



The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 06-5 – JUNE–AUGUST 2006

ELWAS Marymoor BirdLoop Becomes a Reality

By Jan McGruder

At long last, after 24+ months of hard work on the part of many ELWAS volunteers in developing a plan and preparing the grant proposal, we have signed a contract with King County to become the Stewards of the Marymoor BirdLoop. With this contract comes \$100,000 in grant funds, whereby the Chapter will “adopt” the Interpretive Trail at the park. This is the same type of grant that S.O.D.A. (Save Our Dog Area) received from the County. If you’ve visited Marymoor Park in the last few years, you can see what a success their area is for dog owners.

We think that adopting the Interpretive Trail is important, as wildlife and natural areas are so often ignored. Park Departments are focused on generating revenue or active sports, and passive recreation is losing ground.

We also think that our participation at the Park will boost the Chapter’s membership. The area is already known amongst birders – it’s published in two birder’s guides – and because ELWAS will be linked with the area on our signs, park maps, and the King County website, the Chapter will become better known on the Eastside.

Through our interpretive signs and brochures, classes and fieldtrips, the Chapter has the opportunity to educate the community on birds and wildlife, and the importance of habitat. We already give monthly bird walks at the Park, and we anticipate participation will grow.

Now that the contract is signed and we have received our \$100,000 grant, the County expects that ELWAS volunteers will pitch in and build the kiosks and boardwalks, develop and install the signs, and remove the noxious weeds and plant native plants. We estimate this will take over 4,000 volunteer hours over two years!

As you can imagine, this is a big step for ELWAS. Many volunteers have worked long and hard to bring this project up to this point, but now we need you.

Here’s Where You Come In.

The kiosk, signs, boardwalk and enhanced habitat at the Marymoor BirdLoop will not become a reality without you! We are asking our membership to be a part of the Marymoor BirdLoop, and work to see this birding trail become a reality. All skill levels are welcome – from ideas and design, to digging out invasive plants, to joining a construction crew, to helping spread the word in the surrounding community. There are lots of opportunities to help!

Please contact me if you’d like to volunteer on the BirdLoop. You needn’t commit to any specific job or date, but you could join our e-mail list and learn of upcoming opportunities. Work parties are held the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 1:00. We meet in Parking Lot G.

Please contact Jan McGruder at 425-822-8580 or jan@elwas.org with your support.

*****THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER TILL SEPTEMBER
CHECK WWW.ELWAS.ORG REGULARLY FOR THE LATEST!*****

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.*

The Power of One – Multiplied
By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

I walk in the mornings for exercise. Most days, I pass a group of middle schoolers waiting for the school bus. Watching these kids stand on the sidewalk alone or in little groups of twos and threes, not talking to or even looking at the other groups is almost painful to observe. No one talks to someone they don't know.

Where's she going with this, you're wondering? Well, the connection is a bit tenuous, but watching this group of kids did make me think of how we retain a bit of this in our adult lives. We stick with who and what we know. Who's in, who's out, who's cool, what's safe? In America, we revere the rugged individual, making it on your own. And yet, our biggest strength lies in working together, pulling for a common cause.

I was treated to a demonstration of this recently. For the opening day of boating season, a large fireworks display was planned for Union Bay in Seattle. That's right, the natural area most of us call "the Fill." Bird central, and during nesting season, too. One woman, who lives in the area, was extremely concerned when she learned of it. She ended up contacting ELWAS because of our experience dealing with a similar situation in Kirkland last summer when 4th of July fireworks over Juanita Bay drove eagle parents off their nest for three days. Luckily, the chicks lived, but that was two months later in the season. The upshot for the Fill was ELWAS got the word out to our conservation email list and to Tweeters, the birders' email listserve. And a movement was born! It quickly took on a life of its own. After a blizzard of phone calls and emails, Seattle Parks called an emergency meeting, and folks who had never met came together and testified or wrote letters, and the noisy show was cancelled.

I watched people make connections that day, and they were thrilled and a little surprised by their own power. The power of each person, multiplied by the power of coming together.

