

JULY/AUGUST 2021



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Portland Audubon Sanctuary, photo by Tara Lemezis.

## FROM OUR SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

For the last sixteen months, COVID-19 has changed our lives, calling on us to reimagine our work and personal lives to keep each other safe. Now, as Oregon approaches that much anticipated 70% vaccination rate, Portland Audubon is excited to continue the process of coming back together after a largely virtual year.

Over the coming weeks we will be working to debut new guidelines to bring staff, volunteers, and the public back to the sanctuary. It's going to be a time of reconnecting, all while we transition to safety protocols that reflect the latest science from the state and the CDC.

Even as we are eager to regain some pre-pandemic normalcy, we also know how important it is to take the learnings from the past year with us. To reduce greenhouse gases, traffic, and commute times, our work-from-home policy will become more flexible. For the public, online classes and events are here to stay, removing barriers for those without access to transportation, those who live outside the Portland metro region, and people with disabilities.

We are excited to come back together after so long apart. Already this summer looks very different from last year. Campers are spending their days at our sanctuary, learning and playing. Local ecotours have returned, and our first international trips are on the schedule. Some volunteers are back at the sanctuary, and more will be on the way. And always, through good times and bad, the work continues to come together for nature. We hope to see you again soon.

**Tumko Davaakhuu, Chief Operating Officer**

**Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director**

**Emily Pinkowitz, Education Director**

**Charles Milne, Development Director**

**Ali Berman, Communications Manager**

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# The Bird Days of Summer

by Emily Pinkowitz, Education Director

This summer, Portland Audubon is excited to launch The Bird Days of Summer, a suite of sliding-scale programs designed to engage new audiences in nature and birding. By combining community-building, exploration, and fun, we hope to create safe spaces for people new to Portland Audubon to get to know each other as well as the birds. Together, we're striving to build an inclusive community that is accessible to all.

From July through August, we will offer more than 20 hours of "pay-what-you-can" programs that invite Portland residents of all socioeconomic levels to bike, hike, and even have a drink with our expert Adult Education team. Bird-curious folks will join Tara Lemezis for Beginning Birdnoticing, a supportive entry into the practice of quiet listening, observation, and reflection that allows us to deeply notice birds and other wildlife. Families will bring their little ones on leisurely

Baby Bird Walks to spot ducklings and young birds with Erin Law. Active Portlanders will meet Brodie Cass Talbott for Birds & Bikes and enjoy relaxing, early

morning rides through local wetlands. The more adventurous will travel to nearby natural wonders to hike with Candace Larson. And the social butterflies among us will join Greg Smith for Birds & Bevvies, a partnership with Güero Bird Club, founded by local restaurant Güero, that blends chill vibes, good food and drinks, and of course, birds.

All of these walks are designed with novices in mind. Binoculars will be provided, and programs will start with a primer to demystify these invaluable tools. Educators will take advantage of the quieter summer months to help new birders discover the everyday bird language that surrounds us, pointing out some of the common species that more seasoned birders take for granted. We opted to begin programs later in the day and took care to include weekend options so that people who are just beginning to explore birding can fold these outings into the rhythm of their lives.

These choices also forward our larger mission to make these programs accessible to all. Participants are invited to pay as little as zero dollars, though we hope those who are able will contribute what they can. But price alone does not guarantee that a program is accessible. We've taken care to ensure that the vast majority of these events are reachable by public transit. We've created intergenerational opportunities for families who like to explore nature together.



Art by Stacie Balkaran





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We’ve woven community-building into these events to help create a welcoming and inclusive group dynamic. And these programs will be led by staff educators who have participated in significant training in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Most importantly, The Bird Days of Summer is just one way we are working to build stronger relationships with communities who have been historically disenfranchised. Over the last six months, our Local Partnerships Associate, Greg Smith, has led more than 20 hours of free programs in partnership with a host of different organizations, including People of Color Outdoors, Wild Diversity, and Outdoor Afro. Our team is also collaborating with organizations that work directly with low-income communities, including Hacienda Community Development Corporation, Verde, and others. We will work with this growing network to get the word out about these programs.

We are grateful to local designer Stacie Balkaran, who recently illustrated J. Drew Lanham’s “9 Rules for the Woke Birdwatcher,” for designing these gorgeous graphics. We hope that you see this poster around town as we work to raise awareness about these events.

**To learn more about The Bird Days of Summer and spread the word to new birders in your life, please visit [bit.ly/birddaysofsummer](https://bit.ly/birddaysofsummer).**







## Birdathon 2021 Exceeds Expectations, Thanks to You!

by Sarah Swanson, Birdathon Coordinator

Birdathon has wrapped up another successful spring of birding and fundraising. We have surpassed our goal and raised over \$163,000 to fund Portland Audubon's work in conservation, education, wildlife rehabilitation, and land stewardship. This was a large increase from last year, and hopefully a sign that at least some aspects of life are beginning to return to normal. Thank you to our participants for being a part of Birdathon by bringing in donations and sharing your support for Portland Audubon with your friends and family.

