



Eastside Audubon  
your connection to nature

# The Corvid Crier

EASTSIDE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 28, No 6 – JULY/AUGUST 2009

*The Mission of the Eastside Audubon Society is to protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people.*

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## Directions to Eastside Audubon

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. (corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. and State). Take I-405 exit 18 (NE 85<sup>th</sup>, Kirkland). Drive west on Central Way to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (stoplight). Turn left (south) on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and follow it as it bears left and changes name to State St. Turn left on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S.

TAKE THE BUS! Routes 540, 230 and 255 serve State Street in Kirkland.

## Another Successful Birdathon!

This past May, our month-long Birdathon fundraiser was a great success! Because of the efforts of all the teams who went birding for dollars, and the support of their contributors, as of early June we raised over \$14,000.00 - and the pledges are still rolling in.

Some notable bird sightings were at Cle Elum ponds, where a pygmy nuthatch was observed excavating a nest hole. Brian Bell counted birds at Malheur this year, and when they stopped to peruse one of the salt flats, a snowy plover with chicks was foraging near the edge of the road. A most unusual sighting! And Andy McCormick's team discovered a flock of Red Crossbills at Lake Sammamish State Park – unusual for Western Washington.

Sunny Walter and Melinda Bronsdon lead a Birdathon trip to Bainbridge Island. They spent the sunny morning riding the ferry, touring Bainbridge Gardens, buying native plants and enjoying a delicious lunch. The main attraction, however, was a 3-hour leisurely walking tour of the lovely Bloedel Reserve, with its European-style formal gardens and visitor center overlooking the sound. They especially enjoyed the native plants

and birds in the woods and bird refuge, and marveled at the Japanese Garden, the glen, and the tiny moss garden.

We welcome all to enjoy these birding experiences, and hope you'll join us next year.

This year's awards go to the following:

Rookie of the Year Award - for the most money raised by a rookie (\$1,530) - goes to Sunny Walter

Dunka-A-Doo Award - for most money raised by a team (\$3,794 to date) - goes to the Mountains to Sound Team (led by Andy McCormick)

Phoebe Snetzinger Award - for most bird species seen by one team (112) - goes to the Whidbey Wing-Dings (led by Hugh Jennings). This is a team record number of birds, and they aced out the Bird Brains (led by Jim Rettig) by just one bird!

Thank you everyone for all your hard work. Those sleepless nights and mosquito-filled swamps were well worth it, and we should be proud of what we accomplished! We'll see you all next May.

## Bird Gallery — Take a Peek!



Have you visited the Bird Gallery recently? If you haven't, you're in for a real treat. Sunny Walter and the Photography Group just added over 300 new photos. From the Birds drop-

down menu on the home page, click Bird Gallery, and then enjoy!

— Carmen Almodovar



**Focus on the Board: Sincere Nonsense**  
by Tricia Kishel, — At Large Board Member

I am not a natural writer and agreed to write this as a favor. I put it off as long as I could, but it has come to its deadline. It takes me back to those dreaded school assignments, writing an essay on my topic of choice. I have been taught how to think, speak, spell, and write, but the task of catching the strings of thought from my mind and putting it together sensibly never came naturally or was learned. I do dream of saying something of great importance someday, don't hold your breath this is not it.



In school I learned the art of writing without saying anything, or saying the same thing over and over with different words. If I wrote nothing long enough I eventually filled up the page. Another approach was to take something profound, or not so profound, said by someone well known and comment on it. Like so:

Philosopher Dr. Seuss wrote "That day, all the Sneetches forgot about stars and whether they had one, or not, upon thars." *The Sneetches* is a great story about perception and acceptance of who you and others are. Acceptance is the key. Benjamin Franklin is a hero of mine, his goal to better society and not his own place in it is inspiring. His *Poor Richards Almanack* was full of proverbs, and one I recently read seems to have held true. "The learned fool writes his nonsense in better language than the un-learned, but still 'tis nonsense." We do seem to be surrounded by more and more nonsense especially from the unlearned trying to appear learned. Another admired by me is Jim Henson, who through Kermit the Frog said "It's not easy being green." If heard for the first time by someone these days the interpretation of those words would be very different from their original meaning. Kermit lamented blending in with the ordinary things and thought he wanted to stand out, in the end being himself was what he wanted to be. These days being "green" seems to mean doing well for the environment. I dream of the day that being green in that sense of the word becomes an ordinary thing.

