Developmentally Appropriate Environmental Education

by Janelle Lasher,
Elementary School Program Manager

When I was nine years old, we moved into a house surrounded by five acres of woods and grassy fields. There were lots of trees, dead branches, smelly ponds, and hollowed-out cavities in the land. It was a new world, one I embraced with excitement. As I climbed trees, searched for critters, and laid in the grass, I was not aware of the impact these experiences would have on me.

From there, my exposure to nature was deepened by family camping trips, a middle school outdoor education program, and eventually a high school class involving teens in local environmental issues and habitat restoration projects. Little did I know that these progressive experiences were transformative because they were developmentally appropriate. (continues on page 4)

Membership Meetings

Seattle Audubon’s Fall Membership Meetings are just around the corner! There is no better way to spend a Thursday evening. Please join us Thursday, September 20, at REI Headquarters in downtown Seattle. Matt Mega, Seattle Audubon Conservation Director, will take you on a guided tour of the wonders and importance of the urban forest. Learn the complexities of trying to protect this valuable resource in the midst of urban development, and how you can help enhance and protect this amazing neighborhood resource. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the program begins at 7:00 p.m.

Save the Date! The next Membership Meeting will be Thursday, October 18. Please check www.seattleaudubon.org closer to the dates for more detailed information.
In the Last Century: Field Trips
by Jill Walters, Nature Camp Registrar and FUN Assistant

Bird-watching field trips have always been a key part of the Seattle Audubon experience. Below are excerpts from historical field trip listings, showing the evolution of recreational birding in Seattle.

April 1934, The Seattle Wren:
“Plans are being made for a ‘caravan’ trip down into Eastern Oregon after schools are out this summer. About ten or twelve persons would be about the proper number and the trip would be made in autos or a large bus if there were not enough persons interested who had autos … Camping paraphernalia would be provided and supplies and cost of transportation would be divided co-operatively. Should a majority prefer the eastern part of Washington instead of Oregon, it can so be arranged.”

1952-1953 Seattle Audubon Society Program:
“Oct. 18: Saturday. Sears Tide Flats: Wintering ducks may now be seen including canvasbacks … Take trolleys going south on First Ave. and meet at First & Lander near Sears Roebuck at 9:30 a.m.” (Now the Starbucks headquarters, the tide flats were gone by 1956.)

April 1998 Earthcare Northwest:
“Sunday, April 19. Leader’s Choice or Where Do We Go From Here?
6:00 a.m., Ravenna P&R. Join Deb in this free-form birding exploration during the spring migration. With tips from Tweeters on the internet and the Birders Hotline we’ll search the current ‘hot spot’ for returning migrant passerines and lingering winter birds as we explore Washington and beyond … Bring scopes, money for lattes, ferry or entrance fees if needed. Limit of 11, carpooling to three cars.”

Charlie Kahle, New Board President—a RE-introduction
Having served on the board since 1996 and as President from 2000-02, I look forward to the honor of being Board President. My thanks to Cathy Jaramillo for leading the board for the last two years, and I look forward to working with her as she fills the important role of immediate past president. With new by-laws in place and a new strategic plan to grow Seattle Audubon’s community, I want to energize our volunteers as we get ready to celebrate 100 years of Audubon in Seattle. — Charlie Kahle
Proposed Barred Owl Experiment
by Shawn Cantrell, Executive Director

Despite being listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act since 1990, the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) has continued to decline at alarming rates. Seattle Audubon has been actively engaged in the protection and recovery of the owl for over three decades. Our primary concern is the protection of critical habitat for this species. Under no circumstances can NSO recovery occur without committed and focused on-going habitat protection and restoration efforts.

We also recognize that there are many stresses on the NSO population, including competition from non-native Barred Owls. Over the past 20 years Barred Owl populations have dramatically expanded their range. They have displaced the NSO from some suitable habitats, reduced NSO breeding success, and sped NSO decline. That is why the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is considering experimental removal of Barred Owls to determine the potential benefits to NSO.

This proposal has generated significant public and media attention, as “removal” in this context would be by lethal means (shooting). As a bird advocacy organization, Seattle Audubon is concerned with any proposal to kill birds. Our science committee, conservation committee, board and staff have examined this issue in depth over the past four years in order to understand the options, opportunities, and challenges it poses.

