



Eastside Audubon

your connection to nature

The Corvid Crier

VOL 31, No 7 – SEPTEMBER 2011

Brightwater Grand Opening: A Day to Remember

You're invited to participate in the "Grand Opening of the Brightwater Treatment System." Saturday, September 24, 2011: 9 am - 4 pm. 22505 State Route 9, just north of Woodinville. This state-of-the-art facility (that will serve future populations) will increase and protect our region's health and environment. The celebration of this historic event introduces the many community and educational amenities that will be available. These include an environmental learning center with an array of public meeting spaces, striking art, 70 acres of publicly accessible open space, three miles of trails and 40 acres of restored fish and wildlife habitat. The day begins with a ceremonial "flipping of the switch." This includes music, presentations, a tribal blessing, tours of art and architecture, the treatment plant, and native habitat. EAS will staff an informational booth at the grand opening. **Drop by and say "Hi!"**

— Jim Rettig

A Scholarship Camper Sends Thanks

Thanks to donations from EAS members, the Youth Education Committee sent three low-income, middle-school students to summer environmental camps. The experience was an amazing one for all three students, as evidenced by the letter below from a camper who attended the Pacific Science Camp at the Mercer Slough Environmental Center.

"Firstly, I want to thank everyone involved for helping me know what to do and helping me out. I had a blast! Second, I want to give a special thank-you to Shirlee and Jim Hall as well as Diane Crestanello for giving me rides to and from camp. That was a major help.

Camp was such a great experience and I feel lucky to have gotten the privilege of receiving a scholarship and meeting so many wonderful people too. Luckily for me, I was working with some very patient people!

I must say, when I told my friends where I was going and what I was doing, I got some weird looks from them. Example: 'You're going to a science camp?' That was irritating. However, I had fantastic friends at camp and some great counselors who managed to sneak a lot of science and learning into a lot of fun (not a common skill!) Thanks again!"

— Mary Britton-Simmons



Save Our Swifts

Monroe's Save our Swift's Committee is celebrating its annual Swifts Night Out Festival on Saturday, September 10, 2011 on the grounds of Monroe's Frank Wagner Elementary School, beginning around 5 p.m. and ending after sunset.

Each fall thousands of migrating Vaux's Swifts roost in this school's chimney to rest while on their southern migration from northwestern Canada through Washington State to Central America and Venezuela. The evening arrival of the swifts at the chimney is an incredible sight and you are invited to come watch this

natural phenomenon.

The Swift Night Out Festival is sponsored by Monroe's local Swift Watch Committee, Eastside Audubon, Pilchuck Audubon, Seattle Audubon, and other local organizations, who came together to study swift migration patterns and to preserve their habitat, which in this case is the school's chimney!

The chimney has a camera on top of it that records the movement of these birds as they enter and leave. Some amazing footage has been recorded, and undoubtedly some of it will be shared at this year's Festival.

— Jim Rettig

~ September 22nd ~
Program Meeting 7:00pm



Idie Ulsh

Idie will identify and discuss the natural history of butterflies and butterfly gardening in the Kirkland area. Her photographs will show the life cycle of a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis. Idie Ulsh is the founding president of Washington Butterfly Association, past president of Seattle Audubon, a freelance photographer, and an independent college counselor.

Idie's surprise ending will delight all!

Welcome New Members!

From April 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011 we added a total of 73 new members. Sixty seven joined The National Audubon Society and were assigned to our chapter based on their zip code. All new NAS members were sent welcome packets by the Membership Committee. Those packets include the latest copy of the Corvid Crier, an EAS membership application and a welcome letter.

The six new EAS members are: Linda Gisbrecht, Marsha Kabakov, Kenneth Olsen, Georgette Rehfeld, Annelise Reunert and Howard Warner.

Welcome to all! We hope to see you soon at an upcoming program meeting or on one of our many fieldtrips.

If you have any questions about Eastside Audubon and the benefits of local membership, the office is open and staffed by knowledgeable volunteers Mon., Tue., & Friday 9am to 1pm.



EAS – Volunteers Needed!!

Your help is needed at the **EAS office** and for the **Youth Education Committee**. There are three opportunities to help run the chapter more smoothly. Interested with one of these tasks? Call Jim Rettig, 425-402-1833.

Reconciling Checking Accounts Monthly: Compare bank statements to the deposits and checks written for the general and restricted funds. Work with the Treasurer making adjustments. Computer experience; 3 hours/month.

Reviewing Income Statement and Balance Sheet: Review income statements and balance sheets. Verify individual entries. Knowledge of “Quick Books” helpful; 2 to 3 hours/week.

Sending Membership Welcome/Renewal Letters: Send/edit emails and letters. Computer experience; 3 hours/month.