This year's Birdathon featured popular returning teams as well as some fun new ones: the Warbling Yogis combined yoga with their birding, Big Picidae spent a big day looking for as many kinds of woodpeckers as possible, and the Clickadees spread out across the state and photographed 235 species of birds. The creativity and enthusiasm of our team leaders is what makes Birdathon something special, even in our 41st year. Thanks to all who led a team this year—we couldn't have a Birdathon without you!

Birdathon participants enjoyed seeing and hearing exciting birds like owls and rails, as well as seeing baby birds and observing cool bird behaviors. Birding in new places with skilled leaders and learning something new were other Birdathon perks. Many people shared that their favorite part was having the chance to bird with others again. It was wonderful to have Birdathon again as a chance to gather in community with those who share our love for birds.

Thank you to **Backyard Bird Shop**, our longtime Birdathon sponsor, for their continuing support!

Thank you also to **Vortex Optics**, **Opticron**, and **Timber Press** for their donations of prizes for our Birdathon celebration.

We are already looking forward to Birdathon 2022 and another opportunity to enjoy birding for a great cause.

**Above:** Warbling Yogis doing Eagle Pose, by Martha Gannet. **Below, left to right:** Pride in the Tide at Cannon Beach, by Mindy Coolidge; The Knithatches, by Vicky Medley; Pintailgating birding wetlands, by Ali Berman.





# No Water, No Wetlands, No Birds

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator;  
and Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Last summer, more than 40,000 birds died from botulism caused by low water levels on Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. This year looks like it could be worse. A water crisis that has been building for decades is reaching a crescendo.

The Klamath River flows for 257 miles through Oregon and Northern California to its terminus at the Pacific Ocean. This massive watershed was once home to a beautifully complex system of untamed rivers, streams, and more than 350,000 acres of wetlands. The Klamath Basin provides critically important stopover habitat for 80% of waterfowl and 55-60% of waterbirds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway. It also provides critically important habitat for Chinook and Coho salmon that used to spawn up the Klamath into the Williamson and Sprague Rivers, and the c'waam and koptu (Lost River and short-nosed suckers, respectively) that spawn in the shallow water and tule marshes along the lake edges of the Klamath Basin. The Klamath Basin has appropriately been called the "Everglades of the West." When Portland Audubon was founded in 1902, one of our first priorities was establishing the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge as a bulwark against the threat of rapid conversion of wetlands for agriculture.

Since time immemorial, the birds, fish, plants, and ecosystems of the Klamath River and associated wetlands and tributaries have been sacred to the seven Klamath River Tribes: the Yurok, Hoopa, Karuk, Shasta, Yahooskin, Modoc, and Klamath. Today these Tribes are federally recognized as the Klamath (Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin), Karuk, Hoopa, Quartz Valley, Resighini Rancheria, and Yurok Tribes.

The Klamath River Tribes have a long-term reciprocal relationship with the Chinook and Coho salmon that spawn in the river, though salmon have not traversed beyond Iron Gate Dam since it was built in 1964. The Klamath Tribe also depends on the c'waam and koptu that live and spawn in the Klamath Basin. These fish species need ample water in the system: cool, deep water in the river for salmon, shallow water and tule marshes along lakes and streams for juvenile suckers, and deep lake areas for adult suckers. The Klamath River Tribes have used their water rights to ensure that salmon, c'waam, and koptu are prioritized with the limited water available.



Unfortunately, the inception of the Klamath Irrigation Project in 1906 precipitated a massive land conversion from wetlands to agricultural lands, a change feared by conservationists in the early 20th century. Today, more than 80% of the historic Klamath wetlands have been lost, the Klamath River has been dammed, and the basin's limited water has been vastly overallocated. Its waterways are degraded by grazing and pesticides. Even on Lower Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuges, more than 22,000 acres have been set aside for commercial agribusiness operations. In some years, refuge wetlands go completely dry while refuge



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This year, water levels are so low that basin-wide waterbird populations are the lowest in settler history. The water and wetlands that sustained people and wildlife for eons are at risk of ecological collapse.

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lands leased to farmers get water to grow potatoes and onions. The land's natural hydrology has largely been replaced by a system of canals controlled by the Bureau of Reclamation. This system includes refuge lakes, wetlands, and marshes. As the impacts of climate change become more and more apparent, drought has increasingly become the norm.

