Another Great Season: Puget Sound Seabird Survey
by Adam Sedgley, Science Manager

“I learned how to better identify seabirds — becoming more familiar with their various plumages — and seabird abundance at different seasons.”

“I enjoyed interacting with the public to promote PSSS, Audubon projects, and conservation volunteering.”

“Always good to keep up on gulls!”

These exclamations are from three volunteers upon completion of the 2010-2011 season of the Puget Sound Seabird Survey. Four years ago, Seattle Audubon created the citizen science program to gather valuable data on the declining Puget Sound populations of geese, ducks, loons, grebes, cormorants, gulls and alcids. Armed with a scientifically rigorous protocol, concerned birdwatchers gathered data within the same four-hour window on the first Saturday of the month, October through April.

To read more, turn to page 6.

Jim Lynch, Bestselling Author of Border Songs
Thursday, September 15, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Downtown REI

Join us Thursday, September 15, at REI downtown to hear Jim Lynch discuss his award-winning work, Border Songs!

Jim Lynch — international bestselling writer — joins us to kick off the fall season with a special reading and discussion of his highly praised work, Border Songs. His presentation will include bird-centric readings from the novel, as well as the back story of how he went about creating a semi-autistic 6-foot-8 U.S. border patrol agent who also may be the best birder in the history of American fiction. Jim will also talk briefly about his next novel, set during the 1962 World’s Fair in Seattle, which is to be released next spring. His presentation will be followed up by a Q&A session.

Border Songs was picked as among the best books of 2009 by The Washington Post, The Toronto Star and The Oregonian. It also won the Washington State Book Award for fiction. Jim currently lives in Olympia with his wife and daughter.

Seattle Audubon membership meetings are held at REI downtown, 222 Yale Ave N. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. Complimentary desserts and refreshments are served during the meeting. All are welcome.
Volunteer View: Recruiters

from Marieke Rack, Volunteer Coordinator

Seattle Audubon volunteers are the best recruiters.

Recently three participants in the Master Birder class voluntered for the Classes Committee. These dedicated birders provide a strong core for the Committee and already have classes described in this publication.

One member invited more of her Master Birder cohort to join the Committee. Her email stated in part, “Picture this: conducting committee business on a pleasant summer evening, enjoying a potluck BBQ dinner and beverages on Eric’s deck under a spreading black walnut tree—if you haven’t joined the Seattle Audubon Classes Committee, you’re missing out.” She got multiple responses.

Her description demonstrates personal stewardship for fun, important work. She exemplifies the best of Seattle Audubon’s volunteers, and it makes my job better!

Environmental Education

from Shawn Cantrell, Executive Director

Cultivating environmental awareness among elementary school students is a critical piece in developing the next generation of conservation leaders. In fact, Washington State mandates that schools integrate environmental education into their classroom curricula. While there are several organizations who offer programs to help fulfill this mandate, most of these programs charge a fee and are typically one-time, one-hour in-classroom lessons. Others take place outside of the students own community. Seattle Audubon’s Finding Urban Nature (FUN) Program is one of the few free environmental education programs, and the only one that works with the same classroom eight times throughout the school year in the city of Seattle. We work with over 600 students each year, getting them out of the classroom and directly interacting with nature in their community. As the new school year gets under way, please consider volunteering with FUN—you can help Seattle Audubon connect young students with birds and nature. See page 8 for more details.
Board Update

Board leadership is an important part of Seattle Audubon’s success and the Board has benefited from committed members with diverse skill sets and tenure lengths. There have been several transitions recently on the Seattle Audubon Board, with two new members joining the flock and two key members stepping down.

Stepping Down:

Richard Youel served on the Board for over 15 years, including two years as president, before he stepped down in June. He is a Master Birder graduate (1996) and has regularly lead the annual Board Birdathon trip. Richard is a Neighborhood Bird Project leader and Field Trip leader. He chaired both the Publications and the Facilities Committees for many years, and was an active member of the Volunteer Committee. While going off the board, Richard has promised to continue his long-time engagement with Seattle Audubon.

Bill Keppler was Board Vice President and a member of both the Finance and Development Committees. He brought a wealth of professional expertise to the Seattle Audubon Board from his career in the military and academia. He is a lifelong birder, who stepped down from the board this spring when he and his wife re-located to Hawaii.

