

Birdathon 2020

Celebrating 40 Years of Counting Birds!



13

Portland Levee Project

14

Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi Partnership

17

Bird Song Walks



Commissioner Nick Fish at the Kehoe Sanctuary Ribbon Cutting.

Remembering Commissioner Nick Fish

by Nick Hardigg, Executive Director & Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

We dedicate this issue of the Warbler to Commissioner Nick Fish, who passed away in January. Nick represented the best of what it meant to be a political leader: an indefatigable belief that government can make things better for people, especially the most vulnerable, and a tireless commitment to public service.

Nick leaves an incredible legacy of environmental leadership including protecting parks and natural areas, promoting green infrastructure, and advancing the Willamette River Superfund cleanup. Nick was also a friend to the birds, spearheading efforts to ban bird poisons, promote bird friendly building practices, and reduce light pollution. Last year he played a lead role in helping us expand our Wildlife Sanctuary.

Nick loved to talk about ideas. He would often pick up on slight nuances in testimony, lean forward and say, "I'd like to follow up on that." Invariably a phone call would follow a few hours later. As he fought the cancer that would eventually take his life, he often used his long chemotherapy sessions as an opportunity to make phone calls. "This is Nick Fish. I am getting chemo today and would like to chat with you about the tree code."

Most of all, though, Nick was a mentor, friend, and guide. We loved working with Nick because of his thoughtful approach to issues, his commitment to getting things done, and his commitment to getting there together. We will miss the incisive questions and commentary coming from the left side of the council dais and the early morning breakfasts to talk about "what's next."

Our deepest condolences to Nick's family and his amazing staff.

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40th

BIRDATHON

Presented by
**BACKYARD
BIRD SHOP**

by Sarah Swanson, Birdathon Coordinator

Each year we celebrate the arrival of spring and come together to get outside, count birds, build community, and raise critical funds that help Portland Audubon continue to protect wildlife and habitat across the Oregon landscape. In its 40th year, Birdathon hopes to bring in \$200,000 by inspiring people to love and protect the natural world.

The birds we love and the ecosystems they depend on to survive need our help, which makes each Birdathon participant all the more vital. Everyone can play a part in Birdathon, as a donor, participant, or team leader. Join us and raise funds to protect birds as you watch birds. We have over 30 exciting teams this year, with options for seasoned birders, new birders, teens, women, and LGBTQ birders. And, of course, folks can always start their own team!

Like a walkathon, but with birds

Birdathon is like a walkathon, but instead of counting miles, Birdathoners count birds and try to find as many species as possible during their team's outing. Participants gather flat-amount pledges from their communities or per-species pledges then go out and bird their hardest.

Birdathoners are invited to a celebratory banquet in June to recognize our collective achievements.



REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 15!
birdathon.audubonportland.org

Get Involved

- **Join a team.** Check out our selection of preplanned half-day, day-long, and Gonzo trips and sign up for your favorite one! Teams are listed on pages 4 and 5 of the Warbler, and additional descriptions and details are online at birdathon.audubonportland.org. Team registration opens March 15.
- **Create a team.** Don't see a trip that suits you? Start your own team! There are lots of perks to planning your own Birdathon trip. Read about them on page 4! Create your team online at birdathon.audubonportland.org or contact birdathon@audubonportland.org.
- **Solo Birdathon.** Are you more of a Solitary Sandpiper than a social Vaux's Swift? Do a Birdathon on your own! You can register as an individual.
- **Backyard Birdathon.** Birding around your home can be just as rewarding as driving to a hotspot, especially if you've been restoring your bird habitat with native plants and other features. Enjoy a Birdathon where a snack and a restroom are always nearby. Fill up the feeders and the bird bath, bring a chair outside, and grab your favorite beverage.
- **Donate.** Can't join Birdathon this year? Support your favorite participant or team with a donation. Every donation makes a difference.

Perks of Starting Your Own Team

- **Birding whenever you want.** Birdathon teams can go out anytime from April 18 to June 7. Your trip can be as short or as long as you want—a morning walk or a weeklong adventure.
- **Birding wherever you want.** Take a trip to a local refuge or count birds during a weekend at the coast—it's up to you! Some people have even turned out-of-state vacations into a Birdathon.
- **Birding with friends.** Bring along your favorite birding buddies or people that you'd like to introduce to birding. Have coworkers or family members that like birding? Make a team together!
- **Coming up with a fun team name.** Bird puns encouraged. Need ideas? How about "Veery Good Time," "No Egrets," "Accipiterrific," "Scrub Jay Walkers," or "Pintailgating."

Fundraising Tips

Want to participate in Birdathon but worried about fundraising? Let go of that stress and give it a try! Chances are you know people who also care about birds and nature and would be happy to support a cause that you care about.

