



The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 05-1 – FEBRUARY 2005



Bird Watching Coastal Alaska

When: **Thursday, February 24 at 7:00 pm (after the social hour)**

Where: **Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church**

Gary Luhm left his engineering job in 1998 to pursue outdoor and nature photography full-time. His specialty is sea kayaking, and he gets many of his photographs from the seat of a kayak. He has recently worked with small boat charter operators Ursa Major, Home Shore, Over-the-Seas, and Alaska Adventurer. They offer trips in SE Alaska and Prince William Sound. Aboard these boats Gary has seen and photographed much of coastal Alaska, often using the boat as a mothership to get a kayak to some exciting locale.

Gary is an avid birder and bird photographer. He has written "Birding by Kayak" articles for Sea Kayaker and Washington Birder, and has presented "Birding by Kayak" seminars to local Audubon groups, sea kayak clubs and symposiums. His pursuit of the photograph has led to much of his knowledge of bird behavior and locating birds - and to the construction and use of blinds (hides) when needed to get the shot. Gary created the Bird Watching Alaska website www.birdwatchingalaska.com, where you can see his bird images and learn about birding trips in Alaska.

Gary's presentation, "Bird Watching Coastal Alaska", takes us to Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, the Kenai Fjords, Homer and Kodiak by small boat and kayak. We'll tour these locations, see the birds and their habitat, and hear a few stories about birds from this formidable land.

Please join us **Thursday, February 24**, for Gary's superb photographs of Coastal Alaska birds and habitat. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. The presentation follows immediately after a brief monthly meeting, which begins at 7:00.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who is interested in exploring the fascinating birds of Coastal Alaska.

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

The Steller's Jay - Villain Turned Hero !

One day last winter I was watching a Steller's jay on a flowering crabapple tree. Curious as to what he was finding to eat, I used my binoculars. To my surprise, I found he was breaking the tent-caterpillar egg-bands from the twigs and eating them. Having lived in an old orchard for many years, the tent caterpillar is a long-time foe and I set about spreading the good word to all my gardening and birding friends.

About the first part of June, I again noticed the resident jay family was very busy in the fruit trees. Near the house where the lawn grows under the trees I had also noticed a great many cocoons on the ground. I took up the binoculars again. Fascinated, I watched the jays picking caterpillar cocoons from under leaves, holding them on the branch with a strong claw and pulling out the sleeping chrysalis with a shiny, black beak. I have never seen or heard of another bird doing this.

And so I say, let's forgive the jay his occasional burglary and enjoy his good deeds, his mimicry and his beauty.

— Marjorie Baird (late mother of ELWAS Historian, Sidonia St. Germaine) September 1969

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

Notable Tidbits

In a departure from my usual column, this month I thought the following would be of interest.

New State Director

National Audubon Society has appointed Nina Carter the Executive Director of Audubon Washington. Nina has led the state policy team for several years. She has been a board member of Black Hills Audubon, and is a strong chapter advocate and able administrator. We are so fortunate that she's willing, even eager, to take the reins of Audubon Washington.

Happy 100th Birthday Audubon!

"A full century after its foundation, Audubon remains the nation's leading bird conservation organization," stated John Flicker, president of NAS. "From our landmark 'State of the Birds' report issued in October 2004, to the recent battle to restore the nest site of legendary Red-tailed Hawk Pale Male, Audubon's work today is as relevant and critical to bird conservation as it was 100 years ago. We will be here through the next 100 years to give voice to those same founding values and principles. Our heritage at Audubon has always been to connect people with nature. From our earliest days, our chapters, staff, and grassroots volunteers have worked to help people make the connection between the health of bird populations, and the health of human populations."

Economic Impact of Birding

A 2001 report from the US Fish and Wildlife Service states there were 46 million birders in the United States—a little over one in five people. To be counted as a birder, an individual must have either taken a trip a mile or more from home for the primary purpose of observing birds and/or closely observed birds around the home. 40 million people are backyard birders. The more active form of birding, taking trips away from home, is less common with 18 million birders. (Some do both, of course.)

And what is the economic impact of watching wildlife? Total expenditures were \$38.4 billion! That's up by 41% from 1991. Almost \$2 billion were spent in Washington state alone. And even though that figure is for wildlife as a whole, people observing, feeding and photographing birds were by far the majority of those counted.

If you'd like to read the whole report, it's at www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/FHW01.pdf

Birding Improves Your Life (but you knew that!)

Thanks to a note from Ian Paulsen on the Tweeters email list, I read "50 Ways to Improve Your Life in 2005" in U.S. News and World Report (Dec.27) As one of innumerable articles on New Year's resolutions, what was #41? Become a birder! The article says it reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, improves concentration.

Now there's a resolution I think I can keep!

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	president@elwas.org	
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
E-mail	tboyer@seanet.com	
Executive Director	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580
E-mail	jan@elwas.org	

Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

<u>At large board member</u>	Amy McQuade	(206) 232-9543
E-mail	mcbdrwchr@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>	Eva Weaver	(425) 881-3499
E-mail	WeaveAssoc@aol.com	
Historian	Sidonia St. Germaine	(425) 432-4261
E-mail	shearwater2@msn.com	
Newsletter Editor	Tom Grismer	(206) 720-9892
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>	Open	
Advocacy	Open	
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	Lyn Bailey	(425) 821-4274
E-mail	lynbailey@comcast.net	
Programs	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346
E-mail	sunny@sunnywalter.com	
Volunteer Coordinator	Emily Winstrom	(425) 453-5614
E-mail	volunteer@elwas.org	
<u>Membership</u>	Open	
Bellefields Clean-up	Kay Barrett	(425) 644-2862
Bird Questions?	Amy McQuade.....	(206) 232-9543
E-mail	birdhelp@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 pledge, we can purchase materials and supplies for one classroom presentation. If two members pledge \$10 a month, that will pay for one whole membership meeting. A pledge of \$10 a month by ten members 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. But it could mean so much to a child who's eyes are opened to nature. Or to those who enjoy getting close to nature at Juanita Bay Park.

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

SUPPORT ELWAS AND ENJOY A CLEAN CAR!

Living in the midst of salmon country, we all know how detrimental washing our cars is to fish and their habitat. The good thing about having your car cleaned at a commercial car wash is that the water is captured and recycled.

