

Eastside Audubon  
your connection to nature

# The Corvid Crier

EASTSIDE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 28, No 2 – MARCH 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.

## Wolves in Washington State: Are We Ready?

Thursday, March 26, 7:00 pm — *New Format!*

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (EAS Headquarters)

We will begin our evening with a tribute to Amy McQuade and a video compiled by Bob Gerschmel. Amy was one of our founding members and served on the Board of Directors for nearly 25 years - a great leader and inspiration. Amy passed away in February, 2008.

We then welcome wildlife biologist, Gary Wiles, and his presentation on wolves in Washington State. Yes, gray wolves have migrated from Canada to the Okanogan and we want to learn more about them. Gary will discuss the biology of wolves and enlighten us about some of the common myths about this majestic animal. He will also discuss the past and current population status of wolves in Washington and show pictures of the recent wolf sightings.

In our state wolves are currently protected, but we are thinking ahead and we are ready! Gary will discuss ongoing efforts by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to prepare the state's new conservation and management plan for wolves. He will also have some things we can do to help this plan become law and will answer questions at the break.

Gary earned a Masters degree in Wildlife Biology from Purdue University, served in the Peace Corps in Thailand, and worked on Guam as biologist for nearly 20 years, where he studied flying foxes and other endangered species. He joined the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2003, where he works as an endangered species biologist at the Olympia headquarters - mainly with killer whales, Washington ground squirrels, and wolves.

At 7:40, after the first half of Gary's presentation, we will have our chapter announcements and break for refreshments, socializing and the ever-popular Activity Fair. We will have some new conservation tables and lots of pictures of people having a good time participating in Eastside Audubon activities. This is a great time to show your guests what we do, introduce them to other members, and answer any questions



they might have about our chapter.

During the second half of our program, we will hear about a thriving, highly visible (and more controversial) population of wolves: the popular Yellowstone wolves of the Northern Rockies region. We will find out how wolves have benefitted natural plant and animal communities in the park. We will learn about what happened to wolves in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana when their Endangered Species Act protection was removed and what is being done to prevent this from happening again. We will finish our program with a 15 minute excerpt from "In the Valley of Wolves," the heart-wrenching story of how the Druid wolf pack was driven from Lamar Valley and how they rebuilt their clan and returned to claim their home again.

Please join us Thursday, March 26, for Gary's enlightening presentation on wolves. The program starts promptly at 7:00. You are welcome to come early and enjoy the Activity Fair.

The presentation is free and open to the public. Invite a friend or anyone who wants to know more about wolves.

Directions to Eastside Audubon are at the lower left corner of this page.



**Focus on the Board: A Vision for Conservation**  
By Andrew McCormick



In 1995 the National Audubon Society adopted a strategic plan to develop a “culture of conservation and an environmental ethic.” There are, “Three essential elements of our core strategy: (1) Focus on the conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, (2) engage people in environmental action, and (3) build capacity as a decentralized organization and grassroots network.” Eastside Audubon has a unique and important place in this strategy.

Eastside Audubon has recently expanded the geographical area of the chapter to encompass land and water from the shore of Lake Washington to the western slopes of the Cascades. This corridor includes habitats that support a large number of the bird species in your field guide to western birds.

**A Vision**

As environmentalists we can foresee a world where human beings share the earth with other forms of life. Where land and water are maintained in their natural state and the natural world enriches our lives and that of our children. Our task is to do our part in an evolving worldwide conservation strategy.

**Successful Strategies**

After nearly 40 years of conservation work we know several strategies that have been successful. Eastside Audubon has a preliminary plan to promote activities tied to each of these strategies.

Protecting and restoring bird habitat.

- Continue our Marymoor Park Bird Loop and Restoration Project.
- Support restoration of degraded habitat to expand suitable breeding, migratory resting, and wintering areas for birds.
- Work with landowners in the Snoqualmie Valley and other areas to schedule mowing of fields to dovetail with the migratory and breeding patterns of birds.

