

# Warbler



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## Naturally Creative!

### GIFT IDEAS FROM THE NATURE STORE

by Nanci Tangeman, Nature Store Volunteer

Every gift is an opportunity to share a little bit of yourself. At the Audubon Nature Store you can wrap up Nature in your holiday packages. And with 100% of our profits directly benefiting Portland Audubon, purchasing gifts at the Nature Store support the programs, classes, conservation efforts, and wildlife sanctuaries that you value right here at Audubon. And remember, **all our members receive a 10% discount off regular retail prices.**

It doesn't matter if the people on your list are more comfortable on a mountaintop, at a stovetop, or sprawled on top of a sofa, we have a solution — often creative — to help you share your own passion for the outdoors.

For a friend who's more shopping list inclined than Life List motivated, we have roomy **sunprint shoulder bags** from Portland artist Corinne Hodel. Hodel creates silhouettes of hummingbirds, dragonflies, and leaves on her purses. Most carry our **Portland Audubon logo** on the back pocket — a great place to tuck a **gift membership**. For friends who'd rather make their own sunprints, we offer **kits from the Lawrence Hall of Science** at U.C. Berkeley.

#### The Gift of Time

Time together is one of the most thoughtful gifts, but how do you spend that time? Start with a guidebook like **Lonely Planet: Pacific Northwest Trips** — or **One Night Wilderness: Portland** —

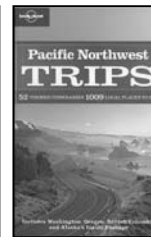


or even the card stack **52 Weekends** with its getaway ideas from Crater Lake to the Crystal Ballroom, and add an invitation to make good use of the gift all year long.

You don't have to jump out of a gift-wrapped box to give a little bit of yourself, but if you *do* decide to do that, be sure to wear one of our new 100% cotton t-shirts. **Earth, Sun, Moon's 'Advice from a Cardinal' t-shirt** ("It's OK to be a little flashy!") is **25% off** during December. Pennsylvania artist Tom Griffin's flock of cardinals in an evergreen tree comes in a festive tree-shaped box, plus we have new t-shirts and a women's fleece pullover from **Columbia Sportswear** adorned with our **embroidered Audubon Society of Portland logo**.

#### Birder's Reality TV

Let the couch potatoes on your list create their own reality TV. Our **Birdhouse Spy Cam** comes complete with a nestbox, Hawk Eye color video camera, microphone, infrared lights, weather shield, and 100-foot cable.



Candy Plant and Mike Houck model Audubon logo gear. © Portland Audubon

or three-quart "party" size or choose from our wide range of other feeders. And to prove the best things don't always come in small packages, throw in a **17.5-pound bag of nyjer thistle seeds**.



Another way to bring happiness throughout the year is with one of our **calendars**, such as **Audubon's Songbirds Calendar** with a new bird to greet you each morning. Did you share the **Vaux's Swifts at Chapman School** this year with someone special? Relive the experience with Portland filmmaker Dan Viens' **documentary DVD On the Wing**. Or give the DVD with an invitation to enjoy the spectacle together in September.

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### Hey, birders, what time is it?

## It's Time for the 110th Christmas Bird Count!

by Wink Gross, Compiler, Portland Christmas Bird Count

"I heard the birds on Christmas Day, their unfamiliar chip-notes say!" Okay, every year it gets harder to think up a new lead for this article, and it gets harder to break the record for number of species seen. But the Portland Christmas Bird Count has broken that record 2 years in a row! Last year's 173 participants found 120 species, topping the previous year's species record of 118. Can we get to 125 this year? Maybe so — with your help!

**Think you would like to do a Christmas Bird Count but aren't sure you're "qualified"? Not to worry!** We'll match up beginners into teams with skilled birders. The more eyes, the better. There's a long tradition of beginning birders spotting unusual birds on the Christmas count. People unable to participate out-of-doors can provide valuable observations as 'feeder watchers' if they live within the count circle (see box on page 10).

The Christmas Bird Count is a great way for birders of all levels to enjoy a day in the field and sharpen their birding skills. You will also have the opportunity to meet others who share your interest in birds — and to discover some good local spots to find birds. Additionally, you will contribute to scientific knowledge! **In fact, the Christmas Bird Count is one of the best ways for the amateur birder to advance ornithology: the data are sent to the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, where over the years Christmas Bird Count records have been used to study changes in bird populations and wintering ranges.**

Continued on page 10

Shopping at our Nature Store is a far cry from the concrete madness of the malls. Plan a wintertime hike through our Sanctuary or just a break in our renovated Interpretive Center while you shop. We're only minutes from downtown Portland in Forest Park. **Remember: Portland Audubon members receive a 10% discount off our regular retail prices.**

**Holiday Store Hours**  
Monday–Saturday: 10am–6pm  
Sundays: 10am–5pm  
December 24th: 10am–3pm  
December 25th: Closed  
December 31st: 10am–3pm  
January 1st: Closed

#### Snowed In?

If last year's storms return, give us a call. Many of the items here and on our website can be ordered without leaving home, shipped straight from the Nature Store! Go to [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) and click on the Nature Store icon at the bottom of our Homepage or call 503-292-9453.

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**Speak up for the Willamette on December 16th! See page 4**



**Audubon Society  
of Portland**  
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# From the Executive Director

## Past Accomplishments and New Beginnings



Meryl Redisch

As this year comes to a close, we can be proud of all that we accomplished on behalf of native birds, wildlife, and their habitats. Together, we have:

- Succeeded in instituting stronger land, water, wildlife, and human health protections by passing legislative bills that 1) ban Deca PBDE, a toxic substance harmful to fish, wildlife, and people; 2) establish the first phase of a marine reserve system in Oregon's territorial seas; and 3) increase the penalties associated with violating state wildlife laws.
- Raised the first fifty thousand dollars toward a \$250,000 Wildlife Sanctuaries Endowment Fund. The second part of the Collins Family challenge match begins now! With their pledge of an additional \$25,000 and your help, we will be another step closer to achieving consistent funding for the stewardship of our Forest Park campus.
- Reached 12,000 kids through direct educational programs, and with community partners Bienestar and Hacienda CDC, expanded our reach and adult programming to new audiences with first-time nature-based excursions to Sauvie Island and the Oregon coast.

Despite the downturn in the economy, Portland Audubon ended our fiscal year (June 30) on solid ground and expects to be in equally good standing at the end of this calendar year. This accomplishment was made possible through your direct financial support and direct actions. It happened because you shopped at our Nature Store for binoculars and birdseed, attended our trips to Malheur and Mexico, enrolled your kids in Audubon's summer camp and yourselves in the School of Birding.

We should take time to celebrate this good work... *and* still we know that more needs to be done. Earlier this year, National Audubon along with other prominent organizations published a State of the Birds report, [www.stateofthebirds.org](http://www.stateofthebirds.org), summarizing the status of avian populations nationally and across borders. In the last 40 years, nearly every habitat type demonstrates birds in serious decline, with many coastal and arid land species in dire straits.

While the report highlights the ubiquitous threats we've come to know well — habitat loss and land conversion — it also identifies other pressures that have more recently come

under public scrutiny: invasive plants and pests, ocean warming and acidification, and energy development on land and in water. The report is sobering and yet it points to ways for us to halt and even reverse the downward trend. For example, in the Spotlight on Urban Birds, the authors draw attention to the importance of "artificial habitats" as vital to the survival of many bird populations. "Creating greenspace in urban environments, landscaping with native plants in backyards and parks, adopting architecture and lighting systems that reduce collisions, and keeping pets indoors will provide the greatest benefit to breeding birds and migrants seeking safe places to rest and find food during their spectacular journeys" (*The State of the Birds 2009*, page 11).

Here are some of the things that Portland Audubon is doing locally, regionally, and nationally to help change the course for birds:

- Promoting and planting native landscaping for birds and wildlife one neighborhood at a time;
- Collaborating with a myriad of stakeholder groups to purchase, protect, and restore all types of habitats and to adequately fund conservation work in all of Oregon's communities;
- Advocating for strengthening state and federal laws that protect birds and wildlife;
- Elevating the Important Bird Area designation as a management tool for natural resource agencies as new conservation plans are developed and revised; and
- Developing a core of volunteer scientists and leaders that are trained to monitor habitat and bird health in our region's natural areas and city centers.

As a tribute to these marvelous creatures that delight us with their presence, Portland Audubon is sponsoring the Lost Bird Project next spring. This project is a collection of beautiful sculptures by artist Todd McGrain that honors the lives and loss of five extinct birds: the Passenger Pigeon, Labrador Duck, Great Auk, Heath Hen, and Carolina Parakeet. Each sculpture is cast from bronze, standing over six feet tall and weighing between 400 and 700 pounds. By bringing the Lost Bird Project to Portland, we hope to raise an even greater awareness about the fragility of birds and the habitats they depend upon. We look forward to sharing this special project and many others with you in the New Year!

# Field Trips

No registration required — show up at time and place given. Call first if indicated.

## December 12 (Sat.), 8am–11am Steigerwald Lake NWR

Join leader **Ron Escano** at Steigerwald Lake NWR for wintering birds. Should have a chance to see Lincoln's, Fox, and possibly White-throated Sparrows. Due to Steigerwald's location at the mouth of the Gorge, there's always the chance of winter rarities. Meet at the refuge parking lot off SR-14 just east of Washougal, WA at 8am. Take SR-14 east from I-205 for about 12 miles. Entrance is east of 15th Street, east of the sewer plant, and turn right just past the Columbia River Gorge sign. Call Ron at 503-771-3454 if you have any questions.

## December 19 (Sat.), 8am–11am Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens

**Doug Robberson** is your leader for this month's 3rd Saturday walk co-sponsored by Audubon and **Backyard Bird Shop**. This is the perfect place to get close views of up to a dozen species of wintering waterfowl. Call the Backyard Bird Shop (503-496-0908) for information and to reserve a spot. Beginners welcome!



## MAGPIES

...love to go birding during the weekdays. We start a little later, go a little slower, and try to keep a restroom in sight.

No December walks this year.

The Audubon Society of Portland is a member of Earth Share of Oregon. For more information, contact Earth Share of Oregon at 503-223-9015 or on the web at [www.earthshare-oregon.org](http://www.earthshare-oregon.org).



## Wild in the City Exploring The Intertwine

**Exploring The Intertwine: Wild in the City** field tours will introduce you to some of the region's most scenic and wildlife-rich natural areas and the ever-growing network of regional trails and parks. Registration for these free trips is limited, so sign up soon at [www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/wic](http://www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/wic). If you don't have internet access, call 503-292-6855 ext.112 to register. **For all bicycle and paddle trips, bring your own equipment — helmets and life jackets are required.** Directions and other details will be sent to registrants. Participants will be limited in number, so sign up early!

Note: Trip locations, including maps, are highlighted in the recently re-released *Wild in the City: A Guide to Portland's Natural Areas*, available in local bookstores and Portland Audubon's Nature Store. For more information about The Intertwine, visit [www.TheIntertwine.org](http://www.TheIntertwine.org).



Heron peekaboo on the Willamette River. © Mike Houck

### Sun., December 6th, Noon–3pm Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

Join **Mike Houck** on a bird sight and song walk around 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. The walk is a gentle two-mile stroll on a combination of paved and uneven dirt paths, with two moderate hills. More than 100 species of birds have been seen in Oaks Bottom, Portland's first official urban wildlife refuge.

### Sat., December 19th, 10am–Noon Winter Waterfowl of Valley Memorial Park Cemetery

**Mike Houck** and **Dean Markasky** of Valley Memorial Park will co-lead this winter waterfowl-viewing trip. The cemetery has documented a diverse array of birds that use the 40-acre Valley Memorial Park. The cemetery and funeral home have traditional cemetery property which also includes "green burial" areas, "natural" areas for cremation memorials, woods and wetlands, and a nature trail that winds around their 6-acre lake. Their website ([www.valleymemorialoregon.com](http://www.valleymemorialoregon.com)) has many photos of birds that use the cemetery.

### Mon., December 21st, 1pm–4pm Winter Solstice at Oaks Bottom

Join **Mike Houck** for a shortest-day-of-the-year hike around the two-mile loop at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Not only will we look for winter waterfowl, which are at their peak at Oaks Bottom during the cold winter months, but we'll also celebrate the rebirth of the sun gods as the days begin to get progressively longer at the end of our nature walk. Accordingly, we will toast the lengthening days with a post-hike winter brew at a nearby pub.



