

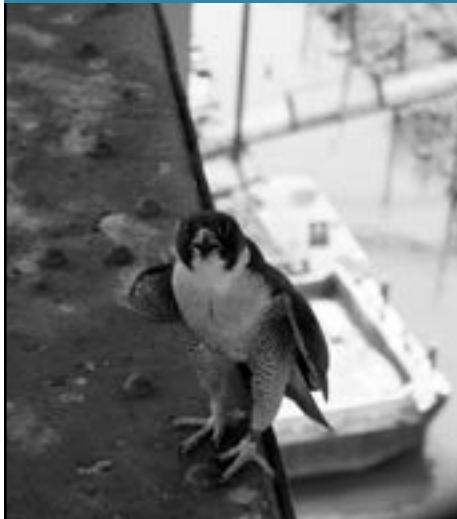
Warbler



In this issue...

Double Summer Issue!
And check out the Bird Blog on our NEW website:
www.audubonportland.org/local-birding/bird-blog

The designation process for Marine Reserves is under way! See 'From the Director' on page 2



Female Peregrine Falcon on St. Johns Bridge. Fremont Bridge peregrine nestlings. Fremont Bridge fledglings learning to fly from rooftop. Peregrine female from Fremont Bridge taken during banding.

All photos © Bob Sallinger

A GREAT YEAR FOR *Portland's Peregrine Falcons!*

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Portland's Peregrine Falcons had a fantastic nesting season in 2008. Peregrines nested in at least six different Portland-area sites and raised at least 17 young. The presence of peregrines was determined at two additional sites but no nest location could be confirmed. Five of the active nest sites were located on bridges and one site was located on a natural cliff. Visitors to the lower Willamette during the spring had a better than good chance of looking up and seeing a Peregrine Falcon, the fastest bird in the world, flying overhead.

This marked the 15th consecutive year Portland Audubon has surveyed and monitored for Peregrine Falcons across the region. When we started monitoring in 1994, peregrines were listed as endangered under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts and there was only one nesting pair of peregrines in Portland and 26 pairs known to be nesting across the entire state. Today there are more than 140 nest sites across the state, and peregrines have been delisted at both the state and federal levels. The success of our local urban peregrine populations has contributed substantially to this recovery.

Efforts Pay Off

More than 40 volunteers assisted with our efforts this year, monitoring both known nest sites and suspected nest sites where peregrine activity had been observed in past seasons. The effort paid off: two new urban peregrine nest sites were discovered on the Marquam and I-205 Interstate Bridges.

Audubon volunteers also set up a peregrine viewing area along the Springwater Trail behind OMSI. Every Saturday and Sunday passers-by could stop and watch the peregrines that nested beneath the lower deck of the Marquam Bridge through spotting scopes and learn about these amazing birds from trained Audubon naturalists. By late May, two downy white chicks could easily be seen in the nest from the trail.

A Hard Year for a Few Birds

The year has not been without its dramas as well. Sadly, the adult male Peregrine Falcon that has nested on the

I-5 Interstate Bridge since 2001 was hit by a car and broke his back. His injuries were not repairable and he had to be euthanized. We are hopeful that his mate, who has also been at the bridge since 2001, will successfully nest again next year; within a week of losing her longtime mate, she was seen courting a year-old peregrine that quickly filled the void.

Nesting on the I-205 Interstate Bridge was confirmed the hard way — monitors suspected nesting peregrines on the bridge throughout the season but were only able to verify nesting when a 38-day-old male peregrine, downy feathers still on his head, was hit by a car on the bridge. He was likely taking his very first flights. He suffered a broken wing and will hopefully be reunited with his parents by the time this article goes to press.

Also, two of the four young that fledged from the Fremont Bridge fell from their nest before being fully able to fly, and wound up dodging cars in the parking lot and roadways beneath the bridge. Thanks to some quick calls from the

businesses at Fremont Place Office Park, we were able to quickly capture them and move them to a less hazardous location on a nearby rooftop.

Monitoring to be Expanded

Next spring Portland Audubon will expand the range of its Peregrine Falcon monitoring activities. We will be working with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor peregrines across the entire State of Oregon. This is part of a nationwide survey that occurs every three years to ensure that peregrine populations continue to remain healthy.

We will also be back at OMSI with our spotting scopes, binoculars, and naturalists. In addition, we're planning a celebration for a pretty amazing milestone — the peregrines who nest on the Fremont Bridge will likely fledge their 50th youngster since they first began nesting in downtown Portland 15 years ago.

Many Thanks for Your Assistance

The 2008 Audubon Peregrine Monitoring Program was funded by a Future for Wildlife Grant. OMSI and Fremont Place provided valuable assistance through the use of their facilities. Cindy Rapp did an amazing job overseeing the educational outreach at OMSI.

Finally, we wish to express our deep appreciation to the following peregrine monitors who participated in this effort during the 2008 season:

Cindy Rapp	Victoria Fursman	Richard Mishaga	Laurel Skinner
Theresa Rounds	Mary Ann Gillespey	Lenora Oftedahl	Maggie Stock
Linda Goertz	Jim Gillespey	Anton Oftedahl	Ceiridwen Terrill
Joan Bessey	Pat Harrison	Chanel O'Neill	Pete VanWyhe
Andy Bidwell	John Koloszar	Greg Orton	Maud Whalen
Robyn Bluemmel	Timothy Gala Krooss	Barbara Orton	Curtis White
Daleesa Cole	Mariah Kuechman	Jennifer Parks	Richard Yost
Patricia Crane	Missy Martin	Linda Ralley	Marlene Huntsinger
Mike Crouse	Michele McGraw	Lisa Ripps	
Mary Doak	Glen Mejia	Mike Santino	
John Edwards	Alison Miller	Karen Schaefer	

Stargazing guides at the Nature Store to inspire your warm summer nights!



Audubon Society
of Portland
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From the Executive Director



Meryl Redisch

Oregon's Oceans: What's at Stake?

Summer is here and for many of us, that means enjoying time at the beach. Even if a visit to Oregon's coast isn't part of your summer plans, you should know that a statewide effort to protect Oregon's most important underwater habitats is taking place.

Oregon's territorial seas and adjacent shorelines boast a remarkable array of underwater habitats supporting an abundance of aquatic invertebrates, fishes, marine mammals, and seabirds. Often overlooked from an economic perspective, these unique features also serve Oregon's coastal and inland communities with 'ecosystem services' worth millions of dollars. Ecosystem services, a concept that has been around for decades, is generally described as the benefits that humans derive from well-functioning natural systems.

These benefits provide us with some pretty important things, including clean water and air, carbon storage, and wildlife habitat! When these natural systems become degraded or lost, the economic and environmental costs are monumental. Beautiful and bountiful, here is a small sample of some of

Field Trips

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

July 12 (Saturday), 8am-11am Vancouver Lake Park

Join leader **Ron Escano** at Vancouver Lake Park. Scope the lake for water birds then explore the riparian woodland for post-nesting songbirds. Directions from I-5 north: take Exit 1-D (4th Plain Blvd), go west on 4th Plain through Vancouver onto SR-501 (Lower River Rd). After 3.5 miles on SR-501, continue straight for 0.6 miles to Vancouver Lake Park (possible \$2.00 entrance fee). Dress for the weather; beginners welcome.

August 23 (Saturday), 8am-11am Mt. Talbert Nature Park

Join **Ron Escano** at Mt. Talbert Nature Park for early fall migrants. We'll be walking on established trails, but the terrain is hilly. Directions: From I-205 Exit 14 (Sunnyside/Sunnybrook) off ramp, turn east on SE Sunnybrook Blvd. Turn south on SE 97th Ave and continue south on 97th, which turns into SE Mather Rd. Entrance to Mt. Talbert Nature Park is on the north side of the road, about one-quarter mile after SE 97th changes to Mather Road. Dress for the weather; beginners welcome.



MAGPIES

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

Planning Meeting July 1 (Tuesday), 10am-Noon

The Magpies will hold our annual planning session in the Jay Conference Room at Portland Audubon. We will be planning the walks and trips and assigning leaders for the 2008-2009 birding season. For information, contact **Dudley Thomas** at dbthomas@easystreet.net or 503-244-6496.

Timberline Lodge Area July 21 (Monday), 8am-3pm

Interested in exploring the timberline habitats on the slopes of Mt. Hood? Possible Cassin's Finch, Calliope Hummingbird, and Black-crowned Rosy-Finch. We will hike the trails above and around Timberline Lodge. We'll leave Clackamas Town Center parking lot off Sunnyside Rd (off I-205) at 8am. Plan on being back at the Center by 3pm. Call **Ron Escano** 503-771-3454 for more details and to reserve a spot.

the ecosystem services provided to us all by Oregon's beaches and dunes, headlands and rocky islands, kelp forests and rocky reefs, bays and estuaries, and marine shelf habitat.

Beaches and Dunes — Dune formations protect inland areas from forceful waves during storm activities, stabilize native grasses, and prevent erosion. Rich in biodiversity, beaches and dunes also offer visitors and residents with a sense of place, providing stunning landscapes for artistic and spiritual pursuits.

Headlands and Rocky Islands — These dramatic formations take on storm surges and serve as hosts to grasses, evergreen shrubs, and trees, thereby providing cover, food, and nesting grounds for marine mammals and seabirds.

