



The Corvid Crier

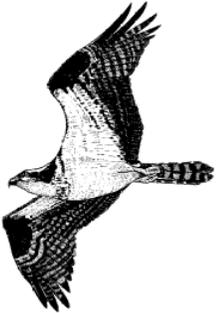
East Lake Washington Audubon Society

Issue 05-2 – March 2005

Everett Osprey Study: Life in the Nest

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

Where: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church



Ed Schulz developed an interest in birds and bird photography about ten years ago after observing the nesting activities and watching the young osprey in the colony at Everett. However, it was not until he took early retirement three years ago from a career as an electrical test engineer that Ed was able to begin working as an independent researcher for the USGS on Osprey foraging for environmental contaminant research in the Puget Sound region.

The colony that nests in the Snohomish River estuary is one of the larger colonies on the west coast of the continent. Ed will show us his excellent photographs of the Osprey colony, where he has been involved with research and monitoring the nesting activity of some two dozen breeding pairs for several years. Last year he installed a video nest camera on one of the nests and he will present a selection of video recordings that show what life in the nest is like. Ed's presentation will also include information on foraging patterns of Osprey in the Duwamish River, Lake Washington and West Seattle areas.

Please join us Thursday, March 24, for Ed's captivating presentation, which has been very popular with other Audubon groups. See his stunning Osprey photographs, his fascinating Osprey observations, and the excellent video recordings of nesting Osprey. 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 loves Osprey or raptors in general.

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.

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.

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

Inspiration and Perspiration

Sisyphus was the guy forever pushing a huge boulder up a hill. Sweat and grunt and work as hard as he did, as soon as the stone got the top, it would roll back down. And ol' Sis would trundle on down the hill and begin pushing it up to the top again. Over and over, forever and ever, amen.

Boy, sometimes I know how the guy felt! As conservationists, it seems like we can never rest on our laurels. Nothing ever stays done! As soon as you begin to feel like you've really made some progress, someone introduces a bill to remove the protection of a wild area, develop a formerly "safe" natural space, reduce environmental enforcement, remove the budget for maintenance of parks, ... the stone rolls all the way down the hill. It's enough to make you feel like taking a long, maybe permanent, vacation from the battle.

But the whole history of this country is one of struggle and rebellion. We who push for conservation are following in the footsteps of great Americans who have gone before us. The women's suffrage movement took over 75 years. Those who were at the forefront, didn't live to cast a vote. Other rights and protections we take for granted today were fought for by others, long and hard. Some paid with their lives.

Mark Hertsgaard writes in his essay "The Green Dream" about Vaclav Havel, the Czech playwright and human rights hero, and later president of the Czech Republic. Before his imprisonment at the hands of the communist regime, he was circulating a petition on behalf of political prisoners. In response to someone who questioned whether such symbolic acts had an impact, Havel responded, "when a person tries to act in accordance with his conscience, ... it won't necessarily lead anywhere, but it might. There's one thing however, that will never lead anywhere, and that is speculating about whether such behavior will lead somewhere." Hertsgaard adds "Be strategic, of course. But don't let apparently long odds paralyze you."

Management consultant Margaret Wheatly muses that Buddhists teach that hopelessness is not the opposite of hope. Fear is. Fear is paralyzing, but feeling insecure can be good. It means something is happening. She quotes Vaclav Havel, as well. "Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out."

So, in the face of the most environmentally unfriendly national administration in memory, and a seeming groundswell for rollback of environmental protections, to quote another group struggling for justice, keep the faith!

My favorite quote of all has stayed in my mind for many years. Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

East Lake Washington Audubon Society

425 576 8805

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birdhelp@elwas.org

OIL ON ICE

Join the **East Lake Washington Audubon Society** for a screening of the documentary, *Oil on Ice*. This film examines the issue of oil development within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It features the views of environmental and energy experts, legislators, as well as the Native Gwich'in Indians and the Inupiat Eskimos. Other aspects covered are: global climate change, indigenous people's rights, vehicle fuel efficiency standards, wildlife protection and renewable energy sources. *Oil on Ice* also features magnificent cinematography of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge including the wildlife and incredible scenery. Learn more about, the film, this issue, and what you can do at www.zeidenmedia.com/oilonice/

WHEN: Monday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Avenue S. in Kirkland

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.

