Swift Watch 2015
Chapman School
September 1–30

We are anticipating the return of Vaux’s Swifts to the Chapman School chimney in NW Portland as well as to other sites in the area. Thousands of Vaux’s Swifts gather in the city during late summer as they prepare to migrate to Central America and Venezuela. Migrating swifts often use chimneys as roosts, and they are likely to return to the same roost year after year. One population has been returning to Chapman since the 1980s and it is one of the largest known roosting sites of migrating Vaux’s Swifts. Thousands of swifts gather in the airspace above the school before sunset during the month of September. Once the sun sets, birds funnel into the chimney and spend the night there clinging to the walls.

Swift watching has become a popular activity at Chapman Elementary School, and on many evenings, thousands of people gather to watch these aerial acrobats. We depend on you and other attendees to follow the rules and make Swift Watch a positive experience for all.

• Please be respectful of the neighbors and the impact this event has on them.
• While we encourage visitors to walk or use public transit, FREE Swift Watch parking is available at Montgomery Park (2701 NW Vaughn St) and SELCO Community Credit Union (NW 25th & Thurman). Do not expect to find on-street parking!
•Portable bathrooms and additional trash cans will be provided — please use them!
•Leash and pick up after dogs.
•It is illegal to consume alcoholic beverages or smoke on public school grounds.

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

Night Flight Family-Friendly Halloween Event — See page 3

A Story to Share by Rie Luft, Wildlife Care Center Telephone Receptionist

Our Wildlife Care Center receptionists serve multiple, often challenging roles: answering wildlife questions, evaluating reported injuries, and determining courses of action. There isn’t a day when I don’t learn something new, from bird behavior, from research that I do, or from our veterinarian, Deb Sheaffer — a walking encyclopedia of bird/mammal-related issues. I hope you’ll enjoy just one of the many stories from my rewarding years volunteering for Portland Audubon.

Last March a call came in from an administrator of a Head Start School that had just moved into a new location. A hummingbird — a female Anna’s from the description — was loose in one of the classrooms, and couldn’t find its way back out. There were very high ceilings, and they had tried leaving all of the six lower windows open — swing-out sash types that open outward from the top — with no luck. Of course the administrator wanted someone to come out to rescue the bird. The problem was that even a long-handled net would not work and then there was the possibility of damage to the bird’s fragile wings to consider. Normal bird rescue of this nature would not work either, as that would not work and then there was the possibility of damage to the bird’s fragile wings to consider. Normal bird rescue of this nature would not work either, as that

Continued on page 8

Inside this issue

Page 2 .................... From our Director
Page 3 ..................... Audubon Outings
Page 4 & 5 .................. Calendar at a Glance
Page 6 & 7 .................. Conservation
Page 8 ....................... Wildlife Care Center
Page 9 ....................... Trips, Tours & Classes
Page 10 .................... Field Notes & Volunteers
Page 11 ..................... Nature Store & Sanctuaries
Page 12 .......................... Map/Hours/Business Alliance

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!
T he effort to destroy 10,000 Double-crested Cormorants nesting on the Columbia River’s East Sand Island (see accompanying article on page 10) was shocking in its disregard for a protected species. That the US Fish and Wildlife Service would actually approve such a permit was even more alarming, given that the science linking cormorants to low populations of salmon and steelhead was very weak, and the targeted 15% culling would put the entire cormorant population at risk.

Yet just how weak the science is has only now been daylighted, thanks to a court-mandated records request. The USFWS determined this effort would do nothing to benefit threatened salmon. They then hid that fact from the public, and approved the killing permit. For an agency whose vision is “to be a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence,” it seems clear they need guidance.

Likewise for the US Army Corps of Engineers. Why would they place these birds at risk, subject themselves to additional controversy, and spend millions in taxpayer dollars to do it is also hard to comprehend. At our weekly staff meeting, our finance director sagely quipped that “perhaps this was never about salmon, but red herring.” The most helpful action the Corps can take for salmon and steelhead — and one we’ve advocated for years — is increasing dam flows during critical times of year. But since that would cost more than killing cormorants, the Army Corps (a “corps mourant,” if you will) is neglecting fish and cormorant protection.

International Vulture Awareness Day is coming to Audubon!

FREE EVENT! Sat, September 5 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Heron Hall

A round the world vultures are facing hazards in the wild and their numbers are dwindling. As “Nature’s Recyclers,” they play an important role in reducing disease — and it’s up to us to help save them.

International Vulture Awareness Day is filled with fun and educational activities:

• Make a pledge to help vultures survive
• Find out the differences between Old and New World vultures
• Learn fun vulture facts
• Compare your “wingspan” to that of an Andean Condor’s
• Meet Ruby, Portland Audubon’s Turkey Vulture, up close, along with the other Education Birds
• Discover why vultures are important
• Make a pledge to help vultures survive

The vital role of vulture efforts to keep government accountable has never been more essential. Portland Audubon and its partners have requested that USFWS Director Dan Ashe launch an investigation into why their study was repressed and the killing permit approved. If there’s any silver lining in this, it’s our optimism that the senseless slaughter of cormorants will soon cease. The Portland Audubon community’s tradition of protecting wild birds and habitat continues, strong and vigilant, thanks to your help.

Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store!

Au dubon 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.

Swarovski Savings!

We are delighted to announce special savings all September:
Swarovski EL Binoculars. Savings range from $250–$260 off our already discounted member prices for full-size 42mm binoculars in 8x and 10x magnification. Mid-size 32mm binocular prices are reduced $220–230 depending on the model. This special pricing is available through November 15 for early holiday shopping!

2015 Calendars!

Our first delivery of wall calendars, engagement books, page-a-day, and activity calendars has arrived. Please, we have 16-month calendars for teachers who’d like to get their new school year up and organized.

Insect Suet for our Migrating Friends!

Migratory birds burn through calories super-fast. We’re pairing up with Backyard Bird Shop to supply our traveling avian friends with 3 specially formulated high-protein insect suet blends: Just Bugs, Nut-n-Bug, and Almond Bugger. They are handcrafted on the Pacific Coast and sell for $4.99 each. If you buy a case (mix-and-match is fine) you’ll get a 10% discount. Pair that with your member discount for a real deal!
Calendar at a Glance
For the latest information, visit audubonportland.org

**SEPTEMBER**

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<tr>
<td>1 Tu-Th</td>
<td>7pm Birders’ Night in Heron Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-10 Daily</td>
<td>7pm Swift Watch at Chapman School (p.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Sat</td>
<td>11am-3pm Nature Awareness Day (p.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Sat</td>
<td>12:30-1:30 Storytime, ages 3-8 (p.9)</td>
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<td>7 Mon</td>
<td>Labor Day Nature Store &amp; Admin closed</td>
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<td>8 Tu-Th</td>
<td>7pm Nature Night: Mind-Boggling Birds of Oregon — and the World (p.3)</td>
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<td>9 Wed</td>
<td>7pm Audubon Class (p.7)</td>
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<td>15 Tu-Th</td>
<td>7pm Author/Graphic Artist presentation (p.9)</td>
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<td>17 Th</td>
<td>7pm Board Meeting</td>
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<td>19 Sat</td>
<td>12:30-1:30 Storytime, ages 3-8 (p.9)</td>
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<td>6:30pm Audubon Class (p.7)</td>
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<td>23 Th-Th</td>
<td>8am-12pm Audubon Outing (p.3)</td>
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<td>24 Sat</td>
<td>8am-12pm Kiwa Trail, River S Unit, Ridgefield NWR</td>
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<td>27 Tue</td>
<td>9am-3pm Audubon Field Trip (p.7)</td>
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<td>8am-12pm Audubon Field Trip (p.7)</td>
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<td>3 Sat</td>
<td>12:30-1:30 Storytime, ages 3-8 (p.9)</td>
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<td>3 Sat</td>
<td>Various BirdFest &amp; Bluegrass at Ridgefield NWR (p.3)</td>
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<td>Various BirdFest &amp; Bluegrass at Ridgefield NWR (p.3)</td>
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<td>6-10pm Audubon Class (p.7)</td>
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<td>7pm Birders’ Night, Heron Hall</td>
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<td>12:30pm Bluegrass Jam, Heron Hall</td>
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<td>6:30pm Audubon Class (p.7)</td>
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<td>7pm Nature Night: Migration = Amazing Tales from the Flyways (p.2)</td>
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<td>24 Sat-Th</td>
<td>5pm-8:30pm Night Flight Halloween Event (p.3)</td>
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<td>27 Tu-Th</td>
<td>9am-3pm Audubon Outing (p.3)</td>
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**NOVEMBER**

