

Summer Connections

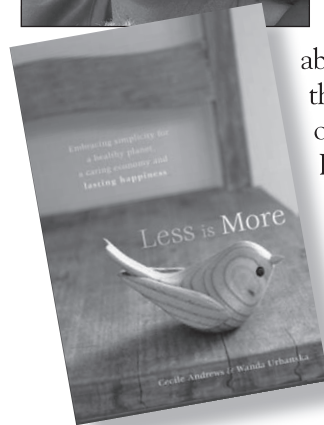
With warmer weather and longer days, summer is a time for getting outside. It is also an excellent time for deepening our connections with the birds and other wildlife that surround us. At Seattle Audubon, we are committed to helping individuals celebrate the natural environment through a wide range of opportunities. From field trip and class offerings to great buys on birding equipment and bird feeders, Seattle Audubon can help you make the most of your time outside. Read more inside to learn about the numerous activities and programs we are currently operating, as well as ideas for connecting with birds and nature this summer.



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Event

June 17, 6-9 pm Seattle Audubon's Annual Appreciation and Awards Dinner



Join us to celebrate 94 years of volunteerism and community leadership. We'll start the evening with a buffet dinner catered by Balabuste Catering and wine from Kestrel Vintners. Dinner will be followed by the presentation of Annual Awards for leadership in Conservation, Education and Science, and recognition of Seattle Audubon's fine volunteers. The evening's guest speaker will be Cecile Andrews, founder of the Phinney Ecovillage, a project to build sustainability and community in her north Seattle neighborhood. The theme is living simpler, slower and smaller. Cecile is the author of *Slow is Beautiful*, *Circle of Simplicity* and, most recently, *Less is More*, an absorbing collection of essays by the Simplicity and Sustainability movements' leading thinkers and philosophers.

The Dinner will be held at the Center for Urban Horticulture in the Main Hall, 3501 NE 41st Street, in Seattle.

Space is limited. Please RSVP by June 7 to Jen Mullen at jenm@seattleaudubon.org or (206) 523-8243 x 12.

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Seattle Audubon

Shop (phone: 206-523-4483)**Staff** (phone: 206-523-8243)**Fax** (206-528-7779)Emiko Blalock, x14, *Development Manager*Kintea Bryant, x11, *Education Director*Shawn Cantrell, x15, *Executive Director*Leah Lee, x16, *Director of Membership and Development*Brendan McGarry, x13, *Nature Shop Assistant*Matthew Mega, x38, *Conservation Director*Jen Mullen, x12 *Volunteer Coordinator*Adam Sedgley, x21, *Science Manager*Janelle Shafer, x19, *Elementary School Program Manager*Russ Steele, x10, *Director of Retail Operations*Lois Woolwine, x17, *Bookkeeper***WEB SITES**<http://www.seattleaudubon.org><http://www.birdweb.org>**Earthcare Northwest**, the official newsletter of Seattle Audubon*Coordinator*, Brendan McGarry
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Submissions should be sent via e-mail to

earthcare@seattleaudubon.org
by the 1st of the month preceding publication. Address

changes should be sent to

info@seattleaudubon.org.

Submissions will be edited and published at Seattle Audubon's discretion.

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Volunteer View

• **Volunteer Opportunities**Check out our Current Volunteer Opportunities page at www.seattleaudubon.org.• **Thank you, Volunteers!**

The Development Staff at Seattle Audubon thanks Stephanie Alabaster, our recent spring intern, for a job well done! Stephanie is finishing her junior year at the University of Washington, and balanced work, school, intern hours at Seattle Audubon, all the while doing a tremendous job helping out with this year's Birdathon and Beers for Birds events. Did you see the Beers for Birds question mark logo? Stephanie made that for us! Thanks to her help, Beers for Birds was a huge hit. Thank you Stephanie, for being a wonderful development intern for us!

—Seattle Audubon would like to thank the Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) volunteers who tirelessly gathered scientifically crucial density data on the wintering seabirds of Puget Sound. This survey season, from October 2009 through April 2010, was our third and most successful to date: 427 surveys were conducted at 68 survey sites – in five counties – with density data collected on 51 species of near-shore birds. This represents 160 hours total hours of survey time and 297 volunteer hours, not including time getting to and from the site(s). It is because of these volunteers that Seattle Audubon is able to conduct the only land-based, multi-month, seabird survey in the region.

—Thank you to all of the 2009-2010 PSSS volunteers, with a special thank you to our three-year veterans listed below in **bold**.

Chris Anderson, Terri Baerwald, David Beatty, Nora Burton, **Debbie Campbell**, Janet Carroll, Cheryl Childs, Dan Christian, **Fiona Cohen**, **Cathie Connolly**, John Cragin, Vera Cragin, Philip Craven, **Steve Dang**, Jeff Eagin, **Maureen Ellis**, Stephen Elston, Dan Evans, Rebecca Evans, Joe Evanson, Woody Franzen, Zoe Froyland, Rebecca Galloway, David Gluckman, Jack Gossett, Steve Grayson, Alex Greene, **Barbara Guthrie**, **Nathalie Hamel**, Ingrid Hansen, **Lisa Harkins**, Carl Haynie, Dave Hays, Amy Hildebrand, Seth Hildebrand, Michael Hobbs, **Peter Hodum**, Bill Horder, Jocelyn Horder, Kay Humm, David Jameson, **Jean Johnson**, **Steve Johnson**, **Marcia Kamin**, Becca Lewis, Kris Lightner, Valerie Lindborg, Terry Mace, Peter Mann, **Bob Martin**, Ron Martin, Ian Maunsell, Krissy Mazur, Chris Millow, Joyce Murray, Eric Myers, Gabriel Newton, Tristan Nunez, Jim Oakland, Scott Pearson, **Sarah Peden**, John Pierce, Matthew Pike, Lindsay Raab, Ken Rauscher, David Richardson, **George Ritchotte**, Ann Root, Dan Roscoe, Govinda Rosling, **Laura Saunders**, Tracey Scalici, Janet Shonk, Ron Sikes, Rosemarie Sikes, Gary Smith, Jo Smith, Lynne Smith, Sharon Sneddon, Bob Stallcop, **Pam Stewart**, **Susie Stillman**, **Beth Stimson**, Bernice Tannenbaum, Maureen Thompson, Stan Wagner, Ileen Weber, Bob Whitney, John Williams, **Cynthia Wilson**, Ken Wilson and Sue Yates.