Seattle Audubon has adopted a position of conditional support of USFWS’ experimental removal of Barred Owls. Our support is reliant on the agency’s consistent application of a rigorous, independently verified, scientific approach that answers key questions about the interactions of these two species while minimizing the killing of Barred Owls. In addition, Barred Owls cannot be used as an excuse to dodge habitat loss issues. As the 2011 federal Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl states, the presence of Barred Owls actually increases the need for additional NSO habitat protection.

Just Like the Lorax, It's Time to Speak for the Trees
by Matthew Mega, Conservation Director

On July 18, 2012, the City of Seattle released its long-awaited proposed update to the City’s Tree Ordinance. You can find a copy of it at www.seattle.gov/dpd/planning/SeattlesTreeRegulationUpdate/Overview/. While the proposal is better than expected, there are still a number of needed improvements. Public comments will be taken until October 1, so make sure your voice is heard. Here are three talking points to get you started:

• A tree permitting system (for removal, right-of-way plantings, and more) is an excellent idea and a valuable part of the ordinance. However, the 24” diameter removal threshold will not protect some of Seattle’s most valuable native trees, like the Pacific Madrone.
• The update removes explicit protection of tree groves. Tree groves and critical wildlife habitat should be protected in the ordinance.
• The ordinance should establish a mitigation tree fund and require healthy-tree cutting activities to pay into the fund to ensure no net loss of our tree canopy.

For more information contact Matt at mattm@seattleaudubon.org.
Looking for ideas on how to get your children or grandchildren out into nature?

Practice these tips:

Ages 4-7: Practice outdoor empathy!

Ages 8-11: Explore and discover. Ask questions!

Ages 12+: Environmental connections and actions!


Now that I am an environmental educator, I know there is a developmental approach to environmental education, especially if the ultimate goal is to foster an appreciation for the natural world and garner the next generation of environmental stewards.

In his book, Ecophobia, David Sobel argues that there is a unique developmental approach to environmental education that should be taken into consideration in order for it to be successful. Sobel believes that children between the ages of four and seven should have experiences that form empathy towards the natural world. At this age, allowing children to catch frogs, pretend to be one, and sing a song about what frogs eat are perfect ways to nurture empathy. From ages eight to eleven, activities should encourage exploration and discovery of living and non-living things, and encourage students to ask questions about what they are noticing. At this stage, it is important to guide them towards the answers to their questions, rather than telling them everything you know about what they observe. Take notice, that during these first two stages, there is no mention of environmental issues. These first two stages should focus on allowing children to interact with, play in, and discover the natural world that surrounds them—not necessarily on what they should be doing to save it. It isn’t until the third stage, starting at age twelve, that environmental issues come into play.

At this point, children can be aware of living things, non-living things, and how they interact in an ecosystem. With this foundation, they can better understand ecosystem connections and disruptions, and should engage in activities that render environmental action in their own communities.

Seattle Audubon’s Finding Urban Nature (FUN) program was designed with these same principles and developmental stages in mind. While the ultimate goal of FUN is to garner the next generation of environmental stewards, the program focuses primarily on exploring, experiencing, and forming connections to the natural world. Serving over 900 Seattle public school students each year, the FUN program leads 3rd-5th graders through a series of eight hands-on, science-inquiry lessons in their own schoolyard habitats. It is the exposure and exploration stages, Sobel argues, that prove to be the most transformative and lead to environmental stewardship as an adult. As I think back to my own experiences as a child, it is this stage that proves to be the most memorable and has helped to shape who I am today.

Sobel writes, “If we want children to flourish we need to give them time to connect with nature and love the Earth before we ask them to save it.”

Continued from page 1.
Environmental Interns!

This summer Seattle Audubon was lucky to have three great office interns to help cultivate a community that cares about birds and nature.

Candra Grimm grew up camping along the Duckabush River in the Olympic Mountains. As a Grays Harbor County resident, she also grew up fishing, shrimping, and crabbing. Her connection to nature led her to pursue an Environmental Science Degree at Evergreen State College and a Conservation internship with Seattle Audubon. Through her internship, Candra is learning about urban environmentalism and gaining tools to support her future work for nature.

