



The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 06-3 – APRIL 2006

Native Plants that Local Birds Love

When: Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 pm (after the social hour)

Where: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church

Monica Van der Vieren, a Native Plant Steward from Washington Native Plant Society, will present a talk on "Native Plants that Local Birds Love." She will present a range of native ground covers, shrubs, and trees that provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for both resident and migratory birds in the Puget Sound area. Many native plants attractive to birds also serve as wonderful habitat for other animal species. Monica will also talk about efforts to encourage urban, suburban, and rural landowners to landscape with native plants to restore wildlife habitat lost to development.

The Washington Native Plant Society seeks to promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitats through study, education, and advocacy. Members of WNPS share their passion and knowledge of Washington's native flora in meetings, field trips, workshops, outreach, stewardship training, and study weekends. Each year since 2003, the governor has proclaimed Native Plant Appreciation Week the first week of May (April 30-May 6, 2006). WNPS hosts a website with activities throughout the state offered by garden clubs, nurseries, WNPS chapters, conservation organizations, and more (see www.wnps.org under "What's New").

Monica has worked for the past 15 years as a research scientist. She brings her enthusiasm for experimentation home to a 100-year-old farmstead in the upper Snohomish River Estuary. She joined the WNPS as a steward-in-training to learn methods of naturalizing both riparian areas and uplands for wildlife habitat. Monica brings her hands-on restoration experience to the public in seminars and workshops on "Creating Backyard Wildlife Habitat."

We also invite you to a special joint ELWAS / WNPS field trip on Saturday, April 29. We will be joining Monica Van der Vieren and Len Steiner to seek out birds and native plants west of Ellensburg. We will explore Hayward Hill, Swauk Creek, and Durr and Wenas Roads, with lunch at a riverfront park. Please contact Sunny Walter for details, 425-271-1346 or sunny@sunnywalter.com.

Please join us on **Thurs, Apr 27** for Monica's delightful and informative talk about native plants that birds love. Come at 6:30 for social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by Ms. Van der Vieren's presentation.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who wants to know more about bird-friendly native plants.

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



BIRDATHON! BIRDATHON! BIRDATHON!

See the article on [page 8](#) to learn about this important ELWAS event. And attend the following [training session](#) if you would like to know more about Birdathon basics:

When: 6:30 PM, April 27 (just before the next ELWAS monthly meeting)

Where: In the meeting room across the hall from the ELWAS office

What: Learn about Birdathon and how to participate

Who: Jim Rettig will lead this event

Why: The birds need your help!

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.*

“50 Simple Things You Can Do To Save the Earth”

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

Remember those little books? There were a whole stack of them on different areas. Many of today's problems seem way too big for such simplistic solutions. So, what was their value, if any? I think they made people realize that their own actions meant something; that small actions done consistently over time, could have an impact. They also raised many people's awareness of environmental issues.



Feeling that nothing we could do could ever make a difference is what keeps us from taking any action at all. You know the old refrain. “I'm just one person, what difference could I make?” The value of the little books was in making us think we could make a difference and spurring us to action.

Our choices are the ultimate. We choose products. We choose what issues to pay attention to. We choose our leaders. We choose to speak out for something we think is important . . . or not.

I think the hope of the little books is to start the ball rolling. Make the simple things part of the thread of your everyday life – use compact fluorescent bulbs, buy recycled products and ask for them when you can't find them, bring your own grocery bags to the store, and notice and appreciate the birds. (I didn't have to tell you that one, did I?)

But also, don't stop there. Go a little bit further – talk to people about the choices you are making and why. Buy energy efficient appliances and vehicles when you have to get new ones. Pay attention to local and national issues that impact you and the natural world around you. Send some money to an organization taking actions you support. Learn more about global warming, forestry practices, spotted owls or development in your own community.

Then, take a risk. Do something bigger. What it is depends entirely on you and your circumstances. What could you do? Attend a community meeting about land use, and speak about your beliefs. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper about an issue in the news. Call or go visit your legislator, local, county, state or national, about an issue you care about.

Start small, start simple, but don't stop there. Choose just one personal action that's bigger than simple. Then do it. It just might be the start of something big!

