



The Corvid Crier

Digest for March, 2017

The *Corvid Crier Digest* lists programs, birding activities, and other EAS events.

Events

Program and General Meeting

March 23 (Thursday), Hospitality at 6:30 p.m., Program at 7 p.m.

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland

February Program: Tim Boyer will present **Spring Shorebirds of Washington** covering the 35 shorebirds most likely to be seen during spring migration. The talk will include some identification tips along with information about how and why shorebirds migrate, and the best locations to watch them.

Volunteer Opportunities

Marymoor Park Work Party

March 4 (Saturday), 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join us in restoring the native habitat for birds at the Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park in Redmond on the first Saturday of each month starting at 9 a.m. Dress for the weather, bring work gloves, wear sturdy shoes and bring snacks and water. Meet near the southeast corner of Lot G, by the kiosk. We'll be there with free parking passes and tools. No registration required. Call Tim McGruder with questions, 425-822-8580.

Classes

Learning to Bird by Ear: Common Residents of Puget Sound

Class on March 16 (Thursday) in Kirkland, with optional field trip on March 19 Just in time for spring, Eastside Audubon is pleased to offer a class on birding by ear taught, by Master Birder Penny Rose. An evening of classroom instruction will be followed by an optional field trip on Sunday. Registration is limited to 12 for the option with both class instruction and the field trip. A maximum of 20 will be enrolled for the class only option. See EAS website for details, fee, and registration at www.eastsideaudubon.org or call the EAS office at 425-576-8805.

Beginning Bird Photography Class

March 25 and 26 (Saturday and Sunday), Kirkland Eastside Audubon is pleased to offer a beginning bird photography class taught by local photographer Tyler Hartje. A half day of classroom instruction on Saturday, will be followed by an optional photo shoot at Juanita

Bay Park in Kirkland the next day. Registration is limited to 8 for the option with both class instruction and the field trip. A maximum of 20 will be enrolled for the class only option. Participants should have a DSLR or bridge camera with manual settings and a telephoto lens, along with an interest in advancing their bird photography skills. See EAS website for details, fee, and registration at www.eastsideaudubon.org or call the EAS office at 425-576-8805.

Shorebird Identification Class & Fieldtrip April 11th, 13th, and 15th Discover the wonderful world of shorebirds and how to identify them in this class with two 2-hour classes and a daylong fieldtrip to the Washington Coast. We'll cover the 35 most likely shorebirds to be seen during spring migration in-depth. Learn not only how to identify shorebirds, including those difficult little brown peeps, but also learn about how and why shorebirds migrate.

Birding

March 4 (Saturday), 10 a.m. to noon

Family Bird Walk at Juanita Bay Park, Kirkland Join Eastside Audubon for a family bird walk. A ranger will lead the walk at this jewel of a park with varied habitat. See a myriad of ducks, water birds, perhaps a Bald Eagle, Osprey, hawk, hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker or other winter residents. Dress for the weather. Come rain or shine. Easy walking on paved trails and boardwalk. Suitable for children 5 years through teens, but all are welcome. Free parking. No registration required. Contact: Margie Huff, 425-492-0836.

March 5 (Sunday), 1 to 2 p.m.

Juanita Bay Park Interpretive Tour, Kirkland Eastside Park Rangers lead this easy, one-hour walk on the first Sunday of every month. Free. Children ages 6 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. No registration required. Tours for community schools and special interest groups also can be scheduled through the EAS office: 425-576-8805.

March 8 (Wednesday), 6:30 a.m. to late afternoon

South King County and Puget Sound We'll work our way south along the Puget Sound coast checking several good viewing points. We'll look for loons, grebes, alcids and ducks, keeping an eye out for such hard-to-find birds as Ancient Murrelet (hopefully one will still be around). Meet at Newport Hills P&R (exit 9 from I-405) at 6:30 am. Bring lunch and snacks, and dress for weather. Scopes and a Discover Pass are helpful. Over by late afternoon. Limited to 10 people. Carpool cost is \$22.50 per car, shared equally by riders. Leaders: Brian H. Bell and Nancy Hubly. **Registration is required.** Call Brian at 425-485-8058 to reserve a place. (206-619-0379 morning of trip only.)

