastal marshes and the Greater Roadrunners and Audubon's Orioles in the dry Texas desert, late winter is the perfect time to explore the amazing avifauna of Tropical Texas.

Fee: \$1,950 member / \$ 2,150 non-member  
Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott and Dan van den Broek

#### Amazon River Cruise

March 10-20, 2023

Travel with Portland Audubon on a once-in-a-lifetime cruise through the heart of upper Amazonia, on the largest river in the world! From amazing birds to turtles, mammals, pink dolphins, unforgettable scenery, and culture, you don't want to miss this epic journey along the largest river in the world.

Fee: \$6,495 members / \$7,095 non-members  
Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Doris Valencia

Sign up for Ecotours at  
[bit.ly/pdxaudubon-ecotours](https://bit.ly/pdxaudubon-ecotours)



## NEWS FROM THE COAST

## New Protections on Oregon's Iconic Rocky Coast

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager

This past spring the Land Conservation and Development Commission approved new designations for two rocky habitat sites. Coquille Point, adjacent to the town of Bandon, was designated as a Marine Garden (or Marine Education Area), and Cape Blanco, north of Port Orford, was designated as a Marine Research Area. New protections include no harvest of invertebrates (e.g., shellfish) and marine plants in intertidal areas except by permit. At Coquille Point the designation will facilitate site stewardship efforts, especially during the busy summer tourist season when informing visitors on best practices to minimize disturbance to tidepools and nesting birds is critical.

Over 40% of Oregon's coast includes rocky habitats, fragile environments that support a wealth of marine life from colonial nesting seabirds, kelp beds to thousands of fish and invertebrate species. These breathtaking rocky features, headlands, and tidepools attract millions of visitors and are under growing threat from a warming climate.

Shoreline Education for Awareness nominated Coquille Point, and the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) nominated Cape Blanco through a public proposal process. This comes on the heels of a multiple-year process that updated Oregon's 30-year-old Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Portland Audubon played a leadership role advocating for stronger conservation policies in the new strategy and then facilitated adoption of proposed site designations through communications support, proposal draft reviews, and strategy discussions with coastal partners.

Six additional rocky habitat proposals will be evaluated later this year, and all of them seek a Marine Conservation Area designation with an emphasis on site stewardship and outreach:

- **Ecola Point and Chapman Point**—nominated by the North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition (Portland Audubon is a member)
- **Fogarty Creek**—nominated by a private citizen
- **Cape Lookout and Cape Foulweather**—nominated by Audubon Lincoln City
- **Blacklock Point**—nominated by Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition

These sites deserve to move forward and Portland Audubon will be advocating for their successful nomination.

## NEWS FROM EASTERN OREGON

## Shorebirds and Drought

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

Throughout eastern Oregon and the Intermountain West, migrating and nesting shorebirds depend on saline and freshwater lakes, playas, and wetlands for refueling during migration and breeding. For example, Wilson's Phalaropes use saline lakes as a stopover where they refuel and molt into breeding plumage, sometimes doubling their body weight! The interior nesting Snowy Plover subspecies depends on these habitats and adjacent sandy soils for nesting and rearing young. And western populations of Willet nest in wetlands and grasslands and on pond or spring edges, sometimes in raised areas on mud flats.

All these species refuel and nest at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, but as of June 2022, the multiyear drought in southeastern Oregon continues. While abundant spring precipitation helped make up for the below average water year (October 2022 to present), southeastern Oregon still received below average spring precipitation. With recent warm temperatures, many lakes and reservoirs that persisted into summer have become notably low, likely affecting available habitat for fall migrating shorebirds.

