



The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 05-6 – SEPTEMBER 2005

Hawks Aloft: Migration Studies at Chelan Ridge

When: Thursday, September 22, at 7:00 pm (after the social hour)

Where: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church



Dan Russell is currently working on a US Forest Service project investigating the response of birds to prescribed fire. Since receiving his BS in Wildlife Biology from SUNY in Syracuse, Dan has followed raptor migration across the west working on several projects, including an autumn hawk count at Smith Point Texas, nest surveys for ten species of raptors in the great basin region of Utah and Nevada, and all aspects of the Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Project in 2004. Dan lives in Twisp where he has enjoyed a summer of gardening, hiking, fishing, and of course

birding.

Since 1997 Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Project has pursued intensive study of fall raptor migration through the north cascades of Washington. This location consistently records the highest counts of migrant hawks, eagles, and falcons in the State. The goals of the project are to learn more about raptor migration, contribute to the conservation of raptors and the habitats they use, and share what we learn with a variety of audiences. The USFS, HawkWatch International, The Falcon Research Group, and WDFW are partners in this effort.

For our program Dan will discuss the first seven years data collected at this remote research site, explore the methods and strategies utilized by raptor biologists, and highlight prospects for expansion of the partnership. Early 2005 results will be presented, along with an outlook for the rest of the season.

As a special treat for ELWAS members, the USFS invites us to visit Chelan Ridge on Saturday, September 17, the weekend before the program. This is the height of the songbird migration, so we will see both raptors and songbirds. An educator will be present to answer our questions. For more information, call Sunny Walter, 425-271-1346 or sunny@sunnywalter.com.

Please join us on **Thursday, September 22**, for this fascinating presentation on Hawks Aloft: Migration Studies at Chelan Ridge. **Come at 6:30 for the social hour.** Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by Dan's presentation.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who is enraptured by raptors.

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.



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 — Arctic Passion!

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

When I first heard the news, I was elated. Threats to the pristine wilderness of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge had been beaten back again. A provision to drill for oil in ANWR was taken out of the energy bill passed by Congress. But, my joy was short-lived. It will probably be added to the Congressional budget. That move greatly reduces the debate allowed and increases the difficulty of removing it - again.

The terrible irony, as with so many other environmental issues, is that those trying to protect wild areas and the birds, animals and people that depend on them have to win over and over and over again. Those from the other side only have to win once. Once a natural area is destroyed, it's destroyed, whether by a soccer field, a housing development or oil rigs. It may recover to some degree (after perhaps centuries) but that destruction can never be undone.

There is no other place like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in this country. And very few places like it in the world. The ultimate aim of all of us is really the same: to pass on to future generations, our children and their children, a world we can be proud of leaving to them. Is it really necessary to develop every single corner of the planet that might contain a few months' worth of oil?

This is not a partisan issue. Democrats and Republicans both have a history of protecting wild places. I received a letter from Republican Congressman Dave Reichert telling me that he has voted against drilling in the refuge, and was glad it was removed from the energy bill.

But is it political? Oh, my yes! I once had a discussion with a member who asked why we can't just protect the birds and keep politics out of it. If only we could. But the decisions affecting every piece of land, every animal, every bird and every human being in this country are political decisions.

What's at stake? You can get a small glimpse for yourself.

Subhanker Banerjee is a former Bellevue resident who spent two years in ANWR photographing the landscape and its inhabitants. His photographs are currently at the Burke Museum in Seattle. The results are truly breathtaking. You will get an idea of the variety of this landscape and of the birds that use this critical area for feeding and nesting. During the month of September, all ELWAS members can view this exhibition for half price.

Go. See for yourself the incredible beauty of this harsh and demanding landscape. Think about the results of huge vehicles, oil derricks, pipelines, and spills. Let your congress person know what your passion says to you.

