Holiday Gift Guide!
FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A Look Back at 2019
by Nick Hardigg

At Portland Audubon, we have a lot to be thankful for. As I look back on the year, I am filled with gratitude for the passionate staff, volunteers, donors, members, activists, community scientists, education participants, and partners who play an integral role in protecting birds, wildlife, and habitat in our region.

With the support of our community, we made significant strides for people, wildlife, and habitat this year. Not only did voters turn out in impressive numbers to pass the Metro Greenspaces Bond Measure to protect and expand habitat and access to nature in our region, but we increased protections for the Bull Run Watershed, helped ban the bird poison Avitrol on land owned by the City of Portland, successfully advocated for funding to develop a light-pollution reduction scoping project, and created even more interconnected habitat by expanding our Backyard Habitat Certification Program to all counties in the Portland area.

It was a year of growth quite literally for our Wildlife Sanctuary in NW Portland, which expanded by 22 acres thanks to the Kehoe family, the City, and generous donors, preserving and protecting vital wildlife habitat.

Our education team also had a big year connecting more than 6,000 youth and 5,000 adults to the natural world through quality education programs, from summer camps to ecotours to outdoor school to natural history classes and beyond.

We couldn’t do it without you. Each step forward makes Portland Audubon an increasingly effective and inclusive conservation organization. We’re looking forward to what a new year brings. Here’s to 2020!

The holiday season is fast approaching, and that means finding the perfect gifts for our loved ones.

For bird and nature lovers, nothing quite hits the spot like something that connects us to the natural world. And even better? When that gift also supports protecting both wildlife and their habitat. Whether you want to give a new pair of optics, ecotour, camp, field guide, or donation to protect wildlife, we have something for every nature buff on your list!

Everything You Could Want and More Is at the Nature Store

The Nature Store is your one-stop shop for all your holiday needs (and members get a 10% discount on all purchases). All profits at the Nature Store go toward wildlife conservation right here in Oregon. With a large selection of binoculars and scopes, local and international field guides, games and toys for kids, birdhouses and feeders for the backyard, ornaments, and so much more, make the Nature Store your first and last stop as you search for the perfect gift.

Make a Gift in Honor of Someone You Love

The person you choose to honor with your gift will be recognized in the Warbler newsletter, and an elegant songbird-themed card will be mailed to those receiving the tribute. All tribute gifts add to a long legacy of support for crucial conservation initiatives across the state. A perfect way to show the nature lover in your life that you know what’s really important to them.

Sponsor a Wild Thing

Our Animal Ambassadors hold a special place in the hearts of visitors of all ages. This holiday season, sponsor one of our education animals. You’ll receive a packet that talks all about the animal and can follow up with a visit to meet them in person. Your sponsorship helps pay for the care of Ruby the Turkey Vulture, Aristophanes the Common Raven, Xena the American Kestrel, Julio the Great Horned Owl, or Bybee the Western Painted Turtle, who cannot be released back into the wild and have permanent homes here at Portland Audubon where they help us educate thousands of people each year.
Give a Portland Audubon Membership

In addition to joining the community of 16,000 passionate members, the recipient will get the inside scoop on classes and trips, birding spots, and issues impacting Oregon’s wildlife. Memberships also come with exclusive perks:

- A one-year subscription to our bimonthly print newsletter, the Warbler
- Member-only discounts on Nature Store purchases
- Member-only discounts on classes, trips, and camps

Classes and Audubon Birding Days

Your favorite birding lover will love a gift certificate for our Adult Education program. We offer a wide array of classes that will help them sharpen their bird identification skills, create exquisite nature journals, and join our expert naturalists on daylong Audubon Birding Days at some of Oregon’s most stunning wild spaces. With a gift certificate, they can choose what ignites their passion most!

Contribute to Our Scholarship Fund

Sometimes the best gifts are given to people we’ve never even met. When you choose to give to our Scholarship Fund, you help make life-changing experiences with the outdoors available to all families. Help us fulfill our mission to inspire all people to love experiences with the outdoors available to all families.

