West Hayden Island: Trouble Ahead, Trouble Behind...

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In August 14th, the City of Portland released revised annexation documents for West Hayden Island. The release comes almost exactly 2 months to the day after Portland Audubon resigned from the West Hayden Island Citizen’s Advisory Committee in protest of a backroom agreement developed between the Port of Portland and the City that completely failed to address longstanding community concerns about the development’s impacts on the environment, public health, livability, and transportation. The problems were compounded by a hearing schedule that would have railroaded the agreement through to adoption.

Under pressure from diverse stakeholders including Audubon and other conservation groups, the local community, Yakama Nation, and Planning and Sustainability Commission, the City recognized fundamental inadequacies in the original draft documents as well as the hearing schedule. The first Planning and Sustainability Commission adoption hearing has now been pushed back from July until the end of October to give the City time to remedy these deficiencies. The agreements will not reach City Council until November and December.

Unfortunately, it remains unclear, despite the elongated schedule, that much has actually changed. The newly revised annexation documents that were released in August show little forward progress. Despite a plethora of red ink, the new documents fundamentally fail to remedy the primary deficiencies of the earlier draft. Among the most critical failures are the following:

- **Community Health Impacts**: The City and Port inexplicably decided to wait until virtually the end of the 2-year West Hayden Island process to begin analyzing potential community health impacts from this development — as it stands now, a Community Health Impact Assessment (HIA) won’t be completed until mid-October. This is foundational information that should have fundamentally informed these documents. Instead the Port and City are literally trying to develop the HIA after the fact and then shoehorn it into the documents as an afterthought. The process should be suspended until this foundational information is developed.

- **Environmental Impacts**: The documents fail to provide anything close to adequate mitigation for natural resource impacts. The City has abandoned its commitment to seek full mitigation for the environmental impacts of this project. The result if this plan goes forward will be that our already degraded urban waterways will deteriorate even further. In addition, the plan allows the Port to begin filling the island’s floodplains and cutting down its forests immediately after annexation — even though, by the Port’s own admission, development is uncertain and at least a decade away. Finally, the agreement allows the Port to continue to place contaminated dredge materials in the natural area, an issue that has already resulted in litigation.

- **Floodplain Impacts**: West Hayden Island is almost entirely in the floodplain and was under water in 1996. The development of West Hayden Island will result in Portland’s largest loss of floodplains in decades. However, the agreements completely ignore floodplain impacts. Any other developer filling a floodplain in Portland would be subject to strict local regulations including “balance cut and fill,” but in an act of pure political concession, the City and Metro have chosen to exempt the Port from local floodplain protections. In an age of global climate change, it is critical that the Port be held to the highest standards, not given a free pass.

Portland Audubon volunteers will be present at Chapman School throughout September. Visit our table to view specimens of swifts and their nests, receive a swift fact sheet, and learn more about the activities of Portland Audubon.

Swift Watch 2012

We are anticipating the return of the Vaux’s Swifts to the Chapman Elementary School chimney in NW Portland, as well as other sites in the area, again this fall. Thousands of swifts gather in the air space above the school before sunset during the month of September. Once the sun sets the birds funnel into the chimney and spend the night there clinging to the walls. This behavior is known as communal roosting.

Swifts began using the chimney as a roost site sometime in the late 1980s. For years the students and staff of Chapman School helped to protect their school’s colony of Vaux’s Swifts (Vaux’s rhymes with boxes) by waiting to turn on their furnace until after the swifts departed on their southward migration, usually by early October. In 2000 Audubon Society of Portland stepped in to help the school protect the swifts by raising the money to renovate the chimney and heating system. Thanks to generous contributions from the Collins Foundation, the Metro Central Enhancement Grant Committee, and the Autzen Foundation, over $60,000 was raised to make the structural changes needed to accommodate the swifts. Northwest Natural helped by providing engineering expertise. Chapman School’s heating system was converted from oil to natural gas with a new chimney installed for the gas furnace, and the old chimney was brought up to current earthquake safety codes with seismic stabilization.

**Before you go!** Visit our website for important information on when to go, what to bring, and what to expect; see audubonportland.org/local-birding/swiftwatch.
From the Executive Director

Nature is a Social Determinant of Health

Portland Audubon has been promoting the direct link between human health and a healthy environment for a long time. We advocated for including a community grants program as part of Metro’s Natural Areas, Parks & Trails bond measure nearly a decade ago, and now are taking a hard line to have the City and Port of Portland follow through with an environmental health impact study on the West Hayden Island community. Both of these examples demonstrate our commitment to bringing more resources to communities that typically are underserved and underrepresented in public policy areas.

In the early 1980s, Rachel Carson sounded the alarm that widespread pesticide use endangers both wildlife and humans. Environmentalists have been beating that drum ever since. While there has been additional literature published and more people thinking about this link, I am more hopeful that this message is becoming a practice and the practice is becoming institutionalized. Here is what I see as promising. The United States and global organizations alike are now including categories such as nature, community planning, transportation, and agriculture as factors that contribute to the Social Determinants of Health. The World Health Organization defines the Social Determinants of Health as “the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age, including the health system. The social determinants of health are mostly responsible for health inequities — the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries.” Where we live affects our health and chances of living flourishing lives. Among the many recommendations are promotion of physical activity and economic and social policy responses to climate change and other environmental degradation that take into account health equity.

I have been interested in learning whether the factors that contribute to the Social Determinants of Health include benchmarks around things like access to parks and natural areas or, even more specifically, access to healthy and diverse ecosystems. I had’ve uncovered a lot that I could point to until recently, when I came across a U.S. government website called Healthy People 2020. Healthy People 2020 is a ten-year plan for health promotion and disease prevention that was a result of a multiyear process reflecting input from a diverse group of individuals and organizations. According to the website, this initiative is science based and strives to improve the health for all Americans through established benchmarks that 1) measure and monitor collaboration across communities and sectors, 2) empower individuals toward making informed health decisions, and 3) measure the impact of prevention activities.

Although this national program has been in existence for over three decades, a new component highlights the physical determinants of health and calls out the natural environment such as trees and parks and the built environment like bike lanes and sidewalks. The Social Determinants of Health inform public policies at all scales and, optimally, allocate funding for implementation. It’s this kind of recognition from health care professionals and policy makers that can potentially serve as a game changer for our region and beyond. It’s this kind of qualitative data that can help the conservation community build a stronger case for increased funding toward ecosystem protection and restoration and highlight the importance of doing this in urban environments, where the bulk of people live.

Our region’s populace has made parks, natural areas, and most recently environmental and health equity a priority. Noting that parks and trees are Social Determinants and are part of what constitutes health equity is a good start. But it’s not enough. The World Health Organization is also calling for economic and social policy responses to climate change and other environmental degradation that take into account health equity. In my view, this is a link that can have some far-reaching and impactful on-the-ground results for people and for birds. With your support and encouragement, Portland Audubon intends to keep sounding the alarm.

Audubon Night at Kruger’s Farm Market

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

• Live Music by Jawbone Flats
• Trips through Kruger’s Crazy Corn Maze
• Hay Rides
• Face Painting
• Harvest Bonfire
• Portland Audubon Activities
• Portland Audubon Education Birds

Stop by and enjoy the Howl at the Moon Harvest Night at Kruger’s Farm Market on Saturday, October 20

B2012 National Wildlife Refuge. Just $10 per carload benefits Portland Audubon

Birdfest Nature Festival 2012

Come to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, just 25 minutes north of Portland, for a two-day celebration of nature! Walk on Audubon-led bird and plant tours, see Portland Audubon’s Education Birds (schedule at ridgefieldfriends.org), and visit Audubon’s Nature Store booth at the Birders’ Marketplace. Reserve a spot on a tour to view Sandhill Cranes flying, or to kayak on a guided paddle tour. Visit an authentic replica of a plankhouse, see demonstrations on how Native Americans lived, and sample salmon at a traditional salmon bake. Watch your children have fun for free while learning about nature at the craft stations, storytelling tent, and children’s bird walks. Go to ridgefieldfriends.org for all the details.

