

Highlights and Achievements 2005

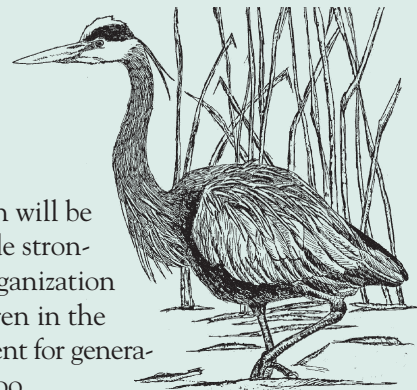
by Mark Buckley, Executive Director

What a year we've had! In 2006, Seattle Audubon will be celebrating its 90th year. We enter this new decade stronger than ever. In the face of difficult times, this organization has reached out to teach the public, engage children in the natural world around them, preserve the environment for generations to come—and taken time to enjoy nature, too.

Thanks to a dedicated, dynamic staff, an energetic board, and an extraordinary volunteer corps, Seattle Audubon stretches every dollar to achieve our mission. Our strength has never been more important, as complex environmental challenges confront the region.

With your support, Seattle Audubon continues to protect birds at risk, defend critical habitats, shape public policy, and inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to protect birds and nature. As you review the highlights of 2005 on pages seven through nine, we hope you will join us in celebrating these achievements.

Thank you for your continued support!



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Holiday Open House — Saturday, December 3, 10AM-5PM

Holiday shopping, children's activities, homemade cookies, hot cider, and shade-grown coffee—Join the fun!
Celebrate the season with Seattle Audubon!



Event

Christmas Bird Count—December 31, 2005

In 1900, Frank Chapman of the newly organized Audubon Society had an idea. He suggested a Christmas Bird Count, which would counteract the annual Christmas "Side Hunt," a ritual that sent hunters into the field to shoot whatever furred and feathered creatures they could find. From Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California, 27 hardy birders counted a total of 90 species that first year.

One hundred and five years later, more than 50,000 participants continue the tradition. In Seattle, experienced birders, neighborhood residents, and newcomers join in. Counts run from early morning to late afternoon, followed by a potluck at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Please sign up by Wednesday, December 21. For more information, check the Seattle Audubon web site, www.seattleaudubon.org, or call 206-523-8243, x80 and leave your name and phone number. Join other citizen-scientists in action!

From *The Seattle Times*, January 26, 1954:

The annual Christmas bird count for the Seattle area was conducted by 39 members of the Seattle Audubon Society on December 27...

... Sixteen field parties spent a total of 72½ party-hours and traveled a total of 109 miles, by automobile, on foot and by canoe. A total of 28,210 birds were seen.

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Seattle Audubon

Shop (phone: 206-523-4483)

Staff (phone: 206-523-8243)

Executive Director

Mark Buckley, x14

BirdNote Executive Producer

Chris Peterson, x15

Bookkeeper

Lois Woolwine, x17

Conservation Director

Alex Morgan, 206-985-6581

Development Director

Tom Schmitz, x21

Education/Nature Camp Director

Susan Tallarico, 206-985-6993

Elem. School Program Manager

/Nature Camp Asst. Director

Kintea Bryant, x19

High School Program Manager

Emily Sprong, 206-985-6832

Development Associate

Monya Noelke, x37

FUN Assistant

Susanna Stodden, x18

Nature Shop Assistant

Justine Busse, x10

Nature Shop Manager

Russ Steele, x10

Science and BirdNote Associate

Adam Sedgley, x36

Shade Coffee Organizer

Kristen Kosidowski, 206-523-6757

Urban Habitat Program Director

Matt Mega 206-985-6841

Volunteer Program Manager

Lorraine Hartmann, x12

SIGHTINGS HOTLINE

WOS Birdbox 206-281-9172

WEB SITES

<http://www.seattleaudubon.org>

<http://www.birdweb.org>

Earthcare Northwest, the official newsletter of Seattle Audubon, is published monthly except January and August.

