



Eastside Audubon
your connection to nature

The Corvid Crier

EASTSIDE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 28, No 5 – JUNE 2009

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 Eastside Audubon

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.

Cascadia Butterflies: Their Intriguing Life History

Thursday, June 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (EAS Headquarters)

Join us for our last program night before summer break, featuring a unique presentation by butterfly and dragonfly expert, Dave Nunnallee. His talk will emphasize a variety of butterfly families and will include photographs of butterflies, larvae, host plants and habitats.

Mr. Nunnallee and Dr. David James are currently writing "Life Histories of Cascadia Butterflies," a book on the immature stages of Washington butterflies. Dave will share some of the more challenging species of butterflies they have found and reared. He will describe how they find wild larvae and collect gravid female butterflies to obtain eggs, how they overwinter those species which require overwintering, and how they select and provide food plants.

Dave has long had an intense interest in natural history, studying marine fossils for some 25 years and gifting many fossils to the Burke Museum at the University of Washington. His interests include birds, butterflies, dragonflies, native plants, and natural history in general.

Dave has actively studied butterflies in the Pacific Northwest for 15 years and has been rearing and photographing butterfly larvae for the past 9 years. He is an accomplished photographer with more than 200 published photographs of butterflies and several of dragonflies. David has also been active in butterfly groups,



has led numerous butterfly field trips within the PNW, and is a co-founder of the Washington Butterfly Association.

At 7:30 p.m. we will have our highly-anticipated 2009 Birdathon report and brief chapter announcements and then break for refreshments and socializing. Treat yourselves to pictures of our fun and rewarding activities at our Activity Fair - enroll in a Birding Class - join a Conservation Task Force - renew your Membership. At 8:15 we rejoin Dave Nunnallee to hear the rest of his fascinating butterfly presentation.

Please join us **Thursday, June 25** for Dave Nunnallee's fascinating and informative butterfly presentation. The evening is free and open to the public. Invite a friend or anyone who is interested in butterflies and butterfly larvae.

(Photo by Dave Nunnallee)



Focus on the Board: Beyond the Backyard

by Helen LaBouy, — At Large Board Member

Over this last year I have tended to be more of a back yard birder, enjoying the variety of birds that come to our feeder. After a time, I could recognize most of them and that was very satisfying.



However, I was not going out on field trips and so missed the opportunity to see different birds and to enhance my birding identification skills.

Recently we got back from a three-week trip to the Southwest and I had been challenged by being in a different part of the country and seeing different birds and having to figure them out on my own. It was especially difficult if they rapidly flew away with my just having had glance at them. I needed to remind myself what to look for, looking at the beaks, eyes, legs, markings, etc. I would then grab my book and hope that I could get an idea of what type of bird it was. At one place in the Grand Canyon, a Western Bluebird stayed in the tree right in front of our car, giving me a good view and a good chance to identify him. That was very kind of him.

Our organization, Eastside Audubon, offers field trips, bird walks and classes to help us develop and enhance our birding skills. Field trips are great fun, especially because there is usually an expert birder leading the trip who can help you identify that bird. And you are with people that are interested in the outdoors, birds and are like-minded. It is a great opportunity to make new friends.

In June, there will be “Summer Birds of Washington” class with long-time birding instructor, Mike West. This is a chance for beginning birders and those who want a refresher to learn the basics of bird identification, birding etiquette and ethics and a great deal more. There will be two class sessions and then a field trip to Eastern Washington. It sounds like an opportunity I should not miss.

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

308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)

Executive Officers

President	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@eastsideaudubon.org
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	Carmen Almodovar	(425) 643-5922 calmodovar@eastsideaudubon.org
Treasurer	Ellen Homan	(425) 836-5838 ehoman@eastsideaudubon.org
Executive Director	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580 jan@eastsideaudubon.org

Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

<u>At large board member</u>	Helen LaBouy	(425) 868-9706 hlabouy@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>At large board member</u>	Margaret Lie	(425) 823-2686 mlie@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>At large board member</u>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 tkishel@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Birding</u>	Brian Bell	(425) 485-8058 bbell@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Adult Education</u>	Open	
<u>Bird Photography</u>	Tim Boyer	(425) 277-9326 tboyer@seanet.com
<u>Field Trips</u>	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351 fieldtrips@eastsideaudubon.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</u>	Open	
<u>Bird Questions?</u>	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026
<u>Conservation</u>	Andrew McCormick	(425) 637-0892 amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Advocacy</u>	Open	
<u>Citizen Science</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580
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<u>Programs</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
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<u>Library</u>	Betsy Law	(206) 782-1497 librarian@eastsideaudubon.org
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<u>Financial Development</u>	Open	
<u>Birdathon</u>	Open	
<u>Gift Wrap</u>	Open	
<u>Merchandising</u>	Open	
<u>Membership</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Hospitality</u>	Claudia Welch	(425) 827/2548
<u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>	Rahul Gupta	rgupta@eastsideaudubon.org

