I Found a Nest . . .
by Jill Walters, Seattle Audubon Staff

During a recent back yard clean-up, I accidentally uncovered a Dark-eyed Junco nest tucked into the lawn beneath a dead tree branch. Three tiny cream colored eggs with brown speckles sat in a bed of grass, moss, and hair. Fearing that I may have caused the nest to be abandoned, I called Seattle Audubon’s Nature Shop for advice. I put the branch back, hoping for momma bird’s return, but she ultimately left for good. The question arose: what exactly should be done if a nest or baby bird is found? To find out, turn to page 2.

Conservation Photographer, Daniel Beltrá
June 16, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Seattle Audubon’s Annual Appreciation and Awards Dinner

Please join us for our Annual Appreciation and Awards Dinner as we celebrate 95 years of volunteerism and community engagement. Guests will be treated to an evening of great food, drinks, and friends. During the event, awards will be given out for outstanding leadership in Conservation, Education, and Science, and recognition of the volunteers who make our programs possible.

The evening’s speaker is internationally renowned conservation photographer, Daniel Beltrá. Born in Madrid, Spain, Daniel is based in Seattle. Over the past two decades, Beltrá’s work has taken him to all seven continents, including several expeditions to the Brazilian Amazon, the Arctic, the Southern Oceans, and the Patagonian ice fields. In April 2009, Beltrá received the prestigious Prince’s Rainforest Project award granted by Prince Charles. After two months of photographing the Gulf Oil Spill, he produced many visually arresting images of the man-made disaster. The imagery became a featured part of the exhibit "SPILL: A Crude Response," which premiered at the 212 Gallery in Aspen, Colorado, and is currently on display at the Seattle Aquarium.

The Dinner will be held at the Mount Baker Community Club, 2811 Mt. Rainier Drive South, 98144, in the Mount Baker neighborhood. Space is limited. Please RSVP by June 10 to Marieke Stientjes Rack at mariekes@seattleaudubon.org.
Volunteer View
from Marieke Rack, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteerism 2.0 (a publication by the Institute for Conservation Leadership) talks about volunteers as “mission critical” and not as “add-ons.” It also highlights how volunteers are looking for high-skill, professional opportunities that include working with staff to innovate. Seattle Audubon has many examples of volunteers being absolutely mission critical, including writing for this publication, providing program coordination for FUN (see page 8), and advocating for improved oil spill response capabilities in Puget Sound (see page 11).

Recently two long-time volunteers, Ann-Marie Wood (1000+ volunteer hours) and Don Ostrow (24-year member) have stepped down from their positions as Classes and Neighborhood Bird Walks Coordinators (respectively). Their service exemplifies how volunteerism creates and supports programming central to Seattle Audubon’s mission to cultivate and lead a community that values and protects birds and the natural environment.

Seattle Audubon has many opportunities for volunteers to contribute in important ways. If you are interested in using your skills to support Seattle Audubon as a part of the Classes Committee, Neighborhood Bird Walk Coordinator, or in any of our other important volunteer roles, please contact Marieke Stientjes Rack at (206) 523-8243 x12.

I Found a Nest . . .
continued from page 1

It is against federal and state law to capture, harm, or possess migratory birds, nests, eggs, or feathers. The only time a non-certified person should handle a wild bird is if a sick or injured bird is being transported to a wildlife rehabilitation center. If in doubt, call a professional for guidance. To avoid human caused nest abandonment, carefully observe the area and check for nests in shrubs, trees, and tall grass before starting any yard work.

What should I do?
I found a nest with eggs or babies, but no adult bird:
Don’t disturb the nest. The adult is probably finding food. Wait to see if the adult returns before calling a wildlife rehabilitator.

I found a baby bird out of its nest:
If the bird has very few or no feathers, it is a nestling that fell out of its nest. Birds will not abandon their young if humans handle them. Wear gloves and gently return the baby to its nest. If the nest is not accessible or is damaged, make a substitute nest with a small container filled with paper towels or leaves. Place the nestling in a spot near its original nest where the parents can easily find it.

If the bird has feathers, it is likely a fledgling and has not quite learned how to fly. Leave the bird alone unless it is in immediate danger of harm. People often mistakenly think fledglings are injured, sick, or abandoned and might cause more damage by moving them than leaving them alone.

