

Eastside Audubon
your connection to nature

The Corvid Crier

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

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SEPTEMBER 2019

OUR MISSION

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.

OUR STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Just as biodiversity is essential to the health of any ecosystem, the Eastside Audubon Society recognizes that diversity of values, experiences, and perspectives are essential to the health of our organization and the community at large. We strive to grow and magnify the voices that people of diverse backgrounds have in the Eastside Audubon Society.

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CONTACT US

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eastsideaudubon.org

Program Night: Grizzly Bear Recovery in Washington State with Graham Taylor of the National Parks Conservation Association Thursday, September 26 - 7:00pm

Apex predators, such as grizzly bears, are critical to maintaining a healthy ecosystem. In Washington state this species is at a high risk of disappearing from the North Cascades, where only five grizzlies may remain. Restoring a viable grizzly population would contribute to the biodiversity in the ecosystem to the benefit of human beings and other species.

This September program night we're excited to explore the topic of grizzly recovery with Graham Taylor, Northwest Field Manager with the National Parks Conservation Association (NCPA), in Washington State and across the western US. Graham works with the Friends of the North Cascades Grizzly Coalition, a group dedicated to restoring grizzly bears to North Cascades National Park and the surrounding ecosystem. He will feature *Time for the Grizzly*, a popular short film by Chris Morgan that examines how grizzly bear recovery is proceeding in Montana. Graham will discuss the ongoing process here in Washington, and take questions about how we at Eastside Audubon can get involved.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service are currently taking public comment on their plan to bring bears to the North Cascades. Learn how you can support the effort!

Graham Taylor's Bio

Graham Taylor comes to NPCA from the Sierra Club, where he spent five years organizing for the Our Wild America Campaign, focusing on efforts to expand protections for the forests and rivers of the Olympic Peninsula and Washington's North Cascades. Graham has experience working with grassroots constituencies to generate demand for conservation across Washington and chairs the Wildlife Committee for Sierra Club's Washington State Chapter. He is passionate about protecting landscapes and endangered species, and has worked on campaigns to protect the threatened marbled murrelet, grizzly bear, wolf, northern spotted owl, and many other imperiled species. His past work with AmeriCorps at the Tahoma Audubon Society office helped train him to coordinate and work closely with volunteers. ■

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church. Use the downstairs entrance on State Street.

Diversity Committee

Sept 9, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Meets monthly to discuss initiatives and events that support an environment of diversity, inclusion and equity. Email Antonio Montañana at amontanana@east-sideaudubon.org for more info.

Youth Education Committee

Sept 3, 7:00 to 8:30pm

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

Conservation Committee

Sept 11, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Meets second Wednesday of the month, engaged in activism and hands-on conservation projects. For more info email Tim McGruder at tmcgruder@gmail.com.

Photo Group

Sept 12, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Meets the second Thursday of every month in the church sanctuary. All levels welcome. If you like, bring photos on a flash drive to share. Email Larry Engles engles@ridesoft.com for more info.

EAS Book Club

Sept 17, 7:00 to 8:30pm

Meets the third Tuesday of every month at the EAS office. RSVP required; email Becky Serabrini wingsinapril@gmail.com.

MATERIAL SUBMISSION FOR THE CORVID CRIER

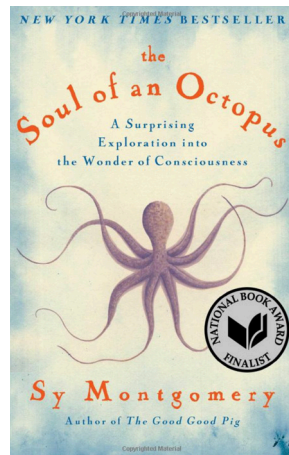
Email material to newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org with "Corvid Crier Quarterly" in the subject heading.

EAS Book Club Reading List for 2019

By Becky Serabrini

Members often ask what titles our book club has read or will be reading, so below is our list for 2019. We may be a little unique among conservation groups with book clubs in that we choose from both fiction and non-fiction genres. We are open to experiencing something new about the natural world through any talented writer.

