

Warbler



APRIL 2008
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Photos © Coyner and Pederson

PORTLAND AUDUBON IS PROUD TO PRESENT ITS 29TH ANNUAL APRIL 19 – MAY 19

"Birding a Better Tomorrow" **BIRDATHON!**

by Gary Slone, Birdathon Coordinator

With each passing year we come to expect the success of certain events, such as the blooming of spring wildflowers, the annual migration of birds, and of course, Birdathon. In 2007, dedicated Audubon staff, volunteers, members, and their friends joined together to raise an all-time high \$115,000! In addition, over 200 "Birdathoners," more than ever before, joined teams that searched near and far for Oregon's birds. The result: more than 1700 dedicated individuals and businesses made Birdathon donations. **Now, you can do your share by participating in Birdathon 2008!**

This year we have a special concern. As we recently learned in the January issue of the *Warbler*, some of Oregon's birds are in real trouble and we need to take immediate action to protect them.

"In June 2007, National Audubon released a report entitled Common Birds in Decline. It analyzed 40 years of Bird Survey

data and discovered that many of Oregon's most common bird species are experiencing steep long-term declines. Species experiencing greater than 50% population declines over the past 40 years include the American Goldfinch, Barn Swallow, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Rufous Hummingbird, and even our own state bird, the Western Meadowlark. While these species are not currently at risk of extinction, we cannot afford to let these downward trends continue unchecked — or within our lifetimes these species will rapidly move toward the imperiled list."

We, as the Audubon community, can come together to make a difference. Join Birdathon, contribute your support, and help us protect and preserve the future of Oregon's birds.

You can register for Birdathon trips or make a Birdathon donation at www.audubonportland.org/events/birdathon2008.

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Portland Audubon's Historic Connection to the Malheur Refuge

by Tom McAllister, Audubon Member

East beyond the Cascades, spring snowmelt rushes off the Blue and Steens Mountains and enters a vast enclosed basin that holds Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and a part of Portland Audubon's heritage.

This is Malheur's centennial year, a time to reflect on Audubon's historic tie to this Refuge and its future. President Theodore Roosevelt created a Malheur Bird Reservation by executive order on August 18, 1908, at the instigation of our Society's first president, William L. Finley.

Finley, a charismatic young naturalist, writer, lecturer, and photographer — and his partner and fellow Society founder, Herman T. Bohlman — filmed wildlife in new

ways. They poled skiffs into Malheur and Lower Klamath marshes and rowed the surf to Three Arch Rocks to set up camp on precarious ledges. They erected blinds and carried ponderous tripod cameras up cliffs and lofty trees in order to expose 5x7 glass plate negatives, producing photographs that entranced the nation.

President Roosevelt, a keen naturalist and outdoorsman, was captivated by those Finley/Bohlman photos and listened to their appeal to stop the slaughter of wildfowl by market and plume hunters.

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Audubon Society of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, Oregon 97210

Sign up now for Summer Camps – samples on pages 6–7.

HALF-DAY TRIPS

WHITEMORE'S WHATZITS
(great for beginners)
Sunday, May 4th, 7:50am–Noon

GREAT BIG SIT
(relax, let the birds come to you)
Saturday, May 17th, 8am–Noon

FULL-DAY TRIPS

RAVEN MANIACS
(lives up to the name)
Friday, May 2nd, 6am–10pm

THE MURRE THE MERRIER
(birding the Oregon coast with Sarah Swanson & Max Smith)
Saturday, May 3rd, 7am–7pm

COFFEE & COOKIE CREEPERS
(veteran leaders David Smith & Tim Shelmerdine)
Sunday, May 4th, 7am–2pm

MAGPIES
(slower pace and relaxing)
Tuesday, May 6th, 7am–4:30pm
Wednesday, May 7th, 7am–4:30pm

THE BUS PASSERINES
(prime birding locations by public transportation)
Friday, May 9th, 7am–7pm

THE ROADRUNNERS
(Bike Gallery bicycle team)
Saturday, May 10th, 8am–2pm

SOGGY BOTTOM BIRDERS
(new trip to various Willamette Valley wetlands!)
Monday, May 12th

A-GREBE-ABLE BUNCH
(most birds in one day, 2006)
Saturday, May 17th, 4:30am–11pm

GONZO ADVENTURE TRIPS — 2½ DAYS

CREAM OF THE CROP
(Gary Slone)
Saturday, May 10th, 8am –
Sunday, May 11th, 3pm

HDRAPTORS
(Jim Rapp & Nancy Jane Cushing)
Friday, May 9th – Sunday, May 11th

SWANSONG'S SENIORS
(birding at Malheur NWR with Pa. Campbell)
Friday, May 9th – Sunday, May 11th

THE WILD TURKEYS
(the Gonzo-est!)
Friday, May 16th – Sunday, May 18th

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From the Executive Director



Our Society and Our National Wildlife Refuge Heritage

This month's cover article is written by a long-time Audubon supporter and conservation activist, Tom McAllister. He offers a historical perspective of our Society's association with Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, one of Oregon's first three refuges. These three refuges were established 100 years ago when two young naturalists brought the urgency of protecting wildlife and birds to the attention of the American public.

Meryl Redisch

Nature photographer William L. Finley and his good friend, Harry T. Bohlman, are credited with persuading President Teddy Roosevelt to declare Malheur, Three Arch Rocks, and Klamath Basin as places requiring special protection after showing the remarkable images of birds and wildlife to the president and informing him that thousands of wild birds were being killed for sport or for industry use. The National Wildlife Refuge System is Roosevelt's conservation legacy, leaving for future generations places of spectacular beauty that are rich in birds and wildlife.

Finley and Bohlman served as officers for the Audubon Society, directing its resources to preserve wildlife populations and leaving a legacy of grassroots activism and greater awareness through the power of pictures. The William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge a few miles outside of Corvallis is named in Finley's honor.

Instrumental in securing this Willamette Valley refuge was David Marshall, another giant in the conservation history of both Portland Audubon and Oregon. Like Finley, Dave Marshall sought to protect important habitats required for healthy and thriving bird populations. Unlike Finley, who used photos to showcase the plight of wild birds and habitat loss, Dave used his professional training and lifelong love of birds and nature to move a conservation agenda forward for Oregon and the West. Dave's government career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which spanned three decades, included serving as the resident biologist at Malheur Refuge, selecting sites for new refuges, developing endangered species recovery plans, and securing funding for 40% of the nation's federally listed endangered species.

Dave's post-government career, just as accomplished, has included serving on national boards, writing papers for technical journals and magazines, editing the highly regarded *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference*, and teaching wildlife courses in Oregon and California institutions. Dave Marshall's legacy, like that of those before him, make it possible for all of us to enjoy and celebrate many of the most beautiful places in Oregon.

Members Are Invited to Our Annual Meeting Thursday, April 17 6:30pm • Heron Hall

Members are encouraged to attend our Annual Meeting and have the opportunity to meet our board members and staff. Light refreshments will be served, and ballots will be available for the election of board members.

COMING SOON

Native Plant Sale May 17-18 (Sat.-Sun.) 10am-4pm

Choose from over 100 species at our 12th annual sale! Special shopping lists for shade, sun, butterfly, and hummingbird plants.

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.



a member of Earth Share OF OREGON



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.

Tillamook Bay and Bayocean Spit

April 3 (Thursday), 9am-3pm

Join leader **Juergen Mueller** for a day of birding on Tillamook Bay during spring migration. Meet at 9am at Barview County Park (the North Jetty), in front of the entrance. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. For information, call Juergen at 503-742-2464.

Morrow, Umatilla & Klickitat Counties

April 10-11 (Thursday-Friday), 7am-5pm

Ever wonder where Blalock Canyon Rd went? Ever been to McNary Park or Whitcom Island? Join **Ed Hausafus** up the Oregon grassland side of the Columbia River, stay overnight in Hermiston, and return on the Washington side. Trip is limited to 5 cars. Contact Ed at Ethaus@aol.com or 503-637-3485.

Klamath Falls

April 15-18 (Tuesday-Friday)

Meet at 5pm on 4/15 at the Quality Inn in Klamath Falls. Make your own reservations (541-765-2241). On 4/16 we will bird Lower Klamath NWR, Tule Lake NWR, and possibly Lava Beds National Monument. On 4/17 we will bird Link River, Moore City Park, Upper Klamath Lake, and Wood River Marsh. On 4/18 we depart for home. For details, contact trip leader **Dick Demarest** at rdd@demarests.com or 503-407-7912.

Grays Harbor — Canceled

Field Trips

Carpooling is encouraged for conservation and sociability. For information, call us at 503-292-6855 ext. 119.

April 12 (Saturday), 7:30am-5pm Tillamook County

Join leaders **David Smith** and **Tim Shelmerdine** to explore a variety of habitats in coastal Tillamook County. Stops will be dependent on recent sightings. Bring a lunch, water, binoculars, scope (if you have one), and clothing for a variety of weather. Meet to depart at 7:30am from the Chevron station 1 block north of the North Plains exit (Exit 57) off Hwy 26. To meet group at coast, be at Bayocean Spit by 9am: From Tillamook follow signs for Three Capes Scenic Route and turn right on Bayocean Rd, just past Tillamook River. Turn right onto spit at milepost 5. We will spend most of the day at the coast and be back by 5pm. Beginners welcome!

April 19 (Saturday), 8am-11am Mt. Tabor Park

Join leader **John Rakestraw** on this month's walk co-sponsored by Audubon Society of Portland and Backyard Bird Shop. The park is a haven for migrant and resident songbirds, and lucky birders may be rewarded with flocks of warblers. Call Backyard Bird Shop (503-635-2044) for information and to reserve a spot. Beginners welcome!

April 27 (Sunday), 8am-11am Vancouver Lake Park

Join leader **Ron Escano** for early spring migrants at Vancouver Lake Park. Scope the lake for water birds then explore the riparian woodland for migrants. Meet at 8am at Vancouver Lake Park. Directions from I-5 north: take Exit I-D (4th Plain Blvd), go west on 4th Plain through Vancouver onto SR-501 (Lower River Rd). After 3.5 miles on SR-501, continue straight for 0.6 miles to Vancouver Lake Park (possible \$2 entrance fee). Dress for the weather. Beginners welcome!