New Members:

Kelly Brenner holds a degree in landscape architecture from the University of Oregon and currently writes *The Metropolitan Field Guide*, a blog for ideas, thoughts and resources for the design of urban wildlife habitat. She also contributes to the *Native Plants and Wildlife Gardens Blog*, and is working on a book about urban wildlife habitat.

Karen Einberger, CPA, CFP®, provides financial planning and wealth management services for diverse clients. Karen previously worked as CEO for an environmental consulting firm specializing in aquatic biology. She has been an active volunteer at her children’s schools and with multiple professional organizations. Karen enjoys watching the birds in her Madrona neighborhood as well as those that she encounters while traveling with her family.

*Seattle Audubon thanks Richard and Bill for their service to Seattle Audubon and welcomes Kelly and Karen!*

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

Shawn Cantrell
(206) 523-8243, x15
shawnc@seattleaudubon.org

SEATTLE AUDUBON CENTER and NATURE SHOP

Hours: Mon-Sat 10AM to 5PM
8050 35th Ave. NE
Seattle WA 98115
(206) 523-4483

Fall 2011
Listening To Our Friends, Creating Our Community
by Matt Mega, Director of Conservation

Last year more than 3.6 million people visited Yellowstone National Park. According to marketing literature, many of these folks will likely “drive the Grand Loop Road, where visitors can view the park from the comfort of their vehicle.” We crisscross our parks and natural areas with roads and wildlife loops, making it easy for people to see nature but not truly connect with it. Our society seems to increasingly emphasize segregating human activity from nature and wildlife. Particularly in the urban environment, nature is often defined as something “over there,” to be kept separate and removed.

While providing wildlife space and distance from human activities is important in many instances, this trend can also disconnect people from the natural world. It can also lead to an either/or situation in our city parks. Many policymakers want to segregate activities in our parks, especially active and natural uses, in order to keep our environmental efforts simple and contained. But for urban conservation efforts to be truly successful, the public must grow to expect and enjoy sharing their space with wildlife.

Last year at Magnuson Park, the City of Seattle decided to remove Cliff Swallow nests in order to make it easier to remodel a building. Cliff Swallows have adapted to our urban environment and often nest on the eaves of buildings and other structures that mimic their natural cliff habitat. While there were many publicly stated reasons for the need to remove the nests at Magnuson Park, in the end, it was simply because the swallows did not cooperate and nest somewhere more convenient (for humans) such as an established wildlife area. In addition, even with the building remodeling complete, the City is discussing excluding Cliff Swallow nests from this and other buildings in the park on an ongoing basis, and instead building a new large artificial nesting structure in a designated wildlife area in the hope that the swallows will nest in a more “appropriate” place.

We are connected to and part of the natural world. Wildlife does not respect curfews or boundaries, they can be messy and they need certain habitat conditions to survive. What are their needs? Why do they behave the way they do? How can we be better stewards of our community? The more we understand these issues, the more ably we’ll accept our interactions with them. The solution is not to further segregate ourselves from the natural world, but to learn how to live with the other members of our community.
New Federal Recovery Plan Issued For Northern Spotted Owl

by Shaun Cantrell, Executive Director

On June 30, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued its Revised Final Recovery Plan for Northern Spotted Owls. The Plan came as a result of Seattle Audubon litigation that successfully challenged the prior 2008 plan, which was scientifically and politically discredited.

The new Plan is an improvement over the fundamentally flawed 2008 version. It recognizes the vital importance of protecting and restoring high quality habitat, including federal lands identified in the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan.

The Plan also identifies the need for state and private lands to provide more owl habitat, calling for additional measures to protect and restore habitat in key areas such as southwest Washington. It identifies incentive-based mechanisms that can be used by land owners to assist owls, including conservation banking and carbon sequestration credits. It also calls on the state to evaluate existing timber harvest rules, and make regulatory changes to better protect owls.

