

The Corvid Crier

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VOL 33, NO 1 – FEBRUARY 2013

Jim Rettig Hailed as Environmentalist of the Year

By Pete Marshall

Jim Rettig, a 23-year member of Eastside Audubon and past president, was honored at last month's Volunteer Dinner as the 2012 Environmentalist of the Year.

Jim for many years has been at the forefront of Eastside Audubon's conservation and birding activities. Many people know of his prominent and persistent role as project manager for improving and maintaining the Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park. He's done everything from publicizing restoration events to recruiting and transporting volunteers, and he reliably gets down in the weeds to inspire the rest of us.

He has been active in the Save Our Swifts project for five years and has made EAS a

partner in the Swift Night Out event celebrating the annual return of Vaux's Swifts to Monroe.

With EAS and other organizations, Jim has long shown an interest in citizen science. As part of an Adopt-a-Stream project in the 1990s, he helped collect data both in the water and along the banks of Patterson Creek near Fall City, establishing a baseline for monitoring the creek's ongoing health.

He has followed that quest for accurate data through his leadership roles for EAS in the Birdathon fundraiser, the Christmas Bird Count, and Project FeederWatch. In 2011 his Birdathon team tied the EAS



2012 Environmentalist of the Year Jim Rettig at the Pacific Northwest Native Plant Sale in April. Photo by Mick Thompson.

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Volunteers — Getting the Job Done

During 2012, Eastside Audubon volunteers taught 992 children about birds, salvaged 700 plants from the derelict Group Health Overlake campus, spread 48 cubic yards of sand on the East Meadow Trail at Marymoor Park, led 50 field trips, sold 2,031 native plants, wrapped 710 Christmas presents, and raised \$15,745 during Birdathon.

Yes, you 129 people on this list did all of that! — and much, much more. We celebrate your accomplishments and give you our thanks.

— The Eastside Audubon Board

Sharon Aagaard
Candy Allen
Zoe Allen
Elyssa Armstrong
Lucille Barnard
Liz Barnett

Kay Barrett
Brian Bell
Roy Branson
Mary Brisson
Geary Britton-Simmons
Mary Britton-Simmons

Continued on page 3

Donors — Making the Work Possible

With deep gratitude, we present the list of generous donors whose support in 2012 helped us award more college and summer camp scholarships, expand our public outreach, and improve our member service in the office and online. The names include business owners, Eastside Audubon members, and many friends and loved ones who care about what we do. Our special appreciation goes to the Melody S. Robidoux Foundation for its grant of \$5,000 given last June.

When so many supporters come together, the effect is powerful. We value your trust and we thank each of you.

— The Eastside Audubon Board

Bald Eagle Club (\$1,000 or more)

Geary and Mary Britton-Simmons, Margaret Lie, Andy McCormick, Jim and Jan Rettig, Jim and Nancy Roberts, the Melody S. Robidoux Foundation, Mick Thompson

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February Meetings

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

Youth Education Committee

February 5 (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

February 13 (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 Pete Marshall: psmarshall@comcast.net.

Photo Group

February 14 (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

February 26 (Tuesday), 6:30 p.m.

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

Program Nights Resume Thursday, February 28

Speaker to be Announced

by email and online at
www.eastsideaudubon.org

Social 6:30 p.m. | Program 7 p.m.

Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church
308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland

Spot Jobs for Volunteers

Visit Olympia for Lobby Day, February 19

Speak directly to your state legislators about your conservation concerns on February 19 as part of the Eastside Audubon delegation to the Environmental Priorities Coalition's annual Lobby Day. Members of 24 organizations will come together in Olympia under the Coalition banner and meet in small groups with individual lawmakers to press for environmentally friendly legislative action in 2013. To carpool and participate along with other EAS members, please get in touch with Jim McRoberts at jim4fish@comcast.net. To attend as a delegate, you also must register online at www.environmentalpriorities.org, where you can find details about the day's agenda. Pre-registration ends February 15; same day registration is available. If you have questions, you're welcome to contact Conservation Committee Chair Pete Marshall: 425-453-9287 or psmarshall@comcast.net.