Book club meetings are open to chapter members and are held the third Tuesday of every month from 7:00-8:30 pm at the EAS office in Kirkland. To ensure we don't exceed room capacity, an RSVP is requested before joining. Please email wingsinapril@gmail.com for additional information.



January

The Soul of the Octopus by Sy Montgomery

February

Death and Life of the Great Lakes by Dan Egan

March

The Wonder of Birds by Jim Robbins

April

Listening to Whales by Alexandra Morton

May

Imperial Dreams: Tracking the Imperial Woodpecker by Tim Gallagher

June

Life of a Chalkstream by Simon Cooper

July

Above the Waterfall by Ron Rash

August

The Big Burn by Timothy Egan

September

Ishmael by Daniel Quinn

October

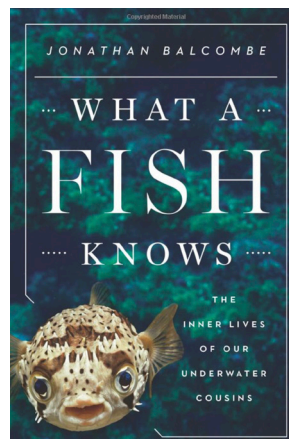
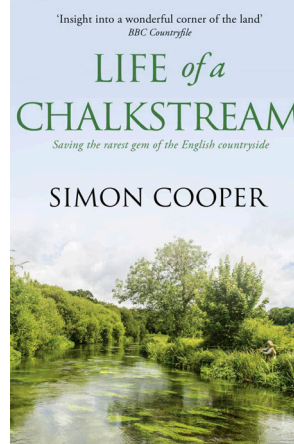
The Overstory by Richard Powers

November

The Feather Thief by Kirk Wallace Johnson

December

What a Fish Knows: The Inner Lives of our Underwater Cousins by Jonathan Balcombe ■



Bird of the Month | Harlequin Duck (*histrionicus*)



Harlequin Duck. Photo by Mick Thompson

Length: 16.5 inches
Wingspan: 26 inches
Weight: 1.3 lb (600 grams)
AOU Alpha Code: HARD

By Andy McCormick

Like a harlequin or clown at a circus the Harlequin Duck is painted in bold markings and colors. You'll find it diving in waves and rough water.

Male as Harlequin

The gaily marked male Harlequin Duck is unmistakable in good viewing conditions. The dark blue-gray head and body has chestnut flanks and bold black-trimmed white markings on the head, face, neck, and chest. Despite these field marks Harlequins can look dark at a distance. Fortunately, observers can often approach these ducks along rocky shores for very nice looks. The female Harlequin Duck is overall dark brown with a white patch in front of the eye (Alderfer). Males in eclipse plumage look like females and juveniles.

Attempts to identify Harlequins from a distance are aided by their small, almost dainty bills, which

contrast with the large and bulky bills of the scoters with which the Harlequins often commingle. The head of the Harlequin Duck is quite large and heavy toward the back giving it the appearance of having a very thick neck.

Both a Freshwater and Saltwater Duck

Harlequin Ducks make short migrations from wintering in marine waters to breed upstream along freshwater rivers and streams in woodlands and tundra. However, they do not breed until their second year. Nonbreeding males and females will often remain in the coastal wintering areas all summer. Breeding Harlequins build a nest in a shallow depression on the ground hidden under brush and lined with grasses, weeds, and down.

Usually, 5-7 pale buff eggs are deposited and incubated for about 30 days. Hatchlings stay with the female but feed themselves from the water's surface. They will dive in a few weeks and fledge in 5-6 weeks after hatching. These ducks eat mostly insects while on fresh

water and some crustaceans when nesting on tundra. While at sea they dive for mollusks (mussels) and crustaceans (crabs) (Kaufman).

Status and Distribution

Harlequin Ducks have two separate breeding populations in eastern and western North America. The eastern population had been steadily decreasing until hunting was stopped in the late 1980s. Since then the population has stabilized at around 1,500 individuals, with about half of that population wintering in Penobscot Bay on the Maine coast.

