

10 Years of Building Backyard Habitats





Osprey, photo by Tara Lemezis.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Year of Action

by Nick Hardigg

Toward the end of 2019, two major studies about alarming declines in North American bird populations were released. "Three Billion Birds Gone," reported Cornell Lab of Ornithology, while National Audubon recorded "More Than 1-in-4 Birds Gone" since 1970.

As birders and conservationists, you probably noticed changes in our wildlife for years, trends that we have been working to reverse for over a century. These studies brought that reality to the greater public, resulting in a rallying cry to work even harder to protect our natural world. Our goal to bring more people together for nature couldn't be better timed.

While daunting in scale, the successes we share in The Warbler show that our collective actions clearly make a difference. I invite you to make 2020 a year of action: to show up, speak up, and advocate for the things you care about. Here are a few ways that you can make a difference with Portland Audubon:

- Sign up for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program and contribute to habitat connectivity
• Join our activist list to stay up to date on conservation issues and get involved
• Participate in a community science project to contribute to ongoing research
• Reduce wildlife hazards at home
• Sign up for our upcoming Birdathon to raise funds for birds while watching birds
• Volunteer with us
• Take a class, go on a trip, or sign up for camp
• Make a gift and consider including us in your estate
• Inspire yourself and others by getting outside more and bringing a friend with you!

However you choose to act, you have the power to make a difference. Thank you for taking action for nature.

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Backyard Habitat Program participants Kati and Erica in their newly certified yard.

It's All Connected: Ten Years of Restoring the Urban Landscape One Yard at a Time

by Kelsey Kuhnhausen, Communications and Graphic Design Coordinator

Can one yard make a difference? The answer is an emphatic yes. More than a decade ago, a handful of neighbors eager to restore native habitat in SW Portland started the first iteration of the Backyard Habitat Certification Program...

Tens of thousands of trees and shrubs later, Backyard Habitat participants have undoubtedly transformed our urban landscape, connecting habitat throughout the region and creating a healthier and more livable ecosystem for people and wildlife.

Today the program, co-managed by Portland Audubon and Columbia Land Trust, has expanded to reach all four counties in the metro area, where more than 1,464 acres are undergoing restoration.

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program has not only had a measurable impact on the urban and suburban landscape, but it has also had a tremendous impact on people. The program has brought neighbors together, sparked curiosity about the natural world...

Whether people are planting native trees and shrubs, pulling noxious weeds, hacking ivy, removing lawn, cutting out pesticides, reducing wildlife hazards, or rethinking their stormwater management...

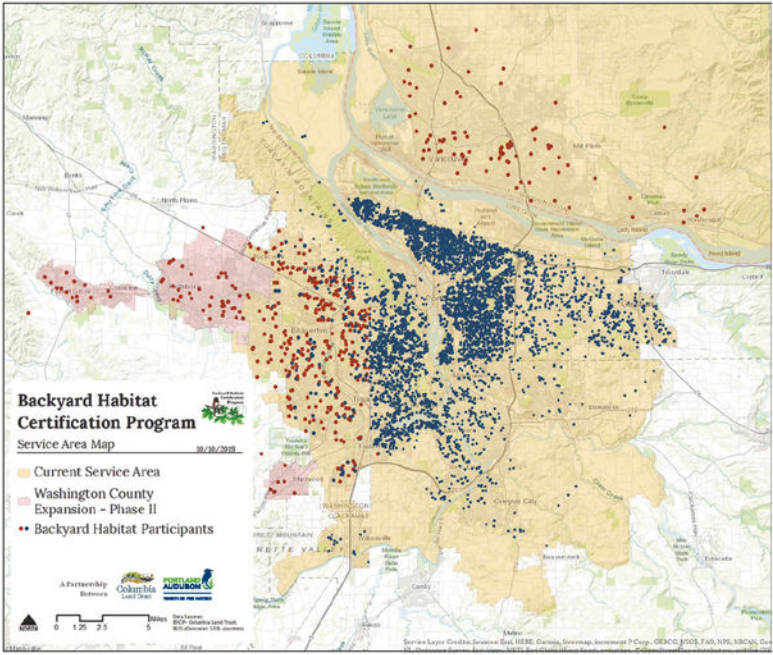
And it all began with one yard.

Planting the Seed: How the Program Started

What would it look like if habitat restoration extended beyond natural areas and into people's backyards? How can we work to quell the growth of noxious weeds? How do we create habitat connectivity throughout the city?

These were just a few questions that were percolating when the West Willamette Restoration Partnership, a coalition of neighborhoods, and the now-defunct Three Rivers Land Conservancy dreamed up the Backyard Habitat Program in 2006.

"At the time we were looking for a way to really engage people in restoration and wildlife stewardship at the yard



and neighborhood scale, and this program seemed like the perfect fit,” says Conservation Director Bob Sallinger. “Nearly 40% of the urban landscape is private property: people’s backyards. And if we wanted to complete our vision of a healthy urban landscape for people and wildlife, somehow we had to address that challenge.”

Portland Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center Urban Wildlife Specialist Karen Munday was given the task of building out and co-managing the program alongside Three Rivers’ Gaylen Beatty. When Three Rivers was absorbed by the Columbia Land Trust in 2011, they took over that half of the partnership.

