

Warbler



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Sauvie Island RAPTOR ROAD TRIP!

Breakfast with Birds of Prey SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 9 AM - 2 PM

Explore Sauvie Island in search of magnificent eagles, hawks, and falcons that spend the winter here. On this special day devoted to raptors, experienced naturalists and hawk experts will host activities at four locations around the island. We'll provide a map, then you choose where to go to enjoy guided bird viewing, meet live raptors up close, and see hawk identification displays. Hot drinks and donuts will be available in the morning so we can stay warm and have breakfast with the birds.

How does the "road trip" work?
The trip begins at Kruger's Farm Market, where you will need to stop first to get your event map and guide. To reach Kruger's, go over the Sauvie Island bridge, and continue straight 1.5 miles (passing by Howell Territorial Park) to the farm entrance on your right. The event fee is \$5 per vehicle (please bring cash only), which includes a Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking permit and lots of helpful materials.

We'll provide spotting scopes, a crash course in raptor identification, and naturalists to point out the birds. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Dress for the weather with gloves and a hat; this event takes place rain or shine. It is suitable for birders of all skill levels, and families are welcome.



Finnegan, the Peregrine Falcon
© Portland Audubon

Unlike traditional birdwatching, you don't have to be an "early bird" and get up at the crack of dawn to see these birds of prey, but we recommend that you allow about three hours if you wish to visit all four locations.

What will you see?
It all depends on what nature has in store, but frequently sighted raptors include **Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and Northern Harriers.** With a little luck, you also might spot a **Rough-legged Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, or Peregrine Falcon.** Beautiful **Snow Geese, Sandhill Cranes, and Great Blue Herons** often are seen at this time of year as well.

No registration is required. For more information, see www.audubonportland.org or call 503-292-6855 ext.116.

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



Julio, the Great Horned Owl
© Portland Audubon

Volunteers Needed!

Stop by Audubon's Sauvie Island **Kestrel Project** information table while you are on the Raptor Road Trip and learn how you can participate in this restoration program. Volunteers are also needed for **monitoring Peregrine Falcons** in the Portland metro area, for local **Pygmy-Owl surveys**, and for the **Great Blue Heron inventory.** Go to page 4 to read more about how you can be directly involved in these monitoring and restoration efforts.



Kestrel © Bjorn Fredrickson/
www.bjornfredrickson.zenfolio.com

Winter Break Camps Were Wet and Wonderful — Bring on Spring!

By Sarah Swanson,
Camp Director

In weather conditions that make most people want to curl up by the fire with a good book, kids at Audubon Society of Portland's Winter Break Camp headed outdoors to explore the best that the season has to offer. Camps traveled to Mt. Hood for a day of snowshoeing, where they came across snow caves and animal tracks, and even had time to huddle up for a cup of hot cocoa. Another camp found large herds of Roosevelt elk at Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area. Closer to home, our campers learned to identify both winter ducks and various doughnut varieties.

We also had some great onsite camps during which kids toured the Wildlife Care Center and worked on environmental enrichment in the form of wooden hiding places for treats for our education birds. Other campers produced amazing art that was based on their observations of Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary and its winter inhabitants. Thanks to all of our instructors and volunteers that made this a wonderful camp session.

Sadly, winter break is over, but we are already excited about the upcoming **Spring Break Camps!** Please see pages 6-7 inside for camp descriptions, and visit our website at www.audubonportland.org for camp availability. Highlights include "Tails of the Forest," "Befriend a Bird of Prey," "Animal Tracking," and "Mission Impossible II: Lost Treasure of Neahkahnie."

How do birds adapt to winter food shortages? See page 9



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Field Trips

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

February 9 (Saturday), 8am-11am Ridgefield NWR Walk and Auto Tour

Join us on a walk on the Oaks to Wetland Trail looking for winter sparrows. The trail can be muddy so bring appropriate hiking shoes. Meet at the trailhead parking lot on the Carty Unit located 1 mile north of the intersection of Pioneer and Main St in downtown Ridgefield, WA. Dress for the weather, and there is a per-car \$3 Refuge Visitor Fee. An optional drive on the River 'S' auto tour is offered for those interested. Call **Ron Escano** at 503-771-3454 if you need more information.

February 16 (Saturday), 8am-11am Sauvie Island

Adrienne Wolf-Lockett and **Bob Lockett** lead the 3rd Saturday walk co-sponsored by Audubon and Backyard Bird Shop to explore the island for waterfowl, raptors, and sparrows. Call Backyard Bird Shop (503-620-7454) for information and to reserve a spot. Meet centrally then carpool around the island. Parking permit is required should you choose to drive. Beginners welcome!

February 23 (Saturday), 8am-11am Dawson Creek Corporate Park

Join **Max Smith** for a tour of this little-known Hillsboro park with great views of waterfowl, songbirds, raptors, and Acorn Woodpeckers. Directions from Portland: take Hwy 26 west to the Shute Road exit and drive south on Shute Rd. After crossing Evergreen Parkway, continue straight as Shute Rd becomes Brookwood Parkway, cross Dawson Creek Drive, and turn left into the new Hillsboro Library parking lot. Meet at 8am at the north end of the parking lot near the pond. Dress for the weather; beginners welcome!



MAGPIES

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

Sauvie Island February 7 (Thursday), 8:30am*-1pm

(*Note time change from listing in January calendar)
This is a good time of year to see wintering waterfowl and raptors on Sauvie Island. Join **Denny Graham** at the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife parking lot on NW Sauvie Island Rd, about 1.8 miles beyond the east end of the Sauvie Island bridge. Lot is about 0.2 miles beyond the junction of NW Sauvie Island Rd and Reeder Rd. Dress for the weather and bring snacks and a Sauvie Island parking permit if you have one. We will arrange carpools at the meeting spot. Contact **Denny** at 503-659-1245 for more information.

Oaks Bottom February 18 (Monday), 9am-Noon

Join **Ron Spencer** for a walk around Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. We'll hike the loop trail, and we'll look for those early spring migrants. Meet at the Oaks Amusement Park parking lot at 9am. Contact **Ron** at rleydens@comcast.net or 503-656-5170 for information.

Newport February 21-22 (Thursday 8am - Friday 4pm)

Join us for a 2-day trip to the coast. We will meet in Newport, and the trip is limited to 12 people. For information call **Sue Carr** at 503-649-3360.

From the Executive Director



Meryl Redisch

Expectations for Oregon's Ocean

The expectation is that 2008 will be the year that Oregon joins California and Washington to collectively protect the health of the west coast's ocean and coastal ecosystem by establishing a network of marine reserves and protected areas. These places in Oregon's waters are ones that support the greatest diversity of habitats for animals and plants during all stages of their lives. While we can't see kelp forests, rocky reefs, caves, or crevices from shore, these places are critical for sustaining the health and resiliency of Oregon's marine environment.

For the benefit of all Oregonians, this conservation issue is finally past the stalemate stage with full coastal community representation and clear directives from Governor Kulongoski about what is expected and when. However, it doesn't mean that the process will go smoothly or without controversy. At this time, members of the governor's appointed council for ocean policy are designing a nominations plan that establishes ecological criteria and engagement opportunities for coastal communities.

The expectation is that in ten months, proposals identifying ocean sites will be reviewed by state agency officials for marine reserves designation, implementation, monitoring, and enforcement. These proposals will come from industry, coastal communities, conservation organizations, and other citizen groups. We expect proposals to vary widely in scope, including some that would have very minor conservation impacts.

Portland Audubon, working with fellow nongovernmental organizations, is leading a campaign that will require thousands of voices from across the state to share their support for conservation practices that most strongly protect ocean habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. We believe that the marine reserves plan has the potential to impact the sustainability and resiliency of ocean ecosystems and resources that provide the backbone for healthy and thriving bird populations. Moreover, we believe that our membership expects nothing less of us.

Your help is needed. Please contact the Marine Reserves Campaign Field Coordinator, Erin Anderson, at eanderson@mrsspx.com. Together, we can create a lasting legacy of ocean protection for present and future generations.

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, and helmets and life jackets are required.** Directions and other details will be emailed to registrants. Trip enrollment is limited, so sign up early.

February

Saturday, February 2nd, 9am-1pm Ride with the Groundhogs: Willamette Greenway Bicycle Ride

Cycle with **Mike Houck** on a flat 15- to 20-mile ride along the Willamette River Greenway to Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge and Sellwood Riverfront Park. The ride is appropriate for families who have their bikes in tune and maintained and are used to riding 15-20 miles.

