

Preparing for a Botulism Outbreak on the Klamath



6

Murrelets Uplisted

7

Rocky Habitat Protections Update

19

Wild Arts Festival

Update on the Search for Our Next Executive Director

Portland Audubon is home to a passionate community of people who have advocated for Oregon's wildlife and wild places for more than 100 years. Portland Audubon and Motus Recruiting launched a search for the organization's next executive director, and we are seeking a leader who can expertly advance our work for wildlife, people, and the environment across the Oregon landscape.

The recruitment for this pivotal position aims to be an inclusive process that brings together board and staff voices and years of feedback from our members, partners, and the broader community. At its core, the executive director role is an incredible opportunity to guide and inspire the future of Portland Audubon with intentionality, purpose, and heart.

Our goal is to attract a person with a true passion for the Portland Audubon mission—to inspire all people to enjoy, understand, and protect native birds and wildlife and the natural environment upon which we all depend.

Portland Audubon's partnership with Motus Recruiting for this executive search is a natural one. For over 20 years, Motus Recruiting's mission has been to move people forward and to educate on the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) when hiring, promoting, and supporting a diverse workforce.

Inspiring all people to love and protect nature is best achieved when we embrace diversity as a value and practice. The new executive director will play an important role in infusing DEI into all facets of the organization through engagement with staff, board members, donors, partners, volunteers, and the public.

As we search for a candidate who possesses the ability to help us grow, we want to approach our core commitments to education, conservation, and advocacy in ways that respond to the needs of the people of Oregon and the world around us.

We look forward to sharing more with you as we move forward in the hiring process.

- Orlando Williams, Chief Executive & Equity Officer of Motus Recruiting and Staffing
- Judith Ramaley, Portland Audubon Board President

IN THIS ISSUE



- 3 Preparing for a Botulism Outbreak on the Klamath
- 6 Murrelets Uplisted
- 7 Update on Oregon Coast Rocky Habitat Protections
- 8 A Year in the Life of a Cooper's Hawk
- 10 A Deluge of Cooper's Hawks
- 11 Planting a Resilient Habitat
- 12 Field Notes & Sightings
- 13 A New Chapter for Outings
- 14 Classes, Outings, and Events
- 16 Let's Go Birding!
- 17 Ecotours
- 18 Harry Nehls: A Keystone Member of the Portland Audubon Flock
- 19 Wild Arts Festival at PSU's Viking Pavillion
- 20 Blazing a New Trail
- 22 For Wildlife, For People, For Our Home
- 24 Swift Watch Canceled Again Due to Pandemic
- 25 In Memory
- 26 Business Alliance
- 27 Nature Store





All photos courtesy of Bird Ally X.

Preparing for a Botulism Outbreak on the Klamath Wildlife Rehabilitators with Bird Ally X Give an Insider's Look

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director; and Ali Berman, Communications Manager

The Klamath National Wildlife Refuges are among the most important refuges on the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds. They provide critically important stopover habitat for 80% of waterfowl and 55-60% of waterbirds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway. More than 260 species of birds have been observed on the refuges. But over 80% of the historic Klamath wetlands have been lost, primarily to commercial agriculture, making the remaining refuge wetlands all the more important to the survival of wild birds.

However, the Klamath refuges and the birds that depend on them are in dire trouble. The basin's limited water supply has been vastly overallocated, and historic drought has turned a bad situation catastrophic. What little water is available goes first to endangered fish, c'waam, koptu, and salmon, then to farmers. In recent years, the refuges have gone bone dry in the summer.

This month we are bringing you an interview with January Bill and Marie Travers, who co-run Bird Ally X, the bird hospital on the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. That a wildlife refuge needs a bird hospital is an extraordinary thing in and of itself. But in recent years, low water levels have led to massive outbreaks of botulism among waterfowl and waterbird populations on the refuge. It is estimated that more than 60,000 birds died of botulism on the refuges in 2020. Experts predict that 2021 could be worse. It is a remarkable effort to limit the impacts of a tragic situation that has been allowed to persist for decades and that desperately requires congressional leadership to set this landscape on a path to ecological sustainability.

What is botulism and how does it affect the birds?

January: Avian botulism is a neuromuscular disease that's caused by a toxin that's produced by a bacteria found in the soil. When the bacteria is put under certain environmental conditions like drought, it can cause it to germinate and produce the toxin.

Marie: The birds ingest the toxin by eating invertebrates that have also ingested it. Once ingested, the toxin binds to nerve endings and can paralyze muscles. In birds it starts in their legs and moves forward to their wings. Eventually they aren't able to hold up their necks. It can also paralyze their respiratory systems so they are unable to breathe. If they are in the water they could potentially drown. If they don't die immediately from drowning, they can die of starvation, predation, or secondary issues.

January: It's such a big problem at Klamath because we've altered the waterways so much and removed so much of the habitat that it's concentrated all the birds into smaller areas, which opens them up to disease. Because we don't prioritize water for the refuge, it makes the situation worse for allowing botulism to occur.

Tell us how you became involved with running the bird hospital at Lower Klamath NWR.

January: I was contacted in 2018 by supervisory biologist John Vradenberg, and he asked, 'What kind of supplies do you need to treat botulism?' At the time he was newer to botulism outbreaks on the refuge. He was

trying to figure out how to best manage the treatment of the sick birds. After John contacted me, I offered to go check it out and really never left. Our organization, Bird Ally X, decided we would all come out to help initially since there were already birds that needed immediate care. We decided to do this response and figure out funding and other issues as we went.

Marie: I got involved because January got involved and reached out to me. We're friends. I sent supplies up, and then a couple days later birds kept coming in and she asked if I would come up and co-manage the rehabilitation efforts with her.

January: Marie and I have been working together since 2002. We've been doing large-scale responses for a long time together.

What is the hospital like and how is it staffed?

Marie: The bird hospital is a maintenance shed on the maintenance yard on the refuge but is pretty much in the middle of nowhere. The location is beautiful.

January: It's used for storage when it's not being used for botulism. We have to start from scratch every year, making it into a field hospital complete with an ICU, a lab, and everything else needed to do wildlife rehabilitation. Last year there was a wildfire that prevented botulism response for a couple weeks, and we ended up having to work in hazardous air conditions. We tried to really minimize the amount of time we spent at the hospital while at the same time giving good quality care to the birds. There is a lot of extreme weather that we have to take into consideration when we're building enclosures, like extreme winds, dust, and not having the ability to heat the entire room or cool it down. We have to bring a lot of equipment in to modify the space. This year, Marie and I bought respirators because we've already had hazardous days here with smoke, and I'm sure it's going to continue.

In the state of California we're really lucky that usually with an oil spill there is a responsible party who pays for responding to oiled wildlife. There is a whole network set up, which means you have thousands of volunteers ready to go. And a hospital specifically made for oil spills that is turn-key. Compared to when we have these mass wildlife emergencies, like wildfires or botulism, there is really no responsible party to pay for that. So a lot of wildlife rehabilitation organizations struggle to manage financially, and also expand their capacity to care for so many animals.

With so many birds on the refuge, what's the process for getting a bird to the hospital?

January: The refuge biologists along with volunteers go out on airboats in the morning to collect dead birds and



rescue the sick. The sick birds are put in small crates on the boat. They stop collecting midday and drive the birds to the field hospital. Last year it was common for them to deliver over 150 at a time. The collection is hard work and takes skill. It's a fine line between putting airboats out to help birds and also disturbing the healthy migratory birds. I don't envy [supervisory refuge biologist] John Vradenberg's job. He does amazing work collecting the birds and trying to mitigate the outbreak as best as they can.

Why is it so important that they get out on the water to collect both dead birds and live birds?

January: The dead birds basically drive the disease because once they die, maggots then concentrate that toxin from their body, and then other birds eat the maggots and are impacted. One of the ways that they mitigate outbreaks is by collecting the dead birds and getting the sick ones out as soon as possible.

How many birds do you see during the botulism outbreaks?

January: In 2018, 494 birds came through. Eighty-one percent were waterfowl. The rest were shorebirds. It shifted in 2019; we had 233 birds. And in 2020, we had 3,195 birds come through. That's what made last year catastrophic. The outbreak took a toll, estimated at 60,000 waterbirds. Species include Northern Shovelers,



Mallards, Northern Pintails, Long-billed Dowitchers, and Black-necked Stilts. Last year we saw a total of 44 species.

What drives you to do this kind of rescue work in the face of so much tragedy? What gives you hope?

January: I think it's really important for us to respond to these disease outbreaks that can be treated, especially those caused by human actions. I feel like we have a responsibility, and I think that people should fight for what they love, and that's why I do my work.

