



The Corvid Crier

East Lake Washington Audubon Society

Issue 05-4 – May 2005

Brushed by Feathers, A Year of Birdwatching in the West

When: Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 p.m. (after the social hour)

A professional writer for ten years, Frances Wood has published over 100 articles on birds and nature and continues to publish a syndicated monthly column on bird watching. She has written three books, including the recently published *Brushed by Feathers: A Year of Birdwatching in the West*.

Frances earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in art and teaching and has painted and illustrated birds and flowers for sale and publication. She completed the Seattle Audubon's Master Birder class in 1995 and served as editor of Seattle Audubon's *Earthcare Northwest* for five years.

During four recent winters, she has also worked with the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation in Mexico and Central America teaching an extensive bird watching curriculum to local nature guides. Frances and her husband Bill Graves make their home on Whidbey Island, where she is presently coordinating a Bluff Breeding Bird Survey.

As an avid journalist, Francis has been recording the yearly cycle of bird activity for ten years. These observations are gathered together in her charming new book, *Brushed by Feathers: A Year of Birdwatching in the West*. Francis brings to us this month a beautiful slide presentation, which follows the changing activity of common western birds month by month from January through December.

Just as nature flows through an annual cycle, birds have their seasonal cycle of activity – from spring migration to summer's baby birds to the more somber plumage of fall and the gathering of birds into huge wintering flocks. Understanding these seasonal patterns deepens one's appreciation for birds and helps bird watchers hone their skills.

Please join us **Thursday, May 26**, for a Year of Birdwatching in the West. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by Francis' lovely presentation and a question and answer period.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who wants to experience a delightful evening learning about the seasonal pattern of western birds.

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.



ELWAS Movie Night—May 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Winged Migration



Amazing cinema-tography and gorgeous music fill this documentary-adventure created by French filmmakers Jacques Cluzaud, Michel Debat and Jacques Perrin. Presented with almost no narration and filmed primarily from a bird's perspective, this study of the lives and habits of migrating birds re-creates as nearly as possible the experiences of the birds themselves. Call 425-576-8805 for details. **Free**

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

I recently returned from a trip to Arizona, where I had a chance to bird with a local woman in Tucson. We had so much fun! I can hardly remember the last time I went birding on purpose. Sometimes it takes going on vacation to remind me of what attracted me to Audubon in the first place. Birds! The fun of looking for them and the joy of finding them. Especially those lifers!

The woman I was with is a birding guide, and makes her living helping visiting birders find the local specialties. But she got every bit as excited as I did when we found what we were looking for. Birds light a spark in people like nothing else can.

We were having a great time searching out the local birds, many of which I had never seen before. As we drove between sites, we got to talking about how the elevation changed, along with the vegetation, and therefore the kinds of birds we could expect to find.

But something else struck me about the setting, as well. The sprawl I saw in both Tucson and Phoenix was hard to ignore. Low buildings on large lots continued for miles in all directions. There's no law resembling the Growth Management Act like we have in Washington. And the results were plain to see.

Developers cheaply buy tracts of land out in the desert, and build houses. Lots of houses. Fairly quickly, more housing and commercial development fill in the space between the new neighborhood and where the edge of town used to be. The natural habitat of cactus, shrubs and palo verde trees are replaced with pavement and roofs. We visited a wildlife refuge where cattle were allowed to graze. There was no buffer requirement to keep them out of the streams and ponds, and the banks were completely degraded

Being from a very wet place, I really appreciated the beauty of the desert. I believe most people who live there do, too. But most don't seem to have made the connection between the sprawl they are allowing and the disappearance of the beauty around them. And with it, the homes of the birds and other wildlife.

When we disagree about government regulation, property rights and habitat protection, I can't help thinking about what could be. And it's not pretty.

Reminder! May is Birdathon month. Pledge to a team or form your own. A way to combine the joy of birding with raising money for their protection. Talk about a win-win situation! Call the office for more information.

**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>**

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At large board member Open
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Gift Wrap Nancy and Jim Roberts (425) 822-1865
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Membership — Open
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E-mail lynbailey@comcast.net
Volunteer Coordinator Emily Winstrom (425) 453-5614
E-mail volunteer@elwas.org



Shop Online

Can't make it to the ELWAS Store during regular hours? No problem! You can visit the ELWAS Virtual Store and buy all your outdoor items online. Just login to the ELWAS homepage (www.elwas.org), click on "Shop Online"! Then follow the links to our online store.