Learn more about the program at www.seabirdsurvey.org

SEATTLE AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Officers**

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Volunteer Service

by Shawn Cantrell

Seattle Audubon's success depends in large part on the dedication and commitment we receive each year from volunteers. I want to recognize two long-serving members who recently stepped down after many years of volunteer board service. Jane Hedberg served on the board for more than a decade, including as President from 2004-2006. She also provided key support in guiding much of our communications efforts, including as publisher of EarthCare NW for several years. Marina Skumanich was

Board President from 2006-2008, served as chair of the Conservation Committee for many years and also stepped in for several months as Seattle Audubon's interim Executive Director during a period of organizational transition. We appreciate the leadership these two volunteers have contributed as Seattle Audubon board members, and we look forward to their continued engagement in other capacities.



Spotlight on Board Member Lori Rath



Lori Rath is Seattle Audubon board of directors' Legal Advisor. Lori's love for and interest in birds and bird habitat grew out of her mother's and maternal grandfather's "backyard birding" activities in the Midwest. After moving to Seattle in 1996 to attend law school at UW, Lori enjoyed discovering the birds of the Pacific Northwest. She particularly enjoys "urban birding" in Seattle and feeds and watches birds from her third floor residence in Capitol Hill. Lori also likes to bird while hiking and biking outside of Seattle. Lori has been active with Seattle Audubon since 2005, including taking hummingbird and owl classes. She has observed and assisted with bird banding projects sponsored by the Puget Sound Bird Observatory, and would like to become an official bird bander. Lori has her own law firm and practices in the areas of estate planning, trusts, and probate. She also serves on the Board of the People's Memorial Association. Welcome, Lori!

Membership News

For most of our 94 years, Seattle Audubon didn't charge a fee for membership. For the past twenty years, our membership fees have remained at \$30. Our program reach has broadened in these twenty years, and the significance of our work has increased, even though our member dues have remained the same. Our Explorers Education program, our guidance on conservation issues and our bird-walks and citizen science outreach are funded directly from membership dues, making the impact of your renewal an extremely important part of Seattle Audubon.

The strength of Seattle Audubon relies on the community of members it has.

Did you know that Finding Urban Nature, an environmental education program in Seattle Public Schools, is offered at no cost? Did you know that the majority of our field trips are free? Did you know

Celebrating 94 Years



© Tom Sanders

that we offer scholarships for our summer Nature Camp? Your membership dues make it possible for us to offer quality and professional services all over King County. Please renew your membership today and put your dollars to work in the community.

June 8th is our Membership Drive! Volunteers will be calling to make sure you have received your membership renewal.

Memberships can be renewed online at www.seattleaudubon.org or by calling 206-523-8243 x 14. Thank you.

SEATTLE AUDUBON MISSION STATEMENT

Seattle Audubon cultivates and leads a community that values and protects birds and the natural environment.

Seattle Audubon is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Invest in the Future—Make a Bequest to Seattle Audubon

Shawn Cantrell
206-523-8243, x15
shawnc@seattleaudubon.org



SEATTLE AUDUBON CENTER and NATURE SHOP

Hours: Mon-Sat 10AM to 5PM
8050 35th Ave. NE
Seattle WA 98115
206-523-4483

Lessons from the Cliff Swallow

by Matthew Mega, Conservation Director

“Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land”

—Aldo Leopold

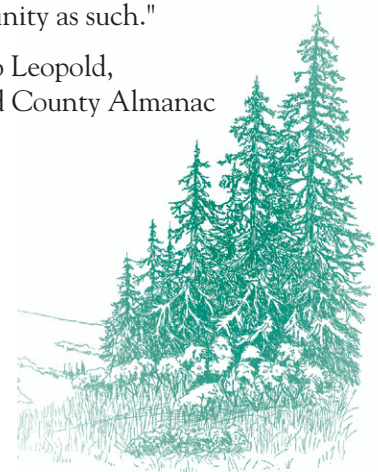
By now you may have heard about the destruction of the Cliff Swallow nests at Magnuson Park. I don't want to rehash that event in this article, but instead look at it more philosophically. The Cliff Swallow issue was a glaring example of how humans still look at nature as a thing. Many people still see nature as a resource to be exploited, one that humans should dominate and one that we are separate from. In other words everybody is a nature lover until it inconveniences them, then its time to step in and dominate.

Similarly, many people view the Cliff Swallow as a fleet flying, insect eating machine that meticulously constructs a mud nest and provides not only hours of viewing pleasure, but a direct reminder of the interconnectedness of nature. Others view the Cliff Swallow as a nuisance and as long as it stays 'over there' they are willing to share their park with it. In my opinion the word nuisance is too easily batted around. It is too convenient to call wildlife a nuisance and give some people an excuse to displace, remove or kill something that might inconvenience us, but is doing no harm.

We need to reconcile our different views of nature and truly seek a balance that allows humans to not simply coexist with nature, but to accept nature as part of us. Only then can we live in a truly sustainable and healthy world.

“In short, a land ethic changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow-members, and also respect for the community as such.”

—Aldo Leopold,
A Sand County Almanac



© Brendan McGarry

Fortunately, many people see it differently. Nature is not a single thing, it is everything. The flow of water, the soil, the animals, the plants and of course you and I all make up nature. The toughest part of our work at Seattle Audubon is trying to reconcile this difference. Loggers are not necessary bad people but many of them view the forest as a farm, something to be harvested, renewed and re-harvested. We see the forest as the Spotted Owl silently moving through the canopy connected to the flying squirrel in the opposite tree, which is connected to the lichen growing on the side of a third tree. These two very different views of the forest make it extremely difficult to reconcile when trying to form old-growth forest policy.

