



## Wild Arts Festival

December 10 & 11

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Photo by Tara Lemezis.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Strengthening Our Community Through Diversity

by Stuart Wells, Executive Director

I want to thank each of you for your continued membership and support of Portland Audubon. You are part of a community with a shared passion for the love of birds and conserving the natural world.

Recently, I've had opportunities to meet many of our over 12,000 members at various events or here at the sanctuary. I am impressed by our community's passion and support for our stated mission to inspire people to love birds, wildlife, and the natural environment.

The Portland Audubon flock makes me think of what it means to be a healthy biological community. A biological community is an interacting group of a variety of species within a common area. The community's culture consists of behavior patterns that come from shared knowledge and experiences. Biodiversity, meaning the different forms of life found in an area, is a critical element that helps a biological community be resilient to adverse pressures.

As with a biological community, the Portland Audubon community must increase its diversity to remain resilient to changes that may impact our ability to enact our mission. Portland Audubon becomes stronger when it's more diverse. Thus, we are committed to engaging all Oregonians through cross-collaboration, focusing on environmental justice and diversity, building new partnerships, and increasing funding for these initiatives.

You can help. Please share Portland Audubon's work with friends and family and help us continue to build a movement composed of people of all ages, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds working together for nature. In addition, with a year-end gift, a visit to our Nature Store, or by gifting a membership, you can ensure Portland Audubon has the strength to continue our long legacy of protecting birds and habitat across the state.



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[WWW.WILDARTSFESTIVAL.ORG](http://WWW.WILDARTSFESTIVAL.ORG)

by Matthew Hushbeck, Asst. Director of Development

**DECEMBER  
10 & 11**

#### LOCATION

Portland State University's  
**VIKING PAVILION**

in the Peter W. Stott Center  
930 SW Hall St, Portland

#### HOURS

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### TICKETS

wildartsfestival.org • \$13.50 adults  
(this includes Portland State's  
processing fee); children 14 and  
under, free

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Kate Foulke at  
[wafvolunteers@audubonportland.org](mailto:wafvolunteers@audubonportland.org)

The 42nd annual Wild Arts Festival is almost here! On December 10 and 11 (a few weeks later than our usual November date), we will be back at the Portland State Viking Pavilion to celebrate art, literature, and nature. Last year was my first time attending the festival in person, and I am absolutely hooked. I can't wait to see the incredible returning artists, and even more exciting, nearly 50% of this year's artists are new to the festival! And among the authors at the Book Fair will be Colin Meloy and Carson Ellis, creators of the Wildwood series. We hope when you join us for the Wild Arts Festival, presented by Backyard Bird Shop, you'll find that piece of art you truly connect with as a gift for yourself or a loved one.

As always, you can do some unique holiday shopping as you explore beautiful artwork, nature-inspired books, an array of silent auction items, and much more. And, when you make a purchase at the Wild Arts Festival, you'll be supporting Portland Audubon's mission to inspire all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends.

## GETTING TO PORTLAND STATE VIKING PAVILION

### Drop-Off

We will have a curbside drop-off/pick-up spot on SW College St. just past SW Jackson St. and SW Park Ave.

### Parking

Portland State has three paid parking structures. We recommend Parking Structure 1, at 1872 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97201, just a couple blocks from the pavilion entrance.

An additional two blocks away is Parking Structure 2, at 1724 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97201

### Public Transit

Portland Streetcar: Viking Pavilion is located a few blocks from the Portland Streetcar's South line (SW 6th & College MAX Stn).

### Tri-Met Bus

The nearest bus line is the #68 between SW Hall and SW College Street.



Annie Chrietberg





Gavin Tougher



Jay Gordon



Casey Newman



Catherine Chandler



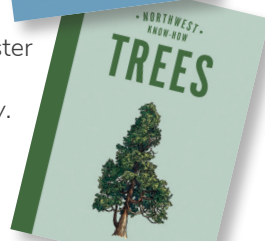
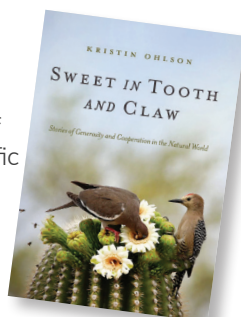
Eduardo Cruz Torres

## ART FAIR

The Wild Arts Festival is a great way to support Oregon's wildlife and wild places, as well as local artists. The festival has expanded this year, with 60 artists on hand, and you will undoubtedly find the painting, sculpture, jewelry piece, photograph, woodwork, textile, ceramic piece, or glass-blown art that speaks to you. You'll again find Janel Pahl's encaustic paintings, Graham Schodda's stainless steel etchings, Shino Mikami's sustainable screenprint art, and the return of Larry Olsen's intimate landscape photography. And the new artists are bringing their unique style, like Eduardo Cruz Torres' pyrography of wildlife, Lindsey Fox's paintings of Pacific Northwest landscapes, and Regana Begay's handcrafted turquoise jewelry.

## BOOK FAIR

We celebrate a dynamic lineup of authors exploring birds, trees, wolves, animal behavior, the great Columbia and Willamette Rivers, and much more, embracing nature and sense of place in the Pacific Northwest. You can chat with authors, both newcomers and longtime festival favorites, and buy a signed copy of their books. For birders, longtime friend of Portland Audubon Sarah Swanson's new title is *The Best Little Book of Birds: The Coast*, while master birder, author, and poet Alan Contreras presents *A History of Oregon Ornithology*.



Local music legends Colin Meloy and Carson Ellis bring their new titles: the middle school thriller *The Stars Did Wander Darkly* and charming picture book *This Book is Not About a Kitten* respectively. David Montgomery and Anne Biklé explore *What Your Food Ate*, while Kathleen Dean Moore brings the hopeful message *Take Heart: Encouragement for Earth's Weary Lovers*, and newcomer A. E. Copenhagen's *My Days of Dark Green Euphoria: A Novel* is a creative take on eco-anxiety. And finally, we will pay tribute to the late Harry Nehls, beloved Portland Audubon author and teacher. This is just a taste of the books and authors at the Book Fair, with titles for children, adults, and nature-lovers of all ages.

## RAFFLE

### In-Person and Online

For just \$25, you can enter to win a pair of Swarovski EL 8.5 x 42 WB Swarobright Binoculars, equipped with a carrying case, harness, and rainguard lens cover. You can purchase your tickets online or at the event, but act quickly because only 400 tickets will be sold.

## SILENT AUCTION

### In-Person and Online

In the pavilion's concourse, you'll find an incredible selection of art, experiences, and outdoor gear donated to support Portland Audubon's mission. A few of the tempting items you'll find: a pair of Vortex Viper binoculars, a great selection of Brome bird feeders, four days at the ever-popular Arch Cape beach home, a case of 2015 Evesham Wood Le Puits Sec Pinot Noir (!), and wonderful photos and paintings, certificates, and experiences too varied and numerous to list.





Michelle Snyder



Leah Nobilette



Molly Reeves

## Thank You to Our Amazing Sponsors!

### Presenting Sponsor



### Eagle Sponsor

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### Hawk Sponsors



**Dr. Judith Ramaley**

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### Owl Sponsor

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This year, you'll have the benefit of in-person viewing of the items with the convenience of online bidding. Register and make your first bids at the event, then track the bidding on your computer or phone at home and increase your bid if you need to. If you can't attend the Wild Arts Festival in person, you can still peruse the online catalog and register and bid from home.

### NATURE STORE

A perennial favorite, our Nature Store will have birdhouses, birdfeeders, branded clothing and merchandise, holiday ornaments and gifts, and more. You'll find all of your Nature Store favorites, as well as items specially curated for the Wild Arts Festival.

### SAFETY MEASURES

The health and safety of our attendees, artists, volunteers, staff, and community remain our highest priority. We are currently recommending guests wear a mask, but it is not required. If COVID-19 cases increase, we will reevaluate our policies. Please check back on our [wildartsfestival.org/covid-safety](https://wildartsfestival.org/covid-safety) for future updates.