Native Plant Sale Date Set: Saturday, April 27

It'll take a bushel basket or more of volunteers to match the \$8,600 in profits from last year's Pacific Northwest Native Plant Sale, so please save the date! Geary Britton-Simmons will need a crew to help shoppers select their plants, ring up sales, take plants to cars, control traffic, and clean up when it's all over. And that's just on sale day!

Watch for email from Geary with volunteer opportunities in the next few weeks to pot up new plants and later to transport plants and set up for the sale at Kirkland Children's School. Meanwhile, please bring any reusable pots (especially 3- and 5-gallon sizes) to Geary at any program night or to the Wild Bird Center in Houghton Village, 10600 NE 68th Street, Kirkland, during store hours (call 425-576-0309).

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 | Shane Egeland | shane.egeland@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Linda Gresky | lgresky@gmail.com |
| 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 | Diane Crestanello | crestanello@comcast.net |
| At large board member | Sue Summers | summerssue@hotmail.com |

Staff

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|--|
| Office Assistant | Zoe Allen | office@eastsideaudubon.org |
|------------------|-----------|--|

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 | Leah Morris | leahmo@comcast.net |
| 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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Monthly except January and August. Deadline for material is the first Wednesday of the month preceding publication. Email material to mary@marybrisson.net or send to the address above.

Four Appointed to EAS Board

Four Eastside Audubon members have been appointed to the chapter board, filling two officer slots and two at large seats and providing new leadership for work in volunteer coordination, membership development, and outreach.

Inaugurated at the Volunteer Dinner in January were:

Shane Egeland, Vice President. Shane will especially focus on membership.

Linda Gresky, Secretary. Linda will help expand the chapter's outreach as well as keep our records in order.

Diane Crestanello, At Large. Diane will act as liaison to the Education Committee and help identify new outreach opportunities.

Sue Summers, At Large. Sue will put special effort into volunteer development.

In this *Corvid Crier* and the next three, each of the new board members in turn will write a few words of introduction. First up: Sue Summers, who is pictured here with one of the Christmas Bird Count teams. When Sue first inquired about the board she mentioned she'd like to be in a role where she'd meet people, making her a natural for the role of volunteer organizer.

Writes Sue: I'm proud to be a true native of the Puget Sound area, having been born and raised in Bremerton until departing for the UW. After graduating with a degree in Political Science and Economics, I've enjoyed a career in financial services and am currently with Symetra in Bellevue.

The birding bug bit me in my early adult years and I've been a member of Audubon almost that long, having served for several years on the board of Tahoma Audu-



Ready to go for the Christmas Bird Count are, from left: Sue Summers, Stan Wood, Craig and Eva Weaver, Margaret Snell, and team leader MaryFrances Mathis. CBC story on page 8. Photo by Mick Thompson.

bon and also volunteering with Kitsap Audubon.

I look forward to contributing to the ongoing success of EAS and appreciate the warm welcome extended by the chapter members and board.

Volunteers Get the Job Done in 2012

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| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Melinda Bronsdon | Jim Hall | Jim McRoberts | Hilde Smith |
| Isabella Brown | Glenn Haynes | Audrey Menz | Ingrid Smith |
| Juliana Brown | Marc Hoffman | David Menz | Peter Smith |
| Cathy Buck | Margie Huff | Joyce Meyer | Margaret Snell |
| Bonnie Burns | Lynne Humphrey | Marlene Meyer | Ron Snell |
| Annika Calli | Hugh Jennings | Leah Morris | Len Steiner |
| Priya Chavan | Bev Jennings | M. Muller | Martyn Stewart |
| Tamara Chinn | Janice Johnson | Hank Myers | Sue Summers |
| Patricia Clarke | Sally Jones | Graciela Nunez | Emily Sunblade |
| Hannah Coleman | Peggy Jorgensen | Moira Ohl | Linda Thompsen |
| Mark Crawford | Jill Keeney | Grace Oliver | Mick Thompson |
| Diane Crestanello | Gloria Kern | Ollie Oliver | Pat Vernie |
| Tracey Cummings | Tricia Kishel | Kristalyn Peterson | Sheila Verschaeve |
| Barb Dallas | Carolyn Kishel | Mary Pritchard | Ilya Vinarsky |
| Veda DePaepe | Ella Kottley | Dora Rajkhowa | Leslie Waters |
| Anne Dolan | Amit Kulkarni | Judy Rams | Karen Wear |
| Glenn Eades | Helen LaBouy | Jim Rettig | Eva Weaver |
| Shane Egeland | Alison Leathley | Jerry Rettig | Craig Weaver |
| Brooke Elanda | Roberta Lewandowski | Jan Rettig | Diane Weinstein |
| Vicki Elledge | George Lewandowski | Pam Roberson | Claudia Welch |
| Margaret Ellsworth | Margaret Lie | Nancy Roberts | Mike West |
| Ella Elman | Penny Lie | Jim Roberts | Mark Williams |
| Larry Engles | Megan Lyden | Tora Roksvog | Stan Wood |
| Wendy Fawcett | Janet MacLean | Karen Roll | Lynn Wright |
| Peggy Fey | Pete Marshall | Becky Rumsch | Andy Wright |
| Natalie Frank | Ted Marx | Stephanie Salazar | Ellie Wright |
| Ruth Godding | MaryFrances Mathis | Phil Sandifer | Luc Wright |
| Linda Gresky | Ann Mattiello | John Schmied | Dann Wylie |
| Robert Gresky | Andrew McCormick | Becky Serabrini | Bob Yoder |
| Shirlee Hall | Tim McGruder | Dan Smith | |



