



# The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 05-8 – NOVEMBER 2005

## I'm a Leg-man, Er, Bill-man Myself

**When: Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. (after the social hour)**

**Where: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church**

Robert Howson grew up in Northern California where he started birding early - even participating in the Point Reyes Christmas count when he was only 12 years old. He graduated with a triple major in history, religion, and biology; earned a Masters degree in history, and completed his Doctoral work except for his dissertation. Robert has taught elementary, high school, and college and is currently chairman of the history department at Cedar Park Christian School in Bothell. He is also a member of our local ELWAS chapter.

No part of a bird deserves more attention than the beak and feet, as evidenced by the myriad of species which contain these terms in their name. Taxonomists recognized the importance of these features as well in naming their subjects, but just like the rest of us, they sometimes missed the obvious while at other times just flat out got it wrong. From our earliest interest in birds it became apparent that a mallard would have trouble if it had a woodpecker's feet, and the woodpecker in turn would be none too successful if it should suddenly find itself encumbered with the mallard's beak. Our lists are replete with names which reflect the importance of these anatomical features.

Robert will present a multi-media look at some seventy species found across North America. From the coldest climes to the subtropics, these birds highlight the importance of these appendages as every conceivable ecological niche is filled. Come sharpen your identification skills as you learn more about, and in turn share your understanding of birds, ranging from those we commonly see to those rarities that make the birding game an ongoing challenge.

Please join us **Thursday, November 17 (1 week early because of Thanksgiving)**, for Robert's challenging program on identifying birds by beaks and feet. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by Robert's presentation.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who is interested in learning more about "beaks and feet."

Directions to ELWAS office / Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. (corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. and State). Take I-405 exit 18 (NE 85<sup>th</sup>, Kirkland). Drive west on Central Way to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (stoplight). Turn left (south) on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and follow it as it bears left and changes name to State St. Turn left on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S.

## ELWAS HOLIDAY GIFT WRAP

By Nancy Roberts

We'll be wrapping gifts (and accepting donations to ELWAS) at REI in Redmond Town Center again this year. Help ELWAS by bringing your gifts to be wrapped. Volunteers will be needed for the following dates and times:

Wednesday, December 21:	11:00 - 2:00, 2:00 - 5:00, 5:00 - 8:00
Thursday, December 22:	11:00 - 2:00, 2:00 - 5:00, 5:00 - 8:00
Friday, December 23:	11:00 - 2:00, 2:00 - 5:00, 5:00 - 8:00
Saturday, December 24	9:00 - 12:00, 12:00 - 3:00, 3:00 - 6:00

Questions or interested in helping? It's fun and it's very easy! Call Jim and Nancy Roberts at (425) 822-1865.



**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.*

## ELWAS Goes to Washington

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

In September, four ELWAS members had the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. to lobby our Congress members to save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the ravages of oil drilling. I was lucky enough to be one of them, and it was a great experience I wouldn't have missed. Jan McGruder, Martyn and Roo Stewart, and I all learned a lot, met with our elected officials, heard some great speakers at a rally on the lawn of the Capitol, and experienced the joys of heat and humidity in the high 80's!

Did we change any votes? We don't really know for certain. We were received graciously, and certainly felt we got our message across. But politics is a complicated business, and there are many factors at work in any bill being considered.

I did learn one very important lesson, though. Speaking up makes a difference. Not just one voice - that's generally easy to ignore. But a multitude of voices? That's a whole 'nother kettle of salmon. It seems really elementary, but people get to Congress by being elected. And they are generally very interested in being elected again. And again. The people back home are the ones who can do that. What they think is important. And I should really rephrase that - what YOU think is important. Your letters, phone calls, emails all add to the voices of the voters that are listened to in those offices. Your voice, as an individual constituent, matters a lot more than an official stance by the National Audubon Society. That's a broad picture. You are a voter.

Issues of concern to birders, lovers of the outdoors, and supporters of natural areas are coming up thick and fast. In particular, members of the House of Representatives are moving swiftly to take advantage of the nation's attention being focused elsewhere, such as on recovery from multiple hurricanes, to try and upend environmental protections that have been in place for decades. The Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, protections of wilderness areas, and national parks, wildlife refuges and forests are all under attack.

November is election month. It's an "off-year" (as if it didn't matter!), but local elected officials listen to your voice, too. You hear the message constantly that your vote matters. And we have seen in recent elections that that is most certainly true. But in between elections, what you think matters, too. Tell your representatives what you think about issues. Thank them when they vote the way you would have wanted them to. Bring up new issues to them that you care about.