June Meetings

June 3 (Weds) 4:00—6:00 pm
Web Committee

Meets first Wednesday each month in EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org

June 9 (Tues) 7:00 pm
Youth Education Committee

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

June 11 (Thurs) 7:00 pm
Photo Group

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

June 25 (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@eastsideaudubon.org

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

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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



Volunteer Spotlight on: Margaret Snell

Margaret Snell, a newer Eastside Audubon member, has quickly nestled into helping the education committee and also in our office.

Born on an Iowa farm, she moved to Minnesota for graduate school, studying English and music. She lived there for 40 years with her husband and raised their son and daughter. She also taught English in middle school. Following their daughter, they recently moved to Kirkland.

Margaret explained that she took birds for granted, until eighth grade, when she counted over 100 species for a class project. She did not start birding seriously until just before she moved to Kirkland. After arriving in Kirkland, she looked up the Audubon Society. Her first field trip was in February, 2007 when she went to Ocean Shores (near Grays Harbor).

As a retired teacher, Margaret uses her skills to help the education committee. She has gone into the classroom twice. In one class, she taught about the digestive system of owls. She says she is still learning how the education committee works.

In addition, she helps in the office entering financial postings into the computer. She has to make sure they all balance! She also posts the volunteer hours for members who have helped Jim Rettig on the Marymoor Bird Loop project.

Margaret and her husband are life coaches for Congregations for the Homeless. They meet weekly to help one homeless person to build life skills that



will hopefully help him get back into the job market and into housing.

As for birding experiences, Margaret reflected on camping by the northern Minnesota lakes and hearing the loons at night; she could hear their song echo over the northern Minnesota lakes. In Washington, Margaret happily stated that she will go birding “anywhere because it’s still all so new” to her in this state. She said she is “amazed that one can bird in the winter.” The Minnesota birds migrate in the winter. She saw a Common Loon for the first time in its winter plumage. Margaret added, “I’m extremely appreciative of all volunteer leaders for all the trips. People are so helpful.” And, she commented, “Audubon is a great place to meet interesting people.”

We are very glad you have joined, and thank you for all you have already done.

— Marlene Meyer



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2009 Plant Sale Another Success!

May 2 was our annual Spring Plant Sale, and it was another great success! This year we set up at the Kirkland Children's School in Houghton. The Houghton neighborhood is working on becoming designated a Neighborhood Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, and one of the requirements is a native plant sale in their neighborhood. The schoolyard is a wildlife habitat and wildlife and habitat are integrated into the children's school lives.

It was a perfect fit and despite the heavy,

cold rain we were busy all day and sold more plants than ever. Our gross sales were \$2,350.

We also held a bake sale in conjunction with the plant sale, and thanks to all our talented bakers, they raised about \$275 themselves. One customer said "It's nice to have real home-baked goods and not repackaged Costco products."

So many people helped this year and we couldn't have done it without them! Volunteers came to my house in the fall and potted up plants and throughout the winter

and spring volunteers trimmed the plants so they'd look good on sale day. Another volunteer researched each plant and created the descriptive signs, and other volunteers created the plant tags and stuck them in the pots for sale day. Then we transported everything to the school and spent a day getting ready for the sale. Many hands and many hours went into this year's sale.

Planning for the 2010 sale has already begun. Watch the Crier for updates.

Eastside Audubon Awards College Scholarship

Hailey Hargraves, a senior at Redmond High School, received the Brian Gershon College Scholarship Award. An ardent environmentalist, Hailey plans to attend Smith College where she will major in environmental science and policy making. No matter where her degree leads her, Hailey is "committed to making a difference and to convincing others that green

should be their favorite color."

