

**Summer 2012 Earthcare Northwest June Supplement**  
Featuring current Field Trips, Classes and Neighborhood Bird Walks  
Neighborhood Bird Walks page 4  
NEW Field Trips page 2

Field Trip procedures please visit [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org)  
To receive these supplements monthly via email, please email [info@seattleaudubon.org](mailto:info@seattleaudubon.org)

**CLASSES**

Pre-registration required  
Please call The Nature Shop  
206-523-4483

**Dragonflies – Bugs for Birders!!**  
**Pelagic Birding**  
**Birding by Habitat**

**Dragonflies – Bugs for Birders!!**

with Dennis Paulson, *PhD, Author and Director Emeritus of the Slater Museum, UPS*  
For all you bird and butterfly enthusiasts, it's time to follow the natural course of evolution and progress to **dragonflies**. Dennis Paulson, Northwest expert on these insects, will teach a class about them this summer during the peak time for dragonfly activity. The class will focus on basic dragonfly biology and the identification and natural history of local species. We should see in the field at least a sample of the 80 Washington species.

There will be two lectures at 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays, July 11 and 18, at the Phinney Neighborhood Center. There will be 2 field trips (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) to the wetlands at Magnuson Park on July 14.  
**Students will sign up for the field trips in class.**

**Lecture:** Wednesday, July 11 & 18, 7–9 pm

**Location:** Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6

**Field Trips:** Saturday, July 14 at Magnuson Park 9am-12pm

**Cost:** \$75 members; \$90 nonmembers  
\$30 members; \$45 nonmembers

for lectures only

**Limit:** 30 students for lecture and field trip; 10 students for lecture only

**FIELD TRIPS**

Pre-registration required  
Please call The Nature Shop  
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**PREVIOUSLY LISTED TRIPS**

**Sunday, June 3, 2012- Limit 12 in a maximum of 4 vehicles**

**Peregrine Falcons– The Breeding Season In Urban & Natural Sites**

**Leaders: Martin Muller (206-525-5575) & Ed Deal (206-713-1546) Calls day of trip only.**

**7:00 AM Sharp, Ivar's Salmon House, 401 NE Northlake Way, Seattle (Under the I-5 Ship Canal Bridge – North end)**

Join us for a full-day viewing (hopefully successful) Peregrine Falcon breeding pairs and their young. We'll spend the morning in the Cascades along I-90 and the afternoon in Seattle. This exploration will cover how to view nest sites without disturbing the residents, nest site selection, territorial defense, growth, fledging and dispersal of young. Please dress warmly for standing in one spot, with lots of layers available. Bring a lunch and latte money and a spotting scope too, if possible. Discovery Passes useful. Carpool cost: \$30.00, shared equally by riders. Over no later than 4:00PM.

**Sunday, June 10**

**Protection Island**

**Leader: George Gerdts**

**10:00 AM, From City Dock in Port Townsend**

**Cost: \$75.00 (20% donation to SAS for Audubon members)**

**Sign-up: Call Bainbridge Island Parks and Recreation at 206-842-2306 ext.118 Visa and MasterCard charges are accepted. Receipts, directions, and other information will be e-mailed to participants.**

Cruise in comfort to PROTECTION ISLAND, with George Gerdts as leader/naturalist. The "Glacier Spirit" is a comfortable, diesel-powered yacht. It has a P.A. system which allows announced sightings to be heard from both inside and outside the ship. There is

### **Pelagic Birding**

*with Mike Donahue, Gull Expert and Pelagic Guide*

The west coast of North America offers some of the best opportunities to see seabirds anywhere in the world. The rich waters 20-40 miles offshore support a diversity of species—albatrosses, storm petrels, shearwaters and jaegers—that spend much of the year in the waters far offshore at the edge of the continental shelf. If you've heard about pelagic birding but wasn't sure what was involved, this is the class for you.

The class lectures will cover the diversity of seabirds that are found offshore, focusing on natural history and identification, as well as how to prepare for a pelagic trip. Then practice what you have learned with the optional one-day pelagic boat trip that departs from Westport, WA.