(Continues on the following page)

© Seattle Audubon, 2011
Fledgling crows are commonly mistaken for distressed adults since juveniles can be the same size as adults. Look for red coloring along the inner crease of the bill to distinguish a juvenile from an adult. The most common questions about baby birds taken by the Nature Shop this time of year are about fledgling crows.

If the bird is injured or sick, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for advice.

I found a nest without eggs or babies:
Don’t touch it since some species reuse nests. If the nest is damaged, you may dispose of it with your yard waste. It is illegal to collect or keep nests or eggs without a permit.

Who to call:
Seattle Audubon Nature Shop
206-523-4483
General questions and advice
PAWS Wildlife Center 425-412-4040
Licensed wildlife rehabilitators
WA Department of Fish and Wildlife Regional Office 425-775-1311

Continued from the previous page.

The title of this piece is ambiguous: are Seattle Audubon’s bylaws “just for the birds?” Or can they actually be an important tool for protecting the creatures we love: “for the birds?”

Bylaws define how an organization operates, and the roles of board members, officers and key staff. When we ask if Seattle Audubon effectively and sustainably puts our passion for birds and nature into positive action, much of the answer rests with how we’re organized to act – in our bylaws. Bylaws direct our meetings, and are the foundation for the policies and procedures of our organization. They should be the rules that govern our affairs and insure that we are responsive to our members and their needs.

Changes in our operations, and in the social and legal environment, suggest that it’s time to review and challenge our bylaws. For example, since our last bylaws review more than ten years ago, we have successfully handed over many of our core competencies to a professional staff. This means, among other things, that our Board needs to step up more than ever to set strategic direction for the staff; the demands on the board have changed.

Over the last year the Board has established a Bylaws Task Force. This group has been given the delicate task of making recommendations that will adjust the operations of our organization in light of our changing environment, while also insuring that we stay in line with our founding mission and meet future challenges.

Here are some of the key changes that the task force is considering:
1) Downsize the board from its current 21 members, and introduce term limits
2) Use the board to elect officers, rather than a quorum of members
3) Clarify the role of the existing board nominating committee
4) Redesign the executive committee
5) Redefine the role and structure of standing committees
6) Modernize rules about communications to address use of email, etc.

If you’re curious, please view our existing Bylaws, found on our web site under Who We Are > About Us > Bylaws. If you are a Seattle Audubon member with opinions that you want us to consider in this review, please direct an email titled “SAS Bylaws” to my personal email at cathyjaramillo@comcast.net. Our bylaws task force will appreciate your comments and concerns as it moves toward final recommendations to your Board.

If you would like to explore becoming a board member or a committee chair, we’d love to talk with you about your interest and background.
The crowd at the Wedgwood Alehouse April 28th wasn’t your typical trivia-night clientele. These were people possessed of esoteric knowledge, the kind of knowledge one doesn’t often hear bandied about in alehouses, or in many public places at all, really. Theirs was a knowledge acquired through the lens of a spotting scope, or by the patient ear tilted up to the sky, to the trees. (Or by a religious devotion to Roger Tory Peterson, et al.) These were people who knew, for instance, what a passeriform is, and that it’s anisodactylism denotes it as such. They knew (or at least most of them knew) that the wandering albatross boasts the largest wingspan in the animal world. And that a woodcock is a timberdoodle, and a timberdoodle a bogsucker, and that a woodcock and a night partridge are also one and the same. These were people who knew birds like the backs of their hands. In a word: bird-nerds.

At around 6:00 p.m. they started showing up, first singly and in pairs, then in droves. By 7:30 the place was packed. Trivia-goers perched on every perchable surface, and the picnic tables out front soon began filling up with patrons as well, despite the chill. There was a curious air to the alehouse, if one paid attention to such things. Added to the usual barroom clamor was the talk of birds, places to see them, species to see, and classes to take in order to better appreciate them. These conversations quickly took on a beery aspect, rising commensurately in volume as the night progressed. Staff and volunteers from Seattle Audubon sporting peacock plumes and feather boas wove their way through the crowd, collecting money for raffle tickets. Customers at the bar, not participating in the trivia, looked on amusedly, perhaps a trifle hard-put in trying to understand what all the hubbub was about. They should’ve just looked at the prize list. There were some goodies to be had, for sure.

