

Thank you to those who organized the count and the potluck, and to the 167 intrepid observers in 38 parties who helped carry on this invaluable Audubon tradition of citizen science:

Jamie Acker, Margaret Amory, Linda Anchondo, Alice Arnold, Virginia Arnon, Kevin Atteberry, Tom Aversa, Jeff Baker, Lee Barnes, Brian H. Bell, Becky and Bob Benton, Scott Berglund, Jim and Maryanne Bickneil, Helle Bielefeldt-Ohmann, Fred Bird, Marv Breece, Beth Bronson, Marilyn Busher, Justine Busse, Lon Butcher, Pam Cahn, James Christensen, Carolee Colter, Brad Connor, Chuck and Georgia Conti, Jon Cooper, Etta Cosey, Darren Curtis, Natalie Curtis, Lou Damberg, Mark Damborg, Steve Dang, Hans and Kristine de Grys, Diana Aubin de Paradis, Denis DeSilvis, Diane Doles, Mike Donahue, John Dunne, Sally Easterbrook, JoLynn Edwards, Candi Estrada, Susan Fallat, Decky Fiedlar, Jack Force, Rachel Garson, Julee Geier, George Gerdts, Steve Gerstle, Helen Gilbert, Gerry Grady, Karren Gratt, Bruce Hall, Dan Harville, Nanette Heckendorn, David Hepp, Nancy Heywood, Glen and Kristine Hill, Jeanne Houston, Gene Hunn, Marty Jackson, Anne Jacobsen, Ken Jacobsen, Wendy John, Kathy King, Vicki King, Laune Kittleson, Antonio Knot, Marianne Kogan, Neal Komedal, Donna Kostka, David and Penny Koyama, Bill and Julia Kruger, Rachel Lawson,

Continued in facing sidebar

The Seattle Christmas Bird Count, December 26, 2004

by Eugene Hunn, Compiler

Many thanks to our 167 observers!

This year's count was the 75th since 1908. One measure of a count's success is the raw number of species observed. This year saw Washington State's two richest counts set new records in this department—Grays Harbor with an all-time statewide best of 149 with the Sequim-Dungeness count tallying 147. Seattle, by contrast, hit our 30-year average on the nose with 120 species (plus two additional recognizable forms, Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers and a single Slate-colored Junco amongst the many Oregons; and two hybrids, Eurasian x American Wigeon and the "Olympic Gull").

However, total numbers of individual birds counted, 63,076, was 17% above the ten-year average and 45% above the 30-year par. Of course, the total of individuals is heavily leveraged by counts of a handful of abundant species, such as crows (18,988), coots (5,885), starlings (3,211), Rock Pigeons (2825), robins (2485), American Wigeons (2373), Pine Siskins (2330), Bushtits (1622), Western Grebes (1371), Black-capped Chickadees (1354), and Glaucous-winged Gulls (1,342, of a grand total gull count of 3073). These top ten species account for 69.4% of all individual birds counted. The crow count is primarily from our best estimate of numbers at two large winter roosts, the roost on Foster Island tallying 10,929 and the relatively new roost at Newport Shores with an estimated 5,000. This year's crow numbers are 2.1x the ten-year average and 4.7x the 30-year average, tracking this anthropophilic species' continuing success.

At the other end of the spectrum are 12 species represented on the count by just one or two individuals: Green Heron, Virginia Rail, Dunlin, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Mourning Dove, Barn, screech, Barred, and saw-whet owls, Mountain Chickadee, and Townsend's Warbler.

Many of these are regular winter residents with small and/or elusive local populations. A few are irregular visitors recorded just a few times on the Seattle count: Mourning Dove and Mountain Chickadee. The Mountain Chickadee represents the tail-end of an astounding invasion by this montane species into our lowlands regions that began in late fall. Four Bohemian Waxwings in Discovery Park and an above-average siskin showing might be connected somehow. Note that the addition of just a handful of such stragglers could bring the count species total well above par.