**Lecture only:** Tuesdays, July 24 & 31, 7-9 p.m.

**Location:** The 2100 Building, Board Room

**Cost:** \$50 members, \$65 nonmembers

**Limit:** 25 for the lecture

#### **Optional field trip with instructor:**

- Westport Seabirds has set aside 10 spaces for registered class members on their August 5 trip. If you cannot make the August 5<sup>th</sup> trip, other dates are available independently through Westport Seabirds at the website listed below.
- Contact Mike Donahue directly at 206-290-8294 or bfalbatross@gmail.com to register for this pelagic field trip after registering for the lectures.
- Cost and departure information is available at: [www.westportseabirds.com](http://www.westportseabirds.com)

excellent viewing from inside the craft and ample viewing space outside on the front deck. Protection Island is a 400 acre National Wildlife Refuge at the entrance to Discovery Bay. It is a very special place, indeed—over 70% of the marine birds which nest in Puget Sound make Protection Island their breeding ground. Some 6000 pairs of Glaucous-winged Gulls, 22,000 pairs of Rhinoceros Auklets, thousands of Pigeon Guillemots, Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants, and a few pairs of Black Oystercatchers nest on the island. One of the main attractions is the nesting colony of the outrageous **TUFTED PUFFIN**—some 20-30 pairs nest in the bluffs. The concentrations of birds can be truly spectacular. Harbor Seals use the remote and protected site as a major haul-out area. Other marine mammal sightings are also possible. We expect to get good looks at all the nesting birds, plus a Bald Eagle or two, and, of course, great scenery. Cost is \$75.00/participant. Audubon members will have 20% of the trip cost (\$15.00) donated to SAS. The Glacier Spirit leaves from Port Townsend at 10:00 AM sharp and returns between 1:30 - 2:00 PM. *Coffee and snacks will be provided, but bring your own lunch and dress in appropriate layers. **The Strait can be very cool, even in JUNE.***

#### **NEW FIELD TRIPS**

Field Trip signup is open NOW

**Saturday, June 16, 2012 - Limit 8**  
**Birding by Ear for Beginners, at Discovery Park**

**Leader: Rachel Lawson (206-931-3359)**  
**6:30 AM, Discovery Park Visitor Center at E entrance on Government Way**

We'll take a leisurely 2-4 hour walk around the 3-mile Loop Trail, listening for the songs and calls of the birds that nest in the park. The emphasis will be on learning how to identify these vocalizations, but we'll also work on basic identification skills and talk about bird behavior. Dress for the weather and bring water and snacks.

**Sunday, June 17, 2012 - Limit 10**  
**Bike and Bird Lake Washington's Hotspots**  
**Leader: Sam Woods (206-271-9576)**  
**7:00 AM, Seward Park main entrance parking lot (by tennis courts)**

Burn calories, not gasoline, and explore Lake Washington's fabulous habitats and views. The Olmsted brothers' legacy has provided birds with a green corridor for migrating through Seattle. We will

**Birding by Habitat**

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

Classroom sessions and field trips focus on key habitats east and west of the Cascades - landforms, plants, and typical birds – with an emphasis on recognizing and birding those habitats. Featured western Washington habitats include shoreline, riparian, forest, and marsh. Eastern Washington habitats featured include canyon, riparian, Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest. Day-long trips offer intensive field experience within 80-100 miles of Seattle.

**Note: Registration is by field trip. You may register for one or both field trips.**

***Two evening lectures are included when you register for one or both of the two different full-day field trips. Carpool and meeting plans will be given in class.***

**Field Trip #1:** Thursday, August 9 – East of the Cascades

**Field Trip #2:** Monday, August 20 – West of the Cascades

**Lectures:** Mondays, August 6 & 13, 2012

**Location:** The 2100 Building, the Board Room

**Cost:** \$100 members, \$115 nonmembers, **(for 2 lectures and 1 field trip).**  
 \$175 members, \$190 nonmembers, **(for 2 lectures & BOTH field trips)**

**Limit:** 18 per field trip

**Class Locations**

**The 2100 Building:** 2100 24th Ave S, Seattle, 98144

**Phinney Neighborhood Center:** 6532 Phinney Ave N, Seattle, 98103

bird Seward Park, Genesee Park, Colman Park, Madrona Park, the Arboretum, Foster Island, and time permitting, the Montlake Fill. The route is nearly level and approximately 20 miles. Bring bike, helmet, binoculars, snacks and dress for the weather. Back by 4:00 PM.