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

**February 2 (Saturday), 9 a.m. – noon
Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration
Monthly Work Party**

This time we'll put in the last of the salvaged native plants and do some weeding and clearing. All are welcome! Meet at the Audubon BirdLoop kiosk, Marymoor Lot G. Parking pass provided. Bring water, snack, gloves, a shovel and/or a rake. Questions? Call the EAS office: 425-576-8805.

**February 3 (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.

**February 6
(Wednesday),
8 a.m. – noon
Marymoor Park
Birding Walk**

This regional park in Redmond provides home for resident birds, a wintering area for waterfowl, and a resting place for migrating birds. It is also home to the Audubon BirdLoop, where we will walk on level ground for about two miles along the Sammamish Slough and through the East



Fox Sparrow at Marymoor Park by Mick Thompson

Meadow, ending at the Clise Mansion area. Meet at Parking Lot D. (When entering the park from West Lake Sammamish Parkway, turn right at third stop sign.) Parking \$1. (Walk is free.) Bring binoculars and a snack, and dress for the weather. No pre-registration required. Leader: Andy McCormick, 425-518-0892.

**February 11 (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.

**February 19 (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. Free. No pre-registration required. Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot. Leader: MaryFrances Mathis, 425-803-3026.

**February 25 (Monday), 9 a.m. to 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 – \$4/passenger. No pre-registration required. Leader: Hugh Jennings, 425-746-6351.

**February 27 (Wednesday), 7 a.m.
Vantage Area Birding Trip**

Our first destination will be Vantage, where we'll work over the area for sage birds and returning songbirds and scan the Columbia River. We will then make our way back west, hitting a number of good spots to search out raptors and woodpeckers. Scopes helpful, not required. Bring lunch. We will meet at 7 a.m. at the Tibbetts P&R in Issaquah (across the street from the large parking garage). Carpool \$28/passenger. Limited to 11 in three cars. **Pre-registration required:** Call leader Brian Bell, 425-485-8058. (Cell, morning of trip only: 206-619-0379).

**Special Advance Notice
May 23 – 28 (Thursday through Tuesday)
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon**

This birding trip is limited to 12 people, including the two leaders. We need to make hotel reservations in March to ensure availability in May.

Continued on next page

* 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/birding/field-trips.

**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.

Family Fun for the Long Weekend

On Presidents Day weekend, your family can become a scientific research team by watching a convenient spot for as little as 15 minutes and reporting what kinds of birds you see and how many. You can count only once, or on as many days as you want from Friday through Monday.

The GBBC website, www.birdcount.org, makes it easy for young and beginning birders to get started, with a Tricky IDs feature (under Learn About Birds) and links to The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's outstanding online bird guides.



Dark-eyed Junco is one of the most likely backyard birds in our area. Photo by Dan Streiffert.

The website's GBBC for Kids section includes a gallery of the most likely birds and several clever bird-themed interactivities, such as a birdsong quiz and on-screen jigsaw puzzles. The household shutterbug can send in bird photos, and kids are encouraged to enter the family bird tally online.

