



The Corvid Crier

East Lake Washington Audubon Society

Issue 04-1 – February 2004



The Northwest's Least Known Falcon-The Coastal Forest Merlin

When: Thursday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. (after the Social Hour)

Where: Northlake Unitarian-Universalist Church (directions on page 5)

Ask someone on the street what they can tell you about Merlin. Those few who do, will tell you, "he was a wizard" Others who know a bit, will say it's a small sea bird that lives in the old-growth forest. Even savvy birders state, "it lives by marine habitat and eats shorebirds". All interesting and accurate observations.

In this multi-media program, we will explore the Merlin's cultural and natural history globally, continentally and in Northwest bio-region. The Coastal Forest Merlin Project has been conducting a long-term comprehensive study with the people of WA and BC for the last twenty years. Learn more about our collective findings in this lively and insightful presentation. [Share in Merlin Magic!](#)

David Drummond is principal investigator of the **Coastal Forest Merlin Project**. He has worked as wild-life biologist and naturalist for most of the natural resource agencies, environmental institutes and several consulting firms in the last thirty years. David has also guided adventure/natural history trips on and off the continent. He also enjoys climbing, kayaking, skiing, photography and poetry.

Please join us on **Thursday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m.** for this entertaining and enlightening presentation,



ELWAS Holiday Gift Wrap Fundraiser



A big thank you again this year to all who participated and donated to this year's fundraiser at the Redmond Town Center REI. 39 volunteers wrapped through 7 days, receiving donations of \$2595. Our best year ever! A special thank you to REI and their staff who were always helpful. Thanks to all of you who brought your gifts in to be wrapped. A very special thanks goes to Melanie Bishop for the beautiful flyers she designed and the fantastic cloth gift bags she sewed all year with 40+ hours of volunteer time. The beautiful bags brought in over \$300 in donations. Thank you Melanie! Special thanks go to Debbie Larson who made the most beautiful gift tags ever! Much thanks go to Megan Lyden and Nathan Borman who worked multiple shifts during this busiest of seasons. Lea Knapp gets a big thank you for recruiting all the wonderful volunteers listed below!

Merry & Bill Schmidt, Kim, Chris, Joy & Natash Kacoroski, Jill Keeney, Lea Knapp, Sidonia St. Germain, Linda Wade, Hugh & Bev Jennings, Megan Lyden, Jean Worthen, Christie Madsen, Melinda Bronsdon, Elizabeth Whiteford, Tim Boyer, Bertina Espe, Christy Anderson, Virginia Bragg, Jo and Gerry Herber, Juliana & Keith Pickrell, Jane Paige, Carol Stuckey, Len Steiner, Sunny Walter, Nathan Bormann, Nancy Nicklas, Judy Rams, Kris Swanson, Jim & Parky Forrester, Debbie Larson, Melanie Bishop, Jim & Nancy Roberts.

Our Mission: *The mission of the East Lake Washington Audubon Society is to protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people.*

President's Message

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

"Our goal is not to get people to watch birds. It is to help Mississippians learn how birds live and to encourage them to conserve the woods, waters, and wetlands birds need to survive." — Bruce Reid, Director of Bird Conservation, Mississippi Audubon

ELWAS is a diverse group of individuals who come together for a common purpose. And what is that purpose? Substitute "Washingtonians" for "Mississippians", and the quote above says it pretty well. Watching birds is an entry point and a focus for larger goals of conservation. Birds are fascinating creatures, as we all know, and an endless source of enjoyment and learning. Conservation is what will ensure they continue to be around.

From its beginning, Audubon has always been dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. ELWAS' mission statement is "to protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people."

Our state office of National Audubon is also very involved in conservation issues. They are developing a master Bird Conservation Plan for Washington that will integrate state-wide bird and habitat conservation efforts. The plan's purpose is to help establish priorities for advocacy efforts on behalf of birds and habitat, increase chapter involvement, and engage a broader cross-section of the public in conservation. Our ultimate goal is to "conserve and restore natural ecosystems in Washington."

