Time to Get the Lead Out
by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The toxic impacts of lead on humans and wildlife have been known for decades, but lead poisoning remains a serious problem for many bird species. Despite a ban on use of lead in waterfowl hunting in 1991, lead remains legal and commonly used for hunting of game birds and mammals and for sinkers used in fishing. We continue to send a steady stream of toxic lead into our environment and we continue to see eagles, hawks, falcons, vultures, and a variety of other species die from lead poisoning. Lead has been identified as single biggest impediment to California Condor recovery, with teams of biologists now having to track and recapture wild condors to periodically check and treat the birds for lead exposure. With many good non-toxic alternatives now available, we believe that it is long past time to get the lead out of our environment.

In the next few months we will be hiring a new position to convene stakeholders to explore a variety of strategies to address lead in Oregon. The position has been made possible through funding provided by Audubon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Oregon Zoo. We are open to looking at a variety of strategies including legislation, litigation, education, or some combination of the three... but we are firmly committed to significant forward progress on this issue in the coming years.

The available deaths of federally protected birds from lead exposure are unacceptable. One of the most common avenues of exposure for these birds is through lead-riddled carcasses and gut piles that are left out in the environment. The birds ingest the lead and suffer lead poisoning as the lead moves through their systems. Birds such as raptors, corvids, and vultures that feed on carrion are particularly susceptible. Other birds such as loons, swans, cranes, and diving ducks can pick up lead from sinkers that are left in our rivers, lakes, and wetlands.

A variety of strategies have already been tried in other states and nationally, with varying results. Arizona, working directly with a variety of hunting groups, has adopted a voluntary lead reduction program that relies primarily on outreach as well as, in some instances, providing free non-lead ammunition to hunters that hunt in the reintroduction range of the California Condor. California has adopted a mandatory ban on the use of lead in Condor reintroduction areas, and a bill introduced by California Audubon and others is currently moving through the California Legislature that would ban use of lead shot throughout the entire state. The Center for Biological Diversity and other conservation organizations have unsuccessfully petitioned the EPA to ban lead shot and sinkers. A coalition of conservation groups have brought suit against the Forest Service in Arizona, claiming that use of lead shot violates laws governing the disposal of hazardous waste. An internet search reveals that the state fish and wildlife department websites brings up a plethora of outreach materials aimed at reducing use of lead by hunters and fishermen.

Arguments against lead reduction including lack of data, cost, accuracy of non-lead shot, and Second Amendment gun rights ring hollow. There is a huge amount of scientific data linking lead shot and lead sinkers to the death of non-target wildlife species. This includes isotope studies definitively tying lead shot to condor lead poisoning. Studies also show that non-lead shot is every bit as accurate as lead shot. While costs for non-lead shot can be higher than lead, that will quickly change as the market for non-lead shot expands. Some proponents of lead shot would like to turn this into a referendum on the Second Amendment. However, this has nothing to do with taking away people’s guns. It has everything to do with protecting our wildlife from avoidable exposure to this highly toxic element.

What will work in Oregon? We plan to work aggressively in the coming months and years to identify and implement the most effective strategies. Watch our website for information on the new position and our efforts to reduce wildlife exposure to lead in Oregon.

For more information contact Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon Conservation Director, at bsallinger@audubonportland.org.
The TALON program
Continued from front cover

TALON Training
With TALON’s start date set for March 2013, we began our search for TALON members this winter. Partnering with local high schools and nonprofit organizations throughout Eastern Portland and West Gresham, we received more than 200 applications. From this pool, Audubon staff selected 12 excited, eager, energetic teens. First up for the new TALON members: participating in a 10-week training program that provided a foundation in local natural history, environmental science, and local and regional conservation issues.

For 10 Saturdays, the TALON team set out to learn about botany, birding, tracking, and local conservation efforts. Each week we visited a new green space like Foster Floodplain Nature Park, Powell Butte, Nadaka Nature Park, and Tideman Johnson Park, and discussed issues like access to nature and local conservation history. Mustaf, one of our TALON members, shared that his favorite part of training was “learning that bird language can help you in learning more about what’s happening in a forest.” The team Mustaf spent in the Joe Miller Sanctuary was both new and inspiring, and he looks forward to his summer apprenticeship as a summer camp counselor.

In addition to environmental and conservation education, TALON members participated in community outreach, creating a kid-friendly activity for the annual Children’s Nature Fair at Leach Botanical Garden. TALON members shared their knowledge about Audubon and the TALON program with more than 400 participants from all over Eastern Portland.

TALON Apprenticeships
Now that the TALON members have completed their training, they are ready to begin paid apprenticeships. These positions will provide invaluable on-the-job training and real-life work experience as TALON members work closely with Portland Audubon staff in our education, conservation, wildlife rehabilitation, and sanctuary programs for 10 weeks.

Conservation apprentices Tamara Layden and Abel Gerberich will focus on supporting ongoing conservation work in the East Metro region by taking leadership roles with specific projects like Nadaka Nature Park and Green Lents. They will be supported by Jim Labbe, Audubon’s urban conservationist.

Wildlife Care Center apprentice Felipe Guzman will assist in the daily care of injured and orphaned wildlife, working under the instruction of care center operations manager Larry Campbell and veterinarian DMB-Schaefer.

Sanctuary apprentices Leigh McKinney-Whitehall, Elijah Hoffman, and Joe Mendoza will work with Tom Costaudo, Audubon’s sanctuaries director, and other sanctuary staff on a variety of tasks and projects related to the management of a natural area and visitor center. Possible projects include habitat restoration and trail/facilities maintenance.

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The eagerly awaited Wild Arts Festival is the Northwest’s premier show and sale of nature-themed art and books. It features over 100 of the region’s favorite artists and authors, along with our outstanding Silent Auction. The artists’ jury has now been held, and the author list is now complete. For a complete and up-to-date list of artists and authors, visit the Wild Arts website, wildartsfestival.org.

The success of the show has already attracted a first-rate list of sponsors. Besides the Backyard Bird Shop, our Presenting Sponsor, the Festival’s sponsors currently include: Crema, Natural, Riverfront Cross Blueshield, Dave’s Killer Bread, Elk Cove Vineyards, Ferguson-Wellman Capital Management, and Sauvie Island Coffee, along with a great list of businesses including those who are members of the “40 Friends of Wild Arts.”

