

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

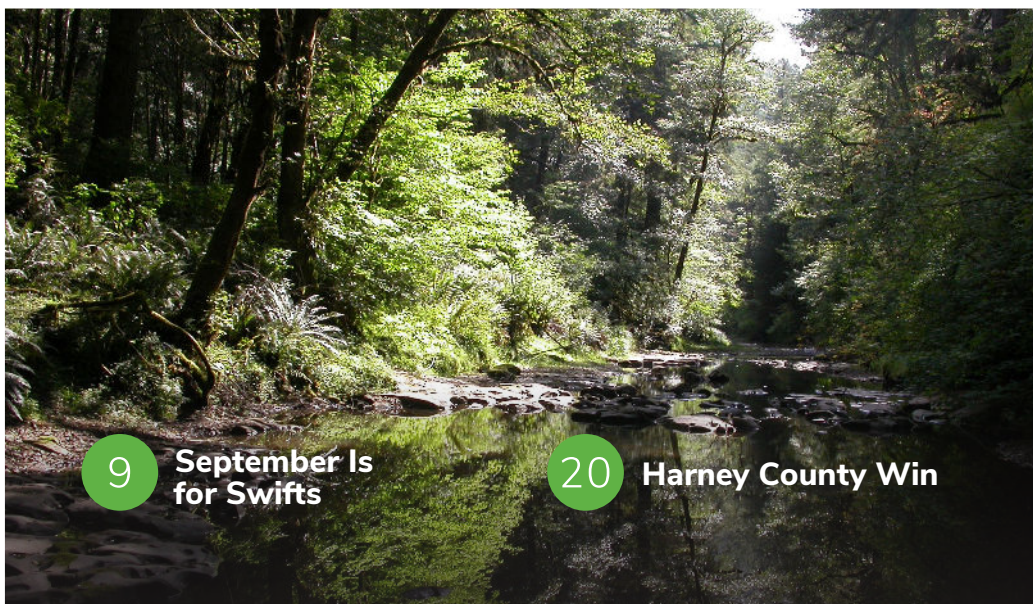


## Continuing Over a Century of Conservation at Portland Audubon



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Protecting Oregon's  
Estuaries



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September Is  
for Swifts

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Harney County Win





Great Egret / Nathan Rupert

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Looking Forward

by Stuart Wells, Executive Director

Portland Audubon has just entered its 121st year of existence. We will continue to build on founder William Finley's vision of protecting land and water, critical bird habitats, and inspiring people through education and conservation to work together for nature. We continue our work throughout Oregon, protecting rocky coast habitats and old-growth forests, restoring wetland and grassland habitats, and providing opportunities for people of all ages to connect to nature.

At the beginning of this year, we concluded a process to develop a three-year strategic plan. The process included input from our board, senior management, and frontline staff. [bit.ly/StrategicPlanOverview](https://bit.ly/StrategicPlanOverview)



The plan includes five major focus areas that are instrumental in ensuring Portland Audubon's success:

- Enhance Access to Nature For All
- Increase Urban Conservation Impact
- Increase Statewide Conservation Impact
- Strengthen Internal Organizational Culture and Personal Development
- Increase Operating Revenue and Improve Systems

In fulfillment of our mission, we commit to innovative practices that will unify our team and community and bolster our efforts in conservation and education across the state. We further commit to engaging our staff and the community through cross-collaboration, focusing on environmental justice and equity, building new partnerships, and increasing funding for these initiatives.

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# Continuing Over a Century of Conservation at Portland Audubon

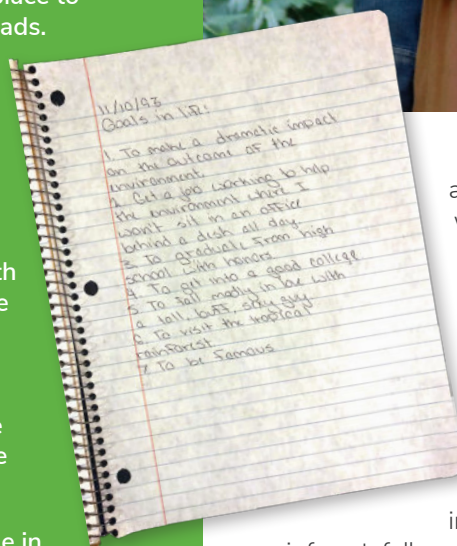
by Quinn Read, Conservation Director

## I did not grow up in an outdoorsy household,

nor was I heir to any particular conservation ethic. My family went car camping, sure, but that's because we were poor, not because we could identify any profound connection to the landscape. We lived in the suburbs of Tacoma and the closest thing we had to a natural area was a large undeveloped lot we called "The Field." The Field is now just another indistinguishable housing development, but back then it was a wide-open space where the neighborhood kids tore around on bikes and adults absconded to engage in all manner of illicit activities.

Clover Creek meandered through the northern end of The Field, and it was a lovely place to wade among the tadpoles and crawdads. Or it would have been if it wasn't always filled with trash. Washing machines, rebar, toilet seats, shoes, beer cans, used condoms. You name it, people had tossed it in the creek. As a kid, I was plagued by typical childhood fears—being murdered by the Green River killer, burning to death in a house fire, and not having anyone to sit next to at school assemblies. But the trash heap was different. The summer I turned 13, I began to experience a growing unease that we were maybe, possibly, not doing quite right by the earth.

I enlisted a couple of friends to join me in a project to haul the trash out of the creek. It was disgusting. And so satisfying. (It was also a miraculously tetanus-free experience.) I spent my summer days pulling garbage out of the water

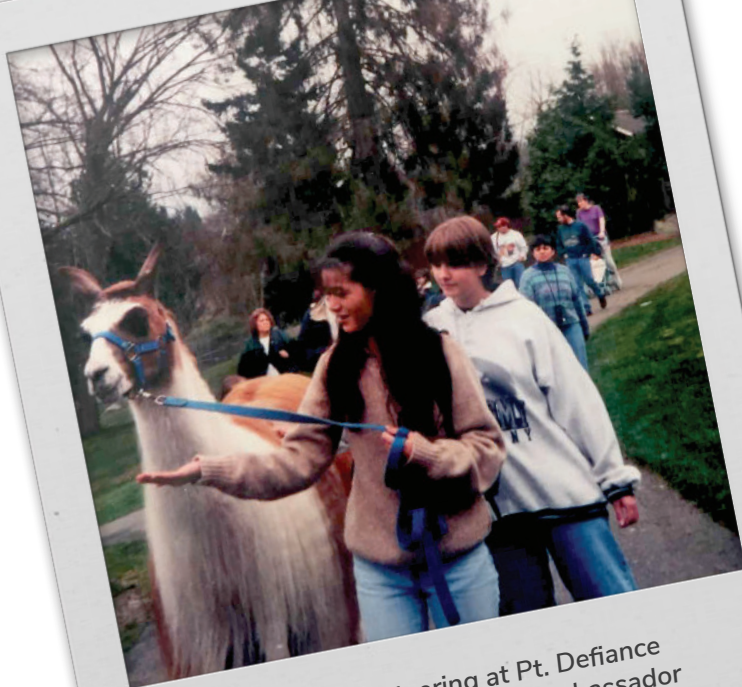


and dragging it to a nearby road where it could be picked up by the city. It felt so good to encounter a problem and then be able to do something about it. I wanted more of that feeling.

Later that year, I identified a list of life goals. Among them, I endeavored to graduate from high school with honors, get into a good college, visit the tropical rainforest, fall madly in love with a "tall, buff guy," and be famous. Ah, youth. But the very first goal on my list was to "make a dramatic impact on the outcome of the environment." What. Does. That. Even. Mean? Still, I have to give that kid some credit for her earnestness and sense of purpose.







Me at 16, volunteering at Pt. Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, taking the ambassador llama out for a stroll.

When I got my driver's license, I had the freedom to pursue my ambitions. I looked up environmental organizations and started making calls. My pitch was that I was 16 and sincerely interested in doing a thing for the environment. There were no takers.

It was discouraging, but I kept at it. Eventually, I came upon Tahoma Audubon Society. I called the number, and it was my great fortune that Thelma Gilmur answered. After so many rejections, I was surprised when she invited me to come to the office. In the years that followed, I learned from Thelma and her fellow co-founder of Tahoma Audubon Society, Helen Engle, what it meant to dedicate one's life to activism on behalf of the natural world.