Does the squeaky wheel get the grease? Yes! So squeak!

## 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

<b>President</b>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196 president@elwas.org
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	Diane Stone	(425) 868-1174 dianestone@hotmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tim Boyer	(425) 277-9326 tboyer@seanet.com
<b>Executive Director</b>	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580 jan@elwas.org

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

<u>At large board member</u>	Amy McQuade	(206) 232-9543 mcbdrwchr@aol.com
<u>At large board member</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346
<u>At large board member</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Birding</u>	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026 MF.Mathis@verizon.net
<u>Adult Education</u>	Melinda Bronsdon	(425) 827-5708
<u>Field Trips</u>	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351 fieldtrip@elwas.org
<u>Nature Walks</u>	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026 MF.Mathis@verizon.net
<u>Special Events</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Bird Questions?</u>	Amy McQuade	(206) 232-9543 birdhelp@elwas.org
<u>Conservation</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Advocacy</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Citizen Science</u>	Len Steiner	(425) 827-2478
<u>Conservation</u>	Martyn Stewart	mstew@naturesound.org
<u>Marymoor Park</u>	Megan Lyden	(425) 603-1545 meganlyden@msn.com
<u>Bellefields Clean-up</u>	Kay Barrett	(425) 644-2862
<u>Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 education@elwas.org
<u>Programs</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Youth Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 education@elwas.org
<u>Library</u>	Carolyn Kishel	(425) 746-1817
<u>Communication</u>	Ruth Adamski	(425) 823-6189
<u>Historian</u>	Sidonia St. Germaine	(425) 432-4261 shearwater2@msn.com
<u>Newsletter</u>	Tom Grismer	(206) 720-9892 newsletter@elwas.org
<u>Publicity</u>	Tracey Cummings	(425) 788-4663 publicity@elwas.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Nancy Nicklas	(425) 869-7827 webmaster@elwas.org
<u>Financial Development</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Birdathon</u>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
<u>Gift Wrap</u>	Nancy and Jim Roberts	(425) 822-1865
<u>Merchandising</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Membership</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Hospitality</u>	Lyn Bailey	(425) 821-4274 lynbailey@comcast.net
<u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>	Emily Winstrom	(425) 453-5614 volunteer@elwas.org

## ELWAS Meetings November, 2005

**November 1, December 6 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Conservation Committee**

**Meets first Tues of each month in the ELWAS Office.** All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email **Martyn Stewart** at [mstew@naaturesound.org](mailto:mstew@naaturesound.org)

**November 2, December 7 (Weds) 6:00 pm — 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](mailto:webmaster@elwas.org)

**November 8 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Youth Education Committee**

**Meets in the ELWAS Office.** All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email **education@elwas.org**

**November 10 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Photo Group**

**Meets in large room upstairs from ELWAS Office.** Questions? Email **Tim Boyer** at [tboyer@seanet.com](mailto:tboyer@seanet.com)

**November 15 (Tues) 6:00 pm — ELWAS Board meeting — ELWAS Office.**

**November 17 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Monthly Meeting and Presentation — See article on page 1.**

**November 21 (Mon) 7:00 pm — 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. **Len Steiner 425-827-2478**



## ***Volunteer Spotlight on Lyn Bailey, Hospitality Chair***

Lyn Bailey is a northwest native, who grew up in the Edmonds area and graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in anthropology. She resides in Kirkland now, with her two indoor cats, Luke and Zoe, and she regularly visits her 32-year-old daughter in Olympia.

Whether on the hiking trail or in her backyard, Lyn can't remember a time that she hasn't been an observer and lover of birds, but is very happy that her knowledge has deepened since joining ELWAS in 2004.

Lyn retired after working as a fitness/wellness trainer in corporate, commercial and hospital-based settings for 20 years, and now works from home. "One of the reasons I joined Audubon was to get out and be with people during the day," Lyn admits. "I can't think of a better bunch of people to hang out with."

Lyn confesses that her schedule has gotten busier with teaching tai chi classes, making it more difficult to partake in the many wonderful field trips and classes. But you can always count on her to be at the monthly meetings, serving as the Hospitality Chair.

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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 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 University of Washington Press. Used with permission.

### **ELWAS OFFICE/ AUDUBON CENTER**

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

**Phone number: (425) 576-8805**

**Email: office@elwas.org**

**Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday**

**9:00am — 1:00pm**



## Birds and Baseball 2006

Save the Date! March 5–12, 2006.