Editor, Ellen Blackstone, x7

Publisher, Alan Roedell

Design and Layout, Sandy Welch

Proofing, Hanna Atkins

Advertising, Lisa Vogel, 206-384-5778

Production, Chris Altwegg

Submissions and address changes should be sent to Ellen Blackstone

at Seattle Audubon, or e-mail ellen@123imagine.net by the 8th of the month preceding publication. Submissions will be edited and published at the editor's discretion.

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Of Note

- **New volunteer orientation, Monday, January 23, 2006, 7-8:45PM** at the Seattle Audubon Center. Register with Lorraine at 206-523-8243, x12, or lorraineh@seattleaudubon.org.

- Volunteers, kindly report your estimated **2005 service hours** to Lorraine at 206-523-8243, x12 or lorraineh@seattleaudubon.org by **December 15, 2005**. Please *guesstimate* your December hours and add those in. We will be calling volunteers on the evening of December 6 to seek these estimates.

- **Wish List**—The Nature Shop needs these **stereo components**—a receiver, CD player (single is fine), tape deck, and speakers (the smaller, the better). Call Russ Steele, Director of Retail Operations, with offers or questions. 206-523-8243, x10. Or e-mail russells@seattleaudubon.org.

- **Save the date: Lobby Day 2006, Thursday, January 26**. Contact Alex Morgan for more information: 206-985-6581, or alexm@seattleaudubon.org.

- **Save the date: Annual Volunteer Appreciation Night, Thursday, February 16**. Enjoy a slide show by Paul Bannick and special refreshments.

- **Concerned about avian flu?** Learn more at www.seattleaudubon.org/science.cfm?id=451.

- **Donate your old vehicle** to Seattle Audubon and help support its programs. Call 206-523-8243, x7, and leave a message. And a hearty *thank you* to Marvin Cooper, who recently donated a car.

- Check out the exhibit **Killer Hats: Birds on the Brink**, now through

December 11, at the Washington State Historical Museum. www.wshs.org.

- Tune in to **BirdNote every week day** at 8:58AM—KPLU 88.5FM

- **Thank You to**

—**all of our 725 active Seattle Audubon volunteers and especially committee chairs**, who do so much for birds and their habitat in our community. —all of the hardworking, dedicated parent and community volunteers who helped us complete the fall session of the FUN program. We couldn't have done it without you!

—**Elizabeth Cambier** for organizing a delightful *March of the Penguins* movie night, followed by socializing.

—**Adam Carlson**, caller extraordinaire, **Alan Roberts**, sound man, wonderful band members **Will Brown, Melissa Coffey, Sono Hashisaki, Gerard Hranek, Olga Hauptman, Doug Knutson, Marcy Kubbs, Joe Micheals, Hal Mueller, Eileen O'Connor, Cheryl Phillips, Craig Shaw, George Smith, and Mary Varnum**, and our volunteer appreciation contra dance committee **Eric Harlow**, chair, **Elizabeth Cambier, Elaine Packard, Donna Schaeffer, and Amy Stevenson**. Thanks to **Borracchini's Bakery & Mediterranean Market** for donating the wonderful cake.

—**Dale Chase** and **Ilze Koris** for shade coffee mailing and to **Bob Soldwedel** for Mr. Fixit work.

—the **Volunteer Committee** for help with our annual December phonathon to ask for volunteer service hours.

—the band of **Shop volunteers** who serve so ably during the busy holiday season.

—**Peter Burr**, for donating a spotting scope to the Education program.

SEATTLE AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Richard Youel

Executive Director's Report, December 2005

by Mark Buckley

The holidays are upon us, and another year is coming to an end. We all will have our own special ways of remembering 2005.



For Seattle Audubon, I think 2005 will be remembered as a year of transitions. After ten years at its helm, Chris Peterson left the job of executive director to take on the role of executive producer for our new radio program, BirdNote. I arrived in January as the chapter's new executive director, only the second in its 90-year history.

