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.
308 4th Avenue South
Kirkland, WA 98083
425-576-8805
office@eastsideaudubon.org
P.O. Box 3115
Kirkland, WA 98083
Office Hours:
Mon, Tues, Fri. 9:00am - 1:00pm

Oil Train Derailment in Mosier, Oregon
By Pete Marshall
As of this writing, June 8th, investigators are still piecing together the causes and broader implications of the spectacular June 3rd derailing accident at Mosier, Oregon. On one level, the news is mostly about efforts to clean up debris and get trains and public services back to normal. “Only” 16 of the total 96 tanker cars in the train actually derailed, and of those only 4 cars ruptured and discharged an estimated 42,000 gallons of oil. The oil that drained downhill to the Columbia appears to have been successfully contained by booms deployed in a timely way. Union Pacific crews trucked away another 325,000 gallons of oil from the remaining cars and is arranging for their delivery to the Tacoma refinery just a few days later than originally scheduled. All things considered, the property damage and community disruption of this incident appear to be within manageable limits. The volunteer fire department, state agencies, and railroad personnel seemed to respond as expected, maybe because they had trained for an incident at this very location just a short while ago. There’s a sense of relieved awareness that this could have been a much greater disaster if it happened closer to town, if the wind had been stronger, if the nearby woodlands had been dried out by summertime drought.

On another level, though, this incident has been deeply unsettling. It was just one train carrying one unit-trainload of volatile Bakken crude oil from North Dakota to a Puget Sound refinery in Tacoma. But like the tip of an iceberg, it demonstrates far greater hazards that we cannot yet see. Those hazards are in the growing numbers of such oil trains (continued on pg 2)

By Cate Forsyth
Based upon the 2016 Whidbey Wing-Dings Bird-A-Thon Report.
Have you ever been curious about what happens on our bird-a-thon teams when they go out for the day? A group of individuals join together, they can range from a beginning birder to a master birder that leads the group. Each teams requests pledges from the community in support of our chapter. The goal of the teams is to identify as many birds as possible in one day. Supporters will pledge a dollar amount for each bird identified. For example if a team identifies 100 bird species, a pledge of 50 cents per bird would inspire a donation of $50 to Eastside Audubon. Each year is an adventure; the birds vary due to the weather and the timing of the migratory birds moving through our area. Please go to eastsideaudubon.org to enjoy the full description of a “Big Day” of birding. ■
CHAPTER MEETINGS

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

Conservation Committee
July 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
July 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
July 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.

Board Meeting
July 26, 6:30pm
Interested guests may attend the monthly board meeting. Email Jan McGruder jgmctru@gmail.com for more info.

Burke Museum’s Wild Nearby:
Discover Washington’s North Cascades

By Antonio Montañana

Eastside Audubon Society has partnered with the Burke Museum to promote this upcoming exhibit: June 18, 2016 through February 5, 2017 at the Burke Museum on the UW Campus in Seattle. Few places on earth rival the rugged beauty and biological diversity of Washington state’s North Cascades mountain range. In Wild Nearby, immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and stories of one of the largest wildlands in the U.S. Step into a full-scale replica of a fire lookout. Hold wolverine, deer, and coyote skulls. Examine ancient artifacts from the Upper Skagit Tribe. Learn what woodpeckers, wildflowers, and frogs can tell us about how the region is changing, and map your next Northwest outdoor adventure.

As a thank you the museum is offering EAS members and their families 2-For-1 general admission coupons. For more information about Wild Nearby visit the exhibit webpage at www.burkemuseum.org/wildnearby. The 2-For-1 coupons can be printed from https://goo.gl/x6Z1cu.
By Andy McCormick

Almost aristocratic in the care it takes while foraging, the Black-necked Stilt wades erectly while it carefully plucks invertebrates from a mudflat or the surface of the water. It stays away from very deep water and usually never gets its breast wet (Robinson, et al.). It will make precise movements with sometimes sudden twists and turns as it pecks for prey (Dunne). Its bill is needle-thin and black.