March 18 (Saturday), 6:30 a.m. to early evening

Kittitas County Sage Birds March is a good time for sage birds in Kittitas County. We will meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Tibbetts P&R (I-90 exit 15, turn south to 3rd stop signal, turn left a block and then right into the P&R). We will work our way east from Cle Elum/Ellensburg down to Vantage looking for Sage Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow, and whatever else we can find. Bring lunch, scopes, and dress warmly. Drivers will need a

Discover Pass. Carpool cost \$28 per passenger. Limit 11 (in 3 cars). **Registration is required.** Call leader Brian Bell at 425-485-8058 to reserve a place. (206-619-0379 morning of trip only.)

March 21 (Tuesday), 9 a.m. to noon

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk, Kirkland A relaxed walk in the park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the third Tuesday of each month. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. This can be an enjoyable walk for teens as well as adults. Walks begin at 8 a.m. April through September; 9 a.m. October through March. This can be an enjoyable walk for teens as well as adults. No registration required. Leader: MaryFrances Mathis at 425-803-3026.

March 24 (Friday), 8 a.m. to noon

Lake Sammamish State Park, Issaquah 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. This can be an enjoyable walk for teens as well as adults. Dress appropriately (rainproof in layers; some of the trails can be muddy if wet). We meet at the main entrance from NW Sammamish Road on the south end of the lake. Take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end before 8 a.m. A Discover Pass is required to park. No registration required. Co-led by Sharon Aagaard (425-891-3460) and Stan Wood.

March 27 (Monday), 9 a.m. to noon

Birding the Hot Spots of King County Monthly field trip on fourth Monday of the month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9 a.m. at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Children ages 10 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. Carpool passenger cost/person \$2-4, depending on destination. No registration required. Leader: Rusty Hazzard, 425-652-1006.

May 20-25 Saturday to Thursday

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge- Special Advanced Notice This is an advanced notice to determine how many people are interested in this trip. We need to make reservations in March to ensure availability for May. This trip is limited to 12 people.

The refuge lies in southeastern Oregon, about 30 miles south of Burns, at an elevation of 4,100 feet. Burns is about 500 miles from Bellevue. The refuge is 183,000 acres, composed of meadows, ponds, and extensive wetlands surrounded by sage uplands and basalt rim rock. It is a major resting, nesting, and feeding area on the Pacific Flyway and is on Roger Tory Peterson's list of the ten best birding areas in the US. More than 320 species of birds and many species of mammals have been observed on the refuge. We will visit the main birding areas within the refuge, and 100-130 species can usually be seen. We will take one day to drive to Burns (10-11 hours), spend 4 days birding while there, and one day to drive back. We would hope to carpool with 3-4 people per car. The driving costs per passenger will be \$100 for the trip to and from Burns (1000 miles round trip). In addition, while in Burns, we would drive 120-130 miles each day, at a cost of \$10/day.

We will be staying at the Silver Spur Motel in Burns. Motel costs would be about \$57 a night for a two-bedroom, which includes a continental breakfast (two can share for \$28.50 each per night). A single-bed room is \$44 per night. Each room has a refrigerator, microwave and Wi-Fi. We would have breakfast at the motel and fix a lunch to take along, then buy dinner at a restaurant. Each morning we will plan to leave by 7:30 a.m., bird all day and be back about 4-5 p.m.

This is a high desert area, so plan on dressing in layers for temperatures ranging from freezing at night to 80° during the day. Rain can occur at any time. Bring binoculars, rain gear, good hiking/walking shoes, insect repellent, sun block, and a spotting scope if you have one.

Contact Stan Wood if you are interested in going: 425-392-4557 or stanwood@mindspring.com. Stan will advise you on making motel reservations and arrange carpooling.