

Warbler



Black-throated
Gray Warbler

Wildlife Care Center's
Online Auction: Feb 10–22
Page 5

Take a Raptor
Road Trip!
Page 3

Spring Break Camps
for Kids
Page 7

Wild Arts Festival
Sets New Record
Page 10



Portland Audubon Launches New Youth ACT Initiative

Youth are not only the conservationists of tomorrow, their voices are also critically important to current environmental protection initiatives both in Portland and beyond. Portland Audubon is excited to announce the creation of **Youth ACT (Audubon Conservation Team)**, a skills-building advocacy program for teens ages 14–18 to engage in conservation issues they care most about. The goals of the program are to engage youth as environmental champions and deepen their connection with Portland Audubon. We aim to provide exciting, safe, and relevant conservation opportunities to give these young people skills and experiences in advocacy and community building, and we will go on educational field trips to areas we are working to protect.

Youth ACT is a three-month-long program of twice monthly trainings and hands-on experiences that will provide youth a variety of skills and tools to empower them to understand and take action to protect wildlife and the environment in their own community. This program provides clear tracks within Portland Audubon for youth to move along the continuum from appreciation to understanding to protection of nature.

The new initiative is led by experienced staff from Portland Audubon's Conservation and Education teams. **Stephanie Taylor, Portland Audubon's Conservation Field Organizer**, brings years of experience as an environmental activist and has worked for a variety of organizations, such as Oregon Wild and the Pacific Wolf Coalition. Her interests span from forest and animal defense to the mitigation of climate change, and include a strong



Stephanie Taylor. Photo by Portland Audubon

emphasis on environmental justice and equity issues. Stephanie will be joined by **Tim Donner, Portland Audubon's Environmental Educator**. Tim has been working with youth in outdoor education settings for over a decade, and has led numerous Portland Audubon youth trips—week-long adventures to Yellowstone, backpacking trips in the Wallowas, and international excursions to Belize. He has a passion for connecting youth to nature and is excited to collaborate with Stephanie to deliver an engaging and much-needed program for youth in our community.

Do you know a high school student who would be interested in participating in the pilot program beginning in March 2018? The first cohort of Youth ACT will be limited to 12 students, and they will begin training on Saturday, March 10, 2018. Space is limited, and students must apply to participate. **Applications are due February 16.** For more information and an application, email Steph Taylor at staylor@audubonportland.org or visit our website: bit.ly/audubonconservationteam



Tim Donner. Photo by Clay Showalter



Varied Thrush. Photo by Roger Golub

21st Annual Great Backyard Bird Count February 16–19

The **Great Backyard Bird Count** is a four-day count held each February with the goal of getting a snapshot of bird numbers and distribution across the globe. As a participant, you commit to count birds anywhere for **at least 15 minutes on one or more of the four count days**. Tally the number of individuals of each species you see, and enter your totals into a free account you create through eBird. To learn all about the count and for detailed instructions visit gbbc.birdcount.org/. Last year, Great Backyard Bird Count participants counted birds all over the world on six continents, including more than 100 countries! A total of 173,826 bird checklists were submitted, and the 5,940 species reported represents over half the possible bird species in the world! In Oregon, 2,576 checklists were submitted, including over 400 from here in Multnomah County. Highlights from recent Portland-area counts include Say's Phoebe, Eurasian Wigeon, Common Raven, Gray Jay, and Merlin!

The GBBC helps scientists determine trends and identify long-term declines that may call for conservation attention and require further study. Citizen Scientists can make crucial observations and contribute to a dataset the magnitude of which no team of scientists could achieve alone!

Questions? Email **Joe Liebezeit, Portland Audubon's Avian Conservation Program Manager**, jliebezeit@audubonportland.org.

Inside this issue

Page 2	.....From our Executive Director
	.....Nature Night Calendar
Page 3	.....Outings & Birding Days
Page 4 & 5	.....Conservation
Page 6 & 7	.....Ecotours & Classes
	.....Spring Break Camps
Page 8	.....Field Notes & Volunteers
Page 9	.....Nature Store
Page 10	.....Wild Arts Festival Wrap-up
Page 11	.....Tributes
Page 12	.....Map/Hours/Business Alliance

View this *Warbler* and many past issues in full color on our website! Go to audubonportland.org/about/newsletter and enhance your enjoyment of our popular newsletter!

From our Executive Director

An Exciting Annual Report? The Answer is Yes!

by Nick Hardigg

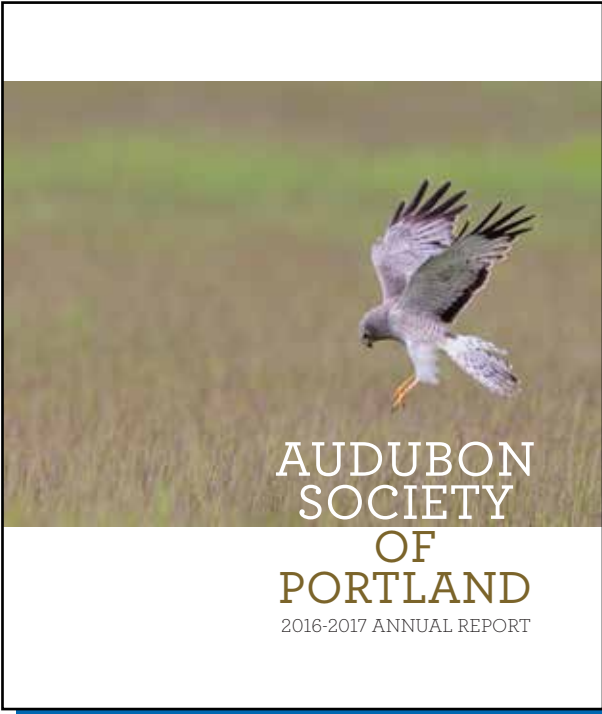


Can an annual report be exciting? We think the answer is yes (!), especially this year. Our 2017 Annual Report not only summarizes a year of proud achievements — from passage and protection of the Outdoor School for All initiative to blocking the sale of Elliott State Forest to a timber company — but also shares compelling new goals in our five-year strategic plan.

Changes in society spotlight a heightened need for innovation and flexibility: to reverse the decline in outdoor

recreation, to find new ways of being relevant to a diversity of communities, and to become an ever more effective voice for birds and nature. As we shared in the September issue of the *Warbler* (“Our Exciting Future”), it is time for us to reach the next level through innovative programs and partnerships, improved communications, substantial improvements at our Wildlife Care Center, overnight camp at Marmot Cabin, and an expanded conservation presence statewide.

We invite you to find out more by downloading the Annual Report from our website at bit.ly/2017annualreport, or emailing **Katy Johnson** (kjohnson@audubonportland.org) to receive a copy by mail. Our gratitude to all of you for making our 2017 gains for conservation possible.



FREE EVENT!

Welcome Back Vulture Day

**Sunday, March 17, 2018
Noon – 3 p.m.**

**Nadaka Nature Park and
St. Aidan’s Church
17405 NE Glisan St
Portland, OR 97230**

Did you notice you see Turkey Vultures in the metropolitan area only in the spring and summer? That’s because they migrate to warmer climates in the winter, but it’s time to welcome them back. We’re lucky to still have good populations of Turkey Vultures in Oregon. Around the world vultures are facing hazards in the wild and their numbers are dwindling. As “Nature’s Recyclers,” they play an important role in reducing disease — and it’s up to us to help save them.

Welcome Back Vulture Day is filled with fun and educational activities:

- Meet Ruby, Portland Audubon’s Turkey Vulture, up close (along with many of Audubon’s other Education Birds)
- Compare your “wingspan” to that of a California Condor
- Make a crafted vulture and mask
- Play “Upchuck Chuck!”
- Learn fun vulture facts
- Find out the differences between Old and New World vultures
- Discover why vultures are important

Come and help us celebrate the beauty of vultures!



Ruby the Turkey Vulture
photo:Tom Schmid

NATURE NIGHTS

Portland Audubon’s 2017-2018 Nature Night Speakers Series is committed to presenting entertaining and expert talks on natural history, wildlife, and conservation issues. Nature Night is a chance for the community to engage with naturalists, authors, artists, enthusiasts, and activists about issues that affect the world around us. With topics ranging from hidden places of the Pacific Northwest, to diversity in the conservation movement, to bats, there is a talk for everyone. Our series takes place on the second Tuesday of the month, September through May (unless otherwise noted).

To RSVP to any or all of our Nature Nights and receive quick entry, go to bit.ly/NATURENIGHT (case sensitive).

If you have a suggestion for a Nature Night presentation or any feedback about a speaker, please contact Keia Booker at kbooker@audubonportland.org or 503-292-6855.

