Summer Camp 2018: When Kids & Teens Inspire Us
by Ian Abraham, Youth Programs Manager

Long before the first week of camp begins, before the first camper arrives ready for a Portland Audubon Summer, we begin to prepare for these marvelous adventures. In truth, we begin planning for the next year’s summer camp before the current camps have come to an end, selecting inspiring destinations, exciting activities, and arranging a myriad of details to ensure each camp is the best it can be.

By far the single most important aspect of camp preparation is the intense, two-week training that we conduct every June for all summer camp staff, both seasoned veterans and new recruits. During our training, the summer season’s staff of Environmental Educators, college-aged Interns, TALON members, and high school Counselors learn the ways in which we run Portland Audubon Summer Camps. We focus on creating a community of nature learning that is inclusive of all potential campers. We actively work together to develop ways to ensure that each camper is given the opportunity to reflect. What follows is one example of what can happen when a camper is given the opportunity to reflect.

During staff training we discuss the impact of nature journaling, and engage our staff in a number of different techniques that include reflective writing, art with different mediums, nature mapping, poetry, and more. We discuss ways we can make journaling accessible for all learning types and camper backgrounds. As one can imagine, there is something quite amazing about a group of 12 third-graders sitting in the forest, silently crouched over their journals with pencils in hand, either drawing or writing about the day’s happenings, chronicling what they saw, touched, ate, thought and felt. These journals help campers to preserve their memories for a lifetime.

What follows is one example of what can happen when a camper is given the opportunity to reflect.

An Orca’s Tale by Reed Wester-Ebbinghaus, seventh grader on San Juan Island Adventure

I recognize that Orcas are special, and if I had one story to tell them... it would be that of the history of humanity, a story very appropriate to tell due to their likeness to humans. I would tell tales of how humans had created powerful empires but were still always at the mercy of the seas. I would explain the story of the city of Atlantis and of how it was so suddenly destroyed the night the seas rushed in and reclaimed the land and the lives of many people. I would even tell of how merely a few drops of water can destroy the greatest human machine. They would laugh at the tale of the Titanic, for many humans could not laugh at the tale of the Orca.

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Innovation & “Failing Harder”

by Nick Hardigg

V

tors to the offices of famed marketing firm

Wieden+Kennedy are greeted by a curious wall

mural: an assemblage of 139,000 pushpins

spelling out the words “Fail Harder.” It’s obvious

you counterintuitive—innovation requires taking risks

and being willing to sometimes fail. In the creative

and ultra-competitive world of global branding, it’s

understandable why a mantra to innovate and try new

things, and even risk failure, has to be in your DNA.

But for a conservation group—where “success” can be

defined as creating more habitat and raising awareness for

bird conservation—coming up short can feel uncomfortable.

In some cases, innovation comes with hiccups. Change can

be uncomfortable, have a learning curve, or have hidden

benefits that don’t make the value clear to all. Tweaks may

be necessary after launching a new service to make sure we’re

meeting all our needs. The most important part of change

is communication and trust. If you notice change in our

programs or systems and have a suggestion to make them

better, or question why we made a change, please let us know.

We have to keep improving while also maintaining what’s

great about Portland Audubon. Thank you for helping us to

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For our biggest fundraiser of the year, Birdathon, we’re trying a

different approach. Instead of encouraging people to do a single
donation between databases. For our free and largely

volunteer-led Audubon Outings, we’ve begun using Meetup

and trends in the 3,000 wild animals we see annually. For

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sites. For our free and largely volunteer-led Audubon Outings, we’ve

begun using Meetup (meetup.com/PortlandAudubonOutings)—a

free service that’s introducing us to new people, helping to manage
crowd sizes, and improving how we communicate with the public.

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Portland Audubon Outings

Join a free, volunteer-led bird walk to one of our many fantastic natural areas. Please register through Meetup, a website/mobile application that facilitates bringing people with common interests together. Join by going to meetup.com/Portland-Audubon-Outings and clicking Join Us. You will find the full descriptions of these outings on the Meetup group. Contact Erin Law at elaw@audubonportland.org or call 971-222-6119 with any questions.

Bird Song Walks 2018
Mon–Fri, 7am–9am, various locations: FREE!

Portland Audubon is proud to announce the 2018 season of weekday morning Bird Song Walks! From beginner to advanced birders, anyone who is fascinated by the sounds of birds will enjoy these walks. Take advantage of these volunteer-guided walks to the metro area’s prime migration hotspots. If you start with the earliest trips, you will become familiar with the common resident species’ songs and then keep pace with the migrant birds as they arrive.

Go to trimet.org or call 503-238-RIDE (7433) for public transportation route information. For natural history information, maps, and directions for these natural areas, see the book Wild in the City: Exploring the Intertwine, available at Portland Audubon’s Nature Store.

How to Register for Bird Song Walks
Please register through Meetup, a website/mobile application that facilitates bringing people with common interests together. Join by going to meetup.com/Portland-Audubon-Outings and clicking Join Us. You will find the full descriptions of these Bird Song Walks on the Meetup group. Contact Erin Law at elaw@audubonportland.org or call 971-222-6119 with any questions.

Tuesdays May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge
Leaders: Hailey Waits, Laura Whittemore and/or Mark Fitzsimmons
For more information about the location: portlandoregon.gov/parks

Wednesdays May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Mt. Tabor Park
Leaders: Gerrard Lillie, Meg Ruby, or Tom McNamara
For more information about the location: portlandoregon.gov/parks

Thursdays May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Pittock Mansion
Leaders: Wink Gross and/or Diana Byrne
For more information about the location: pittockmansion.org

Fridays May 4, 11, 18, 25
Kelley Point Park
Leader: Erin Law
For more information about the location: portlandoregon.gov/parks

Fridays May 4, 11, 18, 25
Canemah Bluff Nature Park
Leader: Dan van den Broek
For more information about the location: oregonmetro.gov/parks

Saturday June 9, 9:30am to 12:30pm
City of Portland River Plan / South Reach Visioning Workshop
The public is invited to share their ideas for the Willamette River South Reach’s future with community members and City staff. The project area stretches from the Ross Island Bridge (excluding South Waterfront) to and including the Dunthorpe neighborhood on the west side and Waverly Golf Course on the east. Workshop location TBA. For more information: Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability at 503-823-7700.