To make it easy for ELWAS members to visit their local car wash, ELWAS is now selling car wash tickets! The tickets may be used at over 36 establishments in greater Puget Sound area, from Marysville to Gig Harbor. Each location is listed right on the back of the ticket, so there's no fumbling with a phone book or remembering where you need to go. There is likely a participating car wash in your neighborhood.

The value of each ticket is \$7.95, but we're able to offer them to you at a discount! And, the more tickets you buy at once, the more money you save.

1 ticket = \$6.75 ♦ 5 tickets = \$6.50 ♦ 10 tickets = \$6.25

Pick up your tickets at the next Membership Meeting, or call the office, pay by telephone, and receive your tickets by mail.

We thank you, and the fish thank you.

ELWAS Goes High Tech

The ELWAS Board made a giant leap into the future, and purchased an InFocus digital projector. Slides and slide projectors are becoming millenium dinosaurs, and PowerPoint and digital presentations are the wave of the future.

These last few months, Tim Boyer was gracious enough to lend his projector to speakers at Membership Meeting. But we didn't want to wear out our welcome.

Those volunteers, who know about these things, thoroughly researched these projectors and came up with a nice piece of equipment. The Chapter spent nearly \$1,600, but we expect it will serve us well for years to come.

Besides the obvious use – Membership Meetings - many committees will be able to use it for presentations and classes, as well as projecting video and television onto the big screen.

The Corvid Crier, Issue 05-1. — Publication Date: February 1, 2005.

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 Univ. Of Washington Press. Used with permission.

AUDUBON CENTER/OFFICE HOURS

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: Monday, Tuesday and Friday
10:00 — 2:00**

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 reports of last months' field trips.

Feb 1 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Conservation Committee
Meets first Tues of each month in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited.

Feb 2 (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

Feb 4 (Fri) 9am to noon — Marymoor Park
Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1st Friday of each month at 9:00.** Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot. No registration is required. To reach Marymoor Park, take SR 520 east from Seattle to the West Lake Sammamish Parkway exit and follow the signs. The entrance to the park is one block south of the exit. Turn right at the third stop sign, to the Dog Area parking lot. Parking is **\$1.00.**

Feb 5 (Sat) 9:30 am — Nature Cruise - La Conner
A four hour cruise around Fidalgo Island by way of Skagit Bay, Rosario Strait, Padilla Bay and Swinomish Slough . Expect to see Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons, Grebes, Loons, Mergansers, thousands of ducks, harbor seals, sea lions, otters and more. The Viking Star is a fully enclosed, heated cruising boat with 31 large glass windows for great viewing in any weather. The boat will leave at 10:00 am, so you should be at the Viking Cruises boat dock office in La Conner by 9:30 am to allow time to check in. Viking Cruises is located one block north of Nasty Jack's Antique Store on First Street. If you want to carpool to La Conner, meet before **8:00 am** at south end of Kingsgate P&R (I-405 exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound at NE 124th St, go west to light at 116th Ave. NE then right (north) past top of hill to P&R entrance on the left). Carpooling cost/person is **\$5.00.** The **cost of the cruise will be \$40.** This includes a \$5 rebate to be given back to ELWAS. This is a good opportunity to enjoy a boat cruise and support ELWAS. The boat will take about **40-45 people.** Bring a lunch. Call Viking Cruises toll-free at **1-888-207-2333** or email: info@vikingcruises.com to make reservations.

Feb 8 (Tues) 7:00-9:00 pm — Education Committee
Meets **2nd Tues of each month** in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? For information email: education@elwas.org or call **425-576-8805.**

Feb 9 (Weds) 9:00 am — 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 Weds of each month at 9:00 am,** and will finish by lunchtime. Bring binoculars and meet at the front door.

Feb 10 (Thurs) 9:00 am — Snoqualmie Valley
On this drive through the farmlands of the Snoqualmie Valley we'll look for Bald Eagles and other raptors and scope the ponds for a variety of ducks. Swans are possible, too. Small birds can be anywhere in the hedges and bushes. Bring a lunch. We'll carpool from Marymoor Park. \$1.00 parking fee. I-405 to Hwy 520 East. Exit at W. Lake Sammamish Parkway and turn right at the stop light. Turn east on NE Marymoor Way, into the Park, and turn right at the first stop sign. Meet at south end of the lot. Return mid-afternoon. Passenger cost/person **\$2.00.**
Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422

Feb 15 (Tues) 9:00 am – noon — 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.
MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026

Feb 19 (Sat) 8:15 am
Paul Dye Aviary/Corson Refuge
A joint field trip with the Pilchuck Audubon Chapter. Tour NW waterfowl aviary and adjoining wildlife refuge near Lake Cassidy and Lake Stevens, with guide Paul Dye. Over 50 species of birds, mostly waterfowl with some grouse and Sandhill Cranes are raised in captivity. Birds are provided to zoos, wildlife parks and universities around the world. This is mainly an educational trip with birding secondary. Children about 10 years or older would also enjoy this. There is a 2-mile walk through woods which have some muddy areas, so wear appropriate foot gear. Meet before 8:15 am at south end of Kingsgate P&R: (I-405, exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound at NE 124th St., go west to light at 116th Ave. NE, then right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot). Bring a lunch. Passenger cost/person **\$3.00.**
Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351

Feb 19 (Sat) 10 am — Bellefields Trail Walkthrough.
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 N of I-90) **Bring gloves, a bag for trash, and binoculars.**
Kay Barrett 425-644-2862.

Feb 21 (Mon) 7:00 pm — Birds in the Balance
Meets 3rd Mon. each month at Len Steiner's, 13239 NE 100th, Kirkland. You're welcome to join this group, which assesses bird populations in local habitats.
Len Steiner 425-827-2478

Feb 24 (Thurs) 7:00 pm
Presentation and Membership meeting
"Bird Watching Coastal Alaska" See page 1 for details.

Feb 26-27 (Sat-Sun) 7:00 am

Reifel Sanctuary/Iona Island/Boundary Bay, B.C.

Wintering birds here include dabbling ducks, gulls, rough-legged hawks, peregrines, merlins, and snowy owls. Reifel is known for thousands of Snow Geese. Arctic birds such as Snow Buntings, McKay Bunting and Lapland longspurs have been seen at Iona. You will need a passport or copy of your birth certificate. This is an overnight trip and we will be staying in B.C. Meet before **7:00 am** at south end of Kingsgate P&R: (I-405, exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound at NE 124th St., go west to light at 116th Ave. NE, then right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot). Passenger cost/person **\$12.00**.

MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026

Feb 28 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon

Birding the Hotspots of King County

Monthly field trip on fourth Mon of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person **\$2.00**.

Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351

March 10 (Thurs) 7:00 am

Camano Island/Stanwood

Prepare for a full day of birding and explore Camano Island's shoreline, salt-water marshes, grasslands, and forest habitats for seabirds, raptors, and songbirds. Specific areas include Livingston Bay, English Boom, Utsalady, and Iverson Spit. The Stanwood Sewage Treatment Ponds offer a variety of waterfowl and the occasional avian surprise. Bring a lunch and meet before 7 am at south end of Kingsgate P&R. Passenger cost/person **\$6.00**.

Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422

Welcome!

Welcome to the following new members of the East Lake Washington Audubon Society. We hope to see you soon at a Membership Meeting or Field Trip. Call or visit our office if you have any questions. Our friendly volunteers are more than happy to help you.

Greta M. Birkby

Dan and Sharon Brown

Stephen Dossick

Nick Gattuccio

Kimball Hatch

Karen and Jim Mhyre

Jeanelle Richardson

Judy B. Schoenfeld

Carol A. Schulz

David South

Victoria and Wayne Yonke



Get Your Corvid Crier Online

You can help save trees and help ELWAS save printing and mailing costs by choosing to receive the Corvid Crier online instead of in printed form. If you would like to choose this option, email Jan@elwas.org or call the office at 425-576-8805.

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.



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

See the birds better!

**BIRD
of the
MONTH**

Tufted Duck
Aythya fuligula
by Hugh Jennings

The Tufted Duck (TUDU) is about 17” long with a wingspan of 26” and weight of 1.6 lb. (749g). The genus name *Aythya* (AY-thih-ah) is from the Greek, *aithya*, meaning a seabird. The species name *fuligula* (FEW-lih-goo-la) may derive from the Latin word “fuligo” meaning soot -- the males have glossy black plumage on their head, breast and back. The sides and belly are a bright white. The bill is gray with a black tip. The name Tufted comes from the loose tuft of feathers that hang from the back of the head. The male Tufted Duck can be mistaken for Greater or Lesser Scaup, or the Ring-necked Duck, each of which has a similar colored bill, light colored sides and dark head and back. But the TUDU is the only one with stark all-white sides and black back, and a tuft behind the head. The female TUDUs have dark brown breast and back and pale, gray-brown sides. They have a very small tuft on the head.

The TUDU is a common diving duck of the Old World from Iceland throughout Northern Europe and Asia. They wander to the east coast of North America from Europe and Iceland, and from Asia to Alaska and the Pacific coast. In Europe there are resident breeding populations in Britain, northern France and Germany. They are still considered rare everywhere in North America except in western Alaska. They are considered rare in Washington state west of the Cascades, and casual east of the Cascades. A few are reported every year. The latest and closest sighting was on Phantom Lake in S.E. Bellevue early in Jan 2005. They have been seen before in the Grays Harbor area and the Everett/Spencer Island area.

TUDUs are diving ducks and feed mainly on vegetable matter and water animals, such as crustaceans, small mollusks, snails, and insects. They search for their food among submerged water weeds, and under stones and other underwater objects; they usually feed in water 2-6 ft. deep.

The voice of the female TUDU is a soft, growling *kerrb*. The courting male has a rapid, whistled giggle: *WHA-wa-whew*. They build a nest in thick cover, preferably on an island out of reach of predators. It is placed among heather or bracken and lined with grass and down. The male ducks play no part in the incubation of the eggs or rearing of the young. Incubation by the female begins once the clutch is complete, which is usually 8 to 11 eggs. The eggs hatch after about 25 days, and they all hatch within the same 24 hour period. The ducklings leave the nest soon after the last egg has hatched and find their own food while the female acts as guardian. Once the young have their first true feathers, after about 50 days, they become independent.

Thanks for Helping With Holiday Gift Wrap Fundraiser

by Nancy Reynolds



A big thank you again this year to all who participated and donated to this year's fundraiser at the Redmond Town Center REI. 31 volunteers wrapped through 7 days, receiving donations of \$2700! We just keep getting better! A special thank you to REI and their staff who were always helpful. Thanks to all of you who brought your gifts in to be wrapped. A very special thanks to Melanie Bishop for the beautiful cloth gift bags she sewed all year with 40 + hrs of volunteer time. All of the 65 bags sold for over \$300 in donations. Melanie also designed and provided flyers for advertisement. Another special thanks goes to Debbie Larson for another year of even more beautiful handmade gift tags. Thank you Melanie and Debbie! Much thanks goes to Megan Lyden and Judy Rams who worked multiple shifts during the this busiest of times. A Big Kiss and thank you to my husband, Jim Roberts, for loading, unloading, working multiple shifts and organizing support! Thanks again to all the volunteers listed below for all your support and job well done!

Jean Worthen, Lea Knapp, Kris Swanson, Elizabeth and Mike Fried, Judy Rams, Diane Weinstein, Keith and Juliana Pickrell, Therese Eby, Jane Paige, Jill Keeney, Gail Fields, Jo & Gerry Herber, Sharon & Warren Pagel, Christie Madsen, Emily Winstrom, Irene von Tobel, Bill and Merry Schmidt, Joy Neuzil, Megan Lyden, Tora Roksvog, Hugh & Bev Jennings, Tina Klein-Lebbink, Melanie Bishop, Debbie Larson, Jan & Tim McGruder, Melinda Bronsdon, Robert Gershmel, Len Steiner, Tim Boyer, Lynn Bailey, Carolyn Kishel, Christine Giannini, Jim and Jan Rettig, Jim and Nancy Roberts

Winter/Spring Classes

➤BASICS OF BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY — WITH TIM BOYER

This class is designed for anyone who is interested in taking better bird photographs. Whether you're a digital photographer, a film photographer or you capture images with a digiscope, the basic elements of bird photography are the same. We will cover composition, perspective, quality of light, getting close to our subjects, vision and style, photographing birds in action, and some of the best places for bird photography. So come prepared to learn more about the "art" of bird photography, rather than how to operate your camera or digiscope.

