

# The Corvid Crier

VOL 31, No 5 – JUNE 2011

## International Migratory Bird Day Celebration



The Youth Education Committee and the Eastside Park Rangers joined together to celebrate IMBD at Juanita Bay Park on April 16. While cloudy skies greeted us as we set up in the early morning, the rain held off until later. In spite of the weather, walkers were out enjoying nature and stopped by our booths. The EAS Osprey attracted a lot of attention as did our other bird mounts. While their children played the migration game, parents browsed the booths and took home information on EAS, Project Feeder Watch and the native plant sale on April 30. Participants

learned more about the park on their walks with the Rangers who also had an informational booth. Anne Dolan from Wild Bird Center in Houghton had a great array of items from their store and encouraged visitors to become birders. The celebration was a success and a good way to work with partners to encourage others to get involved with nature, especially birds. We are looking forward to hosting this event annually and involving even more members of EAS and EPR.

— Mary Britton-Simmons

### Dan Froehlich

Citizen scientists: Why birding matters in the 21st century Birdwatching has gone mainstream in the past 30 years. For many birders, birding is its own reward. But is there more? Birders can dispute identifications, compete for “Big-Day” species totals, and argue about the latest taxonomic shifts. Or we can find ways to build meaning into our birding. This presentation is about value-added opportunities for bird enthusiasts. The internet phenomenon, the political climate,

and, well, climate change itself all call for citizen engagement to better understand our avian neighbors and their needs. Join me as we explore the role of citizen scientists in the 21st century. While we’ll focus on the context for citizen science, I’ll also offer some resources for local engagement.

**Daniel Froehlich biographical notes:** I’m dedicated to conservation by improving understanding. Growing up in both Germany and the US revealed the

~ June 23<sup>rd</sup> Program Meeting ~  
7:00 p.m.

*If not me then  
who?  
Dan Froehlich*

\*Founder of Puget Sound Bird  
Observatory \*WNPS Steward  
\*See story below left.



Dan Froehlich

prevalence of misunderstanding in cross-cultural communication. Discovering an injured Flicker that recovered from a window strike revealed the universal urgency of the language of Nature, even in neighborhood birds. Researching how birds replace their feathers revealed the rigor of the modern scientific approach to understanding the world around us. Building community by engaging people with birds through scientific understanding is itself the greatest revelation. Dan is a founder of Puget Sound Bird Observatory.



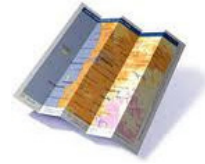
**Birding Trail Map:** Andy McCormick showed a preliminary draft of the birding trail map along with proposed sites for the Puget Sound region. Tricia Kishel noted that all chapters' committees will meet to review final site selections.

**Fundraising 2011:** The board discussed the planning for the plant sale and the start of Birdathon 2011. Hope you signed up for a field trip, joined a Birdathon team, or signed up as a team sponsor!

**Birdathon 2012:** The board approved the appointment of Andy McCormick as the chair of our Birdathon fundraiser for 2012.

**Board Opening:** Andy McCormick reported that Ed

Freedman is leaving the board. Ed has bought a new home in warmer climes where he'll be spending more time. If you're interested in joining the board in an at-large position, please contact any of the board members or the office at [office@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:office@eastsideaudubon.org)



**Meetings**

**Web Committee**

**June 2 (Thurs) 10:30 a.m.**

Meets first Thursday each month in EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email: [webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org)

**Youth Education Committee**

**June 7 (Tues) 6:30 p.m.**

We meet the first Tuesday of every month in Adams Hall except December and August. All interested parties are invited. Questions? E-mail: [education@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:education@eastsideaudubon.org)

**Photo Group**

**June 9 (Thurs) 7:00 p.m.**

Meets second Thursday each month in large room upstairs from EAS Office. Questions? Email: Tim Boyer: [tboyer@seanet.com](mailto:tboyer@seanet.com).

