



## Bob Sallinger: 30 Years at Portland Audubon

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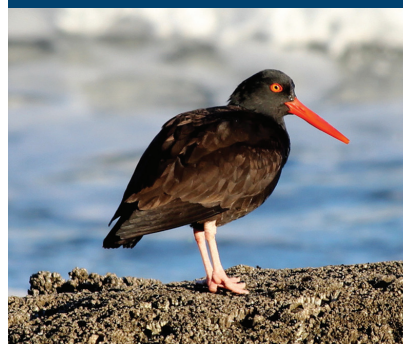
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# Bob Sallinger: 30 Years at Portland Audubon

by Ali Berman, Communications and Marketing Director

William Finley,  
David Marshall,

**Mike Houck, and Bob Sallinger.** Bob would wave his hand, dismissing the addition of his name to the list of Portland Audubon's most accomplished conservationists and visionaries, and yet, his record speaks for itself. Bob's 30 years as an advocate, activist, naturalist, wildlife researcher, and wildlife rehabber, and his deep ties to the community, have led to many of the most exciting conservation wins in Portland Audubon's history, and not only have saved the lives of countless wild animals, but have transformed the Oregon landscape for future generations.

In some ways Bob was always destined for Portland Audubon. In Massachusetts he grew up on Audubon Drive and spent countless hours exploring the

Massachusetts Audubon's headquarters at Drumlin Farm. Some things are set in childhood, and Audubon's mission was indelibly marked in Bob's DNA.

It won't come as a surprise that it was a falcon that first brought Bob to Portland Audubon's doors (although some may be surprised it wasn't a Peregrine). After graduating from Reed College, Bob took a job with Pet Samaritan Veterinary Clinic where his responsibilities included taking care of stray animals and injured wildlife that were brought to the clinic. It was there that he met the much beloved Dr. Deb Sheaffer, who he would later recruit to join him at Audubon. One day, Elisabeth Neely, Bob's girlfriend and future wife, arrived with an injured Prairie Falcon that she had found in Washington. They eventually made their way to Portland Audubon where they met Wildlife Care Center Director Katy Weil. Weil had an instinct about Bob and offered him a volunteer position and soon thereafter a staff position. One job led to another, and eventually a series of jobs led to a career.

Bob looks back fondly on those early days in the Wildlife Care Center. "I worked pretty much nonstop, lived with my dog in a VW bus in the Audubon parking lot, and survived on a diet of Old Crow and oranges, but I got to work with eagles and Peregrines, and that is about as cool as it gets for a 25-year-old hippie nature freak." By 1996 he had become the Wildlife Care Center director, and during his 15 years there, he would oversee the care of more than 45,000 wild animals. When I asked Bob what he thought was the best part of his time with Portland Audubon, he did not hesitate: **"Setting wild animals free."**







During his time in the Care Center, Bob used a small grant from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to launch Portland Audubon's Living with Wildlife program, the goal of which was to promote wildlife stewardship, reduce human-caused wildlife hazards, and humanely resolve human-wildlife conflicts. Over time Bob played a leading role in evolving this program into some of Portland Audubon's most innovative conservation campaigns, including Cats Safe at Home, Bird-safe Buildings, Lights Out, anti-poaching, and the ubiquitous Backyard Habitat Certification Program.

It was also during this time that Bob launched Portland Audubon's Peregrine Watch. Audubon had just come through the Spotted Owl Wars when endangered Peregrines began nesting on Portland-area bridges. Wildlife officials initially proposed relocating eggs and nestlings out of the city and into "safer" wildland nest sites. Inspired by his friend and mentor, Mike Houck, Bob argued that urbanites also had a responsibility to protect wildlife and proposed instead that Audubon initiate a program to monitor, research, protect, and engage the public with this amazing species. Eventually the program would expand to include the captive rearing and release of Peregrines using falcon puppets made by Bob's wife, Elisabeth. Perhaps his most epic role (and something he still does to this day) was rappelling from Portland's bridges to band young falcons. Not an easy task when concerned parents are dive-bombing you at 200 miles per hour, and he has a scar or two to prove it. But it was more than just Bob working on Peregrines. He created a community around the efforts, with a small army of volunteers taking on central roles including waiting in kayaks in the waters below bridges in case fledglings fell from their nests. More than a few were rescued that way.



**Above:** (left) Bob treating a beaver at the Wildlife Care Center with Deb Sheaffer, DVM; (right) The Portland Audubon Urban Conservation Team, Jim Labbe, Bob, and Mike Houck (est. 2002). **Below:** Bob and his wife, Elisabeth in 1993 at Marmot. **NEXT PAGE:** Top left: Katy Weil and Bob releasing an endangered Bald Eagle on New Year's Day 1994 in the Columbia River Gorge; Bottom left: Bob banding Peregrines on the Interstate Bridge. Far right: Bob releasing a Bald Eagle.

"Our goal was not to just do projects on the urban landscape, but rather to instill conservation into the DNA of the system so that conservation becomes a basic part of every project."





During the 2000s, Bob's role would expand to not only directing the Wildlife Care Center but also Audubon's Urban and Statewide Conservation Programs. Bob's work ethic is legendary, regularly putting in 70-80 hour work weeks and driving through the night and sleeping in his car to attend far-flung meetings around the state. In the mid-2000s, he put himself through law school at night while working full time at Audubon and raising two children under the age of three. Bob credits his ability to sustain this level of productivity over three decades to insomnia and his amazing wife, Elisabeth.

Bob's conservation impacts stretch from the urban interior to the most remote regions of the state. His conservation work has always been guided by a single philosophy: collaborate when possible; fight when necessary. Locally, he has worked to protect urban natural areas, restore our urban waterways and floodplains, increase urban tree canopy and green roofs, clean up brownfields, advance wildlife-friendly policies and programs, and pass bond measures, levies, and other funding mechanisms that have generated billions of dollars to protect our natural environment and promote healthy urban landscapes for people and wildlife. "Our goal was not to just do projects on the urban landscape, but rather to instill conservation into the DNA of the system so that conservation becomes a basic part of every project," says Sallinger. "And I was incredibly fortunate to learn from one of the best who has ever done this kind of work: Mike Houck."

Statewide, Bob's work has spanned Oregon's forests, deserts, grasslands, and marine environments. He's fought for Marbled Murrelets and Spotted Owls, to prevent wind turbines on Steens Mountain, to get adequate water to our wildlife refuges, and to prevent the slaughter of cormorants on East Sand Island. He counts among his favorite projects the collaborative

efforts in Harney County to restore bird habitat on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding privately owned floodplains. Years of 12-hour round trips to Eastern Oregon were required to build the relationships necessary to see progress. Sallinger notes that most of the real work was not done in the formal meetings but over post-meeting shots of whiskey at the Pine Room.