The goal from the start was to create a program that would keep people engaged over the long term. “We wanted a program that went beyond typical yard certification programs where you pay some money and get a sign,” says Bob. “We wanted a program that would really create meaningful change on the landscape and keep people engaged over the long term.”

In collaboration with biologists, conservation groups, natural resource agencies, and other partners, Karen and Gaylen worked to create an impactful framework that focused on creating habitat, removing invasive weeds, promoting sustainable, green stormwater strategies, and stewarding wildlife, but also built community and engaged participants in local conservation issues. On the day the program launched in 2009, it already had a waiting list of over 100 people!

Ten years later the Backyard Habitat Certification Program is thriving, due in large part to the philosophy and structures developed in the very early stages of the program. The three-tiered certification approach allows people who are just starting to restore their yards to jump right in and move at their own pace through increasingly sophisticated levels of participation.

Enrollment is a flat fee of \$35, and it comes with the unique benefit of having a trained technician come to your home to provide guidance as you build your plan for restoration. Participants also get exclusive discounts to local nurseries, gardening resources, and other support services.

“Renters, homeowners, schools, religious institutions, businesses, retirement communities—there’s a place for everyone,” says Columbia Land Trust Backyard Program Co-Manager Susie Peterson. “You don’t have to know anything about gardening when you sign up, and your garden doesn’t have to be in any kind of shape. We’re here to offer support and resources so that you can get started on whatever habitat projects you’re interested in.”

Partnerships are also critical to the success of the program.

“We couldn’t do this work on our own. We work with more than 70 funding partners, nonprofits, businesses, and municipalities as well as nearly 100 volunteers who make this program successful,” says Susie.

This past year was a time of growth and change for Backyard Habitat. They reached a major milestone, completing the program’s expansion to include Multnomah, Clark, Clackamas, and Washington Counties, and also experienced a leadership change when Nikkie West, Portland Audubon’s program co-manager for eight years, moved on to spend more time with her young daughter and start her own business. Megan Van de Mark came on board as the new co-manager in early autumn from Friends of Trees and has hit the ground running.

Now that the program has finished expanding geographically, Backyard Habitat is looking to cultivate meaningful ways to bring in more people and grow into new communities.

“We are looking forward to deepening the relationships that we have with frontline communities,” says Backyard Habitat Coordinator JP Marchetti-Mendez. “We are brainstorming how we can strengthen the program and make it even more relevant for more folks, such as incorporating food production, climate resiliency strategies and beyond.”

IMPACT

Backyard Habitat Certification Program by the numbers

- 75,000+** native trees and shrubs planted
- 11,500+** hours volunteered
- 6,000+** yards enrolled
- 1,464+** acres undergoing restoration



Tricia McMackin at home in her oak savanna demonstration site.



Volunteers hard at work at the Boise Eliot Native Grove.

Stories of Backyard Habitat Builders

Sparking Passion, Creating Connectivity

Robin Jensen, who has been involved with Backyard Habitat every step of the way since 2006, has been astonished to see its growth.

“The way that it has exploded is amazing. And the fact that there’s been continuous momentum and we’ve been able to reach surrounding counties,” said Robin.

Robin’s roots in the Backyard Habitat program run deep. Not only did she design the ubiquitous certification sign and logo, but her platinum yard in SW Portland was one of the first to get certified. She was also hired as one of the first Backyard Habitat technicians and has visited more than 770 yards, helping others on their path to certification.

She is a passionate advocate for the program and an integral part of the community.

“I really believe in what we’re doing,” she said. “Having watched the bird population in my yard over the last 27 years, I know that the number of birds has increased threefold.”

A Native Oak Savanna in the City

Like many people when they first enroll in the Backyard Habitat program, Tricia McMackin didn’t know much about plants when she started restoration on her oversized yard in Milwaukie. But as she began reimagining her low-maintenance, inviting backyard, she was intrigued by the idea of planting native plants.

Her yard is now a platinum-certified oak savanna demonstration site (a dwindling and important habitat in the Willamette Valley), and she is a newly minted Backyard Habitat technician. For Tricia, landscaping with native plants was important but equally important was her ability to grow her own food, so she cultivated a flourishing vegetable garden and keeps chickens.

“There are a lot of benefits to having natives with the vegetable garden because we’re creating an ecosystem. The more you add natives, the more beneficial to your garden,” says Tricia. “It’s all connected. It’s connected to our food, our health, our well-being, our community. We’re not the only ones on this planet, and it’s learning to cohabitate with all species. Making room in our gardens and realizing that they need to do more.”

Beyond the Backyard

When Andrine de la Rocha and Howard Patterson moved into their craftsman in the Boise Eliot neighborhood five years ago, they saw an opportunity for something big in the small vacant plot across the street. Owned by PBOT, the lot was unable to be developed because of utility placement and had become a dumping ground for trash and old furniture. With the help of the community and permission from PBOT, the Boise Eliot Native Grove got its start.

“The goal was to have people use this garden as a resource to learn more about native plants and be inspired to bring them back to their own yards,” says Andrine. “Because this is a space that can’t be developed, we wanted to make it into a special place.”

They enlisted the help of the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, other nonprofits, the neighborhood association, local businesses, government agencies, and elementary school students to envision their shared native garden.

“The students at Boise Eliot drew up sketches of what they wanted the space to have, like robots, slides, and more,” Howard laughed. “We did our best to integrate as many of their design ideas as we could.”