Our Kirkland experience also had a wonderful result. Because one woman noticed the eagles' distress and notified us, we worked with the City of Kirkland to put a process in place to ensure it would never happen again. That woman, **Lynda Becher**, didn't just shrug and say "well, that's the way it is." She took action, and by doing so, has protected those eagles for many years to come. Lynda has shown us the power of one. Because of her action, we have chosen her to be named ELWAS' **Environmentalist of the Year**. Thank you, Lynda!

"All that is necessary for evil to flourish is for good people to do nothing."

-- Edmond Burke

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

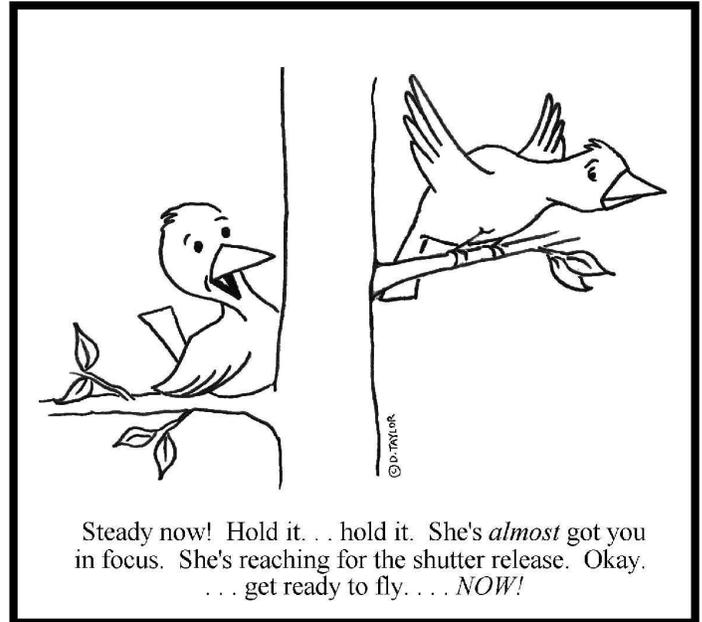
| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| President | Christy Anderson | (425) 747-4196 president@elwas.org |
| Vice President | Open | |
| Secretary | Open | |
| Treasurer | Open | |
| Executive Director | Jan McGruder | (425) 822-8580 jan@elwas.org |

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> | Tricia Kishel | (425) 746-1817 fallforestflower@yahoo.com |
| <u>Birding</u> | MaryFrances Mathis | (425) 803-3026 MF.Mathis@verizon.net |
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| 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 |
| <u>Conservation</u> | Open | |
| Advocacy | Open | |
| Citizen Science | Len Steiner | (425) 827-2478 |
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| Marymoor Park | Jim Rettig | (425) 402-1833 jrettigtanager@verizon.net |
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| 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 |
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| Publicity | Tracey Cummings | (425) 788-4663 publicity@elwas.org |
| Webmaster | Nancy Nicklas | (425) 869-7827 webmaster@elwas.org |
| <u>Financial Development</u> | Open | |
| Birdathon | Christy Anderson | (425) 747-4196 |
| Gift Wrap | Nancy and Jim Roberts | (425) 822-1865 |
| Merchandising | Cindy Balbuena | (425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@comcast.net |
| <u>Membership</u> | Open | |
| Hospitality | Open | |
| Volunteer Coordinator | Tricia Kishel | (425) 746-1817 fallforestflower@yahoo.com |

Thank You ...

... to **Jim Rettig** for leading May's Marymoor Bird-Loop work party, and to **Kathy Andrich, Patricia Clarke, Therese Eby, Mary Holt, Bev Jennings, Megan Lyden, Jan and Tim McGruder, Steve Pope, Mary Redmayne, Steve and Karen Ridlon, Sunny Walter,** and **Stan Wood** for helping cut down and dig up blackberries, and pull Scot's Broom along the Bird-Loop trail; to **Jim Rettig, Patricia Clarke, Marge Dolecal, Karen Guy,** and **Peggy Jorgensen,** for preparing the Corvid Crier for mailing; to **Christy Anderson, Cindy Balbuena, Judy Rams and Jim Rettig** for assembling the Birdathon mailing and to the **Board of Directors and Committee Chairs** for leading others in furtherance of the ELWAS Mission.