Sunday, June 10, 10am to 1pm
Ross Island Paddle
Leader: Mike Hourck
Enjoy a morning on the Willamette River, paddling through the no-wake zone on Holgate Channel, into Ross Island lagoon, around Ross Island, and back to Willamette Park. In the lagoon we’ll see nesting Bald Eagles that took over what had been a large Great Blue Heron colony. The paddle is leisurely and suitable for beginning paddlers and families. You must provide your own life jackets and kayak or canoe.

Meet no later than 9:30am at Willamette Park Boat Ramp to unload and launch by 10am. Park entrance is at SW Macadam Avenue at SW Nebraska Street. Be sure to pay for parking and park in a car space, not a boat trailer space, or you will be ticketed! If you are renting a canoe or kayak from nearby Portland Kayak Company make sure you leave plenty of time to get your craft and be at Willamette Park at 9:30am sharp to put in. Portland Kayak Company: 503-459-4050, www.portlandkayak.com.

Great Blue Heron. Photo by Scott Carpenter

Yellow-breasted Chat. Photo by Scott Carpenter

May 7 (Mon) 7am–11am
Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Leader: April Brown

May 10 (Thu) 7:15am–12:30pm
Columbia County Slough
Leaders: Meg Ruby and Mary Ratcliff

May 12 (Sat) 7am–5pm
Butterfly Walk
Lower Deschutes River
(We will carpool)
Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Dennis Deck

May 16 (Wed) 7:30am–10am
Cooper Mountain Nature Park
Leaders: Kathryn van der Horst and Mary Ratcliff

May 17 (Thu) 8am–11:30am
Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
Leaders: Dick Demarest, Diane Harris, and Meg Ruby

May 22 (Tue) Meet 7am for all-day trip
White River Oak Woodlands and Rimrock Country
Leader: Ron Escano

May 27 (Sun) 7am–5pm
Butterfly Walk
Satus Pass, WA (We will carpool)
Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Dennis Deck

May 31 (Fri) 7am–11am
Company Lake
Leader: April Brown

June 5 (Tue) 7am–11am
Whitaker Ponds Nature Park
Leader: Ron Escano

June 6 (Wed) 8am–11am
Powell Butte Nature Park
Leader: Ron Escano

June 9 (Sat) 8am–11am
Sandy River Delta
Leaders: Patty Newland and Nicki Dardinger

June 12 (Tue) 8am–2pm
Yaquina Head to Siletz Bay
Leaders: Mary Ratcliff and Dick Demarest

June 14 (Thu) 8am–5pm
Mount Hood Lakes
Leader: April Brown

June 17 (Mon) 7am–11am
Washougal River Greenway Trail
Leader: April Brown

June 20 (Wed) 7am–11am
Sandy River Delta
Leaders: Linda Magnuson, Kathy van der Horst, and Diane Harris

June 24 (Sun) 8am–11am
Cooper Mountain Birds and Botany
Leaders: Bonnie Denelle and Dan van den Broek

www.audubonportland.org
Conservation

Crows Falling From the Sky
by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

On January 30, people walking in the King neighborhood of NE Portland witnessed a startling sight. As a group of crows flew westward across the city, birds suddenly began falling from the sky. Some were dead before they hit the ground. Others lay on the ground seizing and making distress calls before eventually dying. Dead and dying crows littered streets, sidewalks, and yards across at least a ten-block radius.

In all, a couple of dozen dead birds were collected, but we suspect that the toll was much higher. Reports indicated that there were many more dead birds over a larger area, and many birds would have fallen where they would be less likely to be found, such as backyards and rooftops. Additionally, many of the birds would have been scavenged by rats, cats, raccoons, opossum, and other nocturnal animals during the first night.

An event like this—dead and dying animals scattered across residential neighborhoods—has to be taken seriously. It took two weeks before lab results came back, but the dead crows sick or contaminated in a way that could affect people, pets, or wildlife that came in contact with them? Was this the result of an intentional act that might be replicated, or an unintentional exposure that still presented an ongoing risk on the landscape? Local, state, and federal agencies, including the FBL, all responded to this situation. The public was instructed not to handle dead crows and to report any that they found. Portland Audubon added extra staff and volunteers so that sick or dead birds could be quickly removed from the environment.

It took two weeks before lab results came back, but the cause of death was identified: a neurotoxin called Avitrol®. The identification of Avitrol® was not a surprise; in fact it was what we suspected right from the beginning. The same product caused very similar events in downtown Portland and Bend in 2014, and was implicated in cities across the United States in recent years. What is surprising is that this event is even still on the market.

Avitrol® is a neurotoxin that is marketed as a “humane” way to get rid of pest birds. The advertising suggests Avitrol® is simply a “frightening agent” and that birds that ingest Avitrol® lapse batt suffer seizures and emit distress calls that scare away other birds but suffer no pain. The small-print label, required by the EPA, and on the-ground experiences in Portland and across the country tell a very different story.

Avitrol® is a restricted-use pesticide that can only be used by a certified pesticide applicator “due to acute oral and dermal toxicity and due to toxicity to birds and mammals.” The label also notes that most birds that react to Avitrol® actually die. Applicators are required to restrict the area in which Avitrol® is used from all people and pet access and maintain the restricted access until all affected birds are collected. However, one of the big problems with Avitrol® is that birds that ingest it often fly a significant distance before they hit the ground, or they may die in flight and put people, pets, and non-target wildlife at risk. The contusions that they suffered as they slammed into the cement, or saw the dying crows lying on the ground twitching and scrreeching would be hard to view this product as anything but cruel and inhumane.

The person who put out Avitrol® in Portland likely violated at least two federal laws: the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Federal Insecticide, Insecticide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). They caused the crows to suffer a cruel and inhumane death, and they put people, pets, and non-target wildlife at real risk of secondary exposure. Portland Audubon has put up a $1000 reward for information leading to the identification of this person in Portland, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture continues to investigate.

