In this issue...

Natural History Trips & Tours, 2012–2013
See insert

Raptor Road Trip
WINTER 2012

Annual event celebrates birds of prey!

Explore Sauvie Island in search of the magnificent Bald Eagles, hawks, and falcons that spend the winter on the island. On this special day devoted to raptors, experienced naturalists and hawk experts will host activities and answer your questions at four locations around the island. Enjoy guided bird viewing, meet live raptors up close, and sharpen your hawk identification skills. Hot drinks and donuts are available in the morning to keep you warm while you breakfast with the birds.

How does the road trip work?

Begin at Kruger's Farm Market and pick up your event map and raptor identification guide. The event fee is $10 per vehicle, cash only, and includes a Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking permit.

To reach Kruger’s, turn right off Highway 30 northbound at the Sauvie Island Bridge and continue straight 1.5 miles (past Howell Territorial Park) to the farm entrance on your right. Carpooling is encouraged. Spotting scopes and a preparation area, laboratory — and maybe you’ll get a glimpse of a patient!

What will you see?

It all depends on what nature has in store. Frequently sighted raptor species at the three viewing stations include Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, and Northern Harrier. With a little luck you might spot a Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Rough-legged Hawk, or Cooper’s Hawk. Spectacular Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese, and Great Blue Herons are also commonly seen at this time of year. At Howell Territorial Park you are guaranteed sightings of Audubon’s Education Birds as well as fun activities for all.

No registration is required. For more information, visit our website at www.audubonportland.org or call 503-292-6855 ext.119. See Raptor Road Trip Rev Up! on page 7.

Sponsored by Metro, Audubon Society of Portland, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and HawkWatch International.

Birds with It’s time to get up and identify raptors! The crack of dawn to see these birds of prey, you should allow approximately three hours to visit all four locations.

Raptor Road Trip Rev Up! class on Feb. 1 See page 7

Saturday, February 4th • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wildlife Care Center Open House
Sunday, February 12, Noon–4pm

What really happens behind the doors of the Wildlife Care Center? Come to the Wildlife Care Center Open House and see for yourself!

Wildlife veterinarians, naturalists, Education Bird handlers, and volunteers will be on hand to answer your questions and introduce you to the Wildlife Care Center when it opens its doors to you and your family.

Behind-the-scenes tours of the Wildlife Care Center. Guided tours will give you a peek at what really goes on in one of the busiest wildlife rehabilitation centers in the U.S. You’ll see the hospital, food preparation area, laboratory — and maybe you’ll get a glimpse of a patient!

Question-and-answer time with a wildlife veterinarian. Meet Audubon’s wildlife veterinarians and try to stump them with your questions. They in turn will stump you with case studies of actual cases seen in the Care Center.

Raptor education station. At the education station in Heron Hall, experience hands-on activities to help you learn more about raptors. Compare wings and feet and other special adaptations of a variety of raptors.

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Oregon’s IBA Program Picks up 3 Global Designations
See page 11

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View this Warbler and past issues in full color at www.audubonportland.org/about/newsletter.
From the Executive Director

Reflections on Dave Marshall

I am glad that I had the opportunity to know Dave Marshall. It was not too long after my start with Portland Audubon that Dave and Georgia welcomed me to their home in Lake Oswego. Even then, over a simple lunch with stunning views of Mt. Hood and the chatter of backyard birds, I sensed in a small way what made Dave so respected among his professional colleagues and loved by the larger community.

Among the many gifts Dave contributed to Portland Audubon was his expansive library, comprised of hundreds of natural history, bird, and wildlife books and journals dating back decades. This prized possession served him well both during his auspicious career and during his time at home. Now this unmatched collection is housed at the StreamNet Library for others to use and enjoy. As much as Portland Audubon remembers Dave Marshall as its wild bird and habitat champion, countless others feel the same way.

Following are reflections from a few people who knew Dave very well both during his auspicious career and during his time at home.

From Harry Nehls:

I first met David Marshall in 1960 when he became interested in some birds I reported from Northwest Portland. We spent several enjoyable hours that day in the field discussing birds and their habitats.

Over the years we often met to work on various projects. I always found his easy friendly manner and his willingness to take the time to share his knowledge and experience refreshing. When the Oregon State University Press wanted to publish a book on the "Birds of Oregon," I submitted an outline which they passed on to Dave for review. We met soon after at Audubon to discuss the book. He mentioned that they were looking for a much more detailed book and described what he and they were looking for. He was very much interested in the publication, but appeared to be reluctant to get involved. After some discussion I noted that there was only one person capable and had the contacts to edit this book and he was the one that should do it.

He did not commit himself at the meeting, but soon after he organized the co-editors and contacted others to help write the text. Over the next couple of years Dave and I worked more closely than ever to complete this work, the 700-page "Birds of Oregon: A General Reference."

It was a pleasure to work with Dave and an honor to be a friend. He will be missed.

From Claire Puchy:

Although I knew of Dave Marshall before 1985, it was when I became Executive Director of Portland Audubon in January of that year that I met him. From then on, Dave was both a friend and a colleague. I recall birding with Dave at Hagg Lake on a Birdathon morning in May. Dave identified 20 species before daylight...his ability to bird by ear was legendary!

Dave often told me about his family’s connection with birding. When I was 12 years old Dave, Georgia, and I were going to an Oregon Audubon Council meeting in Bend a few days later. Dave called, I interrupted him with uncontrolled excitement and said, "You must be calling about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker!" Dave said, ‘The ivory-billed Woodpecker?!’ I said, ‘Oh, Dave, you haven’t heard...’ and I told him the news. He was simply silent — and then with measured words told me how much this bird had captured his imagination as a boy and then as a young biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In his role as ESA coordinator, he had to make the decision not to list the species for lack of what he described as what he and they were looking for. He was very much interested in the publication, but appeared to be reluctant to get involved. After some discussion I noted that there was only one person capable and had the contacts to edit this book and he was the one that should do it.

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From Tom McCallister:

One of our last true field naturalists left us a legacy that will last generations to come. David Marshall, through personal field experiences from boyhood onward, knew what the choices should be for wildlife and habitat diversity when he served as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge biologist for Region 1 (eight Western states) based in Portland. He surveyed, recommended, negotiated, and then defended establishment of the initial Willamette Valley refuges: William Finley, Basket Slough, and Ankeny National Wildlife Refuges. Tensalia Lake, the largest addition to Lewis and Clark Refuges on the lower Columbia, and Ledbetter Point, added to Willapa Bay Refuge, also came about with David quietly but firmly defending through political, interagency, and federal Office of Budget and Management objections.

David’s birding imprint came naturally through a pioneer family of birders and botanists and Portland Auduboners. We met in 1938 as 12-year-olds at the then-Portland Audubon Society lecture meeting held monthly in Multnomah County Central Library. That lifelong friendship began the next day on our bikes as we headed on Mt. Tabor.

