

JULY/AUGUST 2020

A Movement for Everyone

Centering BIPOC Voices
in the Outdoors





Keia Booker, Senior HR & Equity Manager

The Violence in Silence

by Keia Booker, Senior HR & Equity Manager

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) have felt the violence of silence for centuries. Envision racism as a fire whose flames have been stoked for too long—not only by violent oppressors, but by the breath of individuals and institutions that have remained silent against racism, slowly and almost effortlessly breathing life into it. The environmental movement, too, has gathered around that fire, and at times even stood up to add another log.

The fire of racism serves only to destroy, dehumanize, and engulf us ALL, including those who have sat silently watching that fire or even benefited from its warmth. Right now, that fire is out of control and threatening to burn everything in its path. We all have a responsibility to stamp out every flame, ember, and spark. Now is the time for us to snuff it out.

As many Indigenous communities have told us, fire also brings renewal, and what comes out of the ashes can be a cleansing rebirth with new growth and ideas.

Start in your sphere of influence. Demand of yourself and others to uplift BIPOC voices by listening and making space for their leadership. Seek out opportunities to advance and fund Diversity, Equity & Inclusion work, and find ways to fulfill the BIPOC community's requests and demands to be heard and valued. Educate yourself on the beautiful array of BIPOC histories and talents that have helped shape this country and the environmental movement.

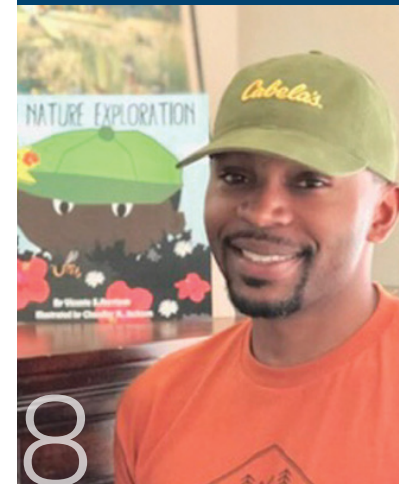
And tell Portland Audubon that you value the voices, breadth of knowledge, and tireless work that BIPOC environmentalists bring to the work of conservation across the globe and right here in our own backyard.

In response to the racist events of the last few months, Portland Audubon has been in deep reflection about our role in anti-racism. We are committed to listening, learning, and centering the voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in our community and beyond. We must continue to fight for justice and equity as we work to build an inclusive, anti-racist environment where we all thrive. This issue of the Warbler, we're centering BIPOC in the environmental movement in an effort to amplify their work and experiences.

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From the Equity Team

Portland Audubon's Equity Team was established to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout our organization, including our culture, people, and programs. One of our first efforts was to formalize community agreements, which can be found on the back cover and act as a guide for the work of the Equity Team, of staff, and of our board.

Events of the past few months have been devastating, laying bare historical, widespread racial inequities and systemic violence that Black Americans have endured for centuries. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities, and Asian American communities have seen spikes in racist incidents, including verbal and physical attacks since the onset of the virus.

These injustices were felt in the birding community on Memorial Day when Christian Cooper, a Black man, was doing what so many of us in the Portland Audubon community love and value: birding in nature. After Cooper asked a White woman to leash her dog within a protected area of Central Park, she called the police, intentionally cited his race, and weaponized her power and privilege against him. While for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) this experience was both enraging and familiar, for many White nature lovers, this video unmasked how unsafe the outdoors is for many.

Later on that very same day, George Floyd was murdered by police officers in Minneapolis. He joins a long list of Black people, adults and children, who have been killed as a direct result of over 400 years of systemic racism. From Tony McDade to Breonna Taylor, to Ahmaud Arbery to Trayvon Martin, to Kendra James to Tamir Rice, the list is long and painful. Each day, we add more names to that list. And yet this violence continues, most often with little or no consequence.

These events are connected, and part of a system that perpetuates violence and inequality. Systemic racism permeates every aspect of our lives, from our justice system to health care to the environment. BIPOC communities are disproportionately impacted by climate change, pollution, and other major environmental hazards, yet the conservation movement is grappling with a racist history of keeping BIPOC voices at arm's length, often not sharing the table or listening to solutions from the communities that are most impacted.

It is long past time that we all stand up against these injustices, reckon with our past, and start to reimagine systems that have left the health and lives of Black people in their wake.

While this Warbler centers BIPOC voices, not all voices are represented in this issue, including Indigenous perspectives, which represent the I in BIPOC. This was not our intent. Indigenous people and their lived experiences are integral to environmental justice. We commit to increasing the diversity of voices you'll see in future Warblers ensuring that we are inclusive and make space for all Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

As a White-dominant organization committed to bringing people "Together for Nature," it is critical that we stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, and work together to actively dismantle systems of oppression that have targeted the Black community for centuries. At Portland Audubon, that means increasing our speed and commitment to educate ourselves and implement internal changes as we pledge to become an actively anti-racist organization.

Portland Audubon commits to:

- Increasing our support—financial and otherwise—for BIPOC partner organizations
- Centering more BIPOC voices as experts in the environmental movement
- Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work and practice for our staff, board, and volunteers, understanding that the community is watching
- Hiring more BIPOC at all levels of the organization
- Reinvesting in creating an anti-racist work culture
- Becoming an inclusive and supportive organization that our community can be proud of.
- Supporting racial and environmental justice campaigns

We recognize the "people" in our mission: "Portland Audubon inspires all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which we depend." We have worked to build coalitions around conservation efforts that have impacted marginalized communities, and forged partnerships with BIPOC-led community-based organizations to break down historical barriers to the environment for children, adults, and families. **AND** we must do more. **AND** this work cannot be done without all of you.