Connecting Green Wild in the City Field Trips

Cycle, Paddle, and Walk the region's parks, trails, and natural areas. **Connecting Green** is all about access to nature in the city. **Connecting Green** field trips will introduce you to some of the region's most scenic and wildlife-rich natural areas and parks and the ever-growing regional trails network. Register at www.audubonportland.org/trips_classes_camps/adult_programs/wildcity. If you don't have internet access, call 503-292-6855 ext.116 to register. **Bring your own equipment for all bicycle and paddle trips — helmets and life jackets are required.** Canoe and kayak rentals can be arranged through Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe (www.aldercreek.com, 503-285-0464) or Portland Kayak Company (www.portlandrivercompany.com, 503-459-4050). **Directions and other details will be emailed to registrants.** Trip enrollment is limited, so sign up early.

April

Friday, April 4th, 8am-11am Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Walk

Join **Mike Houck** for a stroll around the 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Mike has led tours at the Bottoms for over 30 years and is intimately familiar with the history of Oaks Bottom being designated as Portland's first official urban wildlife refuge and current efforts to restore fish and wildlife habitat throughout the refuge. This trip is appropriate for families. The walk is a two-mile loop on both paved and uneven dirt paths, with two moderate hills.

Saturday, April 19th, 9am-Noon

Fanno Creek Greenway Ride

Join **Jim Labbe**, Audubon Society of Portland, and **Joe Blowers**, Fans of Fanno Creek, for an April bike ride along the Fanno Creek Greenway. This is a great opportunity to explore new and pending sections of the Fanno Creek Greenway including the recently opened bridge over the Tualatin River at Cook Park. We'll also discuss the challenges to and opportunities for protecting and enhancing Fanno Creek. You are responsible for bringing and maintaining your own bicycle, pump, and patch kit, and helmets are absolutely required.

May

Saturday, May 3rd, 9am-11:30am Elk Rock Island Paddle

Join **Jim Labbe** (Portland Audubon) and **Mark Wilson** (Portland Parks) for a spring paddle around Elk Rock Island. We'll explore the unique geology and history of the island; learn about ecological enhancement of the island, the Milwaukie waterfront, and lower Kellogg and Johnson Creeks; and do some birding along the way. Life jackets are absolutely required.

Saturday, May 10th, 8am-11am Paddle Around Ross Island

Join **Mike Houck** on a three-hour early morning paddle (before the boats get on the river) around Ross Island. This leisurely paddle around Ross, Hardtack, East, and Toe Islands will acquaint participants with the natural history of this four-island archipelago and the issues concerning public ownership and long-term management of the islands. The trip is appropriate for beginning paddlers. Life jackets are absolutely required.

Sunday, May 11th, 8am-11am Mother's Day Walk at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

In honor of Mother's Day, we will pay special attention to the numerous species of trees growing in the Refuge. See Friday, April 4th trip description for more details.



Heron nests on Ross Island near the South Waterfront Condos. Photos © Mike Houck

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Beginning Birding II 'Session 2' Class, 8am (March Warbler) 30		Birders' Night, 7:30pm Heron Hall 1		Magpies visit Tillamook Bay and Bayocean Spit, 9am (p.2) 2	Oaks Bottom Refuge Walk, 8am (p.2) 4 Heron Nest Watch, 4pm (p.3)	Heron Nest Watch, 9am (p.3) 5
	= Bird Song Walk, 7am (p. 9)					
Bluegrass Live Music Jam 12:30pm Heron Hall 6		Nature Night: Portland Airport's Red-tailed Hawks, 7pm (p.5) 7		Magpies leave for Morrow, Umatilla & Klickitat Counties, 7am (p.2) 9		Tillamook County Field Trip, 7:30am (p.2) 12
		Magpies leave for Klamath Falls, 5pm (p.2) 14		Annual Meeting 6:30pm Heron Hall (p.2) 16	Butterflies of the Deschutes Class, 6pm (p.7) 17	Mt. Tabor Park Field Trip, 8am (p.2) 19 Fanno Creek Greenway Ride, 8am (p.2) Butterflies of the Deschutes Field Trip, 10am (p.7)
		Portland Forest Hikes Presentation & Book Signing, 7pm (p.8) 21 Earth Day				One-Day Audubon Sale at Nature Store (p.11) 25 Birding Weekend (p.10) 26
Vancouver Lake Park Field Trip, 8am (p.2) 27 Birding Weekend (p.10)		Conservation Lecture at Oregon Zoo, 7pm (p.12) 28	Amphibians and Reptiles of the Portland Area, 7pm (p.7) 29		Birdathon Trip, 6am (p.1) 1	Birdathon Trip, 7am (p.1) 2 Elk Rock Island Paddle, 9am (p.2) 3
Birdathon Trips, 7am & 7:50am (p.1) 4 Bluegrass Live Music Jam 12:30pm Heron Hall	Birding by Ear Class, 7pm (p.7) 5	Birdathon Trip, 7am (p.1) 6 Birders' Night 7:30pm Heron Hall	Birdathon Trip, 7am (p.1) 7		Birdathon Trip, 7am (p.1) 8	Paddle Ross Island, 8am (p.2) 9 Birdathon Trips, 8am (p.1) Bird Festival, 10am (p.3) Heron Nest Watch, 1pm (p.3) 10

NOTE: An electronic version of this issue and past Warblers is available on our website, www.audubonportland.org.

Watch Herons Nesting at South Waterfront

Visitors to South Waterfront and residents alike have a ringside seat from which to watch nesting Great Blue Herons at the South Waterfront condominiums from the Willamette Greenway, just a short stroll from the OHSU Tram and Portland Streetcar. Join co-leaders **Mike Houck** and **Bob Sallinger**, who will have spotting scopes on hand for close-up views of herons in their nests. Please bring your own binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one.

The herons start their courtship and nest building in mid-February and lay eggs in early April, and the young are ready to leave their nests in early to mid-June. These spring and early summer nest-viewing sessions will provide a great opportunity to track the Ross Island herons from egg laying, feeding young, to young trying out their wings — and finally to observe first flight from their nesting colony. See *Connecting Green: Wild in the City* trip descriptions for complementary kayak and hiking trips to Ross Island and the east side of the Willamette Springwater Trails for other opportunities to view herons and eagles.



All heron nest watches are free and open to the public. No pre-registration is required. Nest watches will go on rain or shine.

Directions: The viewing area is just east of the Meriwether Condominiums on the temporary greenway path. Portland's streetcar stops at the corner of SW Moody and Gibbs, which is across the street and just north of the OHSU Center for Health & Healing. The streetcar accommodates bikes and wheelchairs; go to www.portlandstreetcar.org for schedules and fare information. A number of bus routes also serve the South Waterfront vicinity; check www.trimet.org. Parking is available but limited, so you are encouraged to use public transit. From the Tram station at OHSU Center, walk east on SW Whitaker and take a right (south) along River Parkway to SW Curry. Turn left (east) on Curry and walk to the end of the street, past the Meriwether Condominiums to the greenway trail, where your guides will be waiting for you.

Friday, April 4th, 4pm–6pm
Saturday, April 5th, 9am–Noon
Saturday, May 10th, 1pm–3pm
Wednesday, May 14th, 5pm–7pm
Wednesday, May 21st, 5pm–7pm
Monday, June 2nd, 5pm–7pm
Saturday, June 7th, Noon–3pm

Plan Ahead

Watch for these field trips in the next Warbler:

Thursday, May 29th, 7am–9am
 Willamette Cove Paddle

Saturday, May 31st, 9am–Noon
 Big Four Corners Natural Area Paddle

Friday, June 6th, 7am–9am
 Early Birding Bike Ride along Columbia Slough

Sunday, June 8th, 8am–11am
 Ross Island and Holgate Channel Regatta w/ Friends of Ross Island

Festival of the Birds

Saturday, May 10th, 10am – 4pm

Sellwood Park, just south of Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

Join Audubon Society of Portland, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the City of Portland for a Celebration of Migratory Birds. Oaks Bottom and other natural areas in Portland are important to migrating birds for nesting, wintering, resting, and refueling. Come and see birds hailing from as far away as Argentina in the City of Portland's first designated Migratory Bird Park!

This is a free festival for the whole family to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day. No registration is required.

Guided Bird Walks, 9am–3pm

Come enjoy bird walks led by local naturalists. You will be amazed by the large variety of migratory birds that use Oaks Bottom and other Portland natural areas during their migratory route.

Children's Activities

Kids will love the bird-related hands-on activities for children aged 3–11.

Storytelling and Live Music

by local storytellers and musicians. Come hear songs and stories about migratory birds in the Portland area.



© Karen Munday



Yellow Warbler © Don Baccus



Wood Duck © Jim Cruce



Julio the Great Horned Owl © Karen Munday

Interactive Displays

Visit with local partners of the Migratory Bird Treaty Program and find out what is happening locally to protect and enhance our bird populations.

Birds of Prey

from Audubon Society of Portland's Wildlife Care Center. Meet in person Finnegan the Peregrine Falcon, Julio the Great Horned Owl, Hazel the Northern Spotted Owl, Jack Sparrowhawk the American Kestrel, and Ruby the Turkey Vulture.

Conservation

New York City Audubon Publishes “Bird-Safe Building Guidelines”

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

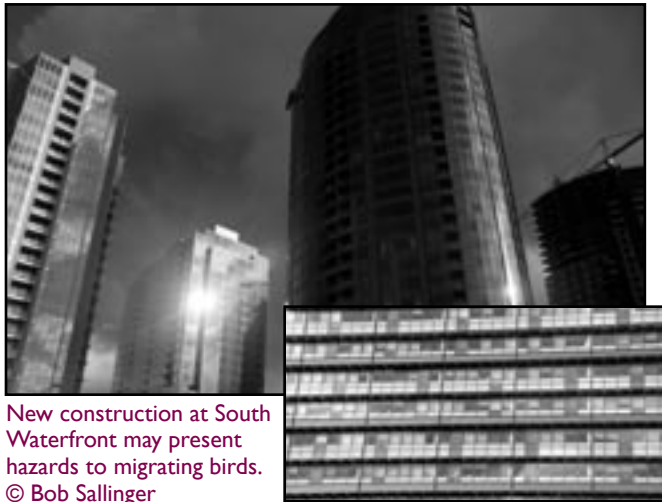
Scientists estimate that between 100 million and one billion birds die each year in the United States as a result of collisions with buildings. Many bird biologists believe that building strikes may rank second behind habitat destruction in terms of significant causes for songbird declines. In February, our sister Audubon chapter in New York City published “Bird-Safe Building Guidelines” that should become a must-read document for developers, planners, and property owners across Oregon. The guidelines promote measures to protect birdlife in the planning, design, and operation phases of all types of buildings in all settings.

