Our long-anticipated anniversary has finally arrived! Seattle Audubon will officially turn 100 years old in April 2016. To honor this historic achievement, we’re kicking off 12 months of Centennial Celebration.

While a variety of activities will occur throughout the year, reflecting on our history and looking toward the future, there is one event you need to put on your calendar today:

**Seattle Audubon Society**

**Centennial Gala & Masquerade Ball**

**October 22, 2016**

Museum of History and Industry

On this fall evening, members and friends of Seattle Audubon will gather to fundraise and celebrate 100 years of work for birds and nature. In the spirit of the Halloween season, masquerade attire will be encouraged (not required).

Cocktails and bountiful hors d’oeuvres provided by Herban Feast will delight and sustain guests throughout the evening. Live music on stage will keep the merriment moving and allow for dancing as the mood strikes. The Lakefront Pavilion will welcome those looking for a quieter place to rest their feet and catch up with old friends.

Brief remarks and a short presentation will punctuate the evening as attendees raise a glass to the next 100 years of Seattle Audubon.

Early-bird tickets will be offered for sale beginning this summer.

Don’t miss out on this or any other Centennial Celebration events!

Stay tuned to our website (www.seattleaudubon.org), social media, email, and this newsletter for details as more activities are added to the calendar.
The 2015 Seattle Christmas Bird Count (CBC) featured a record number of human participants, 221, but a lower than usual number of birds. The total number of individual birds counted, 45,606, was the lowest since 1996. Though the total number of birds seen was low, the overall diversity was good: 127 species were tallied on count-day, a little bit higher than our 10-year count-day average. Two additional species (Eared Grebe and Wilson’s Warbler) were added in the count week, giving us a total of 129 species, one more than last year and just above our 10-year average.

Highlights
221 people took part on December 26, setting a new record, with 194 birders in the field and 27 feeder watchers. New birds for the count included a Bullock’s Oriole in Ravenna, a Great Egret in Portage Bay, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Bellevue. In addition, a count-week hybrid Clark’s x Western Grebe was a new form for the count. Other notable finds: a Rock Wren at Alki – only the second time ever seen on our CBC. A Common Yellowthroat was found for just the fourth time, and a count-week Wilson’s Warbler was just the fifth sighting for the count. Common Redpoll were found for just the fifth time on the count.

Thank You
Thanks to everyone who made the 2015 Seattle CBC such a great success. Please see the complete report and species list at www.seattleaudubon.org
Seattle Audubon Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution outlining their plan to divest our organizational assets from fossil fuels:

“The Seattle Audubon Board of Directors directs the Finance Committee to work with the Executive Director and the Conservation Manager to define a process and set a timetable whereby Seattle Audubon will complete the transfer of any assets that are invested in fossil fuels to other, greener investments that will produce as similar returns as possible, compared with current fossil fuel investments.”

The Board also voted to support a resolution from Eastside Audubon to the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee, recommending that all Washington State Audubon chapters similarly divest within a two year timeline. We look forward to developing our own plan and making the changes needed to ‘green’ our investments.

Seattle Audubon Members Support Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Many Seattle Audubon members have strong feelings about Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeastern Oregon. Some of us have long histories of visiting the Refuge for watching and photographing birds and other wildlife, attending classes, banding birds, and studying the geology and plants of the area. Seattle Audubon also has a history of doing all we can to support the National Wildlife Refuge System, and public lands in general.

It has been frustrating to watch a group of armed militants from outside Oregon take over this treasured resource. While we deeply regret the violence and loss of life, we are relieved to see law enforcement officers finally take action to bring an end to this unfortunate episode.

Seattle Audubon members joined colleagues from Conservation Northwest, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Commission, and other organizations at a rally in support of public lands that took place on January 19, 2016, in front of the Federal Building in downtown Seattle. This was in solidarity with rallies that took place that day in eight other Northwest cities.

At press time, a few occupiers remained at the Refuge. We hope that by the time this issue of Earthcare Northwest reaches you, the refuge will be open for business, and that many of you will be able to make the trip to see the great variety of birds that migrate through the refuge every year!
We are excited to announce Seattle Audubon’s new youth membership program, The Rookery! With the hundreds of kids and teens from ages 1-18 that Seattle Audubon reaches through Finding Urban Nature (FUN), Nature Camp, and Young Birders – it’s high time we invited these young folks to take part in Seattle Audubon happenings year-round. Rookery membership benefits will include invitations to members-only events such as bird walks, a youth-focused newsletter, and monthly at-home birding and conservation challenges. Each member will also receive a Certificate of Membership and an official Membership ID card!

