



The Corvid Crier

NATIVE PLANTS ISSUE

VOL 29, No 4 – MAY 2010

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.

Native Plants for the Birds

Mutiny is taking place in backyards across America, and more than one manicured lawn is being asked to walk the plank. Participants in this insurrection aren't some radical anti-turf revolutionaries. They're your average law-abiding home owners who are realizing the benefits of natural landscapes and the joys that come with gardening for wildlife.

These backyard naturalists are rejecting the 50's approach of sterile and mono-cultural gardening because they understand their natural landscapes contribute positively to the overall quality of the environment by improving air, water, and soil quality throughout the community while providing much-needed wildlife habitat. Habitat restoration is critical for wildlife in urban and

suburban settings where commercial and residential development has eliminated most natural areas.

The positive aspects of natural landscaping for both the individual property owner and the community far outweigh the occasional negative perceptions of those addicted to the traditional lawn. With the help of the Eastside Audubon and the Washington Native Plant Society habitat enthusiasts have learned how to make their landscapes more hospitable to wildlife, while building a haven for escaping the stresses of everyday life. Time spent surrounded by a more natural landscape gets people closer to nature and in touch with her real beauty.

(Continued on page 11)

What Were They Thinking?

Habitat Restoration at Magnuson Park, Seattle

Thursday, May 27, 7:00 p.m. — Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church

Magnuson Park is a 60+ acre former Naval Air Base on the shores of Lake Washington in the City of Seattle. The City took possession of the former Base in the mid-1970's and the old hangars are put to a wide variety of uses. Informal athletic fields were used on the grounds for decades, but the majority of the old airfield and taxiways were destroyed in place and nature allowed to begin a slow recovery for the last 40 years. Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation undertook a large habitat restoration project several years ago which was finally installed last year (2009). The resultant habitats are providing a wide range of resting, feeding, and breeding sites for a broad range of birds, amphibians and invertebrates the like of

which the Park has not experienced since it was wetland prior to Lake Washington being lowered at the turn of the century. The habitats in the restoration area are still in a significant stage of establishment, but already the use by birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts of all stripes and types is increasing daily.

We are privileged to have as our speaker Dyanne Sheldon, Natural Resources Manager at Otak, Inc. Please join us Thursday, May 27 to learn more from her about the project and hear some of the background on the pros and cons of urban restoration. The meeting will start at 7:00, and it is FREE and open to the public – invite a friend.

Eastside Audubon Awards Teacher Grant

Nycole Destefano and Jill Stewart, teachers at Kenmore Elementary School in the Northshore School District, received a grant of \$139.00 from the Education Committee of Eastside Audubon for their Eco Cubs Arboretum Maintenance Project. The teachers will use the funds to buy shovels, gardening gloves, a cultivator, and hand trowels. The fourth to sixth grade students from this environmental club will use the items to remove non-native plants and ivy and to plant native vegetation in the nearby arboretum.

In addition, students want to keep the arboretum litter-free for the enjoyment of the entire community. At present they are creating posters and brochures to educate the community on the importance of the arboretum and its native plants and animals. Students, in turn, are learning to be good stewards of the environment and are increasing their knowledge of native plants and animals. Congratulations to Nycole and Jill for an outstanding environmental project for their students!

-- Mary Britton-Simmons, Education Chair



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

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

Executive Officers

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--|
| President | Cindy Balbuena | cbalbuena@comcast.net |
| Vice President | Open | |
| Secretary | Carmen Almodovar | calmodovar@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Treasurer | Jim Kenney | (425) 746-9862 |
| Executive Director | Jan McGruder | (425) 822-8580 jan@eastsideaudubon.org |

Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| <u>At large board member</u> | Helen LaBouy | hlabouy@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>At large board member</u> | Margaret Lie | mlic@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>Birding</u> | Tricia Kishel | tkishel@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Bird Photography | Tim Boyer | tboyer@seanet.com |
| Field Trips | Hugh Jennings | (425) 746-6351 fieldtrips@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Native Plant Walks | Open | |
| Nature Walks | Christopher Chapman | (425) 941-3501 cjchapman19@comcast.net |
| Bird Questions? | MaryFrances Mathis | (425) 803-3026 |
| <u>Conservation</u> | Andrew McCormick | amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>Education</u> | Mary Britton-Simmons | (360) 794-7163 mbrittonsimmons@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>Communication</u> | Open | |
| Newsletter | Tom Grismer | (206) 851-7322 newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org |
| <u>Membership</u> | Open | |
| <u>Financial Development</u> | Tim McGruder | tmcgruder@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Birdathon | Open | office@eastsideaudubon.org |

Open Positions

The following positions are open and waiting for volunteers. Please call the office if you have questions or are interested: Vice President, Adult Education chair, Advocacy, Communication chair, Membership chair, Programs chair, Gift Wrap, Birdathon, and Merchandising.

Pigeons

The pigeons swing across the square,
Suddenly voiceless in midair,
Flaunting, against their civic coats,
The glossy oils that scarf their throats.