Now the grove is a thriving pollinator pocket park with a lush array of native trees and shrubs, interpretive signage, an accessible walkway, nature-inspired sculptures, a collaborative bench project, and a “Let Bees Inn” bee hotel.

Adventure for the Good of the Birds

by Candace Larson, Field Biologist and Trip Leader

If you've ever joined a Portland Audubon ecotour, you know we strive to create a positive, non-competitive group dynamic that helps everyone feel welcome, comfortable, and engaged as we explore the wonderful world around us. As a field biologist and a trip leader for Portland Audubon, I am particularly proud of our efforts to build strong conservation connections into our ecotour program, from Malheur to Madagascar.

Interested in how Portland Audubon's efforts to protect Oregon's wetlands affect the entire Pacific Flyway? Join one of our Pacific Northwest offerings and experience these connections firsthand. There is nothing like watching the jaunty mating dance of nesting Sandhill Cranes to help us understand why protecting the rich, wet meadows of Malheur is a critical part of our statewide habitat conservation work. Witnessing thousands of Snow and Ross's Geese thunder into the morning air brings our investment in smart water allocation in the Klamath Basin into new and beautiful focus!

In addition to our work to protect the Oregon landscape, we highlight and invest in conservation initiatives in all the places we visit. Seeing a Resplendent Quetzal display its spectacular twin tail streamers as it forages in an aguacatillo tree is a heart lifting highlight of any birder's trip to Costa Rica; knowing that Portland Audubon makes a direct contribution to the local farmers who protect this critical habitat adds real reward to the moment. In similar ways, we contribute to condor recovery in California, hummingbird habitat in Peru, protection of highly endangered Maleo in Sulawesi, and so much more.

These efforts provide real, solid support for bird conservation around the world. But they go further. By working closely with local guides in the places we visit, we build deep connections in these communities, and that trust creates opportunities to visit some truly unique and off-the-tourist-grid areas—from private forest reserves to traditional cultural sites—and builds empathy and relationships with new places and the people who invest their lives and livelihoods in preserving them.

Your ecotour fee also contributes directly to our mission-driven work here at home. Because we are a nonprofit organization, any income that exceeds the actual costs of our ecotours goes directly to supporting the crucial conservation and education work that drives



Photo by Mary Coolidge.

our mission. From our community science studies to protect Oregon's fragile marine reserves, to our advocacy for imperiled species and a bird-safe built environment, to helping our region's kids become the next generation of the earth's stewards, you can feel good that your dream adventure is also providing a tax-deductible contribution to support this important work.

Check out our current offerings and discover your next adventure! From Oregon to Ethiopia, the pace of our trips is suitable for avid birders and novices alike. You will find many more details on the website, including a comprehensive listing of our upcoming trips, day-by-day itineraries, and profiles of our talented trip leaders. Feel free to contact any one of us with your questions. Come experience the joy of discovery and make a difference for birds, wildlife, and the natural environment on which we all depend.

"This trip had it all: learning every day, birding and hiking, snorkeling and playing in the waves, excellent food and lodging."

View all ecotours at
audubonportland.org



Highlight on Hawaii

by Pam Meyers, Portland Audubon Member

Traveling with Portland Audubon is a revelation! Their ecotours are noted for being well planned and professionally guided, always resulting in new adventures, increased observation skills, and satisfying additions to our bird lists.

We just returned from a week of birding and hiking on the Big Island. Our past trips to Hawaii have been beautiful and fun but were resort-focused and very much a tourist experience. We expected Portland Audubon's usual awesome job of providing great birding but were deeply impressed by the bonus of special cultural and ecological experiences.

One day provided a peek into the culture of Native Hawaiians through a local Kumū, or Teacher. She graciously welcomed us to her homestead, sharing her family's history, their connection with this amazing place, and letting us see firsthand the impact of living in a land of active volcanoes. (We also got to see up-close Hawaiian Noddies, or noio, roosting in the seawall behind their home.) Another glorious day was spent with a local bird guide, naturalist, and passionate conservationist exploring the Kipuka forest islands, learning about honeycreepers, habitat, and the efforts to conserve both. Portland Audubon provided us with an experience we'd be unlikely to have on our own. The leaders' connections in the local community and relationships with native teachers and conservationists opened doors rarely experienced by mainlanders.

This trip had it all: learning every day, birding and hiking, snorkeling and playing in the waves, excellent food and lodging. And what a great group of participants! It was rewarding to share the experience with smart, fun, and enthusiastic learners with varied backgrounds and perspectives. We quickly formed new friendships that are sure to grow over the years. Thanks for bringing this all together, Portland Audubon!

FIELD NOTES

by Harry Nehls

A Surprise Visitor in East Portland

On November 19, Barb Klinger looked out onto her east Portland yard and saw chips fly as a Pileated Woodpecker attacked one of her trees. A totally unexpected and spectacular sighting.

This crow-sized bird is a resident of forests that contain many live and dead large old trees. They come out occasionally to visit nearby open areas and city neighborhoods. They are often seen attached to the side of a roadside telephone pole. Occasionally one may visit bird feeders.

A pair requires a large section of forest for a nesting territory so are well scattered and are usually considered uncommon. Portland's Forest Park contain many pairs as does the lower Cascade woodlands east of Portland. Several also can be found on Sauvie Island in the coniferous woodlands around the Wapato Greenway Access State Park on the west side of the island and in the north unit deciduous woodlands.

SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott

In winter, our rare birds often change from being the one-day wonders or week-long stragglers we expect in fall to possibly spending weeks or months in a certain locale. The only mission for a wintering bird is to survive, so if the eating is good enough, what's to compel it to move elsewhere?

That appears to be the strategy for the **Emperor Goose** that continues to be seen at Sauvie Island. The Brant and **Ross's Geese** found nearby have been less reliable. A very different type of rarity showed up just down Reeder Road in the form of a **Black-and-white Warbler**, found by Aaron Beerman. A Black-and-white has wintered outside of Newport for the last two winters, so time will tell with this bird.

A **Canyon Wren** was found by John Bishop on the Multnomah Falls trail. They are known to breed across the river at Beacon Rock but are sporadic at best on



Photo by Tara Lemezis.

This species regularly tear apart snags and dead trees searching for ants, beetles, and other insects. The nest hole is distinctive, a tall oval.

Pileated Woodpeckers are rather secretive in the forest and often hide from visitors. They are masters of sliding around the back of a tree as a person passes. The presence of birds are most often indicated by the damaged snags and distinctive nest hole. Their calls are similar to the Flicker but louder and deeper.

the south side of the Gorge, with this being the farthest west record. A single **Red-breasted Merganser** was also reported at the falls.

A **Tufted Duck** is making the Philomath Sewage Ponds home for the time being, one of several rarities for the Corvallis area, including **Tri-colored Blackbird** and **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. Not too far, outside of Albany, Joel Geier reports a **Great Black-backed Gull**, the largest gull in the world, and a very rare visitor to Oregon. If confirmed, it would be a first Oregon record.

The **Mandarin Duck** continues at Crystal Springs. This bird is not "countable" according to birding rules, on account of its provenance as a pet, but that hasn't stopped a great many birders from appreciating its superlative plumage in person.

Those are only a few of the birds reported across the region. For corrections, tips, and reports, email Brodie Cass Talbott at bcasstalbott@portlandaudubon.org.



Spring & Summer Camp
Registration Starts January 15!

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

Save Your Spot For Spring Break Camp!

Grades 1-8 | March 23-27

Join Portland Audubon for spring break camps! Whether youth discover a Rough-skinned Newt along our trails, observe salmon in the Gorge, or create nature-inspired art, children will learn, play, and explore, all while making friends and connecting to nature. We have fifteen different camps to choose from, running from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day with an option for Portland Audubon Aftercare!

	March 23	March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27
Grade 1	Tails of the Forest: Mammals	Tails of the Forest: Raptors	Tails of the Forest: Amphibians	Tails of the Forest: Birds	Tails of the Forest: Habitats
Grades 2-4	Nature's Art	Jr. Wildlife Vet 101	Forest Mask-arade	Jays & Junco	Newt Scoot
Grades 5-8	Nature Photography	When the Smoke Clears	Birding the Buttes	The Colors of Spring	Jr. Wildlife Vet 102

Spring Break Camp Fees

- Save \$50 when you enroll for all five days of camp!
- Grade 1:** \$70 member / \$80 non-member for individual days
- Grades 2-4:** \$70 member / \$80 non-member
- Grades 5-8:** \$75 member / \$85 non-member
- Full Week:** \$300 member / \$350 non-member

NEW! Portland Audubon Aftercare

- Join us for aftercare every day from 3:30-5:45 p.m.
- All 5 Days:** \$85 member / \$105 non-member
- Per Day:** \$25 member / \$30 non-member

To learn more and register, visit audubonportland.org.
If you need assistance or have questions, call Tara Lemezis at 971-222-6131



Coyote, photo by Ray Walton.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit audubonportland.org/events for a full list of all upcoming events.

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: Oregon Zoo - Vista Room



MLK Weekend of Service

January 20 | 1–4 p.m.

Help spruce up our wildlife sanctuary and be a part of the Martin Luther King Jr Weekend of Service! Volunteers will help with indoor projects, trail maintenance, removing invasive species, and native plantings.

Where: Meet in Portland Audubon's Heron Hall
Must be 12 years of age or older to participate



Hawks & Hot Chocolate at Sauvie Island

February 1 | 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Join Portland Audubon and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for a spectacular day of birdwatching on Sauvie Island. We will provide coffee, hot chocolate, donuts, and great naturalists with spotting scopes located at sites on the island.

Learn more at audubonportland.org



Cost Involved



Public Transit Available



Free



Family Friendly



Wheelchair Accessible



Bohemian Waxwing, photo by Scott Carpenter.

AUDUBON BIRDING DAYS

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!

Okanogan and the Waterville Plateau

January 15–19

Experience five days of exciting birding in the unique habitats of the high plateau between the Columbia Gorge, the Grand Coulee, and Badger Mountain. We will search for stunning winter specialties such as Bohemian Waxwing, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Golden Eagle, Northern Goshawk, and Gyrfalcon. On past trips, we have seen rarities such as Northern Hawk-Owl and Great Gray Owl. Join us for fantastic birding in a winter wonderland.

Fee: \$350 | Transportation NOT provided

Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants



Ankeny & Baskett Slough

March 1 | 6 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Join Stefan on a day trip to Ankeny & Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge. We will be looking for wintering waterfowl, hoping for Northern Shrike, and ending the day at a spot where Short-eared Owl is possible.

