

Warbler



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13th Annual Native Plant Sale

May 16–17 (Sat.–Sun.), 10am–4pm

by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

Spring has returned! Leaves are out, flowers are blooming, and birds are singing. What better way to celebrate the beauty of our region than naturoscaping your home with native plants? **Native plants are adapted to grow in our soils and climate, require less care than exotic ornamentals, and provide habitat for birds and other native wildlife.** Come to Portland Audubon's 13th annual **Native Plant Sale on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17, 10am–4pm**, stock up on plants, and support our restoration efforts in our sanctuaries.

Once again our sale boasts **over 100 species of native trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, grasses, and vines** to enhance your yard, garden, or acreage. As always, we'll have our wonderful shopping lists on hand, which were painstakingly compiled by long-time Audubon volunteer Gregg Everhart. **Our shopping lists provide a wealth of information on all the plants available:** typical size, growing conditions, habitat value, and even the color of the flower and fruit type. You can use the shopping list to find out what will grow in that moist, shady back corner of your yard, or which plants will help you attract butterflies and hummingbirds. **More comprehensive information on individual plants is posted above the plants themselves**, including photographs of the plants in bloom.

Of course, our fine team of **knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to help answer any and all of your botanical questions.** This year we will also feature an **information booth with staff from our Backyard Habitat Certification Program.** Turn your own yard into a wildlife sanctuary! In addition to all the great details on native plants, you can get the big picture on **naturoscaping, rain gardens, invasive plant removal, and more.** The 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) also plans to set up a table with information on **managing and removing invasive plants** from your yard.

Workshops on May 16th

We are pleased to offer two free workshops on Saturday, May 16th:
At 1pm, join Amy Whitworth of Plan-It Earth Design in a discussion of rain gardens, or bioswales, for your home. What is the connection between rainwater runoff, habitat, and a healthy, beautiful garden? A rain garden combines the right plants with the right location for a pleasing garden feature that enhances populations of beneficial insects, birds, and wildlife. Find out if a rain garden is right for your yard. Bring your questions and ideas!

2 pm At 2pm, Kathryn Leech, APLD, River City Gardens, will discuss **sustainable practices that can be incorporated into your garden-building process.** Beginning with our own small corner of the earth, we can make choices that honor our fellow creatures and plants, leaving a vibrant, balanced earth for future generations.

In addition, a wonderful selection of **books on native plants, wildlife, and naturoscaping** will be available at our Nature Store. We'll also have a **slide show in Heron Hall that presents ideas for using native plants in the landscape**, and we'll even have a small assortment of **teas and other products made from plants native to our region.**

Ethnobotany Presentation May 12 at 7pm in Heron Hall

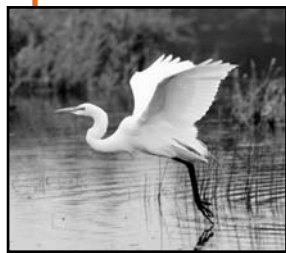
Can't wait until the weekend? Join Metro naturalist and interpretive planner **Deb Scrivens** for a Nature Night presentation on **Tuesday, May 12, at 7pm on Ethnobotany**, which is the study of how humans use plants. Deb's presentation will focus on plants native to our region and how they have been — and continue to be — used by people for food, shelter, tools, and more.

Festival of the Birds!

Saturday, May 9th,
10am – 3pm

Sellwood Park, just south of
Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

Join Audubon Society of Portland, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the City of Portland for a Celebration of Migratory Birds.



Great Egret © Jim Cruce

Oaks Bottom and other natural areas in Portland are important to migrating birds for nesting, wintering, resting, and refueling. Come and see birds hailing from as far away as Argentina in Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, the City of Portland's first designated Migratory Bird Park.

Guided Bird Walks, 9am–2pm. Come enjoy bird walks led by local naturalists. You'll be amazed by the large variety of migratory birds that use Oaks Bottom and other Portland natural areas during their migratory route.

Children's Activities. Kids will love the bird-related hands-on activities for children ages 3–11.

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



Kestrel female
© Jim Cruce

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

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



Savannah Sparrow
© Steve Berliner

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



Audubon Society
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From the Executive Director



The Foundation of a Green Economy

I have been thinking a lot about the momentum behind the “green economy” mantra being loudly promoted by government leaders in response to such things as climate change, foreign oil independence, and the road toward economic recovery.

Meryl Redisch

This matter hit home when I attended an Arbor Day celebration last month that was held at a local Portland elementary school. It was just about the perfect early spring day and the perfect outdoor setting. I stood behind classes of fourth and fifth graders who were seated cross-legged on the damp grass, listening attentively to adults explaining the virtues of trees. Here it is, I realized, the foundation for a green economy: Kids in an outdoor classroom, sharing shovels and planting trees.

An April cover story in *The Oregonian* identified green jobs as those that “build and maintain wind turbines, develop smart meters for utility customers, or install solar panels,” then continued on to state that the likelihood of landing one of those high-paying positions is highly unlikely.

While I was glad the article concluded by noting that green jobs can and should be broader than what was described, I would go further. We can build all of the wind turbines, solar panels, and fuel-efficient cars and office towers we want if the sole measure of our success is to keep unemployment at some calculated rate that is universally acceptable. While the development of carbon-neutral products will also serve to reduce greenhouse gases and other pollutants, here and around the world, it’s only one piece of the green-economy picture.

In my view, a green economy can only be built and sustained if healthy communities are developed and

healthy natural systems are present to support it. A green economy begins when:

- Everyone has equitable access to parks and natural areas;
- Rivers, streams, and forests support a diversity of native plants and wildlife;
- Good-quality health care is available and affordable to everyone;
- Good-quality food is available and affordable to everyone; and
- Neighborhoods, housing, and school choices are available and affordable to everyone.

I hope that as the momentum behind a green economy continues to grow, more and more people will realize that it’s not only the manufacturing of parts and pieces or the substitution of green for blue-collar jobs. It’s the development of whole communities, and can begin with the planting of a tree.

Field Trips

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

May 6 (Wed.), 8am–11am Ridgefield NWR, Washington

Join us on a walk on the Kiwa Trail looking for rails and bitterns. The trail opens May 1st so this is a chance for great marsh birding. The trail is a flat 1.5-mile walk. Dress for the weather and beginners welcome. Meet **Ron Escano** (503-771-3454 for directions) at the Kiwa Trailhead, Ridgefield NWR River ‘S’ Unit, at 8am.

May 16 (Sat.), 8am–10am Mt. Tabor Park

Join us on this month’s walk co-sponsored by Audubon Society of Portland and **Backyard Bird Shop**. This Southeast Portland park is a haven for migrant and resident songbirds, and lucky birders may be rewarded with flocks of warblers. Call Backyard Bird Shop (503-496-0908) for information and to reserve a spot. Beginners welcome!

May 27 (Wed.), 8am–11am Ridgefield NWR, Washington

Join us on a walk on the Kiwa Trail looking for rails and bitterns. The trail opens May 1st so this is a chance for great marsh birding. The trail is a flat 1.5-mile walk. Dress for the weather and beginners welcome. Meet **Ron Escano** (503-771-3454 for directions) at the Kiwa Trailhead, Ridgefield NWR River ‘S’ Unit, at 8am.



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.

Magpies Birdathon May 5 & 6 (Tues. & Wed.), 7am–4:30pm

Join **Denny Graham** and **Mike Skinner** for the Magpies Birdathon, comprised of two separate trips — you may attend one or both days. On **Tuesday** we meet in the Mt. Tabor Volcano parking lot for birding Mt. Tabor and then Ridgefield NWR. Then on **Wednesday** we meet at the Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center, 15655 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton. We’ll spend the early morning there looking for songbirds, then we’ll proceed to Tualatin NWR, Gotter Prairie, and Jackson Bottom. Bring a lunch and water both days. For information call Denny (503-659-1245 home, 503-351-8706 cell) or Mike (503-590-3963 home, 503-686-5126 cell).

White River Oak Woodlands and Rimrock Country May 21 (Thurs.), 8am–6pm

Interested in exploring the unique oak woodland and basalt rimrock country of North-Central Oregon? There is the chance to see Lewis’s Woodpeckers, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Lazuli Buntings, Canyon Wrens, and Golden Eagles. We’ll spend most of our time on the White River Wildlife Management Area around Tygh Valley. Meet at the Outlet Mall parking lot in Troutdale at 8am and plan on an all-day adventure, getting back after 6pm. Call **Ron Escano** at 503-771-3454 for details and to reserve a spot.

Conboy NWR May 28 (Thurs.), 7:30am–3pm

Meet leader **Lou Fredd** at Lewis & Clark State Park on the east side of the Sandy River. First stop is a refuge near Mt. Adams, about 50 miles. Then we proceed on to Conboy NWR, where we’ll walk about a mile or so on level trail. Bring lunch and scopes, and dress for the weather (sun and wind exposure). For information contact Lou at louisfredd@msn.com or 503-655-1856 (home) or 503-706-8173 (cell).

Connecting Green

The Sternwheeler Rose plies the Willamette
© Mike Houck



Hérons in the City: Celebrating Great Blue Heron Week

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. **Our May and early June trips are designed to celebrate the 23rd annual Great Blue Heron Week, recognizing the Great Blue Heron as Portland’s official city bird.**

Registration is limited, so sign up soon at www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/wic. If you don’t have internet access, call 503-292-6855 ext.122 to register. Trips are free except the Sternwheeler *Rose* cruise. **For all bicycle and paddle trips, bring your own equipment — helmets and life jackets are required.** Arrange canoe and kayak rentals at Alder Creek Kayak & Canoe (www.aldercreek.com, 503-285-0464) or Portland Kayak Co. (www.portlandrivercompany.com, 503-459-4050). Directions for all *Connecting Green* trips will be sent to registrants. Participants will be limited in number, so sign up early!