More recently Bob was instrumental in advancing both protection of the Elliott State Forest and the Private Forest Accords, which increase riparian protections across more than 10 million acres of private forestland in Oregon. After decades of deep conflict, diverse stakeholders were able to come together to chart a new path forward. At a time of unprecedented political polarization, both the Elliott and the Private Forest Accords advanced through the 2022 Oregon Legislature with strong bipartisan support. Bob recounts that as the "bird guy" in fish-focused private forest accords, he was given responsibility for advancing protections for beaver and stream-dwelling amphibians. Bob credits his conservation colleagues: "I was the seventh most important person on a six-person negotiation team." However, next time you run into Bob, ask him about the final hours of that all-day-and-night negotiation between timber interests and environmentalists, mediated by the governor. Let's just say it came down to Bob holding out for salamanders in the eleventh hour, and Governor Brown agreeing that "we need to save those little guys."







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“It is really about the community. There are lots of conservation organizations out there, but I have never seen one that has a more loyal and dedicated community.”

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One of the best things about Bob is that at the end of the day, he's truly an optimist (a curmudgeon-y optimist, as I call him). Years ago, in one of our countless long conversations in my office, Bob and I were talking about fossil fuel storage facilities on the Willamette River, and what would happen in the event of a big earthquake. He shared his philosophy, a way of looking at activism that has stayed with me: *Even if you're only able to fix 50% of a problem, you're still reducing the problem by half. Focus on the things you can change.* Bob works hard for every single victory. If he wins part of it now, you can bet he'll be back for the rest. And boy does he play the long game, with some issues that have been ongoing for decades.

Bob's specialty is the tough stuff. The unglamorous stuff that, while grueling, gets green policies built into the fabric of hardwired systems. The beautiful truth is there are far too many successes in Bob's career to pay tribute to here. His mark has been made across the state. He doesn't think two years out, or five years out. The conservation efforts he engages in are designed to be impactful 100 years into the future, long past time any of us will be reading this. Just as Finley's contributions are still felt today, more than a century later.

I asked Bob why he stayed so long at Audubon in a field where the work is often transitory. “It is really about the community. There are lots of conservation organizations out there, but I have never seen one that has a more loyal and dedicated community. It has been an incredible privilege to work alongside so many amazing volunteers, staff, and partners for the past three decades. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have learned from and conspired with people like Mike Houck, Katy Weil, Dan Rohlf, Lynn Herring, Deb Sheaffer...far too many to mention...”

The good news is, while Portland Audubon is tearfully saying goodbye to one of our most incredible visionaries, the conservation movement hasn't lost a thing. Bob will continue his journey as an advocate for wildlife, habitat, and people. We can't wait to see what he'll do next and how his work will continue to shape this place we all love so much. Mostly, we want to thank him for traveling this long and windy road with us for the past 30 years.

**We've been the lucky ones.**

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**Left:** Bob rescuing a Barn Owl caught in fishing line.





## Voters Again Strongly Support Parks and Nature on November Ballot

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director



In November, voters resoundingly supported Ballot Measure 26-225, which renewed Metro's Parks and Nature Levy for another five years. It passed strongly in Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties with a remarkable 73.4% support. At a time when voters are cynical about government, they continue to demonstrate unequivocal support for protection and restoration of our natural environment and ensuring equitable access to nature for all of the region's residents.

The renewal of the levy will generate more than \$19 million a year to operate and restore regional parks such as Smith and Bybee Wetlands, Chehalem Ridge, Oxbow Regional Park, Cooper Mountain, and many more. It also means that Metro can continue to operate its highly successful grant program to support initiatives that expand access to nature, with a priority on historically marginalized communities. Portland Audubon was proud to serve on the steering committee for this campaign and help spearhead the grassroots effort to pass the measure.

A big focus of Portland Audubon's work over the past three decades has been ensuring that there is adequate funding available to advance conservation initiatives across the region and across the state. This kind of work is often low profile and unglamorous, but funding is

essential to drive the scale of conservation necessary to heal our natural environment, create healthy landscapes for our communities, and build an inclusive movement.

When Audubon first spearheaded a regional bond measure in 1991 to protect natural areas in the metro region, it was a somewhat novel idea led by a band of grassroots activists. A little more than three decades later, Portland Audubon has played a leadership role in advancing more than a dozen greenspace bond measures and levies, increasing park system development charges, serving on too many local, regional, and state budget committees to count, and

supporting innovative funding strategies such as the Portland Clean Energy Fund, Portland Grey to Green Initiative, the Outdoor School Initiative, and the Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund. The list goes on, and the result is the infusion of billions of dollars to fuel the Oregon Conservation Movement.

We certainly did not do it alone, but one thing that has made me proud to be

part of Portland Audubon is the high priority we have placed not only on funding itself, but on funding a broad and inclusive movement.

**Thank you to everybody in the Portland Audubon community who stepped up time and time again to be part of these types of efforts!**

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# A Big Step Toward Stronger Protections for Oregon's Coastal Rocky Habitats

by Joe Liebezeit, Staff Scientist & Avian Conservation Manager

On December 9, 2022, the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) voted to move forward rocky habitat proposals that will establish protections and support on-the-ground stewardship efforts at six important sites on the coast. OPAC is the marine policy advisory body that provides advice to the governor, state agencies, and local governments on ocean policy and resource management matters. Getting these proposals approved by OPAC was a huge step and paves the way for them to be finalized for approval by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) before they go to rulemaking and are officially designated.

As a quick reminder, Oregon recently updated its Rocky Habitat Management Plan. This plan determines how the state manages and protects our rocky shores, which make up 41% of our coastline and include iconic sites like Haystack Rock and Cape Perpetua.

These rocky habitats support a wealth of marine life including colonial nesting seabirds, marine mammals, kelp beds, and thousands of fish and invertebrate species, yet are under the increasing threat of climate change impacts as well as growing human disturbance. Climate change impacts including ocean acidification, hypoxia, and kelp forest decline have emerged in recent years. New science out of Oregon State University indicates the extreme vulnerability of Oregon's intertidal habitats, which may be at a tipping point due to increasing climate stressors. These reports bring front and center the need to do all we can to protect these critical habitats.

As part of the rocky habitat process, the public was invited to nominate new sites for stronger conservation protections. Sites can receive one of three designations: Marine Research Area (MRA), Marine Education Area (MEA), or Marine Conservation Area (MCA). Portland Audubon has been working with coastal organizations and communities to facilitate this process for several years.

This past spring, the LCDC officially designated Cape Blanco as a Marine Research Area and Coquille Point as a Marine Education Area. Six additional sites were deemed, at the time, not suitable for designation unless the proposals were revised. Thankfully, the coastal groups that proposed the sites worked hard to resolve outstanding issues in their proposals, and OPAC voted convincingly to move them forward.

