

Warbler



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Rocky reefs and ledges provide substrates for populations of rockfish and invertebrates adapted to their rocky bottoms.



Dragging huge trawling gear across the sea floor tears up the bottom substrate and seriously damages the ecosystem that depends on it.

Photos © NOAA Photo Library

Oregon's bottom habitats include deep canyons, mud flats, rocky banks, and ledges. Taken together they provide a variety of depths and substrates that are home to a rich array of benthic species, each adapted to its particular habitat. For example, rocky reefs and ledges such as Heceta Bank near Newport and Nehalem Bank off Tillamook Head provide substrates for populations of rockfish and invertebrates adapted to their rocky bottoms.

Oregon's Coastal Ocean: A Vulnerable Ecosystem

As demand for seafood has risen, fishermen have responded by targeting fish species that are most abundant and easiest to catch. Despite heavy exploitation, for many years catches held steady and the toll on fish populations was hidden, because increases in fishing efficiency and technological advances captured fish in previously inaccessible regions of the ocean. However, in recent decades populations have plummeted. Governmental regulatory bodies charged with promoting sustainable fishing practices introduced a number of restrictions, and in the face of these restrictions and falling income, fishermen reacted by employing even more technically sophisticated gear or increasing their effort. Regulators then responded by limiting the total allowable catch. The result has been an escalating tug of war in which both fish and fishermen are the losers.

The problem is rooted in the life history of most species of fish. Large, older fish produce many more eggs in proportion to their size than young adults or juveniles. A fish twice the size of a young adult may well produce four or more times the number of eggs. When a stock is first exploited, the largest, most mature fish are typically fished out first because they are commercially the most valuable. This results in a disproportionate reduction in the ability of the population to reproduce itself. Later, smaller adults and juveniles are targeted, resulting in fishing down the age structure and even further decreasing the population's ability to reproduce.

Environmental assaults do not exist in isolation and they sometimes interact. Overfishing, for example, increases vulnerability of populations to other perturbations for several reasons. Natural stresses such as severe storms or El Niños, or manmade pressures such as pollution or the introduction of foreign species, usually mean that affected populations produce fewer viable offspring until recovery occurs. If the reproductive potential of a population has already been depleted by overfishing, it remains more vulnerable to occasional catastrophes, whether natural or manmade.

Marine Reserves: A Tool for Conservation and Restoration

Despite the growing threats to marine environments along Oregon's coast and worldwide, it is not too late to restore our coastal seas to health. We now have the opportunity to establish management systems that achieve a sustainable equilibrium between human use and adequate protection.

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Stephen J. Karakashian is a resident of Oregon and was a professor of biology at Reed College. He belongs to the Corporation of Scientists that operate the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. As a volunteer at the Audubon Society of Portland, he prepared a guide to Oregon's ocean and an assessment of offshore conservation efforts on the West Coast from Alaska to Southern California. The following is an excerpt taken from his document entitled "Oregon's Coastal Ocean: A Guided Tour." To read the entire document, go to www.audubonportland.org/conservation_advocacy/oceans/oregonoceanpolicy.

Oregon's Coastal Ocean: A Guided Tour

by Stephen J. Karakashian, Ph.D.

Our desire to protect wild places often emerges from our experiences with them. Oregon's ocean epitomizes the concept of protecting remote and wild places. Our ocean, one of the state's most special natural treasures, ironically remains almost completely unprotected and open to exploitation and destruction.

Even as we haul more and more out of the sea worldwide, we continue to use the oceans as our dumping ground. We're being warned through collapsing fisheries, dying coral, disappearing populations of birds, and toxic algal blooms that what we can't see really does matter. It's obvious that we're connected to all those creatures below in ways we never suspected.

Ecosystems and Habitats

Oregon's ocean environment supports many different ecosystems and habitats. Nearshore areas over the continental shelf contain rocky intertidal zones, kelp forests, sea grass beds, submerged rocky reefs, and estuaries. Marine life such as fish, shellfish and other invertebrates, marine mammals, and seabirds are commonly found in these habitats. Farther offshore, features such as banks, canyons, rocky ledges, and other irregularities in the sea floor and on the continental slope create local current patterns that support diverse communities of organisms, from microscopic plankton and small fish to top predators such as sharks and marine mammals.



Join Us for Birdathon 2008: "Birding a Better Tomorrow"

by Gary Slone, Birdathon Coordinator

Register Now! www.audubonportland.org/events/birdathon2008

Did you know? The National Audubon Society and the American Bird Conservancy recently released *National WatchList 2007*, the newest and most scientifically accurate list of America's birds at greatest risk. Of the species on this list, 54 are found in Oregon, a significant number of which occur right here in the Portland metro area! They include the Willow Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Short-eared Owl, and Varied Thrush.

You can help bring awareness to this important issue and keep these species from slipping further toward extinction. Join the Audubon Society of Portland in "Birding a Better Tomorrow" and participate in Birdathon 2008!

What is Birdathon? Birdathon is the uniquely Audubon way to help protect Oregon's native birds. Anyone can participate: expert birders, casual birdwatchers, and beginners too. We all come together to document Oregon's birds and raise funds for the Audubon Society of Portland.

It works like a walk-a-thon: this year over 300 "Birdathoners" will collect pledges for finding and counting bird species. It's a competitive and educational event for any level of birdwatcher, as well as for their family and friends who cheer them on! You can join our guided trips, organize your own trip, or count independently.

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Summer Camp Schedule Inside — Sign Up Soon!



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

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From the Executive Director



Meryl Redisch

What Spring Brings!

I noticed something unusual while driving north from Salem on February 7th at 5:15 p.m.: it wasn't raining and it wasn't dark. At that joyful moment, I felt like spring was close at hand, though a change of season won't officially happen until March 20th. While even during the coldest and dreariest of days we always have something going on inside and out, the start of a new spring is always a welcoming event. Here's an overview of what to expect in the coming months!

Sanctuaries: The trilliums have yet to poke up from below ground, but bright green buds are obvious on the vine maples. This is the time of year when every plant seems to be bright green. Newly installed botanical signs and complimentary brochures will help you decipher one from the other!

Education: Lots of kids are around. This is the month when school groups start coming by the busloads for sanctuary tours and formal educational programs. Volunteer Sanctuary Guides lead kids to our giant Douglas fir tree, help them explore what's in and around the pond, and teach them about the amazing raptors that live in Oregon.

Wildlife Care Center: Preparation for baby birds, especially ducklings. This is the time of year when volunteers have their hands busy all of the time, staff are on watch for members with backyard ponds, and the phone never stops ringing.

Nature Store: Books, binoculars, field guides, bird-feeders, gifts for kids and adults are plentiful. This is the time of year when the books on gardening for birds and insects fly off the shelves.

And more: A welcome to Audubon's programs from volunteer docents who will point you in the right direction to see our Educational Birds, present you with a map of our forested trails, or provide you with a short overview of our society's history.

This is the time of year when we begin to plan for our biggest fundraiser of the year: Birdathon. Teams are now formed, sponsors are being sought, and personal letters are being crafted asking for your pledge. We are also getting geared up for Migratory Songbird Festival, Great Blue Heron Festival, and Spring Break Camp. All of this and more are taking shape on the calendar for visitors, members, and their families: Spring is on its way!

