Annual Event Celebrates Birds of Prey!
Saturday, February 9th • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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 one-day 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 crash course in raptor identification will be provided at three island viewing locations, along with naturalists to help spot the birds. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them, and dress for the weather. This event takes place rain or shine! The road trip is suitable for birders of all skill levels, and families are welcome!

Three of the sites — Howell Territorial Park, Coon Point, and the Wildlife Viewing Platform — are wheelchair accessible.

While you don’t have to be an ‘early bird’ and get up at the crack of dawn to see these birds of prey, you should allow approximately three hours to visit all four locations.

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 audubonportland.org or call 503-292-6855 ext. 119.

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

Raptor Road Trip photos (left to right, top line): © Born Fredrickson, Jim Cruce, Steve Halpern; bottom line: © Jim Cruce, Greg7, Ann Takamoto

Inside this issue
Audubon Society of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, Oregon 97210

Page 2 From the Director
Page 3 Audubon Outings
Page 4 – 5 Conservation
Page 6 & 7 Wildlife Care Center
Page 8 Nature Store & Sanctuaries
Page 9 Field Notes
Page 10 New Members
Page 11 Design Your Legacy
Page 12 Map/Hours/Sponsors

View this Walter and past issues at www.audubonportland.org/about/newsletter.
This year marks the beginning of Portland Audubon’s 111th year in the business of conservation advocacy, environmental education, land stewardship, and grassroots activism. We are the beneficiaries of those early educators, advocates, and conservation leaders. It’s now in our hands to build upon and further those gains in protecting wild birds and their habitats, locally and across the state and Pacific Flyway.

From the Executive Director

Achallenges facing the Wildlife Care Center, which supports addressing the operation, facility, and programmatic This year will give Portland Audubon a framework for aim to create more contiguous areas for wild birds to nest, rest, feed, and breed. This year will give Portland Audubon a framework for addressing the operation, facility, and programmatic challenges facing the Wildlife Care Center, which supports the rehabilitation and management of 3,500 native animals annually by staff and volunteers. We will also take specific steps to identify what Marriot Cabin requires. Donated to Portland Audubon about 30 years ago by Dr. Joe Miller, this cabin and the surrounding 80 acres near Sandy is a special place that provides youth with a deeper outdoor experience in nature. The Audubon Society of Portland now has a stronger relationship with National Audubon Society, and will be seeking innovative ways to collaborate with them on the conservation issues that California, Alaska, Arizona, and Washington state include the decline of migratory seabirds and shorebirds, marine pollution, and mammal hazards in metropolitan centers. Working with Our Ocean partners, we will remain at the table to ensure that Oregon’s marine reserve system remains funded and significantly managed and that wave energy development is responsibly sited.

Nature and Wildlife Sanctuaries have undergone a transformation in recent years with improved trails and access, thousands of native trees and shrubs planted, and new exhibits and furnishings installed in the Interpretive Center at Audubon House. For this year and beyond, our plans include growing our sanctuary stewardship endeavor that was started four years ago, eradicating the last remnants of ivy and other invasive plants, and developing an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act-approved) trail from Cornell Road to the pond in the Pittock Sanctuary.

All of this and much more is possible with your continued investment in our work. Together, we can ensure that the wild birds we see today are enjoyed by future generations.

Calendar at a Glance
For the latest information, visit audubonportland.org

January
1 Tuesday — 8:30am – 11am — Nature Store & Admin closed
2 Wednesday — 8am – 11am — Winter Waterfowl class (p.7)
3 Thursday — 7:30pm – 9pm — Winter Birding class (p.7)
4 Thursday — 7:30pm – 9pm — Birding, Heron Hall
5 Saturday — 10am – Noon — Winter Gull class (p.7)
6 Sunday — 6:30pm – 8pm — New Volunteer Orientation (p.9)

February
9 Saturday – Noon – 2pm — Raptor Road Trip (p.1)
10 Saturday — 8am – 11am — Winter Waterfowl class (p.7)
11 Saturday — 10am – 1pm — Winter Birds outing (p.3)
12 Saturday — 10am – 1pm — Nature Journaling Winter (p.7)
13 Monday — 8am – 11am — UERC Symposium at PSU (p.2)
14 Monday — 7pm – 9pm — Birding 1 class (p.7)
15 Tuesday — 7pm — Nature Night: Catanysts on the Columbia, with Scott Burns
16 Wednesday — 7pm – 9pm — Winter Waterfowl class (p.7)
17 Wednesday — 8am – 11am — Winter Waterfowl field trip (p.7)
18 Thursday — 7pm – 9pm — Birding 2 class (p.7)
19 Thursday — 7pm – 9pm — Birding 3 class (p.7)
20 Thursday — 7pm – 9pm — Birding 4 class (p.7)
21 Friday — 7pm – 9pm — Birding 5 class (p.7)
22 Saturday — 9am – 11am — Statain River NWR (p.3)
23 Saturday — 9:30am – 11am — NWRA Symposium at DoubleTree (p.5)
24 Sunday — 8am – 11am — Crystal Springs outing (p.9)
25 Sunday — 8am – 11am — Birding 1 field trip (p.7)

March
2 Saturday — 8am – 11am — Birding Field Trip at Sauvie (p.7)
5 Saturday — 8am – 11am — NWRA Symposium at DoubleTree (p.5)

Event Planning: Meryl Redisch

Audubon’s East Metro Events — Free!
Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave.
Biodiversity Surveys with Laura Guryan
January 16 (Wed), 7pm–8:30pm
Free for Nature Notes members — Guryan uses volunteers to collect data on the area’s amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species. Come learn how you can be a part of this effort and how the data collected will prioritize and garner support for restoration and habitat improvement projects.

Audubon Oregon is a proud sponsor of UERC and serves on its steering committee.

FREE EVENT! Welcome Back Vulture Day is coming to Leach Botanical Gardens!
Saturday, March 16, 2013
Free event. Parking limited. Please carpool if possible.
Welcome Back Vulture Day is filled with fun and educational activities:
• Meet Ruby, Portland Audubon’s Turkey Vulture, up close (along with many of Audubon’s other Education Birds)
• Compare your “wingspan” to that of a California Condor
• Make a crafted vulture and mask
• Play “Uphack Chuckle”
• Learn fun vulture facts
• Find out the differences between Old and New World vultures
• Discover why vultures are important
Come and help us celebrate the beauty of vultures!

Audubon is a proud sponsor of UERC and serves on its steering committee.

Audubon’s East Metro Events — Free!
Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave.
Biodiversity Surveys with Laura Guryan
January 16 (Wed), 7pm–8:30pm
Free for Nature Notes members — Guryan uses volunteers to collect data on the area’s amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species. Come learn how you can be a part of this effort and how the data collected will prioritize and garner support for restoration and habitat improvement projects.

Audubon’s East Metro Events — Free!
Leach Botanical Garden, 6704 SE 122nd Ave.
Biodiversity Surveys with Laura Guryan
January 16 (Wed), 7pm–8:30pm
Free for Nature Notes members — Guryan uses volunteers to collect data on the area’s amphibian, reptile, bird, and mammal species. Come learn how you can be a part of this effort and how the data collected will prioritize and garner support for restoration and habitat improvement projects.

Connecting with Birds with Dan van den Broek
February 12 (Tue), 7pm–8:30pm
One of our staff’s most experienced birders and an international trip leader, Dan will share photographs of our amazing avian biodiversity. Join us and discover the joys of birds and birding.

Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium
Come to the 11th annual symposium hosted by the Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium. You’ll have opportunities to network, build partnerships, and exchange information about urban environmental issues and practical applications of ecological and social sciences in the Portland-Vancouver region. Enjoy presentations, 2 keynote speakers, and more.

For more information, visit audubonportland.org

Host Help Monitor Western Bluebirds
Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project will hold a Spring Volunteer Workshop on Sat, February 23, 9:30am–Noon in the Vision Center at Champoeg State Heritage Area. Reserve your space by sending your contact phone number to email@greatprescottbluebird.com, and go to prescottbluebird.com for more information.

