



The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 04-3 – APRIL 2004

Birding in Washington and Oregon

When: Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. (after the Social Hour)

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

Please join wildlife photographer Tim Boyer for his presentation, “Birding in Washington and Oregon”. His slide show will cover birds in the Skagit/Samish Flats, Ocean Shores, Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, Juanita Bay Park, and a few other places. In Oregon it will be Malheur NWR and a few shore birds from Fort Stevens State Park. Some of the images we’ll see appeared last August in the *Birder’s World* article, “Re-Scanning the Skagit.” (okay, I’LL show all three of them).

Tim Boyer should be familiar to those of you who have been around ELWAS meetings and trips lately. He’s been a member of ELWAS for 3+ years and is currently serving as Treasurer on the board. Tim says “I’ve been taking photographs of one kind or another since high school.” To get a preview of his excellent work as a wildlife photographer, see www.timboyer.com.

Please join us on **Thursday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m.** for this entertaining and enlightening presentation, which is **free and open to the public**. Also, join us at **6:30 for the social hour**.

Program Chair Position Open — Still!

by Jan McGruder

As we mentioned in last month’s newsletter, Roger Chapanis is retiring as ELWAS’ Program Chair, after many years of faithful service. As you know, he has brought in some wonderful speakers for our Membership Meetings.

Since Roger is moving on, we are seeking another volunteer to fill his spot. There are only 9 programs a year, so the time commitment shouldn’t exceed 5 hours a month for 9-10 months of the year.

You would be responsible for finding and contacting speakers; getting the program write-up to the Newsletter Editor and Publicity Chair; ordering payment from the Treasurer, making sure all the equipment speakers will need (slide projector/screen; tables, etc.) is set up on Membership Meeting night, introducing speakers at Membership Meetings, and sending a thank you note to each speaker.

I have a file with oodles of speakers to choose from, and if you have web access, all can be done in the comfort of your own home. I can help you get started until you’re familiar with the position, but we do ask for a 2-year commitment. And remember, this is only 16 programs!

Also, please note that we have other important volunteer positions open, including Volunteer Coordinator.

If you have any questions, or want more information, please feel free to call or e-mail me at (425) 822-8580 or jan@elwas.org.

Our Mission: *The mission of the East Lake Washington Audubon Society is to protect, preserve and enhance natural ecosystems and our communities for the benefit of birds, other wildlife and people.*

President's Message

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

A Gift and a Promise

On March 12, several ELWAS members gathered at Juanita Bay Park to install birdhouses for swallows. As we worked, we noticed a very attentive young woman there with her mom and a pug dog in a purple sweater. Her mother introduced her as Michelle Abendroth, a member of Mrs. Juett's 4th grade class last year at Moorlands Elementary School. Michelle's class raised \$300 by making and selling Mother's Day gifts, and presented a check to ELWAS to buy birdhouses. The very ones we were putting up that day! She wanted to see the results of her class' labors. We were thrilled to have her as a representative of the next generation of those who appreciate nature and understand that it takes care and work to protect. The conservationists of tomorrow are learning about birds and our environment today.



ELWAS is involved with young people in many ways. We now have several prepared presentations for schools on Owls, Introduction to Birds, and more. We participate in school field days and nature walks in

local parks. We strive to offer fun learning activities at events like Osprey Celebration. We have sent 60 fourth graders to camp at IslandWood, the Environmental Learning Center on Bainbridge Island and have created a scholarship fund to help future students with similar learning experiences.

We would like to do even more. We'd like to put together "bird boxes" containing teaching materials centered on birds for teachers to use in their classrooms. We would like to start a Young Auduboners Club. We would like to be able to respond to more of the requests we get for working with students of all ages. But, it all takes time and organization.

We are always looking for folks to help with these and other projects to involve young people in our chapter. Help is needed both in the classroom and in preparing materials, doing research, and organizing our educational activities.

This is a legacy we can leave. To not only conserve the natural world to the best of our ability, but also to ensure that others will carry on in future years.