- ⇒ Watch birds and Mariners Baseball in southeastern Arizona
- ⇒ Great birds; exciting baseball (3 games); experienced local guides; tasty food; cozy lodgings
- ⇒ Funds raised for ELWAS Gershon Scholarship Fund

Trip leaders Tom Grismer (editor of this newsletter) and Woody Wheeler (certified interpretive guide and master birder) invite you to join them on their third Birds and Baseball Tour.

For more info or to save a spot, contact Tom at (206)720-9892 [tomgr@msn.com](mailto:tomgr@msn.com).

Whether you're a fledgling birdwatcher or a real eagle eye birder, it'll be a HOOT!



## Maple Leaf Gardening

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*Valerie Moore, CPH*

### Used Binoculars on Hand?

Have you recently purchased new binoculars? Donate your old ones to the Education Committee for use in our youth programs.



### SHOP ONLINE

Want to support ELWAS, but are looking for more than we have in our store? (There you'll find books, notecards, bird feeders, seed and suet.) Visit the ELWAS Virtual Store and buy all your outdoor items online. Just login to the ELWAS homepage ([www.elwas.org](http://www.elwas.org)), click on "Shop Online"! Then follow the links to our online store.

You'll find great deals on books, field guides, audio, video, gifts, seed, feeders, and kid's stuff. Just place your order online, and all merchandise is delivered right to your door. Besides the convenience to you, ELWAS receives a percentage of each sale!

### Invest in the Future of our Natural World: Make a Bequest to ELWAS

You can help accomplish Audubon's goals by including a bequest to Audubon in your will, life insurance or other retirement plans. More information is available on our website at [www.elwas.org](http://www.elwas.org).

**Your Bequest Will Make a Difference.  
Consult with your attorney today!**



**Eagle Eye**  
VISION CARE, P.S.

Dr. Kerri W. Scarbrough, Optometrist  
17320 135th Ave. N.E. – Woodinville  
(425) 398-1862

**See the birds better!**

## Welcome!

By Jan McGruder, ELWAS Director

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.

Pamela Aden	Kathy Adkins	Barbara & Joseph Afanador
Harold Alabaster	Carmen Almodovar	Paulette Blair
Nina Bondarook	Phillip S. Bursett	Larry Cheng
Audrey J. Church	Kathryn Clarke-Rose	Tom and Terri Cloonan
Liz Cormier	Julia Craig	Diane Crestanello
Ruth Crew	M.J. Dobbins	Jane Dolliver
Joan Doyle	Dawn Dufford	Chris Eakins
C. R. Evans	Amanda Gibson	Penny Gordon
Lea A. Gould	Peggy Grey	Patricia Guidon
Kathryn C. Gulick	John Hansen	Timothy E. Hanson
Jennifer A. Harrison	David Hedwall	Clara Hollin
Mary Jo Huelsemann	Jean M. Hyde	Dolly Ito
Tom Iverson	Odello Jacobson	T. B. Jap
Linda Jaruckis	Jeff Jeffers	Grace Johnson
Brooks Johnston	Jane L. Jorgensen	Elaine Keehn
Joe Koplín	Davidson Laurie	Thelma Lucker
Burke Magee	Robyn E. Maxwell	Arlene M. McCloud
Barbara A. McGrann	Sue McKinney	Brett W. Molamphy
Lowell Morris	Teresa M. Opolka	Maria Orlow
Jari Preston	Harold and Pat Rayburn	Thomas Reardon
Ross Rice	Michael and Marlee Richard	K. Richardson
Clint Russell	Annelies Sacco	Celia M. Scott
Michael Scupine	Paul Seifert	David Shettleroe
Margaret A. Siemion	Robert E. Sinclair	Henry Smilowicz
Michael C. Smith	Denise Snider	Michael J. Stark
Bette Stokes	Sandra Stoner	Jean Strieck
Joan Sullivan	Erin L. Taylor	Richard H. Thompson
John & Jane Titland	Robert Von Tobel	Sandi Warner
Pao-Pei Wei	Theresa Wellman	Robert Willis