You'll find great deals on books, field guides, audio, video, gifts, seed, feeders, and kid's stuff. Just place your order online, and all merchandise will be delivered right to your door.

Besides the convenience to you, ELWAS receives a percentage of each sale! I'd say that's a win/win for everyone!



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. We thank you, and the fish thank you.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who volunteered at various ELWAS booths around the Eastside. We had a 2-day event at Molbaks, and 1-day events in Bothell and at Crossroads.

We answered questions on birds, ranging from nests, hammering flickers and feeders. We also introduced many to ELWAS, and our role in the community.

Our stalwart volunteers were: Kay Barrett, Claudine Guignard, Jo Herber, Chris Houden, Bev Jennings, Jane Paige, Jim and Jan Rettig, Jim and Nancy Roberts, and Barbara Spargo. The Roberts get a gold star for working two shifts!

We've already had new visitors to the office from our outreach efforts. Way to go!

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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

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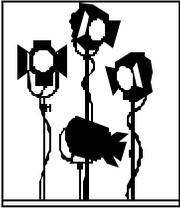
AUDUBON CENTER/OFFICE HOURS

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

Phone number: (425) 576-8805

Email: office@elwas.org

**Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday
9:00am — 1:00pm**



Volunteer Spotlight On Sunny Walter

By Amy McQuade

While Sunny volunteers as ELWAS Program Chairperson, her life is so full and compelling she could qualify for an Interesting Member Profile.

Born in Oak Park, Illinois, her early life was spent moving around the midwest with her father's teaching career until he was hired as Chief Editor by Britannica Junior Encyclopedia, whereupon she graduated from high school in La Grange, Illinois, then received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Iowa State University in 1960.

Early on she had developed a strong outdoor ethic due to her parents' love of hiking and camping and the cabin at Crystal Lake in Michigan. By the time Boeing was recruiting Iowa State about-to-be graduates in 1960 Sunny had already decided she wanted to live in the Pacific Northwest - "It seemed so fresh and environmentally inviting." So she moved to Seattle, started at Boeing as a computer programmer, ending up as lead engineer and researcher of business modeling techniques, retiring thirty-five years later in 1995. Since retirement she has operated her own "low key" photography business, which specializes in wildlife and environmental photography. Marriage in the 60s resulted in a daughter, now 43 and married, but Sunny has been "happily single" for 20 years.

She joined ELWAS about 1995, after eleven years of active membership in The Mountaineers that included several years as chairman of the Photography Group and Field Trip Coordinator. She loved taking people to places of great natural beauty but joined Audubon because of her desire to do more toward preserving the environment. Though "not a good birder" and wanting to be more helpful she joined our Marymoor Park project, and when the chapter Program Chairmanship opened up she took it on, "as a way to contribute without needing to be a good birder."

For twelve years Sunny volunteered as photographer for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, and also took a three year assignment for Washington Tourism photographing people having a good time in nature. In 2001, with Janet O'mara, she co-authored "Washington Nature Weekends - 52 Adventures in Nature," which takes people to a different place each weekend for a peak seasonal nature experience. The book, published by Falcon Press/Globe Pequot Press, has been very popular.

And she says that isn't all! We wonder when her reliable Canon photo equipment has a chance to cool down, unless it's while she's busy lining up those great programs for ELWAS meetings.

Thank you Sunny, we all appreciate your efforts - Here's the big Spotlight on YOU.

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.

F. J. Alexandro, Ken Barney, Nina Bondarook, Jenny Bridge, Christel Brunnenkant, The Diensens, M.J. Dobbins, Patricia A. Eskenaszi, J. Evans, James J. Farrell, Laura Fox, Deanne L. Franz, Gary Given, A. R. Green, Judith Gustafson, Jim Hill, Dorothy H. Johnson, Evelyn Lane, Jennifer Linn, Anne Lyle, Joseph Manning, John L. May, Stephanie McGinty, Alena Mills, Zephyr Mitchell, Dolores Ohls Ramesh Pabbati, Lillian Quan, Sukirti Ranade, Madhu Reddy, Ada Ross, Clint Russell, Zeldia M. Scheyer, Michael C. Smith, Richard D. Stickney, John Tatarsky, Peter Topping, Lon C. Turner, Peter and Junko Valle, Christopher Van Bommel, Pao-Pei Wei, Edith S. Wiley, Ward Woodke, Susan Yates

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.

