

# EARTHCARE

## NORTHWEST

FALL 2017

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SEATTLE AUDUBON

Seattle Audubon leads a local community in appreciating, understanding, and protecting birds and their natural habitats.

## SEATTLE AUDUBON 2017 VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Each year, the Seattle Audubon community comes together to celebrate a year of accomplishments and recognize the extraordinary work of our volunteers at a Volunteers Appreciation and Awards Dinner. This year, the honorees are:

Seattle Audubon Society  
President's Award 2017

**DIANE de RYSS**

For outstanding service and commitment

Seattle Audubon Society  
Community Choice Award 2017

**STEVE DANG**

Hero of the Flock

Seattle Audubon Society  
Conservation Award 2017

**JUDITH LECONTE**

For extraordinary commitment to the Conservation program

Seattle Audubon Society  
Education Award 2017

**TERI MARTINE**

For extraordinary commitment to the Master Birder program

Seattle Audubon Society  
Science Award 2017

**JEAN OLSON**

For extraordinary commitment to the Science program



Lazuli Bunting by Natalka Dmitrova

### INSIDE

A Letter from John . . . . . 2  
Audubon News . . . . . 3

Conservation | Education . . . 4  
Science . . . . . 5  
Birding Opportunities . . . . . 6

Classes . . . . . 7  
The Nature Shop . . . . . 7



**SEATTLE AUDUBON**

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[www.seattleaudubon.org](http://www.seattleaudubon.org)

[www.birdweb.org](http://www.birdweb.org)

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**Community Engagement****Manager****A Letter from Executive Director  
John Brosnan**

Hello to the Seattle Audubon Community:

I hope this note finds you all well on the heels of a rejuvenating summer season. My summer had a little bit of everything – good downtime, enjoying the sun, and catching up on leisure reading. I loved the recent study detailing how researchers in Sweden discovered that ravens have an ability to plan ahead, much like humans. If you haven't seen this, a quick Google search will find it for you. I was fascinated. The experiments proved that ravens can learn and apply new skills with the intention of solving future problems. "Sounds familiar," I thought. We here at Seattle Audubon are also planning ahead, using new tools, and applying our talents to deepen people's appreciation, understanding, and protection of birds, not unlike our raven friends.



John Brosnan (with raven puppet)

My summer also involved a good deal of travel to deepen partnerships across the Audubon community. My summer began in New York City, where I served as one of six representatives of Audubon chapters across the country collaborating with National Audubon to define a stronger working network among chapters and the national organization. It was a unique opportunity for chapter representatives to work directly with National Audubon's leadership.

I traveled to Portland to spend time with other chapter directors from the Audubon Urban Collaborative Network (AUCN) from across the U.S. We shared resources and best practices around our programs and began to articulate a formal working structure among ourselves. I believe it represents a unique step toward stronger collaboration to achieve goals much larger than any one chapter can on its own. Even there, the ravens out the window seemed to be demonstrating these values; Audubon of Portland runs an animal rescue as part of their operation. They have an adult raven in their rehab unit visited daily by his raven pals, who provide camaraderie and consolation.

Next up was Park City, Utah, for the 2017 Audubon Convention. Besides making several great contacts, I presented two talks that offered possible visions for improved collaborations across the Audubon network. My time there also revealed how well-received our strategic plan has become across the chapter network. So much so, in fact, that I was asked to fly down to Alabama last month to help facilitate some plan development with fellow AUCN member Birmingham Audubon.

All these efforts are not just partnerships for partnership's sake; they offer a more efficient application of our limited resources while lending our expertise to help elevate the collective work of many. I can attest that our Seattle Audubon team is the strongest it's been in years and it feels like we're spring-loaded for success — applying the right tools, a plan, and thinking ahead. These concepts are tried and true for us as much as they are true for our crafty raven friends. Just don't call us an 'unkindness' because that term most certainly does not apply to this crew.

Kindly yours,

*Earthcare Northwest* is the official newsletter of Seattle Audubon.

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**Submissions will be edited and published at Seattle Audubon's discretion.**

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## A big welcome to our new staff and board

Seattle Audubon recently welcomed several staff and a board member to our flock!

