

Seattle Audubon— Protecting Valuable Habitats

by Chuck Adams, Nature Reserves Chair

Over the years, Seattle Audubon has acquired various properties either by purchase or donation, which, because of their special natural habitat value, have been designated as nature reserves. The Nature Reserves Committee manages these areas. The committee includes the stewards of each of the reserves, as well as other interested members.



In general, the reserves are held and managed to preserve and enhance habitat, to provide research opportunities, and to promote educational and interpretive programs for Seattle Audubon members and the public. Seattle Audubon currently has four nature reserves, ranging in size from about two acres to the Carnation Marsh reserve, which is about 183 acres. In addition, we are currently working on a conservation easement donation, an exciting new opportunity.

See pages 8 and 9 to learn more about Seattle Audubon's Nature Reserves.

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Program

Fifty Years of Birding—

A slide presentation by Bob and Elsie Boggs

Thursday, February 20, 7:00PM

Center for Urban Horticulture

On Thursday, February 20, Bob and Elsie Boggs will share their lifetime of birding through remarkable slides from their travels all over North America. Some of these photographs show birds that few people will ever have a chance to see in the wild again.

Whether you are a Master Birder wanting to add to your knowledge, a novice birder wanting to know what birding is all about, or a volunteer coming to enjoy Volunteer Appreciation Night, this program will teach and inspire.

Long-time members are especially invited. Join us and meet up with some old friends. If you need transportation, please call 206-523-8243, x7, and leave a message.

Bring a friend to this armchair field trip. Doors open at 6:30PM for refreshments, Master Birder Booth, and Nature Shop Selections.



The Center for Urban Horticulture is located at 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, in the Laurelhurst neighborhood. From NE 45th Street, turn south on Mary Gates Memorial Way to NE 41st St.

Seattle Audubon

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Advocate for Wildlife Habitat

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Associate Director

Lorraine Hartmann (x12)

Volunteer Coordinator

Anita Lagerberg (x18)

FUN Coordinator

Kintea Bryant (x19)

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Cathy Pfarr

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*Development and
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Emily Sprong (x20)

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Susan Tallarico (x16)

*Nature Camp Director/Middle
School Coordinator*

SIGHTINGS HOTLINE

WOS Birdbox 206-281-9172

WEB SITE

<http://www.seattleaudubon.org>

**SEATTLE AUDUBON CENTER
and NATURE SHOP**

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Of Note

• February's new **volunteer orientation is Tuesday, February 11 from 7-8:30PM** at Seattle Audubon. Please register at 206-523-8243, x12, or lorraineh@seattleaudubon.org.

• **In Memoriam** In recent months, Seattle Audubon received donations in memory of the following individuals: **Jim Cronander**, **Aubra Griffiths**, **Al Hall**, **Melvin J. Mayer**, **Barbara E. Osten**, **John Thibault**, and **Hazel Wolf**.

We feel privileged to be part of their legacy, to continue our work as stewards of nature in their names.

• **The votes are in for the City Bird.**

We'll announce the winner soon. Stay tuned!

• **Wanted:** Microsoft and Adobe software for Seattle Audubon. We also accept usable computer hardware. Chris, 206-523-6477 or chris@123imagine.net.

• **Master Advocate for the Environment Program applications due February 7.** If you are passionate about environmental protection and eager to take your advocacy skills to the next level, please apply. See our website or call Lauren at 206-523-8243, x14.

• Thank you to **Development Advisory Committee volunteers** Kathy Lantz, Alan Roedell, Bill and Chris Rundall, and Erica Zwick.

• Thanks to all who participated in the **Christmas Bird Count**. The lists—of leaders, birders, and birds—will appear in a future issue of *Earthcare Northwest*. The tally is now available on-line at www.seattleaudubon.org.

• **Volunteer opportunities** Please contact Lorraine at 206-523-8243, x12 or lorraineh@seattleaudubon.org.

Conservation: Join the Northwest Shade Coffee Campaign at the Flower and Garden Show, February 19-23, 4-hour shifts.

Development: Become the Development Chair. A capable team will assist you.

Education: Share your expertise in plants, birds, or microscopes for some or all of nine half-days, Thursdays or Fridays.

Take educational kits into the community—experienced and non-experienced educators are all welcome. Training provided.

Membership: Help manage and maintain the membership database.

Staff booths and displays at events.

Transport, set up, and take down the booth for an event.

Nature Shop: Work a three-hour shift.

