



# The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 06-2 – MARCH 2006



## ELWAS Marymoor Park Interpretive Trail Update and Call for Action!

As you may remember, ELWAS has applied to King County Parks for a \$100,000 grant whereby the Chapter will “adopt” the Interpretive Trail at the Park. This is the same type of grant that S.O.D.A. (Save Our Dog Area) received from the County. If you’ve visited Marymoor Park in the last few years, you can see what a success their area is for dog owners. **See the end of this article for what YOU can do.**

*(Continued on page 5)*

### **Dead Birds Don’t Lie: The Role of Citizen Science in Conservation**

**When: Thursday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. (after the social hour)**  
**Where: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church**

In the spring of 2005, hundreds of marine birds began washing up on the beaches of Washington and Oregon. What provoked this die-off? How did we even know about it? What does it mean for the future of seabird populations in the Pacific Northwest? Is this is specter of global warming?

Join Dr. Julia Parrish, Associate Professor at the University of Washington, for a fascinating talk on marine birds of Washington. She will explore the biology of some of our most common marine birds, including murrens, cormorants, and fulmars; what determines their distribution and abundance as live birds, and where and when they wash ashore; using the database created by the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST), a Pacific Northwest citizen science program.

Julia is Associate Director of the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington, and also the Executive Director of COASST, a citizen science program that used beach-cast birds to monitor coastal environmental health. She has studied the natural history, ecology, and conservation of marine birds for the last 15 years, and has authored many scientific articles and books.

When not teaching Marine Biology, Julia can be found on Tatoosh Island, off the tip of Cape Flattery, studying the biology of Common Murrens. She also spends much of her time training COASST volunteers.

Please join us **Thursday, March 23**, for Dr. Parrish’s stimulating and thoughtful discourse on seabirds. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by Julia’s presentation.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who is interested in marine birds and is perhaps concerned about the 2005 die-offs.

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.

**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.*

## Paralyzed by Fear?

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

I recently read about a Rutgers survey that stated public support for environmental protection as a federal priority has dropped substantially since 2001. According to Michael Greenberg of the Edward Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, with the exception of job creation, the public is less interested in a range of domestic priorities, including crime prevention, public health and environmental issues.

“Public perception is important at a time when every domestic program is competing for resources with antiterrorism, military needs and a large budget deficit,” Greenberg said.

Why aren't environmental issues at the top of the priority list anymore? We have had our attention diverted by what seem like more pressing concerns. Greenberg outlined several reasons for the shift in priorities. Of course, the obvious one is the focus on the war on terror, war in Iraq and Afghanistan, and economic slowdown. There is also a growing distrust of government by many. A less obvious reason is the belief that substantial progress has already been made on environmental issues, and we don't have to worry so much about them anymore.

I am also currently reading a book called “False Alarm: The Truth About the Epidemic of Fear” by Marc Siegel. He discusses what we are afraid of and why, and from what I have read so far, the information is disconcerting. He believes we are fed a constant diet of stories telling us what to be afraid of today, and that those things really have no relation to what is truly worth being cautious about. The news media, the government, and corporations interested in selling us products have all, for their own reasons, made us feel that the world is a very dangerous place. This, in spite of the fact that we are living longer, are in better health, and generally lead more prosperous lives.

In the book he discusses how unlikely we really are to be killed in a terrorist attack, or to die of West Nile virus. Which makes me think about how much more likely we all are to be impacted by global warming or the rolling back of environmental protections. Which are the more probable or wider-reaching dangers?

There are many concerns today that blare at us from all directions. In this age of instant information and 24/7 news channels, they are competing for our attention, our dollars and our energy as never before. We can't lose sight of the importance of what we believe in because of other competing crises. We can't let people tell us they aren't important. We can't let our attention wander. Environmental issues impact our health, our quality of life, the survival of birds, wildlife and yes, ourselves. Keep the faith!

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

## ELWAS Meetings March 2006

**March 1 (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)

**March 7 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Conservation Committee**

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

**March 9 (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)

**March 14 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Youth Education Committee**

**Meets in the ELWAS Office.** All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email [education@elwas.org](mailto:education@elwas.org)

**March 16 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Movie Night: "Pale Male" — See article on page 4.**

**March 20 (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**

**March 21 (Tues) 6:00 pm — ELWAS Board meeting — ELWAS Office.**

**March 23 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Monthly Meeting and Presentation — See article on page 1.**

### Welcome!

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.

Neil Baldock  
Corliss Bauman  
Elaine I. Clabaugh  
Diane Corbett  
Edwin Dahl  
PCS Design  
Diane Dishion  
Lynne S. Fam  
Michael Green  
Laura Grey  
David and Teresa Guenther  
Theresa Johns  
William E. Jones  
Sheryl Kelly  
Brennan & Erika Kelso  
Beth and Tom Luthy  
Raymond Magoon

Carla McKendry  
Julia McLean  
Mrs. Joseph J. Millegan  
Andy and Sally Miller  
Joann M. Moeser  
Bruce E. Nelson  
Caren Park  
Roger Parks  
Chris Renfrew  
Tamara Stevens  
Bettina Stokes  
Terrence Sweeney  
Kenneth Wagner  
David Wasman  
Ella Wixon  
Karen Young



*Bienvenido*

*Dobro došli*

*Καλώς ήρθατε*

*Willkommen*

*Piacere*



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

**Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday**

**9:00am — 1:00pm**

## MOVIE NIGHT: Pale Male



**Date/Time:** Thursday, March 16, 2006, 7:00 pm

**Place:** Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 Fourth Avenue S., Kirkland

**Follow the adventures of Pale Male, a daring red-tailed hawk who manages to thrive in the urban world of New York City.**

A fearsome predator has been stalking Manhattan for years. But instead of calling the police, New Yorkers have put out the welcome mat and wished him the best of luck. Meet Pale Male -- a red-tailed hawk who chose life in the Big Apple and founded a hawk dynasty on the ledge of a swanky high-rise overlooking Central Park.

