



*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.*

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## Directions to EAS HQ

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. (corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. and State). 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) on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and follow it as it bears left and changes name to State St. Turn left on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S.

TAKE THE BUS! Routes 540, 230 and 255 serve State Street in Kirkland.

## Bird Watching by Kayak

**Thursday, September 25 at 7:00 pm (after the social hour)  
Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (EAS Headquarters)**

If you're looking for alternate, low-impact way to see birds, a great way to see them is on the water by kayak. Head for a local (or not-so-local) birding hot spot, like the Montlake Fill or Marymoor Park, hop in a kayak at a suitable put-in, and see birds up close like you've never seen them before.

Gary left his engineering job in 1998 to pursue outdoor and nature photography full-time. His unique imagery stems from a relentless exploration of the water planet by sea kayak, which is his taxi, his toolbox, sometimes even his tripod. Gary is an avid birder, especially by kayak. He wrote "Birding by Kayak" articles for Sea Kayaker and Washington Birder, presented "Birding by Kayak" seminars to local Audubon groups, sea kayak clubs and symposiums and has taught Bird

Photography. His bird credits include R.W.Morse's bird books, National Wildlife, Canoe&Kayak and a recent Audubon endangered species campaign that featured his Kittlitz's Murrelet.

Please join us **Thursday, September 25**, for Gary's superb photographs of Pacific Northwest birds and habitat. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by Gary's excellent presentation

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who is interested in birding by kayak or superb bird photography.

Directions to "EAS HQ," are on the lower left corner of this page.



## The Green Fog

By Christy Anderson, EAS President



Never have I seen a marketing trend hit faster and so pervasively than right now when everything seems to be going green. Sellers of products of all kinds have realized that people aren't only interested in the lowest price. The green credentials of a product are also important to more people every day.

Of course, once marketers realized this, the rush was on to tout the environmental sensibilities of whatever product was being sold. Many manufacturers changed the way they made or distributed products to have less of an impact. Many didn't, but found a way they could claim that their item was environmentally friendly. Local. Organic. Recyclable. Natural. Green. Eco-friendly. Low carbon footprint. The often ill-defined terms could fill this entire column.

How do you cut through the fog and figure out the truth? A good place to start might be to think about what is important to you. What is on your own personal priority list? And how far are you willing to go? Making a difference is made up of a whole series of small and not so small steps we can all take. Doing the "easy stuff" first may get you started on a path where you are willing to make a bigger commitment.

I heard someone say once that too many people are kidding themselves by driving to the grocery store in a big SUV and then thinking that "paper or plastic" is a meaningful decision. Some choices really do matter more than others.

The Seattle Times recently ran an article by Tom Watson, King County's project manager for Recycling and Environmental Services, outlining some ways to figure out if a product is really "green" or just a product of "green-washing". Before you buy something supposedly eco-friendly, ask yourself questions like these:

Is it less wasteful or toxic than a product I use regularly?  
*Buying additional products may not be a good choice.*

Do I really need it?  
*Consuming/using any product, green or not, impacts our environment more than not using it at all.*

Can I change my lifestyle or habits instead of buying a product?  
*Maybe a hybrid vehicle is not in the cards, but perhaps you could take the bus one or two times a week.*

Will the product make a behavioral change easier for me?  
*A pair of really good walking shoes might be a reasonable purchase if it encourages you to walk instead of driving, even if the shoes are not made from recycled materials.*

You can probably think of more.

We can't buy our way to a greener world. In these times of economic worries, that's even more the case. But making informed choices that fit with our own personal values and the larger global picture can only help the process along.

Eastside Audubon Society  
(425) 576-8805 — [www.eastsideaudubon.org](http://www.eastsideaudubon.org)

308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)  
P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

### Executive Officers

<b>President</b>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196 president@elwas.org
<b>Vice President</b>	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@comcast.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Carmen Almodovar	(425) 643-5922 Carmena2001@earthlink.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ellen Homan	(425) 836-5838 gammy@isomedia.com
<b>Executive Director</b>	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580 jan@elwas.org

### Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

<u>At large board member</u>	Helen LaBouy	(425) 868-9706 helenlabouy@mac.com
<u>At large board member</u>	Margaret Lie	(425) 823-2686 margaretlie12@gmail.com
<u>At large board member</u>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 natureisoutside@gmail.com
<u>Birding</u>	Brian Bell	(425) 485-8058 bellasoc@isomedia.com
<b>Adult Education</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Bird Photography</b>	Tim Boyer	(425) 277-9326 tboyer@seanet.com
<b>Field Trips</b>	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351 fieldtrip@elwas.org
<b>Native Plant Walks</b>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<b>Nature Walks</b>	Christopher Chapman	(425) 941-3501 cjchapman19@comcast.net
<b>Special Events</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Bird Questions?</b>	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026
<u>Conservation</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580 tim@elwas.org
<b>Advocacy</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Citizen Science</b>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580
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<b>Marymoor Park</b>	Jim Rettig	(425) 402-1833 jrettigtanager@verizon.net
<u>Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 education@elwas.org
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<b>Youth Education</b>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 education@elwas.org
<b>Library</b>	Carolyn Kishel	(425) 746-1817
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<b>Newsletter</b>	Tom Grismer	(206) 720-9892 newsletter@elwas.org
<b>Publicity</b>	Tracey Cummings	(425) 788-4663 publicity@elwas.org
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<u>Financial Development</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Birdathon</b>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
<b>Gift Wrap</b>	<b>Open</b>	
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<u>Membership</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<b>Hospitality</b>	Claudia Welch	(425) 827/2548
<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 natureisoutside@gmail.com

## September Meetings

**Sept 3 (Weds) 6:00 pm**

### Web Committee

Meets first Wednesday each month in EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email Nancy Nicklas at [webmaster@elwas.org](mailto:webmaster@elwas.org)

**Sept 9 (Tues) 7:00 pm**

### Youth Education Committee

Meets in the EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email [education@elwas.org](mailto:education@elwas.org)

**Sept 11 (Thurs) 7:00 pm**

### Photo Group

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

**Sept 25 (Thurs) 7:00 pm**

### Monthly Membership Meeting

See page 1.

## EAS Office/ Audubon Center

The office is downstairs at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church in Kirkland, **308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)**. Directions: I-405 exit 18 (N. E. 85th-Kirkland). Go west on Central Way to the light on 3rd St. Go left on 3rd St. Follow this street (it bears left and changes name to State St.) Then turn left on 4th Ave. S.

**(425) 576-8805 — [office@elwas.org](mailto:office@elwas.org)**

**Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri — 9:00am - 1:00pm**

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The Corvid Crier is published monthly by the Eastside Audubon Society except that there are no issues in January or August.

**Deadline** for material submission is the first Wednesday of the month preceding publication. Send material by email to:

[newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org)

Subject: EAS Newsletter

or by mail to:

Eastside Audubon Society

Attn: Tom Grismer

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

## Welcome to our New Members

Welcome to the following new members of Eastside Audubon:

**Deb Choat, Kareem & Cindy Choudhry, Karen Griffiths, Josephine Marpert, Sean Parks, Arn & Kathy Slettebak, Sheila Sowecke, Karen Wear**

## Board Notes for July

**Web Site:** Work continues on the update of our web site with its new look and new logo. A recently added feature will be highlights of books of interest.

**Monroe Swifts:** The board approved a donation of \$1,000 to the Sanctuary Fund for saving the Vaux's Swifts and their habitat. During their annual migration, the Vaux's Swifts roost in the chimney of Frank Wagner Elementary school in the Monroe School District. EAS, SAS, and Pilchuk Audubon are working with the school district and other organizations to

We hope to see you soon at a Membership Meeting or Field Trip. Call or visit our office if you have any questions. Our friendly volunteers are more than happy to help you.

educate people about the Vaux's Swifts.

**Initiative 1985:** The board passed a motion to oppose I985, an initiative sponsored by Tim Eyman that dictates that any revenue gained from tolls go only to increasing roads as a means of reducing traffic congestion.

**ACOW:** The next meeting of the Audubon Chapters of Washington (ACOW) will be held in Long Beach, WA, the weekend of October 11, 2008.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Whether you want to be in front of a crowd, or work behind the scene, we need you! With your help and expertise, and a little of your time, we can grow the Chapter and do even more in our community - more classroom presentations, habitat improvement, advocacy, education, and birding. Some of our volunteer opportunities are:

**Volunteer Coordinator** – Work with our 200+ volunteers who do all the little things that make our Chapter run. We're looking for someone who is outgoing and likes working with people. One of your "duties" will be to get to know our members and volunteers, as well as welcome new volunteers. (10 hours/mo)

**Program Chair** – Recruit/schedule speakers for monthly programs, draft publicity for our publicity team, arrange speaker payment, direct volunteers in the set up/tear down of Program Meeting props, make sure Hospitality Chair has everything necessary, and arrange for Greeter to assist visitors (6 hrs/mo).

