Summer Camps: The Portland Audubon Way
by Ian Abraham, Camp Director/On-site Programs Manager

In preparation for another exciting year of summer camps, Portland Audubon summer staff is busy planning trips, lessons, games and adventures that help connect each individual camper to the natural world. We strive to include elements in each of our camps that define the “Portland Audubon Way.” Our camps are science-based and experiential, where problem-solving and thought-provoking challenges are presented daily. Our holistic approach allows campers to express themselves through different mediums such as crafts, poetry, skits, and music. Each program has a foundation of concept-based learning that incorporates hands-on activities throughout. We recognize that campers have different learning styles and we address these by seeing, touching, smelling, hearing, and at times, tasting! Our camper-directed approach allows for the organic nature of an informal outdoor setting to pull on the youth’s passions and interests in the natural world.

Our vision of a residential summer camp at Portland Audubon’s Marmot Cabin continues to become a reality: we are on schedule to complete phase one of a two-phase remodel for summer 2017. In phase one, we’ve added two thirty-foot yurts that will increase our capacity, improve the overall function of the facility, and allow us to introduce residential camps for three age ranges, 2nd through 8th graders, and we are excited to have a location nestled at the base of Mt. Tabor.

Our focus on providing programming to youth who have limited access to nature is progressing in other areas as well. By partnering with Portland Arthur Academy, we once again bring Audubon East Explorers (3 sessions starting July 31, Aug 7, and Aug 14) to our east side summer camp site for a second year. This partnership offers programs for three age ranges, 2nd through 8th graders, and we are excited to have a location nestled at the base of Mt. Tabor.

Our camps teach skills and foster awareness that enhance the personal character and growth of each individual participant. Each program’s theme offers a framework for our professional educators to provide unique and truly powerful learning opportunities. Campers can develop empathy and a scientific mind while exploring the Oregon coast (High Seas & Low Tides: August 21); they can become stewards of the land (Forest to Farm: July 31); and all our camps help children develop community. We recognize that within a week-long program we have the fantastic opportunity to create a culture of care for each other and the land through teamwork and big belly laughs.

What other organization offers camps that focus on mythology and stories of the land in Mountain Myths (July 10) and then bird biology as a Jr. Bird Biologist (July 17)? Where else, within four weeks, can an 11-year-old raft down the Clackamas River in World of Watercraft (July 3–7); learn to shoot a bow and arrow on an overnight program at Marmot Cabin in Archery & Wilderness Skills (July 31–Aug 4); and finally take to the canopies of Oregon’s forest, safely climbing trees and just Monkeyin’ Around (Aug 29–Sept 1)? Even if just for one week, parents have the chance to give children one of the most exceptional summer experiences of their lives. These unique programs allow parents to build a summer schedule that is safe, educational, and above all, ridiculously fun!

To register please go to: audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/camps/summer
Call 971-222-6131
See the summer camp insert for up to date camp opennings.

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Audubon Society
of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, Oregon 97210

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Inside this issue

View this Warbler and many past issues in full color on our website! Go to audubonportland.org/newsletter and enhance your enjoyment of our popular newsletter!
I’ll be there to hand out buttons to all who attend. The event is open to the public, so feel free to share with your friends and family. Let’s all come together to support our local birds and the habitat we all depend on.

Meanwhile, our community of volunteers, donors, and staff is organizing for our own annual spring migration, the phenomenon known as Birdathon. Beginner and expert birders sign up for half-day, full-day, or even overnight adventures to spot birds out in the wild, and ask their friends and family to pledge support. Every dollar raised is used locally to fund our work to protect wildlife and habitat. Birdathon joins together more than 300 volunteer fundraisers who garnered thousands of pledges. This year, we hope to raise $175,000! It’s our biggest and most important fundraiser of the year, and we hope you’ll join this exciting celebration of what we can achieve together, all while doing what we love: walking, hiking, and biking through the Oregon wilderness to view wildlife. Find out how you can participate at birdathon.audubonportland.org.

Thank you for being a valued part of this growing community—of volunteers, birders, and conservation advocates, habitat stewards and creators, and the staff that supports you.

Ross Island Regatta in Honor of 31st Annual Great Blue Heron Week
Sunday, May 21 10am to 1pm
by Mike Houck, Urban Naturalist

In 1986, then mayor Bud Clark, while giving a speech in the downtown Hilton to several hundred western fish-and-wildlife biologists, mentioned Great Blue Herons numerous times. He related the encounters he’d had with herons at his duck blind at Scappoose Bottoms and on his paddles on the Willamette River. Having recently read about several US cities that had an official city bird and knowing Portland had none yet, I grabbed Bud by the arm on his way out of the Hilton and suggested he proclaim the heron as Portland’s city bird. He let out his characteristic “Whoop, Whoop!” and two weeks later Portland had a newly appointed emissary to the natural world: the stately Great Blue Heron. The Portland Audubon Board of Directors and city council adopted a proclamation announcing events for May 1987. The board of directors added air of expectation that’s shared by staff and board as we near the end of this year we read Stafford’s inspiring poem, after which the mayor – William Stafford, 1987

Only three groups of birds are able to learn their songs; namely, songbirds, parrots, and hummingbirds. We study their behavior, their brains, and their genomes, looking for clues as to how these birds are capable of accomplishing this complex learned behavior. The way songbirds learn to sing is in many ways similar to how we humans learn to speak, and indeed birdsong research has contributed many insights into the evolution and mechanisms of human speech and language. Dr. Mello will present some of the latest updates in the neuroscience and genomics of birdsong learning. As we enter spring, this is the perfect time to talk about how the brain circuits in singing birds change in response to cues in the environment and in preparation for the breeding season.

Dr. Claudio Mello, PhD, is an associate professor at Oregon Health and Science University. He has presented at Portland Audubon several times and is always a delight.

Due to high interest, venue location not confirmed at time of publication. Please visit audubonportland.org for up-to-date information.

The Singing Brain: Biology of Birdsong with Dr. Claudio Mello of OHSU
Tuesday, May 9 • 7pm

Due to high interest, venue location not confirmed at time of publication. Please visit audubonportland.org for up-to-date information.

This talk is sure to fill up fast, so we encourage you to grab your seat early! EXPRESS ENTRY is available by signing up at bit.ly/NATURENIGHTRSVP (this is not an RSVP but gains you quick access to the event).

Directions: Willamette Park entrance is at SW Macadam Avenue and SW Nebraska Street. If you are renting a canoe or kayak from Alder Creek Kayak and Canoe or the nearby Portland Kayak Company, make sure you leave plenty of time to get your craft and be at Willamette Park at 9:30am sharp to put in. Alder Creek Kayak, 503-285-1819, aldercreek.com. Portland Kayak Company, 503-459-4060, portlandkayak.com. After unloading your craft at the boat ramp, park in a CAR parking space. You will be ticketed if you park in a trailer space. Be sure to pay for parking. There are two parking pass machines near the restroom at the south end of the main parking lot. For more information contact Mike Houck, mike@urbangreenspaces.org. The paddle is a leisurely two and a half hours and is suitable for beginning paddlers and families. You must provide your own life jackets and kayak or canoe. There will be a safety boat accompanying the paddlers.