Souvlaki Coyote and Other Tales of Tenuous Coexistence

with Bob Sallinger

**Tuesday, January 9
7pm, Portland Audubon’s Heron Hall**

From its inception, Portland Audubon has worked to create empathy for the wild animals that share our landscapes. It is a desire to go beyond the ecological and biological realms that commonly dominate the conservation perspective and tell stories that fundamentally reconnect our communities with the life forms that surround us, the types of stories that imbue our landscapes with the magic, mystery, ambiguity, messiness, and inspiration that come with the recognition that we are not alone. Join Portland Audubon and our Conservation Director, **Bob Sallinger**, for a special evening of animal stories transcending more than a century of Portland Audubon’s work and learn how those stories inform our approach to conservation today. The evening will also feature the first screening of Trip Jennings’s short film about cormorants of East Sand Island, commissioned by Portland Audubon to tell the tragic story of mismanagement at the world’s largest Double-crested Cormorant colony.

Bob Sallinger has worked for Portland Audubon since 1992 and has helped steer some of Portland Audubon’s most successful conservation campaigns. He finds much of his inspiration for this work in myriad adventures working to protect wild animals across our urban and wild landscapes.



Malheur! with Scott Carpenter Tuesday, February 13 7pm, Montgomery Park, 2701 NW Vaughn

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is one of the top birding destinations in the Great Basin and is considered by many to be the crown jewel of the National Wildlife Refuge system. Tucked in the remote and rugged southeast corner of Oregon, Malheur and surrounding lands provide habitat for many species of birds. As a result, it is well known to Oregon birders as a place to observe and photograph wildlife.

Join local birder and photographer **Scott Carpenter** as he discusses finding and enjoying the bird life at Malheur NWR. With the goal of empowering you with enough information to go out and observe and photograph birds on your own, Scott will share the many insights he has gathered during visits to the public lands of southeast Oregon over the past 13 years.

Scott Carpenter is a self-taught bird photographer based in Portland, Oregon. He became obsessed with birds as a kindergartner in the 1970s. After decades of fast-paced birding and listing, Scott began using photography as a way to better understand the subjects of his fascination. He now spends as much time as possible capturing images showing the behavior and beauty of birds in the wild. You can see more of Scott’s work online at www.scottcarpenterphotography.com.



Nature Night Speakers Series 2017–2018 Calendar

January

**Souvlaki Coyote and Other Tales
of Tenuous Coexistence**
with Bob Sallinger
Tuesday, January 9 • 7pm, Heron Hall

February Malheur!

with Scott Carpenter
Tuesday, February 13 • 7pm, Montgomery Park

March

Bats!

with Cris Heim of Bat Conservation International
Tuesday, March 13 • 7pm, Montgomery Park

April

Wildlife Connectivity

with Quinn Read of Defenders of Wildlife
Tuesday, April 10 • 7pm, Heron Hall

May

Hidden Oregon: Exploring the Obscure Gems of the Pacific Northwest

with Ed Jahn of OPB’s *Oregon Field Guide*
Tuesday, May 8 • 7pm, Montgomery Park

Portland Audubon Outings

Enjoy a free, volunteer-led bird walk to one of our many natural areas. Register through **Meetup**, an online social networking website/mobile app that facilitates common-interest group activities nationwide and around the world. See full descriptions of all free outings and join our Meetup group—**Portland Audubon Outings**—by going to [meetup.com/Portland-Audubon-Outings](https://www.meetup.com/Portland-Audubon-Outings) and clicking **Join Us**. Contact Erin Law at elaw@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119 if you have questions.

January 8 (Mon) 8am–11am Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit

Leader: April Brown

January 11 (Thu) 9am–12pm Fernhill Wetlands

Leader: Dick Demarest

January 17 (Wed) 8am–11am Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

Leader: Ron Escano

January 18 (Thu) 9am–12:30pm Milwaukie Waterfront

Leaders: Karen Chaivoe, Shawn Schmelzer, and Dena Turner

January 20 (Sat) 9am–2pm Clackamas County Lowland Hotspots

Leader: Dan van den Broek

January 25 (Thu) 9am–11:30am \$ Ridgefield River S Auto Tour

Leaders: Bonnie Deneke and Dena Turner

January 27 (Sat) 9am–11am Fernhill Wetlands

Leaders: Sarah Swanson and Nicki Dardinger

January 29 (Mon) 8am–11am Washougal Waterfront Park

Leader: April Brown

February 1 (Thu) 8am–11am \$ Sauvie Island

Leader: Erin Law

February 3 (Sat) 9am–11am Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area


Leaders: Kestin Schulz and Nicki Dardinger

February 5 (Mon) 8am–11am Ridgefield NWR Carty Unit

Leader: April Brown

February 6 (Tue) 9am–11am Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden

Leaders: Kathy van der Horst and Sue Carr

 = Mostly weekday excursions \$ = Fee involved

Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Beginners welcome!

February 8 (Thu) 9am–3pm Newport Yaquina Bay and environs

Leaders: Dick Demarest and Don Stein

February 12 (Mon) 8am–11am Steigerwald Lake NWR

Leader: April Brown

February 15 (Thu) 8:30am–4:30pm Brownsmead area (near Astoria)

Leaders: Dena Turner and Karen Chaivoe

February 24 (Sat) 8am–11am Powell Butte Nature Park

Leader: Ron Escano

February 28 (Wed) 9am–11am Commonwealth Lake Park

Leaders: Mary Ratcliff and Richard Arnold

Portland Audubon Birding Days

 = conservation focus

Birding Days are active, informative, and fun half-day or full-day trips. The price varies. Transportation is included, but bring your own food. Visit audubonportland.org and go to **Adult Programs** to find registration information. Contact Erin Law at elaw@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119 if you have questions.

February 3 (Sat) 10am–3:30pm Portland Urban Wetlands

Leaders: Erin Law, Micah Meskel
FREE!

February 10 (Sat) 6:30am–7pm William Finley NWR

Leader: Stefan Schlick
Fee: \$60

March 31 (Sat) 5:30am–6pm Streaked Horned Larks

Leaders: Stefan Schlick, Joe Liebezeit
Fee: \$60



Red-tailed Hawk. Photo by Scott Carpenter



Photo by Ali Berman



Bald Eagle. Photo by Scott Carpenter

Join us on Sauvie Island for a Celebration of Birds of Prey at the 13th Annual Raptor Road Trip Saturday, February 24, 10am to 2pm

From magnificent Bald Eagles to soaring Red-tailed Hawks to hovering American Kestrels, Sauvie Island is home to many of Oregon’s resident birds of prey. On February 24, the community can join experienced naturalists and raptor experts from Portland Audubon, Metro, Hawk Watch International, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife at the 13th Annual Raptor Road Trip and learn more about these amazing birds.

How does Raptor Road Trip work?

Visitors begin their day at **Kruger’s Farm Market**, 17100 NW Sauvie Island Road, where you’ll pick up an event map and illustrated raptor identification guide. The event fee is **\$10 per vehicle (cash only)**, and includes a one-day Sauvie Island Wildlife Area parking permit.

After checking in at Kruger’s, head out on a self-guided tour to visit the island viewing locations where you’ll find naturalists and spotting scopes to help you spot the birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, and dress for the weather. Visitors should allow approximately three hours

to visit all four locations. ***The Road Trip is suitable for birders of all skill levels, and families are welcome. Two of the sites—Raccoon Point, and the Wildlife Viewing Platform—are wheelchair accessible.***

What will you see?

Frequently sighted raptor species include **Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, and Northern Harrier**. With a little luck you might spot a **Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Rough-legged Hawk, or Cooper’s Hawk**. And while not raptors, **Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese, and Great Blue Herons** are also commonly seen at this time of year. At Howell Territorial Park, visitors can meet Portland Audubon’s raptor ambassadors and enjoy a variety of fun, raptor-themed family activities.

No registration is required. For more information, visit audubonportland.org/local-birding/raptor-trip.

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



Xena. Photo by Clay Showalter

Welcome to the Team, Xena!

Portland Audubon is very pleased to introduce our newest education bird, **Xena, an American Kestrel**. Education birds have an important role at Portland Audubon—they are a source of inspiration to sanctuary visitors, community members, and school children who encounter them on our trails, at a community event, or in a school classroom. Not only do the birds serve as ambassadors for their species, but they also help us to teach folks about the work of our Wildlife Care Center and connect people to ways that they can get more involved and make a difference for birds and their habitats.

Like all of our education birds, Xena is not able to be released. She was brought to the Care Center in June 2017 with significant wing and leg injuries. Unfortunately, we do not know the cause of her injuries. Our Care Center staff and veterinarian knew immediately that her injuries would not enable her to have the perfect flight that she would need to be released. After careful consideration of her long-term quality of life and evaluation of her suitability as an education bird, she joined our team this past fall. She can currently be seen up at our sanctuary and will be attending this year’s Raptor Road Trip on February 24.

