

The Corvid Crier

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VOL 32, NO 7 – SEPTEMBER 2012

Election Open to Candidates

If you think running for office this fall requires emptying your pockets and selling out to the super PACs, think again.

It doesn't cost a thing to stand for election to the Eastside Audubon board.

EAS elections are coming up November 15 at Program Night, and, if you've ever thought about a leadership role with the chapter, there's likely a position that would fit your talents.

Are you someone with a lot of ideas and a

goal to serve on a nonprofit board? Consider starting out as an EAS board member at large. Do you feel at home with EAS and want to become more broadly involved in the community? The vice presidency may be your chance. Were you a marketer in your former life? You could be reincarnated as Communication Chair.

Those are some of the open positions. See the sidebar on page 3 for a complete list.

Continued on page 3

Get a Member in September, Get a Map

Each time you refer someone who becomes a new member of Eastside Audubon in September, you'll get a free copy of the Puget Loop Birding Trail Map — and so will the friend you've recruited!

Published last fall, the colorful map is part of the Great Washington State Birding Trail map series published by Audubon Washington. A group of EAS members led by Brian Bell were instrumental in design-

ing the birding routes and writing the location accounts. The map makes a great gift not only for a birder but for anyone who travels in Washington. The EAS office sells it for \$4.95.

Thanks to your referrals, our yearlong drive has brought in 46 new members so far. (See story on page 5.) Your recruiting is the most effective way to keep our chapter growing strong.

Program Night, September 27

Why the Elwha River Is So Much More Than a Fish Story

With Lynda Mapes,
Seattle Times Reporter

As the largest watershed restoration project in United States history unfolds on the Olympic Peninsula, no one yet knows how birds and wildlife will respond to the return of the Elwha River to its free-flowing state.

Lynda Mapes follows the great experiment day by day for the *Seattle Times*. She'll bring us up to date on the mobilization of sediment after the removal of the dams, the unexpectedly swift return of fish, and the challenge of restoring the landscape.

6:30 p.m. — Refreshments
7 p.m. — Program
Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church
308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland

Fall Shorebirds Class with Tim Boyer Starts September 13



American Golden-Plover by Tim Boyer

There's no better time than now to get to know shorebirds, with the year's new juveniles joining adults on the southbound migration.

Photographer and shorebird specialist Tim Boyer will introduce you to the species that visit the Washington coast in an evening classroom session followed by a field trip to Grays Harbor.

The fall class complements the spring session, but neither is a prerequisite for the other. To register, call 425-576-8805.

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

Thursday, September 13, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Classroom session. Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland. (Enter on State Street.)

Saturday, September 15. Field trip to Grays Harbor. Details to be arranged in class.

Chapter to Focus on Marymoor and Pacific Flyway

The Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park and National Audubon's Pacific Flyway initiative will be the touchstones for Eastside Audubon programs in the year ahead, the board agreed at a full-day meeting in July.

By evaluating proposals with these touchstones in mind, we aim to encourage conservation, education and birding programs that complement one another and make efficient use of the chapter's human resources.

Audubon BirdLoop

Habitat restoration and trail improvement at Marymoor Park have been the signature conservation projects of Eastside Audubon since 2006, and at the July meeting Tim

McGruder sketched a vision that may one day include an outdoor classroom as a home for some of our programs in education and birding.

We agreed to keep the BirdLoop as our focus for hands-on conservation work and volunteer opportunity because of the importance of Marymoor Park to the communities in the Eastside Audubon service area. We also hope to build on our history of outstanding support from REI and the King County parks department for our work at Marymoor.

The Pacific Flyway

National Audubon has recently developed a conservation strategy organized around

the main migratory flyways over the United States. The national strategy envisions unifying Audubon chapters behind conservation goals for each flyway region. Watch for an article detailing the strategy in the October *Corvid Crier*.

We hope EAS will be able to accomplish more by aligning our programs with the Pacific Flyway strategy where we can. We're asking our Conservation, Education and Birding committees to watch for opportunities to have an impact at the flyways level.

We look to benefit in turn from the resources of the national, regional, and state organizations.

