Three ordinary words that, by themselves, are easy to define. When combined as they are within the context of Portland Audubon’s mission, these three words assume a larger and profound meaning.

This annual report underscores how our work is guided by these simple words and the actions and impact that can happen when hundreds — and potentially thousands — of people become involved with Portland Audubon. This report highlights the wonderful array of portals where people like you enter this organization. It showcases the direct and indirect routes that people take as they move along the continuum of experiencing nature: first, in a curious and fun way, and then in a way that motivates them to make a deeper contribution.

In my eight-year tenure as executive director, I have witnessed this continuum first hand. One recent example surfaced at a volunteer training in August. I asked the enthusiastic crowd of youth and adults what provoked them to spend a gorgeous summer Saturday in a training session. One smiling girl, about 10 years old, was there with her dad. She had been to see the Vaux’s Swifts swirl around the Chapman School chimney the year before and loved it. She wanted to learn more about birds and wildlife. Is it possible that these first connections to wild birds and the natural world will be the key that gets her engaged at a deeper and more passionate level? How can we, as Audubon professionals, help make that happen?

In this report, you will read stories about kids, teenagers and adults that describe the ways they became motivated to take a stronger and bolder stand for wild birds and their habitats. I hope, like me, you will be inspired to sustain your support, encouragement and dedication to our mission that promotes the enjoyment, understanding and protection of nature.

Meryl A. Redisch
Executive Director

Enjoy.
Understand.
Protect.

Why do we do what we do?
And why do we do it for the birds?

We’ve asked the people who are connected to Audubon Society of Portland:

Why do you volunteer...donate...study...advocate...enjoy the natural world through Portland Audubon?

What brought you here?
And what makes you stay?

Their answers are diverse, yet intertwined. Their stories are both simple and complex. Each is unique. And every one is personal.
Many of our camp staff have been campers, counselors-in-training (CIT), summer camp counselors or interns. CITs are instructed in animal tracking, birding and wilderness awareness, teaching techniques, camp songs and storytelling, then work at least four weeks with students during the summer.

A 6-year-old girl sketches in the Sanctuaries. Sixteen years later, she’s completing her double major — Biology and Studio Art — at Willamette University.

An eighth grade boy explores the tide pools during an Audubon Marine Biology camp. Today he holds degrees in Biology and Geology from Portland State University.

Nobody can predict what a Portland Audubon camp will unleash in a youngster’s heart. Many return to explore more topics. Others become counselors or interns and some, like Eloise Bacher and Giordano Peña — the campers mentioned above — continue as instructors years after their first Audubon experience, mentoring children as they were mentored.

“The kids see other people’s passion and it makes them more interested, even for students who aren’t interested in the outdoors,” says Eloise, who was both a counselor and camper during high school.

Giordano’s exploration of tide pools led to two San Juan trips as a camper. “I remember at the end of the second trip, we signed our names on a paper plate, vowing to go on a trip to a new place. A year later, almost everyone who signed that plate was together on Kauai, on an Audubon trip, specially planned for us.”

“I’ve seen my fellow campers and counselors grow as individuals,” says Giordano, who continued as a camper, counselor and intern before signing on as an instructor. “One former camper is even off doing environmental policy work, partly because of that San Juan trip.”

“When I was 16 and a new counselor, I didn’t really know what I was getting myself into. Then I led my first tracking group,” Eloise remembers. “I was able to teach the kids something new. I could see them getting more excited. Right away I knew I wanted to take kids out to nature and make them passionate about it.”

Adds Giordano, “Audubon puts kids in a safe environment where they can overcome personal issues. Sometimes that means pushing them out of their comfort zone.” He describes a trip with middle-schoolers to the Ape Caves. “At first, they were really nervous. Later they wanted to experience everything — turn off their lights, walk around the caves.”

Eloise spent her first summer as an instructor teaching first graders about raptors, tracking, native plants and animals, and more. “Children come out of the programs interested in nature,” she says. “No matter what their ages, they want to keep learning.”

With more than 62,000 Members, we remain the largest independent chapter of the National Audubon Society.

With over 12,500 Members, we remain the largest independent chapter of the National Audubon Society.