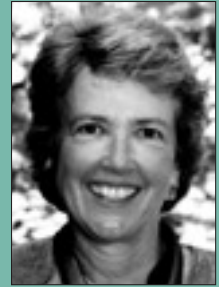
Other new faces dotted the staffing landscape with individuals such as Adam Sedgley, who serves both as BirdNote Special Assistant and Science Associate, and Tom Schmitz, Development and Communications Director. Monya Noelke joined the staff mid-way

in 2005 as Development Associate. Susanna Stodden came on board in September as our newest Finding Urban Nature (FUN) assistant. And recently, Kristen Kosidowski became our Northwest Shade Coffee Campaign Associate, revitalizing a key component of the organization's conservation program.

Among volunteers, 130 individuals joined as new partners for a host of different activities, bringing our total number of active volunteers to 725. New to our board of directors in 2005 were Eric Harlow, our education chair, and Renée Klein, who joined us in October. Seattle Audubon has ambitious plans for 2006, to continue its mission to cultivate and lead a community that values birds and the natural environment. In the meantime, take a few minutes to stroll through this issue of *Earthcare Northwest*, and join us in celebrating some of the highlights and accomplishments we enjoyed in 2005.

Best wishes for a fine and healthy New Year.

Spotlight on Staff— Chris Peterson



Growing up in Oklahoma and Washington, Chris and her two sisters spent much time outdoors. Their mother, Thero North, is a founder of the Master Birder program.

Chris was Seattle Audubon's first executive director, beginning in 1995. In December 2004, she created BirdNote, a radio show about the intriguing lives of birds, and became its executive producer. Today, BirdNote is heard by more than 75,000 listeners daily. With BirdNote, she continues her deep interest in finding ways for people to learn what birds reveal about the beauty and the complexity of the natural world. And she is keen to see Audubon help build the conservation movement.

Chris's idea of a good time is being outdoors on Whidbey Island with her husband, Todd; visiting their daughter, Sierra; improvising jazz flute; and spending time with the BirdNote Team of Ten.

Welcome, Monya Noelke, Development Associate!

After volunteering on the Membership Committee and in fundraising projects for Seattle Audubon, Monya Noelke has joined us as Development Associate.

Growing up in California, Monya always loved nature. She became interested in birds during a walk with her young son. A toddler's need to name things was the hook to a lifetime of trying to identify birds.

Before coming to Seattle, she worked as executive director of a start-up children's museum and with the



Konocti Girl Scout Council. Monya brings many years of experience in community activism. In addition to leadership roles in nonprofit organizations, her background includes

business management, as president and founder of a wood products manufacturing company.

Monya has a passion for birding, protecting the environment, informal science education, fundraising, and her grandchildren. Please join us in welcoming Monya to Seattle Audubon!

SEATTLE AUDUBON MISSION STATEMENT

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

Seattle Audubon is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Invest in the Future—Make a Bequest to Seattle Audubon

Contact Christina Peterson
206-523-8243, x15
chrisp@seattleaudubon.org



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

Thank You, Donors!

Seattle Audubon gives special thanks to the following individuals, foundations, organizations, and businesses that contributed \$100 or more between November 1, 2004 and October 31, 2005—

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	Judith and Greg Farrar

A Gift of Stock

Seattle Audubon welcomes gifts of stock and other marketable securities. Making charitable gifts using appreciated securities often provides donors with rewarding tax benefits and a feeling of having made a difference. Please contact Thomas M. Schmitz for more information at giving@seattleaudubon.org, or 206-523-8243, x21.

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Lifetime Gifts

Leaving a legacy of support by remembering Seattle Audubon in your will is a great way to nurture the natural world for generations to come. You can support Seattle Audubon's work after your lifetime with a gift that can benefit your family and a cause you care about.

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Seattle Audubon is grateful for the many gifts in memory of—or in honor of—the following: Parky Forrester, Mike Hamilton, Gussie Litwer, Elaine Magnusson, Christine Scheidts-Miller, Betty Lee Miller Schiess, Torbjorn John Nykreim, Mollie Julian Stoltenberg, Donnie Straub, and Robert Swenson.

John and Cynthia Wallace
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Seattle Audubon Legacy Club

We thank members who have included Seattle Audubon in their wills and estate plans and who have notified us.

