



Black-throated Gray Warbler

MARCH/APRIL 2015
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Warbler

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Raven Maniacs © Arlen Snyder



Millennial Falcons © Tinsley Hunsdorfer

Birdathon 2015

Counting Birds Because Birds Count!

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 35th year, Birdathon is the Audubon way to raise funds for its conservation and education programs. It's like a walkathon, but instead of counting miles, we count birds!

Birdathon 2015 Teams

Here is a partial list and a synopsis of Half-Day, Full-Day, and Gonzo Trips (2+ days). Visit audubonportland.org for additional trips and more details.

The Lone Birders — our new Virtual Team!

Do you enjoy birding and love to share your adventures online complete with dramatic photos and pithy posts? If the answer is YES!, join our virtual team! Count birds and use your blog, Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, or Instagram account to reach out to your followers, build awareness, and raise funds for Portland Audubon. We will provide you with ideas for sponsor challenges and ready-to-post updates to send to your friends and followers.

Half-Day Trips:

Clackamas Creepers: May 9 (Sat), 8am-3pm
Bird Clackamas County sites with Portland Audubon educator and long-time local birder **Dan van den Broek**. We check out some of the best Willamette floodplain wetlands for Cinnamon Teal, oak woodlands for migrating Warblers and Flycatchers, and the Cascade foothills for Bluebird and Solitaire. **A minimum of \$50 in pledges is requested.**

Soggy Bottom Birders: May 15 (Fri), 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 Bybee Lakes, Ridgefield NWR and, if time allows, Steigerwald Lake NWR. Ideal for people of all ages who appreciate birding in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Transportation is provided. **A minimum of \$50 in pledges is requested.**

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 to receive great prizes for your efforts including the most species seen, most pledges received, most money raised, best photo, and more. **Participants are asked to raise a minimum of \$35 in pledges unless otherwise indicated.**

Registration begins
March 15th!

Millennial Falcons: May 16 (Sat)

Calling all young adult birders! If you are between 21 and 35 years of age, join **Brandon Lampkin** and **Robin Juskowiak**, professional bird geeks and naturalists, for a casual half-day of birding at the newly renovated Fernhill Wetlands. Fernhill is a proven hotspot for migrating warblers, flycatchers, and shorebirds. We end at a pub to celebrate a day well spent — raising funds to help these places thrive!

NEW TRIP! The Bountifowls: May 16 (Sat), 9:45am-1pm

This trip for birding foodies gets you a back-stage pass to one of the metro area's premier Organic farms: Our Table Cooperative. Enjoy special access to hot birding habitat areas on this 58-acre farm, including riparian woodlands and open water. Team leader **Barb Grover** will help birders of all levels spot and identify birds. Conclude the morning with a special farm lunch to celebrate our birding success!

Whittemore's Whatzits: May 17 (Sun) 8am-1pm

Popular 'Beginning Birding' and 'Birding By Ear' instructor **Laura Whittemore**, and Birdathon Coordinator **Mark Fitzsimons**, will guide this Steigerwald Lake NWR trip. Songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl abound — we expect to see 50 species! **A minimum of \$50 in pledges is requested.**

U.S. Army Corps Announces Plans to Slaughter Double-crested Cormorants on East Sand Island — Portland Audubon Plans to Litigate

by Audubon Conservation Program Staff

On February 6th, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) indicating its intent to move forward during the spring of 2015 with a four-year plan to kill nearly 11,000 Double-crested Cormorants and destroy more than 26,000 Double-crested Cormorant nests on East Sand Island in the Columbia River Estuary. The proposed lethal take of adult cormorants represents 15% of the entire Double-crested Cormorant population west of the Rocky Mountains. The birds would be killed using shotguns over water and at close range with rifles as they tend to their active nests on East Sand Island. In addition to the killing of adult birds, the Corps would also destroy



Double-crested Cormorant © Jim Cruce

Continued on page 5

NEW TRIP! Jackson Bottom Ramblers: May 30 (Sat), 7am-12pm

Join **Steve Engel**, Hillsboro's Nature Program Supervisor and Audubon's former Adult Education Programs Manager, for a morning at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve. Designated an "Important Bird Area" (IBA), over 150 species of birds are expected annually. We'll bird its quiet open waters, rolling meadows, and upland ash and fir woodlands, watch for nesting eagle activity, and see what's happening at the heron rookery.

Great Big Sit: Date TBD, 8am-12pm

The perfect Birdathon experience for beginning birders! Give your legs a rest and spend a leisurely morning in your lawn chair at Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Sit back with your thermos amidst great company and relax as the birds come to you; 35-50 species frequent this idyllic setting!

A Song in the Morning: Date TBD (Wed), 7am-9am

Spend the morning with **Gerard Lillie**, Mt Tabor's renowned bird song expert, 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 weekday morning Bird Song Walks.

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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!

From the Interim Executive Director



Liz Field, Interim E.D.
©Tinsley Hunsdorfer

Appreciation: Wink Gross's Leadership of the Portland Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the longest-running citizen science bird project in the country, and it has produced an extraordinary data set that supports studies on bird populations and helps shape conservation strategies. Now an international program of the National Audubon Society, the count was created 115 years ago by ornithologist Frank Chapman as an alternative to Christmas side-hunts, during which "sportsmen" competed to kill the most birds and other game.

The first Christmas Bird Count, conducted in 1900, involved 27 bird counters in 25 locations in North America. The tradition took root and has grown exponentially since its inauguration: The 2014 CBC included more than 70,000 volunteer counters in more than 20 countries. In total, this year's volunteers counted more than 66 million birds!

Wink Gross, who has played a role in this growth, is a hard act to follow. For the past 11 years, Wink has led the Portland installment of the CBC as its Compiler. In this role, Wink built Portland's CBC into the largest such count in the United States, expanding enthusiasm for birding and contributing to the rich CBC data set. Next year, while Wink intends to remain active in the count (and is willing to continue to "crunch the numbers"), he plans to hand over leadership of the Portland event to a yet-to-be-identified successor.

Wink agreed to assume leadership of the Portland CBC in 2004. Linda Craig, then President of the Audubon Society

of Portland, approached Wink about taking on this volunteer role. At the time, a mere 28 people had participated in Portland's most recent CBC. Linda saw in Wink an outstanding birder and long-time member of the Audubon community who could energize this event, build participation, and provide the leadership and organizational skills needed in the Compiler role.

During the intervening years, Wink and his team rallied a high of more than 400 volunteers to participate in Portland's CBC. From Wink's perspective, the CBC Area Leaders (most recently Tony DeFalco, Lori Hennings, Lynn Herring, Dan Strong, and Eric Scheuering) have been as responsible if not more so than he has been for the growth of the Count. Wink's greatest sense of accomplishment in his CBC leadership role has come from seeing engagement grow and, with it, excitement for birds. This is at the heart of the 115-year-old CBC tradition.

This year, as in the past 89 years of the Portland CBC, counters spent hours outdoors in the cold to identify, watch, and count birds. Participants ranged from highly experienced birders to children and adults embarking on their first birding experience. For many, the CBC starts a lifelong love of and appreciation for birds and nature.

On behalf of the Audubon Society of Portland, a heartfelt thanks to Wink Gross for his energy, commitment, and impressive contribution to Portland's Christmas Bird Count tradition.



Wink Gross © Portland Audubon

FREE EVENT!

Welcome Back Vulture Day

is coming to Leach Botanical Garden!

Saturday, March 21, 2015
Noon – 3 p.m.



Ruby the Turkey Vulture
photo: Tom Schmid

Leach Botanical Garden
6704 SE 122nd, Portland, OR 97236
Parking is limited. Please carpool if possible.

Did 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 "Upchuck 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!

NATURE NIGHTS

Second Tuesday of the month from September to May. If you have a suggestion for a Nature Night presentation, contact Pam Meyers at pmeyers@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 ext. 130.

FREE and open to the public!

Forty Years of Change: A Seabird Responds to a Melting Arctic with George Divoky

Tuesday, March 10 • 7pm Heron Hall

Every summer since 1975, Dr. George Divoky has camped on Cooper Island, a remote site off the northern tip of Alaska, to examine the breeding biology of Black Guillemots. His work chronicles the guillemots' struggles in a rapidly changing environment, and his findings foreshadow the types of change that may occur at lower latitudes as climate change continues. Join Dr. Divoky on the 40th anniversary of the start of his Cooper Island work for a presentation about his research and guillemot natural history.



George Divoky © Will Rose



Black Guillemot males strutting © Joe McNally

The Black Guillemot, one of the Arctic's few resident seabirds, has a number of life history characteristics that make it an ideal indicator of Arctic change. Unlike most of the millions of seabirds visiting the Arctic to breed in summer, Black Guillemots in the western Arctic undertake only a limited migration and are able to exploit arctic habitats throughout the year.

While focused on a single seabird species, Divoky's research has documented rapid change in a major marine ecosystem that has affected everything from zooplankton to polar bears. What started as a two-year examination of seabird breeding biology turned into a four-decade study that continues today, chronicling the disruptions and changes occurring in the Arctic from increasing temperatures and decreasing snow and ice.

At his Nature Night presentation, Dr. Divoky will also share stories about what it takes to learn to "speak bird" in the field, how to deal with rampaging polar bears in camp, and the efforts required to maintain field research for such an extended time period.

Dr. George Divoky, currently Director of the nonprofit Friends of Cooper Island, has studied seabirds in arctic Alaska since 1970; he has been involved in Alaskan seabird research relating to a diverse group of conservation issues ranging from native land claims, to oil and gas, to regional climate change. Since 1975, his continuing study of Black Guillemots on Cooper Island has provided some of the first evidence of the biological consequences of climate change in the Arctic. Dr. Divoky was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and has Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Michigan State University and a doctorate from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. When not in the field he lives in Seattle, Washington. Find out more about Dr. Divoky's work at the Friends of Cooper Island website, cooperisland.org

California Condors in the Pacific Northwest with Jesse D'Elia

Tuesday, April 14
7pm Heron Hall

Imagine California Condors once again soaring in Oregon's skies! Although we think of them as living in the wild only to the south, California Condors were observed in the Columbia Gorge and along the Oregon coast during the time of Lewis and Clark's explorations. But did they actually breed in Oregon? What conditions would be required to allow their return to the wild here?

California Condors are a remarkable example of a species that was rescued from the very brink of extinction. Recovery efforts have greatly improved the condor's situation since its low point in the 1980s, when only 22 individuals remained. Yet, significant challenges remain and, until recently, little attention has been paid to the northern half of the species' historical range and its importance to condor recovery.

Join biologist Dr. Jesse D'Elia, the lead author of *California Condors in the Pacific Northwest*, for this Nature Night talk and book signing as he explores the colorful history of California Condors in the Pacific Northwest, the Herculean conservation efforts that saved the condor from being yet another entry in the extinction ledger, and prospects for future reintroduction of this iconic bird to its northern range.