Do you like working with children and talking about birds? If so, the Youth Education Committee needs you to volunteer to staff a booth at a community outreach event, make feeders with campers or take students on a nature walk. Volunteering is easy: just add your name to a list of people willing to assist members

(Continued on next page)



Meetings

Youth Education Committee September 6 (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@eastside-audubon.org

Photo Group

September 8 (Thurs) 7:00 p.m. Meets second Thursday each month in large room upstairs from EAS Office. Questions? Email: Tim Boyer: tboyer@seanet.com

Conservation Committee

September 14 (Weds) 7:00 p.m. Meets second Wednesday each month in EAS Office. Questions? Email Andy McCormick: amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org

Board Meeting

September 26 (Mon) 6:00 p.m. Meets fourth Monday of the month. Interested in attending? Please contact the office (425-576-8805)

Web Committee

September 1 (Thurs) 10:30 a.m. Meets first Thursday each month in EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email: webmaster@eastside-audubon.org

Eastside Audubon Society
[425] 576-8805 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 | jrettiganager@frontier.com |
| Vice President | Andy McCormick | amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Secretary | Carmen Almodovar | calmodovar@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Treasurer | Jim Kenney | jimkenney770@aol.com |

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Holiday Gift Wrap | Helen LaBouy | helenlabouy@mac.com |
| Hospitality | Claudia Welch | (425).827.2548 |
| Native Plant Walks | Melinda Bronson | bronson874@aol.com |
| Nature Walks | Christopher Chapman | (425) 941-3501 |
| | | cjchapman19@comcast.net |
| Newsletter | Tamra Chinn | newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Webmaster | Gary Luhm | gluhm@comcast.net |

Board Members and Committee Chairs

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

Eastside Park Rangers

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------|--|
| Ranger Liaison to EAS | Ted Marx | tedmarx@comcast.net |
| EAS Liaison to Rangers | Jill Keeney | j.keeney@comcast.net |

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

Other Committee Chairs

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--|
| Bird Photography | Tim Boyer | tboyer@seanet.com |
| Bird Questions | MaryFrances Mathis | (425) 922-9524 |
| Birdathon | Andy McCormick | amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Field Trips | Hugh Jennings | (425) 746-6351 |
| | | fieldtrips@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Historian | Bob Gershmel | rwgusnret1986@yahoo.com |

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Keeping Walden Pond Ordinary

by Andy McCormick



This summer I went back to New England for vacation and it was very hot for a few days. Although we were staying in Cambridge, at the end of a particularly sweltering day we decided to drive to Concord to take a swim in Walden Pond.



Walden Pond

After a twenty minute drive we arrived at a nearly full parking lot. Apparently a lot of people have learned that the attendants leave at 5:00 p.m. and there is no one to collect the \$5.00 parking fee between then and closing time at 8:00. Yes, Walden Pond State Park closes for the evening.

The path from the parking lot leads across Walden Street to what is the rim of the original kettle pond. The water level has dropped since the retreat of the great ice sheets so the trail drops diagonally across the slope to the beach area. Several hundred people populated the beach and the roped-off swim area and another hundred or so

lined the western bank of the pond. There is a trail around the pond and many people prefer to be away from the beach crowd. It feels a bit more woody over there.

The water was clean, fresh and cool. What a great way to end the day! There were families out and kids in the shallows, teens hanging joking by some nearby trees, a young lady posing in her bathing suit for some photos, and some true swimmers heading for deeper waters well beyond the ropes. The entire scene was quite ordinary. I confess that Walden Pond's ordinariness is not an original observation on my part. During my trip I was reading Robert Sullivan's *The Thoreau You Don't Know* and he remarks that the ordinariness of the pond is a good thing. I agree.

There are hundreds of similar kettle ponds across New England and they look pretty much alike. They were formed when huge blocks of ice broke off the retreating glaciers and the melting ice filled the hole forming a pond. A week earlier we had taken a canoe paddle on Long Pond, a kettle pond near Bar Harbor, ME. It is home to a very curious pair of Common Loons which surfaced very close to our canoe even as we made a point to give them a wide berth so as

not to disturb them. On Cape Cod we birded around Salt Pond another kettle pond which formed in the glacial outwash plain which formed the cape. It is close to the ocean where many years ago storm waves broke through the barrier beach to allow salt water into the pond. The ocean currents have moved enough sand to reclose the opening and the beach has been reestablished allowing Nauset Marsh to develop behind it. The pond is now connected to the marsh and the opening is gradually closing. Over time the pond will become fresh water again.

Environmental preservation is really about keeping these places ordinary. They'll stay ordinary if we save enough of them. We don't want a healthy environment to be limited to some museum pieces of what once was. We want places that people and animals can use and enjoy and live in, whether that's birds, fish, sand crabs or humans who want to swim, paddle or watch wildlife. It is what Audubon's program Keep Common Birds Common is all about.