We Need Your Help to Ensure the Portland Clean Energy Fund Initiative Makes the Ballot

Audubon Society of Portland is proud to be working alongside social justice and environmental organizations to put the Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) initiative on the November ballot for voters to take local action and fight climate change while promoting social and economic equity in Portland.

The PCEF initiative would enact a 1% business license surcharge on the largest retail corporations in Portland and put those funds toward weatherizing homes, building rooftop solar, providing job training, growing local food production, and funding green infrastructure. A commission led after the Portland City Council’s Levy would oversee proposals for the money and approver worthy proposals that provide these services to Portlanders who need it most.

PCEF is grounded in the community, crafted and led by groups representing the City’s communities of color, including Asian Pacific Network of Oregon (APANO); Verde; Coalition of Communities of Color; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP-Portland Chapter); Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA); and supported by conservation groups like 350PDX; Oregon Chapter of Sierra Club; Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility; and Portland Audubon. An additional 50 community organizations, businesses, and faith leaders have also endorsed it.

In order to make this happen we will need to collect more than 40,000 signatures from registered Portland voters by July 6, 2018, and Portland Audubon is committed to doing our part.

Help volunteer for this groundbreaking initiative!
• Sign up to collect signatures in your community or in teams. Contact Micah Meskel at mmeskel@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6128 to get involved.

City of Portland & Columbia Land Trust have teamed up to create a unique program that supports urban gardeners in their efforts to create natural backyard habitats. It’s through our collective efforts to revitalize urban landscapes that positive change is made. Together we make our cities a healthier place, for ourselves and for wildlife. Our community of Backyard Habitats is over 4,500 strong, and growing every day.

We focus on the Five Elements of Backyard Habitat:
• Invasive Weeds
• Native Plants
• Pesticide Reduction
• Stormwater Management
• Wildlife Stewardship

We currently work with sites throughout the cities of Portland, Gresham, and Fairview within Multnomah County, and Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, West Linn, Oak Grove/Jennings Lodge, Gladstone, Oregon City, Happy Valley, Damascus, and Wilsonville. If you live outside this area, contact us to join our waiting list and we'll notify you as the program expands.

Simply Enroll
We’ll send a technician over to assess your property, help you plan, and provide discounts for plants and materials. Learn more by visiting backyarthehabitats.org/apply!
Baby Bird Season: What You Need to Know

Spring marks the beginning of baby bird season, the busiest time of year at the Wildlife Care Center. Between April and August, the Care Center receives more than half of its intakes—most of which are baby birds.

“During baby bird season, we will go from getting up to five intakes a day to twenty or thirty per day. We see a massive volume,” said Wildlife Care Center Manager Lacy Campbell.

Some early nesters have already made their way into the Wildlife Care Center, including an Anna’s Hummingbird fledgling. This baby bird was found on the ground and brought in by a well-meaning individual who suspected that the bird had been abandoned. However, this was most likely not the case.

Most fledglings found outside the nest are not in danger, which is why every spring we ask people to brush up on what they should do if they find a baby bird. “Many folks are shocked to hear that, more often than not, the right answer is to leave the bird exactly where they found it.”

Unless a bird is injured or we know for sure it has been orphaned, it is essential to leave it outside to learn from its parents. Removing young birds from the wild usually reduces their chance for survival and denies them the opportunity to learn skills they will need to thrive.

Knowing when to intervene can be challenging. While you may be inclined to care for a baby bird found on the ground, the majority of young don’t need human intervention.

How do you know if a baby bird needs help?

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

Most baby birds likely haven’t been abandoned

When you find a baby you think may be abandoned, odds are its parents are in the area.

“Adult birds don’t want to attract attention to their babies while you’re around, so they’re not there defending them like we think they should be,” said Campbell.

If you think the bird may have been abandoned, please keep in mind it can take several hours before parents return to the nest. Often parents will feed the youngster and then take off again so be aware that interactions can happen very quickly.

If you are afraid the babies have truly been abandoned or orphaned, call the Wildlife Care Center and be prepared to share a photo. Our trained experts will be able to advise you.

Take the Pledge to Keep Your Cats Safe at Home

by Steph Taylor, Community Organizer

Now that spring is here and baby birds will be leaving their nests and learning to fly, have you considered transitioning your cat to live indoors? According to the Humane Society of the United States, about two-thirds of cats live indoors either all or almost all of the time. These indoor felines enjoy freedom from a laundry list of perils—diseases, parasites, automobile traffic, poisoning, our healthy population of urban coyotes, and simply getting lost.

Cat predation is also one of the most common reasons that birds are brought to our Wildlife Care Center. Each year our Care Center treats hundreds of birds that have been injured by cats. In fact some years as many as 40% of the wildlife seen at our Wildlife Care Center is injured by cats.

Spring is when the highest number of cat-caught birds arrive at our intake desk. As such as May follows April, baby birds leave the nest, sometimes in the clumsiest fashion. Many of your cat and the lives of birds, please consider taking our Cats Safe at Home pledge and receive a free window decal that lets your neighbors know you are making the world a safer place for birds and cats: catsafeathome.org/pledge

Clarity out and save this useful flow chart!

Wildlife Care Center

Parents won’t reject babies that have come in contact with humans

In the event you need to relocate a grounded nesting to a safer place or back in its nest, fear not. Birds have a poor sense of smell and very strong parental instincts, which means they will usually continue caring for their young. However, adult birds are cautious after any type of disturbance and it may take several hours before they approach the nestling. During this period it is essential that humans not approach the nestling.

Still not sure? Give us a call!

If you’re unsure if a baby bird needs human intervention, do not hesitate to call our Wildlife Care Center at 503-292-0304. We are open seven days a week from 9am until 5pm, and our experts will be happy to advise you.

Hungry chicks. Photo by Lauren Lark

Clip out and save this useful flow chart!

So you found a baby bird!

If you still aren’t sure if a baby bird needs care and you live in the Portland area, do not hesitate to call Portland Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center.

Hangry chicks. Photo by Lauren Lark

I keep my cats safe at home

www.audubonportland.org

MAY/JUNE 2018

5
Ecotours

We recommend booking early because trips often sell out. Deposit required to reserve your place. To register, please visit audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult.

