Wild Arts Festival
November 23 & 24 • Pure Space in the Pearl

Vote to Protect the Environment this November!
YES on 26-203: Regional Greenspace Bond Measure and 26-204: Protecting Our Water
A Historic Gift from an Understated Hero

by Nick Hardigg

The generosity and commitment of our supporters is quite moving. Our staff is honored to work here each and every day in service to our cause. Sometimes expressions of support for Portland Audubon’s work leave us almost speechless. I say “almost” because of a recent act of generosity that warrants sharing with our community.

For the past four years, I’ve had the pleasure of getting to know avid birder and Portland native Ken Naito. Ken appreciates our advocacy work and efforts to engage more people with nature. He shared with me how a Catlin Gabel chemistry teacher, Paul Dickinson, made a difference in his life by igniting a lifelong passion for birding. Ken sought ways both to protect nature and to ensure that experience is available for future generations.

I shared that one of Portland Audubon’s greatest challenges—not flashy, but nevertheless quite real—is responding to unforeseen challenges. Threats arise without warning, the economy shifts, foundation priorities change. While a for-profit company can raise capital to meet challenges, a nonprofit’s work will screech to a halt without substantial operating reserves. Although reserves are critical for long-term effectiveness, they don’t attract fanfare or celebration. Ken doesn’t, either.

“In my family’s company, operating reserves have been my mantra…keeping us strong in difficult times. I’d like to make that happen for Audubon.”

Last summer, Ken made the seemingly impossible reality by establishing a million-dollar operating reserve in honor of his teacher, Mr. D. The fund is a reality by establishing a million-dollar operating reserve in honor of his teacher, Mr. D. The fund is restricted for emergencies, must be replenished when used, and provides confidence that—with our community’s continued support—Portland Audubon will continue its leadership role in Oregon conservation for the next 117 years. Thank you, Ken Naito, and thank you, Mr. D.

Sometimes expressions of support for Portland Audubon’s work leave us almost speechless. I say “almost” because of a recent act of generosity that warrants sharing with our community.

The annual Wild Arts Festival is back for its 39th year! This two-day Festival is the Northwest’s premier art and book fair, showcasing regionally and nationally known artists and authors whose work celebrates the natural world.

Perfectly timed for the holidays, the Wild Arts Festival is an opportunity to shop for yourself or give unique and meaningful gifts—all while supporting Portland Audubon’s efforts to inspire people to love and protect native birds, other wildlife, and their habitat across the Oregon landscape.

Join us at our new home at Pure Space in the Pearl and explore beautiful artwork, nature-inspired books, a phenomenal Silent Auction, our brand-new Tiny Birdhouse Community Art project, and much more.

Tickets: wildartsfestival.org • $10 adults; children 14 and under, free

Volunteer: A few slots are still open to help at Wild Arts Festival!

Interested? Contact Kate Fouke at wafvolunteers@audubonportland.org
ART FAIR
Artists appearing at the Art Fair will again present a wide variety of work, ranging from the huge, soaring sculptures of Gunter Reimnitz and the dramatic landscapes of Amanda Houston to palm-sized felted wool birds by Claudia Paillao and bright little metal birds by Julia Garrels. Besides those and other favorite Festival artists, the event will introduce 15 first-time exhibitors. Find something that speaks to you as you browse through work by painters, sculptors, jewelers, photographers, woodworkers, textile artists, ceramicists, and glassblowers.

BOOK FAIR
Book lovers will find favorite authors in a quiet, cozy Book Fair room this year, where they can chat with writers, get autographs, and buy books. If you love to buy books for children, this is the place. New York Times best-selling children’s author Nancy Tillman will be there, as will Portlander Zoe Burke, whose featured title, Count the Birds, is a counting book for little ones. Outdoor enthusiasts will find four authors of books about favorite hikes, including family-friendly ones. Plus, we will have thought-provoking books about nature, conservation heroes, and environmental issues. Fourteen authors are scheduled to sign books from 12–4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Check the signing schedule on the Authors page of our website.

