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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Biden Administration Brings a Greener Oregon in Sight

by Nick Hardigg

After four years of unprecedented attacks on foundational environmental laws and programs, we are looking to the next four years with a revived sense of energy and optimism. During this administration, renewed assaults are unlikely on historic legislation like the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Our nation is rejoining the Paris Accord on climate change, halting work on the Keystone XL pipeline, and prioritizing environmental justice. Soon we'll have science-based terms like "climate change" migrating back to federal government websites and agency reports. A variety of proactive and much-needed environmental initiatives are once again advancing.

We have made significant gains over the past four years at the local and statewide levels even as we fought rollbacks at the federal level. We can now turn our focus to advancing work at all three. At the federal level we will work to reverse damage done to foundational environmental laws, and also look for stronger strategies to protect imperiled species like the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet. We will also continue our work to protect and restore marine ecosystems and important wildlife refuges such as Malheur and Klamath, and support a strong climate agenda.

Four years ago in the Warbler, we were combating "alternative facts" and fending off attacks on public lands. It's remarkable to consider the gains we have achieved statewide under tough circumstances. We look forward to working with a new administration where science, climate change, and environmental justice have the spotlight.

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Let's Get Ready for Birdathon!

by Sarah Swanson, Birdathon Coordinator

Each year we celebrate the arrival of spring and come together for Birdathon to get outside, count birds, and build community. The funds that we raise help Portland Audubon continue to protect wildlife and habitats across the Oregon landscape. In its 41st year, we hope to bring in \$150,000 during Birdathon and inspire people to love and protect the natural world.

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

Last year, we had to make some big changes to Birdathon mid-event as we all adapted to the safety measures necessary to prevent the spread of COVID. Our distanced and virtual Birdathon showed us the creativity and resilience of our team leaders and participants, the importance of our birding community, and the crucial role that Birdathon plays in supporting Portland Audubon's work.

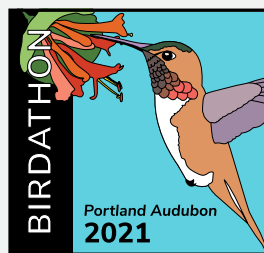
This year we have a better understanding of how to bird together safely and are excited to have in-person teams again, as well as virtual ones for those who prefer it. The Education department has been successfully holding small outdoor programs, and we will be using the same guidelines. There is still a lot of uncertainty about how the COVID picture will look in May and June. We may be able to loosen these guidelines, but that will depend on recommendations from state and local health authorities. We do know that our Birdathon celebration will again be an online one in mid-June.

BIRDATHON

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 15!
birdathon.audubonportland.org

New to Birdathon?

It's like a walkathon, but instead of counting miles, Birdathoners count birds and try to find as many species as possible during their team's outing.



Participants gather pledges then go out and bird their hardest. Birdathoners are invited to an online celebration in June to recognize our collective

achievements, try their best at the traditional bird quiz, and win fabulous door prizes.

Birdathon COVID Guidelines



Maximum team size of ten people plus the leader



Masks must be worn at all times



Physical distance of six feet must be maintained



Carpooling only with those in your household or bubble



No sharing of optics

How can I be a part of Birdathon?

- **Join a team.** See our website for a full list with descriptions. Registration begins March 15.
- **Solo Birdathon.** Are you more of a Solitary Sandpiper when it comes to birding? Do a Birdathon on your own! You can register as an individual.
- **Create a team.** See below for the perks of starting a team.
- **Donate.** Can't join Birdathon this year? Support your favorite participant or team with a donation.

The perks of starting your own Birdathon team

- **Birding whenever you want.** Birdathon teams can go out anytime from April 17 to June 6. Your trip can be as short or as long as you want—a morning walk or a weeklong adventure.
- **Birding wherever you want.** Take a trip to a local refuge or count birds during a weekend at the coast—it's up to you!
- **Birding with friends.** Bring along your favorite birding buddies or people that you'd like to introduce to birding. Have coworkers or family members that like birding? Make a team together!
- **Coming up with a fun team name.** Bird puns encouraged. Need ideas? How about "Veery Good Time," "No Egrets," "Accipiterrific," "Scrub Jay Walkers," or "Pintailgating"?



Backyard Birdathon

Birding around your home can be just as rewarding as driving to a hotspot, especially if you've been restoring your bird habitat with native plants and other features. Enjoy a Birdathon where a snack and a restroom are always nearby. Fill up the feeders and the bird bath, bring a chair outside, and grab your favorite beverage. Spend some time observing your avian neighbors and you might be surprised by how much you see!

Fear of Fundraising?

Want to participate in Birdathon but worried about fundraising? Let go of that stress and give it a try! Chances are you know people who also care about birds and nature and would be happy to support a cause that you care about. You'll be surprised by who would love to support your passion for birds and conservation with gifts both small and large. They all add up!

Here are some tips:

Make it personal. Tell the story of why you support Portland Audubon. Maybe it's the sense of joy and wonder you got from a bird walk or your commitment to protecting imperiled species.

Set a goal and update potential donors about your progress.

Be creative! Make cookies for your donors, write each one a song, send out birdy postcards! Put the fun back in fundraising.

Learn more and sign up at
birdathon.audubonportland.org



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

Virtual Connections with Hacienda Families

by Emily Pinkowitz, Education Director

When the COVID-19 pandemic swept through Oregon last March, it left many families struggling to find meaningful activities for their children. This posed a challenge for our partners at Hacienda Community Development Corporation (CDC), who usually provide after-school care for hundreds of children in Cully and North Portland. How could they continue to support families during this critical time? Pilar Palos, Hacienda's Manager of Youth & Family Services, and Maria Escalera, Espresiones Lead, worked with their team to develop a creative solution. By dropping materials off at the homes of youth, Hacienda's Espresiones after-school team could offer virtual, small-group sessions each week, complete with fun, hands-on activities. "We felt it was important to not only maintain a strong connection to families, but give kids something to look forward to each week," Pilar says.

Portland Audubon was grateful to be part of this vital support. For close to ten years, we have partnered with Hacienda, Portland's largest Latinx-led, Latinx-serving affordable housing provider, to offer approximately 75 hours of free after-school and camp programming to more than 60 children each year. In past years, our Educators have visited Hacienda properties after school with touchable skulls, wings and pelts, and toured some of Oregon's most beautiful natural areas with children each summer. When we realized that these in-person programs might not be possible, we reached out to Pilar to explore how we could support their efforts.

Together, we developed a series of virtual afternoon programs that use nature, science and Portland Audubon's unique collection of specimens to connect children to the nature right outside their homes. Over the last 10 months, School & Outdoor Partnership Specialist Abby VanLeuven has met online with dozens of children from four different Hacienda properties. Children have become expert backyard bird spotters, familiarized themselves with bird songs, and learned about local species and their adaptations. They also got to know our Education birds through up-close videos.

We know children learn best through doing, so we worked with Pilar and Maria to distribute materials to families to augment these programs, including a journal with kid-friendly species accounts and a trove of experiments and craft projects. "The program was amazing because activities were integrated throughout the whole hour," says Maria, "The kids loved it." Together, children have made origami swifts, designed window decals to prevent window strikes, and even folded paper airplanes to simulate bird flight. We also

installed feeders on the grounds of three properties, providing families with a touchstone to nature they could access without leaving their development.

