



# The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 04-5 – JUNE-AUGUST 2004

## Volunteer Recognition Dinner

When: Thursday, June 24 at 6:00 p.m.

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

**N**otice to all our wonderful ELWAS Volunteers. Please mark your calendars for this invitation-only event on Thursday, June 24th. [To make sure you receive your invitation, please send your volunteer time to Warren Pagel at wpage1@att.net or send a hard copy to the ELWAS, PO Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115 NO LATER than June 15.](mailto:wpage1@att.net) If you sign-in for an event for which you've volunteered (i.e., Christmas Bird Count, Bellefields Clean-up, Gift Wrap, etc.) you don't need to send me your time as Warren gets those sign-in sheets. (Event leaders be sure to get the sign-in sheets to Warren.) Send your time after each event or each month by tracking category, or with a description, and Warren will determine the proper category.

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

The tracking categories are:

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



## No ELWAS Membership Meetings in June, July or August

As usual, there are no summer membership meetings, but also as usual, there is a lot going on with ELWAS this summer. See pages 4 and 5 for a list of all the events and activities you are welcome to take part in.

Also, please note revised office hours for this summer on page 3.

**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

Two recent events have me thinking about the key component of ELWAS's mission, conservation. You may have seen the publicity surrounding the release of the new report from Washington Audubon: *The State of the Birds*. This report has distilled information from many sources, including government GAP analyses and biodiversity assessments, and science compilations from groups such as Audubon. To me, the most striking thing in the report is that almost a third of the birds in our state are subject to drastic population declines. We have a tendency to think that threatened birds are those rare ones we hardly ever see, but that is not the case.

Consider Western Grebes, Long-billed Curlews or Lewis' Woodpeckers, all birds of high or immediate concern. In the "early warning" group are birds who face population declines without increased conservation action: Western Bluebirds, Hooded Mergansers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Sapsuckers and more.

What is the cause of jeopardy? Most important is habitat loss from human population growth and alteration of the landscape. Development of homes, businesses and roads to serve increasing numbers of people, and fragmentation of habitat impact the numbers and very survival of many species of birds. Read the report at <http://wa.audubon.org/new/audubon/>. It also includes actions you can take to help.

Which brings me to the second event; the revision of the Critical Areas Ordinances in King County and some local cities. Parts of this ordinance, already in effect for ten years, have been revised to try to halt the continuing degradation of habitat noted in the report above. The revisions have been greeted with opposition from those worried about the impact on their property. As in many political processes, things have gotten polarized based on impressions, accurate or not.

ELWAS has been encouraging members and other citizens of King County and the affected cities to learn about the ordinances, what they really say, and participate in the public process. The process has been ongoing for over a year, and is continuing, with the final recommendation expected in July. There is still time for you to make your opinion known by writing or emailing your representative on the King County Council or a city council member in your community. You can read a summary of the King County changes at <http://www.metrokc.gov/MKCC/cao/summary.htm>. There are also links to a matrix comparing the changes to the current regulation, the full text of the ordinance, and a button enabling you to testify online. There should be similar resources available for your city. You can also contact ELWAS' Conservation Chair, Tim McGruder, for more information.

These ordinances are an attempt to protect the habitat for birds, salmon and other wildlife that need natural areas, and connections between them, for survival. What the

## 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	president@elwas.org	
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	jan@elwas.org	

### Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

<u>At large board member</u>	Amy McQuade	(206) 232-9543
E-mail	mcbrdwchr@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
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E-mail	publicity@elwas.org	
Webmaster	Nancy Nicklas	(425) 869-7827
E-mail	webmaster@elwas.org	
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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	Open	
Volunteer Coordinator	Lea Knapp	(425) 822-7056
<u>Membership</u>	Robert Riedl	tulseluper@yahoo.com
Bellefields Clean-up	John Barrett	(425) 644-2862
Bird Questions?	Amy McQuade	(206) 232-9543
E-mail	birdhelp@elwas.org	

*State of the Birds* report is to me is a clear listing of what we have to lose, and how close to that loss we really are. As the report says, ultimately, what happens to birds happens to us.