Marbled Murrelets: Elusive Birds, Unique Needs

by Matthew Mega

Seattle Audubon is working to protect and restore state-managed forest, including more than 175,000 acres critical for the endangered Marbled Murrelet. We recently launched a campaign to press the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt a comprehensive



© US Fish & Wildlife

approach for protecting and enhancing nesting habitat for Marbled Murrelets on state forest lands. We are also working to ensure proposed wind power projects do not negatively impact Marbled Murrelets in Western Washington.

Seattle Audubon has been working to protect the Marbled Murrelet since 1988. There has been a decline in population of 70% over the last 25 years. In 1992, the Marbled Murrelet was listed as “threatened” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and in 1993 by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. The greatest threat to the Marbled Murrelet is logging of the last remaining old growth forests in the Pacific Northwest. Since 1992, over 22,000 acres of suitable nesting habitat in Washington, Oregon, and California has been lost to logging.

While DNR developed a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in 1997 to mitigate for the incidental take of ESA-listed species on state land, 13 years later they have yet to develop a Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet. In addition to continued logging near occupied nesting habitat noted above, these endangered birds face

significant threats from other management activities, including the proposed Radar Ridge wind power development. This ill conceived project would be built in what scientists have stated is the single best site in the state to grow new Murrelet nesting habitat.

A September 2008 technical report by an expert Science Team convened by DNR provided detailed recommendations regarding conservation needs and opportunities for Murrelets. There is a pressing need for the state to now move forward with creating a science-based Long-Term Conservation Strategy that adequately addresses the continuing threats facing state forest lands.

Seattle Audubon’s strength has been the ability to mobilize members to advocate for habitat protection, combined with sharp policy and legal analysis. As part of a network of grassroots Audubon chapters in all corners of the state, our collaborative efforts form a powerful voice for birds and nature. Together our efforts to stop Radar Ridge and to promote the creation and adoption of the Long-Term Conservation Strategy for Marbled Murrelets will help significantly in the recovery of this endangered species.

Spotlight on Threatened Bird Species

The Marbled Murrelet is a small seabird that can fly up to 60 miles per hour and is found in coastal waters and old growth forest ecosystems. They have a slender black bill, good for gripping fish, and narrow, pointed wings. Between April and July, the female lays a single egg high on the branch of a mature conifer, up to 150 feet off the ground. Both parents take turns incubating the egg, changing places every morning at dawn. Once the chick hatches, both parents feed it for another four weeks before it fledges.

Marbled Murrelets spend the majority of their time catching fish. Often seen in pairs or groups, they fly low over the water. They dive underwater using their pointed wings to propel rapidly towards their prey. Their diet consists primarily of small schooling fish in the summer and krill in the spring and winter. These birds make their nests in natural depressions of large, moss-covered old growth tree limbs.

Volunteer Service Awards

Cumulative 1996-2009 Hours * indicates a newly awarded service recognition in that category

Thank you to each of Seattle Audubon's wonderful volunteers!

Together, you are making great strides toward protecting birds and the natural environment.

Please see the front page for information on our Appreciation and Awards Dinner on June 17. We hope you can join us!

6500 hours+

*George Johnson, Charlie Kahle, Richard Youel

5000 hours+

Idie Ulsh, Miriam Williams

4500 hours+

Hanna Atkins, *Gene Lagerberg, *Marina Skumanich

4000 hours+

Suzanne Krom, Hal Opperman

3000 hours+

*Jerry Joyce, John Lundin, Shiva Parameswaran, *Mary Anne Thorbeck

2500 hours+

Brian Bell, Ellen Blackstone, *Walter Oelwein, Tom Riley

2000 hours+

Jan Bragg, Herb Curl, *Virginia Morrison

1500 hours+

Terry Adams, Linda Anchondo, Jane Hedberg, *Penny Koyama, *Colene McKee, Joe Miles, Jean Mills, Alan Roedell, Paul Webster, *Cynthia Wilson, *Neil Zimmerman

1000 hours+

Charles Adams, Diana Aubin de Paradis, Tom Aversa, Marilyn Busher, *Barbara Diehl, Rebecca Evans, *Al Ferkovich, Carol Gard, Raelene Gold, Helen Hawley, Alan Humphrey, Jennifer Kauffman, Kathy Lantz,

Rachel Lawson, Martin Muller, Julie Myers, Martha Nester, Don Norman, Don Ostrow, Suzanne Peterson, Genevieve Reckamp, Judy Roan, Roberta Roberts, Randy Robinson, Tom Rohrer, Marilyn Sandall, *Connie Sidles, Bob Soldwedel, David Swayne, Ethel Williams, Isadora Wong, Alison Wysong

750 hours+

*Karen Adair, Shannon Bailey, Marissa Benavente, *Dianne Edmonds, John Friars, Keith Gellar, Mark Johnston, Teri Martine, Bonnie Miller, *Eldon Olson, *Penny Rose, Patricia Ryan, Rick Sanders, Bob Sieh, Dan Suiter, Martha Taylor, Cheryl Teague, Timothy Walsh, *Barbara Webster, Ann Marie Wood, Francis Wood, Sam Woods

500 hours+

Matt Bartels, Helle Bielefeldt-Ohmann, Lauren Braden, Linda Carroll, Amy Cole, *Denis DeSilvis, Carolyn Eagan, Ivan Ellis, Steve Gerstle, Alan Grenon, *Michael Hobbs, *Paulette Hunter, *Kelly Jewell, Vicki King, *Russ Kurtz, *Ilon Logan, *Paul Metzner, Marilyn Milberger, Cathy Pfarr, David Shetleroe, Phyllis Stark, Kristin Stewart, Japhy Whalen, *Melissa Willoughby