Our newest **board member** Emily Krieger lives with her husband and toddler in West Seattle and spends her time, both personally and professionally, getting kids and adults excited about nature. Since 2009, she's been a freelance writer, editor, and fact-checker specializing in science and children's content. As the author of over a dozen books for National Geographic Kids, she's had the pleasure of introducing readers to everything avian, from Canada Geese to Kiwis. She moved to Seattle in 2009 after a decade in Washington, D.C., where she worked at National Geographic and Science News. She considers urban birds her neighbors, with personalities and routines akin to their human counterparts.



Jenn Lang is our new **Conservation Science Coordinator**.

Jenn is originally from Brooklyn, NY and always had an interest in environmental science and studying birds. She studied wildlife and conservation science for her bachelor's degree at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and completed her master's thesis in quantitative ecology analyzing citizen science data collected by the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team at UW Seattle. She gained experience as a field biologist monitoring birds, including Piping Plovers, Western Bluebirds, Atlantic Puffins, and Streaked Horned Larks in the U.S., and Red-backed Fairywrens in Australia. Jenn can be found

hiking with her husband and dogs, shooting archery, and playing piano/guitar/ukulele (not simultaneously) on her off time. She is excited to work with dedicated volunteers contributing to long-term citizen science programs.

Nicole Na joined us as our new **Communications & Marketing Coordinator**. Nicole grew up in Seattle and earned her bachelor's degree in biology at Willamette University, where she was captivated by her coursework in ecology and the environment and experienced the profound peace brought simply by observing the natural world. She then worked at Fred Hutch as a laboratory technician before moving to Sonoma County, California, to serve as Communications Coordinator at Sonoma Land Trust, where she helped broaden their communications and establish diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in a rapidly diversifying county. Nicole is thrilled to be back in her hometown and to help shape and share the story of Seattle Audubon with the Seattle community.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### *The Bird Ball*

Saturday, October 21, 2017  
7–10 p.m.  
Seattle Aquarium

Join us for the 2nd annual Bird Ball, a bird-inspired masquerade! Early Bird tickets on sale now! Visit [my.seattleaudubon.org/birdball17](http://my.seattleaudubon.org/birdball17) for details.

#### The 21st Annual Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, September 9, 2017  
10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Seattle Audubon Parking Lot

Includes a "sample sale" featuring a selection of merchandise from the Nature Shop at discounted prices!

#### Master Birder Open House – Tuesday, Sept. 12, 5–7 p.m.

Interested in an intensive study of Washington birds, led by expert naturalist Dennis Paulson? Every other year, Seattle Audubon offers a two-semester, education-for-service Master Birder program. You can learn all about it at [seattleaudubon.org](http://seattleaudubon.org). Applications and the application ID quiz for the next class aren't due until March 17, 2018, and an information session for potential applicants will be held on March 6, but some people have requested an opportunity to talk with graduates of the class much earlier in the process. On Tuesday, Sept. 12, the Nature Shop will be open 5–7 p.m. for "suet happy hour" (buy two suet cakes, get one free!) and an open house for people interested in volunteering with Seattle Audubon, as well as the Master Birder Open House. If you're interested in the Master Birder program and have questions that aren't answered on the webpage, stop by the open house or email [MBadmin@seattleaudubon.org](mailto:MBadmin@seattleaudubon.org).

## Fall 2017 Conservation Update

by John Brosnan, Executive Director

There is so much to report from the conservation program's summer happenings that it feels like a lightning round to fit it all into print here. We're working with a number of new partners as we define several elements of our urban conservation focus, drawing on the expertise and guidance of the USFWS's Urban Bird Treaty City programming. To that end, we're building new relationships to advance our goals around bird-safe glass and bird-friendly architecture, development of a Lights Out initiative for Seattle, and a Cats Indoors program with our friends at PAWS and the Humane Society. We continue to work toward revitalizing our Seattle Tree Map work with partners like Trees for Seattle — and an updated backyard habitats program to connect local residents with native plant choices to benefit local flyways.

