

Eastside Audubon
your connection to nature

The Corvid Crier

EASTSIDE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 28, No 3 – APRIL 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 4th Ave. S. (corner of 4th Ave. S. and State). Take I-405 exit 18 (NE 85th, Kirkland). Drive west on Central Way to 3rd St. (stoplight). Turn left (south) on 3rd St. and follow it as it bears left and changes name to State St. Turn left on 4th Ave S.

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

The Owl and The Woodpecker: Encounters with North America's Most Iconic Birds

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 pm

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (EAS Headquarters)

Join award-winning photographer **Paul Bannick** on a visual journey of 11 key North American habitats through the needs of specific owl and woodpecker species. This stunning photographic study will be accompanied by field stories and rich natural history derived from thousands of hours in the field. His talk will look at the way owls and woodpeckers define and enrich their habitat and how their life-histories are intertwined.

Paul Bannick is an award winning photographer whose work has appeared in *Audubon* magazine, *Sunset* magazine, *Pacific Northwest* magazine, the *National Wildlife Federation Guide to North American Birds* and in many other books, magazines, parks, refuges and other places in North America and Europe.

Paul works full time for Conservation Northwest, an environmental organization dedicated to protecting and connecting wild areas from the Pacific Coast to the Canadian Rockies.

We lead off the evening with a special Birdathon presentation at 7:00, followed by brief chapter announcements and then refreshments and socializing. Come early for the Activity Fair and treat yourselves to pictures of our fun and rewarding activities. Check out our new Birdathon display.

Paul's presentation starts at 7:50; his new book, **The Owl and The Woodpecker**, will be available for sale before his presentation. Editor-at-Large, *Audubon*



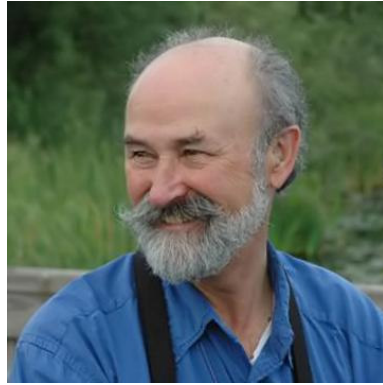
Magazine, raves about the book: "What a glorious book! Paul Bannick's photographs reveal the startling beauty and complex survival strategies of the owl and the woodpecker, North America's most charismatic—and crucial—cavity-nesting birds. These are images to savor again and again."

Please join us **Thursday, April 23** for Paul Bannick's beautiful and stimulating presentation. The presentation is free and open to the public. Invite a friend or anyone who wants to learn about North America's most iconic birds.



Focus on the Board: Birding Opportunities
By Brian H. Bell, Birding Chair

Most of you are familiar with Eastside Audubon's birding field trips. These are the opportunities that you have to go into the field with an experienced leader to see our regular resident species as well as those that are moving thru in migration. Our trips



vary from local ones to places like Marymoor, and the regular monthly trip with Mary Frances Mathis to Juanita Bay Park; to more regional locations such as the Snoqualmie Valley, or Discovery Park; or to more distant sites like Whidbey Island, Port Townsend or Grays Harbor. Occasionally we go "really far afield" for a long weekend to the Okanogan. These trips are always popular and well attended, and we welcome you all on them. We are always looking for people who are interested in becoming leaders - going along as a co-leader is a good way to get started. To join the fun, please contact me, or Hugh Jennings.

Other birding opportunities may not be as obvious. One "neat" way is to participate in one of our Bird Surveys. Eastside Audubon (working with the Conservation Committee) conducts Bird Surveys in a wide variety of habitats, to gain knowledge to help us in our conservation efforts, and to provide information to enquiring organizations and agencies. These surveys are conducted on a regular basis over a replicable route, keeping records of the species seen, their numbers, and the habitat in which they are seen. Notable behaviors are noted. To find out what surveys are currently being conducted contact the Conservation Committee, or Hugh Jennings.

Another less obvious opportunity is our Adult Birding Classes. These classes provide the interested birder with both beginning and advanced identification techniques to increase their knowledge and skill. Whether a class covers a specific set of birds, or is more general, most include at least one field trip for the class participants to use their new skills. We are looking for an enthusiastic volunteer who is willing to act as the chair of this committee. For more information, please contact me.

See you out Birding!

