



## Coastal Birds Face a Growing Threat: Wildlife Disturbance



Yellow-headed Blackbird, photo by Tara Lemezis.

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# It's Been a Year!

by Stuart Wells, Executive Director

Hello, Portland Audubon Community. It has been a year since I began serving as executive director of this incredible organization. I want to share with you all a few of my thoughts about Oregon and Portland Audubon. I have found Oregon a magnificent state, verdant and scenic everywhere I look. There are places that I still want to explore, and I look forward to experiencing all that Oregon has to offer in the coming years. In the Warbler issue one year ago, I talked about the importance of celebrating the accomplishments of this organization. I marvel at all that we have achieved, and I am endlessly impressed by the passion and dedication of our team members, volunteers, members, donors, and activists.

As an organization, we have worked throughout this beautiful state since our founding to maintain essential habitats for bird species and all wildlife, recognizing that people have a critical role in this endeavor. I'm proud to help continue our work to preserve coastal shores, maintain old-growth forests, protect and restore the grasslands and wetlands of eastern Oregon, and continue to help make the Portland Metro Area the greenest in the country. Our outdoor education programs for youth and adults provide opportunities for all communities to experience birding and the beauty of nature and learn the importance of caring about the land we rely upon. None of these accomplishments could have occurred without you. Thank you for your continued dedication and support of our mission.

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# Coastal Birds Face a Growing Threat: Wildlife Disturbance

by Allison Anholt, Coastal Community Science Biologist

Oregon Coast beaches show many seasonal trends. In the spring, breeding birds seeking safe, quiet places with abundant food resources return to the coast to nest and raise young on the sand and rocks, beginning breeding in April or May and ending in August. Among these are birds that many Oregonians, even those that don't identify as birders, know and love: artwork all over coastal towns depicts the Tufted Puffin, Common Murres gather in massive nesting colonies that are easy to view, and Black Oystercatchers have such loud voices you can't help but notice them. But other species depend on our beaches and aren't so easy to notice. For example, threatened Snowy Plovers are perfectly adapted to spending their entire lives in the narrow stretch between the high-tide line and the dunes on open, sandy beaches.

After Memorial Day, the Oregon Coast sees another seasonal trend. Vacation season kicks off smack dab in the middle of the breeding season for these birds, at a very vulnerable time, when eggs and chicks are most subject to disturbance by people. Disturbance means the action of intentionally or unintentionally keeping birds away from their nests or chicks. Forms of disturbance include tidepooling; flying drones, kites, or paragliders; bringing dogs to the beach; or even hiking in the sand in the wrong spot—basically, a lot of the fun things we like to do at the beach! The vulnerable birds that use our coastline have evolved over thousands of years to deal with the hazards of near-constant wind, rip tides and storm surges, hot and cold weather, and predators stealing eggs and young. Only in the last century have they had to deal with a high volume of

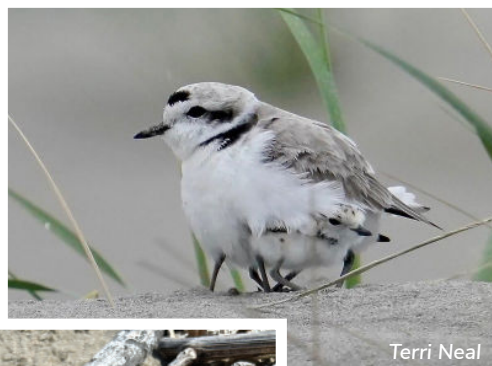
people recreating directly within their nesting areas. To a bird, a dog mimics a coyote, a natural predator. Kites or drones remind them vaguely of aerial predators like Peregrine Falcons or Great Horned Owls. Vehicles driving on beaches become an extra hazard to sand-nesting birds like Snowy Plovers because the chicks can fall into tire tracks and often can't scramble out fast enough to avoid another vehicle. Even less active forms of recreation such as tidepooling or hiking in nesting areas can result in nest failures. Nests are well camouflaged, speckled eggs and chicks can be near invisible, and thus all are at risk of accidental trampling.

In addition to the risk of injuring or killing an adult, chick, or nest, with these actions, disturbance takes a more insidious form. When presented with disturbance, birds will initiate a fight-or-flight response—they may fly or walk away from their nest, hoping that camouflage prevents the nest from being spotted, or they may perform elaborate distraction displays in an effort to lure the perceived predator away from the nest or brood of chicks. Either response takes energy and attention, which allows “real” predators access to the eggs or chicks. Crows, ravens, and gulls in particular are extremely intelligent and readily take advantage of an easy meal. Nearly two-thirds of all nests monitored in our Snowy Plover Patrol program fail due to predation, even on beaches with relatively few people. Too many disturbance interactions can cause entire colonies of seabirds like Common Murres to collapse, or fail, for the breeding season. This can have not only immediate impacts, but long-term consequences for the entire population.

Because the height of the breeding season coincides with the busiest tourist season, we have an obligation to share the beach. We have a right to enjoy vacations with our families, just as these birds have a right to raise their families. So how can we all successfully use the same space?



Allison Anholt



Terri Neal



Allison Anholt

Black Oystercatcher chicks camouflaged on rocks; Snowy Plover protecting young; Camouflaged Snowy Plover nest.

**Obey Signage and Posted Rules:** Fortunately for people, birds are not equally distributed across the entire coastline. Snowy Plovers, for example, are far more likely to be at river inlets and in areas where the beach is particularly wide and flat. Most of these areas are protected by the Habitat Conservation Plan, a legal document outlining the path forward to increasing their population and de-listing these birds from the Endangered Species Act. These areas stretch in small sections across fifteen sandy river inlets on the Oregon Coast, each of them marked by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) with diamond-shaped signs restricting human recreation to passive

forms such as hiking or horseback riding in the wet sand, where plovers won't nest. Black Oystercatchers, conversely, only nest on rocky outcroppings. New this season, Portland Audubon and partners at OPRD and U.S. Fish and Wildlife have worked to design signs that will be placed near particularly vulnerable Black Oystercatcher nests, identified by volunteers in our Black Oystercatcher Monitoring Program, in order to reduce human disturbance.

**Leash Your Dog:** Since birds don't read signage (though we wish they would!), we can't predict exactly where they will show up and protect all possible areas. Dogs not only mimic coyotes and scare adults, they use their powerful noses to scout out camouflaged eggs

and chicks. Other wildlife also benefit from leashed dogs: flocks of migratory shorebirds, creatures found in tidepools and on the tideline, and loafing seals.

**Pay Attention to Signals:** If you see a bird running or flying around you and peeping, be alert! This distraction display is performed only if you're right next to a nest or a chick. If you see this behavior, try to back away carefully (while looking down at your footprints!) and give them a buffer of at least 100 feet.

**Take Trash with You:** Crows, ravens, and gulls are just as happy to raid bird nests as they are to eat trash left by people. Trash on beaches attracts these predators and results in a disturbance response.

As you recreate this summer, please think of the birds that depend on our coastline. Our resident breeding birds thank you!

# Minimizing Drone Impacts to Wildlife in Oregon State Parks

by Joe Liebezeit, Interim Statewide Conservation Director

It's been over a year since our last update on the process to regulate Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or "drones") in Oregon's state parks. For some quick background, during the 2021 legislative session, a bill was passed that instructed Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to develop rules for drone takeoff and landing on lands they manage, which includes over 200 parks as well as the entire ocean shore. This presented a golden opportunity to better manage drone use in lands OPRD manages. An important nuance is that regulations only apply to takeoff and landing locations. The FAA has separate regulations for drones while airborne.