The western population which extends from Arctic tundra through Alaska, British Columbia and into Washington and Northwestern Oregon, has in recent years had a stable wintering population of about 200,000 individuals spread over the Aleutians, The Strait of Georgia and British Columbia, and coastal Washington.

Conservation

The eastern population of Harlequin (*continued on pg 5*)

FIELD TRIP DETAILS

Children 8 years and older are welcome on all trips; 17 years and younger must have an adult companion.

FRS Radio owners, please consider bringing your radio on trips.

Find reports of the last month's field trips at www.eastsideaudubon.org/birding/field-trips.

Some trips may require a Discover Pass, which is \$10 daily or \$30 annually. It can be purchased online at discoverpass.wa.gov or at a sporting goods store.

Email general questions to fieldtrip@eastsideaudubon.org.

FIELD TRIP MEETING PLACES

Kingsgate Park & Ride

13001 116th Way NE, Kingsgate
Meet in the southeast corner.

Wilburton Park & Ride

720 114th Ave. SE, Bellevue
I-405, Exit 12

Newport Hills Park & Ride

5115 113th Place SE, Bellevue
I-405, Exit 9

South Kirkland Park & Ride

10610 NE 38th Place, Kirkland

Tibbetts Lot

1675 Newport Way NW, Issaquah
Meet across the street from the large parking garage at the west end.

MONTHLY WORK PARTY AT MARYMOOR PARK

The habitat restoration work party meets the first Saturday of every month from 9:00am to noon. Meet at the kiosk of the Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park, Lot G. Parking pass provided. Bring water, snack, gloves, a shovel and/or a rake. Call the EAS office 425-576-8805 for more info.

Upcoming Field Trips & Events

Please be sure to visit eastsideaudubon.org for complete information on these field trips and any recent additions. The website will have more detailed descriptions of each trip, the meet-up location, and cost.

Juanita Bay Park Interpretive Tour • Sun, Sept 1 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm
Songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, amphibians, turtles, beavers, and other small mammals make Juanita Bay Park their home. Interpretive tours of this wildlife habitat are conducted by Eastside Audubon's volunteer Park Rangers. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children aged 6 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. No registration required.

Lake Sammamish State Park • Mon, Sept 16 - 8:00am to 12:00pm
This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds and habitats due to its varied ecosystems. The trip will involve walking approximately 2-3 miles. Meet at 8:00am just inside the main entrance; take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end. A Discover Pass is required to park. No registration required. Co-led by Sharon Aagaard and Stan Wood.

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk • Tues, Sept 17 - 8:00am to 12:00pm
A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the third Tuesday of each month. This can be an enjoyable walk for teens as well as adults. Walk begins at 8:00am, April - September. Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot. No registration required. Led by Mary Frances Mathis.

Birding Hot Spots of King County • Mon, Sept 23 - 9:00am to 12:00pm
Monthly field trip to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00am at the north end of the Newport Hills Park and Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Carpool cost per passenger \$2 - \$4 depending on the destination. No registration required. Led by Rusty Hazzard.

Juanita Bay Park Interpretive Tour • Sun, Oct 6 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm
Songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, amphibians, turtles, beavers, and other small mammals make Juanita Bay Park their home. Interpretive tours of this wildlife habitat are conducted by Eastside Audubon's volunteer Park Rangers. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children aged 6 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. No registration is required.

Visit Our Booth At These Community Events

Crossing Kirkland, Cross Kirkland Corridor
Saturday, September 7, 11:00am to 3:00pm

Puget Sound Bird Fest, Edmonds
Saturday, September 14, 10:00am to 4:00pm

Issaquah Salmon Days, Issaquah
Saturday & Sunday, October 5 & 6, 10:00am to 4:00pm

Viva Volunteers, Peter Kirk Community Center/Kirkland Senior Center
Saturday, October 19, 10:00am - 2:00pm

(continued from pg 3) Ducks has been declared endangered in Canada and threatened in Maine. The duck has been designated as a priority habitat species in Washington (Robertson and Goudie). Logging is considered the primary cause of loss of nesting habitat. The fast-moving rivers and streams preferred by Harlequin Ducks become less suitable for breeding as excess silting of streams following logging negatively affects the

development of the duck's invertebrate prey. Females will lead young out of water that is heavily silted (Robertson and Goudie).

