

The Corvid Crier

East Lake Washington Audubon Society

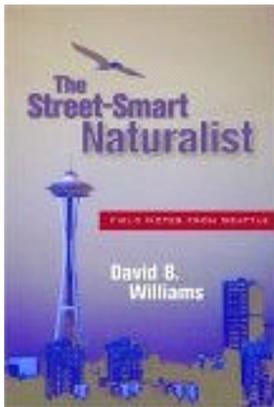
Issue 05-7 – October 2005

Back to the City, or Back to Nature?

When: Thursday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. (after the social hour)

Where: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church

A Seattle native and a freelance natural history writer, David Williams has written for Smithsonian, Popular Mechanics, National Parks, and the Seattle Times. He spent nearly 15 years away from the Pacific Northwest, first at college in Colorado, where he majored in geology; then in the Moab Desert as a park ranger; and later in Boston while his wife attended graduate school.



When David returned to Seattle in 1998, he began viewing his hometown through the lens of natural history, using skills he had honed during his time away. Suddenly, the familiar old venues, from Northgate to Pioneer Square, took on intriguing new dimensions when he slowed down and looked at them more closely.

For our October program, David will read from his fascinating new book, "The Street-Smart Naturalist: Field Notes from Seattle." In this book, David shows us how living in a major city doesn't have to separate us from the natural world. He presents the reader with a series of essays and maps that weave personal musings, bits of humor, natural history observations, and scientific data into a multi-textured perspective of life in the city, descriptions of his journeys as a naturalist in an urban landscape.

David captures all of the distinctive flavors of the Emerald City, urban and natural, as he reads from chapters that range from a tale of bald eagles nesting at Green Lake to musings on crows and other birds, fault lines that underlie our region, hills that rumple our topography, native plants, Thornton Creek Watershed and much more.

As an aside, David recently traveled to the Arctic Wildlife Refuge as a journalist with the University of Washington's class on "Choices and Change in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." He would be open to questions about the refuge as well as on discovering nature in Seattle.

Please join us **Thursday, October 27**, for David's stimulating, but relaxing readings. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by David's presentation. He will also have copies of his book for sale.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who is interested in learning how living in a major city doesn't have to separate us from the natural world.

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 — Feeding Chickadees

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

Sometimes the little things make all the difference. I am blessed with an abundance of birds in my yard. They're attracted by my birdfeeders, but also by the woods behind the house, and the shelter and food they find there. I've had pileated woodpeckers nesting in a snag that I could see from my easy chair!

But not much tops the chickadee experience. I have both black-caps and chestnut-backed coming to the feeders regularly. Recently, I fastened a bare madrona branch to the deck rail, and they use it as a landing platform to wait for a turn at the water dish.

Being bold, as chickadees are, they would stay on their branch when I went out to replenish the water or just to watch them. I had some pinenuts that were past their pull date, so thought I'd see if they liked them. I put a couple on the deck rail, and within moments they were gone. Pinenuts were a major hit with my chickadees. Leave it to Bellevue chickadees to want \$15 a pound pinenuts!!

After a couple of days, I thought I'd make it more interesting. I put a couple nuts in my hand and just held it out. It took awhile, but patience is a quality birders cultivate, and after a time, a little chestnut-backed landed on my hand and took a nut. In a couple of minutes, he was back for more. What a thrill!

But the best part of this story was still to come. My husband, Jerry, is a determined non-birder. It takes a lot of fortitude, but so far, he has managed it.

He has always put out peanuts for the Stellar's jays, though. The big, flashy birds come to the window to demand their peanuts. He just shook his head when he saw me out there for long stretches, my hand held out, trying to get the chickadees to come to me.

Then without warning, it happened. I looked out the kitchen window, and saw him outside with his hand containing a few pinenuts outstretched. And as he stood there, the little chestnut-backed came right up and landed on his hand. When I saw the smile on his face, I could not contain my own.

Connecting with nature is a very special experience for all of us. E. O. Wilson, the evolutionary biologist, believes these experiences are actually necessary for our health and well-being. I believe it, too.

One of the most important things we do at ELWAS is to help people make that connection with nature. Adults, children, all of us have a need to connect with other living things.

