A Letter from Executive Director, John Brosnan

Summer Greetings, Seattle Audubon Community:

I’ve been looking forward to this edition of Earthcare for weeks, as I knew we’d have several recent accomplishments to report on. Now one year into the term of our new strategic plan, we’re starting to see significant new concepts and programs coming into view. So as you look around your yards and neighborhoods and see nature springing back to life, I can assure you something similar is underway at Seattle Audubon.

First up, we successfully launched the Neighborhood Flyways campaign at a symposium at Town Hall on Thursday, April 6. The event attracted over 100 guests ranging from Seattle Audubon members, local urban foresters and arborists, students, and people who just love birds and trees. The event achieved its goal – together with our partners represented on stage and in the audience, we raised awareness about the many people and organizations working to steward and restore Seattle’s urban forest, we honored all those working within the local urban forestry arena, and we identified common goals for moving forward. As a follow up event, we will investigate the state of Seattle’s birds in greater detail and more clearly define how we intend to support local and migratory populations. Stay tuned on next steps.

Speaking of big public launches, last month we worked with a number of partners to host the launch of our Urban Bird Treaty City (UBTC) work. UBTC’s policies and programs are an integral component of our overall Neighborhood Flyways campaign. This partnership will guide and support our development of bird-friendly building guidelines, a program to encourage keeping cats indoors — and away from our little feathered friends — and a Lights Out program, designed to reduce nighttime accidents between birds and structures. See the full press release on page 4 for more details.

In science news, we’re moving forward with Seattle Audubon’s strategic goal of mobilizing the citizen-science data through analysis and application of those results. We are proud to have hosted decades of data collection among the Neighborhood Bird Project, Christmas Bird Count, and Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS). In recent months, we’ve been working with a Post-Doctoral student at the University of Washington in collaboration with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Puget Sound Partnership to identify trends in abundance and occurrence using the PSSS data. Our goal is to assess population trends for local seabirds and reveal changes in the distribution of birds throughout the southern Salish Sea.

Looking ahead, we’re hiring! We recently approved a budget for the next fiscal year where every new expenditure is tied directly to an objective or initiative from our strategic plan. Overall, this approach allows us to carefully sequence a long-range plan that thoughtfully implements our vision and sustainably grows our capacity. Specifically, we’re investing in expanded capacity in communications, community outreach, the Nature Shop, and our conservation and science programs, to name a few.

I wish you all a very pleasant summer and hope to see you soon!

For the birds,

[Signature]

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A note from new Conservation Manager, Seth Shteir

I am honored to be joining Seattle Audubon as Conservation Manager and am looking forward to working with Audubon staff, members, and the community to protect birds in a metropolitan area that is a critical urban link on the Pacific Flyway.

I began my conservation career teaching young people as an environmental educator and classroom teacher. At the same time, I joined the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society board of directors and continued to serve for 8 years, working on local, regional, and national environmental issues.

For the past eight years, I worked as the Program Manager for the National Parks Conservation Association in the California desert, advocating for increased protection for the wildlife, water, night skies, scenic vistas, and air quality in Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley National Park, and Mojave National Preserve.

I am delighted to be returning to my Audubon roots to protect and connect Seattle’s urban bird habitat, the avian resources of Puget Sound, and some of our iconic northwest threatened and endangered species. I look forward to working with all of you and the Seattle community to make a difference and protect birds and special ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest.

Congratulations Master Birder class of 2017!

A new clutch of Master Birders has fledged! Seattle Audubon’s popular education-for-service program provides an in-depth study of Washington’s birds, led by legendary naturalist Dennis Paulson. The new graduates are Andy Jacobson, Claire Catania, Dan McDougall-Treacy, Dave Galvin, Deb Heldman, Etta Cosey, Jen Steele, Jennifer Kaufman, Jill Ericsson, Julia Hansbrough, Karen Wosilait, Kay Norton, Kimberle Stark, Larry Hubbell, Louis Kreemer, Lynne Smith, Nathaniel Peters, Pam Cahn, Paul Metzner, Peter Gurney, Sarah Lindsley, Tom Leschine, Tony Catanzaro, and Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser.