## Highlights of the May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Board Meeting

by Diane Stone

There was a special presentation made to the Board by two representatives of The Brightwater Teacher Task Force, Marie Hartford and John Schmied. They are lobbying for an environmental education center to be constructed along with the proposed Brightwater sewage treatment plant which would be located at Route 9 and Hwy 522 in Snohomish County. The state-of-the-art education center would benefit children, the community and the environment. The Board voted to endorse the project.

Treasurer Tim Boyer reported we are currently on track with our budget.

The Board passed a motion to prepare an article for the newsletter which would inform our membership about ELWAS philosophy, restrictions, and procedures as regards sharing of membership information with third parties.

### Summer 2004 volunteer opportunities from King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Summer is coming and with it, lots of ways to learn about and protect natural resources. Below are events of interest from King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks. For a full list of current volunteer activities, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/calendar.htm>

Visit volunteer **Beach Naturalists** with your family at area beaches this summer, the sixth year of the program. Join us to see the lowest tides in 19 years! Naturalists will be available on twelve low tide days: **June 5** (11:30-3:30), **June 6** (12-4), **June 19** (11:30-2:30), **June 20** (12-3), **July 3** (10:30-2:30), **July 4** (11-3), **July 17** (10:30-1:30), **July 18** (11-2), **July 31** (9:30-1:30), and **Aug 1** (10-2). Teams will be on duty at Richmond Beach, Carkeek Park, Golden Gardens, Constellation Park (S. Alki Point), Lincoln Park, Seahurst Park in Burien, and Des Moines Beach Park to help people learn about and protect area beaches. For more information, visit <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/pi/beach-naturalists.htm> or call **206.296.8359**.

Looking for a volunteer activity that will get you outdoors for a short time a couple times a week this fall? Join **Salmon Watchers** and count spawning salmon in a creek near you! Check our website at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/waterres/salmon/index.htm> for upcoming announcements and trainings, contact **Katie Sauter Messick** at **206.263.5086** or [katie.messick@metrokc.gov](mailto:katie.messick@metrokc.gov) for more information. Salmon Watchers operate in the greater Lake Washington Watershed (WRIA 8) and on Vashon Island.

Help **maintain salmon restoration projects** in June and throughout the summer. Pot up plants at our greenhouse or remove invasive weeds from project sites. Restoration activities, including some weekday opportunities, will continue through the summer for individuals and groups. Call **Tina Miller** at **206.296.2990** or email her at [tina.miller@metrokc.gov](mailto:tina.miller@metrokc.gov) to register for any of the following events or for information about future events.

**June 5** - Cavanaugh Pond along the Cedar River, Renton

**June 12 & 26** - Pot trees at the King County Greenhouse and Nursery, Maple Valley

**June 19** - Cold Creek Natural Area, Woodinville

**June 26** - Red-Town Meadow Restoration on Cougar Mountain, Newcastle

Summer is the perfect time to **stencil storm drains** in your neighborhood with the clean water reminder: "Dump no Waste/ Drains to Stream." Stenciling is a great project for Scouts, church and community groups. Call **Lexi Taylor** at **206.296.8287** or email [lexi.taylor@metrokc.gov](mailto:lexi.taylor@metrokc.gov) for more information.

Visit the **Local Hazardous Waste Management Program's new Web site** at <http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/> This regional program of local governments offers information and services to help residents and businesses reduce the use of hazardous materials, safely use and store hazardous materials and properly dispose of hazardous wastes.

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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](mailto:newsletter@elwas.org) Subject: ELWAS Newsletter or by mail to: East Lake Washington Audubon Society  
Attn: Tom Grismer  
P. O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115
- 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: Summer Hours

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](mailto:office@elwas.org)**

**Hours: Weds. — Fri. — 10:00 — 2:00**

**Sat. — 12:00 — 4:00**

**NOTE: ELWAS Office is Closed in August.**

## 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.

**June 1 (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**

**June 2 (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**

**June 8 (Tues.) 7-9 p.m. — Education Committee**  
Meets **2nd Tuesday of each month** in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? For information email: **education@elwas.org** or call **425-576-8805**.

