



The Corvid Crier

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.

Swans of Winter

**Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. (after the social hour)
Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (EAS Headquarters)
****One Week Early******

Come experience the majestic beauty of the largest waterfowl in the world. Visit the Skagit Valley where the largest concentration of Trumpeter Swans in the United States gather each winter; observe swans, thousands of snow geese, eagles and many other birds.

Martha Jordan, well-known swan biologist, will present a program on Washington's native Trumpeter and Tundra swans. You will learn about their life history, biology, and some swan identification tips. She will shed some light on the problems and controversies these birds face on their wintering grounds and what is needed to insure their future. Get updated on the recent swan lead poisoning die-off, habitat issues and more. Martha will share some excellent images that help clarify the difficult identification of these swans.

Martha Jordan has a degree in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University. She is self employed, working as a human and animal massage therapist, dog trainer and professional wildlife biologist. Martha began to look at swans in the late 1970s as an independent citizen and by 1984 had contributed much information to state and federal agencies on the status of trumpeter swans in Washington, including the first swan management plan. She has been a Board member of The Trumpeter Swan Society since 1985 and chairs the Washington Swan Working Group.

Martha is impassioned about the role of swans. She believes their beauty and grace

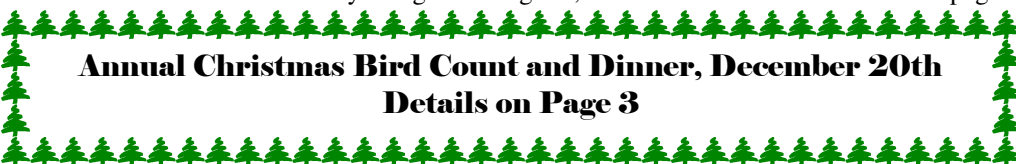


instill in people a sense of awe that makes us want to save them and their habitats. "Swans are ambassadors, bringing people together when other aspects of a project would divide them." You can pick up a free Swan Identification Pamphlet at the meeting.

Please join us **Thursday, November 20** for Martha Jordan's stimulating and informative presentation. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by the presentation.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who wants to learn about the facts, myths and legends of the swans of Washington's winter. **Special Membership Campaign. Get a BUTTON for bringing a guest. Win an EAS T-shirt or Hat for sponsoring 2 people who join EAS.**

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



**Annual Christmas Bird Count and Dinner, December 20th
Details on Page 3**

Changes Afoot

By Christy Anderson, EAS President



Lately, I have been doing a lot of reminiscing. I think it's inevitable as we get older to think back on our lives and try to find some meaning in what's happened. Or at least some funny stories! And I've been doing that with Audubon, as well.

This is the last column I will be writing as your chapter president. A changing of the guard is taking place January 1st. I am excited about it for many reasons. The first is that I am very happy about your incoming president, Cindy Balbuena. She is a dynamic, dedicated individual who brings fresh ideas and perspectives, as well as a professional background in organizational development. Cindy is knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and loves birds and birding!

I am also looking forward to serving in a new way. I look forward to taking the time to delve into issues and projects a little more deeply. And I want to go birding more!

I have to admit, I am very proud of this chapter and how it has grown. Not because it was my doing, far from it, but because this chapter has evolved over the years into a team that is very effective at its chosen mission.

Some things I consider true highlights:

- Our Kid's Camp Scholarships enabling Eastside students, who otherwise would not be able to afford camp, a chance to have this truly quintessential growing-up experience and learn about nature in new ways.
- Tackling development issues in our communities resulting in an environmental voice being present at the table when decisions are made concerning the preservation and restoration of habitat.
- The BirdLoop Trail in Marymoor Park has been a truly astounding project. Our little chapter has been responsible for the management of more than \$100,000 in grants to restore and expand this meadow and trail to the benefit of birders and birds, as well as children and other members of our communities.
- Becoming a more professional organization with an office and an executive director. Jan McGruder is truly the heart of this chapter, and we are so lucky to have her!

This chapter has also been the source and gathering place for some of my dearest friends, and some of the most fun experiences I have ever had. It's also an outlet for that desire most of us have to make a difference. Being part of Audubon has allowed me to make a meaningful difference in my community. And I've been able to help others do the same.