Read more opinions:

Conservative by Nature, by Rob Traver, Ed.D., in the REP America (Republicans for Environmental Protection) newsletter, the Green Elephant, Volume 9, Summer 2005 — <http://www.repamerica.org/news.htm>

East Lake Washington Audubon Society

425 576 8805

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

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Web Site: <http://www.ELWAS.org>

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Executive Director	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580 jan@elwas.org

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<u>Membership</u>	Open	
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Volunteer Coordinator	Emily Winstrom	(425) 453-5614 volunteer@elwas.org



Volunteer Spotlight on Mary Britton-Simmons

Youth Education Chair

By Amy McQuade

Born in St Louis, Missouri, Mary grew up and was schooled there through Maryville College, where she earned a Bachelor degree in History before moving on to Southern Illinois University for a Masters in Special Education. She taught school for 29 years, including three and a half years in Guatemala, C.A., and Peto, Mexico, a town in Yucatan, south of Merida where some famous Mayan ruins are located. Peto is where she met Geary, her future husband-to-be, who was there doing some social work. They were married in 1968, the year they returned to the United States where Geary attended graduate school while she taught in Illinois and Oklahoma before they moved to Washington where she taught for 24 years in Northshore School District; retiring as English Department Chair at Woodinville High School in 2002.

Mary and Geary have three grown sons. Two of the sons, and Mary, since her retirement, work in the business Geary started in 1985: Scotsman Publishing Company, located in North Creek Business Park, though Mary will retire again on August 17th this year. Before starting the business Geary worked as an administrator of non-profit organizations.

Mary's outdoor interests didn't evolve until the family moved to Washington State where they became avid campers, skiers and backpackers. Ten years ago Mary and Geary took a kayaking course and discovered birding through their instructor who impressed them with her ability to name all the birds they saw on trips. Immediately they joined ELWAS, took my beginning birding class and were hooked on their first field trip - so hooked that they have since birded in Africa's Zimbabwe and on safari in Botswana; Ecuador and the Galapagos; China; Tibet and are doing Greece before Fall.

Her ELWAS volunteer work, Youth Education, is a direct spin-off of her teaching career: When the position opened up three years ago Jan McGruder and Christy Anderson knew exactly who the perfect replacement was. And we love having her seriousness as well as her comic relief on the the Board of Directors.

Thank you, Mary for your devotion to eastside young people and the innovations you have added to ELWAS Education. Have a great time in Greece.

SHOP ONLINE

Want to support ELWAS, but are looking for more than we have in our store? (There you'll find books, notecards, bird feeders, seed and suet.) 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!

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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.

ELWAS OFFICE/ AUDUBON CENTER

The office is downstairs at Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church in Kirkland, **308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)**. Directions: I-405 exit 18 (N. E. 85th-Kirkland). Go west on Central Way to the light on 3rd St. Go left on 3rd St. Follow this street (it bears left and changes name to State St.) Then turn left on 4th Ave. S.

Phone number: (425) 576-8805

Email: office@elwas.org

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Friday

9:00am — 1:00pm

Opportunities for Volunteering

By Jan McGruder

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 on-going needs within the Chapter.

Our Board of Directors has six open positions:

At-Large Board Member	Vice President
Financial Development Chair	Conservation Chair
Secretary	Membership Chair

The Board works hard and takes their commitment to the Chapter seriously, but they also have fun.

There are five committees that need leaders. They are:

Plant Sale	Merchandise	Juanita Bay Habitat Restoration.
Birdathon		Community Outreach Events

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

- Brochure and publication design
- Merchandise sales/office staffing during Membership Meetings
- Updating the Chapter events on the website
- Researching and developing web content for Youth Education
- Updating and maintaining the Chapter e-mail lists (Announce, Conservation, and Opportunities @elwas.org)
- Preparing and e-mailing reminders of field trips and events to ELWAS e-mail lists
- Organizing and printing Welcome letters to new members

If you'd like more information on any of these positions, and what would be expected of you, please check out our website (www.elwas.org), or stop by the office. A full description can be found at either location. Or you may also contact Jan McGruder at (425) 822-8580 or jan@elwas.org for further details.

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

Invest in the Future of our Natural World: Make a Bequest to ELWAS

You can help accomplish Audubon's goals by including a bequest to Audubon in your will, life insurance or other retirement plans. More information is available on our website at www.elwas.org.