Many volunteers keep the Master Birder program aloft. In addition to coordinators Teri Martine and Patty North, key contributors include Mike Freund, Roland Kilcher, Jen Kunitsugu, Jim Owens, John Tubbs, Lee Barnes, Rachel Lawson, and Richard Youel, and trip leaders Sharon Aagaard, Brian Bell, Tim Boyer, Jordan Gunn, Michael Hobbs, Scott Hoskin, Gary Kelsberg, Jim Owens, Scott Ramos, Jeanelle Richardson, Penny Rose, Sarah Safranek, Arne and Kathy Slettebak, Bob Sundstrom, Joe Sweeney, and Neil and Carleen Zimmerman. Many thanks to all!

Key dates for the next class are: information session March 7, 2018; applications due March 17; applicants notified in April; class begins Sept. 10, 2018. Learn more at seattleaudubon.org. Congratulations to the new Master Birders!
Volunteer Service Awards

In 2016, volunteers spent more than 10,774 hours working for birds and nature. Thank you to all Seattle Audubon volunteers! Bold type indicates a new level of service.

7000+
Charlie Kahle, Richard Youel

4500+
Steve Dang, Jerry Joyce, Marina Skumanich

4000+
Mary Anne Thorbeck

3500+
Walter Oelwein

3000+
Jan Bragg, Herb Curl, Virginia Morrison, Connie Sidles

2500+
Diana Aubin Deparadis, Virginia Bound, Marilyn Busher, Rebecca Evans, Penny Koyama, Rachel Lawson, Dennis Lund, Teri Martine, Jean Mills, Alison Wysong, Neil Zimmerman

2000+
Jane Hedberg, Colene Mckee, Paul Metzner, Eldon Olson, Suzanne Peterson, Barbara Webster

1500+
Karen Adair, Terry Adams, Linda Anchondo, Pam Cahn, Jill Ericsson, Al Ferkovich, Alan Humphrey, Jennifer Kauffman, Judy Roan, Paul Webster

1000+
Shannon Bailey, Linda Carroll, Bert Dudley, Dianne Edmonds, Raelene Gold, Phyllis Moss, Martin Muller, Martha Nester, Kay Norton, Jim Owens, Roberta Roberts, Penny Rose, Bob Sieh, Dave Swayne, Cynthia Wang, Ethel Williams, Isadora Wong, Ann Marie Wood, Sam Woods, Carleen Zimmerman

750+
Dennis Conlon, Sarah Peden, Alan Grenon, Cathy Jaramillo, Scott Ramos, Arn Sletetbak, Kathy Sletetbak

500+
Lee Barnes, Ed Deal, Laurie Ann Dudley, Linda Falconer, Helen Gilbert, Eric Harlow, Scott Hoskin, Courtenay Jackson, Gary Kelsberg, Anna Martin, Cheryl McArthur, Kimberly Mccormick, Sally Murdoch, Henry Noble, Patty North, Jean Olson, Cathy Pfarr, Mary Rogers, Adam Sedgley, Sharrie Shade, Jean Trent, John Tubbs, Japhy Whalen, Sue Yates

250+

100+

Seattle Audubon is pleased to recognize these active volunteers with reported volunteer hours in the past 3 years. Is your name missing from this list? Please help us track your support by emailing your volunteer hours to volunteer@seattleaudubon.org.
Urban Bird Treaty Signing

On May 5, 2017, the City of Seattle officially joined the Urban Bird Treaty City program, an Urban Wildlife Conservation Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Key partners celebrated at a signing ceremony in West Seattle’s Lincoln Park as the group formally launched the development of programs that will benefit both birds and city residents. The Urban Bird Treaty program was started almost two decades ago to help local governments protect resident, migratory, and nesting birds within cities.

Seattle’s Urban Bird Treaty is a partnership between government and non-profit organizations, including Seattle Audubon, Audubon Washington, Heron Habitat Helpers, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the City of Seattle, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The partnership will work collaboratively to leverage resources and create programs to protect urban bird habitat and connect residents with the natural world.