Here are some tips:

- **Make it personal.** Tell the story of why you support Portland Audubon. Maybe it's the sense of joy and wonder you got from a bird walk or your commitment to protecting endangered species.
- **Set a goal** and update potential donors about your progress.
- **Be creative!** Make cookies for your donors, write each one a song, throw a bird-themed party. Put the fun back in fundraising.
- **Get some help.** When you register, we'll send you tips, including sample fundraising letters.



2020 BIRDATHON TRIPS

Morning Trips

NEW! Knithatches

May 2 (Sat), 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Grab your binoculars and your knitting needles and bird with Colleen McDaniel and volunteer coordinator Vicky Medley at a local wetland.

NEW! Bay Gulls

May 16 (Sat), 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Join Columbia County big-year record holder Tom Myers for bagels and a morning kayak around Scappoose Bay.

Millennial Falcons

May 24 (Sun), 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Calling all young adult birders, photographers, and nature lovers aged 21 to 35! Join avian enthusiasts Erin Cathcart and Brandon Lampkin for a casual half day of birding.

NEW! Neoflights

Date TBD, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Meg Ruby leads this trip tailored for beginning birders. A great chance to build your birding skills with expert leaders.

A Song in the Morning

Date TBD, 7 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

Mt. Tabor expert Tom McNamara leads a morning walk around this migrant hotspot in search of warblers, flycatchers, and nesting resident birds.

Jackson Bottom Ramblers

Date TBD, 7 a.m.–12 p.m.

Join Steve Engel, Hillsboro's Nature Program Supervisor and former Portland Audubon staffer, for a morning at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve.

Learn more and sign up at
birdathon.audubonportland.org



Want to start a team? Not sure what team to join? Birdathon Coordinator Sarah Swanson is happy to help make your Birdathon experience a great one. Contact her at birdathon@audubonportland.org



Full Day Trips

NEW! Subadult Raptors (Youth team) April 26 (Sun), 7 a.m.–2 p.m.

Portland Audubon educators Abby VanLeuven and Brodie Cass Talbott accompany a team of birders ages 13–19 to Mt. Tabor and Sauvie Island.

Tequila Mockingbirds May 2 (Sat), 7 a.m.–2 p.m.

Join the Tequila Mockingbirds on a Nature Store Birdathon adventure along the Columbia River in North Portland looking for fantastic birds. Stops will include wetlands, parks, and river beaches.

Mult Madness May 5 (Tues), 6 a.m.–7 p.m.

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

The Murre The Merrier May 9 (Sat), 7 a.m.–6 p.m.

Sarah Swanson and Max Smith, authors of *Must-See Birds of the Pacific Northwest*, lead this day-long trip beginning in Portland and heading to the coast.

Slough Birds May 9 (Sat), 7 a.m.–2 p.m.

Join Micah Meskel of Portland Audubon's conservation team and Thomas Meinzen of Columbia Slough Watershed Council to bird along the Columbia Slough in Multnomah County.

Handle-Barred Owls May 17 (Sun), 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Join Portland Audubon staff members Tara Lemezis, Kelsey Kuhnhausen, and Tim Donner for a bikes, birds, and beer adventure in North Portland.

Red-breasted Winesuckers May 23 (Sat), 7 a.m.–2 p.m.

(Open to Wildlife Care Center volunteers and supporters.) Join WCC Operations Manager Stephanie Herman and April Jakabosky Brown, ambassador animal trainer, for a day of birding and camaraderie.

Clackamas Creepers May 23 (Sat), 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Bird some lesser known Clackamas County sites with Portland Audubon educator and long-time local birder Dan van den Broek.

Sage Flight May 30 (Sat), 7 a.m.–3 p.m.

Join Teresa and Janelle Wicks to bird the hotspots of the Crooked River Hwy from Prineville to the Prineville Reservoir, on an eagles and ales quest along the Crooked River.

Crow Magnons May 30 (Sat), 6 a.m.–9 p.m.

Explore the diverse habitats of Wasco County with Joe Liebezeit, Portland Audubon's Avian Conservation Program Manager, and David Mandell, professional birding guide.

Pride in the Tide June 7 (Sun), 7 a.m.–6 p.m.

Join other LGBTQ+ birders on this all-day rainbow ramble to the Oregon Coast with Mary Coolidge and Candace Larson, bird nerds and biologists with Portland Audubon.

Blue-crested Corvids Date TBA, 7 a.m.–2 p.m.

Join Meg Ruby and April Jakabosky Brown to bird the hotspots of the Columbia Confluence.