By the way, Walden Pond doesn't really close at night only the parking area does. As we were leaving we saw some folks walking into the park for what would be a quiet swim in a pond all to themselves.

(Volunteers Needed...Continued)

of the Education Committee. Better yet, join the committee and become a part of a group of dedicated volunteers who enjoy children and birds. Check out Youth Education at eastsideaudubon.org.

The Committee envisions a world where children are inspired to connect to nature and especially to birds so that they become lifelong stewards of the environment. Please help us with our vision.

Calling all Eastside Audubon Recyclers!

Do you have chunk Styrofoam collected from the summer? Hooray! Please bring it to the September 22nd EAS meeting. A volunteer will transport it to the Styro- recycle Center in South Renton. Thank you for all your efforts to keep Styrofoam from being put into the landfill.

In Walden Wood the Chickadee

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

In Walden wood the chickadee

Runs round the pine and maple tree,

Intent on insect slaughter:

O tufted entomologist!

Devour as many as you list,

Then drink in Walden Water.



Fall Native Plant Interest

Eastside Audubon and Washington Native Plant Society cosponsor these trips: www.wnps@wnps.org.

Redtown Meadow, Cougar Mountain September 10 (Saturday) 10 a.m.

Come walk the Redtown Meadow trail to see fun woodland species. The meadow was once a historic baseball field. We'll discuss the function of the meadow and see some species rarely seen in the area such as Garry Oak and Goldenrod. Moderate difficulty: some up hill on a stable wide road. Meet at the trail head. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Directions: I-90: to Exit 13. Drive south 3.1 miles on Lakemont Blvd SE. Entrance to the Red Town Trailhead on the left side of the road. OR: I-405 to Exit 10. Drive 2.4 miles on Coal Creek Pkwy SE to shopping center. Left at the light onto SE 72nd Pl. Left at Newcastle Gold Club Road drive 1.9 miles. Entrance to Trailhead is on the right side of the road just after the big bend. Sign up/Questions: Rachael at rachaelmensching@gmail.com or 206-601-0134.

Mt. Rainier NP, Bench & Snow lakes September 15 (Thursday) 7:30 a.m.

See WNPS website for additional information. Sandra Ruffner.

Union Bay Natural Area (Montlake Fill)

September 17 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. to noon

We'll walk the new marshland trails and the Wahkiakum Trail loop looking for early fall migrants; warblers, shorebirds and waterfowl, lingering summer visitors and resident birds. Bring a snack. No facilities available. Meet before 8:00 a.m. at the South Kirkland Park-n-Ride to carpool. Passenger cost/person \$5.00. Andy McCormick 425-637-0892.

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

September 20 (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

September 23 (Friday) 8 a.m. to noon

The varied ecosystems here offer an assortment of birds and habitats. A 2-3 miles walk. Dress appropriately (rainproof layers; muddy if wet). Meet at the main entrance, large parking lot northeast end. Discover Pass is required to park here (\$30 annual, \$10 daily). Can be purchased online or at a sporting goods store. Sharon Aagaard 425-891-3460 and Stan Wood.

Birding the Hot Spots of King County

September 26 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. to noon

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

Marymoor Work Party

Marymoor Birdloop Restoration

September 3 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. to noon

Come and Join Us! All are Welcome! Meet at the Marymoor Park BirdLoop Kiosk - Parking lot G. A free parking pass will be provided. Feel free to bring water, snack; gloves, a shovel and/or a rake. Questions? Call the EAS Office office 425-576-8805.

****Children over 8 are welcome on all trips. ***FRS Radio owners: please consider bringing them on trips. Reports of last month's field trips are found at www.eastsideaudubon.org/events/.*

Field Trip Meeting Places



- Kingsgate Park and Ride:**
1300 116th Way NE, Kingsgate. I-405, exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound, Ne 124th St. West to light at 116th Ave. NE. Turn right a few blocks to P&R (on the left). Meet in the SE 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. Hwy 520. Take the 108th Ave NE exit. Travel north onto 108th Ave NE. Take the 2nd left onto NE 38th Pl.

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

Fall Shorebirds Identification Class

The class and optional field trip is designed for the beginner and intermediate birder. Anyone interested is invited. This is a follow-up to the Shorebird Class given in the Spring (previous attendance not necessary).

The class is photographically based. Multiple images of each bird (male /female) will be shown in their various developmental stages. Side by side images will show the remarkable similarities and differences between species. To learn the overall identification of each species, we'll discuss their typical identification markings, sizes, shapes, habitats and behaviors. Wednesday, September 14th. 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the REI, Issaquah.

The full day field trip will be to Gray's Harbor with 6 to

12 stops along the way. We'll search for Fall migrants while viewing common coastal shorebirds. Saturday, September 17th. 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.. Please bring layers of warm clothes, lunch, water, binoculars and spotting scopes. Trip leaves from the Wilburton Park N Ride.