Kelp Forests and Rocky Reefs — Possibly extending over 100 feet from the sea floor to the surface, kelp forests provide habitat to a vast array of invertebrate species such as sponges, worms, small arthropods, sea stars, and sea cucumbers. These underwater forests moderate wave action on shorelines and beaches, and they are harvested for food and medicinal purposes. Many types of rockfish spend part of their lifecycle in this habitat as do seabirds, corals, and marine mammals.

Bays and Estuaries — These highly productive ecosystems offer essential nursery habitat for commercial and recreational fish species (including salmon) that spend some part of their lifecycle here. In Oregon, these habitats cover nearly 173,000 acres and provide services that include the following: sequester carbon, regulate and store water, prevent flooding, filter pollutants, and stabilize shorelines.

Marine Shelf — Shelf habitat extends well beyond Oregon's waters, but its ecology influences the ecosystems in the territorial waters. Upwelling in this zone of the ocean is enormously productive by providing minerals and nutrients that nourish plankton, the base of the oceanic food chain. Fish and other sea life then feed on the plankton, including several commercially important species (shrimp, flatfish, Pacific hake, albacore) that are fished in shelf habitat.

What's at stake, and why now? Between now and December, Oregonians will determine the places of greatest ecological importance that should have the highest level of protection. Portland Audubon and a coalition of statewide organizations and stakeholders are advocating for a limited system of marine reserves and adjacent protected areas within Oregon's territorial seas so that fish, wildlife, and habitat can regenerate with less human impact. This step is vitally needed in order to ensure that our ocean's ecosystems, and the economic and environmental benefits they provide to us now, will be available in the future. **To learn more about the Marine Reserves Nomination Process, as well as Advocacy Actions you can take, go to www.audubonportland.org/issues/statewide/ocean/action.**

The information about ecosystem services is taken from a recent economic report entitled "An Ecological Economics Approach to Understanding Oregon's Coastal Economy and Environment" by Paula Swedeen, Ph.D., and Dave Batker (Earth Economics), Hans Radtke, Ph.D. (The Research Group), Roel Boumans, Ph.D. (Gund Institute of Ecological Economics), and Chuck Willer (Coast Range Association). It was published by Audubon Society of Portland, Surfrider Foundation, COMPASS, and Oceana. The full report can be found at www.audubonportland.org/issue/statewide/ocean/action. For more information about our ocean campaign, go to www.ouregonocean.org.

Connecting Green

and Willamette Riverfest: 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. This fall's **Wild in the City** trips will celebrate **Willamette Riverfest**, a weeklong series of hikes, paddles, and bicycle rides that focus attention on the City of Portland's efforts to clean up the Willamette River and restore fish and wildlife habitats.

Registration for all trips is limited, so sign up early at www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/wic. If you don't have internet access, call 503-292-6855 ext. 116 to register. **Bring your own equipment for all kayaking and bicycling trips — helmets and life jackets are required.** Directions will be sent to registrants. Trip participants will be limited in number, so sign up early. All trips are free unless otherwise noted.

July

Monday, July 7th, 8am-11am Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

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 with 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.

Wednesday, July 23rd, 5pm-8pm Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

(see July 7th trip for details)

Saturday, July 26th, 8am-11am Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

(see July 7th trip for details)

August

Saturday, August 16th, 6pm-9pm Full Moon at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

(see July 7th trip for details)

Wednesday, August 20th, 7am-10am Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

(see July 7th trip for details)

Sunday, August 30th, 8am-11am Willamette Riverfest Ross Island Paddle

As part of Portland's Riverfest celebration, **Mike Houck** will lead a leisurely paddle around Ross Island. We'll paddle across the Willamette, down the Holgate Channel, and into the Ross Island lagoon where we'll be on the watch for Bald

Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and Great Blue Herons. From there we'll continue our paddle downstream, around the tip of Ross Island and back to Willamette Park.

Sunday, August 30th, 4pm-8pm Willamette Riverfest Sunset Bicycle Ride along the Greenway

As part of the city's Riverfest festivities, **Mike Houck** will lead a flat 14-mile ride along the Willamette River Greenway, starting and ending at the Vera Katz Eastbank Esplanade. We'll visit South Waterfront, Willamette Park, and Butterfly Park on the river's west side, and Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, Springwater Corridor, and Springwater on the Willamette on the east side. The ride will finish just at sunset at the Eastbank Esplanade.

September

Saturday, September 6th, 8am-11am Willamette Riverfest Walk at Oaks Bottom

As part of Willamette Riverfest Week, **Mike Houck** will lead a leisurely stroll around the 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. See July 7th trip for details.

Sunday, September 7th, 8am-11am Willamette Riverfest Ross Island Paddle

(see August 30th trip for details)

Sunday, September 14th, 4:30pm-8pm North Portland Parks and Greenspace Bike Ride to Smith & Bybee Lakes

Join **Jim Labbe**, Urban Conservationist with Portland Audubon, for a late afternoon bicycle ride from Portland's historic Peninsula Park to 2,000-acre Smith



Birding Oaks Bottom. © Mike Houck



Canoeing and kayaking Ross Island. © Mike Houck

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.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		Nature Store closed for inventory Magpies hold Planning Meeting, 10am (p.2) Birders' Night 7:30pm Heron Hall			Birding Weekend (p.10) Independence Day: Admin Office and Nature Store closed; no Summer Camp	Birding Weekend (p.10)
← Summer Camp: Biodiversity Art, Backyard Birds, Waterfallers, Coastal Explorers →						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Birding Weekend (p.10)	Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Walk, 8am (p.2) Urban & Rural Reserve Open Houses, 5pm (p.4)	No Nature Night Presentation Murrelet Training and Survey continues (p.10)		Urban & Rural Reserve Open Houses, 5pm (p.4)		Vancouver Lake Park Field Trip, 8am (p.2) Urban & Rural Reserve Open Houses, 9am (p.4)
← Summer Camp: Nature Detectives 1 • Jr. Wildlife Vet 101 • Birdzilla • Water Wonders Art • Animal Tracking • Monterey Bay! →						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Flycatchers of the Northwest Class, 7pm (p.7)	Urban & Rural Reserve Open Houses, 5pm (p.4)	Board Meeting 7pm Heron Hall			Wildflowers of Mt. Hood Field Trip, 8am (p.7)
← Summer Camp: Skulls, Fangs and Claws • 3-D Animal Art • Herpetology 102 • Fire, Sticks & Stones →						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Magpies visit Timberline Lodge Area, 8am (p.2)		Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Walk, 5pm (p.2) Dragonflies, 7pm (p.7)	Tour of East Buttes Natural Area, 6:30pm (p.5)			Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Walk, 8am (p.2)
← Summer Camp: Gnome Homes • Jr. Wildlife Vet 101 • Jr. Field Biologist • Herpetology 103 • San Juan 1 →						
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
			Fall Shorebird Class, 7pm (p.7)			Fall Shorebird Field Trip begins (p.7)
← Summer Camp: Furry Friends • Berry Berry Fun 1 • Opal Creek 1 • Jr. Wildlife Vet 103 • San Juan 2 →						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Birders' Night 7:30pm Heron Hall					Birding Weekend (p.10)
← Summer Camp: Animal Hospital • Herpetology 101 • Berry Berry Fun 2 • Opal Creek 2 • South Africa Adventure Camp →						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Birding Weekend (p.10)	No Nature Night Presentation					Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge 'Full Moon' Walk, 6pm (p.2)
← Summer Camp: Tracks and Traces • Birds of the Forest Art • Jr. Wildlife Vet 102 • Volcanology 101 • Olympic Backpacker →						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Walk, 7am (p.2)	No Board Meeting			Mt. Talbert Nature Park Field Trip, 8am (p.2)
← Summer Camp: Raptor Rama • Creature from the Balch Lagoon • Forest to Farm • Ropes, Rocks 'n Rapids →						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Willamette Riverfest begins (p.3)			Willamette Riverfest Ross Island Paddle, 8am (p.2)
31	← Summer Camp: Stream Secrets • Nature Detectives 2 • Hidden Hikes • Caves and Canyons →					30
						Willamette Riverfest Sunset Bicycle Ride along the Greenway, 4pm (p.2)

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

& Bybee Lakes natural area via the North Peninsula Crossing trail (a 1995 Bond Measure acquisition). We'll learn about the history of North Portland Parks, celebrate North Portland Bond Measure acquisitions since 1995, and discuss future prospects for expanded bike trails and natural area protection/restoration with the 2006 Natural Areas, Parks, and Streams Bond Measure. We'll end at



Osprey nest, East Island. © Mike Houck

Smith & Bybee Lakes just before sunset, in time for a twilight walk and wildlife viewing. This ride is flat. You are responsible for bringing and maintaining your own bicycle. Helmets are required; bike lights for a twilight return trip strongly recommended.

Directions: Meet in front of the Peninsula Park Community Center located at 700 N Portland Blvd. Trip leaves at 4:35pm.

**Saturday, September 20th, 9am-1pm
Upper Johnson Creek Watershed Bike Ride**

Join **Jim Labbe**, Urban Conservationist with Portland Audubon, and **Jeff Uebel** and **Jason Howard** with Johnson Creek Watershed Council, for a bike ride out the Springwater Corridor Trail to Boring and back to explore the upper Johnson Creek Watershed. We'll stop at several of the protected and unprotected natural areas along the trail, tour Gresham's new Springwater Community, and discuss future opportunities to protect



Great Blue Heron at Oaks Bottom. © Mike Houck

and restore the Johnson Creek Watershed. You are responsible for bringing and maintaining your own bicycle. Helmets are absolutely required. **Directions:** Meet and be ready to ride at 9am at the Linnemann Station Springwater Corridor Trailhead. To get to Linnemann Station, take Powell Blvd one-quarter mile east past SE 182nd and turn right on Powell Loop. Go south and west along Powell Loop for one-tenth mile. Linnemann Station will be on your left along the Springwater Corridor Trail.

