

## Adapting to a New Reality







Executive Director Nick Hardigg outside his makeshift office.

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Together *(while physically separate)* For Nature

Calling upon our community in an unprecedented moment.

Greetings from a makeshift office in a leaky pop-up camper outside my home, where my kids are working through their daily lessons. Like most of America, Portland Audubon staff have been working remotely to help slow COVID-19 and protect our community. It's been a challenging time—for everyone. On behalf of our staff, board, and hundreds of volunteers, we wish you and your loved ones health and safety during this uncertain time.

**Our work is just as critical as ever, while COVID-19 tests our organization as never before.** We've had to cancel events and school programs, camps and ecotours. We've restricted our Nature Store to curbside pickup and virtual appointments. Our Wildlife Care Center operates safely, but without the volunteer crew it usually relies on. In short, we've had to temporarily overhaul our organization's entire working model. Though necessary, these closures and cancellations have taken a terrible toll on our revenue during our busiest time of year. Now, we need your help.

Thanks to the love and commitment of this community, Portland Audubon has overcome many challenges during its 118-year history. This time, **a loyal and generous donor has pledged a \$100,000 match challenge to help us through this rocky period.** If you have the ability to make an additional gift today, **every dollar will be doubled** through June 2020.

I am so proud of our dedicated and expert staff and volunteers, and all that we achieve together, year after year. I look forward to everyone coming back to our classes, Nature Nights, and rallies, and having the laughter and wonder of children grace our sanctuary. And now, we need to come together through an exceptional campaign to keep us strong. **If you're in a position to help us reach this match challenge, please make a gift online at [audubonportland.org](https://audubonportland.org). And please stay safe.**

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Great Blue Herons, photo by Mick Thompson.

## Adapting to a New Reality

by Ali Berman, Communications Manager

**Adaptation.** It's a word our educators use when they talk about how species change over time to become better suited to their environment. The hooked beak that helps a raptor tear food, or the perfect length of a cougar's tail that helps them maintain balance—adaptations necessary to survive. Now, it's a word we've been thinking about every day, not in the context of the species we work so hard to protect, but rather how we as individuals and as an organization adapt to our new reality with COVID-19.

The world is drastically different from the time our last Warbler arrived in your mailbox. On March 14, Portland Audubon closed its offices, shifting almost our entire staff to working from home in order to help flatten the curve, protect our community, and ensure our medical facilities have the resources they need to treat those most impacted by the pandemic—a pandemic that disproportionately affects the elderly, immune compromised, African Americans, immigrants, Latinx communities, people with low income, and other marginalized communities.

In response, we canceled spring break camps, classes, school programs, bird song walks, Nature Nights, and ecotours, and shifted to phone orders, delivery and pick up at our Nature Store—all taking a huge financial toll on the organization.

Once we established what we couldn't do, the real challenge began. How would we continue to bring our mission to life and maintain strong connections with our community while keeping people safe? In short, how would we adapt?

Staff gathered together in video meetings from their home offices to reimagine our programs and—within days—implement and communicate those changes to our community: members and volunteers, Birdathoners and Backyard Habitat builders, activists and education participants, community scientists and the general public. Using all their creativity, ingenuity, and passion for our mission, staff made sweeping changes to how we operate and how we work together while being physically apart. And we're still adapting.

- **Our Conservation team** is still going full steam ahead, switching to virtual meetings as they continue their work to protect the Elliott State Forest, fix the Snake River Dams, uplist the threatened Marbled Murrelet, clean up the Willamette River, and so much more.
- **Our Education team** created and launched online classes and learning opportunities for both kids and adults, with offerings filling up at record speed.
- **Our Wildlife Care Center** is working during its busiest time of the year with a skeleton crew, now with a no-contact drop-off system for injured and orphaned wildlife to ensure we can keep this essential service open while protecting the health of our staff and the public.
- **We redesigned Birdathon**, our biggest and most important fundraiser of the year, now full of creative virtual teams that keep us safe and connected through birding.





Nature Store Manager Janet Drake (pictured) and team continues to fulfill orders while the store remains closed to the public.

- **The Nature Store** started offering no-contact bird seed delivery, curbside pick-up, phone orders, virtual optics appointments, and launched an online store to bring in revenue and help people enjoy birds and nature right from their homes.
- **Our Backyard Habitat team** is focusing on providing remote support to program participants as they work toward certification and building up a list of sites ready for certification once visits resume.
- **Our Development team** is reaching out to members and donors, asking them to help us through tough financial times by making a gift to make up for the loss of revenue during our busiest time of year.
- **The Communications team** increased digital offerings, writing more articles, social media posts, emails to our members, and developing new ideas to engage in an increasingly digital world.
- **We've adjusted our HR and Equity work** to offer more robust support of staff and our diversity, equity and inclusion work through virtual check-ins, Online Lunch & Learns, and weekly updates on COVID-19 issues.

Within the Portland Audubon flock, our mission continues to bind us together—our collective passion and dedication to protecting native birds, other wildlife, and their habitat. The threats facing the environment haven't changed or slowed down even as our human world is shaken, which is why we can't slow down either.