Finally, our count this year shows that certain widely noted trends continue. On the plus side, nine Peregrine Falcons is 5x the 30-year average and nearly double that for the previous ten years, and 53 Bald Eagles is nearly 4x the 30-year average and 50% above that of the past ten years. Both species have rebounded dramatically from near extinction during the DDT era. On the other hand, Band-tailed Pigeons and Western Grebes continue to slide. Band-taileds were at just 62% of their 30-year average. Western Grebes recovered somewhat this year but are still at 84% of the average of the previous ten years. Both have been singled out as species of concern in recent years. By contrast, Great Blue Heron numbers are up somewhat, at 50% above the 30-year average. However, we should note the absence of Pacific Loons, normally present in small numbers, and low counts of White-winged Scoters (15% and 9% of the 10- and 30-year averages) and Ruddy Ducks (11% and 3% respectively). Dunlin were notably scarce and Bonaparte's Gulls continue well below average, with just a single bird of each reported. On the other hand, Brandt's Cormorants staged a strong showing (6.5x their ten-year average and 15x their 30-year average), but murrelets (53% and 38% of the ten- and 30-year averages) and Rhinoceros Auklets (at 37% and 33% respectively) were off the mark. Anna's Hummingbirds set an all-time record high count of 173, well

above the previous high count of 113. Western Scrub-Jays continue to expand their foothold in Seattle with an all-time high of five individuals reported, from Capitol Hill, Ballard, and West Seattle. Is this one piece of the puzzle of global warming?

Count Results:

Greater White-fronted Goose 3
 Brant 95
 Canada Goose 728
 Cackling Goose 3
 Wood Duck 16
 Gadwall 937
 Eurasian Wigeon 9
 American Wigeon 2,373
 Eurasian x American Wigeon 1
 Mallard 871
 Northern Shoveler 101
 Northern Pintail 4
 Green-winged Teal 65
 Canvasback 299
Redhead 3
 Ring-necked Duck 495
 Greater Scaup 606
 Lesser Scaup 604
 scaup sp. 1
 Harlequin Duck 40
 Surf Scoter 476
 White-winged Scoter 8
 Black Scoter 82
 scoter sp. 10
 Bufflehead 956
 Common Goldeneye 242
 Barrow's Goldeneye 180
 Hooded Merganser 104
 Common Merganser 425
 Red-breasted Merganser 361
 Ruddy Duck 14 (low)
 Ring-necked Pheasant 5
 California Quail 25
 Red-throated Loon 7
 Common Loon 9
 loon sp. 5
 Pied-billed Grebe 134
 Horned Grebe 227
 Red-necked Grebe 194
 Eared Grebe 5
 Western Grebe 1,371
 Double-crested Cormorant 767

Brandt's Cormorant 244 (record high)
 Pelagic Cormorant 27
 cormorant sp. 1
 Great Blue Heron 80
Green Heron 1
 Bald Eagle (all) 53
 Bald Eagle (adult) 36
 Bald Eagle (immature) 14
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 23
 Cooper's Hawk 26
Accipiter sp. 2
 Red-tailed Hawk 45
 Merlin 14
 Peregrine Falcon 9
 hawk sp. 1
 Virginia Rail 2
 American Coot 5,885
 Killdeer 24
 Spotted Sandpiper 3
 Black Turnstone 80
 Surfbird 86
 Sanderling 89
 Dunlin 1 (low)
 Wilson's Snipe 1
 Bonaparte's Gull 1 (low)
 Mew Gull 663
 Ring-billed Gull 184
 California Gull 38
 Herring Gull 13
 Thayer's Gull 5
 Western Gull 4
 Glaucous-winged Gull 1,342
 Western x Glaucous-winged Gull 303
 gull sp. 520
 Common Murre 17
 Pigeon Guillemot 29
 Rhinoceros Auklet 14
 Rock Pigeon 2,825
 Band-tailed Pigeon 96
Mourning Dove 1
 Barn Owl 1
 Western Screech-Owl 2
 Barred Owl 2
 Northern Saw-whet Owl 1
 Anna's Hummingbird 173
 hummingbird sp. 1
 Belted Kingfisher 26
 Red-breasted Sapsucker 6
 Downy Woodpecker 47
 Hairy Woodpecker 3
 Northern Flicker (all) 302
 N. "Red-shafted" Flicker 297
 N. "Red-" x "Yellow-shafted" Flicker 5

Pileated Woodpecker 8
 Hutton's Vireo 7
 Steller's Jay 176
 Western Scrub-Jay 5 (record high)
 Crow (American or Northwestern) 18,988
 Black-capped Chickadee 1,354
Mountain Chickadee 1
 Chestnut-backed Chickadee 151
 Bushtit 1,622
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 31
 Brown Creeper 68
 Bewick's Wren 192
 Winter Wren 166
 Marsh Wren 6
 Golden-crowned Kinglet 824
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 515
 Hermit Thrush 10
 American Robin 2,485
 Varied Thrush 37
Bohemian Waxwing 4
 Cedar Waxwing 80
 European Starling 3,211
 Orange-crowned Warbler 4
 Yellow-rumped Warbler (all) 77
 Yellow-rumped "Audubon's" Warbler 52
 Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler 1
 Townsend's Warbler 2
 Spotted Towhee 282
 Fox Sparrow 135
 Song Sparrow 693
 Lincoln's Sparrow 20
 White-crowned Sparrow 41
 Golden-crowned Sparrow 216
 Dark-eyed Junco (all) 683
 Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco 682
 Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Junco 1
 Red-winged Blackbird 199
 Purple Finch 16
 House Finch 934
 Red Crossbill 6
 Pine Siskin 2,330
 American Goldfinch 263
 House Sparrow 1,057