Your ELWAS Board is dedicated to continuing this heritage of conservation in any way we can to make a difference. Whether it is working on restoring a damaged wetland, testifying at hearings to stop development from destroying habitat or taking a stand on regional, national or international issues, we will continue to increase our involvement in this arena and to make our positions known to those in decision making positions. We will also keep you informed of what you can do as part of ELWAS, and as an individual, to keep these issues in the forefront.

The ELWAS Conservation Committee is working to keep proposed development in Marymoor Park from destroying critical bird habitat. We're also involved in the comment process for changes proposed for Lk. Sammamish State Park and road building at Redmond Town Center, both of which would impact wetlands and heron nesting sites. Members attended Lobby Day in Olympia on Jan. 28, to show state reps. and senators that their constituents were concerned about habitat and other conservation issues.

Want to get involved? The Conservation Committee meets on the 3rd Weds. of the month at 7 pm, and everyone's welcome. At membership meetings, we'll make you aware of ways you can help— eg. post cards or phone calls to elected officials – and invite you to participate.

We all need to work together in Audubon and in our larger community to make a difference.

East Lake Washington Audubon Society 425 576 8805

308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)
P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115
Web Site: <http://www.ELWAS.org>

Executive Officers

President	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
E-mail	christyrae@hotmail.com	
Vice President	LouAnn Harris	(425) 652-7603
E-mail	montlou@earthlink.net	
Secretary	Diane Stone	(425) 868-1174
E-mail	dianestone@hotmail.com	
Treasurer	Tim Boyer	(425) 277-9326
Executive Director	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580
E-mail	jgmcruder@comcast.net	

Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

<u>At large board member</u>	Amy McQuade	(206) 232-9543
E-mail	mcbirdwchr@aol.com	
<u>At large board member</u>	MaryFrances Mathis.....	(425) 803-3026
E-mail	MF.Mathis@verizon.net	
<u>At large board member</u>	Ruth Adamski.....	(425) 823-6189
<u>Communication</u>	Open	
Historian	Sidonia St. Germaine	(425) 432-4261
E-mail	shearwater2@msn.com	
Newsletter Editor	Tom Grismer	(425) 828-6103
E-mail	newsletter@elwas.org	
Publicity	Tracey Cummings	(425) 788-4663
E-mail	publicity@elwas.org	
Webmaster	Nancy Nicklas	(425) 869-7827
E-mail	webmaster@elwas.org	
<u>Community Outreach</u>	Open	
<u>Conservation</u>	Tim McGruder.....	(425) 828-4036
E-mail	Tim@elwas.org	
Advocacy	Tim McGruder.....	(425) 828-4036
E-mail	Tim@elwas.org	
Citizen Science	Len Steiner	(425) 827-2478
Habitat Restoration	Open	
<u>Education</u>	Open	
Adult Education	Melinda Bronsdon	(425) 827-5708
Youth Education	Mary Britton-Simmons.....	(360) 794-7163
E-mail	education@elwas.org	
Library	Betty Dean	(425) 827-4541
<u>Financial Development</u>	Open	
Birdathon	Jim Rettig	(425) 402-1833
Gift Wrap	Nancy and Jim Roberts.....	(425) 822-1865
Merchandising	Open	
<u>Events Coordinator</u>	Open	
Field Trips	Hugh Jennings.....	(425) 746-6351
E-mail	fieldtrip@elwas.org	
Hospitality	Kathy Andrich.....	(425) 226-6224
Programs	Roger Chapanis.....	(425) 557-5387
Volunteer Coordinator	Lea Knapp	(425) 822-7056
<u>Membership</u>	Robert Riedl	tulseloper@yahoo.com
Bellefields Clean-up	John Barrett	(425) 644-2862
Bird Questions?	Amy McQuade.....	(206) 232-9543
E-mail	birdhelp@elwas.org	

Board Minutes

By Diane Stone, Secretary

Abridged Minutes for Oct 21, 2003 Board Meeting

Treasurer Tim Boyer reported that we are on track with the budget we wrote. The Board agreed that we would like to support the Cats Indoors coalition. Jan reported back that the Davis Slough Heron Nesting project already has their funding complete. We decided to redirect our funds to other, needier projects. The Take Back Audubon effort was discussed, including dues sharing and how the chapters stand on several other issues. We worked on a draft of a letter from the Board stating that we share many of the same concerns. When finished and approved by the Board, it will be sent to State Audubon Director Debbie Edelstein.