From our Executive Director

A Growing Community by Nick Hardigg, Executive Director

It’s May, and our sanctuary woods are happily awakening with the sounds of spring migration. There is an added air of expectation that’s shared by staff and board as we near the end of this year we read Stafford’s inspiring poem, after which the mayor – William Stafford, 1987

Out of their loudness for each other two reeds, or maybe two shadows, lurch forward and become suddenly a life lifted from the dawn to the rain. It is the wilderness come back again, a lagoon we’ll see nesting Bald Eagles that took over what was a bird brain. The ability of these avian creatures to tell entire stories in a single dulcet phrase is not only captivating but sonically fascinating. Neuroscientist Dr. Claudio Mello will bring us new research about birds, their songs, and how they learn them. Join us for a talk about these jewels of melodic expression, and truly understand the beauty of a bird brain.

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NATURE NIGHT

The Second Tuesday of the month from September to May unless otherwise specified. To RSVP to any or all of our NATURE NIGHTS please contact Keia Booker at kbooker@audubonportland.org or 503-292-4855.

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April 22 (Sat), 8am–11am Columbia County Slough
Join Karen Chaiwo for birding in the Columbia County Slough and Water Treatment Plants. We will look for spring migrants who are singing and settling into territories. Meet on Sauvie Island in the TriMet Park and Ride lot. Please plan to carpool and drive about 40 miles round trip. A $3 parking fee required for the Port of St. Helens. Limited to 18 participants. For questions or for more information, contact Karen at kchauwo@conncast.net. Limited to 18 participants. Registration required: tinyurl.com/4ay5-c-slough

May 25 (Thurs), 8am–12pm Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve
Join Dick Demarest at Jackson Bottom to search for spring migrants, including short-tailed and warblers. Resident waterfowl should have young and, of course, the raptors will be hunting. Meet at the Nature Center about 1 mile south of Hilboro on Rt. 219. Questions: Call Dick at 503-407-7932. Registration required: tinyurl.com/JacksonBottomsTrip

May 27 (Sat), 7am–3pm Washington County Coast Range
Join Stefan Schlick at one of the nearby Coast Range sites. We will look for American Dipper, Hermit Warbler, Townsend’s Solitary, and Hammond’s Flycatcher. Northern Pygmy-Owl and Sooie Grouse are also possible. Meet at Jim’s Thruway in Banks. Dress for the weather and beginners welcome. To register or for questions, email Stefan at grefant@hotmail.com.

May 31 (Wed), 7:30am–11am Sandy River Delta
Join Mary Ratcliff and Kathy van der Horst to search for Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats and more. Head east on I-84 to Exit 18 and loop back toward the west. At the bottom of the ramp right turn to pass under freeway, and follow frontage road 0.2 mi east to the entrance of the park. Email Mary at mratcliff@aracnet.com with questions. Limited to 16 participants. Registration required: tinyurl.com/SandyRiverDelta-5-31-17

June 3 (Sat), 8am–11am Cooper Mountain Botany and Botany
Join Bonnie Denke and Dan van den Broek to observe spring floweers, birds, and butterflies of Cooper Mountain. Please note that the park has steep terrain. Directions: From the north take Murray Blvd. south to West Road and turn right (west). Continue up the hill. Turn right at the top of the hill and then left on Kenmer Road. After the four-way stop, continue on Kenmer. The park is one the left at 18825 SW Kenmer Road. Limited to 15 participants. Registration required: email Bonnie (bonniedenke@gmail.com).

June 4 (Sun), 7am–5pm Butterflies of the Lower Deschutes Studly Swallowtails, Whites, Sulphurs, Brush-footed Blues, and more with Dennis Dick and Dan van den Broek. Search for 15 or more species in the mountains, dry canyons, and riparian areas along the lower Deschutes. Limited to 14 participants. Contact Dan (dvdanbroek@audubonportland.org) to reserve a spot. More information and carpooling will be arranged after you have made your reservation.

June 7 (Wed), 8am–11am Powell Butte Nature Park
Join Ron Escano to explore the unique habitats of Powell Butte, and especially looking for nesting Lazuli Bunting. The park entrance is at SE 112nd and Powell Ave. Meet at the top parking lot. Bring binoculars, dress for the weather, and beginners welcome. Registration required: call Ron (503-771-3454) to reserve a spot.

June 7 (Wed), 8am–5pm Mt. Hood Lakes
Join Kathy van der Horst and Karen Chaiwo to search the beautiful slopes of Mt. Hood at Wildwood Recreation Area, Trillium Lake, and Little Crater Lake Meadows. We depart at 8am from the SW parking lot of the Olive Garden Restaurant, 8700 SE Sunnyside Road, across from Clackamass Town Center. Bring a lunch and insect repellent. There will be $3 parking fee for per car. Call Kathy at 503-233-7143 with questions. Limited to 16 participants. Registration required: email Kathy (kathyfrane@ospnet.com).

June 13 (Tue), 7pm–12am Sandy River Delta
Join Kathy van der Horst and Linda Magnuson at one of the Portland area’s premier birding spots in late spring. It will be alive with bird song: Yellow Warblers, Baldcowl’s Orioles, Lazuli Buntings, Yellow-breasted Chats and Red-eyed Vireos, to name a few. Meet in the parking lot in the park. We walk approximately 3.2 miles on flat trails. Directions: Take I-84 east to Exit 18. Turn right at the stop sign, pass under the freeway, and follow the road as it turns east into the parking lot. Limited to 16 participants. Registration required: tinyurl.com/SRD6-13-17.

June 20 (Tue), 7:30–11am Camassia Natural Area & Gnomeah
Join Dick Demarest and Kathy van der Horst to search the rocky meadows and woods of two clifside parks along the Willamette River. Warblers, vireos, woodpeckers, Osprey, and Bald Eagles will be present. Meet at Jon Storm Park, 1801 Clackamass Drive in Oregon City to carpool. Note: trails (about 3 miles total) are uneven and poison oak is present. Limited to 15 participants. Registration required: tinyurl.com/Camass-Camassah-June-20

June 22 (Thurs), 8:30am–11:30am Clackamas River
Join Karen Chaiwo and Mary Ratcliff to look for birds along the beautiful Clackamas River. We’ll meet in Estacada and carpool to two lovely spots to look for breeding birds that nest in the area. A State Park pass is required for cars parking at the Milo McIver State Park ($5 for day use). Mountain lot at Mossy Rock, a gift shop, at 398 S Broadway St, Estacada, OR, 97023 at 8:30 am. Questions: email Karen (kchauwo@conncast.net) or Mary (mratcliff@aracnet.com).
Conservation Moving Toward a Conservation Solution for the Elliott State Forest by Micah Meskel, Conservation Field Coordinator

After hearing from thousands of Oregonians on the importance of the Elliott State Forest and protecting public lands, State Treasurer Tobias Read has announced that he is no longer in favor of selling the Elliott State Forest and instead is pursuing an option that will keep the Elliott entirely in public ownership and decouple the forest from the Common School Fund. He has joined Governor Kate Brown in declaring his opposition to selling the Elliott, creating a majority on the State Land Board in favor of protecting this public treasure. This announcement would not have happened without the incredible advocacy of literally thousands of people who sent a powerful message that selling off our public lands is unacceptable. It represents a major step forward but there is still work to be done. It will be critical to stay engaged.

