**Christmas Bird Count**

*Courtesy of National Audubon Society*

Prior to the turn of the 20th century, hunters engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas “Side Hunt.” They would choose sides and go afield with their guns—whomever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Conservation was in its beginning stages in that era, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, an early officer in the then-nascent Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition—a “Christmas Bird Census” that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them. So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the inspiration of Chapman and the enthusiasm of 27 dedicated birders, 25 Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied around 90 species on all the counts combined.

From December 14 through January 5 each year tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas brave snow, wind, or rain, and take part in the effort. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this long-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action. The data collected by observers over the past century allows Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. The long-term perspective is vital for conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well.

More information is available at: [http://www.audubon.org/conervation/history-christmas-bird-count](http://www.audubon.org/conervation/history-christmas-bird-count)

Our chapter held its first CBC in 1981 and since then, for over 30 years, our chapter has had 8-12 teams of 6-12 people (48-96 total volunteers), outside counting birds in our area. The average number of birds counted over our 30+ year history is 15,818. The most species counted was 110 in 2014. Please go to our website eastsideaudubon.org to find the results of the 2016 count.
CHAPTER MEETINGS
Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church. Use the downstairs entrance on State Street.

Conservation Committee
Jan 11, 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
Jan 12, 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
Jan 10, 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.

EAS Book Club
Jan 17, 6:30 to 8:00pm
Meets the third Tuesday of every month at the EAS office. RSVP required; email Becky Serabrini wingsinapril@gmail.com for more info.

By Andy McCormick
We can keep doing what we have been doing! Eastside Audubon (EAS) led the way to have the Washington state Audubon chapters vote to move their investments from fossil fuels to other investments. A number of chapters voted to do that, and they will continue to divest.
EAS also joined Audubon Washington and the National Audubon Society to support I-732 in Washington. This initiative sought to reduce the state sales tax by 1% and reduce the business and operations tax by funding these tax cuts with a tax on carbon pollution. The initiative was commonly called the Carbon Tax Initiative and would have been the first tax on carbon in the United States. Reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere is a major step toward slowing and stopping climate change.

Most of you will be aware that I-732, the ballot initiative to put a price on the carbon pollution causing climate change, did not receive the number of needed votes. While disappointed, we would like to say that we at Audubon WA, Matt Anderson (Audubon Climate VP), and David Yarnold (Audubon CEO), have never been prouder of Audubon for taking bold leadership, working together with chapters (some amazing, creative efforts!) and national climate and communications staff, and engaging seriously in the climate change movement.

Takeaways From The Campaign
The entire nation was talking about climate because of our ballot initiative. Our effort here in the Pacific Northwest garnered 240+ earned media articles associated with I-732 and Audubon was mentioned in most of them once we endorsed it in mid-July. There are hundreds of millennial voters who now associate Audubon with being courageous enough to stand with them on taking action on climate change. Volunteers made 1 million phone calls and knocked on 100,000 doors – that means 1.1M people were engaged in conversations about climate change. Our staff and members are energized and engaged like never before. We look forward to continued opportunities to promote reasonable climate solutions for birds and people. From ending the plume trade, to banning DDT, to launching our climate initiative across the country, Audubon has a proud bipartisan tradition of working with anyone willing to protect birds and people. We’ll be back for the next opportunity, and the next one, and the one after that. Now, that’s a winning message for the future. Let’s keep it going.

By Becky Serabrini
Eastside Audubon Book Club is having its first meeting on Tuesday, January 17, from 6:30-8:00 pm at our office’s location in Kirkland. Additional gatherings will be on the third Tuesday of each month. This group, which will be open to EAS adult members, will use the time on January 17 to create a nature themed reading list for the year to include both fiction and non-fiction titles that participants believe they would enjoy reading and discussing. For the first meeting, members should feel free to bring a copy of a book they would like to recommend to others; RSVPs are required please email Becky at wingsinapril@gmail.com by January 9, 2017.
By Andy McCormick

In the summer of 2016 the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) reviewed the status of the Western Scrub-Jay and decided to split off two of the subspecies into two “new” species, the California Scrub-Jay (Aphelocoma californica) and Woodhouse’s Scrub-Jay (A. woodhouseii). This split had been anticipated for several years because the two former subspecies barely overlapped their ranges and hybridization was rare (See range maps on pg 5). The two species also have consistent differences in voice, habitat, behavior, and morphology (Retter).