In sincere nonsense, Tricia

**Eastside Audubon Society**  
(425) 576-8805 — [www.eastsideaudubon.org](http://www.eastsideaudubon.org)

**308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)**

**Executive Officers**

<b>President</b>	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@eastsideaudubon.org
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Carmen Almodovar	(425) 643-5922 calmodovar@eastsideaudubon.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ellen Homan	(425) 836-5838 ehoman@eastsideaudubon.org
<b>Executive Director</b>	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580 jan@eastsideaudubon.org

**Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)**

<u>At large board member</u>	Helen LaBouy	(425) 868-9706 hlabouy@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>At large board member</u>	Margaret Lie	(425) 823-2686 mlie@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>At large board member</u>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 tkishel@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Birding</u>	Brian Bell	(425) 485-8058 bbell@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Adult Education</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Bird Photography</u>	Tim Boyer	(425) 277-9326 tboyer@seanet.com
<u>Field Trips</u>	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351 fieldtrips@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Native Plant Walks</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Nature Walks</u>	Christopher Chapman	(425) 941-3501 cjchapman19@comcast.net
<u>Special Events</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Bird Questions?</u>	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026
<u>Conservation</u>	Andrew McCormick	(425) 637-0892 amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Advocacy</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Citizen Science</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580
<u>Conservation</u>	Andrew McCormick	(425) 637-0892 amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Marymoor Park</u>	Jim Rettig	(425) 402-1833 jrettigtanager@verizon.net
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<u>Programs</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
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<u>Financial Development</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Birdathon</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Gift Wrap</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Merchandising</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Membership</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Hospitality</u>	Claudia Welch	(425) 827/2548
<u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>	Rahul Gupta	rgupta@eastsideaudubon.org

## July/August Meetings

**Jul 1/Aug 5 (Weds) 4:00—6:00 pm**  
**Web Committee**

Meets first Wednesday each month in EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email [webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org)

**Jul 9/Aug 13 (Thurs) 7:00 pm**  
**Photo Group**

Meets in large room upstairs from EAS Office. Questions? Email Tim Boyer at [tboyer@seanet.com](mailto:tboyer@seanet.com)

**Jul 14/Aug 11 (Tues) 7:00 pm**  
**Youth Education Committee**

Meets in the EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email [education@elwas.org](mailto:education@elwas.org)

## Eastside Audubon Office/ Audubon Center

The office is downstairs at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church in Kirkland, **308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)**. Directions: I-405 exit 18 (N. E. 85th-Kirkland). Go west on Central Way to the light on 3rd St. Go left on 3rd St. Follow this street (it bears left and changes name to State St.) Then turn left on 4th Ave. S.

**(425) 576-8805**

**office@eastsideaudubon.org**

**Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri — 9:00am - 1:00pm**

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**Deadline** for material submission is the first Wednesday of the month preceding publication. Send material by email to:

[newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org)

Subject: EAS Newsletter

or by mail to:

Eastside Audubon Society

Attn: Tom Grismer

P. O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115



## Volunteer Spotlight on: Andy McCormick

**A**nother migratory member chirps right in. Andy, a newer member, has already added quite a bit to Eastside Audubon.

Andy grew up in Stoughton, Massachusetts. He began a career in social work after receiving his master's degree from Boston University in 1976. He worked in mental health, child care and domestic violence. Within a few years, he was part of a group of men that started EMERGE, the first program in the world to work with domestic violence perpetrators. In the mid-1980's, moving with his family to California, he tried a different career - his own practice in Chinese Medicine and acupuncture. He returned to social work, and in 1994, moved to Washington. Andy currently works at Harborview Medical Center as a social worker.