Saturday, February 9th, 8am-11am Ross Island Paddle

Join **Mike Houck** on a leisurely three-hour paddle around Ross, Hardtack, East, and Toe Islands. We will take a close look at the City of Portland's newest natural-area park, a 45-acre portion of Ross Island that was donated by Ross Island Sand and Gravel in October 2007.

Sunday, February 10th, 2pm-5:30pm Eastbank Esplanade to Oaks Bottom

Join **Mike Houck** on a four-mile stroll from the Vera Katz Esplanade along the Springwater on the Willamette Trail to Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, taking TriMet back downtown at the end of the trip. We will stop along the way to view Great Blue Herons as they go through their annual courtship and nest-building activities.

Saturday, February 23rd, 10am-Noon Willamette Cove Paddle

Join **Bob Sallinger** and **Jim Labbe** on a leisurely morning paddle in the Portland Harbor and learn about the past, present, and future of this unique North Portland natural area. If river conditions are not safe, this trip will be led as a walk along the Willamette River to Willamette Cove.



C the Springwater on the Willamette Trail. © Mike Houck



Birding Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. © Mike Houck

March

Saturday, March 1st, 9am-Noon Ross Island Heron Colony Watch

Walk the Eastbank Esplanade to Ross Island with **Mike Houck** to view Great Blue Herons rebuilding their nests and going through courtship, preparatory to laying eggs in early April. This will be a 3.5-mile walk out and back from the downtown Esplanade to the Springwater on the Willamette Trail to the downstream tip of Ross Island.

Saturday, March 8th, 9am-Noon Columbia Slough Restoration Paddle

Join **Jim Labbe** and **Bob Sallinger** with Audubon Society of Portland and **Ry Thompson** from Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services for a morning paddle on the Columbia Slough. We'll visit the Ramsey Refugia Restoration project and several mitigation projects in the lower Slough, discuss habitat restoration and enhancement in the urban environment, and do some birding along the way.

Tuesday, March 11th, 8am-11am Oaks Bottom and Springwater Corridor Walk

Come along with **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.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	27 Magpies visit Smith & Bybee Lakes, 9am (Jan. Warbler)	28 Conservation Lecture at Oregon Zoo, 7pm (Jan. Warbler)	29 Explore the 40-Mile Loop from South Waterfront to OHSU, 3pm (Jan. Warbler)	30	31	1 Sauvie Island Raptor Road Trip, 9am (p.1) Willamette Greenway Bicycle Ride, 9am (p.2) Beginning Field Birding & Sauvie Island Exploration, 8am (p.7)
Living with Urban Coyotes Presentation, 7pm (p.5)	3 Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium at PSU, 9am (p.4)	4 Birders' Night 7:30pm Heron Hall	5	6 Magpies visit Sauvie Island, 8:30am (p.2)	7	8 Ridgefield NWR Walk & Auto Tour, 8am (p.2) Ross Island Paddle, 8am (p.2) Bluebird monitor meeting (Jan. Warbler) Birding Weekend (p.10)
Eastbank Esplanade to Oaks Bottom, 2pm (p.2) Birding Weekend (p.10)	10	11 Nature Night: The Hells Canyon-Wallowa Ecosystem, 7pm (p.3)	12	13	14	15 Sauvie Island Field Trip, 8am (p.2) Peregrine Falcon Monitoring Workshop, 10am (p.4)
17	18 Magpies visit Oaks Bottom, 9am (p.2)	19	20	21 Magpies leave for Newport, 8am (p.2) Board Meeting, 7pm Heron Hall	22	23 Dawson Creek Park Field Trip, 8am (p.2) Willamette Cove Paddle, 10am (p.2)
24	25	26 Conservation Lecture at Oregon Zoo, 7pm (p.12)	27	28	29	1 Beginning Field Birding & Sauvie Island Exploration, 8am (p.7) Ross Island Heron Colony Watch, 9am (p.2)
2	3	4 Birders' Night 7:30pm Heron Hall	5	6 Magpies visit Sherwood Greenways (503-244-6496)	7	8 Columbia Slough Restoration Paddle, 9am (p.2) Birding Weekend (p.10)

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



Paddling Ross Island. © Mike Houck

Saturday, March 22nd, 9am–Noon
Oaks Bottom and Springwater Corridor Walk
(See Tuesday, March 11th for trip description, but note different times.)

Sunday, March 23rd, 9am–Noon
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 will be a leisurely paddle around Ross, Hardtack, East, and Toe Islands. The paddle 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.



Great Blue Heron © Mike Houck

Saturday, March 29th, 9am–12:30pm
Springwater Corridor Ride
Join **Jim Labbe**, Urban Conservationist with the Audubon Society of Portland, and **Teresa Huntsinger** with the Johnson Creek Watershed Council for a 21-mile bike ride out to Gresham's Linneman Station and back via the Springwater Corridor Trail. We'll peddle our way through the lower Johnson Creek Watershed, stop at several urban natural areas along the way, and learn about future opportunities to protect and enhance the Johnson Creek Watershed. You are responsible for bringing and maintaining your own bicycle; pumps and patch kits recommended. Helmets are absolutely required.

Plan Ahead

See upcoming *Warbler* newsletters and visit www.audubonportland.org/trips_classes_camps/adult_programs/wildcity for more information on the following field trips.

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

Saturday, April 19th, 9am–Noon
Fanno Creek Greenway Ride

Friday, April 25th, 8am–11am
Celebrate Arbor Day, Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, April 26th, 8am–11am
John James Audubon Birthday Paddle Around Ross Island

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.

The Hells Canyon-Wallowa Ecosystem

Tuesday, February 12
7pm • Heron Hall

Hells Canyon Preservation Council presents *Wild Connections: The Hells Canyon-Wallowa Ecosystem*. This 35-minute film celebrates the stunning beauty and wildlife of the ecosystems of Hells Canyon and the Wallowa Mountains. Legendary conservationist **Martin Litton** and Whitman College student **Savanna Ferguson** narrate the film



Hells Canyon

and help us understand this region's critical importance for fish, wildlife, and people across the Northwest. Local fishermen, hunters, scientists, and Native Americans offer their insights in the film about the threats to the landscape and opportunities that we have to shape the future of this special place. *Wild Connections* was produced by the award-winning Green Fire Productions for Hells Canyon Preservation Council.

Greg Dyson, the Council's executive director, will present the film, answer questions, and discuss the need to protect this unique landscape. *Wild Connections* challenges a new generation to protect and restore the Hells Canyon-Wallowa ecosystem into the future. The film portrays recent efforts to restore this national treasure into a healthy, functioning, and vibrant ecosystem, and it shows how restoration work can provide economic benefits for local workers. We hope you will join us.

Conservation

Citizen Science: A Great Way to Get Involved

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The naturalist William Burrows once wrote of science that “The large circle of light only reveals the larger circle of darkness that encompasses it.” Despite centuries of accumulated research into the ecology, biology, and natural history of all the species with which we share this planet, there remains far more that we don’t know about these animals, even those that seem familiar and close at hand. At a time when we are changing the ecology of our planet at a rate previously unsurpassed, even those things that we think we know can no longer be taken for granted.

The observations of citizens have a huge role to play in helping us track, understand, and manage our local wildlife populations. Audubon has long been a pioneer in the field of getting citizens involved in wildlife research. Audubon’s annual Christmas Bird Count provides a century-long record of bird population trends at both the local and national levels. Throughout the year, Portland Audubon provides a variety of opportunities to get directly involved in monitoring local wildlife populations. These are a great way to have fun, learn about the natural world, and make a difference for wildlife. You don’t need a Ph.D.; all you need is a desire to learn, the ability to observe, and a love of nature.

Volunteers Needed for Peregrine Falcon Monitoring

Since 1994, Audubon Society of Portland has been monitoring local **Peregrine Falcon** populations. During the spring of 2008, Audubon will be conducting intensive surveys of known and potential nest sites in the Portland metro area. In 2009, Audubon will be assisting in statewide surveys of peregrine populations.



Peregrine Falcon guarding nest on Interstate Bridge. © Bob Sallinger

To prepare for these efforts, we will be presenting an intensive all-day training workshop. The workshop will provide a comprehensive overview of Peregrine Falcon biology, ecology, identification, recovery, management, and monitoring. The workshop will be led by **Dr. Joel (“Jeep”) Pagel**, one of the foremost authorities on Peregrine Falcons in North America who has studied Oregon’s peregrines for more than two decades. His career has included serving as the Northwest Peregrine Falcon Specialist for the U.S. Forest Service, Endangered Species work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and serving as a Research Associate with the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Group. Additional field training sessions at known peregrine nest sites will be offered later in the spring.