**Events Coordinator** – Work with various organizations and Chapter volunteers for outreach events at various venues on the Eastside, and organize display and materials for each event. These events are our biggest outreach opportu-

nities to get the word out about Eastside Audubon. (4 hours a month)

**Office Assistance** – Work with Jan and Helen in the office on small jobs that need attention. You can work as much, or as little, and as often as you want!

**Librarian** – Maintain the library of books, videos and DVDs. You'll be responsible for preparing new books for the library (cataloging and covering), as well as ensuring that all books are returned in a timely manner. (5 hrs/mo).

**Program Meeting Greeter** – Set up the nametags and supplies before each program meeting, and greet guests and members as they come in. (1.5 hrs/mo).

**Bird List Organizer** – Using field trip records, create bird lists for the website Birding Hot Spots

We will work with each volunteer, and give them as much training and support as they need to be successful. You may read a thorough description for each opportunity on our website, or contact Jan McGruder at (425) 822-8580 or [jan@elwas.org](mailto:jan@elwas.org) for further details.

**If you believe Eastside Audubon is a cause worthy of your time, give a little of yourself. The birds will thank you!**

## Marymoor BirdFest a Spectacular Success

BirdFest celebrated a milestone in our chapter's biggest ever project, the BirdLoop Nature Trail in Marymoor Park. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, close to 200 visitors took part in bird, native plant and dragonfly walks and many more enjoyed the booths, kid's activities, and music. Thirty-three people signed up to find out more about our "Get Outdoors" activities; and 17 joined our chapter. BirdFest marked two years into the \$100,000 Community Partnership Grant from King County. It's been a lot of work, and a party was in order!

It was standing room only for the Opening Ceremonies with Christy Anderson, Eastside Audubon Society President; Jim Rettig, project manager; and Michael Hobbs of Friends of Marymoor speaking before Ron Sims, King County Executive, came to the stage with his inspiring words. The ribbon was cut for the trail by Ron, Christy, and a heap of kids.

Walks began at the meadow kiosk, a recycled bus shelter. It features a trail map, brochures and posters showing the most common birds, wildlife and native plants with images donated by members of the EAS Photography Group.

It was thrilling to see people making the trek through the meadow to the lake platform – either on the guided walks or just exploring on their own. Bird walks were filled to overflowing and more leaders had to be added. Brian Bell, Michael Hobbs, and Hugh Jennings made this a real treat for our visitors. Ella Elman led a walk to see all our new plantings (and the empty spaces where invasive plants have been removed). Larry

Engles took a group to the lake platform to see the dragonflies – a newly-discovered feature of our BirdLoop trail. Craig Weaver helped get people organized for the walks.

The EAS Education tent teemed with eager kids (and adults) making bird buttons, having their faces painted, learning about birds, and getting their Passports stamped. Mary Britton-Simmons, Jill Keeney, Margaret Lie, Shirley and Jim Hall, Bev Jennings, Tora Roksvog, Sharon Pagel, and two of our camp scholarship students, Yesain and Dakota, made this a fun and educational experience for the kids.

Eager visitors filled the EAS Chapter tent. Hugh Jennings and Tricia Kishel talked about Field Trips and Nature Walks, Caren Park and Larry Engles promoted Photo Trips. Melinda Bronsdon answered questions about our Native Plant Walks. Finally, Jim and Nancy Roberts, Glenn Eades, Therese Eby, Jerry Rettig, Patricia Clarke, and Andy McCormick were on hand to tell everyone about the Marymoor Work Parties.

Tim McGruder and Jim Rettig recruited several people for chapter conservation projects. Jan McGruder, Eva Weaver, and Helen LaBouy added new members to chapter rolls. Mary Holt, festival chair, and Peter Holt organized the set-up and takedown, aided by many of the above volunteers plus Barbara Dietrich. Marlene Meyer, Carolyn Kishel, Christy Anderson, Linda Pearson roamed the festival grounds meeting and greeting visitors. Sunny Walter organized the chapter tent and was our official

photographer.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, King County Parks, Pilchuck Audubon Society, Washington Native Plant Society, League of Women Voters, Earth Ministry, Cascade Bicycle Club, and Nature Vision welcomed folks to their displays, as did festival sponsors, REI and PCC Natural Markets. Clark, Raymond & Co. was also a sponsor.