Thurs., May 28th, 7:30am–8:30am Morning Walk at Nadaka Nature Park

In celebration of Great Blue Heron Week, join **Jim Labbe** with Audubon Society of Portland and **Lee Dayfield** with Wilkes East Neighborhood Association for a morning stroll through Nakada Nature Park in West Gresham. We’ll explore the natural and human history of this unique neighborhood nature park and learn about efforts afoot to expand the park, improve access and environmental interpretation, and enhance its wildlife habitat. We’ll also begin documenting bird species inhabiting the park and discuss the value of urban natural areas to avian biodiversity.

Sat., May 30th, 1pm–4pm Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

Celebrate Great Blue Heron Week by joining **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. The walk is a two-mile loop on both paved and uneven dirt paths, with two moderate hills, and is appropriate for families.

Sun., May 31st, 4pm–6pm Sternwheeler Rose Ross Island Cruise

Join Portland Audubon and the Urban Greenspaces Institute on a family-oriented two-hour sternwheeler cruise around Ross Island to celebrate Great Blue Heron Week. If you don’t canoe or kayak, this is time for you and your family to see Great Blue Herons, Osprey, and Bald Eagle nests. We’ll cruise up through the Holgate Channel and circumnavigate Ross, Hardtack, and East Islands. The leaders are **Bob Sallinger** (Audubon Society of Portland), **Mike Houck**, (Urban Greenspaces Institute), and **Rick Bastasch** (Portland Healthy Rivers Program). There is a **\$20 per person** fee (children 5 and under are free) to cover the cost of the boat rental.

Sun., May 31st, Noon–4pm Smith & Bybee Lakes Paddle

Join **Troy Clark** with Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes, Portland Audubon’s **Jim Labbe**, and Metro President **David Bragdon** for an afternoon paddle around Smith & Bybee Lakes. This is a great way to celebrate Great Blue Heron Week! We’ll paddle the open water and willow thickets of Smith Lake, learn about recent progress enhancing wetlands at the Smith & Bybee Lakes, and take in the avian wonders of Spring.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Birding By Ear – Resident Birds Field Trip, 7am (March Warbler) 26 Birding Weekend (April Warbler)	Regional Growth Open House, 5pm–7pm (April Warbler) 27	Conservation Lecture at Oregon Zoo: Wolf Management in Oregon, 7pm (April Warbler) 28	29 = Bird Song Walk, 7am (p. 10)	Spring Hiking Lecture Series, 7pm (April Warbler) 30	Art Exhibit and Sale begins (p.8) 1	Birdathon trips (p.12) 2
Birdathon trips (p.12) 3 Bluegrass Live Music Jam, 12:30pm Heron Hall	4	Birdathon trips (p.12) 5 Magpies Birdathon, 7am (p.2) Birders' Night, 7:30pm Heron Hall	6	Birdathon trips (p.12) 7 Magpies Birdathon, 7am (p.2) Ridgefield NWR, 8am (p.2)	8	Birdathon trips (p.12) 9 FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS! in Sellwood Park, 10am–3pm (p.1)
10	11	Nature Night: Ethnobotany in the Pacific Northwest, 7pm (p.4) 12	13	14	Birdathon trips (p.12) 15	Mt. Tabor, 8am (p.2) 16 NATIVE PLANT SALE, 10am–4pm (Workshops: 1pm & 2pm) (p.1) Songbird Fest, Tualatin NWR, 10am–2:30pm (p.5) Birdathon trips (p.12)
NATIVE PLANT SALE, 10am–4pm (p.1) 17	18	Woodland Birds Class, 7pm (p.7) 19	20	Magpies visit White River Oak Woodlands and Rimrock Country, 8am (p.2) 21 Board Meeting, 7pm Heron Hall	22	Birding Weekend (p.10) 23
Birding Weekend (p.10) 24	Nature Store OPEN, Admin closed 25 Birding Weekend (p.10) MEMORIAL DAY	26	Ridgefield NWR, 8am (p.2) 27 Malheur Foray begins (p.6) Estate Planning Seminar, 7:30pm (p.11)	28	Magpies visit Conboy NWR, 7:30am (p.2) 29 GBH Week: Nadaka Nature Park, 7:30am (p.2)	GBH Week: Oaks Bottom, 1pm (p.2) 30 PEREGRINES & PINOT Sternwheeler benefit for Wildlife Care Center, 5:30pm (p.3)
GBH Week: Smith & Bybee Lakes Paddle, Noon (p.2) 31 GBH: Sternwheeler Ross Island Cruise, 4pm (p.2)	GBH Week: Oaks Bottom, 8am (p.2) 1	Birders' Night 7:30pm Heron Hall 2	3	4	GBH Week: Birding Bike Ride along Columbia Slough, 7am (p.2) 5 GBH: Rock Creek Herons and Norm Thompson Campus, 8am (p.2)	GBH Week: Big Four Corners Paddle, 9am (p.2) 6 Alaska trip begins (p.6) Birding Weekend (p.10)

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

Mon., June 1st, 8am–11am
Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge
(See May 30th trip for details.)

(Note: the June 4th Twilight Bike Ride has been canceled.)

Fri., June 5th, 7am–9am
Birding Bike Ride along the Columbia Slough
In celebration of Great Blue Heron Week, join **Jim Labbe**, Urban Conservationist with Portland Audubon, and **Barb Grover**, Events Planner with the Bike Gallery, for a morning bike ride along the Columbia Slough Trail. We'll take a leisurely, pre-commute bike ride along the Lower Columbia Slough trail and enjoy the lively birdlife to be encountered on a spring morning. We'll also learn about future extensions of the Columbia Slough Trail and how citizens can get involved in protecting and restoring the Slough. You are responsible for bringing and maintaining your own bicycle; pumps and patch kits recommended.



Great Blue Heron at Oaks Bottom © Mike Houck

Fri., June 5th, 8am–10am
Rock Creek Herons and Norm Thompson Campus
Join **Mike Houck** on a hike along Hillsboro's Rock Creek Greenway and explore the wetlands and riparian habitat at the Norm Thompson corporate headquarters. We will also get close-up views of two Great Blue Heron nesting colonies at Rock Creek — what better way to celebrate Great Blue Heron week?



Birding and kayaking © Mike Houck

Sat., June 6th, 9am–Noon
Big Four Corners Paddle
Join **Jim Labbe** with Portland Audubon's Urban Conservation Program, **Dave Helzer** from Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services, and **Kathy Majidi** with Gresham Environmental Services to celebrate Great Blue Heron Week with a Columbia Slough paddle through Big Four Corners, the City of Portland's fourth-largest natural area. We'll explore the unique bottomland habitats and remnant oak woodlands along the Slough, paddle and bird our way upstream into Gresham, and discuss the challenges and opportunities to enhance and restore the Upper Columbia Slough.

Plan Ahead

See upcoming *Warbler* newsletters or visit www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/wic for details about the following trip celebrating Great Blue Heron Week!

Sun., June 7th, 8am–11am
Ross Island and Holgate Channel Regatta with Friends of Ross Island
Participate in a colorful flotilla of canoes and kayaks on this paddle around Ross Island to celebrate the conclusion of Great Blue Heron Week.

Peregrines & Pinot, a Sternwheeler Rose benefit for Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center

Saturday, May 30 • 5:30–8:30pm

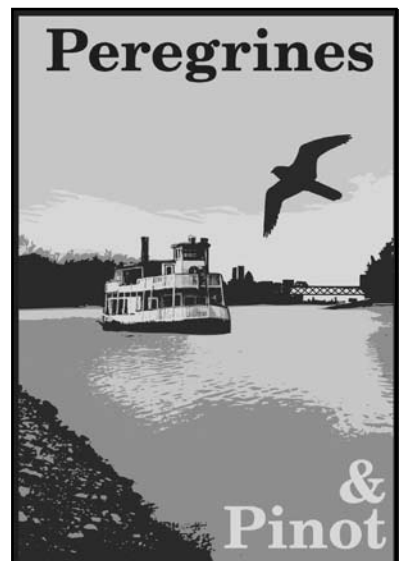
Bring your friends and family to this fabulous and fun river wildlife tour aboard Portland's Sternwheeler *Rose*. Enjoy cocktail hour on the deck of the boat as our Conservation Director, **Bob Sallinger**, entertains us with commentary and insight into the natural beauty and wildlife of Portland from a river perspective. A delicious sit-down dinner and raffle will follow.

Proceeds go directly to help the wild animals that get assistance from Audubon's Wildlife Care Center.

Cost of \$75 per person includes dinner, a glass of wine, and entertainment. No-host bar will be available on board. Tickets can be purchased individually, or there are two table options: table for four for \$300, or table for six for \$450.

For information contact Deb Sheaffer at dsheaffer@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 ext.125. Register on our website, www.audubonportland.org.

We hope you can join us on this pleasant evening cruise.



Conservation News

Bills Moving at State and Federal Levels to Increase Penalties for Illegal Killing of Protected Birds

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

"The enforcement of laws for the protection of hawks has not been satisfactory. Protective statutes, secured only by great labor, remain unenforced in many states because most game wardens decline to make arrests for their infraction, and if arrests are made, magistrates often have refused to impose fines."

— T. Gilbert Pearson, President Emeritus of National Audubon Society, 1935

The lines quoted above, written in 1935, could just have easily been written today. Nearly a century after the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 was passed to protect native birds from wanton destruction, significant prosecutions for even the most egregious bird-related crimes remain elusive. Last year, birders were appalled to learn the clubs that raise pigeons for sport across the western United States were killing thousands of hawks and falcons that preyed upon their pigeons. The situation grew even more disturbing when in case after case federal judges handed down minimal penalties. The Audubon Society of Portland is working at both the state and federal levels to change this situation and ensure that intentional malicious killing of protected bird species is treated with the seriousness that it deserves.

