

## 2011 Bird's-Eye View

by Shawn Cantrell,  
Executive Director

Living in the Seattle area, we have unique opportunities to connect with birds as well as to help protect the natural environment. The past 12 months have included numerous achievements for Seattle Audubon. We successfully led a campaign to strengthen our state's capabilities to respond to an oil spill in Puget Sound, we expanded our Finding Urban Nature (FUN) program for elementary school students, and we offered several new bird- and nature-themed programs and field trips for individuals to actively experience and enjoy the diverse habitats of the Pacific Northwest.

*To read more about these and other Seattle Audubon activities from 2011, turn to page 7.*



### Inside

Seattle Audubon	2
<i>Thank You, Donors!</i>	4
<i>Annual Report</i>	6
Feature	
<i>Bird's-Eye View:</i>	
<i>2011 Year in Review</i>	7
Classes	10
Conservation Corner	
<i>Audubon's Flyway!</i>	11
Field Trips	12
Destinations	
<i>South Puget Sound</i>	13
Nature Shop	14
<i>Winter Beach Birding</i>	15

### Event

#### Christmas Bird Count 2011

Before you lay out your black ties and cocktail dresses and prep the celebratory streamers, consider grabbing your binoculars and putting on some warm gloves to count birds on the last day of the year. Join birders of all abilities for the Seattle Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, December 31. This is a long local birdwatching tradition – in its 85th year in Seattle – and is part of the longest running wildlife survey in the world. A surprising number of birds can be found in Seattle in winter during this 24 hour count period, from American Wigeons to Yellow-rumped Warblers. An average of 121 species have been reported every CBC since 1976 and just last year, rarities like a Thick-billed Murre (first record for King County!), five White-throated Sparrows, and a Rock Sandpiper were reported. Count birds during the day and join us at the potluck for the species tally.

Register online by visiting [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org).

## Seattle Audubon

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<http://www.seattleaudubon.org>  
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 official newsletter of  
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*Coordinator, Marieke Rack  
 Design and Layout, Sandy Welch  
 Proofing, Hanna Atkins and  
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## Volunteer View: Why People Volunteer The Believers

by Marieke Stientjes Rack, Volunteer Coordinator

A dedicated Seattle Audubon volunteer recently told me that "I'll still be here long after you're gone." He wasn't being snide. When a volunteer is motivated by conviction or Belief Drive, their service is long-term (Why People Volunteer, Tom McKee, [volunteerpower.com](http://volunteerpower.com).) Belief-driven volunteers take their responsibilities seriously because they are deeply dedicated to the organization's mission.

Belief-driven volunteers are also professional. Recently, when the long-time Neighborhood BirdWalk Coordinator introduced his replacement to other BirdWalk leaders, he said: "I know you will show her the same wonderful co-operation and enthusiasm that made my task so easy for

the past decade. It's been a joy to work with all of you, and to improve my birding skills and knowledge under your expert and patient guidance. You will still see me occasionally at these bird walks. Thanks for all you have done, and will continue to do, for Seattle Audubon. He deeply respects the important work of these volunteers, and shows it both in this email and his years of volunteer service.

Seattle Audubon volunteers' dedication to birds and nature means that Seattle Audubon's accomplishments are powerful and activism is enduring. Belief-driven volunteers guarantee that Seattle Audubon will continue conservation advocacy, environmental education, and citizen science long after all of us are gone.

## Odd Birds

by Cathy Jaramillo, Board President

At our recent Birds for Beers trivia night, one question was: "What black and white bird of Washington travels east before it migrates south?" Caught up in the question, I completely lost track of the quiz. I started wondering if this was truly odd behavior for a bird, or something relatively common that had just been outside the scope of my experience and bird knowledge. Most of us value the fascinating diversity of bird lives and, because of that, some of us will spend hours traveling to see that one odd bird.

Many of us value human diversity as well. We might express this by looking outside our local neighborhood or demographics for opportunities to enjoy culture and serve others. Human diversity is one of Seattle Audubon's values too. We recognize that the future strength of our community rests on our commitment to engage, value

and respect the richness of our diverse city.

As Seattle Audubon kicks off our 2012-2016 strategic planning cycle we need to be thoughtful of our almost 100 years of tradition but be willing to adapt to our changing constituents. One of our strategic goals will be to cultivate new leaders and volunteers with the same passion and commitment as we have now, and to mirror the current and changing demographics of our area.

Seattle Audubon cultivates and leads a community that values and protects bird and the natural environment. As we approach the start of our second century, what will that community look like, and what will be important to them?

If you want to become more engaged in our future, please contact Marieke at [MariekeS@seattleaudubon.com](mailto:MariekeS@seattleaudubon.com) or call (206) 523-8243 x12.