What about his birding career? Andy was turned on to birding from the sight of a yellow and black Prairie Warbler sitting in a white flowering dogwood tree. What an image! In the early 1970's, as a member of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, he started keeping birding records and a life list. His current ABA (American Birding Association) count is 545. And, his most memorable birding experiences - the spring migration in Massachusetts; a great Horned Owl in a tree right on the trail on Camano Island; and seeing a Peregrine Falcon with prey at Skagit Flats. His favorite birds are shore birds, but he also likes birds on the eastern side of the mountains, thanks to an Eastside Audubon trip. Andy loves the exploration part of birding. "I never get tired of it." He joined Eastside Audubon



because he wanted to meet local birders and to learn the Northwest birds. He said the "best way to learn is to go out with an experienced birder."

Andy, a current Board Member, chairs the Conservation Committee. He said the committee hopes to expand their efforts in land use issues as they connect with the new East King County members, in Issaquah, Duvall, North Bend and Woodinville. In addition, Andy writes the Bird of the Month column, trying not to duplicate the 100 western Washington birds previously covered by Hugh Jennings. And, he tries to choose seasonably appropriate birds for the readers. You might also see Andy's bird haikus, appearing periodically in the newsletter. Andy volunteers for the Marymoor Park bird loop work. One of his goals for Marymoor and other parks is to build "accessible trails." After taking his disabled daughter birding, he has realized the need for trails for handicapped birders.

Wow, Andy, we thank you for all you have done for humans, birds, ecology and for our organization.

— Marlene Meyer



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17320 135th Ave. N.E. — Woodinville  
(425) 398-1862

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**See the birds better!**

## Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new members of Eastside Audubon. We hope to see you soon at a Program Night or Field Trip. Call or visit our office if you have any questions. Our friendly volunteers are more than happy to help you.  
Gladys Anderson, Melora Bacheller,

Darla Bacus, Lucille Barnard, Mary A. Bolte, Patricia Bowers, Kathy Carlson, John Clowry, F. D. Ford, Bunny Friesen, Marcia H. Hoover, Mary Houkal, Joy Johnsen, Charlie and Carrie Kahle, William O. Kelly III, Marilyn Leland, Roberta Lewandowski, Tom and Jean

Matthews, Elaine Miller, Libby Osnes-Erie, Karla Steele, Jeff Taylor, Larry W. Tjoelker, Jan Wallace, Dr. Loryn Weinstein

### *Bird Language*

Trying to understand the words  
Uttered on all sides by birds,  
I recognize in what I hear  
Noises that betoken fear.

Though some of them, I'm certain, must  
Stand for rage, bravado, lust,  
All other notes that birds employ  
Sound like synonyms for joy.

W.H. Auden

## Come out and help!

Here we are (see the picture below) having fun constructing the Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park.

Join us for fun, laughter and a sense of purpose. Next Work Party: Saturday, July 11, 9 to noon, SE corner of Parking Lot G.



## Our Lifeline: Our Volunteers

Summer's finally here! As we enjoy the sunny awesomeness outside, let us take a moment to recognize and thank the efforts and dedication of our volunteers in helping EAS realize its dreams, its goals and its mission. We are grateful to **Tim McGruder** for his unwavering commitment to development, conservation and the continued success of our birdathons. Thank you, **Marlene Meyer** – we appreciate your excellent work with the volunteer spotlight columns for the months of May through July as much as the delicious dessert you organized for our April's monthly meeting! They say that behind every successful organization is an active, caring community of members and behind that community is a database tracking some of their information! Please join us in congratulating **Roy Branson** for his splendid work maintaining the health

and sanity of our EAS membership database, which by any account, is no small feat.

The International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) on May 9<sup>th</sup> was a memorable event – thanks to the contributions of **Jim Rettig, Mary Britton-Simmons, Margaret Lie, Tora Roksvog, Jill Keeney, Margaret Snell, Bev Jennings, Hugh Jennings, Helen LaBouy, Jim Roberts, Nancy Roberts, Christy Anderson** and **Ollie Oliver**, we were once again able to affirm our commitment to fostering greater understanding, appreciation and protection of birds and the all-important phenomenon of bird migration.