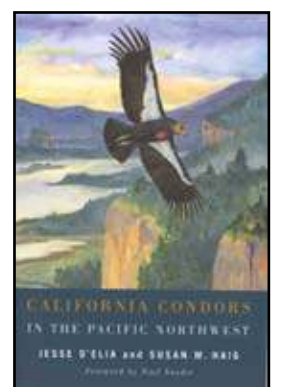
Dr. Jesse D'Elia is a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Regional Office in Portland, Oregon. He works on a wide array of endangered species issues and recently completed his Ph.D. in Wildlife Science at Oregon State University where his research integrated information from the fields of history, molecular ecology, and spatial modeling to inform California Condor reintroduction planning. *California Condors in the Pacific Northwest*, co-authored with Dr. Susan Haig, was published by Oregon State University Press in 2013.



California Condor at Big Sur © Jesse D'Elia




Jesse D'Elia © Courtney D'Elia




Audubon Outings — Wild in the City and Beyond

Bring binoculars and dress for the weather — beginners welcome!

 = Mostly weekday excursions

 = Sign-up needed

 = Fee involved

March 7 (Sat), 8am–12pm Rentenaar Rd, Sauvie Island

 \$

Join **Ron Escano** for a waterfowl and winter sparrow adventure on Sauvie Island. Meet 8am at Eastside Check Station parking lot on the corner of Reeder and Rentenaar Rds. We will walk Rentenaar Rd and back (1.6 miles round trip). **All vehicles will need a Sauvie Island parking permit.** From the Sauvie Island bridge take Sauvie Island Rd north 2 miles to the intersection with Reeder Rd. Turn right on Reeder and continue north 9 miles to the Eastside Check Station and Rentenaar Rd on the left (allow 25 minutes to drive from the bridge to the check station). **Registration required** with Ron at 503-771-3454.

March 14 (Sat), 8am–11am Oaks Bottom

Join **Patty Newland** and **Candace Larson** for a bird walk around Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge in SE Portland. We'll explore wetlands and woodlands, talk about the history of this amazing wild space, and look for resident songbirds and wintering waterfowl. Meet at the Sellwood Park parking lot on SE 7th at Malden St at 8am sharp. Expect to walk 2–3 miles on both paved and uneven dirt trails. Rain or shine; no sign-up needed. Questions: 503-231-0933.

March 27 (Fri), 8am–10:30am Whitaker Ponds



Join **Dena Turner** and **Mary Ratcliff** for a bird walk at Whitaker Ponds, a hidden urban oasis in NE Portland. We will explore the pond and surrounding forest looking for ducks, songbirds, eagles, and owls. Park inside the gated area at the Ponds, 7040 NE 47th Ave. Questions: Mary at 503-750-9133.

April 3, (Fri) 8am–10am Whitaker Ponds

Please join **Patty Newland** for a bird walk at Whitaker 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. Rain or shine; no sign-up needed. Questions: 503-231-0933.

April 3 (Fri), 8am–10:30am Tualatin Hills Nature Park

Join **Dena Turner** and **Bonnie Deneke** for a bird walk at Tualatin Hills Nature Park in Beaverton. We will listen for song birds, hawks, and Virginia Rails. Take Sunset Hwy (26) to the SW Murray Blvd exit. Travel left (south) on Murray two miles to SW Millikan Way, and go right (west) on Millikan one mile to Tualatin Hills Nature Park on the right. Meet at the trailhead by the building. Questions: Bonnie at 503-644-7335.

April 4, (Sat), 8am–11am Powell Butte Nature Park

Join **Ron Escano** for a walk exploring the unique habitats of Powell Butte. We will be looking for early spring vagrants like Say's Phoebe and Townsend's Solitaire. Meet at the parking lot at the top of the butte (park entrance is SE 162nd off Powell Blvd). **Registration required** with Ron at 503-771-3454.

April 11 (Sat), 7am–2pm Search for Sooty Grouse in the Coast Range

Join **Stefan Schlick** 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. We may be hiking steep trails for up to 2 miles so wear sturdy boots. Trip limited to 12 people. **Registration required** with Stefan at greenfant@hotmail.com.

April 26 (Sun), 8am–11am Cooper Mountain Botany, Birds, and Butterflies

Join **Bonnie Deneke**, **Sue Carr**, and **Dan van den Broek** to observe the spring flowers, migrating and resident birds, and various butterflies (and possibly dragonflies) that are found on Cooper Mountain. Please note that Cooper Mountain has steep terrain. From the north take Murray Blvd south to Weir Rd and turn right (west). Continue up the hill and turn right at the top of the hill and then left on Kemmer Rd. After the four-way stop, continue on Kemmer Road to the top of the hill. The park is at your left at 18892 SW Kemmer Road. Walk limited to 15 people. **Registration required** with Bonnie at 503-644-7335.

April 29 (Wed), 8:30am–3pm Tillamook Bay

Meet **Dick Demarest** and **Ken Chamberlain** at 8:30am at the Safeway parking lot at the corner of 4th St and Stillwell in Tillamook. We will be looking for Wrentit, shorebirds, raptors, and early spring migrants. We expect to bird from Barview Jetty to Bayocean Spit, so bring lunch. Trip limited to 16 people. **Registration required** with Dick at rdd@demarests.com or 503-407-7912.

June 2–5 (Tues–Fri) Malheur NWR

Bird southeast Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge with **Shawn Schmelzer** and **Mike Kaufman**. We will stay in the Malheur Field Station where you supply your own bedding (estimate cost \$250 per person). Prearranged carpools will depart Portland at 8am June 2nd and return June 5th. **Registration required** with Shawn at shawnbirder@yahoo.com or 503-226-2523, or contact him for more information.

Join Our Flock — Become a Member!

Your membership dollars support our Conservation, Education, and Wildlife Rehabilitation Programs! **Memberships help us protect native birds and their habitats, and come with perks** such as discounts on classes, camps, and trips, and in our Nature Store.

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. Or you can **join in the Nature Store** — or call us and we'll help you directly. And if you give a Gift Membership, we will send a card notifying the new member of your gift.

For any membership questions, please contact **Pam Meyers** at pmeyers@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855.

Bird Song Walks 2015

7 a.m. Mon–Fri, various locations: **FREE!**

Audubon Society of Portland is proud to sponsor the 2015 season of weekday-morning Bird Song Walks! From 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. By starting with the earliest trips you can become familiar with the songs of the common resident species and then keep pace with the migrants as they arrive.

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.

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.



Lazuli Bunting © Jim Cruce

Wednesdays

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13, 20, 27

Mt. Tabor Park

Leaders: Gerard Lillie and Tom McNamara

From SE Belmont, go south on SE 69th two short blocks. Just into the park, turn right and drive as far as possible to gate, and park along street. Mt. Tabor Park is closed to vehicle traffic on Wednesdays, so be sure to use this entrance. [TriMet bus #15 stops at SE 69th & 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 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7, 14, 21, 28

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 the well-marked signs through the neighborhood for another 0.7 mile, and meet at the Pittock parking lot. [TriMet bus #20 stop #687 at W Burnside & NW Barnes is closest stop.] More at pittockmansion.org.

Fridays

April 10, 17, 24 (no walk April 3) and May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Camassia Preserve

Leader: Jackie Wilson

Drive S from Portland on Hwy 43 (SW Macadam Ave) through Lake Oswego to West Linn — OR drive S from Portland on I-205 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 at nature.org.

Note New Day of Week for This Location!

Note New Day of Week for This Location!

Mondays

April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 11, 18, 25

Tryon Creek State Park

Leaders: Rick and Stephanie Wagner

11321 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, about 1 mile ahead on the right. Meet at the Nature Center. More at tryonfriends.org.

Tuesdays

April 7, 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 12, 19, 26

Cooper Mountain Nature Park

Leaders: Bonnie Deneke

18892 SW Kemmer Rd, Beaverton, OR 97007. Please be aware that Cooper Mountain has steep terrain. Directions: **From Highway 217**, take the Scholls Ferry Rd exit and head west on Scholls Ferry 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 will become Gassner Rd), turn left on 190th 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 thprd.org.



Port of Portland's Terminal 6 docking area for proposed propane facility on the right, with West Hayden Island in background © Bob Sallinger

Propane in Portland: Putting our Environment, Communities, and Jobs at Risk

by Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon, and Jasmine Zimmer-Stuckey, Columbia Riverkeeper

On January 13, more than 200 people turned out at a Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) Hearing to oppose a new proposed propane export facility that Pembina Pipeline Corp of Alberta, Canada wants to construct at the Port of Portland's Terminal 6 (T-6) along the Columbia River. The PSC is considering whether to amend environmental zones at T-6 to accommodate the new facility — a “no” vote by the PSC would make construction impossible. After several hours, testimony was cut off and the hearing was continued to March 17.

A broad coalition of organizations that includes Portland Audubon, Columbia Riverkeeper, 350PDX, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 8, and neighborhood associations has organized to oppose this facility. **We will need the help of our members to send a strong message at the March 17 hearing that the community does not want Portland to add to the vast network of facilities exporting fossil fuels to Asia.** Here is why Portland should be concerned:

Pembina: One of Portland's Biggest Carbon Sources

Pembina Pipeline Corp is one of Canada's largest transporters of fossil fuels from the Tar Sands and the Alberta Sedimentary Basin. It is proposing to build one of the largest propane export facilities in North America at the Port of Portland's Terminal 6. The propane, a byproduct of natural gas fracking, would be transported from Canada to Portland by rail, held at the T-6 facility, and then exported by ship to Asia. The proposed facility would have capacity to hold up to 33.6 million gallons of propane at one time, and Pembina has stated that it hopes to double the capacity in the future. Mile-long unit trains carrying propane would pass through local neighborhoods approximately every 1.5 days, and ships bound for Asia would depart several times per month.

The facility, which would export between 552–828 million gallons per year, would result in measurable increases in CO2 emissions at the local and global scales. The electricity required to cool the T-6 facility would increase Portland's

CO2 emissions by 0.7%, and the CO2 emitted by burning the propane in Asia would increase global CO2 emissions by 0.01%. These stunning figures still don't account for the carbon emissions resulting from the extraction, refining, and transport of propane or Pembina's stated plans to double export capacity.

The Pembina proposal threatens Portland's ability to meet its own carbon goals and maintain its role as a national leader in carbon reduction policies. In 2009, Portland and Multnomah County adopted an admirable plan to achieve a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030, and an 80% reduction by 2050. In December 2014, Portland was recognized as a Climate Action Champion by the White House for its regional climate leadership and for taking decisive action to combat climate change. Approval of Pembina's propane export terminal will put that reputation at risk along with the many advantages that come with it.

Portland in the Blast Zone

The Pembina proposal has been public since September 2014 and was quietly in the works for months prior to September. The City has already held one hearing and another is scheduled for March. However, despite repeated requests from the community and the City, Pembina has not yet produced any information regarding public safety issues of fundamental concern to the community such as blast radius if a storage tank exploded and safety during transport by ship and rail.