-Vikram Seth

May Meetings

May 6 (Thurs) 10:30 a.m.

Web Committee

Meets first Thursday each month in EAS Office. All interested parties are invited.

Questions? Email

webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org

May 11 (Tues) 7:00 p.m.

Youth Education Committee

Meets in the EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions?

Email education@elwas.org

May 12 (Weds) 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee

Meets second Wednesday each month in EAS Office. Questions? Email Andrew McCormick at

amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org

May 13 (Thurs) 7:00 p.m.

Photo Group

Meets in large room upstairs from EAS Office. Questions? Email Tim Boyer at

tboyer@seanet.com

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 —

9:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.

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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

Birdathon: Birdathon is Here!

Birdathon is our chapter's biggest fundraising event of the year – it's also a lot of fun! May is Birdathon month and it is not too late to decide how you want to participate. There are several ways.

You can take a Special Field Trip for Birdathon. Several EAS volunteers will lead field trips to various locations in the Puget Sound area. See these listed under Field Trips in this newsletter. Participants give a set amount (or more!) for these special events. These enable one to go birding and make an important contribution at the same time.

You can be a Birdathoner, which means you set a date in May to count and identify as many species of birds as possible in a 24-hour period. You don't have to bird the whole 24 hours. You could count for 12, or for 6, or even for just two hours. The choice is yours. Get as many sponsors as you are able to pledge you an amount of money for each species identified, say \$1.00/species, or \$0.50/, or \$5.00/. After counting, collect the money and get it to the EAS office. Simple, no? Office staff can supply you with all you need: supplies, advice, tips on how-to.

You can form your own Birdathon Team, and get others to join you – making the event even more fun for all. Follow the instructions noted in the above paragraph.

You can join an existing Birdathon Team if it has room. Call the office for a list of teams.

You can sponsor a Birdathoner. This is a most critical role. Sponsor a Birdathoner or a Team by making a pledge or by just giving a financial gift to the Birdathoner of your choice.



Again, this is our chapter's biggest fundraiser of the year, bringing in 25 to 30% of the annual budget. Through your donation to Birdathon, you help the chapter advocate for healthy ecosystems, share the wonder of birds with children and adults, restore native habitats, sponsor informative and inspiring monthly meetings, publish its monthly newsletter, organize and lead field trips, serve as the environmental conscience of the Eastside, sponsor underprivileged kids at summer camps, create future environmental leaders, and more!

May is Birdathon Month. Give generously. The birds will love you for it!

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Changes at Eastside Audubon — by Jan McGruder, Executive Director

It is with great sadness and trepidation that I am stepping down as Executive Director of EAS. Sadness because I have so much enjoyed working with each of you and for the Chapter, and trepidation because I am beginning a new chapter in my life.

It has been a great journey over the last 9 years as the Chapter has grown

and matured. With our active, committed Board, our new part time Administrative Assistant, Zoe, and dozens of volunteers, I know the Chapter is in good hands. After 9 years, it is time for me to move on to new adventures. My last day in the office will be May 28.

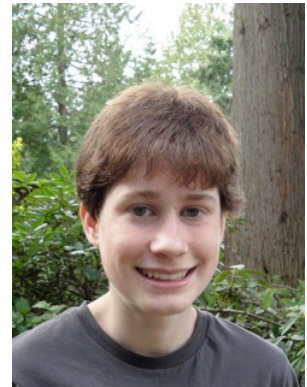
And I will be around. I hope to see many of you at events, meetings and on field trips. This chapter depends on volunteers to make it work - and that means you!

Eastside Audubon Awards College Scholarship

Devin McMahon, a senior at Redmond High School, has received the Brian Gershon College Scholarship Award for 2010 from Eastside Audubon. An enthusiastic conservationist, Devin plans to pursue a degree program in biology at college, especially in a research field. At Redmond High School, Devin has excelled academically while taking Advanced Placement and Honors classes. She helped

start the Bridge to Self-Sufficiency Club at Redmond High, whose members do fundraising to help entrepreneurs in developing nations start their own businesses. She also volunteers at the county animal shelter. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

-- Margaret Snell, Education Committee



Plant Sale – May 22, 2010

Mark the date! Our spring plant sale is set for Saturday, May 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale will be held at Kirkland Children's School, 5311 108th Avenue N.E. in Kirkland. Last year we were at this location and it was a great spot. Lots of room to spread out and the Children's School staff and volunteers were very supportive and helpful. All proceeds from the sale go directly to Eastside Audu-

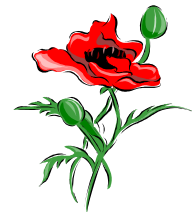
bon.

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!

Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer your gardening and plant questions, and help you make

your yard more wildlife-friendly.

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your garden for the birds.



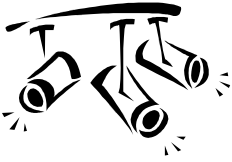
Welcome!