The State Land Board, composed of Governor Brown, Treasurer Read, and Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, will meet again on May 9 to consider options for how to move forward on the Elliott. If a majority of the Land Board reaches an agreement on the Elliott, the State Legislature will then need to pass legislation to move the Land Board’s proposal forward. It will take ongoing pressure to ensure that our elected leaders stay the course and adopt a solution that truly protects this 80,000+ acre forest and imperiled species such as Spotted Owls, Marbled Murrelets, and Coho Salmon.

The details will matter. The State illegally clear-cut endangered species’ habitat for decades until Portland Audubon, Cascadia Wildlands, and the Center for Biological Diversity brought a lawsuit to stop this illegal logging. A real solution for the Elliott means not only backing away from the sale but also instituting responsible management practices on the Elliott that protect and restore its natural resources.

We look forward to seeing the details of the State Land Board’s plans and will continue to let you know how you can advocate for the strongest conservation solution possible for the Elliott. Please keep up the pressure. You can help by attending the State Land Board meeting on May 9 in Salem and by contacting your state representatives now and urging them to support a solution that protects the Elliott and keeps it in public ownership.

We would not be in the position we are today without the efforts of Portland Audubon members and other grassroots activists from across the state. Thank you all for your phone calls, emails, and in-person visits in Salem! It’s amazing what our collective voice can do!

Forest activists from across the state rally for the Elliott State Forest at State Land Board meeting. Photo by Rob Sallinger

From Wastewater to Wetlands: Community Scientists Help Portland Audubon Document Dramatic Bird Response to Restoration at Fernhill Wetlands by Joe Liebezeit, Avian Conservation Program Manager

The greater Fernhill Wetlands site, comprising more than 700 acres, has historically been a popular birding location in the Portland Metro region and is officially designated as an Important Bird Area. In 2014 and 2015, Clean Water Services (CWS), the owner of the wetlands property, implemented an ambitious habitat restoration project that transformed 90 acres of unused sewage ponds into a complex of native wetland habitats designed to naturally treat wastewater. The goal is to create quality wildlife habitat, while at the same time improving wastewater treatment in a manner that will end up saving ratepayers money. The surface was entirely restructured, and workers planted more than 750,000 native wetland plants and over 3 billion seeds. More than 180 logs and snags were introduced to create habitat and perches for birds and other wildlife. This restoration effort is innovative and builds on the success of other high-profile constructed wetland projects at wastewater treatment plants, such as Arcata Marsh in California and Sweetwater Wetlands in Arizona.

In 2015, through a community science effort involving local birders as well as formal bird surveys, the Audubon Society of Portland began working with CWS to understand how birds are responding to the habitat restoration effort at Fernhill Wetlands. We created an easy-to-follow protocol for community scientists to use as they birded the site and entered their data into eBird (an online database for posting and sharing bird checklists). The birding coverage at this site has been amazing, with surveys conducted over 150 days per year by over 30 dedicated volunteers. Thanks, volunteers!

It’s been only two years since the major restoration work was completed, but we’ve documented some exciting preliminary findings. “Species richness” (the number of different bird species) in spring, summer, and winter has increased significantly following the restoration effort. High species richness during spring and summer is a promising sign that birds are not only flocking to the site during migration but that breeding conditions may have improved for many species. Marsh birds like the Virginia Rail and Sora have increased dramatically following the restoration, with a fourfold increase in less than two years. Numbers of wetland-dependent songbirds, including Red-winged Blackbird and Common Yellowthroat, have increased, as have dabbling ducks, including Mallard and Gadwall. Species that breed in large water bodies (such as wintering Western Grebes) have become generally less common after the restoration, since the amount of open water has been reduced. Birds and wildlife are still adjusting to the vegetation as it matures, so Portland Audubon and volunteers will continue to monitor the site to track changes in the bird community.

The findings from the monitoring effort at Fernhill Wetlands will inform CWS on how to maximize benefit to birds and wildlife that use this site. This collaborative project is bringing a better understanding of the multiple benefits that can be achieved through use of green infrastructure strategies to manage stormwater and wastewater. Lessons gleaned from the Fernhill Wetlands restoration may help foster and inform similar restoration projects at other wastewater treatment facilities across the nation.

If you would like to get involved as a community science volunteer for this project, contact Joe Liebezeit (jliebezeit@audubonportland.org). To read a detailed report on the preliminary results visit bit.ly/fernhillwetlands2017report.

Upcoming Portland Audubon Activist Opportunities

Grassroots activism has always been at the core of our efforts to protect wildlife, wild places, and the health of our community. Your voice is more important than ever as we head toward critical environmental decisions at the local, state, and national levels.

For more information on any of these events or to RSVP, please contact Stephanie Taylor, Conservation Field Organizer, at staylor@audubonportland.org or 971-200-4681.

State Land Board Meeting Tuesday, May 9, 10am-1pm Department of State Lands, 775 Summer Street NE, Salem, OR 97301 Please join us by attending the upcoming State Land Board meeting for the Elliott State Forest to let Governor Brown, Treasurer Read, and Secretary of State Richardson know that the public wants a real solution for the Elliott! Opportunity for public testimony is likely, but it is also important to attend to show support for potential alternative plans that protect the Elliott’s unique natural resources. You can wear green to show solidarity for a conservation solution.

Transportation provided. Please RSVP to reserve a seat: staylor@audubonportland.org

Conservation Wish List

Do you have a small motorboat, travel trailer, or recreational vehicle in good condition that you no longer use and would like to donate to the Portland Audubon Conservation Program? Any of the above would help us tremendously in our field work around the state of Oregon, and all donations are tax deductible!

This is what we are looking for:

• Small motorboat with trailer suitable for work on Columbia River and coastal estuaries
• Recreational vehicle or travel trailer sufficient to house two people (larger is fine as well)

Contact Bob Sallinger at 503-380-9728 or at bsallinger@audubonportland.org
**Wildlife Care Center Looking Forward**

by Lacy Campbell, Wildlife Care Center Manager, and Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

Spring ushers in the Care Center’s busiest season, and the increase in phone calls and intakes is already apparent. Early nesters such as Great Horned Owls and Anna’s Hummingbirds are already passing through our doors, and we know that a torrent of injured and orphaned animals is not far behind.

The past year has been one of transition for the Care Center. The passing of the Care Center’s longtime veterinarian, Deb Shraffler, last summer was a huge loss for our community. In the months since her death, we have reflected on where we are and planned for the future. We think Deb would be proud of the amazing way our community has come together to support the Wildlife Care Center during this time, and pleased with what lies ahead.

We recently hired four new full- and part-time staff. The outpouring of support for the Care Center after Deb’s passing has allowed us to add a new full-time position, something for which Deb had long advocated. The increased staffing enables us to continue to raise the bar on wildlife care, expand our outreach efforts and volunteer opportunities, and upgrade the facility.

In the coming year, we look forward to a variety of exciting projects that will dramatically increase the impact of the Wildlife Care Center. Initiatives we are developing include a veterinary internship program, wildlife research partnerships with educational institutions, and for the first time, a formal youth volunteer program within the Care Center.

We will also be implementing a number of capital improvements to the Care Center facility. We will have much more to tell you about this effort in coming issues of the Biulet, but in the coming weeks, visitors will see a difference as we add new educational bird cages and replace our ventilation system to improve air quality. We have already made a significant investment in a new wildlife database system that will allow the public to track the animals in our care online.