The Pacific Flyway is a bird migration super highway that connects diverse habitats from Alaska to Argentina, including arctic tundra, coastal beaches, dense forests, and vast deserts. The Seattle area includes critical resting and refueling stops for migrating birds, as well as important habitat for resident birds.

Each spring migratory birds pulse through the Seattle area in waves on their journey north to breeding areas and then in the fall travel south to wintering grounds, searching for food, shelter, and rest. Migrating birds face many hazards on their journey such as artificial lights, predation from cats, and collisions with buildings.

Today there are more than 25 Urban Bird Treaty cities across the nation working to conserve and restore bird habitat. Seattle will join San Francisco, Portland, and Anchorage as an Urban Bird Treaty City, thus protecting an important missing coastal link along the Pacific Flyway. (continued on pg. 5)

International Birding Trip to Ecuador: Trip Report

written by Bryony Angel, edited by Toby Ross

There are moments of rapture in the life of a nature lover, and it doesn’t matter if you are a rookie or seasoned veteran. Tropical birdsong can evoke these moments, capturing the wonderment of everyone on the Seattle Audubon International Birding Trip to Ecuador this past February. The small group, led by Seattle Audubon Science Manager, Toby Ross, spent a week birding in southern Ecuador. The birdsong in question? The Musician Wren, whose song sounds like someone playing the flute in the woods.

Toby worked with Naturalist Journeys to find an itinerary for southern Ecuador which uses in-country companies that would provide a more authentic experience and build local capacity. The best itinerary match was designed around staying at lodges and birding in reserves established and managed by the Jocotoco Foundation, an Ecuadorean NGO whose principal purpose is to protect endangered species of birds and habitats in Ecuador. As one of the goals of SAS’s International Birding Trips Program is to support establishments and reserves that are focused on protecting birds and their habitat, the itinerary was an ideal fit.

The tour group flew into Ecuador’s capital Quito to meet their in-country guide Xavier Munoz, before heading further south to begin their trip. Over the next 7 days they stayed at Jocotoco lodges, which are managed through the Jocotoco Foundation as part of its ecotourism initiative. Xavier, who is a founding member of Jocotoco and the foundation’s current vice president, explains: “The Jocotoco Foundation monitors specific lands where birds migrate and works with local actors [to] buy land in order to create private reserves and do different activities there such as reforestation, education and ecotourism.” Future SAS trips will aim to collaborate with such in-country efforts in order to maximize bird conservation through travel.

Our next International Birding Trip will be to Guatemala in February 2018. The trip is under the umbrella of National Audubon’s International Alliances Program. To learn more about the trip to Guatemala, email Toby Ross at tobyr@seattleaudubon.org or visit SeattleAudubon.org.
The Rookery:  
Not Just a Youth Membership Program

Launched in spring 2016, the Rookery is a way for young bird and nature lovers to explore their interest in birds and nature with peers. Members enjoy education, science, and conservation activities in a fun and welcoming space.

Who is the Rookery for?
Open to any youth aged 2-18, there is targeted programing for all ages:

Age 2-5: Fledglings and Friends Story Time – Held every third Wednesday of the month at Seattle Audubon Nature Shop from 10:30-11:15am.

Age 5-13: monthly Rookery events (see below)
Age 13-18: Young Birders – Seattle Audubon’s teen birding program

What do Rookery youth members receive?
Upon entry:
• New member letter
• Official Rookery membership card
• Temporary tattoos
• Current edition of Rookery Activity Book

How can I join?
All children of current Seattle Audubon members are eligible to join at no additional cost. Simply opt-in by emailing Leigh Hiura, Member Services Associate, atleighh@seattleaudubon.org with the child’s name and birthdate. Individual Youth Memberships can also be purchased for $10.

Upcoming events (geared towards members aged 5-13, but open to all)

Bird Movie Night – Spend a fun evening watching a bird movie! We’ll provide the popcorn. Movie title TBD, Thursday, July 20th, 6:30-8:00pm, Magnuson Park Brig, View Ridge Room

Rookery Summer Carnival – Join us for carnival style games, bird-related activities, and snacks in our big summer camp room! Friday, August 18th, 5:30-7:30pm, Magnuson Park Brig, Vw Ridge Room

Urban Bird Treaty Signing (continued)

Seattle Audubon will play a key role in developing and implementing Urban Bird Treaty programs such as lights out, cats indoors, and bird friendly architecture programs that help reduce fatalities and injuries among migrating birds, ensuring more of them reach their final destinations.