East Lake Washington Audubon Society
425 576 8805

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

Executive Officers

President	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196 president@elwas.org
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	Diane Stone	(425) 868-1174 dianestone@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Open	
Executive Director	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>	Open	
<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>	Open	
<u>Bird Questions?</u>	Amy McQuade	(206) 232-9543 birdhelp@elwas.org
<u>Conservation</u>	Open	
<u>Advocacy</u>	Open	
<u>Citizen Science</u>	Len Steiner	(425) 827-2478
<u>Conservation</u>	Martyn Stewart	mstew@naturesound.org
<u>Marymoor Park</u>	Megan Lyden	(425) 603-1548 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>	Open	
<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@ewas.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Nancy Nicklas	(425) 869-7827 webmaster@elwas.org
<u>Financial Development</u>	Open	
<u>Birdathon</u>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
<u>Gift Wrap</u>	Nancy and Jim Roberts	(425) 822-1865
<u>Merchandising</u>	Cindy Balbuena	
<u>Membership</u>	Open	
<u>Hospitality</u>	Lyn Bailey	(425) 821-4274 lynbailey@comcast.net
<u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>	Open	

ELWAS Meetings April 2006

Apr 4 (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@naresound.org

April 5 (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

April 11 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Youth Education Committee
Meets in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email **education@elwas.org**

April 13 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Photo Group
Meets in large room upstairs from ELWAS Office. Questions? Email **Tim Boyer** at tboyer@seanet.com

Apr 17 (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**

Apr 18 (Tues) 6:00 pm—ELWAS Board—ELWAS Office.

April 27 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Monthly Meeting and Presentation — See article on page 1.

Thank You ...

... to **Lea Knapp, Peggy Jorgensen, Karen Guy, Judy Hystad, Marge Dolecal, Jim Rettig** for labeling the newsletters in February; to **Cindy Balbuena** for volunteering to be our new Merchandise Chair, to **Nancy Mendenhall, Jill Keeney, Hugh and Bev Jennings, Lea Knapp and Shirlee Hall** for giving presentations and bird walks for school groups on the Eastside; to the many who have helped out at Marymoor BirdLoop work parties over the past few months, lead by **Glenn Eades:**

Christy Anderson, Bob Asanoma, Patricia Clarke, Laura Dahlstrom, Bertha Eades, Therese Eby, Janka Hobbs, Michael Hobbs, Mary Holt, Hugh Jennings, Megan Lyden, Tim McGruder, Jim Rettig, Nancy Roberts, Barbara Spargo, Diane Stone, Diane Van Ingen, Sunny Walter, and Claudia Welch, and to the **Board of Directors and Committee Chairs** for leading others in furtherance of the ELWAS Mission. A special Thank You to **Tim Boyer**, who has been ELWAS' Treasurer for the past several years. Tim has been a tremendous help to the Board as our Chapter has grown, guiding us in all matters financial. Tim will continue to be active in the Chapter, and chair the Photography Group.

The Corvid Crier, Issue 06-3 — Publication Date: April 1, 2006.

Published by: East Lake Washington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

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.

Cindy Balbuena, ELWAS Merchandise Chair

Hello, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Cindy Balbuena and I'm a new member of ELWAS. I found ELWAS through a booklet at REI and immediately was excited to get involved. As a native of Seattle, I've always loved nature and wildlife, but started being especially interested in birds in the past few years after my husband and I bought our house, which backs up to a green belt, and I wanted to learn about our many avian neighbors. I'm looking forward to increasing my knowledge through being involved with ELWAS.

I'm also excited to be helping out as the new Merchandise Chair. In this role, I'll be overseeing the nature store, maintaining merchandise and managing sales at membership meetings. If you have requests or suggestions for the store, please email me at cbalbuena@comcast.net. I'm looking forward to meeting and working with you.

What's new in the nature shop:

- ☞ In celebration that spring is in the air, we're offering **15% off of all plant guides in April.** That's in addition to the 10% membership discount on books.
- ☞ You'll also want to stop in to see a new addition to the store, the *National Geographic Complete Birds of North America*, a beautiful hardcover companion to the *National Geographic Field Guide* that includes over 4,000 illustrations, 200 photographs, and 700 range and migration maps.
- ☞ And, since it is nesting season, we are also stocked up on **nesting boxes for chickadees, wrens, and swallows.**

So be sure to stop by the nature stop on membership meeting night, or during ELWAS regular office hours

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: Mon, Tues and Fri — 9:00am — 1:00pm



Eagle Eye
VISION CARE, P.S.