With Thelma's guidance, I helped in the office, wrote newsletter articles, and participated in the Birdathon. Among my many adventures, I did restoration work on Morse Wildlife Preserve, studied salmon redds, and made bird study skins at the University of Puget Sound Museum of Natural History. As an aside, the professor leading us in making study skins was handling a duck carcass. During our lunch break, he held the sawdust-covered viscera of the duck in his left hand, and a turkey sandwich in his right. Gross. I remember thinking: This is the most powerful human being who has ever lived.

That's it! That's how I got here. With college and law school in between. And some minor career detours including stints at the FBI, a PR firm, a caramel-corn stand, a brewpub, the University of Washington, a law firm (the front desk of the law firm), and a dog-walking outfit.



Speaking at a rally for water and wildlife on the front steps of the Oregon State Capitol.

When I moved to Portland in 2012, I was determined to get back on the life path that 13-year-old me had seen so clearly. It took a while to get in the mix, but for the last decade, I've worked for both state and national nonprofit organizations to protect Oregon's wildlife and the habitats they depend on.

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Not one of us is an island.  
Our well-being is deeply,  
inextricably linked to the  
natural world and every  
living thing in it.

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I've been deeply involved in diverse multistakeholder forums to adopt more humane trap-check regulations and update Oregon's wolf conservation plan. I've advocated before the Fish and Wildlife Commission to secure better protections for species like beavers, Marbled Murrelets, and southern resident orcas. I've also worked in the legislature to advance policies to prevent poaching, address wildlife trafficking and the spread of zoonotic disease, and to secure funding to promote coexistence and habitat connectivity. And I've sued the federal and state government to get their act





*Paddling on Lost Lake with my husband, Micah, and my son, Malcolm.*

together to protect species like Humboldt martens and Marbled Murrelets. However, it's my work alongside community members—organizing lobby days, community science projects, and advocacy workshops—that keep me grounded.

So, what's my conservation ethic now? Not one of us is an island. Our well-being is deeply, inextricably linked to the natural world and every living thing in it. The world is a hot mess, but we are working to find our way through together. The world is also achingly beautiful, and we get to experience it together. Work collaboratively whenever possible. Fight whenever necessary. Maintain a sense of humor. Decenter myself (an ongoing challenge). Get adequate sleep. Stay hydrated. Listen. Adapt. Evolve. Always evolve. Be true. And get after it.

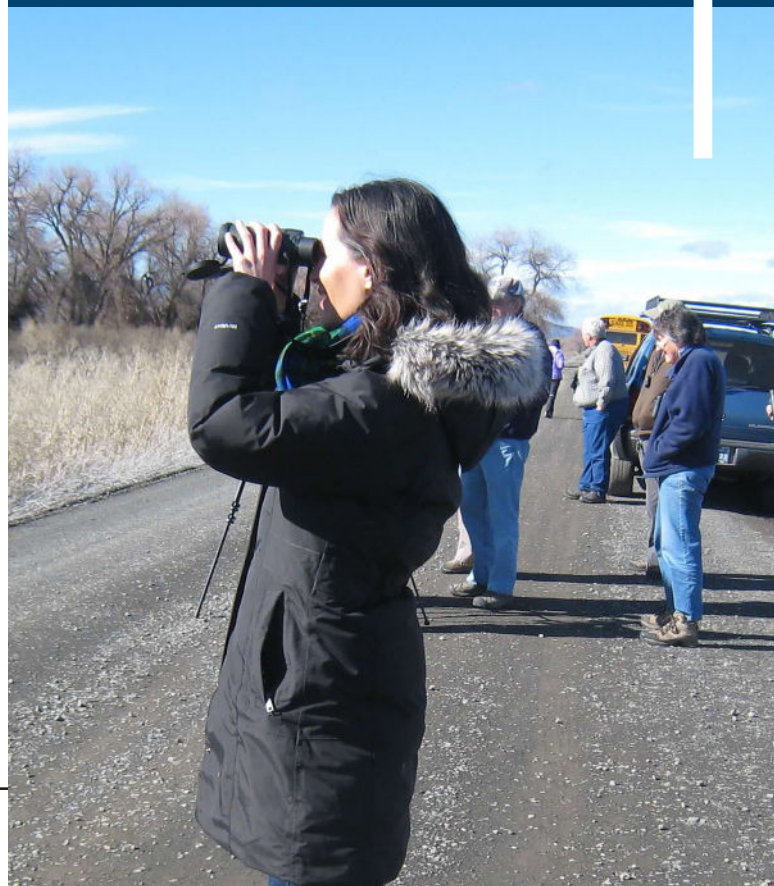
This work is hard. It's occasionally exhilarating. But more often it's frustrating, exhausting, even demoralizing. I don't think there is any surviving this work alone. Not for the long run, anyway. My resilience, motivation, and purpose depend upon community—in every sense of the word. The colleagues I work with day to day. The volunteers who give so generously of their time. The members of the public who speak up for wildlife and wild places. And to the kiddos (hi, Malcolm!) who remind me why this work matters.

This opportunity to work with Portland Audubon feels like coming full circle. I inherited this role from an incomparable conservationist and activist—my friend and colleague, Bob Sallinger. I am deeply humbled to join an organization that has been shaped by visionary leaders like Bob. It is an honor to be a part of this unparalleled community of staff, activists, volunteers, students (of all ages), and supporters. I look forward to getting to know you all and working with you, together for nature.

**Birdwatching in the Klamath Basin during the Winter Wings Festival.**

## More about Quinn Read

Since moving to Portland in 2012, Quinn has worked for both state and national nonprofit organizations to protect Oregon's wildlife and the habitats on which they depend. As a brand-new Oregonian, she worked with Oregon Wild to protect the wildlife and waters of the Klamath Basin. She then served as the Northwest program director for Defenders of Wildlife, where she oversaw endangered species advocacy work throughout the Pacific Northwest. Most recently, Quinn worked with the Center for Biological Diversity as their Oregon policy director. She has also served on the Oregon's Environmental Justice Council (formerly the Environmental Justice Task Force) since 2018. Quinn holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Washington and a law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law, where she was the recipient upon graduation of the James R. Webb award for the Outstanding Student in Environmental Law.





# A Tough Legislative Session with Some Conservation Gains

by Joe Liebezeit, Assistant Conservation Director-Statewide, Micah Meskel, Assistant Conservation Director-Urban, and Quinn Read, Conservation Director

The end of June marked the closing of the often frustrating 2023 legislative session. The session was interrupted by a six-week walkout by Senate Republicans, followed by a frantic final week of legislating—an anti-democratic spectacle that is becoming all too familiar. On top of that, with the housing crisis looming large over the legislature, conservation initiatives were simply not a priority. Likewise, the tight state budget meant that conservation investments were not a funding priority.

Despite these challenges, nearly half of the 17 priority bills we lobbied for passed, and only two of five bills we flagged for major opposition made it through. We worked collaboratively with partner organizations, legislative champions, and conservation coalitions like the Oregon Conservation Network and the Oregon Wildlife Coalition to amplify our impact.

We lobbied successfully to pass the historic Climate Resilience Package (HB 3409). This package included several of our priority bills, including the TREES Act (HB 3016), which establishes a \$7 million green infrastructure program to plant and protect trees in heat-vulnerable areas throughout the state. This program could help the state export community-centered green infrastructure projects like we have in the Portland metro area to other urban centers. We are especially excited that this program will allow us to collaborate with other Audubon chapters in Oregon to increase climate resiliency and wildlife habitat in those communities. The Natural Climate Solutions bill (SB 530) also moved forward successfully. This bill establishes state policy regarding natural climate solutions (land-use practices that sequester carbon), mandates state agencies to develop carbon sequestration goals, and creates a \$10 million fund to incentivize practices that keep carbon in the ground while providing better habitat for wildlife.

We also had major victories to support our work in two of the most important bird migratory hotspots in the Pacific Flyway—the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Silvies River Floodplain, and Lake Abert. As part of the Drought Package (HB 2010), \$1 million was appropriated to the High Desert Partnership (of which Portland Audubon is a member) to continue restoration efforts that support birds and ranchlands in Harney County (HB 3222). In addition, funds to support a collaborative effort to negotiate balanced water use in

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Our goal is to work together with the Governor to achieve urgent housing goals without compromising the urban ecosystems that our wildlife depend upon and that make our cities safer, cooler, and more climate resilient.

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White-faced Ibis at Malheur / Tara Lemezis



the Chewaucan Watershed and help restore Lake Abert were included in the package (HB 3033A). See more information on this in the Notes from Eastern Oregon article in this Warbler issue.

