Embracing our Mission

by Brian Windrope

By the time you receive this edition of EarthCare, I will have just begun my tenure as the new Executive Director of Seattle Audubon. I’d like to begin by expressing my most humble appreciation for this opportunity. I am but a steward of this mission for the time that it is mine, and I stand on the many shoulders of those that have come before me. With an eye toward the future, I will work to ensure that our organization reflects the highest values of integrity, reliability and service. You will find my door open as well as my mind. I will engage our diverse community each day to see what good we can accomplish together. While I will not be able to fulfill all hopes at all times, I will ensure that you know how greatly I care for our mission, each person, and each point of view.

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Full Color Annual Report Inside!

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR BIRDS AND NATURE

Flock with Friends to the Longest-running Citizen Science Program in the World: Christmas Bird Count 2013

Grab your binoculars and join your friends for the Seattle Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on December 28. Now in its 114th year, the annual CBC event draws birders of all abilities to count as many birds as they can find over a 24-hour period. This Seattle tradition is a great way to see new birds and old friends — experienced birders, neighborhood residents, and newcomers are all welcome! After a full day of birding, warm up with an evening potluck and a tally of all the species seen during the day. The event is free, but a $5 donation is recommended to help support Seattle Audubon’s Citizen Science programs. Deadline for registration is December 16. Visit www.seattleaudubon.org for more information.
Staff Spotlight— Interim Support Team

Thanks to our interim support team for helping Seattle Audubon make it through the recent transitions.

Having spent three months as a BirdWeb intern in 2003, Jennifer Leach (left) is happy to return to Seattle Audubon as the Interim Communications Coordinator. Jenn has worked for six years as a consulting ecologist, and has expertise in urban ecology and environmental policy. She will make sure that all the publications get out on time, and help the organization start planning for the upcoming centennial.

Darcy Edmunds (right) joins SAS as the Interim Conservation Coordinator, coming from the Seattle nonprofit Feet First, where she served as Volunteer Coordinator for two years. Having worked for a variety of organizations leading efforts in program coordination, communications, and outreach, Darcy brings a diverse set of skills to the Coordinator position. Darcy has also been instrumental in coordinating the testing, development, and launch of the new Canopy Connections tree mapping tool and website.

I’ve had the great fortune to turn my lifelong passion for nature and the outdoors into a career in environmental education and conservation that spans the bulk of my adult life. Among the many stops along my way to Seattle Audubon, I’ve been a teacher at the Yosemite and Headlands Institutes as well in public schools; a Director of Philanthropy for the San Juan Preservation Trust; and the Executive Director of Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center. When not working, I am usually out in the wilds somewhere with my wife and two sons, who help me see nature through youthful eyes.

And the timing feels just right. How lucky I am to join the organization just in time to help plan the events around our 100th anniversary. It’s not too soon for us to be looking ahead to 2016 and we are going to have one joyous celebration! What great people and works populate our history. For those of us here now, I am looking forward to meeting each one of you and hearing your stories. Together we can achieve so much more for birds and the habitats that sustain them.

As I embark enthusiastically on this new journey with Seattle Audubon, I will always remember that we are only as strong as our people. I will faithfully embrace our mission - to lead and cultivate a community that values and protects birds and the natural environment.

Continued from page 1.
Beginning Birding
with Jack Stephens & Barry Levine, Master Birders

Lectures: Wednesdays, February 26 and March 5, 7-9 p.m.
Location: Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6, 6532 Phinney Ave N, Seattle 98103
Field Trip: Saturday, March 1 or 8 (sign up at first lecture). Optional session on birding optics March 5, 6:30-7 p.m.
Cost: $55 members, $70 non-members
Limit: 22 (11 per field trip)
Join Jack and Barry for a fun-filled and innovative approach to birds and birding. The class will incorporate sight, sounds, and habitat to create a holistic approach to learning. The instructors’ goal is to pique your interest and motivate you to explore one of the world’s most loved hobbies. A local field trip will provide time in the field to ask questions and sharpen your skills.