If we've missed anyone – thank you! You know who you are and by your own generous commitment, you set a wonderful example and demonstrate the power of

individuals to effect significant change into our communities. We greatly appreciate your time, generosity and leadership and we know that you are our most passionate promoters. We do request that you please continue to submit your volunteer hours by emailing the same to '[volunteer-time@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer-time@eastsideaudubon.org)' whenever you get a chance.

We cannot thank you enough for your invaluable contributions as a volunteer. Our goals require sincere and committed volunteers and we are grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication you bring to your role as an Eastside Audubon volunteer. Would you like to volunteer for EAS? Check out the website for current needs.

## Welcome Our New Program Chair, Claudia Strickland

A great big welcome to our new Program Night Chair, Claudia Strickland! It is with mixed emotions that I am passing this job on to Claudia, but 5 years is a long time. My first program night was Sept, 2004, with Mike Sato talking about "The Inland Sea: Where Have All the Orcas Gone?" I finished up with Dave Nunnallee on "Cascadia Butterflies: Their Intriguing Life History." And I always made sure we had 4 to 5 bird-related programs each season to keep things in balance.

In 2004, I volunteered to be Program Chair because I wanted to do more. I wasn't a birder, but I thought I could find some interesting speakers. Claudia will fit right in with this pattern. She is also not a birder, but loved seeing the condors at the Grand Canyon. She recently retired from Boeing, has been doing volunteer work with the Humane Society, and is eager to assume the role of EAS Program Night Chair. She's a lively, outgoing, organized, and savvy person. We can look forward to some new and interesting pro-

gram ideas.

I have really enjoyed the perks of working with all our great speakers for 5 years. And you Audubon members have been the greatest. Thank you for your support.

— Sunny Walter

## Board Notes for May 2009

**Spring Plant Sale:** Despite rainy weather and a new location, our first plant sale at the Kirkland Children's School was a success. We made \$2300, and netted about \$1400, not including about \$280 from the bake sale.

**International Migratory Earth Day Festival at Marymoor Park:** Festival goers were treated to bird walks, a native plant walk, and kids activities.

**Birdathon:** Our primary fundraising event of the year brought over \$15,000 to the chapter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Our investments have improved, but our expenses still ex-

ceed our income.

**Conservation:** The board approved a request from Marymoor Park that we support the enforcement of parking fees. The board also passed a motion to send a letter supporting the Lower Columbia Basin chapter in their effort to begin the process for listing the Burrowing Owl as a threatened or endangered species in Washington.

**Development:** Tim McGruder has agreed to chair this committee. He stressed that development isn't just fundraising. It's also messaging and volunteers, and messaging must be informed by our vision of

the chapter.

**Membership:** Sunny Walter reported that our Facebook pages are up and we currently have 8 fans. The Membership Committee is also calling new members to welcome them to the chapter.

**Website:** Sunny Walter added 300 photos to the Bird Gallery.

**Marymoor:** Jim Rettig reported that new signs have arrived and will be installed. The bike rack art project will also be available for installation very shortly.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Parents and children over 8 are welcome on all trips. \*\*FRS Radio owners, please consider bringing them on trips.\*\***  
See [www.eastsideaudubon.org/events/](http://www.eastsideaudubon.org/events/) for the latest information and for reports of last month's field trips.

### Meeting Places for Field Trips:

- **Kingsgate Park and Ride:** I-405 exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound, N. E. 124th St. Go west to light at 116th Ave. N. E., then right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot (on the left). Meet in the S.E. corner. 1300 116th Way NE, Kingsgate.
- **Newport Hills Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 9. 5115 113th PL NE, Newport Hills.
- **South Kirkland Park and Ride:** 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way. 10610 NE 38th Pl.
- **Tibbetts Park and Ride:** Take exit 15 from I-90, turn right (south) and go past the new multistory Issaquah Park & Ride to the 3rd traffic light. Turn left (east) on Newport Way NW, go one block and turn right (south) into the Park & Ride. Meet at the west end of the parking lot (away from the entrance) to carpool. 1675 Newport Way NW, Issaquah

### Jul 3 (Fri) 8:00 am to noon

#### Marymoor Park Bird Walk

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 8:00**. Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot (Parking Lot D). No registration is required. To reach Marymoor Park, take SR 520 east from Seattle to the West Lake Sammamish Parkway exit and follow the signs. The entrance to the park is one block south of the exit. Turn right at third stop sign, to Dog Area parking lot. Parking is \$1.