Wildlife Care Center 400-hour* Award Winners



Audubon's Wildlife Care Center cares for over 3,000 injured animals each year. That work cannot be done without the help of its dedicated group of volunteers. Recently, the Care Center staff decided to recognize volunteers who had devoted 400 or more hours with a special pin. If you've visited the Care Center, you'll recognize the pin as it replicates the stained glass over the Care Center's entrance. For the average volunteer who dedicates four hours per week to the Care Center, that's two years of service! **Please join us in recognizing these wonderful individuals.**

Susan Flett-Pomeroy (4980)
Nancy Fraser (3947.5)
Lani Bennett (3439.5)
Josie Reznik (3156)
Lynn Sweeney (2882)
Becky Magnuson (2845.5)
Kelli Walker (2267)
Mariha Kuechmann (2074.5)
Carol McAllister (1981)
Candy Plant (1748)
Dawn Jansen (1414)
Karly Ritter (1212)
Tom Potts (1204)
JB Mire (1163.5)

Rie Luft (1148)
Jennifer Parks (1076)
Claire Carter (1038)
Tanya Cecka (940)
Mandy Sims (931.5)
Lei Kotynski (888)
Rebecca Williams (726.5)
Carol Goldberg (617)
Jeff Baxter (595)
Stacey Mullins (581)
Reuben Rich (540.5)
Ginnie Ross (532.5)
Katy Ehrlich (455)
Irene McIntosh (448)
Curtis White (415.5)
Louise Carroll (402)

*(Hours as of January 22, 2008)

Field Trips

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

March 15 (Saturday), 8am-11am Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

Join us on the 3rd Saturday walk co-sponsored by Audubon Society of Portland and Backyard Bird Shop. We'll walk around the lake and surrounding woodlands of the city's first wildlife refuge and scope for waterfowl, raptors, and others. Bring binoculars, dress for weather. Call Backyard Bird Shop (503-620-7454) for info and to reserve a spot. Beginners welcome!

March 16 (Sunday), 8:30am-11:30am Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens

Leaders **Bob Lockett** and **Adrienne Wolf-Lockett** get you up close and personal with up to a dozen species of waterfowl at this SE Portland garden. Meet leaders at 8:30am in the garden parking lot located on SE 28th just north of SE Woodstock and across from Reed College. Dress for weather, bring binoculars. Beginners welcome!

March 29 (Saturday), 8am-11am Powell Butte Nature Park

Join leader **Ron Escano** for a walk exploring the unique habitats of Powell Butte. Timing should be good for possible vagrants and winter sparrows. Meet at 8am at the top of the butte parking lot at the end of SE 162nd Avenue. Turn south on SE 162nd Avenue off Powell Blvd and drive to the top of the butte. Bring binoculars, dress for the weather, and 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.

Sherwood Greenways March 6 (Thursday), 9am-Noon

Go birdwatching with the Magpies on the Sherwood Greenways. Leader **Doug Robberson** will lead us through preserved forested and open areas along ponds and streams. Dress for the weather, no pets please. Meet at 9am near the Sherwood YMCA driveway. Park on the street only. For information call Doug at 503-684-3266.

Jackson Bottom Wetlands March 13 (Thursday), 9am-11:30am

Join **Sarah McCarty** to look for waterfowl, raptors, and early migrants at this preserve near Hillsboro. Meet in the parking lot, dress for the weather. For directions, see www.jacksonbottom.org or call Sarah at 503-636-1288.

Fernhill Wetlands March 20 (Thursday), 9am-11am

Join **Sue Carr** for an early spring walk around Fernhill Wetlands. We expect to find wintering waterfowl, gulls, sparrows, raptors, some early migrants, and perhaps some surprises. Meet in the Fernhill parking lot at 9am. Dress for the weather. For information contact Sue at 503-649-3360.

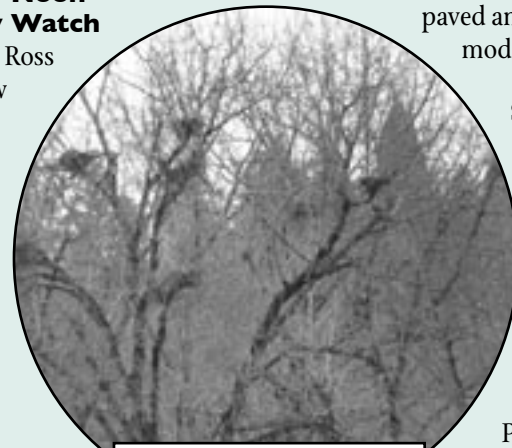
Connecting Green Wild in the City Field Trips

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.

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, where the herons have taken up nesting in two small colonies atop the black cottonwoods.



Great Blue Heron Nests on Ross Island. © Mike Houck

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. Life jackets are absolutely required.

Tuesday, March 11th, 8am-11am Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge 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. 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, March 22nd, 9am-Noon 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.

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. Life jackets are absolutely required.



Double-crested Cormorant, Willamette River. © Mike Houck

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	
24	25	Conservation Lecture at Oregon Zoo, 7pm (Feb. Warbler)	26	27	28	29	
					Leap Year Day	1	
2	3	Birders' Night, 7:30pm Heron Hall	4	5	6	7	
				Magpies visit Sherwood Greenways, 9am (p.2)		8	
Birding Weekend (p.10)	9	10	11	12	13	14	
		Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Walk, 8am (p.2)		Magpies visit Jackson Bottom Wetlands, 9am (p.2)		Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Field Trip, 8am (p.2)	
		Nature Night: Northern Pygmy-Owls, 7pm (p.3)		Klamath Basin Birding Expedition begins (p.6)		15	
Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens Field Trip, 8:30am (p.2)	16	17	18	19	20	21	
		Diving Birds with Harry Nehls, 7pm (p.7)		Magpies visit Fernhill Wetlands, 9am (p.2)		Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Walk, 9am (p.2)	
				Board Meeting, 7pm Heron Hall		22	
Beginning Birding II 'Session 1' Class, 8am (p.7)	23	24	25	26	27	28	
		Conservation Lecture (Peregrines) at Oregon Zoo, 7pm (p.12)				Powell Butte Nature Park Field Trip, 8am (p.2)	
Paddle Around Ross Island, 9am (p.2)		← Spring Break Camps (p.6-7) →					29
						Springwater Corridor Ride, 9am (p.2)	
Beginning Birding II 'Session 2' Class, 8am (p.7)	30	31	1	2	3	4	
		Birders' Night, 7:30pm Heron Hall			Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Walk, 8am (p.2)	Beginning Field Birding & Sauvie Island Exploration, 8am (Feb. Warbler)	
						5	

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

**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 Watershed. You are responsible for bringing and maintaining your own bicycle; pumps and patch kits recommended. Helmets are absolutely required.



Birding Oaks Bottom. © Mike Houck



Great Blue Heron mural on Portland Memorial building near Oaks Bottom. © Mike Houck

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.

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.

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

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

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.

**Northern Pygmy-Owls
with John Deshler**

Tuesday, March 11, 7pm • Heron Hall

Come learn about Oregon's smallest owl. Northern Pygmy-Owls are tough, mysterious little birds that are found in forest and woodland habitats throughout Oregon including the Portland metro area. At only 6½-7 inches in height, pygmy-owls are fierce predators that will prey upon mammals, birds, reptiles, and insects. They have been known to take birds even larger than themselves. 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 PSU and will report on the ecology, biology, and natural history of this fascinating little owl. John will provide an update about what he has learned during the last year of research on pygmy-owls and what questions he will be researching during the upcoming field season.



Pygmy-Owl. © Don Baccus

Volunteer Field Assistants Needed for Local Pygmy-Owl Research

For those wishing to become directly involved in metro-area pygmy-owl research, March Nature Night Speaker **John Deshler** will be offering a unique opportunity to get involved in his ongoing research project. John is entering the second year of research on a project studying a pygmy-owl population in the greater Portland area and is looking for volunteer research assistants. During the first year of research, five nest sites were identified and 23 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. More information on becoming directly involved will be available at the March Nature Night.

Conservation

Huge Victory for Marbled Murrelets!

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

On February 5th, a federal court rejected the timber industry's latest attack on the Marbled Murrelet and our ancient forests. The American Forest Resource Council (a timber industry lobbying group) had asked the court to remove Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for the murrelet that have been in place since 1992. Portland Audubon and a coalition of environmental groups including the Center for Biological Diversity, Conservation Northwest, Environmental Protection Information Center, Gifford Pinchot Task Force, Oregon Wild, Seattle Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society intervened in the timber industry lawsuit to defend the murrelet. We were represented in this case by Earthjustice, a nonprofit environmental law defender. On February 5th, the federal court dismissed the timber industry lawsuit on jurisdictional grounds.