Leading the trivia rounds were the Masters of Ornithological Answers, Chris Anderson and Mike Donahue. They worked without microphones, projecting their voices over the increasingly raucous din. Amazingly, implausibly, they managed to be heard, like the emperor penguin peeping stridently for its one chick among thousands. Hearing the questions was one thing, though; correctly answering them another entirely. Questions drawing from literary, zoological, and pop-culture sources kept contestants wracking their bird-brains all night. (This is meant as a compliment, mind you.) Especially rousing was the final round, in which teams sounded out various bird calls in a charades-type showdown.

Thanks go out to Rob Paulson and his staff at the Wedgwood Ale House for their wonderful hospitality, as well as to volunteers and Audubon staff for putting on the event. And of course, everyone who showed up to play, eat, drink, and buy raffle tickets for a good cause—thank you. Be sure to join us this Fall as we expand Beers for Birds south of the Ship Canal!
Membership News

We extend a huge “thank you!” to each of our members for participating in the life of Seattle Audubon. Whether a long-time sustainer, or brand new member, your membership plays a vital role in bringing our mission and vision to life.

Last year, membership dues accounted for only 7% of our total revenue. This year, we’d like to increase that number to at least 10%, allowing us to fund more of our vital program work. For those of you who chose to increase the amount of your annual membership gift, we are especially grateful.

To help us raise our membership rates now, we are launching our Spring Member Drive at the end of May and early June. If you have not done so already, please fill out and return your membership appeal today. And if you forget don’t worry, staff and volunteers will call and remind you!

We’ve already lined up some exciting guest speakers for next year’s program meetings at REI, including a repeat visit from UW professors Jim and Renee Ha (crow researchers) and Jim Lynch (local author of the popular book Border Songs). Please check out the Seattle Audubon events page at www.seattleaudubon.org for more information as it becomes available. You never know who might drop in!

If you have any questions or comments about your membership, please contact Leah Lee at (206) 523-8243 x16 or at leahl@seattleaudubon.org.

IRA Charitable Rollover

Did you know that you can make a charitable gift to Seattle Audubon through your IRA? Yes, you can!

The IRA Charitable Rollover for 2010 and 2011 has been extended. Originally passed in 2006, the IRA Charitable Rollover allows individuals age 70½ and older to make direct transfers totaling up to $100,000 per year to 501(c) (3) charities, without having to count the transfers as income for federal income tax purposes.

If you are age 70½ or older at the time of the contribution (you have to wait until your actual 70½th birthday to make the transfer) you can transfer up to $100,000 each year for 2010 and 2011. Please keep Seattle Audubon in mind for the 2011 tax year.

Transfers must come from your IRAs directly to Seattle Audubon (Tax ID #91-6009716).

If you have any questions about how to make a planned gift to Seattle Audubon, please contact Leah Lee at 206-523-8243 x 16 or at leahl@seattleaudubon.org.

Difficult Times

Seattle Audubon’s Nature Shop and office space in Wedgwood was recently the target of multiple after-hours burglaries. As a result, we are installing increased security measures, including motion sensors, security cameras and a monitored alarm system. The added expenses of these measures, as well as the loss of inventory and the cost of repairing the property damage, do create near-term challenges. But Seattle Audubon is committed to retaining an open, welcoming environment for our members and volunteers while also providing better protection for the people and property that are the core of our work connecting people with birds and nature. Thank you for your continued support.
City Birds, Part II**
by Herb Curl, Former Board Science Advisor

Those of us who live in cities think generally of our neighborhoods as the city. But for birds, cities are complex distributions of a variety of habitats. One way to understand bird distribution is by simplifying the city into a set of concentric circles or zones. The center is the “concrete jungle” consisting of streets, sidewalks, high-rise buildings, with an occasional pocket park. Surrounding the core are similar land uses with lower-rise buildings and more or larger neighborhood parks. Surrounding that ring (but ignoring shopping malls), are residential areas with cemeteries, larger parks, occasional streams, and bodies of water. This ring blends into suburban “satellite” communities, areas that look rural but functionally are not, and greenways bordering a transportation corridor or areas too steep to build on.

