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The Corvid Crier

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Vol 32, No 6 - July 2012



Semi-palmated Plover by Mick Thompson

Fall Shorebirds Class With Tim Boyer

Get to know the astonishing travelers that visit our coast each fall on their way south from the arctic. In two sessions, you'll learn to see their intricate plumage and amusing behaviors with new eyes:

Thursday evening, September 13

6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland. (Enter on State Street.)

Saturday, September 15 Field trip to Grays Harbor.

Sun and Sand at Marymoor July 7

Okay, we can't guarantee you sun at the July 7 work party at the Audubon Bird-Loop. But you can count on sand — and Eastside Audubon is counting on you to help spread around 36 cubic yards of it on that Saturday.

By sanding the Meadow Trail and making it easier to walk, we'll encourage BirdLoop visitors to keep to the path rather than tread where birds nest and forage. A grant from REI has helped fund materials for trail improvement, and now it's up to us to supply the labor.

If you've ever thought about joining one of the EAS first-Saturday work parties at Marymoor, Saturday, July 7, is the day to do it. Come out between 8 a.m and 2 p.m. and park in Lot G (we'll cover your parking pass).

No pre-requisite; complements but doesn't require the Spring Shorebirds class

Registration: 425-576-8805.

EAS members: \$60 (class only: \$35). Nonmembers: \$80 (class only: \$55).

Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves and a shovel. You'll also need sun screen, a sun hat, and water. Because, in fact, it never rains on our work parties.



Photo by Mick Thompson

Reminder Next Program Night September 27

Seattle Times reporter Lynda Mapes on the Elwha Valley restoration project

Eastside Audubon Sending Three Middle Schoolers to Summer Camp

By Mary Britton-Simmons Youth Education Committee

Do you have fond memories of summer camp? Thanks to your donations, Eastside Audubon is giving deserving three middle-school students the opportunity to create their own precious memories.

Their camping adventure began when Margaret Lie called their homes to break the news of their selection. Jason's grandmother was overjoyed: "Oh, how wonderful! He will be so thrilled and I am so grateful. Having adopted four of my grandchildren at age 67, I could never offer him an opportunity like this." Later in the day, she called to ask for the EAS address because Jason wanted to write a thank you note.

The Youth Education Committee carefully chooses the camps and

campers. Participants are selected based on a number of criteria, including being from a low-income family and demonstrating a keen interest in the environment.

This year two recipients will attend the YMCA Boys Outdoor Leadership Development Camp, where they will backpack in the Olympic Mountains. The brochure promises campers that they will challenge themselves "in body, mind, and spirit."

The other recipient will attend the Pacific Science Center Camp at Mercer Slough, a day camp with one overnight. The name of the camp says it all: "Get Your Green On!" Mark's mother happily summed up this exciting opportunity: "This is a dream come true. Thank you all so much!"

Special thanks to Jill Keeney and Margaret Lie for spearheading these grand adventures!

Board Notes

Taking Fall Program Nights in New Directions

This October and November, Eastside Audubon members will see innovations in the Program Night format as the chapter both reaches out and delves deep.

October in Woodinville

On Thursday, October 25, Program Night will take place in Woodinville to offer members and guests in northeastern King County a convenient opportunity to enjoy an EAS event.

With the EAS service area extending as far as the Cascade foothills and with the eastern communities growing rapidly, the board has agreed that an occasional change in the location of our monthly meeting will

enable a larger number of our members and interested friends to feel involved.

Kirkland will remain the site of the majority of our monthly meetings.

November Member Forum

Your board would like to hear straight from you, in person, what you want your Audubon chapter to become and what programs you'd like to see the chapter pursue in conservation, education and birding.

Toward that end, the main event of the monthly meeting on November 15 in Kirkland will be a member forum rather than a guest presentation. We hope for candid

feedback both from regular meeting goers and from those who don't usually attend but have ideas and opinions.

The November meeting also is the occasion of our annual election. Hearing your desires on the same evening will prepare new and returning board members to be productive at our January retreat.

Special Thanks

Carmen Almodovar donated the software and Larry Engles provided the technical know-how to get the Eastside Audubon office running on a new computer system. We thank them for advancing our efficiency, security, and overall peace of mind.

Meetings **July and August**

Youth Education Committee July 3 (Tuesday), 6:30 p.m.

Meets the first Tuesday of every month except December and August. Open to anyone who likes to share nature with youth. Email education@eastsideaudubon.org.

