

The Corvid Crier

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

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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

The Eastside Audubon Society office is located downstairs in Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church.

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425-576-8805 office@eastsideaudubon.org

P.O. Box 3115 Kirkland, WA 98083

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

Bird-A-Thon

By Andy McCormick

Bird-A-Thon is a fun fundraising event that is held during the month of May by Audubon chapters all over North America. Eastside Audubon is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, our national organization that supports birds and bird habitat.

A Bird-A-Thon is very similar to a telethon or a walkathon, events in which individuals make a pledge to contribute money to support a cause they believe in. For example, in a walkathon, people pledge an amount per mile that a person or team will walk during a day. In

Bird-A-Thon, we ask for a pledge for each bird species a team sees during a 24-hour period of birding. People contribute to help protect birds and the habitat they need across North America.

Eastside Audubon has different ways people can participate in Bird-A-Thon. One is by supporting a team of expert birders who can identify birds by sight and sound. Another is by creating a personal or family team that wants to identify birds on a walk in their community. A third is to participate in one of the chapter's field trips in May. A donation of \$25 per trip is requested, and participants also

have the option of contributing based on the number of bird species seen on the trip.

Eastside Audubon has four teams which compete to see how many species of birds can be seen in a single day. The teams have creative names to add to the fun of the event. The Karismatic Kestrels are led by

Andy McCormick. The Whidbey Wingdings are led by Hugh Jennings. The Raven Maniacs are led by Jan McGruder. The Bird Brains are led by Jim Rettig. Each team member asks friends and family members to pledge a donation for each bird species to support their team. A bird species is any

distinct bird species such as an American Robin, a Song Sparrow, or a Red-tailed Hawk. Most teams will see about 100 different species of birds in a day.

Although the teams have a friendly competition to be first in the amount of money raised and the number of bird species seen, the real winners are birds, wildlife, and the habitat they need to prosper. Bird-A-Thon is one way you can directly support the work of Eastside Audubon and the birds we love. Thanks for all you do for the birds.

CHAPTER MEETINGS

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

Conservation Committee May 9, 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 Jim Rettig at jrettigtanager@gmail.com or Tim McGruder at tmcgruder@gmail.com for more info.

Photo Group May 10, 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 May 1, 7:00 to 8:30pm

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 for more info.

EAS Book Club May 15, 7:00 to 8:30pm

Meets the third Tuesday of every month at the EAS office. RSVP required; email Becky Serabrini wingsinapril@gmail.com

Board Meeting May 14, 6:30pm

Interested guests may attend the monthly board meeting. Email Jan McGruder jgmcgruder@gmail.com for more info.

MATERIAL SUBMISSION FOR THE CORVID CRIER

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



Magellanic Penguin by NASA ICE.

Program Night: Penguins in the Dessert by Eric Wagner

"...one of

the largest

penguin

colonies in

the world..."

Thursday, May 24 - 7:00pm

Most of us wouldn't think to look for penguins in a hot desert, but every year along a windswept edge of coastal Patagonia, hundreds of thousands of Magellanic penguins

gather to rear their young at Punta Tombo, Argentina. It is one of the largest penguin colonies in the world outside of Antarctica, and for the past three decades, biologist Dee Boersma has followed them

there. Eric Wagner joined her team for six months, and he will talk about his new book, *Penguins in the Desert*. In it, he chronicles a season in the remarkable lives of both the Magellanic penguins of Punta Tombo and the scientists who track their every move. For Boersma, the penguins are ecosystem sentinels. At the colony's peak, more than a million birds bred there, but now less than half as many do. In confronting this

fact, Boersma tackles some of the most urgent issues facing penguins and people today. What is the best way to manage our growing appetite for fish? How do we stop

> catastrophic oil spills from coating birds? How will we address the looming effects of climate change?

Eric Wagner is an environmental writer in Seattle, where he lives with his family. He is the author of *Penguins in the*

Desert, and the co-author, with photographer Tom Reese, of Once and Future River: Reclaiming the Duwamish.

His essays and journalism have appeared in *Audubon, Orion, Smithsonian, EarthIsland Journal,* and *High Country News,* among other places, and he has a PhD in Biology from the University of Washington for his work on Magellanic penguins in Argentina.

Bird of the Month | Lazuli Bunting (Passerina amoena)



Lazuli Bunting. Photo by Mick Thompson.

