



# The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 06-4 – MAY 2006

## Unique Birds and Ecosystems of the Juan Fernández Islands, Chile

When: Thursday, May 25 at 7:00 pm (after the social hour)

Where: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church



We invite you to enjoy an evening with Dr. Peter Hodum, the director and co-founder of the Juan Fernández Islands Conservancy, a small organization dedicated to the conservation of the natural systems of the Juan Fernández Archipelago, Chile. Peter has taught and conducted research in a variety of exotic places around the world, including the Bay of Fundy, Vancouver Island, the Farallon Islands (CA), Mexico, the Galápagos Islands, the Juan Fernández Islands (Chile), New Zealand, Antarctica and, most recently, Tatoosh Island (WA).

Peter will give a talk and slide show about the unique bird communities and ecosystems of the Juan Fernández Islands, Chile and the work that the Juan Fernández Islands Conservancy is undertaking in the islands. The Juan Fernández Islands are frequently referred to as the temperate counterpart to the Galápagos Islands, each rich in endemic species. They are a Chilean national park and a UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve. Although there are only 15 native bird species, eight are species or subspecies endemic to the islands and two are endemic to Chile. Peter will show slides of the birds and the spectacular landscape of these mythical islands, while discussing the pressing conservation issues confronting the archipelago.

Peter is an avian ecologist and conservation biologist who has worked primarily with seabirds. He received his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California-Davis where his dissertation focused on the feeding ecology and energy use patterns of Antarctic fulmarine petrels. He was an Assistant Professor at California State University, Long Beach, and is currently adjunct faculty at University of Puget Sound and a visiting scholar at the University of Washington. Since 1999, his work has centered on conservation research and community-based education programs in the Juan Fernández Islands, Chile.

Please join us **Thursday, May 25** for Peter's stimulating and educational presentation. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by Dr. Hodum's presentation.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who will enjoy learning about the birds of these Chilean islands.

Directions to ELWAS office / Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church, 308 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. (corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. and State). Take I-405 exit 18 (NE 85<sup>th</sup>, Kirkland). Drive west on Central Way to 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (stoplight). Turn left (south) on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and follow it as it bears left and changes name to State St. Turn left on 4<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## Three Important Issues

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

From time to time, your Board of Directors takes a position on various issues that come before us. Recently, we have done just that, and I wanted you to know about these actions.

### Developer's Initiative I-933

Initiative I-933, which is expected to be on the ballot next November, specifies that county governments must either pay landowners for claims of value lost because of regulations or waive the regulations. It is similar to Oregon's infamous "takings" initiative. Audubon Washington is one of the leaders in opposing this giant step backward in our hard-won efforts to protect forests and streams and wildlife habitat. The ELWAS Board has voted to endorse the effort to defeat this initiative.

### Renewable Energy Initiative I-937



This initiative requires large utilities to obtain 15% of their energy from renewable resources, such as wind and solar, by 2020. As the Northwest's energy needs increase, utilities are looking for new sources in addition to our traditional hydroelectric.

Coal-burning energy plants are being proposed or built throughout the Northwest. The negatives to fossil-fueled energy production are legion. This initiative appears to be a win-win, encouraging "green" power, creating jobs and giving a boost to clean energy industries. The ELWAS Board has voted to endorse it. We even have petitions available for those who wish to sign it or to gather more signatures.

And now, for something completely different, ...

### Birdathon!



May is Birdathon month. Birdathon is ELWAS' major fundraiser. You can read more about it in other articles in this newsletter, but I encourage you to get involved in whatever way you can. Lead a team, join a team or sponsor a team! There are even

field trips you can attend that support Birdathon. For all of the programs we present and are involved in, the scholarships we award, the grants we offer teachers, and also our day-to-day operations, we need your support.

Thank you for being a member of Audubon, and thanks for your additional support through Birdathon!

