



The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ISSUE 06-7—OCTOBER 2006

A Birder's Mapquest

When: Thursday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m. (after the social hour)

Where: Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church

Robert Howson, a member of our local ELWAS chapter, is back by popular demand with another of his unique bird identification programs. The challenge facing eighteenth and nineteenth century naturalists in North America was an intimidating one. Not only did they have a new world to explore but the act of discovery also carried with it the daunting task of naming their new-found discoveries. Today, the names they selected reflect their varied approach to the task. Some, with an accurate eye for detail, gave us anatomical clues as to what future generations should look for. A black colored bird with red on the wing might be concisely described as a Red-winged Blackbird. Others, with a social outlook on life, might attach their own name or the name of a friend as part of the newly formed moniker - part of the right of discovery. This wasn't especially helpful in forming a picture of the bird, but it did seek to honor those who contributed to our growing understanding of our national avifauna.

The third approach is one which our October meeting will focus upon -- birds which for one reason or another were named on a geographical basis. Our American Robin would fall into this category. European colonists to the New World were reminded of their home-town favorite which also sported a red breast, so obligingly utilized a familiar name. Robert will present a multimedia look at North American bird species whose naming followed the "I found it here first, so that's what we'll call it rule." The result has led to more than some confusion, but many of these names have been revised to prevent further misunderstanding. Join us as we look at birds named after mountains, valleys, rivers, and other regional terminology that will take us all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Robert Howson grew up in Northern California where he started birding early - even participating in the Point Reyes Christmas count when he was only 12 years old. He graduated with a triple major in history, religion, and biology; earned a Masters degree in history, and completed his Doctoral work except for his dissertation. Robert has taught elementary, high school, and college and is currently chairman of the history department at Cedar Park Christian School in Bothell.

Please join us **Thursday, October 26** for Robert's challenging program on identifying birds named on a geographical basis. Come at 6:30 for the social hour. Enjoy a brief monthly meeting and refreshments from 7:00 to 7:45, followed by Robert's presentation.

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who is interested in learning more about "birds and geography."

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



Fall is a fantastic time to see the birds! Check out our exciting class offerings on page 10. It's an opportunity you won't want to DUCK!

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.*

Homegrown Clean Energy
By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President

Energy utilities in Washington have long been pursuing renewable energy sources. Some of you may have checked the little box on your utility bill to support “green power.” Now, a state-wide initiative may encourage even more renewable energy sources and conservation measures. I-937 secured enough signatures to appear on our ballots in November. It will require the largest electric utilities to get 15% of their electricity from new renewable energy by 2020. Utilities will also be required to pursue low-cost energy conservation opportunities for their customers.

There has been a lot of talk in the press in recent years about new energy sources and gee-whiz technologies, but very little about conservation, even though efforts in this direction have covered nearly two-fifths of the region’s electricity demand. Even in press coverage of I-937, this component is often overlooked, but it is included in the initiative.

Current energy resources cannot keep pace with the growth of Washington's population and businesses. Unfortunately, many of our utilities are now looking to coal and other fossil fuels to meet the growing demand. Much of the new sources of energy spurred by I-937 will probably come from wind farms.

Puget Sound Energy says they'll have no problem complying with the new initiative. The Washington Public Utility Districts Association supports I-937, and worked with the initiative backers on the measure's language.

Another group who worked extensively on the initiative’s language is Audubon Washington. There have been some notorious cases of wind turbines having a high mortality rate on birds, particularly those sited in migratory routes. Altamont Pass in California is the poster child for a poorly located wind farm. Language in the initiative states that wind turbines must be appropriately sited, and that would include considerations for impacts on birds. Modern wind projects in the Northwest, are designed to avoid negative impacts on birds and are doing so successfully. Tubular towers, larger, slower-turning turbines and better placement of the towers have minimized impacts on bird populations.

According to an article in the Seattle Times on May 9, the measure would not dramatically increase energy costs because it contains an escape clause that would let utilities get a waiver if their costs rose more than 4 percent because of the initiative's requirements.