This looks to be one of the worst water years on record. In May, the Bureau of Reclamation canceled a flush (an increase in flow) from Upper Klamath Lake to benefit

outbound salmon, and for the first time since 1907 shut off flows to the project's main canal. This year, Upper Klamath Lake levels are so low that c'waam and koptu are likely to struggle to survive the year, juvenile salmon downriver have already experienced a massive die-off associated with warm-water-driven diseases, and no water will be sent through to the marshes and wetlands of the Klamath refuges, which once depended only on their connection to the river for survival.

This is following one of the largest botulism outbreaks in refuge history in 2020. Botulism is a natural toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. Shallow stagnant water provides an optimal environment for it to proliferate. It attaches to nerve endings, where it causes weakness, lethargy, and the inability to hold up the head or fly. Many waterfowl simply drown, and the presence of carcasses in turn exacerbates the outbreak. There have been multiple major botulism outbreaks on the refuge in recent years. Birds nesting and migrating through Klamath this year will find precious little water. Those that do find it may also find themselves in a death trap, despite the refuge's efforts to concentrate and hold as much deep water as possible while drying out areas likely to host a botulism outbreak.

This year, water levels are so low that basin-wide waterbird populations are the lowest in settler history. The water and wetlands that sustained people and wildlife for eons are at risk of ecological collapse.

The situation is bleak, but perhaps this crisis will also be a catalyst for change. This path starts with protecting the sovereignty of the Klamath River Tribes and upholding their treaty rights. There is also progress on the four Klamath River hydroelectric dams, which are slated to start removal in 2023, marking the largest dam removal project in U.S. history and opening up hundreds of miles of salmon habitat. For the refuges, it perhaps begins with more strongly asserting their own water rights, purchasing available water rights from willing sellers, and addressing the on-refuge lease land farming. Finally, perhaps it is also time to reinstate a multi-stakeholder process to chart a new course forward for people, fish, and birds. This has been tried before. In 2010, many stakeholders signed on to the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreements. We had deep concerns about the adequacy of water provided to the refuge in these agreements, but regardless, Congress failed to move it forward. Perhaps it is time to reconvene and try again. The current situation is not working for anyone: not for people, not for fish, and not for birds.

**Top center:** Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, photo by Bob Sallinger; **Bottom from left to right:** White-faced Ibis, photo by Tara Lemezis; Western Grebe pair, photo by Jim Cruce; Green-winged teal,

## FIELD NOTES

by Emilie Chen

# Killdeer: The Urban Shorebird

You truly can birdwatch anywhere. I was in the parking lot of a drive-thru vaccination clinic when one of my passengers asked me, “What’s that?”

A bird, slightly smaller than a crow but with longish legs, darted haltingly from the asphalt onto the grassy divider. The nervous way it ran, along with its shorebird shape and the fact we were in a parking lot, suggested it was a Killdeer.

If we’d had binoculars with us, we could’ve gotten a good look at its warm brown upperparts, rufous rump, and the two black bands that drape across its white breast. A third band runs across its forehead and through its unwavering, red-eyed stare. Like other plovers, Killdeer have a somewhat large head (compared to other shorebirds), squarish forehead, and short bill that comes to a point at the tip.



Photo by Emilie Chen.

In addition to parking lots, you might see Killdeer looking for food on grassy lawns or attempting to nest on gravel surfaces—yes, Killdeer will lay eggs directly on the ground. Their speckled eggs camouflage perfectly with gravel, and many folks unknowingly wander too close to a nest. When this happens, Killdeer put on their famous broken-wing act, an Oscar-winning performance by the parents to distract intruders from their nest.

Whether or not you see them, you’re likely to hear them. Their shrill, panicked voices call out “Dee! Dee! Dee!” or “D-d-d-d-dee!” After all, Killdeer are named for their song, to which the lyrics are “Kill-deer! Kill-deer!”

## SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott

The Patagonia Picnic Table Effect is the idea, based on a story of very rare birds regularly being found in the vicinity of a single picnic table in Arizona, that a rare bird shows up in a particular place and draws in birders who then find more rare birds in the vicinity. The effect was on display with a few of our notable spring birds.

A **Palm Warbler** was found by a keen-eyed birder searching for the Acorn Woodpeckers that again turned up on Oak Island in early May.

In late May, a **Black-throated Sparrow** was found on Swigert Road in Troutdale, and a birder en route to refind the bird noted not one but three **Swainson’s Hawks** hunting the fields at Portland International Airport. Both species are considered quite rare in the area, but sightings of both seem to be increasing.

Then in early June, a birder found a pair of **Forster’s Terns** at Smith and Bybee Wetlands for a rare spring record, and subsequent chasers found the Forster’s had been replaced by a single **Black Tern**, an even rarer find for Multnomah County. As these birds usually do, they moved on quickly.