Upcoming International Trips

Northern Peru
October 17–26, 2018
Explore the mountain cloud forests of Northern Peru, an area teeming with rare and endemic birds. On the same route we will be taking, a team from Louisiana State University broke the World Big Day record with 354 species detected in 24 hours. Come enjoy the incredible diversity of birds in this unique portion of Peru.

Fee: $2,895 members / $3,195 non-members

Peru Extension: Cuzco, Sacred Valley, and Machu Picchu
October 26–November 1, 2018
Fee: $2,495 members / $2,795 non-members

Yucatán
December 10–20, 2018
Join us on an exciting exploration of the biologically rich Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico. While we observe birds and other fauna, our excursions will be centered around a number of awe-inspiring archaeological sites in the heart of the Mayan Civilization.

Fee: $3,375 members / $3,775 non-members

Nicaragua
January 26–February 6, 2019
Nicaragua is a relatively undiscovered birding gem in Central America. For a country slightly smaller than New York state, it has exceptionally high biodiversity and is home to over 790 bird species. We will explore a rich variety of habitats including lakes, rivers, cloud forests, and dry tropical lowlands.

Fee: $3,595 members / $3,895 non-members

Jamaica
February 9–17, 2019
Escape the cold, dark days of winter and join this unforgettable trip to the heart and soul of the Caribbean. White sand beaches, warm ocean breezes, turquoise-blue water… all this and more await you in this island paradise. Jamaica is home to 28 endemic birds and with a little luck, we will see them all!

Fee: $2,995 members / $3,295 non-members

Upcoming Pacific Northwest Trips

Central Oregon
June 28–July 1, 2018
Enjoy the summer in beautiful Central Oregon looking for local specialties! We will be working the different habitats of the area including sagebrush, shrub steppe, pine woodlands, and wetlands in search of White-headed, Three-toed, and Black-backed Woodpecker, Williamson’s Sapsucker, Pinyon Jay, and Green-tailed Towhee.

Fee: $845 members / $1,000 non-members

Oregon Coast
September 6–9, 2018
Go “behind the scenes” to learn more about the conservation initiatives taking place along the coast. We will explore the Elliott State Forest and Portland Audubon’s Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary as well as visit the Hatfield Marine Science Center, Sea Lion Caves, and the Yaquina Bay State Recreation Area.

Fee: $795 members / $895 non-members

Steens Mountain and Alvord Desert
October 3–7, 2018
Steens Mountain is a spectacular natural area and especially beautiful in the fall. Rising to almost ten thousand feet high in the southeast corner of the state, it presides over alkali desert, oceans of sagebrush, and the wildlife-rich marshlands of the Malheur basin.

Fee: $895 members / $1,095 non-members

Looking for more travel opportunities?
Check out our Ecotours brochure online: bit.ly/ecotours2018

Fee includes: Ground transportation, double-occupancy lodging, meals except dinners, entrance fees for planned activities and the services of your leaders. International trip fee does not include airfare. More information available online at audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult.

A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible donation to the Audubon Society of Portland.
Portland Audubon’s International Tours now include a Carbon Offset contribution that will go directly for the stewardship of our 150-acre Forest Park Nature Sanctuary. A fee of $20 per person is included in the cost of these tours and will be used to maintain our wild places in order to help grow our nature centers and sustain this special place for future generations.

Thank you.
Portland Audubon tours are a lot of things, but one thing they are not are photographic tours… so please, no lens over 400mm unless approved beforehand by trip leader.

For registration questions:
Erin Law; elaw@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.
For more information about any of our trips:
Dan van den Broek; dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105 or Erin Law; elaw@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.
Adult Classes

HOW TO REGISTER
1. Register and pay online. Visit www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult for class descriptions and registration instructions.
2. Contact Erin Law, Adult Education Coordinator, at 971-222-6119 to register by phone.

Most classes are held in Heron Hall, located in the Audubon Society of Portland Interpretive Center, 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland 97210.

Questions? Contact Erin Law, elaw@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

Check our website for upcoming classes not listed here! audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes

Bird Journals for Enjoyment
No art experience needed. Each class is complete in itself with a focus on exercises.
Instructor: Jule Siegel
Fee: $45 members / $65 non-members, per session
Limited to 16 participants per session

Design Elements for Your Bird Journal Pages
May 5 (Sat) 10am–3pm: class in Heron Hall
Birds in the Field
June 16 (Sat) 10am–3pm: class in Heron Hall

Beginning Birding
May 25 (Fri) 7pm–9pm: class in Heron Hall
May 27, June 3 (Sun) 8am–11am: local field trips
Instructor: Laura Whittemore
Fee: $65 members / $85 non-members
(class with field trip, limit 14)
$14 class only

Birding by Ear
May 9, 26, June 2 (Sat) 7am–10am: local field trip

Birding by Ear
May 12, 26, June 2 (Sat) 7am–10am: local field trip

Introduction to Bird Language: A Path to Awareness
July 8 (Sat) 8am–3pm: local field trip
Instructor: Mark Fitisimons
Fee: $60 member / $80 non-member
Limited to 14 participants

Fall Shorebird Identification
July 26 (Thu) 6:30–8:30pm: class in Heron Hall
July 28 (Sat) 7pm–5pm: local field trip
Instructor: John Rakestraw
Fee: $95 member / $115 non-member
Limited to 12 participants
$34 class only

Summer Camp 2018 at Portland Audubon
Here are just a few of the camps we’ll have this summer! To see all of our camp sessions, visit audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/camps

Grades 9th–12th
Counselor in Training Program
June 18–21
Learn valuable leadership skills and begin a career in the field of Environmental Education. After this four-day training, you will be able to sign up as a Counselor for a minimum of two weeks this summer. Get an introduction to the art of tracking, birding, and wilderness awareness. Learn the tricks of the Environmental Education trade, including storytelling, camp songs and fun outdoor games. By the end of the program, you will have the tools you need to become an excellent and effective Camp Counselor. This program is selective and based on experience. We love to have former campers back as counselors! Current Adult and Child CPR certification is required for participation. Please call 971-222-6120 for an application form.