RAFFLE
Some lucky attendee will win an amazing raffle item this year—a Swarovski Spotting Scope and Digiscoping Kit, a like-new factory demo valued at $4,000! We will sell only 200 raffle tickets, priced at $50 each—so be an early bird for your chance to win!

SILENT AUCTION
We have an incredible selection of more than 200 items including art donated by many of the Festival artists, a strong selection of optics, hiking and birding gear, gift certificates, international travel adventures, weekend getaways, and heirlooms. In addition, we have many unique experiences like a tour of the Oregon Zoo’s Condor Recovery Facility and a raptor release with our Wildlife Care Center! None of it would be possible without the generous companies, artists, and individuals who donated to support Portland Audubon. Follow the link to see a sample of what you’ll find: bit.ly/wafauction19

NATURE STORE
A perennial favorite, our Nature Store will have birdhouses, birdfeeders, new logo clothing, holiday ornaments, and more. The store will also offer a limited number of the hot new board game, Wingspan.

FOOD, REFRESHMENTS, & SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR
Refreshments for sale at this year’s event will be provided by Arthouse Café, including beer and wine for a Happy Hour from 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

TINY BIRDHOUSES
We’re excited to debut our brand-new Community Art Project! Following a 12-year run of the 6x6 canvases project, Tiny Birdhouses are the new “canvas” for local artists who wish to create art to donate to our fundraiser. Artist and Craftsman Supply has generously donated the diminutive wooden houses, and artists are busy painting, decoupageing, and otherwise turning them into little masterpieces, which will be for sale at the Festival. Come early for the best selection!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Portland Audubon’s Wild Arts Festival
November 23 & 24, 2019
Pure Space, 1315 NW Overton St.
www.wildartsfestival.org

2 FOR $15 ADMISSION (Admits 2 for $15)
Vote Yes on 26-203 and 26-204 to Protect Metro Greenspaces and Our Water

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

We have two important opportunities to protect water quality, wildlife, and habitat on the November ballot. Ballots are due by November 5, so please remember to vote and help us spread the word.

YES on 26-203: Nature for All
Measure 26-203 would renew the 2006 greenspace bond measure without any increase in taxes and would generate $475 million to protect the most at-risk natural areas in our region. The greenspace bond measures are the foundation of efforts to protect the environment from our most urbanized landscapes to the edge of our urban growth boundary. We have come a long way thanks to prior bond measures in 1995 and 2006, but we still have many critically important habitat areas at risk of development and many communities with inadequate access to nature.

YES on 26-204: Protecting Bull Run Watershed and Portland’s Drinking Water
Measure 26-204 would place protections for the Bull Run Watershed that currently exist only in city code, into the city charter. This is a much stronger level of protection, which can be changed only by a future vote of the community rather than a simple majority of council. Bull Run provides drinking water for nearly a million people, and it provides critically important habitat for Spotted Owls and other wildlife. Nothing is more fundamental to the health of our community than the quality of our water, and its protection belongs in the charter.

Thank You!

Become an Activist
audubonportland.org/take-action

A Big Win for Marbled Murrelets...Will ODFW Do the Right Thing?
by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In June 2018, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission made a decision that was inexplicable even by the low standards this agency has too often set for protecting Oregon’s wildlife. In a 4-2 vote, it reversed, without even the semblance of a coherent explanation, a decision it had made just four months earlier to move the Marbled Murrelet from threatened to endangered status under the State Endangered Species Act. The decisive factor in this reversal seemed to be aggressive lobbying by coastal county commissioners and timber lobbyists at a hearing held in eastern Oregon (300 miles from the nearest murrelet habitat).