In the “Hometown” chapter of the new 2011 edition of *Wild in the City*, Dave and I write about our unplugged freedom, with all that a youthful birder could see and hear in our hometown, plus reflections on what’s passed and what’s new.

To learn more about Dave, go to audubonportland.org/news/dmo and the links following the obituary.

Interested in Bluebird Monitoring? The Bluebirds are Interested in You!

Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project is holding a Monitor Workshop for new volunteers on Sat., February 25, 9:00am–Noon at Champoeg State Heritage Area in the Visitors’ Center. Please make your reservations at email prescottbluebird.com (send your phone number too, please). Check www.prescottbluebird.com for more details.

10th Annual Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium

Presented by the Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium (UERC), the symposium focuses on urban environmental issues and the practical application of related ecological and social sciences in the Portland-Vancouver region. Events include a series of oral presentations, a poster session, raffles, and a post-symposium social.

The UERC is a consortium of people from educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and local, state, and federal agencies who support urban ecosystem research and creating an information-sharing network to collect and use ecological data in the Portland-Vancouver region.

Keynote Speakers:

Steve Whitney of the Bullitt Foundation with “Urban Research and the Future of Cascadia: Perspectives from a Funder’s Perch” and Jim LaBonte of the Oregon Department of Agriculture with “The Undiscovered Country of Urban Invertebrates”

From Tom McCallister:

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In the “Hometown” chapter of the new 2011 edition of *Wild in the City*, Dave and I write about our unplugged freedom, with all that a youthful birder could see and hear in our hometown, plus reflections on what’s passed and what’s new.
January 7 (Sat), 7:30am–5pm
Netarts Bay & Cape Meares
Join Marsh (503-201-8119) or marshandharon@aol.com.

January 11 (Wed), 9am–1am
Summer Lake Park
Join us as leader Sue Carr takes us for a look at the migrating waterfowl in this wonderful suburban park!

January 14 (Sat), 7am–5pm
A Day on the Lincoln County Coast
Join Tim Shermeline for a day exploring coastal Lincoln County. We’ll look for alcid, loons, and other seabirds at Boiler Bay, check for turnstones and “rockpipers” at Cape Meares, and a sack lunch. Please plan to carpool. Meet at 7am at the NW corner of the Walmart parking lot in Woodburn at 8am for a trip to these two National Wildlife Refuges. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. We’ll arrange carpools at Walmart, and plan to return there at 4:30pm. From Portland southbound: 1.5 to Woodburn Exit 271; turn left across 15 and look for Walmart SE of the exit. Registration is required — contact Denny at 503-659-1245.

January 25 (Sat), 8am–1am
Vancouver Lake Park
Join leader Ron Esccano at Vancouver Lake Park. We’ll scope the lake for water birds, then explore the riparian woodland for wintering songbirds, including the White-throated Sparrow. From Portland northbound: 1.5 to Exit 1-D (4th Plain Blvd), 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; possible $2 fee. Call Ron (503-773-3454) if questions.

January 26 (Sat), 7am–5pm
A Day on the Columbia River
Join leaders Pam Meyers at pmeyers@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 ext.130. This trip starts later, going slower, with restrooms in sight = Sign-up needed = Fee involved = Birding trips starting later, going slower, with restrooms in sight

January 29 (Sat), 7am–11am
Depoe Bay
Join Rick Denham at Depoe Bay, Pacific City, and Netarts. Bring binoculars and warm clothes, binoculars (and scope if you have one), and a sack lunch. Please plan to carpool. Meet at 7am at the NW corner of the Walmart parking lot in Woodburn at 8am for a trip to these two National Wildlife Refuges. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. We’ll arrange carpools at Walmart, and plan to return there at 4:30pm. From Portland southbound: 1.5 to Woodburn Exit 271; turn left across 15 and look for Walmart SE of the exit. Registration is required — contact Denny at 503-659-1245.

February 23 (Thu), 8am–6:30pm
Baskett Slough & Ankeny NWRs
This trip goes to the migrating waterfowl, gulls, and raptors in the Willamette Valley. Join Denny Graham at the NW corner of the Walmart parking lot in Woodburn at 8am for a trip to these two National Wildlife Refuges. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. We’ll arrange carpools at Walmart, and plan to return there at 4:30pm. From Portland southbound: 1.5 to Woodburn Exit 271; turn left across 15 and look for Walmart SE of the exit. Registration is required — contact Denny at 503-659-1245.

February 25 (Sat), 9am–1am
Vancouver Waterfront
Join leader Ron Esccano at Vancouver Lake Park. We’ll scope the lake for water birds, then explore the riparian woodland for wintering songbirds, including the White-throated Sparrow. From Portland northbound: 1.5 to Exit 1-D (4th Plain Blvd), 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; possible $2 fee. Call Ron (503-773-3454) if questions.

February 27 (Sat), 9am–1am
Vancouver Lake Park
Join leader Ron Esccano at Vancouver Lake Park. We’ll scope the lake for water birds, then explore the riparian woodland for wintering songbirds, including the White-throated Sparrow. From Portland northbound: 1.5 to Exit 1-D (4th Plain Blvd), 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; possible $2 fee. Call Ron (503-773-3454) if questions.

February 28 (Sat), 9am–Noon
Oaks Bottom
Join leaders Patty Newland and Candace Larson for a bird walk around Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge in SE Portland. We’ll explore wetlands and woodlands, talk about the history of this amazing urban wild space, and look for resident songbirds and wintering waterfowl. Meet at the Sellwood Park parking lot on SE 7th Ave at Malden St at 9am sharp. Expect to walk 2–3 miles on both paved and uneven dirt trails.

February 29 (Sat), 1am–Sunset
Ducks along the Gresham-Fairview Trail
Join Audubon Society of Portland’s Steve Engel, Bob Sallinger, and Rich Triibh, and City of Gresham’s Laura Guderyahn for a morning bird walk along segments of the Gresham-Fairview Trail in West Gresham. Please RSVP to btrinh@audubonportland.org or leave a message at 971-222-6139.

March 12 (Sat), 7am–11am
Vancouver Lake Park
Join leader Ron Esccano at Vancouver Lake Park. We’ll scope the lake for water birds, then explore the riparian woodland for wintering songbirds, including the White-throated Sparrow. From Portland northbound: 1.5 to Exit 1-D (4th Plain Blvd), 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; possible $2 fee. Call Ron (503-773-3454) if questions.
Conservation
West Hayden Island Update
by Bob Salling, Conservation Director

It has been nearly 14 years since the Port of Portland (the Port’s) initiated efforts to annex and rezone West Hayden Island to allow its forests, wetlands, grasslands, and shallow water salmon habitat to be converted for marine industrial development. Some have suggested that the Port’s failure to date to overcome public challenges to its development aspirations somehow represents a failure of public process. In fact just the opposite is true. Despite two multi-year annexation processes costing millions of public dollars and a small army of public relations staff and development consultants, the Port has never provided the community with real answers to legitimate social, economic, and environmental concerns. Instead the Port has twice used the public process as an exercise in issue avoidance — steamrolling opposition and manipulating data to support its desired outcomes. Given the Port’s failure to date to address real concerns about the environmental, social, and economic impacts of this proposed development, a decision not to annex and rezone West Hayden Island is the only reasonable outcome of these processes. The Port simply has not made the case.