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

See the birds better!

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.

April 1 (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 (preferred) or at 425-885-3842.**

TIME CHANGE April 7 (Fri) 8:00 am to noon

Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1st Friday of each month at 8:00.** 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.

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. Cost/person \$3. **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

April 15 (Sat) 7:30 am — Fir Island, Skagit County

We'll walk the dikes at the Skagit Game Range and other access areas on Fir Island looking for migrant passerines, shorebirds, and lingering wintering raptors and other small birds. Bring lunch and dress for the weather. Return late afternoon. Meet before 7:30 am, Kingsgate P&R. Passenger cost/person: \$8.00. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026.**

April 15 (Sat) 10:00 am — Bellefields Walk Through

Help clean litter along Bellefields Trail in the south end of Mercer Slough Nature Park. Meet at the Winters House (Bellevue Parks) parking lot at 2102 Bellevue Way SE (just north of I-90). Bring gloves, a bag for trash, and binoculars. **Kay Barrett 425-644-2862.**

TIME CHANGE April 18 (Tues) 8:00 am— noon

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **3rd Tues of each month at 8:00.** Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required.

MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026

April 24 (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 and plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person \$2.00. — **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

April 29 (Sat) - 7:30 am — Ellensburg area

Join us for a special trip with the Washington Native Plant Society to see birds and native plants of the shrub steppe and forest habitats near Ellensburg. We will visit Swauk Creek for the American dippers, Hayward Hill for a variety of shrub-steppe plants and birds, Durr Road for more native plants and raptors, Umptanum Road for bluebirds, and the Wenas area (if time allows). Bring a lunch and plan to be back by early evening. Co-leaders Monica Van der Vieren (native plants), Len Steiner (birds), and Sunny Walter (coordinator). Meet before 7:30 am at north end of the Issaquah P&R (I-90 exit 15, corner of SR 900 and Newport Way) to carpool. Passenger cost/person \$10.00. **Please contact Sunny if you are planning to join us, 425-271-1346 or sunny@sunnywalter.com.**

May 5 (Fri) 8:00 am to noon

Marymoor Park — See April 7 listing

May 6 (Sat) 7:00 am

Theler Wetlands via Southworth

We will take the Fauntleroy ferry to Southworth and bird our way to the Theler Wetlands. The wetlands include fresh and salt water marshes, forested uplands, and estuarine habitats. Prepare to walk about 2-1/2 miles. We will return by way of Tacoma. It can be cool and wet so dress accordingly. 150 bird species have been seen in this area. Bring a lunch. Meet before 7:00 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride to carpool. Passenger cost/person is \$6.00 + share in ferry cost. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

May 6 (Sat) 9am to noon

Marymoor BirdLoop Work Party — See April 1 entry.

BIRDATHON FIELD TRIP - \$25.00 DONATION TO ELWAS FOR THE BIRDS

May 11 (Thursday) 6:30 am

Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, near Olympia, WA

The riparian and wetland areas are dominated by Oregon Ash, white oak, Garry Oak, shrubs, and grasses that invite warblers, vireos, tanagers, and flycatchers. Chipping and Savannah Sparrow and Western Bluebird may be found in the short-grass

(Continued on page 5)

**BIRD
of the
MONTH**

Evening Grosbeak
Coccothraustes vespertinus
by Hugh Jennings



The Evening Grosbeak (EVGR) is about 8" long with a wingspan of 14" and a weight of 2.1 oz. (60g). The genus name, *Coccothraustes* (cock-oh-THROUSE-teez), is Latin from the Greek *kokkos*, grain, and *thrauein*, to shatter. The species name, *vespertinus* (ves-per-TINE-us), is Latin meaning "belonging to evening" from the mistaken belief that this bird sang mainly in the evening.

The EVGR has a massive head and bill, short tail and relatively short but pointed wings. The male has a yellow body, darker head with a bright yellow eyebrow and black-and-white wings. The bill is yellow in winter and pale green in summer. The female is brownish gray overall, with yellow on the nape and black-and-white wings. The bill is the same as the male's.

