When Kids & Teens Inspire Us
by Ian Abraham, Camp Director

Long before the first week of camp begins, before the first camper arrives ready for an Audubon Summer Camp, preparations for these marvelous adventures have begun. In truth, we begin planning for the next year’s Summer Camps before the current camps have come to an end. We create the array of different camps to offer, reserve the camping and field trip sites, get permits, reserve vehicles, buy supplies, and arrange a myriad of details to ensure each camp is the best it can be.

By far the single most important aspect of camp preparation is the intensive 2-week staff training that we conduct every June for all Summer Camp staff, new and old. The training is a time for summer seasonal staff of Environmental Educators, college-aged Interns, and high school Counselors to learn the ways in which we run Portland Audubon Summer Camps. We concentrate our attention on curriculum development, camp safety protocols, and first aid training. We actively work together to develop ways to ensure that each week-long program is of the highest quality, as safe as possible, as FUN as possible, and has a huge helping of natural history based on the theme of the program. We work to ensure that each camp is science based and experiential to the core, where problem-solving and thought-provoking challenges are presented daily. We do all of this with one goal in mind: to give students the chance to have truly enriching and inspiring experiences with the natural world.

Yet oftentimes it is not who are inspired! During staff training we discuss the impact that journaling activities can have, and engage our staff in a number of different journaling technique activities that include reflective writing, art with different mediums, nature mapping, poetry, etc. All designed to help them create a journal that is uniquely theirs. With this baseline expectation, Audubon Environmental Educators are well equipped to facilitate journaling activities in each of their campers. As one can imagine, there is something quite amazing about a group of 12 third graders sitting in the forest, silently crouched over their journals with pencils in hand, either drawing or writing about the day’s happenings. These journals help campers process their experiences and preserve their memories for a lifetime.

Following is one of the many examples of what can happen when a camper is given the opportunity to reflect. For this writing activity, we gave the campers the start of the first writing activity, we gave the campers the start of the first art with different mediums, technique activities that include reflective writing, and an end. We create the array of different camps to offer, reserve the camping and field trip sites, get permits, reserve vehicles, buy supplies, and arrange a myriad of details to ensure each camp is the best it can be.

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27th Annual Great Blue Heron Week: Great Blue Herons of The Intertwine
Thurs, May 30 – Sun, June 9, 2013

Join the Audubon Society of Portland, Urban Greenspaces Institute, and other partners in The Intertwine Alliance in celebrating more than a quarter century since the Great Blue Heron was adopted as Portland’s official city bird. This year’s Great Blue Herons of The Intertwine festivals will also celebrate Portland’s designation by the United Nations Environment Programme as the North American host city for World Environment Day on June 5 (see article on page 5).

Go to audubonportland.org/about/events/heronweek for details of Great Blue Heron Week’s activities.

continued on page 10

Vote Yes by May 21 on Measure 26-152 to Restore Our Natural Areas by Jim Labbe, Urban Conservationist

By the time you receive this Warbler, the May 2013 Special Election will be only a couple of weeks away. We need your help making an extra push to spread the word and turn out the Yes votes for Measure 26-152. Please talk to your friends, family members, co-workers, and neighbors about this important measure in the upcoming election.

In both 1995 and 2006, voters from Forest Grove to Troutdale and from Portland to Wilsonville passed regional natural area acquisition bond measures by large majorities (60% or more). The enormous success of these measures tends to fly under the radar of day-to-day regional politics. With relatively small increases in property taxes, the region has acquired and permanently protected high profile regional nature parks like Cooper Mountain, Graham Oaks, and Mt. Talbert, as well as thousands of acres of lesser known natural areas, wetlands, and wildlife habitats that remain protected from development even if not yet open to the public.

While preserving these areas from development was a principal goal of both bond measures, now is the time to provide the needed funding for their environmental restoration and the public access that helps enrich people’s connection to and stewardship of nature.

For only $20 a year for the typical homeowner over 5 years, we can carry on the tradition of environmental conservation and stewardship in this region that past generations bequeathed to us. We can leave the same legacy to future generations by making a small investment now.

Learn more about Measure 26-152 at restoreournaturalareas.com. Register to vote by April 30. Special Election ballots will be mailed out May 3, so look for your ballot in the mail shortly after and vote Yes on Measure 26-152. Ballots must be received by your local election office no later than May 21.

木 Duck pair © Scott Carpenter
I was totally inspired last week, and humbled. I was with 24 other NGO leaders at the Evans School of Business in Seattle, participating in the NELI (Nonprofit Executive Leadership Institute) Program. This 5-day course in high level organization development and strategy is carefully designed for getting to know your cohort, learning how to become a more effective leader, and moving your organization to the next level of impact. We learned from excellent presenters and from each other.

I was inspired by the remarkable things that my colleagues are doing: building pride of community in small towns, fighting for school reforms, securing safe housing for the most vulnerable people in society. I was humbled after hearing their personal stories and complex work challenges. While there was considerable reading in preparation for each day’s work session, deep conversations happened — between classes, after dinner, on walks to and from the university campus. And although a week away from the office is always tough, by the time I left Seattle for Portland on Friday afternoon, I held new sets of frameworks from which to draw upon as Portland Audubon considers and plans for strategic and intentional growth.

Here are just a few items that are prominent on our current agenda and in the near future. After learning that we received a much anticipated conditional use permit from Clackamas County, we are increasing the numbers of youth and outdoor education programs at Marmot Cabin, one of 3 nature sanctuaries that we own and manage in Oregon. In collaboration with statewide stakeholder groups, we are initiating a plan to reduce lead toxins from the environment. Through the Oregon Community Foundation’s John Gray Fund and other sources, we are launching an internship program from our Lewis Garden office in East Portland to increase environmental literacy, community advocacy, and civic engagement for young adults. And with unanimous Board support, we are exploring the feasibility of building a new Wildlife Care Center at a location offsite from the Audubon Campus in Forest Park.

These initiatives align with Portland Audubon’s vision to champion and conserve the natural environment on which birds and people depend. Just as I was inspired by the men and women I met and the stories I heard while in Seattle, I am equally as inspired by what we do in our backyards and across Oregon. One example of what inspires me is the longstanding support that our members and the general public has for protecting and restoring this region’s watersheds and habitats and for promoting improved access to parks, trails, and natural areas. Time and time again, this community has demonstrated that clean water, biodiversity, and nature close to home are worth fighting and paying for.

You can join me and Portland Audubon by endorsing and voting Yes on the Metro levy, Measure 26-152, that is before you this month. In doing so, you will help ensure that our past collective efforts in protecting, restoring, and creating access to nature for people in our region remain strong for everyone. With the growth scenarios highlighted above, Portland Audubon is working to build a region where people and native birds thrive and with it a future that is inspiring for all.

From the Executive Director

G rand Getaways: 101 Oregon Adventures

Tuesday, June 11 • 7pm, Heron Hall

F ranny Award–winning KGW-TV reporter Grant McOmie comes to Portland Audubon for a special Nature Night in June in honor of his newly published book, Grand’s Getaways: 101 Oregon Adventures (Westends Press, $16.95). Fifth-generation Oregonian McOmie is a journalist, author, and teacher who realized he hadn’t seen enough of his native state, so he has spent much of his 30-year career as a news reporter exploring Oregon. He decided to share these “touchable moments with touchable history” in television segments called “Grant’s Getaways.”

Now fans will be able to access these destination gems in a handy book format. McOmie will travel in your mind’s eye with Bob Sullivan, Audubon’s Conservation Director, to this remote corner of Oregon. You’ll learn about Audubon’s work to protect these landscapes — work which dates back more than a century — and what we are doing today to ensure that they remain wild and healthy... and how you can get involved!