At the federal level, Congressman Peter DeFazio has reintroduced the **Migratory Bird Penalty and Enforcement Act, which would elevate "intentional" and "malicious" killing of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act from misdemeanor to felony status.** Portland Audubon has been working with Congressman DeFazio's staff to develop this legislation. Originally introduced toward the end of the 2008 legislative session, the bill came too late to make much progress toward passage. In the late fall, Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger traveled to Washington, D.C., to build support for the bill. The legislation has been refined to not only provide for felony charges but also to allow the U.S. Fish



This Peregrine Falcon was raised and released by Portland Audubon in 2003. It was shot shortly after release, but no charges were ever brought against the shooter. © Ken Barron

and Wildlife Service to provide rewards to people who report bird-related crimes.

At the state level, Audubon has been working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Hunters, Oregon Anglers, and other groups to develop legislation that would increase penalties for a variety of wildlife violations. Included in House Bill 3089 are provisions that **require mandatory Class A misdemeanor charges for taking of certain raptor species.** Also included are provisions that would allow the state to seek **up to \$5,000 in civil damages** for the killing of certain raptors.

We expect both bills to move forward over the course of the spring. It is our hope that passage of these bills will send a strong message to prosecutors, courts, and potential violators that these crimes should be taken seriously. **We will need the sustained support of our membership to pass both of these bills.** To learn how you can help, go to www.audubonportland.org/news/legislation.

Good News for Spotted Owls?

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Last year the Audubon Society of Portland and a number of other conservation organizations represented by Earthjustice brought suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over a Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and Critical Habitat Revision that would have dramatically reduced habitat protections for this rapidly declining species. On April 1st the Obama administration announced that it will not defend the Bush administration's actions. In its court filing, the government asked the court for permission to withdraw last summer's final Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and Critical Habitat Revision because a Department of the Interior investigative report issued last December concluded that Bush administration officials inappropriately meddled in these actions. The government is seeking 30 days to work with the parties in the pending court case to develop an agreed order that would resolve the pending litigation.

A status review for the Northern Spotted Owl released in 2004 found that the species was continuing to experience steep population declines and advised strong protections for all suitable owl habitat to prevent extinction of the species. Despite these dire findings, the Bush administration finalized a recovery plan for the owl in May 2008 which actually reduced the level of habitat protection for the bird. Scientific peer reviews roundly criticized the plan for not using the best available science. Members of the team responsible for developing the Recovery Plan denounced the plan because of political interference. Three months later the Bush administration used the flawed Recovery Plan to revise Spotted Owl Critical Habitat Designations, removing the designation from 1.5 million acres. In December 2007 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) used the Recovery Plan to justify allowing for nearly a four-fold increase in logging on BLM lands.

The Obama administration request represents a welcome change of course. It adds even further



Trapping and banding hawks at Bonney Butte, part of the new Lewis and Clark Wilderness Area. © Portland Audubon

validation to conservation community concerns about the unprecedented lack of respect for science and environmental law which marked the Bush administration. We have not yet seen details of what the government is proposing, so it's impossible to say at this point whether the changes will be sufficient, but we are heartened by the significant change in tone. Time is of the essence as timber sales are currently occurring under the Bush Recovery Plan that will undermine the Spotted Owl's chance for recovery.

Wilderness Bill Passes!

On March 30, 2009, President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act. The legislation protects more than 2 million acres of wilderness and more than 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers across the nation. In Oregon it creates new wilderness areas at Mt. Hood, Copper Salmon, Soda Mountain, Spring Basin, and the Bend Badlands.

The bill includes the 127,000-acre Lewis and Clark Wilderness on Mt. Hood. Of particular interest to

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.

Ethnobotany in the Pacific Northwest with Deb Scrivens

Tuesday, May 12, 7pm
Heron Hall

Join Metro naturalist and interpretive planner **Deb Scrivens** for an interactive presentation on ethnobotany in the Pacific Northwest. **Ethnobotany is the study of how humans use plants.** We often talk about the role of native vegetation in supporting wildlife communities, and humans have historically developed equally complex relationships with plants. Before the days of interstate trucking and overseas shipping, it was only practical for people to use local plant communities for their food, shelter, clothing, tools...

Learn the ethics and safety protocols of plant harvest and take home a resource list for further study. In this hands-on program, we will create cordage and tea from stinging nettles and learn about plants traditionally used for food, medicine, baskets, and more.

Deb's affinity for plants and all things ethnobotanical began as a teenager. Her career in parks began in 1977 and has included fire ecology and wildlife studies in many parts of the U.S. In 1985 she began working in environmental education in the Portland region. Today she works as an interpretive planner with the Metro Sustainability Center. Deb also founded and teaches in Metro's Nature University, which will graduate its 14th class of volunteers this spring.



Stinging Nettle in early spring © Tammi Miller

Help Audubon and Depave this Summer!



by Jim Labbe, Urban Conservationist

This summer Audubon Society of Portland is teaming up with Depave, a City Repair project working to remove impervious paved surfaces and to "re-green" neighborhoods in North, Northeast, and Southeast Portland (and beyond).

Audubon is helping to provide native plant materials and to recruit volunteers for May work parties at Depave's Fargo Garden site, located at the intersection of North Fargo and North Williams Avenue. The project will be a hands-on opportunity for Audubon volunteers to improve access to nature and enhance wildlife habitat and air and water quality in the park-deficient Eliot neighborhood in North Portland.

If you are interested in helping, see www.Depave.org for work party dates and details or contact Jim Labbe at jlabb@urbanfauna.org or 971-222-6112.

Auduboners is the inclusion of Bonney Butte in the Lewis and Clark Wilderness. This area is an important migratory route for birds of prey and a nationally recognized Important Bird Area. Susan Ash, former Portland Audubon Conservation Director, worked relentlessly to assure its inclusion.

Thanks to the Oregon Delegation for their pursuit of this landmark legislation, the largest wilderness designation in more than a quarter of a century!

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.



Great Blue Heron © Jim Cruce

However, heron rookeries are highly vulnerable to habitat alterations, human disturbance, and natural changes to the environment. The presence of herons on our urban landscape tells us much about whether we are doing enough to protect local wildlife habitat. Audubon began assembling information about known heron rookeries in the Portland-Vancouver metro area in 2007, and we are expanding that effort.

You can help with two parts of this project:

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

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

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

If you know of a heron rookery in the Portland-Vancouver metro region or would like to be a Heron Rookery Site Steward, please contact Mary Coolidge, Audubon Conservation Assistant Director, at mcoolidge@audubonportland.org.

Spring means the start of Baby Bird Season in our Wildlife Care Center!

Do You Know What to Do If You Find a Baby Bird?

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

If you are concerned that the bird fell from the nest too early, you may try to return the bird to its nest. If the nest has been destroyed or is unreachable, you may substitute a strawberry basket or small box lined with tissue and suspend it from a branch **near where you believe the nest is located.** Birds have a poor sense of smell and very strong parental instincts and will usually continue caring for their young. However, adult birds are cautious after any type of disturbance and **it may take several hours before the parents approach the nestling.** During this period it is essential that humans not approach the nestling.

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

in urban environments may include raccoons, coyotes, dogs, and cats. Urban parks are typically overpopulated with ducks and it's not uncommon for ducks to nest as far as a mile from water; once the young hatch, the mother leads her ducklings back to the nearest water source.



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

During this journey ducklings frequently become separated from their mothers. **If the mother is believed to be nearby, it is best to leave the duckling alone** — it will peep and alert the mother to its whereabouts. If the mother has been spooked and has left her ducklings behind, they can be gathered and placed into a cardboard box with the top open to the sky. She will usually circle back shortly to relocate her ducklings.

For healthy "lost" or orphaned ducklings, we recommend that you attempt to foster them back into the wild. Transport ducklings to nearby wetlands or ponds and locate ducklings approximately the same age and size (no larger.) Mother ducks cannot count and ducklings placed nearby will usually swim over and become adopted into the group. Care should be taken, though, not to overload a single mother. Although success is not guaranteed, **being raised in the wild by a wild duck is their best chance for survival.**

If you have any questions or find a baby bird that is injured or known to be orphaned, you can **call our Wildlife Care Center seven days a week between 9am and 5pm at 503-292-0304.**

Tualatin River NWR Songbird Festival May 16 (Sat.), 10am–2:30pm

Some of Portland Audubon's **education birds** will be featured at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge's Songbird Festival on Saturday, May 16th, 10am–2:30pm. This free event at 19255 SW Pacific Hwy in Sherwood will also include **birding and guided nature walks, hands-on educational crafts for kids, exhibits, food, and more.** Watch for event details at www.friendsoftualatinrefuge.org.

Ducklings

A group of baby birds often found is ducklings. Mallards look for nesting locations away from likely predators, which

Needed: Homes for Domestic Ducks and Ducklings, and Release Sites for Native Ducks

Many of the ducks and ducklings brought to the Wildlife Care Center are domestics that have been abandoned into the wild.

These ducks tend to do poorly, and they also occupy much-needed habitat from native waterfowl. The Care Center is seeking people with farms and private ponds who are interested in adopting domestic ducks and ducklings.

The Care Center is also looking for people with natural duck habitat on their property who are willing to release native ducks back into the wild. Please call Karen Munday at 503-292-6855 ext.122 if you are interested.



Mallard female with ducklings © Jim Cruce



Molly McAllister, Audubon veterinarian, and State Trooper Mike Hanson prepare to release the feisty hawk. © Marilyn Stinnett



Oregon State Senior Trooper Mike Hanson, who helped rescue the bird from the truck's grille, releases the hawk back to the wild. © Marilyn Stinnett

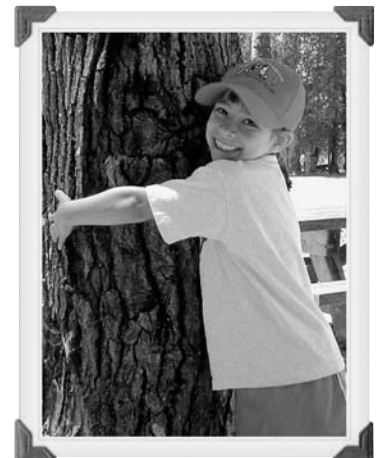
Red-tailed Hawk Returns to Wild after Surviving Head-on Collision

A Red-tailed Hawk was released back to the wild just weeks after it miraculously survived a head-on collision with a Ford Expedition on Interstate 5 south of Portland. The bird was struck with such force that it broke through the vehicle's grille and became lodged in front of the radiator (see story on page 5 of April's *Warbler*). After a month of hospitalization and rehabilitation, the bird was released at Continental Farms in Aurora, not far from where it was hit. It rapidly flew away and disappeared behind a grove of trees.