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

Zoe Allen, Martha Bengston, Tanya Bevan, Charles J. Caldwell III, Arlene Campbell, Barbara Carey,

Noreen Chrisman, Elizabeth De-laurenti, Jon Diemer, H. Dyer, Anne Fairbrother, Laura L. Fox, Louanne Grand, William Griffiths, Mike Hamnerquist, Susan Headlee, Pat Holdridge, J. Hoyt, William Jansen, Kenneth A. Kander, Eric M. Kapfhammer, Barbara Karstens, Orley Krogh, Janet Kuller, Honor Kunkle, Elizabeth Lockwood, Heather Mack,

R. Martin, Irene McVey, Deborah H. Nicely, Christie Norman, Gregory Olson, Jim O'Malley, Shawn M. Pare, Evie and Boone Parks, Gary Passavant, Chris Peeters, Jan W. Perron, Guy Peto, Pamela Plog, Becky Quinlan, Steve Rosenow, Susan Ruby, Ashley Schneider, Carrie Stengel, Donna L. Stewart, Richard Virant, Paul Zoba.



Volunteer Spotlight on: Caren Park



Quietly she sits, in the back of the room at the EAS monthly meetings, unnoticed by most. You cannot hear her creative thinking. This is volunteer, Caren Park.

She is a private person, sharing only that she was born on earth, approximately 30,000 light years from the galactic center and raised by a loving and supportive family. She considers her education, for the most of the last 50 years, to be autodidactic (self-taught).

Caren connected with EAS (Eastside Audubon) almost 10 years ago through member Dave Chatham. It is hard for her to recall her first experience with our group; she thinks it was either one of Mary Frances' tours or one of the monthly meetings.

She volunteers for Eastside Audubon when she has time from her work. She volunteers on photography field trips, occasionally participates in the CBC (Christmas Bird Count), helps with Marymoor Park and Kirkland Parks, and does odd bits here and there. What is most enjoyable about EAS for her? She says the people.

What does she do outside of Audubon and work? She replied, "Pay



White-breasted Nuthatch, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve by Caren Park

taxes, breathe, eat as inexpensively (and as well) as I can, photograph pets and nature, play with my kitty, and work towards retirement."

Caren's photography of pets and nature is her modest way of talking about her business, Park Gallery. The photo above was taken by Caren; it is one of the photos in her "Nature" album. See more of her photos on her facebook page <http://www.parkgallery.org/> for more photos.

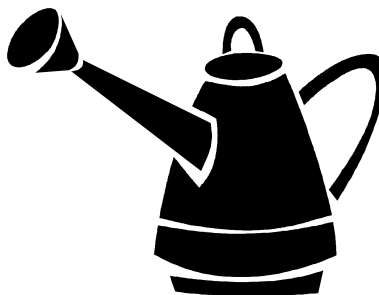
As for her favorite bird – Caren

said most birds are her favorite, but she has "more affinity for the raptors." Her favorite activity — with little surprise, she said,

"photographing them, though simply watching can be loads of fun."

So, although quietly sitting in the back of the room, Caren has for years been a creative, fun, helpful and much appreciated volunteer for EAS. Thanks so much, Caren.

— Marlene Meyer



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

May 1 (Sat) 9:00 to noon

Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration

Join us in restoring native habitat at the Marymoor Park interpretive area. Dress for the weather and bring clippers, gloves, snacks and water. Meet at SE corner of Parking Lot G. **Questions? Call office at 425-576-8805**

May 1 (Sat) 7:30 a.m. till ??

Wine on the Wings Birdathon trip to Vashon Island

Vashon Island contains a wealth of birding opportunities in May, from shorebirds at Point Robinson to Purple Martins and Brant at Tramp Harbor to Harlequin Ducks at the Tahlequah dock. Our birding route could also take us to Fern Cove, Fisher Pond, KVI Beach, Judd Creek, Spring Beach, and Quartermaster Harbor. After lunch we will visit the Palouse and Vashon Wineries to taste and learn about some award-winning local wines. Be aware that there could be a charge for the tastings. We will then bird our way back to the ferry. The goal is to have fun, fun, fun! Meet before 7:30 a.m. at the Wilburton Park & Ride to carpool. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. **Donate to Birdathon online or bring \$25 cash or check with you. Ferry cost will be shared and carpool cost is \$7/person for passengers. Leaders: Tricia Kishel 206-948-3922 and Tim McGruder.**

May 1 (Sat) Call for details

Birdathon Photathon

Join veteran photographers to get the best photograph and raise money for Audubon! The Birdpix Team: Tim Boyer, Ginger Holser, Caren Park, Lyn Mares, Anita Eastman, Mary Brisson, and Jeff Lane, will photograph birds all along the route from Nisqually NWR to Ocean Shores and around Grays Harbor. They expect to get good photographs of 30 to 40 birds (relative to 90 or more birds discovered by sound or sight on regular Birdathon routes) and will ask sponsors to pledge accordingly. Sponsors are welcome to come to the May and

June Photo Group Meeting (2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the church) to see the images taken. There will be prizes for the most bird species photographed, most birds in a single image, and best bird photo of the day - and maybe a few other prizes as well. Tim invites any photographers to join them to fill up their carpools and asks that each member bring pledges of \$200 or more. **Contact Tim, tboyer@seanet.com** to sign up and donate.