This is not a totally off-the-wall proposal. Twenty-three other states already have similar laws on their books, including – are you ready? – TEXAS!

Hey, if big-oil Texas can pursue green energy, we can, too! I encourage you to vote yes on I-937 in November for this win-win initiative.

East Lake Washington Audubon Society
425 576 8805

308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)
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Web Site: <http://www.ELWAS.org>

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<u>Membership</u>	Margaret Lie	(425) 823-2686 margaretlie12@gmail.com
Hospitality	Claudia Welch	(425) 827/2548
Volunteer Coordinator	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 fallforestflower@yahoo.com

ELWAS Meetings October 2006

October 4 (Weds) 6:00 pm — Web Committee

Meets first Wednesday of each month in the ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email Nancy Nicklas at webmaster@elwas.org

October 5 (Thurs) 6:00 pm—ELWAS Board

Meets in the ELWAS Office.

October 10 (Tues) 7:00 pm — Youth Education Committee

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

October 12 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Photo Group

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

October 26 (Thurs) 7:00 pm — Monthly Meeting and Presentation — See article on page 1.

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.

Susan Alexander	Beth Anderson	Francis P. Belits
P. Berndt	Catherine Botch	Richard Bryant
Elizabeth J. Bryer	Donal Buckner	Norma J. Bush
Billie E. Cairns	Linda A. Carroll	Marilyn K. Chandler
D. A. Cooney	Sue Coulson	Charlotte M. Cowling
William W. Freeman	Karen Gardiner	Paula Gmahl
Gail Goldberg	Donald E. Good	Barb Graff
Jean W. Green	J. Harris	Tanya Hill
Renee Huizenga	Marjorie Jones	Leonard Kahn
W.M. Lawson	Lynda Littlefield	Wendy Malmgren
Todd D. Marks	Teri Martin	Julie Mascavage
Robert F. McMurtrie	Jennifer Miller	Kathleen Nelson
Robin Paster	Bobby and Curtis Pearson	Aleen Pocock
Andrea Pollett	Linda Pope	Rahul Prasad
Sharon Prescutti	Brighton Ratsch	Harriett L. Rosenblatt
Margo C. Rossano	Thelma Rule	Jerry Ruthruff
Lisa Schwartz	Mary Shevlin	Mary Starr
Rachel Stasney	Donald Sutherland	Alaine Tibbetts
Naomi Uchida	Sue Wagner	Vincent Wallace
Cynthia Wayburn	Duane White	Patricia Wilson
Jack N. Woo	Patricia Woolsey	Phyllis E. Wulf
Marian Zak		

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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 **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

Get Involved with Nature's Holiday Market

By Cindy Balbuena, Merchandise Chair



ELWAS will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in a big way this fall with a party and sales event Thanksgiving weekend, November 24th and 25th. Our "Nature's Holiday Market" will feature an extended selection of merchandise and gift items, kids activities, raffles, a bake sale, lunch, and more! The event is also designed to give us more exposure to the community and attract new members.

We are also offering our members a chance to have their own table at the event to sell their own nature-related products or hand-made gift items such as cards, ornaments, etc. Requests will be granted based on the product and space available. Please contact Jan McGruder or me for more information.

For this event to be a success, and to raise money for the chapter, we need your help - and you don't even need to be in town that weekend for many of the activities. The list of ways to get involved is long – choose one or two . . . or more!

Publicity

- Post fliers in eastside locations you frequent
- Distribute fliers at local grocery stores
- Put an article in your company's newsletter, or ask about posting a flier at your workplace or local businesses. We'll supply the article and fliers.

Fund Raising

- Ask your employer, or local vendors you have relationships with, for a donation to raffle or use in a silent auction.
- Offer an experience for us to raffle or use in a silent auction. For example, do you have a vacation place you could donate for a weekend? Or are you an expert birder who would be willing to offer a one-on-one birding session? Do you have season tickets to a sporting event or cultural event that you can't use one day and would be willing to donate the tickets?
- Bake cookies, cakes, or other goodies for our bake sale

Merchandising

- Help with set up (and/or clean up) of tables, merchandise and signage
- Help assemble gift baskets for sale and raffle
- Put together birdhouses or suet feeders for sale at the event.
- Write a product review for one of your favorite items (field guide, feeder, etc) that we will carry at the event.
- Serve as a greeter, cashier, floater, or food server at the event
- Pick up merchandise/supplies from distributors prior to the event

We are excited about this event. It should be both fun and rewarding. If interested in helping out, or for more details, please contact me at cbalbuena@comcast.net or (425) 260-3010.