The Marbled Murrelet is a small seabird that nests in old-growth forests along the Pacific coast of North America. Like the Northern Spotted Owl, murrelet populations have been decimated by old-growth logging. It was Portland Audubon that originally petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Marbled Murrelet under the ESA in 1988 and that sued the Fish and Wildlife Service to force listing in 1991. As a result of these efforts, the Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Marbled Murrelet population in Washington, Oregon, and California as a threatened species. Despite undisputed scientific evidence that murrelets are disappearing from the Pacific coast, the timber industry has set its sights on the small seabird in order to increase logging of trees over 100 years old.

The timber industry began its courtroom campaign against the murrelet over seven years ago. Big timber was given a huge assist in 2004 when the Fish and Wildlife Service was ordered by Julie MacDonald, former deputy assistant

secretary for fish, wildlife, and parks at the Department of the Interior (a Bush political appointee), to report that murrelets did not deserve protection in the lower 48 states. Ms. MacDonald was forced to resign in 2007 after a scathing Inspector General report found she had bullied agency scientists and improperly released information to industry in a variety of endangered species related situations.



Photo Credit: Gus Van Vliet/ USFWS

The 2004 Fish and Wildlife Service finding that murrelets did not need continued ESA protection in Oregon and Washington reversed government scientists who had concluded that the birds continued to need protection. Although currently under investigation by the Inspector General and Government Accountability Office, this last-minute flip-flop formed the basis of the timber industry's lawsuit. Had this lawsuit been successful, much of the murrelet's old-growth forest habitat would have been open for logging. The court's February 5th decision ensures that existing old-growth protections for murrelets will remain in place — at least for now.

Even with the current protections, however, the Marbled Murrelet still requires our continued advocacy. Government scientists estimate that the Marbled Murrelet population in Washington, Oregon, and California continues to decline at a rate of 4%–7% per year. A recent U.S. Geological Survey report estimated that the murrelet population in British Columbia and Alaska is also at risk, declining by 70% over the last 25 years. Portland Audubon will continue to work to make certain that our old-growth forests are adequately protected to ensure the continued survival of Marbled Murrelets and spotted owls and the enjoyment of future generations.

Protecting Your Neighborhood Trees & Groves

Citizens across the region organize to protect urban trees and neighborhood groves. Here is how you can get involved.

This region's marvelous climate for growing trees is evidenced by not only the majestic forested slopes of the Cascade foothills and Coast Range but also the rich and varied urban forest spanning neighborhoods of the Portland metro region. On a spring day, this verdant urban forest interspersed with the varied built environment is an impressive sight, especially from above.

Our urban trees and forest canopy are a tremendous resource. They cool our neighborhoods in the summertime and improve our air quality. They clean and slow urban stormwater run-off, helping mitigate impacts to our streams and rivers. One mature tree can provide habitat for insects including important pollinators, a variety of local and neotropical bird species, and other wildlife. Larger groves are even more significant breeding and migration resources for species that pass through our urban communities. Research indicates that urban trees can also improve our mental health and happiness, reduce crime and traffic accidents, increase business activity in commercial districts, and improve property values and contribute deeply to our sense of place in our neighborhoods. This last point is probably why cutting one tree evokes a visceral sense of loss from most neighbors.

Few issues generate more phone calls to our Urban Conservation staff here at Portland Audubon than the loss of mature trees in our neighborhoods. Unfortunately, it is often too late to save a tree at the point when plans for a specific development are being approved and implemented. The key to protecting trees in our neighborhoods requires getting the policies and standards in place long before any specific development proposal. Better still is having a local urban forestry plan to promote strategic tree planting throughout a city or county jurisdiction.

Fortunately, citizen-initiated efforts to create, improve, or implement urban forestry programs are emerging in the region. Following are some current initiatives that you can get involved in or learn from in supporting similar efforts in your community.

Oregon's Coastal Ocean: A Guided Tour

continued from front cover

The establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs), ocean areas that receive some degree of protection from extractive activities, is becoming increasingly recognized as an effective tool for achieving this equilibrium. As they currently exist, however, MPAs rarely prohibit all fishing and thus provide only a partial solution. By contrast, marine reserves, a special kind of MPA in which all extractive activities including fishing are prohibited, hold great promise in helping to restore our oceans to their former vitality.

Currently, no fully protected marine reserves exist off Oregon's coast. After reviewing the scientific literature, the National Academy of Sciences and the Pew Oceans Commission independently have recommended that marine reserves be included as an important part of any comprehensive ocean management strategy. Marine reserves are a conservation tool whose time has come.

What then are the advantages of marine reserves? They offer refuge to species that are victims of overfishing or bycatch, and they prevent habitat destruction caused by invasive bottom trawling or mineral extraction. They provide scientists with an invaluable point of comparison for assessing the effect of exploitation in similar, unprotected areas. Most important, unlike fisheries management that focuses on single species and ignores damage to other organisms, reserves protect whole ecosystems. Studies worldwide have shown that the benefits of marine reserves are decidedly proactive. Since adults are not removed, animals in reserves grow substantially larger. Since larger animals lay many more eggs in proportion to their size, more offspring and increased population densities are produced. Sessile animals that cannot move to seek out mates have even more progeny because eggs and sperm are released in close proximity to one another.

As the population density grows, mobile adults are likely to spill over into adjacent waters where they are accessible to fisheries or will increase populations outside the reserve.

Recent modeling studies suggest that a network of closely spaced smaller reserves may be more effective than one large uninterrupted region. Smaller reserves have more perimeter relative to their area than large ones and this enhances spillover. A network can potentially protect more varied habitats. The redundancy of the network also provides better insurance against the effects of localized catastrophes. In order to be maximally productive, the components of a network must be located in such a way that animals can move among them, in some cases taking advantage of prevailing currents.

It is worth noting that, effective as they are, marine reserves cannot cure all ills. They cannot undo the effects of pollution, although if they are carefully situated they may be able to avoid it. Like the rest of the ecosystem, they also are vulnerable to invasion by foreign species. Migratory species may not remain long enough in reserves to benefit from their protection. Because of these limitations, it is essential that marine reserves be part of an effective management plan that controls these other threats.

Oregon has some of the most productive waters on the west coast of North America. It also has a tradition of wise stewardship of its natural resources. Statewide Planning Goal 19, Ocean Resources, was adopted in its present form in 2000 and sets forth an extraordinarily enlightened vision of ocean conservation. It states, in part, "[Our goal is] to conserve marine resources and ecological functions for the purpose of providing long-term ecological, economic, and social values and benefits to future generations. [Ocean policy is to] give higher priority to the protection of renewable marine resources — i.e., living marine organisms — than to the development of nonrenewable ocean resources."

Conclusion

For millennia, humans have fished and played a part in coastal ecosystems. As extractive technologies have become more sophisticated, though, we are now in danger of destroying the very ecosystems that we value and on which we depend. Tools to restore them to health include rules that promote sustainable use and networks of fully protected marine reserves. As conservation-minded citizens, our role must be to provide the political will to implement these policies while there is still time.

Governor Kulongoski and your legislature **need to hear from individual citizens like you** on your support for a meaningful and strategic network of marine protected areas, including marine reserves, to ensure that Oregon's ocean has a sustainable future. **The media as well needs to hear that there is broad support** for this exciting new plan to restore our ocean's resources and all its biodiversity. Please send in your letter soon — every voice is important. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number so that the Governor's office, legislature, or newspaper can ensure that your letter is authentic and original. For newspapers, your letter should ideally be 200–400 words. For more information, go to www.audubonportland.org/conservation_advocacy. Thank you.



The woods that are found in our parks and natural areas, combined with a diversity of trees and small groves dispersed within our commercial and residential neighborhoods (shown here in SE Portland), collectively form Portland's urban forest canopy. It provides a patchwork of habitat for our diverse urban bird populations. © Mike Houck

Gresham's Urban Forestry Plan: The Gresham Tree Preservation Committee has teamed up with Johnson Creek Watershed Council and Portland Audubon to advocate for new staff and resources to develop a Gresham Urban Forestry Plan. If you are interested in helping, contact committee chair Lee Dayfield (leedayfield@hotmail.com) or attend the Watershed Council's Land-Use Committee that meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Main Street Alehouse in downtown Gresham (333 N. Main).