Garganey, photo by Le poidesans.

Near the same time, a **White-rumped Sandpiper**, rare anywhere in the Northwest, was found on River Road west of Vancouver in early June, where birders were also treated to an **American Golden-Plover** and **Wilson’s Phalarope** for an exceptional trio of shorebirds.

**White-faced Ibis** seemed to be a theme of this year’s spring migration, as a number of birders in the Portland area reported seeing these birds fly over.

A **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was a one-day wonder at a feeder in Portland for what appears to be a first documented record. Similarly, in April, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** turned up in Scappoose, but only remained for a day.

A **Garganey** at Baskett Slough NWR was likely the most notable statewide rarity of the season, but the large numbers of **Red Knots** along the coast were equally impressive.

For corrections, tips, and reports, email Brodie Cass Talbott at [bcasstalbott@portlandaudubon.org](mailto:bcasstalbott@portlandaudubon.org), and for a more detailed weekly report, visit [portlandaudubon.org](http://portlandaudubon.org).



# Offshore Wind Power Ramping Up in Oregon

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager; and Ann Vileisis, President, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

The Biden Administration has made investing in renewable green energy a top priority to address the monumental challenges of our climate crisis. In Oregon, the focus will be on floating offshore wind power. Over the past several months, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the State of Oregon have held informational meetings about their current planning effort regarding installation of floating wind turbine arrays off our coast. In short, BOEM is preparing to identify potential “call areas” to lease for wind energy development. With significant subsidies for installation of wind turbines by 2030, things are happening fast. While we support the shift to renewable energy, we want to make sure facilities are sited appropriately, following the best available science to minimize wildlife impacts.

A big concern for Portland Audubon is the impact of large arrays of 800-foot-tall wind turbines on seabirds and other marine life. Oregon's coast supports more than 1.3 million colonial nesting seabirds,

representing more than half the nesting seabirds on the contiguous West Coast. Some of these seabirds spend at least part of their life cycle in offshore waters. We are particularly concerned about dynamic soaring birds, such as shearwaters, fulmars, and albatrosses, which fly from all around the Pacific to forage in Oregon's rich coastal waters. This includes visits from vulnerable species with small global populations like the Short-tailed Albatross.

Since these species depend on wind to soar, large wind turbines could be a serious problem for them. In addition, marine mammals, including migratory gray whales, and commercially important fishing grounds could be impacted. According to BOEM, Oregon's best wind resource is off the south coast. However, the same wind that draws wind-energy “prospectors”

also causes upwelling of nutrients, creating rich marine waters and making the region a focal point of seabird activity. Portland Audubon has identified waters off Cape Blanco as a globally prioritized Important Bird Area (IBA). This area harbors some of the highest seabird concentrations of the West Coast's California Current Ecosystem.

BOEM and independent consultants, with support from the Department of Energy, are currently analyzing existing data to help inform siting of turbines to minimize environmental and economic impacts. We are, of course, supportive of these efforts. However, BOEM's first priority is to expedite installation of industrial-scale energy production facilities. We have reason for concern, as the process allows big energy companies to decide where they want to site facilities first, and then a public process follows.

It is expected that BOEM will invite companies to propose sites for projects later this year (likely in November). Then there will be two

opportunities for public input—the first in response to general siting of “call areas,” and another with the NEPA-required public process, after areas have been leased and companies have put forth their specific plans, which could be quite late in the game for making meaningful adjustments.

Please stay tuned on this emerging issue, as there will be important opportunities for public comment. Meanwhile, Portland Audubon, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society, and the Oregon Audubon Council will be engaging directly with BOEM, state agencies, scientists, and other entities, aiming to ensure the federal permitting process works as proactively as possible to minimize wildlife disturbances.

**For more information on Oregon offshore wind energy planning, visit our website or contact us:**

**web:** [bit.ly/oregon-ocean-energy](https://bit.ly/oregon-ocean-energy)

**email:** Joe Liebezeit ([jliebezeit@audubonportland.org](mailto:jliebezeit@audubonportland.org))  
Ann Vileisis ([ann@kalmiopsisaudubon.org](mailto:ann@kalmiopsisaudubon.org))





Flame Skimmer, photo by Anita Ritenour.

## IN-PERSON TRIPS

### Field Trip: Dragonflies at Koll Center Wetlands

July 6 | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Discover the stunning beauty of dragonflies at Koll Center Wetlands in Beaverton.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members  
Leader: Stefan Schlick



### Pacific Northwest Trip: Idaho's Cassia Crossbill

July 8-11

See the American Birding Association's newest species in the South Hills of Idaho! Because of the absence of red squirrels in Idaho's South Hills, Cassia Crossbills are about 20 times more common than the Red Crossbill.

