Draft Portland Comprehensive Plan Turns its Back on the Community and the Environment

West Hayden Island, Other Greenspaces, and Our Rivers at Risk... Again

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In January 2014, the Port of Portland withdrew its application to the City of Portland to annex and rezone wildlife habitat on West Hayden Island for industrial development. The Port told the City that it was unwilling to consider mitigation measures that the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) recommended as a condition of annexation in order to protect the local community and environment from the impacts of development. The withdrawal ended more than 5 years of public process and represented the third time in 15 years that the Port failed to move its development aspirations through a public process. It was an environmental high water mark for Mayor Charlie Hales and the City Council, which stood strong against relentless pressure from Port and business interests that demanded the City subsidize this project on the backs of one of Portland’s most vulnerable communities and the ecological health of our river.

Swift Watch 2014

We are anticipating the return of Vaux’s Swifts to the Chapman School chimney in NW Portland as well as other sites in the area. Thousands of Vaux’s Swifts gather in the city during late summer as they prepare to migrate to Central America. Migrating swifts often use chimneys as roosts, and they are likely to return to the same roost year after year. One population has been returning to Chapman since the 1980s and it is one of the largest known roosting sites of Vaux’s Swifts. Thousands of swifts gather in the air space above the school before sunset during the month of September. Once the sun sets, birds funnel to consume alcoholic beverages or smoke on public school grounds.

Portland Audubon volunteers will be present at Chapman School throughout September to inform and educate the public about the swifts. Go to audubonportland.org/local-birding/swiftwatch for more details.

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We invite you to join us for MORE than Swifts this summer. Audubon Night at Kruger’s Farm Market on Sept 5 — see page 3

Audubon of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, Oregon 97210
Vaux’s Happening! Tracking the Vaux’s Swift Migration

with Larry Schwitters
Tuesday, September 9
7pm Heron Hall

Portland, Oregon is home to one of the world’s largest roosting colonies of Vaux’s Swifts during their southbound migration each September. But where do they live for the rest of the year? How far North do they breed? What other roost sites do they use? How long does it take them to make their journey to Central America? How healthy are their population numbers?

Biologist Larry Schwitters has dedicated himself to getting answers to these questions, launching the citizen science project called Vaux’s Happening to gather data about Vaux’s Swift numbers and the importance of preserving their disappearing roost sites.

Join Larry for a fast-paced presentation that will examine the ongoing Vaux’s Happening project. Started 6 years ago to gather the data necessary to make a compelling case for the preservation of what has proven to be one of the most significant Vaux’s Swift communal migratory roost sites in North America, Vaux’s Happening quickly expanded into an attempt to locate, raise awareness of, and hopefully preserve the important roost sites used by this species all along their migratory path. In these 6 years, the project has documented nearly 500,000 Vaux’s Swifts per roosting event from San Diego to the Yukon. Schwitters will also share images and information captured by the project’s chimney surveillance cameras and precision temperature recorders.

Larry Schwitters holds a Masters of Science degree from East Texas State University and spent 30 years in the trenches of public education, mostly as a middle school science teacher and coach in the Seattle area. He spent 4 years tracking down Black Swifts at Washington State’s waterfalls for the American Bird Conservancy before his involvement with the Vaux’s Happening project.

This will be a fun way to learn Vaux’s Swift natural history before viewing their nightly gathering at the Chapman School chimney!

Fishers in the Pacific Northwest with Sean Matthews
Tuesday, October 14
7pm Heron Hall

Fishers are cool! A member of the mustelid or weasel family, the fisher, Pekania pennanti, is a mammal of many talents. Native to the late-successional or mixed forests of North America, it is mostly tree-dwelling, nesting in tree cavities tens or even hundreds of feet off the ground. Large for a weasel, but about the size of a house cat, fishers are one of the most adept carnivores in our western forests — one of the few predators that regularly prey on well-fortified porcupines!

Join conservation scientist Dr. Sean Matthews as he talks about his decade of research and conservation experience with fishers throughout California, Oregon, and Washington. Through photographs and videos, Sean will share stories of fisher biology, conservation concerns, research and conservation efforts — and what it takes to raise an orphaned fisher kit, from rescue to release.

Despite their tenacity and elusive nature, fishers were unable to elude the pressures of unregulated trapping for furs and the loss of forested habitats associated with logging over the last century. It is suspected that logging continues to threaten fisher populations by means of habitat fragmentation, reductions in habitat size, and changes in forest structure that are unsuitable for fishers. As a result of population declines, range contractions, and existing threats, the fisher is a candidate for federal endangered species protection.

Dr. Sean Matthews is an Associate Conservationist and Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow with the Wildlife Conservation Society. He has been working cooperatively with colleagues from the Hoopa Valley Tribe, the Integral Ecology Research Center, Humboldt State University, the University of California Davis to assess critical elements of fisher ecology since fall 2004. After receiving both his MS and BS degrees from Humboldt State University, Dr. Matthews completed his PhD in Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Sean has been conducting carnivore research for 16 years throughout the Pacific Northwest and Sierra Nevada Mountains. His research interests include human-wildlife interactions, carnivore ecology, and technological applications to wildlife research and management.
Bring binoculars and dress for the weather — beginners welcome!

September 13 (Sat), 9am–12pm Wapato Greenway
Please join Patty Newland and Candace Larson for a bird walk at Wapato Greenway on Sauvie Island. We will traverse the 2-mile path around the marsh. From the Sauvie Island bridge, drive 2.4 miles north on Sauvie Island Rd and turn left (west) into the gravel parking area, where we will meet. (Be sure to stay left at the fork, staying on Sauvie Island Rd.) Call 503-231-0933 with questions.

September 18 (Thu), 8am–12pm Sauvie Island Outing
Join Karen Chaivoir and Mary Ratcliffe as we explore Wapato Greenway State Park and Coon Point on the lookout for shorebirds and cranes. Meet at the Sauvie Island parking lot just across the bridge at 8:00am, and we will carpool from there. Being water and sunscreen — most of the time we will be out in the open. A spotting scope will be very helpful. All cars will need a Sauvie Island WMA parking pass, available at the Cracker Bar Store on Sauvie Island Rd near the bridge. Questions? Contact Karen at tkwichao@comcast.net or 503-341-4750.