Volunteers—Mark Your Calendars

The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is set for Tuesday, **June 14** at 6:00 pm. To receive an invitation, make sure to send your volunteers hours to Warren Pagel at wpagel@verizon.net or mail them to the office no later than **June 1**. Hope to see you there!

Birding for a Good Cause

by Christy Anderson

Our early spring has all the flowers popping and all the birds singing earlier than usual. But it has served as a reminder that the best part of spring will soon be here – BIRDATHON!!

ELWAS depends on this, our biggest fundraiser, for a large part of our budget every year. All the activities we offer throughout the whole year depend on this annual May event.

How does it work? There's several ways you can participate.

Sponsor a BIRDATHON team, or individual on a team.

As a sponsor, you can make a contribution to the team, or even more fun, pledge a certain amount of money for each species a team sees during their 24-hour BIRDATHON period. If your team goes further afield than others, they will probably see more species. When you pledge a per-species amount, the team works that much harder to see more species! It is really motivating.

Take a BIRDATHON Special Field Trip.

Several ELWAS volunteers will be leading field trips to various locations around the Puget Sound area. Unlike our usual free field trips, we are asking participants to make a donation to BIRDATHON to come along. Here's a chance to bird and make an important contribution at the same time!

Form a BIRDATHON team of your own!

You can do it! You don't need to be an expert to be a good BIRDATHONer. You can sit in an easy chair and watch your birdfeeders, if you want. The key to a good BIRDATHON individual or team is to collect pledges for the birds you see on your chosen day, no matter where you choose to see those birds. ELWAS will provide everything you need, and need to know. And you may be in the running for one of our sought after BIRDATHON trophies!



What does BIRDATHON make possible?

- Membership meeting speakers
- Bringing the fun and science of birds to elementary classrooms
- Scholarships for college students studying environmental issues
- Helping teachers bring bird-related projects to their students
- Maintaining our facilities and staff
- Everything we do!!

BIRDATHON is a fun way to further the ELWAS mission. Visit the ELWAS website or call the office for

ELWAS Meetings in May

May 3 (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

May 4 (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

May 10 (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**.

May 17 (Tues) 6:00 pm — ELWAS Board — Meets in conference room across from ELWAS office

May 16 (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**

May 26 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Presentation and Membership meeting See page 1 for details.

FIELD TRIPS

Parents and children over 8 are welcome on all trips

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

May 3 (Tues) - 8:00 am - noon- Juanita Bay Park Birdathon Trip

Join MaryFrances Mathis for a relaxed morning walk in the park, seeing what birds are in the area. We will meet at 8:00 am and will be finished by lunch time. Bring binoculars and meet in the parking lot. No registration is required but there is a minimum donation of \$25.00 to Birdathon. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

May 6 (Fri) 8am to noon — Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the 1st Friday of each month at 8:00. Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot. No registration is required. To reach Marymoor Park, take SR 520 east from Seattle to the West Lake Sammamish Parkway exit and follow the signs. The entrance to the park is one block south of the exit. Turn right at third stop sign, to the Dog Area parking lot. Parking is **\$1.00**.

May 11 (Wed) — 9:00 am to noon - Bellevue Botanical Gardens — Birdathon Trip

Join us for a walk through the garden, and spend a relaxed morning seeing what birds are in the area. We will meet the at 9:00 am, and will be finished by noon. Bring your binoculars and meet at the front door. No registration is required but there is a minimum donation of \$25.00 to Birdathon. **Jim Ganley 425- 681-7497**

May 12 (Thurs) - 7:00 am - Skagit Wildlife Area - Birdathon Trip

A 2-3 mile walk along dikes, through conifers and along marshes should yield flycatchers, shorebirds, songbirds, rails, and soras. Bring a lunch. Vehicles parking at the SWA must have a WDFW vehicle use permit. **\$25 minimum donation to support Birdathon**. Meet before 7 at Kingsgate Park and Ride to carpool. Cost/person **\$5**. **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

May 14 (Sat) 8:00 am - Spencer Island — Join **Jim Rettig**, and make a donation for Birdathon. We will meet at Jim's house at 8 a.m. and bird his yard. Then to Spencer Island and Everett Waterfront. Dress for the weather and bring snacks/lunch. **\$25 minimum donation to support Birdathon**. Call office at **425-576-8805** to register and for directions.