California Scrub-Jay Comes to Washington

What is now the California Scrub-Jay has expanded its range into Western Washington. The California is the more coastal species and darker in overall color. The blue is deeper and contrasts with the white belly. The back is gray. It has a sharply-defined breast band. By contrast the Woodhouse’s is a duller blue with grayish underparts, a grayish-blue back, and a faint breast band (Sibley).

These two species share the genus Aphelocoma with the Florida Scrub-Jay (A. coerulescens), the Island Scrub-Jay (A. insularis), and the Mexican Jay (A. untramarina). Aphelocoma means smooth hair, from the Greek, aphi, smooth, and kome, hair of the head, referring to the fact that these birds have no crest (Holloway). This species was first collected in California, hence the species name. Jay is from the French geai, a jay. It is thought the name is onomatopoeic for its call (Holloway).

Cached Food Disperses Trees

The California Scrub-Jay has an omnivorous diet of grasshoppers, beetles, bees, wasps, ants, caterpillars and other insects, and in winter it eats acorns and seeds. At times, it will eat other birds’ eggs and sometimes nestlings. The California Scrub-Jay scatterhoards (stores individually) surplus food items for later consumption (Curry, et al). The caches can consist of acorns, animal parts, human food such as French fries, and non-food objects. The birds do not recover all of their caches allowing acorns and seeds to sprout, thus aiding the dispersal of future food sources. California Scrub-Jays will also parasitize caches of other birds including stealing nuts stored by Acorn Woodpeckers.

Flocks of Floaters

The California Scrub-Jay is a permanent resident of its territory, which a mated pair will defend year-round. It usually nests in oak trees, but will also use other trees. Both sexes build the nest about 20 feet above the ground. Usually 4-5 eggs are deposited and incubated only by the female. The hatchlings are born naked and dependent, and need regular feeding by parents for up to two months after fledging (Curry et al). First flight is usually several weeks after fledging.

In the fall and through the winter, immature birds accompany the parents and are often joined by floaters (non-breeding adults) forming flocks of up to 20 birds. Populations of California Scrub-Jays are stable and no conservation measures are used.

(continued on pg 5)
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, Jan 1 - 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.

Marymoor Park Birding Walk • Mon, Jan 2
Owling: 6:30am • Walk: 8:00am - 12:00pm
Get your annual bird list off to a good start with this New Year’s walk! This regional park in Redmond provides home for resident birds, a wintering area for waterfowl and a resting place for migrating birds. It is also home to the Eastside Audubon Bird Loop Trail which we will walk on level ground for about two miles. No pre-registration required. Bring binoculars, a snack, and dress for the weather. Andy McCormick. 425-518-0892. Note: Owlers meet at the East Meadow area, parking lot G. We will move to Lot D near 8:00am.

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk • Tues, Jan 17 - 9:00am to 12:00pm
A relaxed walk in the park. Meets the third Tuesday of each month. No registration required. MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026.

Birding Hot Spots of King County • Mon, Jan 23 - 9:00am to 12:00pm
Monthly field trip on the fourth Monday of the month to wherever the birds are. Meet at the Newport Hills Park-n-Ride (I-405, exit 9). No registration required. Rusty Hazzard 425-652-1006.