Conservation

Building on a Century of Conservation at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

by Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt set out to see the natural wonders of the Western United States on what would become known at the Great Loop Tour: a 60-day train trip on which he visited Yellowstone with John Burroughs, identified birds and plants at the Grand Canyon, scolded Californians for desecrating the Redwoods with nameplates, and camped in Yosemite with John Muir. Roosevelt eventually arrived in Portland and, as the story goes, was greeted with enormous crowds and great fanfare. However, he mostly ignored the attention and demanded to see one person in particular, another great naturalist, and Portland Audubon founder, William L. Finley. Finley used that visit to lobby Roosevelt, using tales of wanton slaughter of wild birds for the plume trade and spectacular photographs on hand-painted glass slides to protect the first wildlife refuges in the Western United States at Malheur, Klamath, and Three Arch Rocks. Subsequent visits by Finley to Washington DC to meet with the president and tireless lobbying by the fledgling Audubon Society in Portland eventually hit their marks: Roosevelt established Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge in 1907 and Klamath and Malheur followed in 1908.

The stories of Portland Audubon and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge have been interwoven for more than a century. Finley and Audubon would return and fight to successfully expand the refuge in the 1930s when water battles on the Blitzen River threatened to deplete Malheur Lake. Dave Marshall, whose family was instrumental in Portland Audubon’s first several decades and who himself would remain a key leader in the organization for decades, took his first trip to Malheur on a Portland Audubon trip at age 11 in 1937 and would go on to be one of the most influential biologists in Malheur’s history.

One of my most powerful experiences as a Portland Audubon staffer was attending a conservation planning meeting at the refuge early on in my career. The refuge manager, Tim Bodeen, asked the 50 or so attendees in the room to line up in order of our historical relationship with the refuge. Being the newbie in the room I put myself dead last, but Tim came over, put his hands on my shoulder and marched my to the other end of the line just beyond the tribes whose relationship with the land extends to time immemorial and the homesteaders. “You may be new in this room,” he told me, “but your organization is the reason this refuge exists.”

Today, Malheur remains one of the most important bird refuges in the United States. It provides habitat for more than 300 avian species. Each year hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and tens of thousands of shorebirds pass through Malheur. The refuge hosts up to half the world’s

population of Ross’s Geese, 20% of the world’s population of White-faced Ibises, the largest population of Sandhill Cranes of any refuge in the West, and a variety of other globally and continentally important avian populations. Statistics don’t tell the story, however; it is a magical, stunning, sublime landscape.

It also faces profound challenges. Malheur Lake, which once produced as many as 180,000 waterfowl per year, currently produces less than 10,000 due to habitat destruction by invasive carp. The ecological value of critically important farm and ranchlands surrounding Malheur is imperiled by changing irrigation practices. Cattle grazing on the refuge has long been a source of contention. It was the place where a movement seeking to reverse the protection of public lands decided in 2016 to make its stand...and lost.

Today Portland Audubon’s commitment to Malheur remains as strong as it was at our founding more than a century ago. For the better part of a decade, we have worked with a broad coalition of groups that includes the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other natural resource agencies, the Burns-Paiute Tribe, ranchers, Harney County Commissioners, conservation groups, and others to develop and implement a plan to restore Malheur and the surrounding landscape. From our perspective, it is one of the most important bird conservation efforts in the West, but it is also just as important because of the relationships it is creating and the bridges it is building. This landscape has historically been as conflicted as any in the West, but through years of work this coalition, which now calls itself the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative, has found real common ground to move forward and has established a level of trust sufficient to allow us to begin to navigate the issues that still divide us. In part, these relationships helped thwart the occupation in 2016.

For the past several years, Portland Audubon has made significant investments in providing seasonal staff at the refuge as well as continuing to actively participate in ongoing planning and collaborative processes. In 2018, we plan to take our efforts in Harney County to the next level by hiring a year-round staff person to live in Harney County. This position will be responsible for helping implement conservation projects on the refuge, building relationships within the county, and developing volunteer projects. We believe that having permanent “boots on



Malheur Sunset. Photo by Candace Larson

High Desert by Ursula K. Le Guin

Out here, there is another way to be.
There is a rising brightness in the rock,
a singing in the silence of the tree.
Something always moving, running free,
as quick and still as quail move in a flock.
The hills out here know a hard way to be.
I have to listen for it patiently:
A drumming cantor slowing to a walk,
a flutter in the silence of a tree.
The owl’s call from the rimrock changes key.
What door will open to the flicker’s knock?
Out here there is another way to be,
described by the high circle of a hawk,
above what hides in the silence of the tree.
The cottonwoods in their simplicity
talk softly on, as hidden waters talk,
an almost singing in the tree
that says, here is another way to be.

*Published with permission of Ursula K. Le Guin and Roger Dorband from their book of poems and images from the Steens Mountain Country, **Out Here**.*

the ground” is critical to building on the work and the relationships that are already developing.

There are many opportunities to get involved in this important work. To find out how to become more involved or to support Portland Audubon’s Malheur work, please contact **Bob Sallinger** at bsallinger@audubonportland.org.

Portland Audubon thanks Ursula K. Le Guin, Georgia Marshall, the Burning Foundation, the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative, and OWEB for their strong support of this work.

Malheur on the Mend

by Candace Larson, Malheur Field Biologist, and Joe Liebezeit, Avian Conservation Program Manager

This past year was one of rebuilding and renewal as Malheur National Wildlife Refuge continued to recover from the upheaval resulting from the 2016 occupation. With a new biology staff at the refuge, Portland Audubon’s deep history, experience, and commitment were especially important in assisting staff get back up to speed on this astonishing gem in the refuge system. With over 187,000 acres of acres of lakes, marshes, meadows, rivers, playas, and sagebrush uplands, the breadth of work that goes into maintaining this huge and complicated piece of real estate—from hundreds of water-control structures to countless historical and prehistorical cultural resources—is truly awesome. We were able to build on a suite of monitoring priorities, from crane counts to shorebird surveys, and kept the refuge on track as it works to meet its goals under the current comprehensive conservation plan—an ambitious 15-year management plan to restore habitats and bird populations on the refuge. We counted booming bitterns in the marshes, packs of plovers on the lakes, babbling Bobolinks fluttering over wet meadow grasses, and crafty chats playing hide-and-seek in the willow corridors. We listened to the elegant bugle of Trumpeter Swans over Benson Pond, and watched Golden Eagles court

and mate in the rimrock, then raise tiny, white puffballs into majestic, golden-naped jackrabbit hunters.

Portland Audubon has provided a full-time seasonal field biologist to the Refuge since 2012, helping staff design and refine bird monitoring protocols and conduct surveys throughout the busy spring season as the refuge works toward its avian conservation goals. In April, Candace Larson once again ventured to Malheur for ten weeks of adventure in the beautiful high desert. From the Sandhill Cranes’ first courtship dances in April to the sight of golden crane colts wobbling through tall meadow grasses in June, it was a majestic season at Malheur.

In addition to bird monitoring work, Candace also provided enthusiastic visitors with various opportunities to learn about refuge work and get up close and personal with the bird life, leading behind-the-scenes tours for a variety of groups. And this year, we upped the ante and invested in a second field biologist, Callie Gesmundo, to continue bird surveys through the summer and build on our efforts to engage the local community in projects both on and off the refuge. We are excited to build on our long and strong

Yellow Warbler.
Photo by
Candace Larson



relationship with Malheur into the future, and to bring Portland Audubon members new and important ways to support and enjoy your public lands. To stay connected to our work on the refuge, including upcoming trips, work parties and advocacy opportunities, sign up for regular updates at audubonportland.org/issues/habitat/malheur-sign-up.

Wildlife Care Center: Looking Back at 2017 and Forward to 2018

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

As 2017 comes to a close, our Wildlife Care Center is on the precipice of an exciting new era. As we move forward, we will be building on a legacy that spans more than 100 years. From the time of our founding in 1902, Portland Audubon has recognized a responsibility to provide care for wild animals injured as a result of human activities, and recognized the power of individual wild animals and their stories to connect people with nature and the broader conservation challenges that wildlife faces. It was this ethic that led Portland Audubon to create the first wildlife rehabilitation center in the nation in the 1930s, and it is this ethic that continues to inspire the Care Center today.

This past year held much change for our Wildlife Care Center. We welcomed several staff into new or expanded roles, including Rosie Sanchez, McKenzie Joslin-Snyder, and Sam DeJarnet. Dr. Kristina Raum, who served as the Wildlife Care Center Assistant in 2009 and 2010, returned to the Care Center to take the role of Wildlife Care Center Veterinarian, having completed veterinary school during the interim. This return felt especially poignant in that Deb Sheaffer, Portland Audubon's longtime wildlife veterinarian who passed away in 2016, always said that she wrote Kristina's recommendation to veterinary school on the condition that she someday return to the Care Center and take over Deb's work. That day came too soon, but Deb would be very proud that Kristina is carrying forward her legacy.

