Summer Camps: The Portland Audubon Way

by Ian Abraham, Camp Director/On-site Programs Manager

In preparation for another exciting year of summer camps, Portland Audubon summer staff is busy planning trips, lessons, games and adventures that help connect each individual camper to the natural world. We strive to include elements in each of our camps that define the "Portland Audubon Way." Our camps are science-based and experiential, where problem-solving and thought-provoking challenges are presented daily. Our holistic approach allows campers to express themselves through different mediums such as crafts, poetry, skits, and music. Each program has a foundation of concept-based learning that incorporates hands-on activities throughout. We recognize that campers have different learning styles and we address these by seeing, touching, smelling, hearing, and, at times, tasting! Our camper-directed approach allows for the organic nature of an informal outdoor setting to pull on the youth's passions and interests in the natural world.

Our vision of a residential summer camp at Portland Audubon's Marmot Cabin continues to become a reality: we are on schedule to complete phase one of a two-phase remodel for summer 2017. In phase one, we've added two thirty-foot yurts that will increase our capacity, improve the overall function of the facility, and allow us to introduce residential camps that will call Marmot Cabin home. Audubon Classics: Fire, Sticks, and Stones (3 sessions starting July 10, 17, and 24), will expose campers to the art and science of wilderness living while they explore and play in the Joe Miller Wildlife Sanctuary. Phase two will be the next step, and we are working to raise funds for a necessary remodel of the 60-year-old cabin. When complete, Marmot Cabin will provide not only summer camp programming, but also a fully functional Outdoor School site that will bring Portland Audubon's unique brand of programming to new and many past issues in full color on our website! Great to see the diversity of birds and wildlife in Oregon—are being released online from the collections of the OHS and Oregon State University.

In celebration, OHS Historian Laura Cray will be doing a five-stop speaking tour across Oregon this spring. She will be joined at three of these events by Audubon Society of Portland Conservation Director Bob Sallinger. This project is an amazing opportunity to see Finley and Bohlman’s incredible work and learn the conservation advocacy that protected much of Oregon’s landscape.

April 25, Burns, Harney County Library, 6:30–9pm
April 27, Klamath Falls, Oregon Institute of Technology, 7–8pm
May 13, Corvallis, Oregon State University Library, 6–7:30pm
May 14, Oremoise, Netarts Community Club, 2–3:30pm
June 7, Portland, Oregon Historical Society, 6–7:30pm
*With Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger

This project is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon State Library.

To learn more, visit ohs.org/events/

On the Road with Finley and Bohlman

A udubon Society of Portland is proud to partner with the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) and feature the work of two of our founding members: William L. Finley and Herman T. Bohlman. Their work during the first four decades of the twentieth century, backed by the fledgling Oregon Audubon Society (later Audubon Society of Portland) resulted in the protection of public lands across Oregon, including Klamath, Malheur, and Three Arch Rocks Wildlife Refuges; and the Wallowa, Deschutes, Umpqua, Siskiyou, Fremont, Siuslaw, Umatilla, and Rogue River National Forests. It also resulted in the first laws to protect wild birds in Oregon.

Finley and Bohlman left behind an astounding legacy of natural history photography and writing, land protection, and grassroots advocacy. More than 6,000 photoraphic images and 8,600 pages of documents—nearly 50 years of work (1899–1946) to document and protect the diversity of birds and wildlife in Oregon—are being released online from the collections of the OHS and Oregon State University.

This article continues on page 11.
Ross Island Regatta in Honor of 31st Annual Great Blue Heron Week
Sunday, May 21 10am to 1pm
by Mike Houck, Urban Naturalist

In 1986, then mayor Bud Clark, while giving a speech in the downtown Hilton to several hundred western fish-and-wildlife biologists, mentioned Great Blue Herons numerous times. He related the encounters he’d had with herons at his duck blind at Scappoose Bottoms and on his paddles on the Willamette River. Having recently read about several US cities that had an official city bird and knowing Portland had none yet, I grabbed Bud by the arm on his way out of the Hilton and suggested he proclaim the heron as Portland’s city bird. He let out his characteristic “Whoop, Whoop!” and two weeks later Portland had a newly appointed emissary to the natural world: the stately Great Blue Heron.

Shortly thereafter I wrote to then Oregon poet laureate William Stafford and asked him to write a short poem commemorating the adoration of the heron as our city bird. He sent me the poem Spirit of Place within a couple weeks. Each year we read Stafford’s inspiring poem, after which the mayor and city council adopt a proclamation announcing events for that year’s Great Blue Heron Week and what natural resource programs and actions the city will undertake to ensure herons continue to grace Portland’s skyline.

Sprint of Place: Great Blue Heron
Out of their loudnesses for each other two reeds, or maybe two shadows, lurch forward and become suddenly a life, a presence that the dawn shall not see. In the wilderness come back again, a lagoon with our city reflected in its eye. We live in faith in such presences. It is a test for us, that thin but real, undulating figure that promises, “If you keep the faith I will exist at the edge, where your vision joins the sunlight and the rain; heads in the light, feet that go down in the mud where the truth is.”

— William Stafford, 1987

For this year’s 31st Annual Great Blue Heron Week there will be only one signature event—the annual Ross Island Regatta—which will provide Portlanders an opportunity to enjoy a morning on the Willamette River, paddling through the no-wake zone on the Holgate Channel, into the Ross Island lagoon, around Ross Island, and back to Willamette Park. May is the perfect time to circumnavigate the four-island archipelago (Ross, Hardtack, East, and Toe), which will be redolent with bird song, including the eerie melody of Swainson’s Thrushes. We might even see a river otter or two! The paddle will launch at Willamette Park boat ramp, proceed to the west side of the Willamette River, and head downstream for a serene “birdy” journey through the Holgate Channel’s no-wake zone. We will be looking and listening for Black-bearded Grosbeaks, Purple Martins, and other migratory songbirds, Spotted Sandpipers, Peregrine Falcons, Red-tailed Hawks, and Wood Ducks. In the Ross Island lagoon we’ll see nesting Bald Eagles that took over what had been a large Great Blue Heron nesting colony. Farther downstream we will get a good look at the relocated heron colony near Ross Island’s tip. From there we will head back upstream past little Toe Island, keeping a lookout for beaver dens and Belied Kingfisher burrows.

Meet trip leaders Mike Houck of the Urban Greenspaces Institute, and Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director at Audubon Society of Portland, so later than 10am at Willamette Park, boat ramp to unload your canoe or kayak and get into the water by 10:30.

Directions: Willamette Park entrance is at SW Macadam Avenue and SW Nebraska Street. If you are renting a canoe or kayak from Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe or the nearby Portland Kayak Company, make sure you leave plenty of time to get your craft and be at Willamette Park at 9:30am sharp to put in. Alder Creek Kayak, 503-285-1819, aldercreek.com. Portland Kayak Company, 503-459-4050, portlandkayak.com. After unloading your craft at the boat ramp, park in a CAR parking space. You will be ticketed if you park in a trailer space. Be sure to pay for parking. There are two parking pass machines near the restroom at the south end of the main parking lot. For more information contact Mike Houck, mikehouck@urbangreenspaces.org. The paddle is a leisurely two and a half hours and is suitable for beginning paddlers and families. You must provide your own life jackets and kayak or canoe. There will be a safety boat accompanying the paddlers.

O ur understanding of bird brains has grown dramatically since the time when calling someone a “bird brain” was an insult. The ability of these avian creatures to tell entire stories in a single dulcet phrase is not only captivating but sonically fascinating. Neuroscientist Dr. Claudio Mello will bring us new research about birds, their songs, and how they learn them. Join us for a talk about these jewels of melodic expression, and truly understand the beauty of a bird brain.