May 17 (Tues) 8:00 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 8:00. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

May 23 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon Birding the HotSpots of King County

Field trip on 4th Mon. of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9). Cost/person **\$2**. **Jim Ganley 425-450-0461**

**May 27 (Friday) 7:00 am – Afternoon
Christmas Lake/Rattlesnake Lake Birding by Ear**
At the foot of the Cascade Mts, this area near North Bend offers opportunity to hear and see warblers, flycatchers, wrens, woodpeckers, swallows, ducks and raptors. Emphasis is on improving birding by ear skills. The old red alders, second-growth conifers, black cottonwoods, wetlands and lake may harbor some unexpected species. Bring lunch. Meet before 7 am at Bellevue's Wilburton P&R, I-405, exit 12 to carpool. Cost/person is **\$3**. This trip is limited to about 10 people. Call **Lou Ann Harris at 425-652-7603** to reserve a place.

June 3 (Fri) 8am to noon — Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the 1st Friday of each month at 8:00. Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot. No registration is required. To reach Marymoor Park, take SR 520 east from Seattle to the West Lake Sammamish Parkway exit and follow the signs. The entrance to the park is one block south of the exit. Turn right at third stop sign, to the Dog Area parking lot. Parking is **\$1.00**.

June 9 (Thurs) - 6:30 am -Scatter Creek Wildlife Area
Riparian and wetland areas are dominated by Oregon Ash, oaks, shrubs, and grasses that invite warblers, vireos, tanagers, and flycatchers. Chipping and Savannah Sparrow and Western Bluebird may be found in the short-grass prairies. Owls and woodpeckers possible in the mixed woods. We'll walk at least 4 miles. Bring food and drink for a full day of birding. Carpool drivers must have a WDFW Vehicle Use Permit. Meet before 6:30 am at Newport Hills Park N Ride, I-405, Exit 9. Return evening. Cost/person **\$7**. **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

Northwest Trek Field Trip



Join us on Saturday, June 18 for a trip to Northwest Trek. This adventure will include a naturalist-guided tram ride through the Park. We'll see moose, bison, elk and their young. There are always some surprises along the way!

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

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

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

Adults: \$8.50

Youth (ages 5-17): \$6.00

Tots (ages 3-4): \$4.00

Space is limited and preregistration is required. All ages

BirdNote

Have you ever heard a winter wren while driving down the interstate? You can with BirdNote, a radio program from Seattle Audubon. Tune in to KPLU, 88.5 FM each weekday at 8:58 a.m.

Designed to provide listeners with an educational and entertaining escape from the daily grind, BirdNote shows are 2-minute vignettes that showcase the intriguing, and in some cases, truly amazing abilities of birds.



Eagle Eye
VISION CARE, P.S.

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

See the birds better!

Enter the Second Annual Greater Puget Sound Yardbird Year List Competition

Consider for a moment the massive amount of free public ity devoted to sports in the media. The interest stems not from the sport per se - let's face it, all sports are trivial - but from human competition, which never ceases to enthrall people. So why not get birding into the act? If you keep a yearly yard list and have one for 2005, you are invited to enter the 2nd Annual Greater Puget Sound Yardbird Year List Competition.

Simply for entering, you can pick up a free box of wildlife note cards at the Ed Newbold Wildlife Artists store at the Pike Place Market, plus a 14 x 18 shade coffee poster. If you happen to win in your category, there are even more prizes. Some prizes include Violet-Green Swallow boxes, gift certificates, and at least \$900 donated to various charities. In the names of various winners, the charities who have benefited range from Bird Life International to **East Lake Washington Audubon Society** (Christy Anderson - 2004 winner). But like pro-ball players, entrants must be willing to put a smile on their face (or maybe a scowl) and if called upon, speak to the media. Press releases will be sent out naming the yard-bird observers and winners, in the hope of giving a truly meaningful "sport" the publicity it deserves.

To see the more details of the competition and the current leaderboard go to www.ednewbold.com and click on Yard-BirdRace. or call Ed's store at (206) 652 5215. 5215 To enter the Yardbirdrace call (206) 767-7169 or write newboldwildlife@netscape.net

Visit Ed Newbold—Wildlife Artist at Pike Place Market, First and Pike Street in Seattle. His entrance is the door west of the newsstand at the entrance to the Pike Place Market.