## Thank You ...

... to **Sidonia St. Germaine** for taking raw lumber and making bird house kits for the Washington Outdoor Women conference; to **MaryFrances Mathis** for presenting a birding program at the same conference; to **Kay Barrett, Chris Houden, Warren and Sharon Pagel, Keith and Juliana Pickrell, Jim and Nancy Roberts** and **Kris Swanson** for staffing a booth at Molbak's Feeder Frenzy weekend; to **Lea Knapp** for hosting the newsletter labeling party, and to **Jane Paige, Diane Van Ingen, Margaret Lie,** and **Marge Dolecal** for helping her out; to **Tim Boyer** for hosting the Photo Group Meetings; to **Christy Anderson,** and **Martyn** and **Roo Stewart** for traveling to Washington, D.C. and lobbying David Reichart's staff to protect ANWR; to **Melinda Bronsdon** for organizing and hosting the classes ELWAS presents; and to the **Board of Directors** and **Committee Chairs** for leading others in furtherance of the ELWAS Mission. A special Thank You to **Emily Winstrom** who has been ELWAS' Volunteer Coordinator for the past 2 years. She has helped us grow our volunteer base, and given direction to the Board on volunteer recruiting and retention. Emily is taking a hiatus from this position, and we wish her well.

# FIELD TRIPS

**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.

## Meeting Places for Field Trips:

- **Issaquah Park and Ride:** I-90, exit 15, turn right (south) go to 2nd or 3rd light, then left into P&R lot.
- **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.
- **Newport Hills Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 9
- **South Kirkland Park and Ride:** 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way.
- **Wilburton Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 12.

## November 4 (Fri) 9am to noon — Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month at 9:00**. Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot. No registration is required. To reach Marymoor Park, take SR 520 east from Seattle to the West Lake Sammamish Parkway exit and follow the signs. The entrance to the park is one block south of the exit. Turn right at third stop sign, to the Dog Area parking lot. Parking is \$1.

## November 5-6 (Sat-Sun) 7:30 am

### Reifel Bird Sanctuary - Ladner, B.C.

Wintering birds here include dabbling ducks, gulls, rough-legged hawks, peregrines, merlins, and snowy owls. Arctic birds such as snow buntings and Lapland longspurs may appear as well. A passport or birth certificate will be needed at the border to confirm U.S. citizenship. This is an overnight trip, camping or motels, or join us for only one day. Meet before 7:30 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, go right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot). Passenger cost/person \$15.00. Call if you plan to go.

**Len Steiner 425-827-2478**

## Nov 10 (Thurs) 8:00 am to noon — Snoqualmie Valley

A drive through the farmlands of the Snoqualmie Valley to look for Bald Eagles and other raptors, and scope the ponds for a variety of ducks. Swans possible, too. Small birds can be anywhere in the hedges and bushes. Meet before 8:00 am just south of the bus stop at the South Kirkland P&R (on 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way). Bring a lunch and be prepared for changeable weather conditions. Passenger cost/person \$3.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

## November 15 (Tues) 9:00 am— noon

### Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of each month at 9:00**. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required.

**MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

## November 19 (Saturday) 8:00 am to noon

### Discovery Park

This 530-acre park on Magnolia Bluff has nine habitats within its boundaries. Saltwater beaches, meadows, and mixed forest are home to 80 species of birds. Residents include Anna's Hummingbirds, California Quail, Hutton's Vireos, and are joined in the spring by flycatchers, swallows, and warblers. Meet before 8:00 am at north end of the Wilburton P&R (I-405, exit 12). Passenger cost/person \$3.00.

**Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

## November 19 (Sat) 10:00 am — Bellefields Walk Through

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 one mile south of Greenbaum's Furniture (118th and SE 8th). Please bring gloves, a bag for trash, and binoculars.

**Kay Barrett 425-644-2862.**

## November 28 (Monday) 9:00 am to noon

### Birding the Hot Spots of King County

Monthly field trip on fourth Monday of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 am 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**

## December 2 (Fri) 9am to noon — Marymoor Park

See November 4 entry

## December 3 (Saturday) 8:00 am to noon — Green Lake

Walk **Green Lake** with expert birder Martin Muller who has acquired intimate knowledge of this lake and the 150 bird species found there. **Meet by 7:25 am** at South Kirkland P&R near the bus stop (on 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way) to carpool, or meet at Green Lake. We will park at the west end of Green Lake near the Bathhouse Theater and meet Martin on the lake side of the theatre, between the brick building and the water. No sign-up, just show up. Group size is a maximum of 15. Passenger cost/person \$2.00.

**Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

## Hope Takes Flight:

### The Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Attend a special evening at Town Hall in Seattle on November 9 at 7:30 pm, hosted by The Nature Conservancy and Woodland Park Zoo. For details, see the article in the October Corvid Crier.

For more information and for tickets, visit [nature.org/](http://nature.org/) Washington, visit [zoo.org](http://zoo.org), or call the Conservancy at 206-343-4345, ext. 345.