**Below is a summary of eight sites that were approved with overwhelming support in 2022 by OPAC for designation (from north to south):**

**Ecola Point MCA** (nominated by North Coast Rocky Habitat Coalition): One of the most pristine sites left on the north coast with dramatic rock formations, a rebounding population of ochre sea stars, and a secluded haul out for seals. New regulations limiting take of some marine life, combined with nonregulatory measures like increased signage and support of stewardship efforts, will balance ecological protection and human use.

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

**Fogarty Creek MCA** (nominated by coastal community member): A small but extremely biodiverse site with extensive kelp beds, sea grasses, a regular feeding group of gray whales, and high bird diversity. Designation will protect invertebrates and algae from harvest.



Brown Pelicans and a Double-crested Cormorant, photo by Mick Thompson.





Coquille Point, photo by Jasperdo.



Baby Harbor Seal, photo by Bureau of Land Management.

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

**Cape Foulweather MCA** (nominated by Audubon Society of Lincoln City): Dramatically rising 500 feet above the ocean, Cape Foulweather supports extensive bull kelp beds and the largest Pelagic Cormorant colony in Oregon, and it serves as a comparison area to nearby Otter Rock Marine Reserve. A key goal at this site is to improve the ecological integrity of bull kelp forests, which have dramatically declined across the west coast.

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

**Blacklock Point MCA** (nominated by South Coast Rocky Shores Group): Characteristics include unique landforms, diverse rocky habitats, threatened offshore kelp forests, and the long history of use by Tribes. The proposal emphasizes continuing with existing uses and building a community-based volunteer stewardship program to educate visitors on ways to minimize impacts.

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

It is important to note that access and harvest by members of federally recognized Tribal Nations are unaffected by these designations.

With the addition of these eight designations, a big priority for Portland Audubon will be to ensure the implementation of rocky habitat sites is fully supported by agencies and other entities. This may include pushing for an increase in agency staffing support and the creation of a small grants program to fund stewardship efforts. Stay tuned for opportunities to help build on the success of these iconic Oregon rocky habitats!





# SWIFTS Nature Camp



## A Joyful Community Takes Flight!

by Emily Pinkowitz, Education Director

If you've ever had the opportunity to go to camp, what do you remember? As someone who grew up in New York City, I remember the feel of the grass and smell of the earth, which was so different from the city streets. I remember the opportunity to learn through exploring, through making, through singing and dancing. I remember moments of solitude and independence. Most of all, I remember the community. As a child of two working parents, camp was a constant in my summer life. I formed bonds with staff and kids that lasted a lifetime. I built a sense of self that was distinct from school and home. It was freeing and world-expanding to feel a part of something different. Camp was the most joyful part of my life.


As we've reimaged Portland Audubon's camps in the aftermath of the pandemic, we've given a lot of thought to this sense of joyful community. How can we build a summer for both children and staff that is safe, supportive, welcoming, world-expanding, and sustainable, in every sense of the word? How can we connect campers to the full breadth of what makes Portland Audubon so special? As we renew our commitment to a sliding scale model, how can we design camps with every camper in mind and create a culture in which every camper feels a part of that story?

To celebrate this collective story-making, we're giving our camp a name for the first time. This year, campers will be welcomed to Portland Audubon's **SWIFTS Nature Camp**. SWIFTS is an acronym that encompasses much of what makes camp here so unique: **S**cience, **W**ildlife, **I**magination, **F**riendship, and **T**aking a **S**tand. We chose swifts as a mascot because they embody so much of what we strive to foster in children. They're collaborative—they roost together and help each other raise young. They're at home in the city and in the forest. They do everything on the wing. They're both hyper-local and roaming explorers. And they're iconically Portland.

Along with this new name, this summer you'll see a few changes to camp. We're imbuing the camp day with more music and performance. We're looking to add conservation action to every single camp. And we've created tracks to help families find the right camp for their kiddos, from the artist-scientist Creature Creators to the adventure-seeking Wilderness Scouts. These tracks continue in three-week cycles throughout the summer, enabling families who choose to attend multiple weeks of camp to build on their sense of community from week to week.






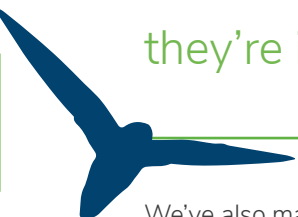


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To help steward these changes, we've welcomed a new Senior Educator, Camp Specialist to our team. Andrés Umaña is native to the highlands of Colombia, a temperate, rainy, and mountainous zone in the Andes that resembles the Pacific Northwest in weather and vegetation. He brings with him nearly two decades of experience in environmental science, sustainable travel, and youth education in both the U.S. and Colombia, and hopes to instill a sense of belonging, compassion, and urgent care for our natural world in younger generations under an equity lens.

In this work, Andrés is building upon the incredible foundation built by former education staff including James Davis, Jennifer Devlin, Steve Robertson, Ian Abraham, and Tim Donner, and even more full-time educators, seasonal educators, and support staff. So much of camp will remain the same, and their energy, dedication and spirit will continue to fly through these programs as we welcome our first roost of SWIFT campers this June. We're also indebted to the Spencer Higgins Education Fund for creating the support to make our camps inclusive and accessible to all. **If you'd like to donate to the Spencer Higgins Education Fund to support our sliding scale model, visit [audubonportland.org/ways-to-give/spencer-higgins-education-fund/](https://audubonportland.org/ways-to-give/spencer-higgins-education-fund/).**

We've also made some changes to the camp structure. To help our staff bring their best selves each day, we've shortened the day to end at 3 p.m. and set an early 2 p.m. release time on Fridays. At the same time, to support working parents, we're offering aftercare for the first time, enabling campers to stay until 5:30 p.m.

**Registration opens January 21!**  
**[bit.ly/PA-SummerCamps](https://bit.ly/PA-SummerCamps)**





## FIELD NOTES

by Candace Larson, Master Naturalist

# Winter Warm-ups!

It's winter, and if you're cold on a clear, crisp Portland morning, imagine how a half-ounce chickadee must feel! Many birds migrate away from the colder regions in winter, but our friends spending the season here have myriad creative adaptations for staying warm. Many ducks and geese increase their fat reserves and add as much as 25% more down feathering as winter approaches. Songbirds poof out their feathers, which traps air close to the body. This layer of air gets heated by the bird's warm core and increases the insulation value of the bird's feathers by as much as 50%. Birds shiver to generate metabolic heat, and many birds, including our adorable northwest Bushtits, often roost communally on cold winter nights (aka cuddling!).

Birds also have several clever strategies for keeping their unfeathered legs and feet from freezing. They often tuck these appendages close to their warm body while resting. And they have a super-effective blood-flow system in their legs, where the arteries delivering warm blood from the bird's insulated body are nestled into a



Black-capped Chickadee, photo by Dana Orlosky.

matrix of veins carrying cool blood back to the body. Heat is efficiently transferred from the warm arteries to the cool veins, reducing the energy required to keep the core of the bird nice and toasty. Birds' feet do get quite cold, but they contain very little liquid, muscle, or nerve tissue, and the blood that does circulate through the feet moves fast enough to avoid freezing.

