

Warbler



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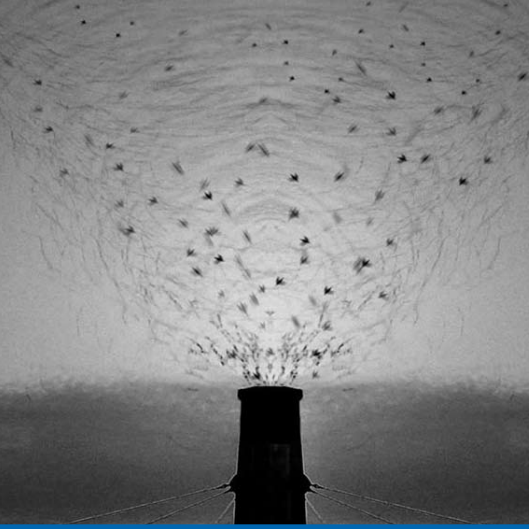
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Vaux's Swift clings to vertical wall. © PAWS Wildlife Center



Swifts swirl into the chimney at Chapman School. © Steve Warner



Closeup of Vaux's Swift shows large eye and intricate feathers. © PAWS Wildlife Center

Swift Watch 2009

by Steve Engel, Adult Education Coordinator

September is here and that means large numbers of one of our area's most popular birds, the **Vaux's Swift** (*Chaetura vauxi*), will be passing through Portland as they migrate to Central and South America. At this time of year, the urge to join with other swifts for safety and warmth each evening replaces the territorial behavior that dominates during the nesting period of June, July, and August. Young swifts that hatched this year are on their own now and presumably follow the lead of more experienced birds in finding a safe place to sleep. Communal roosting becomes the normal behavior for the population as it makes its way south during late August and September.

The best-known communal roost site of Vaux's (pronounced VOX's) Swifts is the Chapman School chimney in Northwest Portland. Reliable estimates of up to 40,000 birds in a single evening have been made, and it is considered to be the largest known roost site for the species in the world. In 2000 Portland Audubon worked

with Northwest Natural Gas, Metro, and the Collins and Autzen Foundations to decommission and stabilize the chimney. This helped ensure that it would be available to future generations of migrating swifts. **As we have since 1994, volunteers from the Audubon Society of Portland will be present again this year at Chapman School to take questions, offer information, display specimens of swifts and their nests, and provide binoculars and a spotting scope for viewing.**

The number of people who gather to view this spectacle each evening in September has grown steadily in recent years. Some evenings close to 3,000 people arrange themselves on the grass with a view of the chimney. Watching the swifts gather overhead into a tornado-like cloud — rotating right and then left and then right again before beginning to funnel into the chimney just after sunset — has become a very popular Portland pastime.

Vaux's Swift Counts Around the Metropolitan Area

by Mary Coolidge, Assistant Conservation Director

Vaux's Swifts are stunning aerialists that nest in hollow, large-diameter trees in western forests. Harvesting of late seral stage coniferous forests, however, has reduced the availability of such snags. Thus, swifts have become an increasingly common sight in chimneys (urban substitutes for snags) in both urban and suburban settings throughout their range. Migrating swifts roost communally in chimneys, and here in Portland, public support has led to a well-loved nightly September spectacle at Chapman School.

But population trends require collection and analysis of more extensive information about swift numbers. Efforts

are being made to count swifts in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and British Columbia. Portland Audubon is expanding our effort to numerous locations in the Metropolitan area, and volunteers will count at some of the more prolific roost sites.

If you are interested in evening monitoring during the month of September, contact Mary Coolidge at mcoolidge@audubonportland or 503-292-6855 ext.111. Commitment: 4 or more nights in September, around sunset. Training will be provided.

Planning Your Swift Watch

We are anticipating similar numbers of people coming to view the swifts this year. Whether you are a first-time Swift Watcher or a veteran of many years, there are things you can do to help keep this unique experience enjoyable and educational for everyone, while also minimizing the impact of the thousands of visitors on the residential neighborhood around the school.

Portland Audubon is enlisting the help of every Swift Watcher to develop a spirit of community mindfulness by following and sharing these tips with others:

- **Use public transportation** when possible. The Portland Streetcar and bus lines #15 and #17 all travel within 3 blocks of Chapman School.
- **Be mindful of where you park.** It is illegal to block a residence's driveway or to double park. Avoid the frustration of searching for a parking spot close to the school (they are all gone by 6pm or even sooner) and plan to walk up to 6 blocks to the school from where you park.

We encourage you to make use of **FREE-NO-HASSLE-PARKING** just 5 blocks from the school at Montgomery Park. Travel west on Vaughn Street past the traffic light at NW 27th and use the second right-hand turn into the parking lot. To get to the school, walk back to the light and go south to the school at 27th and Raleigh. Allow 10 minutes from the time you park to walk to the school.

- **Respect the rights and privacy of the neighbors.** You are one of many, many people who will be visiting their neighborhood during September.
- **Pick up your trash and litter,** as well as a little extra, when you leave. Especially cardboard and micro-trash.
- **Leash your dog. Pick up after your dog.**
- **It is illegal to consume alcoholic beverages on public school grounds.**
- **It is illegal to smoke on public school grounds.**
- **Keep an eye on your children;** we want everyone to be safe.
- **Do not loiter on school grounds after the event** has finished.
- Remember to **watch and listen to the Swifts!**

By following these simple tips, the 2009 Swift Watch will be enjoyable for all who come to view the Vaux's swifts, as well as for the neighbors who live in the area.

The Portland Police Bureau, Portland's Department of Transportation, and Portland's Crime Prevention Program are working together with Audubon Society of Portland and the Northwest Development Association to help keep Swift Watch a positive experience for everyone involved. *Special Thanks to the Bill Naito Company for their generous use of the Montgomery Park parking lot.*

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Wild Arts Festival coming in November — see page 12.



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

The Call to Build a Sanctuaries Stewardship Endowment



Meryl Redisch

Imagine hiking along miles of trails in one of our region's urban forests, surrounded by a mixed canopy of native trees, shrubs, and ground cover. You're enjoying the sounds and solitude of nature, appreciating the habitat and its wildlife, and being impressed by what's noticeably absent: **invasive plants!**

Together, we have a wonderful but time-sensitive opportunity to create such a place. Portland Audubon's 150-acre wildlife sanctuaries, located within the greater Forest Park ecosystem and Balch Creek watershed, is undergoing a transformation. It began a couple of years ago with considerably more habitat-restoration-based projects performed by volunteer groups and AmeriCorps teams. Recently, a more serious and concerted effort to significantly reduce invasive species got under way, and soon a push to plant thousands of native trees and shrubs will begin.

Through the recent purchase of the Collins Sanctuary by Metro, we have a terrific head start on eradicating the invasive plant assault that is undermining the native ecology of our natural landscapes. Already, restoration crews have applied treatments to acres of ivy and clematis in this sanctuary, and the results are starkly evident. Deep brown swaths of dead ivy are visible in steep gullies and around big Douglas fir trees.

Additional rounds of treatment will eliminate most remaining patches and also remove American holly, another undesirable plant. Once the non-natives are gone, these pockets of available space will be planted with thousands of native trees and shrubs including Western red cedar, Douglas fir, Indian plum, and ocean spray. This focused effort is an excellent start, but only with regular maintenance by volunteers and paid crews will we be able to manage these sanctuaries for long-term ecological health.

To restore and nurture our sanctuaries so they represent a healthy and complex forest supporting native plants and animals, we need long-term and sustained funding. To ensure that people have an enjoyable, safe, and inspiring experience in nature, we need the financial resources that will make this possible, especially as we welcome more people to our Forest Park campus.

For the first time, Portland Audubon has established a designated endowment for the stewardship of these precious assets. To help us jumpstart a \$250,000 Sanctuaries Stewardship Campaign, the Collins family has challenged us with a dollar-for-dollar match. Portland Audubon needs to raise \$ 50,000 by November 30, 2010, with the first \$25,000 needed by the end of this November. With just **12 weeks** left to go, we are asking for your help with a donation of any size.

In the next few days, you will be receiving a special appeal in the mail. Please consider supporting our efforts to grow and sustain a healthy forest — for people and for native wildlife.

Another Step for Wise Resource Management

Managing our natural resources wisely also means managing our output of paper products wisely. For this reason, we are going to produce fewer *Warbler* newsletters beginning in 2010. Currently, we are producing 10 issues of the *Warbler*. Starting next calendar year, the newsletter will be delivered to your mailbox 8 times a year on the following schedule:

January/February	July/August
March	September
April/May	October/November
June	December

Please know that we will have every issue available online and will continue our monthly electronic newsletter, "The BirdWord." Please provide us with your email address and we will make sure to send you this electronic publication. Forward your email address to tmiller@audubonportland.org. Thank you for your continuing support!

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

September 2 (Wed.), 8am–10am Cooper Mountain Nature Park

Join leaders **Bonnie Deneke** and **Denny Graham** for an exploration of this newly opened nature park in Washington County. The oak woodlands support White-breasted Nuthatches and Western Bluebirds and many other songbirds. Directions: From SW Farmington Rd turn south at SW 170th Ave. After 1.4 miles turn right at SW Rigert Rd. After 0.2 miles turn left at SW 175th Ave and finally turn right at SW Kemmer Rd. You will see the parking lot on the left after 0.8 miles. Bring binoculars and water, and dress for weather. Beginners welcome!

September 19 (Sat.), 8am–10:30am Sandy River Delta

Join leaders **Gabriel Forcier** and **Robin Carpenter** on a leisurely exploration of the trails around this rich delta area. Walk through sun and shade looking for songbirds and open-country residents. Bring binoculars — and hats are recommended! From Portland take I-84 east, take Exit 18. At the stop sign turn right and loop under the freeway, continuing into the parking area. Meet leaders at 8am near the restroom. Call Robin (503-784-3245) if interested in carpooling. Beginners welcome!

