

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 4th Ave. S. (corner of 4th Ave. S. and State). Take I-405 exit 18 (NE 85th, Kirkland). Drive west on Central Way to 3rd St. (stoplight). Turn left (south) on 3rd St. and follow it as it bears left and changes name to State St. Turn left on 4th Ave S.

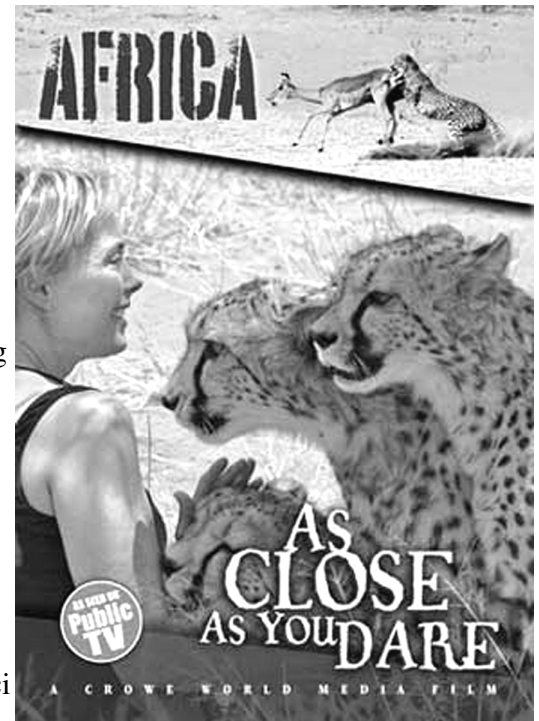
TAKE THE BUS! Routes 540, 230 and 255 serve State Street in Kirkland.

As Close As You Dare – Africa Thursday, October 23 at 7:00 pm (after the social hour) Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (EAS Headquarters)

Immerse yourself in the danger, beauty and humor of being in wild and remote Africa. Becci Crowe - artist, documentary filmmaker and world traveler - engages and entertains as she takes you on an extraordinary journey into the African bush. Specializing in wildlife and tribal portrait art, Becci's desire to study her subjects in their natural world has led to many exciting moments and the creation of a documentary now broadcasting on PBS stations nationwide. Join Becci as she takes you on a remarkable African bus adventure through her video, photos, stories, and art!

A strong advocate for educational programs that explore and strive to preserve wildlife and world cultures, Becci dedicates time to present programs on her travel, art, and wildlife experiences in Alaska, Antarctica, The Amazon, Argentina, Costa Rica, China, Tanzania, Botswana, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Her artwork hangs in private and corporate collections and has been exhibited at juried shows nationwide. Wanting to live and work as close to nature as possible, Becci's home studio in Washington State has been designated by the National Wildlife Federation as a Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

Please join us **Thursday, October 23** for Becci's stimulating talk and video chronicling her extraordinary return to



the African bush. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by her presentation.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who is interested in seeing wildlife and tribal art or African bush adventures.

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

The Strength of Community

By Christy Anderson, EAS President



Banding together for a common cause is a principle long championed by Audubon. A September event illustrated for me the truth and power of this notion. On Swift Night Out in Monroe, people came together to view the Vaux's Swifts making their nightly entrance into the chimney at Frank

Wagner Elementary School.

Swifts evolved to roost in huge hollow snags. They crowd together inside at night to preserve bodily warmth, clinging to the sides. As those snags have disappeared, they have adapted, utilizing old chimneys as substitutes. Now, the chimneys are disappearing as old buildings come down and new heating systems eliminate the need for them.

Three local Audubon chapters, Pilchuck, Seattle and Eastside collaborated to organize a showcase for the swifts. It all began last year when members of the three chapters attended field trips to see the swifts and heard that the school district was considering taking the chimney down because of concerns for the students' safety, especially during an earthquake. The old chimney presented a potential hazard. Representatives of the chapters met with district officials and began discussions of what could be done. They found common ground in wishing to save the chimney and use the seasonal presence of the birds as a teaching opportunity for the children and the community.

The project mushroomed from there as the parties worked together to gather data, research other chimney saving projects and look for funds. They knew that if the community was made aware of the special story of the swifts, they would want to save their home. So the idea of a public gathering was born. Eventually, the Audubon chapters, the district and several community groups and businesses worked together to put on Swift Night Out.