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 Sally Alhadeff
 Chris Altwegg
 Eleanore and Richard Baxendale
 Beatrice Booth
 Rebecca Evans
 Ms Judith Finn
 Vance David High
 Miss Ruth Ittner
 Ken and Rachel Jacobsen
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 *Joan M Whiley
 *Fred and Miriam Yates
 * new members in 2005

Bequests to Seattle Audubon

Estate of Ruth Ellerbeck
 Estate of Robert and Eleanor Grant
 Estate of Augusta Litwer
 Estate of Barbara E Osten

We have made every effort to list you according to your wishes. If you have corrections, please e-mail monyan@seattleaudubon.org.

A Memorial Gift

Conway and Janet Leovy made a gift in memory of their good friend Elaine Magnusson, volunteer extraordinaire. Their gift will provide the Finding Urban Nature program to a classroom of third-graders at a local elementary school. What a lovely way to remember and honor a friend's dedication to education and birds.

Stuart Prestrud and Charlotte Kelly
 Megan and Greg Pursell
 Ron Rabin and Nancy Rumbel
 Nandini Ranjitumar
 Murray and Wendy Raskind
 Bill and Allyn Rathman
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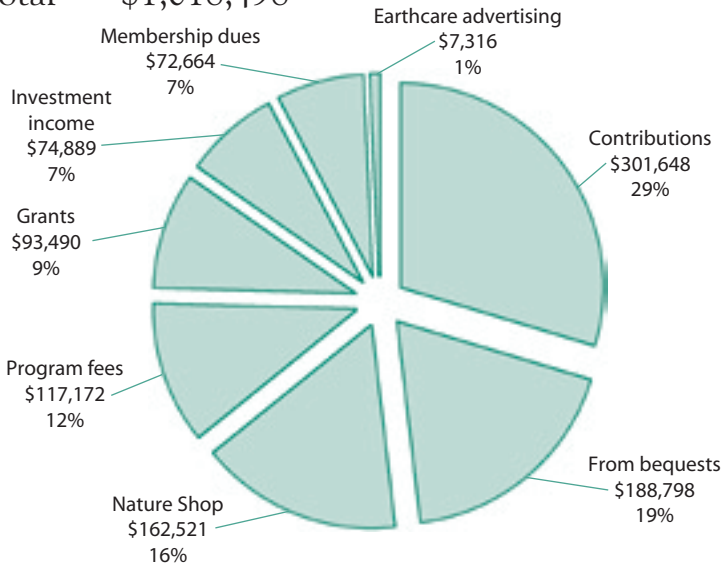
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Fiscal Highlights for the Year Ending June 30, 2005

...achieving our mission to cultivate and lead a community that values and protects birds and the natural environment.

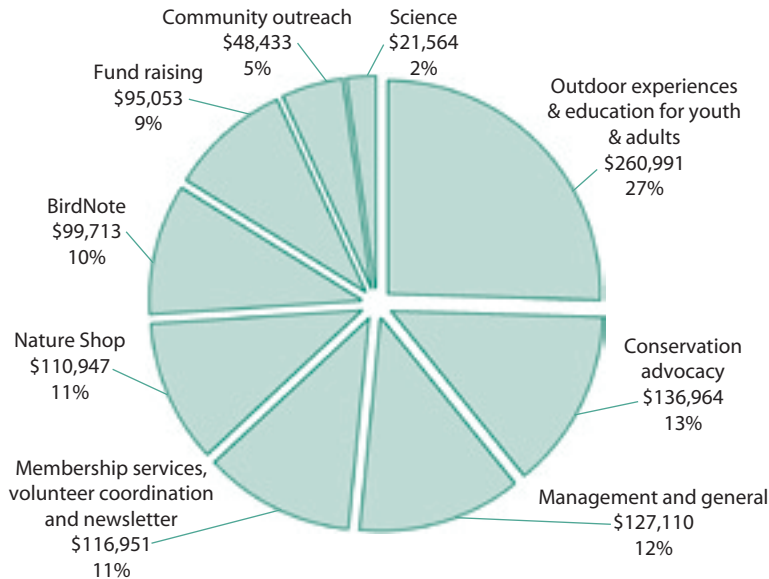
General Fund Revenue

Unrestricted \$631,949
 Restricted \$386,549
Total \$1,018,498



General Fund Expenses

Total \$1,017,726



The General Fund revenue and expense charts were prepared using an accounting method other than Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, or GAAP, because we show restricted revenue in the year in which it is being spent. To receive the complete Seattle Audubon financial statements prepared using GAAP, please call the Seattle Audubon office at 206-523-8243, x15.