Our Community Camps welcomed over 200 deserving kids to the world of nature. Camp Explorador, with partners Hacienda, Bienestar and Rose Community Development Corporations, and Audubon Nature Teams provided educational experiences to students and their families who would not otherwise have had access.

Portland Audubon’s Children’s Education Programs reached over 12,000 kids this year.

Inspire Awareness

12 Volunteer Groups — work parties, Boy Scouts, and six groups with Toyota’s Together Green — put to work more than 300 volunteers who provided 1,750 hours of Sanctuaries stewardship.
“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

Meg Ruby doesn’t seem to be a person who goes around quoting poetry, but the line from Mary Oliver’s The Summer Day fits neatly into the story of how she came to be an active Audubon Society of Portland member and volunteer.

As her youngest son graduated from elementary school, where she was a busy volunteer, Meg was looking for a new focus. In an answer to the poem’s question, Meg decided that she wanted to know birds. And she wanted to work on conservation issues.

“It’s easy to get overwhelmed by the challenges facing our natural world,” she explains. “Audubon provides a healthy place to face those challenges. It allows me to connect and make a difference. Plus, it’s fun.”

First, Meg took a shorebirds class at Portland Audubon. Then, she started at the School of Birding. The School of Birding, modeled after a university program, consists of classes and field trips focused on the best birding during each school “quarter.” The classes were a good fit for Meg, especially with her background in environmental policy and forest science.

“Portland Audubon is a very generous community. People are knowledgeable — they know tons — and they are willing to share that knowledge. They seem to get a real joy in sharing what they know.”

Soon she was leveraging her network in letter-writing campaigns supporting the Wild Bird Conservation Act (House Bill 3374). She says, “I’m inspired by the advocacy work Portland Audubon does. There are a lot of big problems with little things we can do.”

HB 3374 would have added a nickel to the price of a pound of birdseed to fund bird conservation. Although it did not pass, under the blanket “no new taxes” approach in Salem, the show of support paved the way for the issue to return.

Meg testified at the bill’s legislative hearing. “I’m not afraid of advocacy. It’s democracy. As citizens, we have to step up and hold our legislators accountable.”

Meg has participated in Citizen Science projects, such as bird counts and Marbled Murrelet watches. “It’s about life, noticing and paying attention. Birds are indicators of what’s happening in the world.”

“We can’t forget we’re part of a community,” she says. “Not just connected to a human community, but a natural one.”

Know Birds

Relaxing enjoyment or active education, adults can choose from more than 100 classes and field trips designed to enhance their understanding of birds and nature conservation.

Over 170 people participated in our Eco Tours — seven domestic trips and seven international tours — including: Yosemite National Park, Sneezes Mountain, Malheur, Texas, Alaska, Peru, the Galapagos, Australia, Belize, Brazil, Panama and England.

Our members and supporters increased our Sanctuaries Endowment Fund by over $100,000 with a second year Challenge Match from the Collins Family.

We participated in the development of the Malheur Comprehensive Conservation Plan — a long term plan to restore one of North America’s premier Bird Refuges.

Nature Nights, a benefit for our members, attracted nearly use people with natural history topics including: Wolfer, Attracting Native Pollinators and Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle.

We are a very generous community. People are knowledgeable — they know tons — and they are willing to share that knowledge. They seem to get a real joy in sharing what they know. Meg has participated in Citizen Science projects, such as bird counts and Marbled Murrelet watches. “It’s about life, noticing and paying attention. Birds are indicators of what’s happening in the world.”

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Meg Ruby
citizen science volunteer
Defend Wildness

You can go home again. But sometimes it takes a lot of help. In 2009, a baby Green Heron was delivered to the Wildlife Care Center at Portland Audubon via Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Hospital. There was no record of its parents or where it had been found. Care Center volunteers sprang into action to save him.

"Raising herons is tricky. They eat live fish," says volunteer Marie "Rie" Luft. "First he had to be force-fed. As he got older, we'd toss fish towards him." When the baby became a juvenile, the Care Center made plans for releasing him back into the wild.