Audubon was not alone in its concerns regarding the prior processes. At the conclusion of the 1999–2000 annexation process the Portland Business Journal wrote: “We are not convinced that the plan to develop the island acreage shouldn’t be permanently scrapped, but at least by putting it on the shelf for a while, it can be given further study from cost-benefit and environmental standpoint.” — Portland Business Journal, December 17, 2000

At the conclusion of the 2009–2010 annexation process, the Portland Tribune, which reviewed hundreds of internal city emails obtained through a public records request, called out the City and Port for a “curiously close relationship between a developer and the city bureau which must review its development proposal,” and for “squelching unfavorable findings. The Tribune wrote that a “messy process clouds West Hayden Island process” and that a “review of records shows questionable activities behind the scenes.” (Portland Tribune, March 3, 2011)

West Hayden Island Development Impacts
The currently proposed preferred development option would have the following direct impacts:

- Loss of 141.3 acres of cottonwood forest, the largest intact stand on the island
- Loss of 137.7 acres of grassland
- Loss of 1.1 acres of shallow water salmon habitat
- Loss of 13 acres of wetlands
- Loss of 5 acres of shrub land
- Loss of 278 acres of floodplain
- Loss of habitat for the following at-risk species found within the development area: Bald Eagle, Western Meadowlark, White-breasted Nuthatch, Willow Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Black-billed Cuckoo, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-legged Frog, Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Chum Salmon, Steelhead Trout, Cutthroat Trout, California Myotis, Hoary Bat, Long-legged Myotis, Silver-haired Bat, Yuma Myotis
- Nearly 250 wildlife species have been identified on or in the waters surrounding West Hayden Island, including nearly 150 bird species, making it one of the most species-rich habitat areas in the Portland area. The loss of habitat size and complexity and the addition of significant disturbance factors will impact many of these species in addition to the at-risk species listed above.

There is still a long way to go. Difficult issues such as the cost/benefit analysis, community impacts, and mitigation strategies lie ahead. At a recent joint hearing between the Port Commission and City Council on West Hayden Island, a couple of Port Commissioners were openly disparaging of the public process. Also, several candidates for City Council have already indicated support for development on West Hayden Island — without any regard for the fact that significant questions remain unanswered. Finally, we have seen the Port successfully pressure Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife into abandoning a recommendation that no development occur on West Hayden Island.

If unfavorable information continues to emerge, the pressure to short circuit the public process will undoubtedly increase. It is critical that the public continue to remind both the current City Council and potential new council members that the issues that have been raised by conservation groups and the local community are real and deserve a fair, transparent, and credible review. This project will have tremendous environmental and community impacts and public costs — and the people of Portland deserve better than the fake public process that has dogged this effort for more than a decade.

For ongoing information about West Hayden Island, go to our Save West Hayden Island Facebook page.

In 2011 the City and Port convened a third advisory group to consider annexation and rezoning of West Hayden Island. Twelve months into an 18-month-long process we are cautiously pleased to report that things appear to have changed for the better: for the first time in nearly a decade and a half the City appears to be seriously discussing about investigating concerns raised by the community. Mayor Adams has directed the committee to explore a division of the island that would allow for 300 acres of development and 500 acres of natural area. While Audubon opposes development on any of West Hayden Island, we give the Mayor credit for putting a clear proposal on the table for consideration — something the Port has never been willing to do. The City also appears to have finally resolved the blatant conflict of interest that was created by having the Port manage its own annexation and zoning process. The City alone appears to be managing the current process. Finally and most importantly, the City appears to be allowing independent and credible consultants to evaluate many of the issues that have been avoided over the past 14 years.

The changes are already apparent in the information that is emerging. Many of the concerns that the Audubon Society of Portland has been raising since the mid-1990s have now been validated for example:

- The consultants have confirmed and the Port has conceded that a viable Port facility including a loop track, the terminals, and supporting infrastructure will fit into 300 acres. In 1999 the Port argued that it needed at least 600 acres and as recently as 2010 the Port insisted that 450–550 acres was the bare minimum that would allow for a viable facility.
- The City has verified that the cottonwood forest on Hayden Island (one of the largest tracts of intact cottonwood bottomland forest on the Lower Columbia), which the Port has long argued is dying out, is in fact regenerating and much healthier than previously acknowledged.
- The City has verified that the hundreds of acres of grasslands on West Hayden Island which the Port has long argued have no ecological value in fact are currently providing habitat for several at-risk species and has designated this area as a “special habitat area.”

In summary, we are encouraged that the City has finally taken the initiative to manage the process. It is a long way to go, but there is reason to believe that the City and Port are on the cusp of making some important changes.

For more information about the Mayor’s certification in progress, become a fan of the Backyard Habitat Certification Program’s Facebook page. For information about the program, contact us at 503-292-6855 ext. 126 or audubonportland.org/backyardwildlife/backyardhabitat.

*Potential West Hayden Island development concept. Large light oval area at top of island represents potential development footprint. Image: City of Portland*
Injured Bobcat from Cedar Mill Released Back to the Wilds of Forest Park
by Debbie Daniels and Bob Sallinger, Audubon Staff

Most people are surprised to learn that bobcats still roam the wilds of Portland. These solitary and elusive cats are shy and are active primarily at night. Their presence is most often announced by the discovery of their tracks or scat, or sadly when the occasional carcass shows up on one of our forested roadways. Over the past 15 years at least a half dozen bobcats that were hit along the roads have run through Forest Park have been brought to our Wildlife Care Center. In early December we received a rarity — a live, hissing, snarling bobcat — one that we could actually help. It had been hit by a car near Cedar Mill and was initially treated at the Bethany Family Pet Clinic, where Dr. Norman gave the still-stunned animal an examination and medication to reduce pain. By the time the bobcat arrived at our Care Center, she was fully awake and far less accommodating of her human benefactors. After years of seeing only the remains of bobcats, it was a thrill for staff and volunteers to have the opportunity to work on this resilient animal! She was sedated and given a full exam and x-rays. Happily, her injuries were relatively minor: a chipped tooth and a few bruises. She recovered and was released after she arrived at our center. She bolted from the cage and disappeared into the night. Keep your eyes peeled the next time you are driving through Forest Park at night; you might just catch a glimpse of one of these amazing creatures... and hopefully give them time to see you as well.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

www.audubonportland.org 5
BIRDING THE DRY TORTUGAS
April 13–17, 2012

For most birders, the Dry Tortugas is one of those enigmatic destinations that they only dream of visiting. Well, that dream can come true for you if you hop on board this first-ever trip with Portland Audubon to these unique islands.