ELWAS Meetings June-August 2006

June 6, August 1 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Conservation Committee

All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email **Martyn Stewart** at mstew@nauresound.org

June 7, July 5, August 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

June 8, July 13, August 10 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Photo Group

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

June 13, July 11, August 8 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Youth Education Committee

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

BIRDATHON IS LANDING FOR 2006

By **Jim Rettig**

The month of May saw a number of people participate in this annual Audubon fundraiser. If you are a **Birdathon sponsor**, please get your gift/pledge to your Birdathoner as soon as possible. If you were a **Birdathoner**, please work hard to collect all your pledges and gifts and get the money into the ELWAS office as soon as you are able: by June 15 if possible. If you have not given financially to this worthy cause, it is **not too late to give!** Please make checks payable to ELWAS and send them to the ELWAS office now. The birds will love you for your generosity.

The Corvid Crier, Issue 06-5 — Publication Date: June 1, 2006.

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: Mon, Tues and Fri — 9:00am — 1:00pm

ELWAS Honors Lynda Becher – Environmentalist of the Year

By Christy Anderson



For lots of Americans, the 4th of July means fireworks. For wildlife, the noise and flashes can be not only terrifying, but life-threatening. On July 4th, 2005, a large fireworks display was held in Juanita Bay. It was the first time it had ever been done – in celebration of the City’s Centennial. ELWAS was contacted on July 7 by Lynda Becher, a resident living west of Market Street in Kirkland. She reported that something was terribly wrong with the nesting eagles at the end of her street. The usual back and forth call of the parents tending their chicks was silenced, and the whole block was eerily quiet. The eagle parents did not return to the nest for three days. Lynda was extremely worried, but against all odds, the chicks lived, and fledged later that summer.

Lynda and her neighbors, who didn’t know about the show, had run from their houses that night fearing disaster, until they realized it was fireworks. The cracks and booms reverberated from

hill to hill.

When Lynda called ELWAS, Jan McGruder advised her to contact the federal and state departments of wildlife. An investigation dragged on, and all public pronouncements were in favor of keeping the fireworks in Juanita Bay. In mid-September, a meeting was held with City staff, an enforcement officer with the Federal Department of Wildlife, a Washington State Department of Wildlife biologist, Nona Ganz (on the Kirkland City Council, but attending as a private resident), Lynda, and MaryFrances Mathis (ELWAS’ Juanita Bay Park expert). Lynda and Nona expressed their concerns over the fireworks display. MaryFrances pointed out the distress this type of nighttime disruption has on birds. The city conceded their error and made the commitment that no more fireworks displays would be held in Juanita Bay. They also presented a new policy that ELWAS and Fish and Wildlife would be allowed to review all upcoming special events held in the City, to ensure protection for birds and wildlife.

The time Lynda spent making telephone calls and showing the nest to various agencies, and ELWAS’ letter to the City brought the situation to a good resolution. We are very grateful to Lynda calling us about “her” eagles and proud of the city of Kirkland for stepping up to the plate. As Lynda says, “We’re changing the world – one nest at a time.”

Lynda made a difference for those eagles, and for all birds and wildlife in the city of Kirkland. Because of her actions, ELWAS is proud to name Lynda Becher Environmentalist of the Year. This award is made when we feel a citizen has taken an action to protect birds in our communities that deserves recognition. We congratulate Lynda for her persistence and success in preserving a little bit of the wild in the city.

Thank you ELWAS Volunteers!

By Jan McGruder

You all worked so hard to further the ELWAS mission this year, and we want to thank each and every one of you! We have over 115 volunteers, and we accomplished some wonderful things this year.