**Can't attend the Wild Arts Festival?** You can purchase raffle tickets and silent auction items online! When you visit the Wild Arts Festival website ([wildartsfestival.org](https://wildartsfestival.org)), you'll be able to find the artists' websites and make purchases directly through them.

**We can't wait to see you! Help us spread the word and tell your family, friends, and coworkers to join you at the Wild Arts Festival 2022.**

Amy Fields







# Vote **YES** on Ballot Measure 26-225 For Parks & Natural Areas!

Photo by Mike Houck.

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

✓ Please vote **YES** this November on **Measure 26-225 to renew the Metro Parks and Nature Levy**. The levy funds restoration of habitat for fish and wildlife, maintenance of Metro parks and natural areas, and programs that increase access to nature. We have amazing parks and natural areas that protect water quality, provide habitat for a huge array of species, build resilience against climate change, and host incredible opportunities to experience nature from our urban core to the edges of our region. The Metro Levy delivers essential funds to ensure that these special places are well maintained, restored, and accessible.

Ballot Measure 26-225 has been endorsed by a wide range of conservation groups, social justice groups, and business alliances because it is good for our environment, community health, and our economy. Portland Audubon is proud to endorse Measure 26-225 and serve on its steering committee.

**Ballot Measure 26-225 renews an existing levy that passed twice previously with broad support from voters and does not increase taxes.**

The levy costs 9.6 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed value or about \$2 a month for a home with an assessed value of \$250,000. That will not increase.

Metro takes a two-pronged approach to funding our regional system of parks, trails, and natural areas. Greenspace bonds, like the one that passed in 2019, allow for capital expenses such as the purchase of new land. Levies fund operational expenses such as maintenance, habitat restoration, and community engagement grants. They are the flip side of the same coin: bonds allow us to expand the system, and levies ensure that the system we have is safe, healthy, and accessible.

Metro parks are some of the most visited in the entire region. Funding from levies, including this one, is critical to making them more accessible. Sites such as Killin Wetlands and Newell Creek Canyon saw huge improvements to public access under the last levy, and renewal will allow for even more access. Metro has a strong history of creating opportunities to experience nature while protecting and restoring fragile natural areas in a way that also improves water quality, increases fish and wildlife habitat, sequesters carbon, and makes our landscape more resilient to climate change.

Community partnerships and grant programs are so important: they get people into the parks we have, as well as bring nature education into schools, and community nature projects into neighborhoods. For relatively little investment, these levy-funded programs can help more kids, people with low income, and people of color access and enjoy nature.

There are so many reasons to invest in nature: human health, equity, clean air and water, recreation, climate resilience, carbon sequestration. The need and the demand has never been more apparent. We have a great system of regional parks and natural areas, and by continuing our existing investment we can ensure that this system is maintained, restored, and becomes more accessible over time.

**We urge you to continue helping us invest in protecting nature for future generations to enjoy by voting yes on the levy renewal.**



**YES  
for Parks  
& Nature**

**VOTE  
YES ON  
MEASURE  
26-225**



# Real Recap: The Bird Days of Summer

by Camelia Zollars, Public Programs  
& Partnership Specialist

With each season's passing there is a story to tell. A sharing of the ways in which the season slowly etched transformation within nature. And in us too, by the unique experiences we shared with others outside.

Now we are deep into a beautiful Pacific Northwest fall, where the trees are electric hues of yellow, oranges, and reds instead of dried browns. But we are going back to the summer season for a real recap of the Bird Days of Summer, a series of events hosted by Portland Audubon's adult education team from June through August.

During the Bird Days of Summer we hosted 17 programs, and all events were "pay what you can" on a sliding scale of \$0-\$25. The events embraced the best things about summertime: dragonflies, meeting new people for birding with bevvies, searching for bats, and taking long bike rides.

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"I've always been 'not sure' if birding was something I could do, it seemed overwhelming. On this trip I learned that it's not, they made it approachable and I'm so excited to get to identify birds in my neighborhood."

- Bird Days of Summer participant

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Over the summer, we met many new faces. As it turns out, half of the Bird Days of Summer crew were attending a Portland Audubon event for the first time, with many giving birding a first try, too! A Bike and Bird participant shared that "the leaders made this trip so much fun and they made birding finally feel approachable to me. I've always been 'not sure' if birding was something I could do, it seemed overwhelming. On this trip I learned that it's not, they made it approachable and I'm so excited to get to identify birds in my neighborhood."

This experience captures the reality that although birding is for everyone, it may not initially feel that way to folks who've never tried it. But this highlights an



Bikes-n-Birds Outing, photo by Tara Lemezis.

important piece of the Bird Days of Summer events: creating approachable spaces to explore the birds and nature around us.

Looking back at summer, I recall the warmth of hospitality and community. Topaz Farm, a three-generation family farm using regenerative practices, hosted two Birds and Bevvies events. Baby Tree Swallows popped their heads out of nest boxes, American Kestrels perched in the farm fields, and we delighted in cold bevvies while guessing at bird trivia. This was the ultimate summer farm experience.

Community-building continued with Guero Bird Club, a club focused on chill vibes, good food and drinks, and birds, for the Accessible Sunday Perch. With agua frescas in hand, we birded by seat and gazed at Mallards and mystery ducks again and again, hoping maybe another bird might show up. Lastly, we partnered with People of Color Outdoors, where Black, Indigenous, and all people of color can enjoy nature in a caring community, for a Fly Fits bird walk. Folks dressed in their favorite bird-themed gear, and to add to it, Bird Collective gifted everyone with Boat-tailed Grackle patches!

The summer season shaped us through community with others, the hospitality of new places, and the risk of trying something new with people we've never met. It's powerful to imagine there is a time and season for everything.



# City Takes Big Step Backwards on Floodplain Protections

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The City of Portland is about to turn its back on common sense, environmental law, and its longstanding commitment to being a green leader. Unfortunately, this is not an anomaly. It is impossible to study Portland's recent track record on the environment and conclude anything other than that. And while other North American cities are stepping up their environmental programs, the City of Portland appears to be stepping aside...and holding open the door for irresponsible developers.

The City has spent years developing a Floodplain Resilience Plan. **Floodplains are areas that are subject to periodic flooding.** Healthy and intact floodplains are essential for the health and safety of our community, to protect water quality, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and create resilience in the face of climate change. More and more cities across the United States and the planet are suffering catastrophic floods. The news is filled with reports of severe flooding in Florida, in Pakistan, and in Australia. The locations change from month to month, but the trend is unmistakable: in an age of climate change, flooding that was once unfathomable has become commonplace. Portland has its own tragic history of catastrophic flooding—the Vanport Flood of 1948 wiped out what was once Oregon's second largest city in a single day and left behind a devastating legacy of displacement and racial injustice.

Yet too many communities, including Portland, continue to allow irresponsible, unmitigated floodplain development. Developers get rich, our communities are put at direct risk, and our environment is degraded. The urgency of updating Portland's floodplain regulations is captured on page 11 of the draft Floodplain Resilience Plan where the City writes:

*The population living in the floodplain has been growing much faster than Portland's population overall. In fact, over the last 20 years, the majority of the growth in new housing units has occurred in the floodplain. Because there are still a number of vacant lots located in the floodplain with significant development capacity in key growth areas of Portland's Central City, such as the South Waterfront, the disproportionately large growth in housing in the floodplain is likely to continue into the future. While most of the growth in housing has occurred in high rise developments in the Central City, the floodplain also contains significant numbers of single-dwelling residential developments, particularly in the Johnson Creek watershed.*

The proposed Floodplain Resilience Plan is a direct result of a lawsuit brought by Portland Audubon and others more than a decade ago. The result of that lawsuit was a determination by the National Marine Fisheries Service in 2016 that floodplain development

South Waterfront Today



Portland continues to develop in high-risk floodplains without mitigation and out of compliance with the Endangered Species Act. In 1996, the South Waterfront was underwater (see photo on the right). Today it is home to Oregon's highest density development and critical infrastructure such as hospital facilities (above). And more development by both the City and private developers is moving forward today.



in Oregon is jeopardizing continued existence of salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act. A “jeopardy decision” such as this is extremely rare and it signals the seriousness of the situation. Cities that do not update their floodplain plan may be in violation of the Endangered Species Act. However, municipalities such as Portland should not need an Endangered Species Act lawsuit to know that their floodplain regulations need to be updated. Portland has acknowledged as much in its Comprehensive Plan, Climate Action Plan, Climate Emergency Work Plan, and other planning documents. In this day and age, it is common sense.