Beginning Nature Photography
with Brendan McGarry, Seattle Audubon Staff, Natural History Photographer, and Writer

Class: Thursday, March 13, 7-9 p.m.
Location: Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6, 6532 Phinney Ave N, Seattle 98103
Field Trip: Saturday, March 15, 7 a.m. to noon
Cost: $40 members, $55 non-members
Limit: 20
Everyone has a digital camera these days, but do you know how to use it to its full extent? The goal of this course is to get you off of automatic mode by learning the basics of photography, allowing you to use the sophisticated technology most digital cameras have these days. There will be additional discussion of good field techniques as well. All types of cameras are welcome, but a camera that has some manual capabilities is preferred (ability to manually change aperture, shutter speed, etc.). Point-and-shoot cameras are fine (but no smartphones). There will be one classroom lecture and a half-day field trip to a local natural area (likely the Montlake Fill).

Gull Boot Camp
with Michael Donahue, Gull Expert, Pelagic Guide

Classes: Wednesdays, January 15, 22, 29, 7-9 p.m.
Location: Board Room, 2100 Building, 2100 24th Ave S, Seattle 98144
Field Trip: Saturday or Sunday, January 25 or 26. Instructor will lead field trip both days; participants will sign up for one field trip at the first class.

Classes continue the following page.

Invest in the Future—Make a Bequest to Seattle Audubon
Helen Pent Jenkins
(206) 243-8243 x16
helenj@seattleaudubon.org

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.

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

© Bonnie Block
Lecture with Field Trip: $90 members, $105 non-members  
Lecture Only: $70 members, $85 non-members  
Limit: 26 for lecture with field trip, 14 for lecture only  
Does identifying gulls leave you feeling like you’ve seen fifty shades of gray? Gulls are one of the most challenging groups of birds to identify, and many birders don’t give them a second glance. Now is your opportunity to get ahead of the curve! Three classroom sessions will cover identification, in all plumages, of the gulls that regularly occur in the Puget Sound region in winter. This is the first time Mike has taught a class that includes immature gulls since 2007.  
There will be a half-day (8 a.m. to 12 p.m.) field trip to visit several local gull hotspots in south Seattle. This class is open to all birders, but it will help if you are familiar with identification of the adults.

Feather Groups and Molt for Beginning Birders with Hans de Grys

Lecture: Wednesday, February 5, 7-9 p.m.  
Location: Lakeside School, Room Allen-Gates 101, 14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle 98125  
Cost: $30 members, $40 non-members  
Limit: 22  
If you have ever listened to birders in the field, you might have heard mention of wing bars, the malar stripe, or upper tail coverts. Birders have their own highly specific language to discuss the appearance and patterns found on birds, especially as they relate to feathers and feather groups. If you’ve ever wondered where the malar stripe is, or what exactly the coverts are covering, this is the class for you. We will look in some detail at the feather groups on different kinds of birds, from songbirds to hawks to ducks. We will also discuss the basics of molt, and how and why birds’ feathers change in appearance throughout the year. This class will feature some lecture and some hands-on activities. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary.

Peacocks, Penguins, & Charles Darwin: Evolution for Beginning Birders with Hans de Grys

Lecture: Thursday, March 6, 7-9 p.m.  
Location: Lakeside School, Room Allen-Gates 101, 14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle 98125  
Cost: $30 members, $40 non-members  
Limit: 22  
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, with a focus on the evolution of birds. We will examine natural selection, bird taxonomy, sexual selection, adaptive behaviors, and evolutionary developments in bird anatomy and physiology. Bring your "why" and "how" questions about birds!