Brian Bell, Ollie Oliver, and Hugh Jennings set up scopes on the festival green and introduced newcomers to close up views of birds. Nearby, people lounged on the grass listening to the music of Tinker's Dram and eating Grand Opening cake.

Planning was done by our very professional volunteer festival team: Mary Holt (chair), Jill Kenney, Andy McCormack, Margaret Lie, Sunny Walter, Tricia Kishel, Cindy Balbuena, Glenn Eades, Brian Bell, Helen LeBouy, Jan McGruder, Michael Hobbs, and Patrick Kelley, who was instrumental in obtaining effective and widespread publicity. Big thanks to all the volunteers. You came through with a winner!

— Sunny Walter



**BirdFest Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**



**The Crowd Has Arrived at BirdFest**

## Become a Volunteer Cedar River Naturalist This Fall

Interested in fish? Good with people? Sign up to be a **volunteer naturalist on the Cedar River** this fall. Naturalists will receive training from fish and watershed experts in September and October. Then they'll spend three weekend days along the river, talking to the public about the spawning salmon and the natural and human history of the Cedar River Water-

shed. Sponsors of the program, now entering its eleventh year, include the **City of Seattle, City of Renton, Forum for Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed, Friends of the Cedar River Watershed, King Conservation District, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.** Contact Charlotte Spang at (206) 245-0143, or email her at natural-

ists@cedarriver.org, to get an application or to find out more information. Or visit [www.cedarriver.org](http://www.cedarriver.org)

## Arctic Wings: Miracle of Migration: September 13 – December 31, 2008

Thousands of birds depend on the politically contested Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for survival: over 190 bird species from across six continents and from all 50 of the United States migrate there each year. Powerful images by award-winning **photographers** tell the international story of migratory birds in the Burke Museum's new environmental photography exhibit *Arctic Wings: Miracle of Migration*, opening Sept. 13, 2008.

Featuring the photography of Subhankeer

Banerjee, Paul Bannick, Michio Hoshino, Arthur Morris, Hugh Rose, Mark Wilson, and Brad Winn, *Arctic Wings* presents 30 large-format color photographs that capture global bird biodiversity abundantly represented in the ANWR ecosystem, as the preferred migratory destination for birds world-wide.

See the website [www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/events](http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/events) for information about special opening day events on September 13. Opening day includes exhibit

tours led by Paul Bannick, renowned local bird photographer. All day, the Burke lobby will be alive with the sounds of Arctic birds, thanks to audio naturalist Martyn Stewart.

**THE BURKE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND CULTURE**

# 2-for-1 Admission

June 28 - December 31, 2008      September 13 - December 31, 2008

**The Last Polar Bear:**  
*Facing the Truth of a Warming World*

**Arctic Wings:**  
*Miracle of Migration*

Good for one free admission with purchase of one adult admission

[www.burkemuseum.org](http://www.burkemuseum.org)      206.616.3962

Valid only during the above exhibits. Not valid with any other offer. EAS

## Campers Rave about Their Experiences

Thanks to your generosity, Eastside Audubon sent eight low-income students to environmental camps this summer. These lucky middle-school students attended either day or overnight camps. The reviews are in, and everyone had an awesome time—whether backpacking in the Olympic National Forest, floating the Wenatchee River, building a volcano or exploring a tide pool. Members of the Education Committee drove campers and so

heard firsthand about their amazing experiences. Every day was a new adventure for our campers. Their memories will last a lifetime.

In return for the scholarship, campers will write an article for the newsletter, speak at a membership meeting or volunteer to help the Education Committee at an event. In fact, some of you may have seen campers helping out at our Marymoor celebra-

tion. In the future, look for news from other students as they give back to Eastside Audubon for its generosity.

Special thanks to REI for the generous donation of over \$800.00 worth of equipment. We now have a cache of items to loan to campers each year.

-- Mary Britton-Simmons, Education Chair



**Campers at Pacific Science Center Camp**

## Fall Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW): Birding at the Beach is Better!

Plan a getaway on the scenic Washington Coast and join us for fall ACOW 2008 October 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The conference will be held at the Chautauqua Lodge located on the beautiful shoreline of Long Beach Washington. Enjoy relaxing accommodations, beach access and an enticing array of educational activities, meetings and speeches outlining the heart of Audubon's mission in Washington State.