250 hours+

Kevin Aenerud, Joyce Adachi-Kirkland, Judy Allen, Noel Angell, Laurinda Anglin, Alice Arnold, Katie Barndt, Lee Barnes, Susan Barnes, *Marv Breece, Carol Brittnacher, Eileen Bryant, Justine Busse, Pam Cahn, *Barbara Clark, Endre Dale, Ed Deal, Mike Donahue, Bert Dudley, Laurie Ann Dudley, *Jill Ericsson, George Gerdts, *Helen Gilbert, *Miriam Gray, Brent Grisim, Ellen Gryj-Rubenstein, Eric Harlow, Scott Hoskin, Alan Huggins, Gene Hunn, Dean Irwin, Courtenay Jackson, Peter Klein, Kristen Kosidowski, *Anita Lagerberg, Ron Leamon, Carol Leenstra, Robin Lewis, *Megan Lyden, *Anna Martin, Mary Francis Mathis, *Kim McCormick, *Colleen McShane, *Ryan Merrill, Lois

Miller, Marilyn Miller, *Scott Moore, Karen Morse, *Phyllis Moss, Briony Nguyen, *Henry Noble, Linda Pomeroy, Barbara Retzlaff, Mary Rogers, Jackie Saunders, *Katherine Schloemer, Jane Sepede, *Brad Shaffer, Karen Shea, Arn Slettebak, Kathy Slettebak, Sharon Sneddon, Keith Stamm, Kate Stenberg, Susan Stillman, Stephanie Sykes, Lisa Syravong, Bob Thode, Kathleen Thode, Liz Thomas, Roger Tilton, Myrna Torrie, *Christine Vadai, Tom Weir, John West, Nancy Wilson, Marilyn Wittenmyer, Bunny Wood, Martha Wood, Carleen Zimmerman

100 hours+

Morgan Ahouse, Bryony Angell, *Laura Ballard, Mamie Bolender, Melissa Boscolo, Julie Boyce, *Pat Bredouw, *Rod Brown, *Wanda Browne, *Charlotte Byers, Art Campell, Christine Chan, Praveen Chettyally, Belinda Chin, Kay Louise Cook, Kathy Cooper, Maureen Corlas, Etta Cosey, Helen Crawford, Darren Curtis, Hans de Grys, Kristi de Grys, *Vas Demas, Mike Dermond, Thomas Eckert, Dianah Esperas, Laurel Ferreira, Michael Fleming, Jim Flynn, Francie Galbraith, *Rebecca Galloway, Gail Gensler, *Erin Gray, Nick Gregoric, Virginia Harris, Dawn Hartley, Lyanda Haupt, Patrick Herda, *Evan Houston, *Cathy Jaramillo, Barbara Jensen, John Jensen, Tina Klein-Lebbink, Jennifer Leach, Barry Levine, Gina Lozier, Donna Luce, Barbara Mandula, Karen Matsumoto deChadenedes, *Brett McCallum, Susan McDougall, Bo McFadden, Michael McMullin, Marianne Moon, Mark Moon, Julie Morgan, Sally Murdoch, Marlo Mytty, Julia Nordsieck, Roger Olstad, Gordon Orians, Jennee Osburn, Sarah Peden, Randy Poulsen, Laurie Ransom, Mollie Reeves, Carol Richardson, Ilene Samowitz, Steve Sax, Barbara Schnabel, Randy Schnabel, Stephanie Siebert, *Sharrie Shade, Ron Simons, *Allie Spiess, Karen Stephens, Sue Thompson, Sue Trevathan, John Tubbs, Maria Vila, Eric Ward, Woody Wheeler, Joeve Wilkinson, Pete Wilkinson, Ruth Windhover, *Andrea Wuenschel, Erica Zwick

Destinations: The Teanaway

by Julia Bent, Field Trip Leader

When “summer showers” have you down, think about heading east both for some bird-watching and some exercise. The mountains of Eastern Washington offer a surprising diversity of birding habitats, as well as a break from wet weather. In particular, the Teanaway River drainage, located just north of Cle Elum, is a place where you’re sure to find many of the species regularly encountered east of the Cascade Crest.

A variety of hikes can be reached from the road up the North Fork of the Teanaway, which terminates twenty-three miles from Highway 970 at the trailhead for Ingalls Lake.

If you’re looking for birds that frequent the drier habitats found at higher elevations, try hiking either trail #1399 to Iron Peak or trail #1229 to Long’s Pass (which takes off from the Ingalls lake trail, #1390). In early summer, singing Swainson’s Thrushes will serenade you even before you leave the car, while the flute-like songs of Hermit Thrushes will accompany you nearly to the top of the climb. Along the way, listen for singing Townsend’s and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Western Tanagers, and multitudes of Pine Siskins. These last species are found through the Teanaway.

As you climb, keep a sharp lookout for both Gray Jays and Clark’s Nutcrackers, as well as Red-breasted Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. All of these species breed at these elevations. Chipping Sparrows and Dark-eye Juncos are also common in this drier, west-facing terrain. If you’re especially lucky, later in the season you might stumble on flocks of Red Crossbills or Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches. As many as two hundred of the latter have been seen along Long’s Pass in October.

To the west, across the North Fork drainage, slightly different species can be found in the moister, east- and north-facing habitats there. Hiking either trail #1383 up Johnson Creek or trail #1392A to Koppen Mountain, you’ll pass through conifer forest as you ascend. Here species found in denser forest, such as Hammond’s Flycatchers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Brown Creepers, and Winter Wrens are abundant – although harder to see than hear. The thrush family is well represented with Swainson’s, Hermit, and Varied Thrushes all singing during the breeding season. In the fall large flocks of the last species can be found preparing to migrate.

When you reach the high points of these hikes, check for the less common residents of this area. Golden Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Prairie Falcons, and Turkey Vultures all can be spotted from time to time. Somewhat less abundant breeding birds, such as Lincoln’s and Fox Sparrows, Townsend’s Solitaires, and Calliope and Rufous Hummingbirds, also are in summer residence. Keep a sharp ear out as well for drumming: Northern Flickers, Downy, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers all make the Teanaway their summer home.