Master Birder Program
The Seattle Audubon Master Birder program is an outstanding opportunity to learn about the birds of Washington State. Master Birder is a two-semester course that is a comprehensive study of Northwest birds, and an education-for-service program that supports Seattle Audubon’s work for birds and nature. Originating in 1988, the course is usually offered every other year. The next course will begin in September 2014.

2014 Application and Start Dates
• Information meeting (optional): April 9  
• Morning bird walks (optional): April 12, 13, 19, and 20  
• Application quiz: Week of April 21  
• Applications due: April 26  
• Class begins: September 22

Find more information at www.seattleaudubon.org.
For nearly a century, Seattle Audubon has cultivated and led a community dedicated to conserving habitat for birds and other wildlife. Our education and citizen science programs engage a diverse community with hands-on opportunities for lifelong learning and service. Our conservation advocacy programs give a voice to birds and nature, and empower our community to preserve and protect the natural environment in which we live.

In 2013, Seattle Audubon continued to fight for protections for the Marbled Murrelet, winning key court victories and forging valuable alliances. We made great strides in creating an online tool to identify the location of urban trees and the value they provide. Our legion of citizen scientists spent countless hours surveying birds in urban parks and in our coastal waters, and our educators continued to provide high quality programming for children and adults. And the Nature Shop saw the highest gross sales since it opened in 1984.

As members of our community, you share in these and all of our achievements through your generous contributions: whether of time, energy, dollars, or creative ideas. Thank you for being a part of our success!

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Won three major court victories to secure protection for the Marbled Murrelet against logging on protected lands
- Received grant awards that enabled the Citizen Science program to expand the Puget Sound Seabird Survey and start analyzing long term data from the Neighborhood Bird Project
- Saw gross sales over a half-million dollars in the Nature Shop
- Connected the community through neighborhood bird walks, field trips, and festivals
- Provided free environmental education programs to more than 800 K–12 students
- Continued to fund critical habitat conservation through the Martin Miller Fund
In 2013, Seattle Audubon’s elementary school education programs...

- Introduced more than 800 3rd–4th graders to nature and environmental science concepts through the FUN program, provided at no cost to Seattle Public School classrooms.
- Partnered with EarthCorps to help 5th graders care for more than 1,000 sq. ft. of native plant habitat.
- Utilized volunteers to help 5th grade students identify 33 bird species and 314 individual birds.
- Engaged nearly 450 local and international children during 10 weeks of summer at Nature Camp.

Our high school education programs...

- Gave 24 talented high school students the chance to learn more deeply about birds and nature, and to gain leadership skills in the BirdWatch and Junior Naturalist programs.
- Took BirdWatch teens on a field trip to Texas where they identified 214 species.

And our adult education programs...

- Added 24 new Master Birder program graduates to the growing ranks of bird ambassadors.
- Taught 365 adults during 19 classes designed to deepen an appreciation for birds and nature.

“I learn new things all the time in the FUN program, from the content, the other volunteers, training, and the teachers and students themselves.”
- Longtime FUN Volunteer

“When I do FUN I feel like a scientist.”
- 4th Grade FUN Student

“I think I would like to work with you some day so I may be a better person to save urban nature.”
- 4th Grade FUN Student

Quality programs breed longevity

Seattle Audubon has been providing high quality youth environmental education programs for decades. Nature Camp, started in 1982, and Finding Urban Nature, started in 1989, have evolved to fit the needs of modern students, but still embrace the founding concepts that children need hands-on, experiential education to grow into tomorrow’s environmental stewards. Parents who enjoyed SAS education programs as kids now get to see their own children discover a passion for birds and nature.
Seattle Audubon's Conservation team spent the year developing and testing the Canopy Connections tree mapping site. In the next few months, they will put the finishing touches on the Seattle Tree Map, which will allow users to survey and update the location of Seattle's trees, upload photos, add alerts, and more.