Lake Sammamish State Park • Tues, Jan 24 - 8:00am to 11:00am
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 28- 8:00am to 12:00pm
Explore the shores and waters of West Seattle along Elliot Bay and Puget Sound to Lincoln Park. Numerous viewpoints overlook the water and freighters, ferries and sea birds. Expectations include goldeneyes, scoters, gulls, Harlequin Ducks and shorebirds. Meet before 8:00am at the north end of the Wilburton P&R (I-405, exit 12). Passenger cost per person is $4.00. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351
Conservation Committee Report

By Pete Marshall

Fossil Fuel Transport
The chapter has continued to support efforts to limit coal and oil shipments through northwest ports. The Sierra Club, Washington Environmental Council, 350.org and others have done the heavy lifting to mobilize and focus such efforts, but they depend on small organization like ours to show up at rallies, hearings and other events, to demonstrate the scale and breadth of the opposition. EAS sent a letter to the City of Hoquiam urging them to deny a shoreline permit to proceed with the Westway Oil Terminal in Grays Harbor. We expect to participate in a December rally in Seattle to support some Snake River dam removals to improve salmon survival and subsequent food supplies for resident Orcas in Puget Sound. Feel free to contact Pete Marshall at psmarshall@xomcast.net if you want to know more about any of these efforts on behalf of EAS.

Dakota Access Pipeline
Some members of the chapter have been involved in the North Dakota protests demanding a Corps of Engineer’s complete environmental study of the proposed Missouri River crossing. We participated in a local rally to support this cause at the Chittenden Locks in Seattle. Some have contributed to the costs of sustaining tribal representatives and other supporters in North Dakota. In an indirect way, at least, we think this helps dramatize the real costs and risks of fossil fuels, and the environmental justice issues of transporting oil across lands and resources important to native people.

EAS at the BirdLoop at Marymoor Park

By Glenn Eades
Eastside Audubon has been working at the BirdLoop at Marymoor for 11 years. There is a lot to show for our work, and (mostly) it has been fun! We have improved the Audubon Bird Loop trail in several locations, cleared and maintained a critical meadow bird habitat, helped to create a viewing mound, largely solved the dog intrusion problem with fences, gates and plantings, created two trailhead kiosks and a series of great interpretive signs, not to mention a shed with tools and supplies to support our work parties. In addition, we have cleared encroaching blackberries, Scotch broom and hawthorns in multiple areas, and generally enhanced and maintained the Marymoor BirdLoop Natural Area over all these years. We have done this mostly with our regular first-Saturday-of-the-month work parties for all these 11 years, plus larger events involving corporate groups, such as the fall Day of Caring events. In addition to the corporate groups, we have been able to involve many scout and school groups and clubs, as well as large numbers of individual volunteers at our ongoing work parties. Key to making this all work is our core group of regular EAS stalwarts. Plus, we have had consistently outstanding support from King County Parks staff. This past year we have been concentrating on Snag Row, across from our eastern kiosk. It was a mess and it needed attention. The change is remarkable. The blackberries are just about gone, and we have done extensive planting of shrubs to “brush up” the area so it will be better habitat. It looks far better than it did a year ago! Come join us at a BirdLoop work party. We are there on the first Saturday of just about every month (we have been skipping July in recent years). Check the Crier for current details.
Thank You to Our Volunteers

*By Mel Clark*

Fall has been busy around the chapter thanks to the dedicated work of a lot of great people. We appreciate our volunteers – and all you continue to do on behalf of our chapter and our community. We want to say a huge thank-you to all our field trip leaders during September, October, and November 2016 – keep up the great work for all our members: Brian Bell, Mary Frances Mathis, Rusty Hazzard, Sharon Aagaard, Stan Wood, Hugh Jennings, Andy McCormick, Nancy Roberts, Wendy Fawcett, Jan Johnson, and all the Eastside Park Rangers!

During the last quarter, the Youth Education Committee (YEC) team was very busy, they planned family birding walks, attended events at the Lake Hills Blueberry Festival, Swifts night out, Dennyfest, and Molbak’s Harvest Festival (Welcome and thanks go Carissa DuBois and Sajeenaa Jay). As always, we thank Jill Keeney, Diane Crestanello, Tora Roks-vog, Leslee Shepler, Margie Huff, Margaret Lie, Candy Allen, and Mary Britton-Simmons for all they do and for being important in the lives of children and teaching them about birds and the environment.

