

Portland Audubon's Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary Expands



FROM OUR SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Looking Forward to a New Year

Paul Lipscomb, Interim Executive Director
 Tumko Davaakhuu, Chief Operating Officer
 Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director
 Emily Pinkowitz, Education Director
 Charles Milne, Development Director
 Ali Berman, Communications Manager

As we write this letter during the final days of a chilly December, 2021 is coming to a close and 2022 is about to begin. It's a time when we reflect on all we have accomplished thanks to our vast community. It's also a time of beginnings, a new year dedicated to advancing our work protecting birds and habitat, connecting people to nature, and fighting to build a sustainable future for all life.

Today, we wanted to share just a few of the things we're most excited about this year, some of which you'll see outlined in this Warbler.

1. The expansion of Ten Mile Creek, our wildlife sanctuary on Oregon's central coast
2. Beginning the search for a new site for our Wildlife Care Center and growing our geographical reach in the Portland Metro area
3. Implementing a sliding scale payment model for camps to increase equitable access to nature
4. Continuing our work to fight for increased protections for sensitive rocky habitat sites along the coast
5. Increasing protections for Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets in Oregon's forests
6. Reimagining and redesigning educational signage and interpretive displays across the Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary to make our public education materials more accessible
7. Welcoming a new Executive Director to Portland Audubon in the coming months

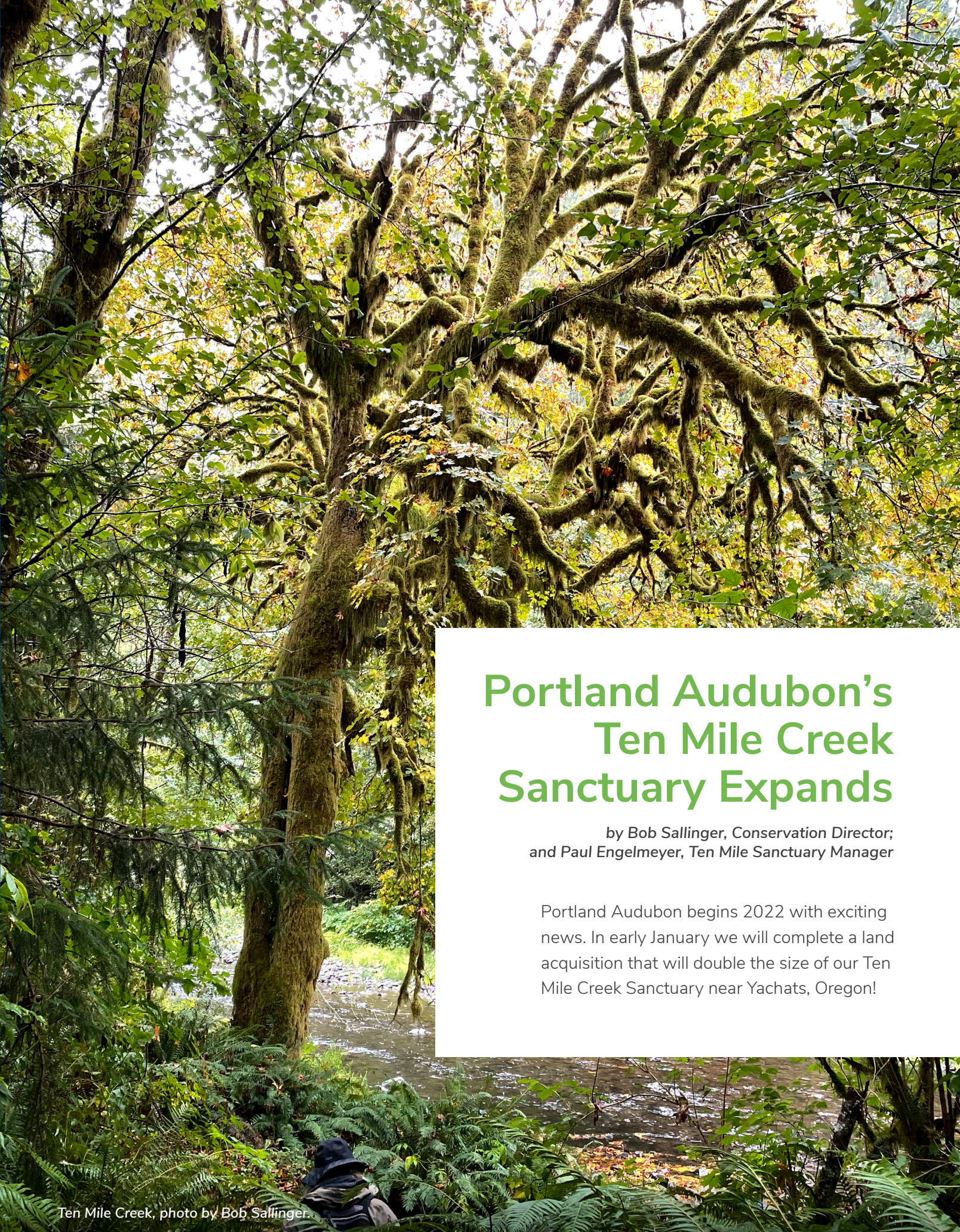
We know that none of our work would be possible without your commitment to supporting wildlife and people. We thank you for being a part of this community and look forward to another year of making lasting change across the Oregon landscape.

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Portland Audubon's Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary Expands

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director;
and Paul Engelmeyer, Ten Mile Sanctuary Manager

Portland Audubon begins 2022 with exciting news. In early January we will complete a land acquisition that will double the size of our Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary near Yachats, Oregon!



Cape Perpetua landscape, photo by Zak Shelhamer.

Portland Audubon owns and manages four wildlife sanctuaries: our headquarters adjacent to Forest Park in Portland, the Miller Sanctuary near the Bull Run on Mt. Hood, and Ten Mile Creek and Pine Tree Sanctuaries on the Central Oregon Coast. These sanctuaries provide important wildlife habitat, allow us to explore and advance innovative restoration strategies, are a base for camps and programs, and extend opportunities for the community to enjoy and explore nature.

Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary was first acquired by National Audubon in 1990 at the peak of the battles to protect Oregon's old-growth forests and protect old-growth-dependent species like the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet. Longtime forest activist Paul Engelmeyer approached Portland Audubon and National Audubon about a 120-acre parcel of land along Ten Mile Creek that included an old homestead and native old-growth forest that was slated for harvest. Paul argued that acquiring this parcel would give Audubon a more powerful voice as a stakeholder in the ancient forest battles and would help catalyze grassroots efforts to protect the largest tract of coastal temperate rainforest left in the lower 48 states, in which Ten Mile is embedded. Rick Brown, who still serves on Portland Audubon's Conservation Committee today, and the legendary Brock Evans at National Audubon saw the wisdom in Paul's vision and made the acquisition happen. Paul was hired as the Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary Manager, a role that he holds to this day. At Paul's behest, National Audubon would later add another 96 acres of habitat called Pine Tree Sanctuary just up the road and in 2004, National Audubon decided to transfer ownership of both properties to Portland Audubon.

In 2020, at the peak of the COVID pandemic, we were approached by the Shotpouch Foundation, which owns 40- and 80-acre tracts of forest abutting the ends of our Ten Mile parcel. The foundation had been inspired to purchase these properties after attending one of Paul's restoration work parties at Ten Mile, but in

recent years has consolidated its priorities in another watershed. We have partnered with Shotpouch for years, and consolidation of their properties into our sanctuary made total sense. Thanks to three amazing anonymous donors, we were able to raise the funding to acquire these properties in record time. The transfer will become final this month!

