

The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 27, No 2 – MARCH 2008

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.

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Directions to ELWAS HQ

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 name to State St. Turn left on 4th Ave S.

TAKE THE BUS! Routes 540, 230 and 255 serve State Street in Kirkland.

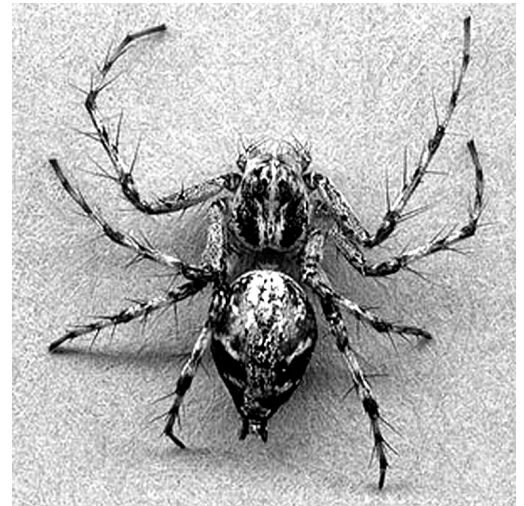
Welcome to the World of Spiders Thursday, March 27 at 7:00 pm (after the social hour) Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (ELWAS Headquarters)

We are pleased to have as our speaker Rod Crawford from the Burke museum, who will give us a beginner's introduction to spiders and debunk popular myths about these fascinating arachnids. Rod's presentation includes a slide lecture and is good for first grade level through adults. Audiences are encouraged to bring spiders from home that they'd like identified.

Do you think you know something about spiders? The chances are good that nearly everything you think you know is a myth! Spiders (nearly all harmless to humans) are the earth's most numerous land predators. Our state is home to at least 900 spider species. This program will introduce you to spider diversity, habitats, and behavior - all fascinating subjects.

Rod Crawford went to the University of Washington in 1970 as an undergraduate -- and never left. His interest in spiders led him to volunteer at the Burke Museum in 1971, and today he's the curator of arachnids there. He has published widely on spiders, harvestmen, and cave biology, and has edited Scarabogram (newsletter of The Scarabs) since late 1985. Rod recently completed six years on the multi-disciplinary International Kuril Islands Project, the object of which was to survey the flora and fauna of the remote Kuril Islands off the Pacific coast of Siberia.

Holding thousands of live spiders in his bare hands has brought Rod a lifetime



total of two real spider bites, both insignificant. Nonetheless, people keep telling him that spiders (who knows why) crawl into their beds and bite them every night! Such widespread foolishness recently led him to create the Spider Myths Web Site.

Please join us Thursday, March 27, for Rod's captivating presentation on spiders. Come at 6:30 for socializing and a musical slide show. At 7:00, enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments break, followed by the main program at 7:45.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are free and open to the public. Invite a friend or anyone who wants to know more about spiders and their myths.

Directions to ELWAS office / Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church are on this page (lower left).

The Problem with Plastic

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President



Cheap and endlessly malleable into thousands of products, plastic is incapable. It lasts seemingly forever, even if eventually broken down into tiny bits.

And as local grocer PCC bans plastic bags at checkout, ever more products are created. We are learning that tremendous amounts of plastic waste are ending up in our oceans. Two journalists in England, Kathy Marks and Daniel Howden, talk about "a plastic soup" of floating waste in the Pacific Ocean that now covers an area twice the size of the continental U.S. The vast expanse of debris -- in effect the world's largest rubbish dump -- is held in place by swirling underwater currents. This drifting "soup" stretches from about 500 miles off the Californian coast, across the northern Pacific, past Hawaii and almost as far as Japan."

What's the impact? Of concern to all of us in Audubon are the birds.

Another British journalist, Steve Connor, writes "One cigarette lighter, a toothbrush, a toy robot and a tampon applicator. The list of plastic items recovered from the stomach of a Laysan albatross chick that died on a remote Pacific island reads like a random assortment of everyday household objects. It is now clear this chick is among many thousands of seabirds that have died from ingesting plastic debris, and nowhere in the world seems to be too isolated for this deadly form of marine pollution.

The UN Environment Program says plastic debris kills more than a million seabirds every year, as well as more than 100,000 marine mammals. Syringes, cigarette lighters and toothbrushes have been found inside the stomachs of dead seabirds, which mistake them for food."

In fact, it is estimated that much of the plastic that fell into the sea 50 years ago is still there today. It is believed to constitute 90 per cent of all garbage floating in the oceans.