Marie: I feel that all of us have a responsibility because of our contribution to the state of the planet right now to do whatever we can to help. A lot of the birds that we work with are federally banded and go on to have productive lives and fly to Mexico, and later have families. It makes a difference.

What does a day in the hospital look like?

Marie: Last year January and I, with the help of eight interns, would go in early and check all of the patients, and prepare food and fluids, and any intensive care treatments needed. We'd get birds out floating in pools as quickly as we could in the morning so we could evaluate them and so they could perform normal behaviors like self-hydrating, eating, and preening. The airboats would come in in the middle of the day, so we would have to get everything prepared for a whole new

batch of birds. At the same time, January and I would have to work on releasing birds to make room for all of the new birds coming in. It was a race to get everything done before the new birds arrived.

January: For Marie and I, during the busy days, we worked from six a.m. to ten p.m. with ordering supplies, looking for funding and other administrative work, in addition to work in the hospital.

What does the situation at Klamath tell us about climate change and birds?

January: Unfortunately, disease outbreaks and other catastrophic events are going to continue to impact our wildlife. In this region, it's affecting Klamath. If Klamath disappears, that's going to be really hard for those millions of birds that are coming through to alter their migration path. It is already happening. It's estimated that there are only hundreds of thousands of birds on the refuge now compared to when they have more water and are in the millions. Especially when they are totally dependent on these refuges for stopovers, for feeding, resting, to molt, and raise babies.

In addition, something to think about with climate change and how that may alter our ability to respond: The botulism season ends with the first freezes in early October. If temperatures are warming and freezes aren't happening until later, it's going to extend the botulism season and more birds will die.

How can people help?

January: People can make donations to help fund our work. Donations are so important because we started in 2018 by volunteering our organization's efforts, but we want to make this become a sustainable project. We want to make it so we're not scrambling to find funds every year, especially during the response and because the numbers of birds can fluctuate from a few hundred to over three thousand.

We also want people to think about the bigger picture and how we can work together to prioritize water for important wildlife refuges. With climate change these types of botulism events are going to become more and more common. Marie and I now spend a lot of the off-season giving presentations at wildlife symposia around the country to share our guidelines for treating large numbers of birds during botulism outbreaks and sharing our partnership model to help save more birds in the future.

Want to support Bird Ally X?

Donate directly by selecting "Botulism Response" at givingtools.com/give/169 to support their rescue efforts.



Marbled Murrelets, photo by Eric Ellingson.

Marbled Murrelet Uplist

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager; and Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

On July 9, 2021, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission voted 4-3 to uplist the Marbled Murrelet from “threatened” to “endangered” under the state Endangered Species Act. This is a big conservation victory, and we thank all of our members that provided public comment to the Commission to help move this forward.

The uplisting decision will require that mandatory survival guidelines be developed within 18 months of uplisting, and all managing agencies that administer forest lands with viable murrelet habitat must develop enforceable management plans based on these survival guidelines. These are important steps to help advance the recovery of this species in Oregon on state lands, which for decades have had much higher rates of timber harvest compared to adjacent federal lands.

The Marbled Murrelet is a small seabird with a unique life history. It preys on forage fish in nearshore waters but comes inland to nest in mature and old-growth coastal forests. Like the Northern Spotted Owl, the murrelet has been devastated by decades of clear-cut logging in Oregon and across the Northwest.

The uplisting decision is a big win for the conservation community. Back 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. In February 2018, the commission voted 4-2 to accept the petition and increase the seabird’s protections. The commission then instructed the wildlife agency’s staff to begin development of mandatory species survival guidelines as required under Oregon law. Yet, under pressure from the timber industry and its allies, the Commission reversed itself without explanation and voted 4-2 in June 2018 to deny the petition it had accepted just four months earlier. Lane County Circuit Court Judge Lauren Holland concluded in August 2019 that the Fish and Wildlife Commission had illegally changed its decision after first voting to accept the petition to list the murrelet as endangered. This set up this “second” uplisting hearing this past July.

At the July 9 hearing, the petitioners, including Portland Audubon, were given an opportunity to provide extended testimony to the Commission. We pointed to ODFW’s own 2021 biological assessment that the Marbled Murrelet is considered one of the least resilient species to climate change and is at risk of being wiped out by a single catastrophic event, like wildfire. We also highlighted new findings indicating that the increasing frequency of warming ocean conditions are causing murrelets to forgo nesting in some years and travel far outside of Oregon waters to find good foraging grounds. This puts into question the reliability of at-sea survey methods to estimate the Oregon murrelet population.

This win is tempered by the realization that increasing threats of ocean warming and frequency of forest fires compounded with existing threats of habitat loss and fragmentation have put this species’ future in greater jeopardy.

We applaud the Commission’s uplisting decision for choosing to safeguard Oregon’s imperiled Marbled Murrelet population and its fragile forest habitat. This decision is not only in step with science and Oregon law, but also illustrates the Commission’s willingness to be conservation leaders and uphold ODFW’s mission to protect and enhance Oregon’s fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

This win is tempered by the realization that increasing threats of ocean warming and frequency of forest fires compounded with existing threats of habitat loss and fragmentation have put this species’ future in greater jeopardy.

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. 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. With the uplisting decision, we can keep hope alive for an iconic species. Portland Audubon and our partners will be tracking the next steps post-uplisting and will push for strong survival guidelines and effective management plans.

Update on Oregon Coast Rocky Habitat Protections

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager

Oregon is currently updating its Rocky Habitat Management Plan, a plan that will determine how the state manages and protects the rocky shores that make up 41% of our coastline and include iconic sites like Haystack Rock and Cape Perpetua. In March we reported that the plan was at a critical point, with 12 site proposals submitted by the public under consideration for stronger protections.

Rocky habitats support a wealth of marine life, including colonial nesting seabirds, marine mammals, kelp beds, and thousands of fish and invertebrate species, yet they are under the increasing threat of climate change impacts as well as growing human use. During the record-breaking June heatwave, many media stories emerged about massive die-offs in the Northwest—estimates of over a billion intertidal animals—due to the heat wave coinciding with extreme low tide events. These reports bring front and center the need to do all we can to protect these critical habitats.

As part of the process, the public was invited to nominate new sites for stronger conservation protections. If approved, sites could receive one of three designations: Marine Research Area, Marine Education Area, or Marine Conservation Area. Portland Audubon has been working with coastal organizations and communities to facilitate this process.

This past spring, the proposals were evaluated by an advisory working group led by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). Unfortunately, there have been real challenges and shortcomings: the process had no formal mechanism set up for a collaborative “back and forth” exchange between agencies and the proposers, nor were there objective criteria for scoring proposals. This led to a politicization of the process and proposals being evaluated without clear guidelines and sometimes based on misinformation.

Despite these challenges, two proposals moved forward to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC): Coquille Point as a Marine Education Area, and Cape Blanco as a Marine Research Area. These two sites have long been deemed critical for stronger protection, including in the original 1994 Rocky Habitat Management Plan. Six other sites proposed as Marine



Black Oystercatcher, photo by Adam Stunkel.

Conservation Areas remain on the table as “continuing consultation” proposals to be evaluated in the coming months: Ecola Point and Chapman Point, nominated by the North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition; Cape Lookout and Cape Foulweather, nominated by Audubon Society of Lincoln City; Blacklock Point, nominated by Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition; and Fogarty Creek, nominated by a coastal resident. Several of these sites have had recognized importance in conservation for decades.

During this lull in the process, our coalition worked to develop detailed recommendations on how DLCD can improve the rocky habitat evaluation process. In July, we were invited by DLCD to present those recommendations in a workshop organized by the agency to improve the process. We believe they were received well and hope this sets a precedent for a more collaborative approach to improve the process as we move forward.

In September, DLCD will present to OPAC a “new and improved” rocky habitat proposal evaluation process. Leading up to this, we plan to work hard to ensure that our recommendations are strongly considered and incorporated into the new process. Stay tuned for an opportunity to provide public comment. Later this fall, DLCD will get back to reviewing the six “continuing consultation” site proposals. We will work with our coastal partners to do all we can to move these proposals forward.



To learn more, visit our Rocky Habitat webpage:
bit.ly/rocky-habitats

The rocky habitat proposals can be accessed here:
bit.ly/rocky-habitat-proposals

A Year in the Life of a Cooper's Hawk

by Brodie Cass Talbott, Educator and Trips Associate

One Saturday in mid-April, I walked down to Woodlawn Park and, for the second time in two visits, found a Cooper's Hawk. On this morning, a large brown female flew overhead, quickly joined by a smaller, darker hawk: the adult male. He landed next to her, presented her with a bird, and they mated. Notably, the female was a first year, which is uncommon, as only 8% of successful breeding females are yearlings.¹

So the next morning I wandered to the park to see how the young bird was doing. Not long after I arrived, I heard squealing and saw a flash overhead. Looking up, I found the female as the recipient of another meal from her mate, this time in the form of a chickadee. If she still had young, she would no doubt visit them soon with food. I watched as she ate the first half of the bird and then flew off across the park with it. From her next high perch, she took a few more bites, looked around a bit, and then carried the rest of the bird down to a thicker rhododendron. Nestled in the dark interior of the foliage were three baby Coops! They all had brown flight feathers and contour feathers, but still with their ridiculous white heads.