M alheur National Wildlife Refuge and Steens Mountain have been described as the Crown Jewels of Oregon’s High Desert. Malheur’s vast wetlands once produced as many as 180,000 waterfowl per season. Steens Mountain, rising nearly 10,000 feet into the sky, provides one of Oregon’s most spectacular landscapes and diverse habitat for a wide array of wildlife species including Golden Eagle, Bighorn Sheep, Pronghorn, and Sage Grouse.

Both of these amazing places, however, are under significant threat. Malheur’s wetlands have been decimated by invasive carp, an amazingly destructive fish that turns thriving wetlands into muddy black dead lakes. Steens Mountain is under threat from wind development that threatens to forever change one of Oregon’s wildest places.

Travel in your mind’s eye with Bob Sullivan. Audubon’s Conservation Director, to this remote corner of Oregon. You’ll learn about Audubon’s work to protect these landscapes — work which dates back more than a century — and what we are doing today to ensure that they remain wild and healthy... and how you can get involved!

Grant McOmie Presents

Grant’s Getaways: 101 Oregon Adventures

TUESDAY, JUNE 11 • 7PM, HERON HALL

Free and open to the public!
Bring binoculars and dress for the weather — beginners welcome!

MAY 2 (Thu), 8am–11am
Mt Tabor Park
Join Denny Graham for a morning walk at Mt Tabor, one of Portland's greatest bird migration hotspots. We'll be listening to and looking for spring migrants. Meet at the Mt Tabor Volcano Parking Lot. Bring binoculars, water, sunscreen. Questions: Denny at 503-659-1245.

MAY 7 (Tue), 9am–11:30am
Steigerwald Lake NWR
Join Barbara Allen and Kathy van der Horst for a 2-mile walk to look for American Bittern, Marsh and House Wren, Osprey, Purple Martin, migrant songbirds, and a variety of waterfowl. We will also observe how the 2012 wildfire affected the area’s habitat and wildlife. Meet in the refuge parking lot off SE 144th about 3 miles east of Washougal, WA. Questions: Barbara at barbaramazzer@gmail.com or 503-209-9209.

MAY 15 (Wed), 7am–6pm
White River Oak Woodlands & Rimrock Country
Interested in exploring the unique oak woodland and basalt rimrock country of north-central Oregon? Come see Lewis’s Woodpeckers, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Laurel Bunting, Canyon Wrens, Golden Eagles. We’ll spend most of our time looking in the White River Wildlife Management Area around Tygh Valley (south of The Dalles). Meet at the Outlet Mall parking lot in Troutdale and plan on an all-day adventure, getting back to Troutdale after dark. Limited to 15 participants; registration is required with Ron Escano at 503-771-3454.

MAY 15 & 16 (Wed & Thu), 7am–4:30pm
Maggies Birdathon
Please join Denny Graham and Dwight Sangrey for the 2013 Maggies Birdathon trips. Participants may attend one or both days. Bring lunch and water. Questions? Contact Denny at 503-659-1245 or 503-351-8706.

Wed, May 15 — Meet at Mt Tabor Volcano Parking Lot, and we’ll spend early morning at Mt Tabor focusing on songbirds, then proceed to Ridgefield NWR. We’ll visit both units at Ridgefield to include a wide variety of habitat for the day.

Thu, May 16 — Meet at Tualatin Hills Nature Park Interpretive Center (15655 SW Millikan Way, Beaverton). We’ll spend early morning looking for songbirds at Tualatin Hills Nature Park, then proceed to Cooper Mountain to include a wide variety of habitat for the day.

MAY 24 (Fri), 7am–10am
Cooper Mountain Nature Park
Join leaders Sue Carr and Bonnie Denke for a view of local songbirds in their best breeding plumage. For directions visit library.oregonmetro.gov/libes/driver_map.pdf or call Sue at 503-649-3360.

June 4–7 (Tue–Fri), 8am–6pm
Malheur NWR
Bird Malheur NWR with Shawn Schmelzer and Mike Kaufman. We’ll stay at the Malheur Field Station, est. cost $150 per person; provide your own transportation to car caravan to Malheur. Registration is required with Shawn at shawnbirding@yahoo.com or 503-226-2523.

June 5 (Wed), 7am–5pm
Conboy Lake NWR
Meet Lon Fredly and Kathy van der Horst at Lewis & Clark State Park on the Sandy River (exit off I-84 at east end of Sandy River bridge, turn left at foot of ramp, short drive upstream to the park). We’ll carpool to Conboy Lake NWR at base of Mt Adams, about 75 miles. Extensive marsh and lake habitats, and woodlands offer diverse bird life. Bring scope if you have one, lunch, sunscreen, and dress for Glenwood, WA weather. Registration is required with Kathy at kathyfrans@jacksonbottom.org or 503-771-3454.

June 8 (Sat), 9am–1pm
Annual Heron Walk, Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
Come out and great Sharon Connolly. You’ll see Herons and their offspring on nests up close through a spotting scope, but bring binoculars for the many other bird species we’ll encounter. Rick Balazas will lead the hike, which is about 3 miles over flat terrain. Meet at Jackson Bottom Education Center (2000 SW Hilsboro Hwy); directions at jacksonbottom.org. Limited to 15 participants; adults and children over 10 (with adult) are welcome. Registration is required with Sarah at 503-684-6728.

June 9 (Sun), 8am–11am
Powell Butte Nature Park
Join leader: Ron Escano for a walk exploring the unique habitats of Powell Butte. This is our annual Laurel Bunting viewing trip. The parking lot at the top of the butte will be closed. Meet 8am at Rose Bowling Center parking lot at SE Powell Blvd & 164th Ave. Plan on a longer and steeper than usual hike into the park. Questions: Ron at 503-771-3454.

June 12 (Wed), 8am–1:30pm
Henry Hagg Lake
Pack a lunch and join us to explore this extensive county park. Meet at Ellis picnic area. Go for directions or call Marilyn Burke at 503-228-0558 or Sue Carr at 503-649-3360. A park fee is required.

Bird Song Walks 2013 Mon–Fri, various sites: FREE!
udubon Society of Portland is proud to sponsor the 2013 season of weekday-morning Bird Song Walks! From beginners to advanced birders, anyone who is fascinated by the sounds of birds should take advantage of these volunteer-guided walks to the metro area’s prime spring migration hotspots. We get the earliest trips you can become familiar with the songs of the common resident species and then keep pace with the migrants as they arrive. These Bird Song Walks begin at 7am. No pre-registration required. Leave whenever you like. Bring binoculars and a field guide, and be sure to dress properly for the weather: spring mornings can be surprisingly chilly. Steady morning rain cancels a walk.

Mondays May 6, 13, 20, 27
Tryon Creek State Park Leaders: Rick and Stephanie Wagner
Take the Tervilger Blvd exit off 1 5/8 and head south on Tervilger toward Lewis and Clark College. Stay on Tervilger past the intersections with Taylors Ferry Rd and Boones Ferry Rd. At the traffic circle, continue past the entrance to Lewis and Clark Northwest School of Law and follow the brown sign to Tryon Creek State Park, about 1 mile ahead on the right. Meet at the Nature Center. More at tryonfriends.org.

Tuesdays May 7, 14, 21, 28
Cooper Mountain Nature Park Leaders: Bonnie Denke and Sue Carr
18892 SW Kenmer Rd, Beaverton, OR 97007. Directions: From Highway 227, take the Scholls Ferry Rd exit and head west on Scholls Ferry past Murray Blvd. At 175th Ave, turn right and go north, uphill, about 1.8 miles and turn left on Kenmer Rd. The park entrance is on the south side of Kenmer Rd, about 200 yards past the overpass. From SW Farmington Rd (High 10), turn south on 185th (which will become Gassner Rd), turn left on 190th Ave and left on Kenmer Rd. Cooper Mountain Nature Park is a partnership between Metro and Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation District. More on Cooper Mtn programming at thprd.org.

