

Time to Mark Your May Calendars!



May is just around the corner, which means...it's almost Birdathon time! Get ready to pick your very own Big Day to get out into the field, count, and tally as many different birds as possible – and raise important funds for Seattle Audubon's programs.

Don't know what Birdathon is? Well, it's a day when all Seattle Audubon supporters – birders or not, get outside into nature and see just how many different species of birds they can count. And, just like a bike-a-thon, Birdathon participants collect pledges and raise money on behalf of Seattle Audubon's work. It's challenging, exhilarating, and addicting! Did I mention the free membership? That's right! Anyone who raises at least \$30 gets a one-year membership to Seattle Audubon. To learn more about Birdathon, turn to page 4.

Membership Meeting



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**Next Public Presentation:
From the Gulf to the Arctic—
Energy Challenges and Opportunities
Thursday, March 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Downtown REI**

National Audubon's Taldi Walter will present an update on what Audubon has been doing and continues to do on the ground in the Gulf region, and how the Gulf Spill provides a cautionary tale for how our country approaches energy development.

Migratory bird species depend on at-risk habitats, such as those along the Gulf Coast and the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Our energy choices will have both long- and short-term impacts on wildlife and sensitive habitats throughout the U.S. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge provides habitat for more than 180 bird species for nesting, breeding, staging, and molting. Bird species from 6 continents use the Arctic Refuge, while others migrate to states throughout America. However, this and other vital Arctic habitats are under threat of development, as the nation turns to Alaska to meet our domestic energy needs.

Please join us as we hear first-hand about current work in the Gulf and Alaska. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Free treats and refreshments provided. Program starts at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 8:00 p.m.

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Seattle Audubon

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WEB SITES

<http://www.seattleaudubon.org>

<http://www.birdweb.org>

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Volunteer View

from Marieke Rack, Volunteer Coordinator, Seattle Audubon

Hello Seattle Audubon! I am very pleased to be your new Volunteer Coordinator. My first day of work was the Christmas Bird Count potluck and I went home knowing that I have a really great job. Thank you for the warm welcome.

• **Christmas Bird Count:** Thank you to our Circle Leaders, potluck organizers, soup makers, and many volunteers. Your contributions made this event a valuable part of our Citizen Science program and a lot of fun.

• **Volunteer Hours:** Have you submitted your 2010 volunteer service hours? If not, please do so ASAP by mail or email mariekes@seattleaudubon.org so we can prepare for our Annual Meeting.

• **Welcome New Volunteers:** We have new volunteers in the Nature Shop, Neighborhood Bird Project, Committees, and more. A special thanks to those new volunteers who chipped in to get our Nature Camp packets ready. Thank you for your commitment to Seattle Audubon!

I'd love to hear from you. Contact me at mariekes@seattleaudubon.org or (206) 523-8243 x12 if you're interested in volunteering or just want to introduce yourself!



Save the Date!

The much anticipated annual Beers for Birds Trivia Night will be held on Thursday, April 28, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Wedgwood Ale House (8515 35th Avenue NE), just one block away from the Seattle Audubon Nature Shop. Come test your knowledge, eat good food, and win some prizes. You don't need to be a Master Birder to enjoy this night, and space is limited to the first 100 people. It's best to arrive early, if you want to secure a table. Sorry, but you must be 21 years old to attend.

This year's trivia have been enhanced and now include questions related to scientific names of birds,

literary references, and a participatory bird call round!

Raffle tickets will once again be on sale and are only \$5 each. Last year more than 30 prizes were given out, including: dinner for four at Jazz Alley, dinner for two at Café Flora, and an evening of bowling at The Garage, just to name a few. This year we hope to have even more great prizes.

If you'd like to purchase a raffle ticket please come into the Nature Shop or call Lisa Chang at (206) 523-8243 x14.

SEATTLE AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sustaining Environmental Protection

by Shawn Cantrell

For 95 years, Seattle Audubon has worked to connect people with birds and nature. Our dedicated volunteers and staff have been at the center of countless fights to protect the environment of Washington State, helping to ensure that our forests, marine waters, and other special places are preserved not only for birds, but for humans as well. The success of our efforts have helped provide a healthy, sustainable future for our children. Yet today, due to the recession, many of the core environmental protections Seattle Audubon and our conservation allies have achieved in this state are at risk.

Over the past few years, many state environmental protections have been cut to the point that they're barely able to perform their core functions. Currently, environmental programs represent barely 1% of the state budget. Critical programs that protect endangered species, prevent oil spills, protect against flooding, and safeguard our drinking water are facing massive reductions and in some cases, elimination.

That is why Seattle Audubon, together with other leading conservation organizations, is proposing a proactive solution as part of the Environmental Priorities Coalition. It starts with asking companies and others to pay their fair share for the services they receive. For example, timber companies that log in Washington forests should pay more for permits in order to cover the actual costs of their activities. Requiring industries that benefit from Washington's natural resources to pay for their protection is a smart, fair approach to make environmental programs more self-sufficient, while relieving pressure on the state's general taxpayers.

The voices of all Seattle Audubon members are needed; please let your elected officials know that you want them to ensure that our state's core environmental protections remain intact, and that implementing common sense fees can ensure that future generations of Washingtonians will also be able to connect with our magnificent birds and nature.