What can you do to offer a helping hand to our winter birds? Offering high-energy foods, plenty of clean, fresh water, and places for birds to shelter out of the wind and rain are all helpful. Make sure your windows are bird-safe and your kitty is also warm and cozy indoors!

## SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott, Educator & Trips Specialist

In late fall, focus moves from the shorebirds at mudflats to the open-water birds that make up the tail end of migration, and this year there were a number of very rare birds found on our rivers and larger lakes. The biggest surprise was the **Brown Booby** found perched on the massive anchor chain of a large tanker in the Columbia River across from Kelley Point Park. The bird was viewed for about 24 hours before the boat moved out to sea. A **Brown Pelican** was perched atop the Hawthorne Bridge for an afternoon in early December, the morning after presumably the same individual was spotted on the Willamette River in West Linn. This was just the latest in an unusual number of recent inland sightings for the almost exclusively oceangoing species.

In November, a number of exceptional gulls moved through, including a **Black-legged Kittiwake** that stayed at the Bonneville Dam outflow for at least two weeks. Birders visiting the dam were also treated to a **Snow Bunting** that stayed a few days. While less rare, a record number of several hundred **Bonaparte's Gulls** busily foraged around the dam for a number of weeks and were noted in unprecedented numbers upstream at The Dalles Dam and the John Day Dam.



Snow Bunting photographed by Brodie Cass Talbott at Bonneville Dam on November 14, 2022.

Portland's reigning gull hotspot, Harborview Park, boasted three exceptionally rare species—a **Slaty-backed Gull**, a **Heerman's Gull**, and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**—all of which remained for only a few hours.

A **Burrowing Owl** found at an industrial loading dock in Clackamas remained for almost a week, where it was possibly a second county record, and the only one reported in the region this year.

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](mailto:bcasstalbott@audubonportland.org), and for a more detailed weekly report, visit [audubonportland.org](http://audubonportland.org).**



# Audubon Birding Days and Field Trips

## Audubon Birding Day: Beginning Raptor Identification at Sauvie Island

January 12 | 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

In this beginner-focused trip 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: Advanced Winter Raptor Identification in Polk County

January 20 | 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

This more advanced raptor trip will explore the raptor-rich farmlands of Polk County, searching out as many species of hawks and falcons as possible, and keeping an eye out for Short-eared Owl on the wing as dusk approaches.

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

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

## Audubon Birding Day: Winter Birding on Sauvie Island

January 26 | 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join Brodie for classic winter birding on Sauvie Island, searching for raptors, cranes, waterfowl, and sparrows at the major hotspots.

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

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott



Short-eared Owl, photo by Eric Ellingson.

## Field Class: Nature Connection and Writing Workshop at Smith and Bybee

January 28 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

In this workshop, Julia will guide participants in sensory-based nature connection and writing exercises at Smith and Bybee Wetlands. Hot tea will be provided.

Fee: \$30 members / \$45 non-members

Instructor: Julia Waters

## Field Class: Beginning Birding and Sauvie Island Exploration

Saturday series: February 4, March 4, and April 1  
8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sunday series: February 5, March 5, and April 2  
8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join Greg and Ricky for three weekend 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

## Field Class: Waterbirds of Tillamook

March 3 | 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

We'll enjoy the bounty of waterbirds found in coastal Tillamook County during the winter while also learning a bit about the identification and habits of some of the Oregon Coast's many different waterbirds.

Fee: \$75 members / \$95 non-members

Instructors: Cameron Cox and Erin Law



Sign up for  
trips at  
[bit.ly/PA-  
Birding-Days](https://bit.ly/PA-Birding-Days)

Sandhill Crane, photo by Jim Cruce.





Ochre Sea Stars, photo by Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife.

## NATURE NIGHT

### Nature Night: Oregon's Marine Reserves—What Have We Learned in 10 Years?

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

Join us for a panel discussion on the successes and challenges of Oregon's marine reserve program, 10 years after its establishment. Oregon's Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas were designated in 2012 with the goals of conserving marine habitats and biodiversity, providing a framework for scientific research and effectiveness monitoring, and avoiding significant adverse social and economic impacts on ocean users and coastal communities. Marine reserve experts will weigh in on how this program has performed and what the next steps will be.

Cost: Free, donation suggested

 Cost Involved

 Public Transit Available

**FREE** Free

 Family Friendly

 Wheelchair Accessible

 Virtual Event or Program

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



Bohemian Waxwing, photo by Scott Carpenter.

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Understanding Raptors

January 11 | 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



### Online Watercolor Painting with Ronna

January 17, *The Dark-eyed Junco* | 6-7:30 p.m.

February 15, *The Northern Flicker* | 6-7:30 p.m.

Join these live online classes to paint alongside Ronna Fujisawa, an experienced watercolor painter, art educator, and bird enthusiast. This class is appropriate for intermediate and ambitious beginners. Register separately for each class.

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

Instructor: Ronna Fujisawa



### Winter Raptors of the Willamette Valley

January 18 | 6-7 p.m.

Learn about the wintering raptors of our area before they move north!

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



### In-Person Watercolor Painting with Ronna

January 21, *The Bohemian Waxwing* | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

February 18, *The Wood Duck* | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join these in-person art classes to paint alongside Ronna Fujisawa, an experienced watercolor painter, art educator, and bird enthusiast. Register separately for each class.

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

Instructor: Ronna Fujisawa







Mount St. Helens, photo by D.T. Strouse.

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Birding at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

January 23 | 6-7 p.m.

Learn why birders and scientists alike flock to the landscape surrounding Mount St. Helens.

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

Instructor: Gina Roberti



### Feeding Birds: The How and What of Responsible Bird Feeding

January 24 | 6-7 p.m.

Feeding birds is a great way to enjoy a variety of species from the comfort of home. This class will show you how to feed effectively and safely.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



### The Fascinating Lives of Song Sparrows

January 25 | 6-7 p.m.

Ever present but underappreciated, Song Sparrows have amazingly complex social lives and vocal behaviors. In this deep dive, you'll come away with a new understanding of one of the most widespread birds in North America.

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

Instructor: Brodie Cass Talbott



### Little Brown Birds Series

February 27, The Sparrows | 6-7 p.m.

February 28, Wrens, Finches, and Blackbirds | 6-7 p.m.