Fee: \$945 members / \$1,145 non-members  
Leader: Stefan Schlick



### Audubon Birding Day: Autumn Shorebird Migration

August 14, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

This van trip will explore sites along the northern Oregon Coast in search of shorebirds.

Fee: \$85 members / \$115 non-members  
Leader: John Rakestraw



### Pacific Northwest Trip: Grays Harbor Shorebirds

September 10-12

Early September is the perfect time to enjoy shorebird migration at the West Coast birding hotspot of Grays Harbor! From Marbled Godwit flocks in Westport to Sooty Shearwaters on the horizon, this trip will excite any birdwatcher and ocean lover.

Fee: \$595 members / \$745 non-members  
Leader: Stefan Schlick



## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Bird Journals: Observation, Markings, Poses: The Essentials

July 10 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (in-person)

Try simple ways to learn to see in new ways, then draw, write, and use watercolors, and develop your pages.

Fee: \$55 members / \$75 non-members  
Instructor: Jude Siegel



### Birding Oregon Hotspots: Cannon Beach/Seaside Area

July 20 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will show you the best places to bird around Cannon Beach and Seaside on the Oregon Coast.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members  
Instructor: John Rakestraw



### Birds of a Feather: Haematopodidae - The Oystercatchers

July 29 | 6-7 p.m.

Join us on a journey through the unique evolutionary history, physiology, anatomy, and natural history of this mussel-eating group of shorebirds: the oystercatchers.

Fee: \$20 members / \$30 non-members  
Instructors: Greg Smith and Erin Law



Sign up for classes and trips at  
[bit.ly/pdxaudubon-classes](https://bit.ly/pdxaudubon-classes)







Pacific Golden-Plover, photo by Mick Thompson.

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Shorebirds I: The Common Species

August 3 | 6-7 p.m.

This class covers the most common species of shorebirds found in Oregon during southbound migration.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



### Shorebirds II: The Less Common Species

August 10 | 6-7 p.m.

This class introduces you to the less common species of shorebirds that pass through Oregon in autumn.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



### Bird Journals: Drawing/Painting Practice: Tips for at Home

August 14 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (in-person)

Play with different views, studies, and discover fun ways to use your pencil and brush in the field, and at home.

Fee: \$55 members / \$75 non-members

Instructor: Jude Siegel



Cost Involved



Public Transit Available



Free



Family Friendly



Wheelchair Accessible



Virtual Event or Program



Photo by Chelsea Cate.

## BOOK SALE

# Portland Audubon Used Book Sale: Early Bird Gets the Bookworm!

**August 21-22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Join us at our Cornell Road headquarters in August for the Portland Audubon Used Book Sale, an outdoor event with hundreds of exciting nature books to choose from.

Our volunteers have unearthed a whole clutch of exciting natural history books that are ready to leave the nest. From vintage bird encyclopedias to heart-warming stories about animals, adventure-ready travel books to in-depth environmental histories, you'll find a wide selection of good reads. Birders, educators, historians, crafters, and nature enthusiasts of all kinds are sure to pick something up they just won't be able to put back down.

To respect all budgets, pricing will be in three categories: "choose your books, choose your donation"; five-dollar books; and "hot ticket" rare volumes. The majority of books will fall under "choose your books, choose your donation," and we encourage you to pay what you can as a donation to Portland Audubon. All proceeds will support the dynamic and fulfilling programs, classes, trips, and public services Portland Audubon offers year-round.

We have plenty of great titles that need new homes, so make like a goose and come take a gander!

COVID precautions will adhere to applicable CDC guidelines.





Secretarybird, photo by Mike Richardson and Sarah Winch.



Hoatzin, photo by Francesco Veronesi.

## ECOTOURS

### Steens Mountain and Alvord Desert

September 29-October 3

Join us on an exciting fall ramble to Steens Mountain and the Alvord Desert!

Fee: \$1,195 members / \$1,395 non-members

Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott and Tara Lemezis

### Kenya

October 14-29

Join Portland Audubon on the wildlife trip of a lifetime! Kenya is renowned for its remarkable diversity of landscapes, animals, and cultures, with over 1,100 species of birds!

Fee: \$6,995 members / \$7,695 non-members

Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Candace Larson

### Amazon River Cruise

March 9-19, 2022

From amazing birds to turtles, mammals, pink dolphins, and unforgettable scenery and culture, you won't want to miss this epic journey on a cruise along the largest river in the world.