The Rookery’s founding member is a third-grader who learned about Seattle Audubon while participating in the FUN program at his school. This young philanthropist focuses his giving efforts on a local non-profit every year around the holiday season. As an annual project, he interviews non-profit staff, creates a presentation for his family, and then asks his family to donate to that organization. This past year he chose Seattle Audubon and we are tremendously grateful. Youth Rookery membership is included for members, and is $10 per child for non-members. Call the Nature Shop at 206-523-4483 to sign up your child today!

Hope and Skye: A Nature Camper Perspective

Each year, Nature Camp welcomes first- through ninth-graders to the summer camp at Magnuson Park. Many of these campers return year after year to take part in the outdoor adventures. We reached out to two of these returning campers to get their perspective on what makes Nature Camp a fun place to spend their summers.

Q: How long have you each been Nature Campers?  
Hope and Skye: Going on our fourth year and we hope to be Junior Naturalists some day!

Q: What makes you excited to come to Nature Camp?  
Hope: You get to have a lot of fun and learn about animals and nature at the same time. Everything I know about nature is from Audubon.
Skye: The naturalists are always set on having fun and you are outside all day long learning and playing games.

Q: Do you have a favorite Nature Camp activity?  
Hope: I like to explore the woods at Magnuson and I like the nature hide and seek game, and field trips.
Skye: Hikes and Each One Teach One.

Q: Do you have any advice for kids who aren’t sure if they should try Nature Camp?  
Hope: You will have a ton of fun, and you will have lots of new stuff to tell your mom and dad when you come back.
Skye: Make new friends and you will have even more fun.

Continues on the following page.
Many of us have been saddened by the recent deaths of several members of the Seattle Audubon community. With the passing of George Johnson, Idie Uls, Marilyn Sandall, and, most recently, Anita Lagerburg and Barry Levine, we have struggled with how to properly acknowledge and remember the contributions of these remarkable individuals. Their contributions have been so far-reaching that we could devote entire issues of this newsletter to chronicling their accomplishments and still only scratch the surface. Therefore, Seattle Audubon is introducing a new initiative to help us grieve together as a community.

Going forward, when notified of a Seattle Audubon member’s passing, a team of volunteers will build and prepare chickadee and wren nestboxes (photo to right) to be sent to their families. It is our hope that these nestboxes will provide some comfort, perhaps recalling memories of loved ones, while providing a place for new life to begin.

Even as we mourn the departed, there is cause for celebration. While we pause to remember those we have lost, many have chosen to remember us as well. Seattle Audubon is pleased to announce a nearly $250,000 bequest from the late Marilyn Sandall. Profiled in our last issue, Marilyn was a dedicated Board member and Conservation Committee member. This gift will be truly transformative for Seattle Audubon, just as Marilyn and others like her transformed the organization during their lifetimes.

We’re Hiring
Seattle Audubon is seeking a visionary, dynamic, and goal-driven Executive Director to lead us into our second century. If you know someone who might be interested, please have them send a cover letter and resume to: jobs@seattleaudubon.org. More information can be found at www.seattleaudubon.org.

"Hope and Skye," continued from the previous page.

Their mom, Lorna, wanted to add, “I love that they are outside all day with high quality naturalists and a wide variety of topics and activities to keep them interested and active. Your naturalists are better than most all other camps we have gone to and my kids are in love with nature, so they are super-enthusiastic about it. Having mature naturalists who actually want to teach the kids AND play with the kids is what I think makes Audubon really stand out.”

