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.

OUR STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
Just as biodiversity is essential to the health of any ecosystem, the Eastside Audubon Society recognizes that diversity of values, experiences, and perspectives are essential to the health of our organization and the community at large. We strive to grow and magnify the voices that people of diverse backgrounds have in the Eastside Audubon Society.

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President's Letter: Taking Time Outside
By Lori Danielson
When the pace of everyday life stresses me out, or the craziness of political news makes me wonder about the future of society, I’m drawn to nature. I go outside to seek an escape from the speed and anxiety, to spend time in a park or wooded area and quietly observe nature. While it’s difficult to clear my mind of everything that has caused the stress, sometimes I can fill it momentarily with the wonder of the world around us. Observing a blooming plant, ducks dabbling in a lake, or a family of raccoons trundling into the brush provides me a diverting and soothing reassurance that the greater-than-human world goes on, outside of our frenetic activity.

Marymoor Park Bird Survey: Birders of All Skill Levels Needed
Eastside Audubon is conducting a survey of birds in a section of Marymoor Park and is actively recruiting birders of all skill levels for short volunteer shifts. The goal of this project is to establish baseline data of bird abundance and richness prior to a floodplain restoration project along the Sammamish River. Surveys post-restoration will be conducted as part of this ongoing survey. Training and support will be provided by Eastside Audubon and the Puget Sound Bird Observatory. This is a great opportunity to influence a major restoration project and to improve your own birding skills and birding by ear. Find more information on joining the team at eastsideaudubon.org.

CONTACT US
425-576-8805
office@eastsideaudubon.org
eastsideaudubon.org
CHAPTER MEETINGS

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

Youth Education Committee
Apr 7, 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.

Conservation Committee
Apr 8, 7:00 to 9:00pm
Meets second Wednesday of the month, engaged in activism and hands-on conservation projects. For more info email Tim McGruder at tmcgruder@gmail.com.

Photo Group
Apr 9, 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.

EAS Book Club
Apr 21, 7:00 to 8:30pm
Meets the third Tuesday of every month at the EAS office. RSVP required; email Becky Serabruni wingsinapril@gmail.com.

Bird-a-Thon Is Happening In May. We Will Help You Be Ready For It!

By Andy McCormick

Migrating birds are beginning their travel northward from Mexico and South America and will be in the PNW soon. Resident birds are already singing and beginning to nest. Eastside Audubon is getting ready for another great Birdathon challenge grant drive! May is coming and that means Birdathon is coming too.

In 2019 our EAS Birdathon collected over $32,000 from our generous members and their friends and family members. Thanks to all our donors and to The Melody S. Robidoux Foundation Donor Advised Fund at the Community Foundation of Southern Arizona which provided a $15,000 challenge grant. In 2020 the foundation will do it again! Robidoux and Eastside Audubon will make a great team for the ninth consecutive year.

What You Are Supporting
The funds we raise support our Bird-friendly Communities campaign, which helps homeowners make their yards into bird havens. We have begun a long-term bird survey along the Sammamish River in Marymoor Park and need your support for that effort. Our conservation advocacy continues as we communicate with Washington State legislators. Funds also further our well-planned and highly recognized work educating children.

Field Trips: Favorites and New Ones
We have some favorite field trips scheduled and some new ones that you will enjoy. Here is the preliminary line-up. The final line-up of field trips will be completed by late April.

- Lincoln Park with Etta Cosey returning to lead this new trip to Seattle
- Discovery Park with Tricia Kishel leading in one of her favorite places to go birding
- A new birders’ trip to the Union Bay Natural Area with Marlene Meyer
- A return trip to Spencer Island with Lori Danielson and Antonio Montañana
- An evening walk at the Stillwater Unit of the Snoqualmie Valley with Lori Danielson and Anne Werthy
- Tracking the Kittitas County Hotspots led again by Andy McCormick
- A Roll and Stroll bird walk at Juanita Bay Park for those who enjoy leisurely birding
- A new trip to Tradition Lake at Tiger Mountain with Andy McCormick
- Lake Sammamish State Park led by Rusty Hazzard and Stan Woods

Big Day Teams
The Karismatic Kestrels and Whidbey Wingdings will look as many birds as they can find in hopes of getting sponsorship for the birds they see.

Do It Yourself Birdathon
Don’t forget to check the EAS website at www.eastsideaudubon.org/Birding/Birdathon for information about Birdathon and to register your team, family, or personal event for counting birds and making a donation. Use your creativity to come up with a new idea. We would love to hear it. Eastside Audubon thanks you for your generous support for birds and their habitat.

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.
By Andy McCormick

The Chipping Sparrow is a bird of open woodlands and the borders of forest openings.