Each of these rings or zones, all part of the human-built environment, attract assemblages of bird species based on their needs for food, nesting structures, and protective cover. The birds that appear “everywhere, all the time,” are either generalists or are adapted to some of the unique conditions of the city. While we have provided unique habitats for a variety of birds, we’ve also set the table for a variety of predators including house and feral cats, rats, and raccoons.

The real generalists include American Crows, American Robins, and Rock Pigeons. They can live and nest almost anywhere, eat almost anything, and be territorial and aggressive. Black-capped Chickadees and Bushtits are commonly seen, but aren’t generalists. Instead the brushy habitat and food supply they favor (spiders for bushtits; insects, spiders, seeds, fruit for Chickadees; suet feeders for both) are plentiful in the city. Black-capped Chickadees are hole-nesters, but that doesn’t preclude knot-holes in building siding!

Seattleites are most familiar with “backyard birds” because that’s mostly what we see. In addition to lawns, we plant fruit-bearing shrubs, perennials, and fruit trees, and put up seed and sugar feeders, attracting finches, chickadees, Bushtits and hummingbirds. Even the occasional Steller’s Jay, or more rarely, a Pileated Woodpecker or Band-tailed Pigeon will show up. These birds have become used to human beings that don’t threaten them.

It is surprising to some, that given the apparent differences between city, suburban, and “rural” landscapes, we often see the same assemblage of birds across these areas (with the occasional Raven or Barred Owl thrown in). Yet what all these areas share is the presence of humans in the landscape, reminding us that “If you build it, they will come.”

**Continued from a “City Birds” essay from the July/August 2009 issue of Earthcare.
Volunteer Service Awards

Thank you to each of Seattle Audubon’s wonderful volunteers! Please join us for our Annual Appreciation and Award Dinner on June 16!

7000 hours+
*Charlie Kahle
6500 hours+
George Johnson, Richard Youel
5000 hours+
Idie Ulsh, Miriam Williams
4500 hours+
Hanna Atkins, Gene Lagerberg, Marina Skumanich
4000 hours+
Suzanne Krom, Hal Opperman
3000 hours+
Steve Dang, Jerry Joyce, John Lundin, Shiva Parmeswaran, Mary Anne Thorbeck
2500 hours+
Brian Bell, Ellen Blackstone, Walter Oelwein, Tom Riley
2000 hours+
Jan Bragg, Herb Curl, *Barbara Deihl, Virginia Morrison,
1500 hours+
1000 hours+
Karen Adair, Charles Adams, Tom Aversa, Dianne Edmonds, Rebecca Evans, Al Ferkovich, Carol Gard, Raelene Gold, Helen Hawley, Alan Humphrey, Jennifer Kauffman, Kathy Lantz, Martin Muller, Julie Myers, Martha Nester, Don Norman, Jay Donald Ostrow, Genevieve Reckamp, Roberta Roberts, Randon Robinson, Thomas Rohrer, Marilyn Sandall, Constance Siddles, Robert Goldwadel, David Swayne, Barbara Webster, Ethel Williams, Isadora Wong, Ann Marie Wood, Alison Wysong
750 hours+
Shannon Bailey, Marissa Benavente, *Linda Carroll, John Friars, Keith Geller, Mark Johnston, Teri Martine, Bonnie Miller, Eldon Olson, Penny Rose, Patricia Ryan, Rick Sanders, Robert Sieh, Dan Suiter, Martha Taylor, Cheryl Teague, Timothy Walsh, Francis Wood, Sam Woods
500 hours+
250 hours+
100 hours+

Cumulative 1996-2010 Seattle Audubon Hours: * indicates a new service award recognition in that category
Enriching Science Experiences in Schools!

This past school year, over 600 students participated in Seattle Audubon’s Finding Urban Nature (FUN) Program. The FUN program brings science to life by introducing 3rd and 4th grade students to the natural world in their own schoolyard habitats. Students involved in FUN participate in eight, one-hour lessons that introduce them to plants and animals found in their schoolyard, and how living and non-living things depend on each other to survive. These lessons compliment science units taught in Seattle Public Schools by enriching science through inquiry-based educational experiences.

We would not be able to provide these experiences without the help of over 100 volunteers. It is because of these volunteers that we are able to provide free, hands-on, educational opportunities. THANK YOU!