Only three groups of birds are able to learn their songs; namely, songbirds, parrots, and hummingbirds. We study their behavior, their brains, and their genomes, looking for clues as to how these birds are capable of accomplishing this complex learned behavior. The way songbirds learn to sing is in many ways similar to how we humans learn to speak, and indeed birdsong research has contributed many insights into the evolution and mechanisms of human speech and language. Dr. Mello will present some of the latest updates in the neuroscience and genomics of birdsong learning. As we enter spring, this is the perfect time to talk about how the brain circuits in singing birds change in response to cues in the environment and in preparation for the breeding season.

Dr. Claudio Mello, PhD, is an associate professor at Oregon Health and Science University. He has presented at Portland Audubon several times and is always a delight.

Due to high interest, venue location not confirmed at time of publication. Please visit audubonportland.org for up-to-date information.

This talk is sure to fill up fast, so we encourage you to grab your seat early! EXPRESS ENTRY is available by signing up at bit.ly/NATURENIGHT (this is not an RSVP but gains you quick access to the event).

Directions: Willamette Park entrance is at SW Macadam Avenue and SW Nebraska Street. If you are renting a canoe or kayak from Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe or the nearby Portland Kayak Company, make sure you leave plenty of time to get your craft and be at Willamette Park at 9:30am sharp to put in. Alder Creek Kayak, 503-285-1819, aldercreek.com. Portland Kayak Company, 503-459-4050, portlandkayak.com. After unloading your craft at the boat ramp, park in a CAR parking space. You will be ticketed if you park in a trailer space. Be sure to pay for parking. There are two parking pass machines near the restroom at the south end of the main parking lot. For more information contact Mike Houck, mikehouck@urbangreenspaces.org. The paddle is a leisurely two and a half hours and is suitable for beginning paddlers and families. You must provide your own life jackets and kayak or canoe. There will be a safety boat accompanying the paddlers.

The Singing Brain: Biology of Birdsong with Dr. Claudio Mello of OHSU
Tuesday, May 9 7pm
Due to high interest, venue location not confirmed at time of publication. Please visit audubonportland.org for up-to-date information.

The ability of these avian creatures to tell entire stories in a single dulcet phrase is not only captivating but sonically fascinating. Neuroscientist Dr. Claudio Mello will bring us new research about birds, their songs, and how they learn them. Join us for a talk about these jewels of melodic expression, and truly understand the beauty of a bird brain.

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From our Executive Director

A Growing Community
by Nick Hardigg, Executive Director

I t’s May, and our sanctuary woods are happily awaking with the sounds of spring migration. There is an added air of expectation that’s shared by staff and board as we near the end of an extensive strategic planning process to determine our direction and goals for years to come. The board of directors will adopt a final plan in May, and we’ll share its details soon after. Central to its themes will be expanded efforts to inspire an increasing diversity of communities to enjoy, understand, and ultimately protect birds and the habitat we all depend on.

Meanwhile, our community of volunteers, donors, and staff is organizing for our own annual spring migration, the phenomenon known as Birdathon. Beginner and expert birders sign up for half-day, full-day, or even overnight adventures to spot birds out in the wild, and ask their friends and family to pledge support. Every dollar raised is used locally to fund our work to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. Birdathon joins together more than 300 volunteer fundraisers who garner thousands of pledges. This year, we hope to raise $175,000! It’s our biggest and most important fundraiser of the year, and we hope you’ll join this exciting celebration of what we can achieve together, all while doing what we love: walking, hiking, and biking through the Oregon wilderness to view wildlife. Find out how you can participate at birdathon.audubonportland.org.

Thank you for being a valued part of this growing community—of volunteers, birders, and conservation ambassadors, habitat stewards and creators, and the staff that supports you.
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

May 4 (Thurs), 7:30am-12:30pm
Columbia County Slough
Join Karen Chaiove for birding in the Columbia County Slough and Water Treatment Plants. We will look for spring migrants who are singing and settling into territories. Meet on Sauvie Island in the TriMet Park and Ride lot. Please plan to carpool and drive about 40 miles round trip. A $3 parking fee is required for the Port of St. Helens. Limited to 18 participants. For more information, contact Karen at kchaiove@conacnet.com. Please contact us if you need to cancel after May 1.

Registration required: tinyurl.com/cmay4-col-slough

May 6 (Sat), 8am-11:30am
Larch Mountain
Join leader Tim Shelnower as we explore the montane habitats in eastern Multnomah County. We will be looking for such interesting species as Gray Jay, Hermit and other warblers, and listening for booming Sooty Grouse. We will start at 8am and should be done by 11am. Meet at the Troutdale Outlet Mall. Dress for the weather and beginners welcome. Sign-up encouraged. Call Tim at 973-224-2554 with questions and to sign up.

May 10 (Wed), All-day Trip
White River Oak Woodlands and Rimrock Country
Interested in exploring the unique oak woodland and basalt rimrock country of North Central Oregon? Chances are Lewis and Clark passed through these areas. Meet at the Fisheries, Basalt, and Sooty. We will leave the Troutdale Outlet Mall parking lot at 7am. Plan on an all-day adventure, not getting back to Troutdale until after 6pm. Registration required. Call Ron Escano (503-771-3454) for more details and to reserve a spot.

May 10 (Wed), 7:30am-10am
Cooper Mountain Nature Park
Join Kathy van der Horst and Mary Ratcliff to explore the park’s forest, oak woodland, and prairie for spring warblers, finches, warblers, and vireos in their best breeding plumage and voice. Please note that some trails are steep. This Metro park is 18895 SW Kennewick Rd, Beaverton. Call Kathy (503-233-7143) with questions. Limited to 14 participants. Registration required: tinyurl.com/coopermt-2017

May 18 (Thurs), 7:30am-1pm
Ridgefield NWR
Join Mary Ratcliff and Karen Chaiove for a mid-May exploration of Ridgefield for looks to migrants, waterfowl, and backyards. From the center of town you will walk to the Oak to Woodlands trail, then move to bird the River S unit and walk the Kiwa trail. Meet at 7:30 am at the Carty unit parking lot. 29th and NE 6th Ave. Cars will need a NW pass, available at the Carty Unit headquarters. Questions: email Mary at ratcliff@arcnet.com. Limited to 15 participants. Registration required: tinyurl.com/Ridgefield-5-18-2017

Bird Song Walks 2017
7am Mon–Fri, various locations: FREE!

A udubon Society of Portland is proud to sponsor the 2017 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.

Bird Song Walks begin at 7am and end at around 9am. No pre-registration required. Leave wherever 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 location.

Mondays
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Tryon Creek State Park Leaders: Rick and Stephanie Wagner 11321 SW Tualatin Blvd, Portland, OR 97219. Meet at the Nature Center. More at tryonfriends.org.

Tuesdays
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Oaks Bottom Park
Leader: Hailey Wells Meet in Sellwood Park at the corner of SE 7th Ave & Sellwood Blvd in Portland, OR 97202. For more information about Oaks Bottom, visit portlandoregon.gov/parks.

Wednesdays
May 3, 10, 17, 24
Mt. Tabor Park Leaders: Gerard Lillie and Tom McNamara From SE Boulevard, go south on SE 28th 2 blocks, just past the park sign and drive as far as possible to gate. Park along street. Mt. Tabor Park is closed to cars on Wednesdays, so be sure to use this entrance. [TriMet bus #15 stops at SE 69th & Yamhill]. Please be aware of Bicyclists on Mt Tabor! Make room and share the road! More at portlandoregon.gov/parks.