Length: 5.5 inches Wingspan: 8.75 inches

Weight: 0.64 ounces (15.5 grams)

AOU Alpha Code: LAZB

By Andy McCormick

Named after the gemstone lapis lazuli, the Lazuli Bunting is a brilliant spring songster. In spring the male Lazuli Bunting will sing from a prominent perch for hours at a time. Its song is a bubbly series of repeated phrases that liven up shrubby areas in which it lives. It is comfortable in willow thickets, sagebrush, chaparral, open scrub, hedges along agricultural fields, and in recent post-fire habitats (Green, et al), and can be found from sea level up to 9,000 feet or more in the Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains.

Young male Lazuli Buntings learn their songs from adult males singing in their neighborhood. However, they do not copy the song exactly. They copy segments of songs and "cut and paste" these fragments from up to 10 different adult males into a unique pattern of syllables forming their own song. This may be one reason that it can be difficult to recognize a standard song for Lazuli Bunting.

The song of the Lazuli Bunting is a complex combination of syllables most of which are repeated 2-5 times, but within the first year a male will settle on a song sequence. This is called a crystallized song, and it will be retained thereafter for life (Green, et al). Lazuli Buntings are also persistent singers and will sing long into the summer when other species have quit.

You can see and hear a Lazuli Bunting singing at the Macaulay Library.

Nests in Shrubs

True to their favored habitat most Lazuli Buntings build an open cup nest low to the ground in a shrub or low tree. The female builds the nest of grass and weeds attached to a stem or forked branch. Usually 3-5 pale bluish white eggs are deposited. The female incubates them for about 12 days.

The young are fed only by the female and they leave the nest in another 10-12 days after hatching. The male will take over feeding after fledging, while the female attempts a second brood. Two broods are common.

Molting Hotspot

In spring Lazuli Buntings migrate along the Pacific and Central flyways and will arrive in Washington in May. Following breeding, they will begin a complete molt of their feathers on the breeding grounds. By July they are on the move south in small flocks. On the way they will stop in the southwestern U.S. and Sonora, Mexico, where they will spend about a month to finish their molt. Some will winter in place, but many will resume migration and winter in Western and Central Mexico in the same kind of brushy habitat they enjoy in the north.

Interbreeding is Common

Lazuli Bunting is in the genus Passerina, from the Latin for sparrows. It shares this genus with the Indigo Bunting (Passerina cyanea) and these two species will interbreed in a zone including Western Montana and along the border of British Columbia and Alberta (Green, et al).

The species epithet ameona, is from Latin for pleasing to the senses, or charming. Lazuli is from the Latin lazulus, azure for the male's breeding plumage. The origin of the word "bunting" is unknown, but thought to come from the Scandinavian buntin, short and thick, plump (Holloway).

The population of Lazuli Buntings appears to be stable, but they are subject to nest parasitism by Brownheaded Cowbirds, which are growing in numbers. There are no conservation plans in place.

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

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 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, May 6 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm Eastside Park Rangers lead this easy, one hour walk on the first Sunday of every month. Free. Children aged 6 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. No pre-registration required. EAS office 425-576-8805.

Wallace Swamp Creek Park Bird Walk • Mon, May 7 - 11:00am
This will be an easy one and a half to two hour walk over both dirt and paved trails through riparian habitat. Meet at the kiosk parking lot by 9:00am. The trails get very muddy in rainy weather, so dress appropriately. No pre-registration required. Led by Linda Phillips 206-291-3663.

Birding Hot Spots of King County • Mon, May 28 - 9:00am to 12:00pm Monthly field trip on the fourth Monday of the month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00am at the north end of the Newport Hills P&R (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Children aged 10 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. Carpool passenger cost per person \$2-4. Led by Rusty Hazzard 425-652-1006.