To reach the Teanaway, drive I-90 east over Snoqualmie Pass and take the second Cle Elum exit, Highway 970 to Blewett Pass. Several miles east of Cle Elum, cross the Teanaway and take an immediate left, the Teanaway River Road, north.

The Seattle Audubon Nature Shop carries a variety of hiking books that cover the Cascade and the Olympics.



© Peggy Faranda

Pileated Woodpecker

Birdwatch Trip Report: Southeastern Arizona Spring 2010

by Annie Meyer, *BirdWatch* student

Every year, Seattle Audubon's BirdWatch program takes several teen birders on a weeklong birding trip. This year, we traveled to southeastern Arizona, arriving in Tucson

April 1st. We traveled southeast in a big loop, returning to Seattle April 8th.

Chaperones Adam Sedgley, Brendan McGarry, Carly Gelarden, and Tayler Brooks were fabulous, with their never-ending patience and sense of adventure.

We found a lot of awesome species (in the most literal sense)—about 165 in all. Everyone got some life-birds. Some highlights were Elegant Trogon, Rufous-capped Warbler, Elf Owl, Flame-colored Tanager, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, and Whiskered Screech-Owl.

It was cool to see a habitat so different from the Pacific Northwest. A favorite location was the Southwestern Research Station. Nestled in the juniper-oak forests of the Chiricahua Mountains, it was paradise. The birding was great, plus there were several nice herps. (Of course a dining hall with delicious hot food increased its appeal, too—far preferable to bagels and cereal out of the back of the van.) None of us wanted to leave!

The BirdWatch spring trip is one of the highlights of my year. I get to spend a week with funny, knowledgeable people, bird-watching non-stop at awesome locations. I cherish these trips. I can't bird 24/7 on family vacations, and I don't have much other opportunity for travel. I'm incredibly glad that I can participate in these BirdWatch trips. Thank you, Seattle Audubon, for making it possible!

by Brendan McGarry,
Seattle Audubon staff

I'll be honest – going on the spring trip with Birdwatch was self-serving. I did, after all, get to go birding in Southeastern Arizona. But the best part was birding with a bunch of (exhaustingly) enthusiastic teens. The trip was a whirlwind of ecological excitement.

My first spring trip with BirdWatch was as a high school student on the inaugural excursion to Arizona in 2001. I find it particularly interesting comparing our sightings. Gray Hawks were ubiquitous in almost every riparian area this time but they were absent in 2001. Nor did we have the luck to see a Rufous-capped Warbler or Flame-colored Tanagers (they'd not yet become the regular, localized birds they are now). This year, snow from a late winter blocked the higher clines Mexican Chickadees enjoy, and the tantalizing hummingbird array wasn't up to speed either.

Species lists aside, visiting this fantastic region of the Southwest is always magical. Exploring with teens so enduringly passionate about the natural world keeps you on your toes. Spring rain brought the landscape to life and the birds were beautiful. What else could one ask for?



Black-throated Sparrow

© Brendan McGarry



© Brendan McGarry

Tell a friend about Summer Nature Camp!

by Kintea Bryant

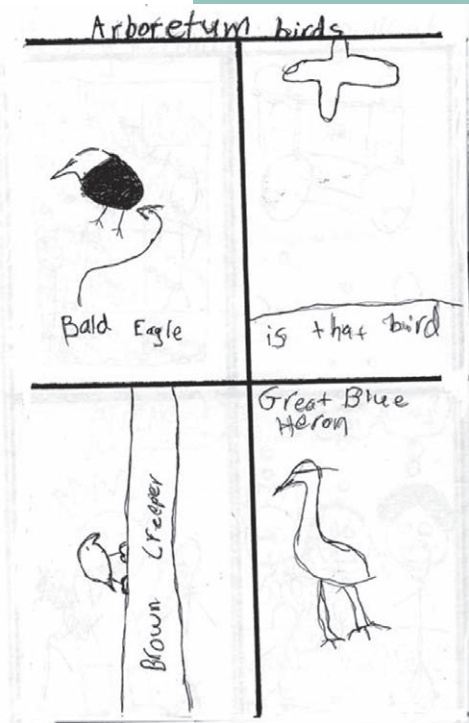
Seattle Audubon Nature Camp is right around the corner for 2010! Nature Camp gives young people, entering 1st – 9th grade, an appreciation and awareness of the nature world, skills and knowledge to explore and understand the environment, and motivation to make the world around them a better place for the future. High school students have the opportunity to participate in camp through our Jr. Naturalist in Training program. Jr. Naturalists work with our staff Naturalists and learn skills in group management and instructing young children; they are able to share their interest and love for the natural world.

Our day camp programs use hands-on, experiential education that includes energizing games, arts and crafts, science and discovery in all of our weekly activities.

Space is still available for enrollment in the 2010 sessions listed below:

Session 1, 6/28 – 7/2	Wetland/Watershed Ecosystems
Session 2, 7/5 – 7/9	Birds, Birds, Birds
Session 4, 7/19 – 7/23	Bugs and Ecology
Session 7, 8/9 – 8/13	Ocean systems (Space available ONLY in Session B)
Session 9, 8/23 – 8/27	Wetland/Watershed Ecosystems
Session 10, 8/30 – 9/3	Forest systems

Enroll now! For details and more information on how to register for **Nature Camp**, visit our website at www.seattleaudubon.org or call 206-523-4483. Come explore the natural world with fun and educational activities all summer long!



Nurturing the Future Stewards of Our World!

“Thank you for helping me learn about urban nature. I learned that worms are decomposers”

—3rd grade student

“Thank you for bringing the Explorers program to our school, my favorite part was EVERYTHING”

—5th grade student

FUN introduces 3rd and 4th grade students to the natural world in their own schoolyard habitats. Students involved in FUN participate in eight, one-hour lessons throughout the school year, led by a community or parent volunteer. Through observation, discovery, and scientific inquiry, nearly 600 students this year learned how they can become better stewards of the world.

