

EARTHCARE

SUMMER 2018

NORTHWEST



Mountain Bluebird, Photo by Susan Nolen | Seattle Audubon – Seattle Times Photo Contest



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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Warm June greetings:

As we wind down a very busy spring of events and head into Nature Camp season—also known as “summer” to most—it’s a moment to reflect back on our closing fiscal year. Recently, we were humbled by your outpouring of support to meet a \$40,000 challenge grant from the Bullitt Foundation. These gifts are now hard-at-work supporting new developments across our education, science, conservation, and engagement programs. Thank you for your investment in these important activities.

This issue of Earthcare includes a deep dive into our newly funded effort to expand the Puget Sound Seabird Survey. Science Manager Toby Ross review of our plans provides several insights into exactly what and how we’re doing that, with the end result being almost full coverage of the entire Puget Sound region and a team of volunteers who stand ready to respond to an oil spill. Also in this edition, you’ll get a heads up about some new conservation advocacy goals focused on engaging people in climate activism. What I love about this work is that it takes the mystery out of the word “advocacy” and makes the whole concept much more approachable, giving people simple tips and tools they can use to engage in supporting conservation issues that matter to birds.

At the close of this issue, you’ll see the annual tribute to our dedicated and generous volunteers. Seattle Audubon did not have staff for the first 70 years or so of our existence, and we respectfully remember that no one was paid to build our original legacy of conservation

achievements. Individually—helping customers pick out a pair of binoculars in the Nature Shop, lending expertise to the Education or Conservation Committees, conducting community and citizen science seabird surveys on Puget Sound, or answering bird questions at a festival booth—volunteers collectively advance the appreciation, understanding, and protection of birds and our natural environment in and around Seattle.

I am looking forward to a trip to Pittsburgh later this month, where I’ll join together with other Audubon chapter directors from around the country for our annual planning meeting. I can’t tell you what a priceless resource they are to me—and sometimes we serve as a resource for them. Several staff from National Audubon headquarters will also join us to develop a plan for how the entire Audubon system can achieve the vision of creating the strongest conservation network in America. While we maintain our renewed local focus, my participation in these efforts serves

to demonstrate that Seattle Audubon is also lending our talents to protecting birds well beyond our home region.

For birds and nature,



John Brosnan
Executive Director



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A CASE FOR URBAN BIRDING

by Claire Catania



You might think that skyscrapers and concrete sidewalks would be an unwelcoming landscape for a group of birders, but you'd be mistaken. It was during the third week of April, when the sun finally decided to show itself and declare the start of spring, that I joined Master Birders Tom Leschine and Dave Galvin downtown for a Neighborhood Bird Walk in the Olympic Sculpture Park.

The day's walk was part of a new, urban experiment devised by Tom and Dave, aimed at providing nature experiences where people live and work. The two have now led several walks at the Olympic Sculpture Park and around South Lake Union. Dave explained, "It seems to me that Audubon, Seattle Audubon especially, should pay more attention to the urban environment and encourage more people to see nature right in the city." Seattle Audubon was more than happy to support this effort, as it aligns perfectly with the organization's strategic goal to do just that.

Joined by a diverse group of mostly beginning birders, we began our walk with a descent into an area of the sculpture park that Tom identified as "The Valley." Carefully chosen native plants line the sidewalk there and the **Anna's Hummingbirds** were out in full force. We were soon treated to a male Anna's performing his dramatic courtship

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Urban bird walk participants, Photo by Claire Catania

