Birdathon 2014
Counting Birds Because Birds Count!
Registration for our most important fundraising event of the year begins March 15th!

Join the Biggest, Baddest Birdathon this side of the Mississippi! Be part of the fun — enjoy some of our region’s birding hotspots, AND help raise money to protect birds and habitat across Oregon! Birding experience isn’t necessary — you’ll have a great time, as each team is led by one or more of our expert Birding Leaders.

Now in its 34th year, Birdathon is the Audubon way to raise funds for its conservation and education programs. Like a walkathon, but instead of counting miles, we count birds!

To participate, register for one of our many exciting Audubon-guided teams (listed here and on our website) and invite your friends and family to come along or support you with a donation! Be eligible for great prizes for the most Audubon-guided teams (listed here and on our website)

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NEW TEAM! The Bloggerhead Shrikes — A Virtual Team!
Do you enjoy birding and love to share your adventures online complete with dramatic photos and pithy posts? If so, join the FEUJ, the Oregon Audubon, and a virtual team that has taken off over the past year. The Bloggerhead Shrikes is a Facebook and Instagram account to reach out to your followers to build awareness and raise funds for Portland Audubon.

Half-Day Trips
Soggy Bottom Birders: May 3 (Sat), 9am–4pm
Join Portland Audubon Education staff Ian Abraham, Tim Donner, and Laura Newton for an exclusive birding tour of wetlands of the Greater Columbia River Basin. We’ll stop at Smith and Bebe, Ridgefield and, if time allows, Steigerwald Lake NWR. Ideal for people of all ages who appreciate birding in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Transportation provided. A minimum of $50 in pledges is requested.

Whittensore’s Whatzits: Two trip dates: May 4, 8am–12pm, and May 31, 8am–12pm
Popular birding and birding by ear instructor Jen Sanford, better known as the “I used to hate birds” blogger, on our first-ever virtual team! Count birds and use your blog, Facebook, Twitter, Flicker, or Instagram account to reach out to your followers to build awareness and raise funds for Portland Audubon.

NEW TEAM! Millennial Falcons: May 18 (Sun)
Under 30, anyone? Young adult birders, join Brandon Lampkin and Robin Juskowiak, professional bird geeks and naturalists, for a casual half-day of birding. Explore Cooper Mountain Nature Park and Tualatin River NWR for raptors and waterfowl and end at a pub to celebrate a day well spent, raising funds to help these places thrive!

Great Big Sit: May 24 (Sat), 8am–Noon
The perfect Birdathon experience for beginning birders! Bonnie Deneke, Dena Turner, and Phyllis Wolfe welcome you to a leisurely morning at the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Bring a lawn chair, sit back, and relax as the birds come to you; 35-50 species frequent this idyllic setting!

Bicycling Birdos: Date TBD
Bring your kids, bring your curiosity, and bring your bike! Bicycling Birdos are a family-friendly, kids-encouraged team that welcomes birders of all levels of experience. Jeff Walker of Splendid Cycles and Audubon staff lead this short, easy, bike birding tour, visiting Oaks Bottom, Holgate Slough, and Sellwood Riverfront Park before heading to Sellwood Park for a picnic. This ride is 9 miles on bike path, flat, slow-paced, and tremendously FUN!

A Song in the Morning: Date TBD (Wed), 7am–9am
Spend the morning with Gerard Lillie and Tom McNamara, Mt Tabor’s renowned birdsong experts, and work on an impressive list of residents and spring migrants by identifying their songs and calls! Join this special “Birdathon Edition” of Audubon’s spring series of morning “Bird Song Walks.”

A New Vision for West Hayden Island
by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

We envision a fully restored 800-acre Wildlife Area and Nature Park at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. A place that provides habitat for more than 200 species including Bald Eagles, Western Painted Turtles, and federally listed salmon and steelhead — and offers extraordinary opportunities for people to bike, paddle, and enjoy nature in an urban environment.

Visitors will explore a mosaic of wetlands, grasslands, beaches, and one of the largest intact bottomland hardwood forests left on the Lower Columbia River. A new nature center will provide programs for children and adults about the unique role that the confluence area plays in the migratory cycles of our imperiled fish and wildlife populations and the cultural history of indigenous populations. Our local green economy will be supported by nature-based recreation, restoration projects, and establishment of a regional mitigation bank to allow for marine industrial development in more appropriate locations.

West Hayden Island will symbolize our commitment to restoring balance to our urban landscapes and leaving the land better than we found it for future generations.

Spring Break Camps
See page 7

Online WWC Auction
ends March 6th!
See page 5

VOTE NO on Water District Initiative
See page 4

Native Plant Sale
April 12–13
See page 8

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Page 8 Nature Store & Sanctuaries
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Page 10 Board Election Statements
Page 11 Thank you, Volunteers!
Page 12 Map/Hours/Sponsors

View this Warbler and many past issues in full color on our website! Go to audubonportland.org/about/newsletter and enhance your enjoyment of our popular newsletter!
Another Tool for Protecting Portland’s Large Trees

I can’t imagine starting this column with anything other than thanking everyone who showed up to help Portland Audubon keep West Hayden Island from being developed by the Port of Portland. I can’t imagine not recognizing Bob Sallinger, our Conservation Director, who doggedly spearheaded this decade-plus campaign by keeping his nose on the prize. And what a prize it is — an urban wildlife refuge the size of Central Park that supports native deciduous forest and open meadow habitats. The West Hayden Island victory demonstrates how Portland Audubon and the grassroots community can “build a region where people and wildlife flourish together.”

If West Hayden Island is the grand prize for Portland because of its size, regional location, and ecological importance, I submit that Portland’s urban trees are the runners up! Often overlooked, the city’s urban canopy is valued at about $6 billion and is worthy of our attention. While this is the cost of replacing the 1.5 million street and park trees that are the backbone of Portland’s green infrastructure system, what’s not calculated in this price tag are the hundreds of thousands or more of big, healthy, native trees growing in your backyard and mine. We don’t yet know the replacement cost of these neighborhood assets but I would bet their value is in the billions as well. I have never taken trees for granted. Not when I lived in Salt Lake City where I ran a statewide community forestry nonprofit organization and planted as many slow-growing Firs and Bigleaf Maples are the staples of my southwest Portland neighborhood. Even after ten years in Oregon, I never worry about becoming oblivious to trees. What I fear is losing large, healthy, native trees for any number of reasons.

With the city’s climate assured to continue rising and the West Hayden Island victory demonstrates that, among other things, aims to clean up a very messy patchwork of a tree permit system current today and to be consistent, fair, and streamlined. It was developed to deliver a higher caliber of customer service so that calls to the bureaus about tree-related matters are handled effectively and efficiently. And it was developed to protect our large, healthy trees, many of which are in backyards or undeveloped lots across all parts of Portland. Unfortunately, the implementation of the new code was delayed due to budget cuts.

I was on the Urban Forestry Commission at the time of the rewrite (and still am) and was impressed by the overwhelming support for the revised code, which included new language for regulating trees on private property. The City Planning Commission and the Bureau of Environmental Services Board would like you to believe differently. The new code is not cumbersome, it’s not a waste of taxpayer money, and it doesn’t preclude homeowners from removing trees, even large ones, on their property. What it does do is to require the homeowner to get a permit and plant another tree somewhere else on their property or pay for it to be planted at another site. It allows city staff to track and monitor canopy loss and plan for the future.

We are fortunate to live in a city where thousands of large, healthy, native trees still thrive. Let’s not take for granted the abundant environmental, social, aesthetic, and economic benefits they offer — and act now to protect them for our enjoyment and for future generations by supporting the code. Look for Portland Audubon action alerts and help us advocate for and implement the new tree code.