To sign up: e-mail office@eastsideaudubon.org or natureinside@gmail.com or call EAS office at 425-576-8805 To pay: call EAS office or online at EastsideAudubon.org then, click **DONATE** button.

Cost for Class and Field trip:
Members: \$65 plus approx. \$30 for carpooling.
Non-Members: \$80 plus approx. \$30 for carpooling.
Cost for Class only:
Members \$35
Non-Members \$50

For further questions contact: Tricia Kishel, 206-948-3922.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Length | 7.25 in |
| Wingspan | 19 in |
| Weight | 1.6 oz, (45 g) |
| AOU Band code | SEPL |

The Semipalmated Plover is one of the most common plovers in North America. It'll attract attention in a flock of shorebirds when it repeatedly runs and stops while foraging for marine worms, crustaceans and small mollusks (Kaufman). It takes a particular stance when stopped. Paulson describes its "'foot-stir,' with one foot extended forward at about 45 ° and vibrated on the substrate, presumably causing some invertebrates in their visual field to move and be detected." The Semipalmated is often seen along Washington's coast during spring and fall migration but some have bred in the state.

Along with other North American ringed plovers: Common Ringed, Snowy, Wilson's, Piping and Mountain Plovers and the Killdeer, the Semipalmated Plover is included in the genus *Charadrius* from the Greek *kharadra*, ravine or cleft, where some shorebirds may have lived. Most of these birds have a white neck collar and one or two dark breast bands, some of which are partial bands. Both the Semipalmated and its Eurasian relative the Common Ringed Plover (*C. hiaticula*) have two partially webbed toes which gives our species its name *semipalmatus*, half palmed, from Latin *semi*, half and *palma*, the palm (Holloway).

The Semipalmated Plover is a small, stout bird with a rounded head and no neck. It is medium, dark brown on the head and back with black crown bar and facial markings. There's a single black breast band and a white collar that extends around the neck. The eye is dark and set off by a narrow yellow eye ring. The legs are orange and the bill is black with an orange base. It is nearly identical to the Common Ringed Plover and some research indicates they may be one species (Nol & Blanken). The Common Ringed would be rarely seen in Washington. The Wilson's Plover has pale legs, and the Snowy and Piping Plovers are much paler on the head and back. Simply put in the Pacific



Northwest, "A small brown plover with a single breast band will be this species" (Paulson).

In spring this plover migrates from mid April to mid May. It nests in the sub-arctic along sand dunes and sandy and gravel shorelines. The nest is a scrape in the gravel sometimes lined with leaves. Generally four olive-buff to olive-brown eggs blotched with black or brown are deposited. Both parents incubate for about 24 days and both feed the young. First flight occurs in another 3-4 weeks (Kaufman). Fall migration is heaviest in August but it can be seen into September. It winters along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of North, Central and So. America. It is one of our birds with the longest migration route.

The Semipalmated is a strong and fast flyer. It's been timed at 52 km/hr (34mph). It also displays using a butterfly-type flight around the nesting area. Its call is a distinctive, upslurred *chu-weet*, with the second syllable higher pitched and emphatic (Alderfer).

A video and audio recording of the Semipalmated Plover running, calling and a close-up view can be seen at: Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at <http://macaulaylibrary.org/video/flashPlayer.do?id=12625> Photo credit Gary Luhm. References available upon request from amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org

BirdLoop Team

Eleven people showed up for our August 6 work party, 9 "regulars" and 2 guests. Nice weather, as usual.

Mostly, we pulled thistles and continued work on the shed. We didn't run out of thistles.

Work for future work parties:

- We have a lot more thistles to remove, as well as scotch broom. Friday, September 16 is "Day of Caring" We'll get a lot of this done then.

- Remove blackberries from inside the river gate. Another "Day of Caring" project?

- Finish work on the shed.

In the shed we keep our tools and supplies, work party sign and sign-in sheets with clipboard. Very handy. We could use some more shovels, if anyone has extras to donate.

Jim Rettig will lead the **September 3, Work Party.**

— Glenn Eades



EagleEye
VISION CARE, P.S.

17320 135th Ave NE, # D
Woodinville, WA 98072
(425) 398-1862

See the birds better!

The Corvid Crier

Eastside Audubon Society

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Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

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Yes! I'll support Eastside Audubon to preserve bird habitat and educate our community with my tax-deductible membership

Mail form to: PO Box 3115
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- \$25 Web Member \$250 Heron Club
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 \$100 Goldfinch Club \$1000 Eagle Club
 Other Amount \$ _____

Enclosed is my check made payable to: **Eastside Audubon**

Please charge my credit card:

___ Mastercard ___ Visa Card

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

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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