Business Meeting and Open House Review

On the evening of Thursday, June 16, Seattle Audubon was filled with members eager to meet our new Executive Director, John Brosnan, elect board officers, and approve bylaw revisions. The ballots have been counted, and we are happy to announce that the bylaws were approved and that we have a new slate of officers:

President, Rod Brown – Rod practices environmental law at the Cascadia Law Group PLLC. Throughout his career, he has been involved in monumental campaigns, such as the one that led to our state’s Superfund cleanup law, and has served as the environmental representative on various task forces and commissions. He is also an enthusiastic birder and enjoys traveling to observe birds and their habitats.

Vice President, Diane de Ryss – Diane recently retired as the Director of Grants and Contract Services at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she had been working for the past 11 years. Diane discovered birding 20 years ago when two friends invited her and her husband on a bird walk. It took that one experience – and a sighting of a yellow-headed blackbird – to get them hooked.

Treasurer, Susan Marks – Susan is a CPA and an Audit Principal with McDonald Jacobs, P.C., with over thirty years of experience as an auditor and practicing accountant, specializing in the nonprofit industry. She splits her time between Portland, for work, and Kirkland, where her husband and cat reside.

Secretary, Jill Ericsson – Jill is a trained architect and runs her own business, providing computer services to the design community. While engaged in a broad range of projects, she particularly enjoys working on habitat restoration. Jill credits her interest in birds to watching her mother keep local, seasonal bird lists for more than five decades.

Volunteer Awards

Each year, Seattle Audubon recognizes the hard work of our volunteers at a Volunteers Appreciation and Awards dinner. This year, the three award recipients are as follows:

Seattle Audubon Society Annual Award 2016
JEAN TRENT
For outstanding service

Seattle Audubon Society President’s Award 2016
HERB CURL
For outstanding service and longtime commitment

Seattle Audubon Society Service Award 2016
PAMELA HARLOW
For extraordinary commitment and longtime service
Letter from Executive Director, John Brosnan

Hello to the Seattle Audubon community:

Now four months into my tenure as your Executive Director, I am thrilled with what we’ve accomplished during this relatively short time. In terms of small changes, one of my goals has been to increase communication and engagement with all of our members, volunteers, and partners. After a few years of transitions at Seattle Audubon, I want people to know that not only do I love being here, but I intend on sticking around for a while. Telling people that is not a very compelling tactic, but showing them certainly can be.

The big news of course, is our new strategic plan, Seattle Audubon 20/20: Sharpening Our Focus. This plan will reflect the boldest urban conservation effort in Seattle Audubon’s 100-year history. As one example, we have designed a new campaign to integrate the work of our Science and Conservation programs, called “Neighborhood Flyways.” Neighborhood Flyways recognizes and responds to the challenge of sustaining unbroken habitat corridors along the thousands of miles of the Pacific Flyway. Having reliable greenways for birds to forage and rest along their migration route is especially critical in major urban areas like ours. This campaign will also afford us new means to grow and diversify our community, and ultimately increase bird habitat throughout the City of Seattle.

Over the next six weeks, we will roll out more details about Seattle Audubon 20/20. If you have specific questions about any and all of this, please reach out! Moreover, I hope to see many of you at the Museum of History & Industry for The Bird Ball on October 22nd! It’s definitely shaping up to be an event not to be missed – and a night to remember.

Centennial Events

The Beers for Birds Centennial Tour is still making its way through Seattle! We have fresh bird-themed trivia questions each month, so you can keep coming again and again. Be sure to check out our website at seattleaudubon.org/100years to see all dates and locations – don’t miss us as we fly by your neighborhood!

Get your costumes ready for the event of the year – the Bird Ball, an evening masquerade. On October 22, gather your friends and flock over to the Museum of History & Industry for a night full of music, dancing, and delightful games. Herban Feast is catering the event, so you can expect some delicious hors d’oeuvres as well. If you don’t have your tickets already, be sure to visit my.seattleaudubon.org/birdball before they’re gone!

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Go Birding in Costa Rica

Seattle Audubon is excited to announce a new program of International Birding Trips that engages our community in appreciating "our" migratory species and their wintering habitats. Destinations will focus on countries along the four principle avian migratory flyways of the Americas, connecting Seattle Audubon’s local work to the hemispheric context.