Victory for the Marbled Murrelet

In 2013, Seattle Audubon continued to prevail in ongoing litigation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Key victories this year included:

- **March:** A US District Court ruled in Seattle Audubon's favor, rejecting a timber industry bid to eliminate murrelet protections.
- **July:** A King County court ruled in Seattle Audubon's favor, agreeing that the DNR violated the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) by attempting to allow logging on protected lands. Seattle Audubon joined other environmental groups to comment on the DNR's Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy.
- **September:** A US District Court again ruled in Seattle Audubon's favor, rejecting continued timber industry efforts to eliminate murrelet protections.
- **October:** Over 20 Audubon chapters from around Washington State came together to pass a joint resolution in support of science-based decision making for the Marbled Murrelet, building a strong, unified voice on behalf of murrelet protection.

Did you know that a 20-year-old Western red cedar in your front yard intercepts 2,200 gallons of stormwater every year? Or that maple trees in Seattle remove 900,000 lbs. of CO2 annually from our city's atmosphere? The Seattle Tree Map will include this type of ecological data and much more. We all know that healthy trees are essential for birds, wildlife, the Northwest ecosystem, and us. With the Seattle Tree Map, everyone will be able to learn about the urban canopy in a new and exciting way, and make a clear case for protecting it.
OUT AND ABOUT

In 2013, Seattle Audubon’s Citizen Science programs...

- Surveyed wintering seabirds on 2,506 acres of nearshore habitat in Puget Sound
- Spent 2,016 volunteer hours surveying bird species in neighborhood parks
- Counted 47,998 individual birds during the 2012 Christmas Bird Count
- Expanded the Puget Sound Seabird Survey to include 26 additional sites and train volunteers on oil spill response
- Received funding to analyze long-term Neighborhood Bird Project data to determine the effects of habitat restoration on birds in local parks

Field Trips
Seattle Audubon led nearly 900 participants on guided trips between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013 including...

- 591 participants on 73 field trips
- 300 participants on nine Neighborhood Bird Walks
- Destinations that navigated 15 Washington State counties and ranged as far north as British Columbia

Nature Shop
The Nature Shop had its best year in gross sales, once again surpassing a half-million dollars! The Shop volunteer corps not only serves the thousands of members and customers who come into The Nature Shop, but also handle many bird- and nature-related phone inquiries and emails.

Why volunteers say they work in the Nature Shop:

“I knew the Neighborhood Bird Project was big, but I had no idea of its magnitude until I saw that some of the data I was processing was collected before I was born! That sort of feeling, that you’re a part of something so much bigger than yourself yet still making a measurable contribution to a cause you are passionate about, was very rewarding to me”

MIRA SAMUELLE LAMB, HIGH SCHOOL INTERN
**FINANCES AT A GLANCE**

Fiscal Highlights: July 2012 through June 2013

**Total Revenue:** $957,307

**Total Expenses:** $991,699*  
*Other expense category represents a one-time asset write-off of $66 k for obsolete building plans

### Financial Milestones

#### Martin Miller Fund

Seattle Audubon’s habitat acquisition fund reached an important milestone in 2013, with over $570,000 distributed since inception, exceeding the original value of the fund.

#### Grant performance

In 2012-13 Seattle Audubon secured $158,000 in grant funds, which allowed significant expansion in our conservation and science programs.

#### Audit success

Seattle Audubon completed a rigorous and successful GAAP-based audit of our 2012-2013 finances, which positions us to increase our financial strength into the future.