Because birds are widespread and always on the move, scientists depend on help from the rest of us to track them. The GBBC is a snapshot that shows how birds are surviving the winter and where they are just before spring migration begins. Data from the GBBC and other bird surveys can give ornithologists early clues that a bird species is increasing or declining, or that its range is expanding or shrinking.

The Cornell Lab, the National Audubon Society, and Bird Studies Canada organize the count, which is now in its sixteenth year and is open for the first time to bird watchers worldwide.

Participation is free. In 2012 nature lovers of all ages and abilities submitted more than 100,000 checklists.

Field Trips: Planning for Malheur in May

Continued from preceding page

The refuge lies in southeastern Oregon, about 30 miles south of Burns, at an elevation of 4,100 feet. The 183,000-acre refuge 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 10 best birding areas in the United States. More than 320 species of birds and many species of mammals have been observed there. We will visit the main birding areas within the refuge, and we usually see 100 to 130 species. The area is large enough that we can bird a separate area each day.

Burns, where we stay, is about 500 miles from Bellevue. We will take one day to drive to Burns (10 to 11 hours), spend four days birding, and take one day to drive back. We hope to carpool with three to four people per car; the cost per passenger then would be \$100 to and from Burns

roundtrip. In addition, we will drive 120 to 130 miles each day at the refuge, at a carpool cost of \$10 a day per passenger.

We will stay at the Silver Spur Motel in Burns. Motel rate will be about \$70 a night for a two-bed room with continental breakfast (two can share for \$35 each a night). Each room has a refrigerator and microwave. We will have breakfast at the motel and fix a lunch to take along, then buy dinner at a restaurant. Each morning we will leave by 7:30, bird all day, and be back about 4 or 5 p.m.

This is high desert, so plan on dressing in layers for temperatures ranging from freezing at night to 80 degrees during the day. Bring binoculars, rain gear, good hiking/walking shoes, insect repellent, sun block, and a spotting scope if you have one.

Anyone interested in going, contact Stan Wood: 425-392-4557 or stanwood@mindspring.com. Stan will then make reservations and arrange carpooling.



Pileated Woodpecker by Duke Coonrad

Woodpecker Class Starts March 8

Twelve woodpecker species inhabit our state from sea level to the boreal forests to the semiarid valleys east of the Cascades. Explore their world with professional guide Brian Bell. To register, phone the EAS office: 425-576-8805.

Evening session: Friday, March 8, from 7 to 9:15 p.m. at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4th Avenue South, Kirkland. (Use State Street entrance.) An illustrated presentation and discussion of habitat requirements, seasonal distribution, identification tips, and vocalization and drumming patterns.

Field trips: Saturday, March 9 (half day), western Washington. Saturday, May 18 (full day), eastern Washington. The trips will be organized at the class session.

Cost: \$65 members, \$85 non-members. Carpool cost \$3/passenger for western Washington and \$14/passenger for eastern Washington (both paid to driver on day of trip).

Limit: 15 participants taking both class and field trips, 5 taking class only.

About Brian Bell

Brian is a professional birding and natural history guide with an extensive background in biology, geology, and astronomy. He is a master birder and co-author of *Birds of Washington State* (Lone Pine).

Holiday Gift Wrap Sets Record, Inspires New EAS Slogan

Thanks to superb organization by Leah Morris, Roberta Lewandowski, Margaret Lie, and Becky Serabrini, the December 2012 fundraiser achieved a new record in support earned for the chapter's activities in birding, conservation, and education.

Volunteers working at the REI stores in Issaquah and Redmond stuck more than 560 bows on presents and sold more than 150 gift bags. Margaret coordinated the group that sewed the one-of-a-kind reusable cloth bags.

In all the Holiday Gift Wrap team grossed \$4,360 — 19 percent more than a year earlier, despite operating on a shorter schedule.

And they may have accomplished something even more important, to judge by one grateful Christmas Eve shopper who said, "Audubon: Preserving husbands' marriages and bird habitat. That should be your slogan."

Congratulations to the Holiday Gift Wrap artists!



Sheila Verschaeve showcases the handiwork of the Holiday Gift Wrap crew, who wrapped an estimated 700 Christmas presents in December. Photo by Mick Thompson.

To Our Donors, Who Gave from Their Hearts in 2012 . . .