Environmental Education apprentices Shanera Touch, Mustaf Mohamed, Dakota Gaines, Na’Shay Harrison, DeeDee Turner, and Stephanie Hardy will work as summer camp counselors throughout Audubon’s many camp programs, including onsite camps, excursions, mobile adventures, and community-based camps.

Now that we’ve wrapped up the training portion of TALON, I am so honored to have had the opportunity to get to know and share space with these energetic, passionate, and committed young people. I look forward to seeing them thrive throughout Portland Audubon.

Many thanks to everyone who helped this first year of TALON move forward. TALON members learned from many people, including Audubon staff and local conservation heroes like Steve Johnson. We would also like to thank the many funders of all our community-based youth programs, including East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Spirit Mountain Community Foundation, John D. Gray Audubon Society of Portland Fund through the Oregon Community Foundation, East Portland Action Plan, the Jann Young Trust, the Jackson Foundation, KEEN, Inc., Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon through the Oregon Community Foundation, Selco Community Credit Union, and Clean Water Services.

If you are interested in helping support our community-based programs like TALON and Explore, please contact Ann Takamoto at 977-222-6137 or atakamoto@audubonportland.org for more information. You can also sponsor a camper at, https://secure.acPacket.com/test/41639.

Wild Arts Festival 2012 © James Colhoff, Jr.

You can drop off your donation at the Audubon office after October 1. All donations must be in our office by November 12. If you have questions about donations, contact Marilyn Scott at mscott@comcast.net or 503-722-8316.

But most of all, we hope you will mark your calendars for the weekend before Thanksgiving. Saturday, November 23rd, 10–6; and Sunday, November 24th, 11–5. See you there!
July 6 (Sat), 7am–3pm Mt Hood National Forest

Need a birding fix over the July 4th weekend? Join leader Tim Sheline on this trip to Timberline Lodge and areas around the Mt Hood National Forest. We will look for montane species such as Clark’s Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Cassin’s Finch, several species of warblers and flycatchers, and more. Meet in the parking lot at Clackamas Fred Meyer, on the north side toward (at Elnor’s). Carpooling is encouraged. Please bring lunch, sunscreen, and layered clothing.

Directions: From I-205 exit 205 or in Clackamas, take Exit 12 (Hwy 212/224). Head east toward Estacada and turn right on SE 82nd Dr. Turn right into the Fred Meyer parking lot at the first opportunity and bear right. Call Tim at 971-221-2654 for more information.

July 9 (Tue), 10am–Noon Planning Meeting

The Magpies will hold our annual planning session in the Jay Conference Room at Portland Audubon. We will be planning the walks and trips and assigning Leaders for the 2013–2014 birding season. For information contact Dudley Thomas at 503-224-6458 or dbthomas70@gmail.com

Subject: Planning.

July 13 (Sat), 7am–10am Sandy River Delta

Join leader Ron Escano on a walk around this rich riparian area near the Columbia River. We will be looking for cottonwood bottom nesters like the Bullock’s Oriole and Red-eyed Vireo. Directions: E4 east, take Exit 18, at the stop sign turn right and loop under the freeway. Meet at the parking lot by the restrooms. Call Ron at 503-771-3454 if you have any questions.

International Vulture Awareness Day is coming to Audubon!

FREE EVENT! Sat, September 7
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. • Heron Hall

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

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

• Meet Ruby, Portland Audubon’s Turkey Vulture.
• Learn fun vulture facts.
• Find out the differences between Old and New World vultures.
• Come help us celebrate the beauty of vultures!

SAVE THE DATE 4th Annual “Howl at the Moon Harvest Night” at Kruger’s Farm

Howl at the Moon Harvest Night

Friday, September 20, 5pm to 10pm

Thanks, Bird Song Walk Leaders!

Portland Audubon says Thank You! to all the leaders of our Morning Bird Song Walks. For 5 mornings each week throughout April and May and into June, these volunteers were there to help you clue into who’s singing at some of our birdiest and most accessible natural areas: Tryon Creek, Cooper Mountain, Mt Tabor, Camas Preserve, Leach Botanical Garden, and Pittock Mansion.

On behalf of all those who attended the walks this year, we say THANK YOU to Rick & Stephanie Wagner (Tryon), Bonnie Deneko, Dena Turner, Sue Carr, and Lynn Krupa (Cooper Mountain), Gerald Lilie, Tom McNamara, Christopher & Adrian Hinkle (Mt Tabor), Jackie Wilson, Ray Michimoutu & Don Brown (Camas), Wink Gross, Shawnen Finnegan & Dave Irons (Pittock Mansion), and Ron Escano (Leach Botanical Garden) for sharing your time and expertise, and for your dedication and enthusiasm in connecting people with nature.

Calendar at a Glance

For the latest information, visit audubonportland.org.

July
1–3 Mon–Wed Various Summer Camps (website)
2 Tue 7:30pm Birders’ Night, Heron Hall
3 Wed 7pm Understanding Bird Song class (website)
4 Thu Independence Day – Open House and Nature Store closed
5 Fri Various Summer Camps (website)
6 Sat Audubon Outing (p.3)
7 Sat 8–12 Mon–Fri Various Summer Camps (website)
8–12 Mon–Fri Various Summer Camps (website)
13 Thu 10am Migration Planning Meeting (p.3)
14 Sat 8am Audubon Outing (p.3)
15 Sat Various Summer Camps (website)
15–19 Mon–Fri Various Summer Camps (website)
16 Tue 8am Audubon Outing (p.3)
16 Tue 7pm Finchers, Tanagers & Buntings class (p.7)
17 Wed 7pm Autumn Shorebirds class (p.7)
18 Thu 7pm Board Meeting
19 Sat 7am Autumn Shorebirds field trip
20 Sat Various Summer Camps (website)
21 Sun 10am Bug’s-Eye View of Birds class (p.7)
21 Sun 10am New Volunteer Orientation (p.8)
22–26 Mon–Fri Various Summer Camps (website)
23 Wed 7pm Theories on Migration field trip (p.7)
23 Wed Various Summer Camps (website)
24 Thu 7am Audubon Outing (p.3)
24 Thu Various Summer Camps (website)
25 Thu Various Summer Camps (website)
26 Thu Various Summer Camps (website)
26–30 Mon–Fri Various Summer Camps (website)