Over 800 people turned out, spreading blankets and chairs on the lawn at the school, adults and kids eating picnic suppers, visiting the booths, and listening to Larry Schwitters' entertaining talk. Nearly 12,000 swifts entered the chimney to the oohs and aahs and applause of the crowd.

Work continues on the project with docents and counters present every night the swifts remain. The community connections formed are also strengthening in finding a cost-effective solution for both birds and kids. Money needs to be raised and questions answered.

The swifts come together as a matter of survival. And so do people, for the survival of the swifts, and for ourselves. Connection with nature in its many forms is necessary for us and working together to maintain that connection also maintains our community. Audubon is that connection.

Here's a link showing swifts entering and leaving the chimney. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOFo_RiG2k0
See photos on page 5.

Eastside Audubon Society
(425) 576-8805 — www.eastsideaudubon.org

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

Executive Officers

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Treasurer	Ellen Homan	(425) 836-5838 gammy@isomedia.com
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Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

<u>At large board member</u>	Helen LaBouy	(425) 868-9706 helenlabouy@mac.com
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<u>At large board member</u>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 natureisoutside@gmail.com
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Field Trips	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351 fieldtrip@elwas.org
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Nature Walks	Christopher Chapman	(425) 941-3501 cjchapman19@comcast.net
Special Events	Open	
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<u>Financial Development</u>	Open	
Birdathon	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
Gift Wrap	Open	
Merchandising	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@comcast.net
<u>Membership</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
Hospitality	Claudia Welch	(425) 827-2548
Volunteer Coordinator	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 natureisoutside@gmail.com

October Meetings

Oct 9 (Thurs) 7:00 pm

Photo Group

Meets in large room upstairs from EAS Office. Questions? Email Tim Boyer at tboyer@seanet.com

Oct 14 (Tues) 7:00 pm

Youth Education Committee

Meets in the EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email education@elwas.org

Oct 23 (Thurs) 7:00 pm

Monthly Membership Meeting

See page 1.

Eastside Audubon 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

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
Subject: EAS Newsletter

or by mail to:

Eastside Audubon Society
Attn: Tom Grismer
P. O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

Our Volunteers Have Sure Been Busy!

Summer is a busy time for the Chapter. Things were hopping at the office, and the local fairs and festivals give us lots of opportunities to reach out to our Eastside communities and let them know about all the activities we have to offer.

On August 21 we had an EcoCommuniting and Sustainability Fair at Redmond Towne Center. Thanks to **Christy Anderson, Margie Huff and Gillian Brightwater** and **Jim and Nancy Roberts** for staffing our booth. On September 6 we had a booth at the Monroe Swift Day event (we counted approximately 18,000 swifts flying into the chimney that night), and thanks to **Mary Holt, Gregg Wilson and Mary Britton-Simmons** for making the buttons, and **Mary and Peter Holt, Jill Keeney and Tora Roksvog** for holding down the fort.

We also had a lot of help in the office this summer, with various mailings and thanks goes out to **Judy Hystad, Lea Knapp, and Linda Pearson** - and **Bryn Lieberman, Marlene Meyer, Jim and Nancy Roberts** came in for two mailings! Newsletter labelers, hosted by **Lea Knapp**, included **Peggy Jorgensen, Patty Olejko, Caren Park, Jim and Nancy Roberts**.

Some members of the Education Committee (**Mary Britton-Simmons, Jeani Goodrich, Jim and Shirlee Hall, Jill Keeney and Gregg Wilson**) also met during the summer and is busy planning for the new school year.

The work parties at the Audubon Bird-

Thank you Nancy!

Nancy Nicklas, our Webmaster, is moving on – though we hope she won't be going far. Since January, 2003, Nancy has managed our website, trained many volunteers in web editing, and generally kept us looking good.

Nancy has managed all aspects of the website - including keeping it up to date, training volunteers to edit the content, and fixing all the mistakes we novices made - with great aplomb and patience.