Assets

Cash and short term investments	\$ 620,323
Receivables	6,213
Inventory	141,416
Other current assets	9,559
Land, building, and equipment - net	892,784
Long-term investments	2,087,923
Total Assets	\$ 3,758,218

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Payables & accrued expenses	\$ 105,455
Mortgage payable	49,572
Total Liabilities	155,027

Net Assets

Undesignated (General Fund)	(2,634)
Designated	1,266,653
Restricted *	1,177,488
Endowments and Permanent Funds **	1,161,684
Total Net Assets	3,603,191
Total Liabilities And Net Assets	\$ 3,758,218

*Restricted net assets includes grants, gifts and investment earnings from endowments that are restricted in use by the donor. This includes the Conservation Action Fund.

** Endowments and Permanent Funds

Martin Miller Fund***	\$ 527,618
Hazel Wolf Kids For The Environment Fund	305,287
Della Patch Education Fund	200,515
Bob and Eleanor Grant Education Endowment	37,264
Ellerbeck Education Fund	75,000
Legal Fund	16,000
Total Endowments and Permanent Funds	\$ 1,161,684

***The Martin Miller restricted fund and the investment income derived from it are not available for use by Seattle Audubon for its programs.

Highlights and Achievements, 2005

By Seattle Audubon Staff Members

Habitat Conservation and Advocacy

Key programs of Seattle Audubon, Conservation and Urban Habitat, continued to protect birds and the environment.

Seattle Audubon and the **Spotted Owl Caucus** successfully convinced the Forest Practices Board (FPB) to implement some marginal new Spotted Owl protections. However, we are disappointed that our major request, for on-the-ground interim protections of crucial owl nesting habitat, was not considered. We will continue to press our case here. Seattle Audubon also recently launched litigation against the US Fish and Wildlife Service for its lack of a recovery plan for the Northern Spotted Owl. The agency has been delinquent in this effort for fifteen years. We are currently in negotiations to hammer out a mutually acceptable solution.



Alex Morgan,
Conservation Director

Within Seattle Audubon's **Great Blue Heron Campaign**, we have nearly completed the first comprehensive mapping of critical heron foraging and nesting habitat in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. These maps will identify the most critical habitats for heron protection in the tri-county area. The maps, which are in the last stages of development, will include historical nesting sites that still contain viable habitat and the addition of a wetlands layer to the GIS model. Once completed, the maps will guide land acquisition, regulation, and policy efforts for the next several years in the region, leading to protection of the most threatened heron habitats. In addition to this mapping effort, we have also conducted considerable outreach to better educate the public about Great Blue Herons—Seattle's official bird—and the need to better protect their habitat. Through efforts such as these, we have worked to install interpretive signs and a webcam at the Kenmore Park and Ride heron colony and interpretive signs at the Ballard Locks across from the Kiwanis colony, with signage in the works at either the Arboretum or Lake Union Natural Area. (Negotiations are still in progress for this last location.)

Protecting Fish-eating Birds We have effectively convinced the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a database and reporting protocol for accidental deaths at state fish hatcheries. The

department will also summarize all occurrences in an annual report. We have also continued to provide adequate protection for Caspian Terns and other fish-eating birds at East Sand Island and throughout the Columbia River system. Management plans are being developed in Chelan and several other counties to better understand and manage bird-fish (endangered salmon) interactions without harming bird populations.

Promoting Sustainable Forestry We have collaborated with retailers Dunn Lumber and The Environmental Home Center to promote Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) lumber. Both businesses have enjoyed significant increases in demand for and knowledge of FSC lumber products. We have also supported the City of Seattle in its efforts to pursue FSC certification audits, i.e., working toward FSC certification for the Cedar River Watershed.