Tour de Bird Date TBA

Pedal along the Banks-Vernonia trail with Portland Audubon staffers Erin Law (the expert) and Donna Wiench (the enthusiast).

Gonzo Trips

Wild Turkeys May 15–17 (Fri–Sun)

Join Ron Carley and other notorious birders for a desert-to-coast, mountains-to-valleys birding spree from Summer Lake and Fort Rock to the coast.

Owl Be Darned May 15–17 (Fri–Sun)

Join Hailey Walls, Kayla McCurry, and Christine Jervis for a three-day trip geared toward women birders.

Lagerhead Shrikes May 29–31 (Fri–Sun) (Waitlist only)

Dan van den Broek and Mark Greenfield will guide this three-day, two-night trip to the south-central part of Oregon, including Klamath Falls Fort Rock, and the Sisters-Bend area.



Barn Swallow nestlings, photo by Scott Carpenter.

Help Birds at Home This Spring!

By now, spring migration is in full swing, and early nesters are hard at work on the next generation. **Recent news about the loss of 30% of our North American birds over the last 50 years** has perhaps given us all a reason to think about the state of our birds and their fight to survive. Some of the most common hazards, like habitat destruction, cats, windows, and light pollution, are things we can combat right here at home.

Many birds, especially songbirds, migrate at night, using the stars as guides. Urban skyglow masks the stars and disorients these migrants, luring them into cities where they are at higher risk of encountering window glass, cats, and other hazards. Resident and nesting birds are also vulnerable to these pressures.

Reduce Outdoor Lighting and Prevent Window Strikes

- Turn off unnecessary overnight porch and yard lighting, or put outside lights on motion sensors.
- Break up misleading/confusing reflections on windows with specialized window-marking products (available in our Nature Store).
- Place bird feeders within three feet of windows! Birds are commonly flushed off feeders; they have less momentum if they hit a window from close range.
- Take the Pledge to Go Lights Out! and help us preserve dark skies! Visit our webpage to enroll.

Build Habitat in Your Own Backyard!

- Leave the leaves in your yard. Leaf “litter” provides important food and shelter for bugs, birds, and more.
- Be careful when pruning trees and shrubs. Look for active nests, particularly during breeding seasons (February–August). If you do disturb a nest, contact the Wildlife Care Center ASAP. It may be possible to reunite the family.
- Enroll in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program! Visit backyardhabitats.org to learn more.

Learn How to Be a Wildlife Advocate

- Give fledglings space: young birds can't fly well when they first leave the nest, and their parents are still caring for them. Think a baby bird needs help? Before intervening, and to prevent unintentional kidnapping, check out the flow chart on our website.
- Keep your cats inside or build a catio! Nearly 500 birds came to us last year because they were injured by a cat, and many, many more didn't survive the encounter. Visit Catsafeathome.org for more on keeping your cat and the birds safe and happy.
- Avoid using glue or sticky traps in open air; they can catch insects that attract birds too close. If a bird does get caught, bring it into the Care Center right away. Attempts to remove the animal at home can harm it.
- If a bird hits your window, put it in a secure cardboard box in a dark, quiet, warm place for one hour. If it is unable to fly away after that time, bring it to the Wildlife Care Center for treatment.

2019 in Review: Wildlife Care Center

by Steph Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager

This past year was a wild ride. We cared for 4,011 animals, a record high! To put that in perspective, in 2018 we cared for just over 3,000 animals, so that's almost a 30% increase in just one year. Interestingly, we saw increases in species intakes across the board, with native mammals (like bats, chipmunks, and ground squirrels) representing the only statistically significant proportional increase. That means we're seeing more animals overall, although we're not yet sure why.

The top four known causes of injury were cats (24%: 531 animals), car collisions (16%: 356 animals), window strikes (13%: 290 animals), and well-meaning people unknowingly rescuing healthy babies (10%: 215 animals). As you'll notice, these are all dangers that animals are exposed to because of people. That's why Portland Audubon's greater mission to engage, educate, and advocate is so incredibly important to us at the Wildlife Care Center. Our work treating injured animals at the Care Center is paired with innovative campaigns to reduce the primary causes of wildlife injury such as the Cats Safe at Home Campaign in partnership with the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon, Birdsafe Portland to reduce window collisions, Lights Out to reduce light pollution, and other efforts to reduce poisons, poaching, and use of lead ammunition.

