Birdathon 2014
Counting Birds Because Birds Count!
Registration for our most important fundraising event of the year begins March 15th!

Join the Biggest, Baddest Birdathon this side of the Mississippi! Be part of the fun — enjoy some of our region's birding hotspots, AND help raise money to protect birds and habitat across Oregon! Birding experience isn’t necessary — you’ll have a great time, as each team is led by one or more of our expert Birding Leaders.

Now in its 34th year, Birdathon is the Audubon way to raise funds for its conservation and education programs. Like a walkathon, but instead of counting miles, we count birds!

To participate, register for one of our many exciting Audubon-guided teams (listed here and on our website) and invite your friends and family to come along or support you with a donation! Be eligible for great prizes for the most species seen, the most pledges received, and the most money raised. Participants are asked to raise a minimum of $35 in pledges unless otherwise indicated.

**Birdathon 2014 Teams**
Here’s a partial list and a synopsis of Half-Day, Full-Day, and Gonzo Trips (2+ days). Visit audubonportland.org for additional trips and more details.

**NEW TEAM!** The Bloggerhead Shrikes — A Virtual Team!
Do you enjoy birding and love to share your adventures online complete with dramatic photos and pithy posts? If so, this team is for you! As a virtual team, you can kine your local area and photograph as many birds as you wish, then tag them online with a #birdathon hashtag. This makes for great social media outreach and great publicity for our Portland Audubon chapters! Your team leader is Tracy Smith, a top-notch bird photographer and local Audubon member.

**Half-Day Trips**

**Soggy Bottom Birders:** May 3 (Sat), 9am–4pm
Join Portland Audubon Education staff Ian Abraham, Tim Donner, and Laura Newton for an exclusive birding tour of wetlands of the Greater Columbia River Basin. We’ll stop at Smith and Beber, Ridgefield and, if time allows, Steigerwald Lake NWR. Ideal for people of all ages who appreciate birding in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

A minimum of $50 in pledges is requested.

**Whittlemore’s Whatzits:** Two trip dates: May 4 (Sun) or May 31 (Sat), 8am–Noon
Popular Beginning Birding and Birding By Ear instructor Lynn Whittemore will guide this Steigerwald Lake NWR trip. Songbirds, ravens, and waterfowl abound — we expect to see 50 species! A minimum of $50 in pledges is requested.

**Clackamas Creepers:** May 17 (Sat), 8am–3pm
Bird Clackamas County sites with Portland Audubon educator and long-time local birder Dan van den Broek. We check out some of the best Willamette floodplain wetlands for Cinnamon Teal, oak woodlands for migrating Warblers and Flycatchers, and the Cascade foothills for Bluebird and Solitaire. A minimum of $50 in pledges is requested.

**NEW TEAM!** Millennial Falcons: May 18 (Sun)
Under 30, anyone? Young adult birders, join Brandon Lampkin and Robin Juskowiak, professional bird geeks and naturalists, for a casual half-day of birding. Explore Cooper Mountain Nature Park and Tualatin River NWR for raptors and waterfowl and end at a pub to celebrate a day well spent, raising funds to help these places thrive!

**Great Big Sit:** May 24 (Sat), 8am–Noon
The perfect Birdathon experience for beginning birders! Bonnie Deneke, Dena Turner, and Phyllis Wolfe welcome you to a leisurely morning at the Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. Bring a lawn chair, sit back, and relax as the birds come to you; 25-50 species frequent this idyllic setting!

**Bicycling Birdos!**
Bring your bike, bring your curiosity, and bring your bike! Bicycling Birdos are a family-friendly, kids-encouraged team that welcomes birders of all levels of experience.

**Jeff Walker**
Sightings of Thrushes, Finches, and Flycatchers are expected. It’s the perfect opportunity to check out some of the best willamette floodplain wetlands. The Habitat Guild will be providing lunch.

**A Song in the Morning:** Date TBD
Bring a lawn chair, sit back, and relax as the birds come to you; 25-50 species frequent this idyllic setting!

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Another Tool for Protecting Portland’s Large Trees

I can’t imagine starting this column with anything other than thanking everyone who showed up to help Portland Audubon keep West Hayden Island from being developed by the Port of Portland. I can’t imagine not recognizing Bob Sallinger, our Conservation Director, who doggedly spearheaded this decade-plus campaign by keeping his nose on the prize. And what a prize it is—an urban wildlife refuge the size of Central Park that supports native deciduous forest and open meadow habitats. The West Hayden Island victory demonstrates how Portland Audubon and the grassroots community can “build a region where people and wildlife flourish together.”

If West Hayden Island is the grand prize for Portland because of its size, regional location, and ecological importance, I submit that Portland’s urban trees are the runners up! Often overlooked, the city’s urban canopy is valued at about $6 billion and is worthy of our attention. While this is the cost of replacing the 1.5 million street trees and park trees that are the backbone of Portland’s green infrastructure system, what’s not calculated in this price tag are the hundreds of thousands or more of big, healthy, native trees growing in your backyard and mine. We don’t yet know the replacement cost of these neighborhood assets but I would bet their value is in the billions as well. I have never taken trees for granted. Not when I lived in New York City as a kid and hung out in my neighborhood “forest” which was actually a pitiful path that connected a schoolyard to a developed park. Not during my stint in New York City as a kid and hung out in my neighborhood “forest” which was actually a pitiful path that connected a schoolyard to a developed park. Not during my stint in New York City as a kid and hung out in my neighborhood “forest” which was actually a pitiful path that connected a schoolyard to a developed park. Not during my stint in New York City as a kid and hung out in my neighborhood “forest” which was actually a pitiful path that connected a schoolyard to a developed park. Not during my stint in New York City as a kid and hung out in my neighborhood “forest” which was actually a pitiful path that connected a schoolyard to a developed park. Not during my stint in New York City as a kid and hung out in my neighborhood “forest” which was actually a pitiful path that connected a schoolyard to a developed park. Not during my stint in New York City as a kid and hung out in my neighborhood “forest” which was actually a pitiful path that connected a schoolyard to a developed park. Not during my stint in New York City as a kid and hung out in my neighborhood “forest” which was actually a pitiful path that connected a schoolyard to a developed park. Not during my stint in New York City as a kid and hung out in my neighborhood “forest” which was actually a pitiful path that connected a schoolyard to a developed park.

I was on the Urban Forestry Commission at the time of the rewrite (and still am) and was impressed by the overwhelming support for the revised code, which included new language for regulating trees on private property. The City Council and Mayor approved a new Citywide Tree Code that, among other things, aims to clean up a very messy patchwork of a tree permit system current today and to be consistent, fair, and streamlined. It was developed to deliver a higher caliber of customer service so that calls to the bureaus about tree-related matters are handled effectively and efficiently. And it was developed to protect our large, healthy trees, many of which are in backyards or undeveloped lots across all parts of Portland. Unfortunately, the implementation of the new code was delayed due to budget cuts.

We are fortunate to live in a city where thousands of large, healthy, native trees still thrive. Let us not take for granted the abundant environmental, social, aesthetic, and economic benefits they offer—and act now to protect them for our enjoyment and for future generations by supporting the code. Look for Portland Audubon action alerts and help us advocate for and implement the new tree code.
Bird Song Walks 2014
7 a.m. Mon–Fri, various sites: FREE!
A udubon Society of Portland is proud to sponsor the 2014 season of weekday-morning Bird Song Walks! From beginners to advanced birders, anyone who is fascinated by the sounds of birds should take advantage of these volunteer-guided walks to the metro area’s prime spring migration hotspots. By starting with the earliest trips you can become familiar with the songs of the common resident species and then keep pace with the migrants as they arrive.

These Bird Song Walks begin at 7 a.m. 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 rains cancel a walk. Try taking the bus if available. Go to trimet.org or call 503-238-RIDE (7433) for route information. For natural history information, maps, and directions for these natural areas, see the latest edition of Wild in the City: Exploring the Intertwine, available at Portland Audubon’s Nature Store. Websites are provided here for each locale.

