



Eastside Audubon
your connection to nature

The Corvid Crier

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

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Q1 - WINTER 2016

OUR MISSION

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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CONTACT US

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Kirkland, WA 98083

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

Volunteer Annual Dinner

Thursday, January 28 - 6:30pm

By Jan McGruder

Let's celebrate our volunteers! Over 97 volunteers have contributed 2,300+ hours for Eastside Audubon Society this year, and that's a great accomplishment for our Chapter. We want to honor you – our volunteers – and we hope you join us for an evening of socializing and celebration. Your volunteer hours are essential for us to do all that we accomplish, and your help makes it possible for EAS to secure grants to further grow our Chapter. Thank you!

After enjoying a delicious dinner, we will celebrate the Chapter's 2015 accomplishments and our volunteers. We will install the new

Board of Directors, and we will honor the outgoing Board Members and our many volunteers. Back by popular demand, members of the Photo Club will present several short programs of their work. You can bet there will be some wonderful bird pictures! This year the dinner will be catered and is by invitation only. Make sure to submit your 2015 volunteer hours by December 31, and look for your invitation in the mail. Please RSVP by January 20 to reserve your spot. Doors open at 6:00 pm and dinner served at 6:30 pm on Thursday, January 28th at the Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Avenue South in Kirkland. ■

One Bird's North is Another Bird's South

Excerpt from www.audubon.org

As birds that breed in the lower 48 states head to Central and South America, those from the boreal forests of Canada and Alaska are also heading south in search of warmer climes. Winter visitors can be found all over the country. There's this massive sea of a billion or more birds that come down into the U.S. and become, often, the common birds of backyards and parks and lakes and ponds. Helping these winter visitors out could help sustain their populations in both their wintering and summering grounds. Birds have the same needs—food, water, shelter—in

winter as they do any other time. While conservationists tend to pay the most attention to habitats during breeding season, there's this whole other season that we haven't been paying nearly as much attention to, and there are opportunities to provide high-quality habitat during the winter season.

A few things you can do in your backyard to provide a habitat are create a songbird border of native trees and shrubs, make a brush pile shelter, mulch fall leaves to attract bugs, and turn part of your yard into a mini-meadow. See the full article at audubon.org/news/how-welcome-winter-birds. ■

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church. Use the downstairs entrance on State Street.

Conservation Committee

January 13, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Meets the second Wednesday of every month except July and August. This is an effective group engaged in activism and hands-on conservation projects. Email Peter Marshall at psmarshall@comcast.net for more info.

Photo Group

January 14, 7:00 to 9:00pm

Meets the second Thursday of every month in the church sanctuary. All levels welcome. If you like, bring photos on a flash drive to share. Email Larry Engles engles@ridesoft.com for more info.

Youth Education Committee

January 12, 7:00 to 8:30pm

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

MATERIAL SUBMISSION FOR THE CORVID CRIER

The deadlines for material submission are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1 for printing in the following month's issue.

Email material to newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org with "Corvid Crier Quarterly" in the subject heading.

Will We Leave a Legacy of Conservation?

By Andy McCormick

"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children."

— John James Audubon

This key message from our chapter's namesake has become a foundational principle of the movement to curtail global climate change. There is a growing consensus among scientists that the change we are experiencing is the result of human activity, specifically the burning of fossil fuels to create electrical and heat energy. Following the meeting of world leaders in Paris, France at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, called COP 21, the 21st Conference of the Parties, the movement to stem global warming will continue regardless of the outcome of the agreement that is reached. (This article was written before the climate conference was held from November 30 to December 11, 2015.). Our legacy may depend on the decisions that were made at the conference and what we do after it.

We are learning just how true Audubon's words are. Our children and grandchildren will view our legacy based on the kind of world we leave them. We know that we must make decisions as citizens of planet Earth to reduce the burning of fossil fuels as a source of electrical and heat energy. We also have determined that in order to slow down and stabilize the warming of the planet, we need to keep two-thirds of the remaining fossil fuels in the ground.

The fate of millions of people is at stake. Those who will suffer the most from global warming with

rising sea levels, spreading deserts, and stronger storms – the poor, islanders, and coastal people – have done the least to cause the problem, because they burned much less fossil fuel than the industrialized nations have.

Creating a fund to help smaller nations cope with climate change is a major decision that is needed.

In industrialized nations, a two-pronged strategy of putting a price

on carbon and encouraging organizations to divest from fossil fuel producing companies is having an effect in changing how people make decisions about using coal, oil and gas. Much of our current use of fossil fuels can be eliminated by moving to sustainable energy development

with solar, wind and geothermal energy sources. This kind of change will be profound but it can also be positive for economic growth with the creation of millions of jobs worldwide to insulate homes, install solar panels, develop wind energy and invent new methods of creating energy.

