

Warbler



Black-throated Gray Warbler

SEPTEMBER 2010
Volume 74 Number 9

In this issue...

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Howl at the Moon Harvest Night Page 2</p> | <p>West Hayden Island Goes from Bad to Worse Page 4</p> | <p>Meet the Lost Bird Challenge Page 11</p> |
|---|--|--|

SWIFT WATCH 2010

by Steve Engel, Adult Education Coordinator

As we have since 1994, volunteers from the Audubon Society of Portland will be present at Chapman School most evenings in September to answer questions, offer information, display specimens of swifts and their nests, and provide binoculars and a spotting scope for viewing.

If you are planning on coming to see the swifts, we encourage you to visit our website at audubonportland.org/local-birding/swiftwatch. There you'll find lots of helpful information about when to arrive, where to park, and what to expect, as well as natural history information about the swifts themselves.

The summer range of the Vaux's (pronounced **VOX's**) Swift is from Northern California to Southeast Alaska and the Pacific coast to the Rocky Mountains. They eat only insects and other invertebrates they encounter and swallow in flight. Such a restricted diet is one factor forcing the swifts to migrate to Central and South America each winter.

Surveys by Portland Audubon volunteers last year documented a half-dozen swift roosts in the Portland-Vancouver area that host swifts in numbers from hundreds to thousands. The largest roost is the chimney at Chapman Elementary School in Northwest Portland. For many years Chapman's students and teachers refrained from heating their school until the swifts had moved on south. In 2000 Portland Audubon worked with Northwest Natural Gas, the Collins and Autzen Foundations, and Metro to provide a new furnace and to decommission and stabilize the old chimney. This helped ensure that it would be available to future generations of migrating swifts. In recent years between 10,000 and 20,000 swifts roost there most evenings in September.

Portland Audubon is enlisting every Swift Watcher in a spirit of community mindfulness to follow and share these tips with others:

1. **Arrive by public transportation** when possible. The Portland Streetcar and bus lines #15 and #17 travel within 3 blocks of Chapman School.
2. If you drive, make use of **FREE-NO-HASSLE-PARKING** just 4 blocks from the school at the Montgomery Park building. *Directions: 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 4 blocks. Allow ten minutes from the time you park to walk to the school.*
3. **Respect the rights and privacy** of the neighborhood residents.

Vaux's Swift in flight, demonstrating the iconic "flying cigar" shape which helps distinguish swifts from swallows.
© Greg Gillson, thebirdguide.com



Vaux's Swifts swarm into chimney at Chapman School
©Vernon DiPietro

4. **Pick up your trash and litter**, as well as a little extra, when you leave.
5. **Leash your dog. Pick up after your dog.**
6. **It is illegal** to consume alcoholic beverages on public school grounds.
7. **It is illegal to smoke** on public school grounds.
8. When the event has finished, help restore peace and quiet to the neighborhood: **Do not loiter afterward** on the school grounds.



Portland Audubon and OPAL Team Up for Immigrant Youth Urban Natural Area Tours

by Jim Labbe, Urban Conservationist

This summer Audubon joined forces with the Southeast Portland-based environmental justice group OPAL (Organizing People Activating Leaders) to lead a series of urban natural area tours with Thai, Burmese, Butanese, and Nepali immigrant youth. In late June and early July, OPAL organizer Grayce Bentley and I planned the tours to introduce these new residents to some of our local parks, wildlife, and natural areas in outer Southeast Portland. Some of the young participants had only been in the United States for just over a month, while others had arrived over the last four years. Portland Audubon staff Steve Robertson, Steve Engel, Ian Abraham, and Meryl Redisch helped lead the tours that included visits to the popular Springwater Corridor Trail near Zenger Wetlands, Beggars-Tick Marsh Wildlife Refuge, and Leach Botanical Gardens. Volunteer bird handlers Reuben Rich and Gary Gross shared Julio the Great Horned Owl and Hazel the Spotted Owl (both were BIG hits with the kids). All three late afternoon tours ended with food and social time at the Leach Botanical Garden Manor House.




Investigating an insect gall along the Springwater Corridor Trail. Photo: Grayce Bentley

The tours produced a measure of excitement and awe for all involved: leaders, organizers, and participants. I took personal delight in watching the raw glee of new birders after mastering the binoculars. Their elation renewed my appreciation for the glory of a Red-winged Blackbird or the marvel of a singing sparrow song. One Northeast Portland boy learned to imitate a couple of bird songs (thanks to some help from Steve Engel) and performed them with great confidence to his peers at the end of the tour.

Through both planning and implementation, the tours built new relationships that will help advance Portland Audubon's mission and expand opportunities to access and conserve nature near where we live work and play. In August, a group of 8th-grade immigrant youth of mixed ethnicities visited our offices and sanctuary on NW Cornell Rd for career learning day, and in September we'll all gather again with tour participants at the OPAL office on SE Division.

Burmese and Thai youth learn how to spot birds with binoculars at Zenger Wetlands. Photo: Grayce Bentley

Together Green Volunteer Day on Sept. 18 — page 8

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

Inside this issue

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| Page 2 | From the Director |
| Page 3 | Audubon Outings |
| | Calendar |
| Page 4 & 5 | Conservation |
| | Wildlife Care Center |
| Page 6 & 7 | Trips & Tours & Classes |
| Page 8 | Nature Store |
| | Sanctuaries |
| Page 9 | Field Notes and Volunteers |
| Page 10 | New Members |
| Page 11 | IBA of the Month |
| Page 12 | Map/Hours/Sponsors |

From the Executive Director

Appreciating Oregon's Birds



Meryl Redisch

I am looking forward to September. I am eagerly awaiting the thousands of small cigar-shaped birds that deftly swirl in the sky before rushing down into the Chapman School chimney for the night. I am cheerfully anticipating seeing the sky darken and deepen with 10,000 Vaux's Swifts before it clears again. During the first couple of years I lived here, I was at the schoolyard 2-3 times a week. After six swift seasons, I've been more inclined to watch this natural spectacle just two or three times over the month. Swift Watch fever permeates Audubon for 30 days and I suppose that I get the "awe" experience vicariously.

This year, however, things have changed and I feel differently. What happened in the Gulf Coast four months ago continues to bother me a lot even though the oil wells have been capped and seafood is being touted as safe to consume. The uncertainty about how consequential and lasting the damage is to birds and wildlife is terribly unsettling.

Dr. Jane Lubchenco, who left Oregon State University to lead the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, cautioned that "the oil that's left can harm wildlife for years or even decades to come. ...Diluted and out of sight doesn't necessarily mean benign." While the Brown Pelican has rightfully become the poster bird for this ecological tragedy — it's the state bird of Louisiana and was recently taken off the endangered species list — another 300 species are potentially impacted as 40-50 million birds fly along the Mississippi Valley and over the Gulf of Mexico during migration. It would seem mighty hard to lose sight with these kinds of numbers but it's entirely possible to do so unless national leaders like Dr. Lubchenco, organizations like Audubon, and people like you and me take an active role in protecting birds. Following are just two examples of how to help.

- President Obama recently signed the nation's first-ever National Ocean Policy, a culmination of a process that started 14 months ago. The Task Force consisted of 24 federal agencies from across the span of the government, and while this ocean policy would not have stopped

the BP disaster from occurring, the depth of the damage could have been softened by more aggressive oversight and coordination, improved protection of ecosystems and natural resources, and an integrated approach to management. Here in Oregon, conservationists are aggressively pursuing our own set of laws and regulations to rebuild fish stocks, protect seabirds and marine mammals, and restore ocean habitat. To learn more about marine conservation in Oregon and attend the free upcoming tour at Cascade Head on September 18, contact Erin Anderson at erin@ouregonocean.org.

- For the first time, National Audubon's Important Bird Area (IBA) program is recognized as one of BirdLife International's key indicators and included in the newly published 2010 United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The report uses IBAs to assess the degree to which key habitats for threatened species are adequately protected. At least 20 discrete Important Bird Areas in the states of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama have been affected by the Gulf oil spill. Here in Oregon, Portland Audubon is leading the IBA program that identifies, protects, and restores sites critical to birds for nesting, resting, feeding, and breeding. About one-third of the currently identified IBAs in Oregon are along the coast. To learn more about the Oregon IBA program and how you can help, go to www.audubonportland.org/local-birding/iba.

Out of sight should not be out of mind. Conservation groups including National Audubon are working round the clock to treat oiled birds. Portland Audubon and Pratt & Larson have teamed up to raise funds for this effort by offering a commemorative hand-designed tile of a Brown Pelican that is available at our Nature Store. All proceeds will go to helping birds and wildlife impacted by the oil spill. Please see page 8 for more information.

Being able to watch thousands of birds temporarily convene in one place is a remarkable experience, and we are so fortunate to have the "Swift Watch" experience available to us. This year and next, I'm planning to spend my September evenings watching a migration happen.



Hay Ride © Kruger's Farm Market

Audubon Night at Kruger's Farm Market

17100 NW Sauvie Island Rd, Portland

Friday, September 24th, 5:00pm - 10:00pm

Welcome the fall migration with fun for everyone at the **Howl at the Moon Harvest Night** at Kruger's Farm Market!

Just \$10 per carload benefits Portland Audubon AND gets you:

- Live Music
- Trips through Kruger's Crazy Corn Maze
- Hay Rides with Farmer Don to view migrating birds
- Harvest Bonfire
- Portland Audubon activities

Rain or shine, help us celebrate the just-full moon and bring your friends and family for a fun-filled evening that benefits the Audubon Society of Portland. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Audubon Family Adventures: "Swift Watch!"

Join Audubon volunteer naturalists for a special evening event centered around "Swift Watch." This is our newest Audubon Family Adventure designed to offer an opportunity for families to enjoy and learn about nature together. Learn about Vaux's Swifts and how they've adapted. Meet one of their predators! Enjoy a light snack, make a take-home craft, and then enjoy a reserved seat at Chapman School to view the Swifts in action.



Date: Sunday, September 12
Time: 4:00pm - 7:00pm (please check in by 3:45pm)
Place: Audubon Society of Portland, Heron Hall
Target age: 5-9 years (an adult must accompany every 1-3 children)
Cost: \$10 per participant

Space is limited, so get your registration in soon at audubonportland.org/about/volunteer/family. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy hiking shoes.



Mark your calendars for this family-friendly Halloween event!