Abridged Minutes for Nov. 11, 2003 Board Meeting

Concerning Cats Indoors Coalition, we have a volunteer, Christy Madsen, who will attend meetings and report back to the Board. President Christy Anderson presented a first draft of the Board's email policy. The policy was approved with alterations. Jan reported that there are several volunteers from General Membership to work on the Birding Trail Map. Membership Chair, Robert Riedl presented the new member donation form and the Board voted to accept it. Communication Chair, Diane West presented the computer format for member comments on our website. We approved The Conservation Committee's position on threats to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Volunteer Melinda Bronsden is working on the effort to have at least one class per month for Adult Education.

Abridged Minutes for December 16, 2003 Board Meeting

The Board discussed ways of advertising for the birding classes we offer. It was decided to renew Jan McGruder's contract as Executive Director for another 6 months. Diane West recommended that we renew our membership in the Kirkland Chamber of Commerce because it increases community awareness of our chapter. That motion passed. Tim McGruder, as Conservation Chair, asked if we would like to endorse the Toxic Free Legacy Coalition and that motion passed. We also voted to endorse the "It's Our America Campaign".



CHILD CARE SERVICES?

By Jan McGruder, ELWAS Director

Would you like to see a child care service at the ELWAS Membership Meetings? We've wondered if members are missing out on an evening of socializing and enjoying a great program because of little ones at home. The church has great facilities for members of all ages, with lots of toys, games and activities for kids. The service would be available from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., for those who want to join us for our pre-meeting social hour. In order for this to be a worthwhile for a paid child care worker, we'd need at least four children per night.

Please call the office (425-576-8805) and give us your thoughts:

1. Would you like to see child care services on Membership Meeting nights?
2. Would you be willing to pay up to \$6.00 per child for the evening?
3. Any other thoughts you may have on the subject.

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The Corvid Crier is published monthly by the East Lake Washington Audubon Society except that there are no issues in January, July and August.

- **Deadline** for material submission is the first Wednesday of the month preceding publication. Send material by email to:
newsletter@elwas.org Subject: ELWAS or by mail to:
Tom Grismer
P. O. Box 3053, Kirkland, WA 98083-3053
- The "Raven in Flight" used as our graphic logo was created by Tony Angell, and is ©1978 Univ. Of Washington Press. Used with permission.

AUDUBON CENTER/OFFICE

The office is downstairs at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church in Kirkland, **308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State**, directions on page 5).

Phone number: (425) 576-8805

Email: office@elwas.org

Hours: Mon — Fri. — 10:00 — 2:00

Sat. — 12:00 — 4:00

COMING EVENTS

Parents and children over 8 are welcome on all trips

Check our website at <http://www.elwas.org/events/> for the latest information and for reports of last months' field trips.

February 7 (Sat.) 9:30 a.m. — Nature Cruise - La Conner
A four hour cruise around Fidalgo Island by way of Skagit Bay, Rosario Strait, Padilla Bay and Swinomish Slough . Expect to see Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, Grebes, Loons, Mergansers, thousands of ducks, harbor seals, sea lions, otters and more. The Viking Star is a fully enclosed, heated cruising boat with 31 large glass windows for great viewing in any weather. The boat will leave at 10:00 am, so you should be at the Viking Cruises boat dock office by 9:30 am to allow time to check in. Viking Cruises is located one block north of Nasty Jack's Antique Store on First Street. If you want to carpool to La Conner meet at **8:00 am** at south end of Kingsgate P&R (I-405 exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound at NE 124th St, go west to light at 116th Ave. NE then right (north) past top of hill to P&R entrance on the left). Carpooling cost/person is **\$5.00**.. The cost of the cruise is \$40. This includes a \$5 rebate to be given back to ELWAS. This is a good way to enjoy a boat cruise and support ELWAS. The boat holds about 40-45 people. Bring a lunch. Call Viking Cruises toll-free at 1-888-207-2333 or email at: info@vikingcruises.com to make reservations.