FUN Explorers builds on the basic foundation laid by the FUN program, by helping 5th grade students to better understand a local environmental

indicator—birds. Approximately 80 students this year participated in 7-8 lessons where they used scientific tools, such as microscopes, binoculars, and field guides to observe and identify birds in their schoolyard habitat.

The success of these programs would not be possible without the help of over 100 volunteers. Huge kudos to all of you for helping to nurture the next generation of environmental stewards!

For more information on how to get involved, contact Janelle Shafer at janelles@seattleaudubon.org.

Volunteer Spotlight on Mollie Reeves

Mollie grew up in a small town in Oregon's Willamette Valley. She moved to the Bay Area of California after college, but it became apparent to her after a number of years that she was a "Northwesterner" at heart. So Seattle became her home.

Her interest in birds peaked at a young age, as her mother always had her bird book nearby to identify the birds that visited their yard. Mollie has studied web design, programming, and database design and management in recent years, and currently does consulting work.

Thankfully for all of us at Seattle Audubon, one of Mollie's resolutions for 2008 was to support her Wedgwood neighborhood through volunteering for an environmental organization. She saw that Seattle Audubon needed database support and it fit her skill set and availability. Mollie originally volunteered to help with Birdathon data entry, but due to her skills, was soon recruited to help with our major conversion to a new database. She was an integral part of the development and volunteer programs' vast database improvements.

Mollie shares, "It's rewarding to see how much has been accomplished." Thank you, Mollie, for your vital assistance in helping us transition to our new database!

State Policy Update

by Shawn Cantrell

The 2010 state legislative session ended this spring with mixed results for the environment. Lawmakers missed a huge opportunity to make real progress on the environment this year, especially around cleaning up Puget Sound. While they did take action in some areas, Legislators didn't step up to address the state's biggest water pollution problem.

Seattle Audubon represents the Audubon family at the state policy level, serving on the **Environmental Priorities Coalition**. This coalition of over 20 conservation organizations identified three priorities for consideration during the 2010 legislative session. Collectively, we aimed not only to address the state's environmental challenges but also support its economic recovery. The Coalition's three priorities were:

- The Working for Clean Water bill (also known as the Clean Water Act of 2010),
- Sustain Environmental Protections in the Budget, and
- The Safe Baby Bottle Act.

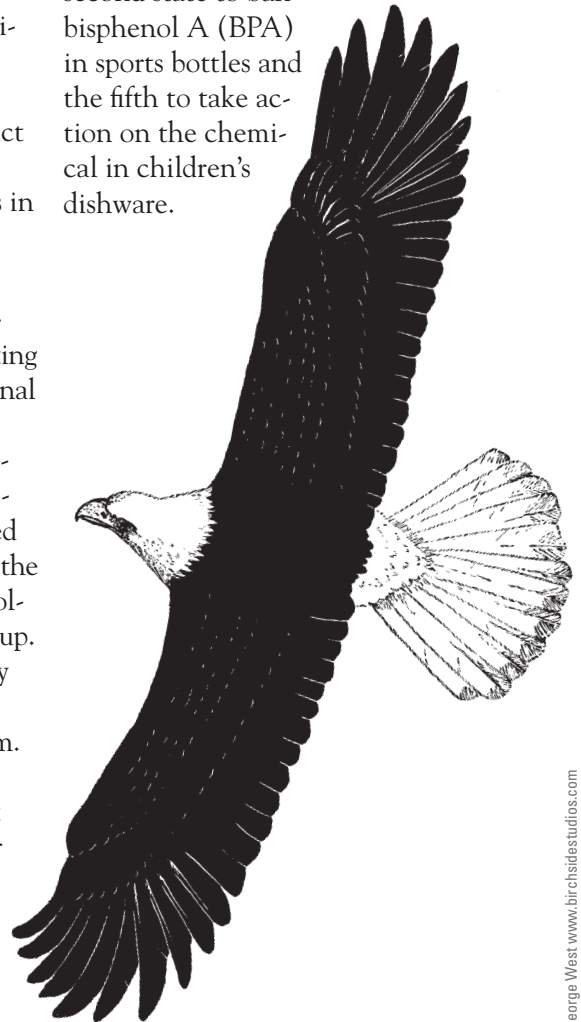
The Clean Water Act of 2010 proposed a permanent increase in the existing Hazardous Substances Tax. The additional revenue would have raised more than \$100 million each year for local stormwater infrastructure projects. The projects would have helped reduce polluted runoff from entering waterways around the state. This bill would have required polluters to help pay for stormwater cleanup. The Legislature missed the opportunity to generate new jobs and a long-term solution to the water pollution problem.

While the Legislature did not pass the Clean Water Act, they did budget a one-time \$50 million for stormwater cleanup in 2010. Long term, however, Washington lawmakers still must enact a sustained new funding source for water quality programs.

The Sustain Environmental Protections in the Budget priority aimed to preserve funding in the state budget for core environmental protections. Most of the programs the Coalition identified as critical retained their funding. Programs protected by the priority are in the areas of toxic contamination cleanup, water resources and habitat protection.

During these tough economic times, the Legislature worked to sustain environmental protections in the budget. This shows they recognize these core environmental programs as essential to the health of our state and our economy.

The Safe Baby Bottle Act was signed into law by Governor Gregoire in March. The legislation makes Washington the second state to ban bisphenol A (BPA) in sports bottles and the fifth to take action on the chemical in children's dishware.



Birding Trail Goes Greener

This summer, help choose sites for the seventh and final route of the Great Washington State Birding Trail – and do it online. For the first time since the program started in 2001, birders can nominate their favorite birding places using the internet. That means less paper and less paperwork for everyone.

The Birding Trail program is designed to promote and conserve local bird areas across Washington State. It showcases key routes and destinations for birding. The program highlights birding areas as economic and quality-of-life assets while also conveying Audubon's conservation messages. Encouraging bird watching is a key way to cultivate a deeper understanding of the need for habitat protection for the 365 bird species that occur here in Washington.

Each Birding Trail map offers a self-guided driving tour:

- where and when to see birds;
- what specific birds are found at specific sites;
- directions to sites;
- and what visitor services are available in an area.