September 30 (Wed.), 8am–11am Ridgefield NWR, Washington

Join us on a walk on the Kiwa Trail looking for rails and bitterns. The trail closes October 1st, so it's our last chance for this year. The trail is a flat 1.5-mile walk; dress for the weather. Meet **Ron Escano** (503-771-3454 for directions) at the Kiwa Trailhead on the Ridgefield NWR River 'S' Unit at 8am. Beginners welcome!

Wild in the City

Exploring the Intertwine

Wild in the City field tours will introduce you to some of the region's most scenic and wildlife-rich natural areas and parks and the ever-growing network of regional trails. Registration is limited for these **free trips**, 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.112 to register. **For all bicycle and paddle trips, bring your own equipment — helmets and life jackets are required.** Directions and other details will be sent to registrants. Participants will be limited in number, so sign up early!

Thurs., September 10th, 8am–11am Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

Join **Mike Houck** on a walk of bird-sight and bird-song around 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. The walk is a gentle two-mile stroll on a combination of paved and uneven dirt paths, with two moderate hills. More than 100 species of birds have been seen in Oaks Bottom, Portland's first official urban wildlife refuge.

Sat., September 12th, 9am–Noon Ross Island Paddle

Get out on the Willamette River early, before the jet skis and water skiers, for a relaxing paddle down the quiet Holgate Channel and around the four-island archipelago with leader **Mike Houck**. This quiet paddle, suitable for families, will explore the Holgate Channel and Ross Island Lagoon, where groups and individuals have worked to establish a "no-wake zone" to give kayakers and canoeists a place to paddle in peace and quiet. You'll learn why Portland Audubon, Urban Greenspaces Institute, and Willamette Riverkeeper petitioned the Oregon Marine Board to establish a no-wake zone in this area.

Sun., September 13th, Noon–3pm Grandparents Day at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge

Bring your grandparents along on a stroll with **Mike Houck** around the 160-acre Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. Learn about 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, and observe the great array of wildlife that call the Bottoms home. Suitable for families, the walk is a two-mile loop on both paved and uneven dirt paths, with two moderate hills.



Birding Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge © Mike Houck

Sat., September 19th, 9am–1pm Sauvie Island Shorebirds

Mary Coolidge and **Bob Sallinger** lead this trip during shorebird migration. We'll view restoration projects designed to improve shorebird habitat on Sauvie Island, including a collaborative effort between Audubon and ODFW at Racetrack Lake. Species likely to see include plovers, yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Western, Least, Spotted, Baird's, and Pectoral Sandpipers.

Sun., October 4th, 9am–12:30pm

Ride the Willamette River Greenway

Join **Mike Houck** on a bicycle trek along the Willamette River Greenway from the Eastbank Esplanade through Tom McCall Waterfront and South Waterfront Parks to Willamette Park, Butterfly Garden, and Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge. This family-friendly "ride on the wild side" will feature stops to view wildlife and learn about the parks and natural areas that make up the ever-expanding system of parks, trails, and natural areas called "The Intertwine."



Exploring Oaks Bottom
© Mike Houck



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.

Long Beach, Washington September 14 (Mon.), 8am–3pm

We'll meet at the Port of Ilwaco parking lot, on Howerton opposite marina and Harbor Village, at 8am. Various stops on the ocean and bay shores of Long Beach peninsula from Cape Disappointment to Ledbetter Point. Bring a scope (if you have one) and lunch, and dress for the weather. For information contact **Lou Fredd** at louisfredd@msn.com or 503-655-1956 (home) before Sept. 10, or at 503-766-8173 (cell) Sept. 10–11.

Tualatin River NWR September 21 (Mon.), 8:30am–11:30am

Easy, mostly level 2.5- to 3-mile walk through the area's newest National Wildlife Refuge, near Sherwood. We will be looking for early migrants as well as for any waterfowl and shorebirds. For information contact **Ron Spencer** at rleydens@comcast.net or 503-656-5170.

The Audubon Society of Portland is a member of Earth Share of Oregon. For more information, contact Earth Share of Oregon at 503-223-9015 or on the web at www.earthshare-oregon.org.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
30	31 = Swift Watch	1 Birders' Night 7:30pm Heron Hall	2 Cooper Mountain Nature Park Field Trip, 8am (p.2) School of Birding's Fall Quarter begins (p.7)	3	4	5
6 Bluegrass Live Music Jam 12:30pm Heron Hall	7 Admin Office and Nature Store closed LABOR DAY	8 Nature Night: Habitat-Friendly Certifications for Sustainable Development, 7pm in Heron Hall (p.3)	9	10 Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge Walk, 8am (p.2)	11	12 Ross Island Paddle, 9am (p.2) TogetherGreen Volunteer Day, 10am-4pm (p.8)
13 Grandparents Day Walk at Oaks Bottom, Noon (p.2) Fall on the Oregon Coast Elderhostel begins (p.6)	14 Magpies visit Long Beach, 8am (p.2)	15 Sparrows of Oregon Class, 7pm (p.7)	16 Fall Shorebird Migration Class, 7pm (p.7)	17 (No Board Meeting)	18	19 Sandy River Delta Field Trip, 8am (p.2) Fall Shorebird Migration Field Trip, 8am (p.7) Sauvie Island Shorebirds, 9am (p.2)
20	21 Magpies visit Tualatin River NWR, 8:30am (p.2)	22	23	24 Hawks in Flight Class, 7pm (p.7)	25	26 Board Retreat Hawks in Flight Field Trip, 9am (p.7) Birding Weekend (p.9)
27 Birding Weekend (p.9)	28 Beginning Birding I Class, 7pm (p.7)	29	30 Ridgefield NWR Field Trip, 8am (p.2) Steens Mountain trip begins (July/Aug Warbler)	1 Author presentation: <i>The Curse of the Labrador Duck</i> , 7pm (p.8)	2	3 Beginning Field Birding and Sauvie Island Exploration, 8am (p.7)
4 Beginning Birding I Field Trip, 8am (p.7) Ride the Willamette River Greenway, 9am (p.2) Bluegrass Live Music Jam 12:30pm Heron Hall	5	6 Birders' Night 7:30pm Heron Hall	7	8	9	10 Birding Weekend (p.9) BirdFest & Bluegrass at Ridgefield NWR, www.ridgefieldfriends.org

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

**Sat., October 17th, 9am-1pm
Birding Sauvie Island**

Join **Mike Houck** on a driving and birding tour of one of the region's premier birding areas. Among the treats we'll see are Sandhill Cranes, which occur in the hundreds in flocks as they fly in formation over Sauvie Island and feed on insects and grain on the island's farm fields. We'll also see Bald Eagles and other birds of prey and waterfowl that gather here in the thousands throughout the fall and winter. We'll tour Oak Island Road, Coon Point, and the island's east side.



Osprey and nest at Oaks Bottom
© Mike Houck



**Mark your calendars
for this family friendly
Halloween event!**

**Saturday, October 24, 2009
4pm - 8:30pm
\$10 per person
(recommended for kids 5-12)**

Come celebrate Halloween and learn all about the creatures of the night. Come face-to-face with Portland Audubon's Great Horned Owl, Northern Spotted Owl, Turkey Vulture, and Big Brown Bat. **Go trick-or-treating with naturalists and enjoy a night walk to investigate what creatures haunt our sanctuary at night.** Dress for the weather; the event will take place rain or dry.

Pre-registration is required. You can register online at www.audubonportland.org/halloween or call 503-292-6855 for more information. Space is limited for the event and walks, so register early!

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.

Habitat-Friendly Certifications for Sustainable Development

Tuesday, September 8, 7pm • Heron Hall

Please join us for Nature Night with speaker **Josh Cerra**, biologist/environmental designer, for a discussion about a growing trend of certification programs for sustainable development practices that address fish and wildlife habitat issues. Josh will share his recent work with Salmon-Safe to develop a new set of Certification Standards for Residential Development. Salmon-Safe is an organization devoted to restoring watersheds through market-based certification programs that provide incentives for habitat-sensitive design and management practices.

The standards outline a certification protocol for benchmarking habitat-friendly performance requirements throughout the entire residential development process, including site conservation planning, sensitive habitat protection, low-impact stormwater design, water quality guarantees, and long-term management practices. Salmon-Safe is unique in that it explicitly targets certification opportunities for fish and wildlife habitat conservation and restoration when developing projects.

The Salmon-Safe standards provide both a stand-alone certification and a convenient complement to other residential certification programs like LEED for Neighborhood Development and the Earth Advantage Communities standards. In addition to habitat considerations, benefits of Salmon-Safe certification can include lower maintenance costs for plant care and stormwater systems, as well as reduced fertilizer and pesticide use.



Conservation News

North Reach River Plan Heading to Council This Fall: Strong Support Will Be Needed to Ensure Environmental Protection

by Bob Sallinger

In November, the Portland City Council will be presented with the North Reach River Plan. This plan has been years in the making and will set the course for economic development, recreation, and environmental restoration in the North Reach of the Willamette River for the next 20–30 years. The North Reach extends from the Fremont Bridge to the confluence with the Columbia River and represents the most degraded stretch of river in Oregon. It will be critical that citizens turn out for these hearings to tell council to maintain strong environmental protection and restoration provisions in the plan and to require industry to pay its fair share of the cost.

The environmental portion of the River Plan is relatively simple. It creates a system of permanently protected natural areas spaced approximately 1/4 mile apart. This is the bare minimum that NOAA Fisheries says federally listed salmon and steelhead need to effectively traverse this stretch of river as they make their way to the sea. Outside of these sites, the plan calls for environmental zoning for the highest-value natural resources throughout the North Reach. Property owners could still develop on these sites, but they would have to mitigate for any loss of natural function. Taken together, these two provisions will allow for significant ecological improvement in the North Reach while still allowing property owners to develop their sites.