May 1 (Sat) 8:00 to early afternoon

Warblers of East King County — Birdathon Trip

There are eight warblers that either breed or migrate through east King County and we will try to find all of them on this trip. Of course, we will see many other wonderful birds as well. We will possibly bird Christmas Lake, Three Forks, Lake Hills Greenbelt, and Marymoor Park. The exact route will be planned based on recent warbler reports. Meet before 8:00 a.m. at the South Kirkland Park & Ride off of 108th Avenue N.E., Kirkland. Meet in the southeast corner, below the transit station. Bring a lunch, dress for the weather and we'll be back by mid-afternoon. Carpool cost is **\$12/person for passengers plus an additional Donation of \$25 from each person (donate online or bring cash or check with you).** **Andy McCormick, 425-637-0892, amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org.**

May 8 (Sat) 7:30 to late afternoon

Birdathon Trip — Nisqually NWR

The Nisqually NWR offers a diverse combination of habitats and birds. The delta is bounded by rivers on each side with marshes, deciduous woods and wide open areas. Early spring migrants are arriving to joining regulars such as woodpeckers and Great Horned owls and a variety of still wintering waterfowl and raptors should be present. We will explore the new Nisqually Estuary Trail along the outer dike for great views of the estuary restoration. Admission is free if you have a National Golden Pass or Federal Duck Stamp. Meet before 7:30 a.m. at north end of the Wilburton Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. Bring a lunch. Passenger cost/person is **\$12 for transportation plus an additional Birdathon donation of \$25 from each person. Call Hugh Jennings at 425-746-6351 or email at h2ouzel@comcast.net to register.**

May 16 (Sun) 1:00 p.m. — Watershed Park

A 2-hour nature walk in this Kirkland park takes place the **3rd Sunday of each month** at 1:00 p.m. 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**

May 17 (Mon) 5:30 a.m. to late afternoon

Umtanum Creek Falls and Wenas Campground.

Birdathon Trip

Sharon Aagaard will lead this **5-mile Birdathon hike** in two areas of Eastern Washington. We will form carpools at Issaquah's

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Tibbetts P&R lot (directions at top of Field Trips page) **before 5:30 a.m.** and return around 5:30 p.m. Birding by car from I-90 Thorp Rd Exit 101, we'll drive through the farm fields, head up Umptanum Road, park at Umptanum Creek Falls, walk about 1 mile roundtrip, then drive and bird along the way to Wenas Campground, park and walk another 4 miles roundtrip in the Campground area. Last year (April 7) our group saw and heard a total of 52 species. Since this year's trip is a month later into spring migration, I expect we'll see more species. Last April we had several occasions to have long looks at field marks and behavior of many species. In addition to warblers, flycatchers and vireos, we expect to see: White-headed Woodpecker, Long-billed Curlew, Great Horned Owl, White-breasted Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Red Crossbill. **Limited to 7 participants, plus me, in 2 cars.** Dress in layers, wear comfortable hiking/walking shoes, bring lots of liquids, lunch and snacks. I'll bring a scope. **Cost per passenger (driver does not pay) \$24 for transportation, plus an additional Birdathon donation of \$25 (from each person).** Call Sharon Aagaard at 425-271-0143 with questions and to register.

May 18 (Tues) 8:00 to noon

Birdathon Trip — Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

See what birds are in the Park and on the Bay during the peak of nesting season. Varied habitats within the park host a vast array of species, and early morning is the best time to explore them. We'll look for nesting species, spring migrants, resident birds, as well as raptors and waterfowl. Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot. No pre-registration is required. For further information, contact **MaryFrances Mathis at 425-803-3026.** Donate online or bring **\$25** cash or check with you.

May 19 (Weds) 8:00 to noon

Birdathon Trip — Lake Sammamish State Park

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 main entrance, take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end. **Donate online or bring \$25 cash or check with you.** Co-lead by Sharon Aagaard and Stan Wood. Call **Sharon with any questions, 425-891-3460.**

May 23 (Sun) — Brunch, Birds and Bubbly

Birdathon Trip — \$125 Donation for Birdathon

Start your day with brunch at a home on a ridge overlooking the Snoqualmie Valley and the Cascade Range. 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 dessert and champagne. In the mood for more birding? Venture out from the sunroom and walk 16 acres of wooded trails. **Limit: 8.** Hosted by **Carmen Almodavar, Margaret Lie, and Mary Britton-Simmons.** **Donate online or bring \$125 cash or check with you.** Call **Mary at 360-794-7163** to sign up and get directions

May 24 (Mon) 9:00 to noon

Birding the Hot Spots of King County

Field trip on **fourth Monday** of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 a.m. at north end of the Newport Hills

Park & Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person **\$2.** **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

May 24 (Mon) 5:30 a.m. to late afternoon

Birdathon Trip -- Robinson Canyon

Sharon Aagaard will lead this **6-mile Birdathon hike** in **Robinson Canyon** near Ellensburg in Eastern Washington. We will form carpools at Issaquah's Tibbetts P&R lot (directions at top of previous page) **before 5:30 a.m.** and return around 5:30 p.m. Some birds I hope to see are: Warbling Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Common Nighthawk, Chipping Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, Calliope Hummingbird, as well as various Woodpecker, Sparrow, and other species.