With hard work and a commitment to our future generations, we can leave a legacy of a world as verdant as the one we received from our ancestors. ■

"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by fathers, but borrowed from his children."

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Bird of the Month | Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*)



Spotted owl. Photo by John and Karen Hollinsworth.

Length: 17.5 inches
Wingspan: 40 inches
Weight: 1.3 pounds (610 grams)
AOU Alpha Code: SPOW

By Andy McCormick

“The Northern Spotted Owl is an indicator species for Pacific Northwest old-growth forest; in other words, the state of this bird represents the state of these forests. In this role, it has become an icon of efforts to preserve old-growth forests in the region” (Bannick). The Northern Spotted Owl lives in the northwestern maritime forest which has a mix of western red cedar, western hemlock, Douglas fir and Pacific silver fir located west of the Cascade Crest.

The Northern Spotted Owl of the Pacific Northwest is one of three subspecies along with the

California Spotted Owl and Mexican Spotted Owl. The genus *Strix* is originally from the Greek *strix*, an owl. *Occidentalis* is Latin referring to the west or western, this owl’s natural range. The common name Spotted refers to the white spots on its plumage (Holloway). The Northern subspecies is darker than the other two and it has smaller spots. Many bird species have darker plumage in the northern, wetter climates.

Spotted Owls are brown overall with elliptical white spots on most of its body. They do not have ear tufts as some other owls do. Their flight is low and direct (Alderfer). The call is a low four-note hoot which can be heard at the Macaulay Library. They are strictly nocturnal but can sometimes be found roosting in a tree during the day.

Spotted Owls begin nesting in March choosing a cavity in a large hollow tree or possibly in a cave. They do not build a nest, but make a scrape of debris at the site. Usually two eggs are deposited. The female will incubate the eggs for about a month. During this time the male will bring food for the female and then continue to feed the young, which are ready to leave the nest after five weeks. The adults will continue to tend them for several more weeks feeding on voles, deer mice, woodrats and other smaller owls and birds (Kaufman).

The habitat requirements for Northern Spotted Owls are quite specific and because this habitat has a high commercial value as harvested wood by the logging industry, this owl has been studied more than any other species as part of a long-running controversy pitting those who want to preserve its habitat and those who want to log the forests. Nest sites are found

more frequently in deeper forest areas in late stages of maturity. “In general, this species uses forests with greater complexity and structure than random sites for nesting in both managed and unmanaged forests” (Gutierrez, et al). The Northern subspecies is now listed as endangered in Washington and Canada and threatened under the US Endangered Species Act.

Further adding to its already steep decline has been expansion of the range of the Barred Owl, an Eastern North American species that has been nesting in Washington and California. The Barred Owl is aggressive toward Spotted Owls and, despite the success states have had in preserving old-growth habitat, the population of Northern Spotted Owls continues a steep decline. “Between 2000 and 2007, the population of Northern Spotted Owls in Washington State fell by approximately 50 percent” (Bannick). There may be 300 nesting pairs existing in its range. To counter this trend the US Fish & Wildlife Service has adopted a plan to experimentally kill Barred Owls in four geographical areas to allow Spotted Owls time to recover in the absence of Barred Owls. One of the four areas is near Cle Elum, WA. UFWs officials believe if humans do not intervene the Northern Spotted Owl is on a road to extinction.

References available upon request from amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org. ■

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FIELD TRIP DETAILS

Children 8 years and older are welcome on all trips; 17 years and younger must have an adult companion.

FRS Radio owners, please consider bringing your radio on trips.

Find reports of the last month's field trips at www.eastsideaudubon.org/birding/field-trips.

Some trips may require a Discover Pass, which is \$10 daily or \$30 annually. It can be purchased online at discoverpass.wa.gov or at a sporting goods store.

Email general questions to Becky Serabrini at fieldtrip@eastsideaudubon.org

FIELD TRIP MEETING PLACES

Kingsgate Park & Ride

13001 116th Way NE, Kingsgate
Meet in the southeast corner.

Wilburton Park & Ride

720 114th Ave. SE, Bellevue
I-405, Exit 12

Newport Hills Park & Ride

5115 113th Place SE, Bellevue
I-405, Exit 9

South Kirkland Park & Ride

10610 NE 38th Place, Kirkland

Tibbetts Lot

1675 Newport Way NW, Issaquah
Meet across the street from the large parking garage at the west end.

MONTHLY WORK PARTY AT MARYMOOR PARK

The habitat restoration work party meets the first Saturday of every month from 9:00am to noon. 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. Call the EAS office 425-576-8805 for more info.