Wildlife Care Center Open House Saturday, February 10 11am-4pm

Come to the Wildlife Care Center Open House on February 10 for a chance to experience Oregon's largest wildlife rehabilitation center.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours of the Wildlife Care Center:

Guided tours will give you a glimpse of what really goes on in one of the busiest wildlife rehabilitation centers in the US. This exclusive tour leads you through the animal intake area, food preparation room, laboratory and xray rooms, treatment and surgery rooms, and indoor and outdoor caging.

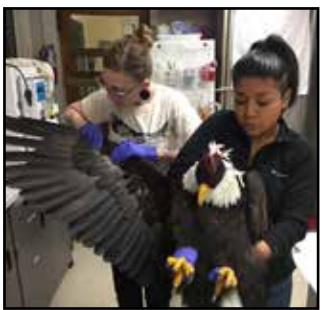


Photo by Portland Audubon

Education Birds Meet and Greet: Our non-releasable Education Birds will be out on sanctuary grounds. Experienced bird handlers will share each bird's story and information about the species in the wild.

Raptor Education Station: Be enraptured by raptors! You will be able to learn more about these birds of prey with a fun, hands-on approach to studying raptor parts. Compare wings and feet and other special adaptations of a variety of raptors. Naturalists will be on hand to answer your raptor questions.

Q&A with a Wildlife Veterinarian: You will meet Portland Audubon's wildlife veterinarians and try to stump them with your questions. In turn they will attempt to stump you with studies of actual cases seen in the Care Center.

Raptor Art Show: Kids of all ages can draw their favorite raptors.

Sanctuary Scavenger Hunt: Using a guide booklet, search the sanctuary for hidden treasure boxes in this nature-themed scavenger hunt.

The Open House is free to the public, with a suggested donation of \$5/person or \$10/family for behind-the-scenes tours of the Wildlife Care Center.

Make sure to schedule your behind-the-scenes tour ahead of time by calling the Wildlife Care Center at 503-292-0304, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. Spaces fill fast, so don't delay!

We also saw major transitions in our education bird population. For many people, meeting our amazing education birds is one of the highlights of a visit to our sanctuary or a Portland Audubon event. We provide these non-releasable birds with the best possible care, and they are with us for a long time. We hear from many adults that their interest in wildlife was sparked by meeting one of our current education birds years ago. Over the past year or so several of our oldest birds, including Finnegan the Peregrine, Syd the Red-tailed Hawk, and Lillie the Kestrel, passed away from causes associated with old age.

The constant, as it has been for decades, was the flow of injured animals through our doors. During 2017 we treated nearly 3,000 injured wild animals representing over 140 different species. That included nearly 300 birds of prey, making our rehab center not only the most active rehabilitation center in Oregon but also one of the largest bird of prey rehabilitation centers in the country. Injuries related to cat predation and window collisions remain among our most common causes of injury. We also continue to see too many healthy young animals brought to us by well-meaning people who think they are rescuing an abandoned or orphaned animal that in fact is going through a normal developmental process and should have been left in the care of its parents.

The animals we see at the Wildlife Care Center are a barometer that tells us about hazards on the urban landscape and directly inform our conservation priorities. Their stories connect our community in the most visceral of ways to these threats. The fact that upwards of a billion birds are killed annually in the United States in collisions with windows can feel like just another overwhelming statistic, but the Barred Owl that collided with a window at the Apple store downtown got intense media coverage and public attention, making the problem real and local at a time when our City Council is considering adopting some of the strongest bird-safe building requirements in the nation to reduce this hazard.

We enter 2018 with an exciting array of ambitious goals. Our new strategic outlook includes plans to significantly upgrade the Care Center, including building caging for education birds, new flight cages, upgrading medical equipment, and

Wildlife Care Center



Photos by Portland Audubon

adding a surgical area and animal ward. We will be adding education birds, and you can already come up and meet Xena the Kestrel, who came to us this summer. We will be developing a youth wildlife rehabber volunteer program, and a veterinary internship program, and we will be reaching out to local educational institutions to develop partnerships to conduct wildlife research.

We will also be working with our Conservation program to accelerate campaigns addressing the biggest hazards facing wildlife: window strikes, light pollution, illegal poaching, lead ammunition, and cat overpopulation (in partnership with the Feral Cat Coalition). Our Backyard Habitat Certification Program, delivered in partnership with the Columbia Land Trust, has certified over 4,000 yards in the Metro Region and will continue to expand and provide neighborhoods with expertise on how to support local wildlife and reduce the kinds of hazards that send animals to our Care Center.

But how does saving an individual wild animal really address the profound conservation challenges we face today? The truth is that no individual act, be it saving a wild animal, planting a tree, restoring a yard, even saving a greenspace, will make much of an ecological difference. However, these individual acts are the soul of a grassroots movement. Our rehabilitation center viscerally connects people and communities to the animals that share our landscape, the challenges that wildlife faces, and the steps we can take to make a difference for wildlife. We look forward to the year ahead!



A benefit for Audubon Society of Portland's Wildlife Care Center

**Auction begins: Saturday, February 10, at 9am
Auction closes: Thursday, February 22, at 9pm**

**View auction items and bid at
portlandaudubon.tofinoauctions.com/cotw2018**

To help pay for the cost of animal rehabilitation at Portland Audubon's Wildlife Care Center, we are pleased to offer experiences that promise to excite, thrill, and chill!

Here are just a few featured in our 8th annual Call of the Wild auction:

Once-in-a-Lifetime Excursion into Portland Audubon's Old-growth Canopy

Pacific Northwest-based Expedition Old Growth provides tours of the region's beautiful forests and assists adventure-seekers with a guided ascent into the uppermost canopy of majestic ancient trees. You'll gain a greater appreciation for the living habitat and unique flora thriving at the forest floor and in the treetops.

Stay in Style in Puerto Vallarta

Lindo Mar Resort is a classic Mexican-style resort nestled right on Conchas Chinas Beach in the exclusive southern section of Puerto Vallarta. This beachfront resort has an outdoor pool, whirlpool, restaurant/bar, fitness center, activity desk, concierge, and more, and is just one hour south of the Sayulita Coast, a habitat known for a wonderful diversity of birds.

Glider Rides

Fly like a raptor as you glide on the whims of the wind in a 2-seater sailplane with commercial pilot Gary Gross. You'll soar in silent, motorless flight as you drink in the magnificent view below.



Ecotours

Trips often sell out. We recommend booking early. Deposit required to reserve your place. To register, please visit audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult and follow the registration link.

For registration questions:
Erin Law, elaw@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

For more information about any of our trips:
Dan van den Broek at dvandenbroek@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6105 or **Erin Law** at elaw@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6119.

Southwest Florida April 6–13, 2018

“Since my first visit at the age of nine, the magic of Florida has never left me. Everywhere you look there are birds! Leave the rains behind and come with me to warm, subtropical Florida.”
—**Patty Newland**, Florida trip leader

Where can you see **Roseate Spoonbill**, **Reddish Egret**, **Little Blue Heron**, **Anhinga** and **Black Skimmer** all feeding in the same pond? At J.N. “Ding” Darling NWR on Sanibel Island, one of America’s premier birding destinations. We will explore mangrove and tidal estuaries where we may see as many as 14 species of herons. We’ll study the unique feeding styles of the different waders, shorebirds, and diving birds that share the same waters. Nearby is the crown jewel of the National Audubon sanctuaries: Corkscrew Swamp. Its two-mile long boardwalk meanders through a primordial cypress swamp that is home to **Wood Stork**, **Limpkin**, **Barred Owl**, and **American Alligators**. Here we may also encounter spring migrants as they “fall out” en route from the southern tropics. We will search the upland pine forest for **Red-cockaded Woodpecker** and **Brown-headed Nuthatch**, and visit the Everglades, where **Snail Kite** and **Purple Gallinule** reside. Come and experience the subtropical pleasures of Southwest Florida!

Leader: **Patty Newland**
Fee: \$2,195 members / \$2,395 non-members
Deposit: \$1,100 required to secure your place



Red Cockaded Woodpecker.
Photo by USFWS

Eastern Alberta June 7–14, 2018

From prairie badlands through aspen parkland to boreal forest, we will find an amazing assortment of bird species on this one week exploration of Alberta east of the Rockies. Only a short flight away from Portland we may find some of the more sought-after species of warblers such as **Connecticut, Canada, Mourning, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Cape May**, and **Blackburnian**, as well as **Philadelphia Vireo**, **Le Conte’s** and **Nelson’s Sparrow**. All of those will be singing their heart out in early June.



Blackburnian Warbler.

Our trip will begin in the prairies searching for **Lark Bunting**, **Chestnut-collared** and **McCown’s Longspur**, **Baird’s Sparrow**, and **Sprague’s Pipit**. Every waterhole will be filled with a good assortment of prairie waterfowl and shorebirds like the **Long-billed Curlew**, **Marbled Godwit**, and **Upland Sandpiper**. A highlight of this tour will be a stop at Dinosaur Provincial Park, one of the richest dinosaur fossil locales in the world. Dinosaur is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with over 35 dinosaur species found and is famous for in situ displays of fossil bones along the scenic loop road.

