BIRDATHON 2012

Registration for our most important fundraising event of the year begins on March 15th!

Join the Fun! You, your family, and your friends can all participate. Enjoy an exciting birding adventure and help raise money to protect birds and habitat with the biggest, baddest Birdathon this side of the Mississippi! Audubon Leaders.

What is Birdathon? Birdathon is the uniquely Audubon way to help protect Oregon’s native birds. Anyone can participate. It’s a competitive and educational event for any level of birder, as well as for their family and friends who cheer them on with the support of donations! Birdathon works like a “walk-a-thon,” but instead of counting miles walked, you’ll be counting birds seen, and then collecting dollars for your efforts! To participate simply join one of our many exciting Audubon-guided teams listed below.

Birding experience is not necessary and you’ll be assured of a great time, as each team is led by one or more of our expert Audubon Leaders.

Birdathon 2012 Teams

Here’s a partial list of the Half Day, Full Day, and Gonzo Trips (2+ days) being offered this year. Most Birdathon trips will take place during the first 3 weeks of May. Check audubonportland.org for exact dates & times starting March 15.

Whittemore’s Whatchats: Half Day with Laura Whittemore

Her team visits the 1,049-acre Steigerwald Lake NWR located on the Columbia River, near the town of Washougal, Wash. Waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and passerines abound! Great for any level of birder.

Great Big Sit: Half Day with Bonnie Denke, Dena Turner & Phyllis Wolfe

The perfect Birdathon trip for beginning birders! Give your legs a rest and your eyes a treat on a leisurely morning at the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden.

The Magpies: 2 Full Days

Enjoy one or both days with Denny Graham & Mike Skinner

Slower paced and very informative with expert leaders. You’ll visit Mt. Tabor, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Tualatin Hills Nature Park, Jackson Bottom, and more!

The Joy of Birding: Full Day with Paul Sullivan

Paul is a fantastic birder and leader of Audubon’s popular “Birding Weekends.” This sunrise-to-sunset adventure makes numerous birding stops as you travel from Portland to Tillamook, then along the coast to Cape Meares. Excellent for both beginners and experienced birders!

Lean Green Birding Machine: Full Day with Pat Campbell & additional leaders

A glorious day of birding and an evening of celebration! You’ll carpool in “lean green” hybrid vehicles and visit numerous prime birding sites from Portland to the coast.

Mult Madness: Full Day with Wink Gross

Wink Gross, Portland Christmas Bird Count compiler, leads this unique tour to birding hotspots.

The Bus Passerines: Full Day with Steve Engel

Steve Engel, Audubon’s Adult Education Programs Manager, covers the Portland metro area by public transit and on foot. Learn to enjoy excellent birding right here in the city!

continued on page 16

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Lawsuit Launched to Protect Threatened Marbled Murrelets from Clearcutting in Oregon State Forests by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In mid-January Portland Audubon, Cascadia Wildlands, and the Center for Biological Diversity filed a notice of intent to sue the State of Oregon over harmful clearcutting practices on the Elliott, Tillamook, and Clatsop State Forests. The notice presents evidence that the state’s logging practices are resulting in the illegal take of the federally protected Marbled Murrelet, which comes inland to nest and breed in mature and old-growth forests. The Endangered Species Act prohibits actions that injure threatened species, including destruction of their habitat. This lawsuit represents a major challenge to the manner in which the state manages its coastal forests — it challenges multiple timber sales on all three forests and also alleges an ongoing pattern and practice of illegal take of this federally protected species.

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View this Walter and past issues at www.audubonportland.org/about/newsletter.
Protecting Birds Throughout Their Life Cycle

For the first time in our chapter’s history, the Audubon Society of Portland and National Audubon Society held a joint fundraising event to raise money for protecting birds. With the wonderful support of two donors who opened up their homes, we welcomed NAS President David Yarnold back to Oregon. The evening’s program was a launch of National’s new strategic plan, which uses migration routes or “flyways” as a way to frame why birds need protection throughout their entire life cycle. For Portland Audubon this vision is easy to promote because it’s all about migratory birds, it aligns with our Important Bird Area Program, and it is particularly relevant with those members who travel to watch birds. Preparing for this event gave me a better picture of what is at stake for some birds. While there is no dearth of natural and manmade hazards challenging their survival while they are in North America, I learned about some specific hazards that migratory birds face as they winter in places like Panama, Belize, and Veracruz, Mexico. I also discovered how crucial these places are for some of our most common species. For example, the Western Sandpiper, an abundant migrant shorebird in the West and easily spotted along Oregon’s coasts, spends its winter feeding in the mudflats and mangroves of Panama Bay. These wetlands support 1–2 million shorebirds each year and about one-third of the world’s population of Western Sandpipers! This nutrient-rich feeding ground is crucial to residential and commercial development, making the birds that we count on seeing each spring vulnerable too. In light of what I now know about Panama’s unique place within the life cycle of shorebirds, I cringed when reading that it made the New York Times list of places to visit in 2012.

Many of the strategies that Portland Audubon employs to highlight, manage, and protect birds and educate people about common and imperiled bird populations in Oregon are similar to what National Audubon Society, along with BirdLife International, is doing in the southern Hemisphere. In Panama, NAS has secured some funding to work with the Panama Audubon Society. With National Audubon’s assistance, Panama Audubon will now have the resources to better educate government agencies on the laws protecting the Bay, develop educational curriculum for schools close to the Bay, and hire a shorebird biologist to collect data for monitoring and managing these productive places.

Another example of coordinated conservation efforts is happening in Veracruz, Mexico. This is where one of nature’s most spectacular phenomena occurs as millions of sandpipers and other soaring birds cross a narrow slice of land on their way farther south. Identified as a Global Important Bird Area, National Audubon Society and BirdLife partner ProNatura have teamed up to bring environmental awareness to community residents, developing best practices for managing and preserving land, and creating alternative income streams for rural landowners that are compatible with habitat needs. Again, these strategies are not much different from what we do here — grassroots advocacy, community engagement, habitat restoration, and local, regional, and statewide policy. Regardless of where we live, be it in Portland, Panama City, or Veracruz, all of us are connected and can play a small part in protecting birds.

From that house party last October, Portland Audubon raised $30,000 for the conservation of migratory birds. About 40 donors, who have traveled internationally with our education staff to watch birds, responded positively to Audubon’s new framework for talking about birds. I am thankful to our supporters for embracing a conservation effort bigger than Oregon. I am optimistic about this new direction that National Audubon is pursuing. But more than anything, I am looking forward to celebrating the arrival of spring and with it, lots of Western Sandpipers.

Celebration of David Marshall’s Life and Love of Birds

D ave Marshall was an inspiration to thousands of people in Oregon. His love of birds and his natural history and science expertise left a profound mark in Oregon and on the Audubon Society of Portland. John Marshall, Dave’s son, will share many wonderful moments from Dave’s life. We invite you to join us (no RSVP needed) and share your treasured memories.

Evening Events at Leach Botanical Garden

We hope to see you at the following events at Leach Botanical Garden! The Manor House is located at 6550 S. St. Helens Rd (leachgarden.org). For information, please contact Binh Thinh at bthinh@audubonportland.org.

March 20 (Tue), 7pm–8pm

Wildlife Corridors with Lori Hennings

What do we know about urban wildlife use of habitat corridors and patches for dispersal, migration, and other life history needs that do not exist? How might community and conservation planning apply the available research and information in our region? Come hear wildlife biologist Lori Hennings, Senior Natural Resource Scientist, share the science of wildlife corridors and the state of the knowledge in the Portland metro region.

April 10 (Tue), 7pm–8pm

Bat Talk with Chris Hein

Join us for this special lecture and “bat walk” to celebrate International Bat Week. Chris Hein from Bat Conservation International will present slides of dozens of bats from Oregon and across the world, and discuss topics such as where bats live, what they eat, and why they are important. Following the presentation, Chris will lead an outdoor “bat walk” around Leach Botanical Garden and use an acoustic detector to listen for Oregon bats. Bring sturdy shoes for the walk.

April 12 (Thu), 6pm–7pm

Portland Audubon’s Education Birds

Get up close and personal with the Education Birds from Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center. Learn about the unique adaptations that make birds of prey such awesome predators, like what makes a falcon so fast and an owl such a good night hunter — and why scavenging birds are so important.

Recovering a Lost River: Removing Dams, Rewilding Salmon, Revitalizing Communities with author Steven Hawley

Tuesday, April 10 • 7pm, Heron Hall

Environmental journalist Steven Hawley’s passionate, riveting book, Recovering a Lost River: Removing Dams, Rewilding Salmon, Revitalizing Communities (Beacon Press, $16.00), will be newly released in paperback in March. Hawley will explore the role of four federal dams on the Snake River in the near-destruction of native salmon runs in the Columbia-Snake River Basin, and the controversy and turf wars that hinder the dams’ removal. Salmon are essential keystone species for the health of wildlife habitat throughout the Northwest, and the complex relationships intertwining the fish with the land, river, ocean, and humans are thoroughly explored in his well-researched and highly readable book. While native salmon are currently highly imperiled, he demonstrates room for optimism while recounting fish recovery stories in Maine and California. Post dam-removal, nature can heal itself, just given the chance.

“Hawley writes about the Columbia River Basin from every angle, talking to those whom other writers can’t imagine or muster the courage to address. His style is surprisingly humorous for the subject, thought-provoking, truthful, and unpredictable. He gets it.” — Bethesa A. Miles, executive director, Nez Perce Tribe

Steven Hawley has written for numerous regional natural and environmental publications. He is the lead researcher for the book Heart of the Monster (All Against the Hull, $15.00) co-written with Rick Bass and David James Duncan. He lives with his family in Hood River.

Snow Goose of Wrangel Island, Russia with Vasily Baranyuk

Tuesday, March 13 • 7pm, Heron Hall

Ever wonder where “our” visiting Snow Goose go when they are not wintery by the thousands on Sauvie’s Island? Their breeding grounds are located on Wrangel Island, Russia, comprising 2,900 square miles of some of the most remote Arctic wilderness on the planet. In addition to hosting the only breeding population of Snow Goose in Russia, Wrangel Island abounds with other wildlife. Located between the Churchi Sea and East Siberian Sea, it has been said that the only place harder to get to is the moon. But Wrangel Island has the highest density of polar bear dens in the world; twice as many plants as any other Arctic tundra area, and the highest concentration of beluga whales. So, where do you go to see this? Russian biologist and accomplished photographer and videographer Vasily Baranyuk has studied the island’s wildlife for the past 30 summers, with stretches as long as 87 days without seeing another human. Vasily specializes in the study of this unique population of Snow Goose. Wrangel Island’s Snow Goose nest in an interior mountain valley and the like Antarctic penguins their flightless young walk an incredible distance (75 miles) from the nestling colony to feeding areas near the sea.