The lobbying centered primarily on issues that are not allowed to be considered in listing decisions, at a hearing where reconsideration of the listing decision was not on the agenda. Two months later when people came to the next ODFW Commission hearing and attempted to testify on the surprise reversal, the Commission Chair preemptively threatened to have people removed by state troopers if they attempted to testify on this topic. In the chair’s own rules, such testimony would have violated the “rule of germaneness.”

Now an Oregon State Court has ruled against ODFW based on litigation brought by Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Portland Audubon, and other conservation groups. In August of 2019, Lane County Circuit Court Judge Lauren Holland found that the ODFW Commission failed to provide a written explanation for its decision and kicked the decision back to the ODFW Commission. Now the Commission must decide whether to go with its original decision to uplist the Marbled Murrelet or attempt to justify its subsequent reversal. We believe the science is clear—the Marbled Murrelet is heading for extinction in Oregon unless significant new steps are taken to reverse its decline. The ODFW Commission has not yet indicated how it intends to proceed.

“The science is clear—the Marbled Murrelet is heading for extinction in Oregon unless significant new steps are taken.”

The decision by the ODFW Commission is one of several important upcoming decisions, in which Portland Audubon is actively engaged, that will affect this highly imperiled seabird that nests in mature and old-growth coastal forests:

• The Board of Forestry will consider new rules to protect Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat on private lands.
• A decision is pending in a lawsuit over a private timber company’s efforts to log prime murrelet nesting habitat.
• The Department of State Lands and OSU are developing a long-term plan for the Elliott State Forest, which includes some of the best murrelet habitat left in Oregon.
• The Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests are working with federal agencies to develop Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) to protect federally listed species, including the Marbled Murrelet.
• The decision by the ODFW Commission is one of several important upcoming decisions, in which Portland Audubon is actively engaged, that will affect this highly imperiled seabird that nests in mature and old-growth coastal forests:

The Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests are working with federal agencies to develop Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) to protect federally listed species, including the Marbled Murrelet.

This is a great time to get involved in helping to protect Marbled Murrelets and the mature and old-growth forests on which they depend—the decisions made next year could be the difference between extinction and survival for this species.
**FIELD NOTES**

**Cold-Weather Feathers**

by Harry Nehls

A bird’s body is surrounded by a thick coat of fluffy down that acts as insulation against the cold. The body is kept at a constant 105 degrees F.

Over the soft down is a layer of rather stiff, tough feathers that form a protective cover. These contour feathers are carefully tended by the bird so that they lie flat and overlap each other. Cleaning and waterproofing oils secreted from a gland at the base of the tail are liberally spread over the contour feathers, creating a sealant.

To keep the body warm, this outer layer is held tightly against the downy feathers so that warm air trapped against the body does not escape. During windy weather, birds will face into the wind to keep the contour feathers flat.

The feet of most birds are not feathered but are covered by a thin layer of scales. Scales are not much protection from the cold and ice, but the feet are the main control of the bird’s body temperature.

Heat is distributed by warm blood coursing through the arteries to all parts of the body. It is then returned to the heart through the veins. The arteries and the veins lie close to the bones, with capillaries spreading warm blood to the extremities. During cold weather, the capillaries are constricted, keeping most if not all the warm blood away from the feet. Occasionally one sees a bird stuck to a tree limb or with its toes frozen open. By releasing some warm blood into the capillaries, the bird can warm the feet and solve these problems.

**SIGHTINGS**

by Brodie Cass Talbott

August and September are known to North American birders as shorebird season, as entire populations of birds move from their often far-north breeding grounds to their wintering grounds.

Fittingly, Sauvie Island featured many of the most exciting local birds of the season, including its first Hudsonian Godwit found in a flock of Marbled Godwit, found by Colby Neuman. Tom Myers found a Black-necked Stilt as well as Franklin’s and Sabine’s Gull a bit farther north on the island. A Harlequin Duck found by John Powell on the Multnomah Channel was a Columbia County first.

