

The Corvid Crier

EASTSIDE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 29, No 1 – FEBRUARY 2010

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.

Amazing Mammals: Bats — Thursday, February 25, 6:30 p.m. Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church Special Program for Kids at 7:00 P.M. (business meeting and adult program follow)

For our special “kids and adults” program in February, we are pleased to feature Michelle Noe, president of Bats Northwest. She will take Audubon members, young and old, on an exciting journey to learn about the amazing diversity of bats around the world and here in our own state. We will learn about fruit bats of the tropics and insect eating micro bats of the Pacific Northwest. What makes a bat unique? What else do they do besides just fly around at night?

Michelle has been working with bats since 2003. Her love of bats began with her undergraduate work for the University of Washington, working for the National Parks service to survey Olympic National Park. She then joined Bats Northwest and began work for the USFS and BLM on the Bat Grid. Bats NW envisions a future where the essential role of bats is understood, where the public recognizes the vital place of bats in our environment and economy, and where all are inspired



Little Brown Myotis

by these amazing mammals. Bats NW does both educational and research work to help insure that future.

(Continued on page 2)

Eastside Audubon Celebrates the Winter Birds of the Cascade Foothills

Eastside Audubon will be reaching out to Issaquah in February with three events to celebrate our hardy wintering birds. Join us to represent EAS and meet new bird lovers!

On Thursday, February 4, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Issaquah REI store, Tim McGruder, and Sunny Walter, members of Eastside Audubon, will present a slide show and talk on the *Winter Birds of the Cascade Foothills*. They will show photographs of King County birds and discuss the role of conservation efforts to protect habitat for birds in winter. The various habitats also support breeding birds and migratory birds which pass through the area in spring and fall.

On Saturday, February 6, 2010, the chapter will offer two events:

From 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. join Mark Crawford for a family bird walk at Lake Sammamish State Park. We should see wintering ducks such as Bufflehead, Canvasback, and Common Goldeneye, and other specialties such as the Western Grebe, Red-Tailed Hawk and Bald Eagle. Also likely are wintering birds of the brush and woodland habitats such as Bewick's Wren, Pine Siskin, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars if you have them.

(Continued on page 3)

Focus on the Board: Looking Back/ Looking Ahead

By Cindy Balbuena, President

It's hard to believe that a year has already passed since I became President of EAS. Reviewing the accomplishments of the chapter from 2009 as we prepare for our annual Board planning retreat later this month, I feel we have a lot to be proud of. Our EAS Board of Directors has been critical to our success. Working with this wonderful group of people has also been a large part of what has made my first year in this new position rewarding and fun. So it's important for me, while preparing to look forward to the rest of 2010, that I also take time to thank three board members who completed their terms and rolled off of the board in December. It is in large part due to their efforts that I believe we are in good standing for a great 2010.



Brian Bell served as Birding Chair for the last two years. In his position, he oversaw all of our birding fieldtrips, the Christmas Bird Count, and adult education classes. Brian has been a board member in various capacities for Audubon and Washington Ornithological Society chapters for over 25 years, and is ready to do something new. He's promised that he will continue to be an active fieldtrip leader and member of EAS, but has earned a well-deserved break from Board life.

Ellen Homan completed her two-year term as Treasurer. Ellen was the woman we called on each month to update us on our financial situation and help us to determine where we needed to focus our efforts to maintain a healthy financial status. Ellen kept us on the straight and narrow, telling it like it was and helping us to interpret the numbers.

Jim Rettig . . . Where to begin? Well, Jim has been on and off the Board for so many years, we've lost count. He has served as President, Education Chair, Birdathon Chair and last year Jim volunteered to serve as Vice President to help fill the vacancy and provide support to me as I took on my new role. Simultaneously, Jim served as our Project Manager for the Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park. As our funding for his position with the BirdLoop winds down, Jim is also stepping down from the board. Jim continues to stay active with Marymoor and with EAS. He is truly a backbone of our chapter and we owe him a lot.

Our monthly Board meetings and regular correspondence will not be the same without the three of you. On behalf of the rest of the Board and the Chapter, I want to deeply thank each of you for your contributions. And I want to thank you personally for your support and friendship.