With so much press around the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, we've had climate on the brain. Executive Director John Brosnan had an incredible opportunity to study with former vice president Al Gore at June's Climate Reality Leadership Corps training in Bellevue. Over three days, Mr. Gore and a series of inspiring speakers shared the



latest in climate science, insights into how people can engage in effective advocacy, and even lessons in personal storytelling to better connect with people on the urgency of the issue.

With all of this inspiration, these questions emerged: what will Seattle Audubon commit to in terms of educating our community about the latest climate science and how will we engage them to be changemakers in climate advocacy? For starters, John will be teaching an advocacy class as part of Seattle Audubon's Fall 2017 calendar, and will be working with the conservation committee at their annual retreat this month to define how we'll apply our recent learnings and provide useful tools to our members in their efforts for advocacy.

## Classes on Butterflies, Trees, and Advocacy

by Christine Scheele, Education Manager

With our classes, Seattle Audubon aims to educate a community that appreciates, understands, and protects birds and the natural environment. How do classes accomplish this big and broad goal?

On tap this fall are *Intermediate Bird ID: Common Birds of Fall* and *10 Gateway Birds of Seattle and How to Find Them*, an excellent class for beginners. Taught by experts in their fields, these bird classes are geared toward participants with little to lots of birding knowledge who want to learn more about birds and birding. New color-coded labels indicate if a class is appropriate for beginner, intermediate, or advanced birders, or appropriate for all levels. These classes focus on birds — classes that one would expect from Audubon.

Though learning about and appreciating birds is a worthy and wonderful use of time, we must also understand and protect them. With habitat degradation and loss occurring across flyways, hazards related to migration including architecture and light pollution, and the impending threats from climate change, birds need all the help they can get — every small action matters. This is why Seattle Audubon offers classes about ecosystems, advocacy, and action. This fall, those classes include: *Creating Butterfly Habitat in Your*

Western Swallowtail Butterfly by Melissa McMasters



*Backyard, Taking Flight: Environmental Advocacy Workshop, Welcome to Subirdia, and Winter ID of Native Deciduous Trees.* Each topic widens the lens through which we view birds and enhances our community's ability to protect birds and their habitats. Whether you think you know a lot or very little about birds, Seattle Audubon class instructors welcome you to join in, participate, and learn some more.

Class registration opens on the first of January, March, June, and September and classes often fill within the first week. Visit the CLASSES page of the Seattle Audubon website (or turn to page 7 of this publication!) to find class dates, times, and locations. Register online or call the Nature Shop.

# 2016–2017 Puget Sound Seabird Survey: Preliminary Report

by Toby Ross, Science Manager

This past April, we concluded the 10th season of the Puget Sound Seabird Survey. The 2016–17 season broke all kinds of project records: an all-time high of 204 volunteers took part in the project — over 25 percent more than the previous season. Volunteers completed 827 surveys — an increase of 107 over last time and the most ever conducted in a single season! Data were collected at 122 survey sites across Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. A total of 57 species were observed during surveys this season, in line with previous seasons. Interesting and uncommonly reported species included Northern Fulmar, Brown Pelican, Red-necked Phalarope, and Sabine's Gull. For a more detailed overview of our landmark 10th season, visit [seabirdsurvey.org](http://seabirdsurvey.org). Thank you to all the volunteers that contributed!

We are currently recruiting for the 11th season of the project! If you're interested, please contact Science Manager Toby Ross at [toby@seattleaudubon.org](mailto:toby@seattleaudubon.org).

## 2016 – 2017 Species List

Snow Goose  
 Brant  
 Cackling Goose  
 Canada Goose  
 Gadwall  
 Eurasian Wigeon  
 American Wigeon  
 Mallard  
 Northern Pintail  
 Green-winged Teal  
 Ring-necked Duck  
 Greater Scaup  
 Lesser Scaup  
 Harlequin Duck  
 Surf Scoter  
 White-winged Scoter  
 Black Scoter  
 Long-tailed Duck  
 Bufflehead  
 Common Goldeneye