Sponsor a Camper

Connect kids with amazing experiences in nature with Audubon Society of Portland's Community Summer Camps! Make it possible for a deserving young person to have fun and learn about the environment this summer. For some of these kids, a Portland Audubon Community Camp is their very first experience with nature! Your generous gift of \$60 will provide one day of camp, \$300 will give a child a complete week of natural history fun.

Whatever you give, it will help connect deserving kids to impactful opportunities in nature. Sponsor a camper at www.audubonportland.org or use this form:



© Portland Audubon

Sponsorship Amount:

\$25 \$60 \$300 Other \$ _____

Payment Method:

Check enclosed
 Visa
 Mastercard
 Discover

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Card#: _____

Exp: _____

Educational Trips & Tours

South Africa & Botswana

October 18–November 3, 2009

Africa... the word alone conjures up images of vast, ancient landscapes teeming with wildlife. Join us on a journey into the heart of South Africa where you'll experience several of the most amazing wildlife reserves on Earth, and feel for yourself the raw sights and sounds of the Dark Continent.

We'll fly first to **Cape Town**, considered by many the most beautiful city of Sub-Saharan Africa. As we adjust to the new time zone, we'll spend the first morning leisurely birding the city's famous **Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens**. In the afternoon we'll take the cable car to the top of majestic **Table Mountain** that overlooks this grand city. After visiting the local market, we'll dine at one of the unique restaurants that Cape Town has to offer. The next day we'll head for the **Cape of Good Hope**, visiting Table Mountain National Park and a colony of rare **African Penguins** along the way. We'll get a close look at the unique flora of the Cape region, which is one of the oldest bioregions in the world.

We then fly north through Johannesburg to Hoedspruit, and from there into the **Klaserie Reserve**, famous for the rich diversity of species that roam and/or fly within its borders. **Elephant, Buffalo, and Lion** are all active here, as well as the rare **White Rhinoceros!** Klaserie is also home to literally hundreds of species of birds, and we're likely to encounter the **Southern Carmine Bee-eater, African Fish Eagle, Red and Yellow-billed Hornbills,** and the unique **Hamerkop**, to name just a few.

The best way to experience the African bush is on foot, and we'll have the opportunity to do just that when we go on walking safari with some of the most knowledgeable

and experienced naturalists in South Africa. For five days we'll be based at a secluded tent-camp on the banks of the **Klaserie River**, and from here you'll experience Africa in a way that few now get to do, with no fence between you and the creatures that have roamed this land for millennia. We'll even go one step further and spend a night out far from camp, bedding down under the African stars, where each of us will take a turn, alone, at fire watch....



Lions in the wind © Mike Calvin

The next segment of the trip will take us into **Kruger National Park**, one of the most famous wildlife parks in the world. Staying in comfortable cottages in several different bush camps, we'll explore the far northern regions of the park, home to many endemic species of birds. Finally, we will spend our last 4 days in **Mashatu National Park in Botswana**, where you will witness herds of **Elephant** up-close and personal, as well as **Giraffe, Zebra** and many other species of "mega mammals" that can be found only here.

If you've always dreamed of experiencing Africa, this trip will deliver. Group is limited to 12 participants, plus leaders. **A deposit of \$2,000 is required to secure your space.** Deposits are fully refundable (minus cost of internal air if purchased) up to July 15, 2009. Please call **Steve Robertson** at 503-292-6855 ext.118 for further information.

What is included: All lodging, land transportation, internal airfare from Johannesburg to/from Hoedspruit, park fees, guide fees, and all meals except some dinners in Africa. **Fee does not include airfare to/from Africa.**

Fee: \$4,985 members / \$5,325 non-members (does not include airfare to/from Africa)

Leaders: Steve Robertson, Education Director, and local African guides

2 spaces still available!

ALASKA – TO NOME AND BACK!

June 6–16, 2009

Explore the rich natural history and birds of Alaska! From Nome to Denali National Park to the Kenai Fjords, we will sample the best of what Alaska has to offer. Two spaces still available! For full information, contact Steve Engel, Audubon trip leader and Adult Education Coordinator, or see www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/tours/alaskanome.

BIRDS AND CULTURE OF OAXACA, MEXICO

December 2–10, 2009

Oaxaca straddles the biological border separating the ranges of northern temperate and tropical birds. As a result it is home to well over 600 species — more than any other Mexican state — many of which are found nowhere else in the world. And if ever there was a destination perfect for both the birder and non-birder, Oaxaca may be it. In addition to its colorful bird life, it is renowned as a place with the tangible feel of the Old Mexico: colorful markets, vibrant native cultures, graceful cathedrals and monuments, excellent museums, and a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Our trip begins in Oaxaca City, the beautiful and colorful state capital. Located in a large inter-mountain valley at 5,000 feet, it basks in a balmy spring-like climate year round. With our local bird and cultural expert to guide us, we'll search for specialty birds of the valley as well as enjoy and learn about the rich cultural and artistic traditions of the area. We may seek out the likes of **Berylline** and **Dusky Hummingbirds, Boucard's Wren, Red Warbler,** and **Chestnut-sided Shrike Vireo** in the morning, and visit artisan villages famous for their weavings in the afternoon. Or perhaps we'll see our first **Oaxaca Sparrow** on the slopes of Monte Alban, one of the most spectacular archeological sites in Mesoamerica.

Our day trips will lead us through different elevations from pine/oak forest to humid cloud forest, where we may encounter local species such as **Dwarf Jay, Aztec Thrush,** and **Collared Towhee.** Each afternoon we'll return to our quiet hotel next to a shaded city park a short walk from the

famous central plaza, or **zocalo**, the cultural heart of the city.

Then we travel by van to the tropical evergreen forests of the Atlantic slope, passing through the bird-rich **Valle Nacional** region on the way. In Tuxtpec, along the shores of the **Rio Papaloapan**, we'll be on the lookout for endemic species like the **Long-tailed Wood Partridge, Rufous-breasted Spinetail, Azure Hooded Jay,** and **Sumichrast's Wren**, as well as **Keel-billed Toucan, Blue-gray Tanager,** and **Emerald Toucanet.**

Beautiful Oaxaca City calls us back for our final two days. You'll have time to explore this proud World Heritage Site, which has received much effort into making its many attractions accessible to the visitor. On your own or with the group, feel free to relax, visit museums, seek out more birds, or sit at a sidewalk café and watch the world go by.

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

Fee: \$1,585 members / \$1,785 non-members
Deposit: \$800

Group size: 12–14 participants
Leaders: Steve Engel, Adult Education Coordinator, with our experienced local birding guide
Contact Steve Engel at sengel@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.



Oaxaca Sparrow © Wink Gross

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

British Columbia Birding

August 19–23, 2009

Within sight of Vancouver, B.C., are the spectacular mountains of the Northern Cascades and the rich waters of the Strait of Georgia. We'll begin our trip in the mountains of the **Manning Provincial Park**. Among the conifers here we will search for high-elevation species such as the **American Three-toed Woodpecker** and **Gray Jay**, and if we're lucky we may find a **Boreal Chickadee** or **Pine Grosbeak**. We'll spend one day in the **Okanagan**, east of the mountains, where we will visit **Lake Vaseux**. This lake and wetlands are a Canadian designated Important Bird Area, and we'll look here for many species of waterfowl as well as **American Bittern, Lewis's Woodpecker,** and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. From Manning we will drive to the coast and stay in Vancouver. We'll drive south of the city to the great estuaries and tidal flats of **Boundary Bay, George C. Reifel Bird Sanctuary,** and **Iona Island**, where there are numerous species of waterfowl and every year thousands of shorebirds stop over to feed.



American Bittern © www.BjornFredrickson.com

What is included: Ground transportation in British Columbia, 4 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. **Fee does not include airfare to and from B.C.**

Fee: \$895 members / \$995 non-members

Group size: 10 maximum

Leader: Dan van den Broek, Master Birder Coordinator

Contact Dan van den Broek at dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105.

MALHEUR FORAY

May 27–31, 2009

Don't miss out! 2 spaces left!

Oregon Coast:

Shorebirds, Sand Dunes, and Old-Growth Forest

August 26–30, 2009

The Oregon Coast is both a beautiful and fascinating part of our state. Come with us to explore its amazing natural history, from the thousands of migrating shorebirds to the surreal fields of giant sand dunes, and on to the towering old-growth forest of Portland Audubon's **Ten Mile Creek Preserve**. This area is recognized as an Important Bird Area for the threatened **Marbled Murrelet** and is rich with large, moss-draped trees and crystal-clear salmon-bearing creeks. For a more complete trip description see our website!



Double-crested Cormorant © Jim Cruce

Fee: \$595 members / \$635 non-members

Leader: Steve Engel, Adult Education

Coordinator, experienced trip leader and naturalist

COMING SOON

INDIA

Late January and early February of 2010.

Tentative fee: \$4600. Group size 10–12 maximum. Contact Steve Robertson, Audubon trip leader and Education Director, for more information.

HOW TO REGISTER

Adult Classes

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

Educational Trips & Tours

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

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

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

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



Pileated Woodpecker © www.BjornFredrickson.com

Woodland Birds (thrushes, thrashers, woodpeckers) May 19 (Tues.), 7pm–9pm in Heron Hall

Tonight birding expert **Harry Nehls**, author of local field guides such as *Birds of the Willamette Valley Region* and *Familiar Birds of the Pacific Northwest*, and Senior Contributor for *Birds of Oregon*, sheds light on the avian residents of our local woodlands. Suspects considered also include feisty chickadees, dapper nuthatches, chatty wrens, and cute kinglets. Class includes slides, lecture, and handouts.