**Your Bequest Will Make a Difference.
Consult with your attorney today!**



Eagle Eye
VISION CARE, P.S.

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

See the birds better!

ELWAS Meetings September, 2005

September 6 (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

September 7 (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

September 8 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Photo Group

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

September 19 (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**

September 20 (Tues) 6:00 pm — ELWAS Board meeting

ELWAS Office.

September 22 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Monthly Meeting and Presentation

See article on page 1.

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 still 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 each ♦ 10 tickets = \$6.00 each

Pick up your tickets at the next monthly meeting: or call the office, pay by telephone, and receive your tickets by mail. We thank you, and the fish thank you.

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.

Meeting Places for Field Trips:

- **Issaquah Park and Ride:** I-90, exit 15, turn right (south) go to 2nd or 3rd light, then left into P&R lot.
- **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.
- **Newport Hills Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 9
- **South Kirkland Park and Ride:** 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way.
- **Wilburton Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 12.

September 2 (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.

September 3 (Sat) 8:00 am to noon — Montlake Fill

This is a hot spot for birds in Seattle. It is one of the few places with open fields and freshwater ponds in the Seattle area. These ponds attract migrant shorebirds in small numbers but in an amazing diversity. Virginia Rails and Soras can be found in the cattail marshes. In Union Bay large numbers of waterfowl are present. Meet before 8:00 am just south of the bus stop at the South Kirkland P&R. Passenger cost/person \$2.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

September 10-11 (Sat-Sun)

Photo Group trip to North Potholes Wildlife Area

We have two choices for camping: North Potholes (no facilities) or Cascade Campground in Moses Lake (\$20). Opportunity to photograph great egrets, cormorants, pelicans, and shorebirds in the colony north of Job Corps Dike and in the Desert Wildlife Area along Dodson Road. Meet at Job Corps Dyke Friday at 4:00 pm or Sat at sunrise (6:30 am). Can also join us Saturday at 10:00 am along Dodson Road near the Winchester Wasteway fishing access. Contact **Sunny Walter** for directions and to reserve your spot: **425-271-1346 or sunny@sunnywalter.com**.

September 13 (Tues) 7:30 am

Fir Island and Skagit Flats

We'll walk the loop at the Game Range on Fir Island looking for migrating songbirds and returning sparrows. Then we'll explore various spots with shorebirds, seabirds, and early arriving raptors as our focus. Bring lunch and meet before 7:30 at the Kingsgate P&R. Return late afternoon. Passenger cost/person \$9.00. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**.

September 17 (Sat) 8:00 am

Lake Valhalla Hike at Stevens Pass

A three mile round trip hike through beautiful alpine woods and meadows to a picturesque mountain lake. We may see the start of the autumn leaves changing colors and hopefully a few birds along the way. Bring a lunch for this all day trip. Meet before 8:00 am at south end of Kingsgate P&R, I-405. Passenger cost/person \$9.00. **Len Steiner 425-827-2478**

September 17 (Sat) 7:30 am

Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Trip

The US Forest Service invites us to visit Chelan Ridge on Saturday, September 17, the weekend before the Raptor Migration program. This is the height of the songbird migration, so we will see both raptors and songbirds. An educator will be present to answer our questions. Bring a lunch for this all day trip. Meet before 7:30 am at north end of Issaquah P&R. Passenger cost/person \$9.00. For more information, call **Sunny Walter, 425-271-1346 or sunny@sunnywalter.com**.

September 17 (Sat) 10:00 am — Bellefields Walk Through

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**.

September 18 (Sun) 1:00-5:00 pm

Burke Museum Field Trip

See article on page 9.

September 20 (Tues) 8:00 am— noon

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

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

September 24 (Sat) 7:00 am

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

The Nisqually NWR offers a diverse combination of habitats and birds. The delta is bounded by rivers on each side with marshes, deciduous woods and wide open areas accessed by a 5 mile loop trail. Admission is \$3 or free with a National Golden Pass or Federal Duck Stamp. Meet before 7:00 at north end of the Wilburton Park-N-Ride, I-405, to carpool. Bring a lunch. Over by late afternoon. Passenger cost/person \$5.00.

Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422

September 26 (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. Passenger cost/person \$2.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

October 1 (Sat) 7:00 a.m

Point No Point and Marrowstone and Indian Islands

Bring a lunch. Plan to return late afternoon. We expect to see waterfowl, shorebirds, jaegers, gulls and terns. Meet before 7:00 am at south end of Kingsgate P&R, I-405. **Passenger cost/person is \$8 plus share ferry cost.**

MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026

October 13 (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 and meet before 8:00 am at south end of Kingsgate Park and Ride, I-405. Return early afternoon. **Passenger cost/person \$3.00. Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

October 15 (Sat) 7:30 am — Camano Island/Stanwood

A full day of exploring Camano Island’s shoreline, salt-water marshes, grasslands, and forest habitats for seabirds, raptors, and songbirds. Birding areas include English Boom and Iverson Spit, a 100-acre preserve. The Stanwood Sewage Treatment Ponds offer a variety of waterfowl and the occasional avian surprise. Bring lunch and meet before 7:30 at south end of Kingsgate P&R, I-405. Return late afternoon. **Passenger cost/person \$7. Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

*BIRD
of the
MONTH*

Whimbrel
Numenius phaeopus

by Hugh Jennings



The Whimbrel (WHIM) is about 17.5” long with a wingspan of 32” and a weight of 14 oz. (390g). The genus name *Numenius* (new-MEAN-ih-us) is Latin from the Greek *noumenios*, of the new moon; this is because the curve of bill is likened to a new crescent moon. The species name *phaeopus* (FEE-oh-pus) is from the Greek *phaios*, gray, and *pous*, foot, gray-foot. It was named Whimbrel in England from its uttered note, which sounded like *whim*. It is a member of the curlew family.

The Whimbrel is sturdy and sleek with pointed wings. It has a longer body and shorter bill than the Long-billed Curlew and is similar to the Marbled Godwit. It is grayish-brown overall. The bill is long and downcurved. It has two dark stripes on the crown and a dark streak through the eye. Females are slightly larger. In flight the underwings are brown and the belly pale. It is mainly a coastal species and is found on marshes, beaches, and rocky shores. It is the only North American curlew to regularly feed on rocky shores. Whimbrels are often seen in flocks, but forage singly. It feeds more by picking than probing, unlike the Long-billed Curlew and the godwits. The Whimbrel breeds around the world on the arctic tundra and winters on all tropical coasts. It migrates along either coast and is quite rare in the interior. They have been seen in every month of the year in the Northwest, but are common only during migration. A few winter on our coast and some spend the summer there.

Whimbrels often feed on drying expanses of mud that are shunned by other shorebirds. Although they have a long bill, they feed visually and pick prey from the surface or just beneath it as they move rapidly over a variety of surfaces. They eat insects, marine worms, crustaceans, mollusks, small crabs and, in the Arctic, berries. When feeding on crabs, the Whimbrel may break off the legs and crush the shell before swallowing the body of the crab. The birds defend their feeding territories at low tide and then roost together in flocks at high tide. Early in the breeding season, the male performs a flight display over the nesting territory. It flies in large circles, alternately fluttering higher and gliding down, while giving a whistling and bubbling song. Its voice is a loud repeated, whistle-like “whi whi whi whi whi,” and it has many other calls. The nest is a depression in a tundra, heath, or bog. There are usually four greenish olive eggs with marks. The incubation period, in which the eggs are tended by both sexes, is 22-24 days; the young fledge 35-42 days later. Both parents look after the young, but the young feed themselves. (The photo of the Whimbrel was provided by Caren Park).

JBP Jottings

By MaryFrances Mathis

It's been a rather strange spring, with some of our resident birds absent. After having 50+ Pied-billed Grebes winter in the bay, this is the first year in memory that none have nested here. There are usually large numbers of immature Bald Eagles present during the spring and summer, but only 2 or 3 have been seen with any regularity. Other species have been in great abundance: several males of both Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds set up territories, and many of the juveniles are still here bulking up for their long trips south.