The presence of a red-tailed hawk launching into majestic flight from a Fifth Avenue apartment building to search for prey in the skies over Central Park created a local sensation when first noted in the early 1990s. Pale Male, as he soon was known, quickly became a cause célèbre, first among local residents, then New Yorkers in general, attracting the interest of naturalists, photographers, and journalists.

He became the main character in an unfolding drama -- mating, raising chicks on a precarious perch and defending them against marauding crows, and teaching his offspring survival skills in a semi-natural environment -- all within close proximity with people.



### Birdathon is Coming Soon. Join the fun!

By Jim Rettig

Birds need your help, and they need it now. Populations of many species around the country and in Washington State are declining. According to a study conducted in this state, the following neo-tropical migratory species are declining: Rufous Hummingbirds, Eastern Kingbirds, Barn Swallows, Solitary Troglodytes, and Wilson's Warblers, to name only a few.

How can you be an advocate for birds? Easy. *Join Audubon's Birdathon.* It's a May extravaganza that raises money to work on behalf of birds, other wildlife and healthy habitats for all of them. Taking part is simple, easy, and lots of fun. All you do is ask family, friends, neighbors and colleagues to pledge money for each species of bird you identify in one day during the month of May. You determine where and when you count birds, then you count them, collect your pledges, and turn the money in to the chapter. You may create your own team and count for 2 hours or 24, or any hours in between. You may join an ELWAS team as well. This year our goal is \$20,000, which is not out-of-sight. We've done it before and can do it again, but only if you help. All the money raised will stay with our chapter to help its work in riparian restoration, other conservation efforts, education, field trips, and political advocacy for healthy ecosystems.

Call the office at 425-576-8805 or email [office@elwas.org](mailto:office@elwas.org) if you want to participate.

### Let King County Parks Hear From You

County parks users can now tell parks managers about park conditions, safety concerns or suggestions for new features through the Internet. Comments on nearly 20 park facilities can be made on a survey at <http://tellingcountyparks.com>. Managers and staff will receive the comments immediately.

Let King County Parks management hear from you. One thing you might let them know is that you bird in the parks, and appreciate natural areas being left for wildlife. You could also let them know if you see loose dogs in wildlife areas or other problems that might have an impact.

The parks include: Burke-Gilman, Sammamish River Trail, Cedar River Trail, Green River Trail, Soos Creek Trail, Cougar Mountain, King County Fairgrounds, Marymoor Park, Tolt Macdonald, Big Finn Hill, Marymoor, Petrovitsky, South King County Ballfields, White Center Ballfields, Cottage Lake Pool, Evergreen Pool, Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center, Renton Pool and Vashon Pool.



(Continued from page 1) **Marymoor Park Call for Action!**

We think that adopting the Interpretive Trail is important, as wildlife and natural areas are so often ignored. Park Departments are focused on generating revenue or active sports, and passive recreation is losing ground.

We also think that our participation at the Park will boost the Chapter's membership. The area is already known amongst birders – it's published in two birder's guides – and because ELWAS will be linked with the area on our signs, Park maps, and the King County website, the Chapter will become better known on the Eastside.

Through our interpretive signs and brochures, classes and fieldtrips, the Chapter has the opportunity to educate the community on birds and wildlife, and the importance of habitat. We already give monthly bird walks at the Park, and we anticipate participation will grow.

As part of this proposal ELWAS volunteers will build an interpretive kiosk in Parking Lot G, develop and install interpretive signs along the trail, repair and expand the boardwalk, and work on restoring habitat. The grant funds are available for two years, and the "adoption" contract commits the Chapter to maintaining the interpretive area for five years.

ELWAS members have spent the last two years laying the groundwork for ELWAS' partnership with King County, and the grant is all but secured. The ELWAS Board will soon be voting on whether or not to accept this Contract.

In return for the \$100,000 grant, the County expects that ELWAS volunteers will pitch in and build the kiosks and boardwalks, install the signs, and remove the noxious weeds and plant native plants. The committee estimates this will take over 4,000 volunteer hours over two years!

As you can imagine, this is a big step for ELWAS. Many volunteers have worked long and hard to bring this project up to this point, but now we need you.

### **Here it is!**

The Marymoor BirdLoop will not become a reality without you! We are asking our membership for a commitment to help out at the Marymoor BirdLoop. All skill levels are welcome – from ideas and design, to digging out invasive plants, to joining a construction crew, to helping spread the word in the surrounding community. There will be lots of opportunities to help!

Please contact Jan McGruder at 425-822-8580 or [jan@elwas.org](mailto:jan@elwas.org) with your vote of support by Monday, March 20! You needn't commit to any specific job or date, but we need a general count of committed volunteers.