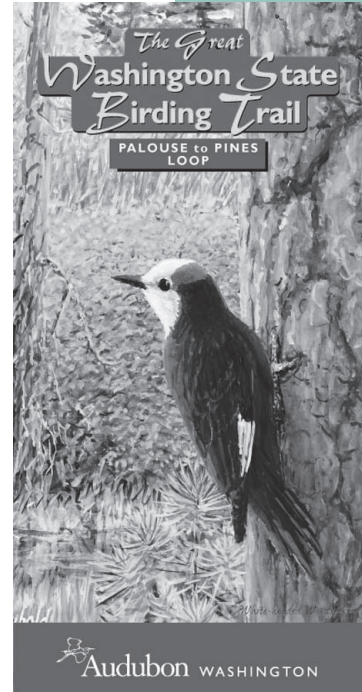
Bird watching is the fastest growing outdoor recreational activity in the country, up 155% in the past decade. The Birding Trail program provides high-quality information regarding birding opportunities here in Washington State. Nearly half (47%) of state residents participate in watching wildlife, and these maps help steer would-be birders to key places to see a wide range of species.

Located in the midst of our state's densest and most diverse human population, the Puget Loop Birding Trail will become the signature route of the 3,000-mile, statewide program – the loop most accessible and most visible to the most people, with the greatest potential for promoting our birds and their conservation.

You can join this rewarding project today by going directly to the Audubon Washington homepage, <http://wa.audubon.org>. Under the headline, "Recommend Your Favorite Puget Area Place to Bird" click on the word "Nominate."

You can nominate a site using either the one-pager or the complete form.

The systematic nomination process uses specific criteria to assess a site's suitability for the birding trail, including: bird species, birding seasons, habitat type and ownership, viewing places, safety, road access, and visitor information such as trails, ADA facilities, camping, fees, and natural history interpretation, plus digital photos.



Summer Activities

Summer is a great time to get out on a birding field trip, whether one of Seattle Audubon's structured outings or a self-structured trip of your own. As the snow pack melts and the region's mountain areas become more accessible, you can see numerous species including woodpeckers, flycatchers, and warblers. The north Sound areas in Skagit and Island counties offer opportunities to see early returning shorebirds. Closer to home in Seattle, you can combine biking or neighborhood walks to enjoy our array of breeding urban song and water birds. Seward Park, Union Bay Natural Area, the new Magnuson Park wetland, the Arboretum, and Lincoln Park all offer interesting birds during the summer months.

Full descriptions of Seattle Audubon field trips now appear online at the Seattle Audubon website on the first of each month. We offer a wide variety of opportunities for bird watchers of all skill levels, from novice to expert birders.

- Trips from June 12 to July 17 will be posted June 1, with sign ups beginning on Tuesday June 8.
- Trips from July 18 to August 14 will be posted July 1, with sign-ups beginning on Tuesday July 13.
- Trips from August 15 to September 11 will be posted August 1, with sign ups beginning on Tuesday August 10.



© Peggy Faranda

Pigeon Guillemot

Be sure to check our website (www.seattleaudubon.org) for more details, including the latest listing of field trips, the "Rules of the Road" for participating on our trips and how to register for the trip of your choice.

In June Seattle Audubon is offering an adult education class that will take participants out into the field. Birding by Habitat, taught by Bob Sundstrom, will include a classroom session as well as field trips that focus natural habitats east and west of the Cascades. It will explore key plants and natural features, typical birds, other fauna, with primary emphasis on recognizing and birding those habitats. This class offers intensive field experience from one of the top birding leaders in the state.

The evening classroom session is on Tuesday June 15. The western Washington field trip is all-day Thursday June 17 and will explore lowland habitats including riparian, conifer forest, oak, and marsh. The eastern Washington field trip is on Thursday June 24 and will visit canyon, riparian, Ponderosa pine and mixed-conifer forest. The class is limited to 18 registrants, with costs per field trip of \$75 for Seattle Audubon members and \$90 for non-members.

For those interested in charting your own birding adventure, Seattle Audubon's Nature Shop offers everything you may need for an enjoyable trip. From field guides to maps to the latest in quality binoculars, a stop by the Nature Shop is a great way to make your next birding trip a success.

Whatever approach best fits your summer plans, we encourage you to get outside to connect with the birds and nature that surround us!

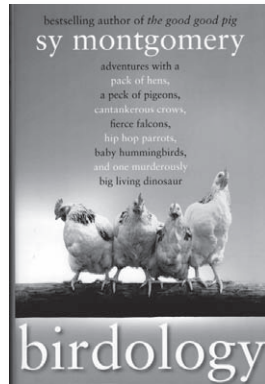
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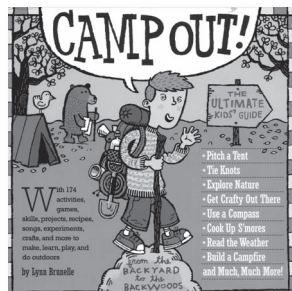
NEW Birdology

Subtitled adventures with a pack of hens, a peck of pigeons, cantankerous crows, fierce falcons, hip hop parrots, baby hummingbirds, and one murderously big living dinosaur author Sy Montgomery's lesson is that this book communicates a heartfelt fascination and awe for birds and seeks to restore human connection to these complex avian creatures. Member price \$20.00



Campout!

Can you tell the temperature by listening to crickets? Do you how to tie a boa constrictor knot? Solar oven pizza? Campout answers these and many, many more questions while helping you prepare for outdoor adventures, such as how to use a compass and how best to keep a nature journal. "All who wander are not lost." Member price \$9.56



NEW Nikon Monarch D

Replacing the best-selling Monarch III with improved coatings for best-in-class optical quality and lower prices. Still waterproof and fogproof for the best value in a binocular for everyday performance.



