



The Corvid Crier

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

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Q3 - FALL 2015

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

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office@eastsideaudubon.org

P.O. Box 3115
Kirkland, WA 98083

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

Salmon Days Festival

October 3 & 4 - 10:00am to 6:00pm

By *Dora Rajkhowa*

Eastside Audubon will have a booth at Issaquah's Salmon Days festival, which will take place October 3 and 4. This will be our second year at the festival. We had a successful trip to Salmon Days in 2014 and are looking to repeat! Salmon Days occurs each fall and has been attended by more than 150,000 people. It is a large scale festival with more than 500 vendors, 60 food booths and multiple entertainment activities, as

well as a chance to view the salmon returning up Issaquah Creek. We have the opportunity to speak to hundreds of people and are seen by thousands more. EAS attendance at the festival promotes our organization and our mission of supporting birds, wildlife, and the ecosystems that we all depend on. It is also promotes our objective to reach members in our service area, which includes much of east King County, including the city of Issaquah! ■

Program Night: Thor Hanson

October 22 - 7:00pm to 9:00pm

By *Antonio Montaña*

Feathers are an evolutionary marvel: aerodynamic, insulating, beguiling. They date back more than 150 million years, yet their story has never been fully told. Join author and biologist Thor Hanson for an intriguing exploration of one of nature's most enchanting inventions. The discussion will feature images, video, and a reading from Hanson's recent book, *Feathers*, winner of the John Burroughs Medal.

Author and biologist Thor Hanson is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Switzer Environmental Fellow, and winner of the John Burroughs Medal. His books include *The Triumph of Seeds*, *The Impenetrable Forest*, and *Feathers*, which received the AAAS/Subaru Prize and a Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award, and was nominated for the Samuel Johnson Prize. Thor's

many media appearances have included NPR's *Fresh Air*, *PRI's Science Friday* and *The World*, and *The Current* on CBC. Hanson's research and conservation activities have taken him around the globe. He has studied Central American trees and songbirds, nest predation in Tanzania, and the grisly feeding habits of African vultures. He served as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Uganda, where he helped establish the mountain gorilla tourism program in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, and he has also helped manage a brown bear tourism project for the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska. He often works at the interface between natural and human systems, and is currently involved in a project assessing the ecological impacts of warfare. Hanson lives with his wife and son on an island in the Pacific Northwest. ■

CHAPTER MEETINGS

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

Conservation Committee

October 14, 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

October 8, 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

October 13, 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.

Board Meeting

October 26, 6:30pm

Interested guests may attend the monthly board meeting. Email Jan McGruder jgmcruder@gmail.com 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.

A Book Review

Nature's Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age

Mary Christine Wood, University of Oregon School of Law

By Jim Rettig

Trustees of an estate have a legal obligation to care for the assets and see that they come to no harm and are not devalued. Trustees are accountable to the courts.

The subject of Wood's book (see title above), published last year is the protection of the natural assets that belong to you, to me, and to all generations. The book is a tour de force. She argues for a paradigm shift in how we care for the natural world, our estate if you will.

She argues that the natural world is a Trust inherited from previous generations and that our generation is obliged to pass Nature's Trust onto generations that follow. You and I and all of humanity own the assets of that Trust, and our elected officials and agency employees are the trustees of these commons that we all need to survive, reproduce, and pass on to future generations. Such commons include clean air and water, the birds we love, the insects that pollinate, the mammals and all the creepy crawlies. It includes flowing rivers, productive wetlands, clean oceans, healthy forests and coral reefs. It includes healthy ecosystems and salmon runs and food that is good and nutritious.

But Nature's Trust is being damaged in so many ways, including the real threat of disastrous climate change. Our elected and employed trustees are not doing their job.