Mondays April 7, 14, 21, 28
Tryon Creek State Park Leaders: Rick and Stephanie Wagner 11321 SW Terwilliger Blvd, Portland, OR 97219. Take the Terwilliger Blvd exit 1/2 mile and head south on Terwilliger toward Lewis and Clark College. Stay on Terwilliger past the intersections with Taylors Ferry Rd and Bonneville 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. The meeting area is at the north end of a long, 2-lane stretch of road. Meet at the Nature Center. More at tryoonfriends.org.

Tuesdays April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Cooper Mountain Nature Park Leaders: Bonnie Denice and Sue Carr 10892 SW NW Rd, Beaverton, OR 97007. Please be aware that Cooper Mountain has steep terrain. Directions: From Highway 2017, take the Scholls Ferry Rd exit and west on Scholls Ferry Rd past Murray Blvd. At 175th Ave, turn right and go north, uphill, about 1.4 miles and turn left on Kenter Rd. The park entrance is on the south side of Kenter Rd. From the north (Hwy 26 or Hwy 10), turn south on 185th (which will become Gooser Rd), turn left on 190th Ave and left on Kenter Rd. Cooper Mountain Nature Park is a partnership between Metro and Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation. More on Cooper Mountain programming at thpdl.org.

Wednesdays April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Mt. Tabor Park Leaders: Gerard Lillie and Tom McNamara From SE Belmont, go south on SE 6th St for two short blocks. On the other side of the park, turn right and drive as far as possible to gate, and park along street. Meet at the Mt. Tabor Volcanic parking lot. No sign-up needed; call Denny at 503-659-1245 with any questions.

Thursdays April 3, 10, 17, 24
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 SE 205 to West Linn Exit #8 and turn left at end of exit ramp and pass under I-205. Just before the gas station, turn right onto Willamette Falls Dr, go uphill 1 block then left 90 degrees to follow Willamette Falls Dr. Veer right in 1/4 mile onto Sunset Ave, still going uphill, cross I-205, and immediately turn right onto Sunset St. The preserve is at the end of Walnut St. More on this and other Nature Conservancy preserves at nature.org.

Fridays April 4, 11, 18, 25
Pittock Mansion Leader: Wink Gross 3229 NW Pittock Drive, Portland, OR 97210. 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 #8687 at W Burnside & NW Barnes is closest stop.] More at pittockmansion.org.

April 13 (Sun), 7am–2pm Sooty Grouse search trip, northern Coast Range See March 15, 16 Wildflower Walks at Catherine Creek

April 15 (Tue), 9am–3pm Tillamook Bay All-day trip. Meet Ken Chamberlain and Dick Demarest at NW center of park at Safeway (4th St and Stillwell Ave) in Tillamook. We’ll bird some or all of the following: Barrow Jetty, Three Arch Rocks, Oyster Plant, Tillamook Wetlands, and Bayocean Spit. Target species include Wrentit, shorebirds, ducks, raptors, and early spring migrants. The Bayocean Spit part of the trip will require walking over uneven but mostly flat terrain. Bring lunch; trip limited to 12 people. Registration is required with Sarah at sarahlovesbirds@gmail.com.

April 17 (Sun), 9am–12pm Tualatin River NWR, Sherwood Join leaders Max Smith and Sarah Swanson for a stroll to Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge on Highway 99W near Sherwood. Spring is a busy time at the refuge, with waterfowl and shorebirds in the ponds and nesting activity in the forest. Trip limited to 12 participants. Registration is required with Sarah at sarahlovesbirds@gmail.com.

April 22 (Sat), 9am–11am Waterbird walk at the Barlow Trail, Portland, OR Bring binoculars and a field guide, and be sure to dress properly for the weather. Spring mornings can be surprisingly chilly. Steady morning rains cancel a walk. Try taking the bus if available. Go to trimet.org or call 503-238-RIDE (7433) for route information. For natural history information, maps, and directions for these natural areas, see the latest edition of Wild in the City: Exploring the Intertwine, available at Portland Audubon’s Nature Store. Websites are provided here for each locale.

March 15 (Sat), 8am–12pm Wildflower Walks at Catherine Creek Join naturalist Marsh Sly on a hike (or both hikes) in March, April, and/or May at a premier Columbia Gorge wildflower site, where displays from March to May are ever changing. Catherine Creek is on the gorge’s Washington side about 1.5 hours from Portland. The pace is slow but you must hike 2–3 miles round trip with major elevation changes. Limit 12 per hike. Registration required for each hike with Marsh at marshsly1@gmail.com.

March 11–14 (Tue 5pm–Fri 9am) Kinzua Falls Join leaders Dick Demarest and Denny Graham as we look for raptors and large flocks of wintering waterfowl. Trip is limited to 20 people. Registration is required with Dick at 503-407-7912 or rdd@demarests.com. The trip is wait listed, so call for availability.

March 4 (Tue), 9am–11am Fernhill Wetlands Join Dudley Thomas for a walk around Fernhill Wetlands. We expect to find wintering waterfowl, gulls, sparrows, and raptors, some early migrants, and perhaps some surprises. Meet in the Fernhill parking lot. No sign-up needed; contact Dudley at 503-716-0663 or ddbthomas70@gmail.com with any questions. April 23 (Tue), 9am–11:30am Whitaker Ponds Join Dena Turner and Bonnie Denice as we walk the half-mile loop trail and observe at the pond’s ducks and Whittaker Slough, viewing waterfowl and songbirds. The park is located at 7040 NE 47th Ave (0.25 mile north of Columbia Blvd; TriMet bus #75). No sign-up needed; call Dena at 503-236-6972 if you have questions.

April 27 (Sun), 8:30am–12pm Sandy River Delta Please join Tim Shellenberger on this trip with primary focus on early songbird migrants and lingering overwintering birds. Meet by the restroom at Sandy River Delta parking lot. From Portland, take I-84 to Exit 18, just east of Troutdale. At the stop sign turn right and loop under the freeway. We’ll walk 2–3 miles on easy trails. No sign-up needed; call Tim at 971-221-2534 with any questions.

May 1 (Thu), 7:30am–11am Mt. Tabor Park Join Denny Graham for a morning walk at Mt. Tabor, one of Portland’s prime spring migration hotspots. We will be listening to and looking for spring migrants. Meet at the Mt. Tabor Volcano parking lot. No sign-up needed; call Denny at 503-659-1245 with any questions.

COMING UP:
June 3–6 (Tues–Fri) Malheur NWR Contact Shawn Schmelzer at shawnbirder@yahoo.com. Hope you can make it to this trip with Shawn Schmelzer at shawnbirder@yahoo.com. Please join Shawn Schmelzer at malheur365@gmail.com to join us for this trip with Shawn Schmelzer at malheur365@gmail.com. Please join Shawn Schmelzer at malheur365@gmail.com.
A New Vision for West Hayden Island
by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

The City of Portland announced on January 8th that it was withdrawing its application to the City Planning and Sustainability Commission to annex West Hayden Island for Marine Industrial Development. Audubon has opposed industrial development on West Hayden Island for nearly three decades. Public advisory committees have repeatedly reaffirmed the ecological importance of this natural area and raised legitimate, unanswered questions about the need for development.

We believe that because of its size, complex mosaic of habitat types, and location at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, West Hayden Island represents an irreplaceable resource whose loss cannot be fully mitigated. Our urban waterways are severely degraded, and preservation of the few remaining large intact sites like West Hayden Island is critical to restoring health to our river. The proposed development on West Hayden Island would have destroyed hundreds of acres of meadows, bottomland forests, floodplains, wetlands, and shallow-water salmon habitat. It also would have tripled air toxics and reduced the livability of the surrounding community, including Oregon’s largest affordable-housing manufactured home community.

The Port has criticized the City for proposing a mitigation package that it considered to be too high. In fact, the proposed mitigation only partially addressed the actual impacts of the project and it was based on years of sound scientific analysis that is far more precise, rigorous, and reliable than the economic forecasts on which the Port bases its own development aspirations. We applaud the City for standing strong in the face of pressure to allow the Port to externalize the negative impacts of this development. It is time to move beyond the era where industrial development is tantamount to degradation of our environment and our most vulnerable communities.