One aspect of the Plan that has generated significant media attention is the impact on Northern Spotted Owls from growing competition with non-native Barred Owls. The Plan calls for scientific research and evaluation, including experimental removal of Barred Owls, to better answer questions regarding the interactions between these species and to develop ongoing management recommendations. While some have pointed to the Barred Owl as an excuse not to protect owl habitat, the Plan notes that the presence of the Barred Owl actually increases the need for conserving and restoring older, multi-layered forests across the range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

Although the Plan is a positive step in the right direction, Seattle Audubon remains concerned that it places too much emphasis on logging as a way to improve forest health, opening the door to cutting trees in late-succession reserves created by the Northwest Forest Plan.

Seattle Audubon is the lead organization in Washington State advocating for the protection of Northern Spotted Owls. As a critical indicator species of Northwest forest health, the owl has been at the center of our conservation efforts for more than 25 years. In addition to providing critical habitat for North Spotted Owls, mature and old-growth forests provide numerous other benefits, such as helping reduce global warming. The next step in the federal process is for the agency to revise the designated critical habitat for the owl. At the state level, the Forest Practices Board needs to move forward with implementing additional voluntary and regulatory measures to protect and restore owl habitat on private land.

For more details, go to http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/WhatWeDo/Conservation/RegionalConservation.aspx
Another Great Season: Puget Sound Seabird Survey

This provides a synchronized snapshot of seabird densities on Puget Sound, and gathers data that wouldn’t exist without the tireless work of our volunteers. PSSS is the only multi-month seabird survey in central and south Puget Sound, and PSSS data have been used by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Oil Spill Team to prioritize and protect areas of high biodiversity.

From October 2010 through April 2011, 427 surveys were conducted at 66 survey sites, including Island, King, Pierce, Snohomish, Jefferson, Kitsap, and Thurston counties. Density data were collected on 52 species of near-shore birds (see list below). This effort represented 153 survey hours, or 259 volunteer hours.

Seattle Audubon volunteer Alan Humphrey developed a new website based on PSSS data. Once entered by volunteers through a password-protected interface, data are immediately available to the public via a user-friendly Google Map interface. With a few clicks, answers can be found to questions such as “where do Marbled Murrelets occur in Puget Sound?” and “which areas have the highest seabird diversity?”

“I really enjoyed the data analysis and the website showing everyone’s reports. That resource made it easy to see where in the Sound specific birds congregate, and it was much easier to find the unusual species based on where they were last seen.” —PSSS volunteer

Continues on the following page.

**Species List**

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<th>Ring-billed Gull</th>
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<td>Bufflehead</td>
<td>Red-billed Grebe</td>
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<td>Common Goldeneye</td>
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<td>Hooded Merganser</td>
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<td>Red-breasted Merganser</td>
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<td>Pigeon Guillemot</td>
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<td>Brandt’s Cormorant</td>
<td>Sabine’s Gull*</td>
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<td>Double-crested Cormorant</td>
<td>Bonaparte’s Gull</td>
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* - PSSS first!
Continued from the previous page.

Seattle Audubon thanks the intrepid PSSS volunteers who make this exciting program possible. **Want to volunteer?** Visit [www.seabirdsurvey.org](http://www.seabirdsurvey.org) to learn more about the program and email Adam Sedgley at adams@seattleaudubon.org.

### PSSS 2010-11 Volunteers

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<tr>
<th>Chris Anderson</th>
<th>Stephen Elston</th>
<th>Michael Hobbs</th>
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<td>Rod Brown</td>
<td>Rebecca Galloway</td>
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<td>Janet Carroll</td>
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| Bob Stallcop       | Pan Stewart             | Suse Stillman         | Beth Stimson          | Kathie Stork     |
| Terry Sullivan     | Bernice Tannenbaum      | Bob Whitney           | John Williams         | Cynthia Wilson   |
| Ken Wilson         | Sue Yates               |                       |                       |                  |

### Neighborhood Bird Project

*by Peter Peersoll, Publications Volunteer*

Seattle Audubon's Neighborhood Bird Project (NBP), a volunteer-run census of bird populations in King County parks, added its newest site in July: Camp Long in West Seattle. Started in 1994 with sites in Seattle, Kent, and Woodinville, the NBP now boasts nine urban wildlife habitats at which dedicated volunteers monitor bird species every month.

“The program began as a way to collect data on local bird species, and to get people involved in their native greenspaces,” says Adam Sedgley, Science Manager at Seattle Audubon who oversees NBP. “It’s kind of like a birding social club now, only one that’s contributing to a valuable data set.”