The goal of this workshop is to prepare participants to take part in Peregrine Falcon nest site surveys and education outreach programs during the 2008 and 2009 nesting seasons. While participation in monitoring or educational outreach activities is not required, priority will be given to those willing to commit to participating in three 4-hour monitoring sessions between March and July of 2008. No prior experience is required.

When: Saturday, February 16, 10am–4pm

Where: Audubon Society of Portland

Cost: \$50 (Students: \$25)

To register: go to www.audubonportland.org or contact Karen Munday at 503-292-0304.

Volunteers Needed for Sauvie Island Kestrel Project

Kestrels are the smallest North American falcon. Researchers in many parts of the United States have noticed unexplained declines in **American Kestrel** populations, and population trends in Oregon are unclear at this time. Starting in 2008, Portland Audubon will begin conducting kestrel surveys on Sauvie Island. We will also be distributing kestrel nest boxes to citizens in the vicinity of Sauvie Island who have appropriate kestrel habitat on their property. Young produced in these boxes will be banded by expert banders working with the property owner.

We will need volunteers to participate in kestrel surveys as well as volunteers to participate in building kestrel nest boxes.

To get involved, contact Karen Munday, Portland Audubon Urban Wildlife Specialist, at kmunday@audubonportland.org or stop by our Kestrel Project information table at the Raptor Road Trip (see page 1).



American Kestrel. © Jim Cruce

Volunteer Field Assistants Needed for Local Pygmy-Owl Research

by John Deshler

Northern Pygmy-Owls are tough, mysterious little birds that are found in forest and woodland habitats throughout Oregon. Much remains unknown about this species. In some parts of Oregon the species is listed as “sensitive,” reflecting a lack of scientific knowledge about population dynamics. John Deshler has been studying a pygmy-owl population in the greater Portland area for his Master’s Thesis at Portland State University and is looking for volunteer research assistants. During the first year of research, five nest sites were identified and twenty-three young were observed to have fledged. Fifteen pygmy-owls were banded and released unharmed.

Volunteers should have extraordinary patience and tenacity, the ability to traverse heavily forested landscapes, and intermediate birding skills. The ability to participate regularly during a weeks-long stretch between March and August is a must. Tasks are divided into surveying, nest finding, habitat assessments, telemetry, and nest monitoring. The most determined volunteers will reap the greatest rewards. An introductory presentation will be held at Audubon both for those interested in learning about pygmy-owls and for those interested in participating in the project.



Pygmy-Owl recovering at Wildlife Care Center. © Bob Sallinger

When: Tuesday, March 11, 7pm

Where: Audubon Society of Portland

Cost: Free

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. In 2007, Audubon began assembling information about known heron rookeries in the Portland-Vancouver metro area. This year, we are looking to expand that effort.



Ross Island Heron Rookery. © Mike Houck

We will need help with two parts of this project. First, we are looking for information on heron rookeries in Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Columbia, and Clark Counties. Specifically we will be looking for the following information:

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

Second, we will be seeking Heron Rookery Site Stewards to track changes at specific heron rookeries over the course of the year. We will be pairing individuals with rookeries near their home or workplace. If you know of a heron rookery in the Portland-Vancouver metro region and/or you would like to become a Heron Rookery Site Steward, please contact Karen Munday, Portland Audubon Urban Wildlife Specialist, at kmunday@audubonportland.org.



Fungi in Tryon Creek State Park. © Robin Lewis

Sixth Annual Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium: Science in the City

Monday, February 4, 2008
9am – 4:30pm,
Evening Social until 6:30pm
Portland State University —
Smith Center Ballroom
1825 SW Broadway, Portland

Cost: \$30 standard fee; \$15 for students.
To register, go to www.uercportland.org

Keynote Speakers

Roy Ellicker, Director of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and
Dr. Stan Gerht, Urban Coyote and Raccoon Expert from Chicago

The Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium provides a unique opportunity for people to share information about environmentally focused research, projects, and programs in the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan region. The day is packed with presentations, posters, and keynote speakers. There is also plenty of time to network. Join us to learn, share, and be inspired.

The Urban Ecology Research Consortium (UERC) is a consortium of nonprofit organizations, agencies, universities, businesses, and environmental professionals interested in urban ecological research. The Audubon Society of Portland is a founding member of UERC and sits on its steering committee.

FAUNA
FRIENDS AND ADVOCATES OF URBAN NATURAL AREAS

Get Involved in Protecting Places for Nature in Your Neighborhood!

Sign up to join the Friends and Advocates of Urban Natural Areas (FAUNA) at www.audubonportland.org. We will send you updates and action alerts on how you can get involved in conserving and restoring our urban watersheds and protecting nature near where we live, work, and play!

Audubon Society of Portland’s **Urban Natural Resource Directory (UNRD)** is now available online at www.urbanfauna.org. The UNRD is a resource for citizens seeking to protect, restore, and manage watersheds for fish, wildlife, and people in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region. After publishing four editions of the UNRD between 1990 and 1996, Audubon Society of Portland released a final hardcopy edition in 2007. Subsequent editions will be available online at www.urbanfauna.org.

Growth Fees for Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Are About Social and Intergenerational Equity

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director, and Jim Labbe, Urban Conservationist

On December 12, 2007, the Portland City Council heard testimony from citizens, developers, and park advocates regarding a proposal to have new development pay a greater share of the costs of new parks, trails, and natural areas as Portland grows. The hearing was the first of several in the coming months. The decision, expected in April or May of this year, will be one of the most important environmental policy decisions the Portland City Council will make for years to come. Below we outline the history and context of this important decision in the hope that Portland Auduboners will get involved in the coming months.

In July 2001 the City of Portland adopted a visionary parks plan — **Parks 2020 Vision** — to maintain and expand Portland's system of parks, trails, and natural areas as the city population grows to a projected 700,000 by the year 2020. The **Parks 2020 Vision** calls for a diverse, interconnected system of parks, trails, and natural areas throughout the city and for a minimum level of park access in every neighborhood.

There are primarily two ways we can pay to implement the **Parks 2020 Vision** and make it reality for all Portlanders. The first is to tax ourselves, usually via property taxes, in the form of municipal bonds to purchase land and capital improvements for parks, trails, and natural areas. The second is to raise funds with **park system development charges** (SDCs), one-time fees on new development that pay for new parks, trails, and natural areas to service that development. The principle behind park SDCs is that existing residents should not bear the entire burden of providing new parks to service new growth. While some state and federal grants will provide additional financing, the bulk of funding for Portland's parks will come from either taxes or SDCs.

The opponents of park SDCs (usually residential developers) argue that SDCs amount to an unfair tax on new homebuyers that make housing less affordable. Policy debates about park SDCs are certainly about who pays and who benefits, but the issue of fairness is far more complex, especially in Portland where policies have been consciously designed to address social equity. The heart of the issue surrounding the Portland City Council's pending decision to increase park SDCs is really one of social and intergenerational equity in neighborhood access to parks and natural areas.

Portland's Disparities in Access to Parks

One of the great myths about Portland is that we have relatively good neighborhood access to parks and natural areas. We don't. Portland has high per-capita park acres because of Forest Park but relatively poor neighborhood access to parks compared to other cities in our region. We rank low because of disparities in access to parks and natural areas. The Coalition for a Livable Future's Regional Equity Atlas (www.equityatlas.org) found that less than 50% of Portlanders live within a quarter-mile walking distance of a public greenspace, a minimum standard for quality park access. This is toward the bottom of the list of cities in the region ranked in terms of neighborhood park access (see Figure 1). Not coincidentally, Portland also has some of the lowest park SDC rates in the region for new single-family homes.

While park deficiencies can be found in most districts of the city, lower-income communities and communities of color are significantly more likely to be park deficient. These deficiencies are partly the consequence of past development not paying for the park infrastructure needs they created. Since parks tend to increase the value of adjacent property values and associated housing costs, low-income residents tend to end up in neighborhoods with worse park access. In other words, the unpaid costs of inadequate park development are borne disproportionately by less-privileged segments of the population, namely low-income people and people of color who face greater wealth and income barriers to choosing to live in housing near parks. The children and elderly who depend on having nature nearby also suffer greatest in the long run when park development does not keep pace with growth.

As Portland continues to grow up rather than out and as energy and transportation costs rise, walkable access to parks and natural areas will matter more, not less, especially to children, the elderly, and the poor who depend on having access to nature nearby. These are the fairness issues we must face in debating the proposed increase in park development charges.