A drive north from the prairies will take us to aspen parkland and the boreal forest. The dominant vegetation of boreal forest includes Black and White Spruce and Quaking Aspen as well as willow-lined fens and bogs that are home to many of the eastern breeders we will be searching for.

Leaders: **Stefan Schlick** and **Dan van den Broek**
Fee: \$1,995 members / \$2,195 non-members
Deposit: \$1,000 required to secure your place

Domestic & International Trips

More information available online at audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult
International trip fee does not include airfare.

Baja: The Sea of Cortez March 3–10, 2018

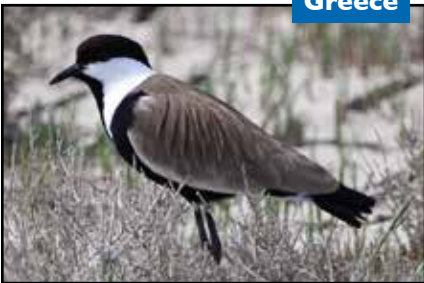
Leaders: **Ivan Phillipsen**, and **Steve Engel**, former Adult Program Manager for Portland Audubon
Fee: \$2,895 members / \$3,195 non-members
Deposit: \$1,400 required to secure your place

Greece April 28–May 11, 2018

Leader: **Stefan Schlick**
Fee: \$3,795 members / \$4,195 non-members
Deposit: \$1,800 required to secure your place

New Zealand October 11–26, 2018

Leader: **Ivan Phillipsen**, local guides
Fee: \$4,400
Deposit: \$2,200 required to secure your place



Spur-Winged Plover. Photo by Stefan Schlick



Kea. Photo by Christian Mehlführer



Ornate Hawk-Eagle. Photo by MDF

Northeastern Spain in the Fall October 30–November 8, 2018

Leaders: **Stefan Schlick**, local guide
Fee: \$3,295 members / \$3,495 non-members
Deposit: \$1,600 required to secure your place

Yucatan December 10–20, 2018

Leaders: **Ivan Phillipsen**, local guides
Fee: \$3,395 members / \$3,795 non-members
Deposit: \$1,700 required to secure your place

Northwest Trips

More information available online at audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult

Skagit Valley February 16–18, 2018

Leaders: **Candace Larson** and **Dan van den Broek**
Fee: \$595* members / \$695* non-members
Deposit: \$300 required to secure your place

Southwest Oregon May 10–13, 2018

Leader: **Ivan Phillipsen**
Fee: \$795* members / \$895* non-members
Deposit: \$400 required to secure your place

Malheur Foray June 2–6, 2018

Leader: **Patty Newland**
Fee: \$845* members / \$1045* non-members
Deposit: \$400 required to secure your place



Barrow's Goldeneye. Photo by Dick Daniels



Greater White-fronted Goose.
Photo by Andreas Trepte

Ice Age Floods September 23–29, 2018

Leader: **Ivan Phillipsen**
Fee: \$1,295 members / \$1,495 non-members
Deposit: \$650 required to secure your place

John Day Fossil Beds October 5–7, 2018

Leader: **Ivan Phillipsen**
Fee: \$445* members / \$545* non-members
Deposit: \$200 required to secure your place

***Fee includes:** Ground transportation, **double-occupancy** lodging, meals *except dinners*, entrance fees for planned activities and the services of your leaders. International trip fee does not include airfare.

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 stewardship of our 150-acre Forest Park Nature Sanctuary. A flat fee of \$50 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 special 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.

HOW TO REGISTER

Choose one of 3 ways to register for Adult Classes:

1. Register and pay online:Visit class description at www.audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult and follow registration link.

2. Mail in your check: Make payable to Audubon Society of Portland. Include with payment: class name, your name(s) and, if this is your first class with us, your full contact information.

3. Register by phone: Call Erin Law (971-222-6119) to pay over phone. We accept VISA, MasterCard, and Discover.

Contact Erin Law, Adult Education Coordinator, at elaw@audubonportland.org or **971-222-6119**.

Check our website for upcoming classes not listed here!
audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes

For full descriptions, visit audubonportland.org/trips-classes-camps/adult/classes

Understanding Molt

Jan 11 (Thu) 7–9pm: class in Heron Hall
Jan 13 (Sat) 8am–12pm: field trip to Sauvie Island

Instructor: Stefan Schick
Fee: \$50 members / \$65 non-members
(class with field trip, limit 14)
\$14 class only

Winter Tree ID

Jan 16 (Tue) 6:30–8:30pm: class in Heron Hall
Jan 20 (Sat) 9am–12pm: field trip via carpool

Instructor: Ivan Phillipsen
Fee: \$50 members / \$65 non-members (class with field trip)
\$14 class only

Bird Journals for Enjoyment

Register for one or multiple sessions!

Saturdays, 10am–3pm: class in Heron Hall

Instructor: Jude Siegel
Fee: \$45 members / \$65 non-members per session

Jan 20 **Getting the Gist**
Feb 17 **Bird Details**
Mar 24 **Coloration and Markings**
Apr 21 **Surroundings**

Beginning Birding

Session A
Jan 24 (Wed) 7–9pm: class in Heron Hall
Jan 27 and Feb 3 (Sat) 9am–12pm: local field trips

Session B
Feb 14 (Wed), 7–9pm: class in Heron Hall
Feb 17 and 24 (Sat) 9am–12pm: local field trips

Instructor: Laura Whittemore
Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members
(class with field trips, limit 14)
\$14 class only

Wallowa Winter Wonderland

Jan 29 (Mon) 7–9pm: class in Heron Hall
Feb 2–4 (Fri–Sun): 3-day field trip (transportation, lodging, food not provided)

Instructor: Stefan Schlick
Fee: \$200 members / \$250 non-members
(class with field trip, limit 12)
\$30 class only

The Art of Illustrating Insects

Feb 21, 28 & Mar 7, 14 (Wed) 6:30–9pm: class held below Heron Hall

Instructor: Zebith Thalden
Fee: \$95 members / \$115 non-members
(includes \$15 for supplies)
Limited to 12 participants

Rise of the Birds: 200 Million Years of Avian Evolution

Feb 22 (Thu) 6:30–830pm: class in Heron Hall

Instructor: Ivan Phillipsen
Fee: \$14

Waterfowl ID for Beginners: Local Dabblers and Divers

Feb 28 (Wed) 7–9pm: class in Heron Hall
Mar 4 and 11 (Sun) 9am–12pm: local field trips

Instructor: Laura Whittemore
Fee: \$65 members / \$85 non-members
(class with field trips, limit 14)
\$14 class only

Adult Classes

What eBird can do for You

Mar 8 (Thu) 7–9pm: class in Heron Hall
Mar 11 (Sun) 7–10am: field trip to Sauvie Island

Instructor: Stefan Schlick
Fee: \$50 members / \$65 non-members
(class with field trip, limit 14)
\$14 class only

Intermediate Birding: Stretch Your Wings in Bird ID!

Mar 17, 24 (Sat) 8am–12pm
Mar 31 (Sat), 7am–5pm

Instructor: Laura Whittemore
Fee: \$125 members / \$150 non-members
Limited to 12 participants

Little Brown Birds: Sparrows, Wrens, Finches

Mar 22 (Thu) 7–9pm: class in Heron Hall
Mar 24 (Sat) 8am–12pm: field trip via carpool

Instructor: John Rakestraw
Fee: \$50 members / \$65 non-members
\$14 class only

Warblers and Flycatchers

Apr 19 (Thu) 7–9pm: class in Heron Hall

Instructor: John Rakestraw
Fee: \$14



Photo by
Tinsley
Hunsdorfer

Spring Break Camp 2018

at Portland Audubon is March 26-30

Registration for Spring & Summer camps begins January 24 at 9:00am. To register, go to audubonportland.org for online registration or to download a registration form. Call 971-222-6131 to save a place if you are mailing your form