Wednesdays May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Mt. Tabor Park Leaders: Gerard Liliine and Tom McNamara
From SE Belmont, go south on SE 60th two short blocks. Just into the park, turn right and drive as far as possible to gate, and park along street. Mt. Tabor Park is closed to vehicular traffic on Wednesdays, so be sure to use this entrance. (TriMet bus #71 stops at SE 60th & Yamhill.) Be aware of bicyclists on Mt Tabor! Make room and share the road! More on Portland Parks at portlandonline.com/parks.

Thursdays May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Camassia Preserve
Leader: Jackie Wilson
Drive S from Portland on HWY 43 (SW Macadam Ave) through Lake Oswego to West Linn — OR drive S from Portland on I-205 to West Linn Exit #8 and turn left at end of exit ramp, pass under I-205, just before the gas station, turn right onto Willamette Falls Dr, go uphill 1 block then turn right 90 degrees to follow Willamette Falls Dr. Veer right in 1/4 mile onto Sunset Ave, and uphill, cross I-205, and immediately turn right on Walnut St. The preserve is at the end of Walnut. More on this and other Nature Conservancy preserves at nature.org.

Fridays May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Pittock Mansion Leader: Wink Gross
Follow W Burnside about 1.2 miles west of NW 23rd and turn right onto Barnes Rd. Follow the well-marked signs through the neighborhood for another 0.7 mile, and meet at the Pittock parking lot. (TriMet bus #20 stop #687 at W Burnside & NW Barnes is closest stop.) More at pittockmansion.org.
Conservation

Planning and Sustainability Commission to Decide on West Hayden Island in May
by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

On May 7th the Planning and Sustainability Commission will vote on a recommendation to Portland City Council of the future of West Hayden Island. Please attend the hearing and let the Planning Commission know that the community wants West Hayden Island permanently protected as a natural area.

What: Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission Hearing on West Hayden Island
When: 5:00pm on Tuesday, May 7th
Where: 1900 SW 4th Ave, Suite 250A, Portland

We give the Planning and Sustainability Commission credit for reinstituting a more thoughtful and coherent process after the community repelled an effort to force through a decision in the final days of 2012. The schedule since then has been reasonable and the Planning and Sustainability Commission has held a series of thoughtful public work sessions. Regardless of the outcome, we believe the community was well served by the PSC’s decision to institute a more functional public process.

However, we continue to believe that developing West Hayden Island will be bad for our community, bad for our environment, and bad for our economy. We’re still working through the just-released revised planning code, comprehensive plan amendments, and intergovernmental agreements at the pace the Wideror is going to press. However, the following are key concerns that we have already identified:

- The proposed mitigation to address direct impacts to the environment and the community is insufficient and highly uncertain — our already degraded urban waterways and most vulnerable communities will be further degraded by this project;
- The Port continues to try to reduce the proposed mitigation package even further, arguing that the City needs to reduce the cost by tens of millions of dollars — but if the Port has its way, those dollars will come at the further expense of the health of our community and our environment;
- The Port worked to successfully pass legislation in Salem in 2011 (SB 768) that would potentially cut the public out of future decisions involving West Hayden Island after if it is rezoned for industrial development; and
- The Port is working currently in Salem to pass legislation (SB 246) which would potentially put the taxpayer on the hook to cover industrial site development costs including environmental mitigation, water and sewer, transportation infrastructure, and site grading — costs that could exceed $100 million on West Hayden Island.

The Port has rejected provisions that would tie public investment to job targets — they want our money, but they refuse to guarantee even a minimum number of jobs; the Port has steadfastly refused to make real efforts to work with other Ports along the Columbia River to maximize the efficiency of the existing land base.

When the community repelled an effort to force through a decision in the final days of 2012, the New Year has been reasonable and the Planning and Sustainability Commission will vote on a recommendation to Portland City Council of the future of West Hayden Island. Please attend the hearing and let the Planning Commission know that the community wants West Hayden Island permanently protected as a natural area.

Hundreds of acres of industrial brownfields sit vacant and unproductive in Portland while property owners, including the Port, perpetually postpone cleaning them up. Our focus should be on converting contaminated sites to productive use, not allowing industrial polluters to ignore their obligations and develop in natural areas.

West Hayden Island is one of Portland’s most important natural areas. Its 826 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, wetlands, meadows, floodplains, and shallow water habitat near the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers provide irreplaceable habitat for federally listed salmon and imperiled bird, bat, and amphibian species. It is an amazing place where you can see nesting Bald Eagles and rapidly disappearing species like Pilated Woodpeckers and Western Meadowlarks. It deserves to be permanently protected.

To stay up to date on WHI developments, “friend” our Save West Hayden Island Facebook page.

Audubon Welcomes Micah Meskel as Conservation Assistant
by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

We are pleased to welcome Micah Meskel as Audubon’s new Conservation Assistant. Micah began volunteering with Audubon at the Wildlife Care Center in 2010, and since that time has also served in a variety of temporary staff roles within Audubon’s conservation and care center programs. Many of you have probably met Micah already, possibly when you brought an animal to the Care Center or came to testify at a hearing.

Micah was born and raised in Portland, leaving town only briefly to attend the University of Oregon where he graduated in 2008 with a degree in Economics. Away from work, Micah enjoys anything that involves the outdoors, whether it’s kayaking on the Willamette, hiking and running around town, hiking in the region’s vast wilderness, or gardening in his back yard. One constant in all of these outdoor activities is that his eye is always to the sky, keeping track of all birds in his sight.

Micah’s focus will be on supporting and organizing Audubon’s activist networks, giving us more capacity to protect our environment and our communities.

Audubon Welcomes Micah Meskel as Conservation Assistant
by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA): Are you willing to give a nickel for the birds? The Wild Bird Conservation Act would put a 75-cent-per-pound surcharge on bird seed to fund wild bird conservation in Oregon. This would generate $1–$2 million per year. Hunters and fishers have been paying a tax on hunting and fishing equipment for nearly a century to fund conservation of hunted and fished species. The WBCA would provide critical funding to conserve Oregon’s most imperiled bird species. This is a top priority of Audubon in 2013 and has been endorsed by more than 2 dozen conservation groups as well as hunting and fishing groups.

Trapping Reform: Oregon has some of the worst trapping regulations in the United States. This session Audubon and Humane Society of the United States introduced legislation that would have brought much-needed reforms to protect both wild animals and pets. Sadly the bill will not even get a hearing. Over the past decade both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Commission and the legislature have consistently failed to reform trapping. If the people of Oregon want reasonable trapping regulations, it will probably need to happen at the ballot box, and we will be exploring a ballot initiative in the near future.

Raccoon No-Feed Ordinance: Every year hundreds, perhaps thousands of raccoons are killed after becoming habituated to human food handouts. These animals become dependent on these handouts, lose their instinctual fear of humans, and become threats to people, pets, and property. Every major wildlife agency in the United States encourage feeding animals such as raccoons, coyotes, and bears. This legislation would allow fines to be assessed in situations where people deliberately persist in putting out food for raccoons and cause a public nuisance. The bill has bipartisan support and has already passed the Senate.

Opposing Corporate Welfare: SB 246, promoted by the Port of Portland, the Portland Business Alliance, and others, would put the taxpayers on the hook for covering the costs of preparing industrial sites for development including costs associated with environmental mitigation, brownfield cleanup, superfund, property acquisition, water and sewer, transportation infrastructure, and grading. It turns the principle of “polluter pays” on its head and externalizes the costs of impacts to the environment. They pollute...we pay...that’s wrong. The Oregon Conservation Network has listed this bill as a “Major Threat.”
World Environment Day Goal for Portland Audubon:  
50 Backyard Habitat Certifications!

by Nikkie West, Backyard Habitat Program Coordinator

World Environment Day is coming to Portland — that’s right, the United Nations has selected Portland, Oregon this year’s North American World Environment Day host. According to the Deputy Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Elisabeth Guibaud-Cox: “Portland has been selected because we at UNEP would like to put the spotlight on the city’s environmental achievements, which are reflected in the fact that this city is repeatedly ranked among the top ten green cities in the United States. In our research, Portland is often rated the number one green city in North America, an impressive accomplishment by any standard.”