We know that Portland Audubon still has a long way to go toward addressing our own role in racism as an organization. We will continue working to center the voices and goals of frontline communities most affected by environmental injustices, deepen our relationships with those frontline communities, listen, and further expand our Portland Audubon community while helping lead it through anti-racist environmental justice actions.

The time to create space for BIPOC voices is overdue. Let us make that space now, and commit to continuing this conversation in our community. We hope that the many voices featured in this issue will highlight some of the work of BIPOC folx in the environmental movement and center their contributions to the health and well-being of all wildlife, people, and the environment.



Greg Smith (top left), Mercy M'fon Shammah (bottom left), and others gather for a birding excursion with Wild Diversity.

Belonging: Greg Smith Talks with Mercy M'fon Shammah of Wild Diversity

Since 2017, Wild Diversity has worked to decolonize outdoor spaces by creating a welcoming environment and sense of belonging in the outdoors for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and LGBTQ+ communities through outdoor adventures, education and community workshops.

Portland Audubon has been grateful to partner with Wild Diversity for the last year and a half, with staff naturalists leading bird walks or community science outings. Today, we're sharing a conversation between Wild Diversity founder and Executive Director Mercy M'Fon Shammah and Portland Audubon Naturalist and Wildlife Biologist Greg Smith. The two talk about Wild Diversity, outdoor gear and recreation, inclusivity in the outdoors, and how organizations need to step up if they truly want to be allies.

This is an excerpt from an extended conversation. Check out the full piece at audubonportland.org.

Greg: Birders talk about what spark bird awakened them to this hobby. Wondering if you had an experience in your life where the outdoors clicked for you?

Mercy: I always talk about this memory I have of this one place where my parents used to go on vacation, and it was this outdoor resort place in the 80s, and it's still here. It's this forested area where you can buy land and see everyone's different cabins that they built on their own plots. The Illinois River ran through there and it was really gorgeous. My dad was like, this is the plot of land that I bought for us. My parents did not appear like the outdoor type at all. My mom was in the medical field and my dad was a chemist, kind of nerdy folks. I remember exploring and I walked away from my family and I was just walking in the woods by myself. The feeling of disorientation was more exciting than it was scary. I can still feel the feeling of excitement.

Greg: Is there anything in the outdoors that you're particularly keen on doing when you're out there?

Mercy: I consider myself a leisurely outdoorist. A lot of people go to the outdoors to work out, do something

competitive, really vigorous. It's always a challenge. My Black ass does not need any more challenges. So when I go to the outdoors, I'm always like, let's relax. I want to backpack to a really beautiful location, somewhere where there is a river, a lake, or creek, and just hang out.

I think people should know that there are so many ways to go outside. I think birding is so cool because it changes the face of a simple hike into something that you can experience, something really unique. Same thing with plant ID. It's almost like seeing in black and white when you're just doing a regular hike or even a competitive hike. But when you can add more to your hike like looking at flowers, identifying plants, identifying birds, listening to sounds, then you're starting to hike in more of a full color. I think there are so many ways to just enjoy the outdoors. I feel like first-time people just have to know that there's a million things to do and if you didn't like that one thing in the outdoors, it just means you didn't like that one thing. It doesn't mean the outdoors isn't a place for you.

Greg: Is there any skill you gained while doing Wild Diversity that has changed the way you camp or enjoy the outdoors?

Mercy: Before Wild Diversity, I did not hammock camp. Being a curvier person, trying to sleep on these mats that are less than an inch deep, you just wake up super exhausted and uncomfortable and your body aches. If you can get your setup in a hammock in a way that is comfortable, you just wake up and get to stare at the trees. And that's the way your morning starts and it's just so beautiful.

Greg: There is a narrative that there isn't interest from BIPOC in outdoor spaces or in birding, and from my experience, it's just not the case.

Mercy: It's a lie. There are Environmental Professionals of Color, which is a big group out here, and there are so many other groups. So when they are like, "We can't find any" and they use that excuse, you're like, "You're just not trying and also you probably haven't created a welcoming space for them to come." Maybe they don't feel comfortable. Maybe they don't feel safe being tokenized if you aren't recognizing that there are Black biologists or Black conservationists. If you're not realizing that, that's part of why people don't want to come into your arena who have diverse backgrounds.

Greg: Yep. If I had a bell or some sort of buzzer to hit, I would continue to hit it over and over again. I agree with every word of that. It's a false narrative. It's a narrative of laziness and inaction.

Mercy: They're not reaching out to these communities and saying, "Hey, we want you, not to tokenize you but you're welcome here. And here is what we're doing to ensure safety and comfort for people. This is what we're doing to dismantle racism." They're not saying that. They're not doing that. They're just like, "No one applied, so no one is out there."

Greg: I wanted to talk about the difference between fitting in and belonging. I think people talked about diversity and then we realized that's not actually it. Then we talked about equity and realized, that's kind of it. But in simple terms, it's about belonging.

Mercy: I would say that because people think that if they just invite a Black person to a thing, that they have created diversity. And I've definitely been tokenized at a lot of these conventions and conferences as their little diversity person that they brought in so they can feel good. But I don't feel good being in those spaces. You go after hearing, "We're centering this conference around diversity" but I'm the only brown person here essentially, and it's really uncomfortable.

I've gone to events where the only people of color were the speakers and no one else. So the

idea of inviting someone into your unsafe place, a place where you are just doing these performative moves to look like you have diversity is really not diversity at all.