Continued from page 1

Osprey Club (\$500 to \$999)

Mary Brisson, Joyce Meyer, Joy Neuzil, Kirk Scarbrough, Mike West

Heron Club (\$250 to \$499)

Carmen Almodovar, Robert Asanoma, Kay Barrett, Carol Carlson-Ray, Helen and Bob LaBouy, PACE at Woodmoor, Klaus and Marion Schutz, John Tubbs, Karen Wear, Claudia Welch

Goldfinch Club (\$100 to \$249)

Ruth Adamski, Zoe Allen, Karl and Bernice Atwood, Anne L. Baker, Cindy Balbuena, Lucille Barnard, Marla Becker, Jeff and Lisa Berkman, Mary A. Bolte M.D., Dan and Ann Bormann, Janette Bower, Tim Boyer, Martha Brouwer, Linda and Jay Bruce, Henry Chiles Jr., Harriett Cody, Kate Conant, Mary E. Cormier, Sharon Cormier-Aagaard, Mark Crawford, Diane Crestanello, Dr. Richard A. Crinzi, Tracey Cummings, Mary Beth Dols, Natalie and John Dorn, Sherry and John Douceur, Janet and Bruce Eder, John Egerter, Vicki and Mike Elledge, Jane Fox, Peggy Frohning, Richard L. Garner, Faye Gillett, Ruth Godding, Linda and Robert Gresky, Erik and Sarah Hagstrom, Laura Hamill, Kathleen Haugen, Jo Herber, Susan Her-

ber, Michael Hobbs, Mary Holt, Catherine Hovanic, Mary Ingels, Janatrox Group, Marsha Kabakov, Bill and Ann Keppler, Betsy Komarnitsky, Penny Koyama, Amit Kulkarni, Pierre and Eileen Lauzon, Alison R. Leathley, Kirstie Lewis, Anne Lober, Louise B. Wenberg Luce, Qinglin Ma, Clarice and Jean MacDonald, Peter Marshall, MaryFrances Mathis, Michael McDade DDS PS, Jim McRoberts, Janet E. Merriam, Elizabeth A. Monfort, Katherine Osborne, Robert W. Philpott Jr., Debra Prentice, David and Jenny Prior, Jo and Greg Prussia, Dora Rajkhowa, At and Sheila Ralston M.D., Judy Redding, Annelise Reunert, Ervin Roorda, Jerry and MaryAnn Ruthruff, Karen Samdahl, Phil Sandifer, John Schmied, Noel Schuurman, Andy Shell, Ashok and Johanna Singh, Margaret Snell, Dr. Ann Steel, Beth and Harry Stovall, Maureen Sunn, Karen Sweany, Dick and Diana Thompson, Nancy Tipton, Larry W. Tjoelker, Arun and Ellen Trikha, Susan Ward-Potts, Diane Weinstein, Pete and Connie Wheeler, Gale Whitney, Emily and Lee Winstrom, Stan Wood

Corvid Club (\$25 to \$99)

David Aagaard, Marilyn Albert, Nancy Alden, Candy Allen, Stephen Allen, Doyne

Alward, Beth Anderson, Kathy Aubin, Allan F. Avery, Joanne Baker, Manickavelu Balasubramanian, Farley and Paul Bartelmes, Brian and Penelope Bell, Margaret Bily, Kristine Blade, Sharon Bloch, Carolyn and George Brannen, Roy and Betty Branson, Richard Bready, Mrs. C. B. Brennan, Thomas Brisson, Melinda Bronsdon, Arleen J. Brown, Sally Burgdorff, Bill Burke, William and Sharon Burke, Charles J. Cadwell III, Wilberta "Billie" Cairns, Kathleen Carlson, Timothy H. Carlson, Linda A. Carroll, Nancy Chadwick-Jones, Christopher Chapman, Kay Chase, Sophie Chiang, Susan and Dennis Christie, Patricia Clarke, Joanne Cormier, Nancy Joy Cormier, George and Lynda Corn, Etta L. Cosey, Julia Craig, Paula J. Crockett, Debra Crowe, Shelley Dahlgren, Barbara Dallas, Lori Danielson, Igor Danilovs, Barbara Davis, Joan Davis, Peter Davis, Rosie Decker, Veda DePaepe, Sarah Devine, Barbara Dietrich, Natalie Doerr, Marge Dolecal, John Durant, Diana Durden, Glenn Eades, Susan Edson, Penny Edwards, Denis G. Egan, G. Shane Egeland, Melinda Elkin, Margaret Ellsworth, Ella Elman, Maridel and Larry Engles, Linda Estes, Peter Fahey, Dorothy G. Ferguson, Karin M. Ferguson, Jessie Fernandes, Catherine