The magnitude of birds strikes in any one area varies with a wide array of complex factors that include species composition and density, proximity to habitat area, migration pattern, time of year, weather, and type of structure. The problem at its most basic level involves the fact that birds simply do not recognize glass as a barrier. Reflective glass in particular may be perceived as an unobstructed passageway. This failure to recognize glass as a solid object accounts for many strikes around our homes.

The most significant collision-related mortalities are associated with tall buildings during spring and fall migration. Songbirds travel primarily at night; illuminated buildings, especially during poor weather, can serve as beacons drawing massive numbers of birds to their death. In Toronto, volunteers have collected over 32,000 dead birds representing 120 different species that have died in building strikes since 1993.

At Portland Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center, 5% of our intakes between 1987 and 2006 were the result of window strikes (approximately 2,400 birds). The vast majority of these were associated with strikes on low-height residential dwellings as opposed to buildings. To date, nobody has done a good survey of mortalities associated with our downtown buildings. Studies in cities across North America indicate that in order to determine the magnitude of a bird strike problem, it is necessary to actively look for carcasses — strikes on tall buildings occur at night and scavengers consume carcasses before city streets become active in the morning. Unless volunteers are out looking at the right time of day, it is possible to dramatically underestimate the problem.

Current trends in building design are reason for concern and increased vigilance in our city. Research indicates that increased mortalities are associated with large expanses of unbroken, reflective, or glazed glass. While our downtown



New construction at South Waterfront may present hazards to migrating birds. © Bob Sallinger

core is comprised of older buildings that tend to offer a more diverse, “broken” façade, the new development at South Waterfront presents a virtual wall of reflective glass immediately adjacent to a major migratory corridor along the Willamette River. Despite the environmentally friendly aspirations of South Waterfront, we may well be creating a remarkably bird-hostile environment.

During the next year, Audubon will be taking several steps to help our region begin to address bird strikes:

- We are currently working with Reed College thesis student Georgia Kirkpatrick, Tom Lipton at the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, and the Urban Greenspaces Institute to gather baseline data about bird activity on downtown ecoroofs.
- We will be conducting bird strike surveys in the downtown core and at South Waterfront during fall migration.
- We will be working with the Bureau of Planning to develop guidelines and code language to promote bird-friendly development.
- We will be assessing the potential to develop a “Lights-Out Campaign” similar to efforts in New York, Chicago, and Toronto in which higher floors on tall commercial buildings reduce lighting during peak migration periods.
- We will partner with Matt Zaffino at KGW Channel 8 to collect radar data on fall bird migration patterns in the vicinity of the downtown core and South Waterfront.

What you can do

For more information on reducing bird strikes around your home, please see Portland Audubon’s “Birds and Windows” brochure at www.audubonportland.org/livingwithwildlife/brochures/BirdsWindows. To download a copy of New York Audubon’s “Bird-Safe Building Guidelines,” go to www.nycadubon.org/home/BSBGuidelines.shtml.



Great Blue Heron and snake... but the heron won in the end. © Bjorn Fredrickson/ www.bjornfredrickson.zenfolio.com

Volunteers Needed for Portland-area Great Blue Heron Inventory

The Great Blue Heron is one of the Northwest’s most iconic species and is the official “city bird” of Portland. Each spring, herons nest in large colonies known as *rookeries* at places such as Ross Island, Vancouver Lake, Smith and Bybee Lakes, and Heron Lakes Golf Course. However, heron rookeries are highly vulnerable to habitat alterations, human disturbance, and natural changes to the environment. The presence of herons on our urban landscape tells us much about whether we are doing enough to protect local wildlife habitat. Audubon began assembling information about known heron rookeries in the Portland-Vancouver metro area in 2007, and we are expanding that effort.

You can help with two parts of this project:

First, we are seeking information on heron rookeries in Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Columbia, or Clark County. We need the following data:

- Location of rookery
- Number of nests
- Years in existence (if known)

Second, we will be looking for **Heron Rookery Site Stewards** to track changes at specific heron rookeries over the course of the year. We will pair individuals with rookeries near where they work or live.

If you know of a heron rookery in the Portland-Vancouver metro region or would like to be a Heron Rookery Site Steward, please contact Karen Munday, Audubon Urban Wildlife Specialist, at kmunday@audubonportland.org.

Sending Hawk Killers to Jail: Update on Bird Protection Legislation

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Working in conjunction with National Audubon Society and Audubon state offices in California and Washington, Portland Audubon launched a nationwide blitz in March to help pass legislation that would make it a felony to intentionally kill a protected bird species. The Migratory Bird Penalty and Enforcement Act, introduced by Congressman Peter DeFazio, would amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 to create a felony provision in addition to the existing Class B Misdemeanor charge that is currently applied to illegal killing of protected birds. We are working with chapters nationwide to encourage additional members of Congress to sign on as co-sponsors of the Migratory Bird Penalty and Enforcement Act to help move this bill through committee and to a floor vote and passage. Kudos to Congressman DeFazio for taking a strong leadership role in this effort.

The inadequacy of the existing Class B Misdemeanor (by definition a “minor infraction”) was exemplified last summer when members of pigeon clubs in Oregon and California who pleaded guilty to intentional killing of protected Peregrine Falcons, Cooper’s Hawks, and Red-tailed Hawks escaped with nothing more than minor slaps on the wrist. Additional court documents have made the depravity of these crimes even more apparent.

Affidavits for the arrest warrants in California describe conversations between National Birmingham Roller Pigeon President Juan Navarro and an undercover special agent. According to the affidavit, Mr. Navarro states that he does not shoot hawks but rather traps them and then “pummels them with a stick,” and he bragged about killing as many as 40 hawks a year. Surveillance cameras set near Mr. Navarro’s property did in fact capture photos of hawks being trapped in his yard, and a hawk that had been beaten to death was recovered from his garbage.

The affidavits also describe activities of Rayvon Hall, a pigeon enthusiast who handed an undercover agent the talon that he had cut from a Cooper’s Hawk. Mr. Hall claimed to cut talons from hawks he had killed so he could give them to friends. In addition to shooting hawks, Mr. Hall told undercover agents that he sometimes sprayed a mixture of bleach and ammonia into the eyes and mouths of hawks that he had trapped. He used this method specifically when children were present in the school adjacent to his home so that they would not see him discharging a firearm.

Sadly, these crimes are not isolated. During the past six months, we have dealt with nine different cases of illegally shot birds of prey. It is time to send a strong message. It is time to send hawk killers to jail. Please help us pass House Bill 4093, the Migratory Bird Penalty and Enforcement Act.



This archival photo shows former Audubon staffer Katy Weil with a Peregrine Falcon that was shot off a telephone pole in NE Portland in 1992. The time to send a strong message about illegal killing of birds of prey is long overdue. Please help us pass the Migratory Bird Penalty and Enforcement Act. © Portland Audubon

What Portland Audubon is doing:

- Working with National Audubon Society and Audubon chapters nationwide to promote passage of the Migratory Bird Penalty and Enforcement Act;
- Working with *Audubon Magazine* on an article on these cases to appear in the May edition;
- Developing parallel legislation to increase criminal and civil penalties under Oregon law for intentional killing of birds of prey;
- Offering rewards of up to \$1,500 through our Migratory Bird Protection Fund to individuals who report illegal killing of protected bird species.

How you can help:

Contact friends and relatives outside Oregon and encourage them to contact their congressional delegations to sign on as co-sponsors of the Migratory Bird Penalty and Enforcement Act (House Bill 4093).

To learn more, go to www.audubonportland.org, and look for upcoming articles on this issue in *Audubon Magazine* and *Backpacker Magazine*.

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 or 503-292-6855 ext. 129.

Portland Airport's Red-tailed Hawks with Dave Helzer, Port of Portland Wildlife Staffer

Tuesday, April 8th, 7pm • Heron Hall

The Port of Portland has developed an innovative strategy for managing the Red-tailed Hawks that utilize the area around Portland International Airport (PDX) for nesting, foraging, and migration. Traditional approaches throughout the nation for managing wildlife near airfields have focused on lethal control. Instead, the Port of Portland has developed an innovative program for managing red-tails and other wildlife near PDX that focuses on non-lethal approaches. Audubon Society of Portland has worked with the Port since 1995 to develop and expand this program, and many of its approaches are now being replicated at airports across the country.

Dave Helzer, Port of Portland Wildlife Staffer and former Adult Education Specialist at the Audubon Society of Portland, will present on one of the most innovative

aspects of the Port's Airport Wildlife Strategy involving management of Red-tailed Hawk populations. Partnering with Pacific Habitat Services and Portland Audubon, the Port has developed a complex program for identifying, tracking, and managing red-tails that leaves territorial residents in place, relocates transient red-tails that are passing through to locations away from the airfield, and provides for captive rearing and release of Red-tailed Hawk fledglings that are learning to fly too close to the runways. The Port has been lauded by Portland Audubon and others for its innovative strategy, which improves aircraft safety while also eliminating the need to kill these beautiful birds.



Juvenile PDX red-tail is released to the wild after being raised at Portland Audubon. © WCC



Scenes from the 2007 nesting season. © Dieter Waiblinger

RaptorCam Returns

by Bob Sallinger

Last spring, many people tuned into the internet to follow the nesting cycle of a pair of Red-tailed Hawks that nested on a downtown fire escape. 'RaptorCam' was an instant success, drawing as many as 10,000 hits per day! Audubon always knew when the cheap, jury-rigged camera went out of focus because our voicemail and email would be flooded with messages from frustrated viewers who were tracking these birds.

Thanks to a very generous anonymous donation, a much-improved RaptorCam has now been installed at the same nest site. The new camera will allow us to remotely focus and move the camera and will send streaming video rather than last season's once-a-minute updates.

RaptorCam is a collaborative effort of Audubon, KGW Channel 8, and FreeWire. Our plan is to move the camera from site to site throughout the year to bring you unique perspectives on the wildlife that co-inhabit our urban landscape. The website will feature extensive information about the animals being featured and curricula that can be incorporated into school programs. Tune in now to either the Audubon or KGW website to watch RaptorCam today!