Conservation Committee No meeting in July No meeting in August

Meets the second Wednesday of every

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland, downstairs (enter on State Street).

month except July and August. An effective group engaged in activism and handson conservation projects. Email Peter Marshall: psmarshall@comcast.net.

Photo Group July 12 (Thursday), 7 p.m. August 9 (Thursday), 7 p.m.

Meets the second Thursday of every month in the church sanctuary. All levels welcome; if you like, bring photos on a jump

drive to share. Email Larry Engles: engles@ ridesoft.com.

Board Meeting July 22 (Sunday)

Semi-annual retreat. No meeting in August. Email Andy McCormick: amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org.

Eastside Audubon Society

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church 308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland, WA 98083 425-576-8805 www.eastsideaudubon.org

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Friday. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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

Secretary

Staff

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At large board member Open

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The Corvid Crier, Vol 32, NO 6. Publication Date: July 1, 2012 Published by: Eastside Audubon Society, P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115.

Mick Thompson

Monthly except January and August. Deadline for material is the first Wednesday of the month preceding publication. Email material to mary@marybrisson.net or send to the address above.

Bird Brains Repeat as Birdathon Total Passes \$13K

By Andy McCormick Birdathon Chair

Field trips, Big Day teams, and creative events have produced more than \$13,000 toward this year's Birdathon goal of \$16,000, with more pledge returns still expected after press time. Longtime and new members alike participated in seven different field trips, and the Brunch, Birds and Bubbly event had another successful day of bird sightings and socializing.

Our three Birdathon teams spent full days logging birds. Once again the Bird Brains, led by Jim Rettig, won the competition with 114 species seen. The Whidbey Wing-Dings, led by Hugh Jennings, finished second with 108, and my Mountains to Lake team found 105. It remains to be seen which team will lead in fundraising, as donations are still coming in.

This year there were two especially creative Birdathons. Chapter Treasurer Dora Rajkhowa enrolled some sponsors and then she, her husband and their children spent a morning at Juanita Bay Park for a Family Birdathon.

Mick Thompson, the chapter's photographer, selected 25 of his favorite May



Only the first-place Bird Brains saw the Eastern Kingbird. Photo by Larry Engles.

photos and made a personal donation to Birdathon for each. See a story about the Rajkhowa Family Birdathon and find a link to Mick's photos on the EAS website: eastsideaudubon.org/birding/birdathon/ birdathon-2012-results.

We want to thank our field trip and team leaders who volunteered their time for Birdathon this year. A big appreciation to Sharon Aagaard, Hugh Jennings, Tricia Kishel, Mary Frances Mathis, Tim McGruder, Jim Rettig, John Tubbs, and Stan Wood and also to the Brunch, Birds and Bubbly trio: Mary Britton-Simmons, Margaret Lie, and Candy Allen.

Birdathon is our chapter's largest fundraiser of the year, and we sincerely thank everyone who has donated to support Eastside Audubon and our birding, conservation and education programs.

Fresh Recycling Tips to Take Us to September

By Bev Jennings

May you each one enjoy a great birding summer, and please continue helping this Earth. Here are three ways.

Rx Bottles

Medical prescription snap-top bottles, not recyclable in weekly pick-up, are useful to the humane society. The vets prefer you remove the labels, to avoid confusion in case their labels come off. If you have time, remove the label gum from the bottle (Goo Gone is helpful). Keep the cap on the bottle. Take bottles to the Seattle/King County Humane Society, 13212 SE Eastgate Way, Bellevue. Phone first: (425) 641-0080.

Tyvek Mailers

If someone in the family receives something in a Tyvek plastic bag — medication or a small book, for example — you can mail the bag in for recycling. (Tyvek bags are often gray but may be any color.)

Save up to 25 bags to mail at once. Turn the largest inside out as a collector, put the others inside, and staple the big one closed. On the blank surface put your return address and mail to:

Tyvek Recycle, Attn. Shirley B. Wright, 8401 Fort Darling Road, Richmond, VA, 23237.

Styrofoam

Eastside Audubon can help you recycle structured, stiff Styrofoam, any size. Keep it clean and dry and collect it in a clear bag (always best for recyclables so they're not accidently tossed out). Into a separate bag, gather foam clamshells, peanuts, #6 trays (as from supermarket meat packages). Note: Anytime you need to use lots of water to clean any food container, throw it out instead.

Bring your summer styro to our next meeting September 27 or take it to V&G Styro Recycle in Renton, styrorecycle.com.