**Thursday, June 28, 2012 - Limit 12**

**Big Four Area, Granite Falls**

**Leaders: Miriam Gray (206-783-6143) and Pam Pritzl**

**6:30 AM, Ravenna P&R or meet at Big Four Ice Caves Parking lot, 8 AM.**

**(Indicate if you will meet at Ravenna P&R or Big Four when you sign up.)**

The Big 4 area lies along the Stillaguamish River east of Granite Falls. Spring mountain birding is at its best here. The trail takes you on a boardwalk across a fresh water marsh (expect to see Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Flycatchers, Warblers), across a bridge over the south fork of the Stillaguamish River (look for Dippers, Common Merganser, Harlequin Ducks and Spotted Sandpiper), into the forest (Pacific Wrens, Brown Creepers, Western-Wood Pewees and Varied Thrushes are common) and eventually to a huge cirque that ends at a lookout area (we'll plan to eat lunch here). Drivers will need a U. S. Forest Service trailhead parking day pass (at REI any NP office or national forest office) or a Golden Age Pass. Bring lunch and wear hiking boots and expect to walk a leisurely 2 miles round trip, 200' gain. Trip will be over in afternoon. Carpool cost of \$35 shared equally by riders.

**Sunday, July 8, 2012 - Limit 12**

**Washington Park Arboretum Walk**

**Co-Leaders: Janine Anderson and Miriam Gray (206-783-6143)**

**8:00 AM, Graham Visitor Center, 2300 Arboretum Drive E, Seattle**

**Note: Arboretum Dr. is closed to traffic. Enter from E. Foster Island Rd.**

This walk will feature the flora and fauna of the 230-acre Washington Park Arboretum in midsummer, including seasonal highlights, native plants, habitat-worthy selections, and the wilder areas of Duck Bay and Foster Island. Possible birds include: nesting Bald Eagles, Barred Owls, Wood Ducks, and woodland birds. Janine is a landscape designer and Certified Professional Horticulturist who has been an Arboretum guide for over 10 years. Scopes useful. Over by noon.

**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. Trips are held on week-end mornings, 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. Families and non-members are welcome to attend.

It is generally possible to borrow binoculars for the walk by making a request to the leader a week in advance. Further information and directions to the sites are available at [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org) or by mail or phone from the Seattle Audubon Nature Shop, 206-523-4483. Contact the leader with additional questions.

**Schedule for June 2012 -September 2012**

**Saturday, June 2, 2012**

**9:00AM**

**Magnuson Park, Seattle**

**Emily Bishton (206-523-1774) day of walk only**

**Promontory Point Education Pavilion**

Magnuson Park is in NE Seattle. Take bus #30 or #75 to NE 65th St Entrance on Sand Point Way NE. Meet at the red-metal-roofed shelter at the west edge of boat launch parking lot, next to little drive-in road.

**Saturday, August 4, 2012**

**9:00AM**

**Magnuson Park, Seattle**

**Leader: Emily Bishton (206-523-1774) day of walk only**

**Promontory Point Education Pavilion**

Magnuson Park is in NE Seattle. Take bus #30 or #75 to NE 65th St Entrance on Sand Point Way NE. Meet at the red-metal-roofed shelter at the west edge of boat launch parking lot, next to little drive-in road.

**Tuesday, July 10th, 2012 - Limit 11**

**Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge**

**Leader: Shep Thorp [sthorp@theaec.com](mailto:sthorp@theaec.com) or 253-370-3742**

**Meet: 5:45 AM Ravenna P&R, or meet Shep at 7:00 AM, Nisqually Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center Pond Overlook  
(Indicate if you will meet at Ravenna or the Nisqually Refuge when you signup)**

Join Refuge volunteer for weekday trip to the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. We will start at the Refuge Visitor Center, and walk 2-4 miles along the Twin Barns Loop Trail, Nisqually Estuary Trail, and the Estuary Boardwalk Trail. There will be a High 9'3" Tide at 11:23am, which will help to push shorebirds in towards the new dike and boardwalk. The new dike will provide an opportunity for us to observe both the fresh water marsh for juvenile waterfowl like Cinnamon Teal and the estuary mud flats for early arriving autumn migrating shorebirds like Western Sandpiper. The restored estuary from the new boardwalk will provide opportunities to observe shorebirds, wading birds, aerial waterbirds, and birds of prey like nesting Bald Eagles. We will explore the riparian woodlands for Willow Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Yellow Warbler, Warbling Vireo and Band-tailed Pigeon. Bring rain gear and lunch, we will finish at 1pm. Please indicate at time of signup where you will meet the group, as Shep will meet you at Nisqually. Carpool cost: \$30 shared equally by riders.

**PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.SEATTLEAUDUBON.ORG](http://WWW.SEATTLEAUDUBON.ORG)  
FOR MORE REGISTRATION  
INSTRUCTIONS AND FIELD TRIP  
RULES OF THE ROAD**