Many birds fit into the "Little Brown Bird" category. John will focus on the unique patterns and behaviors of each species, so you can more easily identify each one. Register separately for each class.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



## SPRING BREAK CAMPS

### REGISTER NOW FOR SPRING BREAK CAMP!

March 27-30

Spring is in the air in March, and there's no better place to experience it than in our Nature 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 1-2	Grades 3-5
March 27	Spring Bloom	Wild Salmon Run
March 28	Mammals Wake Up	Returning Song Birds
March 29	The Art of Invisibility	Trunks, Barks, and Leaves
March 30	A Bug's Life	The Great Water Cycle

**Camp Times:** 8:45/9 a.m., Pick-up: 3:15/3:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Sliding scale, see website for details

[bit.ly/PASpringBreakCamps](https://bit.ly/PASpringBreakCamps)



**Amazon River Cruise****May 10-20**

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

Fee: \$6,495 members /  
\$7,095 non-members

Leaders: Dan van den Broek  
and Doris Valencia



Inca Tern, photo by Amaury Laporte.

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

**Wallowa Winter Wonderland****February 16-19**

On this self-driving trip based out of Enterprise, our exciting bird-sighting aspirations are Bohemian Waxwing, Gray Partridge, Snow Bunting, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, and Gyrfalcon.

Fee: \$595 members / \$795 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

**Newport to Florence****March 24-26**

This three-day coastal adventure will meet all of your birding and exploration desires! Join Stefan in searching for the endangered Western Snowy Plover, the striking White-tailed Kite, and the elusive Wrentit.

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

Leader: Stefan Schlick

**The Sandhill Cranes of Othello****March 31-April 2**

On this three-day, two-night adventure we will explore beautiful landscapes, from the basalt columns of Columbia National Wildlife Refuge to the gorgeous vistas of Saddle Mountain. We'll have good chances of seeing Long-billed Curlew, Tricolored Blackbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Chukar, Sage Thrasher, and of course thousands of Sandhill Cranes!

Fee: \$650 members / \$850 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

**The Total Solar Eclipse and Birds of Bali, Flores & East Timor!****April 14-29**

Join this once-in-a-lifetime 15-day adventure to the tropical islands of Bali and Flores in Indonesia, and to the new nation of East Timor to bird this tropical paradise and see the phenomenal total solar eclipse on April 20.

Fee: \$6,295

Leaders: Tom Love and local guides

**Mongolia****June 13-28**

Join us for a trip of a lifetime! Enjoy traditional Mongolian food in a communal setting and experience first-hand the unique Mongolian life by staying in ger camps. We'll explore its varied habitats, including the Siberian Taiga in the north, the Mongolian Steppe and the Gobi Desert, and Gobi Altai Mountains in the south. Wildlife high points include Demoiselle Crane, Lammergeier, Wallcreeper, and Przewalski's Wild Horse.

Fee: ~~\$6,395 members / \$6,995 non-members~~

**Price Drop!** Fee: \$5,495 members/\$6,095 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick



## NEWS FROM THE COAST

## Plover Patrol

by Allison Anholt, Coastal Community Science Biologist

Plover Patrol, a program managed by Portland Audubon and Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), monitors Snowy Plovers on Oregon's North Coast (Clatsop and Tillamook Counties). The 2022 breeding season, March 15-September 15, was the fifth year of the program, which supports the efforts of community scientists collecting important data on this threatened species. This season surpassed all prior years—in addition to a record number of nests (43), we also had record levels of volunteer effort to find and monitor the nests. It was also the most productive year for the birds themselves, with 30% of monitored nests hatching, and 19 chicks fledging! These surveys yield important information about how sites are utilized by Snowy Plovers, and provide more “eyes on the beach” to record predator interactions and beachgoer disturbance as well as informal outreach opportunities to beachgoers about Snowy Plovers and the importance of conservation measures. In total, volunteers spent almost 400 hours conducting 213 surveys!

This year, we are looking forward to another robust season of research and monitoring by Plover Patrol volunteers. With increasing capacity and interest, we will expand our ability to understand the specific conservation challenges faced by these imperiled birds and continue to help them move toward recovery. It will be another exciting year for Oregon's North Coast Snowy Plovers. Stay tuned!



Plover Patrol, photo by Allison Anholt.

## NEWS FROM EASTERN OREGON

## Eavesdropping on Wildlife

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator

Over the last 100 years, bioacoustic (the combined science of biology and sound) monitoring has been an increasingly common part of conservation research, restoration, and land management. The sounds of the landscape can tell us a lot about changes in land and soundscapes over time, about species population trends, presence or absence of rare species, etc. By the 1980s, digital recording options became available. As recording units moved from analog to digital and as recording devices, batteries, and memory storage have become lighter and smaller, these tools have become increasingly popular for research and monitoring.

Portland Audubon is working with partners in the Harney Basin to use autonomous recording units, aka song meters, to expand bird conservation research and monitoring in that region. We use a mix of song meter types distributed in wet meadow habitat. Mounted on posts, microphones at the ready, the song meters remind me of someone standing in a meadow, eavesdropping on birds and wildlife.



Long-billed Curlew, photo by Becky Matsubara.

At the end of the field season, the song meters are retrieved, SD cards collected, and data extracted. A large part of analyzing song meter data is passive listening and looking at spectrograms, visual representations of sound frequency, proximity, and patterns. In addition to being a helpful research tool, spectrograms are remarkably elegant. Because the vocalization patterns are species dependent, recordings look as diverse as a meadow full of birds. For example, a Long-billed Curlew's vocalization looks like a basic sewing stitch. And Western Meadowlark vocalizations look as vigorous, varied, and sharp as they sound. As technology for analyzing large datasets becomes more sophisticated, the usability of bioacoustic equipment increases, as does our ability to deploy this technology on a larger landscape.



by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

## Jim Cruce, 1933-2022



Anybody who has read the Warbler, visited our website, or attended a Portland Audubon presentation over the past couple of decades is familiar with Jim Cruce's incredible wildlife photographs. Jim's photography was ubiquitous across Portland Audubon's many media platforms. When he passed away in October 2022, we lost an incredibly generous and talented

member of our community who for years donated his professional skills and his love of wildlife to help us advance conservation.

Originally from Arkansas, Jim served in the navy during the Korean War on a ship responsible for drawing enemy fire so that battleships farther out at sea could pinpoint their location. He would go on to a 36-year career with the Oregonian newspaper.

Jim was an avid wildlife photographer at a time when getting good photos of wildlife was challenging, to say the least, but he was a master. He would regularly show up at our reception desk with his wife, Laura. Patient, unassuming and always enthusiastic, he would wait until a staffer he knew wandered by and snag them: "Hey, do you have a few minutes so I can show you what I have?" Jim didn't just bring photos—he brought mountains of photos, spectacular photos, hundreds at a time: 3x5s, 8x10s, 18x24s, small prints, big prints, posters, unframed, simple frames, ornate frames. And the animals burst out of the prints. He meticulously captured the life cycles of most of the birds and many non-avian species found in Oregon. We eventually digitized the images, but there is hardly a nook or cranny at Audubon today without a pile of Jim's prints neatly stacked.