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### Assets

- **Cash**: $117,823
- **Investments**: $2,433,219
- **Receivables**: $70,670
- **Merchandise Inventory**: $192,484
- **Prepaid Expenses**: $15,726
- **Land, Building and Equipment – net**: $551,910

**Total Assets**: $3,381,832

### Liabilities and Net Assets

**Liabilities**

- **Payables & Accrued Expenses**: $79,144
- **Deferred Revenue**: $84,654

**Total Liabilities**: $163,798

**Net Assets**

- **Unrestricted**: $971,912
- **Temporarily Restricted**: $1,076,683

**Endowments and Permanent Funds**: $1,169,439

**Total Net Assets**: $3,218,034

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**: $3,381,832

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### Endowments and Permanent Funds

- **Martin Miller Habitat**: $527,618
- **Hazel Wolf “Kids For the Environment” Fund**: $307,002
- **Della Patch Education Fund**: $200,515
- **Bob and Eleanor Grant Education Endowment**: $43,304
- **Ellerbeck Education Fund**: $75,000
- **Legal Fund**: $16,000

**Total Endowments and Permanent Funds**: $1,169,439

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**Want More Information?**

Complete financial statements are available at [seattleaudubon.org](http://seattleaudubon.org).

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*Other expense category represents a one-time asset write-off of $66 k for obsolete building plans.
Seattle Audubon is Turning 100!

Our Centennial is coming up and we’ve started planning a year-long celebration for 2016. We’re gathering stories, hailing our past successes, and looking forward to the next 100 years.

In 2013, Centennial Celebration planning kicked off by...

- Collecting, organizing, and cataloging the SAS archives, which are stored professionally at the University of Washington’s Special Collections Library
- Forming a Centennial Committee to oversee planning and implementation of future events
- Starting preliminary planning for the Centennial Celebration fundraising component
- Hosting a September “Past Leaders” event for past and present Board members and presidents

In the past year, 1,988 individuals donated to Seattle Audubon! Thanks to the following individuals who gave $100 or more during the July 1, 2012 – June 20, 2013 fiscal year. Our achievements are made possible through your generous support.

Steven and Diane Adam
Katharyn Alvord Gerlich
Suzanne and Marvin Anderson
Tony Angell
Christine Atkins
Hanna Atkins
Shannon Bailey
Sharon Baker
Eleanore and Richard Baxendale
Gene and Sally Beall
Dolores Biggins
William and Mary Black
Barbara Blair
Emiko Blalock and Kevin Tracy
The Boba/Humphrey Family
Penny Bolton
Wallis Bolz and Larry Powelson
Elisabeth Bottler
Virginia Bound
Kelly Brenner
Peter Briglia and Joan Miller
Christine Bringuez & JP Pommet
Jonathan Britell
Randall Brook and Melanie Rowland
Marshall and Jane Brown
Michael and Debra Brown
Rodney Brown and Catherine Conolly
Wanda and Morry Browne
Eileen and Allan Bryant
Mary Bryant
The Angell-Bundy Family
Nancy and Robert Burr
Rebecca and Fitz Cahall
Jean and Coley Carlson
C.R. Chadwick
Nicholas and Suzanne Charles