Give the Gift of Saving a Life

Every year our Wildlife Care Center treats 3,000 injured and orphaned native birds, mammals, and other native species. In addition, our Wildlife Hotline, open 365 days a year from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., fields more than 10,000 phone calls, helping people to peacefully coexist with their wild neighbors. Your gift ensures we can provide the best care for our patients and serve as a hub for reducing wildlife/human conflicts all over the region.

Sign Up for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program has reached its full build-out, which means residents in most cities in Multnomah, Clackamas, Clark, and Washington Counties can sign up and join more than 5,000 properties that are restoring habitat right in their backyards. It’s the perfect gift for your favorite gardener, providing them with the tools they need to turn their yard into a native habitat oasis for wildlife. And nothing brings a bird to the yard better than native plants.

Winter, Spring and Summer Camps

On our winter, spring, and summer camps, youth may discover a Coastal Giant Salamander along our trails, observe a Bald Eagle soaring over the Gorge, or see whales off the San Juan Islands. Or perhaps they want to learn archery, the craft of fire making, or nature photography. No matter what they choose, the child or teen in your life will get to learn, play, and explore, all while making friends, connecting to nature, and making lifelong memories.

Blow Their Minds with an Ecotour

Want a real showstopper? Surprise the special person in your life with an ecotour. (It doubles as a gift for yourself if you go on the trip together!) Upcoming 2020 trips include international destinations like Machu Picchu, Madagascar, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Pacific Northwest trips to Skagit Valley, Klamath Basin, Malheur, and Northern California. Led by experienced naturalists, our world-class ecotour program offers an unforgettable experience to wildlife hotspots at home and abroad. Our trips are a treasure of birding, wildlife-watching, natural history, and cultural experience.

Where the Profits Are for the Birds!

This holiday season, treat yourself or your loved one to a nature-inspired gift from the Nature Store! Nestled in Portland Audubon’s 172-acre Wildlife Sanctuary, nature lovers can try out optics, browse our vast selection of books, and talk to our expert staff and dedicated volunteers to find what they are looking for.

Wildlife Enamel Pins by Eagle River Designs

High-quality, colorful enamel in a wide variety of native Oregon species. With birds, mammals, fish, and even insects, there is sure to be a pin for you!

Member price: $5.40

Audubon Chirping Birds by Wild Republic

With realistic sounds and colors, these plush birdies are fun and informative. Choose from over 25 species of Pacific Northwest birds!

Member price: $7.20

Wildlife Care Center, Portland Audubon

Every year our Wildlife Care Center treats 3,000 injured and orphaned native birds, mammals, and other native species. In addition, our Wildlife Hotline, open 365 days a year from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., fields more than 10,000 phone calls, helping people to peacefully coexist with their wild neighbors. Your gift ensures we can provide the best care for our patients and serve as a hub for reducing wildlife/human conflicts all over the region.

Wilderness First Aid Kit by Kikkerland

Don’t be caught in a pinch on your next outdoor excursion! This kit includes bandages, wipes, antibacterial ointment, and more, and comes in a small, lightweight, reusable tin, easy to throw in your gear.

Member price: $8.10

Sparkly Rainbow Makers by Woodstock Chimes

Beauty, color, and music all combine to create this collectible item that wonderfully captures birds, mammals, and insects all found in the PNW. Crystal Fantasy Rainbow Maker is a beautiful fit for any collection.

Member price: $19.80

Rite in the Rain Notebooks and Pens

Don’t let your precious field notes get ruined! This wood-based, recyclable paper won’t disintegrate when exposed to rain, sweat, grease, or an accidental laundry ride.

3x5” Pocket Notebook member price: $4.95

Puzzles and Games

Choose from 30-piece children’s puzzles and up to 500 and 1,000 pieces. With lots of bird and nature-themed designs, there is sure to be one for the family to enjoy. Are board games more your style? Check out Wingspan, voted 2019’s best new board game, for an accurate and fun birding game. Other games include Charley Harper’s Spot the Birds, and Bird Bingo.

Wingspan Board Game member price: $49.50
Member price: $14.36

and the longest migration.

to the smelliest to the longest toes

wide world of birds—from the fastest

Leslie Bulion introduces us to the

Award-winning scientist and poet

Superlative Birds

by Leslie Bulion

A delightful treasury of mushroom lore with over

180 entries, from Alice in

Wonderland to zombie ants

and more.