This large finch wanders widely in the winter, descending on bird feeders in colorful, noisy flocks and consuming large amounts of sunflower seeds. Originally, it was a western bird and was almost unknown east of the Great Lakes before the 1890s. It now breeds commonly east to New England. Its eastward spread may have been due to the planting of box elder trees, which is favorite food of the grosbeaks. In Washington state it is a fairly common summer resident in low- to mid-elevation conifer forests statewide, somewhat irregular in winter but usually uncommon. They are on the move in spring and a common visitor to deciduous trees for the buds, and to bird feeders. Numbers in any locality can vary from year to year. Seeds make up most of their diet, especially seeds of box elder, ash, maple and locust trees. The large bill makes it easy crack large seeds. They also feed on oozing sap and insects in summer. The EVGR sometimes will eat fine gravel for minerals and salts, and therefore can be seen near gravel piles. They forage mostly in trees and shrubs and sometimes on the ground. They usually forage in flocks, except when nesting.

The song is a halting warble while its call is a ringing "peer" which, when given by a flock, sounds like sleigh bells. During courtship, the male dances with his head and tail raised, wings drooped; he vibrates as he moves back and forth. The male frequently feeds the female.

The nest is usually on a horizontal branch well out from the trunk or in a vertical fork of a tree. It usually rests 20-60 feet above ground, but can vary from 10-100 feet. The nest is made by the female and is a loosely made cup of twigs, lined with fine grass, moss, rootlets or pine needles. Usually 3-4 eggs, but sometimes 2-5, are laid. The eggs are pale blue to blue-green, spotted with brown, gray or purple. Only the female incubates the eggs for 11-14 days. The male may feed the female during this time. Both parents feed the nestlings, which leave the nest about two weeks after hatching. They may have two broods in one year. The EVGR usually lives 4-9 years. One male banded in Pennsylvania was trapped and released in New Jersey when over 13 years old. One female in an aviary in Canada lived to at least 17 years.

Field Trips

(Continued from page 4)

prairies. Owls and woodpeckers are possible in the mixed woods. Expect to walk at least 4 miles. Bring food and drink for this full day of birding. Carpool drivers are required to have a WDFW Vehicle Use Permit. Meet before 6:30 am at Newport Hills Park N Ride. Return early evening. **Passenger cost/person \$9.00. Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

BIRDATHON FIELD TRIP - \$25.00 DONATION TO ELWAS FOR THE BIRDS

May 13 (Saturday) 7:00 am

Bowerman Basin to Tokeland

Thousands of shorebirds migrate through this coastal area each year on their way to Alaskan breeding grounds. The Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival is April 28-30. The main migratory push will be over but we should still see numbers of shorebirds and other migratory birds in breeding plumage. Plan for a full day of fun birding, home by evening. Bring lunch, snack, drinks, and gear for changeable coastal weather. Limit 12 people/three cars. Bring scope if you have one. **Call Kathy Andrich at 206-390-3159** to register. **Passenger cost/person \$11.00.** Meet before 7am at north end of Wilburton Park and Ride. (Second trip on Sunday May 14 if enough interest.)

Volunteers – We Need You!

ELWAS has openings for several leadership positions. Some of these are for the Board of Directors and others are Committee Chairs. We are also seeking volunteers to fill ongoing needs within the Chapter to keep us moving forward.

Our Board of Directors has several open positions. These include:

Treasurer	Communication Chair
Financial Development Chair	Conservation Chair
Secretary	Membership Chair

The Board works hard and takes their commitment to the Chapter seriously, but they also have fun.

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, 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.

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
- Coordinate participation of ELWAS Board Members or Committee Chairs who might be included in any event
- Coordinate our participation with host organization
- Organize all aspects of the event from inception through completion
- Schedule and work with volunteers
- Ensures all materials and props are acquired and delivered on event day, and returned and stored at the ELWAS offices, when completed
- Survey volunteers to determine any strengths or weaknesses in the event, for future reference
- Prepare write-up of event for website and newsletter
- Write 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 for further details.

If you believe ELWAS is a cause worthy of your time, give a little of yourself. The birds will thank you!



CONSERVATION CORNER — Take Action to Help Mother Earth

By Jim Rettig

The most serious environmental problems that face all human societies fall into twelve groups, says Jared Diamond, author of the book ***Collapse: How Societies choose to Fail or Succeed***. I have listed these twelve problems below for your thoughtful consideration. Eight of the 12 have been major issues for previous societies, while four (numbers 5, 7, 8, and 10 below) became serious only recently. The first four deal with the destruction or loss of natural resources; the next three involve ceilings on natural resources; the three after that consist of harmful things we produce or move around; and the last two are population issues.