Doubling the size of Ten Mile Sanctuary will allow us to continue Paul's incredible work restoring these beautiful parcels for federally listed Marbled Murrelets, Northern Spotted Owls, and coastal Coho salmon. This work is done with a variety of partners including agencies, researchers, and groups such as the Angell Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, which provides young people with essential job skills. Ten Mile Sanctuary also hosts our annual Marbled Murrelet survey training and provides a base for us to provide educational visits for the public, practitioners and decision-makers to engage and educate them about coastal conservation efforts. It is a gorgeous parcel of Sitka spruce and hemlock rainforest that leaves visitors inspired to join the fight to protect our mature and old-growth forests that continue to this day.

Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary also remains at the core of the bigger vision that Paul first laid out to Portland and National Audubon more than 30 years ago, and that vision has grown dramatically. Today, in addition to his work managing Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary, Paul continues to focus his efforts on protecting habitat across nearly a million acres in the Central Coast Range that includes the adjacent Cummins Creek Wilderness and Rock Creek Wilderness and which Reed Noss, in his 1993 analysis "A Conservation plan for the Coast Range Bioregion," ranked as the highest priority for protection in the Coast Range. This area is a stronghold for multiple conservation priority species, including the federally listed Marbled Murrelet, and has been designated as a globally Important Bird Area (IBA) by National Audubon and Birdlife International.

Today our coastal conservation program focuses on the land-sea connection: recognizing the importance of preserving and restoring healthy, connected ecosystems from the Coast Range out into the ocean. This connection is reflected in the life cycle of coastal Coho salmon, which spend most of their lives in freshwater and return to spawn in their natal stream after an incredible ocean migration. It's reflected in Marbled Murrelets, which spend their lives at sea feeding on forage fish, sometimes diving to depths of 200 feet. The birds then fly to mature forests to nest, as much as 50 miles inland. Protecting blocks of habitat for the murrelet and other older-forest-dependent species is a landscape conservation vision that needs to be embraced by our federal and state agencies.



Paul Engelmeyer giving sanctuary tour, photo by Bob Sallinger.

CURRENT COASTAL PRIORITIES:

- ✓ Protect and expand the system of marine reserves and marine protected areas
- ✓ Increase protections for rocky shoreline habitats, which comprise 40% of Oregon's coastline and provide important nesting habitat for birds
- ✓ Increase protections for Oregon's estuaries and carbon-sequestering eelgrass habitats
- ✓ Advance habitat conservation plans for the Tillamook, Clatsop, and Elliott State Forests to protect federally listed species, including Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, and coastal Coho salmon
- ✓ Increase riparian protections under Oregon's Forest Practices Act, which covers more than 10 million acres of private forestland, much of it in the Coast Range
- ✓ Ensure that offshore wind development, which will see significant growth in the coming years, is sited appropriately to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to wildlife



Photo by Bob Sallinger.

This is long-term, landscape-scale, transformative work. It spans decades and generations. Having a sanctuary at Ten Mile Creek keeps us grounded both literally and figuratively. It is a place where we can put our policies into practice. It is a place where we can advance research to inform our advocacy. It is a place where we can build a wide range of partnerships and be part of the community. And it is a place of inspiration for our organization and those we seek to inspire. We greatly appreciate the long-term partnership of the Shotpouch Foundation and look forward to fully integrating the Shotpouch properties into Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary. We also greatly appreciate the three anonymous donors who immediately knew the magic of Ten Mile and made this acquisition possible.

Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary

is not open to the general public. However, visits to Ten Mile can be arranged through

Paul Engelmeyer | pengelmeyer@peak.org

Major Forest Protections to Advance in 2022 Legislative Session

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The 2022 short legislative session, which runs from February through mid-March, will see at least two bills that could considerably advance forest conservation in Oregon. These bills would (1) convert the 82,000-acre Elliott State Forest into an Oregon State University Research Forest, and (2) significantly increase riparian protections under the Oregon Forest Practices Act (OFPA), which regulates more than 10 million acres of private forestland. Both pieces of legislation have the potential to realize significant advancement on two of the most hotly contested forest issues of the past decade, and both are the result of intense and extensive negotiations.

Elliott State Forest

The Elliott State Forest is one of the crown jewels of the Oregon Coast Range. This steep coastal rainforest spanning Douglas and Coos Counties is a stronghold for Marbled Murrelets, Northern Spotted Owls, and coastal Coho salmon. Due to an anachronistic provision in state law tying children's education to timber harvests, revenue from the Elliott goes to the Oregon Common School Fund, and for decades, the State illegally clear-cut the Elliott to generate increased revenue.

In 2011, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), and Portland Audubon sued the State of Oregon arguing that the State was violating the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) by harvesting in listed Marbled Murrelet habitat. The State agreed to settle the lawsuit and adopt more limited logging practices that complied with the ESA, but then turned around and in 2017 attempted to sell the Elliott to private timber companies, triggering two more lawsuits from Cascadia, CBD, and Portland Audubon, massive public opposition, and more than a year of protests. The State eventually reversed course and recognized that the Elliott must remain in public ownership.

For the past two and a half years, Portland Audubon has been participating on a state-appointed stakeholder committee along with representatives from tribes, counties, schools, recreational interests, timber interests, and other conservation groups to chart a new path forward on the Elliott to convert it to a



research forest managed by Oregon State University. Treasurer Tobias Read's office has played a critical role in helping advance this process. Portland Audubon's North Star has always been ensuring strong, durable protections for the Elliott's incredible older forests and imperiled species. We believe we are on the precipice of achieving that objective. A full analysis of the plan can be seen on Portland Audubon's website.

Legislation in the 2022 session would do two things: First, it would create the Elliott State Research Forest structure. This research forest would be owned by the State, with a board appointed by the Oregon Land Board, and would be managed by OSU. Legislation would include accountability and enforcement mechanisms such as public notice, comment, and meetings; public records; and right to third party litigation to ensure compliance with the governing agreements. Second, Governor Kate Brown has stated that she intends to pay down the remainder of the obligation to the Common School Fund (current estimate is \$121 million) and end this anachronistic funding structure that created pressure to liquidate the forest to fund education. While still under development, the legislation appears to have support from a diverse array of historically antagonistic stakeholders and presents the potential to launch the Elliott into a new era of sustainability and collaboration.

Oregon Forest Practices Act Accords

The OFPA has long been criticized by the conservation community for its weak protections for the health of private forest lands. Decades of efforts to reform



Left: Northern Spotted Owl in the Elliott Forest, photo by Scott Carpenter. Below: Governor Brown meeting with the environmental team during negotiations, photo by Bob Sallinger.



the OFPA through legislative and administrative channels have proved futile. In 2020, conservation groups strongly considered bringing a ballot measure to reform the OFPA directly to the voters. The timber industry responded with proposals for measures of their own. With the threat of expensive and divisive ballot measures looming, Governor Brown stepped into the fray and had her staff facilitate a detente. In exchange for standing down on the dueling ballot measures, the timber industry would agree to a pesticide reform package up front, and the governor's office would facilitate six on six negotiations between the timber industry and conservation groups to develop reforms focused on imperiled aquatic species to the regulations governing stream protections under the OFPA. This process, dubbed the Oregon Forest Practice Act Accords, was codified in a special legislative session in 2020 and signed by 13 conservation groups and 13 timber companies.