Feb. 11 (Weds.) - 9 a.m. – Bellevue Botanical Gardens
Join us for a walk through the garden and spend a relaxed morning seeing what birds are in the area. We meet the 2nd Wed.. of each month at 9:00 a.m., and will finish by lunchtime. Bring binoculars and meet at the front door. Walks are limited to 10 people and **pre-registration is required**. **Call the office to sign up at 425-576-8805.**

February 12 (Thurs.) 9:00 a.m. — Snoqualmie Valley
On this drive through the farmlands of the Snoqualmie Valley we'll look for Bald Eagles and other raptors and scope the ponds for a variety of ducks. Swans are possible, too. Small birds can be anywhere in the hedges and bushes. We'll carpool from Marymoor Park. \$1.00 parking fee. I-405 to Hwy 520 East. Exit at W. Lake Sammamish Parkway and turn right at the stop light. Turn east on NE Marymoor Way, into the Park, and turn right at the first stop sign. Meet at south end of the lot. Bring a lunch and be prepared for changeable weather conditions. Return mid-afternoon. **Cost/person \$3.00. Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

February 12 (Thurs.) 7-9 p.m. — Education Committee
Meets second Thursday of each month in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? For information email: education@elwas.org or call **425-576-8805**.

February 14-15 (Saturday, Sunday) 8:00 a.m.
Methow River & Waterville Plateau Winter Birds
Over night field trip to Twisp to look for wintering waterfowl and raptors along the Columbia and Methow Rivers and Waterville Plateau. **Please call Len Steiner if you plan to go.** Meet before 8:00 a.m. at south end of Kingsgate P&R: (I-405,

exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound at NE 124th St., go west to light at 116th Ave. NE, then right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot). Cost/person **\$10.00. Len Steiner 425-827-2478.**

Feb. 14 (Saturday) 10 a.m.— Bellefields Trail Walkthrough
Help clean up litter along Bellefields Trail in Mercer Slough Nature Park. Meet at the Bellefields Trail Head parking lot on 118th Ave SE (Bellevue), about a mile south of Greenbaum's Furniture (118th and SE 8th). **Please bring gloves, a bag for trash, and your binoculars.** -- **John Barrett 425-644-2862**

February 16 (Monday) 7:00 p.m. — Birds in the Balance
Meets third Monday each month at Len Steiner's, 13239 NE 100th, Kirkland. You're welcome to join this group, which assesses bird populations in local habitats **425-827-2478**

February 18 (Weds.) 7:00 p.m. - Conservation Committee
Meets the third Wednesday of each month in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Call **Tim McGruder at 425-828-4036**

February 21 (Sat.) 7 a.m. — Camano Island/Stanwood
Prepare for a full day of birding and explore Camano Island's shoreline, salt-water marshes, grasslands, and forest habitats for seabirds, raptors, and songbirds. Specific areas include Livingston Bay, English Boom, Utsalady, and Iverson Spit, a 100-acre preserve. The Stanwood Sewage Treatment Ponds offer a variety of waterfowl and the occasional avian surprise. Bring lunch and meet before 7 a.m. at south end of Kingsgate P&R (I-405, exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound at NE 124th St., go west to light at 116th Ave. NE, then right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot).. Passenger cost/person **\$5. Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

February 23 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. to noon
Birding the Hotspots of King County
Monthly field trip on fourth Monday of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 a.m. at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person **\$2.00. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351.**

February 24 (Tuesday) 9 a.m. — Juanita Bay Park
Join us for a relaxed morning walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. We will meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m., and will be finished by lunch time. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration is required.