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## **Spring has Sprung!**

**By Jan McGruder, ELWAS Executive Director**

With Spring just around the corner, the gardening and fair season is upon us. ELWAS is participating in two garden events in April, for which we need your help!

**“Going Native” at Molbaks:** Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 2 from 11 to 3. ELWAS will be in the greenhouse near the bird feeders and houses, answering questions about birds in the garden and promoting the Chapter. We've done this event before, and it's a fun day in a beautiful setting.

There will be two 2-hour shifts each day, for which I need 2 people per shift:

April 1: 11:00 to 1:00 and 1:00 to 3:00

April 2: 11:00 to 1:00 and 1:00 to 3:00

**Woodinville Spring Garden Fair** at the Woodmoor Elementary School, 12225 N.E. 160<sup>th</sup>, Bothell, Saturday, April 22 from 9 to 3. This is a fun event in which we've participated for many years. We'll have a table in the school, along with other non-profit organizations, and will answer questions about ELWAS and birds in the garden.

There are two 3-hour shifts this day, for which I'll need 2 people per shift:

April 22 – 9:00 to noon and noon to 3:00

If you haven't participated in this type of event before, we'll pair you up with someone with experience. You needn't know EVERYTHING about birds – we'll make sure you have lots of hand outs and reference guides to help you with questions from the public.

To sign up for one of these events, contact me at [jan@elwas.org](mailto:jan@elwas.org); or call me at (425) 822-8580.

# Volunteers – We Need You!

By Jan McGruder

ELWAS has openings for several leadership positions. Some of these positions are Committee Chairs and some are for on-going needs within the Chapter to keep us moving forward. There are several committees that need leaders. They are:

**Plant Sale Chair** – This is a one-day affair that has been a great fundraising success in the past. You'll be responsible for:

- Ordering plants
- Reserving building
- Organizing speakers, materials and volunteers
- Oversight of set up and volunteers during the sale and clean up

We hope to have a Spring and Fall Plant Sale, and each sale will take about 20 hours of Chairperson hours. Having done this sale for a couple of years, I will give you all the help you need to pull off a successful event.

**Nature Walk Coordinator** – Currently, ELWAS has monthly nature walks at Juanita Bay Park and Marymoor Park. We would like to expand our walks to other parks on the Eastside. Each walk would be on a monthly basis, and some possible walk sites are Bellevue Botanical Garden and Lake Hills Greenbelt. The Nature Walk Coordinator will:

- Choose the walk dates
- Recruit volunteers to lead the walks
- Make sure the walks are publicized through our publicity resources

This position should take no more than 5 hours per month.

**Merchandise Chair** - ELWAS has a small nature shop, limited to bird feeders, books and seed and suet. We currently have a volunteer responsible for stocking seed and suet. We are looking for a volunteer to oversee the whole operation, including any volunteers responsible for any lines of merchandise. The Merchandise Chair will:

- Order merchandise at wholesale prices
- Maintain accurate inventory of merchandise for sale
- Develop promotions and advertise through our publicity resources
- Manage merchandise sales at Membership Meetings

This position should take no more than 3 hours per month.

**Community Outreach/Events Chair** – A few times a year, ELWAS sets up a table or booth at various events around the Eastside, and we have “in-house” events for which we need a Chairperson. Some of the outreach events are “Going Native” at Molbak's, Spring Garden Fair at Northshore Utility, and Volunteer Fair at Crossroads Shopping Center. These are a great way for ELWAS to “meet and greet” the public, and introduce our Chapter. We also hold an Annual Dinner and the Christmas Bird Count dinner, for which we need a coordinator. The Chair of this committee will be responsible for:

- Coordinating and managing all aspects of public outreach events
- Coordinating participation of ELWAS Board Members or Committee Chairs who might be included in any event
- Coordinating our participation with host organization
- Organizing all aspects of the event from inception through completion
- Scheduling and working with volunteers
- Ensuring that all materials and props are acquired and delivered on event day, and returned and stored at the ELWAS offices, when event is completed
- Surveying volunteers to determine any strengths or weaknesses in the event, for future reference
- Preparing write-up of event for website and newsletter
- Writing thank you notes to host organization and all volunteers who participated in event

Each one-day event should take between 5 to 10 hours, and there is generally 1 event per month.

**Member Welcome Committee Chair** — Every month, ELWAS sends a Welcome Packet to each new member. Every new member is also a potential volunteer. The Welcome Committee Chair will be responsible for:

- Calling new members to extend a personal welcome
- Printing welcome letters and preparing welcome packets for mailing
- Printing renewal letters for local members

All welcome and renewal letters and mailing labels are automatically generated by our membership database, making it easy for anyone with some computer skills. This job should take no more than 2 hours per month.

If you'd like more information on any of these positions, and what would be expected of you, please contact Jan McGruder at (425) 822-8580 or [jan@elwas.org](mailto:jan@elwas.org) for further details. Give a little of yourself. The birds will thank you!

## Thank You!

Thank you to all our wonderful 2005 donors. With your generous support, we were able to keep our offices open and continue paying our part-time staff, as well as expand the Chapter and accomplish more than ever. Some of our accomplishments were:

1. The Youth Education Committee gave more classroom presentations this year, and also wrote new lesson plans for future presentations;
2. We developed and printed a new ELWAS brochure for distribution throughout the community;
3. We purchased two newer computers, giving us an additional work station and more flexibility in the office;
4. We held the City of Kirkland accountable for disturbing an eagle nest on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Thank you for your continuing support of ELWAS. We couldn't do it without you!