Welcome Back Vulture Day is coming to Leach Botanical Garden!

Saturday, March 8, 2014
Noon – 3 p.m.
Leach Botanical Garden
6704 SE 122nd, Portland, OR 97236
Parking is limited. Please carpool if possible.

If you notice you see Turkey Vultures in the metropolitan area only in the spring and summer? That’s because they migrate to warmer climates in the winter, but it’s time to welcome them back. We’re lucky to still have good populations of Turkey Vultures in Oregon. Around the world, vultures are facing hazards in the wild and their numbers are dwindling. As ‘Nature’s Recyclers,’ they play an important role in reducing disease — and it’s up to us to help save them.

Welcome Back Vulture Day is filled with fun and educational activities:

• Meet Ruby, Portland Audubon’s Turkey Vulture, up close (along with many of Audubon’s other Education Birds)
• Compare your “wingspan” to that of a California Condor
• Make a crafted vulture and mask
• Play “Uchpuck Chuck!”
• Learn fun vulture facts
• Find out the differences between Old and New World vultures
• Discover why vultures are important

Come and help us celebrate the beauty of vultures!

“Modern Families”: How Monogamous are Birds?

Tuesday, April 8 • 7pm Heron Hall

Our understanding of the mating systems and social dynamics of birds has changed radically over the past quarter century. The introduction of molecular methods to study parentage has shown that extra-pair paternity is far more common in a brood of socially monogamous bird species, especially among migrants. It is hard to exaggerate how shocking this finding was to the ornithological world — long-held views of bird biology dissipated overnight.

The socially monogamous Eastern Kingbird, Tyrannus tyrannus (including the population that breeds at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge) is a very long-distance migratory species. As “Nature’s Recyclers,” they play an important role in reducing disease — and it’s up to us to help save them.

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March 4 (Tue), 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. No sign-up needed; contact Dudley at 503-571-1663 or dBthomas70@gmail.com with any questions.

March 11-14 (Tue 5pm – Fri 9am) Kincaid Falls
Join leaders Dick Demarest and Denny Graham as we look for raptors and large flocks of wintering waterfowl. Trip is limited to 20 people. Registration is required with Dick at 503-407-7912 or rdd@demarests.com. The trip is wait listed, so call for availability.

March 15 (Sat), 8am–12pm Renton Tresten Road, Sauvie Island
Join Ron Escano for a waterfowl and winter warbler adventure on Sauvie Island. Meet at the Eastside Check Station parking lot on the corner of Reeders and Rentenaar Rds. We’ll walk Rentenaar Rd and back (1.6 miles round trip). All visitors need a Sauvie Island parking permit (purchase at store near bridge). From the Sauvie Island bridge take Sauvie Island Rd north 2 miles, turn right on Reeders Rd, and continue north 9 miles to the Eastside Check Station and Rentenaar Rd on the left (allow 25 minutes to drive from bridge to check station). No sign-up needed; call Ron at 503-771-3454 with questions.

March 15, 16; April 12, 13; May 10, 11 Saturdays and Sundays, 8am–5pm Wildflower Walks at Catherine Creek
Join naturalist Marsh Sly on a hike (or both hikes) in March, April, and/or May at a premier Columbia Gorge wildflower site, where displays from March to May are ever changing. Catherine Creek is on the gorge’s Washington side about 1.5 hours from Portland. The pace is slow but you must hike 2–3 miles round trip with major elevation changes. Limit 12 per hike. Registration required for each hike with Marsh at marshsly1@gmail.com.

April 5 (Sat), 8am–11am Powell Butte Nature Park
Join leader Ron Escano for a walk exploring the unique habitats of Powell Butte. We will be looking for early springing rarities like the Say’s Phoebe. Meet at parking lot at top of the butte. If parking lot at top of the butte is still closed, meet at 8am at Rose Festival Center parking lot at SE Powell & 164th Ave. No sign-up needed; call Ron at 503-771-3454 with any questions.

April 12, 13 see March 15, 16 Wildflower Walks at Catherine Creek
April 13 (Sun), 7am–2pm Sooty Grouse search trip, northern Coast Range
Join Stefan Schlich for a Sooty Grouse search trip in the northern Coast Range based out of Banks. We will also look for Northern Pygmy-Owl and other residents. Prepare for cool temperatures and inclement weather, and wear sturdy boots. We may be hiking steep trails for up to 2 miles. Trip limited to 12 people. Registration is required with greenfaqt@hotmail.com.

April 13 (Sun), 9am–12pm Tuatulain River NWR, Sherwood
Join leaders Max Smith and Sarah Swanson for a trip to Tuatulain River National Wildlife Refuge on Highway 99W near Sherwood. Spring is a busy time at the refuge, with waterfowl and shorebirds in the ponds and nesting activity in the forest. Trip limited to 13 participants. Registration is required with Sarah at sarahlovesbirds@gmail.com.

April 15 (Tue), 9am–3pm Tillamook Bay
All-day trip. Meet Ken Chamberlain and Dick Demarest at NWC parking lot at Safeway (4th St and Stillwell Ave in Tillamook). We’ll bird some or all of the following: Barrow’s Goldeneye, Three Arch Rocks, Oyster Plant, Tillamook Marshes, and Bayocean Spit. Target species include Wrentit, shorebirds, ducks, raptors, and early spring migrants. The Bayocean Spit part of the trip will require walking over uneven but mostly flat terrain. Bring lunch; trip limited to 20. Registration is required with Dick at 503-407-7912 or rdd@demarests.com.

Bird Song Walks 2014
7 a.m. Mon–Fri, various sites: FREE!
A udubon Society of Portland is proud to sponsor the 2014 season of weekday–morning Bird Song Walks! For beginners to advanced 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.

These Bird Song Walks begin at 7 a.m. No pre-registration required. Leave whenever you like. Bring binoculars and a field guide, and be sure to dress properly for the weather: Spring mornings can be surprisingly chilly. Steady morning rains cancel 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 these natural areas, see the latest edition of Wild in the City: Exploring the Intertwine, available at Portland Audubon’s Nature Store. Websites are provided here for each locale.

Mondays April 7, 14, 21, 28
Tryon Creek State Park Leaders: Dick and Stephanie Wagner 11132 SW Terwilliger Blvd, Portland, OR 97219. Take the Terwilliger Blvd exit off I-5 and head south on Terwilliger toward Lewis and Clark College. Stay on Terwilliger past the intersections with Taylors Ferry Rd and Boones Ferry Rd. At the traffic circle, continue past the entrance to Lewis and Clark Northwest School of Law and follow the brown sign to Tryon Creek State Park. Drive about 1 mile ahead on the right. Meet at the Nature Center. More at tryonfriends.org.

Audubon Outings — Wild in the City and Beyond

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 these natural areas, see the latest edition of Wild in the City: Exploring the Intertwine, available at Portland Audubon’s Nature Store. Websites are provided here for each locale.

Townsends’ Warbler © Steve Berliner. Remember, you can see these images in full color on our website at audubonportland.org/about/newsletter.

MARCH/APRIL 2014 www.audubonportland.org

April 15–20 walk in the Portland metropolitan area focusing on early songbird migrants and lingering overwintering birds. Meet by the restroom at Sandy River Delta parking lot. From Portland, take I-84 to Exit 18, just east of Troutdale. At the stop sign turn right and loop under the freeway. We’ll walk 2–3 miles on easy trails. No sign-up needed; call Denny at 503-639-1245 with any questions.

Coming up:
June 3–6 (Tue–Fri) Malheur NWR
Contact Shawn Schmelzer at shawnbirder@yahoo.com.