The author writes:

"Environmental law has failed us all. As ecosystems collapse across the globe and the climate crisis intensifies, environmental agencies worldwide use their authority to permit the very harm that they are supposed to prevent. Growing numbers of citizens now realize that they must act before

it is too late. This book exposes what is wrong with environmental law and offers transformational change based on the public trust doctrine. An ancient and enduring principle, the trust doctrine asserts public property rights to crucial resources. Its core logic compels government, as trustee, to protect natural inheritance such as air and water for all humanity."

Agency permits are killing the earth. The reason: the agencies created in the 1970s to protect our natural resources have been captured by the industries they were meant to regulate, and so the agencies "permit" the very harm they were meant to prevent. The book is filled with examples.

Wood argues that regulatory agencies act with too much discretion, permitting the death of Nature's Trust by 1000 cuts. We need to move the decision-making process from these agencies to the courts. In order to save Nature's Trust, we need to move from "unfettered discretion to exacting obligation."

I highly recommend this book to anyone concerned about the future of this planet and who wants to protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people. ■

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Bird of the Month | Pink-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus creatopus*)



Pink-footed Shearwater. Photo by Pablo Contreras.

Length: 18 inches
Wingspan: 44 inches
Weight: 1.6 pounds (720 grams)
AOU Alpha Code: PFSH

By Andy McCormick

One of the most common seabirds seen several miles off the coast of Washington from April to November, the Pink-footed Shearwater is rarely seen from shore. It disperses north from its breeding grounds off Chile spending the austral winter in the northern hemisphere. It follows the continental shelf eating fish and squid migrating as far north as Alaska.

“A big, floppy, western shearwater with a gentle expression. ...Flight is heavy and sluggish. Wingbeats are languid and floppy...punctuated by often very lengthy glides.” (Dunne). The Pink-footed is one of the larger shearwaters and tends to glide longer than most of the others. This type of gliding is typical of seabirds and is described as “slope soaring” (Sibley). As a wave moves through the water it forces air ahead of it. This creates a small updraft which seabirds use to stay aloft with no wing flapping. It

allows seabirds to travel tremendous distances with minimal effort, essentially surfing on the air above the wave (Sibley).

The shearwaters are part of the large family Procellariidae also called the “tubenoses.” They have two tubes along their bill which house the nostrils. These birds have a highly developed sense of smell and use this sense to search for food in the vast ocean. They are often attracted to fishing boats and pelagic birding trip leaders often throw chum, a mixture of fish oil and body parts, into the ocean to attract them for close viewing.

The genus name, “*Puffinus* is an English word applied in the seventeenth century to the razorbill, shearwater and puffin” (Holloway). This genus name is now used only for shearwaters. The species name “*creatopus*, flesh footed,[is] from the Greek kreas, flesh...and...pous, foot. [The] reference is to the pink feet, seen in flight against a mottled gray tail” (Holloway). The feet can be seen at close range, but identification of seabirds is most often made by body shape, overall color pattern, and flight style, a

skill that is developed only by field experience.

Pink-footed Shearwaters nest on islands off Chile. Little research has been done, but what we do know is that they dig out a burrow, sometimes as long as four feet, in which a single egg is deposited on the ground in early December (Kaufman). We do not know the incubation period, but young birds leave the nest in April when the colonies break up and northern migration begins.

Greater awareness of threats to seabirds is helping scientists determine ways to protect them. The Pink-footed Shearwater is listed as vulnerable by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and as threatened in Canada and Chile. There are threats to the breeding colonies from the introduction of mammals such as rats, pigs and coatis. Seabirds also end up as by-catch to long-line and gill net fishing at sea. Conservation measures are needed to eradicate predators from the breeding colonies and regulate deep sea fishing. A new threat from overfishing of forage fish such as the sand lance, juvenile herring, and smelts is reducing available food sources for seabirds.

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 Hugh Jennings 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.



Northern Strike, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Mick Thompson.

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, Oct 5 - 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.