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

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

Executive Officers

President	Cindy Balbuena	cbalbuena@comcast.net
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	Carmen Almodovar	calmodovar@eastsideaudubon.org
Treasurer	Open	
Executive Director	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580 jan@eastsideaudubon.org

Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

<u>At large board member</u>	Helen LaBouy	hlabouy@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>At large board member</u>	Margaret Lie	mlie@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>At large board member</u>	Tricia Kishel	tkishel@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Birding</u>	Sunny Walter	swalter@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Bird Photography</u>	Tim Boyer	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>Bird Questions?</u>	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026
<u>Conservation</u>	Andrew McCormick	amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 mbrittonsimmons@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Communication</u>	Open	
<u>Newsletter</u>	Tom Grismer	(206) 720-9892 newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Membership</u>	Open	
<u>Financial Development</u>	Tim McGruder	tmcgruder@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Birdathon</u>	Sunny Walter	swalter@eastsideaudubon.org

Open Board Positions

The following positions are open and waiting for volunteers. Please call the office if you have questions or are interested: Vice President, Adult Education chair, Advocacy, Communication chair, Membership chair, Programs chair, Gift Wrap, and Merchandising.

Monthly Program — Amazing Mammals: Bats

(Continued from page 1)

After the presentation, our young audience will be invited to join Eastside Audubon's Youth Education Committee to participate in a creative art project on bats. Adults will stay for the business meeting, refreshments break and second half of the program, which features Eastside Audubon members and their beautiful images of birds and wildlife encountered on their trips. Ginger Holser, EAS Photo Group trip coordinator and biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will present "Birds, Wildlife and Landscapes of the Falklands Islands." Sunny Walter, EAS Board member, will show loons from her 2009 Lac Le Jeune, B.C. trip.

Please join us Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 (6:30 for the Activity Fair). Bring children, grandchildren and neighborhood kids to experience the uniqueness of bats. They will leave inspired by bats' remarkable attributes and invaluable contributions to our environment.

The presentations, refreshments, and meeting are free and open to the public. Events are held in the Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4th Ave. S. (corner of 4th Ave. S. and State), Kirkland.

February Meetings

Feb 4 Thurs) 10:30 a.m.

Web Committee

Meets first Thursday each month in EAS Office. All interested parties are invited.

Questions? Email

webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org

Feb 9 (Tues) 7:00 p.m.

Youth Education Committee

Meets in the EAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions?

Email education@elwas.org

Feb 10 (Weds) 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Committee

Meets second Wednesday each month in EAS Office. Questions? Email Andrew McCormick at

amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org

Feb 11 (Thurs) 7:00 p.m.

Photo Group

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

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 —
9:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.**

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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

Thank you Volunteers! Come Celebrate Our Successes

You all worked so hard to further our mission this past year, and we want to thank each and every one of you! In 2009 over 165 of you gave more than 8,300 hours of your time, and we accomplished some wonderful things this year.

Kate Aarden, Carmen Almodovar, Doyne Alward, Christy Anderson, Kathy Andrich, Cindy Balbuena, Ivan Balbuena, Lucille Barnard, Amber Beecher, Brian Bell, Shawn Bongard, Kay Bosler, Tim Boyer, Judy Boylan, Betty Branson, Roy Branson, Geary Britton-Simmons, Mary Britton-Simmons, Melinda Bronsdon, Richard Carlson, Tamara Chinn, Michael Clark, Patricia Clarke, Liz Copland, Sharon Cormier-Aagard, Doug Coutts, Owen Coutts, Mark Crawford, Diane Crestanello, Alyssa Deardorff, Marge Dolecal, Glenn Eades, Conner Eck, Kristin Eck, Mike Eck, Rachel Eck, Ella Elman, Marianne Emerson, Wendy Fawcett, Dan Fischer, Kathryn Fischer, Paula Flores, Mary Gathers, Tim Gathers, Robert Gershmel, Pamela Girres, Jeani Goodrich, Glenn Greenwalt, Karen Greytak, Tom Grismer, Rahul Gupta, Jim Hall, Shirlee Hall, Karin Hargrove, Diane Hill, Jennifer Hille, Kevin Hille, Miles Hille, Michael Hobbs, Mary Holt, Ellen Homan, Sara Hoppe, Chris Houden, Margie Huff, Linda Jaruckis, Josh Jaycox, Alan Jennings, Bev Jennings, Hugh Jennings, Paul Jensen, Joy Johnson, Janice Johnson, Stephen Johnson, Peggy Jorgensen, Carrie Kahle, Charlie Kahle, Linda Keaton, Jill Keeney, Janice King, Carolyn Kishel, Tricia Kishel, Leah Khgei, Tina Klein-Lebbink, Lea Knapp, Bob LaBouy, Helen LaBouy, Robert Lake, Betsy Law, Alison Leathley, Margaret Lie, Bryn Lieberman, Jan Loux, Gary Luhm, Megan Lyden, Derek Mahaffey, Mary-