Books!

Come visit the revived Seattle Audubon lending library. More than 1,200 titles of books on bird and other animals' lives and behavior, books on natural history, and field guides from throughout the world. The library is open when The Nature Shop is open – 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays year round. *Special thanks to volunteer Jack Gossett for cataloging and re-shelving the library!*



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

Leah Lee
(206) 523-8243, x16
leahl@seattleaudubon.org



Spotlight on Lisa Chang, Development Associate



Lisa moved to the Pacific Northwest five years ago from Austin, Texas, after completing her studies in Anthropology, Sociology, and Political Science at the University of Texas.

After working in the financial sector, Lisa decided to apply her customer service skills towards campaign fundraising and for charitable organizations. She interned and volunteered with Senior Services and the Alzheimer's Association, then joined Seattle Audubon in August of 2010. Her responsibilities include assisting the Development Director with all aspects of planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of Seattle Audubon's fundraising programs.

Everyday, Lisa gains a deeper appreciation for birds and nature from working at Seattle Audubon and living in the Northwest. During her tenure at Seattle Audubon, Lisa hopes to become a knowledgeable birder and an effective environmental steward. She enjoys reading, day hikes, traveling, learning new languages, and dining out with good friends.

**SEATTLE AUDUBON CENTER
and NATURE SHOP**
Hours: Mon-Sat 10AM to 5PM
8050 35th Ave. NE
Seattle WA 98115
(206) 523-4483

Birdathon 2011

Birdathon is an Audubon spring ritual celebrated across the country, and it serves as a major fundraising event for Seattle Audubon. Our goal this year is to raise \$40K. Almost one-third of Washington's birds are declining, with one of the biggest threats being habitat loss. Each year, Birdathon raises thousands of dollars in support of Seattle Audubon's educational programs, science-based conservation projects, and advocacy efforts. All funds raised are used in support of our mission and vision: to cultivate and lead a community that values and protects birds and the natural environment.

Can't tell a hawk from a heron? Don't you worry! All Seattle Audubon members are encouraged to join in the fun while learning about the different Pacific Northwest and migratory species. For a small fee, you can sign up for one of the many Birdathon fieldtrips during the

month of May and enjoy having your own, personal, local expert as your guide. To learn more about Birdathon, field trips, or to register, visit www.seattleaudubon.org in late March.

Remember: Anyone, of any age, background, and/or interests is encouraged to participate. You can trek with a team or wander the trails as a lone ranger. Either way, keep in mind that the Washington state record is 201 – see if you can beat that! The typical Birdathoner will record up to 120 species.

Seattle Audubon salutes all of its past participants and sponsors, and invites you to join us again for the 27th annual Birdathon.

If you'd like to learn more about Birdathon and how to participate, or for successful tips on collecting pledges, please call Leah at (206) 523-8243 x16.

FAQs

What?

Birdathon is a uniquely Audubon rite of spring that involves having fun, counting birds, and enjoying our local environment. It's challenging, exhilarating, and addictive! Birdathoners raise pledges from friends, family, and colleagues in support of birds and the environment.

Why?

- Unplug! Get outside and enjoy the beauty of the Pacific Northwest,
- Be a part of a community that works to protect birds and the natural environment, and
- Support Seattle Audubon's education, advocacy, and recreation programs!

Who?

Anyone can be a Birdathoner - from a novice backyard birdwatcher to an expert birder. Count birds by yourself, with a team, or treat yourself to a Birdathon field trip.

When?

You choose! Count as many birds as you can in a single day from April 15 through May 31.

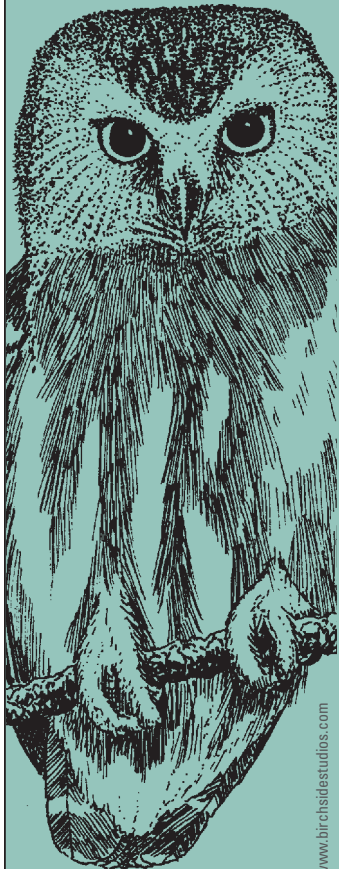
How?

Beginning in late March, you can register by going to www.seattleaudubon.org and clicking on the "Register Now" button to get started. Design your personal Birdathon website (more fun than Facebook!), collect pledges, and find everything you need for a fun and successful Birdathon.

Do I have to be a member of Seattle Audubon to participate?

No, although we welcome your membership. Birdathoner's raising \$30 or more are eligible for a one-year complimentary membership. Sponsors who donate \$30 or more are also eligible for membership (please inform staff of desired membership).

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Can children participate?