The Dry Tortugas N.P. is perhaps the most remote National Park in the U.S., and can only be accessed by boat or sea plane. We’ll use the former as we get on board the 105-foot Florida Fish Finder, a converted “Swlliship Crewboat” with the cozy capacity to sleep 36. The boat will become our home and base of operations on this 3-day birding excursion, where the famous Fort Jefferson will be our stopover. Fort Jefferson is a massive structure was built in the early 1800s to protect America’s shipping lanes. The islands are home to thousands of nesting seabirds such as the Magnificent Frigatebirds, Little Blue Herons, and Roseate Spoonbills. Other highlights include Corkscrew Swamp, which is famous for its miles of boardwalk that wind through quintessential Everglades and is home to myriad species of birds large and small.

We will be bused out of one hotel in Ft. Myers for the entire week, eliminating the need to pack up in the mornings. And we’ll go at a nice, easy pace to ensure everyone gets good looks at the birds we encounter, so whether you’re a beginner or an advanced birder, this trip is sure to satisfy your appetite. You’ll also have a little free time to enjoy a warm afternoon or evening stroll on a Florida beach, and to dine in some of the area’s best-known restaurants that are famous, of course, for their delicious seafood.

Fee: $1095 members / $1195 non-members; Deposit: $500 required to secure your place
Group size: 14 participants plus 2 leaders
Leaders: Steve Robertson, Education Director, and local guides

Free includes all lodging based on double occupancy, ground transportation, all meals except dinners, and all guide fees, park fees, and planned group activities.
Not included: Airfare to & from Florida, dinners, and tips for guides.

Note: This trip can be taken either BY ITSELF or as an extension to the South Florida Trip.

ARGENTINA!
November 2–16, 2012
(in-country dates: Nov. 3–15)

Come with Portland Audubon on an incredible adventure to Argentina and the remote and wild regions of Patagonia, the Pampas, and Tierra del Fuego. The trip begins in Buenos Aires where we board an internal flight to the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia. There we’ll bird the historic Beagle Channel for seabirds including the Black-browed Albatross. Northern Giant Petrel, Magellanic Penguin and, with luck, the sub-Antarctic Gentoo Penguin. In the nearby Southern Beech Forest of Tierra del Fuego National Park we’ll search for the spectacular Magellanic Woodpecker.

From our base in Patagonia we’ll travel high into the Andes to visit Los Glaciares National Park, where the famous Perito Moreno Glacier calves off huge icebergs into Lake Argentino with a roar of white thunder. We may see the giant Andean Condor soaring overhead and find Magellanic Plover along the lake shore. Other highlights of this area include Lesser Rhea, Chiloe Flamingos, and the endangered Hooded Grebe.

On the wild Valdes Peninsula we’ll visit a breeding colony of Magellanic Penguins at home in their cold subantarctic burrows. Out to sea, we’ll have the opportunity to see the endangered Southern Right Whale, look for Southern Elephant Seals, and may even encounter a pod of Orca hunting in the shallow coastal waters. We end our trip in Buenos Aires where we will have two days to bird and explore some of the coastal wetlands and nearby pampas, as well as a day to experience this fascinating global city.

Fee: $4845 members / $5145 non-members
Group size: 14 participants; Leaders: Dan van den Broek, Meryl Redisch, local guides

Free includes all ground transportation, 10 nights lodging based on double occupancy, all meals except dinners, entrance fees, excursions, and the services of your experienced leaders.
Not included: Airfare to & from Maine and dinners.

Recover the beautiful Gulf Coast of Southern Florida with Portland Audubon and discover why this region is known as a Mecca for Birders. We’ll visit such sites as Ding Darling NWR where we have a good chance of seeing the Mangrove Cuckoo; the Archbold Biological Station where we hope to spot the elusive Florida Scrub Jay; and the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area where Snail Kite. Crested Caracara, and Whooping Cranes are all possibilities. Well also have rare access to one of the most exclusive birding spots in the region, Stormwater Treatment Area 5, where several species nest Baltimore Oriole, American Redstart, and Roseate Spoonbill. Our other highlights include Corkscrew Swamp, which is famous for its miles of boardwalk that wind through quintessential Everglades and is home to myriad species of birds large and small.

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1. Register and pay online: Visit class description at www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult and follow registration link. OR: Contact Steve Engle via email or phone to put in your order. If class is full, leave your name for confirmation and wait list.

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

3. Credit card payment: Call Steve Engle (971-222-6119) or our Nature Store (503-292-2992) to pay over phone. We accept VISA, MasterCard, and Discover (3% fee charged).

Contact: Steve Engle, Adult Education Manager, at sengel@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

Raptor Road Trip Rev-Up! February 1 (Wed), 7pm in Heron Hall
Join Portland Audubon’s Adult Education Programs Manager Steve Engle, for an introduction to identifying birds of prey. We’ll learn the key field marks for all the local wintering raptors, and make side-by-side comparisons of similar species.

A great way to prepare yourself for the Raptor Road Trip extravaganza sponsored by Portland Audubon, Metro, and Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife on the following Saturday (Feb. 4) at Sauvie Island.

Fee: $30 members / $35 non-members
Pre-registration required — free to active volunteers.

Skagit Flats Falcons (& Owls?) February 10–12 (Fri–Sun)
North of Seattle the broad flatlands of the Skagit and Snohomish rivers offer an abundance of wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, ducks, geese, and swans. The wide-open air space favors fowls in particular, and all five North American falcons have been found there at one time. This year we’ll focus on the Snowy Owl, as well! Two nights of comfortable lodging in Mt. Vernon allow us to go to prime birding spots early on Saturday and Sunday.

We also visit the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge on Sunday afternoon. See website description for more details on this popular trip!

Fee: $335 members / $425 non-members
Group size: 14 maximum with 2 leaders
Leader: Steve Engle

Portland Audubon’s School of Birding 2012
There is still space in the 2012 year of the School of Birding. Class size is limited to 16 participants to register soon. The schedule at right includes class and field trip (in bold) dates.

Fee per quarter is $450 and 200 hours of volunteering at Portland Audubon.

For more information or to register, contact Dan van den Broek at 971-222-6305 or dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org.

Spring Break Camp 2012 at the Audubon Society of Portland Registration for Spring and Summer Camps begins January 10 at 8:00am.