Hunting is probably the greatest threat to Harlequin Ducks and there is a short hunting season still in effect in the western population. However, bag limits are now in place in Alaska and Washington to help protect the remaining ducks (Robertson and Goudie). The

Harlequin Duck has been extirpated from most of Idaho and Montana with only small numbers of breeding birds remaining in these states. Overall conservation efforts appear to be successful so far, as the eastern population numbers have begun to increase, and the western population is considered stable.

References available upon request from amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org. ■

Fun in the Sun with the Youth Education Committee

By Mary Britton-Simmons

Spring and summer are always busy times for the Youth Education Committee (YEC), and this year is no exception. Our calendars are filled with classroom presentations, outreach events and walks to find and identify birds at Juanita Bay Park. In April we hosted booths at Molbak's, Bridle Trails and Lewis Creek Park. Hugh and Bev Jennings thrilled English Learning students at Sammamish High School with information about the eagles and osprey who visit their school.

We moved into May with other events. One, in particular, stood out. The second-grade teacher at Wellington Elementary borrowed our Bird Discovery Box, which includes hundreds of lessons along with the materials needed to teach them. Her classroom reflected their studies. Colorful bird art projects greeted us as we set up for our presentation on beaks. Not only were students' enthusiastic learners, but they also were informed participants. They were amazing!

June found us introducing students at Arrowhead Elementary to birds. The next day these lucky second graders walked with Audubon members, Rangers and a volunteer from Green Kirkland to identify plants and birds at Juanita Bay Park. The following day YEC volunteers returned to the park with Lockwood Elementary students.



June ended at Camp Kindness in Bellevue where we encouraged campers to be kind to the environment and especially to birds.

July is usually a slow month for us. After a presentation about Juanita Bay Park, campers from the Peter Kirk Day Camp walked the park ready to spy sapsuckers, chickadees, an occasional eagle and of course, the turtles sunning themselves on logs in the lake—always a favorite. August found us spending two days with the younger set at Kiddie Academy. The summer always ends with a party for the YEC volunteers where we celebrate our love of introducing children to birds and their important place in the eco system.

One of our goals this year is “to increase the membership of the Youth Education Committee.” Recently we welcomed two new members and invite you to join us. We meet the first Tuesday of each month except July, August and December at 7:00pm in the EAS office. For more information, please go to eastsideaudubon.org/youth_education.

Vision Statement

The Youth Education Committee envisions a world where children are inspired to connect to nature and especially to birds so that they become lifelong stewards of the environment. ■

President's Letter

By Lori Danielson

I had the opportunity to lead a group from the Eastside Neighbors Network on a bird walk in late July at Juanita Bay Park. It was an early afternoon walk on a very warm day and we only saw a handful of birds. But many in the group were new to bird watching, so even the experiences of identifying Black-capped Chickadees, American Robins, and the Bald Eagle flying overhead were rewarding to them. Learning which birds were singing from deep inside the park's bushy thickets was also exciting. The members of the group knew and supported each other throughout the walk, pointing out birds when they saw them and offering

each other a supportive arm when needed.

I learned a few things from this short walk with this appreciative group. One was that bird watching doesn't have to take place early in the morning in a birding hotspot to be rewarding.

Even common encounters in a neighborhood park can be satisfying learning experiences. A second was that afternoon bird walks can attract a whole different set of people who aren't "early birds" but still want to learn about birds and the natural

environment that surrounds them. And lastly, it's beneficial to be part

of a supportive group of people who know you and offer you help along the way. I was happy to play a part in this bird walk that resulted in discoveries for all who participated,

including me. I hope you enjoy the transition to autumn in the Pacific Northwest and can do so in a supportive group of family or friends. ■

Even common encounters in a neighborhood park can be satisfying learning experiences.

American Ornithological Society Checklist Supplement Is Out for 2019

By Andy McCormick

The American Ornithological Society has published its bird checklist supplement based on decisions by the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North and Middle American Birds (the NACC). All the details of the committee's deliberations can be found at The Auk. Here are some of the highlights.