Absolutely! In fact, there is a special prize specifically for children 12 and under. This is a family-friendly activity and a great way to have fun with your kids outdoors.

What if I've never been birding before?

There's no better time to give it a try! If you are brand-new to birding (or an

"old-timer"), we invite you to join one of Seattle Audubon's many field trips. We offer field trips that are accessible to birders who use wheelchairs, walkers, or other supports. Please check our website in late March for current field trip listings. Field trips during this time frame are \$15 for a half-day and \$25 for a full-day of birding.

Results from the Seattle Christmas Bird Count, January 1, 2011

Prepared by Seattle CBC Compiler: Matt Bartels

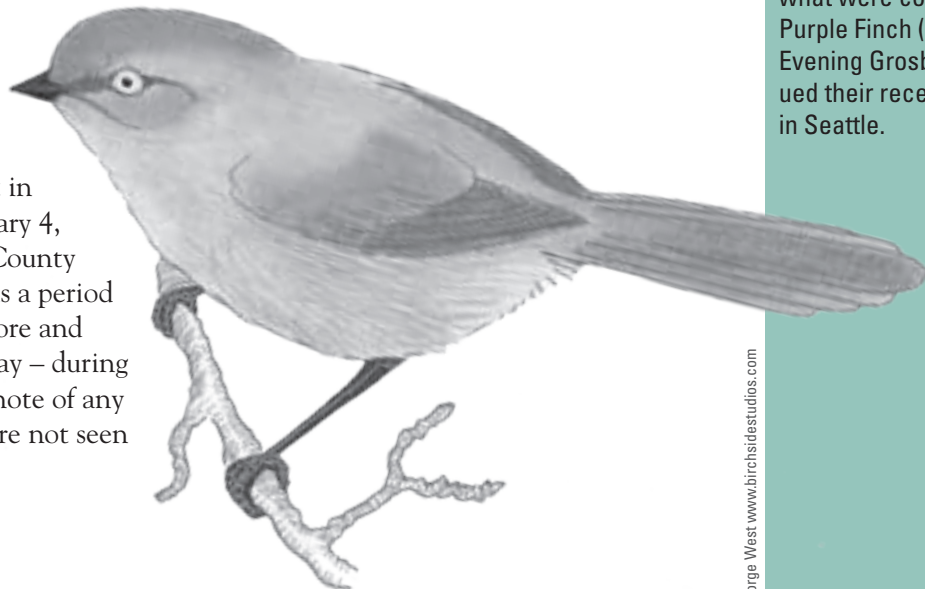
A gloriously sunny day greeted the 164 observers on the morning of January 1; the 82nd CBC since 1908. Overall, participation and the total number of birds observed were down from recent years, but observers suffered through the splendid weather to find a total of 121 species, thus matching our recent average. Individual birds, however, were 10% below our recent average with 45,627. The Seattle CBC circle is centered on Pioneer Square, with a 7.5-mile radius. From before dawn until dusk, CBC participants cover the circle by dividing it into 14 sectors, 24 subsectors, and about 40 parties, with a few feeder watchers added in for good measure.

Arguably, the best bird was seen during "count week." A Thick-billed Murre was observed off West Point in Discovery Park on January 4, which is the first King County record! "Count Week" is a period of time – three days before and three days after count day – during which compilers make note of any birds of interest that were not seen

on count day. This count week period also produced Tundra Swans, Northern Pintails, Barn Owl, Townsend's Solitaire, and Cedar Waxwing that eluded us on January 1.

Notable misses for the count day included Redhead, Marbled Murrelet, Brewer's Blackbird and Red Crossbill. Perhaps most notable by his absence this year was long-time CBC compiler, Gene Hunn, who moved to California.

To read the full write-up and see the species list, please visit www.seattleaudubon.org and click on "What We Do" and "Science."



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Bird Count Trends

Species with new high counts: Brant (280), Harlequin Ducks (101), Common Goldeneye (431), Red-throated Loons (53), Common Loons (22) and Pigeon Guillemots (67) all set new high counts. Eleven Heerman's Gulls were impressive for a species that has been recorded only once before in the Seattle CBC. Away from the water, a count of 5 White-throated Sparrows blew away the old high of 2. Barred Owls (10), Hairy Woodpecker (7), Steller's Jay (263), Red-breasted Nuthatch (159), Hermit Thrush (20) and Dark-eyed Junco (1212) all recorded new highs.

Several species continuing their long decline: American Coots reached a new low (1539), down from a peak in 1994 (16,000+) and the 1990s average (7000). Perhaps reflective of a big roost moving out of the Seattle circle, only 9119 American Crows were tallied, which is half of what were counted last year! Purple Finch (4) along with Evening Grosbeak (4) continued their recent low numbers in Seattle.