Thursdays
May 4, 11, 18, 25
Pittock Mansion Leader: Wink Gross 3229 NW Pittock Drive, Portland, OR 97210. Follow W Burnside about 1.2 miles west to the north take Murray Blvd. south to Weir Road and turn right. Continue up the hill. Turn right at the top of the hill and then left on Kemmer Road. After the four way stop, continue on Kemmer. The park is on the left at 18895 SW Kemmer Rd. Limited to 15 participants. Registration required: email Bonnie (bonniedeneko@gmail.com)

June 4 (Sun), 7am–9am
Butterflies of the Lower Deschutes
Study Swallowtails, Whites, Sulphurs, Brush-footeds, Blues, and more with Karen Chaiove and Mary Ratcliff. Search for 15 or more species in the mountains, dry canyons, and riparian areas along the lower Deschutes. Limited to 14 participants. Contact Dan (dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org) to reserve a spot. More information and carpooling will be arranged after you have made your reservation.

June 7 (Wed), 8am-11am
Powell Butte Nature Park
Join Ron Escano to explore the unique habitats of Powell Butte, and especially looking for nesting Lazuli Bunting. The park entrance is at SE 182nd and Powell Ave. Meet at the top parking lot. Bring binoculars, dress for the weather, and beginners welcome. Registration required: call Ron (503-771-3454) to reserve a spot.

June 7 (Wed), 8am–5pm
Mt. Hood Lakes
Join Kathy van der Horst and Karen Chaiove to search the beautiful slopes of Mt. Hood at Waldwood Recreation Area, Trillium Lake, and Little Crater Lake Meadow. We depart at 8am from the SW parking lot of the Olive Garden Restaurant, 8700 SE Sunnyside Road, across from Clackamas Town Center. Bring a lunch and insect repellent. There will be one $2 parking fee per car. Call Kathy at 503-233-7143 with questions. Limited to 16 participants. Registration required: email Kathy (kathyfrans@opusnet.com)

June 13 (Tues), 8am-12pm
Sandy River Delta
Join Kathy van der Horst and Linda Magnuson at one of the Portland area’s premier birding spots in late spring. It will be alive with bird-song: Yellow Warblers, Bullock’s Orioles, Lazuli Buntings, Yellow-chinned Chats and Red-eyed Vireos, to name a few. Meet by the restroom in the parking lot. We will walk approximately 2 miles on flat trails. Dress for the weather. Directions: Take I-84 east to Exit 18. Turn right at the stop sign, pass under the freeway, and follow the road as it turns east into the parking lot. Limited to 16 participants. Registration required: tinyurl.com/SRD6-13-17

June 20 (Tues), 7:30–11am
Camassia Natural Area & Gremain
Join Dick Demarest and Kathy van der Horst to search the rocky meadows and woods of two cliffside parks along the Willamette River. Warblers, vireos, woodpeckers, dippers, and bald eagles will make a show of presence. Note: trails (about 3 miles total) are uneven and poison oak is present. Limited to 14 participants. Registration required: tinyurl.com/Camassia-Camelot-June-30

June 22 (Thurs), 8:30am–11:30am
Clackamas River
Join Karen Chaiove and Mary Ratcliff to look for birds along the beautiful Clackamas River. We’ll meet in Estacada and carpool to two lovely spots to look for breeding birds that nest in the area. A State Park pass is required for cars parking at the Miles Medford State Park ($5 for day use). Meet in the park at Mossy Rock, a gift shop, at 398 S Broadway St, Estacada, OR, 97023 at 8:30 am. Questions: email Karen (kchaiove@conacnet.com) or Mary (matrclff@arcnet.com)

June 27 (Sat), 7:30am–11am
Niwot Ridge Park
Join Waxwing and Lazuli Bunting. MORE at portlandoregon.gov/parks. For more info, call 503-681-6283 or visit ci.hillsboro.or.us.

Fridays
May 5, 12, 19, 26
Rood Bridge Park Leader: Steve Engel Meet at 4000 SE Rood Bridge Rd, Hillsboro, OR 97123. For more information, call 503-681-6283 or visit ci.hillsboro.or.us.

For more info, visit audubonportland.org or audubonportland.org/sanctuaries/visiting.
Conservation
Moving Toward a Conservation Solution for the Elliott State Forest
by Micah Meskel, Conservation Field Coordinator

After hearing from thousands of Oregonians on the importance of the Elliott State Forest and protecting public lands, State Treasurer Tobias Read has announced that he is no longer in favor of selling the Elliott State Forest and instead is pursuing an option that will keep the Elliott entirely in public ownership and decouple the forest from the Common School Fund. He has joined Governor Kate Brown in declaring his opposition to selling the Elliott, creating a majority on the State Land Board in favor of protecting this public treasure. This announcement would not have happened without the incredible advocacy of literally thousands of people who sent a powerful message that selling off our public lands is unacceptable. It represents a major step forward but there is still work to be done. It will be critical to stay engaged.

The State Land Board, composed of Governor Brown, Treasurer Read, and Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, will meet again on May 9 to consider options for how to move forward on the Elliott. If a majority of the Land Board reaches an agreement on the Elliott, the State Legislature will then need to pass legislation to move the Land Board’s proposal forward. It will take ongoing pressure to ensure that our elected leaders stay the course and adopt a solution that truly protects this 80,000-acre forest and imperiled species such as Spotted Owls, Marbled Murrelets, and Coho Salmon.

The details will matter. The State illegally clear-cut endangered species’ habitat for decades until Portland Audubon, Cascadia Wildlands, and the Center for Biological Diversity brought a lawsuit to stop the illegal logging. The threat by the State to sell the Elliott was a misguided response to being forced to stop this illegal activity. A real solution for the Elliott means not only backing away from the sale but also instituting responsible management practices on the Elliott that protect and restore its natural resources.

We look forward to seeing the details of the State Land Board’s plans and will continue to let you know how you can advocate for the strongest conservation solution possible for the Elliott. Please keep up the pressure. You can help by attending the State Land Board meeting on May 9 in Salem and by contacting your state representatives now and urging them to support a solution that protects the Elliott and keeps it in public ownership.

We would not be in the position we are today without the efforts of Portland Audubon members and other grassroots activists from across the state. Thank you all for your phone calls, emails, and in person visits down in Salem! It’s amazing what our collective voice can do!

Upcoming Portland Audubon Activist Opportunities
Grassroots activism has always been at the core of our efforts to protect wildlife, wild places, and the health of our community. Your voice is more important than ever as we head toward critical environmental decisions at the local, state, and national levels.

For more information on any of these events or to RSVP, please contact Stephanie Taylor, Conservation Field Organizer, at staylor@audubonportland.org or 503-200-4681.

State Land Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 10am-1pm
Department of State Lands, 775 Summer Street NE, Salem, OR 97301
Please join us by attending the upcoming State Land Board meeting for the Elliott State Forest to let Governor Brown, Treasurer Read, and Secretary of State Richardson know that the public wants a real solution for the Elliott! Opportunity for public testimony is likely, but it is also important to attend to show support for potential alternatives that protect the Elliott’s unique natural resources. Please wear green to show solidarity for a conservation solution.

Transportation provided. Please RSVP to reserve a seat: staylor@audubonportland.org

Activist Training: Effective participation in public processes
Thursday, May 25, 6-830pm Portland Audubon’s Heron Hall
Public participation is an essential part of our municipal, state, and federal government. Most see voting in elections as their only way to engage politically, but there are many other ways that you can voice your opinion and ensure your values are represented. For most of its 800-year history, Portland Audubon has harnessed the power of its community to help guide and direct public policy for the betterment of wildlife and people in our region. Attend this presentation to learn tricks to effectively participate in a variety of public processes, through submitting testimony, following decision-making process, and seeing those improvements to enactment.