Analysis conducted by local engineers using federal government modeling programs indicates that blast zone for this facility could include neighborhoods on Hayden Island and North Portland as well as some of the City's most important natural areas on West Hayden Island and at Smith and Bybee Lakes. Neighborhoods would also be put at risk from explosions from the unit trains which would pass by every 1.5 days. Pembina has indicated to the community that its analysis of risk from facility explosions will not be available until March, too late for meaningful notice and comment for the March 17 hearing, and that it will not provide any analysis of the threat from train explosions.

Clogging Rail Lines, Harming Local Jobs

Across the nation, but especially in agricultural economies like Oregon, existing industries are suffering from an overload of unit trains of fossil fuels clogging already near-capacity railroads. In 2014 national news outlets including *Bloomberg News*, the *New York Times*, and the *Seattle Times* ran in-depth stories describing the harm unit trains of fossil fuels caused to grain, perishable goods, and container traffic. Grain and container traffic account for a significant amount of the work that occurs at the Port of Portland.

In addition, the proposed 60-acre Pembina facility will create a total of only 35–40 permanent jobs on more than 60 acres of valuable waterfront land that should provide many times that number. At a time when Portland has identified lack of riverfront industrial lands for job creation as its single biggest land deficit, it should not be considering one of its largest remaining developable sites for a facility that will generate just over an anemic half job per acre.

Restricting Recreational Access to the Columbia River

Because of the hazards associated with propane, the Coast Guard could require security zones around ships while they are in Port or traveling on the Columbia. These security zones can extend up to 500 yards while the ships are moving, seriously disrupting the Columbia River to recreation activity and other commerce for 4–6 days per month. If the facility doubles capacity as Pembina anticipates, this could double to 8–12 days per month.

GET INVOLVED! Contact Micah Meskel at mmeskel@audubonportland.org.

Grassland Bird Surveys on Sauvie Island

by Joe Liebezeit, Avian Conservation Program Manager

This spring the Audubon Society of Portland will embark on a new citizen science project conducting bird surveys at four Sauvie Island grassland sites in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). These sites are undergoing habitat restoration efforts intended to move them more toward historic prairie habitat that is attractive to breeding grassland bird species. This project will help determine if native grassland bird species benefit from these restoration efforts, including species of conservation concern in Oregon like the Western Meadowlark and the Streaked Horned Lark, which was recently listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Many grassland bird species across the U.S. are in trouble. Over the past 40 years, grassland birds have experienced steeper and more widespread population declines than any other bird group in North America. Populations of birds like Bobolink, Western Meadowlark, and Vesper Sparrow are spiraling downward and are now listed as sensitive species. These declines are the result of habitat loss, conversion to other land uses, and the suppression of ecosystem functions like naturally occurring prairie fires. The good news is that population decline for a number of grassland species have flattened out and stabilized in recent years. The 2014 State of the Birds report (stateofthebirds.org) reports this trend is

likely due to the significant investments made in grassland bird conservation over the past 20 years.

ODFW's Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Management Plan includes the goal to “...protect, enhance and manage upland habitats to benefit fish and wildlife species” including 2,230 acres of grassland/pasture habitat. In 2009 Audubon served on a task force created by ODFW to identify specific grassland restoration sites and since 2009, four sites have been transformed to grasslands via vegetation removal and a regimen of mowing and rotational grazing. Restoration is ongoing and insufficient funds have hampered efforts to implement wide-scale plantings of native plants or using other methods, such as prescribed burns, that could accelerate the habitat restoration.

One of the grassland units contains the type of sparsely vegetated grassland habitat that could offer attractive breeding habitat for the recently ESA-listed Streaked Horned Lark. There have been no definitive reports of Streaked Horned Larks at this site but there is interest in using audio attractant techniques to help entice them in future years. There is no plan to initiate such an effort this coming season, but Audubon volunteers will be out at this site keeping an eye (and ear) out for this threatened species.



Western Meadowlark © Jim Cruce

Portland Audubon volunteers will be conducting “line-transect” surveys of grassland bird species in each of the four Sauvie Island grasslands. With this method, you simply walk slowly along a pre-determined path and count the birds you see along the way. Volunteers with less experience identifying birds can still participate by scribing data for the counters as we work in teams. The surveys will start in April.

Sauvie Island contains some of the most valued natural areas in Portland's backyard, providing easy access for wildlife enthusiasts to experience thriving wildlife. As many as 150,000 waterfowl winter on the island and much of the land is dedicated for wildlife protection. If you are interested in participating in the grassland bird project, contact Joe Liebezeit at jliebezeit@audubonportland.org. To learn more about our citizen science program visit audubonportland.org/issues/citizen-science.

Double-crested Cormorants on East Sand Island

Continued from page 1

thousands of nests by oiling the eggs. This action perpetuates a sad pattern by the Corps of scapegoating fish-eating birds for salmon declines while failing to adequately address the primary causes: dams and habitat loss.

The Audubon Society of Portland strongly opposes this plan and will use all resources available to it, including litigation, to prevent the plan from being implemented. "We are deeply disappointed that the federal government has chosen to move forward with the wanton slaughter of thousands of protected birds," said Audubon Society of Portland conservation director Bob Sallinger. "This plan will result in the deaths of thousands of birds and place western populations of Double-crested Cormorants in jeopardy, but do little or nothing to recover threatened salmon populations."

Portland Audubon believes that the Corps should focus on the primary causes of salmon declines — including management of the federal hydropower system dams, habitat loss, and hatchery fish — rather than scapegoating wild birds. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been tied up in litigation for over a decade, and courts have repeatedly ruled against the Corps due to its ongoing failure to address the impacts of dams on salmon.

In addition, the science on which the FEIS is based is remarkably weak, both in terms of documenting the impacts of cormorants on wild salmon and in terms of predicting the benefits of the proposed lethal control on salmon recovery. Finally, the proposed lethal control could have significant impacts on western populations of Double-crested Cormorants. The proposed killing represents 15% of the Double-crested Cormorant population west of the Rocky Mountains. These populations in the west are an order of magnitude smaller than they were a century

ago, and the only place in the west where Double-crested Cormorant populations have seen significant increases in recent decades is on East Sand Island.

The Audubon Society of Portland has been engaged with protecting birds on East Sand Island for more than a decade. The island is internationally recognized as an Important Bird Area and is home to the largest colony of Caspian Terns in the world, the largest colony of Double-crested Cormorants in the western United States, and the largest Brown Pelican post-breeding roost on the West Coast. Portland Audubon is committed to the recovery of federally listed salmon, but supports science-based strategies that address the primary causes of decline — not the wonton slaughter of fish-eating birds for simply doing what comes naturally.

View the Final Environmental Impact Statement at www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Current/CormorantEIS.aspx

Take Action

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be accepting comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement



Double-crested Cormorant colony on East Sand Island © Joe Liebezit

through March 16. A Final Record of Decision will be released shortly thereafter. Implementation of the plan is expected in the spring of 2015. Comments can be submitted to cormorant-eis@usace.army.mil.

More Information

For more information, visit our East Sand Island webpage at audubonportland.org/issues/habitat/sand-island, or contact Audubon Society of Portland conservation director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@audubonportland.org.

Conservation Successes for Portland's Park, Trails, and Natural Areas

Thanks in part to the Audubon Society of Portland's advocacy, 2014 was a big year for improving access to parks and nature in Portland. In November, 71% of Portland voters elected to renew the Portland Parks Bond. The renewed bond will provide \$68 million to repair aging play areas, pools, natural area trails and bridges, restrooms, and more, enhancing access for all.

Meanwhile, funding from park System Development Charges (SDCs), the fees charged to new development in order to pay for parks, are also on the rise. A significant portion of this increase can be attributed directly to the successful efforts to increase SDCs back in 2009 by Portland Audubon and other park advocates. As the housing market has recovered during the last 6 years, Portland's park SDC program has raised over \$50 million for new park acquisition and development in Portland.



Peninsula Park © Jim Labbe

The past 2 years these funds helped to improve access in neighborhoods historically underserved by parks and to protect natural areas critical for habitat and water quality. For example, this past year, Park SDC funds helped acquire 390-acre Riverview Natural Area, 85-acre Colwood Golf Course along the Columbia Slough, and several smaller parcels, including over 32 acres of new parkland in East Portland. Park SDC funds were also committed to making improvements to Thomas Cully Park in Cully Neighborhood and Gateway Plaza, Beech Park, and Clatsop Butte Parks in East Portland.

There remain significant needs in Portland's Park System in order to address inequities and keep up with population growth, but thanks to Audubon's advocacy, Portland has recently chosen to renew investments in its public parks, trails, and natural areas.

Do you live in Gresham? Love Natural gardening?

Residents of Gresham and Fairview can now join the Backyard Habitat Certification Program!

Participation includes a personalized site assessment, plus educational materials, 10 free native plants and discounts and incentives that will help you create a backyard where birds, insects and other wildlife thrive!

Learn More & Enroll today at: www.backyardhabitats.org

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is a collaborative effort of the Audubon Society of Portland and the Columbia Land Trust



Wildlife Care Center

Two Vultures Spend the Winter at the Wildlife Care Center

by Tinsley Hunsdorfer, Audubon Staff

Most of Oregon's Turkey Vultures are currently living the good life in California and Mexico, but the Audubon Society of Portland is hosting two young vultures that weren't able to journey south for the winter. The birds were injured in September, and while they're doing well now, they didn't recuperate in time to join the fall migration.

One of the vultures was admitted to our Wildlife Care Center with a collarbone fracture, likely the result of a car collision. The second vulture was originally taken in by the Turtle Ridge Wildlife Center after it suffered an impact injury that caused leg weakness; Turtle Ridge decided to transfer it to Audubon when they realized the bird would need to overwinter in Oregon. Turkey Vultures are very social animals, and in the wild the youngsters would be living with a group of vultures, so it's in their best interest to spend the winter together. Having a vulture companion also helps prevent them from becoming habituated to people.

The young birds will be released this spring when Turkey Vultures return to Oregon. Before heading back into the wild, they will need to demonstrate they are strong fliers



Young Turkey Vulture getting exam at Wildlife Care Center ©Tinsley Hunsdorfer

who can take off and land well. When they get closer to their target release date, the vultures will get to practice these skills in one of our large flight cages.

For now, the birds spend their days in the Wildlife Care Center's heated mews, eating plenty of good food like dead mice, fish, and quail. The vultures also receive regular checkups to make sure they are healthy and within their target weight range. Both are feisty, strong birds: good signs that suggest they'll be ready for release when Turkey Vultures wing their way back to Oregon for the summer.



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

Note: Auction CLOSES on MARCH 5 (Thur) at 9pm
View auction items and bid at paudubonauction.dojiggy.com

To help pay the costs of animal rehabilitation at Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center, we offer **unique experiences** in our 5th annual **Call of the Wild** auction, including:

Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Oregon Zoo Veterinary Medical Center.