Wintertime birding at Oaks Bottom. © Mike Houck

### Fri., January 1st, Noon–3pm Ross Island Hangover Paddle

Join **Mike Houck**, **Bob Sallinger**, **Travis Williams**, and the **Friends of Ross Island** on a paddle around Ross Island to celebrate the designation of the Ross Island Lagoon by the Oregon State Marine Board as a No-Wake Zone, and the continuing effort to get the same designation on the entire Holgate Channel. You needn't have partied the night before but if you did, what better way to work off your libations of the previous night than with a brisk paddle around Ross, Hardtack, East, and Toe Islands? Highlights of the trip, in addition to a refreshing wintertime paddle, will be waterfowl, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons.



Anna's Hummingbird male. © Mike Houck

You'll also get information about the Friends of Ross Island and how you can volunteer with them and the Audubon Society of Portland, Willamette Riverkeeper, and Portland Parks and Recreation on clean-ups and restoration activities.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Field Trip to Dawson Creek Corporate Park, 8:30am (Nov. Warbler) 29		Birders' Night, 7:30pm Heron Hall 1				TogetherGreen Volunteer Event, 10am-4pm (Nov. Warbler) 5
Oaks Bottom Walk, Noon (p.2) 6 Bluegrass Live Music Jam 12:30pm Heron Hall		Nature Night: Penguins of Oregon with James Davis, 7pm in Heron Hall (p.3) 8				Steigerwald Lake NWR Field Trip, 8am (p.2) 12 Holiday Open House at the Nature Store, 10am-6pm (p.8)
Holiday Open House at the Nature Store, 10am-5pm (p.8) 13	Christmas Bird Counts (p.10) 14	Christmas Bird Counts (p.10) 15	River Plan Hearing at Portland City Council (p.4) 16	Christmas Bird Counts (p.10) (No Board Meeting) 17		Crystal Springs Gardens Field Trip, 8am (p.2) 19 Winter Waterfowl of Valley Cemetery, 10am (p.2) Christmas Bird Counts (p.10)
Christmas Bird Counts (p.10) 20	Winter Break Camps (p.7) 21 Winter Solstice Hike at Oaks Bottom, 1pm (p.2)	Winter Break Camps (p.7) 22 Christmas Bird Counts (p.10)	Winter Break Camp (p.7) 23	Winter Break Camp (p.7) 24 Nature Store closes at 3pm	Admin Offices and Nature Store closed 25 <b>CHRISTMAS</b>	Christmas Bird Counts (p.10) 26
Christmas Bird Counts (p.10) 27	Winter Break Camp (p.7) 28	Winter Break Camps (p.7) 29 Christmas Bird Counts (p.10)	Winter Break Camps (p.7) 30 Christmas Bird Counts (p.10)	Winter Break Camps (p.7) 31 Christmas Bird Counts (p.10) Nature Store closes at 3pm	Admin Offices and Nature Store closed 1 Christmas Bird Counts (p.10) Ross Island Hangover Paddle, Noon (p.2) <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	Christmas Bird Counts - including Portland Audubon's Count (p.2) 2 Kids' Christmas Bird Count at Portland Audubon, 10am-2pm (p.10)
Christmas Bird Counts (p.10) 3 Bluegrass Live Music Jam 12:30pm Heron Hall		Birders' Night 7:30pm Heron Hall 4				

NOTE: An electronic version of this issue and past Warblers is available on our website, [www.audubonportland.org/about/newsletter](http://www.audubonportland.org/about/newsletter)

## NATURE NIGHT

Second Tuesday of the month from September to May. Free and open to the public. If you have a suggestion for a Nature Night presentation, contact Catherine at [chalpin@audubonportland.org](mailto:chalpin@audubonportland.org) or 503-292-6855 ext. 129.

### Penguins of Oregon Tuesday, December 8th 7pm Heron Hall

If you're thinking, "Wait a minute, there aren't any penguins in Oregon," you're right. But we do have their equivalent family of birds in the Northern Hemisphere, the alcids or auks. Oregon has thousands of Tufted Puffins, Common Murres, and Pigeon Guillemots nesting along our coast as well as significant numbers of Rhinoceros Auklets and Marbled Murrelets.



James Davis  
© Patty Newland

These birds are regularly called "pelagic" but like all birds, they must come on land to nest, though they are as pelagic as penguins and any bird can be. But why can all the living alcids fly and none of the penguins can?

Metro naturalist James Davis will tell the tale of two unrelated families of birds evolving for the same way of life, but in different environments. He will discuss identification of the most common Oregon alcids, demonstrating some by wearing costumes. Yes, you read that right: James will wear a few costumes of the birds in question. There will also be some slides, but not just the usual PowerPoint — we mean real 35mm slides. Join us for an entertaining evening as we learn about Oregon's penguins.

## Sauvie Island Raptor Road Trip

Annual event celebrates birds of prey!

Saturday, February 6th  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Explore Sauvie Island in search of the magnificent Bald Eagles, hawks, and falcons that spend the winter on the island. On this special day devoted to raptors, experienced naturalists and hawk experts will host activities and answer your questions at four locations around the island. Enjoy guided bird viewing, meet live raptors up close, and sharpen your hawk identification skills. Hot drinks and donuts are available in the morning to keep you warm while you breakfast with the birds.

### How does the road trip work?

Begin at **Kruger's Farm Market** and pick up your event map and raptor identification guide. The event fee is **\$10 per vehicle, cash only**, and includes a Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking permit.

To reach Kruger's, take the Sauvie Island Bridge and continue straight 1.5 miles (past Howell Territorial Park) to the farm entrance on your right. Carpooling is encouraged.



Rough-legged & Red-tail Hawks © Jim Cruce

Spotting scopes and a crash course in raptor identification will be provided at each of the four viewing locations, along with naturalists to help spot the birds. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them, and dress for the weather. This event takes place rain or shine! **The road trip is suitable for birders of all skill levels, and families are welcome.**



Northern Harrier © BjornFredrickson.com

While you don't have to be an 'early bird' and get up at the crack of dawn to see these birds of prey, you should allow approximately three hours to visit all four locations.

### What will you see?

It all depends on what nature has in store. Frequently sighted raptor species include **Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, and Northern Harrier**. With a little luck you might spot a **Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Rough-legged Hawk, or Cooper's Hawk**. Spectacular **Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese, and Great Blue Herons** are also commonly seen at this time of year.

No registration is required. For more information, visit our website at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or call 503-292-6855 ext.122.

Sponsored by Metro, Audubon Society of Portland, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and HawkWatch International.

# Protecting Birds in the Backyard and Beyond

## River Plan Goes to City Council on December 16th

### Please Speak Up for Our River!

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The Portland City Council will hold its first hearing on the North Reach–River Plan on the evening of **Wednesday, December 16th**. The North Reach–River Plan provides a road map for achieving social, economic, and environmental objectives in the North Reach of the Willamette River, an area that stretches 11 miles from the Fremont Bridge to the confluence with the Columbia River. The decisions that City Council makes on the North Reach Plan will determine whether we set the final 11 miles of the Willamette River on a course toward ecological health or continue the longstanding trends of degradation and decline. The Council decision will have implications not only for the health of this stretch of river, but also for the efficacy of all the restoration work that has been occurring upstream, a drainage that encompasses nearly 11,500 square miles.

**Audubon strongly encourages Mayor Adams and Portland City Commissioners to adopt the North Reach–River Plan without significant alterations.** The Plan is the



product of more than two years of public input and intense negotiation. It spent more than six months under review by the Portland Planning Commission. While the media has focused almost entirely on the Plan's environmental aspects, the Plan also provides for more than \$500 million in infrastructure investments to help river-related industries and charts a course to finish the local trail system and create greater public access to the river.

On the environmental side, the Plan provides baseline regulatory protections for the most critical natural resources in the North Reach and establishes a system of 21 permanently protected riparian restoration sites spaced approximately 1/4 mile apart, the bare minimum needed by juvenile salmon to successfully traverse this stretch of river.

A significant portion of the cost of this Plan will be borne by the public, though it additionally requires that industry step up and contribute not only to mitigating for any further environmental degradation but

The official map for the North Reach shows how it could benefit this 11-mile stretch of the Willamette River.



Restored habitat at the Toyota facility. © Bob Sallinger

also in contributing a small amount toward ecological improvement. Industry is already pushing back strongly, arguing that environmental regulations should be weakened and that the public should subsidize an even greater portion of the costs of environmental impacts that industry has caused.

The choice before Council is stark: Allowing industry to avoid mitigating for the environmental impacts it causes will require that those costs either be passed on to the taxpayers, or that the river be allowed to degrade even further. We will need your help to make sure that this plan is adopted by Portland City Council with its environmental provisions intact. For more information, please contact Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at [bsallinger@audubonportland.org](mailto:bsallinger@audubonportland.org).

## Year-End Conservation Program Wrap-Up

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Birds tell us a great deal about our world. They can serve as indicators about the health of our environment on a local, regional, and global scale. The Audubon Conservation Program focuses on protecting birds in the “backyard and beyond,” in recognition that each of us has a role to play in protecting and recovering our avian populations. Equally importantly, we do it in recognition of the fact that every member of our community has the right to live in a place — where they have access to nature and enjoy healthy, functioning natural systems, clean air, clean water, and wildlife habitat — that can support thriving bird and human populations alike.

In 2009 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worked with National Audubon Society and other partners to release the first-ever “State of the Birds Report.” The results were described as “sobering”: more than a quarter of our native bird populations are in serious decline. The report concluded that it is “imperative that we redouble our efforts now, before habitat loss and degradation become even more widespread, intractable, and expensive to solve.” At the same time there is reason for hope: 2009 saw huge progress on many long-intractable environmental issues. For the Audubon Conservation Program, the past year was marked by many successes and the opening of many new opportunities that we hope to capitalize on in the coming months. Following are details about some of the successes of 2009.

### Backyards and Neighborhoods

- **Backyard Habitat Certification Program:** On January 1, 2009 we formally kicked off our new Backyard Habitat Certification Program in partnership with Three Rivers Land Conservancy. By year's end we will have conducted more than 200 site visits and certified more than 60 backyards totaling more than 40 acres.
- **Urban Wildlife Resource Office:** Our Urban Wildlife Resource Office responded to more than 15,000 phone calls providing callers with resources, presentations, and on-the-ground consultation about wildlife stewardship.

### Urban Conservation

- **Citizen Science:** We expanded our Citizen Science initiatives including conducting regional assessments of Peregrine Falcon nest sites, Vaux's Swift roosts, Great Blue Heron rookeries, and the first local surveys to assess the impact of building strikes on native bird populations.
- **Habitat Protection and Restoration:** We worked with Willamette Riverkeeper, Urban Greenspaces Institute, and Portland Parks to establish a no-wake zone at the Ross Island Lagoon and to initiate restoration activities on the island. We worked to develop plans to protect habitat along Johnson Creek, East Hayden Island, Clatsop Butte, and South Waterfront. In addition, we helped establish

parks in two of the region's most park-deficient areas: Gateway Green in East Portland and Nadaka in Gresham.

- **Area Plans:** We worked to develop comprehensive protections for habitat systems on some of our region's most challenging landscapes including West Hayden Island, Portland International Airport, and in the North Reach of the Willamette River. All three plans are headed to Portland City Council in the next few months.
- **Protection of the Urban Tree Canopy:** We worked with Metro to produce the first comprehensive assessment of tree protection policies across the region and worked with both the City of Portland and Clackamas County to revise and strengthen tree protection ordinances.
- **Portland Climate Change Action Plan:** In the fall of 2009, the City of Portland adopted a new Climate Change Action Plan. Audubon lobbied successfully to ensure that adaptation strategies (strategies focused on protecting resilient natural systems) were prioritized in the plan along with more traditional approaches focused on reducing CO2 emissions.
- **The Intertwine Alliance:** Audubon served as a founding and core member of The Intertwine — a new alliance that includes public agencies, nonprofits, and businesses dedicated to building the world's best system of parks, trails, and natural areas.
- **Urban and Rural Reserves:** We participated in this long-range look at how new lands are brought into the Urban Growth Boundary to ensure that protection of critical natural resource areas at the edges of our region would receive long-term protection from development.