It’s called a “neighborhood” bird project because most of the volunteers enlisted live near their respective sites, Sedgley says. The idea is that by learning about and observing the birds at each site, these locally-sourced birders may become advocates for the wildlife throughout their communities. They are citizen scientists, providing the legwork that biologists require but don’t have enough time to do.

“There is real critical value in citizen science,” says Penny Rose, the Public Education Specialist at Discovery Park. “There aren’t enough professionals out there to do this type of work, especially with such consistency. These volunteers clearly care a lot.”

Here’s how it works. Once a month, at each location, a park leader (usually someone conversant in the species at each site, such as Penny Rose at Discovery) meets the volunteers early in the morning and begins tracing the routes. The routes and their “stations” (the places where everyone stops to count birds) are predetermined, Sedgley says. Once at a station, the group waits quietly for one minute. Then, for the next five minutes, all birds within a 50-meter radius are identified—by eye and ear—and counted. This 50-meter radius can be imagined as a cylinder with sides extending upward, so that birds flying over are also included. After all the stations have been visited, the data are collected and entered into a master database.

Over time, the censuses give an idea of how populations fluctuate at a given site, and may help in making land-use decisions in the future, Rose says. “Discovery Park is in the process of being restored. We’re seeing how the wildlife respond, so the longer we do these surveys, the clearer the picture will be.”
FUN
by Peter Pearsall, Publications Volunteer

In March I decided to be a FUN volunteer at Lafayette Elementary in West Seattle. FUN is an acronym for “Finding Urban Nature,” and the name says it all, really. An environmental education program geared toward third through fifth graders, FUN emphasizes the interconnectedness of nature through real-world experiences and careful observation. Students discover, in the habitat that is their own schoolyard, an abundance of life—thriving, even—right outside their classroom, carrying on heedless to the concrete, cars, telephone poles, and other trappings of the city.

Having no prior teaching experience, I was a little jittery at the prospect of edifying a group of nine-year olds. I was keenly aware that, despite my good intentions, the children might see through my veneer of authority and take advantage of my greenness to mischievous ends. But these fears, as it turned out, were mostly unfounded. As volunteer Sue Yates put it, Seattle Audubon’s Elementary School Program Manager Janelle, “...made me feel like a champ with those kids.”

“Janelle makes FUN work,” agreed Ann Dold, a three-year FUN volunteer and teacher-in-training. “Her experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm really bring the program together. She makes sure all of the volunteers are on board.”

It was Janelle who assured me of the kids’ manageability, and whose hard work and planning gave me the confidence to leap right into the curriculum. Seattle Audubon’s 25 years of FUN program experience and capable, volunteer Steering Committee shows. The teaching materials, lessons (four each for spring and fall), and scope is impressive: from birds in the trees to spiders and leaves to worms tunneling among roots in the ground, all witnessed firsthand. Among much else, kids learn what consumers and producers are, what decomposers do, and why these roles are important to the world as we know it. This was basic ecology, a primer for inchoate scientific inquiry, and each lesson involved a good chunk of time spent outdoors.

“Most schools don’t have the resources to do environmental education, but FUN brings this knowledge, this expertise, into Seattle classrooms for free,” says Dold. “Audubon is helping to fill that educational gap, and giving teachers the support they need.” Sue Yates agrees. “The curriculum is spectacular. Really, the only problem with FUN is that it’s limited: it needs more money, more volunteers to expand.”

With further budget cuts in Seattle Public Schools, the FUN program is needed more than ever. You can help us fulfill this need by volunteering or making a donation to the program.

If you are interested in learning more about the program or volunteering please contact the Elementary School Programs Manager, at 523-8243 x 19 or email fun@seattleaudubon.org
The Teens Of Nature Camp
by Kintea Bryant, Education Director

Another summer of Nature Camp has come to a close and kids are back to school. Although the summer heat never really set in this year, Nature Camp campers had a wonderful summer full of discovery, learning, and fun! We had over 370 registrations this summer, serving children and teens throughout the Seattle area.