Saturday, October 23, 2010 5:00pm - 8:30pm

\$12.50 for the first participant in your group and \$10.00 for each additional participant (recommended for kids 5-12)

Celebrate Halloween with Portland Audubon and learn all about the creatures of the night. Come face-to-face with our Great Horned Owl, Northern Spotted Owl, Turkey Vulture, and Raven. **Go trick-or-treating with naturalists and enjoy a night walk to investigate what creatures haunt the sanctuary at night.** This event will happen rain or dry, so dress for the weather.

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

Backyard Wildlife and Habitat

Fall planting season is with us! We often think about planting in spring, but there are many benefits to planting natives this time of the year. Winter rainfall is plentiful and new plantings don't have to face the summer heat. Roots will become established over the winter even though the plant looks 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.

Fall is also a great time to create a brush pile for birds to take shelter in during winter months. 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.

If you live in Portland, sign up today to schedule a site visit for our Backyard Habitat Certification Program at audubonportland.org/backyardwildlife/backyardhabitat.



Wapato SOLV Riverside Cleanup Event!

Saturday, September 25th, 9:00am-1:00pm

The 180-acre Wapato State Access Area is part of the 12,000+ acre Sauvie Island Important Bird Area, and hosts 79 species of birds found during our year-round point counts. Like many urban natural areas, the invasion of non-native plants threatens the healthy habitat that birds and wildlife depend on for their very existence.

Volunteers will be helping to remove invasives such as Himalayan Blackberry, Garlic Mustard, and Herb Robert Geranium. Join us!

For more information, contact Mary Coolidge at mcoolidge@audubonportland.org.

SAVE THE DATE! Managing Land with Minimal Impact to Birds

Friday, October 15th, 8:30am-4:30pm
Location: Oregon Zoo

This all-day workshop is geared toward landscapers, private landowners, park rangers, and land managers.

Many common Willamette Valley bird species are in decline, and critical adjustments in timing and techniques of restoration and maintenance activity can help avoid further impacting them. Come learn about how to implement some of these best practices!


Cost: \$31 includes breakfast and lunch
Register at www.oregonzoo.org

Sponsored by the Oregon Zoo, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Audubon Society of Portland, Metro, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Oregon State Parks, and U.S. Forest Service.



Western Tanager © Paul Buescher

Audubon Outings — Wild in the City and Beyond

 = Birding trips starting later, going slower, with restrooms in sight

September 9 (Thu) Fern Ridge Reservoir

We will visit a few of the birding sites available around this reservoir near Eugene. Bring scopes and lunch. We will finish at 2:30pm for return to Portland. Call **Lou Fredd** at 503-655-1856 (eves) to sign up for trip, for meeting location and time to carpool from the metro area, and for other details.

September 18 (Sat), 8am–11am Cooper Mountain Nature Park

Bonnie Deneke will lead this bird walk on Cooper Mountain Nature Park, ably assisted by members of the Portland Audubon Master Birder class. CMNP opened June 29, 2009; 74 species have been seen there to date. Birds of interest include Sharp-shinned Hawk, Northern Harrier, Western Bluebird, and many of our local resident birds. The terrain is quite steep in sections of the park. Directions from the North: take Murray Blvd south to Weir Rd and turn right (west). Continue up the hill and turn right at the top of the hill and then left on Kemmer Rd. After the four-way stop, continue on Kemmer Rd to the top of the hill. The park is at your left at 18892 SW Kemmer Road. From the South: take Roy Rogers Rd from Sherwood and continue north on 175th Ave after crossing Scholls Ferry Rd. **Free; no sign-up needed.**

September 18 (Sat), 8am–11am Tualatin River NWR

Doug Robberson leads a walk at this urban national wildlife refuge with wetlands, forest, and savannah. Meet at the Refuge, 19255 SW Pacific Hwy (Hwy 99W), Sherwood, OR 97140, at 8am. Dress for the weather, beginners welcome. **Free; no sign-up needed.**

September 20 (Mon), 8:30am–11:30am Tualatin River NWR

Easy 2.5- to 3-mile walk through the newest national wildlife refuge in the area. We will be looking for early migrants as well as for any waterfowl and shorebirds. For information contact **Ron Spencer** at 503-656-5170 or rleydens@comcast.net. **Free; no sign-up needed.**

September 29 (Wed), 8am–11am Kiwa Trail, Ridgefield NWR

Join us on a walk on the Kiwa Trail looking for rails and bitterns. The trail closes October 1st, so here's your last chance for this year. The trail is a flat 1.5-mile walk. Dress for the weather and beginners welcome. Meet **Ron Escano** (503-771-3454 for directions) at the Kiwa Trailhead at Ridgefield NWR's River 'S' Unit. **Free; no sign-up needed.**

Audubon Birding Weekends 2010

Currently there is a Wait List for the two remaining 2010 trips listed below. Visit audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/weekends, and contact Paul at ptsulliv@spiritone.com or 503-646-7889 with questions.

October 16–17 — Jackson County

We'll look for late migrants and the Oak Titmouse, Mockingbird, California Towhee, and Black Phoebe. Base: Ashland.

November 13–14 — Columbia River

We'll look for fall migrants and unusual loons, scoters, etc. from above McNary Dam to Hood River. Base: Arlington.

NATURE NIGHT

Second Tuesday of the month from September to May. If you have a suggestion for a Nature Night presentation, contact Catherine at chalpin@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 ext.129.

FREE and open to the public!

On the Wing

Tuesday, September 14th
7pm in Heron Hall


Can't get enough of the Swifts at Chapman Elementary School? Join us for a special screening of the documentary, *On the Wing*, by local filmmaker Dan Viens. The film prominently features Audubon Society of Portland and we feel a bit like movie stars as former and present staff and volunteers make cameos. Whether you've already seen the Vaux's Swifts this year, plan on viewing them later in the month, or just want to learn more, this 60-minute movie is both fun and informative. This will be a casual movie night — we'll pop up some popcorn, celebrate the Swifts, and have a great time! (P.S.: Just for fun, swift- or bird-inspired costume or attire is not mandatory, but encouraged!)



"This documentary about the celebrated semi-annual appearance of the speedy little birdies called Vaux's Swifts at Northwest Portland's Chapman Elementary School is a lively and colorful tapestry of human and avian life, and a great advertisement for the many things that help keep Portland weird."
— Shawn Levy, *The Oregonian*

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



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|  = Swift Watch SEPTEMBER ← SUMMER CAMPS → | | | | | | |
| 5 | LABOR DAY Nature Store and Admin Offices closed | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 12 | 13 | Birders' Night, 7:30pm Heron Hall | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 19 | 20 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

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

Protecting Birds in the Backyard and Beyond

West Hayden Island Update: From Bad to Worse on West Hayden Island

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The decision by Portland City Council on July 29th to adopt a resolution moving the City closer to annexing and rezoning 300 acres of wildlife habitat on West Hayden Island for marine industrial development — followed less than one week later by the discovery that the Port of Portland has been filling the site with contaminated dredge materials — was a one-two punch for anybody who cares about natural resource protection or public process in the City of Portland.

On July 29th, City Council ignored massive public opposition and voted 4-0 (Commissioner Leonard was absent) to instruct the Bureau of Planning to develop a legislative proposal that would allow up to 300 acres of wildlife habitat on West Hayden Island to be annexed and rezoned to allow for development of marine industrial terminals. At the time, Council attempted to mollify opponents of this decision by acknowledging that further analysis of costs/benefits, alternatives, and community impacts was required and that no final decision would be made until these tasks were completed. In the words of Commissioner Nick Fish, "This decision does not call the question on whether we will go forward with annexation. It does not call the question as to whether we develop in any particular way."

Apparently the Port of Portland disagrees. On August 4th we learned that the Port has been placing contaminated dredge materials from the Portland Harbor Superfund Site on West Hayden Island. To date, 30,000 cubic yards of material have been placed and application is pending for an additional 75,000 cubic yards. The dredge materials are contaminated with low levels of DDT, PAHs, zinc, lead,



Potential future site of Port of Portland parking lots. © Bob Sallinger



Port of Portland placing contaminated sediment on West Hayden Island. © Bob Sallinger

petroleum hydrocarbons, and pesticides. In their permit applications to DEQ, the Port explicitly bases the request on the fact that the area will eventually be developed for industrial uses, and DEQ also explicitly bases their support for this decision on the fact that the site will eventually be developed. In a letter dated June 24, 2010, DEQ writes, "The Port of Portland has indicated to DEQ in the application and in past meetings that a large volume of fill material is needed to meet the future development objectives for this location.... Hazardous substance concentrations are below screening values for commercial or industrial use of the property."

While the contaminated dredge materials do meet criteria for placement on hardscaped industrial sites, they exceed criteria for in-water placement, residential areas, and wildlife habitat. Audubon and Willamette Riverkeeper have called on the Port to immediately cease the placement of contaminated materials on West Hayden Island.

The activities of the Port and the subsequent public silence of all members of City Council call into question whether development on West Hayden Island is already a done deal.

The City and Port have already wasted millions of public dollars on two prior West Hayden Island public processes that failed to get at fundamental issues involving the costs and benefits of the project, community and ecological impacts, and potential alternatives. There is little reason to believe that without massive public pressure the next process will be any more substantive.

We need your help to send a strong message to the Port and City Hall that the public does not want to see hundreds of acres of critical wildlife habitat converted into parking lots, railroad tracks, and terminals for the Port of Portland. A final decision on West Hayden Island is likely at least a year away.

How you can help:

- Join Audubon's Urban Activist Team, "FAUNA," to receive regular updates at audubonportland.org/issues/get-involved/fauna_form.
- Join our West Hayden Island Facebook Page: Go to Facebook and enter West Hayden Island.

Invasive Carp Control — It's for the Birds

by Tim Bodeen, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Manager

The protection and restoration of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge has been a priority for the Audubon Society of Portland since our founding in 1902. This month we are pleased to present this guest article by Malheur NWR Manager Tim Bodeen about some of the current challenges facing this Refuge.

People from around the world visit Malheur National Wildlife Refuge to see our diversity of bird species, the vast high desert landscape, and the majestic views of Steens Mountain. The Refuge and surrounding Harney Basin are a critical spring migration stopover for birds using the Pacific flyway. In order for the Refuge to continue to serve as an integral Important Bird Area (IBA) and migration stopover, we need to greatly improve our aquatic health by reducing our common carp infestation.