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**September 20 (Sun), 10am–1pm**
Fernhill Wetlands, Forest Grove
Confused by peeps and other shorebirds? Join leader Tim Shelmerdine as we walk Fernhill Wetlands looking for these migrants and discuss their identification. Bring a scope if you have one. Take Hwy 47 south out of Forest Grove for about 1/2 mile and turn left on Fernhill Rd. After another 1/4 mile turn left again to enter the parking lot. Questions: Tim at 971-221-2534.

**September 24 (Thur), 8am–12pm**
Sauvie Island (Oak Island)
Join Karen Chaivoe and Mary Ratcliff as we explore Oak Island to look for shorebirds and cranes. Bring water and sunscreen as we will be out in the open. Spotting scopes welcome! Meet at parking area at east end of Sauvie Island Bridge and we will carpool from there. Cars going to Oak Island need a Sauvie Island WMA parking pass, available at the Cracker Barrel Store near the bridge. Limited to 15 participants; registration required at http://tinyurl.com/p2he2y4. Questions: Karen at kchaivoe@comcast.net or 503-241-4750.

**September 30 (Wed), 8am–12pm**
Kiwa Trail, River S Unit, Ridgefield NWR
Join us on the Kiwa Trail, a flat 1.5-mile walk, looking for rails and bitterns. The trail will close October 1st so last chance until next spring. Meet at the Kiwa Trailhead on River S Unit, ridgefield NWR. From I-5 in Washington, take Exit 14 (Pioneer Street/Washington SR-501) west toward Ridgefield. Turn left onto NW 269th St/Pioneer St. At the traffic circle continue to follow Pioneer St and drive about 1.8 miles to 5th Ave. Turn left on 5th and continue 0.3 miles, then continue onto S Hillhurst Rd. After 0.4 miles turn right onto the Ridgefield NWR entrance road. Limited to 15 participants; registration required with Ron Escano at 503-771-3454.

**October 10 (Sat), 8am–11am**
Vancouver Lake Park
Join leader Ron Escano to scope Vancouver Lake for water birds then explore the riparian woodland for fall migrants. Meet at 8am at parking lot in front of middle bathrooms. From I-5 north, take Exit 1-D (4th Plain Blvd), go west on 4th Plain through Vancouver onto SR-501 (Lower River Rd). After 3.5 miles on SR-501, continue straight for 0.6 miles to Vancouver Lake Park. Limited to 15 participants; registration required with Ron at 503-771-3454.

**October 15 (Thur), 8am–1pm**
Rood Bridge Park
Walk the trails at Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro with Karen Chaivoe, Dena Turner, and Marilyn Abend to look for a variety of resident birds and migrants. Meet at the park, 4000 SE Rood Bridge Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97123 at 8am. Limited to 18 participants; registration required with Karen (kchaivoe@comcast.net, 503-241-1254) or Dena (denature62@gmail.com, 503-236-6937).

**October 17 (Sat), 8:30am–11:30am**
Sauvie Island
Join leader Tim Shelmerdine for a morning trip to Sauvie Island. We will visit several spots, looking for waterfront, raptors, gulls, and sparrows. Meet at the parking area at the east end of the Sauvie Island Bridge. Although we plan on carpooling, anyone driving will need to purchase a Sauvie Island day parking permit (available at the nearby store — please purchase this before the meeting time). From Portland, head west on Hwy 30 about 10 miles to the Sauvie Island Bridge. Questions: Tim at 971-221-2534.

**October 27 (Tue), 9am–3pm**
Tillamook Bay Outing
Meet leaders Ken Chamberlain and Dick Demarest at the Safeway Store parking lot (NW corner) at the corner of 4th St and Stillwell Ave in Tillamook. We will bird some or all of the following: Barview Jetty, Three Graces, Oyster Plant, Bay City sewerage ponds, Bayocean Spit, and possibly Tillamook Wetlands. Target species include Western, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors, and late fall migrants. Dress for weather; bring lunch. Limited to 18 participants; registration required with Dick at 503-407-7912 or rdd@demarests.com.

**Audubon Outings**

**Wild in the City and Beyond**

**Mark your calendars for this family-friendly Halloween event!**

**Saturday, October 24, 2015**
5:00pm – 8:30pm
$12.50 covers registration and participation for first member of your group, $10 per person for other members. Recommended for kids 5–12.

Come celebrate Halloween and learn all about the creatures of the night. Come face-to-face with Portland Audubon’s Great Horned Owl, Northern Spotted Owl, Turkey Vulture, and Raven. Trick-or-Treat with naturalists and enjoy — a night walk to investigate what creatures haunt the sanctuary at night. Event will go rain or shine.

Pre-registration is required. You can register online at audubonportland.org/about/events/halloween or call 503-292-6855 ext.308 for more information. Space is limited for event and walks, so register early!

**Check the web site for more details.** www.RidgefieldFriends.com

**Birders’ Night**

Please join us on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in Heron Hall for Birders’ Night, a gathering of local birders sharing recent sightings, a slideshow, and discussion.

Acorn Woodpecker
Photo by Bjorn Fredrickson
Portland Audubon to Ramp Up Bird-Friendly Building and Lights Out Campaign

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director, and Joe Liebezeit, Avian Conservation Program Manager

One of Audubon Society of Portland’s primary goals is to address the causes of decline in native bird populations. The biggest threat to birds is from habitat loss and fragmentation, and the bulk of our resources go toward habitat-based efforts. However, we also have programs to address other major causes of bird declines including major anthropogenic (human-caused) hazards.


Audubon has worked for years to document and address the threat to birds from collisions in the Portland metro region. However, our efforts just got a major boost when we received two years of funding support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to initiate a “Bird-Friendly Portland” Initiative that will allow us to ramp up our work to promote bird-friendly building design and reduce nighttime light hazards in our region. Over the next two years Audubon and partners will directly engage with Portland’s architectural community to promote the integration of bird-friendly building design as a regular practice throughout the region. Audubon will launch a “Lights Out” campaign to reduce light pollution, which disorients migrating birds, with the goal of getting iconic city buildings to commit to reducing nighttime lighting during key migratory periods. We will work with partners to develop a “bird-friendly” educational curriculum that educators will use to raise awareness of bird-strike hazards and light hazards and what can be done at home to prevent this problem. The curriculum will be integrated into camps offered by Portland Audubon, Portland Parks and Recreation, and others. We will work with City of Portland and other municipalities to promote and implement bird-friendly building design and lighting practices through city policies and relevant city plans.