There were also a lot of events and activities happening throughout our chapter this fall: We want to thank Pete Marshall and everybody who worked so hard to organize our Carbon Tax Forum. At our outreach events, thank you Jan McGruder, Nancy Hubly, Lori Danielson, Margaret Lie, Jim Roberts, and Nancy Roberts. A huge shout-out to everybody who made Salmon Days successful: Tricia Kishel for organizing, and Antonio Montañana, Jim Roberts, Nancy Roberts, Mary LaShell, Hannah Thompson-Garner, Nancy Hubly, Maggie Koeppler, Craig Koeppler, Lori Danielson, Pete Marshall, Cate Forsyth, and Marlene Meyer.

Thanks for your poster hanging efforts: Veda Depape, Marlene Meyer, Mary Britton-Simmons, Candy Allen, Nancy and Jim Roberts, Susan Giftai, Laura Weisel, Margie Huff, Diane Crestanello, and Sophia Chiang. Every single poster that goes up is one more opportunity to extend our reach in the community!

Warm thanks to everybody involved with producing our wonderful newsletters: Cate Forsyth, Jessica Lake, and Lori Danielson. Thanks can’t be said enough to Andy McCormick for always writing the very popular bird of the month article, as well as everybody who contributes articles and helps keep us all informed – we appreciate you!

Our program nights for members were successful thanks to: Jim and Nancy Roberts, Jill Keeney, Diane Crestanello, Bev Jennings, Jill Keeney, Kay Barrett, Melinda Bronsdon, Hugh Jennings, Roberta Lewandowski, Tim McGruder, Dannela Phan, and Aliya Perez. Melinda Bronsdon continues to keep hospitality running smoothly, and we were all “wowed” by the amazing fall themed cake provided by Terry Ayers. Special thanks to Laura Weisel for lining up our speakers and keeping us learning!

Speaking of learning – take a bow Becky Serabrini for all your efforts lining up our very popular fall birding class – Ornithology Basics. We look forward to more great offerings.

Thank you to Glenn Eades and Tim McGruder for their leadership and dedication, at the BirdLoop, and all those who helped: Nancy Weisel, Jim McRoberts, Jim Roberts, Nancy Roberts Jan McGruder, Leslie Waters, Jim Retting, and everyone else who has planted a tree or lifted a shovel of dirt. Thanks to all the team leaders who helped run our Day of Caring event, also at Marymoor: Pete Marshall, Jan McGruder, Nancy Weisel, John Schmied and Ella Elman. We really “DIG” all your work!

Applause to our office volunteers who keep everything running – thank you Hugh Jennings, Bev Jennings, Helen LaBouy, Jill Keeney, Pat Vernie, Margaret Lie, Wendy Fawcett, and Leslie Waters – Mel couldn’t do her job without you. We appreciate the help of Mick Thompson, Judy Hystad, Terri Wear, Roberta Lewandowski, and Nancy Weisel at our last mail party.

Finally, if we’ve missed anyone – thank you! We greatly appreciate your time, generosity and leadership and we know that you are our most passionate promoters.

We cannot thank you enough for your invaluable contributions as a volunteer. Our goals require sincere and committed volunteers and we are grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication you bring to your role as an Eastside Audubon volunteer.

**Volunteers, Please Report Your Hours**

Volunteers, please report your hours one of two ways:

- Send an email with your hours to volunteer-time@lists.eastside-audubon.org.
- Call the office 425-576-8805 and ask the receptionist to report your hours.
Youth Education Committee Awards Teacher Grants

By Mary Britton-Simmons

Thanks to your generous donations, the Youth Education Committee annually awards teacher grants of $450 each to two schools with significant low-income populations. Grants for the 2016-2017 school year have been given to Muir Elementary School in the Lake Washington School District and to Two Rivers School, an alternative learning secondary school in the Snoqualmie Valley School District.