Spring Break Camps
run 8:45am–4:15pm
unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY, MARCH 26 – FRIDAY, MARCH 30			THURSDAY, MARCH 29	FRIDAY, MARCH 30
<p>Tails of the Forest: Mammals (Mon), Raptors (Tues), Amphibians (Wed), Birds (Thur), Habitats (Fri) Pick up/Drop off: Audubon 1st grade</p> <p>During this week-long camp, you'll learn about all the tails of the forest and the animals they belong to. Each day we will focus on a different theme as we tell tales about animals, play animal games, and make art projects inspired by what you learn. We will be sure to spend lots of time in Audubon's wildlife sanctuary searching for bushy squirrel tails, slippery newt tails, and spiky woodpecker tails.</p> <p>All 5 days: \$250 member/ \$270 non-member Single days: \$65 member/ \$75 non-member</p>			<p>FOREST Mask-arade Pick up/Drop off: Audubon 2nd–3rd grade Come dressed in your own camouflage to investigate how animals hide themselves in the forest. We'll learn new skills as we search our Sanctuary for hidden homes of forest creatures. Make and take home your very own forest mask. Fee: \$70 member/ \$80 non-member</p> <p>When the Smoke Clears Pick up/Drop Off: Upper MacLeay Park 4th–8th grade We watched closely as the Eagle Creek fire burned through the Columbia Gorge this fall, and now that the fire is out we will venture into the Gorge to witness the aftermath firsthand. We'll learn about what contributed to this large fire, what effects it had on the forests and surrounding communities, and the role fire has in the rebirth of forests and the creation of new habitat. Learn about fire safety, Leave No Trace principles, and what's next for this ever-changing landscape. Fee: \$75 member/ \$85 non-member</p>	<p>Newt Scoot Pick up/Drop Off: Audubon 2nd–3rd grade Come meet the amphibians that live in Portland Audubon's sanctuary! Hundreds of rough skinned newts congregate in our pond in the spring, along with Pacific Tree Frogs and Red-legged frogs. Learn about their unique life cycles, how to safely and respectfully catch and handle salamanders, and how to identify the most common amphibians in Oregon. Fee: \$70 member/ \$80 non-member</p> <p>Junior Wildlife Vet 102 Pick up/Drop Off: Upper MacLeay Park 4th–8th grade Join other animal lovers for a day devoted to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We'll go behind the scenes of our Wildlife Care Center with wildlife rehabilitators and find out what this exciting job is all about. Fee: \$75 member/ \$85 non-member</p>
MONDAY, MARCH 26	TUESDAY, MARCH 27	WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28		
<p>Nature Art Adventure Pick up/Drop off: Audubon 2nd–3rd grade We will spend the day adventuring through the forest, building natural sculptures and playing games in the trees. We will let our creativity run wild as we gather forest materials to craft fantastic art creations. Come join us while we draw, construct, and explore to our heart's content! Fee: \$70 member / \$80 non-member</p> <p>Clack Attack: Hiking the Clackamas River Pick up/Drop Off: Upper MacLeay Park 4th–8th grade We'll head over to the wild and scenic Clackamas River for an adventure-filled day of hiking! We will explore this often-overlooked natural area, looking for Peregrine Falcons near the basalt cliffs and for Beavers swimming in the river. Learn about the plants and animals that call this place home. Let's hit the trail! Fee: \$75 member/\$85 non-member</p>	<p>Junior Wildlife Vet 101 Pick up/Drop Off: Audubon 2nd–3rd grade Join other animal lovers for a day devoted to learning about the care of injured and orphaned wildlife. We'll go behind the scenes of our Wildlife Care Center with wildlife rehabilitators and find out what this exciting job is all about. Fee: \$70 member/\$80 non-member</p> <p>Birding the Buttes Pick up/Drop off: Upper MacLeay Park 4th–8th grade Spend a day traveling to many of our local east side mini-volcanos. We'll grab binoculars and hand lenses to learn about the geology of Portland's volcanic vents, while searching out the birds that call these greenspaces home. Fee: \$75 member/\$85 non-member</p>	<p>Hawks, Herons, and Hummingbirds Pick up/Drop off: Audubon 2nd–3rd grade Spend the day at Sauvie Island, as we search the skies and scan the fields for some of the 250 species of birds that can be spotted at this Important Bird Area. We'll watch herons build nests at their rookeries, witness Sandhill Cranes dance along the farmlands, and spot all kinds of raptors like Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, and American Kestrels. After our day of birding and exploring, we will finish the adventure by sipping hot cocoa while sketching and researching some of the animals encountered on the island! Fee: \$75 member/\$85 non-member</p> <p>Searching for Salmon Pick up/Drop Off: Upper MacLeay Park 8:45–5:00 4th–8th grade Run with the salmon in the Upper Sandy River Watershed near Mount Hood on this exciting search for wildlife! We'll visit the Wildwood Recreation Site to explore the trails and diverse habitat and even have the chance to see Chinook Salmon swim by through a special underwater window. Ospreys and Bald Eagles will also be searching for salmon, and we'll try to find them too. Fee: \$75 member/\$85 non-member</p>		

Field Notes

by Harry Nehls

Oregon's Sapsuckers: An Unusual Group

On December 26 Craig Tumer found a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Commonwealth Lake Park in Beaverton. It remained several days for others to see and photograph.

The *Sphyrapicus* sapsuckers are one of the most interesting groups of birds in Oregon. Their bright but obscure coloration, strange call notes, and distinctive tree workings give a hint of how interesting they are. Three species have been found in the Portland area.

The **Red-breasted Sapsucker** (*S. ruber*) is the common permanent resident and nesting species in the Portland area and the one most often seen. Heard on both wood and metal, the sapsucker's irregular, sputtering drumming pattern gives away its location during spring.

The **Red-naped Sapsucker** (*S. nuchalis*) is the common species that nests east of the Cascades. Most leave in



Red-breasted Sapsucker Photo by Hayley Crews

winter, migrating southward out of the state. In migration individuals are occasionally seen west of the Cascades and in the Portland area.

The highly migratory **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** (*S. varius*) is a summer resident of eastern North America westward into northern British Columbia and southern Yukon. It is occasionally recorded in Oregon during migration and in winter.

At one time all three were considered subspecies of the same species. At the present time they are now split into separate species. This is a confusing group as it is hard to consider if they are in the process of splitting or joining. All three species tend to interbreed wherever their ranges overlap.



Red-naped Sapsucker. Photo by Michael Klotz



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Photo by Claudine Lamothe

Sightings

On November 11 Casey Cunningham reported that a well-plumaged **Virginia's Warbler** was visiting the suet feeder at his house in Northeast Portland. It remained into December allowing many to see and photograph this obliging bird.

The Virginia's Warbler is a summer resident of the Great Basin brushland that migrates to winter in South America. It probably breeds in isolated areas of Southeastern Oregon. It was quite surprising that one would be seen in mid-town Portland. To most this was a first state bird on their Oregon life lists.



Virginia's Warbler. Photo by Alan Schmierer

Another Harris's Sparrow was seen by Russ Namitz November 11 at the Fernhill Wetlands in Forest Grove. On November 21 Peter Barnes reported five **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Vancouver Lake. Noah Strycker noted eight **Surf Scoters**, a **White-winged Scoter** and a **Red-necked Grebe** on the Columbia River off Columbia Point on Hayden Island. Tim Blount found two **Surf Scoters** November 21 at the Tualatin NWR. On November 18 Clayton Rickett noted a **Snow Bunting** at Broughton Beach.

On November 8 a **Harris's Sparrow** was spotted at the Ridgefield NWR. It has remained and will probably winter.

Will Risser reported the first **Trumpeter Swans** October 31 on Sauvie Island. On November 11 Christopher Hinkle

reported an **American Tree Sparrow** on Oak Island and a **Common Redpoll** at Willow Bar. That day Harry Fuller noted five Trumpeters and 2,000 **Snow Geese** on the Island. The Snow Geese first arrived on the island October 16.

On November 24 Joe Blowers noted a **Long-tailed Duck** and a **Pacific Loon** on Timothy Lake in the Cascades south of Mt. Hood. On November 9 Don Albright found a **Eurasian Wigeon** and a late **Tree Swallow** near Newberg. Richard Leinen saw a **Eurasian Wigeon** at Dawson Creek Park in Hillsboro. Eurasians often arrive in Oregon while still in eclipse plumage and are usually overlooked until they molt into their winter plumage.



Francisca Zamorano. Photo by Portland Audubon

Volunteering at Portland Audubon is Fun and Rewarding!

The Audubon Society of Portland's mission is to "promote the understanding, enjoyment, and protection of native birds, other wildlife, and their habitats," and it's what our volunteers do every day! As one of the Northwest's leading conservation organizations, we offer a wide range of natural history and environmental activities to members, the community, and especially volunteers. *Whatever your interests or talents, there is a volunteer position for you. These include many regularly scheduled volunteer opportunities, as well as special projects and event positions:*

- Help restore habitat in our wildlife sanctuary.
- Be a conservation activist!
- Care for and feed injured native wildlife at the Wildlife Care Center. (There is often a wait list for this volunteer opportunity, but seasonal positions will soon be available for Baby Bird Season.)
- Help visitors find the perfect gift, bird guide, or pair of binoculars by being a clerk at the Nature Store.



Volunteer Council. Photo by Ali Berman



Cecile Valastro and Jean Schoonover give medicine to a Dark-eyed Junco in the Wildlife Care Center. Photo by Deanna Sawtelle

- Lead school groups through a fascinating exploration of our nature sanctuary.
- Be a voice for Portland Audubon by volunteering as a receptionist or a docent.
- Help make Portland Audubon's special events successful, like the Wild Arts Festival, the Native Plant Sale, International Culture Awareness Day, and Swift Watch.