The Oregon Coast supports over one million nesting seabirds and shorebirds, including endangered species like the Snowy Plover. The iconic sight of 60,000 Common Murres on Yaquina Head is one spectacular example of the importance of our coast to nesting birds. At the same time, people love to visit the coast, and visitation is steadily increasing. In recent years recreational drone use has skyrocketed, reflecting a nationwide trend. This in turn has led to increasing disturbances to birds,

marine mammals, and other wildlife. Such disturbances have been documented to negatively impact nesting success of many bird species. In one dramatic case in California recently, a drone crash caused an entire colony of 3,000 Elegant Terns to abandon 1,500 active nests. In addition to wildlife impacts, drone usage can negatively impact the peaceful, safe, and private experiences visitors to state parks and the coast seek when exploring and enjoying Oregon's natural places.

Unfortunately, the process got off to a rocky start as the initial Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) put together by OPRD inexplicably did not include representatives from Oregon conservation organizations, recreational user groups (other than drone users), or Tribal nations, who all have interests affected by the rule. In addition, the RAC did not include representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge. OPRD then belatedly included

Portland Audubon and Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition on the RAC for the second meeting, but by then the damage was done, with draft rules slanted significantly toward pervasive usage of drones on park lands. After public outcry and a brief but effective campaign, OPRD decided to pause the RAC process and formed a working group to start the process over from scratch.

The working group (which includes Portland Audubon) comprises a good balance of conservation, agency, drone, and other recreational stakeholders. This group met last summer several times to develop criteria to decide where drones should be prohibited permanently,

seasonally prohibited, or allowed on park lands. We have made progress as part of the working group, and draft criteria currently prohibit drone takeoff and landing in areas that contain state or federally protected species, areas sharing borders with existing protected areas, and where they would pose risk for other uses. Seasonal restrictions would apply in areas where wildlife concentrate for migration, breeding, or wintering, with drones prohibited when wildlife is most vulnerable (e.g., during nesting season).

The working group will meet at least one more time to finalize draft criteria. Portland Audubon is pushing for the strongest criteria to narrow usage of drones to places where wildlife impacts would be negligible.

The devil will be in the details, though. OPRD staff are developing maps that will delineate these prohibited, seasonally prohibited, and allowed drone use areas based on the criteria. Once the maps are completed (likely late summer or fall), the working group will review them and make adjustments. However, there is currently no formal period that would allow public review of and comment on these drafts. We are currently working with OPRD leadership to allow this critical public engagement. All Oregonians deserve a say in drone usage in their state parks and on the ocean shore. Stay tuned for opportunities to help guide responsible drone usage on state park lands.



# A Cautionary Tale: Why We Shouldn't Rehab Wildlife at Home

by Stephanie Herman, Wildlife Care Center Manager

One of the first admissions after our reopening was a nest of House Finches. These four little finches were separated from their parents when their nest tree was shipped from one nursery to another. The receiving nursery's employees noticed the nest and took them in. Because our center was temporarily closed and they weren't able to take the birds to another rehab facility, the rescuer did their best to provide care. But taking care of wild animals is complex and requires skills, facilities, and equipment not available to the general public. This meant that by the time the babies arrived at our hospital, they were suffering from complications from the at-home care they received. The good news is that as of this article, all four are still with us, and we are working hard to help them grow up into the beautiful birds they are meant to be!

This is a common story right now, as Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center is such a unique resource in our community—our closure meant that many folks struggled to find options for injured and orphaned wildlife, even while our region's other wildlife hospitals worked to fill the gap. In these situations, kind-hearted people do the best they can, and we're so grateful to have so many like-minded people who won't just stand by when animals need help. But there are reasons that caring for wildlife without a permit is illegal, and there are very real consequences for trying to do these things at home. Some of these consequences are reversible, and some are not.

I wanted to write this article to explain, but I want to stress I am not calling out the rescuers who brought the little finches in. They did the right thing by bringing them in as soon as they could! But even when we're open, we often run into the misconception that raising wild animals is a "good lesson" for children or otherwise can and should be tackled at home if you happen to have the time and enthusiasm for it. I'm sure it doesn't hurt that wild animals are fascinating and young animals are often adorable, and many things appear simple when you don't realize what you don't know.

So let's use diet as an example. Most songbirds feed their babies invertebrates regardless of what those species eat as adults. They often prioritize invertebrates high in calcium and taurine, like spiders and certain caterpillars, but this isn't universal—all sorts of species have unique dietary niches. Mealworms, waxworms, and other commercially available insects aren't the same nutritionally as the wild insects, and feeding just these insects results in imbalances that can cause deformities, especially in a young bird's bones and feathers.

In addition, because insects are high in protein and decently high in fat, a lot of internet sources recommend feeding certain dog or cat foods, which is what the rescuers of these little birds read. This is almost universally a terrible idea; pet foods are not nutritionally the same as insects and they usually contain ingredients birds can't digest well. That makes sense—our pets are domestic, they are mammals, they have lived on human-designed foods for generations, and their natural diet isn't insects. While certain pet foods can be used in wildlife rehabilitation for



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Caring for wildlife isn't a simple matter of choosing the right food—you need to be able to identify the species and adjust the animal's care based on a thorough understanding of their natural history, diagnose medical issues, avoid imprinting, keep yourself safe from any diseases, and understand the natural history well enough to protect the animal from the impacts of captivity.

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certain species, they aren't all the same and they aren't nutritionally complete on their own. That means they can and do make young birds sick, and can lead to improper development or even death.

In this case, House Finches are far different even from other songbirds. House Finch parents regurgitate food for their young, consisting of 98% plant material including hulled weed seeds as well as tree buds or other new plant growth. Because these seeds have been swallowed by the parents before they are fed to the babies, they are also moistened. This means that House Finch babies cannot survive when fed in the same way and with the same foods as many other songbirds. Because these babies were fed pet food for about 10 days, they arrived thin and dehydrated, and had gastrointestinal symptoms like diarrhea. The effects of this type of malnutrition don't all show up right away, and we often see impacts on the feathers and long bones after the birds fledge. It's a good sign that the birds are stable now, but we won't know for a couple weeks whether any long-term harm has been done.

Diet is only one component of care, and this is just a glimpse of how complex treatment really is—I didn't even touch on feeding technique, frequency, or amount. Baby wild animals need to be kept in special enclosures to prevent injury, feather damage, contamination, and foot problems. They need species-specific medical



care and parasite treatments, and most importantly, they need extremely specialized and hands-off care to keep their wild instincts intact and allow them to learn skills they will need to survive in the wild. Wild animals can also carry illnesses that can pass to humans and pets, and protecting yourself from these illnesses is crucial not only to your personal health, but also to the health of the community. Remember: epidemics and pandemics are often triggered by unsafe contact between people and wild animals. Every single one of these aspects is as complex or more complex than the question of what to feed a baby bird, and they will be different for every single species.

Please understand that if someone is posting instructions on how to care for wild animals on the internet, they aren't a reliable source. This is because caring for wildlife isn't a simple matter of choosing the right food—you need to be able to identify the species and adjust the animal's care based on a thorough understanding of their natural history, diagnose medical issues, avoid imprinting, keep yourself safe from any diseases, understand the natural history well enough to protect the animal from the impacts of captivity. Professional rehabbers understand this and know that if you have the proper training to care for wild animals, you won't be looking for care advice through an online search. Providing Good Samaritans a fraction of the information they need only puts them and the animals at greater risk.