From our founding in 1902, Portland Audubon has recognized the importance of creating strong, visceral connections to the natural world. The great naturalist William Finley, our founder, promoted conservation accompanied by an orphaned California Condor that he had rescued and raised. Our Wildlife Care Center was founded in the 1930s—as far as we know the first wildlife rehabilitation center in the United States. Today it continues to provide an incredible service to our community, fostering stewardship, understanding, and empathy for the wild animals that share our landscape. The last year has been one of transition and loss, but thanks to the legacy of Deb and many others, and the amazing community that volunteers and supports the Care Center, we look forward to entering our next era even stronger.

**Portland Audubon Provides Seasonal Staff at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge**

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

For the past six years, Portland Audubon has provided seasonal staff to support conservation work and outreach at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Staff are housed on the refuge, conduct wildlife surveys and educational outreach, and supervise volunteer work parties on the refuge and in the surrounding community. The staffing we provide reflects the importance that we place on the collaborative efforts to restore Malheur to health and to building connections with the local community. This year, thanks to generous donations, we have more than doubled our commitment at Malheur and will have one or two staffers on the refuge from April through August, and intermittently in the fall.

You can track what is happening at Malheur on our Restore Malheur Facebook page.

To learn more about the collaborative work being done at Malheur, contact Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@audubonportland.org.

To find out how to get involved in a volunteer work party or get a tour of the refuge with one of our field staff contact Portland Audubon Avian Program Manager Joe Lieberzeit at jlieberzeit@audubonportland.org.

We would like to thank Georgia Marshall, Ursula Le Guin, the Burning Foundation, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge for their support of this work.

**Meet Our New Wildlife Care Center Staff**

**Kelly Flaminio** (right) is our new Wildlife Care Center Veterinarian. Dr. Flaminio graduated from Western University of Health Sciences’ College of Veterinary Medicine and has worked as a veterinarian at the Wildlife Center of Virginia, Dove Lewis Emergency Veterinary Clinic, and the Oregon Zoo.

Kelly has been volunteering at the Wildlife Care Center for the last couple of years and has served as the Care Center’s primary veterinarian on a volunteer basis for the past seven months. She will work part time at Portland Audubon and part time at the Oregon Zoo.

**McKenzie Joslin-Snyder** will continue as the Care Center’s part-time assistant. McKenzie has been working part time in the Wildlife Care Center and the Nature Store for the past year. She started in the Care Center a few years ago as a volunteer but quickly picked up the details of the job.

**Samantha DeJarnett** will be the Care Center’s summer staff assistant, covering evening shifts when the Care Center goes to extended summer hours to care for baby birds and mammals. Samantha has been a volunteer in the Care Center since 2016 and comes to us with a lot of animal experience, including work in wildlife centers, veterinary clinics, and animal shelters.

We also want to express our profound appreciation to **Wendy Shoemaker**, who has served as seasonal staff in the Wildlife Care Center for the past three years and has done an amazing job helping staff the Care Center through this transition period. Wendy is moving on to finish school and pursue other conservation interests. Thanks, Wendy!

We are thrilled to welcome Kelly, Rosie, McKenzie, and Samantha to the Wildlife Care Center. Thanks to their passion for wildlife rehabilitation and working with the public, thousands of native birds, mammals, and herpetiles will have a second chance at life in the wild.

**Wildlife Care Center**

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

To learn more about the collaborative work being done at Malheur, contact Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@audubonportland.org.


### Educational Trips

These trips are popular. We recommend that you book early. Trip deposit required to secure your place on the trip. To register, visit our website at audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult and follow the registration link.

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#### Okanagan

**June 16–21, 2017**

Join Portland Audubon on this trip to the Okanagan north of central Washington. We will be looking for summer specialties that are difficult to see in Oregon. Did you know that Clay-colored Sparrow, American Redstart, and Least Flycatcher are relatively easy to find as breeders just to the north of us? We will also look for some more difficult to find boreal species such as Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, Pine Grosbeak, and American Three-toed Woodpecker; however, it will require some luck.

**Leader:** Stefan Schlick

**Portland Audubon Trip Leader**

**Fee:** $1195* members / $1495* non-members

**Deposit:** $600 required to secure your place

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#### Ashland to Klamath

**June 21–25, 2017**

Take a five-day birding and natural history adventure with Portland Audubon through southwest Oregon! Ashland will be our base for two nights as we explore the Rogue Valley, home to rich avifauna including Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Veery. As we explore the high elevations of this magnificent region, we will visit a Klamath Bird Observatory banding station for a unique opportunity to observe birds in the hand and see KBO field biologists in action! We’ll then traverse forest and river edges looking out for Williamson’s Sapsucker and Oak Titmouse as we work our way to Klamath Falls for two more days seeking summer specialties, including breeding shorebirds and waterfowl, and the elusive Tricolored Blackbird.

**Leaders:** Candace Mildred and Dan van den Broek

**Portland Audubon Trip Leaders**

**Fee:** $1195* members / $1495* non-members

**Deposit:** $600 required to secure your place

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#### Montana: Prairies to Peaks

**June 27–July 2, 2017**

This six-day adventure will take in all that the Big Sky Country has to offer, from the expansive prairies of the Northern Great Plains to the peaks of Glacier National Park. We’ll begin in Great Falls and explore Benton and Freezeout Lakes. In addition to abundant breeding waterfowl and waterbirds, the wetlands and grasslands here will give us the opportunity to find many species typical of the prairies. We’ll also be looking for Upland Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, and Sharp-tailed Grouse.

We will continue on to Glacier, at the heart of a vast ecosystem referred to as the Crown of the Continent, Boreal and alpine specialties such as Spruce Grouse, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Black-backed Woodpeckers, and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch will all be highlights as we explore the high elevations of this magnificent region. As we make our way south to Missoula and the conclusion of the trip, we’ll stop to explore the wetlands of the Mission Valley and the pine-covered slopes of the National Bison Range.

**Leaders:** Patty Newland and Dr. Ivan Phillipsen

**Portland Audubon Trip Leaders**

**Fee:** $1495* members / $1695* non-members

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#### Southeast Arizona

**August 12–20, 2017**

Join Portland Audubon to explore the Sonoran Desert and the “Sky Islands” of Southeast Arizona, one of the birding capitals of the United States. Several major ecoregions converge here, and it offers a rich array of flora and fauna. In addition to birds, we’ll be on the lookout for the fascinating Curve-billed Thrasher, Cactus Wren, and Gambel’s Quail. The greatest diversity of hummingbirds in the United States is found here, and we may see up to 10 species, including the Magnificent, Blue-throated, and Lucifer Hummingbirds. We’ll look for the Elegant Trogon at Cave Creek, Violet-crowned Hummingbird in Patagonia, Varied Bunting at Madera Canyon, and we should pick up a Yellow-breasted Chat in the hand and see KBO field biologists in action! We’ll then traverse forest and river edges looking out for Yellow-billed Loon, Common Loon, and Bar-tailed Godwit.