City Commissioner Dan Saltzman proposed that new commercial and residential development pay 75% of park costs to service that development. Under Commissioner Saltzman's proposal, 25% of park costs associated with new growth will still be paid by other sources, largely taxpayers. More importantly, correcting for past deficiencies will be entirely borne by the existing community. This hardly pits existing residents against new homebuyers. However, the new park SDCs will provide for new parks in high-growth areas like outer East Portland that the **Parks 2020 Vision** and the CLF Regional Equity Atlas have identified as park deficient. The proposed park SDCs also include exemptions for affordable housing that ensure costs will not fall on those with the least ability to pay. The Saltzman proposal simply asks that developers pay for a significant portion of the park infrastructure associated with that growth, just as we ask developers to pay for sewers, streets, and water pipes to service those developments.

Increasing SDCs to adequately fund parks is about fairness. Future generations and those now living in park-deficient neighborhoods deserve the benefits of the excellent city park system that only some of us enjoy today. Commissioner Saltzman's proposal will expand the entire park, trail, and greenway system to meet the needs of future growth while helping address geographic and social disparities in park access into the next generation. If the Portland City Council does not act now to equitably

and adequately build the costs of parks into the costs of development — as Saltzman's proposal would — our generation will fall short in securing an excellent city park system for present and future generations.

What You Can Do:

1. Attend an upcoming hearing and support Commissioner Saltzman's proposal for increased SDCs that recover at least 75% of growth-related costs for new parks. Join Friends and Advocates of Urban Natural Areas (FAUNA) on Portland Audubon's Urban Conservation page to receive email updates regarding future hearings.

2. Send a letter or email to the Mayor and City Council.

Mayor or Commissioner
1221 SW 4th Ave.
Portland, OR 97204

Mayor Tom Potter
mayorpotter@ci.portland.or.us
503-823-4127

Commissioner Sam Adams
commissionersam@ci.portland.or.us
503-823-3008

Commissioner Randy Leonard
randy@ci.portland.or.us
503-823-4682

Commissioner Dan Saltzman
dan@ci.portland.or.us
503-823-4151

Commissioner Erik Sten
erik@ci.portland.or.us
503-823-3589

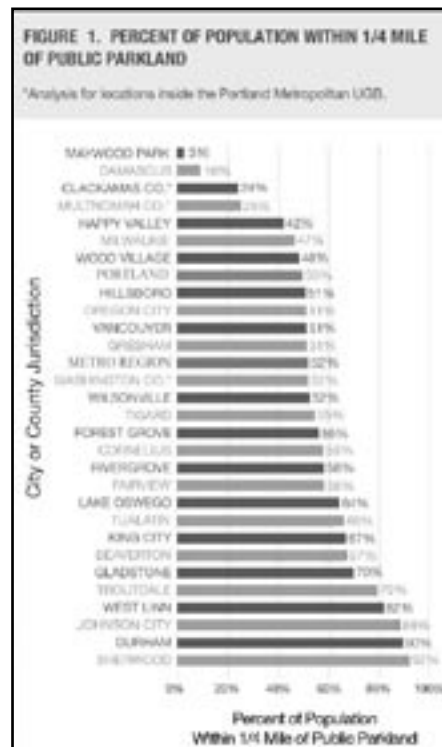


Figure 1: Contrary to perception, Portland has some of the worst park access in the region, ranking near the bottom of jurisdictions in terms of neighborhood access to public parkland. (Reproduced from the Regional Equity Atlas, Chapter 7, "Parks and Nature.")



Walkers and bikers enjoy the popular Springwater greenway trail. Portland's park SDC program helped pay for numerous improvements along the trail. Future SDC funds will help complete the notorious 'Sellwood Gap' trail segment, finally completing a continuous trail from Portland to Gresham and beyond. © Mike Houck

In December, Commissioner Dan Saltzman proposed increasing the park SDCs in order to recover up to 75% of growth-related costs. The proposal will also assess non-residential fees to service parks in commercial and business districts. Under this proposal, new park SDC funds collected between 2008 and 2020 would:

- Acquire 890 acres of new parkland including 500 acres of natural areas throughout the City.
- Develop 350 acres of existing parkland.
- Acquire over 15 miles of new trailway. This is roughly the length of the existing Springwater Corridor in Portland.
- Develop 7–10 miles of new trail.
- Leverage state and federal dollars to acquire and develop hundreds of acres of additional parkland and many more miles of trails, as envisioned by the **Parks 2020 Vision**.



Coyote researcher Stan Gehrt and friend. © Gehrt

FREE!

Living with Urban Coyotes Presentation National Expert on Urban Coyotes to Speak at Audubon

Sunday, February 3rd, 7pm at Audubon Society of Portland

Few wildlife sightings evoke stronger responses among urban residents than that of a coyote roaming about a greenspace, hunting mice at the edge of a yard, or loping down a city street. There are many areas in the region where residents are serenaded to sleep by the howls and yips of the animal that Navajo sheep and goat herders once referred to as "God's Dog." For many it is a reminder of why they choose to live in Oregon. For some it simply evokes fear. Local jurisdictions have struggled to determine what, if any, response should be undertaken.

Dr. Stanley Gehrt recently completed a study of urban coyotes in Chicago that has been described as "The most ambitious work of its kind in the country." Dr. Gehrt tracked 220 radio-collared coyotes in Chicago over the course of his six-year study. His work is fascinating and will provide valuable insights for wildlife lovers, wildlife professionals, and neighborhoods struggling to coexist with urban coyotes.

Join us for a **Living with Urban Coyotes Workshop** to develop a better understanding of the biology and ecology of this adaptive wild dog.

Sponsored by Portland Audubon and the Urban Ecology Research Consortium.

Educational Trips & Tours

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



Bald Eagles © Don Baccus

Come celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Lower Klamath NWR!

KLAMATH BASIN BIRDING EXPEDITION

March 13–16, 2008

Established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, Lower Klamath Refuge is our nation's first waterfowl refuge. This 46,900-acre Refuge is a varied mix of shallow freshwater marshes, open water, grassy uplands, and croplands that are intensively managed to provide feeding, resting, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat for waterfowl and other water birds. — U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website

Enjoy some of the best birding in the west on this fantastic voyage with **Bob Fields** and the Audubon Society of Portland. Bob is the former manager of the Klamath refuges and a past Audubon Society of Portland Board Member. Widely hailed as the most important wetland system in the west, the Klamath Basin is a haven for migratory birds and is one of Oregon's 105 Important Bird Areas. We'll search for large flocks of ducks and geese that stop in the basin and the eagles that feed on them. The spectacular spring migration of **Snow, Ross's, and Greater White-fronted Geese** should be in full swing. Raptors like **Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and Prairie Falcon** are likely to make an appearance. Trip enrollment is limited to 14 participants. Your fee includes van transportation from Portland, 3 nights lodging in Klamath Falls, entry fees, breakfasts, lunches, and leadership.

Cost: \$470 members / \$510 non-members

Contact: Steve Engel at sengel@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

CALIFORNIA CONDORS

Big Sur, Pinnacles, and Point Reyes

April 7–13, 2008

Join us as we again head south to view the largest bird in North America, the **California Condor**! We'll travel by van from San Francisco Bay to Condor strongholds such as the Pinnacles National Monument and Big Sur, south of Monterey. At Pinnacles we will hike the rugged volcanic landscape with excellent chances of seeing Condors in flight or at roost and perhaps **Prairie Falcon** and **Golden Eagle** as well. The wildflowers will also be spectacular! Our two nights in Monterey will give us plenty of time to explore the Big Sur coast with its redwood forests, dramatic sea cliffs, and numerous parklands. Over two dozen Condors are known to frequent this stretch of coastline. We'll also have time to visit the world-famous Monterey Bay Aquarium before we head north to Ano Nuevo State Park, where **Elephant Seals** lounge on the beaches. Our final two days will be spent exploring the wild and open spaces stretching from the Golden Gate to Point Reyes. We'll use hostel-style lodging inside national park lands for our last two nights. Spring wildflowers will be blooming and migration time under way with songbirds, shorebirds, and raptors filling our binoculars at many stops. Trip leader **Steve Engel** loves to visit old haunts along this stretch of coast and delights in sharing all aspects of its natural history with others.



Condor Country: Pinnacles National Monument © David Moen

Cost: \$795 members / \$835 non-members
Group Size: 8–9 participants
Deposit: \$400 required to secure your place
Leader: Steve Engel

What is included: Ground transportation from Oakland, CA, 4 nights double-occupancy lodging, 2 nights hostel-style lodging, all entry fees, breakfasts, lunches, and the services of your leaders. A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible contribution to the Audubon Society of Portland.

