

# The Corvid Crier

VOL 31, No 6 – JULY/AUGUST 2011

## EAS Camp Scholarship Program

Thanks to your generous donations, the Youth Education Committee annually sends deserving low-income middle-school students to summer environmental camps. Selected students have demonstrated a keen interest in nature and science. Additional criteria include financial need and teacher recommendation. This year's three recipients are from the Northshore School District. One lucky camper will attend Boys Outdoor Leadership Development (B.O.L.D.), a YMCA camp. "Olympic Coastal Hiking" starts in the rainforest and

continues on the Pacific Ocean beaches where campers will sleep each night, watch dramatic sunsets and share stories around the camp fire.

Two campers will receive scholarships to the Pacific Science Center Camp located at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center. One will experience "Extreme Ecosystems" and spend time exploring a wide variety of ecosystems, including the forest and desert. The other will "Get Green On" by investigating the way resources are managed and discovering the power of nature

by visiting a wind farm, exploring a hydro-electric dam and rafting a river.

Special thanks are owed to Jill Keeney and Margaret Lie for their leadership in all phases of this program. Our goal is to create in children a love of nature and a lifelong commitment to being stewards of the environment. If you wish to help the Youth Education Committee in this endeavor, please donate to the camp scholarship program and help other students to enjoy an amazing experience in nature.

— Mary Britton-Simmons

## A Big Birdathon Thank You — Andy McCormick

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Birdathon. We are grateful to everyone who made donations of financial support, participated on one of the Birdathon teams, attended a Birdathon birding trip and asked people to pledge to support our chapter. We thank the office volunteers who helped

design and print Birdathon materials and put out the Birdathon mailing. We hope you saw a lot of beautiful birds this May and will come out on future field trips, volunteer to educate children and preserve bird habitat. Your participation and financial support keeps your chapter running and **keep the birds singing!**



~ Next  
**Program Meeting,**  
**Friday September 22**

**Ide Ulsh**

**On Butterflies ~**



*Swift* Night Out  
in Monroe is September 10th



"Mark your calendars for a real natural treat as the Vaux's Swifts enter the chimney!" Jim Rettig

"I would like to officially invite you to participate again this year."  
Neil Zimmerman

"The Youth Education Committee will provide an information booth for kids and adults." Jill Keeney



**Birding Trails Map:** In April, the board approved the final payment of \$2500 toward our donation for the Birding Trails Map project.

**Support to Save North Creek Forest:** Andy McCormick wrote a letter in support of the groups 'Friends of North Creek Forest' and 'Save Our Woods' to preserve what is known as the Boy Scout Property in Bothell. The North Creek Forest contains habitat used by the Pileated Woodpecker, the Band-tailed Pigeon, and the Rufous Hummingbird.

**Support for the B2M Route:** Representing EAS, Andy McCormick spoke before the Bellevue City Council in support of the B2M route preferred by Sound Transit. Andy asked the council to consider the reduced environmental impacts and increased ridership that will come with the B2M route and to vote to preserve this habitat not only for the birds and fish, but also for the people of Bellevue who enjoy this park.

**Birdathon:** Andy McCormick reported that we had seven trips scheduled and that we also had three birding teams doing a 24-hour competition to see which team could see the most species and raise the most money for the chapter. Final totals are not yet in, but Andy stressed the importance of early planning for next

year's Birdathon events, ensuring that we will have more and even better events than this year.

**Membership:** The board passed a resolution to improve reminders sent to members whose memberships have expired. Members will now receive reminder email three months before the expiration date, then two months, and then a month. This, hopefully, will ensure that memberships don't lapse and members will continue to receive our newsletter.

**Computer Help Needed:** If you have computer expertise and have some time to spare, please contact Jim Kenney (Jimkenney770@aol.com) to work on one of several projects to help us improve our computer systems.