Feeling of belonging is you don't have to explain your existence. You don't have to tell them why the outdoors should be a diverse place. You don't have to code switch. You don't have to talk or speak, act differently, behave any differently. You can be yourself and that's welcomed and celebrated. To me, that's what belonging looks like. You don't have to explain all the things about being a Black person. You aren't tokenized. You're not asked to represent the whole Black community. You get to be yourself fully and you don't have all these racial expectations laid at your feet. And I think that would be the biggest difference in belonging versus fitting in. There's not a lot of places where I can say checked off all those boxes that I just said.

Learn more about Wild Diversity and support their work.

wilddiversity.org | [@wilddiversity](https://twitter.com/wilddiversity)

Black Birders Week: Celebrating Black Birders and Inclusivity in the Outdoors

Organizers of Black Birders Week, a series of online events designed to celebrate and increase the visibility of Black birders, came together for two panel discussions to talk birds and confront racism in the outdoors. The conversation was rich, complex, and insightful, and we wanted to share some of the take-home messages of challenges these birders have faced as we all work to build a more inclusive birding culture.

Thank you to each of the panelists for sharing your experiences and allowing us to pass along some takeaways from the discussion. The conversation has been edited down due to space, and we highly recommend watching both panels in full on National Audubon Society’s Facebook Live.

On Christian Cooper’s racist encounter birding in Central Park

Tykee James: The elephant we are going to name in this room is the racist event in Central Park...Why is it important for us to discuss it in the birding community and beyond?

Christian Cooper: I think it’s important for us to discuss it specifically in the birding community because there are so many places where I think we are vulnerable and perhaps feel unwelcome. I know there are whole swaths of the country where I am hesitant to go birding, where I won’t go birding.

Tykee James to the group: Can we share what are your no-go states or no-go places?

Corina Newsome: I’m in southern Georgia and there are places where I do my research on the coast in Brunswick, Georgia. There are lots of great birding spots [there] in residential areas, but unless I’m accompanied by White people who I know in Brunswick, I am not going to go birding.

Kassandra Ford: I would honestly say either state of Mississippi or Alabama. I have driven straight through those states. I’ve actually helped a friend on a research trip to Mississippi on the gulf coast but that was only when there was going to be multiple White people accompanying me on such a trip. But I wouldn’t personally feel comfortable going and birding in either of those states by myself.

CONVERSATION PANELISTS

Kassandra Ford (@kassthefish)
Graduate student, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Alex Troutman (@n8ture_al)
Graduate student, Georgia Southern University and birding professional

Corina Newsome (@hood_naturalist)
Graduate student, Georgia Southern University

Jeffrey Ward (@_jeffreyward)
Birder, naturalist and science communicator

Christian Cooper
Board member, NYC Audubon

Tykee James (@tykeejames)
Government Affairs Coordinator, National Audubon Society



Follow @BlackAFinSTEM on
Twitter & Instagram to learn more

View the entire conversation on National Audubon’s
Facebook Live: facebook.com/audubonsociety

Jeffrey Ward: Me and Jason went searching for the Grasshopper Sparrow in the countryside in Georgia. If I wasn’t with him, I probably wouldn’t have gone there. There was a moment where we stopped at a fast food restaurant to use the bathroom and a [pickup truck] swerved in front of me and rolled down their windows and screamed that Jesus isn’t Black. So I wouldn’t go there alone.

On birding while Black

Tykee James: What is your experience of birding while Black?

Jeffrey Ward: Get used to being the only one who looks like you. That was a big part...Every walk I went on. Every outing I had, I was the only person that looked like me in the park. That’s a big part of my experience of birding while Black.

Alex Troutman: Get used to everyone else being shocked that you’re out there. Many times I go birding and see other birders and they’re like, “Oh wow, you’re here to look at birds too. Are you here to enjoy them?” Um. Duh, what else am I here to do? It’s just shock, or they’ll say, “How did you get here or how did you get into it?” Let’s see, I like looking at birds and I enjoy nature...You don’t need to know how I got here or some amazing story for me to be here. There are birds I want to see.

Kassandra Ford: Be prepared to be confused for the other Black birders...My roommate is actually another Black birder and somebody thought she was me and that I was her one time. When I didn’t show up and she was there, they called her Kassie and thought she was me. I was like, we actually don’t look that alike, guys.

Corina Newsome: Get used to feeling like you have to prove that you’re birding or prove that you’re exploring like anyone else. Without even ever having any sort of overt racist experience while I’m birding, I always feel the need to, even if I don’t see a bird, if I see White folks approaching me, these binoculars go up...Because I need you to know what I’m doing. And that’s just a compulsion so that’s one thing that I’m constantly thinking about when I’m outside by myself exploring.

Alex Troutman: I always make sure I have my binoculars and cameras ready to show that I belong and that I’m out there birding and not up to “no good.”

Christian Cooper: I would say be prepared to embrace your other fellow Black birders when you see them. Anytime I see another Black birder out there, I’m like, Who are you? I’m talking to you and I want to make sure you know that you should be out here and you have other people out here. It just makes me salivate...I turn to my White friends and I’m like, “Another Black birder!”

On making birding more inclusive

What advice [do you have] on changes that should be made to facilitate inclusivity in the birding community?

Alex Troutman: I think what happens is a lot of White people who do invite me birding, they don’t have to think about how it affects them or what it’s going to be perceived about them being out there so they don’t have to think about the risks associated with going out there...So I think it’s kind of like you have to put yourself in someone else’s shoes. [Ask yourself], “If I was Black, how would I be perceived?”



Kassandra Ford, co-organizer of Black Birders Week, banding birds with her local Louisiana Audubon chapter with Audubon permits.