Instead, we must adapt, not over generations like our avian friends, but immediately so that we can continue the fight against the biggest threats to our environment. And take care of ourselves and each other in the process.

One thing we can't re-create is our daily in-person interactions with all of you.

We miss our volunteers, some of whom we have seen every week at our sanctuary for years. We miss our members, campers, and partners who we see at Nature Nights, bird outings, classes, and at our Nature Store. We wonder how each of you are doing, and keep brainstorming new ways we can reach out and support you during this time.

This pandemic has affected us all differently. We each have our own very personal stories to tell as we settle into our homes, some of us with family or roommates, and others in isolation. Many of us face additional personal hardships, from loss of work to fear for ourselves and our loved ones to grieving and uncertainty over how long this will last. Each of us sits in this shared global experience and yet also follows our own individual path.

Amid all of this struggle, and the tough questions it presents about ourselves and our future, we hope you are finding solace in nature, watching birds in your backyards and neighborhoods. As we are forced to slow down, we witness courting, nesting, and new life as chicks are hatching all around us. It's good medicine for our mental health to see inspiration from the natural world right outside our windows.

As we wait to see what the future will bring, we'll continue to adapt, recognizing that adaptation, even when it's forced, can lead to incredible growth. We are here with you, united always by our common love for nature, and now by our common humanity as we do our best to get through tough times. We remember that we're all in this together, and we're grateful to be with you.

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## Portland Audubon at Home

Staff in their new home offices







Coho Salmon, photo by Bureau of Land Management.

## Conservation: Your Voice is Needed More than Ever

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

While the COVID-19 crisis is unprecedented and horrific, perhaps there is also one powerful and positive lesson that we can take from this situation: we have the ability to make rapid and fundamental change at a local, continental, and global scale. The environmental challenges we face, from the sixth mass biodiversity extinction to global climate change, represent existential threats that dwarf COVID-19. While we would never want to have to make the type of frantic transition we have had to make in the COVID-19 crisis, we also know from overwhelming scientific data that we are currently moving in a manner that is far too slow, incremental, and tepid when it comes to our deteriorating environment. The COVID-19 response, if nothing else, opens our eyes to the potential to make rapid and fundamental change. The skies clearing over formerly smog-shrouded cities and the wildlife emerging onto quieted landscapes serve as fleeting ghosts of a future possible...if we are willing to make real change.

The way in which we do conservation during the COVID-19 crisis has shifted dramatically, but the importance of speaking out has never been more clear. Critical decisions at the local, state, and federal level are still advancing, and while some have slowed down, others have accelerated as anti-environmental interests try to take advantage of the chaos.

**The following are a few of the landscape-changing battles ahead.**

### Columbia River Salmon Recovery

For the better part of three decades, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has thumbed its nose at the law, the courts, and the public as it has failed time and time again to develop a plan to protect and recover federally listed salmon from the impacts of the federal hydropower system (the dams). The Corps has been sued and lost five times during that period for its inadequate plans. Instead of addressing the dams, the Corps has focused resources on relentless persecution of natural predators of salmon such as Double-crested Cormorants and sea lions.



**Become an activist:**  
[audubonportland.org/take-action](https://audubonportland.org/take-action)

The science clearly shows that salmon recovery is dependent on two things: removal of four obsolete dams on the Snake River and improving flows over the dams on the Columbia. In late February, the Corps released another draft plan that failed to address these concerns and provide the public with an outrageously short 45-day comment period—a timeline they stubbornly stuck to even as the COVID crisis exploded in its midst. Portland Audubon is proud to be part of a coalition of groups demanding real solutions to this decades-old crisis, but we have no confidence that the Corps will step up. In the coming months we will be working to have the Northwest Congressional Delegation step in and develop solutions where the Corps has repeatedly failed.

### I-5 Rose Quarter Freeway Expansion

Nothing is more representative of our failure to address global climate change than our approach to transportation infrastructure, which remains mired in 1950s style dogma. From its inception, the I-5 project has been a boondoggle in search of a rationale. The data clearly shows that the project will not address congestion and is extremely low on the priority list in terms of safety. Yet ODOT has continued to advance this project for more than a decade. A glimmer of hope appeared in April 2019 when an overwhelming array of community stakeholders demanded that ODOT do a comprehensive environmental impact statement to assess the project and explore alternatives. Politicians who had sat on their hands at Metro, City of Portland, and in the governor's office appeared to heed the call and demanded more review. Unfortunately in April, even as costs ballooned from \$500 million to more than \$800 million and the COVID-19 crisis exploded, ODOT decided to advance the project without an EIS, and local political and state leadership mostly evaporated. However, the battle is far from over—there are many opportunities ahead to reform or abandon this boondoggle.