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge • Sat, Oct 17 - 7:30am to 4:00pm

NWR offers a diverse combination of birds and habitats, including fall waterfowl. Carpool \$12 per passenger. No registration required. Tricia Kishel 206-948-3922.

Lake Sammamish State Park • Mon, Oct 19 - 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 Stan Wood and Sharon Aagaard 425-891-3460.

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk • Tue, Oct 20 - 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, Oct 26 - 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.

VISIT OUR BOOTH AT THIS COMMUNITY EVENT:

Salmon Days Festival • Sat & Sun, October 3 & 4 - 10:00am to 6:00pm

155 NW Gilman Boulevard, Issaquah

Volunteer Opportunities

By Jan McGruder

Issaquah's Salmon Days

We are seeking additional volunteers to help us the weekend of October 3 and 4 to staff the booth and talk to the visitors who stop by about our organization and what great things we have to offer. Shifts will be three hours in length on Saturday and Sunday 10:00am to 6:00pm. We are also looking for volunteers to help in the planning of the event and do set-up and take-down.

This is an excellent opportunity to become more involved with the organization, whether you are a new member or have been a member for years and may be looking for another way to contribute and meet some fellow members, connect with other nonprofits in the area, and to promote our message. If you are interested, please contact Dora Rajkhowa at doraalex@yahoo.com.

WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

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

Holiday Gift Wrap

Sign up now to help wrap gifts at the Issaquah REI, and other locations. Our gift wrap program is a fun and easy event, and a good fundraiser for Eastside Audubon. Wrapping is simple, as our pre-made cloth gift bags are increasingly popular. And for traditional wrap, bows are premade and easy to use. Besides raising funds, the event helps educate people about what Audubon does for birds and nature. We will start the wrapping December 18, and continue through Christmas Eve. Shifts are generally two hours.

This year, we cannot continue at Redmond REI, due to lack of indoor space for wrapping. This sadly ends a partnership of over 28 years. We are seeking another location at an eastside shopping venue. If you have ideas contact Margaret Lie at margaretlie12@gmail.com or Roberta Lewandowski.

To volunteer contact Roberta Lewandowski at 206-550-6495 or roberta@lewandowski.com. You can also contact the EAS office at office@eastsideaudubon.org or 425-576-8805.

Hospitality Coordinator

At our monthly meetings, we offer treats and beverages to those attending our programs. As coordinator you would send an email request for treats and helpers, pick up supplies before the meeting, set up the food and beverage tables, and clean up after the break. You would also organize the Christmas Bird Count and Volunteer dinners. The commitment is about 4 hours a month.

Volunteer Coordinator

Work with our 100+ volunteers who do all the little things that make our chapter run. We're looking for someone who is outgoing and likes working with people. The personal touch is essential for this position, as you will get to know our members and volunteers really well. This is a Board position. The commitment is about 10 hours a month.

We want you to be as successful as possible! I and other volunteers will give you as much training and support as you need. You may contact me at 425-822-8580 or president@eastsideaudubon.org for more information. ■

Volunteers, Please Report Your Hours. Let's Celebrate You!

By Tricia Kishel

Do you volunteer for EAS? I bet more than you think! Let's celebrate you. However, before we celebrate, we need you to do one more thing, give us your hours. It means a lot more than you may realize for EAS. Every January, EAS has a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner where it recognizes its volunteers. Recognition is given in chunks of hours, such as 10-30 hours, then 31-60 hours. Some volunteers put in hundreds of hours. Hard to believe, and yet you probably put in more than you think. And, we need you to report those hours. Why?