August
3 Sat 7am Theories on Migration field trip (p.7)
3 Sat 10am Nature Journaling the Seasons (p.7)
5 Mon 6pm New Volunteer Orientation (p.8)
5–9 Mon–Fri Various Summer Camps (website)
6 Tue 7:30pm Birders’ Night, Heron Hall
7 Wed 7pm Theories on Migration class (p.7)
7 Thu 4:30pm Butterflies of the Cascade Mountains class (p.7)
10 Sat 7am Theories on Migration field trip (p.7)
10 Sat 8am Audubon Outing (p.3)
10 Sat 9:30am Butterflies of the Cascade Mountains field trip (p.7)
12–16 Mon–Fri Various Summer Camps (website)
17 Sat 7am General Volunteer Training (p.8)
19–23 Mon–Fri Various Summer Camps (website)
24 Sat 7am Audubon Outing (p.3)
26–30 Mon–Fri Various Summer Camps (website)

September
1 Sun 10am Give Me Shelter class (p.7)
2 Mon Memorial Day: Admin and Nature Store closed
3 Tue 7:30pm Birders’ Night, Heron Hall
4 Wed Various Summer Camps (website)
5 Thu 7pm Oregon North Coast Shorebirds class (p.7)
7 Sat 7am Oregon North Coast Shorebirds field trip (p.7)
7 Thu Oregon North Coast Shorebirds class (p.7)
7 Sat 11am–3pm International Vulture Awareness Day (p.3)
8 Sun Noon–4pm Catio Tour (p.6)

Birders’ Night

Join us on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in Heron Hall for Birders’ Night: a gathering of local birders sharing recent sightings, a slideshow and discussion.

www.audubonportland.org

JULY/AUGUST 2013 3
Conservation

Cats and Wildlife: Things are Different Here...

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Across the nation, in community after community, bird advocates and cat advocates have been discussing how to address cat overpopulation issues that have grown increasingly ugly and rancorous. Amid this maelstrom, the Portland metro region has been gaining increasing attention for the simple fact that our local bird advocates and cat advocates actually get along. In fact we actually work quite closely together and we have done so for a long time. We wanted to take a little space in the Williamette to explain why things are different here and to encourage you to become involved.

The issue of cat predation on birds is not new. One of the founders of Portland Audubon, William Finley, wrote in his seminal work American Birds (1907) that cats are one of the “most persistent enemies that birds have.” We have records from our Wildlife Care Center dating back to the 1930s highlighting cat predation as a key cause of intake. Today, nearly 40% of the animals brought to our Wildlife Care Center have issues that are cat related — either caught by cats, orphaned by cats, or fledglings “rescued” by the public to prevent imminent cat predation. Over the past 20 years, we have treated more than 20,000 cat-caught animals, representing more than 100 local species. These animals have some of the lowest survival rates of any of the injuries we see, and we only see a small sample of what is happening out on the landscape. These are our birds in our neighborhoods — creatures that our communities are working hard to protect and restore.

Habitat loss and fragmentation is by far the most significant cause of bird population declines, and Audubon spends the vast majority of its resources focused on habitat-based initiatives. However, at a time when one out of every four bird species is experiencing serious long-term declines, we also cannot afford to ignore other major causes of bird mortality such as window strikes, pesticides, power lines, poaching and yes, cat predation. The question is not whether we need to address cat predation, but rather what the most effective strategies are going to be moving forward.

The trend nationwide has been to focus debate on a strategy known as Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR), in which feral cats are trapped, spayed (females) or neutered (males), and then returned to colonies where volunteers provide food as the cats live out their lives. There has also been a related focus on reducing the number of cats killed at animal shelters, with some shelters adopting the extreme approach of simply releasing cats that are not able to be adopted. Some national cat advocacy organizations have taken to denying that the impacts of free-roaming cats on wildlife or human health are legitimate. We have a community that cares passionately about its animals, we have outstanding and well-supported domestic and wild animal advocacy organizations, and we have an aggressive agenda to reduce cat overpopulation. We believe that by adopting a range of strategies which include TNR, by working together and focusing on results, positive change is within our reach.

Strategies

The following are some of the strategies we view as critical to this effort.

• Safe at Home Campaign: Promoting responsible pet ownership focused on keeping pet cats from roaming — the most important thing we can do in both the short and long term to both protect our pets and reduce predation on wildlife.

• Landscape-scale reduction of cat overpopulation: Promoting reduction of free-roaming, stray, and feral cat populations through a variety of methods including spay and neuter programs; Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR); shelter-based strategies, euthanasia in some situations, and targeting outreach and enforcement toward chronic sources of cat abandonment.

We are proud that we have found common ground on this difficult issue. We recognize that both cats and birds have value, and we have worked hard to develop a variety of strategies to address cat overpopulation challenges in ways that are both ecologically responsible and humane. Some of the things we are trying will be controversial — they will run counter to the traditional rhetoric espoused by one side or the other in this debate. However we believe that new strategies, new ideas, and new collaborations are necessary to make real progress that has eluded cat and wildlife advocates for more than a century. We are learning as we go and we are sure that course corrections will need to be made, but we are committed to moving forward together on this issue to find solutions that are good for cats and good for wildlife.

To learn more about the Cats Safe at Home Campaign, go to audubonportland.org/wcc/urban/cats

Catio Tour

Sunday, September 8, Noon–4pm

Audubon and the Feral Cat Coalition of Oregon are teaming up to bring Portland a tour of some of the coolest backyard cat enclosures. See and learn about what people are doing to provide their cats with safe enclosed outdoor play areas that also protect wildlife. Go to feralcats.com for more details.

JULY/AUGUST 2013 www.audubonportland.org
May 2013 Election Success! Area voters solidly pass the Regional Natural Areas Levy —

Again, Audubon Society of Portland contributes significantly to conserving regional natural areas

In the May special election 56% of voters in the Portland metropolitan region voted to pass Measure 26-152, the regional natural areas levy. Measure 26-152 will raise $53 million over 5 years, largely to enhance and restore regionally significant natural areas purchased with funds from regional bond measures voters passed by large margins in 1995 and 2006. A portion of funds will also go to expand access to these natural areas, helping connect our communities and especially our children to our unique natural heritage.