So please, if you find an injured or ill wild animal, get them to a wildlife rehabilitator right away. Don't try to feed or care for them yourself—give them the best chance of survival by getting them to the professionals. **Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center is open 365 days a year, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** Even on holidays and weekends, we're here to help!

# Name Change: A Summer of Listening

by Ali Berman, Communications and  
Marketing Director



As you saw in our last Warbler, Portland Audubon is going through a name change process, taking steps to move away from the name “Audubon” and toward a name that better communicates our mission and values. We’re excited about the possibilities and can’t wait for the day we get to debut our new name to the world—likely in the early winter.

In order to make sure we find a name that best reflects this incredible community—our 12,000 members, 500 volunteers, staff, donors, partners, and the thousands of Oregonians we haven’t yet connected with—we plan to spend the summer listening to community feedback.

Portland Audubon has always been a community-based organization, powered by the passion and support of those who care deeply about birds, habitat, and connecting people to nature. We know that we need your voices to find a name that encompasses all that we do. We also know that we haven’t reached everyone yet, and this is a prime opportunity to hear from groups that are underrepresented in our community, like communities of color, people under 35, and rural communities.

This summer, we’re launching a community engagement strategy to make sure we hear from as many people as possible. Whether it’s tabling at Sunday Parkways in the Cully neighborhood, advertising in culturally specific newspapers or papers in rural areas, meeting with partners across the state, or hosting open houses in the Portland metro area, we want to offer a wide range of ways for people to provide their feedback.

While our name change committee was working on our summer listening strategy, we wanted to make sure we found an immediate way to capture the thoughts of people already in our flock, like our members and volunteers. So, in late April we launched an online survey. You all spoke loud and clear. In the first few weeks of the survey being launched, we got over 1,350 responses! As an organization whose work includes conservation, education, wildlife rehabilitation, land stewardship, and increasing equitable access to nature, we know the task of finding a name is no small feat. The information we gather from this survey and all our other listening sessions over the summer will be essential to finding a name we can all be proud of.

If you want to take the survey, or find out more about other opportunities to share your feedback on our new name, visit: [audubonportland.org/about-us/name-change/](https://audubonportland.org/about-us/name-change/)

We look forward to sharing our findings with you, and bringing you with us on our name change journey.

**TAKE OUR SURVEY!**



# Public Urges Board of Forestry to Move Forward with Protections

by Joe Liebezeit, *Interim Statewide Conservation Director*

There was a great showing of the conservation community at the June 7 Board of Forestry meeting in Sisters, Oregon, testifying to urge the board to move forward with the Western Forests Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP): 78 people commented on the HCP, with 55 people in support and 23 opposed. That's 71% of comments in support of the HCP. Public participation has been critical in this process—the timber industry has aggressively campaigned to derail the draft HCP due to unfounded claims that it will lead to fewer jobs and decreased timber revenue. According to the Department of Forestry, the HCP would increase timber jobs by at least 10% in Clatsop County, and more than 40% in Tillamook County over the duration of the 70-year plan. The Board of Forestry is set to vote on approving the draft HCP at their November 2023 meeting.

The geography of concern for this plan primarily includes the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests, which stretch across more than 500,000 acres in northwest Oregon. Between Portland and the coast, these forests contain some of the region's last remaining wild rivers, popular recreation opportunities from hiking to fishing, as well as important nesting areas for endangered bird species like the Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl that are barely hanging on in these places. These forests have been hammered by clear-cuts. A lot of this harvest has occurred on steep slopes, which typify these forests, and has led to water quality issues that impact drinking water and endangered salmon populations.

The draft HCP offers a step in the right direction by providing better protection of water and habitats while still allowing sustainable timber harvest. The plan would conserve important wildlife and recreation corridors, including the Nehalem River, Kings Mountain, and the Wilson River. All salmon streams will have wider forested buffers, and in Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) that would cover 35,000 acres. Habitat Conservation Areas (HCAs) in upland areas covering 275,000 acres would be established with the goal of creating more complex forested habitat with larger trees



Northern Spotted Owl, photo by Frank D. Lospalluto.

beneficial for listed species like the owl and murrelet. About 50% of these forests would have these new protections and management goals. Outside of these areas, the timber industry would be able to conduct business as usual with fewer costs and constraints through "incidental take permits," which streamlines their ability to harvest trees.

We hoped the HCP would go further to provide protections. For example, in Washington's Trust Lands HCP, average riparian zone buffers are wider compared to what is proposed in Oregon. Despite this, we recognize this is a compromise that is years in the making and will move in the direction of securing needed protections for habitats, wildlife, and fish while ensuring safe drinking water, moving toward carbon sequestration goals, and providing economic security for local communities.

The adoption of the HCP is important but will not be a cure-all, and we will continue to watch how the plan is implemented. Every year ODF comes out with Annual Operating Plans (AOPs) that detail where and how they plan to harvest. We will track these annual harvest plans to ensure they are in line with HCP goals. For example, harvest will still be allowed in some HCAs, but it must be done in a way that creates high-quality habitat.

For now, we continue to push to ensure that the HCP is voted through by the Board of Forestry in November. Thank you for your public comments that have gotten us this far. Stay tuned for public comment opportunities in the coming months to help us cross the finish line!

# Grand Ronde and N8tive Club Engage in Cedar Pull at Sanctuary

by Ali Berman, Communications and Marketing Director

There's a common myth, one that's perpetuated by the environmental movement, that people and the natural world are separate. That what many call "wilderness" is land that's never been touched by people. The underlying assumption that comes from this myth is that people are intruders on the landscape, instead of part of an integral and ongoing relationship with forests, wetlands, mountains, ocean, and desert.

In February, as we walked around the Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary with staff from the Cultural Resources Department of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde—David Harrelson, Greg Archuleta, Jesse Norton, and Annaliese Ramthun—the fallacy of this myth came up again and again. Whether Greg was looking at hazel plants and sharing how Willamette Valley Tribes work with them to inspire new growth that's later used in basketry, or talking about the extensive relationship with first foods like red huckleberry, the deep and long-standing relationship between people and the wild was everywhere.

It was from this conversation that an idea was born: to help educate the public about the thousands-year-old relationship between Tribes and land, we would partner on a cedar pull at the Wildlife Sanctuary. What's a cedar pull? A long strip of bark is expertly removed from the trunk of a western red cedar, the outer bark is separated by knife, leaving the cambium layer (the layer just inside the bark), and this inner layer is wrapped to dry and set for a year before being made into tools and art, like baskets, mats, and headpieces.

Greg Archuleta saw the opportunity to make another connection: turn it into a hands-on learning opportunity for kids in the N8tive Club at Whitfield Middle School in Beaverton. In late May, an optimal time for the health of the tree to do a cedar pull, six students came out to the sanctuary with Gary Westley, Title VI American Indian/Alaska Native Program Coordinator. Greg and Gary showed the students what to look for when selecting a tree, the cultural importance of offering thanks, how to do the pull, and how to then clean and treat the cambium. Once the strip of bark was down, the students were laser focused. They worked as a team for more than an hour, practicing their knife skills and learning to work the bark so only the inner layer remained. A year from now, once





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Gifting our students the opportunity to connect with land through the traditional lifeways practice of ‘pulling cedar’ provided them with a more meaningful understanding and respect for the landscape. - Gary Westley

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the cambium has dried, those same kids will return and learn to make tools from the material they harvested.