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

Call 971-222-6120 to save a place if you are mailing your form. Spring Break Camps run 8:45am–4:15pm unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY, MARCH 26
Hops To It 2nd-4th grade
Springtime is frog time. Come with us as we check out the egg masses in Portland’s wetlands. We’ll look for tadpoles and learn about the life cycle of the Oregon spadefoot toad. We’ll also be on the lookout for other animals that search for the wetland’s moisture. Come dressed in your own mask, or maybe come as a frog. Bring your own treasure map, marking spots of interest as well as fortune. From Astoria we will drive along the coast, stopping at beaches searching for clues left in sand, in sea caves, and along sea stacks? If so, join Audubon educators for this unique and exciting mash-up of science and adventure! We will depart for the oldest city in Oregon and filming location for the popular movie “Gone with the Wind.”

Fee: $10 members / $15 non-members
Pre-registration required — free to active volunteers.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27
Wild Art Adventure 1st-3rd grade
Create wildly wonderful clay and mixed media sculptures, graphics, and colored pencil drawings, and watercolor paintings based on your observations of some of the amazing birds, mammals, and reptiles you’ll discover in the Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary. Learn some exciting techniques to use as you work in a variety of art media.

Fee: $60 members / $70 non-member

Jammie’ Salmon 4th-6th grade
Embark on an adventure into the misty green forests of the Northwest to search for one of most our most important seasonal residents, the salmon! Hike along a local river and learn about the exciting and dangerous life cycle of these amazing fish. Investigate the local forests for signs of Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and other animals that search for the salmon too. Get ready to follow the facts.

Fee: $65 members / $75 non-member

3/20–7/20: TBA
Jr. Audubon Club for ages 5-12
Join other animal lovers for a day devoted to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We’ll go behind the scenes of Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center with wildlife rehabilitators and find out what this exciting job is all about.

Fee: $60 members / $70 non-member

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28
Forest Mosquito-mare 1st-2nd grade
Come dressed in your own camouflage! We’ll investigate how animals hide themselves in the forest. We’ll learn new skills as we search our back yard for bugs, beetles, and more. We’ll also learn about the amazing tiny world of forest creatures. Make a map of your very own forest mask.

Fee: $60 members / $70 non-member

Forest Detectives 3rd-4th grade
Spending the day hiking and exploring some of Forest Park’s many exciting trails. We’ll learn about the plants and animals that live right here in Portland’s backyard. We’ll also learn about the great time to find new wildflowers, drumming woodpeckers, and skinny Banana Slugs.

Fee: $60 members / $70 non-member

Escape to Bird Island 3rd-5th grade
Escape to the birdiest island around. Sauvie Island. Spring brings a great mix of birds, flowers, and swallows, and wintering ones like the beautiful Sandhill Crane. Search for the nests of Bald Eagles and have a picnic with the birds as we explore all that Bird Island has to offer.

Fee: $65 members / $70 non-member

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Whales Never Say Die 5th-6th grade
Start: Wednesday, March 28, 8:30am – End: Thursday, March 29, 5:00pm
Trip Leaders: Tim Donner and Andrea Constance

Have you heard about the latest adventure of One-Feet-Villa? Are you willing to travel along Oregon’s coast, spying whales and watching for clues left in sand, in sea caves, and along sea stacks? If so, join Audubon educators for this unique and exciting mash-up of science and adventure! We’ll depart for the oldest city in Oregon and filming location for the popular movie “Gone with the Wind.”

We’ll stop by Miller’s house to see who can do the best staircase Stuffle, and then you’ll create your own treasure map, marking spots of interest as well as fortune. From Astoria we will drive along the coast, stopping at beaches, searching for sprays of water which are telltale signs of Gray Whales as they migrate north to the Bering Sea. This is sure to be a trip to the coast that will go down in history!

Fee: $15 members / $25 non-member

JUNEAU/FEBRUARY 2012 7
Sanctuaries News

The Spirit of Season

by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

It is mid-December and as I sit down to write this article, it is impossible to avoid the words “Season’s Greetings” for more than a few hours: cards arriving in the mail, advertisements in the newspapers, billboards everywhere. I’m not trying to work the Scrooge angle here: I am all for spreading cheer, giving gifts, expressing gratitude, whether it be now or anytime during the year. But it is very curious for me to notice that there is very little attention paid to the season itself amongst all of the holiday messaging, save for occasional drawing of a smiling snowman wishing me well. This is also the time of year when we can get our best dryness test its hardiness.

This is also the time of year on one of those cards that comes in the mail. It be now or anytime during the year. But it is very curious for me to notice that there is very little attention paid to the season itself amongst all of the holiday messaging, save for occasional drawing of a smiling snowman wishing me well. This is also the time of year when we can get our best dryness test its hardiness.

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And if you want to get out and do some by pulling this Winter, please join us Saturday, January 28, 9am-1pm, for a monumental Ivy-pulling effort spearheaded by a local Boy Scout and Audubon member. This is one two remaining heavy fly infestations in our Sanctuaries, and we would be very happy to have you join us a day to see how much of it we can get through.

First and foremost for anyone involved in natural area restoration in our region, Winter is planting season. Trees and shrubs are dormant at this time of year and less prone to the shock of transplanting. The cool, damp weather also reduces the risk of shock for the plant. That rain that we all love also softens the soils significantly, making it easier for our shovels to dig that hole for planting, as well as allowing more freedom of movement for our plants establishing root structure. Winter planting also gives our new trees and shrubs some time to establish new root growth before the stresses of summer heat and dryness test its hardiness.

Winter is a good season for raptors in general. I have fond memories of my days in Olympia taking hikes along the upper reaches of the local rivers to see Bald Eagles feeding on spawned-out salmon carcasses. Hawks are also common sights throughout Winter in open areas and river bottoms. Early February marks Audubon’s annual Raptor Road Trip on Sauvie Island, a great opportunity to see many of these local birds.

My final favorite thing about Winter is the arrival of Spring! According to the Chinese solar calendar, Spring begins in early February, usually February 4th. And the Chinese lunar calendar welcomes both Spring and the new year on the new moon closest to the return of the solar new year. The Celsius calendar also marks the new year in early February. While the local temperature may make a Spring celebration in early February seem a little silly, at this point in the year the days have been getting longer for approximately a month and a half, and the plants are beginning to take their cues from the returning sun. Indian Plum and Red Elder both have typically budded out by February, and by early March our beloved trilliums have returned to our forested hillsides. Winter gradually yields to Spring, and new growth starts to spring out of the warming soil.

Corvallis landscaper Beth O’Donnell Young gives us The NatureScaping Workbook: a Step-by-Step Guide for Bringing Nature to Your Backyard (Timber Press, 2005). Young and I have a long history, both with our colleagues in the late 80s, assisted by a team of sledded dogs that provide their own set of animal adventures. Even Zerbez contributes lovely lineout illustrations.

The passing of Dave Marshall and his love and protect nature. You can make an Honor or Memorial gift in honor of someone special, including our own.