And, the more tickets you buy at once, the more money you save.

1 ticket = \$6.50 ? 5 tickets = \$6.25 ? 10 tickets = \$6.00

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

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.

Sharon Aagard, Ken Barney, Jenny Bridge, Christel Brunnenkant, Jim Hill, Evelyn Lane, Zephyr Mitchell, Peter and Junko Valle, Christopher Van Bommel, Ward Woodke

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

newsletter@elwas.org Subject: ELWAS Newsletter or by mail to:

East Lake Washington Audubon Society

Attn: Tom Grismer

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

- The "Raven in Flight" used as our graphic logo was created by Tony Angell, and is ©1978 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.

Mar 1 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Conservation Committee
Meets first Tues of each month in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email Martyn Stewart at mstew@naturesound.org

Mar 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

Mar 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 third stop sign, to the Dog Area parking lot. Parking is **\$1.00.**

Mar 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.**

Mar 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.

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 **7:00 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). Cost/person **\$6.** **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

Mar 11 (Fri) 11:00 am — Kenmore P&R and Library
ELWAS members will have spotting scopes available for the public to watch the Great Blue Heron colony at the north end of the Kenmore P&R (Bothell Way and 62nd Ave. NE). There will be a slide presentation about the herons and other birds at the nearby Kenmore Library about noon. Anyone having a scope is invited to bring it.

Mar 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

March 19 (Sat.) 10 a.m. - Bellefields Trail Walkthrough.
Help clean litter along Bellefields Trail in the north end of

Mercer Slough Nature Park. Meet at 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.**

Kay Barrett 425-644-2862.

Mar 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

Mar 24 (Thurs) 7:00 pm
Presentation and Membership meeting
"Everett Osprey Study: Life in the Nest" See page 1 for details.

Mar 26 (Sat) 7:00 am — Ellensburg/Vantage Area
Plan on a day traveling through varied habitats: riparian, forest and farm. We should see a number of raptors, late winter and early spring birds. It could be warm and sunny, or cold and windy, so come prepared for either. Bring a lunch and expect to be back by early evening. Meet before **7:00 am** at north end of the Issaquah P&R (I-90 exit 15, corner of SR 900 and Newport Way) to carpool. Cost/person **\$10.**
Mike West 206-795-4865

Mar 28 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon
Birding the Hotspots of King County
Monthly field trip on **fourth Monday of each month** to wherever the birds are. Meet before **9:00 am** at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Cost/person **\$2.** **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

Apr 1 (Fri) 9am to noon — Marymoor Park
See Mar 4.

Apr 5 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Conservation Committee
See Mar 1.

Apr 6 (Weds) 6:00 pm — Web Committee
See Mar 2.

Apr 9 (Sat) 7:00 am — Theler Wetlands via Southworth
We will take the Fauntleroy ferry to Southworth and bird our way to the Theler Wetlands. The wetlands include fresh and salt water marshes, forested uplands, and estuarine habitats. Prepare to walk about 2-1/2 miles. We will return by way of Tacoma. It can be cool and wet so dress accordingly. 150 bird species have been seen in this area. Bring a lunch. Meet before **7:00 am** at north end of the Wilburton Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. Passenger cost/person is **\$5.00 + share in ferry cost.**
Jim Ganley 425-450-0461

Apr 11 (Tues) 6:00 pm — ELWAS Board
Meets in conference room across from ELWAS office

Apr 12 (Tues) 7:00-9:00 pm — Education Committee
See Mar 8.

Apr 13 (Weds) 9:00 am — Bellevue Botanical Gardens
See Mar 9.

Apr 14 (Thurs) - 8:00 am - Spencer Island

Explore this wetland located near the Everett Sewage Treatment Ponds. Ducks, shorebirds, hawks, eagles, gulls as well as small birds in brushy and grassy areas are all possible in this varied habitat. Bring lunch; will be back mid-afternoon. Meet before **8:00** am at south end of Kingsgate Park and Ride, I-405. Passenger cost/person **\$3.00**. — **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

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, Conservation Chair, Financial Development Chair, Membership Chair, Secretary. 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 contact Jan McGruder at (425) 822-8580 or jan@elwas.org.