Costa Rica will be our destination in November 2016 where we will visit a number of the country’s top tropical birding hotspots in a country overflowing with exotic species like the Resplendent Quetzal, Keel-billed Toucan and Crimson Tanager. An expert local guide will accompany us on the 11-day trip, exploring this amazing country that has preserved 23% of its land for conservation. Travel dates are November 10-20, 2016 with space for 12 participants at a cost of $2,695 per person (flight not included). Reserve your spot today!

For more information on this and future trips, contact Science Manager, Toby Ross, at tobyr@seattleaudubon.org.

A Hundred Years in the Making
Seattle Audubon’s Centennial Book

The story of Seattle Audubon is the story of people working for a century to protect birds and preserve their natural habitat. Told through the voices of those that made it happen, these are the trailblazers who:

• Championed the removal of the Elwha dams
• Saved millions of acres of ancient forests
• Preserved the boundaries of Olympic National Park
• Helped start 21 Audubon chapters around Washington State
• Started BirdWeb, BirdNote, Nature Camp, and Young Birders
• Work to save the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet
• Lead the walks and talk the talks that introduce birding to all

Read about their work, dreams, victories and defeats, and the grit that never let them quit – as told in their own words. This 200-page oral history book has been compiled by award-winning author Connie Sidles and includes historical vignettes, timelines, and true stories, all fully annotated.

The first copies will be on sale at the Centennial Gala, the Bird Ball, on October 22!
Take part in the largest citizen science seabird census in the PNW!

The new season of Seattle Audubon’s landmark Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) kicks off on October 1, 2016. We are currently recruiting enthusiastic, skilled, and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. This truly regional effort provides a significant data set on marine bird populations from the south end of Puget Sound all the way across the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Your work will strengthen Seattle Audubon’s bird census database and serve as a foundation to support the implementation of our new strategic plan, Seattle Audubon 20/20, during our organization’s 100th anniversary year.

Volunteers should be able to identify Puget Sound’s seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to conduct a 30-minute seabird survey. Training on survey methodology will be offered at numerous locations in September. If determining the difference between an Eared and Horned Grebe is a challenge, we’ll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. If you love birding and want to help ensure that we’re doing all that we can to support Puget Sound’s seabird populations, this is your opportunity to make a lasting contribution to Seattle Audubon’s work in our second century of conservation achievements. Learn more, including training dates, at www.seabirdsurvey.org and email Toby Ross, Science Manager, at tobyr@seattleaudubon.org if you would like more information or to take part.

Seattle’s Union Bay Natural Area

Perhaps you’ve seen the signs up at the Union Bay Natural Area, aka the Montlake Fill? You may have even stopped by to go birding and been turned away! The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is on site creating and enhancing wetlands to mitigate for adverse effects from the SR 520 expansion.

In 2014-2015, Seattle Audubon activists met with WSDOT, the Department of Ecology, and the UW to review their designs and advocate for a plan that maintained or increased muddy habitat for migrating shorebirds. Last year, over 2,500 Seattle Audubon activists and concerned members of the public signed a petition requesting that WSDOT adjust their mitigation plans to improve shorebird habitat. While a few minor changes were made based on our input, most of our recommendations were not implemented. Sadly for the shorebirds, we expect that the new plantings will grow into and over the existing muddy habitat. The work is scheduled to be completed by spring 2017.

Despite all of this activity, a pair of Osprey have had nesting success on the short pole near the Southwest Pond! As of late July, there were three nestlings, and the parents are continuing to make improvements to the nest itself. By now, the young will likely have fledged, although we may still see and hear them begging for food.

Information about access to the UBNA trails during construction can be found at: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR520Bridge/About/UBNA.htm
As part of our year-long Centennial Celebration, the Seattle Audubon Education team embarked on a variety of new programs with many exciting community partners this summer. One of these partnership programs was the Summer Expanded Recreation Program. Run by Seattle Parks and Recreation, United Way of King County, and the Human Services Department, this program provides free lunch and snacks to low-income Seattle students during the summer, who otherwise would be getting free meals at school. Through July and August, we led eight sessions at Pratt Park and Peppi’s Playground, offering engaging programming for program participants. Our staff and volunteers showed up every Tuesday from 11am-noon, with a variety of fun activities, from bird skin specimens, to WINGO (bird bingo), and even owl pellet dissection materials. It was wonderful to be able to engage with a group of learners who were not familiar with the birds of Seattle, and the enthusiasm from them as they interacted with our materials was energizing.