Limited to 7 participants, plus me, in 2 cars. Meet before 5:30 a.m. to form carpools. **The trail is rocky, uneven, narrow, with mild elevation, and may involve a stream crossing or two.**

Appropriate hiking shoes are a must. Dress in layers, bring lots of liquids, lunch and snacks. I'll bring a scope. **Cost per passenger \$20 (driver does not pay; this covers just the automobile expense), plus additional Birdathon donation of \$25 (from each person).** Call Sharon Aagaard at 425-271-0143 with questions and to register.

June 6 (Sat) All day with an early morning departure.

Wenatchee's Confluence State Park & Horan Natural Area.

These two areas, at the confluence of the Columbia and Wenatchee Rivers, offer the best riparian birding in Wenatchee. Possible species to be seen: Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, Common Merganser, Spotted Sandpiper, Osprey, some swifts, swallows, warblers, California Quail, Western Screech-Owl, Eastern Kingbird, Gray Catbird, a variety of sparrows. Also Wood Ducks, Mallards, and Red-winged Blackbirds frequent the ponds. We may also visit a nearby canyon or two for a variety of upland birds. Cost to be determined. **Tricia Kishel & Jim Rettig. Call Jim (425-402-1833) to reserve your spot.**



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See the birds better!

Partnering for Children

This year the theme of International Migratory Bird Day, celebrated on Saturday, May 8, is the "Power of Partnerships." The day focuses on celebrating the partnerships that make bird conservation programs successful and the 20th anniversary of Partners in Flight.

Eastside Audubon's Education Committee has long recognized the importance of partnering with other organizations. Over the years, we have increased our partnerships to the benefit of children and their families. For several years, we have worked with the rangers at Lewis Creek Park where EAS volunteers have presented programs (most recently in February on bird beaks and feeding patterns), sponsored children's activities, staffed booths and led trips through the park to find and identify birds. We are scheduled to give another presentation on June 9th.

Earth Day on April 17th saw the Education Committee once again at Lewis Creek Park and also partnering with the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force where we joined with the Conservation Committee and sponsored a booth on climate change.

In February for the first time, Molbak's invited the Education Committee to be a part of an event at their store. The nursery staff helped 50 children make bird feeders, and volunteers from the Education Committee gave a presentation on attracting birds and keeping them safe in backyards.

Future plans include partnering with the Kirkland Parks Department, the Mercer Slough Environmental Center, REI and Friends of the Salmon Hatchery. "The Power of Partnerships" enables the Edu-

cation Committee to reach a wide range of children and their families. So we have much to celebrate on International Migratory Bird Day!

-- Mary Britton-Simmons, Education Chair



Board Notes for February and March 2010

Program Meeting Coordinator: This volunteer position is open and the board would like it filled as soon as possible. The job involves researching and contacting speakers. Speaker topics usually include three or four bird-related programs, a travel-related program, one on mammals, one on other fauna or flora, and one special kids program each year. The coordinator also writes copy to promote the program, which is used in our newsletter, website, and other publications. On program night the coordinator arranges equipment needs and assists the speaker. If you're interested in this position, please contact Jan McGruder, Executive Director.

New Treasurer: In February, Cindy Balbuena welcomed Jim Kenney, our new treasurer, to the board.

New Birding Chair: In March, Tricia Kishel, previously an At-Large Board Member, agreed to be Birding Chair.

Birding Trails Map: At the February board meeting, Christi Norman, previously of Audubon Washington, met with the board to discuss the possibility of Eastside Audubon participating in the production of the Birding Trails Map (BTM) for the Puget Sound area. This

project will take about 18 months and will involve eight or nine chapters in our region. Each chapter will form a committee with three to six people, and that committee will partner with landowners, local tourism offices, and chambers of commerce to validate the sites. The committee will identify potential sites in their area, and there will be a maximum of 70 sites for the entire region. Brian Bell, Michael Hobbs, and Melinda Bronsdon volunteered for the committee.

Each chapter is expected to pledge \$5,000 toward production costs, improving the Birding Trails Map's presence on the web, possible restoration of major birding areas, and eventually a book that includes all of the maps for the state and information about each of the trails. At the March meeting, the board considered whether and how this pledge might be met.