**Corvid Club Members (\$25 to \$99):** Anonymous (10), Pamela Aden, Candy Allen, Carmen Almodovar, Margaret Amory, Edward Anderson, Rebecca Anderson, Karl and Bernice Atwood, Christa Balk, Brian and Penelope Bell, Dan and Ann Bormann, Sidney Brinck-erhoff, Eleanor G. Brogren, Melinda Bronsdon, Dan and Sharon Brown, Christel Brunnenkant, Caroline Christy, Ann L. Coiner, Doris Cooper, Liz Copeland, Diane Crestanello, Ruth Crew, David Cyra, Nancy Daar, Ann Daigle, Patricia Danford, Laurie Davidson, Joan Davis, Betty P. Dean, Kathy Dennis, Barbara Dietrich, Marge Dolecal, Jane Dolliver, Dawn Dufford, Tom Eble, Richard Edelman, Denis Egan, Vicki and Mike Elledge, Natalie Ervin, Linda Estes, Gail Fields, Paula Flores, Janet Fogle, David Forest, Jim and Joyce Ganley, John Gaynard, Christine Giannini, Ron and Ginny Green, Sue and Bud Grieff, Pam Gunther, Shirlee and Jim Hall, Edward and Dorris Hames, Jennifer A. Harrison, David Haskell, Jim Hill DVM, Linda M. Hines, Mary Hogan, Ginger Holser, Kathryn Hornbein, Richard W. Huggett, Terri Hurley, Per Jensen, Barbara Johnson, Janice Johnson, Randall and Cecilia Jones, Warren Jones, Peggy Jorgensen, Ed and Grace Kane, Dr. William C. Kaufman, Margaret Kaus, Jill M. Keeney, Barbara Kerr, Alan D. King, Carolyn Kishel, Tricia Kishel, Marilyn Knutson, Robert Koontz, Gloria Lobb, Robert Lowell, Donna Luce, Hermann and Christie Madsen, Carol and Greg Matheson, Dorothy R. Matsui, Richard H. Maywald, Jim McCoy, Cinda J. McSherry, Jerry and Michele Metcalf, Andy and Sally Miller, Jean Milnor, Ann Mitchell, Susan Morrisson, Sue Moss, Dr. Joan A. Newman, David Nuttall, Richard Oberg, Erica Olerud, Susan Olson, Julie Onofrio, Teresa M. Opolka, Fran Ostrom-Tallman, Jane and Ron Paige, Katherine Parker, Kathy Renner, Richard Rettig, Michael and Marlee Richard, Kay Robbins Nursery, Lanna Rodgers, Karen Ross, Sharon Runnells-Anderson, Ruth A. Saunders, Carrie and Chad Schwitters, Michael Scupine, James Shapley, Karen Shea, Linda and Joseph R. Siebert, Linda Sinnett, Wendy Skony, Diane and Mike Slota, Henry Smilowicz, Craig and Julie Smith, Michael C. Smith, Teresa Sollitto, Barbara Spargo and Laura Dahlstrom, John Sproul, Sidonia St. Germaine, Linda Stanfield, Sandra Stoner, Mares Strehler, Marilyn E. Subala, Maureen Sunn, Michael Swayne, Robert L. and Wilma Taylor, John Thomas, Gail F. Thompson, Ellen Trikha, Al Troffer, Debbie Turner, Diane Van Ingen, Peter Van Voast, Shirley J. Vander Veen, Pat Vernie, Dennis Vidmar, Greg Waddle, Leslie Waters, Pao-Pei Wei, Tom and Kristi Weir, Sue Welsh, Jim Wheeler, Edward Wierlo, Sandra and Bob Williamson, Jean Worthen, Susan Yates, Flora Yen, Roger Chapanis, Sandi Warner, Nina Belofsky, M.J. Dobbins, David Fischbach, Penny Koyama, Ed Newbold, Frances Pacquer, Kit Paulsen, Omar Peavey, Clint Russell, Bruce Jones, Liz Cormier, Mark Mason, Mary A. Tasker Thompson, David and Teresa Guenther, Bob and Grace Brown, Chris Houden, Elizabeth and Allen Moses, Laurin McElheran, D.C., Mary Jane Walsh 45.00, Kathy Adkins, Marilyn Ambjor, Joanne Baker, Connie Brennand, Ernest K. Brown, Patrick Burke, Richard and Sondra Evans, Max Attar Feingold, Ed Freedman, Marla Gese, Faye Gillett, Dr. J. David and Carol Heywood, Donna L. Irwin, Charlotte Kanemori, Jim and Barb Kenney, Susan Ker-Seymer, Lea J. Knapp, Wilda Luttermoser, Ellen and Steve Lutz, Mark W. MacDonald, Larry and Alexis May, Nancy M. Mendenhall, Kate Oliver, Greg Page, Suzanne and Allen Peery, Nancy Penrose & David Muerdter, Luzia Peter-Contesse, Keith and Juliana Pickrell, Mary Lynne Poole, Carol Lee Power, Linda J. Rantala, Judy Redding, Connie Reed, Edward Rettig, R.K. and Roberta Rettig, Andy Rogers, Robert Schafer, Susan Stearns, Lana Stephens, Martyn and Roo Stewart, Alta Sweany, Robert S. Swenson, Bernice Tannenbaum, Sunny Walter, Morey Wetherald, Fred and Leora Wolf, Karen Roll, Eva and Craig Weaver, Nancy Gyles, Linda Ellsworth, Catherine Hansen, Kevin and Peggy Rettig, Mary Cadigan, Claudia C. Welch, Jan Alferness, Sharon Aagard, Therese Eby, Nona Ganz, Brian Mahaffey, Glenis Nielsen, Laura Pinter, Jo and Greg Prussia, Jean Robertson, Laura L. Roe, Howard H. Shuman, Becky Jo and Ken Sindora, Rich and Lorraine Smith, Diane and Mike Stone, Paula J. Crockett, Cheryl Spink, Robert Asanoma, Michael and Jana Hobbs, Lance Bass, Stanton Wood, Mark Taylor