Colby Neuman and Nick Mrvelj had a surprise Slavonian Grebe flyover at Smith and Bybee Wetlands, which also had Stilt Sandpiper and Snowy Egret reports. Short-billed Dowitcher and Ruff were both present at the nearby Vanport Wetlands. Jay Withgott and an off-leash dog (not his) found a Greater Yellowlegs, photo by Mick Thompson.

As usual, the coastal counties had lots of exciting migrants, including Orchard Oriole and Prairie Warbler in Newport, and American Golden Plover, Summer Tanager, and Tennessee Warbler in Tillamook County. Not to be outdone, Union County had its first Parasitic Jaeger, and a Nazca Booby was recorded in Tillamook County. Also present was a Snail Kite, photo by Abby VanLeuven.

Larch Mountain had a busy fall with reports of Northern Goshawk, Clark’s Nutcracker, and Black-backed Woodpecker. Closing out a busy September, Sarah Swanson and Eric Carlton found a nice combo of Clay-colored and Chipping Sparrows at Oaks Bottom.

A number of statewide rarities were reported, not least of which was an American Golden Plover at Smith and Bybee Wetlands, which also had Short-billed Dowitcher and Ruff. Those are only a few of the many rarities reported across the region. For corrections, tips, and reports, email Brodie Cass Talbott at bccastalbott@portlandaudubon.org.

**Winter Break Camp with Portland Audubon!**

**Grades 1-8 | December 23-January 3**

Whether campers are frolicking through the snow on Mt. Hood and staying overnight at our new Marmot Cabin, learning the art of candlemaking, visiting a wolf sanctuary, or making nature-inspired art, our educators are dedicated to helping every camper build an authentic and meaningful relationship with the natural world. During Winter Break, we offer day camps for youth grades 1-8, ranging from $65-$185 per camp.

**Grades 1-3**

- Dec. 23: Snowy Gnomes
- Dec. 24: Wild in the Winter
- Dec. 25: No Camps
- Dec. 26: Hoots There!
- Dec. 27: Junior Wildlife Vet

**Grades 4-8**

- Dec. 30: Duck Duck Goose
- Dec. 31: Candle Crafting
- Jan. 1: No Camps
- Jan. 2: Wolves I
- Jan. 3: Raptor Road Trip

**Grades 1-3**

- Winter Forest Art
- Creatures of the Night
- No Camps
- Snowy Owls and Polar Bears
- Frosty Fairies

**Grades 4-8**

- Winter Break Adventure
- No Camps
- Wolves II
- Elk Extravaganza
WHERE: Portland Audubon Nature Store
Portland Audubon members get an additional 5% off.
wrapping paper, and ornaments, as well as holiday treats.
December 7 & 8 | 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
WHERE: Pure Space, 1315 NW Overton St.
December 7 & 8 | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
WHERE: Hollywood Theatre
November 12 | 6:30–7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Heron Hall, Portland Audubon
December 1 | 7 p.m.
WHERE: Heron Hall, Portland Audubon

Join Portland Audubon on affordable, full-day or multi-day bird trips to a wide variety of natural areas within a day’s drive of Portland. Expert guiding and camaraderie provided!

Willamette Valley Refuge Fall Series
November 23: Finley National Wildlife Refuge
November 30: Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge
December 7: Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge
The Willamette Valley Refuge System is a haven for thousands of wintering waterfowl, and a sanctuary for imperiled oak savanna habitat. In this series led by Portland Audubon naturalist Brodie Cass-Talbott, we will visit each of the three important refuges as well as the surrounding areas for other notable birds. Register for each trip separately.

Fee: $65 per trip | Transportation provided
Leader: Brodie Cass-Talbott | Limited to 10 participants

Okanogan and the Waterville Plateau
January 15–19
Join us for five days of winter wonderland and fantastic birds. This part of north-central Washington state is the best area in the Pacific Northwest for winter specialties such as Bohemian Waxwing and Gyrfalcon.