Three-Way Split of White-Winged Scoter

This split will most likely cause the most discussion among North American birders. The White-winged Scoter is now split into three species. The White-winged Scoter we usually see will keep that name, but its scientific name will change to *Melanitta deglandi* (formerly *fusca*). The reason for the split is the geographic separation of what were three subspecies and differences in their appearances and lack

of interbreeding. The Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca, sensu stricto*) is found in western and central Eurasia and in Greenland. There are plumage differences and a lack of bump or any red color on the bill. Stejneger's Scoter, found in northeastern Asia and occasionally in Alaska, is named for Leohnard Stejneger (1851-1943), who spent many visits to Alaska and the Bering Sea to study birds and seals. He also authored an exhaustive biography of George Steller. Stejneger's Scoter has a more pronounced bill bump and a different pattern of red and yellow on the bill than does the White-winged Scoter.

Hummingbird Name Changes

Two hummingbirds in the genus *Lampornis* and found in Mexico and Central America have had their names changed to "Mountain-gem"

to agree with the other hummingbirds in their genus. Blue-throated Hummingbird is now Blue-throated Mountain-gem, and Amethyst-throated Hummingbird is now Amethyst-throated Mountain-gem.

Ground Doves Now Without Hyphens

The NACC uses hyphens in birds' "last names" to show that all the birds in the group are each other's closest relatives (such as scrub-jays). However, these doves are not so related, and the hyphens have been dropped. The North American bird in the group is now the Common Ground Dove.

Warblers Have Another Change in Genus Classification

In the past few years the NACC has incorporated much new genetic research into its decision-making and has (*continued on pg 7*)

(continued from pg 6) continued its work on further reclassification of warblers. This year the genus *Oreothlypis* has been split with only two warblers remaining in the genus:

Crescent-chested Warbler
(*Oreothlypis supercilioiosa*)

Flame-throated Warbler
(*Oreothlypis gutturalis*)

Five other warblers are now grouped into the new genus *Leiothlypis*:

Tennessee Warbler
(*Leiothlypis peregrina*)

Orange-crowned Warbler
(*Leiothlypis celata*)

Colima Warbler
(*Leiothlypis crissalis*)

Lucy's Warbler
(*Leiothlypis luciae*)

Nashville Warbler
(*Leiothlypis ruficapilla*)

Virginia's Warbler
(*Leiothlypis virginiae*)

None of these changes alter anything about the birds themselves and we still have to study and get out to look at birds to learn them well. So, keep on watching birds.

Many thanks to Michael Retter of the American Birding Association who published this information on the ABA Blog, from which I have liberally quoted. ■



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See the birds better!

Volunteers, Please Report Your Hours by December 20

Make your volunteer hours count for 2019. Please report your hours one of two ways:

- Send an email with your hours to volunteer-time@lists.eastside-audubon.org.
- Call the office 425-576-8805 and ask the receptionist to report your hours.

EAS Officers, Committee Chairs, Staff

Executive Officers

President	Lori Danielson	president@eastsideaudubon.org
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Bird Questions	Mary Francis Mathis	birdhelp@eastsideaudubon.org
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Office Hours:
Mon, Tues, Fri. 9:00am - 1:00pm



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YES! I would like to support EAS protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people.

Youth Education Committee

Youth Education Committee celebrates another successful and busy spring working with children. Join this dedicated committee in classrooms and outreach events.



Donations to EAS

- Enclosed is my check payable to Eastside Audubon
- My payment has been submitted through PayPal
- Please charge my ___MasterCard ___Visa

Number _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

Email _____

Sign-up To Receive Informational Emails

- Announcements
- Conservation updates and action alerts
- Volunteer opportunities

Planned Giving

Please consider a planned gift to Eastside Audubon Society to support environmental education and conservation for generations to come.

- I have included Eastside Audubon in my will.
- I would like information about making a planned gift.
- I would like information about making a qualified charitable distribution.

Employer Contributions

- My employer matches contributions. I am sending/ will send matching information to you.

City, State, Zip _____

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