



Eastside Audubon
your connection to nature

The Corvid Crier

EASTSIDE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 28, No 1 – FEBRUARY 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.

Unusual Birds: Extreme Adaptations and Appearances

Thursday, February 26, 6:30 pm

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (EAS Headquarters)

Special Kids' Program Time: 7:00 pm

(business meeting and adult program follow)

For our special "kids and adults" program in February, we are pleased to feature Larry Schwitters from Save Our Swifts. He will lead the young Audubon members in a dash through the many different and often unusual bird families of the world. Larry will start with what is a bird and go from there to the concept that half of all birds, the "song birds," are very different from the rest. He will then present a wide range of the most extreme adaptations, appearances and abilities of the bird world. The journey will end with a closer look at swifts and their close relatives.

Kids will head downstairs at 7:30 to create an art project featuring unusual birds.

Larry holds a BS with a biology major and a masters in broad field science. He took an early retirement after 29 years in the trenches of public education, mostly as a middle school life science teacher. In 2004 he began working with the American Bird Conservancy to identify Black Swift waterfall nest/roost sites in Washington State.

He has also assembled a list of 30 historic Vaux's Swifts roosting sites. One of these sites, the Wagner Elementary School in Monroe, is one of the most significant known Vaux's Swift roost sites in the world. Larry will be talking about the Save Our Swifts project at the business meeting.

After the business meeting, we present the second half of the program, which features **Eastside Audubon members and images of their Africa trips.** Hugh Jennings, EAS field trip chair and avid photographer, will show images of birds and animals of Zambia, with some exciting video clips of encounters with elephants and lions. **Charles Sleicher,**



EAS photo group member and recognized bird photographer, will present bird and wildlife images from several trips to Africa.

Please join us **Thursday, February 26** and bring your children of all ages and some good questions for Mr. Schwitters. Come at 6:30 for the Activity Fair. Enjoy the Unusual Birds program from 7:00 to 7:30, followed by refreshments, business meeting, and our African wildlife program.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public.** Invite a friend or anyone who wants to see unusual bird images and/or see lovely images of African wildlife.

Directions to Eastside Audubon, location of this program, are at the lower left corner of this page.

EAS Activism — It's Addictive!

By Sunny Walter



I have been a bird and wildlife photographer for many years. The baby lynx I am holding in the picture is from a game farm in Montana. We were only allowed to photograph her for 20 minutes before she was fed her bottle of milk.

For 20 years, I have used my photographs, my photography field trips, and my writing to inspire people to “step out into nature to locations where they can

have a peak nature experience.” I want them to fall in love with our natural world and yearn to protect it.

Eight years ago, the nature photography community was not as in tune with the environment as they are now, so I joined Eastside Audubon to have more of an impact. Now I'm hooked. I have been a volunteer since I joined and love it!

So today I will try to inspire you to “step into a volunteer position with Eastside Audubon where you can have a peak Audubon experience.” I want you to fall in love with our great organization and yearn to make it grow and thrive.

If you love birds, you will love helping on our Christmas Bird Count teams or bird survey teams. You will love being part of a Birdathon team. Note the word “team.” What a terrific sense of comradeship you will have on these teams. What a great sense of satisfaction you will have in contributing to the scientific knowledge base about birds. What fun you will have looking at birds all day long.

If you want to have an impact on the environment, you can go it alone – or you can multiply your efforts by volunteering for a conservation project or event. There is something for everyone.

If you have an outgoing personality, you are made for Program Night chair - or Outreach events.

If you have a nurturing personality, you will feel right at home in the ever-expanding Education committee.

All these positions involve good hard work, but it is fun work with satisfying results. And you're always working with supportive, positive-oriented people here. What a treat!

The ultimate position of Board member or officer is a delight in Eastside Audubon. We work hard, but we have lots of freedom in defining our job, we have great support from other board members, and we receive lots of appreciation. We have fun, too – especially at our winter weekend retreat in a beautiful lodge located on Key Peninsula.

I warn you, however, that once you get started, it's addictive. Working with happy, supportive, goal-oriented people with deliciously different personalities is a healthy mix and being in a position to help kids, help the birds, help the environment, and influence chapter decisions is a heady mix.

Our GREATLY expanded Eastside Audubon website is just waiting for you to jump in and browse all the new descriptions and images of our activities. It is just waiting for you to explore all the possible ways you can GET INVOLVED. I challenge you to try volunteering. You are in for a real treat with Eastside Audubon.

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>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580 tmcgruder@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Advocacy</u>	Open	
<u>Citizen Science</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580
<u>Conservation</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580 tmcgruder@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Marymoor Park</u>	Jim Rettig	(425) 402-1833 jrettiganager@verizon.net
<u>Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 mbritton-simmons@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Programs</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Youth Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 mbritton-simmons@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Library</u>	Betsy Law	(206) 782-1497 librarian@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Communication</u>	Patrick Kelley	(206) 618-9674 birder@pkwrite.com
<u>Historian</u>	Bob Gershmel	(425) 823-8840 rwgusnret1986@yahoo.com
<u>Newsletter</u>	Tom Grismer	(206) 720-9892 newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Publicity</u>	Tracey Cummings	(425) 788-4663 publicity@eastsideaudubon.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Liz Copeland	(425) 641-0209 webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org
<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>	Open	

February Meetings

Feb 4 (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

Feb 10 (Tues) 7:00 pm
Youth Education Committee

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

Feb 12 (Thurs) 7:00 pm
Photo Group

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

Feb 26 (Thurs) 6:30 pm
Monthly Membership Meeting

See page 1.

Eastside Audubon Office/ Audubon Center

The office is downstairs at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church in Kirkland, **308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State).**

Directions: I-405 exit 18 (N. E. 85th-Kirkland). Go west on Central Way to the light on 3rd St. Go left on 3rd St. Follow this street (it bears left and changes name to State St.) Then turn left on 4th Ave. S.

(425) 576-8805 —office@elwas.org

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

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The Corvid Crier is published monthly by the Eastside Audubon Society except that there are no issues in January or August.