The Northwest Shade Coffee Campaign We continue to educate roasters and consumers, and thereby increase demand for migratory bird-friendly coffee, and the campaign is taking on new strength. We recently added a half-time person to facilitate this campaign. We also signed up five new coffee companies to our campaign in the last year.



Kristen Kosidowski,
NWSCC Organizer

We conducted 12 new **Gardening for Life** workshops throughout the course of the year. The program is aimed at helping private landowners make the connection between their personal gardening habits and the protection of urban habitat. In concert with the Nature Shop's fall native plant sale, we held a garden tour demonstrating in-person applications and principles of *Gardening for Life*. With the invaluable help of volunteer (and 2005 President's Award recipient) Neil Zimmerman, we promoted the program with booths at several neighborhood and community fairs including the "Dig-It" fair in Lake Forest Park.



Matt Mega, Urban
Habitat Program Director

The **Urban Habitat** subcommittee spent significant time engaged in land-use issues in Seattle. We commented and testified on several issues including updates to the Environmental Critical Areas Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. We also commented on the budget and the Vegetation Management Plan for Seward Park. Our testimony about the budget, combined with that of other groups, helped save the Soundway property from sale and development.

Education and Enjoyment

We strive to engage people “from 3 to 103” in numerous environmental education programs, with an emphasis on enjoying birds and nature.

Finding Urban Habitat (FUN) was successful again this past year. Under new staff leadership, FUN worked in 21 schools in neighborhoods throughout Seattle. FUN exposed more than 1,400 elementary students in grades two through five to conservation and environmental education within their own schoolyards.

This past summer, nearly 500 children in grades one through nine participated in Seattle Audubon’s 23rd annual **Nature Camp**. Staged at Magnuson Park, Nature Camp provides environmental education day camps over a period of ten weeks.

BirdWatch, Seattle Audubon’s high school program, reached 25 students in grades nine through twelve, from fifteen Seattle schools, for year-long field training and education about birds and the environment. Students learn to identify different species and their habitats, and enjoy hands-on experiences such as bird-banding capture and release. BirdWatch scholars volunteer throughout the summer at community centers all over Seattle, teaching what they have learned to children in day camps. These teen naturalists reached 400 campers last summer.

Family Programs Seattle Audubon’s education department partnered with the Institute of Systems Biology and the Seattle Science Center to bring family programs to eight different community centers around the area.

Outreach Education Programs This mix of family programs, educational kits, traveling presentations, and other outreach strategies engaged more than 2,900 students of all ages throughout the school year and summer.

Adult classes again reached out to the public through incredible and diverse programming, such as *Birding by Ear*, *Geology of Mount St. Helens*, *Sketching in the Field*, and one called *Happenin’ Herons*. Over 500 adults benefited from these and other programs.



Kintea Bryant, Elementary School Program Manager



Susanna Stodden, FUN Assistant



Emily Sprong, High School Program



Sue Tallarico, Education/Nature Camp Director/Manager

The highly successful **Master Birder program** graduated a group of about 25 adults in Spring 2005. These graduates continue their participation with Seattle Audubon by volunteering hundreds of hours in various programs. A new group, the Master Birder Class of 2007, started in September.

Neighborhood Bird Walks and field trips, led by birding experts, operate year round and engage more members every year.

Amphibians of the Pacific Northwest, a completely revised version of an earlier book, was published by Seattle Audubon, continuing our tradition of fine nature publications.

Ten more issues of **Earthcare Northwest** reached our 5500+ members.

Our newly revamped **web site** www.seattleaudubon.org extended our voice for conservation, education, science, and enjoyment.

Science

All of Seattle Audubon’s programs—including Education and Conservation—are based upon solid scientific inquiry and study. We are fortunate to have on our Science Committee a number of highly qualified volunteers who offer extensive credentials within their fields of study.

BirdWeb Seattle Audubon has reorganized its unrivaled online guide to the birds of Washington, BirdWeb, with an updated, cleaner design, and improved content, including information on habitat, birding sites, and bird calls. Go to www.birdweb.org.

The **Breeding Bird Atlas** was developed as an online publication of the breeding bird surveys of Island, Kitsap, Kittitas, and King Counties. This updates the first Breeding Bird Atlas that was originally published as part of the Washington GAP analysis.

