



The Corvid Crier

East Lake Washington Audubon Society

Issue 04-2 – March 2004

Gardening for Life

When: Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. (after the Social Hour)

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



Wildlife enriches the lives of urban gardeners. As valuable habitat for wildlife decreases due to the accelerating pace of growth in our urban region, and poor water quality threatens salmon species, backyard habitats are ever more important. You can adopt gardening practices that have a positive impact on endangered salmon and on the water quality in your community, and help slow the loss of habitat in our region for birds and other wildlife. The amount of diversity of life in urban areas directly reflects the gardening practices and plant choices of urban gardeners. This slide show, presented by **Neil Zimmerman**, will give you ideas on how to enhance your yard for wildlife. Native plants, snags and water features will be some of the topics covered.

Neil Zimmerman, Audubon member for 25 years, is a field trip leader for Seattle Audubon Society, and a graduate of SAS's first master birder program. He is also the **former president of the Fargo, ND Audubon chapter**.

Please join us on **Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.** for this entertaining and enlightening presentation, which is **free and open to the public.** Also, join us at **6:30 for the social hour.**

Program Chair Position Open

by Jan McGruder

Roger Chapanis is retiring as ELWAS' Program Chair, after many years of faithful service. As you know, he has brought in some wonderful speakers for our Membership Meetings.

Since Roger is moving on, we are seeking another volunteer to fill his spot. There are only 9 programs a year, so the time commitment shouldn't exceed 5 hours a month for 9-10 months of the year.

You would be responsible for finding and contacting speakers; getting the program write-up to the Newsletter Editor and Publicity Chair; ordering payment from the Treasurer, making sure all the equipment speakers will need (slide projector/screen; tables, etc.) is set up on Membership Meeting night, introducing speakers at Membership Meetings, and sending a thank you note to each speaker.

I have a file with oodles of speakers to choose from, and if you have web access, all can be done in the comfort of your own home. I can help you get started until you're familiar with the position, but we do ask for a 2-year commitment.

If you have any questions, or want more information, please feel free to call or e-mail me at (425) 822-8580 or

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

Back to Basics

Black Marsh Ecologue

by Sam Hamill



Although it is midsummer,
the great blue heron
holds darkest winter in his hunched shoulders,
those blue-turning-gray clouds
rising over him
like a storm from the Pacific.

He stands alone in the black marsh
more monument than bird.
He watches the hearts of things
and does not move or speak.

But when at last he flies,
his great wings cover the darkening sky,
And slowly,
as though praying,
he lifts,

almost motionless
as he pushes the world away.

This poem is inscribed on a granite pillar on the wooded hillside overlooking Ft. Worden in Pt. Townsend. It is a place called Memory's Vault, recalling the days when it really was a military fort, the people who served there, and the wildlife they found all around them. ELWAS' Board of Directors had their semi-annual retreat at Ft. Worden recently.

Retreating away from our work-a-day world, at least temporarily, gave us a chance to dream, imagine, discuss and plan for ELWAS' future. We worked hard, but we also took the time to appreciate the beauty and life around us. Ft. Worden has a variety of habitats, for humans, animals and birds, and we explored as many as we could. Yes, it was a working weekend, but we did not lose sight of why we were there in the first place. The natural world around us always inspires, and motivates us even more to protect and preserve what is left.

Our main goal for the weekend was a plan for raising funds to continue the work we do, and you will be hearing more about that soon. But the poem above, found unexpectedly in the woods, was a good reminder of what we are all working for. Moments such as those shared with a heron, available for everyone, for now and forever.

**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	jgmcgruder@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	Christy Anderson.....	(425) 747-4196
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
ELWAS Board meeting Jan. 13, 2004

Treasurer Tim Boyer reported that we are ahead of budget projections by \$3600 over the last 6 months. This should help later in the year when we do not have an influx of income. President Christy Anderson announced that we need a committee that will work on our upcoming Birdathon event. Christy also informed us that Osprey Day will be held in September this year. Our Education Committee has been invited back to do some more classes for the North Shore School District. We discussed hosting or participating in an Alternate Gift Bazaar for next holiday season. Also discussed was the possible purchase of a multimedia projector for use at our Membership meetings. More research is needed.

SPRING BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS
Passion! Beauty! Mystery!

*Looking for more of these in **your** life?*

The world of birds has them all – and more – especially in the spring breeding and nesting season!! Join us for **three classes** and **two field trips**. Expand those “gray cells,” and make new friends ☺. Who knows – you just might discover a new “passion!”

