



# The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 06-6— SEPTEMBER 2006

## Wild Wings: a Celebration of Northwest Birds, with a Focus on Owls and Woodpeckers

When: **Thursday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. (after the social hour)**

Where: **Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church**



We invite you to enjoy an evening with award winning photographer, Paul Bannick, who specializes in the natural history of North America, with a special focus on his beloved Pacific Northwest. An experienced naturalist and outdoor educator, Paul creates most of his images while kayaking, hiking, or snowshoeing. He combines his passion for wilderness conservation with his career, currently serving as Director of Development for Conservation Northwest, whose objective is to protect and connect the wild areas of the Pacific Northwest.

Tonight Paul will focus on the rich diversity of owls and woodpeckers that we are fortunate to have in the Pacific Northwest. Due to our great variety of habitats, 15 of the 19 owls and 13 of the 22 woodpeckers seen in North America can be found in the Pacific Northwest. Paul will share memorable images of most of these remarkable birds with us and look at their unique habitat requirements. His objective is to foster a sense of intimacy between the subject and the viewer with the ultimate goal of motivating conservation of habitat.

After graduation from the University of Washington, Paul worked successfully for 15 years in the computer software industry, beginning as one of the original 75 employees of the Aldus Corporation, and then for Adobe Systems, and Microsoft. A fourth generation Seattleite, Paul has spent most of his life in the Pacific Northwest studying and photographing our native flora and fauna. Paul is a significant photo contributor to Seattle Audubon's Birdnote program ([www.birdnote.org](http://www.birdnote.org)), Conservation Northwest, Seattle Audubon, and the North Cascades Institute. Recently, Paul and his photos were the subject of an article in the July 30 Seattle Times, *Pacific Northwest Magazine*. His photo of a Northern Hawk Owl accompanies this *Corvid Crier* article. More of Paul's photography can be found at [www.paulbannick.com](http://www.paulbannick.com).

Please join us **Thursday, September 28** for Paul's incredible woodpecker and owl images and his stimulating and informative discussion of habitat needs. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by Mr. Bannick's presentation.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who loves beautiful bird photography and will enjoy learning about the habitat needs of woodpeckers and owls.

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.*

**Property Fairness? Fair to Who?  
By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President**

November is bringing a vote on a measure promoted as fair to property owners; but Initiative 933 is a perfect example of trying to fix a perceived problem with a large sledgehammer. Similar to Measure 37 in Oregon, this initiative really amounts to a wholesale rollback of all environmental and other community regulations enacted over the past 10 years.

We are so fortunate to live here. Wonderful natural areas, recreation opportunities, jobs, food for our tables and quality of life is why most of us are here. Years of effort have been invested in land use plans to protect our communities. But most of these will be invalidated with one blow of that immense hammer. I-933 would allow property owners to seek payment for complying with the laws that regulate development--or be exempted.

ELWAS has joined the No on 933 Campaign, because this forced choice is a no-win for wildlife, farms, taxpayers and communities. Although I-933 is advertised as a way to protect farming and ensure governments don't "take" your property for private use by eminent domain, the initiative does not address this—and our state constitution already prohibits such practices!

I-933 is actually a more extreme version of Measure 37. Already in Oregon, over 2,200 claims have been filed for more than 3 billion dollars in compensation. Not surprisingly, in almost every case, zoning and environmental laws have simply been waived, allowing irresponsible development to proceed. Governments at all levels will find it virtually impossible to enforce any of their community protection laws unless it presents an "immediate threat" to humans, which remains undefined.

The initiative is presented as giving property owners "certainty" about how they will be allowed to use their land in the future, supposedly protecting property values. But what if your neighbor wants to open a gravel mine, or perhaps a big box store? What about your property values? Rural landowners in Oregon who initially supported the measure there now have regrets. They had no recourse as their neighbors filed multi-million dollar claims to build casino resorts or gravel mines on farmland. The rules protecting property owners from destructive or obnoxious land-uses next door would get thrown out the window.

I encourage you to learn all you can about the real ramifications of this initiative. Then work for its defeat. None of us need to be hit with the sledgehammer.