Barrow's Goldeneye  
 Hooded Merganser  
 Common Merganser  
 Red-breasted Merganser  
 Pied-billed Grebe  
 Horned Grebe  
 Red-necked Grebe  
 Eared Grebe  
 Western Grebe  
 Clark's Grebe  
 American Coot  
 Red-necked Phalarope  
 Common Murre  
 Pigeon Guillemot  
 Marbled Murrelet  
 Ancient Murrelet  
 Rhinoceros Auklet  
 Sabine's Gull  
 Bonaparte's Gull  
 Heermann's Gull

Mew Gull  
 Ring-billed Gull  
 Western Gull  
 California Gull  
 Herring Gull  
 Thayer's Gull  
 Glaucous-winged Gull  
 Red-throated Loon  
 Pacific Loon  
 Common Loon  
 Yellow-billed Loon  
 Northern Fulmar\*  
 Brandt's Cormorant  
 Double-crested Cormorant  
 Pelagic Cormorant  
 Brown Pelican  
 Great Blue Heron

\* = New species to the project





American Golden Plover by Mick Thompson

## Field Trips – Rules of the Road

For detailed information on field trips offered in the next month, visit our website at [www.seattleaudubon.org](http://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.
- 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 to check our website regularly!

## September 2017 Field Trips

Registration opens August 1.

Visit [seattleaudubon.org](http://seattleaudubon.org) for complete listings.

### Magnuson Park, Seattle

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 8 a.m.

Leader: Joe Sweeney

Limit: 12

### Whidbey Island

Saturday, Sept. 9, 6:20 a.m.

Leaders: Brian H. Bell

Limit: 11

### Discovery Park

Saturday, Sept. 10, 7 a.m.

Leaders: Kathy and Arn

Slettebak

Limit: 8

### Noble Knob Hike

Sunday, Sept. 17, 6:30 a.m.

Leaders: Dave Swayne, Sam

Woods, and Scott Ramos

Limit: 9

### Whidbey Island

Sunday, Sept. 24, 6:30 a.m.

Leaders: Deb Heiden and

Jean Trent

Limit: 10

### Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, Sept. 30, 6:30 a.m.

Leaders: Jen Kunitsugu, Jack

Stephens, and Jane Lester

Limit: 9

### Discovery Park

Sunday, Oct. 1, 7 a.m.

Leaders: Dave Galvin and

Louis Kreemer

Limit: 12



## Fall 2017 Neighborhood Bird Walks

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

If needed, request binoculars from The Nature Shop at least one week in advance. Further information is available from the Seattle Audubon Nature Shop, (206) 523-4483.

### Washington Park Arboretum

Saturday, Sept. 2, 9–11 a.m.

Leader: Larry Hubbell

### Magnuson Park

Saturday, Sept. 2, 8–10 a.m.

Leader: Joe Sweeney

### Union Bay Natural Area

Saturday, Sept. 23, 9–11 a.m.

Leaders: Julia Hansbrough &

Jill Ericsson

### Lincoln Park

Wed., Sept. 27, 9–11 a.m.

Leaders: Patty North, Dick

Lazerez & Anne Jacobs

### Washington Park Arboretum

Saturday, Oct. 7, 9–11 a.m.

Leader: Larry Hubbell

### Discovery Park

Sat., Oct. 14, 8:30–10:30 a.m.

Leaders: Neil & Carleen Zim-

merman

### Union Bay Natural Area

Saturday, Oct. 21, 9–11 a.m.

Leaders: Julia Hansbrough &

Jill Ericsson

### Magnuson Park

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 9–11 a.m.

Leader: Joe Sweeney

### Lincoln Park

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 9–11 a.m.

Leaders: Patty North, Dick

Lazerez, & Anne Jacobs

### Washington Park Arboretum

Saturday, Nov. 4, 9–11 a.m.

Leader: Larry Hubbell

### Seward Park

Saturday, Nov. 4, 9:30–11:30

a.m.

Leaders: Richard Youel

### Magnuson Park

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 9–11 a.m.

Leader: Joe Sweeney

### Union Bay Natural Area

Saturday, Nov. 18, 9–11 a.m.