Portland Audubon is proud to be part of the amazing conservation negotiating team that included the Wild Salmon Center, Oregon Wild, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands, and Trout Unlimited. Special kudos to Bob Van Dyk of Wild Salmon Center and Sean Stevens of Oregon Wild, who led the effort. For more than a year, we have had facilitated meetings multiple times a week

with each other, with industry, and with issue-oriented scientific teams. This work culminated in November 2021 with a solid week of face-to-face negotiations at the Oregon World Trade Center. The final day of negotiations stretched more than 17 hours until early Saturday morning, with the governor attending the entire session.

The final negotiated package includes new and expanded protections for fish-bearing streams as well as perennial and seasonal non-fish-bearing streams, torrent debris channels, and steep slopes. There is an extensive package to reduce the impacts of forest roads, culverts, and stream crossing. The agreement focuses heavily on imperiled fish species, salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, but also on imperiled amphibians and on beaver, which, while not imperiled, play a critical role in helping restore our riparian ecosystems. It also includes adaptive management, research, funding, and enforcement mechanisms. Additional details can be found on Portland Audubon's website.

The agreements would be codified through legislation in the 2022 session. Within six years of passage, the State would seek approval of a habitat conservation plan from the National Marine Fisheries Service US Fish and Wildlife Service determining that the new regulations are sufficient to provide protection for agreed upon species and protect the State from liability under the ESA for these species. Failure to obtain approval for an HCP would result in the sunset of these new protections. The governor has stated that passage of the OFPA Accords in the 2022 session is among her highest priorities.

Looking Forward

The 2022 legislative session presents the possibility of launching two of Oregon's long-standing and most contentious forest issues into a new era of protection and collaboration. Neither agreement is perfect—both have elements that we dislike or believe should have gone further. However, at the same time, we believe that both agreements substantially raise the bar for protection of imperiled species and imperiled ecosystems and set the stage for further advancements. Both agreements are a reflection of the ethic Portland Audubon tries to bring to its conservation work: a willingness to fight when necessary but collaborate where possible. In the case of the Elliott State Research Forest and the OFPA Accords, we believe that these agreements will create significant, durable new protections on some of the highest priority and longest contested forest landscapes.



Photos by Zahir Ringgold Cordes.

Youth Leadership with Portland Audubon

by Zahir Ringgold Cordes, Educator, Youth & Family Partnerships Specialist

The Green Leaders Program is a paid seven-month program where youth ages 15 to 20 receive training in Pacific Northwest ecology and natural history, environmental justice, leadership development, and environmental education. We meet in a small and close cohort twice a week after school, with the experience culminating in a full-time role as a summer camp counselor with Portland Audubon. This program has grown from Portland Audubon's long-term partnership with Hacienda CDC, a dedicated community organization that strengthens Portland's Latinx community through its affordable housing developments and holistic programming including youth and family services, home ownership support, and entrepreneurial advising and business incubation at the Portland Mercado.

At its core, our intention for this program was to increase access and representation in the environmental sciences and education through empowering young adults of color to be leaders and educators in their community and beyond. We emphasize providing youth with valuable job and life skills, pathways to green careers, and creating safe spaces for participants to explore their own experiences and the contributions and experiences of people of color in the environmental

world. Youth are supported in confidently using their voice as leaders to examine both environmental and social justice issues within their own community, and come up with creative ways to contribute. In this end-of-program interview, Green Leaders Esteffany and Alondra reflect on what the experience has been like for them.

How would you describe the Green Leaders program to someone else?

Esteffany: It is a program where you teach kids about different native plants and native animals and about trees. I didn't know before that trees could talk to each other through their roots. You teach yourself and you teach the kids. The program is fun and calm. You learn how to work as a community, and we have family days, like when we went to Baltimore Woods and planted native plants. [Esteffany is referring to our collaboration with the Friends of Baltimore Woods, a group of neighbors who have been coming together for over 20 years to restore an important nature and wildlife corridor in the St. Johns neighborhood, which is part of Alondra and Esteffany's community. They have intentionally created space for young students of color to step up as leaders and members of their volunteer team.]

Alondra: The Green Leaders program is a program in which young people learn about the environment and teach kids about it. Nature is at the center of our lesson plans, and you learn how to make learning engaging and enjoyable for children. Overall it is a fun, flexible, and inspiring experience.

Have you participated in Portland Audubon programs before?

Esteffany: Yes, since I was a little kid. I did overnight programs and day programs. The experience was the best experience that I ever had because I learned about nature, how fun it was to be doing camp, and learning about all of these different types of animals and native plants that I had never paid attention to.

Alondra: Yes, while I was in middle school I participated in programs with my friends. We did overnight camps and my time at Audubon camps was fun and we learned about survival in nature. My favorite part was meeting people and learning from them. Being with a group of people that you have never met before and still laughing together was an enjoyable experience.

What were some of your favorite moments from the program?

Esteffany: Being out in nature, working with kids of color, giving the opportunity for communities to learn about things that are not always given to them in their community. For them to have a chance to experience what other kids experience. I remember everybody's faces smiling, especially Brianna's [Green Leader] little cousins, the smiles of the kids who are actually enjoying something that we planned to do. When we had a community camp for Hacienda, I took my brother to camp for the first time and I loved seeing his beautiful smile. He was socializing with kids after the pandemic.

Alondra: My favorite part of the program was when we went to Baltimore Woods for a family event. My coworker and I were in charge of the entire event, and we made it through despite it being difficult to do something that I have never done before. It was great to see everyone's smiles and to see how involved and excited they were to learn.

What is a leader to you? Has this program affected how you think about yourself as a leader?

Esteffany: Someone that helps others. A good role model to kids and the community. Someone who works every day to show us how life works. I take care of my trash more. My little brother sees me working, and I teach him what we learn. The day we went planting, I already knew how to do it, so I showed everyone else how to do it. I am not shy anymore. I am less afraid to use my voice. I can show people what I have learned.

Alondra: To me a leader is someone who is a role model, someone who leads by example, a person who uplifts, supports, and respects others. Since starting this program I've noticed I've felt more confident in my skills. I would have never thought that I could stand in front of a crowd and talk about something. This program has made me realize that I can have an impact on this world, even if it's a small one.

80

hours of
training for
Green
Leaders

120

hours of free
programming for
youth and families



Why do you believe it is important for youth to have positions of leadership where their voices are uplifted?

Esteffany: There's probably a lot of other kids out there who want to do it but don't have the opportunity to do it, so they can be inspired by seeing us in these positions. I live in a community where there are homeless people. Me as a leader, I want to help out cleaning up the spaces, and getting our community together so that we can clean up the spaces. My voice is important because people shouldn't come into my community and tell me what to do because I have lived here long enough to know what is going on in my community and what is needed.

Alondra: I believe that it is important for youth to have a position in leadership because we are the future. We know what we need and are good at adapting to changes. Also youth tend to question and challenge everything, which is necessary for change.

In your words, why is connecting to nature and outdoor education important?

Esteffany: Because it is beautiful to be out in nature to experience different smells in every place you go to. If you are in the forest it is fresh, you smell different trees and plants. If you are in the city you will smell more gas, you will hear cars, you will hear noise going on, but in the forest it is peaceful. You can learn how to take good care of our community. It helped me because I have biology and chemistry and they talked about plants and animals and I already knew about them. It affects your schoolwork in a good way. A lot of parents, like my dad, did not finish school and he doesn't know native plants and animals from where we live now, and their kids have a chance to learn about it and the kids are excited to tell their parents so that they can learn something too.