*"If what you want is no planning, I-933 will do it. If you want to surrender your local decision-making authority to a few ideologues back East, I-933 will do that too. But before you decide, take a look at some of the massive projects that are planned for Oregon communities that can no longer control their own destiny after Measure 37. And look closely at who is behind I-933 and what their real motives are. Then decide if this is really the way we should be making planning decisions that ultimately affect all of us forever."* Skagit Valley Herald Editorial – July 30, 2006

**East Lake Washington Audubon Society  
425 576 8805**

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P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115  
Web Site: <http://www.ELWAS.org>**

**Executive Officers**

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<b>Secretary</b>	Carmen Almodovar	(425) 643-5922 Carmena2001@earthlink.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Executive Director</b>	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580 jan@elwas.org

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

<u>At large board member</u>	Amy McQuade	(206) 523-6030 mcbdrwchr@aol.com
<u>At large board member</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>At large board member</u>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 fallforestflower@yahoo.com
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<b>Birdathon</b>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
<b>Gift Wrap</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Merchandising</b>	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@comcast.net
<u>Membership</u>	Margaret Lie	(425) 823-2686 margaretlie12@gmail.com
<b>Hospitality</b>	Claudia Welch	(425) 827/2548
<b>Volunteer Coordinator</b>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 fallforestflower@yahoo.com

## ELWAS Meetings September 2006

**September 6 (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)

**September 7 (Thurs) 6:00 pm—ELWAS Board**  
**Meets in the ELWAS Office.**

**September 12 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Youth Education Committee**  
**Meets in the ELWAS Office.** All interested parties are invited.  
Questions? Email [education@elwas.org](mailto:education@elwas.org)

**September 14 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Photo Group**  
**Meets in large room upstairs from ELWAS Office.** Questions?  
Email [Tim Boyer at tboyer@seanet.com](mailto:Tim Boyer at tboyer@seanet.com)

**September 28 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Monthly Meeting and Presentation** — See article on page 1.



## ELWAS Gershon Scholarship Awarded

Last spring, the scholarship set aside for a college student pursuing a career in an environmental field was awarded. Many of you have made contributions to this fund, and have been anxious to hear about the recipient.

ELWAS' Gershon scholarship of \$500 has helped **Stephanie Boyd**, a Bellevue Community College student whose ambition is to become a high school educator in environmental science or botany, to pursue her goals. Stephanie describes herself as passionate about science, plants, and how ecosystems function. She has been active in horticulture programs throughout her high school years and chose the topic of water pollution for her senior paper. She is very active in the outdoors and her community.

The Gershon Scholarship was established to honor Brian Gershon, a long-time ELWAS member and former Board member. Brian is passionate about educating people about their impact on the world and building a sustainable future. To ensure the continuation of this fund with your contribution, please contact the ELWAS office or send your check marked "Gershon Scholarship Fund."

We congratulate Stephanie on the scholarship and on her future plans. Thanks to all contributors!

## SPECIAL SUMMER THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

**Thank You . . .** to all the volunteers who put many hours in at Marymoor Park over the summer, cutting back the blackberries and pulling Scotch Broom along the BirdLoop. **Glenn Eades** for leading the work parties *every month* - and to **Christy Anderson, Patricia Clarke, Bertha Eades, Therese and Jim Eby, Ella Ellman, Kelly Graham, Ted Hart, Bev and Hugh Jennings, Gary Johnson, Linda Keaton, Megan Lyden, Glenis Nielsen, Susan Olson, Warren Pagel, Mary Redmayne, Jim Rettig, Jack Richins, Karen and Stephen Ridlon, Jim and Nancy Roberts, Sunny Walter, Claudia Welch and Stan Wood**; to **Barbara Dietrich, Tricia Kishel and Lea Knapp** for preparing the Summer Corvid Crier for mailing; to **Margaret Lie, Barbara Dietrich, Tricia Kishel and Claudia Welch** for preparing the Volunteer Dinner in June; to **Tom Grismer** for quietly and faithfully producing the *Corvid Crier* each month, and to the **Board of Directors and Committee Chairs** for leading others in furtherance of the ELWAS Mission.

If we've missed anyone – Thank You! You know who you are and by your own generous commitment, you set a wonderful example and demonstrate the power of individuals to effect significant change. ELWAS greatly appreciates your generosity and your leadership and we know that you are our most passionate promoters.

We cannot thank you enough for your invaluable contributions as a volunteer. Our goals for ELWAS require sincere and committed volunteers and we are grateful for the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication you bring to your role as an integral member of ELWAS.