A chickadee landing on your hand and taking the time to look deep into your eyes before grabbing a nut, is a simple thing. But, how very important it is.

East Lake Washington Audubon Society
425 576 8805

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

Executive Officers

President Christy Anderson (425) 747-4196
president@elwas.org
Vice President Open
Secretary Diane Stone (425) 868-1174
dianestone@hotmail.com
Treasurer Tim Boyer (425) 277-9326
tboyer@seanet.com
Executive Director Jan McGruder (425) 822-8580
jan@elwas.org

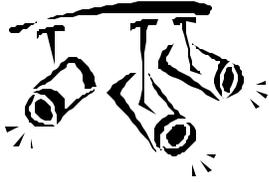
Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

At large board member Amy McQuade (206) 232-9543
mcbirdwchr@aol.com
At large board member Sunny Walter (425) 271-1346
At large board member Open
Birding MaryFrances Mathis (425) 803-3026
MF.Mathis@verizon.net
Adult Education Melinda Bronsdon (425) 827-5708
Field Trips Hugh Jennings (425) 746-6351
fieldtrip@elwas.org
Nature Walks MaryFrances Mathis (425) 803-3026
MF.Mathis@verizon.net
Special Events Open
Bird Questions? Amy McQuade (206) 232-9543
birdhelp@elwas.org
Conservation Open
Advocacy Open
Citizen Science Len Steiner (425) 827-2478
Conservation Martyn Stewart
mstew@naturesound.org
Marymoor Park Megan Lyden (425) 603-1545
meganlyden@msn.com
Bellefields Clean-up Kay Barrett (425) 644-2862

Education Mary Britton-Simmons (360) 794-7163
education@elwas.org
Programs Sunny Walter (425) 271-1346
sunny@sunnywalter.com
Youth Education Mary Britton-Simmons (360) 794-7163
education@elwas.org
Library Carolyn Kishel (425) 746-1817

Communication Ruth Adamski (425) 823-6189
Historian Sidonia St. Germaine (425) 432-4261
shearwater2@msn.com
Newsletter Tom Grismer (206) 720-9892
newsletter@elwas.org
Publicity Tracey Cummings (425) 788-4663
publicity@elwas.org
Webmaster Nancy Nicklas (425) 869-7827
webmaster@elwas.org
Financial Development Open
Birdathon Christy Anderson (425) 747-4196
Gift Wrap Nancy and Jim Roberts (425) 822-1865
Merchandising Open

Membership Open
Hospitality Lyn Bailey (425) 821-4274
lynbailey@comcast.net
Volunteer Coordinator Emily Winstrom (425) 453-5614
volunteer@elwas.org



Volunteer Spotlight on Carolyn Kishel, Librarian

By Amy McQuade

McKeesport, a suburb of Pittsburgh is Carolyn's birthplace. She did K through eighth grade, graduated from Penn High School there and went on to Pennsylvania State University where she earned a B.A. in Education in 1962, but before she began teaching she married and moved to Seattle because her husband had been hired by the Boeing Company. She left that pretty part of Pennsylvania with regrets in 1963 but because of the difficult eastern U.S. winters she never wanted to go back. She taught pre-school briefly but gave it up during the stay-at-home-Mom years to concentrate on the proper nurturing of the two girls and two boys that arrived separately over the next few years.

The loss of her husband in 1983 sent her back to the pre-school classroom which stretched out into a "kind of slowing down retirement" a few years ago. Three of the now-grown children still live at home in Bellevue. Four years ago one of the daughters gave her a bird feeder for Mother's Day, which she loved -- "all those birds!" But she didn't know what most of them were. Before that her only outdoor interest had been a yearly cabin-camping trip to La Push on the Olympic Peninsula, and beach-combing. Then one day a friend gave her a copy of the Corvid Crier and in it she noticed an announcement of Mike West's Beginning Birding Class. She enrolled and, "Gangbusters! All those other birds! And such nice people, too."