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

#### Committee Chairs/Board (board positions underlined)

<u>At large board member</u>	Amy McQuade	(206) 232-9543 mcbdrwchr@aol.com
<u>At large board member</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346
<u>At large board member</u>	Open	
<u>Birding</u>	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026 MF.Mathis@verizon.net
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Nature Walks	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026 MF.Mathis@verizon.net
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Gift Wrap	Nancy and Jim Roberts	(425) 822-1865
Merchandising	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@comcast.net
<u>Membership</u>	Open	
Hospitality	Lyn Bailey	(425) 821-4274 lynbailey@comcast.net
Volunteer Coordinator	Tricia Kishel	(425) 746-1817 fallforestflower@yahoo.com

## ELWAS Meetings May 2006

**May 2 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Conservation Committee**  
**Meets first Tuesday of each month in the ELWAS Office.**  
All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email **Martyn Stewart** at [mstew@naturesound.org](mailto:mstew@naturesound.org)

**May 3 (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](mailto:webmaster@elwas.org)

**May 9 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Youth Education Committee**  
**Meets in the ELWAS Office.** All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email **education@elwas.org**

**May 11 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Photo Group**  
**Meets in large room upstairs from ELWAS Office.** Questions? Email **Tim Boyer** at [tboyer@seanet.com](mailto:tboyer@seanet.com)

**May 16 (Tues) 6:00 pm—ELWAS Board—ELWAS Office.**

**May 25 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Monthly Meeting and Presentation — See article on page 1.**

## Join the Board

Spring is coming, which means that Board elections are upon us. We'll be voting on new Board Members at the May membership meeting

This year the positions up for election are: Secretary, Treasurer, one At-Large Member, Conservation Chair, Financial Development Chair and Membership Chair. We are also looking for a Vice President to complete the terms vacated by prior volunteers.

Want to join the Board and make a difference in the Chapter? Contact Christy Anderson ([president@elwas.org](mailto:president@elwas.org)) or Jan McGruder ([jan@elwas.org](mailto:jan@elwas.org)) to find out more.



## 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.

E. Sue Anderson  
Cindy Balbuena  
Carrie Barak  
Catherine Botch  
Violet Brown  
David G. Cooper  
Maureen Corlas  
Jodie Dent  
Joan Elfelt  
Alan Failor  
Janis N. Haase  
Mrs. L. A. Holdren  
Mary Holt  
William Hudson Sr.

Penny Lie  
Edie and Simon Lie  
Josephine Lynch  
Stacy Lyon  
Gordon H. Petter  
William H. Richards  
Karen and Stephen Ridlon  
Paula Russell  
Dorothy Schlinger  
Richard and Ruth Thomas  
Cynthia Wayburn  
Paul Wennberg

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- **Deadline** for material submission is the first Wednesday of the month preceding publication. Send material by email to:
- [newsletter@elwas.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@elwas.org)**

**Hours: Mon, Tues and Fri — 9:00am — 1:00pm**

# Aviators Look to You for Help

By Jim Rettig

It's late March, today is the first day of Spring, and I am waiting for the return of the Rufous Hummingbird to my back yard. I haven't seen either the male or the female yet this year, but I am eager to see them after a long winter absence. I hope they return. I can never be sure that they will because the Rufous Hummingbird population is in decline, mostly due to habitat loss, both here in our area and also in Mexico and other parts of Central America.

It's not the only species in trouble. National Audubon's Watch List identifies 105 North American species at risk. Unless you and I, and many others, take preventative action, they too may end up on the endangered species list.

Your participation in Birdathon 2006 will help their cause. National Audubon and ELWAS are committed to keeping these and other birds off the endangered list, but that takes money. Lots of it. Birdathon is a fun and easy way to raise money and assist local chapters to preserve and enhance critical bird habitat, build an unprecedented database on migratory bird trends, educate children and adults about the joys of birding and that we can't live without them, implement on-the-ground conservation programs, and press for a strengthened Endangered Species Act.

Join Birdathon 2006 today. Fill out the Birdathon flyer below, indicate how you want to participate, and then send the flyer to the ELWAS office. Call Jim Rettig at (425) 402-1833 if you need more information.

Help our common birds stay common!

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## ELWAS BIRDATHON – THE ENTIRE MONTH OF MAY!

### YES, I WANT TO TAKE PART IN BIRDATHON 2006!

\_\_\_ I want to sponsor a team with a \$25\_\_\_ \$35\_\_\_ \$50\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_ other\_\_\_ donation.