Natural resources that we are destroying or losing:

1. **NATURAL HABITATS** are being destroyed at an accelerating rate or they are being converted to human-made habitats. Examples include Forests, Wetlands, Coral Reefs, Ocean bottoms.
2. **WILD FOODS**, such as fish and shellfish which come to us essentially free, contribute a large fraction of protein for human consumption.
3. **GENETIC DIVERSITY**. Each wild species provides us for free with services that can be very expensive, and in many cases impossible, for us to supply ourselves.
4. **SOILS** are degraded through nutrient depletion, erosion, salinization, alkalization, acidification.

Natural Resources with ceilings, more of which is obtained at increasing cost:

5. **FOSSIL FUELS**: oil, natural gas, coal.
6. **FRESH WATER**.
7. **PHOTOSYNTHESIS**. In 1986 it was calculated that human beings used or wasted about 50% of the earth's photosynthetic capacity. With the projected increase in human population and human impact, most energy fixed from sunlight will be used for human purposes by the middle of this century, leaving little left over for other species.

Harmful things that we generate or move around:

8. **TOXIC CHEMICALS**.
9. **ALIEN SPECIES**.
10. **GREENHOUSE GASES**.

Two problems involving the increase in human populations:

11. **HUMAN OVERPOPULATION**
12. **IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT** of the increase numbers of human beings. The impact of six billion plus people aspiring to consume like First World consumers would/will be devastating.

But What Can I Do?

If you want to make a difference, plan to commit yourself to a consistent policy of actions over the duration of your life.

Read Diamond's book!

Vote for candidates for office who will vote for the environment.

Contact your elected representatives at all levels of government and let them know your views on environmental issues.

Be very intentional about what you buy and don't buy. Embrace economic boycotts. Draw public attention to a company's policies and products. Praise companies whose policies and practices are beneficial to the environment. Create a "Dirty Dozen" and a "Terrific Ten" companies. Learn which links in a business chain are most sensitive to public influence.

Improve your own local environment; that is, your own backyard and your local communities.

Donate time and money to organizations like the Audubon Society which promote policies you like. Even small donations are not meaningless. Every financial gift goes a long way.

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.

Class: Thursday May 4, Tuesday, May 9 and Thursday May 11. 6:30—9:00 P.M.

Morning Field Trip: Saturday 5/6 **OR** Sunday 5/7 (½ class goes each day)

All Day Field Trip to Eastern Washington: Saturday 5/13 **OR** Sunday 5/14 (½ class goes each day)

CLASS LOCATION: Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 – Fourth Avenue S., Kirkland

COST: \$95 (ELWAS members) \$120 (non-members – *chapter membership is \$25*)

Register soon - class size limited! Call 425-576-8805 to sign up

Field guide used for class is 4th edition of *National Geographic Birds of North America*.
May be purchased at **ELWAS Office**

FLYCATCHERS AND WARBLERS with Kevin Aanerud

Sign up for this great class arranged due to popular demand. Kevin is considered a local expert on flycatchers and warblers and has taught this class for Seattle Audubon. Now we bring him to ELWAS for our very own session.

Kevin will present two evenings of illustrated lecture and discussion followed by a full day field trip to farmland habitat in the Snoqualmie Valley area between Monroe and Carnation. Join us to learn more about these beautiful migrants that spend the summer in our area.

Class: Tuesday, May 16 and Monday, May 22, 2006 from 7:00 to 9:15 PM. Class will meet at the Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Avenue, Kirkland. Class limited to 20 participants. Registration required.

Field Trip: Saturday, June 3, 2006. 8:00 AM. To be arranged at the class.

Cost: Lecture and field trip \$55.00 per person/ELWAS member, \$70.00 per non-ELWAS member. Registration for the field trip only if space available at \$25.00 per person/ELWAS member, \$35.00 per person/non-ELWAS member. Class members have priority. Class and field trip limited to 20 participants.

Registration: Call the ELWAS office to register at (425) 576-8805. Office open Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. *Registration closes May 12.*

Join Birdathon and Keep Common Birds Common

Help raise money for the Audubon Society by participating in Birdathon any time in May. Get sponsors who will support you for each species you see, whether you see them in your backyard for two or three hours, or whether you join a team that covers the state in 24. It's fun, it's challenging, it's a blast! And it helps birds.