Corina Newsome: White people in these online birding groups and naturalist [Facebook] groups, there’s always someone trying to silence Black people sharing their experience and brushing it off as being political...So you have entire groups of people that have no idea what your experience is, no idea what your concerns are, and so I think we have to change the culture and the expectation that birding and outdoor exploration is a neutral space. Neutrality is not an option because you will just reinforce and be a part of the machinery of systemic exclusion and racism.

Kassandra Ford: I would say try to allow those posts to be there. We are not trying to be political here. We are literally trying to talk about our lives, talk about our experiences, and try to get other people to understand what we are going through.

How Volume 1 of My Nature Exploration Became a Lyrical Tale Told

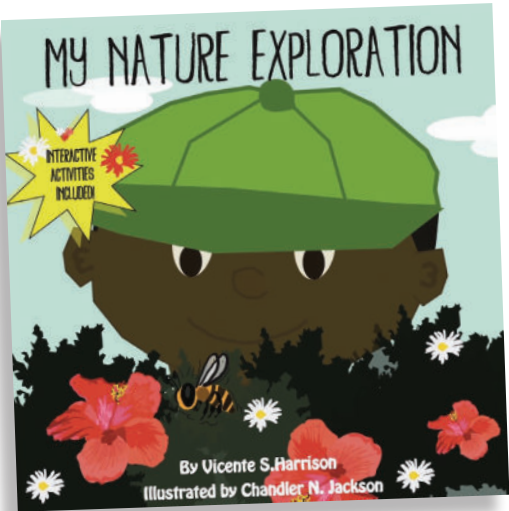
by Vicente Harrison, Author and Portland Audubon Board Member

Discovering the intricate beauty that can be found in nature is as easy as opening one's back door. My Nature Exploration is a story about a kid named "little Harrison" who decides to go on an adventure in his own backyard.

This book is intended to help all children, but particularly children of color, develop an appreciation for nature. Data has proven that People of Color disproportionately access the outdoors and outdoor recreational activities at a much lower rate than other Americans. Studies have also shown that exposure and time in natural environments promotes positive mental and physical health. I was inspired to write My Nature Exploration to break through boundaries that prevent marginalized communities from accessing nature and receiving its benefits.

I am also driven to encourage more members of our Black community to seek out and support organizations providing youth with fun activities and education that pertains to the outdoors.

While reading My Nature Exploration to children, you will journey along with "little Harrison" as he witnesses



My Nature Exploration is available at the Nature Store online at naturestorepdx.squarespace.com and other retailers.



squirrels frolicking in the trees, feels the thick cushion of green grass under his feet, smells the sweet scent of fresh spring flowers, and hears the singing of indigenous birds nesting nearby. As his imagination grows, it prompts him to adventure beyond the borders of his backyard in search of new discoveries at a campground.

With this book I was mindful to encourage children who may not have access to go very far and began this adventure from a practical place. A backyard is something to signify home or in your neighborhood. Some children may not have a backyard, but we all have the outdoors at our fingertips if we take the time to notice what is always around us.

There are many facets that inspired me to create this first volume of My Nature Exploration. My parents influenced me, especially my father. He introduced me to the outdoors and wildlife. People from Indigenous Tribes, John Muir, poet Langston Hughes, and my sister Lisa Harrison-Jackson, who is also a published author. Furthermore, the late Charles Jordan, a leader in our community, helped pave the way for me to have these opportunities as well as other colleagues who have supported my growth. This children's book is a culmination of my experiences, created to encourage others.

My Nature Exploration is a lyrical tale accompanied by equally captivating illustrations designed by my niece Chandler Jackson, complete with plenty of detail guaranteed to win over the interest of little explorers. Included as a bonus are interactive activities that will pull young people from their smart devices and into the physical world.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Now is the time to show up for BIPOC-led organizations in the Portland area and our region that are doing excellent work to support families and advocate for justice. The following partners are leaders in the community, and we encourage you to learn more and support their work.

Adelante Mujeres

Holistic education and empowerment opportunities to low- income Latina women and their families.

adelantemujeres.org

Bienestar

Building housing, hope, and community for Latinxs, immigrants, and all families in need.

bienestar-or.org

Coalition of Communities of Color

Advancing racial justice through cross-cultural collective action.

coalitioncommunitiescolor.org

Hacienda CDC

A Latino Community Development Corporation that strengthens families by providing affordable housing, homeownership support, economic advancement and educational opportunities.

haciendacdc.org

NAACP Portland

Seeking to eradicate racism in all its forms.

pdxnaacp.org

Partners in Diversity

Seeking to address employers' critical needs for achieving and empowering a workforce that reflects the rapidly changing demographics of Oregon and SW Washington.

partnersindiversity.org

People of Color Outdoors

POCO is a welcoming community where Black people and other people of color can explore a variety of activities.

pdxpocoutdoors.com

Portland Harbor Community Coalition

Elevating the voices of communities most impacted by pollution in the Portland Harbor Superfund site, including Native, Black/ African American, immigrant and refugee, and houseless people of all backgrounds, and to ensure that impacted communities benefit from and lead the cleanup, restoration, and redevelopment of the harbor.

ourfutereriver.org

ROSE CDC

Offering neighborhood-based solutions to deeply entrenched social problems by building housing and community. We are an asset-based community development organization. This means we build on our community's existing strengths and assets.

rosecdc.org

Wild Diversity

Supporting POC and LGBTQ communities in the outdoors.

wilddiversity.com



Pileated Woodpecker, photo by Mick Thompson.

ADULT CLASSES

While we can't be together in person in the same capacity, we are excited to share new online opportunities and small-group field trips that can help us learn and grow close to home.