Fee: \$10 members / \$15 non-members
Pre-registration is required; free for volunteers.

Shorebirds July 14 (Tues.), 7pm–9pm in Heron Hall

Twice a year our shorelines are graced by globe-trotting shorebirds. These graceful birds are a joy to watch as they fly swiftly over flooded fields and mudflats. Just in time for southbound migration (yes! they do migrate south in July!), local expert **Harry Nehls** will discuss both the common and more elusive shorebirds that occur in the Northwest each year. Through slides and discussion Harry will explain some of the challenges in shorebird identification. Learn how to tell a plover from a sandpiper at a glance. This enjoyable class is perfect for both casual nature lovers and birdwatchers of all skill levels.



Semipalmated Plover. Tim Bowman/USFWS

Fee: \$10 members / \$15 non-members
Pre-registration is required; free for volunteers.

Dragonflies of the Willamette Valley

June 24 (Wed.), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
Field Trip #1: June 27 (Sat.), 10am–3pm
Field Trip #2: June 28 (Sun.), 10am–3pm

Ever wonder how many species of dragonflies frequent your local wetland, or how they spend their days? Join **Jim Johnson** for an evening class on the Odonata, otherwise known as the dragonflies and damselflies, to learn about various aspects of dragonfly life, and especially field identification of the more common local species. The class will be followed by a field trip to a local site on Saturday. (The field trip will repeat on Sunday in order to accommodate all you odonata-philies.) Class topics: What are dragonflies and damselflies and what makes them different from other insects, life history from egg to adult, habitat preferences, diet, and identification.



River Jewelwing © Steve Berliner

Participants sign up for the class and **one field trip**, OR just the class session. Jim has taught dragonfly classes at Portland Audubon, The Wetlands Conservancy, and the Tualatin River NWR. He serves on the executive council of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas and is working on a field guide/manual to the Odonates of the Northwest.

Fee: Class only: \$10 members / \$15 non-members
Fee: Class with one field trip: \$35 members / \$45 non-members
Field trip limited to 12 participants. Pre-registration is required.

Summer Butterflies in the Cascade Mountains

August 7 (Fri.), 6pm–7pm: Class in Heron Hall
August 8 (Sat.), 10am–3pm: Field Trip

Butterflies living in the Cascade Mountains emerge in mid-summer and hang out in the sunlit forest openings. We'll see fritillaries, sulphurs, anglewings, other species, and maybe caterpillars too. We'll be in flowery meadows and perhaps walk some easy trails. The Friday evening class will introduce the species likely to be seen and discuss their habits, and will also cover logistics of the Saturday field experience. **Bill Neill**, author of *Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest*, will lead both the class and field trip.



Fritillaries © Steve Berliner

Fee (Class only): \$10 members / \$15 non-members
Fee (Class and Field Trip): \$30 members / \$40 non-members
Field Trip is limited to 12 participants. Pre-registration is required.

SUMMER CAMP 2009

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

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

HERE ARE JUST A COUPLE OF THIS SUMMER'S GREAT CAMPS!

FOR GRADES ENTERING: **WEEK 7: AUGUST 3 - 7**
6TH-8TH MYSTERIES OF OPAL CREEK 1
(OVERNIGHT MON - FRI)

FOR GRADES ENTERING: **WEEK 8: AUGUST 10 - 14**
4TH-5TH MYSTERIES OF OPAL CREEK 2
(OVERNIGHT MON - FRI)

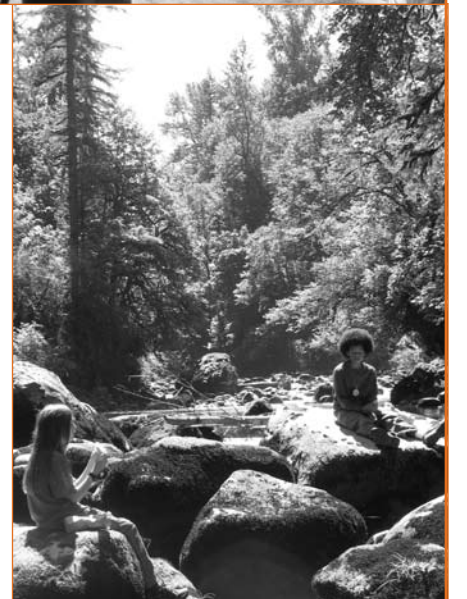
Discover the enchantment of Opal Creek with Audubon Naturalists as you experience the majesty of trees that are more than 300 years old. Spend an entire week at Opal Creek's education center, the historic mining camp on Jawbone Flats, in the heart of this ancient forest wilderness. Contemplate the history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

Fee: \$415 members/\$435 non-members
Note: Will return at 3:30pm on Friday

FOR GRADES ENTERING: **6TH-8TH**
WEEK 6: JULY 27 - 31
HERPETOLOGY 103
(OVERNIGHT MON - FRI)

If you just can't get enough of those cold-blooded vertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, then this is the camp you've been dreaming of! The beautiful Columbia Gorge will be the setting where we'll learn to catch lizards the way scientists do. Techniques will be taught to safely handle herps so that no one gets hurt—you OR them! Scour the desert floor in search of the rare, but ever-so-cool Pigmy Short-horned Lizard. Spend the week attempting to roust Gopher Snakes, Skinks, Western Toads and more! Ancient volcanoes and waterfalls will be searched for herps basking in the sun and soaking in the shade. No rock will be left unturned as we try to discover all there is to know about these amazing creatures.

Fee: \$375 members/\$395 non-members



Sanctuaries

Native Plants of the Month

Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

You most likely noticed the article on the front page about our upcoming Native Plant Sale, and you've probably come to understand that, around here, we like native plants. Here are a few of my personal favorites, along with references that are, in my opinion, the best sources of information on plants, wildlife, and ethnobotany. The plants and books below are all available for purchase at the Nature Store.

Vine Maple – *Acer circinatum*:

This small shrubby tree grows well in sun and shade alike, and will tolerate dry to moist soil conditions. Vine maple boasts colorful fall foliage, frequently grows in arching clusters, and often hosts a variety of mosses and lichens on its bark. With or without its leaves, I find this to be one of the most attractive shrubs in our landscape. Pojar and MacKinnon (see Sources, below) describe some of its traditional uses: "The wood, though limited in size, is very dense and hard, and is flexible when fresh. It was used for snowshoe frames, drum hoops, and a variety of small implements." As for its wildlife value, Russell Link writes, "Birds that eat the seeds include grosbeaks, woodpeckers, nuthatches, finches, quail, and grouse. Deer, mountain beavers, and beavers eat the wood and twigs. A larvae plant for the brown tissue moth and polyphemus moth, and a good nectar source for bees."



Vine Maple shrub © Tom Costello



Vine Maple leaves © Toby Query

Salal – *Gaultheria shallon*: Widespread in our sanctuary, this small evergreen shrub typically grows to 2 or 3 feet in height. Like the vine maple, salal can grow in a variety of conditions, sun or shade, and will tolerate dry to moist soils. Small pinkish-white flowers bloom in the shady understory of our

forest. Daniel Mathews quotes David Douglas: "April 1825. Saturday the 9th in company with Mr. Scouler I went ashore on Cape Disappointment as the ship could not proceed up the river in consequence of heavy rains and thick fogs. On stepping on the shore the *Gaultheria shallon* was the first plant I took in my hands. So pleased was I that I could scarcely see anything but it. Mr. Menzies correctly observes that it... would make a valuable addition to our gardens." Mathews also notes, "According to Kwakiutl protocol pure salal cakes were exclusive fare for chiefs at feasts; the hoi polloi were allowed only cakes of salal berries stretched with less sweet fruit." And for the creatures Link writes, "The berries are eaten by grouse, band-tailed pigeons, towhees, and other ground-feeding birds. Bear, fox, coyotes, and smaller mammals also eat the berries. Twigs are eaten by deer. Leaves are eaten by brown elfin butterfly larvae."



Salal © Tammi Miller

Western Bleeding Heart – *Dicentra Formosa*:

Graceful fernlike leaves and pendulous pink flowers make this perennial groundcover a beautiful choice for the home landscape. We are pleased to have a healthy population growing wild in our sanctuary. Pojar and MacKinnon note that the bleeding heart prefers "moist forests, ravines, and stream banks at low to middle elevations." In your yard it will do well in the shadier areas. Link notes, "The flowers attract hummingbirds and the leaves are eaten by clodius parnassians butterfly larvae. There is a little glob of fat on each seed, which attracts ants and ensures that the seed is moved around and new patches established."



Bleeding Heart © Tammi Miller

Sources:

Pojar and MacKinnon: *Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast*, Lone Pine Publishing.
Mathews, Daniel: *Cascade-Olympic Natural History*, Raven Editions.
Link, Russell: *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Nature Store Highlights

by Sally Loomis, Nature Store Book Buyer

The spring season has brought an abundance of cool new birding and nature books. Here are some brief notes about a dozen new titles currently available in the Nature Store — please drop by and take a look!

The remarkable lives of three notable birders are highlighted in recent books. Portland Audubon's own Dave Marshall tells the story of his life in *Memoirs of a Wildlife Biologist*.* Another Oregon birder familiar to many of us is Eugene-based Alan Contreras, author of *Afield: Forty Years of Birding in the American West*.* Olivia Gentile

has written a biography of the late Phoebe Snetsinger, the newly published *Life List: A Woman's Quest for the World's Most Amazing Birds*. Snetsinger is known as the woman who listed over 8,000 bird species while battling cancer.

Birds of North America is a new complete photographic guide from the American Museum of Natural History, with photos of every species. This is a coffee-table-type reference work, with information on population status, comparison shots of similar species, and tidbits about behavior that make for lots of fun reading.