Fee: $350 | Transportation NOT provided
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants

Owls of Northwest Oregon
November 14 | 6:30–9:30 p.m. | Class in Heron Hall
This is an introduction to the owls found in the Portland area. After the lecture, explore the Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary in the dark to look and listen for resident owls.

Fee: $35 members / $45 non-members
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 20 participants

Beginner’s Duck: Waterfowl Basics
November 20 | 6:30–8:30 p.m. | Class in Heron Hall
Learn the principles of bird identification by focusing on the ducks and geese that spend the winter in Portland. Apply what you learn at a local birding spot.

Fee: $70 members / $90 non-members | Class only option: $20
Leader: Sarah Swanson | Limited to 12 participants

Raptors in Winter
December 11 | 6:30–8:30 p.m. | Class in Heron Hall
December 14 | 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. | Sauvie Island Field Trip
Join us for an exploration of the raptors that visit the Portland area in winter. In the classroom segment we will explore the natural history and identification of hawks, eagles, falcons, and harriers.

Fee: $60 members / $75 non-members | Class only option: $20
Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 12 participants

Audubon Birding Days

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Audubon Birding Days
January 1 | 8:00–10:00 a.m.
WHERE: Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary
Don’t miss Owls by Day in Walla Walla for a chance to see a Snowy Owl!

Photo by Mick Thompson.

Get free birding tips, expert instruction, and a guided tour of Portland Audubon sanctuary in the dark to look and listen for resident owls.

Fee: $110 members / $130 non-members | Class only option: $20
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 12 participants

Christmas Bird Count
January 4, 2020
The 94th Annual Portland Christmas Bird Count will be held on January 4, 2020. Save the date so you can participate! The Audubon CBC is the longest running community science project in North America. The results have provided critical information on the status and changes in bird populations over the past 118 years. It’s a fun way to spend a day.

Visit our CBC webpage at bit.ly/cbcpdx for more information or contact Joe Liebezeit at jliebezeit@audubonportland.org or Candace Larson clarson@audubonportland.org
Turkey Vulture Thrives After Treatment for Extreme Lead Levels

by Dr. Connie Lo, Veterinarian
Stephan Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager
Ali Berman, Communications Manager

In May, a Colton, Oregon, resident made a strange discovery: a Turkey Vulture flopping in the bushes. Knowing this bird needed help, he drove more than an hour to bring it to our Wildlife Care Center.

Normally we anesthetize animals to take x-rays, but this bird was in such poor condition it just lay still on the table. The x-ray revealed a telltale problem: three lead pellets in the gizzard.

Turkey Vultures, Bald and Golden Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Common Ravens, California Condors, and other scavenging animals are vulnerable to lead poisoning. They are attracted to hunter-killed carcasses or discarded gut piles and unintentionally consume bullet fragments along with the meat. Other species, such as doves and waterfowl, consume lead pellets or fishing tackle inadvertently while foraging for food.

Lead is absorbed as it moves through the digestive tract, causing anemia, decreased digestive function, neurological symptoms, and in severe cases, brain and heart damage that can prove fatal.

We tested this bird’s blood for lead toxicity, and, after repeated error messages, thought our machine might be faulty. We sent the sample to an outside lab and were shocked by what we found. The vulture’s lead level was 6.7 parts per million (ppm) in people, greater than 0.1 ppm indicates possible lead poisoning. And the vulture’s level was 6.7 parts per million (ppm)! In people, greater than 0.1 ppm indicates possible lead poisoning. And the vulture’s level was 6.7 parts per million (ppm)!

To help them pass, we put the bird under anesthesia and placed a feeding tube and a supportive wrap or “crop bra” to ensure adequate nutrition and move food through the system. When we opened the box, the vulture was ready to leave. On a sunny September morning, the vulture stretched its wings and regained strength.

For the next six weeks, the vulture remained healthy,razy condition it just lay still on the table. The x-ray revealed a telltale problem: three lead pellets in the gizzard.