During the past eight months, industrial property owners in the North Reach have come out swinging against the plan. They tried and failed to get the Planning Commission to gut environmental provisions in the plan and now they have turned their sights on City Council. A coalition of industrial property owners known as the Working Harbor Coalition, which includes the Port of Portland, has been circulating a letter that amounts to a blanket rejection of the plan's environmental provisions.

Once again our community is being told that restoring our river to health will cost jobs and drive industry from our region. The arguments are predictable but disappointing, because the River Plan actually creates a framework for real ecological progress in the North Reach while also substantively responding to many of the concerns expressed by industry over the course of two years of intense negotiations. Crying “jobs and the economy” has become a predictable cover for the fact that many of our local industrial landowners simply do not believe that they have an obligation to help restore landscapes that their activities helped degrade.

\$568 Million Promised

Lost among the lamentations is the fact that this River Plan promises \$568 million in public funding for road and other infrastructure improvements to support industrial landowners, \$441 million of which is “expected to be funded in the next ten years.” In six months of hearings before the Planning Commission, industry never once recognized this massive subsidy, not even a single time. Perhaps if industry is unwilling to step up and contribute to restoring the health of our environment, that half billion dollars' worth of publicly funded industrial infrastructure improvements should be redirected toward the environment.

It is particularly disappointing to see the Port of Portland once again using its publicly funded resources to carry water for the Working Harbor Coalition, a small group of private industrial landowners. The Port is a public agency with a far broader mandate to serve the public good, rather than the narrow interests in which it is currently aligned. The Port should be helping to lead the working harbor toward ecologically responsible stewardship of the landscape, not signing onto industry letters that perpetuate a false choice between jobs and the environment.

The Working Harbor Coalition's blanket rejection of the North Reach River Plan fails to acknowledge many substantive concessions that were made to industry. Several miles of riverbank that were regulated under the existing Greenway Code will no longer be regulated. Property owners will for the first time have flexibility as to whether they conduct required restoration activities on their own properties or utilize offsite mitigation banks. The city is installing a new streamlining process to ensure the local state and federal environmental mandates are coordinated and complementary. Finally, property owners even have an option of bypassing the River Plan code by working with the city to develop specific site plans for their own properties.

As per cost, industry is being asked to do three things: clean up and restore damage caused by past releases of contaminants into the environment, contribute a small portion of the cost of habitat restoration, and mitigate for any significant impacts that they have on the environment in the future. The choice is stark: we can either ask industry to help pay a portion of the costs for environmental damage that they caused, pass the costs onto the taxpayers, or simply accept that our river will remain unhealthy into the foreseeable future.

Implementation and Review Needed

The bottom line is that the North Reach of the Willamette remains a degraded toxic soup unfit for humans or wildlife, the most degraded stretch of river in the State of Oregon, and one of the most degraded stretches of river in the United States. The River Plan is far from perfect. We have deep reservations about several elements, most notably the relatively small contribution that the plan requires of industry toward river restoration objectives. However, we also recognize that a plan of this scope and complexity will never achieve perfection or consensus straight out of the starting gate. It is time to take this plan, several years in the making and six months under review before the Planning Commission, out for a test drive. Concerns among all stakeholders are best addressed not by perpetual public debate, but rather through on-the-ground implementation coupled with a schedule for review and revision as the plan's true strengths and weaknesses are revealed.

We will need your help to make sure that this River Plan is adopted by Portland City Council with its environmental provisions intact. For more information please contact Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@audubonportland.org.

Good News for Birds! Oregon Legislature Increases Penalties for Illegal Killing of Wildlife and Bans Toxic PBDE Chemicals

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Several important conservation measures passed during the 2009 session of the Oregon Legislature, but two stand out in particular for birds. Thanks to the 2009 Legislature, people who illegally kill protected wildlife will face much stiffer penalties, and a persistent toxic chemical known as Deca-BDE — which is increasingly showing up in birds and humans — has been banned.

House Bill 3089 increases penalties associated with illegal killing of wildlife. Audubon teamed up with the Oregon Hunters Association, Oregon Trappers Association, Oregon Sport Fishermen, Trout Unlimited, and Native Fish Society to develop this bill. Passage was led in the Oregon House by Representative Brian Clem and in the Senate by Senators Jackie Dingfelder and Mark Hass. The bill reflects the fact that regardless of whether you are a hunter, fisherman, conservationist, or birdwatcher, we all have a strong stake in preventing our wildlife from being illegally and wantonly destroyed. The bill received only a single “no” vote in the House and zero “no” votes in the Senate, demonstrating strong bipartisan support on this issue.

This bill will increase penalties for a wide range of wildlife-related crimes. Birders will be particularly interested in provisions that increase civil penalties for killing birds of prey from a paltry \$50 per bird to \$2,000–\$5,000 per bird. It will also allow second offenses involving killing of birds of prey to be treated as felonies. This bill comes in the wake of the Roller Pigeon cases in which pigeon fanciers deliberately captured, tortured, and killed birds of prey up and down the West Coast. The bill sends a strong message that if you kill birds of prey in Oregon you can expect to see a stiff penalty. We will be working during the next year to raise awareness among prosecutors and courts about the new law.

Senate Bill 596 bans the chemical Deca-BDE from use in Oregon. Audubon teamed up with Willamette Riverkeeper to develop this bill. Passage in the Senate was led by Senators Mark Hass and Jackie Dingfelder and in the House by Representative Ben Cannon. Deca-BDE is used as a flame retardant in many products but has been recognized as a “persistent bioaccumulative toxin.” It has been linked in laboratory tests to detrimental neurological effects, thyroid effects, hormone effects, developmental effects, reproductive effects, and possible carcinogenic effects. It is showing up in increasingly alarming levels in everything from human breast milk to a variety of wildlife species including Peregrine Falcons and Osprey — two species that have just recovered from the effects of another chemical, DDT, that was introduced into the environment decades ago.

Safer, cost-effective alternatives to Deca-BDE are available, and many companies have already begun to phase out its use. In fact, no product manufacturers other than the makers of the chemical itself even showed up to oppose the bill. The chemical manufacturers, however, pulled out the stops, flying in “experts” from across the country. But thanks to the outstanding leadership of Senator Hass in particular, the bill passed strongly in the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Kulongoski. Oregon now has the strongest laws in the United States limiting the use of PBDEs. Eight other states have enacted some level of restriction on its use. Hopefully Oregon will lead the way to a nationwide ban in the near future that will prevent anymore of this toxic chemical from entering our environment.

Thanks to Senators Hass and Dingfelder, and Representatives Clem and Cannon, for making Oregon a safer place for birds and people alike!

September in your backyard!

by Karen Munday, Urban Wildlife Specialist

Fall planting season is with us! We often think about spring as planting season, but we shouldn't forget about the fall. There are many benefits to planting native plants this time of the year. Rainfall is plentiful and newly planted trees and shrubs don't have to face the brutal summer heat. Roots will also continue to grow and become established over the winter even though the plant above ground can look dormant. By next spring and summer, the plants you put in this fall will have a head start and will be more equipped to handle the drier months.

When planting for wildlife it helps to clump and group plants together. Rather than get 10 plants of all different species, pick only a few species and buy multiples of the same type and group them together. Not only does this help wildlife but also makes a beautiful garden arrangement. Also, think about planting different layers of plants:

incorporate ground covers, small herbs and flowers, short and tall shrubs and trees.

Fall is also a great time to create a brush pile for birds to take shelter in during winter months. They are easy to make! Pile up downed tree limbs or branch cuttings into a loose pile in an outlying portion of your yard. Brush piles provide wonderful cover and can attract a variety of bird species.

Want additional help? If you live in Portland, check out our Backyard Habitat Certification Program at www.audubonportland.org/backyardwildlife/backyardhabitat or call Karen Munday at 503-292-6855 ext.122. Apply now to get on the waiting list for your site visit.





Ross Island boaters, pick up your garbage! © Gerry St. Pierre

Efforts to Restore Ross Island Undermined by Marine Board

by Bob Sallinger

It has been more than 18 months since 45 acres of wildlife habitat on Ross Island came into public ownership under Portland Parks, and exciting changes are under way on the island. This summer Audubon has teamed up with Willamette Riverkeeper and the City of Portland to begin restoring habitat. The Portland Bureau of Environmental Services Vegetation Program has been busy at work removing invasive species from the island, including English ivy and garlic mustard. Once a month, Audubon and Willamette Riverkeeper have been sending out teams of volunteers to assist in controlling invasive species and to pick up garbage.

During a Ross Island Work Day following the July 4th holiday, volunteers filled more than 20 large garbage bags with debris from the island's north end. Sadly, very little of this was simply flotsam and jetsam that had washed up from the river. The vast majority was clearly left behind by boaters who had been recently using the island's beaches. It is our hope that when the community sees volunteers out on Ross Island picking up garbage and restoring habitat, it will inspire a new stewardship among those visiting the island and utilizing the surrounding waters. A short visit to the island's beaches makes it clear that the island suffers not only from long-term neglect but also ongoing abuse.

We received no help in our efforts this summer from the Oregon State Marine Board. In July the Marine Board rejected their own staff's recommendation to make the Ross Island Lagoon and the southern end of the Holgate Channel between Ross Island and Oaks Bottom a "no-wake zone." All boaters, both motorized and non-motorized, would still have been able to access the area, but they would have had to proceed through the area at 5 miles an hour or less. West of the island, high speeds would still have been permitted.

The petition for a no-wake zone was jointly submitted by Portland Audubon, Willamette Riverkeeper, and the Urban Greenspaces Institute. We believe that there should be a few short miles in the whole Lower Willamette where canoeists and kayakers can paddle safely and enjoy nature. Our petition was supported by several hundred letters from citizens, more than a dozen rowing and paddling clubs, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a unanimous proclamation by the Portland City Council. Hundreds of people turned out to testify at a Marine Board hearing about the hazards they had faced from high-speed activity in the Holgate Channel and Ross Island Lagoon, and several hundred additional people wrote letters in support.