### Columbia River Levee System

For a century, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has built levee systems with reckless disregard for the natural functioning of ecosystems. The arrogance of the Corps' approach has manifested itself in a series of tragic levee failures in recent decades as water finds a way. Nobody questions the need to keep our communities safe from flooding, but it is long past time for the Corps to develop a paradigm that integrates rather than subjugates the environment and environmental justice. The modernization of the Columbia River Levee system, which provides flood protection for more than 24,000 acres of historic Columbia River floodplain, is just such an opportunity. In January, the Corps released

a draft plan for modernizing the levee system that ignored environmental impacts and environmental justice issues, flagrantly underestimated costs, failed to fully address existing deficiencies in the levee system, and gave the public a woefully short 45 days to comment: in short, business as usual. Despite strong condemnation from stakeholders including conservation organizations, environmental justice organizations, neighborhood groups, and the Yakama Nation Fisheries, local jurisdictions signaled their support for the Corps' plan, and in April, as the COVID crisis exploded, the Corps advanced their plan for final approval in Washington, D.C. In the coming year, the fatal flaws in this plan will only become more apparent. So too, will the opposition.

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“The COVID-19 response, if nothing else, opens our eyes to the potential to make rapid and fundamental change.”

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### What do these three projects have in common?

Each one perpetuates exactly the type of anachronistic policies and practices that have precipitated the current environmental crisis. Each one made a mockery of the public review process. In each instance local jurisdictions with stated commitment to environmental health and justice rolled over and played dead. And in each case, the lead agencies chose to hit the accelerator, even as our communities struggled to cope with the COVID-19 crisis.

Under ordinary circumstances, Portland Audubon practices full-contact conservation. It is a work of hearings, committees, meetings, events, protests, research, and field work. However, we have rapidly made the transition to a fully digitized universe and are excited by how our activists have risen to the occasion. We are seeing a remarkable response to action alerts, and our activists have flooded recent online hearings. We have known for a long time that fundamental change is necessary. We can now see that it is also possible. Your voice is more important than ever in the age of COVID.



FIELD NOTES

by Harry Nehls

Spring Changes

By the first of April, people begin to notice changes in many birds. The noisy and ever-present Scrub-Jay that was so obvious all winter is usually observed standing on an open perch silently watching what is going on around him. The bird occasionally drops down and disappears altogether for long periods.

Birds that seldom even twittered during the winter suddenly fill the neighborhood with loud calls and songs. Many birds that have been hard to find all winter suddenly appear to be everywhere. Two species that come to mind are the Hutton’s Vireo and the Purple Finch. Both are permanent residents. Where are they the rest of the year?

After months of silent woods and forests where birds appear to be nonexistent, people are again surprised how noisy the woods are when the birds are in song.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet, photo by Mick Thompson.

And as they do every spring, everyone wonders how such a loud, strong song can come from the tiny Ruby-Crowned Kinglet.

Each spring serious birders rearrange their schedules to be in the field early in the morning. Most of the action takes place from sunrise to about 9 a.m. The rest of the day is noticeably quieter, and the birds are more secretive.

SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott

It is a well-known feature of bird reports that they more often represent the movements of humans than of the birds themselves, ably demonstrated in rare birds being reported more often the closer they get to population centers. So, small surprise that this year, with hundreds of thousands of Oregonians staying home, or close to, we’ve seen far fewer reports of rare birds. The first weekend of April saw just over half as many reported statewide as last year in the same period.

As has also been noted, of course, the birds themselves continue to move to their own rhythms (but perhaps with clearer skies to fly through). **Mountain Bluebirds** have returned to SE Portland’s Powell Butte for at least the seventh year in a row. A **Say’s Phoebe** joined for one day. Both species, as well as **Western Bluebird**, have been seen sporadically around the region, as they typically are in March.

Dan van den Broek had a brief encounter with a **Mountain Chickadee** at his feeder in Gladstone, not a typical lowland sighting. Anne Tucker found a **Chipping Sparrow** visiting a feeder in SE Portland in late March, on the early side for them.



Mountain Bluebird, photo by Mick Thompson.

Southern Oregon has had two notable rarities of late. A **Common Gallinule** has been lingering in a ditch along Hwy 97 in Klamath County, where it is a county first record, and the state’s first record in nearly a decade. A little further west, a **California Thrasher** was reported again near Ashland, where it spent the breeding season last year.

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](mailto:bcasstalbott@portlandaudubon.org), and for a more detailed weekly report, visit [portlandaudubon.org](http://portlandaudubon.org).



Photo by Abby VanLeuven.

Register online at [audubonportland.org](http://audubonportland.org)

SUMMER CAMP 2020



Explore, Learn, and Play at Portland Audubon Summer Camp!

Grades 1-12 | June 22-August 28

Portland Audubon Summer Camp is here to help your child discover how nature is interwoven throughout their life, providing them with a creative space to express themselves through art, crafting, play, and team building. Each camp, led by experienced educators, inspires kids to love and protect nature, while making friends, playing outside, and finding their place in the natural world.

Camps like Raptors & Rapids and Birding 101 might reveal the ornithologist in your child, while our art camps like Wildcrafting and Endangered Art help your camper embrace their inner artist. If your child wants to learn more about survival skills, we’ve got them covered with Into the Woods, Wilderness Navigation, and Stayin’ Alive! And if your child simply wants to take in the magic and splendor of Pacific Northwest forests, Secret Trails and Hidden Lakes, Chasing Waterfalls, Rooted, and Forest to Farm are sure to inspire a deep love for the beauty of home!