Frances Mathis, Stephanie Matyasi, Andrew McCormick, Jan McGruder, Tim McGruder, Jim McRoberts, Joyce Meyer, Marlene Meyer, Pat Minden, Martin Muller, Chris Myers, Hank Myers, Glenis Nielsen, Dave Nunnallee, Jo Nunnallee, Karin Olefsky, Grace Oliver, Ollie Oliver, Jeanette Opiela, Genevieve Orchard, Sharon Pagel, Warren Pagel, Jane Paige, Ron Paige, Caren Park, A Peery, S Peery, Linda Phillips, Judy Rams, Krista Rave-Perkins, Jan Rettig, Jerry Rettig, Jim Rettig, Jim Roberts, Nancy Roberts, Sharon Rodman, Alexis Rodriguez, Tora Roksvog, Stephanie Salazer, Phil Sandifer, Bill Schmidt, Merry Schmidt, John Schmied, Cyndi Smith, Margaret Snell, Anne St. Germain, Len Steiner, Marilyn Steiner, Martyn Stewart, Claudia Strickland, George Strickland, Maureen Sunn, Dolores Tanno, Linda Thompsen, Kathy Todd, Tom Traeger, Fan Tsao, Pat Vernie, Jean Wallace, Sunny Walter, Leslie Waters, Craig Weaver, Eva Weaver, Diane Weinstein, Claudia Welch, Mike West, Diane Whitman, Stan Wood, Steve Wood

If you're not listed here, we haven't yet received your volunteer hours! To make sure you're included in our celebration, send your hours to: volunteer-time@eastsideaudubon.org.

Join us as we celebrate our accomplishments, and those of you who made it all possible, at this year's **Annual Dinner**. It's scheduled for **Thursday, January 28** at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church. Invitations will be sent to all the volunteers who have turned in their time. Hope to see you at the dinner!

-- Jan McGruder

Birds of the Cascade Foothills

(Continued from page 1)

From 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. children can join Eastside Audubon members to make a pine cone bird feeder and learn about our wintering birds at the Lewis Creek Park in Bellevue.

These presentations are part of outreach efforts by Eastside Audubon to introduce the organization to residents of its ex-

panded service area in the eastern portion of King County. Eastside Audubon serves the area eastward from Lake Washington to the Cascade ridge and from the Snohomish County line southward to a bit south of I-90.

Contact: Andy McCormick (425) 637-0892 or amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org

Board Notes for December 2009

Expansion into East King County: East-side Audubon will be giving a presentation on winter birds of the Cascade Foot-hills on February 4, 2010, at the REI in Issaquah, followed by a bird walk at Lake Sammamish Park on February 6, and a children's event at Lewis Creek Park on the same day.

Birding Trails Map: Christi Norman will talk with members about the Birding Trails Map at the annual volunteers' din-

ner in January. Norman is seeking volunteer help on the map. Currently Pilchuk, Tahoma, Seattle, and Rainier chapters are involved.

Executive Director's Contract: The board passed a motion to extend the contract of Jan McGruder, our Executive Director, for another year.

Executive Director Assistant: Our Executive Director proposed that she decrease her hours by 10 hours per week to

allow for the hiring of an assistant. Her plan is to have the assistant do time consuming tasks so that she can concentrate on more important tasks assigned by the board. The board passed the resolution. If you are interested in this position, please email your resume and a letter of interest to Jan McGruder at: jmcgruder@eastsideaudubon.org

— Carmen Almodovar

Welcome!

Welcome to the following new members of the East Lake Washington Audubon Society. We hope to see you soon at a Membership Meeting or Field Trip. Call or visit our office if you have any questions. Our friendly volunteers are more than happy to help you.

Bernadette Allred, Doyne Alward, Mrs. J. S. Baker, Jenny and Pat Barton, Dotty Bates, Frederick Bereswill, Marianne Bergstrom, Mr. & Mrs. Blau, Mike Borth, Elinor Bowen, George Boyko, Marion Boyle, David K. Bradley, Susan Brengle, Julia Bricker, Colette Brotherton, Elizabeth Brown, Joanne A. Buehler, Charles D. Cerar, Virginia Chambers, Mary Charbonneau, Brenda K. Chervenak, Louise Clark, Pennie Clark-Ianniciello, M. Closterman, Richard Connis, Theresa A. Dalton, The Richard Daly Family, Karen Dalziel, L. M. Daniel, Brad David, James and Becky Davie, Denis J. de Silvis, Lee Desjarlais, Allan J. Dietemann, Debra Dill,