### Jul 11 (Sat) 9:00 to noon

#### Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration

Join us in restoring native habitat at the Marymoor Park interpretive area. Dress for the weather and bring clippers, gloves, snacks and water. Meet at SE corner of Parking Lot G.

**Jim Rettig 425-402-1833**

### Jul 11-12 (Sat.-Sun.) 11:00 am

#### Hurricane Ridge/Dungeness Spit

Our annual Olympic Peninsula wildflower trip featuring views, birds, and varied wildlife. On Saturday at 11:00 am we will meet at the picnic table across the street from the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for a snack lunch. (This is the Center at the base of the foothills, the one before you actually enter the park.) Look for the picnic tables at front of the Center. After lunch, we will head for the main visitor center at the top of Hurricane Ridge, making one stop to check out wildflowers along the way. If you miss the lunch, look for us at the trailhead of Hurricane Hill, about a quarter mile beyond the main

visitor center. On Sunday we will go birding in the Ediz Hook, Dungeness Spit and Sequim areas.

We'll be staying overnight on Saturday in Port Angeles. If you plan to join us, we usually stay at the [Riviera Inn Motel](#), or there are several other [motels](#) and [campsites](#) available. If you plan to go please call **Bill Schmidt 425-881-6037**

### Jul 19 (Sun) 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

#### Native Plant Walk: Big Four Meadows

Leisurely 2¼ miles round trip walk along the trail to the Ice Caves. We take the boardwalk across a scrub-shrub wetland, with willows, hardhack, skunk cabbage, black twinberry, and sedge species. We then head into mixed-age silver fir forest to see bunchberry, bleeding heart, queen's-cup, foamflower, and false lily-of-the-valley. In the meadow, look for rufous hummingbirds and salmonberry. Optional walk up the small knob near the ice caves. See plant list at: [http://www.wnps.org/plant\\_lists/counties/snohomish/snohomish\\_county.html](http://www.wnps.org/plant_lists/counties/snohomish/snohomish_county.html)

Bring walking shoes, water, lunch, extra snacks, rain gear, bug juice, sunscreen, plant books and binoculars. Meet before 8:00 am at Kingsgate P&R, Kirkland to carpool.

Please contact Sunny Walter at [swalter@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:swalter@eastsideaudubon.org) to reserve your space.

### Jul 20 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon

#### Lake Sammamish State Park Nature Walk

Enjoy a morning walk at the park. The park offers plenty of habitats for aquatic and boreal species. Enjoy a nature and birding walk at Lake Sammamish State Park.

We'll meet at the main parking area at 9:00 am and the trip should last about three hours. Bring binoculars, drinks and snacks, and dress for the weather. Direct questions to our trip leader, **Sharon at 425-271-0143**.

### Jul 21 (Tues) 8:00 am to noon

#### Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 8:00**. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required.

**MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

### Jul 27 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon

#### Birding the Hot Spots of King County

Monthly field trip on **4<sup>th</sup> Monday** of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan

*(Continued on page 7)*

to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person **\$2.00.** **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

**Aug 7 (Fri) 8:00 am to noon**  
**Marymoor Park Bird Walk**

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 8:00.** Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot (Parking Lot D). No registration is required. To reach Marymoor Park, take SR 520 east from Seattle to the West Lake Sammamish Parkway exit and follow the signs. The entrance to the park is one block south of the exit. Turn right at third stop sign, to Dog Area parking lot. Parking is **\$1.**