Cooper's Hawks at this age usually stay in the nest, but the extreme heat forced them out, and eventually they found their way to this more shaded low rhododendron.



The yearling female Cooper's Hawk moves toward the roost location of her young, with the kill provided by her mate. Looking carefully, one can see the gray feathers of adult plumage growing in among the brown feathers of immature plumage, identifying this bird as one year old.

So naturally, I kept an eye on her. The next time I visited, I pinpointed the nest in the top of an old elm, and the time after that, I could tell she was incubating. Finally, in late June, I saw three white fuzzy heads pop up above the edge of the nest. The yearling had successfully hatched young!

When the hot weather hit, I feared the worst. These birds would be too small to get their own water, and, in that heat, I worried the mother wouldn't be able to provide her young with enough. But, on the hottest day, my wife mentioned that a woman had put down a water tray in the park, and a baby hawk had been seen visiting it.

I was amazed that the female was able to keep her young alive through the heat dome. But I was also amazed to see such young-looking birds out of the nest. In my experience, juvenile raptors have fully feathered heads by the time they leave the nest. A thought popped into my mind: Had these birds fledged prematurely because it got too hot? Had the mother coaxed them to the water? I imagined them being called to, eventually jumping, and rather gracelessly flopping their way down to the ground, getting their fill of water, and then being herded into the rhododendron by their mother, eager to recreate the nesting environment for them in a cooler, darker place. Maybe next year she'll just start there and save herself the move...

(As a side note, providing wildlife with a shallow water source like a bird bath can be helpful. However, we don't ever recommend soaking birds with water, as they depend on dry feathers to protect them and help them thermoregulate.)

Looking at her, I was also amazed at the life she's had so far. Breeding Cooper's Hawks in Portland are mostly resident (meaning they don't migrate), so she likely hatched nearby just over a year ago. After a month of being out of the nest, slowly learning to fly and hunt, she received less and less food from her parents. Eventually, probably in August of 2020, she ventured out, or was driven out by her parents, in search of new territory.

Then, after she defied the odds and hatched chicks as a first-year bird, the weather struck again, with three record-breaking days of 108 to 116 degrees. Finding water is easy enough for an adult, but it's a challenge to transport it to a nest.

On my nightly walk to check on the family, I noticed a dead crow chick, a likely victim of the heat. Arriving at the park, my wife and I looked for the adults, but they were nowhere to be seen. All three kids were, though, patiently waiting for food in their same little rhododendron.

Every bird conservationist I ask comes back with the same answer to the question of the greatest threat to birds: climate change.



With their flight feathers only partially grown, first attempts at flight are particularly awkward at this young age.



One of three fledglings waits patiently for a food delivery. It continues to shed its natal down as it grows in its juvenile plumage. As the feathers grow in, the lighter silver iris color distinguishes the young from their immature-plumaged mother.



The young Cooper's Hawks are spread out among the trees, often making loud begging calls and vying for the next meal.

By September, she would have been on her own, without a mate and in a somewhat new territory, when the smoke hit. For eight days, the sky changed from red to orange to gray, filled with acrid smoke. Somehow she processed the world's worst air through her hyper-efficient lungs and system of air sacs, while hunting in the haze.

Months later, as she was perhaps sizing up an older male, snow hit. Lots of snow. The snow stayed on the ground for days, and Cooper's Hawks gathered at backyard bird feeders, hoping for easy meals. Temperatures got down into the teens at night, so to keep her metabolism fueled, she had to hunt successfully every day.

Of course, this is why climate policy is a pillar of Portland Audubon's work as well.

Birds will adapt to change, but that adaptation comes at the price of many who didn't survive (and many species may not adapt fast enough to escape extinction). So far this female has survived a smoke storm, snow storm, and heat storm in her mere 12 months of life. But how many didn't? And how many more extreme weather events can she survive?

¹Rosenfield, R. N., K. K. Madden, J. Bielefeldt, and O. E. Curtis (2020). Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (P. G. Rodewald, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.coohaw.01>

A Deluge of Cooper's Hawks

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The heat dome that blanketed Portland at the end of June brought an unprecedented influx of animals into our Wildlife Care Center. We set an all-time record for intakes between June 24 and July 3 as temperatures soared to historic heights. During this period, 622 animals came in for care, representing nearly 17% of the intakes we would typically see in an entire year. While many species were affected by the scorching heat, Cooper's Hawks seemed to be particularly hard-hit—a stunning 110 young Cooper's Hawks passed through our door during that time period in a phenomenon that some staff and volunteers began referring to as “hawkpocalypse” and that we are still trying to understand.

Heat waves often bring influxes of animals to our facility, especially during nesting season. Extreme hot weather can be particularly hard on young birds. Crowded nests grow hot and uncomfortable for their occupants, or cavities exposed to direct sunlight can turn into ovens. Parents, affected by the heat themselves, may spend less time at the nest and feed less often, reducing fluid intake for their nestlings. Fledglings learning to fly may have limited ability to escape from the baking ground. It is no surprise that more birds and especially young birds arrive at our doors during hot weather.

Below is one of the 64 Cooper's Hawks we were able to hydrate, treat, and release back to their site of origin to be cared for by their parents.



Juvenile Cooper's Hawk, photo by Fern Wexler.

However, we have never seen anything like the deluge at the end of June. For days, a line of people holding boxes of animals stretched across our parking lot. Volunteers at our makeshift intake table, set up outdoors to comply with COVID-19 protocols, distributed clipboards, explained intake procedures, and tried to expedite what seemed like an endless stream of patient people waiting under the scorching sun. Our intake room rapidly reached capacity and overflowed into our lobby. And still the animals kept arriving.

While this event was extraordinary, Cooper's Hawks in particular stand out. These hawks nest throughout our urban landscape, including in the urban interior. They build stick nests in tall trees and often hunt at backyard feeders. If you see a hawk flying low through a neighborhood, it is likely a Cooper's Hawk.

Like many species, they were well into their nesting cycle when the heat dome struck. Of the Coops brought to our Care Center, almost all were within a week of being able to fly and had been found on the ground, often in parks but also in yards, parking lots, and right-of-ways. The majority were suffering from dehydration and other impacts from the heat. Of the 110 Cooper's Hawks we took in, we were able to hydrate and treat 64, which we eventually returned to their site of origin to continue being cared for by their parents. Another 19 were held for longer-term rehabilitation and release, but 27 were beyond our ability to save.

Numerous wildlife rehab centers around the Northwest reported a steep increase in intakes during the heat dome. Some also noted exceptionally high numbers of Cooper's Hawks, while others highlighted additional species that seemed particularly hard-hit. In Seattle, the PAWS Wildlife Center reported dozens of injured young Caspian Terns from a nesting colony on the rooftop of an industrial building. The unflighted nestlings were injured as they tried to escape the broiling rooftop and plunged to the pavement below.

What we see at rehabilitation centers is the tip of the iceberg, a sample of what is happening out on the landscape. However, the lessons and questions raised by the heat dome are daunting. How many birds perished? The seemingly exceptional impact on Cooper's Hawks in Portland serves as a reminder of how much we don't know about the potential impacts of climate change. While we might expect Cooper's Hawks to be affected like other birds, there is nothing to suggest that they would be exceptionally vulnerable. Why were Cooper's Hawks so hard-hit in this event? The heat dome has been described as a “once-in-a-thousand-years” event, but we know that with the accelerated effects of climate change, the unprecedented is becoming the norm.

Planting a Resilient Habitat

by Megan Van de Mark, Backyard Habitat Certification Program Co-manager; and JP Marchetti-Mendez, Backyard Habitat Certification Program Coordinator

When choosing what to plant, the first step is to observe the conditions of one's outdoor space to ensure the right plant gets added to the right place. To help plants thrive, choosing plants adapted to the site's soil, light, and moisture conditions, and size of the space, is critical. If you have a dry and sunny spot, for example, select a plant that can thrive in those conditions. In light of historic drought and heat, this is especially important.

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program focuses on planting locally native plants, as they are critical to supporting the biodiversity and health of this ecoregion. Over 90% of plant-eating insects feed and reproduce on specific native plants. By planting native plants, we provide critical habitat for these insects, which are the foundation of a healthy ecosystem.