Silent Glider Flight in 2-seater sailplane with commercial pilot **Gary Gross.**

Sandhill Crane Monitoring and Special Evening Picnic

Other auction items include **guided bird walks, field trips, nature hikes, a Raptor Release experience, weekend get-away homes, and more.** Please bid heartily and help wild animals at the Wildlife Care Center at paudubonauction.dojiggy.com.

Educational Trips

These trips are popular. We recommend that you book early.
Trip deposit required to secure your place on the trip.

Malheur Foray

May 27–31, 2015

Join us on a tour of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge located in remote and beautiful southeast Oregon. Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is a world-class birder's paradise. A variety of habitats, including extensive marshes, sagebrush flats, riparian thickets, and rimrock support a diversity of wildlife. Field birding and natural history are the focus of this exciting five-day program. We'll search for **Golden Eagle, Black-necked Stilt, White-faced Ibis** and **Prairie Falcon** as well as mammals such as Pronghorn, Coyote and Mule Deer that are among the wealth of wildlife found here. Our program is timed to coincide with peak migration and species diversity. Explore the vast refuge and surrounding areas, including the east side of Steens Mountain and the Alvord Desert. Be prepared for some wondrous sights, chilly nights and lots of birds. Contact Eric Scheuering at escheuering@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

Leaders: Patty Newland and Meg Ruby
Fee: \$795* members / \$995* non-members
Deposit: \$400 required to secure your place

ALASKA: THE LAST FRONTIER

June 7–18, 2015

Spaces remain!

Alaska is a land of superlatives and a must-visit destination for anyone keen on the natural history of North America. This trip will introduce you to some of the best of Alaska at a fun and relaxed pace.

We'll begin in Nome, surrounded by stunning scenery and incredible birding opportunities. Expect an exhilarating mix of the exotic and the familiar here: **Bluethroat** and **Eastern Yellow Wagtail** — Asian songbirds of the brushy tundra — breed next to White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows. **Harlequin Duck** and **Wandering Tattler** share their riparian breeding grounds with **Arctic Warbler**. Waterfowl and shorebirds seen only in migration farther south are devoted to full-time breeding activities.

During our five days in south-central Alaska we follow the Denali Highway across a landscape recently emerged from the ice age yet rich in bird life. **White-winged Crossbill, Boreal Chickadee,** and **Northern Hawk Owl** can be found in the spruce forests. Tundra ponds have nesting **Common** and **Red-throated Loon, Trumpeter Swan,** and ducks galore. Out on the low tundra we'll look for **Long-tailed Jaeger, Whimbrel** and **Smith's Longspur**. We'll travel by bus deep into Denali National Park for excellent chances of observing Grizzly Bear, Dall's Sheep, Caribou, and possibly even Gray Wolf.

The trip concludes in the rich maritime ecosystem of the Kenai Fjords National Park. On a full-day boat trip we'll look for **Red-faced Cormorant, Kittlitz's Murrelet** and **Thick-billed Murre** among the thousands of **Black-legged Kittiwakes** and **Tufted** and **Horned Puffins**. Our boat will give us the chance to see Sea Otter, the toes of tidewater glaciers, and Humpback Whale and Orca. Contact Eric Scheuering at escheuering@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

Leaders: Eric Scheuering, Adult Education Programs Manager, and Joe Liebezeit, Avian Conservation Program Manager
Fee: \$3995* members / \$4295* non-members
Deposit: \$2000 required to secure your place

ALASKA: BARROW EXTENSION

June 18–21, 2015

Barrow, the farthest north municipality in the United States, is roughly 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle and 1200 miles from the North Pole. This time of year the tundra is alive and teeming with shorebirds, ducks, and geese busily beginning their nesting cycle. **Red Phalaropes** seem to occupy every melt-water pond and **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** stand on hummocks flashing their white underwings in the midnight sun. **Pectoral Sandpipers** cruise their territory perimeters booming an unearthly sound and **Pomarine Jaegers** streak across the tundra.

Searching the tundra we may find **Common** and **King Eider** as well as the very rare **Spectacled** and **Steller's Eider**. We might turn up **four species of loon: Yellow-billed, Arctic, Pacific,** and **Red-throated**. And with luck we'll find **Snowy Owls** nesting near town. With constant daylight the pace of activity among the birds is frenetic and every day brings new possibilities. Contact Eric Scheuering at escheuering@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

Fee: \$1195* members / \$1395* non-members
Deposit: \$600 required to secure your place

A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible donation to the Audubon Society of Portland. View more International and Domestic trips at www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult. Portland Audubon's International Tours now include a Carbon Offset contribution that will go directly for the stewardship of our 150-acre Forest Park Nature Sanctuary. A flat fee of \$50 per person is included in the cost of these tours and will be used to maintain our trails, plant trees to help grow our native canopy, and sustain this special place for future generations. Thank you. Portland Audubon tours are a lot of things, but one thing they are not are photographic tours... so please, no lens over 400mm unless approved beforehand by trip leader.

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

August 16–23, 2015

Monsoons from Mexico bring spring-like conditions to the mountains of Arizona in mid-summer, and birds will be active and singing as they take advantage of the abundance of food and the respite from the desert heat. We'll search for many sought-after species such as **Gray Hawk, Vermillion Flycatcher, Painted Redstart, Greater Pewee, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher,** and **Grace's Warbler**. While in the desert we'll find birds such as **Verdin, Curve-billed Thrasher,** and **Cactus Wren**. This is also the best time of year to see up to 14 species of hummingbirds.

Our destinations will include the **Chiricahua Mountains, Ramsey Canyon, Patagonia-Sonoita Creek,** the **San Pedro Riparian Conservation Area,** and **Madera Canyon**. The avifauna of southeastern Arizona has an amazing variety of species at the northern limits of their range. We'll enjoy the challenge of searching for some of these primarily Mexican species as we stay at comfortable accommodations, strategically located to provide access to incredible places. Contact Dan van den Broek at dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105.

Leader: Dan van den Broek, Trip Leader and Educator
Fee: \$1995* members / \$2195* non-members
Deposit: \$1000 required to secure your place



European Honey Buzzard.
Photo: Andreas Trepte

SOUTHERN SPAIN

September 13–26, 2015

Enjoy the pleasant days of autumn on the Mediterranean coast and in the mountains of southern Spain. This trip to Andalucía is the ideal time to experience European fall migration, as birds funnel down the Iberian Peninsula and congregate over the coast of Trafalgar before crossing the Strait of Gibraltar to continue their journey southward into Africa. As we travel through this ancient land we will come across remains of Roman camps and Phoenician settlements as we search for birds and wildlife. We'll marvel at Moorish architecture and 15th century churches and explore time-honored villages where Spanish folk songs echo down narrow corridors and inspire soulful flamenco dances.

We begin our trip in the Coto Doñana National Park, where the delta of the Guadalquivir River forms the largest wetland in Europe. This ecosystem is home to a wide array of sought-after birds such as **Greater Flamingo, White-headed Duck, Spanish Imperial Eagle** and **Azure-winged Magpie**.

Heading south along the Trafalgar coast to the fishing village of Tarifa we will visit nearby hilltops to enjoy distant views of Africa and await the passage of migratory birds. If the winds are in our favor, we may see thousands of migratory **European Honey Buzzards** with lesser numbers of **Egyptian Vultures, Black Kites, Marsh and Montagu's Harriers, Short-toed** and **Booted Eagles,** and both **Black** and **White Storks**. There is even a chance to see the rare **Rüppell's Vulture,** a predominantly African species. Many passerines will be moving through as well, including **European Bee-eater, Hoopoe,** and **Western Yellow Wagtail** to name a few.

We will make a stop at the British enclave of Gibraltar where we will enjoy the views from this famous limestone monolith and look for the Barbary Macaque, the only wild primate on the European continent.

Winding north along the Mediterranean we will reach the bucolic setting of Ronda with white-washed buildings, dramatic gorges, limestone karst and cork oak woodland. While here we will search for the noble Spanish Ibex and avian treasures such as **Blue Rock Thrush, Black-eared Wheatear** and **Iberian Grey Shrike**.

Our trip ends in the city of Granada where the famous Moorish castle, the Alhambra, was built in the 11th century. We will be sure to explore the Alhambra and take time to wander this beautiful city. We will also visit Sierra Nevada National Park where the Guadalquivir headwaters begin in these 11,000-foot peaks.

Join Portland Audubon on this exotic trip to the Mediterranean where pastoral getaways and the elegance of a sun-drenched landscape blend with the unique cultural heritage of Spain. Contact Dan at dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105.

Leaders: Dan van den Broek, Trip Leader and Educator, and Stefan Schlick, Trip Leader
Fee: \$3995* members / \$4295* non-members
Deposit: \$2000 required to secure your place

COMING SOON!

See Natural History Ecotours insert for more information on Jamaica and other upcoming trips.

Jamaica

January 16–24, 2016

Fee: \$2795 members / \$3095 non-members

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

HOW TO REGISTER Choose one of 3 ways to register for Adult Classes:

1. Register and pay online: Visit class description at www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult and follow registration link.

OR: Contact Eric Scheuering via phone or email to be put on the roster. If class has limited enrollment, wait for confirmation and then...

2. Mail in your check: Make payable to Audubon Society of Portland. Include with payment: class name, your name(s) and, if this is your first class with us, your full contact information.

3. Credit card payment: Call Eric Scheuering (971-222-6119) or our Nature Store (503-292-WILD) to pay over phone. We accept VISA, MasterCard, and Discover (3% fee charged).

Contact Eric Scheuering, Adult Education Programs Director, at escheuering@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

Check our website for upcoming classes not listed here!
audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes

Waterfowl I.D. for Beginners: Mallards to Wood Ducks

March 4 (Wed), 7pm–8:30pm: Class at Leach Garden Manor House, 6704 SE 122nd Ave.

March 7 & 14 (Sat), 9am–12pm: Local Field Trips

The Willamette Valley is home to more than 25 species of waterfowl. Join **Laura Whittemore** and learn how to identify some of the more common waterfowl species using shape, plumage, habits, and habitat as guides.

Class with Field Trips, limited to 14 participants:

\$45 members / \$60 non-members

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

Snags in Your Backyard: Creating Wildlife Habitat

March 12 (Thur), 7pm–8:30pm:

Class in Heron Hall

Attract more wildlife to your yard by providing additional nesting, roosting, and hibernation sites. Certified arborist **Brian French** will describe the importance of snags to wildlife and talk about the logistics of creating snags in urban and residential environments. Come find out how to add more diversity to your backyard.

Fee: Suggested donation \$10. No pre-registration required.

The Art of Illustrating Insects

March 18, 25, April 1 & 15 (Wed – no class on April 8), 6:30pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall

We're pleased to offer this popular class again, this time in an expanded 4-class format! This workshop will focus on the scientific illustration of insects with an emphasis on conveying anatomical structure and creating aesthetically pleasing images. Practice drawing techniques with nature illustrator **Stacey (Zebith) Thalden**, MFA, as you work toward a finished piece.