Mark your calendars for this family-friendly Halloween event!

NightFlight

A Portland Audubon Society event

Saturday, October 20, 2012
5:00pm – 8:30pm

$12.50 covers registration and participation for first member of your group. $10 per person for other members Recommended for kids 5–12

Pre-registration is required. You can register online at audubonportland.org/about/events/halloween or call 503-292-6855 ext. 108 for more information. Space is limited for event and walks, so register early!

Exploring The Intertwine: Birds & Beer at Fernhill Wetlands

Join Mike Houck, Eric Brattain from Friends of Fernhill Wetlands, and staff of Clean Water Services on a birding foray that combines birding and a tasting of McMenamins’ newly released Fernhill Pale Ale. The trip celebrates the inaugural release of Fernhill Pale Ale and improvements to one of the region’s premier birding spots, especially if you’re into shorebirds and waterfowl and Bald Eagles at Fernhill Wetlands, the crown jewel of Forest Grove’s “Emerald Necklace.” Efforts are afoot to connect the wetlands to trails along the Upper Tualatin River and Gales Creek, and ultimately to the Banks-Vernonia Linear Trail.

Recent improvements at Fernhill Wetlands include a new information kiosk and benches and, at long last, a restroom and picnic shelter near the parking lot. While these enhancements are great for human visitors, the most exciting development will be Clean Water Services’ future creation of a world-class demonstration wetland with water features designed by renowned landscape architect Hoichi Kurisu to cool and aerate the water that will spill into Fernhill Lake.

Meet promptly at 4:30pm at Fernhill Wetlands on SW Fern Hill Rd, one-half mile south of the intersection of Hwy 47 and Hwy 8. Look for the parking lot on your left just south of the water treatment plant. Bring binoculars and scopes, and dress for the weather, rain or shine.

After birding we’ll gather at McMenamins Grand Lodge (3505 Pacific Ave, Forest Grove 97116) for our celebratory tasting of Fernhill Pale Ale. If you migrate to Fernhill from near or far, look for special overnight packages at the inimitable Grand Lodge.

Recommended for kids 5–12
**Audubon Outings**

**Wild in the City and Beyond**

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

- Mostly weekday excursions
- Sign-up needed
- Fee involved

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**NATURE NIGHTS**

Second Tuesday of the month from September to May. If you have a suggestion for a Nature Night presentation, contact Pam Meyers at pmeyers@audubonportland.org or 503-292-4885 ext. 130.

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**Wings in the Night:**

**The Mysterious World of Bats**

**With Pat Ormsbee**

**Tuesday, September 11**

**7pm, Heron Hall**

**B**ats are so cool. Bats are the only flying mammals, they live a long time — and they wash behind their ears! They can fly 20 to 30 miles per hour and use echolocation to get around in the dark. These hardworking animals can fly over 100 miles in a night, and eat 1,200 mosquitoes and other insects — each per hour!

Bat expert Pat Ormsbee will talk about these and many other aspects of these fascinating creatures. Using photos and video of bats in action, she will provide a primer on the bats of the Pacific Northwest and share some amazing information about bat natural history including their flight, echolocation, roosting habits, reproduction and pup rearing, habitat, and conservation issues. Pat will also cover the latest scientific bat research, human social attitude toward bats, and their evolution and diversity.

Pat Ormsbee has two degrees from Oregon State University: her undergraduate work was in forest natural resource management and her Masters was in wildlife science, conducting a number of wildlife and wilderness management jobs in her 30-plus years with the U.S. Forest Service, and is currently the U.SFS and BLM Bat Specialist for Oregon and Washington. A primary focus of Pat’s work has been developing, testing, and implementing survey methods for inventorying and monitoring bats in the Pacific Northwest and providing training to field biologists to conduct these surveys.

White Nose Syndrome has also become a recent focus of Pat’s work; she is the Regional Team Leader for the FWNW Interagency White Nose Syndrome Response Team, and sits on the National NWNW Surveillance Committee, Population Monitoring Committee, and decontamination protocol team.

Join us in the mysterious world of bats!

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**September 6, 13, 20, 27 (Thu), 7am–9am**

**Sauvie Island Shorebirds**

Portland Audubon and Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife have been working to restore shorebird habitat on Sauvie Island. Join Wink Gross as we walk through grassy fields and pastures to explore Coon Point and Racetrack Lake shorebird habitat. Meet at Coon Point parking lot (just off Sauvie Island Kennels). All cars need a Sauvie Island Wildlife Mgmt Area parking pass, available at the Cracker Barrel Store near the bridge. Go north on Sauvie Island Rd for 2 mi and turn right on Reeder Rd. Drive 3.1 mi to parking lot on the left.

Questions: Wink at wink@ivw.net or 503-351-0204.

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**September 12 (Wed), 8am–1:30am**

**Ridgefield NWR, Washington**

Join us on a walk on Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge’s Kwa Trail looking for raptors and bitterns. Meet at the Kwa Trailhead parking area on the River’s S Auto Tour Route. The trail is a flat 1.5 mile walk and closes October 1st. From I-5 in Washington, take Exit 14 (Pioneer St/ Washington St) 501) and head west toward Ridgefield. At the traffic circle continue on Pioneer St for 1.8 miles and turn left on S. 5th Ave. Go 0.9 mile and turn right onto S. Refuge Rd. Follow it to kiosk area, purchase your pass, grab a map, and proceed onto the 3 mile route to trailhead, about 2 miles on the right.

Questions: Ron Escano at 503-771-3454.

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**September 17 (Mon), 8:30am–4pm**

**Bonney Butte**

Visit HawkWatch International’s hawk watching and birding site on Bonney Butte in Mt Hood National Forest. We’ll meet at the north end of the Clackamas Fred Meyer parking lot. Bring lunch and dress for the Mt Hood area weather forecast.

Registration required with Lou Fred at 503-655-1856 or loufred@msn.com.

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**September 18 (Tue), 7:30am–Noon**

**Sauvie Island Shorebirds**

Portland Audubon and Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife have been working to restore shorebird habitat on Sauvie Island. Join Wink Gross as we walk through grassy fields and pastures to explore Coon Point and Racetrack Lake shorebird habitat. Meet at Coon Point parking lot (just off Sauvie Island Kennels). All cars need a Sauvie Island Wildlife Mgmt Area parking pass, available at the Cracker Barrel Store near the bridge. Go north on Sauvie Island Rd for 2 mi and turn right on Reeder Rd. Drive 3.1 mi to parking lot on the left.

Questions: Wink at wink@ivw.net or 503-351-0204.

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**September 27 (Thu), 8:30am–11:30am**

**Tualatin River NWR**

Join Barbara Allen for a 2 mile walk through a variety of habitats at this local National Wildlife Refuge to look for waterfowl, migrating shorebirds, raptors, rails, and other local birds. Meet at the refuge parking lot located just north of Sherwood off Hwy 99W. Questions: Barbara at 503-209-0209.

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**October 13 (Sat), 8am–1:1am**

**Whitewater Ponds Nature Park**

Meet leaders Dana Turner and John Nikkel at the park entrance, 7040 NE 47th Ave (0.25 mile north of Columbia Blvd). TriMet bus #75 stops at 47th & Columbia, from which you can walk to the entrance. If you drive, park outside the entrance as the vehicle gate may close without warning.