\_\_\_ I want to join a team.

\_\_\_ All I can do is send money. Here's \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the birds!

\_\_\_ I want to join the Great Egret Society (\$100 or more donation): here's my \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ I want to do my own thing, or just spot birds at my backyard feeder. Send me a Birdathon packet.

I understand that all my donations are tax deductible and I will receive a statement after the event.

**Mail this form to:**

**ELWAS  
P.O. Box 3115  
Kirkland, WA 98033**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

## Thank You to Retiring Board Members!

A big Thank You to retiring Board Members Tim Boyer, Ruth Adamski, and Diane Stone.

Tim Boyer has been ELWAS' Treasurer for several years, and his experience as a CPA and with issues that face non-profits has been a valuable asset to the Chapter. We will miss his close watch on the ELWAS funds, and his sage advice at Board meetings.

Ruth Adamski has been on the ELWAS Board for more years than can be counted on one hand. She has served as Membership Chair, an At-Large Board member, and most recently as Communication Chair. We appreciate her dedication to the Chapter.

Diane Stone is retiring from the Board to spend more time with her family. Diane served on the Board in the 90's, took a break, and most recently has been our Secretary. She never let a word we uttered slip by.

Our best to each of you in your endeavors, and we hope we continue to see you at meetings, field trips and other activities.

## Northwest Trek Field Trip

Join us on **Saturday, May 20** 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 take a 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 am 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: \$10.00

Seniors: (65+): \$9.00

Youth (ages 5-12): \$7.00

Tots (ages 3-4): \$4.00

**Space is limited and pre-registration is required.** All ages are welcome! Call the office at (425) 576-8805 to sign up.



**EagleEye**  
VISION CARE, P.S.

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

**See the birds better!**

## Thank You ...

... to **Margaret Lie, Kay Barrett, Jane Paige, Patricia Clarke, Sharon and Warren Pagel, Chereyl Spink**, and **Carmen Amoldovar** for staffing a table at Molbak's Going Native event; to **Glenn Eades, Christy Anderson, Bev Jennings, Mary Holt, and Judy Rams** for showing up on a rainy Saturday to work at Marymoor Park; to **Lea Knapp, Jim Rettig, Peggy Jorgensen, Karen Guy, Margaret Lie, and Patricia Clarke**; to **Joyce Meyer and Lou Ann Harris** for giving their yearly Birding by Ear class. This is a great fundraiser for ELWAS, and birders learn a new way to appreciate our feathered friends; to **Val Moore and Kay Barrett** for cleaning up Bellefields Park every month; and to the **Board of Directors and Committee Chairs** for leading others in furtherance of the ELWAS Mission.

# FIELD TRIPS

Parents and children over 8 are welcome on all trips. **\*\*FRS Radio owners, please consider bringing them on 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.

### May 5 (Fri) 8:00 am to noon — Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### May 6 (Sat) 9am to noon

#### Marymoor BirdLoop Work Party

Help remove Scot's Broom, blackberries, and English Ivy along the interpretive trail. Wear work clothes and boots and bring gloves and clippers, loppers or pruning saws if you have them. We'll have some tools on hand. Park in lot G, Interpretive Trail parking lot, and follow gravel road to the trail. **RSVP Glenn or Bertha Eades at [geades@seanet.com](mailto:geades@seanet.com) (preferred) or at 425-885-3842.**

### May 6 (Sat) 7:00 am

#### Theler Wetlands via Southworth

We will take the Fauntleroy ferry to Southworth and bird our way to the Theler Wetlands. The wetlands include fresh and salt water marshes, forested uplands, and estuarine habitats. Prepare to walk about 2-1/2 miles. We will return by way of Tacoma. It can be cool and wet so dress accordingly. 150 bird species have been seen in this area. Bring a lunch. Meet before 7:00 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) to carpool. Passenger cost/person is \$6.00 + share in ferry cost. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

### BIRDATHON FIELD TRIP - \$25.00 DONATION TO ELWAS FOR THE BIRDS

#### May 11 (Thursday) 6:30 am

##### Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, near Olympia, WA

The riparian and wetland areas are dominated by Oregon Ash, white oak, Garry Oak, 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 are possible in the mixed woods. Expect to walk at least 4 miles. Bring food and

drink for this full day of birding. Carpool drivers are required to have a WDFW Vehicle Use Permit. Meet before 6:30 am at Newport Hills Park N Ride, I-405, Exit 9. Return early evening.