The slowly rotating mass poses a risk to human health, too. Hundreds of millions of tiny plastic pellets, or nurdles -- the raw materials for the plastic industry -- are lost or spilled every year, working their way into the sea. These pollutants act as chemical sponges attracting man-made chemicals such as hydrocarbons and the pesticide DDT. They then enter the food chain. "What goes into the ocean goes into these animals and onto your dinner plate. It's that simple," said Dr Eriksen, research director of the Algalita Marine Research Foundation.

The qualities that make plastic desirable as a consumer product are the same qualities causing the problem. It is extremely resistant to breaking down. What to do about this growing threat? Plastic cannot continue to be treated as a cheap disposable. A product's complete lifecycle and its long-term effects must be considered.

Can we curb our consumption of plastic? Surely, it's worth the effort.

East Lake Washington Audubon Society

(425) 576-8805 — www.ELWAS.org

308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)

P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

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Special Events	Open	
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Volunteer Coordinator	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 natureisoutside@gmail.com

ELWAS March Meetings

Mar 5 (Weds) 6:00 pm

Web Committee

Meets first Wednesday each month in ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email Nancy Nicklas at webmaster@elwas.org

Mar 11 (Tues) 7:00 pm

Youth Education Committee

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

Mar 13 (Thurs) 7:00 pm

Photo Group

Meets in large room upstairs from ELWAS Office. Questions? Email Tim Boyer at tboyer@seanet.com

Mar 27 (Thurs) 7:00 pm

Monthly Program and meeting

See article on page 1.

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.

(425) 576-8805 — office@elwas.org

Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri — 9:00am - 1:00pm

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Deadline for material submission is the first Wednesday of the month preceding publication. Send material by email to:

newsletter@elwas.org

Subject: ELWAS 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.

Those who give of themselves make the most and lasting impact. Thank you!

Thanks for all your work at the January Marymoor Bird Loop work party: **Carmen Almodovara Patricia Clarke, Mark Crawford, Glenn Eades, Therese Eby, Jennifer Hille, Miles Hille, Ellen Homan, Bev Jennings, Hugh Jennings, Megan Lyden, Tim McGruder, Jerry Rettig, Jim Rettig, Jim Roberts, Nancy Roberts, Wesley Sagawa, Sunny Walter, Gregg Wilson, and Stan Wood.**

Thanks for all your work at the February Marymoor Bird Loop work party: **Gillian Brightwater, Glenn Eades, Therese Eby, Ella Elman, Jennifer Hille, Miles Hille, Ellen Homan, Hugh Jennings, Marlene Meyer, Judy Rams, Jerry Retig, Jim Rettig, Sharon Rodman, Gregg Wilson, and Stan Wood.**

Thanks for all your help on the Membership Dinner **Claudia Welch** and **Melinda Bronsdon.**

Thank you to the Photographers who

gave such a wonderful presentation at the Membership Dinner: **Sunny Walter, Tim Boyer, Caren Park, Ginger Holser, and Gary Luhm.**

Thanks for getting out our Corvid Crier: **Lea Knapp, Nancy Roberts, Jim Roberts, and Peggy Jorgensen.**

Thank you to the Board of Directors for giving a weekend to work on goals for the organization: **Christy Anderson, Cindy Balbuena, Tim McGruder, Mary Britton-Simmons, Brian Bell, Sunny Walter, Ellen Homan, Carmen Almodovar, Tricia Kishel** and thanks for your input even though you couldn't spend as much time **Margaret Lie** and **Jim Rettig.**

*You make a living by what you get,
but you make a life by what you give.*
-- Winston Churchill

Volunteers!

With your help and expertise, and a little of your time, we can grow the Chapter and do even more in our community Whether you want to be in front of a crowd, or work behind the scene, we need you! With your help, we can do more classroom presentations, more habitat improvement, more advocacy, more education, and more birding. Some of our volunteer opportunities are:

ELWAS E-Mail List Moderator – Moderate the ELWAS e-mail lists from the comfort of your own home (5 hours a month)

Events Coordinator – Schedule ELWAS volunteer to staff tables at various events on the Eastside, and organize display and materials for each event (4 hours a month)

Adult Education Chair – recruit instructors, arrange for classroom and hosts, draft publicity and evaluations (6 hours a month)

Membership Meeting Greeter - Greet guests and members at the monthly

meetings (1 hour a month)

Website Volunteer - Work with the Web Committee to update or add new content to the ELWAS website.

Bird List Organizer – Using field trip records, create bird lists for the website Birding Hot Spots

We will work with each volunteer, and give them as much training and support as they need to be successful. You may read a thorough description for each opportunity on our website, or 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!