What you might not know, is that it is not only important that the

organization knows how many hours you volunteered so we can recognize you, but it can help the bottom line. When EAS reports volunteer hours, they secure funding for desired projects. Funders, donors, and the community EAS serves like to know that EAS has people who are dedicated and available to get a job done well. Also, volunteer time helps meet requirements for matching funds and grants that stipulate that we must match a percentage of grant funds. Your volunteer time can qualify toward the satisfaction of that match requirement. As you can see, it is important to report your time. Please don't think the hours

you put in don't matter. They DO matter! There are three ways to report your hours:

- Report as you go if there is a volunteer sign-up sheet
- Send an email with your hours to office@eastsideaudubon.org
- Call the office and ask the receptionist to report your hours

We need hours reported by December 2015. So, stop and think, do any of these fit your time given? Have you driven to the office to do some work or for a mailing? Have you counted the time you spent doing the work, but did you account for the time you spent driving home

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

and back? Driving counts as volunteer hours. Do you go to schools and educate children? Did you count the time it took you to plan that visit, put supplies together, and commute to the event? And how about the time it took you to put it all back together in the office? These are hours spent in support of EAS.

Are you a field trip leader? Half of your task involves planning. How long did it take to strategically decide where and when to go? Did you have to drive to the office to pick up and drop off the radios? Did you

go on a scouting trip? How long was the trip? Did you do a trip report? These are all volunteer hours. Did you take time out of your busy schedule to ensure that those who come to our Program Nights have a tasty treat? You can count the time it took for you to make those treats. And, by-the-way, thank you, these treats are very welcome! They make for a fun meeting. Yum!

Are you one of those who sew reusable gift bags for our Christmas Wrap fundraiser? They may look like simple gift bags but the effort put in is great. Do you go to

government or community meetings as an EAS representative or write a letter for the press as an EAS volunteer? This is volunteer time, including the time it takes to get to the meetings.

If you take a moment and think about all the wonderful things you do for Eastside Audubon, you will realize how much time and effort you do put in for our great organization. Please report hours to support our financial bottom line and get recognized at our yearly meeting. Thank you for all you do! ■

Conservation Report: Committee Continues Fossil Fuel Campaign

By Pete Marshall

This fall, the EAS Conservation Committee will resume its efforts to challenge proposed increases in coal and oil shipments through the Pacific Northwest. Even though our service area is not located on a major rail line or marine shoreline directly affected by these kinds of shipments, we strongly support other Audubon chapters that are. Our broader purpose is to join others to stimulate investment in sustainable energy including wind and solar.

Our secondary purpose is to add to the resistance that fossil fuel suppliers and shippers are encountering as they endeavor to move, store and export vast quantities of coal and oil through our region. We try to identify and articulate our concerns about the natural environment and especially bird habitat threatened by particular

projects. The committee prepared and the board approved EAS letters to agencies responsible for such projects as:

- Gateway Pacific Coal terminal in Whatcom County
- Tesoro-Savage Oil Terminal in Vancouver, WA
- Grays Harbor Oil Terminals in Hoquiam, WA
- Port of Tacoma Oil Terminal Expansion
- Enlargement of vessel-loading docks and rail facilities at Cherry Point, WA

At the most directly-active level, Conservation Committee and other EAS members participated as kayaktivists in this summer's "ShellNo" event in Seattle, opposing oil drilling in the Chukchi Sea. We participated in a similar event two years ago in Portland's Willamette River, especially

opposed to energy terminals proposed along the Columbia River and nearby coastal locations.

Most of our ongoing committee work is sedentary, however. We keep track of developments, legislation, events and allied organizations having to do with fossil fuel trends affecting us. We prepare letters and sometimes direct verbal testimony to legislators and agencies. These efforts began in 2012 with the Gateway Pacific proposal.