Grades 4th–5th
Learning to Fish & Feast (Overnight Wed–Fri)
Week 3: July 9–13
You cast your bait into the cold waters of a mountain lake. As you patiently wait, you feel a bite on your line and focus on the challenge that has begun. You hope it will end with you holding a beautiful fish in your hands.

We will fish and feast by visiting local lakes to learn the basics of angling, and then on Wednesday we’ll venture to the Columbia River Gorge for a two-night adventure staying at the secluded group camping site at Beacon Rock State Park. The Gorge is a perfect jump-off spot for fishing some of the stocked lakes in the area. We’ll even keep some of the fish that we catch and teach you how to clean and cook a delicious dinner.

Pick up / Drop off Location: Upper MacLeay Park
Fee: $375 members/$395 non-members
To register, go to audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/camps for online registration or to download a registration form.

Grades 6th–8th
Herpetology 103
Week 10: August 27–31
Become an expert on the fascinating world of amphibians and reptiles as we learn the ways of a true Herpetologist. Overturk rocks of local Oregon streams, and plunge your hands into the cool runoff from Mt. Hood as we search for some of the most elusive amphibians in the world. Learn how to identify Red-legged Frogs, Coastal Giant Salamanders, and many snakes of the Pacific Northwest. We’ll spend two nights at the secluded group camp site of Beacon Rock State Park exploring all of the “herptiles” that the Columbia River Gorge has to offer.

Pick up / Drop off Location: Wallace City Park
Fee: $375 members/$395 non-members

Grades 1st–2nd
Gnome Homes
August 20–24
Step into the world of the fabled Gnomes of the Pacific Northwest as we explore the mystery and folklore of these mythical creatures. Prepare yourself to scour the forest searching for the elusive woodland Gnomes, build homes to attract these little creatures, and make your very own Gnome hat.

Pick up / Drop off Location: Audubon House
Fee: $315 members/$335 non-members

Let’s Go Birding
July 9–13
Learn how to identify and appreciate the wonderful, colorful birds that call Portland home. Spend time learning how to use binoculars to search out our feathered friends, and build your own bird feeder to take home and attract them to your own yard. Take time with your new flock to create various art projects to complement your new bird knowledge.

Fee: $230 members or non-members

Audubon East Explorers at Portland Arthur Academy
Go to saturdayacademy.org/catalog/audubon to register, or call Saturday Academy at 503-200-5688.

Let’s Go Birding
July 9–13
Learn how to identify and appreciate the wonderful, colorful birds that call Portland home. Spend time learning how to use binoculars to search out our feathered friends, and build your own bird feeder to take home and attract them to your own yard. Take time with your new flock to create various art projects to complement your new bird knowledge.

Fee: $230 members or non-members

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Field Notes
by Harry Nehls

The Dynamics of Breeding Songbird Territories

In Oregon, local breeding birds begin returning to their nesting territories while the spring migration is still passing northward. Adult males do not migrate as far as females and take every advantage to return to their nesting sites as soon as possible.

Among songbirds, the males arrive on their nesting territories several days before the females. By the time the females arrive most territories are established and are strongly defended. In most cases it is the size and quality of the nesting territory, not the male defending it that determines where the female is going to nest that year. Of course, the older, more aggressive males defend the most desirable nesting territories.

The territorial songs of the male bird proclaim that he has staked out a territory and will defend it. The female searching for a nesting territory hears the singing male and checks out the territory. If it is not up to her standards she moves on, leaving it for a less choosy or inexperienced female.

During the nesting season, territorial males begin singing about a half hour before daylight. For the first hour or so the songs are loud and persistent. In some woodlands this morning chorus is so overwhelming that it is difficult to identify any single singer.

Sightings

While migrant birds in spring may be observed as early as mid-February, most pass through Oregon during the last week of April and the first week of May. During that period, thousands of birds can be seen in a day, including species that are seldom seen at other times of the year. The numbers drop rapidly during May, but many birds are still moving north to mid-June.

On March 12 a bright male Rufous Hummingbird was at Courtney Appleyard’s feeder in Lake Oswego for the first report in the Portland area. The next day Lona Pierce reported one in Scappoose. Martin Jaspa reported the first female Rufous on March 27.

Tree Swallows are the first migrant swallow flocks to be found in Oregon. It is said that they migrate early to defend their nesting sites before other crows nesters claim them. On February 11 a large flock was seen over Hagg Lake south of Forest Grove. A major swallow movement in late February brought Violet-green, Rough-winged, Cliff, and Barn Swallows. On March 20 Jim Dannenhauer reported a male Purple Martin at its nest site at Ridgefield NWR.

On March 14 Andy Frank reported a Mountain Bluebird and three Western Bluebirds at Powell Butte Park in east Portland. The next day Art Clausing saw a Vesper Sparrow there.

Throughout the spring a Harris’s Sparrow was seen among a swallow flock north of the Troutdale Airport. On March 10 Justin Cook photographed a Common Redpoll at nearby Company Lake.

Volunteer of the Month: Devon Rehs
by Abby VanLeuven, Environmental Educator

Nearly 40 years ago Devon fell in love with Great Blue Herons. She hadn’t paid much attention to birds before then, but the spectacle of a magnificent heron flying so close was the catalyst for her love of birds and wildlife. This love ultimately brought her to a Portland Audubon Open House, where she thought it would be “very cool” to get a tour of the Wildlife Care Center. When she found out that not only would she be able tour the WCC but also volunteer there she immediately expressed an interest to Deanna Sawtelle, then our Volunteer Manager. Deanna warned her that she would be cleaning out cages and prepping mice for bird meals, but Devon replied, “I don’t care! I get to work with fabulous wild birds!” I’ll clean all the bird poo you need me to!” Since 2013, Devon has put in 1,133 volunteer hours cleaning cages, prepping mice, implementing Raptor/Med, going out on rescue calls for Wild Animal Rescue and Transport, handling Education Birds, and helping with our Ed Bird program. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and patience with our ever-changing schedules has been an important contribution.