FREE EVENT! Welcome Back Vulture Day is coming to Leach Botanical Gardens!
Saturday, March 16, 2013
Free event. Parking limited. Please carpool if possible.
Welcome Back Vulture Day is filled with fun and educational activities:
• Meet Ruby, Portland Audubon’s Turkey Vulture, up close (along with many of Audubon’s other Education Birds)
• Compare your “wingspan” to that of a California Condor
• Make a crafted vulture and mask
• Play “Uphack Chuckle”
• Learn fun vulture facts
• Find out the differences between Old and New World vultures
• Discover why vultures are important
Come and help us celebrate the beauty of vultures!

Urban Ecology and Conservation Symposium
Come to the 11th annual symposium hosted by the Urban Ecosystem Research Consortium. You’ll have opportunities to network, build partnerships, and exchange information about urban environmental issues and practical applications of ecological and social sciences in the Portland-Vancouver region. Enjoy presentations, 2 keynote speakers, and more.

For more information, visit audubonportland.org

Host Help Monitor Western Bluebirds
Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project will hold a Spring Volunteer Workshop on Sat, February 23, 9:30am–Noon in the Vision Center at Champoeg State Heritage Area. Reserve your space by sending your contact phone number to email@greatprescottbluebird.com, and go to prescottbluebird.com for more information.
January 11 (Fri), 9am–1am
Summer Lake Park
Join us as leader Sue Carr (503-649-3610) takes us for a look at the wintering waterfowl in this wonderful suburban park! Take Scholes Ferry Rd to SW 130th Ave. Follow the road around to the left (to SW Winterlake Dr) to the parking area on the left.

January 19 (Sat), 8am–1am
Vancouver Lake Park
Join Ron Escano (503-771-3454) to scope the lake for water birds, then explore the riparian woodland for White-throated Sparrows. Meet at parking lot in front of the bathrooms. From I-5 north, take Exit 1-D (4th Plain Blvd), go west on 4th Plain thru Vancouver onto SR-501 (Lower Columbia Blvd). From I-5 southbound, take Exit 6-B (Columbia Blvd (TriMet #75 stops at 47th & Columbia)).

Oregon’s Glorious Trumpeter Swans
Tuesday, January 8 • 7pm, Heron Hall
P ortland Audubon’s Nature Nights opens the New Year with an encouraging story about bringing a majestic species back from the brink of extinction. Trumpeter Swans, one of Oregon’s native waterfowl, were hunted to near-extinction as market hunting and trapping decimated the species in the 19th century. By the 1920s, less than 100 were found in the wild — and those resides in Yellowstone National Park. In the 1930s, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began moving trumpeters to several western refuges, including Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, in an effort to rebuild healthy, breeding flocks. The ensuing decades have seen an increase in the Oregon flock, despite setbacks in the 1980s.

A biologist and president of the Trumpeter Swan Society, Gary Ivey will speak about the valiant collaborative efforts of several organizations to save this amazing species. Sharing superb photographs and stories, Gary will report on the program and the current status of the breeding flock. Additionally, he will provide tips for identifying trumpeters and discuss the places to find them in summer and winter.

Gary Ivey of Bend, Oregon served as a biologist at several western National Wildlife Refuges for 18 years (including 15 years at Malheur NWR) and is a PhD candidate at Oregon State University. Gary’s years of experience working with wetlands, waterfowl, and bird/habitat management and conservation planning give him a unique perspective on the conservation challenges facing the Trumpeter Swan population.

Cataclysms on the Columbia: The Great Missoula Floods with Scott Burns
Tuesday, February 12 • 7pm, Heron Hall
I f you’ve ever stood atop the city of Portland’s Mount Tabor, looking out over the city of Portland, or on a bluff overlooking the Columbia River Gorge, and wondered how the landscape unfolding at your feet was formed? It was largely shaped by one of the greatest sets of geological events ever to have happened in North America — given the name The Missoula Floods.

Join geologist and gifted communicator Scott Burns for a thrilling presentation that tells the incredible story of discovery and development of the idea of these Ice Age floods by geologist J Harlen Bretz. Scott will discuss the effects of the floods — which occurred between 15,000 and 18,000 years ago — on the formation of the terrains of 16,000 square miles of the Pacific Northwest, from Eastern Washington to Astoria and the Willamette Valley.

A 6th-generation Oregonian, Scott is a Professor of Geology and past Chair of the Department of Geology at Portland State University, where he just finished his 22nd year of teaching. He has BS and MS degrees from Stanford University in California, plus a PhD in geology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Scott has been teaching for 42 years and specializes in environmental and engineering geology, geomorphology, soils, and Quaternary geology. In Oregon his projects include those involving landslides and land use, earthquake hazard mapping, paleoenvs, loess soil stratigraphy, and The Missoula Floods. He is a prolific writer, having authored over 90 publications, including the recent rewriting of the book Cataclysms on the Columbia: The Great Missoula Floods.

Whether or not you’re a geology buff, you’ll be glad you joined us for this fascinating and humorous presentation about our region’s natural history.

Birding Weekends, a final note…
W ith some conflicting feelings we have decided to discontinue leading Audubon Birding Weekends. Here are some numbers.

Sixteen years ago I began organizing birding weekends in Oregon, first through Oregon Field Ornithologists, and for the last 10 years through the Audubon Society of Portland. I've done 148 trips with nearly 2,200 participants. A total of 683 people have come on a trip; 265 have come back more than once. Countless new bird species have been seen and enjoyed. The number of potty stops, lost mittens, mosquito bites, and birds misidentified by the leader was not recorded. Temperatures have ranged from -30° to 60°. The camaraderie, good birds, great vistas, new friends, and great laughs have been priceless.

Carol came on board in the middle of this experience and has been there in so many priceless, helpful ways for 72 trips. We want to thank everyone who has participated in a Birding Weekend, whether once or many times, for their enthusiasm and kinship to us. We want to thank the many local co-leaders who provided their expertise to make our trips succeed.

We want to thank the OFO Friends who saw this effort launched and all the staff at Audubon Society of Portland who helped to make these weekends possible. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Good birding, everyone,
Paul T. Sullivan & Carol Karlen
**Conservation**

**West Hayden Island Decision Delayed to 2013**

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

On November 27th the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission decided to delay a recommendation on West Hayden Island into 2013. The Commission unanimously rejected a last-minute effort to force a decision by the end of 2012 before the current City Council term expires.

Bowing to the pressure to move a West Hayden Island controversial project. Four years later a citizen advisory committee of 30 stakeholders voted unanimously to support the plan which provided significant environmental enhancements for the local community as well as habitat mitigation on Government Island. It is little known, but it was the Mayor’s personal diplomacy that kept the plan on track in the final weeks.

Next Steps: The Planning and Sustainability Commission has scheduled a series of work sessions and hearings in the first quarter of 2013. The schedule can be found on the PSC website at: portlandoregon.gov/bps/article/425985. Please continue to stay involved — your input is now more important than ever in ensuring that the PSC and new City Council protect this amazing natural area.

For updated information, "friend" our Save West Hayden Island page on Facebook.

---

**Reflections on Sam Adams: A Look Back and Forward on Portland’s Environmental Agenda**

by Bob Sallinger

As we come to the end of Sam Adams’ tenure on the Portland City Council, including four years as Mayor and an additional four years as Commissioner, it is worth taking a few minutes to reflect on the City’s environmental achievements over the past eight years. Aubohon worked closely with Mayor Adams on a variety of initiatives. While we did not always agree with his decisions, perhaps most notably on West Hayden Island, Mayor Adams brought a willingness to delve deep into the details, a dedication to the environment stewardship and long-term vision that will set a high bar for those who follow. The list of accomplishments in which Sam Adams played a substantial role over the past eight years is remarkable and includes the following:

1. **Completing the Big Pipe on time and on budget:** This was the largest public works project in the history of Oregon. It not only leaves the Willamette River substantially cleaner and healthier, but the outstanding implementation of this project over more than a decade also made it possible to move forward on a variety of other environmental projects.