Clackamas County Urban Green: Over the last year a savvy group of Clackamas County urban tree advocates organized under the banner of Clackamas County Urban Green (CCUG). The goal was to establish a tree conservation ordinance and task force for urban unincorporated Clackamas County and eventually a comprehensive urban forestry plan. CCUG has conducted a national and regional review of tree conservation ordinances in drafting its own proposal, which it presented to the County Commissioners in mid-January with a packed room of supporters. This group has done a stellar job at building momentum but needs your support in their work ahead. If you live in Clackamas County and are interested in getting involved in these efforts, see www.ccurbangreen.org.

Reforming Portland's Tree Protections: Last spring Portland Audubon joined the SW Trees Committee and other urban tree advocates to support City funding for the **Citywide Tree Project**, an effort to review and reform the City of Portland's varied and ineffective tree protection codes. The Citywide Tree Project will be reviewing and refining Portland's policies and regulations regarding trees as part of implementing Portland's Urban Forest Management Plan. If you are interested in helping, contact Jim Labbe at jlabb@urbanfauna.org or 503-292-6855 ext.112.

Meet Ruby, Our Newest Education Bird

By Deb Sheaffer,
Wildlife Care Center Operations
Manager and Staff Veterinarian

Ruby, a hatch-year Turkey Vulture, is the Audubon Society of Portland's newest education bird. In September 2007, Ruby showed up on private property in Yamhill. The landowner called the Wildlife Care Center and reported that an apparently tame young Turkey Vulture was hanging out in her yard. The bird followed her around, slept on her porch, and even jumped onto her outstretched arm.

The Turkey Vulture was ultimately brought to the Wildlife Care Center, where we determined that she was healthy, but too friendly to be released to the wild. Numerous calls were made to determine whether Ruby might have escaped from a zoo or other educational program, but we were not able to determine anything specific about Ruby's past.

Most likely, Ruby was captured at a very young age and raised by humans. Each year, the Wildlife Care Center receives dozens of wild animals that have been raised by humans. In many cases these efforts are well intentioned and the goal is to eventually set the animal free. In some instances, individuals are deliberately and illegally holding these animals as permanent pets. Regardless of intent, raising wild animals in private homes rarely leads to happy endings. An important part of the rehabilitation process involves taking precautions to retain the animal's wild instincts and to prevent imprinting on humans. At the Wildlife Care Center we utilize a variety of techniques ranging from feeding young birds and mammals behind one-way reflective glass, to pairing up orphans with others of the same species, to hand feeding with puppets to ensure that they identify with their own species rather than with humans.

Once an animal is imprinted on humans, the process is almost impossible to reverse. This places the animal and sometimes the public in a hazardous position once the animal is released. Imprinted animals do not retain many of their natural instincts. They are far more vulnerable to predators. They are likely to approach unsuspecting humans who may harm them out of fear or illegally take them in as pets. In some cases, imprinted animals demonstrate unnatural aggression toward humans after they reach sexual maturity.

Care Center staff determined that Ruby was far too imprinted to be released again to the wild. She likely would have approached the first human she came upon. We recently sought and received permits from the U.S. Fish and



Ruby © Rie Luft

Wildlife Service to hold Ruby as a permanent educational animal. This is a formal process in which the Fish and Wildlife Service assesses a facility's ability to care for and house the animal as well as the educational purposes for which the animal will be used. This is an important process, as an animal like Ruby has complex housing and care requirements that cost upward of \$4,000–\$5,000 each year to provide.

Ruby will remain at Audubon as an education bird to help people understand the beauty and intelligence of vultures. She will also serve as a reminder of why it is important to keep wild animals wild. Had Ruby been delivered to a licensed rehabilitation facility when she was first found, she would probably be flying free today.

Cool Facts about Vultures

- The Turkey Vulture's featherless head allows it to slide their heads into the inner reaches of rotting carcasses without having to spend a lot of time preening afterwards.
- In Ancient Egypt, the Egyptian Vulture was known as the "Pharaoh's chicken" and was the first bird in history known to have legal protection.
- The Ancient Egyptians believed that all vultures were females and were impregnated by the southeastern wind.
- Vultures will often vomit when frightened. Consider the fact that much of what vultures eat is rotten going down... just imagine how foul that food is when it comes back up!
- Turkey Vultures are one of only a few bird species with a strong sense of smell. They use it to find rotting carcasses.
- The acid in a vulture's stomach is so strong that vultures can eat carcasses contaminated with botulism, cholera, and anthrax.
- Many people think Turkey Vultures are closely related to birds of prey, but they are actually more closely related to storks.
- A Turkey Vulture's head is gray during its first year and turns red as it gets older. This is how we know that Ruby is still just a youngster.

To learn more about Turkey Vultures, turn to page 11. For additional fascinating information about vultures, check out Wayne Grady's book, *Vulture: Nature's Ghoulish Gourmet*.

Wildlife Medicine: Tools of the Trade

By Deb Sheaffer,
Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager and Staff Veterinarian

You need the right tool for the job," my husband says as he's leaving for yet another trip to the hardware store. In wildlife medicine, finding the right tool can be a creative, if sometimes difficult, endeavor.

At the Wildlife Care Center we are often presented with an animal that is obviously in need of attention, and it's up to us to figure out what's wrong with it and how to help it. If a good history and physical exam don't give us the complete picture, we then turn to our "tools."

X-rays are an excellent and noninvasive tool to look for internal injury, broken bones, foreign bodies, and gunshot. Two years ago a Tundra Swan presented with vague signs of weakness and anemia; after an X-ray revealed that a metal object was in its stomach, we knew to treat for lead poisoning.

Bloodwork can reveal a variety of conditions from anemia to liver disease to poisonings. We routinely run protein levels on starving birds to give us direction for

nutrition management. Last summer, bloodwork showed severe anemia in a Mallard and we were able to save the bird by giving her a blood transfusion.

Fecal examination, a microscopic look for parasites in a patient's feces, are performed on every animal hospitalized in the Wildlife Care Center. It's important to know what parasites an animal is harboring so we can effectively treat the patient, and also to prevent spread to other hospitalized animals.

Cytology, an examination of cells under a microscope, can be used to diagnose cancer, inflammation, and infections. Recently a sick Red-tailed Hawk came in unable to walk due to swollen ankles. Using cytology we determined the bird had a bacterial infection and were able to help him with antibiotics.

These tools are only a few of those our two staff veterinarians and countless volunteers use to solve the wildlife mysteries we're presented with every day. We also have specialized volunteers, like microbiologist



X-ray of Osprey showing a fractured wing and two gunshot pellets. ©WCC

Carol Goldberg and veterinarians Jordan Nuccio, Mary Dickerson, and Ross Weinstein, to help in our endeavors. When our in-house methods aren't enough, we turn to our local veterinary community where we can use MRI, CT Scan, and veterinary specialists, with their own tools, to help us diagnose and solve cases.

Often people are surprised we have the diagnostic capabilities we do. In our experience, these tools are indispensable in our quest to help our injured and sick wildlife.

Educational Trips & Tours

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



American Avocets. © Jim Cruce

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.

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

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**, **Gyr Falcon**, **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.

Cost: \$1,795 members / \$1,835 non-members
Group Size: 16 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.



Alaska rainbow. © Steve Engel



Long-tailed Jaeger. © Portland Audubon

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



Rough-legged Hawk. © Jim Cruce

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, and last year we enjoyed excellent looks at species such as **Barrow's Goldeneye** and **Lewis's Woodpecker**. Raptors like **Ferruginous Hawk**, **Rough-legged Hawk**, and **Prairie Falcon** are likely to make an appearance. Bob Fields will share his knowledge of the area's wildlife and the complex issues faced by the refuges, making this a trip not to be missed!

What is included: Transportation by van from Portland, 3 nights double-occupancy lodging in Klamath Falls, all entry fees, breakfasts, lunches, and the services of your leaders.