At the Care Center, our outreach and education primarily takes the form of working with callers, animal rescuers, and visitors. But every year, we miss calls simply due to the sheer volume we receive. In an attempt to remedy that, for 2019 we increased our coverage significantly,

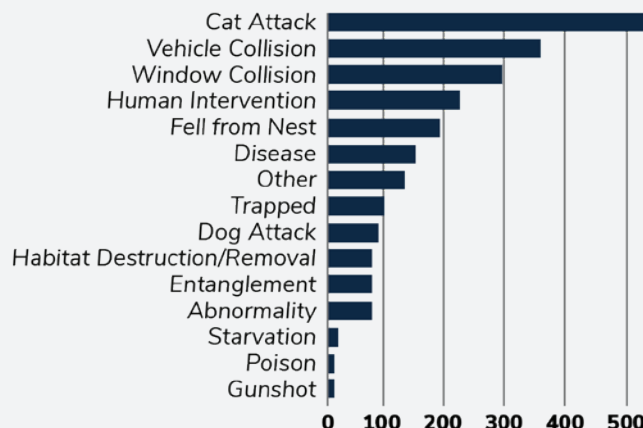


and answered a record 13,000 calls and emails! June 19 was the busiest day on the phone (71 logged calls!), and June 13 was the busiest intake day (49 animals!). We've got some new ideas to try in 2020, and I expect our community engagement numbers to only go up from here.

On a personal note, 2019 will always be the bright year when I came to Portland and began working in this beautiful and dedicated community. I have been continually impressed by this place and the innumerable people I meet through this work who care passionately for wildlife and our environment. So I want you to know that whether you are a volunteer who kept the center running, a supporter or donor, a caller who cared enough to try to solve a wildlife conflict humanely, or one of the 4,000+ people who rescued an animal, you have made a difference for our wildlife, for our community, and for me.

On behalf of the Wildlife Care Center team, thank you for 2019, and let's keep up the great work in 2020!

Known Causes of Animal Admission 2019



FIELD NOTES

by Harry Nehls

Spring Migration

When discussing the spring movements of a species, two dates are usually given. The first movement is of males willing to brave the elements to reach the nesting area first and claim the best territories.

Most birders look for and report the first birds of the season, but the date can be misleading as there are so few early birds that most go unobserved, only to be reported farther north before being seen locally.

The second date given is the most important. It is the date of the first major movement. The first to pass are adult males and is highly conspicuous and widespread. This is followed several days later by the main movement of adult females, somewhat less conspicuous but also involving large numbers of individuals.



Western Tanager, photo by Tara Lemezís.

Soon after, often overlapping the female movement, are the immatures and other birds most likely not taking part in that year's nesting activities.

Among many of the species that rely on flying insects there are several flights, with birds still arriving in mid-June. By that time few birders are looking for migrant birds, and these late movements are not noticed.

SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott

The biggest birding news in Portland this winter happened to be a bird that wasn't in Portland, or even Oregon. A **Siberian Accentor**, normally in East Asia about now, has chosen a field in rural Woodland, Washington, as its wintering location, allowing hundreds of birders from all over the country to come and see it.

In more local news, the Portland Christmas Bird Count unearthed a few notable birds, including a heard-only **Townsend's Solitaire** at Moonshadow Park (one was then seen in mid-January in Overlook by Adam Nashban); an **American Dipper** was spotted in Forest Park; and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in Washington Park was refound on CBC day after an earlier report.

The biggest rarity-producer of the winter so far was the winter storm that brought a fair number of normally ocean-going birds into the valley. Foremost were **Black-legged Kittiwakes**, of which possibly a dozen were reported at various sites including Hagg Lake, Vernonia Lake, and the mouth of the Sandy River. At the same time, record numbers of **Red-throated Loons** were reported along the Columbia River, as far upstream as Troutdale. The Company Lake area had a number of good birds including a **Pelagic Cormorant** found by Ross Barnes-Rickett and a **Mountain Chickadee** found by Justin Cook.



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, photo by Claudine LaMothe.

More recently, a **Tufted Duck** was found by Susan Kirkbride along Marsh Road near Verboort.

In Springfield a female **Vermilion Flycatcher** first ID'ed by Ramiro Aaragon continues. In Seaside, Steve Warner found a **Mountain Plover**, the first in the state in perhaps four years, and at least two **Hooded Orioles** have been wintering along the North Coast.

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



Register for Spring & Summer
Camps at audubonportland.org



Photo by Chloe Kov.

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

Save Your Spot For Spring Break Camp!

Grades 1-8 | March 23-27

Join Portland Audubon for spring break camp! 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 Maskerade	Jays & Junco	Newt Scoot
Grades 5-8	Nature Photography	When the Smoke Clears	Binding the Butter	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



American Crow, photo by Scott Carpenter.

NATURE NIGHTS

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

NATURE NIGHT

Kaeli Swift, PhD: The Inner Lives of Crows

March 10 | 7 p.m.