Angel Dodeward, Mike Dykeman, Shirley Ellingson, Jack Erlandson, Richard Filley, Jackie Floan, Harriet C. Flynn, Claire Gajary, Jennifer Garat, Mary & Tim Gathers, Marianne R. Gaul, John Gette, Do-reen Gillespie, Amy C. Gulick, Rahul Gupta, Ramona Hall, Jane Halsey, Margaret Harter, Jeff Hawk, Carl B. Haynie, Allyn and Patricia Hebner, Akshay Heda, Joyce Hill, Sean Horita, Donald Howe, Mary Hsu, Inga, Lois M. Janecky, Rodger Jessen, Sandra Johnson, Madeline Kelly, John Kemnitzer, James L. Knight, Mary E. Kolar, Robert Lamb, Dona Lander, Christine Larkin, Nancy Lechner, Martin D. Leeds, Greg Levandowsky, Kirstie Lewis, J. Lissner, Melinda Livingstone, Timothy Lovell-Smith, Gaylin Luce, Nancy Luster, J. MacKay, Margaret M. Martinez, Gary and Denae McGregor, Sara McMillon, The Meeks Family, Rich Mieras, Teruyuki Mihashi, Barbara K. Miller, Carole Mills, Robert Mitchell,

Richard and Dora Moxon, Marcia Mueller, Helen Murphy-Robinson, Mary J. Nelson, Amy Ng, Dolores Ohis, Elisabeth Olsen, Susan M. Parker, Roland Pender, Willis K. Peterson, Patti Pitcher, Teresa Pletcher, Sarah Plumer, Rosemary K. Reid, Dr. Crinzi A. Richard, Judith Rid-dell, Donna Rockwood, Harriett Rosenblatt, Jenny Russell, Charles Sampson, Wynn Sasaki, Carolyn Saxegaard, Susan Slyver, Robert and Marcia Smith, John Solyts, Sylvia Starr, Saul and Liz Stephens, Rise A. Stevens, Emily Stoll, Karen Storrs, Gary Swanson, Kathryn Taylor, Annette Tierney, Kathy Trani, Constance Ulrich, Marilyn K. Vaughn, Gretel Von Bargen, Curtis Von Trapp, Dave Walter, Richard Walters, Adam Wanaski, Marianne Webster, Dennis A. Weyrauch, Tom Wilkenson, Ann Williams, Robyn Wilson, Linda Wolfe, David Wong, Phillip Worthington, Zoe Yeager

Holiday Gift Wrap at REI

The Holiday Gift Wrap is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, and this past December was no exception. Because we had tables set up at both REI in Redmond and REI in Issaquah, it was also a great outreach event for the Chapter.

Even with a down economy, we made over \$2,600 for the Chapter – a great boost to our programs. There were dozens of volunteers who wrapped, taped and beribboned gifts over a 7-day period, and we can't thank you enough.

Next year we again look forward to having gift wrapping tables at both REIs.

— Jan McGruder

Time for Changing of the Guard

Warren Pagel is stepping down as our Volunteer Time Coordinator. It's hard to believe, but Warren has been tracking our time for over 10 years now, and he's ready for a change.

Thankfully, India Arnold has volunteered

to take on this task – and try and keep us all straight. India volunteered for us a couple of years ago, and I'm delighted she's back to help us out again.

I know the transition will be seamless and most of you won't even notice, but I want

to thank Warren for all his careful work and tireless efforts to get it right.

Make sure to send your volunteer hours to: volunteer-time@eastsideaudubon.org

-- Jan McGruder

Harlequin Duck

Variegated

Jester; bouncing surf rider

Meets the wind grinning.

Andrew McCormick
Seattle, Nov 2009

Wild Swans

I looked in my heart while the wild swans went over.
And what did I see I had not seen before?
Only a question less or a question more,
Nothing to match the flight of wild birds flying.
Tiresome heart, forever living and dying,
House without air, I leave you and lock your door.
Wild swans, come over the town, come over
The town again, trailing your legs and crying!

Edna St. Vincent Millay

WASHINGTON'S WOODPECKERS

With Brian Bell

Join Master Birder **Brian Bell** to explore the world of woodpeckers in Washington. Twelve species inhabit our state from sea level to the boreal forests to the semiarid valleys of Eastern Washington. In class, we will view an illustrated presentation and discuss habitat requirements, examine seasonal distribution, learn identification tips, and listen to vocalization and drumming patterns. There will be a half day field trip in Western Washington on Saturday, March 20 and a full day trip to Eastern Washington on Saturday, May 22.

Brian is a professional birding and natural history guide with an extensive background in biology, geology and astronomy. He teaches ornithology at local community colleges and has birded extensively throughout the West and the United States. His enthusiasm and passion for birds will inspire you!