September 28 (Sun), 9am–11am Creek Park, Hillsboro
Join Max Smith and Sarah Swanson for a walk through Dawson Creek Park. We will visit Acorn Woodpecker colonies and check the ponds for ducks, geese, and other waterbirds. Meet at the north end of the parking lot of the Main Library at 2850 NE Brockett Parkway in Hillsboro. Questions? Call Max at 503-372-9730.

September 30 (Tue), 8:30am–11am Tualatin River NWR
Before the seasonal trails close, join Barbara Allen for a 2-mile walk to look for migrating shorebirds, raptors, dabblers, and divers, plus a variety of songbirds. Meet at the refuge parking lot located just north of Sherwood off Hwy 99W. Questions? Call Barbara at 570-289-9209.

October 5 (Sun), 8am–11am Vancouver Lake Park
Join Ron Escano at Vancouver Lake Park to scope the lake for waterbirds then explore the riparian woodland for fall migrants. Meet at 8am at parking lot in front of middle bathrooms. From 15 north, take Exit 1-D (4th Plain Blvd), go west on 4th Plain through Vancouver onto SR-501 (Lower River Rd). After 3.5 miles on SR-506, continue straight for 0.6 miles to Vancouver Lake Park (possible $3 entrance fee). Questions? Call Ron at 503-771-3454.

October 10 (Fri), 9am–12pm Ridgefield NWR, Cartly Unit
Leaders Dana Turner and John Nikkel will walk the 2-mile Oats to Wetlands Trail, passing through Oregon white oaks, Douglas fir forest, wetlands, and meadows. Meet at the Cartly Unit parking lot. The NWR is accessed from Ridgefield, Washington. Take I-5 North and Exit 14 toward Ridgefield. Questions? Call Dana at 503-953-3109.

October 16 (Thu), 8am–11am Jackson Bottom
Join Sue Carr and Bonnie Deene as we view the marsh and forest birds. We will also visit the Interpretive Center which has an Eagle’s nest on display. Go into Hillsboro on Hwy 8, turn left onto Hwy 261, drive about a mile to Jackson Bottom at 2600 SW Hillsboro Hwy, and meet in the parking lot. Questions? Call Bonnie at 503-644-7335.

October 24 (Fri), 9am–11am Whitaker Ponds
Please join Patty Newland and Candace Larson for a bird walk at Whiaker Ponds, a hidden urban oasis in NE Portland. We will circle the pond looking for ducks, songbirds, eagles, and owls. Park inside gated area at the Ponds, 7040 NE 47th Ave. Call 503-231-0933 with questions.

International Vulture Awareness Day is coming to Audubon!

FREE EVENT! Sat, September 6 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. • Heron Hall
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.

International Vulture Awareness Day is filled with fun and educational activities:
• Meet Ruby, Portland Audubon’s Turkey Vulture, up close, along with the other Education Birds
• Compare your “wing span” to that of an Andean Condor’s silhouette
• Make a crafted vulture and mask
• Learn fun vulture facts
• Find out the differences between Old and New World vultures
• Discover why vultures are important
• Make a pledge to help vultures survive
Come and help us celebrate the beauty of vultures!

Audubon Night at Kruger’s Farm Market
17100 NW Sauvie Island Rd, Portland
Friday, September 5 • 5:00pm – 10:00pm
Rain or shine, help us celebrate the full moon and bring your friends and family for a fun-filled evening that benefits the Audubon Society of Portland. The farm stand will be open, and food and beverages will be available for purchase. Please, no dogs!

Come howl at the moon with us! © Tom Schmid

It’s Time to Register for the Catio Tour
Registration is open for Portland’s second annual Catio Tour! On Saturday, September 6 from 10am–2pm, tour nine catios ranging from fabulous to frugal as you get ideas for your own outdoor cat enclosure.

The goal of this unique event is to educate cat lovers about how catios keep pet cats and wildlife safe. We hope to inspire others to build one for their own cats! For more information visit audubonportland.org/issues/hazards/catios/catio

Join us for a night walk to investigate what creatures haunt the sanctuary at night. Rain or shine, help us experience the fall migration with fun for everyone at the 5th annual Howl at the Moon Harvest Night at Kruger’s Farm Market! Just $10 per carload benefits Portland Audubon and get you:
• Live Music
• Trips through Kruger’s Crazy Corn Maze
• Hay Rides
• Face Painting
• Harvest Bonfire
• Portland Audubon Activities
• Visits with Portland Audubon Education Birds

Come howl at the moon with us! © Tom Schmid

Mark your calendars for this family-friendly Halloween event!
Saturday, October 25, 2014 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
Come celebrate Halloween and learn all about the creatures of the night. Come face-to-face with Portland Audubon’s Great Horned Owl, Northern Spotted Owl, Turkey Vulture, and Raven. Trick-or-Treat with naturalists and enjoy a night walk to investigate what creatures haunt the sanctuary at night. Event will go rain or shine.

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!

This fancy feline can be visited in its cool catio in East Portland on Sept 6th. © Olivia Hinton

www.audubonportland.org SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014
Conservation

Portland Audubon ‘On the Ground’ at Malheur NWR
by Joe Liebezeit, Avian Conservation Program Manager

I t’s a bright sunny spring day at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Oregon. Refuge manager Chad Karges and habitat ecologist Jess Swinick carefully back a flat-bottomed airboat into Malheur Lake down a boat ramp access. Portland Audubon Malheur intern Candace Larson and I climb aboard the boat to tour the lake and discuss how the refuge will attempt to restore it and attract back the tens of thousands of nesting and migrating birds that it once supported. Chad starts up the boat engine equipped with an oversized fan at the stern, and we race off to get up close and personal with the lake.