Unfortunately, we had our share of disappointments. The Safe Night Skies bill (HB 3202), which would have required stricter lighting regulations to protect migratory birds, died in the Joint Transportation Committee due to opposition from the Oregon Department of Transportation. We will continue to raise awareness among legislators and build momentum for another run at a responsible state lighting bill in 2025. Oregon's marine reserve program, administered by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), lost its Community Engagement position despite our best attempts to work with agency leadership and the governor's office to make the program whole. The Marine Reserves bill (HB 2903) also failed to advance. This bill would have bolstered the program based on recommendations from Oregon State University's decadal assessment report. Finally, a funding package to implement and support coexistence efforts was not included in ODFW's budget, despite broad support from the public, wildlife organizations, and legislators. However, we will return in future sessions to advocate for this important coexistence funding.

We also had to fight off some truly bad bills. Portland Audubon played a role along with allies in ultimately defeating Governor Kotek's comprehensive housing bill (HB 3414), which unnecessarily pitted environmental protections against a much needed increase in housing options across Oregon. It would have put important habitat protections at risk, both inside and outside the state's urban-growth boundaries, and jeopardized our legacy of hard-fought victories for tree protections, bird-safe building standards, and environmental protection zones around significant natural resources on the urban landscape.

In the coming months we will work with partners to develop a proactive platform on increasing housing and protecting greenspaces. We appreciate Governor



Coos Bay estuary / Rick Obst

Kotek's efforts to take meaningful action to address the housing crisis, and her administration has presented some good ideas that we do support. Our goal is to work together with the governor to achieve urgent housing goals without compromising the urban ecosystems that our wildlife depend upon and that make our cities safer, cooler, and more climate resilient.

We worked with legislators to amend a port bill (HB 3382) that would have authorized deep draft dredging in five of Oregon's largest estuaries without compliance with state or local land use laws. We worked with Rep. Khan Pham to greatly mitigate the potential harm by constraining the bill to Coos Bay, limit applicants to the Port Authority and local Tribes, and prohibit dredging for fossil fuel projects.

Finally, we worked to negotiate a compromise on a bill (HB 3086) that proposed a complete restructuring of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, which would have diluted the voices of the majority of Oregonians in how our state's wildlife is conserved and managed. It was a contentious debate, but we reached a compromise that maintains some aspects of proportionate representation, removed language requiring that commissioners represent certain user groups, and added language requiring that appointments take diversity into consideration. In the next year, our advocacy will focus on ensuring that appointees to the commission are thoughtful, fair, conservation-minded, and grounded in science. We will also work to make sure that the commission makeup reflects the commitments to diversity and Tribal engagement that were codified this session.

We sent out over a dozen action alerts and are so grateful that many of you spoke up to support conservation in Oregon. Your public comments and testimony were instrumental in achieving these hard-earned wins and staving off some major threats to our conservation agenda. We also thank our lobbyist, Kyle Linhares, for his expert consultation. Finally, we want to acknowledge and extend our gratitude to our previous conservation director and ongoing collaborator, Bob Sallinger, for setting the stage for many of these legislative efforts and seeing them across the finish line.



Portland tree-lined street / 5chw4r7z



# Protecting Oregon's Estuaries, Starting with Yaquina Bay

by Joe Liebezeit, Assistant Conservation Director-Statewide, and Paul Engelmeyer, Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary Manager

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

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

The Yaquina Bay Estuary supports a variety of birds including significant numbers of Pacific Black Brant, which are highly dependent on eelgrass beds as a food source.

For over a year, Portland Audubon has been engaged in efforts to update Oregon's estuary management plans, which were

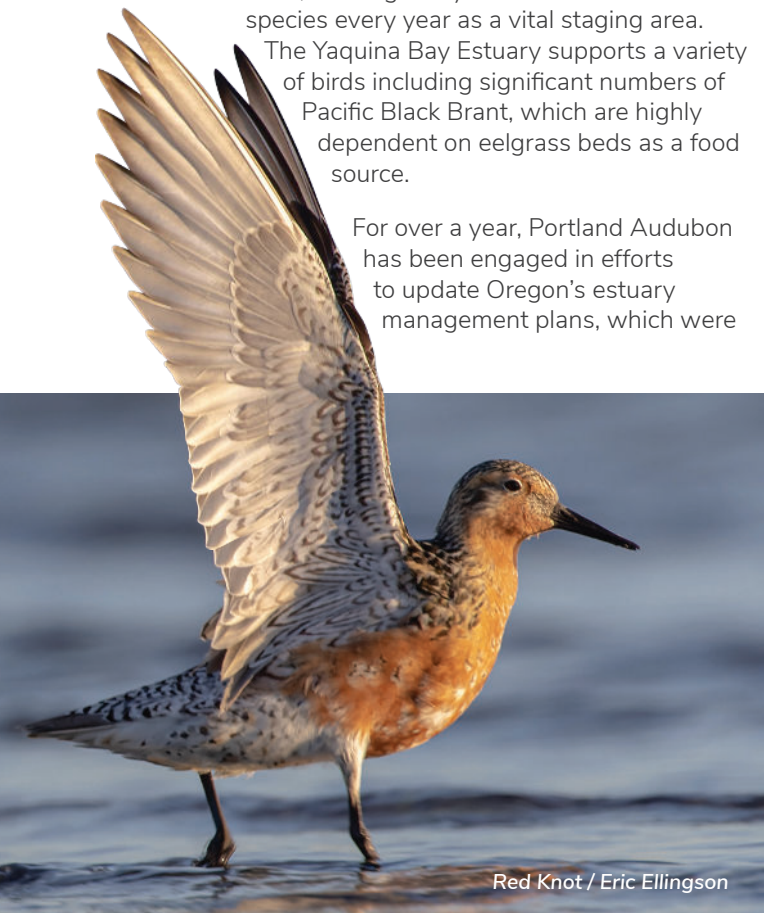
written in the early 1980s. These original plans, though forward-thinking at the time, emphasized development while minimizing ecological concerns, didn't address climate change issues, and were written before species like Coho salmon were even listed as endangered. They also didn't embrace habitat restoration as a tool or involve coastal Tribes to address legacy impacts to the estuary, including disturbance of cultural resources.

The Yaquina estuary management plan update process kicked off over a year ago. This process will serve as a template for other estuary management plan updates across Oregon and so will likely set the tone for decision-making moving forward. Portland Audubon Tenmile Creek Sanctuary Manager Paul Engelmeyer was invited to be part of the Advisory and Technical Committees formed to help advise the development of the Yaquina plan update.

This past June, the Willamette Partnership (consultant working with relevant agencies and county governments) released the draft plan for public comment. The draft plan is a good start and includes important updates, including the incorporation of climate change vulnerability considerations, a list of restoration and mitigation sites, and the development of a map viewer tool to help guide management decisions. However, we see a lot of work ahead for this plan to be sufficiently effective and robust. In our July public comment letter we provided detailed recommendations to improve the plan, including these key requests:

- Increased opportunities for public comment: To date it has been limited and without a full range of natural resource information for the public to make informed decisions to improve the plan. For example, currently there is no bird distribution information incorporated into the map viewer tool despite the fact that we know ODFW and USFWS have recent avian data sets that could help inform the plan.
- We are pleased to see that the plan incorporates climate vulnerabilities, and the map viewer tool includes sea level rise and corresponding landward migration map scenarios. However, the plan does not integrate these scenarios into the plan and effectively ignores how upland coastal shorelands will be impacted by these climate challenges. Upland habitats currently bordering the estuary will definitely be impacted by these expected changes and so must be considered in the plan.
- The plan should include a fully fleshed out restoration plan for the entire estuary that includes goals, objectives, prioritized list of sites, and a timeline for implementing restoration activities.

Thanks to those of you who provided public input this summer, and stay tuned for further opportunities to help protect Oregon's estuaries. Ultimately, we would like to see Oregon update all estuary plans to provide the strongest habitat protections possible to ensure a vibrant economy.



Red Knot / Eric Ellingson





Illustration by Giulia Martinelli

by Camelia Zollars, Educator, Public Programs & Partnerships Specialist, and Candace Larson, Master Naturalist

Every evening in September, on the hillside of Chapman Elementary School in NW Portland, up to two thousand people gather to stare up into the sky and at an old school chimney. This is a part of nature's urban spectacle—thousands of Vaux's Swifts put on an awe-inspiring sunset show as they funnel into the Chapman Elementary chimney.

Vaux's Swifts often use urban chimneys to roost for the night, a change in behavior triggered by the decline of old-growth habitat. The swifts return year after year to the Chapman chimney, one of the largest known roosting sites for this species, and have done so since the 1980s. On most nights Portland Audubon volunteers are on-site to answer any curious questions and to count the swirling swifts.