Thanks to you and your classmates, Michelle. We appreciate your support, and we will pledge to support you in protecting the birds and the world we

East Lake Washington Audubon Society 425 576 8805

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

Executive Officers

President	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
E-mail	christyrae@hotmail.com	
Vice President	LouAnn Harris	(425) 652-7603
E-mail	montlou@earthlink.net	
Secretary	Diane Stone	(425) 868-1174
E-mail	dianestone@hotmail.com	
Treasurer	Tim Boyer	(425) 277-9326
Executive Director	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580
E-mail	jmgcgruder@comcast.net	

Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

<u>At large board member</u>	Amy McQuade	(206) 232-9543
E-mail	mcbirdwchr@aol.com	
<u>At large board member</u>	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026
E-mail	MF.Mathis@verizon.net	
<u>At large board member</u>	Ruth Adamski	(425) 823-6189
<u>Communication</u>	Open	
Historian	Sidonia St. Germaine	(425) 432-4261
E-mail	shearwater2@msn.com	
Newsletter Editor	Tom Grismer	(425) 828-6103
E-mail	newsletter@elwas.org	
Publicity	Tracey Cummings	(425) 788-4663
E-mail	publicity@elwas.org	
Webmaster	Nancy Nicklas	(425) 869-7827
E-mail	webmaster@elwas.org	
<u>Community Outreach</u>	Open	
<u>Conservation</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 828-4036
E-mail	Tim@elwas.org	
Advocacy	Tim McGruder	(425) 828-4036
E-mail	Tim@elwas.org	
Citizen Science	Len Steiner	(425) 827-2478
Habitat Restoration	Open	
<u>Education</u>	Open	
Adult Education	Melinda Bronsdon	(425) 827-5708
Youth Education	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163
E-mail	education@elwas.org	
Library	Betty Dean	(425) 827-4541
<u>Financial Development</u>	Open	
Birdathon	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
Gift Wrap	Nancy and Jim Roberts	(425) 822-1865
Merchandising	Open	
<u>Events Coordinator</u>	Open	
Field Trips	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351
E-mail	fieldtrip@elwas.org	
Hospitality	Kathy Andrich	(425) 226-6224
Programs	Roger Chapanis	(425) 557-5387
Volunteer Coordinator	Lea Knapp	(425) 822-7056
<u>Membership</u>	Robert Riedl	tulseluper@yahoo.com
Bellefields Clean-up	John Barrett	(425) 644-2862
Bird Questions?	Amy McQuade	(206) 232-9543
E-mail	birdhelp@elwas.org	

SPRING BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS

Relaxed, informal classes cover the basics of bird identification, birding etiquette and ethics, equipment selection, field guides and local birding areas. Spring migrants and breeding birds of Washington will be emphasized.

DATES: (3) Tuesdays 4-27, 5-4 & 5-11 6:30—9:00 P.M. (*classes* only)
Sat 5-1 *or* Sun 5-2 (morning only *field trip* – ½ class goes each day)
Sat 5-15 *or* Sun 5-16 (all day *field trip* to East. Wash. – ½ class goes each day)

LOCATION: ELWAS office: 308 – 4th Ave S. – Kirkland (classes only)
(lower level of Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church – enter on State Street)

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

CONTACT 425.576-8805 — Register Soon! Class Size Limited!

Field guide used for class is 4th edition of *National Geographic Birds of North America*
May be purchased at ELWAS Office/Nature Center 425.576.8805

Malheur, 2004

ELWAS is organizing another Chapter trip to Malheur National Wildlife this spring. The Refuge lies in southeastern Oregon, about 30 miles south of Burns, at an elevation of 4,100 feet. It is 183,000 acres composed of meadows, ponds and extensive wetlands surrounded by sage uplands and basalt rim rock. It is a major resting, nesting, and feeding area on the Pacific Flyway, and is on Roger Tory Peterson's list of the ten best birding areas in the US. More than 320 species of birds and many species of mammals have been observed on the Refuge. We have seen up to 127 species in four+ days.

We will visit all of the main birding areas within the Refuge. This year, there's room for 15 people, and we will have 2 field trip leaders each day. We will usually leave about 8:00 a.m., bird all day and be back about 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. The area is large enough that we can bird a separate area on each day. The field station is somewhat isolated - the town of Burns is 30 miles away - but there is a small convenience store at the Refuge entry, and a small store at Princeton, about 20 miles away. Therefore, bring everything that you will need with you. You'll need your own bedding/sleeping bag and pillow, towels and toiletries, flashlight, insect repellent, and we recommend you plan on dressing in layers. Temperatures can range from freezing at night to 80° during the day. We also recommend rain gear, good hiking/walking shoes, and binoculars and a spotting scope, if you have one.