Learns the ins and outs of Seattle Audubon while you assist shoppers and answer questions from the public.

Neighborhood Bird Count: Help on bird census loops once per month on Saturday morning in a city park (for advanced birders or intermediate birders willing to upgrade your skills).

Publications: Help market the natural history books we have published.

Science: Chair the committee that initiates and manages bird-based science projects.

Volunteer: Join in the work of supporting and enhancing the volunteer program and leadership training of volunteers.

Marketing and Communications:

Share your skills and help us create a greater voice for birds and nature.

Web site: Help maintain and add to our website. (Homesite HTML editor design tool experience desired.)

Miscellaneous: Transport volunteers who are unable to drive to their volunteering or teaching appointments.

Seattle Audubon Society Mission Statement

Seattle Audubon Society protects birds and the natural environment by involving volunteers and the community in education, advocacy, preservation, science, and enjoyment.

Seattle Audubon is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Helping Seattle Audubon Carry Forth Its Mission

by *Chris Peterson, Executive Director*

“For some reason, I just never warmed up to fish!” said a long-time member when asked why she had decided to set up a gift annuity with Seattle Audubon. She now supplements her fixed income with guaranteed quarterly payments for life. After her lifetime, any funds remaining in her annuity will become a gift to Seattle Audubon. In the meantime, she’s enjoying an 11.5% return on her investment plus she’s getting the satisfaction of knowing she will make a larger gift than she ever thought possible to an organization she has loved for many years.

What exactly is “planned giving?” It’s a wonderful way to remember the organization. It’s the giving of assets other than outright cash. It can require financial expertise, yet it can offer you



Chris Peterson

and your heirs a variety of benefits. It takes some planning – like making out a will, or setting up a gift annuity, or naming a beneficiary to a retirement plan, or setting up a trust.

Seattle Audubon accepts and appreciates gifts of all sizes. Please let us know if we can send you more information. We respect all requests for anonymity. We’re here to listen, not sell. We invite you to have a look at our web site (www.seattleaudubon.org) for examples of how to make a lifetime gift, how to reach our broker for a transfer of stocks, and more. Or, if you prefer to receive information by mail, please call 206-523-8243, x15, to say, “I’d like to receive information about making a planned gift.” We will be happy to respond.

Seattle Audubon

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Jennifer Kauffman, *Secretary*
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Let your legacy nurture the natural world for generations to come . . .

Give through
your will

Donate your
retirement assets

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gift annuity

Set up a
charitable trust

As you plan for the future and define your legacy, please consider how a gift of any size to **the Seattle Audubon Society** could benefit you, your family *and* the local environment.

Visit www.seattleaudubon.org/getinvolved/giving.html to explore your giving options, or contact Christina Peterson, Executive Director, at (206) 523-8243, ext. 15 or chrisp@seattleaudubon.org.



Volunteer Service Awards 2002

At the February 20 program meeting, Seattle Audubon will salute our dedicated volunteers with service award pins, cake, and refreshments. The awards listed below represent the number of volunteer hours given to Seattle Audubon since January 1, 1996. An asterisk indicates a newly awarded service recognition in that category. Congratulations to these outstanding volunteers and to all our volunteers who give us their precious time and energy.

4500 hours+

George Johnson, *Charles Kahle, *Richard Youel

3500 hours+

*Hanna Atkins, *Idie Ulsh, *Miriam Williams

3000 hours+

Hal Opperman

2500 hours+

Carolee Colter

2000 hours+

*Steve Dang, *Gene Lagerberg, Brenda Senturia, *Connie VanDeventer

1500 hours+

*Brian Bell, Ellen Blackstone, Suzanne Krom

1000 hours+

*Terry Adams, *Chris Altwegg, Linda Anchondo, Eleanore Baxendale, *Jan Bragg, Herbert Curl, Jr., *Lynn Ferguson, Bob Grant, Eleanor Grant, Steve Hallstrom, Chuck Lennox, *Gussie Litwer, Joe Miles, Julie Myers, Thero North, Walter Oelwein, *Shiva Parameswaran, *Tom Riley, Judy Roan, Stephanie Smith, David Swayne, *Mary Anne Thorbeck

750 hours+

*Chuck Adams, Stephanie Durman Matheny, *Helen Hawley, *Jane Hedberg, *Ken Jacobsen, *Jennifer Kauffman, Jane Lundin, *John Lundin, *Virginia Morrison, Phyllis Pirzadeh, *Genevieve Reckamp, Rick Romea, *Marina Skumanich, Bob Sundstrom, Chris Townsend, Dick Weber

500 hours+

Tom Aversa, Marissa Benavente, Georgia Conti, Joanne Davis, Pat Evans, John Friars, Steve Gerstle, Raelene Gold, *Wesley Hatch, David Hutchinson, Ardell Kuchenbecker,

Continued in facing sidebar.