In the 1920s, the common carp, native to Eurasia, was introduced into the Silvies River as a potential food source. The carp quickly spread throughout the watershed and downstream into the Refuge's Malheur Lake. In the 1950s, the Refuge finally realized it had a serious common carp infestation on its hands. Starting in 1955, efforts were undertaken to control carp on the Refuge. Control methods have included chemical treatments and water level manipulation, which only provided short-lived results because of the carp's ability to quickly reproduce (annually, a mature female carp can produce over 250,000 eggs). More recently fish screens, barriers, and traps have been used to restrict movement, curbing distribution of the carp and benefiting native fish.

Though the impact is nearly invisible to visitors, carp are responsible for degrading Malheur Lake and 70,000 acres of prime waterbird habitat to the point of creating an 'aquatic desert' with little to no food resources for birds and native fishes. Carp compete directly with waterbirds and waterfowl for the same plant material and aquatic invertebrate food resources. The carp vacuum and scour the wetland bottoms, leaving uprooted aquatic vegetation and suspended silts which block out the sunlight, stopping ecosystem functioning. Birds relying on these aquatic systems have no choice but to move on to more productive wetlands or expend much more of their energy trying to find food.



Sunset at Malheur Lake. Photo: Barbara Wheeler, USFWS Volunteer

The vision of the Refuge is to take a more comprehensive aquatic ecosystem approach to carp control by working together with carp control experts to assess the population, understand their movement patterns, and implement sustainable control measures, so we can rehabilitate Malheur Lake and improve our aquatic health into the future.

In 1908, we stood shoulder to shoulder with Portland Audubon as President Teddy Roosevelt established the Refuge to protect its waterbirds. Now, 100 years later, we are asking for you to stand shoulder to shoulder with us again as we strive to improve aquatic habitat for the waterbirds.

What can you do to help?

- Use your voice to educate and motivate others.
- Be part of the solution by joining the aquatic health coalition at www.fws.gov/lists/listinfo/malheurnwrcarpcoalition.
- Donate your time and talents.
- Visit the Refuge website, www.fws.gov/malheur.
- Join the Malheur Wildlife Associates at www.malheurfriends.org.

Together, we can make a difference in the control of carp to help the birds. For more information contact the Refuge at 541-493-2612.



Linda Beck, Fish Biologist, with Carp. Photo: USFWS

Stories from the Gulf Coast

by Bob Sallinger

In August, Portland Audubon staffers Bob Sallinger, Ariana Longanecker, and Mike Houck traveled to the Gulf Coast with 21 other Oregonians to see and learn about the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and the impact it has had on the environment, local communities, and nation. They have brought back amazing stories and insights not only about how we can assist the residents and wildlife of the Gulf Coast but also about how we can apply the lessons learned from this spill here at home.

The group known as **PDX2GulfCoast** will be a long-term effort developing curriculum, outreach materials, and legislation to ensure that we use this tragedy to improve our stewardship of the planet. To learn more about the ongoing efforts of this group, visit pdx2gulfcoast.com.



Sign on road to Grand Isle, Louisiana. © Stiv Wilson



Washing pelicans at the Hammond Oiled Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility. Pelicans, which were removed from the Endangered Species list last year, make up more than 600 of the 1,400 birds treated at this facility to date. © Bob Sallinger



Fishing boat carrying protective oil boom rather than fishing nets. BP has given these vessels, which have been hired to assist the oil spill response, the Orwellian name "Vessels of Opportunity." © Bob Sallinger

New Satellite Office at Leach Botanical Garden

by Jim Labbe, Urban Conservationist

Starting July 1, I have had the opportunity to staff Portland Audubon's new satellite office at Leach Botanical Garden (6704 SE 122nd Ave). The office is part of Portland Audubon's effort to diversify and strengthen our organization in order to effectively advance our conservation and education mission in the coming century. Through new partnerships and greater accessibility, we hope to continue to inspire an increasingly diverse and transit-dependent population to love and protect our region's unique nature heritage.

Leach Botanical Garden is an ideal location to do just that; it is both at the doorstep to the East Buttes natural areas and in close proximity to much of the region's future population growth and development. From the park-deficient but rapidly redeveloping communities of Lents, Gateway, and Rockwood to the new urban communities of Springwater, Pleasant Valley, and Damascus, the East Metro area poses the greatest challenges and opportunities to manifesting an ecologically sustainable and socially equitable metropolitan region.



Karen prepares to release a rehabilitated bird.
© Portland Audubon

Karen Munday Moving On after Nearly a Decade with Portland Audubon

by Bob Sallinger

After almost 10 years as Audubon's first Urban Wildlife Specialist, Karen Munday is moving on to take a job as an Environmental Education Program Coordinator at Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District. During her time with Audubon, Karen played a huge role in helping to promote protection of wildlife on our urban landscape. As our first Urban Wildlife Specialist, she developed a program to respond to more than 15,000 wildlife-related phone calls each year. More often than not, she was the voice that you heard on the other end of the phone line when you had a raccoon in your attic, a woodpecker drilling on your chimney, or a coyote sneaking off with your cat. Not content to simply respond to problems, Karen also worked in partnership with Three Rivers Land Conservancy (now Columbia Land Trust) to develop our joint Backyard Habitat Certification Program, which helps the public create wildlife habitat on their own property.

In between these tasks, Karen was our Conservation Program's jack of all trades, filling in at the Wildlife Care Center, managing events such as Raptor Road Trip, and registering Wild in the City trips. It was the Conservation Program's worst-kept secret that Karen was the calm, cool, always upbeat force that kept our relentlessly free-wheeling program from coming apart at the seams. After nearly a decade with Audubon, Karen's influence on our conservation efforts has been profound. We know that she is not going far — folks will now see Karen at places like Cooper Mountain and Tualatin Hills Nature Park, and we have already signed her up to come back and volunteer at Audubon. **Thank you, Karen!**

This November 2nd, Portland Audubon Urges You to Vote YES on Measure 76 to Protect Water, Parks, and Wildlife

Ballot Measure 76 represents a critically important opportunity to protect fish and wildlife habitat, build our local and statewide park systems, and protect water quality. It permanently renews Ballot Measure 66, which passed with overwhelming voter support in 1998 and which dedicates 15% of lottery funds to protecting natural areas and parks. Today these funds are at work restoring habitats, acquiring natural areas, and creating and improving state and local parks. But without another vote of the people, the dedicated funding expires in 2014. Passage of Measure 76 is essential to ensure that Oregon's only dedicated source of funding for water quality, parks, and wildlife remains intact.



Western Meadowlark
© Jim Cruce

What does Measure 76 do? Measure 76 would continue in perpetuity the state's current practice of dedicating 15% of lottery funds toward protecting parks and wildlife habitat. There is no impact on anyone's tax bill and there is no impact on other vital services. The funding

would be divided evenly between the following:

- Protecting and restoring water quality and habitats for fish and wildlife to ensure a healthy environment for generations of Oregonians.
- Preserving and improving public parks and recreation areas to provide opportunities for Oregon families to experience nature and enjoy outdoor recreation close to home. A minimum of 12% will go to local park jurisdictions, with the remainder going to Oregon State Parks.

Past generations demonstrated tremendous foresight in protecting and preserving many of the outstanding public parks and natural areas that we enjoy and benefit from today.

Let's leave a legacy for future generations by voting YES to protect Oregon's Water, Parks, and Wildlife.

The Audubon Society of Portland urges You to Vote YES on Measure 76!



Barn Owl © Jim Cruce

Wildlife Care Center

Raptor Cam Red-tail Fledgling Finds Permanent Home at OMSI's Hancock Field Station

By Deb Sheaffer, Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager

For the fourth year in a row, people from around the city and around the world were able to tune into the KGW-Audubon Raptor Cam to watch a pair of Red-tailed Hawks raising their young on a downtown Portland fire escape. While final numbers still are not in, we do know that the site again received hundreds of thousands of hits. Over a period of 100 days, Raptor Cam viewers were able to watch the entire nesting process, from nest construction and egg laying to the first tentative flights of the young from the nest.

Alas, this is truly reality TV, and one of the realities for birds is that the post-fledging period (the period after they first begin to fly), whether it occurs in the inner city or in a wilderness area, is a particularly hazardous time for the young. This year the Raptor Cam Red-tails fledged two young. While one of these birds is still free flying, the other unfortunately suffered a succession of run-ins with cars that ultimately left him unable to survive in the wild.

On June 2, less than 48 hours after the Raptor Cam fledglings took their first flights, one of the fledglings was discovered playing tag with cars on West

Burnside. He was rescued by a Good Samaritan who captured him by throwing a coat over him and calling the Wildlife Care Center. Fortunately, other than being somewhat stunned, the fledgling was healthy. Two days later, Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger was able to reunite the bird with his parents at the nest ledge. The mother Red-tail expressed her appreciation by giving Bob a good smack on the back of the head as Raptor Cam viewers watched on the live webcast. Before release the fledgling was banded with an orange band with the inscription "K2," which quickly became his unofficial name.



K2 flying during his first day after leaving the nest. © Bob Sallinger



K2 just after leaving the nest. © Bob Sallinger

We were disappointed when K2 showed up again in the Wildlife Care Center seven days later. This time he was found on the east side of the Burnside Bridge after being struck by a car, this time with much more dire consequences. He was admitted into the Care Center with severe swelling to the right side of the head. X-rays showed there were no fractured bones, but K2 showed signs of a head trauma — dullness, head tilt, and tremors. His right eye had suffered significant damage.

With intensive treatment, we were able to save K2's life and resolve the head injury. However, the right eye was ultimately determined to be beyond repair. We thank veterinary ophthalmologist Dr. Susan Kirschner for donating her expertise and services to assess and treat K2's injured eye. A month after his arrival, we determined that he would not regain his sight in this eye.

Occasionally we are able to release one-eyed adult Red-tails that are experienced hunters. However, even in these cases, they are at a severe disadvantage. Sadly, considering that K2 was just learning to hunt when he was injured, he wouldn't have a chance at success if we released him.

Our wish for K2 would have been to see him flying free again over Portland, but since that was not possible we looked for a suitable place for him to live. Fortunately he's found a place in Oregon. In August he was transferred to OMSI's Hancock Field Station in Fossil, where he will be used in education programs for camps, Outdoor School, and other programs (see www.oms.edu/hancock).

We are already busy working on the 2011 Raptor Cam Project. We look forward to adding sound to the website so that viewers will be able to both see and hear the activity in the nest. We expect to begin broadcasting again in January.



Hyacinth Macaw © Marcelo Krause

Birds & Wildlife of Brazil

April 3–17, 2011

Travel with experienced naturalists from the Audubon Society of Portland and local guides into some of the most incredible bird habitat in the world as you explore the avian wonderland that is Brazil.