Eastside Audubon Society
(425) 576-8805 — www.eastsideaudubon.org

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

Executive Officers

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--|
| President | Cindy Balbuena | (425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Vice President | Open | |
| Secretary | Carmen Almodovar | (425) 643-5922 calmodovar@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Treasurer | Ellen Homan | (425) 836-5838 ehoman@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Executive Director | 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> | Open | |
| <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> | Open | |
| <u>Bird Questions?</u> | MaryFrances Mathis | (425) 803-3026 |
| <u>Conservation</u> | Andrew McCormick | (425) 637-0892 amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>Advocacy</u> | Open | |
| <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>Youth Education</u> | Mary Britton-Simmons | (360) 794-7163 mbritton-simmons@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>Library</u> | Betsy Law | (206) 782-1497 librarian@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>Communication</u> | Patrick Kelley | (206) 618-9674 birder@pkwrite.com |
| <u>Historian</u> | Bob Gershmel | (425) 823-8840 rwgusnret1986@yahoo.com |
| <u>Newsletter</u> | Tom Grismer | (206) 720-9892 newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>Publicity</u> | Tracey Cummings | (425) 788-4663 publicity@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>Webmaster</u> | Liz Copeland | (425) 641-0209 webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>Financial Development</u> | Open | |
| <u>Birdathon</u> | Open | |
| <u>Gift Wrap</u> | Open | |
| <u>Merchandising</u> | Open | |
| <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 |

April Meetings

Apr 1 (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

Apr 9 (Thurs) 7:00 pm

Photo Group

Meets in large room upstairs from EAS Office. Questions? Email Tim Boyer at tboyer@seanet.com

Apr 14 (Tues) 7:00 pm

Youth Education Committee

Meets in the EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email education@elwas.org

Apr 23 (Thurs) 6:30 pm

Monthly Membership Meeting

See page 1.

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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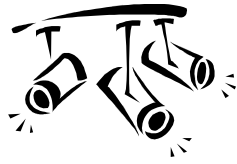
The Corvid Crier is published monthly by the Eastside Audubon Society except that there are no issues in January or August.

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

newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org
Subject: EAS Newsletter

or by mail to:

Eastside Audubon Society
Attn: Tom Grismer
P. O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115



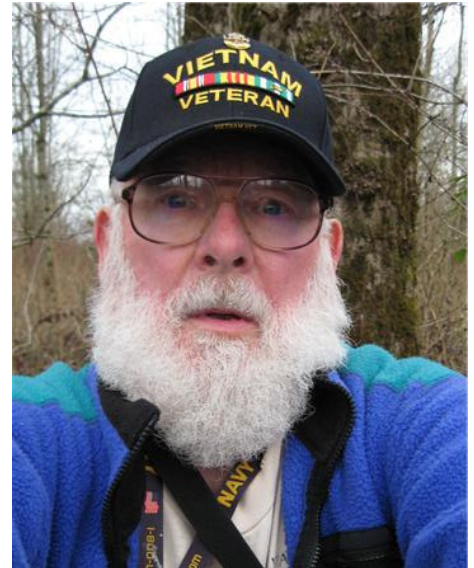
Volunteer Spotlight on:

Are you ever curious about a past Audubon event? Thanks to our historian, Bob Gershmel, you can probably find information and even a photo about the event.

Bob's life started on a farm in the colder country of Palmer, Alaska. He went to school from first to twelfth grade in Wasilla, 38 miles from Anchorage. After high school, he decided to join the Navy. During his 28 years and 4 months in the service, he served on three aircraft carriers around Vietnam and became a CPO (Chief Petty Officer). Bob also married and had a son and two daughters. When he decided to leave the military, he retired in Montlake Terrace. He then took on a job as public safety officer for Alderwood Mall.

How does a war veteran get into birding? In 2001, Bob decided to volunteer as a park ranger at Juanita Bay Park. He now leads tours the first Sunday of each month and at other times for schools. Bob said, "I enjoy sharing information with young people." One day, he spoke with our members, Jim and Nancy Roberts, and decided to try Audubon. His favorite birds are the bald eagle and the osprey. Why these two? "I like the competition between the two birds," he said, "and, in flight, they are beautiful."

In January, 2008, Bob answered the call for volunteers and became our historian. He collects stories from newspapers and receives articles people send him. He



also writes articles and uses his hobby of photography to record the different Audubon functions he attends. He has written stories about Birdathon teams, and recently, about the Audubon sponsored watch, led by Hugh Jennings, of Blue Herons in Kenmore. Bob said, "I like working with people, the camaraderie and social aspect. And, I'm always learning to identify more birds."

If you would like to look at the historian book for information or enjoyment, it is kept in the Eastside Audubon office. Bob says, "I'm just carrying on the tradition." Thank you Bob for doing so for all of us!

The Eagle

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ring'd with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

On the Environment Lobby Day held in mid February, several of our volunteers traveled down to Olympia and joined the state's leading conservation groups and hundreds of citizen lobbyists to influence elected legislators to push for the passage of the Environmental Priorities Coalition's legislative package – we are extremely grateful to **Cindy Balbuena, Sunny Walter, Christy Anderson, Jim Rettig, Maureen Sunn, Diane Whitman, Jim McRoberts and Carmen Almodovar** for taking time out to campaign and extend their support for tackling some of the most important environmental issues afflicting our planet, a theme that is very closely aligned with our overall mission statement.