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**Heron Club (\$250 to \$499):** Anonymous (2), Kirk and Kerri Scarbrough, Diane Whitman, Ellen Homan, Warren and Sharon Pagel, Robert W. Philpott, Jr., Viking Cruises, Megan Lyden and Sam Mann, Hugh and Beverly Jennings, Jim and Jan Rettig, Mary and Geary Britton-Simmons, Andrew McCormick, Ollie and Grace Oliver

**Osprey Club (\$500 to \$999):** Anonymous (2), Ruth Adamski, Jan and Tim McGruder, Amy McQuade, Claire and Gustav Raaum, Joyce A. Meyer, Thomas Grismer

**Bald Eagle Club (\$1,000+):** Christy Anderson, Lou Ann Harris

# 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.

### March 3 (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.

### March 4 (Sat) 9am to noon

#### Marymoor BirdLoop Work Party

Help remove Scot's Broom, blackberries, and English Ivy along the interpretive trail. Wear work clothes and boots and bring gloves and clippers, loppers or pruning saws if you have them. We'll have some tools on hand. Park in lot G, Interpretive Trail parking lot, and follow gravel road to the trail. **RSVP Glenn or Bertha Eades at [geades@seanet.com](mailto:geades@seanet.com) (preferred) or at 425-885-3842.**

### March 9 (Thurs) 7:00 am — Camano Island/Stanwood

A full day of birding and exploring Camano Island's shoreline, salt-water marshes, grasslands, and forest habitats for seabirds, raptors, and songbirds. Areas include Livingston Bay, English Boom, Utsalady, and Iverson Spit, a 100-acre preserve. Stanwood Sewage Treatment Ponds host a variety of waterfowl and the occasional avian surprise. Bring lunch and meet before 7 am at south end of Kingsgate P&R. Cost/person \$5.00. Return mid-afternoon. **Joyce 425-881-5422.**

### March 10 (Fri) 11:00 am — Kenmore P&R and Library

ELWAS members will have spotting scopes available for the public to watch the Great Blue Heron colony at the north end of the Kenmore P&R (Bothell Way and 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave. NE). There will be a slide presentation about the herons and other birds at the Kenmore Library about noon. ELWAS members are invited to bring scopes and set them up for viewers.

**Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

### March 18 (Sat) 7:00 am — Ellensburg/Vantage Area

Plan on a day traveling through varied habitats: riparian, forest and farm. We might see some raptors and some late winter or early spring birds. Come prepared for warm and

sunny, or cold and windy weather. Bring lunch and expect to be back by early evening. Meet before 7:00 am at north end of the Issaquah P&R to carpool. Passenger cost/person \$13.00.

**Mike West 206-795-4865**

### March 18 (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). Bring gloves, a bag for trash, and binoculars. **Kay Barrett 425-644-2862.**

### March 21 (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**

### March 27 (Mon) 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**

### March 31 -April 2 (Fri - Sun)

#### Othello Sandhill Crane Festival Photography Trip.

Photograph thousands of sandhill cranes as they fly into the fields in the morning and fly out at midday and night. Photograph swans, shorebirds, and yellow-headed blackbirds on Para Ponds plus burrowing owls east of Othello. Desert scabland scenics, rocky coulees, and more birds in the Columbia NWR. Overnight at motel or campground. Join us Friday or Saturday. For more details and sign-up contact Sunny Walter, 425-271-1346 or [sunny@sunnywalter.com](mailto:sunny@sunnywalter.com).

### April 1 (Sat) 8:00 am — Nisqually NWR

The Nisqually NWR offers a diverse combination of habitats and birds. The delta is bounded by rivers on each side with marshes, deciduous woods and wide open areas easily accessed by a 5 mile loop trail. Early spring migrants should be arriving to joining regulars such as woodpeckers and Great Horned owls. A variety of still wintering waterfowl and raptors should be present as well. Admission is free if you have a National Golden Pass or Federal Duck Stamp. Meet before 8:00 am at north end of the Wilburton Park-N-Ride to carpool. Bring lunch. Cost/person \$6.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

### April 13 (Thurs) 8:00 am - Spencer Island

Explore this wetland located near the 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; will be back mid-afternoon. Meet before 8:00 am at south end of Kingsgate Park and Ride. Passenger cost/person \$3.00. **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

**BIRD  
of the  
MONTH**

**Purple Martin**

*Progne subis*

by Hugh Jennings



The Purple Martin (PUMA) is about 8" long with a wingspan of 18" and a weight of 2 oz. (56g). The genus name *Progne* (PROG-nee) is Latin from the Greek Prokne, name of the daughter of Pandion, who was fabled to have been changed into a swallow. The species name *subis* (SUE-biss) is Latin for a name used by Pliny, Roman naturalist, to describe a bird that breaks eagles' eggs. Gourd Martin is another name given to the Purple Martin, especially in the South, for its habit of nesting in gourds. The PUMA is our largest swallow. Compared to other swallows, it has longer wings, slower wing beats, a longer head and a larger bill. The adult male is an iridescent, dark purple with black wings and tail. Females have a gray chest, whitish belly, dull purple back, and black wings and tail. Immature females and the first fall males resemble the adult female; the immature plumage is kept for one year.