Tracking the Effects of Global Climate Fluctuations on Bird Abundance in Magnuson Park

by Maria Petrova, School of Forest Resources, University of Washington

Changes in aquatic ecosystems have become more evident in the past few decades. These changes are largely due to natural cycles and anthropogenic stressors (Smith, 1999). As an integral part of these ecosystems, marine birds have been

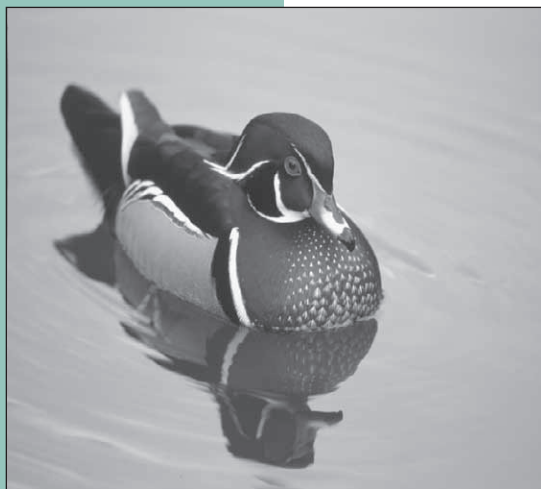
very sensitive to changes in ocean productivity and health. Deterioration of ecological conditions is usually mirrored in a decrease in bird abundance, reproduction, or breeding success. This relationship could also be true of terrestrial bird populations.

A study of bird abundance in Magnuson Park, Seattle, Washington, showed declines between 1998 and 2009 (Fig.1). The data for the study were collected by volunteers in the Neighborhood Bird Project. This project was established in 1994 by Seattle Audubon and takes place in eight parks in the Seattle area. Volunteers visit each site on the same day of each month (e.g., the “second Saturday”) at approximately the same time of day. Observers visit a series of stations on a specific loop, counting every bird that is seen and heard for 5 minutes at each station. Approximately 155 different bird species have been recorded at Magnuson Park between 1998 and 2009.

The goal of this study was to investigate a possible link between the decrease in bird abundance and global indices of climate fluctuation. Indices of large-scale climate variability such as the Pacific

Decadal Oscillation (PDO) and the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) are known to explain fluctuations in water-bird abundance around the Pacific Ocean (Chavez, 2003). Though these indices are primarily derived from marine variables (for instance, sea surface temperature), they may have direct or indirect effects on terrestrial ecosystems. Each of these global climate indices fluctuates at different temporal scales. A decadal-scale ENSO variability of 10-30 year periods is dominant in the northeastern Pacific Ocean (Fiedler, 2002). However, PDO and ENSO fail to explain decadal variations in oceanic nutrients. Di Lorenzo et al (2008) discovered a significant correlation between changes in nutrients and the North Pacific Gyre Oscillation (NPGO). Nutrient fluctuations are responsible for changes in plankton abundance which affects higher trophic levels and the food web. Similarly, the Upwelling Index is driven by upwelled water which typically has much greater concentrations of nutrients that are essential to sustaining biological production. Climate change is already disturbing the variation of these cycles. Monitoring terrestrial and seabird abundance over decadal-scale will convey a range of information valuable in tracking changes in the environment.

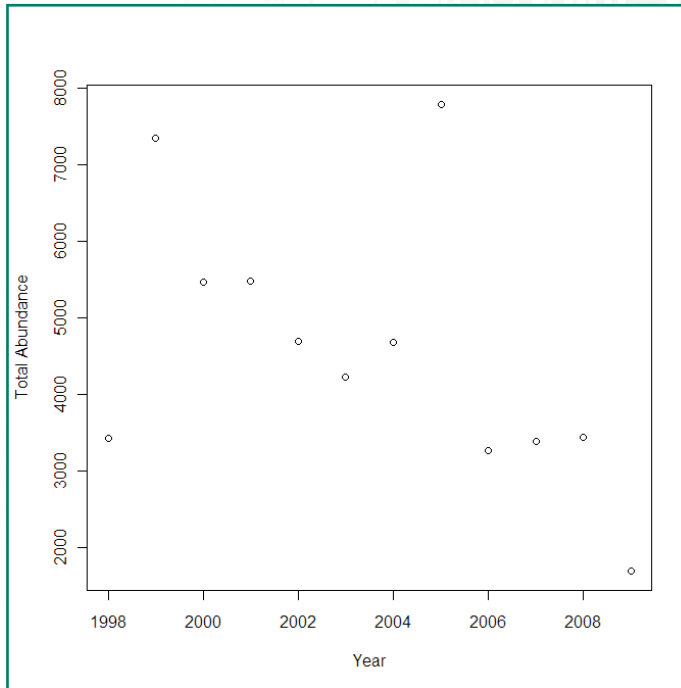
This study revealed that the climate fluctuations explained 60% of the population reduction in the park; a very high correlation between total bird abundance and climate fluctuations. Almost a third of this decrease (17.7%) was explained by the NPGO. (As this index covaries with changes in fish and plankton abundance a decrease could be explained as a consequence of lower food availability for marine species.) For terrestrial species, the effect may be more indirect. Previous



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studies have hypothesized that events such as El Nino, drive precipitation, which may have a positive effects on terrestrial prey items (Jaksic & Fariña, 2010). With warming oceans and changes in natural cycles the functioning of

marine ecosystems would deteriorate. It is important to track and analyze these changes and their influence on organisms that they affect in order to gain deeper understanding of the causes and *future consequences*.



References:

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- Smith, K., Kaufmann R., 1999. Long term discrepancy between food supply and demand in the deep eastern North Pacific. *Science* 248: 1174-1177.