The Birds We Chased

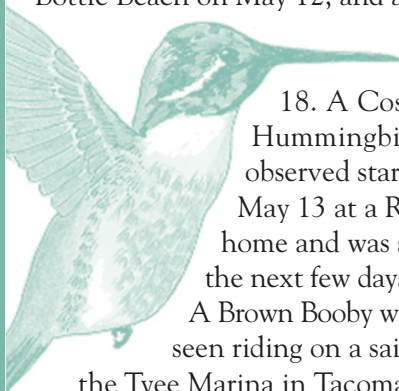
Spring/Summer Report April through September 2002

by Brian H. Bell, Science Committee member

Spring 2002 continued the trend we saw during the winter with many interesting birds being reported. The birds mentioned below are a selected few of those seen during the period in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia.

A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen on Beacon Hill in Seattle on April 2. The gracious homeowners allowed access for viewing so that many birders had a chance to see this attractive bird. Late Common Redpolls were reported in the Puget Sound area on April 15. A couple of out-of-range Sage Thrashers were reported from King County, one at Marymoor Park on April 17 and another at the Montlake Fill during the same period. On April 25 a Sage Thrasher was seen at Steigerwald Lake NWR in Clark County, a fourth county record.

In May a Black-and-white Warbler was at Grenville Point on May 8, a Hudsonian Godwit was seen in Whitman County on May 11, another at Bottle Beach on May 12, and a third at Tokeland on May



18. A Costa's Hummingbird was observed starting on May 13 at a Redmond home and was seen over the next few days by many. A Brown Booby was reported seen riding on a sailboat in the Tye Marina in Tacoma (May 19), but later missed by many observers who went searching. A Lark Bunting was seen on May 24 on Dodson Road.



During the Memorial Day Campout at Wenas Creek a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found in Hardy Canyon on May 25 by two young Seattle birders (Tyler Davis and Brendan McGarry) and was observed and photographed over the next several days by a horde of lucky birders.

In eastern Washington a Mourning Warbler was found on the Kalispell Indian Reservation on May 30 and was heard singing. Farther to the south, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found in College Place on May 31.

In early June a Philadelphia Vireo was reported on the June 8 at Crab Creek along Marcellus Road in Lincoln County north of Ritzville. When other observers looked for this bird, they found an Alder Flycatcher in the same area. South of Ellensburg, also on June 8, there was a Little Blue Heron. June 8 was a good day as a White-winged Dove was seen in Kittitas. On June 23, a Great Gray Owl nest was discovered in Walla Walla County. At the end of the month, on June 27, a Bay-breasted Warbler was seen on the Mountain Loop Highway east of Granite Falls.

On July 5, a pair of Vermilion Flycatchers was seen at Fort Simcoe. On June 14, an adult female Bar-tailed Godwit was seen at Bill's Spit. On June 19, a Curlew Sandpiper was seen at Crockett Lake.

The Westport Seabirds pelagic trips had a couple of stellar days. On August 24, a Greater Shearwater was seen—the first in Washington waters (one seen

Illustrations © Birchside Studios, www.birchsidestudios.com

earlier turned out to be in B.C. waters west of Cape Flattery). Then on September 5, a Horned Puffin obligingly sat on the water for all to view until the boat had to leave.

At the end of September, on September 22, a Boreal Owl was observed by a Washington Ornithological Society field trip at Pass Creek Pass, east of Metalline Falls in Pend Oreille County.

Oregon had its exciting moments during this period with a Spotted Redshank on May 24, a dead Yellow-billed Cuckoo found in Enterprise mid-June, and a Horned Puffin seen at Depoe Bay on July 3. On July 12, a Little Stint was captured on video. A Kentucky Warbler was reported from the Redmond Sewage Ponds on August 28. On September 7, a Blue-footed Booby was seen at Yaquina Head; this bird

was nice enough to hang around for many people to view. Also at Yaquina Head a juvenile Yellow Wagtail was seen on September 8.