The three-day conference will begin with a light day Friday, allowing you time to absorb the surroundings, explore the sand

dunes and bike or walk for miles on the Discovery Trail following the beach. Friday evening will include an Education Meeting followed by a reception and evening of festivities.

On Saturday, your choice of field outings will bring you onto the beach and into the sand to witness the local ecology and habitat of shore birds. In the afternoon, a Conservation Meeting will be held at the lodge incorporating regional discussions of habitat preservation and restoration. Saturday evening, join your colleagues in an indulgent Surf and Turf dinner and

banquet, followed by presentations from various individuals representing local, state and federal state agencies.

Audubon Washington board members will meet Sunday morning before dispersing to their separate corners of the state.

Discovery Coast Audubon invites you to their region of the Pacific Coast to find that "Birding at the Beach is Better!" for more information and to download a registration form go to <http://www.discoverycoastaudubon.com>.

## BIRDS OF THE PUGET SOUND AREA -- a 4-week field course for birders.

Learn by doing! In this four-part course you will learn about basic principles, etiquette, field guides, equipment, and identification techniques for successful birding and practice them in the field. Good for beginning and experienced birders, and people new to the area.

Fall is a great time to bird in Seattle and Puget Sound with the return of our wintering birds. Come join us for all four sessions of this class, and have fun. Each session will introduce a different topic.

**Instructor: Brian Bell**, Master Birder,

Author, Guide

### Class Dates, Times and Locations:

**Session 1: Saturday, Oct. 25.** Meet at 8:00 am at Juanita Bay Park (Kirkland) parking lot. Presentation: Basic Principles and how to choose binoculars and scopes.

*Field trip:* Juanita Bay, over by noon.

**Session 2: Saturday, Nov. 1.** Meet at 8:00 am at Discovery Park Interpretive Center. Presentation: Field guides, bird publications and CDs.

*Field trip:* Discovery Park, over by noon.

**Session 3: Saturday, Nov. 8.** Meet at 7:30 am at Marymoor Park, Off-Leash Dog Area parking lot. Presentation: Identification techniques.

*Field trip:* Marymoor Park, over by noon.

**Session 4: Saturday, Nov. 15.** Meet at 8:00 am at Kingsgate Park and Ride. Presentation: Birding ethics and etiquette.

*Field trip:* Location to be determined – based on availability of species of interest.

**Series Cost: \$75 EAS members, \$90 non-members.**

**Limit: 15 participants**

## Climate Change Common Sense

**When:** September 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:00 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm)

**Where:** South Bellevue Community Center, 14509 SE Newport Way, Bellevue

**Cost:** \$10 - Register by calling Eastside Audubon at 425-576-8805

Join Eastside Audubon and Seattle Audubon to learn about local impacts of climate change to habitat in the Northwest,

and what you can do.

### Presenters:

- Keynote: State Representative Deb Eddy, Vice Chair of the Technology, Energy and Communications Committee, and also a member of the Transportation Committee

- Dr. Jonathan Harrington (author of *The Climate Diet: How You Can Cut Carbon, Cut Costs & Save the Planet* and

more at [www.climatediet.com](http://www.climatediet.com)) will show step by step how you can reduce your carbon footprint easily and save money. Brid Nowlan, Washington Invasive Species Coalition/Audubon Washington ([www.invasivespeciescoalition.org](http://www.invasivespeciescoalition.org)), will present latest information on the impact to northwest forests and Puget Sound.

Refreshments will be served. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today!

## Green Kirkland Event

Please join a Friday September 12 Day of Caring at Kirkland's Watershed Park. We welcome individuals, businesses and school groups who can take time on a Friday for community service hours to help restore the forest--either all day, or morning, or afternoon.

**Date/Time: Friday September 12 from 9 am until 3 pm (or any part thereof)**

**Activities:** Removal of invasive plant species and planting native plants

**Place: Watershed Park (4530 112<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Kirkland).** *Note: we're meeting near the 112<sup>th</sup> Ave NE entrance to the park.*

**Bring:** Sturdy shoes or boots, work gloves, water bottle, layered clothing (dress for the weather), and clippers, loppers, shovel, and rake if you have them.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided by the Watershed Company, an environmental consulting business in the same neighborhood as Watershed Park.