Alondra: Connecting to nature is important because nature is our life. We depend on it. It doesn't need us, we need it. Everything we have is because of Earth and all its wonders. When you are educated about the environment, you learn how to be more environmentally conscious. This is an important step to help heal our earth.

How do you personally connect with nature?

Esteffany: When I wake up I walk to school and appreciate the wind and the rain. I appreciate the air, I appreciate the trees, I appreciate the trails, the birds, the red robins. I walk my dogs to the park and my dogs sometimes play in the mud.

Alondra: I connect with nature by hiking, planting, and swimming. Also by just being around it and appreciating everything that it gives us.

What makes a positive, safe, welcoming, and inclusive, outdoor learning environment?

Esteffany: Having positive energy. When you are a person of color, and you know you will be working with other people of color, you can speak your language without getting judged, and feel comfortable. People of color have a connection, you are Black and I am Mexican and we have a connection, and when I knew you would be the leader, I felt more comfortable. As people of color, we all have something in common, whether it is the color of our skin, the experiences of our ancestors, or how we get treated. Where we live in the USA there is a lot of racism. And when a kid of color is learning environmental education, like when we did the activity where we picked one person of color to learn about who did something for the environment, kids can learn that too, and know that someone from their culture has done important things.

Alondra: Having people who look like me and share my background and just having people who celebrate all of the differences in everyone and who are accepting. Having a place where your ideas and opinions are heard. I feel like a safe learning environment can have the same things regardless of its environment.

What are your hopes for the future impact of the Green Leaders program?

Esteffany: To have more people join, and when people hear "Green Leaders," they know that it is a group of teenagers who help all kinds of communities. I think we should try helping more communities that are out there and work with more people of color. And my hope for the Green Leaders is to keep it going!

Alondra: I hope that our program helps bring learning opportunities and curiosity to our community. I hope it makes people think and want to make a change. I hope that they always feel safe and included in learning in our program. Overall I hope it creates a spark in people to take action.



Mutual Aid through Sliding Scale Camp

by Zahir Ringgold Cordes, Educator, Youth & Family Partnerships Specialist; and Emily Pinkowitz, Director of Education

Portland Audubon is committed to increasing equitable access to the outdoors and environmental education. In recent months, the youth education team has been examining its summer offerings to identify the best ways to honor and be active in this dedication. This critical examination has been spurred by our new Green Leaders partnership with Hacienda Community Development Corporation. During the summer, the young adults in the Green Leaders program were essential members of our summer camp team, supporting all camps at our Portland Sanctuary, as

One way we will prioritize accessibility is through a sliding scale payment model for camp, with the intention that more children will have the opportunity to connect deeply with nature through the enriching opportunities that Portland Audubon provides.

well as camps in local parks exclusively for Hacienda families. In response to their experience, Green Leaders challenged us to think beyond partner-only camps and find new ways to expand access to all of our summer programs.

For over fifteen years, Portland Audubon has provided free, mobile summer camps to partners that provide affordable housing throughout the metro area, including Hacienda CDC, Bienestar, and others. In a typical summer, our Education staff pick up more than 150 children right at their homes and travel together to some of the most beautiful greenspaces around. These camps provide a vital space for children to explore nature in community with their neighbors and their families.



Photo by Tara Lemezis.

However, partner camps do not address barriers to accessing the full array of camps that Portland Audubon offers to the general public, including day camps at our Sanctuary, on-the-go adventures, and overnight programs at Marmot Cabin and beyond. As a result, we have failed to see our commitment to accessibility reflected in the diversity of our full summer camp program. Portland Audubon's camps have been beloved sources of joy, exploration, fun, and learning for many youth over the years, and those memorable experiences must be made more available to communities that have historically and presently been excluded from them.

This summer, one way we will prioritize that accessibility is through a sliding scale payment model for camp, with the intention that more children will have the opportunity to connect deeply with nature through the enriching opportunities that Portland Audubon provides. When families register for summer camp, they will be able to choose a dollar amount that is feasible for them. Families will also be able to “pay it forward” and give back, leveraging their privilege and abundance against the inequities that prevent many children from accessing these opportunities. For those who will not be sending children to camp but would like to support this effort, donations can be made to the Spencer Higgins Education Fund on our website.

This is mutual aid, and it can begin to help heal our world. It is what the saying “It takes a village to raise a child” means in our context—the redistribution of resources that have been held in communities of privilege, the coming together and the diffusion of abundance so that we can collectively succeed, and the understanding that investing in children returns tenfold to the health of our world. Children hold our future in their hearts, minds, talents, and passions, and connecting all children to nature and inspiring them to take action for our environment is not only central to our mission, it ensures that children hold the protection of nature central to their visions of the future.

FIELD NOTES

The Diet of a Prairie Falcon

Falcons, at least in North America, are well known for hunting birds. Even the scientific names of some hint at their diets: the American Kestrel is *Falco sparverius* (the “sparrow-eating falcon”), and the Merlin is *Falco columbarius* (the “dove-eating falcon”). Peregrine Falcons love city bridges because they give access to their two favorite foods—pigeons and ducks—while Oregon birders searching for Gyrfalcons soon learn that flocks of Cackling Geese never seem far away.

So what do Prairie Falcons eat? Breaking the bird-eating mold, ground squirrels are a major food source, augmented by Horned Larks and meadowlarks.

On a recent Audubon Birding Day we were confused by a sandy falcon flying fast over a river. The location, near tall trees and green park lawns, made us think perhaps a pale Merlin. Then the bird dove several times



Prairie Falcon, photo by Wendy Miller.

in low-angled stoops at a raft of diving ducks. Juvenile Peregrine? But better looks eventually confirmed the bird as a Prairie, with its thin but well defined mustache, light tan color, and dark “wingpits.”

So had we overlooked a common food source for Prairie Falcon? It turns out that they will hunt waterfowl, but only rarely. A Prairie Falcon researcher confirmed this and then mentioned a study that showed in the wake of wildfire, Golden Eagles are often forced to change prey types, leading to a drop in breeding success. The implication seemed to be that in the era of climate change, it may be more important than ever to keep an eye on how our raptors are staying fed.

SIGHTINGS

In further proof that rare birds can turn up anywhere, an **Emperor Goose** was found in the company of a large group of Cackling Geese on the lawn of West Linn’s Southridge High School in October. Rounding out the full suite of rare geese, a **Brant** was briefly seen in Troutdale in November, and not long after, a **Ross’s Goose** was found on Sauvie Island.

The rarest bird of the fall was certainly the most confounding. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found in the group of gulls that congregate on the Willamette River below University of Portland. The species was a first for Multnomah County, but the subspecies was even rarer: the Asian *taimyrensis* subspecies that is a first for the state, and one of only two or three in North America. Amazingly, the same individual was re-found in Klamath Falls a few weeks later.

A **Brown Pelican** was seen in early October along the Columbia River, and another was photographed a few weeks later along the Willamette River in Clackamas County, where it was a county first. A **Black-crowned Night Heron** on the Crown Z Trail was similarly a first for Columbia County. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was photographed regularly visiting a feeder near West Linn in early December, representing possibly the first documented overwintering bird in the region.



Snowy Owl, photo by Mick Thompson.