Its strongly contrasting black and white coloration gives it a formal look that is striking against a sandy background. Its coral red legs are exceptionally thin as if the bird was up on stilts and the bright red of the legs adds to the circus metaphor. The legs also provided inspiration to give the stilt its name. It is in the genus Himantopus, from the Greek, imantopus, spindle shanked bird with extremely thin legs (Holloway).

A Different Nesting Strategy

Unlike other shorebirds Black-necked Stilts are conspicuous when nesting; discarding the cryptic strategy of other shorebirds which try to hide their nests. These stilts are bold in behavior as well as in coloration. Their stately foraging behavior is quickly put aside when an intruder approaches their nest and they become loud and vigorous defenders (Bell and Kennedy). They produce an incessant series of sharp kik-kik-kik or more incessant keef-keef-keef-keef calls (Sibley). You can watch a stilt foraging and calling at the Macaulay Library.

The nest of a Black-necked Stilt is built near water and may be a simple scrape on the ground or a slight rise lined with pebbles and debris. Usually, as is typical of shorebirds, four buff colored eggs are deposited. They are heavily blotched with brown or black. Incubation is shared by both parents and, in hot climates, they may go deeper into the water to wet their belly feathers to help keep the eggs cool (Kaufman). The young leave the nest soon after hatching and are ready for a first flight in a little over a month.

Expanding Their Range

Black-necked Stilts are adaptable and have taken advantage of human-made habitats such as sewage ponds, dikes, and rice fields. They prefer fresh water but will also be found fairly commonly around salt ponds. In general stilts have expanded their nesting range northward. Their breeding in Washington was suspected in 1960 and they are now established through the Potholes Reservation and nearby wetlands. They are also successful breeders in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

However, the effects of humans have not been completely beneficial to them. Black-necked Stilts are considered an indicator species for contaminants in irrigation drain water (Robinson, et al.). In California high levels of selenium have been found in irrigated areas of the San Joaquin Valley. Selenium is suspected in reduced egg viability, deformities in embryos, and the death of chicks. Sections of the Kesterson NWR have been drained and soil has been replaced to correct this problem.

A Word About The Hawaiian Stilt

The Hawaiian Stilt (H. m. knudseni) is a subspecies of Black-necked Stilt. Hunted to near extinction until 1941, it is now protected, and has gained endangered species status just in the nick of time. Yet it continues to be challenged by human encroachment through development. Efforts are being made to eradicate the invasion of alien plants such as California grass, water hyacinth and mangrove which close open water ponds. Some scientists believe the Hawaiian Stilt deserves full species status. References available upon request from amccormick@east-sideaudubon.org.

Bird of the Month | Black-necked Stilt (Himantopus mexicanus)

Length: 14 inches
Wingspan: 29 inches
Weight: 6 ounces (160 grams)
AOU Alpha Code: BNST

Black-necked Stilt. Photo by Mick Thompson
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.
*NO WORK PARTY IN JULY

VISIT OUR BOOTH AT THESE COMMUNITY EVENTS
Derby Days • Sat, July 9 - 10:00am to 5:00pm
Family Friendly at Redmond City Hall. http://remondderbydays.com/

Park A Dilly • Sun, July 24 - 12:00pm to 5:00pm
Children’s Festival at Lake Sammamish State Park
http://lakesammamishfriends.org/parkadilly-course-july-24/

WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?
Contact the office at 425-576-8805 or office@eastsideaudubon.org.

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, July 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. Tours for community schools and special interest groups also can be scheduled through the EAS office.

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk • Tues, July 19 - 9:00am 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.

Lake Sammamish State Park • Wed, July 20 - 6:30am to 11:30am
This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds due to its varied ecosystems. The trip will involve walking approximately 2-3 miles. This can be an enjoyable walk for teens as well as adults. We meet at the main entrance from NW Sammamish Road on the south end of the lake. Take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end before 6:30am. A Discover Pass is required to park. No registration required. Co-led by Sharon Aagaard 425-891-3460 and Stan Wood.