This Fall, the draft EIS for the Grays Harbor Terminal expansion has just recently been published. We will review it and prepare EAS comments to send to the Department of Ecology. If anyone wishes to become involved in this review and others to come along soon, feel free to contact me at psmarshall@comcast.net. ■

Warm Welcome to Our New Members

From June 1 through July 30, 2015 we added a total of 26 new members. Sixteen of those members joined National Audubon and were assigned to our chapter based on their zip code. The new EAS members are: Constance Aspinall, Billie Cairns, Mike Conlan, Jean Dearn

Georgene Dewald, Beth Evans, Phyllis Franklin, Stephen Gerritson, Annette Janzen, Marcelene Kubbs, Judy Moschetto, Richard and Ann Parsell, William Pritchard, Gerda Quentin, Lillian Reis, Rosemary Riddington, Jennifer Ritchie, William Ruckelshaus, Yuka Shibata,

Nancy Silvernale, Thomas Steele, Len Steiner, Sharon Tate, Alison Waters, Judi Werner, John West, and Tracy Wise.

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

Youth Education Report: Eastside Audubon Scholarship

By Mary Britton-Simmons

Do you know a senior in high school who has demonstrated a commitment to the environment? If so, have him or her check out the EAS Youth Education's College Scholarship Application at eastsideaudubon.org. Students can also find the application in the counseling centers at their high schools. Due in March, the application requires a school transcript, letter of recommendation and essay answers to questions such as: "Why should you be awarded this scholarship?"

Two \$1000 scholarships are given based on the following criteria:

- Keen interest in the environment and nature
- Involvement in extra-curricular environmental/nature activities
- Academic record
- Letter of recommendation

This year's winners impressed the committee with their outstanding dedication to the environment. A member of Earth Corps, Maria McCausland from Inglemoor High volunteers at Seattle Aquarium, studied coral reefs off the Grenadine Island and plans to be a marine biologist. Woodinville High's Jacob McGinnis is an avid birder, a nature photographer and the creator of a birding group on Facebook, The Birder Nation, which now includes 800 members from around the world.

We look forward to introducing EAS members to the 2016 scholarship winners. It is a privilege to give awards to students like Jacob and Maria—students who are dedicated to the environment and already making a positive impact. Do you know such a high school senior? ■

Board Report: Summer Retreat Planning

By Jan McGruder

In July the Board held its summer retreat to plan for the next six months, focusing on our Bird Friendly Campaign (BFC).

We brainstormed ideas with the goal being to educate the general public on how they can make their yards and landscaped areas a welcoming place for birds and other wildlife, and the importance of including them in our daily lives. We came up with 24 ideas – some of which are similar, but all of which are important to Eastside Audubon. We'll promote this campaign through

outreach events, program nights, etc.

The Board voted to hire a Program Coordinator to get this program off the ground. A generous grant of \$10,000 from the Melody S. Robidoux Foundation Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona has given us seed money. When the grant has been depleted, we'll review our success and determine the next steps. The success of our BFC will depend on volunteers, and we're counting on YOU! I hope to see you out on a bird walk or at a Program Night. Happy birding! ■

EAS Officers, Committee Chairs, Staff

Executive Officers

President	Jan McGruder	president@eastsideaudubon.org
Vice President	OPEN	
Secretary	Lori Danielson	ldanielson@eastsideaudubon.org
Treasurer	Dora Rajkhowa	treasurer@eastsideaudubon.org
Past President	Andy McCormick	amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org

Board Members and Committee Chairs

Birding	Tricia Kishel	tkishel@eastsideaudubon.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	OPEN	
Volunteers	OPEN	
At Lrg Board Mbr	Marlene Meyer	mmeyer@eastsideaudubon.org

Other Committee Chairs

Photo Group	Larry Engles	engles@ridesoft.com
Bird Questions	Mary Francis Mathis	birdhelp@eastsideaudubon.org
Birdathon	OPEN	
Field Trips	Becky Serabrini	fieldtrip@eastsideaudubon.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@eastsideaudubon.org
	Cate Forsyth	cateforsyth@outlook.com
Photographer	Mick Thompson	mthomp1707@comcast.net
Program Coord.	Antonio Montaña	amontanana@hotmail.com
Webmaster	OPEN	

Staff

Office Assistant	Mel Clark	office@eastsideaudubon.org
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☐ Volunteer opportunities

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 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.