September Meetings

Youth Education Committee

September 11 (Tuesday), 6:30 p.m.

September meeting rescheduled because of Labor Day holiday. Normally 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

September 12 (Wednesday), 7 p.m.

Meets the second Wednesday of every month except July and August. An effective group engaged in activism and hands-on conservation projects. Email Peter Marshall: psmarshall@comcast.net.

Photo Group

September 13 (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

September 25 (Tuesday), 6 p.m.

Interested guests may attend the monthly board meeting. Please email Andy McCormick: amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org.

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

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

President	Andy McCormick	amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	Open	
Treasurer	Dora Rajkhowa	doraalex@yahoo.com

Board Members and Committee Chairs

Birding	Tricia Kishel	tkishel@eastsideaudubon.org
Communication	Mary Brisson	marybrisson@eastsideaudubon.org
Conservation	Peter Marshall	psmarshall@comcast.net
Education	Open	
Development	Open	
Membership	Open	
At large board member	Tim McGruder	tmcgruder@gmail.com
At large board member	Open	

Eastside Park Rangers

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

Other Committee Chairs

Volunteers	Open	
Photo Group	Larry Engles	engles@ridesoft.com
Bird Questions	MaryFrances Mathis	mf.mathis@comcast.net
Birdathon	Andy McCormick	amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
Field Trips	Hugh Jennings	h2ouzel@comcast.net
Historian	Bob Gershmel	rwgusnret1986@yahoo.com
Holiday Gift Wrap	Open	
Hospitality	Claudia Welch	425-827-2548
Webmaster	Mary Brisson	mary@marybrisson.net
Chapter Photographer	Mick Thompson	mthomp1707@comcast.net

Staff

Office Assistant	Zoe Allen	office@eastsideaudubon.org
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Swift Night Out Highlights Active Fall Calendar

Eastside Audubon members and friends in northeastern King County will see the chapter in action on several occasions this September and October.

EAS will bring information about birds, birding, and conservation to community events from Denny to Duvall. We'll have a booth at each of the following.

September 9: DennyFest

The annual celebration of the Finn Hill neighborhood north of Juanita. Event details at finnhillalliance.org/.

September 15: Swift Night Out (Monroe)

A family-friendly event that culminates at dusk with the descent of thousands of Vaux's Swifts into the brick chimney at the former Frank Wagner Elementary School. Event details at monroeswifts.org/see-the-swifts/announce2012/.

September 29: Duvall Heritage Festival

A celebration of old-time skills and crafts sponsored by the Duvall Historical Society. Event details at duvallhistoricalsociety.org/HeritageFestival.htm.

October 6: Molbak's (Woodinville)

While kids make pinecone bird feeders at a craft station, EAS will answer questions about birds for adults visiting the garden center from 10 a.m. to noon.



Tribute to the Monroe Swifts by Ed Newbold, at Wagner Center in Monroe. Photo by Mick Thompson.

All members are invited to help staff the information booth at these events. It's a fun way to learn about EAS, birding, and the community. To volunteer, email Jill Keeney of the Youth Education Committee: j.keeney@comcast.net.

Also in Duvall, on **October 20**, the Youth Education Committee will host a special **Family Birding Walk on the Snoqualmie River Trail**. For details, see the field trip listings on page 4.

And remember: **Program Night** on Thursday, **October 25**, will take place in **Woodinville** at the YMCA. Monroe educator and naturalist Rob Sandelin will present "Meet the Hawks of Your Neighborhood." Watch for complete details in the October *Corvid Crier*.

Holiday Gift Wrap Project Needs Boss

With the holiday season just around the corner, we're searching for a new leader to run one of Eastside Audubon's most popular fundraising programs.

Each year during the week before Christmas, EAS offers a gift wrapping service at the REI stores in Issaquah and Redmond, not only raising funds but also creating priceless visibility for the chapter.

Having led the program to raise \$3,600 for EAS in the most successful season ever last year, Helen LaBouy has resigned.

The time to begin organizing for the 2012 season is now, and Helen has written detailed instructions to help the leader or co-leaders who will succeed her.