The response to the program has been one of excitement and wonder, as children have discovered animals in their own neighborhood. "I had kids carrying their phones out to show me the pigeons in their yards and holding up pictures they drew of the topics we were learning about," says Abby. "Siblings and family members even joined to peer onto the screen while I was showing wings, talons or skulls."

At the beginning of the program, there was some sadness it could not be in person. But as the children and Abby got to know one another, they were able to foster strong relationships both with our educator and each other. Many children joined us month after month, valuing the connection to community that they experience in the sessions. "Watching the students interact with the Hacienda team, it was clear how much they valued the ability to see each other and lean on another adult for support during these challenging times," says Abby. In the coming months, we look forward to continuing these after-school sessions, and offering in-person, outdoor summer sessions at green spaces walking distance from Hacienda properties. "Connections to nature are more vital than ever right now," says Abby. "It means a lot that we are able to work together to create programming that is a bright spot for families."





Cooper's Hawk, photo by Scott Carpenter.

Rethinking Bird Names

by Brodie Cass Talbott, Educator and Naturalist

"I've always been obsessed with wildlife," recalls Juita Martinez from her home in Louisiana. "I find the way animals interact with each other so fascinating. Even as a five-year-old, I was so into animals." So it was only natural that as an undergraduate in college, she studied zoology, planning on pursuing veterinary medicine. But after discovering that she didn't like the sight of blood, and a season as a field tech with Richardson Bay Audubon in the Bay Area, Juita set her sights on a master's program in wildlife conservation.

"So, I was looking for a black female ornithologist to study under, and I couldn't find any. I asked people all over North America if they knew of any, and everyone said no. As a woman of color, it was devastating."

Unsurprisingly, the #birdnamesforbirds initiative found a sympathetic ear in Martinez. The Bird Names for Birds initiative, which has come to the fore in the bird world in the wake of last year's racial justice protests and Black Birders Week, is based on the idea that birds should not be named after individual people, a practice called "honorific" or eponymous naming.

At the most basic level, honorific names perpetuate the racist and sexist notion that the field of biology is the realm of white men, something Martinez sees as a reason there are so few women like her to look up to in her field. Of the 149 birds of North America that have honorific names, all of them are named after white people. Whether they were named after the "discoverer" of the birds (Wilson's Warbler, for example, named by Alexander Wilson) or in honor of someone else (like Franklin's Gull, named in honor of the leader of a scientific expedition), these birds were all named in a time and place where only white men were allowed to be in these positions of power and privilege.

The naming of birds in occupied lands also stinks of colonialism to Jordan E. Rutter, one of the co-founders of the initiative. "If you look at hotspots across the world for eponymous names, they are all in colonial areas, where white colonizers really took the opportunity to 'claim' these birds by naming them after themselves, regardless of the names that were used by the indigenous people of those areas."

“There simply isn’t any value to honorific names. We get lots of criticism online, saying it’s erasing our history, but can anyone say who Cooper’s Hawk was named after, beyond it being a white man?”

Specifically, however, Bird Names for Birds also points out that many of the individuals these birds were named for were deeply problematic in their own right. Many were slave owners, and others had records of racist writings, or crimes against native peoples. To raise awareness of these histories, Rutter and others have created a website (birdnamesforbirds.wordpress.com) that features biographies of some of the more well-known and problematic historical figures with birds named after them, including John Kirk Townsend, and, yes, John James Audubon.

The first victory in the fight to rename birds, which has been simmering for years, came this summer, when the North American Classification Committee, the organization that oversees the naming of North American birds (generally based on renaming for taxonomic purposes), voted to rename the Thick-billed Longspur, previously known as McCown’s Longspur, after a long and passionate online campaign highlighted McCown’s history as a Confederate officer.

“I’m glad they changed that name. But our goal is for all of them to change,” Rutter says. “There simply isn’t any value to honorific names. We get lots of criticism online, saying it’s erasing our history, but can anyone say who Cooper’s Hawk was named after, beyond it being a white man?” Rutter is realistic that if each name is to be changed in the current snail’s pace process, it would take decades to change them all. But she also points to the example of Switzerland, that changed all of the Swiss

honorific names in one fell swoop after coming to terms with the problems of eponymous names.

Martinez agrees, also using the example of the Cooper’s Hawk as a name that tells us nothing about it, comparing it to names that are descriptive. “Changing away from honorific just makes it easier: a Blue Jay is a jay that is blue...So on the one hand it is more practical, but also it would make birding more inclusive. I’m terrible at birding by ear, so having more onomatopoeias (in bird names) would be amazing!”

To Martinez, the individual names are emblematic of a larger problem. “We need a more diverse NACC,” she says. “It is a panel of 11 white people, who originally voted to keep the McCown’s name, and then bowed to pressure [to change the name]...But it’s still the same people.”

Martinez is well known to her many followers on Twitter (where she is a vocal proponent of the initiative) as effervescent, always seeming to smile through her tweets about “dinosaur floofs,” as she calls the fledgling Brown Pelicans she studies. And true to form, she ends our conversation on a positive note.

“I am really hopeful that in my lifetime that we will see all of these names change, so that the next generation of birders or ornithologists don’t have these stereotypes reinforced. And I’m hopeful that non-BIPOC folks will recognize that this really impacts people, even if it’s not them that it impacts.”



Townsend's Solitaire, photo by David Mitchell.



Wilson's Warbler, photo by Hayley Crews.



Thick-billed Longspur, photo by Aaron Maizlish.

New Protections Under Consideration for Oregon's Iconic Rocky Coast

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager

Oregon's iconic rocky habitats are both biologically and culturally important, making up 41% of the state's 362-mile coastline. From famous Haystack Rock on the north coast to the numerous majestic sea stacks off Oregon's beautiful south coast, rocky habitats support a wealth of marine life such as colonial nesting seabirds, kelp beds, and thousands of fish and invertebrate species. These breathtaking rocky features and headlands attract millions of visitors and recreationists each year.

Oregon is currently updating its Rocky Habitat Management Plan, providing the opportunity to increase protections of these vital habitats. It's been over 25 years since the original plan was developed, and a lot has changed. Growing impacts related to a changing climate—including marine heat waves, ocean acidification, low oxygen dead zones as well as growing human visitation—have placed increasing stress on these sensitive places. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and an advisory working group is updating the plan with the intention of balancing site protections with human use.

The process is coming to a critical point now as 12 public-nominated site proposals were submitted to DLCD at the end of 2020 and are currently under evaluation. Proposals fit into one of three designation types: Marine Research Area (MRA), Marine Education Area (MEA), also called Marine Garden, and Marine Conservation Area (MCA). MCAs afford the strongest level of protection, starting with "no take" of marine life, though regulations can be tailored to the specific site.

Portland Audubon has been at the forefront of this process, organizing advocacy efforts for stronger conservation policies and management practices. Important successes have included pushing to strengthen policies to protect submerged aquatic vegetation, ensuring a "no take" MCA option, and supporting tribal harvest rights not be impacted by any proposed designation. More recently we provided science, policy, and outreach support to coastal groups that crafted eight designation proposals. We commend their monumental effort. These groups include the North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition, Audubon Society of Lincoln City, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition,



Photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management.



Photo courtesy of Oregon Marine Reserves.

Shoreline Education for Awareness, and Partnership for the Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO).

Stay tuned for Portland Audubon action alerts so you can provide public comment in support of the site proposals as they go through a multi-step evaluation process over the next few months. Ultimately new rocky habitat site protections will help safeguard ecosystem health so that locals and visitors alike can enjoy these amazing places for decades to come. You can help!

