

Spring 2010 Earthcare Northwest March Supplement

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CLASSES	FIELD TRIPS
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Washington Seabirds</u> <i>with Dennis Paulson, Professor Emeritus, Master Birder Instructor</i></p> <p>Seabirds are among the most important components of the varied avifauna of the Pacific Northwest. They arrive here in winter from all directions to take advantage of rich feeding opportunities in our protected waters. Some remain to breed, often in large colonies on our coastal islands. Learn about the life styles of these seabirds, where and when they occur, and how to identify them. The class consists of two photo-illustrated lectures. Class: Wed. March 3rd & 10th, 7:00-9:00 PM, *CUH, Douglas Classroom Cost: \$60 members. \$75 non-members. Limit: 35 participants</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Signup starts Tuesday, March 9 @ 6:30pm</p> <p>Sunday, March 14, 2010 Limit 11 Seattle's Peregrine Falcons Leader: Martin Muller 206-525-5575 8:00AM Sharp, Ivar's Salmon House, 401 NE Northlake Way, Seattle (Under I-5 Ship Canal Bridge) We'll search for the city's Peregrine Falcons. Spring courtship should be in full swing. We'll stress observing courtship without disturbing the birds. Dress warmly for standing in 1 spot, bring latte money. Scopes useful. We will carpool, minimizing our caravan to three cars, as we drive around town. Carpool cost: \$9 shared equally by passengers. Over by 12:30 (back at Ivars').</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Washington Shorebirds</u> <i>with Dennis Paulson, Professor Emeritus, Master Birder Instructor</i></p> <p>The Pacific Northwest is prime habitat for shorebirds, the champion migrants of the avian world. The varied habitats of our state support a rich mixture of breeding, wintering, and migrant species of sandpipers and plovers and their relatives the stilts, avocets, and oystercatchers. This class will treat the identification and natural history of all our regularly occurring shorebirds in two photo-illustrated lectures. Class: Wed. March 24th & 31st, 7:00-9:00 PM, *CUH, Douglas Classroom Cost: \$60 members. \$75 non-members. Limit: 35 participants</p>	<p>Saturday, March 20, 2010 Limit 12 Montlake Fill (Union Bay Natural Area) Leader: Connie Sidles, 206-522-7513 7:30 AM, Center for Urban Horticulture west parking lot by new Kiosk/start of Wahkiakum lane. All are welcome on this outing. Come bird the Montlake fill with the person who literally 'wrote the book' on the area. Connie Sidles, author of "In My Nature: A Birder's Year at the Montlake Fill." We'll enjoy a nice mixture of lingering winter waterfowl and the beginnings of the spring migrants and summer breeders. March is a good time for surprises... Expect to walk up to 2 leisurely paced miles on level ground. Bring binoculars and dress to stay warm while exposed to the elements. Scopes welcome (leader will have one as well). Over by noon.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Woodpeckers of Washington</u> <i>with Brian Bell, Professional Guide and Master Birder</i></p> <p>Woodpeckers are found in almost all habitats in Washington from sea level to boreal forests to semi-arid eastern Washington valleys. We will examine the twelve species that are present in our state, discuss their habitat requirements, become acquainted with vocalizations and drumming patterns, examine seasonal distribution and build identification skills. On a half-day trip in Western Washington and a full-day trip to Eastern Washington, we'll see and experience these fascinating birds in the field.</p>	<p>Sunday, March 21, 2010 Limit 10 Camp Long, West Seattle Leader: Penny Rose 206-619-1203 drongo43@yahoo.com 8:00AM, Main entrance by the Camp Long Lodge We will explore this hidden West Seattle jewel. Exploring the forests we should expect to see mixed feeding flocks, several woodpecker species, Cooper's Hawks and perhaps pick up some not so common urban species such as Purple Finch. Be prepared to hike muddy trails with some hilly terrain. Over by 11am</p>

Class: Friday, April 2nd, 2010, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, *CUH, Douglas Classroom
Field Trips: Saturday, April 3rd, 7:00 AM - 12 Noon in W. Washington; Sunday, May 23rd, 6:00 AM - 5:00 PM in E. Washington
Cost: \$65 members. \$80 nonmembers - for lecture and 2 field trips; \$45 members. \$60 nonmembers - for lecture only.
Limit: 20 participants for lecture and field trips; 5 for lecture only.