Summer Birding Fun for Families

Family Bird Walk Marymoor Park, Redmond Saturday, July 14 10 a.m. – Noon

Meet in parking lot G and admire the EAS kiosk. Then discover birds in the east meadow, from the Lake Sammamish viewing platform, and along the forest trail. Renowned guide and author Brian Bell will lead the group. Your children will be amazed by the diversity of wildlife in this urban county park. Free. No registration required. (\$1 parking fee.)

Kids Birding Issaquah REI Saturday, July 21 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

An interactive introduction to the fascinating world of birds. Kids will admire feathers through a magnifying glass, flap their "wings" to try to beat the record of a hummingbird, and make feeders to take home so they can watch birds feast in their own yards. Free. Registration required: www.rei.com/event/39711/session/50101/08012012.



Beginning and experienced birders are equally welcome on our walks and trips. Not a member? Not a problem: Come along! P&R means Park & Ride. Binoculars advisable. Start time is trip departure; please arrive earlier.

Where To? Up to You!

The Birding Committee would like to know your ideas about special trips that EAS can offer as member-only opportunities in 2013. Send your wish list to chair Tricia Kishel: tkishel@eastsideaudubon.org.

July 1 (Sunday), 1 – 2 p.m. Juanita Bay Park

Eastside Park Rangers Interpretive Tour on the first Sunday of every month. Free. No pre-registration required. Tours for community schools and special interest groups also can be scheduled through the EAS office: 425-576-8805.

July 14 –15 (Saturday – Sunday) Hurricane Ridge/Ediz Hook to Sequim

Our annual Olympic Peninsula wildflower trip featuring views, birds, and varied wildlife. On Saturday at 11 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. We usually stay at the Riviera Inn Motel (www.rivierainn.net, 360-417-3955), and there are several other motels and campsites available (visit www.portangeles.org). If you plan to go, please call Bill Schmidt, 425-881-6037.

July 14 (Saturday), 10 a.m. – noon Family Birding Walk at Marymoor Park, Redmond

A tour of the Audubon BirdLoop designed especially for families with children and led by field guide author and professional guide

Brian Bell. Dress for the weather and bring water; binoculars and field guide if you have them. Portable rest rooms available. Free. No pre-registration required. Park in Lot G (\$1 fee) and meet at the BirdLoop kiosk.

July 17 (Tuesday), 8 a.m. – noon Juanita Bay Park

See what birds are in the park and on the bay. Varied habitats within the park host a vast array of species, and the quiet of an early morning is one of the best times to explore. Meets the third Tuesday of each month. Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot. Free. No pre-registration required. Leader: Mary-Frances Mathis, 425-803-3026.

July 20 (Friday), 6 a.m. – late afternoon Snoqualmie Pass Area

We will explore the area around Snoqualmie Pass looking for passerines (maybe Fox Sparrow, Western Tanager, Gray Jay, or ???). Some walking. Bring lunch and fluids. Back by late afternoon. Meet before 6 a.m. at the Tibbetts P&R in Issaquah. Carpool \$12/passenger. No pre-registration required. Leader: Brian Bell, 425-485-8058.

July 21 (Saturday), 7 a.m. – early evening Mount Rainier National Park (Sunrise)

We will hike about 5 miles from the Sunrise parking lot to the Mount Fremont Lookout and Shadow Lake, looking for White-tailed Ptarmigan, Sooty Grouse, Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, other summer resident birds, flowers, and mountain views. Bring clothing in layers, daypack, lunch, snacks, and water. There may still be some snow on the trail. Meet before 7 a.m. at the north end of the Newport Hills P&R (I-405, Exit 9). Back by early evening. Carpool \$15/passenger. Park fee additional. (One Senior Pass gets a whole carload into the park.) Limited to 11 in three cars. **Preregistration required:** Andy McCormick, 425-637-0892.

July 23 (Monday), 9 a.m. – noon Birding the Hot Spots of King County

Monthly field trip on the fourth Monday to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9 a.m. at the north end of the Newport Hills P&R and plan to be back by noon. Carpool \$2/passenger. No pre-registration required. Leader: Hugh Jennings, 425-746-6351.

July 25 (Wednesday), 8 a.m. – noon Lake Sammamish State Park

This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds and habitats in its varied ecosystems. The trip involves walking 2 to 3 miles. Dress appropriately (rainproof in layers; some of the trails can be very muddy if wet). Just inside the main entrance, take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end before 8 a.m. A Discover Pass* is required to park. (Walk is free.) No Continued on next page

Children 8 and older are welcome on all trips; 17 and younger must have adult companion. FRS Radio owners: Please consider bringing them on trips. Find reports of last month's field trips at www eastsideaudubon.org/events/.

