



The Corvid Crier

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VOL 32, No 8 — OCTOBER 2012

Eastside Audubon to Support National Flyways Strategy

By Andy McCormick

Eastside Audubon's board has begun taking steps to support the National Audubon Society plan to align conservation and education programming along bird migration flyways.

We are one of 115 chapters on the Pacific Flyway, which covers five states — Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii — and the eastern Pacific Ocean. Our closest Important Bird Area, the Cedar River Watershed, is one of 161 IBAs on the Pacific Flyway.

The NAS plan will have many Audubon chapters in North America and some hemispheric partners working together to preserve habitat for birds. The plan identifies 24 priority bird species on the Pacific Flyway. Two of these, Varied Thrush and Northern Goshawk, are in the EAS service area. Several other species are commonly seen on our field trips: Black Oystercatcher, Brant, Long-billed Curlew, Sandhill



Northern Goshawk is a priority species for conservation action in the Pacific Flyway program. Photo by Karen Lauberstein, USFWS.

Crane, Spruce Grouse, Swainson's Hawk, and Western Sandpiper. The other 14 are shorebirds and seabirds that most of us see less frequently.

The birds of the Pacific Flyway depend on a diverse chain of habitats, from Arctic tundra and northwestern rainforests to

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**Program Night in Woodinville,
October 25**

Meet the Hawks of Your Neighborhood

**With Rob Sandelin,
Naturalist, Writer, Teacher**

Birds of prey are part of the balance of nature and an indicator of environmental health. Rob Sandelin will introduce the common hawks of our area, share tips on how to tell them apart, and impart some of the details of their lives.

This month we bring our program to Woodinville and extend a warm welcome to our north county members and future members. Please join us.

**6:30 p.m. — Refreshments
7 p.m. — Program
The Y at Carol Edwards Center
17401 133rd Avenue NE
Woodinville**

Please: Help make this special evening a success by posting the flyer on page 7 in at least one public location. Thank you!

Few Candidates as Eastside Audubon's November Election Nears

With the EAS election coming November 15, there's still plenty of time to throw your hat into the ring.

Positions up for election are listed in the box at right. At press time, only incumbents had put their names forward.

With more leadership positions filled, EAS could be a stronger, more influential organization. The board would be better able to engage in conservation action, bring information to the community, sustain funding, and provide the services members expect.

The November *Corvid Crier* will list the names of candidates who come forward by October 13, though you can still decide to run after that.

To learn more about any of the open positions or put your name on the ballot, please contact any board member listed on page 2.

Open Board Positions

Due to be elected this fall:

President (Andy McCormick, incumbent)
Vice President
At-large Member (two positions)
Birding Chair (Tricia Kishel, incumbent)
Communication Chair
Education Chair

Normally elected in odd-numbered years, but currently open and in need of candidates:

Financial Development Chair
Membership Chair
Secretary

October Meetings

Unless noted, meetings are at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church 308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland, downstairs entrance (State Street side).

Youth Education Committee

October 2 (Tuesday), 6:30 p.m.

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

Conservation Committee

October 10 (Wednesday), 7 p.m.

Meets the second Wednesday of every month except July and August. An effective group engaged in activism and hands-on conservation projects. Email Peter Marshall: psmarshall@comcast.net.

Photo Group

October 11 (Thursday), 7 p.m.

Meets the second Thursday of every month in the church sanctuary. All levels welcome; if you like, bring photos on a jump drive to share. Email Larry Engles: engles@ridesoft.com.

Board Meeting

October 23 (Tuesday), 6 p.m.

Interested guests may attend the monthly board meeting. Email Andy McCormick: amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org.

Spot Jobs

A New Way to Volunteer

Have you been wanting to do some volunteer work and needing it to be something that has a definite beginning and end? Then watch this space!

Each month the *Corvid Crier* will list one-time and recurring projects — spot jobs — that you can complete within a finite amount of time and know you've made a valuable contribution.