Relaxed, informal classes cover the basics of bird identification, birding etiquette and ethics, equipment selection, field guides and local birding areas. Spring migrants and breeding birds of Washington will be emphasized.

DATES: (3) **Tuesdays 4-27, 5-4 & 5-11 6:30—9:00 P.M.** (*classes* only)
Sat 5-1 or Sun 5-2 (morning only *field trip* – ½ class goes each day)
Sat 5-15 or Sun 5-16 (all day *field trip* to East. Wash. – ½ class goes each day)

LOCATION: **ELWAS office: 308 – 4th Ave S. – Kirkland** (classes only)
(lower level of Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church – enter on State Street)

COST: **\$95 (ELWAS members) \$120 (non-members – chapter membership is \$25)**
Fee waiver available (based on need) – inquire for details

CONTACT **425.576-8805**

Register soon - class size limited!

Field guide used for class is 4th edition of *National Geographic Birds of North America*

May be purchased at **ELWAS Office/Nature Center 425.576.8805**

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- **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.

March 2/April 6 (Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. - Conservation Committee — Meets first Tuesday of each month in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Call **Tim McGruder at 425-828-4036**

March 3/April 7 (Weds.) 7:00 p.m. - Web Committee Meets first Wednesday of each month in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email **Nancy Nicklas at webmaster@elwas.org**

Mar. 10 (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.

March 11 (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.**

**March 11 (Thursday) 9:00 a.m. to noon
Green River Natural Resources Area (Kent Ponds)**
This 304 acre site is a combined stormwater detention and enhanced wetland facility with a rich diversity of wildlife habitat. Since ponds don't open until 10 a.m., we'll stop at Tukwila Pond Park first. Meet before 9:00 at north end of Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9). Passenger cost/person **\$2.00.** **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Mar. 13 (Sat.) 10 a.m. — Bellefields Trail Walkthrough
Help clean litter along Bellefields Trail in Mercer Slough Nature Park. Meet at the Bellefields Trail parking lot on 118th Ave SE (Bellevue), about a mile south of Greenbaum's Furniture (118th and SE 8th). **Bring gloves, a bag for trash, and binoculars.** -- **John Barrett 425-644-2862**

**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 at north end of Wilburton P&R (I-405, exit 12, SE 8th St.). Call Len Steiner if you plan on going. Cost/person **\$10.** **Len Steiner 425-827-2478**

March 15 (Monday) 7:00 p.m. — Birds in the Balance Meets 3rd Mon. 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**

March 16 (Tues.) 9 a.m. – lunchtime — Juanita Bay Park
A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the 3rd Tues. of each month at 9:00. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required.

March 20 (Sat.) 7:00 a.m. — Ellensburg/Vantage Area
Travel through varied habitats: riparian, forest & farm. Chance to see a number of raptors, late winter and early spring birds. Weather could be warm or cold; be prepared for either. Bring lunch and plan on early eve. return. Meet before 7 at n. end of Issaquah P&R (I-90 exit 15, corner of SR 900 and Newport Way) to carpool. Cost/person **\$7.** **Mike West 206-795-4865**

March 25 (Thursday) 7:00 p.m. — Monthly Meeting "Gardening for Life" (See p. 1. Social hour starts at 6:30.)

Mar. 29 (Mon.) 9 a.m. - noon — Hotspots of King County
Monthly field trip on **fifth** Monday of this month (note change from 4th Monday for this month) to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9); plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person **\$2.00.** **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351.**

**April 3 (Saturday) 9:30 a.m. late afternoon
Lower Skagit River Float Trip - no white water**
Experience a variety of wildlife, such as hawks, eagles, swans, sea-birds, and marine life on this 3-4 hour float trip on the Lower Skagit, while naturalists treat you with tales of local history. Enjoy lunch on Goat Island across from Deception Pass. Pacific NW Float Trips' rafts hold 8-10 people each. The adventure begins at 10:00 a.m. in LaConner so please **arrive by 9:30.** If you wish to carpool to La Conner, meet at **7:45 a.m.** at the south end of Kingsgate P&R. Carpool cost/person **\$5.00.** Be prepared for variable weather conditions, including rain, wind, cold, and sun. Trip cost is **\$50/ea., which includes fresh salmon lunch or \$40 if you bring your own lunch.** Call **Dave Button toll-free 1-866-298-6287 for reservations. Credit card payment preferred. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Pioneer Park,** near the Rainbow Bridge in LaConner. Take I-5 North to Conway Exit 221 to LaConner. Follow signs to LaConner and just past the gas station (only one) turn left on Maple Ave. Continue to Pioneer Park which is off Maple Ave. just before crossing Rainbow Bridge. **Joyce Meyer**

April 8 (Thursday) 8:00 a.m. — Spencer Island
Explore this wetland near Everett Sewage Treatment Ponds. Ducks, shorebirds, hawks, eagles, gulls as well as small birds in brushy and grassy areas are all possible in this varied habitat. Bring lunch; return early p.m. Meet before 8:00 at south end of Kingsgate Park and Ride, I-405. Cost/person **\$3.** **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

Wel come!