Through grants from the Pacific Coast Joint Venture and other organizations, Vasily is conducting a long-term study in the significant wintering areas at Magestik Lake in the range from Vancouver, BC to Sacramento — so his share his love of the land and wildlife, and especially the Snow Goose of Wrangel Island. His talk will include videos and photos of this remarkable place and its magnificent inhabitants. Please join us for this entertaining and informative presentation.

NATURE NIGHTS

Second Tuesday of the month from September to May. If you have a suggestion for a Nature Night presentation, please contact Pam Meyers at pmeyers@audubonportland.org or 503-372-4851 ext.130.

Snow Goose family © Vasily Baranyuk

Tuesday, March 13 • 7pm, Heron Hall

March 25 (Sunday), 3:00pm–5:00pm

Audubon House, Heron Hall

Light refreshments

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© Chuck Nakell

© Kathy Jobitz

FREE and open to the public!
**Audubon Outings — Wild in the City and Beyond**

**Bring binoculars and dress for the weather — beginners welcome!**

| **March 4 (Sun), 8am–Noon Scappoose Bottoms** |
| — Join Dudley Thomas for a walking trip to Scappoose Bottoms. We will scope for geese, crows, and walk about 0.5 mile on Crown Z Trail (where the famous Brambling was seen) checking for sparrows, hurrions, and ducks. Meet at Fred Meyer parking lot on Hwy. 30 near the newspaper recycling station. |
| **March 7 (Wed), 9am–11am Fernhill Wetlands** |
| — Join Dudley Thomas for a walk around Fernhill Wetlands. We expect to find wintering waterfowl, gulls, sparrows, and raptors, some early migrants, and perhaps some surprises. Meet in the Fernhill parking lot. Information: Dudley at 503-317-1631 or dbthomas70@gmail.com. |
| **March 10 (Sat), 8am–Noon Rentenaar Rd, Sauvie Island** |
| — Join Ron Escano for a walking trip to Rentenaar Rd. From the bridge take Sauvie Island Rd north 2 miles and turn right on Rieder Rd. Drive north 8 miles to Rentenaar Rd on the left. (15 minutes from bridge to check station). Info: Ron at 503-771-3454. |
| **March 12 (Thu), 1pm–3pm Tillamook Bay** |
| — Meet in the Fernhill parking lot. Information: Dudley at 503-244-6496 or dbthomas70@gmail.com. |
| **March 13–15 (Tue–Thu), 1:30pm–9am Klamath Falls** |
| — Join Dick Demarest for a trip through the Klamath basin NWRs, where we’ll search for wintering waterfowl and raptors. Trip begins at the Western Olympic Inn in Klamath Falls at 1:30pm on 3/13 and ends after breakfast on 3/15. Trip is limited to 16 people. Registration required with Dick at 503-407-7912 or rdd@demarests.com. |
| **March 17 (Sat), 8am–3pm Tillamook Bay** |
| — Join David Mandell to explore the fields and marshes along the back of Tillamook Bay. Target birds will include Black Phoebe, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Peregrine Falcon, and Virginia Rail, along with numerous wintering sparrows and waterfowl. Meet at the south end of the Fred Meyer parking lot in Tillamook. Be prepared for walking in muddy fields. |
| **March 24 (Sat), 8am–11am Powell Butte Nature Park** |
| — Join Dick Demarest for a walking trip to the unique habitats of Powell Butte. We hope to see some uncommon early spring sparrows such as Townsend’s Solitary and Say’s Phoebe that have been found here in the past. Turn south on Powell Blvd onto SE 162nd and meet at the highest parking lot. Information: Ron at 503-771-3454. |
| **March 24, April 21, and/or May 19 (Sat), 9am–2pm Wildflower Walks at Catherine Creek** |
| — Join naturalist Marsh Sly on 1, 2, or 3 hikes to a premier Columbia Gorge wildflower site, where displays from March to May are ever changing. Pace is slow but you must hike 3–4 miles round trip with major elevation change. Limit 12 per hike. Registration required for each hike with Marsh at marshsharsharon@aol.com. |
| **April 1 (Sun), 8am–11am Sandy River Delta** |
| — Join Patty Newland and Candace Larson on an easy 2-3 mile walk above the expanding riparian area near the Sandy River. From Portland exit head east on 1-84, take Exit 18 just after you cross the Sandy River at Troutdale. At the stop sign turn right and loop under the freeway. Meet at the parking lot by the restrooms. |
| **April 8 (Sun), 9am–Noon Dawson Creek Park, Hillsboro** |
| — Join leaders Ron Escano and Smith for a walk around Dawson Creek Park. There should be a good assortment of waterfowl and, of course, lots of Acorn Woodpeckers. Meet at the northern edge of the parking lot of the Hillsboro Reservoir. There’s a very nice viewpoint at Cookwood Play. Information: Max at 503-720-9730. |
| **April 12 (Thu), Cooper Mountain** |
| — This walk has been canceled. |
| **April 14 (Sat), 8am–11am Vancouver lake Park** |
| — Join Ron Escano to scope the lake for water birds and explore the riparian woodland for early spring migrants. Meet at parking lot in front of main restrooms. From I-5 south, take Exit 1-43 (Flem Blvd), go west on 4th Plain south through Vancouver onto SR-501 (Lower River Rd). After 3.5 miles, continue straight for 0.6 miles to the park ($2 entrance fee). Information: Ron at 503-771-3454. |
| **April 18 (Wed), 9am–3pm Tillamook Bay** |
| — Join Dick Demarest and Don Stein for a day of birding in the Tillamook area, where we’ll look for shorebirds, raptors, and early spring migrants. Meet at Tillamook’s Safeway parking lot (3rd & Sutil). Information: Dick at 504-794-7912 (rddd@demarests.com) or Don at 541-765-7567 (madstein@hotmail.com). |
| **April 21 (Sat), 8am–11am Sandy River Delta** |
| — Join Tim Shemler on an easy 2–3 mile walk around this riparian area near the Columbia River. We’ll look for lingering birds that have overwintered, residents, and unmigrant smalls. Eastbound on I-84, take Exit 18 just after you cross the Sandy River at Troutdale. At the stop sign turn right and loop under the freeway. Meet at the parking lot by the restroom. Information: Tim at tshemlermich@yahoo.com or 971-221-2534. |

**Bird Song Walks 2012 7 am. Mon. — Wed & Fri: FREE!**

A udubon Society of Portland is proud to sponsor the 2012 season of weekday morning Bird Song Walks! From beginners to experienced birders, anyone who is fascinated by the sounds of birds should take advantage of these volunteer-guided walks to the metro area’s prime spring migration hotspots. By starting with the earliest trips you can become familiar with the songs of the common resident species and then keep pace with the migrants as they arrive.

All walks begin at 7 a.m. No pre-registration is required, and you leave whenever you like. Bring your binoculars and a field guide, and be sure to dress properly for the weather. Spring mornings can be surprisingly chilly. Steady morning rain cancels a walk. Try taking the bus if available. Go to trimet.org or call 503-238-RIDE (7433) for route information. For natural history information, maps, and directions for any of these natural areas see the latest edition of Wild in the City: Exploring the Intertwine, available at Portland Audubon’s Nature Store. Or visit the website for more details.

**Look for this Bird Song Walks icon in the Calendar of Events on page 7**

| **April 4, 11, 18, 25, and May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** |
| — Leaders: Gerard Lillie and Tom McNamara Directions: From SE Belmont, go south on SE 69th two short blocks. Just into the park, turn right and drive as far as possible to get to and park along the road. Meet at the parking lot, close to vehicle traffic on Wednesdays, so be sure to use this entrance. (Mt. Tabor Tri-Met Bus 815 stops at SE 69th & Yamhill.) Be aware of bicyclists on Mt. Tabor! Make room and share the road! For more information on this and other Portland Parks, visit portlandonline.com/parks. |
| **Fridays** |
| — April 6, 13, 20, 27, and May 11, 18, 25, and June 1 Pittock Mansion — Leader: Wink Gross |
| Directions: (1329 NW Pittock Dr, Portland 97210) Follow directions from SE Belmont, go south on SE 49th and the second block into the parking area. Meet at the summit of the Pittock mansion parking lot. For more information, visit pittockmansion.org. |
Conservation

Lawsuit Launched to Protect Threatened Marbled Murrelets

continued from cover

With nearly 600,000 acres of forest in the heart of Oregon’s Coast Range, Oregon’s state forests are key to the Murrelet’s survival. However, the state has persisted in implementing destructive clearcutting practices in occupied Murrelet habitat. For over a decade, the state was engaged in developing a habitat conservation plan (HCP) with the US Fish and Wildlife Service that would have given it a permit for limited impacts to Marbled Murrelets in exchange for the bird’s conservation measures to ensure the bird’s survival — but unfortunately the state abandoned that effort. Instead it has chosen to pursue an aggressive clearcutting strategy:

In 2010 and 2011, the state approved vast logging increases on all three forests. With Murrelet populations in the Pacific Northwest continuing to decline at a rate of 4% per year and the state going the wrong direction, we felt that litigation was the only viable alternative. This lawsuit seeks to force the state to develop a habitat conservation plan that will truly protect the Murrelet.

Protecting Murrelet Habitat

In addition to litigation, Audubon is also working on the ground to protect Marbled Murrelet habitat. Audubon has focused its efforts on an 80,000-acre area between Cape Perpetua and Heceta Head that contains the largest intact stand of coastal temperate rainforest in the lower 48 states. This area, designated by Audubon as the Marbled Murrelet Important Bird Area (IBA), contains what may be the highest concentration of bird species in Oregon. The landscape is owned by a variety of public and private entities, and its permanent protection is of critical importance to Marbled Murrelets and a variety of other species. Last year we received word that our nomination of this area as a “Globally Significant Important Bird Area” was accepted by BirdLife International, a designation that will help focus attention and resources to further protect this landscape.

Malheur Comprehensive Conservation Plan about to be Released

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is one of the premier wildlife refuges in the western United States. A Mecca for birders, it hosts over 320 bird species including up to 20% of the world population of White-faced Ibis, up to 1,500 pairs of breeding American White Pelican, and 20% of Oregon’s breeding population of Great Sandhill Crane. Up to half of the entire population of Ross’s Geese migrate through here. Malheur Lake itself measured as many as 180,000 waterfowl in a single season.

However, the refuge has fallen on hard times. The introduction of invasive carp from Asia into the Malheur ecosystem has converted Malheur Lake from one of the most prolific duck breeding sites on the continent into a virtual dead lake. Carp consume the lake’s sago pondweed and other plants and stir up murky waters, leaving the lake devoid of food and vegetation that birds need to survive. Today waterfowl production as fallen to as low as 10% of historic levels. Once a sea of emergent vegetation and other plants and stir up murky waters, leaving the lake devoid of food and vegetation that birds need to survive. Today waterfowl production as fallen to as low as 10% of historic levels. Once a sea of emergent vegetation, today the lake is a

About the Marbled Murrelet

The Malbled Murrelet (Brachyramphus marmoratus) is a small seabird about the size of a robin. It is the only tree-nesting bird in the alcid family, which also includes puffins, guillemots, and murres. Marbled Murrelets spend most of their time at sea feeding on fish but nest inland in mature and old-growth coastal rainforests. Murrelets do not build nests but rather rely on large tree branches with natural depressions and moss in which to lay their egg. Only mature and old-growth conifers have branches large enough to accommodate the nestling needs of the Murrelets. These birds may fly as much as 70 kilometers inland to find nest trees.