## Meetings

**Web Committee**  
**September 1 (Thurs) 10:30 a.m.**  
 Meets first Thursday each month in EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email: webmaster@eastside-audubon.org

**Youth Education Committee**  
**September 6 (Tues) 6:30 p.m.**  
 We meet the first Tuesday of every month in Adams Hall except December and August. All interested parties are invited. Questions? E-mail: education@eastside-audubon.org

**Photo Group**  
**September 8 (Thurs) 7:00 p.m.** Meets second Thursday each month in large room upstairs from EAS Office. Questions? Email: Tim Boyer: tboyer@seanet.com.

**Conservation Committee**  
**September 14 (Weds) 7:00 p.m.** Meets second Wednesday each month in EAS Office. Questions? Email Andy McCormick: amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org

**Board Meeting**  
**September 26 (Mon) 6:00 p.m.**  
 Meets fourth Monday of the month. Interested in attending? Please contact the office (425-576-8805)

**Eastside Audubon Society**  
 [425] 576-8805 [www.eastsideaudubon.org](http://www.eastsideaudubon.org)  
 Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri - 9am - 1pm

*"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."*

### Executive Officers

President	Jim Rettig	jrettiganer@frontier.com
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		gluhm@comcast.net

### Board Members and Committee Chairs

Board Ex-Officio	Cindy Balbuena	cbalbuena@deloitte.com
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Membership	Jim Rettig	jrettiganer@frontier.com
At large board member	Tim McGruder	tmcgruder@gmail.com
Communication	Open	
At large board member	Open	
Office Assistant	Zoe Allen	office@eastsideaudubon.org

### Eastside Park Rangers

Ranger Liaison to EAS	Ted Marx	tedrmarx@comcast.net
EAS Liaison to Rangers	Jill Keeney	j.keeney@comcast.net

### Other Committee Chairs

Bird Photography	Tim Boyer	tboyer@seanet.com
Bird Questions	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 922-9524
Birdathon	Andy McCormick	amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
Field Trips	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351
		fieldtrips@eastsideaudubon.org
Historian	Bob Gershmel	rwgusnret1986@yahoo.com
Holiday Gift Wrap	Helen LaBouy	helenlabouy@mac.com

**Eastside Audubon** is located at: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Kirkland [corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. and State St.]. 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] onto 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and follow it as it bears left and changes name to State Street. Turn left onto 4<sup>th</sup> Ave South. TAKE THE BUS! Routes 540, 230 and 255 to State Street in Kirkland.

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## IEA Report of Record CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Supports Leading Writers

The International Energy Agency reported in May that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions set a new record high in 2010 reaching a worldwide total of 30.6 Gigatonnes. This is a 5% jump from the previous record set in 2008. Lower emissions in 2009 were attributed to the drop in the world economy. The full report is available at: [http://www.iea.org/index\\_info.asp?id=1959](http://www.iea.org/index_info.asp?id=1959)

Two new books, *Eaarth* by Bill McKibben and *Hot* by Mark Hertsgaard, discuss the reality that we cannot stop the planet from becoming hotter during this century. They both believe that positive feedback loops have been set in place that will continue melting of ice on Greenland and the polar ice caps, desertification in the temperate zones, acidification of the oceans, more violent storms, and rising sea levels and that life on earth will have to adapt to a new, warmer planet.

The IEA report reinforces this view. The scientific report says that 80% of projected emissions from the power sector are already locked in because of infrastructure investments in power plants that are currently in place or under construction today. IEA scientists are pessimistic that the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 2°C above the 1890 pre-industrial level baseline can be met.

“Our latest estimates are another wake-up call,” said Dr. Faith Birol, Chief Economist at the IEA. “The world has edged incredibly close to the level of emissions that should not be reached until 2020 if the 2°C target is to be attained.