I want to thank all of you for being so supportive as I have bumbled my way through these past seven years. What a great group you are! I am honored to have been a part of it all. You have helped me grow into a better person. I hope you have benefited as well.

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

President	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196 president@elwas.org
Vice President	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@comcast.net
Secretary	Carmen Almodovar	(425) 643-5922 Carmena2001@earthlink.net
Treasurer	Ellen Homan	(425) 836-5838 gammy@isomedia.com
Executive Director	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
<u>Adult Education Bird Photography</u>	Open Tim Boyer	(425) 277-9326 tboyer@seanet.com
<u>Field Trips</u>	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351 fieldtrip@elwas.org
<u>Native Plant Walks</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Nature Walks</u>	Christopher Chapman	(425) 941-3501 cjchapman19@comcast.net
<u>Special Events Bird Questions?</u>	Open MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026
<u>Conservation</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580 tim@elwas.org
<u>Advocacy Citizen Science Conservation</u>	Open Tim McGruder Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580 (425) 822-8580 tim@elwas.org
<u>Marymoor Park</u>	Jim Rettig	(425) 402-1833 jrettigtanager@verizon.net
<u>Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 education@elwas.org
<u>Programs</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Youth Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 education@elwas.org
<u>Library</u>	Carolyn Kishel	(425) 746-1817
<u>Communication</u>	Patrick Kelley	(206) 618-9674 birder@pkwrite.com
<u>Historian</u>	Bob Gershmel	(425) 823-8840 rwgusnret1986@yahoo.com
<u>Newsletter</u>	Tom Grismer	(206) 720-9892 newsletter@elwas.org
<u>Publicity</u>	Tracey Cummings	(425) 788-4663 publicity@ewas.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Open	
<u>Financial Development</u>	Open	
<u>Birdathon</u>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
<u>Gift Wrap</u>	Open	
<u>Merchandising</u>	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@comcast.net
<u>Membership</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Hospitality</u>	Claudia Welch	(425) 827/2548
<u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 natureisoutside@gmail.com

November Meetings

Nov 11 (Tues) 7:00 pm

Youth Education Committee

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

Nov 13 (Thurs) 7:00 pm

Photo Group

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

Nov 20 (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

Annual Christmas Bird Count and Dinner Saturday, December 20th

Come and join one of the 8 teams of bird counters in the Eastside Audubon annual CBC. We welcome anyone who wants to help - from beginner to expert. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes/boots, warm clothes and bring lunch. The eight count areas and leaders are:

Fall City – Preston Area -- (Kathy Andrich, 206-390-3159 or chukarbird@yahoo.com)

L. Samm. SP-Cougar Mt.-Issaquah – (Martyn Stewart, 425-836-3849 or mstew@naturesound.org)

Marymoor – Ames L. – (Brian Bell, 425-485-8058 or bellasoc@isomedia.com)

Pine Lake Plateau – (Jim Rettig, 425-402-1833 or jrettigtanager@verizon.net)

W. Lake Sammamish Parks – (MaryFrances Mathis, 425-803-3026 or mfmathis@verizon.net)

East Snoqualmie Valley – (Joyce Meyer, 425-868-7986 or meyer2j@aol.com)

West Snoqualmie Valley – (Hugh Jennings, 425-746-6351 or hughbirder@earthlink.net)

E. Lake Sammamish Trail – (Tim McGruder, 425-822-8580 or tmcgruder@gmail.com) (involves a 4.5 mile walk)

All those interested in going on one of the counts should call or email the leader for more info and/or to sign up for that count. Everyone is encouraged to support the CBC by donating

the \$5.00 fee. The count fees collected during each CBC help cover the cost of generating materials for compilers, producing the annual CBC summary issue, and maintaining the CBC Web site and database. Only those paying the \$5.00 are reported as participants in the National Audubon CBC. The count leaders are responsible for collecting this money.

Tallies from our annual CBC will be combined with counts taken throughout the nation to help determine bird distribution and population trends. Birds will also be counted in Central America to keep track of migrants. You can also stay at home and count birds in your backyard, be sure to count for at least two hours. – then email Hugh Jennings at hughbirder@earthlink.net or phone 425-746-6351 and leave a message with your results before 5 p.m. on December 20. All results will be tallied at the dinner following the count.