Deadline for material submission is the first Wednesday of the month preceding publication. Send material by email to:

newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org
Subject: EAS Newsletter

or by mail to:

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



Volunteer Spotlight on:

Mary Britton-Simmons

This month, our volunteer spotlight shines on Mary Britton-Simmons, who leads the Education Committee. She said this committee originally consisted of only her, but “has grown to 13 wonderful and very talented volunteers,” enabling her to organize many projects. The committee teaches environmental youth education programs at local schools, helps with science fairs, and awards scholarships for environmental summer camps, teachers, and a \$500 college scholarship for one high school senior. The youth education includes field trips, such as the next one that takes the Kirkland Environmental and Adventure School to Juanita Bay Park for bird watching and wetlands study.

Mary’s background has led to the success of the Education Committee. She was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. After college, she wanted “to do something big for the world,” so she traveled to Guatemala, learned Spanish, then to Yucatan to run a school. After a few years, she returned to St. Louis, married, and moved to southern Illinois. In Illinois, she taught 6th grade full-time while going to graduate school. She and her husband also got involved in the civil rights movement. As a teacher, Mary reported the mistreatments of her black students to the NAACP; and she was asked by the school to leave. She and her husband decided to move, and in 1976 they moved with their three boys, the youngest being only one week old, to Washington. Mary returned to teaching English in high school.

After 29 years of teaching, she retired

in 2002 from Woodinville High School as the division chair. Wanting to keep herself intellectually challenged, she started looking for interesting volunteer work. Her interest in the environment and birding had been sparked by a friend who worked in a Seattle marine lab and also from a kayak trip led by a guide who was an excellent birder. She saw an Audubon advertisement for a volunteer to “help” with Osprey Day. She signed up and found herself organizing the event!

Her most interesting bird experiences include a recent spotting of 50 Evening Grosbeaks in her backyard and seeing wonderful birds during their trips abroad, including South America, Africa, and Australia. However, she says her favorite bird is still the cheeky chickadees. “They will stand on anything to get food.” Mary loves learning about birds through Audubon and programs such as the tough online Cornell Ornithology class.

She enjoys the people involved in Audubon because they are amazing and they always “put their feet where their mouths are.” She hopes she is making a difference in what she shares through the Education Committee programs.

Thank you, Mary, for helping us with your wealth of talent.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

The office is painted and reorganized. Several volunteers helped on this project – putting in almost 80 hours overall - and all of us who work there every day are really enjoying the “new” space. It’s a beautiful place to work. Thank you to **Christy Anderson, Greg Getch, Hugh and Bev Jennings, Jan McGruder, Jim McRoberts, Jim Rettig, and Sunny Walter**.

Program Night is a great opportunity for volunteers to help out. It takes many hands to make sure the evening goes smoothly. For November’s program night we’d like to thank **Carmen Almodovar, Christy Anderson, Carolyn Kishel, Tricia Kishel, Helen LaBouy, Margaret Lie, Jim and Nancy Roberts, Sunny Walter, and Claudia Welch**

Thank you to **Helen LaBouy** for all the work she put in on the gift wrap. Unfortunately, despite all the work Helen put in to organize the volunteers and coordinate with REI, the snow and bad weather kept us from wrapping any gifts this year. Hopefully 2009 will be kinder. Helen has also been working in the office two days a week, and been able to take many of the day-to-day tasks off Jan’s desk, leaving her time to focus on bigger projects.

The website has been getting a lot of at-

tention and new content by the Web Team, which has really enhanced our website. Thanks to **Carmen Almodovar, Liz Copeland, Patrick Kelley, Tricia Kishel** and especially **Sunny Walter** for doing the web pages.

On January 3 we held our annual Christmas Bird Count and dinner – continued from December 20 due to the snow. Thanks to **Hugh Jennings and Brian Bell** for organizing all the teams and paperwork to make this another success. Also, thanks to the cooks and kitchen help, it was a delicious dinner and fun evening: **Christy Anderson, Lou Ann Harris, Bev Jennings, Andy McCormick, Jan McGruder, Jan Rettig, Nancy and Jim Roberts, Roo Stewart, and Claudia Welch**

Our membership database has been getting lots of attention from **Larry Engles** these past few months. Larry had reorganized how we enter information and added any new features to make it easier for volunteers to enter and glean data. Thanks also goes to **Roy Branson** for keeping the membership data up to date and **Warren Pagel** for keeping track of volunteer hours. All those jobs take a lot of hours and organization, and we appreciate their work.

Thank you to **Tom Grismer**, our newsletter editor. Tom makes sure all the parts are in place and works behind the scenes producing the Corvid Crier each month. We appreciate his skills in making the Crier a publication for which we can all be proud.

We have a new Librarian. **Betsy Law** has been working on cataloging all the donated books and getting them up on the shelves. You’ll see a lot of new titles in our library. Come check it out!

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

We cannot thank you enough for your invaluable contributions as a volunteer. Our goals require sincere and committed volunteers and we are grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication you bring to your role as an Eastside Audubon volunteer. Would you like to volunteer for EAS? Check out the website for current needs.

Welcome!