Passage of Measure 26-152 will also get more people involved in making these stewardship and access improvements by expanding the very successful but previously underfunded “Nature in Neighborhoods Restoration & Enhancement” community grant program. Between 2006 and 2012 the program awarded over $1.7 million to the most competitive environmental stewardship and access improvement projects in the Portland metro region. Community projects removed invasive species, planted native vegetation along local creeks and wetlands, educated school-age children about natural history, supported environmental monitoring, and more. These projects help build local and neighborhood capacity to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in our neighborhoods. However, the program ended in 2012, so a new Measure 26-152 is important. Passage of Measure 26-152 means that the annual grant program will award $750,000 annually over the next 5 years. That is almost three times the amount awarded annually since 2006.

56% of Portland metro-area voters said yes to Measure 26-152 and a remarkable 60% voted yes in Multnomah County! This is a very significant electoral victory for an operating levy in a low-turnout special election and during a still-recovering economy. Indeed, early polling showed voter support at only 53%. The strength of the victory can surely be attributed to the success of the campaign. And as in 1995 and 2006, Audubon Society of Portland played a key role in the conservation victory. Portland Audubon staff, board, volunteers, and members raised money and spread the word through our social media, in the Willamette, and by word-of-mouth to our friends, neighbors, and co-workers. We hosted phone banks and turned out for canvassing. We want to thank everyone who helped make this a solid victory for conservation and sustaining nature that makes our region such a spectacular place to live.

Measuring Impact — Every Backyard Habitat Counts

H ow much impact do small greening projects, such as a backyard, really have on bird populations? A recent study conducted in Boston by Michael W. Strohbach (University of Massachusetts) grappled with this question. Strohbach studied the effect of small-scale urban greening projects on birds and released the following findings. One, greening projects on average had marginally more species than randomly selected sites in their vicinity. Two, the relative size of these habitat patches explains most of the population and species richness differences. Just a tiny increase of 0.04 acres resulted in one more species occupying a site, while larger sites, particularly those with mature trees, were considerably more impactful. Three, small greening projects appeared to be most valuable for urban biodiversity when they targeted the increase and connection of existing green space.

Frankly, this all seems intuitive enough. But there’s value in recognizing that no yard is an island; rather, each is significant provided the habitat pocket is large enough standing alone or is near parks, greenspaces, or other backyard habitats. Strohbach’s research sets the stage to announce the results of last month’s “Backyard Habitat — 50 Yards Challenge.”

Wildlife Care Center

Wildlife Care Center Testing All Birds of Prey for Lead Exposure

by Deb Sheaffer and Lacy Campbell, WCC staff

Y ou probably know about the dangers of lead poisoning in people, but did you know it’s equally dangerous to wildlife? People often use toxic lead ammunition for hunting, and when a shot animal is eaten by another animal, the one feeding may die from lead poisoning. Predators and scavengers will eat tainted meat when gut piles aren’t buried after cleaning a kill, or if an animal is shot and escapes and dies. But you never really realize the prevalence of a problem until you start testing for it.

Thanks to a grant from the Oregon Zoo’s Future for Wildlife Grants Program, Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center has been able to purchase a state-of-the-art lead testing machine. Prior to acquiring this machine, the Care Center had to send blood samples out to labs for expensive and time-consuming testing. We were only able to test those birds that showed strong indications of lead poisoning, and the delayed timeframe for diagnosis meant that valuable hours and days could be lost initiating treatment. Having a lead testing machine in house means that we can test far more birds and get an accurate diagnosis in minutes. This is particularly critical with lead poisoning because it is often extremely difficult to diagnose based on external symptoms.

Starting January 1st of this year we began testing the blood of every raptor, vulture, and raven that comes in through our Care Center. We have already performed over 90 tests this first year! While it is too soon to talk about the results, we can say that we have already seen quite a few birds with significant lead exposure and moderate to severe lead poisoning.

One such bird is a Bald Eagle we received in May. A pair of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife field staff doing a fish survey in the Abernathy Creek corridor of Longview, Washington stumbled across a downed adult Bald Eagle who was reluctant to move when they approached it. After crossing a creek and making a path to the bird through dense salmonberry, WCC Operations Manager Lacy Campbell and volunteers Marilyn Abend and Amber Breeding found the lethargic bird. It was easily caught and precariously transported back across the creek and then to the Care Center, where staff Veterinarian Deb Sheaffer examined the bird, took x-rays, and drew blood. Visual inspection of the bird revealed high levels of lead. No bruises, no damage. The bird was a very impressive, well-fed adult female. Now our team was able to test the blood. Bingo! High lead level in the blood — in fact, the level was so high that it actually exceeded the highest levels registered by our machine. The x-ray also showed that the eagle had metal fragments in its stomach.

Due to the rapid lead test result, the staff was able to start treatment immediately. In addition to supportive care, the bird was treated by administering a chelating agent, which binds to the lead so it can be excreted from the body. The treatment is intense — twice-a-day injections for several days and then every three days until the lead values drop to acceptable levels. Staff and volunteers have seen improvement in the bird’s strength and attitude as the bird recovers from the poison.

A later x-ray showed the metal had passed. Fortunately the Bald Eagle was otherwise healthy, so we are hopeful he will recover completely and be released back to the wild.

Other animals aren’t so lucky. Sometimes the animal is found too late and the lead poisoning is too severe. A Red-tailed Hawk brought to the Care Center in April also showed very high lead levels. Although we were able to start treatment immediately, it was too late and the animal died before the next morning. Most animals that have been poisoned by lead are never found.

The lead testing machine has become a very important diagnostic tool. Because symptoms of lead toxicity (ataxia, lethargy, muscular tremors) can look like other injuries, it is often difficult to diagnose. With this machine we are able to give better care to the animals that come into our facility by being able to start treatment much sooner, while also adding to the growing body of data about the impacts of lead on our wildlife populations. We plan to report on the results of the first year of comprehensive testing in early 2014.

Read our blog at audubonportland.org/wcc/current-animals.

www.audubonportland.org JULY/AUGUST 2013
India

February 18 – March 6, 2014

India...a country like no other, with a land and culture unique unto itself. The land of Kipling conjures up a myriad of images...everything from jungle laborers atop Asian Elephants to the crowded city streets of Delhi to jungle-crowned temples where tigers still roam. Join experienced naturalists from Portland Audubon and local guides on this 10-day adventure through some of the finest National Parks in the country.