Dragonfly Basics, Part I & Part II

July 6 | 6 –7 p.m.
July 7 | 6 –7 p.m.

Stefan will briefly explain what a dragonfly is and then focus on identification and how to find them.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members per session
Instructor: Stefan Schlick | Limited to 30 participants

Oak Island Exploration with Field Outing

July 9 | 6 –7 p.m.: Class
July 10 | 7–11 a.m.: Field Outing

We will explore the natural history of this delightful and diverse Sauvie Island hotspot.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members for class
Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members for field outing
Instructors: Dan van den Broek and Candace Larson | Limited to 8 participants for field outing

Woodpeckers of Oregon

July 23 | 6–7 p.m.

Learn identification tips, habitat keys, and places to search for difficult-to-find woodpeckers.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 30 participants

- Cost Involved

FREE Free

Wheelchair Accessible
- Public Transit Available

Family Friendly

Distance Learning



Black Oystercatchers, photo by Mick Thompson.

Beginning Shorebird Identification

July 27 | 6–7 p.m.

This class will introduce you to the most common shorebird species. We will study both adult and juvenile plumages, behavior, and habitat choices of these long-distance migrants.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructor: John Rakestraw | Limited to 30 participants

The Names of Birds

July 28 | 6–7 p.m.

Why are American Robins thrushes, and European Robins flycatchers? Self-professed word nerd Brodie Cass Talbott applies his linguistics training to his favorite subject: birds.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott | Limited to 30 participants

Birding Oregon Hotspots: Cannon Beach/Seaside Area

August 3 | 6–7 p.m.

The area around the towns of Cannon Beach and Seaside include some excellent birding sites. This class will introduce you to the best sites, direct you how to get there, and show you what birds to expect.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructor: John Rakestraw | Limited to 30 participants

The World of Seabirds 6 classes, register separately

August 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18 | 1–2 p.m.

Seabird biologist Greg Smith will share with you the fascinating world of seabirds. There will be 6 classes offered: Seabird Identification Oregon Coast, Seabird Identification Oregon Offshore, Seabirds of the World I, Seabirds of the World II, Breeding Ecology of Seabirds, and Foraging Ecology of Seabirds.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members
Instructor: Greg Smith | Limited to 30 participants



American Robin, photo by Mick Thompson.

YOUTH CLASSES

Join Tim Donner, Abby VanLeuven, and Portland Audubon's stellar education team for morning adventures with nature and science! These small classes of fifteen or less engage children ages 6-11 together with cool experiments, weird nature facts, and hands-on activities that kids can do with nothing more than some basic art supplies, paper, markers, and their powers of observation.

Stories of the Earth | Grades 1-3

Every Tuesday in July (7, 14, 21, 28)
10–11 a.m.

Come sit in our virtual reading circle as we read aloud a new book each week. After reading the book we will engage in activities that add to our learning from the story.

Fee per session: \$17.95. Fee for series: \$59.95
Instructor: Abby VanLeuven | Limited to 15 participants

Backyard Explorers | Grades 2-5

Every Wednesday in July (8, 15, 22, 29)
10–11 a.m.

Your backyard is teeming with life! Over the course of four sessions, we will explore our yards, learn how to ID native plants, look for animals crawling around, and search for backyard birds and ones flying up in the sky.

Fee per session: \$17.95. Fee for series: \$59.95
Instructor: Tim Donner | Limited to 15 participants

Junior Birder | Grades 3-6

Every Thursday in July (9, 16, 23, 30)
10–11 a.m.

Get to know the birds right outside of your window! We will send you a feeder, suet, and seed so you can study the birds that will stop by for a snack! During weekly check-ins we will be able to share what we learn about our feathered friends.

Fee per session: \$17.95. Fee for series: \$59.95
Instructor: Tim Donner | Limited to 15 participants

CONSERVATION

Stay Tuned for Important Opportunities to Help Marbled Murrelets

Unless dramatic steps are taken, the Marbled Murrelet is headed for extinction in the state of Oregon. Portland Audubon has worked for decades to protect this amazing seabird, which spends its life on the ocean but comes ashore to nest in older coastal forests. In the coming months, there will be several crucial decisions that will help determine the fate of Marbled Murrelets in our state.

- The State Land Board will decide whether to transfer the Elliott State Forest, one of the last strongholds for Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat, to Oregon State University, to be used as a research forest. Portland Audubon is serving on an advisory committee for this process, and it is as of yet unclear whether adequate safeguards will be in place to protect the murrelet.
- The Oregon Board of Forestry will decide whether to proceed with a Habitat Conservation Planning Process for the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests. An HCP is designed to ensure compliance for protecting species, such as the Marbled Murrelet, Spotted Owl and Coastal Coho, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act.
- The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will decide whether to uplist the Marbled Murrelet's status from threatened to endangered in Oregon, a move that is long overdue.

Please stay tuned for opportunities to learn more and weigh in on these important decisions.

Become a Portland Audubon Activist
audubonportland.org/take-action





Chloe Kov.



Youth hiking at Portland Audubon summer camp.

The Power of Representation

by Chloe Kov, Communications TALON Intern

The suburbs of southeast Portland, where I grew up, was a mixing pot of people that came in different shapes, sizes, abilities, colors, and cultures. I went to a high school where we embraced our varying backgrounds. We hosted international fairs to showcase and share our cultural differences. One of my school's favorite mantras was "unity in diversity," something that I never understood the importance of until I noticed a lack of it outside of my community.

Watching television shows as a child, though I was entertained, I never felt connected. Viewing shows centered around family life was never something I could relate to. I was a child of immigrants from the Philippines and Cambodia, so their lives were a stark contrast to mine.