FIELD TRIPS

Parents and children over 8 are welcome on all trips. **FRS Radio owners, please consider bringing them on trips.
Check our website at <http://www.elwas.org/events/> for the latest information and for reports of last month's field trips.**

Meeting Places for Field Trips:

- **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. 1300 116th Way NE, Kingsgate.
- **Newport Hills Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 9. 5115 113th PL NE, Newport Hills.
- **South Kirkland Park and Ride:** 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way. 10610 NE 38th Pl.
- **Wilburton Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 12. 720 114th Ave, Bellevue.

Mar 1 (Sat) 9:00 to noon

Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration

Join us in restoring native habitat at the Marymoor Park interpretive area on the 1st Saturday of every month. Dress for the weather and bring clippers, gloves, snacks and water. Park in Lot G and follow the signs to work parties. Free parking passes are provided. **Glenn Eades 425-885-3842**

Mar 1 & 2 (Sat & Sun) 8:00 am

Ridgefield & Julia Butler Hansen National Wildlife Refuges

We will visit several pristine refuges in the southwestern region of our state, offering a variety of wildlife. Located along the Columbia River dikes, Ridgefield Refuge has open oak woodlands that provide habitat for Scrub Jays, Bald Eagles, Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes and thousands of Cackling and Canada Geese. The Julia Butler Hansen NWR has tidal and fresh water wetlands, the Columbia River and supports a large variety of waterfowl, and if we are lucky a White-tailed Kite. Vancouver Lake is home to more waterfowl, sparrows and gulls. The Dike Access Rd. circles the Woodland Bottoms and brings us close to the Columbia River beaches, sandbars and riparian forest. Stay at a motel in Woodland. Meet by 8:00 am Saturday at north end of the Wilburton P&R (I-405, exit 12, SE 8th St.). Limit of 12, call **Brian Bell (425-485-8058)** to reserve a spot. Passenger cost/person \$25.00.

Mar 7 (Fri) 9:00 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 9:00**. Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot (Parking Lot D). 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 Dog Area parking lot. Parking is \$1.

Mar 7 (Fri) 11:00 am

Kenmore P&R and Library

ELWAS members will have spotting scopes available at 11:00

am for the public to watch the Great Blue Heron colony at the north end of the Kenmore P&R (Bothell Way and 73rd Ave. NE). There will be a slide presentation about the herons and other birds at the Kenmore Library about noon. This will be published as an event in the Kenmore Senior Center newsletter. Any ELWAS members are invited to bring a scope, if they have one. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Mar 8 (Sat) 7 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. The Stanwood Sewage Treatment Ponds offer a variety of waterfowl and the occasional avian surprise. Bring lunch and meet before 7 am at south end of Kingsgate P&R. Passenger cost/person \$7.00. Return early evening. **Joyce Meyer 425-868-7986**.

Mar 18 (Tues) 9:00 to noon—Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:00**. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

Mar 22 (Sat) 9:30 am to 1:00 pm – Cougar Mt. Moss Walk

Join us for a leisurely-paced walk starting at the Redtown Trailhead at elevation 660 feet with Lee Ellis, zoologist and volunteer at the UW moss herbarium. Lee will give us an introduction to mosses in general and then we will walk all or part of the 2.0-mile Red Town / Marshall Hill trail loop to discover the incredible diversity of mosses.

We will stroll through deciduous forest of bigleaf maple and black cottonwood with a green forest floor of ferns (sword, wood and lady) and many species of moss along with other old plant friends of a typical Puget Sound-country wet forest. Lee says that we will discover a whole new world – a miniature forest. Lee will concentrate on showing us the most common and most easily identifiable mosses.

Please bring a hand lens if you have it, water, raingear, and a sack lunch if you plan to stay after noon. For more information, contact Sunny Walter at 425-271-1346 or sunny@sunnywalter.com. Please let us know you will be coming so we don't leave you at the trailhead.

Meet at the Red Town Trailhead. Directions: From I-90: Take exit 13, drive south (uphill) on Lakemont Boulevard SE for 3.1 miles. Look for the entrance to the Red Town Trailhead on the left side.

Mar 24 (Mon) 9:00 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

(Continued on page 5)

BIRD OF THE MONTH — by Hugh Jennings

Song Sparrow *Melospiza melodia*

The Song Sparrow (SOSP) is about 6.25" in length, a wingspan of 8.25" and a weight of 0.7 oz. (20g). The genus name *Melospiza* is from Greek *melos*, song, and *spiza*, finch. The species name *melodia* is Latin for "pleasant song". This sparrow is our most widespread species and found in any low, open, weedy or brushy habitat.