As climate change and extended drought, coupled with overallocation of water for agricultural and industrial purposes, continue to affect water availability, it will be increasingly important to monitor migrating shorebird populations. To understand how populations have shifted since the 1990s, Point Blue Bird Observatory, National Audubon, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service created a three-to-five-year shorebird monitoring project for the Intermountain West. Portland Audubon is partnering on this project and is leading the effort to survey Harney County lakes, wetlands, springs, and playas that are important for migrating shorebirds. Starting in late 2022, Portland Audubon members and volunteers will have the opportunity to sign up to hike in the Double O area, an area closed to the public, while counting migrating spring and fall shorebirds



Wilson's Phalarope, photo by Tara Lemezis.



# How the Oregon Audubon Society

by Ali Berman, Communications and Marketing Director, and Ann Littlewood, Archives Volunteer

Portland Audubon, originally the Oregon Audubon Society, was founded in 1902. That's 120 years of dedicated service protecting birds and their habitat across the state. In that time, we've accomplished perhaps more conservation successes than our founders ever dreamed of, and developed a community of thousands who come together for nature.

As an advocacy organization we spend a great deal of time looking to the future. Today we look back and celebrate one of the many ways Oregon has been changed for the better because of Portland Audubon, its members, and its mission—an early advocacy campaign and sting operation that helped save Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, and other waterbirds in Southern Oregon.

In the mid 1800s, feathers on hats were considered the height of women's fashion in the United States and Europe. During this decades-long trend, plumes were at times worth more per ounce than gold. But obtaining those feathers came at a great cost. By the early 1900s, when Oregon Audubon Society founders William Finley

and Herman T. Bohlman were documenting birds and bird populations across Oregon through photography, they found that Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets had been almost extirpated from the wetlands of Southern Oregon. The egrets weren't alone. Grebes, terns, and others were also being decimated. The most-desired egret feathers were the plumes, found only on birds during breeding season. That meant that egrets were killed for their feathers when they were courting each other or caring for their young. Not only did the adults perish, but the babies also died, securing the destruction of two generations of birds in one kill. All for a hat.

In a lecture solicited by the Portland Women's Club in 1909, Finley talked about his travels to Klamath and Tule Lake and shared the grim reality of what he saw. He told the packed room, "Out through the tules, where we had seen the birds thick about their floating homes, I found deserted nests. There were eggs on all sides, never to be hatched. Beside several nests I saw dead grebe chicks that had climbed out in search of food that dead parents could never bring." Finley ended his



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# Saved Egrets in Oregon

lecture with a plea to the audience to help stop the sale and trade of feathers, noting that “this vandalism will not cease while the reward of gold lasts.”

The volume of birds slaughtered for hats in the US, Europe, Australia, and South America is hard to imagine—skins were sold by the millions. Egret plumes were especially popular, and Oregon had marshes full of egrets. Until we didn’t. Much like other resource extractions across the West, such as the decimation of sea otters for pelts and old-growth forests for lumber, egrets were killed as if they were an unlimited resource. If they were to survive, bold action was essential.

Just as today, our early advocacy strategies were multifaceted. The campaign included Oregon Audubon Society’s vigorous lobbying to pass the Model Bird Law in Oregon. This legislation protected non-game birds, their nests, and their eggs, and was intended to end the trade in bird feathers. Oregon Audubon Society had an early success when the 1903 Oregon legislature passed this bill.

But, the same today as it was then, a law is only as good as its enforcement. Despite the new law, feathers were still in fashion, and the hat trade continued to flourish in Oregon.

As a second tactic, Oregon Audubon Society accelerated a public awareness campaign targeted at the women buying the now illegal hats. In 1907 Oregon Audubon sent every woman in “Portland’s Blue Book” (a book of the Portland elite) a leaflet describing how the plumes for their hats were gathered from the bloody destruction of whole egret colonies, with fledglings left to starve in the nest. This emotional appeal had some effect, but not enough.