After the bird count, counters are invited to join the Eastside Audubon for a warm, wholesome meal. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 Fourth Avenue S., Kirkland. Cost is \$6.00, which includes dinner (vegetarian and meat), dessert and drinks. All are welcome – whether you're a counter or not.

Please **call the office (425-576-8805) for dinner reservations.**



Thank You to Our Volunteers

Program Night is a great opportunity for volunteers to help out – we always need plenty of people to make sure the evening go smoothly. Thank you to **Carmen Almodovar, Brian Bell, Helen LaBouy, Bev Jennings, Jim and Nancy Roberts, Sunny Walter, Claudia Welch** and **Jim Wheeler**.

On September 12 we hosted our third annual Day of Caring at the Audubon BirdLoop. Thanks to **Carmen Almodovar, Christy Anderson** and **Sunny Walter** for organizing and leading the 40+ people worked at Marymoor Park. And thanks to the volunteers from Microsoft for all their hard work!

We also had a booth at Sustainable September in Kirkland. We appreciate **Christy Anderson, Tricia Kishel** and **Nancy and Jim Roberts** sharing information about the Chapter. We gained 3 more members at that event.

We've had a lot of help with mailings and projects in the office, thanks goes out to **Lea Knapp, Barbara Dietrich, Marge Dolecal, Peggy Jorgensen, Caren Park,** and **Nancy and Jim Roberts** for newsletter labeling. Special thanks to **Lea Knapp** for cutting and stuffing all the new membership nametags.

The Education Committee is busy planning for the school year. Thanks to **Mary Britton-Simmons, Jeani Goodrich, Jim and Shirlee Hall, Mary Holt, Jill Keeney Margaret Lie, Tora Roksvog,** and **Diane Whitman**.

The work parties at the Audubon BirdLoop are making great progress. Both kiosks are nearly done, and the interpretive signs will be fully installed soon. We can thank the progress on **Carmen Almodovar, Cathryn Blake, Graeme Blake, Jonathan Blake, Maki Dalzel, Tony Dalzel,**

Ella Elman, Marlee Elston, Bob Gershmel, Mary Holt, Hugh & Bev Jennings, Bruce Lieberman, Megan Lyden, Andy McCormick, Tim McGruder, Glenis Nielsen, Jonathan Pennington, Steve Pope, Jim and Jan Rettig, Jim and Nancy Roberts, and **Sunny Walter**.

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

Who's That Birder?

A recent note to Tweeters got me thinking... I know a lot of folks out there have personalized plates connected to their passion of birding. It would be fun if we knew who the folks were who drove those birder cars we see on the roads. *So, let's find out!*

Do you have a "Birder" plate? Send a photo of it to christyrae@hotmail.com, with your name, and we'll print one in the newsletter every month. Try to send as good quality photo as you can, and keep the image file small (less than 500K, .jpg's preferred).

Let's see how many we can get! Here's one to start you off.



If you want to see a national gallery of license plate photos, go to <http://www.richditch.com/page88/page88.html>. You can send your plate to this website, too!

Look for the answer on whose plate this is elsewhere in this issue.

— Christy Anderson

Board Notes for August and September

The EAS board met to review the goals that we had set for the chapter at the beginning of the year.

Our first goal is to be a credible and influential voice for the environment.

Among the objectives that we have completed or will soon complete are to:

- Work on the name change for Juanita Bay Park.
- Work on the Cool Cities and Evergreen Cities campaigns for Kirkland, Redmond, Bellevue, and Issaquah.
- Provide environmental advocate training.
- Give presentations on global warming.
- Work on the barn swallow project at

Phantom Lake.

Our second goal is to create and nurture awareness and stewardship of the natural world through education.

The Education Committee has met this goal through its youth summer camp scholarship program, membership program nights specifically for youth, and new content for classroom presentations. Our adult education has expanded through native plant walks and classes on birds of the Puget Sound. This spring EAS board members attended the Audubon Chapters of Washington meeting to learn more about environmental issues affecting our state.

Our third goal is to grow the chapter and expand our presence and visibility in our communities.