World Migratory Bird Day at Juanita Bay Park • Sat, June 6 - 10:00am to 2:00pm

Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day at Kirkland's Juanita Bay Park. Discover the park's natural wonders on a walk with knowledgeable Eastside Park Rangers. Visit nature-related booths to learn more about our feathered friends. Participate in a migration game and learn about the perils birds face on their migratory routes. Marvel at the beauty of local birds. Challenge yourself by matching pictures of birds with their names. Meet the Eastside Rangers and representatives from Green Kirkland. Bird bracelets, stickers, coloring pages and tattoos await the younger set. And young and old will enjoy a Saturday spent in nature. Parking located in the south parking lot and along Market Street.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Issaquah Farmer's Market Sat, May 26 - 9:00am to 2:00pm

Duvall Farmer's Market Thur, May 31 - 3:00pm to 7:00pm

Audubon Photo Exhibit

Central Washington University, Sammamish. June 8-22 Thurdays, Fridays - 4:00pm to 8:00pm Saturdays - 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Migratory Bird Day at Juanita Bay Sat, June 16 - 10:00am to 2:00pm

Issaquah Farmer's Market Sat, June 30 - 9:00am to 2:00pm

Juanita Bay Farmer's Market Fri, July 6 - 3:00pm to 7:00pm

North Bed Farmer's Market Thur, July 12 - 4:00pm to 8:00pm

Duvall Farmer's Market Thur, July 19 - 3:00pm to 7:00pm

Issaquah Farmer's Market Sat, July 21 - 9:00am to 2:00pm

Bird-A-Thon Feild Trips

For these field trips
we are requesting
a \$25 donation to
Eastside Audubon for
Bird-A-Thon. You can
make your donation at
eastsideaudubon.org
or bring cash or check
on the day of the trip.

Lake Sammamish State Park Wed, May 2 - 6:30am to 11:30am

This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds and habitats due to its varied ecosystems. The trip will involve walking approximately 2-3 miles. Dress appropriately (rainproof in layers; some of the trails can be muddy if wet). Meet at 6:30 am just inside the main entrance, take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end. A Discover Pass is required to park. No registration required. Led by Sharon Aagaard and Stan Wood. Call Sharon with questions 425-891-3460.

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Sat, May 5 - 7:30am to approx 4:00pm

Hugh Jennings will lead his annual trip to The Nisqually NWR in Thurston County which offers a diverse combination of habitats and birds. The delta is bounded by rivers on each side with marshes, deciduous woods and open areas. Spring migrants should be arriving to joining regulars such as woodpeckers and Great Horned Owls. A variety of waterfowl and raptors should be present as well. Admission is free if you have an Interagency Annual Pass (old Golden Eagle), Senior Pass (old Golden Age),

Access Passport, Federal Duck Stamp, or Annual Refuge Pass. (fws.gov/Nisqually/visit.html.) Meet before 7:30am at north end of the Wilburton Park & Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Carpool cost \$12 per passenger in addition to donation. No registration required. Led by Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351, h2ouzel@comcast.net.

Rattlesnake and Christmas Lakes Sat, May 12 - 7:00am to 1:00pm

Rattlesnake and Christmas Lakes offer a variety of habitats for spring birding in the Cascade foothills near North Bend. We will have opportunities to see warblers. flycatchers, wrens, woodpeckers, swallows, ducks and raptors. The old red alders, second-growth conifers, black cottonwoods, wetlands and lake provide a variety of habitats and possibly some unexpected species. Bring a snack. Meet before 7:00am at Tibbet's Park & Ride in Issaguah to carpool. Return by 1:00pm. Passenger cost per person is \$6 in addition to donation. No preregistration required. Led by Tricia Kishel.

Juanita Bay Park Sat, May 12 - 8:00am to approx 11:30am and/or lunch.

Join Marlene's Wings over Water group for a relaxing birding day for novice birders. Meet at the Juanita Bay Park parking lot at 8:00am and we will walk on level ground and boardwalks to check for birds in the bay and on land. There are several habitats to explore: the water and shoreline of Lake Washington, wetland shrubs, and open woodlands. We are likely to see warblers, vireos, various woodland birds, waterfowl, and local raptors. It's a fun birding day and a chance to help Audubon. Register by calling the office at 425-576-8805.

Over by lunchtime and you can join the leader for lunch at a nearby restaurant if you wish. Led by Marlene Meyer 425-891-5864.

Washington Park, Anacortes Sun, May 13 - 6:30am to approx 3:00pm

Join us for this hike in Skagit County. This 2.5-mile loop hike goes through forest and meadow habitats with views of Rosario Strait by low and high bank. The loop road is closed until 10:00am so we will be walking on pavement that loops the peninsula. We will dip down to the shoreline of Rosario Strait in several places to look for seabirds and other shoreline species. After 10:00am we'll head inland to hike the trails that cross the peninsula. We'll picnic on the shoreline to continue our search for water and shore birds. Dress for the weather and a hike. Bring snacks, lunch, water and binoculars. Meet before 6:30am at Kingsgate Park & Ride; return by mid-afternoon. Carpool cost per passenger is \$18 round trip in addition to donation. Led by Jan & Tim McGruder. To register contact Jan McGruder 425-822-8580 or president@eastsideaudubon.org. Limit 18. On the day of trip contact for Jan is 425-417-4462.