After several years of work, Portland appeared to be ready to take a big step forward. A discussion draft of the Portland Floodplain Resilience Plan that was circulated in 2021 included important new protection and mitigation requirements for Portland’s floodplains. Unfortunately, when a new draft of the Floodplain Resilience Plan was released in August 2022 for public review and approval by the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission and Portland City Council, some of the plan’s most important elements had been eliminated.

Most notably, the City removed new requirements for balanced cut and fill. Balanced cut and fill essentially requires that when developers fill floodplains, they mitigate by creating new floodplains nearby. The purpose is to ensure no net loss of flood capacity and to mitigate habitat loss and retain other ecosystem services. The City also eliminated proposed protections for floodplains along the Columbia Slough and on areas of the floodplain that are already developed. The City provided a series of weak and largely incoherent explanations. It appears that the City simply caved to development interests on the most important aspects of the plan.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated event. There is now a clear pattern of the City in recent years pulling back from its environmental commitments. These include:

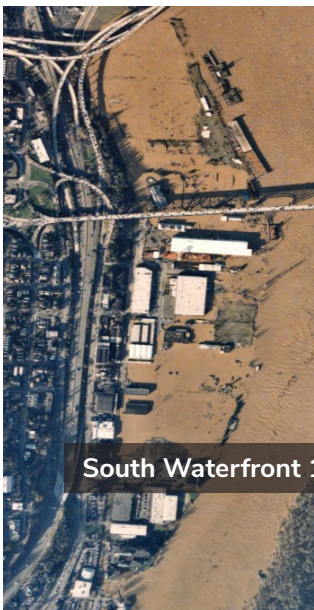
- Continued delay of code amendments to protect trees on industrial lands that have been promised for more than a decade.

- Dismantling of some of the City’s tree programs including key partnerships with groups like Friends of Trees.
- Continued delay of long promised development of code to reduce light pollution.
- The recent announcement that the City plans to split the Planning and Sustainability Commission into two separate commissions, which will once again relegate “sustainability” to the margins and separate it from its most important implementation tool, oversight of Title 33, which governs land use planning in the City.
- Failure to apply environmental zoning code updates to industrial lands when the City updated its decades-old environmental zone overlay in 2021.
- The decision of the Bureau of Environmental Services to quietly abandon the Portland Watershed Management Plan and Watershed Action Plan, which has guided the City’s conservation priorities for more than a decade, with no notice to the public, City Council, or even the Public Utility Board, which provides public oversight of BES activities.
- The decision by the Bureau of Environmental Services to dismantle its Watershed Health Division, which functioned as the City’s brain for environmental law, science, policy and practice.

The list goes on, but the bottom line is that the City’s most important environmental programs are quietly being eliminated under cover of COVID and other crises. In their place, the City has substituted endless environmental scoping processes that go round in circles and lead nowhere. Under these circumstances it’s unfortunately not surprising that after years of work, the City is now attempting to quietly gut its Floodplain Resilience Plan even before it goes to the public, the Planning and Sustainability Commission, and City Council for review.

It is critical that the community uses this opportunity to send a strong message to Council that we expect better for the health of our environment and our communities. The City must restore the entire Floodplain Resilience Plan, and it must recommit to a strong environmental agenda for the City.

We have known for decades that floodplain development puts our communities and environment in harm’s way. We have seen city after city in the United States suffer catastrophic floods, and we have seen flooding in our own communities. It’s time to stop talking about climate resilience and actually take steps to do something about it. The choice is clear: rich, irresponsible developers or safe, healthy communities, clean water, and salmon.



South Waterfront 1996





# The Future of the Name Audubon

Over the last few years, coinciding with a time of racial reckoning, the birding community has been rethinking its relationship with the John James Audubon name. Most know him as a wildlife artist whose illustrations helped shape the field of ornithology. Many associate the name with fond memories of birding trips, summer camps, and environmental advocacy from organizations like ours. What has been dismissed or overlooked until the last few years by both Portland Audubon and the larger Audubon community is the fact that John James Audubon both enslaved people and opposed the abolition of slavery.

**It's not commonly known that John James Audubon had nothing to do with the founding of the first Audubon societies. In fact, he died decades before the Audubon network started to emerge.** The name was chosen because of his stature and noted contributions to birds and our understanding of natural history, most famously through his book *The Birds of America*, a collection of 435 life-size bird prints.

Now the choice to bear his namesake is being reevaluated across the country, including by Portland Audubon. So far, multiple Audubon organizations have announced their decision to drop the name, including Seattle Audubon and D.C. based Audubon Naturalist Society. Neither has yet to announce a new name.

If you've been following our work, you're aware that Portland Audubon's commitment to equity and racial justice continues to grow through our programs, partnerships, and the evolution of our internal culture. That the name Audubon celebrates a slaveholder who held white supremacist views goes against that ethic and commitment. That's why Portland Audubon supports a name change that would echo across all Audubon chapters.

Earlier this year National Audubon announced a 12 to 18 month process to think through what John James Audubon's name and legacy means to the future of the organization. The Audubon network is vast, with over 450 chapters, 12 alone in Oregon, including Portland Audubon. We are using our position as one of the largest chapters in the country to advocate for a name change that would allow the vast Audubon network to stay intact while also moving away from a racist history that does little justice to the work of our organizations, our supporters, and the breadth of communities impacted by our work.

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Over the next few months National Audubon will take a number of steps to listen to the community about the name Audubon. That includes one-on-one interviews, small group listening sessions, and soliciting input and perspectives from a variety of audiences including National Audubon staff, volunteers, members, donors, chapter leaders, campus chapters, board members, and partners. National Audubon will also gather input from individuals who are not currently connected with Audubon to discover if the name and John James Audubon's legacy is one of the reasons they have not previously become involved.

Portland Audubon has had conversations at the staff and board level on this issue, and are in the process of including a name change process in our strategic plan. Our goal is to expand that conversation and gather input from partners, members, volunteers, and the broader community while National Audubon conducts a nationwide investigation into the name and its impacts.

In the interim, we would like to encourage our members to learn more about John James Audubon's history. You can find important information in the following links by both National Audubon and Dr. J. Drew Lanham.

- *The Myth of John James Audubon*  
Audubon Magazine / by Gregory Nobles  
[audubon.org/news/the-myth-john-james-audubon](https://audubon.org/news/the-myth-john-james-audubon)
- *John James Audubon, A Complicated History*  
[audubon.org/content/john-james-audubon](https://audubon.org/content/john-james-audubon)
- *What Do We Do About John James Audubon?*  
Audubon Magazine / by J. Drew Lanham  
[audubon.org/content/j-drew-lanham](https://audubon.org/content/j-drew-lanham)



# Reclaiming Ross Island

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Portland Audubon has been engaged with efforts to protect and restore Ross Island for more than 40 years. We consider it a top priority site for protection and restoration within the Portland metropolitan region. Ross Island provides important habitat for migratory birds and federally listed salmonids. It also provides outstanding opportunities for experiencing and enjoying nature within the urban core. A significant undeveloped portion of the island was transferred to the City of Portland in 2007 after Portland Audubon, Urban Greenspaces Institute, and Willamette Riverkeeper worked with Ross Island Sand and Gravel Company (RISG) owner Dr. Robert Pamplin to facilitate the transfer.