Through World Environment Day (unep.org/ wed/about), the United Nations Environment Programme aims to personalize environmental issues and enable everyone to realize their power to become agents for change in support of sustainable and equitable development.

Portland is making more than just a day of it; activities will be held during the entire window of time between Earth Day (April 22nd) and World Environment Day (June 5th). For more information on what is being scheduled citywide, see portlandoregon.gov/wed.

What is Audubon doing to recognize this important event? In honor of the big day, we’re aiming to certify 50 backyards between Earth Day and World Environment Day (May 20th). This will be a monumental achievement and will take the help of many Backyard Habitat Certification Program participants and volunteers. So get out your shovels and gardening gloves, grab your young children and pets and start thinking about whether you are ready to sign up today to get your yard certified!

Contact Nikkie West at nwest@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6856 for more information.

Impact Analysis produced by the Port of Portland, City of Portland, and 11 other industrial landowners for containing “several instances of incorrect or misleading information” about the human risks from the contamination. In April 2013, the EPA fined these groups $125,500 for producing a report of “unacceptable quality.” Earlier this year, the EPA took another step in the “Feasibility Study” by drafting an initial design plan to clean up river mile 11, one of the most contaminated sites on the river, just above the Fremont Bridge.

Kudos to the EPA, former Mayor Adams, and current Mayor Hales for pushing forward on this proactive strategy.

The Portland Harbor Superfund will be a top priority for Portland Audubon over the next couple of years. We will need your help to ensure a clean and healthy river.

Please “friend” the Willamette River Portland Harbor Superfund Clean-up Facebook page jointly sponsored by Audubon and Willamette Riverkeeper to stay up to date. Also, make sure you Audubon and Riverkeeper on the Upstream Migration Paddle on June 8th to learn more about these issues (see paddle trip information in box at right).

Portland Harbor Superfund: Critical Decisions Ahead

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to issue a final record of decision on the Portland Harbor Superfund Site in 2014. This decision will determine the clean-up requirements for 11 miles of river extending from near the confluence with the Columbia to south of the Fremont Bridge. The health of our river for people and wildlife lies in the balance. It is critical that the community become actively engaged.

Over the past year, the EPA has twice issued very strong rebukes to river industrial interests for producing reports that understate the risks involved. Under Superfund law, it is the responsible parties, not the government that are responsible for developing studies and reports that define the scope of the contamination, the public risks, and the clean-up options. The EPA makes the final decision as to how to move forward based on these reports.

Last June, the EPA strongly criticized a Health Risk Impact Assessment produced by the Port of Portland, City of Portland, and 11 other industrial landowners for containing “several instances of incorrect or misleading information” about the human risks from the contamination. In April 2013, the EPA fined these groups $125,500 for producing a report of “unacceptable quality.” Earlier this year, the EPA took another step in the “Feasibility Study” by drafting an initial design plan to clean up river mile 11, one of the most contaminated sites on the river, just above the Fremont Bridge.

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The mystery was finally solved the following day when we heard of another facility in Washington that had 6 other Bald Eagles from the same area. They had a surprising story. The eagles had been seen feeding on 2 horses that had been euthanized with Euthasol, a barbiturate that in high doses humanely kills animals but in lower doses acts as a sedative. Euthasol doesn’t break down in carcasses and is toxic to animals that eat the tainted meat. The eagles had eaten enough of the meat to severely sedate them; if they had eaten any more they would have been killed. The treatment provided at Audubon and the Washington facility gave them time to recover and flushed the substance out of the system. We released this bird in front of a large crowd on the property it recovered and flushed the substance out of the system. We released this bird in front of a large crowd on the property it was looking for any reason why this bird wasn’t flying. Because of the animal’s large size and potential to inflict injury, we never ask untrained people to try to handle eagles no matter how injured they are. Bald Eagles have 400 pounds per square inch of crushing capacity in their feet, and that is nothing to take lightly. So I packed up my handling gear, net, carrier, and a volunteer, and drove the 74 miles to a llama pen, not flying, and listing to the side. The bird was poisoned were released back to the wild, the tainted horses were able to be released, there are still a lot of other dangers like lead poisoning which it will need to watch out for. As the bird grows older it will need your help to ensure a clean and healthy river.

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The mystery was finally solved the following day when we heard of another facility in Washington that had 6 other Bald Eagles from the same area. They had a surprising story. The eagles had been seen feeding on 2 horses that had been euthanized with Euthasol, a barbiturate that in high doses humanely kills animals but in lower doses acts as a sedative. Euthasol doesn’t break down in carcasses and is toxic to animals that eat the tainted meat. The eagles had eaten enough of the meat to severely sedate them; if they had eaten any more they would have been killed. The treatment provided at Audubon and the Washington facility gave them time to recover and flushed the substance out of the system. We released this bird in front of a large crowd on the property it was looking for any reason why this bird wasn’t flying. Because of the animal’s large size and potential to inflict injury, we never ask untrained people to try to handle eagles no matter how injured they are. Bald Eagles have 400 pounds per square inch of crushing capacity in their feet, and that is nothing to take lightly. So I packed up my handling gear, net, carrier, and a volunteer, and drove the 74 miles to a llama pen, not flying, and listing to the side. The bird was...
**Educational Trips**

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

### JAMAICA

**January 10–19, 2014**

Escape the cold, dark days of winter and join Portland Audubon on this 10-day excursion into the heart of the Caribbean and onto the island of Jamaica.

Beaches of endless white sand... warm, turquoise-blue water... unforgettable sunsets and the hot, tropical sun are not all that await you in this island paradise: Jamaica is also home to no less than 28 endemic species of birds, making it a paradise for birders as well.

We begin our trek in Montego Bay, where we’ll team up with the trip co-leader and president of BirdLife Jamaica, Ricardo Miller. We’ll then travel to a nearby bird sanctuary that specializes in providing visitors with up-close views of some of the island’s most interesting habitats. The red-tailed streamertail, grassquits, and a host of other species will come to the feeders, so close you’ll be tempted to reach out and touch them. We’ll then travel south where we’ll spend our first night in the coastal town of Negril, famous for its 7 mile stretch of beach. You’ll have time to stroll on the sandy beach and swim in the warm, gentle surf before we head out early the next morning on our circumnavigation of the island.

After leaving Negril, we team up with Dr. Ann Hayes-Sutton, the author of A Photographic Guide to the Birds of Jamaica, and head toward her historic estate called Marshall’s Pen, birding local hotspots like the Royal Palm Reserve and the Great Black Morcas along the way. We’ll spend 2 nights and days in Ann’s company, birding local areas in search of endemics like the Jamaican Lizard Cuckoo, Chestnut-bellied Cuckoo, and Jamaican Owl, to name just a few. We’ll search the Portland Ridge area for the Bahama Mockingbird and Jamaican Crow on our way to the Blue Mountains on the eastern side of the island. We’ll spend 3 nights amidst the stunning scenery of Jamaica’s highlands, keeping an eye out for montane endemics like the Blue Mountain Vireo and Crested Quail-Dove.

**Birding Tahoe**

**June 12–16, 2013**

J on Kirk Hardie, Audubon trip leader and Co-Executive Director of the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science, on an exciting excursion to Lake Tahoe and surrounding montane ecosystems.

Lake Tahoe is the largest alpine lake as well as the 2nd deepest lake in the U.S. Its crystal blue waters reflect alpine peaks rising thousands of feet above the basin, creating spectacular views that have inspired generations of photographers.

We’ll explore far and wide through diverse habitats of pine forests and alpine ridges, mountain meadows and prairies, for Sierra Nevada specialties such as White-headed Woodpecker, Clark’s Nutcracker, Pine Grosbeak, and Williamson’s Sapsucker. Conditions permitting, we’ll search for the elusive Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch by riding the tram at the Squaw Valley ski resort, one of the most reliable locations in the Sierra Nevada. Other mountain specialties we will be on the lookout for are Mountain Quail, Sooey Grouse, and Northern Goshawk.