The Port has also suggested that the region will now have to expand the urban growth boundary to find industrial land. The assertion is false. The West Hayden Island decision is in no way necessitates blowing out the urban growth boundary. The City is not required to find 600+ acres of industrial land. It is required to accommodate job growth and there are plenty of upzone opportunities that are less damaging than destroying natural areas. The fact is that West Hayden Island, even under best case forecasts, would never have been a big job generator, producing at best a meager three jobs per acre. Even those estimates may have been inflated given the growing importance of automation on Port facilities, exemplified by the ongoing labor strife that threatens to destroy the Port’s existing facility at Terminal 6 (T-6). It is time for the Port to take a new approach. It can start by taking a leadership role in cleaning up more than 900 acres of contaminated brownfield in Portland, many of which the City, by its very nature, have always represented more than enough land to meet the industrial land deficit. Second, the Port can take a leadership role in promoting more intensive use of available existing sites in Portland and encouraging more collaboration and efficient land use throughout the entire Columbia River Port System.

Finally, nobody should forget that the Port itself played a major role in creating the industrial land deficit, selling Terminal 3 to a developer to build low rise condominiums and converting huge tracts of industrial land at Cascade Station to make way for another big box shopping mall.

For now the Port retains ownership of West Hayden Island and while current development efforts have been abandoned, there is always a risk of future attempts. The one thing that is certain is that any future efforts will continue to be met with fierce community opposition. This is the wrong place for industrial development. We hope that the Port will choose a different path forward. Thank you to all the people who came out, hearing alarm after alarm, year after year, to oppose this development — your voices made all the difference.

A Strategy to Address Industrial Land Demand in Portland

by Bob Sallinger

A s part of the Portland Comprehensive Plan Update, the City will address issues related to demand for industrial land. Although there are many important issues, the City will need to wrestle with as part of the update, the industrial lands issue, driven by industrial lobbying groups, has received a disproportionate amount of the City’s attention and planning resources to date. Industrial interests have long promoted a false paradigm which demands that the City choose between upzoning open space and rolling back environmental regulations on one hand, or forcing the region to expand the urban growth boundary on the other. This paradigm provides industry with cheap land, allows it to avoid the expense of cleaning up polluted industrial sites, and externalizes the costs of environmental and community impacts. It is great for corporate shareholders, but it is a disaster for the health of our communities, our environment, and ultimately our economy. It is the antithesis of a sustainable approach, predicated upon the idea that it is okay for industry to simply trash sites and then move on.

It is time for a new industrial lands paradigm for Portland, one in which industry maximizes use of the existing industrial land base, restores contaminated sites to productive use, and internalizes the costs of impacts to the surrounding community and environment. We believe that the following 10 points should provide the basis for a sustainable industrial lands strategy for Portland.

1. Clean up the Portland Harbor Superfund Site: The first 11 miles of the Willamette River have been designated as a federal Superfund Site due to industrial contamination. River Industry needs to stop stalling and it is time for them to clean up their messes and get out from under the liability that has the working river paralyzed.

2. Clean up Brownfields outside the Superfund Process: Portland has over 900 acres of brownfields scattered throughout the city. We need a real brownfield strategy (outside of Superfund) to clean up these sites and get them back into productive use. To date industry has basically focused on public subsidies — corporate welfare. The City should develop a carrot-and-stick approach that includes increased enforcement, land condemnation, and incentives to get things moving on the 900 acres of brownfield in this city.

3. Intensify use of existing Industrial Lands: Far too much of Portland’s existing industrial land base is used inefficiently. We need a real consolidation and intensification strategy for industrial lands in Portland.

4. Restrict the ability of industrial landowners to upzone their land for other uses: Industrial landowners need to hold themselves accountable for conversion of industrial land. They complain perpetually about upzoning of industrial lands, but are first in line to seek upzoning if a buck to be made. The Port’s conversion of industrial land at Terminal 1 (T-1) to low-rise condos, and at Cascade Station to make way for a big box shopping mall, stand as cases in point.

5. Establish a new model for cooperation and potential unification of Columbia River Ports to ensure the most efficient use and operation of the Columbia River Port system: The Columbia River Ports need to form real collaborative relationships and explore unification. The worst-kept secret on the river is the way in which the ports compete rather collaborate. Until they develop an efficient, sustainable model that can both compete with Tacoma and Seattle and not be all on one hand yet cut significant.

6. Tie public investment in industrial infrastructure to job creation: If the public is going to invest in infrastructure to support industry, those industries should have a stake and be accountable for delivering jobs. When Audubon urged tying public investment to jobs on West Hayden Island, the Port rejected that concept outright. Columbia River Gorge is another case in point. Audubon supported converting the top third to industrial use on the condition that there actually be some job targets or job incentives built into the upzoning. Portland industrial interests were... silent.

7. The City should move the River Plan forward: River industries continue to fight the River Plan, but it actually gives them two things they have always wanted: flexibility and a higher level of certainty. They fought it because it also holds them accountable for their environmental impacts. They can continue to rage against the concept of internalizing the costs of environmental impacts and wallow in stagnation, or they can develop some real leadership which recognizes that they need new models with a higher level of environmental accountability.

8. Industry should stop trying to pass regulations that cut the public out of the decision-making process: Portland-area industries continue to focus resources on efforts to bypass public process rather than developing meaningful strategies to engage the local community and address legitimate concerns about the impacts of industrial development. Senate Bill 766 stands as a case in point. The public will not support investments in projects where they are excluded. These kinds of strategies are toxic to industry’s long-term interests.

9. Industry should work with the city and environmental stakeholders to develop a permit streamlining process like the one the City of Portland has developed for its own projects when it needs state or federal approval: This approach does NOT cut the public out of the process or bypass review. What it does is get all the parties together early in order to maximize efficiency and coordination. It has cut significant time off the City’s permitting efforts. Unfortunately industry has rejected this approach in favor of strategies that focus on bypassing public process (see point 8).

10. Industry should work with the city and environmental stakeholders to develop a permit streamlining process like the one the City of Portland has developed for its own projects when it needs state or federal approval: This approach does NOT cut the public out of the process or bypass review. What it does is get all the parties together early in order to maximize efficiency and coordination. It has cut significant time off the City’s permitting efforts. Unfortunately industry has rejected this approach in favor of strategies that focus on bypassing public process (see point 8).
**Huge Win for Marbled Murrelets and Old-Growth Forests on State Lands**

by Bob Sallinger

On March 5th, Audubon Society of Portland, Cascadia Wildlands, and the Center for Biological Diversity announced the settlement of a long running lawsuit which the three organizations had brought against the State of Oregon for violations of the Endangered Species Act. The lawsuit followed decades of futile trying to get the State to reform its clear-cut practices — considered to be by far the worst of any public land management agency on the West Coast.

The lawsuit alleged that logging practices on the Elliott, Tillamook, and Clatsop State Forests authorized by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) harmed Marbled Murrelets, protected as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Marbled Murrelets are unique among seabirds in that they nest on the wide branches of large, old trees, making a daily trip of up to 35 miles inland to bring fish to their young. Logging of their forest homes is the primary threat to their survival.

Under the terms of the settlement, the State has agreed to cancel 28 timber sales in habitat for the threatened Marbled Murrelet on the Elliott, Clatsop, and Tillamook State Forests, and improves future management practices to ensure that the species and its habitat is not harmed. On the Elliott State Forest the State has predicted that this will reduce timber harvest from a projected 40 million-plus board feet per year to approximately 15 million board feet.

Under the settlement agreement, the State will now have to protect more habitat for murrelets on state forests. This habitat is key to protecting the species, as current research in the Pacific Northwest shows that murrelet populations

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**Preparing for Spring**

by Larry Campbell, WCC Operations Manager

Spring is in the air and the birds have definitely noticed. Many birds like Great Horned Owls and Anna’s Hummingbirds are already busy rearing their young and more animals are right around the corner. This also means that the busiest time of the year is about to hit the Wildlife Care Center. Baby birds from Memorial Day to Labor Day and will require 5-6 extra volunteers and 1 extra full-time staff person per day. Last year we received over 1,100 baby birds, each needing anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours feeding, cleaning and basking hours. Each of those animals are weighed, cleaned, medicated, and fed (a lot) every day. Some young birds like Red-tailed Hawks or Peregrine Falcons must be fed by a person in disguise so the bird does not become used to people.