Emily Buckner is a Seattle native and soon will be a Carleton College sophomore. Next year she’ll play violin in the orchestra, work as a Student Naturalist, and (maybe) declare a Biology Major. This summer’s Nature Shop internship isn’t her first summer with Seattle Audubon. In younger years she attended Nature Camp and, more recently, spent two summers volunteering as a Junior Naturalist. Her Junior Naturalist memories include “being exhausted,” loving field trips, and sharing nature ideas with campers.

Laurel Anne Mundy is illustrating critters, birds, and trees for Seattle Audubon to complete her graduate certificate in Science Illustration. Laurel grew up in Seattle and credits her parents for her love of nature; she still calls Gray Jays “Camp Robber Birds” from childhood camping trips. Throughout school (and even as a FUN student at Broadview Elementary) Laurel always loved animals, funneling that love towards Biology and field work, and eventually Science Illustration. She wants to contribute to conservation through art.

Seattle Audubon is proud to support these interns in their work for birds and nature.

Spotted Owls illustrated by Seattle Audubon Intern Laurel Anne Mundy.
Staff Spotlight: Toby Ross

Toby Ross, Seattle Audubon’s new Science Manager, loves science, conservation, and nature. His Dad inspired this passion with old field guides, nature photography, and excursions, and Toby has taken his investigations worldwide.

When Toby (who is British) studied for his “National Diploma,” he did fieldwork with Iguanas and Pit Vipers in the Caribbean and Malaysia. For his B.S. in Biology he worked with the Monkey-tailed Skink at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. For Toby’s Masters in Applied Ecology and Conservation, he both conducted research on (yes, another reptile) Mauritius’ critically endangered Orange-tailed Skink and worked on conservation projects.

In 2005, Toby became Woodland Park Zoo’s Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program Manager, working in Papua New Guinea and Australia to build community conservation programs, conduct scientific research, and facilitate Papua New Guinea’s first Conservation Area. Through this position, Toby also met his future wife-- Susan Tallarico (Seattle Audubon’s former Education Director). Eventually, work brought Toby and Sue back to Seattle.

While Toby has worked with a lot of reptiles, he has also worked with birds (see his article on the following page) and volunteers. He is the first to admit that, while his knowledge of American birds is not as strong as he would like, he is excited to learn. A big part of that excitement is that he gets to learn about birds from Seattle Audubon’s dedicated Citizen Science volunteers.

Please Join Seattle Audubon in welcoming Toby Ross. If you’re interested in Citizen Science (or want to hear about the Orange-tailed Skink), please contact Toby at (206) 523-8243 x21 or tobyr@seattleaudubon.org.

Are you a birdwatcher who’d like to make a valuable contribution to science? Volunteer for the Puget Sound Seabird Survey!

Surveys are on the first Saturday of each month, October through April. If distinguishing between Lesser and Greater Scaups is still a challenge, you can be teamed up with more experienced observers. Visit www.seabirdsurvey.org or contact Toby Ross at tobyr@seattleaudubon.org to learn more.
Bird and Lizard Surveys on the Offshore Islands of Antigua, West Indies
by Toby Ross, Seattle Audubon’s Science Manager *

Editor’s Note: Earthcare Northwest focuses on Seattle Audubon’s work, and birds and nature in the Seattle area. Seattle Audubon is publishing this piece (about the West Indies!) to introduce members to a new staff member. Enjoy!

In an attempt to document the beneficial effects of invasive alien species eradication from islands, breeding seabird surveys were conducted on 24 of Antigua’s offshore islands. Surveys were also conducted of terrestrial bird species and Anolis, a genus of tree-lizards, on 22 and 19 offshore islands respectively. The surveys were conducted between May and June 2011, before the commencement of the hurricane season. The seabird surveys were the most recent of a series that have been conducted occasionally over the past 15 years. The terrestrial bird and lizard surveys were the first undertaken in recent years. Preliminary surveys from 2010 had clearly demonstrated that breeding seabirds were absent on islands where invasive mammalian species persisted. This study aimed to repeat the data collection of 2010, and to broaden the extent of surveys to include terrestrial bird and lizard species.

A total of five different methodologies were utilized to survey breeding seabird species due to their varied life histories, densities, habitat preferences, and island terrain. Specific survey methodologies were chosen according to the species being surveyed and the island where the survey was conducted. Terrestrial bird species were surveyed using point count methodology; the number of points depended on the size of the island and density of vegetation. Anolis were surveyed using a modified version of the terrestrial bird point count.