Decades ago over 110,000 baby ducks would hatch on the refuge annually. The lion’s share of duck production occurred on and near Malheur Lake. Today across the entire refuge only about 30,000 baby ducks hatch every year. Malheur’s wildlife potential has been severely undermined by invasive species. Carp, a fish native to Asia, was introduced to Malheur in the 1940s, and by the 1960s they had made their way into nearly all aquatic habitats on the refuge. Carp directly compete with water-dependent birds and other wildlife they once did. Many water bodies and support of commercial fishing for carp. Recently, the refuge and partners, including the Audubon Society of Portland, crafted a 15-year management plan to address the daunting “carp issues” as well as other challenges the refuge’s bird communities and other wildlife are facing. This plan, called a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), is a strategy that all national wildlife refuges are required to develop. At Malheur the development of the CCP was quite remarkable in the breadth of diverse partners that were included in the collaborative planning process.

As a bonus, I assisted with Golden Eagle monitoring work that aim to increase bird numbers.

How can the lake be restored to its former glory? It’s easy to be overwhelmed by the enormity of this problem. What is being done about it?

Springtime on the Refuge
by Candace Larson, Malheur NWR Conservation Intern

A s mentioned in the article above, the Audubon Society of Portland supports a seasonal conservation internship on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Through this position, Portland Audubon is helping the refuge monitor wildlife impacts as they work toward their long-range conservation goals. In 2014, I was the lucky one chosen for this assignment, and in early April, I packed my bags for an exciting 10-week field season in the high desert.

I arrived two days after a late-spring storm dropped four inches of snow at headquarters, and the John Scharff Wetland provided them key breeding habitat. With great pleasure, I observed these birds throughout my stay, from outlandish Nighthawks that sets her sights on a refuge fence rail. And “Will I ever see an ibis?” becomes a game of “try-to-not-see-an-ibis” as spring progresses. This dynamism filled each week with surprise and continual opportunities to study bird ecology and behavior.

My work centered on refining and field testing several bird monitoring protocols that will be used to measure avian response to refuge activities over the coming years. First up was a project to count Greater Sandhill Crane pairs throughout the upper Blitzen Valley. The cranes are part of California’s Central Valley population, and Malheur provides them key breeding habitat. With great pleasure, I observed these birds throughout my stay, from outlandish courtship dances in early April through a secretive May of nest-sitting, then into the days of fluffy, long-legged colts wobbling through June grasses.

My next task involved slogging through wet meadow habitat to estimate a point-count protocol for landbirds. It was a treat to pull off the inaugural season of this survey and find a healthy cohort of backward-tuxedo-wearing Bobolinks, or, as they are sometimes called, “skunk blackbirds.” Later in the summer, volunteers would use the brood count protocol I refined to track the production of ducks and shorebirds across a wide variety of refuge ponds. As a bonus, I assisted with Golden Eagle monitoring work for the Oregon Eagle Foundation, hiking along the rimrock canyons in search of nesting birds and following those nests as the chicks hatch and developed.

As much as I delighted in the solitude of these assignments, I also enjoyed the chance to share binding and conservation highlights with visitors from around the state. From assisting with various bird festival tours to escorting the Portland Audubon foray around the refuge, the opportunity to share my passion for this place and its denizens was a welcome addition to the job.

When I left the refuge in late June, stub-tailed Canyon Wren babies were clinging to the rimrock. Pintail chicks had just emerged from the marsh grasses, and the first Golden Eagles were ready to take flight. I am proud of Portland Audubon’s role in the wildlife program at Malheur and honored to have represented Audubon in such a magnificent landscape. I look forward to the continued development of our long and strong relationship with this amazing refuge.
Reflections on an Internship in the Wildlife Care Center

by Felipe Guzman, TALON Intern

Note: Felipe Guzman is a 19-year-old TALON Intern at Portland Audubon who is about to complete his 2nd season in the Wildlife Care Center. Felipe started his internship with no experience whatsoever, but he trained to be part of the Care Center team during its busiest months. This month’s WCC column is devoted to Felipe’s thoughts about his internship.

There’s a new program that started at the Audubon Society of Portland last year that aims to get the new generation of the 21st century ready to be conservation leaders and to educate others. The TALON (Teach, Advocate, Lead, Observe, and Nurture) program is meant to bring more teens and adults together from different ethnic groups, to diversify and get the new generation involved with what is going on in the world. Portland Audubon’s Gladys Ruiz leads the TALON program which teaches us skills for a future conservation-related career. I was one of the first of 12 TALON members that started last year. The program placed us into 4 different areas: Education, Conservation, Sanctuaries, and the Wildlife Care Center. I was placed into an internship at the Wildlife Care Center, because Gladys thought I would be a great fit since I already had experience in the other areas.

The Wildlife Care Center changed the way I see birds. Before I started my internship, I honestly put all birds as one category: “birds.” When I started I was hesitant to hold any birds for a while, as I didn’t want to ruin my final job. However after I began studying birds I realized that they are very intelligent. When fledging crows are being fed they make this noise that sounds like they are saying “Yummm. Yummm. Yummm.” So next time you hear a crow begging, stop and listen.

I can honestly say that being a part of the Wildlife Care Center team has been a really amazing experience. I will be back to volunteer at the Care Center after my internship, because birds are interesting creatures and I would love to expand my knowledge and share it with those who do not know about birds.

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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.

Sri Lanka

January 9–25, 2015

Sri Lanka, the replicant island, is known for breathtaking beaches, hills covered in carpets of Ceylon tea, and a culture steeped in ancient history. This island is home to a treasure trove of biodiversity, from leopards to elephants and crocodiles as well as 27 endemic birds. Named Sri Lanka Scops-Owl by local researchers, Sri Lanka offers a rich blend of diversity, both in nature and culture.

Our adventure begins in the Kelani River Reserve, a paradise for birders seeking out many Sri Lankan endemics. We will trek through the jungle searching for Sri Lanka Junglefowl, Green-billed Coucal, Red-faced Malkoha, Yellow-fronted Barbet and Orange-billed Babblers. We will also make an effort to see the Serendib Scops-Owl, first discovered in 2001.