*By the way, the bird that migrates east before it migrates south, is shown on page 2!*

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## Volunteer Spotlight: Kelly Jewell

by Jill Walters, FUN Program Assistant

Kelly Jewell knows the importance of birds: Even when you can't see them, you can hear them. They're good indicators of what's going on. Even if I'm running on a trail in the woods, I can still hear the birds. Jewell, her husband Michiel, and their dog spend as much time outdoors as possible.

With a Masters in Forest Science, Jewell works at a non-profit that helps businesses make responsible, green choices. Her interest in conservation drew her to Seattle Audubon, initially volunteering with the Northwest Shade Coffee Campaign. She is now a veteran volunteer for the FUN program, sharing her love for nature and birds. She says the best part of FUN is hearing what the kids come up with, and seeing their enthusiasm with



the lessons. It's good to connect with them on that level.

Jewell hopes to see more inspired kids in the future. We need more optimism – not so much doom

and gloom about the environment. That turns a lot of people off. We need to focus on solutions rather than what is wrong.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Stephanie Moore

by Jill Walters, FUN Program Assistant

Stephanie Moore was first introduced to the magic of nature by her mother. She always found great little spots for us to get away, said Moore. She was the first naturalist in my life. She led by example – always prioritized getting out there.

Moore has turned that fascination for observing nature into work with children and the environment. With an M.S. in Outdoor and Environmental Education, she teaches throughout the year while also running a small business. With minimal free time, she says that Seattle Audubon offers the ideal flexibility for a volunteer. Over the years she has volunteered with numerous programs, currently helping with the FUN program. She adores the students. Each child brings their own creative approach. It makes it all very dynamic, she said.



Moore and her husband, Nathan, enjoy taking walks and following our curiosities, all while observing the environment surrounding them. She hopes that

everyone can learn from the environment. The totality of our experiences is situated in the environment. We need to move toward building an interconnectedness.

### SEATTLE AUDUBON MISSION STATEMENT

Seattle Audubon cultivates and leads a community that values and protects birds and the natural environment.

Seattle Audubon is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Invest in the Future. Make a Difference. Be a part of Seattle Audubon.

Shawn Cantrell  
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SEATTLE AUDUBON CENTER  
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## Thank You, Donors!

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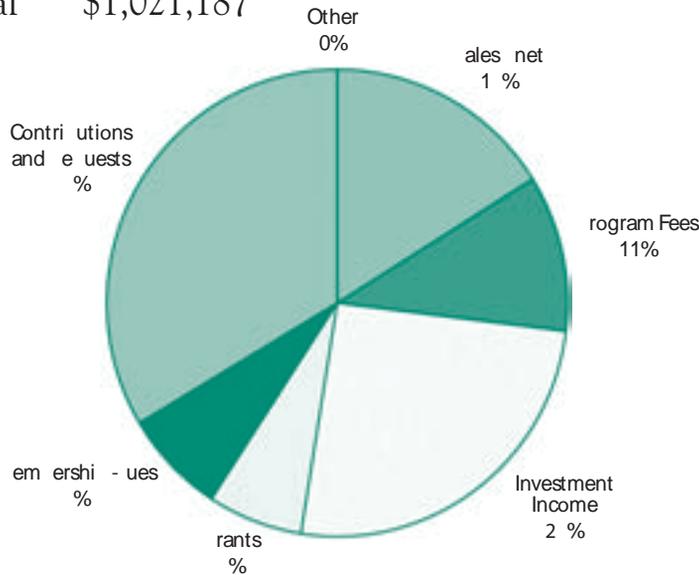
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# Annual Report: Fiscal Highlights for the Year Ending June 30, 2011

Fiscal health means Seattle Audubon cultivates and leads a community that values and protects birds and the natural environment.

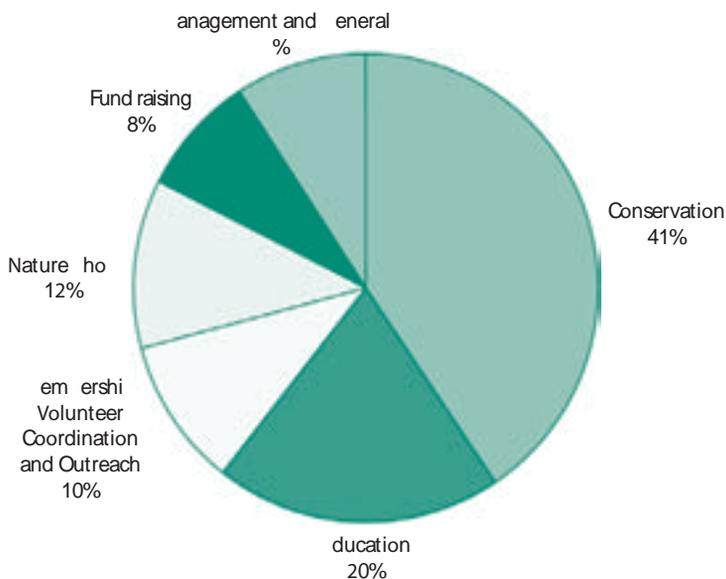
## Revenue

Unrestricted	\$868,895
Restricted	\$152,292
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,021,187</b>