A big part of Nature Camp’s success is the Junior Naturalist in Training program. High school students from Seattle, Bellevue, Shoreline, and Mercer Island apply to be summer volunteers at Nature Camp. They volunteer to assist a staff naturalist for at least one week per summer, although many Junior Naturalists decide to volunteer for multiple weeks, and often return for multiple summers. Also, for the past eight summers, Nature Camp has been awarded an outstanding intern from the competitive Teens In Public Service program.

Junior Naturalists are mentored by the Nature Camp staff, where they learn skills in group management and informal teaching, how to lead activities, and gain knowledge about the different topics covered during the week of camp. They are required to lead at least one activity by the end of each week, which gives them an opportunity to show what they learned during that week. The teens also debrief with their Naturalist to review the day, or discuss and prepare for the upcoming day.

The Junior Naturalist in Training program is a valuable part of Nature Camp. Because of this program, we are able to improve the day camp experience for both campers and staff through a low Naturalist-to-camper ratio. Junior Naturalists are loved by campers, often being the key to helping a shy camper come out of his/her shell, particularly if it is their first day camp experience. They are role models to the campers, as examples of teens who are interested in nature, and give back to the community by volunteering. This summer five of the Junior Naturalists were former Nature Campers! Thank you – Ellie, Eva, Bethany, Isaac, Isabel, Jake, Theo, Emma, Cecilia, Grace, Jacque, Jacob, Amalia, and our TIPS intern, Addison – for a great summer!
Class Information

Full details on these classes will be available Sept. 1 at: www.seattleaudubon.org.

Registration:
Seattle Audubon members receive a discount. Preregistration 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:
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.

Classes

Class dates and times were being finalized at press time, but will be available Sept. 1. Please check www.seattleaudubon.org or call The Nature Shop for details.

Four and Ninety Blackbirds
with Gordon Orians, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Washington Member, National Academy of Sciences and American Academy of Arts and Sciences

The nearly 100 species of blackbirds (Icteridae), which are found only in the Americas, are remarkably variable in their ecology, social organization, and the environments they live in. Consequently, they have attracted the attention of many scientists who have used them to test theories of habitat selection, mate selection, choice of foods and foraging modes, and the evolution of social systems. The species will be described, with a review of traits that unite them despite their great diversity. Also discussed will be the rich array of investigations that have used blackbirds as subjects, including what has been learned to date and what is yet to be explored. The class will conclude with the blackbirds that live in Washington State, where to find them, and what is special about them.

Introduction to Birding
with Hans de Grys, Lakeside School Chemistry Teacher, Master Birder, MIT’s Inspirational Teacher Award Recipient

Interested in learning more about the birds of Seattle and the Puget Sound? Do you have birds in your yard or local sightings that you are curious about? This course is an introduction to bird-watching, and will familiarize you with the common birds of the Seattle area, with special emphasis on identification by sight, sound, and behavior. No previous knowledge or experience necessary. A basic field guide for birds is recommended. Two evening sessions, two hours each, plus a local morning weekend field trip.

Classes continue on the following page.
Latest and Greatest Advances in Birding Technology
with Eric Harlow, former SAS board member, Master Birder student, and bird geek

Having trouble keeping iBird, eBird, Birdseye, eGuides, iPhones, iPads, and Androids straight? Have you been birding with people who spend almost as much time looking at tiny screens as they do looking at the birds? Are you still trying to figure out how you can have multiple recordings of every bird species in the U.S. at your fingertips? This one-evening class will explore and review the latest birding technology that can help improve your ability to find, identify, and list our feathered friends. The class will demonstrate and review the pros and cons of the latest birding apps for iPhone and Android smartphones, options for iPads and iPads, computer software for bird identification and listing, various sources of bird recordings. We will also discuss the ethics of playing songs in the field to lure birds.

Attracting Birds to Your Yard
with Neil Zimmerman, Master Birder & Seattle Audubon Outreach Chair

Learn how to attract and care for birds in your yard through plant selection, placement and maintenance of bird feeders and nest boxes, and use of water features.

Nature Journaling
with Carleen Zimmerman, Nature Journaling instructor for Seattle Audubon, Wenas Campout, and Brier Library

Come and explore techniques for recording observations and discover the fascination of creating nature journals. The class will be in a home backyard wildlife sanctuary and will cover field sketching, creative writing, and journal projects. The focus will be observing plants and birds in a backyard habitat. Bring your favorite journaling supplies (paper, journal books, pens, watercolor pencils etc). This accessible class will be held outside under a covered deck in case of inclement weather.