Member price: $15.26

BIRDS OF THE WORLD

by Steve N.G. Howell and

Kirk Zufelt

The ultimate guide to

plumage variations, flight

patterns, migration routes

and seasonal distribution,

and the latest taxonomy,

with 2,200+ color photos.

Member price: $31.50

Oceanic Birds of the World

by Steve N.G. Howell and

Kirk Zufelt

With whimsical watercolors

and bold prints, Molly

Hashimoto’s artwork captures

the spirit of birds and the

natural world through block

printing, pen and ink sketches,

watercolor, etching, and more.

Member price: $20.66

BIRDS OF THE WEST

by Molly Hashimoto

Our Wild Calling

by Richard Louv

Blending knowledge from

science and research, wildlife

experts, indigenous healers,

and psychologists, Our Wild

Calling shows how animals

and people have been

communicating for centuries.

Member price: $25.16

Our Wild Calling

by Richard Louv

A perfect introductory pair of binoculars for the beginner

or occasional birder, inspired by Oregon’s natural

landscape! Ideal for almost all types of daytime wildlife

observation, these affordable binoculars are a great tool

for the casual naturalist or budding birder.

Member price: $20.66

Birds of the West

by Molly Hashimoto

Fungipedia

by Lawrence Millman

A delightful treasury of mushroom lore with over

180 entries, from Alice in

Wonderland to zombie ants

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Our Wild Calling

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Learn how to choose a sit spot to be

still and observe, or make a habitat

map of your backyard or favorite park.

Member price: $16.16

Ricky in the City: Where the Wildlife

Live by Judith L. Li and M. L. Herring

From helping count fish in Tryon

Creek to recording backyard

hummingbird feeder stats to tracking

mammals in the city, Ricky and Ellie’s

Portland adventures show them how

many ways people care for urban

wildlife!

Member price: $16.16

Ricky in the City: Where the Wildlife

Live by Judith L. Li and M. L. Herring

Put on Your Owl Eyes

by Devin Franklin

Learn how to choose a sit spot to be

still and observe, or make a habitat

map of your backyard or favorite park.

This outdoor activity and adventure

guide is designed to get kids outside

to interact with nature.

Member price: $14.36

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BIRDS OF THE WEST

by Molly Hashimoto

Swarovski EL 8.5×42

Leaders in the sport optics field, Swarovski glass

is manufactured to the highest standards at their

headquarters in Austria. For years, the EL models have

set the industry benchmark in terms of performance,

image sharpness, and color reproduction. Boasting a

superb close focus, flat image, and field of view, these

dynamic binoculars may very well be the last pair you

ever need to buy!

$2,954.50 Regular / $2,659 Member

 Incredible Deals from Zeiss!!

From now through December 31, 2019, Zeiss is offering

four promotions on binoculars and scopes that are sure
to get binders excited.

• $50 instant saving on all Terra ED 32 and 42 models
• Purchase one Conquest Gavia 85mm spotting scope, and receive a free pair of Terra ED 42mm binoculars, either 8x or 10x – your choice! ($449.99/499.99 value)
• Purchase one 85/95mm Harpia spotting scope, and receive a free pair of Terra ED 42mm binoculars, either 8x or 10x – your choice! ($449.99/499.99 value)
• Purchase one 85/95mm Harpia spotting scope, and receive a free Harpia Vario eyepiece ($800 value).
• Purchase any scope (including the two in the deals above) and get a FREE Phoneskope kit! ($78 value)

Portland Audubon Members receive 10% off their

optics purchases at the Nature Store and have 14 days
to return or exchange. During the Holiday Open House
(12/7-12/8) members will receive an additional 5% off

their purchases, including optics!
FIELD NOTES
by Harry Nehls

Varied Thrush: Shy and Striking Altitudinal Migrant

The Varied Thrush is one of the most distinctive birds of the dark, damp western forests. It shuns sunlight and open places and is most often observed as a dark shadow flitting away into thick cover. In this situation it is best identified as a chunky, short-tailed robin-like bird showing conspicuous white tips to the outer tail.

The Varied Thrush breeds from Alaska southward to northwestern California and eastward into Idaho and Montana. During the winter, most birds vacate their range north of southern British Columbia and move into Washington, Oregon, and California. They also leave the higher elevation forests throughout its range and move into the lowlands.