Most Purple Martins in the east now nest in birdhouses put up for them. The practice of providing houses for martins began with some Native American tribes who hung hollow gourds around their villages to attract these birds. It is said they encouraged PUMA nesting because the birds drove off crows from where corn and other food plants grew. PUMAs migrate to South America for the winter, but before migrating in the late summer they sometimes gather to roost in large groups of a thousand or more. In the east this bird breeds in any kind of semi-open area where nest sites are provided, especially when near a pond or river. They are more local in the west, with isolated colonies breeding by woodland edges, clearings in mountain forests, and in lowland desert with giant saguaro cactus. In Western Washington PUMAs are fairly common and increasing as local residents of lowlands, mainly around Puget Sound and the lower Columbia River.

They were originally rare in Washington State, then increased with Euro-American development until the late 1950s, when European Starlings arrived and began taking over their nests. Subsequently, Purple Martin numbers plummeted and they were nearly extirpated by the early 1990s. Many nest-box schemes have greatly aided recovery. Kevin Li was instrumental in spearheading the complete recovery of Purple Martins in the Seattle and Puget Sound. These birds had been absent for about 15 years and he brought them back. He put up gourds in many areas of Seattle, especially in the Ballard Locks area and in Jack Block Park in West Seattle. He was planning to put up Purple Martin gourds in Juanita Bay this spring. Sadly, however, he died at the early age of fifty in January of this year. He will always be remembered for his efforts to support the Purple Martins. The Purple Martin photo accompanying this article is one of many taken by Kevin Li. (See article about Kevin Li below.)

The PUMA feeds on a variety of flying insects including wasps, flying ants, bees, beetles, moths and butterflies. They forage almost entirely while on the wing and may fly low over the water or very high looking for insects. The males return to the nesting areas early in spring and establish territories. They usually nest in colonies, particularly in the eastern areas of the U.S. Western martins may nest in looser colonies or in isolated pairs. The males may have more than one mate. The male song is a low-pitched, rich, gurgling while the female song is a mixture of chortle calls and down-slurred whistles. Their natural nesting sites are cavities in trees or cactus, but most now use man-made nesting boxes. There usually are 4-5 white eggs, but sometimes 3-8. Incubation is by the female for a period of 15-18 days. Both parents feed the young, which leave the nest 26-31 days after hatching.

PUMAs are long-distance migrants with most spending the winter in the Amazon Basin. They return very early in the spring in eastern states, often in February in the southern states, and later in spring in the west, usually April and May.

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**Kevin Li, Purple Martins, and Juanita Bay Park**

By MaryFrances Mathis

Kevin Li, a biologist and water-quality specialist in the King County Department of Natural Resources, began his efforts to restore the Purple Martin to the Puget Sound area about 10 years ago. He worked tirelessly every spring installing and cleaning nest boxes and gourds, awaiting the arrival of the martins from their wintering grounds. Gourds and/or boxes have been placed near Shilshole Marina, at Jack Block Park in West Seattle, Tracy Owens Park in Kenmore, and many other sites around the Sound. All of his installations have been successful, and the once rare Purple Martin is again becoming a regular breeder in the region. That one man could have had such an impact in the local distribution of a species is truly incredible.

Tragically, Kevin Li died January 29, while scuba diving in Puget Sound. He was a very nice, gentle man, and a passionate protector of our environment. He will be sorely missed, but the legacy of his one-man campaign is there for all to enjoy. As Dennis Paulson wrote: "He had help from many others, but I think Kevin, by his enthusiasm and many hours of hard work, can be single-handedly credited (with) turning around the decline of (this) charismatic species."

Last fall Kevin met with Teresa Sollitto, from the City of Kirkland, and me at Juanita Bay Park to discuss installing eight nest gourds on the pilings off the causeway. The project was approved by the City, ELWAS offered to pay for the materials, and Kevin was to put them up this April. At this time, ELWAS is planning to go ahead with the project, using Kevin's designs, and hopefully we will be able to see these beautiful birds at Juanita Bay Park.

We are in need of a boat and volunteers to erect and install the gourds. If you are able to help, please call or email me or the ELWAS office. Let's continue Kevin's work.



## ! JBP Newsflash !

By MaryFrances Mathis

Our very special partial-albino **Red-winged Blackbird** arrived at Juanita Bay Park on Sunday, February 5. Appropriately, this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year that he has returned to the park to breed. And as usual, he is establishing his territory in the cattails between the two boardwalks.

Welcome back to a real show-stopper...we're delighted that he survived another winter. If you haven't seen this bird yet, be sure to visit JBP this spring.

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## Washington State Birding Festivals

If there was any doubt in your mind that birding is hot, take a look at the number of birding festivals around the state! Communities across the country are learning that attracting birders can mean tourism dollars. Ecotourism of all kinds is flourishing. Local people can help their own economies by preserving what they have, instead of destroying it. Talk about a win-win situation!