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

Knut and Ann Aagaard, James Allison, Jillian Altizer, Stephanie Amoss, Margrethe L. Anderson, Dr. Jan Apgar, Robert W. Arkills, Emma Arnold, Nancy M. Bannick, Edie Barnhart, Teresa Becker, Christopher V. Bommel, Allison Bode, Janette Bower, Robert F. Brown, Richard M. Bryant, Brenda Burnett, Walter Burrows Jr., David Butler, Sally Cadranell, Elaine I. Clabaugh, Margaret Cole, Jason Cook, Robert R. Crees, Lorraine Crossett, Becci Crowe, Anne Davis, Dottie Delaney, J. Dern, Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Detering, Allan Dietemann, Sharon Dillon, Vicki Dopps, Carol Doucette-Kirk, Dawnelle

Dutcher, Bruce and Janet Eder, Erica Engle, Cameron Engles, Nancy B. Evans, Cdr. B. E. Fenn, Karin M. Ferguson, Sandra Fetzter, Andrew Fisher, Mason Flint, Helen Forney, Jane Fox, Sue Gallo, Debby Gee, Tom Gergen, Brian & Kathy Gillis, A. R. Green, Jean Green-Wolaver, Susan Greer-Williams, Dorothy Hagen, Jim Haines, S. Hakimi, Joan H. Harder, G. Y. Harry, Jeff Hoerth, Laura Hoffman, James C. Hooker, Ray D. Horton, William Hough, Margie Huff, Olga Hull, Kathlyn James, George Jamison, Clare Jenkins, Jerry Johannes, Evelyn M. Johnson, Chris Jones, Slim Jorgensen, Robert E. Kalina, Stephanie Kerns, Gayle Kirk, William W. Korff, June M. Laflam, Edwin D. Lamb, Betty Lambert, Mike Lavelle, Charles Lee, Melinda Littrell, Lucy Lotto, Margaret Luehe, Amanda Lukas, Wilbur C. Mann, Lynn Mares, John M. Martin, Judy Mason, James R. McGrath, Salmi

McQuistan, Cinda J. McSherry, Stephen Michels, Patricia Minden, Ed and Ruth Molzan, Clifford Montoya, Lea F. Murphy, Todd O'Connor, Rubye and Lew H. Pang, Anna Prostka, Bernard F. Ray, Mrs. T. G. Reed, Salvatore Ricciardi, Rosalind Rich, Judy A. Richards, Robert Rothman, Karen Samdahl, Patricia Sandbo, Phil Sandifer, Kevin Schaab, Robert Schaller, Ken Schiring, Elizabeth Schmitt, Dorothy Scholz, Arthur R. Schrumm, W. L. Schultz, Kit Sears, Susan I. Seaton, Laurie Slater, Samuel Stanley, Lori Stefano, Alison Suttles, Carol Tauscheck, Kathy Thomas-Leitch, L. D. Turner, M. Vanhooser, Don and Sherie Vierira, G. J. Vogelsberger, Penelope Vrachopoulos, Dawna Wakefield, Margaret Weikert, Wendy Wekell, Mike Wellnitz, Helen R. Whearty, Mark Williams, Darlene Wing, Emily Woodson, Yeen M. Wu.

Board Notes for November and December 2008

Finances for 2008: It appears that we will be in the red for 2008. If there's any good news here, it's that this loss is primarily from one-time expenses due to our name change, new logo development, and a redesign of our website. The general decline in investments also affected our income. In December, the board voted to use some of our cash reserve to cover the shortfall.

T-shirts and Hats with New Logo: We have new "logowear" with the Steller's Jay. Choose a khaki-colored baseball hat or a t-shirt in blue or yellow.

Website: The web committee continues

to reorganize information on the website to make it more accessible.

Office Rehab: Thanks to all the volunteers who moved furniture and helped repaint the office.

Executive Director's Contract: The board voted to approve Jan McGruder's contract for another year.

Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW): Three board members attended the fall ACOW, a meeting of local Audubon chapters. Twice a year chapters meet to discuss environmental issues and share ideas.

Washington Environmental Council Legislative Workshop: Three board members and several EAS members attended this workshop in preparation for Environmental Lobby Day which will take place on February 19, 2009.

Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park: Jim Rettig reported that a new bike rack will be installed and that work continues on signage, habitat restoration, and extending the boardwalk. He noted that grants from King County are likely to be smaller in 2009.

— Carmen Almodovar, Secretary

Thanks to 2008 Volunteers

You have all worked so hard to further our mission this past year, and we want to thank each and every one of you! We have over 155 volunteers who dedicated over \$6,900 hours to the Chapter - and we accomplished some wonderful things this past year.

Mary Allain, Patrick Allain, Carmen Almodovar, Christy Anderson, India Arnold, J Baker, Ivan Balbuena, Cindy Balbuena, Kay Barrett, Brian Bell, Cathryn Blake, Graeme Blake, Jonathan Blake, Liliana Bogin, Jane Boies, Shawn Bongard, Tim Boyer, Roy Branson, Gillian Brightwater, Mary Britton-Simmons, Melinda Bronsdon, Jenny Buening, Courtney Carbonetti, Richard Carlson, Sue Chickman, Michael Clarke, Patricia Clarke, Sharon Cormier-Aagard, Mark Crawford, Shelley Dahlgren, Maki Dalzel, Tony Dalzel, Barbara Dietrich, Marge Dolecal, Georgia Doyle, Glenn Eades, Therese Eby, Brian Edwards, Ella Elman, Marlee Elston, Larry Engles, Dan Fischer,

Kim Galimanis, Robert Gershmel, Greg Getch, Jeani Goodrich, Kelly Graham, Karen Greytak, Karen Guy, Jim Hall, Shirlee Hall, Jennifer Hille, Miles Hille, Janka Hobbs, Michael Hobbs, M Hoekstra, Ginger Holser, Peter Holt, Mary Holt, Ellen Homan, Lucy Horton, Margie Huff, Judy Hystad, Bev Jennings, Hugh Jennings, Paul Jensen, Warren Jones, Peggy Jorgensen, Jill Keeney, Patrick Kelley, Carolyn Kishel, Tricia Kishel, Lea Knapp, Erin Koeppen, Helen LaBouy, Margaret Lie, Bryn Lieberman, Bruce Lieberman, Chris Lonowski, Jan Loux, Gary Luhm, Megan Lyden, Derek Mahaffey, Sam Mann, Lynne Mason, MaryFrances Mathis, Andrew McCormick, Tim McGruder, Jan McGruder, Jim McRoberts, Elizabeth Menti, Marlene Meyer, Joyce Meyer, Valerie Moore, Katy Murphy, Glenis Nielsen, Patty Olejko, Grace Oliver, Ollie Oliver, Sharon Pagel, Warren Pagel, Caren Park, Linda Pearson, Betty Peltzer, Jonathan Pennington, Linda