February 26 (Thursday) 7:00 p.m.
Monthly Meeting — “The Coastal Forest Merlin”
See page 1. Social hour precedes meeting at 6:30.

March 11 (Thursday) 9:00 a.m. to noon — Green River
Natural Resources Area (formerly Kent Ponds)
This 304 acre site is a combined stormwater detention and

enhanced wetland facility that provides a rich diversity of wildlife habitat. Since the ponds do not open until 10 a.m., we will stop at Tukwila Pond Park first. Meet before 9:00 a.m. at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9). Passenger cost/person \$2.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

March 13-14 (Saturday & Sunday) 8:00 a.m. — Ridgefield Weekend Field Trip

Discover several pristine refuges in the southwestern region of our state, offering a variety of wildlife. Located along the Columbia River dikes, Ridgefield Refuge has open oak woodlands that provide habitat for Scrub Jays, Bald Eagles, Tundra Swans and thousands of Canada Geese. Columbia Mule Deer Refuge supports a large variety of waterfowl and rarities such as Sandhill Cranes and White-tailed Kites. Take a walk in the Willapa Refuge for wintering sea birds and shore birds. Stay at a motel in Woodland or camp at Paradise Pt. St. Park. Meet by 8:00 a.m. at north end of the Wilburton P&R (I-405, exit 12, SE 8th St.). Call Len Steiner if you plan on going. Passenger cost/person \$10.00. **Len Steiner 425-827-2478**

Great Backyard Bird Count – Feb. 13-16

The National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology want to know where the birds are. They want us to help do that by taking a “snapshot” of our North American bird populations. Last year, almost 50,000 checklists were submitted by citizen scientists like you from every state and province. Everyone’s contribution is important, no matter whether you identify, count, and report the 5 species coming to your backyard bird feeder or the 75 species you see at a wildlife refuge.

Here’s what you do:

- 1) Count the birds in your backyard, local park or other natural area on any or all of the four count days. Record the highest number of individuals you see at any one time during your count.
- 2) Watch the birds for as long as you have time, but at least 15 minutes on each day.
- 3) Enter your count on-line at the Great Backyard Bird Count Site (<http://www.birdsource.org>) and submit your highest counts for that day.
- 4) After entering your count for the day, visit the website Map room and see results across the continent.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

NOTECARDS OF WESTERN US BIRDS

Color 4x6 prints on 5x7 notecards with envelopes.
Greater Sage-Grouse, Great Blue Heron,
shorebirds. \$2.50 ea. Available in the ELWAS Store
Tim Boyer Photography @ www.timboyer.com

Thanks for the Donation!

Thank you to Tina Klein-Lebbink for the donation of her artwork - two limited edition prints of "Frazier and Niles" - Sandhill Cranes.

These prints are now on sale in the ELWAS store for \$15.00 each. Come check it out.



How to get to..

- **Kingsgate Park and Ride:**
I-405 exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound, N. E. 124th St. Go west to light at 116th Ave. N. E., then right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot (on the left). Meet in the S.E. corner.
- **ELWAS Office/Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church,**
308 4th Avenue S. (corner 4th Ave. S and State)
I-405 exit 18 (N. E. 85th-Kirkland). Go west on Central Way to the light on 3rd St. Go left on 3rd St. Follow this street (it bears left and changes name to State St.) Then turn left on 4th Ave. S.

**BIRD
of the
MONTH**

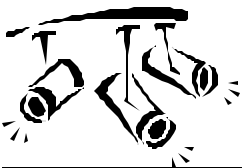
Ruddy Duck
Oxyura jamaicensis
by Hugh Jennings

The Ruddy Duck (RUDU) is 15-16" long with a wingspan of 18.5". The genus name *Oxyura* (OCK-sih-You-rah) is from Greek, *oxys* meaning sharp-pointed, and *oura*, tail, referring to the pointed tail of this duck. The species name *jamaicensis* (jah-may-ih-SEN-sis) is Latin for the island of Jamaica, West Indies, the type of locality from which the first specimen was collected. The RUDU are in the family of stiff-tailed ducks, with spiky tail feathers that are often cocked high in the air. The name Ruddy is for the rust-red breeding plumage of the male. The Ruddy Duck together with the Cinnamon Teal are the only waterfowl to breed both in N. and S. America.