**Leaders:** Dr. Ivan Phillipsen and Stefan Schlick

**Portland Audubon Trip Leaders**

**Fee:** $2355* members / $2655* non-members

**Deposit:** $1200 required to secure your place

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#### Grays Harbor Bay Shorebirds

**September 8–10, 2017**

Join Portland Audubon on a trip to one of the West Coast’s best birding hotspots, where you can expect to see a bevy of shorebirds, and even some seabirds. Early September is the perfect time to look for Pacific Golden-Plover, and even a Bar-tailed Godwit might turn up among the Marbled Godwit flocks in Westport. Many other shorebird species will be present during this peak shorebird migration time. Based in Ocean Shores, Washington, we will visit Bottle Beach, Westport harbor, Tokeland, Oyhub, and the Ocean Shores jetty.

**Leader:** Stefan Schlick

**Portland Audubon Trip Leader**

**Fee:** $395* members / $455* non-members

**Deposit:** $200 required to secure your place

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#### Nature Illustration at Cape Perpetua

**September 8–10, 2017**

Cape Perpetua, Oregon’s largest marine reserve, protects essential habitat for hundreds of species, including the federally threatened Marbled Murrelet, Spectacled Owl, and Harlequin Duck. Cape Perpetua is a place of beauty and mystery. Come explore this special place with our team of experts.

**Leader:** Zebith Thalden

**Portland Audubon Trip Leader**

**Fee:** $515* members / $615* non-members

**Deposit:** $250 required to secure your place

**Single supplement:** Please contact us to confirm availability.

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#### Birthing the Olympic Peninsula

**October 26–29, 2017**

Come join us to explore the Strait of Juan de Fuca in search of rarities, loons, alcids, and spectacular views! The scenery can be Mind-blowing with the high Olympics and snow-capped peaks of the Northern Cascades in full view.

**Leader:** Stefan Schlick and Randy Hill

**Portland Audubon Trip Leader**

**Fee:** $795* members / $895* non-members

**Deposit:** $400 required to secure your spot

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*For registration questions: Marissa Duncan, mduncan@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6131. For more information about any of our trips: Dan van den Broek, dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105 or Stefan Schlick, sschlick@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

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*A portion of your fee is a tax-deductible donation to the Audubon Society of Portland. Portland Audubon's International Tours now include a Carbon Offset contribution that will go directly for the retirement of our carbon footprint. Nature Sanctuary 5 flat fee of $5 per person is included in the cost of these tours and will be used to maintain our trails, plant trees to help grow our native canopy, and sustain this beautiful place for future generations. Thank you.*

Portland Audubon tours are a lot of things, but one thing they are not are photographic tours... so please, no lens over 400mm unless approved beforehand by trip leader.
Bird Journals: Sketching and painting birds simply for pleasure
Saturday, May 6, 9–11am: Grades 2nd–3rd
Class in Heron Hall
Artist and author Jude Siegel provides simple approaches for anyone who likes birds and wants to record them easily on paper. Create or continue a bird journal: learn to see and then draw just enough to suggest the bird you saw. Add some watercolor, and create a sense of the surroundings. No art experience required, just enthusiasm!
Each class has a specific focus and is complete in itself. You may take one or more. Supply list online. All classes will use watercolor, pen, pencil.

May 20: An introduction to sketching birds: form, pose, how to get it on paper. Then, add some color for groupings and background.
June 10: We will explore more ways to create an interesting bird page, with drawing, watercolor, leaf-prints, writing, and more. Also includes a review of seeing and drawing.
July 8: Quick studies are the way to draw live birds. Learning what to focus on is essential! We will use specimens and possibly live education birds to practice these skills, then add some watercolor to get markings and background.

Warblers & Flycatchers
May 4 (Thu), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
This class will focus on two groups notorious for giving birdwatchers a stiff neck and bewildered stare: warblers and flycatchers. Local author and guide John Rakestraw will show you how to identify these birds by sight and sound as well as by posture and performance. The field trip will visit a local migrant hotspot to solidify your new skills.

Space remains in Class-only Option: $14

Birding By Ear
Laura Whittemore will help you learn to identify birds by their songs! There’s no time like now to begin developing this very enjoyable and important bird watching skill. There will be field trips to provide the opportunity for repetition, repetition, repetition!
Fee per session: $115 members / $145 non-members. Each class limited to 14 participants.

Amphibians of the Pacific Northwest
May 31 (Wed), 7pm–9pm: Class in Heron Hall
June 4 (Sun), 8am–4pm: Field Trip (transportation provided)
Over 30 species of frogs and salamanders inhabit the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Ivan Phillipsen will introduce you to the basics of their fascinating world. On the field trip, we’ll have a fun day searching for amphibians in several natural habitats. Field trip involves hiking 4 miles through the forest on a sometimes-rocky trail that has a mostly gentle gradient.
Class with Field Trip, limited to 12 participants: $95 members / $115 non-members (transportation provided)
Class-only Option: $14

Adult East Explorers
The Audubon Society of Portland is excited to offer camps for the second year on Portland’s east side for several fun, weeklong camps this summer!

Audubon Classics:
Fire, Sticks, & Stones
Do you know how to build a waterproof shelter out of nothing but sticks and leaves? Can you make a campfire without using any matches? Learn the arts of Wilderness Living such as Animal Tracking, Fire by Friction, Ethnobotany, and Debris Hut construction. You’ll gain real knowledge during this fantastic and fun weeklong adventure, whether it’s a full week overnighter (6th-8th grade), day trips culminating in a two-night overnighter (4th-5th grade), or day trips culminating in a one-night overnighter (2nd-3rd grade) at our pristine Marmot Cabin near Mount Hood. The Joe Miller Wildlife Sanctuary, which surrounds Marmot Cabin, is the perfect location to foster these skills.

Wild in the City
Aug 7–11
Drawing from the pages of Wild in the City, Dr. Ivan Phillipsen will introduce educators for a week of feathered-friend forays to answer these questions and more! Spy on Great Blue Herons and Osprey on the Willamette River, and search for wetlands and warblers at Smith and Bybee Lakes. Explore Sauvie Island, looking for blackberries and Bald Eagles, listening for the calls of American Coots and Pied-billed Grebes. Whatever you do, flock to this camp and start on the path to becoming a Jr. Bird Biologist.

Fee: $285
**Field Notes**

**by Harry Nehls**

**How Do Birds React to a Solar Eclipse?**

On August 21 a total eclipse of the sun will pass eastward over the central sections of Oregon. This event has generated considerable interest among humans. But what effect will the eclipse have on local wildlife?

On February 26, 1979, a total eclipse passed directly over Portland, allowing many to experience the phenomenon and observe its effects on wildlife. An article published in the May 1979 issue of the Audubon Warbler described some of the effects observed:

“The morning of February 26 came up rather dull and dreary in the northern section of Oregon and southern Washington, but it didn’t dampen the excitement as everyone awaited the big event of the season—a full eclipse of the sun! Presumably only humans anticipated its coming so there was considerable interest on how other forms of life would react. Special watches were set up to observe the reactions of various birds and mammals as the light faded and record what effect it would have on their behavior. For the most part animal life reacted with a little apprehension and some interest. Some species showed a full reaction to the eclipse, whereas others, which is interesting, showed little or no change.”

Most birds responded by settling down and waiting for the sun to come back out again. Mammals responded the same way but showed more interest in the phenomenon. No one reported much change in behavior except for two species which became more timid. The wolves at zoo also became a bit unsettled but did little more than watch the proceedings.

**Sightings**

Cold, wet storms passed over Oregon and California during late winter and continued uninterrupted through March. This must have had considerable influence on the early spring migrations. The main movements, however, arrived about on schedule.