Phillips, Juliana Pickrell, Keith Pickrell, Steve Pope, Judy Rams, Krista Rave-Perkins, Marion Reeder, Kevin Rettig, David Rettig, Jan Rettig, Jerry Rettig, Jim Rettig, Karen Ridlon, Stephen Ridlon, Robert Riedl, Nancy Roberts, Jim Roberts, Sharon Rodman, Tora Roksvog, Wesley Sagawa, Dawn Sanders, Phil Sandifer, Merry Schmidt, Bill Schmidt, John Scott, Cindy Scott, Katie Scott, Marina Silverstone, Lorraine Smith, Margaret Snell, Barbara Spargo, Len Steiner, Katherine Tang, Connie Tang, Dolores Tanno, Thuha Tran, Jessoca Tupper, Pat Vernie, Jean Wallace, Sunny Walter, Craig Weaver, Eva Weaver, Diane Weinstein, Claudia Welch, Mike West, Jim Wheeler, Diane Whitman, Gregg Wilson, and Stan Wood.

If you haven't turned in your time, your name may not be on this list, and we apologize. Please send your volunteer hours to Warren Pagel at wpagel@verizon.net or (425) 483-0980.



Eagle Eye
VISION CARE, P.S.

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

See the birds better!

FIELD TRIPS

Parents and children over 8 are welcome on all trips. **FRS Radio owners, please consider bringing them on trips.
See www.eastsideaudubon.org/events/ for the latest information and for reports of last month's field trips.
Non-members of Eastside Audubon will be charged an additional \$5.00.**

Meeting Places for Field Trips:

- **Kingsgate Park and Ride:** I-405 exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound, N. E. 124th St. Go west to light at 116th Ave. N. E., then right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot (on the left). Meet in the S.E. corner. 1300 116th Way NE, Kingsgate.
- **Newport Hills Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 9. 5115 113th PL NE, Newport Hills.
- **South Kirkland Park and Ride:** 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way. 10610 NE 38th Pl.

Feb 6 (Fri) – 9:00 to noon — Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1st Friday of each month at 9:00**. Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot (Parking Lot D). No registration is required. To reach Marymoor Park, take SR 520 east from Seattle to the West Lake Sammamish Parkway exit and follow the signs. The entrance to the park is one block south of the exit. Turn right at third stop sign, to Dog Area parking lot. Parking is \$1.

Feb 7 (Sat) 9:00 to noon

Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration

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

Feb 7 (Sat) 7:15 am to 5 pm

Marrowstone Island & Port Townsend

We'll search out the loons, grebes, alcids, waterfowl, shorebirds and sparrows as we make our way north toward Marrowstone Island and on to Port Townsend. We will likely see hawks and eagles. Dress for weather conditions and possible wet and muddy ground. Bring a lunch. Meet no later than 7:15 at the south end of Kingsgate P&R to carpool.

Passenger cost/person \$14 plus share ferry costs.

Brian H. Bell 425-485-8058.

Feb 17 (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 21 (Sat) 8:00 am — 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 tidal mudflats of Priest Point State Park and then the Olympia waterfront that offers enjoyable birding for wintering waterbirds. Bring a lunch. Meet before 8:00 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9).

Passenger cost/person \$14.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Feb 21 (Sat) 9:00 am – Watershed Park

A 2-hour nature walk in this Kirkland park takes place the **3rd Saturday of each month** at 9:00 am. Nature walks enter the park off NE 45th Street, north of the railroad tracks on 108th Avenue NE, east of 108th Avenue NE. Watershed park has more than 70 acres of mostly upland second growth forest; there is some riparian habitat. Several plant and bird species can be seen in the park. Bus stop nearby on 108th, near 45th. Limited street parking. **Jan Johnson 425-814-5923**

Feb 22 (Sun) – 10:00 am

Washington Park Arboretum Winter Garden

Join us for 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 am at the South Kirkland P&R, 10610 NE 38th PL (just off 106th Ave NE). Plan to be back by 1:00. Bring snacks, water, walking shoes, raingear and a plant ID book. Please contact Melinda Bronsdon if you are planning to join us, **425-827-5708 or BRONSON874@aol.com**.

Passenger cost/person \$2. Trip limit is 12.

Feb 23 (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 \$2.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Feb 28 (Sat) 9:00 am -- Lake Sammamish State Park

Enjoy a nature walk and birding trip to Lake Sammamish State Park. The Park offers plenty of habitats for aquatic and boreal species. Meet at 9 am at the smaller parking lot, by taking the first right after entering the main entrance to the Park.. Trip should last 3 hours. Questions should be directed to **Sharon**, the trip leader, at **425-271-0143**. Bring binoculars and dress appropriately.

Mar 6 (Fri) 11:00 am —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 you have one. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

May 18-23 (Mon.-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.

(Continued on page 9)

Common Loon *Gavia immer*

Length	32 in
Wingspan	46 in
Weight	9 lb
AOU Band code	COLO

The “song of the loon” once heard will never be forgotten. Piercing the evening across a lake in northern North America the male loon defends his territory with yodels that can be heard up to 16 km away. While only the male yodels, both the male and female use a tremolo and a wail and a combination tremolo-wail. The loon is integral to Ojibwa mythology and they say that in creation the Sun threw light on the shadow creating the striking markings on the loon. In Ojibwa *mahnng* means both loon and brave.

Scientific taxonomy places five species of loon in the genus *Gavia* and all of them are in North America. *Gavia* is Latin for a seabird and *immer* is from the Icelandic *himbrimi*, their name for the Great Northern Diver, as the bird is known in Europe. Loon is a corruption of the Shetland *loom*, their name for a guillemot, another diving bird (Holloway).