If Birds Are Hitting Windows all over Portland, Why Don’t I See Lots of Dead Birds?

You have to know when and where to look. There are many reasons why our landscape is not littered with dead birds. First, many birds do not die immediately on impact. Many will fly a significant distance after a collision before succumbing to internal bleeding or other debilitating factors associated with the collision. Second, many birds that do die on impact never reach the ground. They land on ledges, awnings, and on lower rooftops.

Third, we have a variety of very proficient mechanisms that remove carcasses from our streets and sidewalks early each morning. These include street sweepers, building maintenance crews, and a variety of scavengers including rats, cats, coyotes, raccoons, gulls, and crows. It takes a pretty sophisticated survey effort including counting up before sunris, searching higher landing spots, and coordinating with maintenance crews to find the birds, but when we did our surveys, we did indeed find that Portland’s windows are killing our wild birds.

The Problem

Portland is situated along the Pacific Flyway, a broad migration front that funnels light, forages of both migrant and resident birds into our local airspace. Birds face heightened hazards in cities, where they encounter deceptive and ubiquitous window glass that they don’t perceive as a barrier. Collisions with windows are exacerbated by unshielded overnight lighting, which disorients migratory birds and draws them into urban areas at night.

Since the 1970s, research has shown that building strikes are one of the most important sources of bird mortality. A recent review study found that between 365 and 988 million birds are killed annually by building collisions (primary window strikes) in the U.S. alone, indicating that building collisions are among the top threats to birds. A citizen science study conducted by Portland Audubon from 2009-2012 quantified bird species injured or killed in collisions with downtown Portland buildings. This effort documented 36 native bird species as bird-strike victims including long-range migrants like Wilson’s Warblers and Western Tanagers. Seeds of a wasted species are experiencing population declines.

The good news is that this hazard is preventable. The way in which a building is designed determines the level of risk it presents to birds. Many bird-friendly design features overlap with sustainability features that architects are already incorporating into buildings. The bad news is that recent trends toward all-glass towers that reflect the sky into the windows are particularly hazardous for night-migrating birds — and as Portland redevelops, it is increasing these trends. Many major cities across the United States including San Francisco, New York, Chicago, and Washington have taken significant steps to ensure bird-friendly building design and to reduce unnecessary light pollution.

Important First Steps Have Already Been Taken

Portland Audubon has already been instrumental in working to minimize bird strike risks in Portland. In addition to the baseline citizen science project mentioned above, we partnered with the City of Portland, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, American Bird Conservancy, and local architects to develop a “Resource Guide for Bird-friendly Design” (see audubonportland.org/files/hazards/birdfriendly). This booklet provides up-to-date information on how to build “bird-friendly” buildings for new construction, redevelopment, or reno.

Lights Out Portland: An Idea Whose Time Has Come

Unnecessary artificial nighttime lighting is increasingly recognized as a problem for humans and wildlife as well as a problem for our quality of life. At night, especially during bad weather, creates conditions that are particularly hazardous for night-migrating birds which rely on celestial cues to navigate. Typically flying at altitudes over 500 feet, migrants often descend to lower altitudes during inclement weather, where they may encounter artificial light from buildings. Water vapor in fog or mist refracts light, forming an illuminated halo around light sources, and can lead to catastrophic mortality events. It can also draw migrating birds into the city and result in increased window collisions the following morning, as birds try to resume migration in the midst of an unfamiliar urban landscape.

As part of our efforts we will be promoting “Lights Out Portland.” This includes promoting public policies that reduce light pollution, urging tall buildings and structures to reduce unnecessary night lighting during key migratory periods, and design standards that ensure that night lighting is directed to where it is needed and shielded to reduce sky glare. It’s good for people. It’s good for wildlife. It saves energy. And, wouldn’t it be nice to look up and see the stars above our city!
Protecting Birds from Strike Hazards at Your Home
by Nikkie West, Backyard Habitat Program Coordinator

A cross the continent, from Portland to Chicago, New York to Toronto, glinting downtown skyscrapers garbed in glass and other reflective surfaces grab our attention as the biggest culprits for causing bird strikes. But the majority of window strikes actually occur on residential homes. If a bird hits your window, even just once, do something about it!

Through our Backyard Habitat Certification Program we’ve seen first-hand how residents experiment with thoughtful and effective solutions to their bird-strike problems. Sherree Tatum, for example, is a retired middle school teacher. When birds started hitting the front window that looks out to her platinum-certified backyard habitat, she reached for spools of brightly colored twine and created a DIY, grid-like design on the outside of the window.

Bird Safe Products at the Nature Store
by Nancy Mattson, Nature Store Manager

T he Audubon Nature Store carries a variety of ‘Bird Safe’ products. In addition to traditional black hawk silhouette decals for the outside of windows, we carry a wide selection of opaque decals. Produced by Window Alert of Bend, OR, these decals contain a component which brilliantly reflects ultraviolet sunlight, invisible to humans, but glows like a stoplight for birds. They’ve recently added a ‘roll-on’ UV product that can be dotted between their decals to enhance the coverage.

American Bird Conservancy offers an economical line of Bird Tape to apply in strips to the outside of your windows. It comes in 3’ x 50’ or ¼’ x 75’ rolls. Like all our decals, it “clings” to the windows and can be easily removed and repositioned.

Birds often look outwardly undamaged but internally fine actually had extensive internal damage, necropsy these birds we find that the bird that looked

Window Collisions: A Primary Cause of Bird Injuries Seen at the Wildlife Care Center
by Lacy Campbell, Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager

T he very first animal I ever rescued was a female Belted Kingfisher. She hit a window of a mall in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. As I was walking around the shops with my friend we noticed the bird hit right into one of the tall building windows. We rushed over to see if the animal was okay. As I picked her up I was stuck with how amazing it was to see a bird this close up. I could tell she was stunned; she just looked at me with her beak open and then before we could do anything the bird flew off out of my hands. That surreal moment was when I started thinking about birds and the hazards they faced in the city: I was aware of all the global bird conservation issues at the time: the illegal pet trade, deforestation of South American Rainforests, and illegal poaching of raptors. It didn’t occur to me that something as benign as a window could be a problem for wildlife. It wasn’t until years later while working at Portland Audubon that I realized the threat they are.

It is estimated that up to 1 billion songbirds are killed by colliding with windows every year. At the Wildlife Care Center, window collisions are consistently in the top five causes of intake since we began keeping digital records in 1987. We have documented dozens of species colliding with windows including a wide array of songbirds but also raptors, waterfowl, and Great Blue Herons. Windows are an equal opportunity killer. Oftentimes people will tell us that they have one particularly problematic window that is struck repeatedly or is struck at a certain time of year.

Window collisions can result in a multitude of injuries. These include head trauma, back trauma, muscle damage, broken and dislodged bones, ruptured internal organs, and internal bleeding. Birds often look outwardly undamaged on intake but die within a number of hours. When we necropsy these birds we find that the bird that looked externally fine actually had extensive internal damage, most frequently bleeding around the brain and into the lungs and air sacs. A bird flying full speed, sometimes as fast as 40 or 50 miles per hour, into solid glass can do an incredible amount of damage. As diagnostics and treatments have become more sophisticated, we are able to save an increasing percentage, but still less than half survive and we only see a small fraction of what occurs on the landscape. The best solution is always prevention.

Solutions, like Sherree’s, run the gamut from creative to costly, store-bought to DIY. Here are more ideas to fit anyone’s household and budget:

• Move Your Feeders: Ideally, feeders should be placed either within 3ft or farther than 30ft away from your windows. Feeders that are close to windows mean the bird will have less momentum if a window strike occurs.