With today's modern technology, good wildlife photos have become easier to come by, but in Jim's era, they were pure gold. The incredible sharpness, the exploding colors, the intimate details of the lives of the wild animals he was able to document—these were the product not only of an outstanding photographer, but also someone with a deep and abiding passion for wildlife.

**A celebration of Jim's life will be held at Portland Audubon in the coming spring.**

## Ruth Robbins, 1935-2022



Portland Audubon lost one of our longest serving, kindest, and most dedicated volunteers when Ruth Robbins passed away in her sleep in September of 2022. Ruth and her husband, Rick Brown, have been members of the Portland Audubon family for decades, dating back to the era when Mike Uhtoff was the new director and the organization was led by volunteers. She was part of the crew that fought

to list the Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl in the 1980s, and she served on Portland Audubon's board of directors and continued to serve on the conservation committee well into her eighties, stepping down only a few years ago as she struggled with health issues. She was a regular at Wild Arts Festival, Christmas Bird Count, Birdathon, and many other events. Ruth won Portland Audubon's highest volunteer award, the Mamie Campbell, in 1988.

Ruth epitomized what makes Portland Audubon a community. An audiologist by training, she received her PhD in physiological acoustics from Northwestern University and moved to Portland in 1970 to work on a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Oregon Medical School (now OHSU), where she met Rick. Portland Audubon has been so fortunate to have incredibly talented people like Ruth, who found time in their lives to not just volunteer, but to make Portland Audubon part of the fabric of their lives and stay with the organization for decades as it grew and evolved.

Ruth brought an amazing energy and spirit and kindness to the work. She was a constant positive force at our conservation committee meetings. During a packed gathering held at Audubon in November to celebrate Ruth's life, person after person got up to speak to Ruth's ethereal and inquisitive nature, her passion for art and the natural world, and her fascination with the universe around her that made every trip, no matter how mundane, an adventure.

She also was part of an impressive group of people including Rick Brown, Lynn Herring, Deanna Mueller-Crispin, Linda Craig, and others that have traveled this long conservation road together—we should all be so fortunate to have such caring and dedicated friends to travel with.

**She was a wonderful person, and she will be missed.**





# Remembering James Davis

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In December the Portland Audubon community lost a beloved member of the flock. James Davis, an amazing naturalist and educator, served as Portland Audubon's first director of education in the 1980s back at a time when the organization was just transitioning from all volunteer to paid staff. His vision and expertise laid the foundation for much of the programming that continues to this day. Our heart goes out to his wife, Sally Loomis, also a former longtime Portland Audubon staffer, as well as his friends, family, and colleagues.

We gathered these memories from those who knew him and worked with him at Portland Audubon, his later career at Metro, and in friendship in the years since, to try to capture even a fraction of a man who was larger than life. Online you'll find a longer version of this article, with more detailed remembrances, to honor James. He will be dearly missed.

"Being Executive Director of Portland Audubon was not easy, but the people I worked with made my job enjoyable. James Davis was one of those people. James was Education Director—and really a one-person "department"—during my tenure as ED from 1985 to 1989. His knowledge about natural history was truly inspiring, and he coordinated and taught many classes and field excursions for our organization. His appreciation of the natural world was deep and he made learning fun! What I most vividly remember about James was his sense of humor and ability to keep staff and volunteers holding their sides with laughter. I also recall his amazing repertoire of songs, some of which he sang late into the night and early morning hours at several staff/board retreats." - **Claire Puchy, former Portland Audubon Executive Director**

"James was essential to Audubon's growth and professionalism and stature within the conservation community. He was hilariously funny; a great story teller; a talented musician who founded his own band, the Surf Weasels; and he was a successful author, including *The Northwest Nature Guide: Where to Go and What to See Month by Month in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia*. He was also one of the region's most knowledgeable naturalists who knew his way around amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds and was no slouch at Northwest botany. He pioneered Audubon's Elderhostel programs and assembled a talented staff of naturalist educators." - **Mike Houck, former Urban Naturalist**

"James was fun to work with and was always so exuberant as he led kids (or adults) outdoors. He had a gift for sharing scientific information with a bit of humor. He was a big hit with kids and adults as he used hands-on activities to teach identification of birds, mammals and their habitats. He kept the kids focused, often by coming up with colorful nicknames for critters, their body parts, and behaviors—always making sure they also knew the proper terminology." - **Kathy Shinn, former Portland Audubon board member**

"When I first met James in the early '80s, I was amazed by his enthusiasm and energy. Once when we were driving together up to Audubon we were on Cornell Road, about a minute from the parking lot, when he stomped on the brake and hollered "Mountain Beaver!" after which he leaped from the car (it wasn't still moving, was it?) and scooped a small furry ball from the roadside. It was a Mountain Beaver (*Aplodontia rufa*) that had failed to make the crossing, the first and last one—living or dead—I had ever seen. But it was no surprise that James's quick eyes had caught it and ID'd in an instant.

As I came to know him better (the Mountain Beaver incident should have given me a clue), I became more and more impressed by his deep knowledge of natural history. He seemed to have a special affinity for reptiles and amphibians, but birds and mammals weren't neglected. We made a special connection around bird song, when James developed and produced Portland Audubon's first audio field guide: *Familiar Bird Songs of the Northwest*, a companion to the late Harry Nehls' *Familiar Birds of the Northwest*." - **Bob Wilson, former Nature Store Manager**

On the right: Mike Houck, James Davis, and Ethan Seltzer.







# Wild Arts Festival Brings Crowds for Nature, Art, and Books

by Sarah Swanson, Event Specialist

For two days in December, the Viking Pavilion at Portland State University was transformed. On the court, pottery and paintings replaced the usual hoops and three-point lines. The mezzanine hosted a book fair and a silent auction instead of rowdy fans. Loud cheering was traded for enthusiastic chatter as this sports venue metamorphosed into a wonderland of nature-inspired art. The Wild Arts Festival was a big winner for Portland Audubon, raising more than \$190,000 to help us protect Oregon's wildlife and wild places. The purchases made at the Festival also support the work of more than 80 local artists and authors.

Putting on an event of this caliber and complexity takes an immense amount of work, most of it done by our fantastic volunteers. Thank you to our incredible Wild Arts Festival Committee, a group that includes 29 volunteers, some with more than a decade of experience on the committee. These dedicated folks organized artists, authors, the silent auction, and volunteers and made it all come together for one big weekend. I can't say enough about how much we appreciate this hardworking group! I also want to thank the 200+ Festival volunteers from the Portland Audubon community. You all brought incredible energy to the Festival and created a wonderful experience for all who attended.