We’ll walk the one-half mile nature trail and observe the ponds, hoping to see both resident and fall migrant songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

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**October 14 (Sun), 9am–11am**

**Dawson Creek Park, Hillsboro**

Join Max Smith and Sarah Swanson for a walk through the brilliant fall foliage of Dawson Creek Park. We’ll watch Acorn Woodpeckers store their winter’s crop, look for migrating waterfowl, and practice our songbird identification skills. Meet at north end of Hillsboro Library parking lot at 2850 NE Riverwood Parkway. Questions: Max at 503-720-9730.

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**FREE EVENT!**

**Vulture Awareness Day**

**Sat, Sept 1, 11am–3pm**

**Heron Hall — Free**

Vultures play an important role in reducing disease, but their numbers are dwindling. It’s up to us to help save them. Here are a few of the day’s activities:

- Meet Ruby the Turkey Vulture up close!
- Make a crafted vulture and mask
- Help make a pledge to help vultures survive

Come help us celebrate the beauty of vultures!

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**October 17 (Wed), 8:30am–Noon**

**Sauvie Island**

We will meet at the General Store. Parking permits are required on the island. We’ll arrange carpooling at 8:30am, as the roads are very narrow.

Registration required with Dudley Thomas at dbthomas70@gmail.com or 503-317-1603 before 6pm.

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**October 20 (Sat), 8am–Noon**

**Rentenaar Rd, Sauvie Island**

Join Ron Escano for a waterfowl and fall sparrow adventure on Sauvie Island. All vehicles need a Sauvie Island parking permit (allow 25 minutes to drive from bridge to meeting place). Meet at Eastside Check Station parking lot at corner of Reeder & Rentenaar Rds. We’ll walk Rentenaar Rd and back (1.6 miles round trip). From the Sauvie Island bridge off Hwy 30, take Sauvie Island Rd north 2 miles to Reeder Rd intersection. Turn right on Reeder and continue north 9 miles to the Eastside Check Station and Rentenaar Rd on the left. Questions: Ron at 503-771-3454.

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**References**

- White Nose Syndrome has also become a recent focus of Pat’s work; she is the Regional Team Lead for the FWNW Interagency White Nose Syndrome Response Team, and sits on the National NWNW Surveillance Committee, Population Monitoring Committee, and decontamination protocol team.
Conservation

Tough Year for Portland’s Peregrine Falcons

by Bob Sallinger

Audubon has completed its 18th year of monitoring Portland’s Peregrine Falcon population. All told, more than a dozen volunteers gave more than 150 hours to track our growing population. The 2012 data will be incorporated into statewide and national surveys that are done every 3 years to ensure that populations of this once critically endangered species remain healthy. Portland Audubon was instrumental in ensuring that these surveys required by the Endangered Species Act were actually conducted — in 2001 we brought a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after it failed to come forward with a monitoring plan on its own. As a result of that lawsuit, a robust monitoring plan is now in place.

Unfortunately, 2012 was not a good year for our local falcons. Out of 10 sites we monitored, only 3 produced a total of 6 known young. This is significantly lower than what we typically see in most years. The Freemont Bridge, which was Portland’s first nest site and which as far as we know has produced more young than any other site in Oregon since peregrine recovery began, continued to be productive, fledging 4 young. This brings the total number of young produced at this site since 1994 to an amazing 58 birds!

Overall, Peregrine Falcon populations in Portland, across Oregon, and nationwide appear to be doing well, so a single

State of Oregon Suspends 10 State Forest Timber Sales in Marbled Murrelet Habitat in Response to Lawsuit

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In May we reported that Portland Audubon, Cascadia Wildlands, and Center for Biological Diversity had filed a lawsuit in federal court to stop logging in Oregon’s Elliot, Tillamook, and Clatsop State Forests that was harming federally listed Marbled Murrelets. The lawsuit alleges that the state’s logging practices in the Tillamook, Clatsop, and Elliott State Forests are illegally “taking” the imperiled seabird in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The lawsuit in federal court to stop logging in Oregon’s Elliot, Tillamook, and Clatsop State Forests is having a significant impact. Thanks to the following volunteers to their contributions to the 2012 Peregrine Watch. Trish Cox, Pat Crane, Mary Doak, Laurie Frajola, Kay Koestler, Karen Kruse, Glenda Martin, Michelle Mintmier, Jacqui Parker, Karen Schafferfer, Cynthia Zematis, and Ann Zawadzki.

year with low local success is not necessarily significant. However, it speaks to the need to remain vigilant and ensure that peregrine populations, which we spent decades recovering from the brink of extinction, remain healthy.

The most recent status review of Marbled Murrelets by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found the birds have been declining at a rate of approximately 4% per year and that this decline likely relates to continued loss of habitat, primarily on state and private land.

The conservation organizations are represented by outside counsel Daniel Kruse of Eugene, Tanya Sanerib and Chris Brown of the Western Environmental Law Center. The conservation organizations are represented by outside counsel Daniel Kruse of Eugene, Tanya Sanerib and Chris Brown of the Western Environmental Law Center.

Marbled Murrelet at sea. Photo: R.Lowe/U.S.FWS

Murrelet chick. Photo: Peter Vukas

The suspension of the timber sales is an important interim measure while the litigation proceeds. However it is important for the state to realize that these and other sales in murrelet habitat are still at real risk of proceeding in the future. Ultimately we are asking the court to permanently stop the worst of the state’s timber sales, and encouraging Governor Kitzhaber to initiate the development of scientifically supported management plans for our coastal state forests.

Oregon recently abandoned its decade-long attempt to develop habitat conservation plans (HCPs) for the 3 forests that would have given it a federal permit for limited impacts to Marbled Murrelets in exchange for habitat protection measures designed to enhance the bird’s conservation.

Rather than improving habitat protections, the state turned its back on murrelets and other listed species altogether by walking away from the HCP process. The lawsuit seeks to force the state to develop a plan that will protect murrelets and the mature forests on which these birds and other species depend.

West Hayden Island continued from front cover

• Best Management Practices: The Port has repeatedly assured the community that it would build a state-of-the-art “green” facility and include a strong suite of best management practices in the annexation agreements. However, the majority of the best management practices that were included simply require the Port to meet the minimum requirements of the law.

• Community Impacts: The City is requiring the Port to pay $25,000 per year into a community fund ($40,000 per year during construction and potentially subject to limited increases if traffic projections are exceeded). This is far below the actual annual impacts the community will suffer if this project moves forward. To put the agreement in perspective, $25,000 is less than half the annual raise that the Port Commission voted to give to the Port’s Executive Director in 2010, in part for his efforts to develop West Hayden Island.

• Transportation Impacts: The Transportation Plan is predicated on the CRC being built as per its already discredited 2011 design and will run upwards of 600 trucks a day through downtown Janzen Beach. North Hayden Island Drive will be re-designated as a “major truck route” and taxpayers are on the hook for paying millions of dollars to subsidize road improvements on the island. The City and Port have repeatedly ignored concerns raised not only by the local community but also by independent consultants ECONorthwest about transportation impacts.

• Natural Area Ownership, Management, and Funding: The documents fail to address long-term management, funding, and ownership of the remaining natural area on West Hayden Island. These issues have simply been kicked down the road.

• Economic Concerns: The documents fail to address significant concerns about the economic benefits of developing West Hayden Island raised by independent consultants ECONorthwest. For example, ECONorthwest wrote that while land consumption and cargo increased in Portland Harbor between 2002 and 2008, jobs have been decreasing due to automation and other factors. Notably, while the Port justifies this project based on job creation, it has simultaneously rejected any provisions that would tie public investment to actual job creation.