We'll leave our area at 7:00 to 7:30 on Monday morning, May 17. It's about a 500-mile trip, and takes about 10-11 hours driving time. Of course, there's birding along the way, a stop for picnic lunch, and dinner in Burns, Oregon. Passengers split gas costs with their driver which, depending on vehicle mileage, will probably total \$100 to \$130. During the 4 days at Malheur, we'll try to consolidate carpools to limit the number of cars. Passengers will pay the drivers \$3/day or \$12 for the four days at Malheur.

Our reservations are from Monday night May 17, through Saturday morning, May 22, when we head home. We have reserved two kitchenettes, each with a shared bath and shared kitchens. We will have "quiet" house, and a "noisy" house. All the community cooking/meals will be done in the noisy house. Room rental is \$25.00 per person, double occupancy, or \$125.00 for the week.

All the meals will be provided by ELWAS for this trip. Breakfast = \$7; box lunch = \$8; dinner = \$11. The total cost for meals is \$111, and will be served Tuesday through breakfast Saturday. Everyone will be expected to sign up for after-dinner clean up once during the week.

We will have an orientation meeting on May 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the church Boardroom (across from our office). We'll have a chance to meet each other, plan carpooling and learn a little about what to expect at Malheur.

If you're interested, please call Jan with your questions or to reserve your spot (425-822-8580). The total cost for the week is \$236.00 per person, and we need \$50.00 to hold your spot.

The Corvid Crier, Issue 04-3. — Publication Date: April 1, 2004.

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 or by mail to:
Tom Grismer
P. O. Box 3053, Kirkland, WA 98083-3053
- The "Raven in Flight" used as our graphic logo was created by Tony Angell, and is ©1978 Univ. Of Washington Press. Used with permission.

AUDUBON CENTER/OFFICE

The office is downstairs at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church in Kirkland, 308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State, directions on page 5).

Phone number: (425) 576-8805

Email: office@elwas.org

Hours: Mon — Fri. — 10:00 – 2:00

Sat. — 12:00 — 4:00

COMING EVENTS

Parents and children over 8 are welcome on all trips

Check our website at <http://www.elwas.org/events/> for the latest information and for reports of last months' field trips.

April 3 (Saturday) 9:30 a.m. - late afternoon

Lower Skagit River Float Trip - no white water

Experience a variety of wildlife, such as hawks, eagles, swans, sea-birds, and marine life on this 3-4 hour float trip on the Lower Skagit River, all while naturalists treat you with tales of local history. Enjoy lunch on Goat Island located across from Deception Pass. Pacific NW Float Trips' rafts hold 8-10 people each. Begins at 10 a.m. in LaConner so please **arrive by 9:30**. If you wish to carpool, meet at **7:45 a.m.** at south end of Kingsgate P&R. Carpool cost/person is \$5. Prepare for variable weather, including rain, wind, cold, and sun. Float trip costs **\$50/each (includes a fresh salmon lunch) or \$40 if you bring your own lunch. Call Dave Button toll-free at 1-866-298-6287 to make reservations. Credit card payment preferred. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Pioneer Park**, near the Rainbow Bridge in LaConner. Take I-5 North to Conway Exit 221 to LaConner. Follow signs to LaConner and just past the gas station (only one) turn left on Maple Ave. Continue to Pioneer Park which is off Maple Ave. just before crossing the Rainbow Bridge. Arranged by Joyce Meyer

April 6/May 4 (Tuesday) 7:00 p.m. -

Conservation Committee — Meets first Tuesday of each month in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Call **Tim McGruder at 425-828-4036**

April 7/May 5 (Weds.) 7:00 p.m. — Web Committee Meets first Wednesday of each month in the ELWAS Office.

All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email **Nancy Nicklas at webmaster@elwas.org**

April 8 (Thursday) 8:00 a.m.— 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; return early afternoon. Meet before 8 a.m. at south end of Kingsgate Park and Ride, I-405. **Cost/person \$3. Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

April 10 (Sat.) 7:00 a.m. — 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 a.m. at north end of the Wilburton Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. Passenger cost/person is **\$4.00 + share in ferry cost. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Apr. 10/May 8 (Sat.) 10 a.m.