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

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

# Volunteers – We Need You!

By Jan McGruder, ELWAS Director

**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.

**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.

**Website Volunteer** — ELWAS has a new website that uses a program that is user friendly and easy to maintain. We're still converting much of the old content to the new site, and are always adding more to what was initially there. Are you interested and available to help us out? If you're comfortable in using text editing programs (Word, etc.) and have some free time, we sure could use your help.

- ⇒ We can train you on your own schedule. With minimal training, you'll be off and running.
- ⇒ You can do large or small projects, be responsible for an area of the website, or chose to take on a short-term commitment – we'll be grateful for any help we can get.
- ⇒ If you have at least a DSL internet connection, you can do the work from the comfort of your own home.
- ⇒ If you need faster internet service than you have at home, we have 3 computer stations at the office.

**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.

**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** — We need someone to clean 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;

**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.

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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](mailto: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!

## Green Holiday – Get Involved in a Special Upcoming Event

by Cindy Balbuena, Merchandise Chair

In July, the ELWAS board approved a proposal to host its biggest holiday event ever! The evening of November 24<sup>th</sup> and all day November 25<sup>th</sup>, we'll take over the basement of the church to get the whole community involved and raise money for the chapter through merchandise and gift sales, raffles, and a bake sale. And there will be ample opportunity to show off ELWAS projects and recruit new members as well. If that wasn't enough, we'll also be celebrating ELWAS' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 24<sup>th</sup> with special appetizers, cake and speeches and history from chapter members.

We know too that we have lots of talented members and would like to offer you a chance to sell your locally made, nature-related wares at the event as well. If you have photographs, gift cards, or other gift items and would like to host a table at the event, please let us know. Submissions will be juried and selected based on the product and space available.

A task force has been meeting since August to launch the planning of the event. We know that to make it a success we'll need your help too! There are so many ways to get involved – helping with the kids' activity, soliciting donations, donating baked goods, assembling gift baskets, or volunteering at the event itself, just to name a few. We are also looking for a graphic designer to design the look and feel of the event for our signage and publicity. Let us know if you or someone you know could help with the graphics.

Please contact Cindy Balbuena (cbalbuena@comcast.net) to share your ideas and to get involved with the green holiday. We're excited and looking forward to a huge success and a lot of fun along the way! I hope to hear from you.

### Wetlands Book Seeks Photographers

By Michele Burton, Photographer

Photographers are currently being sought for a coffee table book project highlighting the diversity of wildlife and plant life in Seattle's Washington Park Arboretum wetlands. All proceeds for the project will benefit the Arboretum Foundation.

The Wild Within: Seattle's Arboretum Wetlands will showcase the birds, native plants and animals found in the wetlands area. The project will culminate in a coffee table book to be published in 2007.

We are looking for photographers interested in participating in the project. Photographers will be paid for images accepted for the book and will receive a finished copy of the book.

Specific things we are looking for:

- Vignettes of plants, birds and animals, especially ones showing a sense of place.
- Landscape scenes that could be used as scene setters
- Different times of day
- Anything unique to the place (except the freeway ramps!)
- Action or animals interacting with one another.

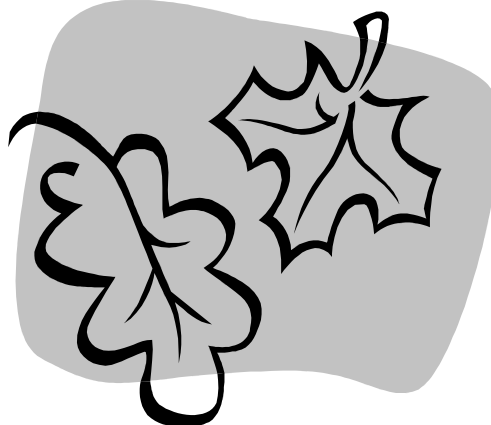
For more information, visit our website at [www.arboretumwetlands.com](http://www.arboretumwetlands.com), or contact Michele or Marc at [info@arboretumwetlands.com](mailto:info@arboretumwetlands.com).



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**See the birds better!**



## 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.

### September 1 (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 (Parking Lot D). No registration is required. To reach Marymoor Park, take SR 520 east from Seattle to the West Lake Sammamish Parkway exit and follow the signs. The entrance to the park is one block south of the exit. Turn right at third stop sign, to the Dog Area parking lot. Parking is \$1.