**BIRD
of the
MONTH**

Western Tanager
Piranga ludoviciana

by Hugh Jennings



The Western Tanager (WETA) is about 7.25" long with a wingspan of 11.5" and a weight of 0.98 oz. (28g). The genus name *Piranga* (pie-RANG-gah) apparently is a South American name for "bird". The species name *ludoviciana* (lewd-oh-vick-ih-ANE-ah) refers to Louisiana Territory. It was named Louisiana tanager by naturalist Alexander Wilson for the bird discovered by Lewis and Clark in the western part of the then broad Louisiana Territory.

In the summer the male has a red face, yellow belly and black back, wings and tail. It has two wing bars, with the upper broad and yellow and the lower thin and whitish. The red head becomes yellowish and finely streaked in the winter. The female has two morphs: 1) greenish yellow with gray back and 2) mostly gray with yellow only on head and undertail coverts. Both have grayish wings with two light wing bars. The female plumage is the same in the winter. A thicker bill and chunkier shape helps distinguish female tanagers from female orioles.

The preferred summer habitats of the WETA are coniferous or mixed forests. It ranges from northwestern Canada to the United States west of the Rocky Mountains. This bird breeds mostly in the mountains, while during migration they may show up in any habitat. The WETA winters in the tropics mostly in pine-oak woods or forest edges. It may winter in California in eucalyptus groves. In Washington it is a common resident statewide in conifer forests, except on the coast. It is most common in the eastern part of the state and favors Douglas fir forests as breeding habitat.

It feeds mainly on insects, including wasps, bees, ants, beetles and grasshoppers. It also feeds on berries and may come to feeders to eat orange halves. It forages mostly in the tops of trees and usually feeds deliberately, peering about slowly for insects in foliage, and will fly out to catch insects in midair.

The song is a series of 2 or 3 syllable slow phrases similar to a robin. The call is a slurred "pit-er-ic". The nest site is usually in a coniferous tree, but sometimes in aspen, oak or other deciduous trees. The nest is usually placed at a fork in a horizontal branch well away from the trunk and 15-65 feet above the ground. The female builds the nest, a shallow cup made of twigs and grass lined with animal hair and fine rootlets. There may be 3-5 pale blue eggs with dark marks. The incubation period by the female is about 13 days and the young fledge after another 13-15 days. Both parents bring food to the nestlings. The lengthy migration begins early in the fall and lasts until late spring.

Birdathon Field Trips

Unsure of where to get started with Birdathon, but want to participate? Join a Birdathon field trip and learn more about this Audubon tradition. You'll have a nice day of birding with an experienced leader, and an opportunity to support the Chapter.

May 3 (Tues) - 8:00 am to noon - Juanita Bay Park — Join **MaryFrances Mathis** for a relaxed morning walk in the park, seeing what birds are in the area. We will meet at 8:00 am and will finish by lunch time. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required but there is a minimum donation of \$25.00 to support Birdathon. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

May 11 (Wed.) - 9:00 am to noon - Bellevue Botanical Gardens — Join us for a walk through the garden, and spend a relaxed morning seeing what birds are in the area. We will meet at 9:00 am, and will finish by noon. Bring binoculars and meet at the front door. No registration required but there is a minimum donation of \$25.00 to support Birdathon. **Jim Ganley 425- 681-7497**

May 12 (Thurs.) - 7:00 am - Skagit Wildlife Area — A two to three mile walk along dikes, through conifers and along marshes should yield flycatchers, shorebirds, songbirds, rails, and soras. Bring a lunch and enjoy the birds. Vehicles parking at the SWA are required to have a Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife vehicle use permit. This trip is in support of Birdathon with a \$25.00 minimum donation. Meet before 7 at Kingsgate Park and Ride to carpool. Cost/person \$5. **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

May 14 (Sat) 8:00 am - Spencer Island — Join **Jim Rettig**, and make a donation for Birdathon. We will meet at Jim's house at 8 a.m. and bird my yard. Then on to Spencer Island and the Everett Waterfront. Dress for the weather and bring snacks/lunch. **\$25 minimum donation. Call office at 425-576-8805 to register and for directions.**

Upcoming ELWAS Classes

NEOTROPICAL SONGBIRDS OF THE CASCADE FOOTHILLS — With David Drummond

Study those gorgeous migratory songbirds of the Cascade foothills with David Drummond, wildlife biologist and birding specialist. This class will focus on the **Flycatcher, Vireo and Wood Warbler** families that spend the summer in our area. Mr. Drummond will discuss family characteristics, taxonomy, identification marks, habitat, song, behavioral ecology and home country. The full day field trip will visit riparian areas along the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River in Snohomish County where we hope to see at least 10 species in the above families plus many other birds of the area.