Searching riparian zones will provide the opportunity to see Bald Eagle, Willow Flycatcher, and MacGillivray’s Warbler, while meadows could bring sightings of Dusky Flycatcher, Calliope Hummingbird, and Cassin’s Finch. Possible sightings in pine forests and along alpine ridges are Nashville Warbler, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, and Green-tailed Towhee.

We end the tour exploring the Sierra Valley to the north of the Tahoe Basin. Over 1,000 feet lower than Lake Tahoe, this expansive mountain valley cradles a large wetland system that connects with high desert habitats of grassland and sagebrush. Here we’ll search for breeding Sandhill Cranes, Short-eared Owls, and shorebirds that we won’t find in the Tahoe Basin. This is a wonderful spring getaway to a beautiful part of the American West. Contact Steve Engel at 971-222-6119 or steve@audubonportland.org for details and to register.

**Peru**

**October 4–18, 2013**

Visit one of the most biologically diverse countries in the world, home to nearly 2,000 species of birds. Many other species of wildlife occur and we should encounter monkeys, sloths, caiman, and colorful butterflies, to name a few. Plus, we’ll visit the famous Inca ruins of Machu Picchu and Sacsaywaman.

If you would like more information, or to reserve a spot, please contact Dan van den Broek at 971-222-6105 or dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org.

**Leaders:** Steve Robertson, Education Director; and local guides

**Group size:** 14 participants ± leaders

**Fee:** $4185 members / $4485 non-members

**Deposit:** $2100 secures your place

**STEEENS MOUNTAIN & ALVORD DESERT**

**October 9–13, 2013**

S teens Mountain is one of Oregon’s most spectacular natural areas. Rising to almost 10,000 feet in the southeast corner of the state, it presides over alkali desert, oceans of sagebrush, and the wildlife-rich marshlands of the Malheur basin. From our base in Frenchglen we’ll spend 3 full days exploring this diverse landscape by van and on foot as we venture around all sides and on top of the mountain itself. On past trips we’ve seen approximately 80 species of birds including Townsend’s Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, American Pipit, Horned Lark, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, and Prairie Falcon. We search for and often spot Bighorn Sheep looking for the high peaks of the mountain, sometimes distant and sometimes near. Coyotes and Mule Deer are often sighted, and you never know when a Porcupine is going to waddle into view.

Conditions permitting we will visit the Alvord Desert and venture out to Borax Lake, home of the unique and endangered Borax Lake Chub.

**Leaders:** Steve Engel

**Group size:** 14 participants

**Fee:** $785 members / $895 non-members

**Deposit:** $400 secures your place

**Fee includes:** All ground transportation, 4 nights double-occupancy lodging, park fees, guide fees, meals except dinners, and the services of your experienced leader.

**Australia With Tasmania Extension**

Like no other place else on Earth, Australia is unique unto itself. 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. Contact Steve Robertson at 971-222-6118.

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

**Group size:** 14 participants

**Fee to be determined**

**Contact Steve Robertson at 971-222-6118.**
**Crows and Blackbirds with Harry Nehls**

May 21 (Tues), 7pm–9pm

Join local birding expert Harry Nehls and delve into the world of Corvids and Icterids. Crows represent the enormous diversity of bird groups, represented by orioles, cowbirds, and Red-winged and other blackbirds. An interesting mix of characters for sure! Harry’s decades of birding experience are sure to include some fascinating insights and stories about these birds.

Fee: $10 members / $15 non-members

Free for active volunteers.

**Birding By Ear — Nesting Birds**

June 21 (Sun), 10am–2pm; Class in Heron Hall

June 9, 16, 23 (Sun), 7am–10am; Field Trips

June is still a time of bird song, but there are lots of other sounds being made as well. Many birds are in nesting and family mode, so the patterning of singing may be different, the songs different, the reasons different! Learn about these sounds with Laura Whittemore, then we’ll go out and listen for all the contact calls, begging chick calls, etc.

Fee: $75 members / $95 non-members

Limited to 15 participants.

**Birds’-Eye View of Bugs**

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. Cader Olive will put you in the bird’s place 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

**Audubon Summer Camps 2013**

There are still some openings in Audubon Summer Camps. Go to audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/camps/summer/summercalendar for more information.

**Adventure Belize!**

August 1–10 (Thur–Sat)

For students ages 13–17

Portland Audubon is again leading 18 teens, ages 15-17, to Belize for a 10-day natural history field trip of a lifetime. This trip will take students to the 2nd largest coral reef in the world, to at least 2 species of Mayana sites (Mayana, Lamanai and the Cocksmouth Jaguar Preserve). We’ll also spend a night at the banana plantation, and spend 3 nights in Crooked Tree, visit the Community Rubian Sanctuary, and spend 3 nights in the small fishing village of Placencia.

Belize is unique, one of the most fascinating countries in the world. No other country of its size offers visitors such an array of experiences or such a vast assortment of biological wonders. Participants will create their own journals to record animal encounters, track jaguar on a night hike, and search for monkeys and tapirs. This will be Portland Audubon’s 3rd Teen Adventure to Belize. Come join Audubon as we learn, hike, learn, and relax on this Belize Adventure!

Lead Instructors: Steve Robertson, Education Director (srobertson@audubonportland.org) and Tim Donner, Naturalist-Educator

Fee: $2,385 members / $2,685 non-members (includes airfare to/from Belize-Portland, meals, lodging, and more)

**Wildflowers of the Coast Range**

May 4 (Sat), 8am–5pm and/or June 8 (Sat), 8am–5pm

Join local naturalist and Audubon volunteer Marsh Shy on 2 or 3 hikes to the north Oregon Coast. The trail ascends 2.5 miles to the summit and is steep and difficult in spots. With a 1600-foot rise in elevation. It is recommended for experienced and fit hikers wearing proper footwear and clothing. Weather conditions can change rapidly, bringing a full range of bird life.

Fee per Outing: $20 members / $30 non-members / $10 active volunteers

Note: Each date is a separate registration; be sure to select the correct date.

Limited to 12 participants.

**Day Camps with Audubon and Lake Oswego Community Schools**

The Audubon Society of Portland is partnering with Lake Oswego Community Schools for several fun weekly day camps that will be happening this summer!

For students entering 2nd or 3rd grade

July 8–12: Audubon Nature Camp: Jr. Wildlife Vet

Come join us on this field trips to local animal rehabilitation facilities and learn what you can to do help the wildlife living in your own neighborhood.

July 15–19: Audubon Nature Camp: Wild Art Adventure

Come join us on this field camp as we create wildly wonderful art inspired by your observations and knowledge of birds — they are fast, small, and similar in shape and color. Author John Rakestraw will illustrate the field marks that distinguish Western and Least Sandpipers and how to recognize Red Knots, Dunlin, and more. The evening class is followed up with an all-day field trip (transportation provided, currently full) to the north Oregon Coast.

Class with Field Trip: $75 members / $85 non-members

Field Trip limited to 12 participants/van.

Class-only Option: $30 members / $15 non-members

For students entering 4th or 5th grade

July 8–12: Audubon Nature Camp: Cockscomb Creek

Do you know how to build a waterproof shelter out of nothing but sticks, leaves and other material you can find outdoors? Can you make a campfire without using matches? Do you know how to light a fire? What it takes to feel at home in the woods. Join us for a week of learning real survival skills and everything that goes with it.

For students entering 6th–8th grade

July 8–12: Audubon Nature Camp: Fire, Sticks & Stones

Do you ever want to go crabbing or deep-sea fishing and then eat your catch? Do all this and more when you join Portland Audubon’s experienced naturalists on this unforgettable exploration of the sea. You’ll also have the opportunity to observe an incredible array of marine mammals.