While we all look forward to baby bird season, it is the most resource intensive part of our year. That is why this year we have decided to use proceeds from our Call of the Wild Online Auction to support all the young animals that come in. Just like human children, early development is a crucial time not only for physical growth but for self-identification, song learning, and getting foraging skills needed to be a successful, functional member of the flock. The money from the Call of the Wild Auction will go directly to care for the animals we receive from various hazards like cat attacks, loss of parents, or those who have been “rescued.” (Don’t forget that a baby bird on the ground doesn’t mean it is abandoned.) With the proceeds we will buy more incubators; every hatching, nestling, and early fledgling must be housed in an incubator because many birds are dependent on their heat. We will also maintain heat without their feathers. Money will also go toward “feeding puppets” for the animals like the Red-tailed Hawks, Peregrines, Crows, and Herons that need a surrogate to help them imprint on people. We will also build a Vaux’s Swift “Chimney” so the birds can get practice flocking together and coordinating landing in a roost spot.

Don’t forget, though; these animals eat a lot! Money from the auction will also go toward feeding all the babies. Did you know that a Barn Owl chick will eat about 5 mice per day? At $0.65 each, it costs $3.25 per day to feed one Barn Owl baby — then take into account that we can have as many as 20 in our care at one time and the costs keep going up. If you want to help support the Wildlife Care Center and are interested in donating, please go to our auction website, pauadbionaction.dojiggy.com, where you’ll find a myriad of experiences offered by experts, including glide rides, beach houses, photography lessons, cougar keeper shadowing, and my personal favorite: Shadowing a Wildlife Rehabber (me!). All the proceeds go to the Wildlife Care Center, but hurry — the auction ends March 6th at 9pm!

**Please Vote NO on the Water District Initiative**

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In May 2014, Portland voters will vote on an initiative that would strip the Bureau of Environmental Services and the Water Bureau from the City of Portland and place them under a new water board. Audubon Society of Portland and a huge coalition of conservation and community groups oppose this measure and urge you to VOTE NO.

The Portland Water District Initiative would transfer control of more than $15 billion in public assets, including control of our precious Bull Run Watershed, to a new unproven board that is inexperienced and much more susceptible to corporate pressure. Rather than clear-cut older trees in the three forests to help fund schools and roads, the conservation organizations have long encouraged the State to pursue beneficial opportunities. They recommend protection of the forests for use in carbon markets, a timber program that focuses on restoration thinning of dense plantation forests, the sale of key habitat to land trusts or other conservation interests, or a combination of these mechanisms.

This is a huge win for Marbled Murrelets and other species that depend on older forests. The number of canceled sales speaks to how out of alignment the State’s practices were with the law. Hopefully this marks the beginning of a new era of responsible and sustainable management of our state’s forests.

The three conservation organizations on the suit are the Audubon Society of Portland, Cascadia Wildlands, and the Center for Biological Diversity. The groups were represented by Brian Kobilka of the Center for Biological Diversity, Nick Cady of Cascadia Wildlands, Chris Winter of the Crag Law Center, Susan Jane Brown of the Western Environmental Law Center, and Scott Jerger of Field Jerger LLP.

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**CALL OF THE WILD**

Online Auction

**A benefit for Audubon Society of Portland’s Wildlife Care Center**

**Note: Auction CLOSES on MARCH 6 (Thu) at 9pm**

**View auction items and bid at pauadbionaction.dojiggy.com**

To help pay the costs of animal rehabilitation at Portland Audubon’s Wildlife Care Center, we offer unique experiences in our 4th annual Call of the Wild auction:

- **Job-Shadow** Orayan Zoo Keeper: Michelle Schireman at the Cougar and Mountain Goat exhibits.
- **Silent, motor-less glide** flights in a 2-seater sailplane with commercial pilot Gary Gosso.
- **Professional wildlife photography** instruction in the field with Scott Carpenter.
- **Please OPPOSE the Portland Water District Initiative.**

**Please VOTE NO on the Water District Initiative.**

**Image submitted by Bob Sallinger**

www.audubonportland.org

MARCH/APRIL 2014
THAILAND

January 10–25, 2015

A country of Buddhist traditions, temples, and images, the Buddha can be seen in nearly every corner of Thailand, as can offerings of flowers and incense at Animistic spirit houses to provide the purveyor of good fortune. Known as the ‘land of smiles,’ this is a country full of natural beauty and friendly people who, without fail, greet you with a slight bow, palms pressed together in a polite way.

We begin our journey in the north of Thailand, in the city of Chiang Mai, where the night market and the magnificent temple of Wat Phra That Soi Suep will whet your appetite for culture and tradition. Around our hotel we’ll be introduced to some of our first Asian birds such as Suthep, White Wagtail and Red-whiskered Bulbul and Oriental Magpie Robin. Next we’ll head to the ‘land of smiles,’ this is a country full of natural beauty and friendly people who, without fail, greet you with a slight bow, palms pressed together in a polite way.

Next we fly to the metropolis of Bangkok to experience first-hand its famous markets and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. We’ll head south for a day along the coastal salt pans, rummaging through flocks of shorebirds such as Greenshank, Greenshank, and more, we’ll head to the


Belize & Tikal!


S eeing experienced naturalists from Portland Audubon on this adventure to Belize, one of the most remarkable countries in the world. We’ll see the Mayan ruins, all in a country about one-tenth the size of Oregon! Contact Steve Engel at 971-222-6119 or sengel@audubonportland.org for more information.

Leaders: Steve Engel, Adult Education Programs Manager

Tentative Fee: $2605 members / $2995 non-members

Deposit: $1200 required to secure your place

California Condors & Big Sur Coast

September 22–26, 2014

C an’t wait to view North America’s largest bird, the California Condor, in the wild! The central California coast and inland areas offer excellent opportunities to see these majestic birds as well as a wide variety of other species. We begin the trip with a visit to the marines of San Francisco Bay to see what shorebirds are migrating through before heading south to Pinacles National Monument, a unique volcanic landscape that is home to Condor. Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Yellow-billed Magpie and Acorn Woodpecker. We’ll spend three 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 bird species including Townsend’s Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, American Pipit, Horned Lark, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, and Prairie Falcon. We search for and often spot Big Horn Sheep along the high peaks, sometimes distant and sometimes near. Coyote and Mule Deer are often sighted and you never know when a Porcupine is going to waddle into view. Conditions permitting we will venture out to Borax Lake, home of the unique and endangered Borax Lake Chub, and we’ll visit the Alvord Desert. Contact Steve Engel at 971-222-6119 or sengel@audubonportland.org for more information.

Leaders: Kirk Hardie, Portland Audubon Trip Leader, and Bob Sellinger, Portland Audubon Conservation

Group size: Limited to 9–14 participants

Fee includes: All ground transportation, 4 nights double-occupancy lodging, meals except dinners, entrance fees for planned activities, and the services of your leaders.

Californian: $895 members / $1095 non-members

Deposit: $400 required to secure your place

Steens Mountain & Alvord Desert

October 8–12, 2014

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 arid desert, oceans of sagebrush, and the wildlife-rich marshlands of the Malheur basin. From our base in Frenchglen we will spend three 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 bird species including Townsend’s Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, American Pipit, Horned Lark, Northern Goshawk, Golden Eagle, and Prairie Falcon. We search for and often spot Big Horn Sheep along the high peaks, sometimes distant and sometimes near. Coyote and Mule Deer are often sighted and you never know when a Porcupine is going to waddle into view. Conditions permitting we will venture out to Borax Lake, home of the unique and endangered Borax Lake Chub, and we’ll visit the Alvord Desert. Contact Steve Engel at 971-222-6119 or sengel@audubonportland.org for more information.

Leaders: Steve Engel, Adult Education Programs Manager

Group size: Limited to 14 participants

Fee includes: Ground transportation from & to Portland, 4 nights double-occupancy lodging at the Frenchglen Hotel, meals except dinners, all entrance fees, and the services of your leaders.

Fees: $765 members / $895 non-members

Deposit: $400 required to secure your place

Belize & Tikal!


Belize and Tikal!