Nesting habitat consists of large core areas of old growth or mature forest and low amounts of edge habitat, reduced habitat fragmentation, proximity to the marine environment, and forests that are increasing in stand age and height. The birds do not nest every year. When Malbled Murrelet nesting occurs it takes place between mid-April and September. The birds have high site fidelity, returning to the same tree or stand to nest. The female lays one egg and the male and female incubate the egg in shifts while the other bird feeds in the ocean. Typically, they switch shifts at dawn or dusk. Predominately due to the risk of predation, Marbled Murrelets tend to be very secretive when entering and leaving their nest sites, making it difficult to detect the birds while nesting.

The primary reason Marbled Murrelets are protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is because of the extensive logging of mature and old-growth forests over the past 150 years. Extensive logging has resulted in the fragmentation of Murrelet nesting habitat, which affects population viability and size, and can lead to displacement, fewer nesting attempts, failure to breed, reduced fecundity, reduced nest abundance, lower nest success, increased predation and parasitism rates, crowding in remaining patches, and reductions in adult survival. Additionally, habitat loss can lead to the increased risk of predation from corsids such as jays and ravens, which is a significant threat to Murrelet populations. Significant Murrelet nesting failure is due to predation from corsids who fly into the edges of older forests. Murrelets need large interior forests to avoid nest predation.

Service conducts a public scoping process and then goes behind closed doors to write a plan. Malheur established a broad stakeholder group composed of conservation groups, ranchers, ecologists, private landowners, tribal interests, and others. All convened teams of experts to look at specific priority issues such as invasive carp and the overall ecology of the landscape. Few would have anticipated at the start of this process that consensus could be reached on one of the West’s more conflicted

continued on page 5
Mahleur Plan continued from page 4

landscapes. Yet that is what has happened: the plan lays out a vision and a roadmap to restore the refuge beginning first and foremost with addressing carp.

It won’t be easy — carp control has never occurred at Malheur. It will require unprecedented cooperation between the refuge and surrounding private landowners. The expertise and commitment that has been brought to bear on this planning process will need to be sustained for years to come to ensure that the commitment to adaptive management is realized. And it will require funding, significant and sustained funding.

Audubon’s history with Malheur dates back to the turn of the past century when Audubon’s first president, William L. Finley, lobbied President Theodore Roosevelt to establish Malheur as the third national wildlife refuge west of the Mississippi River. Over the next several years the restoration of Malheur will be among Portland Audubon’s top priorities.

Fish Biologist Linda Beck with Carp. Photo: USFWS

Wildlife Care Center

2nd Annual Online Auction

A benefit for Audubon Society of Portland’s Wildlife Care Center

To help pay for the cost of animal rehabilitation at Portland Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center, we are pleased to offer experiences that promise to excite, thrill, and chill!

Offering one-of-a-kind experiences in nature:

- Field Trips & Nature Hikes
- Glider Rides
- Evening Owl Prowl
- Bird Walks
- Learn to be a Tracker
- Raptor Release
- Mushroom Foray
- Weekend Get-Away Homes
- And many more!

Auction Begins: Saturday, March 24, 2012, 7pm

Auction Closes: Sunday, April 15, 2012, 10pm

Don’t miss out on these unique experiences! Bid heartily and help save wild animals at the Audubon Society of Portland Wildlife Care Center.
paudubonauuction.dojiggy.com

Raptor Cam Update: The Misadventures of a Raptor Cam Fledgling

Many long-time viewers of Raptor Cam have asked whatever became of K2, the trouble-prone Raptor Cam fledgling with a penchant for playing in traffic. Shortly after fledging (taking its first flights), the young red-tailed hawk was found on West Burnside playing dodge with oncoming cars. He was quickly captured by concerned citizens and transported to the Wildlife Care Center. Fortunately he only suffered minor injuries and was released back to his parents a couple of days later. Before release, we placed an orange identification band on his leg with the letters K2, hence his odd moniker. Many Raptor Cam viewers were amazed to watch live on the KGW website as the Raptor Cam mom expressed her appreciation for the return of her son by giving Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger a big, “kiss on the cheek.”

According to Kyle Emry, the Audubon Wildlife Care Center with special assistance from Dr. Susan Kirschner, a veterinary ophthalmologist, it was determined that he would remain permanently blind in one eye.

Raptor Cam Returns! by Deb Sheaffer and Bob Sallinger

T he KGW Audubon Raptor Cam is entering its 6th season! Follow the adventures of a pair of red-tailed hawks who nest on a downtown Portland fire escape as they go through their annual nesting cycle.

For the past 5 years, the hawks have hatched and raised 13 young on the fire escape as viewers from all over the world have watched live online. Blogs and facebook updates explaining the red-tail nesting cycle are provided by Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger. This joint effort of KGW NewsChannel 8 and Audubon Society of Portland offers a fascinating up-close view of a pair of red-tails raising their family in the middle of downtown Portland.

Tune in at kgw.com/lifestyle/raptor-cam or follow us on the KGW-Raptor Cam facebook page.

As the first hawk never leaves the nest, we are thrilled to announce that Sunnyside Environmental School will host the 2012 Raptor Cam Update at an Auction for the benefit of Audubon Society of Portland’s Wildlife Care Center.

Backyard Habitat Certification of the Month: Sunnyside Environmental School by Nikkie West, Conservation Program Assistant

A fter several years and countless little hands working the soil, we’re thrilled to announce that Sunnyside Environmental School achieved gold-level Backyard Habitat Certification this month! The certification process began with a Site Visit from the Columbia Land Trust. The visit was followed by crucial support from teachers and parent volunteers, led by Vinnie Miller. In a recent conversation about the certification, Miller “high-fived” Backyard Habitat staff no less than three times in an exuberant display of pride for the schoolground certification. His love for the landscape is contagious!

The schoolyard now hosts a native plant garden, a butterfly garden, masson bee houses, asain nesting boxes, and a cob structure covered by an ecoroof. Douglass fir, vine maple, evergreen huckleberry, and other natives occupy more than 25% of the plant footprint. Here, these features are not only providing great habitat, but they also double as an outdoor educational tool to teach young Portlanders about their important roles in the urban ecosystem.

Thanks to Sunnyside Environmental School for being a shining example of how all properties, large and small, have the potential to provide habitat and connect residents to urban wildlife and the habitats that support them. For more information about the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, go to audubonportland.org/backyardwildlife/backyardhabitat or contact Nikkie West at nwest@audubonportland.org.

Undergoing treatment at Portland's Wildlife Care Center

By Deb Sheaffer and Bob Sallinger

Raptor Cam Update: The Misadventures of a Raptor Cam Fledgling

According to Kyle Emry, an educator at the field station, K2 — now an adult hawk — is thriving, doing great, and has been a quick learner. Not only do the staff work with him daily, but Kyle reports they are learning a lot from K2: “He is teaching us so many amazing things and it is a great privilege to be able to work with him!” The station is closed in the winter, but several people live there in the off-season so K2 is still handled daily. Kyle points out that Outdoor School is just around the corner, so K2 will soon be educating Oregon’s youth about the wildlife that surrounds us.

Glider Rides Bird Walks Evening Owl Prowl Field Trips & Nature Hikes Learn to be a Tracker Mushroom Foray Weekend Get-Away Homes And many more!

Raptor Release
A portal to birding Oregon — Audubon Birding Weekends 2012

Paul Sullivan & Carol Karlen plan to continue to lead Audubon Birding Weekend trips in 2012.

How it works

We travel to the location on Friday and stay in the same lodging two nights. We meet at a restaurant for breakfast on Saturday. We carpool and bird all day Saturday. We bird half of Sunday, then break up and head home. Participants are responsible for their own transportation, food, and lodging. About 30 days before the trip, I send a letter to participants with details like rendezvous, lodging options, schedule, possible birds, etc.

Registration for Audubon Birding Weekends is $35 per person for each weekend.

- If you want to claim a spot, send in a registration.
- Please make your check payable to Audubon Society of Portland.
- Please send separate checks for each trip ($70/ couple, $35/ individual).
- Please come prepared with lunch, appropriate clothing, insect repellent, sunscreen, etc.
- Please provide the information requested for registration:
  - Trip you wish to join
  - Number of attendees and amount enclosed
  - Your name, address, phone, and email

Please send the registration information & check to my

McMinnville, OR 97128

Questions? Contact me at my NEW address or phone:
paultsullivan@onlinenw.com or 503-472-5306.

A special note about cancellations

Each trip is limited to 20 participants. Last year the entire schedule was subscribed before the year even began. Several trips drew over 30 registrations. However, 35% of those who signed up canceled!

Full payment is expected for a trip upon registration. Audubon Society of Portland Payment and Cancellation Policy

- If the Audubon Society of Portland needs to cancel a trip due to low enrollment, participants will be given as much notice as possible. Full refunds minus $10 processing fee can be given. If the vacancy cannot be filled from the waiting list, then the refund is forfeited.
- If the Audubon Society of Portland needs to cancel a trip due to low enrollment, participants will be given as much advance notification as possible and a full refund. The Audubon Society of Portland reserves the right to cancel trips due to inclement weather or instructor illness up to the date of the trip, in which case a full refund will also be given.

Schedule

April 21–22 — Curry County

We will look for Allen’s Hummingbirds and other early spring migrants, as well as coastal species.

Picture your next meeting or event surrounded by nature!

• Increase productivity — meetings held in natural environments are less tiring and more effective than those held in conventional settings.
• Benefit from intimate areas both indoors and out for breakout sessions and team-building exercises.
• Enjoy breaks outdoors in fresh air; stretch your legs (and mind) on our trails.
• Our sanctuary includes acres of mixed-conifer forest and 4.5 miles of trails, which connects with Forest Park, offering 5,000 acres and 70 miles of trails.

Our Facilities:

Heron Hall — 31 ft. x 31 ft.

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

Rental includes:

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

Rental Fees:

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

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

Business members receive special discounts.

To become a business member call 503-292-6855 and speak to our Development Director.

Audubon Society of Portland

Summer Camp 2012

Keeping kids in touch with nature!

