

## Birdathon 2004 Master Birder Challenge

The Master Birder Challenge is a competition between Master Birder classes. Winning teams will be judged on most money raised and most species seen. Their names will appear on a plaque displayed in the Seattle Audubon office.

For more information go to the Master Birder Challenge link on the Birdathon page at [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org).

### Why We Charge for Field Trips

Last year, for the first time ever, we charged for field trips during Birdathon. This one modification successfully raised more than \$1000.

Guess what, we're doing it again. Birdathon will remain the only time Seattle Audubon charges for field trips. This money, \$15 for local walks and \$25 for field trips, goes to support the many programs and projects of Seattle Audubon.

Birdathon field trips are designed to give you the best opportunity to see wonderful migratory birds—shorebirds at the coast, owls east of the mountains, neotropicals in our city parks, and many more.

Sign up early, and have a great Birdathon!

## Kids—Win a Free Week at Nature Camp!

If you're between five and thirteen, you can do your own Birdathon, and be entered into a drawing for a free week at Nature Camp this summer.

Look for, and circle, the birds pictured below by searching your backyard or your local park, or sign up for the field trip designed especially for kids.

Fill out the registration form on page 13, and send it and your Birdathon Bingo Card to Seattle Audubon, Attn: Birdathon, 8050 35th Avenue NE, Seattle WA 98115.

Every entry must be accompanied by \$10. Your contribution helps Seattle Audubon fund programs in education, advocacy, preservation, and science.

The winner will be selected at random from all entries on June 1.

## Free Birdathon Field Trip for Kids!

Saturday, May 8

Limit 15

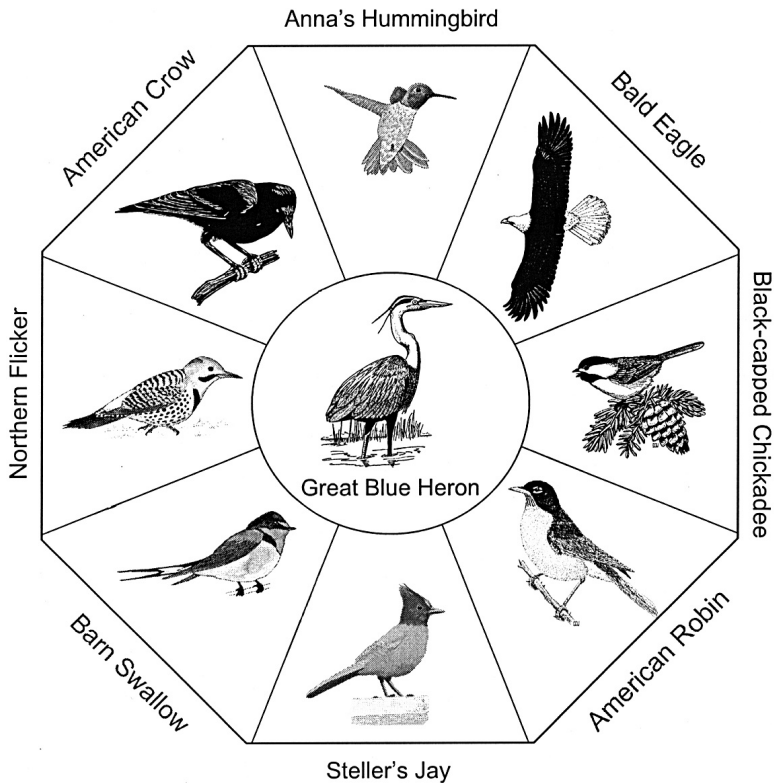
Discovery Park

Leader: Penny Rose 206-386-4250  
8-10:00AM

Visitors' Center Parking Lot

We'll take a walk through the park, looking for the birds on your Birdathon Bingo Card and learning about the habitats in which they live. Kids under ten, please bring an adult. There will be something to learn for everyone.

Sign up in advance with Discovery Park 206-386-4236.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name and Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Your School and Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Why I Enjoy Birdathon

by Jan Bragg, Master Birder

It's the challenge. I always enjoy birding, seeing what shows up and being surprised by the unexpected.

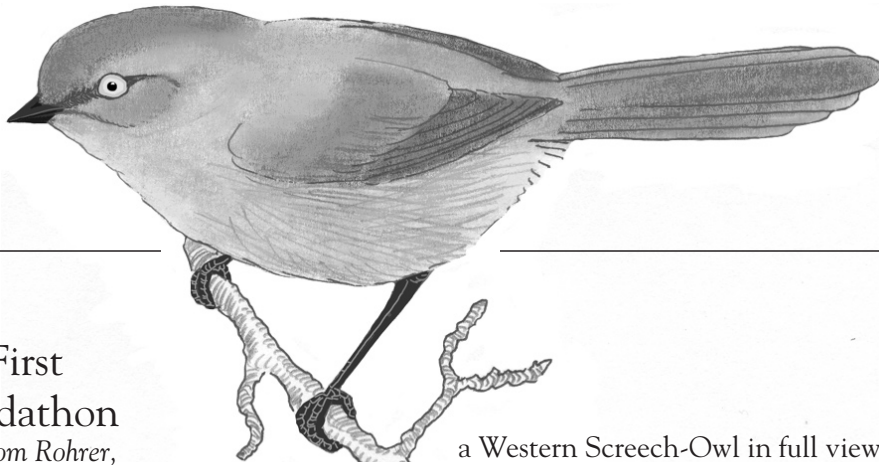
But Birdathon is different. When I do Birdathon, I look for the expected species, check them off, and stay alert for the unexpected ones. Because the more species I see, the more money I raise for Seattle Audubon, and the more fun I have.

I always head out early in the morning. I plan my day remembering where I've seen certain species in the past: the

family of Bushtits this side of the mountains—knowing they won't be on the other side; the Pygmy Nuthatch nesting along Wenas Road—there aren't many spots to get that one; and which ponds attract avocets and stilts. I am thrilled to spot and list each one again.

And, of course, I have to stop at the bridge over the Teanaway River, outside of Cle Elum, to look for the American Dipper. I've seen it on almost every Birdathon for the past ten years, and my list wouldn't be complete without it.

The expected and the unexpected make for a great day of birding.



## A First Birdathon

by Tom Rohrer,  
Seattle Audubon web site  
volunteer

Armed with binoculars, bird book, and plenty of coffee, Ilon Logan and I kicked off our 2003 Birdathon on May 2 at 6:00PM in Seattle. As eager as I was to do my first Birdathon, I had been apprehensive about asking for pledges. But I simply e-mailed friends and family, described what Seattle Audubon means to me, and invited them to pledge. The response was overwhelming—they all understand how Seattle Audubon's work benefits our communities.

An hour into the trip, we had already noted 30 species at the Montlake Fill. Then we joined a Seattle Audubon trip for a night of owling. By 9:30PM, we had

a Western Screech-Owl in full view; alas, it was to be our only owl sighting. At 3:30AM, we rolled out sleeping bags and slept until awakened by chirping birds at 5:00AM. On the road again, we worked our way through the sage lands to the Columbia River Gorge, alive with warblers, vireos, and kingbirds.

At noon, Ilon and I drove back over the Cascades to Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. The marshes and tidelands were teeming with grebes, herons, and wrens. Just before 6:00PM, three miles from our car, we identified our 91st bird, a Belted Kingfisher. We trudged back to the car, arriving just as the sun was setting, tired and hungry but elated.

With one Birdathon under our belts, we're ready to do it again, hoping to break the 100 species mark...and get more sleep.