Cost: \$470 members / \$510 non-members
Group Size: 14 participants
Deposit: \$250 required to secure your place
Leaders: Bob Fields and Don Cogswell

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

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 planned for November 2008. A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure your place. The tentative price is \$2,985.

Please call Steve Robertson 503-292-6855 ext.118 for more information.

Spring Break Camp 2008

To register, first call Sarah Swanson at 971-222-6120 to reserve your spot. Fill out the registration form from www.audubonportland.org and send it in with payment. Places are limited.

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 tales, 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.

MARCH



Hooded Merganser male. © Jim Cruce

Diving Birds with Harry Nehls

March 18 (Tuesday), 7pm–9pm

Did you know that three types of loons hang out in Oregon? Hundreds can be seen migrating past headlands at certain times of year. Did you know two species of pelicans are common in our region? Or that a variety of colorful grebes nest in the desert marshes of eastern Oregon? Both loons and grebes dive, some to great depths, to catch fish. Tonight local author and expert **Harry Nehls** will share his knowledge about the loons, grebes, cormorants, and other diving birds that grace our coast, lakes, and rivers.

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

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.

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.



Varied Thrush. © Jim Cruce

APRIL



Balsamroot © Don Jacobson

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

April 20 (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.

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



Western Sandpipers. Credit: Donna Dewhurst/USFWS

Spring Shorebird Migration

Late April or Early May, Class and Overnight Field Trip

We will be offering an expanded version of the Spring Shorebird Migration class and field trip that **Steve Engel** has led the last two years. Exact dates are not set as yet, but will be timed to catch the main pulse of northbound migrants and the best tides. This field class will consist of an evening lecture and an overnight trip to the Oregon and Washington coastlines. Transportation and lodging will be provided. Contact Steve Engel, Adult Education Coordinator, if you are interested in knowing more.

Schedule

Save your spot. Then download the registration can be saved for only 14 days without payment.

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!

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.

Mission Impossible II: Lost Treasure of Neahkahnie

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!"

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

Sanctuaries

The Usual Suspects... and Some New Kids on the Block

by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

Last month I wrote about the risks that invasive species pose to native wildlife and ecosystems; this month I would like to follow up by detailing some of the common invasive plant species we deal with in the sanctuaries on Cornell Road. Manual removal methods are indicated, when applicable. Some invasive plants, such as Japanese Knotweed, have proven very difficult to control manually.

English Ivy – *Hedera helix*:

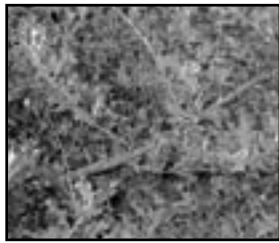
Long, woody evergreen vine with alternate, waxy leaves. Displaces native groundcover, and can grow up trees and eventually topple them. A ubiquitous invader in our region, originally brought over from Europe as an ornamental groundcover. Once thought to help stabilize slopes, it is now known that the shallow root system can actually contribute to erosion and slope instability. Manual removal is effective but requires significant labor investment. Tree-bound vines can be cut at eye level and vines removed to the ground.



Ivy topping a tree. © Toby Query

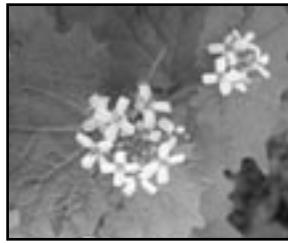
English Holly – *Ilex aquifolium*:

Evergreen shrub that can grow to 50 feet; often identified by its jagged, waxy leaves and its bright red berries. Robins and other native birds have been known to feed on its berries, but the plant can take over forested areas and displace native vegetation and wildlife over time. Cut plants will re-sprout vigorously from its root system; plant is best controlled by removing the entire shrub and root systems with a weed wrench or similar tool.



Fruiting holly. © Toby Query

Garlic Mustard – *Alliaria petiolata*: This biennial weed is gaining prominence in the Willamette Valley. Significant resources are being poured into controlling Garlic mustard before it becomes a major problem in our ecosystem. Through a process called allelopathy, its roots exude a chemical that is toxic to nearby plants, thus reducing its native competition and allowing rapid infestation. Garlic mustard can be pulled before it goes to seed; however, the plant will continue to flower and seed after it is pulled, so pulled plants must be bagged and disposed in the garbage to effectively control the plant. Mowing can contribute to the prolific spread of this plant.



Garlic mustard. © Toby Query

Japanese Knotweed – *Polygonum cuspidatum*:

Rhizomatous perennial growing from 6 to 12 feet by late spring. Stalks are hollow, resembling a green, watery bamboo. Can quickly take over streamsides and floodplains in larger drainages. Control has proven very difficult; plant can spread vigorously from rhizome fragments, so manual removal often contributes to the spread of the plant. Cutting or mowing can help control its spread but generally will not eliminate the plant.



Knotweed behaving for the machete. © Toby Query

Old Man's Beard – *Clematis vitalba*:

A deciduous, woody vine often seen draped over trees. Its white, fluffy seed heads are easily seen in the winter months after the leaves have fallen. The weight of this invasive plant can eventually topple large trees. The woody vines also contribute to fuel load and wildfire risk. Vines can be cut from tree canopies and its root system removed manually.



Clematis enshrouding its latest victim. © Toby Query

Nature Store Highlights

by Nancy Mattson & Sally Loomis, Nature Store Staff

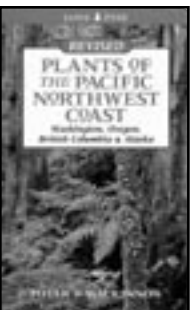
March is a great time to stock up on hiking guides to prepare for springtime explorations.

The Nature Store has recently expanded its selection of hiking and outdoor activity information. We have a wide range of titles on hand for getting outdoors throughout Oregon and Washington, with suggestions for hiking with children and recommendations that highlight local geography, urban natural history, or waterfalls, among other topics. Some classic guides we recommend that feature the Portland metro area include **Wild in the City** by Mike Houck and M.J. Cody, **One City's Wilderness: Portland's Forest Park** by Marcy



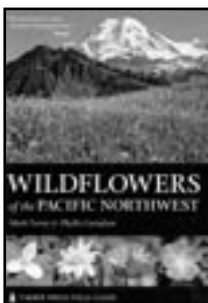
Houle, and **Exploring the Tualatin River Basin** by the Tualatin Riverkeepers.

Also, keep an eye out for the forthcoming **Portland Forest Hikes** by James Thayer, due out in April.

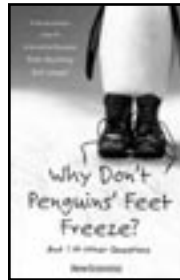


March is also a fine time to start watching for wildflowers in our region. Come enjoy the profusion of trilliums blooming in our sanctuary, and also begin or enhance your collection of botany guides here

in the store. We recommend **Pojar and MacKinnon's Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast**, and **Wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest** by Turner and Gustafson, as good general references. For specifics, take a look at **Trilliums** by Frederick W. Case, Jr. and Roberta B. Case. **Wild Orchids of the Pacific Northwest and Canadian Rockies** by Paul Martin Brown is a relatively recent specialized work on locating and identifying these fascinating plants.



A fun new series of science trivia books will help you amaze your friends, settle bar bets, or inspire your middle schooler's next science fair project. Look for **Does Anything Eat Wasps?**, **Why Don't Penguins' Feet Freeze?** and **How to Fossilize Your Hamster** for lots of interesting facts about the natural sciences and more.



Wishing for some bright spots of color in your garden? Why wait for spring bulbs to pop, when our new line of **Country Culture** birdfeeders, suet cages, birdhouses, and nesting shelves sport colorful red, blue, and green metal roofs? The Grants Pass craftsmen who create this great line of Western Red Cedar products will also be supplying us with nest boxes for Wood Ducks, Flickers, Kestrels, and Owls.