Below is a summary of the eight proposals that coastal groups submitted with Portland Audubon support (from north to south):

Ecola Point MCA (nominated by North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition): One of the most pristine sites left on the north coast, with dramatic rock formations, a rebounding population of ochre sea stars, and a secluded pinniped haul-out. "New proposed regulations limiting take of some marine life combined with non-regulatory measures will balance ecological protection and human use," says Margaret Treadwell of the North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition.



Photo courtesy of Girl in Water Photography.

Chapman Point MCA (nominated by North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition): Located just south of Ecola Point, this complex of magnificent rock formations supports seabird colonies of high importance. It is located within one of the most visited stretches of rocky habitat on the coast, putting it at high risk of habitat degradation and high rates of nest failure for Black Oystercatchers. A key component of this proposal is to support increased public outreach to educate the public on best practices to minimize impacts.

Cape Lookout MCA (nominated by Audubon Society of Lincoln City): Jutting nearly two miles into the ocean, this “crown jewel” of the Oregon Coast is known for its dramatic basalt cliffs, old-growth Sitka spruce forest, and the second largest colony of Common Murres in the state. Protection of ecological resources and education are key components of the site proposal.

Cape Foulweather MCA (nominated by Audubon Society of Lincoln City): Dramatically rising 500 feet above the ocean, Cape Foulweather supports the largest Pelagic Cormorant colony in Oregon, features extensive bull kelp beds, and serves as a comparison

area to the nearby Otter Rock Marine Reserve. “A key goal at this site is to improve the ecological integrity of bull kelp forests, which have dramatically declined across the west coast,” says Dawn Villaescusa, President of Audubon Society of Lincoln City.

Coquille Point MEA (nominated by Shoreline Education for Awareness): Unique in its high density of prominent sea stacks, tide pools, seabird colonies, and a harbor seal pupping area situated almost within the city limits of Bandon. Formal designation as an MEA will facilitate efforts to better protect the habitat while educating the thousands of visitors that flock to this area every summer.

Blacklock Point MCA (nominated by South Coast Rock Shores Group): Characteristics include unique landforms, diverse rocky habitats, threatened offshore kelp forests, and the long history of use by Tribes. Dr. Larry Basch, lead author, says “this proposal emphasizes no changes to existing uses and building a community-based volunteer stewardship program to educate visitors on ways to minimize impacts.” Larry adds, “This proposal is based on extensive south coast community input from outreach led by Jesse Jones, the Oregon Shores/CoastWatch Volunteer Coordinator.”

Cape Blanco MRA (nominated by Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans - PISCO): A remote headland forming the westernmost point in Oregon. Upwelling of nutrient-rich water at this site supports an intertidal hotspot of diverse algae and invertebrates. “A goal of this proposal is to keep the site as pristine as possible to support continued long-term research to help inform ocean conservation on climate change impacts and other stressors,” says Brittany Poirson of PISCO.

Crook Point-Mack Reef MCA (nominated by South Coast Rock Shores Group): Includes an archipelago of offshore rocks supporting harbor seal haul-outs, a large kelp forest, and the second largest colony of seabirds in Oregon, with over 200,000 birds of 11 species. As at Blacklock Point, this proposal focuses on non-regulatory management measures to support agency and community efforts to minimize impacts to the site.

Next Steps?

Visit our Rocky Habitat webpage to learn more:

bit.ly/rockyhabitat

The rocky habitat proposals can be accessed here:

bit.ly/rocky-shores-amendment

A Senseless Slaughter Continues: Cormorants in the Crosshairs

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In the waning days of the Trump Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalized a new program that sadly perpetuates decades of relentless persecution of Double-crested Cormorants. We believe that the new USFWS program is in direct conflict with the agency's own mission, represents wanton killing of a protected species, and has a high potential to put the entire western population of Double-crested Cormorants at high risk.

The new program will allow the killing of up to 121,504 cormorants each year across the United States. If that level of killing actually occurs, it will represent a 140% increase in cormorant killing over the average annual levels that occurred between 2007 and 2018. The killing is further broken down by region. In the western United States, the allocation is 4,539 cormorants per year. While that number may seem low relative to the overall total, western Double-crested Cormorant populations are an order of magnitude smaller than in the central and eastern United States. For all states west of the Rocky Mountains, the entire population was estimated in 2019 to be between 31,849 and 59,708 birds. This means that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to allow the killing of as much as 7%-14% of the entire western population each year.

It gets worse. Prior to this new program, individuals, organizations, and agencies had to seek individual USFWS depredation permits to kill Double-crested Cormorants in which they had to describe specific conflicts that they were attempting to address. The new program allows the USFWS to issue blanket permits to both states and tribes to kill cormorants without this important oversight. Further, the Service has expanded the definition of what constitutes a legitimate basis for killing cormorants to include consuming "wild or publicly stocked fish." The simple fact that this piscivorous bird eats fish is now a basis for lethal control under the new state and tribal permits. The USFWS acknowledges in the environmental impact statement that "killing large numbers of birds that are not causing harm would be both ineffective at reducing site-specific conflict issues, and would also be contrary to the Service's mandate to conserve migratory birds." However, it then turns around and defines eating fish, any wild or publicly stocked fish, an activity that every cormorant must do on a daily basis, as a conflict.

In a confounding twist of logic that turns both science-based decision making and the precautionary principle on their heads, the Service states that even though it does not have data to justify the idea of issuing blanket permits to kill cormorants for eating fish, it "would not be biologically justified to assume that cormorants have no impacts on local fisheries." This is a deeply troubling statement. Is the position of the Fish and Wildlife Service now that it will allow killing of protected species based simply on the possibility that they might have an impact?

The new program is riddled with a multitude of other problems as well, including allowing the use of lead ammunition to kill cormorants and advancing the program without a population monitoring program in place.

For all states west of the Rocky Mountains, the entire population was estimated to be between 31,849 and 59,708 birds. This means that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to allow the killing of as much as 7%-14% of the entire western population each year.

It is not difficult to envision scenarios in which the new program could drive western cormorant populations to the point where they will need to be considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. This new program comes just four years after relentless killing approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service at the world's largest Double-crested Cormorant colony at East Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia River contributed to the colony's total collapse. In allowing the killing of cormorants at East Sand Island during 2015 and 2016, the USFWS ignored and hid the concerns of its own biologists.

The two other significant Double-crested Cormorant colonies in the west, at the Salton Sea and Klamath, have also collapsed due to lack of water. Today, the largest colony in the western United States is a small remnant of the East Sand Island colony now located on the Astoria-Megler Bridge, a location where they will face aggressive hazing in the near future.

Double-crested Cormorant populations dropped a staggering 23% in the western United States between 2018 and 2019. That alone should be cause to hit the brakes, not the accelerator.

The Fish and Wildlife Service will point to the fact that it considered, but did not choose, even less protective alternatives presented in the environmental impact statement. They deserve no credit here. All of the action alternatives that the Service presented were reckless and unsupported by science. A close reading of the FEIS reveals that even the Service admits that “the main difference between the potential alternatives pertain to the burden associated with accurately monitoring...the take of cormorants throughout the year.”

Double-crested Cormorants have managed to survive at least two major population crashes, first near the turn of the 19th century caused by wanton slaughter, and again in the mid-20th century due to contaminants. The actions of the USFWS over the past two decades have again put cormorant populations at unnecessary risk and resulted in the slaughter of tens of thousands of protected birds. It is time for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to step into its mission to protect, not persecute, our native wild birds. Over the next year we will be working to advance strategies to ensure that Double-crested Cormorants receive the protections they need and hold the US Fish and Wildlife Service accountable to its mission.