During the winter months Varied Thrushes remain in heavy cover, with many moving into oak groves to feed on acorns, while others clean up the available fruit and berries. Many visit neighborhood bird feeders, the only thrush that regularly does so. It is also the only thrush that is attracted to and can handle cracked corn.

A shortage of food, heavy snow, ice, or floods that cover what is available often force wintering birds to move even farther south or to coastal bottomlands. Even in winter they are seldom encountered in more than small groups or individuals, and one might consider them uncommon. The winter population in Oregon is actually very high during most years.

During periods of heavy snows these ground feeding birds become quite vulnerable. Their food supplies become covered and they must move out to open wind-blown areas where the ground is clear. Quite often this is along roadways where many of the congregated birds are struck by traffic. They are also exposed to predatory attacks. Undoubtedly heavy snows and ice kill many every year in one way or another.

The change in climate, from summer to winter, seems abrupt this year, and the change in the rarity landscape was equally noticeable, as birds left the mudflats to search through grassy fields and the Columbia River.

Many of the expected Columbia River “rantsies” returned this fall, including Red-necked Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, Eared Grebe, Pacific Loon, and White-winged Scoter, but a Pelagic Cormorant spotted by Nick Mrvelj was an exceptional find. As the name implies, these birds rarely leave their coastal confines. More recently along the river, Andy Frank found a Snow Bunting east of Broughton Beach, the traditional Portland spot to see these dainty arctic sparrows.

A long-staying Long-tailed Duck was found at Hagg Lake by Stefan Schlick, and a Palm Warbler was found at Fernhill Wetlands a few days later by Steve Nord.

Mountain Chickadees continue to be sporadically seen in the area, with the most recent report coming from Angel’s Rest, as local birders hope for another invasion like the winter of 2016, when they were found across the city.

An Emperor Goose was found on the Columbia County side of Sauvie Island by John Bogin in early November. These attractive little geese are usually reported about once a year across the state, and are overshoots: they generally both breed and winter in Alaska and nearby Russia. Another diminutive, solitary goose in the form of a Brant was found mixed in with Cackling Geese by a few of the many who went searching for the Emperor.

Stray wintering sap suckers have started to return, including a Red-naped in Sherwood that wintered in the same neighborhood last year, found again by Rick Brennet, and a Yellow-bellied found in Yamhill County by Linda Fink.

Outside of the valley, Russ Namitz was able to find a Brown Booby in Coos County, where a Rusty Blackbird was also spotted at Cape Arago.

For reports, corrections, and tips, email Brodie Cass Talbott at bcassalbott@audubonportland.org.

SIGHTINGS
by Brodie Cass Talbott

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Winter Break Camp with Portland Audubon!

Grades 1-8 | December 23-January 3

Portland Audubon Winter Break Camps are the perfect way to get your child outside and into the beauty of the Pacific Northwest during school break, on wintry adventures that they will remember for a lifetime.

Each day-long camp, led by experienced educators, inspires kids to love and protect nature while making friends, playing in the winter weather, and finding their place in the natural world. We have 15 unique offerings for grades 1-8 that immerse youth in programs that are fun, safe, inclusive, and completely nature-based.

Grades 1-3

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Grades 4-8

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Register online at audubonportland.org
### SPECIAL EVENTS
Visit audubonportland.org/events for a full list of all upcoming events.

### Nature Store Holiday Open House
December 7 & 8 | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Join the Nature Store for holiday cheer with gifts, cards, wrapping paper, and ornaments, as well as holiday treats. Portland Audubon members get an additional 5% off.

Where: Portland Audubon Nature Store

### NATURE NIGHT
Stanley Gehrt: Exploring the Mysteries of Coyotes in the City
January 14 | 7 p.m.
Stanley Gehrt, PhD will be joining us all the way from the Midwest to share his nearly 20-year study of how coyotes in Chicago have adapted to the city as their natural environment and share previously unknown details of how they live in harmony with the bustling concrete jungle.

Where: Location TBD

### Christmas Bird Count
January 4
Join the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) for a fun day identifying and counting birds seen in designated 15-mile diameter circles. This long-standing program of the National Audubon Society is lending important insight into the health and status of bird populations across North America.