Thank you to the capable Magnuson Park NBP leaders, Jan Bragg and Herb Curl, and the many dedicated volunteers who have counted birds, rain or shine, at this special urban park for the past 17 years.

Canopy Connections

by Matthew Mega,
Director of Conservation

Neighborhood Livability is based on many qualities: safety, access to playgrounds, great coffee shops, pedestrian friendly streets, and much more. At Seattle Audubon we believe a major element of neighborhood livability is the quality of our green infrastructure. Green infrastructure includes parks, wildlife habitat, tree canopy, and other environmental elements that support healthy and enjoyable experiences.

We are looking for residents of Seattle to help identify important elements of green infrastructure in their neighborhood. This might be as simple as identifying a large tree on a map or more in depth like writing about your favorite park. These neighborhood assets can then be mapped, solidifying their importance and leading to action for their protection and further enjoyment. Visit our neighborhood greening web page at <http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/WhatWeDo/Conservation/UrbanLivability/SeattlesNeighborhoods.aspx> to find out how you can participate in this unique effort.

Oil Spills and Preparedness: A Washington State Approach

by Matthew Mega, Director of Conservation

Recent research in Prince William Sound Alaska identified more than 20,000 gallons of oil remaining in the environment as a result of the Exxon Valdez spill in 1989. No one needs to be reminded of the millions gallons of oil that spilled from the BP Deepwater Horizon blowout. But do you know that Washington State has experienced 177 oil spills from 1996 – 2007, and that experts warn that Washington is not prepared to deal with a major spill in our waters?

Having some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, Washington's waters are at risk. More than 4,000 vessel transports and 15 billion gallons of oil regularly travel to and from ports of call in the Northwest Straits and Puget Sound each year.

As the Gulf spill reminds us, it's not a question of whether such a spill will occur but when, and are we prepared to respond to it. In 2008, the Washington Oil Spill Advisory Council conducted an analysis of Washington's capacity to respond to a major oil spill. The study revealed that Washington State does not have the necessary equipment nor other resources to adequately respond to a major oil spill.

Two bills are before of the State Legislature in 2011 that address the holes in our preparedness policy. In the Senate, "SB 5439 Concerning oil spills" and in the House, "HB 1186 Concerning requirements under the State's oil-spill program" attempt to address the following policy issues.



Improve funding for the Department's Oil-Spill Program, which is currently running a multimillion dollar deficit.
Strengthen requirements for stockpiling appropriate spill-response equipment in Washington to ensure that we have equipment on hand to respond in rough seas, fast currents, darkness and fog, and other challenging conditions, and to ensure that we are ready for a large-scale spill in Puget Sound and the Pacific coast.

Expand spill response "drill" program to test assumptions made in our spill-response plans and to better train responders.

Train, equip, and drill commercial fishermen for oil spill-response to increase the region's response capacities.

Seattle Audubon, in partnership with People for Puget Sound, is leading the effort in advocating for these important policy changes. **Please contact your legislators TODAY, urging them to support SB 5439 and HB 1186.**



What's New at Summer Nature Camp!

by Kintea Bryant, Education Director

Although the days are still short, the temperature still cold, and the trees still bare, summer Nature Camp is in gear. Planning for camp begins months before summer arrives, and this year we are planning to feature some new and exciting camp sessions!

Keeping in mind that kids love dirt and things that live in dirt, we are introducing, "There's a Worm in My Dirt" for our 1st – 3rd grade campers. This session is designed to teach our campers about composting, decomposition, and the organisms that help with it. Kids will have the opportunity to learn about worm bins, and other ways to compost, and the importance of recycling and composting for the sake of nature.

For our 4th – 6th grade campers who are interested in nature and art and/or writing, we are offering "Creating Art through Nature." Campers will learn and hone their artistic interests, using the

natural world as their palate. They will be instructed by professional artists, and given the opportunity to discover how their interests in art and nature can be combined.

Last year we piloted an all-girls Teen Trekker trip for youth entering 7th – 9th grades, with great success! So we are again hoping to attract girls who like to camp, but may feel more comfortable going on a trip with only girls. This year, the girls will head for the Cascade Mountains for a 3-day, 2-night stay!

They will learn about nature using the mountainous wilderness as their teaching tool.

We are excited about these new camps, and hope to see your children this summer at Nature Camp!

Spring FUN

Join us for FUN! Seattle Audubon's environmental education program for 3rd and 4th graders, Finding Urban Nature (FUN), will begin the week of March 28. FUN is one day a week for four consecutive weeks. The program will begin with a Volunteer Training on March 26, 2011. To volunteer or for more information, please contact the Elementary School Programs Manager, at (206) 523-8243 x19. See "Signs of Spring" article for more details.



Signs of Spring, means it's time for FUN!

Buds forming on trees, flowers rising from the soil, and critters scurrying about, the signs of spring are all around! Okay, maybe it's not quite spring yet, but observing and experiencing nature is what FUN is all about!

The spring session of Seattle Audubon's Finding Urban Nature (FUN) program begins the week of March 28! Students who participate in FUN are led through four, one-hour lessons, focused on introducing them to the natural world. This spring, students will learn why birds build nests, search for critters in the leaf litter, hunt for different types of leaves,

and learn what worms eat!