The Treaty is an important milestone that recognizes our city’s role in protecting the Pacific Flyway and implementing bird-friendly policies that will also benefit residents’ health, the economy and our youth. It is an important part of Seattle Audubon’s Neighborhood Flyways program, as it will restore and protect urban bird habitat, connect communities with the natural world, and implement programs that will reduce hazards for migrating birds.

We marched!

On Saturday, April 22, 2017, a group of Seattle Audubon members, volunteers, staff, and supporters joined the procession of the March for Science in Seattle. The event had a good turnout with marchers of all ages. Some walked, some cheered from sidewalks and viewing platforms, others napped in strollers or backpacks, but all showed up to support science. We endorsed the March for Science to support research and science-based conservation that helps us to do our work every day. Thank you to all our sign-makers and marchers. Seattle Audubon was well represented and it was a pleasure to march with you all!
Variety...the Spice of Birdwatching Experiences
by Sharon Ellard, field trips committee co-chair

Summer offers a wide variety of valuable field trips and bird walks for the Seattle Audubon birder. If bird songs and calls interest you, June is the best month. We have great offerings to the Redmond Watershed Preserve where you’ll hear various forest species, and Discovery Park, where both migrant and resident species will call and sing to delight your heart. During these trips you may also observe activities associated with nesting: courtship, defending territory, building the nest, laying and incubating eggs, raising the young, and—the best part for parents—fledgling and emptying the nest.

For a more focused look at these behaviors, the Peregrine Falcon trip, in and near Seattle, provides an in-depth look at breeding. Similarly, the sunset cruise to Protection Island reveals nesting birds such as Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets, Pelagic and Double-crested Cormorants. The South Cle Elum Ridge trip offers opportunities to see Calliope and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, as well as warblers and vireos who are just here for the season.

Migrating shorebirds on their way south in July and August may be observed on the Grays Harbor excursion. Don’t forget our local parks for migrating riparian species such as Magnuson (where we have a neighborhood bird walk scheduled in June) and Lincoln Park. Last, but far from least, are our mountain field trips, Hurricane Ridge and Mt. Rainier. Here we find our high elevation specialties such as White-tailed Ptarmigan, Sooty Grouse, and Townsend’s Solitaire. With our abundant winter snowfall we can also expect brilliant high elevation flowers in abundance this year, probably late July/early August.

Sign-up for a trip today by calling the Nature Shop at 206-523-4483. All the information you need about current trips is posted on seattleaudubon.org.

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!

Neighborhood Bird Walks Summer 2017

Join Seattle Audubon, rain or shine, for a bird walk. No sign up required! Beginning birders or new Seattlesites 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.

Magnuson Park, Seattle
Saturday, June 3, 9:00-11 AM
Leaders: Jan Bragg & Parr Cahn

Washington Park Arboretum
Saturday, June 3, 9:00-11 AM
Leader: Larry Hubbell

Union Bay Natural Area
Sunday, June 4, 9:00-11 AM
Leader: Julia Hansbrough

Carkeek Park
Saturday, June 10, 9:00-11 AM
Leader: Nathaniel Peters

Magnuson Park, Seattle
Tuesday, June 13, 8:00-10 AM
Leader: Joe Sweeney

Washington Park Arboretum
Wednesday, June 21, 7-8:30 PM
Leader: Penny Bolton

Washington Park Arboretum
Saturday, July 1, 9:00-11 AM
Leader: Larry Hubbell

Carkeek Park
Saturday, July 8, 9:00-11 AM
Leader: Nathaniel Peters & Julia Hansbrough