Upcoming Field Trips & Events

Please be sure to visit eastsideaudubon.org for complete information on these field trips and any recent additions. The website will have more detailed descriptions of each trip, the meet-up location, and cost.

Juanita Bay Park Interpretive Tour • Sun, Jan 3 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm

Eastside Park Rangers lead this easy, one-hour walk on the first Sunday of every month. No registration required. EAS office 425-576-8805.

George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary and surrounding areas in Ladner, BC, Canada • Sat & Sun, Jan 9 & 10

The Sanctuary is located in the center of the Fraser River estuary, which is of international significance to birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway. It contains ponds, natural tidal marshes, and sloughs, all of which provide important resting and feeding areas in January for thousands of birds, which have arrived from their northern or interior breeding grounds. Passenger cost/person \$30.00. Trip reservations with Jim Rettig 425-402-1833 or jrettigtanager@frontier.com

Skagit Valley Eagle Watching and Sarvey Wildlife Center Presentation Sat, Jan 16 - 7:30am to approx 5:30pm

Day trip to the Skagit River Bald Eagle Natural Area for eagle watching and also to a free presentation by the Sarvey Wildlife Care Center who will talk about birds of prey in the Puget Sound area with at least five of their birds present. Trip reservations with Becky Serabrini 425-898-9899.

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk • Tue, Jan 19 - 8:00am to 12:00pm

A relaxed walk in the park. Meets the third Tuesday of each month. No registration required. Mary Francis Mathis 425-803-3026.

Birding Hot Spots of King County • Mon, Jan 25 - 9:00am to 12:00pm

Monthly field trip on the fourth Monday of the month to wherever the birds are. No registration required. Rusty Hazzard 425-652-1006.

Lake Sammamish State Park • Mon, Jan 25 - 9:00am to 12:00pm

This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds due to its varied ecosystems. No registration required. Co-led by Sharon Aagaard 425-891-3460 and Stan Wood.

West Seattle Shoreline • Sat, Jan 30 - 8:00am to 12:00pm

Explore the shores and waters of West Seattle from Salty's on Elliot Bay to Lincoln Park. Numerous viewpoints overlook the water and freighters, ferries and sea birds. No registration required. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351.

Lake Sammamish State Park • Sat, Jan 30 - 8:00am to 12:00pm

This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds due to its varied ecosystems. No registration required. Co-led by Sharon Aagaard 425-891-3460, Natasha Kacoroski 425-221-6595 and Stan Wood.

Field Trip Committee Has a New Year's Wish

By Becky Serabrini

Bird watching is one of the top growing interests both in our region and nationally and our chapter serves a large geographic area. In 2015, Eastside Audubon led 60 bird watching trips both locally and farther afield.

Our chapter boasts several volunteers who lead these trips to help both members and the general public explore areas in the pursuit of bird watching. They come from all walks of life and range from retirees to small business owners to college students. Our trip leaders'

passion for wildlife and friendly personalities are the reason for the popularity of the program.

In 2016 we would like to be able to offer a wider diversity of field trips to meet the growing interests of our membership, and we are developing fun ideas to add to the calendar in coming months.

Our New Year's wish is that we hear from more members who are interested in leading trips. We provide training and can even provide gear, such as a spotting scope and binoculars for the participants' journey. This is a fun activity that

doesn't require a major commitment of time and has many benefits including showing the public that we care about the places where birds live, and that we want to support our members in enjoying the sport of bird watching. Most of our outings are local and last a few hours. They are an excellent way to make new friends and continue learning about birds.

If you are interested in exploring this volunteer option, or have other ideas about the field trip program, please contact Becky Serabrini at fieldtrip@audubon.org. ■

Five Close Birding Spots

By Andy McCormick

Fall brings transition in the world of birds and Western Washington resident birds are joined by migrating birds from the north to winter in the Puget Sound area. Combing through a listing of field trips sponsored by Eastside Audubon I've chosen five field trip options for you to consider.

Marymoor Park

Walk the Audubon BirdLoop and enter a variety of habitats: the Sammamish slough riparian area, woodlands, a viewing deck overlooking the lake, and the grassy East Meadow. Start at Parking Lot D and walk south along the slough. This allows you to get through the dog park area before it gets too crowded.

Union Bay Natural Area (Montlake Fill)

A proven Seattle hot spot with open fields and freshwater ponds, which attract migrant shorebirds, ducks and raptors. In Union Bay a wide variety of ducks, grebes and often loons can be seen at close range. Walk the Yesler Swamp boardwalk and then follow Wakiakum Trail around the fields, shore and ponds.