Ruth Adamski; Carmen Almodovar; Christy Anderson; Kathy Andrich; Bob Asanoma; Lyn Bailey; Cindy Balbuena; Kay Barrett; Brian Bell; Delores Billings; Melanie Bishop; Tim Boyer; Betty Branson; Roy Branson; Mary Britton-Simmons; Melinda Bronsdon; Patricia Clarke; Kate Conant; Tracey Cummings; Shelley Dahlgren; Laura Dahlstrom; Marge Dolecal; Bertha Eades; Glenn Eades; Therese Eby; Paula Flores; Parky Forrester; Brian Gershon; Jeani Goodrich; Tom Grismer; Karen Guy; Jim Hall; Shirlee Hall; Lou Ann Harris; Gerry Herber; Jo Herber; Janka Hobbs; Michael Hobbs; Mary Holt; Chris Houden; Robert Howson; Judy Hystad; Bev Jennings; Hugh Jennings; Paul Jensen; Jill Keeney; AJ Kishel; Carolyn Kishel; Trisha Kishel; Tina Klein-Lebbink; Lea Knapp; Debbie Larson; Margaret Lie; Jan Loux; Gary Luhm; Megan Lyden; Christie Madsen; Lynne Mason; MaryFrances Mathis; Corene McBeth; Jan McGruder; Tim McGruder; Amy McQuade; Jim McRoberts; Nancy Mendenhall; Joyce Meyer; Valerie Moore; Nancy Nicklas; Glenis Nielsen; Grace Oliver; Ollie Oliver; Susan Olson; Sharon Pagel; Warren Pagel; Jane Paige; Ron Paige; Juliana Pickrell; Keith Pickrell; Steve Pope; Ajay Ramachandran; Judy Rams; Mary Redmayne; Jan Rettig; Jim Rettig; Karen Ridlon; Steve Ridlon; Jim Roberts; Nancy Roberts; Tora Roksvog; Kirk Scarbrough; Bill Schmidt; Merry Schmidt; Lorraine Smith; Rich Smith; Lori Sorensen; Barbara Spargo; Cheryl Spink; Sidonia St. Germaine; Len Steiner; Martyn Stewart; Diane Stone; Kris Swanson; Diane Van Ingen; Pat Vernie; Irene Von Tobel; Sunny Walter; Diane Weinstein; Claudia Welsh; Mike West; Jim Wheeler; Emily Winstrom; Stan Wood; Peggy York.

Come help us celebrate our accomplishments at this year’s **Volunteer Dinner**. It’s scheduled for **Thursday, June 22 at 6:00 pm** in the sanctuary of the Northlake Unitarian Church. Invitations will be mailed to all the volunteers who have sent in their time.

If you haven’t turned in your time, your name may not be on this list, and we apologize. Please send your ELWAS volunteer hours to Warren Pagel at elwas-manage-volunteers@elwas.org, or call him at (425) 483-0980.

Hope to see many of you at the dinner!

Welcome to the New ELWAS Board of Directors

Have you met our Board of Directors? At the May membership meeting, ELWAS elected and installed a new Board. It's always exciting to have new people join us in helping make ELWAS a growing, dynamic organization, but it's also sad to see retiring members leave.

Those serving on the Board of Directors for the upcoming year are:

Christy Anderson, President
Amy McQuade, At Large Member
Sunny Walter, At Large Member
Tricia Kishel, At Large Member
MaryFrances Mathis, Birding Chair
Tim McGruder, Conservation Chair
Mary Britton-Simmons, Education Chair
Margaret Lie, Membership Chair

Welcome, and thank you for your dedication to ELWAS.

We also want to thank volunteers who served on the ELWAS Board over the past few years, but have moved on to other activities. With their help we have been able to expand our programs and reach more people in the community.

Diane Stone, Secretary
Tim Boyer, Treasurer
Ruth Adamski, Communications Chair
Martyn Stewart, Conservation Chair

And, of course, we always have some open positions! The Board is a dynamic, ever-changing group of people, and we welcome new volunteers. The Board's role is to give direction to the Chapter, and oversee all aspects of the work we do in the community.

Some of our current openings are:

Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications, and Financial Development.

Interested? Ideas? Call or e-mail Jan McGruder (425-822-8580; jan@elwas.org) or Christy Anderson (425-747-4196; president@elwas.org).



EagleEye
VISION CARE, P.S.

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

See the birds better!

Sarvey Wildlife Center Rebuilding Flight Pens

By Krista Rave-Perkins

The Sarvey Wildlife Center is in the process of rebuilding several of their flight pens for injured birds. The first one to be rebuilt is the Eagle flight pen, with the Red-tailed Hawk flight pen to follow. If you have some construction experience and would like to help out, or you would like to know more about the project, feel free to contact me at kkrp@verizon.net.