Common Loons are very large aquatic birds which in breeding plumage have a greenish-glossed black head with a heavy, black bill, red eye and two horizontal white neck bands with vertical black stripes. The back has a checkerboard pattern of black and white. In Washington birds in breeding plumage are usually seen during spring migration from late March to early June. Although they breed on freshwater, loons winter primarily in marine waters from September until March. Adult birds arrive first



and juveniles, which stay on the breeding grounds until almost the first frost, follow. Wintering loons have gray heads with white throat and neck. The neck band is fainter and the back is more uniformly dark gray with faint checkering. In flight loons have a characteristic “humped-back” silhouette and long wings.

Loons mate for life. Males will become quite aggressive in defending their territory. Unless a lake is very large, it is likely to have only a single mated pair nesting on it. The nest is a mass of reeds, rushes, grasses and sticks and is built very close to the water sometimes on a muskrat house or a floating bog. Two brown-spotted olive colored eggs are often laid before the nest is finished. The young hatch in about a month and in one or two days swim with their parents or ride on the back of one of them. They are capable of flight in about 10 weeks. The population of Common Loons is quite

stable in part due to successful conservation programs such as the Loon Ranger volunteers who monitor nests.

Mahn-go-taysee in the Ojibwa language means “thou art a loon-hearted one” and it is the finest compliment an Ojibwa can give. It praises the spirit of bravery in another person (Klein). In Ojibwa tradition and for all North Americans our loon heartedness can still provide a link to our origin and connection with nature.

Audio and video clips at this link on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Web site

<http://animalbehaviorarchive.org/asset-SearchInterim.do;jsessionid=E31E31C05C12E467680934142F226E34>

(Photo credit: Marc Hoffman. References available upon request at amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org)

Silhouette

Orange sky rises from hills

Melds with pink clouds

Daybreak for a black crow

-Andrew McCormick

Spring Class: Birds and Plants of the Shrub-Steppe

Eastside Audubon is pleased to offer the following class this spring:

The Birds and Plants of the Shrub-steppe

-- With **Andy Stepniewski**, author of **Birds of Yakima County**

This class will introduce you to the plant and bird communities of the shrub-steppe ecosystem in the Columbia Basin of eastern Washington. Andy will impart much in the way of botanical tidbits as these

relate to birds and will emphasize the relationships between such birds as Horned Larks, Sage Sparrows, Sage Thrashers, Brewer's Sparrows, Sage Grouse, and Vesper Sparrows and the preferred habitats of each within this unique mosaic of plant communities. He will also touch on conservation issues. Two leaders will conduct the day-long field trip to the Columbia Basin where we will look for the birds amidst spectacular wildflowers.

Class: Friday, April 17, 7 - 9 pm, at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, our regular meeting spot. See directions on page 1.

Field Trip: Saturday, April 18, 6:30 am - 7:30 pm

Cost: \$80 for members. \$95 for nonmembers

Limit: 20 participants.

Contact the office: 425-576-8805 to register.

Environmentalist of the Year

At the Jan. 22 membership meeting, the Eastside Audubon Society presented the Environmentalist of the Year award to the five founding members of the Environmental and Adventure School, a junior high in the Lake Washington School District. Located at Finn Hill Junior High, the school serves sixth through eighth grade students. The focus of the school is on:

- Richly integrated curriculum focusing on relevant life themes

- Projects that focus on environmental science
- Programs that engage students in community stewardship and outdoor education
- Projects that involve research, writing, use of technology and oral presentations

Eileen McMackin, John Hamilton, Brian Healy, Wayne Tannhauser and Marcus

Rose founded the school in 1999 and dedicate themselves to providing middle school students with a challenging environment in which they grow academically, socially and as active citizens in the community. Congratulations to Eileen, John, Brian, Wayne and Marcus. We are inspired by their dedication to the young people in our community.

— Mary Britton-Simmons



Environmentalists of the Year: Eileen McMackin, Brian Healy, Marcus Rose, John Hamilton. (Not pictured Wayne Tannhauser.)

Give a Gift to the Birds

Give a new year's gift to our avian friends that lasts all year long by joining others in Habitat Restoration at the Audubon BirdLoop in Redmond's Marymoor Park. On December 6 a group of 15 volunteers detailed another patch in the East Meadow by weeding invasives out and planting a lot of native grasses and flowering plants; cleaned up garbage along the whole route; and added new information to the River Kiosk. It is very satisfying to see the progress being made.

Habitat Restoration is not the most fun thing to do, I grant that. But it is absolutely crucial if we want to keep our common local birds common and keep migrants returning to Marymoor. Restoring the habitat means working in the mud in cool tempera-

tures, sometimes in the snow in cold temperatures, during the heat of summer too – and all to remove blackberries, Scot's Broom, Reed Canary Grass and more, so that the many native plants, which produce native foods and nest sites for our feathered friends, have a chance to grow and mature.

Due to the rough weather during the holidays, the January 3rd work party was cancelled, Give a new year's gift to the birds by joining our next work party - set for February 7, from 9 AM to noon. Meet in the SE corner of Parking Lot G, at the Meadow Kiosk.



Before Building of Kiosk



New Marymoor BirdLoop Kiosk

Field Trips — continued from page 6

People who have never been to Malheur will have first priority. I need 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 would 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 \$6/day. Motel costs would be about \$60 for a two-bed room, so if shared by two people cost would be \$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: hughbirder@earthlink.net or 425-746-6351.

Washington State Legislature 2009: Environmental Priorities

January 12 was the first day of the 2009 Legislature in Olympia. Each year the environmental community represented by a coalition of 24 environmental groups agrees on 4 priorities to focus on during the upcoming session. This year the four priorities for the 2009 session are Cap and Invest, Efficiency First, Transit Oriented Communities and Invest in Clean Water. A brief explanation is below.

The 2009 session will be challenging given the current economic landscape. These priorities have been carefully considered and it is believed that they are achievable, but only with your help. You can sign up for email alerts and to learn more about the 4 priorities by following the link below. Let's make 2009 a great year for Washington State!