COMING SOON!
Willamette Riverfest
August 28 – September 7
Birdwatching Excursions, Seminars, Parades, Dragon Boat Races, and more!
See www.portlandriverfest.org for updates.

Conservation

Fight to Protect Colwood Golf Course as a Natural Area takes Huge Step Forward

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

We rarely have an opportunity to permanently protect a large tract of urban natural area, especially in one of the most park-deficient neighborhoods in the city. However, we have just such an opportunity right now at Colwood Golf Course. We need your help to ensure that this property is permanently protected and restored rather than converted for industrial development.

Colwood Golf Course is a 140-acre open space spanning the Columbia Slough. It is located in the Cully Neighborhood, long recognized as one of the most park-deficient neighborhoods in Portland. The owners of Colwood plan to close the Golf Course and have applied for a Plan Map Amendment from Open Space to Industrial Sanctuary and a zoning change that would convert the majority of the property from Open Space to IG2, General Industrial. The owners have proposed to retain a small portion of the property (22.5 acres) adjacent to the Slough in an open space designation that would be donated to the City, but the majority of the property would be rezoned and developed.



Red-tailed Hawk — one of many species that can be found nesting on Colwood Golf Course. © Jim Cruce

Colwood Site Should Remain a Natural Area

Audubon and a loose coalition of neighborhood groups strongly oppose this application. We believe that the site should remain as open space. If the owners no longer desire to own the property, the City should attempt to acquire it and restore it as a natural area. Regardless of ownership, this valuable open space should not be converted to industrial uses.

The process to make the proposed zoning change occurs in two stages. First a City Hearings Officer makes a recommendation on the application and then this recommendation is forwarded to the Portland City Council for a final decision. If the owners disagree with the Council decision, they can then appeal to the State Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA).

In mid-May, advocates for the protection of Colwood won a huge victory in the first stage of this process. Audubon activists played a big role, writing letters and attending the hearing. A City of Portland Hearings Officer delivered a powerfully worded opinion completely rejecting a rezoning application. The hearings officer looked at the City's Comprehensive Plan and specifically weighed the economic and environmental/open space needs of the area. After considering both of these needs, he determined that **"The Colwood site open space is unique, is a practically irreplaceable asset, and therefore this application should not be approved."**

While this is a huge victory, it is also only a first step. The hearings officer's decision will go to Council sometime this fall. It is critical that Council hear from citizens concerned about protecting open space and natural resources on this issue. Please consider emailing City Hall and letting Council know your opinion on this issue and testifying in person once a hearing date is set.

Why is it so important to protect Colwood as open space?

- Cully Neighborhood is one of the most park-deficient neighborhoods in Portland. Permanently protecting Colwood as a large natural area would help remedy this deficiency for the neighborhood and would provide an outstanding natural area for the enjoyment of the entire city.
- Permanent protection of Colwood would allow for a variety of protection levels and passive recreation opportunities on this parcel, ranging from more extensive human uses near Columbia Blvd to intensive protection and restoration for fish, wildlife, and water quality closer to the Slough. Colwood's size offers the potential to harmoniously establish passive recreational opportunities, places to quietly commune with nature, and opportunities to set aside areas solely for the benefit of wildlife.

• Colwood has outstanding restoration potential. There is a need not only to protect habitat directly adjacent to the Columbia Slough, but also to protect large anchor sites at various points along its length. Most of the 209 bird species that pass through Portland each year can be found along the Columbia Slough. Colwood is also a very important area for bats. Eight of the fifteen bat species that typically occur in Oregon have been found at Colwood — a very high percentage! Finally, Colwood provides important habitat for state-listed "sensitive" western painted turtles. Colwood offers a unique opportunity to accomplish this objective.

• Colwood is NOT part of the City's inventory of industrial lands and it was never anticipated that this parcel would be converted for industrial use. It should remain as part of the City's network of open spaces, parks, and natural areas. Retention of Colwood's open space designation is most consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

• The existing transportation infrastructure does not support the conversion of Colwood to industrial use. Conversion of Colwood to industrial use would exacerbate already existing problems on the surrounding roads.

The Port of Portland is attempting to acquire the northern part of Colwood. The Port has not been willing to rule out this parcel's future use for the long-discussed third runway for PDX. If in fact a third runway were built on this parcel, there is no question that it would necessitate the removal of habitat on the immediately adjacent Columbia Slough — habitat that has been restored through years of public effort and the investment of millions of public dollars.

Take Action

Please email City Council and let them know that you want Colwood Golf Course to retain its designation as open space and for the City to try to acquire this parcel for protection and restoration as a public natural area.

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

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



Subdivisions encroach on Forest Park in the headwaters of the Tualatin River. Decisions by Metro and the Counties will determine if this type of development will continue on the west slope of the Tualatin Mountains. © C. Bruce Forester

Metro and Counties Host Urban & Rural Reserve Open Houses

Metro and Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties are leading a regional effort to designate urban and rural reserves to accommodate future growth and protect high-value natural areas and farmland that define the character of our region. Please attend one or more of these open houses and voice strong support for protecting our region's natural areas and farmland.

Monday, July 7th, 5pm–8pm
Multnomah County East Building
600 NE 8th St, Gresham

Thursday, July 10th, 5pm–8pm
Tualatin High School, Commons Area
22300 SW Boones Ferry Rd, Tualatin

Saturday, July 12th, 9am–Noon
Metro Regional Center Lobby
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland

Wednesday, July 16th, 5pm–8pm
Clackamas County Public Services Building, Room 369
2051 Kaen Rd, Oregon City

Last Open House TBA for Northwest Portland

For background, see "Metro and Counties Prepare to Designate Long-term Urban and Rural Reserves" on pages 4 and 10 in the June *Warbler*. And be sure to visit Portland Audubon's Urban Conservation page at www.audubonportland.org for updates.

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

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



Feature presenter: Kathy Wolf, Research Director at the University of Washington's Human Dimensions of Urban Forestry and Urban Greening program.

Exploring the Linkages between Urban Parks, Trees, Public Safety, and Economic Vibrancy

East County Urban Parks & Trees Summit

Saturday, October 4th, 8:30am–3:30pm
Gresham City Hall
1333 NW Eastman Parkway

Sustainability and public safety increasingly dominate public policy discussions at the local, state, and national levels. In the Portland metro area, these issues are juxtaposed most strikingly in the urban communities of East Multnomah County. Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village, and Fairview are all striving to enhance their desirability, economic competitiveness, and livability by establishing a new reputation and a fresh reality as greener and more sustainable urban communities. East County simultaneously faces enormous challenges in addressing crime and public safety.

- How are sustainability and public safety connected in fostering overall quality of life?
- Are greener streets safer streets?
- Can East County better optimize its investments in a greener and a safer community?
- Can urban trees help reduce crime and traffic accidents?
- How do trees and greenspace contribute to business vibrancy, increased property values, and enhanced fiscal health in East County?
- Can an excellent and integrated parks and open space system make East County healthier and safer?

Come explore these questions at the East County Urban Parks and Trees Summit.

Sponsors: Audubon Society of Portland, People for Parks Oregon, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Friends of Trees, William H. Hurst Foundation, City of Gresham, City of Troutdale, City of Fairview, City of Wood Village, Gresham Outlook, Boeing Corporation, and Owens Corning.



East Buttes © Jay Wilson

Tour of East Buttes Natural Area July 24 (Thursday), 6:30pm–7:30pm

Come join Metro, the Audubon Society of Portland, and Johnson Creek Watershed Council on a tour of Gabbert Hill, part of the East Buttes Natural Area, now protected through a partnership between Gresham and Metro. This free tour, suitable for adults and children 10 and older, is one of Metro's Natural Areas Program 'Sneak Preview' Tours. **Advance registration is required; contact Carrie at carrie.belding@oregonmetro.gov or 503-797-1545.**

Council President David Bragdon, Metro Councilor Rod Park, and Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis will be on hand to answer questions about this latest addition and the partnership that fostered the acquisition. Community partners from the Audubon Society of Portland and Johnson Creek Watershed Council will offer their perspective about what the new land acquisition means to recovery efforts in the Johnson Creek watershed and the future of the region's wildlife.

Until last year, this 37-acre natural area was one of only a few key, privately owned parcels that interrupted Metro and the City of Gresham's ownership in the East Buttes. Metro and Gresham have worked together for over a decade to preserve the butte tops, steep slopes, and densely forested areas of the East Buttes. Its protection helps permanently secure a connected habitat corridor so critical for wildlife movement in our growing region.

Land acquisition protects wildlife and water quality from the potentially harmful impacts of urban development. Metro has acquired more than 500 acres directly south of the hundreds of acres that Gresham protected with their own acquisition program in the early 1990s. It is some of the most valuable property in the region — both economically and for fish and wildlife.



Canada Goose with goslings © Paul Buescher

Please Don't Feed the Waterfowl

Feeding waterfowl can create many problems for the birds as well as for the environment. Providing food attracts concentrations of waterfowl beyond what the natural ecosystem can support, and large numbers of waterfowl can reduce water quality and devegetate natural areas. It can also lead to disease among wildlife populations.