### Statewide Efforts

- **Important Bird Areas (IBAs):** Audubon has worked with a team of scientists to identify over 100 of the most important areas in Oregon for birds as part of a worldwide system of IBAs. Just before the start of the new year, we hired Mary Coolidge for a new position focused on promoting protection, restoration, stewardship, and citizen science at these sites.
- **PBDE Legislation:** Audubon teamed up with Willamette Riverkeeper to pass the strongest restrictions in the country on the flame retardant DecaPBDE, a persistent, bio-accumulative toxin that is being increasingly linked to human and wildlife health issues. Thanks to Oregon Senators Hass and Dingfelder and Representative Cannon for making our state a safer place for birds and people alike!
- **Raptor Protection Legislation:** We teamed up with Oregon Hunters Association and others to increase penalties at the state level associated with poaching of birds of prey and other wildlife.
- **Marine Reserves:** Audubon worked with several partners to establish Oregon's first two marine reserves at Otter Rock near Depoe Bay and Redfish Rocks off Port



Peregrine Falcon guarding young on Interstate Bridge: evidence overhead that together we can make a difference. © Bob Sallinger

- **Orford:** Four additional areas were designated as study areas for potential future marine reserves: Cape Falcon north of Manzanita, Cascade Head north of Lincoln City, Cape Perpetua south of Yachats, and Cape Arago–Seven Devils south of Coos Bay.
- **FEMA Litigation:** Working with the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center and other co-plaintiffs, we initiated a lawsuit against the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that its floodplain programs provide adequate protection for humans and for listed wildlife species.

### Federal Efforts

- **Increasing Penalties for Illegal Taking of Migratory Birds:** We worked with Congressman DeFazio to update the nearly century-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act to ensure that illegal killing of protected birds is treated with the severity that these crimes deserve. Legislation will hopefully move through in 2010.
- **Protection for Spotted Owls, Marbled Murrelets, and Old-Growth Forests:** Years of fighting Bush administration efforts to roll back forest protections paid off when the new Obama administration remanded the Bush administration's Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and withdrew Bush administration Spotted Owl Critical Habitat Designations and the BLM Western Oregon Plan Revisions, which would have opened thousands of Spotted Owl habitat to logging.
- **Wilderness Designations:** The 2009 Wilderness Bill signed into law by President Obama in March set aside more than 200,000 acres of new wilderness in Oregon, including places such as the raptor flyway at Bonney Butte on Mt. Hood

### Looking Forward to 2010

The New Year will bring huge new challenges. In Portland, the North Reach River Plan, Airport Master Plan, Tree Code Revisions, and West Hayden Island Plan will all be headed for City Council adoption. The decisions that City Council makes on these plans will go a long way toward

continued next page

## Great Green Gift Idea! Help a Wild Thing for the Holidays

When you give the gift sponsorship of one of Portland Audubon's Education Birds, both you and your gift's recipient will know that you're helping to provide care and treatment for our resident native birds. You're also helping the sick, injured, and orphaned native wild animals that are treated in our Wildlife Care Center. Each year we care for over 3,000 native animals with the goal of releasing them back to the wild.

Syd, Finnegan, Hazel, Julio, Jack, Ruby, and Aristophanes all came to us with an injury or condition

### MEET OUR EDUCATION BIRDS

#### Aristophanes, the Common Raven

Aristophanes was taken from his nest and raised by humans. As a result, he became imprinted upon people and never learned to act like a raven. Because of his lack of survival skills, he is unreleasable.



Aristophanes  
© Deanna Sawtelle

#### Syd, the Red-tailed Hawk

On one of her first flights after leaving the nest, Syd was struck by a car and her right wing was fractured; it did not heal properly and she can only fly a few feet. Syd would not be able to survive in the wild and has lived in the Wildlife Care Center since 1992.



Syd © Ken Barron



Finnegan © Chuck Nakell

#### Finnegan, the Peregrine Falcon

Finnegan came to the Wildlife Care Center as a nestling in 2000. He was removed from his nest by a wildlife biologist, who discovered that he has a deformed foot that would make him unable to hunt effectively in the wild.

#### Hazel, the Northern Spotted Owl

Hazel was about 2 years old in 2004 when she was found starving on the ground in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Damage to her primary feathers extended all the way down to the feather follicles, and after more than a year of effort, it was clear that she would never regain the ability to fly.



Hazel © Chuck Nakell

so severe that they would be unable to survive in the wild. We cannot give them freedom, but we are committed to giving them the best captive life possible. In turn, they act as ambassadors for their species and for Portland Audubon at our sanctuaries, in classrooms, and at events. Come to the Care Center and say hello — they are viewable daily, 9am–5pm.

Go to [www.audubonportland.org/sanctuaries/wcc/edbirds](http://www.audubonportland.org/sanctuaries/wcc/edbirds) or call 503-292-6855 for more details about giving the unique gift of sponsorship of an Education Bird.

#### Julio, the Great Horned Owl

Julio was found as a nestling after the tree holding her nest was cut down. Raised by humans, she never learned to be an owl. By the time she was brought to Audubon in 2005, Julio was 5 years old and it was too late to reverse the imprinting that had occurred.



Julio © Chuck Nakell

#### Jack Sparrowhawk, the American Kestrel

Jack was found near Hazel Dell, Wash. in 2006. At the Wildlife Care Center it was discovered that the tip of his left wing was missing. Because he is unable to fly, Jack cannot be released back to the wild.



Jack Sparrowhawk  
© Chuck Nakell

### Your support will help provide:

- Food – \$20/day; \$140/week**  
We provide a natural, species-specific diet for each bird.
- Health Care – \$175 per exam**  
Every bird gets an annual examination, routine diagnostic testing, bloodwork, fecals, vaccinations, and any necessary treatments.
- Housing – \$3,000 for a new cage**  
Each bird has a safe, appropriate cage that is cleaned and inspected daily.
- Bird Handler Training – \$150 trains one bird handler**  
Each bird handler goes through extensive training to learn about behavior, natural history, and legal aspects of the birds.
- Accessories and Equipment – \$80 buys one bird-handler's glove**  
Each bird needs appropriate jesses, perches, and traveling carriers.
- Care for 3,000 orphaned and injured wild animals** each year with veterinarians on staff 365 days/yr!

#### Ruby, the Turkey Vulture

Ruby was about 6 months old when she was found near McMinnville, relying on people for food. Probably illegally taken from the wild, she was already imprinted onto humans. As a result, Ruby would not survive in the wild and will live her life in captivity.



Ruby © Chuck Nakell

## Urban Ecology & Conservation Symposium

January 25, 2010 (Monday), 8:00am–6:00pm

Portland State University's Smith Center Ballroom, 1825 SW Broadway  
To register, go to [www.uerportland.org](http://www.uerportland.org).

**About the UERC:** The Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium (UERC) is a consortium of people interested in supporting urban ecosystem research and creating an information-sharing network of people that collect and use ecological data in the Portland-Vancouver area. The symposium is a great opportunity to learn about local ecosystem research as well as to hear keynotes from nationally recognized experts on urban ecosystems.

**2010 Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Paul Beier of the Beier Lab of Conservation Biology and Wildlife Ecology at Northern Arizona University conducts research in wildlife ecology and conservation biology that directly supports conservation planning at landscape scales. His 1988–92 study of cougars is best known for its documentation that during juvenile dispersal, cougars find and use habitat corridors in urban southern California to reach distant

mountain ranges where they become breeding adults. Since then he has worked on “missing linkages” efforts in California, Arizona, and elsewhere to promote collaborative, science-based efforts to maintain landscape connectivity on ecoregional scales. Dr. Beier promotes plans that do not simply slow down the rate of fragmentation, but actually improve connectivity for wildlife and ecosystem processes. Beier was a key member of the Science Committee that led the Western Governors Association to adopt bold new policies in 2008 to conserve key wildlife corridors.



Raccoon tracks  
© Leslie Bliss-Ketchum

### Wrap Up continued from page 4

determining whether we are truly committed to creating ecologically sustainable urban landscapes. The Portland Plan, the first update of the City's Comprehensive Plan since 1980, will also be moving forward. With its focus on “20-minute neighborhoods” (neighborhoods where basic necessities are within a 20-minute walk), it presents the opportunity to refocus and reinvigorate the City's commitment to ensuring that every citizen has real access to parks and nature. The Obama administration brings with it unprecedented opportunities to make progress not only on protecting federal lands and recovering endangered species but also a strong new federal focus on equity — ensuring that all citizens, including those within our urban cores who have often missed out on the benefits of natural resource protection, are included going forward.

We will have lots of opportunities for you to get involved — and we will need your help! Get your backyard certified as Wildlife Habitat, participate in one of our citizen science projects, or join our advocacy team. If you are already involved, Thank You! If you are not, please join us.

For more information on getting involved, please contact Ariana Longanecker at [alonganecker@audubonportland.org](mailto:alonganecker@audubonportland.org).

### Backyard Wildlife and Habitat:

## SMILE Station in Sellwood Gets Gold!

by Karen Munday, Urban Wildlife Specialist

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is happy to award Gold Certification to the SMILE Station (Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League) in the Sellwood neighborhood. Gaylen Beatty, from Three Rivers Land Conservancy and our partner in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, worked closely with the SMILE Station, their board, local neighbors, and the Sellwood Playgroup Association to make this happen. It is a great project that incorporated two days of AmeriCorps Field Crews and a work party with neighbors, and resulted in a great backyard wildlife habitat. If you are in the neighborhood, go on by and check it out!



Kids from the Sellwood Playgroup Association helped plant plants and make mason bee houses and birdbaths for the garden. © Gaylen Beatty



AmeriCorps Field Crew and Gaylen Beatty proudly show off the Backyard Habitat Certification sign. © Gaylen Beatty



# Educational Trips & Tours

## Peru

September 18–30, 2010

Travel with Audubon Society of Portland and discover the rich natural and cultural heritage that Peru has to offer. Join naturalists **Steve Robertson**, Education Director, and **Dan van den Broek**, School of Birding Educator, to explore one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world. Almost 20% of all birds in the world can be found in Peru! We'll keep watch for the many species of wildlife we should encounter including **Red Howler Monkeys, Three-toed Sloths, Black Caiman**, and a variety of butterflies.

Our journey begins in the ancient city of **Cuzco**, set in the Altiplano. The following day we descend the east slope of the Andes and enter the biodiversity hotspot of the **Manu Biosphere Reserve**. Along the Manu Road we'll make numerous stops searching for mixed-species flocks that may include antbirds, tanagers, and euphonias. Set in the cloud forest is the Cock-of-the-Rock Lodge, where we'll search for the stunning bird for which this lodge is named. We'll also keep watch for the dazzling **Golden-headed Quetzal, Highland Motmot, Dusky-green Oropendola**, and **Versicolored Barbet**.

Descending into tropical rainforest we arrive at the Amazonia Lodge, formerly a tea and citrus plantation and now a refuge to an abundance of birds. We'll search for **Red-bellied Macaw, Rufous-crested Coquette, Gould's Jewelfront, Masked Crimson Tanager**, and **Red-capped Cardinal** while wandering the trails.

We then head deeper into the Amazon Basin as we continue by boat down the **Rio Madre de Dios** to the **Manu Wildlife Center**. This elegant lodge is strategically located to take advantage of the rich forest that surrounds it. From here we will visit the world-famous Macaw Clay Lick where we hope to see **Red-and-green Macaw** and **Orange-cheeked, Blue-headed, and Mealy Parrots**. A visit to the site's **Canopy Tower** will give us a bird's-eye view of mixed flocks flitting through the treetops. While at the lodge we'll watch for **Black Spider Monkeys** and **Blue-and-yellow Macaws**.

Finally, we return to Cuzco where we'll visit Huacarpay Lake to look for **Andean Duck** and **Puna Teal**. We also visit the Incan ruins of **Saqsaywaman** and have time to explore the city and visit the local markets before we descend into the Sacred Valley. A highlight of any trip to



Machu Picchu. Photo: Allard Schmidt, Wikimedia Commons

Peru is **Machu Picchu**, the mystical 'Lost City of the Incas,' set high above the Urubamba River. While we learn about these ruins we may find a few birds such as **White-winged Black-Tyrant, Inca Wren**, and **Golden-billed Saltator**.

This is sure to be an amazing trip, taking us through the Andean mountains, cloud forests, and tropical rainforests as we experience some of the best wildlife viewing in the world and explore Peru's Incan ruins.