The next appeal went right to the milliners and hat makers who had the power to stop buying and reselling plumes. In February 1909, Oregon Audubon sent a notice to all milliners in the state that the prohibition on holding and selling plumes from protected birds would henceforth be enforced. Then they teamed up with local

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**Photo on previous page:** Oregon Audubon Society founders William Finley and Herman T. Bohlman photographing Belted Kingfishers.  
**Below:** Great Egret babies in their nest, photo by William Finley.





law enforcement to launch a sting operation. Oregon Audubon president William Finley and his wife, Irene Finley, an accomplished conservationist, co-author and co-presenter with her husband, went as fast as they could from milliner to milliner to pose as hat buyers. From the news at the time:

"William L. Finley, president of the society, and H.T. Bohlman, secretary, led the expedition which precipitated a small panic among the dealers. Mr. Finley was accompanied by his wife and they did the purchasing of the white heron feathers, constable Wagner and Kiernan loitering in the background until the psychological moment for action. Although a warning had been sent out to every dealer in the state more than two months ago, it was found the warning had fallen short of results for no difficulty was met in buying the aigrettes."

In total, nine citations with fines were made that day to milliners and department store proprietors for selling egret plumes, causing hundreds of dollars of hats and other finery to be seized as evidence. The news reported, "It has been planned hereafter to arrest all women who appear in public wearing prohibited finery."

Finley and Bohlman received \$46 as informants in the cases and donated it to the Oregon Audubon Society. Oregon Audubon Society also made up for the state's lack of funding for enforcement by donating \$300 for the wages of the two state game wardens sent to patrol Klamath and Malheur nesting colonies



**Above:** Photos of women in the early 20th century wearing hats adorned with feathers that were fashionable at the time.



for the 1909 season. They also purchased *The Grebe*, a poaching patrol boat for Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.

In April 1909, Finley was campaigning against the feather trade, but by October of that year, he celebrated that "the slaughter of plume birds...is now effectively stopped."

During this campaign, Finley and the Oregon Audubon Society also invested in lasting protections to the landscape. This meant securing critical habitat to give birds safe places to nest, feed, and rest. Finley and Bohlman used their extensive photography and knowledge of birds and habitat to educate President Roosevelt about the importance of Malheur and Klamath, and to persuade him to establish them as some of the first wildlife refuges in the West. Of course, the creation of Malheur, Klamath, and Three Arch Rocks refuges is a story of its own, one we'll save for another time.

The strategies our founders used in the early 1900s to stop the plume trade—enlisting public support, supporting legislation and enforcement, and securing habitat—were broad-based, effective, and the model for the work we do now.

Today that work includes a partnership with Oregon Wildlife Coalition that established a fund to pay \$500 to \$1,000 for poaching reports that lead Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife troopers to an arrest or citation. In 2019 we successfully advocated to the legislature to increase penalties for poaching, and helped secure several million dollars for an anti-poaching campaign, a roving district attorney to focus on poaching statewide, and increased game officers within Oregon State Police.

**Learn more about our current efforts to combat poaching:** [bit.ly/Combat-Poaching](https://bit.ly/Combat-Poaching)



Great Egret, photo by Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren.

**On the left:** A Great Egret showcasing the beautiful breeding plumage that made them a target for poaching.

## EDUCATION

- Bushnell 119876C Trophy Cam Aggressor HD Cameras
- Silicone spatulas
- Point and shoot cameras

## BACKYARD HABITAT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

- Handheld boot brushes
- Selfie stick
- Lapel/computer microphones
- Print copies of the Portland Plant List

## CONSERVATION

- Recreational vehicle or trailer for field work
- Unihedron Dark Sky Quality Meter (LU-DL)
- Fund for rebranded tabling cloth (~\$300)
- Functioning USB webcam
- Bushnell Essential E-3 Trail Cams
- Bushnell Aggressor Security Case
- Mini refrigerator