Climate change is affecting fauna and flora in different ways. Research indicates that plants respond individually to those changes and that many Pacific Northwest (PNW) plants have already experienced shifts in their geographic distribution in recent decades. Whether species will continue to shift, adapt, or decline is still unknown. What is expected is that the PNW will not only have wetter winters and drier summers, but also increased air temperatures and extreme weather events.

One action we can take right now is to **plant locally native plants that are resilient and drought tolerant**. Depending on the conditions of your space, here are a few plants to consider:

- **Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*):** fast-growing, drought-tolerant, sun-loving herbaceous plants highly attractive to pollinators, with a long bloom time.
- **Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*):** low-growing, trailing, evergreen shrubs well-suited to dry, sunny, extreme locations that support pollinators, beneficial insects, birds, wildlife, and humans.
- **Tall Oregon Grape (*Berberis aquifolium*):** versatile evergreen shrubs adapted to a range of conditions, they are extremely attractive to birds and other wildlife.
- **Oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*):** a large, adaptable, deciduous shrub with beautiful white flower clusters that provides great cover for birds.



Golden-crowned Sparrow on Tall Oregon Grape, photo by Jon D. Anderson.

- **Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*):** large, long-lived deciduous trees, oaks are powerhouses of the tree world. Oregon White Oaks are adapted to hot and dry conditions, and when mature, provide habitat to over 200 species of wildlife, can sequester a lot of carbon, and manage a lot of stormwater.
- **Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*):** tall evergreen trees that thrive in sunny, dry locations, Ponderosa Pines are important for carbon sequestration.

When should you plant?

The return of rains in autumn often feels like the perfect time to head inside. Counterintuitively, autumn is actually a great time to get outside and garden. That's because fall and winter are the ideal time to plant native plants in the Willamette Valley for a couple of reasons:

Rain

Autumn rains provide critical soil moisture for new plants, helping their roots grow before the dry and hot months (starting earlier every year). That said, most new native plants will still need supplemental water during dry spring and summer months for the first two to three years. Long, deep, less-frequent watering is better for plants than frequent, short, shallow watering.

Wildlife impact

From the beginning of February through the end of July, birds and wildlife are rearing their offspring, with a peak in June and July. Wildlife often nests and finds shelter in the plants in our yards, particularly those lower-growing plants. By planting in fall or winter, we cause less human disturbance during an important and vulnerable time for those animals.

To learn more about creating a wildlife habitat that helps fight climate change, visit backyardhabitats.org. The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is co-managed by Portland Audubon and Columbia Land Trust.

FIELD NOTES

by Tara Lemezis, Education Registrar

Movements and Migration: Common Nighthawks

There's nothing that bookends the beginning and end of summer in Oregon like the migration of Common Nighthawks. Here for the bugs, nighthawks arrive by early June and most depart by early September.

On a mission to breed and devour flying insects during their Northwest summer stay, these crepuscular insectivores dive and swoop in dizzyingly beautiful aerial displays over open landscapes, treetops, and rooftops for both food and courtship. Behind the Common Nighthawk's tiny beak lies a vast and cavernous, soft, flexible, frog-like mouth with bristles. This helps them catch and swallow prey as they feed entirely on the wing, mouth agape, at foraging speeds up to 30 miles per hour. Flying ants, mosquitoes, moths,



Common Nighthawk, photo by Tara Lemezis.

beetles, and flies whiz straight down the hatch and into the stomach; a single bird can feast on hundreds of bugs at a time while dining in the sky!

In flight, Common Nighthawks are easily identifiable by sight and sound. By day, they often go unnoticed, silently lying lengthwise on a branch or fencepost, camouflaged by their mottled brown and gray plumage. Slender, angled, elongated wings are marked with a bold, white patch and are unmistakable when peering up at them through binoculars. Their sharp and loud "peent" call notes seem to punctuate each circle danced during their ethereal twilight performances, often heard from great distances before coming into view.

As autumn approaches, we'll say so long to Common Nighthawks for now, wishing them a safe journey as they make their southward voyage home.

SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott

Summer marks what is often thought of as the "least exciting" part of the birding calendar for rare birds, even as we enjoy the spectacle of birds rearing young. This year it appears we had the rare combination of a true regional rarity that was also a breeding bird, in the form of **Black Terns** found at Smith and Bybee Lakes. One was first reported in June—the first county record in many years. When it was seen weeks later, eyebrows raised. When two were seen together in July, birders started wondering aloud. Then the question seemed to be answered when, in early August, an apparent juvenile Black Tern was photographed at Bybee Lake. This species has been known to breed nearby in Clark County, but is generally restricted to the east side of the Cascades.

Those weren't the only "rare breeders" of the season: Black-backed Woodpecker, Mountain Quail, and Canyon Wren were all reported in the far reaches of Multnomah County.

In late July, a female **Costa's Hummingbird** was photographed coming to a feeder near Scappoose for what is an apparent first Columbia County record, visiting over a few days before continuing on its way.



Black Tern, photo by Mick Thompson.

Less than a month passes between the last northbound shorebirds of spring and the first southbound shorebirds of summer, and sometimes it can be difficult to know exactly which is which. Washington County saw one of its very few "spring" records of **American Avocet**, at Fernhill in the second half of June, and then on July first, Multnomah County saw its earliest **Semipalmated Sandpiper** at Vanport Wetlands.

In statewide news, songbird migration kicked off early this year with a **Blackpoll Warbler** being spotted at Ona Beach in Lincoln County in the first week of August, for just the second August record for the state (with the other at the very end of the month). Ona Beach is gaining quite the reputation for rare warblers, having hosted Magnolia, Black-and-white, and Palm in just the last few years.

Those are only a few of the rare birds reported across the region. **For corrections, tips, and reports, email Brodie Cass Talbott at bcasstalbott@audubonportland.org, and for a more detailed weekly report, visit audubonportland.org.**



A New Chapter for Outings

by Emily Pinkowitz, Director of Education

In 2019, Portland Audubon hosted over 250 free outings and walks, welcoming more than 4,000 people to enjoy birding and nature together. Led by a core group of dedicated volunteers that includes some of the best birders in the state, our outings have always been a signature piece of the work that we do. They reflect so many of our deepest values: community, shared learning, public access, and grassroots action.

Early in the pandemic, one of our most difficult calls was to cancel the annual Bird Song Walks, which typically mark the shifting spring migration with over 40 hours of free public walks from April to May. Since then, we have opted to keep our outings program dormant as we adjusted to the ever-evolving landscape of the pandemic. This fall, we are delighted to share that a dedicated core group of Outings Volunteers will begin leading outings again, with strict COVID protocols in place that we are confident will keep participants safe while enabling us to enjoy one another's company together again.

This dormancy period has also given us the opportunity to think creatively and aspirationally about the future of our outings program with a particular focus on racial equity and access. Vital feedback from some staff of color has challenged us to think critically about the subtle ways in which these programs send signals about who is truly welcomed—from the locations that we select, to the leaders that we train, to the narratives that we prioritize on walks. Staff with disabilities have challenged us to think more intentionally about the ways that we make space for people with

disabilities to fully participate in these programs. Collectively, this period has galvanized us to recognize the limits of a “free price tag” alone in promoting a truly inclusive experience.

As we relaunch the program this fall, the Adult Education team will simultaneously be applying our organizational Equity Lens to reflect on and restructure the program. Over the next six months, we will be exploring the way that we recruit leaders and the training that we provide, the sites that we select and the histories and stories that we elevate. We will also be looking closely at the way in which the public learns about and participates in these programs: **Are we ensuring that these experiences are available and accessible to all? Are there critical barriers, such as technology, language, transportation, or access to gear that limit who joins us?**

Volunteer Outings Leaders will be a vital part of this evolution, sharing their lived experience and participating in a robust new training that includes workshops on diversity, equity and inclusion, accessibility, traditional ecological knowledge, and more. We are so grateful to this incredible team for joining us on this journey, and we are excited to discover together new ways in which our outings can evolve to even more fully embody our values in the coming year.

We look forward to welcoming you all on outings beginning in mid-September. **For alerts about upcoming walks, sign up for Portland Audubon's Meet Up (Meetup.com, group name Portland Audubon Outings) or check our website.**

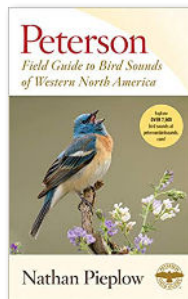


NATURE NIGHTS

The Language of Birds with Nathan Pieplow

September 14 | 7-8:30 p.m.

All around us, all the time, the birds are telling us who they are and what they are doing. In this talk, Nathan Pieplow, author of the *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds*, unlocks the secrets of their language. You'll listen in on the pillow talk of a pair of Red-winged Blackbirds and learn the secret signals that Cliff Swallows use when they have found food. You'll learn how one bird sound can have many meanings, and how one meaning can have many sounds—and how, sometimes, the meaning isn't in the sounds at all.