### September 2 (Sat) 9 am to noon

#### Marymoor BirdLoop Work Party

Join us the first Saturday of the month in restoring the native habitat at the Marymoor Park interpretive area. We'll also be building and installing the new kiosk, signs, and boardwalk. Dress for the weather and bring clippers and gloves. Also bring snacks and water. Park in lot G, Interpretive Trail parking lot, and follow the signs to the work parties. **RSVP Glenn or Bertha Eades at [geades@seanet.com](mailto:geades@seanet.com) (preferred) or at 425-885-3842.**

### September 10 (Sun) 7:30 am

#### Fir Island and Port Susan Bay

Migration should be in full swing, and we'll look for songbirds at the Skagit Game Range, and shorebirds and raptors at various access points on Fir Island and at Port Susan Bay. Last year at this time Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pacific and American Golden Plover, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Northern Waterthrush were found in these locations. Meet at Kingsgate P&R at 7:30am. Return by 5pm. **Passenger cost \$10.**

**MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026.**

### September 16, 2006 (Sat) – 5:30-8:30 pm

#### Vaux's Swifts in Monroe

This is an evening trip to Monroe to watch thousands of Vaux's Swifts do their evening ritual before dropping into a chimney to roost for the night. At this time of September they will probably start gathering a little before 7 p.m. They begin circling and swirling smoke-like around the chimney as the

numbers keep increasing. A few will start making feints at entering the chimney, then a few will start dropping down and gradually more and more go down until the sky is empty. We will meet at the south end of the Kingsgate P&R at 5:30 p.m. and carpool to Frank Wagner Middle School in Monroe. Passenger cost/person \$3.00. If you plan to go email Hugh Jennings at: [hughbirder@earthlink.net](mailto:hughbirder@earthlink.net) or call: 425-746-6351 so I can contact you in case of a change in plans due to weather or a change in the swifts' schedule.

### September 19 (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 **3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 8:00 (9:00**

**beginning in October)**. Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required.

**MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

### September 23 (Sat) 7:30 am

#### Spencer Island

Explore this wetlands 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; return mid-afternoon. Meet before 7:30 a.m. at south end of the Kingsgate Park & Ride.

**Passenger cost/person \$3.00.**

**Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422**

### September 25 (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 a.m. 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 6 (Fri) 9:00 am to noon (Time change) —

#### Marymoor Park

See September 1 entry. Note time change for winter months beginning in October.

### October 14 (Sat) 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. Specific areas include Livingston Bay, 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 a lunch and meet before 7:30 a.m. at south end of Kingsgate Park & Ride. Return late afternoon. **Passenger cost/person \$7.00.**

**Joyce Meyer 425-881-5422.**

**BIRD  
of the  
MONTH**

**Willet**

*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*

by Hugh Jennings



The Willet (WILL) is about 15” long with a wingspan of 26” and a weight of 8 oz. (215g). The genus name *Catoptrophorus* (cat-op-TROW-for-us) is from Greek *katoptron*, mirror, and *phoros*, bearing, in reference to the striking white pattern in its wings. The species name *semipalmatus* (sem-ih-pal-MAY-tus) is Latin for half-webbed in reference to the toes. “Willet” is from its cry “will-will-willet”. It is a large, heavy set bird with a striking black & white wing pattern seen in flight. The bold wing pattern may be a warning signal to other birds or may scare away predators during the parent’s dive-bombing defense of its young. Its size is similar to the Whimbrel, but is slightly smaller and its bill is straight, whereas the Whimbrel’s is longer and down-curved. In summer breeding plumage, the Willet is heavily mottled with a white belly and gray legs. In winter, the body is a pale gray-brown above and whitish below.

They are found in many habitats, from marshes, wet fields, ponds, lakes, estuaries and lagoons to rocky shores and are often found alone on beaches. The Willet does not breed in Washington state, but large numbers of Willets do nest in the Malheur NWR in Oregon. It is uncommon from July through April in Washington and is most often seen as a coastal winter resident. It walks in shallow water, mud and sand flats and feeds by probing for insects, crustaceans, mollusks, grasses and seeds. The Willet nests on coastal marshes in the East and prairie marshes in the West. The nest, a hollow lined with dry grasses and sedges, is built in open areas up to several hundred yards from water.