Support habitat preservation near Washington communities by attending one of these fun events. And when you're staying in town or eating at a local restaurant, let the proprietors know that the birding festival is what brought you.

**Port Susan Snow Goose Birding Festival** — Stanwood — Feb 25 & 26 – (maybe next year!)  
Phone: 360-629-0562 Web Site: [www.snowgoosefest.org/](http://www.snowgoosefest.org/)

**Othello Crane Festival** — Othello High School — March 24-26  
Phone: 866-726-3445 Web Site: [www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org](http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org)

**Wings over Water Birding Festival** — Semiahmoo Resort near Blaine — March 24-26  
Phone: 360-466-4749 Web Site: [www.washingtonbrant.org/events](http://www.washingtonbrant.org/events)

**Olympic Bird Fest** — Sequim — March 31-April 2  
Phone: 360-681-4076 Web Site: [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)

**Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival** — Hoquiam High School — April 28-30  
Phone: 800-303-8498 Web Site: [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com)

**Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds** — Edmonds — May 12-13  
Phone: 425-771-0227 Web Site: [www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com](http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com)

**Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest** — Leavenworth — May 18-21  
Phone: 509-548-5807 Web Site: [www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com](http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com)

**Kettle Valley Songbird Festival** — Republic — May 19-21  
Phone: 509-775-0441 Web Site: [www.ferrycounty.com/kettlevalleysongbirdfestival](http://www.ferrycounty.com/kettlevalleysongbirdfestival)

For more around the country, see [www.americanbirding.org/festivals/index](http://www.americanbirding.org/festivals/index).

### Olympic BirdFest 2006 -- Sequim, WA March 31- April 2, 2006

Visit the rainshadow of the *Olympic Peninsula* to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks and more. Great field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and a banquet with our partner, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

The Birdfest with the most spectacular setting!

Contact: Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382; 360-681-4076; [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org).



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## CONSERVATION CORNER — Don't Sell Our Public Lands!

By Jim Rettig

The effrontery of the Bush Administration is simply astounding.

The President took office five years ago with a sizeable budget surplus. His pre-emptive war against Iraq, plus the on-going war in Afghanistan, plus increases in defense spending and homeland security have spent all the surplus and much more. His systematic reconfiguring of the tax code has given billions to the wealthiest among us, skewing the national budget even more. Then came Katrina and Rita, and we find ourselves in a deep, deep financial hole. We are swimming, some say drowning, in red ink.

We have heard recently that the Bush Administration seeks to pay some of this mounting debt by decreasing funding for programs that assist the elderly, college students, and the poor, those least able to pay.

But the effrontery continues: this administration now wants to help pay off its debts by selling public lands! The plan emerged in local papers in early February that the Forest Service is exploring the idea of selling 309,421 acres of prime undeveloped forest land, which includes trails, campgrounds and sacred sites, some with pristine views. The Forest Service announcement on February 10 includes 7,500 acres in Washington and 26,000 acres in Idaho.

What is wrong with this? First, the money earned from the sale of these lands won't begin to touch the total debt. It's pennies versus billions. (AARP recently asked 1026 adults how they would balance our budget. Top three answers: 69% said keep the estate tax on estates over \$2 million; 61% said raise income taxes for households earning over \$100,000; 41% said cut defense spending.) Second, these are your lands, our lands. Our national heritage. And we need these public lands for recreation, mental and spiritual health, wildlife habitat, and our children. The population is only going to increase, and even now more public lands are needed, not less. To think of selling public lands for a bit of profit to pay for massive debts is an outrage. Write your elected officials and tell them so.

### Ballot Initiative for a Clean and Renewable Energy Future--

#### If 20 other states can do it, so can Washington

By: Cy Berryman

**Background:** Washington's environmental community has fought for years in the state legislature for a clean and affordable energy standard. In 2003 a clean energy standard was an environmental priority, only to be stopped by special interests from the fossil fuel industry.

**Now:** Washington is preparing to take an exciting step forward - toward securing clean energy sources for its people. Washingtonians for Energy Security, a broad coalition of environmental, business and labor organizations and concerned citizens, is launching an initiative campaign for the November 2006 ballot. The initiative will help the state's economy, environment, and rural communities by assuring our state's largest electric utilities purchase 15% of their power from renewable resources, like wind and solar, and will help homeowners and businesses save on energy bills by assuring that utilities invest in energy efficiency measures.

Among other added benefits, passing an initiative for clean, secure and affordable energy will:

- Create jobs
- Stabilize rates
- Boost our local economy
- Reduce dependence on foreign and polluting energy resources
- Support family farmers
- Not raise taxes

Renewable energy and energy efficiency provide a viable alternative to fossil fuels. Fossil fuels have a track record of polluting our air and land, contributing to global warming, increasing cases of asthma and lung disease, and being subject to severe price spikes. Home-grown renewable energy is insulated from the volatile price swings associated with fossil fuels, providing long-term rate stability to electric consumers. When utilities work to make homes and businesses more energy efficient they are putting money back in our pockets instead of buying from faraway gas fields.

Air and water pollution from burning fossil fuels pose a great threat to our state's wildlife. Thankfully, we can protect the environment and our health with clean, affordable and abundant energy sources. But we need your help to do it! To qualify the initiative for the November ballot, over 300,000 signatures need to be collected by June 30, 2006.