Welcome to the following new members of the East Lake Washington Audubon Society. We hope to see you soon at a Membership Meeting or Field Trip. Call or visit our office if you have any questions. Our friendly volunteers are more than happy to help you.

Carl Haynie, Christine Giannini, Claudia C. Welch



Notes from the Education Committee:

by Mary Britton-Simmons

Thank you to the twelve people who volunteered to do research for the Education Committee! Your information will be most useful in our lesson plans for elementary and middle school students. The committee is very grateful to you for your work. However, we continue to need researchers in the following areas:

wings, color, flight/migration, origin, identification, sight

Please e-mail (mbritton1@earthlink.net) or call (360-794-7163) me if you can help. We would like your notes by March, if possible. Thank you!

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

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.

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

Othello's 7th Annual Sandhill Crane Festival is set for Friday-Saturday-Sunday, March 26-28. Each year's wildlife celebration is timed to coincide with the spring migration of thousands of sandhill cranes through Washington's Columbia Basin area. For more about the festival and to register surf to www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org or call 1-866-SANDHIL. Many of the specialty tours fill up early so pre-registration is encouraged.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

By Jan McGruder

ELWAS has over 200 people who have offered to volunteer for the Chapter, and many projects that need attention, but no one to match the two together. We are looking for a volunteer who would enjoy meeting other ELWAS volunteers and would gain satisfaction in taking a leadership role with the Chapter.

Some of the duties include contacting potential volunteers and discovering their interests; coordinating volunteers for various community events; scheduling volunteers for office staffing; and ensuring all volunteers are acknowledged for their participation in each event, and on a yearly basis.

I'm more than happy to help you get started, and give you any backup you might need, and in return am asking for a 2-year commitment.

If you're interested in finding out more about this position, or if you're interested in any portion of it, please feel free to call me at

OSPREY DAY VOLUNTEERS

By Elizabeth Whiteford



Osprey Day is 9/25/04 at the Juanita Bay Park from 10-2. We need volunteers to help with this fun community event. If you'd like to volunteer, please call me at 206-715-6126 or email me at ewhiteford@cablespeed.com.

**BIRD
of the
MONTH**

Horned Grebe

Podiceps auritus

by Hugh Jennings

The Horned Grebe (HOGGR) is about 14" long with a wingspan of 18" and weight is 1 lb. (450 g). The genus name *Podiceps* (POD-ih-seps) is from Greek *pous, podos*, meaning foot, referring to the placement of the legs extremely far back on the body. The species name *auritus* (aw-REE-tus) is Latin for eared, in allusion to its "horns", or tufts of ear feathers. The HOGGR is slightly larger and heavier than the Eared Grebe, with thicker neck, relatively larger, flat-topped head and straight bill.

It is a small diver found mostly on northern marshes in summer, coastal bays in winter. In Washington state it is a common winter resident west of the Cascades, occurring singly, or in small groups, on protected marine waters and uncommon to fairly common on Columbia River reservoirs in winter. An uncommon summer resident in eastern Washington, it nests rarely in Okanogan and Northeast part of state. The HOGGR usually migrate singly, by day along the coast and at night over land.

This grebe is duck-like with a small, straight black bill tipped with white in summer. In **nesting plumage** the head is black with golden ear tufts which extend from brilliant scarlet eyes to back of neck, fore neck and flanks are reddish, and this bird rides high in the water. In **winter**, it's mostly dark above and white below, with black cap contrasting with clear white cheeks and neck. The black on the nape narrows to a thin stripe. It flies directly, as do all grebes, and with its neck and legs stretched to their full extent, resembles a small loon. In flight the wings vibrate very rapidly and show a white patch at its shoulders.

The HOGGR's diet varies depending upon habitat and season. In summer, it may eat mostly insects and crustaceans, while in the winter it may eat mostly fish. Like other grebes it swallows many feathers. In winter this bird is often seen alone or in small flocks just outside the breaking waves, where it feeds. It tends to jump forward before diving down into the water. It forages by diving from the surface and swimming underwater, propelled by its feet. It also will take items from on or above the water's surface. It usually is solitary in feeding, but has also been seen foraging with Surf Scoters.