A flock of new clocks just flew in from **Paperwings Studio** in Vancouver. Colorful, whimsical birds of all shapes and sizes adorn these artful timepieces for the wall or desk. **A little bird will be telling you, "It's time to stop by the Nature Store to see what's fresh and new for spring!"**



Spring Optics Sale

This month brings our annual Spring Optics Sale on selected samples, overstock items, and discontinued merchandise. This may be the perfect time to pick up that **Swarovski** scope you've been eyeing or to replace an old tripod with a steady, durable **Manfrotto** or lightweight **Vortex** carbon-fiber model.



Leica Ultravid

Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

In Honor

Pat Campbell

Anthony and Caroline Boutard

McCune McCornack

Kymerley and Stuart McCornack

Catrina Bradford and Amber Davis

Julie Lipson and Travis Tresnit

Molly and Jeffreys Albright

Holly and Christopher Nelson

Raymond Merrit

Mildred Donoghue

Kathleen Merrit

Mildred Donoghue

In Memory

Anne Newton

Dr. Margaret George

Dr. Lisa Miura

Dr. Susan Rose

Dr. Anne Sammis

Dr. Shirin Sukumar

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Terrie Murray

Anonymous

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.

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

Wish List & Thank you's

Thank you to:

- Peter Henrickson for a Bushnell 15x-45x Spotting Scope Case.
- Marilyn G. Miller for artwork for the 2008 Wild Arts Festival.

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.

Signs of Spring Migrations

Birds are instinctively secretive, though you wouldn't know it at times. The birds you see in most cases are males; females and young seldom attract attention. The result is that most birders see only a small percentage of what are actually present.

When discussing spring migrations, two dates are usually given. The first is the initial sighting of the season; the second is the date of the first major movement. Actually there are two more dates that could be given, but they more or less overlap. The first sighting and the first major movement are almost always males. Several days later, sometimes overlapping the tail end of the first movement, is the major movement of females and young, and those individuals that don't plan on nesting that year.

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. 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.

You can help with two parts of this project: First, we are looking for information on heron rookeries in Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Columbia, or Clark County. Specifically we will be looking for the following information:

- 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 be pairing individuals with rookeries nearby where they work or live.

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

Volunteer of the Month: Ross Weinstein

by Molly McAllister, Wildlife Care Center Assistant Manager

The Wildlife Care Center depends implicitly upon the dedicated group of volunteers who provide daily care to the animals, clean cages and work areas, prepare diets, transport injured animals, and donate hours of their time to allow us to take care of nearly 3,000 animals each year. An informal survey of what volunteers like most about their shift would show a large percentage who enjoy helping the animals on a day-to-day basis, some who live for baby bird season or a chance to work with their favorite species or type of animal, and others who enjoy the camaraderie, among many other reasons. That passion is what makes the Care Center a wonderful place to be.

Ross Weinstein has a slightly different, but immensely important, interest when he comes into the Care Center. Ross is a Portland-area veterinarian who offers Audubon his special skills at post-mortem examinations. While we always do our best to aim for survival of the animals that come into the Care Center, the reality is that many do not make it and, in those unfortunate cases, we can gain valuable information from a post-mortem examination, or necropsy. We have been very fortunate to have Ross's

Although most birders look forward to the first bird of the season, those they see may not be the first arrivals. These early birds are so few in number that most go unseen, only to be reported farther north. The major movement of the males is usually so conspicuous that the movement is reported from many areas and can be charted as it passes northward through the state.

The main movement of female birds is seldom noted, but is also conspicuous if looked for. Among many species there are several flights, with many birds still arriving during mid-June. By that time few people are looking for migrant birds and the movements are lost among the resident birds already on territory.

The timing of the migratory flights varies among species, but individuals among a single species feel the urge to move at approximately the same time. Although each movement may leave their wintering areas about the same time and reach their summer homes about the same time, what happens in between may vary.

Birders along the flight line of a migratory movement usually do not observe one massive flight, but rather a series of "waves." Most species have an extensive wintering area. One group may begin their flight hundreds of miles farther north than another and be a day or two ahead of the more southerly birds. Each group may also follow different

Sightings

The **Tree Swallow** is one of the earliest spring migrants. The first reports usually come in late January, and this year Mike Marsh spotted one at the Fernhill Wetlands January 20. Others were reported a few days earlier on the coast and in the lower Willamette Valley. On January 28 Al Ahlgrim reported a kettle of five **Turkey Vultures** over Molalla River Park. A few individuals were reported farther south in the Valley about the same time. Usually the first **Vultures** are seen during the first week of February. In recent years a few have wintered in the Eugene area. These birds may have been moving to new areas when the lower Valley received quite a bit of snow and ice.

Cold weather usually does not bother birds if they can get enough to eat. On January 6 John Gatchet found 32 **Great Egrets** and 38 **Greater Yellowlegs** in Scappoose Bottoms. Jay Withgott found an **American Tree Sparrow** among a swarm of wintering sparrows there January 25.

frequent help; he not only performs necropsies for us regularly, but does so with immense skill and an eagerness to educate those around him.

Ross has been volunteering in the Wildlife Care Center for over three years, after moving to Portland from the Boston area. While in Boston, he completed an internship in Wildlife Medicine at Tufts University. He has an extensive medical knowledge about wild and exotic animals that he is more than willing to impart to those around him. He can always be counted on to help out in many respects on a busy day, but is routinely found posted over specimens on the counter as he works to determine their cause of injury and death. Performing a necropsy can be a very important diagnostic tool, especially when we are dealing with the death of an endangered species, multiple animals dying at the same time, or signs of an unknown disease process. A necropsy might show that the 'hit by car' Red-tailed Hawk was also suffering from internal parasites, or it could tell us that a robin who seemed to be ill was actually suffering from a systemic infection secondary to a puncture wound likely caused by a cat bite.



Sandhill Cranes. Credit: Wyman Meinzer/USFWS

flight lines, one taking longer than another. Storms and unsettled weather may also influence movements.

Despite the delays and staggering of each movement, each species is on a timeline. Early birds tend to linger along the way, often stopping to wait for proper flying weather. Late birds surge northward much faster attempting to catch up. If late migrants run out of time, many just stop where they are, linger for several days, then leisurely move back southward again.

Because people do not see most of the birds that are present, it takes a lot of birds to attract attention. Major movements are obvious, but most of the millions of birds that pass northward each spring are not seen. It takes many years of observation by many people to get an indication of what is going on, so reporting what you see can be important.

On January 22 Mike Marsh and Henry Gilmore saw a **Clay-colored Sparrow** along Rentenaar Road on Sauvie Island.

Stefan Schick found two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** on the Island January 19. Wink Gross checked the Island January 30 and found a flock of about 400 **Cowbirds** on its east side containing one **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

This winter a well-marked **Prairie Falcon** has been working along Oak Island Road, and most visitors to Sauvie Island have seen the bird. There has also been a wintering **Ross's Goose** among the goose flocks flying between Sauvie Island and Ridgefield NWR.

On January 7 Ealair Johnson saw an **American White Pelican** in Westmoreland Park in southeast Portland, but it didn't stay long. Later one showed up at Baskett Slough NWR near Salem.



Greater Yellowlegs. © Jim Cruce



Volunteer veterinarian Ross Weinstein examines a Mountain Beaver with veterinary technician Kari Jones. © Portland Audubon

While a necropsy could be performed by other members of the Care Center team, Ross brings a special gift in his ability to do the job in an almost artistic way. His attention to detail and thoroughness are admired, and his volunteering is sure to lead to an education for everyone else on the shift. In fact, he is usually surrounded by an entranced group of eager Care Center workers, anxious to learn the findings of his exam. His work has provided us with much valuable information that helps focus our medical efforts, contributes to long-term studies, and brings an added level of knowledge and expertise to the work we do. It takes all kinds to make the Wildlife Care Center run best, and we really appreciate this unique contribution. **Thank you, Ross!**

2008 Board Elections

CANDIDATES FOR 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OFFICERS

Peter Paquet

Candidate for Board President

As a fifth-generation Oregonian and a Portland native, my contacts with Portland Audubon go back many years. I have been involved with the Society for 30-plus years, serving as a board member in the 1970s and 1980s. I have continued to be active in the conservation community, serving for 13 years on the boards of several local and national environmental organizations.