CLASSES (continued)

The Birds and Plants of the Shrub-steppe

*with Andy and Ellen Stepniewski,
author of Birds of Yakima County*

A rainshadow climate east of the Cascade Mountains is a mostly treeless landscape. Though considered barren by some, a wide variety of shrubs, grasses, and forbs mantles the landscape. This class will introduce you to the plant and bird communities of this shrub-steppe ecosystem in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington. We will impart much in the way of botanical tidbits as these relate to birds and will emphasize the relationships between such birds as Horned Larks, Sage Sparrows, Sage Thrashers, Brewer's Sparrows, Sage Grouse, and Vesper Sparrows and the preferred habitats of each within this unique mosaic of plant communities. We will also touch on the formidable conservation issues facing the shrub-steppe. The day-long field trip to the Columbia Basin will take you to many of the sageland plant communities where we will search for the special birds found there. An added bonus: a spectacular wildflower show should be nearing its peak.

Class: Friday, April 23, 7 – 9 PM, *CUH, Douglas Classroom
Field Trip: Ellensburg to Othello. Saturday, April 24. 6:30 AM – 6:30 PM
Cost: \$60 for members. \$75 for nonmembers.
Limit: 25 participants

Birding by Ear 2010

*With Bob Sundstrom, Professional Birding Tour
Leader & BirdNote Lead Writer*

Tune up your ears in this popular class, where you'll learn to get a handle on bird songs. Day-long trips offer intensive field experience, and cover a variety of habitats within 100 miles of Seattle. For new birding-by-ear students, or veterans who want an intensive refresher. One evening introductory session plus two different full-day field trips.

Class: Wednesday, May 5th, 2010, 6:30 - 9:30 PM,

FIELD TRIPS (continued)

Sunday, March 21, 2010 space is limited
Circumnavigate Bainbridge Island Special Boat Trip, \$65.00pp

Leader: George Gerdts, 206-842-8138
10:00 AM, Winslow City Docks

Circumnavigate Bainbridge Island aboard the 80 foot catamaran, "Admiral Pete" with George Gerdts, long-time SAS Member, as leader/naturalist. The "Admiral Pete" is a steady and comfortable vessel for wildlife viewing. It has a P.A. system and excellent viewing from outside decks or from comfortable inside seating. The trip offers a careful inspection of Eagle Harbor, Blakley Rock, Restoration Point, Rich Passage, Port Orchard, Agate Pass, and Puget Sound opposite Seattle. Expect great looks at 3 species of cormorants; loons (including Pacific Loon); sea ducks (including Old Squaw and Harlequin); rocky-shore sandpipers; a Bald Eagle or two; great scenery; and a unique, close-up view of the Bainbridge Island shoreline. We will return by 1:30pm. Forms will be sent to you to prepay the leader directly. Audubon gets 20% of the cost of the trip. **Participants are NOT registered until they send the payment and registration form to leader.**

Saturday, March 27, 2010 Limit 8

Kitsap County Hike and Walk

Leader: Michael Hobbs birdmarymoor AT verizon.net or 425-301-1032

6:40 AM, Lincoln Park lower parking (to catch 7:00AM ferry to Southworth).

Hike the Gold Creek Trail to the top of Green Mountain (~4 miles round trip), and walk the Clear Creek boardwalk and trails in Silverdale. We'll make one or two other stops if time allows. Back on the 4:30PM ferry out of Southworth. Carpool cost: \$20 + FERRY shared equally by riders.