After previewing the ECONorthwest report, the Portland Tribune wrote that their response to development on West Hayden Island was “terpid,” “lukewarm,” and “tossed cold water on the Port’s plans to develop new marine terminals” (from “Port Plan for Island gets Tepid Response; Consultant Urges Use of Vancouver Site, Not West Hayden Island,” Portland Tribune, March 29, 2012). However, the ECONorthwest reports are virtually invisible in the City’s own analysis of this project.

• Alternative Sites: The City continues to ignore ECONorthwest’s conclusion that “Given the most recent forecasts of demand, and reasonable assumptions on current capacity and the likely size of new terminals, it would appear that the Port of Vancouver has a surplus of vacant industrial land to accommodate their likely future demand, and should the Port of Portland be unable to accommodate forecast growth, the Port of Vancouver could accommodate some (and perhaps all) of that growth.” Instead the City allows the Port to perpetuate a competitive system that results in inefficient land use and duplicated facilities, and which results in millions of dollars to subsidize road improvements on West Hayden Island.

• Long-term Public Participation: The draft agreements defer many of the most important decisions on West Hayden Island to future processes. In 2011, however, the Port of Portland strongly opposed passage of Senate Bill 766, legislation which severely restricts the public’s ability to participate in decision-making on industrial lands designated as “regionally significant.” The City and Port continue to reject inclusion of provisions in the annexation agreements that would preclude the Port from seeking SB 766 protection and excluding the public from future decisions.

In addition, the process continues to be marked by an excessive number of meetings, often scheduled with continued on page 5
H ow do Certified Backyard Habitats contribute to biodiversity? Since 2005, more than 1,300 yards in Portland and Lake Oswego have enrolled in the Backyard Habitat Certification Program — and about 450 of these have met the certification criteria and are proudly displaying their Backyard Habitat sign.

But what difference has it made to native moths, butterflies, and birds? Is the difference more pronounced if your habitat is close to a park or greenspace or to another backyard habitat? We would expect that a greater abundance of native butterfly species would result in a greater abundance of native insect herbivores like caterpillars.

With support from the Backyard Habitat Certification Program, faculty and researchers from Portland State University, National Phenology Network, and Oregon State University are studying the cumulative impacts from backyard habitats. This research project is the first of its kind in the Portland region and, with enough momentum and funding, could lead to results that are impactful on a national scale.

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minimal notice and held before key documents are actually available for discussion. The City appears to be attempting to remedy the bad process by good process to date by overwhelming the community with a multitude of additional ineffective meetings, rather than establishing a reasonably sequenced process with adequate notice and spacing to allow for real stakeholder participation.

The Port of Portland continues to steadfastly refuse to do what is necessary to mitigate for the impacts to the community and the environment. Backed by a cadre of industrial lobbying groups, they claim that taking care of the environment and the community simply does not pencil out.

The community, though, has every reason to be skeptical of the Port’s claims of poverty. In August, while Port staff was constructing a tic-tac-toe and drone on West Hayden Island, the Port of Portland Commission blithely voted to voluntarily pay up to $4.7 million in public funds to ITCS, a company located in the Philippines that it contracts with to run Terminal 6. The payment is a voluntary gift to a company nearly 6,700 miles away which is owned by a billionaire and which turned a $130.5 million profit last year, in order to compensate it for financial losses that it may have suffered due to the recent longshoremen strike. In 2010 when the Port originally hired ITCS, it assured the community that the contract would protect our local jobs and local economy and reverse years of unprofitability at Terminal 6. Unfortunately, their management has resulted in a strike, shippers bypassing Portland, and a voluntary gift of $4.7 million in public funds flowing out of our local economy. When it comes to paying their industrial partners, the Port seems to have money to burn, but when it comes to protecting the community and the environment, the Port cries poverty.

In the coming weeks the community will hear a great deal of rhetoric from the Port and industrial lobbying groups arguing that the Port bought West Hayden Island with the expectation that it would be allowed to develop. In fact the Port took West Hayden Island from a private landowner using its powers of condemnation, knowing full well that West Hayden Island was neither annexed nor zoned for industrial development and that there was strong public opposition to industrial development at this site.

The annexation and rezoning process is a completely appropriate place for the public to weigh in, raise concerns, and challenge a change in land use that will adversely impact our communities and the environment. The Port’s repeated assertions to the contrary show a fundamental disregard for the public process. The fact is that the Port speculated when it took West Hayden Island for purposes that were not allowed under the current land use designations. If the Port remains unwilling or unable to move forward in a manner which adequately addresses legitimate environmental, community, transportation, and economic concerns, the community should reject their request.

www.audubonportland.org

PUBLIC BROADCASTING film crew conducted a “biobit” of target sites. We walked from home to home and collected the contents of each trap. The group returned to a central hub in each neighborhood and spent the afternoon sorting and identifying hundreds of moths and other flying insects.

So what did we find? The preliminary results are no surprise; yards that have native plant habitats and are close to naturally maintained greenspaces have higher species richness of moths and birds compared to yards farther from greenspaces and yards without native plant habitats.

Where do we go from here? All of the work done to date is to build momentum for a proposal PSU will submit to the Nation Science Foundation to fund a more long-term and comprehensive study that would investigate the long-term impacts of backyard habitats both ecologically and socially. With us luck and stay tuned!

The problem, in this case, was that the callers weren’t sure if the parents were around. They had seen parents come from to see if we could find any nest or parents around the following day the donors who had brought the bird to us called and informed us that they had seen parents in the area looking for their fledgling. The next step was to scout where the bird came from to see if we could find any nest or parents around the location. In July the donors had brought the bird to us and informed us that the parents would be a healthy Cooper's Hawks are medium-sized hawks that mainly eat birds. They are agile fliers who are at home hunting in the treetops, but can make a good living in a tree-abundant suburb and even on our more urbanized landscapes. They will usually only produce one clutch per year and lay anywhere from 2 to 6 eggs. Nests are usually built by the male and set in pine, Douglas-fir, oaks, and beeches, to name a few. As they fly, their song might be heard. In fact, almost any bird has a song they might be heard. In fact, almost any bird.

The most often important decisions in any wildlife rehabilitation situation is determining whether an animal needs to be rescued in the first place. O ften the first instinct of people is to rescue these ground-bound birds. However, despite the hazards they face on both urban and wild landscapes, it is important to leave them in the wild. The skills that they will learn over the next several years are critical to their long-term survival, and it is a process that birds have gone through since time immemorial. No matter how hard we try, we can never train a young bird to survive as well as its own parents can teach it these skills.

In particularly hazardous situations, we can often reunite parents with their young by building a makeshift nest, putting the bird in it, and placing it somewhere near where the parents were last seen. This buys them some time, but keeps them wild and with their family. The problem, in this case, was that the callers weren’t sure if the parents were around. They hadn’t seen any activity near the young hawk for a couple of days.

We decided to have them bring in the young hawk for an exam. After looking the bird over and checking hydration level, alertness, and for any broken bones, we determined the young bird to be a healthy Cooper's Hawk fledgling. We then placed the bird in a cardboard box and sent it off to the WildCare Center. We then called the donors and let them know that we would handle the situation.

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**Educational Trips**

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

Trip deposit required to secure your place on the trip.

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**Greece**  
**April 29 – May 11, 2013**

Greece — a land of ancient culture and famous ruins that hearkens back to the very dawn of modern civilization. Join Steve Robertson, Education Director, and Stefan Schlick. Avid Birder, on this 12-day birding trek through one of the most enchanting and historic countries in the world.

We arrive in Athens, take an evening to catch our breath and meet the group, then head off to bird the slopes of Mt. Parnassus, where we should find a good number of forest birds like Coal Tit and Mistle Thrush. We’ll keep a sharp eye for Alpine Chough, Northern Wheatear, and Black Redstart. Then it’s off to Delphi where, with a little luck, we won’t need the Oracle to find the Rock Nuthatch, Cur Bushting, and Subalpine Warbler.