From Wastewater to Wetlands: Community Scientists Help Portland Audubon Document Dramatic Bird Response to Restoration at Fernhill Wetlands
by Joe Liebezeit, Avian Conservation Program Manager

The greater Fernhill Wetlands site encompasses more than 700 acres, has historically been a popular birding location in the Portland Metro region and is officially designated as an Important Bird Area. In 2014 and 2015, Clean Water Services (CWS), the owner of the wetlands property, implemented an ambitious habitat restoration project that transformed 90 acres of unused sewage ponds into a complex of native wetland habitats designed to naturally treat wastewater. The goal is to create quality wildlife habitat, while at the same time improving wastewater treatment in a manner that will end up saving ratepayers money. The surface was entirely restructured, and workers planted more than 750,000 native wetland plants and over 3 billion seeds. More than 180 logs and snags were introduced to create habitat and perches for birds and other wildlife. This restoration effort is innovative and builds on the success of other high-profile constructed wetland projects at wastewater treatment plants, such as Arcata Marsh in California and Sweetwater Wetlands in Arizona.

In 2015, through a community science effort involving local birders as well as formal bird surveys, the Audubon Society of Portland began working with CWS to understand how birds are responding to the habitat restoration effort at Fernhill Wetlands. We created an easy-to-follow protocol for community scientists to use as they birded the site and entered their data into eBird (an online database for posting and sharing bird checklists). The birding coverage at this site has been amazing, with surveys conducted over 1,500 days per year by over 30 dedicated volunteers. Thanks, volunteers!

It’s been only two years since the major restoration work was completed, but we’ve documented some exciting preliminary findings. “Species richness” (the number of different bird species) in spring, summer, and winter has increased significantly following the restoration effort. High species richness during spring and summer is a promising sign that birds are not only flocking to the site during migration but that breeding conditions may have improved for many species. Marsh birds like the Virginia Rail and Sora have increased dramatically following the restoration, with a fourfold increase in less than two years. Numbers of wetland-dependent songbirds, including Red-winged Blackbird and Common Yellowthroat, have increased, as have dabbling ducks, including Mallard and Gadwall. Species that depend on large water bodies (such as wintering Western Grebes) have become generally less common after the restoration, since the amount of open water has been reduced. Birds and wildlife are still adjusting to the vegetation as it matures, so Portland Audubon and volunteers will continue to monitor the site to track changes in the bird community.

The findings from the monitoring effort at Fernhill Wetlands will inform CWS on how to maximize benefit to birds and wildlife that use this site. This collaborative project is bringing a better understanding of the multiple benefits that can be achieved through use of green infrastructure strategies to manage stormwater and wastewater. Lessons gleaned from the Fernhill Wetlands restoration may help foster and inform similar restoration projects at other wastewater treatment facilities across the nation.

If you would like to get involved as a community science volunteer for this project, contact Joe Liebezeit (jliebezeit@audubonportland.org). To read a detailed report on the preliminary results visit bit.ly/fernhillwetlands2017report

Conservation Wish List

Do you have a small motorboat, travel trailer, or recreational vehicle in good condition that you no longer use and would like to donate to the Portland Audubon Conservation Program? Any of the above would help us tremendously in our field work around the state of Oregon, and all donations are tax deductible!

This is what we are looking for:
• Small motorboat with trailer suitable for work on Columbia River and coastal estuaries
• Recreational vehicle or travel trailer sufficient to house two people (larger in line is well)

Contact Bob Sallinger at 503-380-9728 or at bsallinger@audubonportland.org
Wildlife Care Center Looking Forward
by Lacy Campbell, Wildlife Care Center Manager, and Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Spring ushers in the Care Center’s busiest season, and the increase in phone calls and intakes is already apparent. Early nesters such as Great Horned Owls and Anna’s Hummingbirds are already passing through our doors, and we know that a torrent of injured and orphaned animals is not far behind.

The past year has been one of transition for the Care Center. The passing of the Care Center’s longtime veterinarian, Deb Shraffler, last summer was a huge loss for our community. In the months since her death, we have reflected on where we are and planned for the future. We think Deb would be proud of the amazing way our community has come together to support the Wildlife Care Center during this time, and pleased with what lies ahead.

We recently hired four new full- and part-time staff. The outpouring of support for the Care Center after Deb’s passing has allowed us to add a new full-time position, something for which Deb had long advocated. The increased staffing enables us to continue to raise the bar on wildlife care, expand our outreach efforts and volunteer opportunities, and upgrade the facility.

In the coming year, we look forward to a variety of exciting projects that will dramatically increase the impact of the Wildlife Care Center. Initiatives we are developing include a veterinary internship program, wildlife research partnerships with educational institutions, and for the first time, a formal youth volunteer program within the Care Center.

We will also be implementing a number of capital improvements to the Care Center facility. We will have much more to tell you about this effort in coming issues of the Herald, but in the coming weeks, visitors will see a difference as we add new educational bird caging and replace our ventilation system to improve air quality. We have already made a significant investment in a new wildlife database system that will allow the public to track the animals in our care online.

From our founding in 1902, Portland Audubon has recognized the importance of creating strong, visceral connections to the natural world. The great naturalist William Finley, our founder, promoted conservation accompanied by an orphaned California Condor that he had rescued and raised. Our Wildlife Care Center was founded in the 1930s—as far as we know the first wildlife rehabilitation center in the United States. Today it continues to provide an incredible service to our community, fostering stewardship, understanding, and empathy for the wild animals that share our landscape. The last year has been one of transition and loss, but thanks to the legacy of Deb and many others, and the amazing community that volunteers and supports the Care Center, we look forward to entering our next era even stronger.

Wildlife Care Center
Meet Our New Wildlife Care Center Staff

Kelly Flaminio (right) is our new Wildlife Care Center Veterinarian. Dr. Flaminio graduated from Western University of Health Sciences’ College of Veterinary Medicine and has worked as a veterinarian at the Wildlife Center of Virginia, Dove Lewis Emergency Veterinary Clinic, and the Oregon Zoo.

Kelly has been volunteering at the Wildlife Care Center for the last couple of years and has served as the Care Center’s primary veterinarian on a volunteer basis for the past seven months. She will work part time at Portland Audubon and part time at the Oregon Zoo.

Rosie Sanchez (right) is our new full-time Wildlife Care Center Assistant. She comes to us from Barbur Blvd. Veterinary Hospital and has a wide range of experience, including wildlife rehabilitation, veterinary technology, educational animal programs, and avian field research. She previously was a crew leader at Chintimini Wildlife Center in Corvallis. Rosie grew up in Prineville, Oregon, and discovered her love of birds and wildlife through East Cascade Audubon.

McKenzie Joslin-Snyder will continue as the Care Center’s part-time assistant. McKenzie has been working part time in the Wildlife Care Center and the Nature Store for the past year. She started in the Care Center a few years ago as a volunteer but quickly picked up the details of the job.

Samantha DeJarnett will be the Care Center’s summer staff assistant, covering evening shifts when the Care Center goes to extended summer hours to care for baby birds and mammals. Samantha has been a volunteer in the Care Center since 2016 and comes to us with a lot of animal experience, including work in wildlife centers, veterinary clinics, and animal shelters.

We also want to express our profound appreciation to Wendy Shoemaker, who has served as seasonal staff in the Wildlife Care Center for the past three years and has done an amazing job helping staff the Care Center through this transition period. Wendy is moving on to finish school and pursue other conservation interests. Thanks, Wendy!

We are thrilled to welcome Kelly, Rosie, McKenzie, and Samantha to the Wildlife Care Center. Thanks to their passion for wildlife rehabilitation and working with the public, thousands of native birds, mammals, and herptiles will have a second chance at life in the wild.

Portland Audubon Provides Seasonal Staff at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

For the past six years, Portland Audubon has provided seasonal staff to support conservation work and outreach at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Staff are housed on the refuge, conduct wildlife surveys and educational outreach, and supervise volunteer work parties on the refuge and in the surrounding community. The staffing we provide reflects the importance that we place on building connections with the local community.

To find out how to get involved in a volunteer work party or get a tour of the refuge with one of our field staff contact Portland Audubon Avian Program Manager Joe Lieberzeit at lieberzeit@audubonportland.org.

We would like to thank Georgia Marshall, Ursula Le Guin, the Burning Foundation, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge for their support of this work.