© Portland Audubon

© Steller’s and California Sea Lions, as they bask and frolic on the sand. And we may even encounter one or more species of whales when we venture out to sea to go deep-sea fishing, hopefully bringing home our catch to dine on for supper. We’ll keep a log of the species we encounter and be sure to journal each day to remember every moment of this week of non-stop, oceanic FUN!

Lead Instructor: Steve Robertson, Education Director (srobertson@audubonportland.org)

Fee: $395 members / $415 non-members (includes transportation and food; you bring your own camping gear)
Field Notes
by Harry Nehls

The pleasing song and colorful plumage of the Black-headed Grosbeak is a welcome presence to the summer woodlands. Although rather secretive, blending well with sun-dappled leaves, the male gives itself away by loudly singing and calling its distinctive call notes, both males and females sing, but the female song is shorter and quieter than the male.

The Black-headed Grosbeak is a tropical bird that migrates northward in spring to nest and raise its young in local woodlands, then quickly returns to the tropics when the young are fledged. It is present in our area primarily from late April to late September.

The adult males migrate northward about a week before the females to set up and defend territories. Young males arrive about 2 weeks after the adult males to set up to undisturbed territories and females that need a mate. Nesting takes place primarily during June.

The woodlands, lying dormant all winter, come alive during March and begin new growth. Birds become more active and conspicuous, by May and June, Purple Martins suddenly are everywhere loudly singing their pleasing song. As the migrants return they join the activities, and spring is in full bloom.

The early spring migration this year was not overly spectacular, but the birds were right on schedule and fairly conspicuous. The only anomaly noted was the appearance of large flocks of Purple Martins in the Willamette Valley. The largest flocks occurred at the valley’s south end, though good numbers were also seen in the Portland area.

On March 31 Steve Nord found a group of 15 Eared Grebes at Tualatin River NWR and 10 at Fernhill Wetlands. On April 3 Dave Irons noted 40 at the Tualatin Refuge. On April 4 the Fernhill group had increased to 21.

On February 21 Carole Hallett reported a group of 4 Vaux’s Swifts flying over southwest Portland. Sue Bliss noted a Black-headed Grosbeak on March 17 in Hillsboro and Jennifer Jako one in North Portland March 20, and Lee Cain found one on Sauvie Island March 29.

There were few swallow reports during the winter. They returned on schedule with most arriving during the last week of February. Rob Conway reported the first Rufous Hummingbird in the Portland area March 1. They then became regular, but most dripped in through the month.

Sighting

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Saying’s Phoebes made a good showing this spring with one on Powell Butte the first 2 weeks of March. Andy Frank saw one in North Portland March 20, and Lee Cain found one on Sauvie Island March 29.

An immature Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen and photographed March 22–30 by Hanneke Holderschon on Sexton Mountain in Beaver昀or. Immature Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers can be easily identified as they hold their juvenile plumage into the spring of the next year, while juvenile Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers are in adult plumage by the first fall.

On April 4 Christopher and Adri Hinkle visited the area around the Troutdale Airport that was so productive last fall. They found the Vireos, the river and a Brown’s Sparrow and three Long-billed Curlew near the airport. This sounds like a good area to regularly check this fall.

Calendar at a Glance

For the latest information, visit audubonportland.org

Black-headed Grosbeaks Zestfully Declare Nesting Season

The nest is a flimsy pile of twigs and leaves just large enough to hold 2–3 eggs. Both parents incubate the eggs so the incubation period is rather short. As the young grow and get a few feathers, they leave the nest to creep around the twigs and branches of the tree. Although out of the nest they cannot fly for another 2 weeks. The parents seek them out to feed them through the period.

By July singing is reduced and it becomes much harder to locate and see the males. By late July the males are on their way south, leaving the females to care for the young. By late August the females are gone. The young birds remain for another month before migrating southward.

On November 16 last fall Anna Sahalas in Northwest Portland noticed an immature Black-headed Grosbeak coming to her feeders long after all the other grosbeaks had left. It utilized the feeders throughout the winter and into this spring.

During that period it molted its feathers from the female-like brown plumage into the more colorful first winter plumage, then into the mostly male-like first summer plumage. It takes a couple of years for the young grosbeaks to acquire the full adult plumage.

Slow maturing young males retain quite a bit of the female-type pattern into the first summer, while the more advanced birds molt into almost full adult plumages. Birds showing mostly adult plumages often attempt to nest the first summer. First summer females also may attempt to nest, but the eggs may be small or infertile.

Rufous Hummingbird

Volunteer of the Month: Pat Crane

Always smiling, rain or shine by Education Department Staff

After moving to Portland from Virginia in 2006, Pat Crane has volunteered in the Education Department since 2007. Her primary role has been leading Sanctuary Tours for students, kindergarten through 5th grade. Sanctuary Tours are considered Portland Audubon’s “gateway program,” and Pat has been a wonderful educator, leading many children on their first formal experience with environmental education and their first “academic” walk in the woods.

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

Pat’s commitment to Portland Audubon’s educational goals is evident in the myriad of other programs she’s helped us with. Her work on full-day school field trips has been invaluable, leading kids in their bird watching endeavors at the Oregon Coast and in search of cave crickets in the Ape Caves on Mt St Helens. She has been a Swift Watch Captain for many years, helping to educate the public on the wonders of the Vaux’s Swift Migration, and has been a Birder-Naturalist for multiple Raptor Road Trips, a Peregrine Watch Monitor on Elk Rock Island, and a tour leader for the Intergenerational Road Scholar Program.

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

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.
More Author Events at Portland Audubon!

David Muench’s National Parks featured at Heron Hall at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 14th

Blogger Richard Wong lists Muench among the 10 best nature photographers of all time, in the company of such luminaries as Ansel Adams, Eliot Porter, and Galen Rowell. Wong writes: “Like Ansel Adams did with black and white landscape photography a generation prior, Muench is synonymous with color landscape photography.” You would want to reserve a copy of the book.

Contact us at 503-292-9453 if you don’t know his name.

The Dandelion Hunter comes to Heron Hall Wednesday, May 15th at 7:00 pm

The Nature Store welcomes Portland journalist Rebecca Lerner, author of the newly published book *Dandelion Hunter: Foraging for the Urban Wilderness* (Lyons Press, $16.95), for a free public presentation and book signing as she speaks about her adventures — and her writing — while living off the land in her Portland neighborhood.

After an initial challenge to eat nothing but foraged foods for a week goes awry, the vegetarian Lerner dives into an intensive 4-year study of local flora, both native and weeds, to learn how to connect with our ancestors’ often-forgotten knowledge of the useful plants. As Lerner writes in the book’s Foreword: “Every wild plant has a gift to offer. Plants are food and medicine, paint pigments, twine, soap, incense, tinder, insulation, beauty products — and the list goes on, because before there was ‘an app for that,’ there was a plant for that.”

Combining serious research with wacky excursions and encounters with charmingly individualistic Portlanders, Lerner’s book is both delightful and thoughtful. Her Audubon presentation will touch on the role of foragers in the control of invasive species. If you would like to reserve a signed copy of the book, please call the Nature Store at 503-292-9453.

This may be the funniest herbal adventure you’ll ever read, as Lerner overcomes her naiveté with gold elixir and embraces the woody wilderness right outside her door.

—Publisher’s Weekly

...this may be the funniest herbal adventure you’ll ever read, as [Lerner] overcomes her naiveté with gold elixir and embraces the woody wilderness right outside her door.

Innovative Performance Piece & Upcoming Tree Climb

by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

I am excited to announce a couple of very cool events coming to the Portland Audubon Sanctuaries: special nature-related performances of music and dance, and an old-growth tree climb.

reeds Performance on May 18 & 19 at 1pm

On Saturday & Sunday, May 18 & 19 (1:00pm both days), we will host performances of reeds, a music and dance piece based on bird songs and the seasonal rhythms of a Pacific Northwest forest. Portland Audubon’s 150-acre nature sanctuary is home to several old-growth Douglas fir trees that are approximately 300 years old. You will get to ascend these living giants with the help of our friends at Ascending the Giants.