Continues on the following page.
Patricia Clark
Shirley and Robert Clark
Judith and Steven Clifford
Robert and Martha Cram
Carolyn Crockett and Bob Brooks
Herbert Curl
Aubrey Davis
Jerry Davis
The Davis Family
Judy Davison
Callie Dean
James Degel and Joanne Berwick
Paul Detmer and Kathleen Roach
Chris Diehl
Diane Doles and Jonathan Cooper
Shirley Doolittle-Egerdahl
Shannon Down
Carolyn and Christopher Eagan
Dianne and Rick Edmonds
JoLynn Edwards and Hal Opperman
Diane Eileen
Karen Einberger
Sharon Ellard and Tom Merritt
Ivan and Janice Ellis
Francisca Erickson
Lowell and Nancy Ericsson
James and Birte Falconer
Robert Faucett
Al and Joyce Ferkovich
Richard and Marjorie Fiddler
Stanley and Jane Fields
Drew Fillipo and Susan Griffith
Judith Finn
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Mark and Willow Follett
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Jonathan and Anne Fox
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Sally Goodson
Joan Goverman
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Erii Gray and Caroline Chan
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Julia and Christopher Grose
Barbara Gross
Lucy Hadac
Steve Hallstrom and Cecilia Boulais
Lindsay Halm
Mark and Deborah Hamby
Nicholas Hamill
Garry Hamilton and Cecilia Moens
Susan Hamilton and Timothy Bates
Lenore Hanauer
Judith Hance
Donna Handly
John Hardman
Gene Hartman
Jane Hedberg
Nancy Helm and Ruth Callard
Samara Hoag
Teri and Michael Hobbs
Charles and Marie Hoffman
Sherry Hoffman
John Hogan
Patricia and Stephen Hopps
William Horder
Doris Horn
Cheryl Hughes
Douglas Hunt
Ward and Lois Irwin
Susanna Janes
Catherine and Jake Jaramillo
Burdine Johnson
George and Betty Johnson
Marvin Johnson
Mary Ann Johnson
Rob and Susan Johnson
Melinda and Bruce Jones
Warren Jones
Marcia Jordan
Charles and Carrie Kahle
Hans Karrenberg
The Karrenberg/Grieco Family
Arthur and Ruth Kaufman
Travis and Catherine Keay
William and Ann Kepler
Victoria and James King
Jacqueline Kiser
Frederick Klein
Richard and Donna Koerker
Jene' Kramer and Mary Ann Mizokawa
Phillip Lane
Elizabeth and Daniel Lange
Kathy and Paul Lantz
John and Nanette Latham
Rachel Lawson and Joseph Brown
Anne Hay and John Leigh
Jon Leland
Jack and Joan Leversee
Ron and Margaret Levin
John Lillard and Julia Kalmus
Tiffany and Tor Linbo
Grace and Howard Lincoln
Susan Linde
Kathy Malley and Mark Johnson
Thomas Mansfield
Nancy and Lee Marsh
Louise and Bernard Martell
Teri Martine
Kenneth and Kara Masters
Frederick and Anne Matsen
Ellen Maxson
Mark and Jennifer McDonald
Bill McJohn
Colene McKee and William Denzel
Craig McKibben and Sarah Merner
Laine McLaughlin
Matt Mega and
Veronica VanCouwenberghe
John and Gail Mensher
Brad Meryhew
Katie and Steve Messick
Betimae and Frank Metheny
Paul Metzner
Jane Meyerding
Joan Miller
Sandy and Gregory Miller
Virginia Morrison
Micheal Hayes and Mary Moser
Gary Mozel
John and Linda Murfledt
Raul and Christine Mustelier
Lois Mustonen and James Brooks
Wesley and Suanne Nagata
Martha and Eugene Nester
David and Laura Nicol
Charles and Susan Novak
Berl Nussbaum
Stephen O'Brien and
Kim Nguyen O'Brien
Thomas and Janet O'Callahan
Walter and Patricia Oelwein
Brad Olson
Kelly O'Rourke
Karen Overstreet and John Reed
Dave and Judy Ozuna
Linda Park
Cecilia Paul and Harry Reinert
Jack and Jane Pauw
James Peckenpaugh and
Susan Partnow
Helen and Brian Jenkins
Florence Peterschmidt and
Eve McClure
Samuel Pettis
Lawrence & Gretchen Plummer
Kim Porter
Sarah Potter
Dorothy and Randy Poulsen
Kurt Preugschat
Suzanne and John Price
Cynthia Putnam and Mark Groudine
Marieke and Kevin Rack
Murray and Wendy Raskind
William and Allyn Rathman
Doris Ray
Genevieve Reckamp

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Continues on the following page.
Thank you to the following individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations that gave to Seattle Audubon during the July 1, 2012 — June 30, 2013 fiscal year:

**Bequests**
- Marjorie McDowell
- Mona Ethel Rogers

**Business and Corporate Donors**
- Boeing
- Craig Trout Camp
- Grounds for Change
- Kangaroo and Kiwi
- Larkwire
- Pacific Coast Feather Company
- Piper’s Creek Nursery
- Port Townsend Brewing
- Printing for Less
- Puget Sound Express
- REI