Back in Athens, we’ll take time to search for Hoopoe and Alpine Swift on the Adrropolis grounds before flying to the Eros Delta, one of Europe’s most significant wetlands. Over the next few days we will search for Great Reed Warbler, Short-toed Lark, Isabelline Wheatear, and Long-legged Buzzard. We’ll visit the nearby Dafio Forest, where 36 out of Europe’s 35 raptor species can be found.

Finally, we drive across northern Greece to Lake Kerkini, one of the top birding locations in Europe. Amongst stunning lake scenery we will look for Penduline Tit, Pygmy Cormorant, Roller, and Dalmatian Pelican.

You may be wondering how the current downturn in Greece’s economy might affect travel within the country... well, Stefan recently returned from Greece and reports his trip went very smoothly, without a hitch. Tourism is down in Greece, to be certain, but that just means fewer crowds to contend with! Contact Steve Robertson at 503-292-6855 ext. 118 or srobertson@audubonportland.org for more information and to register.

**Leaders:** Steve Robertson and Stefan Schlick  
**Group size:** limited to 14 participants  
**Tentative fee:** $3295 (may vary slightly as final arrangements are made)  
**Deposit:** $1500 required to secure your place  
**Fee includes:** all ground transportation, all lodging based on double occupancy, meals except some dinners, entrance fees, excursions, tips for local guides, and the services of your experienced leaders. **Not included:** Airfare to & from Portland and most dinners.

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**Colombia**  
**January 4–18, 2013**

Colombia is home to more bird species than any other country in the world. To be prepared to be awe of the spectacular wildlife as we explore Colombia’s lush cloud forests, wetlands, high mountain peaks, and coastal lowlands.

Join Dan van den Broek and Colombian bird experts on Portland Audubon’s first visit to this dynamic birding destination. Our first 3 nights are in the western range of the Andes, exploring spectacular cloud forests while searching for Multicolored Tanager, Green-and-black Fruit-eater, and Golden-headed Quetzal.

Next we’ll descend to the tropical lowland forests of the Chocó bioregion. We will search for Jet and Immaculate Antbird plus Pacific Antwren in the San Cipriano Reserve, which can only be reached by rail. We continue on to the Coffee Triangle where we’ll spend 2 days in the Rio Blanco Reserve, home to more stunning species such as White-capped and Grass-green Tanager and Golden-faced Redstart.

Next we climb into the mountains of the Nevado del Ruiz. Here we’ll look for Bearded Hillcrest, Scarlet-bellied Mountain-tanager, and Black-backed Bush-tanager. The chance to soak in warm mineral springs awaits us once we are back at our comfortable hotel.

We end the trip with 2 days of birding in the Santa Marta Mountains, the highest coastal mountain range in the world, and 2 nights at the village of Taganga on the shores of the Caribbean. Contact Dan van den Broek at 973-222-6105 or dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org for details and to register.

**Leaders:** Dan van den Broek, and local guides  
**Group size:** limited to 14 participants  
**Fee:** $4905 members / $5195 non-members  
**Deposit:** $2000 required to secure your place  
**Fee includes:** All ground transportation, all lodging based on double occupancy, meals except some dinners, entrance fees, excursions, and the services of your experienced leaders. **Not included:** Airfare to & from Portland, flights within Colombia, some dinners.

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**Klamath Basin Birding Expedition**  
**March 21–24, 2013**

Enjoy some of the best birding in the West on this fantastic voyage with Bob Fields and the Audubon Society of Portland. The Klamath Basin contains 6 national wildlife refuges and is one of Oregon’s designated Important Bird Areas. A variety of habitats including freshwater marshes, open water, grassy meadows, coniferous forests, sagebrush and juniper grasslands, agricultural lands, and rocky cliffs and slopes are found here. Bob Fields, former manager of the Klamath refuge system, knows the lay of the land and will guide us to the best spots and share his knowledge gained from years of experience working on this and other refuge systems.

The spectacular spring migration of Snow, Ross’s, and Greater White-fronted Goose should be at full swing. Bald Eagles winter in the basin in large numbers and other raptors like Rough-legged Hawk and Prairie Falcon are likely to be seen. Snowy ducks, Bald Eagle, Common Goldeneye, and uncommon birds like Townsend’s Solitaire and Lewis’s Woodpecker, have been seen on previous Klamath trips. Contact Steve Engel at 973-222-619 or sengel@audubonportland.org to learn more and to register.

**Leaders:** Bob Fields, former refuge manager, and Steve Engel, Audubon staff

**Group size:** limited to 14 participants  
**Fee:** $595 members / $795 non-members  
**Deposit:** $300 required to secure your place  
**Fee includes:** Van transportation from Portland, all lodging based on double occupancy, meals except dinners, entrance fees, and the services of your leaders.

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**New Zealand - Land of the Kiwi**  
**December 1–6, 2012**

**Fee:** $4855 members / $5195 non-members (based on double occupancy)  
**Contact Steve Engel at 973-222-619 or sengel@audubonportland.org.**
Beginning Birding I: Sept 10 (Mon), 7pm-9pm: Class in Heron Hall Sept 16 & 23 (Sun), 8am–11am: Local Field Trips Join Laura Whittemore for her ever-popular introduction to bird watching. You will learn about bird gear such as binoculars and field guides, how to recognize birds by groups, and how to identify species by their field marks, behavior, and sound. This is the perfect class for you if you’ve ever wanted to “get started” in bird watching. This class is likely to fill quickly, so don’t hesitate to sign up! Fee: $45 member / $60 non-member

Birding Oregon Hotspots: Tillamook Bay Sept 12 (Wed), 7pm-9pm: Class in Heron Hall Sept 15 (Sat), 8am–5pm: Field trip to Coos Bay, transportation provided An easy day-trip from Portland, the area around Tillamook Bay has a great diversity of habitats, which attracts a great diversity of birds. Join John Rakestraw for an exploration of this prime birding destination along the Oregon Coast. We’ll look for 3 Cormorant species and have great diversity of birds. Join John Rakestraw for an exploration of this prime birding destination along the Oregon Coast. We’ll look for 3 Cormorant species and have great diversity of birds.

Nature Journaling the Seasons Fall: Sept 29 & Oct 6 (Sat), 10am–4pm Do you already keep a nature journal but would like to take it a step further? Have you always wanted to begin but didn’t know how? Then let artist, author, and botanist Jude Siegel set you on your way! Whether you have some art experience or none at all, you are welcome to join in this special two-day class. With simple & effective exercises she will encourage you to draw, use watercolors, and write in ways that help you capture the feel of the seasons on your pages. Each seasonal class is two consecutive Saturdays in Heron Hall and the Audubon Sanctuary. We will be outside for part of each day, and Jude will include some ethno-botany on our group observation walks. There will also be time to go off by yourself and find what charms you. With two days of instruction, your skill and confidence levels will grow and your individual style will emerge. Jude is the author of 2 Pacific Northwest Nature Journals and has taught her techniques for over 12 years. “Jude provided just the right balance of structure and free exploration; gracious to all, from just-starting participants to the most accomplished.” (Margaret Bates, winter student).
Fee per class: $75 member / $95 non-member (plus materials)
Class size: limited to 16 participants
See our website for more details and supply list.