Magnuson Park and Sand Point

Just north of Union Bay in Seattle is Magnuson Park. A refurbished wetland area, open weedy fields and the Lake Washington shoreline provide habitats for wintering waterfowl and gulls. The fields and thickets shelter sparrows, warblers and other visitors.

Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers are prominent around dusk.

Des Moines Marina at Saltwater State Park

Wintering waterfowl including ducks, grebes (Red-necked Grebe is regular), loons and some shorebirds at low tide are usually seen here. Bring your scope to the marina pier is helpful, and then walk the paved trail along Des Moines Creek to check for land birds.

Kent Valley and Ponds

Wintering ducks, geese, hawks, gulls, and sparrows are frequent at these south county areas. Boeing Ponds, Frager Road, and access to the Kent Ponds along the Green River Wildlife area can hold surprises. ■

EAS's 2015 Christmas Bird Count was December 19

Each year on a Saturday in December, Eastside Audubon Society sends out eight birding teams and organizes backyard birders to cover our assigned area for the nationwide Christmas Bird Count organized by National Audubon.

Along with hundreds of Audubon

chapters nationwide, we send our tallies to National Audubon for compilation. Throughout the year, scientists use the results to study bird distribution and population trends and identify conservation priorities.

Check out our results online at eastsideaudubon.org. ■

WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

Contact the office at 425-576-8805 or office@eastsideaudubon.org.

Conservation Report: EAS Weighs In On Grays Harbor Oil Terminals

By Pete Marshall

Although Grays Harbor is distant from our service area in northeast King County, the chapter has taken an active role in resisting proposed expansion of the Westway and Imperium oil terminals at the Port of Grays Harbor. Some of our chapter members remember participating as volunteers trying to save birds that survived a large spill from the oil barge Nestucca near Grays Harbor in December, 1988. We're now drawing on that memory to challenge development that risks similar wildlife suffering on a much larger scale.

The oil terminal expansions would generate frequent arrivals of crude oil by rail via the scenic Columbia Gorge to Chehalis and then by a regional rail carrier to Aberdeen. More than three additional 100-car

oil trains per day would be added to the area's traffic delays and hazards, exposing human and wildlife environments to potential accidents involving explosive, toxic cargoes. Twice-daily arrivals and departures of tanker vessels would be added to existing vessel traffic in the harbor's navigation channel and along coastal routes.

Considering Grays Harbor's extraordinary importance to migratory shorebirds and marine wildlife, as well as fishing and tourist industries, we concluded that major adverse environmental impacts of oil terminal expansion are unavoidable. Therefore we are joining several other local chapters and Audubon Washington in expressing opposition. In October we participated in a public hearing in Aberdeen, and in November sent

a formal letter to the Washington Department of Ecology and the City of Hoquiam, outlining questions and critiques of the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

At our October and November program meetings, the chapter provided one-page summary statements of opposition to the terminal expansion projects. These can be simply folded and taped shut, then stamped and mailed to the environmental statement consultant, to register individual members' concerns and opposition. A copy of this one-pager can be viewed on the EAS web site under Conservation. A link can also be found there to the more extensive letter we sent in November to the Washington Department of Ecology. ■

Board Report

By Jan McGruder

As I write this article I can report that we have hired a Program Coordinator to run our Bird Friendly Communities campaign, but she has not yet started with EAS. By the time you are reading this she will have been with us for several weeks. We had three very worthy candidates to choose from, but Callie Hall was our first choice and we are so pleased she accepted the position. Callie will broaden our outreach and educational activities throughout the Eastside.

In October we were awarded a \$10,000 grant by King County to replace a gate along the river, and to study the feasibility of (1) building a viewing platform along the river and (2) creating a wetland complex at the outer reaches of the BirdLoop. Once both studies are done, we'll decide our next steps.

Our Board elections were held in November, which are always a mixed blessing. I will miss Andy McCormick and Dora Rajkhowa, but I'm pleased Pete Marshall has

volunteered for another term as Conservation Chair. I also welcome Nancy Hubby as Treasurer, Margaret Lie as an At-Large Board Member, and Antonio Montonaña as the Membership Chair.

I'm looking forward to another year of comradery and challenges with Eastside Audubon, and am thrilled that you're also here to join the fun.

As always, I hope to see you out on a bird walk or at a Program Night. Happy birding! ■

Warm Welcome to Our New Members

From August 1 through October 31, 2015 we added a total of 36 new members. 12 of those members joined National Audubon and were assigned to our chapter based on their zip code.