At Redmond High School, Hailey excelled academically, maintaining a 3.6 G.P.A. while taking Advanced Placement classes and serving as a leader among her peers. Her list of accomplishments is long and includes: participant in the Johns Hopkins University Summer Program in

Bioethics; SEAFAIR ambassador and scholarship recipient; president of the Environmental Club; Honor Society member; treasurer of the Key Club; delegate to Evergreen Girls' State; Follow the Leader grand prize winner. And these are just a few of her numerous accomplishments!

— Mary Britton-Simmons

Inching Along the BirdLoop Boardwalk

The BirdLoop work party in May made some headway with the boardwalk extension, adding more inches; actually 16 feet! Thanks to the crew that did this, despite the cool and rainy weather. Further, Ellen Homan led a group of new volunteers in habitat restoration. Thanks Ellen!

Our next work party is scheduled for June 6, 9:00 to noon. We'll meet at the SE corner of parking Lot G. Parking passes are available. We will continue work on the boardwalk, adding at least 16 more feet and perhaps 32. Come and join us.

And there is always habitat restoration to be done: clearing areas of roots, vines and Scotch Broom.

Please join us for fun and fellowship in the out-of-doors. See you June 6. Contact Jim Rettig with questions: 425-402-1833.



Thank You to our Volunteers

The past couple of months were laden with festivities, goodies and of course plenty of EAS events. Naturally, none of these would have been possible without the indispensable support of our dedicated volunteers, so we would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to **Jim Roberts, Nancy Roberts, Jill Keeney, Marlene Meyer, Stephen Johnson** and **Bryn Lieberman** for promoting EAS at the *Issaquah Earth Day event at the Pickering Barn*. We would also like to thank **Jim Rettig, Jan McGruder, Sunny Walter** and **Patricia Clarke** for leading an energetic group of 325-something volunteers from Microsoft through a day of spirited team work, fun and frolic (oh, and did I mention invasive weed removal?) at the *Earth Day event at the Marymoor Park* on a rather damp, chilly Wednesday morning.

Thank you **Cyndi Smith, Patricia Clarke, Phil Sandifer, Krista Rave-Perkins, Jan McGruder, Margaret Snell, Leslie Walters, Ella Elman, Margie Huff, Jane Paige, Hugh Jennings, Bev Jennings** and **Leah Klinger** for helping out with the *EAS Plant Sale* setup and at the actual day of the sale at the *Kirkland Children's School* earlier last

month. A warm round of applause for **Mary Britton-Simmons** and **Tim McGruder** for making sure that the children truly enjoyed the event activities and bird walk organized at the *International Migratory Bird Day at Marymoor Park*. A special word of thanks to **Margaret Lie, Jill Keeney, Mary Holt, Shirlee Hall** and **Tora Roksvog** for organizing and making sure the *Bake Sale* that was held in conjunction with the plant sale was a big hit. We also acknowledge the contributions of **Tom Matthews** for his generous donation of *trilliums for the plant sale* as well as the efforts of **Carmen Almodovar, Margaret Lie, Jean Wallace, Phil Sandifer** and **Leah Klinger** for their splendid work at the *greenhouse*.

Sunny Walter, Jim Rettig, Jerry Rettig, Andy McCormick, Robert Lake, Hugh Jennings and **Bev Jennings** – we really appreciate and value your countless hours of dedication to the *Marymoor bird loop, planting and boardwalk*. Congratulations to **Margaret Lie, Margie Huff, Liz Fried, Jan McGruder, Tim McGruder** and **Robert Lake** for helping make the *Spring Garden Fair at the Redmond Town Hall* a memorable event. Finally, without the efforts of **Karin Hargrove, Claudia**

Welch, Margaret Lie, Brian Bell, Sunny Walter, Paula Flores, Carmen Almodovar, Hugh Jennings, Robert Gershmel, Cindy Balbuena and **Rahul Gupta**, the *monthly program meeting* wouldn't be nearly as interesting, rich in content or well-executed, so thank you, thank you, thank you for your time!

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 into our communities. We greatly appreciate your time, generosity and leadership and we know that you are our most passionate promoters. We do request that you please continue to submit your volunteer hours by emailing the same to 'volunteer-time@eastsideaudubon.org' whenever you get a chance.

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 Eastside Audubon volunteer. Would you like to volunteer for Eastside Audubon Society? Check out the website for current needs.

Summer Birding Class: For Beginners or (perhaps) Intermediate Review

Two classes in a relaxed, informal setting, and one field trip can get you started. Breeding birds of Washington will be emphasized. The basics of bird identification, birding etiquette and ethics, equipment selection, field guides and local birding areas will also be covered.