Image by Michael Hobbs

Class: Thursday, March 18 - 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. at the EAS office at Northlake Unitarian Church, Kirkland.

Field trips: Saturday, March 20, the half day trip will be in Western Washington. A full day trip to Eastern Washington will be on **Saturday, May 22**. The trips will be organized at the class session.

Cost for lecture and field trips: \$65.00 for EAS members, \$85.00 for nonmembers. **A fee of \$14 for gas and driving expenses to Eastern Washington should be paid to the carpool driver. The fee for the half day will be \$3.**

Registration: Call the EAS office Monday, Tuesday or Friday a.m. at 425-576-8805 to register.
Registration closes March 16, 2010.

****Class limited to 20 participants, 15 class and field trip, 5 class only.**

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

NOTE: The monthly Marymoor Park bird walk has been discontinued.

Feb 6 (Sat) 9:00 to noon

Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration

Join us in restoring native habitat at the Marymoor Park interpretive area. Dress for the weather and bring clippers, gloves, snacks and water. Meet at SE corner of Parking Lot G. **Questions? Call office at 425-576-8805**

Feb 7 (Sun) 7:15 a.m. - Skagit Valley Swans & Snow Geese.

Weather and wildlife permitting, we will photograph swans at Johnson-DeBay Slough, raptors at the West 90, and snow geese in Fir Island fields/Hayton Farms. We will likely stop for lunch in Conway. Bring layers of clothing for cold weather, rain gear, snacks, water and WDFW parking decal. **Register for trip with Caren Park at travelgirl.fics@gmail.com** – leader will email details. Meet at McCollum P&R (south Everett) at 7:00 a.m. Limit 8. Passenger cost per person **\$16**.

Feb 10 (Weds) 8:00 to noon

Lake Sammamish State Park

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. Dress appropriately (rainproof in layers; some of the trails can be muddy if wet). Just inside the main entrance, take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end. Co-lead by **Sharon Agaard and Stan Wood**. Call Sharon with any questions, **425-891-3460**.

Feb 12-15 (Fri-Mon) -- Great Backyard Bird Count

See article on page 7.

Feb 13 (Sat) - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. — Native Plant Walk Washington Park Arboretum Winter Garden

Join an easy stroll through the lovely J.A. Witt Winter Garden

to see winter flowers, eye-catching barks, soft fragrances and hummingbirds. February attractions include witch hazels, with delicate white-to-orange flowers, winter-blooming rhododendrons, red-twig dogwoods and black mondo grass. Meet before 10:00 at the South Kirkland P&R (see website for directions). Bring snacks, water, walking shoes, raingear and a plant ID book. Both native plant people and photographers are welcome. Contact Melinda if you plan to join us, **425-827-5708** or **BRONSON874@aol.com**. **Passenger cost/person \$2.**

Feb 13 (Sat) 7:30 a.m. — Olympia Area

We will visit the Olympia Watershed Park which has a 1.5 mile trail that winds thru a diverse habitat for many birds associated with mixed coniferous and deciduous woodlands. Next will be the McLane Creek Nature Trail, then Perry Creek, Mud Bay, Capitol Lake, Percival Landing, North Point, East Bay and finally Priest Point State Park. The Olympia waterfront offers enjoyable birding for wintering waterbirds, shorebirds and small birds. Last year we saw Western Scrub-Jay, Townsend's Warblers and a Barred Owl. Bring a lunch. Meet before 7:30 at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9). **Passenger cost/person \$15.00. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Feb 16 (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**

Feb 20 (Sat) 9:00 a.m. – Watershed Park

A 2-hour nature walk in this Kirkland park takes place the **3rd Saturday of each month** at 9:00 a.m. 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**

Feb 20 (Sat) 7:00 a.m. (prompt) to 5:00 p.m.

Sequim area - Registration required – Limit 11

We will work our way up the Kitsap Peninsula to the Sequim area. This is a good time to search out a wide variety of waterfowl, loons, grebes and alcids. We will also pay attention to the songbirds. Weather can be variable, so come prepared for most anything. Scopes are very helpful. Bring lunch and money for ferry and for carpooling. Limited to 11 people in three cars. Meet at the south end of the Kingsgate P&R. **Passenger cost/person \$20. Brian H. Bell 425-485-8058.**

Feb 22 (Mon) 9:00 to noon

Birding the Hot Spots of King County

Monthly trip on **fourth Monday** of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 at north end of the Newport Hills

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Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon.
Passenger cost/person \$2.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Mar 5 (Fri) 11:00 a.m.