But one fateful evening I switched on the TV to the Disney Channel. "Girl Meets World" was being broadcast at the time. In this particular episode entitled "Girl Meets the Great Lady of New York" they were having a cultural fair. At first I thought nothing of it until there was a booth on Cambodia. I stared at the television in awe because I had never seen a Cambodian person on television. The host of the booth was an elderly lady who told the students a story about her having to leave her home because bad people were invading her town. Thus, she had to immigrate to the Philippines to seek refuge. Later in the episode the grandson of the woman came out to talk to his classmates and told them how he was both Filipino and Cambodian. I was flabbergasted, he was the same mix as me. Although the woman was talking about a devastating time, I felt pride knowing that my cultural background was being showcased.

My family really resonated with that story because when my father was a child he was in a similar mix of chaos. The Vietnam War had bled into Cambodia, and the Khmer Rouge was gaining power by using Cambodia's weakening government to conquer innocent towns, thus forcing him and the rest of his family to flee to the United States. That

was the first time I have ever felt representation at its full effect and it was powerful. I then understood the importance of diversity.

During one of the first days in the Portland Audubon office, Ali, my mentor, gave me the task of scanning through some of Education's "Best Photos" archive so I could then write down what qualities made them good photos since I would be working on photography during my apprenticeship. Whilst looking through the photos, one of the first pictures that piqued my attention was the photo above. As you can see, a little girl is leading a group of campers and counselors on a hike.

It was empowering to see a girl of color leading people through the forest. Subtle images have a huge impact on how we perceive life. Like tiny pictures in magazines sculpt our minds into thinking that we have to look and act a certain way to obtain value. So to have an image like this, even though it will fly past most people's heads, I think to the subconscious mind, it will show that not only women but people of color can lead and it doesn't matter who you are, nature is made for everyone.

Portland Audubon constantly makes efforts to incorporate diversity into their conservation mission. TALON, the youth program that I am a part of, empowers youth of color to become engaged with the environment and change the conservation narrative. Even though TALON environmental educators get to play games with children, they are tasked with an extremely important job. They are role models to children of color who take interest in nature and set an example to the rest of the world that people of color are present in nature. And to me that is one of the most important things about representation: getting people involved.

If people see that a person of similar background is doing something they admire, having representation will make them feel like they belong in that community.

People of Color Outdoors

A fast-growing community group organizing inclusive and safe outdoor outings

by Pamela Slaughter, Founder

Hello. My name is Pamela Slaughter. I'm a native Portlander, retired adult protective services investigator, and full-time Realtor. Like most Oregonians, I love nature. Unlike most Oregonians, I don't always feel welcome or even safe outdoors in nature. Black people and other people of color sometimes experience verbal abuse, threatening behavior, and even physical attacks while enjoying the outdoors. As a result, going outdoors to enjoy nature can feel like a potentially dangerous thing to do.

People of Color Outdoors is a Meetup group that I started in July of 2017. I had just stepped down as the leader of Outdoor Afro Portland to take a break. Rikeem Sholes, a biologist and enthusiastic Outdoor Afro member, offered to volunteer to lead hikes if I would start a new group. I remembered being asked regularly by people of color if they could join Outdoor Afro though they weren't Black. I decided to take Sholes up on his offer, and People of Color Outdoors (POCO) was born.

POCO is a welcoming community where Black people and other people of color can explore a variety of activities. POCO has hosted a vision board party at Camp Collins. Members might learn about the geology of the Sandy River at Oxbow Park. Members can choose from environmentally educational outings, outings that teach members of local history, or outings that introduce members to new outdoor skills such as rock climbing or canoeing. Sometimes the outings are



Pamela Slaughter (bottom left) leading an outdoor experience with the People of Color Outdoors Meetup group.

strictly fun and meant to give members an opportunity to get to know one another and deepen new friendships.

Generations of people of color have become disconnected from nature due to displacement, environmental pollution and destruction, and exclusion. As a result, there's a lack of internal wellness in the community that can be at least partially healed by reconnecting with nature.

POCO intends to help to facilitate the reconnection. POCO reminds members that being in nature can and should be a part of their lives on an everyday basis. Spending regular time in nature means improving one's quality of life. Healthier, happier individuals contribute to healthier, happier communities. It's more than important for people of color to connect with nature. It's critical.

POCO has over 1,200 members between Meetup and Facebook and has hosted over 100 events since July of 2017. POCO has a goal of building a retreat center on an acreage that will provide a welcoming environment for all.

As a Portland Audubon member and former volunteer, I love birds and encourage bird watching, especially in children. Look for my book "Hi! My Name is Robin!" later this July. I can be reached at pamelaslaughter95@gmail.com.



Pamela's book, Hi! My Name is Robin!, will be available later this month.

A Lesson from Nature on Resilience

by Dr. Jasmine Streeter, DVM, Veterinarian and Portland Audubon Board Member

When I think of resilience I think of nature. Resilience can be defined as the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. As many of us have discovered, developing and practicing resilience is much easier said than done. The challenges we face as humans in a fast-paced, competitive world place many stressors on us that can have a negative impact on health and wellness. Today, let's reflect on how nature can help us develop resilience.

Forming healthy relationships, staying optimistic but realistic and having a supportive tribe of people or pets in your circle can help buffer stressful situations. Take the largest colony of King Penguins, who live on a subantarctic French island, respectfully named Pig Island. According to a new paper, published in Antarctic Science, nearly 60,000 breeding pairs were counted. It is amazing how these unique creatures work together to raise young and find food.