Other exciting summer partnership programs included: Seattle’s Neighborhood Birds at Seattle Public Libraries and bird walks at Magnuson Park for groups of Mountains to Sound Greenway summer campers. We hope to continue these relationships throughout the rest of year, next summer, and beyond!

Coming up: This October, as with over 30 Octobers before, we will once again spread out across Seattle to 11 different Seattle Public schools to lead the Finding Urban Nature (FUN) program with over 900 3rd and 4th graders. As a program that requires a large team of dedicated volunteers to lead small groups of students in fun, engaging environmental education lessons outside, we need volunteers like you! No teaching experience is necessary. For more info, please contact Cassandra Sandkam, Volunteer Coordinator, at cassandras@seattleaudubon.org.

Marbled Murrelet Recommended for Endangered Status

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is recommending that the Marbled Murrelet be uplisted to state-endangered. Written comments in support of this change can be submitted until October 10 to TandEpubliccom@dfw.wa.gov or by mail to Hannah Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091. If you submit comments, we encourage you to include stories of your own experiences looking for or seeing Marbled Murrelets in Washington State.

Seattle Audubon activists are also hard at work making sure that the state Department of Natural Resources implements a comprehensive and protective Long-term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet.
Fall Migration, Spot the Travelling Birds

As summer winds down, birders head to the beach! Washington State has two of the four most important estuaries in North America, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay, giving us ample opportunities to seek migrating shorebirds.

Unlike spring, with its hormonally-inspired mad month of northward-bound breeding birds, fall has a more leisurely pace with migration spread over five months. Some shorebirds begin their southward return in June, and others don’t pass through until early October, but August and September are when we generally see the most species.

Bottle Beach, once the town of Ocosta, the western terminus for rail shipments to San Francisco and the Far East, is now the site of extensive mudflats along southern Grays Harbor, as well as wetlands and spruce woods. In fall, search for Black-bellied Plovers, Pacific and American Golden-plovers, Whimbrels, Marbled Godwits, and Short- and Long-billed Dowitchers. Larger Bowerman Basin also has mudflats along Grays Harbor, as well as salt marsh. Both are best visited during the hour and a half before and after high tide when birds are closer to shore. Tokeland on Willapa Bay may have (rare) Bar-tailed Godwits amongst the Marbled Godwits that gather near the marina, and Long-billed Curlews and small numbers of Willets. Ocean Shores has shorebirds, of course, and near-shore pelagic birds, and each year a sample of rare birds, such as the Buff-breasted Sandpipers sometimes seen at Damon Point.

Seattle Audubon organizes field trips to visit important birding areas on our coast every fall – see the newest offerings on our website: http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/GetInvolved/GoBirding/FieldTrips.aspx

Black-bellied Plover

Field Trips & Classes
Fall 2016 Classes

Registration Opens September 1st! See the Seattle Audubon website for complete listings and new additions. www.seattleaudubon.org

How to Identify Sea Birds of Puget Sound with Joe Sweeney

Identifying the birds that inhabit Puget Sound can be challenging. To the untrained eye, those small, fast-moving birds that fly low over the water tend to all look the same. Is it an auklet, a murre, a murrelet, or some other speedy species?

Classes continue on the following page.

Neighborhood Bird Walks Fall 2016

Join Seattle Audubon, rain or shine, for a bird walk. No sign up required! Beginning birders or new Seattleites will especially enjoy the rich variety of regional bird life. Families and non-members are welcome. If needed, request binoculars from the nature shop at least a week in advance. Further information is available from the Seattle Audubon Nature Shop, 206-523-4483.