**What is included:** All ground transportation within Peru, 12 nights lodging, breakfasts, lunches, some dinners, local guide fees, entrance fees, excursions, and the services of your skilled leaders. A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible contribution to the Audubon Society of Portland. **Airfare to and from Peru is not included.**

**Fee (double occupancy):** \$2995 members / \$3295 non-members

**Deposit:** \$1500 required to secure your place on the trip  
**Group size:** 14

**Leaders:** Steve Robertson and Dan van den Broek

If you would like more information or to reserve a spot, please contact **Dan van den Broek** at 971-222-6105 or [dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org](mailto:dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org).

## GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

September 30–October 6, 2010

Join the Audubon Society of Portland's **Dan van den Broek**, School of Birding Educator, on a journey to the islands that Darwin made famous with his historic work, *The Origin of Species*. See for yourself the many finch species that inspired his theories of adaptation and evolution. Those who make this journey will experience wildlife as they never have before — fearless of humans because large land predators never evolved here.



Galapagos Tortoise © Dan van den Broek

While on the Islands we should see a great number of the endemic birds including **Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos Dove, Galapagos Mockingbird, and Galapagos Flycatcher**, as well as the famous **Galapagos finches, Marine Iguanas, Land Iguanas, Galapagos Fur Seals**, and the **Galapagos Tortoise** that also await us.

We'll stay 4 nights on a small (16-passenger) boat and by day visit Islands such as Espanola, Floreana, and Santa Cruz. We will go to seabird colonies where we may see **Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies, Red-billed Tropicbirds**, and the endemic **Swallow-tailed and Lava Gulls**. While at sea we'll watch for pelagic species such

as **Elliot's Storm-Petrel, Galapagos Shearwater, and Galapagos Petrel**, as well as **dolphins and larger whales**.

Our route will take us to see the **Galapagos Penguin**, and we'll have opportunities to snorkel so that we may experience the magnificent reefs that fringe the Islands and the unique life they support.

**What is included:** All lodging, all ground and sea transportation, all meals except some dinners, guide fees, and the internal round-trip airfare from the city of Quito, Ecuador, to the Galapagos. A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible contribution to the Audubon Society of Portland. **Airfare from U.S. to Ecuador and return is not included.**

**Fee (double occupancy):** \$3295 members / \$3595 non-members

**Deposit:** \$1600 required to secure your place on the trip  
**Group Size:** 14  
**Leader:** Dan van den Broek

If you would like more information or to register for this trip, please contact **Dan van den Broek** at [dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org](mailto:dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org) or 971-222-6105.

These trips are popular. We recommend that you book early.

## California Condors and Big Sur Coast

April 19–23, 2010

Join us to view North America's largest bird, the **California Condor**, in the wild! Thanks to recovery efforts made by a host of dedicated partners (including the Oregon Zoo), the population of free-flying Condors is now at 180 birds. The central California coast and inland areas offer excellent opportunities to see these majestic birds as well as a wide variety of other species. We'll begin our search in the **Pinnacles National Monument**, a unique volcanic landscape home to **Condors, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, Yellow-billed Magpies**, and **Acorn Woodpeckers**. Lush canyons of Live Oak and Chaparral alive with **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** and **Lazuli Bunting** lead us toward the High Peaks where Condors are frequently seen.

Next we travel to the stunning **Big Sur coast south of Monterey** where coastal hills of forest and grassland plunge into the sea. The scenery is breathtaking and the chances of seeing Condors at roost or soaring above the rugged coastline are very good. We'll also look seaward for migrating **loons, scoters**, and **California Gray Whales**, and we'll take walks in beautiful state parks. We'll visit the world-famous **Monterey Bay Aquarium** and take in the sights of **Old Town Monterey** during our two nights there. On our final day we explore our way back to the Bay Area in search of migrating **shorebirds, Red-shouldered Hawks**, and **White-tailed Kites**.

**What is included:** All lodging, land transportation, entrance fees, all meals except dinners, and the services of your leader. A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible gift to the Audubon Society of Portland. **Airfare is not included.**

**Fee:** \$795 members / \$995 non-members

**Deposit:** \$400

**Group size:** 9 participants

**Leader:** Steve Engel

Contact Steve Engel at [sengel@audubonportland.org](mailto:sengel@audubonportland.org) or 971-222-6119.



California Condor sunning © David Moen

## Costa Rica

March 28–April 10, 2010

A couple of spaces are still available!

Contact Dan van den Broek at [dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org](mailto:dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org) or 971-222-6105.

We expect to see well over 200 species of strange and colorful birds on this trip, along with a number of amazing mammals, colorful butterflies, and bizarre reptiles.



Keel-billed Toucan © Mike Liskay, geneguy.smugmug.com

## HOW TO REGISTER

### Adult Classes

1. Phone or email with your **contact information and the classes** in which you wish to reserve one or more spaces.
2. **Mail in your payment right away.** Make checks payable to Audubon Society of Portland.
3. We'll contact you with **confirmation of payment and class details.**

### Educational Trips & Tours

1. Phone or email to **request a registration packet** for the trips of interest.
2. Complete and sign the **Registration / Waiver Form** and return it with the **required deposit.**
3. We'll contact you with **confirmation of payment and further details.**

**Contact:** Steve Engel, Adult Education Coordinator  
**Email:** sengel@audubonportland.org  
**Phone:** 971-222-6119

**Mail:** Audubon Society of Portland  
 5151 NW Cornell Rd.  
 Portland, OR 97210

**Credit Card Payment:** We accept VISA, MasterCard, and Discover. A 3% processing fee is added to each transaction. Include card number, expiration date, and billing address, or call Steve Engel and pay over the phone.

### Gulls in Winter

**January 20 (Wed.), 7pm-9pm: Class in Heron Hall**  
**January 23 (Sat.), 9am-5pm: Field Trip**

Do you typically take a "pass" on identifying those gulls when you are out birding? If you feel it is time to take the plunge and learn some tricks for figuring out what kind of gull that is, then join **John Rakestraw**, author of numerous articles and the *Falcon Guide to Birding Oregon*, for a Wednesday evening class on gull identification and natural history. On Saturday we travel to the coast by van (provided by Audubon) and put our newfound knowledge to the test as we look for the dozen or so species that winter along our coast.

**Fee:** \$65 members / \$80 non-members  
**Class only:** \$10 members / \$15 non-members  
**Field Trip limited to 12 participants.**  
**Pre-registration is required.**

### Beginning Birding

**January 25 (Mon.), 7pm-9pm: Class in Heron Hall**  
**January 31 & February 7 (Sun.), 9am-11:30am: Field Trips**

If you've always wanted to give birding a try and would like to learn some basics, this class is for you. Designed especially for beginners, topics include finding birds, tips for looking at birds, recognizing behavior and habitats, and identifying bird sounds. Take concepts from the evening program and apply them on two Portland-area field trips. Your instructor will be **Laura Whittemore**. Laura's classes always fill quickly, so sign up now! If you miss this one, then look for a repeat of Beginning Birding in February (2/22 = class, 2/28 & 3/7 = field trips).

**Fee:** \$35 members / \$50 non-members  
**Limited to 14 participants.**  
**Pre-registration is required.**

### Trees in Winter — Back by Poplar Demand!

**January 31 (Sun.), 9:30am-3:30pm**

Are you feeling like a stranger amongst the many tree species that make up our world-famous forests? Then it's time to be introduced! Spend a day learning fun facts about common and not-so-common native Northwest trees. We'll learn many different identifying clues — from their bark to their berries and where they are growing. Knowing your trees is a great way to feel connected to where you live and, for birdwatchers, a very useful tool for describing where a bird is to your companions. We'll spend the morning in Heron Hall and then venture outside into the Audubon Sanctuary after lunch (bring your own sack lunch). Instructor is **Steve Engel**, Adult Education Coordinator.

**Fee:** \$25 members / \$35 non-members  
**Limited to 15 participants.**  
**Pre-registration is required.**

### Raptor Road Trip Rev-Up!

**February 3 (Wed.), 7pm-9pm in Heron Hall**

The Willamette Valley is home to a host of hawks, eagles, and falcons. Identifying these birds may seem daunting at first, but sorting through them all isn't so hard when you know what to look for. Join Portland's Adult Education Coordinator, **Steve Engel**, for an introduction to raptor ID. We'll learn the key field marks for all the local wintering raptors, and make side-by-side comparisons of similar species. A great way to prepare yourself for the Raptor Road Trip extravaganza sponsored by Portland Audubon, Metro, and Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife on the following Saturday at Sauvie Island.

**Fee:** \$10 members / \$15 non-members  
**Pre-registration is required.**

### Beginning Field Birding and Sauvie Island Exploration with Greg Baker, Spring 2010

**Saturdays, 8am-12noon**  
**February 6, March 6, April 3**

Saturday morning explorations at one of Oregon's most accessible Important Bird Areas — Sauvie Island Wildlife Area, managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife — continue with **Greg Baker!** This field class series is perfect for those interested in developing and sharpening their birding skills under a variety of conditions with the tutelage of an expert birder. Explore different habitats on the island, learn bird calls, and search for waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors. This workshop is limited to 15 people.

**Fee:** \$50 members / \$60 non-members  
**Pre-registration is required.**  
**Participants register for all 3 days.**

Audubon Society of Portland's

## School of Birding!

**Beginning and intermediate birders welcome!**

Winter and Spring terms FULL.  
 SUMMER (2 spaces available): Breeding bird ID and vocalizations, birds of the mountains and high desert.

**Fee:** \$360 for each term.  
*A 10% discount is offered to people that take successive terms.*  
**Class size is limited to 14 participants.**

To enroll, contact **Dan van den Broek** at [dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org](mailto:dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org) or 971-222-6105.

*See full description at [www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes/schoolofbirding](http://www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes/schoolofbirding).*