Cost: Free, donation suggested

FREE 

Behind the Scenes: The Wildlife Care Center

October 12 | 7-8:30 p.m.

Join Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center team for a behind-the-scenes look at the treatment they provide to give injured and orphaned wildlife a second chance. Learn about the most common hazards that bring animals to the Care Center and what we can do to co-exist with our wild neighbors. Finally, take a tour of the **NEW** Wildlife Care Center and learn how this facility will provide Portland Audubon the tools we need to meet the growing demands of our region.

Cost: Free, donation suggested

FREE 

 Cost Involved

 Public Transit Available

FREE Free

 Family Friendly

 Wheelchair Accessible

 Virtual Event or Program



Swainson's Thrush, photo by Hayley Crews.

CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Experiencing Migration

September 7 | 6-7 p.m.

Discover where, when, and how to enjoy the spectacle of bird migration across Oregon as we enter the fall season.

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott

Birding Oregon Hotspots: Columbia Estuary

September 14 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will explore sites from the massive Fort Stevens State Park east through Hammond and Warrenton to the Youngs River.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw

Bird Journals: Bird Journaling Made Simple!

September 25 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Learn some simple and effective ways to represent the birds you see and love.

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

Instructor: Jude Siegel



Morning Series: Sauvie Island Exploration and Beginning Birding

October 2, November 6, December 4 | 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join Greg Baker and Ricky Allen for three Saturday morning explorations at one of Oregon's most accessible Important Bird Areas, Sauvie Island Wildlife Area.

Fee: \$95 members / \$125 non-members

Instructors: Greg Baker and Ricky Allen





Ross's Goose, photo by Hayley Crews.

CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Afternoon Series: Sauvie Island Exploration and Beginning Birding

October 2, November 6, December 4 | 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Join Greg Baker and Ricky Allen for three Saturday afternoon explorations at one of Oregon's most accessible Important Bird Areas, Sauvie Island Wildlife Area.

Fee: \$95 members / \$125 non-members
Instructors: Greg Baker and Ricky Allen



Birding Oregon Hotspots: Washington County Wetlands

October 5 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will explore the best wetland sites from Hillsboro to the edge of the Coast Range.

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



Bird Journals: Elements of a Bird Journal Page

October 16 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Drawing birds takes a little shifting of the way we notice...we will learn and practice some simple but powerful skills, and you will be able to fill your pages with the birds you see and love, at home or traveling.

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



Gulls in Winter

October 26 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will show you what to look for when identifying an unknown gull. We will look at shape, behavior, and the various plumages gulls go through before they reach adulthood.

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



JOIN US!

Catio Tour

September 11 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

IN-PERSON AND ONLINE!

This year's Catio Tour will showcase eight diverse outdoor cat enclosures. You can choose from both an in-person and virtual option, with each of the catios professionally filmed to showcase their creative and unique designs, from efficient to expansive.

Hosted by the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon and Portland Audubon, the self-guided tour seeks to inspire cat owners to build or buy their own outdoor cat enclosure so their felines can enjoy safe outdoor time. Backyard enclosures from frugal to fabulous keep cats safe from outdoor hazards while also protecting wildlife from cat predation.

Funds from the Catio Tour support the Portland Audubon's and Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon's "Cats Safe at Home"™ campaign, which seeks to reduce free-roaming cats in the Portland metropolitan area with solutions that are good for cats and wildlife. Both organizations believe every cat deserves a safe home where it is loved, cared for and kept free from hazards. For more information about the campaign, visit CatsSafeAtHome.org.

COST: In-Person: \$10, Virtual: \$15.

CATSSAFEATHOME.ORG/CATIO-TOUR

Let's Go Birding!

Audubon Birding Day: Migration on the North Coast

September 8 | 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Visit some of the Oregon Coast's premier migration hotspots as we search for shorebirds and other fall migrants.

Fee: \$85 member / \$115 non-members
Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

Pacific Northwest Trip: Grays Harbor Shorebirds

September 10-12

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

Fee: \$495 members / \$645 non-members
Leader: Stefan Schlick

Audubon Birding Day: Migration at Oak Island

September 15 | 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us for an exploration of Oak Island, a mosaic of beautiful habitats on Sauvie Island, and enjoy the dynamic avifauna of late summer.

Fee: \$65 member / \$85 non-members
Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

Pacific Northwest Trip: Migration Along the Central Coast

September 22-23 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Visit some of the Oregon Coast's premier migration hotspots as we search for shorebirds and other fall migrants.

Fee: \$200 members / \$260 non-members
Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott

Audubon Birding Day: Gulls in Winter Coast Trip

October 30 | 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Join us on a trip to the northern coast to study the year's biggest variety of gull species. Side-by-side comparisons will help you solidify your gulling skills.

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

Pacific Northwest Trip: Olympic Peninsula

November 4-7 | 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

Join us as we explore the Strait of Juan de Fuca in search of rarities, loons, alcids, and spectacular views.

Fee: TBD
Leader: Stefan Schlick



Marbled Godwits, photo by Emilie Chen.



Peruvian Pelican, photo by Cliff Hellis.



Channel-billed Toucan, photo by Mathias Appel.

ECOTOURS

We're excited to explore some of the most remarkable destinations across the globe with you in 2022! The shared experience of birdwatching, learning about other cultures, and exploring natural history together brings us unparalleled joy.

If you seek unforgettable scenery and culture, 120 bird species you can't find anywhere else, pink dolphins, and comfort in style, you won't want to miss an epic journey through one of the most biologically diverse places on the planet on an **Amazon River Cruise**. **We will bird on a variety of tropical forest walks, observe wildlife and explore canals and lagoons by watercraft, and take in the Peruvian culture and history.**

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

Is a slower-paced ecotour more your style? If so, join us in celebrating the closing of winter by traveling to the tropical and tranquil paradise of **Trinidad and Tobago**. **We will bird, watch nesting sea turtles, snorkel, enjoy excellent home-cooked cuisine of the Caribbean, and simply savor the cultural vibrancy of the islands.**

A few trip highlights will be a sky filled with brilliant Scarlet Ibises, viewed from our boat in the mangrove swamp forests of Caroni Swamp, and a dizzying array of easy-to-see, gorgeous hummingbirds and other neotropical species.

We look forward to making these connections and memories with you once again on an International Ecotour!

Trinidad and Tobago

April 5-15, 2022

We'll visit all of the birding hotspots with a special focus on the dizzying array of easy-to-see, gorgeous hummingbirds and other neotropical species.

Fee: \$5,495 members / \$5,795 non-members
Leaders: Dan van den Broek and local guides

Sign up for ecotours at
bit.ly/pdxaudubon-ecotours



Harry Nehls: A Keystone Member of Our Flock

by Vicky Medley, Volunteer Manager

Portland Audubon was founded and has been sustained by many long-time stewards. Harry Nehls, a unique and treasured member of our flock, is an outstanding example. He has led and supported Portland Audubon for over 64 years! Harry recently retired from his Portland Audubon volunteer work, and we are thrilled to take this opportunity to honor his commitment with a Lifetime Achievement award.

The first mention of Harry in the Warbler was in the May 1957 issue, while he was still in high school. After high school he joined the army, so he was not active again until he returned to Portland in 1963. In 1965, Harry started writing the Field Notes section of the Warbler. "When I first joined, there was no organized discussion of bird sightings. I made the discussion more consistent and detailed," he said in the October 2002 issue. Harry Nehls wrote our Field Notes section from 1965 until 2020, which made it the longest-running column in our history.

Over the years, Harry quickly and quietly became a leader at Portland Audubon and in the Oregon birding community, as well as nationally. He served as Portland Audubon's board president from 1969 to 1971, and as (volunteer) director from 1972 to 1975. In addition, Harry served as the Warbler editor from 1969 to 1977. As editor, he gathered all the material, wrote, typed, and printed the entire issue each month. Printing was done on a mimeograph at the time, and he would copy, collate and staple, address, and sort 14 double-sided pages 2,200 times per issue. It took a minimum of 8 hours for each issue! Judie Hansen, a fellow former Warbler editor, said, "Harry led monthly work parties for a job that nobody wanted to do."

In the 1970s, Harry Nehls started compiling the Rare Bird Alert (RBA), receiving tips and disseminating reports via a weekly tape-recorded message at Portland Audubon's switchboard. He continued this role, augmenting it with an email and website version, as well as monthly recaps in the Warbler, until his last alert went out in April of 2019. The RBA lives



Harry Nehls at the 2016 Wild Arts Festival.

on on our website and in the Warbler, written by Portland Audubon Educator and Trips Associate Brodie Cass Talbott, who pays frequent homage to Harry's trademark style.