Field Trip Meeting Places

Kingsgate Park & Ride

13001 116th Way NE, Kingsgate. I-405, Exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound, take NE 124th Street west to the light at 116th Avenue NE. Turn right a few blocks to the Park & Ride (on the left). Meet in the southeast corner.

Wilburton Park & Ride: I-405, Exit 12

Newport Hills Park & Ride

5115 113th PI SE, Bellevue. I-405, Exit 9

South Kirkland Park & Ride

10610 NE 38th Place, Kirkland. SR 520, exit 108th Avenue. Travel north onto 108th Avenue NE. Take the second left onto NE 38th Place.

Tibbetts Lot

1675 Newport Way NW, Issaquah. I-90, Exit 15. Turn right (south). Go past the new multi-story Issaquah Park & Ride to the third traffic light. Turn left (east) on Newport Way NW. Go one block, then turn right (south) into the Park & Ride. Meet across the street from the large parking garage at the west end.

^{*} Discover Pass: \$10 daily/\$30 annual. Can be purchased online at http://discoverpass.wa.gov or at a sporting goods store.

2010 Camp Scholar Stays on Leadership Track

By Margaret Lie

Two years ago, when Jessi Howe was a ninth grader at Skyview Junior High School in Bothell, she was chosen by the Eastside Audubon Youth Education Committee to receive one of its Amy McQuade Summer Camp Scholarships.



Jessi Howe has kept to the conservationist trail since winning an EAS camp scholarship in 2010. Photo courtesy of Jessi Howe.

She had been nominated by Skyview science teacher John Schmied for her commitment to the environment and the leadership she showed at the school's Trail Parties, where she supervised younger junior high students clearing invasive species and laying down trails.

Jessi will be a senior

this fall at Bothell High School. With a new flight of middle schoolers getting ready to go to camp this summer on EAS scholarships (see story on page 1), Jessi recently spent two hours with me talking about her camp and school experiences.

Margaret: Which camp did you choose?

Jessi: The Passages Northwest weeklong camp "Find Yourself and Go There," an overnight camp to give me my first opportunity to really be in the wilderness and share the experience with other girls.

M: What did you enjoy most at camp?

J: Being in the wilderness and hiking to a new area each day. I remember how peaceful it was being constantly surrounded by

nature and how amazing the trees and rocks and natural forests seemed.

This camp was also about learning more about ourselves. Every night we had a courage circle and shared something about ourselves with the group. One activity was to write an issue or problem from home on a piece of paper and put it in a hat. We then went around the circle, drawing a paper from the hat, reading it to the group, and giving suggestions to help the anonymous writer. It helped us think about our own situations, while at the same time hearing about other issues people experience. By the end of the trip we had built our own community and we still connect with each other.

M: How did your camp experience stimulate your interest in nature?

J: Actually being outside in the wilderness is much more powerful than reading about it in a textbook, and even more than just going out into your own backyard. After my trip my mindset was more than just save the environment, it was protect these beautiful places so future generations can have this same experience. Overall it increased my awareness of the wilderness and the importance of conservation in my personal decisions as well as those of my classmates.

M: How has the experience affected your choice of classes and activities?

J: I am even more strongly committed to planning a career focusing on the environment, and I've enrolled in honors courses in math and science. In Earth Club [where Jessi has been president] we've focused on recycling, promoting Earth Hour, and making Bothell High a King County Level 2 Green School by saving energy. I've also continued habitat restoration at Skyview through weekend trail parties and have been helping lead construction of a new gravel trail on campus. This year I

Continued on page 7

More Field Trips for July and August

Continued from previous page

pre-registration required. Co-leaders: Sharon Aagaard, 425-891-3460, and Stan Wood.

August 5 (Sunday), 1 – 2 p.m. Juanita Bay Park

Eastside Park Rangers Interpretive Tour. Please see July 1 for description.

August 11 (Saturday), 6 a.m. – late afternoon Whidbey Island

We will meet at Kingsgate P&R at 6 a.m. sharp to catch 6:30 ferry. Mid-August can be good for southbound shorebirds. We will work the island over looking for shorebirds, and keep our eyes out for passerines, raptors, and possible water birds. Bring lunch and fluids, Discover Pass*, and scope if you have one. We will carpool as much as possible. Carpool \$17/passenger. No pre-registration required. Leader: Brian Bell, 425-485-8058.