Beginning Field Birding & Sauvie Island Exploration Saturdays, 8am–Noon Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec. 1 Saturday morning explorations at one of Oregon’s most accessible Important Bird Areas — Sauvie Island Wildlife Area, managed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife — continue with Greg Baker! This class series is perfect for those interested in developing and sharpening their birding skills under a variety of field conditions with the tutelage of an expert biologist.
Fee: $68 members / $75 non-members Class size: limited to 15 participants

Wilderness Immersion Course Whether you want to spot hidden animals, read faint tracks, see the intricate connections in an ecosystem, quit worrying about getting lost, or learn to interact with a bear without panic, this unique course can help. If you seek a new, deeper level of comfort, connection, and awareness in nature, we invite you to enroll in this unconventional immersion course. Your instructor, Cader Olive, has decades of experience in teaching and living the content of this course. See our website for more details.

Ice Age Floods April 16–21, 2013 Join the Audubon Society of Portland on a 6-day adventure exploring the route of the Ice Age Floods across the Channeled Scablands of eastern Washington and through the Columbia River Gorge. We will explore several well-known locations: Dry Falls, the Drumheller Channels, Dry Falls State Park, and other dramatic features in eastern Washington. April is a beautiful time of year here and we’ll make plenty of time for hiking, botanizing, and bird watching. We hope you will join us! Contact Steve Engel at 971-222-6119 or sengel@audubonportland.org to learn more and to register.
Fee: $875 members / $1075 non-members Deposit: $400 required to secure your place

Beginning Birding 2 October 21 & 28 (Sun), 8am–11am: Local Field Trips November 3 (Sat), 8am–5pm: Field trip (transportation provided) Take your new birding skills to the next level with Laura Whittemore. This class is designed for those wanting more time in the field practicing and improving their birding abilities. Two morning field trips to local sites and an all-day van trip will help familiarize you with some of the best places to visit for bird watching in town and farther afield. Transportation provided by Audubon for the all-day field trip only.
Fee: $75 members / $95 non-members Class size: limited to 12 participants

Ducks, Geese, Swans November 20 (Tue), 7pm–9pm in Heron Hall Waterfowl: small, medium, large — or big, bigger, biggest! However you look at them, the Willamette Valley is the place to find waterfowl this winter. Join local bird expert and author Harry Nehls to learn about the many species of wintering waterfowl that can be found in the Portland area. Harry will talk about their behavior, how to recognize different species, and where to look for them. Harry is the author of several regional birding books, including Birds of the Willamette Valley Region with Tom Aversa and Hal Opperman. Fee: $10 members / $15 non-members Free to active volunteers!
Nature Store Highlights
by Nancy Mattson, Nature Store Manager

Fall is the perfect time to get out and enjoy nature! Great new optics & rebates! Letting this fall in the Nature Store will give you new dimensions in viewing pleasure!

New Swarovski ATX/STX Spotting Scope!

In mid-September Swarovski’s all new ATX/STX modular spotting scope will arrive. On this unique scope, the zoom is located next to the focus knob instead of the eyepiece. It easily adjusts with one hand! Next, the scope separates into two components: an eyepiece (with most of the scopes internal mechanisms) and the objective lens with focus wheel. Swarovski offers three interchangeable objective lens options: 65mm, 85mm, and 115mm.Also fits some other brands. How cool is that?

New Redfield Spotting Scope from Leupold!

The Redfield scope is a tough scope with a tough name but a mellow price tag of only $325 (member price $295.50). Check these features: waterproof, fog-proof, angled body, 20-60 zoom eyepiece, big 80mm objective lens, and sleek black rubber armoring. Extra perks: a lease-on-protective case, tabletop mini-tripod, cordura carrying case. You can easily see why we’re so excited to offer this new entry-level spotter!

A $50 Nikon Rebate!
If you’d love to own a pair of the popular Nikon Monarch 5 ATBs, now is the time. The “Monarch Madness Instant Rebate” is available between September 10 and November 20. You’ll instantly receive a $50 discount on your purchase of these affordable, quality binoculars.

A $100 Zeiss Rebate!
Zeiss offers a $100 rebate on their new Conquest HD binoculars until December 31. The popular Conquest HD is the first full-sized Zeiss binocular for under $1000. With the added bonus of a $100 Prepaid American Express Reward Card, you’ll have a seriously good deal on world-class European optics!

And a surprise from Kowa!

Love your iPhone? Love your Kowa Scope? Love to be able to take 60× pictures through your scope with your iPhone? The new Kowa TSN-IP 45 adapter lets you use your iPhone 4/4S to take photos through the eyepiece of your Kowa scope or binoculars! Also fits some other brands. How cool is that?

New Zeiss Victory HT Binocular!

Incorporating an all new HT glass engineered by their sister-corporation Schott Glass, these new Zeiss Victory HT binoculars offer nearly 95% light transmission, making these officially “The World’s Brightest Binoculars!” They are slated to arrive in September.

Sanctuaries
by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

In the Trees

On August 9 & 10 the Audubon Society of Portland teamed up with Ascending the Giants (ATG) and the Pacific Northwest chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) to host a Forest Ecology Tour and Tree Climb in our NW Portland Sanctuary. This event coincided with the ISA21 2012 Conference and Trade Show and the International Tree Climbing Championships.

Longtime Audubon volunteer-extraordinary Mandy Sims greeted tour participants with a tour of our Wildlife Care Center, introducing many of our Education Birds and the stories of their rescue and rehabilitation. Sanctuaries staff guided participants on a walk through our trails and discussed the variety of issues that affect forest and wildlife management in the urban environment. The third element of the tour was a vertical exploration of our ancient grove of Douglas-firs and the surrounding forest of Western Red-cedar, Western Hemlock, Grand Fir, and Bigleaf Maple.

The tour was advertised to bring participants 180 feet into the canopy of our Sanctuary alongside PhD Ornithologist Dr. David Anderson. After several long days of rigging the trees for a safe and non-invasive climb, the ATG crew was able to set lines close to the tops of two of our oldest and largest Douglas-firs, bringing participants over 220 feet into the canopy! In addition, a host of local wildlife experts joined the party. With experts Eric Forman, Jimmy Swingle, Bill Price, and others joining tour participants for the ride up to the top.

“With the loss of our last remaining giant trees, we are courting not only a loss of biodiversity, but the loss of our collective ability to be awed by nature.” —Will Koomjian, Ascending the Giants cofounder

Over 45 people participated in the tour, many of them visiting arborists from around the world, with participants from every continent except Antarctica (where there are few people and fewer trees!). From my perspective, one of the most amazing aspects of the tour was how many arborists — those who spend their lives and make their livelihood climbing trees — were blown away by our forested sanctuary and our grove of remnant old-growth giants.

I was particularly excited that several of our local Audubon members and a few of our staff were also able to participate in the tree-climbing portion of the tour. Few arborists ever get to go this high, into the tree tops, this was truly a treat for those who dared to sign up. It certainly gave me a newfound appreciation for the beauty of the forests in the Cascade region and the importance of protecting the last of our remaining old-growth forests. This was once the land of giants, with Douglas-fir regularly growing 300–350 feet tall and the occasional tree reaching an astounding 400 feet. With continued perseverance in our conservation and restoration efforts, future generations will have the opportunity to experience trees and forests of this magnitude for themselves.

About Ascending the Giants: “We do not focus on controversial topics associated with deforestation. Alternatively, we seek to showcase champion trees through photography, videography, and adventure in a non-confrontational approach to advocate for old-growth forest conservation.”

C ome see Swarovski’s newest generation of spotting scopes and binoculars. The new ATX/STX spotting scopes offer modulator flexibility, ergonomic design, and user-friendliness to bring about a real evolution in spotting scope design (see article at left).

During this free workshop, Clay Taylor, Swarovski Naturalist Market Manager, will demonstrate the ATX/STX modular components and redesigned dugouping adapters, which allow you to take top-quality, high-magnification images through the scope eyepiece using a digital camera. He’ll also discuss the full line of Swarovski optics, their design techniques, and the materials and special coatings they use to keep Swarovski always on the innovative cutting edge of binocular and spotting scope design.