The librarian at Muir plans to focus on climate change, endangered animals and prominent conservationists in a two-month project for third, fourth and fifth graders. The funds will be used to purchase a long list of appropriate books, including Tigers in Danger by Michael Portman, Sylvia Earle: Ocean Explorer by Dennis Fertig and Climate Change by Peter Benoit. The librarian will share the books during read-aloud times and lead discussions on the topics raised. He hopes to encourage students “to make environmentally sound career choices.”

At Two Rivers School a math teacher and a science teacher plan to collaborate on their project. With their grant, they will buy items such as a drill, saw horses and wood to build bee boxes to place around the campus. Once those are finished, they plan to build bird houses and bat boxes. They explained, “All of these projects would be done with the geometry class in conjunction with science classes.” In her thank-you, the principal promised that the funds “will be put to very good use.”

The Muir Elementary principal wrote, “Thank you to the Eastside Audubon Society.” The members of the Youth Education Committee second his thank-you because EAS donors make these grants possible.

Warm Welcome to New Members

By Mel Clark

From Sept 1 to Nov 29, fifty new or returning members came to our chapter. Thirty-five of those members joined National Audubon and were assigned to our chapter based on their zip code. Fifteen of those members are new or returning EAS members. The new EAS members are: James Bowman, Carolyn Davies, Roberta Fuhr, Mary Hogan, Eric Holtz, Dawn Huss, Christa Karimi, Victor Romano, Joshua Rudolph, Peter Talbot, Maureen Traxler, Gretchen Van Lom, Jim Winn, Ed Woodruff, and Mark Williams.

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

EAS Officers, Committee Chairs, Staff

Executive Officers
President Jan McGruder  president@eastsideaudubon.org
Vice President Jim Rettig  jrettig@eastsideaudubon.org
Secretary Lori Danielson  ldanielson@eastsideaudubon.org
Treasurer Nancy Hubly  treasurer@eastsideaudubon.org

Board Members and Committee Chairs
Birding Tricia Kishel  tkishel@eastsideaudubon.org
Communication Hannah  communications@eastsideaudubon.org
Comm. Outreach Thompson-Garner  @eastsideaudubon.org
Conservation Pete Marshall  psmarshall@comcast.net
Education OPEN
Financial Devel. OPEN
Membership Antonio Montañana margaretlie12@gmail.com
Volunteer Coor. Margaret Lie  amontanana@hotmail.com
At Lrg Board Mbr OPEN

Other Committee Chairs
Adult Education Becky Sarabrini wingsinapril@gmail.com
Birdathon Andy McCormick amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org
Bird Questions Mary Francis Mathis birdhelp@eastsideaudubon.org
Citizen Science OPEN
Christmas Bird Count Sharon Cormier-Aagaard scormieraa001@hotmail.com
Field Trips OPEN
Holiday Gift Wrap Roberta Lewandowski fieldtrip@eastsideaudubon.org
Hospitatlity Melinda Bronsdon roberta@lewandowski.com
Juanita Bay Rangers Wendy Fawcett bronson874@aol.com
Nature Walks OPEN
Newsletter (online) Lori Danielson wcwfct@gmail.com
Newsletter (print) Cate Forsyth ldanielson@eastsideaudubon.org
Photo Group Larry Engles cateforsyth@outlook.com
Photographer Mick Thompson engles@ridesofsoft.com
Program Night Coor. Laura Weisel mthomp1707@comcast.net
Publicity OPEN
Webmaster Tyler Hartje laura.weisel@gmail.com
Youth Education Diane Crestanello webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org

Staf
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-deductable 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  ☐ $250 Heron Club
☐ $40 Family  ☐ $500 Osprey Club
☐ $100 Goldfinch 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
Number __________________________ Exp Date ______
Signature _________________________ Date __________

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.

Your Mailing & Contact Information
Name ___________________________________________
Street Address ______________________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________________
Email ________________________ Phone _______________