To come out on top in life requires stamina, strength and persistence. The African wild dog (Lycaon pictus) embodies these characteristics. This wild canine is a formidable hunter with one of the highest hunting success rates of 67 percent. These canines confront their prey head-on and often make no attempts at concealment. Resilient people deal with fears and difficult situations in a similar fashion by confronting them head-on to learn and grow from the experience.

Practicing spirituality connects us with a higher power and strengthens resilience. Regardless of religious beliefs, communing with others with similar beliefs and communing with nature are helpful.

“Take a lesson from the tiny Arctic Tern...This amazing creature migrates about 1.5 million miles in its lifetime, the equivalent of three trips to the moon and back.”



Arctic Tern, photo by Mick Thompson.

Forest bathing, which involves taking in the forest through our senses, can bring positive restorative benefits that rejuvenate, lower stress and increase happiness.

Staying physically and mentally fit aids in resilience. Take a lesson from the tiny Arctic Tern weighing less than a baseball at only 4 ounces. This amazing creature migrates about 1.5 million miles in its lifetime, the equivalent of three trips to the moon and back. Imagine the determination of this magnificent creature.

Gaining knowledge and being flexible keep the mind sharp and helps build resilience. One bird that soars above the rest in intelligence is the raven. Using logic to understand its environment and multitask makes this bird one of the most resourceful and intelligent creatures in the animal kingdom. Making a promise to grow your mind and remaining flexible will provide skills to help you cope in difficult situations.

As we walk this remarkable journey called life, we must remember to love and respect all living creatures. Staying positive, being supported and staying sharp in mind and body are essential elements for survival and resilience in nature and in our familiar urban jungle. I encourage you to stay strong, have hope and push on in the face of adversity. As the famous singer and civil rights activist Lena Horne once said, “It’s not the load that breaks you down, it’s the way you carry it.”



Western Bluebird, photo by Mick Thompson.

IN MEMORY

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

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Jeanne Nakamura

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



Birding in Taiwan: Reconnecting with My Dad

by Emilie Chen, Birding and Bird Photography Enthusiast

“How old is he? Does he have a website?” My dad interrogated me in Mandarin Chinese.

We were in his childhood home in Taipei—the bustling capital city of the island country of Taiwan—packing our bags for a three-day trip to the mountains. My dad was nervous and skeptical. The idea of hiring a complete stranger to take us 50 miles away to look for birds—it was pretty novel for my dad.

Our bird guide, Richard Chen (no relation), was referred to me by a friend. Having done a few other birding trips internationally and plenty domestically, I was fine with word-of-mouth referrals. I didn’t need to know Richard’s age or his website, but for my dad, that information was synonymous with having a sense of control about the trip I was about to whisk him away on.

But as we reached our first stop—a wetland on the outskirts of the city of Hsinchu—my dad relaxed. Lifting a pair of binoculars to his face, he observed for the first time in his life Gray Herons and Great Egrets, common birds of Taiwan’s waterways. Later that afternoon, in the Taiwanese rainforest, he sat with me in a bird blind for an hour and a half, just so we could glimpse a few Swinhoe’s Pheasants, a single White-tailed Robin, and one very shy Taiwan Partridge.

What proved invaluable about having Richard lead this trip for us was the language bridge he provided for my dad and me. With conversational-level Mandarin, I’ve never had the vocabulary to discuss avian ecology to my first-generation American parents. And when I’m speaking a mile a minute in English about various birding adventures, some things are lost in comprehension. Birding has been a major part of my life for the past six years, and yet I hadn’t ever been able to convey what Richard could in fluent Mandarin over just three short days.

At the wetland outside of Hsinchu, where we admired three African Sacred Ibises foraging in tall grass, I listened to Richard explain in Mandarin the concept of introduced and invasive species—how these ibises, although beautiful, were introduced into Taiwan’s ecosystems through zoos and private collectors and may negatively impact native birds. Richard became someone my dad could direct all of his beginner birding questions—like “Are there birds in Taiwan found nowhere else?”—and get a patient explanation of island endemism and that Taiwan boasts 26 endemic bird species.

More than that, my dad got to experience for himself what I love about birding trips: Arriving at a peaceful ecotourism lodge, nestled in a mountain town barely named on a map. Strolling through the woods at night to look for Taiwan flying squirrels that watched us warily

with shiny black eyes from their treetop perches. Sipping homemade liqueurs brewed by the owners of the ecotourism lodge, while a Northern Boobook hunted from the other side of the courtyard. Shouting for the van to stop as it trudged up a narrow mountain road, just to admire a Crested Serpent Eagle resting on a vantage point overlooking the valley.

Growing into my adulthood has meant my life has diverged from his. At Zhushan (Bamboo Mountain), I was reminded that my dad has aged since the last time we spent this much time together. Breathing hard in the cold air, he took rest in a nearby tea lounge but encouraged me to continue to the peak and watch the sunrise. Later that morning, my dad and I shared in the excitement of seeing a few Mikado’s Pheasants—a handsome species that graces the NT\$1000 bills we spent so casually at Taiwanese markets.

I wouldn’t say that my dad enjoyed everything about our trip; he went far outside his comfort zone to experience it with me. A few days later, back in his childhood home, I used a Wi-Fi hotspot to submit my eBird checklists. My dad grew up with little, but he was full of stories about troublemaking in the big city, flying kites through storms, and catching critters from the local river to raise in a bathtub repurposed as a fish tank. As I tallied my life birds from the mountains of Taiwan, I found that, in my own way, I emulate him, collecting my wildlife encounters in one digital database.



Mikado’s Pheasant at Alishan, Taiwan, photo by Emilie Chen.

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/cable 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.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SANCTUARY

Renovation Work

During the quiet time on campus we are looking to complete some basic interior renovation work to improve sanitation.