We now have a new, updated website and are in need of a new Webmaster. We're using Plone (plone.org) – an open

Loop have also been going full steam ahead, and we can thank the progress on **Patrick Allain, Carmen Almodovar, Ivan and Cindy Balbuena, Jane Boies, Shawn Bongard, Michael and Patricia Clarke, Glenn Eades, Therese Eby, Ella Elman, Marlee Elston, Kim Galimannis, Bob Gershmel, Karen Greytak, Peter and Mary Holt, Ellen Homan, Hugh and Bev Jennings, Andy McCormick, Tim McGruder, Glenis Nielsen, Caren Park, Jerry Rettig, Jim Rettig, Stephen and Karen Ridlon, Phil Sandifer, Marina Silverstone, Sunny Walter, Claudia Welch and Gregg Wilson.**

And finally, thank you to **Lea Knapp** for all the hours she puts in on beach clean up at Kirkland's Marina Park.

If we've missed anyone – Thank You! You know who you are and by your own generous commitment, you set a wonderful example and demonstrate the power of individuals to effect significant change. We greatly appreciate your generosity and your leadership and we know that you are our most passionate promoters.

We cannot thank you enough for your invaluable contributions as a volunteer. Our goals require sincere and committed volunteers and we are grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication you bring to your role as an integral member of Eastside Audubon.

source, content management program. The new site is much easier for volunteers to add and edit content, leaving the Webmaster to handle the more technical issues.

Patrick Kelley, our Communications Chair is available to train you, and answer any questions you may have. You may contact him at pk@pkwrite.com. Nancy – thank you. We can't express enough how much we appreciate all you've done for Eastside Audubon!

Win a T-Shirt or Hat with our New EAS Logo! Program Night Membership Campaign

Eastside Audubon Society (EAS) volunteers perform exceptional and beneficial volunteer work on the Eastside (see below). This is great news, but as with all good things, we want to do more – and more good work means more funding and more people.

The EAS Board of Directors is launching a 6-month Membership Campaign to introduce ourselves and our organization to other Eastside people who are interested in getting outdoors to see birds and nature – people who perhaps want to do something about the environment or educating our kids about the environment.

Our goal is to increase our local chapter membership to 1200 this year.

*That's 35 new people each month – and we need **YOU** to help us grow!*

Our Program Night Campaign is the easiest and most effective place for you to help.

And even better - you can have fun and win prizes in the process!

Win yourself a special **Button!**

And then win yourself a new **T-shirt** or **Hat** with our new EAS logo!



Two ways to help us grow our membership:

- Bring a guest (or two or three) to Program Night - and you get your **Button!**
- Register today to help welcome people at Program Night. Contact Sunny Walter at 425-271-1346 or sunny@sunnywalter.com. Be at the church at 6:30 and when a guest arrives, the greeter will introduce you. Then you can make them feel welcome and special by helping them meet other people, showing them all our fun and rewarding EAS activities, and answering any questions they might have. Voila! Get your **Button!**

When two people you have invited or welcomed join EAS, you win a **T-shirt** or **Hat!**

It's just that easy – and fun!

We have invited Becci Crowe, Wildlife Artist, to be our speaker at the October Program Night. Go to her website at <http://www.becci.com/> to see her exciting story, and then invite someone who is interested in wildlife art or African bush adventures to join you on October 23. Patrick Kelley has our PR machine in high gear, so we expect lots of guests for Becci. Register with Sunny now to help welcome these guests.

Look what Eastside Audubon Society (EAS) volunteers are doing on the Eastside.

- Youth education volunteers give presentations and classes at schools, camps, science fairs and for youth groups. We also give [teacher grants](#), [scholarships for low-income middle-school students to attend environmental camps](#), and a [college scholarship to high school seniors](#).
- Adult education classes are starting up again.
- Conservation volunteers hold activist workshops on climate change and travel to Olympia for Lobby Day in support of Priorities for a Healthy Washington. We perform letter writing campaigns in support of local conservation issues such as the Juanita Beach Master Plan and national issues such as preventing drilling in the Arctic Refuge. We were awarded a \$100,000 grant from the county for building the Audubon BirdLoop Nature Trail at Marymoor and will be receiving more.
- We do bird monitoring projects and sponsor the Swift Night Out in Monroe.
- Our popular "Get Outside" activities include 35+ birding field trips each year, nature walks in local parks, native plant walks, bird photography trips, and Marymoor work parties.
- We hold monthly Program Nights and Conservation Movie Nights, as well as an annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Christmas Bird Count Chili Feed, and Marymoor Bird Festival.
- We staff booths at Eastside community events to advertise EAS and increase community interest in birding and conservation.
- We give money to other worthwhile environmental organizations and projects.

We need **YOU** to help us grow. Call a friend and bring them with you on Thursday, October 23.