She joined ELWAS and when Librarian, Betty Dean, before her removal to Florida last year, was looking for her replacement, book-lover Carolyn stepped right up and gobbled down the whole of Betty's handiwork. And she couldn't be happier, "The library's important. I'd like to see more people using our wonderful collection of books." So would we, Carolyn. And with your enthusiasm, I'll bet we will.

Don't Miss Another ELWAS Event

Have you ever missed an ELWAS class because you've forgotten. Has a field trip snuck up on you?

Now there's a remedy. The new ELWAS on-line calendar (www.localendar.com/public/elwas) sends automatic reminders to all those on the ELWAS Announce e-mail list. This list is used only for announcements of ELWAS happenings, or upcoming events of interest to ELWAS members. You won't receive useless information or spam.

To join this ELWAS Announce e-mail list, contact Jan McGruder (jan@elwas.org) and she'll get you signed up.

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 is delivered right to your door. Besides the convenience to you, ELWAS receives a percentage of each sale!

The Corvid Crier, Issue 05-7 — Publication Date: October 1, 2005.

Published by: East Lake Washington Audubon Society
P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

The Corvid Crier is published monthly by the East Lake Washington Audubon Society except that there are no issues in January, July and August.

- **Deadline** for material submission is the first Wednesday of the month preceding publication. Send material by email to:
newsletter@elwas.org Subject: ELWAS Newsletter or by mail to:
East Lake Washington Audubon Society
Attn: Tom Grismer
P. O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115
- The "Raven in Flight" used as our graphic logo was created by Tony Angell, and is ©1978 University 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**

ELWAS Wish List

Do you need to clear out some clutter? The ELWAS offices are in need of some tools and equipment:

1. Furniture hand truck – When we have a booth for various events around town, we often have to take our own tables, chairs, canopy and other equipment.
2. Blow dryer – To freshen up the mounted birds periodically. The option of cool air would be wonderful!
3. DVD player – For use on Movie Nights and when we give presentations. It doesn't have to be top of the line, but it needs to be dependable.

Abridged Minutes of ELWAS Board Meeting: June 28, 2005

Treasurer Tim Boyer reported that Birdathon will yield approximately \$15,000. In general, our financial situation should be okay for the year.

In library news, it was reported that the computer listing of holdings is progressing rapidly. Color coding of the books has begun. We've received donations of 25-30 books that should be on the shelves soon.

The Education Committee has received many more requests for programs. There is a need for volunteers to help with these requests.

The Board voted to donate \$1000 to support Audubon Washington.

Maple Leaf Gardening

Specializing in Organic
Garden Maintenance

425-204-8393



Valerie Moore, CPH

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 October, 2005

October 4, November 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

October 5, November 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

October 13 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Photo Group

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

October 17 (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**

October 18 (Tues) 6:00 pm — ELWAS Board meeting

ELWAS Office.

October 20 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Youth Education Committee

Meets in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email education@elwas.org

October 20 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — ELWAS Movie Night — *Affluenza* (see p. 10)

Meets in large room upstairs from ELWAS Office. Suggested donation of \$5.

October 27 (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.

October 1 (Saturday) 7:00 a.m

Point-No-Point, 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**

NOTE TIME CHANGE

October 7 (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.

October 13 (Thursday) 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 (Saturday) - 7:30 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. 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 am at south end of Kingsgate P&R, I-405. Return late afternoon. Passenger cost/person \$7.00. **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

October 15 (Sat) 10:00 am — Bellefields Walk Through

Help clean litter along Bellefields Trail in the south end of Mercer Slough Nature Park. Meet at the Winters House (Bellevue Parks) parking lot at 2102 Bellevue Way SE (just north of I-90). Bring gloves, a bag for trash, and binoculars. **Kay Barrett 425-644-2862.**

NOTE TIME CHANGE

October 18 (Tues) 9:00 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 9:00**. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required.

MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026

October 24 (Monday) 9:00 am to noon

Birding the Hot Spots 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 29 (Saturday) 8 am

Purdy & Key Peninsula

Expect lots of saltwater waterfowl, cormorants and Great Blue Herons in the South Sound bays. We visit three state parks during the day, so **if you have State Parks pass bring it with you**. We will include Snake Lake in Tacoma if time permits. Meet before 8:00 am at north end of Newport Hills P&R (I-405, exit 9) and bring a sack lunch. Passenger cost/person \$8.00.

Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351

November 5-6 (Sat-Sun) 7:30 am

Reifel Bird Sanctuary - Ladner, B.C.

Wintering birds include dabbling ducks, gulls, rough-legged hawks, peregrines, merlins, and snowy owls. Arctic birds such as snow buntings and Lapland longspurs may appear as well. A passport or birth certificate will be needed at the border to confirm U.S. citizenship. This is an overnight trip, camping or motels, or join us for only one day. Meet before 7:30 am at south end of Kingsgate P&R, I-405. Passenger cost/person \$15.00. Call if you plan to go. **Len Steiner 425-827-2478**



**BIRD
of the**

Green-winged Teal

Anas crecca

by Hugh Jennings



The Green-winged Teal (GWTE) is about 14” long with a wingspan of 23” and a weight of 12 oz. (350g). The genus name *Anas* (AY-nas) is Latin for duck. The species name *crecca* (CREK-ah) is a Latinized onomatopoeic word to express the *quack* or *creak* note of this duck.

This is our smallest dabbling duck. It is smaller and more compact than the other teals. They are active and agile and can be found in small flocks on shallow, marshy or muddy ponds. The GWTE feeds mainly by dabbling its bill at the surface of the water or mud. Males have a gray body with a white vertical stripe on the side at the start of the wing. The head is reddish-brown with a bright green patch behind the eye. The bill is small and black. There is a buffy yellow streak on the rump commonly known as a “buffy rump”. In eclipse plumage the male looks like the female. The female is mottled brown with a dark streak through the eyes. A green speculum in the wing is usually visible. A subspecies of the GWTE is the Eurasian, or Common, Teal. The Eurasian male is similar but instead of a white vertical stripe it has a white horizontal stripe.

GWTE flocks in flight seem very fast due to their small size, with rapid twisting and turning in unison. In summer they are found on freshwater ponds and lakes. In winter they are also seen on rivers and in sheltered coastal marshes. During the summer in Washington State, they are a common local resident east of the Cascades, and in winter they are common on both sides of the Cascades.

GWTE flocks in flight seem very fast due to their small size, with rapid twisting and turning in unison. In summer they are found on freshwater ponds and lakes. In winter they are also seen on rivers and in sheltered coastal marshes. During the summer in Washington State, they are a common local resident east of the Cascades, and in winter they are common on both sides of the Cascades.

The GWTE diet is mostly plant material, especially seeds and grasses, sedges and pondweeds. Pairs usually have already mated when they arrive at the breeding grounds. One courtship display consists of the male rearing up out of the water, arching its head forward and down to shake the bill very rapidly in the water while giving a sharp whistle. The nest of grasses, weeds and down is put in a depression in the ground and concealed in grass or brush. The nest can be up to a mile from water. There are 6-11 pale olive-buff eggs, rarely as many as 15 or 18. Incubation is 21-23 days and the young leave the nest a few hours after hatching. The female cares for the ducklings and may return to the nest for the first few nights. The young find all their own food and fledge at about 35 days. After breeding the adults may go through their annual molt near the nesting area, or they may move hundreds of miles in late summer before going through the flightless stage of molt.

(The photo of the Green-winged and Eurasian Teal was provided by Tina Klein-Lebbink.). (For those of you still wondering what “onomatopoeic” means; it is when the name imitates the sound, e.g., the bird names ‘chickadee’ and ‘killdeer,’ or general words like “buzz”).



Killer Hats: Birds on the Brink Now through Sunday, December 11, 2005

As the 19th century drew to a close, many Americans realized that their own natural resources were being devastated. The plumes and bodies of birds that served as fashionable decorations for women's hats became the rallying point and symbol for a new conservation movement spearheaded by the Audubon Society. Killer Hats examines this new movement and early conservation organizations.

Locally sponsored by Tahoma Audubon, Seattle Audubon and Audubon Washington.