The first evening session will cover composition, light, getting close and other basic topics. Then we'll meet on either the following Saturday or Sunday and take pictures together. We'll go to a couple of local parks where winter birds hang out and see what we can do. In our second evening session we will critique our photographs, discuss what worked, what didn't work and why. We will also discuss where to locate some of the best spots to photograph birds in Washington and the US.

Tim Boyer, instructor, is an amateur birder and photographer and member of our own ELWAS chapter. He has been photographing the natural world for 30 years and concentrating on bird photos for the last 4 years. His bird photographs have appeared in national magazines such as *Birder's World*. Check out his website at www.timboyer.com for a look at his work.

Classes: Thursdays, February 10 and 17, 2005 from 7:00 to 9:15 pm. Classes held at the ELWAS office, Northlake Unitarian Church in Kirkland. No registration for the class only.

Field Trip: Saturday, February 12 OR Sunday, February 13. *No registration for the field trip only.*

Cost: ELWAS member \$45, non-member \$60. Fee is for the class and field trip instruction only. You provide your own camera equipment and supplies.

Registration: Call the ELWAS office at 425-576-8805. *Registration closes Friday, February 4, 2005.*

➤WHAT BIRDERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PLUMAGES AND MOLT — WITH MICHAEL DONAHUE

What is "alternate plumage" and is it different from "breeding plumage?" Why should the "pre-basic molt," be of interest to birders? This class will cover molt and plumage terminology, give a basic overview of plumage sequences, and illustrate how understanding plumage sequence and molt can be an important aid in bird identification; this is information you can use out birding! Mike studied molt at the UW Burke Museum and co-authored a paper in *The Auk* on molt in Western Tanagers.

Classes: Tuesdays, March 1 and 8, 2005. Classes held at the ELWAS office, Northlake Unitarian Church in Kirkland. *No field trips.*

Cost: ELWAS member \$35, non-member \$45

Registration: Call the ELWAS office at 425-576-8805. *Registration closes February 25, 2005*

➤BEGINNING BIRDING BY EAR — WITH LOU ANN HARRIS & JOYCE MEYER

Reduce warbler neck! Learn a new language in 2005! Beginning Birding By Ear can get you started learning to identify birds by their songs and calls. This year we have added an evening class to complement the half-day field trip at Marymoor Park in Redmond. Topics will include: Why Birds Sing, Aesthetics of Bird Song, Learning a New Language, plus lots of slides and bird songs to compare. Instructors will be ELWAS members Lou Ann Harris and Joyce Meyer.

Class: Thurs, March 31, 6:30 to 9 pm. Classes held at the ELWAS office, Northlake Unitarian Church in Kirkland.

Field Trip: Saturday, April 2 OR Sunday, April 3 at 6:30 am (half-day trip)

Cost: ELWAS member \$35 (plus \$1 parking fee at Marymoor), non-member \$45.

Registration: Call the ELWAS office at 425-576-8805. *Registration closes Friday, March 25.*

LIBRARY LINGO



For those of you who missed the November Membership Meeting, our long-term Librarian, Betty Dean, has moved to Ft. Myers, Florida. She will be living very close to Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, and joining her retirement community's birding group.

Under Betty's care, our lending library has gone from a few books in a box to three full-size bookcases in the office. Betty bought and donated the bookcases, read, jacketed and cataloged each book, video, CD and cassette donated over the last few years, and has organized it all by subject matter. This is a wonderful resource which is FREE to all ELWAS members. The office (library) is open to the public on Membership Meeting nights, and on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bon Voyage Betty. A big Thank You for all your hard work, and best of luck to you.

We would also like to introduce Betty's new replacements:

Barbara Erling is a Seattle native and graduate of the UW School of Librarianship. She has made a career as a Librarian in the Seattle Public Library system. Carolyn Kishel came to the Northwest from Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of Penn State and has spent her career working in Education with preschool children.

Betty says, "I am happy to know that our ELWAS Library will be in good hands! THANK YOU for all your donations of new and used books, and your enthusiastic cooperation. It has been a pleasure to be your Librarian."

Extension Watershed Stewardship Training Applications Now Available

Every spring for the past 15 years, newly selected participants gear up for nine weeks of learning, networking, and getting their hands dirty. These volunteers-in-training are preparing to join the ranks of Extension Watershed Stewards with Washington State University King County Extension, a group of community-based volunteers nearly 300 strong.

Having been trained by a wide array of experts, Extension Watershed Stewards work to educate youth and adults to make informed choices regarding sustainable stewardship practices in our region. The theme for this year's nine-week training will be, "*Connections between urban, rural, and wild landscapes of King County*". Applications are now available and must be returned by the Feb. 25th deadline. Training begins in April.

Forestry, salmon enhancement, farming, wetland resources, and household impacts to watersheds are just some of the topics covered in the 70+ hours of classroom and field training. Participants will be selected based on their background in natural resources and their commitment to volunteering, as 60 volunteer hours are required the year following training. A fee of \$40 will be charged to offset the costs of materials and some transportation.

Extension Watershed Stewards are community members who contribute their time in a variety of ways. Some lead nature walks or conduct workshops for their neighborhood associations, while others work with Girl Scouts or collaborate with Extension staff at public education booths at events like Small Farm Expo and King County Fair. Many are involved with natural area restoration projects. Volunteers tailor their service to their individual preferences and talents, and are limited only by imagination.

For more information and an application, please contact Paul Racette at 206-205-3171 or paul.racette@metrokc.gov or our website at <http://www.metrokc.gov/WSU-CE/Land&Water/>

Hurray for Amy!

In December, the Board voted to establish the Amy McQuade Scholarship Fund. Amy is one of the Chapter's early members, joining ELWAS in 1981. She has served on the Board for most of those 23+ years, including several terms as President. Amy also created and taught her Beginning Birding course for over ten years, and brought many new birders to the Chapter. In her early 90s, Amy still serves on the Board, and keeps the "kids" in line.

With the creation of this Fund, the Board will offer \$500 in mini-grants (\$100+) every year to middle and high school science teachers. This money will fund bird-related projects in their classrooms.

Join us at the February 24 Membership Meeting, as we honor Amy for her many years of hard work for ELWAS.

Yes, I Want To Volunteer

Below is a letter Emily Winstrom sent out to ELWAS volunteers earlier this year. It's so inspiring I wanted to share it with all of you. Emily is a "can do" person, and a role model for us all.