“Gifting our students the opportunity to connect with land through the traditional lifeways practice of ‘pulling cedar’ provided them with a more meaningful understanding and respect for the landscape,” shared Gary Westley, staff lead for the N8tive Club. “Invoking a more profound respect for the material used to make traditional items for ceremony and everyday usage. Reinforcing positive self-images of what it means to be an indigenous person. Cultural practices are healing, and allowing tribal students to gather medicines and plant materials is a part of reconciling for years of government-forced assimilation policies and broken treaties.”

As you may remember, we’re actively working on reimagining all our signage and interpretive displays around the wildlife sanctuary. The cedar pull is a part of that effort. We’re in the process of working with the Grand Ronde to create an indoor/outdoor exhibit about the relationship between Tribes and the western red cedar, a tree of significant cultural importance. Since the exhibit will likely be ready before the cambium has set, David and Greg have generously offered to loan us an example to use in the exhibit in the interim.

“It is always great to partner with organizations like the Portland Audubon to share that our cultural traditions are still living and to get the opportunity to connect to our Ancestral places,” shared Greg. “It is a great experience to see the native youth practice tribal traditions.”

We’re grateful to Greg, and the entire Cultural Resources department at the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, for all their support, and to the N8tive Club for all their efforts to both learn and contribute to the project. We can’t wait to see the final result next spring.



## FIELD NOTES

by Allison Anholt, Coastal Community Science Biologist

# Strategies in Camouflage

The most vulnerable time in a bird's life is the nesting season. The majority of the year, a bird's focus is on themselves, but once a year their attention turns to their vulnerable young. Birds have developed an impressive array of evolutionary strategies to protect eggs and chicks from hungry predators. One common strategy is to camouflage the eggs. Eggs come in a wide variety of colors, and plain white eggs are actually uncommon. These colors don't come cheap, however—color production requires an energy investment from the female bird, who must increase her consumption of high-quality food to create that energy. Some birds, such as woodpeckers and some owls, nest inside of tree cavities, where the eggs are already concealed from predators, so they save this energy investment and lay white eggs. On the other end of the spectrum, birds



Black Oystercatchers, photo by Allison Anholt.

that nest directly on the ground are at risk of a number of predator species and must leave the nest often in order to avoid them. The uncovered nest must be well camouflaged to avoid predation. Shorebirds take this to the extreme. Snowy Plover nests can be so hard to spot that the incubating adult will actually leave the nest to keep it safe—the adults are more likely to be spotted than their highly speckled eggs, so their strategy is to leave the nest every time they see a crow, coyote, or person come along. This seems risky, but anyone who has been lucky enough to see one of their nests amongst bits of driftwood or shells can understand why!

## SIGHTINGS

by Brodie Cass Talbott, Educator & Trips Specialist

While Portland-area birding seemed a little below average for rare birds this spring, the Malheur area has had a good run of very rare visitors to the state, with reports of **Baltimore Oriole**; **Yellow-throated**, **Virginia's**, **Chestnut-sided**, **Magnolia**, **Blackpoll**, **Black-and-white**, and **Tennessee Warblers**; **Indigo Bunting**; **Cattle Egret**; and **Summer Tanager**. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was reported from Goose Lake in Lake County for good measure. And in the most tragic statewide rarity news this spring, a **Least Tern** was found at Baskett Slough in early June, but mere hours later, a number of birders watched it meet its demise in the talons of a Peregrine Falcon.

Closer to home, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Mt. Tabor was maybe the highlight of the season, even if it was never refound. A **Rock Wren** at Tabor in late May was similarly brief, while another was spotted at Larch Mountain in early June.

Other Multnomah County standouts included both **Brewer's** and **Lark Sparrows** at Rooster Rock (which is quickly gaining a reputation as a migrant trap), a **Long-billed Curlew** at Raccoon Point, **Ash-throated Flycatcher** near Company Lake, and a **Gray Flycatcher**



Chestnut-sided Warbler, photo by Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren

at Powell Butte. There were multiple reports of **Lewis's Woodpeckers**, which seem to have migrated in large numbers this past winter as Oregon oaks, which often hold them through the winter, had a near total acorn crop failure.

Fernhill Wetlands in Washington County hosted several great birds this spring, including **Forster's Tern**, **Calliope Hummingbird**, **Ross's Goose**, **Clark's Grebe**, and **Black-bellied Plover**. **Eastern Kingbirds** were reported at both Tualatin River NWR as well as Boardman Wetlands in Clackamas County.

And across the river, Shillapoo Lake in Clark County had a bevy of rarities, including **Black Tern**, **Stilt Sandpiper**, **American Golden-Plover**, and **Wilson's Phalarope**.

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 Classes

## Field Trip: The Ecology and Birds at Mount St. Helens Silver Lake

July 14 | 1-4 p.m.

Join naturalist Gina Roberti on an ecology and birding tour of Silver Lake at the Mount St. Helens Visitors Center at Seaquest State Park.

Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members  
Leader: Gina Roberti

## Audubon Birding Day: Butterflies and Wildflowers of Lookout Mountain

August 6 | 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Join Stefan for a full day of hiking, butterflies, and wildflowers outside of Hood River, Oregon.

Fee: \$85 members / \$115 non-members  
Leader: Stefan Schlick

## Field Class: Forest Therapy at Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary

September 10 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m.  
October 8 | 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join Andrea Kreiner, a certified nature and forest therapy guide, for a slow and mindful sensory journey to connect with nature at the Portland Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Fee: \$25 members / \$35 non-members  
Leader: Andrea Kreiner

## Immersive Birding and Ecology Modules in 2024

### Deep Birding Through the Seasons

March, May, and July 2024

*\*see website for specific dates and module content*

Join Candace and Dan next spring to take your relationship to nature to the next level! During three-week modules in March, May, and July, we'll dive deep into our senses, focusing on awareness and intention, careful observation, inspired field journaling and basic illustration, and mindfulness. We'll begin each three-week module with an evening class to orient ourselves to the rhythm of the season, followed by weekly field days in a variety of local natural areas. You can sign up for individual modules, or join us for the full nine-week course at a savings.

Fee:

Single Module: \$295 members / \$395 non-members;  
All Three Modules: \$835 members / \$935 non-members

Instructors: Candace Larson and Dan van den Broek

## Willamette Valley Ecology Series

Class dates: June 12, 19, and 26, 2024

Field trip dates: June 15, 22, and 29, 2024

Gain a deeper relationship with our very own Willamette Valley ecoregion during this three-week intensive with Dan and Candace. From geology to lepidoptery with plenty of birding and botanizing along the way, we'll take a deep dive into the natural and cultural history of the place we call home. This series includes three virtual class sessions and three exciting all-day trips to various hotspots throughout the Willamette Valley.

Fee: \$450 members / \$550 non-members

Instructors: Candace Larson and Dan van den Broek

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





Oregon Swallowtail, photo by Skip Russell.

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Butterfly Series

July 10, *Butterflies! Discover Their Evolution and Life History* | 6-7 p.m.

July 17, *Butterflies of Oregon* | 6-7 p.m.