Although still not choosing to nest at JBP, Ospreys have been seen almost daily, sometimes in large numbers... as many as 7! Are the "kids" being shown the neighborhood and all the good "restaurants", and maybe, just maybe, potential nesting sites?

The level of the lake has been so high all spring and summer, that there has been no shoreline for mud-feeding birds. With the end of summer, the water level has gone back down, exposing mud flats and attracting migrating shorebirds. A good place to work on your shorebird and gull ID's is at Juanita Beach Park, at the west end. Among the usual gulls, are occasionally found Bonaparte's, Thayer's and Western, and the shorebirds have provided many surprises.

The species list for the park now stands at 170, with the addition this spring of **Cackling Goose**, **Turkey Vulture**, and **Red Crossbill**. With fall migration in progress, who knows what may fly in for a visit.

Families of Raccoons and River Otters are seen fairly often, and a couple of Long-tailed Weasels made an appearance on the middle boardwalk. And of course the Beavers continue to put on their nightly show.

Please remember to report your interesting or unusual sightings to me at juanitabay@elwas.com.



BirdFest 2005

**Birders, Musicians, Historians, Parents -- BirdFest has something for everyone.
Saturday and Sunday, October 15th and 16th**

Celebrate the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, just 25 minutes north of Portland. Walk on Audubon led bird and plant tours. Reserve a spot on a sunset or sunrise tour to view Sandhill Cranes flying. Kayak on a guided paddle tour. Listen to bluegrass music all day Saturday. Visit an authentic replica of a Chinookan plankhouse where Lewis and Clark once stood. Watch your children have fun while learning about nature at our craft stations, raptor shows or special children's bird tours. Find out more at www.ridgefieldfriends.org or call 360-887-9495. For plankhouse info go to www.plankhouse.org

Native Plant Garden Consultations Offered by Washington Native Plant Society

Northwest wildlife co-evolved with our native plants, so it makes perfect sense that natives are the ideal habitat for supporting our birds and wildlife. Washington Native Plant Society (WNPS) has revamped its program dedicated to spreading knowledge about northwest native plants and helping gardeners incorporate more native plants in their yards and gardens. The program, known as Growing Wild, provides house calls for gardens.

Growing Wild offers a one-time on-site garden consultation for people interested in native plant gardening, low maintenance gardening, and landscaping for wildlife, in return for a donation to WNPS. During the consultation, Growing Wild consultants spend time addressing the specific concerns of each gardener. After the site visit, applicants will receive a report from the consultant and additional resource materials, including the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary kit from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Consultants are trained volunteers, and many are Native Plant Stewards.

For more information about the Growing Wild program, call 206 527-3210 or e-mail growingwild@wnps.org.

ARCTIC MIGRATION

Thursday, September 29, 7pm
The Mountaineers Building

A panel with: Gordon Orians, John Wingfield, John Schoen

The Alaskan Arctic's unique geography, climate and diverse habitats exert a strong influence on the migratory patterns of many birds, wildlife and marine animals. Now these pathways are threatened by the combined impacts of global warming and the concentric expansion of oil and gas development from Prudhoe Bay into the Refuge, the National Petroleum Reserve, foothills of the Brooks Range and offshore. Hear from three scientists who have extensive knowledge of the north slope address the real issues in the national debate over the future of this area.

UW Professor Emeritus of Biology **Gordon Orians** is a nationally acclaimed ecologist and conservationist. He was Chair of the National Research Council's four-year research project and report on "Cumulative Environmental Effects of Oil and Gas Activities on Alaska's North Slope."

UW Professor of Biology **John Wingfield** is an ornithologist who has spent 16 summers researching bird adaptations to the arctic environment.

John Schoen is a wildlife biologist who worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for 20 years, where he supervised caribou and polar bear research done in the Refuge. He is currently Senior Scientist with the National Audubon Society in Anchorage.

This program is co-sponsored by the Seattle Audubon Society and The Mountaineers, community partners for the Burke Museum's photo exhibit by Subhanker Banerjee, "Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Season's of Life and Land."

Doors open at 6:30pm for refreshments, Mountaineer Books and Audubon Nature Shop purchases and conservation news. The Mountaineers is at 300 Third Ave West. Go west on Denny Way past the Seattle Center; turn right onto Western Avenue and then right onto Third Avenue.