**BIRD  
of the  
MONTH**

**Merlin**  
*Falco columbarius*  
by Hugh Jennings



The Merlin (MERL) is about 10" long with a wingspan of 24" and a weight of 6.5 oz. (190g). The genus name Falco (FAL-koh) is Latin for hawk, referring to the hooked (falcate) shape of the claws. The species name columbarius (koh-lum-BAY-rih-us) is Latin, pertaining to doves. Its former common name was pigeon hawk because it killed pigeons. It is a small falcon with a weak or indistinct mustachial stripe. The Merlin is small, compact, powerful and very aggressive. The wings are short and pointed, always angular and most appear dark. It is found in wide-open spaces and open woods and captures birds and insects in midair by a level sprint, ending up with abrupt turns. It has been said that it flies straight like a bullet. There are three populations that differ in overall color. The Pacific (Black) race is very dark. Males are blue-gray above and have dark brown streaking below. Females are dark brown above with heavy brown streaks below. The Black race winters along the Pacific coast south to California, rarely east to New Mexico. Taiga race sometimes resembles the Black, but the tail is dark with narrow gray bands in tail and pale, buffy undertail and weak mustache. The Taiga birds are widespread and winter along both coasts. The Prairie race is the lightest color and has wide gray bands in tail. This race winters from Canada to Mexico, sometimes west to California

The Merlin feeds primarily on birds, but also on rodents, lizards, snakes and insects. (Photo of Merlin with prey, robin?, was provided by Joyce Meyer). A variety of elaborate aerial maneuvers and calls are used in courtship displays. Food collected by the male may be passed on to the female in midair. The alarm call is a rapid, accelerating series of strident notes, rising then falling, "kikikikiki." They use the abandoned nest of another bird, a cavity in a tree or cliff, or the ground with no nest materials except for a few green twigs. There are 2 to 7 white eggs with dark marks. Incubation period is 28-32 days and the young fledge 25-35 days later. Incubation is mostly by the female, but the male brings food to the female and incubates while she eats. The female remains with the young most of the time, brooding them when they are small. The male brings food which the female takes from him near the nest and feeds it to the young.

Most of the Pacific Northwest birds are permanent residents. Most other Merlins migrate, some as far as South America. Some prairie birds have become permanent residents in cities on the northern plains.

**Annual Christmas Bird Count and Dinner**

**December 17 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m.**

Come meet fellow bird counters at Marymoor Park just south of Redmond at the north end of Lake Sammamish. Meet before 8:00 a.m. at west parking lot near the windmill. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes/boots, warm clothes and bring lunch. Tallies from our annual CBC will be combined with counts taken throughout the nation to help determine bird distribution and population trends. Birds will also be counted in Central America to keep track of migrants. We welcome anyone who wants to help out - from beginner to expert. Our survey will center on the Sammamish Valley and Plateau, Snoqualmie Valley, Beaver Lake, Pine Lake and Issaquah area. Should you choose to stay at home and count birds in your backyard, be sure to count for at least two hours. Then call Marilyn Steiner, 425-827-2478, with your results before 5 p.m. on Dec. 17. Results will be tallied at the dinner (\$5.00) following the count. Call **Len Steiner at 425-827-2478 or email at: [MariLenSteiner@aol.com](mailto:MariLenSteiner@aol.com)** if you would like to participate. Note - there is a \$1 a day fee if you leave your car at Marymoor and carpool with someone.



After the bird count, join ELWAS for a warm, wholesome meal at 6:00 p.m. at the Northlake Unitarian Church. Cost is \$5.00, which includes dinner of hearty soups, salads, bread, dessert and drinks. You do not have to participate in the Christmas Bird Count to join us for dinner, but please call or e-mail the office by Tuesday, Dec. 12 to reserve your spot at the dinner table. 425-576-8805; [office@elwas.org](mailto:office@elwas.org).



**2005 Seattle Environmental Film Festival is Coming**

The 2005 Seattle Environmental Film Festival is coming to Seattle Friday and Saturday November 4th and 5th at the Broadway Performance Hall on Capital Hill. The films featured in the festival address a diverse array of environmental themes and problems including; consumption, global warming, deforestation, organic farming, energy production, genetic engineering of foods, endangered species, and more. After each screening, audience members will have an opportunity to learn more about the issues addressed in the films. Many local environmental and activist groups will be on hand to provide information about how to get involved right here in our region. For a complete schedule and more information, visit the website, [www.hazelfilm.org](http://www.hazelfilm.org).