A self-titled “little old lady from Pasadena,” Devon was born in Southern California and moved up to Portland with her family in 1969. After earning her MBA, Devon realized that nature and birds were still her calling and has found many volunteer opportunities to help wildlife. She loves sharing her passion for birds with all people, including her two-month-old grandson, who she’s already teaching to birdwatch!

Thank you, Devon, for all of the hours you have given the organization and your continued commitment and excitement!

Thank You to:

- Archery Summit Winery for Estate Tour with Tasting and bottle of wine
- Carl Zeiss SBE, LLC for M58 Photo Adapter
- Jane Camero for Birds of Oregon book
- Lisa Canfield for two pairs of Orion binoculars
- Gregg Everhart for thirty-six 4” California poppies
- Jana Fussell for frozen berries and hazelnuts
- Mark Greenfield for Manfrotto 128LP Tripod
- Robin Jensen for tripod and camera cables
- Trace Johnston for cleaning supplies
- Alan Locklear for jumper cables
- Ray Michimoto for eighty Trillium owls
- Ginnie Ross for fruit and veggies and gift card
- Linda Speaker for A Bird Couple
- Candace Sweeney for Fred Meyer gift card

Our Wish List

For Administration:
Auditory assistance devices
Sit/stand desks
Commercial-grade or high-quality vacuum
Birthday cards

For Education:
Leupold McKenize 8x42mm binoculars
Scope
Tripod

For Sanctuary:
Loppers
Trowels
Hand saws
Work gloves

For Wildlife Care Center:
Science Diet Kitten Growth
Bleach
Dawn dishwashing detergent
Sanitary gloves (latex or latex free
Small leather work gloves
Keval animal handling gloves

If you can donate these items, please first contact Portland Audubon at 503-292-6855 ext.102, Mon-Fri, to arrange a time for delivery/pick-up.
Optics Focus: Vortex

The new, improved Vortex Viper HD spotting scope is one of the most exciting releases of 2018. Updates and new features give this scope the feel of a high-end spotting scope, without the high-end price tag.

The Viper HD comes in two sizes: a 20-60x85 (member price $880.99) and a 15-45x65 (member price $764.99). New features include a smooth helical-style focus dial allowing for crisp, fine-tuned focusing and a slimmer profile, and a fantastic HD optical system with fully multi-coated lenses that perform great in low-light conditions. The Viper HD also has excellent eye relief, rubber armoring for extra durability, and an adjustable collar that allows for comfortable multi-angle viewing. As always, the Vortex Viper HD spotting scope comes with Vortex’s lifetime, unlimited, no-fault, transferable warranty.

The Nature Store carries a wide range of other Vortex spotting scopes and binoculars. One of our most popular models is the Diamondback. Just like the Viper HD spotting scope, the Diamondback series of binoculars offers quality and durability at a great price. Ranging in size from the compact 8x25 (member price $171.00), to the mid-size 8x42 (member price $221.99) and 10x42 (member price $242.99), to the full-size 10x50 (member price $456.99), the Diamondback series is sure to have a binocular that fits your needs. Stop by the Nature Store and let the Nature Store help you get set for an adventure in the field.

Get Your Hike On!

Now is the time to hit the trails! Rain or shine. Grab a rain poncho (member price $25.99) and a rain hat (member price $25.99), and you’re ready to go. And don’t forget to grab the laminated and lightweight fold-out map of Portland Birds! From lightweight binoculars that fit in your backpack, to binoculars and Toysmith’s 5-in-1 Survival Compass (member price $2.56). New features give this scope the feel of a high-end spotting scope, without the high-end price tag.

It All Started with Advice from a Tree...

The Nature Store is proud to introduce Your True Nature’s Advice from a Tree series of products, including bookmarks, magnets, postcards, and notepads. With funny and witty bits of advice from your favorite animal or part of nature, these high-quality paper products are sure to please. Your True Nature is also an environmentally conscious company committed to protecting our planet and inspiring a love for nature. Your True Nature supports nonprofits and schools, uses fully recycled products, and is 100% replenished. Your True Nature’s bookmarks (member price $2.70) and magnets (member price $4.50) also make great gifts. Find your favorite Advice from a Tree in the Nature Store!

New Books for Hikers of All Ages!

Author Event

Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest, with Robert Michael Pyle and Caitlin LaBar

Wednesday, May 23, 7–9pm
Portland Audubon’s Heron Hall, 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland, OR 97210

Join noted lepidopterist and founder of the Xerces Society Robert Michael Pyle, along with geographer and photographer Caitlin LaBar as they talk about their new collaboration, Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest, a Timber Press Field Guide. Easy to use and beautifully illustrated with more than 600 color photographs and nearly 200 maps, this guide is a must-have for nature lovers in Washington, Oregon, western Idaho, northern California, and British Columbia.

During the evening presentation, the authors will share stories from the field, talk butterfly natural history and how to get the most enjoyment from your butterfly walks, and sign copies of their book.

Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store!

Here you’ll find books, hiking & field guides, binoculars & spotting scopes, bird feeders & seed, plus gifts & toys for adults & children, all with a nature theme. Plus, Portland Audubon members receive a 10% discount off regular prices.

See us in the Interpretive Center on the third Sunday of the month, from 1 to 2 pm for Kids’ Story Time! We will read a nature-themed picture book that leads into a fun activity. Story Time is geared towards kids 3–6, but all are welcome to join. Call the Nature Store, 503-292-9453, for more information.

Miki, an otter pup, loves to snuggle on her mama’s tummy. And Mama holds Miki’s paws while she teaches her how to swim. While Mama is out gathering food, Miki meets another otter pup named Amak, and the two become best friends. Then a terrible storm rages in the ocean, and Miki and Amak hold each other’s paws tightly. Will it be enough to keep them safe?

The kids can bring along their own pair of Carson’s Hawk 5x30 binoculars and Toymaker’s 5-in-1 Survival Compass (member price $2.56). And don’t forget to grab the laminated and lightweight fold-out Guide to Portland Birds! From lightweight binoculars that fit in your backpack, to hiking poles to help you up the hill, let the Nature Store help you get set for your next adventure!