Dennis Deck reported the first migrant flock of *Tree Swallows* arriving at the Tualatin NWR February 13. Violet-green Swallows were first noted February 18 by Matt Cahill near the Tualatin NWR. Harry Fuller noted a Rough-winged *Swallow* at the Tualatin NWR the same day.

Yellow-rumped *Warblers* remained rather uncommon through the spring. Single Orange-crowned *Warblers* were reported through the winter and slowly increased to small flocks by late March. Mark Greenfield reported a Common *Yellowthroat* April 2 on Sauvie Island.

**The Symbolism in Changing a Symbol**

**by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director**

In a 1927 contest sponsored by the Oregon Audubon Society, the nearly 80,000 schoolchildren, representing every county, voted and chose the Western Meadowlark as the official state bird. Thirteen years later, Gabrielson and Jewerti, writing in the seminal *Birds of Oregon*, remarked that the Western Meadowlark was chosen by a vote of the schoolchildren as Oregon’s State bird and nearly every person who has written on Oregon birds since has had something to say about this species which is probably the most widely distributed and among the most abundant of the permanent resident birds. It is equally at home in the arid sage plateaus of southwestern Oregon and the tide flats of the famed coast district. It appears in our field notes from every county in the State and its cheery song is known to our school children everywhere, facts that probably account for its choice as State Bird.

Now the Oregon Senate wants to impose its own preference for a state bird over the one chosen by the schoolchildren of Oregon. Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 18 calls for replacing the Meadowlark with the Osprey. The Senate voted to make this change with no public engagement effort whatsoever and even rejected a proposal by Audubon chapters across Oregon to sponsor a contest for kids to select an official state raptor.

Today the Meadowlark is far less common than in 1927—the loss of grassland habitat has made it increasingly uncommon west of the Cascades. The Oregon Legislature, which now proposes to relegate the bird to the memory hole of state symbols, has repeatedly failed to consider legislation in recent sessions that would have provided funding to help recover Oregon’s imperiled birds, and specifically the Western Meadowlark. Its declining distribution should not be cause to sweep it aside as our state symbol; it should be cause to redouble our commitment to protecting it and the habitat on which it depends.

The proposal is now headed to the Oregon House for consideration, and hopefully our representatives in the House will demonstrate greater wisdom and reject SCR 18. Better yet, they could reject it and commit to bringing forward legislation in 2018 to help fund restoration of the Meadowlark and other declining bird species so that children throughout the state can once again hear its melodious song.

Please take a few minutes to email or call your state representative and ask him or her to vote No on SCR 18. For more information contact Portland Audubon Conservation Director Bob Sallinger at bsallinger@audubonportland.org

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**Volunteer of the Month: Leslie Mundt**

*by Ian Abraham, Camp Director/ On-site Programs Manager*

Leslie Mundt, a Washington native who moved to Portland as a teenager, has volunteered with the Education Department since 2013, when she has taken on many roles within the organization: leading Sanctuary Tours for students in kindergarten through fifth grade, volunteering in the Wildlife Care Center, and handling the education birds. Leslie has been a wonderful educator, leading many children on their first forays into wildlife education and their first “academic” walk in the woods. She takes every opportunity to engage and educate the public on all matters concerning Portland Audubon’s goals to inspire people to love and protect nature.

Since her arrival, Leslie has been a beacon of positive energy; not only for her student groups, but for Education staff and volunteers. Whether it’s 70 degrees and cloudless, or wet, dark, and dreary, Leslie’s smile never falters while she’s leading tours. 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.

Leslie’s commitment to Portland Audubon’s conservation and education goals is evident in the myriad of other volunteer opportunities that she takes advantage of within the organization. She is the only Portland Audubon volunteer who has two full-time shifts in the Care Center: one answering phones as a receptionist, and the other in the hospital rehabilitating orphaned and injured wildlife. As an education bird handler, Leslie exhibits her mastery of public engagement through educating visitors on why wild animals belong in the wild.

When she’s not at Portland Audubon, you can find Leslie volunteering at the Judicial Department on the Citizen Review Board or twirling her baton as a member of two different marching bands.

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

On March 23 Brian and Chantelle Simmonds found a Loggerhead Shrike at the Good Shepherd Church near Boring. Another was found by David Mandell March 25 at the Sandy River Delta.

Perhaps most surprising this spring were the very early Western *Kingsbirds*. Abby Haight found one in Oaks Bottom March 20. Carol Hill found one on the same day at the Portland Airport. On April 1 Abby saw one at Powell Butte Park. On March 10 a female Western *Tanager* visited Lona Pierre’s feeder in Warren.

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**Western Meadowlark Photo by Jim Crisco**
Perfect Summer Reads!

We are always on the lookout for new products from David Allen Sibley, and are delighted to announce the arrival of The Sibley Birder’s Life List and Field Diary (Clarkson Potter, $169.50). Meant to be a companion to the Sibley field guides, it gives you a place to log your sightings of all 990 bird species that have been accepted in the North American region by the American Birding Association, plus room for vagrants and exotics. It comes in a handy spiral-bound format with waterproof cover, so it will hold up to lots of abuse in the field. Here is a pair of new literary works by popular Northwest authors, Seattle-based nature writer Lynda Lynn Haupt (perhaps best known for Crew Planet) has a new title, Mozart’s Starling (Little Brown, $27.00), which shifts between the historical relationship of Mozart and a pet starling, and present day complexities of invasive starlings in the North American landscape. Portland writer Brian Doyle’s latest novel, The Adventures of John Carson in Several Quartets of the World (St. Martin’s Press, $25.99), is a tale of love and adventure based on the life of Robert Louis Stevenson.

Woodpecker Conflicts: What Are Your Options?

Who’s hammering outside my window, why didn’t my landlord warn me, and how did they get up to the third floor of my building? I asked myself this very question one spring morning as I was roused by a loud, methodical tapping on the exterior wall of my bedroom. As I lay there pondering, the pieces fell into place: woodpeckers. Every spring, Nature Store staff and volunteers answer variations on this question dozens, if not hundreds, of times. Many folks are disappointed to learn there’s no quick fix-all solution; the ways to get woodpeckers to stop destroying your siding are as varied as the reasons for the behavior. Woodpeckers typically peck for three reasons:

Nest-Making (April–June)

Woodpeckers nest in cavities they have excavated in mature trees. In a urban setting, they sometimes substitute man-made wooden structures. If you see holes roughly two inches in diameter, and the timing is right, you might have nesting woodpeckers. Solution: Provide a woodpecker nest box (available in the Nature Store). Chances are good that nesting woodpeckers will for the premium, pre-madeoption rather than expend more energy than necessary excavating a brand-new hole.

Territorial Drumming (April–June)

During mating season, male woodpeckers will drum on anything that produces a loud noise to drive away competitors and attract mates. Solution: Cover the object the bird is drumming with noise-deadening material such as heavy plastic, tarp, or foam. If the drumming produces less noise, he will look elsewhere for something to thump on. If it’s not the noise that bothers you but the fact that the drumming is damaging your property, try hanging short metal spears specifically for males to use as an alternative drumming instrument.