We arrive in Delhi, after which we head to the south of India, into the state of Kerala and the mountains of the Western Ghats. A visit to this region should produce 22 species of endemic birds that are found in this world-renowned biodiversity hotspot. Our first stop in this region will be the evergreen rainforest of the Thattakad Bird Sanctuary to seek out the greatest number of endemic passerines as well as wild Asian Elephants and the Asiatic Wild Buffalo still roam freely. A boat trip on the sacred Brahmaputra River could produce a life-sighting of the Ganges River Dolphin. We’ll see a wide variety of water birds here too, including Bar-headed Goose, Asian Openbill, Black-necked Stork, and Spot-billed Pelican. As we further explore Kaziranga National Park, we will see out such specialties as White-bellied Woodpecker, White-cheeked and Malabar Barbets, Pompadour Green Pigeon, and the Banded Bay Cuckoo. We should also find endemic primate species such as Nilgiri Langur and the rare Lion-tailed Macaque.

We return to Delhi for a night then travel by air to Bombey, a night in Mumbai, and then a train journey into the south of India, into the state of Kerala. We arrive in Delhi, after which we head to the south of India, into the state of Kerala and the mountains of the Western Ghats. A visit to this region should produce 22 species of endemic birds that are found in this world-renowned biodiversity hotspot. Our first stop in this region will be the evergreen rainforest of the Thattakad Bird Sanctuary to seek out the rare and nocturnal Sri Lankan Frogmouth. Then we gain elevation to get to the rolling hills of the Western Ghats and the town of Munnar. In the high sholas, a habitat of scrub and grassland in the Ernakulam National Park, the rare and endemic Nilgiri Tahr, a close relative of the ibex, finds one of its few remaining strongholds. While here we will search for Jerdon’s Baza, Black-and-Orange Flycatcher, Nilgiri Pipit, and Crimson-backed Sibia. We then continue south into the Cardamom Hills and the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, where we will seek out such specialties as White-bellied Woodpecker, White-cheeked and Malabar Barbets, Pompadour Green Pigeon, and the Banded Bay Cuckoo. We should also find endemic primate species such as Nilgiri Langur and the rare Lion-tailed Macaque.

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How to register
Choose one of 3 ways to register for Adult Classes:

1. Register and pay online: Visit class description at www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/Adult and follow registration link.
2. Call 971-222-6619 to register by phone or email to be put on the phone-in list. For the phone-in list, have your credit card ready for your unique confirmation number and then...
3. Mail in your check: Make payable to Audubon Society of Portland. Include with payment: class name, your name(s) and, if this is your first class with us, your full contact information.

Contact Steve Engel, Adult Education Manager; at sengel@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6619.

The World of Birds: Beyond Identification
Take a new and deeper look at the World of Birds. This exciting new program is for birders who want to increase not just their ID skills, but also their knowledge of birds. Each series of 3 classes and 3 field trips covers one or more ornithological concepts such as taxonomy, migration, breeding behavior, avian physiology, feathers, plumage, and more. Each class includes lecture and discussion on selected concepts followed by review of targeted species in preparation for the Saturday morning field trip.

Classes: 7pm-9pm in Heron Hall Field Trips: 7am-11am; locations and carpooling to be announced.
Fee (per series): $145 members / $175 non-members
Class size: limited to 16 participants

Harry Nehls on:
Finches, Tanagers & Buntings
July 16 (Tue), 7pm-9pm: Class in Heron Hall
Big beers! That is what ties these groups of songbirds together. But is there more to it than that? And what separates them from each other? Which ones live here all year and which migrate south for the winter? Which group has a confusing trifecta of species that trouble even experienced birders to make the ID? Join local birding expert Harry Nehls for another of his enjoyable and educational presentations, and find out the answers to these questions and more!
Fee: $10 members / $15 non-members
Free for active volunteers.

Autumn Shorebirds
July 17 (Wed), 7pm-9pm: Class in Heron Hall
July 20 & 27 (Sat), 7am-2pm: Local Field Trip
The southbound shorebird migration begins early and goes late, from July to October, with changes every week. Fall begins with adult birds sporting worn plumage arriving in the Northwest as early as July. Juveniles follow weeks later. Shorebirds follow the ever-changing shorebird migration. The group meets near Lookout Mountain at 9:30am, about 2 hours from Portland. Bill Neill is the author of Butterflies of the Pacific Northwest.
Class with Field Trip: $25 members / $40 non-members Limited to 15 participants.
Class-only option: $10 members / $15 non-members

Bug’s-Eye View of Birds
July 21 (Sun), 10am–2pm: Class in Heron Hall and Outside
Ever wondered what all those birds are doing as they fly through the tops of trees, climb tree trunks, and kick around in the leaves? Many birds are all about finding invertebrates to eat and feed their young. Cadre Olve will put you in the bird’s world for a day. Learn about the many kinds of invertebrates in different habitats, and how the birds and bugs interact in trying to eat and not be eaten. You’ll never see a bird or a tree the same way again.
Fee: $20 members / $30 non-members / $10 active volunteers.

Nature Journaling the Seasons: Summer
July 27 & Aug 3 (Sat), 10am–4pm in Heron Hall & Sanctuary
Come enjoy the forest at fullness! We will practice a relaxed way of drawing and explore simple techniques with watercolor to record our impressions and experiences in the sanctuary. Learn to see in a different way, and express your unique style in a journal format. In this class we’ll practice writing and sketching as ways of recording in our journals what charms the eye in nature. No art experience needed! We will work inside and out as we relax into the beauty of the place. Jude Siegel is the author of A Pacific Northwest Nature Journal and has taught her techniques for Nature Journaling for over 30 years. “Jude is a wonderful, encouraging instructor who really helped me learn more about the subject.” —Amy Doyle, student.
Fee: $75 members / $95 non-members (plus materials) Limited to 16 participants.
See website for instructor bio, materials list, and more class details.

Day Camps with Audubon and Lake Oswego Community Schools
Portland Audubon is partnering with Lake Oswego Community Schools for several fun weeklong camp days!