Heading into the hills, our next destination is the pleasant town of Kandy, the cultural center of Sri Lanka. We will explore the city, visit a local Buddhist temple and take a trip to the famous Sigiriya Rock, where the remains of an ancient fortress were built on top of this impressive monolith.

En route to the coast we will stop at the cloud forest and grasslands of the Horton Plains National Park where we hope to see the secretive Sri Lankan Whistling Thrush. A host of other endemics live here as well, including the Sri Lanka Scimitar-Babblers and Sri Lanka White-eye.

Along the coast are the vast forests, savannahs and wetlands of the Yala National Park. We’ll explore this drier region of Sri Lanka by jeep as we search for the best chance of seeing these elusive animals. The birding will be great too as we enjoy excellent views of large mammals and colorful birds. A visit to the Bundala National Park will reveal more exciting and exotic species such as Wattled Lapwing, both Black and Yellow Bittern, and Greater Flamingo.

Our journey continues west, to the Sinharaja Forest Reserve, one of the last tracts of endangered lowland rainforest. While here we hope to see the dramatically colorful Sri Lankan Blue Magpie.

Three nights in Marissa along the beautiful seashore of the Indian Ocean, where light breezes blow through coconut palms, provide the perfect setting to relax and reflect on your adventures of the past week. While here we will take a short boat excursion on the Indian Ocean to view such species as Blue and Spuren Whales and Spinner Dolphins. Our trip ends in the capital of Colombo where there will be time to visit markets and museums or just explore. Contact Dan at dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105.

Leader: Dan van den Broek, Trip Leader and Educator Group size: Limited to 14 participants Fee: $3945 members / $4295 non-members Deposit: $2000 required to secure your place Fee includes: All ground transportation within Sri Lanka, all double-occupancy lodging, meals except dinners, local guide fees and gratuities, fees for all planned excursions, and the services of your skilled leaders. Not included: Dinners, and airfare to & from Sri Lanka.

Birds & Wildlife of Brazil

April 10–26, 2015

Travel into some of the most incredible bird habitat in the world as you explore the avian wonderland that is Brazil. We will begin in the Pantanal, one of the largest wetlands in the world, and spend three full days birding this vast wetland system in search of myriad species. Next we’ll head to the Serra das Araras, a remote region of mountainous rainforest, and on to the drier Chapada do Guimarães.

Finally, we’ll visit the Atlantic Rainforest, one of the most threatened ecosystems in the world and home to an amazing diversity of tropical bird species. This tour is designed to cover several of Brazil’s major habitats and provide the opportunity to build a healthy bird list and see other iconic animals of the region. Contact Steve Robertson or Eric Scheuering at 503-292-6655.

Leaders: Steve Robertson and local guides Group size: Limited to 14 participants Fee: $3495 members / $3895 non-members Deposit: $1500 required to secure your place Fee includes: Ground transportation, 14 nights double-occupancy lodging, meals except some dinners, local guide fees and tips, fees for all planned excursions, and the services of your guided leader. Not included: Most dinners, airfare to & from Brazil, cost of internal flights.

Cuba!

February 27–March 9, 2015

Experience the rich culture and regions of unknown nature on the largest island in the Caribbean… Cuba.

On this 10-day adventure we’ll search the island for its 28 endemic species of birds, learn about conservation efforts from local researchers, and participate in a Cuban bird survey. In Havana, we’ll experience an eclectic mix of architecture in outlandish tropical pastels that brighten the exterior of historic buildings while local music fills the streets to create the cheerful rhythm that enlivens the island. Havana is a classic city preserved in time much as Hemingway knew it, complete with vintage cars cruising down its historic streets.

Our first excursion will take us west to Havana to the dramatic karst formations of the Viñales and Guira National Parks. In this mountainous region we will search for some of the many endemics including Cuban Tody, Cuban Pewee, Cuban Grassquit, Cuban Solitaire, Cuban Vireo, Cuban Oriole, and the national bird, the Cuban Trogon. Next we drive east to the Zapata Peninsula, a remote region of Cuba, dotted with wetlands and mangroves. The Zapata Swamp was the last refuge for the presumed extinct Cuban subspecies of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, not seen since 1986. This area remains one of the most important habitats in Cuba for many endemic species. The expansive Cienaga de Zapata National Park bordered by the famous Bay of Pigs is one of the gems of the Cuban park system and the largest protected wetland in the West Indies. This Everglades-like ecosystem is home to the smallest bird in the world, the diminutive Bee Hummingbird, literally not much bigger than a bumblebee. While exploring these wetlands, we hope to come across Greater Flamingo, Sandhill Crane (Cuban subspecies), Zapata Sparrow and the endangered Cuban Crocodile. Our last couple of nights will be spent in Old Havana, a city of cathedrals and churches on the Bahia de Havana. While here we’ll take a city tour, visit the Museum of Natural History next to the Plaza de Armas and find out what Hemingway and others discovered about Cuba many decades ago. Contact Dan at dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105.

Leader: Dan van den Broek, Trip Leader and Educator Group size: Limited to 15 participants Fee: $4295 members / $4595 non-members Deposit: $1000 required to secure your place Fee includes: All ground transportation within Cuba, all double-occupancy lodging (except night in Miami), all meals in Cuba, local guide fees and gratuities, fees for all planned excursions, and the services of your skilled leaders. Not included: Night in Miami, airfare to & from Cuba.

Explore one of the gems of the Cuban park system and the largest protected wetland in the West Indies. This Everglades-like ecosystem is home to the smallest bird in the world, the diminutive Bee Hummingbird, literally not much bigger than a bumblebee. While exploring these wetlands, we hope to come across Greater Flamingo, Sandhill Crane (Cuban subspecies), Zapata Sparrow and the endangered Cuban Crocodile. Our last couple of nights will be spent in Old Havana, a city of cathedrals and churches on the Bahia de Havana. While here we’ll take a city tour, visit the Museum of Natural History next to the Plaza de Armas and find out what Hemingway and others discovered about Cuba many decades ago. Contact Dan at dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105.