No matter your child’s interests, our camps offer something to every adventurer, artist, scientist, and explorer!





American Kestrel, photo by Mick Thompson.

VIRTUAL OFFERINGS & EVENTS

Visit [audubonportland.org/events](https://audubonportland.org/events) for a full list of all upcoming events.

Weekly Backyard BioBlitz

Every Tuesday in Spring and Summer

Join our Backyard Bioblitz! Now is a great time to collect data about wildlife on our urban landscape right in your backyard! This weekly event which will extend throughout the summer is fun, easy and a great way way to learn more about the wild animals that share our landscape. Designed for all ages, and all skill levels.

Where: Your neighborhood! Visit [audubonportland.org](https://audubonportland.org) to learn how to get involved.

FREE

Ask a Birder

Every Wednesday at 7 p.m. on Facebook Live

Join Portland Audubon's Brodie Cass Talbott, Greg Smith and some of Portland Metro Area's most innovative birders for this weekly, interactive video-cast. Catch up on what's happening in migration this week, get the low-down on recent rare bird sightings, and learn along as our master birders break down your trickiest bird IDs!

Facebook: [facebook.com/portlandaudubon](https://facebook.com/portlandaudubon)

FREE

Virtual Species Spotlight

Every Friday on Instagram

Join Seabird Biologist Greg Smith every Friday on Portland Audubon's Instagram as he highlights some of your favorite Portland-area species and what makes them special, how to identify them, and more.

Instagram: [@portlandaudubon](https://instagram.com/portlandaudubon)

FREE

- Cost Involved
- Public Transit Available
- Free
- Family Friendly
- Wheelchair Accessible



American Goldfinch, photo by John Friedman.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Birding from Home

Birding From Home is our virtual series designed to help backyard birders take a deeper dive into the wonder of local birds and the healing power of nature.

Bird Activity & the Changing Season

May 14, 4–5 p.m. OR May 15, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Spring migration is in full swing. Learn the fundamentals of bird movement, including which species are moving through and which are already breeding.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Dan van den Broek and Candace Larson

\$

Habitat & Birds

May 21, 4–5 p.m. OR May 22, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Many species are tied to specific habitat needs. Learn about how bird habitat preferences change with the season and more.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Dan van den Broek and Candace Larson

\$

Bird Sounds 101

May 28, 4–5 p.m. OR May 29, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Species usually announce their presence by distinctive vocalizations. We will build on our identification skills by learning the calls and songs of some local species.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Dan van den Broek and Candace Larson

\$

A Deeper Dive into Oregon's Birds

June 4, 4–5 p.m. OR June 5, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Oregon has the 5th highest number of species of birds, compared to all other states in the U.S. Learn more about the species in your backyard and beyond!

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Dan van den Broek and Candace Larson

\$



Caspian Tern, photo by Mick Thompson.

DISTANCE LEARNING

Seabirds: A Deep Dive

Join Seabird Biologist Gregory Smith on a virtual journey through all things seabirds. From the Oregon Coast to the Seychelles Islands, we will cover identification, breeding ecology, evolution, and foraging ecology.

Identification of Seabirds of the Oregon Coast

May 18 | 5-6 p.m.

In this first class of the series, we will start local: the Oregon coast. We will go through seasonal movements and key identification features of our inshore and offshore seabirds.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Gregory Smith | Limited to 30 participants

\$

World of Seabirds

May 20 | 5-6 p.m.

We are going worldwide! We will go over seabird families of the world, their adaptations, evolution, and distribution on this blue planet.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Gregory Smith | Limited to 30 participants

\$

Breeding Ecology of Seabirds

May 25 | 5-6 p.m.

Explore the myriad ways seabirds breed, nest, and raise offspring around the world.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Gregory Smith | Limited to 30 participants

\$

Foraging Ecology of Seabirds

May 27 | 5-6 p.m.

In this final class of our seabird series, we will discover ways seabirds navigate dynamic ocean conditions to find forage.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Gregory Smith | Limited to 30 participants

\$



PLANT SALE

Spring Native Plant Sale at Sauvie Island Natives

Now By Appointment through May

Mention Portland Audubon, and 30% of the profits will go to our work!

Many of you who were disappointed that we weren't holding the Native Plant Sale at the sanctuary this year were heartened to hear we are moving it, kit and kaboodle, to Sauvie Island Natives on May 9.

At this point, as you might suspect, having a frenzy of people flock to any place on May 9 isn't possible. We know you still need plants, so we've come up with a very attractive alternative.

Sauvie Island Natives is letting people come out by appointment, following a COVID-safe protocol.

For the rest of May, mention Portland Audubon and they will donate 30% of your purchase price. And fortunately, per the governor's directives, nurseries can still be open. Details for setting up a visit and directions are on the nursery's website at [www.sauvienatives.com](https://www.sauvienatives.com)





Pygmy Nuthatch, photo by Scott Carpenter.