Gift Acceptance Policy: In February, the board approved the Gift Acceptance Policy presented by Jan McGruder, Executive Director. The policy establishes guidelines and procedures for the types of gifts that Eastside Audubon may accept.

Chapter Endowment: In February, the board approved Jan McGruder's request that our chapter create a permanent en-

dowment. Having a permanent endowment allows the chapter to create an ongoing source of income, thus enhancing financial stability and relieving some of the pressure of annual fundraising. A permanent endowment also gives us the possibility of financial independence and program expansion.

Fundraising: In February, the board reviewed trips and special events planned for Birdathon 2010. This year we'll have seven teams raising funds for the chapter. The board decided to reduce field trip donations to \$25. Some new special trips are "Wine and Wings," "Warblers of E. King County," and "Birds and Bakeries." Returning from last year are "Birds, Brunch, and Champagne" and the "McGruder Birdathon Brunch."

Outreach Events: In February, Andy McCormick, Conservation Chair, reported on our successful outreach events in Issaquah. Over 40 people attended our talk at REI, 11 people attended the bird walk, and the children's event had over 30. In April, we'll be doing a global warming event in Stillwater. The board is considering other possible outreach events.

— Carmen Almodovar

BIRD OF THE MONTH — Andrew McCormick

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Length | 51 in |
| Wingspan | 79 in |
| Weight | 8.2 lb (3,740 g) |
| AOU Band code | BRPE |

The Brown Pelican is a conservation success story. Populations on both the Pacific and Atlantic/Gulf coasts suffered tremendously during the 1960s when all North American pelicans were extirpated outside of Florida. After DDT was banned they made a remarkable recovery and their population may still be expanding (Kaufman). They do not breed in Washington but after leaving the breeding sites in California the birds will migrate northward to Washington waters with some birds arriving in mid-May. Long lines of Brown Pelicans can be seen off the Pacific Coast of Washington in the late summer and fall. They are easily identified by the average person and children love the sight of these unique birds.

The Brown Pelican begins breeding in its third year and the species is marked by three distinct plumages: juvenile, breeding adult, and non-breeding adult. In general adults have light heads and dark bellies and juveniles are just the opposite. The adults have a white head with a wide brown stripe along the back of their neck, a yellowish crown, and pink color toward the tip of the bill. The courting adult will have bright red on the gular pouch close to its neck. The pouch is dark green most of the year (Alderfer).

The Brown Pelican is distinctive among the eight pelican species worldwide as it is the only dark colored pelican, only primarily marine species, and the only one that makes spectacular plunge dives when foraging for fish. Once the Brown Pelican catches a fish it will tip its bill to allow the water to drain out and then flip its head back to swallow the fish. Some gulls and terns such as Heerman's and Laughing Gulls and Roseate Terns will steal fish while the pelican is draining its pouch or dive into the water to catch fish escaping from the pouch. The gular pouch is quite flexible and the pelicans can often be seen stretching their head in display but also possibly to keep the pouch flexible.

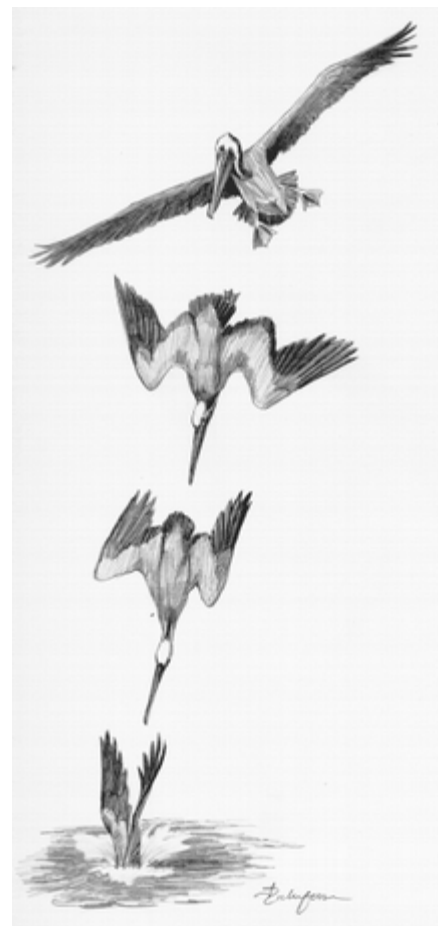


Juvenile and Adult Brown Pelicans

The genus *Pelecanus* is from the Greek *pelekan* and the species *occidentalis* is Latin for western with reference to it being a New World species (Holloway). The Pacific coast subspecies *californicus* is larger than the Atlantic *carolinensis*. Brown Pelicans typically breed on islands and build a nest on the ground, a cliff or in low trees such as mangroves. Two to four eggs are deposited and incubated by both parents for about a month. Once hatched the parents feed them until well after their first flight in another 9-12 weeks (Kaufman). The birds are generally silent but will make grunting sounds on the breeding grounds.