The National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America (National Geographic, $27.95) is only available in a 6th edition with updated range maps and 980 species descriptions, including revised taxonomic nomenclature and hundreds of full color illustrations. This would make a fine addition to your field guide collection.

I highly recommend two recent books on conservation topics that are both great page-turners, featuring impassioned, thorough research on controversial subjects. Oregon environmental journalist Steve Hager’s Recovering a Lost River: Removing Dams, Rewilding Salmon, Revitalizing Communities (Beacon Press, $26.95) is a great story of a battle to remove the Horgan Dam on the Willamette, pitting the future of salmon between science and politics, Nature and Big Money. Hager’s book is a compelling argument for dam removal. Vermont writer Joe Roman tattles the ESA with Listed: Dispatches from America’s Endangered Species Act (Harvard University Press, $27.95). Combining a fascinating range of issues, from tracking Florida panthers to successfully livery-billed Woodpeckers, to musings about the range of species in his young daughter’s stuffed animal collection, Roman vividly captures how essential the ESA is for many species’ survival, including our own.

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Volunteer of the Month: Carol Evans
by Nancy Mattson, Nature Store Manager

Portland Audubon had a lucky year in 2007 when Carol Evans moved to Portland from Olympia, WA. She arrived with a mission: find the local Audubon chapter, become a member, and volunteer at a store in a wildlife sanctuary. As Carol says “I knew what I loved to do and Portland Audubon gave me the opportunity to do even more of it”.

Living in Olympia, Carol was a member of the Black Hills Audubon Society and a volunteer at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge store. So, much to our delight, Carol arrived “fully trained” and a perfect match! We can’t really take credit for Carol’s move to Oregon. That honor goes to her daughters, Portland residents Kari and Christy, and young grandchildren Bayley and Sam, the perfect lure to relocate.

A well-traveled Hoosier, Carol left Indiana for college in Ohio then on to Boston University for graduate work as a physical therapist. It was a career she pursued in Massachusetts and Vermont. Husband Stan’s work took them cross country to San Francisco and back again, offering exciting opportunities on the West Coast. One was experiencing the San Francisco’s 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake as a resident of the Marina District, a damage epicenter.

Nearly as exciting were her years as a volunteer with the California Academy of Sciences. Carol’s role as docent in their educational and outreach programs gave her a wealth of experience. She worked with children of all ages, but found the high school level the most challenging. The Aquatic Invertebrate Program proved to be her favorite, an interest that carried over to the Nisqually estuary.

With Carol now retired from her physical therapy career, Portland Audubon is the lucky recipient of her generous volunteer hours. In addition to a store shift, she works as receptionist in our Administrative Office. We benefit not only from Carol’s knowledge and love of the natural world, but also her always upbeat, helpful, and friendly demeanor. No surprise that Carol recruits more new members than any other Nature Store staff member. Who wouldn’t want to join an organization that can attract such a fun volunteer?

While we are briefly without Carol’s assistance as she recovers from recent surgery for what she terms “Old Lady Back,” all of us are looking forward to Carol bringing back her own special brand of sunshine to Audubon. Thanks, Carol, for all the great work you’ve done in the past — and we can’t wait till you’re back doing the work you “love to do!”

Volunteering at Audubon is Fun and Rewarding!
by Deanna Sawtelle, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Luanne Bye leading a sanctuary tour. © Portland Audubon

I nspiring people to love and protect nature. That’s Audubon’s mission and it’s what our volunteers do every day! The Audubon Society of Portland is one of the Northwest’s leading conservation organizations, offering a wide range of natural history and environmental activities to members, the community, and especially volunteers. Whatever your interests or talents, there is a volunteer position for you. These include many regularly scheduled volunteer opportunities, as well as special projects and event positions:

• Help restore habitat in our wildlife sanctuary.
• Be a conservation activist!
• Care for and feed injured wildlife at the Wildlife Care Center. (There is usually a wait list for this volunteer opportunity.)
• Help visitors find the perfect gift, bird guide, or pair of binoculars by being a clerk at the Nature Store.
• Lead school groups through a fascinating exploration of our nature sanctuary.
• Be a voice for Audubon by volunteering as a receptionist on an Audubon Docent team.
• Help make Audubon’s special events successful, like the Wild Arts Festival, the Native Plant Sale, International Vulture Awareness Day, “Night Flight” (Audubon’s Halloween event), and Swift Watch.

Field Notes by Harry Nehls

In certain years even greater numbers of Snowy Owls move southward, staging conspicuous invasions south of their regular winter ranges. These movements are not usually general, only occurring along the East Coast but not the West, or just into the prairie states. Occasionally the invasion occurs all across the country.

Contrary to former thinking, these invasive birds generally arrive healthy and well fed. They do well in the southern areas and often remain into May when the temperatures have warmed considerably. These birds suffer quite a bit of mortality by being hit by cars, trains, and airplanes, and by overhead wires and all the other human-made objects not found in the Arctic. Most, though, return to the Arctic in good condition.

Most Snowy Owls that occur in Oregon are immature birds; some are very young, not long out of the nest. Adult males move a bit south of the breeding range and set up territories, but when the females arrive they take over and force the males farther south. Immature birds must move even farther south to escape competition from the adult birds.

Snowy Owls are often found sitting on the ground in a large open field, but they do occur in cities and on open coastal beaches and in grasslands. They can forage for food both day and night. There is little competition from other birds, but coyotes and foxes are occasional problems. These owls will allow a fairly close approach by humans. Even so, it is best to give them space and not harass them.

Periodic Movements of Snowy Owls

On November 16 Carol Hallett reported that a Snowy Owl was found dead at the Portland Airport. That same day several were seen along the Washington Coast. Soon after, reports arrived indicating that the owls were increasing rapidly in southern British Columbia and were moving into Washington. Several more soon began arriving in Oregon. It appears that the winter of 2011–2012 will be an invasion year for Snowy Owls along the West Coast.

It has long been thought that Snowy Owls stayed occasional years in lower latitudes caused by the collapse of the lemming populations in the Arctic. Studies in recent years have found this not to be true, though the main cause is still a mystery.

Lemming populations in the Arctic are widespread but the colonies are often widely separated. When conditions are excellent a colony will increase greatly and the owls move in to take advantage of the available food source to raise their young. In poor years the lemmings scatter, forcing the owls to move to other more successful colonies. Areas where the owls were common for several years suddenly are deserted and, conversely, numbers increase where owls were not regularly seen for years.

Following nesting the owls scatter and become less dependent on lemmings, but will take other small- to medium-sized birds and mammals. There is a regular yearly southward movement of many Snowy Owls to winter in southern Canada and the northern prairies of the United States.