# WINTER BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

If you've never gone birding, or if you're a beginner and want to learn more or sharpen your skills – join us, and keep your New Year's resolution to make 2006 a **Birding Year!**

Two field trips and two class sessions in a relaxed, informal setting can get **YOU** started! The basics of bird identification, birding etiquette and ethics, equipment selection, field guides and local birding areas will be covered. Winter raptors, waterfowl and feeder birds will be emphasized.

**DATES:** (2) Tuesdays 1-31 & 2-7. 6:30—9:00 P.M. (**classes** only)  
Sat 2-4 **or** Sun 2-5 (morning only **field trip** – ½ class goes each day)  
Sat 2-11 **or** Sun 2-12 (all day **field trip** to Skagit Flats: ½ class goes each day)

**LOCATION:** ELWAS office: 308 – 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S. – Kirkland (classes only)

**COST:** \$75 **ELWAS members** \$100 **non-members** (*chapter membership is \$25*)  
Fee waiver available (based on need) – inquire for details

***Register soon - class size limited!***

call the ELWAS office @ **425-576-8805**

Field guide used for class is 4th edition of *National Geographic Birds of North America*  
(May be purchased at **ELWAS Office/Nature Center**)



## **ELWAS November Class — RAPTORS OF WASHINGTON** With Jim Flynn, Master Birder

Join us for three evenings and a field trip that will cover the ID and natural history of Washington's 20 regular and rare hawks, eagles, accipiters and falcons. This class should be of interest to intermediate and beginning birders alike. The class sessions will cover identification, feeding behaviors, nesting, migration and more. Information sheets on identification, hawkwatch sites in WA and other topics will be given out. The field trip will give us a chance to take the identification concepts into the field and to observe and discuss raptor behavior.

**Class dates:** Friday, November 18, Monday, November 28, and Thursday, December 1, 2005.

**Location:** Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, Kirkland

**Time:** 7:00 – 9:15 PM

**Full day field trip date:** Saturday, December 3, 2005.

**Field Trip destination:** Skagit and Samish flats.

**Cost:** \$75 ELWAS members, \$90 non-ELWAS members, \$50 class only

**Limit:** **15 class and trip, plus 10 class only.** No registration for the field trip only.

To register, call ELWAS office at 425-576-8805 on Mon, Tues or Fri mornings. **Registration closes Tuesday, November 15.**



## Fireworks in Juanita Bay?

By Jan McGruder, ELWAS Director

**D**id YOU know about the planned fireworks display in Juanita Bay this past 4<sup>th</sup> of July? I hadn't heard of it. It was the first time it had ever been done – in celebration of the City's Centennial. No one paid any attention until we were contacted on July 7 by Lynda Becher, a resident living west of Market Street in Kirkland. She reported that the nesting eagles at the end of her street were disrupted by the fireworks display. She was quite upset by the City's fireworks, and very concerned about the safety of the nesting eagles and their parents. The usual back and forth call of the parents was silenced, and the

whole block was eerily quiet.

I advised Lynda to contact the Federal and Washington State Departments of Wildlife, and made an appointment to meet her. Lynda has lived in her house for five years, and studied the nesting eagles every year. Luckily the birds have persisted in spite of the rampant development going on below them. She even reports that one year they chose a new tree to be nearer the water, and have used that site a couple more times since.

I was very upset that the eagles had been disturbed in their nesting, and saw them as an indication of other birds that were surely disrupted at Juanita Bay Park. As MaryFrances Mathis pointed out, by 10:00 p.m., most birds are roosting or bedded down for the night. Juanita Bay has a bowl-type landscape, surrounded by hills on three sides. Nona Ganz, in her kayak that night to rescue any who fell off the dock, said the initial boom was similar to a deafening cannon shot. Lynda, living east of the Bay, said she and her neighbors ran from their houses fearing disaster, until they realized it was a 4<sup>th</sup> of July display. The cracks and booms reverberated from hill to hill during the whole display.

As the investigation dragged on week after week, and all public pronouncements were in favor of doing it again, I worried. The Kirkland Courier and the Kirkland Chamber of Commerce touted the display as a wonderful city and neighborhood enhancement, and spoke about next year's display. I fretted. Luckily it was all for naught.