We haven’t been to Belize in nearly two decades, and it’s going to waddle into view. Conditions permitting we will venture out to Borax Lake, home of the unique and endangered Borax Lake Chub, and we’ll visit the Alvord Desert. Contact Steve Engel at 971-222-6119 or sengel@audubonportland.org for more information.

Leaders: Steve Engel, Adult Education Programs Manager, and Local Guides

Group size: Limited to 14 participants

Fee: $895 members / $1095 non-members

Deposit: $400 required to secure your place

Birds & Wildlife of Brazil

Tentative Dates: April 11–25, 2015

Travel with experienced naturalists from the Audubon Society of Portland and local guides into some of the most incredible bird habitat in the world as you explore the avian wonderland that is Brazil. Regions to be visited include the Pantanal and Atlantic Rainforest.

Contact Steve Robertson at 503-292-6855 ext. 118 or srobertson@audubonportland.org for more information.

Trip Leaders: Steve Robertson and Local Guides

Group size: Limited to 14 participants and 2 Audubon guides

Fee: $3195 members / $3995 non-members

Deposit: $1500 required to secure your space

Texas Gulf Coast

April 9–17, 2014

Leaders: Dan van den Broek and Patty Newland

Fee: $2295 members / 2495 non-members

Deposit: $1000 required to secure your place

Not included: Dinners, and airfare to & from California.

Two spaces left
Beginning Birding 2
This class meets 3 times:
March 18 (Sat), 7am–10am: Field Trips
March 23 (Sun), 7am–10am: Field Trips
March 30 (Sun), 7am–10am: Field Trips

Loons, Grebes, Cormorants, and other diving birds that hang out in Oregon? Did you know that 3 types of Loons in Oregon?

April 9 & 17, 7pm–9pm: Field Trips
April 24, 7pm–9pm: Field Trips

Birding By Ear with Laura Whittomere:
Learn to identify birds by their songs! There’s no time like

May 7 & 21, 7pm–9pm: Field Trips

Birding By Ear with Harry Nehls:
Join local bird expert Harry Nehls for an evening exploring the world of diving birds. Did you know that 3 types of Loons in hang out in Oregon? Did you know that a variety of colorful Grebes nest in the desert marshes of eastern Oregon? Harry will share his knowledge about the Loons, Grebes, and other diving birds that grace our coast, lakes, and rivers.

May 13, 7pm–9pm: Field Trips
May 20, 7pm–9pm: Field Trips

Diving Birds with Harry Nehls
March 18 (Tue), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
Join local bird expert Harry Nehls for an evening exploring the world of diving birds. Did you know that 3 types of Loons in hang out in Oregon? Did you know that a variety of colorful Grebes nest in the desert marshes of eastern Oregon? Harry will share his knowledge about the Loons, Grebes, and other diving birds that grace our coast, lakes, and rivers.

May 7 & 10, 7pm–9pm: Field Trips
May 14, 7pm–9pm: Field Trips

Spring Break Camp 2014 at the Audubon Society of Portland
To register, go to audubonportland.org for online registration or to download a registration form. Call 971-222-6120 to save a place if you are mailing your form. Spring Break Camp runs 8:45am-4:15pm unless otherwise noted.

Newts and Boots
1st-3rd grade
March 17 (Sat), 9am–12pm: Field Trips
Strap on your mud boots and head out to Portland Audubon’s own Balch Creek in search of salamanders and newts. Spring is a time when larvae are coming ashore and salamanders are coming out to mate. This is a rare opportunity to see larval newts and baby salamanders. Each hour-long session is limited to 15 participants.

Aquatic Art
1st-3rd grade
March 20 (Sat), 9am–12pm: Field Trips
Grab your binoculars — we'll bring the scope and chairs! Join us for a guided trip through Sauvie Island as we trace the path of the annual Raptor Road Trip just put on by Portland Audubon and other organizations. Our trip explores all of the Road Trip’s sites in search of the magnificent Bald Eagles, hawks, and falcons that spend the winter in the Portland area. Learn the routes and see the cool things that raptors have to teach us so you can lead your family on the official Raptor Road Trip in February!

Jr. Raptor Road Trip
4th-8th grade
April 12 (Sat), 9am–12pm: Field Trips
Can you imagine what something beautiful using all-natural materials? Learn to create an elegant woven holdfast from pondweed arrowheads gathered from the fresh water of our local stream. This art of basket making gives pine needles are assembled into a beautiful basket. We will introduce the art of camouflage, and of course creating your very own basket to take home.

Coil Basketry
4th-8th grade
April 12 (Sat), 9am–12pm: Field Trips
Are you ever wanted to make something beautiful using all-natural materials? Learn to create an elegant woven holdfast from pondweed arrowheads gathered from the fresh water of our local stream. This art of basket making gives pine needles are assembled into a beautiful basket. We will introduce the art of camouflage, and of course creating your very own basket to take home.

Jr. Wading Heron Hall Field Trips
March 15 (Mon), 9am–12pm: Field Trips
Join local bird expert Harry Nehls for an evening exploring the world of diving birds. Did you know that 3 types of Loons in hang out in Oregon? Did you know that a variety of colorful Grebes nest in the desert marshes of eastern Oregon? Harry will share his knowledge about the Loons, Grebes, and other diving birds that grace our coast, lakes, and rivers.

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Sanctuaries Happenings
18th Annual Native Plant Sale
by Tom Costello, Sanctuaries Director

I
o the past few weeks I have received several calls regarding Nandina, or Heavenly Bamboo (Nandina domestica). This plant has received a lot of attention lately due to reports that its berries can be toxic to birds. While we have not seen cases of Nandina poisoning in the Pacific Northwest, elsewhere in the country there have been reports of bird mortality due to the berries of Nandina.

We have seen similar situations in the Northwest with berries from English Holly (Ilex aquifolium). Holly, like Nandina, will keep its berries through the winter, providing a source of food for birds. At one time in the year when food can be hard to find, birds, often times Robins and Cedar Waxwings, will gorge themselves on the berries. The berries can ferment or metabolize into toxins and cause erratic behavior, and sometimes death.

It is not clear whether the problem results from the inherent toxicity of the berries, from fermentation, or simply from gorging on an indigestible food source, but the result is the same: death by berry. What is clear is that these problems tend to occur when native bird species find themselves pressed for native habitat and start feeding on non-natives such as Nandina and Holly.

We have not been able to find scientific reference to medically-verified deaths due to Nandina berries. Nonetheless, the consensus is that these berries, from fermentation, or simply from gorging on them, can cause trouble for local wildlife and become highly invasive, displacing native vegetation and complicating the problem. What is clear is that these berries are toxic to birds, and that these berries are toxic to birds.

And what better time to begin working on converting your home landscape into ideal native habitat than at the Audubon Society of Portland’s 18th annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday & Sunday, April 12 & 13. 10am–4pm both days. As always, over 100 species of native trees, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, grasses, and vines will be available for sale.

We strive to make our plant sale as user friendly and accessible as possible by providing a cadre of native plant experts to help you select the plants that will suit you and your property best.

Long-time volunteer and Sanctuaries Committee member Gregg Frehert will once again provide her assiduously prepared shopping lists, providing a wealth of information on all of the plants available: typical size, growing conditions, habitat value, and even the color of the flower and fruit type. You can use the shopping list to find out what will grow in that moist, shady back corner of your yard, or which plants will host butterflies and hummingbirds. More comprehensive information on individual plants is posted above plants themselves, including photographs of the plant in bloom.

Many people were deeply disturbed by the huge humble bee die-off last year in Wilsonville. You can learn to become a better advocate for these important insects by using the new field guide Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide by Williams et al (Princeton University Press, $24.95). This is a comprehensive guide to all 46 North American species, and full of useful information for the general reader.

Spiders often get an undeserved bad rap for being scary. These are fascinating and often misunderstood creatures that play a critical role in your backyard habitat. Spiders in Your Neighborhood: A Field Guide to Your Local Spider Friends by Patrick Stadille ($5.95) is a great introduction to common spider species and their behavior.

You can order this guide at the lobby of the Nature Store.