## 2020 PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRIPS

### Travel with us on a Pacific Northwest Ecotour in 2021!

This issue, we're highlighting local trips closer to home in light of COVID-19 to focus on the safety and well-being of our community. Lucky for us, we're nestled along the Pacific Flyway, a world-class birder's paradise, home to nearly 400 bird species.

#### Northeast Washington

September 24-27, 2020

Join us on a tour around northeastern Washington State to search for species such as Boreal Chickadee, Pine Grosbeak, Boreal Owl, Spruce Grouse, and Pygmy Nuthatch.

Fee: \$800 members / \$950 non-members  
Leader: Stefan Schlick

#### Steens Mountain & the Alvord Desert

September 30-October 4, 2020

Steens Mountain is one of Oregon's most spectacular natural areas, and it is beautiful in the fall. Rising to almost ten thousand feet in the southeast corner of the state, it presides over alkali desert, oceans of sagebrush, and the wildlife-rich marshlands of the Malheur Basin.

Fee: \$995 members / \$1,195 non-members  
Leaders: Candace Larson and Gregory Smith

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



Burrowing Owl, photo by Scott Carpenter.

## 2021 PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRIPS

### Klamath Basin

March 25-28, 2021

Explore the Klamath Basin, home to six national wildlife refuges and one of the most important wetland ecosystems in western North America. We will visit Upper and Lower Klamath Lake and Tule Lake NWR, and explore the surrounding meadows, forests, and grasslands.

Early Bird (until Dec. 2020) \$895 members / \$995 non-members  
Leaders: Candace Larson and Mary Coolidge

### Malheur Foray

Early June 2021

Join us on a five-day tour to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in remote and beautiful southeastern Oregon. Malheur is a world-class paradise for birders. A variety of habitats, including extensive marshes, sagebrush flats, riparian thickets, and rimrock support a diversity of wildlife. Field birding and natural history will be our focus.

Early Bird (until March 2021) \$1,095 members / \$1,295 non-members  
Leaders: Candace Larson and Tara Lemezis

### Birding Oregon: Desert to Ocean

June 6-12, 2021

Explore all Oregon has to offer, from Great Basin and high desert to pine and oak woodlands. Visit the coast to see breeding colonies of Common Murre, Black Oystercatcher, and Pigeon Guillemot. Our species count may reach more than 170 with highlights like White-headed Woodpecker, Green-tailed Towhee, and Marbled Murrelet.

Early Bird (until March 2021) \$1,595 member / \$1,795 non-member  
Leader: Dan van den Broek

Register early to receive the lowest price for 2021 trips! \*Only the deposit is required now and Early Bird Pricing is guaranteed when final payment is due, 120 days before trip departure.



Rainbow Color Quest with items collected close to home.

## Getting Out While Staying Home: Family-Friendly Activities

by Tim Donner, Senior Educator for School & Family Programs

With schools closed and families staying home, the Education Department at Portland Audubon recognizes the very real need for families to have access to fun and easy outdoor activities to do with their kids. With many hiking trails closed to the public, this is a perfect time to get to know your neighborhood and all of the nature nuggets that are right outside your door, ready to be discovered.

While working from home, I have been finding time to take a moment to observe the American Robins hunting in the backyard and the Bushtits darting off the suet feeder when a bigger bird approaches. I am watching the veggie seeds sprout in the garden and the flowers bloom and fade on my daily walks with my dog and wife.

Staying home has given me greater appreciation for how green of a city we live in and how great it feels to simply take a walk and notice the seasons change.

To help your kids get outside and connect with nature close to home, here are seven Nature Challenges you can embark on together (there's one for each day of the week!).

### Seven Nature Challenges to Try at Home!

- Name that Tree:** Every tree has a personality all its own. Invite your kids to come up with personalities, names, ages, and stories for the trees on your block based on characteristics you observe. Is it big or small? Gnarly or smooth? What does it look like? What animals hang out on the tree? Greet your new tree friends on your daily walks!
- Track the Blooms:** Find a few flowers near your home. Visit these flowers every day to watch as they change, and keep an eye out for other animals that might be visiting the flower, too!
- Rainbow Color Quest:** On your walks, try to collect items from nature that represent all of the colors you would find in a rainbow. Line the items up near your home and observe them as they change over time.
- Build a Nest:** You might see bird nests on your walks; look high and low for them. Collect sticks and other natural material to see what it takes to make a replica bird nest of your own.
- Bug Walk:** Find a bug or a trail of ants and follow them to see what they see! What are they looking for? Where do they live? What do they eat? Is there something that attracts them, or areas they avoid? These are just some of the questions you might answer when you get down to bug level.
- Sit Spot:** Take a moment to find a spot that you go back to every day in your backyard or near your home and stand or sit there for 10-20 minutes and notice all of the little things that happen when you stop and observe. Bring a pencil and paper, and track your observations in a journal.
- Portland Audubon's Nature Adventure Club:** Join our stellar educators for weekly virtual "clubs" that engage children ages 6-11 with cool experiments, weird nature facts, and hands-on activities that kids can do with nothing more than paper, some markers, and their powers of observation. Register online!