In the end, the City saw it our way. In mid-September I attended a meeting with City staff, an enforcement officer with the Federal Department of Wildlife, a Washington State Department of Wildlife biologist, Nona Ganz (on the Kirkland City Council, but attending as a private resident), Lynda, and MaryFrances Mathis (ELWAS' Juanita Bay Park expert). Lynda and Nona expressed their concerns over the fireworks display. MaryFrances pointed out the distress this type of nighttime disruption has on birds. The City conceded their error and made the commitment that no more fireworks displays would be held in Juanita Bay. They also presented a new policy that ELWAS and Fish and Wildlife would be allowed to review all upcoming Special Events held in the City, to ensure protection for birds and wildlife.

The time Lynda spent making telephone calls and showing the nest to various agencies, and ELWAS' letter to the City brought the situation to a good resolution. We are very grateful to Lynda calling us about "her" eagles, and proud of the City of Kirkland for stepping up to the plate. As Lynda says, "We're changing the world – one nest at a time."

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## Got Birds? Community Involvement at TPC Snoqualmie

Eli McGallian, TPC at Snoqualmie Ridge

*(The following is the text of an article in the "Turfgrass Management in the PNW" magazine for Summer 2005.)*

I'm interested in making the Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club the best it can be. This includes having the course serve the community as an environmental asset. When we initially applied for certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Program, we submitted a basic list of wildlife species we had seen on the golf course. But it seemed important to get a more comprehensive and accurate picture of the wildlife found on the course throughout the year. We also wanted to get people not normally associated with golf out on the course, so they could see the kinds of things we are doing to care for the environment.

To accomplish this goal, we invited the **East Lake Washington Audubon Society** to conduct a 12-month bird and wildlife inventory at Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club. With twelve separate visits to the course, the surveyors were bound to see more types of wildlife than with just one or two visits.

We contacted **Joyce Meyer** of the East Lake Washington Audubon Society and she was very excited about the project. She and fellow Audubon member, **Hugh Jennings**, volunteered to come to the course each month to conduct the survey. They used a golf cart to go around just in front of or behind the agronomy staff. Joyce and Hugh started early in the morning and spent three to four hours each visit. They worked independently and did not disrupt the play of golf.

Joyce reported sightings verbally, when there was time to meet. But she also provided a wonderful data set, which includes

*(Continued on page 10)*



## Victory for Audubon Washington Court Halts Harmful Increase in Logging of State Forests

SEATTLE (Sept. 27, 2005) – King County Superior Court Judge Sharon Armstrong ruled that the state Board of Natural Resources and Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland violated the law by boosting logging in western Washington state-owned forests by 30 percent without determining the consequences of their decision. Armstrong invalidated the state's new logging target, finding that the state failed to consider impacts from logging next to salmon streams and in older forests and failed to consider less destructive means to achieve its goals. The majority of the logging under the plan was slated to be clearcutting, and to meet the increase, logging would have to take place in environmentally sensitive areas that protect water quality and provide important wildlife habitat.

In September 2004, the Board of Natural Resources, chaired by Commissioner Sutherland, set a new logging target averaging nearly 600 million board feet per year from 2004 to 2014. In the last 15 years, timber sales from state lands in western Washington have rarely exceeded 500 million board feet annually. During planning, DNR projected that logging levels of only about 400 million board feet per year could be sustained if existing levels of resource protection were continued. At its peak, the new target would require 636 million board feet to be logged from state forests. The public strongly opposed this decision, with testimony at a public hearing on the logging target 5 to 1 against the increase.

"Commissioner Sutherland overreached in his effort to sharply increase logging in our state forests. The court rejected his attempt to gloss over the harm that would come to our public forests, streams and wildlife. Now, he will have to fully disclose how increased logging would damage sensitive areas and look at more sustainable alternatives," said Joan Crooks, Executive Director of the Washington Environmental Council.

"The Board has the duty to balance harvest and habitat for people and wildlife. Now Board members can craft a responsible plan to invest in our future while protecting our communities," said Nina Carter, Executive Director of Audubon Washington.

**The Ruling.** Judge Armstrong found that the environmental review of the 10-year logging target was insufficient and invalidated the target, including the new policies and procedures that allow the increase. The court specifically noted the potential harm to spotted owl and salmon. Judge Armstrong also found that the Board and Commissioner Sutherland failed to consider other, less environmentally-damaging approaches. The state must now conduct an environmental review that looks carefully at the impacts of sharp increases in logging of sensitive areas, and considers less harmful alternatives, before it can implement a new logging target.

**What Happens Now?** In the meantime, the state will return to the logging policies in effect before the cut level was increased last fall. These prior policies allow significant amounts of logging. For example, for fiscal year 2003 the Department of Natural Resources harvested approximately 460 million board feet from western Washington state-owned forests. That amount of logging generates enough wood to build 92,000 houses (1800 square foot each).