### AUDUBON BIRDING DAYS
Join Portland Audubon on affordable, all-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 Refuges: Basket Slough
December 7 | 7 a.m.–5 p.m.
Join Brodie Cass Talbott for a trip to Basket Slough National Wildlife Refuge, the final trip in a series of Audubon Birding Days exploring the Willamette Valley Refuge System, a haven for wintering waterfowl, and a sanctuary for impenetrable oak savanna habitat.

Fee: $65 | 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 by Day in Walla Walla
January 24–26
Join this unique self-catering trip to see day-roosting owls, such as Northern Saw-whet, Northern Pygmy, Long-eared, and an occasional Snowy Owl.

Fee: $200 | Transportation NOT provided
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants

#### Tillamook
February 1 | 6:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
Join Stefan on a day trip to Tillamook to search for rarities in the lowlands and visiting hotspots such as Kilchis Point Preserve, Barview Jetty, and Bayocean.

Fee: $65 | Transportation provided
Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants

### Classes
#### Raptors in Winter
December 11 | 6:30–8:30 p.m. | Class in Heron Hall
December 14 | 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | Sauvie Island Field Trip
Join us for an exploration of the raptors of the Portland area in winter. In the classroom we will explore the natural history and identification of hawks, eagles, falcons, and harriers.

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

#### Bird Journals
January 18: Birds in Winter | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
February 22: Bird Scenes | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Explore ways to create a charming, personal, and colorful visual record. Practice seeing in a new way, drawing what is essential, and using watercolor to add zest!

Fee: $55 members / $75 non-members per session
Instructor: Jude Siegel | Limited to 16 participants

#### Beginning Field Birding and Sauvie Exploration
Three-part series: February 1, March 7, April 4
8 a.m.–12 p.m. | Sauvie Island Field Trip
Interested in developing and sharpening your birding skills? Explore Sauvie Island, learn bird calls, and search for waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors.

Fee: $85 members / $105 non-members
Instructors: Greg Baker and Ricky Allen | Limited to 15 participants

#### Little Brown Birds
February 27 | 6:30–8:30 p.m. | Class in Heron Hall
February 29 | 8 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | Local field trip
At first glance those little brown birds flitting through the brush look alike, but with a little practice you’ll learn to recognize the great variety of birds found in the area.

Fee: $55 members / $70 non-members | Class only option: $20 Instructor: John Rakestraw | Limited to 14 participants

### ADULT EDUCATION
#### Board Elections
Each March, our Board elects its Directors from a slate of candidates. Directors are limited to serving two consecutive three-year terms, with committee chairs allowed to extend service for additional one-year terms.

The Board Affairs Committee welcomes recommendations for candidates by sending an email to the Membership Department, care of Charles Milne, cmilne@audubonportland.org, or on or before February 3, 2020. Additionally, members may directly nominate a candidate by submitting a petition signed by 10 or more members to the Board Affairs Committee no later than February 3, 2020. Candidates nominated by petition will automatically be placed on the election ballot. Please note: qualified candidates must be current Portland Audubon members. (For more background on our elections and bylaws, please see the March 2019 issue of the Warbler.)

—Nick Hardigg, Executive Director

### Outings
Portland Audubon offers free, volunteer-led outings across the Portland Metro Area. We strive to create a vibrant space for everyone to enjoy birds and wildlife while exploring our natural areas.

All skill levels are welcome! You can find the full list of outings and sign up on meetup.com/portland-audubon-outings.
Przewalski’s Wild Horses in Mongolia, photo by Garrett Ziegler.

February 21–23, 2020
Experiences sights and sounds of tens of thousands of Snow Geese setting into their feeding grounds. Enjoy a variety of raptors such as Gyr Falcon and Short-eared Owl.

Fee: $645 members / $745 non-members
Leaders: Stefan Schlick and April Brown

Machu Picchu & the Sacred Valley
May 9–15, 2020
From the cloud forest and valleys to the high Andes we will tally an impressive list of birds and wildlife that makes this area a must-see destination for birders, while also appreciating the rich cultural history of the area. Explore the cobblestone streets of Cusco, admire the mysterious citadel of Machu Picchu, and enjoy a dazzling assortment of birds, such as the Peruvian endemic Inca Wren.