After a night in Sao Paulo, you'll travel deep into the **Pantanal**, the single largest freshwater wetland in the world. We'll spend the next 4 days exploring this unique habitat in search of such interesting species as the

Red-billed Scythbill, **Black-fronted Nunbird**, **Jabiru**, and the wonderful **Hyacinth Macaw**. We may encounter **Capybaras**, **Black Caimans**, and even the rare **Two-toed Sloth** on our trek through the Brazilian wilderness. We'll keep our eyes peeled for primates as well, including the **Black-tailed Marmoset**, the **Brown Capuchin**, and the loudest terrestrial mammal in the world, the infamous **Black Howler Monkey**. We will also offer a night drive to seek out two of the most elusive animals in all of South America, the **Ocelot** and the mighty **Jaguar**.

After leaving the Pantanal, we will travel to a variety of habitat types that will yield new and exciting species. While in the Serra da Araras, we'll search the tropical jungle for the impressive **Harpy Eagle**, the largest eagle in the world. This powerful bird is known to crash fearlessly through the branches of trees to capture its prey. We then travel along the Brazilian coast and into the ecological hotspot known as the **Atlantic Rain Forest**. Though huge, what remains of this forest today is but a fragment of the vast forest that used to blanket this coastal region. Birds we're likely to find on this leg of the trip include the stunning **Saffron Toucanet**, the **Yellow-tufted Woodpecker**, the **White-eared Puffbird**, the **Golden-winged Cotinga**, the **Bare-throated Bellbird**, the **White-bearded Manakin**, and 5 species of **Kingfishers**, to name just a few. We'll also have the chance to visit several hummingbird feeders along the way, guaranteed to yield many species of these acrobatic flyers.

Our trip will end in **Rio de Janeiro**, where you'll enjoy birding the botanical gardens and a free day to explore this fascinating city. This is sure to be a memorable trip filled with wildlife viewing at its best. If you would like more information, please call **Steve Robertson** at **503-292-6855 ext.118**. Trip deposit secures your place on the trip.

Fee: \$3,585 members / \$3,885 non-members

Deposit: \$1,200

Group size: Limited to 14 participants and 2 guides

Leaders: **Steve Engel** and local guide

Fee is based on double occupancy and includes all lodging, all ground transportation, all meals except a few dinners, and all guide fees. Fee does **not** include tips for local guides or the cost of internal flights, or airfare to and from Brazil. *A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible contribution to the Audubon Society of Portland.*



Common Caiman © Marcelo Krause

Belize & Tikal!

Jan. 22 – Feb. 1, 2011

Join experienced naturalists from Portland Audubon on this 11-day adventure to Belize, one of the most remarkable countries in the world. You'll bird vast wetlands and tropical forests, snorkel coral reefs, and visit Mayan ruins, all in a country about one-tenth the size of Oregon!



Jabirus on nest © Steve Robertson

We'll team up with local experts for the first week to bird some of the country's finest birding hot spots, including the famous **Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary**. Belize boasts an amazing 540+ species of birds, and we'll keep our eyes peeled for the **Tody Motmot**, the **Roseate Spoonbill**, and the **American Pygmy Kingfisher**, to name just a few. We'll have the opportunity to bird a variety of habitats and biomes, so we're sure to build a healthy species list — but keep in mind that this is Belize, so we'll do more than just birding!



Birding Tikal © Steve Robertson

Belize is also the Land of the **Maya**, and on this trek we'll explore three of the region's most impressive ancient cities, **Altun Ha** and **Lamanai**, the latter being a complex of ruins best accessed after a bird-rich cruise down the New River, a wonderful experience in and of itself. Finally, we'll travel overland into **Guatemala**, where you'll have two days to explore and bird the vast Mayan city of **Tikal**. Here, the flocks of **antbirds** can come so fast and furious, it's a fun challenge for birders of all levels to try and keep up. Tikal is a Mayan-Lacandon Important Bird Area (IBA) and a prime birding destination that yielded 172 species in the Christmas Bird Count of 2009. Some of these included the **Violaceous Trogon**, **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**, **Montezuma Oropendula**, **King Vulture**, **Bat Falcon**, **Blue-crowned Motmot**, **Keel-billed Toucan**, and the **Emerald Toucanet**, all of which we have a good chance of seeing on this trip.

The last 3 days we'll be based out of the village of **Placencia**, our launching pad for exploring this coastal region. We'll spend a magical day snorkeling the beautiful coral reefs in the warm blue waters surrounding **Laughing Bird Caye**, with **Magnificent Frigatebirds** overhead and an unbelievable array of sea life below. We'll also be sure to build in plenty of **free time** so you can relax and enjoy the trip! If you would like more information, please call **Steve Robertson** at **503-292-6855 ext.118**. Trip deposit secures your place on the trip.

Fee: \$2,575 members / \$2,900 non-members

Deposit: \$1,200

Leader: **Steve Robertson**, Education Director

Fee is based on double occupancy and includes all lodging, ground transportation, all meals *except dinners*, all guide fees, park fees, and planned group activities such as birding, snorkeling, boat trips, etc. **Not included:** Airfare to & from Portland, dinners, and tips for local guides. *Remember, a portion of your fee is a tax-deductible donation to the Audubon Society of Portland.*

Autumn on Steens Mountain

NEW OFFERING!

October 6–10, 2010

Steens Mountain is one of Oregon's most spectacular natural areas and it is beautiful in the fall. Rising to almost 10,000 feet in the southeast corner of the state, it presides over alkali desert, oceans of sagebrush, and the wildlife-rich marshlands of the Malheur Basin. From our base in Frenchglen, we'll spend three full days exploring this diverse landscape by van and on foot as we venture around all sides and on top of the mountain.



Deer buck © Jim Cruce

In fall the aspen groves will be rich in color, inviting you to explore the mountain. Mammals such as **Pronghorn**, **Mule Deer**, **Bighorn Sheep**, and **Coyote** are in their prime and active as they ready for winter. At Steens' East Rim Overlook we'll scan for the rare **Black Rosy-Finch**, and if we're lucky we'll look down on the backs of migrating **Golden Eagles** and **Prairie Falcons** from our vantage point a dizzying vertical mile above the Alvord Desert. Visits to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and a trip to the Alvord Basin provide a chance to observe a variety of other migratory birds and marvel at the dramatic geology and scenery of this unique Oregon landscape.

What is included: All lodging at the charming Frenchglen Hotel (based on double occupancy), all breakfasts and lunches (except first day), van transportation from Portland, and the services of your leader. *A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible contribution to the Audubon Society of Portland.*

Fee: \$645 members / \$695 non-members

Leader: **Steve Engel**, Adult Education Coordinator



Steens summit © Marshall Tate

Contact **Steve Engel** at **971-222-6119** or sengel@audubonportland.org for information or to register.

Galapagos Sept. 30 – Oct. 6, 2010

Contact Dan van den Broek at 971-222-6105

Two spaces remaining!

HOW TO REGISTER

To view additional classes, go to
www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps.

Trips & Classes

Adult Classes

1. **NEW** — register and pay online! Visit class description on our website.
2. **OR** — contact Steve Engel via phone or email to be put on the roster, then make your payment as soon as he confirms availability. Only your payment holds your spot.
3. **Mail your check** payable to Audubon Society of Portland **or call** with your credit card information.

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.



Golden Eagle release at Bonney Butte. © Don Baccus

Hawks In Flight: Identifying Birds of Prey

September 15 (Wed), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
September 18 (Sat), 9am–5pm: Field Trip (transportation provided)

Helping beginning bird watchers 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 managed by HawkWatch International, will provide an opportunity to see many migrating birds and 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: \$55 members / \$70 non-members (transportation provided)

Class-only option: \$10 members / \$15 non-members

Volunteers may attend the class only for FREE.

Field Trip limited to 12 participants. A second van may be added if needed.

Pre-registration is required.

Diving Birds: Loons, Grebes, Pelicans & Cormorants

September 21 (Tues), 7pm–9pm in Heron Hall

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

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



Double-crested Cormorants.
© Jim Cruce

Animal Tracks of the Pacific Northwest

September 24 (Fri), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
September 25 (Sat), 9am–3pm: Field Trip

Ever wonder who made that track? How to tell a dog track from a cat track? What animals have 18 toes? How trackers go about identifying a footprint? Answers to these questions and more await you in this class and field trip on identifying the tracks of Northwest mammals and birds. The Friday evening class will teach you the skills of track identification through hands-on practice with life-size track stencils and plaster casts. We'll also create track stories on paper and make the key measurements that tell us about what the animal was doing. On Saturday we'll visit private land on the Columbia River and try out our newfound knowledge with some good old-fashioned "dirt time." As we search out and discover the stories in the tracks we encounter, we will hone our skills and begin to see a whole new world through the eyes of a tracker.

Tracker, teacher, researcher, and author **David Moskowitz** and Portland Audubon's **Steve Engel** team up to lead you into the world of tracking. David is author of the recently released *Wildlife of the Pacific Northwest: Tracking and Identifying Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates* and is actively researching wolves in the Pacific Northwest. Steve is Audubon's Adult Education Coordinator and has been collecting and studying tracks since 1981.

Fee: \$45 members / \$55 non-members

Class size: 20 participants

Pre-registration is required.

Beginning Field Birding

Saturdays, 8am–Noon:
October 2, November 6, December 4

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 birding expert **Greg Baker!** This field class series is perfect for those interested in developing and sharpening their birding skills under a variety of conditions. Explore different habitats on the island, learn bird calls, and search for waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors. This workshop is limited to 15 people.
Fee: \$50 members / \$60 non-members
Participants register for all three days.
Pre-registration is required.



Sandhill Crane © Jim Cruce

Oregon Birding Hot Spots: Mt. Hood National Forest

October 15 (Fri), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
October 16 (Sat), 7am–5pm: Field Trip (transportation provided)

The birding opportunities in Mt. Hood National Forest range from mature forest to alpine tundra to riparian woodland and mountain lakes. With diverse habitats comes a diverse list of birds, all in a day trip from Portland. Join *Birding Oregon* author **John Rakestraw** on Friday evening to learn some of the best birding spots and to review some of the expected species. On Saturday, we will visit these sites to give you first-hand experience with the birds and stunning scenery surrounding Mt. Hood. Target species for this trip include **Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Ruffed Grouse, and Mountain Bluebird.** It is also a good time and place to look for late migrating raptors as well as three species of Loon and up to five species of Grebe. This trip will involve a lot of walking, some at elevations over 6,000 feet.