Contact: Steve Engel at sengel@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

ALASKA!

June 7–14, 2008

Join the Audubon Society of Portland on a journey to the Great Land this summer! Alaska is a land of superlatives when it comes to wildlife and a must-visit destination for anyone keen on the natural history of North America. This trip is designed to introduce you to some of the best of Alaska at a fun and relaxed pace. On our boat trip in Kenai Fjords National Park we will experience the rich marine ecosystem of south-central Alaska. The Chiswell Islands are home to nesting seabirds such as **Red-faced Cormorant, Thick-billed Murre, and Tufted and Horned Puffin**. The air will be alive with calls of **Black-legged Kittiwakes** and there's a chance to see **Parakeet** and **Ancient Auklet**. We'll also get close to tidewater glaciers where, with luck, we'll spot the rare **Kittlitz's Murrelet, Humpback Whale, Orca, and Dall's Porpoise** are likely to be seen from the boat and **Sea Otters** are all but guaranteed. Our next stop is Denali National Park, the crown jewel of our National Park System. We'll explore deep into the park via shuttle bus, experiencing many of its habitats that are home to **Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Caribou, Dall Sheep, and Moose**.

The birdwatching can include **Rock Ptarmigan, Gyrfalcon, Merlin, Long-tailed Jaeger, and Northern Wheatear**, to name a few. Next we'll spend two days traversing the Denali Highway between Cantwell and Paxson, taking our time as we search for wildlife-viewing opportunities among the many wetlands, forests, tundras, and mountain passes. Trip leader is Audubon's Adult Education Coordinator, **Steve Engel**. He has spent many summers traveling in Alaska and is eager to share with you the many wonderful sights that await us.



Exit Glacier, Alaska © Steve Engel



Harlequin Drake. Credit: Glen Smart/USFWS

Cost: \$1,795 members / \$1,835 non-members
Group Size: 9 participants
Deposit: \$1,000 required to secure your place
Leader: Steve Engel

What is included: Ground transportation from Anchorage, 7 nights double-occupancy lodging, all park entry fees, boat and bus tour fees, breakfasts, lunches, and the services of your leader. A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible contribution to the Audubon Society of Portland.

Contact: Steve Engel at sengel@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

Spring Break Camp 2008 Schedule

Tails of the Forest

Grades: 1st–2nd

March 24–28 (Monday–Friday)

Fee: \$230 members / \$245 non-members

During this week-long camp, you'll learn about all the tails of the forest and the animals that they belong to. Tell tales about animals, play animal games, and make art projects inspired by what you learn. We'll be sure to spend lots of time in Audubon's Wildlife Sanctuary searching for bushy squirrel tails, slippery newt tails, and spiky woodpecker tails.

Bug Art

Grades: 2nd–3rd

March 24 (Monday)

Spring is when all the little bugs in the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary start to warm up and wiggle around. We'll bring our magnifying lenses and nets to find and observe these amazing tiny animals. You'll draw, paint, and create sculptures of all the critters you find lurking in the Sanctuary. Learn what makes the forest floor crawl with life!

Junior Wildlife Vet 102

Grades: 4th–5th

March 24 (Monday)

Join other animal lovers for a day devoted to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We'll go behind the scenes with wildlife rehabilitators and find out what this exciting field is all about.

Aquatic Art

Grades: 2nd–3rd

March 25 (Tuesday)

What creatures live in your local creeks and ponds? We'll look in Balch Creek and the pond in Audubon's own Wildlife Sanctuary to find mayflies, trout, and maybe even a crayfish! Get to know the plants and animals that live in this watershed and turn your observations into imaginative paintings, drawings, and clay sculptures.

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.

FEBRUARY

Beginning Field Birding and Sauvie Island Exploration

February 2, March 1, April 5 (Saturdays), 8am–Noon



Northern Flicker © Paul Buescher

Join **Greg Baker**, expert birder and fiddler, and get to know one of Oregon's most accessible Important Bird Areas — **Sauvie Island Wildlife Area** — managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Just 10 miles from downtown Portland, Sauvie Island is rich with wildlife. Greg has offered this class in the fall and spring for going on 16 years and it always fills up! It's perfect for those interested in developing and sharpening their birding skills, meeting new birding buddies, and exploring the different habitats on the island. Learn bird calls, and search for waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors. This workshop is limited to 15 people and signups are for all three days.

Fee: \$50 members / \$60 non-members
Enrollment Limited: 15 participants
Pre-registration required —
participants register for all three days.

MARCH

Beginning Birding II

Session 1: March 23, April 6 (8am–Noon)

April 20 (all day)

Session 2: March 30, April 13 (8am–Noon)

April 27 (all day)

Join popular instructor **Laura Whittemore** on one of these three-field-trip sessions focusing on building birding skills. Participants should either have already taken Laura's Beginning Birding class or Greg Baker's Beginning Field Birding, or have some prior birding experience. This class will be an opportunity to spend more time in the field learning bird groups, songs, habitats, and field marks, and to take on the ID challenges that cross our path.



White-crowned Sparrow.
 Credit: Donna Dewhurst/USFWS

These three **Sunday** field trips consist of two local trips (8am–Noon) and one all-day trip by van (8am–5pm). Local trips will be within the metro area and you'll need your own transportation or carpool with a friend. The all-day trip transportation will be provided by Audubon. Register for **either** Session 1 or Session 2.

Cost: \$70 members / \$80 non-members
Enrollment Limited: 12 participants
Pre-registration is required.

APRIL

Focus on Flowers: A Wildflower Field Class for Beginners and 'Advanced' Beginners

April 13 (Sunday), 8am–4pm

Join instructor and photographer **Don Jacobson** on an outing to the Columbia River Gorge in the spring. The focus of this class is on learning *how* to identify flowers, and of course we *will* identify individual flowers with both common and scientific names. Don will give a brief overview of the history and significance of scientific names. Plant keys, ecology, and conservation concepts will also be touched upon, and a list of references will be provided. The classroom will be the flower-covered Memaloose Hills near Hood River. There will be moderate hiking: 4–6 miles with 700-foot elevation gain. The pace will be slow, with numerous stops for identification. The carpool location is in SE Portland and the rendezvous point is near Hood River.



Balsamroot © Don Jacobson

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



Photo © C. Pederson

Introducing the Audubon Society of Portland's new

MASTER BIRDER PROGRAM

Participation is limited to 12 people. The program will run 14 months, beginning Spring 2008 and ending Summer 2009. Most months there will be two classes and two field trips as we follow Oregon birds through the seasons. For more information and to learn how to register, contact **Steve Engel**, Adult Education Coordinator.

chedule

To register, first call Sarah Swanson at 971-222-6120 to reserve your spot. Then download the registration form from www.audubonportland.org and send it in with payment. *Places can be saved for only 14 days without payment.*

Fee per Class (unless noted otherwise):
 \$60 members / \$70 non-members.
 All classes run 9am–4pm.
 Partial scholarships available; ask Sarah for an application.

Forest to Farm

Grades: 4th–5th March 25 (Tuesday)
 Ever wondered how you would feed yourself if you weren't able to get food from the supermarket? Put on your overalls and hop on board as we explore the connections between growing food and the wilderness. Test your awareness on the edges of cultivated fields by listening for the sound of the hummingbird and the cries of hawks. Dig your fingers into the soil to explore the hidden worlds that lie underneath. From the dirt under your feet to the food in your belly, come learn how it's all connected!

Junior Wildlife Vet 101

Grades: 2nd–3rd March 26 (Wednesday)
 Join other animal lovers for a day devoted to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We'll go behind the scenes with wildlife rehabilitators and find out what this exciting field is all about.

Animal Tracking

Grades: 4th–5th March 26 (Wednesday)
 Have you ever wondered where the original stories of the land come from? Have you ever wandered through the woods looking at tracks on the ground and hoping to understand their meaning? Come along as we spend a full day unraveling the mysteries of animal tracking through basic track identification and animal gait interpretation.

Forest Park Explorers

Grades: 2nd–3rd March 27 (Thursday)
 Spend the day hiking and exploring some of Forest Park's many exciting trails. We'll learn about the plants and animals that live right here in Portland's backyard. March is a great time to find new wildflowers, drumming woodpeckers, and slimy Banana Slugs. Make a map so that you can find these amazing places again.

Bird Quest

Grades: 4th–5th March 27 (Thursday)
 This camp will travel to birding hotspots around Portland to find as many birds as possible in one day. Whether you know every warbler you see, or just want to learn the difference between a hawk and a falcon, this camp will show you something new. You'll keep a bird species list and learn all kinds of cool facts about the birds that call the Pacific Northwest their home. Binoculars are provided.