Bellefields Trail Walkthrough

Help clean litter along Bellefields Trail in Mercer Slough Nature Park. Meet at the Bellefields Trail parking lot on 118th Ave SE (Bellevue), about a mile south of Greenbaum's Furniture (118th and SE 8th). **Bring gloves, a bag for trash,**

and binoculars. -- John Barrett 425-644-2862

April. 14 (Weds.) - 9 a.m. — Bellevue Botanical Gardens

Join us for a walk through the garden and spend a relaxed morning seeing what birds are in the area. **Meets 2nd Wed. of each month at 9:00 a.m.**, and will finish by lunchtime. Bring binoculars and meet at the front door. Walks are limited to 10 people and **pre-registration is required. Call the office to sign up at 425-576-8805.**

April 15 (Thurs.) 7-9 p.m. — Education Committee

Meets in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? For information email: **education@elwas.org** or call **425-576-8805.**

Apr. 17 (Sat.) - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. - 2004 Spring Garden Fair

Sponsored by Woodinville Water District and Northshore Utility District. There will be 3 seminars every hour, native plants for sale, lots of informational booths (including ELWAS), and mulching mower and irrigation demonstrations. **Admission FREE.** Location is **Woodmoor Elementary School, 12225 N.E. 160th Street in Bothell.**

April 19 (Monday) 7:00 p.m. — Birds in the Balance

Meets 3rd Mon. each month at Len Steiner's, 13239 NE 100th, Kirkland. You're welcome to join this group, which assesses bird populations in local habitats **425-827-2478**

April 20 (Tues.) 9 a.m. — lunchtime — Juanita Bay Park

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

April 22 (Thursday) 7:00 p.m. — Monthly Meeting

“Birding in Washington and Oregon” See p. 1.

Ap. 24 (Sat.) 7:00 a.m. — Bowerman Basin/Ocean Shores

Thousands of shorebirds migrate through this area each year on their way to Alaska. The tidal flats between Hoquiam airport and Highway 101 have been the focus of national attention. The Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival is May 1-2. Ocean Shores is one of the top year-round birding areas in the state. Meet before 7:00 at north end of the Wilburton Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. Bring a lunch and dress for weather. Ccost/person **\$8. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

April 26 (Monday) 9:00 a.m. to noon

Birding the Hotspots of King County

Field trip on 4th Monday of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 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. MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

May 17 — May 22

Malheur Trip

See page 3 for description of trip.

New Houses in Juanita Bay Park

Last Spring Lani Juett's 4th Grade class (including Amy McQuade's GREAT grandson) at Moorlands Elementary School made Mother's Day gifts, sold them to friends and family, and raised \$300.00. Quite an accomplishment for 4th graders!

The students donated the \$300 to ELWAS for an enhancement project at Juanita Bay Park and we determined the funds could best be spent on bird houses for the Park. Many of the houses we had put up over ten years ago were either in poor condition, or gone. Also, many of the snags that the birds depend on for nesting holes had blown down over the years, especially this past winter, and we want to encourage the swallows to continue nesting in the Park.

With the \$300 gift, we were able to purchase 30 elegant, cedar swallow houses and on March 13 - a beautiful, sunny day - 12 of us met at Juanita Bay Park with ladders and hammers in hand. In two hours we had about two dozen houses nailed to trees around the Park, and got to enjoy the sights and sounds of many birds in the Park. An eagle cruised over, the winter and marsh wrens were singing their hearts out, and the buffleheads were diving in the bay.

Thanks to all those who helped with this project: Christy Anderson, Liz Fried, Michael Hobbs, Ellen Homan, Tim McGruder, Jim Rettig, Jim and Nancy Roberts, Len Steiner, Jim Wheeler, and Jerry Worsham. With your help, the swallow young will enjoy cozy quarters.



The ELWAS Birdhouse Construction Crew



LouAnn Accepts Gift from Moorland Students

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

NOTECARDS OF WESTERN US BIRDS

Color 4x6 prints on 5x7 notecards with envelopes.
Greater Sage-Grouse, Great Blue Heron,
shorebirds. \$2.50 ea. Available in the ELWAS Store
Tim Boyer Photography @ www.timboyer.com

How to get to..

- **Kingsgate Park and Ride:**
I-405 exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound, N. E. 124th St. Go west to light at 116th Ave. N. E., then right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot (on the left). Meet in the S.E. corner.
- **ELWAS Office/Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church,
308 4th Avenue S. (corner 4th Ave. S and State)**
I-405 exit 18 (N. E. 85th-Kirkland). Go west on Central Way to the light on 3rd St. Go left on 3rd St. Follow this street (it bears left and changes name to State St.) Then turn left on 4th Ave. S.