2. **Watershed Management Plan and Grey to Green:** Under Sam’s watch, the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services developed a long-range vision and plan for green infrastructure and then personally led the effort to implement the plan through the Grey to Green initiative. Today Portland is recognized worldwide as a leader in integrating the built and natural environments. This is more than just a matter of environmental stewardship; it is also about smart economics. The City’s Tabor to the River, which substituted green strategies such as bioswales, green streets, and ecoroofs to shore up our aging sewer system, saved taxpayers approximately $40 million over traditional pipe-based solutions.

3. **North Rock Island River Plan:** Although it remains in limbo due to litigation brought by industrial interests, the River Plan would have put in place fundamental protections for habitat along the most degraded stretch of the Willamette River while also providing increased flexibility for industry and much-needed access for the general public. Mayor Adams worked for more than a year trying to find a way to make this plan work for industrial stakeholders and then chose to stand up to them when it became clear that their goal was simply to gut environmental protections. The Supreme Court of Oregon recently strongly rejected an industry appeal that attempted to make that case the City was not allowed under law to establish environmental protections for the river in the North Rock.

4. **Airport Futures:** Developing a long-range plan for Portland International Airport started out as a highly controversial project. Four years later a citizen advisory committee of 30 stakeholders voted unanimously to support the plan which provided significant environmental enhancements for the local community as well as habitat mitigation on Government Island. It is little known, but it was the Mayor’s personal diplomacy that kept the plan on track in the final weeks.

5. **Tree Code Regulatory Improvement Project:** In 2010, the City adopted a broad-ranging regulatory framework plan to protect and restore its urban tree canopy, an asset recognized to be worth more than $6 billion.

6. **Climate Change Action Plan:** In 2009 the City of Portland adopted its Climate Change Action Plan — a roadmap that would put Portland in the forefront of North American cities in addressing the most critical environmental challenge of the 21st century.

7. **Equity and Environmental Justice:** These concepts have been institutionalized in a variety of places, most notably in the Portland Plan. The City is still struggling with how to really deal with these issues, but they are now squarely part of the conversation.

8. **Invasive Species:** Addressing invasive species is now a cornerstone of Portland environmental programs. That was not the case years ago. It was the Mayor (then Commissioner) that elevated the issue at the first Portland Invasive Species Summit.

9. **Superfund:** Mayor Adams quietly has sought to maintain the City’s leadership role in the Superfund process, even while others want to hang back and hide from reality with the rest of the responsible parties. The Mayor is right — the City as a public entity should be out front, setting a high standard and ensuring that all the public trust issues are adequately addressed.

That’s an impressive list and we were pleased to work with Mayor Sam Adams on each of these initiatives. It leaves the City of Portland a far healthier ecological place for people and wildlife than it was eight years ago, and provides vision and guidance for the coming years.

Mayor Hales and the incoming City Council will be greeted with the challenge of building upon this legacy. We would highlight a few issues in particular that we believe are of critical importance in the coming four years.

First and foremost, the decade-plus-long Portland Harbor Superfund process will reach its conclusion during this term — Portland needs to be out front setting a high standard for cleanup and mitigation actions that restore the health of the Willamette River for people and wildlife. Second, once legal issues are resolved, Council needs to move forward with implementing the North Reach River Plan and developing plans for the Central and South Reaches. The Big Pipe removed raw sewage from our river. Superfund will remove toxic contaminants, and the River Plan will strategically protect and restore habitat. Only when all are in place will we be able to declare our river to be healthy.

Third, we need a stable strategy for funding parks and natural areas — especially operations and maintenance. The new Mayor brings with him a strong history on this issue, and additional leadership from Commissioner Fish and the Intertwine Alliance make this the right time to move forward on developing new and innovative funding streams. Fourth, we need to continue to institutionalize green stormwater strategies, integrating trees, green streets, bioswales, and ecoroofs into our built landscape. These strategies are proven cost-effective and make our city both livable and ecologically sustainable.

And finally, it is time to put efforts to develop West Hayden Island to rest. The need for development is at best uncertain and more than a decade and a half away. Massive public opposition and unmitigated impacts on the community and environment demand a new direction for this old conflict.

Transcending all of these issues is the imperative to build upon the commitments made to equity and environmental justice developed over the past four years. Words on the page need to be translated into action on the ground.

We offer our appreciation and best wishes to the outgoing Mayor and look forward to working with the new Mayor and Council on building upon Portland’s green legacy.

---

**Looking Forward**

Our work is far from complete, and the challenges we face are many. But with the new Mayor and Council in place, we are confident that we can build upon the accomplishments of the past and move forward on a new chapter for the City of Portland.
Portland will have an important role to play in recovering a species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to list as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. In October, the Fish & Wildlife Service announced in the Federal Register that the Streaked Horned Lark is “at risk of becoming endangered in the near future” and warrants protection under the Act. This is the same status that currently applies to the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet in Oregon.

Historically, Streaked Horned Larks were found from Southern Oregon into British Columbia. However, loss of grassland habitats on which they depend has jeopardized the continued existence of the species. The listing proposal notes that the prairies of South Puget Sound and Western Oregon are part of “one of the rarest ecosystems in the United States” with a 90-95% reduction over the past century. In the Willamette Valley this loss likely exceeds 98%.

Today, the Streaked Horned Lark’s range is contracting from both the north and the south. It has already been extirpated as a breeding species throughout much of its range including all of its former range in British Columbia, the San Juan Islands, the Northern Puget Trough, the Washington Coast north of Grays Harbor, the Oregon Coast, and the Rogue and Umpqua Valleys in Southern Oregon. Small remaining populations in the South Puget Sound and along the Southern Washington Coast are declining precipitously, in some places at rates as high as 40% per year. Today there are estimated to be between 1,100 and 1,600 Streaked Horned Larks left on the planet.

Streaked Horned Lark populations remain strongest in the Willamette Valley. Ironically, this species—which likes sparsely vegetated, wide-open grasslands with no trees and few shrubs for nesting—now substitutes grass seed farms, open land around airports, undeveloped industrial sites, and dredge spoil areas along the Columbia River for the once-common prairies that have almost entirely disappeared from our region. The largest known Streaked Horned Lark once-common prairies that have almost entirely disappeared from our region. The largest known Streaked Horned Lark grassland habitats on which they depend has jeopardized the continued existence of the species. The listing proposal notes that the prairies of South Puget Sound and Western Oregon are part of “one of the rarest ecosystems in the United States” with a 90-95% reduction over the past century. In the Willamette Valley this loss likely exceeds 98%.

Today, the Streaked Horned Lark’s range is contracting from both the north and the south. It has already been extirpated as a breeding species throughout much of its range including all of its former range in British Columbia, the San Juan Islands, the Northern Puget Trough, the Washington Coast north of Grays Harbor, the Oregon Coast, and the Rogue and Umpqua Valleys in Southern Oregon. Small remaining populations in the South Puget Sound and along the Southern Washington Coast are declining precipitously, in some places at rates as high as 40% per year. Today there are estimated to be between 1,100 and 1,600 Streaked Horned Larks left on the planet.

Streaked Horned Lark populations remain strongest in the Willamette Valley. Ironically, this species—which likes sparsely vegetated, wide-open grasslands with no trees and few shrubs for nesting—now substitutes grass seed farms, open land around airports, undeveloped industrial sites, and dredge spoil areas along the Columbia River for the once-common prairies that have almost entirely disappeared from our region. The largest known Streaked Horned Lark grassland habitats on which they depend has jeopardized the continued existence of the species. The listing proposal notes that the prairies of South Puget Sound and Western Oregon are part of “one of the rarest ecosystems in the United States” with a 90-95% reduction over the past century. In the Willamette Valley this loss likely exceeds 98%.

Today, the Streaked Horned Lark’s range is contracting from both the north and the south. It has already been extirpated as a breeding species throughout much of its range including all of its former range in British Columbia, the San Juan Islands, the Northern Puget Trough, the Washington Coast north of Grays Harbor, the Oregon Coast, and the Rogue and Umpqua Valleys in Southern Oregon. Small remaining populations in the South Puget Sound and along the Southern Washington Coast are declining precipitously, in some places at rates as high as 40% per year. Today there are estimated to be between 1,100 and 1,600 Streaked Horned Larks left on the planet.