David is known for his enthusiastic approach to bird identification and student assistance. He has more than 20 years experience as a guide, adventurer and instructor.

Class: Thurs, June 2. 6:30 to 9:30 PM. Class will be held at the Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Ave South, Kirkland.

Field Trip: Sunday, June 5, 2005. Full day.

Cost: \$45 ELWAS member/ \$65 nonmember.

Registration: Call the ELWAS office at 425-576-8805. Office is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM *Registration closes Friday, May 27.*

No registration for the field trip only.

Field Guide: National Geographic Birds of North America, 4th Ed. – may be purchased at ELWAS Nature Center.

Call 425-576- 8805 on Monday, Tuesday or Friday to register. Registration closes Thursday, April 28, 2005.

Limited to 20 participants



SPRING BIRDING FOR BEGINNERS—With Mike West

The basics of bird identification, birding etiquette and ethics, equipment selection, field guides and local birding areas will be covered. Spring migrants & breeding birds of Washington will be emphasized.

Two field trips and three class sessions in a relaxed, informal setting can get **YOU** started!

Class: Thursday, May 5, Tuesday, May 10 and Thursday, May 12. 6:30—9:00 P.M. Class will be held at the Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Avenue South, Kirkland.

Field Trip: Saturday, May 7 or Sunday, May 8. Morning only – ½ class goes each day)

Saturday, May 14 or Sunday, May 15 (all day to Eastern Washington)

Cost: \$95 ELWAS members/ \$120 non-member

Registration: Call the ELWAS office at 425-576-8805. Office is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM *Registration closes Friday, April 29*

Field Guide: National Geographic Birds of North America, 4th Ed. – may be purchased at ELWAS Nature Center.

Call 425-576- 8805 on Monday, Tuesday or Friday to register. Registration closes Thursday, April 28, 2005.

Limited to 20 participants

The Verb "To Bird," Sightings of an avid birder, by Peter Cashwell, Paul Dry Books, 2003

Reading this book is like being in the company of a rather gabby fellow, who despite being something of a know-it-all, is really delightful and entertaining company. Mr. Cashwell, an English teacher and ardent birder, combines his two passions to give us a smattering of facts, English, statistics, and lots of birding anecdotes, mostly about birds in the South-Eastern part of the United States.

He is an expert on BCD: Birding Compulsion Disorder; and covers its symptoms, etiology and, of course, incurable condition.

Besides making love to ones sweetheart, or taking the cat for a walk, there are few better ways to spend a rainy day than reading these "sightings of an avid birder."

-- reviewed by Barb Erling, ELWAS Librarian

Work Party - Central Houghton Park

Join the Cascade Lane Conservancy and the City of Kirkland Parks & Community Services, for a community effort to remove invasive species in the new Central Houghton Park site. The 9 acre Central Houghton Park (formerly known as the King County Water District No. 1 property) was purchased by the City of Kirkland site with funds raised from the voter-approved 2002 Kirkland Park Bond & Levy.

This stand of urban forest provides important open space value to our community, as well as providing critical habitat and other ecological functions. Left alone, the aggressive English Ivy will kill most of the trees and bring down the forest stand within just a few years. We'll spend the morning removing the most damaging English Ivy, to protect the trees that are most at risk

Who: You! Families are welcome

When: Saturday, May 21 from 9:00 a.m. to noon

Where: 106th Avenue N.E. between N.E. 53rd and N.E. 55th Streets. From 108th Avenue N.E., go west on 55th.

What to bring: work clothes, gloves, rain gear (if necessary) and water bottles.

Also useful, but not necessary: pruning shears or clippers, lopping shears, pruning saw

Provided: snacks and drinks

RSVP: To ensure enough tools and snacks are provided, or to learn more, please RSVP Mike Metteer, Kirkland Parks & Community Services at (422) 587-3343 or mmetteer@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

Also look for notices of more work parties in the future.