If you have connections in your networks that could offer pro-bono or low-cost renovation work, please contact Tumko Davaakhuu, Chief Operating Officer at tdavaakhuu@audubonportland.org or 971-202-6931.

BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Through their business practices and financial contributions, the following businesses are helping advance our mission and protect Oregon's birds, natural resources, and livability. If you would like to become a member of the Portland Audubon Business Alliance, please contact Charles Milne, Director of Development at 971-222-6117.



Backyard Bird Shop	McDonald Jacobs, P.C.
Bob's Red Mill	Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP
Cindy Thompson Event Production	Miller Paint Co.
Columbia Sportswear	Mountain Rose Herbs
The Commerce Group	Paxton Gate PDX
David Evans and Associates	Portland Audubon Nature Store
Erath Winery	Portland General Electric
Eyes on Broadway	Portland Nursery
Garden Fever	Pro Photo
Grow Construction	Sauvie Island Coffee Company
Inn @ Northrup Station	Selco Community Credit Union
JD Fulwiler & Co. Insurance	Silver Rain Massage
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More discoveries.





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NEW: **ZEISS Victory SF 32**

The ZEISS Victory SF line is the result of close collaboration between ZEISS engineers and experts in the field of birdwatching. The new ZEISS Victory SF 32 is designed and constructed to fulfill the needs of birders and wildlife enthusiasts and sets new standards, particularly in the areas of ergonomics, image quality and field of view.

zeiss.com/morediscoveries



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Where the Profits Are for the Birds!

Along with Portland Audubon, the Nature Store is committed to amplifying the voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in our community. There are amazing artists, authors, and creators who love birds and wildlife and are creating change in communities across the country. Join us in celebrating these voices and creators and supporting their amazing work.

Shop online at naturestorepdx.squarespace.org



Kei & Molly Textiles available at the Nature Store.

Kei & Molly Textiles

In 2010, Kei and Molly had a vision of opening a sustainable business that would positively impact the lives of immigrants, refugees, their families, and communities. Through Kei & Molly Textiles, they have built a staff of trained and talented artisans, immigrants, and refugees from around the world.

Each of their products is screen printed by hand with water-based inks and 100% natural fibers, featuring colorful designs of nature, people, culture, and community. As immigrants themselves, Kei and Molly are passionate about engaging their community in various ways, from education and job skills training, to scholarship and leadership opportunities.

Flour Sack Dish Towels: \$11.70 (Member Price)

Good Reads

Black Woman in Green
by Gloria D. Brown and Donna L. Sinclair

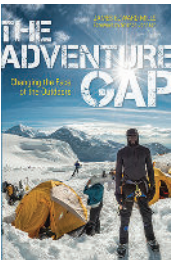
From an unlikely beginning as an agency transcriptionist, Gloria Brown became the first African American woman to attain the rank of forest supervisor at the U.S. Forest Service. From Washington, DC, to Montana, to Oregon, Brown's story provides valuable insight into the roles that African Americans have carved out in the outdoors generally and in the field of environmental policy and public lands management specifically.



Member Price: \$17.96

The Adventure Gap: Changing the Face of the Outdoors
by James Mills

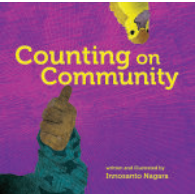
The nation's wild places—from national and state parks to national forests, preserves, and wilderness areas—belong to all Americans. But not all of us use these resources equally. Minority populations are much less likely to seek recreation, adventure, and solace in our wilderness spaces. It's a difference that African American author James Mills addresses in his book.



Member Price: \$17.96

Counting on Community
by Innosanto Nagara

Counting up from one stuffed piñata to ten hefty hens—and always counting on each other—children are encouraged to recognize the value of their community, the joys inherent in healthy, eco-friendly activities, and the agency they possess to make change. A broad and inspiring vision of diversity is told through stories in words and pictures. And of course, there is a duck to find on every page!



Member Price: \$8.99



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.

AGREEMENTS

At Portland Audubon, we seek to create a culture that is inclusive, equitable, diverse, open, respectful, and engaged.

Our community agreements are shared expectations that guide our work to build community and ensure that we stay in relationship with one another.

Our Community Agreements

- Stay engaged.
- Share your truth responsibly. Examine your intent, and be accountable for your impact.
- Listen to understand.
- Be open to doing things differently and experiencing discomfort.
- Respect confidentiality. Share the learning, leave the stories.
- Expect and accept non-closure, without complacency.
- Be courageous. Know when to make space and when to take space.
- Share and shift power and privilege.
- Be compassionate. Treat each other with dignity.
- Accept feedback openly and ask clarifying questions.

GET IN TOUCH

Administration Offices

503-292-6855
Please call for updated hours

Wildlife Sanctuary

Dawn to dusk every day

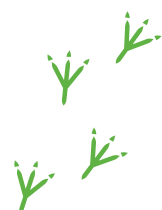
Wildlife Care Center

503-292-0304
Open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
with new COVID protocols

Nature Store & Interpretive Center

503-292-9453 ext. 3
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.



“If you have come here to help me you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

— Lilla Watson

On the Cover: (Center) Corina Newsome, co-organizer of Black Birders Week, by Katherine Arntzen, Georgia Southern University. (Clockwise, left to right) Chloe Kov, People of Color Outdoors outing, Emilie Chen and her father, Wild Diversity outing.

On the Inside Cover: Vicente Harrison, People of Color Outdoors excursion, Arctic Tern by Mick Thompson, Milkado's Pheasant at Alishan, Taiwan by Emilie Chen



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