## WILDLIFE CARE CENTER

- All Free & Clear laundry detergent pods
- Dish brushes
- Nitrile, powder-free, non-sterile exam gloves
- N-95 face masks
- Rubber or vinyl dish gloves
- Wet-erase Expo pens in black, brown or blue
- Dry-erase Expo markers
- Heavy duty kitchen shears
- Hose spray nozzles
- Red-tailed Hawk flight cage
- Great Horned Owl flight cage
- Intensive care incubators
- Mammal cage
- Brother Genuine High Yield Toner Cartridge (Black, TN660)
- Wellness Core Natural Grain Free Dry Cat Food Kitchen (Turkey & Chicken)
- EliteField 3-door folding soft dog crates (20"L x 14"W x 14"H)
- Portable oxygen generator
- Brother P-Touch label maker refill (white)
- 6' round galvanized stock tank
- Quality Cages Collapsible Chinchilla Travel Cage
- Gift card: Bonka Bird



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# A Rare Bird: Remembering Harry Nehls

by Brodie Cass Talbott, Educator & Trips Specialist

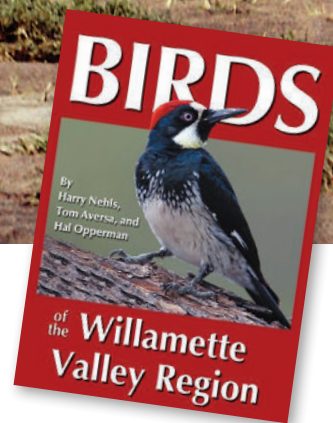
Photo of Harry Nehls by Mike Patterson.

When Harry Nehls officially retired as a Portland Audubon volunteer last year, he was approached by Volunteer Manager Vicky Medley with a fitting tribute: a lifetime achievement award on behalf of a grateful organization. Vicky had researched his long career with the organization, written a piece for the Warbler, and prepared a commemorative plaque for Harry, but was not prepared for his response: "I've already got two of those from Portland Audubon. You can keep it."

It was classic Harry, speaking to both his inimitable history and his trademark style. Harry was involved with the organization in one way or another for 64 years, amassing volunteer hours that would take most people three lifetimes. And for the many voices who have remembered him over the last few weeks since his passing, that sense of humility was as central to who Harry was as his endless service to the birding community.

His contributions to Portland Audubon were enormous, including writing the Sightings and Field Notes columns in the Warbler for decades, and serving as board president, editor of the Warbler, and volunteer manager, as well as being a trip leader and class instructor.

Amazingly, he was just as active outside of Portland Audubon. He served as secretary of the Oregon Birds Records Committee, was the Pacific Northwest Coast regional editor for North American Birds, became the first state coordinator for the USFWS Breeding Bird Survey, and was central to the Portland Christmas Bird Count. On top of these contributions, he authored three books, including the perennially popular Birds of the Willamette Valley Region, and was a major contributing writer and editor to Birds of Oregon: A General Reference, the seminal work regarding birds in Oregon.



"Harry was eBird before eBird," says Dave Irons, longtime birding friend of Harry's and expert on Oregon birds in his own right. "He was the one person who was the central figure in every report of a rare bird in Oregon for decades and decades." This apt analogy points to why there will never be another Harry Nehls—these days, rare bird information is entered into a website and immediately distributed to all who want it.

But until 2008, the year eBird started, that was Harry's job. To help with that task, he created a system of index cards, arranged taxonomically, that recorded the notable observations shared with him. At a recent Birder's Night, those index cards were on public display for the first time, and birders across generations were in awe of both the number of significant sightings and the amount of work that had gone into creating and maintaining what was a brilliant system for the pre-digital era of such record collecting.

Harry was known for more than just recording rare birds, of course—he also found quite a few. Over his birding career, Harry found Oregon's first-record Ross's Gull, McKay's Bunting, Stilt Sandpiper, Blue-headed Vireo, Swamp Sparrow, Mountain Plover, Tennessee Warbler, and Steller's and King Eiders. Most birders would be ecstatic to have one state record under their belt.

When eulogizing someone who gave so much to the birding community, we instinctively want to list all their achievements, but that doesn't tell Harry's whole story. Jeff Gilligan, who has been birding in Oregon since the 1950s, remembers Harry as someone who went out of his way to mentor young birders. "I guess I was probably in eighth grade when I started birding with Harry. He would pick me and some friends up and take us to the coast...