Register today for the Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest, May 6 - 8.

by Karen Haire, coordinator

With more than 40 field trips plus concerts, art shows, wildflower & geology walks, nature authors and workshops Bird Fest has something for everyone. Field trips to a variety of habitats are led by research biologists and birding enthusiasts. More than 150 species were found at last year's event. Call (509) 548-5807 or fly to our website at www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com

Puget Sound Bird Fest Edmonds, May 14, 8 am - 9 pm

Edmonds is stop #1 on the Cascade Loop of the Great Washington State Birding Trail map, developed by Audubon Washington. There will be presentations, including one by our own Sunny Walter at 10 am, birding and nature walks, and ongoing bird viewing stations. Exhibits, kids' activities, and workshops will round out the day.

For more information, check www.ci.edmonds.wa.us/CityDepartments/EconDev/PSBFEdmondsschedule.pdf.

WASHINGTON'S SECOND ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT APPRECIATION WEEK

Governor Gregoire has declared the week of May 1 – May 7, 2005 as Native Plant Appreciation Week in Washington and encourages citizens to become involved in learning more about native plant species and their habitats and how they can help to protect them.

This week is intended to be a celebration of the amazing diversity of Washington's over 3000 native plant species that range from desert plants to rain forest species and of the native plant ecosystems that are so important to sustaining the quality of Washington's environment.

This year, plant enthusiasts will be able to enjoy native plant talks, take a wildflower hike, or join in local restoration efforts. Native plant garden tours will help gardeners learn how to create native plant sanctuaries by using native plants to create low-maintenance green spaces that preserve the Northwest's natural heritage and benefit wildlife.

Here is just a taste of some activities. Check out the full list at www.wnps.org under "What's New".

- ◆ Tour Erna Gunther Ethnobotanical Garden with David Giblin at University of Washington on May 7 at 10 am. Ivy Olympics 2005 with Earthcorps and City of Mercer Island. Compete for prizes with the Team Ivy Challenge, the Tree Rescue Dash and other great games. May 7, 9:30 - 4:30 pm.
- ◆ "Regarding Wildflowers" slide show and mini-botany lesson at the Mukilteo Library with Donna Franklin on May 5, 7:30 - 8:30 pm
- ◆ Ethno-Botanical Stroll at Edmonds Community College with college and Makah Tribe representatives on May 3, 8:30 - 10 am.
- ◆ Tour of Native Plant Restoration in Progress with Heron Habitat Helpers in Magnolia on May 1 starting at 9 am.
- ◆ Native Plant Sale at Bellevue Botanical Garden on May 7, 10 - 4 pm. All proceeds support the educational, restoration and advocacy work completed by the Central Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society.

Join in the fun and discover native plants with your neighbors!

Eastside Earth *Food for*

Sunday, May
Kirkland Teen



Education Presents *Thought*

22, 2005, 1:00 - 4:30 PM,
Center, 348 Kirkland Avenue

Join with fellow Eastsiders to learn more about how we can improve our food choices, our bioregion and our Earth.

1:00 - 4:30 PM Information tables open with representatives from Partner organizations, including information on local farmers' markets, community supported agriculture, and local environmental groups. (ELWAS will have a table at this event.)

2:00 - 4:00 PM **"The Future of Food"** – A film by Deborah Koons Garcia. A powerful look at the issues surrounding the genetically engineered food battle. Goldie Caughlan, Nutrition Education Manager of PCC Natural Markets, and consumer representative serving on the National Organic Standards Board/USDA, will lead the post-film discussion of these important issues. More information is available at www.thefutureoffood.com.

Refreshments: Free, freshly brewed Fair Trade coffee, **do your part and supply the cup.** Take a small step to reduce waste by bringing your reusable cup with you.

Parking is readily available (check under the Kirkland Library), however, in the spirit of this event we encourage you to use **mass transit** to attend. Bus lines servicing the Kirkland Transit Center (approximately 2 blocks from the Teen Center) on Sundays include: 230, 236, 238, 245, 254, 255. Sound Transit routes: 535, 540. Check <http://transit.metrokc.gov/tops/bus/neighborhoods/kirkland.html> for specific times and route information.

Partners include: Northwest Earth Institute, PCC Natural Markets, Stonehouse Bookstore, Earth Ministry, Eastside Earth Charter, Annette Shapko - Organic Gardening

For more information contact us at easteartheduc@earthlink.net