In an outrageous abdication of responsibility, the Oregon Marine Board rejected the petition on a 3-2 vote and suggested that we "form a committee." Unfortunately, a committee cannot change the laws of physics, which make a narrow channel with short sightlines a particularly hazardous place to mix non-motorized craft with high-speed jet skis, water skis, and wake boards.

In the coming months we will continue to work on Ross Island restoration efforts. In September we will conduct monitoring activities to develop a list of fall migrants that utilize the island. We will also be pursuing other avenues to ensure that boating activity between Ross Island and Oaks Bottom is consistent with management of a natural area and is safe for humans and wildlife alike.

Huge Victory for Spotted Owls and Forests

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

What a difference a few months (and a new administration) can make. Conservation organizations have spent the past eight years fighting Bush Administration efforts to roll back protections for Endangered Species Act-listed Northern Spotted Owls and the old-growth forests on which they and so many other species depend.

The Bush effort has long been recognized as an unprecedented assault on the integrity of the scientific process, with Bush appointee Julie McDonald resigning in disgrace after the Union of Concerned Scientists alleged that McDonald had "personally reversed scientific findings, changed scientific conclusions to prevent endangered species from receiving protection, removed relevant information from a scientific document, and ordered the Fish and Wildlife Service to adopt her edits."

However, many of the worst Bush Administration decisions on the Spotted Owl remained in place even after that administration departed, most notably a Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan, Critical Habitat designations, and the Bureau of Land Management's Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR), which would have eliminated protections for literally tens of thousands of acres of Spotted Owl habitat. At a time when Spotted Owl populations in Oregon continue to decline steeply — and in Washington and British Columbia are at increasing risk of disappearing altogether — such decisions defied logic and conscience. Audubon and several other organizations had initiated litigation over the Recovery Plan and Critical Habitat designations, and another coalition of conservation groups had sued over the WOPR.

Over the course of just one week in early July, the Obama Administration set in motion actions that will dismantle eight years of Bush attacks on our forests and owls. They offered to settle our lawsuit, agreeing to meet all of our substantive concerns (still pending approval by the courts). Several days later they withdrew the WOPR. In announcing the WOPR withdrawal, Secretary of the Interior Salazar

stated, "We have carefully reviewed the lawsuits filed against the WOPR and it is clear that as a result of the previous administration's late actions, the plan cannot stand up in court and, if defended, could lead to years of fruitless litigation and inaction." **These decisions represent not only a victory for our owls and our forests, but also for the integrity of the scientific process.**

Our work is far from over, however. Over the next year we will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a credible plan to recover the Northern Spotted Owl. Difficult decisions lie ahead, including how to address the very real threat to Northern Spotted Owls posed by competition from the recently arrived Barred Owl.

While protecting and restoring old-growth ecosystems is necessary for the survival of the Spotted Owl, it may no longer be sufficient. The remnant populations of Spotted Owls that remain are unfortunately highly vulnerable to competition from the larger and more aggressive Barred Owl. We may face a Faustian decision to control Barred Owls or watch the Northern Spotted Owl disappear from our landscapes regardless of what level of old-growth protection and restoration we ultimately achieve.

For now, though, we will enjoy this incredible moment of victory. Thanks to all Auduboners who wrote letters and showed up to testify at hearings. Thank you as well to Earthjustice for their outstanding work on the Spotted Owl litigation.

"The extinction of a species, each one a pilgrimage of four billion years of evolution, is an irreversible loss. The ending of so many creatures with whom we have traveled this far is an occasion for profound sorrow and grief. Death can be accepted and to some degree transformed. But the loss of lineages and all of their future young is not something to accept. It must be rigorously and intelligently resisted."
— Gary Snyder, *Practice of the Wild* (1990)

Wildlife Care Center

Treetop Rescues

by Kari Jones, Wildlife Care Center Assistant Manager

A crow tangled in some line, caught up in a tall oak... a Red-tailed Hawk orphan in a treetop nest... a nestling Cooper's Hawk who fell from his nest. It is not uncommon for the Wildlife Care Center to get calls about troubled birds in high places. This summer we have been fortunate to have the volunteer assistance of an unusual group of rescuers. Brian French, and his group called Ascending the Giants (<http://ascendingthegiants.com>), are forest-loving certified tree climbers. Ascending the Giants volunteers have made it their goal to climb and document the largest trees in the world to help bring awareness to the importance of protecting trees and sensitive ecosystems. Based out of Portland, they have found time in between adventures to help out our Care Center with some of our more tricky treetop rescues.

When a call came in earlier this summer about a crow hanging by line in a large oak tree near the University of Portland campus, the Care Center staff called Sean O'Connor — a volunteer with Ascending the Giants — hoping he could help, and he did! Care Center Volunteer Mariha Kuechmann watched in awe while Sean roped in and scaled the tree and brought the entangled crow down. After a brief stay at the Care Center, the crow was released.

Later in June the Wildlife Care Center received a call from a property owner who was concerned about the fledgling Red-tailed Hawks she had been watching. Her windows looked onto a very tall, old and dying, big-leaf maple tree containing the red-tail nest. The red-tail parents had suddenly disappeared and two of the nestlings had died. The Care Center sent volunteer Mandy Sims to assess the situation, and after extensive monitoring over a period of two days, Mandy was able to determine that the parents were in fact gone. The lone surviving nestling remained 70 feet up the 100-foot-tall maple. Mandy contacted Brian French, who was able to scale the tree for us that evening.



Brian French of Ascending the Giants approaches an abandoned nest to rescue the surviving nestling. © John Thomas

When the surviving young red-tail arrived at the Care Center, it was dehydrated and quite thin. We treated it with fluid therapy and nutritional support, and the nestling gained weight steadily. The Care Center had received another Red-tailed Hawk fledgling at about the same time, and both youngsters were caged together while learning to fly and hunt. With tremendous gratitude, the Care Center later invited Brian and Mandy to release both hawks together at the location of the rescue.

Ascending the Giants not only helps us get distressed birds out of trees; they also help us put birds back into trees when they leave the nest prematurely. On June 29th a nestling Cooper's Hawk, still downy and far from being able to fly, fell from a 60-foot-high nest in Vancouver, Wash., and was brought to the Wildlife Care Center. The nestling was treated for dehydration but otherwise had no injuries. The staff at the Care Center knew the best thing for the youngster was to be returned to its nest, and once more we received help from Ascending the Giants. Willing to again donate his specialized skills, Brian French came to the rescue and replaced the nestling into its nest.

Thank you to Ascending the Giants for volunteering for the Wildlife Care Center and teaming up to reach the treetop rescues!

Educational Trips & Tours

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

BIRDING *Costa Rica*

Tentative dates:

March 28 – April 10, 2010

Join naturalists from Audubon Society of Portland on an incredible trip through the lush lowland rainforests, volcanoes, mountain forests, and coastal wetlands of Costa Rica. More than 800 species of birds have been seen within the borders of this small country. To protect this diversity Costa Rica has preserved almost 30% of its land in the form of National Parks and Reserves, helping to make sure that it will be protected for many generations to come. We'll explore these habitats as we search for the **Keel-billed Toucan**, **Blue-crowned Motmot**, **American Pygmy Kingfisher**, and **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**, to name a few. One of the highlights will be our search for the **Resplendent Quetzal**, considered by many as the most beautiful bird in the world.

We'll visit the cloud forest slopes of the dormant Tenorio Volcano and walk along the incredibly blue Rio Celeste where **warblers** and **tanagers** abound. At the Poas Volcano, we will peer into the crater lake and enjoy the cool mountain air. We'll seek out mixed-species flocks including **cotingas**, **saltators**, and **woodcreeper** at



Bare-throated Tiger-Heron.
Credit: Patrick Gijbers

the La Selva Biological station, and hike the lowland rainforest of this famous research station. In Tortuguero, "the Amazon of Costa Rica," we'll see **herons** and **egrets** by boat while **parrots** fly over and **howler monkeys** roar in the distance. In the mountains, we'll visit the temperate Savegre River valley where **highland tropical birds** forage in the oaks and alders with familiar birds such as **Acorn Woodpeckers**.



Blue-crowned Motmot. Credit: Stephen Turner

Our final destination is the Pacific Coast, where we will take a trip through the estuary and mangroves of the Rio Tarcoles, and look for **Scarlet Macaws** in the Carara Biological Reserve.

We expect to see well over 200 species of strange and colorful birds on this trip, along with a number of amazing mammals, colorful butterflies, and bizarre reptiles.

What is included: All ground transportation within Costa Rica, 13 nights lodging, breakfasts, lunches, some dinners, local guide fees, entrance fees, excursions, and the services of your skilled leaders. A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible contribution to the Audubon Society of Portland. **Airfare to Costa Rica is not included.**

Fee (double occupancy): \$3295 members /
\$3395 non-members

Deposit: \$1600 required to secure your place on the trip
Group size: 14

Leader: Dan van den Broek

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



Looking north from Cape Meares, a prime hunting area for Peregrine Falcons. © Marilyn Stinnett

Tillamook Bay, and Nehalem Bay. Evening sessions include slide shows, lectures on bird behavior and migration, and a review of the day's sightings. Our home on the coast will be at Twin Rocks Conference Center, known for its beautiful campus and wonderful meals.

Fee of \$620 includes all meals, lodging, and transportation beginning Sunday evening through Friday lunch.

To register, call Elderhostel at 1-800-454-5768 or go to www.elderhostel.org. This is program #4894.

**Elderhostel programs are open to anyone 50 years and over and their spouse.*



I'iwi © Jim Denny

Experience Hawai'i – the Big Island!