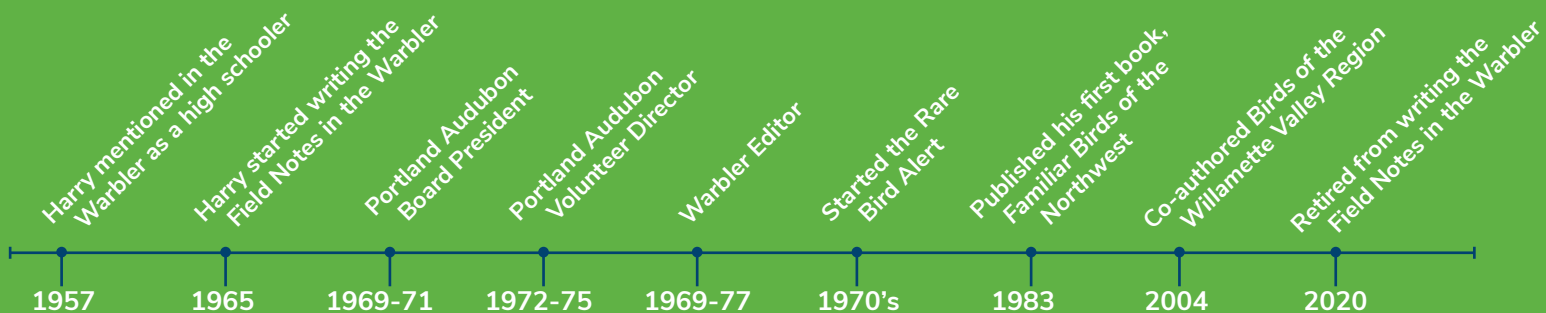
Throughout the years, Harry built an encyclopedic knowledge of birds and bird behavior. He wrote his first book, *Familiar Birds of the Northwest*, in 1983, and he co-authored *Birds of the Willamette Valley Region* in 2004. Over 2,700 copies have been sold in our Nature Store, and a copy is given to all new Portland Audubon staff. According to Nature Store Manager Janet Drake: "It's one of the most popular books the Nature Store carries, and it is the perfect field guide for beginner and seasoned birders alike."

In his time with us, Harry has led classes and trips, served as state coordinator for the National Breeding Birds Survey, been a regular author at the Wild Arts Festival, participated in countless community science projects, helped maintain the sanctuary, tirelessly advocated for our conservation agenda, and led or supported many special projects. Harry never tallied up his volunteer hours, but it must have been well over 30,000 by the time he stepped away from formally volunteering earlier this year.

According to National Geographic, "a keystone species is an organism that helps define an entire ecosystem." Harry has been a keystone species for our entire flock at Portland Audubon! We thank and honor Harry for a lifetime of support and leadership.



Harry's Portland Audubon Timeline



Wild Arts Festival 2021 at PSU's Viking Pavilion

by Charles Milne, Director of Development

Wild Arts Festival 2021 is on! We all missed celebrating at a live event last year and we look forward to seeing friends, authors, and artists in person again. Plans are now underway for the 2021 Festival to take place November 20-21. We're moving quickly to finalize details and are so excited to announce our new location at Portland State University's Viking Pavilion in the Peter W. Stott Center. This is a wonderful opportunity for new collaborations, and we hope to continue this partnership into the future!

At this year's event, artists will have ample room for booths on the floor of the pavilion. Overlooking the booths, a wide balcony will provide space for the Nature Store, Book Fair, and Silent Auction.

We are mindful of the fact that COVID may continue to impact our lives and plans. Rest assured that Portland Audubon and the Wild Arts Festival committee will prioritize the health and safety of artists, authors, guests, and volunteers and will adapt as needed.

Wild Arts Festival Silent Auction Donations Requested

This year the Silent Auction is as critical as ever to support Portland Audubon's work! You'll be able to bid on hundreds of items, and we are reaching out now for donations from our members and supporters to make the auction a great success. We need nature-related art (all mediums welcome), merchandise, vacation stays, and gift certificates. We ask that the item have a value of at least \$75. With 5,000 people attending, local businesses find that donations to the silent auction are excellent advertising. If you have questions or would like to donate an item, email wafsilentauction@audubonportland.org.

A Fun Volunteer Gig

Heading up the welcome wagon will be a robust flock of volunteers to construct, run, and close out the event each year. Specifically, help is needed for set-up on Friday, guest assistance on Saturday and Sunday,



tear-down on Sunday evening, and help with wrap-up tasks on Monday. Running the Festival takes a variety of skills, and many different shifts are available, most lasting about half a day. It's also a favorite activity to do with a buddy!

We hope you will be part of the Festival crew! Contact Volunteer Chair Kate Foulke at wafvolunteers@audubonportland.org to learn more and to sign up.

Portland State University's Viking Pavilion

PSU is a large inner-city university in SW Portland, easily accessible by car, bus, and streetcar and with plenty of parking near the event space. PSU's Farmers Market, located just outside the event, happens every Saturday and is popular year-round. We anticipate it will bring many new visitors to the Festival.

A few facts about the Viking Pavilion:

- Air quality: Modern, recently updated facility with brand new HVAC systems
- Size: 14,000 square feet of event floor space
- Spacious concourse with floor-to-ceiling windows
- LEED Gold Certified energy efficient building
- Photos and more information: pdx.edu/conferences/viking-pavilion



Artwork by Erika Beyer.

COVID Update

The health and safety of our staff, artists, and community remains our top priority. We will determine final protocols for the event in October or early November by reviewing the latest guidance from the State of Oregon and the CDC. We will post all information prior to the Festival on our website, social media, and email list. As the virus continues to impact our community, these guidelines will be subject to change to ensure we continue to comply with current local and state requirements to protect your health and safety.

Blazing a New Trail: The North Collins Reroute Project

by Nora Scholey, Portland Audubon Volunteer

Every Wednesday, a group of Portland Audubon volunteers gathers at the 172-acre Wildlife Sanctuary to tackle projects aimed at maintaining the trails as well as protecting and preserving wildlife habitat. This winter the sanctuary felt the brunt of the extreme weather, with flooding and snowfall causing significant damage to trails. On the North Collins trail, a widening sinkhole compromised the safety of one of the bridges, and it needed serious attention before the trail could reopen.

Along came Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO) to the rescue. This nonprofit provides expertise and labor to help repair or redesign existing trails. After meeting with

their team, a solution was found and a major project was born. We were going to reroute the N. Collins trail through the adjacent forest around the “sinkhole” bridge. The bypass project would involve weekend work parties hosted by TKO as well as our own Wednesday work parties. It was going to be a huge undertaking, but Braden Catt, Sanctuary and Facilities Manager, gave the go-ahead, and we were up for the challenge.

The project kicked off on March 8 when TKO hosted a work party celebrating International Women’s Day. The first phase was to cut back branches, plants, and surface debris to create a six-foot-wide clearing.



Wendy after a hard day's work on the beginning of the new trail.



Jill Turner, one of this year's Mamie Campbell award recipients, pauses to survey her progress.

The Wednesday crew then further defined the trail by removing duff (topsoil) from the upper side of the new clearing down to the mineral soil or compacted layer. We used green grubbers to scoop the soil and disperse it into the forest. This would form the upper slope of the trail and allow for contouring space as the trail took shape. Duff removal was a strenuous job that really worked our back muscles, and it was only just beginning!

Over two months we continued to complete the various stages of trail design. We removed duff on the trail base, cutting in an upper edge and ensuring that the base sloped downhill for drainage. We then cut the lower edge and pulled away more duff, clearing it for water runoff and shaping the trail to take advantage of natural drainage dips. After this stage, the trail had a well-defined path with an upper side that would fill in with native plants. But there was more work to do!

The next major milestone was repositioning the “sinkhole” bridge onto the new trail over a natural culvert. When Susan Schen of TKO showed up, we knew it was game on!



4
Braden and Geri (TKO advisor) check for levelness and even distribution. After installing risers and securing the repurposed bridge, it was good to go.



5
Lisa moved some plants for erosion control.



3
Susan and the crew used a winch and people power to drag the bridge to its new location. Definitely a team effort.

After finishing the bridge installation, the trail was reopened on June 2. A great success for the Wednesday work crew!

In total we had ten Wednesday work parties and three TKO weekend work parties to complete the reroute project. The labor totaled 378 hours or 50 minutes of labor per foot of new trail.

We owe huge thanks to Trailkeepers of Oregon (trailkeepersoforegon.org)! TKO freely shared their knowledge of and passion for trail design and development, they offered expert guidance to our work crews, and their own work parties provided much additional labor on the project.