Field Notes

The annual Sandhill Crane count in the Sauvie Island-Ridgfield NWR area October 9 found 4,174 going to evening roosts there. Up to 940 have remained into late November. On November 8 Scott Carpenter saw an oily Bufflehead off San Juan Island. John Willoughby located a Merlin on the river to Sauvie Island. On November 26 David Irons spotted a Cattle Egret flying past Coon Point on Sauvie Island.

Other interesting sightings: On October 8 a stunned Poorwill was found in front of the Clackamas Backyard Bird Shop. It strongly flew away later that day. A Flammulated Owl was at Bonneville Dam October 13 and another was in southwest Portland October 25. Steve Nord observed a Brown Pelican November 28 at the Fernhill Wetlands. David Irons spotted an Emperor Goose in a goose flock near Lafayette November 23.

The star of this fall lineup was the immature male Vermillion Flycatcher Caleb Gordon and Julie Willmost found October 24 at Ridgfield NWR. It remained for many to see. On November 25 Lona Pierce picked out a bright Brambling near the Sewage Ponds in Scappoose Bottoms. It also remained for photos.

Volunteer Luanne Bye leading a sanctuary tour. © Portland Audubon

New Volunteer Orientation: Sat, February 11, 1pm–3:30pm, OR Wed, February 15, 6pm–8:30pm. Individuals wanting to volunteer in a capacity beyond special events must also attend General Volunteer Training: Tues, February 21, 9am–4:30pm. OR Sat, February 25, 9am–4:30pm.

If you would like to donate some of your time and energy to the Audubon Society of Portland, please contact Deanna Sawtelle at volunteercoordinator@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855 ext.108.

www.audubonportland.org JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012
Wild Arts Festival Wrap
by Mary Solares, Wild Arts Festival Chair

The 31st year of the Wild Arts Festival was its most successful. The Festival netted the highest amount ever — close to $60,000! On a crisp and sunny weekend, 4,300 people turned out to wander through the spacious 3-story atrium of the Montgomery Park building. The atmosphere was electric. Greeting Festival goers was a sweeping view of intertwining colors from paintings, photographs, jewelry, ceramics, sculptures, fabrics, and happy people soaking it in.

The Wild Arts Festival is much more than an art and book fair. It is a place where you can see and be connected to the Audubon Society of Portland and to the love of nature that it inspires. Attenders might be looking at a beautiful piece of artwork. The Wild Arts Festival is often described as their favorite show of the year.

Sixty-nine artists arrayed their finest creations in colorful displays. The artists love the Festival not only for its connection to nature but for the support they get from our volunteers, who help them move their display stands and artwork. The Wild Arts Festival is often described as their favorite show of the year.

This year brought together 38 authors to sign books and talk with Festival goers. The caliber of authors this year was impressive. Sales were very strong and set a new record.

One of the most anticipated events of the Festival is a wild competition to purchase 00-00-00 original artworks. People began lining up as soon as the doors opened and patiently waited until 11am when the buying frenzy began to purchase one of the 191 paintings.

The Silent Auction was packed with nature-themed items and adventure outings that were donated by Festival artists or Audubon members. When it closed on Saturday afternoon, amid a swirl of last-moment bidding, we closed with sales of $4,500.

This year the marketing and advertising was stepped up. In addition to articles in local newspapers, publicity was provided through 20 TrMet bus "talks," 14,000 postcards, color ads in the Oregonian, radio and TV spots, Facebook, and Audubon being featured on Channel 12's "On the Go with Joe." It paid off with our attendance increasing to 4,300.

The whole Wild Arts Festival ran efficiently because of the energy and enthusiasm of its organizers and volunteers. On behalf of the Audubon Society of Portland, special thanks to the Steering Committee: Bob Gandolfo, Martha Garnett, Wink Gross, Jenny Jones, Molly Marks, Candy Plant, Mary Solares, Stentines, and Lynne Wintermuth. Additional thanks go to Sue Lenihan, Linda Craig, Anne Eakin, Laurie Garrison, Gay Greger, Barb Macomber, Ela Main, Rick Meyers, Joanne Newch, Beth Parmenter, John Plant, Mary Ratcliff, Toni Rubin, Marilyn Scott, Marilyn Stinnett, Rusty Whitney, Bob Wilson, David Wynn, and the other 150 hardworking volunteers.

Artwork © Dean Crouser

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2012 Wild Arts Festival — always held the weekend before Thanksgiving.

We want to thank and acknowledge these key sponsors:

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And the many “Fourty Friends”

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

Welcome, New Members!

P ortland Audubon is a force in conservation thanks to its strength in membership, standing together since 1902. We appreciate each and every one of our members and celebrate welcoming our new members monthly. Thank you for joining our vibrant and growing community!

Adrian Arambisca
Angela Amundson
Francisca Anderson
Aqua Wellness Center
Kelko Archer
Deborah Bailey-Ball
Ken Barkler
Judy Bartle
Nathan Bartest
Colen Belsis
Alan Benkenfroh
Jim & William Barry
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Richard Brown
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Larry Buchholz & Dabra Timm
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Jennifer Jako
Dana Johnson
Andrew Karl
Julia Kassinhess
Donna Kassins
Anne & Brett Knowles
Tricia Kroll & Darrell Saloh
Virginia Knox
Kruger’s Farm Market
Paula LaMorticella

If you would like to join us or have any questions about membership, please contact Pam at pmynegro@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855.

Audubon Portland: 503-292-6855. We stand together since 1902. We appreciate each and every one of our members and celebrate welcoming our new members monthly. Thank you for joining our vibrant and growing community!
Meryl Redisch receives the “big key” from Russ Humbertson, Jr.

You Did It — and We Got It!
Portland Audubon Receives Toyota Sienna from Toyota’s 100 Cars for Good Program
by Ann Takamoto,
Development Director

You’ll soon be seeing our Education Birds “flying” around Portland on the sides of our brand new Toyota Sienna! Thanks to you, members, for helping us get out the vote and win the details for a smooth transfer and to Liz Healy-Kay for her role in our marketing efforts! We are pleased to welcome Russ Humbleston, Jr., General Manager of Beaverton Toyota, officially handed the “big key” to Meryl Redisch, our Executive Director, on November 17 at a gala event in Beaverton Toyota’s new service department. Beaverton Toyota surprised us with a generous donation of $2,500 which will be matched with Toyota Corporate — so, not only did we come away with a new van, we also came away with $5,000, which will help cover the costs to “wrap the van” and assist with additional expenses like gas and insurance.

Special thanks to Margie Humberston for arranging all of the details for a smooth transfer and to Liz Healy-Kay for handling our marketing efforts! We are pleased to welcome Beaverton Toyota to our list of Business Members and thank them for their wonderful support. And thanks to all of you, members, for helping us get out the vote and win this great new vehicle!

Oregon’s IBA Program Picks up 3 Global Designations: Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Marbled Murrelet Central Coast IBA, and Oregon Canyon and Trout Creek Mountains IBA

© Tim Gunther

Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store!

udubon 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.