But where? Rie knew just the place. "We live on the Willamette River. There is a protected inner channel between our row of floating homes and the shore." Her floating community is not run-of-the-mill: the Oregon Yacht Club Association also owns the adjacent shore. And with Rie at the helm of their stewardship committee, they've worked hard to be good guardians of that land.

"We're in our eleventh year of partnership with the Watershed Revegetation Program to return the land to its native state," she explains. When they started, the land was covered with native cottonwood trees, but also blackberry bushes, ivy and Reed Canarygrass. "Back then we had about 40 species of birds. Now we have almost a hundred."

Portland Audubon knows this is a viable area and good for bird life. "Over the years they have released Swainson’s Thrushes, Ruby-Crowned Kinglets, and other species there. It's good to have native birds released. It's part of the continuum."

So when it came time to find a wild habitat for the juvenile Green Heron, Rie's community was the logical choice. "We'd had bank willows put in, so when we released him, he could find his natural place."

During the first year, the Heron sat on the tenders, fishing under the docks. "Last summer, we saw him with another Green Heron and he started staying on the bank. He'd gone wild," Rie says.

This past summer, to the neighborhood's delight, the pair had a chick.

"It’s wonderful for them. It’s wonderful for us."

As part of our commitment to Equity, Diversity and Access to Nature, we completed the first year at our satellite office at Leach Botanical Garden. We sponsored 26 events, reaching more than 200 people, half of them living east of 1205. We worked towards Regreening Portland from the Ground Up, partnering with East Portland and Gresham organizations and neighborhoods to increase access to nature in underserved areas.

We helped secure Nadaka Nature Park in Gresham and assisted with developing the master plan.

Our Wildlife Care Center is the oldest and busiest wildlife rehabilitation facility in Oregon, staffed by two veterinarians and almost a hundred volunteers. We treat more than 3,000 wild animals for release back to the wild and respond to more than 15,000 wildlife-related inquiries.

Our Backyard Habitat Certification Program, a partnership between Columbia Land Trust and Audubon, visited 250 properties and certified 100 backyards. 600 homeowners are enrolled in the program, either awaiting site visits or pursuing certification. In 2011, we expanded the program to Lake Oswego.

Audubon worked with other conservation groups to ensure that Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife adopted a long-awaited Sage Grouse Plan to help protect and restore this important species. Oregon now has one of the strongest Sage Grouse plans in the west.
Jean Baecher Brown
Sanctuaries Volunteer

As a child, every vacation Jean Baecher Brown took was in the woods. Now, through volunteering with the Audubon Society of Portland, she’s right back home amidst the trees. Whether she’s hauling gravel onto the trails with other volunteers during a Together Green work day or leading a dozen schoolchildren through the Wildlife Sanctuaries, Jean is helping people connect with the nature she loves. The Sanctuaries are key to that connection.

“I want to improve the environment by connecting kids to nature and the ecosystem,” Jean says. “There are kids on Sanctuary tours who have never been in the woods — and they live in Portland! There are kids who are scared to be on a woods trail because they’ve never been on one before.”

On the other hand, she’s floored by what some children know already. “They’re 6 or 7 year olds! You know they have someone in their lives teaching them.”

Portland Audubon’s 150-acre Wildlife Sanctuaries bring nature up close to more than 30,000 visitors each year. But providing this opportunity to the public takes money, effort and commitment. Jean’s volunteer work touches almost every aspect.

As a member of the Sanctuaries Committee, she helps decide where resources are needed. “We can report where the trails need to be fixed to make it more enjoyable for the kids,” she explains. Jean is also active when the teams head out to do the heavy work. “We haul gravel onto the trails, build bridges and pull invasive species.”

For the past two years, Jean marketed the annual Native Plant Sale to the community. More than a hundred species of Oregon wildflowers, shrubs and trees are sold to raise funds for the Sanctuaries and other programs. “People ask us if we just go into the woods and pull up the plants to sell! They don’t know we propagate many of our own plants in our plant nursery,” she says.

Jean came to Portland Audubon because she’s always had strong feelings about the environment. “Audubon is active in the community and helps the community make good decisions about the environment,” she says. “Traditionally, we’re a bunch of people who like birds. But we are really partners in the community.”