New Volunteer Orientation is **Wednesday, February 7, 6pm–8:30pm**. Participants are asked to complete a Volunteer Application at audubonportland.org/about/volunteer/volapp before attending Orientation. Individuals who wish to volunteer in a capacity *beyond special events* must also attend General Volunteer Training on **Saturday, February 27, 9am–4:30pm**.

If you would like to donate some of your time and energy to the Audubon Society of Portland but have questions, please contact **Adam Kinnard**, akinnard@audubonportland.org, or 503-292-6855 ext. 108.

Volunteer of the Month: Francisca Zamorano

by Adam Kinnard, Volunteer Manager

Volunteers are responsible for making every part of Portland Audubon tick, and some of the most integral positions are those that often go unseen. **Francisca Zamorano** is a behind-the-scenes **SUPERHERO** of Portland Audubon. Francisca flew to our aid six months ago, managing to make time to come in weekly, on top of raising her two young daughters and being a full-time student (truly heroic!). As a Volunteer Manager Assistant, Francisca uses her exceptional accounting powers to keep the books up-to-date, making sure that we have an accurate record of the hours that volunteers put in.

When asked to describe what volunteering in her position is like, she says, "It's not like you are just in an office doing accounting; you can walk outside and see wildlife, be surrounded by nature, and see what your work is benefiting." Francisca has a deep love for wildlife and conservation. When not at Portland Audubon or helping her daughters with homework, you might find Francisca watercoloring or drawing, another passion of hers.

Francisca makes Mondays one of my favorite days in the office (another heroic feat!). She fills the office with laughter, good conversation, and positive energy. She is an invaluable member of the Portland Audubon family, and we are so grateful for all that she does. **Thank you, Francisca!**

Optics Focus: Opticron LLC

One of the featured optics companies at the Nature Store is Opticron. Founded in 1970 in the UK, Opticron is a family-owned business. We began carrying their products shortly after they opened their US headquarters in Huntersville, NC. The first binocular we purchased was the **Opticron Oregon 8x32**, an affordable mid-size, member priced at \$135. When we asked why a British company had a binocular named the Oregon, we were told "The owner just really likes Oregon!" A great reason to name a quality affordable binocular after our favorite state.



Oregon LE 8x32

Because this company specializes in delivering the best optics solution to wildlife enthusiasts irrespective of age, budget, or experience, we have added several other models to our selection. Their **Adventurer II** is our most



Adventurer II 8x42

affordable full-sized binoculars at member prices of \$119 for the 8x42 and \$139 for the 10x42. Their Alpha ED 8x42 is our most affordable full-size binocular that features ED or Extra-Low Dispersion lenses (member price \$239). And, their little compact 8x21, at a \$39 member price, has proved to be a popular choice as a "first binocular" for children. The compact Oregon 8x25 is a step up in quality but still member priced below \$100.

Now Opticron has introduced the new **Adventurer II scope**.

Again, this is a great entry-level product, with a member price of just \$149! This compact scope has a 15–45 zoom with a 60mm objective lens. The lenses are fully multi-coated, and it is waterproof and fog-proof. The lightweight ABS plastic and alloy body weighs a mere 2¼ lbs. and is fully protected in textured rubber armor. A convenient carrying case is included. A delightful addition to your palette of nature observation tools.



Adventurer II Scope

The last new addition to our line is the **Opticron Discovery WP PC**. It is an ultra-compact design that has a feature that we've been on the lookout for: a close focus of under 4 feet! Nature lovers who like to focus on dragonflies and butterflies will be delighted! The Discovery also comes with a No Fault Warranty that covers any damage (you drop it, they fix it!) for the first 5 years.



Discovery WP PC 8x32

Kids' Story Time

Starting in January, join us in the Portland Audubon Interpretive Center on the third Sunday of the month, from 1:00 to 2:00pm for kids' story time! We will read a nature-themed picture book that leads into a fun activity. Story Time is geared towards kids 3–6, but all are welcome.



January 21 we will be reading *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen, followed by a visit with a real Great Horned Owl.

February 18 we will be reading *How to Find a Fox* by Nilah Magruder, and afterward we will all practice our tracking skills using animal pelts.

Stay Cozy and Warm This Winter Season With Products From The Nature Store!



Olympic Candle Company, based in Seattle, WA, makes eco-friendly, natural soy wax candles with essential oils. With scents such as Forest Fern, Sitka Spruce, Alpine Gentian, and Douglas Fir, Olympic Candles are sure to warm up any room in the house while bringing a bit of nature indoors. Our favorite scent is Campground Coffee: light a candle and share a bar of Hammond's More S'Mores milk chocolate (with marshmallow & graham) with your favorite campfire buddy.

New **Marushka tee shirts for women** have also arrived! With new birdy designs and a variety of colors, Marushka shirts are always a crowd pleaser. Some designs are long-sleeved thermals, others are three-quarter-sleeve or long-sleeve tees, all perfect for layering to keep toasty on those rainy winter days.



Jenteal Soaps have returned to the Nature Store!

They are locally handcrafted and come in a wide variety of Oregon-themed scents. Each 5oz. bar is beautifully hand packaged in bright, colorful paper, making them great gifts. Scents like Oregon Marionberry, Oregon Rain, and Portland Rose are sure to delight the senses!

Cold-weather accessories by Jeannie Simmons

will also keep fingers and ears warm. From fun fuzzy hats and stocking caps to arm warmers and stylish gloves, Jeannie Simmons will keep you warm but looking cool all winter long.



Why not finish off your day with a hot drink in a beautiful **mug from Paperproducts Designs**. Each mug comes with a gift box almost as lovely as the mug!

Swarovski Optik Sighting Scope Day

Saturday, March 3, 10:30am to 3:00pm in Heron Hall

Sunday, March 4, Digiscoping Field Trip to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

Pre-registration requested for Saturday, required for Sunday field trip (limited to 12 participants)

During the past year, Swarovski has added many components to their ATX modular scope system. They include a revolutionary binocular eyepiece (the BTX) that pairs with their 65mm, 85mm, and 95mm ATX objective lenses, an Arca-Swiss style professional tripod head (also commonly called a gimbal head), a magnification booster that can be used with the new BTX or the traditional ATX eyepiece to increase magnification by a factor of 1.7x, and a new balance rail for extra stability when using the BTX head or when digiscoping with a DSLR. For digiscopers, they've also added a third TLS-APO unit creating a suite of three: 23mm, 30mm, and 43mm. They are designed to match with specific models in the new range of DSLR and System Cameras now on the market.



BTX Group

explain the features of the new system components, how they pair together, and help us understand who will benefit most from using specific products.

11:30am–1:00pm: Lunch Break

Take advantage of a 10% discount at Rae's Lakeview Lounge. We'll have a reserved table where you can join John and other workshop participants to talk birding and nature observation.

1:00pm–3:00pm: Digiscoping Workshop

John will go into further detail on using Swarovski digiscoping components for both the ATX and ATS/ATM series for taking digital images using either a standard digital camera or your cell phone. Bring your own equipment if you already have a scope (does not need to be Swarovski) or use ours as we step outside to put what we've learned into practice.



Professional Tripod Head BTX

10:30am–11:30am: The ATX Modular Sighting Scope System & Accessories

Swarovski's optics expert, John Nicholson, will explain and demonstrate this exciting new range of products. He'll



John Nicholson

Attend one or both sessions. Digiscoping field trip is available only to Saturday workshop participants. Call the store to reserve your spot 503-292-9453 or email **Nancy Mattson, Store Manager, nmattson@audubonportland.org**

Spencer Higgins Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Audubon Society of Portland is pleased to announce a new scholarship fund to provide opportunities for young people who could not otherwise afford to attend our camps and classes.

The scholarship fund honors local musician and Portland Audubon member Spencer Higgins. Spencer died in August at the age of 36. Through the Spencer Higgins Memorial Scholarship Fund, his family and friends honor his life, happiness, and generous nature. Spencer’s family describes him as “all the way lovely.”

“Spencer, a bartender and musician, may not have fit the stereotype of a birder, but he loved his birds,” said his mother, Marilyn Walster. “A Western Tanager in his backyard near NE Alberta St. in Portland was the inspiration that led him down dirt paths in search of birds. We would exchange text messages regarding bird sightings—Barred Owls, Cedar Waxwings, a Brown Creeper. Perhaps the most exciting was when his car was attacked by Wild Turkeys last summer as he was coming out to our farm. Spencer had the foresight to capture them on his phone camera, giving us all a good laugh.”

Spencer worked at The Know, a bar and music venue in northeast Portland. There, he spread his appreciation of common birds and also convinced coworkers to join him in his search for elusive birds. The Know held a fundraiser this fall for the Spencer Higgins Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Audubon Society of Portland. Additionally, they have decided to form a Birdathon team this spring to honor Spencer.



Photos courtesy of Marilyn Walster



Honoring a loved one through a memorial gift is a wonderful way to extend that person’s legacy. At this point, more than \$60,000 has been pledged or given to Spencer’s fund. As the fund grows, opportunities for children to enjoy birds and nature will expand to include Portland Audubon field trips for schools that serve families of low income.