In addition, feeding can cause wildlife to lose their natural fear of people and can lead to aggressive behavior toward humans, especially among geese. Stale bread, cookies, and other processed foods provide little or no nutritional value and can actually contribute to starvation.

You can help the waterfowl and other wildlife in our parks and wild areas by refraining from the temptation to feed them. By doing so, you provide them with their best chance of survival. Please enjoy our local waterfowl but view them from a distance and respect their wildness.

KGW-Audubon Raptor Cam a Huge Success!

by Bob Sallinger

The KGW-Audubon Raptor Cam received more than half a million hits during March, April, and May of this year! People tuned in on the web from across the country and beyond to watch a pair of Red-tailed Hawks nesting on the fire escape of the Historic U.S. Bank Block in the middle of downtown Portland.

This was the second year that KGW and Audubon teamed up on this project to bring the community an intimate look at the hawk's nesting cycle. However, this year's effort was enhanced by a generous anonymous donation that allowed us to upgrade our camera and stream video in real time. We were also able to add website enhancements such as a blog to provide information on red-tail nesting behaviors and a sign-in page where viewers could leave questions and comments.

The fire escape red-tails hatched three young this year. One nestling suffered an injured jaw and did not survive, but his two sisters successfully took to the air on May 31st. They spent much of their first day out of the nest in the low branches of nearby street trees and exploring the downtown area on foot. One fledgling spent about an hour practicing her flying skills by jumping back and forth from the ground to a nearby bike rack while workers from the nearby U.S. Bank Tower watched from a respectful distance. Eventually both birds took to the air, and visitors to the area during early June were treated to the spectacular sight of the hawks learning to fly with their parents among the skyscrapers.



Photos © Dieter Waiblinger



We hope to next train the Raptor Cam on the Vaux's Swifts that nest in the Chapman School Chimney during the fall and give the entire country a view of this amazing

spectacle. Next spring we plan to return the camera to the Historic U.S. Bank Block fire escape and follow the red-tails through their third nesting season.

Thank you to staff of Ecos Environmental Consulting and viaLanguage, who accommodated the Red-tailed Hawks as they nested outside their office windows. Thanks also to the owners of the Historic U.S. Bank Block, who allowed us access to their building to install the Raptor Cam.

Wildlife Care Center

Imprinting — a case of 'birds gone wrong'

by Molly McAllister, WCC Assistant Manager

It's springtime in Audubon's Wildlife Care Center, and that means babies.

From ducklings and crows to bunnies and skunks, spring means an influx of newborns that come to us for care. They arrive in the Care Center for varied reasons, and while we can't replace their parents in teaching them to survive, we do our best to raise and release them successfully. However, spring after spring we find ourselves faced with the dilemma of imprinted animals — raised by humans who usually have the best of intentions — that end up as sad punctuations to our year.

Imprinting is a term that describes how many animals decide 'who they are.' It is a critical behavioral process in a growing animal and occurs during a period in which the young establish the concepts of "parent" and "self." Taking place early in life, imprinting is an irreversible process. The period varies between species; ducklings imprint when 13–16 hours old, while large birds of prey imprint between 2 and 5 weeks of age.

Under normal circumstances, imprinting establishes a strong bond between the young and their parents. Under less ideal circumstances, imprinting causes a young animal to recognize itself as human when raised inappropriately. Once that damage has been done, the likelihood of being able to release such an animal back to the wild is low, and suitable options in captivity are rare and less than ideal.

Visitors to our Care Center can meet Ruby, the Turkey Vulture, and Julio, the Great Horned Owl. Both of these

birds came to us because they were imprinted on humans and, despite our efforts, were unreleasable. While we feel privileged to have them in our care, we can't help but be saddened by the fact that, physically, there is no reason they shouldn't be flying in the wild, socializing with others of their own kind.



After only three weeks of being in the care of humans, this juvenile raven has refused to be fed by adult ravens. This imprinting on humans has resulted in the loss of the healthy young corvid's freedom. © Portland Audubon

Every year, we receive ducklings and goslings that have come to us after spending that first critical day in the hands of a person who thought they were saving them. There is nothing sadder than watching that animal stand at the front of a cage, ignoring the others of its own species and peeping excitedly each time a person comes near.

Members of the raven and crow family are particularly prone to imprinting, given their intelligence and strong social nature. This spring the Care Center received a juvenile raven who had been raised by humans for three weeks prior to our intervention. Despite immediate attempts to place the raven with willing 'foster parents,' it took no interest in these adult ravens' attempts to feed it

and communicate with it, instead continuing to seek out people. Sadly, this perfectly healthy bird will now spend its life in captivity, teaching people important things about birds, but never being able to be free.

The case of an imprinted bird rarely ends well and can be avoided by bringing injured or orphaned young immediately to a licensed rehabilitation center. **Help us keep the wild things wild!**

Educational Trips & Tours

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

Belize! January 7-18, 2009

Join experienced naturalists from Portland Audubon on this 12-day adventure to Belize, one of the most remarkable countries in the world. You'll bird vast wetlands and tropical forests, snorkel coral reefs, and visit Mayan ruins, all in a country about 1/10 the size of Oregon! We'll team up with local experts for the first week to bird some of the country's finest hotspots, including the famous **Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary**. Belize boasts an amazing 540+ species of birds, and we'll keep our eyes peeled for the **Tody Mot-Mot**, the **Roseate Spoonbill**, and the **American Pygmy Kingfisher**, just to name a few. We'll have the opportunity to bird a variety of habitats and biomes, so we're sure to build a healthy species list. But this is more than just a birding trip! Belize is also the Land of the **Maya**, and on this trek we'll explore two of the country's most impressive ancient cities, **Altun Ha**, and **Caracol**, where the Maya clan that defeated the community of mighty Tikal once lived. Caracol is a vast complex of structures located well off the beaten path of most travelers. Its main building, 'Caana,' was only cleared of vegetation in 2003, and is one of the tallest structures in all of Belize, ancient or modern.



Magnificent Frigate Birds. Credit: Lindsey Hayes/USFWS

The last 4 days we'll be based out of the coastal village of **Placencia**, our launching pad for several daily excursions. We'll spend a magical day snorkeling the pristine coral reefs in the warm blue waters surrounding **Laughing Bird Caye**. The **Magnificent Frigate Birds** overhead and the unbelievable array of sea life below ensure this day will be one for the memory books. We'll also take an early morning

boat ride up the Monkey River, known for the **Black Howler Monkeys** and array of birds that inhabit its forests. Finally, there will be a day to hike the trails of the **Cockscombs Jaguar Preserve**, home to one of the healthiest populations of Jaguars in the world. Though we'll likely only encounter the tracks of this elusive predator, one never knows! We'll also be sure to build in plenty of **free time** so you can relax and enjoy the trip! If you would like more information, please call Steve Robertson at 503-292-6855 ext.118. Your deposit secures your place on the trip.



Roseate Spoonbill. Credit: Ryan Hagerty/USFWS

What is included: All lodging, ground transportation, all meals *except dinners*, all guide fees, park fees, and planned group activities such as birding, snorkeling, etc. Not included: airfare to and from Portland, tips for local guides. A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible contribution to the Audubon Society of Portland.

Cost: \$2,685 members / \$2,800 non-members

Deposit: \$1,200

Leaders: **Steve Robertson**, Education Director, and **Steve Engel**, Adult Education Coordinator

WHALES AND WILDLIFE OF THE Sea of Cortez

March 8-15, 2009

Spend eight days exploring the waters of the **Sea of Cortez** with Portland Audubon as we cruise between the Baja Mexico ports of La Paz and Loreto. This area is part of the International Biosphere Program and is characterized by desert islands rising abruptly from the marine depths close to the Baja Peninsula. Endemic species of birds, reptiles (rattle-less rattlesnakes!), and plants are found here, just as in the famed Galapagos Islands of Ecuador.



Killer Whale © Alberto Diez

There is no better place in the world to encounter a variety of whales as the Sea of Cortez. The marine food chain is rich with the krill that **Blue Whales** (the world's largest whale) come to feed on each spring, and the area also supports a resident population of **Fin Whales** (the world's second-largest whale species). Other species of baleen whale such as the **Tropical** and **Humpback Whales** can also be found in these waters. Among the toothed whales, in 2008 we saw **Orca**, **Common** and **Bottlenose Dolphin**, **Pilot Whale**, and **Dwarf Sperm Whale**, and we also glimpsed rare beaked whales.

Bird life is equally rich, with marine species such as **Brown** and **Blue-footed Booby**, **Magnificent Frigate Bird**, **Black Storm-Petrel**, **Xantus's Murrelet**, **Heermann's Gull**, **Elegant Tern**, and the endemic **Yellow-footed Gull**. While hiking arroyos lined with desert vegetation of Copal and Cardon cactus, we might watch **Verdin**, **California Gnatcatcher**, **Northern Cardinal**, **Costa's Hummingbird**, and **White-winged Dove**.

Our daily itinerary will be flexible to take advantage of the best opportunities and will include cruising in search of marine wildlife, hikes on beautiful desert islands, beachcombing, and opportunities to **kayak** and **snorkel**. Accommodations are in comfortable, air-conditioned cabins aboard the 80-foot-long **M/V Don Jose**. Built in 1978 specifically for wildlife trips in the Sea of Cortez, the **Don Jose** will be our floating home for the entire expedition. This trip is limited to 14 people maximum.