Molt Demystified
with Daniel Froehlich, President of the Puget Sound Bird Observatory & master bander

Feathers are an amazing adaptation unique to birds. Maintaining high-quality plumage requires a considerable investment. Molt (the replacement of feathers) along with breeding and migration represent the major life-history stages in the annual cycle of birds. Yet until recently, molt has been little studied and, as a result, is often poorly understood by birders. This class will explore how feathers grow, how birds replace feathers, why different species molt at different times, the significance of feather wear, and how understanding these qualities will help you become a better birder. The class includes a field trip to Discovery Park where we will examine plumes for evidence of molt.

Good Birds, Bad Birds

What constitutes a “good” bird? Some people go to great lengths to defend fragile songbirds from aggressive crows or hungry hawks. Others prefer majestic birds of prey over small birds picking in their garden.

These questions, and a recent letter from a Seattle Audubon member, have sparked discussions about what may constitute a “good” or “bad” bird. There are some birds, such as the European Starling, that are listed as invasive species in Washington State. Other birds, such as the Marbled Murrelet, are listed as threatened or endangered and are accorded special protection. But what about the all the birds in between, especially those adapted to urban habitats? Can they aggravate humans to the point that they should be considered a “bad” bird?

Seattle Audubon works to protect all birds and their critical habitats, but we do invite discussion within the community of bird enthusiasts about bird behaviors and what might be done about them. Visit Seattle Audubon on Facebook and post on our discussion thread about your bird-related observations and concerns. Share your qualms, offer suggestions and advice on how to reduce problems.
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.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 (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!

Summer/Fall Field Trips
by Gary Kellogg, Field Trip Committee Member

Sage Thrasher! “That’s a new bird for me!” said one of my Seattle Audubon Master Birder classmates. I’d found them easily in spring, singing from the tops of the sage along Umptanum Road, but we’d looked for a while to find this one in summer. I reflected that the Sage Thrasher might be new for my friend, but it was following a rhythm that is many thousands of years old. At this time of year, the vocal excitement of breeding and nesting is over, the chicks have fledged, and birds are getting ready for the next phase in their life cycle.

Some lowland birds are still taking advantage of the abundant food brought about by our rainy year to fuel another nesting cycle, but most are preparing for fall, and migration. At high altitudes, the snow is melting only now, and summer has just started. But the arctic breeders are already returning from their nesting grounds, passing south in their fall plumage.

Late summer and early fall is an excellent time to bird in Western Washington, with a chance to see birds in different points along their annual cycle. Join Seattle Audubon for a Field Trip!

- Trips from mid-September to mid-October will be posted online September 1. Sign-ups begin September 13.
- Trips from mid-October to mid-November will be posted online October 1. Sign-ups begin October 11.
- Trips from mid-November to mid-December will be posted online November 1. Sign-ups begin November 8.

Neighborhood Bird Walks

These Saturday morning walks last about 2 hours and are open to beginning birders, families, and new residents. No advance sign-up required. Contact the leader listed for each walk for more information.

**Sept. 10, 9:00AM, Union Bay Nat. Area**
Fran Wood, 206-323-2296
fbwood@u.washington.edu

Union Bay Natural Area lies in NE Seattle, east of the University of Washington. Meet at the 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.

**Oct. 15, 8:30AM, 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).
Destination: Bradner Gardens Park
by Kelly Brenner, Seattle Audubon Board

Wildlife can easily be found in the middle of the city if you know where to look. Bradner Gardens Park, located in the Mt. Baker neighborhood in south Seattle, is a wonderful wildlife oasis.

The 1.6 acre garden offers excellent views of downtown Seattle, and includes a P-Patch, Seattle Tilth Demonstration Garden, pavilion, native plant garden, habitat garden, rain garden, butterfly and hummingbird garden, xeriscaping, children's garden, play area, basketball court, and classroom. All the paths through the garden are also ADA accessible.