You’ll have a unique opportunity to reach the canopy level, approximately 230 feet above the ground of an old-growth Doug fir, using ropes and a harness. PhD Ornithologist Dr. David Anderson and PhD Biologist Dr. Eric Forsman will ascend into the canopy with climb participants and discuss the ecological significance of old-growth forest and some of the unique characteristics of the interface between “natural” forest and urban forest.

The cumulative effect of the existing variety and possibilities of movement in nature. The cumulative effect of corvids, and melodic spring peepers — before returning of winter, noisy year-round residents like geese, predators, the almost-silent stillness of the ground of an old-growth Doug fir, using ropes and a harness. PhD Ornithologist Dr. David Anderson and PhD Biologist Dr. Eric Forsman will ascend into the canopy with climb participants and discuss the ecological significance of old-growth forest and some of the unique characteristics of the interface between “natural” forest and urban forest.

The old-growth tree climb is open to participants of all physical levels and abilities. The climbing area is accessed by a quarter-mile hike with approximately 100 feet of elevation loss/gain. The trail can be steep, slick, or muddy at times and is not ADA accessible. The tree climb does not require climbing experience, technical knowledge, personal gear, or particular physical ability or conditioning. Climbing professionals will rig the trees in advance, participants will need only to put on a harness and a helmet and be ready for the ride of a lifetime. Counterweights and pulley systems will be used to bring participants into the canopy.

This is a truly unique opportunity to see old-growth trees and our urban forest from a perspective very few ever get to experience. The tree climb also includes a tour of the Portland Audubon Sanctuaries and facilities with Sanctuaries Director Tom Costello, during which we’ll visit various restoration sites and discuss the successes and challenges of maintaining a healthy urban forest.

The cost is $100 per participant; to register, go to audubonportland.org/sanctuaries/climb, or contact Tom Costello at 503-292-6855 or tcostello@audubonportland.org. For more information on Ascending the Giants, visit ascendingthegiants.com.

Sanctuaries

www.audubonportland.org

Nature Store Events

Save the date!

Local outdoor reporter Grant McOmie will present his newly published *Getaways: 101 Oregon Adventures on June 11 at 7pm* (see page 2).

Laura O. Foster Book Signing & Hike Thursday, May 23rd at 6:00 pm

L ongtime Audubon favorite Laura O. Foster will be presenting her newly revised edition of her popular *Portland Hill Walks: 24 Explorations in Parks and Neighborhoods* (Timber Press, $10.95) in a special walk-and-talk event starting at 6:00pm on May 23rd. Meet Laura at the Nature Store, then set out on a guided walk along part of one of her featured routes in the book. This special event will be limited to 20 participants, and pre-registration is requested: your $20 registration fee includes a copy of the book! Please call the Nature Store to register or if you have questions at 503-292-9453. The walk will go on rain or shine.

Laura O. Foster has written 5 popular titles including walking guides and local history. She describes her books: “I write the books that I want to read — about the paths, quiet streets, and stairs away from obvious and oft-written tourist sites. My books answer my own questions about the city’s geology, horticultural heritage, architecture, and the vestige of times past. They’re written for that certain tribe of people who delight in the back story behind the urban scene.

Join Laura for a delightful and informative stroll in and near the Audubon Sanctuary. See you on the trail!”

Pre-registration is requested: your $20 registration fee includes a copy of the book!
When Kids & Teens Inspire Us

Continued from cover

sentence: “I recognize that Orcas are special, and if I had one story to tell them...” The goal was for them to write as much as they could in the given time. The following piece was written in the San Juan Islands just hours after a sighting of about 22 Orcas moving through the Salish Sea. We thank Reef for being willing to share his journal entry.

An Orca’s Tale
Written by Reed Wester-Ebbinghaus
7th Grader on San Juan Island Adventure, July 2012

I recognize that Orcas are special, and if I had one story to tell them... I would tell them about the Rico story, about my time as a whale,... a story very special to tell due to their likeness to men. I would tell tales of how humans had created powerful empires but were still always at the mercy of the seas. I would explain the story of the city of Atlantis and of how it was so suddenly destroyed the night the seas rushed in and reclaimed the land and the lives of many men. I would even tell of how merely a few drops of water can destroy the greatest human machine. They would gawk in disbelief if I told them of my experience in the sea for their ignorance and inaccessibility of the great waters, and for their lack of understanding of the creatures upon them.

Although the cetaceans would certainly ridicule the flaws of... which I previously believed to be a lot!).

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P orland 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 each journal entry. Thank you for joining our vibrant and growing community!

Welcome, New Members!

Nancy Adams
Roydon Adams
Sandra Alvaron
Alessi Anderson
Stephanie Arians
Megan Bald
Christina Balet
Valerie Baten
Francis Berry
Jon Berkenbosch
Kiley Beaumier
Yahdi Beckwitt
Alexis Bender
Bryan Crawford
Nancy Davis
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.

Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these thoughtful gifts:

In Memory
Kathie Durbin
Raya Eaton
Emily Gottfried
Kathy Grifikh
Betty Ponds
Kryszlawa Wlkowski
John R Reynolds, MD
Roy Spencer
Georgine Baker
Judy Hart
Judith Sanger
Norma Rubba
Jeanne Wainio
Marylyn & Rich Planch

In Honor
Pepper Geiger Morgan
Mindy Coolidge & Sherrile Banger
Amber Geiger Morgan
Jayna & Jon Giebe (Sina & Gpa)
Beatey Huyck-Lopez
Randy & Julie Gimborgan
Jonathan Whatmore
Patricia Jones
Brent Jones
Henry Sessions
John Buolder
Laura Whittemore & Mark Fitzsomans
Francois Barnes
Gabrielle Dunlace
Elaine Murphy
Denise J. Jim Neidhardt

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 www.audubonportland.org or by calling 971-222-6130. A songbird card acknowledging your thoughtful gift will be sent to the honoree or family.

Thank You to:
• Jim Cruce for a large assortment of wildlife photographs including 152 8x10", 36 11x14", and 2 professionally framed 30x40" photographs
• Phyllis Thorne for bird food for the Wildlife Care Center including: 4 boxes of suet; 1 bag of corn on cobs; two 80-oz bags of peanuts; two 25-lb bags of mixed seed; and two 15-lb cartons of thistle

Our Wish List

For East Portland Office: 10 Binoculars

For Sanctuary: Loppers

Hand saws
Work gloves

For Education: Laptop with dual core processor or greater

Powerpoint Projector

For Wildlife Care Center: Science Diet Kitten Growth • Bleach • Dawn Dishwashing Detergent • Water bottles & exercise wheels for small rodents

If you can donate these items, please first contact Audubon Society of Portland at 503-292-6855 ext.103, Mon-Fri, to arrange a time for delivery/ pick-up.

Laura Whittemore & Mark Fitzsimons
Francois Barnes
Gabrielle Dunlace
Elaine Murphy
Denise J. Jim Neidhardt

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 www.audubonportland.org or by calling 971-222-6130. A songbird card acknowledging your thoughtful gift will be sent to the honoree or family.

Thank You to:
• Jim Cruce for a large assortment of wildlife photographs including 152 8x10", 36 11x14", and 2 professionally framed 30x40" photographs
• Phyllis Thorne for bird food for the Wildlife Care Center including: 4 boxes of suet; 1 bag of corn on cobs; two 80-oz bags of peanuts; two 25-lb bags of mixed seed; and two 15-lb cartons of thistle

Our Wish List

For East Portland Office: 10 Binoculars

For Sanctuary: Loppers

Hand saws
Work gloves

For Education: Laptop with dual core processor or greater

Powerpoint Projector

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Great Local Products from the Nature Store

Our shade-grown organic coffee just got better! It’s now certified: Portland Audubon’s official roasted, Sanrnie Island Coffee, is now featuring a delicious Rain Forest Alliance Certified dark roast from Bali. And their Guatemalan medium roast now carries the Smithsonian Bird-Friendly stamp of approval. Both roasts are available in whole bean or ground selections. Feel doubly good as you enjoy rich, flavorful, locally roasted coffee while helping to protect the tree canopy in the winter homes of our migratory birds!