Or, if you would like to help out Sarvey in other ways, you can donate items that are on their wish list located at: www.sarveywildlife.org. Thank You!

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.

June 2 (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 **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.

June 3 (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 (preferred) or at 425-885-3842.**

June 8 (Thurs.) - 6:30 a.m 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. **Passenger cost/person \$13. Call Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422 to register.**

June 17 (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.**

June 20 (Tues) 8:00 am to 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**

June 24 (Sat) 7:00 am

Snoqualmie Pass, Hyak, Gold Creek, and Keechelus Ridge

Explore these mountain habitats as we hike in and out of backcountry areas looking for Blue Grouse, Hammond's and Willow Flycatchers, Townsend's Solitaire, Hermit and Varied Thrushes, Fox and Lincoln Sparrows, Red Crossbills, hummingbirds, finches, warblers, and more. We will be hiking some mountain trails so wear good walking boots/shoes. We will try to get to Commonwealth Basin (2.5 miles one way) and other places if there is time. Bring a lunch and liquids. Dress for the weather. Meet before 7:00 at the north end of Issaquah P&R to carpool. Passenger cost per person **\$7.00**.

Jim Rettig 425-402-1833.

June 26 (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 and plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person **\$2.00. Warren Jones 425-391-7409**

July 1 (Sat) 9am to noon

Marymoor BirdLoop Work Party See June 3.

July 7 (Fri) 8:00 am to noon — Marymoor Park

See June 2.

July 13 (Thurs) 6:00 am - Snoqualmie Pass Area

This will be a full day of birding. We will bird our way up to Snoqualmie Pass and Stampede Pass areas, stopping at several excellent birding locations. Woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, sparrows, and finches are possible. Bring a lunch and carpool from Issaquah P&R. Meet before 6:00 am at north end of the Issaquah P&R to carpool. Passenger cost/person **\$7.00**. **Brian Bell 425-485-8058**

July 15(Sat) 6:50 am - Whidbey Island

Take the ferry to Whidbey Island to check out several good places for waterfowl and shorebirds. Stops include Crockett Lake, Penn Cove, and Dugualla Bay. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch and ferry fare. Meet before 6:50 am at south end of Kingsgate Park N Ride. Return early evening. Passenger cost/person **\$10.00 plus share ferry costs.**

Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422

July 15 (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 trash bag, and binoculars. **Kay Barrett 425-644-2862.**

July 18 (Tues) 8:00 am to noon

Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

See June 20.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

July 24 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon — Birding the Hot Spots of King County See June 26.

July 29 (Sat) 7:30 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. We hope to see some early migrants heading back south. Meet before 7:30 am just south of the bus stop at the South Kirkland P&R. Passenger cost/person \$2.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

August 4 (Fri) 8:00 am to noon — Marymoor Park See June 2.

August 5 (Sat) 9am to noon — Marymoor BirdLoop Work Party See June 3.

August 12 (Sat) 6:30 am — Mt. Rainier National Park

Plan on a moderate hike of about 3 miles in search of Gray-crowned Rosy-finch, White-tailed Ptarmigan, American Pipits, and other birds of drier eastern mountain slopes. Other wildlife possibilities include pika, marmot, deer, and mountain goat. Bring Park Pass or entrance fee, food and fluids. Be prepared for any weather conditions. Meet before 6:30 am at north end of the Wilburton Park N Ride. Return early evening. Passenger cost/person \$6.00. **Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422 and Mike West.**

August 15 (Tues) 8:00 am to noon — Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk See June 20.

August 17 (Thurs) 6:00 am — Whidbey Island

Another opportunity to bird Whidbey Island during the southerly bird migration. Take the ferry to Whidbey Island to check out several good places for waterfowl and shorebirds. Stops include Crockett Lake, Penn Cove, and Dugualla Bay. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch and ferry fare. Meet before 6:00 am at south end of Kingsgate Park N Ride. Return early evening. Passenger cost/person \$10.00 plus share ferry costs. **Brian Bell 425-485-8058**

August 19 (Sat) 10:00 am — Bellefields Walk Through See June 17.