Grades entering:

1st

2nd - 3rd

4th - 5th

6th - 8th

9th - 12th

June 25-29

Creepy Crawlers

Jr Wildlife Vet 101 Session 1

Stayin’ Alive overnight Wed-Fri

Olympic Peninsula

Advance Reserve June 24-29 (Sun-Fri)

July 2-6

No class Wednesday July 4th

Frogs & Friends (full day)

Sketchbook Naturalist Mountain Myths

Jr Wildlife Vet 102 Session 1

Cycle Wild

July 16-20

Mini Art Explorers (full day)

Herpetology 101

Birdzilla

San Juan 1 July 15-20 (Sun-Fri)

July 9-13

Animal Tracks & Traces

Jr Wildlife Vet 101 Session 2

Learning in Sink and Front overnight Wed-Fri

Jr Wildlife Vet 103

Big Feast

July 22-27 (Sun-Sat)

Mini Art Explorers (full day)

Wild Crafting Creations

Berry Berry Fun 2

San Juan 2 July 22-27 (Sun-Fri)

July 23-27

Animal Hospital

Wild Crafting Creations

Berry Berry Fun 2

San Juan 2 July 22-27 (Sun-Fri)

July 30-August 3

Jr Audubon Ranger (full day)

Backyard Birds

Jr Wildlife Vet 103 Session 1

Native People, Native Plants

Rod, Reel & Sea

Olympic Peninsula

Advance Reserve June 24-29 (Sun-Fri)

August 6-10

Slugs & Bugs (open to K-3rd)

Berry Berry Fun 1

Nature Trade & Exploration overnight Wed-Fri

All the Way to Monterey August 6-10 (Sun-Sat)

San Juan 2 Aug 5-16 (Sun-Sat)

August 13-17

Wild & Wild (full day)

Botany Bonanza

Jr Wildlife Vet 102 Session 3

Secret Trails

Northwest Canoe

August 20-24

Survival 101 (open to K-6th)

Animal Tracking

Forest to Farm overnight Thurs-Fri

Ways of the Ancients

August 27-31

Gnome Homes (full day)

Jr Wildlife Vet 101 Session 3

Herpetology 102

Olympic Peninsula

Advance Reserve June 24-29 (Sun-Fri)

August 6-10 (Sun-Fri)

San Juan 2 July 30-Aug 3 (Sun-Fri)

August 13-17 (Sun-Fri)

San Juan 2 July 30-Aug 3 (Sun-Fri)

August 20-24 (Sun-Fri)

San Juan 2 July 30-Aug 3 (Sun-Fri)

August 27-31 (Sun-Fri)

San Juan 2 July 30-Aug 3 (Sun-Fri)

Call 971-222-6120 or go online to register. For full descriptions and and more details, please visit www.audubonportland.org
## Calendar of Events

### MARCH/APRIL

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
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### FEBRUARY

- **4** Scappoose Bottoms, 8am (p.3)
- **5** Bluegrass Jam, 12:30pm Heron Hall
- **6** Fernhill Wetlands, 9am (p.3)
- **7** School of Birding’s Spring Term begins (p.3)
- **8** Birdathon Registration begins on website (p.1)
- **9** Rentenaar Rd, Sauvie Island, 8am (p.3)
- **10** Wilkes Headwaters, 10:30am (p.2)

### MARCH

- **11** Klamath Falls trip begins (p.3)
- **12** Chickadees, Wrens, Kinglets class, 7pm (p.9)
- **13** Nature Night: Snow Geese of Wrangel Island, 7pm (p.2)
- **14** School of Birding’s Spring Term begins (p.3)
- **15** Birdathon Registration begins on website (p.1)
- **16** Tillamook Bay, 8am (p.3)
- **17** Nature Journaling class, 10am (p.9)
- **18** Sandy River Delta, 8am (p.3)

### APRIL

- **19** Birding by Ear class, 7pm (p.9)
- **20** Nature Night: Recovering a Lost River, 7pm (p.2)
- **21** Education Birds at Leach Garden, 6pm (p.2)
- **22** Birding by Ear class, 7pm (p.9)
- **23** South Florida trip begins (p.8)
- **24** Vancouver Lake Park, 8am (p.3)
- **25** Dawson Creek Park, 9am (p.3)

### MAY

- **20** Birders’ Night, 7pm Heron Hall
- **21** Birding by Ear class, 7am (p.9)
- **22** Birding by Ear class, 7am (p.9)
- **23** Native Plant Sale 10am-4pm (p.12)
- **24** Birding Weekend begins (p.8)
- **25** Native Plant Sale 10am-4pm (p.12)

### NOTE:
An electronic version of this issue and past Warblers is available on our website, www.audubonportland.org/about/newsletter.
Join Steve Robertson, Dan van den Broek, and Kirk Hardie on Portland Audubon’s first excursion into the exotic realm that is Borneo. On this 14-day adventure, we will traverse the Malaysian state of Sabah in the northern portion of the island, exploring the many different habitats this unique piece of land has to offer.

We will spend the first two nights in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah, exploring and birding this interesting city as we adjust to the new time zone and culture. From there we head directly to Mt. Kinabalu, where we will bird the flanks of the highest peak in Southeast Asia in search of species such as the Whitehead’s Trex, the Yellow-throated Minivet, the Indigo Flycatcher, and perhaps even the rare Crested and wild regions of Patagonia, the Patagonus, and Tierra del Fuego, a vast tract of lowland forest that is home to the legendary “Man of the Forest,” the giant ape we call the Orangutan. Sightings of this massive primate are all but guaranteed, but not so for the other large mammal we’ll be on the lookout for, the critically endangered Sumatran Rhinoceros.

Before leaving Borneo, we’ll have three days to bird this fantastically rich area, as we search for Sooty-capped Radders, Purple-naped Sunbirds, Long-billed Spider Hunters, and a multitude of other avian denizens of Borneo’s glorious rainforest.

After one last night in the town of Kota Kinabalu to catch our breath, repackage our gear, and enjoy our camaraderie over dinner, we’ll fly home with enough memories of this magical island to last a lifetime. Contact Steve Robertson at 503-292-6855 ext.118 to sign up or if you have further questions.

**Tentative Fee:** $5595 member / $5895 non-member
**Deposit:** $2250 required to secure your place
**Group size:** 12–14 participants
**Leaders:** Steve Robertson, Dan van den Broek, Kirk Hardie, and local guides

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

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**ARGENTINA!**

**November 2–16, 2012**

Come with Portland Audubon on an incredible adventure to Argentina and the Patagonia! Where the famous Cannery Row is famous in John Steinbeck’s *Cannery Row*. We will be on the lookout for, the critically endangered *Bucephalus Marina*. In the nearby Southern Beech Forest of Tierra del Fuego National Park we’ll search for the spectacular Magellanic Woodpecker.

**Deposit:** $500 required to secure your place
**Group size:** 8–10 participants
**Leaders:** Kirk Hardie, Co-Exec. Dir. of the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science

Two days of exploring the Sierra Nevada from our base in Sonora will take us from oak woodlands through groves of majestic Giant Sequoias and up to forests of ponderosa pine at over 9,000 feet. We’ll search in turn for Black Phoebe, White-headed Woodpecker, Clark’s Nutcracker, and Townsend’s Solitaire, to name a few.

**Trip deposit required to secure your place on the trip.**

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**SIERRA NEVADA TO THE BIG SUR**

**September 24–29, 2012**

From the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Big Sur Coast, our autumn adventure explores the highlights of California’s diverse ecosystems, stunning scenery, and unique bird life. We begin our journey searching for Greater Roadrunner, California Thrasher, Sandhill Crane, and Tri-colored Blackbird as we bird our way from San Jose to Sonora in the Sierra foothills. We may also encounter Oak Titmice, Nuttall’s and Lewis’s Woodpeckers, and the endemic Yellow-bellied Magpie.

**Deposit:** $500 required to secure your place
**Group size:** 8–10 participants
**Leaders:** Steve Robertson, Dan van den Broek, Kirk Hardie, and local guides

Two days of exploring the Sierra Nevada from our base in Sonora will take us from oak woodlands through groves of majestic Giant Sequoias and up to forests of ponderosa pine at over 9,000 feet. We’ll search in turn for Black Phoebe, White-headed Woodpecker, Clark’s Nutcracker, and Townsend’s Solitaire, to name a few.

**Fee includes all ground transportation, all meals except some dinners, all guide fees, park fees, planned group activities, etc. Not included:** Airfare to/from Portland and internal flights, some dinners, and tips for guides. Remember, a portion of your fee is a tax-deductible donation to the Audubon Society of Portland.

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**IGUAZU FALLS EXTENSION**

**November 16–19, 2012**

**Tentative Fee:** $1185 (see website for more information)

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**New Zealand**

**New Dates:** Dec. 1–17, 2012

**Tentative Fee:** $4895 member / $5195 non-member
**Leaders:** Steve Engel and local guides (see website for more information)

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**BIRDING THE DISCOVERY COASTS**

**April 13–17, 2012**

**Fee:** $1355 members / $1555 non-members
**Contact Steve Robertson.

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**BIRDING MAINE**

**June 3–14, 2012**

**Fee:** $2285 member / $2485 non-member
**Contact Dan van den Broek at 971-222-6105.**
Nuthatches, Wrens, and Kinglets

April 15, 22, 29 (Sun), 7am–10am:
Heron Hall

Finches, and Wrens

See website for more details.

Birding By Ear — Resident Birds

April 7 (Sat), 8am–3pm:
Little Brown Birds: Sparrows,
Field Trip limited to 15 participants
Class & Field Trip Fee: $25 members / $40 non-members
Field Trip limited to 15 participants
Class Only Fee: $10 members / $15 non-members

Birds

Shorebird Ecology

April 18 (Wed), 7–9pm in Heron Hall
Great waves of shorebirds move north every spring and south every fall, traveling thousands of miles yearly. How do they do it? Why do they do it? Let Cader Olive, ecologist and leader, introduce you to their lives, travels, behavior, diet, ecological role, and specialized traits. This class will inform your observations in the field and enhance your awareness of the interconnections in nature. See our website for info about the class and our new instructor, Cader Olive.
Fee: $10 members / $15 non-members

Identifying Spring Shorebirds

April 25 (Wed), 7–9pm in Heron Hall
April 28 (Sat), all day: Field Trip to Oregon Coast Birds offer a never-ending challenge in identification — they are fast, small, and similar in shape and color. Author and teacher John Rakstewill will illustrate the field marks that distinguish Western and Least Sandpipers and how to recognize Red Knots, Dunlin, and more. The evening class is followed up with an all day trip (transportation provided) to the north Oregon coast.
Class & Field Trip Fee: $75 members / $95 non-members
Field Trip limited to 15 participants
Class Only Fee: $10 members / $15 non-members

Seeing the Cosmos

May 11 (Fri), 8pm–10pm: Location TBA
[Rain Date: May 12 (Sat), 8pm–10pm]
This evening class with Cader Olive you’ll learn some basic knowledge and skills that will allow you to find your way around the sky and use it for navigation and time-telling. You’ll also learn some of the theories about how the universe is changing and its underlying form and process.
Fee: $15 members / $20 non-members

Spring Break Camp 2012 at the Audubon Society of Portland
Enrolling Now for Spring and Summer Camps!