To learn more about the collaborative work being done at Malheur, contact Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@audubonportland.org.
Educational Trips

These trips are popular. We recommend that you book early. Trip deposit required to secure your place on the trip. To register, visit our website at audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult and follow the registration link.

Okanagan
June 16–21, 2017
Join Portland Audubon on this trip to the Okanagan north of central Washington. We will be looking for summer specialties that are difficult to see in Oregon. Did you know that Clay-colored Sparrow, American Redstart, and Least Flycatcher are relatively easy to find as breeders just to the north of us? We will also look for some more difficult to find boreal species such as Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Pine Grosbeak, and American Three-toed Woodpecker, however, it will require some luck.

Leader: Stefan Schlick, Portland Audubon Trip Leader
Fee: $1195* members / $1495* non-members
Deposit: $600 required to secure your place

Montana: Prairies to Peaks
June 27–July 2, 2017
This six-day adventure will take in all that the Big Sky Country has to offer, from the expansive prairies of the Northern Great Plains to the peaks of Glacier National Park. We'll begin in Great Falls and explore Benton and Fisheau Lakes. In addition to abundant breeding waterfowl and waterbirds, the wetlands and grasslands here will give us the opportunity to find many species typical of the prairies. We'll also be looking for Upland Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, and Sharp-tailed Grouse.

We will continue on to Glacier, at the heart of a vast ecosystem referred to as the Crown of the Continent. Boreal and alpine specialties such as Spruce Grouse, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Black-backed Woodpeckers, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch will all be highlights as we explore the high elevations of this magnificent region. As we make our way south to Missoula and the conclusion of the trip, we'll stop to explore the wetlands of the Mission Valley and the pine-covered slopes of the National Bison Range.

Leaders: Patty Newland and Dr. Ivan Phillipsen, Portland Audubon Trip Leaders
Fee: $1495* members / $1695* non-members
Deposit: $600 required to secure your place

Southeast Arizona
August 12–20, 2017
Join Portland Audubon to explore the Sonoran Desert and the “Sky Islands” of Southeast Arizona, one of the birthing capitals of the United States. Several major ecoregions converge here, and it offers a rich array of flora and fauna. In addition to birds, we'll be on the lookout for the fascinating mammals, reptiles, insects, and plants found here.

Seasonal bird diversity will be at its highest in August, giving us opportunities for grassland sparrows such as Bottteri’s Cassin’s, and Rufous-winged Sparrow, the cryptic Montezuma Quail as well as resident desert species such as Verdin, Curve-billed Thrasher, Cactus Wren, and Gambel’s Quail. The greatest diversity of hummingbirds in the United States is found here, and we may see up to 10 species, including the Magnificent, Blue-throated, and Lucifer Hummingbirds. We’ll look for the Elegant Trogon at Cave Creek, Violet-crowned Hummingbird in Patagonia, Varied Bunting at Madera Canyon, and we should pick up a Gray Hawk en route.

Leaders: Dr. Ivan Phillipsen and Stefan Schlick, Portland Audubon Trip Leaders
Fee: $2385* members / $2685* non-members
Deposit: $1200 required to secure your place

Grays Harbor Bay Shorebirds
September 8–10, 2017
Join Portland Audubon on a trip to one of the West Coast’s best birding hotspots, where you can expect to see a bevy of shorebirds, and even some seabirds. Early September is the perfect time to look for Pacific Golden-Plover, and even a Bar-tailed Godwit might turn up among the Marbled Godwit flocks in Westport. Many other shorebird species will be present during this peak shorebird migration time. Based in Ocean Shores, Washington, we will visit Bottle Beach, Westport harbor, Tokeland, Oyubit, and the Ocean Shores jetty.

Leader: Stefan Schlick, Portland Audubon Trip Leader
Fee: $1395* members / $1495* non-members
Deposit: $200 required to secure your place

Nature Illustration at Cape Perpetua
September 8–10, 2017
Come join us to explore the Strait of Juan de Fuca in search of rarities, loons, alcids, and spectacular views! The scenery can be mind-blowing with the high Olympics and snow-capped peaks of the Northern Cascades in full view.

On the first day we will work our way north from Portland to Port Angeles, our base for this trip. We will make stops along the Hood Canal to look for Barrow’s Goldeneye and Harlequin Duck, and at Point Wilson in Port Townsend for loons and alcids.

A day trip to Nehal Bay to look for rarities is an absolute must! An amazing variety of eastern vagrants has shown up here in the last few years. This area was recently discovered as the major vagrant trap where Tropical Kingbirds show up annually.

We will also explore the Sequim area for a day to find Long-tailed Duck, Marbled and maybe Ancient Murrelets. Yellow-billed Loon is rare, but we will certainly investigate every loon we come across.

Leaders: Stefan Schlick and Randy Hill, Portland Audubon Trip Leaders
Fee: $795* members, $895* non-members
Deposit: $250 required to secure your place
Single supplement: Please contact us to confirm availability.

Birding the Olympic Peninsula
October 26–29, 2017
Come join us to explore the Strait of Juan de Fuca in search of rarities, loons, alcids, and spectacular views! The scenery can be mind-blowing with the high Olympics and snow-capped peaks of the Northern Cascades in full view.

On the first day we will work our way north from Portland to Port Angeles, our base for this trip. We will make stops along the Hood Canal to look for Barrow’s Goldeneye and Harlequin Duck, and at Point Wilson in Port Townsend for loons and alcids.

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Leaders: Stefan Schlick and Randy Hill, Portland Audubon Trip Leaders
Fee: $795* members, $895* non-members
Deposit: $250 required to secure your place
Single supplement: Please contact us to confirm availability.

* Fee includes: Ground transportation, double-occupancy lodging, meals except dinners, entrance fees for planned activities and the services of your leader.
Bird Journals: Sketching and painting birds simply for pleasure

Saturdays, 10am–3pm: Class in Heron Hall

Bird Journals: Sketching and painting birds simply for pleasure. Artist and author Jude Siegel provides simple approaches for anyone who likes birds and wants to record them easily on paper. Create or continue a bird journal: learn to see and then draw just enough to suggest the bird you saw. Add some watercolor, and create a sense of the surroundings. No art experience required, just enthusiasm!

Each class has a specific focus and is complete in itself. You may take one or more. Supply list online. All classes will use watercolor, pen, pencil.

May 20: An introduction to sketching birds: form, pose, how to get it on paper. Then, add some color for markings and background.

June 10: We will explore more ways to create an interesting bird page, with drawing, watercolor, leaf-prints, writing and more. Also includes a review of seeing and drawing.

July 8: Quick studies are the way to draw live birds. Learning what to focus on is essential! We will use specimens and possibly live education birds to practice these skills, then add some watercolor, and create a sense of the surroundings. Fee: $45 members / $65 non-members for each class

Limited to 16 participants per class.

Warblers & Flycatchers

May 4 (Thur), 7pm-9pm: Class in Heron Hall

This class will focus on two groups notorious for giving birdwatchers a stiff neck and bewildered stare: warblers and flycatchers. Local author and guide John Rakestaw will show you how to identify these birds by sight and sound as well as by posture and performance. The field trip will visit a local migrant hotspot to solidify your new skills.

Space remains in Class-only Option: $14

Birding By Ear

Birding By Ear – Migrant Birds – Class Full, but sign up for wait list!

May 10 and 24 (Wed), 7pm-9pm: Classes in Heron Hall

Birding By Ear – Nesting Birds

June 1 and 15 (Thu), 7pm-9pm: Classes in Heron Hall

Summer Camp 2017 at the Audubon Society of Portland

To register, go to audubonportland.org for online registration or to download a registration form.