The FUN program is able to provide outdoor, hands-on, small-group lessons for each of our schools, at no cost to the schools or students, through the help of 100 extraordinary volunteers!

The FUN Volunteer Training is scheduled for March 26, 2011. If you are interested in volunteering and/or for more information regarding the program/training, please contact the Elementary School Programs Manager, at (206) 523-8243 x19 or fun@seattleaudubon.org.

Class Information

Full details on these classes can be found at:
www.seattleaudubon.org/Classes

Registration:

Seattle Audubon members receive a discount. Pre-registration required. CUH parking fees included.

You may register in person at Seattle Audubon Nature Shop, 8050 35th NE, Seattle, WA, Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or by phone 206-523-4483.

Refunds:

Full refunds are available for cancellations with at least 14 days notice. No refunds are given with fewer than two weeks notice.

* Location:

Classrooms are in CUH, The Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, just SE of the University Village mall. From NE 45th Street, turn south on Mary Gates Memorial Way to 41st St.



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Birding-by-Ear instructor Bob Sundstrom

Woodpeckers of Washington

with Brian Bell, *Professional Guide, Author and Master Birder*

Woodpeckers are found in almost all habitats in Washington from sea level to boreal forests to semi-arid eastern Washington valleys. We will examine the twelve species that are present in our state, discuss their habitat requirements, become acquainted with vocalizations and drumming patterns, examine seasonal distribution patterns, and build identification skills.

On a half-day trip in Western Washington and a full-day trip to Eastern Washington, we'll see and experience these fascinating birds in the field.

Lecture: Friday, April 1, 2011, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: CUH*, Isaacson Classroom

Field Trips: Saturday, April 2, 7:00 a.m. - 12 Noon & Sunday, May 22, 6:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$65 members, \$80 nonmembers for lecture and both field trips.
 \$45 members, \$60 nonmember for lecture only.

Limit: 20 for lecture and field trips; 5 for lecture only.

2011 Birding-by-Ear— Learning NW Bird Voices

with Bob Sundstrom, *Professional Birding Tour Leader & BirdNote Lead Writer*

Tune up your ears in this popular class, where you'll learn to get a handle on bird songs. This class is ideal for new birding-by-ear students, or veterans who want an intensive refresher. Day-long trips offer intensive field experience, and cover a variety of habitats within 100 miles of Seattle.

Lectures: Thursday, May 5, and Tuesday, May 10, 2011, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.,

Location: CUH*, Douglas Classroom

Note: Registration is by field trip. You may register for one or both field trips. Two evening lectures are included when you register for one or both of the two different full-day field trips. Carpooling and meeting plans will be decided in class.

Field Trip #1: South Puget Sound - Thursday, May 12

Field Trip #2: East of the Cascades - Tuesday, May 31

Cost: \$100 members, \$115 nonmembers, (for 2 lectures and 1 field trip).
 \$175 members, \$190 nonmembers, (for 2 lectures and BOTH field trips)

Limit: 18 per field trip

Flycatchers and Warblers of Washington State

with Kevin Aanerud,
*WA State Records Committee Chair;
 Instructor for Seattle Audubon Master Birder classes and WOS*

This course will feature identification by sight and sound of the regularly occurring species found in the state, including the difficult-to-identify flycatchers of the empidonax genus. Learn where and when to find flycatchers and warblers during their migrations and in their breeding habitats.

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Choose one of two different trips to apply what has been covered in the class. A full-day field trip will explore the east slope of the Cascades and all the various habitats along the I-90 corridor. A less rigorous trip, with a later start time and less driving, will visit diverse habitats of the west slope of the Cascades and Puget Sound basin.

Lectures: Wednesdays, May 11 & 18, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., CUH*, Douglas Classroom

Field Trips: Sign up for one of the following field trips on the first night of class: Saturday, May 14 (from 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.), or Friday, May 20 (from 5:30 a.m. - evening)

Cost: \$65 members, \$80 nonmembers

Limit: 28 (14 per field trip)

Call for Nominations: Seattle Audubon Annual Awards 2010

Please help us recognize individuals who demonstrate steadfast service to and for birds and nature in the areas of education, conservation, and science.

The Education Award recognizes an individual in the K-12 arena in the greater Seattle community whose work inspires students to love, respect and protect nature.

The Conservation Award is given to an individual in the greater Seattle community who has made a unique and significant contribution to the protection of birds and wildlife habitat, using creative means for engaging and inspiring the public.

The Science Award honors an individual in the greater Seattle community who has made a significant contribution to our knowledge of the birds and wildlife habitat of our region, through publications or other means of disseminating scientific information.

The nomination letter should be one to two pages long. Supporting documents may be submitted. The letter should include a statement of the nominee's background and achievements. Please include contact information for the nominee as well as the nominator. **The deadline for nominations is 10:00 a.m. Friday, April 15, 2011.** Awards will be presented at the Seattle Audubon Appreciation and Awards Dinner on Thursday, June 16, 2011.

For more complete details on the qualifications for each award, please contact Marieke Stientjes Rack at (206) 523-8243 x12. Nominations should either be sent to Seattle Audubon Society, care of Marieke Stientjes Rack, Annual Awards 2011, 8050 35th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115, or they can be emailed to mariekes@seattleaudubon.org.