The SOSP most likely has the greatest variation in plumage of any North American songbird, which indicates that it can readily adapt to differences in climate and food availability. In general it has a whitish breast with brown streaks and a dark central spot. The crown is reddish-brown with a gray central stripe and gray eyebrows. The white throat is bordered by dark brown marks from the base of the bill. The tail is long and rounded; the legs and feet are pinkish. Geographical variations include darker subspecies along the West coast and paler subspecies in the Southwest. In Washington state it is a common year-round resident at low to mid-elevations and can be found in all but the most arid, barren, or densely forested areas. The males define territories of 1/2 to 1-1/2 acres by singing from prominent perches. The male chases the female from the time she first arrives and then reduces the amount of his singing. Courtship involves the male diving at the female and giving a trill-like call. The song begins with a few repeated notes followed by various warbles. F. Schuyler Matthews "Field Book of Wild Birds and Their Music" (a copy is in ELWAS li-



brary) devotes 14 pages to Song Sparrow melodies. His description begins with "The Song Sparrow is the flower of his family. A musician of exceptional ability, and the possessor of a character remarkable for its cheerfulness under all conditions of weather". The calls include a short *tsip* or *tchep*. One version of its song is described as "maids, maids, maids put on your teakettle, teakettle, teakettle". Another, as "sweet, sweet, sweet followed by a buzzy *towhee* and a short, descending trill".

Song Sparrows feed on the ground, eating seeds, insects and some fruit, and will come to feeders with seed scattered

on the ground. The nest site varies, but is usually on the ground under a clump of grass or in shrubs less than four feet off the ground, but sometimes up to 10 ft. The nest is made mostly by the female and is an open cup of weeds, grass, leaves, strips of bark lined with fine grass, rootlets and animal hair. There are usually 4, but often 3-5, greenish white eggs with dark marks. The female incubates the eggs for 12-14 days. Both parents feed the young which normally leave the nest 10-12 days after hatching. The young stay with the parents for another three weeks. They may have two broods. (The photo was provided by Joyce Meyer).

Field Trips (continued)

by noon. Cost/person \$2.00. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351

Mar 29 (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. Dress for cool, wet weather. 150 bird species have been seen in this area. Bring a lunch. Meet before 7 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) to carpool. Cost/person \$6 + share ferry cost. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351

Apr 5 (Sat) -- 9:00 to noon

Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration

See Mar 1 entry.

Apr 9 (Weds) 6:30 am — Whidbey Island

Meet at the Kingsgate P&R (regular route now open again) at 6:30 am. We will probably start at the north end of the island and work our way south. Stops will include Rosario Head, Deception Pass SP, Oak Harbor, Swantown, Hastie Lake Rd, Libby Beach, Penn Cove area, Fort Casey/ferry terminal/Crockett Lake, Double Bluff, Deer Lagoon. We should still have some waterfowl around, maybe some loons, returning passerines. Bring lunch, scopes great. Return early evening. Passenger cost/person \$10.00 plus share in ferry costs. Brian Bell 425-485-8058

The Youth Education Committee Needs YOU

Do you enjoy working with children? Are you interested in sharing your knowledge about birds and the environment? Do you like meeting new people? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, the Education Committee invites you to join. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at the ELWAS office at 7:00 and are a hard-working, energetic and fun group of dedicated volunteers. Our goals for 2008 are the following:

- Continue to improve, adapt and expand our youth curriculum
- Expand our audience to include a wider diversity of young people
- Expand the teacher scholarship fund to include elementary teachers
- Fund low-income students to attend summer camps
- Sponsor a membership meeting for children
- Serve families with children
- Create a slide presentation on birds
- Create Web activity pages
- Expand our program to include high school students
- And finally (and here is where you can help): Add new members to our committee

For more information, contact Mary Britton-Simmons at mbritton1@earthlink.net or 360-794-7163.

Want to Keep Up With ELWAS Activities?

Join one or all of the ELWAS e-mail lists and stay informed on what’s going on in the Chapter. There aren’t a great number of postings to any one list (1-2 a week), and they’re a great way for members to keep in touch.

Any member of any list is allowed to post e-mails, as long as they’re ELWAS or bird related. The lists are moderated and those who abuse the privilege will be barred.