Kenmore Park & Ride and Library

Eastside Audubon members will have spotting scopes available at 11:00 a.m. for the public to watch the Great Blue Heron colony at the north end of the Kenmore P&R (Bothell Way and 73rd Ave. NE). There will be a slide presentation about the herons and other birds at the nearby Fire Station about noon. This will be published as an event in the Kenmore Senior Center newsletter. EAS members are invited to come & bring a scope, if they have one. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Mar 10 (Weds) 8:00 to noon—Lake Sammamish State Park
See Feb 10 entry.

May 17-22 (Mon to Sat) Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

This is an advance notice to determine how many people are interested in this trip. I plan to limit the number of people to 12. People who have never been to Malheur will have first priority. I need to make reservations in March to ensure availability for May. The refuge lies in southeastern Oregon, about 30 miles south of Burns, at an elevation of 4,100 feet. Burns is about 500 miles from Bellevue. The refuge, 183,000 acres, is composed of meadows, ponds and extensive wetlands surrounded by sage uplands and basalt rimrock. It is a major resting, nesting, and

feeding area on the Pacific Flyway and is on Roger Tory Peterson's list of the ten best birding areas in the U.S. More than 320 species of birds and many species of mammals have been observed on the refuge. We will visit the main birding areas within the refuge, and usually see 100-130 species. We will take one day to drive to Burns (10-11 hours), spend 4 days birding while there, and one day to drive back. We would hope to carpool with 3-4 people per car. The driving costs per passenger will be \$100 for the trip to and from Burns (1000 miles). In addition we would drive 120-130 miles each day, at a cost of \$10/day. Motel costs would be about \$50-60 for a two-bed room, so if shared by two people cost would be \$25-30 each night which includes a continental breakfast. The rooms have a refrigerator and a microwave. We would have breakfast at the motel and fix a lunch to take along, then buy dinner at a restaurant. Each morning we will plan to leave by 7:30 a.m., bird all day and be back about 4-5 p.m. The area is large enough that we can bird a separate area on each day. This is high desert area, so plan on dressing in layers for temperatures ranging from freezing at night to 80° during the day. Have binoculars, rain gear, good hiking/walking shoes, insect repellent, sun block lotion and a spotting scope if you have one. After I know who is going I will make reservations and we can make arrangements for carpooling from Bellevue area. Anyone interested in going, email or call **Hugh Jennings: h2ouzel@comcast.net or 425-746-6351.**

Great Backyard Bird Count — February 12-15, 2010

Join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC), February 12-15, 2010. A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this **free event** is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

“The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It’s a great example

of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity,” said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. “Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future.”

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event

and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards--whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. The data these “citizen scientists” collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2009, participants submitted more than 94,000 checklists.



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Why 350?

Parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, that is. Jim Hansen and his NASA team have determined that 350 parts per million (ppm) is the maximum amount of carbon dioxide the atmosphere can hold to sustain the temperature of the planet to support the life to which human beings and other life forms have adapted. Currently the atmosphere has 390 parts per million of carbon dioxide.

The organizing effort supported by the Web site *350.org* is worldwide. The recent 350 Day in October spurred people in 150 countries to hold many thousands of events such as demonstrations, art, music, and theater events, and political lobbying in support of keeping carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere at a level which will keep the rise of the global temperature below 2⁰ C.

The recent UN Copenhagen summit did not produce an enforceable treaty, but it did end with an agreement that there is a

global problem that human beings can change for the better. Carbon dioxide and methane are the two most dangerous atmospheric gases that contribute to climate change. Controlling their concentration in the atmosphere will be a key to preventing continued warming of the planet.

The Conservation Committee is looking at ways to educate our communities and Eastside Audubon members about climate change and its effects on bird habitat and populations. The recent *Birds and Climate Change* program produced by the National Audubon Society documented the changes in the breeding ranges of many bird species. These changes also affect the birds that breed in and migrate through our service area. Audubon members are aware of the need for protecting the environment. About half of Eastside Audubon members do not watch birds on a regular basis. They have joined Eastside Audubon because we are working to preserve the environment and they want us to be active on conserva-

tion issues.

The Conservation Committee has been discussing these ideas and is incorporating some of them into our conservation presentations. Our committee supports the preservation and restoration of habitat for wildlife, forest preservation which helps store carbon, development of non-fossil fuel energy which keeps fossil fuels and their carbon in the ground, and preservation of clean air.

We and the birds will benefit from getting carbon dioxide to 350 ppm in the atmosphere. We can enjoy a wide variety of bird species, clean water and air, and the satisfaction of knowing we have preserved the nature we love for our descendants.