When: Tues, June 9 & Thurs, June 11, 6:30—9:00 pm (classes)

Sat, June 13 or Sun, June 14 (all day field trip to Eastern Washington)

Where: Eastside Audubon office: 308 – 4th Ave S. – Kirkland

Cost: \$80 for EAS members. \$85 for nonmembers.

Register: Call 425-576-8805 or register online

Field guide used for class is 5th edition of National Geographic Birds of North America

Board Notes for April 2009

Key Numbers: 110 people attended our last program meeting; 325 volunteers from Microsoft worked during Earth Day on the Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park; the board met Cindy Balbuena's board challenge to do a "stretch donation" and donated \$5850.

Education Committee: Mary Britton-Simmons reported that the committee has 20 programs set for this spring.

Conservation Committee: The Conservation Committee will be writing a special conservation issue of the newsletter that will be mailed to all members.

Facebook: Sunny Walter reported that our Facebook page is up and that we have two causes: Birdathon and scholarships.

Enatai Elementary School: With a grant from Eastside Audubon, Karen Greytak's second grade class and six parent chaperones planted a small garden of native plants in a park near the school. Enatai sent a letter with special thanks to Jim and Shirlee Hall, Mary Britton-Simmons, the Education Committee, and Eastside Audubon. The Bellevue Reporter published a story and pictures of the planting.

Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor

Park: The boardwalk extension is on its way, but water kept us from working on it during the most recent work party. The signage arrived and will be installed. The work on the bike racks continues.

Strategic Planning and Visioning: Cindy Balbuena asked the board to think long term and also to think about what they want the chapter to be like, what we can be proud of, and what influence we want to have in the community. Strategic planning and visioning will be the main topics of the board's summer retreat.

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.**

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.
- **Tibbetts Park and Ride:** Take exit 15 from I-90, turn right (south) and go past the new multistory Issaquah Park & Ride to the 3rd traffic light. Turn left (east) on Newport Way NW, go one block and turn right (south) into the Park & Ride. Meet at the west end of the parking lot (away from the entrance) to carpool. 1675 Newport Way NW, Issaquah

June 3 (Weds) 6:00 am to early evening Whidbey Island Field Trip

Whidbey is always good. We will likely start at the north end of the island for passerines, also scanning for waterbirds. We will then work our way south stopping at such spots as the Oak Harbor Marina, Swantown/Bos Lake, Hastie Lake Rd, Libby Beach, Penn Cove, Fort Casey/Crockett Lake, Double Bluff, Deer Lagoon and Ewing Road. We should see lots of songbirds (including warblers), waterfowl, seabirds and raptors. There may be shorebirds around. Bring a lunch and ferry money and meet at 6 am at the south end of the Kingsgate P&R to carpool. **Passenger cost/person \$20. Brian Bell 425-485-8058**

June 5 (Fri) 8:00 am to noon—Marymoor Park Bird Walk

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 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.

June 15 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon

Lake Sammamish State Park Nature Walk

Enjoy a morning walk at the park. The park offers plenty of habitats for aquatic and boreal species. Enjoy a nature and birding walk at Lake Sammamish State Park.

We'll meet at the main parking area at 9:00 am and the trip should last about three hours. Bring binoculars, drinks and snacks, and dress for the weather. Direct questions to our trip leader, Sharon at 425-271-0143

June 16 (Tues) 8:00 am 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 8:00**. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

June 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. Cost/person \$2. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

June 28 (Sun) – 7:00 am

Reecer Canyon Wildflowers and Butterflies

Join us for a trip up Reecer Canyon north of Ellensburg to see one of the most prolific areas for butterflies in Washington. Although the record for this area is 70 butterfly species, we expect to see 35 to 40 species. We will also see more than 50 species of shrub-steppe wildflowers as we drive up Reecer Creek Road and about 30 more wildflower species in the vicinity of the springs and meadow near Lion Rock. Bring a native plant book, close-up binoculars (if you have them), camera, lunch, snacks, sun protection, and lots of water. Leader will bring a butterfly book.

Meet before 7:00 am at Tibbetts P&R in Issaquah to carpool. Plan to be back by early evening. This is a car trip with very short walks. The road to Lion Rock is potholed - high clearance recommended. Contact Sunny Walter if you plan to join us, 425-271-1346 or sunny@sunnywalter.com. Cost/person \$20.