Please call the campaign headquarters at 206-283-3335 or go to [www.energysecuritynow.org](http://www.energysecuritynow.org) to get involved.

## GETTING TO KNOW THE RESIDENT FLOCK with David Drummond.



Get acquainted with our winter resident birds that frequent local backyard feeders and parks.

If you are still sorting through your mind and reference books for that "little brown bird" join us for a fun filled class especially for you! We will explore the influences that shape our unique Northwest landscape and then learn about the adaptations, fieldmarks and behavior of the representative bird families of the backyard. This course is focused on helping YOU better know the common birds of the field and forest. The field trip will visit one or more local parks. Hand-outs, reference books, slide imaged lecture and field trip will give you the tools to ID birds with confidence!

David Drummond is a research wildlife biologist, naturalist and president of the Merlin Falcon Foundation. He has taught classes at the Olympic Park Institute and the North Cascades Institute, specializing in Northwest birds. David enjoys catalyzing people's connection with Nature around the world.

**Class: Friday, March 17, 6:30-9:15 pm.** Class will meet at the Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Avenue, Kirkland. Class limited to 25 participants. Registration required.

**Field Trip: Saturday, March 18. 8:00 am-3:00 pm.** To be arranged at class meeting.

**Cost:** Lecture and Field trip: \$50 per ELWAS member, \$65 per non-member. Class only: \$35 per ELWAS member, \$45 per non-member. No registration for the field trip only.

**Registration:** Call the ELWAS office to register at (425) 576-8805. Office open Monday, Tuesday and Friday morning.

**Registration closes March 14.**

## BEGINNING BIRDING BY EAR with Lou Ann Harris & Joyce Meyer

Follow up on your New Year's resolution to learn a new language in 2006.

Beginning Birding By Ear can get you started on identifying birds by their songs and calls. Amaze your family and impress your friends! Instructors will be ELWAS members Joyce Meyer and Lou Ann Harris.

**Class: Tuesday, March 21st, 6:30 to 9 pm** Class held at the Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church sanctuary in Kirkland.

**Field Trip: Saturday, March 25th OR Sunday, March 26th at 6:30 am** (half-day trip)

**Cost:** \$35 for ELWAS members, \$45 non-member (\$1.00 Marymoor parking fee)

**Registration:** Call the ELWAS office at (425) 576-8805. **Registration closes Friday, March 17th.**



## When The Great Blues Came to Medina Park

Morey Wetherald, an ELWAS member and presenter of the slide show on the Great Blue Herons of Medina Park, has collected a number of his images and succeeded in publishing a book entitled, "When The Great Blues Came to Medina Park." The book is available for sale, and you can preview it on his publisher's web site.

Log on to [www.mypublisher.com/bookstore](http://www.mypublisher.com/bookstore). To view Morey's book, the book ID number is M151538, and the password is 527216.

The book will open to the title page, and you can scroll through the pages at the bottom of the screen. Unfortunately, the page numbers do not appear on each page, but it's a beautiful book about our neighborhood birds. Enjoy!

## SPRING BIRDING CLASS

### For Beginners or (perhaps) Intermediate Review

**No Experience Necessary!** Two field trips and three class sessions in a relaxed, informal setting can get **you** started this year! Spring migrants & breeding birds of Washington will be emphasized. The basics of bird identification, birding etiquette and ethics, equipment selection, field guides and local birding areas will also be covered.

**DATES:** Thurs. May 4, Tues. May 9 & Thurs. May 11. 6:30—9:00 P.M. (classes only)  
Sat 5/6 or Sun 5/7 (morning only field trip – ½ class goes each day)  
Sat 5/13 or Sun 5/14 (all day field trip to Eastern Washington – ½ class goes each day)

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

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

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

call **425-576-8805**

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

#### **Help Care for Orphaned Wild Songbirds at PAWS Wildlife Center**

Have you been looking for a new way to learn about birds? Check out volunteer opportunities at PAWS Wildlife Center! For more information or to apply, call our Volunteering Info Line at (425) 787-2500 x838 or look online at [www.paws.org](http://www.paws.org).

**Bird Nursery Caretaker:** Join other bird enthusiasts in caring for the hundreds of orphaned wild songbirds that PAWS Wildlife Center receives every year. This is intensive and rewarding work, primarily focused on hand-feeding the baby songbirds, with additional duties that include monitoring bird health, cleaning cages and incubators, and preparing food. This position requires a weekly commitment throughout the summer months (May 1st through September 15th; dates may vary depending on when we have birds in care). Shifts are available seven days a week. Volunteers may choose to fill a morning shift (8am - 12:30pm), afternoon shift (12:15am - 5:15pm), or evening shift (5pm - 9pm).

**Songbird Formula Volunteer:** Do you want to help orphaned baby songbirds from home? Songbird Formula Volunteers prepare FoNS (Formula for Nestling Songbirds) in the comfort of their own homes and deliver the formula to PAWS for use. Songbird Formula Volunteers call PAWS Wildlife Center on a weekly basis to determine the quantity of formula needed and then make and transport the formula on their selected day. PAWS will provide all necessary ingredients; volunteers must have their own blender and adequate refrigerator/freezer space. This position requires a weekly commitment throughout the summer months (May 1st through September 15th). Shifts are available seven days a week.