The bird has been removed from the national Endangered Species List but is still listed as endangered in California. Although the population has grown past the pre-DDT levels Brown Pelicans are highly susceptible to oil spills, getting tangled in fishing gear and because they eat so many fish, they may have high levels of toxins in their bodies.

(Photo credit: Mike Hamilton. Plunge dive drawing by J. Zickefoose, from Johnsgard 1993. References available upon request at amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org)



2009 An Anomaly: Cold North America, Warm World

Remember those pictures of all that snow on the east coast and Washington, DC being buried in snow this past winter? Following the snowstorms were very cold temperatures as high pressure stayed in the arctic and pushed cold air into central North America. People were shocked by both the snow and cold. Some even said it was evidence that the earth is in a cooling phase.

Jim Hansen leads the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) and is a professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University. He has a different analysis of what happened. Here is his response to critics of global warming.

“The bottom line is this: the Earth has been in a period of rapid global warming for the past three decades. The assertion that the planet has entered a period of cooling in the past decade is without foundation. On the contrary, we find no significant deviation from the warming trend of the past three decades.”

In a thorough review of global temperature measurements using the period of 1951-1980 as a base period he demonstrates that 2009 tied as the second warmest year in the past 130 years since GISS began climate studies. It tied with 2006. The warmest year was 2005. The charts below show the temperature changes since 1880. They are clearly upward in the past three decades.

The five-year running mean (the average temperature over a five-year period) is used to screen out the effects of the El Niño-La Niña fluctuations, and the eleven-year running mean (the average temperature over an eleven-year period) is used to screen out the effects of the brightness of the sun due to sunspots. The charts plot anomalies or changes from the 1951-1980 base period. The left chart is for global temperature and the right is for Northern Hemisphere (N.H.) and Southern Hemisphere (S.H.) temperature. The mean temperature changes are pretty much the same and show an increase over the 1951-1980 base period.

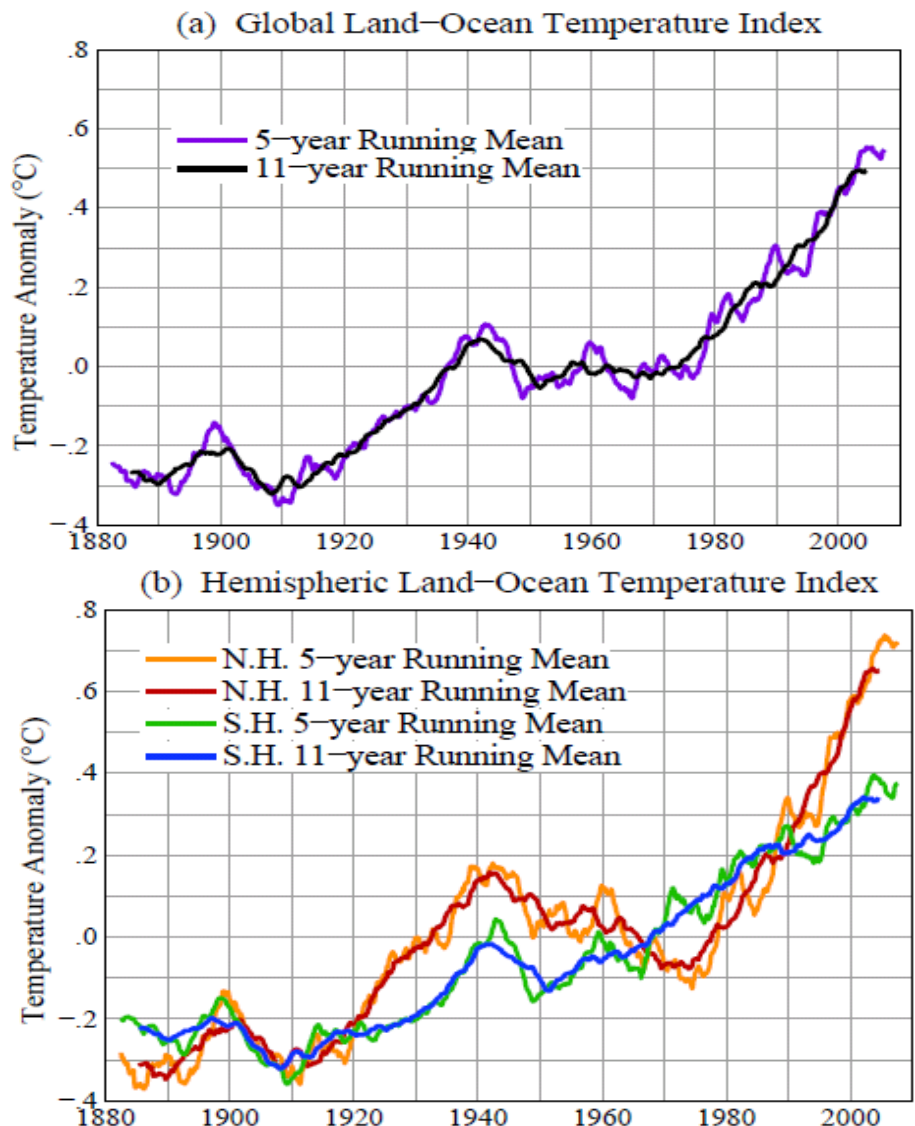
The experience of many people in North America this past year illustrates the diffi-

culty in helping the average person understand the change we are in, especially if the weather is a cold anomaly within an overall warming trend. In contrast look at 1911, the year Niagara Falls froze over. That kind of cold snap, Hansen says, would be unthinkable today. Only one of the past ten winters and only two of the past ten summers were cooler than the 1951-1980 base period. Thinking long-term is the key to getting a handle on global warming.