I give a heartfelt thank-you to our presenting sponsor, Backyard Bird Shop, and the rest of our sponsors for their crucial support of this unique event, which brings together so many who love nature and art. Thank you also to the many generous donors to the silent auction, the fabulous artists and authors, and, of course, the over 4000 of you who joined us. I look forward to seeing you next year!





Thank you to our amazing  
Wild Arts Festival Sponsors!

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## BACKYARD HABITAT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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

## CONSERVATION

- 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

## 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
- 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


THANK YOU

for helping us cross items off of  
this list. We appreciate you!



# A Year in Review: 2022 at the Wildlife Care Center

by Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager



Due to Avian Influenza, the WCC facilitated fostering of dozens of ducklings and goslings to wild parents, including the goslings in this photo. Photo by Mandy Sims.

When I think back on 2022, the past 12 months feel more like a five-year recap. It was a challenging year for Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center and for wildlife rehabbers across Oregon.

The easy part is the numbers: As of December 2, 2022, we cared for 4,314 patients and coached people through 9,440 events involving wildlife emergencies and humane solutions. Cats continue to be our number-one cause of injury, followed by orphaning, habitat or nest destruction, windows, cars, and dogs. Our volunteer team is back to pre-COVID levels, with almost 200 individuals contributing a stunning 21,000+ hours.

What's harder to quantify is everything our team adapted to during the course of the year. In fact, one hallmark of the past few years has been that we are always finding ways to keep going in the face of seemingly never-ending curveballs. While 2022 brought challenges and changes, there were great triumphs too, and we're proud to continue to center the animals and community that needs us.

**This year it was the people of the Wildlife Care Center who shone brightest.** We are so grateful to have been able to bring our full volunteer team back, restoring 75% of the crew we lost over the previous two years. More than half of our volunteers were entirely new, and the vast majority of the remainder had been on hiatus for two years. Staff worked hard to train or refresh nearly everyone, and our volunteers went above and beyond to get up to speed. Our three inaugural WCC interns were a joy to work with and left with the start of a successful, impactful career in wildlife rehabilitation. A donor doubled our veterinary hours, significantly increasing our capacity to respond to more complex and urgent medical needs.

4,314

wildlife patients

9,440

wildlife emergency  
calls and emails

Early in the spring, we saw Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza emerge on the western flyway and here in Oregon, and we were forced to make the heartbreaking decision to close the Care Center to waterfowl patients in order to protect our other avian patients and personnel. **To try to alleviate the impacts of this necessity, we funneled resources into fostering wild ducklings and goslings with wild parents as much as possible, as pictured in the photo above.** We hoped that this outbreak would follow historical trends and fizzle out in the summer months, allowing us to return to normal. But as of the end of the year, Oregon continues to experience an upward trend in cases, delaying our projected return to waterfowl care for another season.

It might be an understatement to say the last three years have been hard for those of us working in the Care Center. We have poured ourselves into our service, physically and emotionally. We often casually wish to go back to the time when the world felt more stable and our work ebbed and flowed with the seasons. But as hard as it has been, our persistence earned us both joy and growth. Those of us who have gone through this together are closer and fiercer in our compassion for and protection of each other. We have new team members and new opportunities, and the future is full; we are overflowing with plans to better help our community share space with wildlife. And there is a growing understanding of our own resilience: we are still here, serving the public and the animals that need us.

We'll be back soon with another update. In the meantime, if you find injured wildlife or need to work out a humane solution for a wildlife conflict, you know where to find us.



[audubonportland.org](https://audubonportland.org) or 503-292-0304 or  
[wildlife@audubonportland.org](mailto:wildlife@audubonportland.org)



# One Lucky Red-tailed Hawk

by Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager

On a crisp, sunny Saturday morning in early November, about 20 Portland Audubon volunteers and community members joined me at Whitaker Ponds to watch a Red-tailed Hawk fly free. Twelve-year-old Paloma Rochford helped me take the bird's carrier onto a stretch of grass beside the lake and open it. Together we watched the bird hop out, look around, and finally launch into the air. After a graceful sweep over the pond, the hawk landed high in a nearby tree and allowed us plenty of opportunities to snap photos as they took in their sudden freedom.

This beautiful moment came after three months of specialized care at the Wildlife Care Center. The hawk had arrived after colliding with the glass side of a sporting goods store. The impact caused head trauma and damaged one eye. We weren't sure the bird would make it: thin and dehydrated, unable to eat on their own due to the head injury. But after intensive care, including administering tube feedings multiple times a day, we were relieved to find the bird's symptoms improving. Soon we were able to assist-feed solid food, and then they began to eat on their own.

It took nearly two months of steady improvement, but eventually the head and eye trauma healed and we needed to help the bird prepare to return to the wild, where they would need peak endurance and strength. The first step was a few days in an enclosure large enough for short flights, but where we could easily monitor them and quickly intervene if needed. After that, a 100-foot-long flight enclosure for about a month to regain the important muscles that would allow the bird to soar and hunt, and then a trip to Whitaker Ponds to reclaim their rightful space in the sky.



Ashley Lema and Paola Arenas performing the Red-tailed Hawk's intake examination.

This story could have ended very differently—millions of birds hit windows, and many don't survive, or they sustain injuries they can never fully recover from. Some make it to a wildlife rehabilitation center, but tragically, many aren't ever found. Here at the Wildlife Care Center, we often hear from folks bringing us birds that have hit their windows how a bird had never hit their window before, but when a bird hits a window once, there are always others that have hit, but no one was there to know. So in honor of this lucky hawk, go out today and make one window in your life bird-safe, at home, at work, or at school. Share this story with one friend who might not know how dangerous windows can be, and together we can work to make the world a safer place for birds.

Photos of Red-tailed Hawk release by Tara Lemezis.





# A New Home for Ruby and Aristophanes

by Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager, and Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

**\*This message was sent out via email in mid-December. We wanted to ensure it was printed in the Warbler for anyone who didn't see this important update.**

We have both exciting and hard news to share with you regarding two beloved Ambassador Animals, Aristophanes the Raven and Ruby the Turkey Vulture. On January 2 both birds will be moving to the Point Defiance Zoo in Tacoma, Washington. We know that this news will bring mixed emotions for many people, especially the staff and volunteers who have worked with and cared for these birds for so many years, and also the many sanctuary visitors and school kids who got to meet Ruby and Ari up close. They have both been an important part of the Audubon family for a long time.

**We do not make this decision lightly.** As we shared with the community back in November, we began a search for a new home for Ari and Ruby in the fall after recognizing that the opportunities we can provide these birds will be limited over the next few years as we invest in the search and design for our new Wildlife Care Center and rebuild our Ambassador Animal program after the impacts of COVID. After a great deal of thought, we feel it is in the best interests of these complex birds to move to a facility with greater resources.