To register, go to www.audubonportland.org for online registration or to download a registration form.
Call 971-222-6120 to save a place if you are mailing your form.
Spring Break Camp runs 8:45am—4:15pm unless otherwise noted.

HOP TO IT!
2nd–4th grade
Springtime is frog time. Come with us as we check out the egg masses in Portland Audubon’s pond and figure out which amphibians laid them. We’ll also be on the lookout for that other amphibian, the salamander, as we search Balch Creek for salamanders and the insects that love to eat them. Get ready to hop to it!
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

JAMMIN’ SALMON
4th–6th grade
Embark on a journey into the misty green forests of the Northwest to search for one of the forest’s most important seasonal residents, the salmon! Hike along a local river and learn about the exciting and dangerous life cycle of these amazing fish. Investigate the local forests for signs of Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and other animals that search for the salmon too. Get ready to follow the bounty guide our way. Come with us for a sneaky adventure into the art of camouflage.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

WILD ART ADVENTURE
3rd–5th grade
Create wild and wacky clay and mixed media sculptures, graphs and colored pencil drawings. Learn how to control watercolor paintings based on your observations of some amazing birds, mammals, and reptiles! You’ll discover in the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary some exciting techniques to use in your work in a variety of art media.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

FIRE DETECTIVES
1st–2nd grade
Spend the day hiking and exploring some of Forest Park’s many exciting trails. We’ll learn about the plants and animals that live right here in Portland’s backyard. Staying out all day, it’s great time to find new wildflowers, drumming woodpeckers, and slimy Banana Slugs.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

A BIKE TOUR OF THE VANCOUVER WILDLIFE CARE CENTER
3rd–5th grade
Ants or bees? Learn from rehabilitators and find out what this exciting job is all about.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

JUNIOR WILDLIFE VET 103
2nd–3rd grade
Join other animal lovers for a day dedicated to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We’ll go behind the scenes of Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center with wildlife rehabilitators and find out what this exciting job is all about.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

AMBUSHLIT!
1st–2nd grade
To ambush, to lie in wait, to surprise or to be in a concealed position. This will be our goal as participants divide into classes and use the Audubon Sanctuary as a focus on the art of disappearing. We’ll sneak through the woods trying to stay undetected by other classes, as we lead to bounty guide our way. Come with us for a sneaky adventure into the art of camouflage.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

JUNIOR WILDFOWL VET 102
3rd–5th grade
Join other animal lovers for a day devoted to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We’ll go behind the scenes of Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center with wildlife rehabilitors and find out what this exciting job is all about.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ANDREA CONSTANCE AT acconstance@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6127.

BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING CLASSES NOT LISTED HERE!
www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes

Spring Break Camp 2012 at the Audubon Society of Portland
Enrolling Now for Spring and Summer Camps!

To register, go to www.audubonportland.org for online registration or to download a registration form.
Call 971-222-6120 to save a place if you are mailing your form.
Spring Break Camp runs 8:45am—4:15pm unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY, MARCH 26
TUESDAY, MARCH 27
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28
THURSDAY, MARCH 29
FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Map To It!
2nd-4th grade
Springtime is frog time. Come with us as we check out the egg masses in Portland Audubon’s pond and figure out which amphibians laid them. We’ll also be on the lookout for that other amphibian, the salamander, as we search Balch Creek for salamanders and the insects that love to eat them. Get ready to hop to it!
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

Jammin’ Salmon
4th-6th grade
Embark on a journey into the misty green forests of the Northwest to search for one of the forest’s most important seasonal residents, the salmon! Hike along a local river and learn about the exciting and dangerous life cycle of these amazing fish. Investigate the local forests for signs of Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and other animals that search for the salmon too. Get ready to follow the bounty guide our way. Come with us for a sneaky adventure into the art of camouflage.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

Wild Art Adventure
3rd-4th grade
Create wild and wacky clay and mixed media sculptures, graphs and colored pencil drawings. Learn how to control watercolor paintings based on your observations of some amazing birds, mammals, and reptiles! You’ll discover in the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary some exciting techniques to use in your work in a variety of art media.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-members

Natural Navigation: Map, Grid, and Beyond
4th-8th grade
Come see the day at Portland’s scenic Mt. Tabor Park and learn how to use a map and compass. We’ll discover the hidden art of field navigation as we learn how to interpret a topographic map and how to use a compass. Learn how to read contour lines, understand map scale, and how to orient a map to a surrounding landscape. Combined with compass skills, we’ll learn some tips and tricks on using your observation skills, awareness, and internal compass to help find your way. With treasure map in hand, your team will be led to hidden treasures and puzzles in Portland’s extinct volcano. The search is on!
Fee: $65 members / $75 non-members

Forest Map-arade
1st-2nd grade
Come dressed in your own costume! You can even go as gory animals hiding themselves in the forest. We’ll learn some new skills as we search our natural backyard for some exciting creatures. Make and take home your very own forest map.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-member

Escape to Bird Island
3rd-5th grade
Escape to the birdiest island around: Sauvie Island. Spring brings a great mix of birds, including ruby-crowned kinglets, and wintering ones like the beautiful Sandhill Crane. Search for the nests of Bald Eagles and have a picnic with the birds as we explore all that Bird Island has to offer.
Fee: $65 members / $70 non-member

Forest Detectives
1st-2nd grade
Spend the day hiking and exploring some of Forest Park’s many exciting trails. We’ll learn about the plants and animals that live right here in Portland’s backyard. Staying out all day, it’s great time to find new wildflowers, drumming woodpeckers, and slimy Banana Slugs.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-member

Junior Wildlife Vet 101
2nd-3rd grade
Join other animal lovers for a day dedicated to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We’ll go behind the scenes of Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center with wildlife rehabilitors and find out what this exciting job is all about.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-member

Whales Never Say Die
5th-8th grade
Start: Wed, March 28, 6:30am • End: Thur, March 29, 5:00pm
Trip Leaders: Tom Loper and Andrea Constance
Start: Wed, March 28, 8:30am • End: Thur, March 29, 5:00pm
Trip Leaders: Tom Loper and Andrea Constance

2nd-3rd grade
Join other animal lovers for a day dedicated to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We’ll go behind the scenes of Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center with wildlife rehabilitors and find out what this exciting job is all about.
Fee: $60 members / $70 non-member

Overnight:
July 18, 21, 25, 28 •
July 19, 22
May 12, 15, 18, 22
May 12–26: TBA
May 19–20: TBA
For fee per quarter is $495 and 20 hours of volunteering at Portland Audubon. For more information, contact Dan van den Broek at 971-222-6105 or dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org

The new and improved Jr. Audubon Club is up and running for 2012! Sign up your 2nd-8th grade for this fun and informative club. You can join monthly activities, make new friends, and stay connected with the natural world all year long! For more information, contact Andrea Constance at acconstance@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6127.

Constance
audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes

Register on or to register, visit dan van den Broek at 971-222-6105 or dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org

www.audubonportland.org

MARCH/APRIL 2012

9
Statements edited for brevity

**2012 Board Elections**

**CANDIDATES FOR 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**BOARD OFFICERS**

**Kristina Gifford, President**

“I have served on the Board since 2006. Having been elected by the Board as Vice President in May 2011, I’m hoping to serve as Board President this year. It’s an honor to be part of this organization. The staff and volunteers are a joy to work with, and I fully support Portland Audubon’s programs and its mission of conservation. Professionally, I’ve been an environmental and land use planning consultant for over 20 years and am employed at Herrera Environmental Consultants in Portland.

“I actively volunteer at Portland Audubon in addition to my Board duties. I worked a regular shift at the Nature Store for several years, participated on the Birdathon and Wild Arts Festival Committees, and have served on the Conservation and Executive Committees. I’ve been fundraising through Birdathon since 2002 and love to meet people and encourage them to become members and get involved with Audubon. My front yard boasts a Backyard Habitat sign (certified gold, so far), and I really enjoy handling the Education Birds, introducing them to kids and adults at camps, presentations, and special events.”

**David Mandell, Vice President**

David is the Research Director of the Children’s Institute, a nonprofit focused on early education policy in Oregon, and holds a Master’s in Political Science. He has been an active birdie since the age of 5 and has led ocean birding trips off the coast of Oregon for The Bird Guide for close to a decade. Since moving to Portland 12 years ago, David has been involved as a volunteer on the Aerie’s Belfry Board. “As the father of a 5-year-old, the legacy we leave to our children has taken on a new significance for me. Audubon’s leadership in conservation and environmental education is key to preserving that legacy. I believe that my experience in public policy and nonprofit work will help advance Audubon’s mission.”

**Candy Plant, Treasurer**

Candy has been a Wildlife Care Center volunteer since 1991, Education Bird Assistant, Wild Arts Festival Finance Committee Member, past Volunteer Council Member, and has served as Board Treasurer for the last 12 months. Candy is employed as a Staff Accountant for a local CPA firm and enrolled to practice before the Internal Revenue Service. She has been in the public accounting industry for 35 years, working with nonprofit organizations, having a complete understanding of accounting principles and the annual Form 990 filing requirements. “As Board Treasurer I will Chair the Finance Committee, assist in tax filing requirements, and act as a liaison to the Board Members on Audubon’s finances. As a long-time volunteer I have had the privilege of working closely with so many of Portland Audubon’s outstanding staff and will give them my support as a Board Member.”

**Barb Hill, Secretary**

“For the last 5 years I have been on the Board of Directors of the Audubon Society of Portland and would greatly like to continue my service to this effective and meaningful organization as Secretary and Clerk on the Board. I have also been serving on the Executive Committee as Member at Large for the last year. During my time on the Board I chaired the committee that significantly updated and rebranded the Portland Audubon拜拜 Birdathon. “As a family of 5-year-old, the legacy of my continued service to this great organization.”

**MEMBERS AT LARGE**

**Tony DeFalco**

Tony brings 15 years of local and national experience in environmental advocacy, coalition building, and policy advocacy. Current projects include redressing a landlordship into a park in a Portland low-income neighborhood, assisting a regional government in integrating equity into a regional infrastructure initiative, and establishment of the first equity-driven eco-district in the U.S. A founding board member of the Center for Diversity and the Environment, he helped develop the Equity Audit to help environmental and sustainability organizations understand how to become more inclusive. Tony holds a master’s degree in Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation from Humboldt State University and a bachelor’s in Ethnic Studies from University of California at Berkeley. An avid birdwatcher, he leads Feathers of Color, a birding group for people of color.

**Michael Ryan**

In addition to legal experience, Michael brings extensive nonprofit board experience to Portland Audubon’s Board. Michael has served on the Executive Committee of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge and on their Board of Directors (including serving as Treasurer for several years) for two decades. Other volunteer experience includes the Program Management Committee of the Metro YMAC and chair of its Scholastic Committee. “I have been a member of Portland Audubon for decades and would like to make a more meaningful contribution to an organization that I have long respected.”