Streaked Horned Lark populations remain strongest in the Willamette Valley. Ironically, this species—which likes sparsely vegetated, wide-open grasslands with no trees and few shrubs for nesting—now substitutes grass seed farms, open land around airports, undeveloped industrial sites, and dredge spoil areas along the Columbia River for the once-common prairies that have almost entirely disappeared from our region. The largest known Streaked Horned Lark grassland habitats on which they depend has jeopardized the continued existence of the species. The listing proposal notes that the prairies of South Puget Sound and Western Oregon are part of “one of the rarest ecosystems in the United States” with a 90-95% reduction over the past century. In the Willamette Valley this loss likely exceeds 98%.

Today, the Streaked Horned Lark’s range is contracting from both the north and the south. It has already been extirpated as a breeding species throughout much of its range including all of its former range in British Columbia, the San Juan Islands, the Northern Puget Trough, the Washington Coast north of Grays Harbor, the Oregon Coast, and the Rogue and Umpqua Valleys in Southern Oregon. Small remaining populations in the South Puget Sound and along the Southern Washington Coast are declining precipitously, in some places at rates as high as 40% per year. Today there are estimated to be between 1,100 and 1,600 Streaked Horned Larks left on the planet.
Educational Trips

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

Australia

November 5–19, 2013

Like no other place else on Earth, Australia is unique unto itself. Join Portland Audubon and explore some of the finest regions the island-continent has to offer.

The trip begins in the coastal town of Cairns, where we’ll bird the Queensland Coast and Atherton Tablelands, world renowned for its avian diversity. We'll be on the lookout for species such as Scarlet Honeyeater, Laughing Kookaburra, and the Lovely Fairy Wren as we traverse the countryside with our local guide. We'll visit the Mareeba Wetlands and look for Royal Spoonbill, Black Swan, and Great Crested Grebe. We'll spend two nights at Kingfisher Lodge, famous for the stunning Buff-breasted Paradise Kingfisher, and we'll no doubt find the massive Australian Bustard as we bird the nearby scrubland. Route back to Cairns, we'll have the magical experience of birding the Daintree River by boat at dawn. Within the first week, you will have explored the jungles, wetlands, and dry scrublands of this unique region in search of 150+ bird species. Along the way, we'll do our best to add Brolga and Saurus Cranes to our list, as well as the elegant Red-tailed Black Cackato and the very rare Southern Cassowary.

But this is more than just a birding trip. You will also experience the most incredible coral reef system in the world, the Great Barrier Reef. We’ll spend three days and two nights on the reef, on a certified live-aboard dive boat, complete with private sleeping berths and a full galley. We will snorkel several of the finest reefs (you may scuba dive if desired), where Sea Turtles, Giant Clams, and a myriad of reef fish abound.

We’ll also find time to tour the cosmopolitan town of Cairns, shop for souvenirs in the charming village of Kuranda, and see incredible Flying Fox Bats up close and personal when we go behind the scenes at a local bat rehab center. We’ll end our trip with two nights in the beautiful city of Sydney, where we’ll bird the Botanical Garden on our way to see the famous Sydney Opera House and the Harbor Bridge. We’ll also enrich our Australian experience with a tour of the wonderful Australian Museum, which has fascinating exhibits on both the cultural and natural history of the land down under.

This trip is designed to thrill the avid birder and novice naturalist alike, and to give everyone a well-rounded, first-hand experience of natural Australia. If you have questions or want to sign up for the trip, please contact Steve Robertson at 971-222-6118.

Leaders: Steve Robertson, Education Director; Mike Houck, Director of Urban Greenspaces Institute; and local guides

Group size: limited to 14 participants

Ground Fee: $3895/350 member / $4295 non-member

Deposit: $5000 to secure your place

Tasmania Extension! November 19–24, 2013

One of the most beautiful places on the planet, Tasmania is simply unforgettable. We’ll fly into Hobart then it’s off to Bruny Island, where, with luck, we’ll spot all of the island’s 12 endemic species of birds, including the Forty-spotted Pardalote. We will also see the charming Little Penguins, “Fairies” as they are called in Tasman, as they come up onto the beach at dusk. We will then head north towards the Huon River. As you know, we’ll be a stronghold for both the Duck-billed Platypus and the Tasmanian Devil. Then it’s up to the World Heritage Area of Cradle Mountain where you’ll have time to hike and explore the area before we head back to Hobart to dine along the waterfront of this wonderfully quaint town. Please contact Steve Robertson at 971-222-6118 if you are interested or have further questions.

This extension is sure to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience — unless Tasmania’s charms lure you back again... and again....

Leaders: Steve Robertson, Education Director; Mike Houck, Director of Urban Greenspaces Institute; and local guides

Group size: limited to 14 participants

Ground Fee: $1795 member / $2045 non-member

Deposit: $1000 to secure your place

*Fee for Australia and Tasmania includes: All ground transportation in Australia, double-occupancy lodging, excursions (including dive boat), meals except dinners, fees and tips for local guides, park fees, local fares and taxes, and the services of your trip leaders.

Contact Steve Robertson at 971-222-6118 or sengel@audubonportland.org for details and to register.

Birding Costa Rica

April 13–26, 2013

Can Portland Audubon on an epic adventure to the verdant world of Costa Rica, home to more than 800 colorful species of birds. Boat-billed Heron, Fiery-billed Aracari, and Scarlet Macaw await us at the Carara Biological Reserve and we’ll also visit the cool Savage River valley where the Resplendent Quetzal, considered by many as the most beautiful bird in the world, may be seen. At the La Selva Biological Station we’ll hike the lowland rainforest to see hummingbirds, frigate birds, and the services of your skilled leaders. Not included: Airfare to & from Portland and some dinners.

Contact Steve Robertson at 971-222-6118 or sengel@audubonportland.org for details and to register.

Leaders: Dan van den Broek

Group size: limited to 14 participants

Fee: $3595 members / $3895 non-members

Deposit: $1800 required to secure your place

Fee includes: All ground transportation within Costa Rica, 13 nights double-occupancy lodging, meals except some dinners, local guide fees & tips, entrance fees, excursions, and the services of your skilled leaders.

Adventures Alaska

June 3–13, 2013

None in far west Alaska, is surrounded by stunning scenery and incredible birding opportunities. It also has a great road system for accessing the diverse habitats where we'll search for wildlife during our first 4 days in Alaska. Expect an exhilarating mix of the exotic and the familiar when birding Nome: Bluenose, Yellow Wagtail — Asian songbirds of the brushlands — breed next to Adder's Gallinule, Racing Tattler, Sparrrow, Harlequin Duck and Wandering Tattler share their riparian breeding grounds with Arctic Warbler, a thrush relative that winters in Africa. Gyrfalcons compete with Peregrines for cliff nest sites. Waterfowl and shorebirds seen only in migration farther south are devoted to full-time breeding activities, revealing a new side of their life history to you. Add a herd of Musk Ox on the tundra and the possibility of Gray Whales in Norton Sound, and there is indeed no place like Nome!

During our 5 days in south-central Alaska we’ll travel by bus deep into Denali National Park for excellent chances of observing Grizzly Bear, Moose, Dall's Sheep, Caribou, and possibly even Wolf. The range of habitat types in the park and the ever-changing scenery will astound you! Back in our van we follow the Denali Highway across a landscape recently emerged from the ice age yet rich in bird life. White-winged Crossbill, Boreal Chickadee, Northern Hawk Owl, and Three-toed Woodpecker can be found in the spruce forests. Tundra ponds have nesting Common & Red-throated Loon, Trumpeter Swan, and ducks galore. Out on the low tundra we’ll look for Long-tailed Jaeger, Whimbrel, and Smith’s Longspur.

Our last day we experience the rich maritime ecosystem of the Kenai Peninsula through the light of day in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Seward, a full-day boat trip will bring us close to Sea Otter, tens of thousands of nesting seabirds, the tots of tidewater glaciers, and the chance to see Harlequin Duck and Orca. We’ll look for Red-faced Cormorant, Kittlitz’s Murrelet, and Thick-billed Murre among the thousands of Black-legged Kittiwakes and Tufted & Horned Puffins. Contact Steve Engel at 971-222-6119 or sengel@audubonportland.org for details and to register.