The global climate is warming over decadal time periods and information from the weather in any particular summer or winter needs to be considered within a longer time span. Hansen says, “The climate dice are loaded.” Based on these

studies, Hansen now says that the probability that a given seasonal average temperature will fall in the category that was defined as unusually warm in the period 1951-1980 is now 60% rather than 30% thirty years ago. More simply stated, we are warmer and the chance of having warmer seasons has doubled.

Hansen, J., Ruedy, R., Sato, M., Lo, K. (2010). *If it's that warm, how come it's so darned cold? An essay on regional cold anomalies within near-record global temperature.* Downloaded from www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/mailings/2010/20100127_TemperatureFinal.pdf, April 3, 2010.



Native Plants for the Birds

(Continued from page 1)

Children especially love secret spots in the garden where they can hide, think, get away from big people, and learn about the natural world in their own way, at their own pace.

These new gardens are nurtured by individuals who want to invite the natural world back into their lives; to see butterflies dance from flower to flower, frogs splash across a water garden, turtles sunbathe on rocks and to hear the trill of songbirds fill the air. It's a way to connect with the natural world. And while occasionally an unwanted critter may venture in, the vast majority of wildlife species that are attracted to these refuges are welcomed.

By establishing a more natural landscape environmentally conscious gardeners are endorsing the use of plants native to the soils and climate of an area. These plants provide the best overall food sources for wildlife, while requiring less fertilizer, less water, and less effort in controlling pests. Over time this translates to less cost to maintain a garden. Americans spend \$27 billion a year on lawn care - 10 times more than we spend on school textbooks. The average lawn requires 9000 gallons of water per week, and 5-10 pounds of fertilizer per year, more than the entire country of India uses for its food crops. With natural landscaping many of these costs are weeded out. Best of all, these landscapes demand less routine maintenance so people can spend more time enjoying and feeling connected to the wonders of nature. Simply stated, natural landscaping is designed to work with, rather than against nature.

Natural landscapes also provide people with a sense of place that distinguishes where they live from the rest of the world. Why for example, should a yard in Las Vegas look like one in New Orleans or Portland?

Ken Druse, author of *The Natural Habitat Garden*, says that "if even a fraction of America's 38 million gardeners turned a quarter of their landscape into a wild garden (only one tenth of an acre each) there would be a measurable impact...a tremendously positive gain for America's, and the world's, ecology."

Many people find their efforts to create a habitat not only rewarding, but fun for the whole family and an inspiration to their neighbors. In fact, there are several communities (City of Tukwila and the Houghton Neighborhood in Kirkland) where many residents have gone native and had their backyards certified by the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Habitat Program.

It's not just homeowners who are jumping on this band wagon. Several large corporations are also recognizing the benefits of natural landscaping, especially toward the bottom line. CIGNA is implementing several naturalistic cost-saving landscaping practices at its nearly 600 sites across the country. At CIGNA headquarters in Connecticut, the number of grounds maintenance crew has been cut in half and their annual landscaping budget has been reduced by \$400,000. Conservation Design Forum, a Chicago based firm, estimates that a mature native landscape can result in an annual maintenance cost saving of \$4,000 per acre compared with a traditional turf landscape. That's good business in addition to the community goodwill companies can gain from demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship.

Laws that prosecute natural gardeners, commonly called weed laws, are gradually being overturned as the benefits of these green oases are being acknowledged. Even the federal government has taken a supporting stand. In 1994 President Clinton recognized the natural landscaping movement by issuing an Executive Memorandum

that not only recommended natural landscaping at all federal facilities and federally funded projects, but presented guidelines for doing so. The use of native plants around the Vice Presidential mansion is one example of how the government is implementing this new mandate.

Lorrie Otto, a Milwaukee natural landscaping activist who has been referred to as the "high priestess" of the natural landscape movement, makes the argument for natural landscapes best when she says "If suburbia were landscaped with meadows, prairies, thickets, or forests, or combinations of these, then the water would sparkle, fish would be good to eat again, birds would sing and human spirits would soar."

Educating people about how they can make a personal contribution to conservation efforts and instilling a passion in them to make a difference is key to the long-term health of our environment. Creating natural landscapes in your own backyard is often the first step people take toward a life long commitment to global environmental stewardship.

Edited from article by Craig Tufts, Chief Naturalist for the National Wildlife Federation