The Audubon KGW RaptorCam, which gives viewers an intimate look at a pair of Red-tailed Hawks nesting on a downtown fire escape, entered its fourth season. Once again, the web site received hundreds of thousands of hits from around the world. This year, the hawks successfully fledged two young.

Over 450 people attended our Author Nights showcasing book releases and authors, including Robert Wilson, Seeking Refuge; Noah Strycker, Among Penguins; and Richard Louv, The Nature Principle. Richard Louv drew 350 people in a presentation held at the Oregon Zoo.

Over a quarter-mile of Trails were revitalized and reworked, 2,000 board feet of timber installed, two bridges rebuilt, 50,000 lbs. of gravel laid, and the embankment around our pond stabilized.
Engage Communities

It’s a long way from Vietnam to Portland. It’s especially long way if your journey takes you via a childhood in the Pacific Northwest, a Peace Corps stint in Nicaragua, a detour as a Naturalist in the Redwoods and terms as park ranger in Bryce Canyon and the North Cascades. It seems only fitting that Bich Trinh found her latest home in Southeast Portland at the same time the Audubon Society of Portland opened its satellite office nearby. Bich is the East Portland Community Coordinator at Portland Audubon’s new location at Leach Botanical Garden.

Bich Trinh
East Portland Community Coordinator

East Portland’s communities will accommodate much of the region’s future urban growth. That growth creates a variety of challenges and opportunities for fostering urban neighborhoods where people and wildlife can flourish together.

“Our outreach is a connection to the community. Ultimately, it supports our mission,” explains Bich. That mission: To promote the enjoyment, understanding and protection of native birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

“If people, in their own backyards, have access and understanding, they’ll protect it. Without access, it’s harder to understand. If they feel it’s important, they’ll see that nature is home to many other creatures.”

“We already have volunteers leading bird walks at Leach Botanical Garden. It’s a beautiful little piece of green space,” says Bich. “We’ve begun to develop ‘regulars’ at our nature walks and programs. People from Gresham and the east side are thankful for the quick and easy drive.”

“There is a lack of access to nature and open green spaces in the southeast area. We want everyone in Portland to be within a 15 minute walk or a quarter mile of nature,” explains Bich. “In east Portland, many people lack this.”

The area hosts some interesting natural assets, such as Johnson Creek, the Columbia Slough and several East Butte natural areas, but using those areas is not easy. The new East Portland office will be working on future projects to increase that access.

“We’re talking to people about their neighborhood and what they want. We are reaching out to a non-traditional audience, people who are not necessarily birders, or maybe they are non-English speakers,” says Bich, who also teaches Spanish. “There are some barriers we have to overcome. It just takes time.”

As part of the Airport Futures Committee, we successfully advocated for a commitment from the Port of Portland to restore grassland habitat on Government Island, one of the crown jewels of our system of urban natural areas. In order to mitigate for development of parcels adjacent to Portland International Airport, the Port will restore 300 acres of grassland habitat on Government Island, improving habitat for rapidly declining species such as the Western Meadowlark and Streak-Horned Lark.

We partnered with Friends of Trees to host their Annual Crew Leader Training, which resulted in 460 native plants installed around the Sanctuary Pond.
The Airport Futures Advisory Group put together a plan that actually leaves the landscape impacted by the Portland International Airport in better condition than it is today.

Maryhelen represented the North Portland neighborhoods, meeting over three years with the committee. The outcome? The PDX Master Plan and PDX Land Use Plan, two documents that protect the natural resources at and around the airport for the next quarter century. Portland Audubon represented those natural resources during the discussions.

“If Portland Audubon weren’t there, there wouldn’t have been someone to speak up for that protection,” says Maryhelen. As a result, The Port of Portland will invest more than $5 million to protect and restore natural resources on Government Island and in the communities along the Columbia Slough. More than 300 acres of grassland will be restored, important because almost all historic grasslands in the Willamette Valley have been lost.

“I didn’t realize how the grasslands are connected to birds and our daily lives until we had the committee discussions,” says Maryhelen. “People don’t make that connection every day. We don’t think about how if we build this building or that building we won’t have any birds here.”