Burke Museum Field Trip

Join us on Sunday, September 18 for a half-price trip to the Burke Museum. ELWAS has partnered with the Burke Museum in their exhibit, "Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life and Land," which has runs through December 31, 2005. In September, all members of partner organizations are entitled to half-price admission to the Museum and the ANWR exhibit.

We'll tour the exhibit of "stunningly beautiful" photographs by Subhanker Banerjee - local Bellevue artist who spent two years in ANWR. The photographs and essays have been printed in the book "Seasons of Life and Land". In 2003, during ANWR debates in Congress, Banerjee was denounced on the House floor, and his exhibit was summarily moved from the Smithsonian Museum's main rotunda to the basement. Fortunately, the exhibit has toured the country, landing at the Burke for our enjoyment.



The photographic exhibit is complemented by *Life Abounds: Arctic Native Wildlife Art*—an exhibit featuring traditional and contemporary wildlife art from the Burke Museum's renowned Native American art collection and from the Inuit art collection of John and Joyce Price.

September's theme is "Arctic Migrations" and the Burke Museum is holding many related activities. You can find out more by visiting their website: <http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum>.

We'll meet at the South Kirkland Park and Ride, at 12:30 pm and carpool from there. If you'd rather take the bus, you may catch the #255 at 12:24 and transfer to the #48 at the 520 and Montlake Boulevard offramp. This will drop you off at 15th Avenue N.E. and N.E. 45th – within ¼ mile of the Museum.

To qualify for a half-price admission, just tell the cashier you're an ELWAS member. Admission will be \$4.00 general admission/\$3.25 for seniors/\$2.50 students ages 5+.

All ages are welcome! Please call the office at (425) 576-8805 to sign up.

Arctic Logic

By Christy Anderson

When I make a decision, I always like to weigh both sides of the issue. I have been known to make a spreadsheet when trying to decide where to go on vacation!

So, in thinking about oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, I have visited websites and read position papers. I have read reports put out by the US Geological Study (USGS). I have read materials ranging from the Sierra Club to the Wall Street Journal to the Alaska Wilderness League to Republicans for the Environment (REP). So, in that spirit, I offer the following gleaned from a variety of sources:

Habitat Impacts. The US Department of the Interior says drilling in the coastal plain will significantly affect as much as 40% of the caribou herd. The US Geological Study (USGS) predicts that 82% of caribou would be displaced from their preferred calving grounds. The predicted result of this is that the population would decline 8% or more per year, every year.

Since we are an Audubon chapter, let's talk birds. Many migratory species rely on the rich food source available on the coastal plain to build up fat reserves for migration and breeding. About 70 of the 134 bird species on the coastal plain also nest there. Since birds from six continents and every single state in the continental US fly to the Refuge, the effects of drilling here would have worldwide impact. A 1997 study has shown that the vegetation of this habitat, even after almost a decade, has not fully recovered from the seismic oil surveys conducted here.

Many times we hear that the acreage desired for drilling would be a tiny percentage of the entire refuge, or even of the coastal plain. In total, that is true, but the 2,000 acres often quoted is only where oil production facilities actually touch the ground. It would not include roads, gravel lines, pipelines, any exploration activities or supporting infrastructures. Neither would it be concentrated in just one area, but could be spread throughout the area, spreading the impact of development throughout the entire plain. 95% of the Alaskan North slope is already open to oil drilling. This is the last 5% which has, so far, been preserved.

Energy Independence? How much oil is there? By anyone's judgment, not much. The USGS estimates a probable **180-day supply** at current consumption rates. The Department of Energy expects that ANWR would contribute roughly 0.7% of the world's output in 2020. At peak production in 2025, the US would still import 65% of its oil, up from 58% today. With only 3% of the world's oil supply anywhere in the United States, we will never drill our way to energy independence, with or without ANWR.

Even the oil companies are backing away from their enthusiasm to drill here. All but ExxonMobil have dropped out of the group pushing for drilling rights. Many companies are wary of drilling here because they perceive it may not be profitable.