That was a big deal for young birders. He always had a big smile, and was such a great mentor to us."

Those who would phone Harry with their sightings of rare birds fondly remember one of his catchphrases when told of a rarity in some other part of the state. "Oh, those guys down there find them all the time," he would say, as if to insinuate that the bird was perhaps not quite as rare as the finder may have thought. Who were "those guys," these birders still wonder. Only Harry seemed to know.

Try as he might, however, there is one thing even he wouldn't be able to talk the birding community out of knowing: you were a rare one, Harry, and we won't be finding another one like you.



NOTE: Harry typed everything, from letters to handouts to Warbler articles. When he shifted to the computer he stayed true to his past and submitted his field notes in Courier, the most typewriter typeface possible and the one we've used to print his tribute.



# Remembering a Lifelong Portland Audubon Champion: Harriet Anderson

by Ross Anderson, Dean Anderson, and Charles Milne, Development Director

Both longtime and newer members may have run into Harriet Anderson at our Sanctuary or remember her answering your call as a volunteer receptionist. She believed sincerely in our work and contributed to most, if not all, of Portland Audubon's most significant projects. Her last legacy was initiating the renovations and updates to Marmot Cabin, where we hold camps and Outdoor School for youth, with a considerable lead gift.

Harriet's love of science started early. Her parents had a small farm in Phoenix, Arizona, in the 1930s and 1940s. Being the youngest of five children and, according to her own telling and that of her sisters, she was given much more autonomy than her siblings and free rein of the farm. She had a horse that provided transportation, and curiosity that provided motivation. She found and studied snakes, scorpions, lizards, and mammals. Some, such as scorpions and tarantulas, she kept as "pets"—much to her mother's chagrin—but most she would observe and then let go. Those childhood experiences are what led to her lifetime love affair with science.

After graduating from Occidental with a teaching degree, she set up a teaching job in New York City, but she first visited her sister in Portland during her free summer. She knew immediately that Portland was where she wanted to be and started applying for teaching positions. When the principal at Grant High School sent a telegram with a job offer, she jumped at the chance.

Upon arrival in Portland, Harriet quickly got involved with Portland Audubon. One of her

favorite places she lived in the early 1960s was actually at Portland Audubon! We're not sure how it came to be, but she was offered a room in one of the original buildings, located in what is now the Wildlife Care Center. She loved the raccoons living in the attic and the wildlife surrounding her in the forest.



“Harriet was totally cool. She did a huge number of things for Audubon over the years. She was one of those cornerstone volunteers. She held court at the reception desk—she was funny, sweet, opinionated, blunt, and shared a wealth of information and stories with staff, other volunteers, and the public alike. She cared passionately about wildlife and was always there to help the public with their wildlife questions, and once in a while to let fly a zinger or two if she felt a caller wasn't suitably committed to living with wildlife.”

- Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Some of sons Ross and Dean's earliest childhood memories are of attending one of Portland's Outdoor Schools. Harriet and her husband ran Camp Colton, and Harriet saw firsthand the impact Outdoor School had on Portland's youth. That experience helped her recognize the value of the Marmot property when Portland Audubon acquired it. She knew the mission of education could be her lasting legacy, and this led to her decision to donate the seed money to build the yurts that now house students during Portland Audubon's Outdoor School overnight programs.

Harriet's passion for science stayed true to the end. In November of 2021, her sons took her on a tour of Sauvie Island Wildlife Area to see the wintering Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes, and other waterfowl. Just days before her passing, they took a trip into the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia and spent the day watching Bald Eagles and Belted Kingfishers along the Shenandoah River because she wanted to see what the birds were feeding on and doing. Her curiosity was everlasting. She passed on February 18, 2022, from complications of COVID-19. Although she is gone, her passion for science remains—in her impact on her sons' lives and in her support of Portland Audubon becoming what it is today.