Seattle Audubon would also like to thank the following Team Leaders (on-site program coordinators): Terry Adams, Lindsey Johnson, Deborah Lindsay, Kim Mc Cormick, and Jill Walters. We hope you will join us again next school year!

“The FUN program is such a worthwhile program and supplements our science curriculum beautifully. I wish every teaching experience in every subject could be like the FUN program: small groups, hands-on experiences and caring adults.”

— 3rd grade Seattle Public School Teacher

Pelagic Birding

with Mike Donahue, Gull Expert and Pelagic Guide

The west coast of North America offers some of the best seabirding anywhere in the world. The rich waters 20-40 miles offshore support a diversity of species—albatrosses, storm petrels, shearwaters and jaegers—that spend much of the year in the waters far offshore at the edge of the continental shelf. If you’ve heard about pelagic birding, but wasn’t sure what was involved, this class will demystify it for you.

The class will cover the diversity of seabirds that are found offshore, focusing on natural history and identification, as well as how to prepare for a pelagic trip. Lecture only: Mondays, August 1st & 8th, 2011 - 7-9 p.m.

Location: Douglas Classroom, Center for Urban Horticulture

Cost: $45 members, $60 nonmembers

Limit: 25 for the lectures

Optional field trip with instructor:
• Westport Seabirds has set aside 10 spaces for registered class members on their August 14 trip.
• Contact Mike Donahue directly at 206-290-8294 or bjalbatross@gmail.com to register for this pelagic field trip after registering for the lectures.
• Cost, departure information, and dates of other pelagic trips are at www.westportseabirds.com.

Class Information

Full details on this class can be found at: www.seattleaudubon.org/Classes

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.
BirdWatch

As summer approaches BirdWatch (BW), Seattle Audubon's teen program, draws to a close. This year five teens will be graduating from the program: Annie Meyer, Sam Riley, Brendan Higgins, Reilly Hannigan, and Collin Vassallo. These students will be moving forward to continue developing their interest in birds and nature in college.

This year we had about 15 teens participating regularly in BW activities, from meetings and field trips, to monthly bird-banding demonstrations in conjunction with Puget Sound Bird Observatory. We had a number of great guest lecturers, including photographer Paul Bannick, who spoke about his popular book, The Owl and the Woodpecker; Dr. John Marzluff, who discussed his research on crows and their behavior; and Eric Kowalczyk, a keeper at the Woodland Park Zoo, who spoke about his position and work with the Hornbill project in South East Asia.

The diverse activities within BW continue to make it a popular program with the teens involved, and creates a unique social network of like-minded teens and volunteers, which helps to strengthen their knowledge and love for birds and nature.

This program plays a positive role in the life of the participants. Here are some quotes from students and parents describing what the program means to them:

“I originally joined BirdWatch to learn more about birds and to meet other people with the same interests as myself. So far, I have met both of those goals and much more. I really enjoy the programs that are offered… The field trips have greatly increased my skills as a bird watcher because it is somewhat hard and bothersome to teach yourself. With more experienced birders around me, I can learn how to identify birds in a fun and accurate way without fumbling through a field guide.”

“Because of the skills I’d gained in BirdWatch, I spent my summer thriving on science: analyzing fish samples under microscopes, compiling data in Excel, and assisting in field work… This, in turn, propelled me to admission with highest honors to my first-choice school, Western Washington University, where I will be spending the next four years pursuing a degree in biology.”

“…BirdWatch and the Puget Sound Bird Observatory have been invaluable for him. He has met incredible mentors through the program, including Dan Froelich, Ryan Merrill, Adam and Alan, and great friends. He loved having a place that understood, fostered and encouraged his passions.”

“BirdWatch is an incredible program. It has changed my life; given me birding friends my own age, a community, experiences that I will remember until I die, opportunities that will help me later in life, and the support I needed to become an avid birder. Thank you Seattle Audubon!”

Spotlight on Cathy Pfarr, Nature Shop Assistant

Having lived in Seattle for 30 years, Cathy spends a lot of time with her family who live all over the region. She (and sometimes her nieces and nephews too—see photo) have traveled the world including recent trips to Uganda, Zanzibar, and Baja. Maggie, Cathy’s beloved dog, accompanies Cathy to regional-only destinations like Marymoor Dog Park.