Oregon added another bird to its state list this fall with the report of a **Dusky Warbler** just south of Yachats. These small, drab songbirds breed, and generally winter, across Asia. The bird was seen by many over the course of a week. Three other birds of statewide note were found this fall in Lane County, including a **Brambling** west of Eugene in October, a reliable **Brown Thrasher** in Springfield, and a **Snowy Owl** in Elmira, where the bird was photographed on a roof, as they often seem to be when seen in the Pacific Northwest. Intriguingly, a Snowy Owl was also reported from the Troutdale area a few days earlier, but the bird wasn’t photographed, and was never re-found.

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.**

Bird Journals with Jude: Bird Details and Markings

February 5 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

In this class, we'll learn to simplify and suggest with pen and paint. Eyes, beaks, feathers, spots, legs, and feet...once you see the shapes and patterns, it is easy to convert them to an image

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

Instructor: Jude Siegel

Sauvie Island Exploration and Beginning Birding

Morning Field Classes: February 5, March 5, and April 2 | 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Afternoon Field Classes: February 5, March 5, and April 2 | 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sign-up for the three-part Saturday explorations at Sauvie Island to sharpen your birding skills.

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

Leader: Greg Baker

Bird Journals with Jude: Surroundings and Settings

March 5 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Drawing birds takes a little shifting of the way we notice. We'll learn and practice simple but powerful skills, and you will be able to fill your pages with the birds you see and love.

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

Instructor: Jude Siegel



Barn Owls, painting by Jude Siegel.



Northern Harrier, photo by Tara Lemezis.

AUDUBON BIRDING DAYS & FIELD TRIPS

Audubon Birding Day: Understanding Raptors (Two dates)

January 20 and January 21 | 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

In these beginner-focused trips we'll search for and practice identifying hawks, harriers, eagles, and falcons on Sauvie Island.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

Audubon Birding Day: Winter Raptors (Two dates)

January 27 and January 28 | 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

These more advanced raptor trips will explore the raptor-rich farmlands of Polk County.

Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

Field Trip: Fernhill for Beginners (Two dates)

February 6 and March 6 | 8-11 a.m.

Join Stefan in the field as we look at everything Fernhill Wetlands has to offer to sharpen birding skills or gain new skills in these beginner field trip.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick



Western Bluebird, photo by Tara Lemezis.

EVENTS

Book Club at the Nature Store

January 24 | 7-8 p.m.

The Nature Store's Book Club took a break at the start of COVID, but we have decided to start up again virtually. Our first book of 2022 will be *Fire & Water: Stories from the Anthropocene*, edited by Mary Fiefield and Kristen Thiel. This anthology of short fiction takes us through the journey of climate change, set not in the future but today. Join us and some of the book's contributors and editors for a lively discussion!




RSVP to arojo@audubonportland.org
(subject line: Book club)

To buy the book, visit bit.ly/PABookClubBook.



Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project

The Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project is looking for volunteer field monitors for the April-August nesting season. Visit [Prescottbluebird.com](https://prescottbluebird.com) for further information.

 Cost Involved

 Public Transit Available

FREE Free

 Family Friendly

 Wheelchair Accessible

 Virtual Event or Program



Red-shouldered Hawk, photo by Mick Thompson.

CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Winter Waterfowl

January 11 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will highlight field marks that enable you to identify ducks and geese from a distance.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



Winter Finches

January 13 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will take a long look at the diversity and identification of our finches, from the common backyard visitors to hard-to-find rarities.

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



Understanding Raptors

January 18 | 6-7 p.m.

Join Brodie for an introduction to raptors and their natural history.

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



Winter Raptors

January 25 | 6-7 p.m.

Winter brings a fresh cast of raptors to the Willamette Valley, as our fair-weather friends are replaced by northern breeders. This class will focus specifically on our unique wintering raptors.

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott





Bewick's Wren, photo by Dan Streiffert.

CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Little Brown Birds: Wrens, Finches, and Blackbirds

February 8 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will show you how to identify the wrens, finches, and blackbirds that live in the Portland area.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



Birding Oregon Hotspots: Portland Metro Area

February 22 | 6-7 p.m.

This class will introduce you to some of the best birding sites in the Portland area.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



Winter Wonders: Deepening our Connection with Birds and the Natural World

Online classes: January 10, 17, 24 6-7 p.m.

Field classes: January 15, 22, 29 9-10:30 a.m.

In this three-week combined online and in-person class, we'll kick off the new year by joining Kate in wondering about birds and exploring wild spaces through birding and nature journaling.

Fee: \$165 members / \$215 non-members

Leader: Kate Kohut



Sign up for classes and trips at
bit.ly/pdxaudubon-classes



Photo by Henry Jackson.

SPRING BREAK CAMP

REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING BREAK CAMP!

March 21-24

Spring is in the air in March and there's no better place to experience it than in our Wildlife Sanctuary. Join us over Spring Break for day camp adventures to explore the world of birds and mammals, find native plants and cool amphibians, and create springtime art!

Grades 1-5

Fee: \$95 members / \$110 non-members

8:45/9 a.m.-3:15/3:30 p.m.

For more information and to register, visit:

bit.ly/PA-SpringBreakCamps



Sandhill Crane and Red-winged Blackbird, photo by Scott Carpenter.



Lammergeier, photo by Imran Shah.

ECOTOURS & PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRIPS

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

March 19-21

Join Stefan on a coastal adventure where we will enjoy our rugged coastal landscape and watch for seabirds. A highlight target bird is the endangered Western Snowy Plover.

Fee: \$355 members / \$455 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

Pacific Northwest Trip: Klamath Basin

March 31-April 3

Explore Klamath Basin, home to six national wildlife refuges and one of the most important wetland ecosystems in the west! Our visit is timed to see the spectacular spring migration of geese, along with a great diversity of waterfowl and plenty of raptors.

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

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

The Warbler Tour! Magee Marsh, Ohio & Michigan

May 7-14

Enjoy up to 36 species of brilliantly colorful warblers along the famous boardwalk of Magee Marsh. We'll delight in watching up to 150 species as the marshes come alive with birds.

Fee: \$2,595 members / \$3,395 non-members

Leaders: Erin Law and Brodie Cass Talbott

Pacific Northwest Trip: Malheur Foray

June 1-5

Explore remote and beautiful southeastern Oregon and visit a world-class birder's paradise, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, during peak migration.

Fee: \$1,145 members / \$1,395 non-members

Leaders: Candace Larson and Mary Coolidge

Mongolia

June 13-28

Mongolia is a place of staggering beauty with extraordinary birds and mammals. We will explore its varied habitats which include Siberian Taiga in the north, the Mongolian Steppe and the Gobi Desert, and Gobi Altai Mountains in the south.

Fee: \$5,395 members / \$5,695 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

Pacific Northwest Trip: The Birds and Natural History of NE Oregon

June 13-17

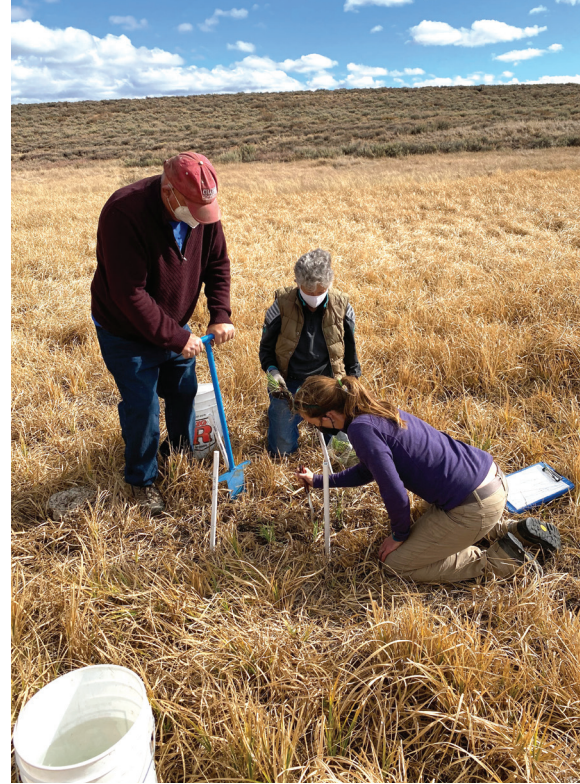
Join us in ruggedly beautiful Northeast Oregon with spectacular mountains and gorges and plenty of wildlife too! We'll explore the Grande Ronde River, Zumwalt Prairie, and Hell's Canyon.