OSPREY DAY VOLUNTEERS

By Elizabeth Whiteford



Osprey Day is 9/25/04 at the Juanita Bay Park from 10-2. We need volunteers to help with this fun community event. If you'd like to volunteer, please call me at 206-715-6126 or email me at ewhiteford@cablespeed.com.

**BIRD
of the
MONTH**

Northern Pygmy Owl

Glaucidium gnoma

by Hugh Jennings



The Northern Pygmy-Owl (NOPO) is about 6.75" long with a wingspan of 12" and weighs 2.5 oz (70g). The genus name, *Glaucidium* (glaw-SID-ih-um), is shared with the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and is Latin from the Greek *glau*, diminutive of *glaukidion*, meaning a kind of owl, so-called from its glaring eyes. The species name *gnoma* is Latin from the Greek *gnome*, a mark, sign, or opinion, to know. According to Coues (1882) *gnoma* is an apt name for an owl, as "it combines a reputation for wisdom with certain superstitions connected with the gnome-like quality of its knowingness". The NOPO is a compact, small owl with a relatively long tail and short wings.



Two or three populations differ in overall color and voice.

Pacific birds are darkest and brownest. They give very slow

single toots (1 note every 2 or more seconds). Interior West birds are grayer overall and they give mainly single toots with some paired notes. The Pacific birds have a brown spotted crown, spotted side and narrow blackish streaks on the belly. The Pygmy-Owls have false eyespots on the back of the head. Both Pygmy-Owls are very aggressive diurnal bird-hunters, hunting mostly at dawn and dusk. It may fly fast and low from one tree to the next, and then swoop up to take a high perch, much like a shrike. The Northern is found in oak-conifer woods. There is no regular migration, but may wander away from breeding areas in fall and winter including some down slope movement by mountain birds.

This fierce little owl will attack prey much larger than itself, e.g., it has been known to take Mourning Doves. Its favorite prey is songbirds, which may be 1/3 of its diet, but also eats ground squirrels and rodents and during the summer eats many large insects. Birders may locate the owl by watching for mobbing songbirds and, conversely, attract songbirds by imitating the owl's call.

The NOPO nests in tree cavities such as old flicker woodpecker holes. There are usually 3-6 white eggs. Incubation is 28 days and the young fledge 27-28 days later. There is only one brood per year.

Save Bird Habitat in Your Neighborhood

By Tim McGruder

Think about the places in your community where you see birds and wildlife. These places include wetlands, streams and thick stands of trees including steep forested slopes. These places are regulated by rules called Critical Areas Ordinances (CAO). All local governments including Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, Woodinville, Kenmore, Bothell, and Sammamish, as well as King County are required to update their CAO's by the end of 2004.

The most important element needed in these updates is the doctrine of Best Available Science (BAS). If adopted, BAS will require local governments to recognize the best science available, including data collected by citizens, when planning for future development. Remember that Pileated Woodpecker you saw? Reporting that sighting can be crucial to saving habitat, but only if Best Available Science is adopted during the CAO update process.

BAS is one of a number of elements that need to be included in each CAO. Unfortunately, there's no guarantee that these elements will be adopted in each case. That's where we come in. ELWAS is committed to participating in the updates. As we track the progress of each city's update, we'll be mailing out postcards to ask for your participation. There will be contact information for your local city and speaking points.

Because the trend of development in our neighborhoods will continue, and because continued development could eliminate essential habitat, it's important for CAO's to be strong. If local government doesn't hear from citizens who value these areas, they won't pass strong regulations. Keep an eye out for mailings from ELWAS about the CAO Update in your city, then send a letter or email to support habitat.

BUY PCC SCRIP THROUGH ELWAS AND HELP US RAISE MONEY!

We will be taking monthly orders for PCC scrip! You can use the scrip just like cash at any PCC store. ELWAS receives 5% of every scrip dollar we sell! **Please call or e-mail Megan Lyden (425-603-1548; meganlyden@msn.com) by the 3rd Friday of each month.** The scrip will be available for pick-up in the ELWAS office by the 4th Thursday of each month, and also during ELWAS membership meetings. Please pay by check or cash at the time of pick-up (no credit cards, please). We must have \$500 in combined orders in order to purchase scrip from PCC.

Mark Your Calendars!