Kaeli Swift, PhD is a crow expert who has spent the past eight years studying the unique behavior of crows: specifically their practice of hosting funerals. Join us to learn all about these intelligent, charismatic, and complex birds that share our landscape.

Where: Alberta Abbey, 126 NE Alberta St., Portland



NATURE NIGHT

Sprinavasa Brown: Building Inclusive Scientific Communities for our Shared Future

April 14 | 7 p.m.

Sprinavasa Brown, co-founder of Camp ELSO Inc., has a deep passion for social justice, racial equity in education, and solving complex problems facing communities of color. Join us to learn how she and her team are breaking down barriers and decolonizing science to make the outdoors and environmental education more inclusive.

Where: Alberta Abbey, 126 NE Alberta St., Portland



NATURE NIGHT

Stanley Gehrt, PhD: Exploring the Mysteries of Coyotes in the City

April 28 | 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



Join us for the Spring Optics Fair April 25.

NATURE STORE EVENTS

Author Event: Marcy Houle

Wednesday, March 11 | 7–8 p.m.

Join us for an evening with Marcy Houle and her new book, *A Generous Nature: Lives Transformed by Oregon*. Profiling 21 conservationists and activists in Oregon, *A Generous Nature* speaks to the passion and courage of these individuals to fight for the places we know and love.

Where: Portland Audubon's Heron Hall



Author Event: William Sullivan

Friday, April 10 | 7–8 p.m.

Oregon's hiking expert, William Sullivan, takes us on an illustrated tour of a dozen new hikes he discovered while researching the fifth edition of *100 Hikes in NW Oregon & SW Washington*.

Where: Portland Audubon's Heron Hall



Spring Optics Fair

Saturday, April 25 | 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Join us for our annual Spring Optics Fair! Representatives from Zeiss, Swarovski, Nikon, Vortex, Leupold, Opticron, and Manfrotto will be on hand to help you choose the best optics for your needs. Test out the latest models, ask the experts any question big or small, and learn what factors will impact your choice. We will also offer extra sales and discounts!

Where: Portland Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary



\$ Cost Involved

Public Transit Available

FREE Free

Family Friendly

Wheelchair Accessible



Tufted Puffin, photo by Scott Carpenter.

ADULT EDUCATION

Classes & Audubon Birding Days

NEW SERIES!

Coastal Birding Through the Seasons

April, June, August, January. [Learn more on back cover.](#)

Instructors: Candace Larson and Dan van den Broek

Class: Birding By Ear

Class: April 30, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (Heron Hall)

Field Trip: May 2, 7 a.m.-11 a.m. (Sauvie Island)

Join Brodie Cass Talbott for an evening of exploring the tricks of the trade for birding by ear. We'll cover the basics of bird vocalizations, tips for deciphering what you're hearing and practice our new skills with a field trip to Sauvie Island.

Class with field trip fee: \$55 members / \$70 non-members

Class only fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 12 participants

ABD: Puffin Homecoming

Saturday, April 18, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Venture to Haystack Rock, Oregon's most famous Tufted Puffin colony site, to see these pied footballs begin their annual nesting. After observing and discussing the puffins and other alcids we'll visit other hotspots in Clatsop County.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 10 participants

ABD: Hwy 35: Hood to the Hook

Saturday, May 9, 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

What it lacks in size, Hood River County makes up for in elevation. On this day-long trip, we'll explore from the flanks of Mt. Hood, listening for mountain warblers, all the way down to the Columbia River where we'll look for Caspian Terns and migrating shorebirds.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members

Instructors: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 10 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](https://www.meetup.com/portland-audubon-outings).

Register for outings
at [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com/portland-audubon-outings)



SPECIAL EVENTS

Welcome Back Vulture Day

Saturday, March 14 | 12-3 p.m.

Nadaka Nature Park & St. Aidan's Church

Join us for a free day of fun for the whole family as we celebrate the Turkey Vulture's return to Oregon this spring. Learn about vultures in our community, meet a real Turkey Vulture, and enjoy vulture-themed activities. Snacks and drinks provided.

Did you notice you only see Turkey Vultures in the Portland Metro area in the spring and summer? That's because they migrate to warmer climates in the winter. Now it's time to welcome them back! Around the world, vultures are facing hazards in the wild and their numbers are dwindling. It's up to us to help save and protect them!



Versicolored Barbet, photo by Joao Quental.

INTERNATIONAL ECOTOURS

Panama: The Great Transamerican Raptor Migration

October 15–22, 2020

Visit the emerald-green rainforest in one of the biologically richest tropical regions on the planet! We will bird world-famous Ancon Hill, located at the Pacific gateway to the Panama Canal, to view the massive raptor migration. Up to 20 species may be spotted, with the majority being Turkey Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Broad-winged Hawk, and Swainson's Hawk.