Lower gas prices? Oil prices are set on the world market. There is not enough oil in ANWR to impact the market price. The Bush Administration's Energy Information Administration found that ANWR oil would have a negligible effect on world oil production and prices.

Oil spills. About 400 oil spills occur annually on the North Slope now. In addition to that are spills of other toxic substances used in production. In the year 2000, 65,000 gallons of oil and other toxic substances were spilled. The amount has increased each year.

Precedent? With all these factors against drilling in the refuge, why has there been such a push? Rep. Tom Delay has stated that ANWR is a symbolic debate over whether oil and mining companies can gain greater access to public lands. It also has huge symbolic implications because virtually every environmental organization has declared saving the refuge a top priority. Everyone has drawn a line in the sand.

Our Senators, Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, have been strongly opposed to any drilling in ANWR. Republican Dave Reichert, Representative of District 8 in our area, could be one of the pivotal figures in this debate. He has voted against drilling in ANWR. But, it will come up again in the budget this September.

Have you formed an opinion on this issue? Mr. Reichert needs to hear from you. Write, call, or email.

The Honorable David G. Reichert

1223 Longworth

Washington, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-7761

http://www.house.gov/reichert/IMA/issue_subscribe.htm

Read more opinions:

Conservative by Nature, by Rob Traver, Ed.D., in the REP America (Republicans for Environmental Protection) newsletter, the Green Elephant, Volume 9, Summer 2005 — <http://www.repamerica.org/news.htm>





CONSERVATION CORNER

By Jim Rettig

This Corner of the Corvid is a new feature. I have been asked by the ELWAS Executive Director and President to comment each month on a conservation issue. The Board agreed that I should do this, but with the caveat that the readers should know that opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Board. In the 1990s I spent about 8 years as president of ELWAS. I have also served as Program Chair and Birdathon Chair, and on the Education Committee. ELWAS and conservation are close to my heart. Sometimes I will speak for myself. At other times I may quote others extensively. If you agree or disagree with what is in this column, write a letter to the Corvid editor and perhaps begin a conversation. After all that, here goes.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND NEEDS YOUR HELP While we have celebrated in recent years the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and last year the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, The 40th anniversary this year of the Land and Water Conservation Fund has largely gone unnoticed.

Money for the Fund comes from fees from offshore oil leases and is vital to the future of public lands in our country. These funds are generally not used for the purchase of vast new federal lands which would take huge chunks out of private ownership. Rather, the funds often pay for the purchase of private lands that owners want to make part of the public estate: lands that are within or adjacent to public, preserved lands. Think here of the checkerboard pattern of private and public land holdings in and around Snoqualmie Pass which can be clearly seen on a Forest Service map.

Reid Haughey, President of the Wilderness Land Trust in Colorado, notes that there are an estimated 400,000 acres of privately owned land within our designated wilderness areas. "These private lands," he says, "retain the right to develop, timber, mine, build roads and extend utilities. Some owners are good stewards, some are not. But all private lands are intrusions into wild places where we are meant to be just visitors."

Let us celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund by making sure our US Representatives and Senators know that this is an important issue for us and future generations, and also for private inholders who wish to do the right thing, and pass their lands on to the public.



Seasons of Life and Land Exhibit A Photographic Journey to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by Subhankar Banarjee

at The Burke Museum on the UW campus

ELWAS Members pay *Half Price* during September
(Just tell the cashier you are an ELWAS member)

The exhibit contains forty-nine photographs by Subhankar Banerjee, documenting the ecological diversity and Native cultures of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in all four seasons of the year.

Open daily 10 am – 5 pm,
until 8 pm on the FIRST Thursday each month

206-543-5590

<http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/visit/index.php>

October Class -- SPARROWS OF WASHINGTON STATE

With instructor Kevin Aanerud

This course will focus on identification of our native species including an introduction to their songs and call notes. Included in the class discussions will be aspects of sparrow habitat, distribution, taxonomy, and biology. Lectures will be illustrated with photographs and audio recordings, and handout materials. The first class will be devoted to introductory material and those species of sparrow which winter in our state. In the second class we will be learning about our state's breeding species.