Spotlight on Jean Mills, Seattle Audubon Volunteer

"Why don't I have a map of the United States? Good heavens! I've got so many of the world. Well, maybe that says something."

World traveler and long time Seattle Audubon volunteer Jean Mills was looking for a map of the United States (she did find one) to show me Bodie, California's remote location. Jean and her husband Howard's home displays beautiful photos of Bodie (her mother's hometown and dog's namesake), as well as artwork from the almost 50 countries Jean has visited. In addition to traveling and collecting art, Jean raised four children (she is a great-grandmother), worked as a Medical Technologist and Microbiologist,

and helped create the Northwest Bead Society. She's been busy!

Jean became a Nature Shop volunteer in 1999 and says "I love it in the Shop." She is part of a dedicated community of Seattle Audubon volunteers. As she and her husband age, the customers and her co-workers at the Nature Shop are "saviors of her sanity" because they keep her connected to the diverse ways that people experience the world.

Say hello to Jean Tuesday mornings in the Shop and be sure to notice her beautiful jewelry from around the world! Thank you Jean for 10+ years of service to Seattle Audubon!



Jean and Howard Mills turned a dying tree in their backyard into a habitat snag.

Field Trips— Rules of the Road

While the way we publicize our regular field trips has changed, most of the other details remain the same, including the registration process. For detailed information on field trips offered in the next month, visit our website at www.seattle-audubon.org. You will find:

- A complete schedule of upcoming trips.
- A detailed listing for each trip, including destination, leader, meeting place, and a description of what you can expect to see.
- A checklist of what to bring.
- Carpool guidelines.
- Directions to the trip meeting places.
- Registration dates and process (this remains unchanged).
- General rules for field trip participants.
- A copy of the “liability release form” you will need to sign the day of the trip. *Like most other organizations that offer public field trips, Seattle Audubon now requires participants to sign a waiver as a condition of participating in these free services.*

The field trip schedule will be updated the first of each month, so be sure check our web site regularly!

Spring Field Trips

Spring is the highlight of many birder’s year, with essentially all species that breed in Washington State present, singing, and/or calling. All are in breeding plumage, busy rearing the next generation of their species. And, because they are typically on specific territories, many are more easily located than at other times of year when their occurrence is less structured.

Fortunately for us, our state offers a wonderful mix of varied habitats and destinations that can truly fill out a birders spring list. Whether it’s in the Puget lowlands, the mountains, or central and eastern Washington, the variety is there and our trips take full advantage of it.

Specific details on all our field trips appear on the Seattle Audubon website

on the first of each month. You may also request to receive a monthly electronic newsletter that includes a complete field trips listing and detailed descriptions. To register to receive this, please email info@seattleaudubon.org with “monthly email” in the subject line.

Trips from Sunday, March 13 to Saturday, April 16 posted online March 1.
Sign-ups begin Tuesday, March 8.

Trips from Sunday, April 17 to Saturday, May 14 posted online April 1.
Sign-ups begin Tuesday, April 12.

Trips from Sunday, May 15 to Saturday, June 18 posted online May 1.
Sign-ups begin Tuesday, May 10.

Neighborhood Bird Walks

Seattle Audubon members and guests are cordially invited on a bird walk to introduce them to one of many fine birding locations in the greater Seattle area. These walks will be held on Saturday mornings, rain or shine, and will last about two hours. No sign up is required; just show up before the specified start time and enjoy the guidance of an experienced birder.

Those who are beginning birders, or are new to the Seattle area, will especially enjoy this initial exposure to the rich variety of bird life in our region. Seattle Audubon members are encouraged to invite non-members to attend these events. Families and non-members are welcome.

Schedule for March 2011 - May 2011

March 12, 9:00 a.m., Carkeek Park*
Scott Hoskin, 206-390-4388
bludog66@comcast.net

Carkeek Park is in northwest Seattle, enter from 3rd Avenue NW at 110th Street. Meet at the parking lot across from the playing fields at the end of Carkeek Park Road.

*A special accessible route is available for those with disabilities; contact the leader if you plan to attend.

April 9, 8:30 a.m., Discovery Park
Neil Zimmerman, 425-485-3122
N3zims@comcast.net

Discovery Park is at the western end of Interbay-Magnolia. Meet near the toilet facility at the South Parking lot (enter on right off W Emerson St. just beyond Viewmont Way W).

April 23, 8:30 a.m., Alki Beach
Deborah Dowd 509-860-0958
deborahd421@gmail.com

Alki Beach is on the West Seattle peninsula. Meet at the Alki Beach Park Bathhouse, 2701 Alki Avenue SW, near the “Statue of Liberty,” between 59th and 60th Avenues SW. Metro Bus #37.

There will be no Seattle Audubon Neighborhood Bird Walks in May, June, or July.

Continues on the following page

Join Eastside Audubon for a Bird Walk at Lake Sammamish State Park

Wednesday, March 23 • Monday, April 18 • Wednesday, May 25

These 2-3 mile walks are from 8:00 a.m. - Noon at Lake Sammamish State Park. The trails can be wet and very muddy at times. Contact Sharon Aagard & Stan Wood at 425-891-3460 for more information.