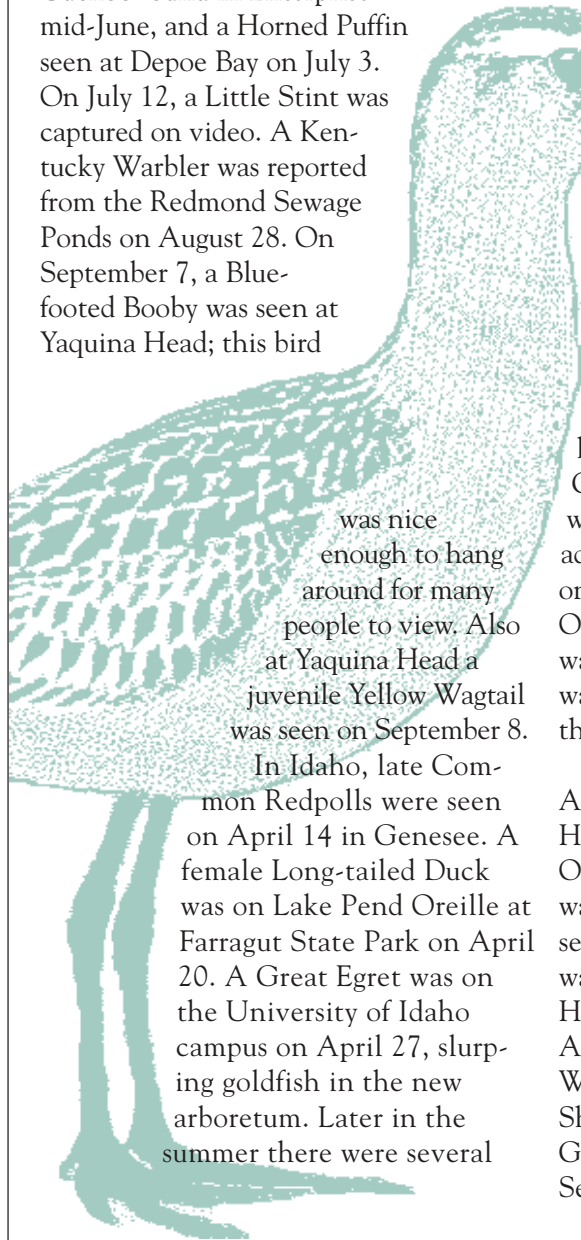
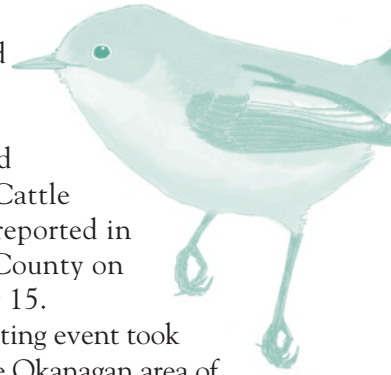
In Idaho, late Common Redpolls were seen on April 14 in Genesee. A female Long-tailed Duck was on Lake Pend Oreille at Farragut State Park on April 20. A Great Egret was on the University of Idaho campus on April 27, slurping goldfish in the new arboretum. Later in the summer there were several

reports of Pacific and Common Loons and Long-tailed Ducks. A Cattle Egret was reported in Kootenai County on September 15.

An exciting event took place in the Okanagan area of British Columbia with the successful nesting of Black-necked Stilt. On May 2, a Demoiselle Crane was reported at Smithers, B.C. This apparently was the bird that wintered in California in the Sacramento Valley and was reported at various locations on its way north.

On June 7, a Dickcissel was reported from Davis Bay near Gibsons, B.C. On June 22, a Connecticut Warbler was seen and heard north of Boston Bar in the Fraser Canyon. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen on June 28 in Victoria, B.C. An adult Green-tailed Towhee was observed on July 7 in Lilloet, north of Vancouver. On August 6, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen outside of Victoria, B.C., but was unfortunately in an area off-limits to the public.

Elsewhere in British Columbia, on August 14, a probable Magnificent Hummingbird was at a feeder in Osooyoos in the southern Okanagan. It was first reported on August 7 and was seen almost daily. A female Ruff (Reeve) was at Reifel Sanctuary in mid-August. A Hudsonian Godwit was also at Reifel on August 28. On September 8, a Tennessee Warbler was observed at Salmon Arm on Shuswap Lake in the south Okanagan. A Green-tailed Towhee was at Reifel on September 15.