New field gear is here! Spring style comes with the addition of 2 durable, lightweight nylon “Annie” bags from Ellington. Both feature quilted detailing and sturdy gunmetal hardware. The Annie Field Bag has a strap that adjusts to shoulder or crossbody length. The compact Annie Crossbody Bag is equally at home on the birding trail or an urban adventure. Ellington is a group of dedicated people working out of “a little building in Portland,” ready to change the world “one bag at a time”!

A little TLC! Sun, wind, rain! We have a couple of new products that offer a bit of TLC protection for nature lovers. Local beekeepers Brad & Anika have put their hives to work producing Portland Bee Balm, a beeswax-based lip balm that they make by hand using only organic ingredients. The most important ingredient is beeswax but there’s a sweet addition: a bit of honey, exclusively from their own hard-working bees in Southeast Portland.

Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store!

Audubon Society of Portland’s Nature Store is the headquarters for naturalists in the Portland-Vancouver metro area. We feature nature books, hiking & field guides, binoculars 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.

New Leupold HD binoculars

The BX-4 McKinley HD is a high definition full-sized binocular designed to challenge the best. Like the Swarovski EL, these new optics feature an extra field flattening lens and ED glass to guarantee the most vivid colors and razor-sharp focus you can find across the entire visual field. A big bonus is the exceptionally wide field of view: 425 feet at 1000 yards with the 8x42 model and 336 feet with the 10x42.

And rebates on other popular models!

From May 1 through June 30, Leupold is offering a $30 rebate on the Acada 8x42 or 10x42 binocular. The Acada combines economy with great performance in a lightweight, durable binocular. Get a $50 rebate on the Leupold Mojave 8x42 or 10x42 binocular. The Mojave has a sleek modern open-bridge design to fit comfortably in your hand, even when wearing gloves! With upgraded glass and a cold mirror prism coating, it is bright and crisp even on dark days.

And a free gift! Purchase a Leupold binocular or scope on Leupold Field Day (June 8) and receive an embroidered Western Meadowlark cap or Leupold Binocular Harness free from Leupold! See box for details about this special event.

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Great Horned Owl with chicks photo: Ken Bozuma

The Rosackers left unrestricted funding to several of their favorite nonprofit organizations, including the Boys and Girls Aid Society, OMSI, OPB, The Nature Conservancy, Loaves and Fishes Centers, and the Audubon Society of Portland. Following a policy established by Portland Audubon and its Board of Directors, bequests are managed by professional financial advisors for conservative growth.

The Board and staff of Portland Audubon honor J.W. and Martha Rosacker for their very generous gift, which helps the organization to weight an important decision carefully and leaves a legacy for protecting birds and habitat for generations to come.

Great Local Products from the Nature Store

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Birdathon 2013: Our flock rallies each spring to raise money to protect birds!

Join us, count birds, collect pledges — be a part of the Audubon Society of Portland’s most important fundraising event of the year: Birdathon is that time when all Portland Audubon members come together to help fill the virtual bird feeder. Because Birds Matter, every single dollar we raise matters — that’s why it’s important for each and every Portland Auduboner to participate. Please, join a Birdathon team, make a Birdathon pledge to someone already on a team, or simply make a Birdathon donation. Together, Audubon members will have a positive impact on birds and wildlife here in Oregon.

Half-Day Trips
A Song in the Morning Wednesday, April 24, 7:00am–9:00am Mt Tabor with Gerald Liddle & Tom McNamara.

Whittemore’s Whatchats Sunday, May 5, 8:00am–Noon Steigerwald Lake NWR with Laura Whittemore.

Bicycling Birds Saturday, May 11, 10:45am–2:00pm A family-friendly birding by bicycle excursion with Barb Grover.

Metro Morris Monday, May 12, 7:30am–1:30pm Experience the excitement of spring migration at Portland hotspots with seasoned birder Tim Shermelder.

Great Big Sit Saturday, May 25, 8:00am–Noon The perfect Birdathon experience for beginning birders!

Full-Day Trips
Mult Madness: Friday, May 17, 6:30am–6:30pm A fantastic trip for both beginners and experienced birders, with Paul Sullivan & Carol Karlen.

The Bus Passerines Saturday, May 4, 7:00am–7:00pm Bird-shiong by public transportation with Steve Engel, Audubon’s Adult Education Programs Manager.

Soggy Bottom Birders Saturday, May 4, 9:00am–4:00pm An exclusive birding tour of wetlands with Ian Abraham & Tim Donner.

Bird Photography with Scott Carpenter The Photographin’ Foots: May 4 (weather permitting), 6:00am–8:00pm The Wandering Wildlife Photographers: May 18 (weather permitting), 6:00am–8:00pm

Raven Maniax Friday, May 16, 6:30am–6:30pm Steve Robertson & Steve Engel take you on a complete day of birding the city to the sea.

The Joy of Birding Saturday, May 4, 6:30am–9:30pm A fantastic trip for both beginners and experienced birders, with Paul Sullivan & Carol Karlen.

Birdathon 2013:
Visiting: Click on the Birdathon link at the bottom of the page at audubonportland.org.
Pledging: Donate online at Birdathon.audubonportland.org or use the pledge envelope included in this Warrior.
Participating: Join a team or fly solo — there are birding trips for any level of bird. See available trips below.

All Birdathon participants are invited to the 33rd annual Birdathon Banquet! Enjoy great food, beer, wine, live music, prizes, and more at this special event: June 21 (Friday), 6:00pm–8:30pm NW Natural Hospitality Room 220 NW 2nd Av. & Davis St. RSVP to 503-292-6855 by June 14.

You can get involved in Birdathon 2013 by:

The Paddle Wagon Saturday, May 11, 6:00am–7:00pm From Portland to Tillamook with Patty Newland.

Maggies: Join one or both days! Wednesday, May 15, 7:00am–3:00pm Thursday, May 16, 7:00am–4:30pm Slower paced, informative trips with expert leaders Denny Graham & Dwight Sangrey.

Gonzo Trips: 2+ days Feathers of Color Saturday, May 4 – Sunday, May 5 Tony DeFalco. Gladys Buzu & Koto Kishida lead a 2-day, laid back tour specifically for birders of color and their friends and family!

The Wild Turkeys Friday, May 17 – Sunday, May 19 The ultimate Gonzo birdathon experience led by Mike Houck, Ron Carley & other notorious birders.

The Roadrunners Saturday, May 18 – Sunday, May 19 A unique, human-powered, carbon-neutral birding experience, a 25-mile ‘birding-by-bike’ ride brought to you by Barb Grover (of Splendid Cycles) & Micah Meskel.

Cream of the Crop Saturday, May 4 – Sunday, May 19 Join Gary Stone for this special bird-quest through the Willamette Valley and out to the coast.

Lager Head Shrikes Friday, May 24 – Sunday, May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend) Dan van den Broek & Mark Greenfield and alumni of Audubon’s School of Birding lead a 3-day, 2-night trip to the Klamath Basin in south-central Oregon.

Questions? Please go to Birdathon.audubon.org or contact Mark Fitzsimmons, Birdathon Coordinator, at mark.birdathon@gmail.com.

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9am to Mon., 7:00am – Fri.

SANCTUARIES
Down to desk every day
NATURE STORE
503-295-9453 10am to 6pm, Mon. – Sat.
10am to 5pm on Sunday

WILDLIFE CARE CENTER
503-292-0034 9am to 5pm every day

INTERPRETIVE CENTER & LIBRARY
Same hours as store

RARE BIRD ALERT
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