But saving our planet alone wasn't

enough for **Tim McGruder**, to whom we are truly thankful for his involvement with the City of Redmond Community Development Guide and Bear Creek planning, in addition to his fundraising efforts and contributions on Environmental Lobby Day.

Last, but certainly not the least, special thanks to our field trip leaders **Brian Bell, Hugh Jennings, Joyce Meyer, Mike West, Bill Schmidt, Sharon Aagaard and Stan Wood** as well as to our valued members of the Education Committee **Jim Hall, Shirlee Hall, Margaret Snell, Margaret Lee and Jill Keeney** for their dedication and consistent hard work over the past few months. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

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 in our communities. We greatly appreciate your time, generosity and leadership and we know that you are our most passionate promoters.

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.

— Rahul Gupta, Volunteer Coordinator

Plant Sale — May 2, 2009

Mark the date! Our spring plant sale is set for Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 10 am to 2:00 pm This year the sale is at a new location: **Kirkland Children's School**, 5311 - 108th Avenue N.E. in Kirkland. All proceeds go directly to Eastside Audubon.

We will offer a wide variety of native and ornamental plants that attract birds, butterflies and hummingbirds. Come early - pick out the plants that best suit your landscaping - and help wildlife at the

same time!

Plant experts will be on hand to answer your native plant questions, and help you make your yard more wildlife-friendly.





EagleEye
VISION CARE, P.S.

Dr. Kerri W. Scarbrough, Optometrist
17320 135th Ave. N.E. — Woodinville
(425) 398-1862

See the birds better!



Spring Has Sprung

Spring is a busy time for our Chapter. We'll be participating in some great events around the Eastside and hope you'll join us. Stop by our booth and say "hi" and enjoy the activities going on that day.

You can learn more about any of these events on our website:
www.eastsideaudubon.org

April 18 – **Earth Day at Issaquah Farmers Market** – 9 am to 3 pm at the Pickering Barn, 1730 Tenth Avenue NW in Issaquah;

April 25 – **Hobby Fair at Issaquah Farmers Market** - 9 am to 3 pm at the Pickering Barn, 1730 Tenth Avenue NW in Issaquah;

April 25 – **Spring Garden Fair** – 9 am to

3:30 pm at Redmond City Hall Campus, 15670 NE 85th Street, Redmond. This is our fifth year at this event. It's always a great day about gardening and yard care, with many resources to answer all your questions, and great talks by local garden writers. You can learn more at [www/springgardenfair.com/](http://www.springgardenfair.com/)

May 2 – **Plant Sale** – 10 am to 2 pm at Kirkland Children's School, 5311 - 108th Avenue N.E., Kirkland. This is our third year of holding a spring plant sale. Our Chair, Krista Rave-Perkins had located the "common" native plants, as well as some gems to add to your garden. Also note our new location in south Kirkland. We'll have experts on hand to answer all your questions.

May 5 – **Gardening With Native Plants**

lecture – 7 am to 9 pm at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 Fourth Avenue S., Kirkland. The first week in May is Native Plant Appreciation Week, and in partnership with Washington Native Plant Society we are pleased to bring this lecture by Marcia Rivers-Smith.

May 9 – **International Migratory Earth Day Festival** – 2 pm to 5 pm at Marymoor Park. This is a smaller version of our Marymoor Festival held last August. We'll have bird walks, native plant walk, kids activities, and family bird walk, and scopes for close-up viewing of the Osprey nest.

May 9 – **Washington Native Plant Society Plant Sale** – 10 am to 4 pm at the Bellevue Botanical Garden, 12001 Main Street in Bellevue.

Green Kirkland Earth Day Event at Juanita Bay Park, Saturday, April 25

Join the effort to restore native habitat at Juanita Bay Park by participating in this event on Saturday, April 25th.

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

Board Notes for February 2009

Board Retreat: The board met to review 2008 goals and set goals for 2009.

Eastside Audubon accomplishments in 2008: Board president Cindy Balbuena asked the board to note chapter accomplishments in 2008. These included:

- New name and new branding for our chapter
- Website update to reflect these changes and to improve access to information
- Coordination with Seattle Audubon to transfer members living on the Eastside to Eastside Audubon
- Marymoor BirdLoop Festival and partnerships from the festival
- Save Our Swifts partnership with Seattle Audubon and Pilchuck Audubon
- New sectors for the Christmas Bird Count
- Statistical data online
- Two global warming workshops
- Participation in ACOW and Lobby Day
- Education Committee presentations to

over 700 children

- Eight camp scholarships
- Eight program nights
- Eight native plant walks
- Over 40 field trips
- 12 Marymoor work parties
- Conservation tables at program nights
- Activity fairs and new displays for program meetings
- Office renovation.