Taking an international perspective, *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Birds* is also a great reference work, lushly illustrated, with segments on a variety of bird families, including mini-essays on behavior and conservation issues.

The many fans of poet and essayist Gary Snyder here in the Northwest will enjoy his new work *Tamalpais Walking*, created in collaboration with woodcut artist Tom Killion. The artwork is gorgeous!

Unleashed is a collection of wildlife portraits by Seattle artist Catherine Eaton Skinner. The paintings truly capture the spirit of the animals depicted, including a wonderful peregrine on the front cover.



Reed College creative writing professor Peter Rock sets his newest novel here in Forest Park. *My Abandonment* is based on a true story.



Well-known birding author Pete Dunne's newest release is *Prairie Spring: A Journey Into the Heart of a Season*, a collection of essays about birding and ecology set in the American heartland. This is the first of a four-book series about the seasons.

Examining the stealthy impact of noise pollution, Port Angeles, WA author Gordon Hempton presents *One Square Inch of Silence: One Man's Search for Natural Silence in a Noisy World*. The book comes with a CD of natural soundscapes.

Environmentalism in Popular Culture: Gender, Race, Sexuality, and the Politics of the Natural by Noel Sturgeon is a critique of how environmental and natural images are used in popular culture, and how that impacts issues of environmental and social equity. Sturgeon is on the faculty of Washington State University.

Finally, fans of rodents should note that Tamara Eder has released *Squirrels of North America*, which expands and updates her 1999 classic, *Squirrels of the West*.

*Mark your calendar for a special book signing event with Dave Marshall and Alan Contreras on June 20 — details next month.



Brown Pelican © Don Baccus

Art Exhibit and Sale Features Don Baccus

During the month of May, we will feature the avian photography of Don Baccus in the Audubon Interpretive Center. His work is frequently seen on our website as well as in the pages of the *Warbler*. Don has been photographing birds seriously for about 25 years. His photographs have appeared in national magazines such as *Birding*, *WildBird*, *National Geographic Kids*, as well as in regional magazines, newspapers, and books. He's a past board member of the Audubon Society of Portland, has volunteered for HawkWatch International since 1989, and created and finances <http://birdnotes.net>, a popular resource for Pacific Northwest birders. Don's framed photographs will be for sale with 40% of the proceeds generously donated to Portland Audubon.

Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

In Honor

Pamela L. Eyde
Dick & Jackie Eyde

Rebecca Lester & Gesher Kitzler
Lisa A. Jones

Ginnie Ross
Jeanne L. Beyer

In Memory

Keith "Bud" Bellingham
Jennifer Snarski

Rachel Bray
Jim & Beverly Giuffre

Thomas Burgess
Katherine Wood
Robert White
Cora White

Al Miller
Edward & Judith Hansen
Eve & Denis Heidtmann
Oncology Unit at Kaiser Permanente
Rachel & Bill Parmenter
Ray Rockoff

Mike Uhtoff
Edward & Judith Hansen
Eve & Denis Heidtmann
Jack Richard

J. Earle & Eleanor Wodtli
Marilyn Stinnett

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

Cowbird and House Finch Local History

"I knew it was a **Cowbird** instantly, but was certainly amazed," commented Mrs. Althea Bailey when she reported the visitation of a male Cowbird to her feeding station above Oswego Lake. Mrs. Bailey was familiar with this comparative newcomer to Western Oregon from her experiences in Texas where they are common.

"A female Cowbird visited the yard of Mrs. Scott Redfried, Jr., regularly throughout the month of April, 1954. She reported that the attention of the family was first drawn to the Cowbird because it lit on their horse and walked about the horse's feet feeding on disturbed insects. The complete fearlessness of the Cowbird for the horse, and the care with which the horse stepped around the bird indicated some bond between the two.

"The recent advance of the Cowbird into the Willamette Valley is on a parallel with the House Finches which recently moved northward to establish themselves as an abundant bird in Western Oregon. The House Finches first appeared at Portland, according to the records of the Warbler Editor, in 1939."

— Tom McAllister's account of the first Cowbirds reported in the Portland area in the May 1955 *Audubon Warbler*

When the first pioneers arrived, the **Cowbird** was very rare in the Oregon Territory. Over the years it slowly increased so that by 1925 it was a 'rare to uncommon' summer resident in Lake, Harney, and Malheur Counties. It remained very uncommon elsewhere until about 1950, when it began to increase to 'uncommon to fairly common' through eastern Oregon and Washington into southern British Columbia.

In the Willamette Valley it was considered a summer straggler with a 1946 breeding record from Eugene. The increase during the 1950s brought it to 'uncommon to fairly common' west of the Cascades.

In recent years the Cowbird has been on a slow but steady decrease. Its Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia populations are now about half of what they were following the historic increase.

Prior to 1940 the **House Finch** was a fairly common species throughout eastern Oregon and northward into the Umpqua Valley west of the Cascades. During this period it was slowly increasing in eastern Washington, so its presence in Oregon may have been fairly recent.



House Finch © Jim Cruce

By 1940 the House Finch had expanded northward through the Willamette Valley and had reached the Seattle area by 1950. Its range now covers all of Oregon, Washington, and southern British Columbia. While the Oregon population remains fairly constant or is slightly decreasing, the Washington and British Columbia populations are steadily increasing.

Sightings

A large number of **Greater** and **Lesser Scaup** wintered this year on the Columbia River east of the Portland airport. On February 27 Art Clausen found a full adult male **Tufted Duck** among the flock. It remained into April, attracting a lot of attention. While checking the flock March 29, Shawneen Finnegan and David Mandell picked out a bright male **Red-breasted Merganser** cavorting with a group of **Common Mergansers**. Art Clausen checked the flock again March 30 and noticed a pair of **Barrow's Goldeneyes** among some **Common Goldeneyes**.

Say's Phoebes made a good showing this spring. Adrian Hinkle found the first one March 1 in Oaks Bottom, with some still being seen into April. They are uncommon spring migrants west of the Cascades. On March 19 Bill Bradford reported two **Mountain Bluebirds** on the Sandy River Delta. Several were seen there since. On March 26 John Richter observed a pair of **Mountain Bluebirds** at Powell Butte Park near Gresham.

A young **Golden Eagle** has been seen all spring flying over Sauvie Island and Ridgefield NWR. Dave Helzer reported the first **Osprey** near the Portland airport March 3. Bill Clemons reported that the Fernhill Wetlands bird returned March 13. Most were back by the end of the month.

Mike Gellerman saw a group of early **Black-throated Gray Warblers** March 16 at Bethany Pond in north Hillsboro. Cliff and Joanne Weber had a bright male **Calliope Hummingbird** at their Beaverton feeders March 25.

Volunteer of the Month: Sarah McCarty

by Ann Takamoto and Gary Slone

There's a lot of planning for Birdathon that happens behind the scenes. It takes months to contact sponsors and accumulate prizes, and to get teams organized, participants signed up, and pledges coming through Audubon's door. While this work is in full swing, we want to take a moment to acknowledge one person whose contributions are critical to the effort, our **Volunteer of the Month, Sarah McCarty**.



© Portland Audubon

Sarah has been the backbone of the Birdathon Planning Committee for the past 9 years, doing whatever is needed to assure that every registration is recorded, every participant is tracked, and every pledge is accounted for, making sure that Counters and Pledgers alike have a great experience.

This year we asked Sarah to do one more thing — help us integrate our new Birdathon website into the work flow, help make the transition from analog to digital as seamless as possible. No small task considering that we have been doing things the same way for many years now. Sarah has taken to the new technology *like a duck to water* and has been *unflappable*, assuming her new role as the Birdathon Webmaster with enthusiasm and ease.

Over the years, Sarah has fulfilled many Birdathon roles and held numerous Birdathon titles, some official and some not, but her contributions have always been invaluable. In the past, she took on the job as the committee chairwoman, for three separate years. She's also been the Birdathon prize coordinator, as well as a frequent field trip leader for the Magpies. One year she even took the obscure title of "Birdathon Oz," helping Birdathon Coordinator Gary Slone in an advisory capacity when her time for hands-on volunteering was in short supply.

So, what does she do with her spare time? She volunteers for OHSU! And when not volunteering for Audubon or OHSU, Sarah is frequently traveling, birding and adding to her life list.

Please join us in honoring Sarah's outstanding volunteer service. We greatly appreciate her gift of boundless energy, creativity, and enthusiasm. Audubon is certainly lucky to have such a dedicated bird lover!

and supplies from Aurora. When we need help maintaining the flight cages, Mandy's there. Last year she picked up over 30 pumpkins for our Halloween event; and, if it weren't for Mandy, the education birds wouldn't have gravel for the bottom of their enclosures.

We thank these exceptional volunteers for their continued years of service and dedication!

Congratulations to Our Mamie Campbell Award Winners for 2009!

by Deanna Sawtelle, Volunteer Coordinator

The Audubon Society of Portland takes pride in the fact that a large amount of its success is due to dedicated volunteers. Much of what we accomplish is through their generosity and commitment. **Our volunteers devoted 28,621 hours to Audubon during 2008!** That's a 22.5 percent increase over 2007; and, in terms of equivalent staff, our volunteers would add 14 staff members!

At the Annual Volunteer Celebration, Audubon recognizes its most dedicated volunteers by awarding the Mamie Campbell Award for volunteer achievement. Mamie was an ardent conservationist in the 1920s and '30s. Established in 1985, the Mamie Campbell Award is given to volunteers who have demonstrated time and time again that they are committed to Audubon's mission. They have a sustained and long-term commitment to Portland Audubon and have demonstrated leadership and role-modeling qualities.