RaptorCam Wildlife Stewards: viaLanguage and Historic U.S. National Bank Block

RaptorCam presents not only an opportunity to learn about the wildlife that surrounds us, but also about some of the people that are doing their part to help our urban wildlife populations thrive. This month we feature Historic U.S. National Bank Block and viaLanguage. Historic U.S. National Bank Block manages the building on which the RaptorCam red-tails have nested for the past two seasons, and viaLanguage occupies the floor which abuts the fire escape landing that houses the nest. While these red-tails clearly have a high tolerance for humans, it is still essential to minimize disturbance in the immediate nest area during the nesting season. Activities that are new (above and beyond activities that exist at the time the nest site is selected by the birds) can cause abandonment or nest failure.



New and improved RaptorCam. © Bob Sallinger

Historic U.S. National Bank Block has worked with Audubon to develop a plan that schedules maintenance activities in the nesting area during the non-nesting season. Employees of viaLanguage have been careful to enjoy their feathered neighbors without increasing the amount of activity near the windows that look out on the fire escape. It was viaLanguage owner Dieter Waiblinger who initially contacted Audubon to encourage installation of the webcam at this site so that all residents of the region could enjoy the spectacular sights that he was observing just outside his window.

It is through the stewardship of Historic U.S. National Bank Block and viaLanguage that these Red-tailed Hawks have been able to establish a home on a fire escape in the middle of downtown Portland and that citizens across our region have been given this opportunity to get an up-close view of them raising their young.

Portland Audubon Kestrel Project Takes Flight

by Bob Sallinger

In late February, 11 volunteers met on Sauvie Island with Raptor Biologist Carole Hallett and Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger to kick off Audubon's new Kestrel Monitoring Project. Biologists nationwide have noted a decline in Kestrel populations that some have speculated is associated with loss of suitable old trees with nesting cavities and competition for nest sites with invasive species. No such declines have yet been documented in Oregon, but some long-time birders such as Jeff Gilligan believe that Kestrels around the Portland metro region have become notably less common in recent years.

The Kestrel Project will focus during this initial year on Sauvie Island and expand geographically in future years. The project will include 'driving surveys' of Kestrels and other birds of prey each week throughout the year. Willing Island residents with appropriate habitat will also be provided with Kestrel nest boxes that will be monitored for nesting success and competition from invasive species



Raptor Biologist Carole Hallett installs Kestrel nest box on Sauvie Island. © Bob Sallinger

throughout the spring. This will be a long-term effort to better understand the local challenges and population trends of Oregon's smallest falcon species.

What can you do?

Anyone can become involved in the Sauvie Island Kestrel surveys. Island residents are also eligible to receive Kestrel nest boxes. Contact Karen Munday, Audubon Urban Wildlife Specialist, at kmunday@audubonportland.org for more information.

Wildlife Care Center

Spring is here — and in the Wildlife Care Center, that means the start of Baby Bird Season!

Fledglings of many bird species such as robins, scrub jays, crows, and owls leave the nest and spend as many as 2-5 days on the ground before they can fly. This is an absolutely normal and vital part of their development. They are cared for and protected by their parents and are taught vital life skills (finding food, identifying predators, flying) during this period. Taking these birds into captivity denies them the opportunity to learn skills they need to survive in the wild. Unless a bird is injured, it is essential to leave it outside to learn from its parents.

If you are concerned that a bird fell from the nest too early, you may try to return the bird to its nest. If the nest has been destroyed or is unreachable, you may substitute a strawberry basket or small box lined with tissue and suspend it from a branch near to where you believe the nest is located. Birds have a poor sense of smell and very strong parental instincts and will usually continue

cares for their young. However, adult birds are cautious after any type of disturbance and it may take several hours before they approach the nestling. During this period it is essential that humans not approach the nestling.



Baby robins being cared for in a makeshift nest near where they were found. © Marti Stromberg

A fledgling is a young bird that has left the nest; is fully feathered, with a short tail and wings; and is able to walk, hop, or flap its wings, but is still being cared for by its parents. If you find a fledgling, it should be left alone or, at most, placed into a nearby shrub. Keep people and pets away so that parents will continue to care for it until it can fly. Placing fledglings back into nests is typically only a short-term solution, as they will quickly re-emerge. Moving fledglings to entirely new locations is also ineffective, as they are still dependent on their parents for survival and will quickly starve if relocated.

If you have any questions or find a baby bird that is injured or known to be orphaned, call our Wildlife Care Center between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week.



On February 22, Molly McAllister, Wildlife Care Center Assistant Manager, prepares to release a male American Kestrel in front of 200 students at Deer Creek Elementary School in Damascus. The bird spent one week in the care center recovering from injuries sustained from being caught in a school soccer goal net. Teachers and staff at the school extracted the Kestrel from the net and transported him to Portland Audubon for recovery.

Educational Trips & Tours

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

AMAZON AND THE GALAPAGOS



Swallow-tailed Gull
© Dan van den Broek

Galapagos Islands: November 5–14, 2008

Join the Audubon Society of Portland on a journey to one of the most fascinating natural areas in the world, the islands that Darwin first 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.

While on the islands we should see a great number of the endemic island 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 a chance to see the **Galapagos Tortoise** also await us. We'll stay 7 nights on a small (16-passenger) boat anchored offshore, and by day will visit the islands on foot. We will go to seabird colonies where we may see **Red-footed**, **Blue-footed**, and **Nazca Boobies**, **Tropicbirds**, and the endemic **Lava Gull**. 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 unusual



Marine Iguana © Dan van den Broek

Flightless Cormorant and the **Galapagos Penguin**, and we will have opportunities to snorkel so that we may experience the magnificent reefs that fringe the islands and the unique life they support.

The Amazon: November 14–19, 2008

Extend your South American adventure and join us as we explore the Amazon Basin of Ecuador. We will stay 5 days at a comfortable jungle lodge near the Yasuni National Park (a UNESCO biosphere reserve). Our lodge, set off the main river and located on a quiet lake, is reached after a short flight, a boat ride down one of the largest Amazon tributaries (the Rio Napo), and finally by canoe to the lodge. This ride will give us our first opportunity to see the many bird species including the strange prehistoric-looking **Hoatzin**, a bird that still has claws on its wings.



Hoatzin © Dan van den Broek

Whether taken together or separately, these will be unforgettable trips! Be sure to contact **Steve Robertson** at 503-292-6855 ext.118 or srobertson@audubonportland.org to sign up or for more information.

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

Galapagos: **Cost:** ~\$3275 members / ~\$3495 non-members
Deposit: \$1500 required to secure your place
Group size: 14 participants

Amazon: **Cost:** ~\$1595 members / ~\$1795 non-members
Deposit: \$500 required to secure your place
Group size: 14 participants

Leaders: Steve Robertson and Dan van den Broek

From our lodge we will make excursions to nearby locations such as a 'parrot clay lick' where, from a blind, we will look for **Mealy**, **Blue-headed**, **Yellow-crowned**, **Orange-winged**, and **Orange-checked Parrots** amidst the hundreds of **Cobalt-winged Parakeets**. At one clay lick we even have a chance for **Scarlet Macaw**. These parrots flock to eat clay that is believed to absorb the toxic alkaloids ingested when they eat certain nuts and fruits. We will visit a few riparian islands that host their own variety of unique birds and a great canopy tower where one can watch birds at eye level including raptors perching above the canopy and flocks of brightly colored tanagers, toucans, aracarís, and many more. We will always be on the lookout for the many species of mammals that can be found here too, including **Red Howler Monkeys** and **Giant River Otter**.



Black-crowned Night-Heron © Jim Cruce

Belize

Join **Steve Robertson** and **Steve Engel** on an incredible journey to Belize. We'll bird wetlands and tropical forests, explore Mayan ruins, snorkel some of the finest reefs in the world, and explore jungle rivers, all in this one amazing country.

This trip is tentatively planned for January 7–16, 2009, and the estimated price is \$2,985. A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure your place. Please call **Steve Robertson** at 503-292-6855 ext.118 for more information.



Summer Camp 2008

Exciting camps for
To reserve your spot

Here are just a few of this summer's great camps!

For kids entering 1st grade:

Skulls, Fangs, and Claws

What makes one animal a predator and another prey? Analyze the special adaptations that animals have, and learn how to tell what an animal's role is in its environment. Handle skulls and animal skins to examine fangs and claws of many different animals. Meet one of our resident raptors up close and personal. Create original finger paintings and colorful prints so you can take memories of your favorite predator and prey species home with you.

Dates: July 14–18

Fee: \$145 members / \$160 non-members



For kids entering 4th–5th or 6th–8th grades:

Mysteries of Opal Creek 1 (overnight Mon–Fri)

Discover the enchantment of Opal Creek with an Audubon naturalist as you experience the majesty of trees more than 300 years old. Spend an entire week at Opal Creek's education center — the historic mining camp on Jawbone Flats — in the heart of this ancient forest wilderness. Pan for gold and search for metals in old stone cores from mining days. Contemplate the history and ecology while dipping your toes in the cool, clear waters of Opal Creek. Learn about ancient forest-dependent species such as the Northern Spotted Owl, Red-backed Vole, Marbled Murrelet, and Flying Squirrel. Stay in a rustic lodge that has three floors, a large stone fireplace, and a resource library. Bring your sense of adventure and discover with us the mysteries of Opal Creek.

Grades 4–5: July 28–August 1

Grades 6–8: August 4–8

Fee: \$415 members / \$430 non-members

Note: Will return at 3:30pm on Friday



BIRDING THE Blue Mountains

June 22–27, 2008

Come with Portland Audubon on a trip to the wild and rugged mountains of Northeastern Oregon. We will spend three nights at Wallowa Lake Lodge, which situates us perfectly to bird the nearby mountain trails and open grasslands in search of **Three-toed Woodpeckers**, **Gray Jays**, and **Golden Eagles**. Next we will stay in La Grande, where we will search for NE Oregon specialties such as the **Gray Catbird** and **Veery**. Nearby Ladd Marsh is one of Oregon's *Important Bird Areas*, and here we should find **Black-necked Stilt**, **American Avocet**, and **Black-crowned Night-Heron**. We will visit the John Day area as well, in hope of spotting the **Calliope Hummingbird**, **Upland Sandpiper**, and **Flammulated Owl**. Interspersed with mountains and valleys, this region is full of scenic beauty. Contact **Steve Engel** to sign up or for more information at 971-222-6119 or sengel@audubonportland.org.

What is included: Transportation by van from Portland, 5 nights double-occupancy lodging, all meals *except dinners*, and the services of your leaders. A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible contribution to the Audubon Society of Portland.

Cost: \$645 members / \$670 non-members

Deposit: \$200 required to secure your place

Leaders: Steve Robertson, Education Director, and Dan van den Broek, Master Birder Coordinator

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 zip code, or call Steve Engel and pay over the phone.

