

The Corvid Crier

VOL 30, No 9 – NOVEMBER 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.



Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

November Program
Special Feature-Length
Screening – Ghost Bird

A Documentary by
Scott Crocker

7:00 pm
November 18, 2010

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE:

Community Connections — 5

American Alps Legacy — 5

Conservation In Our Lives — 6

Field Trips — 7

Bird of the Month — 8

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.

Special Feature-Length Screening – *Ghost Bird*

“Crocker has turned a bird-watching tale into a multilayered story that will fascinate practically everybody...a witty, wistful documentary.” -Neil Genzlinger, The New York Times

“Beautifully crafted...by turns, wry, heartbreaking, ironic and infuriating. It’s a stunner.” -Michael Fox, NPR

Set in a murky swamp full of birders, scientists, and reporters, *Ghost Bird* explores the limits of certainty, the seductive power of hope, and how one phantom woodpecker forever changed a Southern town. Eastside Audubon is thrilled to be able to bring you the film *Ghost Bird* for our November program night!

This thrilling eco-noir investigates the strange but true story of a small town in Arkansas overrun by a nation of birders all searching for the “Grail Bird” – the Ivory-billed woodpecker. Presumed extinct for over half a century, scientists announced the miraculous return of the Ivory-bill in 2005 after seeing it flying through the bayous of eastern Arkansas. Or was it?

Other creatures have wrongly been presumed extinct, but the reappearance of the Ivory-bill was celebrated around the world as the rediscovery of a lifetime, prompting the largest recovery effort ever undertaken for a lost species. Millions of dollars poured in from the government

while ornithologists and birders flooded the swamps to find the rare bird. Down the road,

the town of Brinkley, Arkansas - itself on the brink of extinction – was transformed by the hope, commerce and controversy surrounding their feathered friend. But continued sightings by expert birders only highlighted the mysterious absence of credible evidence.

Now six years later, despite years of searching, the woodpecker remains as elusive as ever and the bird’s fate remains a mystery. This witty, insightful documentary brings the Ivory-bill’s blurry rediscovery into focus, revealing our uneasy relationship with nature and the increasing uncertainty of our place within it.

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Join us for socializing and refreshments before the program which starts at 7:00pm. There is a suggested donation of \$4 for Eastside Audubon members; \$6 for non-members.

Remember to Recycle

People may bring their styrofoam to the Nov. program. A volunteer will take it to be recycled. Don't forget to continue to recycle chunk styrofoam, styrofoam "peanuts" and foam coolers. The styrofoam recycle location is west of IKEA between SW 41st St. and SW 43rd St., Tuesday through Saturday. Check their website: styrorecycle.com King County's Bellevue and Mercer Island recycle events take #6 styrofoam trays, "clam shells", plastic cups and glasses etc..



—Your compulsive recyclers
Jill Keeney and Bev Jennings

Have You Re-Charged Your PCC Cash Card?

Many of you have taken advantage of PCC Natural Market Cash (Scrip) Cards purchased through EAS. But have you remembered to re-charge them? After purchasing the initial \$25 card, remember you can easily re-charge it at the check-out counter at PCC for any amount you chose using cash or credit card. And the best part is that a full 5% of the amount you put on your card is generously donated to EAS from PCC. You pay nothing extra – every dollar you put on your card goes for a dollar of groceries. It's fast and easy and you can re-charge it again and again! There's never been an easier way to Keep the Birds Singing!

Don't have a PCC Cash Card yet? Buy one from the online store on our website www.eastsideaudubon.org or at the office. Twenty-five dollars gets you the card, \$25 worth of groceries, and \$5 goes to EAS.



www.eastsideaudubon.org

Eastside Audubon Society

(425) 576-8805

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

P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri - 9am - 1pm

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At large board member	Open	

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It's probably not a surprise to us, but now we have proof - according to a study from the Journal of Environmental Psychology, people who looked out at nature scenes through a window experienced a greater drop in heart rate than they did watching the same images on a high-definition plasma screen. Effects were noted after just one minute or less of looking outside. And the longer you view nature, the greater the stress relief. It's nice to know that watching the birds outside is not only enjoyable, it's healthy too!