*Kathy Lantz, *Laurie Lindeman, Colene McKee, *Jean Mills, Susan Murphy, *Martha Nester, Anne Passarelli, *Roberta Roberts, *Alan Roedel, *Rick Sanders, Bob Sieh, Bob Soldwedel, *Martha Taylor, Janna Treisman, Pat Vivian, Wendy Walsh, Ethel Williams, Ina Willsie, *Cynthia Wilson, *Isadora Wong

250 hours+

Kevin Aanerud, Marti Anderson, *Carol Baker, Julia Bent, Becky Benton, Bob Benton, Mary Ann Berrie, Linda Bosshart, Lauren Braden, Carol Brittnacher, Gro Buer, Danielle Chicoye, Sara Clark, Pierluigi Colombo, Joe Conforti, Nancy Coomer, Rebecca Crofton, Mary Dzieweczynski, *Carolyn Eagan, William Elder, *Ivan Ellis, Al Ferkovich, Stephanie Forbes, *Carol Gard, Keith Geller, Elise Gruber, Ellen Gryj, Elaine Haig, Jean Haigh, Suzanne Hamer, Pat Hitchens, Colleen Huebner, Emmett Kerns, Russell Kurtz, Beth Lagerberg, Cinda Langjahr, Loretta Mandra, Teri Martin, Marilyn Miller, *Martin Muller, *Don Norman, Briony Nguyen, Don Ostrow, Tom Perigo, Suzanne Peterson, Margery Robison, Helen Ross Pitts, Thomas Rohrer, *Marilyn Sandall, Rick Sanders, Netta Smith, *Sharon Sneddon, Emily Sprong, *Phyllis Stark, *Chad Stoker, *Dan Suiter, *Cheryl Teague, *Linda Wakeman, *Paul Webster, Sandra West, Jan Wilson, *Kendrick Wong, Fran Wood, Frances Wood, Martha Wood, Miriam Yates, Neil Zimmerman

100 hours+

Pauline Adams, Judy Allen, Laurinda Anglin, Frances Applegate, Esther Bailey, Lee Barnes, Judy Baskey, Cathy Bell, Mary Burns, *Pam Cahn, Nora Carr, Simmi Cheema, Belinda Chin, Darren Curtis, *Andre Dale, Carol Dale, Ed Deal, Josh Dettweiler, David Diamondstone, *Gary DuVall, *Judy DuVall, Tom Eckert, Dianah Esperas, Steve Garvin, Tracee Geernaert, *Gail Gensler, James Gough, Linda Grace, Catherine Greer, Brent Grism, Lyanda Haupt, Dana Heller, Scott Hoskin, Eugene Hunn, Nancy Hunn, Dean Irwin, Devon Jackson, Barbara Jensen, John Jensen, Pamela Johnson, Sigrid Reinhardt Jones, *Gerald Joyce, Kraig Kemper, Margaret Kenny, *Mary Klein, Peter Klein, Dick Koerker, *Penny Koyama, *Rachel Lawson, *Jennifer Leach, Heather Lee, Estella Leopold, Evelyn Lewarch, Sandy Lindsay, *Richard Lintermans, *Patty Lott, Karen Mabry, Kerrie Maynes, Cheri McCoubrey, Jennifer McDonald, *Susan McDougall, Brendan McGarry, Ann & Bob McIntyre, *Deni Mensing, Teresa Michelsen, Marilyn Milberger, *Bonnie Miller, Lois Miller, Norma Milliman, Mark Moon, Claudia Morgan, Chihiro Nishihara, Fatima Oswald, Jane Owen, Ashley Parkinson, Sarah Perigo, Toni Potter, Barbara Retzlaff, Gene Revelas, Juliet Rhodes, *Sherry Rind, Bob Robins, Linda Rogers, Dan Roller, *Penny Rose, Pat Ryan, *Jackie Saunders, Stephanie Seibert, Jane Sepede, *Anne Shanney, Camille Sperry, Anna Steele, Kate Stenberg, Susan Stillman, *Lisa Syravong, Diana Thayer, Bob Thode, Kay Thode, *Liz Thomas, *Nancy Thomson, Colin Thoreen, Roger Tilton, *Myrna Torrie, *M. Sue Trevalhan, Shang-fan Tu, Nancy Wilson, Woody Wheeler, Bunny Wood, *Alyssa Wu, *Liz Young, Erica Zwick

The Audubon Family—A New Era

by Tom Riley

Over the course of the last two years, the leadership of Seattle Audubon and Audubon Washington have met to define our relationship and a role for Seattle Audubon at the planned Seward Park Environmental Annex and Audubon Center. I'd like to share the results of that work with you.