To follow up on any of these opportunities, please email office@eastsideaudubon.org unless a different contact is indicated.

Set Up PCC Scrip Cards at Program Night

Did you know that PCC donates to EAS when you use scrip to buy your groceries? If you plan to attend Program Night in Woodinville on October 25 (see page 1), you can raise funds for EAS just by setting up interested guests with scrip cards. We'll show you how.

Staff a Membership Table at Woodinville Program Night

Let's make it easy for our guests to become new Eastside Audubon members at our special October 25 program night (see page 1). Requires smiling.

Send Thank You Notes

To show our appreciation to every single EAS donor, we need a volunteer one day each month for a few hours to prepare and mail our thank you notes. Starts in November, and requires familiarity with Office software on a PC. Scheduling is flexible and task-sharing is possible.

Update Wildlife Emergency Contact Details

Our website info about wildlife assistance agencies is in need of some rehab. Requires doing research online, by email, and by phone, then organizing the findings in a Word document. Contact: mary@marybrisson.net.

Something Else in Mind?

If you have a skill you'd like to put to work for birds and the environment, send an email to the office noting what you'd like to do, and we'll do our best to match you to an EAS project you'll enjoy. That's office@eastsideaudubon.org. There's plenty to do!

Eastside Audubon Society

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church
308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland, WA 98083
425-576-8805 www.eastsideaudubon.org

Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Friday. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

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.

Executive Officers

President	Andy McCormick	amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	Open	
Treasurer	Dora Rajkhowa	doraalex@yahoo.com

Board Members and Committee Chairs

Birding	Tricia Kishel	tkishel@eastsideaudubon.org
Communication	Mary Brisson	marybrisson@eastsideaudubon.org
Conservation	Peter Marshall	psmarshall@comcast.net
Education	Open	
Development	Andy McCormick	amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
Membership	Open	
Volunteers	Open	
At large board member	Tim McGruder	tmcgruder@gmail.com
At large board member	Open	

Staff

Office Assistant	Zoe Allen	office@eastsideaudubon.org
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Other Committee Chairs

Photo Group	Larry Engles	engles@ridesoft.com
Bird Questions	MaryFrances Mathis	mf.mathis@comcast.net
Birdathon	Andy McCormick	amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
Field Trips	Hugh Jennings	h2ouzel@comcast.net
Historian	Bob Gershmel	rwgunret1986@yahoo.com
Holiday Gift Wrap	Open	
Hospitality	Claudia Welch	425-827-2548
Webmaster	Mary Brisson	mary@marybrisson.net
Chapter Photographer	Mick Thompson	mthomp1707@comcast.net

Eastside Park Rangers

Ranger Liaison to EAS	Ted Marx	tedmarx@comcast.net
EAS Liaison to Rangers	Jill Keeney	j.keeney@comcast.net

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EAS Looks to National Audubon Flyways Model

Continued from page 1

tropical beaches and mangroves. Each year about one billion birds migrate along our flyway, which stretches from the North Slope of Alaska to Central and South America. The birds of this flyway are threatened by habitat loss, water shortages, diminishing food sources, and climate change.

The plan to preserve these birds will use five strategies:

- Putting working lands to work for birds and people by partnering with farmers, ranchers, and timber harvesters.
- Protecting our seas and shores for shorebirds and seabirds.
- Saving Important Bird Areas in the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada.

- Shaping a healthy climate and clean energy future to reduce carbon emissions and support well-sited wind and solar energy.
- Creating bird friendly communities in cities, suburbs, and rural regions.

National Audubon and affiliated chapters will work to reach beyond the 1.8 million readers of *Audubon* magazine to engage the diverse audience critical for building a more effective, transformational Audubon. It will include reaching out through Facebook, Twitter, and other platforms. Audubon plans to extend its influence to business partnerships and a broader base of community support.