**Aug 8 (Sat) 7:00 am to 6:00 pm**  
**Native Plant Walk: Naches Peak Loop**

Join us for a wildflower hike around the Naches Peak Loop, 3.5 miles, 500 ft elev gain. We will explore alpine meadows with picturesque little tarns and see lupine, Indian paintbrush, shooting stars, beargrass, and other wildflowers. Birds and butterflies also. Great views of Mt. Rainier on the second half. Leisurely pace. See plant list at: [http://www.wnps.org/plant\\_lists/counties/pierce/pierce\\_county.html](http://www.wnps.org/plant_lists/counties/pierce/pierce_county.html)

Bring good walking shoes or boots, lots of water, lunch, extra snacks, extra clothes (for emergencies), rain gear, bug juice, sunscreen, plant books and binoculars. Leader TBD. Please contact Sunny Walter at [swalter@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:swalter@eastsideaudubon.org) for meeting place.

**Aug 10th (Mon) 6:00 am to 7:00 pm**  
**Mt. Baker**

Table Mountain, in the Mt. Baker area east of Bellingham is an interesting area in mid-summer. We will work our way up, with stops on the way. At Table Mountain, assuming the deep snow has melted, we will hike in search of White-tailed Ptarmigan, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches, and other mountain species. Bring lunch and fluids and sturdy walking shoes/boots. We'll meet at the Kingsgate P&R (116th Ave NE) at 6 am. **Passenger cost/person \$30. Limit 11 people in 3 cars - Brian H. Bell 425-485-8058.** Call Brian to reserve a spot. Back early evening – 7:00 pm or so.

**Aug 15 (Sat) 6:45 am**  
**Whidbey Island**

Take the ferry to Whidbey Island to check out several good places for waterfowl and shorebirds. Stops will include Crockett Lake, Penn Cove, and Dugualla Bay. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch and ferry fare. Meet before 6:45 am at south end of Kingsgate Park N Ride for the 7:30 am ferry. Return early evening. Passenger cost/person **\$17.00** plus share ferry costs. **Joyce Meyer, 425-868-7986 and Mike West.**

**Aug 18 (Tues) 8:00 am to noon**

**Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk**

A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00.** Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required.

**MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

**Aug 22 (Sat) 7:00 am - Grays Harbor Loop**

We will visit many different habitats from city parks, marinas, beaches, and forests for a variety of waterfowl, gulls, terns, shorebirds and songbirds. This is an all-day trip so bring a lunch. We will stop at the Raymond Waterfront City Park, Tokeland Marina and shoreline, Westport harbor, Westhaven State Park and Bottle Beach. Meet before 7:00 am at north end of the Wilburton Park-n-Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. Passenger cost/person **\$30.00.**

**Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

**Aug 24 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon**

**Birding the Hot Spots of King County**

Monthly field trip on **4th Monday** of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person **\$2.00.**

**Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

**Sept 12 (Sat) – 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Vaux's Swifts in Monroe**

Evening trip to Monroe to watch thousands of Vaux's Swifts go through their evening ritual before dropping into a chimney to roost for the night. Bring a folding chair or blanket if you don't like to stand for a long time. About an hour before dusk they begin circling and swirling around the chimney as the numbers keep increasing. A few will start making feints at the chimney, then some will start dropping down into the chimney. These are followed by more and more until the sky is empty at about dusk. We'll meet at the south end of the Kingsgate P&R by 6:30 pm and carpool to Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe. Passenger cost/person **\$4.** If you plan to go, email **Hugh Jennings:** [hughbirder@earthlink.net](mailto:hughbirder@earthlink.net) or call **425-746-6351.**

**Black-footed Albatross** *Phoebastria nigripes*

Length	32 in
Wingspan	84 in (7 ft)
Weight	7 lb (3,200 g)
AOU Band code	BFAL

And a good south wind sprung up behind;  
The Albatross did follow,  
And every day, for food or play,  
Came to the mariner's hollo!<sup>1</sup>

The Black-footed Albatross is the only albatross commonly seen from the North American coastline and we have the good fortune of having it off the Washington coast in July and August. The birds are found across the North Pacific in the non-breeding time of year. They are of the genus *Phoebastria* from the Greek for prophetess in reference to the bird's significance as an omen for sailors. The species *nigripes*, black-footed is from the Latin *niger*, black and *pes*, foot.