ELWAS has three e-mail lists:

1. Announce – Here you can post emails of general interest to ELWAS

members, or receive announcements about Chapter activities and other, bird-related events;

2. Conservation – Here you can post or receive information on conservation/ environment related issues, especially as they relate to ELWAS and birds

Opportunities – Here you will receive announcements on ELWAS volunteer opportunities

If you would like to join one or several of these lists, you may do so directly by going to:

Announce email List: <http://lists.elwas.org/listinfo.cgi/announce-elwas.org>

Conservation email List: <http://lists.elwas.org/listinfo.cgi/conservation-elwas.org>

Volunteer email List: <http://lists.elwas.org/listinfo.cgi/opportunities-elwas.org>

Or you may send an e-mail to: jan@elwas.org.

Just Say “Charge it”

We have the technology. Do you have the need?

For many years, ELWAS has accepted credit card payments for memberships, classes and merchandise. We also accept credit card payments for donations.

What does this mean for you? This means that you can spread out your giving to ELWAS throughout the year. For a pledge of at least \$10.00 a month, we can charge your credit card with no muss, no fuss to you.

What does this mean for ELWAS?

With one member’s year-long pledge at the minimum of \$10 a month, we will be able to purchase materials and supplies for one classroom presentation. If two members pledge \$10 a month, that will pay for one whole membership meeting. With a pledge of \$10 a month by ten members, we can send twelve kids to an environmental learning center for a week.

Some of our members have chosen this option, and it works well. They don’t have to think about it, and we

don’t have to send them pesky reminders.

\$10 a month isn’t much. Four lattes; lunch at your favorite restaurant; a movie for one. But it could mean so much to a child whose eyes are opened to our natural world. Or to those who visit a local park, protected or enhanced by ELWAS volunteers.

So let’s talk. Call the office and any volunteer can sign you up.

Conservation Movie Night and Brown Bag Discussion Group March 10 (Monday)

Join ELWAS and Sierra Club members as we view our March movie, **Counting Sheep: Restoring the Sierra Nevada Bighorn**. Counting Sheep chronicles the struggle for survival of the wild Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, a majestic emblem of American wilderness. It captures the plight of the Sierra bighorn with dynamic interviews and exquisite footage — the first film ever of one of the most endangered mammals of North America. At the heart of the film lies the tenacity of the biologists and environmentalists who fight to conserve these noble animals in the face of disease, harsh winters and predation by mountain lions. What is at stake is the future of a species.

Enjoy a 6:15 dinner-in-the-round with other environmentally-friendly people from both organizations (bring your own brown bag dinner; hot beverages will be provided). On March 10, we are pleased to welcome Tom Reeve, Vice-president of **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition**, to speak to us about this non-profit citizens group founded by former Governors Dan Evans and Mike Lowry in 1989. WWRP secured \$100 million from the Legislature last year to protect wildlife habitat and securing public access to parks, trails, shorelines and other outdoor recreation areas.

The **May 1 deadline** to apply for grants to protect wildlife habitat and

other lands is approaching fast. Tom will answer our questions about how the WWRP works and let us know how to apply for funding for our favorite projects. If you want to find out more before movie night, please go to: <http://www.wildliferecreation.org/>

Come at 6:15 to get in on everything or at 7:15 for just the movie.

Mark these future movie dates on your calendar now: April 14, May 12.

This event will be held at the ELWAS office in Kirkland (Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (Directions on page 1)).



Audubon Bird Loop at Marymoor Park

You are invited to join others at our Bird Loop work parties held every first Saturday of each month. The next ones are March 1, April 5, and May 3. The two kiosks are getting lots of attention now as we finish installing the base and pavers for the

floors. Then come the information panels and their contents. Your help is always appreciated.

The floor of the River Kiosk will be installed March 1. Come out for a day of fun, fellowship, and hard work.

We continue to remove invasive species and plant natives. We also continually maintain the whole bird loop by cutting back vegetation, trimming branches, cleaning up. We meet at the East Meadow entrance at 9:00 AM every first Saturday. See you there.

Legacy of Neglect —by Jim Rettig



I wrote this the day I returned from my precinct caucus where the number of people attending was “mammoth,” according to the newspapers. The intensity of feelings

expressed, the anger and disappointment shown by many, was hard to miss. So when we ponder who to vote for in November, think about the legacy of the last eight years. The Bush Administration:

- Said no to the Kyoto Protocol on global warming;
- Held national energy policy meetings in secret and excluded the environmental community;
- Suggested elevated arsenic levels in drinking water was okay;
- Rolled back the Roadless Area Rule;
- Put forth salmon recovery plans repeatedly rejected by the courts;
- Re-wrote wetland rules to allow more filling;