Double-crested Cormorant, photo by Colin Durfee.

The End of an Era

After more than 50 years of regular contributions, Harry Nehls is retiring from the Warbler. Portland Audubon has had many longtime stewards, members, and volunteers. But those whose contributions exceed half a century of work are the exception. We wanted to share some memories from two people who have known Harry since the early 1970s to get a small snapshot of the person who has taught us all so much about birds.

Mike Houck, former Urban Naturalist for Portland Audubon

Harry's always been a master of understatement. Upon my calling in a Brewer's Sparrow at Oaks Bottom in the early 1980s, his response was "Yeah, we get those here." I said, "Harry, when was the last one seen on the west side of the Cascades?" His reply: "Oh, the early forties." Many years later I called Harry to report a Rose-breasted Grosbeak atop Mt. Tabor. His reply: "Hmmm, good bird." When I learned he had actually gone up Tabor to check it out, I knew it must have, indeed, been a "good bird."



Rose-breasted Grosbeak, photo by Mark Moschell.

Judith Hansen, former Portland Audubon volunteer and Warbler editor

I edited the Warbler for about five or six years. There was no electronic version, and I typed it at home on an electric typewriter and ran it off on a mimeograph machine at home. Harry always managed to provide me with a neat tidy copy of his report on time, month after month. Harry has a great sense of humor and it was fun working with him. Because of his long history of involvement, he was a great source of Audubon history. He was involved in all aspects of its operation—the Audubon wildlife film series, trail building, leading field trips, and keeping excellent records.

Harry did tell us he may be back to write from time to time. And rest assured, Field Notes is here to stay. In each issue we'll have a different birding expert share an aspect of natural history with us, following in Harry's footsteps.

SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott

In a winter of exceptional birds in the Portland area, an **Orchard Oriole** regularly visiting a feeder in SE Portland was no doubt the most visited and highest profile individual. A **Rusty Blackbird** was found in western Washington County, and in addition to the continuing **Great-tailed Grackle** on Columbia Boulevard and reports of **Tri-colored Blackbird** from the Rivergate area, it's been quite a season for icterids.

While a **Yellow-billed Loon** at Hagg Lake was no doubt a prized rarity for many birders, the **Brandt's Cormorant** found on the Columbia may have actually been the rarer find, representing only the fifth known inland record of this coastal species, and the first in Oregon. It was originally seen roosting on the I-5 bridge, but was reported from the mouth of the Sandy River a week later.

Another highlight for local birders has been the discovery of roosting **Black-crowned Night Herons** in the St. Johns neighborhood, heard and seen every night at dusk as they make their way north to Smith and

Bybee Wetlands. This is the first reliable population of these birds in Multnomah County since 2014.

The Portland Christmas Bird Count unearthed a few notable birds, including a **Say's Phoebe** near Marine Drive and a **White-winged Scoter** on the Columbia River.

An immature **Ross's Gull** at Yaquina Bay was only the third record for the state, but was not refound by the army of chasers. A **Mountain Plover** was reported farther south at the mouth of the Siltcoos, and a **Vermilion Flycatcher** was found in rural Linn County, both interestingly reported for the second year in a row. A **Painted Bunting** was found coming to a feeder in Salem, and has been reliably popping up in a tree nearby every morning, to the delight of dozens of birders.

For corrections, tips, and reports, email Brodie Cass Talbott at bcasstalbott@portlandaudubon.org, and for a more detailed weekly report, visit portlandaudubon.org.



Register for Summer Camps at
audubonportland.org

SUMMER CAMPS

Save Your Spot for Summer Camps!

Join Portland Audubon for truly amazing nature-based adventures all summer long! Day Camps combine art, science experiments and games with explorations of our beautiful 172-acre Nature Sanctuary adjacent to Forest Park. Partial or full scholarships available. Apply online!

	1st & 2nd Grade	3rd - 5th Grade	6th - 8th Grade
Week 1: June 21-25	FULL Creatures from the Balch Lagoon	Beautiful Birds	
Week 2: June 28-July 2	FULL All Aflutter	FULL Herpetology 101	Nature Photo
Week 3: July 5-9	Wonders of the Forest Art	Stayin Alive	
Week 4: July 12-16	FULL False Fairies	FULL Herpetology 101 Session 2	FULL Archery & Wilderness Skills
Week 5: July 19-23	FULL Owlets	Archery 101	
Week 6: July 26-30	FULL Intro to Survival Skills	Owls	Art Outside
Week 7: August 2-6	All Aflutter Session 2	Stayin Alive Session 2	
Week 8: August 9-13	Raptor Rama	Beautiful Birds Session 2	Archery & Wilderness Session 2
Week 9: August 16-20	FULL Intro to Survival Skills Session 2	nAtuRalisT	
Week 10: August 23-27	FULL Forest Fairies Session 2	Archery 101 Session 2	

Week-long day camps start between 8:30/8:45 a.m. and end 3:15/3:30 p.m. daily.



Sprinavasa Brown with Camp ELSO campers.

NATURE NIGHTS+

Vivek Shandas - Towards Urban Forest Equity: Re-centering Disinvested Neighborhoods

March 10 | 7-8:30 p.m.

Join Vivek Shandas, PhD, who will share insights about the sociopolitical factors that matter when managing urban forests for people, wildlife, and a changing climate.

Cost: Free, donation suggested



Sprinavasa Brown - Centering Justice and Identity: Build Inclusive Scientific Communities for Our Shared Future

April 13 | 7-8:30 p.m.

In 2015, Sprinavasa Brown co-founded Camp ELSO Inc. to bring forth a multicultural approach to STEAM education rooted in environmental justice and cultural history. Learn how she's decolonizing science to make the outdoors and environmental education more inclusive.

Cost: Free, donation suggested



Offshore Wind Energy

March 23 | 7-8:15 p.m.

As Oregon begins offshore wind energy planning with the goal of transitioning toward renewable energy sources, there will be important natural and community values to consider. Learn more about the public process for siting future offshore wind facilities with the Oregon Audubon Council.



Save the Date: May 1-30! Native Plant Sale

We're teaming up with Sauvie Island Natives for the month of May to bring native plants to your garden! Stay tuned for details on how you can safely shop for plants to pack your garden full this spring.



House Finch, photo by Hayley Crews.

ONLINE CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Birds & Volcanoes: Three-Part Series

March 4, 11 and 18 | 6-7 p.m.

A three-part series about birds and volcanoes shows how volcanoes shape the landscape and result in dynamic and diverse habitat for birds, and birding at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

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

Instructor: Gina Roberti



Little Brown Birds: Finches, Wrens, and Blackbirds

March 9 | 6-7 p.m.

Learn to identify our local finches, wrens, and blackbirds by learning each species' distinctive characteristics.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



Beginning Birding By Ear: Three-Part Series

March 3, 10 and 17 | 6-7 p.m.

These classes will take you on a deep dive into bird vocalizations, what different sounds mean, and introduce you to the fascinating world of bird calls in your own backyard and beyond.

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



 Cost Involved

 Public Transit Available

 Free

 Family Friendly

 Wheelchair Accessible

 Virtual Event or Program



Great Gray Owl, photo by Tara Lemezis.



Black Oystercatcher, photo by Derek Keats.

ONLINE CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Learn to Use the Nature App, iNaturalist

March 16 | 6-7 p.m.