Courtship displays involve posturing by both sexes. Both rise to a vertical position on the water with head feathers fully raised, turning heads rapidly. Both dive and come up with bits of weed in their bills, then rush across the water surface side by side carrying the weeds. The nest is in shallow water among marsh growth and is built by both sexes. It is a floating heap of wet plant material usually anchored to standing vegetation. There are usually 3-7 whitish to very pale green or buff eggs that become nest-stained with time. Incubation is 22-25 days by both sexes. The young can swim shortly after hatching and are fed by both parents, and often ride on a parent's back. The age at first flight is 55-60 days. There usually is one brood per year, but sometimes two. When there are two broods, the young from the first brood may help feed the second.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on: Betty Dean

At an early age Betty developed a keen interest in birds and the natural world. By age fifteen she organized a dozen or so neighborhood girls and started a Junior Audubon Club in Topeka, Kansas, her birthplace. They met weekly during high school summers, went on many bird identification "hikes," produced a play attended by parents and friends, made good use of the many materials and learning tools they received from the National Audubon Society and made such an impression on a local businessman he installed a birdbath on his cemetery plot and dedicated it to their club, causing quite a publicity stir in the "Sunflower State."

After high school Betty moved to Washington D.C. where she worked for the Department of Agriculture, and later as a secretary in a Walter Reed Army Medical Center Research Lab. From there she transferred to Japan, continuing her secretarial work with the Army in a civilian capacity, and after three years taking an early retirement and moving to Seattle in order to attend the U. W. where she earned a B.A. in Biology Education and began a teaching career. She taught Biology and General Science in Tacoma, then Taiwan for two years, meanwhile earning a Masters in Library Science which she put to good use in Hawaii (one year) then the Lake Washington School District, in Kirkland, before retiring for good.

Somewhere in there she joined ELWAS and began organizing and toting to meetings our growing stack of donated books until we opened the office/library/store here in Kirkland, where she was able to use her professional skills to advantage. Since I've known her, Betty, an inveterate traveler, has never missed: an Audubon Convention or Conference; the latest best-seller; a photo "op," or failed to offer help to the environment when asked. She says she has had a very interesting life, and is enjoying retirement, especially with the many birding adventures it has brought.

It's certainly time ELWAS shined the spotlight of appreciation on this unassuming, hard-working volunteer. And with FIREWORKS too!!!!

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.

Christmas Bird Count Thanks

By Kathy Andrich

Thank you to the following who helped with the dinner for the Christmas Bird Count. Chief chefs were Jan McGruder and Melinda Bronsden. Set up and clean up were: Virginia Bragg, Christie Madsen, Diane Stone, Lou Ann Harris, Christy Anderson, Nancy Robertson-and all those who helped set up chairs and tables. 37 people enjoyed the dinner and the pre-dinner concert by the ELWAS Chamber Orchestra (see photo below) composed of: David Chatham, Megan Lynden, Mike and Diane Stone, and Lou Ann Harris. Cheers, bravo, and a many thanks to all!

Highlights of Jan. 3, 2004 Christmas Bird Count

By Hugh Jennings

It was cold, temperatures in high 20s, with light snow most of the day for the East Lake WA Audubon CBC. There was 1-2", or more, of snow in most areas which contributed to a beautiful landscape. Thirty-seven people signed up which may be a record. We covered seven different areas and ended with 88 species which is second only to the 92 species of last year. Two areas, South Snoqualmie with 55 and Phantom L/Cougar Mt. with 56, had record species counts. The total bird count of 11,087 was below the 16 year average of 16,256. We had many species with high count totals. The snow and cold weather resulted in Varied Thrush being everywhere with a total of 287 birds. The previous high was 110 in 1987. Killdeer were also numerous with 203 birds compared to 111 in 1987. There were 33 Bald Eagles reported compared to previous high of 16 in 1997. Brown Creepers were also prevalent, 29 where previous high was 13 in 2001. There were high counts for most of the sparrows. It is interesting that many of the previous highs occurred in 1987 which only had a species total of 68. The remaining high counts with previous high in () were as follows: Green Heron 2, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 79 (77), American Dipper 4 (3), Anna's Hummingbird 4 (3), Steller's Jay 88 (73), Dark-eyed Junco 502 (409), Merlin 3 (1), Common Raven 13 (4), Lincoln's Sparrow 10 (9), Fox Sparrow 39 (33), Golden-crowned Sparrows 89 (67), White-crowned Sparrows 84 (34), Spotted Towhee 141 (94), Hairy Woodpecker 10 (8). We also did have some low totals: Rock Pigeon (Rock Dove) 104 (previous low was 197), Common Goldeneye 6 (11), Ring-billed Gull 25 (32), Lesser Scaup 7 (8) and we had the second lowest total of European Starlings with 778 compared to 546 in 1990. A sighting of 3 Solitary Sandpiper at Vasa Park on Lake Sammamish was reported. However, after having the data and photos reviewed by three experts, the consensus was that they were Spotted Sandpipers. Therefore, the total Spotted Sandpipers seen on the CBC was 4 which is also a high count. The complete list can be seen on the CBC web site at: <http://audubon.birdsource.org/CBCOutput/review.html?speciesByState=false&yr=103&circle=S1020837>.