## Expenses

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,073,495</b>
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The General Fund revenue and expense charts were prepared using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, or GAAP. To receive the complete Seattle Audubon financial statements, please call the Seattle Audubon office at 206-523-8243, ext. 15.

## Assets

Cash and short term investments	\$ 425,844
Receivables	32,101
Inventory	139,451
Other current assets	12,863
Land, building, and equipment - net	634,412
Long-term investments	2,218,441
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3, 63,112</b>

## Liabilities and Net Assets

### Liabilities

Payables & accrued expenses	\$ 81,823
Deferred Revenue	72,030
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>153,853</b>

### Net Assets

Undesignated	883,681
Restricted	1,256,139
Endowments and Permanent Funds	1,169,439
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>3,309,259</b>
<b>Total Liabilities And Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3, 63,112</b>

Restricted net assets include grants, gifts and investment earnings from endowments that are restricted in use by the donor. This includes the Conservation Action Fund.

### Endowments and Permanent Funds

Martin Miller Fund	\$ 27, 1
Ha el Wolf ids For	
The Environment Fund	07,002
Della Patch Education Fund	200, 1
Bob and Eleanor Grant	
Education Endowment	, 0
Ellerbeck Education Fund	7 ,000
egal Fund	1 ,000
<b>Total Endowments and Permanent Funds</b>	<b>\$ 1,169,439</b>

The Martin Miller fund and the investment income derived from it provides for the purchase of land with significant habitat value.

## Bird's-Eye View: 2011 Year in Review

### Membership Engagement

This past year Seattle Audubon helped our members and the public connect with birds and nature through **Program Meetings** and presentations. Guest presenters such as authors Jim Lynch and Lyanda Haupt, and conservation photographer Daniel Beltra, provided educational and entertaining insights into birds and birding. Our expert volunteers led dozens of **Neighborhood Bird Walks** and **Field Trips**, ensuring that participants got the most out their experience. These outings visited locations around the state and observed many different bird species during each trip.

Volunteers continued to serve as the backbone of Seattle Audubon. Our volunteers contributed in countless ways, sharing their diverse skills and expertise. Over 500 volunteers helped bring our mission and vision to life by working in Seattle Audubon programs, and sharing their graphic design expertise, administrative help, legal skills, gardening talents, and IT/computer skills, just to name a few.

Though sales were a little below budget this past year in **The Nature Shop**, net income was 69% greater than budgeted thanks to controlling expenses and improving profits. And thanks to the volunteer corps who provide members and customers with exemplary service to allow Shop staff the time to control expenses and plan for greater profitability.

### Conservation Advocacy

From Marbled Murrelets to Pileated Woodpeckers, our conservation program was busy protecting habitat, raising awareness, and connecting people with birds and nature.

#### *Regional Issues:*

In April, Governor Gregoire signed landmark legislation that significantly advances protection of Washington State's environmental resources from the impacts of a potential major oil spill. Seattle Audubon volunteers were instrumental in getting this legislation passed and will actively participate in new rule-making procedures next year. Seattle Audubon also continued its leadership in addressing the impacts on bird species from wind power development on forest ecosystems. We successfully stopped development of the ill-conceived Radar Ridge project, proposed for construction in the single



© George West www.birchstudios.com

best location in the state for creating new Marbled Murrelet habitat. In addition, we advocated for appropriate siting, monitoring, and mitigation for two other proposed wind power projects in western Washington, seeking a balance between future wind development and our birds.

#### *Urban Habitat:*

Seattle Audubon continues to lead on urban forest issues. Our Conservation Director serves as chair for the City of Seattle's Urban Forestry Commission, helping to bring together all urban forest related City departments for the first ever public summit. Seattle Audubon also completed the first phase of **Canopy Connections**, culminating with a public open house and neighborhood walk in Columbia City. We also created a detailed neighborhood habitat mapping process that includes tree planting opportunity maps as well as improved ways to accurately inventory neighborhood tree canopy cover.