Meetings

Nov. 4 (Thurs) 10:30 a.m.

Web Committee

Meets first Thursday each month in EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email webmaster@eastside-audubon.org

Nov. 11 (Thurs) 7:00 p.m.

Photo Group

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

Nov. 9 (Tues) 7:00 p.m.

Youth Education Committee

We meet the second Tuesday of every month but December and August. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email education@eastsideaudubon.org

Nov. 10 (Weds) 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee

Meets second Wednesday each month in EAS Office. Questions? Email Andrew McCormick at amccormick@eastside-audubon.org

Nov. 22 (Mon) 6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

Meets fourth Monday of the month. Interested in attending? Please contact Cindy Balbuena at cbalbuena@comcast.net

The Corvid Crier, Vol 30, NO 9

Publication Date: November 1, 2010

Published by: Eastside Audubon 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

Subject: EAS Newsletter

or by mail to:

Eastside Audubon Society

Attn: Tamra Chinn

P. O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

Upkeep and Preservation at The Marymoor Park BirdLoop



Sprite volunteers are hard at work pulling invasive weeds. Young native trees and bushes are tied with bright orange or pink tape to protect them from being cut down or dug up accidentally.

Come and Join Us!

We meet the first Saturday of each month at 9 am. *All* are welcome to meet at the Marymoor Park BirdLoop Kiosk parking lot G. A free parking pass will be provided. Bring water and a snack; gloves, a shovel and a rake if you can.



Happy workers smiling after accomplishing the task together.



A base is formed with dirt filled shovels for the newly installed bicycle rack.

Community Connections Fair



On October 5, the University of Washington at Bothell held a Community Connections Fair. The Youth Education Committee was invited to participate and therefore, had a booth on the

campus promenade along with other non-profits such as People for Puget Sound, Little Bit Riding, The Northshore Senior Center, and Seattle Oaxaca Connection. Administrators at the UW hoped to inspire students to volunteer their time and talent to a non-profit organization. The weather cooperated with sun and brilliant fall colors which enticed students outdoors and away from their smart phones. Our Barn Owl, Ostrich egg and board with raptor talons attracted students to our booth, and Jill Keeney and I had some fascinating conversations with a variety of students—some from as far away as Russia and Ethiopia. Many left with information on EAS's conservation and education programs, brochures on attracting and keeping birds safe in backyards, and our latest newsletter. We hope to see some of them volunteering at EAS. At the very least, they came away with a better understanding of the important work that Eastside Audubon does.

— Mary Britton-Simmons

American Alps Legacy Project

The American Alps Legacy Project is an initiative to complete the conservation vision for the North Cascades National Park. The project is evaluating lands on the east and west sides of the park to determine whether they should be included in the park. These rugged and remote areas have long been known as the American Alps. As many who have visited the American Alps know, they are a truly spectacular area, comparable to the best national parks in the world.

[Most people believe that the American Alps are already fully protected as national park or wilderness. Unfortunately, much was left out when the North Cascades National Park and adjacent wilderness areas were established. Core wildlife habitats, lowland old growth forests, pristine rivers and streams, magnificent mountains, and popular recreation areas still remain unprotected by park or wilderness status.

New threats have arisen in the past four decades. Energy shortages and high costs are prompting calls for hydropower facilities that threaten American Alps streams. Climate change is disrupting natural wildlife habitats that are essential for the movement and survival of many North Cascades species. Shrinking glaciers are reducing water availability, threatening fresh water habitats for salmon and prompting calls for water storage dams. Puget Sound population increases and motorized

recreation are threatening to overrun recreation resources in the North Cascades.