Fee: \$65

Leader: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 10 participants



Pacific Wren, photo by Scott Carpenter.

ADULT EDUCATION

Classes

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

Join this excellent 3-part field class to develop and sharpen your birding skills at this premier birding spot. Sauvie Island is spectacular for wintering raptors, with possible sightings of Red-shouldered and Rough-legged Hawks and hundreds of Bald Eagles. You will also have plenty of opportunities to practice identifying many species of wintering waterfowl and foraging flocks of sparrows.

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



FREE BIRD WALKS

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.

Register for outings
at meetup.com



NEW CLASS SERIES!

Coastal Birding Through the Seasons

Spring

Class: April 22
Outing: April 24–26

Fall

Class: August 19
Outing: August 21–23

Summer

Class: June 24
Outing: June 26–28

Winter (2021)

Class: January 13
Outing: January 15–17

Join Dan van den Broek and Candace Larson on this exciting new series of classes and outings to some of our favorite locations on the Pacific Coast. Each season, we'll explore a new destination, with peak birds and natural history phenomena in mind. We'll hold an evening class session, covering seasonal topics from bird song and breeding to migration and survival, then head out into the field for a three-day, two-night expedition to the Oregon or Washington coast.

Fee: \$595 each session / \$1,995 for all sessions
Instructors: Dan van den Broek and Candace Larson

See more offerings at
audubonportland.org





Wallcreeper in Mongolia, photo by Imran Shah.

INTERNATIONAL ECOTOURS

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 ecolodges (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

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 cobblestoned 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

Mongolia

June 14–29, 2020

Mongolia is a place of staggering beauty. Enjoy traditional Mongolian food in a communal setting and experience the unique Mongolian life by staying in ger camps. We will explore varied habitats which include Siberian Taiga, the Mongolian Steppe, and the Gobi Desert.

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



Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Malheur, photo by Tara Lemezis.

DOMESTIC ECOTOURS

NEW!
Texas: Tropical Birding Along the Rio Grande
March 8-13, 2020

The Rio Grande Valley is known as one of the top birding destinations in the country and is the perfect introduction to tropical birding. Join us as we search for Chachalacas, Caracaras, and Kingfishers across hotspots in the region like Bentsen-Rio Grande and Santa Ana NWR.

Early Bird Rate until Jan. 15: \$1795 member / \$2095 non-member
Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Brodie Cass Talbott

Klamath Basin

March 26–29, 2020

Explore the Klamath Basin with us, home to six National Wildlife Refuges and one of the most important wetland ecosystems in Western North America.

Fee: \$895 members / \$995 non-members
Leaders: Candace Larson and Mary Coolidge

Malheur Foray

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, sagebrush 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 Tara Lemezis

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

Get Involved in Portland Audubon's Work in Eastern Oregon!

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

Eastern Oregon is home to some of the most spectacular landscapes and important bird habitats in Oregon. Portland Audubon has been working in this area for more than a century to protect places such as Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Steens Mountain and to recover imperiled species like the Greater Sage-Grouse.

Since hiring a full-time, year-round Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator in 2018, we have been able to significantly increase opportunities to get involved in this work.

Our programs give participants the opportunity to see and learn about the region's natural history from outstanding naturalists, learn about important conservation issues, build understanding across the urban-rural divide, and have fun.

In 2020, we have a full calendar of trips, events, stewardship parties, and other ways to get involved. See the full list at bit.ly/harneycountybirds

EVENTS

We both lead and partner on a variety of natural history related events throughout the year. Plan your trip to Harney County to take advantage of these opportunities:

- January 11: Burns/Hines Christmas Bird Count for Kids
April 16–19: Harney County Migratory Bird Festival
June 27: Let's Pull Together
July 17–19: Harney County After Dark

FORAYS

Multi-day natural history trips originating in Portland led by outstanding Audubon naturalists.

- May 30–June 3: Malheur Foray
September 17–20: Dark Skies Foray
September 30–October 4: Steens Foray

STEWARDSHIP PARTIES

These multi-day events are for folks who want to get their hands dirty. Join Portland Audubon and local partners in restoring wildlife habitat in Harney County (and of course doing some great bird watching!)

- April 3–6: Benson Pond Stewardship
July 31–Aug 3: Sod House Ranch Stewardship
September 24–27: Semaphore Grass Planting



COMMUNITY SCIENCE

We offer a variety of opportunities to work with Portland Audubon staff to collect data on bird populations at Malheur and in the Harney Basin

- Project IBiS: April 11, May 9, June 6, July 3, August 15, September 5, October 3
Shorebirds on the Playa: June 19–21, August 28–31

BIRD WALKS

Throughout spring and summer, Portland Audubon offers a variety of free bird walks at a variety of locations on and around Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

- April 19: Harney County Wildlife Parkway (Burns/Hines)
April 25: Malheur NWR headquarters
May 2: Crystal Crane Hot Springs
May 16: Radar Hill OHV trail
May 23: Malheur NWR boat launch
June 13: Diamond Craters
July 11: Malheur NWR Headquarters
July 18: Harney County Wildlife Parkway (Burns/Hines)
July 25: Crystal Crane Hot Springs

2020

- March 26-29 Klamath Basin
May 15-28 Poland
May 30-June 3 Malheur
June 4-7 Central Oregon
June 14-29 Mongolia
July 9-12 Idaho's Cassia Crossbill
Sept. 15-19 California Condors
Sept. 24-27 NE Washington

- Sept. 30-Oct. 4 Steens
Oct.15-22 Panama
Nov. 2-19 Colombia
Nov. 2-16 Madagascar

2021

- Feb. 8-23 Ghana
March 10-17 San Blas
May 11-29 Japan
May 21-June 4 Birding the Alps
Nov 1-16 New Zealand



Trees in Portland, photo by Wil C. Fry.