Continued on next page

EAS Volunteers Save 700 Native Plants for BirdLoop at Marymoor

They would have been lost to the backhoes that soon will scrape off the old Group



Linda Sue Thompsen and another volunteer helped salvage 700 native plants in December from the old Group Health Overlake campus. Photo by Jim Rettig.

Health Overlake site in Redmond to make way for redevelopment.

Instead, on a Saturday in December dozens of ferns and rhododendrons and scores of mahonia and salal plants were dug up and repotted by a small army of Eastside Audubon volunteers and friends and carted off to Marymoor Park.

A month later, another marathon work party got most of the salvaged natives into the ground on the Audubon BirdLoop, where they'll provide cover and food for birds and beautify the recently created overlook area near Lot G.

Kudos to Glenn Eades, Ella Ellman, Tim McGruder, and Jim Rettig, who mobilized



A youth group volunteer replants salvaged mahonia at the Audubon BirdLoop in Marymoor Park in January. Photo by Mick Thompson.

more than 30 volunteers on both fantastically productive occasions and turned the loss of habitat at Overlake into a win for wildlife at Marymoor.

... We Give Our Heartfelt Thanks

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Forsyth, Janice Foster, Elizabeth S. Frankenberg, Carol Furry, Sharon Furutani, Mary Gathers, Janet Gavin, Diane Gelotte, Barbara Ghaffari, Maya Giddings, Hannah Gile Beye, Melanie Gilman-Niece, Erin and Donald Granvold, Sue and Bud Grieff, Sheri Grimes, Kristin Gullede, Richard Guthrie, Floyd and Gloria Hall, I. J. and G. A. Hannon, Deborah Hansen, Jacqueline Hayward, Lora Hein, Dorothy Henry, Dave Hofeditz, Ginger Holser, Jennifer Hopkins, Chris Houden, Jessi Howe, Nancy Hubly, Margie Huff, Richard W. Huggett, Judy Hystad, Steve Jamieson, Meredith Jewett, Janice Johnson, Peggy Jorgensen, Mike Kalian, Charlotte Kanemori, Phil Katzen, Jennifer Kauffman, Mary Kelleher, Gloria Kern, Susan Ker-Seymer, Simone Kim DDS, Sally L. Kinsman, Carolyn Kishel, Norm and Harriet Klein, Fred Koch, Kim Koegel, Michael Koegel, Robert Koontz, Colleen Kozak, Anne Kroeker, Mary Lou Kuehn, Cheryl Kuhn, Keats Landis, Christine Larkin, Debbie Larson, Joanne Leatherman, Wendy R. Leavitt and Mike Berry, Myra Lemson, Sylvia Lesser, Roberta Lewandowski, Andrew Lie, Simon Lie, Georgie Lindquist, Eric and Kay Linger, Jan Loux, Steve and Judy Lowe, Paula Luders, Linda Luethy, Tom and Annalee

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CBC Finds Four Species Not Counted in Past

By Sharon Aagaard and Hugh Jennings

Eastside Audubon Society (EAS) held its 2012 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, December 15. The day had 100 percent cloud cover, light to torrential rain and winds, and temperatures ranging 33 to 39 degrees Fahrenheit. Even though the weather was very severe at times, we managed to tie last year's record species count of 97. We saw 93 species on the actual count day, with four species added during count week (three days before and three days after count day): Lincoln's Sparrow, Virginia Rail, Greater Scaup, and Mountain Bluebird. We also recorded seeing our second highest total number of birds (23,978 versus 28,674 seen in 1999). Also, the total birds seen (23,978) was higher than our 10-year average of 14,967.