Audubon Nature Camps for students entering 2nd or 3rd grade
July 8–12: Jr. Wildlife Vet
Join us on field trips to local animal rehabilitation facilities, and learn what you can do to help the wildlife in your own neighborhood.
July 15–19: Wild Art Adventure
Create wonderful wild art inspired by your observations of amazing wildlife and plants around Lake Oswego.

Audubon Nature Camps for students entering 4th or 5th grade
July 8–12: Fire, Sticks & Stones
Can you make a campfire without using any matches? Learn survival skills and how to heat at home in the woods.
July 15–19: Wild in the City
Explore unique and surprising greenspaces around Lake Oswego. Even savvy urban naturalist travelers will be amazed!

To register for these Audubon Nature camps, please contact Lake Oswego Community School, 503-534-2386 ext.1, or email dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org
Local Field Trips
Sept 1 (Sun), 10am-5pm
There are some very simple ways to provide adequate shelter to stay warm and dry under almost any conditions. Cadre Olve has spent years camping and wandering all over the country. In this class he offers his experience in building quick simple shelters for a variety of different conditions out of materials at hand. Whether you want to be ready for an emergency or just enjoy the challenge of minimalist camping, these skills will serve you well.
Fee: $50 members / $70 non-members
Limited to 12 participants.

Oregon North Coast Shorebirds
Sept 5 (Thu), 7am-5pm: Field Trip (transportation provided)
Local author John Rakestraw presents an evening class on identifying shorebirds, then leads an all-day field trip to the Oregon coast, transportation provided, to check on the ever-changing shorebird migration. This class is limited to 15 participants.
Class-only option: $10 members / $15 non-members

Beginning Birder I
Sept 9 (Mon), 7pm-9pm: Class in Heron Hall
Sept 16 & 23 (Sun), 7am-11am: Local Field Trips
Join Laura Whittemore for her ever-popular introduction to bird watching. You will learn about field gear such as binoculars and field guides, how to recognize birds by groups, how to identify species by their field marks, behavior, and sound. This is the perfect class for you if you’ve ever wanted to “get started” in bird watching. This class is likely to fill quickly, so don’t hesitate to sign up!
Class with Field Trips (limited to 14 participants): $45 members / $60 non-members
Class-only Option (limited to 14 participants): $10 members / $15 non-members

classic entitled to the public domain.

Lake Oswego Community Schools
www.audubonportland.org
Breeding Bird Surveys Provide Valuable Species Data

Today there appears to be a disturbing problem in many birds, as the number of breeding pairs is dropping. The underlying causes of these population decreases are not known, but because the declines are so widespread and involve so many species, the causes must be general in nature. The birds might be readjusting to changes in the environment caused by seasonal variations or the general warming trend now taking place. Hopefully these readjustments will be satisfactory and things will settle down soon.

Sightings

When farmers first plow their fields in Spring they often expose large numbers of rodents. It is not unusual to find large numbers of hawks, ravens, crows, and other rodent eaters attracted to the feast. One such group near McMinnville during March attracted a Ferruginous Hawk.

On April 30 David Irons noticed a large gathering of hawks on a freshly plowed field along Stoller Road near Lafayette. Among the group were 5 Swainson’s Hawks. West of the Cascades this species is a rarity, so a flock is highly unusual. On April 24 Joe Blowers noted a Swainson’s Hawk over Beaverton. Adrian and Christopher Hinkle saw one over a residential area near Mt Tabor Park May 6.

An unusual movement of Eared Grebes occurred through western Oregon in April. On March 31 Steve Nord noted 15 at the Tuatulian River NWR and 10 at Fernhill Wetlands. On April 4 Steve noted 21 at Fernhill and 40 at the Tuatulian River NWR on April 2.

Small groups of Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks visited local neighborhoods and backyard feeders this spring. Perhaps the bright Redpoll Loonee Geck photographed April 17 at her feeders in Carlton was part of this movement. In contrast, American Goldfinches were far fewer this year.

On April 22 David Irons found a Pectoral Sandpiper near the McMinnville Airport. John Gatchell reported a Red-naped Sapsucker in Gresham April 29. Jimbo Beckman observed a Black Swift flying over Washington Park June 2. Tal Nittens reported 2 Mountain Bluebirds at the Troutdale Airport April 12.

The Tuatulian River NWR was astounding this spring. On April 26 Ted Burger found an Auklet and 4 black-necked Stilts there. Jeff Dillon reported a Great-tailed Grackle on April 26. May 3 Steve Nord found 4 Whitetail and Tom Love noted a Marbled Godwit. Up to 17 White Pelicans were there that day.

On April 4 Christopher and Adrian Hinkle found a Brewer’s Sparrow and Long-billed Curlew at the Troutdale Airport. On April 12 they saw an Arctic Tern at Bonneville Dam. They located a Black and white Warbler on Mt Tabor May 12.

26. Jeremy Reese reported a White-rumped Sandpiper at Ridgefield NWR. Scott Carpenter identified a Hudsonian Godwit May 26 at Jackson Bottom in Hillsboro. Claire Carter saw a nice Black-throated Sparrow May 25 at her Sellwood feeders. On April 4 Allen Miller and Larry Clark reported a dead Cassin’s Sparrow on a trail under some trees at Mt Tabor Park in Portland. It had an injured wing and was underweight. It was most probably picked up by a predator elsewhere and dropped on the trail where it was found.

Volunteering at Audubon is Fun and Rewarding!

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 freed 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.

Volunteer of the Month: Kendall Core

K endall Core called us in February to RSVP for our annual Backyard Habitat Certification Program Volunteer training. It was obvious she was going to be fantastic when she exclaimed “I just can’t stop looking at plants, and I can’t stop thinking about plants.” Kendall is a recent graduate with a Fine Arts degree who is fascinated by the nexus of art and habitat. She even wrote her thesis on Heritage Trees. Since that initial phone call, Kendall has contributed dozens of hours to the program in just a few short months—from attending trainings and becoming a Volunteer Certification Technician to making follow-up calls to more than 50 program participants, answering their questions and supporting their progress. She even swooped in at the last minute to help fill an empty shift at the Annual Naturescaping for Backyard Habitats Yard and Garden Tour — and saved the day by dragging her partner along as well.