Cathy has been a volunteer for her “whole life.” And, after years in the corporate world, Cathy deepened her commitment to and passion for volunteering because of “how powerful and rewarding it is.” She has and does volunteer with organizations that serve animals, children, seniors, and the environment.

Cathy loves the Nature Shop. She enjoys interacting with diverse customers, encouraging enthusiasm for the natural world, and problem solving with the Shop’s dedicated volunteers. Seattle Audubon is lucky to have Cathy on staff.
Canopy Connections: Your Urban Forest, Your Future

by Matt Mega Director of Conservation

Last year Seattle Audubon received a small grant from the Urban and Community Forestry Program of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The grant provided money to pilot the Canopy Connections project in Seattle’s Columbia City neighborhood, with the hope to expand the project to all Seattle neighborhoods in the near future.

Canopy Connection’s goal is to empower citizens to be proactive in tree preservation and planting activities to enhance neighborhood livability and environmental health. The project starts with basic information about neighborhood green infrastructure, including a map of existing tree canopy and ecosystem services. In Columbia City, the 2009 tree canopy cover was 157 acres or 18% of the neighborhood, well below the City of Seattle’s goal of 30% tree canopy cover. These 157 acres of trees remove 14,000 pounds of air pollutants annually, saving the city $194,000 in stormwater infrastructure costs per year and sequestering 53 tons of carbon annually. With this basic information, Canopy Connections engages interested citizens in two fun surveys of their neighborhood and blocks. First, citizens place colored dots on a map to identify their favorite neighborhood destinations where large trees exist, could be planted, or have recently been lost. Especially enthusiastic citizens are given detailed maps of their block and asked to record the number and size of trees, planting strip width, and presence of overhead wires. These surveys refine information about existing neighborhood assets, facilitate creation of a tree planting opportunity map to guide future neighborhood projects and planting, and/or empower neighborhood tree walks. Ultimately, Canopy Connections connects mapped information with what citizens actually see occurring on the ground, and provides a visualization of what the future might look like.

As Seattle Audubon concludes this part of the project, we are looking to expand to other parts of the city. Seattle residents who are interested in documenting neighborhood or block’s tree canopy and understanding the ecosystem benefits received from those trees, please contact Matt at mattm@seattleaudubon.org.

Southeast Seattle Canopy Connections Celebration

On Saturday, June 11, from 2:15 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Seattle Audubon hosts an open house about and celebration of Southeast Seattle’s urban forest. A short neighborhood walk will take place after the meeting to explore the urban forest and its contribution to neighborhood livability.

Join Seattle Audubon’s Canopy Connections to look at the year’s work, examine maps and data about trees, discuss potential next steps, and venture out to see tree planting opportunities and the urban forest in action. There will also be information about the City of Seattle’s Tree Ambassador program, and how to get free trees for your yard or street.

While currently focused in Southeast Seattle, Canopy Connections is replicable in all parts of the city. Those interested in trees, birds, and neighborhood livability should join us for this exciting discussion and walk. Space is limited so please RSVP to Matt Mega at (206) 523-8243 x38 and check our website for a possible last minute venue change.
On April 20th, Governor Chris Gregoire signed landmark legislation that significantly advances protection of Washington State’s environment, economy and cultural resources from the impacts of a potential major oil spill. Seattle Audubon volunteers and staff worked hard advocating for this important bill, and we applaud the Legislature and Governor for ensuring passage of House Bill 1186.

In 2008, the Governor’s Washington Oil Spill Advisory Council (on which Seattle Audubon served) completed an extensive study of the state’s ability to respond to a major spill. The Council reviewed the type and amount of spill response equipment that could be brought to a spill in a timely fashion and whether there were enough trained personnel available to operate the equipment. The results of the study were clear: Washington State is not prepared for a major spill. There is an urgent need to dramatically improve our state’s ability to respond to a significant oil spill.

The marine waters of Washington, including Puget Sound, are utilized by more than 75 bird species that could be adversely impacted by an oil spill, with tens of thousands of individual birds at risk from a spill. In addition, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) scientists have stated that of all the threats posed to Orca whales in the region, the threat of a major oil spill is the single greatest risk to the species. Beyond the environmental devastation, the Department of Ecology determined that a major spill would also cost 165,000 jobs and $10.8 billion in economic impacts.