The Conservation Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the EAS office. Contact amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org

Eastside Audubon 2009 Christmas Bird Count Highlights

The Eastside Audubon Society (EAS) had the 2009 CBC on Saturday, December 19. It was cloudy and cool, with temperatures of 42-48 F., and some light rain. Many ponds still had ice on them from the recent cold weather which resulted in fewer waterfowl than usual.

A record 54 people covered eight areas (the CBC circle is centered just south of Beaver Lake in Sammamish). We had four backyard bird counts and ended up with 94 species, our second highest total, compared to 95 in 2008 CBC. The total of 18,134 birds was the highest of the last 7 years. Major surprises were:

American Bittern – one seen in East Snoqualmie Valley – first ever recorded for our CBC

Gray Jay – 5 is highest count for only third year reported by Gene Hunn hiking up Tiger Mt.

Merlin – 1 is only 5th year recorded

Ruffed Grouse – 1 in a backyard count is only 5th year recorded

American Pipit – 1 and second ever recorded with 6 in 1999

Western Tanager – 1 seen on East L. Sammamish Trail is first ever for EAS CBC

Following are other highlights and major changes in the bird counts over the past 15 years.

Tundra Swan – 5, and only 3rd year reported.

Canada Goose – 1722 – highest ever recorded

Cackling Goose – 2611 – highest of only 5 years as separate species, previous high 306 in 2007

Northern Shoveler – 5 is 2nd lowest

Gadwall – 32 is 2nd lowest to 24 in 1994

Ring-necked Duck – 156 is 2nd highest to 168 in 1994

Ruddy Duck – 1 is 2nd lowest to 0 in 2006

Bald Eagle – 39 is 2nd highest to 41 in 2007

American Coot – 264 is 2nd lowest to 262 in 1995

Ring-billed Gull – 359 is 2nd highest to 1581 in 1994

Mourning Dove – 19 (14 in backyard counts) is 3rd highest to 56 in 2006

Anna's Hummingbird – 24 (12 in backyard counts) is 2nd highest to 25 in 2004

Northern Flicker – 101 is highest recorded

Steller's Jay – 121 is highest with 99 reported in 2008

Common Raven – 20 is 2nd highest to 21 in 2005

Black-capped Chickadee – 323 is 2nd highest to 329 in 2007

Red-breasted Nuthatch – 28 highest, previous high 26 in 1995

Brown Creeper – 28 is 2nd highest to 29 in 2003

Golden-crowned Kinglet – 205 is 2nd highest to 224 in 2005

Cedar Waxwing – 67 is 6th year recorded; high of 72 in 1996

Northern Shrike – 4 ties with 2008 as highest

Spotted Towhee – 123 is 2nd highest to 141 in 2003

Dark-eyed Junco – 740 is highest and compares to 471 in 2007

Red-winged Blackbird – 2277 is highest, exceeding 1857 in 1999

Purple Finch – 45 is highest and compares to 39 in 2007

Other birds seen during count week, but not on count day include a Clark's Nutcracker, Barred Owl and Brant goose. A complete list of birds recorded during the 2009 CBC, or any year from 1981, is available by email from Hugh Jennings.

— Hugh Jennings, h2ouzel@comcast.net

BIRD OF THE MONTH — Andrew McCormick

Rough-legged Hawk *Buteo lagopus*

Length	21 in
Wingspan	53 in
Weight	2.2 lb (990 g)
AOU Band code	RLHA

If you are driving in open country in Washington in winter and see a large light-colored raptor perched on a shrub, it is likely to be a Rough-legged Hawk. They hunt from low perches or low flight and feed on voles, ground squirrels, mice and sometimes birds it can find on the ground. They are winter visitors to Washington and can be found in the Skagit Flats in Western Washington and in many places in Eastern Washington in their preferred habitat of open grasslands, brush country and sometimes marshes.

The Rough-legged Hawk is our most northern buteo (pronounced byoo'-tee-oh) having evolved in the circumpolar arctic. In North America the area includes the tundra north of the boreal forest in a wide expanse from Alaska across Canada. The entire population migrates in late fall to southern Canada and northern United States.

Rough-legged Hawks can be found in both light and dark morphs, with the latter making up almost forty percent of the birds in the east, but only ten percent of those in the west. The adult light morph Rough-leg will almost always have a light forehead and in general the head will be light colored, differentiating it from the darker headed Red-tailed Hawk. Most Rough-legs seen in western Washington will have large black carpal patches at the bend or wrist on the underside of the wings. The wings have a black trailing edge formed by the black tips of the feathers. The female has a wide black subterminal band on the tail and the male can have several black tail bands (Bechard & Swem). These raptors have the smallest feet of any of the buteos (Alderfer).