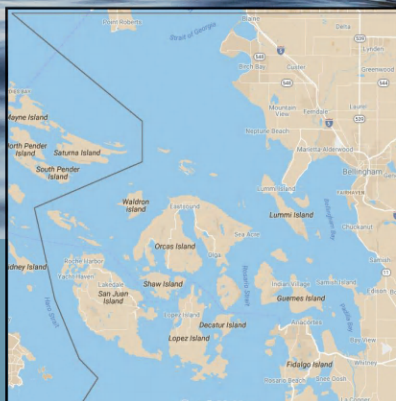


Figure 1: PSSS Expansion Area

SEABIRD SURVEY EXPANDS

by Toby Ross

Seattle Audubon's Science Program recently received a generous grant of more than \$100,000 from the National Estuary Program through the Puget Sound Partnership and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. This two-year grant will allow for an exciting expansion of the Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) northward from Deception Pass to Blaine on the Canadian border, including the San Juan Islands. Using input from individuals, organizations, and tribes, the project will initially identify approximately 20 new survey sites within the area of focus (see US portion of Fig. 1). Seattle Audubon and our partners will then need to recruit and train additional volunteers for these new sites. The volunteers will be trained on the same survey protocol that has been used successfully for the past 11 seasons of the PSSS.

This project expansion will also create an accompanying oil spill action plan to respond to any future oil spill within Puget Sound. With the increase in oil transport traffic

via rail and tanker, and the oil refineries in Anacortes, Bellingham, and Ferndale, it's not a matter of 'if' a spill occurs, but 'when'. When that does happen, we expect the Seattle Audubon phones to be very busy answering calls regarding the spill and we need an action plan.

To prepare, in addition to the survey protocol training, we'll be adding oil spill training for all new and existing PSSS volunteers. The training will focus on what to do in the event of an oil spill, which will include conducting an ad-hoc seabird survey and reporting on any observed oil on the water or beach at their survey sites. Furthermore, we will conduct a practice drill to determine how many volunteers would be available to conduct these surveys and the coverage across all of the survey sites. Once complete, the PSSS expansion will cover virtually all Puget Sound basins and provide Seattle Audubon a fantastic opportunity to gather important data across the entire Puget Sound.

Toby Ross is Seattle Audubon's Science Manager.

ARE YOU AN ADVOCATE?

by Megan Friesen

Are you a conservation advocate? This question may leave you wondering what advocacy means or if the conversations and activities you participate in already qualify as conservation advocacy. While some people feel naturally inclined to stand up and make grand, public gestures to save our environment, some people are simply more introverted. But even one-on-one conversations about critical conservation issues, like climate change, can also be important advocacy. Your role as a conservation advocate may be as simple as talking to a family member during a backyard barbeque or sharing a social media posting, or it might be part of a larger effort like writing a letter to an editor or showing up to a protest.

To feel more empowered in your ability as a conservation advocate, approach potentially difficult conversations with authenticity and respect. It is important to remember that your body language is also key in conveying your message and making people feel open and connected to you. For example, try not to cross your arms or use accusatory gestures like

pointing. Be prepared for the conversation and focus on stories from your own life that make you personally passionate about conserving our natural world. If you're a Seattle Audubon member, try centering your advocacy approach on your love of birds. Birds soar beyond political boundaries and make people feel connected to the natural world. For example, you might be troubled by climate change based on changes you have noticed while birding, or are concerned that your grandchildren may not be able to enjoy the same birds that you do today. However you approach it, try to keep your outlook positive and give people actionable solutions and ideas for what they can do to help.

If you would like to learn more about how to be an advocate particularly for climate change, keep an eye on the Seattle Audubon website for advocacy courses being offered through the conservation program late summer and early fall 2018. We hope to see you there!

Megan Friesen is Seattle Audubon's Conservation Manager

Photo by Bob Dags, Flickr CC by 2.0

How to be an Advocate

- Be approachable, respectful
- Make it personal to your life
- Use birds to tell your story
- Keep it hopeful
- Give people actionable solutions



WAIT, WHICH AUDUBON?

by Claire Catania

8050
Seattle Audubon Society
for birds and nature

Hello from your friendly local chapter, Seattle Audubon! You know us and we know you. We're a community. Your membership dues and volunteer hours make all our programs to appreciate, understand, and protect birds possible. From our offices and Nature Shop in Wedgwood, we've been your resource for bird-centric education, science, and conservation for over 100 years. But the city of Seattle is also home to two additional organizations with 'Audubon' in their names, the Seward Park Audubon Center and Audubon Washington. All these Audubons in one city can cause a little confusion—even for our longtime members!