The RUDU is a small, compact duck with a large head and long tail. The adult male in breeding plumage (March to July) is bright ruddy brown, with pure white cheeks, a black cap and nape, and a bright powder-blue bill. In fall and winter, the ruddy brown is replaced by gray, the cap and nape become duller, and the bill gray. The females and immature Ruddy Ducks resemble winter males, except the cheek is a duller off-white, crossed below the eye by a horizontal dark line that can be vague, or missing in some birds. Their flight is rapid with fast, buzzing wing beats. They are awkward on land and seem reluctant to fly, and have to patter over the water for some distance before gaining flight.

They are widespread breeders in western North America from northern BC and southwest NW Territories east to Manitoba and western Ontario, south to northern Mexico. They winter mainly along both coasts south into Mexico and north to BC, Kansas and New England, and a few to the Great Lakes. It breeds on fresh or alkaline lakes and ponds with extensive marshy borders and areas of open water. In winter it is found on protected shallow bays and estuaries along the coast, and on ice-free lakes and ponds in the interior. The RUDU forages by diving and swimming underwater, using its bill to strain food items from mud at the bottom of ponds. It feeds on seeds and roots of plants including pondweeds, sedges, smartweeds, coontail, and grasses. It also eats aquatic insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and rarely small fish. Insects and their larvae may be the main foods eaten in summer. Pairs form after arrival on breeding waters. Male courtship displays including raising the tail over back and bouncing head rapidly so that the bill slaps against the chest.

The nest site is in dense marsh vegetation over shallow water. The nest, built by the female, is a woven platform of grasses, cattails, lined with down, a few inches above water and anchored to standing marsh growth. Sometimes the nest is built on top of an old muskrat house or coot nest. There are 5-10 eggs, typically 8, that are whitish, becoming nest-stained, with rough, granular surface. The eggs are quite large for the size of the bird. Ruddies often lay eggs in each other's nest and in those of other ducks and marsh birds. The female incubates the eggs for 23-26 days. The young leave the nest within a day after hatching and are able to swim and dive well immediately. The young are tended by the female but feed themselves. The age at first flight is about 6 weeks. RUDUs have one brood per year in the north, and sometimes two in the south.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
on: Sidonia St. Germaine

by Amy McQuade

We have here a REAL RARITY - a native Washingtonian. Someone born in Bellevue, actually, and she grew up in sight of Lake Washington. Her parents still live in the same house, but without the excitement of frequent visits from "O Henry," a great blue heron long since gone to his reward. "My parents encouraged my love of nature and my mother, particularly, influenced my love for birds."

Sidonia went to Medina grade school, Bellevue Junior High and Bellevue High School. she attended Colorado Women's College in Denver, and later worked locally as an exercise physiologist program director for cardiac rehabilitation patients. Twenty-five years ago she moved to Hobart, in the foothills, seeking a more natural, peaceful living environment. Now she works with her husband, Fred, in their commercail contracting business, where the boss lets her take time off for birding.

Having long been a passionate bird lover, she joined ELWAS in 1998 because she felt she needed the help of more experienced birders to go beyond her level at that time; none of her friends shared her birdwatching enthusiasms, "though my husband is not what you would call a birder, he is a great spotter and without his help I would have missed many a good bird."

In 1998 ELWAS was in need of a new His torian. and Sidonia jumped at the chance to volunteer for a position she felt uniquely qualified to fill. It "just felt natural" for her to extend her fascination with keeping up family, bird photo and boating trip albums.

Does ELWAS have a nifty volunteer nook YOU can fit into? Call Jan.

BUY PCC SCRIP THROUGH ELWAS AND HELP US RAISE MONEY!