Spring is a busy time at the refuge, with waterfowl and shorebirds in the ponds and nesting activity in the forest. Trip limited to 13 participants. Registration is required with Sarah at sarahlovesbirds@gmail.com.

Tuesday April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Cooper Mountain Nature Park Leaders: Bonnie Demere and Sue Carr 15092 SW SW Barn Rd, Beaverton, OR 97007. Please be aware that Cooper Mountain has steep terrain. Directions: From Highway 217, take the Scholls Ferry Rd exit and west on Scholls Ferry Rd past Murray Blvd. At 175th Ave, turn right and go north, uphill, about 1.8 miles and turn left on Kemmer Rd. The park entrance is on the south side of Kemmer. From the north (Hwy 26 or Hwy 10), turn south on 185th (which becomes Gooser Rd), turn left on 199th Ave and left on Kemmer Rd. Cooper Mountain Nature Park is a partnership between Metro and Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District. More on Cooper Mountain programming at thpdr.org.

Wednesday April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Mt. Tabor Park Leaders: Gerard Lillie and Tom McNamara From SE Belmont, go south on SE 60th two short blocks. Just into the park, turn right and drive as far as possible to get to, and park along street. Mt. Tabor Park is closed to vehicle traffic on Wednesdays, so be sure to use this entrance. [TriMet bus #145 stops at SE 60th & Yamhill.] Please be part of a group awareness of bicyclists on Mt Tabor: Make room and share the road! More on Portland Parks at portlandoregon.gov/parks.

Thursdays April 3, 10, 17, 24
Camassia Preserve Leaders: Jackie Wilson Drive S from Portland on Hwy 43 (SW Macadam Ave) through Lake Oswego to West Linn — OR drive S from Portland on L250 to West Linn Exit #8 and turn left at end of exit ramp and pass under I-205. Just before the gas station, turn right onto Willamette Falls Dr, go uphill 1 block then left 90 degrees to follow Willamette Falls Dr. Veer right in 1/4 mile onto Sunset Ave, still going uphill, cross I-205, and immediately turn right on Walnut St. The preserve is at the end of Walnut St. More on this and other Nature Conservancy preserves at nature.org.

Friday April 4, 11, 18, 25
Pittock Mansion Leader: Wink Gross 3229 NW Pittock Drive, Portland, OR 97210. Follow W Burnside about 1.2 miles west of NW 23rd and turn right onto Barnes Rd. Follow signed signs through the neighborhood for another 0.7 mile, and meet at the Pittock parking lot. [TriMet bus #20 stop #8687 at W Burnside & NW Barnes is closest stop.] More at pittockmansion.org.

Tryonfriends.org

Bring binoculars and dress for the weather — beginners welcome! Mostly weekday excursions. Sign-up needed. Fee included.
A New Vision for West Hayden Island

by Bob Sallinger

A s part of the Portland Comprehensive Plan Update, the City will address issues related to demand for industrial land. Although there are many important issues the City will need to wrestle with as part of the update, the industrial lands issue, driven by industrial lobbying groups, has received a disproportionate amount of the City’s attention and planning resources to date.

Industrial interests have long promoted a false paradigm which demands that the City choose between upzoning open space and rolling back environmental regulations on one hand, or forcing the region to expand the urban growth boundary to find industrial land on the other. This paradigm provides industry with cheap land, allows it to avoid the expense of cleaning up polluted industrial sites, and externalizes the costs of environmental and community impacts. It is the antithesis of a sustainable approach, predicated upon the idea that it is okay for industry to bypass public review (see point #9).

If the public is wanted: flexibility and a higher level of certainty. They have gotten away with saying “it is too hard” for too long. We believe that because of its size, complex mosaic of habitat types, and location at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, West Hayden Island represents an irreplaceable resource whose loss cannot be fully mitigated. Our urban waterways are severely degraded, and preservation of the few remaining large intact sites like West Hayden Island is critical to restoring health to our river. The proposed development on West Hayden Island would have destroyed hundreds of acres of meadows, bottomland forests, floodplains, wetlands, and shallow-water salmon habitat. It also would have tripled air toxics and generated tremendous traffic in and around the surrounding community, including Oregon’s largest affordable housing manufactured home community.

The Port has criticized the City for proposing a mitigation package that it considered to be too high. In fact, the proposed mitigation only partially addressed the actual impacts of the proposed development. It was based on years of flawed scientific analysis that is far more precise, rigorous, and reliable than the economic forecasts on which the Port bases its own development aspirations. We applauded the City for standing strong in the face of pressure to allow the Port to externalize the negative impacts of this development.

The Port has also suggested that the region will now have to expand the urban growth boundary to find industrial land. The assertion is false. The West Hayden Island decision is in no way necessitates blowing out the urban growth boundary. The City is not required to find 600+ acres of industrial land. It is required to accommodate job growth and there are plenty of industrial areas that objective, even if they are not in the port area. To date, City officials have not been interested in redeveloping the industrial land the City already owns. These 900 acres represent more than enough land to meet the industrial land deficit. Second, the Port can take a leadership role in promoting more intensive use of the existing industrial land base in Portland and encouraging more collaboration and efficient land use throughout the entire Columbia River Port System.

Intensify use of existing Industrial Lands: Far too much of Portland’s existing industrial land base is used inefficiently. We need a real consolidation and intensification strategy for industrial lands in Portland.

Restrict the ability of industrial landowners to upzone their land for other uses: Industrial landowners need to hold themselves accountable for conversion of industrial land. They complain perpetually about upzoning of industrial lands, but are first in line for the public process.

Establish a new model for cooperation and potential unification of Columbia River Ports to ensure the most efficient use and operation of the Columbia River Port system: The Columbia River Ports need to form real collaborative relationships and explore unification. The worst-kept secret on the river is the way in which the ports compete rather than collaborate.

Tie public investment in industrial infrastructure to job creation: If the public is going to invest in infrastructure to support industry, those industries should have a stake in the success of their projects. When Audubon urged the city to tie public investment to jobs on West Hayden Island, the Port rejected that concept outright. Collecting a development fee in another case in point. Audubon supported converting the top third to industrial use on the condition that there actually be some job targets or job incentives built into the upzoning. Portland industrial interests were... silent.

Finally, nobody should forget that the Port itself played a major role in creating the industrial land deficit, selling Terminal 1 to a developer to build low rise condominiums and converting huge tracts of industrial land at Cascade Station to make way for another big box shopping mall.

For now the Port retains ownership of West Hayden Island and while current development efforts have been abandoned, there is always a risk of future attempts. The one thing that is certain is that any future efforts will continue to be met with fierce community opposition. This is the wrong place for industrial development. We hope that the Port will choose a different path forward. Thank you to all the people who came out, hearing alfalfa being harvested, year after year, to oppose this development — your voices made all the difference. And for those of you who have been a big job generator, producing at best a measly three jobs per acre. Even those estimates may have inflated the growing interest of automation on Port facilities, exemplified by the outgoing labor strike that threatens to destroy the Port’s existing facility at Terminal 6 (T-6). It is time for the Port to take a new approach. It can start by taking a leadership role in cleaning up more than 900 acres of contaminated brownfield in Portland, much of which the Port itself owns. The Port operates more than 20 brownfields and has rejected this approach in favor of strategies that focus on economic growth at the expense of environmental and community impacts. We believe that because of its size, complex mosaic of habitat types, and location at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, West Hayden Island represents an irreplaceable resource whose loss cannot be fully mitigated. Our urban waterways are severely degraded, and preservation of the few remaining large intact sites like West Hayden Island is critical to restoring health to our river. The proposed development on West Hayden Island would have destroyed hundreds of acres of meadows, bottomland forests, floodplains, wetlands, and shallow-water salmon habitat. It also would have tripled air toxics and generated tremendous traffic in and around the surrounding community, including Oregon’s largest affordable housing manufactured home community.