Thank You Volunteers!

By Tricia Kishel, ELWAS Volunteer Coordinator

Thank You to all the volunteers who put many hours in at Marymoor Park in August helping to further all the great plans for the Bird Loop. Thanks again to **Glenn Eades** for leading the work parties every month and to **Shelley Dahlgren, Sunny Walter, Nancy and Jim Roberts, Stephen and Karen Ridlon, Jim Rettig, Caren Park, Glenis Nielsen, Hugh and Bev Jennings, Mary Holt, Michael Hobbs, Therese Eby, Patricia Clarke, and Christy Anderson** for showing up in August to help. Thanks to those of you who helped get the September mailing out: **Lea Knapp, Karen Guy, Kay Barrett, Kris Swanson, Mary Redmayne, Peggy Jorgensen, and Patricia Clarke**. Thanks to **Cindy Balbuena** for heading up the Nature's Holiday Market task force and to those who are working on the task force: **Bev and Hugh Jennings, Margaret Lie, Tricia Kishel, and Christy Anderson**. Thanks to **Claudia Welch and Carolyn Kishel** for working on the ELWAS Library -- now go check out some books. And thanks to **Nancy Nicklas and Paula Flores** for their hard work on the new ELWAS website over the summer -- don't forget to check it out.

"One is not born into the world to do everything but to do something.."

---Henry David Thoreau, poet, writer, philosopher

Support ELWAS

with

!!!!NEW, EASY PCC SCRIP PROGRAM!!!!

RECHARGEABLE CARDS

Will be available for sale at the October 26 membership meeting!

Now there will be an EASIER way to shop at PCC and support ELWAS at the same time!

PCC has started a new program using rechargeable scrip cards. Cards come initially loaded with \$25 and can be used at any PCC store like gift cards.

How do supporters use their scrip cards?

Your card will come loaded with \$25. Cards may be recharged with a minimum of \$50 and a maximum of \$500 paid for by credit card, debit card or cash, at any PCC checkstand at any time.

Can supporters check their scrip balances?

Yes, you can ask for your balance at any PCC checkstand or online at www.pccnaturalmarkets.com/scrip.

How are scrip funds distributed?

Each time you recharge your card, ELWAS automatically earns 5% of the amount you applied to it. Each card is numbered so funds can be tracked and distributed. Funds will be paid to ELWAS twice a year (January and June.)

Can scrip cards be redeemed for cash?

Scrip cards or key tags may only be redeemed for cash when the value falls below \$5.

What happens if a card is lost or stolen?

PCC is not responsible for lost or stolen cards. The cards should be treated like cash.

Rechargeable scrip cards will be available for sale at the October 26 membership meeting and are available at the ELWAS office during regular office hours

If you have questions, please contact Megan Lyden (425) 603-1548 or meganlyden@msn.com



Volunteers – We Need You!

By Jan McGruder, ELWAS Director

Hospitality Co-Chair

There is a lot of preparation that occurs on Membership Meeting nights, not the least of which is preparing the refreshments. Claudia Welch has volunteered to act as Hospitality Chair, but would like someone to share the duties.

On Membership Meeting night, the duties include recruiting volunteers to bring cookies, purchasing juices and hot drink condiments, making coffee and arranging cups and refreshments for those in attendance, and cleaning up the kitchen during or after the meetings. You would need to be at the office at approximately 5:30 on Membership Meeting night, and you may be there until 9:30 that evening.

The Hospitality Chair also assists in the Christmas Bird Count Dinner and the Annual Dinner.