**Please let Sharon Rodman know** ([vrodman@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:vrodman@ci.kirkland.wa.us)) if you are planning to participate and if you are bringing a group of people. Minors should be accompanied by an adult or bring a note of permission from a parent/guardian.

Please see [http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/depart/parks/Green\\_Kirkland\\_Partnership.htm](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/depart/parks/Green_Kirkland_Partnership.htm) and [www.greenkirkland.org](http://www.greenkirkland.org) for information.



**Eagle Eye**  
VISION CARE, P.S.

Dr. Kerri W. Scarbrough, Optometrist  
17320 135th Ave. N.E. — Woodinville  
(425) 398-1862

**See the birds better!**

## Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*

Length	6.5 in
Wingspan	14 in
Weight	0.9 oz
AOU Band code	WESA

The Western Sandpiper is part of the genus *Calidris* from the Greek *kalidris* which was used by Aristotle for a speckled waterbird. *Mauri* is from Ernest Mauri (1791-1836) an Italian botanist and a friend of Charles Bonaparte (1803-1857), who named this bird for him. They co-authored a book on Italian fauna. The bird is the western counterpart to the Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla* and the common name designates this location. Like the Semipalmated the Western also has partially webbed feet. Piper is from the Latin *pipare*, to chirp (Holloway, 2003). This sandpiper is one of a large group of small shore birds commonly called peeps or stints.

The Western Sandpiper does not nest in Washington but is an abundant migrant in spring and fall. The fall migration begins in late June and goes through September with some wintering birds seen along the southwest coast of Washington. Identification of the peeps can be difficult and the overall gray coloration in the fall does not make it any easier to tell them apart. The Western's bill is moderately thick with a slight droop at the end, but not as much droop as the larger Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. The Semipalmated has a shorter, straighter bill and since it is less likely to be found along the west coast in the fall and winter the odds favor seeing the Western. The Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla* is the smallest of the four and has yellowish-greenish legs. In fall the overall size, bill and legs are the best field marks to tell these peeps apart. In breeding plumage the Western has a rufous crown,



ear patch and scapulars. The Semipalmated has no rufous coloration but is brown and black instead. The Least Sandpiper is the brownest of the three with brown on the breast as well.

These adventurous birds breed in a gravel scrape in the western Alaska arctic tundra. Three to four brownish eggs with dark brown spots are incubated by both parents for 21 days. The chicks will walk from the nest shortly after hatching and fly in about 17-21 days. Often the female will leave the nest just before or after the birds hatch and the male will be responsible for caring for the young. The birds generally feed on insects, crustaceans and marine worms (Kaufman, 1996). Recent research has found that they also get half of their daily energy from feeding on the biofilm that grows as a mat on the surface of mudflats and their ability to feed on this goo of microscopic bacteria is thought to be a reason

for the species' abundance even while North America is losing wetlands areas (Lovette in *Ecology* 89, 2008). Despite their abundance special protection is needed at the Copper River in Alaska where nearly 90% of the total population of Western Sandpipers stops during migration. In 1973 over 6.5 Million individuals were counted in April and May.

A variety of audio and video recordings of Western Sandpipers can be found at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Web site at this address: <http://animalbehaviorarchive.org/asset-SearchInterim.do?sessionId=02C65D744637461B903793745EF0794C>

(Photo credit: Gary Luhm. References are available upon request.)

Correction: In the July-August issue of the *Corvid Crier* the AOU band code for the American Robin should have read AMRO.

## San Juan Islands Birding – October 6-8

Join Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society for a 3-day cruise through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. We depart from John Wayne Marina aboard the MV Glacier Spirit (a 65-foot motor vessel, well-

known from our many cruises around Protection Island), and cruise to various sites in the San Juan Islands for either birding or sightseeing. For more information and for registration materials, see our website

([www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org](http://www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org)). For additional information, contact 360-681-4076, or email [rcoffice@olympus.net](mailto:rcoffice@olympus.net).

## FIELD TRIPS

**Parents and children over 8 are welcome on all trips. \*\*FRS Radio owners, please consider bringing them on trips.\*\*  
See [www.eastsideaudubon.org/events/](http://www.eastsideaudubon.org/events/) for the latest information and for reports of last month's field trips.  
Non-members of Eastside Audubon will be charged an additional \$5.00.**

### Meeting Places for Field Trips:

- **Kingsgate Park and Ride:** I-405 exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound, N. E. 124th St. Go west to light at 116th Ave. N. E., then right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot (on the left). Meet in the S.E. corner. 1300 116th Way NE, Kingsgate.
- **Newport Hills Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 9. 5115 113th PL NE, Newport Hills.
- **South Kirkland Park and Ride:** 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way. 10610 NE 38th Pl.
- **Wilburton Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 12. 720 114th Ave, Bellevue.