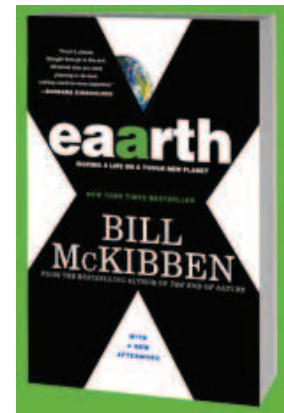
Given the shrinking room for manoeuvre in 2020, unless bold and decisive decisions are made very soon it will be extremely challenging to succeed in achieving this global goal agreed to in Cancun.”

The 2010 agreement reached at the UN Climate Change talks in Cancun requires that total CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation in the atmosphere be limited to 450 parts



per million (ppm). In contrast to this the organization 350.org founded by Bill McKibben has set 350 ppm as the goal for maximum CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation. Jim Hansen the leading atmospheric scientist at NASA has set 350 ppm as the upper limit of CO<sub>2</sub> accumulation that would keep the global temperature at a level that would keep the Earth functioning in the way that it has through the time humans have inhabited the planet.

The anticipation of continued rise in global temperature will require Audubon to take heed of these changes and reconsider its conservation work and long-range planning for both bird and human



populations. Audubon will need to review its investment of finances and energy in habitat conservation, preservation and rehabilitation efforts to emphasize those that will support birds in a warmer climate. Very difficult decisions may need to be made with regard to the effort to prevent extinction of some endangered species of birds. Rising temperatures will also warm areas at high altitude which then may not be able to support birds and other wildlife adapted to the cold and they will have no place to go. Rising shorelines will negatively impact birds that rely on foraging in shallow water on beaches.

Eastside Audubon Conservation Committee members helped pass legislation in Olympia this year to phase out the Trans-Alta coal-fired power plant in Centralia. We are now very concerned about the shipment of Montana coal to China through Washington ports in Bellingham and Longview. Burning coal puts more CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere than any other energy source.

### CALLING ALL STYROFOAM!

Time to clean out the garage before summer arrives! Get that Styrofoam out of the corner. Bring it to the next general meeting on Thursday, September 22nd. And, remember, *Styrorecycle* now takes washed clamshell food containers.

Check out the business, *V & G Styro Recycle and Pick-up Services*; owned and

operated by Marilyn Lauderdale: [styrorecycle.com](http://styrorecycle.com) or [info@styrorecycle.com](mailto:info@styrorecycle.com).

Keep collecting through the summer. Store clean Styrofoam in a dry place. Remove any tape. Then, bring it to the September 22nd EAS meeting. OR you can take your Styrofoam (and your neighbors') to the drop off station (west of IKEA in Renton). Open Mondays - Sundays; 9:00 to 5:00.

Support the efforts of V & G so they can expand to more venues such as businesses and cities' governments. Let's get Styrofoam out of the waste stream!

Can you volunteer to be a Styrofoam transporter one month of the year? If so, call the Eastside Audubon office and leave your name and phone number or e-mail Jill Keeney at [j.keeney@comcast.net](mailto:j.keeney@comcast.net).



### **Nature Walk at Marymoor Park**

**July 2 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m.**

Join Michael Hobbs from EAS at Marymoor Park for a walk through the East meadow, along a boardwalk to Lake Sammamish and through the forest to find and identify birds. Michael has been visiting the park and collecting data for 18 years. He will share his extensive knowledge about birds and the varied habitats at Marymoor Park. This is a nature walk young and old will not want to miss. Meet in Lot G at the Eastside Audubon kiosk. For more information: [eastsideaudubon.org](http://eastsideaudubon.org).

### **Hurricane Ridge/Ediz Hook to Sequim**

**July 9-10 (Sat.-Sun.) 11:00 a.m.**

Our annual Olympic Peninsula wildflower trip featuring views, birds, and varied wildlife. On Saturday at 11:00 a.m. 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 bird areas from Ediz Hook to Sequim.

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.

### **Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk**

**July 19 and August 16 (Tuesday) 8:00 to noon**

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

**Please note: Walks begin 8am April-September inclusive.**

MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026.