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Establish a new model for cooperation and potential unification of Columbia River Ports to ensure the most efficient use and operation of the Columbia River Port system: The Columbia River Ports need to form real collaborative relationships and explore unification. The worst-kept secret on the river is the way in which the ports compete rather than collaborate. Until they develop an efficient, sustainable model that has them competing with Tacoma and Seattle rather than one another, they are all going to be in jeopardy. They have gotten away with saying “it is too hard” for too long.

Tie public investment in industrial infrastructure to job creation: If the public is going to invest in infrastructure to support industry, those industries should have a stake in the success of their projects. When Audubon urged the city to tie public investment to jobs on West Hayden Island, the Port rejected that concept outright. Collecting a development fee in another case in point. Audubon supported converting the top third to industrial use on the condition that there actually be some job targets or job incentives built into the upzoning. Portland industrial interests were... silent.

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Huge Win for Marbled Murrelets and Old-Growth Forests on State Lands

by Bob Salling

On March 5th, Audubon Society of Portland, Cascadia Wildlands, and the Center for Biological Diversity announced the settlement of a long-running lawsuit which the three organizations had brought against the State of Oregon for violations of the Endangered Species Act. The lawsuit follows decades of futilely trying to get the State to reform its clear-cut practices — considered by far the worst of any public land management agency on the West Coast.

The lawsuit alleged that logging practices on the Elliott, Tillamook, and Clatsop State Forests had harmed Marbled Murrelets, protected as a threatened species under the law. To “rescue” the murrelets, the organization sought the following:

- To cancel 28 timber sales in habitat for the threatened species.
- To protect more habitat for murrelets on state forests. This includes nearly twice as much habitat as the State has predicted that this will reduce timber harvest from a projected 40 million-plus board feet per year to approximately 15 million board feet.
- To reauthorize the Elliott, Tillamook, and Clatsop State Forests, and improve future management practices to bring fish to their young. Logging of their forest homes is the primary threat to their survival.
- Under the settlement agreement, the State will now have to provide more habitat for murrelets on state forests. This habitat is key to protecting the species, as current research in the Pacific Northwest shows that murrelet populations to be by far the worst of any public land management agency on the West Coast.

Under the terms of the settlement, the State has agreed to cancel 28 timber sales in habitat for the threatened Marbled Murrelet on the Elliott, Clatsop, and Tillamook State Forests, and improves future management practices to ensure that the murrelet is not harmed. On the Elliott State Forest the State has predicted that this will reduce timber harvest from a projected 40 million-plus board feet per year to approximately 15 million board feet.

Under the settlement agreement, the State will now have to provide more habitat for murrelets on state forests. This habitat is key to protecting the species, as current research in the Pacific Northwest shows that murrelet populations are declining by approximately 4% per year. Clear-cutting of older forest on the three coastal state forests is a contributing factor.

In addition to providing habitat for imperiled species, these forests have a mandate to provide revenue for county and state services. Rather than clear-cut older trees in the three forests to help fund schools and roads, the conservation organizations have long encouraged the State to pursue beneficial opportunities. They recommend protection of the forests for use in carbon markets; a timber program that focuses on restoration thinning of dense plantation forests, the sale of key habitat to land trusts or other conservation interests; or a combination of these mechanisms.

This is a huge win for Marbled Murrelets and other species that depend on older forests. The number of canceled sales speaks to how out of alignment the State’s practices were with the law. Hopefully this marks the beginning of a new era of responsible and sustainable management of our state’s forests.

The three conservation organizations on the suit are the Audubon Society of Portland, Cascadia Wildlands, and the Center for Biological Diversity. The groups were represented by Dyan Gumm and Tamra Samsell of the Center for Biological Diversity, Nick Cady of Cascadia Wildlands, Chris Winter of the Crag Law Center, Susan Jane Brown of the Western Environmental Law Center, and Scott Jerger of Field Jergler LLP.

Preparing for Spring

by Larry Campbell, WCC Operations Manager

Spring is in the air and the birds have definitely noticed. Many birds like Great Horned Owls and Anna’s Hummingbirds are already booming their young and more animals are right around the corner. This month the Wildlife Care Center is highlighting its Marbled Murrelet Memorial Day to Labor Day and will require 5–6 extra volunteers and 1 extra full-time staff person per day. Last year we received over 1,109 baby birds, each needing anywhere from 30-minute to 1-hour feeding and cleaning. Each of these animals are weighed, cleaned, medicated, and fed (a lot) every day. Some young birds like Red-tailed Hawks or Peregrine Falcons must be fed by a person in disguise so the bird does not become used to people.

While we all look forward to baby bird season, it is the most resource intensive part of our year. That is why this year we have decided to use proceeds from our Call of the Wild Online Auction to support all the young animals that come in. Just like human children, early development is a crucial time not only for physical growth but for self-identification, song learning, and getting foraging skills needed to be a successful, functional member of the flock. The money from the Call of the Wild Auction will go to directly care for the animals we receive from various hazards like cat attacks, loss of parents, or those who have been “rescued.” (Don’t forget that a baby bird on the ground means it is abandoned.) With the proceeds we will buy:

- More incubators; every hatching, nesting, and early fledging must be housed in an incubator because many young murrelets maintain heat without their feathers.
- Money will also go toward “feeding puppets” for the animals like the Red-tailed Hawks, Peregrines, Crows, and Herons that need a surrogate to help them imprint on people.
- We will also build a Vaux’s Swift Chimney so the birds can get practice flying together and coordinating landing in a roost spot.

Don’t forget, though, these animals eat a lot! Money from the auction will also go toward feeding all the babies. Did you know that a Barn Owl chick will eat about 5 mice per day? At $0.65 each, it costs $3.25 per day to feed one Barn Owl baby — then take into account that we can have as many as 20 in our care at one time and the costs keep going up. If you want to help support the Wildlife Care Center and are interested in donating, please go to our auction website, audubonportland auction.dojggy.com where you’ll find a myriad of experiences offered by experts, including glide rides, beach houses, photography lessons, cougar-keeper shadowing, and my personal favorite: Shadowing a Wildlife Rehabber! All of the proceeds go to the Wildlife Care Center, but hurry — the auction ends March 6th at 9pm!

Note: Auction closes on MARCH 6 (Thu) at 9pm

View auction items and bid at audubonportland auction dojggy.com

To help pay the costs of animal rehabilitation at Portland Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center, we offer unique experiences in our 4th annual Call of the Wild auction:

- ‘Job Shadow’ Oregon Zoo Keeper Michelle Schreiman at the Cougar and Mountain Goat exhibits.
- Silent, motor-less glider flights in a 2-seater sailplane with commercial pilot Gary Brooks.
- Professional wildlife photography instruction in the field with Scott Carpenter.
- Audubon Audubon members: 1-year membership and 1 membership to Audubon’s Audubon Society of Portland’s Wildlife Care Center.

Please Vote NO on the Water District Initiative

by Bob Salling, Conservation Director

IN May 2014, Portland voters will vote on an initiative that would strip the Bureau of Environmental Services and the Water Bureau from the City of Portland and place them under a new water board. Audubon Society of Portland and a huge coalition of conservation and community groups oppose this measure and urge you to VOTE NO.