• Decals, Paint, and Tape: Try using glass-friendly paints or markers to turn your window-strike problem into a family-friendly activity that’s artful and educational. Use stencils, either bought or homemade, for a fun spin on the project. Feather-friendly or American Bird Conservancy tape are also great options.

• Nets, Screens, and Streamers: Hanging nets and screens outside your window are effective and cheap solutions — particularly during migration seasons. Streamer products are available at our Nature Store or are easy to home-make.

• Glass Art and Window Films: Antireflective vinyl or polyester films that can be applied to the exterior of a window are multifunctional and affordable (see allwindowdressingetc.com). In addition to being bird-friendly, they help protect furniture and fixtures from harmful UV rays while keeping the heat out.

• UV Technology: Use decals that reflect ultraviolet light, which birds can see but we can’t. UV “pens” and decals are available at our Nature Store.

• Let Your Windows be Dirty: Dirty windows tend to be more visible and thus bird-friendly!

Sherree West’s Bird-Strike Solution: stringing yarn across her window in a grid. The yarn is visible to the birds and provides warning that there is a reason to slow down ahead. Photo by Nikkie West

Nets, Screens, and Streamers

Imprint of Mourning Dove that collided with a Portland window. Photo by Joanne Donovan

Wildlife Care Center

This window drawing was not necessarily done to prevent bird strikes, but this kind of strategy can be very effective (and fun) to prevent seasonal strikes on a particularly problematic window.

• Bird-friendly Glass Products: Perhaps the most expensive yet effective option are bird-friendly windows such as Ornithx Bird Protection Glass or windows that have been attractively etched.

• Reduce Light Pollution: If you have outside lighting, make sure it is the minimum necessary and make sure that you use fixtures that shield upward light exposure.

For more information and bird-friendly building solutions, visit our Nature Store or auduionportland.org/issues/hazards/buildings.

Wildlife Care Center

We are delighted to now carry a new line of products produced here in Portland! Bird’s Eye View is the first diversion decal designed to be used on the inside of windows, using the effects of UV light reflection coupled with dichroic glass effects in an attractive crystal-like geometric pattern.

Other products we offer are Guard’I Eyes bird-scaring balloons, inflatable Great Horned Owl scarecrows, plastic Hawk decoys, and rolls of holographic Scare Tape (commonly used in orchards).

We hope you will consider incorporating these ideas into your life to help reduce the number of birds that collide with windows. Together we can make a difference.

www.audubonportland.org

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015
THAILAND
January 15–30, 2016

In this country of Buddhist traditions, temples and images, the Buddha can be seen in nearly every corner, as can offerings of flowers and incense in Buddhist shrines. Thailand is a country full of natural beauty and friendly people who, without fail, greet you with a slight bow, palms pressed together in a polite wai.

We begin our journey in the north of Thailand, in the city of Chiang Mai, where the night market and the magnificent temple of Wat Phra That Doi Suthep will whet your appetite for culture and tradition. Our first birding day will be along the Mae-Klang National Park, where you’ll spend an unforgettable day in the vast forested hills that are home to Giant Nuthatch, Mrs. Gould’s Sunbird, Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-flycatcher, Red-faced Lioicichla and Red-flanked Bluetail.

Next we fly to the metropolis of Bangkok to experience first-hand its famous markets and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. After searching the coast we’ll head to the mountains and the Khao Kho National Park, where you’ll have our best chance of seeing a variety of mammals. The last days of our trip will be in the coastal town of Phuket, where the sea from our bungalows of white sand beach, giving us time to reflect as we relax and gazer out over the Gulf of Thailand.

Borneo
February 24 – March 10, 2016

Borneo… a land of rugged mountains, ancient people, dense jungles teeming with wildlife and birds that defy the imagination… Explore the world’s third largest island and many of the unique habitats on this 15-day adventure through Borneo’s rainy forests, lowland rainforests, tree toppeled plateaus, and the spectacular canyons of the Tarn, and discover the multitude of species that make this part of the world famous! We will explore the hotspots of the Rio Grande Valley to one of the most sought-after of Borneo’s endemics.

Texas: Rio Grande Valley
February 14–21, 2016

In this country of Buddhist traditions, temples and images, the Buddha can be seen in nearly every corner, as can offerings of flowers and incense in Buddhist shrines. Thailand is a country full of natural beauty and friendly people who, without fail, greet you with a slight bow, palms pressed together in a polite wai.

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This amazing trip features some of the best wildlife viewing in the world and exploration of world-famous Buddhist temples. If you would like more information, or to reserve a spot, please contact Dan van den Broek at 972-222-6105 or dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org.

Leader: Dan van den Broek, Trip Leader and Educator
Fee: $4175* members / $4475* non-members
Deposit: $2000 required to secure your place on the trip

Texas: Rio Grande Valley
February 14–21, 2016

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COMING SOON:
Costa Rica, Australia, and Oaxaca!

See our Natural History Ecotours brochure for more information at audubonportland.org/files/ecotours-brochure. Our mission of a great trip is how many birds were seen by all participants, and we strive to create a positive group dynamic so everyone feels comfortable and informed. We model best practices in the field and interact with nature in a respectful manner. Most importantly, we want participants to be safe and have fun!
Benthos, Nymphs, and Smolts: An introduction to freshwater ecology

Oregon’s rivers and streams are rich ecosystems, full of life. They are home to our most iconic animal: the six species of Pacific salmon. But flowing waters also provide habitat for other kinds of fish, amphibians, insects, mollusks, and more. Join Dr. Ivan Phillipsen for an introduction to the freshwater ecology of our region. Learn about the influence of the terrrestrial environment and stream hydrology on the life cycles of fish and macroinvertebrates. You’ll get familiar with some common species and learn their basic identification.

Class with Field Trip. Limited to 12 participants: $85 members / $105 non-members
Class-only Option: $30 members / $50 non-members

The Art of Bird Observation for Fledgling Artists

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

Fee: $45 members / $65 non-members
Limited to 16 participants.

The Art of Illustrating Insects

This workshop will focus on the scientific illustration of insects with an emphasis on conveying anatomical structure and creating aesthetically pleasing images. Exercises will allow participants to practice drawing techniques as they work toward a finished piece. Nature illustrator Stacey “Zebith” Thaliden received a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA focusing on Painting & Entomology from Goddard College.

Fee: $95 members / $115 non-members (includes $15 for supplies)
Limited to 12 participants. 10 minimum.

Beginning Birding I

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

Class with Field Trips. Limited to 14 participants: $45 members / $60 non-members
Class-only Option: $30 members / $50 non-members

Ice Age Floods

April 10–16, 2016

Join the Audubon Society of Portland as we explore the route of the Ice Age Floods from western Montana, across the Channeled Scablands of western Washington and through the Columbia River Gorge. We will follow the path of the floods from Missoula to Portland and witness many of the evidence they left on the landscape, from giant current ripples to slack-water deposits known as rhythmites. April is a beautiful time of year to be on the water. This class has limited enrollment, wait for confirmation and then...

Fee: To be determined

Death Valley

May 9–13, 2016

Death Valley National Park is the lowest, driest, and hottest place in North America and the largest National Park in the lower 48 states. Along with the extreme climate comes the opportunity to explore a unique, striking landscape with hidden pockets of flora and fauna. While we will always be birding, a large part of our time in Death Valley will focus on the spectacular geology of the area and the adaptations of the drought-tolerant plants. Destinations outside the park will contrast the higher elevations of the Spring Mountains and some of the best wildlife-viewing locales such as Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Birding opportunities will focus primarily on migrants and vagrants and some of the local desert species. Contact Eric Scheuering at 971-222-6119 or escheuering@audubonportland.org for more information.