Growing Our Urban Tree Canopy: A Task for the Entire Community

by Micah Meskel, Activist Program Manager

Protecting and expanding our urban tree canopy is foundational to creating a healthy, resilient, and equitable urban landscape. The many benefits that our urban tree canopy bring to the communities situated below them include cleaning our air, reducing temperatures, creating wildlife habitat, reducing stormwater runoff, sequestering carbon, improving human health and well-being, not to mention the trees' intrinsic natural beauty.

Portland Audubon is actively growing our own tree canopy in our 172-acre sanctuary, helping over 6,000 individual Backyard Habitat Certification Program participants grow their own native tree canopy, as well as continuously advocating for local jurisdictions to improve tree codes and integrate trees and other green infrastructure into every land-use plan. These measures are more important than ever to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and ensure our human and wildlife communities are more resilient as we trend toward more extreme summer heat waves and winter storm events.

In December we worked with partners, including the Portland Youth Climate Council, to extend soon-to-expire protections for big trees in private residential development situations for an additional five years. While these protections do not prevent big trees from being removed, they do ensure that when they are removed, substantial mitigation will be required. In the future, we need to increase protections for smaller trees

so that neighborhoods with smaller and fewer trees, which tend to be lower income and more diverse, are able to develop healthy canopy coverage. We believe all communities can and should benefit from the improved livability measures that a greater tree canopy coverage can bring and we will continue to work to improve policies to ensure this is shared by everyone.

In the new year, we will be working to protect trees on industrial and commercial-zoned properties. Currently, these properties (often adjacent to natural areas and low-income communities) have no requirements to protect or plant trees. Portland City Council exempted them when the tree code was adopted in 2011 due to concerns about potential legal challenges by industry, related to an out-of-date industrial land inventory. Although Council assured the community that it would return to address these exemptions as soon as the inventory was updated, which occurred in 2016, Council has failed to make good on this promise. Industry has gotten a free ride for nearly a decade when it comes to protecting trees, and it is time for Council to remove the exemptions and hold industry accountable.

Help us advocate to Portland City Council in the new year to remove these exemptions and look to other Title 11 improvements to ensure that the entire city is held to the same standards and is playing a role to grow our urban tree canopy and build community resilience.

Learn more at audubonportland.org/take-action



Purple Finch, photo by Audrey Addison.

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

IN MEMORY

- | | |
|--|---|
| David Joseph Connolly
Nancy Connolly | Ronald Leyden Spencer
Esther Spencer
Tammy Spencer |
| Ruth Lucille Herz
Katherine Shea | Deanna Sterett
Ernestine Omner |
| Freddie Bear King
Christine King | J. Mary Taylor
Anonymous
Patty and Tim Carrasco
Beth and Bernie Colasurdo
Margaretta Scanlan |
| Grace C. Kuhns
Pamela Cox
Linda D. Nelson | Mark Waara
Kimberly Waara |
| Heidi E. Lambek
Carolyn K. Leonard | Roudolph T. White
Susan F. McFarlane |
| LaVere D. Lukens
"Luke"
Hannah Bryson | |
| Dr. Deb Schaefer
Anonymous | |

IN HONOR

- | | |
|---|---|
| Ralph Books
Eileen McGurn | Lynn and Don Herring
Lynn and Don Herring |
| Carl and Tanya Cecka
J. Michael Cecka | Mateo Hristic
Kathryn L. Witkowski |
| Sally and Jerry Fitzpatrick
Don Russell | Eric G. Mihata
Winston Wong |
| Joan and Tim Hamilton
Susan Engert | Fern Wexler
Amie Wexler |
| | Deb White
Megan Eversole |

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.

BRINK & Ascent Exhibits

January 30 at Antler & Talon

ARTISTS

Vanessa Rivera	Zach Johnson
Josie Morway	Kelly Tunstall
Kellie Orr	Ferris Plock
Johnny Acurso	Susannah Kelly
Michael Dandley	Veronica Steiner
Jackie Avery	Sabek
Jon MacNair	Vanessa Foley
Zoe Keller	Alessandro Gallo
Frank Gonzales	Heiko Muller
Katy Harrauld	



Artwork by Veronica Steiner.

Art and Nature Come Together at Antler Gallery

by Ali Berman, Communications Manager

When you walk into Antler Gallery and Talon Gallery on NE Alberta, you'll see wildlife abound, from Oregon favorites like Belted Kingfishers to faraway species like polar bears, rhinos, and flamingos. Owners Susannah Kelly and Niel M. Perry are passionate about telling the stories of the natural world and connecting those stories to the conservation of wildlife and their habitat. That passion has led to Antler Gallery being a long-time supporter of Portland Audubon.

For the eighth year in a row, Niel and Susannah will be supporting Portland Audubon by donating 20% of proceeds from the upcoming shows BRINK and Ascent, showing simultaneously at their adjoining galleries starting on January 30.