## WINTER BREAK CAMP 2009 at the Audubon Society of Portland

To register, call Sarah Swanson at 971-222-6120 to reserve a space, and then send in your registration form with payment. Spaces will only be held for two weeks without payment. All camps run from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
<p><b>Winter Forest Animals Art</b>  <b>1st-3rd grade</b>                      Create wildly imaginative animal masks and clay sculptures inspired by forest animals that live in the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary in winter. Learn some techniques for shaping 3-dimensional animals, their homes and habitat in clay. Class includes a hike exploring some of the Sanctuary's forested trails, a visit to the Wildlife Care Center, and art instruction with artist Susan Leeb. Fee: \$55member/\$65non-member</p> <p><b>Snowshoe and Hot Cocoa Adventure</b>  <b>4th-8th grade</b>                      Venture onto the snow-covered slopes of Mt. Hood on snowshoes. We'll snowshoe the White River Canyon, an incredible wilderness area, searching for tracks of Snowshoe Hare, Bobcat, and Coyote. Along the way, we'll nestle down under the trees and warm up with some hot cocoa. <i>Fee includes snowshoe rental.</i> Fee: \$65member/\$75non-member</p>	<p><b>Winter Birds of the Forest Art</b>  <b>2nd-3rd grade</b>                      Create wildly colorful, terrifically textural drawings and paintings of birds and their forest habitat in the Audubon Sanctuary. You'll also visit the Wildlife Care Center and Interpretive Center to be inspired by real animals. You can hand-print some colorful wrapping paper and go home with a gift of your art to share. Fee: \$55member/\$65non-member</p> <p><b>Cookin' at the Cabin</b>  <b>4th-8th grade</b>                      The holiday season lends itself to treats and sweets. Prepare your stomachs as we head to Portland Audubon's Marmot Cabin for a day of Cookin' at the Cabin. We will learn different fire-building techniques in order to explore various cooking methods on an open fire. Anyone for orange cakes, cookies, western hemlock tea, and bannock (bread on a stick!)? Fee: \$65member/\$75non-member</p>	<p><b>Junior Wildlife Vet 101 session 1</b>  <b>2nd-3rd grade</b>                      See description for Junior Wildlife Vet 101 session 2 (December 31). Fee: \$55member/\$65non-member</p> <p><b>Jr. Raptor Road Trip I</b>  <b>4th-8th grade</b>                      Grab your binoculars, we'll bring the scopes and treats!! Join us for a road trip through Sauvie Island as we trace the path of the annual Raptor Road Trip put on by Portland Audubon and other organizations. Our trip explores all of the Road Trip's sites in search of the magnificent Bald Eagles, hawks, and falcons that spend the winter in the Portland area. Learn the route and all the cool things that raptors have to teach us so you can lead your family on the official Raptor Road Trip in February! Fee: \$65member/\$75non-member</p>	<p><b>Jr. Raptor Road Trip 2</b>  <b>2nd-3rd grade</b>                      See description for Jr. Raptor Road Trip 1 (December 23). Fee: \$65member/\$75non-member</p>
<p><b>Singing and Searching in the Sanctuary</b>  <b>2nd-3rd grade</b>                      Get ready for a fun-filled day at the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary! We will go on a scavenger hunt, find our own natural instruments, and sing some science and nature songs along the way! We'll even make up our own special song and track one of the naturalists through the forest using our eyes and our ears! Fee: \$55member/\$65non-member</p> <p><b>Wolves</b>  <b>4th-8th grade</b>                      Experience the world of Wolves as we travel as a pack to the Wolf Haven Sanctuary near Tenino, Washington. With a Portland Audubon Naturalist as your Alpha Wolf, you will learn about these majestic predators and have a howlin' good time! Fee: \$65member/\$75non-member</p>	<p><b>Bounty of Bats</b>  <b>2nd-3rd grade</b>                      Experience these mysterious mammals of the night up-close and personal as we study bats from all over the world. We will have hands-on experience with specimens of some of the more common bats of Oregon and learn more about the myths and legends that these flying mammals have inspired. Fee: \$55member/\$65non-member</p> <p><b>Elk Extravaganza</b>  <b>4th-8th grade</b>                      Jump on board for an old-fashioned hayride as we study the Roosevelt Elk at Jewell Meadows Wildlife Preserve. Learn all about these animals as well as the other cool critters we will see along the way! Participate in an Elk feeding program and safely see these marvelous mammals up close. Fee: \$65member/\$75non-member</p>	<p><b>Winter Waterfowl Adventure</b>  <b>2nd-3rd grade</b>                      We'll search some local hot spots for birds that only visit Portland in the winter months. Equipped with binoculars, bird books, and hand-warmers, we will spend the morning in search of our feathered friends! Then we will wind up the day back at Audubon with games, bird crafts, and a special snack! Fee: \$65member/\$75non-member</p> <p><b>Junior Wildlife Vet 102</b>  <b>4th-5th grade</b>                      See description for Junior Wildlife Vet 101 session 2 (December 31). Fee: \$55member/\$65non-member</p> <p><b>Field Techniques of Animal Tracking</b>  <b>6th-9th grade</b>                      Learn to cast tracks using a variety of materials, then keep the tracks you make to start your own collection! Steve Engel and Steve Robertson, Audubon staff and lifelong trackers, will show you the tricks of the trade to ensure every track you cast is a work of art! Fee: \$60member/\$70non-member</p>	<p><b>Junior Wildlife Vet 101 session 2</b>  <b>1st-3rd grade</b>                      Join other animal lovers for a day devoted to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We'll go behind the scenes of Audubon's Wildlife Care Center with wildlife rehabilitators and find out what this exciting job is all about. Fee: \$55member/\$65non-member</p>

**Download a registration form on our website!**

**Visit us at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) for more information!**

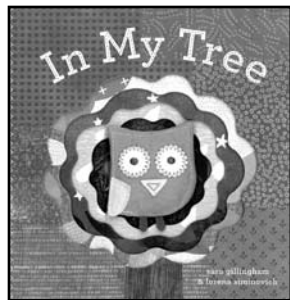
# Nature Store Highlights

by Sally Loomis, Nature Store Book Buyer

## Books are Great Gifts for Kids!

Books make ideal children's gifts: easy to wrap, easy to mail, and (usually) without batteries or breakable parts. They can be passed down through generations, or re-gifted to siblings or cousins. They are gifts that can be both environmentally sustainable and emotionally sustaining, especially when inscribed by the giver — or read aloud together. Long after grandparents or other relatives have passed on, books they gave are poignant reminders of time spent together.

The Nature Store is bursting with books both fun and meaningful, capturing the natural world either through story or nonfiction natural history. Consider these recent publications for your holiday shopping list, or beyond!

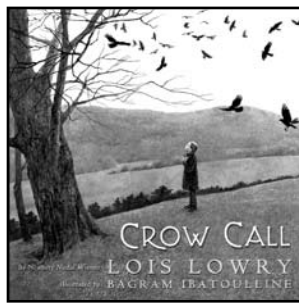
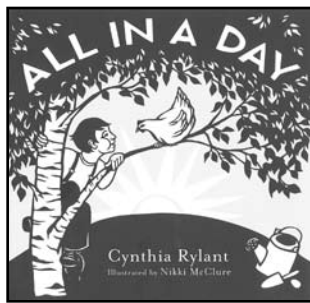


Sara Gillingham and Lorena Siminovich have created a charming series of board books for very little ones (Chronicle Books, \$8.99 each). *In My Tree* and other titles feature colorful cut-outs and a tiny attached finger puppet to show animals in their homes. Steve Jenkins and Robin Page combine animal collage

work and action-packed text in board book form for *Move!* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$7.99).

*Alphabet Bird Collection* by Shelli Ogilvy (Sasquatch Books, \$16.95) includes 26 portraits of birds from Avocet to Zone-tailed Hawk, with a short rhyme and fun facts about each bird and a musical description of its song. Here's a book that will encourage young bird watchers to learn more, and readers of all ages will enjoy the artwork (ages 3–up).

Portland writer Cynthia Rylant and Olympia illustrator Nikki McClure combine for *All in a Day* (Abrams, \$17.95), presenting a gentle, positive message about enjoying the world around you and living in the moment. It's a wonderful story to read aloud to younger children (ages 4–up).



*Crow Call* by Lois Lowry, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline (Scholastic Press, \$16.99), is a beautifully understated story of a girl becoming reacquainted with her father after he returns from military service. The illustrations are in tribute to Andrew Wyeth, capturing the World War II setting of the story. It would be an especially timely gift for any family going through separation or loss of a loved one (ages 8–12).

Older children and teens with an interest in science will enjoy a pair of titles from *Popular Science* columnist Theo Gray. *Theo Gray's Mad Science: Experiments You Can Do at Home But Probably Shouldn't* (Black Dog, \$24.95) and *The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe* (Black Dog, \$29.95) feature eye-popping photography and text that help make complex topics seem fun. Using a candy bar for rocket fuel... why not? Quantum mechanics explained on one page... no problem!



We also have a wide variety of *Dover Little Activity Books* (\$1.50), which make terrific stocking stuffers. Many different styles of temporary tattoos, stickers, coloring books, and other fun little books with a nature theme are on hand to choose from.

**Holiday Open House  
Audubon Nature Store**  
Saturday, Dec. 12, 10am–6pm &  
Sunday, Dec. 13, 10am–5pm

## Coming Soon...

As the December *Warbler* goes to press, preparation for the 2009 Wild Arts Festival is going full speed. Watch next month's *Warbler* for photos and a recap of the Festival.

# Sanctuaries News

## New Interpretive Displays Go Into Production

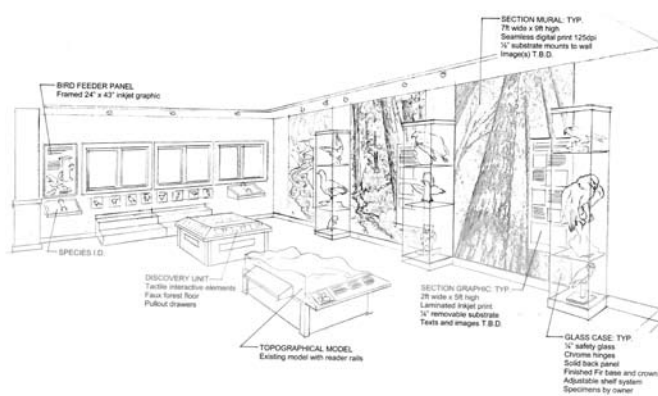
by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

In development for nearly two years, the new interpretive displays for the lobby in Audubon House have gone into production. The long-awaited installation is slated for mid-December.

The new displays include three large mural panels, each 7 feet wide by 9 feet tall! Text on the panels introduces visitors to the natural history of our forested sanctuaries and the wealth of wildlife that can be found here, and presents an introduction to many of our conservation objectives. Panels also feature beautiful full-color photographs of our sanctuaries as well as custom illustrations detailing how forests mature.

The three panels will be separated by new glass cases designed for many of our taxidermy specimens. The cases will allow for easier viewing than the wood cabinets that presently house many of our displays. A new interactive display, currently in development, is slated to replace these cabinets.

Finally, the windows that look out on our feeders will be receiving two new displays. The first is a panel highlighting practices which can help attract birds to your yard as well as proper feeder maintenance practices. The second is a pair of flip-book field guides that will be mounted under the feeder windows to help introduce visitors to the most common species of birds found at our feeders and in the Portland area.



This project has taken nearly two years to bring to fruition. Staff from each of our programs undertook a rigorous process to ensure that the new displays would provide our visitors a welcome introduction to the natural history of the area as well as our primary conservation priorities.

I would like to thank the numerous partners who have helped make this project possible: the Alice Tyler Perpetual Trust, Metro, and the Summer Lea Hillman and Juliet Ashby Hillman foundations for their financial support. The staff at 1+2 Exhibit Planning and Design have also been an amazing resource in helping to assemble the myriad text, images, and illustrations for this project.



© Portland Audubon

Celebrate the holidays at the annual  
**Holiday Open House**  
December 12–13  
at the Nature Store

We'll soon have new display cases and informational murals to enhance your visits to the Audubon Interpretive Center (see Sanctuary News on this page). The new displays are slated to arrive just in time to dress up Audubon House for the holidays.

All this month the Nature Store, the Interpretive Center, and our cozy fireplace area will be filled with **holiday cards, ornaments, and 2010 calendars**. Everywhere you look you'll see great gift ideas plus **toys, puzzles, and games** to share with visiting family and friends.

To kick off the season, we're holding our **Holiday Open House** on the **second weekend in December**. This year we'll be offering a **free craft workshop for the kids**. All weekend, volunteers will be on hand to help young crafters make **Pine Cone Seed and Suet Feeders**. When they are done, we'll help the kids wrap their creations and add a decorative ribbon and gift card. Any grandparent or teacher would love to receive a healthy handmade holiday treat for their backyard birds!

Adding to the festivities, on **Saturday, December 12** we'll be featuring a **free chocolate tasting of our Endangered Species dark and milk chocolate bars**. With bars featuring almonds, hazelnut toffee, blueberries, fresh mint, and more — plus cocoa contents ranging from smooth milk chocolate (48%) to extreme dark chocolate (88%) — you'll find just the right combination of flavors to **thrill your tastebuds**. Some bars are best right out of the wrapper, while others beg to be melted over fresh fruit or ice cream. And our 3-ounce bars are just the right size for stuffing stockings!

On **Sunday, December 13** we'll host a **free tasting of Rose City Pepperheads Sassy Berry Sauces**. These delectable treats (with a spicy chili twist) come in **mild, wicked, or wild**. All the fruit that **Chief Pepperhead Susan McCormick** uses to create these treats is grown right here in the Pacific Northwest. Take a taste of **Sizzlin' Strawberry, Crazy Cranberry, Raspberry Chipotle, Marionberry Blast, or Hollerin' Huckleberry**. In addition to the popular 12-ounce jars we sold last year, we've added mini-three-packs in 3-ounce jars for folks who can't pick just one.

Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

## In Memory

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Pete Harry</b><br>Janis Harry                    | <b>Herman "Dutch" Schneider</b><br>Jim & Jane Adams<br>Claire & Dorothy Gray<br>Garry & Karen Heinke<br>Wanda Henson<br>Debbie & Jim Huston<br>Evelyn, Joe & George<br>Schneider<br>Nancy Schramm |
| <b>Richard Bertram Herstine</b><br>Jeanne Heinemann | Jerry & Donna Smith<br>Family Foundation  |
| <b>Bev Melum</b><br>Peggy Schlegel                  |   |
| <b>Paul &amp; Marjory Squire</b><br>Paula Squire    |   |

## In Honor

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Hoa Azer</b><br>Michiko Takada                       | <b>Becky Magnuson</b><br>Kristin Sinclair |
| <b>Steve Engel &amp; Scott Lukens</b><br>Leslie Worthen |   |

You can honor a special person with a gift to Audubon Society of Portland. Your gift will help fund a future of inspiring people to love and protect nature. You can make an Honor or Memorial gift online at [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org) or by calling 971-222-6129. A songbird card acknowledging your thoughtful gift will be sent to the honoree or family.