The North Cascades Conservation Council and Mountaineers are leading the effort to expand the North Cascades National Park. Our primary focus is on the national forest lands to the north and south of the North Cascades Highway from Ross Lake to Mazama. Portions of the Cascade River, Shannon Creek, Bacon Creek, Thunder Creek, and Big Beaver Creek watersheds, as well as the North Cascades Highway corridor through the Ross Lake National Recreation Area are also prime areas for consideration as national park.

Public lands conservation does not occur in a vacuum. National forests and national recreation areas hold many values for many people. The American Alps Project is committed to designating new park lands in a way that meets community needs, as well as conservation and recreation needs. They are also working closely with gateway communities to the North Cascades National park to assure they receive the full economic benefits of park designation.

If you would like more information or are interested in getting involved, please visit www.americanalps.org or contact the American Alps Project Legacy campaign at info@americanalps.org or 360-296-5159.

Annual Holiday Gift Wrap



Calling all volunteers! Our annual Holiday Gift Wrap is quickly approaching. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to take on a shift or two at this fun event. This annual fundraiser is a great way to get into the holiday spirit, meet other EAS volunteers, and make a difference for the chapter. We plan to wrap at both the Issaquah and Redmond Towne Center REI locations

from Saturday, December 18th through Friday, December 24th. We'll have three shifts available to choose from – noon to 3:00pm, 3:00pm to 6:00pm and 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Ask a friend to join you – each shift will be staffed with 2 or 3 people.

To sign up for an REI shift, please call or email Helen La Bouy at 206.915.1345 or helenlabouy@mac.com.

**Green Construction and Birds:
An Uncertain Coexistence**

Mikado, after the Japanese pick-up-sticks game because a pattern of criss-crossed lines embedded in the glass resembled the scattered sticks used in the game. Most of the time the pattern is not visible to

Flying birds are at risk of colliding into structures that rise above 200 feet. Each year millions of birds are killed by these collisions with buildings (possibly up to 900 million), communication towers (tens of millions), power lines (tens of thousands) and wind farms (around 40,000). Some of these structures have some positive benefits which can create a dilemma for birders. Glass-walled buildings use less electricity by allowing more light to enter a building. Wind farms produce electricity without releasing the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

In principle environmentalists and birders support these technologies because by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide which is accumulating in the atmosphere, they can contribute to a reduction in global warming. Unfortunately, both of these technologies have so far had some negative impacts on birds. Things may be changing in favor of the birds, however.

Birds are at much higher risk of deadly collisions with glass which they cannot see. Birds are also attracted by the lights inside and on buildings and according to the American Bird Conservancy, once birds are in a lighted area they are reluctant to fly into a dark area. Unwittingly, they fly around tall buildings and may collide with other birds or the building or drop to the ground from exhaustion.

Many people use opaque or colored decals on their windows to warn birds of the presence of glass, but office buildings and those who want to preserve the openness that windows provide, don't want to put decals on their windows. There is a new glass that has a built in screen that helps birds avoid a collision.

Arnold Glas of Remshalden, Germany has developed a new product based on its Ornilyx glass. The new glass is called

humans but birds can see it and avoid the windows.

Wind farms create another concern for birders. Recently, a number of Audubon chapters in Washington opposed the development of a wind farm proposed for Radar Ridge near Long Beach because the development would be placed in a flying area used by the state-threatened Marble Murrelet. The project has been stalled for review and it is uncertain when it will be built. Similarly, a wind farm was opposed in New Jersey because of its potential negative effects on a threatened species of bat.

Wind energy is considered to be an important component of future electricity production and it was ironic that environmentalists from Audubon opposed it. In fact, there was not unanimity because one Audubon chapter in the Long Beach area was supportive of the project as an important development effort for the southwestern Washington area.