Fee: \$95 members / \$115 non-members (includes \$15 for supplies)

Limited to 12 participants. 10 minimum.

Beginning Birding 2

March 21 & 28 (Sat), 8am–12pm: Local Field Trips

April 4 (Sat), 8am–4pm: Field Trip, transport provided

Take your new birding skills to the next level with **Laura Whittemore**.

This class is designed for those wanting more time in the field improving their birding abilities. Practice your ID skills under Laura's patient tutelage on two morning field trips to local sites and one all-day field trip.

Fee: \$100 members / \$120 non-members

Limited to 14 participants.

Little Brown Birds

March 26 (Thur), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall

March 28 (Sat), 8am–12pm: Local Field Trip

At first all those little brown birds flitting through the brush look alike, but with practice learn to recognize the great variety of sparrows, finches, and wrens found in the area. Local author and guide **John Rakestraw** will help you learn field marks and behaviors that make all these birds unique.

Class with Field Trips, limited to 14 participants: \$35 members / \$50 non-members

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

Sketching Birds: Get the Gesture!

April 4 (Sat), 10am–3pm: Class in Heron Hall

Different from the exacting details of illustration, this approach is about getting just enough on the paper. Working with graphite, pen, and simple watercolor, and drawing live birds, specimens, and photos, practice easy ways to record birds in your journals with artist and author **Jude Siegel**. No art experience needed, just enthusiasm!

Fee: \$40 members / \$60 non-members

Limited to 16 participants.

Birding By Ear

with Laura Whittemore

Learn to identify birds by their songs! Begin developing this enjoyable and important birdwatching skill. Three field trips provide the opportunity for repetition, repetition, repetition!

Fee per session: \$90 members / \$120 non-members

Each class limited to 14 participants.

Birding By Ear – Resident Birds (Session A)

April 8 and 21 (Wed/Tue), 7pm–9pm: Class

April 11, 18, 25 (Sat), 7am–10am: Field Trips

Birding By Ear – Resident Birds (Session B)

April 9 and 23 (Thur), 7pm–9pm: Class

April 12, 19, 26 (Sun), 7am–10am: Field Trips

Birding By Ear – Migrant Birds

May 6 and 20 (Wed), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall

May 9, 16, 23 (Sat), 7am–10am: Field Trips

Warblers & Flycatchers

Apr 24 (Fri), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall

Apr 25 (Sat), 7am–11am: Local Field Trip

This class will focus on two groups notorious for giving birders a bewildered stare: warblers and flycatchers. Local author and guide **John Rakestraw** will show you how to identify them by sight, sound, posture, and performance. The field trip will visit a local migrant hotspot to solidify your new skills.

Class with Field Trip, limited to 14 participants:

\$35 members / \$50 non-members

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

Amphibians of the Pacific Northwest

May 3 (Sun), 10am–1pm: Class in Heron Hall and Audubon Sanctuary

Over 30 species of amphibians inhabit the Pacific Northwest, and **Dr. Ivan Phillipson** will introduce you to the basics of their fascinating world. Discover the species you find in your backyard and beyond with tips on identifying species and appreciating amphibians in their natural habitats.

Fee: \$25 members / \$35 non-members

Limited to 14 participants.

Register now for both Spring & Summer Camps!

Spring Break Camp 2015 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.

MONDAY, MARCH 23 – FRIDAY, MARCH 27			THURSDAY, MARCH 26	FRIDAY, MARCH 27
<p>Tails of the Forest: Mammals (Mon), Raptors (Tues), Amphibians (Wed), Birds (Thur), Habitats (Fri) 1st grade</p> <p>Pick and choose between one and five days based on the day's theme (to suit your family schedule) as you learn about the tails of the forest. Each day we will focus on a different theme as we tell tales about animals, play animal games, and make art projects inspired by what you learn. We will be sure to spend lots of time in Audubon's wildlife sanctuary searching for bushy squirrel tails, slippery newt tails, and spiky woodpecker tails.</p> <p>All 5 days: \$240 member/ \$260 non-member Single days: \$60 member/ \$70 non-member</p>			<p>Reptile Road Trip 2nd–3rd grade</p> <p>This camp will be like a journey back through time to the era when Mega-Reptiles ruled the earth. You'll travel to Brad's World of Reptiles in Corvallis, Oregon where you'll get to see and handle some of the largest reptiles in the world. Help hold (with at least 12 other kids) a 15-ft-long python. Pet a giant Snapping Turtle while expert handlers hold it, and see a massive King Cobra. Learn the threats facing these impressive creatures and what can be done to save them.</p> <p>Fee: \$65 member/ \$75 non-member Leader: Tim Donner, Naturalist-Educator</p>	<p>Wild Art Adventure 2nd–3rd grade</p> <p>Spend a day exploring the forest, pond, and trails surrounding Portland Audubon and let your creativity run wild! We will build natural sculptures and collect forest materials to craft fantastic art creations. Come join us while we paint, draw, construct, and adventure to our heart's content!</p> <p>Fee: \$60 member/ \$70 non-member Leader: Laura Newton, Naturalist-Educator</p>
MONDAY, MARCH 23	TUESDAY, MARCH 24	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25		
<p>The Art of Invisibility 2nd–3rd grade</p> <p>To ambush, to lie in wait, to surprise, and to hide in plain sight... these will be our goals as we use the Audubon Sanctuary to focus on the skill of disappearing. We'll sneak through the woods trying to stay undetected, play games that will help us hone our skill, and follow maps that lead to delicious bounty. Come with us for a sneaky fun adventure in the art of camouflage.</p> <p>Fee: \$60 member/ \$70 non-member Leader: Tim Donner, Naturalist-Educator</p>	<p>Birds of the Forest: Art 2nd–3rd grade</p> <p>Hike along forest trails that wind through woodpecker, owl, and songbird habitat. Use your observations of birds and their habitat to create boldly colorful, wildly imaginative drawings and sculptures using oil pastels, graphite, colored pencils, and clay.</p> <p>Fee: \$60 member/ \$70 non-member Leader: Susan Leeb, Art Instructor</p>	<p>Junior Wildlife Vet 101 2nd–3rd grade</p> <p>Join other animal lovers for a day devoted to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We'll go behind the scenes of Audubon's Wildlife Care Center with wildlife rehabilitators and find out what this exciting job is all about.</p> <p>Fee: \$60 member/ \$70 non-member</p>		
<p>Birding the Buttes 2nd–3rd grade</p> <p>Spend a day traveling to many of our local eastside mini-volcanos as we grab binoculars and hand lenses to learn about the geology of Portland's volcanic vents while searching out the birds that call these greenspaces home.</p> <p>Fee: \$65 member/ \$75 non-member Leader: Gladys Ruiz, Naturalist-Educator</p>	<p>Surf's Up 4th–8th grade</p> <p>Join Audubon's Educators on this day-long exploration of the coast. We'll discover the awesome animals that live in tidepools, explore a few caves, learn some cool geology, and find time to build a sandcastle or two. We guarantee that you'll learn more about the beach in one day than you thought possible, and that you'll have a blast doing it! Note: the camp returns at 5:00pm.</p> <p>Fee: \$65 member/ \$75 non-member Leaders: Laura Newton, Naturalist-Educator & Ian Abraham, Camp Director</p>	<p>Map, Compass & Beyond 4th–8th grade</p> <p>Come spend the day at Portland's scenic Mt Tabor Park to learn how to use a topographical map and compass. We'll discover the hidden art of field navigation as we learn how to interpret a topographic map and how to use a compass. Learn how to read contour lines, understand map scale, and orient a map to the surrounding landscape. Combined with compass skills, we will learn some tips and tricks on using your observation skills, awareness, and internal compass to help find your way. With treasure map in hand, your team will navigate to hidden treasures and clues on Portland's only extinct volcano. The search is on!</p> <p>Fee: \$65 member/ \$75 non-member Leader: Tim Donner, Naturalist-Educator</p>	<p>Coil Basketry 4th–8th grade</p> <p>Have you ever wanted to make something beautiful using all-natural materials? Learn to create an elegant basket, simply from ponderosa pine needles gathered from the forest floor! In this ancient art of basket making, pine needles are assembled into bunches and sewn in spiraling coils that gradually grow into a unique basket. Spend a day at Portland Audubon's wildlife sanctuary, adventuring through the forest, playing games, and of course, creating your very own basket to take home!</p> <p>Fee: \$60 member/ \$70 non-member Leader: Laura Newton, Naturalist-Educator</p>	<p>Junior Wildlife Vet 102 4th–8th grade</p> <p>Join other animal lovers for a day devoted to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We'll go behind the scenes of Audubon's Wildlife Care Center with wildlife rehabilitators and find out what this exciting job is all about.</p> <p>Fee: \$60 member/ \$70 non-member</p>

Keeping kids in touch with nature!

Field Notes

by Harry Nehls

Black-and-white Warbler Rare Migrant in Western Oregon

While birding along the nature trail in Kellogg Creek Park in Milwaukie January 7, Dena Turner and Marilyn Abend encountered an active flock of **Yellow-rumped** and **Townsend's Warblers** working the trees and bushes near the water treatment plant. They soon noticed a small bird creeping along the trunk and limbs of the larger trees. It was identified as a **Black-and-white Warbler**.

When reported, birders and other interested individuals flocked to the area to see this uncommon species. The city of Milwaukie had planned to remove the trees and bushes in that area January 12 so that new trees and bushes could be replanted before the next nesting season. But with so many people interested in seeing this bird they delayed the project to January 19.

Sightings

While the **Black-and-white Warbler** attracted the most attention, the two wintering **Clay-colored Sparrows** along Reiling Road north of Hillsboro were as easily relocated. This is another species which had expanded its range westward across Canada to Alaska and recently began nesting in northeastern Washington. It is also considered a rather rare but regular migrant and wintering species in Oregon. Most of its rarity however is caused by being overlooked or misidentified.

The wintering female **Yellow-breasted Sapsucker** along Vadis Road near North Plains is a true out of range rare bird. Because the sapsucker group is so mixed up genetically, though, this individual may not be a pure Yellow-breasted.

Although not much has been reported from the Columbia River in the Portland-Vancouver area this winter it is still producing interesting sightings. During January a **Pelagic Cormorant** was reported off Hayden Island. It was in the same area last winter. A pure male **Tufted Duck** was regularly seen this winter off Marine Park in Vancouver, and occasionally off Broughton Beach in northeast Portland. Up to four **Red-throated Loons** were also reported in the same section of the river.

With the mild open weather this winter many birds drifted about in areas where they were not expected. While looking for the warbler at Kellogg Creek Park January 11 Tim Spanish

Black-and-white Warbler.
Photo: William Majoros



Black-throated Gray Warbler. Photo: Steve Ryan

The **Black-and-white Warbler** is rather conspicuous as it hitches and creeps over and under the larger limbs and up and down the main trunk of the larger trees. It is often observed creeping upside down on the undersides of the tree limbs. The foraging habits of this species are rather unique for a warbler and more typical of a nuthatch.