The Portland Water District Initiative would transfer control of more than $15 billion in public assets, including control of our precious Bull Run Watershed, to a new unproven board that is inexperienced and much more susceptible to corruption and backroom deals. But conflict-of-interest provisions would eliminate tens of thousands of Portlanders from serving on the new board, but notably the initiative does nothing to limit the influence of regulated corporate polluters and industrial polluters. A judge had already ruled that the manner in which the new districts were mapped by the initiative backers would exclude East Portland (20% of the city’s population) from voting for Water District board members, even though they would still have to pay water and sewer bills.

The backers of this initiative would like the public to believe that this initiative is a populist revolt. It is nothing of the sort. Leadership behind this initiative includes the lawyers who led the fight against campaign finance reform in Oregon and the executive director of the Industrial Water Users Coalition. More than 90% of the funding raised to date came from 5 large corporate entities, with $55,000 going to Superfund polluters, Siltronic, and another $50,000 coming from forest clear-cutting baron Harry Merlo. Less than 1% of the funding came from grassroots contributions of under $100. Not a single community group has endorsed the initiative since the day it was announced more than 6 months ago. People backing this initiative are the last people we should be trusting to remake our government.

This initiative is underpinned by a strong anti-environment agenda. The backers of this initiative have also sued the City of Portland, arguing that its core environmental programs including tree planting, Superfund clean-up, and watershed protection programs are all illegal. The backers have been unsuccessful in their efforts to get the City’s environmental programs at City Council so they have now turned to the initiative process.

Finally, the initiative backers have suggested that this initiative will lower rates. In fact, it does absolutely nothing to lower rates — there is not a single mention in the initiative of mechanisms that would lower rates. What it does do is explicitly eliminate all oversight by the elected city council, and it creates a new layer of government that will have to duplicate expensive existing legal, administrative, and auditor functions. It separates the city’s outstanding bond rating. It will require anybody seeking a permit for water or sewer work to seek permits from two different governments rather than one.

The groups opposing this measure have long histories of working with local government when possible and challenging local government when necessary. Please Vote NO on the Portland Water District Initiative.
Educational Trips
These trips are popular. We recommend that you book early. Trip deposit required to secure your place on the trip.

THAILAND
January 10–25, 2015

A country of Buddhist traditions, temples, and images, the Buddha can be seen in nearly every corner of Thailand, as can offerings of flowers and incense at Animistic spirit houses to provide the patron of good fortune. Known as the ‘land of smiles,’ this is a country full of natural beauty and friendly people who, without fail, greet you with a slight bow, palms pressed together in a polite way.

We begin our journey in the north of Thailand, in the city of Chiang Mai, where the night market and the magnificent temple of Wat Phra That Doi Suthep will set your appetite for culture and tradition. Around our hotel we’ll be introduced to some of our first Asian birds such as Zebra Dove, White Wagtail, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Oriental Magpie Robin. We may find the very secretive Dipterocarp. Along waterfalls and streams we hope for good views of the Royal Agricultural Station and may find White-bearded Bulbul, White-browed Scimitar-Babbler, Scarlet Rosefinch and Asio Drymo among the Rhododendron and Flowering Plum.

Known as the roof of Thailand, Doi Inthanon is at the eastern end of the Himalayan Mountains. Along the slopes of the highest peak in Thailand lies an array of birds in habitat from cloud forest to deciduous Dipterocarp. Along waterfalls and streams we hope for good views of the critically endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. It is believed that less than 200 remain of these intriguing little birds with spatulate bills, and Pak Thale is the most accessible place in the world to see them.

After searching the coast for more unusual species such as Nordmann’s Greenshank, Asian Dowitcher, Chinese Egret and more, we’ll head to the mountains and the Kung Krachan National Park where we’ll have our best chance of seeing a variety of mammals. The musical call of White-browed Gibbons will herald our arrival in the park and troops of Dusky Langur and Pig-tailed Macaque will sound like wild teenagers romping through the forest, shaking branches and breaking limbs. If we are lucky we’ll encounter Asian Elephants, the lumbering giants of the forest, and a massive asian resident, the Great Hornbill.

The last days of our trip will be in the coastal town of Hua Hin, where the view from our bungalow is of white sand beach, giving us time to reflect as we relax while looking out over the Gulf of Thailand.

This amazing trip features some of the best wildlife viewing in the world and exploration of world famous Buddhist temples. For more information or to reserve a spot, please contact Dan van den Broek at 971-222-6105 or dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org

Leaders: Steve Robertson, Education Director, and Dan van den Broek, Trip Leader and Educator
Group size: Limited to 14 participants
Deposit: $3800 members / $4305 non-members
Deposit: $2000 required to secure your place
Fee includes: All ground transportation within Thailand, 4 nights double-occupancy lodging, meals except dinners, entrance fees for planned activities, and the services of your leaders. Not included: Dinners, and airfare to & from California.

California Condors & Big Sur Coast
September 22–26, 2014

Join us to view North America’s largest bird, the California Condor, in the wild! The central California coast and inland areas offer excellent opportunities to see these majestic birds as well as a wide variety of other species. We begin the trip with a visit to the marina of San Francisco Bay to see what shorebirds are migrating through before heading south to Pinnacles National Monument, a unique volcanic landscape that is home to Condor. Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Yellow-billed Magpie, and Acorn Woodpecker. Luxurious canyons of Live Oak and Chaparral alive with Blue-gray Gnatcatcher lead us toward the High Peaks where Condors are frequently seen. Next we travel to the stunning Big Sur Coast south of Monterey where coastal hills of forest and grassland plunge into the sea. The scenery is breathtaking and the chances of seeing Condors at roost or soaring above the rugged coastline are very good. We’ll visit the world-famous Monterey Bay Aquarium and take in the sights of Old Town Monterey during our two nights there. On our final day we explore our way back to the Bay Area in search of Red-shouldered Hawk and White-tailed Kite, and we plan to look for Northern Elephant Seal as well! Contact Steve Engel at 971-222-6119 or sengel@audubonportland.org for more information.

Leaders: Kirk Hardie, Portland Audubon Trip Leader, and Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon Conservation Manager, and Educational Tours
Group size: Limited to 9–14 participants
Fee: $815 members / $1095 non-members
Deposit: $400 required to reserve your place

Belize & Tikal!

Join experienced naturalists from Portland Audubon on this adventure to Belize, one of the most remarkable countries in the world. Lush rainforests, Mayan ruins, all in a country about one-tenth the size of Oregon! Contact Steve Engel at 971-222-6119 or sengel@audubonportland.org for more information.

Leaders: Steve Engel, Adult Education Programs Manager, and Local Guides
Group size: Limited to 14 participants
Fee: $785 members / $885 non-members
Deposit: $400 required to secure your place
Fee includes: Ground transportation from & to Portland, 4 nights double-occupancy lodging at the Frenchglen Hotel, meals except dinners, all entrance fees, and the services of your leaders. Not included: Dinners.