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Portland Audubon at Yard, Garden, and Patio Show

February 28 (Fri) – March 2 (Sun)

This year Portland Audubon is participating in the Yard, Garden, and Patio Show, Portland’s premier spring gardening show, held at the Oregon Convention Center from February 28 – Sun, March 2. The Nature Store has a booth (#1597) featuring bird nest boxes and metal garden art. This year’s theme is Abundant Nature, designed to offer food and forage for humans and wildlife in an easy-care, self-supporting natural system, will be certified by our Backyard Habitat Certification Program (BHCPP) To learn more, attend the free seminar “The Birds and the Bees — and the Bugs” on Sunday, March 2 from 2:30 – 3:30pm at ygpshow.com/seminars-sun.php featuring local experts including Nikkile West, our BHCPP Coordinator, on the how and why of beneficial insects, birds, and bees. More on the showcase garden at ygpshow.com/highlights.php and ygpshow.com/pdf/AbundantNatureGardenPlan.pdf.

Sanctuaries Happenings
Nature Store Highlights
by Sally Loomis, Book Buyer

S
pring is almost here! You gardeners out there are probably ready to get your hands dirty. Before you do, however, come visit the Nature Store and see our selection on natural gardening and the creatures in your back yard. Here are three of our new titles.

The Wildlife-Friendly Vegetable Gardener by Tammi Hartung (Storey, $16.95) gives you inspiration on how to welcome wildlife into your yard and still have a productive kitchen garden. She gives lots of practical advice for following a strategy of “peaceful coexistence.”

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You can create more wildlife habitat with seed mixes from Renee’s Garden. We feature two assortments — one for hummingbirds, the other for butterflies. While not native seeds, these are colorful blends of easy-to-grow annuals that will draw hummers or butterflies to your yard, especially if planted in a sunny patch. Either mix sells for $6.79.

Authors at Audubon: Marcy Cottrell Houle

April 3 (Thurs), 7pm

portland writer and wildlife biologist Marcy Cottrell Houle will speak at Heyday Hall on Thursday, April 3 from 7 to 8pm to celebrate the reissue of her classic work, Wings for My Flight: The Peregrine Falcons of Chimney Rock University of New Mexico Press, $24.95). The event is free and open to the public. Marcy will also be available to sign books after her presentation.

Marcy Cottrell Houle is also the author of a Nature Store best-seller, One City’s Wilderness: Portland’s Forest Park, as well as The Prairie Keepers: Secrets of the Zumwalt. She is a tireless advocate for the survival of the Peregrine and its triumphant recovery.

That same evening, Finnegan, our resident Peregrine Falcon, will be on hand in our Interpretive Center from 6pm–7pm. His handler will talk about how Finnegan came to be one of our Education Birds, and the role of Portland Audubon in the protection of Peregrines in the Northwest.

Marcy Cottrell Houle is also the author of a Nature Store best-seller, One City’s Wilderness: Portland’s Forest Park, as well as The Prairie Keepers: Secrets of the Zumwalt. She is a tireless advocate for the preservation of Forest Park, and a frequent participant in Portland Audubon’s Wild Arts Festival. Please call the Nature Store at 503-292-9453 if you have questions or would like to have a book reserved for you.
Volunteer of the Month:
Alan Locklear
Integrity to a “T” (and an “I”)
by Ann Takamoto, Development Director

E arly Tuesday mornings before the office officially opens, the volunteer station in the administration building is already abuzz with activity. Data entry. That phrase, so daunting to many because of the sheer implication of size and complexity, luckily for Portland Audubon is not the case for our Volunteer of the Month, Alan Locklear. Like most of our wonderful volunteers, Alan takes this job very seriously — every month he diligently transfers membership information from National Audubon Society’s database to our in-house system. He’s also a stalwart data master!

Alan believes in Portland Audubon’s mission to connect people to nature and finds assurance in our growing membership strength in numbers and a stronger voice for conservation in Oregon! We find it hard to believe, with over 6,000 members, the Audubon Society of Portland is the largest affiliated chapter of the National Audubon Society. That’s a lot of data!

Alan has participated in Birdathon for the past 13 years and in recent years on the Gonzou team, the Wild Turkeys, often receiving prizes and accolades for the most donations received or the nearest pledge form. Also a Great Blue Heron and Legacy Circle member, Alan not only gives his time, talents, and expertise, but also his wonderful financial support, along with his wife, Marie Vallorey, who volunteers with Portland Audubon’s Backyard Habitat Program.

A lifelong conservationist and believer in grassroots advocacy, Alan also volunteers for Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV) and works part-time at Food Front doing dishes. He also trains data entry! An avid reader of gardening books, he’s apt to engage you in a discussion about the current topic in which he is immersed — or offer you a bag full of kiwi fruit or a sprig of bay leaves from his home garden.

“Audubon Society of Portland is Portland’s (and Oregon’s) premier environmental organization. I am proud to be assisting this group in communicating with its large membership and raising funds for conservation,” says Alan. We are so fortunate to have Alan Locklear and Marie Vallorey amongst our volunteers and friends, and are happy to celebrate Alan as our amazing volunteer of the month. Thank you, Alan, for your dedication and contributions to Portland Audubon and to conservation.

Field Notes
by Harry Nehls

Sightings

December and January weather was mostly clear, sunny, and dry. Although rather cold, it was perfect for wintering birds as long as food was available. Most of the wintering birds remained through the period without moving too much.

The Hillsboro wintering Rusty Blackbird remained in February and although appearing badly injured in mid-January apparently recovered in good shape. The small group of Cinnamon Teal wintering at the Scappoose Sewage Ponds was seen again January 8 by Don Corogwell. Steve Nord found one at Haggy Lake February 3. Cinnamon Teal at Westmoreland Park displaced many of the wintering birds. At least one pair of Eurasian Wigeon moved over to Crystal Springs and the golf course.

Waterfowl on the Columbia River in North Portland were not as conspicuous as last winter, but Philip Kline saw a male Barrow’s Goldeneye off Hayden Island January 5. On January 2 Andy Frank found a Red-breasted Merganser off Broughton Beach. On January 20 Randy Hill and Lyn Topinka found a male and a hybrid Tufted Duck at Vancouver Marine Park, and Lyn saw another male on Lacamas Lake in Camas. On January 27 Steve Nord observed a male Tufted Duck and male Eurasian Wigeon at Firhill Wetlands.

On January 4 Kevin Sanford saw and heard five Trumpeter Swans flying over Northeast Airport Way. Two Ross’s Geese were regularly seen wintering at Tualatin River NWR. Andy Frank found a Brant on Sauvie Island January 26. Vance Kimball reported a male Mandarin Duck February 5 in Beaverton — a good reminder to watch for hybrid Mandarin/Wood Ducks this summer.

Up to 270 Sandhill Cranes were seen this winter on Sauvie Island. The Renataen Road spreadrow barns were not as spectacular as last winter, but Wink Gross did observe a Chipping Sparrow there January 14. Don Coggswell saw an American Tree Sparrow at the Scappoose Sewage Ponds January 29. On February 4 he saw a Goshawk near Warren. If it wasn’t the same bird Bob Archer saw in the nearby North Unit of Sauvie Island January 26.

Michael Medina noted a Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawk in Washougal February 14. On January 21 Coggswell saw a Snowy Egret on Sauvie Island. Dave Irons and Shawnen Finnegan have watched a Tricolored Blackbird among a McMinnville blackbird flock throughout the winter. Dave also heard a Black Crowned Night-Heron by on McMinnville January 21.

The sunny weather in January allowed some early migrants to drift northward. A few days after the weather turned again most probably drifted back south. On January 23 Jean Barchet Brown watched a Turkey Vulture that over Portland’s West Hills. Steve Naranjo encountered a flock of 17 Tree Swallows at Haggy Lake February 3. On January 4 Jim Johnson saw a Barn Swallow along Elrod Road in North Portland. The same day Frank saw one near the 205 bridge east of the airport.