### Sept 5 (Fri) – 8:00 to noon — Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 8:00**. Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot (Parking Lot D). No registration is required. To reach Marymoor Park, take SR 520 east from Seattle to the West Lake Sammamish Parkway exit and follow the signs. The entrance to the park is one block south of the exit. Turn right at third stop sign, to Dog Area parking lot. Parking is \$1.

### Sept 6 (Sat) 6:30-8:00 pm — Vaux's Swifts in Monroe

This is an evening trip to Monroe to watch thousands of Vaux's Swifts go through their evening ritual before dropping in a chimney to roost for the night. Bring a folding chair or blanket if you don't like to stand for a long time. About an hour before dusk the swifts begin circling and swirling around the chimney as the numbers keep increasing. A few will start making feints at the chimney, then a few will start dropping down into the chimney. These are followed by more and more until the sky is empty about dusk. We will meet at the south end of the Kingsgate P&R by 6:30 pm and carpool to Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe. **Passenger cost/person is \$3.00.** If you plan to go email **Hugh Jennings at: [hughbirder@earthlink.net](mailto:hughbirder@earthlink.net) or call at 425-746-6351.** For more information about this event and other information and events related to Vaux's Swifts in Monroe, see <http://vauxhappening.org>.

### Sept 7 (Sun) 9am to Noon

#### Lake Sammamish State Park Nature Walk

The Park offers a wide assortment of birds and plants due to its varied ecosystems. The trip will involve a light amount of walking. Dress appropriately. Call the trip leader, Sharon, with any questions at **425-891-3460**. Meet at the first parking lot on the right after passing through the park entrance.

### Sept 9 (Tues) - 5:30 am to 5 pm — Robinson Canyon

We will stop at a burn area east of Cle Elum to look for Black-backed and other woodpeckers and then go to Robinson Canyon. On the hike up the canyon we will look for neotropical migrants, woodpeckers, owls, raptors, etc. Wear

appropriate footwear for about 4-5 miles hiking during the day. Bring lunch and liquids. Plan to be back about 5 pm Meet by 5:30 am at the west end of the Tibbetts P&R, Issaquah exit 15 from I-90. **Passenger cost/person \$20.00. Sharon Agaard 425-271-0143 (H) or 425-891-3460 (C).**

### Sept 16 (Tues) 8:00 to noon

#### Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 8:00**. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

### Sept 17 (Weds) 6:30 am to early evening

#### Grays Harbor County - Limit: 11 (3 cars)

We will explore the best shore areas of Grays Harbor County depending on what has been seen. This could include the Ocean Shores area, the Westport area, Bottle Beach, Midway Beach or Tokeland. Southbound shorebird migration will be in full swing and almost anything could show up. Seabirds will also be present. Come prepared for changing weather. Scopes helpful, bring lunch and fluids. Back by early evening. Meet before 6:30 am at north end of Wilburton P&R (I-405, exit 12).

**Passenger cost/per person: \$33.00. Call Brian H. Bell at 425-485-8058 to register.**

### Sept 20 (Sat) 9:30 am to 2:30 pm — Shadow Lake Bog

Join us for a guided walk through Shadow Lake Bog, a beautiful ancient sphagnum moss peat bog and unique wetland located in Renton. This will be a level walk on a short trail and 600-ft boardwalk to a viewing platform overlooking the amphibian pond. In addition, we will have access to several other trails that are not usually open to the public and which go through a variety of habitats such as wetlands, deciduous forests and upland conifer forests with old-growth cedar trees.

The private preserve is covered with western cedars, Sitka spruce, Western hemlock, Labrador tea, bog cranberry, bog laurel, and many species uniquely adapted to growing in the acidic conditions of a bog and wet forest habitats. On either side of the boardwalk, a thick carpet of moss covers the ground and amongst the moss are mushrooms of various shapes and sizes. The property also features a viewing tower that overlooks an amphibian pond and a skywalk that leads from the viewing tower to the Richter Interpretive Center, an education center used by many school children throughout the year.