However, important and long overdue work remains to reclaim Ross Island. RISG continues to own a significant portion of the island and also the lagoon. Although it is no longer operational, a large industrial processing plant sits on Ross Island. RISG is also more than a decade behind on obligations to reclaim (restore) both the Ross Island Lagoon and uplands from the impacts of decades of mining by the company. At the current pace, it would not complete the work until 2053, an astounding 41 years behind schedule, and there is no guarantee that they will even meet that schedule. They have been able to get away with this because in 2000, state agencies substantially lowered RISG's reclamation obligations to focus on the most important restoration activities in exchange for an obligation to complete the work by 2012, but then in an omission they have never been able to explain, failed to include enforceable timeline, end date, or penalty provisions in the permits that were issued. Yes, that is as bizarre as it sounds.

To make matters more complex and concerning, Willamette Week has been reporting that RISG recently quietly transferred its interest in the island to its employee pension fund. Rather than paying into the fund, RISG instead gave the fund ownership of an island with substantial legal liabilities. Yes, that is as bizarre as it sounds as well.

State agencies, including the Department of State Lands (DSL) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), have an important opportunity right now to step up and ensure that RISG meets all of its environmental obligations and that it does so on a reasonable but aggressive timeline. RISG has approached the agencies to renegotiate its permits in a way that would again reduce its environmental restoration activities.

## Any new agreements with Ross Island Sand and Gravel Company must include the following:

- An enforceable completion date for all reclamation obligation of no later than 2028, with significant penalty provisions if timelines are not met. This will still mean that RISG finishes 16 years behind schedule.
- Establish a scientific review panel to ensure that any substantive modifications to the permits meet the ecological goals in the 2000 agreements.
- Require full bonding for all reclamation activities. RISG's transfer of ownership of their holdings to their pension fund raises serious legal and financial questions.
- Initiate processes to evaluate the status of the non-operational RISG processing plant on the island to determine if there are environmental threats present.
- Require that RISG allow access to portions of the river they control (although it is rare in Oregon, RISG owns significant acres of river bottom) for enforcement activities such as removal of derelict boats and enforcement of no-wake zones.
- Prohibit use of contaminated fill on both the uplands and in water portions of the restoration project.

Portland Audubon and partners such as Willamette Riverkeeper and Urban Greenspaces Institute have submitted substantial comments to DSL and DEQ. **Thanks to all of our activists who also sent comments.** We will continue to track this closely as it evolves. It is time, long past time, really, to reclaim Ross Island.



## FIELD NOTES

by Laura Whittemore, Warbler Editor & Volunteer

# Feather Light but Super Strong

Who among us hasn't picked up a feather from the ground and examined it, gently stroking it against our own skin and wondering how it came to be right here right now, and if its owner misses it...

Fortunately, if the feather was lost naturally, the owner doesn't miss it and has probably already regrown a replacement. Birds lose worn-out feathers here and there, or they may lose many during a longer molt and completely change seasonally from, say, lemon yellow to subdued tan in the case of a male American Goldfinch.

The typical feather is made up of a central shaft (rachis) on either side of which are vanes. The vanes are then made up of tiny paired branches called barbs that further branch into even tinier barbules. These hooked barbs and barbules attach to each other even more efficiently than Velcro (engineers have studied feathers for inspiration on new adhesives) and create the flattened, usually curved surface of the vane.



American Kestrel juvenile, photo by Andrew.

Feathers require daily care to keep their wearer protected and aerodynamic. Bathing in water or dust removes dirt or parasites, after which a bird uses its bill to spread a waxy substance from its uropygial or preen gland at the base of its tail all over its feathers. Feathers are already waterproof and strong because of their barb and barbule structure, but this treatment keeps them flexible and lubricated. Whether you're observing ducks, hawks, or sparrows this winter, keep an eye out for preening. It's a daily or twice daily ritual for most birds, and witnessing it will give you further insight into the life of a bird.

## SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott, Educator & Trips Specialist

Rare birds seemed to come in from all directions this fall. In early October, a county-first-record **Tropical Kingbird** was photographed at Hayden Island. These birds breed in Arizona, Texas, and Mexico, but every year some seem to accidentally migrate north instead of south.

A similar faulty navigation was probably at play for the **Chestnut-collared Longspur** that was found at Rooster Rock State Park a few days earlier. These birds breed in the Great Plains, and every other year or so, one is found to the west in Oregon, instead of heading south. Youthful exuberance, no doubt.

A third highly unusual songbird for the region also visited our area in early October—a **Northern Waterthrush** that spent the better part of two weeks bobbing its way along the banks underneath the pedestrian bridge at Whitaker Ponds, much to the delight of the dozens of birders that came to watch. This bird likely came from breeding grounds up north, where it seems most departing waterthrushes prefer to head through the eastern part of the country en route to the Caribbean and Central America.



Northern Waterthrush, photo by Tara Lemezis, Sept. 30, 2022, Whitaker Ponds, Portland.

Plenty of other good birds moved through the area this fall, including a flyover **Cattle Egret** in Clark County, a mercurial **American Redstart** at Sandy River Delta, a **Broad-winged Hawk** in Clackamas County, and a **Brown Pelican** on Sauvie Island, but the biggest phenomenon of fall may well be the **Acorn Woodpeckers** that have turned up all over the region, in city parks and on neighborhood streets. So next time you take a walk in your neighborhood, keep an ear out for a "wakka-wakka-wakka!"

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).**



## Audubon Birding Days and Field Trips

### Audubon Birding Day: Upstream on the Columbia River

November 18 | 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Late fall along the dry side of the Columbia River is a great time to look for unusual species like loons, grebes, gulls, and raptors.

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

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

### Audubon Birding Day: Columbia County Bottomlands

December 2 | 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

With its proximity to the river, Columbia County is famous for waterfowl and raptors. We'll look for swans, unusual geese, interesting sparrows, and whatever else pops up.

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

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

### Field Trip: Beginning Waterfowl ID at Fernhill Wetlands

December 7 | 8-11 a.m.

Fernhill Wetlands in winter is the perfect place to learn the basics of identifying ducks, geese, and swans.

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

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

### Audubon Birding Day: Central Coast Winter Birding

December 9 | 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Visit some of the best coastal spots for sea watching: searching for loons, grebes, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

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

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott



Surf Scoters, photo by Andrew Reding.

### Field Trip: Fernhill Wetlands for Beginners

December 11 | 8 a.m.-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 raptors, little birds and maybe shorebirds.

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

Leader: Stefan Schlick

### Field Trip: Advanced Waterfowl ID at Ankeny and Baskett Slough

December 15 | 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Visit these well-known Willamette Valley refuges searching for tricky waterfowl.

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

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott



Eurasian Wigeon, photo by Becky Matsubara.

Sign up for trips at  
[bit.ly/PA-Birding-Days](https://bit.ly/PA-Birding-Days)





Rufous Hummingbird, photo by Andrew Reding.

## NEW SCHOOL OF BIRDING

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

#### ONLINE CLASSES:

April 19, April 26, and May 3  
6-7:30 p.m.

#### FIELD DAYS:

April 22, April 26, May 6  
7:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m./4:00 p.m.  
(depending on destination)

In this module, we hope to raise your awareness of the subtle cues of nature and bring you into closer understanding of the lives of our feathered neighbors. We'll explore how and why birds migrate, delving into the mysteries of how birds stay on course, how scientists measure migration, the amazing journeys of long-distance migrants, and much more.

Fee: \$400 members / \$550 non-members  
Instructors: Candace Larson and Dan van den Broek



Cost Involved



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Free



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Virtual Event or Program



Holiday Gift Cards, by Ronna Fujisawa.