Fee: \$65 members / \$80 non-members (transportation provided)

Class-only option: \$10 members / \$15 non-members

Field Trip limited to 12 participants.

Pre-registration is required.



Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.
Photo: Alan D. Wilson



Gray Wolf tracks.
Photo: USFWS

Beginning Birding II

October 17 & 24 (Sun), 8am–11:30am: Morning Field Trips
October 30 (Sat), 8am–5pm: All-day Field Trip (transportation provided)

Take your new birding skills to the next level with **Laura Whittemore.** This class is designed for those wanting more time in the field practicing and improving their birding abilities. Two morning field trips to local sites and an all-day van trip will help familiarize you with some of the best places to visit for bird watching in town and farther afield. **Transportation provided by Audubon for all-day field trip only.**

Fee: \$70 members / \$80 non-members

Field Trips limited to 12 participants.

Pre-registration is required.



Bushtits and Chestnut-backed Chickadee at suet feeder.
© Steve Berliner



School of Birding participants.
Photo: Mike Skinner & Caroline Mann

Portland Audubon's

2010-2011

School of Birding

Beginning and intermediate birders welcome!

The School of Birding is a course modeled after a university program and is taught in seasonal "terms." Each term consists of a series of classes and field trips focused on the best birding each season has to offer. **Dan van den Broek**, field ornithologist and Audubon trip leader, is the primary instructor and will help you to improve your birding skills and bird identification. Each term consists of 6 classes and 5 field trips (including an overnight). Sign up soon, as this is a popular program.

Fall Term is Full.

Space is still available...

Winter Term.....Dec. 29, 2010 – Feb. 19, 2011

Spring Term..... March 16 – May 14, 2011

Summer Term..... July 6 – August 28, 2011

Group size: 16

Fee Option 1: \$550/term (no discount for full year)

Option 2: \$395/term + 8 hours of volunteer time
– or for full year discount:
\$1,395/full year + 32 hours of volunteer time

(Overnight includes 2 nights in hotel and transportation in 2 vans.)

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

Also visit www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes/schoolofbirding.

Nature Store Highlights

by Sally Loomis, Book Buyer

Lots of new book titles are coming into the Nature Store this season, and we're going to highlight just a few of them here. Please visit us to see these books and many more, or if you see one you'd like to purchase, give us a call and we'll arrange to have it sent to you. Also, please check out our online store, which has an array of our bestsellers available for easy purchase.



Birdology by Sy Montgomery (Free Press, \$25.00) offers some vivid essays on a range of birds, both wild and domestic. A description of a volunteer wildlife rehabber's attempt to raise a pair of orphaned baby hummingbirds for release is particularly touching.

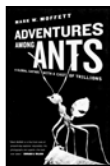


Bayshore Summer: Finding Eden in a Most Unlikely Place (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$24.00) is the second volume in Pete Dunne's quartet of books based around the seasons (following 2009's *Prairie Spring*). Set at his native Jersey shore, it reveals the connections between the human occupants and the natural world, with both positive and negative consequences. It's a heartfelt portrait of a place that

the author knows intimately. Dunne is a well-known nature writer and director of the Cape May Bird Observatory.



The World According to Monsanto: Pollution, Corruption, and the Control of Our Food Supply by Marie-Monique Robin (New Press, \$26.95) is the result of the French reporter's three-year investigation into the environmental and business practices of one of the world's most controversial corporations. Winner of the 2009 Rachel Carson Prize, this is scary stuff, and information that we all should be aware of.



Adventures among Ants: A Global Safari with a Cast of Trillions by Mark W. Moffett (University of California Press, \$29.95) delves into the complex and fascinating world of ant societies, complete with amazing photographs. Who needs science fiction when there are so many incredible life forms just under our feet?

World travelers should note the 2010 eighth edition of **Birds of Australia** by Simpson and Day (Princeton University Press, \$39.50). Another new arrival is the revised

edition of **Birds of Peru**, now available in paperback, by Thomas S. Schulenberg et al. (also Princeton University Press, \$39.50).



We'd like to congratulate Audubon member and frequent volunteer Ann Littlewood on the publication of her second mystery novel, **Did Not Survive** (Poison Pen Press, \$14.95). Her whodunits, featuring heroine zookeeper/sleuth Iris Oakley, have a wildlife theme and are set in the fictitious Finley Memorial Zoo of Vancouver, WA.

New non-book products in the Nature Store include some fun T-shirts in kid's sizes made of bird-friendly organic cotton. With four different designs including glow-in-the-dark animal tracks, they are available in youth sizes XS-L and sell for \$18.00.

Louisiana Gulf Response Fundraiser

Please help Portland Audubon raise funds to aid volunteers working on cleanup and recovery efforts in the Gulf of Mexico. You can join us in showing your support for these volunteers through your purchase of a Brown Pelican tile by **Pratt & Larson Ceramics**. This commemorative handmade and hand-painted 6x9-inch tile is available for a limited time for \$50.00. Seventy percent of the proceeds from the sale of each tile will be donated to the Louisiana Gulf Response Organization.

The Louisiana Gulf Response Organization is a partnership between four nonprofit environmental and wildlife

organizations working together to protect and restore coastal Louisiana. All of the money donated will be divided between these partners to fund their combined efforts for oil spill recovery. The four organizations are Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, National Audubon Society, and The Nature Conservancy. To learn more about LA Gulf Response, visit www.lagulfresponse.org.

Stop by the Nature Store or go to www.audubonportland.org to purchase a tile and help make a difference today.



Sanctuaries News

Third Year of Together Green Volunteer Days Kicks Off

by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

Saturday, August 7th marked the first of 6 Together Green Volunteer Days in our third year of funding through this grant program. A joint partnership with National Audubon and Toyota, this grant program provides funding for tools, project materials, food, and outreach for 6 large-scale, full-day volunteer events per year. This grant program has allowed Portland Audubon to greatly expand the capacity and reach of its Sanctuaries volunteer program while also providing continuing momentum to restoration and trail efforts initially funded through prior grants with Metro and the Bureau of Environmental Services.



Photos © Deanna Sawtelle

On August 7th, 35 wonderful volunteers joined us for a day of trail work and invasives removal. Our invasives group, led by long-time Audubon volunteer Kyle Spinks, trekked to the upper reaches of the Collins Sanctuary to work on controlling the spread of Garlic Mustard (see last month's Sanctuaries *Warbler* article) at the upper trailhead. This access point has been heavily used over the past two years, ground zero for the bulk of Metro's restoration efforts as well as our semi-annual plantings in partnership with Friends of Trees. With such heavy use we need to be particularly vigilant in culling the spread of any Garlic Mustard. At the end of the day, 14 large garbage bags of Garlic Mustard were removed from the trailhead, and we still have more to pick next month.



The other half of our group worked with super-volunteer Rick Meyers and me to address some sections of trail in the Pittock (lower) Sanctuary. Several sections of the Woodpecker Trail have become degraded by the winter rains, leaving deep pockets of mud on the sections of trail most heavily used for our Sanctuary Tour Program. In addition to sullyng the shoes of many a youth, these muddy sections of trail tend to get wider and wider as hikers attempt to avoid the mud by walking around it. The solution, although simple, requires a tremendous amount of labor. Our rock-star volunteers (apologies for the gravel

pun) moved 6 yards of gravel down the trail to the muddy sections, which other volunteers had lined with old timbers to contain the gravel. This creates a raised gravel trail (called a causeway or turnpike in Forest Service parlance), effectively keeping the trail elevated above the mud and exactly 3 feet wide. Keep an eye out for our new causeways as you are hiking the trails — and think graciously of the volunteers who moved all of that heavy wood and rock.

Please join us on **September 18** for our next Together Green Volunteer Day, when we will do it all over again.

Friends of Trees Gift Tree Plantings for 2010-2011

Last year we began a new partnership with Friends of Trees and their Gift Tree Program to coordinate 2 restoration plantings per year in the Collins Sanctuary. Last year our friends at FOT planted close to 1,000 native trees and shrubs in what was the most heavily degraded section of the Collins Sanctuary. What was once an ivy desert is now brimming with new life! The next plantings have been scheduled for December 12, 2010 and March 27, 2011 — mark your calendars. Friends of Trees has been a wonderful partner and runs a fantastic volunteer program, and I encourage everyone to buy a gift tree (see form, page 10) and attend their plantings.

One added bonus to our partnership with Friends of Trees has been their willingness to hold their annual volunteer crew leader training at Portland Audubon, which brings us an additional 300 plants. Look for the new plantings from this training down by the pond in mid-November. Thank you, Friends of Trees!

Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

In Memory

Stephen Hopkins Armitage
Stacey Foisy
June Mikkelsen

David Karlen
Ruby Apsler

Bud Larkin

Ann Habafy
Eva Lowen
Joan & Robert Try

Evelyn Mae Boyles
Colleen Ryan

Gordon Brooks
Frederick Clayton

Miss Marian L. Moore
Patricia Tiffin

Mary Anne Capobianco
Julie Bunczak
John & Dolores Karpinski
Erin Rosvold & Family

Bill Pearson
Molly Marks

Larry Deal
Carol Braun

Charles Polavsky
Anne Marie & Gary Smith

Richard Forbes
Orcilia Zuniga Forbes

Mrs. Chrisandra Jane Sarda
Raj Sarda

Lillian Holmblad
Mary & Jeff Christensen

Faith Eckles Schnautz
Judy Rubin

In Honor

Charlie Armstrong
Mikael Hallquist
Emily Orth

Frederick & Kimberly Gordon
Stephen & Meagan Peters

Dr. Robert Brewer & Shelly
Sue Ann Arguelles

Lynn Herring
Linda Craig

Linda Eklund
Jeri & Jon Taylor

Dr. Anne Sammis
David Karlin

Valerie Garst & Dwight Porter
Jim & Pat Randle

Robert Thinnies
June Thinnies

You can honor a special person with a gift to Audubon Society of Portland. Your gift will help fund a future of inspiring people to love and protect nature. You can make an Honor or Memorial gift online at www.audubonportland.org or by calling 971-222-6129. A songbird card acknowledging your thoughtful gift will be sent to the honoree or family.

Wish List & Thank yous

Thank you to:

- U.S. Geological Survey for 4 laptop computers
- Pat Johnston for a Water Wand

Our Wish List:

For Education:

Laptop computer • Powerpoint Projector

For Sanctuary:

Loppers • Hand saws • Work gloves

For Wildlife Care Center:

Science Diet Kitten Growth • Bleach
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.