What is included: Transportation between La Paz airport and ship, six nights accommodations aboard the **M/V Don Jose** and one night in hotel in La Paz, all meals beginning with breakfast on day 2 through lunch on day 7, all beverages while shipboard, the guide services of Audubon Society of Portland and ship's crew, Conservation Passport allowing you to visit protected areas in Mexico for one year. Ship crew gratuities not included.

Cost: \$2195-\$2395 members / \$2395-\$2595 non-members

Deposit: \$1200

Group size: 14 participants

Leaders: **Steve Engel**, Adult Education Coordinator, and **Steve Robertson**, Education Director

Trip Rating: 3C (active with strenuous hiking and other activities, good health required, comfortable accommodations aboard ship)

Summer Camp 2008

Exciting camps for kids entering 1st-12th grades!
To reserve your spot, please call 971-222-6120.

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

For kids entering 4th-5th grade:

Berry Berry Fun 2

This week we will visit local farms on Sauvie Island and in the Willamette Valley to see and taste firsthand how beautiful and delicious berries can be. Find out why plants make berries and which animals eat them. We will identify, collect, taste, paint and even draw with nature's brilliant bounty of beautiful berries. This week is sure to be berrytastic!

Dates: August 4-8

Fee: \$265 members/\$280 non-members



For kids entering 6th-8th grade:

Mysteries of Opal Creek 2

Discover the enchantment of Opal Creek with an Audubon naturalist as you experience the majesty of trees more than 300 years old. Spend an entire week at Opal Creek's education center, the historic mining camp on Jawbone Flats, in the heart of this ancient forest wilderness. Pan for gold and learn about ancient forest dependent species such as the Northern Spotted Owl, Red-backed Vole, Marbled Murrelet and Flying Squirrels.

Stay in a rustic lodge that has three floors, a large stone fireplace and a resource library. Bring your sense of adventure and discover with us the mysteries of Opal Creek.

Dates: August 4-8 (overnight Monday-Friday)

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

Note: Will return at 3:30pm on Friday



Volcanology 101

Spend a week exploring our own world-famous volcanoes and the effects they have had on our land. During this amazing adventure you will

find yourself in the middle of some of the Northwest's most dramatic landscapes including Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Hood, Larch Mountain and the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area. Then, spend two nights up at our very own rustic Marmot Cabin on Mt. Hood sharing stories around the campfire and you will even get an introduction to navigating around the sky. You'll learn to use a large telescope to locate celestial objects. The experience will be a fun and interesting introduction to amateur astronomy. This camp is sure to blow you away!

Dates: August 11-15 (overnight Wednesday - Friday)

Fee: \$375 members/\$390 non-members

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

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.

JULY

Flycatchers of the Northwest

July 15 (Tuesday), 7pm–9pm, Heron Hall

What are flycatchers? Are they bigger or smaller than gnatcatchers? Come and find out! These small songbirds migrate long distances from the tropics to the Northwest each year. Once here they set up a territory, raise young, and head right back to Central and South America!

Flycatchers are feisty little songbirds that occur in a wide variety of habitats across the Pacific Northwest, and they are notoriously difficult for birders to identify. Tonight **Harry Nehls**, local expert and author of *Familiar Birds of the Pacific Northwest* and *Birds of the Willamette Valley*, will enlighten us on where to find flycatchers and share his tips on how to recognize them. Attend this class then seek out flycatchers this summer equipped with your new skills and knowledge.

Cost: \$10 members / \$15 non-members

This class is **FREE** for volunteers.

Pre-registration is required.



Willow Flycatcher © Michael McDowell

Wildflowers of Mt. Hood Field Trip

July 19 (Saturday), 8am–4pm

Once more the ample rain and snowfall this year promises a great season for the mountain floral display. This class will emphasize family characteristics as well as wildflower identification, with both common and scientific names. A major focus of the class will be on how you can learn wildflower names. The hiking will consist of about 5 miles round trip and 600–800 feet of elevation gain. The pace will be slow with numerous stops for identification, and handouts including a reference list will be provided. A carpool location will be available in southeast Portland. Your instructor will be **Don Jacobson**, well-known Portland-area botanist and photographer.

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

Enrollment limited: 12 participants

Pre-registration is required.

Dragonflies

July 23 (Wednesday), 7pm–9pm, Heron Hall

Ever wonder how many species of dragonflies frequent your local wetland, or how they spend their days? Interest and knowledge of these fascinating creatures has been steadily growing over recent years. Did you know that some species undergo migrations just like many birds? Join **Jim Johnson** for an evening class on the Odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) to learn about various aspects of dragonfly life, and especially field identification of the more common local species. Includes slides, handouts, and discussion.



Pachydiplax longipennis
 © Jim Johnson

Cost: \$10 members / \$15 non members

FREE for volunteers.

Pre-registration is required.



Pectoral Sandpiper © Dick Forbes

Fall Shorebird Outing

July 31 (Thursday), 7pm–9pm:

Class in Heron Hall

August 2–3 (Saturday–Sunday): Field Trip

The Oregon and Washington coasts are full of protected estuaries and provide great habitat for migratory shorebirds. Fall is a more protracted migration than spring, beginning in July and winding down in September. Adults come down first then the young birds follow. Our trip should be a great time to view good numbers of Plovers, Peeps, Yellowlegs, Dowitchers, Turnstones, and Phalaropes as they make their return migration south. We will visit many of the hotspots on the north Oregon and south Washington coasts including beaches, tidal flats, and rocky jetties. We'll learn how to identify the possible 20 species of shorebirds that we could see, as well as how to separate adults from juveniles, and where and when to find them. **Dan van den Broek**, Master Birder Coordinator, will teach and lead this class.

What is included: One classroom session and weekend transportation, one night lodging based on double occupancy, one breakfast, one lunch, and the services of your leader. Single supplement fee \$45.

Cost: \$160 members / \$185 non-members

Enrollment limited: 10 participants

Pre-registration is required.

SEPTEMBER

Beginning Birding

September 8 (Monday), 7pm–9pm:

Class in Heron Hall

September 14 & 21 (Sundays), 8am–Noon:

Field Trips

If you've always wanted to give birding a try and would like to learn some basics, this class is for you. Designed especially for beginners, topics include finding birds, tips for looking at birds, recognizing behavior and habitats, and identifying bird sounds. Take concepts from the evening program and apply them on two Portland-area field trips. Your instructor will be **Laura Whittemore**. Sign up early, as Laura's classes fill quickly!



American Robin © Jim Cruce

Cost: \$35 members / \$50 non-members

Enrollment limited: 14 participants

Pre-registration is required.

Finches, Tanagers & Buntings

September 16 (Tuesday), 7pm–9pm

Join local expert **Harry Nehls**, author of *Familiar Birds of the Pacific Northwest*, in Heron Hall to learn about colorful songsters like the Purple Finch, Western Tanager, and Lazuli Bunting. Harry will cover their behavior, how to recognize different species, and where to look for them. Harry's classes are always full of unexpected tidbits of information distilled from his many years of birdwatching experience.

Cost: \$10 members / \$15 non-members

All are welcome!

Pre-registration is required.

OCTOBER

Beginning Birding II

October 5 & 12 (Sundays), 8am–Noon

October 18 (Saturday), 8am–5pm

Laura Whittemore will offer a fall Beginning Birding II three-field-trip class that will focus on building birding skills to the next level.

Participants should either have already taken Laura's Beginning Birding class, **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 and calls, habitats, and field marks, and to take on the ID challenges that cross our path.



American Wigeon © Jim Cruce

Class consists of two Sunday field trips; 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 to carpool with a friend. *The all-day trip transportation will be provided by Audubon.*

Cost: \$75 members / \$90 non-members

Enrollment limited: 13 participants

Pre-registration is required.

Beginning Field Birding and Sauvie Island Exploration with Greg Baker

Saturdays, 8am–Noon

October 4, November 1,

December 6

Saturday morning explorations at one of Oregon's most accessible Important Bird Areas — **Sauvie**

Island Wildlife Area, managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife — continue with **Greg Baker!** This field class series is perfect for those interested in developing and sharpening their birding skills under a variety of conditions with the tutelage of an expert birder. Explore different habitats on the island, learn bird calls, and search for waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors. This workshop is limited to 15 people and signups are for all three days. Carpooling is encouraged.



Tundra Swan © Jim Cruce

Cost: \$50 members / \$60 non-members

Enrollment limited: 15 participants

Pre-registration required – participants register for all three days.

Coming soon...

Here's a preview of classes to watch for this fall.

Raptors of the Northwest

Fall is a time for migrating raptors to follow their well-worn pathways along ridges and mountaintops. Learning the skills to identify them takes repeated practice, as any expert will tell you. Stay tuned for information online and in the September *Warbler* about this fall's class and field trip offerings focused on Pacific Northwest raptors and the Bonney Butte hawk migration.

Albatross Adventure

Come learn about the several species of albatross that visit Oregon's offshore waters in October. We'll travel to the Marine Hatfield Science Center in Newport for a tour and lecture on the latest research. Then a full-day pelagic trip is being planned. Look for more information in the September *Warbler* or call Steve Engel, Adult Education Director.