Monitoring bird populations.

- Monitor land use and development to preserve existing habitat in urban, suburban and rural areas.
- Conduct bird censuses in National Audubon Important Bird Areas and areas we deem locally important.
- Support Project Feederwatch and the Great Backyard Bird Count and home feeding of birds year-round to help birds survive winters and young birds grow in breeding season.

Native planting and natural pest control

- Encourage our communities and individual home owners to avoid pesticides and herbicides.
- Encourage use of native plants when landscaping to increase available habitat for birds.

I am excited about joining the board. I have been watching birds as a hobby for nearly 40 years and I’m still learning about their lives and their habitats. I believe that we are nurtured by the natural world and we have a responsibility to preserve it. The Audubon message of conservation has reached you and the Conservation Committee wants your ideas and energy to spread it.

**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 jrettiganager@verizon.net
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<u>Programs</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<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
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<u>Webmaster</u>	Liz Copeland	(425) 641-0209 webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org
<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

## March Meetings

**Mar 4 (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)

**Mar 10 (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)

**Mar 12 (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)

**Mar 26 (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**

The Corvid Crier, Vol 28, NO 2  
Publication Date: March 1, 2009.  
Published by: EastsideAudubon Society  
P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

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](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:

*Margaret Lie*

Meet Margaret Lie, a current Board member. You would never guess the migration she took to join Eastside Audubon.

She was born in Hobart, Tasmania, and entered the Medical School at the University of Melbourne, Victoria. Following graduation, residency and marriage, she and her husband moved to Rochester, Minnesota. Margaret completed a residency in Rehabilitation Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, and joined the staff in 1980. Margaret's interests centered on rehabilitation of patients with neurological disorders, and also helped to develop a cancer rehabilitation program. She was actively involved with the residency program as well as the Mayo Medical School, serving on many committees.

The family moved to Davis, Northern California in 1992 and Margaret continued to work part time at Mayo and retired in 1996. A year after her husband's passing Margaret joined a fledgling U.C. Davis sponsored Birding Group and worked with the leader in visiting and planning birding sites throughout Northern California. In addition, joining the Yolo County Audubon Chapter offered many new opportunities, including working with their youth education program. Margaret also served on the Board of two non-profit organizations providing services to the frail elderly and mental health clients.

While visiting her son and family in 2004, in Bothell, her son asked, "Mom, if Penny (Margaret's daughter) moved to Seattle, how long would it take you to decide to move?" "Oh, 30 seconds" Margaret answered.

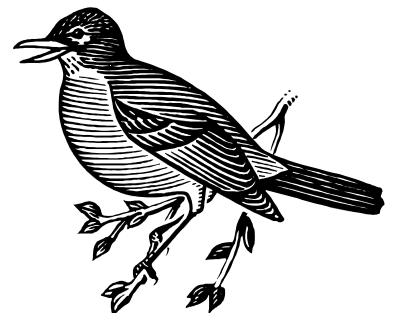
While settling into her new home



Margaret visited the ELWAS office offering to volunteer. Jan McGruder introduced her to Mary Britton-Simmons, chair of the Youth Education Committee and so began a very stimulating and fun experience. Margaret said "I love being involved with an interesting and hard working group of people." Margaret has served on the Board as a Member-at-Large, and was previously Membership Chair.

What about her favorite birding experience? Several years ago, in May, she traveled with Elder Hostel to see migratory songbirds in the Bass Islands in Lake Erie. "Helping with a bird banding program was a mesmerizing experience as these tiny birds were released to continue their journey."

Wow, what a life. Thank you, Margaret, for all you have done and are doing. We love having you in Audubon.



## Thank You to Our Volunteers

We're proud to announce the addition of three new volunteers to the Chapter.

**Andy McCormick** has joined the Board as the Conservation Chair. Already Andy writes the Bird of the Month column and has frequently helped out at Marymoor Park. We're pleased to have Andy on the Board and look forward to his leadership.