The results from this study and the 2010 study clearly demonstrate that breeding seabirds are absent from islands where invasive alien mammal species persist. However, the presence of invasive mammalian species does not appear to effect terrestrial bird species diversity, nor abundance. The data collected in this study indicate that island size is a more accurate determinant of these factors for terrestrial bird species. Lastly, the presence of invasive alien mammal species has a negative impact on the diversity and abundance of Anolis fauna on Antigua’s offshore islands. The data from this study clearly indicate the importance of invasive alien species eradication and the benefits that come once this is undertaken successfully.

* This report was prepared for Fauna & Flora International and the Environmental Awareness Group of Antigua.
Investing in People and Birds
by Shawn Cantrell, Seattle Audubon and Graham Taylor, Sierra Club

The coastal forests of Washington State have long harbored a vast array of wild plants and animals. From the abundant Douglas-fir trees to the shade-seeking Western Sword Fern, numerous bird species have long depended on these forests for nesting and foraging habitat. However, as the painful history of clear-cutting old growth combines with ongoing projects to log and thin mature forest habitat, several threatened species are seeing dramatic declines.

One key species experiencing decline is the Marbled Murrelet. Among the most amazing seabirds in the world, the murrelet is unique in many ways; unlike other seabirds, it nests only in old-growth and mature forest habitat. Each day, an adult murrelet may fly up to 50 miles from its nest to the salt water where it will fish for its young. The male and female parents take turns, relieving each other from nest-duty every twelve hours.

Unfortunately, serious habitat loss has resulted in a 7% murrelet population decline in Washington every year over the last decade. In order to meet its obligation to protect endangered species on the land it manages, the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has launched a process to develop a long-term conservation strategy for murrelets on state forests.

Yet, at the same time, DNR continues to open up vital murrelet habitat for new logging. This is because, as the administrator of the State Trust Lands, DNR is bound by law to log those forests to provide revenue to fund local services in counties where the trust land is located. These services cover everything from hospital and school construction to social and emergency services. So, even as DNR is required by state and federal law to protect endangered species on their land, they have a conflicting obligation to log those lands to generate money for schools and local government services.

Continues on the following page.
Recognizing the perniciousness of this problem, Seattle Audubon has joined with the Sierra Club and other groups to find solutions that will benefit both people and Marbled Murrelets. We are pursuing balanced solutions that protect critical forest habitat while sustaining funding for essential community services. We want solutions that result in our kids and grandkids being able to see these magical creatures, while also receiving quality government services where they live.

We are exploring a broad range of potential solutions to this dilemma. One opportunity is to expand use of a recently passed state law which allows DNR to designate key wildlife habitat as natural area preserves, while utilizing state funding to buy replacement timber lands that can safely be logged without harm to murrelets or other endangered species. This “encumbered” lands legislation is one example of how DNR, conservation groups, and local communities can secure ongoing revenue for local government services while protecting fragile wildlife habitat.

As our coalition continues working to recover Marbled Murrelets, we are reaching out to navigate this complex problem to find solutions that work for people and birds.

The Teens of Seattle Audubon

In 2012, Seattle Audubon's Nature Camp provided weeks full of discovery, learning, and fun to almost 300 children and teens! A big part of Nature Camp's success is the Junior Naturalist in Training program.

Junior Naturalists are volunteers from Seattle area high schools or are from the competitive Teens in Public Service (TIPS) program, and they play a big part in making Nature Camp a great experience. These students volunteer for at least one full week of camp, although many teens are at camp for multiple weeks and often return for multiple summers.

Junior Naturalists assist and are mentored by Nature Camp staff. They learn group management and informal teaching skills, how to lead activities, and about camp subjects. By the end of the week, each Junior Naturalist is required to lead at least one activity which gives them an opportunity to practice and show what they have learned. Junior Naturalists also debrief daily with their staff Naturalist to discuss issues and prepare for the upcoming day.

The Junior Naturalist in Training program is a valuable part of Nature Camp. It enables Nature Camp to have a low adult to child ratio, which improves the day camp experience for both campers and staff. Junior Naturalists are loved by campers, often being the key to helping shy and/or first-time campers come out of their shell. They are role models, exemplifying teens who are interested in nature and give back to the community by volunteering. Additionally, several of our Junior Naturalists are former Nature Campers and a couple are Seattle Audubon BirdWatch students.