Don Coggswell has helped lead eco-tours to Olympic National Park, twice to Costa Rica, and three times to both the Klamath Basin and the Mt. Adams Elderhostel. He's a wonderful trip leader. He exudes an unflappable mellowness, while at the same time he uses his finely tuned detection system to identify the needs of the people he's leading and to sense all of the wildlife in the area. Put another way, he's sharp as a tack when it comes to birding and very good with people. Don also helped build a new bunkhouse for Marmot Cabin so Audubon could continue to run overnight summer camps and outdoor schools at the site. He worked on it for four days straight from sunup to sundown, always with a cheerful smile on his face.

Reuben Rich showed up for his first Wildlife Care Center shift five years ago. He cleaned cages, did loads of laundry and dishes, medicated patients, and talked to many concerned visitors about living with wildlife. He's quick to volunteer for any task, no matter how dirty or mundane. Reuben is one of our education bird handlers so he's at Audubon often with Julio, Ruby, Finnegan, and most recently Aristophanes. To quote the Care Center staff, "If you're in a pinch and need someone to drive an hour to get mice, pick up a hawk, deliver sacks of pine shavings, or be on a fundraising committee, then Reuben's your guy."

Carole Hallett's knowledge and dedication when it comes to 'all things raptor' is beyond measure, as is the generosity of her time to projects that help to improve raptor-human relations. She began her volunteer career at Audubon in the 1980s as a Wildlife Care Center volunteer. She helps raise



Mamie Campbell Award winners (from left): Don Coggs, Cindy von Ofenheim, Mandy Sims, Carole Hallett, and Reuben Rich. © Portland Audubon

birds of prey and hawks them back to the wild, feeding and monitoring them until they are able to survive on their own. She's our master hawk rescuer and will catch birds that have been trapped inside buildings. These days you'll often find Carole on Sauvie Island where she does raptor surveys, installs and surveys kestrel nest boxes, and trains all of our kestrel monitors.

It seems like **Cindy von Ofenheim** has done just about everything at Audubon. She's led sanctuary tours and been the receptionist. She's helped with special events including the Native Plant Sale, Raptor Road Trip, and Wild Arts Festival. She stepped up to be one of the original members of the Volunteer Council, lending her leadership skills to help the Volunteer Program be successful — and those leadership skills also helped make our first Halloween event a wonderful family activity last year. As a Nature Store volunteer, Cindy picks up extra shifts and helps visitors with her birding skills. The store staff describes Cindy as a fun-loving person who is great with the public and willing to do anything you ask her to do. In short, they love her there!

And finally, **Mandy Sims**. Every nonprofit organization needs its own "go to" person, and ours is Mandy. She volunteers every week in the Wildlife Care Center where she helps with all the cleaning and rehab efforts. She's very good at helping people understand how they can live with urban wildlife as she answers questions, on the phone or in person, about woodpeckers and raccoons. She does it all with a huge amount of enthusiasm that energizes everyone around her. Going well beyond her shift, she helped catch a Bald Eagle in Vancouver, and picked up mice from Newport



Bird Song Walks 2009

Audubon Society of Portland is proud to sponsor the 2009 season of weekday morning Bird Song Walks! From beginners to advanced birders, anyone who is fascinated by the sounds of birds should take advantage of these guided walks to the Metro area's prime spring migration hot-spots. By starting with the earliest trips you can learn the songs of the common resident species, and then when the migrants arrive you'll be able to sort them out during the morning chorus.

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

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

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

Mondays

April 27 May 11 May 25
May 4 May 18 June 1

Tryon Creek State Park

Directions: Take the Terwilliger Blvd Exit off I-5 and head south on Terwilliger toward Lewis and Clark College. Stay on Terwilliger Blvd past the intersections with Taylors Ferry Road and with Boones Ferry Road. At the traffic circle, continue past the entrance to Lewis and Clark Northwest School of Law and follow the brown sign to Tryon Creek State Park, which is approximately 1 mile ahead on the right. [Lewis & Clark TriMet Bus #39 stops at the park entrance, 0.4 miles from the Nature Center; call 503-231-3239 or check www.trimet.org.] Meet at the entrance to the Nature Center. Walks start at 7am.

Wednesdays

April 29 May 13 May 27
May 6 May 20 June 3



Bewick's Wren
© Jim Cruce

Mt. Tabor

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

Fridays

May 1 May 22
May 8 May 29
May 15 June 5

Pittock Mansion

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

Tuesdays

April 28 May 12 May 26
May 5 May 19 June 2

Tualatin Hills Nature Park

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



White-crowned Sparrow
© Don Baccus

Thursdays

April 30 May 14 May 28
May 7 May 21 June 4

The Nature Conservancy's Camassia Preserve

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



Lazuli Bunting © Jim Cruce

Audubon Birding Weekends 2009 – A Portal to Birding Oregon



Paul Sullivan

These popular trips fill early and there is often a waiting list. About 10 days before the trip, I send a letter giving details like lodging options, meeting place, schedule, possible birds, etc. You are responsible for your transportation, food, and lodging, and I try to help arrange carpooling. We stay in the same lodging two nights. We meet for breakfast on Saturday, carpool and bird all day, and bird half of Sunday.

Registration is \$35 per person for each weekend. Please make your separate checks payable to the **Audubon Society of Portland**. Register by Tuesday before the weekend you plan to attend.

Include the following registration information for each weekend you wish to attend: Your name(s), address, phone, email, number of attendees, trip you wish to join, and amount enclosed.

Send the registration to **Paul Sullivan, 4470 SW Murray Blvd #26, Beaverton, OR 97005**. Questions? Email Paul at ptsullivan@spiritone.com or call 503-646-7889.

Detailed registration information can be found in previous *Warblers*. See a complete 2009 schedule at www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult-weekends.

UPCOMING BIRDING WEEKENDS

May 23–25 — Malheur County

We'll explore the birding haunts of this spectacular county to find spring migrants and early summer nesters. We'll look for shorebirds, raptors, waterfowl, and songbirds too. **Base: Ontario.**

June 6–7 — Malheur NWR

We will visit this mecca of Oregon birding at the prime time to find regular spring migrants. This is also an excellent time of year for unusual vagrants. **Base: Malheur Field Station.**

July 25–26 — Lane County

We'll visit Fern Ridge reservoir to see the diverse array of migrant shorebirds, as well as waterfowl and upland songbirds. We will also visit the coast at Florence. **Base: Eugene.**

Welcome, New Members!

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

Katie Acheff	Cheryl Fischer	Kristi Lopakka
Julia Apple	Nick Fish	Elaine May
Devan Archibald	Peggy Fowler	Linda McGavin
Aaron Babbie and Ara Vallaster	Tamara Franks	Melissa Medick
Cathy Beach	Hugh and Mary Gingell	Michael Merrill
Cynthia and Avraham Ben-Zaken	T. K. Goldenbaum	Kristen and Steve Merryman
Ronnie Boicourt	Jennifer Hanson and David VanSpeybroeck	Maurice Miller
Shannon Buchanan	Julie and Ron Heath	Henry Miller
Rob Burkhart	Finn Henell	Moody Family
Jennifer and Philip Cappelanga	Cheryl Hill	Erin Moore
Josh and Nikki Cerra	Evelyn Hoffman	Celia Ruth Moreau
Connie Chapman	Noah Homberg	Susan Mroz
John Chappo	Patsy Homberg	Jody Naff
Greg Christianson	Samuel Imperati	Helena Neumann
Kasey Church	Virginia Israelit	Melissa Ocana
Rob Clump	Jeri Jenkins	Kate Ostergren
Robert Cole	Carol Jensen	John O'Toole
Margaret Cruise	Ernest Jones	Renee and Michael Paradis
Barbara Cuesta	William Jourdan	Suzanne and David Parsons
Jennifer D'Avanzo	Debra Joy	Michael Precure
Darcel and Robert Dillard	Frank Junga	Susan Raeburn
Gina Drew	Lisa Kinsley	Paula Rebsom
Jocelyn Duffy	Drew Laurence and Yvonne Farrell	Tom Richardson
Daniel Dyer	Ita Lindquist and Todd Kaehler	Bruce Roll
Laura Ehrlich	Anna Lio and Brian McIntyre	Kristin Rostad and Devan Archibald
Peter and Nancy Fenner		Allen and Martha Rouse

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

Wish List & Thank you's

Thank you to:

- Jeanette Egger for 2 long-handled pruners, 3 pairs of gloves, and 4 bottles of Dawn dish soap
- Catherine Fredrickson for cat food and a pet carrier for the Wildlife Care Center
- Mark Greenfield for a film Minolta X700 SLR camera, case, zoom lenses, and a Leupold 25x50 scope
- Judith Hansen for 7 Wild Arts posters and historical photos
- Claudia McNellis for a MacBook laptop
- David Smith for a laptop and a scope with a mount
- Food Front Co-op for a donation to Nature Store events
- Old Wives' Tales for a donation to Nature Store events
- Steve's Cheese for a donation to Nature Store events

Our Wish List:

For Education:

Laptop computer • Powerpoint Projector

For Sanctuary:

Loppers • Hand saws • Work gloves
Watering wand hose attachment

For Wildlife Care Center:

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

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

Important Bird Area of the Month

by Mary Coolidge, Assistant Conservation Director

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Historical and Ecological Significance

Most Portlanders know that our fair city hosts both the largest urban forested park and the smallest urban park in the nation. Less well known is that we also house one of the nation's largest protected urban wetlands, the nearly 2,000-acre area formerly known as Smith and Bybee Lakes. The Important Bird Area designation also encompasses the 240-acre St. Johns Landfill, which provides valuable grassland habitat adjacent to the wetlands.

Over 200 years ago, the area was a complex of channels, sloughs, wetlands, ponds, and forests that acted as a floodplain at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. Like many industrial riparian areas, this area underwent much dredging, diking, filling, clearing, and development. **Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area** now sits amidst North Portland warehouses, factories, port terminals, and roadways, but still acts as a remnant of the estuary system, providing stormwater flood storage, important fish and wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge and filtration, and accessible open space for education, recreation, and wildlife viewing. Visitors may be surprised to see River Otter, Beaver, Bald Eagle, Western Painted Turtle, and Black-tailed Deer all inhabiting this industrially situated site.