**Rahul Gupta** has offered to be our new Volunteer Coordinator. You'll see Rahul around on Program Nights and hear from him often via our "opportunities" emails. Let's make him feel welcome by volunteering often!

Karin Olefsky (and son, John) is our new Program Meeting Greeter. Say "hello" as you come through the door on Program Night.

Program Night is a great opportunity for volunteers to help out, and we can always

use more hands. For January's dinner and program night we'd like to thank **Cindy Balbuena, Helen LaBouy, Tricia Kishel, Margaret Lie, Jim and Nancy Roberts, Sunny Walter, Claudia Welch, the Photo Group** for their wonderful presentations and all those who helped out in the kitchen and those who set the room back in order.

Thanks to all who helped out at Marymoor in February. Thanks to these folks we got the bolts inserted for the Sheltering Forest interpretive sign and the holes drilled for the Rich Marsh sign, finished planting in the Meadow, repaired the damaged kiosk, sanded the pavers, and stacked the lumber that had been floating in the flood waters. We accomplished everything we set out to do! **Shawn Bohgard, Glenn Eades, Ella Elman, Bob Gershmel, Karen Greytek, Marvin**

**Hoekstra, Ellen Homan, Andy McCormick, Tim McGruder, Sharon Rodman, Fan Tsao, and Sunny Walter.**

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. We greatly appreciate your generosity and your 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.

## Welcome!

Welcome to the following new members of the Eastside Audubon. We hope to see you soon at a Program Meeting or Field Trip. Call or visit our office if you have

any questions. Our friendly volunteers are more than happy to help you.

Donna Hoffman  
Betsy Law

Linne Pullar  
Barbara Reisinger

## Plant Sale – May 2, 2009

Mark the date! Our spring plant sale is set for Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 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, butter-

flies and hummingbirds. Come early - pick out the plants that best suit your landscaping - and help wildlife at the same time!

Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer your gardening 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!**

## Board Notes for January 2009

**Eastside Audubon Territory Expands:** Eastside Audubon will more than double the territory it covers with the addition of Eastside areas previously part of Seattle Audubon. These include zip codes in Medina, Sammamish, Duvall, Snoqualmie, Carnation, Issaquah, and North Bend. Audubon members from these areas will be added to our chapter in the next several months.

**International Migratory Bird Day:** The board discussed holding an event at Marymoor Park on May 9, 2009 to celebrate migratory birds, their annual migration, and the importance of conserving this phenomenon. Plans include bird walks and information booths on migratory routes and Eastside Audubon's conservation efforts.

**"On the Wing" Swift Movie:** Plans are underway to host "On the Wing," a movie about Oregon's Chapman Swifts, which roost each fall in the chimney of a Portland elementary school. Jim Rettig will talk about the Monroe Vaux's Swifts and the Save Our Swifts project. The date, time, and location for this event are being finalized.

**Conservation Chair:** Andy McCormick is our new Conservation Chair, replacing co-chairs Tim McGruder and Jim Rettig. Tim will continue helping the Conservation Committee, and Jim will continue working on the Marymoor project and the Save Our Swifts program.

### **Nonmember Guest Fees for Field**

**Trips:** The board voted to rescind non-member guest fees for field trips.

**Chapter Contributions to Restricted Funds:** For 2009, the board voted to discontinue giving \$500 in chapter funds to each of Eastside Audubon's restricted scholarship/grants.

**Save Our Swifts:** Jim Rettig reported that Save Our Swifts is asking the state legislature for a grant to help save the brick chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary School. Hans Dunshee is supporting the request.

**Board Retreat:** Board members will participate in a retreat to review goals from 2008 and to make plans for 2009. Key issues will be corporate partnerships, fundraising, and membership.

— Carmen Almodovar, Secretary

## Book Review — Wesley the Owl, The Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and His Girl by Stacey O'Brien

This is not a book I would normally pick up, at least not when anyone could see me. After all, I have a reputation to uphold as a serious reader! I admit I enjoyed Marley and Me, even while being extremely grateful it was not my dog. But "Wesley" was given to me and so I sat down to check it out. What a funny, moving and amazing read! And now available in the EAS library.