Eastside Audubon can play a dynamic role in this effort from its location encompassing the Eastside urban area, the forest

transition zone on the western slope of the Cascades, and Lakes Washington and Sammamish and the Snoqualmie River. We will be working closely with other Washington State Audubon chapters.



Sandhill Crane is a priority species for the Pacific Flyways region. Photo by Mick Thompson.

Save the Date: November 15

All-Member EAS Forum to Set Direction for Chapter

Please make plans to join us Thursday evening, November 15, for a special all-members meeting of Eastside Audubon.

Very simply: Your chapter leaders would like to learn what programs and services will encourage not only your continued financial support, but your enthusiasm and your effort.

We'll meet at our usual venue: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, Kirkland. The November *Corvid Crier* will bring details about the format and topics of this important session, which will be held in conjunction with the chapter election.

\$2 OFF ADMISSION
BURKE MUSEUM
Photo by Carol Freeman
International Conservation Photography Awards
Eastside Audubon
Offer valid through Nov. 25, 2012. Not good with any other offer.
www.burkemuseum.org 206-543-5590
The Burke Museum is on the UW campus at 17th Ave. NE & NE 45th St.

Conservation Committee Selects Its Issues

By Pete Marshall

The Conservation Committee emerged in September from its summer break to discuss eight projects and programs that will require special attention over the coming year:

- Input to National Audubon's Pacific Flyway strategy
- Ongoing improvements and volunteer projects at the Audubon Birdloop at Marymoor Park
- Review of a growing dispute about King County vegetation management, which could diminish fish and wildlife habitat in the transition waterway between Lake Sammamish and the Sammamish River
- Review and comment on Bothell's Shoreline Master Program update
- Involvement in King County's rail-to-trail planning along the former BNSF line
- Urging the City of Kirkland to relocate its 2013 July 4th fireworks barge farther from an established eagle nest
- Ongoing review of East Link transit design and environmental mitigation in Bellevue
- Review of plans for East Link at the Overlake end of the current phase of design and development

Each project or program will require some research, contact with public agencies, and reports to the EAS board and membership. Some may lead to presentation of EAS positions to elected officials. Committee members have been tentatively designated to lead the research and reporting efforts involved.



Beginning birders are welcome on our walks and trips, and so are non-members. Start time is trip departure; please arrive earlier. Binoculars advisable.

**October 7 (Sunday), 1 – 2 p.m.
Juanita Bay Park Interpretive Tour**

Eastside Park Rangers lead this easy, one-hour walk on the first Sunday of every month. Free. No pre-registration required. Tours for community schools and special interest groups also can be scheduled through the EAS office: 425-576-8805.

**October 8 (Monday), 7 a.m.
Sequim Area Field Trip**

Early fall can be a good time in the Sequim area. We will be searching out loons, grebes, alcids, and waterfowl. We may stop at Railroad Bridge Park to look for passerines. Bring lunch, scope (optional), and Discover Pass.* Come prepared for most any weather. Meet before 7 a.m. at south end of Kingsgate P&R. We will carpool as much as possible. Carpool \$17/passenger plus share in ferry cost. No pre-registration required. Leader: Brian H. Bell, 425-485-8058 (206-619-0379 on day of trip only).

**October 15 (Monday), 8 a.m. – noon
Lake Sammamish State Park Birding Walk**

This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds and habitats in its varied ecosystems. The trip involves walking 2 to 3 miles. Dress appropriately (rainproof in layers; some of the trails can be very muddy if wet). Just inside the main entrance, take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end before 8 a.m. A Discover Pass* is required to park. (Walk is free.) No pre-registration required. Co-leaders: Sharon Aagaard, 425-891-3460, and Stan Wood.

**October 16 (Tuesday), 9 a.m. – noon
Juanita Bay Park Birding Walk**

See what birds are in the park and on the bay. Varied habitats within the park host a vast array of species, and the quiet of an early morning is one of the best times to explore. Meets the third Tuesday of each month. (Note seasonal change in start time to 9 a.m.) Free. No pre-registration required. Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot. Leader: MaryFrances Mathis, 425-803-3026.