Location: Washington State History Museum
Washington State Historical Society • 1911 Pacific Avenue • Tacoma, WA 98402
Toll Free 1-888-BE-THERE (1-888-238-4373) <http://www.wshs.org/>



2nd Annual 2005 Western Washington YardBirdRace

It's not too late! Join the 2005 YardBirdRace, and win great prizes. Read on to learn more.

What is the YardBirdRace (YBR)?

YBR is a contest to see who can observe the most bird species from their yard of less than 1.2 acres in Western Washington in a one-year period, in this case between 12 am Jan.1 2005 and midnight Dec. 31, 2005.

Does the bird have to land in my yard?

No. Any bird heard or seen while you are in your yard and then subsequently identified without the aid of a motorized vehicle counts as a yard bird, no matter how far away it is.

Can I identify the bird by voice alone?

Participants may use the sound the bird makes to identify it to species, although the normal cautions about identifying birds this way apply (look out for mimics!).

Is there a reward for participating?

All participants are entitled to a free 14x18 signed Shade Coffee poster and a box of 8 wildlife notecards by Ed Newbold. These are will-call only and may be picked up any time (9 am -6) at Ed's store at the entrance to the Pike Place Market.

Can I enter if I'm not a good birdwatcher?

Your question is misconceived. No one is a bad birdwatcher until they start to regularly claim to have seen birds they really didn't see. If you consult your book, check for similar species or confusing species, and make your calls conservatively, you are a good birdwatcher. Ken Kaufman's Birds is a great book to buy for \$20 to get started. Last year, anyone who could identify a Crow and a Robin would have won on Capitol Hill or in Ballard.

What do I have to do to enter a yard list?

Register in the YBR by simply calling (206) 767-7169 or emailing Ed Newbold (creator of the YardBirdRace) at yardbirdrace@yahoo.com and saying you're in the race. Ed also needs your mailing address, your email if you have one, the number of species you have counted so far, and if possible, the name of the local or neighborhood newspaper(s) where you live, and any other local media (radio or TV). You (and your yard) must be willing to be publicized to the media. Fear not, YardBirdRace participants have not reported being hassled by hordes of paparazzi up to this point.

Where can I see a Leader board?

Go to www.ednewbold.com. Near the bottom right of the home page is a button for "YardBirdRace." Click on that to see a current leader board of everyone who has entered so far.

What's the reason YardBirdRace got started?

Sports like Baseball get all kinds of free publicity, despite the fact they lack intrinsic interest, simply because of the endlessly fascinating competition between people involved. YardBirdRace wants to bring this inherent human interest in competition between people to birdwatching with the intent of generating interest in and coverage of birds and bird habitat. YardBirdRace also hopes to focus on the desirability of wildlife-friendly landscaping over ugly chemical all-grass lawn style landscaping.

Are there prizes for winning?

Top winners in 2005 will have at least \$1,000 donated in their names to charities - from Bird Life International to the Skagit Land Trust, by Ed Newbold, Wildlife Artist. Top winners in classes (water view, greenbelt/park, residential, multifamily) and cities and counties will receive their choice of a Violet Green Swallow nest box, a subscription to Washington Birder, or a membership in their local Audubon Society.

To date, ELWAS member Grace Oliver is amongst the finalists for King County. You go girl!

The Mountaineers 2005 Northwest Environmental Issues Course – South Sound

Become a fully informed environmental advocate for the Northwest by taking the Mountaineers Northwest Environmental Issues Course. This course provides lectures and optional field trips designed to provide participants with the tools and awareness that they can use to protect the natural resources of the Northwest. Students examine South Puget Sound interests of growth management, low impact building, Commencement Bay, climate change, and activist opportunities through lectures by local environmental experts, group discussion, and other activities.

The course runs from October 19 to November 16. Lectures will be held Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p. m. at the University of Puget Sound.

Register on line at www.mountaineers.org/conservation or call 206.286.8484 to register by phone. For more information, please contact Nancy Neyenhouse at 253.449.8120 or neyen82@hotmail.com.