How many swifts use the Chapman chimney? It varies from evening to evening and year to year, building quickly in the first half of September and tailing off near the end of the month. Last year's peak was September 22, when 12,100 birds made their way into the chimney for the night! You can follow along on our website this season, as our stalwart swift-counting crew posts the results there throughout September.

How do you count a tornado of birds? Our trained community-science team tallies the birds as they enter the chimney using binoculars, keen attention, and a handheld clicker-counter. If you're interested in joining the volunteer team to count swifts in the 2024 season, we'd love to have you! Please check out our community science page and contact Candace Larson at [clarson@audubonportland.org](mailto:clarson@audubonportland.org).

**Want to learn more about Vaux's Swifts?** Portland Audubon is offering a digital class on September 14 at 6 p.m. that explores the natural history and migration dynamics of these amazing birds.

# Is for Swifts

Ready to go?  
Here's all you need  
to know:

Just like Vaux's Swifts pile into the Chapman Elementary chimney, we humans funnel into the surrounding NW neighborhood. Here's all you need to know to be a swift-loving good neighbor.

## Where do I park?

There is no parking for Swift Watch. Parking in the neighborhoods is minimal.

Transportation by bike or bus is highly encouraged. TriMet buses #77 and #15 stop at NW Vaughn and 26th, a 5-minute walk from Chapman Elementary.

## Planning a picnic or epic cardboard slide?

Please help school staff, volunteers, and neighbors by taking your cardboard home or recycling it at the bottom of the hill (near the soccer field). Hundreds of cardboard box pieces are left behind each night on the hill.

Trash cans can be found in Wallace Park.

## Is there anything you can't bring with you?

No alcohol and smoking of any kind is allowed at Swift Watch. In fact, it's illegal to consume alcoholic beverages or smoke on public school grounds.

Chapman School and Wallace Park grounds close promptly after the event. Please head out by the swifts' bedtime at 9 p.m.

## Can I bring my dog(s)?

Dogs are definitely allowed. Please leash and clean up after them.



# Environmental Justice and Portland Audubon: Past, Present, and Future



Oxbow Park / Courtesy of Metro

by Stuart Wells, Executive Director, with contributions from Micah Meskel, Assistant Conservation Director-Urban, and Quinn Read, Conservation Director

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, ability, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

It's not clear precisely when the environmental justice movement began in the United States, but it became nationally recognized after the selection of a small, predominantly Black community in North Carolina as the future location of a hazardous waste landfill in 1982. In response to this selection, the NAACP staged a significant protest, which led to BIPOC communities forming groups to provide a voice for communities targeted for hazardous waste sites and similar environmental injustices.

Portland Audubon has a long history of working to advance conservation initiatives that incorporate key tenets of the environmental justice movement. This has been especially true for our pioneering urban conservation program, established 40-plus years ago at a time when most conservation organizations wrote off urban habitat and species conservation efforts as unworthy of time and attention. Visionary Portland Audubon staff like Mike Houck saw it differently, believing that focusing conservation efforts in close proximity to urban centers presented a unique opportunity to improve environmental conditions for wildlife and their human neighbors while engaging people in broader conservation education efforts.

This novel strategy of conserving and restoring urban natural resources provided the opportunity to connect

conservation efforts with adjacent communities, remediating past environmental harms and engaging and empowering their residents to set forward a joint vision of complete, healthy neighborhoods into the future. The continued evolution of this work under Portland Audubon's Urban Conservationists Mike Houck, Bob Sallinger, and Jim Labbe among others, improved and expanded on the urban conservation agenda, finding ways to intersect with efforts to increase affordable housing supply, improve livability, and reduce economic and racial disparities.

Our region has had no shortage of environmental injustices, many of which still exist. Examples include disparities in access to nature, exclusion of communities in environmental policy making, and more intense and oftentimes intentional exposure to pollution, all of which have been experienced at a higher rate by BIPOC, low-income, and otherwise marginalized communities. Portland Audubon's urban agenda has in some ways been structured to work to remedy some of these injustices: our longstanding efforts to hold industry accountable for polluting the Willamette River and exposing its adjacent residents; developing policies to integrate nature into our built landscape with an eye toward reducing health disparities; and improving access to nature, especially for communities that have historically lacked local environmental amenities. It's important to acknowledge that this work is difficult and complicated, and that while it has been impactful, we've also made mistakes. And we've learned from them, adjusted and evolved our strategies, shifted how we work with communities, and learned when to lead and when to step back and support others' leadership.



Below is a summary of some key past, present, and future campaigns that have a strong grounding in environmental justice and are worth celebrating, learning from, and improving upon to help make the Portland metro area the greenest and most equitable in the country. This list is not exhaustive, but it represents some of the most important campaigns led or supported by the Portland Audubon conservation team in collaboration with community partners and advocates like you.

### ✓ **Regional Greenspace Funding and Access to Nature**

Beginning in the early 1990s, Portland Audubon and allies began organizing around the creation of a system of protected greenspaces on the urban landscape. Three decades of continued organizing and campaigns has resulted in nearly \$1 billion of public investment in Metro's greenspace system, with a continued focus on equitable access for all of the region's residents.

### ✓ **Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF)**

Cofounded by Portland Audubon in 1994, CLF's mission was to bring diverse member groups together to integrate urban conservation with social justice and equity initiatives in collaborative campaigns. The coalition set the stage for many community-based progressive campaigns centered on building complete, equitable communities that incorporate access to nature as a key feature. Its signature project, the Regional Equity Atlas, is still widely referenced today.

### ✓ **Willamette River Superfund**

Over the last 20+ years, this flagship project has integrated environmental justice and conservation goals while holding polluters accountable to clean up the Willamette River. We partnered with Willamette Riverkeeper, the Portland Harbor Community Coalition, and the Yakama Nation and lifted up their key cleanup priorities alongside our own.

### ✓ **Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF)**

This program is currently finalizing a five-year plan to invest \$750 million in community-led projects that reduce carbon emissions, create economic opportunity, and make the city more climate resilient and equitable. It was Oregon's first-ever community of color-led environmental ballot measure, envisioned by a handful of leaders who organized a core coalition, including Portland Audubon, that ultimately helped pass it into law.

### ✓ **Statewide Environmental Justice Initiatives**

Incoming conservation director Quinn Read is a member of the state's Environmental Justice Council and will be part of developing an Oregon-specific mapping tool to help state agencies assess how communities are impacted by environmental justice benefits or burdens.

As we welcome Quinn, I think about how our slogan—Together for Nature—truly embodies our past, present, and future and provides direction for our mission and long-term transformational work that integrates equity, inclusion, and conservation. This work is especially important now because we have reached a critical point in terms of environmental damage and social and environmental justice reckoning. Stay tuned for more information about how you can help.



Willamette River / Mike Houck





## FIELD NOTES

by Candace Larson, Master Naturalist

# Birds on the Move

As summer turns toward autumn, our feathered neighbors are on the move. Fall migration is a drawn-out affair, starting in early July when adult Rufous Hummingbirds head to the Rockies and begin their long journey south to Mexico, and stretching all the way into late October when many arctic-breeding waterfowl are just beginning to fill up our local wetlands.

Migration is an extraordinary phenomenon, and each species has its own evolutionary history to guide the journey, but they are all moving to areas where food and habitat resources are improving as the seasons change. Many birds migrate in a generally north-south orientation, taking advantage of abundant food and space in the temperate regions to breed and raise their kiddos, then returning to cozier confines nearer the equator as polar temperatures plummet. Others move between inland lakes and mild coastal zones or between a food-rich summer forest and a warm winter valley floor. Some species migrate with incredible precision



Rufous Hummingbird / Mick Thompson

year after year, while some migrate only when they need to find more food. Each strategy has evolved in relationship with other critters, habitats, weather patterns, and myriad ecological forces that create this planet we call home.

September is an especially wonderful month to head to the coast for shorebird and seabird migration, or up to the mountains to watch raptors soaring above the high ridges. While we are out enjoying the spectacle, let's consider the incredible journeys these birds undertake, offer them our respect and gratitude, and help mitigate their risks with all the bird-safe practices at home highlighted in this month's Warbler.

## SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott, Educator & Trips Specialist

June and July, sandwiched between spring and fall migration, are typically the slowest months of the year for rare birds, as breeding birds in our region have mostly found their nesting spots and devote more of their energy to feeding nestlings than singing. Accordingly, our rare birds of the time period are generally wayward songbirds in June and early shorebirds in July (often failed breeders and early dispersers from their breeding grounds up north).