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



Tree Swallow, photo by Mick Thompson.

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

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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!**



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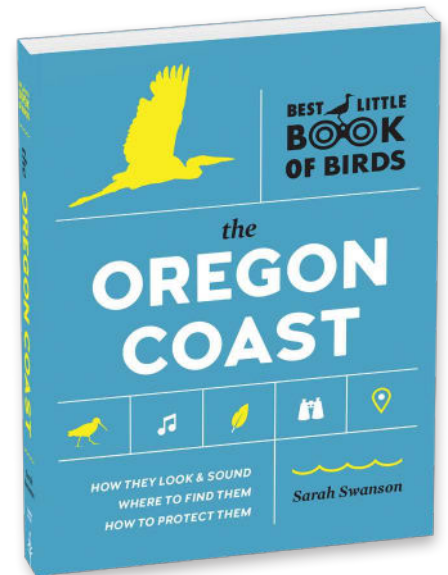
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As summer winds into fall, some of our favorite birds will head south, but many will begin their journey back to the Pacific Northwest for the winter. Stop by the Nature Store to check out our wide selection of products to help you enjoy fall migration and winter birding. From swifts to waterfowl to sparrows, the Nature Store's selection of optics, field guides, and resources will help you spot and identify birds all year long.

Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Bufflehead, photo by Jim Cruce.

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For every pair of socks sold, Replant Pairs plants a tree! This collection helps forests in Oregon, Washington, and California exclusively, and nearly 2,000 trees have been planted in Oregon. Replant Pairs will also donate \$1 to the State Forests Wildfire Restoration Fund (Santiam Campaign) for every pair sold. Made with organic cotton by Japanese craftspeople, these socks are great quality and sustainable.



**Member Price: \$16.20**

## Kid's Book

### Swiftly's Big Flight

by Lee Jackson

Local author Lee Jackson follows Swiftly, a juvenile Vaux's Swift, and his journey out of the nest. Jackson combines a fun narrative with ornithological facts about the many amazing adaptations of swifts. Vaux's Swifts are a local favorite and can be seen gathering in chimneys during their fall migration in September. Check out Portland Audubon's Swift Watch to learn more!

**Member Price: \$9.00**



## PNW Pick

### Origami Crane Earrings

by Kikumi Designs

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

Cathy of Kikumi Designs is a longtime Oregonian based in Wilsonville and is always busy crafting. She's dabbled in cards, knitting, and needle felting but always comes back to jewelry, and some of her favorite pieces are created from paper, beads, and wire. These origami crane earrings are delicately made with brightly colored paper, matching beads, and a light sealant for protection.

**Member Price: \$15.30**







TOGETHER FOR NATURE

5151 NW Cornell Road  
Portland, OR 97210

Portland Audubon inspires all people to love and protect birds, wildlife,  
and the natural environment upon which life depends.



Den of Zen Catio (2021), photo by Ali Berman.

## 10th Annual Catio Tour

**September 10 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
IN-PERSON AND ONLINE!

Join us in person or virtually for a self-guided tour of creative catios in the Portland metro area that will inspire you with ideas that fit your budget and space.

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503-292-6855  
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#### Wildlife Care Center

503-292-0304  
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with COVID protocols

#### Nature Store & Interpretive Center

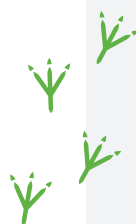
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#### Wildlife Sanctuary

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**On the Cover:** Great Blue Heron, photo by Tom Koerner/USFWS.

**On the Inside Cover:** "March Homesteading," by Jordan Kim; Summer Camp, photo by Tara Lemezis; Great Egret, photo by Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren; Harry Nehls, photo by Mike Patterson.



## Birdy Brain Buster!

How many pounds of fish must an American White Pelican parent provide to their chick from hatching until they can forage on their own?

- A. 20 pounds
- B. 50 pounds
- C. 100 pounds
- D. 150 pounds



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

Answer: D, 150 pounds