Total individuals, 63,076;
 total species, 120
 plus two identifiable forms
 and two hybrids

Continued from facing sidebar

Michelle Ledeen, Jan Lewinsohn, Kevin Li, Tiffany and Tor Linbo, Alan Lincoln, Maxine Linial, Polly Little, Ilon Logan, John Lombard, Patricia Lott, Dennis and Tova Lund, Rita Martello, Dorli Mason, Maria Mayrhofer, Ann McCaffrey, Bo McFadden, Brendan McGarry, Ryan Merrill, Bill Morris, Dick Moxon, Julie Myers, Vicki Nelson, Martha and Gene Nester, Christen and Henry Noble, Patty North, Thero North, Jeff Nystuen, Margaret Okamoto, Sharon Okamoto, Hal Opperman, Wayne A. Palsson, Shiva Parameswaran, Kristine Parker, Dennis Paulson, Paul Prappas, Gordon Rasmussen, Ginger Rebstock, John Rehr, John Roach, Judy Roan, Alan Roedell, Penny Rose, Lisa Saban, Barbara Sacerdote, Katie Sauter Messick, Fayla Schwartz, Mardi Scott, Pat Siggs, Lora Sinisi, Arn and Kathy Slettebak, Netta Smith, Sharon Sneddon, Margot Stiles, Mimi Stiles, Rick Stiles, Dave Swayne, Martha Taylor, Ruth Taylor, Jim Thomas, Sue Thompson, Mary Anne Thorbeck, Colin Thoreen, Christina Tredick, Jean Trent, Joan Trunk, Carolee Trusk, Kathy Veit, Pat Vivian, Brad Waggoner, Scott Warren, Doug Watkins, Isah Webb, Barbara and Paul Webster, Tom Weir, David H. West, Lee Wheeler, David White, Kathy Wickward, Cynthia Wilson, Marc Wiseman, Ann Marie Wood, Sam Woods, Richard Youel, Peter Zika, and Carleen and Neil Zimmerman

Volunteer Service Awards 2004

Total 1996-2004 Hours

Seattle Audubon will gratefully award service pins to high-serving volunteers at our Thursday, March 3, Volunteer Appreciation Evening at 7:00PM at the Center for Urban Horticulture. An asterisk indicates a newly awarded service recognition in that category.

Following is a list of volunteers who have given 100 hours or more. A list of volunteers with fewer than 100 hours of service will appear in the March issue of this newsletter.

Congratulations and thank you to all our volunteers.

6000 hours+

*Charles Kahle

5000 hours+

George Johnson, Richard Youel

4500 hours+

*Miriam Williams

4000 hours+

*Hanna Atkins, Idie Ulsh

3000 hours+

*Chris Altwegg, Carolee Colter, *Suzanne Krom, *Gene Lagerberg, Hal Opperman

2500 hours+

*Steve Dang, *Brenda Senturia, Connie VanDeventer

2000 hours+

Brian Bell, Ellen Blackstone, *Shiva Parameswaran

1500 hours+

*Herb Curl, Jr., Lynn Ferguson, *John Lundin, Walter Oelwein, Tom Riley, *Marina Skumanich, *Mary Anne Thorbeck

1000 hours+

Charles Adams, Terry Adams, Linda Anchondo, Eleanore Baxendale, Jan Bragg, *Georgia Conti, Steve Hallstrom, *Jane Hedberg, Jennifer Kauffman, *Kathy Lantz, Chuck Lennox, *John Lundin, Joe Miles, Virginia Morrison, Julie Myers, *Don Norman, Thero North, *Don Ostrow, *Genevieve Reckamp, Judith Roan, *Alan Roedell, *Marilyn Sandall, Stephanie Smith, David Swayne, *Cynthia Wilson

750 hours+

*Tom Aversa, Marissa Benavente, *Raelene Gold, Helen Hawley, Ken Jacobsen, *Jerry Joyce, Jane Lundin, Stephanie Durman Matheny, *Colene McKee, Jean Mills, *Martha Nester, Phyllis Pirzadeh, *Roberta Roberts, Richard Sanders, Bob Soldwedel, *Dan Suiter, Robert Sundstrom, Dick Weber, *Paul Webster, Ethel Williams, *Isadora Wong, *Kendrick Wong