First, defining our relationship: Seattle Audubon is a successful, large chapter, with our own vision and priorities. Audubon Washington is a growing, statewide organization driven by the 2020 Vision of National Audubon; it has increased its presence in the last two years through its Centers Campaign, the formation of a State Board of Stewards, and other activities. Naturally, two organizations with large visions and similar names in the same territory confront some challenging issues. Our meetings with the state office have produced tangible results.

First, we developed the 2020 Vision for Washington State, adapting National's 2020 vision and enhancing the role of chapters. This vision has been adopted by a majority of chapters in our state. Moreover, this work has influenced the board of National Audubon, and chapters are now recognized as important parts of the Audubon Vision.

The second result is a graphic model of the Audubon Family. Charlie Kahle, our past president, created it to explain how all the parts of the Audubon Family work and fit together. (The vision statements and this graphic model are available on the Seattle Audubon web site.)

Seattle Audubon decided early on that our own priorities did not allow us to participate either in the Center's day-to-day management or in the capital campaign. We hope to use the Center for existing Seattle Audubon programs

in South Seattle. We want to be involved in planning the education program at the Center working either with the Center Stewardship Committee or Education Director. Audubon Washington has been working with the City of Seattle to proceed with the Center, and we look forward to making the Center a partner with our programs in bringing more people to appreciate birds and nature.

Other notes: Audubon Washington is successfully facilitating chapter development and capacity. The new state policy director, Nina Carter, has done exceptional work with the State Conservation Committee, a group of chapter conservation leaders. The State Board of Stewards, chaired by long-time Seattle Audubon volunteer and supporter Beatrice Booth, has five stewards representing chapters. These are all indications that Audubon Washington is taking to heart the importance of chapters in the Audubon Family.

There are still issues to address, and we will need to bring our best intentions and ideas to solve them constructively. Seattle Audubon and Audubon Washington are approaching many of the same donors for resources, and we are finding our own low-key approach to fundraising is less effective in a sea of appeals. We must clarify the distinct goals and responsibilities of the several parts of the Audubon Family. The birds demand, however, that we address these issues through communicating directly, acknowledging disagreements but not being disagreeable, and by remembering that we are, ultimately, all on the same side.

For more information about the Seattle Audubon family, please see www.seattleaudubon.org/WhoWeAre/WhoWeAre.html.

Please write to me at Seattle Audubon or e-mail me at tomr@seattleaudubon.org with comments and questions.



The Status of Our Forest Ecosystem

by G. Shiva Parameswaran

The last two years under the current Bush administration have been difficult for our nation's environment in general, and particularly so for our national forests. National forest policy has been driven by Mark Rey, a former timber industry lobbyist and the current Undersecretary of Agriculture. Rey and the Bush administration are currently dismantling many environmental laws and regulations that provide base-level protections for our forests.

The principal methods of managing owl habitat are laid out in the Northwest Forest Plan. This includes tools such as the "survey and manage" protocol, all of which are necessary for adequate management. In spite of its defects, this plan has been fairly successful in halting logging in critical old-growth forests. However, the administration is currently dismantling the survey and manage program, the Aquatic Conserva-

tion Strategy that protects watersheds, and numerous other management tools.

Please call Senator Murray at 206-553-5545 and Senator Cantwell at 206-220-6400, and urge them to put pressure on the US Forest Service not to weaken our Northwest Forest Plan, but to strengthen it.

Even though the current times are trying, there is some good news. In December 2002, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals lifted a previously issued injunction that prevented the implementation of the Roadless Areas Conservation Rules.

For the time being, these rules that prevent road building and material extraction in 58.5 million acres of forestland are the law. As a result, the US Forest Service has suspended approximately 30 timber sales in Alaska's pristine Tongass National Forest. This victory could not have been possible without the millions of public comments that were submitted nationwide. A hearty thanks to all our members who participated on behalf of our nation's Roadless Areas!

Northwest Shade Coffee Campaign: Goals for 2003

by Lisa Syravong

2002 was an incredible year of transition for the Northwest Shade Coffee Campaign, and we are now reorganized with several exciting new priorities. As we begin our eighth year of the campaign, one of our most exciting new initiatives is the launching of an Office Conversion Campaign. Under this initiative, members, activists, and volunteers will actively lobby their offices and churches to convert to shade-grown coffee on a permanent basis. Materials will be available to all members to help them convert their workplaces.