Ready to get out and hike this spring? The Nature Store has what you need to hit the trails rain or shine. Grab a rain poncho (member price $2.25) to throw in your backpack, or check out Sunday Afternoons’ durable and breathable Rain Shadow Hat to keep off the rain and sun. The kids can bring along their own pair of Carson’s Hawk 5x30 binoculars and Toymaker’s 5-in-1 Survival Compass (member price $2.56). And don’t forget to grab the laminated and lightweight fold-out Guide to Portland Birds! From lightweight binoculars that fit in your backpack, to hiking poles to help you up the hill, let the Nature Store help you get set for your next adventure!

Lace up your hiking boots and explore the Coast Range! Less than an hour’s drive from downtown Portland, but still largely untouched, the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests are two of Oregon’s best kept secrets. Now, members of the Oregon Sierra Club have combined their knowledge to bring adventurers the essential guide to these beautiful, secluded hikes.

New Books for Hikers of All Ages!

50 Hikes in the Tillamook & Clatsop State Forests (Ooligan Press, 2018)
Regular price: $20.00
Member price $18.00

50 Hikes with Kids: Oregon & Washington (Timber Press, 2018)
Regular price $19.95
Member price $17.95

Handcrafted for Northwest parents, educators, and caregivers that want to spark a love of nature, 50 Hikes with Kids highlights the most kid-friendly hikes in Oregon and Washington—all under four miles with an elevation gain of 300 feet or less. Some are even accessible by stroller.

Not just an outdoor guide book, 50 Hikes with Kids will help busy, modern families nurture a life-long appreciation and reverence for the natural world.

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A conversation with Tom was always a journey, an adventure, a precise and detailed stream of consciousness filled with people, landscapes, history, botany, geology, and above all else, birds. It was at the same time fierce and folky, daunting and inspiring. It left you with a sense of deep reverence for Oregon’s wildlife and wild places, the work that has been done to protect them, and the work that still needs to be done. He could tell you exactly what birds he saw on a trip 50 years earlier, were they saw them, and what they were doing. He was a throwback to the great naturalist-activists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries who grounded their conservation in a deep and profound understanding and appreciation of the natural world and possessed an uncanny ability to convey that appreciation and knowledge to others.

When Tom passed away, Oregon lost a unique and powerful voice for conservation. Many longtime Oregonians will remember him as an outdoor writer and editor, first at the Oregon Journal and later at the Oregonian, where he told the stories of Oregon’s wildlife and wild places from 1953 until his retirement in 1992. From a childhood spent exploring and documenting the wilds of Portland this article “Hometown” in Wild in the City provides a fascinating view of Portland as it transitioned from “howling wilderness” to modern city) to a career marked by being an activist in and chronicler of many of the major conservation events in Oregon over the course of nearly a century, Tom saw it all. Claire Puchy, former executive director of Portland Audubon and longtime friend of Tom’s, once asked him the secret of his longevity and impact. His answer was, “Just keep moving.”

Tom’s influence is written across the landscape, from his role as president of the committee appointed by Governor Tom McAllister to nominate rivers for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, to his 30-year membership on the Oregon Geographic Names Board, his advocacy for protection and restoration of our wild landscapes and wildlife, and his founding and leadership roles in many of Oregon’s conservation and outdoor-recreation organizations. Mike Houck points to Tom’s efforts to protect local treasures like Oaks Bottom, Tryon Creek, and the Sandy River Gorge. The list is expansive. Bill Monroe of the Oregonian did an outstanding job of capturing Tom’s long and storied career (“Oregonian outdoor writer passes on his next, greatest trek,” OregonLive.com, March 12, 2018).

To Portland Audubon, Tom was family. He joined in 1938 at the age of 12 when he attended his first Audubon lecture at the Multnomah County Library, where the community heard from great naturalists of the era. It was also at this lecture that Tom met his lifelong friend, Dave Marshall. Together, Dave and Tom were undoubtedly Portland Audubon’s best serving life members. Tom was active right up until his final days, participating in Christmas Bird Counts, delivering marathon lectures, and participating in the dedication to Dave Marshall of a new nature center at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge. Shortly before his passing, he wrote in response to an invitation from our executive director, Nick Hardigg, to an Oregon Historical Society event honoring Portland Audubon founders William and Irene Finley, and Henry Bohman: “I would love to be there to enjoy the evening and share in this tribute to our founders. Unfortunately I am in the hospital and won’t be out in time. Hate to miss it. You and the birds are much better company.”

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“I was present for the rehabilitated Bald Eagle release in Tom McCall Waterfront Park in February 2016, a breathtaking sight that made my heart soar! So, this year I am pleased to make a gift from my IRA designated for the Wildlife Care Center.”

Marcy Jacobs

One of the simplest ways to reduce taxes while supporting Portland Audubon (or other nonprofits) is to give through an IRA. Contributing via an IRA can happen as soon as the donor is old enough to begin withdrawing money, although a distribution is mandatory starting at age 70 ½ and is called a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

Even with the new tax law limiting deductions, donors can realize tax benefits by using their traditional IRAs for donations.

This is the approach Marcy Jacobs decided to take. Marcy served three Oregon governors, handling recruitment and expansion of companies in the Portland region for the Oregon Economic Development Department. Today she hikes, rides her bike, and takes birding trips with Portland Audubon when not volunteering.

Marcy gave through her IRA by directing the company that holds her account to send a check straight to Portland Audubon. By doing that, she didn’t have to pay taxes on the money disbursed. Why? Because Marcy never actually received a payment, she didn’t have to count the money as income.

When Marcy makes her IRA gift, she can designate it for conservation, education, operations, or whatever she most wants to support. “I visited the Wildlife Care Center a few years ago and was so impressed with work that is done there with injured birds and other critters,” she said.