House Bill 1186 provides a framework for significantly improving how we protect the ecological health of our state’s aquatic ecosystems. The bill directs the Department of Ecology to initiate new rule-making this summer to strengthen our state’s existing oil spill response preparations and response capabilities. The deadline for completion of the new regulations is December 2012.

Seattle Audubon will actively engage in the rule-making process, advocating for requirements on oil companies to:

• Stockpile spill response equipment locally in Washington to insure that we have enough equipment on hand to respond in challenging environments;
• Expand spill response “drills” to test assumptions contained in current plans and to make revisions based upon the outcome of the drills; and
• Train and equip local personnel (such as commercial fishermen) to directly assist in the cleanup of oil spills.
Summer Field Trips
Birds, Wildflowers, Mountains, Beaches & Parks

Seattle Audubon offers a variety of field trips for beginning and experienced birders. Most trips focus on finding and identifying birds and often provide information about the bird’s lifestyle and habitat. Some trips are leisurely and others are fast paced. A few field trips offer participants the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of birds and skills in identifying them. These trips have specific learning goals. For example, on “birding by ear” trips participants practice identifying birds by their vocalizations. Look for these trips in spring and early summer.

Trip destinations are determined by the season, the birds’ life cycle and the leader’s goals. June is nesting season in most of the state’s habitats. Look for nesting songbirds in woodlands; White-headed Woodpeckers and Gray Flycatchers in Ponderosa Pine woods; grebes, herons, waterfowl, and rails, in wetland habitat; or Pelagic Cormorants, Black Oyster-catchers, Pigeon Guillemots, Rhinoceros Auklets, and a few Tufted Puffins on the Protection Island boat trip.

In late July or August, roads in the high country are snow-free. Search for Sooty Grouse, Gray Jay, Cassin’s Finch, Chipping Sparrow and Northern Pygmy-Owl. A trip to Mt. Rainier might find Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, White-tailed Ptarmigan or Clark’s Nutcracker.

In late summer, shorebirds are returning and migration peaks on the coast. Target birds might include Willet, Wandering Tattler, American and Pacific Golden-Plovers, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

To find trips that match your interests, go to the Seattle Audubon website on the first of each month and click on the link: Field Trips & Walks. Make a note of the following dates:
- Trips from Sunday, June 18 to Saturday, July 16 posted online June 1. Sign-ups begin Tuesday, June 14.
- Trips from Sunday, July 17 to Saturday, August 20 posted online July 1. Sign-ups begin Tuesday July 12.

Completing the Vision for North Cascades National Park
by Wanda Browne, Conservation Committee Volunteer

When the North Cascades National Park and adjacent wilderness areas were established four to five decades ago, many ecologically important areas were left out. High elevation wildlife habitats, low elevation old-growth forests, pristine rivers and streams, and magnificent mountains still remain unprotected by park or wilderness status. The American Alps Legacy Proposal is an initiative to complete the conservation vision for the North Cascades National Park. These spectacular, rugged, and remote areas have long been known as the American Alps. Adding these special habitats to the Park will enhance recovery of numerous at-risk species in the North Cascade, including wolves, wolverines, grizzly bears, mountain goats, spotted owls, marbled murrelets, Chinook salmon, bull trout, and others. The North Cascades Conservation Council and the Mountaineers are leading the effort to expand the North Cascades National Park. The primary focus is on the national forest lands to the north and south of the North Cascades Highway from Ross Lake to Mazama.

For more information on this important project (including access to the American Alps Biodiversity Report and the American Alps Economic Benefits Report), visit the website at www.americanalps.org or call 360-296-5159.
Destination: Wenas
by Brendan McGarry

If you live near Puget Sound, there’s a distinct possibility you haven’t ventured East of the Cascades yet this spring. Here’s your chance to start that late-arriving warmth off right! Wander down Umptanum road to Wenas Creek, brimming with colorful interior species, only a hundred some miles from Seattle. Give yourself a full day to explore, if not more, because one can expect plenty of bird activity in early June.

Start in Ellensburg, taking exit 109 off I-90 and merging onto Canyon road. Take a left onto the paved E. Umptanum road, which will eventually turn into well maintained gravel. There is excellent, opportunistic birding along this road. Among the best sights are the Mountain and Western Bluebirds making use of numerous nest boxes. The shrub steppe following Manastash and Umptanum ridges melds into riparian areas and mixed coniferous forest, providing ample opportunities for a large variety of resident and neotropical migrants. Don’t forget to look up for a chance at a Golden Eagle or twittering Vaux’s Swifts.