- Weakened the *Clean Air Act* by letting older power plants and refineries upgrade facilities without installing modern pollution controls;
- Undermined the *Clean Water Act* by proposing to weaken sewage treatment requirements;
- Listed fewer endangered species than previous administrations;
- Ignored global warming concerns;
- Broke its promise to restore and maintain our national parks;
- Permitted oil and gas drilling in lands that are close to national parks and that might have been designated wilderness areas;
- Proposed easing requirements for mercury emissions at power plants;
- Inserted political and ideological agendas into scientific analysis so that truth is diminished and subordinated;
- Failed to lead this nation and the world in reducing global warming;
- Failed to push for greater fuel effi-

ciency for cars and trucks;

- Reversed the long-standing policy of “Let the polluter pay,” and shifted the cost of cleaning up toxic waste dumps to taxpayers;
- Dramatically reduced the number of toxic waste clean-up projects;
- Failed to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the nation’s principle source of funds for creating and preserving parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and open spaces
- Was rebuked by the US Supreme Court for not regulating greenhouse gases.

And this is a short list! Think about this when you vote in November.

Birdathon 2008

Brown Pelicans and Birdathon 2008



The Brown Pelican is back! Forty years ago these magnificent creatures hovered on the brink of extinction but now their numbers have increased to about 620,000 along the coasts of the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America. So the US Interior Department has announced a proposal to remove this bird from the endangered species list. See, we can do this! We can save species from extinction if we have the mind, heart and will to do so.

But the populations of other species are going down, so we need to keep working at this. Last month I mentioned population declines in a number of common species of birds in this country and I challenged you to get active in Birdathon in May.

Birdathon is our biggest money-raising event of the year –it produces about 25% of our chapter’s operating budget. So if you like the idea that the Brown Pelican is back, and would like to see increased populations of American Bitterns, Common Terns, Rufous Hummingbirds, and more, then you need to join others in Birdathon and raise money to keep the birds singing.

It’s easy and fun. You can give money directly to the chapter. You can pledge a certain amount to a Birdathoner who is raising money for the chapter by counting birds. Or you can be a Birdathoner your-

self, collect pledges from friends and neighbors and everyone else you can think of, count birds on a day in May, collect the pledges and turn that amount over to the chapter. Last year chapter members raised about \$18,000. This year let’s go for \$20,000.

The birds need your help! And so do we. We want to keep the birds singing and populations increasing! Interested in joining us? Call me, Jim Rettig, 425-402-1833, or the ELWAS office, for more information.

Planning for the Future

Twice each year, your Board of Directors spends an extended period of time planning for the future of our chapter. The winter retreat was this past January, and 10 Board members paid their own way to a hard-working weekend to ensure that we will continue to be a dynamic and fiscally responsible chapter.

We reviewed our accomplishments for 2007 and set some very ambitious goals for 2008. I reviewed our accomplishments in the November newsletter, so I will talk about our goals here.

One of our ongoing goals is to be a credible and influential voice for the environment. For 2008, we will expand on this goal by:

- Continuing and deepening our involvement in the Cool Cities program, as well as the Cool State program, which is concerned with local responses to global warming.

- Supporting and assisting cities to implement the Evergreen Cities program.
- Helping to bring barn swallows back to Phantom Lake, with the assistance of the city of Bellevue.

Our second goal is to create and nurture awareness and stewardship of the natural world through education. Our ambitious education program includes expanding our youth curriculum and including a wider diversity of young people, as well as high schoolers. We will expand our teacher scholarship fund and once again, offer scholarships to summer camps for kids. Efforts will continue to draw in families with children and include content for kids on our website.

We will also reactivate our adult classes with at least three offerings during 2008.

Goal #3 is to grow the chapter and expand our presence and visibility in our commu-

nities. We aim to produce a communication plan to increase awareness of our chapter with the public, and also increase volunteer involvement. This will also help us increase our membership. Partnering with other organizations will also be important in the coming years.

We will also set some specific targets for our fundraising efforts to ensure our chapter's sustainability and financial future.

You have probably already heard about another decision made at the retreat. We would like to update our chapter by renaming it Eastside Audubon and designing a new logo. The new look for the chapter will be unveiled this spring. We hope it will be a symbol of new energy to reach our ambitious goals for the future.

As always, this is your chapter. Let us know what you think (office@elwas.org). We welcome your involvement as a volunteer and supporter. — Christy Anderson

Audubon Champions Evergreen Cities Act

Support House Bill 2844/Senate Bill 6469

As development sweeps across the state, urban trees are destroyed and replaced by impervious surfaces like concrete and blacktop. The State's population is anticipated to grow by 2.3 million by 2030, and action is needed to support planting and maintaining of our urban-forested lands. Currently, only limited numbers of our communities have up-to-date tree inventories, management plans, or tree retention

ordinances. Maintaining and planting urban trees can significantly enhance quality of life, air quality and water quality, as well as providing effective storm water management and habitat for birds and wildlife. Increased tree coverage in urban areas can have numerous social impacts as well, including lower energy costs, higher property values, increased consumer spending, and lowered crime rates.