Take a deep dive into the natural history of butterflies! Discover the fascinating life history of butterflies, as well as some of the species you can find in Oregon. Please register separately for each class.

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

Instructor: Brian Magnier



### Online Watercolor Painting with Ronna

September 5, *The Cooper's Hawk* | 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.

Fee: \$25 members / \$35 non-members

Instructor: Ronna Fujisawa



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



Plein Air Watercolor, by Ronna Fujisawa

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Plein Air Watercolor Painting on Sauvie Island: Raccoon Point

July 15 | 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Painting in the open air is one of the best ways to connect with the landscape and paint in real time. Learn how to see and create beautiful watercolor paintings outside with in-person instruction.

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

Instructor: Ronna Fujisawa



### Journaling Summer Series

July 22, *Get that Bird Pose!* | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

August 26, *Suggesting Birds and Their Habitats* | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Join Jude to learn how to see differently and how to drop unrealistic artistic expectations. No art or birding experience is needed! We will explore excellent tools for recording your bird experiences, both at home and in the field. Each in-person class focuses on a specific aspect of journaling and reviews the basics. Relaxation is encouraged, and your unique style will be celebrated. Register separately for each class.

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

Instructor: Jude Siegel



### In-Person Watercolor Painting with Ronna: Shorebirds

August 5 | 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

This in-person watercolor class will focus on observing the subtle differences between various shorebirds: plovers, oystercatchers, sandpipers, and yellowlegs. Students will get to know these lovely little shorebirds by painting several small watercolor studies.

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

Instructor: Ronna Fujisawa





Pacific Golden-Plover, photo by Mick Thompson.

## CLASSES FOR ADULTS

### Shorebird Series

August 7, Autumn Shorebirds I, the Common Species | 6-7 p.m.

August 9, Autumn Shorebirds II, the Uncommon Species | 6-7 p.m.

Early autumn is the best time to see the most numbers and the greatest diversity of migrating shorebirds. These classes will introduce you to the most common and uncommon species that migrate through western Oregon. Register separately for each class.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



### The Hummingbirds of Oregon


August 23 | 6-7 p.m.

Join John Rakestraw to learn about all the hummingbird species found in Oregon.

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

Instructor: John Rakestraw



 Cost Involved

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## SUMMER CAMP



## SWIFTS Nature Camp: Archery & Wilderness Skills for 6-8 Graders!

Join us for our **Archery and Wilderness Skills** camp, where students can master the art of archery while gaining essential wilderness skills. Campers will not only learn to shoot a bow with precision but also acquire vital knowledge on shelter building, water sourcing, fire starting, and foraging for food. They will also be introduced to nature awareness techniques, learn to construct debris huts, practice Leave-No-Trace principles, engage in animal tracking, and enhance their ability to navigate and stay found in the wild.

To provide the perfect environment for honing these newfound skills, students will head to Marmot Cabin for overnight camp Wednesday-Friday. It offers an idyllic setting that complements the learning experience and allows campers to put their skills into practice.

The Archery and Wilderness Skills camp is offered on July 24-28, and August 21-25. There are only a few spots left so register today!



[bit.ly/PA-SummerCamps](https://bit.ly/PA-SummerCamps)



Brown Pelican, photo by Mick Thompson.

## Coastal New England: Shorebirds, Seabirds, and Whales

September 3-9, 2023

Bird the stunning coast of picturesque New England with the author of Peterson Reference Guide to Seawatching: Eastern Waterbirds in Flight and the upcoming book, Terns of North America: A Photographic Guide. Join Erin Law and Portland Audubon's newest ecotour guide, class instructor, and author Cameron Cox to explore from scenic Cape Cod up to the rugged and beautiful Acadia National Park. On this week-long adventure, we'll enjoy shorebirds, seabirds, and whales with a side of warblers and clam chowder!

Fee: \$3,395 members / \$3,895 non-members

Leaders: Cameron Cox and Erin Law

## Pacific Northwest Trip: The Shorebird Splendor of Grays Harbor

September 9-11, 2023

Explore the West Coast birding hotspot of Grays Harbor! From Marbled Godwit flocks in Westport to Sooty Shearwaters on the horizon, this trip will excite any birdwatcher and ocean lover.

Fee: \$595 members / \$695 non-members

Leader: Stefan Schlick

## Pacific Northwest Trip: Oregon's Wild Southern Coast

October 6-9, 2023

Oregon's southern coast features miles of rugged coastline, spectacular wildlife, smaller crowds, and the best fall coastal weather the state has to offer. Join Brodie Cass Talbott as we explore from Coos Bay to Brookings in search of alcids, waterfowl, raptors, and more.

Fee: \$995 members / \$1,195 non-members

Leader: Brodie Cass Talbott

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



## Pacific Northwest Trip: The Dammed Columbia

November 9-12, 2023

Explore the natural history of the Columbia River while we also investigate its complicated history, from bountiful fishery to major shipping channel and renewable energy hub. On this four-day van-based trip, we'll visit the dams and national wildlife refuges that have shaped its recent history while enjoying the arrival of wintering birds along the river's lower 350 miles.

Fee: \$945 members / \$1,045 non-members

Leaders: Brodie Cass Talbott and Candace Larson

## From Boreal Forest to the Sax-Zim Bog: Explore Minnesota!

June 8-15, 2024

Join Stefan and Erin to experience the stunning beauty of this area and the unique birdlife of the north. We'll visit this premier birding location in June to enjoy many birds of the boreal forest in the north as well as birds of the oak-hickory forest and oak savanna of the St. Croix River floodplain.

Fee: \$2,895 members / \$3,495 non-members

Leaders: Stefan Schlick and Erin Law



Golden-winged Warbler, photo by Bettina Arrigoni.

## NEWS FROM THE COAST

## Marbled Murrelet Survey at Cape Perpetua | July 18-19

by Paul Engelmeyer, Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary Manager

Please join us July 18-19 for the 18th annual Marbled Murrelet community science survey on a spectacular stretch of Oregon's coast! The event will start with an evening presentation by murrelet expert Kim Nelson. Kim has been engaged in murrelet work since the mid-1980s as a research biologist at Oregon State University. Her research is focused on the ecology and

habitat associations of seabirds, specifically using modeling and habitat data to help resolve wildlife conservation and management issues. Paul Engelmeyer will discuss the murrelet conservation advocacy work he's been engaged with on the central coast since the early 1990s. He manages Portland Audubon's Ten Mile Sanctuary, located in the heart of a Globally

Significant Important Bird Area for the murrelet. Finally, Joe Liebezeit, Portland Audubon's Interim Statewide Conservation Director, will provide an update on management decisions since the murrelet was uplisted from threatened to endangered under the Oregon Endangered Species Act.

The following morning, we will participate in sunrise surveys at several locations within the Cape Perpetua area at known murrelet-occupied stands. Options include helping survey at the Cape Perpetua Group Campground, in the Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary, and near Big Creek. For the more adventurous, there will be the option for a hike up to a site on Gwynn Creek. We will have trained crew leaders at all of the monitoring locations. Details will be shared at the evening presentation the night before. This is an incredible opportunity to see this enigmatic bird in one of the remaining stronghold habitats in Oregon!

If you wish to attend, please visit this webpage to learn more and fill out the RSVP form: [bit.ly/MarbledMurreletSurvey](https://bit.ly/MarbledMurreletSurvey). Feel free to reach out to Paul Engelmeyer as well: [pengelmeyer@peak.org](mailto:pengelmeyer@peak.org) or 541-547-4227



Marbled Murrelet, photo by Eric Ellingson.