We recently unveiled our new web site, www.seattleaudubon.org/ShadeGrown/home.asp, a wonderful asset to those seeking information on shade coffee and the campaign. Already, this new site is

being used internationally by those in the coffee industry and by citizens curious about shade coffee.

Over the past three months, campaign volunteers have personally connected with more than ten shade-grown coffee providers in the Pacific Northwest. This has been a valuable experience for the campaign's volunteers, and also for the businesses that are truly making a difference for neotropical migratory birds. These visits will continue over the next few months.

If you would like to work on one of these initiatives, please contact Alex Morgan at 206-523-8243, x13.

Mark the date: Northwest Java Fest, The Jean Vollum Natural Capital Center, 721 NW Ninth Ave., Portland, Oregon, March 8, 2003 9:00AM-7:00PM. 503-916-5320 or jrasor@pps.k12.or.us.

Urban Nature Update

by Lauren Braden,
Advocate for Wildlife Habitat

We all know that habitat is for the birds, but did you know that green spaces enrich the lives of city folk, too? Urban nature offers places to watch wildlife, to rest, and to renew from the stresses of daily life, plus vegetative buffers, water conservation, reduced air pollution, and more. Here is a sampling of Seattle Audubon's current work to promote urban nature. We are:

- Supporting Initiative 80, "Save Seattle's Creeks," sending comments to the Seattle Mayor and City Council.
- Participating in King County's Stakeholder Group for its Critical Areas Ordinance update. Our role is to strengthen protection for wildlife habitat in the CAO.
- Advocating protection of the native urban forest in Seattle's Westcrest Park.

For more information on these and other activities, and to learn ways that you can help, please visit our web site, www.seattleaudubon.org or call Lauren at 206-523-8243, x14.

The Conservation Committee welcomes your help on any of these issues. Please call Alex Morgan at 206-523-8243, x13, or e-mail alexm@seattleaudubon.org.

Seattle Audubon's Fragile Treasure in Carnation

by Chuck Adams, Nature Reserves Chair

Other Seattle Audubon Reserves

McIlraith Reserve

This four-acre reserve, located in the Swamp Creek area in Kenmore, is part of a larger wetland that contains a Great Blue Heron rookery. The rookery is best observed from the Kenmore Park-and-Ride (just east of MacDonald's on Bothell Way). Neil Zimmerman is the steward for the site. The property was generously donated by the McIlraith family.

Hanstead Creek Reserve

This reserve is a 10-acre site populated with plants, birds, and other animals typical of a Cascade foothill second-growth forest. A small creek runs through this remote and beautiful woodland, in the hills northeast of Duvall. The steward for this reserve is Jeff Anderson. This property was generously donated by Patrick Annette, who wished to see it preserved because of the melodic tones of the Swainson's Thrush that he had heard on the site.

Harris Creek Reserve

This reserve of approximately two acres of high-quality wetland is part of the much larger Harris Creek wetland ecosystem. The property is located about three miles southeast of Duvall, just west of Kelly Road. The steward for this reserve is also Jeff Anderson.

"To those devoid of imagination, a blank place on the map is a useless waste; to others, the most valuable part."

—Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

The Reserve—

This reserve is by far the largest and best known of our reserves. It is located several miles south of Carnation along the Snoqualmie River. Seattle Audubon owns about 100 acres of property here, which it purchased from a number of individual owners over a 15-year period ending in 1995. There remain several "in-holdings" which Seattle Audubon would like to purchase, if funding and the opportunity allow. In addition to the Seattle Audubon properties, we administer an additional 83 acres of contiguous King County property that was purchased with special funding in 1994.

The Carnation Marsh itself extends beyond the reserve boundaries and is one of the largest, least fragmented floodplain wetlands remaining in King County. The marsh is adjacent to and hydrologically connected to the Snoqualmie River. Because of the area's floodplain designation, the surrounding area is characterized by farms and low human density.

Access to the reserve and surrounding areas is via the West Snoqualmie River Road, which runs for over a mile through the reserve. This road is a beautiful country drive for cars and bicycles alike. Signs along the road identify some of the reserve area. Care should be taken during seasonal flooding and very wet weather conditions, because portions of the road sometimes flood. Directions are available on the Seattle Audubon website.

Illustration above left: Ospreys nest in the marsh.