Stacey O'Brien worked in the barn owl research lab at California Institute of Technology. She took a four-day old unreleasable owl home with her to raise and study. Both she and the researchers at the lab saw it as an opportunity to intimately study the habits of a barn owl. She named him Wesley, and her tales of trying to

replace an owl mother include having to buy and feed the owl many, many mice. She estimates 20,000 in his lifetime!

She gives vivid descriptions of his growth both physically and behaviorally over the nineteen years they were together. She is a biologist, after all, and it shows. But she is also a good story teller. You will learn a lot about owl behavior!

When he molts, he fills her bedroom with feathers "like living in a snow globe." He loves bathing in water even though barn owls in the wild never willingly get into water. She and the owl communicate with each other verbally, as well as with body language. Most movingly, she describes communication between them that is almost telepathic. Eventually, Wesley de-

cides Stacey is not his mother, but his mate, with nest building, courting and other activities which you will have to read the book to learn!

Both Stacey and Wesley go through life-threatening crises and she saved her owl, but the owl saved her, as well. As is the case with many animals, and particularly with birds, I think, they have more intelligence and fuller emotional lives than we give them credit for.

This is indeed a love story, one that may increase our own compassion for the beings around us. For everyone who has loved an animal deeply, this book will resonate.

— Christy Anderson

## Olympic BirdFest 2009 — Sequim, WA

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2009 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 3-5, 2009.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys.

The players are ready ... Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, and Pygmy owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours; and a traditional salmon bake at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center.

**Also this year!** Follow your BirdFest

weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 5-7, 2009. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Get program information and registration forms online at: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>.

Or contact us by phone, at 360-681-4076,

E-mail us at [info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org)

## 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

### Mar 6 (Fri) – 9:00 to noon — Marymoor Park

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 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.

### Mar 6 (Fri) 11:00 AM — Kenmore P&R and Library

Eastside Audubon members will have spotting scopes available at 11:00 AM for the public to watch the Great Blue Heron colony at the north end of Kenmore P&R (Bothell Way and 73rd Ave. NE). There will be a slide presentation about the herons and other birds at the nearby Fire Station about noon. This event will be published in the Kenmore Senior Center newsletter. EAS members are invited to come and bring a scope, if you have one. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

### Mar 7 (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**

### Mar 14 (Sat) 7:00 AM

#### Southworth to Theler Wetlands

We will take the Fauntleroy ferry to Southworth and bird our way to the Theler Wetlands. These include fresh and salt water marshes, forested uplands, and estuarine habitats. Prepare to walk about 2-1/2 miles. We will return by way of Tacoma. It can be cool and wet so dress accordingly. 150 bird species have been seen in this area. Bring a lunch. Meet before 7:00 AM at north end of the Wilburton Park-N-Ride (I-

405, exit 12) to carpool. Passenger cost/person is **\$12.00 + share in ferry cost.**

**Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

### Mar 15 (Sun) 1:30 to 5:00 PM

#### Hazel Wolf Wetland Preserve, Sammamish

Join us for a leisurely stroll through a pristine wetland-based wildlife refuge (2 mile loop, relatively flat) with naturalist Jan Johnson. The preserve includes several wetland and forest habitats, which support a wide array of beautiful, sensitive plants. Pileated woodpeckers, cedar waxwings, humming birds, and robins also make their homes in the preserve.

After passing through a heavily forested area with lovely ferns, we drop down to the wetland's eastern shore where we expect to see ducks and Canada geese and frogs. We will stop at the pond to look for grebes and ducks and then loop back through the woods. We will be on boardwalks part of the time, but bring waterproof boots for the muddy part of the trail. Bring your native plant guides, bird books, binoculars, snacks, beverages, and raingear.

Meet before 1:30 PM at the Tibbetts Park & Ride in Issaquah Cost \$2/person. If you have questions, please contact Jan Johnson, 425-814-5923 or [jjsprnqr@yahoo.com](mailto:jjsprnqr@yahoo.com).