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For the next six weeks, the vulture remained healthy, growing stronger by the day.

Chelation therapy (the method we use to remove the lead from the bird’s system) lasted two months, and by June, the lead level had dropped to 0.192 ppm. By August, it had decreased to 0.08, and this bird was ready to head to our flight cages where it could stretch its wings and regain strength.

Finally, 123 days after the patient entered our care, it was ready to leave. On a sunny September morning, we drove to the release site near a place we knew dead fish routinely show up, providing an easy food source. When we opened the box, the vulture immediately took off. Within a few minutes, the newly released bird was circling above another Turkey Vulture, a beautiful sight to behold after a long and winding road to health.

Lead will continue to pose a risk to our wildlife neighbors as long as we use lead ammunition. Many species are affected, including the highly endangered California Condor, which could return to Oregon after more than 100 years thanks to reintroduction efforts in Northern California. While we are excited for the return of condors, we want to be sure they are adequately protected.

Eliminating the use of lead ammunition in Oregon is a priority for Portland Audubon. There is affordable and effective non-toxic ammunition available on the market right now that would help protect our wildlife as well as hunters families that consume game meat. On July 1, 2019, a full regulatory ban on the use of lead ammunition for hunting went into effect across the entire State of California. Oregon to date has adopted a slower voluntary approach to promoting the transition on non-toxic ammunition. Regardless of the approach, it is important that there is clear data indicating that this shift is occurring. We have known for more than a century that lead is toxic to birds and it is long past time to get the lead out of our ammunition.
The state of Oregon is currently updating its Rocky Habitat Management Plan, providing an opportunity to expand and bolster protections of these vulnerable habitats. Oregon’s iconic rocky habitats are both biologically and culturally important, making up 41% of the state’s 362-mile coastline. From famous Haystack Rock on the north coast to the numerous majestic sea stacks and headlands of the south, these rocky habitats support a wealth of marine life—colonial nesting seabirds, marine mammals, kelp and sea grass beds, and thousands of fish and invertebrate species. These breathtaking rocky features and headlands attract millions of visitors and recreationists each year.

It’s been 25 years since the original plan was developed, but a lot has changed since then. Growing impacts related to a changing climate (e.g., ocean acidification) and increasing human visitation have increased stress on these sensitive places. With the help of a Rocky Habitat Working Group, the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is leading a process to update the plan, the intention being to balance site protections with human use. Currently DLCD is pulling together the most recent ecological, oceanic, and human-use information to create a Rocky Habitat Web Mapping Tool that will be an important resource to aid the development of site designation proposals. Current site designations include (1) Marine Garden, (2) Marine Research Area, and (3) Marine Conservation Area. Of these three designations, Marine Conservation Area will offer the strongest protection measures. Marine Garden will balance maintaining ecological integrity while prioritizing public access and education. Marine Research Area will maintain the natural system to support scientific research and monitoring. While many of the sites in the original 1994 plan will maintain their designations, there are a suite of other sites that were considered potentially worthy of protection during the original planning effort but were left as “Not Yet Designated.” This includes places like Ecola Point, Seal Rock, and Devil’s Backbone.

DLCD’s Web Mapping Tool is expected to be completed by the end of 2019, and by spring of 2020 they will start to accept site designation proposals from the public and other entities to be reviewed for consideration. This is an excellent opportunity for evaluating and advocating for stronger protections for rocky habitats where deemed necessary. Portland Audubon has been tracking this process for over a year. Through public testimony and working with DLCD staff, we have helped expand designation consideration to subtidal rocky habitats, strengthened site designation definitions, and have pushed for relevant agencies to take a stronger role in site designation proposals as well as removing hindrances to make it easier for the eventual public-led site designation proposals.