Texas Gulf Coast
April 9–17, 2014

Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Patty Newland
Fee: $2295 members / 2495 non-members
Contact Dan at 971-222-6105 for details.
Beginning Birding 2
This class meets 3 times:
March 18 (Tue), 7pm–9pm; Classes in Heron Hall
March 22 (Sat), 7am–10am: Field Trips
March 26 (Tue), 7pm–9pm; Classes in Heron Hall
At first glance, all those little brown birds flying through the brush look alike. But with a little practice, you will learn to recognize the great variety of sparrows, finches, and warblers found in the Portland area. In this class, local author and guide John Rakestraw will help you learn the field marks and behaviors that make all these birds unique. On Saturday, we will visit some local “sparrow patches” to see and hear these birds in person.
Class & Field Trip Fee: $25 members / $40 non-members
Field Trip limited to 15 participants
Class Only Fee: $10 members / $15 non-members

Nature journaling the Spring
March 29 & April 5 (two Saturdays), 10am–4pm: Class in Heron Hall
See website for more information.
Class Fee: $75 members / $100 non-members
Limited to 16 participants

Ice Age Floods of the Gorge
April 6 (Sun), 8am–5pm: All-day Field Trip
Join Professor of Geology at Portland State University, for a fascinating bus tour of the Columbia River Gorge. Scott is an enthusiastic student of the floods and a co-author of the recently published 2nd edition of *Catastrophes on the Edge*, one of the best books on the ice age floods, also known the Breetz Floods, Spunkane Floods, and Missoula Floods.
Fee: $35 members / $50 non-members
Limited to 40 participants

Spring Shorebird
April 12 (Sat), 7am–10am: Class in Heron Hall
April 16 (Sat), All-day Field Trip to Oregon Coast
Spring shorebird migration along the coastline can be spectacular. Identifying these humanoid-driven, arctick-brown shorebirds can be challenging since they are fast, small, and similar in shape and color. Shawnine Finnegan and Dave Irons will illustrate the field marks that distinguish Western and Least Sandpipers and how to recognize Red Knots, Dunlin, and more. Field Trip transportation is provided.
Class & Field Trip Fee: $75 members / $95 non-members
Field trip limited to 12 participants
Class Only Option: $10 members / $15 non-members

Warblers & Flycatchers ID
April 18 (Tue), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
May 3 (Sat), 7am–11am: Local Field Trip
This class will focus on two groups notorious for giving the bird watcher a swift kick and bewildered state: warblers and flycatchers. On Saturday morning well visit a local migrant hotspot to solidify our new skills.
Class & Field Trip Fee: $30 members / $45 non-members
Field trip limited to 10 participants
Class Only Fee: $10 members / $15 non-members

Introduction to Bird Photography
May 1, 8, 14, 27, 31 (Sun): Half-Day Field Trip
Local photographer Scott Carpenter teaches this class. Visit our website or call Steve Engel for more information and to register.
Fee: $80 members / $95 non-members
Limited to 15 participants

The World of Birds 2014
The World of Birds is the Audubon Society of Portland’s program for birders who want to increase their ID skills and their knowledge about birds. Each series consists of three Classes and three Field Trips. Visit our website for details on upcoming summer and fall classes:

- **Beginning Birding 1**: $65 member / $75 non-member
- **Beginning Birding 2**: $35 member / $50 non-member
- **Snowy Owl Winter Week**: $300 member / $350 non-member
- **Spring Shorebird**: $75 members / $90 non-members.
- **Warblers & Flycatchers ID**: $75 members / $95 non-members.
- **Beach Birding**: $100 members / $115 non-members
- **Wildlife Walks**: $65 members / $80 non-members.
- **Oregon Road Trip**: $150 members / $180 non-members.
- **Story of Snowy Owls**: $75 members / $95 non-members.
- **Field Connection**: $135 members / $165 non-members.
- **Birding By Ear with Laura Whittemore**: $75 members / $95 non-members.
- **Banding wrists**: $65 members / $85 non-members

Spring Break Camp 2014 at the Audubon Society of Portland
To register go to 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 Camps run 8:45am–4:15pm unless otherwise noted.

WATERFRONT INSTITUTE
This program is designed for children ages 1st–3rd grade through imaginative and hands-on activities.

**MONDAY, MARCH 24**
Women Boots and Boats
1st-3rd grade
1-2pm (concurrent classes available)
$35 members / $45 non-members.
This program focuses on the relationship between water and land. Campers will explore the different habitats in the Willamette River Basin and the impact of the Corps of Engineers project Willamette River.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25**
Aguilas Art
1st–3rd grade
1-2:30pm
$30 members / $45 non-members.
This class is an introduction to watercolor painting. We will use the Audubon Sanctuary to focus on the Audubon Sanctuary to focus on our wings of the plants and animals that live in this watershed and turn your observations into imaginative paintings and clay sculptures.
Fee: $60 member / $70 non-member.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26**
Jr. Raptor Road Trip
4th–8th grade
$30 members / $45 non-members.
Grab your binoculars — we’ll bring the scopes and treats! Join us for a nature and art adventure into the art of camouflage.
Fee: $60 member / $70 non-member.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27 – FRIDAY, MARCH 28**
AMBUSHER! 4th–8th grade
$30 members / $45 non-members.
Trips are offered at the beginning of the school year or after school due to the school vacation. All trips can be scheduled as a half-day trip. Call 971-222-6120 to register.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26**
Forest Mask-Arade 1st-3rd grade
$30 members / $45 non-members.
Campers will dress up in their own costumes to celebrate the creativity of nature. Campers will cut and make their own forest mask.
Fee: $60 member / $70 non-member.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27 – FRIDAY, MARCH 28**
Junior Wildlife Vet 102
4th–8th grade
$30 members / $45 non-members.
Join other animal lovers for a day adventuring through the forest, playing games, and of course creating your own wildlife veterinarian. Campers will get to learn what it’s like to be a vet, an exciting job is all about.
Fee: $60 member / $70 non-member.

**MONDAY, MARCH 24**
Newts and Boots
1st-3rd grade
1-2pm
$30 members / $45 non-members.
Join other animal lovers for a day adventuring through the forest, playing games, and of course creating your own wildlife veterinarian. Campers will get to learn what it’s like to be a vet, an exciting job is all about.
Fee: $60 member / $70 non-member.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 25**
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Fee: $60 member / $70 non-member.
Sanctuaries Happenings
18th Annual Native Plant Sale
by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

In the past few weeks I have received several calls regarding Nandina, or Heavenly Bamboo (Nandina domestica). This plant has received a lot of attention lately due to reports that its berries can be toxic to birds. While we have not seen cases of Nandina poisoning in the Pacific Northwest, elsewhere in the country there have been reports of bird mortality due to the berries of Nandina.

We have seen similar situations in the Northwest with berries from English Holly (Ilex aquifolium). Holly, like Nandina, will keep its berries through the winter, providing a source of food for birds at a time when food can be hard to find. Birds, often robins and Cedar Waxwings, will gorge themselves on the berries. The berries can ferment or metabolize into toxins and cause erratic behavior, and sometimes death.

It is not clear whether the problem results from the inherent toxicity of the berries, from fertilization, or simply from foraging on an indigestible food source, but the result is the same nonetheless: death by berry. What is clear is that these problems tend to occur when native bird species find themselves pressed for native habitat and start feeding on plants which are not native. Regardless of whether or not it is an issue of toxicity, non-native plants do not provide suitable habitat for the birds and other wildlife that live in our region.

This is a big part of why we put so much effort into advocating for landscaping with native plants. Native plants are well suited to survive in our climate and soils, and our local wildlife populations have evolved and adapted over time to survive with the habitat and sustenance provided by native plants. Non-natives such as Nandina and Holly can cause trouble for local wildlife and over time they also can become highly invasive, displacing native vegetation and complicating the problem.

And what better time to begin working on converting your home landscape into ideal native habitat than at the Audubon Society of Portland’s 18th annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday & Sunday, April 12 & 13. 10am–4pm both days. As always, over 100 species of native trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, grasses, and vines will be available for sale.

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 Ferehart will once again provide her assistidusely 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, shady back corner of your yard, or which plants will help attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

More comprehensive information on individual plants is posted above plants themselves, including photographs of the plant in bloom.