Want to get involved with ELWAS? Emily's contact information is at the end of her letter. Not sure what you'd like to do? Call the office (425-576-8805) or Emily, and we'll get a Volunteer Survey out to you right away.

August 17, 2004

Dear ELWAS Volunteer,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Emily Winstrom, and I am beginning my role as Volunteer Coordinator for ELWAS. As you know, most of what ELWAS accomplishes is through the efforts of its volunteers. Together we can bring the wonders of nature to adults and children in our community and work towards preserving the natural world around us.

I am very excited at long last to make good on my promise to myself to get involved with ELWAS and help make things happen. ELWAS has given me and my husband Lee such a grand foundation in our knowledge of birds and all that they mean and do for our world. We have loved our classes taught by Mike West and Joyce Meyer and other inspiring people. We have loved our birding experiences with Hugh Jennings. I have been transported to Paradise for the past two Mays on the ELWAS sponsored trip to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon. At Malheur Hugh has been a wonderful guide and teacher, and the people I have met and spent the week with there have been terrific. So, now I get to do my part and help our Audubon Chapter grow and strengthen.

I think the job of Volunteer Coordinator will really suit me. I like to get organized, and in other volunteer positions I've held over the years, I've come to love the art of the spreadsheet, and the magical things it can do to help get people and tasks organized. So – with the help of the wonderful members of ELWAS – let's empower our volunteer force.

To start, I'm sending along with this introductory letter of mine a little survey to help me know how you would like to be involved as a volunteer at ELWAS. Now, many of you who are receiving my letter and this form have been volunteering for years at ELWAS. We've got you firmly rooted in our volunteer database. You may not feel the need to send back this form, and that's OK. If you think you may have some new interests that we do not know about, we invite you to send back the form to get us up to date.

On the other hand, some of you are new to the chapter, new within the past year and a half. We haven't had anyone really tracking new members who have expressed interest in volunteering, because we haven't had a Volunteer Coordinator. So, if you indicated many months ago you would like to help out, and weren't contacted, well – we are finally getting back to you, and we hope you may still be interested in getting involved! And we hope you will excuse us for the delay in getting back to you! If you have never told us how you would like to be involved, vis a vis the "Yes! I Want to Get Involved!" form, please, take a moment to complete the form and send it back to me. If you are getting this letter electronically via e-mail, just fill it out on line and zap it back to me. That would be perfect. If you are receiving this letter in the regular mail, it would be terrific if you would take a few minutes to fill out the form and mail it to the ELWAS office, address indicated at bottom of form. I know we'll eventually link up with everyone who is a chapter member and wants to volunteer. It will just take a little time.

So, fellow birders and ELWAS members, I am looking forward to meeting many new, committed people who share my love of birds and our natural world. I count on your help so that I can get my volunteer data in super shape. I'd like to know the interests and skills of all our volunteers, so that I can match you up to projects that you will feel comfortable taking on.

Thanks for taking the time to read my thoughts, and thanks for taking the time to get back to me with your interests, availability, and commitment!

I look forward to knowing you all.

Emily Winstrom
volunteer@elwas.org
425-453-5614 – my home phone

Birds are losing ground

By Jeff Wells

*Four calling birds,
three French hens,
two turtledoves,
and a partridge in a pear tree ...*

So goes the familiar holiday tune. Unfortunately, this holiday season, scientists are heralding bad news for birds. New research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences indicates that one-quarter of all bird species likely will disappear or will be critically endangered by the end of this century because of habitat loss, global warming and invasive species. The National Audubon Society's recent State of the Birds report further confirms that we are not gaining ground but losing it -- literally.

Audubon's study highlights America's most rapidly declining birds. Topping the list are two species that nest and raise their young in Canadian boreal forests but winter in the United States. The rusty blackbird, a shy, unassuming cousin to the abundant red-winged blackbird, has declined by a staggering 97.9 percent since 1966. Millions have just disappeared over the past three decades. Lesser yellowlegs, a long-legged shorebird that nests in mossy boreal bogs far to our north, have declined by 97.3 percent.

These declining birds and more than 200 other species nest in the 1.4 billion-acre boreal forest that stretches from Alaska to Newfoundland. The boreal forest is one of the last, great wilderness regions left on Earth. One-third of the birds visiting the tens of millions of backyard bird feeders in the United States may have been born in Canada's boreal region. According to a 2003 report by Bird Studies Canada, approximately 1 billion songbirds from the boreal forest winter in the United States.

Seattle regularly hosts more than 50 boreal bird species each winter, including dark-eyed juncos, purple finches and northern flickers. The scaup, scoters, bufflehead and loons that you see in the Puget Sound area as well as the trumpeter swans that can be seen in the Skagit Valley come from the boreal. Information about the boreal birds that winter or migrate through the Seattle area can be found in an interactive Boreal Bird Guide developed by the Boreal Songbird Initiative at www.borealbirds.org.

Since 1975, about 60 million acres of Canadian boreal forest has been logged and development in the region is rapidly escalating. Much of the logging feeds newsprint, catalogs, junk mail and tissue paper consumed in the United States. Associated habitat loss could very well be contributing to abrupt declines in at least 40 bird species.

In November, one of the world's most important conservation gatherings, the World Conservation Union, formally called for increased boreal conservation. Fortunately, leading conservationists, resource companies and first nations are crafting the Boreal Conservation Framework. This cutting-edge initiative envisions protecting half the region as wild land while ensuring sustainable development in other areas.

Jeff Wells is the former director of bird conservation for the National Audubon Society. He is an associate of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the senior scientist for the Boreal Songbird Initiative.

ELWAS' Scholarship and Grant Funds

What are all those scholarship and grant funds the Board keeps talking about?

Two years ago, the ELWAS Board approved two funds – the Brian Gershon Scholarship Fund and the Jim Rettig Restoration Fund. Recently, they approved funding for the Amy McQuade Scholarship Fund. They also voted to market and distribute these three funds as follows: All three awards are named in honor of ELWAS members who have given generously of their time, effort and energy over the years.

Every year, \$500 of the Brian Gershon Scholarship Fund will be given to a Bellevue Community College student studying Environmental Sciences. This money will be administered through the BCC Grant Foundation.