Befriend a Bird of Prey

Grades: 2nd–4th March 28 (Friday)
 What is the difference between an owl and a hawk? Is a vulture a bird of prey? We'll answer these questions and more as we spend the day investigating these amazing predators. You can handle talons, skulls, and wings and even meet some of our resident raptors from our Wildlife Care Center.

Mission Impossible II: Lost Treasure of Neahkahnne

Grades: 5th–8th
 March 26–28 (Wednesday–Friday)
 Instructors: **Mike Kin** and **Ian Abraham**
Fee: \$155 members / \$175 non-members
 Having received word of a successfully completed impossible mission from last spring at Marmot Cabin, the home office at Forest Park has sent a coded message:

"Years ago, two ships traveling in the night collided and sank. As legend goes, one ship contained a hold full of beeswax. The other carried a treasure, which was buried onshore under a rock. Your assignment is to find this treasure. Obtain clues and hints through any means necessary including, but not limited to, interviews with tidepool residents and conversations with passing gray whales. If you choose to accept this assignment, you will be lodged at Twin Rocks Friends Camp in Rockaway. Your days will be full of adventure and intrigue, nights full of stories and campfires. As always, should you or any member of your group be captured, the Audubon staff will disavow all knowledge of your actions. This message will self-destruct after you register for this AWESOME adventure. Good luck!"

Sanctuaries

Managing Invasive Species

by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

On a global basis... the two great destroyers of biodiversity are, first, habitat destruction and second, invasion by exotic species. — E.O. Wilson

Invasive species can drastically alter the natural processes of an ecosystem in a relatively short period of time. The proliferation of invasive species, both plant and animal, is often caused and accelerated by habitat destruction, and together the two wreak havoc on native wildlife and habitat. A case in point is the perilous decline of the Northern Spotted Owl, whose habitat has been severely diminished by the destruction of our old-growth forests through voracious logging practices. Habitats disturbed by logging have proved welcoming to the Barred Owl, which has steadily expanded its natural territory and is now competing with the Northern Spotted Owl for territory and contributing to the rapid decline of the native species.

The important lesson is that while invasive species pose a serious threat to native ecosystems and habitats, they are byproducts of a larger problem: human encroachment and destruction of habitat. Any solution to the problem of invasive species must begin by addressing our role in creating the problem. In the long run it will do little good to organize volunteer work parties to remove English ivy from our sanctuaries if our neighbors are still using ivy in the landscape around their home; the ivy will continue to encroach and our sanctuaries will become a small, isolated island of habitat. Similarly, we cannot blame the Barred Owl for the decline of the Spotted Owl without first looking at the role of the chainsaw and society's insatiable appetite for timber.

Education and outreach are essential components of a successful program of invasive species management.

An informed public that understands why we are working to control invasive species is more likely to support our efforts, whether by working to remove invasives on their own property, joining our habitat restoration effort, or spreading the word about the impacts of invasive species and habitat loss.



English ivy up to no good.

© John M. Randall/The Nature Conservancy

Current Focus of Portland Audubon's Invasive Species Efforts

Our sanctuaries projects focus on habitat restoration and enhancement by removing invasive plant species and planting native species. While we do have our share of invasive animal species, their removal presents numerous practical and ethical problems while doing little to provide suitable habitat for native wildlife.

While we have catalogued 20 invasive plant species in our sanctuaries, our recent efforts have focused on English ivy, garlic mustard, and clematis. The backbone of our efforts is our monthly work party, held on the third Saturday of the month. Rain or shine, dedicated volunteers come to scour the hillside and help us rid our sanctuaries of pestilent plants. We also host a number of work parties for corporate and community groups that would like to help with our habitat restoration program.

This coming year we will be augmenting our volunteer efforts, thanks to a grant from the Bureau of Environmental Services Watershed Investment Fund. We plan on bringing AmeriCorps crews out to focus on ivy removal and native plantings on the slope between Balch Creek and Cornell Road. This project will restore five acres of prime streamside habitat, increase slope stability, and improve water quality in Balch Creek.



Garlic mustard in bloom. © John M. Randall/The Nature Conservancy

Nature Store Highlights

by Nancy Mattson & Sally Loomis, Nature Store Staff

New Dimensions in Nature Observation

Last spring, Portland Audubon and KGW-TV used a **Raptor Cam** to bring an exciting up-close view of the nesting, feeding, and fledging of a Red-tailed Hawk family to a worldwide audience via the internet. Now, with a well-designed nest box equipped with a **Hawk Eye Nature Cam** from the Nature Store, that same excitement can be brought to your own TV, as you view the wildlife outside your door. Which of your own backyard residents would you like to closely observe without disturbing? Nesting songbirds or owls? Perhaps a frisky family of squirrels? Or maybe just an up-close view of your busy hummingbird feeder?



The **Hawk Eye Nature Cam**, at \$85.00 (**\$76.50 for members**), is equipped with a small weather shield and 100 feet of cable for long-distance viewing from a variety of backyard settings. During the day, these cameras transmit real-time, live-action images in bright **living color**. At night, six miniature **infrared lights** take over, allowing you to continue watching in full darkness. The infrared lights do not disturb or harm birds or other wildlife while they allow you to observe the secret nighttime world of nature.

Three styles of **nest boxes with the Hawk Eye pre-installed and ready to mount** on a nearby tree are also available.

Stop by the Nature Store for a demonstration and information on how to use these cameras in a responsible manner that allows you and your family, friends, and neighbors to gain enhanced "watch-but-don't-touch" knowledge of our urban fauna.

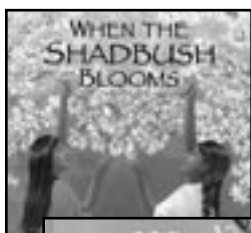
Kid's Corner: New Books

The Nature Store carries children's books that emphasize the fun and wonder of the natural world. Kids who learn to understand the amazing world around them will be motivated to protect it as they grow older. Here are some new titles we'd like to highlight that both parents and children will enjoy.

Beetle Bop by **Denise Fleming** uses brightly colored stenciled artwork and rhyming text (great for reading aloud) to show how common and how varied these insects can be.

Where in the Wild? by **David Schwartz** has wonderful color photos with fold-over flaps that reveal the amazing ways that animals use camouflage to protect themselves. **When the Shadbush Blooms** by **Carla Messinger** shows the cycle of the seasons through the perspective of a Lenni Lenape

(a Native American of years past) as well as that of her modern-day descendent, with lovely painted illustrations.



Etta Kaner and **Marie Lafrance** have created a fun series of books that explore weather. **Who Likes the Wind?** and related works for sun, snow, and rain are colorful flap books that help answer the many questions young children have, like what a cloud feels like or why the wind whistles.



Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

In Honor

Carol Thomas
The Shifleys

Judi Paisley
Kira Paisley

Scott Faber
Ann Jamison

Valerie Davis
Roslyn Simon

Kyle Spinks
Scott Spinks

Hugh and Mary Gemmell
Hannah Salomon

Laney Strand
Eric Strand

The Nickerson Family
Wendy Maynard

Vonda Purdy-Myers
Vanessa Verrill

Peg and Bob Goldie
Max and Maxine Wilkins

In Memory

John King
A Friend

Judy Osburn
Town and Country Fence Co. of Oregon

Gordon Bailey
Judy and Dixon Shaver

Anne Newton
Doug and Rhande Ainslie

Auriel White
James and Claire Dugoni

Elizabeth Sparks Chiles
Virginia S. Calvin

Jim Kimball
Charlotte and David Corkran

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:

- Katherine A. O'Meara for a 19-inch flat panel monitor.
- Judy Borge for seven chromolithographs, a signed print, and a set of books.
- James Sims for a Dell laptop for the Wildlife Care Center.

Our Wish List:

For Education:

Powerpoint projector • Flat screen monitor
Laptop computer • Floorlamps

For Sanctuary:

Loppers • Hand saws • Work gloves
Long-necked stapler
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.

Adapting to Winter Food Shortages

As with all living things, among birds the secret of success is food. Food is the great regulator; it controls population levels, distribution, and general well being. It also is one of the main reasons that birds migrate.

Generally birds do not carry much fat so they must eat regularly. This could cause problems in times of shortages. Food shortages are found most often during the winter months and birds have to offset this problem to a certain degree. As winter approaches, bird metabolism is slowed, all nonessential functions are closed down, and the birds spend more time doing nothing when not foraging for food. They are also much less fussy about what they eat.