Fee: \$5,495 members / \$5,795 non-members

Leaders: Dan van den Broek and local guides

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

Sign up for ecotours at  
[bit.ly/pdxaudubon-ecotours](https://bit.ly/pdxaudubon-ecotours)







For **WILDLIFE.**  
For **PEOPLE.**  
For **OUR HOME.**

A CAMPAIGN TO REVITALIZE OUR CAMPUS

## Members Look to the Future with Strong Support to Modernize Our Headquarters

by Charles Milne, Director of Development

Following the announcement of plans to modernize the Wildlife Care Center, members have been stepping up to support our goal of securing \$3.5 million in donations. We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support so far and are optimistic about reaching this goal by September 30. Portland Audubon members are always the first to step up and champion our projects and work. You make our accomplishments possible through your commitment to wildlife and habitat and your financial investment in our vision for the future. When this issue of the Warbler went to press, we had raised \$2,994,160! Thank you to all who have given so far.

If you haven't yet seen our vision and plans, they can be found at [ForPortlandAudubon.org](https://ForPortlandAudubon.org). The plans include a completely rebuilt Wildlife Care Center, new interpretive and wayfinding signage throughout the Sanctuary, essential updates to our classrooms and administrative buildings, and so much more. These upgrades and the modernization of our facilities are critical for us to be able to provide the wildlife care services, education, and advocacy needed to continue creating meaningful change here in Portland and across the Oregon landscape

In my recent conversation with a member who has been actively involved for over 20 years, she shared, "I am giving this very generous gift because of the effectiveness of Portland Audubon's conservation efforts, and I know how much those efforts rely on quality facilities to make that work possible.

I am excited to give a one-time large gift to support future conservation and educational programs. I have worked with Bob Sallinger for many years, and this gift is in honor of him and all the other conservation activists at Portland Audubon." We are so thankful for this anonymous donor, who gave a gift of over \$100,000 to support our campaign.

It's through a mixture of large, medium, and small gifts that we'll be successful in this campaign. The majority of support comes from gifts under \$250 from our 16,000 members, and these gifts add up quickly. So no matter your ability to give, no matter the amount you give, your support is what keeps Portland Audubon strong and vibrant. We still need another \$500,000 to start construction this fall. I hope you will consider giving generously to this capital campaign, knowing that your gift will live on for decades and touch hundreds of thousands of lives—both human and animal. Without our members and the support you provide, we couldn't create the environmental activists of the

future, or create the changes needed for wildlife to thrive. Thank you for considering supporting our campaign so we can continue being together for nature long into the future.

**For more information please contact, Charles Milne, Director of Development at [cmilne@audubonportland.org](mailto:cmilne@audubonportland.org) or Donna Wiench, Leadership and Legacy Giving Manager at [dwiench@audubonportland.org](mailto:dwiench@audubonportland.org)**

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For more information and ways to support the capital campaign, please visit:

**[ForPortlandAudubon.org](https://ForPortlandAudubon.org)**

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# Uplisting Murrelets

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

On July 9, 2021, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission will revisit the issue of whether to uplist Marbled Murrelets from threatened to endangered under the state's Endangered Species Act. As a matter of both science and law, it is long past time for the Commission to take this important step to help reverse the murrelet's decline toward extinction in Oregon.

The Marbled Murrelet is a small seabird that comes ashore to nest in mature and old-growth forests along the Oregon Coast. Like the Northern Spotted Owl, it was devastated by decades of clear-cut logging. Based on a status report commissioned by Portland Audubon in 1988, the Marbled Murrelet was listed as threatened under both the federal Endangered Species Act in 1992 and Oregon's Endangered Species Act in 1995. Despite those listings, the murrelet has continued to move closer and closer to extinction in Oregon.

In 2016, Portland Audubon, Cascadia Wildlands, the Center for Biological Diversity, Oregon Wild, Coast Range Forest Watch, and the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club petitioned the ODFW Commission to reclassify the Marbled Murrelet from threatened to endangered in Oregon. The five years that have elapsed since that petition was submitted have been more tortuous than anyone could have predicted. Reclassification would require that all state agencies whose activities impact murrelets develop management plans for the species to be approved by ODFW.

In 2018, in response to the petition, ODFW staff produced a new status report for the Marbled Murrelet. It cited research showing that the murrelet's extinction probability is 80% by 2060 along Oregon's Central and North Coast and 80% by 2100 along Oregon's South Coast. It also reported that the primary causes of murrelet declines—loss and fragmentation of older forest habitat on which the bird depends for nesting—have “slowed, but not halted ... since the 1990s,” with greatest losses occurring on lands managed by the state. The review specifically notes that existing programs and regulation have “failed to prevent continued high rates of habitat loss on nonfederal lands in Oregon.”