Leaders: Steve Engel

Group size: limited to 8 participants

Fee: $2995 members / $3150 non-members

Deposit: $1400 required to secure your place

Fee includes: All ground transportation in Alaska, 10 nights double occupancy lodging, all park entry fees, boat and bus tour fees, meals except dinners, and the services of your leader.
Identifying Winter Gulls
January 19 (Sat), 10am-Noon
Class in Heron Hall and Field Local Field Trip with canoeing Most gulls are pretty easy to identify—if you know what to look for. In the class, author John Rakestraw will show you how to recognize local wintering species by size, shape, and plumage. Then we’ll visit local gull hot spots to practice our new skills.
Class with Field Trip: $25 members / $40 non-members (Field Trip is limited to 15 participants; no limit for Class only)
Class Only Fee: $10 members / $15 non-members

Beginning Birding & Sauvie Island Exploration
February 5, 8am–4pm
Do you want to begin birding? This class is perfect for developing and sharpening your birding skills with an expert birder. Explore different habitats, learn bird calls, and search for waterfowl, songbirds, raptors, and more. Perfect for anyone registered for all 3 days.
Fee: $60 members / $75 non-members
Class size: limited to 15 participants

Nature Journaling the Seasons
The Bare Bones of Winter
February 2 & 9 (Sat), 10am–4pm
Learn basic plant taxonomy and clues to identifying trees and shrubs without their leaves—from bark and buds to berries, including where and how they grow. Knowing your trees and shrubs strengthens your connection to where you live, and helps bird watchers describe a bird’s location. After an indoor introduction, we’ll go outdoors to apply our new knowledge. Each class session has been leading plant ID workshops in Oregon for 7 years.
Fee: $25 members / $40 non-members
Class size: limited to 30 participants

Deciduous Trees & Shrubs in Winter
February 17 (Sun), 10am-3pm
Learn basic plant taxonomy and clues to identifying trees and shrubs without their leaves from their bark to buds to berries, including where and how they grow. Knowing your trees and shrubs strengthens your connection to where you live, and helps bird watchers describe a bird’s location. After an indoor introduction, we’ll go outdoors to apply our new knowledge. Each class session has been leading plant ID workshops in Oregon for 7 years.
Fee: $25 members / $40 non-members
Class size: limited to 30 participants

Spring Break Camp 2013 at the Audubon Society of Portland
To register, go to audubonportland.org for online registration or to download a registration form. If you are mailing your form, call 971-222-6120 to save a place. Spring Break Camps run 8:45am–4:15pm unless otherwise noted.
MONDAY, MARCH 25
TUESDAY, MARCH 26
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27
THURSDAY, MARCH 28
FRIDAY, MARCH 29

News and Boots for Winter
Strap on your mud boots and head out to Portland Audubon’s own Balch Creek in search of salamanders and reptiles. Springtime is truly amphibian time, and we’ll search for eggs masses in Portland Audubon’s pond to figure out which salamander and frog laid them. We’ll also be on the lookout for other native amphibians and reptiles, safely collecting, studying, and releasing them into the wild.
Fee: $40 mem / $70 non-member

Junior Wildlife Vet 101
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 Sanctuary with wildlife rehabilitators and find out what this exciting job is all about.
Fee: $95 mem / $150 non-member

Hawk’s, Horns & Hummingbirds
Spending the day on Sauvie Island, one of Portland’s birding hot spots, we will review the signs and scan the fields for some of the 250 species of birds that can be found in this important Bird Area. We will have binoculars and field guides, and we will scan the fields for hawks and eagles, and spot all kinds of raptors like Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, and Kestrels. After our birding and eagle-watching, we will finish the afternoon by sipping hot cocoa while sketching and researching some of the animals encountered on our trip. This class is appropriate for people of all ages but will include one short hike of just less than one mile.
Leader: Tim Donner, Naturalist-Educator
Fee: $65 mem / $75 non-member (per participant)

Aquatic Art
1st-3rd grade
What creatures live in your local creeks and ponds? We’ll look in Balch Creek and the pond in Audubon’s Wildlife Sanctuary to find mayflies, trout, and maybe even a crayfish! Get to know the plants and animals that live in this watershed and turn your observations into imaginative paintings and clay sculptures.
Fee: $60 mem / $70 non-member

Natural Navigation: Map, Compass, and Beyond
4th-8th grade
Come spend the day at Portland’s Mt. Tabor Park to learn how to use a topographical map and compass. Discover the hidden art of map navigation as we learn how to read contour lines, understand map scale, and orient a map to the landscape. Combined with compass skills, we will learn some tips and tricks on using your observation skills, awareness, and internal compass to find your way around. Whether your treasure map in hand, your team will navigate to hidden treasures and clues on Portland’s only extinct volcano.
Trip Leader: Tim Donner
Fee: $65 mem / $75 non-member
**Sanctuaries**

*Feeling Winter*

by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

"Life is not a spectator sport." Somewhere in my brain I have a copy of this slogan — I think it is an old advertising line for an athletic shoe company. I remember liking it, replaying it in my head, sort of a mantra for my youth. Though for me it was less about sports, though I played my share; it was more a call to the outdoors. Often this phrase would bounce through my thoughts as I would strap on my running shoes (apparently those advertisers knew what they were doing!) and head outside to find a quiet stretch of trail for a long jog or bike ride. A spectator I was not, a doer I was… or so I thought.

Over time I came to realize that my frequent forays into the woods were not so much about doing anything. Once on the trail I would find the rhythm of my breath, the sound of my feet drumming on the soft ground, the beating of my own heart — these would all melt into the stillness of the woods around me. Despite the constant movement of my body, there was actually very little doing, and mostly observing. I was a spectator of a different sort.

On these little adventures I found my senses alive. My eyes scanned the trail ahead, first for safety and direction, but more, as I settled into my rhythm, for the fitter of a wing, the waving of a branch, the stillness of a rock or a log, whatever there was. The sounds of my own feet on the trail and the rushing of my breath gave way to the gentle sounds of wind through the branches, a bird call, the rushing of a stream. The smell of spring blossoms, summer pollen, the vibrant green; the quiet, cold moist air wrapped in fog, the steam of my warm breath against the cold of my cheek. The trunks alive with mosses and lichens of varying hues of gray, minute, sunny the next; trees bare and the ground littered with dried leaves, trunks arched with snow and ice, leaves glowing a bright red, the colors of winter. The smells of my own feet — as far as I can remember seeing and feeling for that matter. As far as I can remember this was the first time I became aware of the limits of dualistic thinking, the idea that something is either A or it is B. I still remember the aching feeling in my head when I realized that life is too complex, too elusive, to be boiled down to a set of relative values.

In my last article I referenced the work of social activist Tessa Okan, who listed either/or thinking as one of the four essential traits to the set of cultural values which ultimately "destroy ourselves and our world — spiritually, physically, environmentally, and psychologically" (*The Emperor Has No Clothes, page 9*). But what do we do in the absence of relative values, without the wide variety of categories and subjects we use to manage the increasingly complex world around us? What do we do in the absence of any concrete understanding of whether or not there is anything absolute in this world?

Something about this time of year, when the days are shortest and the weather coldest, something about the season brings me back to these questions. Something about being outside in the forest this time of year, raining one minute, sunny the next; trees bare and the ground littered with the mottled browns and yellow of fallen leaves, trunks alive with mosses and lichens of varying hues of vibrant green; the quiet, cold moist air wrapped in fog, the steam of my warm breath against the cold of my cheek. Something about this forest this time of year answers all of my questions, without a single word.

---

**Nature Store Highlights**

by Sally Loomis, Book Buyer

In honor of the upcoming Raptor Road Trip on February 2nd, this issue I’m highlighting some recent titles on birds of prey. These books, whether a celebration of a particular species or family of birds, or a detailed field guide, will heighten your appreciation of these amazing birds.

The book *Owls* by Marianne Taylor (Cornell University Press, $35.00) presents a wonderful collection of species descriptions and photographs of owls of North America and beyond. While also containing useful information on owl anatomy and behavior, the photographs are the real attraction here, with the charisma of the birds really in evidence.