500 hours+

Joanne Davis, Carolyn Eagan, *Ivan Ellis, John Friars, *Carol Gard, *Keith Geller, Steve Gerstle, David Hutchinson, *Tom Kelly, *Penny Koyama, Ardell Kuchenbecker, Laurie Lindeman, *Teri Martin, *Marilyn Milberger, Martin Muller, Susan Murphy, Anne Passarelli, *Suzanne Peterson, *Tom Rohrer, *Pat Ryan, Robert Sieh, Phyllis Stark, Martha Taylor, *Cheryl Teague, Patricia Vivian, Timothy Walsh, Sandra West, Japhy Whalen, Francis Wood, Neil Zimmerman

250 hours+

Kevin Aanerud, Nancy Alden, Marti Anderson, *Judy Allen, Laurinda Anglin, *Diana Aubin de Paradis, Carol Baker, Lee Barnes, Julia Bent, Becky and Bob Benton, MaryAnn Berrie, Linda Boss-hart, Lauren Braden, Carol Brittnacher, Gro Buer, Nicole Burk, *Marilyn Busher, Danielle Chicoye, Sara Clark, Joe Conforti, Nancy Coomer, Ed Deal, *Rebecca Evans, Al Ferkovich, Stephanie Forbes, Ellen Gryj-Rubenstein, Jean Haigh, Pat Hitchens, *Gene Hunn, *Dean Irwin, Courtenay Jackson, Neil Jackson, *Vicki King, Russell Kurtz, Beth Lagerberg, Cinda Langjhar, Rachel Lawson, *Robin Lewis, Richard Lintermans, Loretta Mandra, Teri Martin, Cheryl McCoubrey, Brendan McGarry, Bonnie Miller, Marilynn Miller, Briony Nguyen, Tom Perigo, Helen Ross Pitts, Robert Robins, Randy Robinson, Margery Robison, Penny Rose, *Ian Shives, *Connie Sidles, Jim Simpkins, Netta Smith, Sharon Sneddon, Emily Sprong, *Keith Stamm, Chad Stoker, *Stephanie Sykes, Lisa Syravong, *Kathleen and Robert Thode, *Liz Thomas, Colin Thoreen, *Roger Tilton, Myrna Torrie, Linda Wakeman, Jan Wilson, *Bunny Wood, Francie Wood, Martha Wood, *Alison Wysong

100 hours+

Morgan Ahouse, Frances Applegate, Esther Brolin Bailey, *Shannon Bailey, *Katie Barndt, Cathy Bell, *Bill Bogue, Pam Cahn, Nora Carr, *Linda Carroll, *Christine Chan, Belinda Chin, *Kavitha Chinta, Morea Christenson, *Kelly Crimmins, Carol and Endre Dale, Tyler Davis, *Hans and Kristi de Grys, *Barb Deihl, *Denis DeSilvis, *Anne Doherty, Michael Donahue, Gary and Judy DuVall, Tom Eckert, *Jo Lynn Edwards, Dianah Esperas, Diane DiLuck Fathi, *Michael Fleming, *Edward Freedman, Tracee Geernaert, Gail Gensler, James Gough, Kristi Gray, *Michael Green, Catherine Greer, *Nick Gregoric, *Alan Grenon, Brent Grisim, *Mara Grunbaum, Rebecca Guiao, Tosten Haugerud, Lyanda Haupt, Dana Heller, *Eva Hershaw, *Michael Hobbs, Carol Holmstrom, Scott Hoskin, Malina Hubler, Nancy Hunn, Barbara and John Jensen, *Bruce Jones, Sigrid Reinhardt Jones, Kraig Kemper, Mary Klein, Peter Klein, Dick Koerker, Katrina Landau, Jennifer Leach, Heather Lee, Carol Leenstra, Estella Leopold, Sandy Lindsay, Patricia Lott, Patty Lott, *Donna Luce, Jennifer McDonald, Susan McDougall, *Alan Mendoza, Deni Mensing, Lois Miller, Norma Milliman, Mark Moon, Claudia Morgan, *Reiko Myers, *Marlo Mytty, Danny O'Keefe, *Jennee Osburn, Joan O'Sullivan, Jane Owen, Lakshmi Padala, Ashley Parkinson, Dennis Paulson, Scott Percival, Sarah Perigo, *Cathy Pfarr, *Linda Pomeroy, Toni Potter, Barbara Retzlaff, Gene Revelas, Juliet Rhodes, Sherry Rind, *Joyce Roether, Linda Rogers, Mary Rogers, Dan Roller, *Ilene Samowitz, Jackie Saunders, *Paul Schloemer, Barbara and Randy Schnabel, Jane Sepede, Victoria Shum, Ron Simons, Camille Sperry, Anna Steele, Kate Stenberg, *Karen Stephens, Kristin Stewart, Susan Stillman, Bob Sundstrom, Ed Swan, Diana Thayer, Nancy Thomson, M. Sue Trevathan, *Sonia Vallabh, Justine Vega, Lisa Vogel, *Beverly Wagoner, *John Waterman, *Sarah Webb-Smeltzer, Kate Weinberger, *Tom Weir, *John Michael West, *Heidi Whalley, Woody Wheeler, Joan Whiley, Shannon Whitney, Nancy Wilson, *Marilyn Wittenmyer, *Sandra Woods, Liz Young, *Elyse Zelenko, Diana and Willa Zhou, *Carleen Zimmerman, and Erica Zwick.