**Schroeter, Goldmark, and Bender**
- Seastar Restaurant and Raw Bar
- The Bishop Victorian Hotel
- The Burke Museum
- University of Washington
- Victor Emanuel Tours
- Waddell and Reed
- Whole Foods Market–Roosevelt

**Microsoft Employees**
- Puget Sound Energy Foundation Match
- State of Washington Employees

**Foundations and Government Agencies**
- Bullitt Foundation
- Burning Foundation
- Horizons Foundation
- Jeffris Wood Foundation
- Lucky Seven Foundation
- Norberg Family Foundation
- Northwest Fund for the Environment
- Sustainable Path
- Toyota Together Green
- US Environmental Protection Agency

**Workplace Matching Gifts**
- Boeing Employees
- Brainerd Foundation Match
- Bullitt Foundation Match
- Google Matching Program
- IBM Employees
- King County Employees
- Lucky Seven Foundation Match

- Patricia and Edward Van Mason
- Joseph Vance and Sara Throckmorton
- Nils and Dana von Veh
- Cynthia Wang and Les Beletsky
- Menglei Rae Wang
- Francie Rutherford
- Paul and Barbara Webster
- Alison and Tom Weinberg
- Herbert and Sharlene Welsh
- Mary Wendt
- Joel and Nancy Wessenberg
- Ellen Wijsman and Ethan Merritt
- Susan and Bill Wilder
- Porter and Joee Wilkinson
- Ethel Williams
- Cynthia Wilson and Michael Carsiotis
- Nancy Wilson
- Harriet Winkelman
- Stanton Wood
- Susan Yates
- Sarah Yeager
- Mitch and Gail Yockey
- Edward Young and Candis Litsey
- The Zehren/Goldsworthy Family
- Neil and Carleen Zimmerman
- Jacklynn Zorich
South Whidbey Island: Ideal Birding for a Short Winter Day

by Jenn Leach, with help from the Thursday afternoon Nature Shop volunteers

While many birding trips to Whidbey Island focus on the north half of the island, birding the southern part of the island provides a great opportunity to see a large number of species with a lot less travel time. Forest, prairie, wetland, and marine habitats are located within a few minutes’ drive of each other, which means birders can spend more time birding and less time driving.

Good birding starts on the morning ferry from Mukilteo to Clinton, where alcids, cormorants, gulls, and other seabirds can be seen from the ferry. Make a quick visit to Clinton Beach Park (1) at the base of the ferry landing to see Surf Scoters, goldeneyes, and Belted Kingfishers.

One of the best spots for viewing wintering birds in Useless Bay is at Dave Mackie Park (2). Loons, grebes, and murres can be seen from this shoreline, as well as a wide variety of gulls. Restroom facilities are also available here.

About 10 minutes north of the park is Ewing Road Marsh (3), located about 0.25 miles north of the intersection with Maxwelton Road. The marsh provides winter habitat for Wood Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, rails, bitterns, and a variety of other wetland species.

A short drive west is Sunlight Beach Drive and southern access to Deer Lagoon (4). Public trails lead to the eastern part of the lagoon where shorebirds can be seen foraging in the mudflats at low tide. A dike provides a good view of the shorebirds and other birds in the adjacent marsh.

Deer Lagoon can also be accessed from the north along Deer Lagoon Road (5). This little-known spot is alongside the western shore of the lagoon where you’ll find a large brackish lake and an expansive view of the mudflats. Park on Deer Lagoon Road and follow the trail through the woods to the left of the gate. Keep your eyes and ears open for wintering passerines as you make your way along the trail to the lagoon.

To see wintering woodland species associated with old-growth forests, head to South Whidbey State Park (6), which provides good habitat for Varied Thrush, woodpeckers, creepers, Pacific Wrens, and other passerines.