The Hummingbird Challenge, Then and Now

With their poor optics and lack of illustrated field guides, early ornithologists were at a decided disadvantage in identifying wild birds in the field. The acceptable method was to shoot the bird then identify it in the hand. What few identification guides available were written for use in this manner. If it was a difficult bird it was sent to a major museum for comparison with other collected birds.

Because of the identification difficulties, many species were under-reported in the early years. One group of birds that were most difficult to observe and collect were the hummingbirds. Better optics, better field guides, and more knowledgeable field observers — and a good scattering of hummingbird feeders in recent years — have all helped in obtaining a better picture of their distribution in Oregon.

Male hummingbirds regularly set up territories away from the female and the nest, then leave the area entirely when all the females are nesting. By late June most hummingbirds in nesting areas are females or young birds. Thus most data on hummingbird nesting are based on activities of the female bird.

Black-chinned Hummingbird: Gabrielson and Jewett considered these birds fairly regular migrants and probable breeding birds east of the Cascades but had little data to support their supposition. Today Black-chinned Hummers are regularly found in summer in the more open areas of Eastern Oregon. While the females breed in the riparian bottomlands along streams and rivers, the males defend territories on the drier sun-baked slopes and hillsides.

Anna's Hummingbird: Early observers did not find this species in Oregon. The first sighting was of a male in Ashland on December 31, 1958. It has since established a permanent population with nesting first noticed during

1979. Today the Anna's Hummingbird is a regular resident in the lowlands of Western Oregon and a regular summer resident and breeding bird through Central Oregon.

Costa's Hummingbird: This is another recent arrival, with the first Oregon record in 1972. Although still a fairly rare bird there are records for every month of the year. It is most often reported from west of the Cascades, with one attempted nesting record for Curry County. Costa's Hummers are most often seen in residential areas. Males are observed almost yearly in and about Bend.

Calliope Hummingbird: Early ornithologists considered this species the second most common hummingbird in Oregon. It is a regular breeding bird about mountain meadows and open coniferous forested areas where ceanothus and other flowering shrubs are found.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: There were enough early records to indicate that this species did occasionally occur in Oregon but not enough information to indicate anything more. It is still one of the hardest species to locate. Fair numbers undoubtedly migrate through Eastern Oregon, and there are enough summer records to indicate that a few nest in the forested areas of the Blue Mountains and possibly in the forests of Southern Oregon.



Molting female Anna's Hummingbird, tongue extended.
© Steve Berliner

Rufous Hummingbird: Undoubtedly the most common hummingbird in Oregon, it is primarily a bird of the coniferous forests and is regularly found about clearcuts and meadows. Quite a few Rufous Hummingbirds summer in the lower elevations, nesting in and about farms and cities.

Allen's Hummingbird: Closely related to the Rufous Hummingbird, this species is difficult to separate in any plumage. It has a rather dense breeding population in the coastal lowlands from Cape Blanco southward. Small numbers may also breed in Coos County. The Allen's breeds in open brushy areas on the slopes and in the lowlands along the coast and does not regularly overlap the range of the Rufous Hummingbird.

Checklist Updated

The American Ornithological Union recently published the 50th supplement to the AOU Checklist of Birds. Many changes were made to the scientific names and the placement of some birds in the Checklist. Concerning most birders was the splitting of the **Winter Wren** into three species. The Eastern North American birds retain the name Winter Wren, but in Western North America, including Oregon, it is now called the **Pacific Wren**. It will be tough to change over but if you forget, it can be confusing.

Sightings

The Sandy River Delta continues to be the best local birding spot during the summer months. Among the more exciting species this summer was the loudly calling **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** Grant Canterbury heard July 25.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Photo: Mdf/
Wikimedia Commons

The Fernhill Wetlands hosted a pair of **Clark's Grebes** this summer. There was some nuptial displaying, but no sign of nesting. Up to 18 **White Pelicans** also summered there.

The Tualatin River NWR is shaping up to be one of the best birding spots in the area. On June 14 Khan Tran spotted a **Black Swift** there. Scott Carpenter reported an **Ash-throated Flycatcher**

June 18. Mary Reese saw **Black Phoebe** June 28, and Stefan Schlick reported a **Semipalmated and Pectoral Sandpiper** there July 20.

On June 2 Bob Flores reported a **Great-tailed Grackle** at Ridgefield NWR. Both **Western and Eastern Kingbirds** and **Red-eyed Vireos** were reported there this summer.

Up to 33 **White Pelicans** were reported summering on Sauvie Island. This is becoming an annual event. This summer over 100 adults and downy chicks were found on Miller Sands a few miles east of Astoria. This is a new breeding colony closer to the Portland area.

Be a Frequent Flyer!

Make regular monthly or quarterly donations as a member of the Audubon Society of Portland's Frequent Flyer Club. Help ensure the long-term protection of the native birds, wildlife, and wild places you care about with gifts through automatic bank or credit card withdrawals.



Great Blue Heron © Jim Cruce

Your regular donation gives Portland Audubon continued support and helps balance our resources throughout the year. It's easy and efficient, and saves paper and time! And we understand that situations change. Your Frequent Flyer Club Membership can be suspended or stopped at any time with a phone call or email to our Membership Department.

You can become a Frequent Flyer online at audubonportland.org/support-us/ways-to-give/frequent-flyer — or use this form and mail it to:

Membership Department
5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, OR 97210

Frequent Flyer Amount:

\$ _____ Per Month Per Quarter

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Payment Information:

Name on card: _____

Visa Mastercard Discover

Card#: _____

Expires: _____

Volunteer of the Month: Tara Lilley

by Deb Sheaffer, WCC Operations Manager

This month's outstanding volunteer, **Tara Lilley**, is dedicated, involved, and always willing to lend a needed hand. Her warm smile can frequently be seen in the Wildlife Care Center, around the sanctuary, and at many Audubon activities.



Tara with Aristophanes © Chris Wastok

Staff and volunteers at Audubon have very nice things to say about Tara. Kari Jones, Wildlife Care Center Assistant Manager, describes Tara: "She is always flexible and willing to lend a hand. Many times during our busiest months, Tara has stayed to help take care of hospitalized patients. As an Education Bird Handler, she greets the public with knowledge and ease when presenting the birds." Irene McIntosh, who serves on the Volunteer Council with Tara, adds that "things brighten up when she's around."

Audubon is lucky to have Tara as a dedicated volunteer, and we appreciate her willingness to always help with a smile. **Thank you, Tara!**



Planting native plants. © Deanna Sawtelle

Give a growing, green gift: an Audubon Society of Portland and Friends of Trees Gift Tree

Honor a loved one and help us build a healthy forest! Your \$35 donation will plant a tree and help restore Portland Audubon's Collins Sanctuary.

Thanks to our partnership with Friends of Trees and Metro, the Collins Sanctuary is being restored and replanted with hundreds of natives. For your donation, we will plant a young native tree in honor of a loved one and send an acknowledgment card to the person you choose.

To get your Gift Tree, you can send in this form, or purchase online at <http://bit.ly/aONUXr>, or purchase at our Nature Store.

_____ # Gift Tree(s) @ \$35 ea. = \$_____ Total

Your information:

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Tributee Information:

In Honor _____ In Memory _____

Honoree Name _____

Gift Notification:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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.**

Last month we told you about the Nikon Fieldscope ED 82mm we recently added to our selection. This month we're proud to announce the addition of a second **affordable full-size High Definition scope** to our lineup: the **Vortex Razor HD**. The Razor features a sophisticated **triple apochromatic lens system** with two elements precision-ground from high definition (HD) optical glass. The result is an almost total elimination of chromatic aberration across the entire field of view, so there's no "fringing," degradation of resolution, or dilution of color fidelity at longer viewing distances.



Vortex Razor HD Scope

The Razor is equipped with a **20-60 zoom eyepiece**, with a 30X fixed as an available option. A custom **padded carrying case is included**. Another appealing feature is the optional **digital camera adapter** designed to fit with most DSLR and Point & Shoot cameras with threaded lenses. This scope is **waterproof and fog proof**, with a die-cast **magnesium alloy body**. The scope cost is \$1779 (**member price \$1599.99**) and the digital adapter is an affordable \$189 (member price \$170.10). Like all Vortex products, the Razor carries their **VIP Warranty** guaranteeing that if your scope should ever require service, **Vortex will repair or replace the scope absolutely free — no matter the cause!**

PORTLAND AUDUBON'S NATURE STORE

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

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

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!

John Aas
Josefina Ahmad
Sandi Alcantara
Karen Alexander
Millard Allen
William Alsop
Ron Anderson
Dorothy Anderson
Laurie Andrew
Bill Arland
Amy & Anthony Asch
Eric Bache
Kristin Bacon-Brenes
Dianna Baird
Leslie Balakrishnan
Jennifer Balm
Lucinda Barrett
Abhijit Barve
Janet Bebb
Kimberly Becker
Eric Bevin
Leroy Bishop
Akin Blitz
Jean Bond-Slaughter
Mary Bourgault
Florence Bradley
Melissa Brown
Angela Brown
Barbara Brown
Tim Browning
Julie & Mark Buser
Steve Canton
Marisol Caron
Lael Concordia
Jennifer Corwin
Tracey Cottingham
Sara Culp
Alegria Cupit
Anne Dale
Tammy Dalton
Lori Daniels
Levi Darnell
Lori Delman
Jonathan Dickson
Casey Dilg
Linda Drach
Susan & Doug Drake
Dione Durand
Heather Durham

Lori Eliot
Gregory Ernst
Linda Farrington
Kimberly C. Ferrill
Bob Finnegan
Dana Fisher
Christine Fitzsimmons
David Fuhrman
Jack & Stephanie Fuller
Cathy George
Gerald B. Gifford
Wayne Gilbert
Russ Glaser
Katherine Griffin
Elizabeth Gross
Thomas Gross
Lauren Grube
Marleah Guimont & Gail Nelson
George Hague
Eric & Wendy Hall
Michael Hall
Brian Halley
Sean Hannigan
Dana Hardwick
Molly & John Harpole Family
Chris Harr
Michelle Hartnett
Susan Heflin
Eric Hellman
Brian Hemmingsen
David Henkemeyer
Mickey Henson
Pam Hepper
Jeannie Hermann
Janet Hewitt
Mary Hiatt
Ella Higgs
Susan Hof
Joseph Hogan
Paula Hogan
Shirley Holland
Deb Holland
Rebecca Holmes & Andrew Rose-Innes
Kelli Hubbard
Ryan Huserik
Cynthia Ibarra