So who's who, really? Seattle Audubon's local focus is the greater Seattle region north to Shoreline and Kenmore, south to Des Moines and Renton, east to Mercer Island, and west to the water. We're certified by the National Audubon Society

to carry the Audubon chapter title, but we're legally and financially independent. When you join Seattle Audubon as a member, your dues stay here in Seattle to make a difference locally.

The Seward Park Audubon Center aims to promote diversity in the environmental movement through programs offered at their center in Seward Park. Their building also houses Audubon Washington, which is the state office of the National Audubon Society. The focus of Audubon Washington's programs is understandably statewide.

In short, all our organizations serve a unique purpose in the fulfillment of our vision to create a healthy environment for birds and people, but now you know more about how!

Claire Catania is Seattle Audubon's Development Director.

Continued from page 3

display dive. Our next notable sighting of the day was an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, which spent several minutes gleaning in a Red-flowering Currant right beside us.

We eventually made our way down toward the water. Once there, we were somewhat surprised to find a male **Hooded Merganser** fishing near the rocks. When we meandered into Myrtle Edwards Park, the group enjoyed a closer look through the scopes at over 90 **Western Grebes** asleep out on the water and a successful fishing dive by a **Caspian Tern**.

All these sightings were just the highlights! The urban environment clearly has a wealth of birdlife to offer willing explorers. Tom added at the close of our walk, "The city is changing with new people arriving every day, like migrants descending in a big fall out, and are they going to have the same sensibilities that we do about birds and ecosystems in the Northwest?" If this bird walk was any indication, I would say the answer is 'yes'.

Neighborhood Bird Walks are free and open to all. Watch the Neighborhood Bird Walk section of Seattle Audubon's website and eNews for any notices of future urban walks.

*Claire Catania is a Master Birder and
Seattle Audubon's Development Director.*



Master Birders Tom Leschine (L) and Dave Galvin (R), Photo by Claire Catania

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

In 2017,
volunteers
spent more than
12,879 hours
working for
birds and nature.

**Thank you
to all Seattle
Audubon
volunteers!**

KEY: **Bold** type indicates a new level of service and *italics* denote dedicated volunteers whose names were incorrectly omitted from last year's edition of this list.

Seattle Audubon is pleased to recognize these active volunteers with reported volunteer hours in the past three years. Is your name missing from this list? Please help us track your support by emailing your volunteer hours to volunteerc@seattleaudubon.org.

7,000+

Charlie Kahle, Richard Youel

4,500+

Steve Dang, Jerry Joyce, **Virginia Morrison**, Marina Skumanich

4,000+

Connie Sidles, Mary Anne Thorbeck

3,500+

Virginia Bound

3,000+

Diana Aubin de Paradis, Jan Bragg,
Teri Martine, **Neil Zimmerman**

2,500+

Marilyn Busher, Rebecca Evans,
Penny Koyama, Rachel Lawson,
Jean Mills, Alison Wysong

2,000+

Karen Adair, **Al Ferkovich**,
Jane Hedberg, Colene McKee,
Paul Metzner, Eldon Olson,
Suzanne Peterson, Barbara Webster

1,500+

Terry Adams, Linda Anchondo,
Pam Cahn, Jill Ericsson, Alan Humphrey,
Jennifer Kauffman, Judith Roan,
Paul Webster