Our commitment was to find a facility that could devote significantly more resources to Ari and Ruby than would be available at Portland Audubon. We feel that we have found that at the Point Defiance Zoo. The full-time staff who will be dedicated to Ari and Ruby have decades of experience in avian care and training, and the free-flight educational programs Ari and Ruby will participate in reach thousands of people every year. Ari and Ruby will both have the opportunity to truly stretch their wings and fly in a 100-foot exercise yard and will have an entire team dedicated to providing them with tailor-made enrichment. Point Defiance Zoo has a track

record of dedication to animal welfare and is on the cutting edge of avian training, with a focus on ensuring their feathered teammates are as enthusiastic about their programs as the public who learns from them.

"We're excited to welcome Aristophanes and Ruby to Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium," said staff biologist Jessie Sutherland. "Our animal ambassadors serve a vital role in inspiring empathy and conservation action among our zoo guests. We use positive reinforcement to encourage birds in our care to demonstrate natural behaviors, such as foraging, tool use, and soaring in our large flight yard. These engaging presentations, combined with our award-winning enrichment program and excellent veterinary and animal care, will allow Ruby and Ari to lead vibrant, full lives just a short drive from their original homes."

**While we are sad to see them go, and will miss them very much, we look forward to seeing these birds continue to flourish in this world-class facility, and we're so glad to have found a facility close to home, where hopefully many of those who love Ari and Ruby will still have the opportunity to visit.**

Once at Point Defiance Zoo, they'll start their time behind the scenes as they quarantine and settle into their new home. When they're ready, you'll be able to spot them alongside the rest of the Point Defiance team helping to teach visitors about their amazing species, the threats they face, and how we can each act to protect them and the rest of our natural world.

We want to thank all the amazing staff and volunteers who have cared for Ruby and Ari over the past decade. We also want to take a moment to thank and celebrate the lives these birds have changed! If you have stories or memories about Aristophanes and Ruby that you'd like to share, email us at [wildlife@audubonportland.org](mailto:wildlife@audubonportland.org) and we'll share as many as we can on our blog.



Ruby the Turkey Vulture, photo by Tara Lemezis.



Aristophanes the Common Raven, photo by Charles Kastner.





Ruby-crowned Kinglet, photo by Tara Lemezís.

**Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:**

**IN MEMORY**

**Mary Albrecht**

Lucille Wakefield

**Donna Courtney**

Stephanie Shaw

**Amy Frank**

Wink Gross & Becki Marsh

**Fen Lombardi**

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**Herbert Matuche**

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Crispin  
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Mary West

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## 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!**



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Downy Woodpecker, photo by Brenda Dobbs.



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## Winter Wings Festival

PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND

Feb.17-Feb.20, 2023

### Keynotes:

Jen Hajj and Ray Hennessy

Birding and photography  
Field trips and workshops

Free talks on Klamath Basin  
Conservation initiatives



Klamath Falls, Oregon

WinterWingsFest.org

(877) 541-BIRD







## Happy New Year!

As we roll into 2023, we look forward to another great year at the Nature Store. We are humbled and grateful to our members and supporters, and are so thankful for the support shown throughout last year. Keep an eye out in 2023 for some of the Nature Store's favorite yearly events including our Spring Optics Fair, the Tequila Mockingbirds Birdathon Team, author events, digiscoping and other optics workshops, and more.

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

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

Shop the Nature Store online at  
[www.naturestorepdx.squarespace.com](http://www.naturestorepdx.squarespace.com)



Northern Pintail, photo by Hayley Crews.

## Optics Focus

### Nikon Monarch Fieldscope ED 20-60 x 82mm

Winter birding in the Portland area is great for many species, but waterfowl are a highlight. A spotting scope opens a whole new world when looking for fine details and seeing those dabblers and divers up close. The Nikon Monarch Fieldscope ED is a great choice for any birder. It comes in two sizes, offers a bright and colorful image, and is fully waterproof for rainy winter birding days. Its close focus and wide field of view are also great for backyard viewing from the comfort of your home.



Member Price: \$1,599.95



## Pocket Guides

### Waterfowl ID Folding Pocket Guide Set by Cornell Lab

Learn to quickly and easily identify all types of waterfowl with this three-part folding guide series. Focusing on shape, color pattern, markings, behavior, habitat, and the "where's the white" technique, these handy waterproof guides will show you what to look for and how to identify waterfowl at a glance.

Member Price: \$7.16 each



## New Book

### As the Condor Soars: Conserving and Restoring Oregon's Birds

by Susan M. Haig, Daniel D. Roby, and Tashi A. Haig

Start 2023 with an inspiring read that focuses on the role that ornithologists have played in research, management, and conservation across the state over the past century. **As the Condor Soars** presents engaging essays about the efforts scientists have made, and continue to make, to reduce the decline of Oregon's bird species and restore their habitats. These essays convey that there is hope for species recovery—despite environmental threats—when scientists and the public work together.

Member Price: \$35.96

## PNW Pick

### Ronna Fujisawa

The Nature Store is always sourcing new products made in the PNW, and loves to support our local community.

Ronna Fujisawa is a Portland-based watercolor and mixed media artist who has a unique ability to capture the essence of each species she paints, and make her artistic creations sing. Check out her cards, prints, and stickers in the Nature Store, or take one of her digital or in-person art classes with Portland Audubon, too!

Signed Art Notecards

Member Price: \$7.20







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.



Dark-eyed Junco, photo by Rick Leche.

## Thank You For Your Support!

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who made a gift during this holiday season and throughout the past year. Your generosity is protecting Oregon's birds, wildlife, and wild places. Because of you, people are coming together to protect and connect with nature. We had an incredibly successful 2022, and we look forward to building on that success in 2023. **From the entire staff, thank you and we appreciate you!**

### GET IN TOUCH

#### Administration Offices

503-292-6855  
Open M-F, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Subject to change; call before  
you visit.

#### Wildlife Care Center

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

**On the Cover:** Bob Sallinger, photo by AshlieRené Gonzales.

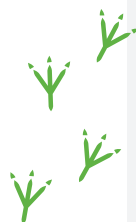
**On the Inside Cover:** Black Oystercatcher, photo by Molly Sultany;  
Summer Camper, photo by Ali Berman; James Davis, photo by Mike  
Houck; Red-tailed Hawk, photo by Tara Lemezis.

#### Nature Store & Interpretive Center

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

#### Wildlife Sanctuary

Dawn to dusk every day



## Birdy Brain Buster!

**What are ways everyone can reduce the number of birds who hit windows?**

- A. Install or apply decals, netting, tape, DIY paint or stencils to windows.
- B. Apply naturescaping solutions, like moving large houseplants away from windows or making sure bird feeders and baths are far from (>30 feet) or close to (<3 feet) windows.
- C. Turn off unnecessary lights overnight and ensure outdoor lighting is shielded and aimed down.
- D. All of the above.

Visit our website for more ways to reduce window strikes.



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