The addition of Patrick Kelley as our communications chair

has given EAS tremendous visibility in our local media. We rolled out our new name and logo, updated and improved our website, and celebrated the opening of the Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park. Sunny Walter, our membership chair, is working on a plan to increase membership through current members and through partnerships with local companies and other green organizations.

Our fourth goal is to have a stable financial plan and develop a budget.

The good news is that EAS income, for the most part, meets our expenses. The board wants to improve on this, so we're considering whether to add a development chair. We're also looking at ways to improve membership renewal and growth, fundraising, and partnerships.

Family Birding Adventure

Join the Education Committee at Juanita Bay Park at 1:00 pm on Sunday, November 9. Bring the children, grandchildren and neighbor kids to find and learn about the birds in the park and on the water. November is a great time to enjoy our winter bird friends. Along the way we may even encounter frogs, muskrats and

turtles.

Bring binoculars if you have them. Dress for the weather. Ducks don't mind the rain and neither do we!

Mark your calendar:

Date: November 9, Sunday

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Meet at the southern end of the bridge at Juanita Bay Park (across from the fire station)

Sponsored by the Eastside Audubon Education Committee

— Mary Britton-Simmons

Green Kirkland Arbor Day Event

On Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 am until noon, the Green Kirkland Partnership invites you to join in helping restore the forest at Carillon Woods Park by planting with native plants.

Carillon Woods Park is located at 5429

106th Ave. NE, Kirkland, WA.

Please bring work clothes, gloves, sturdy shoes/boots, rain gear (if necessary), water bottle. Also useful: pruning shears or clippers, shovels.

Contact: Sharon Rodman at 425-587-3305, srodman@ci.kirkland.wa.us



EagleEye
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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.

“Who’s That Birder” Answer (article on page 4): *Christy Anderson*

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.

Nov 1 (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**

Nov 7 (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.

Nov 8 (Sat) 9:00 am

Native Plant Walk: Mercer Slough Nature Trail

A leisurely 2 to 2.6-mile level wetland walk with many habitats: disturbed wetlands, farmed wetlands (blueberries), natural wetlands, open water habitats and upland forests. We cross the bridge over Mercer Slough and look for late blooming water forget-me-not or possibly a few remaining blossoms of impatiens on the slough margins and pondweeds in the open water. We continue along the Bellefields Loop to see black cottonwood, cascara and Oregon ash; red alder and a wide variety of shrubs and herbs. Species that bloom into late fall include foamflower, American speedwell, nodding beggar's tick and big-leaved avens. We'll also look for some of the 100 species of birds and mammals that inhabit this park. Native plant list available at: http://www.wnps.org/plant_lists/counties/king/king_county.html. Meet at 9:00 at the South Bellevue P&R (about a mile north of I-90 on Bellevue Way) in the SE corner of the lot. Bring water, raingear, and walking shoes. For more info contact Sunny Walter, 425-271-1346 or sunny@sunnywalter.com. No registration necessary.

Nov 15 (Sat) 7:00 am to 6:00 pm

EAS Photo Trip: Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary

Photograph snow geese as they migrate south from the Arctic to this Westham Island bird sanctuary near Lander, B.C. Get

close to pintails, wigeons, wood ducks, buffleheads, mallards, and the sandhill crane family. Owls, raptors, herons, shorebirds, and songbirds also possible. See http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/travel/vacation/ready_set_go/land_travel/docs/whiti_notification_tearsheet.ctt/whiti_notification_tearsheet.pdf for required border documents. A joint trip with the Mountaineers Photo Group. Meet at 7:00 at McCollum P&R (I-5 exit 186 in south Everett). Email Ginger Holser at gholser@yahoo.com to sign up. (Limit 10). Leader will email detailed info to those who sign up. \$4 entrance fee.