JBP Jottings

by MaryFrances Mathis (photo by Margaret Saint Clair)

"Whitewall," the appropriately nicknamed partial-albino Red-winged Blackbird, has returned to Juanita Bay Park for the 4th year*, and is once again establishing his territory in the cattails off the middle boardwalk. This is the third year he has chosen to defend the same area, and if previous years are any indication, he should have no problem attracting females.

Partial albinism is a condition where individual feathers, or patches of feathers, are white in an otherwise dark plumage. And as is often the case, "Whitewall's" patches of white are symmetrical, creating a quite spectacular effect. The lack of melanin, the dark pigment, is genetic, and it is possible that we will see more of these birds at JBP in successive generations.

Albinism is not that unusual in the Blackbird (Icteridae) family, and several similarly plumaged birds have been reported and photographed in the Puget Sound region over the last several years. Leucism, a related plumage aberration, is a reduction in the intensity of all pigments, creating an overall dull or gray color, and is occasionally seen in crows. – So enjoy this beautiful bird...he's a real showstopper!

* "Whitewall's" Statistics:

- 2002 – arrived 4/22; departed 6/10
- 2003 – arrived 2/23; departed 6/25
- 2004 – arrived 2/12; departed 6/23
- 2005 – arrived 1/24

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.



**BIRD
of the
MONTH**

Sandhill Crane
Grus canadensis

by Hugh Jennings



The Sandhill Crane (SACR) is split into two subspecies, Lesser and Greater. The Lesser is about 41" long with a wingspan of 73" and a weight of 7.3 lb. (3350 g). The Greater is about 46" long with a wingspan of 77" and a weight of 10.6 lb (4850 g). The genus name *Grus* (GROOS) is Latin for crane. The species name *canadensis* (can-ah-DEN-sis) is Latin for Canada. The SACR is a tall, gray heron-like bird. It has a dark red patch on the forehead and a black bill. Some of the feathers on the back and wings are rusty-colored from staining as the bird preens with iron-laden mud. The Lesser breeds in the far North and is small, short-billed and short-legged. The Greater breeds from central Canada southward and is larger and up to 50 percent longer-billed.

Sandhill Cranes reach their peak abundance at migratory stopover points. The early gathering on the Platte River in Nebraska is one of the great wildlife spectacles, with over 250,000 birds present at one time. A smaller migration of Sandhill Cranes (Lesser) passes through Eastern Washington by the thousands west of Othello. This has resulted in the Sandhill Crane Festival held annually at Othello. In 2005 the festival will be March 18-20. Courtship displays are easily seen during migration and involve graceful jumps off the ground in a dancing manner. The cranes get airborne by running against the wind, and they stay airborne with a heavy, up-stroking wingbeat (in other birds the downstroke is more powerful).

In the summer it is found on prairies and tundra in its breeding territory. Their haunting guttural cry "karoo karoo karoo" comes from their very long trachea (over a yard in length). In the winter it roosts in shallow water and feeds in agricultural fields. Their diet varies with location and season. The major foods include insects and roots of aquatic plants, but also rodents, snails, frogs, lizards, snakes. Many eat large quantities of cultivated grains when available.

The nesting site is usually among marsh vegetation in shallow water, sometimes on dry ground close to water. The nest is built by both parents and is a mound of plant material pulled up from around the nest site. The nest may be built from the bottom up, or may float, anchored to standing plants. Usually two eggs are laid, sometimes 1 and rarely 3. The eggs are usually pale olive to buff, marked with brown or gray. The 29-32 day incubation period is by both sexes with the female predominating by incubating all night and part of the day. The young leave the nest within a day after hatching and follow the parents in the marsh. Both parents feed the young at first, but they soon learn to feed themselves. The age at first flight is about 65-75 days. The young remain with the parents for 9-10 months and stay with them during migration.

LIBRARY LINGO

This month's Library Lingo features a book review by our co-librarian, Barbara Erling. This book is available in the ELWAS library.

Season At The Point, the birds and birders of Cape May
by Jack Connor. New York, The Atlantic Monthly Press, c1991.
Illus. by Don Almquist. 290 p.