## A Tale of Two Wrens

**Winter Wrens** are secretive denizens of the dark, damp, coniferous forests, while **Bewick's Wrens** prefer the more open deciduous woodlots and brush patches. Both are such familiar parts of these habitats that birders tend to think of them as rather sedentary creatures and not given to much wandering or migrating. This thinking is erroneous.

During the 1970s, Dr. J. Michael Scott, with the help of many local birders, surveyed the Columbia River and lower Willamette River bottomlands. Their findings were quite interesting and informative, their reports full of surprises and unexpected results. One unanticipated find was that the abundance of Winter and Bewick's Wrens in the lowlands during the winter months was far above what was expected.

Bewick's Wrens are widespread and fairly common in proper habitat throughout western Oregon and Washington during the breeding season, and somewhat common along the Columbia River and some of its tributaries east of the Cascades. In the fall those birds in exposed or less bountiful areas travel to areas better suited to overwintering. The deciduous lowlands become alive with them — especially the Lower Columbia and Lower Willamette bottomlands.

## Welcome, New Members!

Portland Audubon is a force in conservation thanks to its strength in membership, standing together since 1902. We appreciate each and every one of our members and celebrate our membership by welcoming our new members monthly. Thank you for joining our vibrant and growing community!

Cynthia G. Addams	Nicholas Menard
Michael P. Allen	Kit Minten
Amy D. Aycrigg	Charlene Montierth
Jan Babenderde	Vincent Morales
Angela Baker	Cindy Morawski
Betty Baldwin	Arthur & August Nord
Duane & Eunice Bietz	William Norem
Colin Bixby	A.S. Parker
Carole Boswell	Debbie Partridge
Linda & Jason Brauser	David Patterson
Michael Caravatta	& Kay Hart
Gail Chacon	Jim & Sue Peters
Joan Chapin	Mary Peveto
Monica & Jonathan	Sophia Pittelli
Colcord	Emmett Platt
Ben Diedrich	Marian & Fred Rauch
James Divine	Steve & Missy Reinking
Suzanne Dressler	Restless Productions
Judy & Pete Edgerly	Crawford & Laura Roach
Barbara Edwardson	Margaret Sauter
Nancy Elliott	& Matthew Krapfl
J.E. Estep	Anne Savery
Rose Fontaine	Del Schulzke
Greg Gabel	Curtis Seidel
Cynthia Gladen	John Sheehan
Susan Hartner	Joanne Steinfeld
Louise Hendry & Family	Ms. W.A. &
Patricia Henifin	Garry Stensland
Linda L. Holmes	Richard Taylor
Grace L. Horner	Vigo Troy
Thomas Koller	Greg Tyner
Mario Lafortune	Peny Van Abkoude
Bob Liddell	Jane Walker
Tina Lundell	Jerry Weber
Barbara Marcoux	Paul & Laurie Weimer
Shelly Marshall	Kathy Whitworth
Laura & Mark Mason	Dennis & Jean Wilde
Marilyn Mathis	Cheryl M. Willis
David McClure	Karl & Kathleen Winkler
Scott McCorkle	Barry Woodruff
Connie Medak	Robert & Darlene York
Nancy & Douglas Medlar	

If you would like to join us or have any questions about membership, please contact Catherine at [chalpin@audubonportland.org](mailto:chalpin@audubonportland.org) or 503-292-6855.

The tiny Winter Wren is regularly found in coniferous forests throughout Oregon and Washington during the summer months, but many leave the higher elevations to winter in the lowlands. Good numbers of these birds also overwinter in the cottonwood, ash, and willow bottomlands, and in lowland brush patches.

No migrant swarms; no flocks trooping through the countryside; Bewick's and Winter Wrens are secretive loners and remain that way at all times. These are the original "little brown jobs" (LBJs). Even in their prime wintering habitat, all surveys and counts are taken by sound. To most people all wren chips are alike, but there is a secret to distinguishing between the two by their chip notes.



Bewick's Wren (left) and Winter Wren. © Tom Shreve

The Bewick's Wren usually greets a visitor with a single "chick" note, while a Winter Wren challenges with two sharp "chips." When excited they both give a series of "chick" and "chip" notes, so then the best way to separate them is when the Bewick's Wren usually remains low and hard to see.

The next time you walk through a lowland woodlot this winter, listen for the wrens and record how many you hear and of what species. You may be very much surprised by how many there are and how few you see.

Don't be too shocked if, when you are listening for the wrens, a **Ruffed Grouse** suddenly bursts out from underfoot. This species also tends to drift down to the bottomlands in winter.

## Sightings

Although not overly strong, the storms that entered the state during October stirred the birds and produced some conspicuous southward movements. On October 24 several birders spotted good numbers of **Sandhill Cranes** flying southward over 23rd and West Burnside. Apparently only Shawneen Finnegan noticed the flock of 60 **White Pelicans** that were accompanying them. Later that day there were several reports of the movement farther south in the Willamette Valley.

**Cackling Geese** annually make two large southward movements, one in mid-to-late September and a much larger one in late October. George Neavoll reported wave after wave passing southward over Northwest Portland October 27. These birds will most likely winter in the Willamette Valley. It is interesting to note that the main flight of **Aleutian Cackling Geese** were moving along the coast during this period.

On October 25 Stefan Schlick and Ian Boustead found a female **Long-tailed Duck** among a flock of 17 **Surf Scoters** on Hagg Lake in Scoggins Valley Park south of Forest Grove. Although it might appear these birds are escaping stormy weather along the coast, most likely they were moving westward toward the coast when they encountered the storm front and dropped down to wait for better weather.

There were heavy migratory movements during October that were more difficult to see. Steve Nord noticed the first **Northern Shrike** at the Fernhill Wetlands October 17. Andy Frank saw one at Smith & Bybee Lakes October 18, and Paul Osburn saw one at nearby Kelley Point Park October 19.



Townsend's Warbler. © LeValleyPhoto.com

Some surprises were found during October. On October 15 Rita and Jim Coleman found a bright **Snow Bunting** searching the cracks in a sidewalk in Northeast Portland. Christine Selker reported a **Black-billed Magpie** October 21 in a North Portland neighborhood. Tom Shreve reported a **Red-naped Sapsucker** October 22 in Sheridan, and on October 5 Pamela Johnston spotted a **Swainson's Hawk** in the Chehalem Valley west of Newberg.

During October many of the birds arrive that winter in the Portland area: **Juncos**, **Varied Thrushes**, **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, **Townsend's Warblers**, and others. Many birders are interested in recording the departure dates of the summer birds. This is almost impossible as lingering individuals often remain through November and even December. It is fairly safe, though, to say that very few remain through January.

## Volunteer of the Month: Candy Plant

by Deb Sheaffer, Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager

As a long-time Audubon volunteer, **Candy Plant** is known to go the extra mile... literally. She's traveled many extra miles to help Audubon and wildlife in need. On New Year's of 2005, the Wildlife Care Center was housing a rehabilitated Cedar Waxwing that had missed migration by several weeks. Candy and her husband John saw the predicament and volunteered to drive the bird 600 miles south to Sacramento, where they united it with a flock of other waxwings. Candy fondly remembers driving over the Siskiyou through the snow with the little bird chirping and eating in the back seat!

It was no surprise, then, on Thanksgiving weekend 2008, when Candy and John transported a White-fronted Goose to join a flock in Klamath Falls. The list goes on: two Swainson's Hawks driven 165 miles to their territory in Mikkalo, Oregon; a Common Poorwill taken 160 miles to Sisters. And there was the fledgling Turkey Vulture that Candy and John reunited with its parents in Carver.



Candy Plant with Ruby, the Turkey Vulture. © John Plant

Candy's contributions to Portland Audubon can be measured not only in miles, but also in hours. She started a 4-hour Wildlife Care Center shift in 1991 and worked the same Sunday shift for 18 years. She has worked over 2700 hours, and the number is growing as Candy has taken on more tasks and responsibilities. As an Education Bird handler, she's quick to volunteer for education programs on and off site. Last year, in response

to her experience and dedication to the Education Bird program, Candy was selected to be an Education Bird Assistant — a position that requires not only a large time commitment, but also a sincere dedication to the birds and other volunteers.

In addition, Candy served on Audubon's Volunteer Council for 18 months and now serves on the 2009 Wild Arts Festival Committee. She's also always happy to help when a bird needs to be picked up, a volunteer needs a substitute, or just to clean the bird cages.

Candy also touches many lives at Audubon. As an Education Bird handler she can often be seen with a bird on the hand, talking with a group of kids who are ardently learning about wildlife. During her Care Center shift she expertly answers questions from the public and helps people understand and live with nature in their backyards. She is experienced and trained in many aspects of wildlife rehabilitation and eagerly shares her knowledge with other volunteers. Angela Daufel, a Wildlife Care Center volunteer, credits Candy with bringing her into the Audubon community: "I saw Candy outside holding Hazel and she was sweet and knowledgeable, and let me know all about the Care Center and how I could get involved. I was hooked!"

**Thank you, Candy, for all you do for Audubon — and for going the extra miles!**

## Area Leaders for Portland Christmas Bird Count (January 2)

### Area 5: Northwest Hills/Forest Park

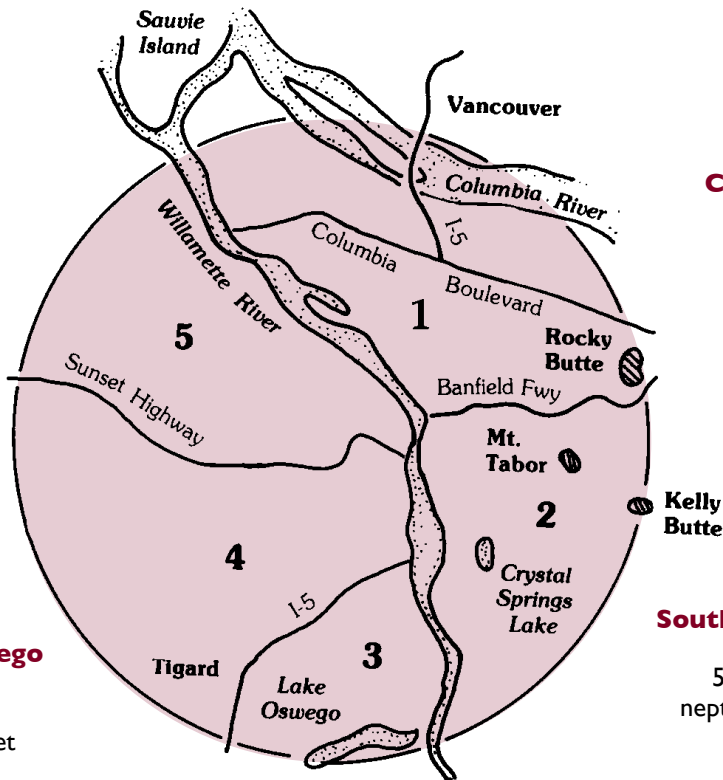
Sam Pointer  
503-655-9107  
OCMossBack@aol.com

### Area 4: Beaverton

Lori Hennings  
503-797-1940 or  
503-329-5003  
lori.hennings@oregonmetro.gov

### Area 3: Lake Oswego

Lynn Herring  
503-635-8030  
lynnhe@comcast.net



### Area 1: Columbia Riparian

John Fitchen  
503-775-0928  
jfitchen@aol.com

### Area 2: Southeast Portland

Pat Muller  
503-236-6711  
neptunea2@cs.com

## Partial List of NW Oregon & SW Washington Counts

For more listings, see [www.audubonportland.org/local-birding/christmas\\_count/cbc09](http://www.audubonportland.org/local-birding/christmas_count/cbc09).

### Monday, December 14 Upper Nestucca

Don Albright  
503-538-8890  
donalbri@teleport.com  
Contact the compiler.

### Saturday, December 19 Tillamook Bay

Owen Schmidt  
503-789-4854  
oschmidt@att.net  
Meet 6:30am, Denny's Restaurant,  
2230 Main Ave N (Hwy 101),  
Tillamook.