Join Nature Adventure Club:  
[audubonportland.org](http://audubonportland.org)



#### 2021

Jan. 6-10 Arizona  
Jan. 10-17 Belize  
Feb. 1-15 Borneo  
Feb. 8-23 Ghana

March 10-17 Mexico: San Blas  
March 25-April 1 Florida  
April 6-16 Trinidad & Tobago  
April 12-21 Texas

May 8-14 Cape May  
May 11-17 Japan  
May 21-June 4 Germany  
June 10-20 New England

Aug. 17-22 British Columbia  
Sept. 12-18 Ice Age Floods  
Sept. 12-22 Peru  
October 14-26 Kenya



# Adapting Birdathon

by Sarah Swanson, Birdathon Coordinator



Birdathon's return each spring has been as predictable and fun as the year's first sighting of a Western Tanager. This year, spring has arrived on schedule but it seems like everything else has changed due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Although this is a challenging time, we know that having Birdathon—even in a different form—is critical to our success. Together, we'll raise vital funds to protect birds and their habitat, and have a much-needed opportunity to be in community with one another around our mutual love of birds and nature.

Here's how we are adapting Birdathon so that birds can still bring us together in support of Portland Audubon while we maintain safe physical distancing:

## Teams Have Gone Virtual

Instead of gathering in groups or traveling by van to remote birding locations, we'll be birding near home on our own and keeping in touch with our teams using technology. Teams may compile a collective list of the birds they see or send texts and photos to each other while they are out in the field. Some team leaders are creating planned routes that participants can travel on their own with tips and target birds for each stop. Others will hold an online celebration at the end of the Birdathon day to toast the day over video chat. Browse the list of teams on the website to find one that works for you or create your own virtual team with friends.

## Solo Birdathons

You can also choose to do your own Birdathon anytime before June 10. This is a great year to get excited about backyard birding or spend a morning at a park near your house. Your support of Portland Audubon as a solo Birdathoner is more important than ever before.

## Online Birdathon Community

We can all share our Birdathon experiences, whatever form they take, on Birdathon's new Facebook page. You can also post your bird ID questions and get help from expert birders. Find us on Facebook by searching "Portland Audubon's 2020 Birdathon!"



# Birdathon Basics

## How to be a part of Birdathon

1. Register as an individual or part of a team at [birdathon.audubonportland.org](http://birdathon.audubonportland.org)
2. Ask for pledges from friends and family to support Portland Audubon's critical work.
3. Go birding!
4. Share your experiences and collect outstanding pledges.

Sign up for Birdathon!  
[birdathon.audubonportland.org](http://birdathon.audubonportland.org)



Savannah Sparrow, photo by Tara Lemezis.

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

## IN MEMORY

**Steve Altshuld**  
Bruce L. Schafer

**Malti Bhalla**  
Ashu Bhalla

**Freddie Bear King**  
Christine King

**Maxwell O. Diamond**  
Nancy E. Diamond

**Amy Frank**  
Christine Haug-Chin  
Eve & Alan Rosenfeld  
Kathy L. Stewart

**Homero Gómez  
González & Raúl  
Hernández Romero**  
Anne Woods

**Gordon W. Gullion**  
Christina M. Gullion

**Chatten Hayes**  
Michael & Jessica  
Marlitt

**Ruth L. Herz**  
Glenn E. Herz

**Lennie Higgins**  
Ellen G. Hajek  
Stephen & Janet  
Sandvik  
Marilyn Walster &  
Sidney Friedman

**Lennie Higgins &  
Spencer Higgins**  
Noreen Sullivan

**Spencer Higgins**  
Terry Peasley &  
Sandra Kollenburn

**William Edward  
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**Ralph Books**  
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Barbara Mickey  
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Diane Williams

**Virginia Ross**  
Mary L. Baetkey

**Spike Selby**  
Amie Wexler

**Skagit Trip Leaders  
(Paul Sullivan,  
Ron Escañó, Elaine  
Murphy, Stefan  
Schlick & Candace  
Larson)**  
Anonymous

**Cynthia Sulaski**  
Susan Weinstein

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](http://audubonportland.org) or by calling 971-222-6130.



# Wildlife Care Center in the Time of COVID-19

by Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center  
Manager, and Bob Sallinger, Conservation  
Director

As the only facility in the Portland metro region devoted to providing emergency and lifesaving medical care for wildlife, our Wildlife Care Center has for decades operated 365 days a year no matter the circumstances. We take this commitment very seriously. We believe that providing injured wild animals with high-quality, humane medical services and the public with access to useful and accurate information to deal with wildlife emergencies is an essential service. For decades, we have staffed our facility through holidays, snowstorms, natural disasters, recessions, and all manner of challenge. We know that shutting our facility would not only result in increased suffering of wild animals but also increased risk to the public as they attempt to care for and treat wild animals on their own. We are doing all that we can to maintain our services throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

We are also committed to fully supporting efforts to limit the impacts of COVID-19 and keep our staff, volunteers, the public, and people utilizing our Wildlife Care Center services as safe as possible. In order to maintain our basic services and meet COVID-19 crisis management goals, we have had to make some significant changes to the way we operate.