Stephen J. D’Août’s *An Eternity of Eagles: The Human History of the Most Fascinating bird in the World* (Lyons Press, $26.95) captures the complex relationship between humans and these very iconic birds. Eagle species from around the globe are depicted, both as biological entities and as subjects of mythology and art. Current conservation issues are also examined.

---

**Coming Soon — The Nature Book Blog!**

Check our website for updates on new releases and reviews for books in the Nature Store!
Irruptions Continued through End of 2012

noticable irruptions of several species during 2012 enhanced birding especially west of the Cascades. One dictionary describes an irruption as when a natural population undergoes a sudden upsurge in numbers. The 2012 irruptions began during the summer when small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks remained in the lowlands instead of moving into the mountains to nest. These small flocks visited Willamette Valley feeders throughout the summer and fall.

Also during the summer Red Crossbills swarmed into the coastal lowlands, steadily increasing to unusually high numbers by fall. Some nesting activity was noted. Smaller numbers drifted into the Willamette Valley. During September large numbers of Pine Siskins moved into Western Oregon steadily increasing so that during October and November, 100 or more were gathered at many feeders. On November 13 John Gatchell counted 302 at his feeders in Gresham. Larger flocks were reported in the woodlands away from feeders.

It’s not unusual to see an occasional Mountain Chickadee away from the mountains, but beginning in mid-October this fall individuals or pairs appeared well scattered throughout Western Oregon, with many visiting Portland-area feeders. Mike Houck reported the first Portland bird in Northwest Portland October 21, the same day two were seen at Bonneville Dam. In all, by late November nine Portland feeders hosted Mountain Chickadees in addition to the more regular Black-capped & Chestnut-backed Chickadees. There was some indication that Chestnutbacks were also in higher than usual numbers.

The Snowy Owl is the most familiar irruptive species. In its nesting range in the Arctic it is also irruptive, moving from year to year when adequate food is available. When there is too much competition for what is available, many move southward into more southerly areas where there is more to eat. The winter of 2011 was apparently a major irruptive year and it appears that many of them are an echo flight. On November 10 Heather McCoy photographed a Snowy Owl in Lake Oswego. Several were reported from the mouth of the Columbia River later in the month.

Field Notes
by Harry Nehls

Irruptions are when populations of birds suddenly surge to unusually high numbers. One dictionary describes an irruption as when a natural population undergoes a sudden upsurge in numbers. The 2012 irruptions began during the summer when small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks remained in the lowlands instead of moving into the mountains to nest. These small flocks visited Willamette Valley feeders throughout the summer and fall.

Also during the summer Red Crossbills swarmed into the coastal lowlands, steadily increasing to unusually high numbers by fall. Some nesting activity was noted. Smaller numbers drifted into the Willamette Valley. During September large numbers of Pine Siskins moved into Western Oregon steadily increasing so that during October and November, 100 or more were gathered at many feeders. On November 13 John Gatchell counted 302 at his feeders in Gresham. Larger flocks were reported in the woodlands away from feeders.

It’s not unusual to see an occasional Mountain Chickadee away from the mountains, but beginning in mid-October this fall individuals or pairs appeared well scattered throughout Western Oregon, with many visiting Portland-area feeders. Mike Houck reported the first Portland bird in Northwest Portland October 21, the same day two were seen at Bonneville Dam. In all, by late November nine Portland feeders hosted Mountain Chickadees in addition to the more regular Black-capped & Chestnut-backed Chickadees. There was some indication that Chestnutbacks were also in higher than usual numbers.

The Snowy Owl is the most familiar irruptive species. In its nesting range in the Arctic it is also irruptive, moving from year to year when adequate food is available. When there is too much competition for what is available, many move southward into more southerly areas where there is more to eat. The winter of 2011 was apparently a major irruptive year and it appears that many of them are an echo flight. On November 10 Heather McCoy photographed a Snowy Owl in Lake Oswego. Several were reported from the mouth of the Columbia River later in the month.

Sightings

On October 7 Karen Hennigser saw two Common Redpolls at McVeer State Park near Estacada. They may have been part of the Pine Siskin irruption as they are often found with them. On November 25 Christopher and Adrian Hinke found a Caspian’s Finch at Powell Butte Park in Gresham.

On November 22 Jay Withgott observed a Brown Pelican flying over Northwest Portland. It was likely blown inland from the heavy southward movements taking place along the coast. Bob Flores saw a Parasitic Jaeger harassing gulls over Vancouver Lake November 4. Andy Frank noted about 150 Bonaparte’s Gulls at Smith & Bybee Lakes October 24. A Snowy Egret was there during November.

During October among a large gathering of hawks near the Erratic Rock Wayside west of McMinnville were an adult and immature Ferruginous Hawks. John Fitch saw one November 26 at Eagle Creek near Bonneville Dam. A Prairie Falcon was seen at Fernhill Wetlands November 13 by Steve Nord. Steve also noted a male Red-breasted Goose November 1, a Stilt Sandpiper October 6, and a Brant on October 4.

On November 3 Bill Bradford and Luna Minty saw a Long-tailed Duck at Smith & Bybee Lakes. Adrian and Christopher Hinke saw two Red-breasted Mergansers at the mouth of the Sandy River November 18 and an adult and a hybrid Tufted Ducks off Broughton Beach November 22. These may be the two Tufted that wintered in that area last winter. The Harleks also noted a flock of 62 Hooded Mergansers near the Trousdale Airport November 18.

Volunteering at Audubon is Fun and Rewarding!

I

Inviting 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 often 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 or an Audubon Docent.
- Help make Audubon’s special events successful, like the Wild Arts Festival, the Native Plant Sale, and Swift Watch.

New Volunteer Orientation

is Wed. February 6, 6pm–8:30pm. Before attending Orientation, participants are required to complete a Volunteer Application at audubonportland.org/about/volunteer/volapp. Volunteers who wish to help in a capacity beyond special events must also attend General Volunteer Training on Sat. February 16, 9am–4:30pm.

Volunteer of the Month:

by Nancy Mattson, Nature Store Manager

This month the Nature Store would like to introduce you to one of our favorite volunteers: Gary Michaelis. Gary has volunteered with our Audubon chapter since his training in September 2008. He says that he always feels that the staff of Audubon is so lucky to enjoy the benefits of working with Gary. He says that he always feels that the staff of Audubon is refreshing change of pace. Besides enjoying his job as one of our most “public faces” here at the Audubon Nature Store, and he likes that just fine! Where many others who works is on Saturday afternoons. Where else at Audubon might you see Gary lending a hand? He seized an opportunity to apply for a grant offered by Wells Fargo’s Diversity Council. Gary’s work with Wells Fargo allowed him to submit an application for a grant given to a non-profit organization. He chose Portland

Lars Norgren reported a Red-breasted Merganser at Fernhill Wetlands November 11. Bob Archer found a female Barrow’s Goldeneye November 24 in Reed College Canyon in Southeast Portland. The canyon is part of the Eastmoreland and Westmoreland complex, and is an excellent place to look for migrants and unexpected birds.

Most irruptions are caused by the search for something to eat. Either the regular food supply is not enough or after several good nesting seasons the birds produce more young than the available food can satisfy. Other natural events can also trigger an irruptive response.

During the fall migration Surf Scoters moving from their nesting sites in interior Canada cross through Oregon to reach the coast. Exhasted birds are often seen on interior lakes and reservoirs. Beginning about mid-October this fall, much larger than normal numbers were reported at inland locations. Several were reported on local bodies of water. On October 26 Jay Withgott observed a group of 16 on Hagg Lake south of Forest Grove.

by Gary Michaelis

by Nancy Mattson, Nature Store Manager

This month the Nature Store would like to introduce you to one of our favorite volunteers: Gary Michaelis. Gary has volunteered with our Audubon chapter since his training in September 2008. He says that he always feels that the staff of Audubon is so lucky to enjoy the benefits of working with Gary. He says that he always feels that the staff of Audubon is refreshing change of pace. Besides enjoying his job as one of our most “public faces” here at the Audubon Nature Store, and he likes that just fine! Where many others who works is on Saturday afternoons. Where else at Audubon might you see Gary lending a hand? He seized an opportunity to apply for a grant offered by Wells Fargo’s Diversity Council. Gary’s work with Wells Fargo allowed him to submit an application for a grant given to a non-profit organization. He chose Portland

Audubon’s Explorator Summer Camp program. The grant was awarded and we are so thankful for Gary’s efforts and support.”