On the breeding grounds, Willets are very noisy, flashing white wing marks during aerial displays. They will sometimes perch on trees and fence posts to watch for intruders and sound alarm calls. There are usually four eggs, olive-colored with dark marks. Incubation takes 22-29 days. The female leaves its mate and the brood 2-3 weeks after her eggs hatch. The male attends the brood for two more weeks. They often wade up to belly-deep water and swim. The adults leave the breeding grounds before the young fledge. (The photo was taken by Gary Luhm).

**Wildlife Surveys Performed by ELWAS Birds in the Balance Committee**

The Birds in the Balance committee, under the direction of Len Steiner, has been conducting wildlife surveys, primarily birds, for a number of years. I expect most of the ELWAS members are not aware of the extent of this effort. These surveys are usually done once a month for one year. A letter is sent to the applicable agency, e.g., King County Parks, Washington State Park, Bellevue Parks, Redmond Parks, etc. If applicable, these letters include comments about what could be done to enhance or protect the habitat. The results of these surveys are available to anyone by emailing Hugh Jennings at: [hughbirder@earthlink.net](mailto:hughbirder@earthlink.net). A list of the vegetation in the area is also available for most of the surveys. (See page 9 for an example of how ELWAS surveys are useful in helping conserve habitat).

<u>Place</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Ardmore Park	2/02-1/03	McDonald's Wetland	10/02-7/03
Avondale Park	4/00-3/01	Medina	2/97-1/98
Bellevue Botanical Gardens	3/96-2/97	Mercer Slough	1/94-12/94
Carnation Golf Course	11/96-7/97	Newcastle Beach SP	3/95-2/96
Coal Creek GC at Newcastle	10/05-9/06	Ocean Shores	1/94-4/94 & 1/95-12/95
Farrel-McWhirter Park	11/93-12/94	Patterson Creek 17	1/98-12/98
Gold Creek Park	8/05-7/06	Preston Arboretum	11/01-10/02
GRNRA (Kent Pond)	1998-99-2000	Redmond Watershed	8/97-7/98
Group Heath Hospital	5/98-4/99	Section 36	2/96-1/97
Heronfield Park	7/00-3/01	Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Course	10/03-9/04
Hoquiam Ponds	3/95-12/95	Snoqualmie Valley	9/96-8/97
Idylwood Park	10/97-9/98	Spencer Island	10/95-12/96
Juanita Bay Park	5/97-4/98	Spencer Island	1997
Juanita Woodlands	7/02-6/03	Spencer Island	1998
Kirkland Watershed	8/00-7/01	Spiritridge Trail	10/94-8/95
Lake Hills Greenbelt (monthly)	1990-2006	St. Edwards SP	8/03-7/04
Lake Hills Greenbelt (weekly)	1997	Sycamore Creek	6/05-5/06
Lake Sammamish SP	7/96-6/97	Tam O'Shanter Park	3/02-2/03
Lattawood Park	5/99-4/00	Totem Lake	10/03-9/04
Marymoor Park	2/96-1/97	Weowna Park	8/99-7/00

## ELWAS FALL CLASSES

### GULLS OF WASHINGTON STATE with Kevin Aanerud

This is a course designed to encourage the study of the many species of gulls found in the Puget Sound region and demystify some of the complexities of gull identification. The first class will serve as an introduction and discuss adult plumages exclusively. The second class meeting will offer an approach to learning gull identification for immature gulls. It is the intent of this course not to offer detailed descriptions of each species for memorization, but rather to provide a good foundation which will make studying gulls easier. During the field trip we will visit a variety of local habitats habitually frequented by gulls.

**Class: Mondays, September 11 and 25, 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, September 30, 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 mornings. *Registration closes September 5.*

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### EARLY DUCKS OF AUTUMN with David Drummond

A two-session in-depth look at dabbling and diving ducks of the Northwest.

As the last yellows and reds of autumn leaf splendor fade, the brilliance of our wintering colorful dabbling and diving ducks take their place. The fascinating family of Anatidae is a wonderful and accessible group to study to hone your birding skills. We will focus on building skills in field identification of both genders and age groups, learning through form and ecological function, flight patterns, behavioral traits, micro-habitat associations, as well as biology. Classroom time will use lively lectures, handouts and superb slide images to bring this diverse group alive for you.

The local field trip will build your recognition confidence and provide further insights to the invaluable presence of ducks in the biodiversity of our region. Bring your lunch, binoculars and spotting scope (if you have one) for an avian adventure of discovery!