First, we have made the decision to stop using volunteers due to the demands of working in close quarters in our very cramped facility. This means the loss of over 150 volunteer shifts per week: approximately 500 hours or 12 full-time positions. We are temporarily adding new staff to fill this gap, and will have them in nonoverlapping teams of two to reduce risk for exposure, so that if one team becomes ill, we will be able to bring in unexposed teams to substitute. This situation will be particularly challenging as we are entering our busiest time of the year. Spring and summer are when we receive the vast majority of our 3,000-4,000 patients and 13,000+ wildlife-related phone calls. This necessary change has increased our costs substantially during the pandemic, and **we encourage you to support the Wildlife Care Center through our challenge match campaign (see back cover).**

Second, we have closed the interior of the building to all but essential personnel and moved to no-contact animal



An orphaned gosling is measured in the Wildlife Care Center as staff and volunteers plan to find it an adoptive family. Canada Geese willingly adopt orphans who are around the same age as their brood.

drop-off procedures. If you drop off an animal with us, you'll be asked to put the animal on the prepared shelving, fill out a paper form, ring the doorbell, and stand back behind orange cones. Staff will retrieve the animal and paperwork as soon as possible.

Third, we are working to streamline our services as much as possible. We will be focusing our phone services on the highest priority cases and emergencies. We will also need to make difficult decisions about what animals we treat. Our goal is to continue providing quality care to all of the animals that come to us, but the reality is that we will also have to triage based on available resources. We will prioritize strategies that provide the most good for the most animals.

**We desperately need your help to keep wildlife safe this spring to ensure that we are able to help the people and wildlife in need of our services.**

This is the time to get proactive about minimizing our impact on wild animals. Here are some steps you can take now, to help:

- Help us focus our resources on injured and orphaned wildlife and other urgent wildlife issues. Please email, instead of call, if you have a non-urgent question. Due to decreased staffing, we're not able to provide updates on patients in care at this time.
- Make your windows bird safe before a bird hits your window during spring migration!
- Keep your cat safe at home—as baby birds begin popping up all over the city, cats are the number-one danger to them. It is crucial you manage the risk posed by your pet.
- Learn what a healthy fledgling looks like, and give them space! Bringing healthy fledglings into the WCC is not a solution for the birds, who need to learn from their parents, and this practice will only overwhelm the WCC quickly.
- When doing yard work, be extra conscious that wildlife is everywhere this time of year, and they're extremely good at remaining low-profile! Many babies come to us each year because of tree trimming, lawn mowing, home improvement and demolition, and moving woodpiles.
- Do not intentionally trap, relocate, or kill adult animals—it isn't humane any time of year, but in the spring you are almost certainly orphaning their babies. There are other options! Check out our website or give us a call to get help problem-solving.

Our team is adapting to this new normal as quickly as we can, and working out innovative solutions as we go. Regardless of how the details change in response to this crisis, our staff and our organization remain committed to the health and safety of the people and animals that need our help. But we can't do it alone—we need your help to keep Portland's wildlife safe and in the wild this spring. **And thank you for supporting our Match Challenge to keep the Wildlife Care Center operating without our corps of dedicated volunteers!**



## SUPPORT THE WILDLIFE CARE CENTER

### Wish List

- 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

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.

### Sponsor a Wild Thing!

Support Portland Audubon's Education Animal program by sponsoring a "Wild Thing"! Your sponsorship goes toward the care and feeding of our resident animals who serve as ambassadors for their species, as well as the injured and orphaned native wild animals in the Wildlife Care Center.

All Wild Thing sponsors receive a personalized package that includes:

- A beautiful color photo of the animal you sponsored
- A collectible Wild Thing button featuring your animal
- A genuine Wild Thing Sponsor Certificate
- A personal history of your sponsored animal
- General information on the species
- One-year Portland Audubon membership

Visit [audubonportland.org](http://audubonportland.org) or contact Matthew Hushbeck at [mhushbeck@audubonportland.org](mailto:mhushbeck@audubonportland.org) to learn more.



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 Nash Graham & Dunn LLP |
| Cindy Thompson Event Production | Paxton Gate PDX               |
| The Commerce Group              | Portland Audubon Nature Store |
| David Evans and Associates      | Portland General Electric     |
| Erath Winery                    | Portland Nursery              |
| Garden Fever                    | Pro Photo                     |
| Grow Construction               | Sauvie Island Coffee Company  |
| Inn @ Northrup Station          | Selco Community Credit Union  |
| JD Fulwiler & Co. Insurance     | Silver Rain Massage           |
| KPFF                            | Tilbury Ferguson Investment   |
| Labrewatory                     | Urban Asset Advisors          |
| Leatherman Tool Group, Inc.     | Vernier Software & Technology |
| McCoy Foat & Company PC, CPA's  | West Bearing Investments      |
| McDonald Jacobs, P.C.           | Wonderland Tattoo             |



*A Local Flock of Shops Helping You Create a Backyard Sanctuary with Seed, Suet, Feeders, Baths, and Nature-Inspired Art.*

It is our heartfelt wish for you to stay safe and healthy and that we will all get through this difficult time together. Our shops are operating on reduced schedules and on a curbside pickup basis only. Please visit our website for store location details and to view our curbside product list.

www.BackyardBirdShop.com

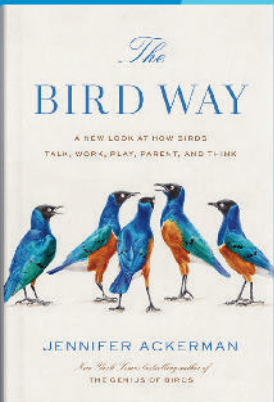
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A new book by bestselling author JENNIFER ACKERMAN

A radical investigation into the bird way of being, and the recent scientific research that is dramatically shifting our understanding of birds—how they live and how they think.



