

Audubon

Society of Portland

2010-2011 Annual Report



Enjoy. Understand. Protect.

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

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.

Inspire Awareness

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."



Eloise Bacher and Giordano Peña
Summer Camp Instructors



"Campers are pushed to do more by themselves. I see total 180s out of their comfort zones to an awareness of the natural world." — Giordano Peña



Chestnut-backed Chickadee

2011
accomplishments

With more than **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.

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.

Portland Audubon's **Childrens' Education Programs** reached over 12,000 kids this year.

Know Birds

“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.”



Meg Ruby
Citizen Science Volunteer



Osprey

“Portland Audubon was the logical place for me to be. I liked their holistic approach. I wanted to deepen my own skills, but also give back. It felt like a good community, but it is better than I could have ever known. I'm amazed at the high quality of knowledge and experience and the work they do.”



2011
accomplishments

Over 170 people participated in our **Eco Tours** — seven domestic trips and seven international tours — including: Yosemite National Park, Steens 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 400 people with natural history topics including *Wolfer*, *Attracting Native Pollinators* and *Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle*.

Marie "Rie" Luft
Wildlife Care Center
Volunteer



Anna's Hummingbird



"Isn't this what our Wildlife Care Center is all about: giving wildlife a chance, putting the wild back into the wild for future generations, both theirs and ours?"

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 a wonderful experience to be able to track the bird and see that the system works," she says. "If the birds find an environment that's good for them, they will stay. It's wonderful for them. It's wonderful for us."



Green Heron

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.

2011
accomplishments

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 I-205. 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.

Cultivate Understanding

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.

Audubon Society of Portland has 150 acres of Nature Sanctuaries just five minutes from downtown Portland adjacent to Forest Park. Open every day, from dawn to dusk, entrance is free.



Wilson's Warbler

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."



Jean Baecher Brown
Sanctuaries Volunteer



"We think about the Wildlife Sanctuary as being a safe place for animals. But it's really a safe place for people — to explore."

2011
accomplishments

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.

Our **Nature Store** debuted enticing books, gifts, feeders and supplies to increase revenue 18% over the previous year — up more than \$100,000! — with profits up 11%. As "The Place to Go for Optics" our expertise in scopes, binoculars and accessories has regional renown, pushing sales up tremendously.

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.

Bich Trinh
East Portland
Community Coordinator



“If something is not easily accessible, then people won’t know about it. They won’t know about environmental issues and they won’t be connected with the neighborhood. Now the people in East Portland can connect with us. And we can know them, personally.”

Engage Communities

It’s a long way from Vietnam to Portland. It’s an especially long way if your journey takes you via a childhood in the Pacific Northwest, a Peace Corps stint in Nicaragua, a detour

The Audubon Society of Portland opened our East Portland satellite office at Leach Botanical Garden in July 2010. The new office allows us to significantly extend our conservation education and advocacy to people living in East Metro communities.

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.

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. “But in east Portland, many people lack that.”

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.”

We partnered with Friends of Trees to host their Annual Crew Leader Training, which resulted in **400 native plants** installed around the Sanctuary Pond.



Yellow Warbler

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.

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.

“I 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?”



Maryhelen Kincaid
Airport Futures – North Portland
Neighborhood Services



Red-tailed Hawk

“The outcome is not only good for the birds, but good for the people who live with the birds. People don’t think about what the birds mean to them until it’s pointed out. The part that Portland Audubon played was showing the value of what those birds bring to people’s lives.”



Western Meadowlark

2011
accomplishments

Our **Volunteer Corps of 400 people** provided **36,775 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.

Spark Enthusiasm

Like many 10-year-olds, Lucian Himes has a favorite bird: the Peregrine Falcon. And like many kids his age, he's had other favorites, such as the Bald Eagle and Osprey. But unlike other

fifth graders, Lucian has parlayed his passion for Peregrines into a vocation of sorts. Lucian and his father, Tim Himes, are the first parent/child tour leader team at the Audubon Society of Portland.

Lucian's interest in birds was piqued walking home from school with his father when the family lived in San Francisco. Each day they'd pass through Golden Gate Park. Soon he had his first Sibley Guide — a present on his sixth birthday.

Today the family lives in Portland and Lucian is homeschooled by his father, a former teacher. The pair uses their Audubon training as part of Lucian's science education.

The opportunity to teach is an opportunity to learn for both father and son. "As a teacher, I know that the best way to learn something is to teach it," Tim says.

"And to teach you have to learn," chimes in Lucian.

In teaching, the pair is doing something important: sharing their knowledge of the plants, animals and ecosystem in the 150-acre Wildlife Sanctuaries as they themselves learn.

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."



Bald Eagle



Lucian and Tim Himes
Sanctuary Tour Volunteers



"If the kids see something amazing — like a newt hunting or a Pileated Woodpecker — they'll like it and want to come back." —Lucian Himes

2011
accomplishments

After nearly two years of work, the City of Portland adopted strong new **protections for our urban tree canopy**. Audubon played a key role in developing these protections and advocating for their adoption.

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.

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.

Pat Crane
Peregrine Watch
Volunteer



Peregrine Falcon



“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 cautionary tale. It’s good to follow a story with a happy ending.”

2011
accomplishments

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

Our members and friends raised **\$136,000** in the **2011 Birdathon**, with 200 people participating and 2,000 supporting the fundraiser.

Restore Hope

“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.

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.

Every few weeks, Pat and fellow volunteers Mary Doke and Karen Sheiffer, travel to Elk Rock Island in Milwaukie 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 roost 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.



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.

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.

Transform Environments

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.”



Jill Nelson-Debord
Backyard Habitat Certification
Program Volunteer



“What I’ve taken back to my own garden is that by having several habitats in one neighborhood, you build a connectedness; you give critters a wilderness path through urban areas. I think this makes a lot of sense.”