Helen recommends that a team share in leading the project, which entails coordinating with the host REI stores, arranging for supplies, scheduling volunteers, setting up the wrap desks, collecting each day's receipts, and reporting the funds raised.

REI has for years been a willing and helpful partner, and EAS volunteers readily staff the wrap desk.

If you can help lead a program that brings holiday cheer to the chapter and the community, please call the office at 425-576-8805 or email Andy McCormick: ammcormick@eastsideaudubon.org.

Election Coming in November: Chapter Calls for Candidates

Continued from page 1

Any current board member would be happy to speak with you about what it means to serve on the board.

A board member or the office staff also can give you information from the leadership handbook about the duties of any position and help you get in touch with someone who has previously held a role you may be considering. Contact information is on page 2.

Early Decisions Helpful, but Deadlines Loose

The October *Corvid Crier* will publish the names of candidates who decide by September 5 to run. The November edition will publish the names of those who decide by October 3. You may decide to run later, but we'd like to get as many candidates' names as possible into the newsletter prior to the election.

Eastside Audubon is growing, with membership and funding both on the rise this year. Please think about playing a larger part in our success, and speak to one of the current board members soon!

Open Board Positions

Positions due to be elected this fall:

President (Andy McCormick, incumbent)
Vice President
At-large Member (two positions) *
Birding Chair (Tricia Kishel, incumbent)
Communication Chair *
Education Chair

Positions normally elected in odd-numbered years but currently open and in need of candidates:

Financial Development Chair
Membership Chair
Secretary

* At-large board member Tim McGruder and Communication Chair Mary Brisson have said they do not intend to run for re-election this November.



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.

September 2 (Sunday), 1 – 2 p.m.

Juanita Bay Park Interpretive Tour

Eastside Park Rangers lead this easy walk 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.

September 18 (Tuesday), 8 a.m. – noon

Juanita Bay Park Birding Walk

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



Hooded Merganser at Juanita Bay Park by Mick Thompson

early morning is one of the best times to explore. Meets the third Tuesday of each month. Free. No pre-registration required. Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot. Leader: MaryFrances Mathis, 425-803-3026.

September 19 (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 pre-registration required. Co-leaders: Sharon Aagaard, 425-891-3460, and Stan Wood.

September 24 (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.

October 20 (Saturday), 10 a.m. – noon

Family Birding Walk

Snoqualmie Valley Trail, Duvall

Popular instructor Mike West will lead this child-friendly birding walk. Many of the likely birds will be of the sort that are big or colorful and easy for kids to see: Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Steller's Jays, Great Blue Herons, and Red-tailed Hawks. Winter ducks should be arriving in their bright plumage. Bring children, grandchildren, neighbors, plus binoculars if you have them and any liquids or snacks you'll need. Meet by 10 a.m. in the parking lot at the entrance to McCormick Park (26200 NE Stephens Street) in Duvall. Free. No pre-registration required.

Your Trip in This Space

Do you have a favorite birding spot? Why not show some other birders around? EAS needs leaders for trips and walks. And yes, you are a good enough birder! You know your spot better than you think, and everyone will share the fun of finding the birds. Try it once! Email Tricia Kishel: tkishel@eastsideaudubon.org.

September 1 (Saturday), 9 a.m. – noon

Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration

Monthly Work Party

All are welcome! Meet at the kiosk of the Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park, Lot G. Parking pass provided. Bring water, snack, gloves, a shovel and/or a rake. Questions? Call the EAS office: 425-576-8805.

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

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 Pl 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.

Back to School With the Bird Discovery Box

Creating Birders in the Classroom

By Mary Britton-Simmons

Are you a teacher or do you know one who loves birds and the outdoors?

The Bird Discovery Box created by the Eastside Audubon Youth Education Committee is the perfect teaching tool. Included are a manual with lesson plans and the materials needed to teach the lessons.

All activities are written for K–12 and are interdisciplinary and hands-on. They will help students reach benchmarks for the Essential Academic Learning Requirements in science.

To borrow this unique teaching resource, please email: education@eastsideaudubon.org. Then watch students become bird enthusiasts!