A Rufous-Crowned Dapper Fellow or Lady

Both the male and female Chipping Sparrows molt into a very classy alternative (breeding) plumage with a rufous crown set off by a white eyebrow (supercilium) stripe and a black line, which extends through the eye and the lores to the base of the bill. This black eye line is a good field mark for this bird in all plumages including that of juvenile chippers, and it separates this sparrow from all other rufous-capped sparrows (Dunne). The throat and chest of the adult are plain light gray but are streaked in the juvenile. The rump is gray.

The chipper forages in small flocks mostly on the ground and in low shrubs. When flushed, the group will fly up into a small tree. Its diet consists mostly of various insects in summer and a variety of seeds in the winter, but it will take both in any season.

A Dry Trill Heard in Summer

The Chipping Sparrow is one of five North American sparrows in the genus *Spizella*, from the Greek *spiza*, a finch and the Latin diminutive, -ella. *Passerina* is Latin for sparrow (Holloway). The English name Chipping is for the short, clipped notes of its call. In truth, many sparrows have similar call notes, and these alone are not reliable in the field. Sibley comments that the *Spizella* sparrows sound very much alike.

However, the song of the Chipping Sparrow is distinctive as a dry trill sung at the same pitch and repeated often. It can be heard at any time of the day (Alderfer, Dunne). The song and call of the Chipping Sparrow can be heard at Macaulay Library.

Multiple Breeding Pairs

The female Chipping Sparrow builds an open cup nest of grass, weeds, and animal hair usually in a conifer. Three to four pale blue-green eggs with dark markings are deposited and incubated by the female who is fed by the male. However, extra-pair copulations are common and male Chipping Sparrows will visit other territories and can mate with up to six females (Middleton). Both parents feed the young, which leave the nest in about 12 days after hatching (Kaufman). Many Chipping Sparrows have two broods per year.

Status and Distribution

The Chipping Sparrow has a breeding range that extends across North America from northern Canada to across the central United States, and it winters in the southern states, Mexico and parts of Central America. Despite this large range, in Washington the Chipping Sparrow is absent west of the Cascades and is usually found east of the Cascades (Middleton). Northward migration can begin as early as February with Chipping Sparrows arrival in Washington around mid-April to early May. The breeding grounds are characterized by open, grassy, coniferous forests and edge groves of quaking aspen, dwarf birch, white spruce, and lodgepole pines, to name a few tree species. The Chipping Sparrow is very adaptive and has made use of areas cleared by humans including suburban lawns and golf courses. The continental population is healthy and does not require any management by humans (Middleton).

References available upon request from amccormick@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.

FIELD TRIP LEADER CONTACT INFO
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.

First Time Birder Walk at Tolt-McDonald Park • Sat, Apr 4 - 7:30am to 10:30am
This field trip is for the novice birder, someone with little or no birding experience. It includes a combination of instruction and field time. Trip leaders Anne and Antonio will first cover topics such as birding etiquette, bird identification, using field guides, birding apps and binoculars. This trip is a good primer before heading out on your own or joining other Audubon field trips. Bring binoculars if you have them; loaners will be available if you don’t. Children aged 10 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. Free, but limited to 8 people. Registration required. Contact Antonio Montanana at amontanana@eastsideaudubon.org.

Juanita Bay Park Interpretive Tour • Sun, Apr 5 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm
Songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, amphibians, turtles, beavers, and other small mammals make Juanita Bay Park their home. Interpretive tours of this wildlife habitat are conducted by Eastside Audubon’s volunteer Park Rangers on the first Sunday of every month. Tours start in the parking lot. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children aged 6 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. No registration required.

Tradition Lake at Tiger Mountain • Tue, Apr 7 - 7:30am to 11:30am
Join this monthly walk to see what birds are present along a 4-mile loop on the Tradition Lake and Marsh Trails and the service road at the base of Tiger Mountain in Issaquah. This will be woodland birding and we will look for woodpeckers, songbirds, and early migrating birds and focus on some birding by ear. Raptors, spring warblers, and pond ducks are possible. The walk takes a little less than four hours. Meet at 7:30am at the High Point Trailhead parking area. Bring binoculars, fluids, snacks. Dress for the weather. No registration required. Led by Andy McCormick.

Lake Sammamish State Park • Mon, Apr 13 - 7:00am to 12:00pm
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. Meet 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. Co-led by Sharon Aagaard and Stan Wood.

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk • Tues, Apr 21 - 8:00am to 12:00pm
A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the third Tuesday of each month. This can be an enjoyable walk for teens as well as adults. Walk begins at 8:00am, April - September. Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot. No registration required. Led by Mary Frances Mathis.
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.

Birding Hot Spots of King County • Mon, Apr 27 - 9:00am to 12:00pm
Monthly field trip to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00am at the north end of the Newport Hills Park and Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Carpool cost per passenger $2 - $4 depending on the destination. No registration required. Led by Rusty Hazzard.