Want to become a better naturalist? Plants, reptiles, insects, fish...this useful app has it all. There is no better learning tool than iNaturalist. With an internet connection, find out in a matter of seconds a tricky identification.

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

Instructor: Stefan Schlick



Understanding Owls

March 22 | 6-7 p.m.

In this introduction we'll focus on what makes an owl an owl, and study how their morphology, physiology, and unique behavior make them top nocturnal predators.

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



Spring Birding: Where and How to Find Uncommon Species

April 6 | 6-7 p.m.

This spring primer focuses on where to find and how to see the more difficult to find, uncommon bird species, west of the Cascade Mountains.

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

Instructor: Stefan Schlick



An Introduction to Butterflies: Two-Part Series

April 12 and 15 | 6-7 p.m.

This is a two-part series introducing the butterflies around Portland. We will look at the parts of a butterfly, its life cycle and the how and when of finding them.

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

Instructor: Stefan Schlick



COMMUNITY SCIENCE

Cook Park Community Science Training

Virtual Training: March 17, 6-7 p.m.

Orientation: March 20

Portland Audubon and Clean Water Services are teaming up on another community science survey project in Washington County! Help us measure bird communities along a 1-mile riparian corridor of the Tualatin River in Cook Park, Tigard. To sign up for the training, email Candace Larson at clarson@audubonportland.org.

Bird Monitoring: Get Involved!

March 30 | 6-7 p.m.

Join us and our partner Friends of Cape Falcon for an overview of four fun and rewarding community science projects on the North Coast.

Upcoming Community Science Trainings

Check the website for dates for the following spring community science opportunities!

- **Plover Patrol:** This project engages local communities to track endangered western Snowy Plovers at four management areas on the North Coast helping state parks monitor the recovery of this imperiled bird.
- **Oregon Black Oystercatcher Project:** Help monitor nests of this species of conservation concern. This project is informing current efforts to better protect Oregon's rocky habitats, which oystercatchers depend on to survive. A critical part of this project is engagement and outreach to local communities up and down the coast.
- **Seabird Colony Monitoring:** This project is providing baseline information on Oregon's seabird population adjacent to two of Oregon's Marine Reserves at Cape Perpetua and Cape Falcon, enabling a better understanding of how marine reserve protections may affect birds.

Partner Project

Become a Bluebird Monitor

Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project needs volunteer field monitors for the April-August nesting season. Visit www.facebook.com/prescottbluebird for updates on their spring training and how to register your interest.



Burrowing Owls, photo by Mick Thompson.

Pacific Northwest Trips: Birding Closer to Home

by Tara Lemezis, Education Registrar

The unique and varied ecoregions of the Pacific Northwest are arguably some of the most beautiful and wild places. From a rocky and windswept coastline, to dynamic mountainous peaks, old-growth forests, soft and rolling grassland valleys, to dry and vast deserts, it's no wonder so many bird species spend some part of their life cycle in this swath of land along the Pacific Flyway.

Pandemic travel-and-safety restrictions to faraway places have inspired us to reimagine programming in Adult Education. By expanding our trips to local places, we've been able to offer more accessible and affordable options that are perfect for any type of birder—from ultra beginner to expert. These self-catered trips led by Portland Audubon's expert naturalists and educators will leave you with a deeper understanding of the region's natural history, conservation issues, native plants, and wildlife.

Join us this spring and beyond to discover some of the nearly 400 bird species that nest, breed, forage, and pass through the diverse landscapes of Oregon and Washington on one of our Pacific Northwest Trips. Explore national wildlife refuges, tour the Rogue Valley in search of California birds like Oak Titmouse, soak in the Central Oregon sun while seeking out 11 woodpecker species, take in the magic of passerine and shorebird migration, and visit the largest wading-bird breeding colony in Washington state. We hope you'll join us in getting to know these wondrous places close to home that you can explore again and again and again, just like a bird on their migratory journey.

Register for Pacific NW Trips
at bit.ly/pnwbirdtrips



Pacific Northwest Trips

Pacific Northwest Trip: Newport to Florence – Oregon's Central Coast

March 12 – 14

Join Stefan on a coastal adventure where we will enjoy our rugged coastal landscape and watch for seabirds. A highlight target bird is the endangered Western Snowy Plover, and we'll be searching for Wrentit. We will close the trip with a visit to Fern Ridge to look for White-tailed Kite and Acorn Woodpecker.

Fee: \$330 members / \$430 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

Pacific Northwest Trip: Central Oregon

May 22 – May 24

Explore the birding hotspots of Central Oregon, where many habitats are accessible within a short drive. Amid this region's natural wonders up to 11 species of woodpecker can be found, the third highest woodpecker diversity in the world!

Fee: \$320 members / \$410 non-members

Leader: Dan van den Broek

Pacific Northwest Trip: Rogue Valley – Southern Oregon
Birding

May 25 – 27

California birds—in Oregon! On this three-day ramble through the beautiful Rogue Valley, we will search for some of Oregon's hardest to find species, such as Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Oak Titmouse, and California Towhee.

Fee: \$300 members / \$390 non-members

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

Pacific Northwest Trip: Yakima

June 17 – 20

Yakima provides easy access to a variety of habitats as we search for avian highlights such as Long-billed Curlew, Burrowing Owl, Eastern Kingbird, Redhead, and Calliope Hummingbird. As we move through the region, we will also enjoy a lovely assortment of wildflowers, butterflies, and dragonflies.

Fee: \$600 members / \$800 non-members

Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Brodie Cass Talbott



Varied Thrush, photo by Jacob McGinnis.

Skamania Thrush

by Vicente Harrison

With the kiss from the cascade
wind and the drop of the NW
rain, its unmistakable beauty is
hard to abstain,

Tread light, you may meet;
skittish along the Forest floor,
with colors of noir, and a touch
of pumpkin spice, upon every
bush, migration of the; Skamania
"Varied Thrush."

This humble foul—boast colors
galore, count it is no fault of
yours, for many mistook it for an
oriole, bullocks or Baltimore.

For the Skamania Thrush, take
that back. Males display colors of
blue-gray, and orange and black.
And although a shade lighter, the
female is a true beauty to admire.

In the wet Forest morning; where
God bridges over the gorge, in
wooded habitats fruits and plants
it will forge,

You will know when you hear The
Skamania Thrush's song who
sings a slow, series of whistles;
with your choice of bean and the
morning gorge fog it will be your
mindfulness epistle...



Making Your Outdoor Space Welcoming to Birds and Beneficial Insects

by Megan Van de Mark, Backyard Habitat Program Manager,
& Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager

Spring is rapidly approaching. The following are tips from our Backyard Habitat Certification Program and Wildlife Care Center on how to make your outdoor space welcoming and safe for birds and beneficial insects.

Provide Water by Installing a Water Feature

Sufficient and reliable sources of clean, fresh water are essential for birds and beneficial insects for drinking and bathing. You can help by installing and maintaining a bird or bug bath in your outdoor space. It doesn't need to be fancy. In fact, decorative bird baths can be less effective than do-it-yourself versions made with repurposed shallow pans, trays, or plant pot saucers.

Whatever container you use, a shallow depth is key—no more than two inches. Fill with an inch of water. Add pebbles, small rocks, or twigs to give birds something to stand on or bugs to land on. Birds are drawn to the sound of moving water, so consider adding a moving or dripping water feature, such as a solar bubbler. Place the bath near shrubs, and when appropriate, at ground level. Keep it clean, changing the water frequently.