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**Sparrows of Oregon**

September 16 (Tue), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall

Birdwatchers are often blown away by the similarity of these “little brown jobbers.” An amazing 18 species of sparrows occur in our area. These birds are the bane of some birders, but with a little practice and advice we can learn how to tell them apart. A local bird expert and author of numerous field guides, Harry Nehls, will share his tips on when and where to find the elusive sparrows and how to recognize each “little brown job.”

**Fee:** $30 members / $45 non-members
Free for active volunteers.

**Beginning Birding I**

*(Session A): FULL with Waitlist*

*(Session B): FULL with Waitlist*

Join Laura Whittemore, long-time birder and teacher, for an introduction to bird watching that takes the mystery out of the country’s most popular hobby. You will learn to recognize birds by shape, behavior, plumage, and more, and how to use binoculars and field guides to zero in on the identity of that mysterious little brown (or yellow or red or green) bird. Sign up now to learn about birds with the patient guidance of an experienced birder.

Class with Field Trips, Limited to 14 participants: $45 members / $60 non-members

Class-only Option: $30 members / $15 non-members

**Beginning Birding II**

November 9, 16, & 23 (Sun), 8:30am–11:30am: Local Field Trips

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. Three morning field trips to local sites provide you opportunities to practice your ID skills under Laura’s patient tutelage, and to learn of great places to go birding in the future.

**Fee:** $65 members / $80 non-members
Limited to 15 participants.

**Beginning Field Birding & Sauvie Island Exploration**

Saturdays, 8am–Noon

October 4, Nov 1, and Dec 6: Local Field Trips

Saturday morning explorations at one of Oregon’s most accessible Important Bird Areas — Sauvie Island Wildlife Area, managed by Oregon’s Department of Fish and Wildlife — continue with Ricky Allen! 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 birder. Explore different habitats on the island, learn bird calls, and search for waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors.

Fee: $65 members / $80 non-members
Limited to 15 participants.

Pre-registration required — participants register for all 3 days.

**Do You eBird?**

October 18 (Sat) 8am–9pm: Local Field Trip; then 9:30–11:30am: Class in Heron Hall

Want to learn how to use eBird? This online Cornell Lab of Ornithology database is revolutionizing how birders report what they see and how they access information about birds. Learn how to submit your own observations and explore the numerous eBird tools available to everyone. This is an interactive, hands-on workshop with Shawnee Finnegan and Dave Irons. Both are passionate users of eBird and are part of Oregon’s eBird review team. Bring your binoculars and smartphone, laptop, or iPad if available, though they are not required. This class is open to both new and veteran eBird users.

Fee: $35 members / $50 non-members
Limited to 16 participants.

**The World of the Birds 2014**

Bird Names

**Classes:**

- **Classes:** Oct 8, 15, 22, (Wed), 6:30–8:30pm: Class in Heron Hall
- **Field Trips:** Oct 11, 18, 25 (Sat): Two half-day field trips and one full-day trip. Locations and carpooling to be announced.

Discover the world of taxonomy, scientific names, and avian diversity. Fee: $1460 members / $1950 non-members
Limited to 16 participants.

The Art of Bird Observation for Fledgling Artists

November 15 (Sat), 10am–4pm in Heron Hall

Are you convinced your drawing ability will never advance beyond the stick-figure level? Do you Killdeer look like a Great Blue Heron? With a little help, anyone can sketch birds! Join nationally known bird artist Shawnee Finnegan as she helps demystify the art of drawing birds. You will become a better observer as you study the shapes and structures that distinguish different species. Heron Hall is a perfect place to hold this class, where we have access to photographs, birds coming to feeders, and mounted specimens. This one-day class is designed to help you improve your observation skills through sketching. No artistic ability needed.

**Fee:** $65 members / $80 non-members
Limited to 16 participants.

**Waterfowl: Ducks, Geese, and Swans**

November 18 (Tue), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall

Another great class with Harry Nehls, author of Family Birds of the Pacific Northwest and the voice of the Rare Bird Alert. This should be an excellent evening program covering the wide variety of waterfowl that arrive in the Northwest in fall and winter: wigeon, teal, greylag geese, and more! Learn the differences of these birds and how to pick them out in a crowd.

**Fee:** $30 members / $15 non-members
Free for active volunteers.

**Ohio’s Magee Marsh**

May 16–23, 2015

This trip will highlight Magee Marsh, a prime stopover location for northbound migrants during spring, where we’re likely to encounter over 25 species of colorful eastern warblers. We’ll also make an effort to find the endangered Kirtland’s Warbler on its breeding grounds in Michigan. Contact Dan van den Broek at dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105 for more information or to register.

**Leader:** Dan van den Broek

**Trip Leader and Educator**

Group size: Limited to 14 participants

**Fee:** To be determined

Fee includes: Ground transportation, double-occupancy lodging, entrance fees for planned activities, meals except dinners, and the services of your leader.

Not included: Dinners and airfare.

**Spotted Sandpiper**

September 11 (Sat), 9am–12pm: Local Field Trip

For more information contact instructor Dan van den Broek at 971-245-8096 or dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org.

**Adulon Society of Portland’s program for birders who want to increase their ID skills and their knowledge about birds.**

**California Condors & Big Sur Coast**

September 22–26, 2014

Experience the scenic beauty of the Big Sur Coast and witness the majesty of California Condors in flight. Join Portland Audubon on this unforgettable trip. Contact Eric Scheuering at escheuering@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119 for more information or to register.

**Fee includes:** Ground transportation, double-occupancy lodging, entrance fees for planned activities, meals except dinners, and the services of your leaders. Not included: Dinners, airfare to & from San Jose, California.

**Leaders:** Kirk Hardie, Portland Audubon Trip Leader, and Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon Conservation Director

**Group size:** Limited to 9–14 participants

Fee: $855 members / $1095 non-members
Deposit: $400 required to secure your place

**Southern California**

February 16–22, 2015

The subtropical Mediterranean climate of Southern California makes for a perfect winter home for many wonderful species of birds. Based out of San Diego, this tour will take you through a variety of habitats from coastal lagoons to interior mountains and deserts, and to one of Southern California’s most popular birding destinations, the Salton Sea. We will also visit the world-famous San Diego Zoo Safari Park, known for its help with reintroducing the California Condor. Contact Eric Scheuering at escheuering@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119 for more information or to register.