Leader: Kirk Hardee, Portland Audubon Trip Leader
Fee: $1385 members / $1555 non-members
Deposit: $700 required to secure your place on the trip

Do you eBird?

Oct 8 (Thursday), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
Oct 10 (Sat), 9am–Noon: Audubon Sanctuary & Heron Hall

Want to learn how to use eBird? This online Cornell Lab of Ornithology database is revolutionizing how birders report what they see and how they access information about birds. We’ll start by learning the basics of eBird, submit our own observations, and explore the numerous eBird tools. This is an interactive workshop with Shawnne Finnegan and Dave Irons. Both are passionate users of eBird and are part of Oregon’s eBird review team. Bring your binoculars and smartphone, laptop, or iPad if available.

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

Can I Eat This? An introduction to mushrooms

Oct 22 (Thursday), 7pm–9:30pm: Class in Heron Hall
Oct 24 (Sat), 8am–4pm: Field Trip (transportation provided)

The Pacific Northwest harbors a rich diversity of mushroom species. Fungi play critically important roles in the ecology of habitats here. Get an introduction by naturalist Ivan Phillipsen to the weird and wonderful biology of mushrooms in our region. Learn how to identify some of the best edible species as well as the poisonous ones. This class will help you see another — and under-appreciated — facet of life in our beautiful forests.

Class with Field Trip. Limited to 12 participants: $85 members / $105 non-members
Class-only Option: $10 members / $15 non-members

Lava Flows & the Missoula Floods: Geology of the Columbia Gorge

Nov 18 (Thursday), 7pm–9:30pm: Class in Heron Hall
Nov 21 (Sat), 8am–4pm: Field Trip (transportation provided)

The beautiful Columbia River Gorge has been shaped by violent natural forces over millions of years. Lava flows, volcanoes, giant floods, and landslides have all played their parts. Join naturalist Ivan Phillipsen on this field trip to the Gorge and learn about the origins of the cliffs and waterfalls of this awe-inspiring region. We’ll explore the green, forested western end of the Gorge as well as its sun-baked eastern reaches. After this trip, you’ll see the Gorge in a whole new way!

Class with Field Trip. Limited to 12 participants: $85 members / $105 non-members
Class-only Option: $10 members / $15 non-members

www.audubonportland.org
SEPTMBER/OCTOBER 2015 7
Groups of Fall Migrants May Contain Out-of-Range Wanderers

Following the nesting season when the young are on the wing, birds tend to scatter away from their nesting sites, apparently in search of a fresher food supply. Most tend to stay close to the mountains. Some do not stop at timberline but move right up onto the open alpine mountaintops. When adverse weather threatens they then swarm back down into the forests, providing a good show for visiting birders.

Many birds begin migration during August following the mountain ranges. Early Golden-crowned Sparrows are often seen during August and September in the mountains. Rough-legged Hawk is often seen during August and September in the mountains. Many southern species have often been found in Oregon during July and August, including Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls, and this year Elegant Terns. Egrets and herons especially tend to drift northward after nesting.

Our local Violet-green and Tree Swallows complete nesting and leave by mid-July. Almost immediately after they leave, good-sized flocks of Violet-green and Tree Swallows gather on phone lines and roadside fences; these are migrants arriving from more northern populations.

A Story to Share

Continued from front cover

that can sit flat and with lots of red on it, some sugar and a measuring cup. Then put the prepared feeder on the sill outside of the open window and let the students be involved in the process the whole way — some going to the classroom, the next step would be to leave all lights out but place a flashlight near the feeder for the night.

The administrator was prepared to give it a shot. Several hours later, a VERY excited voice was on the phone — she could hardly tell her story. When they had gone back into the room they couldn’t find the hummer anywhere, so went to the shade by the open window to draw it up for light. There she found the bird clinging to the shade cord, still inside but near the feeder. She grasped the hummer in her hand but couldn’t get it to release its grip on the cord, so, smart gal, she passed the hummer on cord out the window to a teacher, closed the window on the cord, ran around to the outside, and then gently placed the hummer’s bill inside the feeder tube, where it promptly began a marathon feeding. The bird finally released the cord so that it could be placed on the edge of the feeder and continue to feed before eventually flying away.

She said that the whole venture had been just wonderful — she couldn’t thank us enough for being there — and the experience had been so educational for the children. They were involved in the process the whole way — some going with her to buy the feeder, others preparing the nectar, others placing the feeder on the ledge. She said that the whole venture had been just wonderful and this species of bird needed to restock on a regular basis. If by the time school was out and the bird was still in the classroom, the next step would be to leave all lights out but place a flashlight near the feeder for the night.

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Executive Director’s Note: We are proud to be a volunteer-empowered organization, with many dedicated volunteers like Lin DeMartini and others volunteering. It is an honor to work with such talented and dedicated people as you, our volunteers. We are thankful for your efforts and your support.

Photo by Lacy Campbell, Wildlife Care Center

Volunteer of the Month:
Lin DeMartini
by Lacy Campbell, Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager

In DeMartini has always been an animal lover and because of this she lives in a floating home where she can witness Osprey, geese, and eagles up close and personal. Knowing this, it may not be surprising that since she started volunteering with Portland Audubon this February she has already logged over 100 hours.

Lin was initially introduced to the Audubon Society of Portland last year. She was working as a Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon volunteer and worked alongside one of our volunteers at last year’s Catio Tour. (The Catio Tour is the product of a partnership between the Audubon Society of Portland and the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon as part of our Cats Safe at Home campaign, which works to address the cause of cat overpopulation with strategies that value both cats and wildlife.) Lin had been working with the Feral Cat Coalition for several years, mostly in the spay/neuter clinic, but she also did some trapping, transporting, and outreach. At the time she knew she wanted to expand her volunteer activities but hadn’t decided on a specific area. After talking to one of our knowledgeable volunteers, she decided to look into Portland Audubon... During the busy summer season, the Wildlife Care Center will bring on as many as 35 new volunteers to help with baby birds. Lin began her Saturday evening seasonal shift this past May. Some people might have better things to do with their Saturday night but Lin is a dedicated volunteer. Not only does she commit to her weekly shift but she will often cover shifts for others. According to Lin:

“At first I was both enthralled and intimidated feeding tiny baby birds. I’ve learned and experienced so much since then. I never would have dreamed I’d have the privilege of caring for the tiniest baby hummingbirds since then. I have learned so much from the staff and other volunteers, I always look forward to my shifts — even on some of the hottest days we’ve had this summer. I’m very grateful for the experiences I’ve had at WCC, and hope to have many more.”

Since she began, Lin has become an anchor for many evening shifts and is always willing to try whatever task you give her. We are excited and fortunate to have such a wonderful and dedicated person as a part of our Wildlife Care Center team, and we look forward to having Lin with us for a long time.

Embrace this season of change with a twice-monthly issue that can sit flat and with lots of red on it, some sugar and a measuring cup. Then put the prepared feeder on the sill outside of the open window and let the students be involved in the process the whole way — some going to the classroom, the next step would be to leave all lights out but place a flashlight near the feeder for the night.

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Photo by Lacy Campbell, Wildlife Care Center
Meet Northwest Graphic Artist T. Edward Bak!