Audubon Classics:

Fire, Sticks, & Stones

Do you know how to build a waterproof shelter out of nothing but sticks and leaves? Can you make a campfire without using any matches? Learn the arts of Wilderness Living such as Animal Tracking, Fire by Friction, Ethnobotany, and Debris Hut construction. You’ll gain real knowledge during this fantastic and fun weeklong adventure, whether it’s a full-week overnighter (6th–8th grade), day trips culminating in a two-night overnighter (4th–5th grade), or day trips culminating in a one–night overnighter (2nd–3rd grade) at our pristine Marmot Cabin near Mount Hood. The Joe Miller Wildlife Sanctuary, which surrounds Marmot Cabin, is the perfect location to foster these skills.

May 13, 20, 27 (Sat), 7am–10am: Local Field Trips

Fee: $95 members / $115 non-members (transportation provided)

Class with Field Trip, limited to 12 participants:

Class-only Option: $14

Rough-skinned Newt. Photo by Rhett Wilkins

Birding By Ear – Nesting Birds

June 3, 10, 17 (Sat), 7am–10am: Local Field Trips

Fee: $115 members / $145 non-members. Each class limited to 14 participants.

Birding By Ear – Nesting Birds

June 3, 10, 17 (Sat), 7am–10am: Local Field Trips

Fee: $115 members / $145 non-members. Each class limited to 14 participants.

Audubon East Explorers

The Audubon Society of Portland is excited to offer camps for the second year on Portland's east side for several fun, weeklong camps this summer!

Backyard Birds

Learn how to identify and appreciate the wonderful, colorful birds that call Portland home. Spend time learning how to use binoculars to search out our feathered friends, and build your own bird feeder to take home and attract them to your own yard. Take time with your new flock to create various art projects to complement your new bird knowledge!

Fee: $285

Wild in the City

Drawing from the pages of Wild in the City: A Guide to Portland’s Natural Areas, we will explore unique and surprising places in one of the nation’s most livable cities. We will navigate the city in search of urban greenspaces and wildlife. We are sure to find tracks and sign of many of the critters that call Portland home in some of the most unlikely places. We will call on all of our map interpretation techniques to hunt for destinations that the campers will help choose for each day. One day might take us to Crystal Springs and Oaks Bottom, while another might find us exploring the unexpected details of Pioneer Courthouse Square. This camper-directed week is sure to amaze and inspire even the most savvy of urban naturalist travelers.

Fee: $285

Field Trip (transportation provided)

Over 30 species of frogs and salamanders inhabit the Pacific Northwest, and Dr. Ivan Phillipsen will introduce you to the basics of their fascinating world. On the field trip, we’ll have a fun day searching for amphibians in several natural habitats. Field trip involves hiking 4 miles through the forest on a sometimes rocky trail that has a mostly gentle gradient.

Class with Field Trip, limited to 12 participants:

Class-only Option: $14

Amphibians of the Pacific Northwest

May 31 (Wed), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall

June 4 (Sun), 8am–4pm: Field Trip (transportation provided)

Portland Arthur Academy

7507 SE Yomhill, Suite B, Portland, OR 97215

Program times are 8:45 am to 4:15 pm daily.

Check our website for upcoming classes not listed here!

audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes

How to Register

Choose one of 3 ways to register for Adult Classes:

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

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. Register by phone: Call Marissa Duncan (971-222-6131) to pay over phone. We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover.

Contact Marissa Duncan, Education Program Assistant, at mduncan@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6131.

Check our website for upcoming classes not listed here!

audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes
**Field Notes**

**How Do Birds React to a Solar Eclipse?**

On August 21 a total eclipse of the sun will pass eastward over the central sections of Oregon. This event has generated considerable interest among humans. But what effect will the eclipse have on local wildlife?

On February 26, 1979, a total eclipse passed directly over Portland, allowing many to experience the phenomenon and observe its effects on wildlife. An article published in the May 1979 issue of the Audubon Warbler described some of the effects observed:

“The morning of February 26 came up rather dull and dreary in the northern section of Oregon and southern Washington, but it didn’t damper the excitement as everyone awaited the big event of the season—a full eclipse of the sun. Presumably only humans anticipated its coming so there was considerable interest on how other forms of life would react. Special watches were set up to observe the reactions of various birds and mammals as the light faded and record what effect it would have on their behavior. For the most part animal life reacted with a little apprehension and some interest. Some species showed more interest than others, which is interesting.

“Most birds responded by setting down and waiting for the sun to come back out again. Mammals responded the same way but showed more interest in the phenomenon. My dog became apprehensive when it began to darken but throughout the event never left the window. The wolves at the zoo also became a bit unsettled but didn’t little more than watch the proceedings.

**Sightings**

Cold, wet storms passed over Oregon and California during late winter and continued uninterrupted through March. This must have had considerable influence on the early spring migrations. The main movements, however, arrived about on schedule.

Dennis Deck reported the first migrant flock of Tree Swallows in Oregon this year at NW! on March 11. Violet-green Swallows were first noted February 18 by Matt Cahill near the Troutdale Airport and by Stefan Schlick at the Fernhill Wetlands. Good numbers of both species were around by later in the month.

On March 14 Nick Mevild spotted a single Rough-winged Swallow and a single Cliff Swallow among a swallow flock over Fort Lake. On March 14 in North Portland, Harry Fuller noted a Rough-winged the Tualatin NW the same day.

Yellow-rumped Warblers remained rather uncommon through the spring. Single Orange-crowned Warblers were reported through the winter and slowly increased to small flocks by late March. Mark Greenfield reported a Common Yellowthroat April 2 on Sauvie Island.

**The Symbolism in Changing a Symbol**

In a 1927 contest sponsored by the Oregon Audubon Society, the nearly 80,000 schoolchildren, representing every county, voted and chose the Western Meadowlark as the official state bird. Thirteen years later, Gabrielson and Jewett, writing in the seminal Birds of Oregon, noted:

“The Western Meadowlark was chosen by a vote of the schoolchildren as Oregon’s State bird...and nearly every person who has written on Oregon birds since has had something to say about this species which is probably the most widely distributed and among the most abundant of the permanent resident birds. It is equally at home in the arid sage plateaus of southwestern Oregon and the tidel flats of the Hanford coast district. It appears in our field notes from every county in the State and its cheery song is known to our school children everywhere, facts that probably account for its choice as State Bird.

Now the Oregon Senate wants to impose its own preference for a state bird over the one chosen by the schoolchildren of Oregon. Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 18 calls for replacing the Meadowlark with the Osprey. The Senate voted to make this change with no public engagement effort whatsoever and even rejected a proposal by Audubon chapters across Oregon to sponsor a contest for kids to select an official state raptor.

Today the Meadowlark is far less common than in 1927—the loss of grassland habitat has made it increasingly uncommon west of the Cascades. The Oregon Legislature, which now proposes to relegate the bird to the memory hole of state symbols, has repeatedly failed to consider legislation in recent sessions that would have provided funding to help recover Oregon’s imperiled birds, and specifically the Western Meadowlark. Its declining distribution should not be swept aside as our state symbol; it should be cause to redouble our commitment to protecting it and the habitat on which it depends.

The proposal is now headed to the Oregon House for consideration, and hopefully our representatives in the House will demonstrate greater wisdom and reject SCR 18. Better yet, they could reject it and commit to bringing forward legislation in 2018 to help fund restoration of the Meadowlark and other declining bird species so that children throughout the state can once again hear its melodious song.

Please take a few minutes to email or call your state representative and ask him or her to vote No on SCR 18. For more information contact Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@audubonportland.org

**Volunteer of the Month:**

**Leslie Mundt**

by Ian Abraham, Camp Director/ On-site Programs Manager

Leslie Mundt, a Washington native who moved to Portland as a teenager, has volunteered with the Education Department since 2013, when she has taken on many different responsibilities for the organization: leading Sanctuary Tours for students in kindergarten through fifth grade, volunteering in the Wildlife Care Center, and handling the education birds. Leslie has been a wonderful educator, leading many children on their first formal experience with bird conservation education and their first “academic” walk in the woods. She takes every opportunity to engage and educate the public on all matters concerning Portland Audubon’s goals to inspire people to love and protect nature.