In February of 2018, the Commission voted to uplist the Marbled Murrelet from threatened to endangered. However, four months later, under pressure from timber interests, without notice, and at a commission meeting located in Baker City, 400 miles from the Oregon Coast, the Commission inexplicably reversed course and voted to retain the threatened status. At a subsequent hearing



Marbled Murrelet, photo by Aaron Allred.

in July 2018, members of the public who came to testify about their concerns regarding the reversal were told by the ODFW chair that they would be removed by state police if they attempted to testify about murrelets. A subsequent lawsuit brought by Cascadia Wildlands, Portland Audubon, and others, would validate our concerns: the Lane County District Court found that the ODFW Commission failed to provide a basis for the reversal and required them to revisit the decision.

Two years after the court's remand, five years after we brought the petition, and more than a quarter century after the murrelet was listed under the state Endangered Species Act, it is time—long past time—for ODFW to take this step forward. The murrelet meets all four of the criteria laid out in regulation for uplisting a species: being at risk of extinction throughout its range in Oregon, ongoing deterioration of its habitat, overutilization of its habitat, and inadequate existing regulations to protect the species. Uplisting does not immediately solve all the challenges facing the murrelet. What it does do, however, is acknowledge that the murrelet has moved perilously close to extinction and forces the state to take a much harder look at what can be done to reverse this trajectory. It is the only reasonable course open to the Commission as a matter of science, as a matter of law, and as a matter of the agency's mission to protect the state's wildlife. The time for obfuscation and delay is over. It is time to uplist the Marbled Murrelet.



Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts. The honorees included were from gifts made between April 15 and June 15.

## ESTATE GIFT

### Roger Tomlinson

Thank you for leaving a lasting legacy with a bequest to Portland Audubon. We will honor your memory by continuing to protect Oregon's wildlife and wild places.

## IN MEMORY

#### Deidre Bair

Katherine Bair & Isabel Courtelis

#### Camille Christensen

Mary & Jeff Christensen

#### Ruth Crane

James & Kathleen Bjork

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Will Kent-Daggett  
Gaby Donnell  
Marlene R. Gleason  
Roberta, Shannon & Kristin Foxley  
Ellen Howard  
Carrie McDermott

#### Peter Davis, DVM

K. & J. Hibbs-Davis

#### Amy Frank

Andrew Frank & Sally Rosenfeld

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Jean Butcher & Thomas DeLoughery  
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American White Pelican, photo by Hayley Crews.

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Honor a special person with a gift to Portland Audubon. Your gift will help fund a future of inspiring people to love and protect nature. Make a tribute gift online at [audubonportland.org](http://audubonportland.org) or by calling 971-222-6130.





## Spring Patients at the Wildlife Care Center

by Ashley Lema, Wildlife Rehabilitator; and Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager

Every year, the Wildlife Care Center cares for thousands of injured and orphaned animals, the majority arriving during spring and summer. This year is no exception, and the Care Center is currently admitting several dozen patients every day. In just the past week, we've admitted 225 patients of 51 different species. Every room is full of a huge variety of wildlife, all receiving the specialized care they need to make it back out into the wild. Following are the stories behind just a few of the patients admitted this spring. There are many more stories than we have space to tell here, so check out the Wildlife Care Center blog, where we dive deeper into the stories of our patients and the ways we can all live more harmoniously with wildlife.



### Baby Barn Owls

In April, we received six baby Barn Owls from a Good Samaritan in Aurora, Oregon, who found them in bales of hay transported from an unknown location in Madras, Oregon. Every year, we get young Barn Owls this way. It's unfortunate that our human lives can alter and damage wild families without us even knowing sometimes. Luckily, all of the babies were healthy, despite growing weaker after being separated from their parents. Without their parents, they would not be able to survive on their own just yet, and since we were unable to put them back with their family, we will raise them here at our Wildlife Care Center.

Accidentally relocated nestling Barn Owls above and, to the left, in their outdoor enclosure with branches to explore on when they're ready.





## Cat-Caught Northwestern Garter Snake

Although Portland Audubon is well known for our love of birds, our Care Center provides care for all sorts of native wildlife, including this Northwestern Garter Snake, who was injured by a cat outside an apartment complex. On examination, we found lacerations over her back and a prolapsed vent. The vent is an excretory opening on the underside of the snake that expels waste and eggs: an “everything exit,” if you will. We gave the snake antibiotics and medication for the pain and tended to her injuries. After a few weeks of healing, her stitches were removed, and we were able to release her back to her home territory. Allowing cats to roam freely puts all sorts of wild animals at risk and puts the cat in danger as well, from diseases, cars, predators, and many other sources. Keep both wildlife and cats safe by keeping cats indoors, on a leash while outdoors, or inside their very own outdoor patio.