If you want the complete list for each of seven areas, email hughbirder@earthlink.net for an Excel file.

Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest — May 7-9

North Central Washington Audubon hosts the second annual Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest, May 7th - 9th, featuring field trips, workshops, art shows and many other nature-related activities. Leavenworth's Bird Fest caters to beginning bird watchers and Master Birders, children and adults, with events ranging from Owl Prowls and Wildflower Walks to Birding-by-Boat trips and photography workshops. Most events are free.

The future Leavenworth Audubon Center, headquartered in a 100-year-old mansion on the riverbank adjacent to the city's Waterfront Park, will be open for tours. Bird Fest will conclude with a special Songbird Concert at Icicle Creek Music Center's Canyon Wren Recital Hall. New this year - an all-day "Birding in the Basin" trip with Dan Stephens, Banding workshops with Beth & David St. George, a concert by Danny O'Keefe and a "Birds at Home" workshop that includes feeders, bird houses and shade-grown coffee information.

During Bird Fest keep a lookout for Western Tanager, Veery, Nashville Warbler and six species of swallow. Other birds found in and around Leavenworth include Calliope Hummingbirds, White-headed Woodpeckers, and Ruffed Grouse.

Bird Fest is a partnership of North Central Washington Audubon Society, Audubon Washington, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Upper Valley Arts. For more information, contact the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, 509-548-5807 or visit our website at www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com

Please Track Your Volunteer Time for ELWAS

By Warren Pagel

ELWAS tracks volunteer time by various categories for use in grant applications. The current tracking period is from July 1, 2003 until June 30, 2004. The tracking categories are:

Board Meetings/retreats, Committee Work, Audubon Office, Civic Functions, Field Trip Leaders, Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Count, Nature Walks, Osprey Day, Bellefields Clean-up, Totem Lake Clean-up, Kirkland Beach Clean-up, Restoration Projects - Other, Gift Wrap, Birdathon, Plant Sale, Misc.

Please send your volunteer time to Warren Pagel at wpagel@att.net or place a hard copy in my in-basket at the Audubon office. If you sign-in for an event such as the Audubon Office, Christmas Bird Count, Osprey Day, Bellefields Clean-up, Totem Lake Clean-up, Gift Wrap, Birdathon, Plant Sale, etc you don't need to send me your time as I get the sign-in sheets. (Event leaders be sure to get the sign-in sheets to me.) Send your time after each event or monthly by tracking category or with a description and I will determine the proper category.

To all those people who have been sending me their time just continue what you have been doing.

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.

April 6, 2004: WASHINGTON'S WOODPECKERS

Join Master Birder Brian Bell to explore the world of woodpeckers in Washington. Twelve species inhabit our state from sea level to the boreal forests to the semiarid valleys of Eastern Washington. In class, we will view an illustrated presentation and discuss habitat requirements, examine seasonal distribution, learn identification tips, and listen to vocalization and drumming patterns. Brian is current president of Washington Ornithological Society and is a professional birding and natural history guide. He teaches birding at local community colleges and has birded extensively throughout the West and the United States.

There will be **half day field trip in Western Washington on April 10** and a **full day trip to Eastern Washington on May 23.**

Class: April 6, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the ELWAS offices in the Northlake Unitarian Church in Kirkland. Field trips organized at the class meeting.

Cost for lecture and field trips: \$65.00 for ELWAS members, \$85.00 for nonmembers.

Registration: Call the ELWAS office at 425-576-8805 to register by April 2, 2004.

Class limited to 20 participants, 15 class and field trip, 5 class only.