Focus on Fundraising: Treasurer Ellen Homan noted that in 2008 our expenses exceeded income by over \$17,000. Because of this shortfall and declining income, the board decided that fundraising will be a major priority for the chapter. Initially, efforts will be directed at expanding Birdathon, not only in the number of teams and member participation but also by increasing the variety of field trips and events. A committee will develop a fundraising plan with specific dollar goals and strategies for 2009/2010.

Increase Membership: The board decided that the chapter will work to increase membership by: 1) recruiting new members from the new territories added from Seattle Audubon; 2) reaching new members via social networking forums such as Facebook; 3) improving public awareness of Eastside Audubon through local events such as Earth Day and International Migratory Bird Day, and 4) enhancing existing relationships with local corporations such as Microsoft.

Increase Corporate Partnerships: The board discussed the possible benefits of corporate partnerships, the kinds of companies we might partner with, and whether the relationship would be ongoing or event specific. After much discussion the board designated a committee to formalize policies for corporate partnerships.

— Carmen Almodovar, Secretary

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/ 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

Apr 3 (Fri) – **8:00** to noon — Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1st Friday of each month at 9:00**. 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.

Apr 4 (Sat) 9:00 to noon

Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration

Join us in restoring native habitat at the Marymoor Park interpretive area on the 1st Saturday of every month. Dress for the weather and bring clippers, gloves, snacks and water. Meet at Meadow Kiosk in Parking Lot G. Free parking passes are provided. **Jim Rettig 425-402-1833**

Apr 7 (Tue) 6:00 am to 6:00 pm

Robinson Canyon Birding Hike

We'll hike 6 to 7 miles while birdwatching in Robinson Canyon (near Ellensburg). I've birded this Canyon in the months of May and September, but haven't yet in April, so I'm curious to see and hear what's there. We should see woodpeckers, quail, grouse, raptors, chickadees, kinglets, and nuthatches, and perhaps some early migrants. The trail is rocky, uneven and narrow and there will likely be a stream crossing or two, so definitely bring hiking poles for balance if you have them (if not, we can share mine). Also, appropriate hiking shoes are a must. Pack a lunch, snacks and liquids. Bring spotting scopes if you have them. Meet **before 6:00 am** at the Issaquah **Tibbetts** P&R (NOT the new, multi-level P&R lot just finished last year). Directions: I-90 East to Issaquah, exit 15, turn right off the ramp, head south to the corner of SR 900 and Newport Way and take a left there at the light, and then the next right into Tibbetts lot. **Passenger cost/person \$26.00. Limited to 7 participants in two cars.** Call

Sharon Aagaard 425-271-0143 to register.

Apr 18 (Sat) 7:00 am — Camano Island/Stanwood

Prepare for a full day of birding and explore Camano Island's shoreline, salt-water marshes, grasslands, and forest habitats for seabirds, raptors, and songbirds. Specific areas include Iverson Spit, Livingston Bay, a county park, a Preserve, Utsalady and English Boom. Bring a lunch and meet before 7 am at south end of Kingsgate P&R to carpool. Passenger cost/person **\$14.00. Mike West and Joyce Meyer 425-868-7986.**

Apr 18 (Sat) 9:00 am – Watershed Park

A 2-hour nature walk in this Kirkland park takes place the **3rd Saturday of each month** at 9:00 AM. Nature walks enter the park off NE 45th Street, north of the railroad tracks on 108th Avenue NE, east of 108th Avenue NE. Watershed park has more than 70 acres of mostly upland second growth forest; there is some riparian habitat. Several plant and bird species can be seen in the park. Bus stop nearby on 108th, near 45th. Limited street parking. **Jan Johnson 425-814-5923**

Apr 21 (Tue) 5:45 am — Grays Harbor

We will hit a number of locations in the Grays Harbor area looking for returning shorebirds. Potential locations might include Ocean Shores, Westport, James River, Bottle Beach, Midway Beach, and Tokeland. We will keep our eyes out for all manner of other birds also. Bring a lunch and meet at 5:45 am at the Newport Hills P&R (exit 9 on I-405) to carpool. Early meeting is essential in order to be a locations for the best tide. Dress for most any kind of weather. **Passenger cost/person \$31.00. Limited to 11 people** in three cars. Call **Brian H. Bell 425-485-8058** to save a spot.