## Orphaned American Mink

This young mink was found crying in some brush near a river. Her eyes weren't open yet, and there was no sign of Mom anywhere nearby. We don't know what happened, but we're so grateful that the Good Samaritans who found her were able to bring her to the Wildlife Care Center. Since arriving, she's gained weight and her eyes have opened, and we're beginning to introduce solid foods. We need to be very careful that she remains wild, so she has as little human contact as possible. As she grows, we'll provide her with lots of space and a complex enclosure with natural greenery where she can practice normal mink behaviors like digging, fishing, and swimming.



## Sticky Trap Song Sparrow

This Song Sparrow was rescued from a warehouse in NE Portland after a Good Samaritan found the bird in a trash can, stuck to a glue trap but still alive. He did exactly the right thing: did not remove the bird from the trap, just placed both in a shoe box, and drove straight to our Wildlife Care Center. Upon arrival, our skilled wildlife rehabilitators were able to manage the bird's stress while carefully removing the glue board's sticky substance and avoiding further damage to the bird's feathers or body. The Song Sparrow received stabilizing care, medication to manage pain, and a supportive wing wrap. We also cleaned the glue from the bird's feathers. Sticky traps might seem like a safe and easy solution to your pest problems, but they are actually one of the cruelest, and can trap unintended animals. Steer clear of these traps and opt for more humane options, such as removing attractants and using exclusion tactics to prevent wildlife from accessing unwanted spaces.







# Welcome to the Nature Store!



Things are ramping up for summer at the Nature Store! The sanctuary is buzzing with wildlife, and hikers are hitting the trails. We have also been shifting things around in the store, making for a more welcoming but still cozy and birdy atmosphere. Stop by to see the changes, stock up on bird seed, and check out new items and old favorites.

While COVID-19 restrictions are starting to ease around the state, the Nature Store is still requiring the use of face masks indoors. Please check our website for our most up-to-date protocols.

Shop online at [naturestorepdx.squarespace.com](https://naturestorepdx.squarespace.com)

Questions? Email [store@audubonportland.org](mailto:store@audubonportland.org) or call us at 503-292-9453 ext. 3

**The Nature Store  
is now open daily  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

## 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.

Dreamspirit Jewelry makes fun and unique earrings and necklaces inspired by their home in the Columbia River Gorge. Their photo glass earrings feature brightly colored birds and trees, and their hand painted charms add another pop of color. Stop by to check out our new stock!

Red Bird Photo Glass Earrings

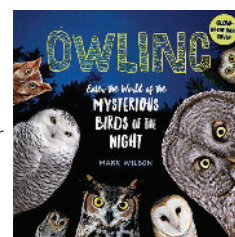
**Member Price: \$13.50**



## New Book

**Owling: Enter the World of the  
Mysterious Birds of the  
Night by Mark Wilson**

This beautiful book presents a one-of-a-kind look at some of our favorite feathered friends. Learn about different owl species, their specialized adaptations, owling ethics, raptor rehab and education, and much more. While this book is aimed at readers 8-12 years old, owl lovers of any age will enjoy and learn from it!



**Member Price: \$17.05**

## Optics Focus

**Opticron Savanna R PC 8x33**

The Opticron Savanna is a great mid-size binocular for any birder! It has good eye relief, making it easy to use with or without glasses, and has a wide field of view at 366ft. The open bridge design is comfortable and easy to hold, even for kids, and its interpupillary distance of 52mm means it will fit smaller faces with ease. The Opticron Savanna is a great little binocular at an even better price point.



**Member Price: \$149**

New shirt styles, new designs, and new colors! Each shirt is hand printed with environmentally friendly water-based inks. Check out our new stock in store and online.

Ladies' Poppies Tunic T

**Member Price: \$27**







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.



## Get Inspired at the 9th Annual Catio Tour!

SEPTEMBER 11, 2021



The immensely popular Catio Tour is back! This year, join us for a hybrid event, featuring in-person and online video tours. From simple to spectacular catios, the tour will give you ideas that fit your budget and space for the perfect outdoor enclosure, keeping both cats and wildlife safe.

We are thrilled to again present this event in partnership with the **Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon** as part of our Cats Safe at Home campaign.

Tickets: [catssafeathome.org/catio](https://catssafeathome.org/catio)

### 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

Portland Audubon staff are  
working remotely. All staff can  
still be reached by phone or email.

**On the Cover:** Bird Days of Summer Art by Stacie Balkaran

**On the Inside Cover:** Birdathon group Pintailgating outing, photo by Ali Berman; Lower Klamath Lake, photo by Bob Sallinger; Secretarybird, photo by Mike Richardson and Sarah Winch; Marbled Murrelet, photo by Aaron Allred.



## Birdy Brain Buster!

What is the approximate  
population size of Black  
Oystercatchers in Oregon?

- A. 500
- B. 2,000
- C. 5,000
- D. 10,000



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

Answer: A