**Conservation Committee**

**June 8 (Weds) 7:00 p.m.**

Meets second Wednesday each month in EAS Office. Questions? Email Andy McCormick: [amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org)

**Board Meeting**

**June 27 (Mon) 6:00 p.m.**

Meets fourth Monday of the month. Interested in attending? Please contact the office (425-576-8805)

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

*"The Mission of the Eastside Audubon Society is to protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people."*

**Executive Officers**

President	Jim Rettig	<a href="mailto:jrettiganager@frontier.com">jrettiganager@frontier.com</a>
Vice President	Andy McCormick	<a href="mailto:amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org">amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org</a>
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Hospitality	Claudia Welch	(425).827.2548
Nature Walks	Melinda Bronson	<a href="mailto:bronson874@aol.com">bronson874@aol.com</a>
Nature Walks	Christopher Chapman	(425) 941-3501
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		<a href="mailto:gluhm@comcast.net">gluhm@comcast.net</a>

**Board Members and Committee Chairs**

Board Ex-Officio	Cindy Balbuena	<a href="mailto:cbalbuena@deloitte.com">cbalbuena@deloitte.com</a>
Birding	Tricia Kischel	<a href="mailto:tkischel@audubon.org">tkischel@audubon.org</a>
Conservation	Andy McCormick	<a href="mailto:amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org">amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org</a>
Education	Mary Britton-Simmons	<a href="mailto:mbrittionsimmons@eastsideaudubon.org">mbrittionsimmons@eastsideaudubon.org</a>
Development	Carmen Almodovar	<a href="mailto:calmodovar@eastsideaudubon.org">calmodovar@eastsideaudubon.org</a>
Membership	Jim Rettig	<a href="mailto:jrettiganager@frontier.com">jrettiganager@frontier.com</a>
At large board member	Tim McGruder	<a href="mailto:tmcgruder@gmail.com">tmcgruder@gmail.com</a>
Communication	<i>Open</i>	
At large board member	<i>Open</i>	
Admin. Assistant	Zoe Allen	<a href="mailto:office@eastsideaudubon.org">office@eastsideaudubon.org</a>

**Eastside Park Rangers**

Ranger Liaison to EAS	Ted Marx	<a href="mailto:tedmarx@comcast.net">tedmarx@comcast.net</a>
EAS Liaison to Rangers	Jill Keeney	<a href="mailto:j.keeney@comcast.net">j.keeney@comcast.net</a>

**Eastside Audubon** is located at: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, Kirkland [corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. and State St.]. Take I-405 exit 18 [NE 85<sup>th</sup>, Kirkland]. Drive west on Central Way to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (stoplight). Turn left [South] onto 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and follow it as it bears left and changes name to State Street. Turn left onto 4<sup>th</sup> Ave South. TAKE THE BUS! Routes 540, 230 and 255 to State Street in Kirkland.

**Other Committee Chairs**

Bird Photography	Tim Boyer	<a href="mailto:tboyer@seanet.com">tboyer@seanet.com</a>
Bird Questions	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 922-9524
Birdathon	Andy McCormick	<a href="mailto:amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org">amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org</a>
Field Trips	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351
		<a href="mailto:fieldtrips@eastsideaudubon.org">fieldtrips@eastsideaudubon.org</a>
Historian	Bob Gershmel	<a href="mailto:rwgusnet1986@yahoo.com">rwgusnet1986@yahoo.com</a>
Holiday Gift Wrap	Helen LaBouy	<a href="mailto:helenlabouy@mac.com">helenlabouy@mac.com</a>

The Corvid Crier, Vol 31, NO 5  
 Publication Date: June 1, 2011  
 Published by: Eastside Audubon Society  
 P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115  
 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) **or by mail to the address above.**

## Becoming a Citizen Conservationist



American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has recently published a new book titled *Bird Conservation* and they advocate that we become “citizen conservationists.” It is much like

much like being a citizen scientist only being more active in your community. They say, “The core of bird conservation is preventing the extinction of bird species, protecting habitat for priority birds (those on the WatchList), and eliminating threats to birds.

relationships in the three types of forest in our service area.