James Ignozzitto
Stephanie Imig
Jon Isaacs & Vinay Gaglani Isaacs
Garla Isaacson
David Jacobs
Ann Jordan
Pavan Kaniganti
Ann Kelsey
Salman Khan & Theresa Smith
Bobby Koblegerde
Colene K. Koehler
Sharon & Axel Koenig
Dean Kohler
Julie Kosterlitz
Kacy Kozloff
Kevin Kraus
Gretchen Kreiger
Dana Kuiper
Marisa Kula
Robin Kunimune
Margaret & Duane Lansverk
Chris Lepanto
Tony Liston
William Lockard
Daniel Lotspeich
Phillip & Mandy Luckowski
Jason & Jennifer Lycette
Susan Maas & Gary Thogerson
Thomas R. Madison DDS
Andy Maggi
Jack Majors
Trudy Maloney
Marianne Manning
Sigfredo Martinez
Charles McCarthy
Joan McCoy
Joseph McDonald
George McDonnell
Wally McGinnis
Don McHarness
George & Deborah McKee
Ann McMann
Liz Meech-Tattrie
Brad Mendenhall
Isabel Menesez

Art & Christine Meserve
Monica Metz
Shana Meyer
Janet Miller
Gerald Miller
Nancy Milne
Joseph & Sharon Mock
Sandi & David Morey
Cristy Murray
Vern Nelson
Dr. Gaynelle Nolf
Jill O'Dea
Sarah Orleans
James Paddock
Jacob Parks
David Parks
Allison W. Payne
David & Kathi Pearce
Kristina Pence
Judy Pepper
Jeanette & Carl Pergam
Laura Pettibone
Ellen & Dan Pippenger
Delores Porch
Robert & Gail Potts
Mark Quast
Jules Radkins
Greg Raisman
Barbara Rhiger
Benjamin Rhiger
Daniel Rhiger
Josh Rickard
Mary Rioux-Forker
Leslie Roman
Victoria Rowland
Melissa & Dave Rue
Andrew Rukliss
Maree H. Rushlow
Robert Russell
Michael & Kathleen Sahlin
Myndie & Mike Sajec
Herbert Salisbury
Minoo Sarabi
Tina Schafer
Stephan Schwarz
Harry & Barbara Scoles
Cheryl Scrivens
Chris Serra
Cynthia Shafer

Affa Shafi
Daniel Shanahan
Jennifer Siegel
Jerry Sims
Maggie Skenderian
Jaymi Sladen
Penny Smith
Frank Smith
Regine Snitzer
Suzy Snow
Jennifer Soloman
Heather Stenberg
Nigel Stiger
Kristin Stillman
Heather Stout
Carl Strom & Judy McAnally
Mitchell Sundquist
Joseph Tardio
Claudia Tautfest
Steven Thompson
John Thompson
Scott Timms
Niki Todd
Richard Torgerson
Ann Tohlen
Mark Trbojevic
Amanda Trujillo
Greg Tyler
Nancy Valencia
Jane VanDyke
Denis Vannier
Julie Vigeland
Jay Vreeland
Carol & Melvin Warner
Barbara Vaughn
Lisa Weasel
Warren & Margaret Webster
J. L. Weissman
Abigail White
Robert Wiggins
Su-Lin Wilkinson
Jennifer Wolcott
Philip Wolter
Forrest Woodward
David & Jen Woronets
John Yerxa

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

OFO 31st Annual Meeting featuring Jon Dunn September 24-26 in Newport

Oregon Field Ornithologists represents people of varied birding interests across the state. This year's meeting at Newport includes birding trips in coastal, wetland, and pelagic habitats. Catered dinners, social hours, and bookcase sales precede the featured presentations.

Friday night: Dr. Bill Bridgeland, Refuge Biologist for Oregon South Coast NWR Complex, will present on the relationship between birds, insects, and cottonwood trees.

Saturday night: Jon Dunn will present on Warblers. Jon has been a WINGS leader for over 30 years. He was chief consultant for all five of National Geographic's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* books and is a member of both the ABA and AOU Checklist Committee. Jon will also lead a Sunday morning fundraising field trip.

Space is limited, so early registration is suggested. Further information and registration is available at the OFO website, oregonbirds.org, or by contacting Russ Namitz at namitzr@hotmail.com or 541-266-8714.

Join the Portland Audubon Legacy Club

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



Great Horned Owl and owlet. © Steve Berliner

Gifts of stock or property, bequests in your will, gift annuities, or charitable remainder trusts may help you achieve certain financial goals while providing substantial support for Portland Audubon's mission.

We would be glad to discuss your giving options with you in confidence and with no obligation. **Contact Ann Takamoto, Development Director, at 503-292-6855 ext.117.**

Important Bird Area of the Month

by Mary Coolidge, Assistant Conservation Director

Lake Abert

Except for the sound of the occasional passing truck or car on lonesome Highway 395, Lake Abert is a wild place where the wind carries the cries of birds, insects whir in the underbrush, and the ghosts of ancient petroglyph artists haunt the mighty rim.

— John Howard

The great salt lake of Oregon, **Lake Abert** stretches majestically across nearly 55 square miles of Lake County desert, making it the largest saline lake in the Pacific Northwest and as enchanting as it is remote. Bordered on the east by the sheer face of Abert Rim and ringed with alkali playas and mudflats, the lake supports a high density of brine shrimp and brine flies, a major attractant to staggering numbers of waterbirds. Breeding and staging shorebirds ferry between Lake Abert and two neighboring lakes — Goose and Summer Lakes, both also Important Bird Areas (IBAs) — and together these three are proposed as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site for shorebird habitat conservation.

The Bureau of Land Management owns and manages Lake Abert, its shoreline, and the surrounding habitat as a 49,900-acre Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), a designation that identifies features on the landscape that warrant special protection. Lake Abert was identified as an ACEC in 1996 for a myriad of reasons including significant prehistoric cultural resources, importance to wildlife including state 'sensitive' and 'threatened' species, scenic value, and important aquatic ecology. Within this management area, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use is restricted to existing roads and trails, livestock grazing is limited — though it still occurs on the lake's north and south ends — and mineral extraction is limited. Owing to its outstanding habitat value, Lake Abert is also a Conservation Opportunity Area designated by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and has therefore been prioritized for cooperative conservation investments.

Allies of this place have identified what may be the most pressing issue at work in the fragile Lake Abert ecosystem: fluctuating water levels and the cascade of associated effects. Reduced water level increases salinity beyond the upper tolerance for brine shrimp reproduction. This in turn impacts breeding and migrating birds that depend on this vital food source. **Lake Abert's elevation has now dropped below a critical low point** (as identified by Kiester, 1992), which is likely a combination of both drought conditions and anthropogenic factors. Water rights on the Chewaucan River are arguably over-allocated, and restrictions on diversions for irrigation during low flows — which were at one time written into such permits — need to be considered by Oregon Water Resources Department when evaluating water allocations. Audubon Society of Portland will soon be meeting with a group of interested parties to consider potential measures to conserve the ecological integrity of the lake.

Ornithological Significance

Lake Abert (and the adjoining Chewaucan Marsh) is a critical resource for numerous waterbird species. Shoreline habitats of alkali playas, mudflats, and sand and gravel beaches have supported peaks of over **30,000 American Avocets** and **150,000 phalaropes** here. This lake is also particularly important to **Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, Eared Grebe, and Northern Shoveler**, as well as other species of grebes and gulls. Total waterbird use is estimated at more than 3.25 million bird-use days (one bird-use day = one bird spending 24 hours within a study area during a study period). Peak numbers of shorebirds occur from mid-July to mid-September.



Hovering juvenile White-tailed Kite. Photo: Len Blumin



Lake Abert and Abert Rim. © George Ostertag

Lake Abert also has what may be the largest breeding population of **Western Snowy Plover** in Oregon. The Snowy Plover is a federal and state 'threatened' species, with a total of 298 adults counted here in 1990. Other common breeders here include **Killdeer** and **Willet**. The Lake and its surroundings also host **Bald Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, White-tailed Kite, Prairie Falcon, and American Kestrel**.

If you go:

The best time to visit is during **fall migration in August and September** when most shorebirds are present. Lake Abert is approximately 240 miles from Portland in south-central Lake County. Take US-26 East to US-97 South (The Dalles—California Hwy) to Madras. Continue on US-97/Bend Pkwy through Bend and La Pine. Turn left at OR-31 South/Fremont Hwy toward Paisley. (This road will take you past Summer Lake Wildlife Area, which deserves more than a passing glance.) In Paisley, take a slight left at OR-31 South/West Street and turn sharply left onto US-395 North to continue on to Lake Abert. Contact the Lakeview District of the BLM at 1300 S. G Street, Lakeview, or call 541-947-2177.

The Lost Bird Challenge

Protecting the birds that remain — "Give Life to Flight" with a gift of \$10 or more!

Five extinct birds have landed at Waterfront Park. The Audubon Society of Portland worked with artist Todd McGrain to premiere his Lost Bird Project in Portland to shed light on the tragedy of extinction and on the current state of birds. Nearly 25% of bird species in Oregon are suffering long-term declines from loss of habitat and other dangers such as invasive species, predation by cats, and building strikes. Awareness is just the first step and generating action is the goal. Portland Audubon offers many opportunities for people to make a difference: Citizen Science, Backyard Habitat Certification, volunteering — and of course, membership — all work to protect birds, wildlife, and wild places here in Oregon.



Passenger Pigeons, extinct since 1914. Illustration by John James Audubon

GIVE \$10 through December!

The Challenge — Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to support Portland Audubon's programs with a special Lost Bird appeal, **GIVE LIFE TO FLIGHT, asking each member to give an additional \$10 in the name of Lost Birds**. Our flock of over 11,000 members creates a strong voice and makes Portland Audubon one of Audubon's largest chapters, and if just half our membership responds, we'll easily make our goal!

The real challenge is to protect what remains — with your help, we can make a difference for birds! **Please give online or download a form to return with your \$10 "Give Life to Flight" challenge gift at www.audubonportland.org/support-us.**

Lost Bird Project Lands Beautifully at Waterfront Park!

by Ann Takamoto, Development Director

A sunny summer evening provided a wonderful backdrop for the Dedication of Todd McGrain's Lost Bird Project at Waterfront Park. The sculptures, perfectly situated along the Willamette River, had been drawing attention from the moment they were installed a few days earlier. The mood was celebratory, as the birds are truly magnificent, and also because bringing the sculpture group to Portland was no small feat!