Portland Audubon is working with coastal partners to increase outreach and engagement and educate on this process as well as evaluate a list of sites to consider for stronger protections. There will be multiple public comment opportunities on this process prior to the call for site designation proposals. To learn more visit our Rocky Habitat webpage: bit.ly/ORrockyshores

Contact Joe Liebezeit at jliebezeit@audubonportland.org to get on our coastal marine supporter list and receive periodic updates and action alerts on this and other coastal marine issues.
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

The Dire Situation for North American Birds—And How We Can Make a Difference
by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

This fall saw the release of two major reports describing the perilous state of North American birds. Together, they serve as a wake-up call for anyone concerned about not only birds, but the health of our planet.

In September the Cornell Lab of Ornithology published the report “Decline of North American Avifauna” in the journal Science, reporting a decline of nearly 3 billion breeding birds across every North American biome since 1970. This represents a nearly 30 percent decline in bird populations over the past five decades. The report used a variety of standardized long-term data sets to estimate population changes in 529 North American bird species as well as weather radar to estimate changes in biomass of night-migrating birds. The researchers found that 57 percent of the species reviewed are experiencing long-term declines, not only species that are considered imperiled, but also common species. Among the most hard-hit are grassland birds (53 percent decline), but there are productive paths forward.

What is Portland Audubon doing to protect birds?

Portland Audubon has been fighting for Oregon’s birds since 1902 beginning with advocacy to establish the first wildlife refuges in the west at Malheur, Klamath, and Three Arch Rocks and Oregon’s first bird protection sanctuary. Portland Audubon prioritizes working to recover Oregon’s most at risk species and the habitats on which they depend, including Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets (mature and old-growth forests), Greater Sage-Grouse (sage-steppe), and Streaked Horned Larks (grasslands). As California Condors return to Oregon in the coming years, we will amp up our focus on the biggest threat to their recovery, the continued use of lead ammunition.

Beyond our focus on birds, we have prioritized combating climate change through opposition to new fossil fuel projects, reducing emissions, promoting landscape resiliency, and ensuring that new renewable energy facilities such as wind and solar farms are properly sited to minimize wildlife impacts.

There are many ways to get involved. We need your voice and your energy:

- Our Backyard Habitat Certification Program, co-managed with Columbia Land Trust, is a great place to start. Over 40 percent of our urban landscape is residential, and joining the more than 5,000 people already enrolled is a direct way to improve the health of our urban landscape.
- You can get involved in one of our many community science projects that help research the status of Oregon’s bird populations, from her rocky shores in the west to her sage-steppe deserts in the east. Our Christmas Bird Count, now approaching its 100th year, is part of a nationwide effort that provided some of the foundational data for both the Cornell and National Audubon reports.
- Finally, please become an Audubon activist—we need your voices to force the type of policy changes that are needed to make the changes fundamental changes to protect the environment on which both we and birds depend.

Among our top priorities in the coming years are restoration of two important bird refuge complexes on the Pacific Flyway at Klamath and Malheur, protection of remaining old-growth forests, and expansion of Oregon’s fledging system of marine reserves. In the Portland Metro Region, we continue to build an interconnected system of natural areas using strategies including acquisition, regulation, and voluntary action.

While habitat is the top priority, we cannot ignore other anthropogenic threats that put additional pressures on already stressed bird populations. We have developed a number of cutting-edge habitat-hazard-reduction campaigns including Cats Safe at Home to humanely reduce the number of free-roaming cats, BirdSafe Buildings to reduce window collisions, Lights Out to reduce light pollution, as well as campaigns focused on pesticides and poaching.

Imperiled species point us toward the most acute threats. Portland Audubon prioritizes working to recover Oregon’s most at risk species and the habitats on which they depend, including Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets (mature and old-growth forests), Greater Sage-Grouse (sage-steppe), and Streaked Horned Larks (grasslands). As California Condors return to Oregon in the coming years, we will amp up our focus on the biggest threat to their recovery, the continued use of lead ammunition.

The biggest threat to wild birds remains habitat loss and fragmentation, regardless. Our initiatives focus on marine, forest, grassland, desert (sage-steppe), wetland, and urban ecosystems to ensure that the most important bird habitats are protected and restored.