In 2007 scientists from the ABC, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Audubon Society, and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory joined with Partners in Flight to create a consensus priority list for birds. This is called the WatchList. Birds of concern are assigned a WatchList category of red or yellow. Red indicates “Highest National Concern,” and yellow indicates “Declining” or “Rare.” A number of birds that nest in the service area of Eastside Audubon are included in the book

Western Forest Habitats	Threat Level	Flagship Bird
Douglas fir/redwoods	Medium	Spotted Owl
Lodgepole pine	Medium	Williamson’s Sapsucker
Ponderosa pine	High	Flammulated Owl

There are 212 species on the WatchList and all of them are important. All avian families are represented including gulls, terns, pelagic birds, songbirds, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, finches and sparrows. Conserving these birds will require continued conservation efforts and ABC recommends a focus on building partnerships with other organizations, stopping harmful projects, getting the public involved, and using science to discover both problems and possible solutions to threats to birds. Specifically for the Western Forest birdscape ABC recommends protecting old-growth forests on public lands, restoring open ponderosa pine forests for cavity nesting birds, improving bird monitoring, and combating climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The service area of Eastside Audubon is included within the birdscape they have labeled as Western Forests, which covers eight Western Forest Habitats with associated threat level and a flagship bird that needs assistance. **Table 1** illustrates these

**Table 2** lists 10 species of birds that nest in the Eastside Audubon service area with their WatchList category and major threat.

Species of Concern	WatchList Ranking	Major Threat
Spotted Owl	Red	Old-growth forest habitat loss
Short-eared Owl	Yellow	Loss, fragmentation of grassland and coastal areas due to development, agriculture
Black Swift	Yellow	Possible loss of prey due to pesticides
Calliope Hummingbird	Yellow	Not certain
Lewis’ Woodpecker	Red	Habitat loss in ponderosa pine, cutting dead trees reduces suitable nesting sites
Williamson’s Sapsucker	Yellow	Loss of habitat from fire suppression
White-headed Woodpecker	Yellow	Habitat loss due to clear cutting, fire suppression, removal of dead snags
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Yellow	Clear cutting and fire suppression degrade habitat
Willow Flycatcher	Yellow	Riparian habitats in arid areas threatened
Varied Thrush	Yellow	Loss of old-growth cedar and hemlock, nest predation at forest edges

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## FIELD TRIPS

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### Whidbey Island

**June 7th (Tuesday) 6:00 a.m.**

We'll explore Whidbey's nooks and crannies for breeding ducks, waterbirds and alcids, shorebirds lingering at Crockett Lake, and passerines in the forests and woodlands. There are usually a few raptors around. Limited to 11 in three cars. Scopes useful, bring lunch and ferry money. Meet at AM in the south end of the Kingsgate P&R. Call Brian H. Bell at 425-485-8058 for a spot (206-619-0379 *morning of trip only*) Back by early evening.

### Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

**June 21 (Tuesday) 8:00 to noon**

A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **third Tuesday** of each month at 8:00 a.m.. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required. **Please note: Walks begin 8am April-September inclusive.** MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026.

### Lake Sammamish State Park

**June 24 (Friday) 8 a.m. to noon**

This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds and habitats due to its varied ecosystems. The trip will involve walking approximately 2-3 miles. Dress appropriately (rainproof in layers; some of the trails can be muddy if wet). Just inside the main entrance, take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end. Co-led by **Sharon Aagaard and Stan Wood. NO PRE-REGISTRATION NECESSARY.** Call Sharon with any questions, 425-891-3460.

*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 Trip



#### Kingsgate Park and Ride:

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

#### Newport Hills Park and Ride:

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

#### Wilburton Park-N-Ride:

I-405, exit 12

#### South Kirkland Park and Ride:

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

#### Tibbetts Park and Ride:

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

**June 27 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. 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 a.m. 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**

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

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

Our annual Olympic Peninsula wildflower trip featuring views, birds, and varied wildlife. On Saturday at 11:00 a.m. we will meet at the picnic table across the street from the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for a snack lunch. (This is the Center at the base of the foothills, the one before you actually enter the park.) Look for the picnic tables at front of the Center. After lunch, we will head for the main visitor center at the top of Hurricane Ridge, making one stop to check out wildflowers along the way. If you miss the lunch, look for us at the trailhead of Hurricane Hill, about a quarter mile beyond the main visitor center. On Sunday we will bird areas from Ediz Hook to Sequim.