Since 2000 a new generation of high capacity wind turbines have been developed which have larger blades with a larger surface area and which rotate at a much slower speed. New turbines also have solid blades in place of the lattice-work of older models. This discourages birds from perching on the structure. A number of states have developed guidelines for siting wind farms and both the American Bird Conservancy and the National Audubon Society support wind farm development if they are placed away from migration routes and areas frequented by endangered species.

— Andy McCormick

Wind Turbines



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.

November 2 (Tuesday)

7:15 a.m. Whidbey Island

Whidbey Island is always good for birds and we will be looking for waterfowl, loons, grebes, alcids, raptors, and passerines. We will take the ferry from Mukilteo and work our way north on the island, stopping at wetlands, lagoons and scanning the shoreline for interesting birds. Scopes very helpful, bring lunch and money for ferry. Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the north end of the Kingsgate P&R. Carpooling as much as possible. Passenger cost per person \$17 plus share ferry costs. Brian Bell 425-485-8058 (cell 206-619-0379 on morning of trip only).

November 13 (Saturday)

7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Des Moines Marina to Commencement Bay

Ducks and other waterfowl, seabirds and gulls will be the focus of this trip as we search the water at the marina and state parks. We'll look for song birds and birds of prey. Bring scopes if you've got them. Meet before 7:30am at Newport Hills P&R. Passenger cost/person \$8.00. Tricia Kishel 206-948-3922

November 22 (Monday)

8 a.m. - 12 p.m. 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. Co-led by Sharon Agaard and Stan Wood. NO PRE-REGISTRATION NECESSARY. Call Sharon with any questions. 425-891-3460.

November 22 (Monday)

9:00 a.m.- 12 p.m. 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 a.m. at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride. Passenger cost/person \$2.00. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351

November 27 (Saturday) 7:30a.m. to early afternoon Morse Wildlife Preserve

Take a Thanksgiving break from your family and the malls and join us on this trip to a former farm near Graham, which is now a preserve. It includes wetlands, meadow and mixed canopy forest. See some winter birds, waterfowl and maybe some raptors. Bring lunch, snacks and water and don't forget to dress for the weather. Meet before 7:30a.m. at north end of the Wilburton P&R. Passenger cost/person \$9.00. Tricia Kishel, 206-948-3922

December 1 (Wednesday)

7:30 AM to 5 PMSamish/Skagit Flats - registration required

The Samish and Skagit Flats are always interesting in early December. We will be watching for waterfowl; including Swans. Raptors; including hawks, eagles, falcons. Perhaps Short-eared Owls will be present. We will also look for other waterbirds and small songbirds in the treed areas. Scopes very helpful. Dress for possible wet weather and maybe wind. Waterproof footwear advisable. Bring lunch and money for carpool. Limited to 11 in three cars. Meet at the south end of the Kingsgate P&R before 7:30 (if full, go to the north end of the P&R). Passenger cost/person \$20. Brian H. Bell 425-485-8058.

December 4 (Saturday)

8:00 a.m. to noon Green Lake

Walk Green Lake with expert birder Martin Muller who has acquired intimate knowledge of this lake and the 150 bird species found there. Meet by 7:25 a.m. at South Kirkland P&R near the bus stop to carpool, or meet at Green Lake. We will park at the west end of Green Lake near the Bathhouse Theater and meet Martin on the lake side of the theatre, between the brick building and the water. No sign-up, just show up. Passenger cost/person \$2.00. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351

December 18 (Saturday)

8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Annual Christmas Bird Count and Dinner

Please note on your calendar that the 2010 CBC will be held on Dec. 18. Come and join one of the 8 teams of bird counters in the EAS annual CBC. We welcome anyone who wants to help - from beginner to expert. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes/boots, warm clothes and bring lunch. The fee for participating in the CBC is \$5.00/person (backyard bird counters are not required to pay the fees). Detailed information will be in the December Corvid Crier and on the Eastside Audubon website.