**Leader:** Kirk Hardie, Audubon Trip Leader and Co-executive Director of the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science

**Group size:** Limited to 9–14 participants

Fee includes: Ground transportation, 6 nights double-occupancy lodging, entrance fees for planned activities, meals except dinners, and the services of your leaders. Not included: Dinners, and airfare to & from San Diego.

**Fee:** $1295 members / $1495 non-members
Deposit: $600 required to secure your place

www.audubonportland.org
by Harry Nehls

White Pelican Nests Vulnerable and Easily Disturbed

Andrew Enlen of Astoria regularly canoes around the lower Columbia estuary. On July 14, 2010 he was skimming an isolated sandbar off Alhonna, Washington when he noticed that the sandbar held a nesting colony of White Pelicans. The colony contained 60 pairs of adults and a creche of immatures.

Over the next several years the colony slowly grew larger, until during the 2014 nesting season the colony contained 150 nesting pairs and about 120 immatures. During late June, when the young were about five weeks old and not able to care for themselves, the colony was disturbed, probably by nearby campers. The adults flew off and the young birds ran into the water and drifted downstream. It appears that the immature died, except for the 30 that were captured and taken to the Wildlife Rehab Center in Astoria.

Sightings

Wet weather early in the season allowed good vegetation growth that remained green through much of the following dry period. This favored a good breeding season for birds with plenty of young by July.

On June 23 Lars Norrgren and his son visited Sauvie Island, driving along the east side of the island to park at the end of Rieder Road. Walking father north along the river they observed a Bank Swallow colony in a low mud bank. This is a new colony.

Several years ago several swallows attempted to nest on the west side of the island in a bank along the Multnomah Channel. It was a race to successfully fledge their young before the spring floods washed them out. Apparently some of the nests were successful the first year but not the next. The birds did not attempt to nest there again. The other Bank Swallow nesting colony in Northwest Oregon is an established good-sized colony along the Clackamass River near Carver.

On June 12 Erik Knight saw a Red-eyed Vireo at the Tualatin Nature Park in Beaverton. On June 30 Paul Sullivan and Carol Karlen found them north of Sheridan. Red-eyed Vireos are irruptive in this area, being fairly common some years and absent in others. It appears this might be a good year.

On June 28 Adrian Hinkle and Em Scattaregia saw a Brewer’s Sparrow at the Sandy River Delta, possibly a nonbreeding drifter. Lawsey Sager reports that on June 4 a male Broad-tailed Hummingbird visited his feeders in Oak Grove. It remained into July. Fred Schrock reports that on June 5 an Ovenbird visited his yard west of Willamina. This is one of the species that occasionally is reported during the summer in the Cascades.

A Black Tern was seen this summer at Ridgefield NWR, but it apparently did not nest. On July 2 a male Wilson’s Phalarope was seen at Jackson Bottom in Hillsboro. With it were three fuzzy chicks.

Volunteer of the Month: Maggie Bell

Margaret “Maggie” Bell has been volunteering since August 2011 and has already racked up 1,121 hours, 64% of which have been spent in the Wildlife Care Center. Maggie wears many hats in the Wildlife Care Center. Not only does she have her regular 4-hour shift every week, but she also substitutes on other shifts, transports injured animals to the center through our WART (Wild Animal Rescue & Transport) team, is active in conservation and citizen science, and has recently started serving on the Wildlife Care Center Online Auction Committee. Maggie is a very dedicated, sweet, and enthusiastic volunteer who is always up to any task we ask of her. Her infectious laughter and smile brighten every shift she works on.

Maggie consistently comes in early to her shift to make sure she is prepared for what the day holds and will stay late if necessary to complete all of the day’s tasks. We can always rely on her to get the job done and for it to be done methodically. Volunteer manager Deanna Sawtelle says, “Maggie is always smiling and willing to help. We fight over her when it comes to whose van she’ll ride in during Birdathon because she’s so much fun.”

Maggie has also been instrumental in helping the Wildlife Care Center succeed in releasing young Vaux’s Swifts. The Care Center often gets in dozens of orphans Vaux’s Swifts every summer. They tend to come down from their chimney nests into doorways and for some reason or another can’t make it back up the chimney to their parents. These birds require intensive feeding (every 30 minutes) the entire time they are in our care. Maggie has helped us find flocks of Vaux’s Swifts (one

in her neighborhood) and release the rescued juveniles into the bigger group of adults. She carefully details when, where, and how many birds she sees, what the weather is like, and how long they spend foraging in the area. We are happy to say that because of Maggie’s dedication over the years we have successfully released over 30 of these birds back to the wild.

Maggie is also a Legacy Circle Member. Legacy Circle Members are individuals who have included Audubon Audubon Society of Portland in their estate plans that leave a lasting impact on the environmental health of our region and the future of Portland Audubon’s conservation and education programs. Among all Portland Audubon Society members of Portland manifests my values and what is important to me.” Maggie has become an invaluable member of the Wildlife Care Center and we look forward to her presence every week.