## NEWS FROM EASTERN OREGON

## Malheur After Dark | July 15

by Teresa Wicks, Eastern Oregon Biologist

When seeking out some of the darkest skies in the west, Oregonians don't need to travel farther than Harney County. Located in the northwest corner of the Great Basin, Harney County is part of one of the largest tracts of dark skies in the United States. Dark skies are important for many reasons, including supporting migratory birds, but also for improved health and sleep for humans. Beyond the ecological and psychological benefits of dark skies, stars, space, and intergalactic objects inspire wonder.

From sunset to sunrise, only wildlife is allowed on Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, but once a year, as part of our partnership with the refuge and the Friends of Malheur, Portland Audubon hosts "Malheur After Dark." The goal of this program is to connect locals and stakeholders across the state and region with birds and nocturnal wildlife, like bats and badgers, through a sunset bird and bat walk. We close the night with the Oregon Observatory showing us stars and other space objects through portable telescopes. This year the program is on July 15. For more information or to sign up, you can contact Teresa Wicks at [twicks@audubonportland.org](mailto:twicks@audubonportland.org).



Burrowing Owl, photo by Tara Lemezis.

# Big Updates for Portland Clean Energy Fund on the Horizon

by Micah Meskel, Assistant Director of Urban Conservation

From humble beginnings in the minds of local environmental leaders of color, through years of capacity building and community organizing to place it on the ballot, to today as it sits on the precipice of distributing a historic investment, the Portland Clean Energy Fund has always been at the leading edge of climate justice work.

The Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) was Oregon's first-ever community of color-led environmental ballot measure, envisioned by a handful of leaders who organized a core coalition (which included Portland Audubon) that collectively embarked on a multiyear effort to build community capacity, place it on the ballot, and ultimately garner enough public support to pass it into law.

Approved by over 65% of voters in the 2018 fall election, the PCEF program invests in community-led projects that reduce carbon emissions, create economic opportunity, and help make the city more climate resilient and equitable. Embedded in the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, the program is structured to fund nonprofits to lead projects related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and green infrastructure/regenerative agriculture. It also includes funding opportunities for workforce development in each of those focus areas. Revenue is raised by a 1% business license surcharge on the largest corporations that do business in Portland. It prioritizes serving the communities most impacted by climate change and most often left out of past economic systems: communities of color and low-income communities.

As this first-of-its-kind program was developed and built out over the years, Portland Audubon, along with our core coalition of partners, committed significant capacity to shepherding the program—to protect it from attacks by corporate opponents and help inform its policy and program development to align with the

initial community vision. Portland Audubon has been especially focused on informing the development of the green infrastructure program, which has long been our urban conservation program's greatest tool to integrate nature into the built landscape. By advocating for the expansion of this part of the program, we hope to not only move closer to our climate goals but also increase wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and community health.

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The program successfully solicited and funded significant public investments through its first request for proposals (RFP), distributing \$8 million through 45 community grants in 2021. This funded projects that de-paved schoolyards and planted trees, installed rooftop solar on low-income housing, and created workforce development programs, all building climate and community resiliency for those in need. The size of this initial RFP was intentionally small to allow staff to smartly grow the program and implement accountability systems. The success of the first RFP rollout was followed in 2022 by a significant scaling that awarded \$118 million through the second RFP. At the time of development, the program's consistent

## PORTLAND CLEAN ENERGY FUND TIMELINE





Coalition partners gather in front of Portland City Hall in July 2018 to celebrate after submitting over 55,000 signatures to secure the PCEF initiative on the ballot.

revenue projections were becoming clearer and exceeding those initially projected by the advocates who crafted the program structure (large corporations are pretty adept at hiding profits).

In late 2022, following the successful distribution of the second RFP, it became clear that revenue projections were not decreasing anytime soon. This, coupled with urgency around the climate crisis and general concern that the original program structure might not have the capacity to distribute the growing fund balance, led Portland City Council to direct staff to lead a process for the community to inform changes to the program that would allow it to accelerate distribution of dollars for climate projects while retaining its original goals.

The outcome was a collection of code amendments that were ultimately passed by Council with the intent

to facilitate the scaling of investment. These changes allowed for the creation of strategic initiatives that leverage other City priorities and funding and organize the program's elements into the development of five-year Climate Investment Plans (CIP) that align with urgent community priorities.

### A Historic Investment for Climate Justice

The first CIP is slated to invest over \$700 million in community-led clean energy projects and climate solutions like tree planting to increase shade in East Portland and energy-efficient upgrades to make apartment buildings healthier during extreme heat. The second draft is currently being finalized by staff and will be in front of City Council at the end of summer. The public will have an opportunity to help finalize the plan, please keep an eye out for ways that you can help get it across the finish line.





## Looking Forward to Wild Arts Festival

by Sarah Swanson, Event Manager

The Wild Arts Festival returns to the Viking Pavilion at Portland State University the weekend of November 18 and 19. We look forward to another wonderful weekend of art and books!

### Silent Auction

The Wild Arts Festival's Silent Auction raises important funds to support Portland Audubon's programs thanks to those who donate and bid. We are now accepting donations of gift certificates or vouchers worth \$100 or more and are particularly interested in experiences with an outdoor or nature-based theme, as well as accommodations, food, and drinks. If you are interested in donating a certificate or voucher that fits this criteria, please contact us at [wafsilentauction@audubonportland.org](mailto:wafsilentauction@audubonportland.org). We will be accepting donations of physical auction items in the fall, so stay tuned.

### Volunteering

Every year an incredible group of dedicated volunteers works behind the scenes to make it all come together, and we need more people to join the team. Not only will you be part of a fun, committed group, you will help inspire more than 4,000 Festival attendees to protect Oregon's birds, wildlife, and wild places.

We will be recruiting a large number of day-of-event volunteers later this summer through Better Impact, but right now we need folks to help with planning and preparation. Committees take on different aspects of the Festival, each working as a team to make it all come together for one amazing weekend. We are especially interested in finding volunteers to learn the ropes this year and take on a shared leadership role on a committee in 2024.

### Currently recruiting for these committees:

- Volunteer Coordination
- Artist Coordination
- Book Fair
- Silent Auction

**Want to join us?** Have questions? Contact Sarah Swanson, Event Manager, at [sswanson@audubonportland.org](mailto:sswanson@audubonportland.org)



Plover Yonder, photo by Sarah Bristol.

## Here are some highlights from participants and leaders:

"At a superfund site (it was a weird place to be birding), we watched and heard an Osprey break off a branch from a tree (loud crack!) and carry it back to where it was building a nest."



"Most surprising was seeing a male Sooty Grouse displaying at Bear Springs. My first time seeing one, and what a cool encounter!"



"My favorite memory was when we all split up to find the Barred Owl at Lone Fir Cemetery. Three of us found the owl and hootie-hoed to gather everyone together. We all got a fantastic look at our team namesake for the first time ever in Handle-Barred Owls history!"



"At Eagle Creek, we saw a baby Dipper anxiously bouncing up and down on a branch, watching its parent dip in the water for food."