Priorities for a Healthy Washington

by Marina Skumanich, Conservation Chair

This year, Washington State's environmental community has come together to identify a specific set of state-level legislative priorities that we will work on jointly. The people of Washington overwhelmingly support policies to protect people's health and our natural environment, and by working together, we can ensure that the public's will is properly reflected in legislative action.

As a starting point, Seattle Audubon and other environmental groups have committed to two general legislative principles. First, we will oppose attempts to roll back existing protections, as we believe these protections are critical to our quality of life. Second, we will insist on sufficient funding in the state budget to keep our land, air, and water healthy.

In addition to these general commitments, we will be working with Audubon Washington and other members of the environmental community on four key legislative proposals we call "Priorities for a Healthy Washington":

- Saving Hood Canal and Puget Sound—Unchecked development is polluting our marine waters, and the problem is widespread and growing.



Advocate for wildlife by buying a "duck stamp." Proceeds from the 2004-2005 Migratory Bird Stamp pay for improving habitat for waterfowl and other migratory wildlife in Washington. Stamps are available at WDFW license vendors for \$10.95 each.

- Sustainable and Efficient Green Buildings—Buildings should meet standards that are more energy- and water-efficient, support worker and occupant health, and create new markets for sustainable materials.
- Banning Toxic Flame-retardants—Persistent toxic chemicals used as flame-retardants in countless consumer products including televisions, computers, furniture, and carpet are rapidly building up in our bodies, food supply, and wildlife.
- Cleaner Cars - Cleaner Air—Car exhaust is one of the biggest sources of regional air pollution as well as a major contributor to global warming.

If you have any questions on these legislative priorities, or want to help get these priorities passed into law, please contact Alex Morgan at 206-985-6581 or alexm@seattleaudubon.org.



Discovery Park: Growing in the Right Way

by Matt Mega, Director of Urban Habitat

A few days before Christmas, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels signed a Memorandum of Agreement to purchase the Capehart property located in Discovery Park. The signing was announced at a press conference attended by many of the parties influential in this negotiation, including the mayor, US Rep. Jim McDermott, US Senator Maria Cantwell, King County Executive Ron Sims and

members of Friends of Discovery Park. The 23 acres of land represented in the deal will become part of the park, making Discovery the largest of Seattle's parks at 557 acres. Historic housing consisting of 100-year-old Georgian revival-style homes will be privatized, but no expansion of development will be allowed. This represents a major victory for the citizen-advocates who saw the value of preserving the integrity of this magnificent park.

Citizens' Lobby Day
Thursday, February 17
United Churches
110 East 11th Avenue
Olympia, WA

Join Seattle Audubon, the Audubon Washington state office, and other environmental organizations from around the state to fill the capitol and push the "Priorities for a Healthy Washington" legislative package detailed in the accompanying article. Lobby Day is an easy and engaging way to learn about these legislative priorities and to share your passion for birds and the environment with your state legislators.

Lobby Day Schedule

- 9:00, Check-in
- 9:30-10:30, Continental breakfast with keynote speakers and legislators
- 10:30-12:00, Lobbying training and issue-briefings from top nonprofit lobbyists
- 12:00-5:00, Face-to-face meetings with your elected officials, rallies, and hearings
- 5:00, Reception hosted by Audubon Washington, with door prizes and refreshments

To register on-line go to www.pugetsound.org/lobbyday.

For more information, or if you are interested in carpooling with other Seattle Audubon volunteers, contact Alex Morgan, alexm@seattleaudubon.org, 206-985-6581.