July 3 (Fri) 8:00 am to noon—Marymoor Park Bird Walk

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 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.

July 11-12 (Sat-Sun) 11:00 am

Hurricane Ridge/Dungeness Spit

Our annual Olympic Peninsula wildflower trip featuring views, birds, and varied wildlife. On Saturday, at 11:00 a.m. we will meet at the picnic table across the street from the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for a snack lunch. (This is the center at the base of the foothills, the one before you actually enter the park.) Look for the picnic tables in front of the center. After lunch, we will head for the main visitor center at the top of Hurricane Ridge, making one stop to check out wildflowers along the way. If you miss the lunch, look for us at the trailhead of Hurricane Hill, about a mile further on. Motels and campsites are available if you plan to stay overnight. The next day we will go birding in the Ediz Hook, Dungeness Spit and the Sequim areas. **Bill Schmidt 425-881-6037**

Cooper's Hawk *Accipiter cooperii*

Length	Female 42-47 in, Male 37-41 in
Wingspan	Female 79-87 in, Male 70-77 in
Weight	Female 17-24 oz (479-678 g) Male 10-14 oz (302-402 g)
AOU Band code	COHA

Cooper's Hawk is our mid-sized woodland raptor which uses stealth and powerful flight thrusts to attack other birds and small mammals. It will sometimes attack from behind shrubbery, but often hunts from a perch, remaining still until it strikes. Its size puts it between the Sharp-shinned Hawk and the Northern Goshawk, two other members of the genus *Accipiter*, the Latin name for a bird of prey, derived from *accipere*, "to take" (Clark & Wheeler). Cooper refers to William C. Cooper (1798-1864), an American zoologist for whom the bird is named (Holloway).

Despite that fact that it is common in our area, the Cooper's Hawk can be difficult to see. It is often seen from a distance, in flight or very briefly, and because it closely resembles the Sharp-shinned Hawk identification can be very difficult. Further complicating identification there is great variation in the size of Cooper's Hawks (See the statistics above). Females are about one-third larger than the males and this species exhibits "among the greatest reversed size dimorphism of any of the world's hawks" (Curtis, et al). Some small males are the same size as some female Sharpies.

There are two plumages: adult and juvenile. The adult Cooper's Hawk is blue gray on the back and has a dark cap which contrasts against the lighter colored nape. This cap distinguishes the Cooper's from the Sharpie. The head can look quite flat when the hackles on

the crown are raised. The undersides have rufous barring (horizontal) and the undertail coverts are white. Adult Cooper's have an orange or red eye. The juvenile is brown with brown streaking (vertical) on the undersides. Young Cooper's have a yellow eye. When in flight the Cooper's head looks large and protrudes beyond the elbows of the wings. The Sharpie's head is smaller and usually extends only slightly past the wing.

Cooper's Hawks breed in the northern United States and southern Canada in conifer and deciduous forests and woodlands. Both sexes build the nest with sticks and line it with pieces of outer bark. Generally 3-5 eggs are deposited 2-3 days apart and incubation lasts about five weeks. The eggs hatch in the order in which they were laid, so the first born has an advantage for survival. First flights begin after 3-4 weeks, but parents continue feeding up to 7 weeks. The birds are very tolerant of human changes to the environment and are now found nesting in urban areas and introduced trees. Overall, the population has grown in the past 20 years.

Cooper's Hawks employ the typical accipiter flight pattern of flap-flap-flap and glide but in short bursts they can gain speed very quickly. Their long tail helps them maneuver among trees while flying at high speeds. You can see this flight in a video at the Macauley Library: <http://macaulaylibrary.org/video/flashPlayer.do?id=7536>

(Photo credit: Adult-Mike Hamilton, juvenile-Robert Howson. References available upon request at amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org)



Adult Cooper's Hawk



Juvenile Cooper's Hawk

Green Kirkland Habitat Restoration Event: Watershed Park

Join the effort to restore native habitat at Watershed Park in Kirkland by participating in this event on Saturday, June 20. Watershed Park is located at 4530 112th Avenue NE, Kirkland.

Wear work clothes and gloves and dress for the weather. Also bring water bottle, and if you have them, pruning shears/clippers, lopping shears and shovels.

To volunteer, contact Sharon Rodman at

425-587-3305 or email

greenkirkland@ci.kirkland.wa.us