“Swift Night Out” Draws Hundreds to Monroe School

(Photos by Jim Rettig — See article on Page 2)



Peter and Mary Holt share Swifts' story with visitors.



EAS members join 800 others in Monroe to watch Vaux's Swifts

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/ 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.

Oct 3 (Fri) – 9:00 to noon — Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1st Friday of each month at 9:00**. 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.

Oct 4 (Sat) 9:00 to noon

Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration

Join us in restoring native habitat at the Marymoor Park interpretive area on the 1st Saturday of every month. Dress for the weather and bring clippers, gloves, snacks and water. Meet at Meadow Kiosk in Parking Lot G. Free parking passes are provided. **Jim Rettig 425-402-1833**

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

Oct 18 (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 45th Street, north of the railroad tracks on 108th Avenue NE, east of 108th 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 108th, near 45th. Limited street parking. **Jan Johnson 425-814-5923**

Oct 19 (Sun) 8:30 am

Native Plant Walk: Asahel Curtis Trail

Join us for this leisurely 1¼-mile walk as we wander among some of the last remaining stands of old-growth forest in the Snoqualmie Valley. Douglas fir, western hemlock and western red cedar dominate the glade. Downed trees provide nurse logs that promote the growth of young trees and shrubs. In the depressions and drainages are skunk cabbage, devil's club, salmonberry and other species of the wetlands; in dryer areas Solomon's seal, twinflower, thimbleberry, etc. Mosses and ferns abound. For a native plant list, go to: http://www.wnps.org/plant_lists/counties/king/king_county.html.

We will follow the trail down to the banks of the South Fork Snoqualmie River and walk the loop trail past some fine examples of forested wetlands. After our walk, we will eat our sack lunches at the Asahel Curtis picnic area. Those who are interested can then drive up to Snoqualmie Pass before returning home to admire the red, yellow, and burnt orange colors provided by vine maple, huckleberry and other species growing on the mountain slopes.

Bring good walking shoes, native plant guides, lunch, snacks, beverages, and raingear. Meet before 8:30 am at the north end of Tibbetts P&R in Issaquah. Take I-90 exit 15, turn right and drive several blocks past the new Issaquah P&R structure, turn left at Newport Way and then right into Tibbetts P&R. Passenger cost \$8/person. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Johnson, 425-814-5923 or jjsprngtr@yahoo.com.

October 21 (Tues) 7 am — Whidbey Island

Whidbey Island is a great birding location any time of the year. We will take the ferry from Mukilteo and work the passage, and then look at forest, wetland, marsh, salt water, grasslands, and rocky edges. We'll be searching out loons, grebes, alcids, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, and passerines as we work our way the length of the island. If we have time we will stop at the Stanwood sewer ponds on the way home. Come prepared for any type of weather, bring lunch and fluids. Spotting scope helpful. **Passenger cost/per person \$17 plus share ferry cost**. Return early evening. **Brian H. Bell 425-485-8058**

Oct 21 (Tues) 9:00 to noon

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:00**. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

October 27 (Mon) 9:00 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. Cost/person \$2.00. **Stan Wood 425-392-4557**

Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Length	31 in
Wingspan	80 in
Weight	9.5 lb
AOU Band code	BAEA

One of eight species of sea eagles in the world from the genus *Haliaeetus* from the Greek *aliaetos*, the sea eagle. It is named for its white head; again from the Greek - *leukos*, of the color white, and *kephale*, head. Its common name refers to a Middle English interpretation of *balled* meaning shining or white (Holloway, 2003). The adult Bald Eagle is unmistakable with its large white head and tail contrasting with its dark brown, bulky body. The bill and eyes are yellow. It soars on wide flat wings and flies using slow, heavy and powerful wingbeats. Its call is surprisingly weak for such a large bird. Various authors describe it as thin and hollow (Alderfer), flat (Sibley) and a mixture of squawks and shrieks (Bell & Kennedy). Immature birds lack the white head and tail and develop through four stages reaching full maturity in their fifth year. The juvenile through fourth-year birds have varying amounts of white in the belly and underwing coverts and axillaries.

Coastal Bald Eagle migration will follow the salmon runs. Some Pacific Northwest birds will fly north in late summer to catch early salmon migrations and then joined by Alaska birds will follow the salmon south and winter in the Pacific Northwest beginning in November. Fish are their preferred food especially while nesting, but they are opportunistic hunters and will snag an array of fish, waterfowl, and mammals with their talons while in flight. They are quite adept at kleptoparasitism and will steal kills from other raptors particularly osprey. Carrion also makes up a portion of their diet.