We will be taking monthly orders for PCC scrip! You can use the scrip just like cash at any PCC store. ELWAS receives 5% of every scrip dollar we sell! **Please call or e-mail Megan Lyden (425-603-1548; meganlyden@msn.com) by the 3rd Friday of each month or mail the scrip order form (to Megan Lyden, address below).** The scrip will be available for pick-up in the ELWAS office by the 4th Thursday of each month, and also during ELWAS membership meetings. Please pay by check or cash at the time of pick-up (no credit cards, please). Please note that we must have \$500 in combined orders in order to purchase scrip from PCC.

Scrip is good for one year from date of purchase.

Scrip Order Form

I would like to order:

_____ x \$5 + _____ x \$10 + _____ x \$20 + _____ x \$50 = \$ _____ **total**

(Please mark quantities needed; for instance, 5 x \$10 would be a \$50 order).

Name _____

Telephone and/or e-mail address _____

Please mail form to: Megan Lyden, 222 Lake Hills Blvd., Bellevue, WA 98008

Form needs to be received by the 3rd Friday of each month to be included in that month's order.

REFORM GROUP FALLS SHORT IN NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY PROXY CHALLENGE

by Darrel Whipple, 2003 TBA candidate for NAS Director

A proxy challenge mounted by a reform group within the National Audubon Society brought some tension to an otherwise business-as-usual Annual Meeting of Members on December 6th, 2003, in Erlanger, Kentucky. Reform advocates, failing to command a majority of the proxies, vowed nevertheless to continue the struggle for reform.

The group of local Audubon chapter leaders from more than 50 chapters across the country calls itself Take Back Audubon (TBA) and aims to "restore a true partnership between the independent Chapters and the National Audubon Society through a real voice in the NAS organization and in all decisions that affect Chapters." TBA leaders claim that the organization pays little heed to chapter concerns. They say they are offended that NAS holds noncompetitive elections for its Board of Directors and that NAS has discontinued sharing some \$1.8 million in member dues with the 500 local chapters.

The group was represented at the Annual Meeting by Darrel Whipple, Andrew Mason, Marsha Cannon, John Gallagher, and six other members from various chapters. The dissidents appeared with over 3,200 proxies, but in a showdown on TBA's motion to have the meeting governed by Robert's Rules of Order, the newly-appointed Chairman of the Board Carol Browner and CEO John Flicker voted 37,000 proxies against, and the proposal was defeated.

The election of directors to fill 12 positions on the 36-member board followed a similar pattern, with Flicker voting the 37,000 proxies for the Nominating Committee's nine candidates for at-large positions, and with Gallagher voting 3,200 proxies for TBA's slate of nine candidates, but with both camps voting for the same three regionally-nominated representatives. The TBA leaders later argued for a resolution to reinstate the dues share to chapters, a resolution to require competitive elections for the board of

(Continued on page 8)

Education Committee Seeks Researchers

By Mary Britton-Simmons

The ELWAS Education Committee has set seven goals for itself, one of which is to create curriculum for elementary students. We need your help to accomplish this goal. The committee is looking for volunteers to do the following:

1. Research one of the following topics:

feathers	flight/migration
bones	beaks/tongues
diet	eggs
wings	nests
feet	sight
hearing	songs/calls
habitation	origin
color	identification
attracting birds to backyard	

2. Or research one of the following birds:

towhee	stellar's jay
junco	red tail hawk
robin	barn owl
flicker	mallard
kingfisher	winter wren
sharp shined hawk	hairy woodpecker
Anna's hummingbird	

3. Type up notes and give them to **Mary Britton-Simmons**. **You may leave them in my mailbox in the EL-WAS office, e-mail them to mbritton1@earthlink.net, or send them to me: P.O. Box 1750, Duvall, WA 98019.** If you have questions, please call me at **360-794-7163**.

The Education Committee will write up your notes in a lesson plan format to be used with elementary students. Please call or e-mail me to sign up before you start researching so we don't get duplicates.