Some of the $5 million, about $50,000 each year, will also go to planting trees and restoring habitat in the communities that surround the airport. “I can see now how repairing the canopy can improve the livability of my own neighborhood and help the storm run off,” explains Maryhelen, who lives in one of those communities.

“We can see how it provides shade for the slough and increases our property values. But really,” she continues, “wouldn’t you rather live with trees than without them?”

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Champion Habitat

“I’m known for the apparently infamous quote that Bob was the one person who made the people on the committee uncomfortable,” laughs Maryhelen Kincaid. “I meant that as a good thing.”

The “Bob” she describes is Bob Sallinger, Portland Audubon’s Conservation Director. The committee members are more than 30 people representing environmental, neighborhood, business, transportation and governmental interests linked to Portland International Airport (PDX) on the Airport Futures Advisory Group.

Our Volunteer Corps of 400 people provided 36,275 hours of volunteer service, the equivalent of 19 full-time employees and a $679,234 value* (*independent sector).

We improved our Shop Building, including re-siding and installing a code-required egress with the help of the Telephone Pioneers volunteer group.

We participated on numerous committees and policy efforts including Portland Plan, West Hayden Island Advisory Group, and Goal 5 implementation in Portland, Milwaukie and Troutdale as part of our Urban Wildlife Policy Work.

Traveling Programs presented engaging, hands-on classes to 5,835 students, right in their own schoolrooms. 3,024 students explored local wild areas on Field Trips to the Coast or Columbia Gorge. 2,000 students explored our forest on Sanctuary Tours. 740 children explored their favorite fields of study in Spring, Winter and Summer Camps.

Maryhelen Kincaid
Airport Futures – North Portland Neighborhood Services

Champion Habitat

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The Airport Futures Advisory Group put together a plan that actually leaves the landscape impacted by the Portland International Airport in better condition than it is today.
Sanctuary volunteers improved our native plant nursery by restoring our greenhouse to functionality, building three new covered propagation beds, building a covered potting station, and clearing overhanging vegetation.

Leading the tours, they’ve found, is about much more than facts. “We learn to work together as a team in a way that strengthens both of us,” explains Tim.

They also spend time on storytelling skills, using inflection and weaving facts into a riveting tale. Bending his arms and tilting his head for emphasis, Lucian’s eyes light up as he tells how a Peregrine Falcon can dive at speeds up to 240 miles an hour.

“Good teachers are enthusiastic,” Tim says. Lucian is definitely enthusiastic — and he’s a positive role model. “The younger kids hear Lucian and they see that it’s cool to learn.”

As a father and son who spend a lot of time in the woods, they realize that some of the students they meet will be the first in their families to explore the forest. “I like to give the kids three things to remember, that they can point out to their parents later,” explains Lucian. “That gets them really excited.”

Then, wisely, he reconsiders. “Well, maybe the kindergartners only get one thing to remember.”

More than 30,000 people visited our Wildlife Sanctuaries this year, including about 2,000 students on tours led by volunteers.

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Portland’s Fremont Bridge Peregrine Falcon pair fledged their 50th youngster this year. Portland Audubon celebrated this milestone of nearly two decades of work on urban falcon recovery efforts with a series of public presentations, public viewing opportunities and development of new interpretive signage.

“Of the kids see something amazing — like a newt hunting or a Pileated Woodpecker — they’ll like it and want to come back,” Lucian Himes
In 1970 there were no breeding pairs of Peregrine Falcons in Oregon. There are now more than 140 nest sites across the state, with nearly 7 percent located in the Portland Metro area. Last year, the fiftieth Peregrine fledged off Portland’s Fremont Bridge.

"The call of the wild nourishes the soul, even if it is in the middle of the Willamette River, next to Highway 43." Pat Crane discusses her volunteer work with Peregrine Watch. Every few weeks, Pat and fellow volunteers Mary Doke and Karen Sheiffer, travel to Elk Rock Island in Milwaukee to monitor the Peregrines that nest on the cliff across the Willamette River. Sometimes they can travel to the island by a natural land bridge. When the water is high, they travel by kayak. They watch quietly for four hours.