Where else at Audubon might you see Gary lending a hand? He has participated in Sanctuary trail maintenance projects, he’s on the events committee for Flight Night (our annual Halloween event), and this year he took responsibility for selecting and helping to transport all the items sold in our Nature Store booth at the Festival of the Birds in Selwood Park. And because Gary is a family man, he even recruited his wife, Barbara, to assist this year at our booth at Ridgefield NWR’s Birdfest event.

Gary’s interest in the work we do at the Wildlife Care Center has even been passed on to the next generation. His son, Geoffrey, whom Gary brought to visit the WCC as a child, is now in the Veterinary Technician program at Portland Community College with an eye to attending veterinary school in the future. As a family man, employee, and volunteer, Gary’s compassion and values bring a wonderful perspective to all his interactions. We feel so lucky to enjoy the benefits of working with Gary. He says that he always feels that the staff of Audubon is thrilled to have our volunteers working here. And that’s absolutely true! Thanks, Gary, for all you do!
2012 Wild Arts Festival
—a Stellar Year!
by Mary Solares, Wild Arts Festival Chair

T he buzz is out that the Wild Arts Festival is no longer just an Audubon event. It has grown to become...a Portland event!

The 32nd year of the Wild Arts Festival broke all records. Attendance was up. Sponsorship was up. Sales of new memberships doubled. And most importantly, the amount raised to benefit Portland Audubon was beyond our best hopes. We netted nearly $83,000 — an increase of 40% from last year’s $60,000.

On a gray and cool weekend, 4,500 eager Festival attendees turned out to explore three stories of the Montgomery Park atrium resplendent with bright sponsors’ banners, Audubon’s colorful bird tables, and the wares of a handpicked selection of the Northwest’s finest artists and artisans. 69 artists filled the hall with colorful booths full of paintings, photographs, ceramics, textiles, glass and woodwork, metal sculptures, and jewelry. Many of the artists broke their 2011 sales records.

36 Northwest authors signed books, connected with other writers, and met their readers. Book sales were strong once again. 36 Northwest authors signed books, connected with other writers, and met their readers. Book sales were strong once again. 69 artists filled the hall with colorful booths full of paintings, photographs, ceramics, textiles, glass and woodwork, metal sculptures, and jewelry. Many of the artists broke their 2011 sales records.

The Silent Auction brought in a record $20,000 with donated items from our patrons and friends. More than 200 Silent Auction bidders have many of these items were at Artworks for the Wild Arts Festival — as always held the weekend before Thanksgiving — November 23–24, 2013. And a huge thank you to the other 150 volunteers who rounded out the Festival with their enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work. We couldn’t have done it without them.

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year’s Wild Arts Festival — we’ll be here the weekend before Thanksgiving. .

As always, Portland Audubon’s “Education Birds” were stars of the show, drawing crowds of children and adults as they listed to the stories of our handlers who share fascinating birds’ stories.

Over 160 volunteers did a stellar job. This event showcases their energy, enthusiasm, teamwork, camaraderie, and commitment to Audubon’s mission of promoting the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native birds and other wildlife. This is best captured in the responses of our artists to our volunteers: “They are the best part of the show.” “Soooo outstandingly helpful.” “They are the best of all the shows I do.” “Off the charts.”

Planning for the Festival begins in January by a core group of volunteers chairing major committees. This talented group makes sure that each facet of the event runs like clockwork. On behalf of the Audubon Society of Portland, a special thanks to our Committee Chair, Martha Gannett, Wink Gross, Roberta Lampert, Molly Marks, Candy Plant, Mary Solares, and Anne Woodbury. Many of these folks were at the event feeling for Friday to set up and continuing through Sunday to set up and continue through.

A special thanks to Bob Gandolfini, a talented event producer whose expertise, and boundless insight and expertise has guided the Festival for the past 6 years.

We want to thank and acknowledge our generous sponsors:

Welcome, New Members!

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

If you would like to join us or have any questions about membership, please contact Pam Meyers at pmeyers@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855.
I n late November, we received some great end-of-the-
year news on our efforts to protect threatened Marbled
Murrelets in Oregon State Forests. A federal judge
granted a preliminary injunction requested by Portland
Audubon, Cascadia Wildlands, and Center for Biological
Diversity, stopping 11 planned timber sales and any further
logging activities in occupied Marbled Murrele sites in
the Tillamook, Clatsop, and Elliott State Forests until a case
filed by the three groups is fully resolved in federal court.
As reported previously in the Watcher, the case asserts that
the state’s logging practices are harming the federally protected
seabird in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Since the case was filed, Oregon has voluntarily suspended
timber sales on more than 1,700 acres of older forest in
Marbled Murrelet habitat in the three State Forests. In her
ruling, Chief Judge Ann Aiken concluded the voluntary
suspensions do not go far enough, writing, “Because the
suspension of logging activities may be lifted at any time
with 60 days’ notice, and due to the impaired status
of the Marbled Murrelet, the status quo includes an
imminent threat of irreparable injury under the ESA.”

This is an important ruling. It ensures not only that the
existing timber sale suspensions will stay in place until
this case is resolved, but also prevents any additional sales in
key Murrelet areas. The State of Oregon’s forest practices
are the most reckless in the Pacific Northwest and are
pushing the Marbled Murrelet closer to extinction. This
ruling should send a signal to the leadership of Oregon
that balanced forest plans are critically needed to truly protect
the Marbled Murrelet.

Murrelet populations are declining steadily, as is their
breeding habitat. Oregon has the opportunity to provide
for these birds while also ensuring timber jobs through
either thinning young plantations or entering into an
agreement called a “habitat conservation plan” with the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Oregon recently abandoned its decade-long attempt
to develop habitat conservation plans for the Clatsop,
Tillamook, and Elliott State Forests which would have given
the State a federal permit for limited impacts to Marbled
Murrelets in exchange for habitat protection measures

designed to enhance the bird’s conservation. Instead, the
State drastically increased the cut on all three forests.

Hopefully we will see a full victory in this litigation,
resulting in permanent and meaningful reform of the
State’s logging practices in the coming year. Until that
time, however, at least we know that the State’s aggressive
and destructive clearcutting practices will be curtailed.

The conservation organizations are represented by outside
counsel Daniel Kruse of Eugene, Tanya Sanrib and Chris
Winter of the Crag Law Center, Nick Candy of Cascadia
Wildlands. Scott Jerger of Field Jerger LLP, and Susan Jane
Brown of the Western Environmental Law Center.

Design Your Legacy

The Importance of Estate Planning

Estate planning will help you achieve your personal and family
goals now and after you are gone. Estate planning ensures
that your wealth and property go where you want them to go, providing
for others according to your values. Every adult should
have a will. If no will is present, state law will dictate
how your assets are distributed. If possible, seek
professional advice to find the best option that will work
for your needs now and into the future.

The Audubon Society of Portland Legacy Circle

Leave your legacy — a gift from your estate will carry
forward your compassion and love for Oregon’s amazing
birds. When you name the Audubon Society of Portland
in your will, you provide for the future environmental health of Oregon and the future of the programs,
for the future bird conservation. For more information,
contact Ann Takamoto, Development Director, at 503-292-6855 ext. 137.

We would be glad to discuss your giving options with you in
confidence and without obligation. Contact Ann Takamoto,
Development Director, at 503-292-6855 ext. 137.

Building Habitats for Native Shrubs

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

This month we are delighted to introduce Nature’s Nuts
Wild Bird Products, from Chickadee All Natural Products
of Jefferson, OR. While looking for a new mixed seed supplier,
we were delighted to find a great company located in
the Willamette Valley. We’ll be carrying 8 different
Nature’s Nuts mixed seed blends so you can offer your
backyard friends an exciting, varied, and tasty menu.