**June 9 (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. **Meets 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.**

**June 10 (Thursday) 8:00 a.m. to mid-afternoon**  
**Al Borlin/Buck Island Park**  
This Monroe 90-acre park offers a sheltered summer walk through a forest of large big-leaf maples and cottonwoods where there could be wrens, warblers and other song birds. Woods Creek flows into the Skykomish River where there may be shorebirds. Bring lunch. Meet before 8 a.m. at the south end of Kingsgate Park & Ride. **Passenger cost/person \$3.00. Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

**June 12 (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**

**June 15 (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.

**June 19 (Sat.) - 6:30 a.m. - Scatter Creek Wildlife Area**  
The riparian and wetland areas are dominated by Oregon Ash, white oak, Garry Oak, shrubs, and grasses that invite warblers, vireos, tanagers, and flycatchers. Chipping and Savannah Sparrow and Western Bluebird may be found in the short-grass prairies. Owls and woodpeckers are possible in the mixed woods. Expect to walk at least 4 miles. Bring food and drink for this full day of birding. Carpool drivers are **required** to have a WDFW Vehicle Use Permit. Meet before 6:30 a.m. at Newport Hills Park N Ride, I-405, Exit 9. Return evening. Cost/person \$5.00. **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

**June 21 (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**

**June 28 (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.**

**July 6 (Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. - Conservation Committee**  
See June 1.

**July 7 (Weds.) 7:00 p.m. — Web Committee — See June 2.**

**July 8 (Thursday) - 6:30 a.m.-**  
**Snoqualmie Pass/Easton/Cle Elum**  
At the many excellent birding spots along this route through the Cascades there'll be opportunities to see woodpeckers, sparrows, warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and finches. Bring food and drink for this full day of birding including hiking at Snoqualmie Summit. Meet before 6:30 a.m. at Wilburton Park and Ride, I-405, Exit 12. Return early evening. Passenger cost/person **\$5.00. Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

**July 10 (Saturday) — Hurricane Ridge/Dungeness Spit**  
Our annual Olympic Peninsula wildflower trip featuring views, birds, and varied wildlife. On Saturday, at 11:00 a.m. we will meet at the picnic table across the street from the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for a snack lunch. (This is the center at the base of the foothills, the one before you actually enter the park.) Look for the ELWAS sign. After lunch, we will head for the main visitor center at the top of Hurricane Ridge, making one stop to check out wildflowers along the way. If you miss the lunch, look for us at the trailhead of Hurricane Hill, about a quarter mile beyond the main visitor center. Again look for the ELWAS sign. **Bill Schmidt 425-881-6037**

**July 10 (Sat.) 10 a.m. Bellefields Trail Walkthrough**  
See June 12.

**July 13 (Tues.) 7-9 p.m. — Education Committee**  
See June 8.

**July 14 (Weds.) - 9 a.m. – Bellevue Botanical Gardens**  
See June 9.

**July 19 (Monday) 7:00 p.m. — Birds in the Balance**  
See June 21.

**July 20 (Tues.) 9 a.m. – lunchtime — Juanita Bay Park**  
See June 15.

**July 26 (Monday) 9 a.m. to noon**  
**Birding the Hotspots of King County**  
See June 28.

**August 3 (Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. - Conservation Committee —**  
See June 1.

**August 4 (Weds.) 7:00 p.m. — Web Committee — See June 2.**

**August 10 (Tues.) 7-9 p.m. — Education Committee — See June 8.**

**August 11 (Weds.) - 9 a.m. – Bellevue Botanical Gardens — See June 9.**

**August 12 (Thursday) - 8:00 a.m. - Moss Lake —** This King County Park near Duvall features a variety of wetlands and forest of conifers, alders and cottonwoods. Black-throated Gray Warbler and Western Tanager are possible. Bring lunch. Meet before 8:00 a.m. in Redmond at the east end of Hwy 520 and Redmond-Fall City Road in the Mervyns Store parking lot, near south door, to carpool. Passenger cost/person **\$2.00. Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