Tuesday, March 30, 2010 Limit 8

Three Forks Natural Area, Snoqualmie/North Bend

Leader: John Tubbs johntubbs AT comcast.net or 206-310-1881

7:00 AM, Issaquah P&R, Tibbetts Lot

Bird a relatively unknown King County Natural Area near the confluence of the South, Middle and North Forks of the Snoqualmie River. This trip will involve walking approximately three miles over easy terrain (Snoqualmie Valley Trail, gravel-surfaced and dirt trails in the natural area) so please wear appropriate shoes and other attire and bring water and a snack. Habitats include open meadows and forest edge, riparian areas, an oxbow slough and cottonwood forest with a few

*CUH, Douglas Classroom

Note: The one evening class is for all field trip registrants. You must register for each field trip separately. You may sign up for both

FIELD TRIP #1: South Puget Sound - Tuesday, May 11

FIELD TRIP #2: East of the Cascades – Thursday, May 13

Travel by carpool; trip meeting plans given in class.

Cost per Field Trip: \$75 members. \$90 nonmembers.

Limit: 18 registrants per field trip

CLASSES (continued)

Birding by Habitat

with Bob Sundstrom, *Professional Birding Tour Leader & BirdNote Lead Writer*

A classroom session and field trips will focus natural habitats east and west of the Cascades: key plants and natural features, typical birds, other fauna, with primary emphasis on recognizing and birding those habitats.

Lowland Western Washington habitats featured in class and field trip include riparian, conifer forest, oak, and marsh.

Eastern Washington habitats featured in class and field trip include canyon, riparian, Ponderosa pine and mixed-conifer forest. Day-long trips offer intensive field experience within 100 miles of Seattle.

CLASS: Tuesday, June 1, 2010, 6:30 - 9:30 PM,

*CUH, Douglas Classroom

Note: The one evening class is for all field trip registrants.

Note: You must register for each field trip separately. You may sign up for both.

FIELD TRIP #1 Western WA - Lowland Habitats:

Thursday, June 3rd

FIELD TRIP #2 Eastern WA - Canyon and Riparian

Habitats: Thurs. June 24th

Travel by carpool; trip and meeting plans given in class.

Cost per Field Trip: \$75 members. \$90 nonmembers.

Limit: 18 registrants per field trip

Butterflies of the Puget Sound Region

with Idie Ulsh, *Naturalist, Founding President of Washington Butterfly Association & Past President of Seattle Audubon*

This relaxed and informative four-session course is designed for people who wish to learn to identify and attract some of the most common butterflies of the Puget Sound area.

The course serves as an introduction to the popular and fascinating activity of "butterflying". Classes are photo-based with superb photographs of all species

conifers thrown in. Mount Si gives spectacular views as it looms over the natural area. Return by noon. Carpool cost \$9 shared equally by riders.

FIELD TRIPS (continued)

Sunday, April 11, 2010 Limit 8

Discovery Park

Leader: Kathy & Arn Slettebak 206-526-0360

7:00 AM, Discovery Park Visitor Center at entrance on Government Way

We'll take a leisurely 3 to 4 -mile walk, with some elevation gain and loss, on the Loop Trail and Wolf Tree Nature Trail. We will explore forest, field and wetland habitats looking for resident and migrant birds. Dress for weather; bring binoculars, water & snacks. Over by 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 11, 2010 Limit 14

Ellensburg area

Leader: Dave Swayne 206-932-6603

6:30AM Issaquah P&R (Tibbett's lot)

Depending on expected weather conditions we may start birding somewhere around Cle Elum – or instead maybe start in the sage to the east of Eburg – then likely finish up in the canyons in the afternoon. Bring lunch; return early evening. Carpool cost: \$62.50 shared equally by riders.

Saturday, April 17, 2010 Limit 10

Montlake Fill (Union Bay Natural Area)

Leader: Rachel Lawson 206-282-5593

8:00 AM, Parking lot at the Center for Urban Horticulture

A trip designed for beginning birders, at a relaxed pace. We'll work on basic birding skills while we explore one of Seattle's prime birding locations. As we bird, we will be looking for lingering winter birds, year-round residents, and spring arrivals. Trip should last 3-4 hours and be over before lunch.