Apr 21 (Tue) **8:00** 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 9:00**. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

April 25 (Sat) 7:00 am — Dry Creek Waterfowl

****Birdathon Joint Trip** with Seattle Audubon – Limit: 9** Here's a unique opportunity to see eiders, Smews, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, Red-breasted Geese, and more – very up close and personal. Cameras welcome. Arnold Schouten is one of the few successful breeders of sea ducks. Spend time in the fascinating ecosystem he has created near Port Angeles, a true labor of love. After, we'll bird our way back to the ferry. Scopes a plus for coastal stops. Return early evening. Meet by 7:00 am at Ravenna P&R. **Carpool cost: \$45.00, plus ferry to be shared by all riders.** Leaders: **MaryFrances Mathis (425-803-3026), Megan Lyden (425-603-1548).** Please bring \$25 cash or a check made out to Eastside Audubon for **Birdathon donation.**

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Apr 26 (Sun) – 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

Native Plant Walk: Madrona Woods

Join plant specialist Ella Elman from Seattle Urban Nature (SUN) to explore restoration and daylighting projects along the Lake Washington shoreline. We will explore Madrona Woods where community members have engaged in a 10-year restoration. Their recent stream daylighting project has created a nearshore estuary and has allowed the stream once again to flow into the lake. We will tour the park and look at the shoreline, riparian and upland restoration efforts. We will then carpool to Colman Park where we will see restoration projects installed by the Starflower Foundation from 1997-2006. We will tour the shoreline and upland portions of the park, as well as the frog pond.

Meet at 9:30 at Wilburton P&R at I-405 and SE 8th to carpool. Bring snacks, water, walking shoes, and raingear. Option to go out for lunch afterward. Please email sarah@seattleurbannature.org to register so we know you are coming.

April 27 (Mon) 9:00 to noon

Birding the Hot Spots of King County

Monthly field trip on **fourth 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**

May 5 (Tues) 6:00 am to 6:00 pm

Umtanum Canyon Birding Hike — **Birdathon Trip**

We'll hike 6 to 7 miles while birdwatching the Umtanum Canyon trail, located in Yakima Canyon (between Ellensburg

and Yakima). This trail offers a great opportunity to see birds of the sage and riparian habitats. We should have an opportunity to see and hear many nesting birds, and it's highly likely we'll spot some raptors as well. The trail is rocky but fairly even going and not considered difficult. Wear hiking shoes, bring a lunch, & snacks. It may be a warm day of hiking so definitely bring an ample amount of liquids. Bring spotting scopes if you have them. Meet **before 6:00 am** at the Issaquah Tibbetts P&R (NOT the new, multi-level P&R lot just finished last year). Directions: I-90 East to Issaquah, exit 15, turn right off the ramp, head south to the corner of SR 900 and Newport Way and take a left at the light there, and then the next right into Tibbetts lot. Please bring cash or a check for **donation of \$35.00 to Eastside Audubon (EAS) for Birdathon**. There will be an additional **passenger cost/person of \$28.00** as a share of carpool costs. **Limited to 7 participants in two cars**. Call **Sharon Aagaard 425-271-0143** to register.

May 31 (Sun) 11:00-5:00—Brunch, Birds and Champagne:

****Birdathon Trip** — Limit of 8**

Start your day with brunch at a home on a ridge overlooking the Snoqualmie Valley and the Cascade Range. Then join John Tubbs, Master Birder and nature photographer (www.tubbsphoto.com), on a birding trip in the Valley. Later in the afternoon, celebrate the birds you have seen with hors d'oeuvres and wine, featuring Drappier Grande Sendree 1999 Champagne from an eco-friendly French vineyard. In the mood for more birding? Venture out from the sunroom and walk 16 acres of trails. Hosted by Carmen Almodavar, Margaret Lie, and Mary Britton-Simmons. Donation of \$125.00 to EAS. Call Mary at 360-794-7163 to sign up and get directions.

You are invited to the WENAS Campout, May 22-25, 2009

For over three decades Audubon families have been camping over Memorial Day weekend at the Wenas Creek Campground.

Officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary, it's located SW of Ellensburg, in an "Important Bird Area" and has been assured of protective status. The free, "primitive" campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the east-

ern foothills of the Cascades.

There are wonderful field trips scheduled, and there will be an old-fashioned campfire in our new "approved" firepit device each evening. We do singing, story telling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Please visit Webmaster Michael Hobbs' beautiful Wenas Website to see Hazel Wolf's familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout: www.wenasaudubon.org. There's a bird checklist, wildflower check-

list, outline of field trips and program, directions to the campground, and lots of photos.

For people who don't "do websites," contact me and I'll send you printed information. Bring friends, family, and join us at Wenas Memorial Day Weekend for as many days as you want to stay - May 23-26, 2009!

See you there, Helen Engle, hengle@inet.com, 253-564-3112.