APRIL



Western Tiger Swallowtail. Credit: James C. Leupold/USFWS

Butterflies of the Deschutes River Canyon

April 18 (Friday), 6pm–7pm: Class
April 19 (Saturday), 10am–3pm: Field Trip

The new season for butterflies begins in our area in the warm Deschutes River canyon. Count on seeing swallowtails, whites, crescents, checkerspots, and blues — sightings of a dozen different species have been typical in previous years. We'll also look for eggs and caterpillars. The evening class at Audubon's Heron Hall will introduce you to the likely species and will also cover trip details and logistics. **Bill Neill**, author of *Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest* (2007), will lead this class and field trip.

Cost: \$25 members / \$35 non-members
Enrollment limited: 12
 Pre-registration is required.

Amphibians and Reptiles of the Portland Area

April 30 (Wednesday), 7pm–9pm

If you've wanted to know more about the frogs singing in your nearby wetland, the turtles basking on a log in the slough, or the difference between a salamander and a newt, then come and enjoy **Doug Robberson's** multi-media presentation on the salamanders, frogs, turtles, lizards, and snakes of the greater Portland area. Learn about the various stages of life our native amphibians and reptiles go through, from eggs to larvae to adults, as well as some of the threats they face in living here.



Pacific Tree Frog © Ron LeValley/
www.LeValleyPhoto.com

Cost: \$15 members / \$20 non-members
 Pre-registration is required.

Native Shrub ID Class to be offered in May
 see website for details

MAY–JUNE



Red-winged Blackbird © Jim Cruce

Birding by Ear

May Session:

Class (Mon.): May 5, 19 — 7pm–9pm
Field (Sun.): May 11, 18, 25 — 7am–10am

June Session:

Class (Mon.): June 2, 16 — 7pm–9pm
Field (Sun.): June 8, 15, 22 — 7am–10am

Learn the language of birds in this comprehensive workshop with **Laura Whittemore**. Recognizing songs and calls adds a new level of awareness for birdwatchers. The evening classes provide an overview of local songsters and a chance to train your ear with recorded sounds. Each session includes immersing yourself in bird sounds on three outings to three birding locales in the Portland area. Sign up for **either** the May session or the June session.

Cost: \$65 members / \$75 non-members
Enrollment limited: 12 participants per session
 Pre-registration is required.



White-headed Woodpecker © Paul Buescher

Woodpeckers of Oregon

June 12 (Thursday), 7pm–9pm: Class
June 14–15 (Sat.–Sun.): Field Trip

Learn about the 12 species of woodpeckers that can be found in Oregon as we cover many of the unique qualities of this remarkable group of birds. Many woodpecker species are very habitat specific, and we will review the best places in Oregon to find them. We will discuss the identification of males, females, and young, as well as hybrids, and will learn to identify woodpeckers by calls and drumming patterns. Not all woodpeckers behave alike; some sally for insects and others store food in granaries. So if you've always wanted to learn more about the habitats, habits, identification, hybridization, and sounds of woodpeckers, and where to find them, you will want to take this class.

We'll have a classroom session in Audubon's Heron Hall and an overnight trip to Bend. The Bend area is one of only a few places in the world with such high woodpecker diversity that we stand a good chance of seeing up to 11 species.

Cost: \$145 members / \$165 non-members
Enrollment limited: 14 participants
 Pre-registration is required.

For kids entering 1st–12th grades!
Spot, please call 971-222-6120.

For kids entering 6th–8th grades:

Animal Tracking (overnight Thur–Fri)

Black Bear, Bobcat, and Cougar are all in the forests that surround Portland, but we rarely see them. Learn to read animal tracks in the mud, sand, and soil. Get down and dirty as we read and interpret the signs animals leave behind. Tracking will enable you to learn all about the lives of wild animals, without ever seeing or hearing them. Build basic tracking skills the first three days as we study the animals that live in Audubon's Sanctuary and on the Sandy River's floodplains. Take it to the next level as we spend the night at Marmot Cabin and track in the Miller Wildlife Sanctuary on the last night of camp.

Dates: July 7–11

Fee: \$285 members / \$300 non-members



For kids entering 6th–8th grades:

Fire, Sticks, and Stones (overnight Mon–Fri)

What if you were lost in the forest and had only yourself to depend on? Could you make a fire and stay warm? Could you protect yourself from the elements? Learn the art of wilderness survival by building shelters, gathering food from the forest and preparing it on a fire you build yourself without matches! We'll gain our survival knowledge during this weeklong overnight adventure at Marmot Cabin near Mount Hood.

Dates: July 14–18

Fee: \$355 members/\$370 non-members

Leader: Ian Abraham

For a complete listing of camps, please visit us at www.audubonportland.org.

Nature Store Highlights

Every Day Is Earth Day

by Sally Loomis, Nature Store book buyer

"The challenge for our generation is to build a new economy, one that is powered largely by renewable sources of energy, that has a highly diversified transport system, and that reuses and recycles everything. And to do it with unprecedented speed."

— Lester Brown in *Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*



In honor of the 38 years since the original Earth Day, this month we look at a few recent publications that grapple with current ecological issues. These titles mix a sense of urgency with the need to retain hopefulness, because despair can too often lead to inaction.

Lester Brown, president of the Earth Policy Institute, is a long-time writer on environmental issues. The quotation above is taken from his latest book, which outlines the complexities of the global situation but also provides many recommendations for change. He urges us to launch a mobilization effort much like the American public did during World War II, but this time on a global scale.

Portland photographer **Gary Braasch** has given us a rich visual document of climate disruption in *Earth Under Fire: How Global Warming is Changing the World*. His arresting images are accompanied by text based on extensive research and travel begun in 1999. Historical photos matched with contemporary shots of the same location make clear that global warming is all too real.

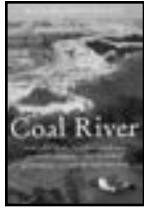


I recommend *Thrillcraft: The Environmental Consequences of Motorized Recreation* with some trepidation, because it is a deeply disturbing though fascinating visual testimonial against ATVs, snowmobiles, and other recreational vehicles. The book hammers home the enormous ecological damage caused by totally voluntary human behavior, and is a call to action to protect our public lands.

To again quote Lester Brown:

"We can stay with business as usual and preside over an economy that continues to destroy its natural support systems until it destroys itself, or we can adopt Plan B and be the generation that changes direction, moving the world onto a path of sustained progress. The choice will be made by our generation, but it will affect life on earth for all generations to come."

Michael Shnayerson's *Coal River* is the story of citizens confronting mountaintop-removal coal mining in West Virginia. In a compelling narrative that originally appeared as an article in *Vanity Fair*, he reveals the ecological and human costs of this aggressive mining process, and the legal battle fought by a determined grassroots effort to stop it.



Dam Nation: Dispatches from the Water Underground may go further than many readers are comfortable with in discussing guerilla tactics to subvert conventional water usage. Not all of us are ready to set up a greywater system at home. Nonetheless, it is inspirational to explore the ingenuity demonstrated in examples from around the world.

Earth Day Slide Presentation, Book Signing, and Refreshments

Tuesday, April 22
7pm • Heron Hall

Timber Press Book Launch for *Portland Forest Hikes: Twenty Close-In Wilderness Walks* by James D. Thayer



Here are twenty wilderness hikes within twenty miles of downtown Portland. Adventurers at all skill levels will be surprised by the remoteness and remarkable beauty of these easy woodland escapes. Just take this pocket-sized companion and slip down a hidden trail to emerge on vistas with eagles soaring overhead. There are shorter walks suitable for kids, like the McCarthy Creek Loop, and rugged routes for the ambitious, like the Fire Lane 12 loop.

Each hike description includes a map, bus access, basic conditions, length, and grade, as well as flora, fauna,

geology, and local history. Half the trails explore lesser-known wooded hillsides in Forest Park. Others venture farther north in the Tualatin Mountains into rarely described prime Oregon hiking country.

Local author James Thayer has surveyed most of the publicly accessible walking routes along the Tualatin Mountains from Forest Park to Scappoose and nearly to the Oregon coast — on foot.



Photo © N. Martin

Sanctuaries

Signs of Spring

by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

As I write this column in early March, I look out my window and notice the Indian Plum has already leafed out. Spring is on its way. While the invasive plants that I have been writing about for the past few months are always on my mind, I wanted to take a moment to breathe deep and celebrate some of my favorite signs of spring. At the same time I am also getting my shopping list together for our 12th Annual Native Plant Sale, which will be held May 17–18, 10am–4pm. Take notes, since all of these plants will make excellent additions to your home landscape while improving the habitat value of your yard.



Indian Plum

Red-flowering Currant – *Ribes sanguineum*: Ranging from red to pink to white, the flowers of our native Ribes usually appear sometime in April and can persist until the beginning of summer. This is a caterpillar host plant for several species of butterfly while the flowers also provide nectar for bees and butterflies.

Cascade Oregon Grape – *Mahonia nervosa*: The bright yellow flowers of the Oregon Grape often arrive with the spring equinox. Another common forest shrub that provides excellent early season nectar for mason bees and other flying pollinators. The tart berries arrive in late spring and provide food for several species.

Salmonberry – *Rubus spectabilis*: The pink flowers of the salmonberry provide another springtime source of nectar for our bees, butterflies, and hummers. The orange-tinged berries arrive by late spring and have been associated with the song of the Swainson's Thrush.

Stream Violet – *Viola glabella*: The small, five-petaled yellow flowers usually bloom in early spring. A great groundcover in wetter soils, the stream violet is a host plant for a variety of caterpillar species and provides nectar for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Western Bleedingheart – *Dicentra formosa*: The pendulous pink flowers usually arrive by mid-spring and last into the summer, providing nectar for a variety of pollinator species. Bleedingheart is also a caterpillar host plant for the Clodius Parnassian butterfly.



Purple Trillium



Western Trillium

Western Trillium – *Trillium ovatum*: The white flowers of the trillium are one of the first to arrive each spring. What a pleasure to see the forest floor alive with its blooms before most of the trees have even leafed out. The white flowers slowly darken as they age and can attract a variety of pollinators. I should also mention one of the unique trillium varieties available at our sale, the **Giant Purple Trillium**, *Trillium kurabayashi*, which is native in the southern reaches of Oregon.



