

## Winter Banding Sites Go Public!

Local banders are now cooperating on a project to band regularly during the winter at four sites around Seattle, where the public can learn more about birds in our urban areas. Starting in October, there will be a banding event just about every weekend, weather depending. Do winter birds fare better at Woodland Park Zoo

because of the lack of cats? Will we see an increase in longevity and site fidelity as the habitat restoration at Longfellow Creek provides more cover and food?

There's a site near you. Come and meet some birds up close!

No sign-up is needed, but if you wish to bring a large group, please contact the local coordinator. If it is raining the morning of the banding, please call the supervisor to see if the banding will take place.

## Schedule for Winter Banding

Oct. 4 Shoreview Park  
 Oct. 12 Woodland Park Zoo  
 Oct. 18 Battlepoint Park  
 Oct. 18 Longfellow Creek\*  
 (\*Note 3rd Sat., Oct. only)

Nov. 1 Shoreview Park  
 Nov. 9 Woodland Park Zoo  
 Nov. 15 Battlepoint Park  
 Nov. 22 Longfellow Creek

Nov. 29 Shoreview Park  
 Dec. 7 Woodland Park Zoo  
 Dec. 13 Battlepoint Park  
 Dec. 20 Longfellow Creek

Locations:

**Shoreview Park, Shoreline, WA (1st Saturday)**

Just west of Shoreline Community College (SCC). Turn onto Innes Arden Way just north of Greenwood Avenue N and N 155th, and follow it south of SCC down the hill. Turn right into the park just past the ball field, and park. Banding is below the cinder soccer field. Contact Don Norman 206-542-1275.

**Woodland Park Zoo, Northwest Exhibit (2nd Sunday)**

The banding table will be near the entrance to the grizzly bears. Nets will be placed in lanes outside of public areas. You'll have to pay admission to the zoo, so make sure the weather is OK. This site is managed by Seattle Audubon members Gretchen Albrecht and Stephanie Forbes, 206-706-2703.

**Battlepoint Park, Bainbridge Island (3rd Saturday)**

The park is on the west side of the island. Go three miles north on Hwy. 305 from the Winslow ferry, turn left on Koura, then left on Miller, and immediately right on Arrowpoint. Banding is north of the entrance. This site is managed by Kitsap Audubon member Dawn Garcia 253-780-8892.

**Longfellow Creek, West Seattle (4th Saturday)**

This site is by Chief Sealth High School in West Seattle. Take Delridge Avenue south from the West Seattle Bridge to Thistle, turn right, and park just before the school. The banding will take place just north of the demonstration gardens. This site is managed by Seattle Audubon member Ilon Logan, 206-762-4545.

## An Urban Banding Tale

by Don Norman

Song Sparrows do not breed in my yard. About five winters ago, I set up a few nets in my yard, just to see what I would find. I caught Golden-crowned Sparrows and juncos, and always a few Song Sparrows. I really never get tired of this bird; it has a very happy face and is easy to handle. Of the 18 birds I have caught in four winters, most (72%), are never seen again, just passing through.

But #117, a Song Sparrow, likes my yard, as I've now caught him or her (sex undiscernable in the winter) 11 times over four winters. Still, it has never nested.

Is my yard missing something? As I work on improving the wildlife habitat in my yard, perhaps adding more water, will Song Sparrows stay and breed?

A major project at the UW Urban Wildlife Program is color-banding birds to answer questions such as these, about relationships between habitat and survival in urban areas. For more information about this program, contact John Marzluff or John Withey at the University of Washington, 206-543-2764, or [crow@u.washington.edu](mailto:crow@u.washington.edu).