From the first category, Portland had a very rare visitor in the form of a **Gray Catbird** found by a keen-eared birder near Harborview Park, along the Willamette River, in mid-June. The bird remained for only one day, but drew many birders to what is slated to be one of Portland's newest greenspaces, with the recent decision by Metro to commit to a full cleanup of Willamette Cove. A week earlier, a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found at Mt. Tabor, continuing a trend of these birds becoming more expected during spring migration.

The rarest bird of the summer, arguably, was a hybrid **Lazuli x Indigo Bunting** originally reported as an Indigo Bunting at Powell Butte, where there had been previous reports without photos. This was a good year for Indigo



Gray Catbird / Audrey Addison

Buntings across the state, but this bird represents the first hybrid of that combination confirmed in the state since 2014.

And while shorebird migration is always a bit of a slow start, **Semipalmated Sandpipers** and **Solitary Sandpipers** have been found in a number of expected locations already this year, and a **Short-billed Dowitcher** was found at Tualatin River NWR associating with a flock of Long-billed Dowitchers, as they usually do when found inland. An intriguing report of a **Stilt Sandpiper** at 158th Marsh in NE Portland was not confirmed.

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

## Field Trip: Birding by Ear: Shorebirds

**September 14 | 8-11 a.m.**

Put your ears to the test by using vocalizations to help detect and identify shorebirds, one of the more challenging groups of birds we have.

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

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

## Field Trip: Birding at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

**September 29 | 3-6 p.m.**

Learn about the landscape around Mount St. Helens as we bird in a wide diversity of habitats and landforms created by the most active volcano in the Cascades.

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

Leader: Gina Roberti

## Audubon Birding Day: Sauvie Island Shorebird Ramble

**September 30 | 7:15 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Join Stefan Schlick to search for shorebirds and raptors on the last day Sauvie Island wildlife areas are open to the public before winter.

Fee: \$120 members / \$140 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

## Audubon Birding Day: Fall Birding in the Columbia Gorge

**October 20 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Join Greg to explore birding hotspots in the Columbia River Gorge: Sandy River Delta Recreation Area, Cascade Locks Marine Park (Cascades Island), Coyote Wall/White Salmon, and Rock Cove at Stevenson, Washington.

Fee: \$105 member / \$125 non-member

Leaders: Greg Baker and Brodie Cass Talbott

## Audubon Birding Day: From Seabirds to Songbirds, a Day in Newport

**October 21 | 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Join Stefan on a full-day adventure on the beautiful Oregon coast searching for seabirds and migrating passerines.

Fee: \$120 members / \$140 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

## Audubon Birding Day: Gulls of the North Coast

**October 28 | 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

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

Fee: \$90 members / \$110 non-members

Leader: John Rakestraw

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





## SPECIAL EVENT

### Catio Tour

September 9 | 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The 2023 Catio Tour will offer THREE options again this year: In-Person catio visits, Online Videos, and a special VIP Package! With crafty, creative, and clever solutions, these catios will give you great ideas that fit your budget and space. It usually sells out so get your tickets today!

Tickets: \$15 Online / \$20 In Person / \$50 VIP  
Visit [catssafeathome.org/catio](https://catssafeathome.org/catio) to purchase tickets



### Plein Air Watercolor Painting on Sauvie Island: Beaches

September 9 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Painting the landscape in the open air is one of the best ways to connect with the landscape and paint in real time. Learn how to see and create beautiful watercolor paintings outside with in-person instruction.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members  
Instructor: Ronna Fujisawa



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 / Tara Lemezis

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Field Class: Forest Therapy at Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary

September 10 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

October 8 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join Andrea Kreiner, a certified nature and forest therapy guide, for a slow and mindful sensory journey to connect with nature at the Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Fee: \$25 members / \$35 non-members  
Instructor: Andrea Kreiner



### Birding by Ear: Shorebirds

September 12 | 6-7 p.m.

Hone your birding by ear skills on shorebirds! This class will teach you how to identify them by their unique vocalizations.

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



### The Swifts Return!

September 14 | 6-7 p.m.

Learn all about one of Portland's most beloved birds—the Vaux's Swift!

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members  
Instructors: Brodie Cass Talbott and Candace Larson



### The Ecology of Feathers

September 21 | 6-7 p.m.

From flight to flamboyance, feathers are the defining feature of bird biology. Join Candace on a journey into the form and function of one of nature's most versatile adaptations.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members  
Instructor: Candace Larson





California Quail / Tara Lemezis

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Quail, Turkey & Grouse of Oregon

September 26 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will introduce you to all the quail, turkeys, grouse, pheasants, and partridges found in Oregon, with tips on identifying and where to look for each.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



### Bird Journaling: Autumn Series

September 30, *Tips and Ideas For Your Pages*

October 21, *Colorations, Markings, and Surroundings*

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

Join Jude to learn how to see differently and how to drop unrealistic artistic expectations. No art or birding experience is needed! We will explore excellent tools for recording your bird experiences, both at home and in the field. Each in-person class focuses on a specific aspect of journaling and reviews the basics. Relaxation is encouraged, and your unique style will be celebrated. **Register separately for each class.**

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

Instructor: Jude Siegel



### Fall and Winter Birding: A Primer on Where, What, and When

October 11 | 6-7 p.m.

There is excellent birding from mid-October through March in the Portland area. In this class, we'll review when, where, and how to see seasonal targets to become a more skilled and efficient birder.

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

Instructor: Stefan Schlick



Portland cityscape / Randy Kashka

## LIGHTS OUT

# Go Lights Out

Portland Launch | September 19, 2023

- Continuing through October 19, 2023 -

It's fall migration time again! You know the drill: billions of birds will be moving under cover of darkness to reach their wintering grounds, and we can work together to keep them safe on their journeys by reducing the unnecessary overnight lighting that accumulates in the sky and drowns out the stars that help them find their way.

Each September, Portland residents and commercial building owners and managers participate in a growing trend worldwide—Lights Out programs that emphasize responsible lighting to restore our night skies and protect migrating birds. All you have to do is turn off or dim your lights from dusk until dawn and then help us spread the word about this important and easy way to reduce the impact of light pollution on migrating birds, whole ecosystem health, and our own human health.

LEARN MORE & TAKE THE PLEDGE  
TO GO LIGHTS OUT:

[bit.ly/golightsoutportland](https://bit.ly/golightsoutportland)





Golden-fronted Woodpecker / Andy Morffew

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



## Pacific Northwest Trip: The Dammed Columbia

November 9-12, 2023

Explore the natural history of the Columbia River while we also investigate its complicated history, from bountiful fishery to major shipping channel and renewable energy hub. On this four-day van-based trip, we'll visit the dams and national wildlife refuges that have shaped its recent history, while enjoying the arrival of wintering birds along its lower 350 miles.

Fee: \$945 members / \$1,045 non-members  
Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott and Candace Larson

## Winter Florida Getaway

January 10-17, 2024

Get away to sunny Florida! We'll travel the southern portion of the state in search of its unique birdlife, with visits to the famed Everglades and the Florida Keys in search of Limpkin, Snail Kite, White-crowned Pigeon, and many more. Along the way, we'll look for enigmatic wildlife like American Crocodile and Manatees and enjoy the fascinating natural history of the Sunshine State.

Fee: \$3,295 members / \$3,895 non-members  
Leaders: Stefan Schlick and Brodie Cass Talbott

## Tropical Texas: Birding the Rio Grande

March 3-8, 2024

Winter is the perfect time to travel to the Lower Rio Grande Valley, with its mild tropical weather and outstanding bird diversity. Join us as we explore the entirety of the lower valley in search of tropical specialties that can be found nowhere else in the country.

Fee: \$2,895 members / \$3,495 non-members  
Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott and Dan van den Broek

## From Boreal Forest to the Sax-Zim Bog: Explore Minnesota!

June 8-15, 2024

Join us to experience the stunning beauty of Minnesota and the unique birdlife of the north. We'll visit this premier birding location in June to enjoy many birds of the boreal forest in the north and also birds of the oak-hickory and oak-savannah forests of the St. Croix River floodplain.