The Black-footed is dark brown overall with white on the face around the base of the bill. The bill, as in all albatrosses, is sharply hooked and is used for fishing as they dip into the water while arcing and gliding on their long, narrow wings. Their excellent sense of smell leads them to squid, fish, and crustaceans. In Hawaii they eat the eggs of flying fish. Black-foots do better in windy weather as it helps them stay aloft. Their bodies are large and in low winds they are forced to laborious flying. In calm weather they usually sit on the water.

The vast majority of these birds (95%) nest in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The rest of them breed in Japan. They lay a single creamy white egg in the sand. Both parents, who mate for life, incubate the egg for over two months. In an-



other five months the young are ready to leave the island. The entire breeding cycle takes over a year, so they nest only once every two years at the most (Kaufman). Black-foots can live to 40 or 50 years of age and do not begin breeding until their fifth year. Because of this long life cycle it is difficult for them to recover from losses.

Black-footed Albatrosses are now considered threatened. They have had significant population declines of about 20% since 1995. It is estimated that 8,000-19,000 Black-foots are killed each year when they take bait on longlines, become entrapped and drown. In 1992 drift net fishing was banned reducing this former threat to Black-foots. The birds also ingest plastics floating on the water. Because they feed their young regurgitated food, some plastic is then eaten by the chicks (Sullivan). Studied adults have high levels of mercury, arsenic and organochlorine chemicals.

The Ancient Mariner saw the albatross as a good omen, but then killed it. The crew's punishment of hanging the albatross around the mariner's neck did not end the troubles. It was only when the mariner understood that all creatures share the earth did he find peace.

Farewell, farewell ! but this I tell  
To thee, thou Wedding-Guest!  
He prayeth well, who loveth well  
Both man and bird and beast.  
He prayeth best, who loveth best  
All things both great and small;  
For the dear God who loveth us,  
He made and loveth all.<sup>1</sup>

(Photo credit: Ryan Merrill. References available upon request at [amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org) )

<sup>1</sup>Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

## Summer Campers

Thanks to the generosity of Eastside Audubon members, the Education Committee will once again send low income students to environmental/science camps. Seven middle school students from the Northshore and Bellevue School Districts will spend one week either at a day, overnight or combo camp. Camps chosen are: Scout Awareness Overnight (Wilderness Awareness), Pac Sci Get

Your Green On, YMCA B.O.L.D., NOAA Science Camp. Last summer REI gave us \$800.00 worth of camping equipment so all of the campers will be well-outfitted for their experience.

A meeting for campers and parents on June 6<sup>th</sup> gave us an opportunity to award certificates to the children and to tell them about the fun-filled adventures

waiting for them. Excitement ran high as campers made new friends and learned more about the camp each will attend.

We hope you will consider donating to this worthwhile project and help the Education Committee send more campers next summer.

— Mary Britton-Simmons,  
Education Chair

## Buy T-shirts and Hats Online

Remember that you can buy the new Eastside Audubon T-shirts, hats, and totes from our online store. T-shirts come in blue or yellow and are 100% organic cotton. Sizing is unisex in M,

L, and XL. The hat, 60% bamboo rayon and 40% cotton, is light khaki and comes with an adjustable velcro strap. Our totes are 100% organic cotton canvas with webbed handles

for extra comfort. Totes are similar in size to large paper grocery bags. And don't forget that you can also buy PCC scrip cards. On our home page click the Online Store button.



## Green Kirkland Habitat Restoration Event: Kiwanis Park

Join the effort to restore native habitat at Kiwanis Park in Kirkland by participating in this event on Saturday, August 15. This event begins at 9 am. Kiwanis Park is located at 1405 10th

St W, Kirkland.

Wear work clothes and gloves and dress for the weather. Also bring water bottle, and if you have them, pruning shears/clippers, lopping shears and

shovels.

To volunteer, contact Sharon Rodman at 425-587-3305 or email

greenkirkland@ci.kirkland.wa.us