Our Office: 10 binoculars

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

Thank you to:
• Sheila Barnhart for an ergonomic mesh office chair
• Jim Cruze for 65 Holiday cards with 4x6” wildlife photos inside each; a wildlife photo album; 41 8x10” & 32 11x14” wildlife photos with covers and boards; and 6 11x14” & 2 16x20” framed wildlife photos
• Gregg Everhart for 6 one-gal Tall Oregon Grape plants and 2 one-gal False Solomon’s Seal for the Education Department
• Tim Irving for 5 buckets, 5 carabiners, 5 scrubs, 5 spray bottles, and a bottle of bleach for the Wildlife Care Center
• Leslie Labbe for the generous gift of a spotting scope and several pairs of binoculars for the Education Department
• Megan Legernes for Science Diet Kitten Food and Fresh Dried Shrimp for the Wildlife Care Center
• Helen Mills for large Audubon bird prints from calendars from the mid-1970s
• Murdoch Collections for William Finley photographs, letters, and ephemera

Our Wish List

For All Departments:
• Ergonomic Office Chairs
• Loppers
• Hand saws
• Work gloves

For Wildlife Care Center:
• Science Diet Kitten Food
• Fresh Dried Shrimp
• Dawn Dishwashing Detergent

For East Portland Office:
• 10 binoculars

In 1852 Eugene Schieffelin, a rich influential New York businessman, noticed an outbreak of European starlings in his garden in Manhattan. He imported and released several House Sparrows to combat the insects. His introduction was successful and the birds soon expanded through the city. Later introductions in other parts of the country added to the expanding population. The House Sparrow soon occupied all suitable habitats in North and Central America.

Encouraged by his successful sparrow introduction, Schieffelin enlisted fellow businessmen to form the American Acclimatization Society. The main aim of the society was to bring to America all the songbirds mentioned by Shakespeare. By 1877 the society was regularly releasing European songbirds into New York’s Central Park. Among the large number of species released was the Central Park Starling. During the spring of 1899 Schieffelin released 60 Starlings in Central Park. The next spring he released another 40 birds to the flock. The introduction was successful. It is believed that all the Starlings we see today are descendents of these Central Park birds.

Smaller, less financed groups were organized to introduce foreign birds into the United States, but few matched the efforts of the New York organization. The German Song Bird Society of Portland, Oregon, founded by wealthy Portland businessmen Frank DeKum and Charles Pfieger, was one of the more successful organizations. The chief aim of this society was to introduce German song birds to combat the nuisance of German immigrants that were then pouring into the city. From 1889 to 1907 the society introduced 15 species involving 400 pairs of German song birds, including 35 pairs of Starlings. Most of these were released into the downtown Portland City Park. Later the name of the society was changed to the Portland Song Bird Club and their efforts were expanded into the entire Willamette Valley. In a letter to Schieffelin, Charles Pfieger reported that almost all released species were doing splendidly and that the Skylark could be heard singing all over Oregon.

Pfieger’s letter to Schieffelin was probably highly exaggerated. If it so was, many of the species released by the society soon disappeared including the Starling. The expansion of the New York Starling releases reached Oregon about 1843 and quickly swamped the state. Despite the expenditure of time and effort, many thousands of dollars, and the displacement of hundreds of birds, of all the foreign species introduced by the New York and Portland organizations and other smaller groups, only the Starling and House Sparrow were successfully introduced.

In 1998 the Lacey Act was passed prohibiting the introduction of foreign plants and animals without a thorough scientific study of the effects on local populations. In 2013 the act was revised to effectively abolish all introductions of foreign plants and animals.

www.audubonportland.org
2014 Board Elections
CANDIDATES FOR 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Officers

David Mandell, President
David is the Special Advisor on Early Childhood to Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek and holds a PhD in Political Science. He has been an active birdner since age 5 and has led ocean birding trips off the Oregon coast for The Bird Guide for nearly a decade. David has been actively involved with Portland Audubon since moving to Portland 14 years ago, leading field trips and participating in Birdathon. “As father of an 8-year-old, the legacy we leave to our children has taken on new significance for me. Audubon’s leadership in conservation and environmental education is key to preserving that legacy. I believe that my experience in public policy and nonprofit work will help advance Audubon’s mission.”

John Osborn, Vice President
John’s background is in corporate finance in several different industries, and he is currently Vice President of Strategic Finance and Supply Chain Management at nonprofit Cambia Health Solutions. He has been fascinated with birds since growing up in rural Indiana, and enjoys birding and nature photography. With over 34 years of diversified work and professional experience, John believes his skills and competencies can contribute greatly to Audubon’s conservation and education mission. John’s recent board focus has included the long-range strategic planning for the Wildlife Care Center. “I am committed to making Portland Audubon a top priority and will strive to contribute in achieving its goals and objectives.”

Jay Withgott, Secretary
An author of three leading college and high-school environmental science textbooks, member of the Oregon Bird Records Committee, and a former director of Western Field Ornithologists, Jay has also helped lead the Wild Turkeys Birdathon Team. A lifelong birder, Jay brings writing skills, communications and media experience, and field trip guiding abilities. “I strongly believe in the organization’s mission, values, and activities. Portland Audubon is, quite simply, an organization in which I feel at home. Moreover, it’s one that is vitally important, fulfilling many essential roles in our community.”

Michael Ryan, Treasurer
In addition to legal experience, Michael brings extensive nonprofit board experience to Portland Audubon’s Board. He has served on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge (including serving as Treasurer for several years) for two decades. Other volunteer experience includes the Program Management Committee of the Metro YMAC and chair of its Scholastic Committee. “I have been a member of Portland Audubon for decades and would like to make a more meaningful contribution to an organization that I have long respected.”

Members at Large

Merril Kean
Merril is a business attorney with the law firm of Miller Nash LLP whose practice covers general business transactions, international business and trade, and compensation matters. As a lawyer, Merril frequently works with nonprofit organizations and is well acquainted with their unique issues. Merril enjoys birding (especially in her backyard and Portland’s small bird areas. A Portland native, she has benefited from Portland Audubon’s work since childhood. “Portland Audubon helped shape my appreciation for our birds and wildlife, and I am committed to doing my best to further the organization’s mission and impact within the community.”

Koto Kishida
A Nonpoint Source Specialist for the Watershed Management Section of the Dept of Environmental Quality, Koto is a long-time member, Portland Audubon Board member, and Birdathon volunteer (“Go Fothers!”). She has expertise in environmental regulations and programs related to water quality, forestry, and agriculture. A member of Portland Audubon’s board, she serves on the Executive and Education Committees. Koto is also an African Immigrants Mentorship Program volunteer for Immigrants and Refugees Community Organization, and shares her Portland garden with Urban Farm Collective. “Having worked in the environmental field for over a decade, I appreciate Portland Audubon for empowering conservation supporters to have a strong voice in public processes, and for its continued commitment to diversity.”

Ruth Morton
Ruth holds a PhD in Community and Human Resources, and is responsible for organizational development at NW Natural. She joined the Portland Audubon Board in 2013, and her many years of other board experience include serving as past president of two other Portland-area nonprofit boards. She has been an avid birder and outdoor enthusiast since she heard bird song recordings in her third grade classroom. Ruth and her husband are also members of Tucson Audubon, and she leads volunteer service trips to Hawaii through the Sierra Club national outings program. “I’ve enjoyed many field trips and classes through Portland Audubon over the years, and look forward to the South Africa trip this coming fall.”

Lorena O’Neill
As a lifetime outdoor enthusiast deeply captivated by the wonders of the natural world, including birds, adriftability, Lorena has studied Environmental Law and has experience in the Green Energy sector. She is a Portland Audubon Volunteer Council member and Backyard Habitat Program Volunteer Technician, and also volunteers with the Nature Store, Wildlife Care Center, Swift Watch, Welcome Back Vulture Day, and Native Plant Sale. Lorena earned Backyard Habitat Platinum level Certification for her yard, saying it’s an experience that has transformed her household. “I have deep admiration for Portland Audubon’s conservation efforts, and its community involvement awoke a passion in me to join in the expansion of its mission to new audiences.”