We are looking forward to welcoming more new and returning campers to Nature Camp this summer!
Spring: Time for Nesting
by Tiffany Linbo
Perhaps you’ve felt it: the thrill of spying a robin collecting grass or a junco settling into your front porch flowerpot. It is delightful watching birds construct their nests. In Washington state, over 200 species of birds breed, utilizing a wide range of nesting structures, materials, and placement. In Western Washington, Bushtits weave hanging pendulums out of moss and spider silk, while in Eastern Washington, Bullock’s Orioles weave plant fibers into their dangling nests. Under the eaves of buildings at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Barn and Cliff Swallows attach their adobe houses. Along the walls of the Yakima River Canyon, Prairie Falcons, Common Ravens, and Golden Eagles find crevices to raise their young. In the dense growth at the water’s edge of the Montlake Fill and Green Lake, Pied-billed Grebes make platforms out of decaying vegetation. On Protection and Tatoosh Islands, colonial nesting Tufted Puffins and Rhinoceros Auklets dig burrows into the seaside cliffs. American Dippers build their dome nests behind the safety of rushing mountain waters such as on the Teanaway River. Using just their feet and bills, many birds create architectural marvels to rear their young. With a little luck, the aid of your fellow birders, and a knowledgeable field-trip leader, you may experience the excitement of witnessing these nesting strategies on a spring Seattle Audubon field trip.

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

Tuesday, March 22, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Magnuson Park
Leaders: Joe Sweeney and Dasha Gudalewicz
Magnuson Park is in NE Seattle. Take bus #30 or #75 to NE 65th St entrance on Sand Point Way NE. Meet at the Promontory Point Pavilion, a red-metal-roofed structure next to the little drive-in road at the west edge of parking lot E-1. It is marked with a pink square on the Magnuson Park map.

Saturday, March 26, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Carkeek Park*
Leader: Scott Hoskin, 206-390-4388, bludog66@comcast.net
Carkeek Park is in NW 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.

Saturday, April 9, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m., Discovery Park
Leaders: Neil and Carleen 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).

Tuesday, April 19, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m., Union Bay Natural Area
Leaders: Joe Sweeney and Jen McKiernan
Union Bay Natural Area (also called the “Montlake Fill”) lies in NE Seattle, east of the University of Washington. Meet at UW’s Center for Urban Horticulture, in the East parking lot, off NE 41st Street, one block beyond the place where Mary Gates Memorial Drive turns left to become NE 41st Street.

Field Trips–
Rules of the Road
For detailed information on field trips offered in the next month, visit our website at www.seattleaudubon.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.
• 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 to check our website regularly!
Spring 2016 Classes

Birds and Plants of the Shrub-Steppe, with Andy Stepniewski
Lecture: Friday, April 1, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Field Trip: Saturday, April 2, 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Location: The 2100 Building, Board Room

Make Your Birding Count: Learn Avian Point Count and Survey Methods, with Don Norman and Cindy Easterson
Lecture: Friday, May 6, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Field Trip: Sunday, May 8 (morning)
Location: Phinney Neighborhood Center

Introduction to Warblers and Vireos of the Pacific Northwest, with Hans deGrys
Lecture: Thursday, April 28, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Location: Lakeside School, Allen-Gates Bldg, Room 104

Introduction to Flycatchers of the Pacific Northwest, with Hans deGrys
Lecture: Thursday, May 5, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Location: Lakeside School, Allen-Gates Bldg, Room 104

Birding by Ear – Pacific Northwest Bird Voices, with Bob Sundstrom
Field Trip 1: Wednesday, May 25 – South Puget Sound;
Field Trip 2: Wednesday, June 15 – East of the Cascades
Lectures: Tuesday, May 10 and Thursday, May 12; 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Location: The 2100 Building, Board Room

Introduction to Mammals of Washington: From Mountains to Molehills, with Mike Donahue
Lectures: Tuesdays, June 14 and 21, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Location: Phinney Neighborhood Center

The Nature Shop
Where profits are for the birds
8050 35th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115 • 206-523-4483 www.seattleaudubon.org
OPEN TIL 7:00 p.m.
the 2nd Tuesday of each month
March 8 • April 12 • May 10

20th Annual Spring Plant Sale
Saturday, April 23
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Seattle Audubon parking lot
Vendors to be announced

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Weeklong Day Camp Sessions June 27 – September 2

Nature Camp
at Magnuson Park

Bugs! Forests! Oceans! Wetlands! Nature Art! And of course, BIRDS!

Exploration, Discovery, and Fun
for youth in grades 1-9
Seattle Audubon launched Nature Camp in 1982, and we have built a reputation for quality learning, emphasizing experiential outdoor activities that instill an appreciation for nature. We offer small groups led by experienced educators.

Junior Naturalist Program
for teens in grades 10-12
A perfect way for science- and nature-loving teens to earn volunteer service hours while building leadership and teaching skills.

Learn more and register at: www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/naturecamp

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