Fee: \$1,195 members / \$1,495 non-members

Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott and Tara Lemezis

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





Photos by Teresa Wicks.

Planting Flags of Hope

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

When an individual needs to convey information over a long distance, without words, they may use something like flags, fire, or lights to communicate. Picture a runway flagger signaling directions to an airplane pilot. In mid-elevation wet marshes of Lake and Union Counties, Oregon semaphore grass, named for its flag-like flowering spikelets, may be transmitting a signal, but it is a signal that ecologists have yet to figure out.

As Oregon's rarest grass, and among the rarest grasses in the United States, Oregon semaphore grass has only a handful of naturally occurring populations in Eastern Oregon. Due to the rarity of this grass, and due to habitat loss, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) began reintroduction efforts in the early 2000s. Over the next 15 years, the only introductions that proved successful were plantings on Burns Paiute land in the Logan Valley.

In 2018 the Burns Paiute Tribe's Natural Resources Program received a permit to internally manage the semaphore plantings. Then in 2019, in an effort to support the conservation of this rare grass and support the Burns Paiute Tribe (BPT), Portland Audubon recruited volunteers to plant thousands of semaphore tillers (small new plants that grow from underground nodes in the semaphore rhizome) in 19 new semaphore plots along sloughs and low, moist areas in the wet meadows of the Logan Valley.

By the summer of 2020, 11 of the 19 plots appeared successful. However, it was unclear what was causing these plots to succeed or fail. Plots that were predicted to do well failed, and plots that were predicted to fail seemed to be thriving. Previous work has shown that wetter soils and sunnier sites seem to do better, but these studies had limited data and only measured soil moisture once a year.

To better understand what environmental factors influence the success of Oregon semaphore grass, the BPT Natural Resources folks started a new partnership. In 2020, the BPT Natural Resources Department partnered with botanists from the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC) to study survival and spread of Oregon semaphore grass at Logan Valley. That fall, BPT staff and EOARC scientists created 33 new semaphore plots. Portland Audubon once again recruited volunteers, primarily from Harney County, to plant thousands of young semaphore grass tillers in these 33 new plots. The data obtained from this project will guide future plantings not only for BPT but also for other land managers interested in preserving this rare and special plant.

These semaphore plantings are one of the many Eastern Oregon stewardship opportunities that Portland Audubon plans every year. Our volunteers play an important role in supporting the Burns Paiute Tribe with their semaphore grass restoration project. In 2022 we will be once again helping the Tribe's staff, and local scientists, with planting this rare and beautiful grass. **If you are interested in learning about future stewardship opportunities, including our next semaphore grass planting effort, please contact Teresa Wicks at twicks@audubonportland.org.**



A New Direction for the Wildlife Care Center

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

As readers of the Warbler will likely recall, we were eagerly looking forward to breaking ground on rebuilding our 35-year-old Wildlife Care Center last October. Years of careful planning and a highly successful capital campaign had set the stage to reconstruct the Care Center from the ground up, double its size, and add new amenities such as a full veterinary surgical suite.

Unfortunately, in the late summer as we were completing final permitting and architectural refinements on the project, concerns about the long-term sustainability of our septic system began to arise. The system had been reviewed throughout the project, but a number of factors caused us to want to take a deeper dive and truly ensure our activities would fully protect the Balch Creek Watershed. We also wanted to ensure our project and donor investment would be

sustainable. In September, we temporarily delayed the project in order to consult with a variety of experts about the septic system.

After bringing in more than a dozen experts—septic system designers and technicians, geotechnical engineers, soil scientists, planners, and permitters—the results are in, and **we have made the decision to construct a new Wildlife Care Center at a new location instead of on the Cornell campus.**

What we concluded after extensive consultation is that a new Wildlife Care Center, which creates significant amounts of wastewater, is incompatible with the long-term sustainability of our septic system. We explored two potential solutions in order to build the Care Center on-site, including upgrading or relocating our septic system, and connecting to the public sewer system.

Unfortunately, the experts concluded that neither option was viable due to factors like the terrain, limited space, poor soils, and sensitive habitat.

This was not an easy decision—we were eager and excited to move forward and consider it a top priority to upgrade and modernize the 35-year-old facility. Wildlife rehabilitation has advanced tremendously since our Care Center was constructed in the 1980s. A new facility is necessary to provide animals with the best possible care, our staff and volunteers with a safe, healthy environment, and the public with the resources to be strong stewards of wildlife. None of those things have changed nor has our commitment to making them happen on the most expeditious timeline possible.

While this issue affects our ability to build as originally planned, we remain committed to our Wildlife Care Center and to providing essential wildlife rehabilitation services to the community. While we didn't anticipate this development, moving to a new location creates many opportunities for both our treatment of animals and our engagement with the community.

By moving to a new location in the Portland metro area, we can do the following:

- **Give our Wildlife Care Center a long and sustainable future**
- **Improve access and increase our reach into the community by expanding our presence in the Portland metro area**
- **Provide more space to rehabilitate wildlife**
- **Continue with the improvements planned when designing the facility to be built at Cornell and potentially expand on those improvements**
- **Protect our wildlife sanctuary and preserve our current septic system for long-term use**

For these reasons and more, we are eager to start the search for a new property where we can either build a new facility or renovate an existing one.

During this search, we will continue to operate at our current location. Every dollar that has been given to the campaign to build a new Wildlife Care Center will go toward this new rehabilitation center. We are especially grateful to all our donors who have contributed toward that goal. Our community's significant investment gives us confidence that we will raise all additional funds needed and complete this project.

While we would have liked to uncover this earlier in the planning process, we were fortunate to catch the issue with the septic system before construction began.

While the new Wildlife Care Center will not be built on our Cornell campus, we will continue moving forward with other major upgrades to our sanctuary and campus facilities. In the next 18 months, you can expect to see new interpretive displays and signage and improvements to our facilities to make them more accessible, including an observation deck overlooking the forest as well as upgrades to other vital systems. These investments will greatly improve our headquarters, which is an incredible destination for families, hikers, birders, shoppers, campers, and school groups.

After bringing in more than a dozen experts—septic system designers and technicians, geotechnical engineers, soil scientists, planners, and permitters—the results are in, and we have made the decision to construct a new Wildlife Care Center at a new location instead of on the Cornell campus.

Each year, the Wildlife Care Center treats upwards of 4,000 animals and educates thousands of people on how to humanely coexist with wildlife. The lives we reach, both human and animal, are integral to our mission to inspire all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment.

We are already hard at work developing plans for the new facility, and we expect a site search to commence early this year. We look forward to sharing more details with you as we explore locations for our new Wildlife Care Center.