In Memory

Kathy Daehler
Marianne Phillips
Robert Michael Pyle
Radha Deodato
John & Sita Belsate
Barry Shapiro
Wendy Shapiro
Margie Harrell
Cathy Howell
Ron Spencer
Esther Spencer
Tammy Spencer & Richard O’Connor
Russell Donald Humberston
Ann Takamoto
Robert Stevenson
Ruth Hughes
Donna Vinje
The Gablegone Family
Ann Mann
Dana Mitchell
William W. Messinger
Audubon Society of Portland
Gregory Paul Martin
Dawn Ross/ People to People Ambassador
Steve & Lisa Heterle
James & Louise Weiss

In Honor

David R. Archibald
Kathryn Archibald
The Morrigan
Kim & Mark Kanof
Irene Quast
Ruth Morton
Tanya & Carl Cecka
Laigh Cecka
Michael Cecka
Gregory Paul Martin
Sara Slevin
Susan J. Stone
Janie Baccichieri
Mike Rosen &
Chris Prescott
Katlin Lovell
Virginia Ross
Jeannie Beers
Merril Kean
Merril Kean
William W. Wessinger
Koto Kishida
Koto Kishida
Michael Ryan
Michael Ryan
In addition to legal experience, Michael brings extensive nonprofit board experience to Portland Audubon’s Board. He has served on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge (including serving as Treasurer for several years) for two decades. Other volunteer experience includes the Program Management Committee of the Metro YMAC and chair of its Scholastic Committee. “I have been a member of Portland Audubon for decades and would like to make a more meaningful contribution to an organization that I have long respected.”

Lorena has studied Environmental Law and has experience in the Green Energy sector. She is a Portland Audubon Volunteer Council member and Backyard Habitat Program Volunteer Technician, and also volunteers with the Nature Store, Wildlife Care Center, Swift Watch, Welcome Back Vulture Day, and Native Plant Sale. Lorena earned Backyard Habitat Platinum level Certification for her yard, saying it’s an experience that has transformed her household. “I have deep admiration for Portland Audubon’s conservation efforts, and its community involvement awoke a passion in me to join in the expansion of its mission to new audiences.”

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If you are interested in learning more about Portland Audubon, you can make an Honor or Memorial gift online at www.audubonportland.org or by calling 503-222-6130. A songbird gift acknowledging your thoughtful gift will be sent to the honoree or family.
Portland Christmas Bird Count — Biggest than Ever!

by Wink Gross, Portland CBC Compiler

What is that? Ice crystals? — No! Snow Geese! We welcomed as a flock of 400+ birds thatWoody, and a flock of 300+ Western Scrub-Jays. These and various other songbirds contributed to the 2013 count, bringing the total of species recorded to 123, a little below average for the last 4 years. The 415 participants, the Portland Christmas Bird Count is the largest in the United States. Fielding their energy to ensure that people and native wildlife flourish together. We would not be able to accomplish this without their valuable time and talents. Their efforts help us fulfill our mission to inspire.Thank you for a job well done!

A pril is “Volunteer Month” so the Audubon Society of Portland wants to thank all our volunteers who contribute their valuable time and talents. Their efforts help us fulfill our mission to inspire people to love and protect nature. We are deeply indebted to the individuals who give graciously of their energy to ensure that people and native wildlife flourish together. We would not be able to accomplish the work we do without their help. This list includes Portland Audubon’s key volunteers who dedicate a substantial amount of time, weekly or monthly. We also appreciate the many volunteers who help out on annual events and one-time projects, though space limitations prohibit listing them here.

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS! You Make It All Possible!

by Deanna Sawtelle, Volunteer Manager

Members Receive a Discount at the Nature Store!

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

New 2014 Manfrotto Tripods are here! The updated 2014 Manfrotto 190 series tripods have arrived and they are strikingly different! The first thing you’ll notice is the jazzy red color on the center column. Three cheers for those Italian designers!

The updated Q90 rotation mechanism is sleek and compact (this device allows photographers to flip the center column from "portrait" to "landscape" mode). The fliplocks on the legs, now called Quick Power Locks, have a great new ergonomic feel and offer powerful locking of each section, making the tripods more stable. The leg warmers on the aluminum models have also been changed to a rugged, ribbed, rubberized material.

Tubing used in the legs has been strengthened in all models and the maximum leg length has increased from 57° to 63°. The added height and heavier tubing have increased the weight of the entire 190 series a bit, but new magnesium die-castings used in the carbon fiber models help to counter some of the weight gain.

Spring is on the Way! When you stop by this month to check out the new Manfrotto designs, you’ll also have a chance to see many of the great new products we discovered at the Atlanta, Seattle, and San Francisco Spring Gift Shows!
Birdathon 2014
Continued from front cover

NEW TEAM! Wrennages: Date TBD, 8am–Noon
Join Elaine Murphy, known for her Backyard Bird Shop walks and tours, to explore the five different habitat types along the year-round trail at Tualatin River NWR — an important stopover where migrating waterfowl, songbirds, and shorebirds stop to rest, refuel, and raise their young. Appropriate for birders of all ages and abilities.

Full-Day Trips

Multi Madness: May 3 (Sat), 6am–7pm
Wink Grass and Andy Frank lead a tour of great birding hotspots in Multnomah County. We’ll begin at Vanport Wetlands, then to Mt Tabor for migrant fallout, on to Larch Mountain for pygmy-owl and grouse, to Eagle Creek for dipper, goldeneye, and Harlequin Ducks, to Trestle Hill for Wrentit, and finish up at Sauvie’s Island. Expect 95–110 species.

The Joy of Birding: May 3 (Sat), 6:30am–9:30pm
Paul Sullivan and Carol Kalen, former leaders of Audubon’s popular “Birding Weekends,” lead this sunrise-to-sunset adventure. Visit Mt Tabor, Sauvie’s Island, Forest Grove, Killin, Vanport, and the Tualatin and are returning in the evening. All are welcome! You can expect to see about 110 species.

The Bus Passorines: May 10 (Sat), 7am–7pm
Birdathons by Public Transportation! Join Steve Engel, Audubon’s Adult Education Programs Manager, on an all-day troop to prime birding sites in the Portland area: Mt Tabor, Vanport Wetlands, Tualatin River NWR, and Oacks Bottom, all by MAX, bus, street car and feet! All levels of birding experience are welcome.

The Paddy Wagon: May 18 (Sun), 8:30am–3pm
Your expert leaders, Denny Graham and Dwight Sangrey, will start the morning on Mt Tabor to search for migratory songbirds. Then, on to Ridgefield NWR for fantastic birding the rest of the day, visiting both units at Ridgefield and covering a wide range of habitat and species. A relaxing yet very productive trip!

The Wagon Wonders: May 18 (Sun), 8:30am–3pm
WANTED: Every living bird in Washington County! Join Patty Newton and the Paddy Wagon pose! We’ll visit Hillbrook Library, Jackson Bottom, and Killin Wetlands, rounding up the usual suspects and “kingpins” like American Bittern and Acorn Woodpecker.

The colors of May: May 18 (Sun), 7am–6pm
Feathers of Color was formed in 2010 to encourage birders of all ages to introduce new people to birding in Multnomah County. We’ll begin at Vanport Pond, and Leach Botanical Garden.

The Murre the Merrier: May 31 (Sat), 7am–6pm
[Wait List only]
Sarah Swanson and Max Smith, authors of Must-See Birds of the Pacific Northwest, lead this day-long trip beginning in Portland for wetlands then breeding birds in search of dry-side birds. A minimum of $50 in pledges is requested.

NEW TEAM! Put an Owl on It! Date TBD
Join avid birder, professional photographer, and owl enthusiast Scott Carpenter for a full day of birding in the Portland area, with the primary goal of hearing and/or seeing owls: Northern Saw-whet, Barred, Northern Pygmy, Western Screech, Barred, and Great Horned. We’ll start before sunrise and finish after sunset, visiting multiple locations in the Portland metro area.

Raven Maniacs: Date TBD, 8am–6pm
Join Steve Robertson, Portland Audubon Education Director, for a day of birding from the city to the seal! Visit a dozen birding hotspots from Portland to Tillamook and back, hoping for at least 100 species. Transportation is provided. A minimum of $50 in pledges is requested.

Red-breasted Wintersuckers: Date TBD, 6am–6pm
(Open to Wildlife Care Center Volunteers only.) Join Deanna Santelle and Candy Plant as we head out for a full day of fun and birding. We’ll start the day with some backyard birding watching and a light breakfast, then carpool over to the coast.

Gonzo Trips: 2+ days
Wild Turkeys: June 6–8 (Fri–Sun)
Join Mike Houck, Ron Carney, and other notoriou...