**October 20 (Saturday), 10 a.m. to noon
Family Birding Walk
Snoqualmie Valley Trail, Duvall**

Popular instructor Mike West will lead this child-friendly birding walk. Many of the likely birds will be of the sort that are big or colorful and easy for kids to see: Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Steller's Jays, Great Blue Herons, and Red-tailed Hawks. Winter ducks should be arriving in their bright plumage. Bring children, grandchildren, neighbors, plus binoculars if you have them and any liquids or snacks you'll need. Meet by 10 a.m. in the parking lot at the entrance to McCormick Park (26200 NE Stephens Street) in Duvall. Free. No pre-registration required.

**October 22 (Monday), 9 a.m. – noon
Birding the Hot Spots of King County**

Monthly field trip on the fourth Monday to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9 a.m. at the north end of the Newport Hills P&R and plan to be back by noon. Carpool \$2/passenger. No pre-registration required. Leader: Hugh Jennings, 425-746-6351.

**October 27 (Saturday), 8 a.m.
Fox Island to Key Peninsula**

Expect lots of saltwater waterfowl, cormorants, and Great Blue Herons in the South Sound bays. We'll visit three state parks and include Snake Lake in Tacoma if time permits. If you have a Discover Pass*, please bring it. Meet before 8 a.m. at north end of Newport Hills P&R (I-405, exit 9) and bring a sack lunch. Passenger cost/person \$15. Leader: Hugh Jennings, 425-746-6351.



Pigeon Guillemots by Mick Thompson

**October 6 (Saturday), 9 a.m. – noon
Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration Work Party**

All are welcome! Meet at the kiosk of the Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park, Lot G. Parking pass provided. Bring water, snack, gloves, a shovel and/or a rake. No need to sign up in advance. Questions? Call the EAS office: 425-576-8805.

* Discover Pass: \$10 daily/\$30 annual. Can be purchased online at <http://discoverpass.wa.gov> or at a sporting goods store.

Children 8 and older are welcome on all trips; 17 and younger must have adult companion. FRS Radio owners: Please consider bringing them on trips. Find reports of last month's field trips at www.eastsideaudubon.org.

**Field Trip
Meeting
Places**

Kingsgate Park & Ride
13001 116th Way NE, Kingsgate. I-405, Exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound, take NE 124th Street west to the light at 116th Avenue NE. Turn right a few blocks to the Park & Ride (on the left). Meet in the southeast corner.
Wilburton Park & Ride: I-405, Exit 12

Newport Hills Park & Ride
5115 113th Pl SE, Bellevue. I-405, Exit 9
South Kirkland Park & Ride
10610 NE 38th Place, Kirkland. SR 520, exit 108th Avenue. Travel north onto 108th Avenue NE. Take the second left onto NE 38th Place.

Tibbetts Lot
1675 Newport Way NW, Issaquah. I-90, Exit 15. Turn right (south). Go past the new multi-story Issaquah Park & Ride to the third traffic light. Turn left (east) on Newport Way NW. Go one block, then turn right (south) into the Park & Ride. Meet across the street from the large parking garage at the west end.

Help Choose the Environmentalist of the Year

Each year Eastside Audubon recognizes an individual or group for making a unique contribution to protect birds, animals, plants, the air, water, and/or other natural resources. The award recognizes contributions made through advocacy, education in the community, or work with Eastside Audubon or another environmental organization.

The Conservation Committee is now requesting written nominations for the 2012 Environmentalist of the Year Award. Please explain how the person or group you're recommending meets the criteria below, and email your nomination by November 30 to Conservation Committee Chair Pete Marshall, psmarshall@comcast.net, or to office@eastsideaudubon.org.