**Mary Solares**

Mary chaired the 2011 Wild Arts Festival and will chair the 2012 Festival as well. She has served on Portland Audubon’s Membership and Development Committee, and worked on the special opening event for the Lost Bird Project that Audubon sponsored in 2010. She has served on numerous boards, including the Lake Oswego School District Foundation Board from 2002–2008, on which she served as President in 2007. She is currently on the Board of the Willamette Women Democrats, and is a lifetime member of the Sierra Club. Mary believes in the Audubon Society of Portland’s mission, and will bring to the Board her organizational talents, enthusiasm, and ability to motivate and work with others.

**Jay Whittog**

An author of 3 leading college and high school environmental science textbooks, a member of the Oregon Bird Records Committee, and former executive director of Western Field Ornithologists, Jay has also helped lead the Wild Turkeys Birdathon Team. A lifelong birder, Jay brings writing skills, communications and media experience, and field trip leading abilities. “I strongly believe in this organization’s mission, values, and activities. Portland Audubon is, quite simply, an organization in which I feel at home. Moreover, it’s one that is vitally important, fulfilling many essential roles in our community.”

**2012 Board of Directors Election Ballot**

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

Members may vote by mail, but we must receive your ballot by 6:00 PM on March 15, 2012. Please mail to:

**Board Nominations Committee**

515 NW Cornell Rd
Portland, OR 97210

Members may choose to vote in person at the March Boarder’s Night or Nature Night. The Board Meeting takes place on Thursday, March 15 at 7pm.

- term ends 2013
- term ends 2015

**In Honor**

Joyce Arnold
Keith & Bethany Valachi
Bacco
Michelle Snyder
Mark Birkes
Carole Birkes
Dana Buhi
Lance Buhi
Luanne Bye
Jan Pinardi
Aislin Clifton
Stephanie Harmon
Stephanie Coburn
Rikkah Coburn & Alan Ransenberg
Elizabeth Collins
Jessica Gregg
Fred Cook
Ann Cook
Desi & Bubba
Maureen Cassidy
Bonnie Dwork
John Dwork
Carol Evans
Roger & Marcia Grimm
Sejal Gound
Kaisie Kelly
Sabrina Thoresen
Keith & Bethany Valachi
Mrs. William L. & Mrs. Ann S. Herring
Stephanie Harmond
Lynn & Don Herring
Andrea Kulwicki
Joyce Barrett
Roger & Marcia Grimm
Mary Solares
Elizabeth Dan
Anne O’Sullivan
Barbara D. Weck
Elizabeth Thill
Rivkah Coburn & Alan Ransenberg
Lynn & Don Herring
Stephanie Coburn
Rikkah Coburn & Alan Ransenberg
Elizabeth Collins
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John Dwork
Carol Evans
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Sejal Gound
Kaisie Kelly
Sabrina Thoresen
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Wayne Bridges
Jan O’Sullivan
James DeLoas
Sylvia Casteel
Bobby Harry
April Bruce & Alex DeBolt
Donna Black
James & Nancy Tedrow
Chuck Serres
Joseph Frederick
Phillip Thysgesen
Jay Withgott
Tonya Buhl & Bill Smith
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Elizabeth Thill
Learn primitive skills for wilderness living. Participants will find themselves using tools created from stone, bone, sticks, and branches in the process. Fire, cooking, and food on top of hot rocks. The group will work together to create a communal comfort where we relax around a fire after learning the softer buckskin. We will rise later and test our awareness well after dark.

Join Severin Piper and other expert Audubon Staff as we immerse you in the art and science of wilderness living skills. After spending five months immersed in the practice of survival, Severin is excited to share these many secrets to help participants find themselves truly at home in the forest. This program will provide you with a deeper understanding of the energy put into everything around you, to have an absolute appreciation for your clothes, your food...everything. Participants need only a creative spirit and positive attitude to accept this of the ultimate challenges.

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!

East Portland Office: For East Portland Office: 10 Binoculars
For Education: Laptop with dual core processor or greater Powerpoint Projector • Flat Screen Monitor
For Sanctuary: Loppers • Hand saws • Work gloves
For Wildland Care Center: Science Diet Kitten Growth • Beach Dawn Dishwashing Detergent • Canper/Trailer Untreated Wood: 2x4, 4x4, 4x8

If you would like to 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.

Audubon Society of Portland Summer Camp 2012

Keeping kids in touch with nature!

Here are two of our many exciting, educational, and fun camps for kids. For a complete list of classes, check the insert in this issue or go to www.audubonportland.org.

Bushcraft

Sun, July 8 – Fri, July 13, 2012
8:45 am to 4:15 pm
Age: Entering 9th–12th grade
Depart from: Upper Macleay Park
Fee: $380 members / $400 non-members
$280 for Counselor in Training Program participants
Leader: Severin Piper

Travel into a land of rugged coastlines and mysterious forests, and discover a world seemingly forgotten by time. You’ll explore tidepools teeming with life and walk on beaches few have ever trodden. You’ll go in search of the remnants of an ancient village of Native Americans who lived off the land, and learn the techniques these brave people used to hunt the largest of all prey, the mighty whale. We’ll hike to the very tip of Cape Flattery, the most Northwestern point in the continental United States, and look across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Canada. Then visit the local Forts, marked famous to Forty-nights, movies, and check for any of those completely mythical, but still scary, vampires!

We’ll be camping in our own private site on the coast, and will experience several of the Olympic National Park’s very finest hiking trails and beaches. You’ll make a map of the region in your own journal so you can lead the way on your next family adventure. Between the camping, studies of Marine Biology, the massive trees of the old growth forest, and the ways of the Makah Tribe, we’ll find plenty of time to play on the beach, dig in the sand, and sing around the campfire.

Registration for this camp is through Saturday Academy.

Go to saturdayacademy.org to register, or call 503-200-5883 with questions.

Olympic Peninsula Adventure

Sun, June 24 – Fri, June 29, 2012
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Age: Entering 6th–8th grade
Depart from: Upper Macleay Park
Fee: $475 members / $475 non-members
Leader: Steve Robertson, Education Director

Travel into a land of rugged coastlines and mysterious forests, and discover a world seemingly forgotten by time. You’ll explore tidepools teeming with life and walk on beaches few have ever trodden. You’ll go in search of the remnants of an ancient village of Native Americans who lived off the land, and learn the techniques these brave people used to hunt the largest of all prey, the mighty whale. We’ll hike to the very tip of Cape Flattery, the most Northwestern point in the continental United States, and look across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Canada. Then visit the local Forts, marked famous to Forty-nights, movies, and check for any of those completely mythical, but still scary, vampires!

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Thank you to:

- Harriet Anderson for a calendar to sell in the Nature Store
- Pat & Jim Campbell for Elk Core Vineyards wine for the Holiday event
- Cascade Investment Advisors for 2 Acer Laptops with 15.1" screens & Windows XP software; and one Acer Netbook with 10.1" screen & Windows 7 software
- Katherine Dick for a computer monitor
- James Dykes for a 22-pound bag of black sunflower seed oil
- Rebecca Gatty for a laptop with charger and a docking station
- John & Judy Hammerstad for Carabella wine for the Holiday event
- Nancy Matson, Sally Loomis, and Marilyn O’Grady for a flat screen monitor
- Lynn Sweeney for a scale, shears, and Pedialyte for the Nature Store Holiday Open House and 10 pounds of coffee for Raptor Road Trip
- Portland Roasting Company for 3 pounds of coffee for the science event
- Nancy Mattson, Sally Loomis, and Marilyn O’Grady for a flat screen monitor
- Thomas Herzig for a scale, shears, and Pedialyte for the Nature Store Holiday Open House and 10 pounds of coffee for Raptor Road Trip
- Ginny Ross for 3 dozen pillowcases for the Wildland Care Center
- John Silliman for a Barnes & Lamb spot scouring supply for the Education Department
- Lynn Sweaney for a scale, shears, and Pedialyte for the Wildland Care Center

For Portland Office: For East Portland Office: 10 Binoculars
For Education: Laptop with dual core processor or greater Powerpoint Projector • Flat Screen Monitor
For Sanctuary: Loppers • Hand saws • Work gloves
For Wildland Care Center: Science Diet Kitten Growth • Beach Dawn Dishwashing Detergent • Canper/Trailer Untreated Wood: 2x4, 4x4, 4x8

If you would like to 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.

Photo: G. Piper

Wish List & Thank You

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For Portland Office: For East Portland Office: 10 Binoculars
Sanctuaries News

16th Annual Native Plant Sale

O n Saturday, April 28th and Sunday, April 29th the Audubon Society of Portland will host its 16th annual Native Plant Sale. Yes, the date has changed from past years, but expect the same great selection of plants and the same wonderful crew of volunteer botanists and assistants. As always, over 100 species of native trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, grasses, and vines will be available for sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days.

We strive to make our plant sale as user friendly and accessible as possible by providing a cadre of native plant experts to help you select the plants that will suit you and your property best.

Long-time volunteer and Sanctuaries Committee member Gregg Everhart will once again provide her accessibly prepared shopping lists, providing a wealth of information on all of the plants available: typical size, growing conditions, habitat value, and even the color of the flower and fruit type. You can use the shopping list to find out what will grow in that moist, shadily back corner of your yard, or which plants will help you attract butterflies and hummingbirds. More comprehensive information on individual plants will be posted next to the plants themselves, including photographs of the plant in bloom.

Last year’s shopping lists will be made available in the lobby of the Nature Store in March and April. With a few exceptions you can expect the same selection of plants at this year’s sale. We apologize, but digital copies of the shopping list cannot be made available.

In addition, Portland Audubon’s Sanctuaries Committee members, in partnership with Oregon State University’s Master Gardener Program, will be on hand to answer your questions about native plants, wildlife, and naturescaping. Here are tips of a few standout selections. Russell Link’s Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest is a great introductory text for those new to naturescaping. The Encyclopedia of Uncommon Native Plants by Kathleen Robson, Alice Richter, and Marianne Filbert provides comprehensive information on the flora of our region. For those who really want to explore the complex ecological systems that native plant communities support, I recommend Douglas Tallamy’s Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants.

Native plants are the cornerstone of a sustainable landscape— they are adapted to grow in our soils and climate, require less care than exotic ornamentals, and allow for natural ecological function in the landscaped environment. And of course native birds and other wildlife rely on native plants and the habitat that they provide. A key strategy in the struggle to maintain and restore healthy wildlife populations in the Portland metro area is in the restoration of native plant communities on private residential land. Each plant makes a difference.

Your purchases at our 16th Annual Native Plant Sale directly benefit the Audubon Society of Portland’s wildlife sanctuaries and our trail and habitat restoration efforts. Our fundraising efforts this year are being directed to our trail projects to help ensure that trails remain passable and enjoyable to all of the school groups and visitors who spend time in our sanctuaries. Your plant purchase will contribute to this effort.