The garden is entirely organic, making it a refuge for a variety of wildlife. View the Seattle Tilth Garden to find beneficial insects, such as lady beetles and lacewings. Along the rain garden you're likely to find dragonflies such as Variegated Meadowhawks and darners. In the native plant and habitat garden, you'll find many neighborhood birds, such as Black-capped Chickadees, Anna's hummingbirds, and flycatchers. Throughout the garden you'll find a wide variety of fascinating insects, including many species of bees, hoverflies, beetles, and wasps.

However, what Bradner Gardens Park is perhaps best known for is the butterflies. The border gardens include butterfly and hummingbird gardens, but you'll find butterflies throughout the entire park as well. Nature in the City: Seattle state species such as the Woodland skipper, Red admirals, Lorquin's admirals, and Western tiger swallowtail can all be found here. For the best butterfly viewing during the summer, visit in the afternoon.

When there, be sure to keep an eye out for the wildlife also found in the art hidden all over the garden; check out the hose bibs, look for the dragonfly sculpture on the fence, view the birds and dragonflies in the mosaic wall along the basketball court created by a local school, and for a final wildlife art surprise, visit the restroom before you leave.

Bradner Gardens Park is located at 29th Ave. S and S Grand St., Seattle. You can get there on the #14 bus, which runs from Capitol Hill through downtown to Mt. Baker, by getting off at 31st Ave S and South Grand Street, and walking two blocks to 29th. By car, from downtown Seattle take exit 164 off of I-5 to the Dearborn ramp, and follow Dearborn a half mile to Rainier Avenue South where you turn right. Take a left in another half mile onto South Massachusetts Street, and continue to 29th Avenue. Take a right and the gardens will be ahead on your right.
September is Optics Month in The Nature Shop

KOWA DIGISCOPING WORKSHOP  Sunday, Sept. 11, 9:00 a.m. to noon, Center for Urban Horticulture.
with Jim Danzenbaker, KOWA Sports Optics Sales Manager and Nature Shop Staff
Digiscoping is the marriage of a digital camera and a spotting scope. Join us for about 45 minutes of classroom lessons followed by a hands-on session at the Union Bay Natural Area. Dress for the weather. Come with scopes, cameras, and questions. Register by calling The Nature Shop: (206) 523-4483. Limit 24.

NIKON BIRDING WEEKEND  Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 24-25
To register for either or both, please call The Nature Shop at (206) 523-4483.
Saturday – Skagit Flats Optics + Birding Field Trip
with Nikon’s Birding Market Specialist Mike Freiberg and Nature Shop Staff
Join Nature Shop staff and Nikon for various stops in Skagit County for raptors, passerines, and shorebirds. Expect help with how best to use your binoculars and scopes. Return early afternoon. Carpool cost: $35 shared equally by riders. 7:00 a.m., Seattle Audubon Nature Shop. Limit 30.
Sunday – A New Look at Birding Optics
with Nikon’s Birding Market Specialist Mike Freiberg and Nature Shop Staff
Often enough, birders are forced to make decisions about their optics purchases with less information than needed. The idea behind carrying a binocular and findscope is that the optic fits who you are as a birder. How do you accomplish that? Well, Mike Freiberg will present outdoors (weather pending) with a wide array of optics so that everyone can look through the glass, while Mike explains the type of birder who best fits each product. Also, Mike will discuss how digiscoping plays a role in birding and what options are available to you with Nikon. BRING YOUR CAMERAS! The only way to know if a product is right for you is to spend some time testing it out. We look forward to seeing you there! 9:00 a.m. – noon, Union Bay Natural Area. Limit 30.

The Nature Shop  Where profits are for the birds

NOW OPEN LATE second Tuesdays Sept. 13, Oct. 11 & Nov. 8 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Suet Happy Hour 5-7p.m. Buy two get one FREE (no additional discounts or coupons applicable)
8050 35th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115 • (206) 523-4483 • Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday
FIRST EVER
Open Box Binocular & Scope Sale

• Exceptional, one-time deals on select optics
• All are complete and carry full manufacturer warranties
• Some cosmetic blemishes may be evident on some models
• Limited selection and quantities
• Seattle Audubon Member and public lottery tickets available starting 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 6
• Limited to one ticket per person
• You do not have to be present to purchase, BUT if not present we will take pre-payment information, and your selection, if available, will be charged to you
• Limited to one optic per person
• All optics available for preview starting Thursday, Sept. 1
• Seattle Audubon Member Lottery Sale Starts Thursday, Sept. 8, 5:00 p.m.
• Seattle Audubon Member Sale Friday, Sept. 9 a.m.
• Public Lottery Sale Starts Saturday, Sept. 10 at 10:00 a.m.
• Savings of 23-47%
• Complete lottery rules will be posted in The Nature Shop Thursday, Sept. 1