### Sunday, December 20 Columbia Estuary

Mike Patterson  
503-325-1365  
celata@pacifier.com  
Meet 7am, Pig-n-Pancake  
Restaurant, Astoria.

### Saturday, December 26 Forest Grove

Mary Anne Sohlstrom  
503-463-9540  
masohlstrom@msn.com  
Meet 7am (earlier if eating  
breakfast), Elmer's Pancake House,  
390 SW Adams, Hillsboro.

### Sunday, December 27 Sauvie Island

**Oregon side contact:**  
Karen Bachman  
konion6@comcast.net or  
karen.bachman@tonkon.com  
503-289-3605 or 503-802-2057  
**Washington side contact:**  
Tammy Bjorkman  
bjorkmante@iinet.com  
Contact the compilers.

### Saturday, January 2 Portland

Wink Gross  
503-226-3842  
winkg@hevanet.com  
Contact an area leader.

# 110th Christmas Bird Count

Continued from cover

A recent study of CBC data shows that most birds are wintering farther north now than they did 40 years ago, perhaps the result of global climate change. Links to this study and to the entire historical record of all Christmas Bird Counts may be found at [www.audubonportland.org/local-birding/christmas\\_count](http://www.audubonportland.org/local-birding/christmas_count).

Each Christmas Bird Count attempts to count all the birds within a 15-mile-diameter circle on one given day. In addition to the Portland Count, roughly 50 other Counts will be conducted in Oregon and SW Washington this year during the 3 weeks surrounding the holidays. Some of the counts in NW Oregon are listed below. A complete list of Oregon Counts can be found on our website at [www.audubonportland.org/local-birding/christmas\\_count/cbc09](http://www.audubonportland.org/local-birding/christmas_count/cbc09).

Want to participate in the Portland Christmas Bird Count? Look at the map of the Portland CBC circle and pick an area you would like to help cover. (It does NOT need to be where you reside.) Contact the area leader, who will tell you where and what time to meet on January 2nd. The area leaders will put together teams to balance birding skills and cover as much of their area as possible. Most teams go out for the whole day, 7am to 4pm, but you can usually make arrangements if you need to stop earlier. Can't decide which area? Contact me, Wink Gross, at [winkg@hevanet.com](mailto:winkg@hevanet.com) or 503-226-3842.

**Can't do the Portland Count on January 2nd? Check out the other Counts around the state (see box). Pick one that suits your schedule, and contact the compiler directly.**

What to bring: binoculars, of course! Be prepared for a day outdoors in Oregon in the winter. That means warm clothes, rainwear, and waterproof shoes. The Counts are generally held as scheduled, rain or shine. Bring a bag lunch and snacks. Each participant over 18 years of age is asked to contribute \$5 to defray the expense of publishing the results and sending you a summary. And, last but not least, bring an enthusiastic attitude and a willingness to search quietly and patiently for birds.

**Almost every Christmas Count turns up an unusual bird.** Often as not, it's first spotted by a new birder. Last year, first-time Christmas Bird Counter Matt Crumbacker won the "Eagle Eye" Award by finding the Best Bird: an American Dipper on Balch Creek. Perhaps this year you will be the person who finds the bird that makes us all say, "Wow! We never expected that!"

If you have any questions, please contact Wink Gross, Portland Christmas Bird Count Compiler, at [winkg@hevanet.com](mailto:winkg@hevanet.com) or 503-226-3842.

## For the Kids!

Nothing will dampen a child's enjoyment of nature more than standing around in cold, wet weather, *trying to be quiet*, with a bunch of intense birders. For this reason, we don't recommend bringing young children (under 12) along as field observers. However, **during the Portland Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, January 2**, youngsters are welcome to come to Audubon House (5151 NW Cornell Rd) any time between the hours of **10am and 2pm** and help us count the birds at our feeders. Weather permitting, there will also be a birdwalk through the Sanctuary.

## Feeder Watchers needed, too!

**A day tramping around in the cold and wet doesn't appeal to you? You may still be able to participate!** Most Christmas Bird Counts solicit reports from "Feeder Watchers." Feeder Watcher observations are very important for certain species, such as hummingbirds and goldfinches. If you happen to live within the Count Circle and maintain a birdfeeder, the compiler will want to know what you saw on Count Day. Remember, only birds seen on the actual day of the Christmas Bird Count "count." For details, contact Wink Gross at [winkg@hevanet.com](mailto:winkg@hevanet.com) or 503-226-3842.

## Audubon Birding Weekends – A Thank You



Dear Friends,

After 13 years of leading Birding Weekends in Oregon, I have decided to take a break. The effort began with Oregon Field Ornithologists in 1997 and continued with the Audubon Society of Portland starting in 2003.

These have been eventful years. The Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas project was completed. The comprehensive *Birds of Oregon* was published as well as other books. The internet (OBOL) rose and expanded as a medium of exchange among birders. Old friends have passed on, and new participants have entered Oregon birding. Digital photography has blossomed as a tool of birders. The simple, quiet field trip with a congenial group, watching birds in their habitat, does not make headlines, but I think it gets close to the heart of what birding (and Audubon Society of Portland) is about: enjoying and loving nature.

All of us at the Audubon Society of Portland want to express our deep gratitude to Paul for his years of superb leadership of the Audubon Birding Weekends. Paul is a great friend and consummate field trip leader, and it's no wonder that his trips and waiting lists were filled months in advance! Thank you, Paul, for directly helping Audubon's Education Program through your generous support and for connecting so many people to nature. Your trips have provided outstanding opportunities to bird new places, see new birds, and make new friends. You'll be missed, and we hope to see you next year!

I want to thank Dave Eshbaugh and Dave Helzer for giving me a place at Audubon Society of Portland to carry on the weekends in 2003. I thank Steve Engel, Steve Robertson, and Meryl Redisch for their support in more recent years. Thank you to all the local trip leaders who have joined us to show us their special part of Oregon. I offer a special *Thank You* to Carol Karlen, who has helped me with every weekend trip for the last three years. She has been a great asset to me and everyone who participated in the weekends.

My biggest thank you goes to the 1,143 participants who have come on these Audubon Birding Weekends during the last 7 years. We have seen many new birds. We have visited many corners of Oregon and places beyond Oregon. We have had fun. We have become friends. What more could I ask? Thank you one and all.

Good birding, everyone,  
Paul T. Sullivan

## Wish List & Thank you's

### Thank you to:

- Peter Armstrong for a Nikon Coolpix S4 camera with 10x Optical Zoom
- Joan Miller for a new watering wand
- Melanie Rae for a digital camera with charger, software, and manual
- James B. Robbins for work gloves, dishwashing liquid, and a Nikon D50 SLR and accessories
- Michael Smith for an Apple G5
- Vortex for 4 pairs of binoculars for the School of Birding Program

### Our Wish List:

#### For Education:

Laptop computer • Powerpoint Projector

#### For Sanctuary:

Loppers • Hand saws • Work gloves  
Watering wand hose attachment

#### For Wildlife Care Center:

Science Diet Kitten Growth • Aquariums • Kiddie Pools  
Dawn Dishwashing Detergent • Welding Gloves  
Camper/Trailer • Untreated Wood: 2x4, 4x4, 4x8

**If you can donate these items, please first contact Audubon Society of Portland at 503-292-6855 ext.102, Mon-Fri, to arrange a time for delivery/pick-up.**

# Important Bird Area of the Month

by Mary Coolidge, Assistant Conservation Director

## Fern Ridge Reservoir

Twice a year, the statewide Audubon chapters meet at a roving location to strategize on our statewide priorities and how to maximize our collaborative effectiveness. The fall meeting was hosted by Lane County Audubon in Eugene, which (by long tradition) guided the visiting chapters on an outing to a nearby Important Bird Area — in this case, to **Fern Ridge Reservoir** west of the city.



Fern Ridge © Jim Maloney, pbase.com/jgmaloney

Oregon's 2006 state wildlife action plan, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, was drafted to ensure the preservation of our statewide natural resources, identifying both target species and habitats. The OCS includes mapping of priority focus areas known as Conservation Opportunity Areas, of which Fern Ridge Reservoir is one. Over 286 species of birds have been documented at this 12,780-acre complex of wetland, grassland, wet prairie (lowland grasses), oak woodland, and freshwater aquatic habitats. The property is owned by Army Corps of Engineers, with 5,261 acres of it licensed to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to manage as a Wildlife Area.

ODFW manages Fern Ridge Wildlife Area (FRWA) with three explicit goals in mind: to attract and support waterfowl; to protect, enhance, and restore habitat diversity; and to provide recreational and educational opportunities to the public (including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing).

Fern Ridge Reservoir was established in 1941 for flood storage for Long Tom and Coyote Creeks, but years of successful management at FRWA has improved habitat and increased wildlife diversity. Together with the 2,500-acre

West Eugene Wetlands to the east (a restored wetland area acquired by BLM, the City of Eugene, and The Nature Conservancy), the area provides a green anchor in the city and acts as a storehouse of Willamette wet prairie, of which less than 1/2 of one percent remains in the valley today due to urbanization.



Black Tern © Tom Shreve

A Sunday morning drizzle didn't drown our birdwatching spirits, and the eight of us who ventured out to West Eugene found several **Acorn Woodpeckers** active among the oaks in a small stand north of Royal Avenue on the way into the Royal Amazon Unit of the FRWA. Visiting an IBA in our host chapter helps us envision the focused efforts of chapters in their respective backyards. And spying a housecat in a willow stand on FRWA property identified a century-old conservation challenge: how to keep cats out of urban natural areas.

### Species of Ornithological Significance

Fern Ridge represents habitat for a diverse assemblage of bird species, of which 118 species are confirmed breeders. ODFW-sensitive species found at FRWA include **Purple Martin, Yellow-breasted Chat, Western Meadowlark, Willow Flycatcher, Western Bluebird, and Grasshopper Sparrow**. Over 30 species of ducks, geese, swans, and pelicans use FRWA. Breeding season and spring migration populations include **Cinnamon Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-tailed Kite, and Bald Eagle**. Peak winter waterfowl counts reach up to 27,000 birds, *excluding* the 8,000 to 20,000 **Canada Geese** and 100 to 1,500 **Tundra Swans** which roost nightly on the lake and migrate to the surrounding fields at daybreak. Wintering populations of **Northern Pintail, Great Egret, and Ring-billed Gull** are present. Marsh breeders include **Pied-billed Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sora, American Coot, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Snipe,**

**Wilson's Phalarope, Marsh Wren, Willow Flycatcher, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.**

An estimated 25 pairs of breeding **Black Terns** nest in loose colonies among bulrush, cattail, sedge, and rush in the marsh. Fern Ridge is also important for **Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Dunlin** (flocks up to 20,000 in winter), **Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe, and Black-necked Stilt**. Up to 140 **American White Pelicans** summer at Fern Ridge but are not yet documented to be breeding.

### If You Go

Take I-5 South toward Eugene to the I-195 B exit toward Junction City/Florence. Merge onto Beltline Road/OR-569W. Turn right at W.11th Avenue/OR-126W and continue. There are options here: To visit the experimental **Caspian Tern Island at the Royal Amazon Unit**, turn right on Fisher Road (at the West Eugene Wetlands Meadowlark Marsh). Then go left on Royal Avenue to the parking lot (just after the turn onto Royal is the Acorn Woodpecker oak stand where you may be lucky enough to spy a **Lewis's Woodpecker**). To get to the **Fern Ridge Wildlife Area Headquarters**, return to OR-126W and turn left at Central Road and left again on Cantrell Road. HQ is signed on the left. Questions? Call the ODFW FRWA office at 503-935-2591.



Yellow-breasted Chat.  
Photo: Jim Conrad,  
Wikimedia Commons



Killdeer with chick. © Jim Cruce

## December is a Great Time to Give!

Don't forget to get your last-minute tax deductions, and take a moment to send in your support to the Audubon Society of Portland. There are a great many ways to help protect native animals and their habitats — you can choose to renew your membership, give the gift of membership, give a gift in honor or memory of a loved one, Sponsor a Wild Thing, include Portland Audubon in your estate plans, and give a gift of stocks.

**Giving long-term appreciated stock offers you a potential three-fold tax savings.** First, you avoid paying capital gains tax on the increase in value of your stock. Second, you receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift. The third tax savings is a reduction in the value of the donor's taxable estate by the amount of the gift.