Bald Eagles nest in an aerie, a large nest near the crown of very large trees or on rocky pinnacles. Built with sticks the nest will be reused for several years growing larger each year. An old eagle nest can be huge; weigh hundreds of pounds and measure 8-10 feet in diameter. They are sometimes used by Great Horned Owls. The nest of sticks is lined



with grasses, moss and sod. The clutch is usually two dull white eggs, which are incubated by both adults for about 35 days. Juvenile birds make their first flight in 10-12 weeks.

Human beings have been the greatest source of mortality for Bald Eagles. They have been killed as perceived threats to livestock and for their feathers for ceremonial purposes. Pesticides caused egg shell thinning and eagle populations plummeted from the 1960s to 1980s. Diligent conservation efforts have been very successful and Bald Eagles are now nesting in every state and the bird has been removed from the Endangered Species list. The species has developed more tolerance to human ac-

tivity and birds are now seen in inland waterways near cities.

A variety of audio and video recordings of Bald Eagles can be found at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Web site at the following address. Cat# 4334 has a good variety of calls.

<http://animalbehaviorarchive.org/assetSearchInterim.do>

(Photo credit: Marc Hoffman . References are available upon request.)

Fabulous Maple Valley Equestrian Farm

\$600,000

MLS # 28116148

This farm is the home of Alayne and Matt, who have developed it as a premier demonstration farm, applying conservation techniques. Alayne founded & teaches through "Horses for Clean Water". They use the following "Best Management Practices" in operating their farm in an environmentally sensitive manner:

- Mud management
- Rotational grazing
- Manure management
- Natural insect control
- Manure composting
- Wildlife habitat enhancement including boxes for violet green swallows
- Natural landscaping, hedgerows, fruit trees, and many native plants
- 9.87 acres, approx 1/2 in equestrian, 1/2 in forest visited by a local elk herd



See tour at www.eSiteTours.com/28116148

The whole property has been put in the Public Benefit Rating System substantially lowering the taxes. There is an existing Farm Plan with the King Conservation District and a Forest Stewardship Plan with the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate Services, Inc.



17717 252nd Ave SE
Maple Valley



Marilyn Knutson

206-579-5476

425-820-5151

mknutson@windermere.com

A Tribute To Parky Forrester

Ruby Partington "Parky" Forrester was born in 1905 in a small town in southern Saskatchewan. When she began school, a first grader, she told of how the teacher introduced the class to an awareness of birds: each Friday afternoon before the final bell, the teacher handed each child a paper with the outline drawing of a bird. The teacher would talk with them about the color, the song, the name of the bird. They would color it, take it home, and all week search for that bird in the wild, listening for its song. As she was growing up, this little girl became an acute observer of birds.

This person lived for nearly 103 years! Parky died in late June, two weeks before her birthday. Her husband, Jim, had died several years ago. Jim had been the "greeter" at our monthly meetings for a long time, making sure everyone had a

raffle ticket for the end-of-the-meeting drawing. Parky graduated from high school at 16, and began teaching all grade levels in a one room schoolhouse. Some of the students were bigger than she was. She eventually earned a college degree in Manitoba, and continued to teach. In WW II, she enlisted in the army – trained as a radar specialist, and served Canada at a base on Vancouver Island. After the war she met Jim in Vancouver, B.C. – they married and several years later Jim began working for Boeing. They moved to Bellevue, and Parky continued to teach. Very soon they were involved with the Sister Cities program, and with our Audubon chapter, and also enjoyed many activities with the rockhound club. After retirement she tutored endlessly, working 1:1 with any child – many of them ESL students - needing help with studies.

Their work with Bellevue's Sister Cities program brought them many life-long friends. In the park area just north of Bellevue's City Hall are two large statues given by a city in Taiwan to Bellevue. The Forresters played a prominent role in Sister City work done in Taiwan, and Parky taught English in a high school there for a year. They also worked in Japan, and in eastern Europe.

In her early eighties, Parky and Jim took part in a rafting trip in the Queen Charlotte Islands; another trip they wildly enjoyed was an "ice-camping" trip by dog sled on Baffin Island! Parky's love of children and spirit for adventure resulted in a very full life for this remarkable woman.