The Board approved funding the Jim Rettig Fund at the \$500 level each year, and these monies are to be used for grants for ELWAS members or for outside organizations doing habitat restoration work in our community. ELWAS will be responsible for marketing this opportunity and awarding the grant. If you know of anyone or an organization doing habitat rehabilitation work on the Eastside, let them know of this opportunity.

The Board also approved funding the Amy McQuade Scholarship Fund at the \$500 level each year. This money will be used for mini- grants (\$100+) for middle and high school teachers who are doing bird-related projects in their classrooms. ELWAS will offer this opportunity to science teachers on the Eastside, and the Education Committee will review and award the grants.

The annual funding of these accounts comes from ELWAS' general funds, which are dependent upon you, the members. Your memberships and donations make it possible for ELWAS to bring birds and wildlife to others in our community.

When you make a gift to ELWAS, you may also specify that some or all of that gift be applied towards a specific fund. Wouldn't \$1,000 to local schools be wonderful? Two scholarships to BCC?

When you renew your membership or send in a donation, consider a little extra for one of ELWAS' Scholarship or Grant funds. The birds will thank you.

Bylaw Revisions

by Jan McGruder

Now, who could resist that headline?!

Periodically, your ELWAS Board revisits the Bylaws by which we are governed, and makes changes to update them. The process goes something like this:

- The ELWAS Board reviews the Bylaws and makes changes to recommend to the membership.
- These changes are summarized here and available for all members to review on www.elwas.org, or in the ELWAS office.
- At our February membership meeting, the revised Bylaws will be presented to the membership, and those present at the meeting will vote on whether or not to accept them.

Summary of changes

Article I – Membership

Several categories of memberships formerly used by National Audubon, and no longer active were eliminated.

Article II – Location

Our corporation location was changed from Bellevue to Kirkland.

Article V – Executive Officers

Terms of office for Executive Board members were changed from two years to three.

Article VI – Standing Committee Chairs

Audubon Center and Community Outreach Chairs were eliminated. A Birding Chair position was added, and several of the subcommittees were reassigned.

Article VII – Fiscal Matters

The amount of expenditure needing formal Board approval was raised from \$100 to \$300.

Most of the rest of the changes were corrections or eliminating redundancies, minor language changes, or rearrangements of where things were placed in the document.

The entire document with all its changes is available online at www.elwas.org, or in the ELWAS office.

Summary of 2004 Christmas Bird Count

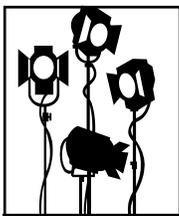
Saturday, December 18, was probably the best weather we have ever had for the CBC. It was clear and sunny with temperatures starting in the 30s and ending up in the 50s. Thirty-one people participated in the count and covered seven areas. The total species count of 92 tied 2002 for a high count. The total bird count of 15,639 was slightly below the 10 year average of 16,256:

Great Blue Heron – 72 (previous high 56 in 1995)
Bufflehead – 316 (314 in 1997)
Band-tailed Pigeon – 26 (19 in 1990)
Anna's Hummingbird – 25 (4 in 2003)
Belted Kingfisher – 17 (12 in 2002)
Pileated Woodpecker – 5 (5 in 1995)
Black-capped Chickadee - 306 (232 in 2002)
Chestnut-backed Chickadee – 91 (79 in 2002)
Bewicks' Wren – 68 (33 in 2002)
Winter Wren – 55 (47 in 2002)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet – 166 (139 in 2001)
Song Sparrow – 229 (196 in 2003)
Red Crossbill – 14 (1 in 2002 was only other year seen)
House Sparrow – 165 (144 in 2002)



Sightings of interest compared to the last 17 years include – 2 Greater White-fronted Goose (3rd year seen), Eurasian Wigeon (3rd year not seen), 1 Osprey (3rd year seen), 1 Peregrine Falcon (3rd year seen), 1 Merlin (4th year seen), 1 Mountain Chickadee (3rd year seen), 1 House Wren (3rd year seen), 1 Cedar Waxwing (4th year seen), 1 White-throated Sparrow (4th year seen).

For a complete list of birds seen, and/or a list of birds seen from 1988-2004, email Hugh Jennings at: hughbirder@earthlink.net.



Spotlight On Warren and Sharon Pagel

By Amy McQuade

This energetic, outdoor-loving couple was introduced by a mutual friend. Sharon, a rare native Seattleite, grew up in the Roosevelt district, was schooled there and at the University of Washington (UW) where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Standard K-12 Teacher's Certificate. She taught for five years at Loyal Heights Elementary in Ballard. Somewhere in there she married Warren, a "Midwesterner" from Marshfield,

Wisconsin. He was brought to Seattle by a hay-fever-ridden father who found relief in a balmy Kirkland neighborhood near relatives, when Warren was four years old.

Warren attended Lake Washington District Schools and graduated from the UW with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. After working for Puget Sound Energy for thirty-three and a half years he (and Sharon) retired in 1998. Meanwhile the happy couple bought two and a half acres in Woodinville 35 years ago, built a house and raised two children. Sharon stayed home until the "children were older" before returning to her career - teaching first, second and third graders in the Northshore School District. Their daughter is married and their son is a commuter airline pilot for SkyWest Airlines.

The Pagels have been outdoor-friendly all their lives - hiking, skiing and camping while the children grew up. Snow-shoeing became, and still is, a passion. After retirement they bought a travel trailer and have "been everywhere" in the western United States and Canada, enjoying life and birding in National and Provincial Parks. Warren and Sharon used to be avid bikers, the proud pedalers of a tandem bicycle, but somehow that has fallen by the wayside. They have regularly attended Seattle Symphony concerts for over thirty years. After feeding yard birds for years and "looking up" new ones, they joined ELWAS, took my class, got serious about birds and added them to the joys of their trailer travels.

Their chapter volunteerism is varied, useful and greatly appreciated. Warren has faithfully kept track of the donated Volunteer Record Hours for several years, while Sharon works on the very active Youth Education Committee. Together they have helped with the REI Christmas Gift Wrap money-raiser and have covered many volunteer office hours for Jan.

If you'd like to join this group of happy helpers just give Jan McGruder a call at 425-576- 8805.

Opportunities for Volunteering

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.

Our Board of Directors has five open positions:

- At-Large Board Member
- Financial Development Chair
- Secretary.
- Conservation Chair
- Membership Chair

The Board works hard and takes their work seriously, but they also have fun.