If you decide to give stocks, contact your brokerage and instruct them to transfer the shares to the Audubon Society of Portland account at RBC Wealth Management: DTC number 0235; Audubon Society of Portland account number 307-84759. If there are questions, have your broker phone our Account Executive, Shelly McFarland, at 503-833-5212, or Development Director Ann Takamoto at 503-292-6855.

Please notify us about your stock gift as soon as possible. We will watch for it to show up in our account. For tax purposes, the gift date is the day the shares are actually transferred to our account, and the gift value is the average of the day's high and low prices.

Year-end support is very important to Audubon Society of Portland. If you are planning to give before December 31st, **THANK YOU** — and consider giving stock!

## Members Receive a 10% Discount at the Nature Store!

### They're all gone!

The Swarovski anniversary sale was so successful that the full-size EL binoculars are all gone.

### But, take heart!

The **all-new Swarovski EL Swarovision binoculars** are on the way. Wonder how Swarovski could possibly improve upon the fantastic optics of the old EL? They've done it with the addition of **3 new internal lenses** to visibly **flatten the field to eliminate all loss of sharpness and distortion at the edges** of the field of view. The first time you scan with these binoculars you'll know you are seeing in a whole new way.

There are other major improvements as well.

EL Swarovision 8.5x42



### Close focus has moved from 8 feet to under 5 feet.

Longer eye relief is offered with **3-step twist-up eyecups**. The focus wheel now moves from **infinity to 10 feet in a single turn**, with a second turn taking you from 10 feet down to 4.9 feet. What more could you ask for? How about a **wider field of view and slimmer ergonomic design**?

The catch? They won't be ready for shipment until late January. But, if you **order in advance from the Nature Store**, Swarovski will **ship the first pairs to arrive from Austria direct to your home** (even before they fill their dealers' orders!). Plus they'll give you a tiny cardboard stand-up image to wrap for the holidays if your purchase is a gift. Stop by the Nature Store to get all the details.

### PORTLAND AUDUBON'S NATURE STORE

5151 NW Cornell Road • Portland, OR 97210  
503-292-9453 • store@audubonportland.org

Open 10am–6pm Monday through Saturday  
10am–5pm Sunday

# Naturally Creative!

## GIFT IDEAS FROM THE NATURE STORE

Continued from page 1

### The Natural Office Gift

Do you thrill your coworkers with tales of your weekend expeditions? Treat them to their own taste of Nature with one of **Portland Roasting Company's shade-grown coffees**, blends that include organic selections from Costa Rica, Peru, and Nicaragua — the winter homes of our Oregon warblers, thrushes, and flycatchers. You'll be buying locally and helping globally. Add a **Portland Audubon travel mug** for your working pals to use on their own weekend adventures.



If you know an Oregonian whiling away the years in some faraway flat land, send him the **Cascades of Northern Oregon poster**. Or add a **paper mobile** of eagles, owls, Great Blue Herons, or hummingbirds to make your holiday greeting stand out.

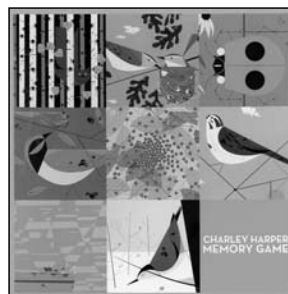
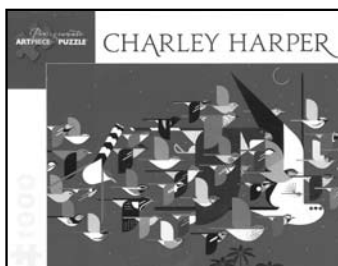
### Child's Play

For the children on your list, give parents a break from the electronic voices and buzzers of today's toys. **Charley Harper Memory Games and Jigsaw Puzzles** are quiet and colorful. **Channel Craft's**

**Raptors of North America and Audubon Birds of America puzzles** store in their own tins. All are made in the U.S., including their hiking-themed **Blister Trail Game**. (If you must give a noisemaker, choose a **plush Audubon bird** with a real bird call.)

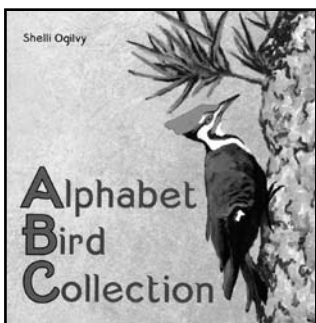
### Stuff for Stockings

Stockings are a great way to go wild. Come up with a theme, and stuff away. A pocket-sized **Golden Guide to Snakes** with a book of **temporary snake tattoos** and a **rubber snake** escaping out of the top will be the talk of the hearth. A **Pocket Starfinder**, a **Bird Brain-Teasers book**, **animal parlor puzzles**, **wildlife key chains**, a handful of **plastic crawlies**, or the **Winter Weed Finder Guide** are all excellent starting points for your themed stocking. Visit the Nature Store and put together your own combination!



### Mail Mother Nature

Just because the people on your gift list are far away doesn't mean you can't share your enthusiasm for Nature. **Books** are the default long-distance gift, but don't settle for a cold shipment via the internet. Instead, pick up one of our favorite titles (see page 8 for ideas) and add a personal inscription inside. Think of the joy the **Alphabet Bird Collection** will bring to a child. Years from now that child will be able to recall who introduced her to the world of birds. Traveling over the holidays? Tuck in a **nature guide** for your destination. They make great gifts for hosts and traveling companions — and for you!



**Help us rehab native animals – give through Willamette Week's Give!Guide**  
And get great prizes for doing good!



Western Screech-Owlets © Portland Audubon

Audubon Society of Portland is proud to be a part of this unique holiday giving vehicle; we invite all to participate and welcome new donors to our community! *Willamette Week* wants everyone to get in the spirit and will reward people who donate with fun incentives, swag, and cheer!

- If you give \$25 or more to Portland Audubon through the Give!Guide, you'll get an electronic coupon to receive benefits like discounts from local merchants and free admission to a special Give!Guide show at Berbaty's Pan.
- If you're 35 or under and give \$100 or more, you're automatically entered in a drawing for special prizes including \$1,000 from *Willamette Week*.
- A \$500 donation will get you home delivery of a recyclable New Seasons grocery bag containing a bottle of wine and Stash Tea.
- A donation of \$2,500 or more results in a prize delivery by one of *Willamette Week's* owners — publisher Richard Meeker or editor Mark Zusman.
- Everyone who gives the \$10 minimum will have a chance to have *WW's* publisher cook dinner for you and a guest at his house early next year!

**We want to get the word out because the nonprofit that attracts either the greatest number of contributions from donors under the age of 36, or generates the most money, will get an additional gift of \$1,000 from Willamette Week! And an extra incentive is provided by our good friends at Backyard Bird Shop, who will match the first \$1,000!**

Let's not forget that donations to Audubon Society of Portland through the Give!Guide will go directly to helping native animals — the more than 3,000 injured and orphaned native animals that we treat each year in our Wildlife Care Center, the busiest wildlife rehabilitation center in the region.

Make your contributions online via the Give!Guide website, [www.wweek.com/giveguide](http://www.wweek.com/giveguide). Look for Audubon Society of Portland in the "Animal" category — and spread the word! **Donations are accepted through midnight December 31st.**



## Audubon Society of Portland

**Inspiring people to love and protect nature since 1902**

*Audubon Society of Portland promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native birds and other wildlife and their habitats. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest.*

### ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

5151 NW Cornell Rd • Portland, OR 97210  
503-292-6855 • Fax: 503-292-1021  
9am to 5pm, Mon. - Fri.

### SANCTUARIES

Dawn to dusk every day

### NATURE STORE

503-292-9453  
10am to 6pm, Mon. - Sat. • 10am to 5pm on Sunday

### INTERPRETIVE CENTER & LIBRARY

Same hours as store

### WILDLIFE CARE CENTER

503-292-0304  
9am to 5pm every day

### RARE BIRD ALERT

503-292-6855 • [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org)

### Board Officers

President..... Peter Paquet  
Vice President ..... Pat Campbell  
Secretary..... Wink Gross  
Treasurer ..... Ken Ivey

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Josh Cerra	Kristina Gifford	Claire Puchy
Nancy Jane Cushing	John Hammerstad	Lee Savinar
Tony DeFalco	Barb Hill	Ron Spencer
Katy Ehrlich	Bob Liddell	
John Fitchen	Karen O'Connor Kruse	

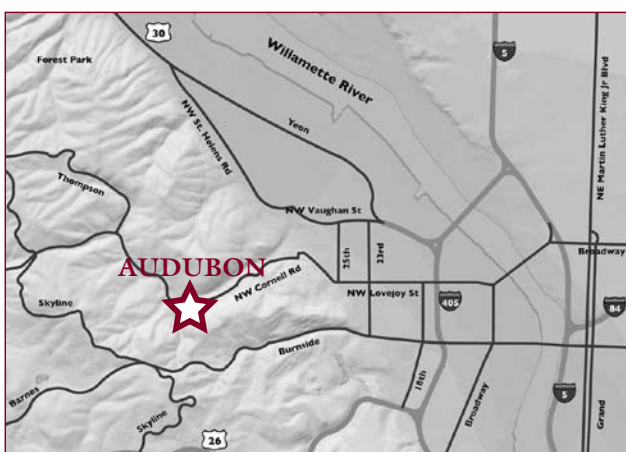
Board Member Emeritus - Dave Marshall

### Committee Chairs

Conservation ..... Lynn Herring  
Education ..... Vacant  
Executive ..... Peter Paquet  
Finance ..... Ken Ivey  
Membership & Development ..... Nancy Jane Cushing  
Sanctuaries ..... Ann Littlewood

### Staff

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Office Manager ..... Tammi Miller  
Development Director ..... Ann Takamoto  
Bookkeeper ..... Jill Hartzell  
Birdathon Coordinator ..... Gary Slone  
Membership Development Coordinator ..... Catherine Halpin  
Education Director ..... Steve Robertson  
Adult Education Coordinator ..... Steve Engel  
Camp Director/Onsite Programs Specialist ..... Sarah Swanson  
Master Birder/Adult Trip Coordinator ..... Dan van den Broek  
Environmental Educator ..... Ian Abraham  
Environmental Educator ..... Tim Donner  
Urban Naturalist ..... Mike Houck  
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Assistant Conservation Director ..... Mary Coolidge  
Conservation Program Staff ..... Ariana Longanecker  
Urban Wildlife Specialist ..... Karen Munday  
Ten Mile Sanctuary Manager ..... Paul Engelmeyer  
Volunteer Coordinator ..... Deanna Sawtelle  
Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager ..... Deb Sheaffer  
Wildlife Care Center Assistant Manager ..... Kari Jones  
Nature Store Manager ..... Nancy Mattson  
Nature Store Assistant ..... Marilyn O'Grady  
Nature Store Clerk ..... Sally Loomis  
Sanctuaries Director ..... Tom Costello  
Sanctuaries Assistant ..... Greg Kurtz  
Backyard Habitat Certification Technician ..... Rick Mishaga



## BUSINESS MEMBERS

Through their business practices and financial contributions, the following business members help Audubon Society of Portland fulfill its mission. If you would like to become a business member, please contact our Development Department at 971-222-6117.

### Business Benefactor

NW Natural

### Business Guarantors

Backyard Bird Shop  
Portland General Electric

### Business Partners

BridgePort Brewing Company  
Columbia Sportswear  
Forest Park Federal  
Credit Union

### Business Friends

Bob's Red Mill  
Carton Service, Inc.  
Duggan, Schlotfeldt and  
Welch PLLC  
Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc.  
ShoreBank Pacific  
Vernier Software & Technology

### Business Supporters

Enterprise Rent-A-Car  
Leupold & Stevens, Inc.  
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Dave's Killer Bread  
Portland Audubon Nature Store



**NW Natural**

[www.nwnatural.com](http://www.nwnatural.com)



**Everything for the Wild Bird Enthusiast**

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Visit the Audubon Society of Portland

## NATURE STORE

Shady Trails  
Nature Books  
Hiking Guides

Birding Optics  
Toys and Gifts

5151 NW Cornell Rd, Portland OR  
503-292-9453 [www.audubonportland.org](http://www.audubonportland.org)  
Minutes from downtown in Forest Park