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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.

Backyard Bird Shop
McDonald Jacobs, P.C.

Bob’s Red Mill
Miller Nash Graham & Duen LLP

Cindy Thompson
Miller Paint Co.

Event Production
Mountain Rose Herbs

Columbia Sportswear
Paxton Gate PDX

The Commerce Group
Portland Audubon Nature Store

David Evans and Associates
Portland General Electric

Erath Winery
Portland General Electric

Eyes on Broadway
Portland Nursery

Garden Fever
Pro Photo

Grow Construction
Sauvie Island Coffee Company

Inn @ Northrup Station
Selco Community

JD Fulwiler & Co. Insurance
Credit Union

KPF
Silver Rain Massage

Labrewatory
Tibury Ferguson Investment

Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.
Urban Asset Advisors

McCoy Foat & Company PC, CPA’s
Vernier Software & Technology

West Bearing Investments

Watershed Garden Works, Inc.
2039 44th Ave, Longview, WA | 360-423-6456
watershedgardenworks.com

A small nursery & farm growing a wide variety of PNW native plants for public & private landowners.

Klamath Basin Audubon’s
WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL

Save the dates! Feb. 13-16, 2020

4 days of field trips, workshops, & presentations for birders, photographers, & families

Klamath Falls, Oregon

Cozy up at Portland Audubon!

With the changing seasons in Portland, it can be easy to stay cooped up inside. But don’t let the rain stop you from enjoying a bit of the outdoors. The Portland Audubon Sanctuary is the perfect spot for a quick hike! You can say hello to our education birds as you head down the trail, take shelter from the rain under a large old-growth tree, or listen for the song of a Varied Thrush ringing through the forest. Afterward, stop by the Nature Store to warm up by the fire and check out our wide selection of holiday gifts and backyard bird supplies.

Holiday Open House and Zeiss Digiscoping

December 7 & 8, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Mark your calendar for our annual Holiday Open House! The full holiday spread—gifts, cards, wrapping paper, and ornaments—will be on display, and please enjoy complimentary hot beverages and holiday treats. Portland Audubon members will receive an additional 5% off everything in the store (a 15% discount!).

Saturday morning, a very special guest from Zeiss Optics will be on hand to teach you about digiscoping—using your scope or binoculars to take pictures with your camera or phone. There will also be special deals on Zeiss binoculars and spotting scopes. Check our website for details!

PNW Pick

Found & Rewound

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

Jordan Kim, owner and creator of Found & Rewound, specializes in mixed media paper collages with a unique style and purpose. “My mission is to create art that inspires you to honor and celebrate our connections to each other and the natural world,” says Kim. Each collage resembles a painting and features PNW themes and people, often with hidden words.

Optics Focus

Vortex VIP Warranty

After researching, budgeting, and comparing models before choosing your new binocular or scope, a solid manufacturer warranty can make all the difference in the final choice.

That’s where Vortex’s VIP Warranty has you covered. VIP stands for “Very Important Promise”—Vortex’s pledge to customers that their investment is protected, no matter the cause. This is a true lifetime, no fault warranty. Vortex will repair or replace your damaged Vortex optic at no cost to you, forever. No registration, and no receipt needed. You simply fill out an online form, and send in for repairs. It couldn’t be easier!
Portland Audubon inspires all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends.

Make a Gift to Portland Audubon

Together for Nature, we as a community have the power to ensure a healthy future for thousands of bird species and other wildlife through a far-reaching and inclusive environmental movement.

This giving season, please make a special gift to Portland Audubon to keep this exciting momentum going in support of all the people and wildlife we serve across Oregon.

Give a gift of any size today: audubonportland.org/support

Birdy Brain Buster!

How many of the world’s birds are regular migrants?

a. 2,000
b. 4,000
c. 6,000
d. 8,000