Sanctuaries

From Our Backyard to Yours

Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

Our volunteers contribute a significant amount of time and effort into restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat in our sanctuaries. Recent grants from the City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and from the Metro Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration Program (Metro) will allow us to supplement those efforts with 40–50 days of EnviroCorps field teams in the coming year. (EnviroCorps teams, administered by the Northwest Service Academy, are field teams of 8–10 people who work exclusively on environmental restoration and education programs for 6–12 months). A grant from Toyota and National Audubon will also allow us to organize six large-scale restoration projects over the coming year.

The grants from BES and Metro are also allowing us to explore innovative ways to manage stormwater from our facilities that will benefit wildlife habitat and improve water quality. The next time you come to the Nature Store, be sure to take a look at our new rain barrels. We will be using the water to keep our native plants for sale from getting too thirsty. We'll soon be working on a flow-through planter, a kind of constructed mini-wetland, to handle water from other downspouts.

It is our hope that this work will do more than simply improve the habitat value of our sanctuaries. We are also hoping to serve as a demonstration site where visitors can learn more about what they can do to restore and enhance habitat in their own backyards. It is not enough to have beautiful natural areas to enjoy wildlife. Our wildlife populations need continuous corridors of greenspace and habitat to ensure a healthy and robust population.

To that end we have begun to offer backyard habitat enhancement workshops to promote and facilitate the enhancement of wildlife habitat in each and every yard. I conducted the first of these workshops to a group



Yellow Warbler © Don Baccus

of approximately 25 people in the Sabin Neighborhood on May 31. We had a great discussion on habitat restoration in a variety of contexts, from wildlands to densely developed urban areas. We then focused on restoration techniques for urban and residential properties, created our own 'naturescaping' plan for a residential lot, and did a planting demonstration with native plants.

If you are interested in organizing a restoration workshop in your neighborhood, please contact me at tcostello@audubonportland.org. There is also a wealth of information available on the web, if you are interested in learning more about what you can do in your own yard to enhance habitat and improve water quality, including the following resources.

To learn more about neighborhood restoration techniques: www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/neighborhood/index.html

To learn more about natural landscaping for wildlife: www.plantnative.org/how_benefits.htm

To learn more about sustainable stormwater management techniques: www.portlandonline.com/bes/index.cfm?c=43110

Contact tcostello@audubonportland.org to learn about organizing a restoration workshop in your neighborhood.

Nature Store Highlights

by Sally Loomis & Nancy Mattson, Nature Store Staff

What better way to spend a warm summer night than studying the sky above us? Whether you are camping in the mountains for a family vacation, or spending a birding weekend at Malheur, the opportunity to clearly see the nighttime sky is one not to miss. Orion's belt, the Big Dipper, and Cassiopeia's big "W" are just a few nighttime highlights. Oh, and don't forget the Perseid meteor showers occurring every year in mid-August! This month we're featuring some of the books available in the Nature Store that can inspire amateur astronomers both young and old.

Stargazing Guides

Our all-time favorite beginner's guide to the sky is the classic *Find the Constellations* by H.A. Rey. Better known as the originator of the *Curious George* books, Rey brings a cartoonist's sensibility to his easily understandable line drawings of the constellations, and a warm folksy storytelling approach to some of the mythology behind their names. It is accessible for children, but also easy to use for adults.

We also stock convenient pocket-size guides to the stars from *Little Golden Guides* and *National Audubon Society*. A good companion to any of these books is *The Night Sky*, a *Pocket Naturalist* guide that glows in the dark!

Adult astronomers looking for a more detailed approach should check out the Princeton Field Guides new edition of *Ian Ridpath and Wil Tirion's Stars and Planets*. This lavishly illustrated work has extensive information on all the major and minor constellations in both hemispheres, fascinating photos

of the planets, and information on the use of optical equipment. (Here's another way to put your birding binos to use!)

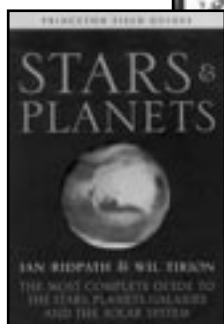
There is a more serious ecological implication to the topic of stargazing. Most urban dwellers have little opportunity to truly see the nighttime sky. Light pollution is ubiquitous, and while seemingly less significant than pollutants in our water or soil, is robbing us of an important connection with nature. In his book *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv has alerted the public to a growing disconnect between our children and the natural world. This disconnect is surely heightened in urban and suburban landscapes where children have no chance to experience a nighttime world unobscured by the glare of modern life.

Light pollution also has an effect on wildlife. Migratory birds often travel at night, and there are serious concerns about the frequency of birds slamming into large lighted buildings as they pass through urban areas. Please watch in future *Warblers* for news about a forthcoming *Audubon* campaign to study this problem in the Portland area.

Earthy Delights

While the stars sparkle above, enjoy a special sparkle down here on earth with our newest selection of *Fiore Gardens* jewelry. This summer we will spotlight this local jeweler's necklaces and earrings featuring *vintage aged brass sparrows and butterflies* paired with freshwater pearls, topaz glass jewels, and *Swarovski crystals*. Put on your own sparkling show while your purchases support our ongoing educational programs.

In the meantime, we hope you can find a dark clear night with a new moon to enjoy the vastness of the summer sky!



Bleeding Heart

Miss our annual Native Plant Sale?

Plants are still available outside the Nature Store.

Thanks to Rick Edmunds, manager of Cedar Mills Safeway, for providing the cardboard flats for our Native Plant Sale.

Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

In Honor

Abby Faha
Christian Osburn

In Memory

Yoshi Yonekawa Shelton
Kei Quitevis-Smith

Richard Guthrie

Ron Tonkin Gran Turismo
Ben Brown
Bob and Gayle Gordon
Marilyn and Gennaro Avolio

Vincent Kurtz

Pamela and Terry Aldrich

Lillian Isaacson

Pamela and Terry Aldrich

Kathy Daehler

Connie Nelson
James Schoonmaker

Terrie Murray

Karen Pazucha and Larry Morandi

You can honor a special person with a gift to Audubon Society of Portland. Your gift will help fund a future of inspiring people to love and protect nature.

You can make an Honor or Memorial gift online at www.audubonportland.org or by calling 971-222-6129. A songbird card acknowledging your thoughtful gift will be sent to the honoree or family.

Wish List & Thank you's

Thank you to:

- Wingscapes for a BirdCam and mounting arm given to the Nature Store
- Bridlemile Girl Scout Troop 521 for 3 bags of chick starter, cat food, and laundry detergent
- Jeanette Warner for a donation of western red cedars for the Native Plant Sale
- Patricia A. Jewett for a field microscope
- Sharon Coggsell for a self-coiling hose for the Wildlife Care Center

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.

Feather Facts and Molting Marvels

Following the excitement of migration and the busy nesting season, most birds become quiet and secretive. It is time for the annual molt. It takes an enormous amount of energy to replace feathers, so the birds increase their food intake and spend more time sitting quietly under cover.

A feather is made up of keratin, similar in structure to fingernails, hair, and reptilian scales. The legs of birds are covered with actual scales, and the feathers are actually modified scales. Once the feather is fully extended, it does not receive any nourishment from the body and must be cared for by the bird itself. An oil gland on the rump at the base of the tail supplies a rich waxy oil that the bird uses to clean and waterproof its plumage. Using its bill or foot, the bird preens each feather with oil while at the same time straightening ruffled feathers.

This oil regulates the growth of fungus and controls lice and other parasites. It is interesting to note that birds that are missing a foot usually have an uncontrolled population of lice on their heads, an area not reached by the bill. Scattered among the plumage of many birds are fluffy downy spots filled with a talc-like powder called powderdown. This also helps clean and prolong the life of the feathers.



Bank Swallow preening © Ron LeValley/
www.LeValleyPhoto.com

Birds preen their feathers several times a day. Most bathe regularly with water or with dust. Some birds spread out on anthills and allow the ants to crawl over their plumage. It is thought that the acid in the ant's body is an additional cleansing agent for the feathers. Some birds will take an ant in its bill and preen its feathers with it.

If a bird is injured or ill and does not regularly preen its plumage, the feathers quickly become dry and worn. The plumage loses its insulation and waterproofing qualities, and the bird has problems maintaining its body temperature. If a feather is broken or is seriously bent it cannot be repaired, but is pulled out of the skin and a new feather immediately begins to grow. Even with proper care the feathers begin showing age within a few months and must be replaced.

As the feather wears and fades, its color changes. Some species are much brighter in fall than during spring and summer as the old feathers are molted and new ones replace them. In many birds the colors are darker to protect the plumage during the winter. Some species, like shorebirds, get new feathers that match their winter habitat.

Most species have one complete molt each year, and a partial molt of the body feathers each spring that produces the bright summer plumage. Some species such as the woodpeckers, finches, and Starlings have only one complete molt in the fall and no spring body molt. They get their bright summer plumages by the wearing off of protective dark feather tips.

Sightings

As Grant Canterbury noted: "This has definitely been one of the most impressive spring migration seasons I can remember here in Portland." Most everyone agrees. Interestingly it was confined to the floor of the Willamette Valley. The surrounding foothills and the rest of Oregon had a more or less normal migration.

During April **Yellow-rumped Warblers** along with smaller, less impressive numbers of **Orange-crowned Warblers** increased steadily to a peak about April 23, then dropped to more normal levels. On May 3 Mike Houck and Jimbo Beckmann reported many hundreds of **Yellow-rumped**s in Oaks Bottom as a late surge passed through.