Seattle Audubon thanks – Ellie, Adam, Eva, Bethany, Jake, Theo, Emma, Emily, Chloe, Layla, Amalia, Joelle, Piper (our college intern), and Joel (our TIPS intern) – for a great summer!
Birding the World Series: Mexico — Planning a Trip
with Barry Levine, Master Birder and traveler

Ever wondered what it would take to go birding in Mexico? Are you unsure where can you find local guides and pelagic trips? Join Barry Levine for a two-evening class about birding Mexico. Get tips on selecting tour packages or planning your own adventure. Learn about some travel logistics, including what to pack, how to get around, what types of hotels to choose, and how to enjoy the cuisine without getting sick. We’ll also talk about field guides, location guides, tapes and CDs, and other resources. The second evening focuses on the rich bird diversity of our neighbors to the south, and will focus on selecting birding sites, habitat types, and possible target species.

Lecture: Thursdays, September 13 and 20, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Location: Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6 (Blue building)
Cost: $60 member, $75 non-member
Limit: 35

Fall Birding For Beginners
with Hans de Grys, Chemistry Teacher, Lakeside School, Master Birder, and Recipient MIT’s Inspirational Teacher Award

Interested in learning more about the birds of Seattle and Puget Sound? This class aims to introduce nature lovers to the world of bird watching. We will discuss the basics of bird identification, behavior, food, and habitat choices. Then we will apply our knowledge to the study of birds around Seattle, with special emphasis on our common fall birds including ducks, shorebirds, and hawks. Binoculars and field guides will also be discussed briefly. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary.

Lecture: Wednesday, September 26, and Wednesday, October 3, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Location: Lakeside School, Room Allen-Gates 101
Field Trip: UW Union Bay Natural Area, Saturday, October 6, 8:00-11:00 a.m.
Cost: $50 members; $65 non-members
Limit: 20

Peacocks, Penguins, & Charles Darwin:
Evolution For Beginning Birders
with Hans de Grys, Chemistry Teacher, Lakeside School, Master Birder, and Recipient MIT’s Inspirational Teacher Award

Why do peacocks have such fantastic tails? Why are penguins white on their bellies but black on their backs? Why are field guides organized with ducks in the front and sparrows in the back? What did Charles Darwin really learn from the finches of the Galapagos Islands? We will explore these mysteries and more as we learn the basics of evolutionary theory as applied to birds. We will focus on natural selection, bird taxonomy, sexual selection, adaptive behaviors, and evolutionary developments in bird anatomy and physiology. Bring your “why” and “how” questions about birds!

Lecture: Thursday, October 25, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Location: Lakeside School, Room Allen-Gates 101
Cost: $30 members; $45 non-members
Limit: 22
Birding in the Digital Age — Making New Technology Work for You
with Eric Harlow, Master Birder, former SAS board member, and bird geek

Having trouble keeping iBird, eBird, Birdseye, eGuides, iPhones, iPads, Angry Birds 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? Recent changes have been revolutionary; there is so much information at our fingertips—if we know how to use it. This one-evening class will explore and review the latest developments in birding technology that can improve your ability to find, identify, and list our feathered friends. The class will demonstrate and review the pros and cons of the latest electronic field guides and apps for iPhone and Android smartphones, options for iPods and iPads, computer software for bird identification and listing, and how to use the Cornell eBird database.

**Lecture:** Thursday, November 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
**Location:** TBD
**Cost:** $25 members, $35 non-members
**Limit:** 30

The Book that Put Seattle on the Birding Map
*Now available in an entirely revised and expanded new edition*

Eugene S. Hunn’s classic *Birding in Seattle and King County* — first published by Seattle Audubon in 1982 — inspired a new generation of birders by casting attention on Seattle’s urban environs, rich shorelines, farms and fields, and the little-known wilderness of the Cascades in eastern King County. In this radically renovated edition, birders will find entirely new maps showing time-tested birding sites, recently discovered “hotspots”, a comprehensive inventory of rarities, updated seasonal graphs, and a stunning set of color photographs by leading local photographers.