Thank You to:

• Rich & Caroline Arnold for bleach, dishwashing liquid, eggs, and 2 pairs of dishwashing gloves for the Wildlife Care Center
• Pat & Joe Campbell for 2 cases of Elk Cove Vineyards wine
• Lois Campbell Estate for 40 books on birds, wildflowers, and geology for Education
• Jim Cruz for framed wildlife photos including one 5x7’, five 8x10’, four 16x20’, and one 20x30’ and wildlife photos on boards with covers including eighteen 8x10’, eighteen 11x14’, and four 20x30’
• John & Judie Hammerstad for 2 cases of Cabarella Vineyards wine
• Jennifer Jones for 6 bottles of Bleach for the Wildlife Care Center
• Megan Legestones for Science Diet Kitten Growth Food and Dawn Dishwashing Liquid for the Wildlife Care Center
• Jimmie Sellers for a Cabella’s 20/48/65 Spotting Scope for Education
• Tanya Sem for a wishbone collection for Education
• Shannon Shanks for 30 foam rabbit for the Wildlife Care Center
• Heidi Stetson for 50 foot garden hoses for Sanctuaries

Our Wish List

For All Departments:
• Ergonomic Office Chairs
• Loppers
• Floor Easels, wood or metal
• Science Diet Kitten Growth
• Roll of Bubble Wrap
• Paper lunch bags
• Work gloves

For Sanctuary:
• Loppers
• Hand saws

For Wild Arts Festival:
• 8 Floor Easels, wood or metal
• 8 Tablet/Display Easels, 1–2 metal
• 6 metal Clip-on Lights, contemporary style
• Plain Paper Bags, all sizes, with or without handles
• Rolls of Bubble Wrap
• Boxes for Jewelry

If you can donate these items, please first contact Audubon Society of Portland at 503-292-6855 ext.101, Mon–Fri, to arrange a time for delivery/pick-up.

www.audubonportland.org
Shelf and Sanctuary

This August we began some emergency repairs on the old gazebo down by the pond. After approximately 80 years of providing maintenance-free shelter, the old structure developed a bit of a lean due to some rot in the logs that were used as the posts to support the structure. The rotten posts will be replaced, with temporary cribbing holding up the nearly ancient roof structure. I’ve always liked to joke that this was Portland’s first eco-roof due to the large footprints of the many communities, farms, fords, and weeds that grow from the old cedar shake roof. I am excited that by the time of printing the old gazebo will have new legs and a solid base to showcase our historic eco-roof.

According to the late Dave Marshall, the old gazebo was built by his uncle Norma, the same man that single-handedly excavated our pond at about the same time. As the pictured sign indicates, the Audubon Society of Portland, then the Oregon Audubon Society, envisioned Portland, then the Oregon Audubon Society, envisioned a simplistic approach to nature photography. His claim: “Anybody can do this!”

John will demonstrate how great images can easily be taken using a Smartphone, point-and-shoot, or DSLR camera using special adapters. While the new gear makes it simple, this free workshop will show you the little tricks that will help you take incredible pictures the first day you start digiscoping. Bring your own equipment or Swarovski or any other brand for digiscoping practice and instruction.

And stop by the store any time both days to see and test Swarovski’s full line of products. Be sure to check out the Nature Store Highlights on this page for details on Swarovski’s 65th Anniversary Sale with savings up to 10% on spotting scopes and binoculars!

Sanctuaries Happenings

This lack of clear definition is actually quite appealing to me. In my experience we all have a different experience with and relationship to the natural world, and I am happy that we can find a way to represent our properties that does not unnecessarily narrow the range of possible experiences a person could have on the property. This is why we have chosen to refer to our properties as “Nature Sanctuaries” rather than “Wildlife Sanctuaries.” While we do limit certain uses, such as dog-walking and trail biking, the intent is not to be restrictive but rather to create an environment where more people and wildlife feel welcome, and where competing uses do not threaten the health or safety of the property or the plants, people, and critters that find themselves here. Our hope is that our visitors will feel the sacredness, mystery, and majesty of the natural world when they visit our properties.

And much as our old gazebo has provided shelter from the elements for our visitors, we hope the sanctuary as a whole provides shelter, if only temporary, from the hustle and bustle of our busy lives.
A Transformation for Fernhill Wetlands
by Jay Withgott, Portland Audubon Board Secretary

A prime birding location in our region is undergoing some major changes — and with Portland Audubon’s help, may soon offer even better habitat for birds. Fernhill Wetlands is being transformed in an ambitious effort to improve wastewater treatment and water quality while enhancing wetland habitat — all while saving ratepayers money. Soon Fernhill may join the shortlist of constructed wetlands (such as Arcata Wetlands in California and Sweetwater Wetlands in Tucson, Arizona) that are nationally known for their wildlife-watching opportunities.

Recognized as Audubon’s as an Important Bird Area, Fernhill Wetlands is a key stopover site for migrating shorebirds, a productive wintering area for waterfowl, and a prime birding location in our region. The County birding destination is part of a 5,000-acre network of wetlands stretching across the upper Tualatin River basin.

Fernhill comprises part of about 750 acres owned by Clean Water Services (CWS) that includes the Forest Grove Treatment Facility, old sewage lagoons, wetland mitigation sites, and agricultural fields. CWS manages the trails and publicly accessible areas in cooperation with the City of Forest Grove and the nonprofit Fernhill Wetlands Council.

In 2012, CWS began work on a “natural treatment system” at Fernhill that aims to improve water quality. This approach will take advantage of the natural pollution-filtering abilities of wetlands to provide additional treatment to previously treated wastewater prior to discharge into the Tualatin River. The natural treatment system should save ratepayers money by offsetting the need for much costlier “brick-and-mortar” infrastructure. As this multiyear project proceeds, engineers are sculpting the landscape to move water among thousands of native plants that will absorb nutrients and will cool and cleanse the water.

Portland Audubon anticipates that these new wetlands should enhance habitat quality for dabbling ducks, herons, egrets, and rails, as plant diversity is increased and some areas of open water are transformed to marsh. Upland areas will be enhanced as well, helping songbirds and raptors. Migratory shorebirds are of greatest conservation concern, and Audubon is working with CWS to help ensure that the new design is as shorebird-friendly as possible.

I have represented Portland Audubon as an advisor on this project, and this spring we held a forum of area birders and stakeholders to funnel advice to CWS. We also hope to set up a collaborative citizen science project to monitor bird use of the area over time.

Besides creating new habitat, the Fernhill redesign aims to facilitate recreational access for wildlife watching. Trail improvements along the site’s northern edge will enhance educational opportunities, and the new water garden area aims to provide a unique and welcoming environment to commune with nature.