**August 14 (Saturday) - 6:45 a.m. - Whidbey Island —** Take the ferry to Whidbey Island to check out several good places for waterfowl and shorebirds. Stops will include Crockett Lake, Penn Cove, and Dugualla Bay. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch and ferry fare. Meet before 6:45 a.m. at south end of Kingsgate Park N Ride. Return early evening. Passenger cost/person **\$5.00 plus share ferry costs. Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

**August 14 (Saturday) 10 a.m. Bellefields Trail Walkthrough — See June 12.**

**August 16 (Monday) 7:00 p.m. — Birds in the Balance — See June 21.**

**August 17 (Tues.) 9 a.m. – lunchtime — Juanita Bay Park — See June 15.**

**August 21 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. — Naches Peak Loop —** Late August is usually the height of the wildflower show at Mt. Rainier. Hike a scenic, 3-mile trail for views of wild-flowers and various montane bird species: gray jay, Clark's nutcracker, mountain chickadee, and hermit thrush. You will need sturdy hiking shoes, a day pack containing lunch, water, and extra clothing in case of fickle mountain weather. Meet before 8:00 a.m. at north end of the Wilburton Park-n-Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. Or, you can join us at the Black Diamond Bakery at 9:00 am. Passenger cost/person **\$5.00.**

**Irene von Tobel, 425-746-5543.**

**August 23 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. to noon — Birding the Hotspots of King County — See June 28.**

**August 28 (Saturday) 7:00 a.m. — Grays Harbor Loop —** We'll visit many habitats from city parks, marinas, beaches, and forests for a variety of waterfowl, gulls, terns, shorebirds and songbirds. This is an all-day trip so bring lunch. We'll stop at Raymond Waterfront City Park, Tokeland Marina and shoreline, Westport harbor, Bottle Beach and Johns River. Meet before 7 at north end of the Wilburton Park-n-Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. Passenger Cost/person **\$7.00.**

**Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

**Sept. 9 (Thurs.) - 9:00 a.m. - Lake Hills Greenbelt —** The greenbelt has 5 miles of trails that snake through wetlands, meadows, forests and cultivated fields. Parts of the trail follow the route of an old Indian trail that led from Phantom Lake to Kirkland. Meet before 9. at Wilburton Park N Ride, Bellevue, I-405, Exit 12. Cost/person **\$2.** Return by noon. **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

### 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

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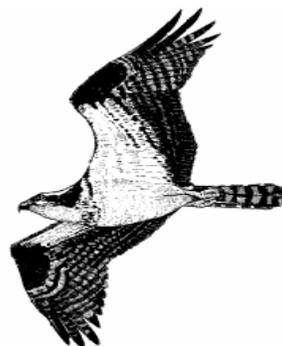
#### OSPREY DAY VOLUNTEERS

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](mailto:ewhiteford@cablespeed.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.



**BIRD  
of the  
MONTH**

**Wood Duck**

*Aix sponsa*

by Hugh Jennings



The Wood Duck (WODU) is about 18.5" long with a wingspan of 30" and weight of 1.3 lb. (600g). The genus name *Aix* (AIKS) is from Greek, *aix*, a water bird. The species name *sponsa* from Latin, a betrothed, a bride, or "promised one", in reference to its exquisite plumage, as though it were "arrayed for bridal" or marriage. *Wood* refers to its preferred habitat.

The WODU male has a distinctive colorful head with white throat, partial neck-ring, and chinstrap all connected. The crest and face are green, bill has pink base and the eye is red. In eclipse plumage, the male is similar to the female but still has a hint of the white facial markings. The female is brownish gray with a darker crown and broad white eye-ring which is distinctive.

The WODU is a fairly common resident throughout Washington. It favors shallow inland lakes, ponds, slow moving rivers, swamps, mainly those surrounded by deciduous or mixed woodland. It also likes open marshes within forested country.