Since her arrival, Leslie has been a beacon of positive energy, not only for her student groups, but for Education staff and volunteers. Whether it’s 70 degrees and cloudless, or wet, dark, and dreary, Leslie’s smile never walters while she’s leading tours. Her kind and gentle teaching style is a big hit with her students and helps make her one of our most effective Sanctuary Tour leaders.

Leslie’s commitment to Portland Audubon’s conservation and education goals is evident in the myriad of other volunteer opportunities that she takes advantage of within the organization. She is the only Portland Audubon volunteer who has two full-time shifts in the Care Center: one answering phones as a receptionist, and the other in the hospital rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife. As an education bird handler, Leslie exhibits her mastery of public engagement through educating visitors on why wild animals belong in the wild.

When she’s not at Portland Audubon, you can find Leslie volunteering at the Judicial Department on the Citizen Review Board or twirling her baton as a member of two different marching bands.

Thank you, Leslie, for all of the hours you have given Portland Audubon and for your enduring positive attitude and cheery smile!

On March 23 Brian and Chantelle Simmons found a Loggerhead Shrike at the Good Shepherd Church near Boring. Another was found by David Mandell March 25 at the Sandy River Delta.

Perhaps most surprising this spring were the very early Western Kingbirds. Abby Haight found one in Oaks Bottom March 20. Carl Hill found one at the same day at the Portland Audubon Airport. On April 1 Abby saw one at Powell Butte Park. On March 10 a female Western Tanager visited Lona Pierre’s feeder in Warren.

MAY/JUNE 2017 www.audubonportland.org
Perfect Summer Reads!

We are always on the lookout for new products from David Allen Sibley, and are delighted to announce the arrival of The Sibley Birder’s Life List and Field Diary (Clarkson Potter, $19.95). Meant to be a companion to the Sibley field guides, it gives you a place to log your sightings of all 990 bird species that have been accepted in the North American region by the American Birding Association, plus rooms for vagrants and exotics. It comes in a handy spiral-bound format with tear-proof cover, so it will hold up to lots of abuse in the field.

Here is a pair of new literary works by popular Northwest authors, Seattle-based nature writer Lyanda Lynn Haupt (perhaps best known for Crow Planet) has a new title: Mozart’s Starling (Little Brown, $27.60), which shifts between the historical relationship of Mozart and a pet starling, and present-day implications of invasive starlings in the North American landscape. Portland writer Brian Doyle’s latest novel, The Adventures of John Carson in Several Quadrants of the World (St. Martin’s Press, $25.95), is a tale of love and adventure based on the life of Robert Louis Stevenson.

Applewood Books publishes a series of charming small hardbound works of classic literature, all selling for $8.95. The publisher calls them “tactile moments of American passions by some of America’s most famous writers.” These would make terrific gifts for graduation or Mother’s/Father’s Day, or a perfect excuse to meditatively sit under a tree on a warm afternoon.

This summer’s most noteworthy event will probably be the total solar eclipse on August 21. Local author Nancy Coffelt has created a pair of fun books for kids to prepare for the experience: The Big Eclipse ($12.95) and The Big Eclipse Activity Book ($4.95). Both eclipse science and mythology are presented in a colorful format for kids ages 5–11.

Finally, we know there will be bugs in summer. Most will be perfectly harmless and essential parts of the ecosystem, and then there are the ones that will bite, sting, and generally be annoying. Be prepared with the natural bug remedies found in Stephanie L. Tourles’ Naturally Bug-Free: 75 Nontoxic Recipes (Storey Books, $19.95). Using essential oils, herbs, and other natural ingredients, there are remedies for mosquitos, pantry bugs, and closet moths. Also, treatments to keep your pets tick and flea-free.

Drilling for Insects (Year-Round)

The signs of insect drilling usually look like a series of very small holes all over the affected area.

Solution: Where insects are involved, it’s best to treat the problem at its source and get your home checked for infestation. Short-term solutions include covering the area with woodpecker-resistant material such as ¼-inch hardware cloth or plastic. Aversion tactics include Mylar scare tape to frighten the birds. Providing alternative food sources such as suet can also be a temporary and bird-friendly fix until you can treat the infestation.

Welcome Back, Rufous Hummingbirds!

At the Nature Store, we look forward every year to the Rufous Hummingbirds coming back into town after a long winter away. They follow blooming flowers up the Pacific coast from Mexico in the spring and are said to be especially fond of red-flowering currant. It’s not all sugar and sunshine once the Rufous Hummingbirds must compete for food and nesting habitat with year-round resident Anna’s Hummingbirds. Rufous Hummingbirds are known by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology as “the feistiest hummingbird in North America,” and it’s easy to see why: these flying pipispeaks have a penchant for picking fights. While their aerial antics can be a treat to watch, we decided to help all the hummers in our sanctuary spend a little less energy arguing over territory. It was as simple as adding another feeder to our array.

As it turns out, even a large saucer feeder with multiple feeding ports is too close for comfort for most hummingbirds. After hanging a second feeder a few feet away, we noticed a significant drop in territorial posturing. By the end of the day, three hummingbirds (two Anna’s and one Rufous) were even seen drinking at the same time from our two feeders.
Moved to Portland right after graduation in 2000 and has promptly fell in love with the Pacific Northwest. She attended the University of Oregon for her undergraduate studies and did my internship with a nonprofit, and I really wanted to get back to nonprofit work, especially working with an agency that has a mission I can get behind, and I found that place at Portland Audubon."

Katrina Montoya, Our New Sanctuaries Caretaker, Hits the Trails

Katrina Montoya jumped straight into the deep end as our new Sanctuaries Caretaker, right before the start of one of the most challenging winters the sanctuary has faced in years. Winter storms brought with them downed trees, power outages, and trail closures. Thankfully, Katrina came to us as a trails technician, and used both her skills with trails maintenance and volunteer management to quickly and expertly reopen the pathways throughout our 150-acre sanctuary.

Katrina maintains our trails, manages our native plants nursery, coordinate volunteers, and gives her expertise as a natural resources specialist and facility assistant. Katrina Montoya grew up playing along the Willamette River in her backyard. She attended the University of Oregon for her undergraduate studies in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Applied Ecology and Resource Management in 2009.

Katrina says about her new role as Sanctuaries Caretaker, "I spent a lot of time working with parks, local government and did my internship with a nonprofit, and I really wanted to get back to nonprofit work, especially working with an agency that has a mission I can get behind, and I found that place at Portland Audubon."

Among her many duties here at Portland Audubon, Katrina maintains our trails, manages our native plants nursery, coordinate volunteers, and gives her expertise as a natural resources specialist and facility assistant. Katrina Montoya grew up playing along the Willamette River in her backyard. She attended the University of Oregon for her undergraduate studies in Environmental Science with an emphasis in Applied Ecology and Resource Management in 2009.

Katrina says about her new role as Sanctuaries Caretaker, "I spent a lot of time working with parks, local government and did my internship with a nonprofit, and I really wanted to get back to nonprofit work, especially working with an agency that has a mission I can get behind, and I found that place at Portland Audubon."