Fee: $3,195 members / $3,495 non-members
Leaders: Dan van den Broek and local guides

Trinidad & Tobago
April 7–17, 2020
Come bird, watch nesting sea turtles, snorkel, and simply savor the tropical paradise and cultural vibrancy of Trinidad and Tobago. We will split our time between two ecologies (including the world-famous Asa Wright Nature Center), providing a unique opportunity to slow down and be intentional about learning neotropical birds in one of the richest birding countries per square mile.

Fee: $4,995 members / $5,495 non-members
Leaders: Erin Law, Greg Smith, and local guides

DOMESTIC ECOTOURS

Klamath Basin
May 30–June 3, 2020
Head on a five-day tour to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, located in remote and beautiful southeastern Oregon. Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is a world-class birder’s paradise. A variety of habitats, including extensive marshes, sedgebrush flats, riparian thickets, and rimrock support a diversity of wildlife. Field birding and natural history are the focus of this exciting trip.

Fee: $995 members / $1,195 non-members
Leaders: Candace Larson and Mary Coolidge

Malheur Foray
May 30–June 3, 2020
Foray leaders Candace Larson and Mary Coolidge will take birders on a five-day tour of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, home to six species of the world’s rarer birds, including a variety of raptors such as Gyrfalcon and Short-eared Owl. Enjoy the sight of thousands of Snow Geese settling into their feeding grounds. This is a birder’s paradise. A variety of habitats, including extensive marshes, sedgebrush flats, riparian thickets, and rimrock support a diversity of wildlife. Field birding and natural history are the focus of this trip.

Fee: $995 members / $995 non-members
Leaders: Candace Larson and Mary Coolidge

Mongolia
June 14–29, 2020
Mongolia is a place of staggering beauty. Enjoy traditional Mongolian food in a communal setting and experience the Mongolian Steppe, and the Gobi Desert. Explore varied habitats which include Siberian Taiga, the Mongolian food in a communal setting and experience the Mongolian Steppe, and the Gobi Desert. Explore varied habitats which include Siberian Taiga, the Mongolian Steppe, and the Gobi Desert.

Fee includes: Ground transportation, double-occupancy lodging, meals except dinners, entrance fees for planned activities and the services of your leaders. Airfare not included.

Fee: $5,295 members / $5,595 non-members
Leader: Stefan Schlick

2020
Feb. 21–23 Skagit Valley
March 26–29 Klamath Basin
May 15–28 Poland
May 30–June 3 Malheur
June 4–7 Central Oregon
June 14–28 Mongolia
July 9–12 Idaho’s Cassia Crossbills
Sept. 11–13 Grays Harbor
Sept. 15–19 California Condors
Sept. 21–27 NE Washington
Sept. 30-Oct. 4 Steens
Nov. 2–19 Colombia
Nov. 7–16 Madagascar
Feb. 8–23 Ghana
March 10–17 San Blas

For more than 100 years, Portland Audubon has organized the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in the metro area, recruiting volunteers to fan out across a 15-mile-wide circle to identify and count every bird seen or heard. Results from all Christmas Bird Counts are contributed annually to National Audubon, whose database includes data from thousands of CBC circles across North America and the world. Data from Community Science efforts like the Christmas Bird Count provide critical insight into the status of bird populations, helps inform conservation efforts across the globe, and contributes to hundreds of published scientific studies.

Most recently, National Audubon published a new report, “Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink,” an update of its 2014 report finding that nearly two-thirds of all bird species in North America are at risk due to impacts from climate change. And top ornithologists from nine institutions recently published a study in the journal Science entitled “Decline of the North American Avifauna” that indicated a cumulative loss of 29% of our continent’s birds—nearly 3 billion birds in total—since 1970. Such studies are sobering and should compel us all to get involved in efforts to fight climate change, protect habitats, and participate in community science efforts like the CBC.

We highlight species trends over the course of 80 years (1938-2017) for several notable species. We envision these trends or trends in other seasons. For example, neotropical migrants and shorebird species that spend their winters south, many of which are declining and are species of concern, like Rufous Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, and Dunlin, are not covered. Still, although these trends should be interpreted cautiously, they provide a window into Portland’s “avifauna past” and help us gain perspective into how winter bird communities have fared over nearly a century.