## Birdathon Continues to Grow

by Sarah Swanson, Event Manager

I knew that Birdathon was going great this year, but it really sank in when I had to order more Birdathon pins—something we've never had to do before. This year, 340 people joined Birdathon, around 90 of them for the first time. I love the mix of veteran Birdathoners, some who have been "birdathoning" for decades, with new leaders and participants. With their help, we are expanding the idea of what a Birdathon can be and making a place in the Birdathon community for everyone who loves birding and wants to support Portland Audubon's mission.

This year was an all-time high for Birdathon participation, and I think I know what's behind it: exciting teams created by dedicated leaders. We added some fun new teams this year with themes like Snowy Plovers, tortas and biking, and urban conservation. Creative and passionate leaders do so much behind-the-scenes work to create memorable birding experiences—thank you all for being the driving force behind Birdathon!

Of course all of this birdy fun is also an important fundraiser for Portland Audubon, supporting our conservation, education, and wildlife rehabilitation work. Passionate participants and their generous donors have pushed us beyond our goal of \$175,000. Thank you to everyone who helped us get there!

In addition to the volunteer team leaders, Portland Audubon staff across many departments step up during a very busy season to help make Birdathon a success. Thank you to all who contribute in big and small ways to make this large and complex event run smoothly. Thank you also to our prize donors and our sponsors: local companies and individuals who show their support each year for this event and our organization's mission.

I hope you'll join us next year as we continue to grow the Birdathon community. Together we'll enjoy the birds and wild places that Portland Audubon works hard to protect.

### Thank You to Our Birdathon Sponsors!



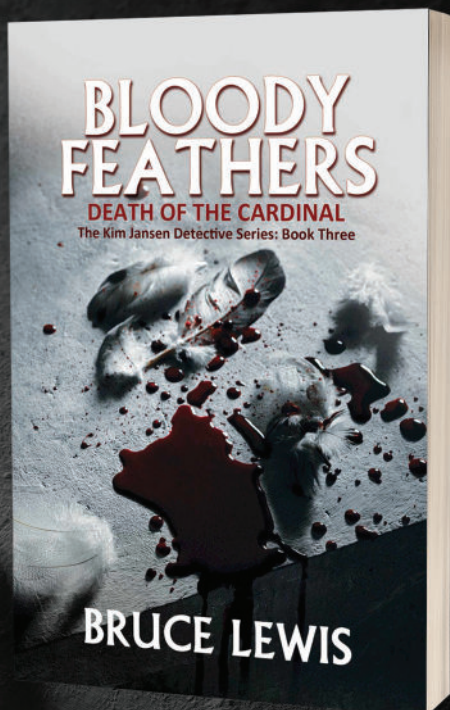
# A CRIME THRILLER WITH BIRDING AT ITS HEART

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—Ginny Rorby, past president of the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society



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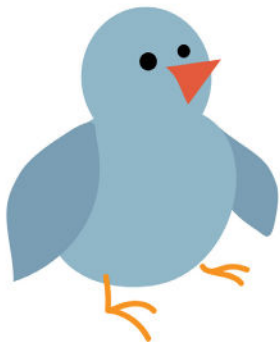
#### QUESTIONS?

Email Keila Flores at  
[kflores@audubonportland.org](mailto:kflores@audubonportland.org)

# Do Baby Birds Need Help?

In the spring and summer, baby birds are the most common patients at the Wildlife Care Center. However, many do not need rescuing and would be much better cared for by their parents in the wild. Before bringing a baby bird to the Wildlife Care Center, it's critical to determine whether or not the animal you have found needs help.

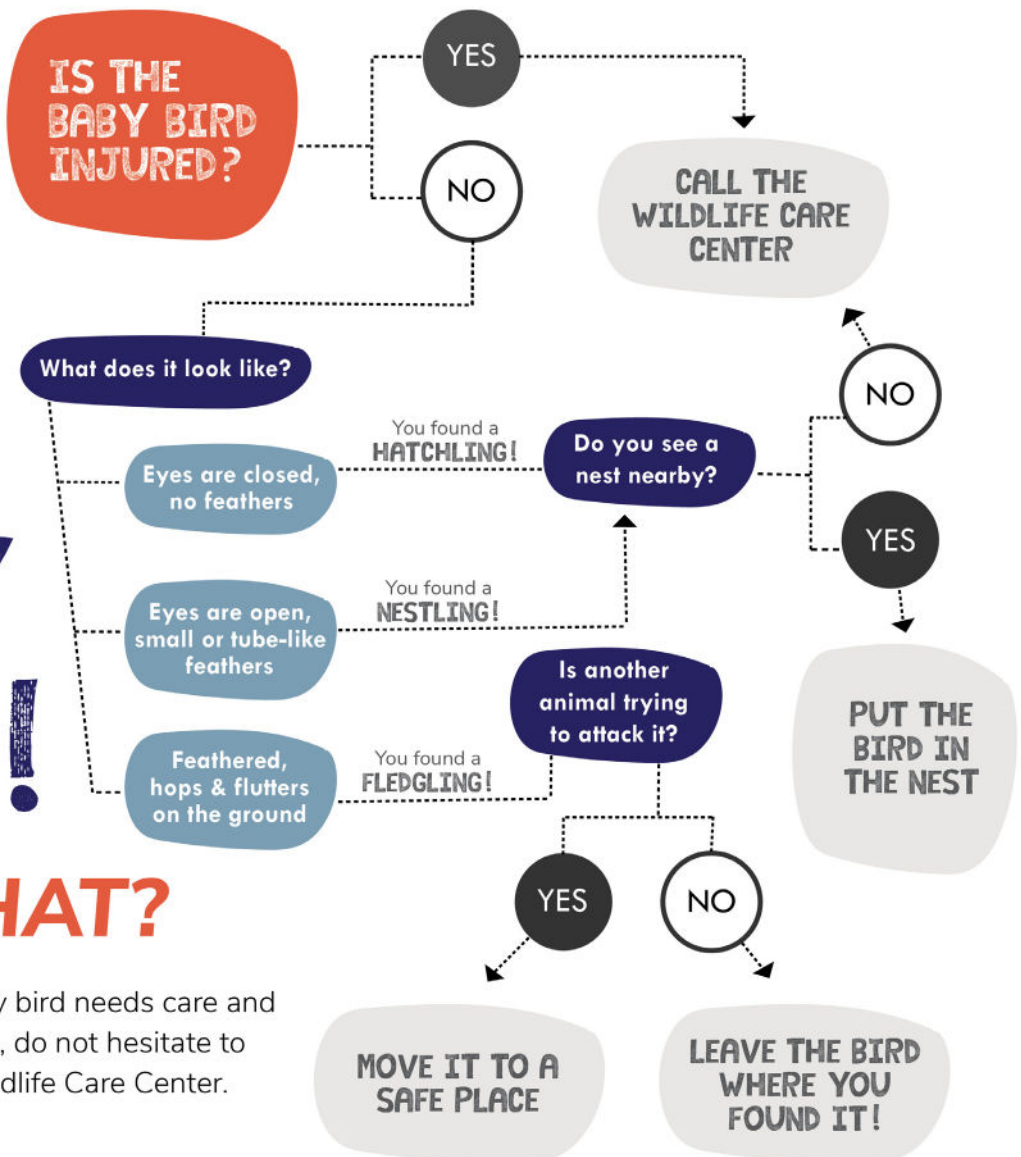
Use this handy flowchart to help navigate what to do if you think a baby bird needs intervention. If you're still unsure, call (503-292-0304) or email ([wildlife@audubonportland.org](mailto:wildlife@audubonportland.org)) our Wildlife Care Center, open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m, and our experts can help you determine what to do.