Holiday Gift Wrap Chair

The Holiday Gift Wrap is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. Nancy Roberts was the most recent organizer of this event, but she has moved on to other activities.

ELWAS volunteers wrap gifts at REI during the two weeks preceding Christmas, and we need someone to head up this event.

The Chair will:

- Coordinate dates, set up and materials with REI employees
- Work with Tricia Kishel to recruit volunteers
- Set up tables and supplies at REI, and organize work stations for volunteers
- Make sure all volunteers are trained and prepared for their shift
- Collect funds at the end of each day and return to ELWAS offices
- At end of event, pick up all materials and supplies, and stow at ELWAS offices

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.

Window Washer

The windows in the ELWAS offices are in need of washing. It would take you about an hour to wash the windows inside and out. To wash them inside, you'll need to use a tall step ladder (provided), but from the outside you'll be at ground level. We have plenty of supplies at the office, and it can be done at your convenience.

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 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 choose 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 greets guests 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

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!

Be a Good Neighbor!

Take a Friend to an ELWAS Bird Class or Field Trip.

Check out the Classes on Page 10.

Field Trips on Page 8.



EagleEye
VISION CARE, P.S.

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

See the birds better!

ALASKA Conservation Series Presented by Alaska Coalition of Washington

What: While the battle over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is on America's collective radar screen, several large scale projects in Alaska, such as oil and gas, gold mine, and timber, are threatening the incredibly productive **Bristol Bay** salmon fishery (\$350 million), and the beautiful roadless wildlands of the **Tongass and Chugach** temperate rainforests.

Learn what is at stake and by attending the following presentations:

October 12 Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay -- Slide show presentation on 450-mile journey through the proposed Pebble Gold Mine site - the largest proposed open pit mine in North America - at the headwaters of two of the richest salmon spawning rivers in the world.

November 9 Tongass and Chugach National Forests -- Beautiful, lush, and remote, the Alaska rainforest between the communities of Ketchikan and Kodiak comprise the world's largest remaining intact expanse of coastal temperate rainforest. Commercial fishing and tourism are mainstays of the local economy and the bounty of the land and sea feeds most rural families who live a traditional subsistence way of life.

Where: The Mountaineers Building, 300 Third Ave W. Seattle
When: 6:30 PM

For more information and a listing of presenters please visit www.mountaineers.org/conservation/ or call 206-284-6310.

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's field trips.

Meeting Places for Field Trips:

- **Issaquah Park and Ride:** I-90, exit 15, turn right (south) go to 2nd or 3rd light, then left into P&R lot.
- **Kingsgate Park and Ride:** I-405 exit 20B northbound or 20 southbound, N. E. 124th St. Go west to light at 116th Ave. N. E., then right (north) a few blocks to P&R lot (on the left). Meet in the S.E. corner.
- **Newport Hills Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 9
- **South Kirkland Park and Ride:** 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way.
- **Wilburton Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 12.

October 6 (Fri) 9:00 am to noon ****Note later start time for Fall/Winter walks****

Marymoor Park

Join us for a morning walk along the nature trail, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **1st Friday of each month at 9:00.** Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot (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.

October 7 (Sat) 9:00 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 (preferred) or at 425-885-3842.**

October 14 (Sat) 7:00 am

Point No Point and Marrowstone Island

Stops will include Point No Point, Indian Island, Mystery Bay, and Fort Flagler. Our targets will be shorebirds, Alcids (Marbled and Ancient Murrelets), gulls, and other ducks and seabirds, along with wintering passerines. Bring lunch, ferry money, and dress for the weather. Scopes a plus. Meet at the Kingsgate P&R by 7am to catch the 7:55 ferry from Edmonds. Return by 5pm. Passenger cost **\$7.00 + ferry.** **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

October 17 (Tues) 9:00 am to noon ****Note later start time for Fall/Winter walks****

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 9:00.** Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

October 21 (Sat) 7:30 am (Note-the date has changed from Oct. 14 as shown in the Sept. CC.)