We appreciate your understanding, patience, and continued support as we move forward. We will keep you updated in the months ahead.



INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT?

Please contact Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@audubonportland.org or 503-380-9728.



Celebrating Art and Nature Safely

by Matthew Hushbeck, Annual Fund & Membership Manager

Hosting the Wild Arts Festival in person is always a massive undertaking, and with new safety protocols required this year, it took even more planning. It was so much easier knowing we had your support and desire to show up, celebrate nature, and most importantly, when attending, you would take the necessary steps to protect the community. **Your attendance and support helped raise more than \$174,000, critical funding that will protect Oregon's wildlife, wild places, and people.** I cannot say it enough, thank you for all you do for our natural world!

On top of figuring out a new venue and new challenges around safety, we waited to commit to the Wild Arts Festival until we knew we could host this event responsibly. This meant more work and a shorter time frame to put the event on and was only possible thanks to our incredible Wild Arts Festival Committee! This group includes 21 dedicated volunteers, some with more than a decade of experience volunteering as part of the planning committee. They were steady hands who understood the demands of their roles and seamlessly organized artists, authors, the silent auction, and volunteers. I cannot sufficiently express how much appreciation we have for this group!

I also want to take a moment to thank the 200+ volunteers from the Portland Audubon community. You all brought such incredible energy to your roles and made the experience for attendees exceptional.

This was my first Wild Arts Festival in person, and it was a fantastic experience. I could feel the energy in the building, with more than 3,000 people excited to see each other again and share their passion for birds, wildlife, and the natural environment while supporting local artists and authors. There are so many people to thank, including presenting sponsor Backyard Bird Shop, all of our amazing sponsors, the many generous donors to the silent auction, the fabulous artists and authors, and, of course, you!

The Wild Arts Festival is a marvelous way to come Together for Nature. I look forward to seeing you all next year!



EDUCATION

- Bushnell 119876C Trophy Cam Aggressor HD Cameras
- Canvas firewood carrier
- Silicone spatulas

OPERATIONS

- Worm Factory 360 Worm Composter

BACKYARD HABITATS

- Hand-held boot brushes
- Selfie stick
- Lapel/computer microphones
- Print copies of the Portland Plant List

CONSERVATION

- Recreational vehicle or trailer for field work
- Unihedron Dark Sky Quality Meter (LU-DL)
- Fund for rebranded tabling cloth (~\$300)
- Functioning USB webcam
- Bushnell Essential E-3 Trail Cams
- Bushnell Aggressor Security Case

SANCTUARY

- Well-running pickup truck
- Electric Leaf blower

WILDLIFE CARE CENTER

- All Free & Clear laundry detergent pods
- Dish brushes
- Nitrile, powder-free, non-sterile exam gloves
- N-95 face masks
- Rubber or vinyl dish gloves
- Wet-erase Expo pens in black, brown or blue
- Dry-erase Expo markers
- Heavy duty kitchen shears
- Hose spray nozzles
- Red-tailed Hawk flight cage
- Great Horned Owl flight cage
- Intensive care incubators
- Mammal cage
- Brother Genuine High Yield Toner Cartridge (Black, TN660)
- Wellness Core Natural Grain Free Dry Cat Food Kitchen (Turkey & Chicken)
- EliteField 3-door folding soft dog crates (20"L x 14"W x 14"H)
- Portable oxygen generator
- Brother P-Touch label maker refill (white)
- 6' round galvanized stock tank
- Quality Cages Collapsible Chinchilla Travel Cage
- Gift card: Bonka Bird

WISHLIST



Yellow-headed Blackbird, photo by Tara Lemezis.

Portland Considers New Floodplain Resilience Plan in Response to Lawsuit

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In November of 2021, the City of Portland released a draft Floodplain Resilience Plan “to reduce the impacts of future flooding and the degradation of floodplain habitat for endangered and threatened fish species.” The plan is a direct result of a lawsuit brought by Portland Audubon and other conservation groups against the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Audubon Society of Portland v. FEMA) in 2011.

One of the biggest threats to the safety of our communities and the health of our environment is ongoing destruction and development of floodplains. Floodplains are areas adjacent to rivers and streams that are subject to periodic flooding. They clean and cool our water, provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat, and protect our communities from flooding. In an age of climate change, protecting floodplains is all the more important. Unfortunately, cities across the metro region and Oregon continue to develop them at an alarming rate. To make matters worse, that floodplain development is able to occur specifically because the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), administered by FEMA, provides low-cost, taxpayer-subsidized flood insurance to communities to develop their floodplains.

In 2011, Portland Audubon, represented by Earthrise Law Center, sued FEMA, arguing that NFIP violated the Federal Endangered Species Act by harming federally listed salmon that depended on those floodplains for survival. As a result of this lawsuit, the National Marine Fisheries Service determined in 2016 that in fact Portland Audubon et al. were correct and the NFIP program was jeopardizing the continued existence of salmon and steelhead as well as resident killer whales that depend on salmon for survival. In order to remain eligible for the NFIP program, communities across Oregon with salmon-bearing streams must update their local codes to ensure that floodplain development avoids, minimizes, or mitigates any harm to salmon or steelhead.

Due to foot-dragging at the behest of development interests by FEMA, the State of Oregon, and local jurisdictions, it has taken more than a decade since the lawsuit was initiated to move to action, but as deadlines for compliance approach, movement is finally occurring. Portland is the first community out of the gate.

The proposed Floodplain Resilience Plan requires Portland to do several important things:

- Map and apply new development and building requirements for the floodplain along the Willamette River and areas flooded in 1996
- Ensure all floodplains in the project area are within an environmental or river overlay zone
- Increase mitigation ratios for trees removed when floodplains are developed to avoid loss of habitat function
- Increase mitigation ratios for balanced cut and fill when floodplains are developed to prevent loss of habitat function and flood capacity
- Apply additional requirements within 170 feet of ordinary high water to increase habitat near rivers and streams
- Create habitat mitigation banks to compensate for loss of habitat function if floodplains are developed

With more than 125 miles of rivers and streams located within Portland, this plan represents a major step forward for natural resource protection, climate resilience, and community safety in Portland. It is also likely to set the standard for communities throughout the state. The plan is expected to go to the Planning and Sustainability Commission in the spring and City Council in the summer of 2022. The North Reach (Portland Harbor) is not included and will be addressed subsequent to adoption of this plan. We will need strong support from the community to ensure that adoption occurs. We expect development interests that have long been able to rely on taxpayer-subsidized flood insurance to bail them out when they build in flood-prone areas to put up a storm of opposition as they have been doing for more than a decade. However, this plan is common sense—it will not prevent floodplain development altogether, but it will reduce unwise floodplain development as well as ensure that impacts are mitigated when construction does take place.

For more information contact Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@audubonportland.org

What is a floodplain?

Floodplains are areas adjacent to rivers and streams that are subject to periodic flooding. They clean and cool our water, provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat, and protect our communities from flooding.



Adventure in Kenya!

by Candace Larson and Dan van den Broek, Ecotour Trip Leaders

On our first morning in Nairobi, Kenya, two Yellow-billed Kites strafed the courtyard during breakfast. Twelve intrepid explorers were gathered for the first Portland Audubon international ecotour in nearly two years, and these kites—an African specialty we would become keenly familiar with in the coming weeks—were just one of nearly 400 species in store for us on this magnificent adventure. “It looks like someone took a bite out of its tail!” said one participant, an apt description of the bird’s signature feature in flight.