### **Lake Sammamish State Park**

**July 22 & August 26 (Friday) 8 a.m. to noon**

This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds and habitats due to its varied ecosystems. The trip will involve walking approximately 2-3 miles. Dress appropriately (rainproof in layers; some of the trails can be muddy if wet). Just inside the

\*\*\*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.

main entrance, take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end. Co-led by Sharon Aagaard and Stan Wood. No Pre-Registration Necessary. Call Sharon with any questions, 425-891-3460.

### **Birding the Hot Spots of King County**

**July 25 and August 29 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. to noon**

Monthly field trip on **fourth Monday (fifth Monday in August due to WOS conference Methow Valley)** of each month. to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 a.m. at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9). Plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person \$2.00. Hugh Jennings, 425-746-6351.

### **Methow Valley (WOS conference)**

**July 30-31/Aug 1 (Saturday, Sunday, Monday) 6 a.m.**

We will explore the Methow Valley and vicinity, including Sun Mountain and probably Harts Pass and maybe Loup Loup Pass. We'll go over SR20 and stop at a number of places along the way including Corkindale, County Line Ponds, Rainy Pass and Washington Pass. We will be looking for high mountain birds. We will stay Sat and Sun nights in the Methow area. Come prepared for most any weather, likely need to bring food and water. Meet at 6 AM at the Kingsgate P&R. Limited to eight in 3 cars. Passenger cost /person \$50-60 depending on mileage. Brian H. Bell - call Brian to reserve your spot (425-485-8058).

### **Mount Rainer**

**August 20 (Saturday) 7:30 a.m.**

We'll hike the trail from Paradise and make other stops in the park looking for White-tailed Ptarmigan and other montane species: Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, and Hermit Thrush. Late August is also usually the height of the wildflower show at Mt. Rainier. You will need sturdy hiking shoes, a day pack containing lunch, water, and extra clothing in case of fickle mountain weather. Meet before 7:00 a.m. at north end of the Newport Hills Park-n-Ride (I-405, exit 9) to carpool. Limited to 11 in three cars. Back by early evening. Call Andy McCormick to reserve 425-637-0892. Passenger cost/person \$15.00 plus park fee.

## **Marymoor Work Party**

### **Marymoor Birdloop Restoration**

**July 9 and August 6 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. to noon**

Come and Join Us! We meet the first Saturday of each month at 9 am. All are welcome to meet at the Marymoor Park BirdLoop Kiosk - parking lot G. A free parking pass will be provided. If you wish bring water and a snack; gloves, a shovel and/or a rake. Questions? Call the EAS Office office 425-576-8805.

## Western Kingbird *Tyrannus verticalis*

Length	8.75 in
Wingspan	15.5 in
Weight	1.4 oz, (40 g)
AOU Band code	WEKI

Darting from its perch on the wire a Western Kingbird gives chase to a bee that has just entered its territory. It takes a few yards for the kingbird to catch up to the bee but with a click of its bill the bird has secured its lunch and returns to its perch. Later, a Red-tailed Hawk makes an appearance and as it approaches the kingbird's nest the male raises its crest revealing the hidden red feathers and flies to confront the hawk, mobbing it until it leaves the bird's territory. The Western Kingbird is the ruler of its province.

The Western Kingbird is the widest ranging of the western yellow-bellied kingbirds and the only one which nests in Washington. It prefers semi-open country where it perches on a branch, shrub, wire, or fence post and sallies out to chase and capture flying insects. It is seen most frequently in eastern Washington.

The Western Kingbird has a light gray head and back with dark brown-black wings. In flight the back looks markedly lighter than the wings. The black tail is squared off at the tip and has fine white outer tail feathers. Its bill is small and black. It has a narrow black mask through the eyes and a conspicuous white cheek patch. The chest is pearly gray and the belly is yellow.