We always start the New Year with a heartfelt thank you to all our members who shopped at the Nature Store in 2011. Nearly 70% of our sales are made to Audubon members, who see the value of spending their shopping dollars at their favorite nonprofit.

“Where all the Profits are for The Birds” is our motto. We are fully owned and managed by Portland Audubon. 100% of the income we generate goes to support Portland Audubon: our Wildlife Care Center, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation activities, and educational programs.

PORTLAND AUDUBON’S NATURE STORE

5151 NW Cornell Road • Portland, OR 97210
503-292-9453 • store@audubonportland.org
Open 10am–6pm Monday through Saturday
10am–5pm Sunday

PORTLAND AUDUBON’S NATURE STORE

© Portland Audubon

And thanks to our crew of 40 friendly volunteers, who keep us well-stocked and open 7 days a week. And, thank you, too, to the vendors who keep our store stocked with useful, beautiful, affordable items. We constantly search for the Best of the Northwest from local vendors and craftspeople. Keeping our buying dollars circulating within our community and offering products that are representative of our unique region are top priorities.

We look forward to seeing all our members in 2012! Stop by anytime to say “hello” and give us input on the best way to serve our members. We’re here for you!

Oregons magnificent landscape hosts the fifth largest diversity of birds in the United States. Nearly 500 bird species depend on and are critical to the ecosystem health of our deserts, wetlands, ocean, river valleys, forests, and grasslands across the state. We owe them a lot: these birds pollinate plants, disperse seeds, control pests, connect us to place, capture our hearts and our imaginations, and provide metaphors for our lives.

Today in Oregon, a network of 97 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) distributed across the state helps to knit these places together and focus our conservation efforts on the most valuable sites. Together our IBA lands provide an astounding 3.4 million acres of critical breeding, wintering and migrating habitat for birds. This land is in multiple ownerships — federal, state, county and city government, private, and nonprofit — and it may or may not already enjoy protections.

Last month, we got word that the three Oregon IBAs which we nominated for global status were accepted by the U.S. IBA Technical Committee! As the U.S. partner of BirdLife International’s Global IBA program, National Audubon Society coordinates the review of all proposals to elevate state-level IBAs. Our new Globally significant IBAs are Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, Oregon Canyon and Trout Creek Mountains, and Marbled Murrelet Central Coast IBAs. That means that these IBAs are ranked among the highest priority sites in the U.S. for conservation action. Today there are over 2,500 state-level IBAs in the United States, and 449 Global IBAs. IBAs that receive a global designation have been evaluated in a broader context, which helps to facilitate the necessary financing of needed conservation resources. Prioritization not only helps direct decision-making about where to work, but can also help to leverage funding and carry the message that these places bear regional and global significance in the preservation of imperiled bird populations.

Each of the sites qualified for Global status because they host a Species of Global Conservation Concern. Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge in south-central Oregon encompasses one of the most extensive sage steppe habitats in Oregon. 239 documented bird species have been documented on the refuge, including Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Common Nighthawk, Common Poorwill, Horned Lark, Vesper Sparrow, Brewer’s Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Cassin’s Finch, Sage Thrasher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Gray Flycatcher, Townsend’s Solitaire, Western Meadowlark, Lazuli Bunting, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Western Wood-Pewee. The refuge earned its Global designation because it hosts significant number of active Greater Sage Grouse leks (a federally Warranted but Precluded ESA-candidate species).

Oregon Canyon and Trout Creek Mountains in far southeastern Oregon straddle Harney and Malheur Counties, and take in aspen woodlands, mountain mahogany woodlands, savannah, diverse shrublands, and wet meadows. This is a rare location in southeastern Oregon for breeding Northern Goshawk, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Pine Siskin, Mountain Chickadee, Red Crossbill, Bohemian Waxwing, and MacGillivray’s Warbler. The global designation is bestowed because of a significant number of active Greater Sage Grouse leks (a federally Warranted but Precluded ESA-candidate species). The 80,000-acre Marbled Murrelet Central Coast IBA contains critical Murrelet habitat and hosts perhaps the highest Marbled Murrelet concentration in the state. Murrelets require old-growth trees with large, mossy limbs on which to lay eggs and good overhead cover to shelter them from severe weather and nest predators. This IBA contains the largest intact stand of coastal temperate rainforests in the lower 48 states. The highest concentration of nearshore murrelets is found between Newport and Florence, the nearshore waters of which have now been included in the terrestrial portion of the MAMI IBA, which extends roughly from Cape Perpetua to Heceta Head.

These represent just the first of several Global nominations we intend to bring before the National IBA Technical Committee. For now, we are thrilled to at last have Oregon represented on the Global IBA map! For more information, please visit our IBA webpage, which is open during renovation: audubonportland.org/local-birding/iba.
Birdbathon 2012
by Gary Slone, Birdathon Coordinator

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hrough their business practices and financial contributions, the following business member help Audubon Society of Portland fulfill its mission. If you would like to become a business member, please contact our Development Department at 971-222-6117.

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For the most up-to-date information, visit audubonportland.org.

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.

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 17–20, 2012

www.birdsource.org/gbbc

You can contribute to science while having fun watching birds by taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count! The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is asking birders all around the country to gather their binoculars and their checklists and count as many birds as they can between February 17 and 20 (4 days). Not only does this give you another excuse to watch birds, but you can make an important contribution (for free) to the birding world in the name of science.

How to take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count

Step 1: Between February 17 and 20, plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes at a day for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 days. You can count for as little as 15 minutes on a single day — or count all day long for all 4 days. It’s entirely up to you!

Step 2: Count and tally the greatest number of individual birds of each species you see. Let’s say you see a flock of 20 juncos in the morning and then later that day you see a flock of 15 juncos — you would just tally 20 juncos. Don’t combine all the individual birds for the day, just the greatest number of each species at any one time. You simply do this for every bird you see that you see during your counting time.

Step 3: After you’re finished counting for the day, go to gbcc.birdsource.org/gbbc/apps/input to report your findings.

Follow these 3 easy steps for every site you count at. You can at a single site or you can go to as many of your favorite birding spots as you like. Backyards, neighborhood parks, wildlife refuges, coastal sanctuaries — anywhere you want to count! You can turn in as many checklists as you like.

If you have any questions about how the Great Backyard Bird Count works or how to participate, please visit birdsource.org/gbbc and explore the website. You can watch the instructional video, find GBBC activities for kids, enter the photo contest, download a regional species checklist, see results from years past, and much more.

Find out more about how to participate by contacting Gary Slone. You can contribute to science while having fun watching birds by joining the Great Backyard Bird Count. Visit the website for more information.

Some birding expertise is helpful, but it’s not all that necessary. All it takes is a desire to bird watch and help the Audubon Society of Portland raise bird funds.

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