**Passenger cost/person \$9.00.**

**Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

### BIRDATHON FIELD TRIP - \$25.00 DONATION TO ELWAS FOR THE BIRDS

#### May 13 (Sat) 7:00 am

##### Bowerman Basin to Tokeland

Thousands of shorebirds migrate through this coastal area each year on their way to Alaskan breeding grounds. The Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival is April 28-30. The main migratory push will be over but we should still see numbers of shorebirds and other migratory birds in breeding plumage. Plan for a full day of fun birding, home by evening. Bring lunch, snack, drinks, and gear for changeable coastal weather. Limit 12 people/three cars. Bring scope if you have one. **Call Kathy Andrich at 206-390-3159** to register. **Passenger cost/person \$11.00.** Meet before 7am at north end of Wilburton Park and Ride (I-405, exit 12). (Second trip on Sunday May 14 if enough interest.)

### May 16 (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 Tuesday of each month at 8:00.** Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required.

**MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

### May 20 (Sat) 10:00 am — Bellefields Walk Through

Help clean up litter along Bellefields Trail in Mercer Slough Nature Park. Meet at the Bellefields Trail Head parking lot on 118th Ave, SE (Bellevue), about one mile south of Greenbaum's Furniture (118th and SE 8th). Please bring gloves, a bag for trash, and your binoculars.

**Kay Barrett 425-644-2862.**

### May 22 (Mon) 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**

### BIRDATHON FIELD TRIP - \$25.00 DONATION TO ELWAS FOR THE BIRDS

#### May 24 (Wednesday) 7:00 am

##### North Creek Park in Bothell and North Creek Park near Mill Creek

The Bothell site is a riparian area frequented by typical residents, including sparrows, kinglets, waterfowl, raptors, herons, finches, kingfishers, wrens. We should also see some migrants, such as warblers, vireos, or swallows. The site near

*(Continued on page 7)*

**BIRD  
of the  
MONTH**

**California Quail**  
*Callipepla californica*  
by Hugh Jennings



The California Quail (CAQU) is about 10" long with a wingspan of 14" and a weight of 6 oz. (180g). The genus name, *Callipepla* (cal-ih-PEP-lah), is from the Greek *kallos*, beautiful, and *peplos*, a ceremonial robe, "beautifully adorned", in reference to the bird's plumage. The species name *californica* (cal-ih-FOR-nih-ca) is Latin for California. It was originally native and resident along the Pacific coast from south Oregon to north Baja California. It was introduced into other parts of the West.

They are usually found in dense cover, often in large groups, and often strutting across open areas, nodding their heads at each step. The CAQU is common in the eastern part of Washington and fairly common in the west at lower elevations, especially farmlands, brushy places, parks and lightly developed residential areas. They are permanent residents throughout their entire range.

Both male and female have a black plume on the forehead and a scaled appearance to the belly. The male has a black chin and light forehead while the female has a light chin. They eat mostly weeds, grains, grasses and insects, and will come to bird feeders for grain and seeds. It forages by picking up items from the ground, often scratching on the ground, and picking leaves from plants.

During the breeding season, the males call loudly to advertise their territory. During courtship, the male postures with wings drooped and tail spread. It bobs its head and may rush at the female. The nest is usually on the ground, under a shrub or brush pile or next to a log. Sometimes it nests above ground, on a broken-off branch or in an old nest of another bird. The nest, usually built by the female, is a shallow depression lined with grass and leaves. Usually 10-16 eggs are laid which are dull white to pale buff, sometimes marked with brown. Incubation is by the female only and takes 18-23 days. Occasionally, two females will lay eggs in the same nest. The downy young leave the nest within a day after hatching. Both of the parents tend to the young, with the female often brooding them when small with the male perching high and acting as a sentinel. The young feed themselves. The young can fly short distances at the age of 10 days and at 14 days fly well, but prefer to run to escape. The CAQU usually have one brood per year, but if there is a good food supply they may have two.