A fieldtrip is included on the following Saturday, Oct 15th. The trip will carpool at 7:30 am and explore habitat along the farmlands between Snohomish and Carnation. We will return at approximately 3 pm.

Instructor: Kevin Aanerud

Classes: Tuesdays, October 4 and 11, 2005, 7-9:15 PM

Location: Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Avenue South, Kirkland

Field Trip: Saturday, October 15th, 7:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Cost: \$50 ELWAS members, \$65 non-ELWAS members.

No registration for field trip only.

Call 425-576- 8805 on Monday, Tuesday or Friday to register. Registration closes Friday, September 30, 2005.

Limited to 20 participants

ELWAS Youth Education Program

By Mary Britton-Simmons, Youth Education

Summer was a busy time for the Youth Education Committee. We set up a wide variety of presentations to students of various ages, including Camp Fire, Mercer Slough Environmental Center, Boys and Girls Club, and Kirkland's Environmental Summer Camp.



Without the help of dedicated volunteers from ELWAS, the programs would not have taken place. Thanks to Jim Rettig, Mike West, Bev and Hugh Jennings, Len Steiner, Mary Frances Mathis, Warren Pagel, Lea Knapp, Jim Wheeler, Julie Lemme, Jeani Goodrich, and Megan Lyden. They enthusiastically shared their expertise with over 200 students, took them on bird walks, made feeders and nests with them and, most of all, provided wonderful role models of adults who care about wildlife and the environment.

Our fall plans include more school presentations and writing additional lesson plans. We start off on Sept. 23 working at St. Edwards Park with PACE, an alternative elementary school in the Northshore School District. Why not join us this fall and volunteer your time with our youth? For more information, please e-mail me at mbritton1@earthlink.net. Learn about upcoming presentations by signing on to our volunteer e-mail list. Go to www.elwas.org, and click on e-mail lists from the left-hand menu.

A special thanks to the members of the Youth Education Committee: Jill Keeney, Sharon Pagel, Liz Fried and Jan McGruder who have spent countless hours writing curriculum, planning, presenting programs, researching and organizing. With the exception of September, 2005, we meet the second Tuesday of every month in the ELWAS office and invite you to join us. Remember: Today's youth are tomorrow's environmental stewards.

A SUMMER BIRTHDAY PARTY

She stepped out of the car in the parking lot, a Vision, believe it or not, in a pastel-pink quilted-top pant suit, and hand on the arm of her nephew, walked up the path into Bellevue's Historic Winters House, past the applauding throng waiting to celebrate her 100th birthday. This was unwanted attention but Ruby "Parky" Forrester went along with it because "people had gone to so much trouble." The people being her treasured Bellevue Sister City cohorts, the group she and husband, James, so actively supported over the years.



Both were born in Canada. Parky taught school from age fourteen except when she was a Canadian Air Force radar officer in the Queen Charlotte Islands during the second World War. Jim quit college to join the Canadian Army and was stationed in England and Scotland. They met in a Vancouver boarding house after the war, married and moved to the United States. Jim finished school at Seattle University, went to work at Boeing and retired in 1984. He passed away last year. Childless, Parky taught school most of her life, "The students were my kids." And they traveled; making friends, often volunteer-teaching abroad and when in residence entertaining foreign visitors and students in their home, which resulted in helping the City of Bellevue establish its Sister City affiliations with Japan, Taiwan, Latvia and the Czech Republic.

Parky loved birds; wherever they lived the Forresters always joined the National Audubon Society and have been ELWAS members since it began. At the birthday party ELWAS was represented by Hugh and Bev Jennings, Jim Rettig, Lea Knapp and yours truly. It was a spirited affair with groaning buffet tables on two floors of Winters house. The 150 plus guests had to circulate in and out-of-doors until a few big raindrops began falling. Back inside we convivially listened to the birthday congratulatory messages from our president and two Canadian prime ministers. Most graciously Parky thanked everybody for everything and headed home with the biggest basket of birthday cards ever, to begin her 101st year on this earth.

The best 100th birthday party I've ever been to.

Amy McQuade