First Time Birder Walk at Tolt-McDonald Park • Sat, May 2 - 7:30am to 10:30am
This field trip is for the novice birder, someone with little or no birding experience. It includes a combination of instruction and field time. Trip leaders Anne and Antonio will first cover topics such as birding etiquette, bird identification, using field guides, birding apps and binoculars. This trip is a good primer before heading out on your own or joining other Audubon field trips. Bring binoculars if you have them; loaners will be available if you don't. Children aged 10 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. Free, but limited to 8 people. Registration required. Contact Antonio Montanana at amontanana@eastsideaudubon.org.

Juanita Bay Park Interpretive Tour • Sun, May 3 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm
Songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, amphibians, turtles, beavers, and other small mammals make Juanita Bay Park their home. Interpretive tours of this wildlife habitat are conducted by Eastside Audubon's volunteer Park Rangers on the first Sunday of every month. Tours start in the parking lot. Bring binoculars if you have them. Children aged 6 and above, accompanied by an adult, are welcome. No registration required.

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge • Mon, May 18 to Sat, May 23
The Malheur Refuge lies in southeastern Oregon, about 30 miles south of Burns, at an elevation of 4100 feet. Burns is about 500 miles from Bellevue. The refuge of 183,000 acres is composed of meadows, ponds and extensive wetlands surrounded by sage uplands and basalt rim rock. It is a major resting, nesting and feeding area on the Pacific Flyway and is on Roger Tory Peterson’s list of the ten best birding areas in the U.S. More than 320 species of birds and many species of mammals have been observed on the refuge. We will visit the main birding areas within the refuge and usually see 100-130 species. We will take one day to drive to Burns (10-11 hours), spend 4 days birding while there and take one day driving home.

We hope to carpool with 3-4 people per car. The driving costs will be about $100 for the trip to and from Burns (1000 miles). At the refuge we will drive 120-130 miles each day at a cost of $10/day per passenger. We will be staying at a motel in Burns. At this time a motel has not been selected. We will plan on breakfast in the motel, and fix a lunch in the motel to take along, then buy dinner at a restaurant. We will plan to leave by 7:30am, bird all day and return to the motel about 4-5 pm. This is a high desert area, so plan on dressing in layers for temperatures ranging from freezing at night to 80 degrees during the day. Rain can occur at any time. Bring binoculars, rain gear, good hiking/walking shoes, insect repellant, sun block and a spotting scope if you have one. This is an advanced notice to determine how many people are interested in this trip. It is necessary to make motel reservations early to ensure availability for May. This trip is limited to 12 people. Contact Stan Wood if you are interested at 425-392-4557 or stanwood@mindspring.com.
The Conservation Committee had a busy Winter Quarter. We completed the Climate Watch Survey in February, advocated for protecting the Purple Martin boxes at Lake Sammamish, sent letters to our Washington state legislators, and planned and prepared to start our brand-new bird survey at the Marymoor Transition Zone.

We completed our Climate Watch Survey at Saint Edward State Park with a group of about 5 people. Our goal was to document the number of red-breasted nuthatches we saw and heard in the park. This survey is done across the country as part of a larger study by the National Audubon Society to track the changes in bird distributions due to climate change. We got off to a slow start, but we were able to locate at least one nuthatch in Saint Edward along with numerous kinglets, chickadees, a red-tailed hawk, and a bald eagle.

Members of the Conservation Committee sent a letter to Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to address concerns about a restoration project off Lake Sammamish. This project proposes to remove 180 piles from the Sunset Beach Area Dock. The piles that Parks and Rec want to remove are near the Marymoor Conservation area and an area being used by migratory Purple Martins for nesting. Community members began installing Purple Martin boxes on abandoned pilings in 2000 and the area has seen numerous Purple Martins using the area for nesting since the boxes appears. We encouraged Parks and Rec to complete further research into the environmental impacts before proceeding with piling removal.

We had plans to attend Lobby Day (January 30th) in Olympia. Unfortunately, we weren’t able to make it. However, Andy McCormick composed a letter documenting our support of natural solutions to reach zero emissions, support of HB 1110 (clean fuel standard), responsible solar siting, fully funding the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and protecting the southern resident population of orcas. We sent this letter to the legislators representing our service area along with a printed photo taken by Mick Thompson.

In January, we started planning a new multi-year bird survey for the Marymoor Transition Zone also known as the Willowmoor Transition Zone. Currently, King County is planning to redo the weir at the Transition Zone in part to help prevent flooding. Eastside Audubon is completing the bird survey in order to provide King County with information on the bird usage of the Transition Zone along with suggestions on vegetation replacements for plants that are removed during the construction.