Salal

Salal – *Gaultheria shallon*: Small pinkish-white flowers bloom in the shady understory of our forest. The flowers provide nectar for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Salal is also a host plant for the Brown Elf butterfly. Later in the season its berries will provide food for birds and mammals of the forest.



Bleedingheart

Photos © Tammi Miller

Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

In Honor

Elizabeth Collins
Michael Gregg

Molly Zwartjes
Angela Merola

Clyde Bailey, *Warbler* Graphic Designer
Marilyn Stinnett

In Memory

Cathy Malecka
Cindy and Dorothy Johnson
Angela Daufel
Anonymous

Virginia Taylor
Don Isaacson

Dr. Grover C. Carter
Dr. and Mrs. Alan G. Carter
Claire Carter

Al Taylor
Ellen Fallihee

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 or by calling 971-222-6129. A songbird card acknowledging your thoughtful gift will be sent to the honoree or family.

Wish List & Thank you's

Thank you to:

- Craig Shinn for a book about Tanagers donated to the Education Dept.
- Martin L. Schwartz for a pair of Swarovski waterproof binoculars donated to the Education Dept.
- Anne Jeffrey for a book about Hummingbirds
- CC Financial for a Fujitsu Lifebook laptop computer and flat screen monitor

Our Wish List:

For Education:

Powerpoint projector • Flat screen monitor
Laptop computer

For Sanctuary:

Loppers • Hand saws • Work gloves
Watering wand hose attachment

For Wildlife Care Center:

Chicken baby food
Science Diet kitten food
Bleach • Camper/trailer

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.

Morning Chorus Heralds a New Nesting Season

After months of silence, people are again surprised during April at how noisy the woods are when the birds are in song. And as they do every spring, everyone wonders how such a loud, strong song can come from the tiny **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**.

Each spring experienced birders rearrange their schedule to be in the field early in the morning. Most of the action takes place from sunrise to about 9 a.m. The rest of the day is noticeably quieter and the birds are more secretive.

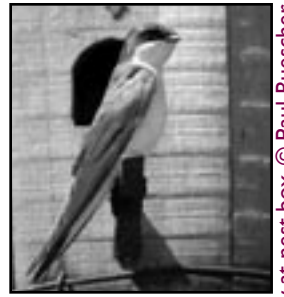
Most nesting birds proclaim their territorial boundaries and defend them from intruders early in the morning. It is then that unmated birds visit the nesting sites. If a territory is unoccupied or weakly defended, an unmated male could

move in and claim the area. After a few hours the unmated males leave to spend the day away from the nesting territories.

That is the theory, anyway, but studies have found that many of the eggs and young have DNA that differ from the DNA of the territorial male. Unmated males apparently quietly sneak back to find and mate with unguarded females.

The nesting season is fairly long, running from late February through August. However, the majority of birds nest during April, May, and June, with June the main month. Considering the importance of learning bird songs and the pure enjoyment of hearing the birds sing, the song period is rather short. Most birds begin singing during April and stop by mid-July. After that the birds begin to disperse and move out of their nesting territories.

People attempting to study the breeding distribution of a species have two main problems. They must separate breeding birds from the unmated birds and the wanderers or migrants. To do that they must confirm nesting by finding the nest or young, or by observing territorial males with females. This is best done during the early morning hours. With such a short nesting season for most species, it takes many people spending much time afield to figure the breeding range of a species.



Tree Swallow at nest box. © Paul Buescher

During the past several years many projects have been established in which birders can take part in studying and mapping the breeding distribution of birds. They offer great opportunities for nonprofessionals to take part in important scientific studies. These projects are always looking for help.



Volunteer of the Month: Anne Eakin

by Nancy Mattson, Nature Store Manager

When I started work at the Nature Store last August, I was delighted to discover that we possessed a well-trained, resourceful volunteer who could assist me in learning our automated sales and inventory system. Beginning in 2002, Anne Eakin has worked a regular Thursday afternoon shift as a store volunteer. And while working in the store doesn't require a financial background as a vice president of a major utility, it certainly doesn't hurt. I was overjoyed to discover the depth of knowledge that Anne possesses about business finance and her willingness to share those skills for the benefit of Portland Audubon's bottom line.

Following her graduation from Whitman College with a degree in psychology, Anne moved to Portland and began a career working with delinquent and emotionally disturbed children. Later, looking for new challenges, she enrolled in the MBA program at PSU. After completing her degree, Anne started in an entry-level position in the Regulation Department at Pacific Power. She retired 20 years later as a Vice President. Most of her work was performed here in Portland, but she enjoyed overseas posts in Australia and Scotland toward the end of her career.

Although she now lives in Multnomah Village, Anne formerly resided on NW Skyline Drive, which led her to discover the nearby Audubon Sanctuary. It piqued an interest that eventually led her to volunteer. In addition to working weekly at the Nature Store, she plays a crucial role by monitoring Birdathon pledges. While Anne describes herself as a casual and somewhat lazy birder, she enjoys tracking the activities of the busy teams of birding fanatics who make Birdathon the year's major fundraiser for Portland Audubon.

In 2005 Anne got involved with our Wild Arts Festival by volunteering as chairman. In 2006 she served on the committee that re-evaluated the event. Then in 2007 she helped organize the financial pieces as we brought this great event back to the community. She monitored sales procedures, artist commissions, purchases, and other expenditures, employing all the same great skills she uses in helping to bring financial success to Audubon's Nature Store.

Generous with her time, Anne also is an active volunteer with the Portland Center for the Performing Arts and serves on the board of The Wetlands Conservancy. Her early retirement has been a great boon to our community. We are lucky that Anne chooses to spend so many of her free hours with us here at Audubon. **Thank you, Anne!**

Sightings

There is a period in February each year when the sun comes out and the weather turns mild. The birds respond by singing, setting up nesting territories, and attracting a mate. If the mild weather extends beyond a couple of weeks, some nesting may be initiated. Cold unsettled weather eventually returns to stop most of this action. Most birds wait until April to begin nesting.

By mid-February there were several reports of juvenile **Anna's Hummingbirds** visiting birdfeeders. This is a bit earlier than expected, but not too unusual.

In recent years **Lesser Goldfinches** have been increasing in the Portland area. Reports this winter indicate a major increase with some good-sized flocks being seen. Fruit- and seed-eaters were all in good numbers, but insectivores were below what would be expected.

Loons have been regular on the Columbia River this winter. Chris Warren has been watching a flock of up to 10 **Red-throated Loons** at Kelley Point Park in North Portland. Checking flocks of **Canada** and **Cackling Geese** this winter have been very successful, with many **White-fronted Geese** and at least one **Ross's Goose** in the

flocks. On February 6 Herb Book photographed a bright **Red-breasted Goose** in a flock south of Newberg. At least 3,000 **Snow Geese** wintered on Sauvie Island and at Ridgefield NWR, with one **Blue Goose** among them.

About 600 **Sandhill Cranes** wintered in the area this winter. During February 16–18 a major northward movement of Sandhills passed over the Willamette Valley, many stopping on Sauvie Island and at Ridgefield. **Rufous Hummingbirds** usually reach the Portland area about the first of March each year. An early bird was in Hillsboro February 19 and Caroline Preble saw one in Portland February 25. On February 16 Bill Clemons reported a couple of hundred **Tree Swallows** over Ridgefield NWR. This group was part of the first main movement of the species and was about on schedule.

On February 9 Mike Marsh spotted a **Clay-colored Sparrow** on Sauvie Island. Dwight Porter reported a **Snow Bunting** on the Island February 16, and Don Holland saw a **Gyr Falcon** there February 17. Dave Helzer identified a **Golden Eagle** on the Island February 10, and Lars Norgren reported one near North Plains February 13. Iain Tomlinson saw a **Eurasian Teal** at Oaks Bottom February 24.



Bird Song Walks

Audubon Society of Portland is proud to sponsor the 2008 season of weekday morning Bird Song Walks! From beginners to advanced birders, anyone who is fascinated by the sounds of birds should take advantage of these guided walks to the metro area's prime spring migration hotspots. By starting with the earliest trips you can learn the songs of the common resident species, and then when the migrants arrive you'll be able to sort them out during the morning chorus.

The Bird Song Walks visit Beaverton's **Tualatin Hills Nature Park** every Tuesday, **Mt. Tabor** in east-central Portland every Wednesday, The Nature Conservancy's **Camassia Preserve** in West Linn every Thursday, and

Pittock Mansion in Portland's West Hills every Friday. Leaders include **Paul Sullivan**, **Gerard Lillie**, and other Audubon naturalists.

All walks begin at 7am, are free of charge, and last from one to two hours. Walkers leave whenever they need to for work. No pre-registration is required. Bring your binoculars and field guide and be sure to dress properly for the weather; spring mornings can be surprisingly chilly. Try taking the bus (routes and phone numbers are given below). For natural history information, maps, and directions for any of these natural areas, see *Wild in the City: A Guide to Portland's Natural Areas*, available at the Portland Audubon Nature Store.

Tuesdays

April 1	April 15	April 29	May 13	May 27
April 8	April 22	May 6	May 20	June 3

Tualatin Hills Nature Park

Directions: From the Westside MAX [www.trimet.org] get off at Merlo Road Station and walk down the trail into the preserve to the Interpretive Center. By car, take Murray Blvd south from Hwy 26 to Millikan Blvd. Turn right onto Millikan; the park is at 15655 SW Millikan, just past the second railroad tracks. Walks start at 7am.

Thursdays

April 3	April 17	May 1	May 15	May 29
April 10	April 24	May 8	May 22	June 5

The Nature Conservancy's Camassia Preserve

Directions: Take Exit 8 off I-205 and turn toward Oregon City (but don't cross the river). At the 76 gas station, turn right then left to follow Willamette Falls Dr. Turn right on Sunset, cross I-205, and immediately turn right on Walnut St. The preserve is at the end of Walnut St. Walks start at 7am.

Wednesdays

April 2	April 16	April 30	May 14	May 28
April 9	April 23	May 7	May 21	June 4

Mt. Tabor

Directions: From SE Belmont, go south on SE 69th two short blocks. Just into the park, turn right and drive as far as possible to the gate. Park along the street. Mt. Tabor Park is closed to vehicle traffic on Wednesdays, so be sure to use this entrance. [Mt. Tabor TriMet Bus #15 stops at SE 69th & Yamhill; call 503-231-3215 or check www.trimet.org]. Walks start at 7am.