Instructor David Drummond is founder and President of the Merlin Falcon Foundation and a Research Wildlife Biologist and naturalist. David is known for his enthusiastic approach to bird identification and student assistance. He has more than 20 years experience as a guide, adventurer and instructor, and has taught ornithology at Olympic Park Institute and the North Cascades Institute.

**Class: Friday and Saturday, October 20-21, 2006:** Friday evening 6:30 – 9:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 - 11:30 AM, lecture and discussion. Class will meet at the Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Avenue, Kirkland. Class limited to 20 participants. Registration required.

**Field Trip: Saturday, October 21, 2006. 12:30 to 4:30 PM.** To be arranged at the class. Bring your lunch. No registration for the field trip only.

**Cost:** Lecture and field trip \$60.00 per person/ELWAS member, \$75.00 per non-ELWAS member. 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 mornings. *Registration closes October 17.*





## Book Review: Last Child in the Woods

By Mary Britton-Simmons, Education Committee

*Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv, a columnist for the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, is both a scholarly and a practical book that examines the ever-widening gulf between children and nature in today's society. Louv issues a wake-up call to parents, city planners, educators—to all of us concerned about the future well-being of our youth. He examines the rise in problems such as attention disorders, depression and obesity and links them to a lack of exposure to nature. And he asks who will be the future stewards of the environment if this trend continues.

Louv makes practical suggestions for reestablishing the link between children and nature. Of particular interest for East Lake Washington Audubon Society are his comments about birding. While the number of people involved in other wildlife viewing has recently decreased, the number of birders has grown. Louv suggests that "birding could be an especially wonderful way to experience nature." His book is a must-read for all those interested in children and our environment.

## BYLAWS REVISIONS

In the Spring a small committee got together and made some changes to the Bylaws. The Board voted to adopt these changes, and at the September Membership Meeting, the membership will have a chance to vote.

There are big and small changes in the new Bylaws. Some of them are meant to clarify the Bylaws, and some of the amendments are big changes for the Chapter.

One of the major changes is that we will change our "fiscal year" from July 1 to June 30, to a calendar year of January 1 to December 31. For accounting purposes, having a mid-year year end has created more work than necessary. We currently track our profit and loss starting in July, but we also track some finances on the January/December year. Changing to a calendar year will also make it easier for the Board to track our finances based on one set of parameters.

As a further incentive to change our "year", with the growth of the Chapter and a broader membership, there are more activities year round and not the historic summer break. Our Annual Dinner and installation of new Board members will be in January – instead of Spring, when everyone is busy with birding and other activities.

Below is a synopsis of the amendments. You may read the complete amended Bylaws on our website.

In Article I, Sections 2, 3 and 5, we have clarified the difference between National Audubon and local memberships, and who determines the dues for each membership, and the criteria for membership.

In Article III, the Board Election will be held in November and the Annual Meeting will be in January.

In Article IV, the Board term of office has been changed from three years to two years, and the election cycle has been amended to reflect this change.

In Article VI, Section 5, we have added: More detailed job descriptions may be found in the Leadership Guide given to each Committee Chair. Likewise, job descriptions for Committee Chairs have been stricken from the Bylaws, and included in the Leadership Guides.

Article VII. The fiscal year has been changed from July 1 to June 30, to January 1 to December 31.

Article IX, Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall present a report of new Board Member nominees to the Membership in September, the slate will be published in the October newsletter, and the election shall be in November.



Dr. Kerri W. Scarbrough, Optometrist  
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(425) 398-1862

**See the birds better!**

### ELWAS Wildlife Survey Used to Protect Issaquah Habitat

The impact ELWAS wildlife surveys (see article on page 7) can have is illustrated by the following email, received on 8/9/06, from Margaret Macleod, Issaquah Parks Planner, in response to the survey report on Sycamore Creek: "I wanted to thank you for the bird survey for the Sycamore area. It came right at the right time because I was able to use the information in a grant application and presentation for an acquisition project that the City is working on just downstream from the Sycamore/South Issaquah Creek Greenway area. Any additional or subsequent information that you/Audubon generate, I would truly appreciate receiving a copy."

Issaquah Parks received a \$25,000 grant for phase two of the Sycamore Restoration Project, designed to improve aquatic and riparian habitat in Issaquah Creek.