Birding Hot Spots of King County • Mon, July 25 - 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 Park-n-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Children aged 10 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. No registration required. Rusty Hazzard 425-652-1006.

Lake Sammamish State Park • Fri, Aug 12 - 6:30am to 11:30am
This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds due to its varied ecosystems. The trip will involve walking approximately 2-3 miles. This can be an enjoyable walk for teens as well as adults. We meet at the main entrance from NW Sammamish Road on the south end of the lake. Take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end before 6:30am. A Discover Pass is required to park. No registration required. Co-led by Sharon Aagaard 425-891-3460 and Stan Wood.
Warm Welcome to Our New Members

From February 1st to May 25th, 2016, 138 new or returning members came to our chapter. 92 of those members joined National Audubon and were assigned to our chapter based on their zip code.

The new EAS members are:
Karl and Bernice Atwood, Ernie Blevins, Carolyn Brannen, Janet and Bruce Eder, Ken Grant, Ken Grant, Sandy & Ed Gullekson, Jo Herber, Lucy Lotto, Megan Lyden, Heather Mack, Thomas Nelson, Joy Neuzeit, Joan A. Newman, Christie Norman, Grace Oliver, Heidi Ondraski, Jean Paton, Mary Potter Saylor, Sheila Verschaeve, Russ Ayers, Alan Bauer, April Beauboeuf, Jay & Linda Bruce, Michelle Cason, Zhonghua Chu, Heather Durham, Sigrid Elenga, Andrew Fechenbach, Melissa Foxman, Marcia Gordon, Becky Hartley, Neale Huggins, Paul Kaald, Sally Lawrence, Tom Merritt, Mary Nelson, Mark Pemberton, Susan Potts, Lisa Rosenblatt, Marie Rynning, Leanne Seabrook, Sharon Shriver, John Stokes, Inga Theisen, Marty Wilhelm and Jeremie Wilkins

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

Thank You, Volunteers!

By Mel Clark

The year is off to a busy start with a lot of planning, field trips and of plenty of EAS events. Naturally, none of these would have been possible without the indispensable support of our dedicated volunteers, so we would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to Andy McCormick and Jan McGruder who coordinated the Birdathon this year! Thanks for your efforts preparing the Field Trip Flyer Helen LaBouy. We would like to express our appreciation as well to all the birdathon team members and their leaders:
The Whidbey Wing Dings: Captain Hugh Jennings, Sharon Aagaard, Margaret Snell and Mark Crawford; The Karismatic Kestrels: Captain Andy McCormick, Carol Ray, Maureen Sunn and Nancy Hubley; and for the Leisurely Loons: Captain Jan McGruder, Tim McGruder, Jim Rettig and Tricia Kishel.

We want to say a huge thank-you to all our field trip leaders March, April, and May of 2016 – keep up the great work for Birdathon and for all our members: Hugh Jennings, Brian Bell, Jan And Tim McGruder, Tricia Kishel, Mary Frances Mathis, Andy McCormick, Sharon Aagard, Stan Wood, Amit Kulkarni, and Rusty Hazzard. The Youth Education Committee has been busy as always, and we want to thank Candy Allen, Mary Britton-Simmons, Diane Crestanello, Margie Huff, Jill Keeney, Margaret Lie, Barbara Picat, Tora Roksvog, Leslee Shepler, Roberta Wherritt, and The Eastside Rangers for being important in the lives of children and teaching them about birds and the environment.

Warm thanks to everybody involved with the Bird Friendly Communities Campaign – we have had several great events over the spring, and would like to thank Nancy Roberts, Jim Roberts, Roberta Lewandowski, Tricia Kishel, Antonio Montanan, Lori Danielson, Roberta Wherritt, Becky Serabrin, Emily Winstrom, and Kay Barrett for helping out!