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Online Watercolor Painting with Ronna

November 10, The Red-tailed Hawk | 6-7:30 p.m.  
December 14, Holiday Gift Cards: Chickadees and Wrens | 6-7:30 p.m.

Join these live, online classes to paint alongside Ronna Fujisawa, experienced watercolor painter, art educator, and bird enthusiast. This class is appropriate for intermediate and ambitious beginners. Register separately for each class.

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



### In-Person Watercolor Painting with Ronna

November 12, The California Quail | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
December 14, Holiday Gift Cards: Chickadees and Wrens | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join these in-person art classes to paint alongside Ronna Fujisawa, experienced watercolor painter, art educator, and bird enthusiast. This class is appropriate for intermediate and ambitious beginners. Register separately for each class.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members  
Instructor: Ronna Fujisawa



### Getting Into Shape for Bird Identification

November 16 | 6-7 p.m.

This online class will introduce you to the concept of birding by shape. By studying silhouettes, structural features become much more apparent. Many species are identifiable by their silhouette alone.

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







Canvasback, photo by Rodney Campbell.

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Bird Journal Basics (3 winter sessions)

November 19, Coloration & Markings | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

December 10, Suggesting Habitats | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

January 14, Just for Fun Bird Pages | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Keeping a bird journal is fun, easy, portable, and a creative way to record your experiences with birds, at home, or anywhere in the field! Each class has a different focus, and each class reviews some basics. Come learn how to keep a bird journal in these in-person sessions. No art experience is needed! Register separately for each class.

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

Instructor: Jude Siegel



### The Wonderful World of Waterfowl

November 29, Understanding Waterfowl | 6-7 p.m.

December 6, Beginning Waterfowl Identification | 6-7 p.m.

December 13, Advanced Waterfowl Identification | 6-7 p.m.

Just in time for the return of millions of wintering waterfowl, this three-part online series of standalone classes provides everything you need to know to understand and identify the multitude of different Oregon waterfowl. 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](https://bit.ly/pdxaudubon-classes)



Christmas Bird Count 2021.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

### Sign Up for This Year's Christmas Bird Count!

**December 31, 2022**

Portland's 97th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held on Saturday, December 31, 2022. We hope you'll join us, in the field or at your feeders, as we count every bird seen or heard inside the Portland count circle. The CBC encompasses over 2,500 count circles across North America and as far south as Brazil. This is the longest-running large-scale wildlife data set in existence and provides critical information on the status of and changes to bird populations over the past 123 years!

Sign up by visiting [bit.ly/Christmas-Bird-Count-2022](https://bit.ly/Christmas-Bird-Count-2022) and contacting your area leader.

[bit.ly/Christmas-Bird-Count-2022](https://bit.ly/Christmas-Bird-Count-2022)



## The Total Solar Eclipse and Birds of Bali, Flores & East Timor!

April 14-29, 2023

Join this once-in-a-lifetime 15-day adventure to the tropical islands of Bali and Flores in Indonesia, and to the new nation of East Timor to bird this tropical paradise and see the phenomenal total solar eclipse on April 20, 2023.

Fee: \$6,295

Leader: Tom Love and local guides



Bali Myna, photo by Matthew Baldwin.

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRIPS & ECOTOURS

#### Pacific Northwest Trip: The Dammed Columbia

November 11-13, 2022

Explore the landscapes, history, and environmental impacts of the dams that define the Pacific Northwest, as well as the rich mosaic of national wildlife refuges that were established to mitigate those impacts.

Fee: \$375 members / \$500 non-members

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

#### San Diego and the Imperial Valley

March 6-11, 2023

Visit the "birdiest county in the U.S." with Portland Audubon to search for desert specialties and enjoy large numbers of wintering songbirds, shorebirds, raptors, and waterfowl in Southern California's subtropical Mediterranean climate.

Fee: \$1,195 members / \$2,495 non-members

Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott and Kirk Hardie

#### Amazon River Cruise

May 10-20, 2023

From amazing birds to turtles, mammals, pink dolphins, unforgettable scenery and culture, you won't want to miss this epic journey on a cruise along the largest river in the world.

Fee: \$6,495 members / \$7,095 non-members

Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Doris Valencia

#### Mongolia

June 13-28, 2023

Join Portland Audubon on a trip of a lifetime! Enjoy traditional Mongolian food in a communal setting and experience first-hand the unique Mongolian life by staying in ger camps. We will explore its 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: \$6,395 members / \$6,995 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

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







# November and Winter Break Camps for Kids

Join us for November and Winter Break Day Camps in our beautiful Nature Sanctuary! Embark on outdoor adventures of animal ecology exploration, searching for signs and secrets that are only uncovered in the winter landscape, discover how animals adapt, survive, and move through one of the most beautiful seasons.

## NOVEMBER BREAK DAY CAMPS

	Nov. 21	Nov. 22
Grades 1-2	Nocturnal Naturalists	Magical Forest
Grades 3-5	Fall Flight	Hibernation Station
<b>Drop-off:</b> 8:45/9 a.m., <b>Pick-up:</b> 3:15/3:30 p.m. <b>Fee:</b> \$95 members/\$110 non-members		

## WINTER BREAK DAY CAMPS

	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22
Grades 1-3	Frosty Fairies	Winter Forest Art	Hoot's There
Grades 4-6	Merry Mammals	Birds in Winter	Wild Wintercrafting
<b>Drop-off:</b> 8:45/9 a.m., <b>Pick-up:</b> 3:15/3:30 p.m. <b>Fee:</b> \$95 members/\$110 non-members			



Register now at  
[bit.ly/PA-WinterBreakCamps](https://bit.ly/PA-WinterBreakCamps)



## NEWS FROM THE COAST

# Oregon's Marine Reserves & Marine Protected Areas: The First Ten Years and the Future

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager



Cape Falcon, photo by Robert Shea.

In 2012, Oregon designated five marine reserves and marine protected area (MPA) complexes covering about 9% of our state waters. These sites protect some of the most biodiverse places in Oregon's coastal waters, from the sandy underwater habitats off Cape Falcon on the north coast that support Dungeness crab, to the submerged rocky reef habitat off Redfish Rocks on the south coast important for several species of rockfish. Marine reserves are dedicated to conservation and scientific research, where ocean development and removal of marine life is prohibited, while MPAs allow limited fishing activities. Around the world the science shows that marine reserves support larger fish, higher marine life biomass, and greater species diversity than surrounding similar areas. This increased biodiversity also supports seabirds, marine mammals, and sustainable fisheries.

Over the past decade, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has been tasked with implementing Oregon's Marine Reserves Program. With a relatively small staff and budget, ODFW has done some impressive work. Ecological research and monitoring has informed policy and management decisions by providing critical information on Oregon's current threats from ocean acidification and hypoxia (low or depleted oxygen in a water body), seastar wasting syndrome, and climate change. Research conducted in the reserves has also informed fisheries management, and socioeconomic analyses indicate no significant negative impact to our valuable fishing industry. But are there more and bigger fish in Oregon's

reserves? That is the million-dollar question and, according to ODFW, will take several more years of monitoring to answer.

This year, Oregon State University was tasked with conducting an independent assessment of ODFW's Marine Reserves Program. Their report just came out and will go to the Oregon legislature in the upcoming session. OSU found that, in general, Oregon's marine reserves were "effectively designed and implemented to achieve goals and objectives set forth in the original legislation." However, OSU asserts that some ecological goals, in particular whether the reserves can promote ecological resilience, will take more monitoring to determine. OSU also recommends a more robust socioeconomic monitoring framework, with "clearly defined social and economic indicators." OSU provides three main recommendations the Oregon Legislature should act on:

1. Appropriate funds to allow ODFW to continue the program at the necessary capacity, including supporting new ecologist and economist positions.
2. Provide a mandate that supports the development of an adaptive management plan (for the ongoing management and evaluation of the marine reserves program).
3. Define a detailed collaborative process through which social monitoring data can be interpreted to affect policy decisions.