We'll be staying overnight on Saturday in Port Angeles. If you plan to join us, we usually stay at the [Rivieria Inn Motel](#), or there are several other [motels](#) and [campsites](#) available. If you plan to go please call **Bill Schmidt 425-881-6037**

### Marymoor Work Party

#### **Marymoor Birdloop Restoration**

**June 4 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. to noon**

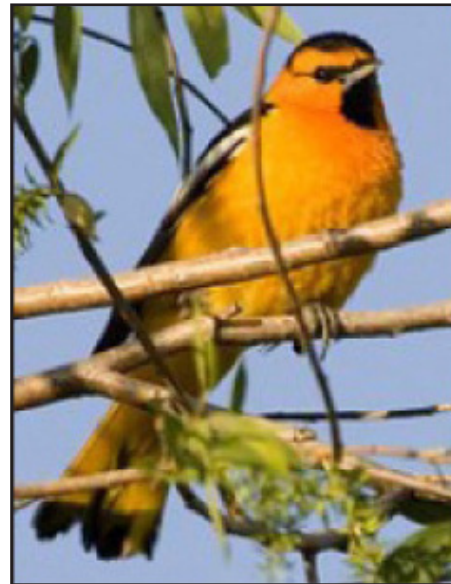
Come and Join Us! We meet the first Saturday of each month at 9 am. All are welcome to meet at the Marymoor Park BirdLoop Kiosk - parking lot G. A free parking pass will be provided. If you wish bring water and a snack; gloves, a shovel and/or a rake.

## Bird Of The Month

By Andy McCormick

### Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii*

Length	9 in
Wingspan	12 in
Weight	1.3 oz, (36 g)
AOU Band code	BUOR



Anyone who has grown up in the eastern United States knows about the Baltimore Oriole as a woodland and garden bird and the mascot of the baseball team with the same name. Less well known, however, is Bullock's Oriole, the western North American counterpart to the Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*. Both share the genus *Icterus*, from the Greek *ikteros*, jaundice, and the common name from the Latin *oriolus*, golden (Holloway). The species name *bullockii*, was named in honor of William Bullock (1775-1855) by William Swainson. Bullock was a mine owner and bird collector and supported Swainson's birding expeditions and artwork. The orioles share the same Family Icteridae with the Bobolink, blackbirds, grackles, meadowlarks and cowbirds and are the most colorful of that group.

After a brief stint being grouped with the Baltimore Oriole as the Northern Oriole, Bullock's Oriole was separated again in 1998 and is considered a species on its own once more. There is, nonetheless, a narrow zone in the Great Plains where the two species hybridize. Identifying females of these species can be very difficult in this zone.

The male Bullock's Oriole has three distinct field marks which are diagnostic: a bright orange supercilium ("eyebrow" stripe), a black eye line on an otherwise orange face, and a solid white wing patch. The Baltimore Oriole has a solid black head and back and a thin white wing bar. The female Bullock's has an orange-yellow head but shows a ghost pattern of the male with brighter yellow supercilium and a dark eye line (Alderfer).

The Bullock's Oriole is not as well-studied as its eastern counterpart, but is thought to have similar breeding behavior. It prefers riparian woodlands and in the northwest is particularly fond of nesting in cottonwoods. During migration orioles can be found in a wide variety of open wooded habitats. The nest is a

hanging sack tightly woven with hair, grass, vines, plant fibers and sometimes yarn and string. It is attached to a thin branch in a tree often near water. Three to five pale blueish or greyish white eggs are deposited. Incubation lasts about two weeks and the young fledge in another two weeks (Rising and Williams).

Bullock's Orioles like other orioles start their southerly migration early moving in July and August to the Sinaloa area of Mexico. They are one of a group of birds known as "molt migrants" who leave their nesting area early and stop in the Sinaloa thorn forests for nourishment and a fall molt after migrating part way. However, research in Sinaloa by Seivert Rohwer of the University of Washington found Hooded and Orchard Orioles with eggs in nests there (Powell). It is possible that some Bullock's Orioles are also double breeders. More research is needed on this newly discovered phenomenon.

An audio recording of the Bullock's Oriole can be heard at the Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at <http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/flashPlayer.do?id=12506>

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

## 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 counter at PCC for any amount you choose 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! Buy a PCC Cash Card at the office or online at: [www.eastsideaudubon.org](http://www.eastsideaudubon.org).



# The Corvid Crier

Eastside Audubon Society

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

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

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

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

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

### Planned Giving

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

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



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