August 20 (Monday), 8 a.m. – noon Lake Sammamish State Park

Please see July 25 for description.

August 21 (Tuesday), 8 a.m. – noon Juanita Bay Park

Please see July 17 for description.

August 27 (Monday), 9 a.m. – noon Birding the Hot Spots of King County

Please see July 23 for description.

July 7 (Saturday) 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Marymoor Park BirdLoop Restoration

A special work party at the Audubon BirdLoop. We need a strong turnout of volunteers to spread sand on the Meadow Trail. See page 1 for details.

No Marymoor Park work party in August.

Silent Spring, Fifty Springs Later

By Andy McCormick

Silent Spring was certainly a book I had heard about when it was published in 1962 when I was a sophomore in high school. I wish I could say I was an aware environmentalist at the time, but I wasn't. I hadn't even started to watch birds.

I finally read the book in the spring of 2009, only three years ago. I had just become the chair of the Eastside Audubon Conservation Committee and I thought I should educate myself about some of the history of our nation's commitment to protecting the environment for wildlife and human beings. *Silent Spring* was the logical choice for me. I knew it as the book that had jump started the environmental movement and had led to the banning of DDT, which allowed an amazing comeback from near extinction for Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles and Ospreys.

In her chapter "And No Birds Sing," Carson relays documentation of thousands of birds dying every spring after trees were sprayed with DDT the previous fall. While writing about the potential for pesticides to cause cancer, she fought a personal battle against the breast cancer that finally took her life in 1964. She knew she and those who supported the data she presented would be in a fight with chemi-

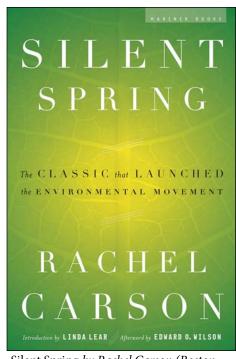
cal manufacturing corporations and she painstakingly documented all the evidence. In the final chapter she presented a choice to America to continue spraying pesticides or to use alternative methods to control insect populations.

We have another choice today, but our environmental challenge is more difficult and solutions are not as straightforward. In the Afterword to the 2002 edition, Edward O. Wilson wrote, "Rachel Carson, who was a quick learner, would be ahead of us in understanding the devastating effects everywhere of still-rocketing population growth combined with consumption of natural resources, the thinning of the ozone layer, global warming, the collapse of marine fisheries, and, less directly through foreign trade, the decimation of tropical forests and mass extinction of species."

Global warming threatens the environmental balance of our wonderful planet and a variety of solutions will need to be put in place at the same time: reduction of CO_2 in the atmosphere, increase in alternative energy production, and improvement of energy efficiency in home heating and cooling and gas mileage for automobiles. Wilson added, "Today we understand better than ever why we must press the effort

to save the environment all the way home, true to the mind and spirit of the valiant author of *Silent Spring*."

Let's work together to carry on and expand the work that Rachel Carson began.



Silent Spring by Rachel Carson (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002)

If it walks like a WEGR ...

Who knew a Western Grebe could walk? Eastside Audubon's Larry Engles did. David Allen Sibley did not, at least not when he wrote in his last guidebook that the Western Grebe was "incapable of walking."

Sibley walked that one back in a May 29 blog entry, and by way of proof published a link to photos by Larry. See the blog post at sibleyguides.com and Larry's Western Grebe series at larryenglesphotography. com/p703378886.

Rufous Count Turns up Mostly Males

By Andy McCormick

Eastside Audubon's first Rufous Hummingbird Count found 46 birds and helped us learn more about this terrific little bird in our midst.

Reports of RUHUs came from two field trips, part of a Birdathon trip, member emails and calls, and one independent posting on eBird. To include reports from more locations, we expanded the survey dates and accepted reports from May 30 to June 3.

Rufous Hummingbirds were seen in 26 locations ranging from downtown Bellevue to Alpental, with high counts of nine seen in Redmond, eight in Kirkland, and six in Issaquah. The counts aren't reliable for determining the relative numbers in the towns.

Five observers labeled 12 of their 13

hummingbirds unidentified as to sex. It's possible some of the 12 may have been misidentified Anna's Hummingbirds. Of the remaining 35 reported, 25 were male. The survey was conducted during the Rufous Hummingbird's breeding season, and the females may have been on the nest. Male rufous typically do not participate in nest building or incubation and also leave the breeding area to begin migrating earlier than females and young (Kaufman). In other words, the males are out and about and more likely to be seen.