Directions to Lake Sammamish State Park: Take I-90 east, Exit 15, go left and following signs to the Park. Meet just inside the main entrance, take the first left into the large parking lot and meet in the northeast corner.

Birding on the North Kitsap Peninsula

by Herb Curl, Seattle Audubon Conservation Committee Member

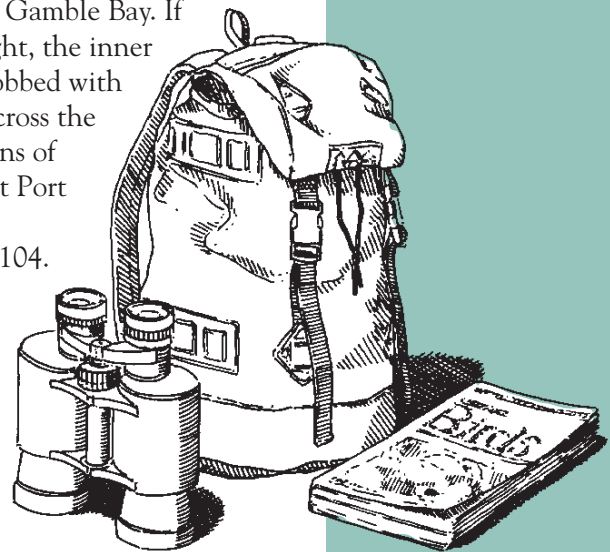
For a nice day's out-of-the-way birding and ferry ride, head to the north Kitsap Peninsula. Take the ferry from Edmonds to Kingston. You'll see lots of cormorants, gulls, and ducks at both ends and, if you're lucky, some alcids and maybe a Parasitic Jaeger mid-channel in the Fall. Drive westward on SR104, turn right onto Hansville Rd. At 4.3 miles turn right at the flashing yellow light onto Eglon Rd., go 1.6 miles through old Kitsap to a pocket beach overlooking Puget Sound. Return to Hansville Rd. and continue towards Hansville. At the bottom of the hill, turn right to Point-No-Point Lighthouse. Lots of loons, cormorants, and gulls in a feeding frenzy in the tide rips, Fall through Spring. You'll want a scope and warm clothes. A side trip is to Buck Lake County Park and the extensive, well-marked, Greenway trail system. Buck Lake Rd. is opposite Point-No-Point Rd. The Greenway entrance is southwest across an adjacent large meadow.

Hansville Rd. becomes Twin Spits Rd. Continue past the junction with Hood Canal Drive NE about 2.4 miles to the obscure Nature Conservancy trail entrance on the left. Park and walk ¼ mile to a large brackish pond. Return eastward, turn right onto Hood Canal Drive NE. There are good views from Coon Bay Marina parking lot (on the right), and

from the parking lot where NE Shelter Bay Lane enters Vista Key Drive. Instead of driving back the way you came, return to Hood Canal Drive and follow Little Boston Rd. NE.

Turn left to Hansville Rd. and back to SR104, or turn right to the S'Kallam Indian Reservation. If there's a strong southern wind it's definitely worth a stop at the Reservation. Turn right onto NE Boston Lane, at a new housing development, and then bear left down the hill to Pt. Julia and Port Gamble Bay. If conditions are right, the inner mouth will be mobbed with ducks. Directly across the bay are the remains of the lumber mill at Port Gamble.

Return to SR 104. Turn right and drive to the old town of Port Gamble for views north into Hood Canal and east into Port Gamble Bay, and where there's lots of shrubbery for sparrows. Continue westward on SR 104, watch for the turnoff to Salsbury Point Park's boat launch and views, just before the Hood Canal Bridge.





Annual Spring Plant Sale

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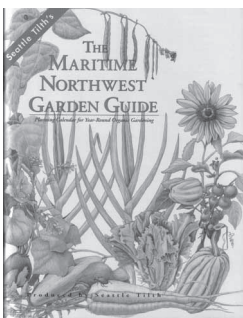
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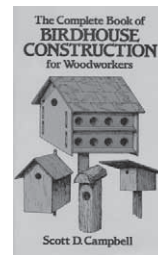
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Seattle Audubon Society Frequent Flyer Monthly Giving Program



© Tom Sanders

Come be a part of our Frequent Flyer program! The Frequent Flyer monthly giving program is a powerful way to provide ongoing support for the mission and vision of Seattle Audubon through monthly or quarterly gifts.

Here is how it works:

- You determine how much you'd like to give.
- We will process your gift each month or quarter (you pick) and then we will e-mail you your receipt.
- Your membership will automatically renew each year, ensuring that you will never miss an issue of EarthCare Northwest, class or field trip opportunity, or access to our extensive on-site library.
- Any time you would like to update your information or stop, simply contact us to let us know.

Please visit our website at www.seattleaudubon.org to download an enrollment form or contact Lisa Chang at (206) 523-8243 x14 or lisac@seattleaudubon.org.

**Garden Visits
25% off through March**



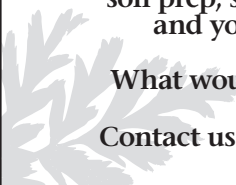
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