They feed on aquatic plants and their seeds, fallen seeds of trees and shrubs, and insects and crustaceans. Acorns are a major part of the diet in many areas and they also feed on waste grain. The voice is thin, squeaky whistles. Female gives a penetrating squeal *ooEEK ooEEK*. The male's call is a thin, high, drawn-out *jweeep* or *sweeooo*, *kip kip kip*. The courtship display of the male involves postures that show off the colorful plumage.

Nest sites are in large tree cavities near water and up to 65' above water. It also uses man-made nest boxes, even when placed low and in open marsh. The nest is of wood chips and down. There are 10-15 dull white eggs. Females frequently lay eggs in each other's nests, sometimes in "dump nests" where no incubation ever takes place. Incubation lasts 27-30 days and the young fledge in 56-70 days. When the young are ready to leave the nest hole, they just step off into space and fall to the base of the tree, usually bouncing once or twice. But they are light and indestructible and get up on their feet. The female leads them off to water. There may be two broods in a year in the south.

**Brown Bag Lunch**

The June Brown Bag Lunch will be on June 18 at noon. Join us at the ELWAS office to meet, talk, share bird stories, and get to know each other better. This is YOUR chance to tell us what we can do for you. So bring your smile, your lunch, and your ideas. Dishes and silver are available at the church.

There will be no July or August Brown Bag Luncheons.



**DO YOUR SUMMER SHOPPING  
AT THE ELWAS STORE**

It's the best place to find bird feeders, bird seed, books, games, ELWAS t-shirts, greeting cards, jewelry, candy, honey and many other useful and fun items.

The ELWAS Store is located in the ELWAS office. See page 3 for our summer office hours.



## Upcoming ELWAS Classes

### **June 5, 2004: BIRDING AND ETHNOBOTANY AT SAINT EDWARDS STATE PARK**

Take a walk in the forest at Saint Edwards State Park with **naturalist Eugene Makela** and explore the ethnobotany of a northwest forest ecosystem in relation to birds and animals. This class will focus on interrelationships between trees, plants, birds, animals and humans with a special interest in bird habitat. Learn the names of those trees where birds nest or hide, identify insects, invertebrates, berries and edible plants providing food sources, discuss the natural history and ecology of the forest, and native culture and ethnic forest practices beneficial to plants, birds and animals. We will include birding throughout the day of course! Use this day to enhance your birdwatching experiences in the forest ecosystem.

Mr. Makela is a Native American and former Parks Naturalist at the Seattle Parks Department. Currently he is Ornithology Preparator at the Burke Museum and has prepared many of the bird specimens in our ELWAS educational collection. He is an experienced naturalist, ethnobotanist, and ornithologist and brings to the class a lifetime of experiences in the Northwest.

Meet at Saint Edwards Park at **9:00 AM**. Bring water and lunch. Parking in the State Park requires an Annual Parks Pass or \$5 daily pass available at the Park. We regret this **class is not suitable for children under age 16**. No pets.

**Registration required. Limit 20 persons. Call the ELWAS office at 425-576-8805.**

**Class: Saturday, June 5, 2004, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

**Cost: \$25 per person for Audubon members, \$35 per person non-members.**

### **June 2004: SUMMER BIRDS OF THE MOUNTAINS -- BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!**

Master Birder **Brian Bell** returns to offer again the popular class on summer birds in our Cascade Range!

Washington State is fortunate to have a wide variety of breeding birds in our high mountains. These birds return every year to their mountain homes, and are eagerly sought after by birders. We will cover the identification and habitats of many of these birds, including Blue and Spruce Grouse, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker and Gray Jay among others. The extended field trip to Okanogan County will give us the opportunity to search for many of these high mountain birds. Of course we will be alert for the many other birds on the way.

**Class: Thursday, June 10, 2004, 7 to 9 PM,** at the ELWAS offices in the Northlake Unitarian Church in Kirkland.

**Field Trip: Friday, June 25 thru Sunday, June 27** to Okanogan County. Field trip 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 **June 18, 2004.**

**\*\*Class limited to 20 participants: 14 class and field trip, 6 class only.**

### **July-August 2004: EXCITING NEW CLASS!! PELAGIC BIRDING**

North America's west coast offers some of the best seabirding anywhere in the world! The waters 20-40 miles offshore support a diversity of species—albatrosses, storm petrels, shearwaters and jaegers—that spend much of the year in the waters far offshore at the edge of the continental shelf. If you've heard about pelagic birding but wasn't sure what was involved, this class is for you!