Portland Audubon supports these recommendations to improve ODFW's Marine Reserve Program, and there may be opportunities in the coming months for you to have a voice in advocating for this.

While OSU concluded that Oregon's Marine Reserve Program has met the original legislative goals, it's important to emphasize that Oregon's reserves are currently a "system" and not a "network." This distinction is important. **Despite the success of Oregon's fledgling marine reserves, the science on "size and spacing" of reserves indicates that those in Oregon should be larger, closer together, and perhaps increase in number if they are to truly function as an ecological network.** Moving forward, we need to take a harder look at Oregon's marine reserves and move toward this goal if we want to ensure a vibrant and resilient marine ecosystem for the future.



## NEWS FROM EASTERN OREGON

## An Exciting Year of Change

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

This was an exciting year for our Eastern Oregon Program. We started off with several additions to our team. In March, my wife, Janelle (director of the Friends of Malheur NWR) and I welcomed twins, Clíodhna and Oisín. One of the many challenges of living in rural Oregon is access to healthcare. The small hospital in Burns isn't set up to deal with the common issues associated with twin births (neonatal care, trauma for the delivering person, etc.) therefore the hospital in Burns purposely doesn't deliver twins. Most twin births require a LifeFlight to Bend. Thus, we "moved" to Bend, and after a short stay there, the four returned to Burns, just in time for the arrival of Oregon's first Common Crane. An excellent first lifer for Clíodhna and Oisín! Another challenging aspect of rural Oregon is access to childcare, particularly for twins. Thus, the twins make regular appearances at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, including hanging out on the lawn at the Nature Store, on Portland Audubon bird outings at the refuge and beyond, during stewardship weekends, and at meetings. If you travel to Harney County for one of our programs, you will likely meet them.

Our Eastern Oregon program also welcomed a seasonal staff member to help with ongoing and expanded monitoring efforts at Malheur and in the greater Harney Basin. Aaron was at Malheur for 16 weeks and was integral to several projects, including the Song Meter project we're working on with the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative. Song Meters are small programmable devices that record sounds from their environment at programmed intervals. It's a bit like eavesdropping on wildlife in wet meadows at Malheur. **The data collected by the Song Meters is important not only for expanding ongoing surveys, but for adding deeper understanding of the relationship between vegetation community, height, timing, and management.**

This year, the Song Meters recorded nearly 1,200 hours from 16 locations in the Buena Vista area. In an ideal world, we would be able to analyze all 1,200 hours. Instead, we will randomly select recordings from the three time-bins that were created. We will then recruit and train volunteers how to read spectrograms (visualizations of sound) and help passively listen to the recordings for vocalizing birds. These data will be compiled in a database, then compared for accuracy with the on-the-ground point counts conducted at each Song Meter during the 2022 field season.

In addition to that project, Portland Audubon is part of a number of other bird-related volunteer projects: spring and fall shorebird migration surveys (part of an interior Pacific Flyway effort), breeding Interior Western Snowy Plover surveys, a Marshbird Bioblitz, and fall mussel surveys to support the refuge's assessment of Western Ridged Mussel populations. Our program calendar will be available in early 2023. In the meantime, if you're interested in volunteering or attending a bird outing in the Harney Basin, please email **Teresa at [twicks@audubonportland.org](mailto:twicks@audubonportland.org)**.

These projects fit into the larger efforts we are involved in in Harney County, including the Community-Based Water Planning, Harney Basin Wetlands, and Malheur Comprehensive Conservation Plan Collaboratives. Through these three collaboratives, we help identify important areas for migrating and breeding birds, gaps in information about birds and habitat in the Harney Basin, and provide stakeholder engagement throughout the information gathering and decision-making process. Through these efforts, we also play a role in drafting planning and policy around water for ecological, human, and economic needs in a crucial stop in the Pacific Flyway.



Teresa carrying one of the twins looking at Oregon's first Common Crane.



# Year-End Giving Makes All the Difference for Birds

by Matthew Hushbeck, Assistant Director of Development

You each have your own story of what has inspired you to support Portland Audubon. It could be your deep love of birding. Perhaps you or your child attended one of our camps. Maybe you joined us because of your passion for advocating for the protection of Oregon's wildlife and wild places. Or you could be one of our Backyard Habitat participants, adding native plants to create habitat on your own property. You might have counted birds in one of our ongoing community science projects. Or your big heart prompted you to bring an injured or orphaned animal to the Wildlife Care Center.

There are so many reasons people are inspired to support Portland Audubon, and it is a privilege to help you fulfill your personal mission. But, no matter your reason, we need your support, because climate change is threatening all the things we hold most dear.

Every year we see new record temperatures. Wildfires continue to rage throughout the West. Severe droughts threaten the migratory routes of birds and hinder people's ability to access healthy food and clean water. More and more birds, other wildlife, and plants are

being added to the endangered species list. It can feel overwhelming, but when you make a donation to Portland Audubon, you're making an impact.

Your gift will help mobilize our community of supporters to advocate for new legislation and funding to protect native birds and their habitat. It will allow us to offer more camps, classes, and outings, making the outdoors more accessible to everyone and fostering a connection to nature. Your support could make the difference for an injured or orphaned animal getting treatment to allow them to return to nature. It can help spread information to your neighbors about actions they can take to coexist with wildlife and create healthy environments through programs like the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, Lights Out, Bird Safe, and Cats Safe at Home.

These are just a few ways your gift will allow people, wildlife, and nature to thrive. It's going to require collective action, but fortunately, that has never been a problem for Portland Audubon's community. For more than 120 years, you and members like you have stepped up to protect our natural environment.

You've fought against the clear-cutting of old-growth forests, ensuring critical habitat for Coho Salmon, Marbled Murrelets, and Northern Spotted Owls. You have pushed government agencies to clean up our waterways, including designating the Willamette Cove a Superfund site, legally requiring polluters to clean up its contaminated soil. You called on the state to protect our coast, and they responded by creating five marine reserves and nine marine protected sites spanning 9% of state waters. You've created three wildlife sanctuaries throughout the state, preserving 479 acres of wilderness.

We are honored to be the place where you gather to share your love of birds, wildlife, and the outdoors. The place you entrust to fulfill your mission when you make your gift. The place you rely on to inspire people to defend our natural world. When you make a gift this winter, we'll continue to honor the legacy you and members like you have established. Because of your support, we will be able to take action to protect Oregon's wildlife and wild places.

Climate change is rapidly placing demands on our world, but we can achieve a lot together. A single gift can protect a bird or an acre of land, or allow someone to connect with nature. But with thousands of members taking action, we can accomplish something extraordinary. Thank you for being with us, together for nature!



**Because of your support, we'll  
be able to take action to protect  
Oregon's wildlife and wild places.**

Northern Spotted Owl baby, photo by Frank D. Lospalluto.