Fridays

April 4	April 18	May 2	May 16	May 30
April 11	April 25	May 9	May 23	June 6

Pittock Mansion

Directions: Follow W Burnside about 1.2 miles west of NW 23rd and turn right onto NW Barnes Rd. Follow the well-marked signs through the neighborhood for another 0.7 mile; meet in the Pittock Mansion parking lot [West Burnside TriMet Bus #20 stops at the bottom of the hill; call 503-231-3220 or check www.trimet.org]. Walks start at 7am.

Welcome New Members!

Portland Audubon is a force in regional conservation thanks to its strength in membership, standing together since 1902. We appreciate each and every one of our members and begin celebrating our membership by welcoming our new members monthly, as of January 2008. Thank you for joining our vibrant and growing community!

January

Thomas Allen
Tom Allman & Bev Burke
Deborah Alysoun
Charles E. Aubin
Jean E. Baecher Brown
Elizabeth Bailey
Julia Bartlemay
Mitchell Bartunek
Richard H. Berkey
Barbara Borgeson
Barbara S. Burns
Claire Carder
Amanda Chao
Carly Chaput
Mark Chilcote
Marilyn Cobo
Terri Cohen
Ray & Sunday Coronado
Pam Demer
John Deschesnes
Doris & Roderic Diman
Dylan Dow & Suk Rhee
Anne Dunn
Annemarie Eversmeyer
Susan M. Flagg
Friends of Mystery
Beth & Tim Gish
Michelyn Goetz
Erin Gorsline
Jan Gronholm
Elizabeth Gurklys
Tammy Hansen
Andrew & Ilene Harris
Richard A. Hodgson, MD
Jennifer & Paul Hohenlohe
Fred Horning
Jenny A. Hull

Charmaine Hunt & Bill Stachnik
Greg Hyatt
Jon Inouye
Rachel June-Graber
Julie Kelly
Loren Kjonas
Will Koenig
David Koskamp
Pete & Tami Landers
Harriet Loomis
Elizabeth Malsin
Jim & Jane Martin
Sheila McNaughton
Chris Miller
Hattie Milton
Kendra Morgan
Lenora Oftedahl
John Ost & Carolyn Stapleton
Matthew Packwood
Linda Paris & James Knoop
Heidi H. Parker
Aidan Patterson
Emma M. Pike
Lynn Ramsdell
Kara & Josh Seeds
Zach Seilo
Kate & Randy Shaver
Harlan Shober
Courtney Stennick
Misty Stromme
Kathy Sutor
Jimmy & Ana Tomblin
George Viau
Roger & Karen Vrilakas
Donald & Betsy Welch
Jeanne F. Williamson
Kipi Wilson

February

Janet M. Anderson
Lynn Barclay
Robert Barncord
William & Gwendolyn Beaty
Kim Beaudet
Martha Beaves
Sharon Bennett
Joan Bessey
Steve Bray
Catherine Carty
Peter Cizik & Susan Walton-Cizik
Beth Clifton
Kathleen Collins
Alexis Cook
Lisa M. Cutler-Stamm
Amy Cutting
Angela Danfel
Bradford & Helen Denson
Mary Dickey
Christian S. D'Urso
Gillian & Kenneth Dyal
Janet Flaherty
Susan Fries & Lew Bowers
Chuck Galford
Robert Gassner
Martin & Carolyn Granum
Eddie Greenly
Diane & Jonathan Haines
Missy Hall
Lisa K. Ham
Paul Hannah
Susan Harvey
Liz Henry
Marsha Holt-Kingsly
Susan Howell-Davis
Mary Hull
Bob & Michelle Jabczynski
Grace & Paul Jeffreys
Leslie A. Jones
Phyllis P. Kirk
Sharon A. Kitzhaber
Kennon Lattal & Jennifer Maas
Carol E. Leona
Jake Linnon
Catherine Lofts
Elisabeth L. Lyon
Zoe MacWilliamson
Eugene Mandel
Rik Masterson

Siobhan McConnell
Elise McIntosh
Yan McRae
Linda C. Milne
Dawn M. Munch
Alexandra & Brad Nahill
Willemina Niosi & Family
Nancy Norta
Lynne & Christopher O'Donnell
Greg Orton
Connie Ozawa
Mary E. Palmer
Jonna Papaethimiou
Tom Pierce
Jerry & Shirley Poli
Dale & Niki Pope
Arnold Reeder
Dalila Rendon
Jim & Kay Richards
Laura Richings
Carol Rodrick
Sandra Rogers
Cheryl Royle
Glenn & Jean Severns
Brian Shannon
Neata Shulmire
Brian Smithers
Smith-Reilly Family
Leila Snow
Alfredo Soto
Susan St. Michael
Samantha Stashin
Diane Stone
Donna Storz
Rhonda Taylor-Kenny
Jacob Tietsort
Donna Tryon
Carol Utterburg
Danny van den Broek
Lisa Vance
Andrea Vicino
Margaret Wade
Janet R. Warren
Nancy Wells & Steven Larson
Joern Wetttern
Kyle Williford
Nanette Wilson
Richard Yost
Stacy & Alan Yost

Congratulations, Raptor Road Trip Membership Raffle Winners!

Chandra Allen
Teresa Haines
Rita Jimenez

Sean Marble
Kelly Simpson

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

A Reflection on the Malheur NWR Centennial

continued from cover

By the stroke of his pen, Teddy created Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge in 1907 and the Malheur and Lower Klamath Refuges in 1908.

Finley's first annual report of the Society in 1909 cites the necessity of helping fund warden patrol service. Finley's 1910 report notes that market and plume hunting ceased at Malheur and Klamath because of Audubon-funded warden patrols.

Malheur Lake came under threat in 1920 when the Oregon State Land Board claimed the floor of the lake and offered it for development. To stave off a drainage scheme, the Society resolved to have the state cede its disputed lands to the federal government. Our state initiative, called the Roosevelt Bird Refuge Measure, was narrowly defeated. Litigation simmered, then nature trumped with the drought of the 1930s. Malheur Lake went dry and the claimed tracts were, in time, purchased for the Refuge.

Now the challenge was to bring water to a desiccated marsh. Finley, in concert with two stalwart Society members who worked for the old Biological Survey in Portland, Ira Gabrielson and Stanley Jewett, prevailed upon their Izaak Walton League friend, Jay N. (Ding) Darling, who was the newly appointed chief of what later became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1935, Darling approved purchase of the famous "P" Ranch, and these 65,000 acres of the Blitzen Valley doubled the Refuge's land base, guaranteeing a water source.

Dave Marshall, our Board Member Emeritus, decided on his future career in 1939 as a 13-year-old after the Society held the first of its Malheur field trips, a week-long car caravan. In 1960, a memorial photographic blind to Finley and Bohlman was dedicated by the Society beside the visitor pond at Refuge headquarters. Harold Moulton, stonemason and Society treasurer, constructed

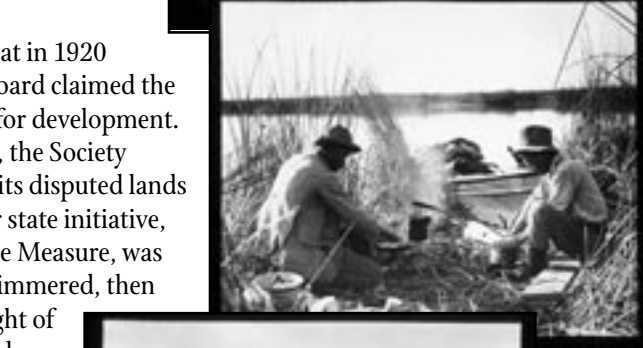


the blind from native rock gathered by Refuge staff. Society president Norbert Leupold said the blind symbolized the Society's pride in its members' accomplishments.

Nature is dynamic; 24 years later the blind was battered to rubble by record high water and the power of grinding winter ice. The trees were shattered, and carp got into the pond. Invading carp root like hogs, keep the water stirred to a silty soup, and consume the most valuable aquatic plants before the birds can utilize them. A choice birding spot awaits restoration!

The Refuge's water-spreading system, developed over seven years when 1200 Civilian Conservation Corps members worked here, is in dire need of attention. Fire is both an ongoing threat and a potential management tool. Invasive plants advance yearly over thousands of acres. Perennial pepperweed and reed canary grass have taken over 40,000 acres of nesting habitat. Russian olive trees are competing with willow, cottonwood, osier, and alder for the riparian zone where Willow Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, Eastern Kingbirds, and Bullock's Orioles nest. Where 30 pair of Trumpeter Swans nested in the 1980s, the number is down to 19 because of rank crowding cattail stands and food loss to the masses of carp.

This year's Malheur centennial is a perfect time to partner with Refuge staff and Malheur Wildlife Associates and to reinforce our Society's historic relationship with this crown jewel of the national wildlife refuge system. Join the centennial kickoff celebration on April 4-6, and visit www.audubonportland.org/events/wildlife_refuge_cent (and www.fws.gov/malheur/special.htm) for information on special events that include a recounting by "Theodore Roosevelt" of one of his greatest accomplishments: the establishment of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.



Audubon Birding Weekends 2008 — a portal to birding Oregon



Paul Sullivan

This popular program will continue for another year. As before, it intends to bring birders together from around the state to enjoy birds, see new locations, and maybe add to their lists. We aim to help everyone see most of the birds. The pace is moderate, and corny jokes may happen from time to time.

What you can expect

About 10 days before each trip, I will provide a letter to registered participants that will give motel options, schedule, possible birds, and the meeting place. I will also help with arranging carpooling. We meet for Saturday breakfast and carpool from there. Participants are responsible for their own transportation, food, and lodging. Participants are also responsible for their own comfort: snacks, warm clothing, rain gear, insect repellent, sunscreen, etc. Participants should get gas and lunches ahead of time.

Questions?

Contact Paul at ptsulliv@spiritone.com or 503-646-7889, or go to www.audubonportland.org/trips_classes_camps_adult_programs/birding_weekendsfolder/index.html.

Registration

Registration for Audubon Birding Weekends is \$35 per person for each weekend. Separate checks are preferred. Please make your check payable to the Audubon Society of Portland.

You must register by the Tuesday before the weekend you plan to attend. The following registration information is needed for each weekend you wish to attend: • name • address • phone • email • trip you wish to join • number of attendees • amount enclosed.