**February 23 –
March 3, 2010**

Join long-time Portland Audubon supporters and seasoned Big Island travelers **Gary Slone** and **Nancy Johnson** on an incredible 9-day adventure exploring the unique natural history of the Big Island of Hawai'i. At only 800,000 years old, the Big Island is the youngest of the Hawaiian islands as well as the largest in the Hawaiian archipelago. There are 12 distinct climate zones here, creating an incredible diversity of weather, plants, and animals. During our trip we'll go birding in the **Hakalau Rainforest** for the island's endangered endemic birds. This part of the island is entirely closed to the public; we're fortunate to have a special access permit and the guidance of one of the most experienced wildlife biologists on the island. We'll look for **Akiapola'au**, **Akepa**, **I'iwi**, and more. We'll also explore dry forest as we look for more rare endemics including **Palila**, **Elepaio**, and others.



Akiapola'au ©
Peter LaTourrette

Our trip will include an indepth exploration of the cultural and geological history of **Kilauea**, the world's most active volcano — including a **hike across a newly formed, still steaming, lava field**. Thick-soled shoes are very important here! We'll experience the marine environment too as we **snorkel in Kealahou Bay, part of Hawai'i's Marine Life Conservation District**. These waters are especially rich with coral, tropical fish, and marine turtles. We also plan to visit the **Onizuka Center for International Astronomy (elevation 9200 feet) on Mauna Kea**. This observatory has high-quality telescopes through which we can view the night sky, and if daytime conditions are good we may also visit Mauna Kea's summit at 14,000 feet! Additional highlights of the trip include the **Hawaii Tropical Botanical Gardens**, **Lyman Museum**, **Hilo Farmer's Market**, lunch in a gorgeous tropical fruit orchard, plus lots more birding, hiking, and swimming!

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: \$1795 members / \$1995 non-members

Deposit: \$900

Group size: 9 participants

Leaders: **Gary Slone**, Birdathon Coordinator, and **Nancy Johnson**

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

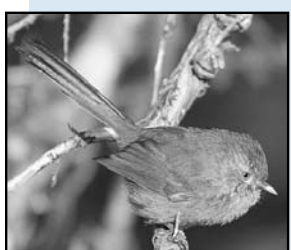
**COMING
SEPTEMBER 2010**

Peru!

**Tentative dates and fee:
September 26 – October 1 (\$2995)**

Galapagos!

**Tentative dates and fee:
October 2–8 (\$3295)**



Wrentit © LeValleyPhoto.com

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.

Sparrows of Oregon

September 15 (Tues.), 7pm–9pm in Heron Hall



Savannah Sparrow
© Steve Berliner

Birdwatchers are often blown away by the similarity of these “little brown jobbers.” An amazing 18 species of sparrows occur in our area, plus related species like the towhee and junco. With a little practice and advice from a seasoned expert, we can learn how to identify these birds. Tonight, a local bird expert and author of numerous field guides, **Harry Nehls**, will share his tips on when and where to find the elusive sparrows and how to recognize each “little brown job.”

Fee: \$10 members / \$15 non-members
 This class is FREE for volunteers.
Pre-registration is required.

Fall Shorebird Migration Class and Field Trip

September 16 (Wed.), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
September 19 (Sat.), 8am–4pm: Field Trip



Pectoral Sandpiper
© Dick Forbes

Join instructor and *Birding Oregon* author **John Rakestraw** for a Wednesday evening class on identifying shorebirds in the fall. John's slide programs really get you involved with an opportunity to apply what you've learned. The focus will be on distinguishing between adults and juveniles and on unusual species not typically seen in the spring, such as Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers. The field trip will visit Important Bird Areas in the Willamette and Tualatin River valleys that typically play host to migrating shorebirds.

Fee: \$30 members / \$45 non-members.
Class-only option for members: \$10.
Field trip transportation by carpool.
Pre-registration is required.

Hawks in Flight

September 24 (Thurs.), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
September 26 (Sat.), 9am–5pm: Field Trip to Bonney Butte

Each fall large numbers of birds of prey — hawks, eagles, falcons, and osprey — fly south across the continent as they migrate to their winter homes. Individual birds seek out landscape features that help them stay aloft and avoid landscapes that don't. The result is concentrations of migrating birds at predictable times and places during the migration season. Helping beginning birdwatchers recognize and identify hawks in flight is the focus of this class. A Saturday field trip to Bonney Butte, a hawk migration study site near Mt. Hood, will provide an opportunity to see many migrating birds and to practice newly learned identification skills. Instructor **Steve Engel** has spent four seasons at the Goshute Mountains in Nevada as an observer, counting migrating raptors for HawkWatch International.

Fee: \$60 members / \$70 non-members.
 Transportation is provided.
Field trip limited to 12 participants — a second van may be added if needed.
 Members also have the option of registering for the class only for a fee of \$10.
 Volunteers may attend the class only for FREE.
Pre-registration is required.

Beginning Birding I

September 28 (Mon.), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
October 4 & 11 (Sundays), 8am–Noon: Field Trips

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

Fee: \$35 members / \$50 non-members
Limited to 14 participants.
Pre-registration is required.

Beginning Field Birding and Sauvie Island Exploration with Greg Baker

Saturdays, 8am–Noon
October 3, November 7, December 5

Saturday morning explorations at one of Oregon's most accessible Important Bird Areas — Sauvie Island Wildlife Area, managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife — continue with **Greg Baker!** This field class series is perfect for those interested in developing and sharpening their birding skills under a variety of conditions with the tutelage of an expert birder. Explore different habitats on the island, learn bird calls, and search for waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors. **Participants sign up for all 3 field trips.**

Fee: \$50 members / \$60 non-members
Limited to 15 participants.
Pre-registration is required.

Mushrooms of Forest Park and the Audubon Sanctuary

October 17 (Sat.), 10am–2:30pm

Join mycologist **Gary Slone** for a fun and informative day investigating the fungi that grow in our own Audubon Sanctuary as well as the Mt. Hood National Forest. This in-depth class will include hands-on experience in identifying and understanding the fungi of the Pacific Northwest. There will be a wide variety of specimens to examine, as well as slides and educational handouts. Bring a sack lunch and wear appropriate clothing for a brief hike in Forest Park.

Fee: \$25 members / \$35 non-members
Limited to 16 participants. Pre-registration is required.



Red-tailed Hawk
© Jim Cruce

Beginning Birding II

Field Trip Dates:
October 18 & 25 (Sundays), 8am–Noon
(locations TBA)
October 31 (Sat.), 8am–5pm
(transportation provided)

Join **Laura Whittemore** on 3 field trips focusing on building birding skills. Participants should either have already taken Laura's Beginning Birding I class, Greg Baker's Beginning Field Birding, or have some prior birding experience. This class will be an opportunity to spend more time in the field learning bird groups, songs, habitats, and field marks, and to take on the ID challenges that cross our path. Local trips will be within the metro area and you'll need your own transportation or carpool with a friend. The all-day trip transportation will be provided by Audubon. **Participants sign up for all 3 field trips.**

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

Winter Waterfowl

November 17 (Tues.), 7pm–9pm in Heron Hall

Another great class with **Harry Nehls**, local bird expert and author of numerous field guides and the *Warbler's* “Field Notes” column (see page 9), as well as the voice of the Rare Bird Alert. This evening program will cover the wide variety of waterfowl that arrive in the Northwest in fall and winter: wigeon, teal, geese, swans, and more! Learn the differences between these birds and how to pick them out in a crowd.

Fee: \$10 members / \$15 non-members
 This class is FREE for volunteers.
Pre-registration is required.



Lepiota
© Willard Johnson

Introducing the NEW Portland Audubon School of Birding!

Beginning and intermediate birders welcome!

This new program takes advantage of the best birding of every season. We offer FALL, WINTER, SPRING, and SUMMER sessions. Each season will include 6 field trips (one overnight) and 6 classes. We will explore the coast, Willamette Valley, mountains, and high desert in search of seabirds, shorebirds, birds of prey, waterfowl, and songbirds.

Discover the birds of every season and build your birding skills as we cover:

- How to identify birds using field marks, size, and shape — we'll look at plumage characteristics, bill types, overall shape, and styles of flight to help identify birds.
- Birding by ear — a focus on identifying birds by songs and calls.
- The natural history of Oregon birds — we'll discuss when and where to find birds in Oregon as well as any interesting behaviors.

Seasonal topics include:

- FALL (wait list only): Shorebirds, raptors, seabirds, fall songbirds.
 WINTER (Jan. 6 – Mar. 13): Birds of the coast, gulls, waterfowl, winter songbirds.
 SPRING (Apr. 14 – Jun. 9): . Spring migration, bird songs,
 SUMMER (Jun. 16 – Aug. 18): Breeding bird ID and vocalizations, birds of the mountains and high desert.

What is included: Teaching and guiding by Dan van den Broek and guest speakers, transportation in 15-passenger vans, 6 field trips, one overnight trip with stay in a hotel, and 6 classes in Heron Hall.

Fee: \$360 for each session
Class size is limited to 14 participants.
 For more information or to enroll, contact **Dan van den Broek** at dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105.

Nature Store Highlights

by Nancy Mattson, Nature Store Manager

What's the best way to safeguard your money in these troubled economic times? Keep your cash in our **new wallets & coin purses from Lavishy**. When monetary assets run low, a little bird can tell you it's time to head to Forest Park Federal Credit Union (you know that Portland Audubon membership qualifies you to join, don't you?). How about your overseas investments? You'd better check on those personally. Don't forget your passport! Tuck it in a **Lavishy passport wallet**. What could be safer?

And speaking of finances, our fiscal year drew to a close in June. **Thanks to our many loyal store customers**, we were able to generate nearly as much income to support

Portland Audubon programs and facilities as we did the previous year. So, thank you for spending

your money **"Where the Profits are for the Birds!"** Now, go ahead and **flaunt your support of Audubon** – stop in to buy our **new logo pin!** It features our updated logo (hint: the Great Blue Heron is looking to the right now!) and "Founded in 1902" is prominently noted, showing our

Portland Chapter's longstanding support of nature & wildlife right here in Oregon. At only \$3, you can buy pins for your hat, your jacket, your birding vest, and even your favorite jammies!