Ever wonder who the Steller’s Jay was named for? Last July, on a toasty summer making you dream of adventures in Alaska? Are you intrigued by the idea of exploring history in the cool, graphic novel format? Then Portland Audubon’s Nature Store has the perfect Author Night for you! We welcome author and artist T. Edward Bak as he delves into Georg Wilhelm Steller’s explorations in Alaska and Siberia. Join us on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. in Hero Hall for a free presentation of the story and imagery of his graphic novel, Island of Memory ($12.00, Floating World Comics).

Island of Memory captures German naturalist Georg Wilhelm Steller (1709–1746) as he journeys with the historic Second Kamchatka Expedition, which brought the Russians to Siberia and Alaska in the 18th century. Using Steller’s first-hand descriptions of this unique confluence of culture and ecology, T. Edward Bak brings Steller’s adventures in the natural and human worlds vividly to life.

Mr. Bak’s research on Steller has led him from Southeast Alaska to the Aleutian Islands and St. Petersburg, Russia, to the California Academy of Sciences and the University of Oregon. He is currently at work on Sea of Time, the second volume of Wild Man.

Making Time for Stories
by Sally Loomis, Book Buyer

P art of the joy of my job is connecting customers with books that enrich their lives, either a fun field guide or a Northwest-based novel capturing this region’s beauty and wildness, or another expression of awe-inspiring connections between humans and nature. Even better is finding children’s books to recommend to parents or other relatives. Whether a comforting classic storybook or a vividly wacky new release, children’s books can have a particular magic. This is especially true when, either as daytime activity or bedtime ritual, they are read aloud.

During the fall back-to-school season it seems appropriate to highlight the value of storytelling. My own memories of childhood are rich with the sound of my father’s voice, either telling tales (perhaps embellished) of family history, or reading from favorite stories. The classic Stone Soup had particular resonance for me. We lived on a small farm growing most of our own food, so the notion of soup emerging from nothing didn’t seem that odd. I especially remember how he would over-enunciate PO-TAY-TOH. Beatrix Potter’s Peter Rabbit also was memorable, as our farmer neighbor Mr. Blackburn could have been Mr. McGregor’s twin.

On the other hand, one of the saddest conversations I’ve ever had with a customer was with a women shopping for books for her seven-year-old. She mentioned the nature topic she wanted, and I found a wonderfully illustrated story that fit. Looking disapprovingly at it, she scoffed, “No, too babyish!” It turned out that she felt that at seven, her son was too old for picture books, and only needed nonfiction books with text. What a loss that was for him! Incredible wit and creativity go into the best picture books, and the best storytelling is a multi-sensory experience.

A recent New York Times article by Dr. Perri Klass emphasizes the importance of storytelling on children’s brain development. Recent research shows that crucial aspects of language and visual skills are derived from a child being read to, in ways that are different from regular spoken language.

With that thought in mind, the Nature Store regularly hosts storytime sessions for children ages 3–8. We have a cadre of gifted volunteers, some former teachers or librarians, who love to perform and engage kids in crafts or other activities, all with a nature theme. On Saturday, September 5, we welcome Stephanie Baldridge back for some Native American stories as part of our International Vulture Awareness Day (see page 2). Following dates on our schedule (also Saturdays) are September 19, October 3, and October 17. Please join us in our interpretive center at 12:30 p.m. or for the repeat performance at 1:30 p.m. At this writing, we are still plotting out details for the fall season, so please check back with us on the Audubon website, or give the store a call at 503-292-9453.

Trail Accessibility Issues
by Tom Costello, Director of Operations

A s I wrote about in the May/June Warbler, Portland Audubon has been working with Access Recreation (www.accessrecreation.org) for the past year as part of a region-wide effort to provide better information on trail accessibility for users who may have a disability or mobility issue, or who just want to see if they can take their child’s stroller on the trail. For me this project required a bit of a paradigm shift — I had always thought accessibility boiled down to little more than tread and slope, with a little packed gravel sprinkled on top. The idea that accessibility could deal as much with information as with the actual trail conditions was a big change for me.

As this project enters its second year, though, I do have to admit that I cannot quite pull my mind away from tread and slope. Access Recreation’s guidelines certainly provide better information to the public, but they do not address any of the difficult areas of trail that we have at Portland Audubon, sections of trail that prevent users with disabilities or limited mobility from spending a quiet moment on the bank of Balch Creek or looking up into the canopy of a majestic old-growth Douglas-fir.

But the guidelines allow for an approach to accessible trail design that does not necessarily strive for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance. As I have learned, ADA standards do not guarantee access for everyone. And unfortunately many well-intentioned and beneficial trial access projects are abandoned because site conditions will not allow for full ADA compliance. But meeting the ADA standards is not necessary to provide significantly improved levels of access. And improved trail access, combined with more available information on trail conditions, is the best approach for sites with difficult and limiting topography such as our NW Portland Sanctuaries.

While we know that Balch Canyon will always present access challenges, we have arrived at two concept designs that could greatly improve access to our lower Sanctuary including Balch Creek and our remnant stand of old-growth. In the coming months we will be working to finalize the design and secure funding for this project.

Parking & Pedestrian Safety

Concerned about the impact our access efforts have put significant energy into assessing our current parking and pedestrian safety issues at our NW Portland facilities. In March we engaged the services of a local engineering firm to assess our current parking infrastructure, identify potential improvements to safety and capacity, and assess the feasibility of these potential improvements.

While both of these projects are ongoing, I wanted to take a moment and let our members know that access and safety are of primary importance to us and to keep our members apprised of the work we are doing to improve on both of these fronts. I invite any comments or feedback you may have on these initiatives — you may email me at costello@audubonportland.org. I look forward to hearing from some of you.

Nature Store Highlights

Making Time for Stories
by Sally Loomis, Book Buyer

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by Tom Costello, Director of Operations

As I wrote about in the May/June Warbler, Portland Audubon has been working with Access Recreation (www.accessrecreation.org) for the past year as part of a region-wide effort to provide better information on trail accessibility for users who may have a disability or mobility issue, or who just want to see if they can take their child’s stroller on the trail. For me this project required a bit of a paradigm shift — I had always thought accessibility boiled down to little more than tread and slope, with a little packed gravel sprinkled on top. The idea that accessibility could deal as much with information as with the actual trail conditions was a big change for me.

As this project enters its second year, though, I do have to admit that I cannot quite pull my mind away from tread and slope. Access Recreation’s guidelines certainly provide better information to the public, but they do not address any of the difficult areas of trail that we have at Portland Audubon, sections of trail that prevent users with disabilities or limited mobility from spending a quiet moment on the bank of Balch Creek or looking up into the canopy of a majestic old-growth Douglas-fir.

But the guidelines allow for an approach to accessible trail design that does not necessarily strive for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance. As I have learned, ADA standards do not guarantee access for everyone. And unfortunately many well-intentioned and beneficial trial access projects are abandoned because site conditions will not allow for full ADA compliance. But meeting the ADA standards is not necessary to provide significantly improved levels of access. And improved trail access, combined with more available information on trail conditions, is the best approach for sites with difficult and limiting topography such as our NW Portland Sanctuaries.

While we know that Balch Canyon will always present access challenges, we have arrived at two concept designs that could greatly improve access to our lower Sanctuary including Balch Creek and our remnant stand of old-growth. In the coming months we will be working to finalize the design and secure funding for this project.

Parking & Pedestrian Safety
Concerned about the impact our access efforts have put significant energy into assessing our current parking and pedestrian safety issues at our NW Portland facilities. In March we engaged the services of a local engineering firm to assess our current parking infrastructure, identify potential improvements to safety and capacity, and assess the feasibility of these potential improvements.