The **Neighborhood Bird Project** is a coordinated, extensive series of monthly bird surveys in Seattle area parks that encourages members to bird their “neighborhood” parks regularly. The study includes five years’ of data for Magnuson Park, providing our volunteer statisticians with adequate data for extensive analysis. Over 100 individuals volunteer their time for this project. Current project survey sites are in Seattle—the Arboretum, Magnuson, Carkeek, Genesee, Discovery, Seward, and Golden Gardens Parks—as well as the Civic Club in Lake Forest Park and habitat areas in Kent (including Soos Creek Park).



Adam Sedgley, Science and BirdNote Associate

Science Committee members keep busy inside and *outside* of Seattle Audubon. The committee was called upon frequently this past year to consult on a number of issues, including reviews of potential litigation, the development of wetlands at Magnuson Park, and the restoration of the Tolt-McDonald Park. Herb Curl is an advisor to the Washington Invasive Species Coalition. Committee Chair, Jerry Joyce, sits on the Washington Ballast Water Working Group to control the introduction of invasive aquatic species. Joyce was also recently appointed to the Governor's Oil Spill Advisory Council, as a representative of the environmental community. Science Committee member Helle Bielefeldt-Ohmann, a renowned veterinary epidemiologist, has written timely articles on relevant issues such as the West Nile virus and the avian flu. These are posted on our web site, www.seattleaudubon.org

The annual **Christmas Bird Count** supports one of the longest running environmental monitoring projects in the world, consisting of more than 100 years of unbroken data on winter bird populations across the Americas. Seattle Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Count usually attracts about 175 hearty and dedicated participants.

Volunteers

Seattle Audubon boasts one of the largest contingents of active, dedicated volunteers by organization size in the nation.

We gained **130 new volunteers** throughout the year, bringing our total to 725.

We enjoy the **third largest volunteer program** of the 510 Audubon chapters nationwide.

Our volunteers donate—as a conservative guess—**30,000 hours of service** each year, and chair most of our 30-plus active committees and workgroups.

100 volunteers serve on the Neighborhood Bird



Lorraine Hartmann,
Volunteer Program Manager

Counts alone, and over 225 work in FUN.

We are grateful to the highly skilled individuals who do most of the work on our office computer system and web site.

Nature Shop

Where the profits are for the birds.

The **Nature Shop** continues to grow in sales, its profits continuing to help enhance and serve our mission and programs.

In 2005, the Nature Shop's **retail sales exceeded \$420,000** with a net return of more than \$50,000 to Seattle Audubon's general fund.

The heart of our Nature Shop is its **50 amazing volunteers** who contributed more than 4,300 hours of service and handled an astonishing 15,000 transactions including retail sales, memberships, and contributions, in addition to answering approximately 10,000 telephone inquiries during the year.

This past year, the Nature Shop launched its newest venture with **online sales**, in conjunction with our radio show, BirdNote.

BirdNote™

Radio shows about the intriguing way of birds.

On Monday, February 21, 2005, Seattle Audubon

launched the radio program BirdNote on NPR affiliate station KPLU, 88.5 FM. Now every Monday through Friday, for two minutes at 8:58AM, over 70,000 listeners are transported out of their daily grind by stories about the remarkable abilities of birds. Sometimes funny, sometimes poignant, BirdNote vignettes use a compelling narrative and the rich sounds of birds to engage the curiosity and imagination of the audience as a way to broaden the base for conservation.

Starting November 7, BirdNote premiered on station KOHO 101.1 FM in Leavenworth and the Wenatchee Valley. This expansion allows ever more people to learn about and be connected to birds and become familiar with the name and purpose of Seattle Audubon.

As a complement to the radio show, the web site, www.BirdNote.org, is a way to learn more about the featured species.



Russ Steele,
Nature Shop Manager



Justine Busse, Nature
Shop Assistant



Chris Peterson, BirdNote
Executive Producer

Other Staff Members



Mark Buckley,
Executive Director



Momya Noelke,
Development Associate



Tom Schmitz,
Development Director



Lois Woolwine, Bookkeeper