And did I mention that she had her own yard gold certified in June? It came as no surprise that it’s also a delightful work of art. Thank you, Kendall, for jumping right in and being a stellar volunteer for Portland Audubon!
In preparing for our upcoming Tall Tree Tour I have had many conversations about old-growth trees and forests. Regardless of where these conversations begin, they inevitably lead us to the point of needing to define our terms: what benchmarks exist to determine whether a tree is considered old growth. In the presence of old-growth trees constitute an old-growth forest? Like the forests we are looking to define, the answer has many layers.

When talking about an individual tree, say a Douglas-fir, definition is fairly simple, with the general consensus being that an individual Douglas-fir becomes an old-growth tree somewhere between 100 and 200 years of age. Trees of this age can exist anywhere — city park, backyard, remote forest; really the only criteria is that no one cuts the tree down. Remnant giants such as these are not uncommon.

Many of the forest lands in the Pacific Northwest that were previously logged during the initial timber rush of the late 1800s are now boasting stands of Douglas-fir of at least 100 years of age. Some of these forests also host some remnant ancient trees that for one reason or another were spared the blade of saw and ax. Our own sanctuaries in NW Portland fall into this category.

Despite the presence of significantly old trees, these forests still lack many of the defining characteristics of the truly primitive forests that serve as the best barometer for defining an old growth forest. These primitive forests typically boast a diversity of tree species that have reached old age; in our Pacific Northwest forests we would expect to see Western Red cedar and Western Hemlock, and perhaps Grand Fir retain the same age and proportions to the Douglas-fir. Due to the growing conditions required by these species, it can take 500 to 1,000 years for this level of stand diversity to develop.

At this age the forest also starts to exhibit many other hallmark characteristics of an ancient forest: significant breaks or openings in the canopy where giant, old trees once stood; the trunks of these former giants in varying stages of decay on the forest floor; standing snags, the still considerered-erected trunks of dead trees; an understory of shrubs and shrubs at a variety of heights and ages; and a highly varied topography that speaks of the alterations to the landscape that develop after generations of trees grow and eventually fall due to old age or natural disturbance. And of course we also know of many species of wildlife that depend on old-growth habitat and can be considered indicator species, such as Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets.

While these characteristics begin to hint at the complexity of an old-growth ecosystem, the connections and interworkings of these characteristics reveal some truly astounding stories. There is the lichen which grows only on the upper branches of old-growth Douglas-firs, Lobaria oregana, which converts nitrogen from the atmosphere into usable nutrition for the tree; in fact the lichen from one old Douglas-fir can supply the nitrogen needs for an entire acre of forest. And the lichens themselves are no simple plant — they are the symbiotic fusion of a fungus and an alga, each providing the other with key nutrients.

And there are the mycorrhizal fungi which send millions of miles of root-like hairs called hyphae from each root of a mature Douglas-fir. These mycorrhizae receive sugars and vitamins from the trees roots that are produced during photosynthesis and in turn provide a far-reaching supply of water and minerals to the tree. In the process the mycorrhizae produce a gluelike substance that binds the soil in such a way as to make a porous, aerated habitat for thousands of varieties of microbes and insects. These little critters in turn play an essential role in converting dead and decaying plant material into usable nutrients for living plants.

More than age or tree size, it is the presence of these complex, functional relationships that define a functional old-growth ecosystem. These relationships provide resilience for the individual trees and forest as a whole, facilitating fast recovery from natural disturbances such as fire, windfall, flood, and landslides.
Mamie Campbell Award Winners

Mamie Campbell was an important figure in Audubon’s early years. A long-time and active volunteer herself, Mamie was instrumental in establishing the Jr. Audubon Club in Portland. An ardent conservationist, Mamie helped distribute environmental brochures to area schools in the early 1980s. She was also a tireless leader of the Lucy Club, which organized Portland Audubon Society social and special events and was named after Lucy Audubon (wife of James Audubon).

The Mamie Campbell Award is the highest honor given to Audubon volunteers, and it recognizes the dedication and service each recipient has tirelessly given. This year, Audubon staff presented this prestigious award to seven deserving volunteers at the Annual Volunteer Banquet.

Tony DeFalco is a member of the Portland Audubon Board as well as the Diversity Committee. He champions our work to continue to build the Audubon Society of Portland as an inclusive organization that celebrates diverse people and perspectives. Our Executive Director, Meryl Redisch, is grateful for Tony’s efforts to “push us to always do more.” Tony uses his birding knowledge to count bird species during the annual Christmas Bird Count and leads the “Feathers of Color” Birdathon team every year.

Mary Solares began volunteering in 2010 and has already taken on an important leadership role in Audubon’s operations. Not only has she stepped up in big ways to lead events like the “Lost Bird Project” in 2010 (just a few months after she began volunteering), she’s also a Board Member and was a chair of the Wild Arts Festival last year and continues in that role. It’s a family affair with Mary, as she engages her husband Allan, her son Luke, and other family members in Audubon events. According to Meryl Redisch, “Mary is the consummate ambassador on behalf of Portland Audubon’s mission.”

Since 2006, Carol Mitchell has donated over 200 hours every year to Audubon. She’s at her 4-hour shift in the Wildlife Care Center almost every week and shares her knowledge by co-teaching the Wildlife Care Center Basics Class. She’s a current Ed Bird handler and a past Education Bird Assistant. Carol often substitutes in that position. Carol has been on the Volunteer Council and participates in Birdathon every year. The Care Center staff says that “Carol always has a smile on her face. We can ask her to do anything, and if she doesn’t know how to do it, we’d never know. She’s a natural leader and a wonderful person to be around.”

Claire Carter has been in the Wildlife Care Center for over 31 years donating almost 2,500 hours there as a Care Center volunteer and an Ed Bird handler. She participates in Birdathon with the Red-breasted Wineries every year, and we can always count on her to help with Raptor Road Trip and “Night Flight,” Audubon’s Halloween event. According to Lucy Campbell, Wildlife Care Center Operations Manager, “Claire is great with baby birds! She’s a natural when it comes to caring for the little ones—and whenever there is a bird identification question, we go to Claire first.”

Susan Dale served on the Wildlife Care Center “Call of the Wild” Online Auction committee that raised over $7,000 this year for the Care Center. She can be found there almost every week and shares her natural when it comes to caring for the little ones—and whenever there is a bird identification question, we go to Claire first.”