If you would like to contribute to the Spencer Higgins Memorial Scholarship Fund, or support other work of Portland Audubon, please get in touch with **Development Coordinator Katy Johnson, kjohnson@audubonportland.org**, 971-222-6129. To build your own

family’s legacy through a gift to Portland Audubon, contact **Donor Relations Manager Donna Wiench, dwiench@audubonportland.org**, 971-222-6116.

“We wanted to do something long term, something that will have deep impact, with an organization that we trust,” said Spencer’s mom, “and so we chose Audubon. We hope that others will donate to the fund as a way to honor the people and places that they love.”

We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts:

In Memory

John and Eva Butcher Jean Butcher	Marshall LaCombe Jane Daniel
Nancy Church Larry Church	Winnie Miller Jeff Gfroerer
Tirso Nadal Gali Jeanne and Edward Berretta	Mary Ellen Robedeau Jeff Gfroerer
Spencer Higgins Marilyn Walster and Sidney Friedman	Ron Spencer Esther Spencer
Cinda Hill Oge Young, MD	

In Honor

Eli Anderson Luke Caron	Nick Hardigg Janet Murray
Gary Calaba Kurt Kalm	Marsie Nufer ElysaBeth Hall
Ezra Cohen Andrew Cohen and Lisa Weiner Joel Geisler Bruce Morris	Dr. Marli Lintner Eloise Mark
John Ferguson Penelope Ferguson	Cathy Monnin John and Martha Warden

Honor a special person in your life with a significant gift that’s meaningful to you.They’ll be listed in the *Warbler* and sent a songbird card acknowledging the donation. Just visit our website, or call 971-222-6130.

Support Audubon Society of Portland When You Shop


Fred Meyer Community Rewards

One-stop shopping at Fred Meyer can also provide support for Portland Audubon’s conservation and education programs! Do you have a Rewards Card? Have you linked it to Audubon Society of Portland? It’s easy!



Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Audubon Society of Portland at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number, 91071. Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Portland Audubon earn a donation!

You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates just as you do today. If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store. For more information, please visit **fredmeyer.com/communityrewards**.



Audubon Society of Portland

The simplest way to provide ongoing support throughout the year: Become a Frequent Flyer Member!

For the cost of a cost of a couple of lattes, lunch out with friends, or a nice glass of wine at your favorite restaurant, join as our newest Frequent Flyer member and support native birds and their precious habitats every month!

As a Frequent Flyer, you save Portland Audubon added administrative costs and your membership is always current—so no need for renewal notices! Plus, we will send you a summary receipt of your annual gifts each January, making tax time that much easier.

Your monthly gift is automatically withdrawn through your debit or credit card, or checking account, and can be modified at any time.Visit audubonportland.org/support/membership to sign up today, or download a form to start monthly donations through your checking account.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Audubon Society of Portland! For questions, please contact Membership Manager Tony Arnell at tarnell@audubonportland.org or 971-222-6130.

Inspiring people to love and protect nature since 1902.

Thank You to:

- Karen Drain for 29 books
- Candace Sweeney for 3 recycled batteries

Our Wish List

For Administration:

AED (automated external defibrillator)
Auditory assistance devices
Binoculars
Scope and tripod

For Sanctuary:

Loppers
Hand saws
Work gloves

For Wildlife Care Center:

Science Diet Kitten Growth
Bleach
Dawn dishwashing detergent
Exam gloves (latex or latex-free)
Small leather work gloves
Kevlar animal handling gloves

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

Join Our Flock — Become a Member

Your membership dollars support our Conservation, Education, and Wildlife Rehabilitation Programs! Memberships help us protect native birds and their habitats, and come with perks such as discounts on classes, camps, and trips and in our Nature Store. You can join online at audubonportland.org/support/membership, in our Nature Store, or send in this handy form.

☐ I want to become a member
☐ Please renew my membership
Your Name _____
Address _____

Email _____
Phone _____

☐ Sign me up for the monthly e-newsletter, The BirdWord.

☐ I want to give a Gift Membership to:
Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____

We will send a card to the new member notifying them of your gift.

Membership Levels:

- ☐ \$45 Individual
☐ \$60 Family
☐ \$75 Wren
☐ \$100 Goldfinch
☐ \$250 Warbler
☐ \$_____ per month Frequent Flyer (first check or credit card number enclosed)
- ☐ \$500 Owl
☐ \$1,000 Great Blue Heron
☐ \$2,500 Peregrine
☐ \$5,000 Osprey
☐ \$10,000 Eagle

Payment Method

- ☐ My check, payable to Audubon Society of Portland, is enclosed.
☐ Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover
- Card # _____
- Expiration Date: ____ / ____

Birdathon 2018—Counting Birds Because Birds Count!

by Mark Fitzsimons, Birdathon Coordinator

What, Birdathon already? Yes! Raise money for the Audubon Society of Portland by counting birds! Do what you love while experiencing the fun and camaraderie that will make Birdathon 2018 the biggest, baddest Birdathon this side of the Mississippi! Last year was wonderful—32 teams, more than 300 participants, and over 2,075 donations set a new record of over \$200,000 raised to protect birds across Oregon! Besides raising essential funds for Portland Audubon’s conservation and education programs, Birdathon raises awareness for birds and their habitat, and builds a community of bird and nature lovers. Mark your calendars for **Birdathon registration on March 15**. We’ll update you in the March-April *Warbler* and on our website. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for the latest information. You know what the early bird catches, so let us help you hatch your plan.

- **Join an Organized Team.** Check out our 2017 teams on the Birdathon webpage (birdathon.audubonportland.org). Teams for 2018 will be posted in early March.
- **Participate as an Individual.** Let your imagination take flight with spring migration and hatch your own personal Birdathon plan.



Weekday Warblers. Photo by John Rakestraw

Ready to take Birdathon to the next level? **Lead Your Own Team!** You choose the date and tailor the experience to your unique interests and favorite birding locations. You can work with Mark to create an itinerary, and either Portland Audubon recruits participants, or you invite friends, family, and co-workers to join your custom team. And why not create a company team or ask your employer to sponsor you!

Decide what kind of trip you want to plan. It could be anything from a morning birding excursion to a two-day cross-state trip. From the coast to Portland to Malheur to Klamath, Oregon is full of incredible sites to spot birds and get to know the state’s diverse landscapes. Some of our favorites in the greater Portland area include Sauvie Island, Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, Tryon Creek State Natural Area, Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Fernhill Wetlands, Smith and Bybee Wetlands, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, and Tualatin Hills Nature Park.



Wild Turkeys. Photo by Anne Sammis

Cedar Waxwing.
Photo by Hayley Crews



Contact **Mark Fitzsimons**, Birdathon Coordinator, for help with planning an itinerary, organizing fundraising, and firing up team members to raise as much money as possible! He will provide the tools and support you need to lead a successful and lucrative Birdathon team!

Join the fun! The success of our Birdathon lies in the depth and growing diversity of our Birdathoners—all of you! For information about 2018 Birdathon, contact **Mark Fitzsimons**, at birdathon@audubonportland.com.



Brewery Blackbirds. Photo by Jen Sanford

BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Through their business practices and financial contributions, the following businesses are helping advance our mission and protect Oregon’s birds, natural resources, and livability. If you would like to become a member of the Audubon Society of Portland Business Alliance, please contact our Development Director at 971-222-6116.



Portland General Electric



- antler gallery & store

Backyard Bird Shop

Bill Naito Company

Bob’s Red Mill

Cameron Winery

Columbia Sportswear

David Evans and Associates

Elk Cove Vineyards

Ferguson Wellman

Capital Management

Grow Construction

Jackson Welch Mediation/Arbitration PLLC

LANE Realty Works

McCoy Foat & Company PC, CPAs
- Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP

Miller Paint

Morel Ink

New Seasons Markets

NW Natural

Portland Audubon Nature Store

Portland General Electric

Sauvie Island Coffee Company

SELCO Community Credit Union

Scott Edwards Architecture

Vernier Software

Urban Asset Advisors

West Hills QFC #202

Wonderland Tattoo

Volunteer Bluebird Monitors Needed

Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project seeks volunteer Western Bluebird nestbox monitors for the April–August 2018 nesting season. The spring training workshop will be held **Saturday, February 24, 2018**, 9:30am–12:00pm, at the Visitors’ Center in Champoege State Heritage Area. Come learn about this appealing songbird, meet our current volunteers, and bring your questions!

Write to **email@prescottbluebird.com** to register for the workshop. Include your name, telephone number, and town where you reside. Visit **prescottbluebird.com** to read about our dedication to the recovery, restoration, and enhancement of the Western Bluebird.

Audubon Society of Portland

Inspiring people to love and protect nature since 1902

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

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

5151 NW Cornell Rd • Portland, OR 97210
503-292-6855 • Fax: 503-292-1021
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

Member of **EarthShare Oregon**

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