On April 30th ELWAS will hold its first, MONTHLY brown bag lunch at the church. We'll be meeting in the large room downstairs. This is an opportunity for ELWAS members to meet, talk, share bird stories, and get to know each other better. This is YOUR chance to tell us what we can do for you.

In the future, if you're interested, we could have discussions on particular topics. So bring your smile, your lunch, and your ideas. Dishes and silver are available at the church.

We will also be hosting brown bag lunches on May 28th and June 11th. Hope to see you there!

Please call the office (425-576-8805) to let us know you'll be joining us.

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's ... Birdathon!

Faster than a speeding bullet!

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound!

Coming to your ELWAS Chapter this May.

To the rescue for all the fantastic programs we offer!

Education! Conservation! Habitat restoration!

Important tasks all, and they all take money.

Here's a way you can help ELWAS and have fun birding at the same time.



What's Birdathon?

The bird-watching equivalent of a Walkathon. If you love to watch birds, do what you love and raise funds for ELWAS. Ask everyone you know to pledge money for each species of bird you identify in one day during the month of May, or they can pledge a set amount. It's a unique fundraising effort, and a lot of fun, too. Whether you spend two hours or 24, you can make a significant contribution to your chapter by helping us raise money this way.

Can't be on a team? Participate by pledging to a team! Or just **send your donation to ELWAS** for the overall effort.

How much? Consider this:

- A \$50 donation is less than one dollar a week.
- A \$100 donation is less than the cost of a latte a week. (Much less, if you drink grandes!)
- Gasoline is around \$2 a gallon these days. How about an equal amount per species?

See how quickly a little bit adds up?

Here's how you can help:

- ◆ Call the ELWAS office or email office@elwas.org for a BIRDATHON brochure. It tells you everything you need to know about starting a team or joining a team.
- ◆ Support a team you know about or call or email the office to find out a team to pledge to.
- or
- ◆ Mail your **check** to the ELWAS office marked BIRDATHON! Or call to use your **credit card** over the phone.

We have a very ambitious goal of \$30,000 this year. **We can do it**, with your help!

Thank you for your support of ELWAS and the work we do.

BIRDATHON

by Amy McQuade

Christy asked and I agreed to do an article about Birdathon for the newsletter. She said, "Maybe some Birdathon history, or a memorable story about how much fun it can be." As the light went on over my head I was thinking . . . some people might not know how Birdathon birding differs from ordinary birding, and WHY; or HOW in some ways it's a lot different than going on a regular field trip. And suddenly I remembered a long ago article that appeared in the Crier after our first big Birdathon! If I could dig that up . . . and I did! After reading it over I decided it might be just what Christy wanted. It's from the June 1988 Corvid Crier. With apologies...

BIRDING BIRDATHON

It was the last thing I expected - that another dimension could be added to my already cherished sport of Birding. I was even unaware of it until we began the homeward-bound audit of the last sixteen hours. We had yet to see the hovering nighthawk swoop and disappear over Indian John Hill. Deepening twilight usually makes me reflective

Dawn's earliest light was breaking over Bellevue as I streaked across the East Channel bridge to meet Meredith and Little Mary at the Park 'n Ride -- when what should emerge from the morning mists but a splendid adult Bald Eagle, leisurely winging its way north up the lake. What an auspicious first bird for our first big Birdathon!

So it began - our carefully planned course from coast to mountains to desert and back, that ended up being altered somewhat as the day wore on and we confessed to each other that we were first-of-all birders and not yet confirmed marathoners, if ever. It was simply too tempting to spend time watching a pair of ravens sky-courting near Leavenworth, or three Lewis' woodpeckers drilling holes in a telephone pole near Orondo, or enjoying our lunch from a sunny table by Rocky Reach.

Looking back now, there was that underlying "something" that made it necessary for us to keep looking for new species, something birders do all the time, but without the subconscious drive motivated by a "thon" to keep moving on. Now at day's ending we were reliving a few of the most memorable moments: The barn owl, Meredith's FIRST; the Cassin's finches' background chatter with our lunch; so MANY Meadowlarks - to Little Mary's delight; the proud but wary canvasback mother with her flotilla of eight golden-faced young; our joy at finally finding a bank swallow, last of the State's six swallow species, for the day; and exclaiming over the degree of burrowing owl head-swivel, as we reveled in the satisfaction that follows a good day of birding, whether eighty-eight species or only a few

After the nighthawk winged its goodbye we drove on into the night, mulling over this mysterious new dimension, in awe-struck silence. Maybe we were just tired, but DEFINITELY, we were three happy birders already looking forward to Birdathon 1989.