There are three committees that need leaders. They are:

- Plant Sale
- Merchandise,
- Juanita Bay Habitat Restoration.

ELWAS also has several smaller or short-term jobs that need attention. Bring your expertise and energy and help us with:

- Brochure design in Publisher
- Merchandise sales/office staffing during Membership Meetings
- Membership Meeting “Greeter”
- Research and develop a short grant application.
- Update the Chapter events on the website
- Research and develop web content for the Youth Education Committee

If you'd like more information on what would be expected of you, please check out our website (www.elwas.org), or stop by the office. A full job description can be found at either location.

If you believe ELWAS is a cause worthy of your time, give a little of yourself.

Board Positions Open

Three Board members are moving on, bringing change to ELWAS.

After several stints in various positions on the ELWAS Board, most recently as Secretary, Diane Stone wants to travel and spend more time with her family. We appreciate all Diane has done for the Board – recording all we do and keeping us on track.

Robert Riedl is ready to move on to other pursuits, and is stepping down as our Membership Chair. Robert brought some great ideas to the ELWAS Board, and helped them develop a Membership Policy.

Tim McGruder is also leaving the Board because of work commitments. Tim has been a member of ELWAS for 18 years, serving one term as Membership Chair, and several years as Conservation Chair. Tim has been passionate about being involved with development issues at the local and state levels. He has educated us all about issues that affect our quality of life and the protection of birds and their habitat.

All three will continue to be active in ELWAS, but currently need to allow others to fill these positions on the Board. We sincerely thank them for their hard work, and bringing energy, ideas and a good measure of fun to our Board. We will be seeking candidates for the above positions. If you're interested, or would like more information, please contact Jan McGruder at (425) 822-8580 or jan@elwas.org.

CAO protects rural property owners, drinking water, and environment

By Tim Trohimovich, 1000 Friends of Washington

It is definitely time to take a closer look at King County's new Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). We need to look beyond the controversy and rhetoric and examine who and what it protects, and why.

If you think that we live in a dog-eat-dog world, and that everyone should be able to do anything they want on their property -- no matter what -- then you can probably afford to skip a thoughtful review of the CAO. But if you think that we live in communities where we have a responsibility to be fair to our neighbors, and that it might make sense for communities to establish rules that protect things like drinking water, public health, and our rural quality of life, then you owe it to yourself to take a closer look at the CAO. And if you are concerned about taxes and property values then you really need to take a closer look, because all of the available evidence indicates that over time the new rules should protect property values and reduce taxes.

The CAO has as three of its most important goals to: (1) Protect water supplies; (2) Protect property owners from flooding, landslides, and other hazards; and (3) Keep our rural areas rural. Each of these is very important. Continuing development is threatening the ground water supplies many depend on for drinking water and irrigation (thirty percent of King County residents rely on wells for their drinking water). Rural residents in King County have seen runoff from nearby clear cuts damage their access road and flood their home site. Farmers in the Snoqualmie and other valleys continue to struggle with problems created by increased runoff as the hills above them are developed.

Although these are important goals, the rules that aim to achieve them must be balanced against people's rights to use their land. And they must be flexible enough to accommodate individual needs and special circumstances.

The good news is that the CAO is flexible, and has been improved in response to public comment to accommodate rural lifestyles and needs. Maintaining rural areas, farms, and forests also means maintaining people's ability to use their land. The critical areas provisions include flexible provisions to ensure that everyone can build on their land. They do not change the zoning of properties or the number of houses people are allowed to build. In fact, the update increased the land that can be used to calculate how many homes are allowed.

The new CAO also makes life simpler for farmers and horse owners in important ways. With an approved farm plan, a county permit is no longer required to clean existing agricultural ditches. This will make life simpler for farmers, and eliminates a frustrating regulation. The standard buffers do not apply to existing farms and horse operations. Permit costs for large agricultural buildings, such as stables and barns, have been lowered. The CAO also give rural residents, farmers, and foresters the option of creating a customized plan for their land as an alternative to the standard regulations. This plan can be customized to the land owner's goals and the conditions on the ground while meeting the goals of protecting the environment and the neighbors. For farmers and horse owners the farm plans are free and approved by the land owner and the King Conservation District, a state agency.

The CAO includes flexible provisions that apply within the urban growth area too. Like in the rural area, the new update allows all of a lot to be used in calculating the number of homes that can be built. Flexible lot standards allow builders to achieve the same number of homes with the new standards as before.

Undoubtedly the most controversial provisions of the new CAO are the clearing allowances for rural areas. The CAO does limit people's ability to permanently clear cut their lots. The simple truth is that trees and ground cover collect tremendous amounts of water -- recharging wells and aquifers, filtering out pollutants, and preventing floods and landslides. We have learned the hard way that when we permanently cut down too many trees, it creates serious health and safety problems.

But once again, the new rules are flexible. They are designed to ensure that people can harvest timber, cut fire wood, keep horses, raise crops, clear brush to prevent fires, remove blackberries and weeds, and cut down trees that are hazards to homes and buildings. The clearing allowances were increased for smaller lots to ensure that people can raise horses. Small lots are not required to count clearing for utilities, access roads or septic systems toward their 50 percent clearing allowance. Existing lots that have legally cleared more than 35 percent can keep the existing cleared area; there is no requirement to replant it. The clearing allowances do not affect people's ability to build homes on their rural properties.

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

The CAO is good for our pocketbooks as well. The evidence is very clear, both in terms of property values and taxes. In the Bear Creek area near Redmond, where clearing allowances have been in place for a decade, property values have increased significantly. Additionally, landowners who participate in the county's rural stewardship program are entitled to tax breaks for land left in native vegetation.

But the real tax savings are in the longer run. Wetlands and forests clean water, recharge aquifers, and prevent floods and landslides much more cheaply and effectively than treatment plants and storm water detention ponds. If we do not protect our wetlands and forests, we will spend untold millions of our tax dollars on infrastructure that attempts – often unsuccessfully – to do the same job. You can see this in the costly storm drainage improvements that are built in the urban growth area as it develops. These systems are designed to reduce some of the damage that would otherwise be done to downstream property owners.

And if we build large scale water, sewer, and storm water facilities in the rural area, it will be followed by large scale new development soon thereafter. Without adequate protections badly planned growth will destroy our rural areas, farms, and forests. Forever.