In addition to thanking the field trip leaders we want to appreciate Conservation Committee members Maureen Sunn, Leslie Waters, Peter Marshall, and Linda Sue Thompson, who helped plan and promote the count, and all the members who submitted reports.

Sage Thrasher (Oreoscoptes montanus)

Length	8.5 inches
Wingspan	12 inches
Weight	1.5 ounces (43 grams)
AOU alpha code	SATH

"He is the free spirit, the wild stallion of the sage," Donald Kroodsma says in compliment to the Sage Thrasher.

This musical bird weaves a repertoire of more than 700 song units into tireless singing from the darkness before dawn until nightfall. Highlights in the song are mimics of the nighthawk, gull, quail, and Sora and, more than all of those, the Western Meadowlark. The pieces of song are vocalized at random and the Sage Thrasher will use some sections for several minutes and then drop them to choose others.

The Sage Thrasher shares the Mimidae family with other mimics, including the Northern Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, and other thrashers. It is in the genus *Oreoscoptes*, mountain mocker, from the Greek, *oros*, mountain or hill, and *skopto*, to mock (Holloway). The species name, *montanus*, refers to its habitat within and west of the Rocky Mountains (Alderfer).

The Sage Thrasher usually sings its warbling, melodious songs from the top of a sagebrush, affording clear views for the birder. It sings to attract a mate, and the discriminating female selects the voice that will continue into the future. Territorial defense is another purpose of the songs.

The Sage is the smallest of the thrashers and has a straight bill. Its chest is marked by dark streaking in spring that will wear to quite dull streaks later in the summer. There are few clear field marks except a black malar stripe, gray-brown back, and small yellow eye. When not singing, the Sage Thrasher can be quite elusive as it often runs rather than flies to the next sagebrush.

The Sage Thrasher is a short-distance migrant, joining other thrashers to winter in the deserts of the southwestern United

States and northern Mexico. It moves north in the early spring, arriving in Washington in late March to breed exclusively in sagebrush.

The nest is a bulky cup of sticks lined with grass and animal hair. Typically three to five brown-spotted, deep greenish-blue eggs are deposited. Both parents incubate the eggs for about two weeks then together feed the young until first flight in another two

weeks. Some breeding pairs in Idaho, where a study is under way, have raised two broods in a season (Kaufman, Reynolds, et al).

The shrub-steppe habitat required by the Sage Thrasher is characterized by the presence of big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*). It prefers bare ground between the shrubs and is not found where there is grass cover such as cheatgrass or crested wheatgrass. In Washington, habitat loss resulting from conver-



Sage Thrasher by Larry Engles

sion to agricultural uses has led to 50 percent loss of the shrubsteppe and severe fragmentation of remaining habitat (M. Vander Haegen in Reynolds, et al). This has resulted in elimination of the Sage Thrasher from parts of its historical range.

View and hear a Sage Thrasher singing from a sagebrush at the Macaulay Library website: macaulaylibrary.org/video/50720.

References available upon request: amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org.

Camp Scholar Stays on Track

Continued from page 5

helped train Skyview's first set of students through a Naturalist in Training program. It was a great joy to get to work with younger kids.

M: Are there any other summer vacation activities you would like to share?

J: My grandmother gave me the opportunity to attend the same camp last summer. She knew what an amazing and positive experience this had been in 2010 and it was just as true the second time.

I also was chosen to attend a Pacific Science Center Naturalist in Training workshop at the Mercer Slough Environmental Educational Center. I was trained as an assistant to camp counselors and then spent a week helping two counselors inspire kindergarten and first grade children to respect nature. We made leaf prints, searched for bugs, listened for birds, and studied animal tracks. Thank you to Jill Keeney and Mr. Schmied for recommending this experience.

M: Do you have college plans at this time?

J: I hope to attend a school with a strong science department to study environmental engineering, bioengineering, ecology, marine biology, or another form of biology.

Jessi competes in track, where she hopes to break some school records next spring. I am sure her energy and enthusiasm will allow her to reach new heights.

The Corvid Crier

Eastside Audubon Society P. O. Box 3115 Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

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□ Please send me the Corvid Crier in print. (Add \$12 to Individual or Family dues.)	Planned Giving Please consider 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. You may designate your gift to support our general programming or for the permanent endowment fund. Remember: 100 percent of your contribution will go to fund the programs of Eastside Audubon.		
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