Forty-eight people covered the eight areas comprising our CBC count circle, which has a 7.5-mile radius and is centered a little south of Beaver Lake. The majority spent six to eight hours from dawn to dusk doing the count, with a few out earlier for a successful morning of pre-dawn owl-ing (Barn Owl and Short-eared Owl at Marymoor, and Northern Saw-whet Owl at Tiger Mountain). Each person averaged 3.5 miles walking and covered an average distance of 30 miles in cars.

4 Species Seen for the First Time Ever
Mountain Bluebird, White-winged Crossbill, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Barn Swallow

Low Species Counts, Compared to Our 10-year Average (2003 to 2012)

Brewer's Blackbird: 2 birds seen, versus a 10-year average of 43

American Coot: 458, versus 674
American Crow: 573, versus 1035
Mourning Dove: 2, versus 14
Ruddy Duck: 7, versus 12
Wood Duck: 4, versus 12
Purple Finch: 6, versus 14
American Goldfinch: 7, versus 25
Greater White-fronted Goose: 1, versus 7
Horned Grebe: 1, versus 5
Ring-billed Gull: 5, versus 124
Rock Pigeon: 65, versus 197
Band-tailed Pigeon: 1, versus 12
Northern Shoveler: 12, versus 28
White-crowned Sparrow: 4, versus 32
European Starling: 932, versus 1494
Downy Woodpecker: 8, versus 16
Canvasback: None seen, versus a 10-year average of 7
Brown-headed Cowbird: None seen, versus an average of 2
Dunlin: None seen, versus an average of 25
Barrow's Goldeneye: None seen, versus an average of 4
California Quail: None seen since 2009

High Species Counts, Compared to Our 10-year Average (2003 to 2012)

Chestnut-backed Chickadee: 211 birds seen, versus a 10-year average of 93
Red Crossbill: 81, versus 24
Bald Eagle: 53, versus 32
Cackling Goose: 5016, versus 1294
Evening Grosbeak: 110, versus 47
Northern Harrier: 6, versus 3
Dark-eyed Junco: 904, versus 495
Mallard: 4509, versus 1435 (highest year was 1999, with 5847)
Northern Pintail: 572, versus 216
Lesser Scaup: 59, versus 19 (the highest ever counted)
Pine Siskin: 2963, versus 748 (4 times the average!)
Wilson's Snipe: 9, versus 4

A complete list of birds recorded by EAS on the 2012 CBC, or on any CBC since 1981, is available by email from Sharon Aagaard: scormieraa001@hotmail.com.

Jim Rettig: 2012 Environmentalist of the Year

Continued from page 1

record of 125 species. He has raised more than \$62,000 for the chapter in his 14 years leading a Birdathon team.

Jim has done multiple stints as an EAS board member and as president, and with the chapter he has participated in the annual environmental lobby day in Olympia and in letter-writing campaigns to legislators. His work to build EAS membership has had incalculable effect.

It's natural for us to suppose that Jim's ability and energy for shepherding a flock of well-meaning enthusiasts dates to his career as a pastor in several western states.

Not necessarily, says Jim. "I don't think my earlier role as a pastor had much to do with this except that I was used to public speaking and I've always been enthusiastic about the natural world and open spaces."

Yet clearly his faith has played a part. "In the early 1980s I attended a weeklong workshop at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico, on 'The Birds of the Air and the Flowers of the Fields' — two phrases taken from the Bible — and on a birding field trip I saw my first Western Tanager.

I was blown away by its beauty. That was the beginning of my journey into birds."

Jim's mindfulness of what he calls "the interconnectedness and balance of all things" arises both from his beliefs and his observations of nature. "The more I read about birds and plants and bacteria and insects and animals, the more I am amazed at the interrelationships," he says. "As I hike in the mountains (sometimes with Tim McGruder), I sing openly or to myself one of my favorite hymns, 'How Great Thou Art,' which has these words in its second verse: 'When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees, when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze, then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, how great Thou art, how great Thou art.'"

It is a pleasure to recognize Jim's contributions to Eastside Audubon by naming him the 2012 Environmentalist of the Year.

Editor's Note: You can read the full text of Jim Rettig's email Q&A with Pete Marshall online at www.eastsideaudubon.org/conservation/environmentalist-of-the-year-2012-jim-rettig.



Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*)

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Length | 5.5 inches |
| Wingspan | 9.25 inches |
| Weight | 0.43 ounce (12.3 grams) |
| AOU band code | YRWA |

Formerly listed as two separate species, Myrtle Warbler *S. c. coronata* in eastern North America and Audubon's Warbler *S. c. auduboni* in the West, the Yellow-rumped Warbler is the most widespread and most common warbler in North America. Both forms are seen in Washington, with Audubon's more common and Myrtle seen mainly during spring and fall migration. A zone of interbreeding between the two forms exists along a diagonal following the northern Rockies at the border of British Columbia and Alberta (Dunn and Garrett). Intergrades of the species exhibit a combination of appearance characteristics.

The Yellow-rumped Warbler is now recognized as part of the genus *Setophaga*, moth eater, from the Greek *setos*, moth, referring to warblers in this genus that will hawk for insects. The species name *coronata*, from the Latin for wreath or crown, refers to the bird's yellow crown (Holloway). This warbler is quite hardy and can winter farther north than any other warbler because it is specialized to digest waxy berries such as those from wax myrtle, bayberries, poison ivy, and juniper. In some areas it is the only warbler present in the winter months (Dunn and Garrett). During spring and summer insects dominate the Yellow-rump's diet, and it will fly out to catch them.

The two forms are distinguishable by plumage differences. Briefly, Audubon's form has a yellow throat patch and a dark but plain face. The Myrtle form has a white-to-pale throat which curves up behind a darker ear patch. The Myrtle also has a thin eyebrow stripe, which is missing on Audubon's. Both forms have a yellow rump patch, which has elicited the affectionate Northwest species nickname "Butterbutt." They also have yellow patches just below the wings. The yellow crown patch can be concealed much of the

time. Adult males are gray and females and juveniles are more brown.

Yellow-rumps migrate earlier in April than other warblers do and breed in the boreal forest. The female builds an open cup nest made of bark fibers, weeds, and twigs. Usually four creamy white eggs with brown markings are deposited. Incubation lasts about 12 days and first flight can occur about two weeks later. Some pairs have two broods per year (Kaufman).

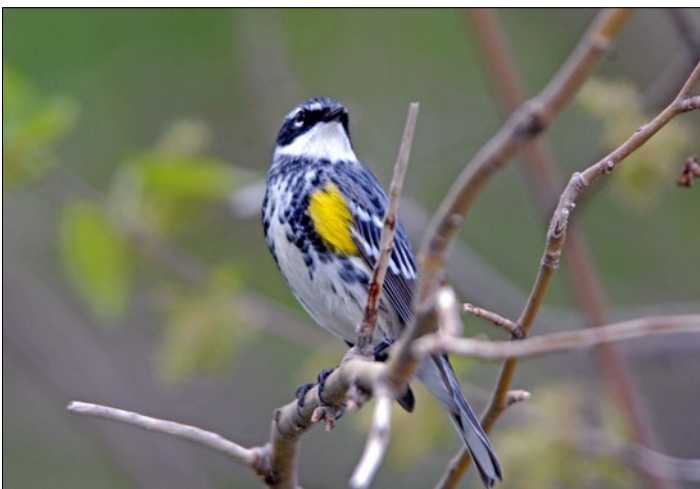
Why the Yellow-rump Got Regrouped

Mitochondrial and nuclear DNA analyses in recent years revealed that all of the warbler species from the genus *Dendroica* plus three species from two other genera were part of a clade, a group of species with a common ancestor. The sole species then in the genus *Setophaga* was also found to be part of that clade. All of the clade species were regrouped into in the same genus, called *Setophaga* because that name had priority. See David Sibley's very readable article "[The new Wood-Warbler taxonomy](#)" at the Sibley Guides website for further explanation and more about bird species definition.

The Yellow-rump is a Neotropical species and it is so widespread that it migrates along all four North American flyways. Yellow-rumps in western North America make full use of the Pacific Flyway, wintering in western Mexico and Central America in a wide variety of habitats: open forest areas, pine forests, mangroves, and shade coffee areas. In Mexico they prefer thorn and pine-oak-fir forests (Hunt and Flaspohier).

The species is very adaptable and has a stable population. Breeding Bird Surveys between 1966 and 1994 indicate increases in numbers (Hunt and Flaspohier).

References available upon request from amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org.



Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) by Robert Howson



Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) by Mick Thompson

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