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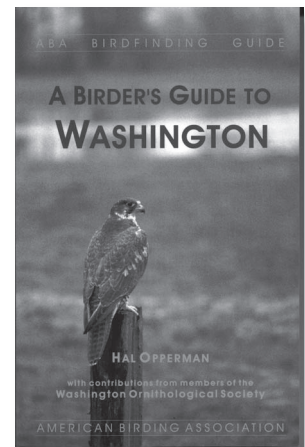
Birdsongs of the Pacific Northwest

This 5-CD set is the most comprehensive collection of the bird songs of the Pacific Northwest ever compiled. Sounds of 316 species are included, including sought after species such as the Harlequin Duck, Mountain Quail, Marbled Murrelet, Spotted Owl, White-headed Woodpecker, American Dipper and Hermit Warbler. Multiple recordings are provided for most species. The included 50 page booklet provides descriptive information for each recording. \$38.95



Birder's Guide to Washington

Detailing hundreds of birding routes and sites in the state, including more than 220 maps, an annotated checklist of 478 species with information about status and habitat associations, and the ever-useful seasonal abundance/regional occurrence bar graphs. If you do not already have a copy, summer is a great time to scout out birding sites while on your sunny adventures. Member price \$23.96



PLUS
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 region's largest selection of specialty
 birding optics.
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 20% OFF on books!

Board News

The Seattle Audubon slate of officers for 2010-2011 was ratified at the April 2010 membership meeting. Cathy Jaramillo has moved up to the President role, the Vice President role is now filled by Bill Keppler, and Secretary Rachel Lawson and Treasurer Erin Gray will both continue in those same roles.

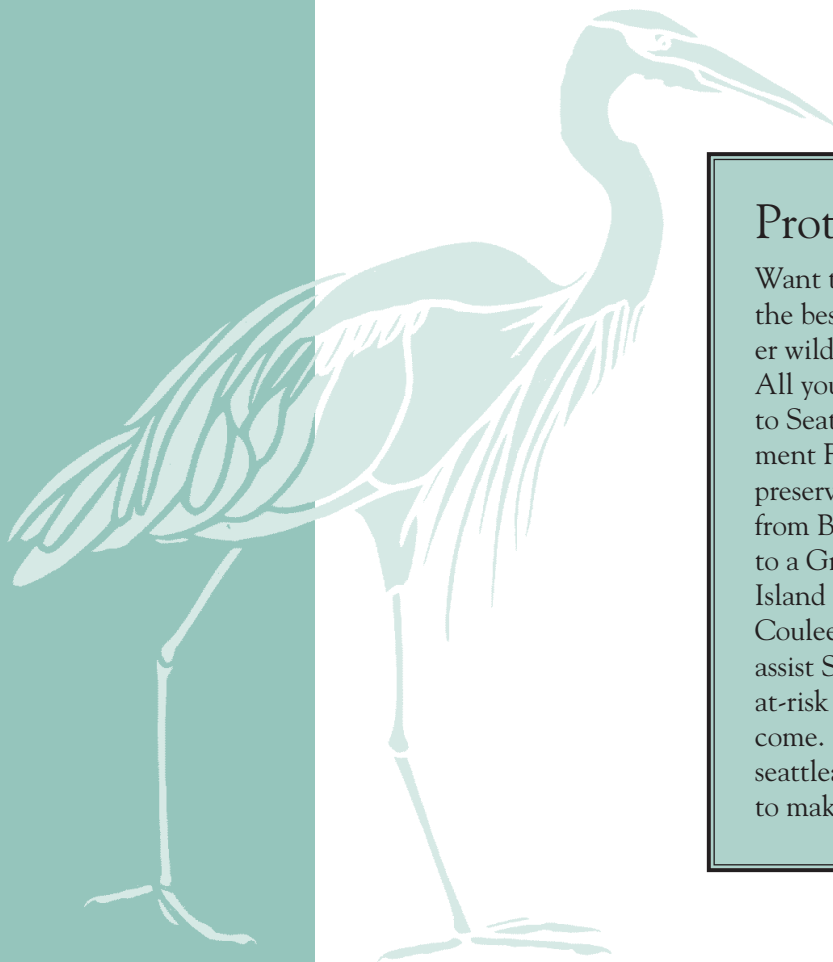
Notes from a Beginning Birder

by Emiko Blalock

April showers bring May flowers, but in eastern Washington the birds begin their spring flower sipping a little earlier. My Birdathon trip this year was a staff adventure with Seattle Audubon, beginning in Vantage, Washington. We made our way through flaxen fields, highway ponds, pock-marked river cliffs and the foothills of the Cascades before ending back in Seattle, on April 28th. I am always grateful to go east of the mountains, not just for the sunshine, but for the Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and the patterned black-white flight of the Black-billed Magpie. The landscape of Washington State offers so much diversity in birding: Swainson's Hawk, Northern Shoveler, Black Crowned Night-Heron, Mountain Bluebird, American Dipper. Both the solitude and community in birding is what I love most. It becomes both a natural science and an ancient art, when the frenzy of identifying birds transforms into the quiet meditation of a Varied Thrush's song. I am thankful for the opportunity to bird with my fellow staffers, for the geography of this state, and the community it creates.



© Seattle Audubon file photo



Protecting Habitat

Want to help permanently protect some of the best remaining habitat for birds and other wildlife in Washington state? You can! All you have to do is make a contribution to Seattle Audubon's Martin Miller Endowment Fund. This endowed fund has helped preserve critical habitat across the state, from Bald Eagle habitat on the Skagit River to a Great Blue Heron rookery on Maury Island to Sage Sparrow habitat in Moses Coulee. By donating to this fund, you will assist Seattle Audubon in ensuring that at-risk birds have a home for generations to come. Contact Shawn Cantrell at shawnc@seattleaudubon.org for more information or to make a contribution.

Seattle Audubon Bird Seed Depots

Listed below are Seattle Audubon volunteers who keep a supply of a variety of the bird seed found at the Nature Shop. Please call ahead for selection and to arrange pickup. Almost all have 25 pound bags of black-oil sunflower seeds.

Judy Roan
7365 SE 38th
Mercer Island
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