#### *Citizen Science:*

Seattle Audubon's Citizen Science programs have continued to expand. Camp Long in West Seattle joined eight other parks as the most recent **Neighborhood Bird Project** site. Sophisticated analyses that incorporated NBP data from Magnuson Park appeared in the spring issue of Earthcare Northwest. The 164 participants in the 85th Seattle **Christmas Bird Count** were greeted by clear, sunny weather, although our species total just met our decadal average of 121 species. Last

## Odd Birds:

From page 5

What black and white bird of Washington travels east before it migrates south



© Greg Lavaty 200 -2011

The Bobolink

winter, nearly 260 volunteer hours were spent collecting data for the **Puget Sound Seabird Survey**. Volunteers tallied 52 species, including PSSS firsts: Sabine's Gull, and Ruddy and Long-tailed Duck. October marked the start of the fifth PSSS season; nearly 90 volunteers simultaneously collect data on seabirds at 68 survey sites from Whidbey Island south to Olympia. Seattle Audubon's most popular website, BirdWeb.org, molted into bright new plumage: a new layout, larger images, and species and birding sites of the week.

### Environmental Education

How many of you had some sort of experience during your lifetime that led you to be passionate about birds and nature? These experiences are exactly what Seattle Audubon's youth and adult education programs are all about; exposing both our younger and more mature students to the natural world through education about birds and the environment.



Seattle Audubon file photo

Experiential environment education

### Elementary School Programs:

This past year, with the help of over 70 volunteers, Seattle Audubon's Elementary School Programs (**FUN** and **FUN E plorers**) served over 600 youth in Seattle Public Schools. 3rd and 4th grade students spent over 8 hours learning about their schoolyard habitat and, on average, showed a 13% increase in environmental science knowledge.

5th grade students in the program build on that earlier knowledge, learning about birds and understand the connection between birds and native plant habitats. This year in partnership with EarthCorps and with funding from TogetherGreen, 80 students from Alki and Graham Hill Elementary Schools participated with Seattle Audubon to remove over 2,025 square feet of invasive plant species during an all-day field trip. Each class created a native plant field guide and spent a day at a city park near their school, identifying birds, removing invasive plant species, and determining ways in which they can protect and restore native plant habitats for birds and beyond! The students that participated in the program showed a 25% increase in environmental science knowledge by the end of the program.

### High School Program:

The **BirdWatch** program, made up of 12 active teen participants and 4 active volunteers, completed another successful year. At monthly meetings, teens were able to hear from professional scientists who work with birds or in the area of conservation. Students continued their work with Puget Sound Bird Observatory's (PSBO) Wintering Bird Color banding project. These banding demonstrations take place at Seward Park, and give the students the opportunity to share their bird knowledge with the public, and encourage the local community to participate in the on-going project sponsored PSBO. The Cascade Bird Banding Camp provided field training for 7 teens for 5 days this summer.

### Nature Camp:

**Nature Camp** provided a fun, safe, and educational summer day camp program for more than 300 students from around the Seattle area. This summer we piloted two new camp sessions, *There's A Worm in my Dirt!*, which focused on composting and decomposers, and *Creating Art through Nature*, where

campers learned about painting, nature journaling, and drawing from professional artists. With the help of a University of Washington Capstone intern, we were able to evaluate the success of those two new camp sessions.

*Adult Education:*

The Adult **C**lasses program provided hundreds of students with 16 different class options over the last year. Offerings covered topics ranging from beginning birding to the woodpeckers of Washington to birding by ear. In addition, we trained our 9th class of Master Birders; this intensive, two-semester course focuses on the identification and natural history of Washington's birds (see below for more details on this year's class).



*Nature Camp beach field trip.*

Seattle Audubon file photo

## Master Birder

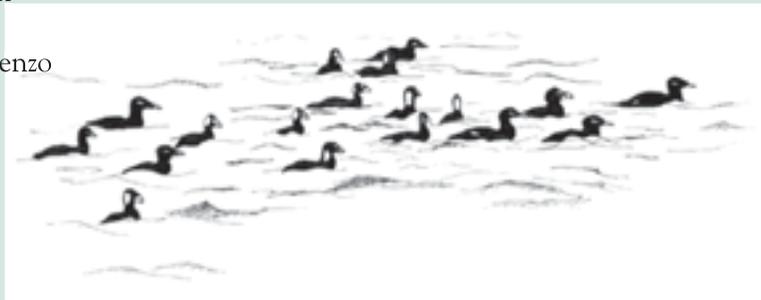
It is with great pleasure that Seattle Audubon announces the 2011 graduates of Seattle Audubon's Master Birder program! After a 3-year hiatus to regroup and reinvigorate interest, we had 23 exceptional students complete the intensive, advanced bird program. With the help of Master Birder graduates and other volunteers, students had guest lectures, went on field trips, and were instructed by Dennis Paulson, who has been leading the program for more than 15 years. Seattle Audubon thanks all the Committee volunteers who organized and facilitated the program while it was in session.