Portland Audubon at Yard, Garden, and Patio Show
February 28 (Fri) – March 2 (Sun)

This year Portland Audubon is participating in the Yard, Garden, and Patio Show, Portland’s premier spring gardening show, held at the Oregon Convention Center from Friday, February 28 – Sunday, March 2. The Nature Store has a booth (#1907) featuring bird nest boxes and metal garden art. This year’s theme: Abundant Nature, designed to offer food and forage for humans and wildlife in an easy-care, self-supporting natural system, will be certified by our Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCPP). To learn more, attend the free seminar “The Birds and the Bees — and the Bugs!” on Sunday, March 2 from 2:30–3:30pm (see yardshow.com/seminars- sun.php) featuring local experts including Nikiitke West, our BHCPP Coordinator, on the how and why of beneficial insects, birds, and bees. More on the showcase garden at youtube.com/hpwatch and youtube.com/pdfs/AbundantNatureGardenPlan.pdf.

Nature Store Highlights
by Sally Loomis, Book Buyer

Spring is almost here! You gardeners out there are probably ready to get your hands dirty. Before you do, however, come visit the Nature Store and see our selection on natural gardening and the creatures in your back yard. Here are three of our new titles.

The Wildlife-Friendly Vegetable Gardener by Tammi Hartung (Storey, $16.95) offers you inspiration on how to welcome wildlife into your yard and still have a productive kitchen garden. She gives lots of practical advice for following a strategy of “peaceful coexistence.”

Many people were deeply disturbed by the hugeumble bee die-off last year in Wisconsin. You can learn to become a better advocate for these important insects by using the new field guide Bumble Bees of North America: an Identification Guide by Williams et al (Princeton University Press, $24.95). This is a comprehensive guide to all 46 North American species, and full of useful information for the general reader.

Spiders often get an undeserved bad rap for sucking insects. These are fascinating and often misunderstood creatures that play a critical role in your backyard habitat. Spiders in Your Neighborhood: A Field Guide to Your Local Spider Friends by Patrick Stadler (Heyday, $5.95) is a great introduction to common spider species and their behavior.

More Things for the Garden! You can create more wildlife habitat with seed mixes from Renee’s Garden. We feature two assortments: one for hummingbirds, the other for butterflies. While not native seeds, these are colorful blends of easy-to-grow annuals that will draw hummingbirds or butterflies to your yard, especially if planted in a sunny patch. Either mix sells for $6.79.

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, with information specifically geared toward:

- Why native plants improve habitat
- How to plant and care for native plants
- Help with determining appropriate native plants

Audubon staff and volunteers will also be on hand at the sale with information on our Backyard Habitat Certification Program.

Come get the big picture on naturescaping, rain gardens, invasive plant removal, and more. Turn your own yard into a wildlife sanctuary! And if you want to learn more and come up with a more comprehensive plan, the Portland Audubon Native Plant Store stocks a wonderful collection of books on native plants, wildlife, and naturescaping.

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, with information specifically geared toward:

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Authors at Audubon: Mary Cottrell Houle
April 3 (Thurs), 7pm

Portland writer and wildlife biologist Mary Cottrell Houle will speak at Heron Hall on Thursday, April 3 at 7pm to celebrate the reissue of her classic work, Wings for my Flight: The Peregrine Falcons of Chimney Rock (University of New Mexico Press, $24.95). The event is free and open to the public. Mary will be available to sign books after her presentation.

Originally published in 1991, the book recounts her years as a young biologist studying some of Colorado’s last surviving Peregrine Falcons in the 1970s. Author and environmentalist Bill McKibben calls it “An absorbing account of field biology — and also of field anthropology, of the struggle to convince humans that other species count too.” In the nearly 40 years since Mary began her research, the Peregrine has made an amazing comeback. The updated edition includes new material describing the conservation issues involved in the survival of the Peregrine and its triumphant recovery.

That same evening, Finnegan, our resident Peregrine Falcon, will be on hand in our Interpretive Center from 6pm–7pm. His handler will talk about how Finnegan came to be one of our Education Birds, and the role of Portland Audubon in the protection of Peregrines in the Northwest.

Mary Cottrell Houle is also the author of a Nature Store best-seller, Our City’s Wilderness: Portland’s Forest Park, as well as The Prairie Keepers: Secrets of the Zumwalt. She is a tireless advocate for the preservation of Forest Park, and a frequent participant in Portland Audubon’s Wild Arts Festival. Please call the Nature Store at 503-292-9453 if you have questions or would like to have a book reserved for you.
Volunteer of the Month:
Alan Locklear
Integrity to a "T" (and an "I")
by Ann Takamoto, Development Director

Early Tuesday mornings before the office officially opens, the volunteer station in the administration building is already abuzz with activity. Data entry, that phrase, so daunting to many because of the sheer implication of size and complexity, luckily for Portland Audubon is not the case for our Volunteer of the Month, Alan Locklear. Like most of our wonderful volunteers, Alan takes this job very seriously — every month he diligently transfers membership reports from National Audubon Society into our database, helping to assure that our membership rosters are current and accurate. Does that sound dry? Not to Alan! Again, luckily for us, Alan is extremely meticulous (which is the way he has to be when working in databases) with each entry, assuring that membership are renewed, names are spelled correctly, addresses are updated and zip codes are USPS standard. Often the sloth, Alan has his ways to find errant address information and pertinent giving history, all to assure the accuracy of our information. Most weeks he will put in a full 8-hour day and often comes back if additional time is needed to get the job done. He is our stalwart data master!

Alan believes in Portland Audubon’s mission to connect people to nature and finds assurance in our growing membership — strength in numbers and a stronger voice for conservation in Oregon! We find it hard to believe, in a discussion about the current tome in which he is at Food Front doing — you guessed it — data entry! Of Conservation Voters (OLCV) and works part-time advocacy, Alan also volunteers for Oregon League of Conservation Voters, letters, and covers; and 6 11x14” & 2 16x20” framed wildlife photos for the Education Department • Fiona Harrison for a generous gift of a spotting scope and several pairs of binoculars for the Education Department • Helen Mills for 68 large Audubon bird prints from calendars from the 70’s • Leslie Labbe for the generous gift of a spotting scope and several pairs of binoculars for the Education Department • Murdoch Collections for William Finley photographs, letters, and covers and boards; and 6 11x14” & 2 16x20” framed wildlife photos for the Sanctuaries • Greg Everhart for 6 one-gal Tall Oregon Grape plants and one-gal False Solomon’s Seal for the Sanctuaries • Sheila Barnhart for an ergonomic mesh office chair • Sheila Barnhart for a set of 4 desk chair - arm rests • Judy Breslin for a set of 3 packing/working chairs • Nancy Sampson for 2 office chairs • Bob and Nancy Best for 2 150 lb. capacity laboratory scales • Murdock Collections for William Finley photographs, letters, and ephemera

Thank You to:
• Sheila Barnhart for an ergonomic mesh office chair • Jim Crowe for 65 Holga cards with 4x5” wildlife photos inside each; a wildlife photo album; 41 8x10” & 32 11x14” wildlife photos with covers and boards; and 6 11x14” & 2 16x20” framed wildlife photos • Gregg Everhart for 6 one-gal Tall Oregon Grape plants and one-gal False Solomon’s Seal for the Sanctuaries • Tim Irvin for 5ingves, 5 carabiners, 5 scrubs, 5 spray bottles, and a bottle of bleach for the Wildlife Care Center • Leslie Labbe for the generous gift of a spotting scope and several pairs of binoculars for the Education Department • Megan Legernes for Science Diet Kitten Food and Daily Liquid Dish Detergent for the Wildlife Care Center • Helen Mills for large Audubon bird prints from calenders from the mid-1970s • Murdock Collections for William Finley photographs, letters, and ephemera

Two Cases of Terrifying Successful Species Introductions

In 1852 Eugene Schieffelin, a rich influential New York businessman, noticed an outbreak of sparrows in his heavily populated backyard in Manhattan. He imported and released several House Sparrows to combat the insects. His introduction was successful and the birds soon expanded through the city. Later introductions in other parts of the country added to the expanding population. The House Sparrow soon occupied all suitable habitats in North and Central America.