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk Tue, May 15 - 8:00am to 12:00pm

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. We'll look for spring migrants, resident birds, as well as raptors and waterfowl. Bring binoculars and meet before 8:00am at the parking lot at Juanita Bay Park. No registration required. Led by MaryFrances Mathis 425-802-3026.

(continued on page 6)

For these field trips
we are requesting
a \$25 donation to
Eastside Audubon for
Bird-A-Thon. You can
make your donation at
eastsideaudubon.org
or bring cash or check
on the day of the trip.

(continued from page 5)

Robinson Canyon Sat, May 19 - 6:00am to approx 4:30pm

Robinson Canvon is very birdy and located in the L.T. Murray State Wildlife Recreation Area in Kittitas County. The Robinson Canyon bird hike is about 5 miles roundtrip with a gradual elevation gain of 1000 feet and involves crossing lower Robinson Creek (Will not cross upper Ainsley Creek nor scramble to a viewpoint). The hike is rated "difficult" in the Desert Hikes book, however, we will stay in a "moderate" area of walking. We hope to see warblers, flycatchers, vireos, bluebirds, tanagers and raptors in their spring plumage. We will leave from the parking lot of the Tibbetts Park & Ride in Issaguah at 6:00am and return by late afternoon. Carpool cost per passenger is \$25 in addition to the donation. No registration required. Led by Andy McCormick 425-518-0892.

South King County Wed, May 23 - 7:00am to approx 4:30pm

We'll explore several areas in South King County including Soos Creek Trail, Boeing Ponds, and the Green River Natural Area each providing a different habitat. We will likely see a variety of warblers, flycatchers, and other neotropical migrants. Some shorebirds are possible, and raptors are certain. We will leave from the Wilburton Park & Ride

off Exit 12 on I-405 at 7:00am and return by late afternoon. Carpool cost per passenger is \$6 in addition to the Bird-A-Thon donation. No registration required. Led by Andy McCormick 425-518-0892.

Fort Steilacoom Park & Fife Ponds Sat, May 26 - 8:00am to 4:00pm

We will explore Fort Steilacoom Park in Pierce County. This historic park in the City of Lakewood has an extensive trail system through mixed woodland, perfect habitat for migrating warblers, flycatchers, orioles, tanagers, and grosbeaks. We will also check Waughop Lake for waterfowl. On the way back we may stop at Fife Ponds and/or Saltwater State Park (Discover Pass required.) Meet before 7:00am at the Wilburton P&R in Bellevue at Exit 12 on I-405 to carpool. Or meet the leader at 8:00am at Starlake P&R in Kent at Exit 247 on I-5. We will lunch at a café near Fort Steilacoom Park. The leader will take lunch orders before calling the café. Return to Starlake P&R about 4:00pm. No registration required. Passenger cost per person \$9.00 in addition to Bird-A-Thon donation. Led by Etta Cosey 206-234-9913 (phone number for day of trip only).

Spring in the Snoqualmie Valley Sun, May 27 - 6:00am to 4:00pm

We'll spend time walking parts of the Snoqualmie Valley Trail and explore other parts of the Valley and surrounding country. We should see plenty of migratory passerines, including warblers, swallows, tanagers and orioles. Bring lunch, fluids, scopes and a Discover Pass if you have one. Meet before 6:00am at the Bear Creek Park & Ride in Redmond (7760 178th Pl NE, Redmond). We'll carpool in four cars. Return by 4:00pm. Carpool cost \$5 per passenger. Co-led by Brian Bell and Nancy Hubly. To register contact Nancy by May 24 at 425-770-0288 or nancy@vanhubly. Limit of 14. (This is also the cell

number to call on the morning of the trip if needed.)