Management efforts by Metro and advocacy by Friends of Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area are facilitating the site's return to its historical ecology. Installation of a water control structure in 2003 allows for control of the water flow between the Columbia Slough and Bybee Lake. This provides fish passage and affords the imitation of historic hydrological conditions. Seasonal lowering of water levels creates an emergent wetland, exposes mudflats, and improves the natural diversity of the ecosystem, including restoration of a riparian willow forest. The wetlands are protected by a *Natural Resources Management Plan* adopted in 1990 to maintain and enhance the wetlands "to the extent possible, in a manner that is faithful to their original natural condition."

The St. Johns Landfill, a 238-acre land area which contains 50 years of Portland's garbage, is an important inclusion within the Important Bird Area. Upon its closure in 1991, the landfill was capped and continues to be used for

methane collection. The possibility of contaminated leachate seeping into surface and groundwater is an ongoing concern, and multi-year monitoring is required under a DEQ closure permit for the landfill. This is part of an effort to reintegrate the landfill into its surrounding environment.

The only documented breeding population of **Streaked Horned Larks** in Multnomah County exists on the nearby Port of Portland-owned Rivergate site, and they have been observed within the wildlife area of the landfill in winter months. Metro has seeded native grasses and forbs on five acres, and is discussing a candidate conservation agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor for the Streaked Horned Lark at the landfill, which would guide habitat restoration efforts for the species. This agreement would also provide Metro with some protections against additional regulation should the Streaked Horned Lark ever be listed federally.

Non-native species at Smith and Bybee are the usual cast of characters in the Willamette Valley: Himalayan Blackberry, Reed Canarygrass, Thistle, Purple Loosestrife, Nutria, European Starling, Eastern Cottontail, Bullfrog, and Carp. Invasive species pose an increasing threat to wildlife, particularly taken in the context of a host of cumulative environmental impacts. Climate change, development, and habitat fragmentation alone result in considerable additive pressures to birds and wildlife. Natural areas like Smith and Bybee Wetlands, together with other anchor natural areas in the urban landscape and secondary habitats like parks, greenspaces, and natureescaped backyards, provide crucial contiguous habitat through our urban areas for a diverse array of birds, mammals, and amphibians. Non-native plant

Streaked Horned Lark.
Photo: Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife



Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is located southwest of Hayden Island in North Portland. © Jim Labbe

species crowd out native flora and degrade the habitat with which our native fauna have coevolved, diminishing their food and cover resources. Efforts to manage invasives at Smith and Bybee are ongoing.

Species of Ornithological Significance

Smith and Bybee Wetlands are known to host over 100 bird species. **Great Blue Heron** nest on site, as well as **Bald Eagle, Osprey, Willow Flycatcher, Marsh Wren, and Savannah Sparrow. Peregrine Falcon** and **Northern Harrier** hunt the marshes and meadows. Tens of thousands of waterfowl winter in the wildlife area, including **Canada Goose, Green-winged Teal, Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Mallard, Common Merganser, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, American Widgeon, Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, Wood Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, and Great Egret.** There are also occasional sightings of **Canvasback, Redhead, Blue-winged Teal, and Tundra Swan.**

Access

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area is open daily from sunrise to sunset. A parking area and viewpoint sit just south of Marine Drive, 2.5 miles west of Interstate 5. Bicycles are not allowed in the natural area, but the parking lot contains a bike rack. You can wend your way into the wetland area via paved trail to two wildlife-viewing structures, or take advantage of the canoe launch to paddle the wetlands.

Get Involved

Metro organizes Citizen Science teams to monitor both amphibians and birds, and Portland Audubon will be hosting a **Bird Monitoring Training course on May 16 and 17 for birders who are interested in monitoring on IBAs.** Contact Mary Coolidge at mcoolidge@audubonportland.org for more information.

Estate Planning Seminar

If you are thinking of doing your estate planning, please join us for a brief seminar on wills, trusts, estate planning, estate taxes, and the tax aspects of charitable giving with attorneys Philip Jones and Holly Mitchell. Phil is a former member of the Audubon Society of Portland board. He and Holly Mitchell practice estate planning with the Portland law firm of Duffy Kekel LLP. This free seminar will be held on **Wednesday, May 27, at 7:30 p.m.** in Heron Hall, and will be followed by a question-and-answer period. **Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 26, to Ann at atakamoto@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6117.** We hope you can join us!

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 & field guides, birding software, CDs, DVDs, binoculars and spotting scopes, birdfeeders and seed, plus gifts & toys for adults & children, all with a nature theme.

Portland Audubon members receive a 10% discount off regular prices.



The Nature Store is pleased to announce a rare opportunity to buy our best-quality optics at an extraordinary discount. From April 1 to August 31, 2009, **Swarovski Optik celebrates their 60th anniversary** with special sale prices on binoculars. Each "60 Year Edition"

product includes a Snap Shot adapter, case, rainguard, objective lens covers, special certificate, and carrying strap imprinted with Swarovski's Anniversary emblem. With savings of **\$400 or more off the list price of our favorite EL models**, you'll want to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

Also, this spring Swarovski takes their legendary High-Definition optics to a new level with the introduction of **ATM-HD and STM-HD Spotting Scopes.** These state-of-the-art scopes feature **magnesium body** technology, resulting in lower weight with maximum stability. The **fluoride HD lenses** minimize color fringing (chromatic aberration) and feature a non-stick **Swaroclean coating** to shed water and make cleaning fast and easy.



And lastly, a new Swarovski wide-angle scope eyepiece designed to fit all current scope models arrives later this summer. The **25-50x WW** features **wide-angle zoom** capability across the entire magnification range. Its lightweight optical system includes an **aspherical lens** for an edge-to-edge viewing experience in sharp detail. First delivery is anticipated in July.



PORTLAND AUDUBON'S NATURE STORE

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

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

What's New for Birdathon 2009?!

by Gary Slone, Birdathon Coordinator

"Dojiggy"... what's that?

Audubon's Development Department and the Birdathon Planning Committee have begun using a brand new user-friendly web tool allowing Birdathon participants to create their own personal web pages. You might not have noticed it at first because the system is seamlessly merged into Audubon's website. Now, anyone participating in Birdathon can track their own pledges, post photos, and leave messages for their friends and supporters. It's fun to use and on track to increase Birdathon participation and donations.

Check it out at www.audubonportland.dojiggy.com. Look for your friends' web pages. Join a Birdathon team or make a Birdathon pledge.



Gary Slone © Portland Audubon

Get to know "Your Feathered Friends"

Saturday, May 2, 8am-2pm • Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens

"Your Feathered Friends" is a new Birdathon team designed to introduce birding to beginners. The public is invited to discover the colorful, magical world of migratory birds with the help of the experts from our Master Birder Program. Look for the Birdathon 2009 tent in the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens in southeast Portland. Our Master Birders there will provide spotting scopes, binoculars, and keen eyes to help you pick out and identify "your feathered friends." Learn how to identify waterfowl, herons, and a wide variety of songbirds such as warblers, finches, woodpeckers, and swallows. Consider it your very own crash course in bird identification. It's designed specifically for anyone new to birding, and families and children are especially welcome. Bring your own binoculars and field guides if you have them. Dress for the weather; this event takes place rain or shine. Registration is required.

New Birdathon Teams

There are plenty of new Birdathon trips and teams this year. Visit their websites and see these great additions to Birdathon.

Your Feathered Friends

www.audubonportland.dojiggy.com/friends

This team is designed specifically for anyone new to birding. Families and children are especially welcome. Let Audubon's Master Birders introduce you to a whole new world of birdwatching!

Saturday, May 2, at the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Gardens.

The Road Jaegers

www.audubonportland.dojiggy.com/RoadJaegers

This team retraces Tim Janzen's record-breaking Birdathon route, 230 species in 2004!

The Lean Green Birding Machine

www.audubonportland.dojiggy.com/machine

Birding from "lean green" hybrid vehicles!

Saturday, May 9, 7am-9pm

Peregrinations

www.audubonportland.dojiggy/peregrinations

Bob Sallinger and his family make their Birdathon debut!

Roadrunners

www.audubonportland.dojiggy.com/road

Fantastic new Overnight Bike & Bird Tour!

Saturday-Sunday, May 2-3, 8am-3pm

Winterhaven Widgeon Watchers

www.audubonportland.dojiggy.com/wizards

Audubon volunteer Jerry Pederson helps Winterhaven Middle School kids with their science and nature studies. Show your support and make a pledge to this great team!

Buy a Birdathon 2009 Commemorative pin!

Here's one more way you can show you've supported Birdathon: Visit the Audubon Nature Store during the month of May and add a beautiful enamel pin to your purchases. We have a very limited supply and they're only \$5.00!



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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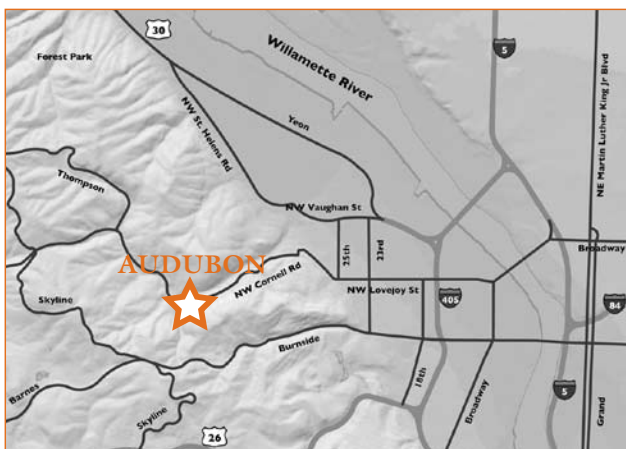
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Executive..... Peter Paquet
Finance..... Ken Ivey
Membership & Development..... Nancy Jane Cushing
Sanctuaries..... Ann Littlewood

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