If you’ve ever fed birds, you know that backyard
birds for years, they’ll quickly flock to try the Deluxe

Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store!

Bird Lover’s Blend: It’s a super-
premium mix with over 50%
Sunflower Seed combined with
Pumpkin Seed, Peanuts, Sunflower
Hearts, Millet, Corn, and Safflower
Seed. It is guaranteed to gather a
wide variety of birds to your feeders.

Have some special friends? We’ll also be carrying species-
specific diets like Chickadee Delight, Dove & Quail
Blend, Woodpecker Fruit & Nut, and Wild Finch
Blend. All come in double-layered reclosable bags that seal
out oxygen and moisture while locking in the nutrients.

Adapted from Gardening in Western Washington: Hardwood Cuttings and Live Stakes © WSU Cooperative Extension gardening.wsu.edu/text/nvcuthw.htm — and our Backyard Habitat Certification Program will host another “Propagating with Native Plants” Workshop and Plant Material Exchange” this February. Contact Nikkie West at 503-292-6855 ext. 126 for more information.

Have some special friends? We’ll also be carrying species-
specific diets like Chickadee Delight, Dove & Quail
Blend, Woodpecker Fruit & Nut, and Wild Finch
Blend. All come in double-layered reclosable bags that seal
out oxygen and moisture while locking in the nutrients.

Tempted to try some new varieties? We are offering
10% off all Nature’s Nut blends through the end of
January (that’s 20% off for members) so — give it in to
temptation! Your backyard birds will thank you!

www.audubonportland.org

5151 NW Cornell Road • Portland, OR 97210
503-292-9453 • store@audubonportland.org

Open 10am–6pm Monday through Saturday
10am–5pm Sunday

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

11
Birdbathon 2013
Counting Birds because Birds Count!
by Ann Takamoto, Development Director

The biggest, baddest Birdbathon this side of the Mississippi is just around the corner. We are excited for our conservation and education programs, Portland Audubon hosts one of the most successful Birdbathos in the nation, raising nearly $440,000 in 2012.

If you have Birdbathon’d in the past, thank you so much — Birdbathon is a success because of you! Please join our Birdbathon 2013 Rock. If you are new to Birdbathon and have been thinking about joining in, this is the year! You can join our guided trips, organize your own trip, or count independently.

Birdbathon is like a walk-a-thon, but instead of counting miles, we count bird species. Participants ask friends and family to pledge a donation to Audubon Society of Portland on either a fixed or “per-species” basis.

There are teams to suit anyone’s fancy — for all abilities and ages! You don’t have to be an expert to participate and there are teams to suit anyone’s fancy — for all abilities.

Birdathon provides an excellent opportunity for businesses to participate through Event Sponsorship, gaining visibility to thousands of people on our website and in the Health. In addition, company owners and employees can form their own Birdbathon teams with leaders provided by Portland Audubon, or they can sponsor one of our many dynamic teams.

For information about becoming an Event Sponsor, creating a company team, or specific levels and benefits of event sponsorship, contact Ann Takamoto, Development Director, at atakamoto@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6117.

An Opportunity to Join the Birdbathon Planning Committee! The Birdbathon Planning Committee is presently seeking 2–3 additional volunteers to join and help plan this great event. The opportunity is available to enthusiastic birders and non-birders alike. Committee meetings held approximately once every 6–8 weeks until the Birdbathon Banquet on June 21, 2013. If you’re interested and want to know more, please feel free to contact Mark Fitzsimons atmark.birdathon@gmail.com or 503-756-7534.

Transitions
Birds do eventually fledge and such is the case with Gary Slone, who has been coordinating Birdbathon for the past 9 years. Gary Slone has led Birdbathon to great heights — helping to grow this amazing community to the powerhouse fund-raising event that it is today. He will not be a stranger, though, as he’ll continue to lead our “Cream of the Crop” team. We wish Gary well and at the same time we welcome our new Birdbathon Coordinator, Mark Fitzsimons. Mark is an experienced trip leader and event manager, and of course he comes with a love of birds and the great outdoors.

Birdbathon is Good For Business! Birdbathon provides an excellent opportunity for businesses to participate through Event Sponsorship, gaining visibility to thousands of people on our website and in the Health. In addition, company owners and employees can form their own Birdbathon teams with leaders provided by Portland Audubon, or they can sponsor one of our many dynamic teams.

There is a team to suit anyone’s fancy — for all abilities and ages! You don’t have to be an expert to participate and there are teams to suit anyone’s fancy — for all abilities and ages! You don’t have to be an expert to participate and there are teams to suit anyone’s fancy — for all abilities and ages!

We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest.

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.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
5151 NW Cornell Rd • Portland, OR 97210
503-292-6855 • Fax: 503-292-2021
9am to 5pm, Mon. - Fri.

SANCTUARIES
Down-to-earth every day
NATURE STORE
10am to 6pm, Mon. - Sat.
10am to 5pm on Sunday
WILDLIFE CARE CENTER
503-292-0304
9am to 5pm every day
INTERPRETIVE & LIBRARY
Same hours as store
RARE BIRD ALERT
503-292-6855 • www.audubonportland.org

A Tribute to Ron Spencer
February 27, 1934 – November 30, 2012
by Meryl Redisch, Executive Director

It is with great sadness that I share with you the passing of Ron Spencer, who generously gave his time, talents, and treasures to help build the Audubon Society of Portland into a successful and financially healthy organization. Ron was on our Board of Directors when I arrived at Portland nearly ten years ago, and he sent paperwork to Portland Audubon’s Treasurer bearing a list of considerable organizational change, transition, and financial insecurity. He devoted countless hours and worked tirelessly to help make possible our current state of solid financial stability and health.

Ron was more than a numbers and budget guy! He loved going birding locally and was tagged often to lead trips for the Magpies — the dedicated group of weekday birders whose motto was to start later, go slower, and always know where the restrooms are! Ron also demonstrated his desire in nurturing the next generation of birders and nature lovers by leading Sanctuaries walks here and by sharing “what’s in the scope” with kids and families during the Raptor Road Trip event on Sauvie Island.

Ron’s commitment to Portland Audubon was broad and deep, and he will be greatly missed.

A beautiful and sturdy wooden bench, dedicated to Ron by his daughter Tammy Spencer, is ideally located just outside of Audubon House. I am sure that he would want you to sit for a while, and enjoy all that nature has to offer.

The Spencer Family will celebrate Ron’s life in late February. They wish to have donations in his memory made to Portland Audubon, to the Ron Spencer Conservation Fund.

Board Officers
President.................................................................................. Kristina Gifford
Vice President.......................................................................... David Mandell
Secretary.................................................................................. Beth Hill
Treasurer.................................................................................... Candy Plant
Past President............................................................................... Jim Kapp

Pat Campbell................................................................................ Dan Rohlf
Tony DelVento............................................................................ Jay Willgoss
Keto Khalida.............................................................................. Michael Ryan
Norah Neustadl.......................................................................... Ardenne
Mary Salinas............................................................................... Wolf Lockett
John Osborn................................................................................ J. Wilson


Kris Gifford
Tina Siler
Kazumi Sato

Meryl Redisch
Tami Miller
Ann Takamoto
Sander Patterson
Pam Meyers
Jane Christiansen
Mary Neuberger
Steve Robertson
David Engard
Mark Fitzsimons
Carol Pintar
Dan van den Broek
Kathy Enoch
Ann Arlberg
Carol Gross

Milana Hagn
Anita Constand

david.mclaughlin@gmail.com

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

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 971-222-6117.

Backyard Bird Shop
Beaverton Toyota
Bob’s Red Mill
Dave’s Killer Bread
Elk Cove Vineyards
Jackson Wealth Mediation
Arbitration PLC
Kruger’s Farm Market
Leupold & Stevens, Inc.
McCoy Feast & Company
Morel Ink
NAPA Suit Company
NW Natural
Portland Audubon Nature Store
Portland General Electric
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon
Sauvie Island Co-op
Selco Community Credit Union
St. Honoré Boulangerie
Tinsley Hunsdorfer
Toro Reel Mower Company
Trenton Banfield
Waterpik
Xander Patterson