Hunn, Seattle Audubon president from 1988-1990, is a founding member of the Washington Bird Records Committee and was Washington Ornithological Society president from 2008 to 2010. His other books include *Tzeltal Folk Zoology* (1977), *Nch’i-Wána “The Big River”* (1990), and *A Zapotec Natural History* (2008).

Seattle Audubon’s new *Birding in Seattle and King County* should arrive from the printer sometime in September. Member price in The Nature Shop is $17.56. Call The Nature Shop, (206) 523-4483, to reserve a copy, or buy online at [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org).
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!

Experience Fall Migration through Field Trips

Fall in Washington State finds many species of birds on the move. Some are leaving for wintering areas in the southern U.S. and Central and South America, while others are inbound to spend several months wintering here.

The season sees bird activity picking up on our waters with numerous species of waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, alcids, and more becoming increasingly present. In contrast, forested habitats quiet down as neotropical migrants leave and others just pass through the state.

Learning about migration through books and classes is a good first step in understanding the process, but experiencing it first-hand best reveals how it applies at the local level. Our field trips offer excellent opportunities to view the transition, visiting a wide range of areas that, together, take in the entire picture. Participating in a few trips, varied by both destination and timing, will best provide a representative sampling of the changing species mix as the season progresses.

Sign-ups begin as soon as each new period’s offerings are posted to the SAS website (typically the first day of each month). See you in the field!

Neighborhood Bird Walks:
Schedule for September – November 2012

Join Seattle Audubon, rain or shine, for a two-hour, weekend bird walk. No sign up required! Beginning birders or new Seattleites will especially enjoy this initial exposure to the rich variety of regional bird life. Families and non-members are welcome to attend.

Please request binoculars from The Nature Shop at least a week in advance. Further information is available at www.seattleaudubon.org or from the Seattle Audubon Nature Shop, (206) 523-4483.

Saturday, September 29, 9:00 a.m.
Union Bay Natural Area
Leader: Phyllis Moss, (206) 525-1910
p.moss@hotmail.com
Union Bay Natural Area lies in northeast 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.

Saturday, October 20, 8:30 a.m.
Discovery Park
Leader: 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).

Saturday, November 3, 9:30 a.m.
Seward Park
Leader: Richard Youel, (206) 282-3758
cyouel@msn.com
Seward Park is on the shore of Lake Washington at S. Orcas St., and Lake Washington Blvd. Meet in front of the nature center at the east edge of the oval driveway. Metro bus #39.
"The Fill"
by Constance Sidles, Seattle Audubon Board Member

When the city of Seattle closed the Montlake Landfill in 1971 and turned it over to the University of Washington, the regents had to figure out what to do. The athletics department wanted playfields. The parking folks wanted parking lots. The provost wanted a nine-hole golf course.

The regents granted each competing interest a little of what they wanted - even the provost got a driving range! But at heart, they reasoned, the UW is about learning. And what could be better than learning the answer to one seminal question: What happens when you close a landfill?

So the regents turned 75 acres of landfill over to nature, and now we have our answer: Magic happens. The birds of the Fill produce heart-stopping wonder year around. One day it might be a mother Virginia Rail, screeching at her fuzzy black chicks. Another day might bring a rarity from Siberia, like last winter’s Tufted Duck. Owls prowl here at night; falcons and hawks by day. Shorebirds migrate through and songbirds seem to nest in every tussock of prairie grass. Grebes build nests in the ponds and Bald Eagles plunder the flocks of coots and ducks.

Because scores of people come here every day to jog the trails, walk the dog, stroll the baby, or fish the ponds, the birds are used to sharing their home with us. They let us watch them live their lives. And that is the most magical thing of all.

The Fill is also called Union Bay Natural Area (UBNA). It is located in along the north side of Union Bay. To reach UBNA from NE 45th, turn south onto Mary Gates Memorial Drive and go 0.2 miles. Near the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH), there is some street parking or possible pay parking at CUH. Now on foot, take the wide Wahklakum Lane from CUH’s southwest staff parking lot. Take your second left onto the Loop Trail which takes you on a clockwise by Shoveler’s Pond, Central Pond, and South Pond, and gives good views of Union Bay. The Loop Trail will take you back to the Wahklakum Lane; turn right and head back towards CUH.