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts:

In Memory

Roger Bachman
Diane Benjamin
Spencer Higgins
Joy Dabney

Donna Wiench
Ange Stremquest
Marvis Jenkins
Anne Squier

Iris Fournier
Barry Blair
Henry Kemper
Terry Collins
Cherlea Smith

Amy Frank
Anonymous (4)
Julie Dukhinwer
Ronald and Rebecca Eiseman
Elisa Erhardt-Eisen
Ray Guggenheim
Alice and Paul Mayer
Paula Overbeck
Mary Shepard and
Stephen Early
Michael and Jim Richman
Alice Rogers
Loree and Ken Sakiak
Stephanie Singal
Danny Seval
Martha and Las Sollanz
Lynn Tobias and
Chet Edwards
Ed and Joyce Tyler

In Honor

Andrew Frank
Eve and Alan Rosenfeld
Mandy Sims
Sadie Walsh

Cynthia Grant
Sarah Epstein
Espenara Walsh

Brodie Lewis
Andrew Schwartz

Thank you to the families of Ursula K. Le Guin, who made a gift in her honor. Per the wishes of Ursula’s family, these gifts will support Portland Audubon’s long-term collaborative efforts at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and the surrounding landscape.

www.audubonportland.org

Join Our Flock — Become a Member

Your membership dollars support our Conservation, Education, and Wildlife Rehabilitation Programs! Memberships help us protect native birds and their habitats, and come with perks such as discounts on classes, camps, and trips and in our Nature Store. You can join online at audubonportland.org/support/membership, in our Nature Store, or send in this handy form.

Donate today: audubonportland.org/support

Join online today! audubonportland.org/support/membership

| Membership Levels: |
| $45 Individual | $500 Owl |
| $60 Family | $1,000 Great Blue Heron |
| $75 Wren | $2,500 Pigeon |
| $100 Goldfinch | $5,000 Osprey |
| $125 House Wren | $10,000 Eagle |
| $150 Songbird | $20,000 Hawk |

Please sign me up for the monthly e-newsletter, The BirdWord.

Please charge my: 

Card #: 
Exp. Date: 

www.audubonportland.org
Ever wish your hours spent birding could help save the lives of birds? Then join us for Birdathon! It’s like a walk-a-thon, but so much better. Friends, family members, and coworkers pledge money for you to find and count birds…something you’ll likely be doing anyway this spring. Register today and know that every bird you spot will raise funds for their protection! There is still time to register.

Birdathon veteran and trip leader Hailey Walls shares why she thinks every birder should participate:

You get to meet other birders. I’ve met several friends on Birdathon teams over the years, and I’ve met more experienced birders that I could turn to for help finding and identifying birds. It’s a perfect way to find birding buddies and mentors.

You’ll bond with your team members. Travel time is filled sharing great birding stories, bonding over nemesis birds, and talking about dream birding destinations. You also get the joy of working together to accomplish a goal, and you create new stories together.

You’ll learn about “secret” birding spots. They often incorporate a lot of personal birding hot spots—a field behind a warehouse that always has a pheasant, a Best Western parking lot that tends to get great birds at the feeders—the seasoned birders putting together the routes know the strange spots that won’t show up in a birding guide.

You discover that birding can happen anywhere, anytime. Finding an unexpected warbler species at a bathroom stop or defending why the woodpecker that flew over the car as you drove through the woods was “definitely a hairy and not a downy” is a huge part of the excitement.

Featured trips with space still available:

Portland Sneak Creepers Sunday, May 6, 8am–1pm Behind the scenes critical habitat exploration with Micah Meskel.

Whittomore’s Whatzits Sunday, May 13, 7am–6pm Laura Whittemore and Mark Fitzsimons visit William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge.

New Team! Blue-crested Corvids Sunday, May 20, 7am–2pm Join Meg Baby and April Brown as they bird the avian specialties found in hotspots of the Columbia Confluence.

New Team! Team Starlist Sunday, May 20, 9am–3pm Explore Sauvie Island, and finish the afternoon with some casual birding and a picnic at Tony Starlight’s Multnomah Channel floating home community.

Road Runners Sunday, June 10, 9am–3pm Our Bicycle Birdathon is back with Micah, Mark, Hailey, and Abby VanLeuven.

Don’t forget to explore the featured trips with space still available. Register now for these trips and many more to celebrate with us on June 15 at the Birdathon Celebration Dinner! Birdathon participants and supporters will be eligible to win prizes and enter raffles for items from dozens of local businesses. Doors will open at the Portland Hilton Pavilion Ballroom at 6pm.

We’d love to see each and every Audubon Society of Portland member participate—join a team, make a pledge to a friend or relative, or simply make a Birdathon donation. Together we all count to protect birds and wildlife across Oregon:

Donate online at Birdathon.audubonportland.org or use the pledge envelope included in this Warbler. Join a team—there are birding trips for any level of birder. See the great trips with available space below, find out how to create your own team—or just fly solo! Follow the links at Birdathon.audubonportland.org.

Per Hailey’s advice, we invite everyone that raises $75 or more to celebrate with us on June 15 at the Birdathon Celebration Dinner! Birdathon participants and supporters will be eligible to win prizes and enter raffles for items from dozens of local businesses. Doors will open at the Portland Hilton Pavilion Ballroom at 6pm.

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Audubon Society of Portland

Inspiring people to love and protect nature since 1902

Audubon Society of Portland promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native birds and other wildlife and their habitats. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

503-292-9453

503-292-6855 Fax: 503-292-1021

9am to 5pm, Mon. – Fri.

SANCTUARIES

Dawn to dusk every day

The Audubon Society of Portland is a member of EarthShare of Oregon. For more information, contact EarthShare of Oregon at 503-223-9013 or on the web at earthshare-oregon.org.

The Great Big Sit

Sunday, April 28, 8am–3pm

The perfect Birdathon experience for beginning birders with Corrine and Bryan Crawford.

Millennial Falcons

Sunday, May 27, 8am–12pm

A trip for birders 30 and under, with Erin Cathcart at Fernhill Wetlands.

Jackson Bottom Ramblers

Saturday, May 5, 7am–12pm

Birding with Steve Engel at this Important Bird Area.

Full-Day Trips

Mute Madness

Thursday, May 3, 6am–7pm

Wink Gross and Andy Frank lead a tour of birding hotspots in Multnomah County.

Register now for these trips and others at audubonportland.org and follow the links to Birdathon.

Report your Birdathon adventures and follow us at #BirdathonPDX!