We have learned new skills for designing and building trails, tested our physical endurance, and put our problem-solving abilities to use. It feels good to know that we have prepared the trails for a safer and more enjoyable experience for visitors. **Interested in volunteering?** Visit audubonportland.org/get-involved/volunteer or contact Volunteer Manager Vicky Medley at vmedley@audubonportland.org.

For Wildlife, For People,

Portland Audubon Receives \$100,000 Match Challenge to Close Out Campaign

by Charles Milne, Director of Development

When a nonprofit organization decides to launch capital improvements—a major undertaking— we revel in the opportunity to improve our facilities in order to better fulfill our mission. Because the Portland Audubon community is vibrant, dedicated, and passionate, we are confident in our ability to successfully complete this campaign and realize our vision of modernizing and upgrading our Cornell sanctuary and facilities.

We need your support to get us across the finish line. As of this Warbler publication deadline, Portland Audubon members, foundations, and agencies have given \$3,269,301 of the \$3.5 million needed, bringing us ever so close to our goal.

As extra incentive, current board member and former board president Mark Greenfield and his partner, former board member Jane Hartline, both lifetime Portland Audubon members, have challenged the Portland community with a \$100,000 match to ensure that we reach our \$3.5 million goal. We are so fortunate to have such committed leaders and members that want your involvement and financial investment to ensure our campaign is a success. Thank you, Mark and Jane, for your inspirational gift and challenge to the community!

Can we count on your support to help us reach this \$100,000 match? Learn more about the campaign at ForPortlandAudubon.org.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Thanks to generous community support, we have raised a majority of the funds needed and we are excited to share that Wildlife Care Center construction will begin this fall, as well as other improvements to the sanctuary and facilities. The Care Center will continue to provide its essential services to the community at a temporary location in SW Portland. (Look for an announcement on the temporary address in September.) We will keep you updated with operational plans as construction progresses. The remainder of the facilities, the Nature Store, and the sanctuary will be open during construction.



I'm supporting the campaign because, as a long-time volunteer who's worked in the Nature Store and led sanctuary tours, I'm very aware of the condition of the Care Center building and the campus in general. The surroundings are beautiful but the buildings, as with any busy and heavily used structures, decidedly need modernizing, especially the Care Center. As more and more people become aware of the roles Portland Audubon plays in our community, more and more people will come to visit, to explore, and to bring sick and injured animals to the care center. The Wildlife Care Center is full up and needs a larger and more professionally equipped facility. I'm more than happy to donate toward that goal.

- Yaakov



Over the years my husband and I have brought many sick and injured birds to you for care. We know how much you need a new, larger and more appropriate space for your important work. We are delighted to be monthly Audubon donors, we donate when we drop birds off, and now we are happy to help you with the new Wildlife Care Center. Anyone reading this, please pitch in and support this unique and irreplaceable resource in Portland!

- KB and Doren

For Our Home



COMMUNITY TESTIMONIALS



As a new Portland resident I'm so excited to see how passionate people are about preserving the wildlife and forests that make this place so special. The plans for the new wildlife center, campus and increased education are really exciting and I look forward to seeing the completed project! - **Ryan**



Every now and then I find a bird or wild animal in trouble. Once it was a young crow with a broken wing, once a sick finch. I know I can count on the Wildlife Care Center to give that creature the best hope for a second chance. The staff also work to make the city safer for wildlife—cats in catio's, better windows, a quick response to other hazards. We want to live peacefully with wildlife and the WCC supports that. - **Ann**



I didn't even know you all did this work until we found an injured bat in our yard. I was able to safely bring it to your facility thanks to a helpful person on the phone. Thank you for your commitment to our environment! - **Joe**



I donated to this endeavor because of the invaluable service Portland Audubon provides to the amazing and diverse population of wildlife and to the community. I consider our diverse and abundant wildlife part of my community. I once was in a situation where a native Song Sparrow collided with my vehicle, out by the Women's Forum in the Columbia River Gorge...I immediately brought the poor thing to Portland Audubon, but it was too badly injured...I can't help but think if you guys were operating in an up-to-date facility, the poor thing might have had a chance. It still haunts me today.

I thank you for what you do!

Sincerely,

Just another wildlife enthusiast.

- **Denise**



I volunteered at the Audubon Society years ago before the present building was built. The addition of the Wildlife Care Center was such a needed center. I have taken many birds there since it opened and I was so impressed by their dedication to helping these animals. They are so dedicated to helping these injured or sick animals. But they need more room, more equipment and desperately need our donations to run this expensive care center. Please remember how important our wildlife is for our world.

- **Sally**



Swift Watch Canceled Again Due to Pandemic

by Emily Pinkowitz, Director of Education

In August of 2019, I visited Portland Audubon to meet staff and observe programs in preparation for my future role as Director of Education. As part of this visit, I accompanied staff and volunteers for an evening at Swift Watch. What I experienced that night was our work at its absolute best. For nearly three decades, Swift Watch has welcomed thousands to learn, to wonder, to celebrate and play together. Made possible through a delicately choreographed collaboration between the school district, the parks department, the city, and the local community, it demonstrates the power of collective action to activate public space. And, it engages our volunteer base in vital conservation and education work. I left energized and awed by the mantle I was taking up for this organization.

Enter the pandemic. While this mantle has looked quite different during my time in this role, I have never been more acutely aware of the value of our organization bringing people together in nature. As the exponential increase in birding nationally demonstrates, the outdoors have become a vital respite for many of us, both seasoned and new. Over the last two years, I have been so grateful to work with an incredible team creating new, outside-the-box opportunities for people of all ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and comfort levels to experience the natural world in community.

At the same time, the specter of COVID-19 has always loomed large. We have followed the changing health advisories closely, and tacked and tacked again in order to ensure that every program we offer operates at safety standards that are above and beyond recommendations.

With this in mind, in consultation with our partners, we have made the difficult decision to cancel Swift Watch for the second year in a row.

Chapman School has requested that people do not congregate at the site. There will not be resources in place to deal with parking, crowd management, garbage cleanup, and other logistics necessary to make Swift Watch a success, and the crowds that Swift Watch attracts are far too large to allow for safe COVID-19 distancing, especially considering the arrival of the Delta variant.

We urge the community to respect this request—large crowds at Chapman will put the community at risk and undermine local support for the birds. For the sake of the birds and our community, please do not go to Chapman in the evenings this September.

Our community scientists will continue to track the Chapman Vaux's Swift populations with our annual Swift Count throughout their migration. **We will also welcome a limited number of volunteers in the early mornings on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday to assist with trash pickup.** Please join us to ensure the space remains clean, help us maintain ties with this wonderful community, and observe the swifts awaken and emerge from the chimney into the morning sun.

For more information about morning swift volunteering, please contact Volunteer Manager Vicky Medley at vmedley@audubonportland.org.

ESTATE GIFT

Bernice Hirtzel

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

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

Sarah Amie
Domenico Amie

Larry Bailey
Mary B. Lavelle

Barbara Bonjour
William Alsup

Tom Boyer
Marilyn Walster & Sidney Friedman

Jeannie Burt
Roger Burt

Dale P. Caldwell
Lynn & John Sweeney

Mary Anne Capobianco
Brighton & Kathleen West

Alison Kaufman
Karen L. Lovejoy-Fatehi

Peggy Christensen
Lyn & John Wylder

Bud Clemens
Jerry Claar

Christine Ann Colasurdo
Michael Becker
Anne Bigelow & Marian Christensen
Barbara Hettinger
Leslie R. Jevning
Dennis Koop
JoAnn Pari-Mueller & Daniel Mueller