Sue Carr has co-led Portland Audubon’s “Road Scholar” trips to the Oregon coast for over 10 years, helping to make the most popular birding trips offered. Formerly known as Elderhostel, the Road Scholar program benefits from Sue’s time and energy as she leads 20 participants on these week-long, dawn-to-dusk birding programs. Steve Engel, our Adult Education Programs Manager, states that he loves to go on the coast trips “because I know Sue will be there. She’s a dedicated and terrific birder and is wonderful with people.” In Sue’s spare time, she shares her birding expertise by also leading Mapge outings and helping her Birdathon team track lots of species.

Denny Graham began leading tours and trips for Audubon in 2002. He’s a Master Birder so tour participants really value Denny’s leadership and knowledge. Along with Sue Carr, he’s been an important part of the staff on our coast Road Trip and “Night Flight,” Audubon’s Halloween event.

Go Paperless with NW Natural to Benefit Audubon

Save time, reduce bulk clutter, and cut paper waste by signing up for paperless billing with NW Natural. If you enroll by July 31, you can vote for Portland Audubon to receive a portion of $25,000. Sign up at nwnatural.com/paperless and cast your vote! The $25,000 donation from NW Natural shareholders will be divided among eligible nonprofits according to the percentage of votes received. If you already have paperless billing, you can still cast a vote online.

Our Wish List

For East Portland:
Office: 10 Binoculars
For Development Department:
Medium-sized ergonomic office chair in good condition.
For Education:
Laptop with dual core processor or greater
For Wildlife Care Center:
Science Diet Kitten Chicken + Beef
Dawn Dehydrating Detergent
Water bottles & exercise wheels for small rodents
If you can donate these items, please contact Audubon Society of Portland at 503-292-4685 ext. 100, Mon.-Fri., to arrange a time for delivery/pick-up.

Thank You to:
• Linda Barkus for 4 pairs of binoculars for Education Department
• Lisa Clairmont for a heating pad and 2 hot pads for WCC
• Leupold & Stevens, Inc. for 12 new Leupold Model #64414 tripods
• Ann Littlewood for 18 one-gallon and 53 four-inch containers of native plants for Sanctuary
• Alan Locklear & Marie Valleroy for 8 pots of native plants for Sanctuary
• Christine Nelson for a large bag of towels and washcloths for WCC
• Candy Plant for “Pizza Prizes” for WCC Birdathon teams
• Tom Potts for a Sony camera for Wildlife Care Center
• Bruce Richards for a map of the Ice Age Floods and the book Cataclysms on the Columbia for Education Department
• Ginnie Ross for refreshments and supplies for Wildlife Care Center
• Claire Puchy for refreshments and supplies for Wild Arts Festival
• Thomas & Barbara Smokhull for refreshments and supplies for Wild Arts Festival
• Tony DeFalco for refreshments and supplies for Birdathon
• Karen Pauwels & Larry Morand for refreshments and supplies for Birdathon
• Susan Dale for refreshments and supplies for Birdathon
• Terrie Murray for refreshments and supplies for Birdathon
• Claire Puchy & Matt Sadle for refreshments and supplies for Birdathon
• Thomas & Barbara Smokhull for refreshments and supplies for Birdathon
• Wireless Cordless Headphones

In Honor
• James Case
• Madelon Case
• Marcia Lepley
• katy ehrlich
• kyna rubin
• Candace Larson
• Patty Newland
• Robert & Mary McWilliams
• Becky Rose
• Robert & Julia Marie Rose

In Memory
• Cascade Anderson
• Geller
• Tia Regan
• Terrie Murray
• Karen Pauwels & Larry Morand
• Christine Jordan
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In Memory of inspiring people to love and protect nature. You can honor a special person with a gift to Audubon Society of Portland. Your gift will help fund a future of inspiring people to love and protect nature. You can make an Honor or Memorial gift online at our website www.audubonportland.org or by calling 971-222-6117. A songbird card acknowledging your thoughtful gift will be sent to the honoree or family.
Lorene Farrar grew up roaming the sagebrush hills of Washington State, free and fascinated with the environment this summer. For some of these kids, a field trip was the beginning of a birding career, but was 9 years old before she finally saw one. “It was on top of a fencepost singing its heart out, and I was in love,” says Lorene. Seventy years later, she can still whistle the song so well that they answer back.

In her late 60s after marrying, raising three nature-loving children, and divorcing, Lorene was surprised by another new love that grew up roaming the sagebrush hills of Washington State, free and fascinated with the environment this summer. For some of these kids, a field trip was the beginning of a birding career, but was 9 years old before she finally saw one. “It was on top of a fencepost singing its heart out, and I was in love,” says Lorene. Seventy years later, she can still whistle the song so well that they answer back.

While consulting a financial advisor in 2005, Lorene and Kenneth planted in their yard and she turns 80 in August. It was on top of a fencepost singing its heart out, and I was in love,” says Lorene. Seventy years later, she can still whistle the song so well that they answer back.

We appreciate each and every one of our members and celebrate our membership by welcoming our new members. Thank you to Lorene and Kenneth for this inspiration and support of Portland Audubon’s programs and conservation efforts.

Welcome, New Members!

Portland Audubon is a force in conservation thanks to its strength in membership, standing together since 1902.

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Welcome, New Members!
Thank you to over 280 Birdathon participants. Your bird-watching, pledge-gathering efforts provide vital funding to the Audubon Society of Portland’s important conservation work.

A big, big thank you to Birdathon Team Leaders for finding the time to include Birdathon in your busy schedules. Birdathon depends upon your generosity, expertise, and leadership:

- Ian Abraham
- Darlene Batey and Skip Russell
- Ron Carley
- Scott Carpenter
- Linda Craig
- James Davis
- Kris Day
- Tony DeFalco
- Bonnie Denske
- Jennifer Devin
- Tim Doucer
- Steve Engel
- Brenda Eyre
- Mark Fitzsimons
- Allison Goeri
- Dennis Graham
- Many thanks to all who helped organize Birdathon by providing prize solicitation, graphic design, letter writing, data entry, banquet planning, and team support. Your work represents many, many hours of dedicated effort:
- Andie Armour
- Ron Carley
- Anna Eklin
- Tom Posta
- And a special thank you goes to Gary Stone and Nancy Johnson for their help and support this year.

Thank you to our Prize Sponsors:
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- New Seasons Market


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