### Mar 17 (Tues) 9:00 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**

### Mar 21 (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 45<sup>th</sup> Street, north of the railroad tracks on 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, east of 108<sup>th</sup> 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 108<sup>th</sup>, near 45<sup>th</sup>. Limited street parking. **Jan Johnson 425-814-5923**

### Mar 23 (Mon) 9:00 AM 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**

### Mar 24 (Tues) - 6:30 AM — Vantage to Ellensburg

We'll start early to get to the Sage-Shrub Steppe east of Ellensburg early. We'll work this over for sage birds and then go down to Vantage to explore the Columbia River area for water birds and early migrating passerines. We'll work our way back toward Ellensburg in the afternoon. Meet at Tibbetts P&R at 6:30 AM to carpool. We should be back by early evening. Passenger cost/person **\$28**. **Brian H. Bell 425-485-8058**.

**Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula***

Length	18.5 in
Wingspan	26 in
Weight	1.9 lb
AOU Band code	COGO

Common Goldeneyes are very fast fliers. They have been clocked at speeds over 30 mph (Eadie et al). The “Whistler” as it is commonly known, has wing beats so rapid they make a metallic whistling sound during flight. Frank Chapman (1939) called it “wing music.” The species name *clangula* is from the Latin *clangor*, meaning noise. The bird shares the genus *bucephala*, “bull headed” from the Greek *bous*, bull, and *kephale*, head, with the Barrow’s Goldeneye and Bufflehead. The heads of these three ducks were thought to resemble the head of the American buffalo from which the Bufflehead gets its name (Holloway). Goldeneye refers to the bird’s bright yellow iris.

The Common Goldeneye has a round white spot at the base of the bill, where the Barrow’s has a crescent-shaped spot. The Common has much more white in the secondary flight feathers and on the water looks very white along the side. The Barrow’s wing is mostly black with white spots. In flight the Common has large white wing patches on the secondaries. The head of the Common is much more pointed than that of the Barrow’s. The female is gray with a dark brown head and a short, yellow-tipped bill.

Common Goldeneyes are diving ducks and prefer clear water. They visit Washington in winter beginning in October and head back to Alaska and Canada in March and April. Pair bonds are formed in the wintering areas and as spring arrives the bird’s animated courtship behavior is on display. The spirited dance on the water includes lots of head-up,



head swings, and wing and leg stretching. The “head throw” of the male is the most spectacular move as he arches his head all the way back toward his rump with his bill in the air. Then he thrusts his head straight up and vocalizes while kicking water out with his feet.

The birds nest in cavities of either conifer or deciduous trees in the northern boreal forest. In a pinch the northernmost birds may use rock cavities. A clutch of 7-10 olive-green or blue-green eggs are laid in the nest which is formed from wood chips covered with down. At times two females may share a nest depositing up to 30 eggs (Harrison). Incubation lasts about a month and the young leave the nest about a day or two after hatching. They can fly in about two months.

Common Goldeneye populations are stable. They have done well where nest boxes are provided and on acidic lakes where there are few fish, which are their

main competitor for invertebrates. This is an ironic result of the otherwise negative effects of acid rain. Goldeneyes are thought to be an important bioindicator species to monitor the environmental changes in the boreal lakes, a poorly understood and under-researched region (Eadie, et al).

You can see the courting behavior at the Macauley Library:

<http://animalbehaviorarchive.org/assetSearch.do?method=searchCQL&query=%22common%22+and+%22goldeneye%22&resubmit=true&firstRecord=10&maximumRecords=9&sortKeys=digitized,ascending=false%20audioqual,ascending=false%20videoqual,ascending=false&view=list>

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

**She Says When**

Red-tail male sits

Down-branch from lady,

Needing her nod to sidle up.