Construction this year is transforming the existing lagoons into the new natural treatment wetlands, and trail access has been restricted for visitor safety. You may, in fact, arrive to find a chaotic-looking scene of bulldozers and mud! If so, don’t be alarmed; this stage is temporary. CWS staff and consultants are designing the project with long-term benefits for birds and wildlife in mind.

If you’d like to learn more, visit www.fernhillwetlands.org. If you’d like to offer input, I’d be happy to paddle as Portland Audubon’s representative to pass along your ideas or concerns. If you’d like to get involved, consider joining Friends of Fernhill Wetlands, a volunteer group that hosts activities, has a Facebook page, and may be reached at FriendsOfFernhillWetlands@gmail.com. And if you’ve never been to Fernhill Wetlands, come attend this year’s Wild Arts Festival on October 11 (see page 2 of this Worlder), which feature Rob Ballinger and others from the Portland Audubon family.

Wild Arts Festival: November 22–23, 2014
Volunteers Needed for Our Biggest Show of the Year

As this is a service that’s seldom offered at other shows. If you’re interested in being a volunteer, check out the volunteer page on the Festival website, wildartsfestival.org, or email Roberta Lampert, our Festival volunteer coordinator, at wafvolunteers@gmail.com.

We need volunteers to set up Wild Arts on Friday, November 21st, to help run the event on Saturday and Sunday; and to strike the set on Sunday afternoon, for tasks as diverse as helping to check in other volunteers, working the admission desk, stuffing the ‘O’pen exhibit; booth-sitting for artists; helping with the Book Fair; and filling a couple dozen other slots. Artists especially appreciate help moving in on Friday and out on Sunday.

This year’s Festival is scheduled for Saturday, November 22nd and Sunday, November 23rd, and preparations are well under way. Last year, Wild Arts raised nearly $350,000 for the organization, brought in 160 memberships, and featured 69 artists, 35 Northwest authors, and 200 Silent Auction items. Needless to say, it was a huge success… and we expect 2014 to be even better, with some wonderful new artists, a terrific lineup of Northwest authors, and more community sponsorships. The best way to get a behind-the-scenes look at the event is by volunteering. It’s also a great way to connect with Audubon friends, old and new.

Volunteers Needed for Our Biggest Show of the Year

Don’t have time to volunteer? Interested in doing more? Not a problem! Here are some other ways you can support the Wild Arts Festival:

- Click on the ‘Sponsors’ link to learn about our various levels of sponsorship for businesses and individuals, from “Eagle” or “Great Blue Heron” to the very affordable $40 “Friends of Wild Arts.”
- If you have access to weekend getaways, event tickets, gift certificates to intriguing restaurants or stores, items of interest to naturalists, etc., consider a donation to the Silent Auction. Contact Marilyn Scott at mscott@wilsonville.com for more details.
- Visit The Wild Arts Festival page, where you can “like” us, and share your thoughts and Wild Arts experiences.
- Last, but certainly not least, mark your calendar, and don’t forget to see the show!

In memory:

Marjorie Sue Abramovitz
Marshall Goldberg
Richard B Forbes
Orolina Zaniga Forbes
Evelyn Georges
Shelley Gittelschon & Ernest Ronyback
Jerry Jerosen
Sharon Dawson
Vida Lee Ederer

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Elizabeth Duke and Ray Braghetta arrived in the Pacific Northwest in 2011, looking for a change of habitat. When they joined the Legacy Circle of the Audubon Society of Portland, it was habitat for the birds that they had in mind.

The couple had spent 17 years living in a hot, dry climate near Dallas, Texas. At their new home in Battleground, Washington, they now relish the cool, moist climate and plentiful birds—especially the twittering yellow goldfinches which crowded their black sunflower seed and thistle feeders.

“Birds keep me company,” says Elizabeth. “I love looking around and seeing the abundance.”

Audubon Portland, it was habitat for the birds that Ray and Elizabeth Braghetta were looking for. In 2011, looking for a change of habitat. When they joined the Legacy Circle of the Audubon Society of Portland, it was habitat for the birds that they had in mind.

Protection Oregon’s Birds while You Shop!

Protect Birds and Habitat just by shopping with your Fred Meyer Rewards Card

Fred Meyer is donating $2.5 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here’s how the program works:

• Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Audubon Society of Portland at fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our name or nonprofit number, 91071.
• Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Portland Audubon earn a donation!
• You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
• If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
• For more information, please visit fredmeyer.com/communityrewards

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 community!

Become a Member!

If you would like to join our flock, you can go to audubonportland.org/support/membership to join online, or to download a form to print and mail. If you have questions about membership, please contact Pam Meyers at pmeyers@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6085.

www.audubonportland.org SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014 11

Elizabeth and Ray Braghetta attended the Wild Arts Festival in 2012, development for apartments began nearby, Elizabeth noticed “Birds keep me company,” says Elizabeth. “I love looking around and seeing the abundance.”

A Couple’s Will to dwell with birds

A Change of Habitat

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Audubon Leads Efforts to Prevent Cormorant Slaughter on East Sand Island

by Bob Sallinger

On August 19th Portland Audubon submitted comments signed by nine Oregon Audubon chapters to the US Army Corps of Engineers opposing the slaughter of nearly 16,000 Double-crested Cormorants on East Sand Island in the Columbia River Estuary. In addition, Audubon locally and nationwide generated thousands of comments from across the United States opposing this horrendous proposal.

The Corps is proposing to kill 16,000 Double-crested Cormorants, 25% of the entire population west of the Rocky Mountains, because they eat on federally listed salmon and steelhead. Audubon believes the Corps should focus in the real causes of salmon declines — dam operations, habitat loss, and hatchery management — not kill birds that have coexisted with salmon since time immemorial.

The Corps is expected to issue a final decision on this proposal by early 2015 and the birds are due to be killed in the spring of 2015. Portland Audubon will continue to oppose this proposal through all available channels. To see our most recent comments or past comments on this issue, visit our website, audubonportland.org. Join the Audubon activist team to get updates on how you can help at audubonportland.org/issues/get-involved/activists-form.

Calendar at a Glance

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