Both exhibits focus on extinct and endangered species, with Ascent at Talon featuring birds exclusively, and BRINK featuring mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and other members of the non-avian animal kingdom.

Why extinct and endangered species? Niel and Susannah explained: "Extinction is a difficult concept for people to grapple with. Art provides a beautiful way to begin that conversation. Most of the artists that we

work with are young people that have grown up in the shadow of the reality of climate change, which is why it is such a significant theme in their works. We have been watching firsthand the decimation of wildlife and their habitat through human action since we were children, while wrestling with the knowledge that once a species is gone, it is gone forever."

The artists who have contributed their work to the show over the years have explored themes of extinction, prompting people to consider issues surrounding endangered species and further connecting them to nature. Each artist has a different perspective but, from California Condors to the Dodo, always stay centered on the natural world.

We are deeply grateful to Niel, Susannah, and the 19 artists who are contributing their work to the two shows. It's always a spectacular event, with art that truly captures the diversity, beauty, and complexity of the natural world.

We hope you'll join us on Thursday, January 30, 2020, at 7 p.m. for the opening at 2728 NE Alberta St., Portland, OR 97211.

Birdathon 2020: Celebrating 40 Years of Birding, Fundraising, and Building Community

by Sarah Swanson, Birdathon Coordinator

Spring birding may seem far away as we watch waterfowl and raptors under gray skies, but it's already time to start planning for Birdathon. Portland Audubon's biggest fundraiser, Birdathon allows you to support a mission that you care about while experiencing the fun and camaraderie of birding. Birdathon best succeeds at raising critical funds for conservation when the whole Portland Audubon community supports it, so we hope that folks will join us for the first time and that experienced Birdathoners will find someone new to invite. Mark your calendars for Birdathon registration on March 16. We'll have more information about teams in the March-April Warbler and on our website.

Birdathon is for everyone! Beginning birders, experts, groups of friends, and coworkers can all find or create their ideal team and Birdathon experience. Trips can be anything from a morning birding excursion to a two-day cross-state trip. Some teams do all their birding by bike, while others take a van to a local wildlife refuge or to the coast for the day.

- **Join an Organized Team.** Teams for 2020 will be posted in early March, and last year's teams can be viewed at birdathon.audubonportland.org. Each team is led by an experienced birder who has planned out a birdy and fun itinerary.
- **Create a Team.** Have a new idea for a team? Talk to Sarah Swanson, Birdathon Coordinator, about creating your own team that can be open to all participants or just for your group of friends, family, or coworkers. I can help you plan an itinerary and write a compelling team description.
- **Participate as an Individual.** Hatch your own personal Birdathon plan, whether it's a relaxing day in your backyard or a birding trip.

Birdathon participants receive advice and sample fundraising letters to make it easy and fun. If you have Birdathon questions, contact Birdathon Coordinator Sarah Swanson at birdathon@audubonportland.org for help with planning, organizing, fundraising, and firing up team members to raise as much money as possible!

Register online at
audubonportland.org



WISH LISTS

Education

- Bushnell Trophy Cam Aggressor HD camera (2)
- Camp Chef Everest Stoves
- UV flashlight

Wildlife Care Center

- All Free & Clear laundry detergent pods
- Dawn Original dishwashing liquid
- Dish brushes
- Nitrile, powder-free, non-sterile exam gloves
- Rubber or vinyl dish gloves
- Wet-erase Expo pens in black, brown or blue
- Kitchen shears
- Hose spray nozzles
- Red-tailed Hawk flight cage funding (\$30,000)
- Great Horned Owl flight cage funding (\$30,000)
- Intensive care incubator funding (\$2,500)
- Mammal cage funding (\$10,000)
- Wellness Core Natural Grain Free Dry Cat Food Kitchen (Turkey & Chicken)
- Multicolored zip ties/table ties (4in and all sizes)
- EliteField 3-door folding soft dog crates
- Portable oxygen generator

Sanctuary

- Auditory assistance devices
- Small folding table (card table or smaller)
- Tall bookcase (roughly 80" w x 32" h)
- Battery-powered wall mount light
- Portable car battery charger
- OSHA-approved hard hats (5)
- Well-running pickup truck
- Portable car battery charger
- Laptops (2016 or newer) and monitors
- Electric leaf blower

Conservation

- Recreational vehicle or trailer for field work
- Standing coat rack
- Unihedron Dark Sky Quality Meter (LU-DL)
- Used iPads and/or Chromebooks
- Rebranded tabling cloth funding (\$300)

If you can donate these items, please first contact Portland Audubon at 971-222-6129, Mon.-Fri., to arrange a time for delivery/pick-up. Check our website for the most updated wishlist.

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



Native Plants & Mason Bees
Making a big difference in small spaces

nativewingsandwildflowers.com

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
f WinterWingsFest.org



BRINK & ASCENT
Original works depicting extinct and endangered species benefiting Portland Audubon
Opens January 30, 7 p.m.
Antler Gallery & Talon Gallery



Where the Profits are for the Birds!

Choosing a pair of binoculars can be daunting if you're unfamiliar with sport optics. Luckily, the Portland Audubon Nature Store is staffed with experts to help you find exactly what you're looking for.

Below are some common considerations to keep in mind while shopping. Have more questions? Stop by our Nature Store to talk to an expert and try out different models in person!