Recently we turned two pages of single-spaced notes on owls into a complete, four page lesson plan which is available for you to read in a file in the Education Committee's closet in the office. Take a look at what we can accomplish with your help! Our goal is to have a variety of easy-to-follow lesson plans (and many volunteers to teach them) for elementary and secondary students. Please help!

Proxy Challenge *(Continued from page 7)*

directors, and resolutions to provide for initiative measures, congresses of chapters, and "access to basic information."

Chairman Browner asked if these were the same five resolutions the Board of Directors agreed to refer to committees at the September Board meeting in Los Angeles.

Taken aback, Darrel Whipple replied that he had attended the LA meeting but did not learn of any such action by the board. The TBA group then agreed with Carol Browner's suggestion to refer the current versions of the resolutions to the appropriate committees, rather than force an up-or-down proxy vote on each one with no hope of success. The motion for referral, with a guarantee of regular status reports, passed unanimously. (Whipple later learned from board member Charlie Kahle that the action by the board in Los Angeles was taken in a closed session.)

TBA leaders indicated they would continue to claim for chapters what they perceive as the chapters' rightful share of member dues and to press for more democratic election procedures for the organization and more openness and respect for dissent at all NAS meetings. They did not rule out another proxy challenge in 2004.

At the end of the meeting Carol Browner urged the members present, chapters, state, and home offices to focus on the many challenges facing them in both making new progress and maintaining the gains already made on conservation and environmental protection throughout the country.

Upcoming ELWAS Classes

March 16 and 21: LOONS OF NORTH PUGET SOUND



Discover these common western winter visitors, master divers, subject of legends and source of the most haunting of calls. Learn about the ecology, plumages and identification of the different species. Our instructor will be David Drummond, wildlife biologist and birding specialist. David has been principal investigator of the Coastal Forest Merlin Project for the last twenty years and has worked as a wildlife biologist for many Northwest natural resource agencies and institutes. He has also extensively guided birding, climbing, skiing, whitewater rafting and sea kayaking adventures in and out of the country. The class will be a 2 hour illustrated lecture. The **all-day field trip will be on Sunday, March 21**. Details will be arranged at the lecture class.

March 16: Class from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the East Lake Washington Audubon offices in the Northlake Unitarian Church in Kirkland. Field trip Sunday, March 21, 2004.

Cost for lecture and field trip: \$65.00 for Audubon members, \$85.00 for non-members. Call the ELWAS office at 425-576-8805 to register by March 12.

March 27, 2004 BEGINNING BIRDING BY EAR



Identifying birds by sight is only half of the picture. Learning to ID birds by their calls and songs is fun and challenging. Amaze your family and impress your friends!

Join instructors Joyce Meyer and Lou Ann Harris for an informative half day field trip and start learning to bird by ear.

Date: March 27th, 2004

Time: 6:30 a.m.

Place: Marymoor Park, Redmond (west parking lot near windmill)

Cost: \$25 for ELWAS members (plus \$1 parking fee per car) \$30 for non-members

Limit: 8 people – Registration Deadline March 20 — Call ELWAS office at 425-576-8805 to register.

(A 2nd class will be added on Sunday, the 28th if Saturday's class fills up and there are at least 4 people on the waiting list)

March 30, 2004 ALL ABOUT BATS!



Join us for an exciting evening learning about these flying mammals of the night. Be ready for a Bats NorthWest walk at Green Lake in Seattle beginning in April. Naturalist and bat specialist Barb Ogaard will present an exciting illustrated program with slides and live animals. She will dispel the myths, discuss attracting the animals to your yard and suggest how to appreciate and coexist with these amazing creatures. Ms Ogaard has worked for the Everett Parks and Recreation Department as a Ranger at Jetty Island, a Beach Ranger in Edmonds, and presented programs about bats and wildlife for many schools. She is currently Education Director for Sarvey Wildlife Center in Everett.

Class will be held at the Northlake Unitarian Church in Kirkland from 7-9 PM. Cost is \$25 for Audubon members, \$35 for non members. Call the ELWAS offices at 425-576-8805 to register before March 26.