Fee: \$2,895 members / \$3,495 non-members  
Leader: Stefan Schlick

## NEWS FROM THE COAST

## Mid-Season Update: How Are the Birds Doing?

by Allison Anholt, Coastal Community Science Biologist

At the time of this writing, the breeding season for coastal shorebirds is in full swing. Late July is a magical (and chaotic!) time where community scientists with the Plover Patrol and Black Oystercatcher monitoring programs are simultaneously discovering new nests, trying to find tiny, hiding chicks, and carefully studying fledglings—chicks who are able to fly and be on their own. Tracking the three breeding stages—incubation, chick rearing, and fledging—at the same time is extremely difficult. The older a chick gets, the more mobile they are. For oystercatchers, this may mean hiding behind a rock, out of sight of monitoring volunteers. For Snowy Plovers, it means that their diligent dad (who raises the chicks single-parent style) may have moved the chicks a half mile or more from the nest.

Needless to say, there are a lot of question marks in our data this time of year, and it's hard to assess whether this season is "successful" as measured by the number of hatched nests and fledged chicks. However, early indications are that this is shaping up to be a banner year for these coastal birds. Our Plover Patrol program has found a record-smashing 63 nests on the North Coast, many more than last year's high count of 44. At least 20 nests and 11 fledglings have so far been tallied. Volunteers have also found over 60 Black Oystercatcher nests, including in at least four new locations! While too early to draw conclusions, the outlook seems sunny so far.

By the time you're reading this, the field season will be winding down and the data-crunching will begin. Stay tuned for full results posted on our Community Science website in early fall.



Black Oystercatchers / Wolfram Burner



Annular eclipse / Hidetsugu Tonomura

## NEWS FROM EASTERN OREGON

## Birding the “Doughnut Eclipse” on October 14

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Biologist

This year our Eastern Oregon program has increased the number of offerings that focus on the relationships between birds and the night sky. We'll continue that theme this fall, but with a bit of a spin, focusing instead on the daytime sky. On October 14 at 9:16 a.m. there will be an annular eclipse, with the line of totality passing over the southern end of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. An annular eclipse is one where the moon is small enough that when it passes in front of the sun it creates a “ring of fire.” October 14 is also the October Big Day, a global effort to count as many birds as possible, and happens to be the conclusion of Refuge Celebration Week.

A perfect storm of awesome made it impossible to pass up putting on an additional event. We're still in the planning phase, but we're partnering with Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to count birds, eat doughnuts, and watch what I am affectionately calling the “doughnut eclipse.” We're working on a milkweed planting party at Malheur for October 13, and Friends of Malheur is planning a highway cleanup on the 14th. This means there will be multiple opportunities to give back to Malheur, participate in community science, share a meal, and enjoy life on the ecliptic (the apparent path of the sun through the year). Save the date and keep an eye on the Restore Malheur Facebook page, the Friends of Malheur Newsletter, or email our Eastern Oregon Biologist, Teresa, at [twicks@audubonportland.org](mailto:twicks@audubonportland.org).



# Deepening Our Commitment to Sustainable Travel: Carbon Offsets and So Much More

by Emily Pinkowitz, Education Director

Last year, over 160 people traveled with Portland Audubon. We traveled close to home, visiting gems like Malheur National Wildlife Refuge where we learned about collaborative conservation in the Harney Basin. We traveled across the world, meeting butterfly conservationists and immigration activists in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and supporting local educators working to build a strong conservation ethic in rural Costa Rican youth. And of course, we birded, viewing thousands of species and donating to local conservation efforts to protect those species in perpetuity.

Travel is invigorating. It builds a sense of connection and care for people, cultures, animals, and ecosystems across the world. In many places, it's the life blood of economies and, importantly, fuels environmental and species protection. And it's common. Globally, 1.4 billion people travel each year.

But it comes with a cost. This February the New York Times reported that air travel accounts for about 4% of human-induced global warming. As a conservation organization, Portland Audubon has to weigh the impacts of leading travel-based programs. According to the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, each year, over 45 million Americans spend approximately \$41 billion on bird-related trips and equipment. Because we know people will continue to travel for birding, we've opted to continue offering ecotours. But we've made important changes to better reflect our values.

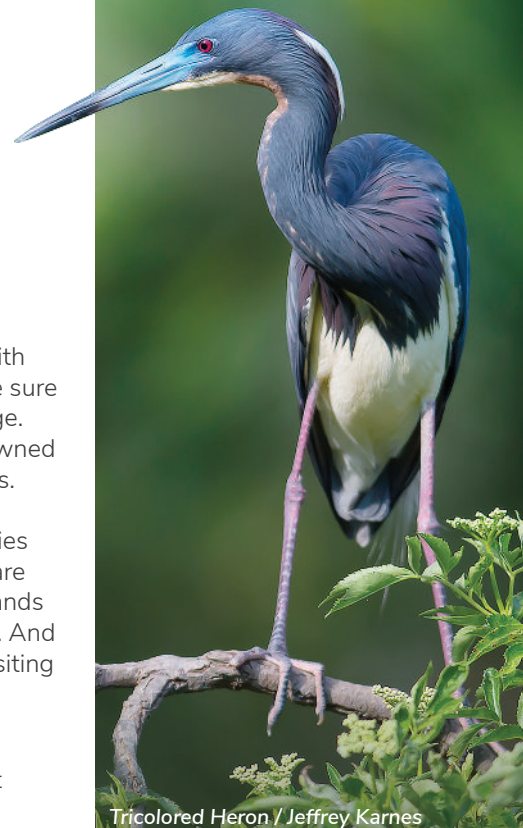
We began by reducing our financial dependence on international trips. Before the pandemic, ecotours accounted for \$600,000 of Portland Audubon's revenue. Over the last four years, we've worked hard to offset this; we increased the number of Pacific Northwest excursions we offer by 50% and launched a robust roster of digital classes. This enabled us to reduce the plane-based trips we lead by one-third, from 15 in 2019 to 10 in 2022. We've also focused on shorter trips. Today, at least 50% of our ecotours each year are domestic.

At the same time, we've deepened our commitment to sustainable tourism practices. The International Labour Organization defines this as "composed of three pillars: social justice, economic development, and environmental integrity." Portland Audubon trip leaders

strive to uphold this standard. We work with local guides and make sure they're paid a fair wage. We seek out locally owned lodges and businesses. We connect with Indigenous communities and invite them to share the histories of their lands from their own voices. And we make a point of visiting and donating to local conservation projects.

But we recognize that these changes alone are not enough. That's why, this summer, we further deepened our commitment to sustainable tourism by joining Sustainable Travel International, and are delighted to share that as of July 2023, every Portland Audubon trip will include carbon offsets. But Sustainable Travel International is more than a carbon offsets program. It works alongside local communities, engaging travelers, businesses, and policy-makers in responsible practices. Through this work, they aim to combat climate change and empower communities to preserve destinations around the globe. Read more about them at [www.sustainabletravel.org](http://www.sustainabletravel.org).

This decision was long in the making, and was led by Erin Law, our longtime Adult Classes & Trips Specialist. Over the last five years, Erin brought a tremendous amount of strategic thinking to the department. When the pandemic hit, she pivoted quickly to launch digital classes and expand our programs across the Pacific Northwest. As a result, revenue from local programs doubled from 2019 to 2023. This created a strong foundation from which to reimagine our relationship to ecotours. Erin researched different companies and facilitated discussions within our department to identify the partner that most aligned with our values. Our membership in Sustainable Travel International is in many ways the culmination of her efforts. This August, Erin moved on from Portland Audubon. We're grateful for all that she's accomplished in her time here, and know that the impact she's had on thousands of participants will be felt for years to come and reverberate across the globe.



Tricolored Heron / Jeffrey Karnes

### BACKYARD HABITAT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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

### COMMUNICATIONS

- iPhone (XR or newer) for social media usage

### CONSERVATION

- Unihedron Dark Sky Quality Meter (LU-DL)
- Fund for rebranded tabling cloth (~\$300)
- Bushnell Essential E-3 Trail Cams
- Bushnell Aggressor Security Case
- Extra computer screens
- Extra laptops

### EDUCATION

- Portable hot water/coffee carafe
- Comfy armchair

### 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
- 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

QUESTIONS? Email Keila Flores at [kflores@audubonportland.org](mailto:kflores@audubonportland.org)



Future generations  
deserve to experience  
Oregon's fish and wildlife.



Do your part by turning in poachers.  
Learn how at: [ProtectOregonsWildlife.com](https://ProtectOregonsWildlife.com)





# A Win for Harney County Collaboration

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Biologist, and Marla Polenz, High Desert Partnership Communications Coordinator

As part of what Portland Audubon does in the Harney Basin, we work with partners through the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative. This work includes a large geographic scope, from the Silvies Floodplain to the southern terminus of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. In 2015, the collaborative was awarded a \$6 million Focal Investment Partnership (FIP) grant from Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Of the six years of the grant's life, partners worked to improve irrigation infrastructure; support birds and the local community; conduct research on Malheur Lake's water, vegetation, and functionality; and support monitoring vegetation and birds in the Blitzen Valley wet meadows.