Field Trip Registration Procedures

- Please sign up in advance for all field trips.
- Register for a trip by calling the Seattle Audubon office at 206-523-4483. Provide a contact name and number for emergencies when you sign up.
- Members may sign up for themselves and one guest for no more than two trips. Nonmembers may sign up only on the wait list.
- Do not call leaders to register; their numbers are listed only for last-minute cancellations.
- The first day to register is the second Tuesday of each month. On the first day of registration, reservations are taken between 6:30-7:30pm. Sign up continues Monday through Saturday from 10am-

and topics discussed.

Topics:

- Learn to identify 30 butterfly species in the Puget Sound area
- Natural history of butterflies
- Butterfly gardening
- Butterflying with binoculars--how to find and enjoy butterflies
- Butterfly photography

Classroom Dates: Tuesdays, May 11, 18 & 25, 7:00-9:00 pm

Field Session: Options of Saturday May 15 or Saturday May 22

Location: Center for Urban Horticulture, Douglas Classroom

Cost: \$60 (member of SAS or WABA) \$75 nonmember
Co-sponsored by Seattle Audubon & Washington Butterfly Association.

Limit: 20

* CUH – Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st St
Seattle, WA 98105

NEIGHBORHOOD BIRD WALKS

Open to all, no registration required

Seattle Audubon members and guests are invited to go on a bird walk, to introduce them to one of many fine birding locations in the greater Seattle area. Each trip will be held on a Saturday morning, rain or shine, and will last about two hours. No sign up is required; just show up before the specified start time and enjoy the guidance of experienced birders.

Those who are beginning birders, or are new to the Seattle area, will especially enjoy this initial exposure to the rich variety of bird life in our region. Seattle Audubon members are encouraged to invite non-members to attend these events. Families and non-members are welcome.

<u>Date & Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Mar. 13 9:00 AM	Alki# (NEW) 206-937-4366	deborahd421@gmail.com Deborah Dowd
Mar. 20 9:00 AM	Carkeek Park# 206-390-4388	Bludog66@comcast.net Scott Hoskin
Apr. 10 8:30 AM	Discovery Park 425-485-3122	N3zims@comcast.net Neil Zimmerman

5pm.

- Field trips are for people 18 years of age and older. Anyone under 18 must call for additional information before registering.

Field Trip Preparation

- No pets are allowed on any field trip.
- Be prepared with layers, rain gear, and waterproof footwear appropriate to the weather.
- Always bring a lunch, drinks, and snacks for trips that go beyond midday.
- Bring binoculars, field guides, and cash for carpool fees, ferries, lattes, etc.
- If you have them, bring spotting scopes, walkie talkies, WDFW stickers, Golden Age passes, and park passes.
- Arrive at meeting place a few minutes early. Leaders will not wait for late arrivals.
- Carpool fees are 25 cents per mile and are listed for each trip, to be divided by passengers in each car. Ferry tolls and park fees are additional.
- Field trip participants must wear seat-belts.
- Like most other organizations, Seattle Audubon now requires participants to sign a waiver as a condition of participating in these free services.

If You Need To Cancel

- If you are unable to attend a trip for which you registered, notify the office ASAP so someone else can fill your spot. Repeat no-shows will be bumped to the wait list.
- Call the leader only for last-minute cancellations.

Neighborhood Bird Walk Locations

ALKI-A new, 1.8 mile (roundtrip) walk to view sea/shorebirds along the West Seattle shoreline. Meet at the Alki Beach Park Bathhouse, 2701 Alki Avenue SW, on the water side near the "Statue of Liberty", between 59th and 60th Avenues SW. Can be reached by Metro Bus #37.

Carkeek Park is in northwest Seattle. Enter from 3rd Avenue NW at 110th Street. Meet at the parking lot across from the play fields at the end of Carkeek Park Road.

Discovery Park is at the western end of Interbay-Magnolia. Meet near the toilet facility at the South Parking lot (enter on right off W Emerson St. just beyond Viewmont Way W).

#An accessible route is available for those with disabilities, if they bring their own assistant. Contact the leader if you plan to attend.