Shadow Lake offers nesting and feeding habitat for many waterfowl year round. Pileated woodpecker and bald eagles are commonly seen at the bog. Salamanders and frogs are abundant in the buffers around the bog and deer, elk, bobcat and black bear are observed regularly in the preserve.

Ella Elman of Seattle Urban Nature will lead this trip. Please

*(Continued on page 11)*

bring walking shoes, water, raingear, and a sack lunch. **Meet before 9:30 am** at the Wilburton P&R (I-405 and SE 8th St.). No sign-up required. For more information, please contact Ella Elman at [eelman@u.washington.edu](mailto:eelman@u.washington.edu) after the beginning of September.

**Sept 20 (Sat) 9:00 am – Watershed Park**

A 2-hour nature walk in this Kirkland park takes place the **3rd Saturday of each month** at 9:00 am. Nature walks enter the park off NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street, north of the railroad tracks on 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, east of 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. Watershed park has more than 70 acres of mostly upland second growth forest; there is some riparian habitat. Several plant and bird species can be seen in the park. Bus stop nearby on 108<sup>th</sup>, near 45<sup>th</sup>. Limited street parking. **Jan Johnson 425-814-5923**

**Sept 22 (Mon) 9:00 am 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 am 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**

**Sept 27 (Sat) 7:00 am to 7:00 pm**

**Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties**

**Joint trip with Seattle Audubon - Limit 11 – 5 from Eastside Audubon**

This all-day trip will focus on shorebirds of the Washington coast. We will also be looking for other migrant birds, gulls, and raptors. Plan on visiting Tokeland (Marbled Godwit), Bottle Beach on the rising tide, Midway Beach (Snowy Plover possible), and depending on time Westport, Johns River, and Brady Loop. Bring food and beverage for the day. Dress for

changeable coastal weather (layers and raingear). Boots and scope recommended. Back by about 7:00pm. Meet before 7:00AM at south end of 272nd Street P&R (exit 147 from I-5). Carpool cost: \$65 shared equally by riders. Call Kathy Andrich 206-390-3159 or email [chukarbird@yahoo.com](mailto:chukarbird@yahoo.com) to register.

**Sept 27 (Sat) 9:00 am — O. O. Denny Park**

Explore one of Lake Washington most wild sites. We will see shorebirds on the lake and explore the upper reaches of the park for other species. We will meet at the main parking lot. No reservations required. Directions to O.O. Denny Park 12400 Holmes Point Dr NE, Kirkland, WA. Follow Interstate 405 north to the Northeast 116th Street exit (just north of Kirkland) and take a left at the stop light. Follow 116th Street about two miles to the main intersection of Juanita, where it becomes Juanita Drive. From the intersection, go two miles and take a left on Holmes Point Drive. O.O. Denny is about two miles later; the main parking area is on the left and the trail begins directly across the road. Karl Atwood is trip leader.

**Oct 3 (Fri) – 8:00 to noon — Marymoor Park**

See Sept 5 entry.

**October 4 (Sat) 7:30 am— Camano Island/Stanwood**

Prepare for a full day of birding and explore Camano Island's shoreline, salt-water marshes, grasslands, and forest habitats for seabirds, raptors, and songbirds. Areas may include Livingston Bay, English Boom, Utsalady, and Iverson Spit, a 100-acre preserve. The Stanwood Sewage Treatment Ponds offer a variety of waterfowl and the occasional avian surprise. Bring a lunch and meet before 7:30 am at south end of Kingsgate Park & Ride. **Passenger cost/person \$14.00**. Return early evening. **Mike West and Joyce Meyer, 425-868-7986**

## A Summer Trip to Reecer Canyon

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, eight members of Eastside Audubon, under the leadership of Sunny Walter, took a wildflower and butterfly field trip to Reecer Canyon, north of Ellensburg. Our first stop was at a natural "mud puddle" where we were excited to see many butterflies enjoying the moisture, but we had a hard time getting them to stay still long enough to photograph. As we climbed higher, we had better luck photographing the many varieties of really exciting wild

flowers on both sides of the winding road up to Lion Rock where we had our picnic. The breeze was very welcome. We saw the smoke from the wild fires burning on the slopes of Mt. Adams, but it was not enough to distract us from exclaiming over our exciting finds, including bitterroot, aquilegia formosa, gilia agregata, sulphur buckwheat and many others. We were thrilled with the variety and quantity of butterflies and flowers on this great trip. — Jean Wallace



Wildflower and Butterfly Trip to Reecer Canyon