— Bev Jennings



Audubon BirdLoop Work Continues

Earlier this summer chapter volunteers installed the cabinets to the Meadow Kiosk, weeded planted areas, and watered plants. Sunny Walter added all the information and photos to the Kiosk, then in early August we celebrated the official Grand Opening of the BirdLoop. Also in August, a hard working team transported boardwalk extension material across the Sammamish River to the construction site. In early September skillful teams

installed concrete footings for the installation of the interpretive signs and the cabinets to the River Kiosk. In mid-September, 45 employees of the Microsoft Company gathered at the BirdLoop for a Day of Caring and mulched all the plants along the fence and removed much of the the blackberry/Scot's Broom infestation behind the River Kiosk.

The next work party is set for October 4, 9 to noon. Meet at the Meadow

Kiosk, parking Lot G. Greet old friends. Meet new friends. Work hard and do your part to help us restore this terrific habitat. Help us keep the birds singing!



EagleEye
VISION CARE, P.S.

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

See the birds better!

Holiday Cards and 2009 Calendars

Buy your holiday cards and 2009 calendars through Eastside Audubon.

Once again we'll be taking pre-orders for holiday cards and 2009. Get ready for the holidays and new year, and support the Chapter too!

Watch the website and newsletter for further information.

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

Green Kirkland Event

We'll be helping to restore the forest by planting native plants.

Where: Kiwanis Park, 1405 10th St W, Kirkland.

When: 9 am to noon.

What to bring: work clothes, gloves, sturdy shoes/boots, rain gear (if necessary), water bottle. Also useful: pruning shears or clippers, shovel. Refreshments provided

For more information, contact: Sharon Rodman at 425-587-3305, srodman@ci.kirkland.wa.us, or visit www.greenkirkland.org.

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 10th, 11th and 12th. 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>.

Next Great Backyard Bird Count: Feb. 13-16, 2009

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual four-day event sponsored by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

In 2008, the GBBC reached new

heights. For the fourth year in a row, participants sent record numbers of checklists. Bird watchers submitted 85,725 checklists with observations of 635 species, representing 9,805,216 individual bird sightings during the four-day count.

The GBBC provides an invaluable real-time snapshot of bird distribution across North America. Each year we see changes in where the birds are located, based on factors that include climate change, weather patterns, food supplies, diseases, and breeding success. With all of the data online, any-

one with an interest in birds may explore what could be the first indicators of real trends and changes in bird numbers and distribution. In-depth studies are necessary to confirm the GBBC trends and to further test the reasons for the changes we see.

To register, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

My Experience at Wilderness Awareness School

Everyday I would get up and go outside to take a breath of fresh air. Never once have I given a moment to be aware of the life outside our civilization. However, after spending nearly a week camping outdoors at Wilderness Awareness School I realized I could bond with the Earth. Moreover, each time I take a stroll outdoors I discover new life and notice things that otherwise would not have been perceptible by the eye.

One highlight I experienced at Wilderness Awareness was one of the many challenges the instructors surprised us with. In this particular activity, called drum stock, all the scouts are blindfolded and put in different places throughout the forest. When they hear the drum go off, everyone uses their senses and intuition to find their way to the drum.

Furthermore, I was overwhelmed with fear, because I have never

done this before and I was reluctant at the thought of getting lost in an unfamiliar place. Nevertheless, as I tried my best to use my insights, I kept bumping into trees, bushes, and branches and tripping over roots. Sooner or later I had the sensation to stop and take a breath. Gradually, I slowed my pace and used the “fox walk” method to avoid stumbling. Aside from using my feet to feel my way, I also used “deer ears” to help my increase my ability to perceive the drum. No sooner did I realize the “boom” of the drum was becoming strongly audible when I knew I was making progress. Above all, after I successfully completed the task, I felt like I could do this exercise once more and this time, really expose my awareness to my surroundings.

All in all, I learned many techniques at camp to help me communicate with nature. Not only that, but I am more cautious of my ac-

tions. Therefore, I would sincerely like to thank the Scout Awareness Overnight- Wilderness Awareness School, due to the fact that it had taught me to open my senses and pay attention to the environment that was once invisible to me. More importantly, the time and contribution from Eastside Audubon members made this experience unforgettable. Thank you for your generosity.

-- Bindu Anam