Where else can you find the Portland Audubon name? On the **beautiful hand-thrown coffee mugs** created by potter **Dulcie Lindsoe-Johansen of Lindsoe Clayworks** in Welches, Oregon. With a rich green matte glaze, these comfy-to-hold mugs feature our name, plus Mt. Hood, forest trees, or pine cones to bring a bit of nature to your own coffee table.

One of Portland's most exciting young artists is **Amy Ruppel**. We're featuring Amy's beautiful contemporary bird designs on **iPop! Magnets** (the ones that go "Click!"). We have packs of mini-magnets or 2-inch Big Clicks. We also have a group of matching **iPop Paper Weights** to hold your important papers in place.

Another artist with a recent debut at the Nature Store is **Siri Schillios**.

Siri is an instructor at the Oregon College of Art and Craft. She has generously consigned some of her delightful bird **prints and wall plaques** with us this season. If you are looking for **cheerful and colorful birds** to enliven your living spaces, look no further than the walls of the Nature Store for Siri's bright feathered friends.



We also have some fabulous new **folk art birdhouses** crafted by **Carol Garringer of The Artisan's Garden** in Eugene. Her whimsical designs run the gamut from historic outhouse designs (halfmoon on the door means "boys" and sun means "girls") to miniature gothic abodes. Each unique house is constructed using **salvaged wood and recycled ornamentation**. Of course, interior dimensions and entry holes are appropriately sized to suit specific cavity-dwelling birds.



Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

In Honor

Julia Chesshir Stan Chesshir & Patsy Feeman Stephanie McFarland Marlene Kalter & Mark Ralston	Mr. Gene Faust & Mrs. Peggy Taylor Faust Lisa Faust
Christine & Joel Rubenstein Julianne Hiefield & Erick Turner Kelly Wood	Claire Puchy Cheryl Coon
	Michele Shapiro Azin van Alebeek

In Memory

Robert John Brennan Lucille Severson	Florence "Scottie" Tapper Janet Tapper
Mary Harvey Leslie Meserve	Craig Tufts Beth Stout
Al Miller Anonymous	Sandy Brown Susan Bexton & Scott Flor

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.

Swift Watch DVD

Want to take the wonders of Swift Watch home with you?

The Nature Store sells copies of Dan Viens' DVD *On the Wing* for \$19.95. This 2008 feature-length documentary captures the community, energy, and excitement of the entire Swifts phenomenon. Amazing footage of the birds, including shots from inside the chimney, give audiences an extraordinary, never-before-seen view of the roosting birds.



Sanctuaries News

Upcoming TogetherGreen Sanctuary Projects

by Tom Costello and Deanna Sawtelle, Audubon Staff

The six TogetherGreen Days done throughout the 2008–2009 budget cycle were a tremendous success, with volunteers dedicating almost 900 hours of service to make our sanctuary a better place for our visitors and the wildlife that calls it their home.

Accomplishments included:

- 2.5 miles of sanctuary trails were restored and maintained
- nearly 3 acres of invasive plants were removed from sanctuary grounds and trees
- 2,300 native plants and trees were planted
- 200 feet of split cedar fencing were installed to encourage visitors to stay on the trails
- 2 interpretive and 6 "restored areas" signs were installed

Building on these successes, we are excited to announce that we have received another TogetherGreen Volunteer Grant sponsored by National Audubon and Toyota! We're ready to get started with our next six TogetherGreen Volunteer Days, and the first event of this cycle is scheduled for **Saturday, September 12**. We'll begin the day promptly at 10 a.m. with a continental breakfast and short program and then start the day's project, ivy removal in the Collins Sanctuary, in preparation for a planned collaborative restoration planting with Metro and Friends of Trees. We'll break for pizza and pop about 1 p.m. and then get back to the planting, with the day ending about 4 p.m.

Later in the fall we'll have two more TogetherGreen Days. Both projects will target invasives removal in preparation for restoration plantings in the winter. The first project area will be in the upper stretch of the Jay Trail in the Pittock



Photo © Deanna Sawtelle

Sanctuary, and the next project will target ivy and blackberry in the 'lowlands' of the Uhtoff Sanctuary.

We also have two winter projects slated, the first targeting our pond for blackberry and canary grass removal as well as dealing with its ongoing sedimentation issue. The second winter project will be a planting that targets three of the above project areas including the pond, the upper Jay Trail, and the Uhtoff Sanctuary 'lowlands.'

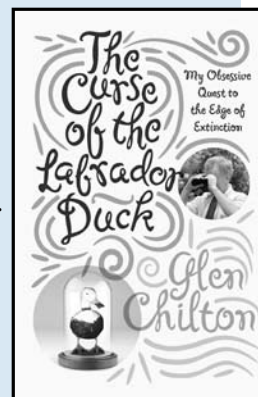
Finally, in the early spring we're looking to close out our TogetherGreen projects with a nestbox-building workshop. Boxes for various species will be built, some to be installed in and around the sanctuaries. This will be a great opportunity for volunteers to learn the specific nesting needs of various species, and will also provide the opportunity to establish nestboxes in their own neighborhoods.

Author Glen Chilton Presents The Curse of the Labrador Duck

Thursday, October 1st, 7pm

The Nature Store invites you to join us the evening of October 1st at 7pm in Heron Hall when we welcome ornithologist **Glen Chilton** to Portland. He is the author of the newly published book *The Curse of the Labrador Duck*, released this September by Simon & Schuster.

"The Curse of the Labrador Duck takes readers on a madcap years-long journey, chasing the ghost of the long-lost Labrador Duck. I was drawn in from the start and eagerly followed Chilton's wild ride through every gritty inner-city back road, grungy gin joint, and dilapidated hotel room in North America and Europe in his obsessive quest to find every last Labrador Duck specimen in the world."
— Tim Gallagher, author of *The Grail Bird: The Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker*



Chilton's attempts to uncover the mysteries of one of the world's most enigmatic birds result in a true, quirky, and hilarious adventure story. Extinct since the late 1800s, the Labrador Duck is only represented by a few dozen stuffed specimens and a small number of preserved eggs. Determined and fixated with finding every Labrador Duck specimen, Chilton set forth on what would turn out to be a wild and exhaustive adventure covering the equivalent of traveling the world 3.3 times.

Filled with tales of theft, wartime atrocities, insane millionaires, intrigue in the Middle East, and skinny-dipping, Chilton's presentation promises to be a memorable evening. Please contact us at the Nature Store (503-292-9453) if you would like to have a book reserved for you.

Please also save the date for **Lyanda Lynn Haupt's** appearance in October! Author of *Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds*, *Pilgrim on the Great Bird Continent*, and the newly published *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness*, she joins us for Nature Night on **October 13th**.

How Do Migrating Birds Find Their Way?

How can a bird leave a location and fly, often during the darkness of night, to a distinct location many hundreds of miles away, then later fly back directly to the original location? Biologists have been working on this question for many years and now have a theory of how they do it. Birds apparently navigate the skies similar to how ships navigate the oceans.

A ship without navigation equipment must remain close to shore to see visible landmarks to guide them. Early sailors added an astrolabe and later a sextant to record the altitude of the sun above the horizon at noon. This could provide the latitude of the ship at that time. Daily readings allowed the ship to continue in a more or less straight line and correction made of any drift that occurred between readings. They had no way to record the longitude.

Readings could not be taken if the sun or the horizon could not be seen. After several days the ship could drift well off course, wasting much time bringing the ship back to the correct heading after a reading could again be made. The addition of a magnetic compass allowed the ship to remain on course in any weather condition. The sextant was still needed to record location and distance traveled. Thus with an accurate clock, a sextant, and a compass, a ship could travel the ocean from one location to another in any direction.

Birds that migrate during the daylight hours primarily follow visual landmarks. They also set their internal clocks

at sunrise, and by watching the angle of the sun above the horizon they can read their latitude anytime of the day. Birds migrating at night set their internal clocks at sunset, then use the North Star and the rotation of other stars to record their latitude.

Recently scientists have found that birds have a small area at the base of the bill that contains many tiny needles of magnetite. Unlike our regular compass that uses a magnetic needle that points to the north magnetic pole, the bird's magnetic needles point downward to pick up the earth's magnetic field that runs north and south from pole to pole. The most surprising find was that these magnetic needles send their findings to the retinas in the bird's eyes.



Baird's Sandpiper on nest. Credit: USFWS

Although there is no way to verify what the bird does with these findings, indirectly a strong theory has been formed. During migration the bird's eyes are very active as well as the eye connection in the brain. It is

thought that the bird transfers the sun or star readings and the magnetic compass reading to the brain, forming a type of map that the bird can read to correctly guide it along the route. If for some reason the bird drifts off course, the correct route can be reset at sunrise or sunset.

Biologists have found some of the tools birds use in migration, but the mystery remains how they do it. These findings produce more questions than answers. Although most birds make it to their destination, many do not. This

is another problem biologists have been studying. Mineral deposits in the ground often distort the compass readings and can throw the bird well off course. It may be one of the major factors in misdirected birds.

Birds prefer to fly in flocks for protection. A stray bird may join a flock moving in a different direction than it wants but may be reluctant to fly off alone. Low-pressure systems they encounter may force the whole flock off course, as will a sudden unnoticed change in wind direction. There is still a lot to learn.



Dan Craver (self-portrait) in front of Prussik Peak, Alpine Lakes Wilderness, Washington. © Dan Craver

Volunteer of the Month: Dan Craver

by Mary Coolidge, Assistant Conservation Director

If I told you that the GIS specialist managing our IBA mapping project was also the cowboy-mustachioed bass player for "The Chapman Swifts" (local indie band featured in Dan Viens' documentary, *On the Wing*), would you call it synchronicity or just plain old luck?