Everyday Products are Filled with Toxins

The February 25th issue of the Seattle PI had an article by Amy Goodman, the host of TV /radio news hour "Democracy Now", and Denis Moynihan, entitled "The toxins you're wearing". The U.S. cosmetic industry is largely unregulated, and Mark Schapiro - an investigative journalist - published a book "Exposed: the

Toxic Chemistry of Everyday Products....".

Schapiro states that he knows what material is in cosmetics because the European Union has worked to remove toxic ingredients from the market and the Union keeps records. Our country's chemical and manufacturing industries have fought

regulation, while Europe has achieved strict regulations against the most harmful toxins. With tough regulations needed here, Schapiro's effort will help greatly.

Will you consider writing to your congress representative? See the Seattle PI link to the complete article: altnet.org/columnists/story/128912 — **Bev Jennings**

Marsh Wren *Cistothorus palustris*

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Length | 5 in |
| Wingspan | 6 in |
| Weight | 0.39 oz, 11 g |
| AOU Band code | MAWR |

The cattail marsh is home for the Marsh Wren. This bird prefers dense cover so much that it will stay down even when it is singing. A birder's patience can be rewarded however, when a Marsh Wren hops up a cattail stem and offers a clear view of itself. The marsh is a competitive ecosystem and a good nesting area can be heavily populated with these lively birds. Marsh Wrens are avid singers and their scratchy bubbling and trilling song can be heard day and night during nesting season. They have a very complex vocalization repertoire and some western males are known to have over 100 song types (Sibley).

The great variety in their songs may be due to their polygynous and productive mating system. Males are very zealous in building families and defending them. They will mate with 2 to 3 females and each is able to raise two broods per year. The males will also build a number of false nests for each female. The bird's defense includes poking holes in the eggs of other birds (Kroodsma).

The Marsh Wren was formerly known as the Long-billed Marsh Wren and shares the genus *cistothorus*, rock rose leaper, from the Greek *kisthos*, the rock rose, and *thouros*, leaping, with the Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*, formerly the Short-billed Marsh Wren of eastern North America. The species name *palustris* is from the Latin *paluster*, meaning marshland. Wren is from the Anglo-Saxon *wreanna* (Holloway).

The sexes are similar and have an overall reddish-brown color. The crown is



darker brown and is set off by a dull white supercilium stripe. On the back is a black triangle with conspicuous white stripes. The tail is often flipped and generally proportional in length to its body in contrast to the tail of Bewick's Wren which is quite long. They will eat a wide variety of insects and glean along cattails for aphids, spiders and beetles foraging primarily in the afternoon when it is warmer and insects are more active (Kaufmann).

The football shaped nests made of grass and rushes are conspicuously attached to cattails. Typically 4 to 5 pale brown eggs with dark brown spots will hatch in about two weeks. The young leave the nest in another two weeks. Marsh Wrens in the west have adapted to nesting even in small cattail marshes such as those found on golf courses and in re-created marshes. Eastern birds tend to avoid

these smaller marshes and because of the loss of wetland habitat their populations are suffering to the degree that the bird is considered threatened in several states (Kroodsma).

Marsh Wrens in the southern United States migrate variably and older birds may overwinter on or near their nesting area. Generally those in the north will migrate longer distances. Marsh Wrens will be arriving in our local western Washington marshes in late March and April.

You can hear and see the Marsh Wren at the Macauley Library: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/video/flashPlayer.do?id=51027>

(Photo credit: Mike Hamilton. References available upon request at amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org)

Bush-titting

Skittering, nibbling, gleaning

Upside-downing

Right-side-upping

Zipping off

-Andrew McCormick

Birdathon: Birding for a Good Cause

Our springtime has all the flowers popping and all the birds singing. And it has served as a reminder that the best part of spring will soon be here – BIRDATHON!!

Eastside Audubon depends on this, our biggest fundraiser, for a large part of our budget every year. All the activities we offer throughout the whole year depend on this annual May event.

How does it work? There are several ways you can participate.

Sponsor a BIRDATHON team, or individual on a team

As a sponsor, you can make a contribution to the team, or even more fun, pledge a certain amount of money for each species a team sees during their 24-hour BIRDATHON period. If your team goes further afield than others, they will probably see more species. When you pledge a per-species amount, the team works that much harder to see more species! It is really motivating.

Take a BIRDATHON Special Field Trip.

Several Eastside Audubon volunteers will be leading field trips to various locations around the Puget Sound area. Unlike our usual free field trips, we are asking participants to make a donation to BIRDATHON to come along. Here's a chance to bird and make an important contribution at the same time!

*There are several Birdathon trips listed on pages 6 and 7. Look for ****Birdathon**** in the heading of the field trip descriptions.*

Form a BIRDATHON team of your own!