Lark Sparrow © Ron LeValley/
www.LeValleyPhoto.com

Starting about May 4 a spectacular flight of **Western Tanagers** with smaller numbers of **Black-headed Grosbeaks** swarmed into the city. The numbers peaked about May 13 then dropped to normal levels. During that period even nonbirders were reporting large flocks of these yellow-and-black birds. Flocks of 30–40 birds were not uncommon. Good numbers of tanagers are often seen during unsettled springs, but no one has seen such high numbers before.

Swainson's Thrushes appeared to have arrived everywhere on May 11. On May 9 Chris Warren saw two **Western Kingbirds** on Sauvie Island. Dave Helzer

reported up to three at the Portland Airport during May, and Erik Knight saw two in Oaks Bottom May 13. **Western** and **Eastern Kingbirds** are nesting again this summer at the Sandy River Delta.

On May 4 Sherry Hagen and a Vancouver birding crew found a **Catbird** and a **Brewer's Sparrow** at Steigerwald NWR near Washougal. Chris Warren flushed a **Poorwill** on Mt. Tabor May 1. Louis Fredd hosted a **Black-chinned Hummingbird** at his Oregon City feeders in early May. Dave Helzer recorded three **Long-billed Curlews** at the Portland Airport May 13, a **Lark Sparrow** May 26, and a **Swainson's Hawk** May 25. John Riutta saw a **Black Tern** on Sauvie Island May 26. Some of these birds may have been involved with the strong east winds that occurred during May.

On May 6 Wink Gross spotted a **Tufted Duck** on Racetrack Lake on Sauvie Island. Em Scattaregia and Adrian and Christopher Hinkle reported a female **Hooded Warbler** on Mt. Tabor May 26. But to top off the spring rarities, on May 5 Diana Cottam photographed a bright male **Cardinal** at her Canby feeders.



Audubon Sanctuary © Tammi Miller

TogetherGreen Volunteer Days Coming to Audubon!

Thanks to a grant from the National Audubon Society, we are pleased to announce that things will soon be hopping even more around our sanctuary! Our conservation missions focus on protecting wildlife in the backyard and beyond, so we'd like to be a role model for the community by continuing that focus in our own backyard — our 150-acre nature sanctuary — through habitat restoration and enhancement projects. We'll be planting 2500 trees, working on erosion control and invasive plant control, and putting in a rain garden.

There will be six TogetherGreen Volunteer Days throughout the coming year (dates to be determined). Each will begin with a kickoff breakfast, during which volunteers will learn about our conservation work, including our nature sanctuary, education birds, and wildlife hospital. Following a 3- to 4-hour work party, volunteers will be provided lunch and reflection time, learning how their efforts benefitted Audubon.

If you have connections with a school or community group that would like to get involved in one or more of the TogetherGreen Volunteer Days, or if you'd like to volunteer individually or with your family (minimum age 14), please contact Deanna Sawtelle, Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteercoordinator@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 ext.108.

Volunteer of the Month: Gregg Everhart

by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

I would like to thank Gregg Everhart for her tireless effort in making our 12th Annual Native Plant sale a success. Gregg's energy, knowledge, and attention to the finest detail set our plant sale apart from all others.

This year Gregg single-handedly scouted the best plant materials in town and made sure we had over 3,000 plants available, representing close to 130 species in sizes from 3 inch to 3 gallon. Sourcing such a large quantity and diversity of plants from multiple sources is no easy task, especially when trying to ensure that we have enough plants to meet demand without being left with lots of overstock. I have seen the pile of spreadsheets, inventories, and past sales data that go into this effort, and all I can say is, "Wow — Gregg, thank you!"

But this is only the tip of the iceberg; Gregg also oversaw the set-up of plants for the sale, ensuring that plants were organized by species and size, thus making it easy for our customers to find and select plants for purchase. For every species available, Gregg created a custom information sheet, including size, growing conditions, and habitat value, as well as a full-color photograph of the plant in bloom.

These information sheets, posted above the plant stock, helped our customers make the most informed plant-buying decisions.

Gregg also compiled all of this information into a handy one-page "shopping list," which customers could carry with them and get detailed plant information at a glance. This list is such a handy tool that I keep a copy tucked inside my field guide and another in my notebook for quick reference when planning plantings and restoration projects (and it makes a great study-aid for those seeking to learn the botanical names of our native plants). Gregg's knowledge and deep love of our native plants is evident in these reference materials. And it is our ability to share this love and knowledge of the plants with our customers that has set our sale apart and ensured that our customers leave satisfied, which is the ultimate measure of success.

Of course there's more: guiding volunteers, maintaining inventory during the sale, letting volunteers drive her truck to move plants... the list goes on. **Thank you, Gregg!**





Marbled Murrelet. Credit: Gus Van Vliet/USFWS

Marbled Murrelet Training and Survey

July 7–8, 2008
Yachats, Oregon

Come help with the 3rd annual Marbled Murrelet survey at Audubon's Ten Mile Sanctuary on the Coast! This will be an amazing opportunity to learn about the federally listed "threatened" Marbled Murrelet, a tiny seabird that flies inland to nest in old-growth forests. It will also be a great chance to explore the ancient forests of the Central Coast Murrelet Important Bird Area, which is one of more than 100 sites statewide designated by Audubon as critical to the protection of native birds.

Location

Cummins, Ten Mile, and Yachats landscape — Central Coast Murrelet Important Bird Area — approximately 80,000 acres of the Siuslaw National Forest.

When

July 7: Survey training starts at 6:30pm at the Yachats Commons with Kim Nelson, OSU, and Paul Engelmeyer, Audubon Coastal Important Bird Area Coordinator. Site selections and directions/maps for tomorrow's surveys will be distributed at the training.

July 8: Morning surveys at upland sites starts at 4:53am–6:53am, and nearshore surveys (6 coastal sites) start at 10am–11am.

Camping/Lodging

Camping is available at numerous campgrounds in the area: www.fs.fed.us/r6/siuslaw/recreation/tripplanning/newpflor/index.shtml

Yachats accommodations:

<http://nwcoast.com/city/hotels.asp?yachats>

Registration

To register, contact Paul Engelmeyer (Coastal IBA Coordinator) at Audubon's Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary, tmnas@harborside.com or 541-547-4227.

Join us at the
Couch Park Summer Concert Series
August 14th, 6pm
and put on your dancin' shoes for

the
Chapman Swifts

Yes, there is a band named after one of our favorite local natural phenomena – and they're good! By infusing the elements of country, folk, funk and punk into their own brand of rock 'n' roll, the Chapman Swifts have a musical style that piques interest of all who listen. Tight, danceable grooves, guitar heroics and the styling of smooth, jazzy female vocals create songs that range from climactic and intense to mellow and soothing.

Couch Park is located at NW 19th and Glisan St. in Portland, just a short jaunt from the Swifts' roost at Chapman Elementary School. Portland Audubon will be tabling at the concert with information and a big hello!

Welcome, New Members!

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

May

James C. Aalberg	Mindy Coolidge	Judy Jewell	Thomas and Jill Nilan
Kai Aitchison	Laura A. Cramer	Judy Jordan	Mary and Daniel Peterson
Harold Allen and Martha Gioia	Carol Cruzan	Golnaz Kaveh	Lesley Poirier
Teri Allen	Sandra Cunningham	Thomas Keffer	Ann W. Powers
Gretchen and Seth Alley	Bethanne Darby	Brett Kelper	Xuemei Qian
Susan Bankowski	Laurie DeFazio	Clare Kenny	Sonya Rheingold
Carol and James Bateman	Colette DeWitt	Joan Kinzer	Christine Riddle
Theresa Bennett and Chris Hays	Kristin W. Doherty	Martha Klein and Brian Izenson	Morgan Rider
Anne Bethell	Astrid Dragoy	Wendy Lally	April Ross
Mary M. Bingman	James and Priscilla Edwards	Kimiko Leipfer	Toni L. Rubin
Rose and Thomas Bird	John and Gayla Edwards	Kristen Leonard and Kevin Neely	Mike Rumsey
Lyn Bonyhadi	David Ewing	Nancy Leonhardt and	Marsha Schauer
Carol Boyer	Virginia Finch	Gabriel Newcomb	Ellen Schwarz
Catharine and Christopher	Cheryl L. Fisher	Marlene and Michael Liskay	Sarah Skutt
Brechin	Glen Freeman	Laurie and Grif Lloyd	Dawn Soma
Bridgeview Dental Associates, LLC	Dan Gath	Carol Loughner	Nancy Tanner
Leslie A. Brown	Katharine Giavanti	Staci MacCorkle	Mary Lu Taylor
Jeremy Buck	Maia Godet	Lisa Mamet	Keith and Edith Thomajan
Richard Burdon	Mitchell Goldstein and	Joe Martinez	Suzanne Tiddy
Glenda and Scott Burns	Mimi Manalac	Carol Mayer-Reed	Mandy Tu
Charles Burns Jr.	Aaron Gotthardt	Margaret M. McGovern	David Upchurch
Sarah L. Butler	Eric and Tamara Graham	Mike and Gail McHugh	Glen Van Dyke
Jim Carey	Maggie Graham	Liam McMallon	Marion P. Verdick
Kayla Carol	Gay Graham	Craig B. McPherson	Peter Walsh
Cathy Cartwright	John H. Griffiths	David Mickilas	Vanessa P. Warren
Gillian Casson	Joan Grosser	Mary Miller	Susan M. Wells
Beth Chase and Mike Hilbrandt	Alexis V. Halmly	Sandra L. Moncrief-Stuart	Kat West
Lisa and Brian Christopher	Charles and Melissa Hanner	Roland Muehlner	Michael D. Wetter
Jeff Cogen	Richard S. Hartoch	Kathleen A. Murrin and	Kelly J. Wilkerson
William Collins and	Marcia J. Hendersen	John G. Borowczak	Debra Wong
Margaret Hart	Colin Herring	Sandra and Gary Nelson	Hadi Yamin
Perri Combs-Taber	Tristen Hunt	Claire Nettleton	Daniela Yellan
Sarah Conroy	Andrew Jacobson	Scott and Susan Nichol	

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

Audubon Birding Weekends 2008 — a portal to birding Oregon



Paul Sullivan

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

What you can expect

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

Questions?