August 26 (Sat) 7:00 am — Grays Harbor Loop

We will visit many different habitats from city parks, marinas, beaches, and forests for a variety of waterfowl, gulls, terns, shorebirds and songbirds. This is an all-day trip so bring a lunch. We will stop at the Raymond Waterfront City Park, Tokeland Marina and shoreline, Westport harbor, Westhaven State Park and Bottle Beach. Meet before 7:00 am at north end of the Wilburton Park-n-Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. Passenger cost/person \$7.00. **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

August 28 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon — Birding the Hot Spots of King County See June 26.

**BIRD
of the
MONTH**

Rhinoceros Auklet
Cerorhinca monocerata

by Hugh Jennings



Photo by Gary Luhm

The Rhinoceros Auklet (RHAU) is about 15” long with a wingspan of 22” and weight of 1.1 lb. (520g). The genus name *Cerorhinca* (ser-oh-RING-cah) is from Greek *keras*, horn, and *rhynchos*, beak, or snout. The species name *monocerata* (mon-oh-seh-RAY-tah) is from Greek *monos*, one, and *keras*, horn, or one-horned in reference to the short “horn” at the base of the bill.

The RHAU is a chunky bird related to the puffins, but thinner with a distinctive bill shape and narrow wings. The bird is dark overall with a lighter colored belly. In summer, it has a large stout orange bill with a horn at its base and two white plumes on each side of the face. In winter, it doesn’t have a horn on the bill and the plumes are faint or absent.

They are a common summer resident in deep coastal waters off the northern Pacific coast. Boats often can approach them rather closely on the water. If too close they will dive and swim away underwater. They can stay underwater for up to two minutes. When taking flight, its takeoff may seem clumsy but it is a fast flier and may fly a long way to feeding areas every day. Thousands of RHAUs nest on Protection Island and large numbers are often seen at the entrance to Grays Harbor and on pelagic boat trips. They may feed close to shore where tidal currents cause a concentration of food. Its diet is mainly fish and crustaceans. In winter they may spend the night in coastal bays and fly out to sea for the day.

The nest is in a burrow in a slope covered with grass, shrubs and trees. The burrow is usually 8-10’ long, but can be 20’. There is only one white egg, spotted with brown or gray. Incubation takes 39-52 days and the young fledge 48-56 days later. Both parents feed the young, carrying fish in its bill to the nest. Their voice is repeated, high pitched groans or other calls.



CONSERVATION CORNER — How You Can Help Save our Rivers and Wildlife

By Jim Rettig

Conserve water in your home and yard.

Use water saving faucets, shower heads, toilets, and appliances. Do not over-water your lawn or garden. Get a rain gauge so you know how much you are watering. Or, better, use a drip irrigation system. Over-watering may cause leaching of fertilizers to ground water.

Landscaping wisely. Select plants and trees that don't need extra water. Go native! You save money on water, waste disposal (grass clippings are overloading our compost facilities), and chemicals. You save time by working with nature, rather than against it. Reduce the size of your lawn!

Protect riverside greenways. If you own river or stream front property, keep it in its natural state. Greenways provide wildlife habitat, aid in flood control, provide recreation areas, and are a natural filter for drinking water.

Keep soil and lawns chemical-free. Never pour unwanted chemicals on the ground. Soil cannot purify most chemicals, and they may contaminate runoff.

Build up your soil with compost and mulch. Organisms living in healthy soils protect plants from many diseases and insect pest problems. Chemicals often kill even the "good guys", the insects that are beneficial to plants and which provide food for local birds.

Clean up after your pets. Pet waste can contaminate surface water.

Maintain your septic system properly. Failed septic systems in the Hood Canal region are polluting Hood Canal. Have your septic system inspected annually, and pump out the tank regularly.

Use non-toxic products. Whenever possible, use non-toxic, environmentally-friendly products in your home and business. Always take care to dispose of these products safely.

Recycle used oil and antifreeze. Take these to service stations or other recycling centers. One quart of oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water.

Contact your county and local utility districts to learn about the benefits of good yard care and planting native plants. King and Snohomish counties and local water districts have much of value to say about these issues. Call them. King County Solid Waste Division: 206-296-4466; Local water utility: 206-684-SAVE.

Join groups that promote healthy ecosystems.