The wealth of data collected by the Portland CBC lends perspective on how local and regional conservation efforts have benefited some species, while reflecting how other species face challenges surviving in Portland’s dynamic landscape. The CBC data also help us to look ahead and more effectively plan conservation action for the future. You can play a part in these efforts—all while enjoying a fun day in the field with fellow bird-loving volunteers. If you haven’t yet signed up for the 94th Portland CBC on January 4, contact us and be a participant!
Peregrine Falcon
9.5% annual increase

Peregrine populations were decimated by the use of DDT during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s. However, banning DDT in 1972 and listing the Peregrine under the Endangered Species Act in 1973 allowed this species to rebound successfully across the country, and it was removed from the Federal Endangered Species List in 1999. On the Portland CBC, Peregrines began to appear consistently starting in the mid-1990s, and since then have steadily increased in low numbers. Portland Audubon played a role in protecting this species in the city as well as throughout Oregon.

Anna’s Hummingbird
11.3% annual increase

Prior to 1968, this species had not been documented on the Portland CBC at all. Today, it is one of our most common birds. A recent study from the University of Washington suggests the dramatic northward range expansion of this California species was initially driven by introduced plants and hummingbird feeders, but that climate change may play an increasingly important role in shaping its future range.

Western Meadowlark
4.8% annual decrease

Willamette Valley grassland bird populations have been in decline for decades. Habitat conversion for agriculture is a prime reason, while in the Portland area, open habitat has also been lost to urban/suburban development. Highest recorded numbers of meadowlarks on the Portland CBC were in the 1940s, tapering down to few detections in the 1990s and early 2000s. In the past 10 years, numbers have risen but are still much lower than in the early 20th century.

Northern Flicker
0.7% annual decrease

Our most common woodpecker and frequent backyard bird. Surprisingly, the Portland CBC documents a decline of this species with numbers reaching a low in the 1970s and 80s although there appears to be some level of recovery in recent years. It is a bit of a mystery why this adaptable bird has suffered a decline in Portland but it may be due to reduction in appropriate sites for nesting cavities.

White-breasted Nuthatch
1.3% annual decrease

This nuthatch thrives in both mature riparian cottonwood and white oak savanna, but the majestic native oak habitat in particular has declined in the Portland metro area to a fraction of what it once was, suggesting a reason for the bird’s decline. In recent years, however, detections of this species have increased during the CBC. Could it be the start of a recovery?

Evening Grosbeak
3.4% annual decrease

In the past 20 years, Evening Grosbeaks have been declining throughout their range. In Portland, CBC numbers were variable (ranging from single digits to over 200 birds), but starting in the early 1990s numbers dropped off, with many years seeing no detections. Range-wide causes of decline for this species may include boreal habitat loss due to tar sands exploitation, shifts in forest management to fast-growing softwoods, and window strikes.

You can honor a special person with a gift to Portland Audubon. Your gift will help fund a future of inspiring people to love and protect nature. Make a tribute gift online at audubonportland.org or by calling 971-222-6130.
The Birds Are Calling

We know that you, like many others in the Portland area, have a deep appreciation for nature, and understand the inherent value of the wildlife that depend on habitats across the Oregon landscape. You may have heard earlier this fall about a newly published report outlining the striking decline of many bird species across North America over the past 50 years.

The report, published in the journal Science, found 30% of the birds in North America have been lost since 1970—adding up to nearly three billion birds across the United States and Canada.

We send our gratitude to you for your support of Portland Audubon, where you have helped combat this dire reality for birds here in the Northwest. However, there is more to do to protect the bird populations that we care so much about, both for their intrinsic value and for what birds mean to our ecosystems. And not just in Oregon. Our work affects migratory birds along the entire Pacific Flyway, from Alaska down to South America.

As the season begins, we need your support and hope you will consider a special gift to Portland Audubon to help us continue to protect vital bird species and other wildlife, and allow for impactful programs to expand so we can do more for our natural world than ever before.