Magnuson Park, Seattle
Tuesday, July 11, 8:00-10 AM
Leader: Joe Sweeney

Union Bay Natural Area
Saturday, July 22, 9:00-11 AM
Leader: Julia Hansbrough

Washington Park Arboretum
Saturday, August 5, 9:00-11 AM
Leader: Larry Hubbell

Magnuson Park, Seattle
Tuesday, August 8, 8:00-10 AM
Leader: Joe Sweeney

Carkeek Park
Saturday, August 12, 9-11 AM
Leader: Nathaniel Peters & Julia Hansbrough

Union Bay Natural Area
Saturday, August 19, 9:00-11 AM
Leader: Julia Hansbrough

Meeting points for each location:
Magnuson Park: Promontory Point Pavilion
Washington Park Arboretum: Graham Visitor Center Parking Lot
Union Bay Natural Area: Center for Urban Horticulture, East Parking Lot
Carkeek Park: Parking lot across from playing fields at the end of Carkeek Park Road
Summer ’17 Classes
Registration opens June 1st. Visit seattleaudubon.org for complete listings.

Taking Flight: Environmental Advocacy Workshop
with Seth Shteir
Join Seattle Audubon’s new Conservation Manager Seth Shteir to learn about environmental advocacy. The class will explore how to use a variety of strategies and tactics to successfully move conservation initiatives forward and get tangible results. Topics covered will include lobbying, the use of media and organizing to facilitate change.

Family-Friendly Birding
with Woody Wheeler
Note: this class is appropriate for children ages 7 and up
A fun, engaging class that will inspire families to take up birding and to care about bird conservation. We cover how to identify some of the most common birds, the use and choice of binoculars, field guides, applications and internet resources. We will start indoors for an introductory presentation. Then we will take our newly-found skills outdoors and go birding in Union Bay Natural Area.

The Art of Birding: Enhancing The Birding Experience with sketching/drawing
with Isadora Wong
Add to your birding fun by learning to sketch/draw birds. In this class, we will learn some basic skills for drawing birds, as well as how to bring out your creative side. The primary goal is to enhance your experience with birds and nature. All levels of birding skills invited, NO ARTISTIC EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. This is a beginner course. You will find that there is no wrong way to draw/sketch.

Butterflies
with David Drapper
Come learn about the butterflies, the perfect accompaniment to your birding adventures. Topics will include: taxonomy of butterflies including families, major groups, and a few of the most common species; anatomy of butterflies, enabling students to effectively use field guides; roles that butterflies play in the environment; how to find butterflies — their use of the environment, movements, ecology, etc.; caterpillars — because they come first!

Books and Birds for Beginners
with Connie Sidles
If you’ve felt swept away by all the bird books on the shelves, then this is the class for you. Master birder Connie Sidles will help you sort through the field guides and bird-finding guides to find the books you need. You’ll learn how to use and understand the information available so you can enhance your birding ID skills and find new birds.

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
June 13 • July 11 • August 8

NEW Local Author
Witness Tree, $21.60
Seattle Times environmental writer Lynda Mapes gives readers a beautiful and in-depth look at a majestic hundred-year-old tree through four seasons, focusing on the very real effects of climate change on the tree and its surrounding environment.

NEW Local Author
Mozart’s Starling, $21.60
Local birder and naturalist Lynda Lynn Haupt’s latest book tells the parallel stories of Haupt and Mozart’s pet starlings, weaving together natural history, biography, and memoir in this compelling tale of human-animal companionship, music, inspiration and more.

NEW HookUpz 2.0
$79.95
The redesigned Hook Upz 2.0 is a universal adapter that will connect any smartphone to your binoculars or spotting scope for high definition, up-close images! Quick & easy to set-up and use in the field. Visit the Nature Shop to test one out!

Savings
Nikon Prostaff
June 8 - July 5
$30 Instant rebate on
Prostaff 7s 8x42 and 10x42 binoculars

Members always receive
20% OFF books!
AND Member Pricing on seed!

Summer 2017
BIRD & NATURE ART FAIR
SATURDAY, JULY 8TH
10AM-5PM @ THE NATURE SHOP
8050 35TH AVE NE

In partnership with Wedgwood Art Festival!

Visit www.seattleaudubon.org or www.wedgwoodfestival.com for more information