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 425-881-5422.**

October 23 (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 28 (Sat) 8:00 am

Purdy & Key Peninsula

Expect lots of saltwater waterfowl, cormorants and Great Blue Herons in the South Sound bays. We visit three state parks during the day, so if you have State Parks pass bring it with you. We will eat lunch at Joemma State Park. We will include Snake Lake in Tacoma if time permits. Meet before 8:00 a.m. at north end of Newport Hills P&R (I-405, exit 9) and bring a lunch. Passenger cost/person **\$8.00.** **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

November 2 (Thurs) 7:00 am

Marrowstone Island

This full day trip will be particularly looking for loons, grebes, alcids, waterfowl and lingering shorebirds. We will stop at a couple of places on the way, and then work Marrowstone over thoroughly paying attention to forest passerines along the way. Bring scopes, lunch, money for trip and ferry. It's always good to dress for the weather. Return late afternoon. Meet at southern end of Kingsgate P&R to carpool. Passenger cost/person **\$10, plus ferry share.** **Brian Bell 425-485-8058**

BIRD of the MONTH

White-tailed Kite

Elanus leucurus

by Hugh Jennings



The White-tailed Kite (WTKI) is about 15” long with a wingspan of 39” and a weight of 12 oz. (340g). The genus name *Elanus* (EL-an-us) is Latin from the Greek *elanos*, kite, and *elauno*, to drive. The species name *leucurus* (lew-CUE-rus) is Latin from the Greek *leukos*, white, and *oura*, tail.

As recently as the 1940s this hawk was considered rare and endangered in North America, being restricted to a few places in California and Texas. Since then its numbers have greatly increased and spread into many new areas, including Washington where they are uncommon in the southwestern area of the state from mid-September to mid-May. Two of the best sites are the Raymond Airport (where the photo was taken by Ollie Oliver) and Julia Butler Hansen NWR. A most recent sighting was along Foster Road, west of Elma, on an ELWAS field trip on Aug. 26, 2006. They are usually found in open groves, river valleys, marshes and grasslands.

Their habitat preference seems to be trees for perching and nesting and open ground with large populations of rodents. The WTKI feeds on small rodents, especially voles, by hovering in open country and diving on the prey feet-first.

It was formerly known as a “Black-shouldered Kite,” but its most striking feature is its *whiteness*. When seen at a distance it appears almost totally white. Perched, the adult has a gray back, white belly, and black shoulders. In flight it is light gray above with black shoulders on its inner wing. It is white from below, with black wing tips and black wrist patches on the underside of pointed wings.

For a raptor the WTKI has an uncommonly graceful and buoyant flight. They are usually quiet, but may give repeated short “keep keep keep” calls, or a longer “kree-eek” given as an alarm call. The pair builds a bulky stick platform nest high in a tree lined with grass, weeds and other soft vegetation. The female incubates 3-6 eggs, white with dark marks. Incubation is 26-32 days and the young fledge after 33-37 days. They sometimes have two broods.

Summer with the Education Committee

By Mary Britton-Simmons

The Education Committee partnered with the Kirkland Parks and Recreation Department and participated in the Peter Kirk Camp in June and the Trek, Tramp and Discover Camp in August. For each camp, we were in charge of one day of activities for the campers.

For children in the Trek, Tramp and Discover Camp, the day began at Forbes House with a slide presentation on the flora and fauna of Juanita Bay. After the presentation, campers practiced using our newly purchased children’s binoculars (compliments of an anonymous donor). Then, it was off to Juanita Bay—stopping along the causeway to view the beaver dam. Students were even lucky enough to discover a Virginia Rail and young near one of the viewing stands on the bay. After lunch, a story about birds’ beaks captivated the campers and prepared them for the afternoon activity.

Back at Juanita Beach, committee members used ELWAS mounts to teach the campers about beaks and the food birds eat. For a finale, campers made wooden feeders for their backyards. At the end of a busy day, they left with a sack full of goodies: seed for their feeders, a bird bookmark (compliments of Jim Hall), a letter to their parents/guardians explaining how to make their backyards bird friendly and of course, publicity on ELWAS.