To me, the Audubon Society of Portland represents the environmental conscience of Portland and adheres to an environmental ethic that I strongly support. If elected, I believe that my skills as a professional wildlife ecologist and educator can help ensure Portland Audubon's continuing leadership in environmental education and scientifically based environmental planning.

Patricia A. Campbell

Candidate for Board Vice President

I am a fourth-generation Oregonian and a dedicated environmentalist. In 1973, my husband Joe and I founded Elk Cove Vineyards with the goal of sustainably farming without insecticides. We now own 150 acres of wine grapes and market our wines in 48 states.

In 1998, during a trial-by-fire experience, I went on a 'Gonzo Birdathon' trip with Portland Audubon. In 2001 Joe and I began our semi-retirement. We spent the next four winters in Arizona, where I honed my birding skills as an active member of Tucson Audubon. I am a member of Portland, Tucson, and National Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, 1000 Friends of Oregon, and Friends of the Columbia Gorge. We now live in Portland full time, and this past year I've been privileged to work as a board member with Portland Audubon. It has been exciting to put my business, promotion, and leadership skills to work for this great organization.

Adrienne Wolf-Lockett

Candidate for Board Secretary

I come to Portland Audubon with a long history of Audubon commitment. Prior to serving two terms on Portland Audubon's Board of Directors and one year on the Executive Committee as Vice President, I was president of both Redwood Region Audubon and the Northcoast Environmental Center in Arcata, CA. I've coordinated two Birdathons and over the years have participated in numerous Christmas Bird Counts. I presently volunteer on the Conservation Committee, Long-range Planning Committee, for Swift Watch every September, and I regularly co-lead field trips with my husband Bob. I've recently retired as an assistant dean at Reed College. Birding internationally is my lifelong passion.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Claire Puchy

Claire has been involved with the Audubon Society of Portland for over 20 years, as Executive Director from 1985 to 1989, and as a board member since 2002. Claire has chaired the chapter's Nominations/Elections Committee as well as the Marshall Library Committee, and has assisted the Development, Conservation, and Sanctuaries Committees. She participates in Christmas Bird Counts and Birdathons, and has volunteered at the Native Plant Sale and Wild Arts Festival. Professionally, Claire has had a 30-year career in natural resources and wildlife conservation, and currently is coordinating an interbureau effort to develop a Terrestrial Ecology Enhancement Strategy for the City of Portland.

Claire states, "Being part of Portland Audubon has been a tremendous privilege. I hope to continue my involvement, especially helping connect children with the natural world, and assisting with long-range strategic planning, so that the organization can continue to be one of the most effective voices for conservation education and action in the Pacific Northwest!"

John Fitchen

John Fitchen, M.D., is an Emeritus Professor of Medicine at Oregon Health Sciences University and CEO of Najit Technologies, a biotech company developing vaccines and diagnostics for emerging infectious diseases such as West Nile Virus. He has been an active birder for over 25 years and is the author of *Birding Portland and Multnomah County* (Catalyst Publications, 2004), a guide to birding sites in the greater Portland area. His writings on birding and birders have been published in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Birding*,

Oregon Birds, and *Attu: Birding on the Edge*, a book published by the American Birding Association.

John is a longtime participant in Portland Christmas Bird Counts and has served as Area Leader for the North Portland/Columbia Riparian segment of the CBC for the past two years. Having researched and written a book on local birding sites, he is keenly aware of habitat destruction in and around Portland and eager to find ways to reverse the trend.

Karen O'Connor Kruse

My family has been involved with Portland Audubon for the last several years, beginning with visits to the Wildlife Care Center, where we've spent countless hours trying to convince Julio to hoot back at us, and the Nature Store where we are constantly buying another hummingbird feeder to replace the ones stolen by our neighborhood raccoons. Following a trip to Costa Rica, I became a committed (though decidedly amateur) birder, and recently began taking some of the classes offered by Audubon. My children often attend the summer and other camps as well.

Having benefited from the wealth of activities and offerings provided by Audubon Society of Portland, I would like to serve on the Board to give back to an organization that greatly enriches the lives of Oregonians with its multi-faceted focus on conservation, wildlife, and nature. I have served on several other boards (including Make-a-Wish of Oregon and University of Oregon Law School Alumni Board), and Audubon is an organization for which I feel a special personal affinity, and I would be honored to serve as a Board member. (Note: Karen is a labor and employment attorney at Barran Liebman, LLP.)

Our April 17th board meeting will serve as our Annual Meeting. All members are invited, and election ballots will be available for voting. The meeting starts at 6:30pm.

I'm continually impressed by our chapter's creativity, spirit, and long list of accomplishments. More than ever, our society requires dedicated volunteer efforts to help in carrying out its mission. I'm pleased to be nominated as Secretary and look forward to meeting you at Audubon Society of Portland events.

Ken Ivey

Candidate for Board Treasurer

Ken has served on the Audubon Society of Portland's Finance Committee for the past year and welcomes the opportunity to chair that Committee and serve in the capacity of Board Treasurer. A CPA for over 20 years, Ken has helped nonprofit organizations, including the Lake Oswego Rotary, Cat Adoption Team, and Portland Community College Foundation, at the finance committee and treasurer level. Ken's professional practice (Ivy, Jacobson & Stone) is located in Lake Oswego.

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

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

Upcoming Audubon Birding Weekends 2008

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.**

Questions?

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

2008 Board of Directors Election Ballot

If you are a current Audubon Society of Portland member, you are eligible to vote for the organization's officers and directors. If you are an Individual Member, you are entitled to one vote per candidate. If you have a Family Membership or higher level, you are entitled to two votes for each of the candidates. You must sign your ballot for it to be counted. Write-in votes will be disregarded.

Members may vote by mail, but we must receive your ballot by **6:30pm on April 17, 2008**. Please mail to:

Board Nominations Committee
5151 NW Cornell Rd
Portland, OR 97210

Members may choose to vote in person at the March and April Birders' Nights or Nature Nights.

Your Name (please print): _____

Your Signature: _____

Membership Level:

- Individual (entitled to one vote per candidate)
 Family or higher (entitled to two votes per candidate)

Position

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| President (a) | <input type="checkbox"/> Peter Paquet |
| Vice President (a) | <input type="checkbox"/> Patricia A. Campbell |
| Secretary (a) | <input type="checkbox"/> Adrienne Wolf-Lockett |
| Treasurer (a) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ken Ivey |
| Member (b) | <input type="checkbox"/> Claire Puchy |
| Member (b) | <input type="checkbox"/> John Fitchen |
| Member (b) | <input type="checkbox"/> Karen O'Connor Kruse |

(a) term ends 2009 (b) term ends 2011



Turkey Vulture

Cathartes aura

Audubon's newest education bird — Ruby — is being introduced this month, so it's time to give the **Turkey Vulture** its due credit... they really are beautiful! They're actually nature's true recyclers, offering us a great service by getting rid of carrion that would house bacteria and be a source of infection if these well-adapted birds weren't around to take care of it.

Identification

Turkey Vultures are soaring birds with 5-foot wingspans and overall dark plumage except for a silvery sheen on the undersides of the flight feathers. Adults have featherless red heads, while juveniles have gray heads. Contrary to popular belief, rather than being related to raptors, Turkey Vultures are related to storks and cormorants.

But why the bald head? Think about it. Would you want to stick your head inside dead animals if you had feathers all over it? You'd have one heck of a time trying to keep clean!

And look at that nose... you can see clear through it! The Turkey Vulture is one of the few bird species that actually has a sense of smell. After all, dead animals do tend to stink a little bit, so being able to smell a rotten piece of carrion is a great advantage. The open nostrils aid the Turkey Vulture's ability to detect odors.

Range and Habitat

The Turkey Vulture's range includes most of North and South America as well as the Caribbean. Throughout this area they inhabit grasslands, swamps, mountains, and rainforests. Habitat is extremely diversified and the birds travel to wherever scavenging is plentiful. They are the most widely distributed vulture.