The committee will consider the nominees using the following criteria:

1. A keen interest in the environment and nature
2. A history of involvement with environmental issues through a conservation project, an educational program, a scientific investigation, writing, or other work of sufficient durability to have had an impact in the community
3. The impact of that work on protecting birds, other wildlife, or habitat
4. The impact of the work on the knowledge or involvement of community members
5. The impact of the work in the Eastside

Audubon service area of East King County north of I-90, or in an area close enough to be beneficial to residents of the service area

It is not expected that the award winner will meet every one of the criteria, but the winner will have made a contribution that reflects a significant commitment to supporting the goals of Eastside Audubon.

We welcome all nominations. The committee will review and vote on the nominations at its December meeting and present the award at the Volunteer Dinner in January.

Whidbey Audubon to Guide at Puget Loop Sites on October 13

The Whidbey Audubon Society will post volunteers at Puget Loop Birding Trail sites on Whidbey Island on Saturday, October 13, to help visitors spot migrant and wintering species.

Starting at 8:30 a.m., Whidbey Audubon members will be available to give directions and species reports at:

- Deception Pass State Park (West Beach parking lot)
- Crockett Lake/Fort Casey (Keystone Harbor lot for boat launch and underwater park, opposite Keystone Café)

- South Whidbey State Park (main lot at park entrance)

Other sites may be added. For an update, check the October editions of the Whidbey Audubon online newsletter, *Shorebirds*, at whidbeyaudubon.org.

(Note: State park sites require the Discover Pass: discoverpass.wa.gov.)

If you're working on an Island County bird list, Whidbey Audubon invites you to ask in advance for help finding your target species. Email Steve Ellis: sremse@comcast.net.

Special Thanks for Holiday Gifts

As **Helen LaBouy** turns over the Holiday Gift Wrap program to a new team, EAS celebrates her splendid organization and fundraising track record.

Thanks also to **Leah Morris** and **Roberta Lewandowski** for stepping into Helen's role this year; they and the chapter will benefit from the detailed documentation that Helen has written.

Credit Helen also with producing the invitation cards that we're handing out at every opportunity to promote our October 25 program night in Woodinville. Thank you, Helen.



Eagle Eye
VISION CARE, P.S.
17320 135 Ave NE, #D
Woodinville, WA 98072
425-398-1862
See the birds better!

Styrofoam Sneaking Up On You?

By Jill Keeney

My garage is FULL of Styrofoam! (Small exaggeration.)

Somehow the word is out in my neighborhood that I'm a collector, and I often come home to see "contributions" on my front porch. So glad people are realizing there is an option other than putting this stuff into our landfills. But I have more than I can even get to our meeting in one carload!

How about your "collections?" Bring yours to any monthly Eastside Audubon meeting.

We need one person a month to sign up to drive a load down to the recycling location near Ikea in Renton. You can let me know at our meeting or email me, j.keeney@comcast.net, or Bev Jennings, h2ouzel@comcast.net.

Last year's volunteers: Please let me know if you still want to be on the Styrofoam Transportation list.

California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*)

Length	46 inches
Wingspan	109 inches
Weight	23 pounds (10.4 kilograms)
AOU band code	CALC

The black speck was far out on the horizon, but through binoculars I was able to see that it was a California Condor moving in our direction as we stood on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. In a matter of seconds it approached us at a speed of nearly 50 miles per hour without flapping its wings. Riding the wave of a thermal coming up from the hotter air deep in the canyon, the condor suddenly arrived in full view above us and then banked to slow enough to make three circles over the gathering crowd. Its wing tag identified Condor 187, a nine-year-old male that was born in the captive breeding program begun in 1987. He settled down and perched on a triangle-shaped ledge just below Lookout Studio, to the delight of adults and children. His bright pink crop protruding through his chest feathers attested to his having eaten a recent meal. How amazing for so many people to see such a rare bird so close to them!