"There is a sequence of behaviors that we can identify to know they are nesting," she explains. "It gives me hope that this pair will be successful and there will be baby falcons. That's why I keep checking back."

Audubon Society of Portland has worked since 1994 to develop a program to provide monitoring, research, management and educational outreach for the growing population of Peregrines nesting in downtown Portland. Today volunteers monitor nearly a dozen sites in the area.

"These are all gifts from Mother Nature when we're out there. You never know what you'll find. Sometimes nothing happens, but when something does, it can be awesome," Pat explains.

Something awesome almost always happens when a Peregrine Falcon visits Swift Watch, another event where Pat volunteers. Every September, thousands of Vaux’s Swifts root in the chimney at Chapman School in Northwest Portland. Pat works the crowd, educating spectators about the birds. "Swift Watch is such a Portland tradition, like a concert," she explains. "But it's all about nature."

Inevitably, a Peregrine shows up to hunt. "The Peregrine comes out of nowhere. You can always hear a collective gasp from the crowd."

Turning people on to nature is important to Pat. She loves helping people spot a Bald Eagle for the first time during the annual Raptor Roadtrip in the winter. She also leads school tours, covering everything from banana slugs to nurse logs. She relays a story from a school tour she led.

"One day, after a Sanctuary tour, a boy came up to me and he said, 'You know, Pat. Nature rocks.'"

Sometimes you wait for a Peregrine to fledge. Other times, it’s the human fledgling that makes your day.

"When a species is on the brink, on the Endangered Species list, to see it come back and see it thrive — that gives me hope that we haven't completely messed up the environment. It's something to cheer about, but it's also a cautious tale. It's good to follow a story with a happy ending."

Our accomplishments during this year’s Legislative Session include passage of Wildlife Penalty Legislation to reduce illegal poaching of birds of prey as well as other wildlife.

Our members and friends raised $136,000 in the 2011 Birdathon, with 200 people participating and 2,000 supporting the fundraiser. The 30th Annual Wild Arts Festival continued its success in beautiful Montgomery Park, raising nearly $100,000 and attended by over 3,500 art and book lovers.

Our 60-year-old Septic System was upgraded. An exercise in regulations and permitting, our new system will handle demands into the foreseeable future.

Peregrine Falcons

Pat Crane
Peregrine Watch Volunteer

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Turning people on to nature is important to Pat. She loves helping people spot a Bald Eagle for the first time during the annual Raptor Roadtrip in the winter. She also leads school tours, covering everything from banana slugs to nurse logs. She relays a story from a school tour she led.

"One day, after a Sanctuary tour, a boy came up to me and he said, 'You know, Pat. Nature rocks.'"

Sometimes you wait for a Peregrine to fledge. Other times, it’s the human fledgling that makes your day.

"When a species is on the brink, on the Endangered Species list, to see it come back and see it thrive — that gives me hope that we haven't completely messed up the environment. It's something to cheer about, but it's also a cautious tale. It's good to follow a story with a happy ending."

Our accomplishments during this year’s Legislative Session include passage of Wildlife Penalty Legislation to reduce illegal poaching of birds of prey as well as other wildlife.

Our members and friends raised $136,000 in the 2011 Birdathon, with 200 people participating and 2,000 supporting the fundraiser. The 30th Annual Wild Arts Festival continued its success in beautiful Montgomery Park, raising nearly $100,000 and attended by over 3,500 art and book lovers.

Our 60-year-old Septic System was upgraded. An exercise in regulations and permitting, our new system will handle demands into the foreseeable future.
When Jill Nelson-Debord retired in 2004 from her career as a social worker, she could finally do the things she wanted to do. One of those things was to volunteer at the Audubon Society of Portland.

“I liked the organization’s mission — and liked that they acted on their mission,” she recalls.

Eventually, Jill found her own mission at Portland Audubon. And she, too, is acting on it.

One of the original volunteers when the Backyard Habitat Certification Program began three years ago, Jill is the voice of encouragement for homeowners who have taken the first step towards certification. “I like the idea of meshing wildlife with gardening,” she says.