ELWAS November Class — RAPTORS OF WASHINGTON With Jim Flynn, Master Birder

Join us for three evenings and a field trip that will cover the ID and natural history of Washington's 20 regular and rare hawks, eagles, accipiters and falcons. This class should be of interest to intermediate and beginning birders alike. The class sessions will cover identification, feeding behaviors, nesting, migration and more. Information sheets on identification, hawkwatch sites in WA and other topics will be given out. The field trip will give us a chance to take the identification concepts into the field and to observe and discuss raptor behavior.

Class dates: Friday, November 18, Monday, November 28, and Thursday, December 1, 2005.

Location: Northlake Unitarian Church, Kirkland

Time: 7:00 – 9:15 PM

Full day field trip date : Saturday, December 3, 2005.

Field Trip destination: Skagit and Samish flats.

Cost: \$75 ELWAS members, \$90 non-ELWAS members, \$50 class only

Limit: 15 class and trip, plus 10 class only. No registration for the field trip only.

To register, call ELWAS office at 425-576-8805 on Mon, Tues or Fri mornings. **Registration closes Tuesday, November 15.**

ELWAS Youth Education Program

By Mary Britton-Simmons, Youth Education

As my previous article indicated, Youth Education was busy this summer with presentations at various locations. On September 23, PACE, an alternative elementary school in the Northshore School District hosted its annual field day for students. Four members of ELWAS — Jim Rettig, Mike West, Lea Knapp and Jim Wheeler — spent the day introducing students to birds, building bird feeders and taking them on walks to find birds. Without their generous contribution of time and expertise, the students would not have had this wonderful experience.

Please consider joining these volunteers in their work with students. The Youth Education Committee receives numerous requests for presentations and bird walks. We need *your* help to fill all of these requests. Sign up today to share your love of birds with young people — our future.

To volunteer call the ELWAS office or me at 360-794-7163.

Hope Takes Flight: The Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Attend a special evening at Town Hall in Seattle on November 9, hosted by The Nature Conservancy and Woodland Park Zoo.

The recent discovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker, long thought to have vanished for good, has been hailed as one of the greatest moments in conservation history, a story of hope for our times. The ivory-billed woodpecker was last seen in the United States 60 years ago, after extensive clearing destroyed millions of acres of virgin forest in the South. Learn about the history that led to this majestic bird's near-extinction, efforts over the past two decades to save and restore its imperiled habitat, and personal accounts of its dramatic rediscovery in the forested swamps of Arkansas.

Presenters: Phil Hoose, author of *The Race to Save the Lord-God Bird*, and a Nature Conservancy staff member; and Gene Sparling, the first to spot the bird while paddling the Cache River in Arkansas

Location: Town Hall in Seattle
1119 Eighth Avenue (at Seneca Street)

Date/Time : Wednesday, November 9th, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$10

For more information and for tickets, visit nature.org/Washington, visit zoo.org, or call the Conservancy at 206-343-4345, ext. 345.

"*Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul.*" - Emily Dickenson

Some thoughts.....here are some ways we could tread more lightly on this earth of ours:

When your fluorescent lights (tubes or the squat ones) are dead, collect them carefully and take them to the Factoria or Houghton transfer stations/hazardous waste centers for mercury extraction at no fee; or if from a business, turn them in to Seattle Lighting, for a fee of 30c each light; or to recycling depot in south Seattle - "EcoLights" - with fee of 30c per foot: (206-343-1247). Note: incandescent bulbs have no recyclable value - put them in the trash.

Another item to keep out of landfills is batteries. Once a year, the county collects all shapes and sizes of these at no fee, including batteries for watches, hearing aids, flashlights, cell phones, etc. (The process of extracting the metals from batteries is costly.) There will be a recycling event in Eastgate/Bellevue in October -- check with the recycling information for your community.

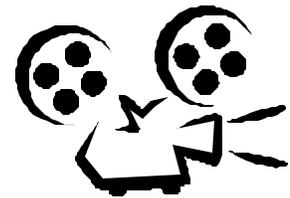
Many of your unwanted techno/electronic materials should NOT be put into a landfill. A company in Sammamish, GreenDisk.com, collects a variety of these materials, and for a fee, sends items to Missouri for dismantling/extraction of recyclable materials. Businesses could make fine use of this. For a small container, they charge \$6.00; a larger one, 1 foot square by 3 feet high, is \$30. When old CDs or audiocassettes (both with their plastic cases), DVDs, videos, cell phones, etc. are ready for shipment in containers, the post office collects them and off they go with secure disposal of private info. Please check out greendisk.com.