And rare it is. To save the species from extinction, the last 22 condors were captured in 1982, and then several of them died in captivity. All of the California Condors alive today are descendants of 14 captive condors and have been raised at the World Center for Birds of Prey, the home of The Peregrine Fund. The birds are released into the wild by The Peregrine Fund with the cooperation of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, the United States Forest Service, and Grand Canyon National Park. There are now more than 400 California Condors in the United States, but they are still classified as endangered. They too often die of lead poisoning from bullet fragments in hunters' gut piles and blockage of their digestive tracts by human garbage such as coins, bottle caps, and other items that get caught in their crops.

The California Condor is our largest land bird and is "superbly adapted for soaring flight" (Osborn). It is wide ranging and can fly 250 miles in a day. It has extremely keen vision and searches for food by sight, often following the lead of ravens that have found a recently dead animal.

The California Condor is a vulture in the genus *Gymnogyps*, naked vulture, from the Greek *gumnos*, naked, unclad, and *gyps*, a vulture. The reference is to the lack of feathers on its head, which makes eating carrion easier and, if it can be, more sanitary. Condors are very fastidious about cleanliness and will often wash in water after feeding. Condor is from the Spanish *condor*, in turn from the Quechua *cuntur*, the Andean name for this type of bird (Holloway).

The Grand Canyon offers an ideal habitat of cliffs and caves. The condor lays its single egg directly on rock which one of the adults has cleaned by brushing with its head to smooth the area

(Osborn). The parents share incubation, which lasts almost two months, with the pair taking shifts of one to four days. The young are capable of flight about five to six months after hatching and may stay dependent on the adults for another six months (Kaufman). Condors typically breed once every two years.

After resting, Condor 187 flew back across the canyon. In a few seconds it flexed its wings downward, which caused it to lose altitude. Successive drops brought it deep into the canyon and it was soon out of sight around an outcropping.

References available upon request from amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org.



California Condor by Robert Howson

October to be Busy Month for Education Committee Volunteers

By Mary Britton-Simmons

October is turning out to be a busy month for the Youth Education Committee. In addition to doing our curriculum work and publicizing the 2013 college scholarship and teacher grants, members will be staffing events at several venues.

October 6 will see volunteers giving a morning presentation about bird identification for families at the Mercer Slough Environmental Center in Bellevue. Also that morning, the committee will sponsor a booth and children's activity at Molbak's — a great location to let people know about EAS's October 25 program night right down the street at the YMCA branch in Woodinville. For details about attending the October 6 events, please see the EAS online calendar at www.eastsideaudubon.org/calendar.

And we invite all of you — parents, grandparents, neighbors — to join Mike West on October 20 when he leads a family birding walk on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail. For details, see the field trip listings on page 4.

Eastside Audubon Society
P. O. Box 3115
Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

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Yes! I'll support Eastside Audubon to preserve bird habitat and educate our community with my tax-deductible membership. Mail form to: Eastside Audubon
P. O. Box 3115
Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

- \$25* Individual \$250 Heron Club Enclosed is my check made payable to: **Eastside Audubon**
- \$40* Family \$500 Osprey Club Please charge my: ___ MasterCard ___ Visa
- \$100 Goldfinch Club \$1,000 Eagle Club

* Individual and Family members, please add \$12 to receive the Corvid Crier in print by mail. Your Goldfinch Club or higher level membership helps support our camp scholarship fund for low-income children, our college scholarship fund, grants to teachers, and habitat conservation.

Number _____ Exp Date _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Name _____ Telephone (day/eve) _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____
Email _____ Zip + Ext _____

- Please send me the Corvid Crier in print. (Add \$12 to Individual or Family dues.)
- My employer matches contributions. I am sending/will send matching information to you.

Planned Giving
Please consider a planned gift to Eastside Audubon to support environmental education and conservation for generations to come. Because Eastside Audubon is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your charitable gift will be tax deductible. You may designate your gift to support our general programming or for the permanent endowment fund. Remember: 100 percent of your contribution will go to fund the programs of Eastside Audubon.

- Please add me to your email lists for:
- Conservation updates and action alerts
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - I would like information about making a planned gift
 - I have included Eastside Audubon in my will