Approximately 18 miles along, you’ll hit pavement again. Don’t panic, you’re not done. A hard right onto Audubon Road will lead you down a decidedly rougher track. Turn left over Wenas Creek after 2.8 miles and into the Wenas Campground on Boise-Cascade property. Heading down the main dirt road, park in any dirt pull off and go explore! Boise-cascade is nice enough to let an annual Audubon Campout happen here every Memorial Day. Started by Hazel Wolf, it continues to be made possible by the hard work of volunteers from regional chapters. Find more info here: http://www.wenasaudubon.org

You cannot miss the infestation of birds in the campground. Creekside is a good place to find bustling Yellow Warblers and Western Wood-Pewees aplenty; American Dippers have nested in the bank. Hog Hill (the conspicuous hill to your left on arrival), can have Caliope Hummingbirds at the base holding territory in the currants. With luck, throughout the Ponderosa Pine, you can pick out White-headed Woodpeckers and Red-naped Sapsuckers along with Western Tanagers and Evening Grosbeaks.

Beyond camp there are myriad of options back on the paved Wenas Road towards Selah. Hardy Canyon offers more access to extensive riparian areas, excellent habitat for skulky Yellow-breasted Chat. Onwards, Wenas Lake can have various ducks, grebes, and a few shorebirds, for those westsiders getting the shakes from waterbird withdrawal.
What’s **NEW** in The Nature Shop

**NEW Swarovski CL Companion 30**
Swarovski optical quality in a very light, compact package
8x30 $929 17.6 oz.
10x30 $999 18.2 oz.
Due in July

**NEW Dog Days, Raven Nights**
By John Marzluff, author of *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*, and his wife Colleen and their early lives as biologists studying ravens in the Maine woods.
Member Price $22.40

**NEW Olivia’s Birds**
By 11-year old Olivia Bouler, who, so far, has raised more than $150,000 for her Save the Gulf Campaign. A delightful, entertaining and informative book for all ages.
Member price $11.96

**NEW NOW IN PAPERBACK**
*Crow Planet*
Best seller from former Seattle Audubon education director.
Member price $12.00

Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays year round.

**The Nature Shop**
Where profits are for the birds

8050 35th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115 • (206) 523-4483 • www.seattleaudubon.org
A Piece of Land for Peace of Mind

Breathtaking Views.
Hundreds of Acres.
Endless Adventure.
Protected Forever.

Owl Peak
Offered for sale by the Methow Conservancy
(a nonprofit land trust inspiring people to care for and conserve the land of the Methow Valley of North Central Washington)

- Step from the doorstep of your sensitively sighted home on 238 spectacular acres surrounded by other conserved lands
- Ski and snowshoe in winter
- Hike and bird watch in summer
- Experience Methow Valley living at its best, all while helping protect one of the largest tracts of intact shrub-steppe habitat in the Methow Valley

Methow Conservancy
For more information contact Jeanne at the Methow Conservancy at 509-996-2870.
www.methowconservancy.org

Looking for your next great hike? Washington Trails Association can help you find it.

Try the Hike Finder
available online at wta.org

Finding for ptarmigans?
We’ve got tips.
Wildflowers? In bloom.
Mountain views? Check.

Find your next great hike:
www.wta.org/hikefinder

Upper Ridge Cottages
"An Environmentally Friendly, Intentional Community"

Custom small homes
2 acre wooded site
Built Green
Old fashioned community life
Pre selling 6 homes - $350K +

www.upperridgecottages.com or call 425-353-8150

Throw a Garden Party for your gardening pals! Details online.

Time for a garden tune-up?
Sign up for a personal visit from a garden coach.

Taylor Gardens
www.TaylorGardensNW.com
Nature Camp
at Magnuson Park

Exploration! Discovery! Fun!

Discovery Day Camp for 1-6 Grade
Teen Trekker Camp for 7-9 Grade
Jr. Naturalists in Training for 10-12 Grade

Register Now!
Camp begins
June 27, 2011

Scholarships and extended care available!
seattleaudubon.org or (206) 523-4483