Portland Audubon has worked with partners to inventory birds in the Silvies Floodplain, specifically at sites associated with infrastructure projects (Project IBiS). We have also assisted with monitoring on Malheur Lake, and worked with Malheur's biology team to inventory and monitor birds in wetlands, wet meadows, and riparian areas from the Double O to Page Springs.

The initial funding led to more projects, particularly as more local ranchers became interested in more efficient irrigation to support spring migrating waterfowl. This led the collaborative to apply for a second FIP grant. Unfortunately, we were not awarded that grant. Not to be deterred by OWEB's decision, former Portland Audubon conservation





director Bob Sallinger and Rep. Mark Owens pivoted nearly immediately to working on a legislative funding proposal. Through the tireless efforts of Rep. Owens in Salem, and Sallinger rallying the conservation community and Harney Basin partners, \$2.5 million was allocated to the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative and High Desert Partnership. This \$2.5 million will provide funding for some of the out-of-the-box thinking that collaborative work often produces. It will also support Portland Audubon's work to understand reed canarygrass, its effects on birds and macroinvertebrates, and methods for treating reed canarygrass to best support wildlife. There will be more opportunities to support updating infrastructure to make moving water on the landscape more efficient to reduce the promotion of invasives, particularly reed canarygrass.

One of the many positive things about collaborative work is the creative opportunities for problem-solving. The Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative continued to work together through the occupation of Malheur NWR and through the difficult and unpredictable COVID landscape, and was able to pivot as a collaborative to pursue legislative funding. This funding is functionally a bridge, both in actuality and metaphorically. In actuality, it will allow for "bridge funding" while the collaborative continues to work on projects and future funding. Metaphorically, it is a bridge from Bob's time at Portland Audubon to his new endeavors. Bob Sallinger was a central figure in helping to ensure this funding exists and that Portland Audubon and our work in the Harney Basin will benefit into the future.





# What Happens When a Bird Hits a Window?

by Stephanie Herman, Assistant Conservation Director-Wildlife Care Center

During June and July the Wildlife Care Center received 70 birds that had hit a window—and this is our “slow” season for window strikes because most birds have completed their annual migration to summer breeding sites. As this article lands in your mailbox, birds are beginning their fall migrations, and here at the center we’ll start to receive dozens of calls and admissions each day due to window collisions. This is a tragic and avoidable pattern that we at the Wildlife Care Center watch occur each and every year. Window strikes are consistently among our top five reasons for injury, and last year was number three, behind only cats and cars. We also know that we’re only receiving a tiny percentage of the birds injured by windows each year. The majority aren’t observed or found afterward, and many birds don’t survive that initial impact or the untreated injuries they receive from the trauma.

In our work at the WCC, we often run into the perception that hitting a window is a minor thing for a bird to experience. We envision a quick cartoonish bonk and maybe a few minutes sitting stunned before flying off, no major harm done. I think sometimes we wildlife rehabilitators reinforce that notion by advising folks to wait and see if the birds who hit their windows “recover” before driving them to us. Although we’d prefer to see and examine any bird that hits a window, we continue to give this advice because some birds are truly only stunned, and it can be quite a stressful experience for the animal to travel to the center unnecessarily. However, the ability to fly off doesn’t mean that the birds haven’t received life-threatening injuries that can still lead to fatality, which is why this is a practice that those of us in the wildlife hospital wrestle with, and frequently discuss changing.

It doesn’t help that injuries from window strikes can have extremely subtle initial symptoms, even if they are quite serious and life-threatening in the long term. It’s true that a large percentage of birds that have hit windows are unable to fly away because they have serious head trauma that damages their balance, coordination, or awareness. Many also have a fracture or dislocation of the coracoid or

clavicle bones, essentially the “struts” in a bird’s chest that the muscles pull against to flap and fly. Others, though, may be able to fly away despite their injuries. Because birds hit windows head first, we tend to see jaw fractures and eye injuries that might not prevent a bird from flying away but can make it impossible to hunt or eat normally. There are also injuries that can take hours or even days to show up, like swelling and bruising, or even injuries to the bird’s respiratory system that result in air leaking into places it doesn’t belong. These injuries might not be visible and won’t necessarily interfere with the bird’s ability to move right away, but can become very severe later on.

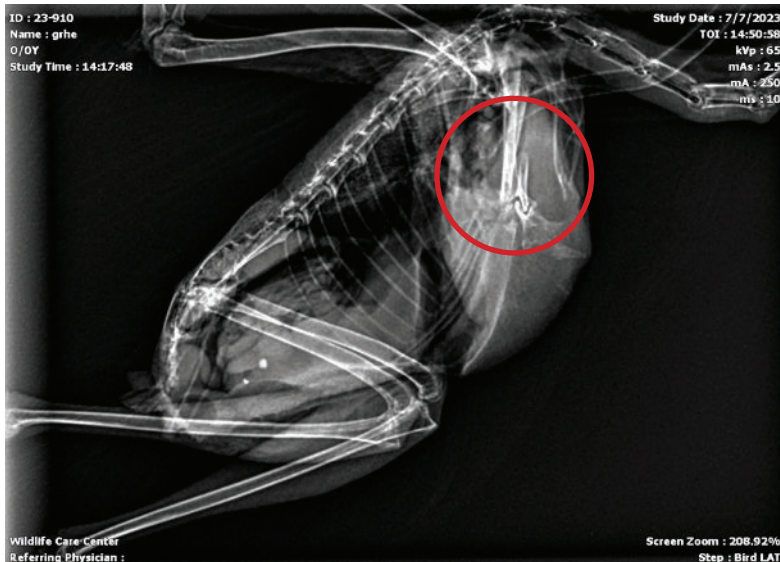
Ultimately, taking the time to bring a bird that hits your window into the center for an evaluation by our trained medical professionals is the safest option and is, in my opinion, worth the peace of mind even if we do send the bird home right away. But I also hope that as a society we can take this threat to birds more seriously, especially since prevention is truly as simple as properly treating exposed glass so that it is visible to birds, reducing light pollution, and using bird-safe designs in our new buildings. We make this plea regularly each and every year, and this migration season is no exception: go out and make at least one more window or light in your life bird safe! For more resources and details, visit the Bird Safe Building page of our website.

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This Dark-eyed Junco fledgling has subcutaneous emphysema, which means there is damage to their respiratory system that is allowing air to leak out of the air sacs and into the space underneath the bird’s skin. Although this bird’s injuries were caused by a cat, we see this symptom frequently in birds that have experienced collisions as well. Although this can look scary and be very uncomfortable, this type of injury does often heal well with treatment



▶ This Red-breasted Sapsucker is suffering from a number of injuries from their encounter with a window: a fractured jaw, an injury to the left coracoid, and head trauma that has left them quiet and slow to respond. In this case, the jaw fracture is the most serious injury, because of how reliant woodpeckers are on the strength and structure of their beaks and skulls. Unfortunately, these injuries were too severe for this bird to recover from, and we ultimately opted to provide the bird with humane euthanasia to spare them from further pain and suffering.



▶ This radiograph of a Green Heron that hit a window shows a left coracoid fracture, an injury that is difficult to notice from the outside but can result in a bird being unable to fly. The bird is currently in care at the WCC and on cage rest as the fracture heals. We won't know whether the heron will be able to fly and return to the wild for several more weeks. We have high hopes, though!



▶ This Lesser Goldfinch is suffering from head trauma after hitting a window. Because their balance is affected, they are struggling to hold their head up in a normal position. Neurological injuries from window strikes can range from extremely serious to mild, and it isn't always easy to tell the severity of the injury until we have provided a bird with treatment for several days. In some cases, extremely severe symptoms can resolve beautifully over a matter of hours with the right treatment. But in others, symptoms that seem mild at first can be so persistent that they can prevent a bird from surviving in the wild. In cases of head trauma, only time (alongside professional medical attention) will tell.



# Wild Arts Festival Returns November 18 & 19

by Sarah Swanson, Event Manager

We are excited to announce that the Wild Arts Festival will be back at Portland State's Viking Pavilion the weekend of November 18-19, 2023. Presented by Backyard Bird Shop, this fundraiser supports Portland Audubon's conservation, education, and wildlife rehabilitation work across Oregon.