The new EAS members are: Marian Aamodt, Liz Anderson, Sanjay Balachandran, Gene Beall,

Caren Beecher, Tat Choi, Deboarh DeFilipps, Krista Fleming, Tyler Hartje, Melvin Inouye, Mary and James LaShell, Anh Le, Candace McKenzie, Barbara Merchant, Teresa Michelsen, Thomas Munsch, Jasmine Palmer, Laura Spalart, George Sutherland, Laurie Thompson, Jeffrey Vanderveer,

Tammie Ward, Karen Westerlund, Trudy Wood.

Welcome to Eastside Audubon! We hope to see you at a Program Night, on a field trip, or at one of our community events. ■



Gray heron. Photo by Tony Morris.

Poetry: "The Blue"

By David Baker

Then it picks up one stem leg.
This takes time.
And sets it down
just beyond the other,
no splash, breath of a ripple,
goes on slowly across the silt,
mud, algae-throttled surface,
through sedge grass, to stand to its
knees in water turning grayer now
that afternoon is evening.

Now that afternoon is evening
the gray heron turns blue,
bluer than the sky,
bluer than the mercury
blue-black still pond.

To read the full poem visit
[silverbirchpress.wordpress.com/
2013/05/24/the-blue-poem-by-
david-baker/](http://silverbirchpress.wordpress.com/2013/05/24/the-blue-poem-by-david-baker/)

Volunteers, Please Report Your Hours

Volunteers, please report your hours one of two ways:

- Send an email with your hours to volunteer-time@lists.eastsidedubon.org.
- Call the office 425-576-8805 and ask the receptionist to report your hours.

Peanuts Are For the Birds

Hang up a chain of nuts and other goodies to make your feathered visitors very happy

String some peanuts around a tree, bush, or outdoor railing to deck your home out with a bird-friendly bunting. Fruit can make for an additional treat.

Materials needed (adult supervision required): needle, thread, peanuts and cranberries

- Mix peanuts and cranberries. Make sure there is no added salt or sugar.

- Use a needle to string a thread through the mix, piece by piece.

- Wrap the chain around a tree or bush in your garden, tying down each end so your chain doesn't blow away. If you don't have any plants you can wind it around a railing or some other sturdy structure.

- Dispose of the string once the chain is empty to avoid endangering wildlife. ■

EAS Officers, Committee Chairs, Staff

Executive Officers

President	Jan McGruder	president@eastsidedubon.org
Vice President	OPEN	
Secretary	Lori Danielson	ldanielson@eastsidedubon.org
Treasurer	Nancy Hubly	treasurer@eastsidedubon.org
Past President		

Board Members and Committee Chairs

Birding	Tricia Kishel	tkishel@eastsidedubon.org
Communication	OPEN	
Comm. Outreach	OPEN	
Conservation	Pete Marshall	psmarshall@comcast.net
Education	OPEN	
Youth Education	Diane Crestanello	crestanello@comcast.net
Financial Devel.	OPEN	
Membership	Antonio Montaña	amontanana@hotmail.com
Volunteers	OPEN	
At Lrg Board Mbr	Marlene Meyer	mmeyer@eastsidedubon.org
At Lrg Board Mbr	Margaret Lie	margaretlie12@gmail.com

Other Committee Chairs

Photo Group	Larry Engles	engles@ridesoft.com
Bird Quesions	Mary Francis Mathis	birdhelp@eastsidedubon.org
Birdathon	OPEN	
Field Trips	Becky Serabrini	fieldtrip@eastsidedubon.org
Holiday Gift Wrap	Margaret Lie	margaretlie12@gmail.com
	Roberta Lewandowski	roberta@lewandowski.com
Hospitality	OPEN	
Juanita Bay Rangers	Wendy Faucett	wcfwct@gmail.com
Newsletter	Lori Danielson	ldanielson@eastsidedubon.org
	Cate Forsyth	cateforsyth@outlook.com
Photographer	Mick Thompson	mthomp1707@comcast.net
Program Night Coord.	Laura Weisel	laura.weisel@gmail.com
Webmaster	Tyler Hartje	webmaster@eastsidedubon.org

Staff

General Manager	Mel Clark	office@eastsidedubon.org
Program Coord.	Callie Hall	callie@eastsidedubon.org



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Club memberships help support our camp scholarship fund for low income children, our college scholarship fund, grants to teachers, and habitat conservation.

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☐ Volunteer opportunities

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Please consider a planned gift to Eastside Audubon Society to support environmental education and conservation for generations to come. Because EAS 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. 100% of your contribution will go to fund the EAS programs.

- ☐ I have included Eastside Audubon in my will.
☐ I would like information about making a planned gift.