Wish List & Thank You to:

• Ann Bakkensen for two 90-oz. bottles of Dawn dish detergent for the WCC
• Maryka Baggio for a rustic bench for the Sanctuary
• Katherine Burns for several packages of gauze, eye pads, stir drapes, & applicators for the WCC
• Cedal Hills Croning New Seasons Market’s Nancy Parent (Producer), Cody McLean (Seafood), and Steve Kelly (Store Manager) for weekly donations of fruits and vegetables, fish, and sometimes eggs for the WCC
• Julie Corbett for her set of face paints
• Jim Cruse for 25 framed 4×6 and 5×7 bird photographs; two framed and six unframed 8×10 photographs; one framed and two unframed 11×14 bird photographs; a book of two hundred 4×6 bird photographs; and a book of forty 4×6 bird photographs
• James Davis & Sally Loomis for a small portable Peavey microphone amp and power cord
• Raylene Elers for 2 donations of food for the WCC, including salmon, tuna, ground lamb, beef chunks, jerky
• Eddie Greenly for 4 large photographs of the Education Birds Aristophanes, Hazel, Julio, and Ruby
• John Hamsterdard for 3 bottles of Caraballa Pinot Noir for the Legacy Circle event
• Mike Hawkins for 2 high resolution film cassettes and several packages of needles and syringes for the WCC
• Nancy Jones for a paper shredder, vertical file, Gorilla shelving, 3 Prego tables, office supplies, and a Skil 4.5-amp drill with 3 drill bits
• Edward Kirschaust for a MacBook pro laptop computer
• Alan Loklear & Marie Vallenor for 4 large jars of bleach for the WCC
• Becky Magnuson for Kittson Science Diet and Purina One cat food for the WCC
• Helen Ramatowski for 2 large boxes of excellent nature and birding books for the Education Department
• David Smith for a KOWA TSN 821 scope and 20×60 zoom eyepiece, and a Swarovski tripod with a Manfrotto tripod head for the Education Department
• Paula Squire for 5 large bottles of bleach for the WCC
• Bobby Wilcox for a 20-pound bag of sunflower seed

Wish List:

For East Portland Office: 10 Binoculars

For Sanctuary: Longers • Handsaw Work gloves

For Wildlife Care Center: Science Diet Kitten Growth • Bleach Dawn Dishwashing Detergent • Camper/Trailer Water bottles & exercise wheels for small rodents

If you can donate these items, please first contact: Audubon Society of Portland at 503-292-6655 ext. 102, Mon-Fri, to arrange a time for delivery/pick-up.

FREE!

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Many of the birds that visit western Oregon in the fall breed in the prairie states, California, or Mexico. Most of the Great Egrets seen here breed in California and move northward after nesting. Herrmann’s Gulls and Black Pelicans that occur in large numbers along the coast breed primarily on islands off the Mexican coast. Double-crested Cormorants nest in colonies along our coast and east of the Cascades. None appear to nest in the Portland area, but soon move in when the young can fly. They are common wintering birds here.

Sightings

Last summer a pair of Eastern Kingbirds and 2 pairs of Black Phoebes nested at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Randy Hill reports that they successfully nested there again this summer. Black Phoebes have been reported from many local areas this summer but there have not been any other nesting attempts. Eastern Kingbirds and Western Kingbirds are again nesting at the Sandy River Delta. On June 18 Rick DeTroye found both at Steigerwald Lake NWR. brown-eyed Vireos were again conspicuous at the Sandy River Delta. On June 29 at McIver Park near Estacada. Indigo

Brown Pelican. Photo: Tom Mackenzie/USFWS

Thank you, Lani! Help make our jobs not only easier, but a pleasure. What all of us at the WCC would say to Lani is that helping the public deal with wildlife issues. In response, the staff members are always so generous in taking the time to teach and explain things to volunteers. There is always an unrepeatable moment. Getting a van stuck on a narrow road — almost to Canada! — to capacity. This means that 30 Portland Audubon members have now experienced the birds, beauty, and wonder of my home state. Some things that surprised them were: the ever-present and overwhelming expanses of sky stretching above and the seemingly endless sky stretching below. The truly exciting experience was seeing a Bald Eagle, the uniquely friendly people you can meet in a small town cafe or while on the field; and the birds! We recorded approximately 150 species on each trip. Some were prairie specialties like Baird’s Sparrow or Chestnut-collared Longspur and some were migrants still northbound, like Blackpoll Warbler and Stilt Sandpiper.

Field Notes

by Harry Nehls

The birds breeding in Oregon usually begin their post-breeding dispersal around mid-July. Many songbirds that breed in the southern United States and in Mexico nest earlier and are often found in Oregon during the early summer. Dispersals often take birds well away from their breeding areas. Of all the time of year to look for rare and unusual birds.

Birds have a very strong sense of place. Birds that disperse far from their regular range will still migrate in the right direction and most likely winter at or near the usual winter range of the species. Some out-of-range birds have faulty navigation skills and are soon eliminated from the gene pool.

Post-Breeding Dispersal Patterns

Fall is an exciting time of year for bird watchers, especially beginning birders. Although the birds are not in their bright spring plumage and are not singing, there are a lot more of them than at other times of the year, and they are much more conspicuous. Many are young and inexperienced, just as interested in looking at you as you are in looking at them. They often allow close approaches and remain long enough for the bird watcher to study them for a few minutes.

Many of the birds that visit western Oregon in the fall breed in the prairie states, California, or Mexico. Most of the Great Egrets seen here breed in California and move northward after nesting. Herrmann’s Gulls and Black Pelicans that occur in large numbers along the coast breed primarily on islands off the Mexican coast. Double-crested Cormorants nest in colonies along our coast and east of the Cascades. None appear to nest in the Portland area, but soon move in when the young can fly. They are common wintering birds here.

Volunteer of the Month: Lani Bennett

by Deb Sheaffer, WCC Veterinarian

rumor has it that Lani Bennett could run the Wildlife Care Center (WCC) by herself. Or maybe it’s that she runs it by herself, which no doubt has happened on occasion in her 21 years as a Care Center volunteer. Lani has been on the same 4-hour Sunday afternoon shift for almost half of her life. In addition to being an incredibly hard worker, Lani readily takes on any task with a smile and a great sense of humor. For several years she provided home care for her parents and would even take them to work with her to get in the feedings every 2 hours. She has trained numerous volunteers such as Bob Sallinger, who went on to train for the Care Center Director and now is Portland Audubon’s Conservation Director. Bob comments, “I think Lani over the long haul has arguably contributed as much as any volunteer in WCC history.”

Lani’s volunteer energies aren’t confined to her shift in the WCC. Over the years she has also been a great help at the Wild Arts Festival, the annual Native Plant Sale and the Spring Native Plant Sale. She also managed a station at the Wildlife Care Center’s Annual Open House. Always ready to lend a hand to help Audubon, Lani was fittingly awarded the Manic Campbell Award in 2005.

So what has kept Lani at Audubon for so long? She says she loves watching the young animals grow to release age and become successful adults back in the wild. And once she got to release a Bald Eagle that was a long-term project, which was a glorious and majestic reward for all that hard work. But most important, says Lani, “the Care Center is always advancing in technique, treatment methods, and equipment, but the one constant is that the Care Center staff members are always so generous in taking the time to teach and explain things to volunteers. There is always something new to learn — about animals and about helping the public deal with wildlife issues.” In response, what all of us at the WCC would say to Lani is that volunteers like you keep Audubon and the WCC alive and help make our jobs not only easier, but a pleasure. Thank you, Lani, for all you give to Audubon!
Buy a Habitat Conservation Stamp: Support Wildlife

Buy an annual stamp to benefit conservation of Oregon’s native species and habitats. The new stamps sell for $40 a year and include a free Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife “Wildlife Area Parking Pass” (a $22 value). Revenue will be used for the restoration of native habitats that are home to the state’s fish and wildlife and consistent with the Oregon Conservation and Oregon Nearsouth strategies. Go to dfoe.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/habitat_conservation_stamp.asp for details about ordering stamps and limited edition prints.