The oldest known CAQU was one in the National Zoo in Washington D.C. that lived for 9 years and 7 months. Two males in the wild lived for over 6 years. The birds have been timed in flight at 38-58 mph and their running speed has been timed at 12 mph.

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### **Field Trips**

*(Continued from page 6)*

Mill Creek is a large wetland crossed by a boardwalk. Marsh Wrens and swallows are abundant. We could also see Common Yellowthroats, rails, bitterns and more. **Meet at Rettig's home at 7:00 am. Call 425-402-1833 for directions.** Return late morning or early afternoon.

**June 2 (Fri) 8:00 am to noon — Marymoor Park — See May 5 entry.**

**June 3 (Sat) 9am to noon — Marymoor BirdLoop Work Party — See May 6 entry.**

**June 8 (Thurs) - 6:30 am to evening — Eastern Washington**

**Limited to 10 - Call to Register**

Prepare for a full day of birding from Snoqualmie Pass to Yakima canyon including Umtanum Creek Recreation Area. Anticipate seeing warblers, bluebirds, sparrows, hawks, and falcons. Bring snacks, lunch and fluids. Meet before 6:30 am at the Issaquah Park and Ride, Exit 15, from I-90. Passenger cost/person **\$13.** Call **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422** to register.



## CONSERVATION CORNER — Just Say No to this Bad Logging Bill

By Jim Rettig

Washington's Democratic Congressman Brian Baird has co-sponsored legislation called "The Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act" (HR4200) which would speed up destructive logging projects in national forests that have experienced natural disturbances such as fires, droughts, or windstorms. If passed, the bill would remove basic protections for clean water and wildlife habitat by short-circuiting environmental reviews. The bill is misguided and would increase subsidized logging in our national forests.

Sponsors claim it will prevent the waste of downed trees and will help speed recovery. But ecologists from Oregon State University have documented damages caused by logging after wildfires. "Logged areas were found to be more prone to repeat fires, and soil damage from logging reduced the natural regeneration by 71% - in many places enough that manual replanting was necessary." The scientists conclude that "post-fire logging may conflict with ecosystem recovery goals," the opposite conclusion of this bill.

We all remember the forest fires that raged in the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests a decade ago. These areas were never logged, but now show luxuriant growth of millions of healthy trees and other flora. Nearby forests that were burned in the 1970s and subsequently salvage-logged remain in poor ecological condition. They lack the diversity and fertility of the more recent but un-logged burns, and they are laced with crumbling logging roads.

A better bill is offered by Congressman Tom Udall (D-NM): HR 3973. This bill is a balanced approach, using best available science, and is mindful of protecting roadless areas, old growth forests, and endangered species.

**ACTION ALERT:** Call or write your congressman and both senators and ask them to oppose the Walden-Baird bill in the House and the companion Smith bill in the Senate. You may also want to write your local newspaper and highlight the damaging aspects of the Walden-Baird proposal.

## 2006 Legislative Wrap-up

By Amy Zarrett, *Priorities for a Healthy Washington*

For the fourth year in a row the state's conservation community selected four proactive proposals to bring to the legislature with the hope of improving the lives of people and protecting our quality of life. We wrapped up the session with a stunning .750 batting average with three out of the four bills passing. Additionally, the effort to halt any attacks on community protection and land use laws was a complete success.

**Launch Electronic Waste Recycling – Passed:** This bill will provide safe, free, and convenient recycling for the millions of outdated computers, monitors and TVs piling up in our homes, schools, and offices. Each year, these obsolete electronics turn into millions of pounds of "e-waste" which contains lead, mercury and other substances too toxic to be thrown in the trash. The legislation will create hundreds of jobs and establish the most extensive manufacturer responsibility requirements in the nation.

**Clean Up Puget Sound – Passed:** The bill aims to get failing septic systems cleaned up. It is part of the Governor's legislative package to implement early actions under her Puget Sound Initiative. The bill is directed at failing systems dumping sewage into Hood Canal and parts of Puget Sound and provides funding and flexibility for local governments to design programs to require repair of failing systems. A grant and loan program is authorized to assist low-income homeowners. The legislature passed the Governor's Puget Sound Budget for 2006 of \$56 million to accelerate toxic cleanups and prevent new pollution.