Northern Flicker

2011
accomplishments

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

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 1500 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.

Nurture Curiosity

“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 — 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. Conservation is a cycle. They need to recognize that and do something about it.”

Fifteen years ago, when Gavrila and her brother found Audubon, that cycle was just beginning for them. The cycle continues for each of us, every day.



Western Tanager

2011
accomplishments

Portland Audubon worked with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to restore **Shorebird habitat at Coon Point and Racetrack Lake** at the Sauvie Island Wildlife Management Area.

Over 100 volunteer authors and illustrators participated in rewriting **Wild in the City**, Audubon’s hugely successful guide to the region’s natural areas and natural history. The new volume will hit the shelves this fall!



“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

The Lampert-Piper Family

Roberta Lampert (left)
Severin Piper (top)
Gavrila Piper (bottom)



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

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

Jack Carter
Donor



Great Blue Heron



“I don’t think you can get any more bang for your buck than Portland Audubon, with their Wildlife Care Center, education programs, Sanctuaries and advocacy work. They seem like an awfully productive bunch.”

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.”

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.

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.

“Portland Audubon is an organization you can trust. You can see that when you look at how many businesses support them. It’s a long list,” he points out. “If all those businesses trust and support Portland Audubon, I can, too.”



2011
accomplishments

A total of 16 of our **2011 Summer Camp staff** were former students in the program, and more return each year!

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.

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.

Thank you

to our 2010–2011 donors

July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011

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to our 2010–2011 members

July 1, 2010–June 30, 2011

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The Audubon Society of Portland gratefully acknowledges all of our donors and members for their generous support. We apologize if we missed you. If you have a correction, please contact our Development Director, Ann Takamoto, at 971.222.6117.

Financial Statements

July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Assets

Cash	\$ 734,609
Receivables	93,686
Inventory	152,257
Prepaid Expenses	38,045
Investments	1,229,264
Property and equipment (net)	1,390,407
Conservation property	2,003,110
Total Assets	\$ 5,641,378

Liabilities and Net Assets

Accounts Payable	\$ 97,095
Accrued expenses	85,672
Deferred revenue	312,647
Note payable	47,946
Total Liabilities	\$ 543,360

Net Assets

Available for operations	\$ 508,590
Board designated	396,452
Net property	1,710,601
Total unrestricted	2,615,643
Temporarily restricted	1653,250
Permanently restricted	829,125
Total net assets	\$ 5,098,018
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 5,641,378

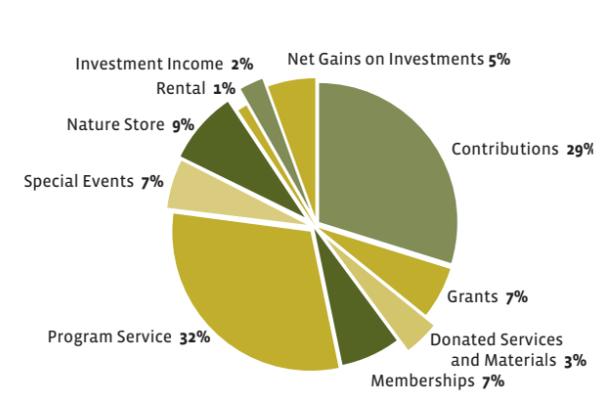
Revenue

Contributions	\$ 721,626
Grants	183,823
Donated Materials and Services	77,133
Memberships	177,361
Program Service	784,352
Special Events (net)	122,388
Nature Store (net)	215,951
Investment Income	41,304
Net Gains on Investments	137,277
Rental	15,998
Other Income	189
Total Revenue	\$ 2,477,402

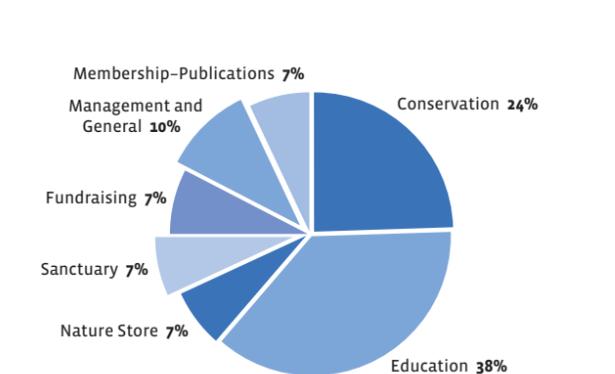
Expenses

Program services:	
Conservation	\$ 556,906
Education	877,680
Nature Store	161,860
Membership–Publications	173,942
Sanctuary	157,951
Total Program Expenses	\$ 1,928,339
Management and General Fundraising	236,996
	170,384
Total Administrative	\$ 407,380
Total Expenses	\$ 2,335,719
Change in net assets	141,683

2010–2011 Revenue



2010–2011 Expenses



Audubon Society of Portland

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Page 11: Together Green Volunteers, Anna Campbell
Page 12: Campers, Portland Audubon
Page 13: Yellow Warbler, Jim Cruce
Page 14: Western Meadowlark, Jim Cruce
Page 15: Red-tailed Hawk, Jim Cruce
Page 16: Bald Eagles, Jim Cruce
Page 17: Camper, Dylan Schertz
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Page 20: Northern Flicker, Michael Liskay
Page 21: Certified Backyard Habitat, Portland Audubon
Page 22: Western Tanager, Paul Buescher
Page 23: Severin Piper, Portland Audubon; Gavrila Piper, Dylan Schertz
Page 24: Great Blue Heron, Jim Cruce
Page 25: Adult Class, Harriet Anderson
Page 26: Birdathon, Kristina Gifford
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Audubon Society of Portland

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