CONGRATULATIONS to Seattle Audubon's twenty-three 2011 Master Birder graduates:

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Karen Adair       | Phylis Moss         |
| Emily Bishton     | Jim Owens           |
| Paula Crockett    | Scott Ramos         |
| Charles Crow      | Jeanelle Richardson |
| Christina Doherty | George Ritchotte    |
| D. Eric Harlow    | Mary Anne Rossing   |
| Carl Haynie       | Amy Shumann         |
| Shelley Horn      | Shep Thorp          |
| Gary Kelsberg     | Carmine Vincenzo    |
| Tiffany Linbo     | Mark Wolff          |
| Lisa Moore        | Susan Yates         |
| Stephanie Moore   |                     |

Thanks to all graduates for their hard work!

The next Master Birder class will begin in September 2012. More details will be posted on our website this spring including details on an informational open house in May 2012 and the specifics of the application process.



## Class Information

Full details on these classes will be available Dec. 1 at: [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org).

### Registration

Seattle Audubon members receive a discount. Preregistration required. You may register in person at Seattle Audubon Nature Shop, 6000 15th NE, Seattle, WA, Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or by phone 206-325-1100.

### Refunds

Full refunds are available for cancellations with at least 14 days notice. No refunds are given with fewer than two weeks notice.

### Location:

Locations vary. See class description for location. Check website or call The Nature Shop for directions.

## Winter Gulls of Puget Sound – the Adults

with Michael Donahue, Gull Expert, Pelagic Guide

Gulls are one of the most challenging groups of birds to identify. You've been saying that you want to take a gull ID class, so now's your chance!

Two classroom sessions will cover identification of all adult gulls that regularly occur in Washington in winter. There may even be a rarity thrown in. There will be a half day (8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) field trip to visit several local gull hotspots on south Lake Washington.

**Lectures:** January 10 & 17, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** The 2100 Building, 2100 24th Avenue South, Seattle 98144

**Field Trip:** Saturday or Sunday, January 21 or 22. Participants sign up for one of these days at the first class. If there are 12 or fewer in the class the field trip will be on Saturday only.

**Cost:** \$70 members, \$85 non-members

**Lecture Only:** \$35 members, \$50 non-members

**Limit:** 26 for lecture and field trip, 14 for lecture only

## Owls of Washington

with Jamie Acker, Teacher, Educator and Researcher

Participants in this class will learn about the 14 species of NW owls. You will also be introduced to the art of owling via a multimedia presentation and lecture.

At time of registration participants may choose one of two field trips to Bainbridge Island, where Barred Owls and Northern Saw-whet Owls should be found and other species are possible. If there is interest, the Saw-whet banding station can be opened. Participants will be responsible for providing their own transportation; options for carpooling can be organized at time of lecture.

**Lecture:** Saturday, January 28, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH), Douglass Classroom,

3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA 98195

### Field Trips:

Sunday morning, January 29 or February 5.

Backup dates: February 11/12.

**Field Trip directions:** Take the 2:10 am Seattle to Bainbridge Island ferry Sunday morning (two hours after midnight Saturday), and meet the instructor on Bainbridge Island.

**Cost for lecture and field trip:** \$60 members, \$75 non-members.

**Cost for lecture only:** \$35 members, \$45 non-members.

**Limit:** 24 for lecture and field trip (12 per field trip.) 6 for lecture only.



Burrowing Owl

© Tom Sanders

## Beginning Birding with Jack Stephens and Barry Levine, Master Birder

Join Jack and Barry for a fun-filled and innovative approach to learning about birds and birding. We will incorporate sight, sound and habitat to create a holistic educational atmosphere. We want to pique your interest and motivate you so that you can enjoy one of the world's favorite hobbies. Participants will need to sign up for one of the two field trips at the first session.

**Lectures:** Wednesdays, February 1 and 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**Location:** Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6, 6532 Phinney Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103

**Field trips:** Saturday, February 4 or 11

An optional session on birding optics will be held on the 11th from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$55 members, \$70 non-members.

**Limits:** 22 (11 per fieldtrip)

## Audubon's Flyway!

by Cathy Jaramillo, Seattle Audubon President

In October I had the opportunity to meet and hear National Audubon's new Chief Scientist, Gary Langham talk about National Audubon's new strategic plan. I came away energized by the opportunity to magnify our impact on behalf of birds and nature right here in Seattle and Puget Sound. Clearly, we're part of a national organization that is planning to work with its network much more effectively, and with much more focused impact, on behalf of birds and nature.