Marilyn Collin
David Collin

IN HONOR

Elizabeth Cook

Stephen Cook & Marianne Parshley

Marion Craig

Simon & Kim Davies

Ruth Cutsforth

Lisa & Todd Thompson

Robert Dancer

Judy C. Dancer

Judith Emerson

James Emerson

Nick Fish

Neilson Abeel & Victoria Bryer

Elizabeth Fitzgibbon

Diane Snow

Rick Foster

Barbara Taylor

Julie Isaacson

Pete Miller

Barbara Kreynus

Nancy & Jeff Weil

Heidi Lambek

Beth & Jennifer Wolfson

Colin Thomas McGrew

Owen Kelly
Lauren Westra

Meredith McKittrick

Leslie Morgan

McKay Nutt

Carole F. Alexander

James Merton Ashley

Sharon & Richard Bixby

Joan & Herbert Oliver

Pryor Garnett & Kathryn Oliver-Garnett

Ted Olson

Karen Lovejoy-Fatehi
Linda Nelson

Betsy Pavis

Alice Ellison

Bonnie Pickens

Bill Pickens

Alan Railsback

Jennifer Klump

Stafford Redman

Donald Whittemore & Deborah Redman

Alyssa Rehse

Nicholas Rehse

Sigrid Scharer

Diana & Daryl Bloom

Grace Schiewetz

Deborah Shimkus

Otto Schimpf

Max Schimpf

Doris Sharkey

David Sharkey

Deb Sheaffer

David B. Beattie
Karen Berry
Claire Carter
Linda & Daniel Gipe
Kyna Rubin

Albert Shields

Barbara Baltz

Ron L. Spencer

Tammy Spencer

Lotte Streisinger

Lisa J. Adatto

Diane Takalo

Nancy Hewitt

Ruth Teufel

Linda Teufel

Carol Thomas

Patricia Bruggere

Madalyn A. Utz

Maureen Utz

John Paul Williams

Louise Young

Lawrence Ward

William & Nancy Ward

Elizabeth Adams

Anne King

Bebe Anderson

JoAnn & Neal Cleverdon Yates

Margaret Bell

Nancy C. Emery

Wilson Cady

Janice Link

Marjorie D. Columbus

Terese M. Floren

Linda Craig

Mary Kathryn Thompson

Mike Crockett

Bill Pickens

Jessica & Garrett Dewald

Kendal Harr
Joshua Kahn

Robert M. Dieffenbach

Martin Dieffenbach

Anthony Fauci, MD

Susan Bexton

Mike Fennell

Emily Convery

Wink Gross

Joe Cannett & Kate Wells
Cannett

Amanda Jordan-Brainard &

Colin Braniard
Susan Jordan

Rosie Hamilton

Fredrick C. Wagner

Harriet Hemenway & Minna B. Hall

Alan & Lynn Crymes

Lynn J. Herring

Alexander J. Herring
Claire A. Puchy

Deborah J. Hill

Chaz Lief

Mike Houck

William R. Blosser

Frederick Daniel Kalafate

Karen L. Lovejoy-Fatehi

Sarah Kerr

Colleen O'Brien

Bobby Lang

Caitlin White

Ann Littlewood

Daniel Littlewood

Margaret Marquard

James Marquard & Babetta Chiarito

Colleen M. McDaniel & Alex Hemsath

Jacqueline Hillsbery
Elaine Nam
Evan Osherow
Nicole & Miles Pacheco

Steve McDowell

Kathryn Jakeway

Linda Neale

Christopher Leupold

Severin & Gavi Piper

Roberta Lampert & Jim Piper

Portland Audubon Volunteers

Vicky Medley

Ben Pritchard & Esme Danriise

Beth Friesenhahn
Erika Sander

Bob Sallinger

Andrew & Karen Kraus

Peter Sallinger

Jan Zuckerman & Amilcar Alvarez

Alfred & Carolyn SeeKamp

Jacqueline Hillsbery

Mia Skourtis & Justin Sleskes

Ken & Gwen Corum

Rowan Spain

Amy Laird

Jill Y. Turner

Susan Marmaduke & Robert Clay

Alma Valls

Maureen Burness

Dalton Wells & Miranda Bean

Ellen Lodine
Kyle & Audrey Weichert

Susan Zarevich

Daniela Zarevich

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. **We encourage you to support the businesses that support us!**



Vernier



Antler Gallery

Cindy Thompson
Event Production

Columbia Bank

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

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

PGE

Portland Nursery

Pro Photo

Sauvie Island Coffee
Company

SELCO Community
Credit Union

Silver Rain Massage

Tilbury Ferguson
Investment

Urban Asset Advisors

Washman LLC

West Bearing
Investments

Wonderland Tattoo

new books from

Oregon State University Press



THE NIGHTHAWK'S EVENING



Notes of a Field Biologist
Gretchen N. Newberry

The Nighthawk's Evening

Notes of a Field Biologist

GRETCHEN N. NEWBERRY

Newberry charts her journey across North America to study the common nighthawk: fascinating, acrobatic, night-flying birds.

SBN: 978-0-87071-150-3, paperback, \$22.95

An Old Man Remembering Birds



*Michael
Baughman*

An Old Man Remembering Birds

MICHAEL BAUGHMAN

In his eighty-plus years around birds, the author has learned one immutable lesson: the closer you get to birds, and the more time you spend among them, the more you love them.

ISBN: 978-0-87071-154-1, paperback, \$19.95

orders: 1-800-621-2736 • osupress.oregonstate.edu

BIRD SAFE

BY GLASPRO

BIRD-FRIENDLY GLASS SOLUTIONS

- Bird Safe Ultraviolet Reflective Pattern - Visible to birds but highly-transparent to the human eye.
- Nine Bird Safe Acid-Etched Patterns
- Three Bird Safe Frit Patterns

GlasPro offers a range of highly-effective Bird Safe glass to satisfy your local construction standards for bird-friendly architectural glass. Contact us for a Bird Safe sample.



GLASPRO

800.776.2368

GLAS-PRO.COM/BIRD-SAFE-GLASS





Welcome to the Nature Store!

Now open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.!

As summer turns to fall, stop by the Nature Store and the Portland Audubon Sanctuary to dive into the beauty that the shift in seasons has to offer. Check out the leaves changing color, the mushrooms popping up, and the cool, fresh fall air. The Nature Store carries field guides to help identify your forest finds as you wander the sanctuary trails. Also check out our wide selection of gifts and toys to inspire your nature-loving friends and family.

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

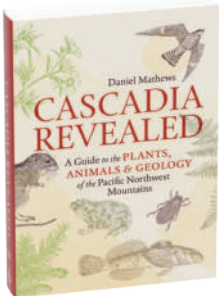
Shop the Nature Store online at www.naturestorepdx.squarespace.com



American Avocet, photo by Mick Thompson.

New Book

Cascadia Revealed by Daniel Mathews



This is more than just any field guide! Cascadia Revealed takes a deep dive into the world of the PNW mountains, bringing them alive with detailed profiles and stories of the flora, fauna, and people that call these mountains home. It includes over 950 species of plants and animals, an easy-to-use color-coded layout, identification keys, beautiful color photos, and much more. Mathews' love of the PNW mountains

comes through in his descriptions and will deepen your love and appreciation for this unique habitat, too.

Member Price: \$25.16

Optics Focus

New Mid-size Swarovski NL Pure Binoculars - 8x32 or 10x32

Swarovski has finally introduced the mid-sized versions of their newest binoculars, the NL Pure! The compact design is perfect for traveling or everyday use, yet still has incredible light-gathering ability. The mid-size fits perfectly in your hands and is easy to carry on any outing. They offer an extremely wide field of view (450 ft at 8x), and make for easy and relaxed viewing, weighing in at 22.8 oz. Their top-of-the-line lenses offer a truly incredible view!



Member Price: \$2,499

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.

Jenteal Soaps and Candles

Locally made in the Willamette Valley, Jenteal Soaps has been making soaps, candles, and other beauty products for over 20 years. No animal products, chemical preservatives, or alcohols are used, and each bar of soap or candle has a unique handcrafted touch. The pretty packaging makes for a perfect gift for yourself or a friend!



Medium 7oz. Soy Wax Candle

Member Price: \$13.46

Stylish Feeder

Mosaic Birds Hummingbird Feeder by Couronne Co.!

Brighten your backyard with this sleek and chic hummingbird feeder! The hummingbirds will love the bright red color, sturdy outer perch ring, and four feeding ports. The powder-coated metal will last for years, the glass lid and bowl are very easy to clean and refill, and the open top hook allows for easy individual hanging or connecting multiple feeders vertically.



Member Price: \$27.95

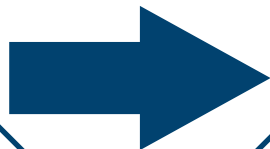


TOGETHER FOR NATURE

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.

DETOUR



Detour to Portland Audubon Due to Construction on Cornell Road

NOW THROUGH SPRING 2022

The City has informed us that due to tunnel repairs on Cornell Road, a detour to Portland Audubon and the surrounding area will be in place from August 23, 2021 through spring 2022. To access our sanctuary and facilities, **cars will take NW Skyline Boulevard and West Burnside**. Pedestrians and bikers will still be able to walk or bike up Cornell Road.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience while the City completes its work. For updated information and a map to clearly show the detour and help you navigate to the sanctuary, visit bit.ly/Visit-PortlandAudubon.

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

Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
503-292-9453 ext. 3

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

On the Cover: Photos courtesy of Bird Ally X.

On the Inside Cover: Black Oystercatcher, photo by Adam Stunkel;
Golden-crowned Sparrow, photo by Jon D. Anderson; Hirschbein Catio,
photo by Sheryl Hirschbein.



Birdy Brain Buster!

Which of these birds is most
dependent on eelgrass habitat?

- A. Dunlin
- B. Pacific Brant
- C. Surf Scoter
- D. Harlequin Duck



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

Answer: B