Special thanks go out to the volunteers and to everybody involved in the installation:

To The Lost Bird Committee: Lee Savinar, Board Member and Committee Chair; Katy Ehrlich, Board Member, Marketing; Bob Gandolfi, Logistics; Jill Nelson-Debord, Volunteer Management; Mary Solares, Dedication Chair; Allan Solares and Greg Volk, who created an elegant dedication event at Lucier and a fun Community Day. We thank you all for your dedication and passion, without which The Project's launch would not have been possible.

To the creative team, Greg Eiden and Tim Parker, for capturing the emotion of The Lost Bird Project in the copy and design of all the collateral pieces.

To the Melagari Chamber Players, Eva Richey and Sarah Roth, for beautiful background music, and to **BodyVox** for their delightful performance.

To Pat Campbell, Martha Gannett, and Rick Meyers for their expertise — and to all the volunteers that made the Community Day possible. And to Alpine Foragers Exchange, Ocean Crystal Seafoods, BridgePort Brewing Company, Carabella Vineyard, David Hill Vineyards, Elk Cove Vineyards, and Lemelson Vineyards for food and beverages for the Dedication at Lucier.

A huge thank you to Portland Parks and Recreation, Zari Santner, Director, for sharing in our vision, and to Terri Davis and Bob Stilson for making the installation so smooth. Thank you to Georgia Leupold Marshall and The Regional Arts and Culture Council for their generous support.

We hope you take the opportunity to visit **The Lost Bird Project, Waterfront Park at SW Montgomery**, through December 2010.

The Lost Bird Project Photo Contest

The Lost Bird Project invites viewers to "get in the picture" — to walk among the sculptures, touch them, and experience them! So, guess what? We're holding a Lost Bird Project Facebook Photo Contest for fun and prizes!

Tell your story — take a beautiful, austere, striking, or just plain fun photo of you or your friends or family interacting with The Lost Bird Project. Then email them to atakamoto@audubonportland.org with the subject "Photo Contest" from now through **September 30**. Please include your name and contact information. Entries will be posted in our Facebook photo album, Lost Bird Project Photo Contest.

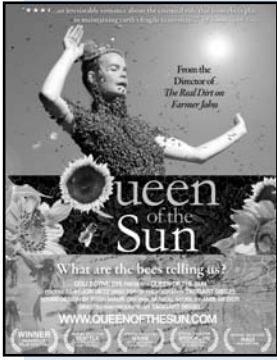
The winners will be selected by the number of "likes" a photo gets... so, all you Facebook fans, you are the judges! If you haven't become a fan yet, please do so at www.facebook.com/PortlandAudubon.



Example of possible entry to the photo contest. © Portland Audubon

Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?

On Thursday, September 23, bring this article to the show, and 10% of your ticket will benefit Portland Audubon.



Let's talk about the birds and the bees.

The newest documentary film from Portland director Taggart Siegel explores this buzzing insect. *Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?*, like Siegel's previous grassroots success, *The Real Dirt on Farmer John*, brings a broad issue into sharp focus.

"Bees everywhere are dying and few people seem to grasp the significance of that," Siegel says. "One of the experts we filmed, a molecular biologist from Switzerland, says that if bees are dying, we can be sure birds and plants will be dying. And if they die, we're all in bad shape. Bees signal a system out of sync."

Almost three years in the making, *Queen of the Sun* (www.queenofthesun.com) takes a profound and fascinating look at the bee crisis. Siegel and Portland producer Jon Betz filmed commercial beekeepers, backyard beekeepers, entomologists, biochemists, food activists, and even bee-inspired performance artists around the world. What could have resulted in a visual scolding over environmental issues instead offers hope by highlighting a growing global community seeking balance with nature.

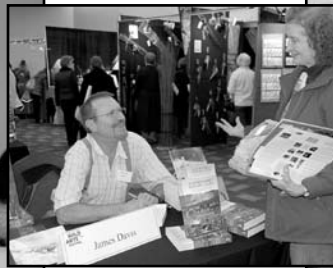
Queen of the Sun: What are the bees telling us?

Sept. 17 (premiere) – Sept. 30

(Sept. 23: screening sponsored by Portland Audubon)

Hollywood Theatre, 4122 NE Sandy Blvd

For advance tickets, visit hollywoodtheatre.org/engaging



Scenes from previous Wild Arts Festival events. © Portland Audubon

Wild Arts Festival is Shaping Up

Save the Dates: November 20–21

The Audubon Society of Portland's biggest party (and one of our key fundraisers) is fast approaching. The Wild Arts Festival is scheduled for **Saturday and Sunday, November 20th and 21st, at Montgomery Park**, and planning is well under way. Those of you who are familiar with the Festival know what a treat is in store. For those of you who are new to Wild Arts, the event includes...

...The opportunity to meet over 100 of the Northwest's foremost **artists and authors**. This year, a growing list of authors includes Robert Michael Pyle, William Sullivan, and Ursula K. Le Guin. Among the artists who have signed up are Sue Allen, Diane Archer, OtterBear Studios, and Gunter Reimnitz.

...A large **Silent Auction**: Over 100 items to bid on, from arts and crafts to vacation stays.

...The **6x6 Wild Art Project**: An exciting array of 6-by-6-inch canvases, painted by both well-known and aspiring artists.

...The chance to get acquainted, and reacquainted, with the **Audubon family**.

...The opportunity for some serious **holiday shopping**. There aren't many places where you can **support local artists and authors — and Audubon — while buying fabulous gifts** for family and friends (and self)!

How Can You Help?

• Become one of the **40 Friends of Wild Arts**: Sponsor the Audubon Society of Portland's Wild Arts Festival for \$250 and receive recognition on our website, at the Festival, and in the *Warbler* newsletter (sent to more than 8,000 addresses), along with a one-year membership to Portland Audubon. In addition you will receive 6 tickets to the Festival and the knowledge that you have played a key role in supporting the programs of the Audubon Society of Portland. Contact Ann at atakamoto@audubonportland.org for details.

• If you know of a business or have a friend with a soft spot for Audubon, animals, and nature, let them know that becoming one of the **40 Friends of Wild Arts** is a wonderful way to support our mission while supporting the arts. Contact Ann at atakamoto@audubonportland.org for details.

• Sign up for one of over 200 Wild Arts Festival volunteer positions.

• Contribute an item to the Silent Auction.

• Pick up a canvas at Art Media and participate in our 6x6 Wild Art Project.

Visit www.wildartsfestival.org for breaking news and more information on these and other aspects of the Wild Arts Festival.

40 Friends of Wild Arts



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

Board Officers

President.....Pat Campbell
Vice President.....Josh Cerra
Secretary.....Wink Gross
Treasurer.....Ken Ivey
Past President.....Peter Paquet

Board Members

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Josh Cerra | John Hammerstad | Claire Puchy |
| Tony DeFalco | Barb Hill | Dan Rohlf |
| Katy Ehrlich | Bob Liddell | Lee Savinar |
| John Fitchen | David Mandell | Ron Spencer |
| Kristina Gifford | Karen O'Connor Kruse | |

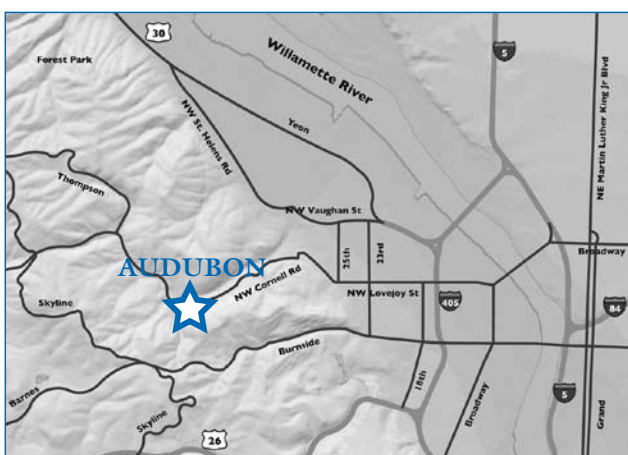
Board Member Emeritus - Dave Marshall

Committee Chairs

Conservation.....Lynn Herring
Education.....Vacant
Executive.....Pat Campbell
Finance.....Ken Ivey
Membership & Development.....Katy Ehrlich
Sanctuaries.....Ann Littlewood
Board Affairs.....Josh Cerra
Volunteer Council.....Carol Gross

Staff

Executive Director.....Meryl Redisch
Office Manager.....Tammi Miller
Development Director.....Ann Takamoto
Bookkeeper.....Jill Hartzell
Birdathon Coordinator.....Gary Slone
Membership Development Coordinator.....Catherine Halpin
Membership Assistant.....Pam Meyers
Education Director.....Steve Robertson
Adult Education Coordinator.....Steve Engel
Camp Director/Onsite Programs Specialist.....Sarah Swanson
Master Birder/Adult Trip Coordinator.....Dan van den Broek
Environmental Educator.....Ian Abraham
Environmental Educator.....Tim Donner
Urban Naturalist.....Mike Houck
Conservation Director.....Bob Sallinger
Assistant Conservation Director.....Mary Coolidge
Urban Conservationist.....Jim Labbe
Urban Wildlife Specialist.....Vacant
Ten Mile Sanctuary Manager.....Paul Engelmeyer
Volunteer Coordinator.....Deanna Sawtelle
Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager.....Deb Sheaffer
Wildlife Care Center Assistant Manager.....Kari Jones
Nature Store Manager.....Nancy Mattson
Nature Store Assistant.....Marilyn O'Grady
Nature Store Clerk.....Sally Loomis
Sanctuaries Director.....Tom Costello
Sanctuaries Assistant.....Greg Kurtz
Backyard Habitat Certification Technician.....Robin Jensen



BUSINESS MEMBERS

Through their business practices and financial contributions, the following business members help Audubon Society of Portland fulfill its mission. If you would like to become a business member, please contact our Development Department at 971-222-6117.

Business Benefactor

NW Natural

Business Guarantors

Backyard Bird Shop
Portland General Electric

Business Partners

BridgePort Brewing Company
Columbia Sportswear
Forest Park Federal
Credit Union

Business Friends

Barran Liebman LLP
Bob's Red Mill
Carton Service, Inc.
Duggan, Schlotfeldt &
Welch PLLC
Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc.
Vernier Software & Technology

Business Supporters

Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Leupold & Stevens, Inc.
NatureBake &
Dave's Killer Bread
Portland Audubon Nature Store



NW Natural

www.nwnatural.com



LEUPOLD
AMERICA'S OPTICS AUTHORITY



2465 N.W. Thurman, Portland, Oregon 97210
(503) 228-2106 / www.forestparkfcu.coop