Cap and invest

Cap and Invest puts our state on a firm path to meet our global warming pollution reduction goals by requiring polluters to buy permits to pollute and investing the revenue generated to spur new clean-tech innovation, put people to work increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy in Washington, and provide assistance to working families struggling with high

energy costs. This policy drives the transition to a stable and more prosperous economic future by ending our dependence on fossil fuels and growing a new, clean energy economy.

Efficiency first

Energy efficiency is the cheapest, quickest and cleanest way to meet rising energy needs, confront climate change and boost our economy. More than 30% of Washington's greenhouse-gas emissions come from energy use in buildings. Making homes, businesses and public institutions more energy efficient will save money, create good local jobs, enhance energy security, slash global-warming pollution and speed economic recovery while reducing the need to invest in costly new generation.

Transit oriented communities

Washingtonians want to live in affordable, walkable and transit-oriented communities. With population growth, we are facing increased traffic congestion, diminished quality of life, and ever-increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

Transit-Oriented Communities would revise the state's transportation and land-

use planning framework to assist local jurisdictions to plan for growth in a sustainable and climate-friendly way. The bill will provide incentives for cities and developers to create affordable, livable, transit-oriented development, increasing transportation choices.

Invest in Clean Water

From Puget Sound to the Spokane River, clean water is Washington's lifeblood and our communities can't thrive without it. This package of targeted polluter-pays fees will protect the taxpaying public and ensure that polluters take responsibility for the impacts of their actions.

The effort will raise new revenue to fund critical projects to save Puget Sound and restore Washington's rivers and lakes. By investing in stormwater infrastructure, toxics prevention and other programs, we create new jobs, relieve financial pressure on local government, and promote new economic stimulus.

For more information on all of the priorities go to <http://www.environmentalpriorities.org/>

— **Tim McGruder, Conservation Chair**

Keep Hummers Humming

We may not get another cold snap like December, but it never hurts to be prepared! Unusual daytime temperatures below freezing for almost a week raised concerns about hummingbirds. The tough little Anna's Hummingbird feeds on flower nectar, although insects are the primary source of protein. Flower nectar or sugar water we provide is a quick energy boost.

As Master Birder Dennis Paulsen says in an email to the birding discussion group Tweeters, "Anna's Hummingbirds are nonmigratory. Our birds would not be to the south of here if we didn't feed them. They are here whether we feed them or not, so we haven't changed a thing about their behavior.

However, we have changed the DISTRIBUTION of this species over time by the proliferation of hummingbird feeders all over the West, so we are ultimately responsible for them being here. From an original distribution in California and

southern Oregon, they have spread widely to the north and east. If you discontinued your feeder for a week by going out of town, your birds would very likely find another nearby feeder. When we go away for a couple of weeks, they are still here when we return, even though they haven't been fed in our yard during that time."

Hummingbirds go into torpor at night and tanking up on sugar or nectar keeps their metabolism going even through the freezing cold. And they also need to get a load of calories first thing in the morning to replace what was lost during the night keeping them warm.

In a cold snap, sugar solution can freeze quickly. Here are some suggestions:

- Take your feeders in at night. Leave them until dark, so the hummers can top off their tanks. Put them back out at first light.
- Check the feeders during the day. If frozen, bring them in for awhile,

warm them in some hot water or replace with a fresh, full feeder.

- Put a handwarmer packet on the feeder. There are single use and reusable types, and some are self-sticking. Activate it as if you were going to put it in your glove, then tape to the feeder. It should provide just enough heat for about 8 hours.
- Slightly increase the sugar in the nectar which keeps it unfrozen longer. (The standard formula is one part sugar to four parts water, boiled and cooled.)
- Set the feeder on a warming pad sold to use for starting seedlings.

Big chills never last too long in our area, but helping out these little guys will let you to watch them through the winter. And that brings joy into our lives when we really need it!

— **Christy Anderson**

2009 Eastside Audubon Christmas Bird Count Results — Jan 3, 2009

The Eastside Audubon Society (EAS) finally had its CBC on Saturday, Jan. 3 after being postponed from Dec. 20 due to weather. It was cloudy and cool all day with 2-3" of snow on the ground areas, but it didn't rain so was a pleasant day for birding. We had 38 people covering eight areas plus four backyard bird counts and ended up with 95 species which is our highest total, compares to a high of 93 in 2002. The total of 11,567 birds however was about 5,000 below the average of the last 15 years. Following are the highlights and major changes in the bird counts.

Greater White-fronted Goose – 13 was the highest of the 5 years they have been reported, 2004-08.

Cackling Goose – have only been on the list since 2005 and the 20 seen was low, 159-306 in other years.

Wood Duck – 17 was the highest of the 3 years reported.

Canvasback – 14 was highest of 7 years reported.

Common Goldeneye – 4 was the lowest of 15 years

Barrow's Goldeneye – 5 was the highest of 9 years reported

Hooded Merganser – 27 was lowest of 15 years

Ruddy Duck – 5 this year, 4 in 2007 and 0 in 2006 – have steadily decreased since high of 158 in 1995.

Bald Eagle – 36 is only exceeded by 41 in 2007.

American Kestrel – 3 is highest of 13 years reported

American Coot – 306 is lowest since 262 in 1995

Spotted Sandpiper – 1 and only 4th year seen

Dunlin – 3 is lowest for 7 years seen, 146 seen in 2002

Ring-billed Gull – 15 is lowest of 15 years

Rock Pigeon – 81 is lowest of 15 years

Red-breasted Sapsucker – 13 is highest of 12 years reported.

Pileated Woodpecker – 16 is highest of 15 years

Gray Jay – only reported in 2007 & 2008 because Gene Hunn climbed Tiger Mt. in the snow.