The Black-and-white Warbler is one of a group of eastern species that have expanded their ranges westward across Canada into British Columbia and Alaska. In migration these birds migrate northward in spring east of the Rocky Mountains, then tend westward after reaching Canada. In the fall the route is reversed. While most of the birds use this route, a small number drift directly southward to migrate through Washington, Oregon and California.

In the western states this species is considered a rare but regular migrant, and occasional winter resident. Wintering birds usually remain in one area through the season and can be regularly resighted. The Milwaukie bird is a good example. There are numerous Oregon records of this species and California has many more. It is the most common of all of the so-called rare birds.

Though scarce, the Black-and-white Warbler is a species to look for in migration. Its plumage is similar to that of the **Black-throated Gray Warbler** and most likely many are misidentified as that species, though its unique foraging habits often give it away.

spotted a **Western Tanager** in the trees there. Char Corkran birding in the Tualatin River NWR January 6 found two **American Tree Sparrows**, a rather rare wintering species west of Cascades.

On January 25 Bob Flores heard and saw a singing **Wilson's Warbler** in his yard in Ridgefield. All it takes is a bit of sun and warm weather to get birds singing.

Dan van den Broek and Tim Janzen encountered a flock of a dozen **Great Egrets** January 29 along Sprague Road north of Molalla. Certainly an unexpected sighting. Also unexpected was the flock 40 **Snow Geese** Mary Anne Sohlstrom saw January 20 along I-5 near Brooks.

As usual the first spring migrants to arrive in the Portland area are the **Tree Swallows** and **Turkey Vultures**. So many vultures wintered in Oregon this winter, any spring arrivals were indicated by an increase in sightings during late January and early February.

Migrant **Tree Swallows** however were conspicuous. The earliest sighting was on January 31 when George Neavoll saw three at Ridgefield NWR. The next day Erik Knight saw several at the Tualatin River NWR. Steve Engel reported three at Jackson Bottom February 4. By that time a fair number were reported from the southern Willamette Valley.

Swarovski Digiscoping Seminar: Use Your Smartphone!

Saturday, April 25
10:30am to 12pm
Heron Hall

John Nicholson, our NW Territory Representative for **Swarovski Optik North America Ltd.**, will be back

at Audubon for a digiscoping workshop with a special focus on smartphone photography. He is a lifelong avid outdoorsman and amateur wildlife photographer who has perfected the simple secrets to getting great, highly magnified nature images using his smartphone paired with a binocular or spotting scope.

John will share his enthusiasm for this terrific way to quickly capture images and share them with friends. (Perhaps to get help with a puzzling ID question?) He claims, "Anybody can do this" and can't wait to show us how fun and easy it can be!

Though you don't need to have Swarovski equipment to attend this seminar, John will be demonstrating using his iPhone with the great new gear that Swarovski has developed to make smartphone digiscoping a snap. Bring along your own equipment. We can pair it with gear from the Nature Store. Following his talk we'll head outdoors in the Audubon Nature Sanctuary to practice the techniques we've just learned.

To preregister for the workshop, please contact Nancy Mattson at nmattson@audubonportland.org or call the Nature Store at 503-292-9453.



iPhone image of Double-crested Cormorant
© John Nicholson



John Nicholson (selfie)

Volunteer of the Month: Courtney Shannon

by Joe Liebezeit and Jim Labbe, Audubon Staff

We are excited to name **Courtney Shannon** as our Volunteer of the Month. Courtney has been helping Portland Audubon staff since 2011 with mapping needs when she was a student at Portland State University. Courtney is highly skilled in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), a computerized data management system used to display and analyze spatial information, an important tool in advancing Audubon's conservation goals. Courtney's first mapping project was "Regreening Portland from the Ground Up." The project's goal was to increase the amount of greenspaces (parks, natural areas, etc.) that were within a quarter-mile walk for most citizens, and the maps helped community leaders come up with different greenspace project ideas. More recently Courtney helped Audubon staff analyze the phone call data from the Wildlife Care Center. Mapping locations of reported urban wildlife events (e.g. avian building strikes, coyote sightings) helps better guide our outreach, response services, and conservation activities (see WCC blog at audubonportland.org/wcc/currentanimals/dec10-2014 for more about this project). Courtney also helped conduct a census-based analysis to approximate the demographic profile of Audubon Society of Portland's membership.

Over the past few months Courtney has been highly engaged in our Hayden Island Cat Project. In September she participated as a citizen scientist helping to conduct road-based surveys of the feral/stray cat population on Hayden Island as part of a joint effort with the Feral Cat

Coalition of Oregon to humanely reduce the free-roaming cat population on the island (go to audubonportland.org/issues/hazards/cats/hayden for more information). After the surveys were complete Courtney entered all of the data into GIS, helping us learn about the distribution patterns of free-roaming cats on the island.

Courtney grew up in the suburbs of New Jersey but has spent most of her adult years out West. Her lifelong interest in nature started when she watched American Goldfinches, Northern Cardinals, and Blue Jays visit the bird feeders in her parents' backyard. She was drawn to the work of Portland Audubon because she loved how the organization pursues both environmental conservation and community outreach. Prior to GIS work, Courtney studied nutrient cycling in bogs on Cape Cod and worked in environmental testing labs analyzing drinking water, wastewater, and soils in Colorado and Oregon. In her spare time she enjoys cooking, knitting, drawing, and hiking.

Courtney has enthusiastically donated many hours of her time on these projects and has tangibly contributed to the Audubon Society of Portland's conservation successes. We are very appreciative of her efforts and diligence on behalf of Portland Audubon. When we have a GIS need, Courtney is our "go-to" person!



Courtney Shannon
© Brian McCarthy

Thank You to:

- Jim Cruce for 84 professional wildlife photographs and a 2015 wildlife calendar
- James Kasameyer for 2 Canon 8x32 WP 7.5 binoculars & cases for the education program
- Megan Legernes for Kitten Growth Food for the Wildlife Care Center
- Leslie Mundt for 6 gallons of bleach and 3 large bags of frozen fruit for the Wildlife Care Center
- Deanna Sawtelle for 750 handmade Birthday & Thank You cards for the volunteer program

Our Wish List

- | | |
|--|---|
| For All Departments:
Ergonomic Office Chairs | For Wildlife Care Center:
Science Diet Kitten Growth Bleach |
| For Sanctuary:
Loppers
Hand saws
Work gloves | Dawn Dishwashing Detergent
Exam gloves (latex or latex-free)
Paper lunch bags |

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

Sanctuaries Happenings

Native Plant Sale 2015

by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

As I sit here in mid-February on the tail end of a week of 60-plus degrees and sunny, I cannot help but have the weather on my mind. While I am enjoying the massive influx of vitamin D in my system, I am also worrying a bit about our increasingly dry winters and the correspondingly low snow pack in the mountains. This weather is not good for our local flora and fauna, or for our water supply.

Of course I always hope for a nice sunny window of weather for our annual Native Plant Sale, because the sunny weather brings more people and more sales. This is good both for our fundraising efforts as well as for the local ecosystem; the more plants we sell, the more native plants get planted this spring.

As I consider the shifting weather patterns that we are experiencing, I think about the increasing importance of restoring and maintaining the health of our local ecosystems by ensuring that our local native plant communities remain intact. Our native plant communities provide an anchor for local wildlife and ecosystem function and provide a layer of resilience that benefits both wildlife and human residents alike.

And what better opportunity to source native plants for your home restoration project than at the Audubon Society of Portland's 19th annual **Native Plant Sale on Saturday & Sunday, April 11 & 12, 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 Everhart will once again provide her assiduously 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 you attract butterflies and hummingbirds. More comprehensive information on individual plants is posted above plants themselves, including photographs of the plant in bloom.

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

**Native Plant Sale
April 11 & 12
(Sat & Sun)
10am-4pm**



Staff member Greg Kurtz works on the plant sale with volunteers Jill Nelson-Debord, Gregg Everhart, and Jean Baecher Brown © Portland Audubon



They're here! © Portland Audubon

Also, in partnership with Oregon State University's Master Gardner Program, members of Portland Audubon's Sanctuaries Committee will be on hand to answer your questions about native plants, with information specifically geared toward:

- Why Native Plants Benefit Habitat
- How to Design a Native Plant Area
- Planting and Caring for Native Plants

Come get the big picture on nature-scaping, 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 Nature Store stocks a wonderful collection of books about native plants, wildlife, and nature-scaping. In addition, Audubon staff and volunteers will be on hand with information on our Backyard Habitat Certification Program.

Authors at Portland Audubon

Jon Young: "Why Bird Language?"

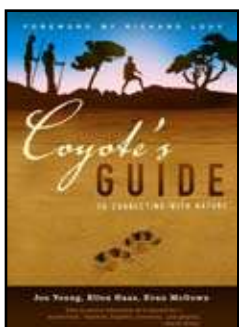
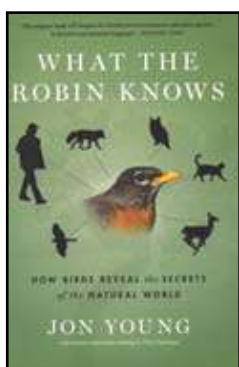
How Listening to the Language of Birds Awakens Nature Awareness

March 5 (Thur), 7pm

Famed tracker and author **Jon Young** gives a free public presentation in Heron Hall at 7:00pm on Thursday, March 5 on his book **What the Robin Knows: How Birds Reveal the Secrets of the Natural World** (Mariner Books, \$14.95). Learn how to interpret the behavior and sounds of common backyard birds to gain a new understanding of the natural world. Young is a gifted teacher, with 35 years' experience exploring animal communication. You can expect a fascinating blend of indigenous knowledge and the latest scientific research. Call the Audubon Nature Store for more information or to reserve a copy of his book at 503-292-9453.



Jon Young © Alison Beachem



Jon Young developed the 8 Shields Cultural Mentoring System, a model that has influenced more than 100 nature programs in communities in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. He is also creator of the Shikari Method for data collection, which is used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He has given over 1,000 public presentations and has mentored numerous students of his own. His previous book titles include **Coyote's Guide to Connecting with Nature** and **Animal Tracking Basics**. Married with six children, Jon lives in Santa Cruz, California.

"Jon Young is one of the heroes of the new nature movement; an expansion of traditional environmentalism.... This elegant book will deepen the kinship between humans and other species. It decodes our common language." — **Richard Louv**, author of *The Nature Principle* and *Last Child in the Woods*

Celebrate Earth Day at Portland Audubon with Author Thor Hanson!