The common sense benefits of CAO protections are so important that the county is legally required to adopt them. The State Legislature directed cities and counties to do this work to keep our water clean and to ensure we respond to new scientific information about threats to public health and the environment.

In closing, it's important to make sure that all the controversy over the new CAO doesn't cause us to lose sight of the shared values that are its foundation. As a community we value things like clean water, public health and safety, and our rural quality of life, and we have a responsibility to protect them. The CAO uses flexible tools that have already worked successfully in parts of King County for over ten years to provide those protections – tools that have protected property values and helped avoid tax increases as well. The bottom line is that there's a reason it's called the *Critical Areas Ordinance*: it protects things that are *critically* important to our well-being. We will all be better off because of it.

NATURAL SOUND RECORDING WORKSHOP -- May 20th through May 22nd **Center for Urban Horticulture – Union Bay Campus**

Learn state-of-the-art techniques for recording the sounds of wildlife with experts from the University of Washington, The Burke Museum and Naturesound.org. Topics to be covered include the selection and application of audio recorders and microphones, recording theory, metering, recording techniques, and documentation for sound recordings. The course includes daily field recording sessions and lecture/discussions. Unique to this course is the use of microcomputer-based software to analyze the recordings and to investigate microphone and recorder performance.

Your instructors will be Mark Oberle, University of Washington; Robert Faucett the Burke Museum and Martyn Stewart, nature recordist from Naturesound.org.

Enrollment Information

The workshop fee is \$85 (includes tuition, class materials, ground transportation, and food). Enrollment is primarily based on a first-come first-served basis, with first consideration to students and researchers. Send a nonrefundable \$30 deposit to reserve a space. Your enrollment application and deposit must be received by March 10th. Balance is due by May 10. Participation is limited to 20.

For more details, write or call Naturesound.org at, 5510 266th Ave NE, Redmond WA 98053. Phone 425-898-0462 or fax 425-836-3849 e-mail: info@naturesound.org

Additional information about the recording workshop is also available at this website: www.birds.cornell.edu/MacaulayLibrary/contribute/soundRecordingWorkshop.html

Please note: workshop participants should bring a recorder, microphone, and tape; if you need equipment please contact the Library as soon as possible. A limited amount of recording equipment is available on a first-come first-served basis.

8th ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT INVITES EVERYONE TO GO OUT AND COUNT FOR THE BIRDS IN AMERICA'S GREAT BACKYARD

During the weekend of February 18 through 21, you can join people across North America in counting the birds in your backyard and reporting them over the Internet, as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), one of the world's largest volunteer efforts of its kind. In addition to its value as a research study, the GBBC allows people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate birds and provide vital information about North America's birds.

This is the eighth year of the popular event, developed and managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, with sponsorship from Wild Birds Unlimited store owners. This year's theme, "North America's Great Backyard," was chosen to celebrate the beauty of birds found across the continent. You are invited to go out into the "Great Backyard" (or just stick to your own humble backyard if you wish) during any or all of the count days and keep track of the highest numbers of each bird species you see. Take as little or as much time as you wish. When you're finished counting, report your sightings over the Internet at www.birdsource.org/gbbc

For this year's Great Backyard Bird Count, Cornell and Audubon, along with several federal agencies, are encouraging families and individuals to visit their local national wildlife refuge, national forest, national park, and other federal wild lands, in addition to reporting the birds they see in their own backyard. "In addition to counting the birds in your own backyard, this remarkable event gives you the opportunity to visit some of our most special places and wild lands," says Bob Perciasepe, Audubon's chief operating officer. "In this way, the Great Backyard Bird Count reminds us that North America's birds consider the whole continent to be one great big backyard; and in a sense, it is our backyard as well."

Instructions for participating can be found at www.birdsource.org/gbbc. There's no fee or registration. Libraries, businesses, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in promoting the GBBC or getting involved can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 800/ 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call 607/254-2473), 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, or the National Audubon Society at citizenscience@audubon.org or (215) 355-9588, Ext 16, Audubon Science Office, 545 Almshouse Road, Ivyland, PA 18974.

A 'Snapshot' of 2004 Great Backyard Bird Count Findings

Last winter, as part of the Great Backyard Bird Count, bird enthusiasts across North America submitted almost 50,000 checklists totaling more than four million birds of 512 species during the February count. The event documented regional declines of the American Crow that may be the result of West Nile virus in those regions. These crows were reported in alarmingly fewer numbers in Illinois and Ohio, where West Nile virus has had a strong presence, backing findings from the Christmas Bird Count and a winterlong citizen-science project, Project FeederWatch. "This decrease may or may not be related to West Nile, but the situation is certainly something we need to pay attention to," says John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Crows are very vulnerable to the virus.

Other species showed increases last year during the GBBC. Participants in the eastern United States counted more Dark-eyed Juncos than they had since GBBC 2000, perhaps because of the massive snowstorm that hit the eastern seaboard during the weekend of the count, driving birds to feeders in high numbers. That same snowstorm apparently held early migrants like Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, and American Woodcock farther south, compared with previous years.

In the West, Mountain Bluebirds were reported farther south than the year before, and all of the rosy-finches (Black, Gray-crowned, Brown-capped) were documented farther north. In previous years, GBBC maps of Eurasian Collared-Doves, introduced in the Bahamas before reaching Florida in the 1980s, showed the species spreading quickly northwestward. Last year's maps show no change, suggesting a slowdown in the rate at which the bird's range is spreading.

How will this winter compare with the last six? What will it reflect about our bird populations? The participation of novice and expert bird watchers alike will help us answer these questions.

JBP By the Numbers

By MaryFrances Mathis

2004 was an exciting year at Juanita Bay Park. The species list continues to grow, and it seemed as if every month added a new bird to the Park list.

Total species: 166

Species added in 2004: 16

- Red-throated Loon
- Pacific Loon
- American Bitter
- Greater White-fronted Goose
- American Black Duck
- Surf Scoter
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- American Kestrel
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Screech-Owl
- American Pipit
- Mountain Chickadee
- Common Raven
- Cassin's Vireo
- Western Meadowlark

Species added in 2005: 1 (and counting)

- American White Pelican*

Bottom line: visit JBP often, and let's see what other species are lurking in the bushes, or may make a surprise appearance.

On the horizon: the 1st Annual JBP Photo Contest is in the planning stages. Stay tuned.



American White Pelican at Juanita Bay!