-Andrew McCormick

## Spring Class: Birds and Plants of the Shrub-Steppe

Eastside Audubon is pleased to offer the following class this spring:

### The Birds and Plants of the Shrub-steppe

-- With **Andy Stepniewski, author of Birds of Yakima County**

This class will introduce you to the plant and bird communities of the shrub-steppe ecosystem in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington. Andy will impart much in the way of botanical tidbits as these

relate to birds and will emphasize the relationships between such birds as Horned Larks, Sage Sparrows, Sage Thrashers, Brewer's Sparrows, Sage Grouse, and Vesper Sparrows and the preferred habitats of each within this unique mosaic of plant communities. He will also touch on conservation issues. Two leaders will conduct the day-long field trip to the Columbia Basin where we will look for the birds amidst spectacular wildflowers.

**Class: Friday, April 17, 7 - 9 pm,** at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, our regular meeting spot. See directions on page 1.

**Field Trip: Saturday, April 18, 6:30 am - 7:30 pm**

**Cost:** \$80 for members. \$95 for nonmembers

**Limit:** 20 participants.

Contact the office: 425-576-8805 to register.

## Get Ready for Birdathon!

Not only is Birdathon is our biggest fund-raising event of the year, it's also a lot of fun. May, Birdathon month, will be here soon, so now's the time to start thinking about how you'd like to participate. Begin by recruiting Start now to recruit team members for a Birdathon outing. What could be better than a day out with friends enjoying the birds *and* raising money for EAS at the same time! We can provide you with a leader's packet with all the tools you'll need to have a successful team event. Will your team be the winner of the next Birdathon award for most birds seen, most money raised, or "greenest" Birdathon trip? Or will

you be the winner of the prize for most money raised - either as a old hand at Birdathon, or as a Rookie.

March is also the perfect month to prepare your Birdathon sponsor letter, or email, and build your target list of sponsors. Collecting pledges for Birdathon is easier to get than you may think. You can find sample letters and everything you need to get started our website [www.eastsidaudubon.org](http://www.eastsidaudubon.org).

The money we receive helps our chapter to "keep the birds singing" and allows us to continue our work in the areas of conversation, education, and birding, all of which are more important now than ever!



Need more information? Call the office at 425-576-8805 or email [office@eastsidaudubon.org](mailto:office@eastsidaudubon.org).

## Coming Soon!

Drum roll please! Eastside Audubon is excited to announce that we will be presenting "On the Wing" this spring. "On the Wing" is a movie made right here in the Pacific Northwest about Vaux swifts migrating north and south in spring

and fall. This movie has been playing to sold out crowds and we're excited to bring it to the Eastside. In addition to enjoying the film, you'll also be able to learn more about our Monroe swifts and an opportunity to see them in person

at the height of spring migration. You won't want to miss this fun, family event. Keep your eyes peeled for more information in next month's newsletter and on the website.

## Bylaws Revisions

In order to reflect our new chapter name and our new, expanded territory, the Board has voted to adopt changes to our Bylaws, and at the March Program Meeting, the membership will have a chance to vote.

There are big and small changes in the new Bylaws. Some of them are meant to clarify the Bylaws, and some of the amendments are big changes for the Chapter.

One of the major changes is that we will change our organizational name from “East Lake Washington Audubon Society” to “Eastside Audubon”. This change was voted on by the whole membership last spring, and passed by an overwhelming majority. This change is reflected in Article I of the Bylaws.

Below is a synopsis of the amendments. You may read the complete amended Bylaws on our website.

In Article V, Section 1, we have added the following language:

The Board of Directors is responsible for overall policy and direction of the Chapter. The

Board shall delegate responsibility for day-to-day operations to the Chapter’s Executive Director and committees. Each Board director shall have one vote and such voting may not be done by proxy. Fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

We have also changed the ability of the Board to add members as needed, so that the Board shall be “no fewer than 10 and no more than 20 members” and “Any position on the Board of Directors may be held jointly by two persons, each of whom will be a voting member of the Board.” We have also noted in the Bylaws that Board members receive no compensation for their work, other than reimbursement for reasonable expenses.