April 22 (Wed), 7pm

Northwest author **Thor Hanson** comes to Heron Hall on Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00pm to present his new book **The Triumph of Seeds: How Grains, Nuts, Kernels, Pulses, and Pips Conquered the Plant Kingdom and Shaped Human History** (Basic Books, \$26.99) in a free public appearance and book signing. Hanson's previous books include **Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle**, recipient of the John Burroughs Medal and a Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award. A lively storyteller, Hanson delves deep into natural topics to create a tale rich in surprises and insights. This is a must-read book for plant lovers or anyone interested in the history of our food supply. Call the Audubon Nature Store for more information or to reserve a copy of his book at 503-292-9453.

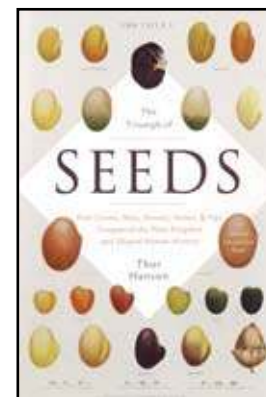
Hanson is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Switzer Environmental Fellow, and an independent conservation biologist based in the San Juan Islands. Hanson's research and conservation activities have taken him around the globe. He has studied Central American trees and songbirds, nest predation in Tanzania, and the grisly feeding habits of African vultures. He served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Uganda, where he helped establish the mountain gorilla tourism program



Thor Hanson © Dennis Finnin

in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, and he has also helped manage a brown bear tourism project for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska. He is currently involved in a project assessing the ecological impacts of warfare.

"The Triumph of Seeds is more than an engrossing work of natural history. It's a compelling and highly entertaining journey, populated by scientists and historians, criminals and explorers, aviators and futurists. Following Hanson's global voyage is the best sort of armchair travel, because it is filled with wonder, poetry, and discovery." — **Amy Stewart**, author of *The Drunken Botanist: The Plants That Create the World's Great Drinks*, a New York Times Bestseller



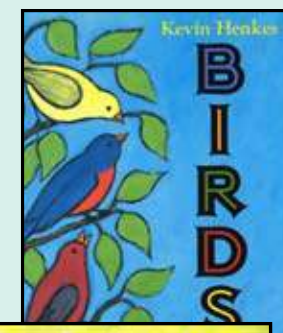
Storytime at Portland Audubon!

The Nature Store presents a free family event the **3rd Saturday of each month**, featuring fun nature-based children's stories plus activities for children **ages 4-8**. Our crew of volunteer storytellers includes retired classroom teachers and children's librarians, so you can count on lots of enthusiasm and experience in the programming!

Coming up on **March 21**, we will feature **Birds** by Kevin Henkes and Laura Dronzek. This colorful story explores the variety of birds in all their shapes and sizes. Kids can learn what makes birds unique from other animals. One of our resident Education Birds may visit, too!

On **April 18**, we will explore the beauty of the season with **Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms**. Julia Rawlinson's tale of the magic of spring flowers in a wood not unlike the Audubon Sanctuary. We'll include seasonally appropriate crafts and activities.

Please join us for these programs in our interpretive center, **starting at 12:30pm**. We then follow up with a **repeat performance at 1:30pm**. Our phone number is 503-292-9453.



2015 Board Elections

CANDIDATES FOR 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Some statements
edited for brevity

BOARD OFFICERS

Dan Rohlf, President

Dan is on the environmental law faculty at Lewis and Clark Law School, where he teaches Wildlife Law and other classes. He also works on wildlife conservation cases as an attorney with the law school's domestic environmental law clinic, and has represented Portland Audubon in several matters. Dan has been a member of the Board of Directors since 2010, and was an Audubon supporter and volunteer before that date. One of his favorite pastimes is watching birds that visit his home and office feeders. "I spend as much time in the Oregon outdoors as possible," Dan said, "and I think Portland Audubon is one of the state's most effective conservation organizations."

Anne Sammis, Vice President

A geriatrician and internist with Legacy Health System, Anne has been a bird and animal watcher for the last 30-plus years. She and husband Eric have traveled extensively with Portland Audubon and enjoyed many of their education classes. Anne joined the Board because she was impressed with the organization's work with education, conservation, and animal care at the Wildlife Care Center. "I have long admired Portland Audubon, its staff, and its volunteers. I am eager to do some work and give back to the organization."

Jay Withgott, Secretary

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

Michael Ryan, Treasurer

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

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Kimm Fox-Middleton

Kimm Fox-Middleton's background has been in public service, specifically managing Visitor Services, interpretation, environmental education, and youth programs as well as volunteer and event management within the National Park Service. After 18 years with the National Park Service, she has taken her passion of student engagement to her current role as the Outreach Manager for Portland Public Schools, where she manages the district's central office intern program. "I believe we need to make an investment in our youth in environmental stewardship, which begins with volunteering at an early age. By the time students are in high school, it is second nature to them to preserve and protect values that align with Audubon."

Russell Jones

Russ spent his career in finance and accounting. Prior to his retirement, he was the Senior Vice President & CFO of Western Family Foods. His background includes public accounting, financial management consulting, and corporate financial management experience. Russ has served on the boards of a number of Portland-area nonprofit organizations, all of which had support of youth and the environment in common. He joined the Portland Audubon Finance Committee in 2014. "I developed a deeper appreciation for green space and conservation through my experience on the Portland Parks Foundation Board. I have great respect for Portland Audubon's conservation and education efforts and would like to assist in those efforts."

Sandy Mico

Sandy's professional background is in wealth management. She recently retired as the President of West Coast Trust where she was responsible for investment management, trust, estate planning, and brokerage services. Sandy and her husband are avid birders who joined Portland Audubon several years ago and have participated in many of its guided tours and classes. She has served on boards of public and nonprofit organizations for many years and has consulted with boards on investment policies and strategic growth initiatives. "I am passionate about birds and believe that a strong Portland Audubon is critical to their long-term welfare."

Karen Shawcross

Karen has been a member of the Audubon Society in Massachusetts and Oregon for decades. She recently retired as Executive Director of Bienestar, a nonprofit in Washington County. In this role, she worked in partnership with Audubon's staff for seven years to bring programs like Explorador Camp, Family Outings, and Habitat Restoration to Bienestar residents. Karen, who enjoys birding, has served on national boards of directors and also has fundraising experience. "I am particularly interested in continuing the equity and diversity work under way at Audubon; supporting the development of a new wildlife care center; the expansion of art in programs; and outreach to underserved populations."

Patrick Slabe

Patrick has been employed with New Seasons Market since its inception. As operations director, he has decades of experience in retail business management, and he has incorporated programs that have helped meet the company's sustainability goals. He has been a longtime supporter of conservation and is an avid birder. Patrick joined Portland Audubon's Sanctuaries Committee in spring 2014 and the Board in October. "The past year has been enlightening as I have gained greater knowledge of Portland Audubon programs, and also the commitment, professionalism, and knowledge of staff and Board members. I believe in the mission, and wish to focus my skills helping Portland Audubon with many more years of success."

Mary Solares

Mary has served one term on the Board and is seeking a second term. She has been the Chair of the Wild Arts Festival for four years and will be overseeing this major event again in 2015. She also serves on the Executive Committee and on the Membership/Development Committee. In 2007, Mary was Board President of the Lake Oswego School District Foundation. Mary worked for 25 years as a midwife and is now retired. "I am continually impressed by the dedication of Portland Audubon's staff and volunteers and believe strongly in its mission. I want to continue serving on the Board in order to contribute my skills, experience, and enthusiasm to help accomplish Audubon's strategic plan."

Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

In Memory

Jorge Abich Kathleen Clark-Martin	Dinah Lea Martin Cindy Martin Crawford Paula D'Alfonso Bonnie Martin Deneke Linda Huff Cecilia Martin & Susannah Malool Dawn Martin Teri Martin & John Hutzler
Edward Eugene Clay Bob Clay & Susan Marmaduke	Terry S. H. Moore William Moore
Kathy Daehler Marianne Phillips	George Rasmussen Bridget O'Rourke & Family
Jack W. Fox John & Susan Turner	Bernard Saalfeld Sister Roseanne McDougall
Diana & Kenneth Golden Estelle Golden	Ron Spencer Esther Spencer Tammy Spencer & Richard O'Connor Norma Stubbs
Florence Goldsand Baker Hostetler Law Firm Jeffrey Bennett Bricker & Eckler LLP	
Martin Mandelblatt Cynthia Sulaski	
Leta B. Markley Markley Family Trust	

In Honor

Samantha Allen Karen Allen	Roland C Hill Judy Hill
James Anderson Sandra Stagliano	Kekoa Patricia & Jon McCracken
Luanne Bye Janelle Pinardi	Danna Klag Scott Klag & Elaine Glendening
TJ Carter Charles Snyder	Richard Meeker Henry Kantor Jill Kantor
Guests of the Cherokee Rose Inn Sandra Miller	Janice Mercure Diana Deshler
Scott Collins, Marla Ross & Katie Thompson Jill Gifford	Janette Odermann Teri & John Nelson
George & Donna Converse Sara Mairs	John Osborn Mike Ryan
Andrew Crimin Leif Hollmann	Michael Post John McLeod
Domino & Britt Francine & Dan Storzbach	Meryl Redisch Robert Riddle
Benetta & George Fenimore Marian Fenimore	Steve Robertson Rene & Bern Breier
Jackson Fogarty Therese Fogarty	Ginnie Ross Jeanne Beyer Robert Erwin
Amy Frank Lynn Langfeld	Deanna Sawtelle Ginnie Ross
Luke Hammar, Louis Goeschl & Mike Olson Donna Hammar	Deb Sheaffer George & Janice Mercure
Robert Hayes Laura Barker	Ben Sherman Suzanne Nichol
Kelly Hicks Ronald Payne	Roger & Sandra Siegner Stan & Joan Schook
	Sophia Wexler Nancy & Richard Silverman Charitable Foundation Inc.

You can honor a special person with a gift to Audubon Society of Portland. Your gift will help fund a future of inspiring people to love and protect nature. You can make an Honor or Memorial gift online at www.audubonportland.org or by calling 971-222-6130. A songbird card acknowledging your thoughtful gift will be sent to the honoree or family.

2015 Board of Directors Election Ballot

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

Members may vote by mail, but we must receive your ballot by **6:30pm on March 19, 2015**. Please mail to:

Board Nominations Committee
5151 NW Cornell Rd
Portland, OR 97210

Members may choose to vote in person at the March Birders' Night or Nature Night. Please note that this year's Board Meeting will take place at **Audubon Society of Portland at 5151 NW Cornell Rd** on Thursday, March 19 at 7pm.