# Winter Wings Festival

PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND  
Feb.17-Feb.20, 2023

## ■ Keynotes:

Jen Hajj and Ray Hennessy

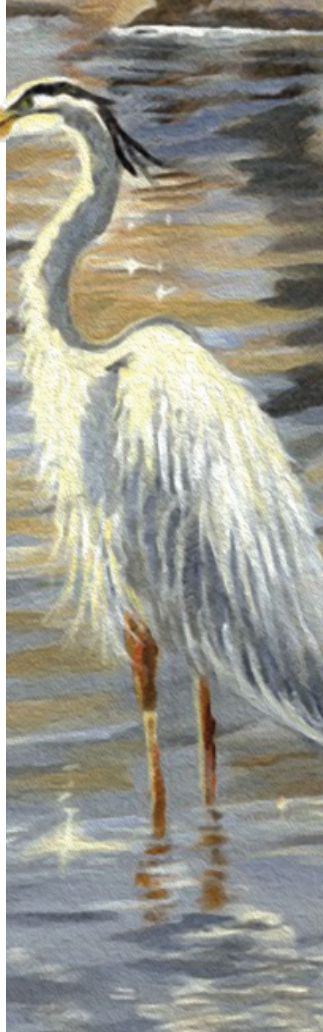
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■ Free talks on Klamath Basin  
Conservation initiatives



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## PORTLAND AUDUBON WISHLIST

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- 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)
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- Bushnell Essential E-3 Trail Cams
- Bushnell Aggressor Security Case
- Mini refrigerator

### WILDLIFE CARE CENTER

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- N-95 face masks
- Rubber or vinyl dish gloves
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- 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



# Ambassador Animals

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director, and Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager

Portland Audubon's Ambassador Animals are an important and much beloved part of our efforts to engage the community in conservation. For decades, Portland Audubon has housed a small number of nonreleasable wild animals that provide opportunities for the community and especially children to see and learn about these animals close-up. They are very carefully selected and held under strict criteria and permits issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Beyond being nonreleasable, we also make sure that they are adaptable to life in captivity. Our first goal is always to return wild animals to the wild whenever possible, but for a few that are not releasable, our Ambassador Animal program provides an alternative. Our goal is also not to have a zoo, but rather to have Ambassador Animals who can help tell the stories of some of the species we are working to protect. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of people have had the opportunity to learn from our Ambassador Animals on visits to our sanctuary, in programs at schools, or at community events.

As we emerge into the post COVID era and as we search for a new site to house our Wildlife Care Center, many people have been wondering how our Ambassador Animal program will evolve. During COVID, we stopped doing presentations entirely, and the program has been dramatically reduced in number of both volunteers and animals. Today we still have Julio the Great Horned Owl, Aristophanes the Raven, Xena the Kestrel, Ruby the Turkey Vulture, and Bybee the Western Painted Turtle. Some of these animals have been in our program for more than a decade.

We view the next couple of years as a transition period for our Ambassador Animal Program. As the new Wildlife Care Center comes on line we'll also be developing a vision for the program, including whether the animals are housed at our current sanctuary, the new WCC site, or both; a vision for the size and scope of the program; the species of animals we can best provide for; and the type of programs we want to deliver.

We are in the process of hiring a new staff person to manage the existing program and help develop a vision for the program going forward. A big part of that will be rebuilding our volunteer ranks in the post COVID era. We anticipate that over the next couple of years the program will be smaller than before. We will likely focus more on on-site activities such as talks about the animals near their enclosures, enrichment, and

other pathways to see and learn about these amazing animals. Over time a new and more robust program will evolve.

Perhaps the most difficult decisions involve two of our longest resident Ambassador Animals, Aristophanes the Raven and Ruby the Vulture. Both came to us after having been illegally raised and imprinted by people, to the point where they could not be safely returned to life in the wild.



Ruby the Turkey Vulture



Julio the Great Horned Owl



Both Aristophanes and Ruby are fully flighted, highly intelligent birds with complex social needs. Best practices evolve over time, and current standards mean birds like ravens and vultures shouldn't be asked to wear jesses (short leather straps fastened around the legs of a captive raptor) and be handled and held on the glove in the same way as raptors like Julio and Xena. They require complex training programs that are likely beyond the capacity of Portland Audubon while we are in transition.

We make a lifelong commitment to our Ambassador Animals, either to house them at Portland Audubon or find them even better alternative permitted facilities. Our current facilities and programs do meet current federal standards for both of these species, and in fact we built new, larger enclosures for both birds over

the last several years. They could live out their lives at Portland Audubon, but for both birds' sake we think we might be able to do better for them. We are actively exploring opportunities at other facilities that may be able to provide a more interesting and exciting life for Ruby and Aristophanes.

This is not an easy decision. Ari and Ruby are much beloved in our community. For staff and volunteers, although we work not to anthropomorphize, they are part of the family, and many people have put in huge amounts of time over the years to provide these birds with the best possible lives.

However, the program has been largely shut down for the past couple of years, and it is likely to be at least another couple of years before it really achieves its full renewed vision. We would not transfer any of our animals unless we truly believed that a new facility could provide a major improvement to their current situation, and any transfers must be approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Some people ask about the bonds the animals have established with the humans in their orbit. Turkey Vultures and especially ravens are social, and that is a factor, but there are many factors that go into determining the best situation for each individual animal. A program with significantly larger enclosures and/or highly sophisticated training programs could potentially provide such a step up. The reality is also that just as COVID isolated people from one another, it isolated our animals from their social networks.

We are committed to ensuring that Ruby and Aristophanes have a good life and outstanding care no matter where they live. We also recognize that other facilities with Ambassador Animals are also emerging from COVID and that many facilities either did not survive the pandemic or are operating at a much lower capacity. It's a brave new world for all of us.

Everyone at Portland Audubon loves these birds. If and when the time comes, they will be transferred to a place where they will have the lives they deserve and continue to promote the conservation messages and compassion for wildlife that gives their captivity meaning. We'll share updates on our Ambassador Animal Program and Ambassador Animals as this process evolves.

**Aristophanes the Raven**



**Xena the American Kestrel**



**Bybee the Western Painted Turtle**



*Photo credits from left to right, top to bottom: Ruby the Turkey Vulture, photo by Kiana Rose; Aristophanes the Raven, photo by Tara Lemezis; Julio the Great Horned Owl, photo by Tara Lemezis; Xena the American Kestrel, photo by Clay Showalter; Bybee the Western Painted Turtle, photo by Bob Sallinger.*



# Our 2022 Mamie Campbell Award Winners

by Vicky Medley, Volunteer Manager

Each year the staff at Portland Audubon nominates and selects a cadre of volunteers to receive Mamie Campbell Awards. Established in 1985, the award is given annually to our most dedicated volunteers. Mamie Campbell was an important figure in the early years of Portland Audubon. A longtime volunteer, she was an ardent conservationist and tireless nature educator in area schools throughout the 1920s and 1930s. From the photos we have, Mamie Campbell appeared to be a plucky and dedicated volunteer, just like this year's recipients!

All Mamie Campbell Award winners have long-term sustained volunteer commitment to Portland Audubon. They are involved in different areas of the organization and are leaders and role models in our volunteer community. In September we honored our 2022 Mamie Campbell winners at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Please join us in congratulating them!



## Roberta Jortner

Roberta has been an active volunteer with Portland Audubon since 2017. She contributes in several ways: as a weekly Wildlife Solutions Counselor, as part of our Board of Directors, a member of our Conservation Committee, and several years ago as a regular Nature Store volunteer.

As a board member, Roberta draws from her experience in the Wildlife Care Center and her long career in natural resource planning with the City of Portland. We appreciate her ability to stitch together the experience she has gained as a volunteer and in her professional career in her roles at Portland Audubon.



## Carolyn Vock

Carolyn Vock joined Portland Audubon in 2018 in our Care Center as a Wildlife Solutions Counselor and in Administration. She also participates in the Wild Arts Festival Silent Auction Committee, Swift Watch, special events and on our Volunteer Program Committee.

In all areas, Carolyn shows a deep capacity for organizing and supporting processes and projects. She uses those skills to help manage and improve our administrative work in all the areas where she serves. When she interacts with the public she does so calmly and with grace, which is appreciated by the many Good Samaritans with whom she has spoken over the years.



## Bebe Anderson

Bebe joined Portland Audubon in 2016, and has helped in many different areas over the years. She has helped in the Wild Arts Festival Book Fair, as part of Swift Watch, special events and held a Nature Store shift for a year.

**(Bebe cont.)** These days you will find Bebe mostly in the Care Center; she holds two weekly shifts, and held three during the dark days of the pandemic! As a Care Center volunteer, Bebe is a proficient, flexible, and dependable person to have on any shift. We appreciate her reliability and calm nature.