As a national environmental organization among many, National Audubon took a hard look at how they can make a difference. Their new emphasis is on bird habitat conservation along the major North American flyways, using existing citizen science from chapters around the country. Engaging people in bird conservation through strong science, education, and local action is really the focus of everyone in the Audubon family and resonates with what we are doing at Seattle Audubon. In the future, National Audubon will focus on flyway conservation – including conservation here in the Pacific Flyway – while working and sharing resources with local chapters and other conservation organizations.

Historically Seattle Audubon, as an urban chapter, has had a challenge linking our activities with IBAs (Important Bird Areas) that are well outside Seattle. The new flyway focus of National Audubon clearly places Seattle Audubon as an important partner within a critical network. By intentionally aligning our own goals with the flyway focus of National Audubon, we can accomplish the full power of Audubon in protecting birds and their critical habitats.

This doesn't mean ending the great work our chapter volunteers and staff

have been doing and will continue to do on other local and regional issues. But it does mean being mindful of the opportunities and support we can gain from working with our National partner. With other Audubon chapters around the state, we can expand our collective presence and influence both within the state and up and down the Pacific Flyway. Many birds are migratory, and this kind of flyway thinking is just what birds need from us!

What can Seattle Audubon do? We are looking for ways to support the new national focus on flyways within our own projects and plans; we are also collaborating with other chapters to support state-wide initiatives (including conservation efforts and hiring a Chapter Coordinator); and most importantly we are engaging members in our chapter's citizen science, conservation and education programs!



© Tom Sanders

*Buff-breasted nighthawks are a common sight along the Pacific Flyway between their coastal wintering grounds and the boreal forest where they breed.*

## 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.seattle-audubon.org](http://www.seattle-audubon.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!

## Fall/Winter Field Trips: Trip Registration Changes

by Mark Wolff, Field Trip Committee Member

You can now register for field trips once they are posted to Seattle Audubon’s website on the first of month. Field trip registration NO LONGER opens on the second Tuesday of the month. Register by calling The Nature Shop at (206) 523-4483 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Winter is a great time for bird watching in Washington State. Go on one of our field trips to the Samish and Skagit Flats to look for winter specialties like Short-eared Owls and Northern Shrikes. Keep your fingers crossed for a four falcon day or, if you are really lucky, a five falcon day!

Or travel west on one of our trips to the Olympic Peninsula to search for wintering waterfowl and rock-loving

shorebirds. If you are fortunate you will find the striking Long-tailed Duck and the cute Surfbird.

Or, perhaps best of all, consider a bird watching staycation and explore a Seattle park with one of our expert leaders. Watch for visiting passerines like Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Fox Sparrows. Observe year-round resident Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches foraging together with other songbirds. Pay close attention to these gangs and you might be surprised by its membership.

- Trips from mid-December to mid-January will be posted online December 1.
- Trips from mid-January to mid-February will be posted online January 1.
- Trips from mid-February to mid-March will be posted online February 1.

## Neighborhood Bird Walks

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

**January 7, 2012 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Seward Park**

**Leader: Richard Youel, (206) 282-3758, [cryouel@msn.com](mailto:cryouel@msn.com)**

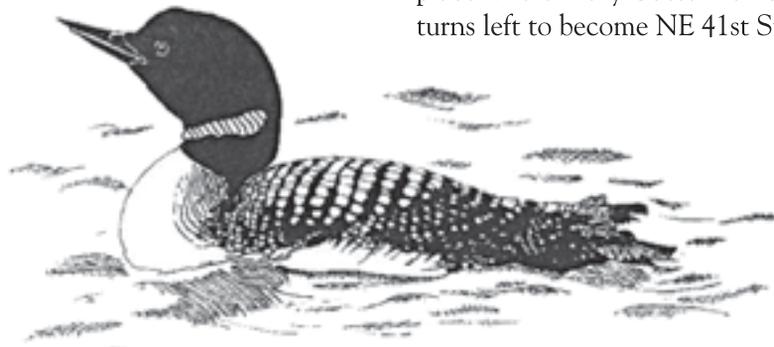
Seward Park is on the shore of Lake Washington at S. Orcas St. and Lake Washington Blvd. Meet in front of the nature center at the east edge of the oval driveway. Metro bus #39.

**February 11, 2012 - 9:00 a.m.**

**Union Bay Natural Area**

**Leader: Fran Wood, (206) 323-2296, [fbwood@u.washington.edu](mailto:fbwood@u.washington.edu)**

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.