Steller's Jay – 99 is highest of 15 years

Common Raven – 15 is 3rd highest to 21 in 2005, more than 5 only seen in 5 of last

6 years

Cedar Waxwing – 2 is lowest of 5 years reported

Northern Shrike – 4 is highest of 7 years reported

Lincoln's Sparrow – 1 ties the lowest of 12 years reported

Savannah Sparrow – 1 ties for low of only 4 years reported

White-throated Sparrow – 1 this year and only 1 or 2 seen in 7 years reported

Red Crossbill – 12 is second highest of 4 years reported, 14 in 2004

Evening Grosbeak – 33 is second highest of 4 years reported, 49 seen in 2005

The following mammals were also recorded – 4 raccoon, 2 flying squirrel, 1 black bear, 3 river otter, 2 coyote, and 1 Douglas' squirrel.

Complete report for this years CBC and the 15 year report are available by contacting Hugh Jennings at hughbirder@earthlink.net.

Who's That Birder?

Who drives those cars with bird and nature-themed plates we see on the roads? Let's find out! This month's plate is an older name for a bird many folks have a soft spot for, also known as *Cinclus mexicanus*. So, a two-part question: What's the

bird? And who's the birder?

Find the answer elsewhere in this newsletter. And send in your plate!

Do you have a "Birder" plate? Send a photo of it to christyae@hotmail.com,

with your name, and we'll print one in the newsletter every month. Try to send as good quality photo as you can, and keep the image file small (less than 500K, jpg's preferred).



Thank you to 2008 Donors

Thank you to all our wonderful 2008 donors. With your generous support, we are able to continue growing our chapter in many ways. This year we accomplished more than ever.

- For the second year in a row, we were able to send kids to summer camp. This year we expanded the program to eight camps;
- We held our first ever Marymoor Bird Festival to celebrate the grand opening of the Audubon BirdLoop. Several hundred people attended this event, which included a ribbon cutting by King County Executive Ron Sims. The festival was also sponsored by King County Parks, PCC, and REI;
- We held two Climate Change Common Sense workshops for which we also recruited one sponsor and two grants;
- The Membership Committee was awarded a grant for the purchase of display board to enhance our outreach activities. Look for these soon;
- We changed our name and changed our logo to better define our Chapter and give us an easily-identifiable symbol;
- We had a new website designed and the Web Team has revamped the content with a goal of making the website a useful resource tool for the Chapter and community;

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

Corvid Club (\$25 to \$99): Ruth Adamski, James Allison, Bill and Valerie Anderton, Marge Andrich, Kathy Andrich, Marty and Merl Arnot, Robert Asanoma, Karl and Bernice Atwood, Kathy Aubin, Neil Baldock, Christa Balk, Farley and Paul Bartelmes, Marla Becker, Becky Benton, Lucille Berkowitz, Tina Blade, Sharon Bloch, Kay and Marty Bosler, Carolyn and George Brannen, Melissa Bravin, Gillian Brightwater, Eleanor G. Brogren, Eric Brunstrom, Patrick Burke, Brenda Burnett, Norma Bush, Evelyn Campbell, Roger Chapanis, Christopher Chapman, Henry and Shirley Chiles Jr., Kareem & Cindy Choudhry, Jeanne Chua,

Daniel Clark, Kate Conant, Myrna Conger, Liz Copeland, Joanne Cormier, Liz Cormier, Etta L. Cosey, Mark & Lee Crawford, Diane Crestanello, Ruth Crew, Janet M. Crites, Nancy Crowley, David and Dorothy Cyra, Joan Davis, Patricia Dean, Sheldon and Ann Detwiler, Ulric Dihle, Marge Dolecal, Ann Dougherty, Glenn and Bertha Eades, Therese Eby, Bruce and Janet Eder, Penny Edwards, Denis G. Egan, John Egerter, Vicki and Mike Elledge, Linda Estes, Almira Feaster, Jessie Fernandes, Paula Flores, Ray Foster, Pam Gabler, Suz Garcia, Tom Gergen, Claudia Gowan, Tom Green, Ron and Ginny Green, Karen Greytak, Sue and Bud Grieff, Karen Griffiths, Jane Grigsby, Carol Gross, Kathryn Groves, David and Teresa Guenther, Sally R. Gulacsik, Judith Gurney, Kathleen Gustafson, Floyd and Gloria Hall, I. J. and G.A. Hannon, Deborah Hansen, David Haskell, John Hegna, Dave and Carol Heywood, Dave and Nancy Hill, Judy Hjorth, Marvin S. Hoekstra, Jeff Hoerth, Carole K. Holden, Ginger Holser, Mary and Peter Holt, Joseph Hopkins, Jennifer Hopkins, Chris Houden, Nancy Hubly, Richard W. Huggett, Howard and Pat Hughes, Terri Hurley, Tom and Christy Iversen, Barbara Johnson, Peggy Jorgensen, Pat Jovag, Ed and Grace Kane, Julia Kane, Charlotte Kanemori, Bosler Kay and Marty, Elaine Keehn, Stephanie Kerns, Susan Kersey, Kenneth King, Janice King, Marty Kishel, Norm and Harriet Klein, Laurie Klein, Tina Klein-Lebbink, Lea Knapp, Marilyn Knutson, Patricia Koncsek, Robert Koontz, Mary L. Landerholm, Debbie Larson, Mike Lavelle, Wendy R. Leavitt, Dave Lechner, Andrew Lie, Carole Linse, Gloria Lobb, Jan Loux, Pete and Lois Lowman, Donna Luce, Tom and Annale Luhman, Anne Lutrick, Mark W. MacDonald, Josephine Marpert, Teri Martin, Ted and Lise Marx, Dorothy R. Matsui, Roger and Diane Mauldin, Larry and Alexis May, Kris McCord, Beverly McFarland, Richard and Louise McLachlin, Nancy Mendenhall, Robyn Metz, Jean Milnor, Patricia Minden, Ann Mitchell, James Monahan, Gay Moorhead, Casandra Morgan, Susan Morrisson, Phyllis Moss, Hank Myers, Ed Newbold, Dr. Joan A. Newman, Glenis Nielsen, Kate Oliver, Ollie and Grace Oliver, Susan Olson, Frances Pacquer, Jane and Ron Paige, Sean Parks, Maude