Your Name (please print):

Your Signature:

Membership Level:

- Individual (entitled to one vote per candidate)
 Family or higher (entitled to two votes per candidate)

Position

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| President (a) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Rohlf |
| Vice President (a) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Anne Sammis |
| Secretary (a) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Jay Withgott |
| Treasurer (a) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Ryan |
| Member (b) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Kimm Fox-Middleton |
| Member (b) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Russell Jones |
| Member (b) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mico |
| Member (b) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Karen Shawcross |
| Member (b) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Patrick Slabe |
| Member (b) | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Solares |

(a) term ends 2016 (b) term ends 2018

Many New Counters at Portland Christmas Bird Count!

by Wink Gross, Portland CBC Compiler

The weather was dreary for the 89th Portland Christmas Bird Count, but that didn't deter the **229 field counters, including over 70 first-time participants**, from searching out all the birds in the Count Circle. When the day was done, they had found 118 species, including such highlights as 6 Barrow's Goldeneyes, 5 Barred Owls, 4 Virginia Rails, Red Crossbills, and individual Red-necked Grebe, Glaucous Gull, Northern Shrike, and American Pipit. The best bird of the day, and a **new species for the Portland CBC, was a Pelagic Cormorant, found by Adrian Hinkle** on the Columbia River at West Hayden Island. Pelagic Cormorants are common at the Coast, but very rare inland. Adrian's sharp eyes earned him the "Eagle-Eye Award" for this year's count. It was the second time he has won the award. Congratulations, Adrian!



Mountain Chickadee
© Scott Carpenter

Another 146 volunteers, including 50 first-timers, opted to count birds in their yards and at their feeders. They added three more species: Mountain Chickadee, Evening Grosbeak, and Northern Saw-whet Owl, bringing our species count to 121. That's a little below average for the past few years, but still respectable on a gloomy, gray day. The combined total of 375 participants should also firmly keep the Portland Count on top as the largest Count in the U.S.

All areas of the Count contributed significantly. As usual, N/NE Portland found the most unique species, but SW/Beaverton found the only Green Herons and a Long-billed Dowitcher. NW Portland had the only California Quail and Common Ravens, and Lake Oswego had the most Common Mergansers. SE Portland helped to keep the Portland CBC #1 in the world for Bushtits, and also pushed Lesser Goldfinches to an all-time high for the Count. Other new all-time highs were set for Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Great Blue Heron, Downy Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Spotted Towhee, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Hairy Woodpecker tied the record (29) set in 1964. On the other hand, Ring-billed Gulls were scarce, with only 7 found. European Starlings continue their overall decline: the 2,249 recorded was the lowest since 1961. For a summary of the 89-year history of the count, including details of the last 10 years, go to audubonportland.org/local-birding/cbc.

The success of the Portland CBC always depends critically on the efforts of the area leaders: **Tony DeFalco, Dan Strong, Lynn Herring, Lori Hennings, and Eric Scheuering.** They did a terrific job organizing the teams to make sure the entire Count Circle was covered. Thank you, all, very much!

Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store!

Audubon Society of Portland's Nature Store is the headquarters for naturalists in the Portland-Vancouver metro area. We feature nature books, hiking & field guides, binoculars & spotting scopes, bird feeders & seed, plus gifts & toys for adults & children, all with a nature theme. **Portland Audubon members receive a 10% discount off regular prices.**



Manfrotto Hiking Poles

Need Some Support?

This is the right time to get it! Manfrotto is offering **\$20 rebates** on their new line of **lightweight aluminum hiking poles**. At less than 1 lb., these are some of the lightest poles on the market. They also have a special feature designed to please hikers who love to observe and/or photograph nature: one pole's handgrip features an **integrated tripod mount** which quickly **converts it to a convenient monopod** to hold a camera or sighting scope! (*Hint: a monopod pairs perfectly with our new Opticron 50mm Travelscope that weighs only 29 oz.*)

The three-section poles close telescopically to 24". The feet have spiked bases, but rubber covers and a pair of snow baskets are included for versatility. Regular price is \$112 (member price \$99). **\$20 rebate good from 2/1/15 to 3/31/15.**

Integrated tripod mount



Spiked bases and snow baskets

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS! You Make It All Possible!

by Deanna Sawtelle, Volunteer Manager

April is "Volunteer Month" so the Audubon Society of Portland would like to thank all our volunteers who contribute their valuable time and talents. Their efforts help us fulfill our mission to inspire people to love and protect nature. We are deeply indebted to the individuals who give graciously of their time and energy in order to ensure 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, weekly or monthly. We also appreciate the many volunteers who help out on annual events and one-time projects, though space limitations prohibit us from listing them here.

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Marty Anderson
Andie Armour
Caroline Arnold
Richard Arnold
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We would also like to thank the following veterinary hospitals that volunteer their time and services:

Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Hospital
VCA Rock Creek Veterinary Hospital
Susan Kirschner, The Animal Eye Doctor

Birdathon 2015

Continued from cover

Full-Day Trips:

The Joy of Birding: May 2 (Sat), 6:30am–9:30pm
Paul Sullivan and Carol Karlen, former leaders of Audubon's popular "Birding Weekends," lead this sunrise-to-sunset adventure. Visit Mt Tabor, Sauvie Island, Forest Grove, Killin Wetlands, and the Tillamook area, returning in the evening. All are welcome! You can expect to see about 110 species.

Put An Owl On It: May 2 (Sat)

Join Joe Liebezeit, Portland Audubon Avian Conservation Program Manager, and Rhett Wilkins, avid birder, bird photographer, and owl enthusiast, to pursue the goal of hearing and/or seeing as many individual owls as possible. We'll start before sunrise and visit locations that might include Sauvie Island, Tryon Creek, and Oaks Bottom. We'll look and listen for Barn, Barred, Great Horned, Screech, Saw-whet, and more! A minimum of \$75 in pledges is requested.

Mult Madness: May 6 (Wed), 6am–7pm

Wink Gross and Andy Frank lead a tour of great birding hotspots in Multnomah County. We'll begin at Vanport Wetlands, then to Mt Tabor for migrant fallout, on to Larch Mountain for pygmy-owl and grouse, to Eagle Creek for dipper, goldeneye, and Harlequin Ducks, to Troutdale airport for Wrentit, and finish up at Sauvie Island. Expect 95–110 species.

NEW TRIP! Crow-Magnons:

May 9 (Sat) 6:30am–8:30pm

Explore the diverse habitats of Wasco County with Eric Scheuering, Portland Audubon's Adult Education Programs Manager. We'll search for Yellow-breasted Chats, Bullock's Orioles, and other riparian denizens at the Deschutes River. Then we'll explore woodlands and grasslands along the east slopes of Mt Hood looking for Lewis's Woodpeckers, looping back to Portland through Pine Grove and Camas Prairie to add some montane species. Transportation is provided. A minimum of \$50 in pledges is requested.

The Paddy Wagon: May 9 (Sat), 6:30am–10pm

Bird some of the great locations in Washington County, stop in a Coast Range forest, then hit Bayocean Spit and end at Cape Meares State Park! Join Patty Newland, Jason Wolf, and the Paddy Wagon posse! Practice your bird sound



Wild Turkeys © Jay Withgott



Millennial Falcons © Tinsley Hunsdorfer

identification skills while rounding up the usual suspects and "kingpins" like American Bittern and Acorn Woodpecker.

Raven Maniacs: May 16 (Sat), 6:30am–6:30pm

Join Steve Robertson, Portland Audubon Education Director, for a day of birding from the city to the sea! Visit a dozen birding hotspots from Portland to Tillamook and back, hoping for at least 100 species. Transportation is provided. A minimum of \$50 in pledges is requested.

The Murre the Merrier:

May 30 (Sat), 7am–8pm [Wait List only]

Sarah Swanson and Max Smith, authors of *Must-See Birds of the Pacific Northwest*, lead this day-long trip beginning in Portland for wetland species then heading to the coast. A minimum of \$50 in pledges is requested.

Red-breasted Winesuckers:

Date TBD, 8am–6pm

(Open to Wildlife Care Center Volunteers only.) Join Deanna Sawtelle and Candy Plant as we head out for a full day of fun and birding. We'll start the day with some backyard bird watching and a light breakfast, then carpool to the coast.

Gonzo Trips: 2+ days

Lager Head Shrikes:

May 1–3 (Fri–Sun) [Wait List only]

Dan van den Broek and Mark Greenfield will guide this 3-day trip to Summer Lake, Fort Rock, and the Bend/Sisters area. Our focus is on quality, not quantity, but we expect to see 100–150 species. Transportation and lodging provided. A minimum of \$600 in pledges is required.



Wild Turkeys: May 8–10 (Fri–Sun)

Join Mike Houck, Ron Carley, and other notorious birders for the ultimate Gonzo Birdathon. A once in a lifetime, desert to coast, mountains to valleys birding experience will take you to Fort Rock and Klamath Falls, then west to Bandon for such target birds as Yellow Rail, Oak Titmouse, California Towhee, Wild Turkey (of course!), and others. Transportation and lodging provided. This trip fills quickly! A minimum of \$700 in pledges is required.

More trips will be available on our website, where you can also learn how to create your own team — or just fly solo! To register and download all you need for gathering pledges, visit audubonportland.org.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, Birdathon raised over \$169,000 last year — a record breaker! We hope you'll help make Birdathon 2015 another fun(d)-raising success as we keep growing and more folks get out there and COUNT because *BIRDS COUNT!*

Questions? Feel free to contact Mark Fitzsimons, Birdathon Coordinator, at mark.birdathon@gmail.com.



Audubon Society of Portland

Inspiring people to love and protect nature since 1902

Audubon Society of Portland promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native birds and other wildlife and their habitats. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest.

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5151 NW Cornell Rd • Portland, OR 97210
503-292-6855 • Fax: 503-292-1021
9am to 5pm, Mon. – Fri.

SANCTUARIES

Dawn to dusk every day

WILDLIFE

CARE CENTER

503-292-0304
9am to 5pm every day

NATURE STORE

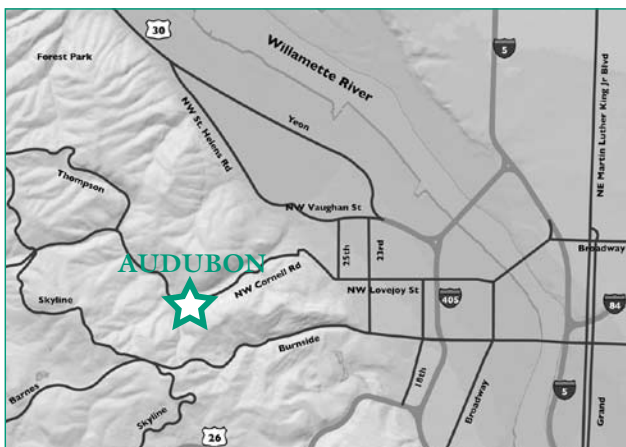
503-292-9453
10am to 6pm, Mon. – Sat.
10am to 5pm on Sunday

INTERPRETIVE CENTER & LIBRARY

Same hours as store

RARE BIRD ALERT

503-292-6855 • www.audubonportland.org



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



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Through their business practices and financial contributions, the following businesses are helping advance our mission and protect Oregon's birds, natural resources, and livability. If you would like to become a member of the Audubon Society of Portland Business Alliance, please contact our Development Director at 971-222-6117.



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