For those consumed by raptor-love, Cape May, New Jersey is one of the sacred places of pilgrimage. This book is about the Cape May Bird Observatory during one season, from August 17 to November 31, of the annual hawk watch and

count.

And although the book was published in 1991 and the season it describes was 1989, it is still as interesting and worthwhile as it was 15 years ago. In one long and fluid narrative Connor writes of the geography of the Cape, facts about the physics of flight, the complexities of migration, and the annual hawk count and banding. He vividly describes the land and water forms, and the flora that make Cape May unique.

The flow of information — facts, statistics and scientific theories — alternates gracefully with sketches of the fascinating and passionate men and women — from PRBs (professional raptor bums) to Peter Dunne, who contributed so much to the life of the Cape.

Since 1633, Cape may has attracted observers because of the richness of its bird life: Alex Wilson, Audubon, Roger Tory Peterson, Peter Dunne, David Sibley. And with this book we know considerably more of the reasons why people have come to the Cape, and about the Cape's beauty, fragility, and vulnerability.

For current updates for the 2004 hawk watch and count, the website is:
<http://www.njaudubon.org/Centers/CMBO/HWdailytotals.html>

Winter/Spring Classes

➤ **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.*

Come Bird With Us Sequim, Washington, April 1-3, 2005

Grab your binoculars and come to the Dungeness River Audubon Center April 1-3, 2005 for the second annual Olympic Peninsula BirdFest.

The stage is set: Beaches, bays and estuaries, a protected island sanctuary, five-mile-long sand spit, eel grass beds, extra-low tides, plus the mountains, rainforests and river valleys of the Olympic Peninsula landscape.

The actors are ready: Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons and Pygmy-Owls. They'll be dressed in their finest spring plumage. A new bird discovery might be waiting for you.

Enjoy the show: Guided birding trips, boat tours, salmon dinner, workshops on bird watching and many other presentations.

Program information and registration can be found at the festival website: www.olympicbirdfest.org, or at the Olympic Peninsula Audubon site, www.olympicpeninsulaaudubon.org.

Sequim and the BirdFest is a pleasant ferry ride and drive from the east side of Puget Sound, just a drive from the South Sound and even closer for Kitsap residents. Come to Sequim's legendary sunshine in the rain shadow of the Olympics for some of the Pacific Northwest's best birding. Sequim Dungeness Valley has numerous overnight accommodations and restaurants for BirdFest participants. The website is designed to help you plan your stay.

The Olympic BirdFest is a partnership of the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, Dungeness River Audubon Center and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, with grants from the North Olympic Peninsula Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Sequim Marketing and Action Committee and Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Washington Native Plant Society's Native Plant Stewardship Program

Do you have a passion for native plants? Are you an active volunteer in your community? Do you know someone who is? Here is a great opportunity to develop your knowledge and have a positive effect on your community!

The Native Plant Stewardship Program is now accepting applications for its 2005 Spring program.

Native Plant Stewards are members of our community who take their interest in urban forestry, native plant identification, landscaping, forest ecology, plant biology, ethnobotany, invasive plant species, and restoration practices to a whole new level.

This program offers 12 sessions of training (11 weeks) on a wide range of topics useful for volunteers restoring and protecting native plants and natural areas in the lowland Puget Sound region. Each week, trainees will learn to identify the plants growing in our region and to understand the natural plant communities of Western Washington ecosystems. Trainees will also study ways to help improve the open spaces and native plant habitat remaining in our urban areas.

Volunteers who want to learn about native plants so they may restore and protect natural habitats in the Puget Sound region are encouraged to apply. The 11-week program is free in exchange for a 100-hour volunteer commitment within King County.

Classes are held Wednesday evenings from 5:30-9:30 PM at South Seattle Community College. Class will begin Wednesday, March 30th, and run until June 15th, including 5 Saturday field trips: April 16, 30, May 21, 28, and June 11. The application deadline is Friday, March 11, 2005. For more information, contact Brianne Cohen at (206) 527-3210 or npsp@wnps.org. You can download an application at www.wnps.org.