Two classroom sessions taught by **Mike Donahue** will cover the diversity of seabirds that are found offshore, focusing on natural history and identification, as well as how to prepare for a pelagic trip.

**Classes:** Thursdays, July 29 & August 5, 7-9 p.m. at ELWAS headquarters in Northlake Unitarian Church, Kirkland.

**Cost of class:** \$50 members, \$65 nonmembers \*\*\***Limit for class: 40**

**Optional field trip: Sunday, August 8.** We will be joining an already scheduled pelagic trip with Westport Seabirds. The boat departs from Westport at 6 a.m., and participants should be at the dock no later than 5:45 a.m. The boat will return between 3 and 4 p.m. \*\*\***Limit for field trip: 10**

**Cost of field trip: \$90,** payable to Westport Seabirds.

**Note:** Course does not provide lodging or transportation to Westport for the field trip. Participants should arrange these on their own. Participants who sign up for the field trip portion will receive information on lodging in advance of the first class.



## Butterfly Mud Recipe

By Hugh Jennings



This is a recipe for a mixture that butterflies love, but squirrels don't.

**3 Bananas (mushy ones that are old or put bananas in freezer for 1+ days – they will be mushy when removed)**

**1 Cup of Sugar**

**One-half Bottle of Beer (drink the other half)**

Mix this concoction and put it in a container, e.g. a bottle or jar, but do not seal it tightly and let it ferment for a few days. If sealed tightly the container will blow up from pressure build up during fermentation. It is okay to drink this before it ferments, but not after.

In Texas, they cut a 1 to 2 ft. mesquite log in half – tie wire or rope to each end and hang it from a tree branch. Put some of this mud in the trough. Any log cut in half and hollowed out to form a trough will do.



This additional info was provided by Ron McCluskey. Some moths such as underwings and stag beetles also like this mixture. One variation is to use molasses instead of the sugar. If you want to try for the beetles and moths, paint it on the bark of trees from ground level to about 3 feet. Do this at dusk and then check the trees several hours later with a lantern or flashlight.



## Big Backyard Potluck Picnic June 24, 2004, 6-9 p.m.

**Audubon, Mountaineers, Foothills Trail, Cascade Land Conservancy, Citizens for A Healthy Bay, Carbon River Corridor, and More**

**At the Engle Garden, 4011 Alameda Avenue, University Place WA 98466**

\* **Featuring:** Dancers, Licensed Falconers with their Live Birds, Native Plants for sale, Photo Exhibit, Earth-Friendly Crafts and Games for kids all ages, Displays by our allied organizations. Children and grandchildren are MOST welcome. **And** don't forget how great the food is at these events!

**We Furnish:** Coffee, punch, crusty buttered rolls.

**You Bring:** A hot or cold entree, PLUS a salad or dessert; **AND** your own TABLE SERVICE and a situpon if desired. Beer and wine is BYO.

No signup necessary. Rain does not cancel. 4011 is 1/2 mile south of Fircrest Golf Course.

Parking on Alameda and on Kootnai, the lower street (come in lower gate).

**For more info:** Helen or Stan, 564-3112, Hengle@earthlink.net

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**DIRECTIONS: Stan and Helen Engle 4011 Alameda Avenue, University Place WA 98466 -- 253-564-3112, Hengle@earthlink.net**

**FROM I-5:** 4011 Alameda is about three miles from I-5 Take I-5 to Exit 130, signed South 56th Street. Exit to go west on South 56th Street. Go west on 56th to Orchard Street, less than 2 miles. Turn right (north) onto Orchard Street. Go north on Orchard one mile to Emerson (a.k.a. 40th) Street. Turn left (west) onto Emerson/40th Street. Go west on Emerson/40th one-half mile (first stop light) to Alameda. At 40th & Alameda turn left (south) -- 4011 is the first house on your left. This route is on major feeder arterials, well signed, and each turn is at a traffic light.