## Deb Whitcomb

Deb joined Portland Audubon in 2007 as part of our Care Center, and she has held a weekly shift since then. As a longtime volunteer she holds a lot of knowledge, trains new volunteers, helps staff problem-solve, and makes raptor handling look easy.

In her professional career, Deb worked with GIS, and she has shared those skills with Portland Audubon over the last year in our Community Science Program. Her analysis helps inform our work on drone management and recommendations on where offshore wind development should and should not occur.



## Nora Scholey

Nora began as a volunteer in 2018, stepped up to a new level of commitment during COVID-19, and has not backed down. Working with our staff and fellow volunteers, Nora provides volunteer leadership to the weekly Wednesday Work Crew that cares for our sanctuary. Nora also helps organize sanctuary work parties and events and keeps in mind how all our departments and visitors access and experience our sanctuary.

As Nora's involvement grew over the last four years, she was asked to join two Board Committees: the Sanctuary Committee and our Volunteer Program Committee. Nora skillfully represents the sanctuary and sanctuary volunteers in both settings.

**Thank you Roberta, Carolyn, Bebe, Deb, and Nora for generously sharing your time with the Portland Audubon flock. We appreciate the breadth and depth of your service!**





Palm Warbler, photo by Tara Lemezis.

## Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

### IN MEMORY

#### Robin Baker

Robin and Michael Linquist

#### Gwendolyn Edwards

Doug Edwards

#### Jack Hanks

Randall Hanks

#### Spencer Higgins

Paulette Friedman  
Marilyn Walster & Sidney  
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#### Marjorie Isgrigg

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Jeffrey Smith  
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Andy Lindenburger

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Steve & Judy Sibelman

#### Ron L. Spencer

Tammy Spencer

#### Bobby Weinstock

Nicki Eybel

### BEQUESTS

Thank you for leaving a lasting legacy with a bequest to Portland Audubon. We will honor your memory by continuing to protect Oregon's wildlife and wild places.

#### Shelley Jones

#### Gina Lee Little

### IN HONOR

#### Linda Craig

Mary Lawrence

#### Bob Harris

Katherine Baker

#### Marilyn McFarlane

Susan McFarlane

#### Jennifer Sanford

Richard Sanford

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



## BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Through their business practices and financial contributions, the following businesses are helping advance our mission and protect Oregon's birds, natural resources, and livability. If you would like to become a member of the Portland Audubon Business Alliance, please contact Charles Milne, Director of Development at 971-222-6117. **We encourage you to support the businesses that support us!**



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VINEYARDS

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Cindy Thompson  
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Associates

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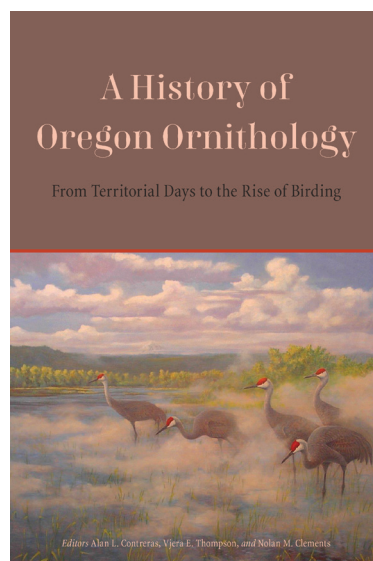
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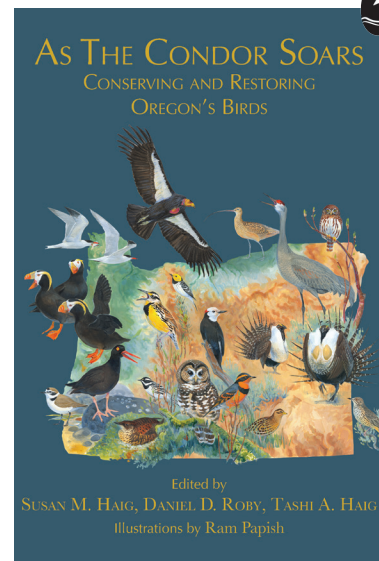


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## The Holidays Are Here!

The holidays are right around the corner and the Nature Store has all of your holiday needs covered! Enjoy a cool, crisp stroll on the sanctuary trails, and warm up in the Nature Store for a low-stress holiday shopping experience. Find the perfect gift for nature lovers of any age, where your dollars directly support the work that Portland Audubon does throughout the year.

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

Questions? Email: [store@audubonportland.org](mailto:store@audubonportland.org)  
or call us at 503-292-9453 ext. 3

Shop the Nature Store online at  
[www.naturestorepdx.squarespace.com](http://www.naturestorepdx.squarespace.com)



## Optics Focus

### Leupold Optics Event

Saturday, November 12 | Noon-4 p.m.



Learn about our history of conservation and collaboration with Leupold & Stevens, a fifth-generation family-owned optics business based in Beaverton. Join us for a presentation, product demonstration, digiscoping workshop, sales, and giveaways!

**Enter for a chance to win a pair of Leupold BX-5 Santiam binoculars (\$999 value)!** Other merch giveaways throughout the day. Attend the noon history presentation for an extra entry in the giveaway. See our website for more details.

## PNW Pick

### Portland Bee Balm

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.



Let Portland Bee Balm keep your lips and hands soft this winter season! They use high quality and simple ingredients, local PNW beeswax, and support local bees and their keepers.

**Simple Salve**  
Member Price: \$10.80

**Lip Balm**  
Member Price: \$2.93



## Events and Holiday Hours

### Holiday Open House Saturday

November 19 | 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Meet local vendors, enjoy special sales, and more! Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Featuring:

- Seymore Gulls, author of Neighborhood Birding 101
- Cathy of Kikumi Designs, origami and jewelry artist
- Rustek, sustainable company with wood and cork gifts

### Small Business Saturday: November 26

Avoid the chaos of Black Friday crowds, enjoy a more relaxing shopping trip, and join us in celebrating and supporting small businesses. 15% off storewide and special coupons at the door! (Excludes sales and optics)

### HOLIDAY HOURS:

Christmas Eve 12/24: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
New Year's Eve 12/31: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**CLOSED:** Thanksgiving Day 11/24, Christmas Day 12/25, New Year's Day 1/1

## Cards and Calendars

2023 calendars are in stock! Find your favorites and new designs, including the ever-popular Audubon Engagement Calendar. Not only are they a great way to stay organized, they also make great gifts. We also carry a wide variety of boxed and individual holiday cards, perfect for sending to friends and family.

**Audubon Engagement Calendar**  
Member Price: \$15.29



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.



Spotted Towhee, photo by Jerry McFarland.



## Your End-of-Year Gift Will Make an Impact!

When you make a donation, you can save a bird, protect an acre of land, and inspire someone to connect with nature. And when you do, you'll be part of a larger community taking collective action to protect millions of animals and hundreds of thousands of acres of land and inspire Oregonians to love and protect nature. Thank you for caring about Oregon's wildlife, wild places, and people!

[audubonportland.org/donate](https://audubonportland.org/donate)

### GET IN TOUCH

#### Administration Offices

503-292-6855  
Open M-F, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Subject to change; call before  
you visit.

#### Wildlife Care Center

503-292-0304  
Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
with COVID protocols

**On the Cover:** Pacific Wren painting by Sheila Evans.

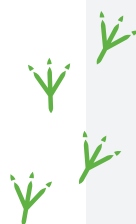
**On the Inside Cover:** Child holding leaf, photo by Mike Houck;  
White-crowned Sparrow, drawing by John J. Audubon; Northern  
Spotted Owl baby, photo by Frank D. Lospalluto; Aristophanes/  
Ambassador Animal, photo by Tara Lemezis.

#### Nature Store & Interpretive Center

503-292-9453 ext. 3  
Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### Wildlife Sanctuary

Dawn to dusk every day



## Birdy Brain Buster!

What's the iridescent throat patch on a  
male hummingbird called?

- A. Shimmer
- B. Bib
- C. Crop
- D. Gorget



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

Answer: D