You can do it! You don't need to be an expert to be a good BIRDATHONer. You can sit in an easy chair and watch your birdfeeders if you want. The key to a good BIRDATHON individual or team is to collect pledges for the birds you see on your chosen day, no matter where you choose to see those birds. ELWAS will provide everything you need, and need to

know. And you may be in the running for one of our sought after BIRDATHON trophies!

What does BIRDATHON make possible?

- Membership meeting speakers
- Bringing the fun and science of birds to elementary classrooms
- Scholarships for college students studying environmental issues
- Helping teachers bring bird-related projects to their students
- Maintaining our facilities and staff

Everything we do!!

BIRDATHON is a fun way to further the Eastside Audubon mission.

For more information, contact Jan McGruder at 425-576-8805 or office@eastsideaudubon.org.

Join Us for International Migratory Bird Day At Marymoor Park

On May 9 we'll be celebrating International Migratory Bird Day at Marymoor Park. We'll have bird walks, native plant walk, displays, kids' activities, a family bird walk, and scopes for close-up viewing of the active Osprey nest.

When: Saturday, May 9 from 2 pm to 5 pm

Where: Marymoor Park, Parking Lot G

Full Schedule of Events:

- Kids' Activities: 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Bird Walks: 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm
- Family Walk: 4:00 pm
- Native Plant Walk: 3:30 pm
- Bird Scopes: 2 pm to 5 pm

Come celebrate the miracle of bird migration and learn about the hundreds of miles

some birds travel just to mate and nest every year. This is also a great opportunity to see all the work our volunteers have been doing – 2 new kiosks, the areas restored from blackberries and Scots broom to native plants, the new interpretive signs and the new boardwalk extension.

Gardening With Native Plants Lecture

In recognition of **Native Plant Appreciation Week**, Eastside Audubon and the Washington Native Plant Society will co-sponsor a free presentation on using native plants in your garden.

Marcia Rivers-Smith, a Native Plant Steward and active WNPS board member, will be speaking in Kirkland on **Tuesday May 5th** about **gardening with native plants**. What exactly are native plants, why use them, and which ones are best to use? Come discover the beauty and ecological benefits of a garden filled with Pacific Northwest plants. The presenta-

tion will be fully illustrated in color with photos of native plant materials. Marcia has many years of experience in native plant stewardship, habitat restoration and educational presentations.

The free program will begin at 7:00 PM at the Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church in Kirkland, 308 4th Avenue South (corner of 4th Ave S and State St.).

Native Plant Appreciation Week (NPAW) will be observed **May 3-9, 2009**. NPAW is a celebration of Washington's diverse flora inhabiting a wide range of habitats, from alpine slopes to

ocean beaches. NPAW inspires citizens through activities and events to learn more about native plant species and how to protect them. The public can participate in activities from talks, walks, hikes, garden tours, and visits to our natural areas to active involvement in habitat restoration projects. People can also learn how our native plant ecosystems provide suitable habitat for birds, fish and other animals and protect water quality. Check out other activities for your enjoyment on the WNPS website under "What's New" at: www.wnps.org

Birds of Concern in Washington State — by Andrew McCormick, Conservation Committee Chair

We know that many bird species are not doing well these days. But, do you know which species are most in need of help in Washington? The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife tracks data on bird populations in our state and has developed four categories of concern for birds and other species of wildlife. Below are the four categories and the list of birds

for each one.

The Conservation Committee is developing a plan of action to monitor these and other birds by conducting bird surveys, monitoring land use issues, and focusing on conservation in the corridor from Lake Washington to the Cascades. Very soon we will be asking for volunteers to help

with these projects. Currently we have an active campaign to preserve the Vaux's Swift roosting site in the chimney at the Wagner Elementary School in Monroe, WA.

Birds marked with an * are in the Eastside Audubon Society geographical area. Each bird's federal status is also listed.

| <u>State Endangered</u> | <u>Federal Status</u> |
|--|-----------------------|
| "Seriously threatened with extinction" | |
| American White Pelican | None |
| Brown Pelican | Endangered |
| Sandhill Crane | None |
| Snowy Plover | Threatened |
| Spotted Owl* | Threatened |
| Streaked Horned Lark | Candidate |
| Upland Sandpiper | None |
| | |
| <u>State Threatened</u> | |
| "Likely to become endangered" | |
| Ferruginous Hawk | Concerned |
| Marbled Murrelet | Threatened |
| Sage Grouse | Candidate |
| Sharp-tailed Grouse | Concerned |
| | |
| <u>State Sensitive</u> | |
| "Vulnerable or declining" | |
| Bald Eagle* | Concerned |
| Common Loon* | None |
| Peregrine Falcon* | Concerned |
| | |
| <u>State Candidate</u> | |
| "To be reviewed by WDFW" | |
| Black-backed Woodpecker | None |
| Brandt's Cormorant | None |
| Burrowing Owl | Concerned |
| Cassin's Auklet | Concerned |
| Common Murre | None |
| Flammulated Owl | None |
| Golden Eagle | None |
| Lewis' Woodpecker | None |
| Loggerhead Shrike | Concerned |
| Merlin* | None |
| Northern Goshawk | Concerned |
| Oregon Vesper Sparrow | Concerned |
| Pileated Woodpecker* | None |
| Purple Martin* | None |
| Sage Thrasher | None |
| Sage Sparrow | None |
| Short-tailed Albatross | Endangered |
| Slender-billed White Breasted Nuthatch | Concerned |
| Tufted Puffin | Concerned |
| Vaux's Swift* | None |
| Western Grebe* | None |
| White-headed Woodpecker | None |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Candidate |