The birds belong to the genus *Buteo* which is Latin for a species of hawk or buzzard. Buteos are characterized by large bodies and long, wide, rounded



wings on which they soar. The species name *lagopus*, hare's foot, is from the Greek, *lagos*, a hare, and *pous*, foot giving reference to the feathered-covered legs. Rough-legs have feathers all the way to the toes, an adaptation that helps them retain heat in the arctic. Hawk is from the Anglo-Saxon *hagoc* (Halloway).

Rough-legs are cliff dwellers and will alternate nesting sites with Gyrfalcons and Peregrine Falcons (Dunne, Sibley & Sutton). The Rough-leg's nest is most often built on a cliff but at the edge of the forest it can be in a tree. It is a mass of sticks and debris lined with grasses. Usually 3-5 pale bluish-white eggs are deposited. Incubation is mainly by the female and the eggs hatch in a month. The first flight will occur after 5-6 more weeks. Rough-legs eat large numbers of lemmings and other rodents and the success or failure of nests can vary with the yearly fluctuations of their supply of prey.

The remoteness of their nesting sites has protected them from human activity and the Rough-legged Hawk population is doing very well. Their greatest threats

are on the wintering grounds which are heavily used for agriculture. To see a video of the bird in flight with excellent views of the black carpal patches and black tail band visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at

<http://macaulaylibrary.org/video/flashPlayer.do?id=50346>

(Photo credit: Mike Hamilton. References available upon request at amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org)

Thanks For All Your Support

Thank you to all our wonderful donors. With your generous support over the past year, we have been able to continue growing in many ways. This year we accomplished more than ever.

1. For the third year in a row we were able to send kids to summer camp. And because of your support we were awarded a grant from REI, including camper equipment and supplies;
2. The REI grant also includes materials and equipment for our Classroom Bird Box, which is available for teachers to borrow and use in the classroom. Last year our Youth Education Committee served over 900 children on the Eastside;
3. We expanded into our new territory in east King County, so that we serve the area from the eastern shores of Lake Washington to the crest of the Cascades;

Thank you for your continuing support of Eastside Audubon. We couldn't do it without you!

Corvid Club (\$25 to \$99): Nancy Alden, Doyne Alward, Stephanie Amoss, Kathy Andrich, Marge Andrich, Marty and Merl Arnot, Karl and Bernice Atwood, Kathy Aubin, Allan F. Avery, Jackie Baker, Joanne Baker, Neil Baldock, Christa Balk, Maria Luisa Bangs, Lucille Barnard, Lucille Barnhard, Graham A. Beattie, Becky Benton, Jeff and Lisa Berkman, Tina Blade, J. Michael Bogan, Mary A. Bolte, M.D., Dan and Ann Bormann, Patricia Bowers, Roy and Betty Branson, Anita Brennan, Robert F. Brown, Patrick Burke, Brenda Burnett, Marjorie M. Cady, Kathy Carlson, Linda A. Carroll, Christopher Chapman, Tamra Chinn, Susan and Dennis Christie, Diana Cobb, Kevin Connolly, Liz Cormier, Sharon Cormier-Aagaard, Robert M. Cox, Greg Coy, Diane Crestanello, Janet M. Crites, Paula J. Crockett, S.C. Cromarty, Nancy Crowley, Shelley Dahlgren, Melissa Danilovs, Joan Davis, Jean Dearn, Melinda DeBruler, Rosie Decker, Kathy Dennis, Bala Dodoye-alali, Marge Dolecal, Howard Donkin, Ann Dougherty, Frances Drobney, Marilyn Dunstan, Glenn and Bertha Eades, Therese Eby, Penny Edwards, Denis G. Egan, Vicki and Mike Elledge, Ingrid Elliott, Linda Ells-

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Bald Eagle Club (\$1,000+): Carmen Almodovar, Mary and Geary Britton-Simmons, Margaret Lie, Jan and Tim McGruder, Jim and Nancy Roberts

Work and Play With the Eastside Audubon Education Committee

Mary Britton-Simmons says "Join the Education Committee to work with kids and have great parties."



Olympic Birdfest 2010, April 9-11, Sequim, WA

Grab your binoculars and join the **Olympic BirdFest 2010** celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center in Sequim, WA on April 9-11, 2010.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready ... Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine

Falcons, and Pygmy owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours; and a traditional salmon bake at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula .

Check out the offerings by going online (<http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>), or calling for a brochure.

Also this year! Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 11-13, 2010. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Get program information and registration forms online at: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>.

Or contact us by phone, at 360-681-4076, E-mail us at info@olympicbirdfest.org