Much appreciation for everybody involved in our birding classes this spring: Brian Bell, Mike West and Joyce Meyer spent many hours prepping for classes and field trips. We appreciate our greeters at our monthly program nights: Jim Roberts and Nancy Roberts – thanks for being there! Also huge thanks to Diane Crestanello for organizing the hospitality and Laura Weisel for organizing the programs

Rain or shine, dozens of people have rooted out weeds, planted trees, and kept Marymoor Park in shape for visitors to the Bird Loop.

Thank you to Glenn Eades and Tim McGruder for their leadership, and all those who helped out:
Leslie Waters, Jim Rettig, Nancy Waters, and Glenn Eades.

Volunteers also worked at the Bird Loop on Earth Day – rock on: Glenn Eades, Jerry Rettig, Tim McGruder, Nancy Roberts, Jim Roberts, and Jim Rettig!

Finally to our office volunteers, you are an amazing group that do so much to keep everything running – thank you Hugh Jennings, Bev Jennings, Helen LaBouy, Jill Keeney, Pat Vernie, Margaret Lie, Wendy Fawcett, Roberta Lewandowski, and Leslie Waters – Mel couldn’t do her job without you. Many hands made for light work, and we appreciate the help of Margaret Lie, Helen LaBouy, Jill Keeney, Jan McGruder, Kay Barrett, Karen Wear, Roberta Lewandowski, at mail parties putting out the print Corvid Crier and the Birdathon Packets

If we’ve missed anyone – thank you! You know who you are and by your own generous commitment, you set a wonderful example and demonstrate the power of individuals to effect significant change into our communities. We greatly appreciate your time, generosity and leadership and we know that you are our most passionate promoters. We do request that you please continue (continued on pg 7)
As I write this report, May is nearly over and our Birdathon month is coming to a close. Your donations support our Chapter in numerous ways. Our Bird Friendly Communities Program Coordinator has been working with Cities, Parks Departments, farms, other nonprofits to help them understand how birds are important and how they can make habitat a priority. Already one park has committed to limiting maintenance until after nesting season. Even I gained from our own campaign, and it was a hard lesson for me to learn. Every spring I’d be out in my yard raking and trimming, as many of us do. But it does disturb nesting birds, so now I save the heavy yard work for August through fall. Your donations to Birdathon support these types of programs and the staff, the equipment, and the volunteer support necessary to work at this level. This spring and summer we are participating in an event at least twice a month, Callie Hall, Program Coordinator is giving monthly talks throughout the area, and the Youth Education Committee is giving frequent presentations in schools and at summer camps. Your money also goes towards college scholarships. Every year Eastside Audubon grants two $1,000 college scholarships to students meeting our criteria, one being an interest in the environment. In May two deserving students were awarded the 2016 college scholarships. You can read more information regarding this year’s recipients at our website: www.eastsideaudubon.org. If you haven’t yet given, it’s not too late to make your pledge for Birdathon. You may mail a check to the office (PO Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083) or pledge online. Every dollar – up to $15,000 – will be matched by a generous grant from the Melody S. Robidoux Foundation Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona.

Conservation Report: Bird Survey in St. Edward State Park

Final Report of 2014 Survey

By Andy McCormick

From February 2014 to January 2015 Eastside Audubon Society conducted its second survey of birds in Saint Edward State Park in Kenmore, Washington. The new survey found a total of 72 species of birds showing an increase of 10 species over an earlier survey conducted from August 2003 to July 2004. Eight species of birds not seen in 2003-2004 are now commonly seen in the park. Two species common in the past are no longer seen in the park. Both surveys show a diversity of bird life that reflects the forested areas of the park and the Lake Washington shoreline.

The survey team visited the park once a month for the year. A walk-through method was used with the team following the same route on each outing. About two-thirds of the park area was covered in the survey. A large section of the southeast corner of the park has no trails and was not included in the survey.

Survey Results

The 2014-2015 survey located a total of 72 species of birds in and flying over the park and within view from the park on Lake Washington resulting in an increase of 10 species over the 2003-2004 survey. Twenty-two species of birds were seen in the 2014-2015 survey that were not seen in the 2003-2004 survey, and 12 species were seen in 2003-2004 that were not seen in 2014-2015.