Check out these websites:

- National Audubon: www.Audubon.org; look for its project "Audubon at Home."
- American Rivers: www.AmericanRivers.org.
- Adopt-a-stream in Everett: www.streamkeepers.org.

Enjoy your summer!

ELWAS Partners with North Kirkland Community Center

By Mary Britton-Simmons

The Education Committee is working with personnel from the North Kirkland Community Center on two youth camps for this summer. On June 28, volunteers from ELWAS will spend the day with students from the Peter Kirk Camp. The day will begin with two slide presentations. Shirlee and Jim Hall will talk about the wetlands at Juanita Bay, and MaryFrances Mathis will give a presentation on the birds. Then, students will be transported to Juanita Bay Park for a nature walk with volunteers.

In early August, ELWAS volunteers will direct two days of the Trek, Tramp and Discover Camp, Kirkland's environment camp, the first week located at Juanita Beach Park and the second week at McAuliffe Park. At present, the Education Committee is finalizing plans for these two exciting days.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Mary Britton-Simmons (mbritton1@earthlink.net). If you have children or grandchildren who would like to attend, please look for the camps in the City of Kirkland Parks and Community Service spring/summer bulletin. Both camps will offer unique opportunities for elementary students.

Volunteers – We Need You!

By Jan McGruder

Nature Walk Coordinator — Currently, ELWAS has monthly nature walks at Juanita Bay Park and Marymoor Park. We would like to expand our walks to other parks on the Eastside. Each walk would be on a monthly basis, and some possible walk sites are Bellevue Botanical Garden and Lake Hills Greenbelt. The Nature Walk Coordinator will:

- ✓ Choose the walk dates
- ✓ Recruit volunteers to lead the walks
- ✓ Make sure the walks are publicized through our publicity resources

This position should take no more than 5 hours per month.

Member Welcome Committee Chair — Every month, ELWAS sends a Welcome Packet to each new member. Every new member is also a potential volunteer. The Welcome Committee Chair will be responsible for:

- ✓ Calling new members to extend a personal welcome
- ✓ Printing welcome letters and preparing welcome packets for mailing
- ✓ Printing renewal letters for local members

All welcome and renewal letters and mailing labels are automatically generated by our membership database, making it easy for anyone with some computer skills. This job should take no more than 2 hours per month.

Hospitality Chair

- ✓ Acts as “host or hostess” for ELWAS gatherings, especially Membership Meetings
- ✓ Plans and serves refreshments at Membership meetings and selected other ELWAS events
- ✓ Coordinates volunteers to provide refreshments for upcoming Membership Meetings

I estimate this job will take 5 hours per month;

Membership Meeting Greeter

- ✓ Attends and acts as greeter at nine Membership Meetings per year
- ✓ Sets up nametags and door prizes, and returns all to storage

I estimate this job will take 4 hours per month.

Bird Mount Caretaker

- ✓ Cleans the mounts and their cases, to keep them looking fresh

This only needs to be done twice a year and should only take a couple of hours each session – or 6 hours per year.

Movie Night Chair — Every other month, ELWAS hosts a Movie Night where films on birds or the environment are featured. There are several wonderful films from which to choose, and this is a great way to reach out to the larger Eastside community. The Movie Night Chair will be responsible for:

- ✓ Choosing the movies to show, and reserving the movies and room for that night
- ✓ Getting write-up to the newsletter and other publicity
- ✓ Hosting the movie showing on Movie Night

I estimate this job will take 6 hours per movie.

Distribute Cats Indoors Brochures

ELWAS, in partnership with several other organizations, published a Cats Indoors brochure last year. It is estimated that domestic cats kill thousands of songbirds per year, which is devastating to our feathered friends. The brochure also explains that indoor cats are more likely to live longer, healthier lives.

We have about 1,500 of the brochures in our offices, and we want to make sure that any cat adoption agencies, pet stores and vet offices on the Eastside who want these brochures have a constant supply.

We need someone to organize a network of recipients and check in with those recipients on a quarterly basis to see if they need more brochures. Organizing a network of recipients will take some time, but you may work at your own pace. Once a list of recipients is developed, I estimate this job will take about 5 hours per quarter.

If you'd like more information on any of these positions, and what would be expected of you, please 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. The birds will thank you!