Please send the registration to:

Paul T. Sullivan
4470 SW Murray Blvd. #26
Beaverton, OR 97005

Upcoming Audubon Birding Weekends 2008

April 26-27 — Jackson County

As spring comes to southern Oregon, we will visit this area to catch the early migrants. Specialties of the area include Oak Titmouse, Mockingbird, California Towhee, and Black Phoebe. **Base: Ashland.**

May 24-26 — Grant County

We will look for spring migrants, especially the Upland Sandpiper, and enjoy the beauty of the Strawberry Mountains. **Base: John Day.**

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*

When walking through a densely wooded area, you are likely to hear a Bewick's Wren before you see it. Though they may be tough to spot, these energetic and vocal little birds are well worth a look. Permanent residents of Oregon, Bewick's Wrens charm birders with their antics and singing prowess. Western populations of this species have shown remarkable adaptability and their numbers reflect important changes to our state's landscape.

Field Marks

Bewick's Wrens can be differentiated from Oregon's other wrens by their long, blackish tail with white spots. Their wings and backs are dull brown and there is some black barring on the wings. Underparts are pale gray and adults have a whitish stripe above their eye. Like other wrens, they have a slender, down-curved bill perfect for probing crevasses while searching for a meal.

Voice

Bewick's Wrens produce distinctive, buzzy calls that have a scolding quality. These calls can be heard any time of the year and are used for a variety of purposes such as contacting mates and warning others of danger. During the spring and summer months, males sing rich, complex songs that can be confused with those of Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*). One can distinguish the two by listening for thin, rising buzzes always present in songs of the Bewick's Wren. The songs of both species vary geographically, however, so much practice is needed to identify both species by ear.

Behavior

Adults seem to mimic a variety of other birds with their highly active foraging behavior. While searching for invertebrate prey, Bewick's Wrens creep along the trunks of trees, rustle through leaf litter, and hop from branch to branch. They frequently sweep their tails back and forth while foraging and defending their territory.

Reproduction

Bewick's Wrens are categorized as secondary cavity nesters. This means they frequently nest in pre-existing tree cavities that were excavated by birds such as woodpeckers or in crevasses created by broken branches or other damage to trees. Like other secondary cavity nesters, Bewick's Wrens will nest in bird boxes or other human-made structures. When a cavity is selected, both sexes line the interior with materials such as twigs, grass, leaves, feathers, and animal hair. Bewick's Wrens and other cavity nesters often include snake skins in their nest materials. Researchers have found that the snake skin's odor repels mammalian predators wary of encountering a snake in such a confined place.

Males and females are usually monogamous, but there are reports of some males tending the nests of multiple females. Females incubate eggs for about two weeks and both parents feed young in the nest for another two weeks before they fledge. Young are fed a variety of invertebrate prey including caterpillars, crickets, beetles, and spiders. Most pairs raise five or six young, though a pair I once monitored in New Mexico raised seven chubby nestlings to fledging!

Habitat and Range

Bewick's Wrens are a wide-ranging, adaptable species found in dense forests and shrublands from the west coast to the southern and eastern U.S. During the last century, western populations have grown and expanded their ranges, often into geographic areas that were unoccupied as few as 20 years ago. This expansion is in part due to the abundance of post-logging areas where small trees and shrubs grow at increased densities. Populations have also moved into river valleys altered by the spread of exotic shrubs such as Himalayan blackberry, Russian olive, and saltcedar.



Bewick's Wren © RBF

An opposite trend has been observed in the eastern U.S., where Bewick's Wren populations have seen a dramatic decline. Scientists believe this decline is caused by competition with the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), an aggressive species that readily destroys the nests of other wrens. Both species can be found in western Oregon where there has been little evidence of any negative interactions, perhaps because the resident Bewick's Wrens nest prior to the arrival of migratory House Wrens. In addition, abundant second-growth forests and shrublands attract Bewick's Wrens while House Wrens prefer to nest in more open, older forest types. As long as the structure and composition of Oregon's habitats continue to change, we can expect to see additional changes in the populations of wrens and other forest birds.

References

- *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (National Audubon Society)
- *The Birds of North America* (Kennedy and White)
- *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference* (Marshall, Hunter, Contreras)

Oh, the Ides of April – It's Tax Time!

(Okay, so the "Ides of April" is actually the 13th, but close enough.)

You're busy gathering all your receipts, W-2s, 1099s, 1040s, and countless other digit'd forms of the season, and although your head is steeped in numbers, save a little space in your consciousness to plan for 2008.

Build your legacy of conservation through a charitable gift.

Planned Giving with the Audubon Society of Portland can provide benefits for you and your family, as well as helping fulfill your philanthropic goals. You can plan your gifts to benefit Portland Audubon *now* while protecting your assets, or to benefit yourself or a loved one *now* and Portland Audubon *later*. A variety of planned giving vehicles offer you tax benefits that fit your lifestyle and your current and future needs.

Charitable gift annuities, trusts, gifts of real estate, retirement accounts, securities, or stocks can help you leverage your assets while managing tax liabilities. Portland Audubon does not offer financial or legal advice. We encourage you to get professional assistance from a financial planner or an attorney.

If you include the Audubon Society of Portland in your estate plans, please let us know! By joining the Audubon Society of Portland's Legacy Club, you will be supporting our important work now and into the future, joining a long and vital tradition of protecting wildlife and habitat right here where we live.

For more information on planned giving options at Portland Audubon, please call Ann Takamoto at 971-222-6117. And watch for our next Planned Giving Seminar on May 28th.

Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store!

Audubon Society of Portland's Nature Store is the headquarters for naturalists in the Portland-Vancouver metro area. We feature nature books, hiking and field guides, birding software, CDs, DVDs, binoculars and spotting scopes, birdfeeders and seed, plus gifts and toys for adults and children, all with a nature theme. **Portland Audubon members receive a 10% discount off regular prices.**

Living with Urban Wildlife

Here's this month's checklist highlight from Portland Audubon's new informational brochure "**For the Birds**" from the *Living with Urban Wildlife* series.

- **Report anybody illegally harming birds.** Native birds have been protected under federal law for nearly a century. However, illegal killing of protected bird species remains a serious problem in our region. Audubon Society of Portland's Migratory Bird Protection Fund offers rewards of up to \$1500 to people reporting illegal killing of protected bird species. If you believe a bird has been illegally harmed, call us at 503-292-0304.

We're proud of our history of advocacy for wild bird protection. And our members are proud to show their support for us. Many do so by wearing the **Audubon Society of Portland logo**. New polo caps have just arrived in mustard yellow, blueberry, and avocado embroidered with our Great Blue Heron circle logo. Also just arrived is a great selection of colorful Audubon t-shirts featuring designs by **Justyn Livingston** of Sisters, Oregon. Totes are available in the same woodcut-style designs.

Each year Portland Audubon celebrates **John James Audubon's birthday** by rewarding our staff with a one-day vacation. However, the sanctuary will be open and the Nature Store will hold a **One-Day Sale on Saturday, April 26**. Save an **additional 10% off anything that carries the Audubon name** — that's in addition to your membership discount or any sale prices. Besides caps, tees, and totes, we carry Vortex Audubon binoculars, Audubon field guides, Birds of America stationery, and Audubon Singing Bird Clocks. If you see the Audubon name, you'll save an additional 10%! **Happy 223rd Birthday, John.**



Wildlife Conservation Lecture Series at the Oregon Zoo

The Wildlife Conservation Lecture Series, hosted by the **Oregon Zoo, Audubon Society of Portland, and World Forestry Center**, endeavors to strengthen our community knowledge base on ecological systems and environmental issues. It is the hope of all partners that this series will motivate our community to make a difference in the environmental future of our region.

What Good Are Bugs?

The Case for Invertebrate Conservation

**Tuesday, April 29th, 7pm
Oregon Zoo's Banquet Center**

Scott Black, an entomologist at the Xerces Society, makes a compelling case for appreciating bugs. People can thank insect pollinators for one-third of every mouthful of food they eat. Without the lowliest flies in a stream for young fish to eat, grilled salmon would never make the menu. In fact, the direct benefit of insects to Americans is around \$57 billion a year. Prepare to be astounded and enlightened about some of the planet's smallest but most important inhabitants.



Monarch Butterfly. Credit: Glen Smart/USFWS

Cost: \$8 to members of host organizations, students, and seniors; \$10 to non-members. For more information, go to www.oregonzoo.org and click on Conservation.

Thank you to our Birdathon Event Sponsors!

They believe in and support the work of the Audubon Society of Portland.



SHOREBANK PACIFIC



Thank you to our Birdathon Prize Sponsors!

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**Find out how you can become a Birdathon Sponsor!
Contact Gary Slone, Birdathon Coordinator,
at gary.audubon@gmail.com**



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

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Secretary.....Jane Hartline
Interim Treasurer.....Ron Spencer
Past President.....Linda Craig

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Nancy Jane Cushing
Martha Gannett
Peg Goldie
Wink Gross
John Hammerstad
Barb Hill
Terry Kem
Kristina Gifford
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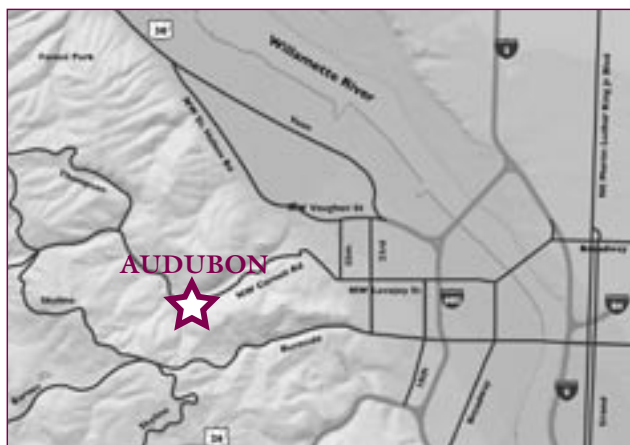
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Executive.....Peter Paquet
Finance.....Ron Spencer
Membership & Development.....Nancy Jane Cushing
Sanctuaries.....Ann Littlewood

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Environmental Educator.....Michael Kin
Urban Naturalist.....Mike Houck
Conservation Director.....Bob Sallinger
Urban Conservationist.....Jim Labbe
Urban Wildlife Specialist.....Karen Munday
Volunteer Coordinator.....Deanna Sawtelle
Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager.....Deb Sheaffer
Wildlife Care Center Assistant Manager.....Molly McAllister
Nature Store Manager.....Nancy Mattson
Nature Store Assistant.....Marilyn O'Grady
Nature Store Clerk.....Sally Loomis
Sanctuaries Director.....Tom Costello
Sanctuaries Assistant.....Greg Kurtz



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.

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