The Youth Education Committee's Bird Discovery Box, unpacked.
Photo by Mick Thompson.

EAS Welcomes 22 New Members in Second Quarter

We continued to stay on pace toward our membership growth goal during the second quarter of the year, adding 22 new members during April, May and June.

With the 24 new members added in the first three months of the year, the first half total reached 46.

The second quarter had a big boost in April from the get-a-member challenge that brought in 13 new enrollments and earned the chapter \$110 for each one.

Through the rest of the year, we'll be striving to beat our target of five new members a month. To stay on pace, we're looking toward a series of fall outreach events and counting on your personal referrals.

At Program Night and on walks and trips, please welcome these new members: Margaret Bily, Bill Burke, Peter Davis, Bronwyn Deckert, Elizabeth Frankenberg, Lora Hein, Jessi Howe, Fred Koch, Edie and Simon Lie, Nancy Luschei, Anthony Parr, Terri Peltz, Mary Pritchard, Trudy Robertson, Peter Ross, Lisa Samuel, Sue Sander, Penny Short, Phyllis Sproul, Charis Weathers, Debra Wuts, and Andrea Zikakis.

Shop at PCC? Make it pay for EAS!

Did you know you can earn money for Eastside Audubon just by shopping at PCC Natural Markets?

Start by buying a rechargeable PCC scrip card through the EAS office for \$25. PCC donates \$5 of the \$25 to the chapter.

Scrip works just like cash at any PCC store. Every dollar on the card buys a dollar's worth of PCC food and merchandise.

Remember to Recharge!

Once you've used up the \$25, you can easily reload your scrip card for any amount

you wish, as often as you wish, at any PCC check stand. EAS will receive 5 percent of the amount you put on your card, every time, year-round.

We'd like to make it easier for members to get started with PCC scrip by selling it at Program Night. All we need is a volunteer to staff a table (or organize others to staff it). If you can take on an occasional task with a big payoff EAS, please get in touch with the office.

For now, to buy your first PCC scrip card, call the office at 425-576-8805.



Bald Eagle Chick Survives Kirkland Fireworks

By Andy McCormick

For the second year in a row Bald Eagles have nested in a large Douglas Fir tree in Kirkland's Heritage Park, uphill about a quarter-mile from the site of the annual Independence Day fireworks display in Marina Park.

Eastside Audubon members Jim and Nancy Roberts had been observing this year's nest and were hoping that the juvenile Bald Eagle would fledge before the Fourth of July. However, as the holiday approached it was clear the eaglet was not yet able to fly.

The Roberts contacted Kirkland officials on July 3 in hope of getting the fireworks barge moved farther from the nest. They had also contacted Eastside Audubon and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Agency personnel had been monitoring the nest and were concerned that there was only one chick this year where there had been two in 2011. The Wildlife Service said the agency has been taking an educational approach with the communities that border the lake to help them learn how not to disturb eagle nests.

Federal guidelines call for fireworks displays to be at least one mile from an active eagle nest. USFWS had provided Kirkland officials and the private committee that produces the event with a map showing



Juvenile Bald Eagle at Heritage Park in July, by Kevin Ebi, LivingWilderness.com

the half-mile and one-mile zones around two eagle nests in the area.

Eastside Audubon on July 3 also sent a message of concern to the Kirkland city attorney and fire chief.

The effort to get the barge moved did not succeed and the fireworks display went off as originally planned, but we learned a lot about the National Bald Eagle Man-

agement Guidelines related to explosions including fireworks.

The chapter plans to approach the city and the celebration committee well in advance of next year's fireworks to try to get them to locate the barge farther to the south.

As of this writing in late July, the juvenile is doing well and has been hopping up to higher branches with a lot of wing flapping. The adults are dropping fish into the nest and the eaglet is eating on its own. The next stage in its fledging will be practice flights while hovering over the nest. When the eaglet is ready the adult will fly off with a fish, enticing the young bird to follow in flight. The first flight lasts up to a mile. The eagles and their nest are easily visible from the east end of Heritage Park.

Editor's note: By the end of July, the young eagle had fledged.