A closer look at the data reveals that many of the changes were in species that were seen only once during their respective years. There were nine species seen only once in 2003-2004 and twelve species seen only once in the 2014-2015 survey. Adjusting the data by eliminating these uncommon sightings brings the 2003-2004 survey to 53 species compared to 60 species for the 2014-2015 survey, showing an increase of seven species over the ten year period. This is 13% increase in the number of regularly seen bird species. Six bird species seen in 2014-2015 but not seen in 2003-2004 are: Common Goldeneye, Pied-billed Grebe, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Glaucous-winged Gull, Anna’s Hummingbird, and Rock Pigeon. These species appear to have become established in the park environment. These species are doing well in Western Washington and this trend is reflected in the park bird population. The seventh species is Red Crossbill. It is subject to irruption in unpredictable years and the period 2014-2015 was one of those years. Two species seen with some regularity during the 2003-2004 survey and not found in the 2014-2015 survey are House Finch and Barn Swallow. It is not known why these two species were not seen and some further study is indicated to determine the reason for this change.

To access the full report and a spreadsheet showing the results of each month’s survey visit eastsideaudubon.org and click on conservation>citizen science>bird surveys.
**Youth Education Report: Caring For Bird Mounts 101**

*By Mary Britton-Simmons*

Have you noticed the Red-tailed Hawk peering down at you from his perch in the EAS office? Or the Pileated Woodpecker posed to drill for insects? The Belted Kingfisher looking in vain for dinner? Our amazing bird mounts travel with the Youth Education Committee to classrooms from Bellevue to Bothell where children admire their beauty and listen enthralled as volunteers talk about topics like migration, beaks and bird identification. At events the mounts draw people of all ages to our booth to ask questions and learn about their feathered friends and the environment.

Thanks to Diane Crestanello, the mounts get loving care. She works with Rob Faucett, Collections Manager in the Burke Museum’s Department of Ornithology, to make sure the birds are repaired and sometimes replaced. Rob repairs birds like the female Cooper’s Hawk which recently lost her head. He cleans others and shows Diane how to groom them using cotton pads with rubbing alcohol; he even gave her a kit with instructions for cleaning. At times mounts like the American Goldfinch just need replacement. Then Rob works with a taxidermist to secure a bird from the Burke’s extensive collection.

Concerned about transporting mounts carefully, Diane bought a large black carrying case. To secure the mounts in the case, she and Jill Keeney placed Velcro on the bottom of the case and of all the mounts. In addition, Diane asked a friend to make plastic cases for some of our larger mounts, like the Barn Owl, to keep dust and rain off at outside venues. Our mounts would enjoy traveling to events with you but remember: a secured mount is a happy mount!

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**Thank You, Volunteers**

*(continued from pg 5)* to submit your volunteer hours by emailing the same to volunteer-time@eastsideaudubon.org whenever you get a chance. You can find a volunteer time sheet on our website to help you track everything you do for our chapter.

Would you like to volunteer for EAS? Check out the website for current needs.

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**Volunteers, Please Report Your Hours**

Volunteers, please report your hours one of two ways:

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

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**EAS Officers, Committee Chairs, Staff**

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| Staff                  |  |
| General Manager        | Mel Clark         | office@eastsideaudubon.org |
| Program Coor.          | Callie Hall       | callieh@eastsideaudubon.org |
I will support Eastside Audubon Society to preserve bird habitat and educate our community with my tax-deductible membership.

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

- $25 Individual
- $40 Family
- $100 Goldfinch Club
- $250 Heron Club
- $500 Osprey Club
- $1,000 Eagle Club

Payment Options
- Enclosed is my check payable to Eastside Audubon
- My payment has been submitted through PayPal
- Please charge my _____ MasterCard _____ Visa

Name ____________________________
Street Address _______________________
City, State, Zip ______________________
Email _____________________________
Phone ____________________________

Employer Contributions
- My employer matches contributions. I am sending/will send matching information to you.

Sign-up To Receive Informational Emails
- Announcements
- Conservation updates and action alerts
- 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.