While both of these projects are ongoing, I wanted to take a moment and let our members know that access and safety are of primary importance to us and to keep our members apprised of the work we are doing to improve on both of these fronts. I invite any comments or feedback you may have on these initiatives — you may email me at costello@audubonportland.org. I look forward to hearing from some of you.

www.audubonportland.org
Protecting Fish, Birds, and People

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

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ome have cast the slaughter of Double-crested Cormorants on East Sand Island as “fish versus birds.” In fact, that is exactly the narrative put forward by the federal government to justify this killing, and it is a false narrative used to divert attention from the real causes of salmon decline. For Portland Audubon, the priority has always been protecting all of our native biodiversity, fish and fowl, and ensuring that the best available science is used to make sound wildlife management decisions.

As the following two articles illustrate, the Audubon Society of Portland is working on multiple fronts to protect fish and birds in Oregon. We need your help. Please become an Audubon Activist and help us protect our wildlife, wild places, and communities.

New Protections on the Way for Oregon’s Floodplains

Floodplains are essential for protecting the health of our communities and represent some of our most important and fertile wildlife habitat. In an era of climate change, they provide important storage capacity for flood events. They are also absolutely critical in the effort to recover federally listed salmon and steelhead. Yet local, state, and federal policies and programs have long precluded floodplain filling, digging, and development of floodplains. Of particular concern is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which provides otherwise unavailable, publicly subsidized insurance to property owners that build in floodplains.

In 2009, Audubon Society of Portland, NW Environmental Defense Center, Association of NW Steelheaders, and the National Wildlife Federation, represented by the Earthrise Law Clinic, brought a lawsuit against FEMA under the Endangered Species Act asserting that FEMA was violating federal law by failing to consider the impacts of its NFIP program and the resulting floodplain development on federally listed salmon and steelhead. Our lawsuit replicated a similar lawsuit successfully brought by the National Wildlife Federation in 2005.

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We brought this lawsuit because, despite overwhelming examples of the folly of building in floodplains for people, wildlife, and the economy, we continue to see ongoing expansion of floodplain development. Hurricane Katrina and the devastation that occurred in New Orleans stands as the most significant example of potentially catastrophic results of eliminating floodplains, but there are plenty of examples closer to home. Anybody who lived in Portland in the 1980s will remember the flooding in 1096 and how close downtown Portland came to being under water. Still, development of our floodplains continues: South Waterfront, Oregon’s highest density development, was built in a floodplain, and the Port of Portland’s proposed development on West Hayden Island would also occur in a floodplain. In addition, Metro has included significant increases in floodplain development in its regional planning efforts.

Statewide, more than 32,000 insurance policies have been issued under the NFIP program totaling more than $6.8 billion in coverage, and over the past 30 years there have been more than 4,700 claims statewide totaling more than $80 million. The Federal Flood Insurance Program is currently more than $24 billion in debt. At a time when we should be reclaiming floodplains and pulling back development from our rivers, streams, and oceans, we continue to ignore the catastrophic consequences that have been increasingly realized in recent years.

The BiOp is expected to contain significant new provisions to promote protection of floodplains and require full mitigation for ecological impacts when floodplain development does occur. When it emerges, we expect strong pushback from development interests and it will be critical for decision-makers to hear from the public that protecting floodplains protects people, protects our economy, and protects wildlife. Please check our website or become an Audubon Activist to get directly involved.

A Senseless Slaughter: Hidden Government Documents Reveal that Killing Cormorants Will Not Help Salmon

The decision by the federal government to approve the killing of more than 10,000 Double-crested Cormorants on East Sand Island, representing 10% of the entire western population, has drawn attention and condemnation from across the United States. The decision will drive the western population below levels that the US Fish and Wildlife Service defines as “sustainable,” placing the species at unnecessary risk, and will be achieved using techniques that can only be described as utterly inhumane. We now know, based on documents that were released only after a federal court order, that the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which issued the permits to allow the killing to go forward, hid its own staff analysis that showed that killing cormorants would do nothing to help the recovery of federally listed salmon. Instead the analysis points directly to the operation of the federal hydropower system as the most effective strategy for recovering listed salmon and steelhead.

Audubon Society of Portland and other litigants opposing the killing have sent a letter to US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe requesting that he immediately withdraw the permits and initiate an investigation as to why this analysis was kept hidden throughout the public decision-making process. The issue now extends beyond the killing of cormorants; it goes to the integrity of the public process and the scientific credibility of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

We now know, based on documents that were released only after a federal court order, that the US Fish and Wildlife Service...
Growing a Community of Nature Lovers
by Ann Takamoto, Development Director

A t 15,000 members, Audubon Society of Portland is the largest affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society. Considering that there are larger metropolitan areas around the country, that’s an impressive number! Our most recent new member reception filled Horon Hall with enthusiasm and a passion for birds, as we shared a bit of Portland Audubon’s rich history, along with some snacks and a volunteer-led presentation of our Education Birds. Yes, we’ve really got something here!

There are a lot of reasons that Portland, Oregon is the perfect “breeding ground” for an Audubon chapter: (1) An amazing number of bird species live in or pass through our area — over 230 species are regularly seen in Oregon — thank you for being a part of our flock!

(2) Oregon’s landscapes are diverse, near and far. This is a beautiful state, and we and our members want to keep it that way. Ocean, mountains, forests, desert, water… we have it all! Think about it: what is your favorite place to experience nature or go birding? Everywhere! How about your own backyard?

(3) And most importantly, we have an amazing community — there are a lot of bird and nature lovers here that believe it that way. Ocean, mountains, forests, desert, water… we are an incredible force for birds, wildlife, and habitat in Oregon — thank you for being a part of our flock!

Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

In Memory

Bradley Demo Fancher
Janet Beer
Dr. Michael H. Gold
Kathy Fodale & John Hunt
Lily Irong
Adrianne Luskett & Bob Luskett
Bill James
Christine DeMall
Sharon Johnson
Elisa Ostergard
Carol Karlen
Jim Coleman
Rita Coleman
Judith G. Fred Dougall
Kathleen Krishnan-Fagan
Sherrie & Dale Halter
Corrie Heron
Bing Wong

In Honor

Amy Valentine & Lynda Garner
Barbara Bonetti
Kathleen Carlson & Sallie
Elizabeth Carlson
Ann Carver
Maria Dennis
Charlotte Debbrok
Marya Eriksen
Jack Harper
Shelley Hutchison
James Robbins

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.

Thank You to:

• Jim Cruce for professional wildlife photographs including Anna’s Hummingbirds. Photo by Scott Carpenter

• Supplies for the Wildlife Care Center from Susan Nolte

• Deanna Sawtelle for pizza prizes for the Red-breasted Sapsucker Wrens; food for the Wildlife Care Center animals; & supplies for the Volunteer Appreciation and Birdathon 2015 Winesuckers Birdathon teams

• NW Natural for providing two wonderful banquets

• 56 tote bags for the Nature Store

• Ergonomic Office Chairs

• Loppers

• Hand saws

• Work gloves

• Science Directors Growth Blush

• Dawn Dishwashing Detergent

• Exams gloves (latex or latex free)

• Paper lunch bags

What We Do with What You Give

We have once again received a letter from Charity Navigator, an independent charity evaluator, informing us that we have received their “coveted” four-star rating, four years in a row! Four stars is their highest rating, and receiving four stars indicates that the Audubon Society of Portland excels, as compared to charities in the U.S., in successfully managing our finances in an efficient and effective manner. This means that the majority of contributions go directly to supporting our important conservation and education programs, while a smaller proportion pays for administration and fundraising. While we publish this information yearly in our annual report, it is a great confirmation and endorsement to have this national rating come our way.