Provide Food by Planting Native Plants

Access to adequate, reliable, and appropriate food is vital to birds and beneficial insects. Loss of habitat and decline in native plant species, among other factors, directly impact food availability, and consequently, bird and beneficial insect populations. You can help by planting locally native plants in your outdoor space. The

majority of birds and insects are specialists, adapted to and reliant on a particular food source, oftentimes specific plants native to an area.

By planting locally native plants from multiple vegetation layers and with different bloom times, you can supply needed food to a diversity of birds and beneficial insects over multiple seasons. Fall, winter, and spring are all good times to plant. Putting plants in the ground during the cooler, moister months gives roots a chance to grow before the dry, hot summer months.

When choosing what to plant, observe the conditions of your outdoor space. To help plants not only survive but thrive, choose those that are adapted to the site's soil, light, and moisture conditions as well as the size of the area. When there's space, consider planting a large canopy tree.

Provide Shelter by Easing Up on the Cleanup

We all need appropriate shelter. For birds, shelter is necessary for protection from predators and weather as well as for nesting habitat. You can offer shelter for birds and beneficial insects in your outdoor space by planting native plants, but also by easing up on the cleanup. Unkempt outdoor spaces can make great habitat for birds and other wildlife.

Hundreds of insects and arachnids overwinter in the leaf "litter" layer. When you leave the leaves, or even delay cleanup, these beneficial critters are able to

complete their life cycle. Many insects and arachnids are critical food sources for birds, including baby birds. When conducting maintenance in your outdoor space, such as removing thicket-forming noxious weeds (e.g., blackberry), clearing brush, or having tree work done, be aware of nesting times. Consider delaying until fall or winter, after nesting season. When pruning trees and shrubs, look for active nests. If possible, repurpose downed branches on site, creating wildlife brush shelters.

Learn to Be a Good Wildlife Neighbor

Creating space and resources for native wildlife can be fun and rewarding. That said, an important part of being a good neighbor to wildlife is being aware of how this proximity can create opportunities for harm to wildlife and sometimes damage or inconvenience for people. Learning to prevent or respond to these potential conflicts in a humane way is crucial.

Reduce Hazards

- Turn off unnecessary outdoor lighting, particularly during spring and fall migration.
- Avoid using pesticides, rodenticides, and glue traps.
- Keep cats indoors or in an outdoor enclosure, such as a catio.
- Treat your windows to prevent bird collisions.

Portland Audubon has some great campaigns that provide loads of information on addressing these challenges. Check out our Bird-safe and Lights Out webpages and our Cats Safe at Home website, developed in collaboration with the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon.

Solve Conflicts Humanely

At some point, one of your wildlife neighbors might do something inconvenient or harmful, such as digging up your flower bulbs or nesting in your attic. Normally you might be willing and able to tolerate these impacts, but sometimes it's necessary to intervene. A common first response is to try to remove the animal. However, killing, trapping, removing, or relocating animals are never humane options, nor are they long-term solutions. Remove one squirrel from your attic without addressing why it was there in the first place and others will come.

Also never intentionally feed wild mammals such as raccoons and coyotes. These animals can very quickly become habituated to human handouts. There are many studies linking habituation of wild mammals to conflicts.

The good news is that most situations can be humanely resolved by taking simple steps to prevent access (e.g., capping your chimney), remove attractants (i.e., removing or securing food sources), or offer alternatives (e.g., putting up nest boxes). Successful approaches depend on the animal's natural history. **Our Wildlife Care Center hotline (503-292-0304) is available 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day for humane solutions consults.**

Give Wildlife Space

Inviting more wildlife into your outdoor space means you will get to see more of their lives! It's exciting to observe them coming and going, having babies, and using the resources you've prepared for them. But sometimes nature can be hard to watch: when a crow predares a nest you've been following, or when you're worried that momma goldfinch is not with her fledglings enough. While we want to reduce and respond to human-caused harm, we don't want to interfere with natural processes (that crow needs to eat too, and baby goldfinches need to stay with their parents). It's helpful to remember that wildlife are well adapted to taking care of themselves, and every healthy relationship needs boundaries!

To learn more about how you can make your outdoor space a welcoming and safe habitat, enroll in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program at backyardhabitats.org.



Black-capped Chickadee, photo by Scott Carpenter.



Anna's Hummingbird, photo by Tara Lemezis.

Anna's Hummingbird Loses Steam After Getting Caught in Warehouse

by Ashley Lema, Wildlife Rehabilitator

This piece is part of a weekly series called "Patient of the Week." Check our blog every Thursday to get an inside look at one of our Wildlife Care Center patients.

On January 23, we received an Anna's Hummingbird that had been trapped in a warehouse in North Portland. A good Samaritan noticed the hummingbird inside the warehouse the day before, but was unable to free it from the building. The bird had gone up into the rafters, and even though the large bay door was left wide open, she wasn't budging. The next day, the good Samaritan was able to go up and grab the bird, which had become lethargic from lack of food. The hummer was then brought to the Wildlife Care Center, where our trained staff were able to stabilize her and build her strength. After a couple of days in our care, she was flying and eating very well, draining syringe after syringe of our specially formulated nectar. This lucky lady had a quick turnaround, and we were able to release her back to her home in North Portland!

Hummingbirds have a very high metabolism and must eat all day long just to survive, usually feeding every 10 to 15 minutes. So even a few hours or a single day without food for a hummingbird can mean death. They are best known for eating nectar from flowers or feeders while hovering or perched, but insects make up a significant portion of their diet, especially in the winter months. Without this additional protein, these birds

begin to suffer from nutritional imbalances within a couple days, which is why we at the Care Center feed a nectar formula designed to meet all the birds' needs. Hummingbirds have long, thin bills that reach deep into flowers, but rather than sucking the nectar like juice through a straw, the long forked tongue actually does all the work: they lick up nectar like a dog lapping at a bowl of water. Not very much nectar makes it into the bird's mouth in one lick, but that's OK because hummingbirds can lick up to 13 times per second!

During winter, Anna's Hummingbirds are exposed to shorter days, colder temperatures, and limited food sources, yet a portion of the population are year-long residents along the Pacific Coast. So how do they do it? In addition to switching their diet, another adaptation is "torpor," similar to a short-term hibernation, where the bird's metabolism and activity level drop much lower than normal. When outside temperatures fall, hummingbirds will enter torpor to conserve energy; their breathing and heart rate slow, and their body temperature can drop as low as 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Once the temperature warms, the hummingbird resumes normal activity. This amazing adaptation helps these little guys survive here year-round despite being only 4 inches long, not having a whole lot of insulation, and weighing no more than a nickel. Both females, like this one, and males are largely green and gray, but males have unmistakable iridescent pink feathers on their throat and head, known as a gorget.

Here are a few ways you can help these special birds:

- Hummingbirds in torpor can look like they're in trouble, because they sit in one place and don't respond if approached. **If you find a hummingbird in torpor, do not disturb it!** Waking it up too early can use vital energy resources, which can be life threatening.
- If you are going to provide a nectar feeder, know how much work it entails. Sugar water and store-bought nectar spoil over time, allowing mold, fungus, and bacteria to grow, which can be harmful. In addition, when a bird visits a feeder, it may leave behind pathogens that can put future visitors at risk. **We recommend feeding only as much as can be eaten in a day, and cleaning your feeder daily.** First clean with soap and water, soak or spray with a 1:10 diluted bleach solution for 10 minutes, then rinse thoroughly.
- Hummingbirds can be very early nesters, sometimes as early as December. The female will build the nest with plant fibers and spider webs to form a compact cup, line the cup with plant material and feathers, then camouflage the outside with lichens. If you're doing yard work or trimming trees and shrubs, you could accidentally disturb a nest. **Prevent this by choosing the right time to trim, and being attentive and cautious during the process.**

Hummingbirds have a very high metabolism and must eat all day long just to survive, usually feeding every 10 to 15 minutes. So even a few hours or a single day without food for a hummingbird can mean death.