Activists and Group Health Reach Settlement Allowing Tree Removal at Redmond Site

By Leslie Waters

Sustainable Redmond's lawsuit to stop Group Health from removing all the trees on its Overlake property has been settled.

According to Tom Hinman of Sustainable Redmond, there is no fixed percentage of existing trees that will be retained when the property is developed. He said he hopes the developer can preserve some trees on the proposed multi-use site and he will work with the City of Redmond parks staff and the developer toward that end.

A number of evergreen trees will be lost, likely to be replaced largely by deciduous street trees. Sustainable Redmond is work-

ing toward the goal of transplanting some evergreens (or having new ones provided) to another, nearby park site in Overlake Village west of 152nd Avenue NE.

Sustainable Redmond is forming a Conservation Planning Group that can serve as an interface with the city on this and other planning and policy matters related to Redmond's natural environment.

The group welcomes Eastside Audubon to work with them. EAS had supported the Sustainable Redmond action to prevent the removal of the approximately 1,100 trees.

Correction

An article in the July *Corvid Crier* stated that prescription bottles are not recyclable in the weekly pick-up. Bev Jennings reports they are recyclable without their caps.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)

Length	7.5 inches
Wingspan	15 inches
Weight	1.4 ounces (40 grams)
AOU alpha code	SPSA

The Spotted Sandpiper is probably the most widespread breeding sandpiper in North America, and it displays a gender role reversal not often seen in birds.

Females arrive on the breeding ground first and display to attract the males as they arrive. In some conditions they also practice serial polyandry: After pairing with one male, which is most often left to brood the eggs, the female may court up to three additional males for breeding in new nests. At times females will assist with brooding and feeding the young. Blood tests have revealed that during nesting the male Spotted Sandpiper has a higher level than the female of prolactin, a hormone that encourages caretaking behavior. Females are larger and more aggressive than males.

The Spotted shares the genus *Actitis*, Greek *aktitis*, a shore dweller, with the Common Sandpiper (*A. hypoleucos*), its Eurasian cousin. Its species name is from the Latin *maculo*, a spot, in reference to its breeding plumage (Holloway).

The Spotted is primarily a fresh water shorebird with generalist habits that make it very adaptable to a wide variety of aquatic environments, including the banks of rivers, ponds, lakes, and agricultural and urban wetlands (Oring, et al).

It nests near water in a shallow depression lined with moss and grass. A clutch of usually four buff-colored eggs with brown splotches is incubated primarily by the male. The young hatch in about three weeks with first flight following in another two-and-

a-half weeks. The young feed themselves attended by the male (Kaufman).

Breeding occurs from the northern half of the United States north to the tree line, with migrating birds arriving in Washington around the middle of May. Fall migration begins with the first adults departing in July. Some Spotted Sandpipers migrate long distances to wintering grounds in Costa Rica and Panama or farther south to watery habitat in Venezuela, Ecuador, and Peru. Others make a short hop from Canada to the Pacific coastal region. The Puget Sound and Pacific coastal regions are wintering areas, and Spotted Sandpipers can be seen year-round.



Spotted Sandpiper by Tim Boyer

Both adults have breast spots in their alternative or breeding plumage, and are pure white-breasted in basic plumage in winter. Clear-breasted birds in the late summer and early fall in the Northwest are likely to be juveniles (Paulson). Later in the winter all Spottededs are clear-breasted.

When perched or foraging many Spottededs display an almost constant tail bobbing. Longtime birders may remember nicknames such as teeter-peep or teeter-snipe (Oring, et al).

Spotted Sandpipers also have a clever flight pattern: They are usually seen flying very low over water or along the water's edge with "rapidly fluttering wings held below the horizontal. ... No other Northwest shorebird flies like this" (Paulson). This shallow wing-beat allows them to fly closer to the water to pick off insects above or on the surface.

To hear a recording of the Spotted Sandpiper's peet-weet call and weet-weet-weet flight calls, visit the Macaulay Library at animal-behaviorarchive.org/audio/17/actitis-macularius-spotted-sandpiper-united-states-oregon-william-ward. References available upon request to amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org.



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