Build Your Legacy of Conservation through a Deferred Gift

Deferred Giving with the Audubon Society of Portland can provide benefits for you and your family, as well as helping fulfill your philanthropic goals. You can plan your gifts to benefit Portland Audubon now while protecting your assets, or to benefit yourself or a loved one now and Portland Audubon later. A variety of planned giving vehicles offer you tax benefits that fit your lifestyle, current wishes, and future needs.

Trusts, gifts of real estate, retirement accounts, securities, or stocks can help you leverage your assets while managing tax liabilities. Portland Audubon does not offer financial or legal advice. We encourage you to get professional assistance from a financial planner or an attorney.

Frequent Flying — a great way to go!

Easier than remembering to renew, and better for the planet because it saves resources, monthly giving through our Frequent Flyer program is an effortless way to help us protect native birds and other animals and their wild places. Frequent Flyers provide the Audubon Society of Portland with a much-needed, dependable stream of income that we use to take care of injured and orphaned animals, teach people to understand and enjoy nature, and protect the habitats that we all need to thrive.

Become a Member

I want to become a member

Please renew my membership

Your Name __________________________

Address __________________________

Email __________________________

Phone __________________________

I want to give a Gift Membership to:

Name __________________________

Address __________________________

Phone __________________________

We will send a card to the new member notifying them of your gift.

You can set up your Frequent Flyer monthly gift to be charged from a credit card or debit card from a bank account, conveniently contributing to protecting the environment in more ways than one! Your membership will be automatically renewed, saving resources and your time, and you can change your monthly gift amount or discontinue at any time by just calling our membership office.

Become a Frequent Flyer by going to audubonportland.org/support/give, or contact us at 503-292-6855. Or send in the handy form below.

Membership Levels:

$25 Introductory
$100 Goldfinch
$35 Individual
$250 Warbler
$45 Family
$500 Owl
$600 Wren
$1000 Great Blue Heron

$ per month Frequent Flyer (first check or cede card number enclosed)

Payment Method:

Check payable to Audubon Society of Portland, is enclosed.

Credit card: Visa MasterCard Discover

Card #: __________________________

Expiration Date: / __________________________

Thank You:

• Im Cruce for professional wildlife photographs including 85 framed and 159 unframed, and 2 photo albums

• John Drain for Patrot Mountain Group’s donation of $56 to bugs for the Nature Store

• NW Natural for providing two wonderful banquets for the Volunteer Appreciation and Birdathon 2015 celebrations

• Candy Plante for pizza prizes for the Red-breasted Wineries Birdathon teams

• Ginny Ross for notebooks & dividers for the Education Birds; food for the Wildlife Care Center animals; & food for the WCC auction donor event

• Deanna Sawtelle for pizza prizes for the Red-breasted Wineries Birdathon teams

• Supplies for the Wildlife Care Center from Susan Nolte and Christina Sells

Our Wish List

For All Departments:

Ergonomic Office Chairs
Loppers
Hand saws
Work gloves

For Wildlife Care Center:

Science Director Growth Blush
Dawn Dishwashing Detergent
Exams gloves (latex or latex free)
Paper lunch bags

Wish List:

$25 Introductory
$100 Goldfinch
$35 Individual
$250 Warbler
$45 Family
$500 Owl
$600 Wren
$1000 Great Blue Heron

$ per month Frequent Flyer (first check or cede card number enclosed)

Payment Method:

Check payable to Audubon Society of Portland, is enclosed.

Credit card: Visa MasterCard Discover

Card #: __________________________

Expiration Date: / __________________________

If you include the Audubon Society of Portland in your estate plans, please let us know! By joining the Audubon Society of Portland’s Legacy Circle you will be supporting our important work now — and that future, joining a long and vital tradition of protecting wildlife and habitat right here were we live.

For more information on planned giving options, please call Ann Takamoto at Portland Audubon, 971-222-6117.

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

We are often questioned about the difference between membership with National Audubon Society and the Audubon Society of Portland. We are our own entity — setting our own initiatives, policies, priorities, agendas, programs, operations, everything we do. National Audubon has its own issues and agendas. As an affiliate of National Audubon, we provide National members that live in our area with local information, sending our Navigator newsletter to everyone — we want everyone to know about the issues impacting us locally.

The difference comes in where the membership dues go: National Audubon membership dues support National Audubon’s work, while Portland Audubon membership dues work here in Oregon, on local issues that impact birds and places we see right here. Membership in both National Audubon and Portland Audubon is a great investment for the future of the birds.

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

11
Volunteers Needed for Audubon’s Biggest Show of the Year

This year’s Festival is scheduled for Saturday & Sunday, November 21st & 22nd, and preparations are well under way. Last year was a record breaker on all fronts: the Wild Arts Festival raised $175,000, brought in over 200 volunteers, and featured 75 artists, 35 Northwest authors, and 250 Silent Auction items. This would not have been possible without the 250 incredible volunteers who were involved every step of the way.

Although 2014 was a huge success, we are hoping for 2015 to be even better. We have a roster of amazing artists, including some new to Wild Arts, an exciting lineup of Northwest authors, and more sponsors that support this wonderful event. Learn more about what’s in store for this year at wildartsfestival.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

Excited yet? Volunteering is one of the best ways to get a behind-the-scenes look at the event — you get free admission AND you get to experience what it takes to put on this celebration of Pacific Northwest flora, fauna, and creativity. You will also get to connect with a host of like-minded nature, art, and literature lovers as well as some local celebrities including Ursula LeGuin, Carson Ellis, and more! What better way to spend a few hours on a November weekend?

There are roles and projects to fit most schedules, interests, and abilities. During setup on Friday evening, November 20th, volunteers are needed to help the artists to bring in their wares and set up their booths. Then, Saturday and Sunday volunteers will help run all aspects of the event, including helping to check in other volunteers; working the admission desk; staffing the 6th art exhibit; booth-sitting for artists; helping with the Book Fair; and more. At the end of the show on Sunday, volunteers are needed to help the artists load out and break down the Festival. Artists especially appreciate our Wild Arts Festival volunteers as the service they provide is rarely offered at other shows.

If you are interested in being a volunteer, check out the volunteer page on the Festival website at wildartsfestival.org or email Jill Nelson Debo, our Festival volunteer coordinator, at wafvolunteers@gmail.com.

Other Ways to Help

Don’t have to time to volunteer? Here are some other ways you can support the Wild Arts Festival:

• Consider sponsoring the event — visit wildartsfestival.org/sponsors to learn about our various levels of sponsorship for businesses and individuals, from “Eagle” or “Great Blue Heron” to the very affordable “Community Sponsorships” at the $50–$249 level.

• How about a donation to the Silent Auction? Go to wildartsfestival.org/files/silent-form and download a procurement form. Items can be dropped off at Portland Audubon after October 1. Each item needs a separate form, and be sure to include its Fair Market Value. Items that sell well include art objects, jewelry, sculptures, pottery, stays at beach homes and mountain cabins, kayak/cruising trips, wine tours, event tickets, gift certificates to restaurants and stores, bird homes and feeders, and other nature-inspired items. Contact Marilyn O’Grady at mwvrsing@comcast.net or 503-722-8136 for more details.

• Visit the Wild Arts Facebook page, where you can “like” us and share your thoughts and Wild Arts experiences.

• Last, but certainly not least — mark your calendar for November 21st–22, 2015, and join us for the 35th Wild Arts Festival!