Drilling for Insects

If the drumming produces less noise, he will look elsewhere for something to thump on. If it’s not the noise that bothers you but the fact that the drumming is damaging your property, try hanging short metal spears specifically for males to use as an alternative drumming instrument.

Welcome Back, Rufous Hummingbirds!

At the Nature Store, we look forward every year to the Rufous Hummingbirds coming back into town after a long winter away. They follow blooming flowers up the Pacific coast from Mexico in the spring and are said to be especially fond of red-flowering currant. It’s not all sugar and sunshine, however. Rufous Hummingbirds must compete for food and nesting habitat with year-round resident Anna’s Hummingbirds. Rufous Hummingbirds are known by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology as “the feistiest hummingbird in North America,” and it’s easy to see why: these flying pipsqueaks have a penchant for picking fights. Aversion tactics include Mylar scare tape to frighten the birds. Providing alternative food sources such as suet can also be a temporary and bird-friendly fix until you can treat the infestation.

Join us for a Book Club Discussion

Monday, May 15, 7–8pm

Heron Hall at Audubon Society of Portland


“Some people are great writers, while other people live lives of adventure and importance. Almost no one does both. Hope Jahren does both. She makes me wish I’d been a scientist.” —Ann Patchett

Sign up for email updates, announcements, and birding walks with our group. Contact Molly at oregonbirdrider@yahoo.com

Monarch Fieldscope 20-60 zoom

Monarch 5 2x22

Monarch 5 2x22 binoculars

Hummzinger 12 oz

4-port hummingbird feeder $25.00

www.audubonportland.org

MAY/JUNE 2017
Sally Loomis Says Farewell after Ten Years
by Toni Rubin, Portland Audubon Volunteer

O

ter the past eight years I’ve had the privilege and joy of working with Sally Loomis as a volunteer Nature Storer, clerk, Storytine organizer and reader, and member of the Wild Arts Festival Book Fair Committee. Dry, macabre wit, mischievous twinkle of the eye; a librarian’s memory of every volume on offer in the store, what’s in and out of print, pertinent new titles coming out soon; and the reading and birding passions of regular customers and folks who work with her frequently. That’s Sally at Portland Audubon.

If you add a comprehensive knowledge of plants, bird feeders, bird seed, tree, and optics, and an easy willingness to answer volunteer clerk questions no matter how often repeated, you have barely begun to know the energetic, soft-spoken, efficient, and creative woman those lucky enough to work with her know. Sally is a focused and fabulous resource.

In fact, she is so intensely focused that it takes some time to get to know her. But once you do, you have a friend for life. Two years ago Sally, remembering I would be going through Michigan soon, brought me an article on Tawas Point Park, a famous birding spot on Lake Huron. Thanks to that article, my friends and I managed to hit the park during a May fallout, and we could barely advance along the trail for all the wood warblers we were seeing. I went back last year and watched an American Redstart build her nest just barely an arm’s length away. Two of my most fulfilling birding experiences that I will always associate with my friend, Sally, and her graciousness, kindness, and fantastic memory.

And I am taking our friendship outside Portland Audubon’s walls and have begun to explore our myriad common interests. I will miss her on campus but am certain whatever she takes up in the future will be stimulating and just as crazy interesting as the recent article in The Atlantic on Rough-skinned Newt and Garter Snake evolution and the toxicity arms race. Have you seen that one yet, Sally? You will love it!

Katrina Montoya, Our New Sanctuaries Caretaker, Hits the Trails

Katrina Montoya jumped straight into the deep end as our new Sanctuaries Caretaker, right before the start of one of the most challenging winters the sanctuary has faced in years. Winter storms brought with them downed trees, power outages, and trail closures. Thankfully, Katrina came to us as a trail technician, and used her skills both with trails maintenance and volunteer management to quickly and expertly reopen the pathways throughout our 150-acre sanctuary.

Among her many duties here at Portland Audubon, Katrina maintains our trails, manages our native plants nursery, coordinate volunteers, and gives her expertise as a natural resources specialist and facility assistant. Katrina Montoya grew up playing along the Willamette and Umpqua Rivers and their tributaries. After high school she served an 11-month service term in an AmeriCorps program with the Wildlands Conservancy.

In fact, she is so intently focused that it takes some time to get to know her. But once you do, you have a friend for life. Two years ago Sally, remembering I would be going through Michigan soon, brought me an article on Tawas Point Park, a famous birding spot on Lake Huron. Thanks to that article, my friends and I managed to hit the park during a May fallout, and we could barely advance along the trail for all the wood warblers we were seeing. I went back last year and watched an American Redstart build her nest just barely an arm’s length away. Two of my most fulfilling birding experiences that I will always associate with my friend, Sally, and her graciousness, kindness, and fantastic memory.

Katrina says about her new role as Sanctuaries Caretaker, “I spent a lot of time working with parks, local government and did my internship with a nonprofit, and I really wanted to get back to nonprofit work, especially working with an agency that has a mission I can get behind, and I found that place at Portland Audubon.”

Mary Montoya. Submitted photo.

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In fact, she is so intently focused that it takes some time to get to know her. But once you do, you have a friend for life. Two years ago Sally, remembering I would be going through Michigan soon, brought me an article on Tawas Point Park, a famous birding spot on Lake Huron. Thanks to that article, my friends and I managed to hit the park during a May fallout, and we could barely advance along the trail for all the wood warblers we were seeing. I went back last year and watched an American Redstart build her nest just barely an arm’s length away. Two of my most fulfilling birding experiences that I will always associate with my friend, Sally, and her graciousness, kindness, and fantastic memory.

Katrina Montoya, Our New Sanctuaries Caretaker, Hits the Trails

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The Joy of Giving
by Donna Wiench, Interim Development Director

“Audubon helped me discover my love for the natural world. I knew I liked it, but I didn’t know how much.”

People who volunteer for Portland Audubon are often among our greatest financial supporters. A volunteer gets an inside look at whether a donor’s investment is well spent, and sees if employees are dedicated, hardworking, and loyal.

Volunteer Jill Nelson-Debord says: “My husband, Ray, and I give because (1), it’s a good cause. It’s really critical that we motivate young minds and plant seeds big and time. And (2), I trust Audubon to spend money wisely. They operate with a tight budget. I see a frugal style. That matters to me.”

Jill and Ray Debord met at PGE, where Jill was the employee assistance coordinator, and Ray worked at the system control center. Ray says he supports Portland Audubon because it’s significant for his wife, and because “Audubon does very important work protecting wildlife.”

Jill volunteered at several places before settling on Portland Audubon, where she coordinates volunteers for the Wild Arts Festival held each November. “Audubon treats you best,” she said. “The fact that you have 450 volunteers and staff members who know my name is important. I find Audubon supporters to be smart, clever, dedicated, and fun.”

At Portland Audubon, Jill is able to combine her three hobbies: birding, gardening, and traveling. She said: “Audubon turned me on to birding. I’ve always been a gardener, but Audubon directed some of my interest into native plants. I’ve also always been a traveler, and Audubon birding trips have taken me to some interesting places.”

Welcome Our New Membership Manager, Tony Arnell
by Donna Wiench, Interim Development Director

Portland Audubon’s new Membership Manager, Tony Arnell, is looking forward to helping expand the number of member households in our region while taking good care of our current members. He comes to us from the Oregon Zoo Foundation, where he served as Annual Giving Manager. There he managed fundraising activities for the annual fund while also working to inspire support from new and long-time donors.