Visit our instagram page @portlandaudubon to see the video of this Anna's Hummingbird feeding while being treated in the Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center.

What To Do If a Bird is Trapped Inside Your Building

Make a clear exit: Leave windows and doors open, and close off as much extra space as possible (close doors to the rest of the building, etc.). Turn the lights off so that the exits are as bright and obvious as possible. If you can't open a window or skylight, lower the blinds or cover it with a blanket so the bird knows it can't get out that way.

Keep things calm: Don't chase the bird, and make sure you're not standing between the animal and the exit. It is best to leave the room entirely for a while. Wild birds experience people as predators, and will stay as high up as possible for safety.

Entice toward the exit: Hummingbirds will often respond to a feeder or pot of red flowers placed just outside an exit. Other food can sometimes work as well, but what will be effective depends on the species. Birds also usually move toward brighter spaces; contrast between the exit and the rest of the space is important. If you can't make the space the bird is trapped in dark, you can wait until dusk and set up a light outside the exit to show the way.

If the animal becomes weak or injured and you are able to catch it, the best thing you can do is contain it in a securely closed (but ventilated) box and keep it quiet and undisturbed until you can transport it to your closest wildlife rehabilitation facility. **Do not offer food or water.** Every species has different needs, and feeding the wrong food (or feeding when the animal is suffering from certain medical conditions) can cause harm.

Negotiations to Improve Habitat Protections on Private Forestland Begin

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

On January 12 Governor Kate Brown kicked off the first of a series of negotiation sessions as part of a groundbreaking agreement between conservation groups and forest industry representatives that aim to propose new protections for imperiled aquatic and riparian species across 10 million acres of private forestland in Oregon.

Oregon's Forest Practice Act has long been recognized as having the weakest protections for private forestlands on the West Coast. These negotiations represent an unprecedented opportunity to collaboratively develop and advance new protections necessary to protect salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and other species currently listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Over the next 18 months, negotiating teams representing conservation groups and timber companies will work to develop a set of reforms to the Oregon Forest Practices Act, which would be codified through legislation and could then be formalized through a statewide Habitat Conservation Plan (a plan approved by U.S. Fish and Wildlife and NOAA Fisheries demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act).

In February of 2020, Governor Brown brokered an agreement between 13 conservation and fishing groups and 13 timber and forest products entities to abandon a costly and divisive ballot initiative fight in exchange for proactive legislation supporting collaboratively developed changes to forest practices. This agreement, called the Private Forest Accord, led to bipartisan legislation that passed with overwhelming majorities in June 2020. The legislation codified the historic agreement, funded the negotiating process now underway, and enacted a set of significant reforms to the Forest Practices Act, some of which went

into effect January 1. These new laws restrict helicopter applications of pesticides on forestland within 300 feet of homes, schools, and drinking water, and created a new, first-in-the-nation real-time neighbor notification and reporting requirement.

Portland Audubon was one of the 13 conservation signatories to the 2020 Private Forest Accord and is pleased to be one of the six conservation representatives on the current negotiating team. We view this effort as the most significant opportunity

in decades to bring the Oregon Forest Practices Act up to modern science-based standards.

The conservation representatives are Bob Van Dyk (Wild Salmon Center), Sean Stevens (Oregon Wild), Chrysten Lambert (Trout Unlimited), Bob Sallinger (Portland Audubon), Joseph Vaile (Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center), and Dr. Kelly Burnett (aquatic scientist). For the timber sector the representatives are Adrian Miller (Rayonier), Diane Meyers (Weyerhaeuser), Cameron Krauss (Seneca Sawmill Company), Heath Curtiss (Hampton Lumber), Eric Geyer (Roseburg Forest Products), and Jim James (Oregon Small Woodlands Association). The State of Oregon is also engaging tribes through their sovereign-to-sovereign relationships, and conservation groups are reaching out as well.



Photo by LDELD, via Flickr.

As with any negotiation of this scale and complexity, there are no assurances of success, but we are hopeful that the next 18 months can deliver real results. Kudos in particular to Wild Salmon Center, Oregon Wild, and Crag, who laid the groundwork for this unprecedented effort.

Notorious Bird Poison Avitrol Up for Reregistration

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently reviewing the registration for the bird poison Avitrol™. The EPA should take this opportunity to remove this dangerous and inhumane product from the market.

Residents of Portland are all too familiar with Avitrol. In 2014 and again in 2018, crows poisoned with Avitrol rained from the sky over dozens of blocks in Portland. Some crows were dead before they hit the ground. Others lay on the ground seizing, convulsing, and screaming before succumbing to the poison. They crashed into yards, parks, sidewalks, streets, and parking lots. Because it would take weeks to identify the cause of death, these horrific events required a variety of local, state, and federal agencies to respond. Portland Audubon staff and volunteers spent days collecting dead birds from neighborhoods due to concern that the presence of poisoned crows could result in secondary poisoning of pets and other wildlife as well as human exposure. The situation was

In 2014 and again in 2018, crows poisoned with Avitrol rained from the sky over dozens of blocks in Portland. Some crows were dead before they hit the ground. Others lay on the ground seizing, convulsing, and screaming before succumbing to the poison.

so bad that Commissioner Nick Fish led the Portland City Council in banning the use of this poison on city property in 2019. And Portland is not alone. There have been other highly problematic events related to this poison documented in Bend, Oregon; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; New York City; Halifax, Nova Scotia; London, Ontario; and Houston, Texas.



American Crow, photo by Scott Carpenter.

Avitrol is a neurotoxin that is put out in bait to address avian conflict situations. Although it is described by the manufacturer as a “scaring agent,” a closer reading of the label reveals that in fact Avitrol has “acute dermal and oral toxicity” properties and that “birds that react and alarm a flock usually die.” Although applicators are required to collect poisoned birds, the manner in which the poison is used results in a situation where birds can travel long distances before succumbing.

The EPA reviews pesticide registrations on a 15-year basis. Its draft review of Avitrol appears to be surprisingly deficient. Although incidents in Portland and across North America were widely reported and come up by simply googling “Avitrol,” the EPA reported that it did not have knowledge of any ecological incidents resulting from registered uses or uses of unknown legality since 2012. National Geographic covered the issue as recently as 2020. The EPA also inexplicably waived a requirement that it had placed on the manufacturer in 2016 to produce seven ecotoxicity studies and six environmental fate studies in order to support the reregistration process.

Dr. Pete Davis Remembered

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Portland lost an amazing veterinarian when Dr. Pete Davis passed away on January 14 at the age of 80. Dr. Davis owned and practiced veterinary medicine at the St. John's Veterinary Clinic for more than 50 years. He was one of a handful of veterinarians that donated their time to the Wildlife Care Center throughout the 1970s, 80s, 90s, and early 2000s back before the Care Center had a vet on staff, and even after we hired one, he would still see a special case now and then. The Care Center would not exist today but for the generosity of this small cadre of vets who donated their services year after year to help wildlife.