**For more information:** <http://wa.audubon.org/new/audubon/default.cfm?pageID=256>

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### Got Birds?

*(Continued from page 9)*

the names and numbers of each bird species seen, what they were doing (e.g., perching, eating, nesting, singing, etc.), and when and where they were seen. At the end of the 12 months, Joyce and Hugh had identified 67 different species of birds. In all, 2,841 individual birds were counted. We learned that our uncut grassland areas are used by Savannah Sparrows from March through September. Our wildlife inventory will be useful for making decisions about future nest box placements, landscape plantings, and habitat management.

It was also excellent to get positive feedback from non-golfers regarding the golf course as a place for wildlife. "It was exciting to see birds such as Pileated Woodpecker, Sora, Wilson's Snipe, Western Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and MacGillvray's Warbler," reported Joyce. I thought of the idea of having members interested in bird watching join the surveyors only after the conclusion of the survey. This would have provided more interaction with the membership and boosted the project's educational value. Other golf courses interested in this type of project might consider asking the surveyors to host a tour with golfers.

With our inventory in hand, we can continue our environmental management at Snoqualmie Ridge. But we can also do something more to let people know we're an environmental asset: prove it.



## CONSERVATION CORNER

By Jim Rettig

### IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER REDISCOVERED! SO WHAT?

We were all thrilled last spring, were we not, with the announcement that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker had been seen in the bottomland forests of the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Arkansas. A few people, me included, perhaps you too, shed tears of joy over this "news of the century." Years ago I read the story of this bird, a sad tale of destruction. Americans knew this bird was in deep trouble in the '20s.

Arthur Allen, founder of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, discovered two near the Taylor River, Florida, but when two local taxidermists heard about the pair, they went out and shot both birds - legally. In 1935, three Ivory-bills were located in the Singer Tract in Louisiana, and in 1939 it was estimated that there might be 22 Ivory-bills living in the United States, most in the Singer Tract. The National Audubon Society launched a campaign in 1941 to save the Singer Tract, but in 1943 this bottomland forest was clear cut. Thus the final (we thought) demise of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

So the news of its rediscovery in 2004 was greeted with great joy and celebrations. Even people who previously had no interest in birds were talking about it. Along with the announcement of the bird's rediscovery, we read articles about new lands being protected and heard speeches from Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior, about how the federal government would commit \$10 million for habitat protection. Yet in September 2005, we learned that the Army Corps of Engineers once again has plans to spend \$319 million to take water from the White River (which is linked to the Cache River NWR) and give it to farmers. Many conservationists note that the only reason the woodpecker has survived this long is because the federal government abandoned a navigation project along the Cache River in the 1970s.

So what will we do with this news? Will the Ivory-bill's existence spur conservationists and our supporters to new efforts at conservation? Or will a new public attitude emerge that we don't have to worry so much about endangered species because it appears they can take care of themselves?

Will our governmental leaders realize that rare species can indeed be spared from extinction with some legislative help and a commitment to a vision that goes beyond ourselves? Or will the message be distorted to justify gutting the Endangered Species Act or drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge? Does wildlife deserve our attention and protection through institutional and legal mechanisms such as the Migratory Bird Treaty, the Environmental Protection Act, or the Clean Water Act? Or will these and other mechanisms simply be ignored because they are too expensive and just get in the way of "progress"?

The Ivory-billed woodpecker is not the only species needing protection. The Cherry Point herring run may be on its way to extinction, but it was recently denied endangered-species protection. Pacific herring are a food staple from salmon to orcas. While the Grizzly Bear population of Yellowstone National Park seems to be doing well, the future of this species is still in doubt. In 1998, the Island Marble Butterfly, believed extinct since 1908, was rediscovered at San Juan Island National Historic Park and needs attention if it is to survive. The loss of butterflies reminds us that grassland ecosystems themselves are in trouble.

As birders and conservationists, we must continue our efforts to support agencies and organizations committed to the recovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and other species of concern, and the ecosystems on which they depend. And we can't stop there. The populations of species everywhere are in precipitous decline, but unlike the Ivory-bill, they don't make headlines. (9 months after the Ivory-bill was spotted, one of three surviving Po'ouili, an avian species found only on the Hawaiian island of Maui, died in captivity). So stay active or get active and let your elected officials know what you think about making sure the wonders of this world will be here when our great-grandchildren want to view them and get to know them.

Check out the Alliance for Zero Extinction, [www.zeroextinction.org](http://www.zeroextinction.org).