When I began working on the Important Bird Area (IBA) program back in November, it came with a mandate to map the boundaries of Oregon's statewide IBAs. Without GIS (Geographical Information Systems) experience, I schemed to involve far more qualified people in accomplishing the job. A professor of Geography at Portland State University (PSU), Geoffrey Duh, agreed to advertise the project to his students, and a collaboration between PSU and Audubon was born.

In attendance at our first meeting was **Dan Craver**, a GIS specialist for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the past six years. It happens that Dan is also doing his master's thesis at PSU on waterfowl nest success (as related to landscape structure) at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. He's also recent past-president of the PSU student chapter of the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (code for GIS club), and assistant-teaches Advanced GIS courses in the department. As you might imagine, Dan's resume is a two-page enumeration of technical acronyms which, if you understand them, testify to his mapping software expertise.

Dan has a bachelor's degree in Engineering from the College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY, and another in Geography from PSU. For all this education, he's a wholly approachable genius of sorts, fielding every possible question the IBA mappers on the team manage to throw at him with that rare and indelible combination of patience and fascination with what the process will yield. He's a natural leader with a peer-like quality and is truly invaluable to the IBA mapping project.

The purpose for the collaborative project is symbiotic, and Dan facilitates this coming true: Students hone their GIS skills while working on a real-world conservation project, and Audubon reaches out into the community while benefiting from a much-needed service. I simply couldn't accomplish this project without him.

After all this, it's just a bonus that his band took its name from one of the largest-known Vaux's Swift roosts in the world. And that he's a carless biker. Dan's contribution to Audubon and the Oregon IBA program will have an immeasurable impact for years to come.

Sightings

The early fall migration appeared to be normal and on time, but there were several interesting events that attracted attention.

One of the most conspicuous was the unusually large number of **White Pelicans** that summered in the Willamette Valley and along the Columbia River. Up to 35 were regular at Ridgefield NWR while others moved up and down the Columbia River. During late July, Val Kenny reported up to 35 at The Dalles Dam. On July 2 Stephen Bradley saw 10 at the mouth of the Deschutes River. Another flock summered on the Columbia River near Astoria east of Tongue Point. Mike Smith says up to 9 have been seen at the Fernhill Wetlands.

Common Nighthawks have been rare in the Portland metro area for several years, but there were many reports this May of



Common Nighthawk © www.bjornfredrickson.com

migrant birds. Several reports during July indicate a pair or two may have nested somewhere in Northeast Portland.

On June 12 Wink Gross reported a most unexpected sighting of a **Spotted Owl** in Northwest Portland not far from the Pittock Mansion. Tom Love saw a singing adult male **Hooded Warbler** July 7 in his yard in Southwest Portland. Kelly McAllister stopped at Multnomah Falls June 23 and spotted a **Common Grackle** foraging along the north side of the highway. On July 24 Kathy Mahalis reported a **Black Phoebe** in Gresham.

Perhaps the most interesting was the **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** Jay Withgott found at the Sandy River Delta July 22. John Gatchett spotted it again the next morning. The area is heavily birded, and more so since the sightings, but **Cuckoos** are notoriously silent and secretive, and the bird was not relocated.

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 the Dec.08-Jan.09 *Warbler*, and see a complete 2009 schedule at www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/weekends.

UPCOMING BIRDING WEEKENDS

September 26–27 — Malheur NWR

We will enjoy the crisp air at Malheur NWR and look for fall migrants. This is a prime time of year for unusual vagrants. The fall colors on Steens Mountain are spectacular at this time. **Base: Burns.**

October 10–11 — Baker County

We will visit this beautiful county to look for fall migrants and early wintering species. We'll visit the Burnt River, Unity and Phillips Reservoirs, and the Powder River valley. **Base: Baker City.**

November 7–8 — Klamath Basin

We will check out the wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and raptors in the Klamath Basin. This is a prime place to see large numbers of Snow Geese, Ross's Geese, swans, and a variety of forest species as well. **Base: Klamath Falls.**

Bird Window Strike Study

by Mary Coolidge, Assistant Conservation Director

An invisible killer of birds is emerging as the greatest anthropogenic (human-associated) cause of avian mortality, close behind habitat destruction. A hundred million to a billion bird deaths worldwide annually are now attributed to window strikes. Birds simply cannot perceive glass as a barrier, whether it is transparent or reflective, and strikes occur at various heights, in urban and rural settings, at both homes and highrises, and against panes of various sizes. Of course, monolithic glassy expanses — which have become the style prototype in our local skyline — present an increased hazard to birds. Such buildings reflect sky, clouds, and/or vegetation, producing the illusion of uninterrupted habitat. This fall, Portland Audubon will initiate a Window Strike Study to begin to quantify the rate at which bird strikes are happening in our own fair city.

In addition to daytime window strike hazards, artificial night-lighting results in multiple direct and indirect impacts

on birds, from collisions and disruption of hormone-regulated mechanisms to altering natural activity patterns. The term “ecological light pollution” was coined to describe negative consequences of night-lighting on our ecosystem.

Perhaps the best known impact of night-lighting is the tendency of organisms to be attracted to light sources, a phenomenon known as phototaxis. Most nocturnal migrants are actually diurnal species that migrate at night to reduce predation risks, maximize foraging opportunities by day, and take advantage of celestial cues. Theories to explain their attraction to artificial lighting include a natural visual affinity for light and/or artificial light interference with their magnetic compass mechanism (which involves light receptors and wavelength receptors in the eye that aid in orientation).

On foggy or overcast nights, birds are especially dependent on magnetic



Photos © Bob Sallinger

navigation. They're also driven to migrate at lower elevations, bringing them in closer contact with tall buildings in their airspace. In this case, they may either become immediate victims of window strikes or circle buildings until they collapse from exhaustion. Once on the ground, stunned birds are likely to then fall prey to secondary killers including cars, rats, cats, and raccoons.

Window Strike Study Begins

Because window strike studies have never been conducted in Portland, the magnitude of our local problem remains unknown. Portland Audubon has just received a \$4,800 Future for Wildlife Grant from the Oregon Zoo to launch the first such study in five hub areas in the greater downtown area this September. Volunteers will pair up to walk specified routes at dawn to find overnight kills before they are scavenged or cleaned up by building and street maintenance crews.

This monitoring will be the first phase of our effort to identify and quantify hazardous buildings, and may lead to the development of a Lights Out program encouraging building owners and managers to reduce unnecessary architectural (exterior) and interior office lighting. Cities around the world including Toronto, Tallahassee, Minneapolis, Chicago, and San Francisco have initiated Lights Out programs, resulting in reduced bird mortality, reduced carbon emissions, and energy savings.



We will also work with the city to develop bird-friendly building guidelines. There is an increasing body of research that suggests structural designs that reduce the risk of bird collisions, and incorporation of these techniques can help make Portland's commitment to green design even greener. Work is already under way to incorporate innovative design credits into LEED certifications to reward building strategies that provide environmental benefits to wildlife.

If you would like to participate in September studies in the greater downtown area, contact Mary Coolidge at mcoolidge@audubonportland.org.

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!

Metropolitan Learning Center
J D Fulwiler & Co.
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Mirabella - South Waterfront
Robert Addison
Carol Adler
Jonathan R. Agee
Valerie Aitchison
Rose Alford
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Rod Atkinson
Joel W. Bader
Richard Bastasch
Patti & Merrill Baumann
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David Becker
Renata Berry
Betsy Bierman
Tyler Black
Jennica Blanchard
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Ann-Marie Bowman
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Barbara Brockman
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Donald Bryant
Betty Buford
Bradley Burden
Mary Bushman
Gwenn Butkovsky
Jim Campbell
Bill & Julia Campbell
Jamie Charlton
Lee Ann Childs
Matthew Clark
& Abigail Sarmac
Wayne Coffey
Dr. Nathan F. Cogan
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Paul Crick
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Beverly Donily
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Ivy R. Dunlap
Patrick & Theresa Elwer
Suzanne Ericson

Bonnee Ewer
Quinn Fahey
Melissa Favara
Anne Feighner
Barbara Fleeger
Jim Flood
David Fornof
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Laura J. Green
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& Bruce Walker
James & Tiffini Gregory
Khy Griffin
Keitu & Jane Griffin
Marva Guenther
Abigail Q. Halperin
The Hayden Family
Jeffrey & Jennifer Heilman
Linda Hendrickson
Vicki Hersen
Jim Hewlett
Irene Higgins
Alison Highberger
Christi Hildebran
Patricia Hill
Sarah M. Hinkle
Maureen K. Hinkle
Rexford A. Hinkle
David Hoffman
Angela & Jordan Holt
Martin Horeis
Katherine Houghton
John Howard
Rich & Mary Howard
Darryl Hrenko
Hubertus Irth
Patricia Irwin
Richard James
Sandra Jamison
Paula Jean
Rodney D. Jennings
Edgar Jimenez
Nubez Jordan
The Kahm-Bekins Family
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Merritt S. Kelsay
Julia Kersting
Samuel Kim
Patrishia Knode

Greg Knudson
Amy Koski
Ann Koucky & Andrew Burke
David & Veronica Kulman
Connie LaFrazia
James Lane
Carter Latendresse
Elly Lawrence
Sandra Leaptrott
Harrison Lewis
Tom Litster
Frederick Lord
Christopher Loucks
Luke Lowther
Judy Lubera
Cheryl & Chris Lund
David Mack
Paula & Birgit Markus
The Martinez Family
Richard McCollom
Gwenn McGill
Ross McLaughlin
K. Suzanne McNulty
Jan Meador
Claire Meinhardt
Donald Meserve
& Cathryn Hart
Barbara Meyer
Susan Meyer
Shawna Miller
Jamie Miller
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Shelley Parker
Sandy & David Parker
Shelly Pavlacky
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Jacque Pederson
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Gale & Steve Watson
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Lindsay Wills
Janalee Wilson
Doug Wilson
Claudia Wilton
Randi Wolfe & Rick Witte
Sharon Wood Wortman
David Woodsworth
Barbara Workinger
Jennifer & Owen Wozniak
Helen & J. Beverly Young
Bo Yu

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:

- Margo Gardiner for a Wood Duck box
- Alan Locklear for 5 bottles of dish detergent for the Wildlife Care Center
- Marjorie Morales for a digital camera
- David Stewart for a pair of 8x42 Minolta binoculars
- Stephen Young for 7 framed photographs

Our Wish List:

Two digital cameras for the Backyard Habitat Certification Program

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

Bonney Butte

September is upon us, and just as we begin to hope for the postponed end to summer weather, fall migration counts are already getting under way. Since the fall of 1994, observers have occupied the bald knoll just southeast of Mt. Hood from August 27th through October 31st, braving everything from withering sun and dust devils to freezes and snowfall before they break camp. **Bonney Butte** is home to one of over a dozen long-term fall migration counts conducted by HawkWatch International (HWI) in the United States and Mexico.