Interesting Member Profile: Richard Rowlett

By Amy McQuade

I discovered Richard on Tweeters, the techy birder connection because of his interesting postings. In fact they were so interesting I was compelled to start saving them. It wasn't exactly clear to me what he did until he gave a talk at an ELWAS meeting, and later, Bev Jennings suggested we do a profile on him for the Crier. So we recently interviewed him in spite of his declaration that "my life is far too complex and complicated to be explained in a short, concise way that might be of general interest." After the interview and reading the biography hard-copy he sent, I tended to agree, but stubbornly feel that by highlighting the most important milestones in his career, our associates might concur: ELWAS is richer having Richard among us.

Born and early schooled in Maryville, Missouri (MO), a scrapbook he authored on Bohemian Waxwings as a seventh grade science project directed his interests to nature and the outdoors, particularly birds, and while at Northwest MO State University majoring in Meteorology he would skip classes to go birding and finally transferred to Southeast MO State University, graduating with a degree in Zoology in 1970. Drafted by the US Army the same year, he chose the option of going to Washington, DC over Vietnam and served two years in the Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery as a sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, afterwards, remaining in the DC area as a Biological Technician assisting professional staff with pesticide studies on upland game and water birds at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland. The next five years proved to be the basis of his ultimate career.

Imagine being so enamored with what you do it's like being retired for thirty years - the answer I received after asking when he planned to retire. Today he's still doing aerial and seagoing contract work in marine biology, whale and other marine mammal surveys, seagoing, and coastal bird migrating counts for fish and wildlife organizations. You can tell he loves it from the way he writes about it in 1996:

"Piedras Blancas and other stuff: We're well into our third week of the Gray Whale survey, already seeing above average couples of cow/calf pairs so early in the season. The Loon migration which I monitored so extensively in 1994/95 is running well in '96; 600,000. Pacific to Red-throateds ratio has been about 50:50. The only significant one-day flight being in the low thousands streaming by at the rate of 600 to 1,000 per minute. Few spectacles in nature can compare to such an unsung show as this."

But being in this almost unbelievable situation takes years of background. After Patuxent he assisted the Smithsonian Institution National Fish & Wildlife Lab Division of Mammals by trapping, mist-netting and preparing specimens for display, adding them to the museum collection; even donating his own collection of 2000 specimens to the museum in 1982. From 1978 to 81, as Regional Cruise Leader he conducted and supervised field research for the U. of Rhode Island Marine Science Consortium, Wallops Island, VA. Next he worked seven seasons as a Naturalist Guide & Lecturer on board Society Expeditions luxury cruise ships, visiting Chilean fjords to the Antarctic Islands, Falklands, Shetlands, So. Georgia, with a focus on wildlife ecology and history.

Following that, as a senior scientist and cruise leader, he organized and supervised multi-year, multi-ship seabird and cetacean surveys for the International Whaling Commission, Cambridge, England. And from 1981 to 1988 he was responsible, as Field Supervisor, for National Marine Mammal Laboratories, Seattle, for studying impacts on North Pacific and Alaskan Dall's Porpoise, other sea mammals, and seabirds while assigned to the 176 Japanese vessel fleet engaged in high seas drift net salmon fishing.

From then until the present he has been associated with NOAA/NMFS, including Southwest Fisheries Science Center, La Jolla, California on term appointments and contracts, working out of Sand Point, Seattle, and La Jolla. This involves numerous seasonal, multi-year-at-sea marine mammal, seabird and turtle projects as well as whale/dolphin and tuna population recovery issues worldwide. He considers his terrestrial field research of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians throughout Central, North America, Peru and Alaska of secondary importance in his biological work around the world.

Each year he tries to spend the three winter months "at home" in Eastgate, Bellevue, where he wages war with neighboring mountain beavers that have developed a taste for his "rhodies," among other nasty habits. On the brighter side, after recently locating Canada's McKay's Bunting, followed by the Asian Redwing rarity in Olympia and Hugh Jennings' Phantom Lake Tufted Duck, he has indulged in his latest passion: hunting rocks on the Oregon coast, and elsewhere, and polishing them in his two well-traveled rock-polishing machines. Yes, they even accompany him on the fabulous marine mammal surveys I've been telling you about. Now that's PASSION!

Thank you Richard for being so very interesting and sharing some of your ambience with other East Lake Washington Audubon Society members.