To find out more, check out my website: www.constancesidles.com, where you will find stories about the Fill, a comprehensive bird list, and other resources.
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

Now OPEN ’TIL 7p.m. the 2nd Tuesday of each month
• September 11 • October 9 • November 13

NEW Monarch 7
8x42
• 17.1 mm eye-relief
• 8.1’ close focus
• 22.8 oz.
• waterproof
• fogproof
• no-fault replacement/repair
$480.00

10x42
• 16.4 mm eye-relief
• 8.1’ close focus
• 23.6 oz.
• waterproof
• fogproof
• no-fault replacement/repair
$500.00

NEW Nikon $50 Instant Savings Sept. 20 to Nov. 20
Monarch 3
8x42
Nature Shop Regular Price $230.00 $180 after Instant Savings
$250.00 $200 after Instant Savings

10x42
BEST SELLER Monarch 5
8x42
Nature Shop Regular Price $280.00 $230 after Instant Savings
$300.00 $250 after Instant Savings

Pentax Rebates through October 31
BEST SELLER DCF CS
8x42
$279 before $40 Rebate $299 before $40 Rebate
10x42

9-Power Gems
DCF BC
9x32
$299 before $30 Rebate $349 before $30 Rebate

9x42

Venerable Mid-range
DCF SP
8x43
$579 before $70 Rebate $629 before $70 Rebate
10x43

The Nature Shop
Where profits are for the birds
Now OPEN ’TIL 7p.m. the 2nd Tuesday of each month
• September 11 • October 9 • November 13
Wash Rinse Refill

Feeding Station Hygiene
Seattle Audubon recommends cleaning seed feeders once every two weeks and certainly not less than once a month, to prevent avian disease transmission.

1. Immerse feeder in a 10% bleach solution for 3 minutes to disinfect. Use one part regular, chlorine bleach to nine parts water.
2. Rinse and dry thoroughly.
3. Refill with fresh seed.

It’s also good practice to rake the area under the feeder to prevent accumulation of waste and spoiled seed.

Nature Shop Birding Series:
Point-and-Shoot for Wildlife
Saturday, October 6, 2-5pm
Center for Urban Horticulture

featuring Carl Zeiss Sports Optics’ Birding and Product Specialist Stephen Ingraham

Have you ever dreamed of bringing back frame-filling photographs and videos of the birds and animals you see in the field, but hesitated to invest in, or carry, the substantial gear normally required? Why leave the birds in the field when you can bring them back in living color and full stereo sound to enjoy in your home (and to show off to friends)‽ Carl Zeiss Sports Optics’ Birding and Product Specialist Stephen Ingraham will present a compact, efficient, and cost effective solutions. A point-and-shoot digital camera behind the eyepiece of a high-quality spotting scope mounted on a light-weight tripod will capture images and video that will definitely surprise you. It is not difficult, and the results are more than satisfying.

Come see how it is done. Spotting scope and camera choices, adaptor options, and basic technique will be covered, plus you get to see a variety of samples to inspire you. FREE. Pre-registration required. Limited to 30 participants. Bring your optics, cameras and dress for the weather.

Annual Fall Plant Sale
Saturday, September 8
10AM to 4PM
Seattle Audubon parking lot

featuring . . .
Botanica
Discovery Gardens
Madrona Nursery
Steamboat Island Nursery
Tadpole Haven Nursery

Design – Build – Maintain
Sustainable Gardens

NORTHWEST Botanicals, Inc.

206-932-1850
Creating fine gardens since 1991

www.northwestbotanicals.com
Diana O. McLeod – NORTH1015BJ

Pipers Creek Nursery
welcomes you to our
NEW LOCATION
North of Country Village at
23622 Bothell-Everett Hwy
Bothell, WA 98021

(206) 297-1978
Open 10am – 6pm, Wednesday – Sunday

Whether turning your yard into a wildlife habitat, restoring a stream bank, or creating a beautiful, bountiful low-maintenance garden year round, we can help make it easy and fun!

25% OFF all NW native plants & composting worms with this ad
Want to help reach students with environmental education?

Last academic year, Seattle Audubon’s Finding Urban Nature (FUN) program increased 3rd and 4th grade students' environmental science knowledge by 16%.

Volunteer with FUN. Make a difference.
Contact mariekes@seattleaudubon.org to get involved!