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program helps residents within the cities of Portland and Lake Oswego restore native wildlife habitat in their backyards. Homeowners remove aggressive weeds, naturescape with native plants, manage stormwater and become active stewards of wildlife — with the goal of having their lots certified as Backyard Habitats.

“Some don’t get certified the first time around,” Jill explains. “I call a few months later to see how they’re doing. Some are still working on it and some are ready to get certified. Others might be feeling a little overwhelmed, so I break down the certification into manageable areas. Helping them get certified reenergizes me.”

In addition to her work on the Backyard Habitat program, Jill has led more than 500 schoolchildren on Sanctuary tours. “I’ve always liked nature, but by volunteering I learned about the interplay between vegetation and critters. I didn’t know that native plants attract native bugs which attract native birds, for instance.” The learning comes full circle working with homeowners.

Jill believes the three levels of certification help a wide range of people get involved in the Backyard Habitat program. “There’s the teaser level of having 5 percent of your garden’s plants native, but there are also the die-hards who want the Platinum certification with 50 percent natives. We can accommodate novices, as well as serious gardeners.”

Jill’s own garden is certified at the Gold level. After concentrating on the different canopy levels in her planting, she’s seen a change in the bird life. “At first we only had crows in our garden,” she relates. “Now we have many more species.”

Transform Environments

Technicians and volunteers from our Backyard Habitat Certification Program visited more than 500 Portland homes throughout the year to help residents restore the native wildlife habitat in their own backyards.

Some are still working on it and some are ready to get certified. Others might be feeling a little overwhelmed, so I break down the certification into manageable areas. Helping them get certified reenergizes me.”

A late spring brought a long baby bird season. Our Wildlife Care Center responded by extending their spring hours to 9:30 for the first time in a decade to care for baby birds and mammals.

2011 accomplishments

- A late spring brought a long baby bird season. Our Wildlife Care Center responded by extending their spring hours to 9:30 for the first time in a decade to care for baby birds and mammals.
- Technicians and volunteers from our Backyard Habitat Certification Program visited more than 500 Portland homes throughout the year to help residents restore the native wildlife habitat in their own backyards.

2011 accomplishments

- We participated in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife working group to write new Statewide Wildlife Rehabilitation Regulations. The new regulations were adopted in May with our support.
- At our 2011 Raptor Road Trip (co-sponsored by Metro and HawkWatch), more than 150 people arrived on Sauvie Island eager to view wintering raptors.

Our high-quality Adult Education Program, which includes our unique “School of Birding” course, confirmed our position as the regional leader in birding and ornithology.
The Lampert-Piper Family
Roberta Lampert (left), Severin Piper (top), Gavrila Piper (bottom)

“Nurture Curiosity”

Portland Audubon’s summer and school break camps reach more than 1,000 children each year, earning high accolades from parents and campers alike.

“‘We live in the woods. From the time they could open the door, they were free to go outside and explore’” Roberta Lampert describes how life was for her children, Gavrila and Severin Piper. “We would walk outside and discover birds’ nests, spiders and woodpecker holes.”

Now in their early 20s, Gavrila and Severin have never stopped exploring. The family came to the Audubon Society of Portland almost 18 years ago. “The Portland Audubon camps had a good adult-to-kid ratio, excellent content and they kept the kids engaged.” But for a young family, with two kids in classes the costs were a challenge. “Over the years we were able to get financial help. Portland Audubon was very generous and we took advantage of everything they could do,” remembers Roberta. “Eventually, we were able to provide scholarships for others’ tuitions.”

The siblings are only 20 months apart. “Each has a unique focus and different talents,” she says. “They could take the same kinds of classes from the same teachers, but both find something for themselves.”

Both Gavrila and Severin went through the ranks, from campers to interns. “I love to camp and backpack, but I don’t have a science education. Portland Audubon provided that,” she says. “The kids’ enthusiasm for what they are doing — it was a lot of that came from Portland Audubon.”

As they reached adulthood, the kids’ affinity for nature took different paths. Severin worked in outdoor education and is active in a primitive living project. Gavrila is finishing up a double major in Environmental Biology and Health and Society at Beloit College. Summers she returns to Portland Audubon as an intern.