* * * * *

Sixteen Birdathons later, the magical dimension is still there, enriched now by several spirited ELWAS team rivalries, over who can earn the biggest bucks for the Audubon Cause. What else could turn Birdathon birding into such a meaningful enterprise, instead of an ordinary bird chase?

And who would think that a secondary goal of Birdathon birding would become the mighty motivator to "keep it moving" because you're having so much fun? I never did, in the beginning.

Don't forget, I'm on the GOLDEN GIRLS TEAM.

Important Bird Areas Bill Passes Legislature With Unanimous Vote!

By Tim McGruder

For years now National Audubon's Important Bird Area (IBA) program has identified and quantified important areas for birds across the country. Close to 60 sites have been identified in Washington State through a rigorous scientifically based process. The goal for this program is to submit this data to appropriate agencies to effect further protections for each site. But because state agencies are required to generate their own data for these purposes, the IBA program hasn't delivered the expected results.

However, this legislative session has changed this dynamic. House Bill 2650 requires state agencies to acknowledge scientifically based data from private sources like Audubon when considering land use policy. This bill passed both houses of the legislature with a unanimous vote and is on its way to the governor for his signature! Special thanks go to everyone who sent an email or made a phone call to their legislator. The IBA program is one big step closer to reaching its intended goal.

Upcoming ELWAS Classes

☞ April 6, 2004: WASHINGTON'S WOODPECKERS

Join Master Birder Brian Bell to explore the world of woodpeckers in Washington. Twelve species inhabit our state from sea level to the boreal forests to the semiarid valleys of Eastern Washington. In class, we will view an illustrated presentation and discuss habitat requirements, examine seasonal distribution, learn identification tips, and listen to vocalization and drumming patterns. Brian is current president of Washington Ornithological Society and is a professional birding and natural history guide. He teaches birding at local community colleges and has birded extensively throughout the West and the United States.

There will be half day field trip in Western Washington on April 10 and a full day trip to Eastern Washington on May 23.

Class: April 6, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the ELWAS offices in the Northlake Unitarian Church in Kirkland. Field trips organized at the class meeting.

Cost for lecture and field trips: \$65.00 for ELWAS members, \$85.00 for nonmembers.

Registration: Call the ELWAS office at 425-576-8805 to register by April 2, 2004.

Class limited to 20 participants, 15 class and field trip, 5 class only.

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

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

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

Class: Thursday, June 10, 2004, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the ELWAS offices in the Northlake Unitarian Church in Kirkland.

Field Trip: Friday, June 25 thru Sunday, June 27 to Okanogan County. Field trip organized at the class meeting.

Cost for lecture and field trips: \$65.00 for ELWAS members, \$85.00 for nonmembers.

Registration: Call the ELWAS office at 425-576-8805 to register by June 18, 2004.

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

Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest — May 7-9

North Central Washington Audubon hosts the second annual Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest, May 7th - 9th, featuring field trips, workshops, art shows and many other nature-related activities. Leavenworth's Bird Fest caters to beginning bird watchers and Master Birders, children and adults, with events ranging from Owl Prowls and Wildflower Walks to Birding-by-Boat trips and photography workshops. Most events are free.

The future Leavenworth Audubon Center, headquartered in a 100-year-old mansion on the riverbank adjacent to the city's Waterfront Park, will be open for tours. Bird Fest will conclude with a special Songbird Concert at Icicle Creek Music Center's Canyon Wren Recital Hall. New this year - an all-day "Birding in the Basin" trip with Dan Stephens, Banding workshops with Beth & David St. George, a concert by Danny O'Keefe and a "Birds at Home" workshop that includes feeders, bird houses and shade-grown coffee information.

During Bird Fest keep a lookout for Western Tanager, Veery, Nashville Warbler and six species of swallow. Other birds found in and around Leavenworth include Calliope Hummingbirds, White-headed Woodpeckers, and Ruffed Grouse.

Bird Fest is a partnership of North Central Washington Audubon Society, Audubon Washington, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, North Cascades National Park Service Complex, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Upper Valley Arts. For more information, contact the Leavenworth Chamber of Commerce, 509-548-5807 or visit our website at www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com