There are three other look-alike, yellow-bellied kingbirds with which it shares the genus *Tyrannus*, from the Greek *turannos*, for absolute ruler, king or tyrant (Holloway). The Tropical Kingbird (*T. melancholicus*) is rare to casual in Washington around Puget Sound during fall and winter (Alderfer). The Tropical has a forked tail with no white on it and an olive back which looks dark in flight. Its white throat blends into an olive-yellow chest to a yellow belly. Cassin's (*T. vociferans*), and Couch's (*T. couchii*) Kingbirds are found in the southwestern United States. The Western Kingbird has a mostly-hidden red crown patch for which it has been given the species name *verticalis*, from the Latin *vertex* (Holloway).



The Western Kingbird is an acrobatic flyer and has an elaborate mating flight which includes a seemingly out-of-control spinning and twisting downward flight. It will nest in trees and on human-made structures such as utility poles and building ledges. Both sexes build a cup-style nest of grass and twigs lined with feathers and plant down. Usually 3-5 white eggs blotched with lavender and black are deposited. The female incubates them for 18 days. Both parents feed the young which leave the nest in a little over two weeks (Kaufman). The birds arrive in Washington in late April to early May and in late August they begin fall migration in small flocks to the Pacific coast of Mexico and Central America.

It has adapted well to human presence. Introduction of shade trees and construction of power lines and fences have aided the Western Kingbird. As a result it is one of the few Neotropical migrants whose population is increasing (Gamble & Bergin).

An audio recording of the Western Kingbird can be heard at the Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/flashPlayer.do?id=111065>

Photo credit Raymond Parsons. References available upon request from [amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org)

### Meeting Places for Field Trips



#### Kingsgate Park and Ride:

1300 116th Way NE, Kingsgate. I-405 exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound, N. E. 124th St. Go west to light at 116th Ave. NE, then right (north) a few blocks to P&R (on the left). Meet in the S.E. corner.

#### Newport Hills Park and Ride:

5115 113th PL NE, Newport Hills. I-405, exit 9.

#### Wilburton Park-N-Ride:

I-405, exit 12

#### South Kirkland Park and Ride:

10610 NE 38th Pl. 108th Ave. NE, just north of hwy 520 and Northrup Way.

#### Tibbetts Park and Ride:

1675 Newport Way NW, Issaquah. I-90, exit 15. Turn right (south). Go past the new multi-story Issaquah Park & Ride to the 3rd traffic light. Turn left (east) on Newport Way NW. Go one block then turn right (south) into the P & R. Meet at the west end of the parking lot (across the street from the large parking garage) to carpool.

# The Corvid Crier

Eastside Audubon Society

P O Box 3115

Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

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**Yes! I'll support Eastside Audubon to preserve bird habitat and educate our community with my tax-deductible membership**

Mail form to: PO Box 3115  
Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

- \$25 Web Member       \$250 Heron Club  
 \$35 Corvid Club       \$500 Osprey Club  
 \$100 Goldfinch Club       \$1000 Eagle Club  
 Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check made payable to: **Eastside Audubon**

Please charge my credit card:

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Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to helping to fund our general operations, your membership at a level above Corvid Club will go to support our camp scholarship fund for low-income children, our college scholarship fund, grants to teachers, and habitat conservation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (day/eve) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + Ext \_\_\_\_\_

- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities  
 Please add me to your *Conservation* email list  
 Don't mail announcements and the newsletter to me.  
 My employer matches contributions. I will enclose/send matching information to you

#### **Planned Giving**

Consider giving a planned gift to Eastside Audubon to support environmental education and conservation for generations to come. Because Eastside Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your charitable gift will be tax deductible. Your gift can go toward the permanent endowment fund, to a specific program or as a gift to our general operating fund. Remember 100% of your contribution will go to fund the programs of Eastside Audubon.

- I would like to receive information on making a planned gift to Eastside Audubon       I have included Eastside Audubon in my will



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