I can recall in the 1990s trying to disperse animals for veterinary care so as not to overwhelm any single clinic. Dr. Davis was always gracious, generous, and self-effacing when I would call. He would invariably get on the phone and tell me that he suspected his colleagues at other clinics had better skills but sure, bring the animal on over.

Visiting with Dr. Davis was always a bit of a time warp. He had an aura about him that harkened back to the 1960s, and his clinic, which remained open until 2020, remained a bastion of old-school, independent, patient-focused care in an era in which veterinary medicine has become increasingly corporatized.

A favorite story involves one of my first trips to see Dr. Davis, when I brought him a Red-tailed Hawk to treat. After completing his examination, he disappeared for a couple of minutes and then reemerged with a bag of duck parts. An avid duck hunter, he asked whether we needed any ducks to feed the eagles in our care. He then paused, and a quizzical look came over his face. "I suppose there is some irony in the fact that on the one hand I treat the bird and on the other hand I shoot the bird. Treat the bird...shoot the bird...treat the bird...shoot the bird," he said slowly, shifting from foot to foot and raising and lowering each hand as if juggling the concepts. Then he snapped to life and announced, "Well, it is a yin-yang thing...there must be balance," and promptly exited the room.

Our condolences to Dr. Davis's family and staff, and our heartfelt appreciation for his years of service.



Red-tailed Hawk, photo by Tara Lemezis.

IN MEMORY

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

Janet Brock
Susan Brock

Lillian Carpenter
Daniel Carpenter

Marion Craig
Keeli Hachiya
Kelie J. Kolanko
Stephanie & Linda Smith
Barbara & Carl Witt

Jim Emerson
Daniele Colonna &
Steven Jacobson

Kimberly Ferrill
Vernon Jones & Carl Hitt

Amy Frank
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Wink Gross & Rebecca
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Sarah & Thomas Gooch
William Gooch
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Spencer Higgins
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Marilyn Walster &
Sidney Friedman

Dorthy Maxine Kennedy
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Deanna Sawtelle

Mike Sefton
Eve Sefton Hinesley

Kamran Shah
Nina & Mark Frank

Kathryn Sheibley
Judith Stein

Robert J. Shneidman
Karen Henell & Gregg
McCarty

Charles E. Sitzes
Lawrence J. Furnstahl

Kyle & Kim Spinks
Sally Mahalko

Paul Sullivan
Dave & Ellen Morrison

Molly L. Sultany
Kathy Oh-Keith

Greta S. Swanson
Sarah Swanson & Max
Smith

Fern Wexler
Andrea London

Dorothy L. Wilde
Lorraine Hall

Eric Wilhelm
Andrew Connolly

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.

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**.



Vernier



Sauvie Island Natives



Bob's Red Mill

Cindy Thompson
Event Production

Columbia Sportswear

The Commerce Group

David Evans and
Associates

Elk Cove Winery

Erath Winery

Eyes! On Broadway

Garden Fever

Grow Construction

JD Fulwiler & Co.
Insurance

KPFF

Labrewatory

Leatherman Tool
Group, Inc.

McCoy Foat &
Company PC, CPAs

McDonald Jacobs, P.C.

Miller Nash Graham &
Dunn LLP

Miller Paint Co.

Mountain Rose Herbs

Paxton Gate PDX

Portland General
Electric

Portland Nursery

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Sauvie Island Coffee
Company

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Find what you are searching for.

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NEW: ZEISS Victory SF 32

With birds often hiding in dense cover, it's essential that you have a wide field of view to allow you to spot any slight movements. The wide field of view of the ZEISS Victory SF 32 results in a 20% larger area of observation compared to other leading brands, giving the user an impressive overview.

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Nature Store COVID-19 Protocols

- Masks must be worn indoors at all times
- Limit of four people in the store
- Six-foot physical distancing inside and outside of the store (please follow directional arrows and signage)
- Frequent sanitizing of high-touch points
- No public access to restrooms or water

The Nature Store is Open!

Check our website for updated hours.

Spring has sprung in the Nature Store! With our variety of nest boxes and nesting material, bird feeders and seed, gardening books and mason bees, and outdoor and hiking gear, we are here to help you enjoy backyard birding and the great outdoors this spring. Check out our online store for easy shopping (shipping and curbside pickup available) and for our most current hours and COVID-19 protocols.

Questions? Email store@audubonportland.org or call us at 503-292-9453 ext. 3

Mason Bees



The Super Pollinator!

Mason bees are a great addition to any yard space, whether you are in the city or a rural setting. Attracting and housing these gentle pollinators is a fun and easy way to increase yields in your garden and fruit trees, and engage the whole family in the outdoors. The Nature Store carries everything you need to successfully house mason bees, from springtime tubes, nesting blocks, and mud, to everything you need for winter storage.

Garden Artworks Cedar Bee Block and Shelter

Member Price: \$49.50

Turn This Book Into a Beehive!

Member Price: \$17.96



Optics Focus

Opticron Discovery WP PC 8x32

The Opticron Discovery is a hidden gem! It's a mid-size binocular with a compact feel. It weighs in at only 13.8 oz., is fully waterproof, and has a close focus of 3.9 ft. (great for mushroom hunting, plants, insects, and more). Its small size makes for a good fit for many people, and its quality lenses offer a bright and clear image.



Member Price: \$229.00

New T-Shirts

The Nature Store is restocked on adult and children's T-shirts! Come check out our variety of new bird and nature-themed designs.

Peregrine Forest Unisex Adult T-shirt

Member Price: \$21.60

Charley Harper Roving Raptors Unisex Adult T-shirt

Member Price: \$25.20



PNW Picks

The Nature Store loves to carry products made by local artists and vendors! We are always sourcing new products made in the Pacific Northwest, and love to support our local community.

Vintage Postage cleverly composes handmade stationery and gifts, all made from vintage stamps and paper. With lots of birds, nature, floral, and PNW-themed stamps, items from Vintage Postage make a great addition to a stamp collection or a fun, unique gift!

Decorative Stamp Pack

Member Price: \$6.30

Small Stamp Pack

Member Price: \$3.60





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.



Yellow Warbler, photo by Scott Carpenter.

Lights Out for Spring Migration!

One thing we can do to help ensure safe passage for birds on their migratory journey is reduce the amount of light pollution they encounter as they cross our skies.

Birds use the stars to help them navigate, and light pollution dims those cues. Scientists at Colorado State University's Aeroeco Lab estimate that approximately 50% of the migratory birds flying through our airspace will pass over between April 15 and May 18. Lend them a hand by turning off your unnecessary overnight lighting during this critical month!

For more information and to see Red Alert notices for high-volume passage nights, visit aeroecolab.com/uslights.

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 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
with COVID protocols

Nature Store &

Interpretive Center

503-292-9453 ext. 3

May be closed on Tuesdays; please
call for updated hours

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: Rufous Hummingbird, photo by Mick Thompson

On the Inside Cover: Northern Pygmy Owl, photo by Scott Carpenter;
Harbor Seal, courtesy of Bureau of Land Management; Double-crested
Cormorant, photo by Colin Durfee; Black-capped Chickadee, photo by
Scott Carpenter.



Birdy Brain Buster!

Three of these raptors can be
found on all continents except
Antarctica. Which one is found in
only North and South America?

- A. Barn Owl
- B. Great Horned Owl
- C. Peregrine Falcon
- D. Osprey



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

Answer: Great Horned Owl