An Oregon native with nine years’ experience in nonprofit fundraising, Tony graduated from Southridge High School in Beaverton and received his degree in business administration from the University of Oregon. Tony’s childhood home was surrounded by forest on Chehalis Mountain in Newberg, so a love for our natural world was instilled in him at a very early age—and it continues to inspire him every day. Tony says: “Audubon does great work in advocating for wildlife and the wild places of Oregon—and I’m proud to support that mission. I believe it is our responsibility to protect all species and the beautiful natural spaces they reside in.”

In addition to treating 3,000 injured and orphaned native wildlife each year, Audubon Society of Portland’s Wildlife Care Center is the only resource in our region that educates individuals on how to reduce unnecessary human/wildlife conflicts. By making a gift today, you are helping save lives and native wildlife each year, Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges these special gifts:

In Memory
Virginia Ruth Astrue
Margaret & Mike Allen
Mary & Eric Hamilton
Shirley Barden
Doris & Lott Baxa
Barbara Bean
Dr. George Barton
George & Jean Robins
Claire Fitzgerald
Mary Zelienko
Marilyn Gayle Hall
R.D. Donnell
Warren E-Jean Hiss
Scott Bailey & Nancy Abner
Terry Butler
Barbara Finn & David Oberhausen
Robert Head & Sally Mays
Edward Leaupur & Mary Regan
Denise Pukhlik & Lisa Manning
Dorothy Hootman
Florence Swigl
Dr. David Polomy
Gary & Pamela Schulon
Gordon Ranta
Darlene & Dominic Rattles
Gayle & Mike Clifton
Diane Dyer & Family
Christina & Ben Wilford
Rosalind Salling
Rick Brown & Ruth Robbins
Doreena & Wilford
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Mary & Kenzie Wahl

In Honor
The Bostwicks
Blaine Nilsson
Paul Engelmeier
Holly Langer
Pam Meyers
Andy Frank
Lynn Lamrini
Tina Johnston
Jain Konrad

Dr. Marli Lintner
Elise Mark
Nancy Myers
Texas Bradford
Steve Robertson
Harriet Anderson
Ann Takamoto
Harriet Anderson

You can honor a special person with a gift to Audubon Society of Portland. Your gift will be eagerly awaiting the arrival of a second niece this spring when his twin sister delivers. Tony loves nature and wildlife and is looking forward to learning more about birds. We welcome Tony to the organization and are excited to see his plans take shape!

Make a gift today: audubonportland.org/support
Ever wish your hours spent birding could help save the lives of birds? Then join us for Birdathon! It’s like a walk-a-thon, but so much better. Friends, family members, and coworkers pledge money for you to find and count birds...something you’ll likely be doing anyway this spring. Register today and know that every bird you spot will raise funds for their protection!

Birdathon veteran and Owl Be Darned leader Hailey Walls shares why she thinks every birder should participate:

You get to meet other birders. I’ve met several friends on Birdathon teams over the years, and I’ve met more experienced birders that I could turn to for help finding and identifying birds. It’s a perfect way to find birding buddies and mentors.

You’ll bond with your team members. Travel time is filled sharing great birding stories, bonding over nemesis birds. You also get the joy of working together to accomplish a goal, and you create new stories together.

You’ll learn about “secret” birding spots. Trips often incorporate personal birding hotspots—a field behind a warehouse that always has a pecan, a Best Western parking lot that tends to get great birds at the feeders. The seasoned birders putting together the routes know the strange spots that won’t show up in a birding guide.

You discover that birding can happen anywhere, anytime. Finding an unexpected warbler species at a bathroom stop or defending why the woodpecker that flew over the car as you drove through the woods was “definitely a bany and not a downy” is a huge part of the excitement.

Birdathons are exciting, and every bird is new. Because Birdathons are about seeing as many species as possible, each and every one counts. Common birds are new again for experienced birders, and your team celebrates them right alongside you.

You will have a chance to watch more experienced birders ID many different species. Most Birdathon teams have members with a wide range of experience levels; you aren’t likely to be the only new birder, your new birder eyes will help the team find species they may have overlooked, and you can watch your leaders search for specific species and explain their identifications to the team.

You’ll be able to celebrate your wonderful birding day. It’s really satisfying at the end of the trip to spend some time with your new friends reliving the amazing moments and making plans for the next one over a meal or a beverage.

We invite everyone who raises $75 or more to celebrate with us on June 2 at the Birdathon Celebration! Birdathon participants and supporters will be eligible to win prizes and enter raffles for items from dozens of local businesses. We will also have two pairs of Zeiss binoculars available for purchase only to those attending: Zeiss Victory SF 8x42 – regular price $318.96, member price $289.99; sale price at the event $220; and Zeiss Victory SF 10x42 – regular price $322.81, member price $289.99, sale price at the event $224. Doors will open at the North Star Ballroom at 6pm.

We’d love to see each and every Audubon Society of Portland member participate—join a team, make a pledge to a friend or relative, or simply make a Birdathon donation. Together we all count to protect birds and wildlife across Oregon:

Donate online at Birdathon.audubonportland.org or use the pledge envelope included in this Wreath. Join a team—there are birding trips for any level of birder. See the great trips with available space below, find out how to create your own team—or just fly solo! Follow the links at Birdathon.audubonportland.org.

Space is still available in these and other trips:

Greater Pecetoees: Sunday, April 24, 7am-12:30pm
For new birders seeking to develop field skills, with Corinne and Bryan Crawford, Bob Lockett, and Adrienne Wolf Lockett.

Morning Doves: Monday, May 1, 6:30am-10:30am
Morning chorus walk at Cooper Mountain with Darlene Betz.

Cooper Mountain Chickadees: Saturday, May 28, 8am-11am
Birding and photography with Molly Sultzman, Hayley Crews, and Angela Calabrese.

Millenial Falcons: Saturday, May 21, 8am-Noon
A trip for birders 30 and under, with Robin Junkowski and Brandon Lamplink at Fernhill Wetlands.

Jackson Bottom Ramblers: Saturday, June 4, 7am-Noon
Birding with former Audubon staff Steve Engel at this Important Bird Area.

Full-Day Trips:
Washington County Wormeaters: Saturday, May 6, 5am-7:30am
Washington County’s birding gems with Joe Liebezeit and Carol Mudrock.

Mult Madness: Saturday, May 13, 7am-7pm
Wink Gross and Andy Frank lead a tour of birding hotspots in Multnomah County.

Thank you to our Birdathon sponsors:

Marsha Kuechmann & Jackson Welch

Audubon Society of Portland

Counting 37 years strong!

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Audubon Society of Portland

Inspiring people to love and protect nature since 1902

Audubon Society of Portland promotes the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of native birds and other wildlife and their habitats. We focus on our local community and the Pacific Northwest.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES
5515 NW Cornell Rd • Portland, OR 97210
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9am to 5pm, Mon. – Fri.

SANCTUARIES
Dawn to dusk every day

WILDLIFE CARE CENTER
503-292-0304
9am to 5pm every day

RARE BIRD ALERT
503-292-6855
www.audubonportland.org

NATURE STORE
503-292-9453
10am to 6pm, Mon. – Sat.
10am to 5pm on Sunday

INTERPRETIVE CENTER & LIBRARY
Same hours as store