Leader: Julia Hansbrough &

Jill Ericsson

## Meeting points for each location:

### Magnuson Park:

Promontory Point Pavilion

### Washington Park

Arboretum: Graham Visitor

Center Parking Lot

### Union Bay Natural Area:

Center for Urban Horticulture,

East Parking Lot

**Carkeek Park:** Parking lot across from playing fields at the end of Carkeek Park Road

**Fall 2017 Classes**

**Registration opens Sept. 1.** Visit [seattleaudubon.org](http://seattleaudubon.org) for complete listings.

**Creating Butterfly Habitat in Your Backyard** with David Droppers, member of the Washington Butterfly Association

Participants will learn about what plants to include in their garden to attract butterflies and glean insights on butterfly biology, how butterflies see the world and what additional resources they need, with emphasis on how to design your garden for maximum attraction. Watch your garden come alive with bloom and wing.

**Taking Flight: Environmental Advocacy Workshop** with John Brosnan, Seattle Audubon Executive Director

Join Seattle Audubon's Executive Director John Brosnan to learn about the state of birds in and around Seattle, the latest climate science, and simple tools that

you can use to engage in effective environmental advocacy. Topics covered will include advocacy tools, persuasive messaging, and simple things you can do to influence policy in your community.

**Welcome to Subirdia** with John Marzluff, UW Professor of Wildlife Science

John Marzluff's work provides an optimistic outlook for how our own actions affect the birds and animals that live in our cities and towns, and provides specific strategies everyone can use to make human environments friendlier for our natural neighbors. By practicing careful stewardship with the biological riches in our cities and towns, we can foster a new relationship between humans and other living creatures.

**10 Gateway Birds of Seattle and How to Find Them** with Whitney Neufeld-Keiser, Seattle Audubon Master Birder

Using 10 (or so) charismatic birds found in Seattle as examples, we'll explore

resources you can use to plan your birding excursions. We'll also talk through strategies for spotting these feathered beauties and then figuring out who you're looking at.

**Intermediate Bird ID: Common Birds of Fall** with Connie Sidles, author and Master Birder

If you're an intermediate birder who wants to deepen your skills, then this class is for you. Together we will learn about the common birds in our area. In addition to three classroom sessions, Connie will lead one formal field trip where you can observe the birds studied in class. Each season will also include a scavenger hunt.

**Winter Identification of Deciduous Native Plants** with Van Bobbitt, Horticulture Instructor and Arboretum Coordinator

Learn to identify deciduous native plants from leafless twigs and become well-versed in using print and online plant identification guides.

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

**THE NATURE SHOP**

*Where profits are for the birds*

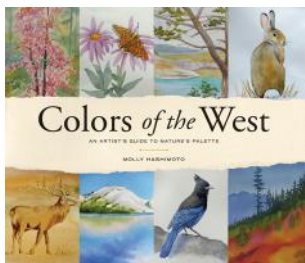
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**OPEN 'TIL 7:00 p.m. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month  
Sept. 12 • Oct. 10 • Nov. 14**



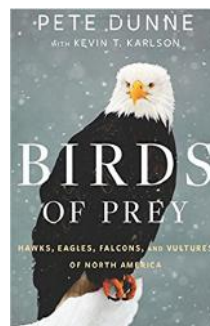
**NEW** Seattle Audubon Klean Kanteen Water Bottles, \$32

- Double wall vacuum-insulated
- Keeps drinks cold for 50 hours, hot for 20 hours
- 20 oz. capacity
- BPA-free
- Lifetime guarantee



**Colors of the West**  
Member Price \$19.96

Award-winning local artist Molly Hashimoto has sketched in the outdoors and worked as an artist and teacher for more than 20 years. Molly's new book features more than 170 illustrations of iconic western landscapes and national parks, as well as tips and techniques for the budding natural artist.



**Birds of Prey: Hawks, Eagles, Falcons & Vultures of North America**  
Member Price \$20.80

Pete Dunne is the founding director of the Cape May Bird Observatory and a prolific author of birding books. Dunne's latest book is a definitive guide to raptors in North America, including hundreds of photographs and species accounts that go far beyond ID to cover ecology, behavior conservation & more.

Members always receive  
20% off books  
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*The  
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SEATTLE AQUARIUM

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