The Evergreen cities bill will help and create

infrastructure to retain and maintain urban trees to ensure the Evergreen State is filled with Evergreen Cities for future generations. With session moving forward fast, and adjourning March 13th, it is time to show your support for protection of our State's trees. Visit www.leg.wa.gov, where you can check on the progress of the bill as well as find information on your legislators and how to contact them, or call the legislative hotline at 1.800.562.6000.

Join Us for Spring Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW)

For Spring ACOW 2008, being held April 11th through April 13th, Audubon Washington has chosen the Sleeping Lady Mountain retreat, located in the foothills of the Cascade mountain range outside Leavenworth, Washington.

Friday evening will kick off with a reception and art show, including Wildlife Biologist and nature artist Heather A. Wallis Murphy, photographer Teri Pieper, a book display by *A Book for All Seasons* and book signing by Brian Bell author of *Birds of Washington State*. Friday evening we will also have our first guest speaker, Dr. Nalini M. Nadkarni, a professor at Evergreen State College and at the forefront of canopy studies. Dr. Nadkarni has

made a name for herself as "the Queen of the Forest Canopy" through numerous scientific articles and documentary appearances, as well as two books. Dr. Nadkarni has also become well known for promoting the conversation between the scientific community and the general public.

Saturday will be dedicated to workshops and breakouts on advocacy, leadership/board development, and fundraising. Saturday evening will usher in our keynote speaker, Dr. Terry L. Root. Dr. Root is a Senior Fellow and University faculty at the Woods Institute for the Environment and Professor by courtesy in Biological Sciences at Stanford University. Dr. Root

has worked extensively in the research of climate change. Dr. Root has won several honors, most recently, lead authorship of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Sunday will be dedicated to field trips, conveniently leaving from Sleeping Lady. Options for field trips include: Chelan-Douglas Land Trust trip, Barn Beach Reserve and Blackbird island trip, Rocky Reach Dam and Visitor Center, Horan Natural Area and a biking and birding excursion.

For more information and to register for Spring ACOW 2008, visit the Audubon Washington website at wa.audubon.org.

Support ELWAS With Rechargeable PCC Scrip Cards

Available at Membership Meetings and at the ELWAS Office During Office Hours.

This is an EASY way to shop at PCC and support ELWAS at the same time!

PCC rechargeable scrip cards come loaded with \$25 and can be used at any PCC store like gift cards. Cards may be recharged with a minimum of \$50 and a

maximum of \$500 at any PCC check stand at any time. Scrip cards may be redeemed for cash when the value falls below \$5.

Each time you recharge your card, ELWAS automatically earns 5% of the

amount you applied to it. Each card is numbered so funds can be tracked and distributed. Funds will be paid to ELWAS twice a year.

Questions? Please contact Megan Lyden (425-603-1548); meganlyden@msn.com

Why a Name Change at Juanita Bay?

You can help Juanita Bay Park's name reflect its special place in the Eastside communities.

East Lake Washington Audubon has long been involved with Juanita Bay Park - even before it was a Park. In 1985, when it was suggested that the Seahawks training facility be built on the site, Audubon members and other nature lovers stopped the project from going any further. Member, Jim Gallup, conducted the initial First Sunday Wildlife Tour on June 2, 1985. The Juanita Bay Ranger program sprung from these meager beginnings. Because of the work of Jim Gallup, and that of many others, Juanita Bay Park was eventually saved as a City Park, and dedicated as such in December, 1992.

Since that time ELWAS has been very active at the Park, working on restoration projects, leading bird walks, installing nest boxes and holding events there. In 1992, we celebrated Earth Day at Juanita Bay Park, leading bird walks and offering kids activities. In 1997, ELWAS paid for and installed an Osprey Platform in Juanita Bay, to encourage osprey to nest at the Park. From 1999 through 2003, we partnered with the City of Kirkland and

held Osprey Day celebrations at Juanita Bay Park. These events brought hundreds of wildlife enthusiasts from around the region to enjoy the birds and other wildlife.

Juanita Bay Park's master plan of 1998, developed by the City of Kirkland, set the Park aside as a passive natural park for wildlife preservation, and one of its primary goals is the protection of birds, plants and animals. Juanita Bay Park is specifically mentioned in the City's Park, Open Space and Recreation Plan of 2001 as an example of the City of Kirkland's commitment to managing and protecting the park system's natural and fragile resources. In the Juanita Bay Park Vegetation Plan, that same year, the park is referred to as a sanctuary and a refuge.