A Beginner's Guide to Binoculars

by Caitlin Wisbeski, Nature Store Manager

What do the numbers mean?
Binoculars are sized with two numbers. The first is magnification, or how "zoomed in" the image appears. Typically, birders use either an 8 or 10 magnification. While a 10 magnification binocular will yield a closer, more detailed image, an 8 magnification binocular yields a steadier, brighter image that is easier to keep trained on a target. For this reason, most beginner birders gravitate toward 8 magnification. The second number is the objective lens size, or the diameter in millimeters of the light-gathering lens. The larger the objective lens, the bigger the binoculars and the brighter the image. Objective-lens diameter ranges from 25mm for a pair of compact binoculars, all the way to 42mm for a full-sized pair.

How will I most likely use my binoculars?
When choosing a size, it's important to consider how you will use your binoculars. Compacts can be great for travel. Full-sized optics give you the most viewing power. And mid-sized models have the advantage of being more portable than full-sized and more powerful than compacts. Above all, your binoculars should be comfortable in your hands and easy to adjust. Weight, balance, and "hand feel" matter. At the Nature Store, we have over 50 different binoculars to choose from. Trying binoculars firsthand is the best way to figure out what you like.

Can I wear my glasses?
Binoculars can be used with or without prescription glasses. If not wearing glasses, twist the eyecups up to keep your pupil the correct distance from the lens. This will help you focus and should remove black or blurry distortion in your periphery. If wearing glasses, your pupil is already correctly distanced from the lens, so the eyecups can remain down.

How much does a "good" pair of binoculars cost?
Here at the Nature Store, we carry binoculars suitable to a wide range of budgets. We have full-sized binoculars starting at under \$120, all the way up to \$2,800 for our top-end European models. Why the large price difference? When comparing two binoculars of the same size, differences in price can mostly be attributed to the quality of glass. Higher-end glass yields more light transmission (brighter images), less distortion (a flatter image), and truer color fidelity. Entry-level binoculars are typically priced under \$300. Mid-level binoculars fall right around \$500. And high-end models start at around \$1,000. Determining whether a more expensive model is "worth" the improved picture quality depends on the individual and how they perceive light.

Members receive a 10% discount at the Nature Store!

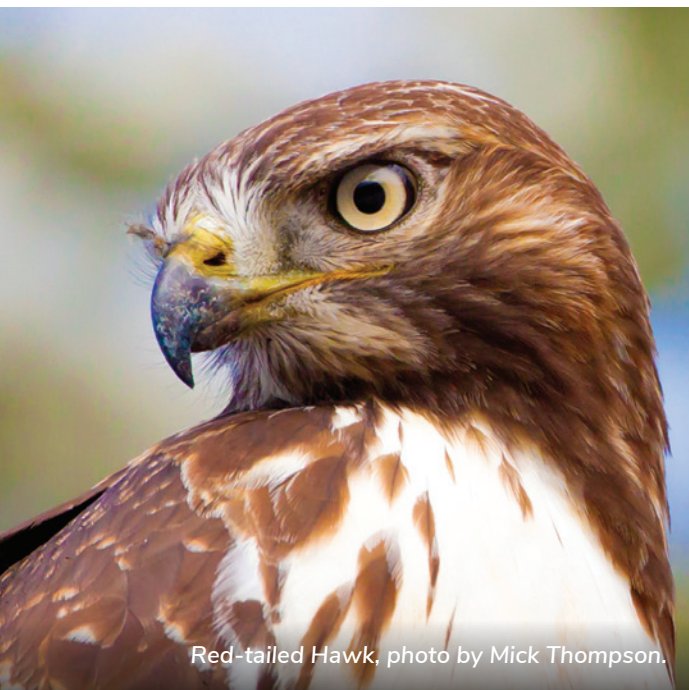




TOGETHER FOR NATURE

5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, OR 97210

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



Red-tailed Hawk, photo by Mick Thompson.

Hawks & Hot Chocolate

February 1 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sauvie Island

Early February is a great time to see wintering raptors and other birds such as Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes on Sauvie Island. Join Portland Audubon and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for a spectacular day of birdwatching. We will provide coffee, hot chocolate, donuts, and great naturalists with spotting scopes located at sites on the island.

Participants travel at their leisure in their own vehicles from site to site to see and learn about the amazing birds that winter on our local Wildlife Refuge. This will be a great event for the whole family!

Learn more at audubonportland.org

GET IN TOUCH

Administration Offices

503-292-6855
9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Wildlife Sanctuary

Dawn to dusk every day

Wildlife Care Center

503-292-0304
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day

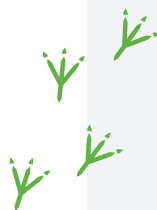
Nature Store &

Interpretive Center

503-292-9453
10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mon.-Sat.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sun.

On the Cover: Bushtit on Red-flowering Currant by Audrey Addison.

On the Inside Cover: I'iwi by USFWS- Pacific Region, Trees in Portland by Wil C. Fry, Artwork by Veronica Steiner.



Birdy Brain Buster!

Which bird has the largest
wingspan in Oregon?

- A. Bald Eagle
- B. Sandhill Crane
- C. American White Pelican
- D. Great Grey Owl



We are a member of Earth Share Oregon.
earthshare-oregon.org

Answer: American White Pelican