1,000+

Shannon Bailey, Linda Carroll,
Bert Dudley, Dianne Edmonds,
Raelene Gold, Phyllis Moss, Martin
Muller, Martha Nester, **Patty North**,
Kay Norton, Jim Owens, Roberta
Roberts, Penny Rose, Bob Sieh,
Dave Swayne, *Martha Taylor*,
Cynthia Wang, Ethel Williams,
Isadora Wong, Ann Marie Wood,
Sam Woods, Carleen Zimmerman

750+

Dennis Conlon, Alan Grenon,
Cathy Jaramillo, **Sally Murdoch**,
Sarah Peden, Scott Ramos,
Sharrie Shade, Arn Slettebak,
Kathy Slettebak

500+

Lee Barnes, Lauren Braden, Ed Deal,
Laurie Ann Dudley, Linda Falconer,
Jim Fiero, **Jo Finne**, Helen Gilbert,
Eric Harlow, Scott Hoskin, Courtenay
Jackson, Gary Kelsberg, Vicki King,

Judith Leconte, Tiffany Linbo,

Anna Martin, Cheryl McArthur,
Kimberly McCormick, Henry Noble,
Jean Olson, Cathy Pfarr, Mary Rogers,
Jane Sepede, *Lynne Smith*, **Sharon
Sneddon**, Susan Stillman, Jean Trent,
John Tubbs, Sue Yates

250+

Elaine Anderson, Bryony Angell, Alice
Arnold, Laura Ballard, Penny Bolton,
Pat Bredouw, Wanda Browne,
Stephanie Burkemoore, Kathy Cooper,
Etta Cosey, Mike Cross, Nancy
Edmondson, Sharon Ellard, Becky
Galloway, George Gerdtts, Miriam Gray,
Virginia Harris, Jon Houghton,
Nancy Jones, Chris Karrenberg, *Renee
Koval-Huenuqueo*, **Dick Lazeres**,
Ron Leamon, Robin Lewis, Donna Luce,
Dennis Lund, Bo McFadden, Brendan
McGarry, Karen Morse, Jim O'Keeffe,
Jack Pauw, Linda Pomeroy, Jeanelle
Richardson, Mark Salvadalena, Jackie
Saunders, Caryn Sengupta, Karen Shea,
Amy Shumann, Joe Sweeney, Tom Weir,
Nancy Wilson

100+

Emily Bishton, Tim Boyer, Rod Brown,
Morry Browne, Nathan Burkemoore,
Kathy Carson, **Tony Catanzaro**,
Elaine Chuang, Pat Conlon, Kay Louise
Cook, Charlie Crow, Vas Demas, Sara
Frame, Mike Freund, *Dave Galvin*,
Jane Glass, Dasha Gudalewicz, **Peter
Gurney**, Barbara Guthrie, Carl Haynie,
David Hepp, Peter Hodum, Anne
Jacobs, Kristin Johnson-Waggoner,
Roland Kilcher, **Nancy Kirkner**, Tina
Klein-Lebbink, **Jennifer Kunitsugu**,
Tom Leschine, Sarah Lorse,
Alexandra Mackenzie, Bob Martin,
Jen Mckeirman, *Tom Merritt*, **Whitney
Neufeld-Kaiser**, Cathy Nolan, Berl
Nussbaum, **Nancy Provence**, Ken
Rauscher, Suzanne Richman, Ann Root,
Fred Rowley, Laura Saunders,
Doug Schurman, *Diana Sorus*,
Mia Spangenberg, **Kim Stark**, Karen
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Wilkinson, **Karen Wosilait**,
Cheryl Wotus

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DIVERSITY IN THE OUTDOORS

PRESENTATIONS & CONVERSATIONS

June 28, 2018
6 – 9 p.m.

**El Centro de la Raza,
Centilia Cultural Center**

Join Seattle Audubon in welcoming speakers from **Latino Outdoors**, **IslandWood**, and more, for special presentations centered on diversity in the outdoors.

my.seattleaudubon.org/diversityoutdoors

Seattle Audubon – Latino Outdoors bird walk participants, Photo by Joe Camacho