Pauletto, John A. Paulson, Bobby and Curtis Pearson, Omar Peavey, Suzanne and Allen Peery, Nancy Pellicciotti, Laura and Kelly Pendergraft, Anne Pennella, Rita Perkin, Luzia Peter-Contesse, Mark and Judy Petersen, Linda Phillips, Linda Phillips, Jim and Nancy Picarello, Keith and Juliana Pickrell, Susan Pierce, Thomas and Barbara Proehl, Jo and Greg Prussia, Michael and Peggy Ralls, Linda and Victor Rantala, Judy Redding, Connie Reed, Jill Reifschneider, Richard Rettig, R.K. and Roberta Rettig, Edward Rettig, Rosalind Rich, Michael and Marlee Richard, Karen and Steve Ridlon, Kay Robbins, Patricia Roberts, Andy Rogers, Karen Roll, Bob & Ann Rotermund, Robert Rothman, Sharon Runnells-Anderson, Louise Rutter, Harrison and Ana Ryker, Phil Sandifer, Richard Sawyer, Mary Potter Saylor, Joanna Schade, Katherine Schloemer, Bill and Merry Schmidt, Carol A. Schulz, Katherine Segura, Becky Jo and Ken Sindora, Linda Sinnott, Charles Sleicher, Arn & Kathy Slettebak, Diane and Mike Slota, Craig and Julie Smith, Denise Smith, Neil Smith, Karl & Sue Snepp, Julie Sommer, Anne Spratt, Anne St. Germain, Linda Stanfield, Len and Marilyn Steiner, Lana Stephens, John and Patricia Stevens, Martyn and Roo Stewart, Sandy and Ron Stoner, Beth and Harry Stovall, Mares Strehler, Marilyn E. Subala, Alison Suttles, Kris Swanson, Mercedes Swanson, Nanci Tangeman, Louise and Dave Taylor, Ruth Thomas, Dorothy Thomas, Linda Thompsen, Nancy Thomson, Kathy Todd, Ellen Trikha, Marie Turner, Shirley J. Vander Veen, Pat Vernie, Dennis Vidmar, Sandra Volkman, Jean Wallace, Mary Jane Walsh, Wendy and Scott Wands, Jean Warren, Karen Wear, Diane Weinstein, Tom and Kristi Weir, Sue Welsh, Anna Westfall, Morey Wetherald, Jim Wheeler, Duane White, Gale Whitney, Shirlee Williams, Jon Williams, Gregg Wilson, Fred and Leora Wolf, Susan Yates, Charles Zandell, Neil and Carleen Zimmerman

Goldfinch Club (\$100 to \$249): Candy Allen, Margaret Amory, John Schmeid and Mary Hartford, Allan F. Avery, Jackie Bardsley, Kay Barrett, Kay Barrett, Brian and Penelope Bell, Roy and Betty Branson, Linda Bruce, Richard and Pat

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Carlson, Lisa Coon, Sharon Cormier-Aagaard, Dr Richard A. Crinzi, Paula J Crockett, Tracey Cummings, Barbara Dietrich, Natalie and John Dorn, Sherry & John Douceur, Linda Ellsworth, Ed Freedman, Peggy Frohning, Nona Ganz, Bob Gershmel, Kristin Gullede, Erik and Sarah Hagstrom, Shirlee and Jim Hall, Jo and Gerald Herber, Michael and Jana Hobbs, Ellen Homan, Catherine Hovanic, Audrey Hudgins, Dr. Ann Hungar, Carmen Jackson, Paul Jensen, Warren Jones, Kathleen E. Kemper, Sally L. Kinsman, Carolyn Kishel, Tricia Kishel, Dianna Klineburger, Kathryn Lew, Penelope Lie, Louise B. Wenberg Luce, Derek Mahaffey, Brian Mahaffey, Kenneth Mahaffey, Mark and Tammera Mason,

MaryFrances Mathis, Janet E. Merriam, Jim Mhyre, Louise Miller, Marc Montes, Dr. Alan E. Moritis, Dennis and Joy Neuzil, Jaqueline S. Paul, Robert W. Philpott, Jr., Peter Quinby, At and Sheila Ralston, M.D., Robert Riedl, Ervin Roorda, Gaylen Roseburg, Janet Sanders, Klaus U. Schutz, Howard H. Shuman, Margaret and Ronald Snell, Teresa Sollitto, Sheila Sowecke, Barbara Spargo, Maureen Sunn, Dick and Diana Thompson, John Tubbs, Dolly Turner, Sheila Verschaeve, Irene von Tobel, Sunny Walter, Cynthia Wayburn, Eva and Craig Weaver, Connie Webster, Emily and Lee Winstrom, Stan Wood

Heron Club (\$250 to \$500):
Cindy Balbuena, Lou Ann Harris, Hugh

and Beverly Jennings, Jill Keeney, Patrick Kelley, Bill Keppler, Penny Koyama, Helen and Bob LaBouy, Andy McCormick, Amy McQuade, Sidonia St. Germaine, Nancy and Jerry Worsham

Osprey Club (\$500 to \$999):
Carmen Almodovar, Nina Bondarook, Mary and Geary Britton-Simmons, Jim and Barb Kenney, Joyce Meyer, Jim and Jan Rettig, Kirk and Kerri Scarbrough, Karen Tilbury, Mike West

Bald Eagle Club (\$1,000+): Margaret Lie, Lynn Mares, Jim and Nancy Roberts, Claudia Welch

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count — Feb 13-16

Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC), February 13-16, 2009. 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 iden-

tify 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. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

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 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

Olympic BirdFest 2009 — Sequim, WA

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2009 celebration at the Duwamish River Audubon Center, April 3-5, 2009.

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 Mur-

relets, 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.

Also this year! Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan

Islands on April 5-7, 2009. 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

Answer to Who’s That Birder (page 11):

The bird is Water Ouzel, an alternative name for the [American Dipper](#). And the birders? Hugh and Bev Jennings. Hugh says they tried for H2OUZEL, but somebody beat them to it. Anybody know who did?