Could we use less water in our daily living? Here's a good way: When you're the first to use the shower or bath, have a gallon container (juice jug or a bucket) handy for collecting faucet water until it's hot. We use this in the washing machine and garden . Another idea is to have a small pump installed that assures household of "instant hot water."

These are just a few ideas for making wise use of resources. Do you have ideas to share?

— Bev and Hugh Jennings

MOVIE NIGHT: Affluenza



Date: Thursday, October 20

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 Fourth Avenue S., Kirkland

Join us for the movie *Affluenza*, hosted by National Public Radio's Scott Simon, which examines the high cost of achieving the most extravagant lifestyle the world has ever seen.

Last year, Americans, who make up only five percent of the world's population, used nearly a third of its resources and produced almost half of its hazardous waste. Add overwork, personal stress, the erosion of family and community, skyrocketing debt, and the growing gap between rich and poor, and it's easy to understand why some people say that the American Dream is no bargain. Many are opting out of the consumer chase, redefining the Dream, and making "voluntary simplicity" one of the top 10 trends of the '90s.

Affluenza travels across country to show you men and women who are working and shopping less, spending more time with friends and family, volunteering in their communities, and enjoying their lives more. A brief sampling:

- In Colorado Springs, religious conservatives worry about the impact of materialism on American life, advertisements invade the local school district, and a family struggles with a potent case of Affluenza .
- In Seattle, Vicki Robin and Joe Dominguez, authors of the best-selling book, *Your Money or Your Life*, help others get off the work-and-spend treadmill to find more meaning in their lives.
- In Vancouver, Canada, activists known as "Adbusters" design humorous "subvertisements" that expose how advertisements manipulate us.
- In Redmond, Washington, two teenagers create an award-winning play that spoofs the materialistic life of Barbie dolls.

And there's more, much more.



CONSERVATION CORNER

By Jim Rettig

“THIS LAND WAS YOUR LAND. . . .”

I received a letter the other day from the Western Lands Project of Seattle. I had never heard of this group before. The letter began by noting that we as American citizens share a legacy of millions of acres of public lands, from national parks and monuments to vast forests, from natural wildlife refuges to grasslands, and much more. “The vast expanse of these lands,” wrote the authors, “is a part of our unique American heritage and the icon for openness and democracy around which Wallace Stegner coined the phrase ‘The Geography of Hope.’”

The letter then went on to explain that these public lands have entered a new and most destructive phase in the development of the West, and that the federal government is disposing of these lands in bargain-basement dealings outside the public eye.

So the Western Lands Project was born in 1997 to inform the public of public land exchanges and the many ways that these outside-the-public-eye deals can abuse the public interest. The group's mission is to monitor all federal land exchanges, including federal land sales, conveyances, giveaways, and the myriad proposals by Congress and the agencies that hold public lands in trust but yet which seek to privatize ownership or control of our public lands. The group advocates to keep public lands in public hands. Through its work, the Project has forced the two main agencies that manage public lands - the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management - to expose their dealings and to reform their practices.

The letter informs us of a new trend it calls “*quid pro quo* wilderness.” “Many wilderness bills,” write the authors, “now propose to give away public land, waive environmental protections and/or cede water rights in order to ‘pay for’ wilderness protection in other areas. This trend is part of a politically-motivated effort to turn public lands into a cash cow for local towns and counties - and even includes proposals to help balance the budget with federal land sales.”

Audubon members, it is important for us to be aware of and understand the wide-scale efforts to diminish the public domain. If you want to know more, read the Project's two publications: *Commons or Commodity? The Dilemma of Federal Land Exchanges*, and *The Citizen's Guide to Federal Land Exchanges*.

You may contact the Western Lands Project by writing to P.O. Box 95545, Seattle, WA 98145-2545, by calling (206) 325-3503, by faxing (206) 325-3515, or by emailing to www.westernlands.org.



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

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>