**Energy Independence through Renewable Fuels – Passed:** This proposal will reduce Washington's dependence on fossil fuels and provide a new market for Washington crops. This legislation will grow a new biofuels economy by including a minimum percentage of biofuels in the statewide fuel mix. The standards start at 2%, and ramps up to 5% for biodiesel and 10% for ethanol. This bill will attract biofuels jobs, provide farm income, and reduce the state's vulnerability to volatile oil markets.

**Protect Kids' Health by Eliminating Toxic Flame Retardants – Not Passed :** Despite strong bipartisan support, the legislature failed for the second consecutive year to pass important legislation to phase out the use of toxic flame retardants called PBDEs that are rapidly building up in breast milk, our bodies, and in wildlife. Out-of-state chemical industry interests lobbied aggressively against the bill, spreading misinformation about its impacts. PBDEs are chemical cousins of long-banned PCBs, and are known to impair learning, behavior, and development in lab animals. The bill was supported by the Washington State Nurses Association, the Washington chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and many more organizations.

**Defending our Communities:** All the efforts to roll back land use protections were halted by an effective campaign to maintain community safeguards. In addition, several successful bills will help resolve long-standing conflicts on Growth Management issues. The security and protection of our homes, our communities, and even our drinking water depend on having balanced laws that allow growth while protecting farmland, shorelines, and our quality of life. That is why these attacks were stymied and why positive reforms passed to help give communities more flexibility as they responsibly implement land use improvements.

## FLYCATCHERS AND WARBLERS with Kevin Aanerud

Sign up for this great class arranged due to popular demand. Kevin is considered a local expert on flycatchers and warblers and has taught this class for Seattle Audubon. Now we bring him to ELWAS for our very own session.

Kevin will present two evenings of illustrated lecture and discussion followed by a full day field trip to farmland habitat in the Snoqualmie Valley area between Monroe and Carnation. Join us to learn more about these beautiful migrants that spend the summer in our area.

**Class: Tuesday, May 16 and Monday, May 22, 2006 from 7:00 to 9:15 PM.** Class will meet at the Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Avenue, Kirkland. Class limited to 20 participants. Registration required.

**Field Trip: Saturday, June 3, 2006. 8:00 AM.** To be arranged at the class.

**Cost:** Lecture and field trip \$55.00 per person/ELWAS member, \$70.00 per non-ELWAS member. Registration for the field trip only if space available at \$25.00 per person/ELWAS member, \$35.00 per person/non-ELWAS member. Class members have priority. Class and field trip limited to 20 participants.

**Registration:** Call the ELWAS office to register at (425) 576-8805. Office open Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. *Registration closes May 12.*

## WENAS CAMPOUT, May 26-29, 2006



**For over 35 years Audubon families have been camping at the Wenas Creek Campground,** officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary. The location, southwest of Ellensburg, is now in an "Important Bird Area" which Auduboners are working to secure in protective status.

The free, "primitive" campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

The campground is at about 2,500' elevation, and can be quite cold at night, and hot during the day. Bring your own water for cooking & drinking (the creek is beautiful and bountiful but not potable). We set up tents or use "pick-up" type campers. The committee rents portable toilets for four days. We share in the expense of that.

Bicycles and Frisbees are fun, and telescopes and cameras are standard gear. Please leave pets at home.

There are organized field trips throughout the Wenas drainage and WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife management areas. In camp we have natural history workshops with some of the state's top birders, WNPS botanists, entomologists etc. There are old-fashioned campfires in the evening with singing, story telling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Visit the Wenas Website to see a familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout. See [www.nwlink.com/~cyrus/wenas.html](http://www.nwlink.com/~cyrus/wenas.html). There's a bird checklist, directions to the campground, and more. If you don't do websites, contact me and I'll send you printed information.

See you there, Helen Engle, [hengle@inet.com](mailto:hengle@inet.com), 253-564-3112.