Why are we interested in birds? John Fitzpatrick gives this answer. He says nothing in nature captures our fancy or arouses our curiosity more than birds. "They live from the windswept high Arctic to the world's driest deserts, and everywhere in between. Some hunt in the darkest of nights, navigating by listening for their own echoes. Others hunt from high in the sky using eyesight far keener than our own. Some raise just a single chick every two or three years, others can hatch a flock of their own several times a year. They may eat other animals (tiny to large), vegetables (seeds and fruits to leaves and buds), and even minerals (clay to sheep bones). They flap, soar, stoop, glide, swim, dive, walk, hop, and run like the wind. They can dance with choreography that baffles us, sing with melodies that haunt us, display with decorations that enchant us, and feign injury so convincingly as to fool us. Some mate for life and live in extended families, others mate for an instant and never see their offspring. Some never leave the local woodlot all their lives, others know the planet as a north-south stage to move across twice a year."

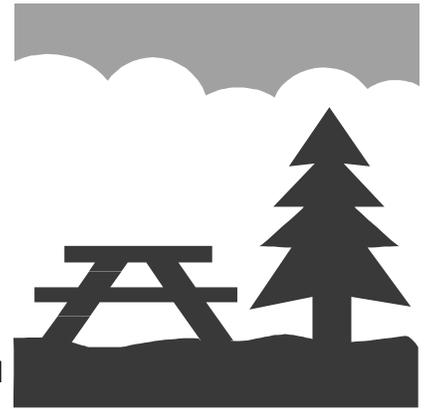
These fascinating creatures are losing their living space and they need our help. They need your help. If we keep common birds common, the rarer birds will face a better future. So we raise money for birds and work for a bird-friendly planet. Join Birdathon this year. If interested and you don't know what to do, call Jim Rettig, 425-402-1833. Packets of information, which include everything you need for this event, are available now through Mr. Rettig or the ELWAS office.

☛ See page 1 for information about a special Birdathon Training Session. ☛

Northwest Trek Field Trip

Join us on Saturday, May 20 for a trip to Northwest Trek. This adventure will include a naturalist-guided tram ride through the Park. We'll see moose, bison, elk and their young. There are always some surprises along the way!

After the tram tour, we'll explore Northwest Trek's nature trails and take a walking tour for up close looks at wolves, bears, cats, coyotes, wetlands and forest animals, as well as many local birds. For the young and young at heart, there's Cheney Discovery Center where we can touch everything! There's also an insect and reptile exhibit.



Bring a lunch or dine onsite at the Fir Bough Café or Grizzly Grill. Meet before 8:00 a.m. at Wilburton Park & Ride. We'll return by mid-afternoon. Carpool cost/person: **\$5.00**

To qualify for a group discount, we need a minimum of 15 people. The cost for Northwest Trek discount tickets are:

Adults: \$10.00
Seniors: (65+): \$9.00
Youth (ages 5-12): \$7.00
Tots (ages 3-4): \$4.00

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. All ages are welcome! Call the office at (425) 576-8805 to sign up.



WENAS CAMPOUT, May 26-29, 2006

For over 35 years Audubon families have been camping at the Wenas Creek Campground, officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary. The location, southwest of Ellensburg, is now in an "Important Bird Area" which Auduboners are working to secure in protective status.

The free, "primitive" campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

The campground is at about 2,500' elevation, and can be quite cold at night, and hot during the day. Bring your own water for cooking & drinking (the creek is beautiful and bountiful but not potable). We set up tents or use "pick-up" type campers. The committee rents portable toilets for four days. We share in the expense of that.

Bicycles and Frisbees are fun, and telescopes and cameras are standard gear. Please leave pets at home.

There are organized field trips throughout the Wenas drainage and WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife management areas. In camp we have natural history workshops with some of the state's top birders, WNPS botanists, entomologists etc. There are old-fashioned campfires in the evening with singing, story telling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Visit the Wenas Website to see a familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout. See www.nwlink.com/~cyrus/wenas.html. There's a bird checklist, directions to the campground, and more. If you don't do websites, contact me and I'll send you printed information.

Bring friends, family, and join us at Wenas all or part of May 26-29, 2006!

See you there, Helen Engle, hengle@iinet.com, 253-564-3112.