Union Bay Natural Area (Montlake Fill)

Sat, June 2 - 8:30am to 1:00pm We will walk the trails through Yesler Swamp and the Wahkiakum Loop in one of the Seattle area's best spots for migrating birds. Warblers and other migrating birds will likely be seen and perhaps a few lingering ducks. Shorebirds are generally close and easy to see. Resident raptors might make an appearance. New birders will find it especially appealing, but birders of all abilities enjoy this walk. Bring a snack and dress for variable weather. No facilities at the birding site, so we'll make a coffee/restroom stop at University Village before parking at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH). Meet before 7:30am at South Kirkland Park & Ride (10610 NE 38th Place. Kirkland) to carpool, or at 8:30am in the parking lot of the CUH (3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle). We will return around 1:00pm. Carpool passenger cost per person \$5. No registration required. Led by Antonio Montañana and Lori Danielson, Contact Lori on

VOLUNTEERS: PLEASE REPORT YOUR HOURS

day of trip only 425-260-9814. ■

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



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

See the birds better!

Youth Education Committee: Teacher **Grants Awarded**

By Mary Britton-Simmons

Thanks to your generous donations, the Youth Education Committee (YEC) awarded grants of \$450 to two teachers from schools with significant low-income populations on the Eastside. The funds must be spent for non-consumable materials for a unit or project geared toward nature, science or the environment. Kim MacDonald is a speech-language pathologist from Einstein Elementary in the Lake Washington School District. With her Green Team, she will buy items for the garden they tend each year. They are thrilled to be able to purchase a small upright plastic shed, materials to raise beds (for students who cannot reach the ground), various hand tools and possibly a picnic table. In addition, plans are in the works for a presentation by YEC volunteers to the Green Team. Jennifer Lorella, a third grade teacher from Ardmore Elementary in the Bellevue School District, is starting a Garden Club with students from third to fifth grades. They'll create a garden in the outside center area of the school and will use the funds to purchase plants, garden tools and a small storage bin. Jennifer invited my husband and me to join her and the students to visit the area this month and help with the choice of plants. It will be a trip down memory lane as my sons attended Ardmore. As a retired teacher, I know how valuable an award of \$450.00 is for an educator. Both of our recipients are grateful to the members of EAS. Kim wrote, "We appreciate all the wonderful things the Audubon Society does to protect and teach about nature." And Jennifer noted, "I am very happy to now be working with such an amazing organization like Eastside Audubon." Thanks to all of you for making these terrific projects possible!

The Future of Birds in Our National Parks

Excerpt from www.audubon.org

A brand-new peer-reviewed Audubon study examines how climate change is affecting birds in America's National Parks, and forecasts how they'll fare in the decades ahead. Find out what the study reveals about what we can expect and discover what we can do to protect these priceless national treasures: our magnificent parks and the birds they sustain.

For more details, visit audubon.org/climate/national-parks

> PLACE YOUR BUSINESS AD HERE AND REACH OVER

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To inquire about placing an ad in The Corvid Crier, please contact: newsletter@eastsideaudubon.org.

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Board Members

At Large Diane Crestanello At Large Hannah Thompson-Garner At Large Marlene Meyer At Large Antonio Montañana At Large Mick Thompson Birding Tricia Kishel Conservation Tim McGruder Conservation Jim Rettia Education **OPFN**

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Other Committee Chairs

Birdathon **Bird Questions Book Club** Citizen Science **Christmas Bird Count**

Holiday Gift Wrap

Juanita Bay Rangers

Newsletter (online)

Program Night Coor.

Newsletter (print)

Photo Group

Photographer

Publicity

Webmaster

Field Trips

Hospitality

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YES! I will support Eastside Audubon Society to preserve bird habitat and educate our community with my tax-deductable membership.

Membership Levels		Employer Contributions	
Club memberships help support our camp scholarship fund for low income children, our college scholarship		 My employer matches contributions. I am sending/ will send matching information to you. 	
□ \$25 Individual□ \$40 Family□ \$100 Goldfinch Club	chers, and habitat conservation. \$250 Heron Club \$500 Osprey Club Club \$1,000 Eagle Club	Sign-up To Receive Informational Emails ☐ Announcements ☐ Conservation updates and action alerts ☐ Volunteer opportunities	
Payment Options Enclosed is my check payable to Eastside Audubon My payment has been submitted through PayPal Please charge myMasterCardVisa Number Exp Date Signature Date Your Mailing & Contact Information		Planned Giving 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 deductable. 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.	
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