“Portland Audubon was a place where I always came home with something new,” says Gavrila. “Now, as an intern, helping to lead camps, she sees the other side. ‘I love that campers are totally engaged; that their intelligence and potential are recognized. They’re not just given answers.’ “If campers see something they don’t know about, they can either ignore it, or get super into it. It’s like a switch,” she explains. “That’s how we get these kids to care. They are our next generation. They will be taking care of things.”

“Gavrila’s experiences at Portland Audubon led her to work in Search and Rescue when she was in high school. Severin has a real sense of a young man who is spiritually locked into nature.” — Roberta Lampert

We helped pass a No Feed Ordinance to help reduce conflicts between humans and wildlife.

374 people participated in 55 Adult Classes, many with field trips to Oregon Important Bird Areas and overnight stays.


Live Generously

Jack Carter was not particularly interested in birds a decade ago. He enjoyed backpacking and hiking, but as he put it, “unless you’re looking for birds, you don’t really see them.” That changed when he saw the film *Winged Migration*. After that, Jack not only saw the birds, but began to recognize the work that Audubon Society of Portland did for the birds in his local area.

“Portland Audubon does an excellent job of being a good organizational citizen within the community,” he says. “They don’t water down their positions, but they aren’t extremist either.” Jack is impressed with the balance. “The organization has people who are informed and conversant on issues, as well as being articulate and well-spoken. Portland Audubon provides a public voice on conservation issues that mean a lot to us.”

As a donor, Jack shows his generous support through the Frequent Flyer Club, with an automatic monthly donation. Automatic donations provide continued support for Portland Audubon and help balance resources throughout the year.

Our donors support us in many ways: through membership, on-going support as a Frequent Flyer, tribute gifts honoring a loved one, bequests and estate planning, or even by adopting an education bird.

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Jack Carter
Donor

2011 accomplishments

Second only to habitat loss, hundreds of millions of birds die annually in the U.S. alone as a result of hitting windows. Since September 2009 our dawn surveys have documented 34 species of native birds involved in window strikes. We are advocating to create a *BirdSafe Portland*, including the adoption of Bird-Safe Building Design Guidelines and practices retrofitting existing buildings and promoting a *Lights Out Program* to turn out city lights during peak migration periods. Presenting to architects and planners, we are gaining awareness and at this time, two downtown buildings have currently enrolled in the Lights Out Program.

The City of Portland has developed a *Migratory Bird Agenda* making many of our bird initiatives priorities. The project was initiated five years ago by Audubon and the City’s Bureau of Environmental Services.

Great Blue Heron

A total of 16 of our 2011 Summer Camp staff were former students in the program, and more return each year!
Thank you for your support of Audubon Society of Portland. Because of you, we are able to achieve our mission to protect birds and their habitats in Oregon. With the help of and in recognition of the following donors, we are proud to introduce the 2010–2011 Annual Report.

$2,500 – $9,999

Biome Community Development Corporation through the John Gray Foundation

Karen and Sal Montgomery

$1,000 – $2,499

University of Portland

Kathleen and John Howard

$500 – $999

Martha C. Criddle

Callie Fanshaw

$250 – $499

Cindy Faye

Beverly Mitchell

$100 – $249

Carolyn Johnson

Marilyn Abend

$50 – $99

Veronica M. Gonzalez

Katie King

$25 – $49

Mark and Jennifer Hemmeyer

Linda Eyerman and William Gaylord

$20 – $24

The Estate of Richard B. Herstine

Robert Gandolfi and Ron Bloodworth

$10 – $19

Robert and Dawn Wilson

Mary and Allan Solares

$5 – $9

Glen and Betty Howard

Katy Ehrlich and John Davis


## Thank you to our 2010–2011 members

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

The Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges all of our donors and members for their generous support. We apologize if we have missed you. If you have a correction, please contact our Development Office, 503-242-1675, at any time.

## Financial Statements

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

### Assets

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<th>Category</th>
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### Expenses by Category

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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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### Net Assets

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### Total Expenses

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### Change in net assets

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