We consider Juanita Bay Park to be a very special place, unique among parks in Kirkland and on the entire Eastside. Now, Audubon is again asking the City for a change at Juanita Bay Park. We are asking the City to change the Park's name to "Juanita Bay Wildlife Refuge". We think the name change better describes this special place and will focus a greater emphasis on the unique habitats found there. We

are not asking for any other change or designation at the Park, we do not want to see the authorized uses changed or a change in Park visitors, but want to differentiate Juanita Bay Park from Juanita Beach Park and minimize confusion based on their similar names. This park is a gem on Lake Washington, and Juanita Bay is a cove protected from rough weather, which is essential for wintering birds. Birders, wildlife watchers, families, picnickers, dog walkers, neighbors, and runners all enjoy the park, as well as birds, amphibians, muskrats, beaver, and otter. Let's honor this wild park with a new name.

Please submit your comments on the proposal to rename the Park prior to the Kirkland Park Board's meeting on March 12. Comments may be submitted to City of Kirkland Parks and Community Services Department, 505 Market Street, Suite A, Kirkland, WA 98033, emailed to [Michael Cogle](mailto:mcogle@ci.kirkland.wa.us), Park Planning Manager at mcogle@ci.kirkland.wa.us or presented at the Board meeting. After its consideration of public comments, the Board will make a recommendation to the City Council.



Eagle Eye
VISION CARE, P.S.

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

See the birds better!

Olympic BirdFest 2008

Sequim, WA — April 4-6, 2008

Visit the rain shadow 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. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and a salmon banquet with our partner, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. **New this year:** A three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 6-8, 2008, immediately following BirdFest. The festival with the most spectacular setting! Contact: Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382; 360-681-4076; info@olympicbirdfest.org, www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Eco-Warrior 101

How do you make the leap from concerned citizen to eco-warrior? Just add Environmental Lobby Day to your calendar, and it's pretty easy. All you need is a day of your time and a willingness to go to Olympia to speak with legislators from your legislative district. On January 23, 2008, approximately 300 people took this challenge and met with their legislators to talk about reducing global warming, restoring urban forests, building green, walkable communities, and finding easier ways for local farms to provide healthy food for local schools.

Audubon had a strong presence at Lobby Day with at least 20 people from different chapters and Audubon Washington. ELWAS members who participated this year included Carmen Almodovar, Christy Anderson, Cindy Balbuena, Tim McGruder, Jim McRoberts, Jim Rettig, and Sunny Walter.

As a participant, you don't have to do a lot of preparation. Lobby Day organizers set up 15 minute appointments for you with each of your elected officials. Before you go to your appointments, you meet with other people from your legislative district, a trainer goes over talking points

and ways to be most effective, and then off you go.

For inspiration you can listen to speakers from the environmental community and like-minded legislators, such as Representative Dave Upthegrove, Senator Craig Pridemore, and Representative Zack Hudgins. This year attendees heard an impassioned Governor Christine Gregoire urging everyone to fight for green legislation and help Washington assume leadership in addressing global climate change.

So who exactly are the organizers for Lobby Day? They're people drawn from a coalition of over 20 different environmental groups in Washington state, including Audubon Washington. Each year this coalition agrees on specific legislation that they'll support. These priorities create the focus for your talk with legislators.

"Priorities for a Healthy Washington 2008" includes four proposals:

Evergreen Cities (HB 2844), sponsored by Audubon Washington, seeks to retain, restore, and plant new trees in our urban communities. Trees translate to improved water quality, air quality, and quality of life.

Climate Action and Green Jobs

(HB2815 / SB6516) seeks to reduce the state's global warming pollution and dependence on fossil fuel, and increase the number of green jobs.

Local Solutions to Global Warming

(Substitute Bill SB 6580 and HB 2797) seeks to reduce global warming pollution and create green, walkable communities by providing tools that make local governments aware of how land use, zoning, and transit decisions affect the environment.

Local Farms Healthy Kids

(HB 2798 / SB 6483) seeks to make it easier for local farms to provide food to local schools, thereby improving the quality of food our children eat and using less energy and creating less waste.

In 2007 Priorities for a Healthy Washington passed four proposals, and thus far all above proposals have been introduced and had positive hearings in the House and/or Senate. Next year add Environmental Lobby Day to your calendar and make your voice heard in Olympia. They're listening!

—Carmen Almodovar



Our Eco-Warriors!: ELWAS Delegation attends Lobby Day 2008