## Celebrate Nature Through Art and Books

Incredible new artists will join beloved returning ones in sharing their love of nature through painting, woodwork, metal work, sculptures, jewelry, and other art forms. Art will be available to purchase at a variety of price points. The Book Fair will feature over 20 local and regional authors of books that focus on Oregon and the Pacific Northwest with a specialization in nature, birds, hiking, history, and books for kids. Come by to meet your favorite local authors and buy signed copies of their books.

## Find Holiday Gifts and More at Our Silent Auction

The Silent Auction is a great way to support Portland Audubon whether you contribute items or make a purchase. We will again have an online auction with items displayed at the Wild Arts Festival, plus a cash-and-carry store. You'll find beautiful framed pictures; jewelry; gift certificates for vacation stays, exotic trips, and restaurants; and an unpredictable assortment of nifty art and adventures. Many of these are perfect for holiday gifts.

Silent Auction items are all donated—by the artists showing at the Festival, our members, businesses, and the public. Donating is a perfect way for Portland Audubon supporters to rehome nature-related art, jewelry, sculptures, and more. We ask that physical items are in some way connected to nature.



Illustration by Sheila Evans

If you have a business, consider donating nature-related merchandise and/or a gift certificate. Donations provide excellent advertising to our thousands of attendees and demonstrate your business's commitment to Oregon's natural environment. Please contact us for a donation form at [wafsilentauction@audubonportland.org](mailto:wafsilentauction@audubonportland.org).

## Volunteers Make the Wild Arts Festival Happen

Join us as a Wild Arts Festival Volunteer to connect with fellow birders, nature enthusiasts, and art lovers. We need help with setup on Friday, guest and artist assistance on Saturday and Sunday, tear-down on Sunday evening, and wrap-up tasks on Monday. Running the Festival takes a variety of skills, and many different shifts are available, most lasting about half a day. Of course, it's even more fun with a friend!

If you're a past Festival volunteer, you will hear from us shortly about the 2023 shifts. If you want to become a volunteer, please get in touch with Volunteer Manager Julia May at [jmay@audubonportland.org](mailto:jmay@audubonportland.org). For questions about volunteer shifts, email [wafvolunteers@audubonportland.org](mailto:wafvolunteers@audubonportland.org).

## Check Out the Wild Arts Festival Website

For updated information about this year's authors and artists, check out our Wild Arts Festival website at [wildartsfestival.org](http://wildartsfestival.org) in the latter half of September. The website will also have our Silent Auction catalog, links to purchase tickets, and info about parking and public transportation.



Yellow Warbler / Tara Lemezis

## BEQUESTS

## Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

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.

**Gary Lower**

**Phyllis M. Thorne**

## IN MEMORY

**James Davis**  
Richard Zenn

**Laura Kalina**  
Megan Johnson

**Ralph Dieker**  
Jennifer Ross

**Joseph A. Lebzelter**  
Leigh Cross

**Randall L. Dunn**  
Barbara Edstrom  
John Isley  
Mark & Cynthia Ormson  
Jean & Ron Smith  
Laura Taylor  
Sara Watts

**Gary Lower**  
Marie Scott

**John A. Miller**  
Joanna Basley

**Deb Sheaffer**  
Linda & Daniel Gipe  
David Beattie

**Devin Ernst**  
Kimberlee Scotese

## IN HONOR

**Brooke Abbruzzese**  
Carlo & Ann Abbruzzese

**Tom Myers**  
Shannon Sivell

**Mike Hanel**  
Catherine Such & Douglas Walker

**Storry Norman**  
Kate Swabey

**Lynn Herring**  
Lawson Jenkins

**Lisa M. Sandmire**  
Robin Ricci

**Jane Leggett**  
Elise Emil

**Dana Segfried**  
Joanne Reitz

**Page Mesher**  
Marissa Katz

**Dorothy & Kay Thornley**  
Henry Renfrow

**Krista Murr**  
Davis Purcell

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!**



ELK COVE  
VINEYARDS



**Vernier**

Alberi Healing Arts	Metropolitan Group
Cameron Winery	Morel Ink
Cindy Thompson Event Production	Mountain Rose Herbs
Columbia Bank	New Seasons Market
Columbia Sportswear	Paxton Gate
David Evans and Associates	Tilbury Ferguson Investment
Grow Construction LLC	Urban Asset Advisors
JD Fulwiler & Co Insurance	Washman LLC
	West Bearing Investments
	Zeiss

## PLANT PNW NATIVES TO SUPPORT PNW WILDLIFE

PORTLAND  
NURSERY

5050 SE STARK & 9000 SE DIVISION  
503-231-5050 503-788-9000

[www.portlandnursery.com](http://www.portlandnursery.com)

Welcome Migrating Birds this Fall



- Fresh seed in feeders
- Sunflower seeds are always a favorite
- Add millet for arriving sparrows
- Include Just Bugs suet for your insect-eaters
- Pick up a dome to be ready for the rain

**BackyardBirdShop.com**

@backyardbirdshop

PORTLAND • BEAVERTON • HAPPY VALLEY • LAKE OSWEGO • WEST LINN • VANCOUVER



## We've Got You Covered This Fall at the Nature Store!

As summer winds down, fall becomes one of the most abundant times of year to enjoy the great outdoors. From fall migration, to mushrooms popping up in the rain, to cool weather hikes, fall is a great season for birding and exploration. The Nature Store carries waterproof binoculars, field accessories, and guides for all of your adventures.

**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. 2**

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

**\*The Nature Store and Interpretive Center will undergo repairs in September and October. The Interpretive Center, public restrooms, and water fountain will be closed during most of this time. The Nature Store will be closed for a short time, but we will remain open as much as possible. Please call or check our website to confirm we are open. Thank you for your patience!**



Downy Woodpecker / Matt Elsberry

## Optics Focus

**SALE! Swarovski EL Field Pro Binoculars**  
Up to \$400 off EL 8.5x42 and 10x42  
August 1-October 31, 2023

Swarovski's legendary EL Field Pro series has stood the test of time. These binoculars feature a suite of Swarovision lens coatings to improve image quality and color accuracy, and field flattening lenses for edge-to-edge sharpness. Looking through these binoculars offers the immersive experience that Swarovski is known for. Swarovski sales don't happen often, so now is the perfect time to upgrade!



**Member SALE Price: \$1,999.99**

## Featured Products

### Rite in the Rain



Don't let the rain slow down your birding notes and checklists! Rite in the Rain products are designed to withstand all weather conditions: the paper won't turn to mush and the pens won't smear when wet. They are fully recyclable and all of their items are made in the USA. Rite in

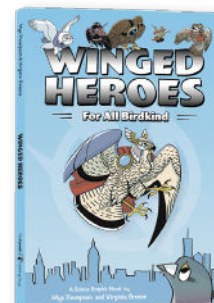
the Rain products are tried and tested in the field and are the perfect companion on a rainy day.

## New Book

### Winged Heroes: For All Birdkind

by Mya Thompson and Virginia Greene

As school starts, get the kids back into reading with Winged Heroes! This science graphic novel features real-life bird superheroes: the Peregrine Falcon who flies at super speeds, the Golden Eagle with superhuman eyesight, the Snowy Owl with supersonic hearing, and more. Join Emilio, a loveable city pigeon, and his friends in an action-packed adventure to uncover the power within himself and the real-life power of birds.



**Member Price: \$11.66**

## PNW Pick

### Natural Bug Defense

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.

Molly Muriel Bath + Body products are handmade in Portland using the finest all-natural ingredients and pure essential oils. They are vegan and cruelty-free, with plastic-free packaging so you can feel good about what you use on your skin and put into the environment. Goodness naturally!



**Member Price: \$6.75**



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



American Kestrel / Doug Greenberg

## Monthly Members Make a Big Impact!

Did you know that being a Frequent Flyer Monthly Member means that your donation can do more good? Your monthly gift contributes directly to our conservation and education efforts, all while cutting costs and helping us better allocate resources. Not only that, but your benefits—like discounts at the Nature Store and on camps and classes—will always be there. It's easy to set up, and changes can be made any time.

For questions, contact Membership Manager Deborah Rochford at [drochford@audubonportland.org](mailto:drochford@audubonportland.org) or 971-222-6133.



[audubonportland.org/ways-to-give/give-monthly/](https://audubonportland.org/ways-to-give/give-monthly/)

### 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.

#### Nature Store & Interpretive Center

503-292-9453 ext. 2  
Open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### Wildlife Sanctuary

Dawn to dusk every day



## Birdy Brain Buster!

Which of the following birds have little to no ability to walk?

- A. Grebes
- B. Loons
- C. Swifts
- D. Goofy-footed Cowbird
- E. All of the above