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

Leaders: Erin Law and local guides

Colombia: Cauca Valley and Amazonian Piedmont

November 2–19, 2020

Discover the allure of enchanting Andean cloud forests and lush lowland rainforests. Colombia is a must-visit for any bird lover, containing almost 20% of the world's species in just 1% of the landmass, with more bird species (1,950) than any other country in the world.

Fee: \$5,795 members / \$6,095 non-members

Leader: Dan van den Broek

Madagascar

November 2–16, 2020

Join Portland Audubon on a trip of a lifetime to Madagascar: land of lemurs, chameleons, and many odd endemic birds! We will visit the strange Didierea woodland, or "spiny forest," an awe-inspiring botanical wonderland.

Fee: \$6,495 members / \$6,795 non-members

Leaders: Stefan Schlick and local guides



American Avocet, photo by Scott Carpenter.

PNW ECOTOURS

Central Oregon Birding

June 4–7, 2020

Enjoy the late spring in beautiful Central Oregon looking for local specialties! We will explore different habitats including sagebrush, shrub steppe, pine woodlands, and wetlands.

Fee: \$900 members / \$1,050 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

Birding the Basin

June 10–14, 2020

The many lakes and wetlands of Southeastern Oregon are host to some of the most amazing congregations of nesting waterbirds in the state. During the breeding season, thousands of waterbirds depend on these lakes, in this otherwise dry region, to raise their young.

Fee: \$1095 members / \$1295 non-members

Leader: Dan van den Broek

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

NEW

Early Bird Deals on Ecotours!

We are excited to introduce new trip discounts for our 2021 trips as a thank-you for early ecotour registrations!

Deadline to take advantage of the Early Bird price:

- Pacific Northwest ecotours: Sign up 3 months or more before the trip to receive Early Bird pricing
- International and domestic ecotours: Sign up 8 months or more before the trip to receive Early Bird pricing

Check out our trips online for Early Bird pricing!

2020

May 9–15 Machu Picchu

June 4–7 Central Oregon

June 10–14 Birding the Basin

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

2021

Jan. 6–10 Arizona

Jan. 10–17 Belize

Feb. 1–15 Borneo

Feb. 8–23 Ghana

March 10–17 San Blas

March 25–April 1 Florida

March 26–29 Klamath

April 12–21 Texas

Portland Levee Project: A \$165 Million Boondoggle

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In mid-February, Portland Audubon and more than a dozen conservation and environmental justice groups submitted comments opposing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan to repair and modernize the Columbia River Levee System, which extends from Portland to Troutdale and protects more than 24,000 acres of historic Columbia River floodplain from flooding.

The plan is needed so that the levee system can meet national standards for recertification. Make no mistake—we agree that the levee system needs to be repaired and modernized, but the \$165 million plan that the Corps brought forward is massively expensive, contains potentially huge hidden costs, and fails to integrate any natural resource restoration or environmental justice objectives in favor of U.S. Army Corps business as usual: larger levees, taller seawalls, and bigger pump stations.

Like many levee systems, ours were designed with little to no consideration of the environment. They destroyed thousands of acres of floodplain and eliminated miles of salmon habitat. The needed repairs provide a once-in-a-century opportunity to undo some of that damage. Thanks to strong input from Audubon Activists and others last year, the 2019 Oregon Legislature created a new Flood Safety and Water Quality District to upgrade and manage this important system with an explicit mandate to integrate environmental restoration, environmental justice, and climate resiliency into its mission.

“The plan...fails to integrate any natural resource restoration or environmental justice objectives”

Unfortunately the Corps completely dropped the ball. The plan that it brought forward in early 2020:

- Includes no environmental restoration objectives—not a single one.
- Fails to mitigate for new negative environmental impacts, including the removal of hundreds of mature trees.
- Ignores environmental justice issues despite the fact that the area of impact includes some of the highest concentrations of communities of color in the state.
- Is completely bloated—the Corps picked the most expensive alternative, two to three times the cost of other alternatives it considered and with a significantly lower cost/benefit ratio.
- Contains potentially massive hidden costs that are not included in the \$165 million price tag, and could add tens and even hundreds of millions of dollars in costs, including a requirement that local jurisdictions (i.e., local taxpayers) deliver 23 contaminated sites to the Corps “free of substantial concentrations of hazardous materials.”
- Does not even make our communities safe despite the exorbitant cost—it does not include 5 out of 9 projects identified as necessary to meet FEMA recertification requirements

The Corps developed its plan in a closed-door process and provided inadequate time for local jurisdictions and community stakeholders to review the plan. The levee system does need to be modernized and this opportunity needs to be done right. Local jurisdictions like the City of Portland, Metro and Multnomah County, who will pay much of the cost of this project need to demand a plan that is cost effective and achieves the environmental and environmental justice mandates of the new Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District.