Help “Spruce Up” Audubon’s Nature Sanctuary

T hanks to a grant from National Audubon and Toyota to help make Audubon’s nature sanctuary more accessible, we’ll be having our first Together Green Volunteer Day of the year. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 7, and come join us for three hours of some of the most rewarding trail work you’ll ever do. This isn’t your usual sanctuary work party! We start the day with a continental breakfast and a short program at 9 a.m. in Herron Hall. Then it’s off to the sanctuary for some major sanctuary and trail restoration projects. We’ll be finished at noon. That’s just three hours to really make a difference for our visitors and the native wildlife that call our sanctuary their home!

In addition to volunteering individually, this is a terrific opportunity for small groups and businesses who want to do some community service and team building. If you have a community group that would like to get involved or if you’d like to volunteer individually or with your family (minimum age 14, and 14–16 year olds must be accompanied by an adult volunteer), please contact Deanna Sawtelle, Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteercoordinator@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 ext. 108.

Nature Store Highlights

by Sally Loomis, Book Buyer

W ith the coming of spring, it’s time to remind you that we stock a wide variety of wildflower field guides, hiking guides for the Portland metro region and beyond, and useful reference books to inform your plants and wildlife identification and appreciation.

Famed field guide author and artist David Allen Sibley has been branching out into other media in recent years. His newest release includes the wonderful poster Sibley’s Raptors of North America (Scott and Nix, $29.95) and Sibley Backyard Birding Flashcards: 100 Common Birds of Eastern and Western North America (Potter Style, $14.99), which should be helpful in honing your ID skills.

Ohio bird artist and author Julie Zickefousse’s new title, The Bluetail Effect: Uncommon Bonds with Common Birds (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $28.00) is about the change that’s set in motion by a single act, such as saving an injured bluebird—or a hummingbird, swift, or phoebe. Each of the 25 chapters covers a different species, each with its own personality, habits, and quirks. And each chapter is illustrated with Zickefousse’s watercolor paintings and drawings.

Speaking of bird artists, you can become one yourself in an easy new way to better learn your bird field marks. Birds of North America by Dominic Couzens (Thunder Bay Press, $19.95) is a coloring book for adults, complete with colored pencils, which encourages you to become more observant. 52 bird species are featured here.

Steve N.G. Howell is another prolific birding writer, whose newest title is Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm-Petrels of North America: A Photographic Guide (Princeton University Press, $45.00). Pelagic birders will find lots of useful information and hundreds of photographs here for their next trip to sea (seasickness patch not included!).

Life Histories of Cascadian Butterflies is David G. James and David Nunnallee’s new work that covers the entire life cycle of our regional butterflies (Oregon State University Press, $35.00). While most butterfly guides focus only on the adult stage, this book also shows many detailed photographs of the eggs, pupae, and larvae of 158 species found in the greater Pacific Northwest.

Richard Louv’s The Nature Principal: Reconnecting with Life in a Virtual Age was a popular title in hardcover at Portland Audubon last year, and will be released in paperback in April (Algonquin Books, $14.95). Expanding on the research that made Last Child in the Woods such a significant publication, Louv makes a convincing case that all of us, both adults and children, need contact with the natural world for our health, creativity, and well-being.
**Mysteries of Migration**

Migration is a rather mysterious and hard to understand sometimes, but there are reasons why birds do what they do. When you look a little more closely at the reasons why birds migrate some of the mystery disappears.

Researchers consider that the main spark that influences migration is the increase in hormonal activities within the birds as the length of daylight increases in late winter and spring. Increased daylight may prepare a bird for migration but it does not trigger the response to actually do so. An increase in daytime and night temperatures and the resulting increase in food supplies might have more to do with migrations than increased daylight.

It has long been known that some individuals, mostly adult males, will migrate northward well before the bulk of the species think of leaving. Among a group of similar species, some move northward much earlier than the others. To better understand what is going on, investigators tend to separate migrant birds into two groups, “weather migrants” and “instinct migrants.”

**Sightings**

The southward movement of Snowy Owls this winter was spectacular and ranged across the continent. In the west very large numbers moved into northern Washington and southern British Columbia, then the movement stalled. Some individuals moved farther south, one even to the Rogue Valley, but only a few remained in one spot long enough for birders to seek them out. In Oregon one remained for a while near Burns, another in Albany, and a third at Siletz Bay on the coast.

It was a very good winter for interesting birds. A third at Siletz Bay on the coast to the Rogue Valley, but only a few remained in one spot stalled. Some individuals moved farther south, one even west very large numbers moved into northern Washington was spectacular and ranged across the continent. In the

**Field Notes**

*by Harry Nehls*

In recent years there have been many winter reports of snows that include both adults and yearlings. At first they mostly involved Barn Swallows, but now include Tree and Violet-green Swallows. The birds seemingly are migrating and seldom remained in any one area.

This winter, beside the usual moving birds, some reports indicated wintering flocks. Tim Rodenbush reports that one Violet-green, up to 5 Barn, and 17 Tree Swallows wintered at a pond near Coquille. Birders in the Salem area reported that up to 4 Violet-green, 5 Barn, and 6 Tree Swallows wintered at a pond near the airport.

Early migrant Tree and Violet-green Swallows usually arrive in Western Oregon about mid-March. It will be difficult this year to separate migrants from wintering birds.

Ginnie Ross’ WCC hours began in 2005, and she’s now accumulated 2,593 hours. Being an Ed Bird Assistant gives Ginnie “an opportunity to educate the public about individual species and share Audubon’s mission of conservation, education, and rehabilitation.”

Paula Mishaga has contributed 1,181 hours to the Wildlife Care Center and its Education Birds since she began volunteering in 2007. Paula “enjoys the variety of responsibilities — mentoring new handlers, bird training, bird care, and sharing the birds with the public.”

Candy Plant has been volunteering at Audubon since 1991. She’s given 3,712 hours to the Care Center and continues to give as Audubon’s Board Treasurer. Candy feels “it is an honor to be sharing the Education Birds with the visitors who come up to Audubon.”

Nancy Fraser began volunteering weekly in the Wildlife Care Center in 1997 and has given nearly 5,800 hours there! The Ed Bird Assistant position has given Nancy “an opportunity to continue to contribute at the WCC, when my stamina and multitasking abilities weren’t up to the task of a regular WCC shift.”

**Mysteries of Migration**

**Sightings**

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It was a very good winter for interesting birds. A pho noGram tane Snow Bunting was near the Portland Airport, along with up to 60 Horned Larks. There was a steady increase of Pine Siskins in the Portland area and in the winter. By late January John Gatchet enjoyed up to 307 Siskins at his Gresham feeders. Andy Frank, most likely, “weather migrants” are more attached to their summer homes than to any wintering areas. They move southward only as far as necessary, then return as fast as they can in spring. These birds seldom stay put during the winter but move around quite a bit, seemingly eager to push back north. Any extended warm period in late winter sets them on their way, often to encounter adverse conditions that push them back south again.

“Instinctive migrants” seem to be more attached to their wintering areas than to their northern breeding territories. They move northward only after the warm weather has firmly taken hold and there is considerable plant growth and other animal life is fully active. The majority of these birds do not arrive in Oregon until April or May, and some will even go to June. Those are increasingly famous and immature birds and those species that winter well to the south. The majority of birds wintering in Oregon usually remain until this time.

Early migrants are subject to starvation and exposure, and mortality is often high. Yet the “instinctive migrants” that stay put until much later in the season then race northward to take advantage of the warmer more settled conditions must face problems with poor weather conditions, predation, and exhaustion. And when they get there the best spots are taken by the early birds.

David Bailey, Craig Turner, and others spotted a few Common Redpolls in the Siskan flocks. An unusually large number of Snow Geese wintered this year on Sauvie Island. On January 14 Bob Archer estimated 5,000 in one large flock. A couple of days later Bhett Wilkins spotted a Blue Goose in the flock, very rare in the Siberian flocks that winter in this area.

Among the many Lesser and Greater Scamps on this Columbia River this winter was a pure adult and an apparent hybrid Tufted Duck. On December 18 Adrian and Christopher Hinlode and En Scattarega found a nice Long-tailed Duck on Sauvie Island. Jerry Martin and Jan Cornelius spotted an Emperor Goose December 26 at the Tualatin River NWR. It remained through the winter. On December 24 Martin Stinnett found a well-marked Bewick’s Tundra Swan at the Coffee Creek Wetlands in Wilsonville. Many others were able to see it.

Bird feeders attracted many unexpected birds. A Harris’s Sparrow remained at a feeder near Cornelius through the period. A bright Western Tanager visited a Northeast Portland feeder and was photographed January 28. The most colorful feeder bird was the Brambling that wintered at Linda Long’s feeders in Woodburn, allowing many birders from near and far to observe it.

Left to right: Susan Dale with Finnegyn the Peregrine Falcon, Ginnie Ross with Aristophanes the Common Raven, Nancy Fraser with Lille the American Kestral, Sherie Salzwedel with Julio the Great Horned Owl, Cecile Valastro with Ruby the Turkey Vulture, and Candy Plant with Hazel the Northern Spotted Owl (not pictured: Paula Mishaga) © Deanna Sawtelle

**Volunteers of the Month: Education Bird Assistants**

by Deanna Sawtelle, Volunteer Coordinator

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o what does it take to keep our eight Education Birds happy and healthy? How about seven very awesome volunteers who are specially trained as our Education Bird Assistants? These wonderful volunteers dedicate three hours every week to make sure all the Education Birds are weighed daily, their diets are prepared according to the target weight range we’ve set for them, their mews (enclosures) are cleaned, enrichment is given to each bird, and new handlers are developing good handling techniques. The Ed Bird Assistants handle the birds and interact with our visitors, and often give formal presentations to our on-grounds camps. We couldn’t have such wonderful avian ambassadors if it weren’t for our Ed Bird Assistants. They are simply the best, and we all of the Education Birds thank them.

Cecile Valastro has been a volunteer in the Wildlife Care Center (WCC) since 2006 and has devoted 1,466 hours there. Cecile’s favorite thing about being an Ed Bird Assistant is “being an active participant in the care and training of our Education Birds and being able to share my passion for the birds with other volunteers and visitors.”

Ginnie Ross’ WCC hours began in 2005, and she’s now accumulated 2,593 hours. Being an Ed Bird Assistant gives Ginnie “an opportunity to educate the public about individual species and share Audubon’s mission of conservation, education, and rehabilitation.”

Paula Mishaga has contributed 1,181 hours to the Wildlife Care Center and its Education Birds since she began volunteering in 2007. Paula “enjoys the variety of responsibilities — mentoring new handlers, bird training, bird care, and sharing the birds with the public.”