Harriet Anderson for books, skulls, feathers, shark skins, sea shells & fossils to Education

Jim Cruce for 5 8x10 photos, 12 11x14 photos, & 4 20x30 photos to Development

Leupold & Stevens, Inc. for 5 10x30 Yosemite binoculars, 3 8x10 photos, & 4 20x30 photos to Development

Sandra Armstrong for a pair of 10x50 Leupold binoculars to Education

Harriet Anderson for books, skulls, feathers, shark skins, sea shells & fossils to Education

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Thank You to:

For Wildlife Care Center:

For Wildlife Care Center:

AED (automated external defibrillator)

Science Diet Kitten Growth

Auditory assistance devices

Dassie dishwashing detergent

Binoculars

Exam gloves (latex or latex-free)

Scope and tripod

Permanent markers to Volunteers

For Sanctuary:

Paper lunch bags

Loppers

Small leather work gloves

Hand saws

Sevier animal handling gloves

Work gloves

If you can donate these items, please first contact Portland Audubon at 503-292-6855 ext.102, Mon-Fri, to arrange a time for delivery/pick-up.
Welcome Our New Membership Manager, Tony Arnell
by Donna Wiench, Interim Development Director

Portland Audubon’s new Membership Manager, Tony Arnell, is looking forward to helping expand the number of member households in our region while taking good care of our current members. He comes to us from the Oregon Zoo Foundation, where he served as Annual Giving Manager. There he managed fundraising activities for the annual fund while also working to inspire support from new and longtime donors.

An Oregon native with nine years’ experience in nonprofit fundraising, Tony graduated from Southridge High School in Beaverton and received his degree in business administration from the University of Oregon. Tony’s childhood home was surrounded by forest on Chehalem Mountain in Newberg, so a love for our natural world was instilled in him at a very early age—and it continues to inspire him every day. Tony says: “Audubon does great work in advocating for wildlife and the wild places of Oregon—and I’m proud to support that mission. I believe it is our responsibility to protect all species and the beautiful natural spaces they reside in.”

People who volunteer for Portland Audubon are often among our greatest financial supporters. A volunteer gets an inside look at whether a donor’s investment is well spent, and sees if employees are dedicated, hardworking, and loyal.

Volunteer Jill Nelson-Debord says: “My husband, Ray, and I give because (1), it’s a good cause. It’s really critical that we motivate young minds and plant seeds big time. And (2), I trust Audubon to spend money wisely. They operate with a tight budget. I see a frugal style. That matters to me.”

Jill volunteered at several places before settling on Portland Audubon, where she coordinates volunteers for the Wild Arts Festival held each November. “Audubon treats you best,” Jill said. “You would be fine with us—we are fortunate to have the depth of commitment and support that members like Ray and Jill freely give.

Ray Debord and Jill Nelson-Debord.

The Joy of Giving
by Donna Wiench, Interim Development Director

“Audubon helped me discover my love for the natural world. I knew I liked it, but I didn’t know how much.”

Those are the words of Tony Arnell, Portland Audubon’s new Membership Manager, as he reflects on his love of nature and birds.

Audubon has helped me discover my love for the natural world. I knew I liked it, but I didn’t know how much. Audubon turned me on to birding. I’ve always been a gardener, but Audubon directed some of my interest into birding trips have taken me to some interesting places. Audubon helps me discover my love for the natural world. I knew I liked it, but I didn’t know how much. Audubon helped me discover my love for the natural world. I knew I liked it, but I didn’t know how much.

Both Ray and Jill grew up enjoying nature and regularly take their grandchildren on outdoor adventures. For them, the education programs are key. “Portland Audubon has planted important seeds in the hearts of hundreds of children who will hopefully grow up to care about the environment. Portland Audubon has become a well-known resource in our community for native animals and the environment.”

“Portland Audubon is an organization I hope to continue to be involved with for years to come,” says Jill. And that would be fine with us—we are fortunate to have the depth of commitment and support that members like Ray and Jill freely give.

During his downtime, Tony enjoys road trips along the West Coast, yurting and camping, attending live theatre and music shows, spending time with family and friends, and going on walks with his dog, Zeppelin.

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Birdathon 2017
Counting 37 years strong!

Ever wish your hours spent birding could help save the lives of birds? Then join us for Birdathon! It’s like a walk-a-thon, but so much better. Friends, family members, and coworkers pledge money for you to find and count birds...something you’ll likely be doing anyway this spring. Register today and know that every bird you spot will raise funds for their protection!

Birdathon veteran and Owl Be Darned leader Hailey Walls shares why she thinks every birder should participate:

You get to meet other birders. I’ve met several friends on Birdathon teams over the years, and I’ve met more experienced birders that I could turn to for help finding and identifying birds. It’s a perfect way to find birding buddies and mentors.

You’ll bond with your team members. Travel time is filled among great birding stories, bawing over uncommon birds, and talking about dream destination birds. You also get the joy of working together to accomplish a goal, and you create new stories together.

You’ll learn about “secret” birding spots. Trips often incorporate personal birding hotspots—a field behind a warehouse that always has a pheasant, a Best Western parking lot that tends to get great birds at the feeders. The seasoned birders putting together the routes know the strange spots that won’t show up in a birding guide.

You discover that birding can happen anywhere, anytime. Finding an unexpected warbler species at a bathroom stop or defending why the woodpecker that flew over the car as you drove through the woods was "definitely a hairy and not a downy" is a huge part of the excitement.

Birdathons are exciting, and every bird is new. Because Birdathons are about seeing as many species as possible, each and every one counts. Common birds are new again for experienced birders, and your team celebrates them right alongside you.

You will have a chance to watch more experienced birders ID many different species. Most Birdathon teams have members with a wide range of experience levels; you aren’t likely to be the only new birder, your new birder eyes will help the team find species they may have overlooked, and you can watch your leaders search for specific species and explain their identifications to the team.

You’ll be able to celebrate your wonderful birding day. It’s really satisfying at the end of the trip to spend some time with your new friends reliving the amazing moments and making plans for the next one over a meal or a beverage.

We invite everyone who raises $75 or more to celebrate with us on June 2 at the Birdathon Celebration! Birdathon participants and supporters will be eligible to win prizes and enter raffles for items from dozens of local businesses. We will also have two pairs of Zeiss binoculars available for purchase only to those attending: Zeiss Victory SF 8x42 – regular price $3186.86, member price $2849.99, sale price at the event $2204; and Zeiss Victory SF 10x42 – regular price $3222.21, member price $2899.99, sale price at the event $2243. Doors will open at the North Star Ballroom at 6pm.

We’d love to see each and every Audubon Society of Portland member participate—join a team, make a pledge to a friend or relative, or simply make a Birdathon donation. Together we all count to protect birds and wildlife across Oregon:

Donate online at Birdathon.audubonportland.org or use the pledge envelope included in this Wurbler. Join a team—there are birding trips for any level of birder. See the great trips with available space below, find out how to create your own team—or just fly solo! Follow the links at Birdathon.audubonportland.org.

Space is still available in these and other trips:

Greater Peewees
Sunday, April 24, 7am–12:30pm
For new birders seeking to develop field skills, with Cameroon and Bryan Crawford, Bob Lockett, and Adrienne Wolf-Lockett.

Morning Doves
Monday, May 1, 6:30am–10:30am
Morning chorus walk at Cooper Mountain with Darlene Betz.

Cooper Mountain Chickadees
Saturday, May 28, 8am–11am
Birding and photography with Molly Sultany, Hayley Crews, and Angela Calabrese.

Millennial Falcons
Saturday, May 21, 8am–Noon
A trip for birders 30 and under, with Robin Junkowik and Brandon Lampkin at Fernhill Wetlands.

Jackson Bottom Ramblers
Saturday, June 18, 7am–Noon
Birding with former Audubon staffer Steve Engel at this Important Bird Area.

Full-Day Trips
Washington County Wormeaters
Saturday, May 6, 5am–7:30pm
Washington County’s birding gems with Joe Liebezeit and Carol Murdock.

Mult Madness
Saturday, May 13, 7am–7pm
Wink Gross and Andy Frank lead a tour of birding hotspots in Multnomah County.

Thank you to our Birdathon sponsors

Marsha Kuehnmann & Jackson Welch

Business Alliance
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 971-222-616.

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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.

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 earthshare-oregon.org.