© Martin Muller

## Destination: South Puget Sound

by Shelley Horn, 2011 Master Birder

We all share a dilemma now that the rain has settled in. Traveling over the pass brings trepidation. Most shorebirds are enjoying their southern home, so a trip to the coast is a long way and a long day for few species. Where, then, is a good place to bird that is not too far to travel, yet offers some great new birding locations? Places that are not so far that even if it rains all day, we can make it home for a warm and comfortable evening?

Pick up a copy of Audubon's Great Washington State Birding Trail, (GWS-BT) Southwest Loop edition at the Nature Shop. In fact, pick up the entire series of six maps covering some of the best birding spots in our State. They are inexpensive, colorful, and crammed full of valuable information regarding species and locations.

With your GWSBT map in hand, grab your binoculars, rain gear, Discover Pass and birding buddies and head down I-5 to exit 88B, south of Olympia. Follow the directions to Scatter Creek WDFW, #51 on your GWSBT. This is a unique area of rare Garry oak woodland and prairies. It is a very reliable place to see Western Scrub Jay, and this time of year, many of our faithful residents such as Red-breasted Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, American Kestrel, and Red-tailed Hawk.

Second stop is #53 on your GWSBT, the Mima Mounds. The unexplained mounds are a geologic phenomenon amidst grassland prairie. Birds or no birds, it is a fascinating place to cast your vote on just how those mounds got there. Two very special species seen here are the Sooty Grouse, (O.K., it's more often heard) and occasional White-tailed Kite.

Upon leaving Mima Mounds, it is well worth following Waddell Creek

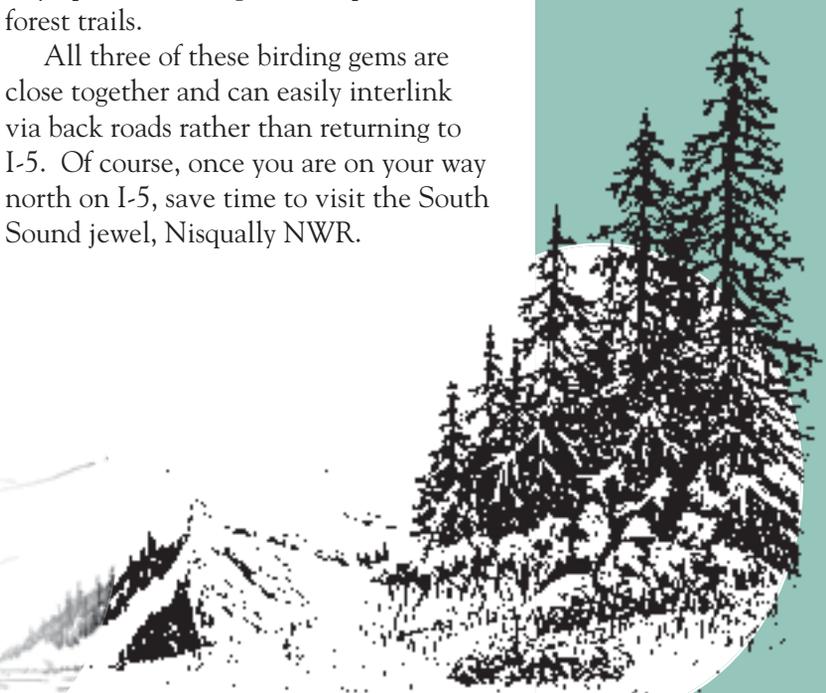


Red-tailed Hawk

© Tom Sanders

Road a short distance to Delphi Road, north to the DNR McLane Creek Nature Trail. It did not make it onto the GWS-BT, but it is one of my favorite spots near Olympia, with a large beaver pond and forest trails.

All three of these birding gems are close together and can easily interlink via back roads rather than returning to I-5. Of course, once you are on your way north on I-5, save time to visit the South Sound jewel, Nisqually NWR.



**NEW** Member pricing on all bird seed – let The Nature Shop be your source for all of your birding, feeding, and gifting needs

Extended Nature Shop December Hours

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUES	WED	THURS	FRIDAY	SAT
				1 10 to 5	2 10 to 5	3 10 to 5
4 CLOSED	5 10 to 6	6 10 to 6	7 10 to 6	8 10 to 6	9 10 to 6	10 10 to 5
11 12 to 4	12 10 to 6	13 10 to 6	14 10 to 6	15 10 to 6	16 10 to 6	17 10 to 5
18 12 to 4	19 10 to 7	20 10 to 7	21 10 to 7	22 10 to 7	23 10 to 7	24 10 to 4
25 CLOSED	26 10 to 5	27 10 to 5	28 10 to 5	29 10 to 5	30 10 to 5	31 10 to 4