Encouraged by his successful sparrow introduction, Schieffelin enticed fellow businessmen to form the American Acclimatization Society. The main aim of the society was to bring America all the songbirds mentioned by Shakespeare. By 1877 the society was regularly releasing European songbirds into New York’s Central Park. Among the first number of species released was the female Tufted Duck. During the spring of 1890 Schieffelin released 60 Starlings in Central Park. The next spring he released another 40 birds to the flock. The introduction was successful. It is believed that all the Starlings we see today are descendants of these Central Park birds.

Smaller, less financed groups were organized to introduce foreign birds into the United States, but few matched the efforts of the New York organization. The German Song Bird Society of Portland, Oregon, founded by wealthy Portland businessmen Frank Dekum and Charles Pfugler, was one of the more successful organizations. The chief aim of this society was to introduce German songbirds to the city and convince the German immigrants that were then pouring into the city. From 1889 to 1907 the society introduced 15 species involving 400 pairs of German songbirds, including 30 pairs of Starlings. Most of these were released into the downtown Portland City Park. Later the name of the society was changed to the Portland Song Bird Club and their efforts were expanded into the entire Willamette Valley. In a letter to Schieffelin, Charles Pfugler reported that almost all released species were doing splendidly and that the Skylark could be heard singing all over Oregon.

Pfugler’s letter to Schieffelin was probably highly exaggerated. If it was, those species were wiped out by the society soon disappeared including the Starling. The expansion of the New York Starling releases reached Oregon about 1843 and quietly swamped the state. Despite the expenditure of time and effort, many thousands of dollars, and the displacement of hundreds of birds, of all the foreign species introduced by the New York and Portland organizations and other smaller groups, only the Starling and House Sparrow were successfully introduced.

In 1990 the Lacey Act was passed prohibiting the introduction of foreign plants and animals without a thorough scientific study of the effects on local populations. In 2013 the act was revised to effectively abolish all introductions of foreign plants and animals.

Field Notes by Harry Nehls

Duck February 5 in Beaverton — a good reminder to watch for hybrid Mandarin/Wood Ducks this summer. Up to 270 Sandhill Cranes were seen this winter on Sauvie Island. The Tennessean Road sparrow burnished were not as spectacular as last winter, but Wink Gross did observe a Chipping Sparrow there January 14. Don Coggswell saw an American Tree Sparrow at the Scappoose Sewage Ponds January 29. On February 4 he saw a Georgeans near Warren. They may have been the same bird Bob Archer saw in the nearby North Unit of Sauvie Island January 26.

Michael Medina noted a Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawk in Washougal February 3. On January 7 Coggswell saw a Snowy Egret on Sauvie Island. Dave Irons and Shawnen Finnegan have watched a Tricolored Blackbird among a McMinnville blackbird flock throughout the winter. Dave also heard a Black-crowned Night-Heron by on McMinnville January 21.

The sunny weather in January allowed some early migrants to drift northward into the Willamette Valley. When the weather turned again most probably drifted back south. On January 23 Jean Barchen Brown watched a Turkey Vulture that over Portland’s West Hills. Steve Nord encountered a flock of 17 Tree Swallows at Hagg Lake February 3. On January 4 Jim Johnson saw a Barn Swallow along Elrod Road in North Portland. The same day Andy Frank saw one near the 205 bridge east of the airport.

For All Departments: Ergonomic Office Chairs, Hand saws, Work gloves

For Wildlife Care Center: Science Diet Kitten Growth Formula, Dawn Dishwashing Detergent

For East Portland Office: 10 binoculars

If you can donate these items, please contact Audubon Society of Portland at 503-292-6855 ext. 102, Mon–Fri, to arrange a time for delivery/pick-up.
2014 Board Elections

CANDIDATES FOR 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

planning for the Wildlife Care Center. “I am committed to recent board focus has included the long-range strategic Audubon’s conservation and education mission. John’s background is in corporate finance in several belief that my experience in public policy and nonprofit work new significance for me. Audubon’s leadership in conservation leading field trips and participating in Birdathon. “As father of 10 “Having worked in the environmental field for over a shares her NE Portland garden with Urban Farm Collective. membership or higher level, you are entitled to two votes efforts, and its community involvement awoke a passion HABITAT PLATINUM-LEVEL CERTIFICATION for her yard, saying wonders of  the natural world, including birds’ adaptability, 2014 Board Elections

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 vote one 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 6:30pm on March 20, 2014. Please mail to:

Board Nominations Committee
5151 NW Cornell Rd
Portland, OR 97210

503-222-6130

You can honor a special person with a gift to Audubon Society of Portland. Your gift will help fund a future of inspiring people to love and protect nature.

You can make an Honor or Memorial gift online at www.audubonportland.org or by calling 503-222-6130. A songbird card acknowledging your thoughtful gift will be sent to the honoree or family.

You can also find out more about Audubon Society of Portland on our website at www.audubonportland.org.
Portland Christmas Bird Count — Biggest Ever Than! by Wink Gross, Portland CBC Compiler

What is that? Ice crystals? — No! Snow Geese! We welcomed a flock of 1,414 stunning snow geese to our local Christmas Bird Count this year, far surpassing our previous record (1,216) set in 1995. Although we had seen many reports of flights of frosty white birds soaring stratospherically high over Beaver Bay, a 153 foot tower did not overlook them. As usual, all 5 sectors of the count contributed unique species to the total. Highlights were Red-breasted Merganser, Gray Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Barn Swallow, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Karen Harris won the coveted “Eagle Eye Award” for finding 123 species, a little below average for the last 4 years. As usual, all 5 sectors of the count estimated there were at least 350 — far more than the previous record for the Portland CBC.

New for this year, our first “Family Friendly” Count for kids ages 8–14 was led by David Mandell and Ben Smith. It was a big success! 67 kids and 41 adults joined them, for a total of 108 participants. The children had a great time and learned a lot! Thank you to all who participated and especially to our Area Leader, Robert Barncord.

Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store! An Audubon Society of Portland Nature Store is the headquarters for naturalists in the Portland-Vancouver metro area. All members receive a discount of 10% off regular prices. Members simply need to show their membership card or membership information to receive the discount.

New 2014 Manfrotto Tripods are here! The new Manfrotto 190 series tripods have arrived and they are strikingly different! The first thing you’ll notice is the jaw-dropping color range. The updated Q90 rotation mechanism is sleek and compact (this allows photographers to flip the center column from “portrait” to “landscape” mode). The fliplocks on the legs, now called Quick Power Locks (QPL) levers, have a great ergonomic feel and provide powerful locking of each section, making the tripods more stable. The leg warmers on the aluminum models have also been changed to a rugged, ribbed rubberized material.

Spring is on the Way! When you stop by this month to check out the new Manfrotto designs, you’ll also have a chance to see many of the great new products we discovered at the Atlantic, Seattle, and San Francisco Spring Gift Shows!

Thank you, volunteers! You made it all possible! by Deanna Sawtelle, Volunteer Manager

A pril is “Volunteer Month” so the Audubon Society of Portland wants to thank all our volunteers for their dedicated 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 so that people and native wildlife flourish together. We would not be able to accomplish the work we do without their help. This list includes Portland Audubon’s key volunteers who dedicate a substantial amount of time, weekbyweek or monthly. We also appreciate many of our volunteers who help out on annual events and one-time projects, though space limitations prohibit listing them here.

TO DONATE:
Visit www.crowdrise.com/PCBC2014

Thank you for a job well done!