Because small-bodied birds cannot retain as much heat as larger-bodied birds, they must forage almost constantly for food. **Sparrows, chickadees, Bushtits, warblers,** and other similar-sized birds move about in flocks searching for food, seldom resting during the day. Staying in flocks provides some protection from predators, which are also looking for food.

The extensive juniper woodlands of Central Oregon attract many thousands of seed-eating birds during the winter months, but the food almost always runs out about mid-February. By mid-winter, birds wintering in the Willamette Valley also experience food shortages. There is considerable shifting of bird populations during this period as they seek out other sources of nourishment. Birds become much more conspicuous and are often found in large flocks. Fortunately the weather moderates during February so the birds are less likely to experience extreme hardships.

Larger birds like **hawks** and **owls** need to eat only every four or five days, but when they do eat they take much larger portions and store considerable fat to tide them over to the next meal. Some birds have other means to ensure a healthy diet during the winter months, including **Acorn Woodpeckers**, which store acorns in holes in granary trees and actively protect them all winter. This in itself takes a lot of energy and keeps the whole colony busy. The Clark's Nutcracker uses a better method.



Acorn Woodpecker. Credit: Gary Kramer/USFWS

The **Clark's Nutcracker** is far superior to any other bird in relocating buried seeds, remembering where they are buried months later, even under deep snows. Each individual bird selects a landmark (tree, rock, log, or some other prominent object), then buries the seeds at a personally selected distance around the landmark. The secrecy discourages other nutcrackers from locating and stealing the cache. When the bird returns to retrieve the seeds, all it needs to do is go the selected distance from the landmark and begin digging. The bird might be a bit off but close enough that the seeds can easily be found even in fairly deep snow.

Sightings

The Columbia River in North Portland has been a birding hotspot this winter. All three species of loons have been seen including a group of eight **Red-throated Loons** Chris Warren found at Kelley Point January 2. The usual wintering flock of **Common Goldeneyes** was present again near the railroad bridge on Hayden Island, and on January 2 Chris found a bright male **Barrow's Goldeneye** among them. Besides a few **Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings,** and **Red-necked Grebes,** up to four **Short-eared Owls** have been seen at Broughton Beach near the Portland Airport. Dave Helzer has been reporting **Short-eareds** at the airport for several years.

Up to 3,000 **Snow Geese** have been seen on Sauvie Island this winter. On December 29 Karen Bachman and Andy Frank spotted a **Ross's Goose** at the end of Oak Island Road, and Wink Gross and David Mandell found a **Barrow's Goldeneye** on the east side of the Island. A **White Pelican** is wintering this year on Sauvie Island.

On December 15 Mike Houck saw a **Prairie Falcon** along Oak Island Road on Sauvie Island. Lars Norgren saw

one near Roy north of Forest Grove December 21. On December 26 Wilson Cady found a **Mountain Bluebird** at Frenchman's Bar near Vancouver Lake. On December 21 he saw two **Red-breasted Mergansers** on Vancouver Lake.

Large flocks of **Pine Siskins** began showing up during December. On December 13 Craig Turner saw 250 in Milwaukie; John Gatchet hosted 250 in Gresham, and Seth Reams had 125 in NE Portland. On December 24 Andy Frank saw over 100 **Cedar Waxwings** in North Portland.

On December 6 Seth Reams reported a **Vesper Sparrow** among the **Junco** flock at his NE Portland feeders. Andy Frank reported a **Cassin's Finch** at his NW Portland feeders during December.

There were many reports of lower-than-expected numbers of some common species this December, mainly forest birds. **Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Varied Thrushes,** and **Fox Sparrows** were especially noted. The very heavy rains during the month may have been a deterrent and many birds may have moved to a less wet climate.



Red-necked Grebe and chicks © Ron LeValley/
www.levalleyphoto.com

Photo © Ted Nelson



Volunteer of the Month: Marianne Nelson

by Jim Labbe,
Urban Conservationist

Over the last year, the Audubon Society of Portland has been extremely fortunate in receiving the tireless and varied support of **Marianne Nelson**. Marianne moved to Portland with her husband just over a year ago from Elgin, Illinois, where she served as executive director of the Fox Valley Land Trust before retiring.

Last January Marianne trained to lead sanctuary tours and went on to lead dozens of tours throughout the spring. She also helped out with the native plant sale and Birdathon, and serves on Audubon's Volunteer Council. Marianne has funneled her creative energies into a variety of Portland Audubon programs over the last year, but her support of conservation is particularly noteworthy.

Last May she was one of over 50 Audubon Society of Portland members who turned out at the hearing to oppose the flawed Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan proposed by the Bush administration.

In the summer Marianne got involved in the Measure 49 campaign and worked tirelessly on Audubon's behalf to organize members, volunteers, and the voting public to support the measure. She was especially adept at designing and installing some excellent Measure 49 displays outside Heron Hall and in the Wildlife Care Center, and helped organize two Audubon phone banks to persuade voters to vote for the measure. After the passage of Measure 49, Marianne did not miss a beat in helping organize citizens to turn out in support of increasing Portland's park system development charges (SDCs) in December.

"Marianne provided outstanding public testimony supporting Audubon's advocacy this past year," noted Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon's Conservation Director. "She is clearly someone who understands the breadth and connection of our conservation work here at Portland Audubon in protecting the habitat of species of regional and national significance, like the Spotted Owl, while also preserving places for nature in our backyards and neighborhoods."

All told, Marianne has logged well over 150 volunteer hours this past year. Rarely are we graced with an energetic volunteer whose contributions cut across so much of Portland Audubon's work. **Thank you, Marianne!**

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Our Facilities:

Heron Hall – 31 ft. x 31 ft.

- accommodates 75 people if organized auditorium style
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Rental includes:

- tables and chairs, 27-inch video screen, slide projector and 10x12 projector screen
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- nature library and natural history display
- use of our sanctuary and trails
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Rental Fees:

- \$50 per hour (two-hour minimum)
- \$25 nonrefundable deposit
- Certificate of insurance naming Audubon Society of Portland as additional insured (required at time of deposit)

Business members receive special discounts. To become a business member call 503-292-6855 and speak to our Development Director.

Wildlife Care Center

Irene MacIntosh Retires from Wildlife Care Center

By Deb Sheaffer, Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager

Giving a Bald Eagle an enema is just one of the memories Irene MacIntosh takes with her as she retires after 4½ years as the Wildlife Care Center Assistant. She will also remember the time she pulled eight baby skunks out of a trash can and how her face went numb after about the fourth baby. She won't forget watching volunteers picking bird lice off of each other — what Irene calls “the ultimate team-building experience.” She'll remember the animals saved and those lost. Many of her memories are of the volunteers she trained, those that brought her chocolate, and those that made her laugh. Irene's last day as the Wildlife Care Center Assistant was January 8, but she wasn't away for long, and the memories will continue to grow because Irene returned as a volunteer four days later.

Irene first encountered Portland Audubon 17 years ago when she took a four-hour-a-week shift in the Wildlife Care Center. As an involved volunteer, she took every opportunity to learn about wildlife rehabilitation. Irene took classes, researched individual cases, and obtained her own permit to do small mammal rehabilitation in her home. She had a passion for performing fecal exams — a microscopic look for parasites — because it was like a treasure hunt to her. She made it a family affair and enlisted her husband Joseph to assist with fixing a variety of decrepit mechanical devices on which the Care Center depends. Irene was a steady, calm force, according to Bob Sallinger, the Wildlife Care Center Director for many of Irene's years. In his mind she was a natural choice as the WCC Assistant when the position opened up 4½ years ago.

Her kindness, love, and patience comes through with every animal she touches and every person she interacts with. I learned so much from Irene.



Irene MacIntosh (center) treats injured Bald Eagle at Wildlife Care Center. © Portland Audubon

As the Wildlife Care Center Assistant, Irene was able to take her years of wildlife rehabilitation experience and pass it on to the more than 60 Wildlife Care Center volunteers.

When speaking of Irene the volunteers respond with admiration for her kindness, knowledge of wildlife rehabilitation, compassion for wildlife, and her sense of humor. Lei Kotynski sums up the feelings: “Her kindness, love, and patience comes through with every animal she touches and every person she interacts with. I learned so much from Irene.” Another volunteer, Mandy Sims, describes her experience with Irene: “I truly learned what it means to be unconditionally compassionate and incredibly knowledgeable and intelligent without the constant need to be credited for it.”

So, Irene, it isn't goodbye. Instead, we say thanks for your years of wit, knowledge, and compassion — and we look forward to many more.



A Great Horned Owl is examined in the Wildlife Care Center. © Portland Audubon

Did you know?

Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center includes full surgical and diagnostic capabilities, is staffed by professional rehabilitators including a wildlife veterinarian and more than 100 volunteers, and is open 9am–5pm every day of the year. We do not charge for our services and do not receive government funding. You can help our efforts by donating funds or material supplies to the Wildlife Care Center or by becoming a volunteer.

Call us at 503-292-0304 if you have found an injured animal or have questions about urban wildlife, and get more information at www.audubonportland.org/WildlifeCareCenter.

For Lovebirds
and Bird Lovers



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- Please charge my:

- MasterCard Visa Discover

Card #: _____ Exp: _____

WARBGMBR

Audubon Birding Weekends 2008 — a portal to birding Oregon

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.



Paul Sullivan

I will again be organizing and leading these trips. It continues to be a joy to share birding in Oregon with others.
— Paul T. Sullivan

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.

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

Audubon Birding Weekends 2008

February 9–10 — Interior Valley Refuges

We will look for raptors, waterfowl, and wintering passerines from the Tualatin River NWR to Baskett Slough, Ankeny, and Finley NWRs, with E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area thrown in. **Base: Salem.**

March 8–9 — Summer Lake

We will visit this staging area for large numbers of Snow Geese and other waterfowl on their northward migration. **Base: Summer Lake.**

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.**

June 14–15 — Klamath County

We will visit this county to look for Yellow Rails, White Pelicans, Red-necked and Clark's Grebes, Forster's and Black Terns, plus shorebirds, raptors, and waterfowl on Upper Klamath and Agency Lakes, as well as forest species. **Base: Klamath Falls.**

July 4–6 — Willamette County

We will look for nesting songbirds, migrant shorebirds, and the raptors of the Zumwalt prairie while we enjoy the beauty of the Willamette. **Base: Enterprise.**

August 9–10 — Lake County

We will visit southern Lake County: Lake Abert, Hart Mountain NWR, and the Warner Valley, to see the diverse array of migrant shorebirds, as well as waterfowl and forest birds. We may find the Juniper Titmouse. **Base: Lakeview.**

September (no trip)

This month is already full with the Oregon Shorebird Festival, the North American Migration Count, and the Oregon Field Ornithologists annual meeting.

October 11–12 — Crook County

We will visit the reservoirs and woods of this central Oregon county to find migrant waterfowl and shorebirds. **Base: Prineville**

November 8–9 — Central Cascades

We will spend our days at Haystack Reservoir, Hatfield Lake, Wickiup Reservoir, and other high lakes of the Cascades, looking for fall waterfowl. We will also look for Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers in burns near Bend. **Base: Bend.**

December (no trip)

Questions? Contact Paul at ptsulliv@spiritone.com or 503-646-7889.



Three Arch Rocks NWR. © Marilyn Stinnett

Strength in Membership

by Ann Takamoto,
Development Director

Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge is a landmark of incredible beauty and a testament to collaboration and perseverance for all Auduboners; the milestone of its centennial this past October is one that we can celebrate and use to inspire us to continue our work.

Spending some time recently at Oceanside on a stormy winter's day, I reflected on these achievements by the first Audubon Society president, William L. Finley, his wife Irene, and his lifelong friend Herman T. Bohlman — their dedication and tenacity made possible the first National Wildlife Refuge west of the Mississippi. The historical footage I'd seen depicted not only the rich wildlife and the huge numbers of seabirds they were so passionately protecting, but also the fact that so much has transpired since then to the detriment of those abundant resources.

Driving back from the coast along Highway 26 through the Coast Range, I was reminded of the importance of the work we do together, and how much habitat has been lost to clearcutting... these are truly challenging times.

There is incredible strength in community, as Portland Audubon members prove time and again. You really stepped up at the year's end; the same dedication, passion, and tenacity that drove Finley shone through in the gifts, donations, membership renewals, and support we received to help fund our programs. Our membership is active, involved, and vital in our mission to protect, understand, and enjoy our precious natural resources. It may seem daunting at times, but our members always rise to the occasion — and if history can predict the future, then our work is in the best hands. Thank you, Members!



Western Screech-Owlets at the Wildlife Care Center.
© Portland Audubon

Join the Portland Audubon Legacy Club

Leave a legacy that will last for generations to come. A planned gift to the Audubon Society of Portland will carry forward your compassion for birds and our natural spaces.

Gifts of stock or property, bequests in your will, gift annuities, or charitable remainder trusts may help you achieve certain financial goals while providing substantial support for Portland Audubon's mission. We would be glad to discuss your giving options with you in confidence and with no obligation.

Contact Ann Takamoto, Development Director, at 503-292-6855 ext.117.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Melospiza lincolni

Some people feel that all sparrows fall into the "little brown birds that all look alike" category. But as little brown birds go, Lincoln's Sparrows are actually quite colorful. While the overall pattern is similar to that of the closely related Song Sparrow, several differences really make Lincoln's Sparrows stand out.

Identification

Ranging 4½–6 inches in length, Lincoln's Sparrows average about half an inch shorter than Song Sparrows, with a shorter tail, a more delicate build, and a finer bill. On the bird's head, gray on the supercilium and the side of the neck strongly contrasts with the brown crown and cheeks. The strong buffy malar stripe also provides strong contrast.

The upper breast shows a broad buffy band overlaid with fine, crisp black streaks, which extend onto the bird's flanks. These fine streaks are very different from the blurry brown streaking found on Song Sparrows. Lincoln's Sparrows show fine markings on their backs as well. When agitated — which is most of the time — Lincoln's Sparrows often raise their crown feathers into a little peak.

Range and Habitat

Lincoln's Sparrows spend the winter months along the West Coast, through the southern third of the United States, throughout Mexico, and into Central America. They breed across much of Canada and southern Alaska south into mountainous areas of the western United States.

In Oregon, the birds winter in valleys west of the Cascades. They are usually found in brushy areas along the edges of wetlands and farm fields. Lincoln's Sparrows nest in mountain meadows (usually above 3500 feet in elevation) that have willow thickets or other brushy cover.



Lincoln's Sparrow © Dr. Richard B. Forbes

Behavior

Lincoln's Sparrows tend to skulk in heavy cover, making them difficult to see. Even when singing, males will usually be hidden from full view. With a little patience, though, you can get good looks at Lincoln's Sparrows as they make their way through the brush, popping up onto a prominent perch for a few seconds before disappearing into the cover again. Males can be found by following their loud bubbling song in the nesting season.

Conservation

Wintering Lincoln's Sparrows are reported more frequently now than in the past. Whether this indicates an increase in the wintering population, or just better birders and increased coverage, is unclear. Potential threats to this species include overgrazing on the meadows where they nest and the loss of brushy wetlands on the wintering grounds.

References

- *Birds of Oregon* (Marshall, Hunter, and Contreras)
- *Sparrows of the United States and Canada* (Beadle and Rising)
- *The Sibley Guide to Birds* (Sibley)

Give Your Sweetheart a Gift of Nature

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 binoculars and spotting scopes, birdfeeders and seed, and nature books, CDs, DVDs, gifts, and toys for adults and children. Portland Audubon members receive a 10% discount on purchases.

Living with Urban Wildlife

Here is this month's checklist highlight from Portland Audubon's new informational brochure, *For the Birds: Protecting Birds in Your Backyard and Beyond*, from the Living with Urban Wildlife series.

- **Install Bird Nest Boxes:** Nest boxes can provide birds with important nesting opportunities in the urban landscape. The Nature Store provides a variety of different types of bird nest boxes and expert advice on which species are likely to be found in your neighborhood.

Our favorite "natural" nest boxes are created here in Portland by Wildwood Products of Oregon. These beautiful homes for chickadees and wrens are the next best thing to a hollow cavity in an aged backyard tree. Using trunk sections harvested from local lodgepole pine and birch trees, the craftsmen at Wildwood carefully bore out the center to create a cozy, well-



Western Grebes
© Jim Cruce

insulated home while leaving the beautiful outside bark intact. Roofs unscrew for easy end-of-season cleanout or the addition of a mini-cam (see Nature Store Highlights on page 8) prior to spring nesting season.

Living with Urban Wildlife Lovers

Valentine's Day brings the opportunity to show your affection for your favorite wildlife lover. **Fiore Gardens** has brought back their classic **Birdwatcher's Pin** especially for

Portland Audubon. Crafted from pewter, it features an oak branch adorned with leaves, acorns, and a row of tiny charms: a field guide, a swallow, a pair of binoculars, and a perched owl. Hurry in before the 14th to choose a

our great selection. You'll support Audubon programs while delighting your sweetheart.