Contact Paul at ptsullivan@spiritone.com or 503-646-7889, or go to www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult (click on Birding Weekends).

Upcoming Audubon Birding Weekends 2008

July 4–6 — Wallowa County

We will look for nesting songbirds, migrant shorebirds, and the raptors of the Zumwalt prairie while we enjoy the beauty of the Wallowas.

Base: Enterprise.

August 9–10 — Lake County

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

Base: Lakeview.

September (no trip)

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

October 11–12 — Crook County

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

Base: Prineville

November 8–9 — Central Cascades

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

December (no trip)



Listening for avian sounds along the Middle Fork of the John Day River during the May 24–26 Birding Weekend. © Marilyn Stinnett

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

Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store!

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

There's nothing more refreshing and enlivening on a hot summer day than iced coffee. The Nature Store is pleased to continue our partnership with **Portland Roasting**, whose reduced pricing of specialty coffees to local nonprofits allows us to offer the best coffees at prices that compete with area grocers — then subtract your member discount!

Three unique blends have been created for the Audubon Society of Portland: **Heron Blend** is their darkest, most robust coffee, **Swift Roast** possesses a smooth medium body, and **Nighthawk Decaf** is a flavorful blend for those not seeking a daily caffeine jolt.

To get maximum enjoyment from your warm mug of morning coffee, try it in one of our new **Pacific Northwest Wildflower Mugs** with matching coasters from Timberline Designs.



New Leica APO Tevid

The all-new **Leica Ultravids** have arrived! Stop in to see how many of the 200 changes in these exceptional, redesigned

binoculars are noticeable to you. We predict you'll quickly feel the difference in the ultra-smooth focus mechanism and see the crystal-clear results right out to the edges of the new fluoride aspherical lenses. What's next? The new **Leica Tevid Scopes** are expected to arrive in late July. We'll be carrying both the 65mm and 82mm models.

Nature Store closed for inventory on July 1.



Lazuli Bunting female investing in the future. © Jim Cruce

Build Your Legacy of Conservation with a Charitable Gift

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

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

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

For more information on planned giving options at Portland Audubon, please call Ann Takamoto at 971-222-6117.

Lesser Goldfinch

Carduelis psaltria

If you are not actually looking for them, Lesser Goldfinches (*Carduelis psaltria*) might go unnoticed. Smaller and less flashy than the more common American Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinches in the Portland area are near the northern limit of the species' range. Like their cousin, the American Goldfinch, Lessers live in weedy fields, riparian and brushy areas, and suburban neighborhoods. In winter, Lesser Goldfinches form small flocks and may occasionally be found with American Goldfinches and Pine Siskins.

Identification

At just 4.5 inches in length, Lesser Goldfinches are the smallest of the North American finches. Although Lesser Goldfinches are smaller overall, their bills are proportionally larger than the bills of American Goldfinches. Males are a striking golden yellow underneath, with a black cap and greenish back. In flight, males show large white patches on their wings and tails. Unlike American Goldfinches, Lessers retain their bright yellow color all year. Females are a little more easily confused with American Goldfinches, but most Lessers are more yellow underneath (especially under the tail) and darker above than female American Goldfinches. Female Lessers also show white at the base of the primary feathers, but to a lesser degree than the males.

Nesting

Males perform song-flight displays and feed the females as part of their courtship. Lesser Goldfinches make small cup nests from two to thirty feet off the ground in shrubs and trees. The nest usually contains four or five eggs. The diet of Lesser Goldfinches is almost exclusively seeds, buds, and fruit, so nesting usually occurs later in the season after weed seeds have matured. Young birds are fed partially digested seed pulp regurgitated by their parents. This mostly vegetarian diet may protect Lesser Goldfinches from nest parasitism by Brown-headed Cowbirds. Since most baby birds, including baby cowbirds, require a high protein diet of insects to grow and thrive, baby cowbirds do not fare as well in goldfinch nests.



Lesser Goldfinch © Richard B. Forbes

Conservation

While data from both Breeding Bird Surveys and Christmas Bird Counts show a significant decline in the Lesser Goldfinch population throughout the bird's range, sightings in the metro area have become more common in recent years. It is unclear whether this local increase is due to birds expanding their range into urban environments or the birds simply having nowhere else to go as more and more natural habitat is cleared for development.

Some Lesser Goldfinches retreat from the northern Willamette Valley during the winter, but birds can be found in the area year round. Severe winter weather may bring an influx of Lesser Goldfinches to birdfeeders that provide black oil sunflower or nyger seeds.

References

Birds of Oregon: A General Reference (Marshall, Hunter, Contreras)
The Birder's Handbook (Ehrlich, Dobkin, Wheye)
The Sibley Guide to Birds (David Allen Sibley)

**Have you visited our new & improved website?
Same address, new easy-access format.**

Check out our new Bird Blog at www.audubonportland.org/local-birding/bird-blog/

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I want to become a member or give a GIFT MEMBERSHIP at the level marked below:

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We will send a card to the new member notifying them of your gift.

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My check, payable to Audubon Society of Portland, is enclosed.

Please charge my: MasterCard Visa Discover

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WARBGMBR



Numerous authors signed books for their pleased customers at last year's Festival.
© Rusty Whitney

Wild Arts Festival 2008 Is Taking Shape

The 2008 Wild Arts Festival, scheduled for November 22–23 at Montgomery Park, is taking shape for this year. We're building on the success of WAF 2007 by enhancing some aspects of the Festival and adding some new features.

New this year will be the presence of an engaging display centered on our Audubon Sanctuaries and backyard habitat. The WAF Committee is working with the Sanctuaries Committee and staff to create this exciting addition. Still in the design stage, our plan is to have an informative display as well as "living green" items available for purchase. Watch for updates on this new addition.

The 6x6 Wild Art project, a partnership with Art Media, will be back at an even higher level. Our goal is to have 200 of these 6x6 canvases created by artists to be available at the Festival. The theme will be birds. Once again, student artwork from Sabin School will be displayed and for sale at the Festival.

This year we will again have book signings both Saturday and Sunday as new authors join old favorites. A complete list of authors and a signing schedule will be available later in the summer — watch our website for the most up-to-date information.

The jury process is complete for the Festival's artists, and we're excited about our new and returning lineup of artists for 2008. The Artist Committee of WAF added a new eligibility category this year, "Art that Supports the Concept of Sustainability," which has added to the variety of art submitted to the jury. Visit the Wild Arts Festival page at www.audubonportland.org/support-us/fundraising-events/waf for a list of participating artists as well as other Festival information, including how you can be involved as a volunteer in producing this great Festival.

Picture your next meeting or event surrounded by nature!

Treat your staff to a true retreat just minutes from downtown

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- Benefit from intimate areas both indoors and out for breakout sessions and team-building exercises.
- Enjoy breaks outdoors in fresh air; stretch your legs (and minds) on our trails.
- Our sanctuary includes acres of mixed-conifer forest and 4.5 miles of trails, which connects with Forest Park, offering 5,000 acres and 70 miles of trails.



Our Facilities:

Heron Hall – 31 ft. x 31 ft.

- accommodates 75 people if organized auditorium style
- accommodates 50 people if organized banquet style

Rental includes:

- tables and chairs, 27-inch video screen, slide projector and 10x12 projector screen
- kitchen with small refrigerator, microwave, coffee urn, dishes, cups, silverware.
- nature library and natural history display
- use of our sanctuary and trails
- wi-fi access

Rental Fees:

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

To rent our facilities, please contact our Sanctuaries Director at 503-292-6855.

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



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

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9am to 5pm, Mon. - Fri.

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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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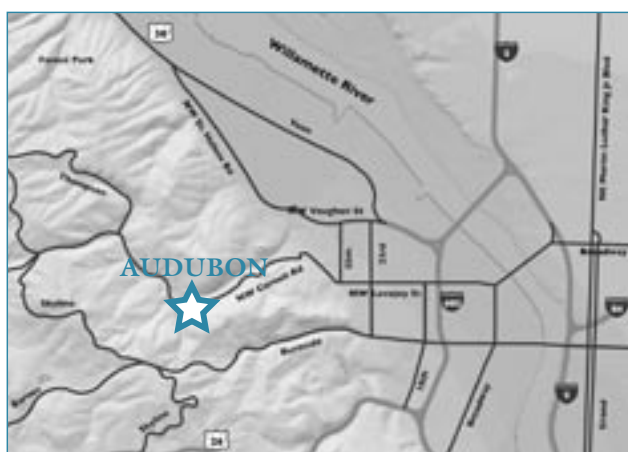
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