Nov 15 (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**

Nov. 16 (Sun) - 7:30 am

Skagit/Samish Flats - Registration Required

Fall birding offers many opportunities for raptors, including Gyrfalcon and Rough-legged Hawk. Swans and Snow Geese are found in the fields along with shorebirds and possibly Short-eared Owls. A WDFW car decal is required at some of the birding stops. Bring a lunch. Trip is limited to 3 cars and 10 people. Return in the early evening. Meet before 7:30 am at Kingsgate Park and Ride. Passenger cost/person \$20. **Call to register. Joyce Meyer 425-868-7986 and Mike West.**

Nov 18 (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**

Nov 22 (Sat) 8:00 am — Purdy & Key Peninsula

Expect lots of saltwater waterfowl, cormorants and Great Blue Herons in the South Sound bays. We visit three state parks during the day. We will include Snake Lake in Tacoma if time permits. Meet before 8:00 am at north end of Newport Hills P&R (I-405, exit 9) and bring a lunch. Passenger cost/person \$14.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Nov 24 (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 and plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person \$2.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

(Continued on page 7)

Canvasback *Aythya valisineria*

Length	21 in
Wingspan	29 in
Weight	2.7 lb
AOU Band code	CANV

The Canvasback stands out from the crowd. Its stately presence separates it from other ducks. It has been called “the aristocrat of ducks” (Mobray), and “elegant” (Alderfer). Its large size, sloping forehead and characteristic “dark at both ends and white in the middle” appearance (Bell and Kennedy) make it easy to pick out of a group of other ducks. The male has a chestnut head and dark chest and tail. The head of the female is light brown. The flanks, back and inner wings are whiter in the male and grayer in the female. This feature gives the back the off-white color of undyed canvas which is the origin of its common name. Canvasbacks are generally silent.

It is the largest duck in its genus *aythya* (a diving bird) which it shares in North America with Redhead, Common Pochard, Lesser and Greater Scaup, and Tufted Duck. Alexander Wilson through a misspelling, gave it the species name *valisineria*, because wild celery, *Vallisneria americana*, also called eel grass, is its favorite food (Holloway). It dives deeply to root out and eat the tubers of these and other aquatic plants. It is an omnivorous eater and will add snails, small clams and insect larvae to its diet especially during breeding season.

Canvasbacks breed in deep lowland ponds throughout northern North America including some in Eastern Washington such as the Pot Holes. The ducks form pairs during the spring migration and remain monogamous. The nest is constructed from the dead marsh vegeta-



tion in which it is sited, and a clutch of 7-12 eggs may be laid. The female incubates the eggs for 23-28 days and the young can fly after another 60 days.

There are many threats to Canvasback populations, and the yearly fluctuation in their number is quite noticeable when they winter along the Washington coast. Their nests are often raided by Redheads who move out Canvasback eggs and deposit their own. This invasion has a reducing effect on the number of eggs laid by the Canvasback and leads them to abandon their nests. Canvasbacks are also popular birds for duck hunters. Management in years with low population has included bag limits, closure of some hunting areas, and a limit on Canvasback hunting days. In a related problem, these ducks forage in the sediment in waterways and the ingestion of lead

shot is another concern for their health. In addition, wetland habitat degradation in wintering areas within the United States has been well documented for several decades. Despite these threats conservation and game management has had positive results and it is encouraging that Canvasback numbers have rebounded steadily since 1995 (Mobray).

These handsome ducks will begin arriving in Western Washington in mid-October and rafts of them can be seen on lakes, ponds and coastal estuaries throughout the winter. They are strong flyers and skilled divers giving them a special place in our ecology. Enjoy their visit to our coast.

(Photo credit: Hugh Jennings. References available on request at andy_mcc@hotmail.com)

Field Trips — continued from previous page

Dec 13 (Sat) 8:00 am to noon — Green Lake

Walk Green Lake with expert birder **Martin Muller** who has acquired intimate knowledge of this lake and the 150 bird species found there. **Meet by 7:25 am** at South Kirkland P&R near the bus stop to carpool, or meet at Green Lake. We'll park at the west end of Green Lake near the Bathhouse Theater and meet Martin on the lake side of the theatre, between the brick building and the water. No sign-up required. Max of 15 people. Passenger cost/person **\$2.00**. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Dec 20 (Sat) 8:00 am to 4 pm

Annual Christmas Bird Count and Dinner

Join one of the 8 teams of bird counters in the Eastside Audubon annual CBC. We welcome anyone who wants to help - from beginner to expert. Wear comfortable shoes/boots, warm clothes and bring lunch. The fee for participating in the CBC is \$5.00/person (backyard bird counters are not required to pay the fees). See page 3 for complete details.