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<i>Length</i>	<i>13 in</i>
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<i>Weight</i>	<i>7 oz (200 g)</i>
<i>AOU Band code</i>	<i>ECDO</i>

In the middle 1970s a local breeder in the Bahamas was burglarized and several Eurasian Collared-Doves were released. Soon thereafter he released the remaining 50 birds he had. “By the late 1980s, [sightings were] reported from several Florida counties, Georgia, and Arkansas. From that point, range expansion has been explosive and these doves have been first-reported from Alabama in 1991, Texas in 1995, S. Dakota in 1996, Iowa and Montana in 1997, Minnesota in 1998, and Oregon in 1999. Populations [are] established in all southeastern states, as well as California, Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas” (Romagosa, 2000) (See range map). Additional releases have been made during this time. Eurasian Collared-Doves are now being seen in Washington. Continued expansion into Canada is expected. It has been an amazingly fast bird species invasion.

The Eurasian Collared-Dove is a large, pale buff-gray dove with a black collar and noticeably larger than a Mourning Dove. The wing has three color tones. The primaries are dark and appear blackish next to the gray secondaries and the wing coverts are brown. The tail is dark and black at the base when seen from below. Its call is a monotonous repeated kuk-koooo-kook with an emphasis on the middle note (Alderfer).

It is in the genus *Streptopelia* from the Greek *streptos*, a collar of twisted chain mail, and *peleia*, a dove or pigeon. Its species name *decaocto* is Greek for ten and eight. There is a Greek folktale about a servant girl that was paid only 18 pieces

Eurasian Collared-Dove Streptopelia decaocto



Photo: Hugh Jennings

a year. She prayed to the gods to help her escape and they turned her into a dove, so she could fly off. The common name reflects the bird’s natural range and it’s black and white partial collar. Dove is from the Anglo-Saxon *dufan*, to dive, for its irregular flight pattern (Holloway).

Like most doves it builds a flimsy nest of loosely arranged sticks in a tree or shrub but also on human-made structures. There is little data on North American birds, but studies in Europe and India find that generally two eggs are deposited in the nest and incubation takes only two weeks. Both parents feed the young crop milk or “pigeon milk,” a substance rich in fat and protein produced in the crop from cells sloughed off the upper esophagus (Kaufman). Eurasian Collared-Doves do not migrate but will disperse a great distance from the nest. A pair can produce several broods per year and up to six in warmer climates.

“Continued conversion of natural habitats into suburban, urban, and agricultural areas, should allow for continued range expansion and population increase

across North America and the Caribbean” (Romagosa). As an introduced species the Eurasian Collared-Dove is not protected from hunting and is becoming a more popular game bird in the Southeastern United States, a factor that may control its population growth.

A recording of the Mourning Dove’s call can be heard at the Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/flashPlayer.do?id=26380>

(References available upon request at amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org)

— Andy McCormick

Have You Seen Our Bird Gallery?

Looking for more information on a specific bird than you can find in your field guide? Gorgeous photos and articles on all of our local bird species are at your fingertips on our website (www.eastsideaudubon.org). From

the home page, click on Birds and Bird Gallery to search for your bird by family. Most of the birds featured in the Gallery have articles that discuss the bird’s habitat, behavior, nesting, migration, and more. And the photos and articles are all from EAS members. Check it out!

The Corvid Crier

Eastside Audubon Society

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Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

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Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

Please add me to your *General Discussion* email list

Please add me to your *Conservation Activist* email list

Do not share my name or address with other organizations

I wish my contribution to remain anonymous. **Do not publish my name**

Don't mail our newsletter, *The Corvid Crier*, to me. Add me to the newsletter e-mail list.

My employer matches contributions. I will enclose or send matching information to you.

Allocate \$ _____ to Gershon Scholarship Fund – To college students

Allocate \$ _____ to Steiner Scholarship Fund – To school teachers

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

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I have included Eastside Audubon in my will

Allocate \$ _____ to Chapter Endowment

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