Where the Profits Are for the Birds!

The Nature Store is still open for orders! While the Nature Store is closed to the public, we are still taking orders and trying to find ways to keep folks stocked up and connected with nature. We are so grateful for the support of the Portland Audubon community. Each purchase you make from the Nature Store supports Portland Audubon as a whole and helps keep our community strong. Thank you!

Reach us at store@audubonportland.org or 503-292-9453.

Nature Store Offerings

The Nature Store is open limited hours to take and fulfill orders every day from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Below are new services that will evolve based on our capacity. Give us a call or send us an email with questions or orders!

**NEW! Online Store:** The Nature Store is excited to launch our new online store! With books, feeders and seed, toys, gifts, optics, and more, it has never been easier to order from the Nature Store. Visit us at audubonportland.org/visit-us/nature-store/

**Phone or Email Orders:** We are taking orders via phone or email for either shipping or curbside pickup. Curbside pickup is easy and can usually be picked up the same day. We are also able to ship almost anything in the Nature Store. Free shipping on orders \$75 or more (some restrictions apply).

**NEW! Bird Seed Delivery:** We are pleased to offer a bird seed delivery service right to your front door! Minimum order of \$50 with a \$10 delivery fee. Orders over \$80 receive free delivery. Deliveries Monday, Wednesday, and Friday within the city limits of Portland and Beaverton. See the Nature Store section of our website for further details and a full bird seed menu.

**Virtual Optics Consultations:** Ask the experts before purchasing binoculars or spotting scopes! Individual appointments by phone or video with Nature Store staff are available Monday-Friday from 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Members receive a 10% discount at the Nature Store!



Steller's Jay, photo by Mick Thompson.

Optics Focus

NEW! Introducing the New Swarovski dG Digital Guide

Swarovski does it again! The new dG Digital Guide combines the latest technology with Swarovski's trusted and top-of-the-line optics. This 8x25 monocular includes a digital camera, allowing you to take photos of whatever you are looking at. Connect up to five devices and view in real time what you are seeing through the dG on your phone or tablet. Not sure what bird you are seeing? The dG creates a Wi-Fi hotspot and connects with multiple apps, including Merlin Bird ID, allowing you to identify the bird on the spot. Call or email the Nature Store to ask about our rental program or for more details.



Nature Store Picks Puzzles are Here!

The Nature Store is stocked up on puzzles for all ages. From 1000 pieces for the hard-core puzzler, to mini puzzles for kids, we are sure to have something that fits. Check out our selection of 1000 piece Charley Harper puzzles for \$17.96 (member price).







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.



Western Meadowlark, photo by Scott Carpenter.

## Double Your Impact!

Thanks to the love and commitment of this community, Portland Audubon has overcome many challenges during its 118-year history.

This time, a loyal and generous donor has pledged a \$100,000 match challenge to help us through this rocky period. If you have the ability to make an additional gift today, every dollar will be doubled through June 2020.

If you're in a position to help us remain strong by reaching this match challenge, please make a gift today. Please feel free to reach out the Charles Milne, Director of Development at 971-222-6117 or [cmilne@audubonportland.org](mailto:cmilne@audubonportland.org).

Give online at [audubonportland.org](https://audubonportland.org)

### GET IN TOUCH

#### Administration Offices

503-292-6855  
Please call for updated hours.

#### Wildlife Sanctuary

Dawn to dusk every day

#### Wildlife Care Center

503-292-0304  
Please call for updated hours.

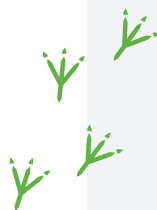
#### Nature Store & Interpretive Center

503-292-9453  
Please call for updated hours.

As of March 14, Portland Audubon staff are working remotely to slow the spread of COVID-19. All staff can still be reached by phone or email.

**On the Cover:** Young Pileated Woodpeckers by Mick Thompson.

**On the Inside Cover:** Camper by Abby VanLeuven, Nature Art by Ali Berman, American Goldfinch by Mick Thompson.



## Birdy Brain Buster!

Which of these species does NOT lay eggs in the nests of other females?

- A. American Avocet
- B. Wood Duck
- C. Brown-headed Cowbird
- D. Black-headed Grosbeak



We are a member of Earth Share Oregon.  
[earthshare-oregon.org](https://earthshare-oregon.org)

Answer: Black-headed Grosbeak