Green lighting this draft plan now will only result in tens of millions of additional wasted dollars and many more months of delay before the plan eventually collapses under its own prodigious flaws. To see a copy of comments submitted by Portland Audubon and other stakeholders please visit our website.

Become an Activist at
audubonportland.org/take-action





Group photo of the first annual Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi CBC4Kids.

Exploring the World of Birds with Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

The Wadatika Band of Paiute have called much of southeastern Oregon home since time immemorial. Today, the Burns Paiute Tribe's Reservation consists of nearly 800 acres just outside of Burns, Oregon. About 40% of the Tribe's 402 enrolled members live on the reservation, about 50% of whom are under the age of 18. When Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi, Kids' House in Wadatika Yaduan (Wadatika language), opened its doors in 2012, it created a place for Burns Paiute youth to participate in cultural activities and outdoor education, and receive tutoring after school and during out-of-school weekday hours.

Since 2017, Portland Audubon has partnered with the Burns Paiute Tribe's Natural Resources Department and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge staff to provide outreach and engagement opportunities for the Tribe's youth. From exploring raptor biology to setting up nest boxes for American Kestrels, together we've been exploring the world of birds, conservation, and natural history.

This winter, Portland Audubon and the Tribe's Wildlife Program organized a Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi CBC4Kids (Christmas Bird Count for Kids) program. The program started with a "binocular boot camp," teaching the kids how to use their binoculars and how to identify birds. The youth then practiced counting birds by observing the feeders that they had created earlier in the week. After counting birds around Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi and Rainbow Park, the youth climbed into vans and surveyed the Reservation and some of the surrounding land. The youth were

excited about bringing a national bird count program to the Reservation, coining the name "Rez bird count" for the program. Despite heavy snowfall and temperatures around 32°F, the youth found around a dozen species, including a Chukar that was searching for bird seed underneath the feeder.

On the ride back to Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi, where a hot cocoa bar sponsored by the Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge awaited them, the youth made up songs about the birds we had seen set to tunes like "Old MacDonald" and "Bingo." After the countdown at Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi, one of the youth asked if there would be more opportunities to watch and count birds in the future. Because of this, Portland Audubon is working with the Wildlife Program and Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi staff to create quarterly "Rez bird counts" to keep youth engaged in observing and counting birds and create opportunities for them to identify changes in bird communities between seasons and over time.

We are excited to continue this partnership with Tu-Wa-Kii Nobi and the Burns Paiute Tribe's Natural Resources staff, collaborating on grants, curriculum, and new ways to engage Paiute youth in conservation and outdoor education.

Learn more about Portland Audubon's work in Eastern Oregon by visiting audubonportland.org or by following Restore Malheur on Facebook.

IN MEMORY

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

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Continued on page 17.

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Black Oystercatchers, photo by Scott Carpenter.

Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project: Community Science for Conservation

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist and Avian Conservation Program Manager

Portland Audubon's Community Science program spans the state, from the iconic coast to the high desert of eastern Oregon as well as the Portland Metro region. We engage members of the public to help us better understand the ecology of birds and other wildlife as well as the habitats they depend on—and have fun doing it! These efforts enable us to more effectively accomplish our conservation goals and help influence public policy.

One of our flagship projects on the coast is the Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project. Since 2015, with partners including coastal Audubon chapters, Friends groups and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, we have been monitoring this bird of conservation concern in rocky shoreline habitats along the entire Oregon coast. We conduct abundance surveys at 75 sites and monitor over 30 nests a year. We rely on our dedicated team of over 100 community scientist volunteers to do the bulk of the surveys. These volunteers also do an amazing job of public outreach to help limit disturbance to black oystercatcher nests, particularly from visitors that come to enjoy the natural beauty of our coast, but have no idea the rocky shoreline is an important nesting area for oystercatchers and many seabirds. One of our long-term volunteers has become so inspired that she is working with other community members to establish a Friends group at Otter Rock Marine Reserve (just north of Newport)

to help inform the public about oystercatchers as well as provide information on one of Oregon's five marine reserves (underwater nature parks) in our state waters.

Our community science surveys of the Black Oystercatcher have revealed this species' population is quite small, with only 500-600 birds, and that most of the population resides on the south coast. In March, findings from this effort were published in the scientific journal *Northwest Naturalist*. We have also contributed our survey data to an ecological inventory that the Department of Land Conservation and Development is using in a process that will, starting in the spring of 2020, allow the public to nominate rocky habitat sites on the coast for stronger protections. Portland Audubon and partners are working at the policy level to advocate for a strong "rocky habitat management plan" process. This is a great example of how information from a community science project is being used to influence conservation in multiple ways, from science to policy to advocacy.