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

Antler Gallery
Bob’s Red Mill
Cindy Thompson Event Production
The Commerce Group
David Evans and Associates
Elk Cove Winery
Erath Winery
Event Production
Grow Construction
Inn @ Northrup Station
JD Fulwiler & Co. Insurance
KPRF
Labrewatory
Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.
McCoy Fout & Company PC, CPA’s
McDonald Jacobs, PC
Miller Paint Co.
Mountain Rose Herbs
Paxton Gate PDX
Portland Audubon Nature Store
Portland General Electric
Portland Nursery
Pro Photo
Sauvie Island Coffee Company
Seko Community Credit Union
Silver Rain Massage
Tibury Ferguson Investment
Urban Asset Advisors
Vernier Software & Technology
Washman LLC
West Bearing Investments

Mateo Asks You to Give for the Birds
by Donna Wiench, Leadership and Legacy Giving Manager

This is the time of year when my colleagues and I feel especially grateful for the care, goodwill, and trust that members express through their donations. Recently, Volunteer Manager Vicky Medley was opening Portland Audubon’s mail when she came across a child’s pencil drawing of a bird. In the envelope was the art, a brief note from Mateo, age 7, and six dollars.

Charmed and delighted, Vicky emailed colleagues a photo of Mateo’s drawing.

From time to time, children will send Portland Audubon their birthday money, bar or bat mitzvah money, or funds they receive at Christmas and other holidays. This is the third time Mateo has made a gift this year, so as a parent myself, I was a bit curious about who this child was and how the gift came about. Was this gift Mateo’s idea or his folks’?

Turns out, it was all Mateo, says his mom, Holly Matthews, a licensed clinical social worker who specializes in trauma healing in both adults and teens. "Mateo is a big-hearted kid, and he loves birds in particular," she said. A first grader at Hayhurst Elementary in Portland, Mateo “worries a lot about climate change, and he wants to do what he can.”

Thank you, Mateo. It’s our members who fill Portland Audubon’s staff with gratitude.

Ellie and Ricky

NEW!
Ellie in the City
Where the Wildlife Live
It’s early fall when Ricky and Ellie travel to Portland for a weekend school exchange. Exploring Portland’s habitats, from its streets and gardens to woodlands, streams, and river banks, they realize there are many ways people actively care for the city’s wildlife. ISBN: 978-0-87071-977-6 $17.95

Ellie’s Log: Evolving the Forest Where the Great Trees Fall ISBN: 978-0-87071-842-7 $17.95
Ellie’s Strand: Exploring the Edge of the Pacific ISBN: 978-0-87071-846-6 $17.95

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Holly and her husband and Mateo’s dad, Filip Hristic, principal of Wilson High School, watch nature TV shows with their son, and read to him about science. Sometimes the programs mention the threatening and scary conditions animals face because of the warming earth and rising oceans.

“When there is a wave of worry or sadness, like an island of garbage in the ocean, we talk about what we can do,” Holly said. “That’s important for us so we’re not just despairing. We look for what we can do and ways we can contribute. Service is important to both Filip and me.”

As a way to help, Mateo chooses to send money to Portland Audubon because he’s visited many times. “I like the birds and walking in the woods. I’ve seen birds’ nests on the side of the building, and I like to hear the frogs, too,” Mateo said.

“Both of our kids feel deeply and are concerned about the earth and the future of all of us,” Holly said. It makes me feel hopeful, because I imagine there’s a lot of kids who feel this way. There are a lot of sensitive, caring kids.”

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

Holiday Open House & Zeiss Digiscoping

December 7 & 8, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Portland Audubon Nature Store

Join us for the Nature Store’s annual Holiday Open House during the first weekend in December. Members will receive at 15% discount on all purchases (including optics!) and we will be offering a special introductory rate for new members to Portland Audubon. Enjoy warm drinks, snacks, and a cheery holiday atmosphere!

On Saturday at 10:30 a.m., a Zeiss rep will give a short presentation about digiscoping. Stick around to ask questions and try out different models of binoculars and scopes. At 12:30 p.m., we will head out on a short field trip to put our new digiscoping knowledge into practice.

Birdy Brain Buster!

Over the last 5 years of the Christmas Bird Count, which species averages the highest number counted?

A. European Starling
B. American Robin
C. Dark-eyed Junco
D. American Crow