For more information on getting around Whidbey Island, check out Getting to the Water’s Edge on Whidbey and Camano Islands by Sarah Schmidt, Dan Pederson, and Stacey Neumiller. You can pick up a copy in Seattle Audubon’s Nature Shop!
A Peek at What’s in The Shop this Holiday Season

**NEW**
Timber Green Woods Ornaments
$7.95 each
made from sustainably harvested lumber

**NEW**
Fill of Joy Member Price $19.16
A third volume of musings from The Union Bay Natural Area – The Montlake Fill

Audubon 2014 Engagement Calendar, $13.99
32 different 2014 calendars in stock

Seattle Audubon Blend Coffee
12oz. regular $10.45
decaf $10.95
6oz. regular $5.25
decaf $5.50

**NEW**
Urban Bestiary, Member Price $20.80
by Lyanda Lynn Haupt
author of Crow Planet and Rare Encounters with Ordinary Birds

More than 30 models of binoculars in stock from $26.95 to $2,499

**Hookupz for Smart Phones**

7x monocular attachment $29
for iPhone 4/4S & 5/5S

Binocular attachment $21
for iPhone 4/4S & 5/5S and Galaxy S4
check website for compatible binocular models

MicroMax Plus LED Microscope Adapter $25 for iPhone 4/4S & iPhone 5/5S

Join Nature Shop staff & volunteers Sunday, Dec. 8 from 12-4p.m. for the 2nd Annual Scope-a-thon
– look through and compare the great selection of spotting scopes at The Nature Shop.
Binoculars too! (Not that you can’t look through optics any time . . .) @SANatureshop

- Members always receive 20% OFF books AND Member Pricing on seed.
- PLUS the finest selection of binoculars & spotting scopes in the region and 2014 bird- & nature-related calendars

**Shop early and shop often at**
Where profits are for the birds
The Nature Shop
8050 35th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115 • 206-523-4483 • www.seattleaudubon.org
Bundle up and go Outside!

Winter in Western Washington can be dark, wet, and cold. But there are many avian treasures to see. Now is the best time to see our northerly and high elevation breeders in the Puget Sound region. To take the gloom out of winter, flock together with birders on a Seattle Audubon field trip.

Take a trip to the Skagit, and the darker days of winter are brightened by the sight of thousands of Snow Geese. Over the golden fields of the Samish Flats, soaring Short-eared Owl, Northern Harriers, and Rough-legged Hawks look for the next rodent meal. Waterfowl, loons, and grebes return to the chilly Puget Sound.

Active flocks of resident chickadees, nuthatches, creepers, and sparrows dazzle us in a flurry of movement in the undergrowth and evergreen boughs. In the bramble and brush, Fox, Lincoln’s, and Golden-crowned Sparrows can be found scratching the grounds of Discovery Park and the Montlake Fill. Groups of robins may now include the beautiful Varied Thrush.

Winter also may bring uncommon birds including Snowy Owl, Yellow-billed Loon, and White-throated Sparrow. Look closely at the flocks of Pine Siskin for a possible Common Redpoll. Search the waters from Point-No-Point to find an Ancient Murrelet. A Northern Shrike may be found scanning the marshes of the Nisqually delta.

To resist the temptation of staying indoors, join a SAS field trip and enjoy the winter birds. Fill your thermos with your favorite hot beverage, put on a few layers under your rain gear, and grab your binoculars on the way out the door. These winter visitors will be here for only a short while.

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!
What do YOU Know About Qualified Charitable Distributions?

If you are 70 ½ years old or older you are eligible to give to Seattle Audubon Society tax-free from your IRA as a Qualified Charitable Distribution. This tax-free benefit expires December 31, 2013. By giving to Seattle Audubon from your IRA today, you will be able to support birds and nature without paying fees or taxes for your mandatory IRA distribution. Donate now at www.seattleaudubon.org or give us a call at 206-523-8243 ext. 16 to learn more.