Behavior

Turkey Vultures migrate thousands of miles north each spring from their tropical winter homes, and each fall return south to their old nesting sites. They travel in unorganized flocks (called kettles) of several hundred birds. Because they dislike open water, some narrow points in the migration are crowded. During migration, little or no food is consumed.



American Coots providing for their young. © Jim Cruce

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.

Of all the vultures, the Turkey Vulture is most likely to be the first to locate carrion, thanks to its sense of smell. It's closely followed by Black and King Vultures and other carrion eaters, who have spotted its movements. Unfortunately for the Turkey Vulture, it possesses a weak beak and must wait either until the carrion has been torn in pieces or until the flesh has somewhat decayed.

Nesting is done on cliffs, in caves or hollow stumps, or even on the ground. Actually, the female makes little attempt to make a nest and the male makes none at all. Both sexes incubate one to three eggs for approximately five to six weeks. The hatchlings remain in the nest for eight to ten weeks, at which time they are able to fly.

Called a "voiceless bird," the Turkey Vulture actually is able to produce several sounds. It can emit a subdued grunt, and a hiss or snarl is uttered when expressing a right to a carcass.

Another adaptation of Turkey Vultures is their tendency to defecate directly on their feet. Biologists believe this is done to cool their feet and kill bacteria. (Another not-so-attractive characteristic of the bird, but they are built for what they need to do!)

Soaring gracefully, a Turkey Vulture seeks its next meal. © Jim Cruce

Conservation

Remains of Turkey Vultures found near The Dalles were estimated to be several thousand years old, indicating the species' long historical presence. Generally this is a highly adaptable bird due to its diverse nest-site selection and foraging habits. Most likely threats include chemical contaminants and a reduction in food supplies.

Although they are numerous today, in the past Turkey Vultures have been persecuted. Cattle ranchers once believed vultures carried diseases that could spread to their cattle. The truth is that vultures have the opposite effect and are useful in removing sources of infection, and the Turkey Vulture is now protected.

Where to Find in Oregon

The Turkey Vulture is a common to abundant transient throughout the state. It is most common at lower elevations and in large valleys.

References

- *Birds of Prey of the World* (Grossman and Hamlet)
- *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference* (Marshall, Hunter, Contreras)
- *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* (National Audubon Society)

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

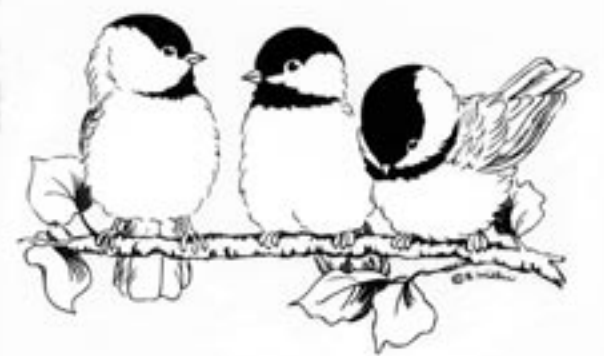
Living with Urban Wildlife

Here's another 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.

Reduce Window Strikes: Scientists estimate that window strikes may be second only to habitat loss in accounting for bird deaths each year. Window strikes can be reduced by hanging birdfeeders either within 3 feet of windows or at least 20 feet away from windows. If windows are frequently struck by birds, try hanging mylar tape strips from the top of the window. The flashing tape will often alert birds to the hazard ahead.



The Nature Store carries three types of decals to alert birds to the presence of windows. The best known is a black silhouette of a diving kestrel from **Bird's Choice**. It's designed to catch attention by both simulating a bird



of prey and creating a reflection break. A more decorative option is **Whispering Windows** "Chickadees" and "More Chickadees" decals. These black-and-white cuties add charm while warning away their real-life counterparts. The third type is a **WindowAlert** decal, which is nearly invisible to humans but glows like a stoplight for birds through the use of ultraviolet technology. All three styles can be easily removed for cleaning or repositioning.

Note: Window decals will not deter a "crazy robin" who fights with his own reflection. To dissuade a bird putting on this type of mating season display, you'll need to cover that portion of the window **on the outside** with paper or vinyl to fully eliminate the reflection.

Native Plant Photo Contest Coming Soon!
Check Website for Details

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.

Peregrines of Portland: Birds, Bridges, and Urban Biodiversity

Tuesday, March 25, 7pm
Oregon Zoo's Banquet Center

Peregrine Falcons are some of the most spectacular birds in the world, diving at speeds of more than 200 mph. Unfortunately, by 1970 widespread use of the pesticide DDT had virtually eliminated nesting peregrines from the continental United States. Today, peregrines once again inhabit our skies, and some of Oregon's most productive peregrine nest sites can be found in downtown Portland. **Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director at the Audubon Society of Portland**, has worked on Peregrine Falcon recovery efforts since the early 1990s, when the birds first began nesting on Portland's Fremont Bridge. Tonight, Sallinger reveals the secrets of these swift birds of prey, and discusses the 20-year effort to restore them to the skies of Portland. He also brings attention to the important role urban areas can play in protecting and restoring wildlife populations.



Peregrine Falcon © Bob Sallinger

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.

Birdathon 2008: "Birding a Better Tomorrow"

continued from front cover

Guided trips range from intensive two-day "gonzo" trips to a relaxing morning of sitting and watching birds in the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. All trips are led by birding experts and are a great way to make new friends and connect with other bird lovers. There are trips for kids and adults, beginners to experts. We have special-interest trips too, like birding by bicycle and birding by public transportation! Whether you're a beginner or a veteran, Portland Audubon has a Birdathon trip for you — or we'll help you organize one.

How does Birdathon work? "Birdathoners" ask their family and friends to pledge a donation to the Audubon Society of Portland on either a fixed or "per-species" basis. Then they go out on their trip and find as many species as possible in a period of up to 48 consecutive hours. This year we expect that well over 2,000 people will support our "Birdathoners" with a pledge! We end our event with the Birdathon Banquet on Friday, June 20th. You can join us for an evening of fine dining, story swapping, and prize winning. We'll be giving away high-quality binoculars, weekend getaways, magazine subscriptions, and lots more! All prizes are generously donated by our Birdathon sponsors.

Make 2008 our best year ever! Here at the Audubon Society of Portland, we organize the most successful Birdathon of any Audubon chapter nationwide, raising well over \$100,000. This year, please help us reach our goal of \$135,000!



Red-breasted Wine Suckers. © Portland Audubon

Where do I sign up? To register for a team or a trip, go to www.audubonportland.org/events/birdathon2008 or call 503-292-6855.

How can businesses participate? Birdathon now provides an opportunity for businesses to participate through Event Sponsorship, thereby gaining visibility to thousands of people on our web pages and in the monthly *Warbler* newsletter. In addition, your business can form its own company team with leaders provided by Audubon Society of Portland. For information about becoming an event sponsor, creating a company team, or specific levels and benefits of event sponsorship, contact Gary Slone at gary.audubon@gmail.com or Ann Takamoto at atakamoto@audubonportland.org.

Thank you to our event sponsors!



Thank you to our prize sponsors!

Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe	Grand Central Baking	Timberline Lodge & Ski Area
Annie Bloom's Books	Higgins Restaurant & Bar	Vortex Optics
Backs on Burnside	Julie C. Fukuda	Wallace Books
Bijou Café	Kalmbach Publishing Co.	Wichita Feed & Hardware
The Bike Gallery	Leupold & Stevens, Inc.	Widmer Bros. Brewery
Common Ground Distributors	Looking Glass Bookstore	Willamette Valley Vineyards
Cornell Lab of Ornithology	New Seasons Market	Winter's Hill Vineyards
Country Willows Inn	Paloma Clothing	Yamhill Valley Vineyards
Earl-E-Bird Seed Co.	Patagonia Portland	



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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Vice President Adrienne Wolf-Lockett
Secretary Jane Hartline
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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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Northwest Natural

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Backyard Bird Shop
Portland General Electric

Business Partners

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Forest Park Federal
Credit Union
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Business Supporters

Leupold & Stevens, Inc.
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