You can visit the WDFW at www.wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/defintn.htm. Also listed are amphibians, butterflies and moths, mammals, and reptiles.

Wild Edible Plants of Spring with Arthur Lee Jacobson, author of *Wild Plants of Greater Seattle*

Have you ever wondered which plants are edible and which are poisonous? Here's your chance to learn the common edible plants in our area, and how to avoid the poisonous ones. This walk is for hikers, walkers, and chefs who want to increase their culinary options.

The emphasis in spring is salad greens and some of the plants we'll taste are

Candyflower, Cleavers, Cress, Daisies, Red dead-nettle, Curly dock, fern fiddleheads, sedges, Mustard, Sheep sorrel, Sow-thistle and Vetch.

Class: Saturday, May 2, 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Held at Mercer Slough Nature Park Park. Meet at the southeast corner of the South Bellevue Park & Ride lot (2700 Bellevue Way SE).

Cost: \$25 for members. \$40 for nonmembers

Limit: 12 participants

Register: Call the EAS office to register: 425-576-8805

Children's Night at Eastside Audubon

Larry Schwitters amazed kids and adults with his presentation on the wide diversity of birds around the world. Each of us anxiously awaited his next question. What is the ugliest bird in the world? The best dancer? The biggest? The most beautiful? The fastest flyer? Throughout the presentation, Larry's photos and narrative kept his audience enthralled. He closed with pictures of Passenger Pigeons and a sober reminder to conserve our bird species by caring for the earth.

Afterwards the Education Committee invited children downstairs to the hall where they had juice and cookies before the art

project. Kids had a great time making accordion books with bird pictures, treasures they proudly displayed to their parents. Our mounts watched over them as they worked so they were also introduced to a Red-tailed Hawk, a Barn Owl, a Spotted Towhee and of course, the Steller's Jay. We knew the evening was a success when a seven-year-old boy told his father he was going to make another book at home and when his father promised to bring him on the family bird walk at our International Migratory Day celebration at Marymoor Park on May 9.

Spring is a busy season for the Education Committee. At present we have 17 requests and are looking for volunteers to help with our outreach to children. Could you lead a short bird walk? Help in a booth at a science fair? Assist a presenter in a classroom? Give a presentation to youth? If so, please contact me: mbritton1@earthlink.net. We are looking for volunteers to give their time just one-two times a year. Please help us to reach more children and tell them about the wondrous world of birds.



Great Blue Heron Viewing on March 6, 2009

The Great Blue Heron viewing event was a huge success, undoubtedly helped by the sunny day. This is the sixth year that we have participated in the heron viewing. This event is a joint effort of the Eastside Audubon, Kenmore Library, Northshore Senior Center and the Northshore Fire Department. 85 people showed up for the heron viewing, including a number of

home-schooled children.

Eastside Audubon had about six spotting scopes set up on views of the herons. EAS members present for the viewing were Bob Gershmel, Margaret Lie, Mark Crawford, Sharon Aagaard, Melinda Bronsdon, Ollie Oliver, Linda Phillips, Hugh & Bev Jennings. Sunny Walter came with the projector and laptop computer which

were setup at the Fire Department for Mike West's PowerPoint program on the Great Blue Heron. In lieu of Mike West, who was birding in Morocco, Hugh gave the program to an audience of 77 adults and children that filled the room. The library set up a table with books about birding and also provided tea, coffee and cookies for everyone to enjoy.



The Boardwalk Extension is Under Construction!

In February and March, many faithful and eager volunteers helped to get going the project to construct the BirdLoop's boardwalk extension. In February we laid the groundwork and poured the first footing. On March 7, eleven of us worked between snow-

storms and built the first 32 of 104 feet of the extension. We plan to do the same at the April 4 work party. Also in April, we intend to plant our final native plants for the season. You are invited to join in the activities. Work crews meet the first Saturday of

every month at Marymoor Park, the Meadow Kiosk, SE corner of Parking Lot G, April 4. We have a lot of fun and build lasting friendships as well as boardwalk extensions! Come join us.