From our first Common Ostrich cavorting on the plains of Nairobi National Park to our last Secretarybird stomping across the Maasai Mara, the avian diversity here was truly jaw-dropping. We birded from pop-top safari rigs that gave us panoramic views of the Kenyan savanna and its kaleidoscope of open-country birds—Lilac-breasted Roller, Vulturine Guineafowl, White-headed Vulture and Saddle-billed Stork to name just a few! We walked in the Kakamega rainforest where Brown-chested Alethe fluttered in the hedges with Red-tailed Bristlebill, and we ambled along the slopes of Mt. Kenya where Silvery-cheeked Hornbills gathered streamside mud for their nest-building rituals. We also searched for (and found!) a handful of exciting rarities, including MacKinder’s Eagle Owl, Sharpe’s Longclaw, Hinde’s Pied-Babbler, Northern White-faced Owl and Standard-winged Nightjar. We even birded by boat on two large, freshwater lakes in the heart of the great Rift Valley, watching Goliath Herons fish from the reeds and Hamerkops build their colossal nests in shoreline trees.

Of course, mammals provided daily thrills as well. Giraffes, zebras, elephants, monkeys, hyenas, rhinos, hippos, wild canines and felines, and ungulates of every variety decorated the landscape. A close encounter with four male Cheetahs—lounging, running and vocalizing just outside the rigs—stood out as a trip highlight! Even our delightful lodgings provided wildlife encounters: waterbucks on the grounds just outside our rooms at Lake Naivasha, and elephants strolling under the Doun palms at Samburu National Park.



Secretarybird, Little Bee-Eater, playful elephants, photos by Candace Larson.

Besides this technicolor abundance of wildlife, we were honored to spend time with members of several Kenyan tribes, who shared with us traditional dances and songs and invited us to join in their celebrations. Our visit with the women of the Kikuyu tribe provided a special opportunity to learn about the cultural significance of the performances, and Maasai men performed the Adumu, or jumping dance—a coming-of-age tradition of Maasai warriors and also a dispute resolution strategy we could all learn from!

So critical to successful travel are the connections and lasting friendships we make in the places we visit, and this trip was no exception. Our Kenyan guides—Washington Wachira and Alex Mwangi—were knowledgeable, charismatic, superb leaders and conservationists, and shared their beautiful country and culture with great enthusiasm. And our local specialists, Paul, Winston and Benson, delivered an assortment of special and hard-to-find birds, and their commitment to community and conservation were great examples of how these two values are inseparable.

A favorite feature of every Portland Audubon international ecotour is our commitment to supporting local conservation initiatives. On this adventure, we contributed to Kenya Women Birders, a project to train and hire local Kenyan women as the next generation of birding and safari guides. And we were lucky to have two of the club’s leaders, Diana and Amina (pictured with Candace at bottom left), join us for a full day of wildlife watching in Nairobi National Park, introducing us to dozens of new birds and mammals along the way.

Our last addition to the bird list was a collection of Arrow-marked Babbler cavorting in the acacias as we loaded our vehicles for the trip back home. By journey’s end, we had enjoyed a staggering 389 species of birds and 43 mammal species! It was a joy to share the experience with enthusiastic learners, and we are so excited to welcome back the ecotour experience and welcome you on an adventure soon!



White-crowned Sparrow, photo by Scott Carpenter.

ESTATE GIFT

Susan Jane Dumais

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:

Warren Bourdette
Christine Bourdette

Carol Bridges
Wayne Bridges

Donna Catalona
Alisa Weinzimer

Patty Davies
David & Dolores Judkins

Janet E. Kellogg
Maryann Fahl

Delphine Kinsey
Arlena Barnes & William
Kinsey

Mildred M. McIntyre
Janet McIntyre

Winnie Miller
Jeff Gfroerer

Mocha
Paul Privitera & Kenzie Maclean

Mary Ellen Robedeau
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Karen & Roger Risch

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Kathy Shannon

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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 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

ERATH
WINERY



EYES!
ON BROADWAY
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Antler Gallery

Cindy Thompson
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David Evans and
Associates

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NEW: ZEISS Victory SF 32

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

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Celebrating 30 Years by Giving Back to Nature!



From March 2021 through February 2022, your purchases at all Backyard Bird Shops will support various local nonprofits that benefit our birds and wildlife. To learn more, visit BackyardBirdShop.com





Welcome to the Nature Store!

Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.!

Although holiday shopping is winding down, the Nature Store is still here for all your birdy needs! Set up a wintertime backyard buffet for your resident birds, find a cozy sweater to keep warm, or even pick up a new pair of optics—ring in the New Year with the Portland Audubon Nature Store. Where the profits are for the birds!

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

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



Anna's Hummingbird on nest, photo by Tara Lemezis.

Optics Focus

New Year's Resolution: See More Birds!

Whether you are new to birding or looking to up your game for 2022, stop by the Nature Store to check out our wide selection of binoculars and spotting scopes.

Magnification, weight, size, price, feel, and many other specifications are all factors—we will help determine which optics best suit your needs while staying within your budget.

Nikon Prostaff 7S 8x42
Member Price: \$189.95



PNW Pick

Colorful Umbrellas

A pop of color can brighten any rainy day, and thanks to Susan Curington Art, the Nature Store has a beautiful assortment of patterned umbrellas! These umbrellas were donated from this year's Wild Arts Festival, meaning 100% of the proceeds go to supporting your favorite birds.

Member Price: \$9.00



2022 Calendars



Audubon Engagement Calendar

Still need a 2022 calendar or planner? The Nature Store has you covered—for a great deal! Calendars and planners are now 20% off, so stop by to browse the large selection while supplies last.

Sale Price: \$13.59

Hummingbird Nesting Season

Alpaca Grapevine Nesting Ball

Anna's Hummingbirds are here year-round, and they start nesting earlier than you may think! Watch for females gathering moss, lichen, and spiderwebs to construct their nests, as well as natural materials provided by bird-loving humans. The Nature Store carries a number of materials that hummingbirds and other birds will enjoy all spring. Also check out our wide selection of hummingbird feeders, cleaning supplies, and resources to keep the hummers happy.

Member Price: \$19.80





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.



SUMMER CAMP 2022

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 19!

Join Portland Audubon for truly amazing nature-based adventures all summer long! Kids can explore the beauty and wildlife of our 172-acre Sanctuary, get to know the scenic vistas of Portland's most gorgeous parks and wildscapes, or spend a week camping, hiking and adventuring in the Pacific Northwest. With more than 50 different camps, there's a place for every young learner to explore, create and grow with us.

★ We're offering a **NEW Sliding Scale fee structure** to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience camp with Portland Audubon. Families are invited to pay at the level that works for them!

audubonportland.org

GET IN TOUCH

Administration Offices

503-292-6855

Please call for updated hours

Wildlife Sanctuary

Dawn to dusk every day

Wildlife Care Center

503-292-0304

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

On the Cover: Paul Engelmeyer in the Elliott Forest, photo by Kelsey Kuhnhausen

On the Inside Cover: Snow Geese, photo by Molly Sultany;
Northern Harrier, photo by Tara Lemezis; Semaphore Grass, photo by Teresa Wicks; Little Bee-Eater, photo by Candace Larson.

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.



Birdy Brain Buster!

Which of these wading birds
has been observed using tools
to hunt for fish?

- A. Great Blue Heron
- B. Green Heron
- C. American Bittern
- D. Great Egret



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

Answer: B