SO YOU  
FOUND A  
BABY  
BIRD!

NOW WHAT?

If you're still unsure if a baby bird needs care and you live in the Portland area, do not hesitate to call Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center.



# Do Female Birds Sing?

by Brodie Cass Talbott, Educator & Trips Specialist

A sweet cascade of flutey notes seemed to trickle down the cliffs at Petroglyph Point as a group of Portland Audubon birders listened intently. We were on day three of a five-day trip to the Klamath region and were elated to hear a Canyon Wren singing on a sunny April afternoon. Canyon Wrens are a perennial favorite for birders, as well known for their distinctive song as for their bright orange plumage and plucky behavior.

Before the bird had even finished singing, another song, undeniably similar but different in tone, answered. The male's presumed mate was duetting, singing her own version of the classic, with her own trademark style.

But according to the resources we had, only one bird was singing. The Sibley Guide entry on Canyon Wrens described only the male song, and eBird, which allows users to mark an observation with a "breeding code," had "male" as the only option for a singing bird.

This omission of the female's song is nothing new. Early ornithologists, overwhelmingly men of European descent, knew that male and female birds made calls, like alarm calls and contact calls, but considered song—a specific type of vocalization to advertise territory and attract a mate—to be exclusively male behavior.

As well studied as birds are, the phenomenon of female song was considered rare and even aberrant until only recently, when increased study of tropical birds, along with increased diversity of ornithologists, revealed that many female birds do sing and, in certain cases, just as much as the males.

Women in ornithology are now leading the charge in taking a closer look at the singing behavior of all

birds. It turns out that even in temperate climates like Oregon, female song is much more prevalent than was assumed, even if it's less common than male song.

On a visit to Powell Butte, I heard the bubbly song of a Brewer's Blackbird and looked up to see a female singing as the male listened silently. Female Red-winged Blackbirds also commonly sing, often overlapping their male counterpart's more well-known "Pumpkin EAAATer" song with their own rattle. Other species with known female singers include Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Bullock's Oriole.

And more discoveries are waiting to be made, with efforts like the Female Birdsong Project inspiring novice birders to contribute high-quality audio observations to websites like eBird (which, thankfully, has changed the breeding code option to "singing bird") and xeno-canto.

Recognizing female song can be challenging for the many species we have where females and males wear the same plumage. House, Purple, and Cassin's Finches are even more deceptive: year-old males in all three species have female-like plumage and often sing, leading to many misreported singing females.

And, of course, recognizing what vocalizations serve as a "song" can get pretty murky. If we define song as a mix of territorial display and pair bonding, then the duets of Great Horned Owls and even the drumming of Red-breasted Sapsuckers, given by both males and females, fit the bill. For a thorough accounting of which sexes engage in these displays, the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Western North America by Nathan Pieplow is indispensable—even if based only on our current available knowledge.

With growing awareness of female song, and the inherent joy of listening to any bird sing, hopefully we birders can help ornithologists finally give female birdsong the appreciation it deserves.

Women in ornithology are now leading the charge in taking a closer look at the singing behavior of all birds. It turns out that even in temperate climates like Oregon, female song is much more prevalent than was assumed, even if it's less common than male song.





Cedar Waxwings, photo by Eric Ellingson.

## IN MEMORY

## IN HONOR

Portland Audubon gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

**Charlotte Ann Brown**

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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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## Summertime at the Nature Store!

Summertime is here again, and the warm days are inspiring us to go on early birding outings and spend the evenings outdoors with a good book. Here are some products we think will be perfect complements to doing just about anything this summer!

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. 2

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



Common Yellowthroat, photo by Jerry McFarland.

## Optics Focus

### Opticron MM4 15 x 45 60mm Travelscope

Looking for a scope that won't break the bank or your back? Check out Opticron's line of Travelscopes featuring great glass in a lightweight package. Designed and manufactured in Japan, the MM4 is waterproof, comes in at just 35 oz., and features fully multi-coated lenses for a clear, sharp view. This scope is the perfect balance of weight and lens quality.

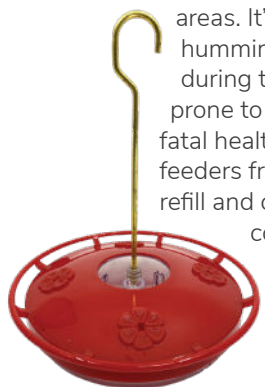


Member Price: \$878.00

## Featured Product

### Aspects HummZinger HighView Feeder

Feeding hummingbirds is a fun and simple way to engage with nature, even in urban areas. It's extremely important to keep hummingbird feeders clean (especially during the warmer months) as they are prone to developing mold, which can cause fatal health problems. The Hummzinger HighView feeders from Aspects are very easy to clean and refill and come in multiple sizes. The bright red color attracts hummingbirds right away, and the built-in perch provides a nice spot for them to sit and stay awhile!



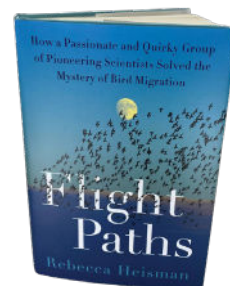
Staff Favorite!

Member Price: \$26.10 (12oz)

## New Book

### Flight Paths: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration

by Rebecca Heisman



Nature Store staff are particularly excited to carry this new book after hearing Rebecca Heisman's presentation at this year's Harney County Migratory Bird Festival! *Flight Paths* reveals the how and why of bird migration and documents the intrepid scientists who investigated this phenomenon.

Member Price: \$27.00

## PNW Pick

### Bird Mafia

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

Bird Mafia is a women-owned Portland company featuring screen-printed designs based on intricate papercut artwork! Check out our selection of tote bags, toiletries bags, tea towels, and bandanas! Bird Mafia's products use organic cotton textiles and nontoxic water-based inks.



Member Price: \$12.60-\$21.60

Portland Audubon inspires all people to love and protect birds, wildlife,  
and the natural environment upon which life depends.



## Coastal New England: Shorebirds, Seabirds, and Whales

September 3-9, 2023

Bird the stunning coast of picturesque New England on a week-long adventure to enjoy shorebirds, seabirds, whales, and warblers! The trip is timed to overlap the end of peak shorebird season and the beginning of peak fall warbler migration. From scenic Cape Cod up to Acadia National Park, you'll get a taste of New England birds, landscapes, and culture.

[bit.ly/pdxaudubon-ecotours](https://bit.ly/pdxaudubon-ecotours)

### 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.

#### Nature Store & Interpretive Center

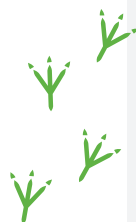
503-292-9453 ext. 2  
Open daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### Wildlife Sanctuary

Dawn to dusk every day

**On the Cover:** Photo by John Dean

**On the Inside Cover:** House Finches feeding, photo by Ali Berman;  
Cedar pull, photo by Grace Young; Edith's Checkerspot butterfly, photo  
by Frank D. Lospalluto; Canyon Wren, photo by Tara Lemezis.



## Birdy Brain Buster!

Emily Dickinson once described  
which bird species as “the  
rowdy of the meadow”?

- A. Bobolink
- B. Western Meadowlark
- C. Long-billed Curlew
- D. Savannah Sparrow