**FROM SR 16:** 4011 Alameda is about four miles from The Narrows Bridge. Take the first exit on the Tacoma side of the bridge, signed Jackson(Bridgeport). Go south on Jackson. Jackson becomes Bridgeport at University Place City Limits. Stay on Bridgeport to 40th Street. Turn left (east) onto 40th. Go east on 40th (a.k.a. Emerson Street in Fircrest) to Alameda. Turn right onto Alameda and 4011 is the first house on the left. This route is on major feeder arterials, well signed, and each turn is at a traffic light.

## Just the Fill Facts, Ma'am

By Connie Sidle

I was reminded of the nature of truth at the Fill recently. I was gazing out at the rafts of coots and ducks and such on Union Bay when a dad with a toddler came up to stand beside me. The toddler was fascinated by a waterfowl nearby, and the dad told the kid it was a duck. I, in the interests of truth, helpfully pointed out to the dad that the bird was a pied-billed grebe, a critter not very closely related to ducks at all. The dad gave me an offended glance and then proceeded to point out more "ducks" to the kid.

I took the rebuff philosophically. It's happened to me before. I was at Aransas NWR one year, trying to spot whooping cranes from the lookout tower. No cranes in sight, just several great egrets. A man and wife with a video camera climbed the tower to take pictures of the cranes. I was helpful then, too, telling the couple that there were unfortunately no cranes in view, just really nice egrets. Speaking in a very loud voice, the woman told her husband, "Be sure to take lots of pictures of the 'cranes', dear."

I realized that I had erred in trying to correct this couple, as well as the grebe dad. You shouldn't take someone's dream away unless you can replace it with a better dream. That crane couple was going to go back to Michigan and show their video to all their friends. They would describe how thrilled they were to see these wonderful endangered creatures. Maybe their friends would be moved by their story and pictures to think better of the environment, try harder to tread lightly on the ground, give more to restoration efforts, buy fewer SUVs. Who knows what would be the result? But we know that the crane couple, however misguided, would be spreading the good word about a bird that needs for people to treat the world more kindly.

I have struggled with the notion that that couple was going to do some good with a falsehood. How can good come from something that isn't true? When politicians do this, saying an untruth that will serve what they think is a larger, better purpose, it leads our country into adventures that don't always turn out well and aren't conducive to us living up to our noble ideals. We have a good word for this: manipulation. I worried that I was being complicit in manipulating the people who would be watching that video, complicit in getting a little toddler excited about birds that weren't ducks.

But as I've thought about these incidents, I have come to believe that something else is going on than the obvious, outward appearance of correct bird identification and accurate portrayal of bird behavior. Isn't there a deeper truth than whether teeny tiny white birds in a home video are really egrets or cranes? Or whether a waterfowl is a grebe or a duck to a two-year-old who is more concerned about the wonder of any creature swimming around wearing feathers? Maybe it's better to approach these people at the level where they are: they love nature, glory in nature's beauties and are having a moment of perfect joy in God's creatures. Who cares if the creature at hand is an egret or a crane? That fact can come to them later, if they are interested. What matters more is the love.

We birding fanatics can take pleasure (and pride!) in our knowledge of minutiae connected to birds. We can argue until our eyes bubble about whether a particular gull is a pure greater black-backed or some super-rare hybrid. We can speculate about how a Xantus' hummingbird got up to BC. More productively, we can take our knowledge and apply it to truly help birds survive. But to succeed at this last task, we will need the good will and support of folks who will never care whether a big white bird is a crane or an egret. All they will care about is the feeling they get when they are lucky enough to witness a miracle of evolution. For people like this (and they are the majority, I think), knowledge works best when it enhances their dream. The next time I hear some non-birder say something false, I'm going to count to ten and try to think of a way to impart my knowledge so that it adds to that person's pleasure and increases the sense of wonder.