## A Peek at What's in The Shop this Holiday Season

Many more 2012 calendars in The Nature Shop



• Audubon Engagement Calendar \$13.99



• BirdNote Calendar \$14.99



• 6th Ed Nat'l Geo \$27.95  
Member price \$22.36

The updated classic: new design with 300 new art figures, unique subspecies maps, extensive migration information, text updates, and, of course, up-to-date taxonomy

• 5th Edition 30% OFF while supplies last: \$16.80/\$13.44 Member Price



• Second Nature \$23.95  
Member Price \$19.16  
A second volume of essays about Seattle's Montlake Hill from Connie Sidles joining In My Nature (see page 5). Author event Thur., Dec. 15, 7p.m at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Details at [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org) or (206) 523-4483.

**PLUS!** the finest selection of binoculars and spotting scopes in the region and 2012 bird- and nature-related calendars



• Birds on a Wire \$9.95 each

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Where profits are for the birds

## Winter Beach Birding

### The Great Washington State Bird Trail

by Hilary J. Hilscher, *The Great Washington State Birding Trail*

Here's a counter-intuitive birding recommendation for the shortest days of the year: the beach!

Alki Beach is one of the hottest winter birding sites on the seventh and final map of the **Great Washington State Birding Trail, the Puget Loop**. Bundle up and grab your binos for great views of waterbirds from the city's 2.5-mile linear park along the West Seattle coastline.

Mid-to-high tide brings in Lesser Scaups, Surf Scoters, Common and Barrow's Goldeneyes, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Common Loons. Spot Horned, Red-necked and Western Grebes. Watch Pigeon Guillemots and Rhinoceros Aukslets dive for meals of small fish, crustaceans, and other aquatic creatures. (Take your scope if you hit the beach at low tide when the birds are further out.)

On a clear winter's day, Alki offers spectacular views of the Olympics, and the flotilla of ferries, sailboats, powerboats, and other craft that ply the Sound.

From I-5 take exit 163A (W Seattle Bridge/6th Ave S/Columbian Way.) Drive 1.6 miles over the West Seattle Bridge. Take the exit to Harbor Ave SW/Avalon Way. Turn right onto Harbor Ave SW. Drive 1.6 miles. Park in the waterside pullout on the right, located across from the Marshall Reserve sign at the northeast end of the park. The viewing platform lets you look down onto rocks favored by Black Turnstones and Surfbirds.

From Marshall Reserve, Harbor Ave SW becomes Alki Ave. SW, which is bordered by a wide, ADA paved pathway. Continue 1.7 miles to the Alki Bathhouse with its nearby viewing platform for Harlequin Ducks. From here south, Brant forage in the near-shore eelgrass beds.

Continue south another 0.7 miles on Alki Ave. SW to the 20-acre Me-Kwa-Mooks park and upland natural area, with frequent sightings of harbor seals and sea lions and tidepools full of limpets, lump-suckers, blennies, chitons, nudibranches, sea stars, sea slugs, sea cucumbers, and hermit crabs.

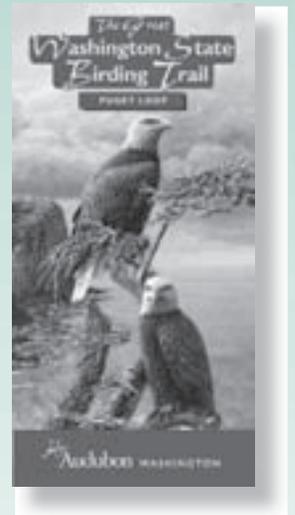
Across Alki Ave SW rise the wooded hills of the Me-Kwa-Mooks natural area, home to Screech Owls, Pileated Woodpeckers, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Bushtits, Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pacific Wrens.

For an unusual perspective on the Sound and mouth of the Duwamish, backtrack from Alki Bathhouse 2.4 miles on Alki Ave. SW/Harbor Ave. SW to the Port of Seattle's 15-acre Jack Block Park. Take the 1.0-mile ADA loop to the pier and 45-foot high observation platform for abundant Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants on the water and perched on pilings with wings outspread.

Find more great winter birding on the Puget Loop, available at Seattle Audubon's Nature Shop.

**NEW**

## Project Loop Map!



• \$4.95

*Completing the Great Washington State Birding Trail Joining the Cascade Loop, Coulee Corridor, Southwest Loop, Olympic Loop, Sun and Sage and Palouse to Pines*



Rhinoceros Auklet

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## 17th Annual Holiday Open House



Saturday, December 3rd  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Free Gift Wrapping  
Children's Activities  
Enjoy cookies, hot cider  
and shade grown coffee

**The Nature Shop**  
8050 35th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115