The marsh's size and location make it home to a wide variety of plants and animals. The reserve is probably best known to many for its large Osprey nest, which is easily seen from the road. In 2002 that nest was occupied, and it also appeared that two other Osprey pairs were nesting in the area. There are many other bird species there as well: raptors, including Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks, Great Blue and Green Herons, Belted Kingfishers, Pileated Woodpeckers and Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Rufous Hummingbirds, numerous species of ducks and geese, and many others, totaling 128 identified species of birds. Mammals include black bear, cougar, black-tailed deer, coyotes, muskrats, river otters, and beavers, plus the normal assortment of smaller mammals, but most remain unseen in the thickets of the marsh.

The Management of the Marsh—

As a result of the acquisition of the various properties known as the Carnation Marsh Reserve, the Nature Reserves Committee several years ago drafted a Stewardship and Habitat Management Program for Carnation Marsh. This detailed report fully describes the history of the acquisitions and the flora and fauna of the site, and discusses the conservation objectives and management strategies for protecting and managing the marsh. It provides guidelines for our current activities at the marsh.

Although it would be nice to just let Mother Nature "do her thing" at the marsh, we must take some affirmative stewardship actions if we are to protect this fragile ecosystem for the long term and provide some public access for education and enjoyment. For example, some of this property was cleared, drained, and farmed in the past. Invasive plants such as blackberries, reed canary grass, and other noxious weeds have overrun various

*Reed canary grass has
invaded the marsh.*

parts of the reserve. To the extent possible, these plants need to be eliminated or at least controlled by pulling or mowing, and by planting native trees that will in time shade out the pests.



We have field trips and work parties planned. Please join us.

A different problem relates to the growing beaver population in the area, which has caused higher water levels in the marsh with a resulting flooding of roads and trails and substantial mortality to the few old-growth Sitka spruce and other trees in the reserve. The elimination of predators and the ban on trapping has changed the balance. The beavers have historically lived and should always remain in the marsh, but how do we deal with the problems? One non-lethal approach that was tried just last summer was to place a “beaver deceiver” on one of their main dams. A pipe slightly lowered the water level behind the beaver dam and released the water quietly downstream so that the beavers didn’t recognize it as a leak. Otherwise, smart water engineers that they are, they would have plugged the pipe immediately. We will see this coming summer if that subterfuge worked.

Another management challenge is how to encourage public access and education in the marsh in the most effective and least disturbing manner. Due to high water levels, little of the marsh will ever be accessible to visitors under any circumstances except as viewed from the roadside. The only area that currently provides some access into the marsh is at the south end, where there is a small parking area and access to the dike path. However, seasonal

flooding makes fixed structures such as a boardwalk impractical. Our goal is to clear and make accessible the field located just north of the dike path so that visitors, including school groups and field

trips, can park and walk on trails along portions of the wetland. The management plan suggests that a small nature center might be possible in this location in the future.

This possibility would

be much more likely if we could acquire the adjacent privately owned property.

Property Acquisitions—

Seattle Audubon has acquired its nature reserves both through property donations and outright purchase. The nature reserves program is currently funded by very limited dedicated funds, which are not adequate to fund substantially increased program levels or new acquisitions, particularly given rising real estate valuations.



This female Pacific Treefrog is at home in the marsh.

There are several privately owned properties located within the Carnation Marsh reserve, which we would very much like to acquire in order to improve the preservation of the ecosystem and to enhance our management objectives. If you have an interest in directly supporting the nature reserve activities through direct funding, or donations of property, we would be delighted to work with you.

Join the Reserves— The Nature Reserves!

Seattle Audubon pursues its goals by involving volunteers and the community in its programs. The Nature Reserves program is no different. Its committee consists of volunteers. Its stewards are volunteers. There are no paid staff members dedicated to this program. Volunteers plant trees, clear paths, and remove invasive plants. The work can be hard at times, but the personal rewards of learning about and protecting the environment in these interesting reserves, with good people at your side, make it worthwhile. Call Lorraine Hartmann, Seattle Audubon volunteer coordinator, at 206-523-8243, x12, to put your name on a contact list for future projects.

And thanks—

We thank all of the many volunteers who have attended various work parties at the Carnation Marsh over the past few years. Also, special thanks to Wendy Walsh for the time she has dedicated to the Nature Reserves program. And thank you to the reserve stewards Jeff Anderson and Neil Zimmerman, along with Richard Youel, Brenda Senturia, Steve Hallstrom, Clair Irvin, Susan McDougall, Gail Lonergan, the Boeing volunteers, BirdWatch kids, and the great folks at King Conservation District.