Candy Plant has been volunteering at Audubon since 1991. She’s given 3,712 hours to the Care Center and continues to give as Audubon’s Board Treasurer. Candy feels “it is an honor to be sharing the Education Birds with the visitors who come up to Audubon.”

Nancy Fraser began volunteering weekly in the Wildlife Care Center in 1997 and has given nearly 5,800 hours there! The Ed Bird Assistant position has given Nancy “an opportunity to continue to contribute at the WCC, when my stamina and multitasking abilities weren’t up to the task of a regular WCC shift.”

Susan Dale sums it up beautifully: “Portland Audubon’s Mission is to promote enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native birds. I think our Education Birds are our most valuable Ambassadors for that mission, so I consider it my privilege to repay them by working to ensure they receive quality care.” Having started in the Wildlife Care Center in 2008, Susan has already tabulated 652 hours there.

Sherie Salzwedel began volunteering in the WCC in 2008, and 513 hours later she’s a terrific Ed Bird Assistant. Although it’s hard for Sherie to say just one thing she loves about being an Assistant, her favorite reason is that she “loves letting the public see these birds up close to experience both the outer and inner greatness of these magnificent creatures.”

Our Education Birds did 132 formal programs last year and countless informal displays. Cecile, Ginnie, Paula, Candy, Nancy, Susan, and Sherie are integral to making it all happen. Thank you from Audubon’s staff and the eight Education Birds and, of course, from all of our visitors with whom you share the birds.

**Left to Right: Susan Dale with Finnegyn the Peregrine Falcon, Ginnie Ross with Aristophanes the Common Raven, Nancy Fraser with Lille the American Kestral, Sherie Salzwedel with Julio the Great Horned Owl, Cecile Valastro with Ruby the Turkey Vulture, and Candy Plant with Hazel the Northern Spotted Owl (not pictured: Paula Mishaga) © Deanna Sawtelle**
Several species set new all-time high totals for the count:
Greater Scap (200), Lesser Scap (1,180), Common Loon (9), Western Grebe (61), Cooper’s Hawk (33), Eurasian Collared-Dove (30), Great Horned Owl (121), Anna’s Hummingbird (361), Tree Swallow (55), Black-capped Chickadee (14), Orange-crowned Warbler (8), and Lesser Goldfinch (519). On the other hand, Northern Pintails were having an off year, as were Hooded Mergansers, snipe, and most gulls. House Sparrows (494) were at the lowest level in many years. A summary of the 86-year history of the count, including detailed numbers for the past 16 years, can be found at audubonportland.org/local/birding/chbc86y.

The success of the Portland CBC depends critically on the hard work of the leaders for the 5 areas: Tom DeFalko, Dan Strong, Lynn Herringer and John Hammerstad, Lori Henriings, and Char Corkman & Sam Pointner. My heartfelt gratitude to them for everything they did to make sure “a good time was had by all.”

THANK YOU! Audubon Volunteers!

A pril is “Volunteer Month” so the Audubon Society of Portland would like to thank all our volunteers who contribute their valuable time and talents. Their efforts help us fulfill our mission to inspire people to love and protect nature. We are deeply indebted to the individuals who give graciously of their energy in order to ensure that people and native wildlife flourish together. We would not be able to accomplish the work we do without them. We also appreciate the many volunteers who help out on annual events and one-time projects, though space limitations prohibit us from listing them here.

This list includes Portland Audubon’s key volunteers who dedicate a substantial amount of time, weekly or monthly. We also appreciate the many volunteers who help out on annual events and one-time projects, though space limitations prohibit us from listing them here.
Wallowa Mountains

There are over a hundred lakes in the Wallowas. Probably all have not yet been discovered. Some are not yet named. Each has a distinct personality. — William O. Douglas

I turn as often to the writings of William O. Douglas as to any William L. Sullivan guide in mapping my Oregon explorations. His naturalist writings are as much a memory of place as they are an unbounding contemplation of the need for roadless areas untouched by civilization. So early last fall, as August was turning September, I took a family trip to the Eagle Cap Wilderness of the Wallowa Mountains, one of Douglas’ treasures. We spent a night at the West Eagle trailhead, next to a meadow that by day held spiraling winds, and by night a howling Great Horned Owl. The next day, we hiked through Douglas fir forest, pulled off our boots to make a bridgeless stream crossing, and marched up miles of thirsty, treeless switchbacks flanked by boulder fields and hardy cacti. At Echo Lake, we set up camp in the unused company of pikas, and marveled at the sawtooth granite ridges framing this placid alpine lake. From here, we day-hiked to higher elevations, enchanted by new wildflowers blooming at every detectable rise. On our day-hikes gave us amazing displays of flowering alpine willows, buckwheat, magenta paintbrush, columbine, speedwell, gentian, shooting star, false hellebore, heuchera, azalea, penstemon, pedicularis, mariposa lily, pink monkeyflower, monkshood, meadow saxifrage, swamp onion, purple aster, veronica, yarrow, as well as the ever-present Torenia-seskah butterflies. The food safety and the all was the lone alpine salpin (Oxyria digyna) that we found blooming it’s heart out at 8,400 feet elevation at the spectacular Wrenker Pass.

The Eagle Cap Wilderness is named for the 9,572-foot peak at its center. This portion of the Wallowas was originally set aside as primeval area in 1893. In 1964, it became part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It was enlarged once in 1972 and again in 1984; today the Eagle Cap is Oregon’s largest wilderness area at just over 3,000,000 acres, and contains 534 miles of wilderness trails. Oregon’s largest continuous alpine area holds nearly 60 high alpine lakes. Thirty-one summits in Eagle Cap exceed 8,000 feet, with Succum and Matterhorn both nearing 10,000 feet.

A wide range in elevation means a broad diversity of plant communities: everything from low, semi- dry elevations of sagebrush and sparse pines to lower mountain slope forests of ponderosa and lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, spruce and tamarack and, at higher elevations, Engelmann spruce, western larch, and mountain hemlock. Subalpine fir and whitebark pine are found below timberline before giving way to bare rock. Our day-hikes offered a static cling when they become new members or when they renew their membership.

Important Bird Areas

by Mary Coolidge, Assistant Conservation Director

Wear Your Audubon Proudly! Debuting our new static cling, “Birds Matter”

With over 12,500 members, the Audubon Society of Portland is the largest affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society. That speaks volumes about how we value birds and habitat here in the Pacific Northwest and that we choose to stand together to protect what makes Oregon such a great place to live!

For the first time, we are celebrating birds in a new membership static cling, “Birds Matter.” Every member will receive a static cling when they become new members or when they renew their membership.

Each year we will highlight a different bird species and how Portland Audubon and its members impact that species. Our bird this inaugural year is the Western Meadowlark.

The Western Meadowlark is the official state bird of Oregon. However, the melodious call of this grassland songbird is increasingly rare in the Willamette Valley. Today only 1% of the Willamette Valley’s historic grasslands still exist. The Audubon Society of Portland is working to protect imperiled grassland habitats and the species that depend on them.

We hope you put your “Audubon on” and help spread the word that “Birds Matter!” Watch for your static cling when you receive your membership card in the mail.

Our New Rolling Billboard!

If you didn’t catch our striking new van at Raptor Road Trip, you’ll soon see it tooling around transporting our Education Birds to events, taking instructors and supplies to teach natural history at local schools, transporting animals to and from our Wildlife Care Center! A big thank you to Anna Campbell Photography for the stunning Education Bird portrait, to Sparkill Graphics for the fabulous design, to Beaumont Toyota for delivering the van and for their donation to help with the graphics, and to Apex Auto Spa for the expert “wrap.” Of course, thank you to all of you for helping us win our first official vehicle — now we have one more ambassador for Portland Audubon out and about in the community!

Members get a 10% discount at the Nature Store!

April 22, 2012 marks the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day! Celebrate Portland’s new plastic bag ban with an earth-inspired limited edition reusable bag made of 99% recycled content from ChicoBag. Available in shoulder bag or sling messenger, each has a hefty 40 lb. carrying capacity, attached stuff bag with handy carabiner, and machine washable fabric. Their one-of-a-kind Whole Earth designs will make a positive environmental statement on your next trip to the farmer’s market, local craft fair, or even back to the Audubon Nature Store! Also from ChicoBag: a handy “wPEE” recycled fabric sling for your water bottle.


ChicoBag Earth Day Bag

ChicoBag Takeout Sling

Earthlust Designs Water Bottle

Important Bird Areas

by Mary Coolidge, Assistant Conservation Director
BIRDATHON 2012

A-Gre-able-able Bunch: Full Day with Peg Goldie, Tom Love & David Mandell
Travel with 3 incredible Audubon birders for a dawn-to-dusk birding adventure! You’ll search for owls on Mt. Tabor before sunrise, then work your way west through hotspots in and around Forest Grove and finally out to the coast. Learn a lot with this team and see record numbers of birds!

The Murro the Merrier: Full Day with Sarah Swanson & Max Smith
Bird the Willamette Valley then head west to visit the wetlands, beaches, and bays of the North Coast. Birders of all abilities welcome!

Retailed Hawks: 2-1/2 Day Gonzo with Scott Lukens & Backyard Bird Shop experts
Travel to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge for some of the best birding in the state! Transportation & lodging are provided. A minimum of $600 in pledges is required to participate on this team.

Cream of the Crop: 2-Day Gonzo with Gary Slone
A more brevially 2-day bird quest to the coast. Transportation, lodging in Nesika, and Sunday breakfast are provided. A minimum of $600 in pledges is required to participate on this team.

The Wild Turkeys: 1-Day Gonzo w/ Mike Houck, Ron Carely & other notorious birders
The ultimate Birddahothon experience! Ron and Mike Houck being a lead trip for the past 17 years and will cover areas from the coast to Eastern Oregon. Transportation & lodging are provided. Expect 200+ species! Limited to 24 participants. A minimum of $600 in pledges is required to participate on this team.

Many more trips will be available on our website. Look for special-interest trips like birding by bicycle or touring wineries! Plus, find out how your family can create its own Birdathon Team.

There are so many ways to participate! To register and download all you need for gathering pledges, please visit audubonportland.org. Registration begins March 15th!

How can businesses participate? Birdathon now provides opportunities for businesses to participate through Event Sponsorship, thereby gaining visibility to thousands of people on our web pages and in the bimonthly Birdballar newsletter. In addition, your business can form its own company team with leaders provided by Portland Audubon. For information about becoming an event sponsor, creating a company team, or specific levels and benefits of event sponsorship, contact Ann Takamoto, Development Director, at 971-222-6117 or atakamoto@audubonportland.org.

Thanks to everyone’s efforts, Birdathon raised over $137,700 last year. That’s the 2nd highest amount in our 32 years of Birdathon history. We hope you’ll help make Birdathon 2012 another fund-raising success as we keep growing and more folks come to find out how fun and easy it is to participate!

Feel free to contact Birdathon Coordinator Gary Slone at gary.audubon@gmail.com for more information.

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