BINOCULARS - COMPACT
20-28mm objective lens
Nikon Premier Lx 8X20 7506 (1)
Pentax DCF SW 8X25 62593 (1)
Nikon Prostaff 8X25 7483 (1)
Nikon Travelite V1 8X25 7277 (1)
Nikon 8X25 Trailblazer 8217 (1)
Swarovski 10X25 Pocket Binocular 46010 (1)
Vortex 10X28 Fury 10X-15 (1)
Nikon EcoBin 10X25 7523 (1)
Nikon Prostaff 10X25 7485 (2)
Nikon Travelite V1 10X25 7278 (1)
Nikon 7472 10X25 Travelite V/Bin 7472 (3)
Nikon 10X25 Trailblazer 8218 (1)

BINOCULAR - MID-SIZE
32-36mm objective lens
Swarovski EL 8X32 32008 (1)
Zeiss 8X32 Victory 52320 (1)
Vortex 8X32 Fury 3308 (1)
Nikon 8X36 Monarch 7513 (1)
Pentax 8X36 DCF NV 62486 (1)
Swarovski EL 10X32 32010 (1)
Nikon 10X36 Monarch 7514 (1)
Vortex 10X32 Fury 3310 (1)
Pentax 10X36 DCF NV 62487 (1)
Vortex 10X32 Spitfire SPR-3210 (1)

BINOCULARS - FULL SIZE
42-45mm objective lens
Swarovski Swaro-El 8.5X42 34108 (1)
Nikon EDG 8X42 7866 (2)
Zeiss 8X42 Victory 52451 (1)
Vortex 8X42 Razer RZR-0842EU (1)
Pentax 8X43 DCF SP 62615 (1)
Vortex 8X42 Fury FRY-4308 (1)
Nikon Monarch D 8X42 7904 (1)
Vortex 8X42 DiamondBack SWD-428 (1)
Vortex 8X42 Crossfire Cfr-4208 (1)
Vortex 10X42 Razer RZR-1042EU (1)
Nikon Monarch X 10.5X45 7533 (3)
Pentax 10X43 DCF SP
Pentax 10X42 DCF HRC 62556 (1)
Pentax DCF CS 10X42 62556 (1)
Vortex 10X42 DiamondBack SWD-4210 (1)
Vortex 10X42 Crossfire CFR-4210 (1)

SCOPES - 60-65mm objective lens
Swarovski ATM-65HD 25-50X65 Scope 49714 (1)
Swarovski ATM-65 25-50X65 Scope 49704 (2)
Nikon 20-60X60 ED Fieldscope 8336 (1)
Nikon 20-60X60 Angled FieldScope 8340 (1)
Pentax Spotting Scope 20-60X65 FF-65ED (1)
Scope - 77-82MM objective lens
Swarovski ATM-80HD 25-50X65 Scope 49814 (1)
Kowa TSN-773 W/Zoom Eyepiece (1)
Nikon Prostaff 20-60X82 Scope 8312 (2)

Photo by Doug Schwenker

San Juan Islands
October 3-5, 2011, Sequim, WA

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this fall for a three-day cruise through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. Cruise to Roche Harbor Resort and San Juan Island, whale-watching along the way. Picnic on Sucia Island State Park, and cruise home via dramatic Deception Pass. Contact 360-681-4076, or email rcoffice@olympus.net. Details at: www.olympicpeninsulaaudubon.org
Beers for Birds Trivia and Raffle
West Seattle

Back by popular demand, Seattle Audubon will be having a fall Beers for Birds event! This event will be south of the ship canal on Wednesday, October 12th from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at The Alki Tavern in West Seattle (1321 Harbor Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98116). Join us for bird-brain trivia, a bevy of great prizes from our raffle drawing, and spectacular food and drink specials!

All money raised will go to benefit Seattle Audubon’s program work in the community.

Thank you for making Beers for Birds a wildly fun and successful event!