Because raptors are top-level predators, they act as good environmental indicators. They occupy large home ranges in a wide array of ecosystems, and are sensitive to contamination, habitat disturbances, and climate change. HWI monitors their population trends in an effort to assess overall ecosystem condition. The natural history of many raptor species finds them both widespread and remote on the landscape, making monitoring from fixed locations along their migratory routes more efficient and cost-effective than roving surveys. Bonney Butte sits atop Surveyor's Ridge, which, along with several adjacent ridgelines, effectively funnels a stream of migratory raptors who conserve energy by making use of updrafts along the Pacific Flyway in the Cascade Mountain Range. These virtual wind-highways are conjured up by the combination of topography and weather patterns and occur along multiple ridgelines within the Pacific Flyway.

Bonney Butte meets two of the criteria for selection as an Important Bird Area in the state of Oregon as described by the Technical Advisory Committee. The site may "host" a minimum of 1,000 raptors per season and/or the site may be used for research. Observers at Bonney Butte gather vital scientific data, adding to a database which spans years and is analyzed to ascertain trends in various populations over time. Up to 4,500 migrant raptors have been counted here in a single season, represented by a diversity of up to 18 species. In the last several years, count totals have ranged from a low of 2,269 in 2007 to a high of 3,821 in 2004. Bonney Butte IBA is also among the 127,000 acres in Mt. Hood National Forest that received permanent wilderness protection when President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act into legislation in March.

In addition to an unparalleled view of Mt. Hood, and views of Mt. Jefferson and Mt. Adams, a visit to Bonney Butte offers visitors unique education opportunities. HWI staff includes an environmental educator on site 6 days per week

in addition to two observers. This educational interpretation component provides a crucial outreach, raising public awareness about the ecology of many species that most people don't encounter in their day-to-day lives. Making this connection between people and wildlife is a key to making conservationists out of enthusiasts. Because HWI runs a banding station at this site, you may be lucky enough to observe a raptor release if you hang around long enough.

Species of Ornithological Significance

Annual counts typically range from 2,500 to 4,500 migrant raptors of up to 18 species. The most common species include **Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Golden Eagle, and Merlin**. Other species on record include **Northern Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, American Kestrel, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Osprey, Northern Harrier**, and the occasional **Swainson's Hawk** and **Broad-winged Hawk**. Among non-raptor species, **Pileated Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Townsend's Solitaire, Gray Jay, and Clark's Nutcracker** have been recorded.

Programs

The public is always welcome to visit Bonney Butte, though the dirt access road is pretty rough going for the last two miles. While I have seen a foolhardy Prius labor up the road, a high-clearance vehicle is preferable, even with recent Forest Service improvements to the worst sections of the road. Audubon Educator and former HWI observer **Steve Engel** will offer a **Hawks in Flight class on September 24th from 7pm-9pm with a field trip to Bonney Butte on the 26th**. Contact him at 503-292-6855 ext.119 to find out if space is still available.

Or go it alone: take Highway 26 East to Highway 35. Follow Hwy 35 for 4.5 miles and turn south on paved Forest Road 48 at the White River East Snow Park. Travel 7 miles and turn left on FR 4890 (unmarked until you turn onto it). Travel 3.75 miles and turn left onto FR 4891. Follow signs



A lenticular cloud hovers over Mt. Hood in this photo taken from Bonney Butte. © Mary Coolidge



Just-banded adult Northern Goshawk before release. © Mary Coolidge

to Bonney Meadows Campground. Shortly beyond the campground you'll find a marked gate and parking lot. From here, you're on foot to the observation post about 1/4 mile up the road.

Be prepared for variable weather at an elevation of 5,000 feet: sun, wind, fog, hot or cold temperatures all in the same day! Bring plenty of water and food.

Stay in Touch with Portland Audubon!

by Ann Takamoto, Development Director

Do you have a Facebook account? Do you Tweet? Now you can keep up with the latest news through Portland Audubon's new Facebook fan page and by following us on Twitter! We're excited to tap into these new communication tools and want you to be a part of it.

We will use our Facebook fan page to post the latest stories on wildlife and conservation issues and to update you on fun events. Beyond a source of the latest Portland Audubon information, our new fan page gives you the ability to interact back with us. Share your latest bird sightings with your peers!

We're really excited about the possibilities of Tweeting through Twitter. For those that are unfamiliar, Twitter is a social networking site offering a way for folks to stay in touch, asking the simple question "What are you doing?" and allowing answers of only 140 characters, keeping the communication short and sweet. September is an optimum time to start Twitter, as Swift Watchers should take great advantage! You have to admit, it makes perfect sense... after all, what better group should be communicating through "Tweets"?

To follow us on Twitter, we are @PortlandAudubon, web page: twitter.com/PortlandAudubon.

Save a tree...

It is timely that we offer alternative communication tools to help you to stay in the loop with Portland Audubon news and activities. To do our part to conserve our natural resources, we are planning to gradually reduce the number of *Warbler* newsletter issues. While we ease ourselves into this, we want to encourage you to plug into the alternative tool(s) of your choice.

Sign up for our e-newsletter, The BirdWord, and you'll get once-a-month updates on the issues, activities, classes, camps, and trips. Become a Facebook fan and join in the Audubon Society of Portland online community. Follow us on Twitter and get the latest Tweets of birdworthy information. There are more ways than ever for us all to connect, and remember — when you turn off your computer, you can always come visit, take a walk in our sanctuaries, and connect with us in person!

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, bird feeders and seed, plus gifts & toys for adults & children, all with a nature theme. **Portland Audubon members receive a 10% discount off regular prices.**



8x42 Nikon Monarch ATB

This month the focus is on **Nikon Sport Optics!** For years the **Nikon Monarch ATB full-size binoculars** have been a Nature Store favorite. Besides offering great optical quality, the Monarch ATBs are some of the lightest models in their class. Now through October 31, 2009, **Nikon is offering a \$50 consumer rebate** on the purchase of any of the full-size Monarch ATBs (we stock 8x42 and 10x42). Stop by to see the savings!

While you're in the store, take a look at the **Nikon angled ProStaff sighting scope** we've just brought in. It is an excellent mid-priced scope, with more comfortable viewing for eyeglass wearers than Nikon's more expensive Fieldscopes. You have a choice of **16-48 zoom with 65mm lens** or **20-60 zoom with a big 82mm objective**. Prices range from \$445 to \$665 (with 10% off for members, of course).

Looking for a more comfortable camera or **binocular neckstrap**? We've brought in a new selection from **Op-Tech USA**. They are strong, durable, and designed to **lighten the load** on your neck. Or get full neck relief with one of our **shoulder harnesses**. They're available in webbing or elastic versions for your comfort preference.



16-48 x 65mm Nikon ProStaff scope

PORTLAND AUDUBON'S NATURE STORE

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503-292-9453 • store@audubonportland.org

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



Authors Signing Up for Wild Arts Festival 2009

We're excited once again to have a stellar group of authors participating in this year's Wild Arts Festival. James Davis will be joining us this year with his new book *The Northwest Nature Guide*, along with Willamette Riverkeepers' Travis Williams and his newly published *The Willamette River Field Guide*.

This November's two-day celebration of nature will host many widely acclaimed writers (and loyal Portland Audubon supporters) such as Ursula LeGuin, Molly Gloss, John Daniel, Floyd Skloot, Peter Rock, Jane Kirkpatrick, Brian Doyle, Harry Nehls, William Sullivan, Alan Contreras, Douglas Lorain, Matt Love, Bart King, Paul Gerald, and Steve Terrill.

The Wild Arts Festival web page now lists our 2009 participating artists and authors, so check there for the latest information. We are also trying something new this year and have set up a Facebook page to promote the Festival to our online audience. If you are a Facebook user, become a fan of the Wild Arts Festival and pass on the word to others who would like to get updates through Facebook.

And lastly, a reminder about our WAF silent auction. If you have a donation, or questions about a possible donation, contact auction coordinator Marilyn Scott at 503-772-8136.

Please visit our website, www.wildartsfestival.org, for information on the latest WAF additions.



A group of Birdathon teams met at Bayocean Spit near Tillamook. © Gary Slone

Birdathon 2009 Recap

This is the 5th year in a row we exceeded the \$100,000 milestone in fundraising, and we could not have accomplished our goal without the helping hands and watchful eyes of so many individuals. A heartfelt thanks goes to all who gave their support to Birdathon!

Thank you to all the volunteers on the Birdathon planning committee, to all the wonderful Birdathon team leaders, to Audubon staff members who found time to include Birdathon in their busy schedules, to over 200 Birdathon counters — and to everyone who generously donated time, prizes, food, and funds.

With each and every one of you helping, Birdathon 2009 raised \$125,000! Thank you so very much!

And now, looking toward next year, Birdathon 2010 promises to be extra special: It's our 30th anniversary. See you next spring!



Thank you to our Birdathon 2009 Event Sponsors!



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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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