- Sunday, September 25, 9:00 am, Magnuson Park
  Leader: Emily Bishton, 206-523-1774, day of walk only
  Meeting Point: Promontory Point Pavilion

- Sunday, October 2, 9:00-11:30 am, Washington Park Arboretum
  Leaders: Anne Jacobs and Patty North
  Meeting Point: Graham Visitors Center Parking Lot, 2300 Arboretum Drive E

- Saturday, October 22, 8:30-10:30 am, Discovery Park
  Leaders: Neil & Carleen Zimmerman, 425-485-3122, N3zims@comcast.net
  Meeting Point: Discovery Park S. Parking Lot

- Tuesday, October 25, 9:00-11:00 am, Magnuson Park
  Leaders: Joe Sweeney & Dasha Gudalewicz
  Meeting Point: Promontory Point Pavilion

- Thursday, Nov 2, 9:00-11:30 am, Lincoln Park
  Leaders: Anne Jacobs, Dick Lazeres, & Patty North
  Meeting Point: Southern-most Lincoln Park parking lot on Fauntleroy Way SW

- Saturday, November 5, 9:30 am, Seward Park
  Leader: Richard Youel, 206-282-3758, cryouel@msn.com
  Meeting Point: Seward Park Nature Center

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 to check our web site regularly!
This class is designed for beginner or intermediate bird-watchers, yet no prior experience with sea birds is necessary. All that is required is a desire to learn and a sense of adventure. A sense of humor wouldn’t hurt either.

**Improve Your Bird Photography**  
*with Tim Boyer*  
Learn how to make and improve beautiful bird images. We’ll cover: Light, Sharpness, Point of View, Backgrounds, Edges of the Frame, Composition, Exposure, and lots of field techniques and camera settings for photographing birds. In addition, we’ll go over particular challenges including Birds-in-Flight, Low-Light, Flash Photography, what equipment accessories are helpful, and more.

**Birding 101**  
*with Jack Stevens and Jane Lester*  
The class will incorporate sight, sounds, and habitat to create a holistic approach to learning. The instructors’ goal is to pique your interest and motivate you to explore one of the world’s most loved hobbies. A local field trip will provide time in the field to ask questions and sharpen your skills.

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**Staff Shifts**

During the winter’s strategic planning process it became clear that Seattle Audubon was under-staffing its operation needs, so Interim Executive Director Dan Bridge proposed a brand new position to address a variety of needs – Finance & Operations Director. This key new role is achieved by reorganizing the half-time jobs of Nature Shop Assistant and Staff Accountant. It will have the additional organizational benefit of explicitly freeing up the new Executive Director’s time from operational and most financial tasks so that he can focus on fundraising, Centennial activities and leading Seattle Audubon in execution of the new strategic plan. Long-time Nature Shop Manager Russ Steele transitioned into this new role while former Member Services Associate David Garcia took the helm of the Nature Shop as of July 1.

“After 18 years as Seattle Audubon’s Nature Shop Manager, I’m ready to exercise some different muscles” says Russ. “This new job addresses some essential organizational needs, and if done well, it will help strengthen Seattle Audubon and prepare it for its next 100 years.”

“Following in Russ and George’s footsteps is a humbling task, but I’m up for the challenge and very excited about my new role” says David, Seattle Audubon’s third Nature Shop Manager. “Members and customers will not totally lose Russ, as he will be covering The Nature Shop one day a week and helping out at the Holidays.”

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**Centennial Blend Coffee**  
This new, darker roast is fair trade certified, organic, and shade-grown in Guatemala

**Lost Among the Birds**  
*Member Price $22.40*  
Neil Hayward spoke at Seattle Audubon’s Member Meeting in 2014, fresh off his record-breaking “accidental big year.” Hayward’s new book is the story of his unplanned big year, and how his journey led him to 749 bird species, countless adventures, and self-discovery.

**Now featuring Seattle Audubon’s Centennial Book List**  
Come into the Nature Shop to browse our list of 100 must-read books in honor of our 100th anniversary. Select titles available for purchase in the Nature Shop.

**Members always receive 20% OFF books!**  
AND Member Pricing on seed!
The Bird Ball
An Evening Masquerade
Celebrating 100 Years for Birds & Nature

Saturday, October 22, 2016
7:00 - 10:30 p.m.
Museum of History & Industry
South Lake Union, Seattle

Come shake a tail feather with Seattle Audubon Society! We’re celebrating 100 years since our founding in 1916 and we want you to be there. Flock with your friends, wear your finest, nature-inspired masquerade attire, and raise a glass to support the next 100 years!

Tickets are on sale now! http://my.seattleaudubon.org/birdball