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 in each Warbler. Thank you for joining our vibrant and growing community!

Expander: An Overview of Audubon’s Outreach

The Expander program for this summer 2012 worked with three different community development corporations and served campers between the ages of 8 and 15.

Rose CDC Expander served the outer Southeast neighborhood. This week-long camp served 22 children. Participants had the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership and visited many local sites learning about plants and animals in the Pacific Northwest, ending their week with a fishing trip to Mt. Hood.

Hacienda CDC Expander served the outer Northeast, Northeast, and North Portland neighborhoods. The two separate week-long day camps served 24 campers each week. With the help of Metro, this Expander team helped to rid Timid and Bybee Lakes of many invasive plants. They also helped paint a mural in their local community at Watertown Pond with the Columbia Slough Watershed Council and spotted many interesting animals along the way, including a black bear on Mt. Hood.

Bienestar Expander served the Hillsboro, Aloha, and Forest Grove communities. The three separate week-long day camps served 24 campers each week. Focusing on water quality, this year’s Bienestar Expander program partnered with Jackson Bottom Wetlands and Clean Water Services to provide fun and exciting ways to learn about the health of the waterways. Students traveled to Hagg Lake, the Audubon Society of Portland, and the Oregon Coast to compare their findings.

The Audubon Society of Portland would like to thank the Hoover Family Foundation, PGE Foundation, REI Gray Family Foundation, The North Face Explore Fund, NW Natural, Templeton Foundation, Auden Foundation, and PacificCorp for their generous support of all of our Community-Based Camps.

In Memory

Lillian Anderson
Stacy Crawford
Dorothy Clark
Jeff Bergen
Paul & Phyllis Otto
Richard B. Forbes
Orcilla Z. Forbes
Ellen Magette
Alan Kanik
Betty Lou Slanning
Robert Swan
Mary Louise Smith
Gordon & Katherine Keane

In Honor

Charlie Armstrong
Anika & Felix Justice
Alexandra Carolyn & Thomas Kelly Dyke
Marvin & Anita Witt
Sophia Wexler
Joshua Broshard
Krisi Maderos
Veronica Ruiz & Sarah

A portal to birding Oregon — Audubon Birding Weekends 2012

Join Paul Sullivan & Carol Karlen for an Audubon Birding Weekend. Please go to audubonportland.org/audubon-weekends for information about how the trips work, how to register, and the new cancellation policy. Note: no Birding Weekend in December.

Schedule

September 23—25 — Malheur NWR
We’ll look for fall migrants and unusual vagrants, as well as enjoy the spectacular fall colors on Steens Mountain. Base: Burns

October 13—14 — Central Cascades
We’ll focus on waterfowl at Hatfield Lake, Wickup Reservoir, and other high lakes, and look for burns for black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers. Base: Bend

November 17—18 — Columbia River
We’ll check out the fall migrants on the Columbia River from above the John Day Dam to Hood River, hoping for unusual loons, scoters, etc. Base: The Dalles
In mid-July, under silent starry skies, we gather quietly in small meadows and openings in the old-growth forest canopy. Led by Oregon State University biologist Kim Nelson, 30 citizen scientists are here in the middle of the Marbled Murrelet Important Bird Area to survey known Marbled Murrelet-occupied stands. Dawn surveys are the best opportunity to observe vocalizing adults who are returning from the sea to feed their chicks a tiny fish. Notoriously enigmatic, cryptic, and speedy (murrelets can fly up to 50 miles) early scientists guessed this seabird required large, contiguous stands of ancient forest to nest. However, the first nest was only discovered in 1974.

Anticipating the return of these robins-sized birds, I strain my ears and repeatedly scan the pre-dawn horizon above silhouetted spruce, hemlock, and fir. Suddenly, I hear them. From the west to the east, a pair rockets by, repeatedly calling an emphatic ‘keek keek’ as they sped their way to a cluck waiting on a massive bough of a very tall old-growth tree.

And so it went for two hours. All forest survey sites had success, most with multiple audio and visual detections.

After breakfast, we fanned out again to multiple sites for sweep surveys of the near shore. Paul Engelmeyer, the manager of Audubon’s Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary and organizer of this 7th Annual Citizen Science Training and Survey, stated, “This event was a great success with over 30 participants, including 9 from Audubon Society of Portland, as well as local citizens and representatives of partner conservation groups and state and federal agencies. We observed adult murrelets (in cryptic plumage) and a fledged juvenile (bright black and white plumage) in the near shore. A Northern Fulmar and a Parasitic Jaeger were also sighted as well as over 300 Surf Scoters.”

Paul continued, “We are delighted that this year’s surveys occurred adjacent to the newly designated Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve. Marine Protected Area, and Seabird Protection Area. Encompassing Oregon’s State waters 0.3 miles from north of Yachts to south of Heceta Head, the reserve sites are one of the five recently established marine reserves in Oregon’s waters.”

Marbled Murrelets face double jeopardy as a seabird nesting in coastal ancient forests. In fact, murrelets are among the most endangered birds in the world. At sea, commercial fisheries deplete their prey of “forage fish” such as eulachon, herring, and Pacific sardine, forcing murrelets to eat lower on the food chain, which results in decreased fitness on land. On land, despite federal and Oregon ESA designations as a Threatened Species, Marbled Murrelets’ suitable habitat of large stands of contiguous old-growth forest continues to be destroyed, especially in State forests and on private/commercial lands.

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Volunteers Needed for Audubon's Biggest Show:
Wild Arts Festival on November 17–18, 2012

The Wild Arts Festival, Portland Audubon's most elaborate production, will open in just a couple of months. The Festival is scheduled for November 17–18, and the best way to get a good look at the event is by volunteering. It’s also a great way to connect with Audubon friends, old and new.

Volunteers are needed to set up Wild Arts on Friday, November 10th, to run the event on Saturday and Sunday, and to strike it the event on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning. Over 150 volunteers are needed during the course of the weekend, for tasks as diverse as helping artists load in, helping to check in volunteers, staffing the 60+ Wild Art Project exhibits, booth setting for artists, working the admission desk, helping with the Book Fair, and filling a couple dozen other slots. If you’re interested in being a volunteer, check out the volunteer page on the festival website at wildartsfestival.org or check out our Festival volunteer coordinator Roberta Lampert at wafvolunteers@gmail.com.

Other Ways to Help
Don’t have time to volunteer... or maybe you’d like to do more? Not to worry. Other ways you can support the Wild Arts Festival are suggested below:

• Consider sponsorship: become one of Wild Arts’ “40 Friends.”
• If you’re a business owner or an individual who loves the event as much as we, consider sponsoring the event at a higher level.

Donate to the Silent Auction. If you have access to weekend getaways, event tickets, gift certificates to intriguing restaurants or stores, items of interest to naturalists... or any arts, crafts, jewelry, and other appropriate objects or events luring the audience, consider a donation to the Silent Auction. Contact Marilyn at mwestfinn@comcast.net for donation information.

Visit the Wild Arts Facebook page, “Like” us, and share your thoughts and Wild Arts experiences.

And of course, mark your calendar for November 17 and 18, and don’t miss our biggest show!

Other ways to assist with all things Wild Arts can be found at wildartsfestival.org.