In Article V, Section 7, we have added the following language:

A director may be removed when sufficient cause exists for such removal, as determined by three-fourths vote of the re-

maining directors.

In Article XIV, Section 1, we have changed the method for Bylaws amendments from this original text:

Any proposed amendments to these Bylaws shall be submitted in writing at a regular meeting of the chapter. Such proposed amendments must be signed by four (4) members, and shall be read or made available in writing at the meeting.

To this new text:

These Bylaws may be amended when necessary by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors.

Please check out the full text on our website and come prepared to vote at the March Program Meeting.



## Birding with Environmental and Adventure School Students

The Education Committee's day with students at the Environmental and Adventure School (EAS), a middle/junior high school in the Lake Washington School District, began the morning of January 14 in their classroom. Shirlee and Jim Hall showed slides of Juanita Bay and talked about the importance of wetlands to our eco-system and especially to birds. Jim's photos and Shirlee's narrative brought the students into the park they were to visit later in the day. Cattails swayed in the wind, beavers built their dam, and Song Sparrows trilled from nearby branches. The morning presentation excited students about their trip to Juanita Bay Park.

Dense fog greeted them at the park. In spite of the weather, however, the day proved to be a good one for birding. On the causeway with Jim and Shirlee, students encountered Downy Woodpeckers, a Killdeer, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers and a Red-tailed Hawk. Ernie joined the group and pointed out the beavers' winter food storage area and a large lodge with new stick additions. Margaret Lie and I took students to the viewing areas where they were amazed at the wide variety of birds, such as Green-winged Teals, 100+ American Coots, a Belted Kingfisher, Red-winged Blackbirds, Double-crested Cormorants and flying high

overhead, a Bald Eagle. Their teacher John Hamilton declared the day a success and invited us to spend more time with his students in June.

Students were impressed that their teacher and the other founders of EAS received Eastside Audubon's Environmentalists of the Year Award. We were impressed by the intelligence and cooperation of the students and are looking forward to working with them in June.

— Mary Britton-Simmons,  
Education Chair



Environmental and Adventure School students join Eastside Audubon at Juanita Bay

### Prophecy

Beneath Mt. Olympus we hold  
the rain forest within us.  
Spruce wind and cedar wind  
exchange stories of our ancestors.

Swathed in mist, we are the nurse log  
cushioned with club moss and lichen—  
a fallen spruce, this Sitka giant  
from which Thunderbird flew.

Seeds sleep within the stump  
where Steller's Jay, prophet of the woods,  
signals in ascending key  
the appearance of stars.

Mary Kollar 2008

## The Audubon BirdLoop is Flying High!

We are moving forward folks! At the February 7 work party, we finished planting in the East Meadow, installed new plexiglass in the Meadow Kiosk, sanded the pavers, stacked the lumber that had floated in the flood waters, and prepared the footings for the last two interpretive signs. A week later, at another work party on February 14 (can you believe we worked even on Valentine's Day?), we installed the last two interpretive signs, prepared the staging area for the building of the boardwalk extension, and cut some

timbers to length and began drilling holes for hardware. We'll be at it again on February 28 to work again on the extension. Our next regularly scheduled work party is on March 7, 9 AM to noon, when we will undoubtedly plant more native plants and continue the work on constructing the boardwalk extension. Come out and help us as we come close to the goals set three years ago! It is exciting to see it all coming together. If you have questions, contact me. **Be a part of the action.**

Special thanks to all who worked on the cool and frosty days of February: Glenn Eades, Bob Gershmel, Andy McCormick, Fan Tsao, Sharon Rodman, Ellen Homan, Tim McGruder, Marvin Hoekstra, Shawn Bohgard, Karen Greytar, Sunny Walter, Ella Elman, Hugh & Bev Jennings, Robert Lake.

— Jim Rettig, Project Manager



**Busy EAS Volunteers erecting interpretive signs and cleaning up the boardwalk at Marymoor Park.**