We are ramping up for a busy spring and summer with lots of community science opportunities from coast to desert. To learn more and get involved, visit audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science or contact Joe Liebezeit at jliebezeit@audubonportland.org

Join Us for a Bird Song Walk this April & May!

Portland Audubon is excited to host the 2020 season of morning Bird Song Walks! From beginner to advanced birders, anyone who is fascinated by the sight and sound of birds will enjoy these walks. Take advantage of these volunteer-guided walks to the metro area's prime spring migration hotspots. If you start with the earliest trips, you will become familiar with the common resident species' songs and then keep pace with the migrant birds as they arrive.

Bring binoculars and a field guide, if you have them. Be sure to dress properly for the weather. Spring mornings can be surprisingly chilly. These walks are drop in! We will post information about all Bird Song Walks on Meetup, but registration is not required, and you can leave whenever you like.

You will find full descriptions of these Bird Song Walks including meeting locations on the Meetup group and on the Portland Audubon website. Go to trimet.org or call 503-238-RIDE (7433) for public transportation route information.

SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, most Bird Song Walks begin at 7 a.m. and end at 9 a.m. in April & May.

Mondays

Tryon Creek State Park

Leaders: Rick & Stephanie Wagner

Tuesdays

Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge
(8-10am)

Leaders: Hailey Walls & others

Wednesday

Mt. Tabor Park

Leaders: Meg Ruby, Em Scattaregia, Dan van den Broek & others

Thursdays

Pittock Mansion

Leaders: Wink Gross & Diana Byrne

Jackson Bottom Wetlands/
Education Center (April Only)

Leader: Steve Engel

Rood Bridge Park (May Only)

Leader: Steve Engel

Friday

Kelley Point Park

Leaders: Erin Law & others

Camassia Natural Area

Leader: Dan van den Broek

Ivor Davies Park

Leader: Joe Blowers

IN HONOR

Continued from page 17.

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Susan Engert

Lynn & Richard Herring
Alexander Herring

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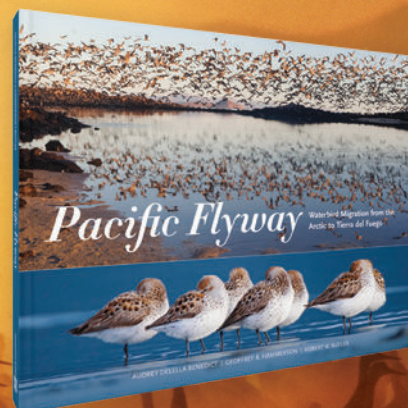
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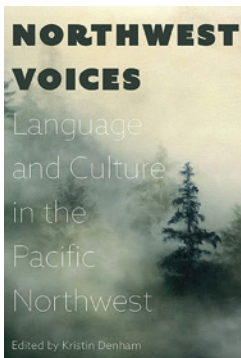


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Nesting season is right around the corner, and many of our local species are already looking for materials to make their nests! The Nature Store has all you need to help your backyard birds make a cozy nest for their young. Stop by and stock up on products like nesting balls made with local dye-free organic alpaca fiber and Oregon Grapevine.



Alpaca Nesting Balls: \$18 at the Nature Store.



Book Highlight

Northwest Voices: Language and Culture in the Pacific Northwest, edited by Kristin Denham

The Pacific Northwest is a language hotspot because of its diverse Native languages. The essays collected here examine the historical background of the PNW, the contributions of indigenous languages, the regional legacy of English, and the relationship between our perceptions of people and the languages they speak.

Member price: \$20.66

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Brandt's Cormorant, photo by Robin Agarwal.

NEW CLASS SERIES!

Coastal Birding Through the Seasons

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

Spring

Class: April 22
Outing: April 24–26

Summer

Class: June 24
Outing: June 26–28

Fall

Class: August 19
Outing: August 21–23

Winter (2021)

Class: January 13
Outing: January 15–17

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On the Cover: Soggy Bottom Birders, photo by Kelsey Kuhnhausen.

On the Inside Cover: Nick Fish, Varied Thrush in WCC, and Camps by Ali Berman, Black Oystercatcher by Molly Sultany, Yellow Warbler by Audrey Addison.



Birdy Brain Buster!

Which of these behaviors does
a Tufted Puffin exhibit when
defending its territory?

- A. Holding bill open
- B. Wing flapping
- C. Approaching intruder
- D. All of the above



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Answer: D. All of the Above