The Conservation Committee has been working with Cindy Easterson of Puget Sound Bird Observatory and Pilchuck Audubon in getting the Marymoor Transition Zone survey started. Cindy has been instrumental in getting the project off the ground. She not only led our trainings in February but also identified our observation circles and created the documentation sheets for our survey.

The Marymoor Transition Zone bird survey will be completed four times a year (March, May, September, and November) and 3 times in each of those months. We’ll be starting our first round of surveys towards the end of March 2020. Anyone who would like to volunteer can contact Emily Kistler at pupsych@hotmail.com or sign up at eastsideaudubon.org.

WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?
Contact the office at 425-576-8805 or office@eastsideaudubon.org.
Youth Education Committee: Teacher Grants Awarded

By Mary Britton-Simmons

Annually the Youth Education Committee (YEC) awards two grants of $450.00 to Eastside schools with a significant low-income student body. Schools are chosen based on the percentage of students receiving free and reduced-priced lunches. A volunteer contacts the principal of the school and asks him/her to notify staff of the grant. Funds are to be used for the following: non-consumable, reusable materials; a project centered on the environment, science, nature; lessons consistent with the mission of Eastside Audubon.

Over the years, the YEC has given funds to the following school districts: Bellevue, Lake Washington, Northshore and Snoqualmie Valley. The projects have been varied: nature books to be shared by all fourth-grade students; a pond survey using a time-lapse camera; gardens created by students; building and monitoring bee houses. And those are just a few examples! During the 2019-2020 school year, grants were given to teachers from the Futures Secondary School in the Lake Washington School District and from Kenmore Elementary in the Northshore School District. The Futures School has 34% of its student body receiving free and reduced-price lunches while Kenmore has 36%.

Students in Cynthia Baker’s Environmental Science class are building bird feeders, monitoring the visitors with an outdoor, wildlife camera and doing research on individual birds. The Futures School now has citizen scientists. Jessa VanDyk ordered binoculars for her students to use on the fields surrounding Kenmore Elementary and in the nearby woods. And then as a follow-up, on March 31 a volunteer from the YEC will give presentations to three classes of first graders excited about birds and their place in the environment.

Thanks to Eastside Audubon’s generous donors, the YEC can funnel funds to low-income schools in our area and impact a wide variety of students. Who knows how many of these students will be scientists, avid outdoors men and women, nature writers and photographers, environmental voters and members of Eastside Audubon! ■

EAS Officers, Committee Chairs, Staff

Executive Officers
President
Lori Danielson
president@eastsideaudubon.org

Vice President
Katherine Voss
katherine.voss@hotmail.com

Secretary
Cate Forsyth
cateforsyth@outlook.com

Treasurer
Chris Lonowski
treasurer@eastsideaudubon.org

Board Members
At Large
Megan Rutherford
michelle@eastsideaudubon.org

At Large
OPEN

At Large
OPEN

Birding
Michelle Lysenko
michelle@eastsideaudubon.org

Conservation
Tim McGruder
tm McGruder@gmail.com

Education
Pam Gunther
pamela_gunther@yahoo.com

Other Committee Chairs
Birdathon
OPEN

Bird Questions
Mary Francis Mathis
birdhelp@eastsideaudubon.org

Book Club
Becky Serabrini
wingsinarpl@gmail.com

Christmas Bird Count
Andy McCormick
amccormick@eastsideaudubon.org

Community Science
OPEN

crawfoshane@gmail.com

Community Outreach
Dawn Huss
fieldtrip@eastsideaudubon.org

Field Trips
Char Coulbert
coulbertchar@gmail.com

Hospitality
OPEN

Juanita Bay Rangers
Wendy Fawcett
wcfwct@gmail.com

Newsletter (online)
Penelope Kipps
hallogoose@gmail.com

Newsletter (print)
Cate Forsyth
cateforsyth@outlook.com

Photo Group
Larry Engles
engles@ridesoft.com

Photographer
Mick Thompson
mthomp1707@comcast.net

Program Night Coor.
Laura Weisel
laura.weisel@gmail.com

Publicity
OPEN

Webmaster
Tyler Hartje
webmaster@eastsideaudubon.org

Youth Education
Diane Crestanello
crestanello@comcast.net

Staff
Executive Director
Sheila Ritchie
executivedirector@eastsideaudubon.org
YES! I would like to support EAS protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people.

Bird-a-Thon is Happening in May
Eastside Audubon is getting ready for another great Birdathon challenge grant drive. We will help you be ready for it!

_________________________  ____________
Donations to EAS
☐ Enclosed is my check payable to Eastside Audubon
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Sign-up To Receive Informational Emails
☐ Announcements
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Planned Giving
Please consider a planned gift to Eastside Audubon Society to support environmental education and conservation for generations to come.
☐ I have included Eastside Audubon in my will.
☐ I would like information about making a planned gift.
☐ I would like information about making a qualified charitable distribution.

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