The reviews from students and Kirkland staff are in: The day was a great success for all involved. We hope to continue our partnership with the Kirkland Parks and Recreation Department and participate in more events in the future.

Thanks for such a special day go to the members of the Education Committee: Sharon Pagel, Shirlee and Jim Hall, Margaret Lie, Tora Roksvog; Jeani Goodrich, Nancy Mendenhall and Jill Keeney.

ELWAS FALL CLASSES

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.*

BIRDING BY HABITAT with Brian Bell, Master Birder

This is a 2 session class to introduce you to the habitats of Washington and the birds associated with them. Too often we go out birding looking for some interesting birds without being aware of the habitats that they prefer. Knowing what birds are likely to be found in a particular habitat will increase your enjoyment of birding. We'll look at each habitat type and its major trees and plants. What does the overall habitat look like and how can you tell which vegetation type is present? We'll also sample some of the typical birds found in each habitat.

Class: Friday, November 10 and 17, 7:00 to 9:15 PM at the Northlake Unitarian Church, 308 Fourth Avenue, Kirkland. There is no field trip with this class.

Cost: \$60/ELWAS Member, \$75/Non-member

Registration required. Call the ELWAS office at (425) 576-8805 to register. Registration closes on Tuesday, November 7, 2006.

CONSERVATION CORNER — Eating as an Agricultural and Spiritual Act

By Jim Rettig



Dr. Carol Robb is Professor of Christian Ethics at San Francisco Theological Seminary, a school from which I graduated many years ago. In a recent issue of that institution's magazine, she wrote an article using the title above. I thought the article so appropriate that I want to share the gist of it with you. The words below are mostly her words, although I avoided using quotation marks.

Many people want to have integrity in their food choices and be intentional about whether to participate in the US food system. Such intentionality emerges from a belief that as God is fully present in the earth, God is also fully present in the plants and animals whose lives we take for our own sustenance. Food is, therefore, an occasion for spiritual practices. The Christian practice of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ties the act of eating to an intention for freedom. In the Jewish celebration of the Passover Meal, Jews remember that God gave the gift of food to the Israelites fleeing the slavery of Egypt. Carol Robb suggests that other everyday practices regarding food are worthy of intention and discipline.

She quotes Wendell Berry, poet, essayist, and farmer, as saying, "Eating is an agricultural act." This means that what we eat influences agricultural practices: what crops are grown, where they are grown, how they are grown, who grows them, how they are distributed, packaged, sold. The big issue behind all of these questions is: Are our agricultural practices good for the earth? So she invites readers to consider four different agricultural acts, and a spiritual discipline that might accompany each act.

Act One: Plant an apple tree. When it begins to produce, pick and eat an apple. After the initial investment in the tree itself, you do not exchange money to eat apples. In time, you will have far more apples than you can eat, which gives you the opportunity to share the harvest with neighbors and deepen the ties of community. **Spiritual Practice:** Nourish the apple tree with compost you generate in your kitchen. This feeds the tree after it has fed you. And you decrease the amount of garbage you send to the landfill. In this practice you act as a good steward of the environment.

Act Two: Go to the grocery store and buy some apples. This act will put you squarely in the middle of conventional agriculture or agribusiness, where good food is not the main point. Here the main point is business, food becomes a commodity, and all components necessary for growing food (soil, seeds, water, labor, tractors, pesticides, petroleum, fertilizers) figure into profitability. Carol notes that refrigerating, transporting, and storing food uses eight times as much energy as is provided in the food itself! **Spiritual Practice:** Identify 10 staples that you use routinely and, reading the labels, find out where they come from. Add the miles for all 10 items, then divide by 10 to get the average number of miles traveled. Compare your average to the global average of 1500 miles. Every month, try to reduce your average until it reaches the radius of your regional food shed, the region around the place where you live. This practice, says Carol, may provide an opening to the spirit of God's presence for you to understand and think about the structures of our modern global food system.

Act Three: Drive to your local natural or organic food store and check out where the apples are grown. Buying organically grown apples supports a network of organic growers. Organic farming regenerates the soil, a living community with bacteria, bugs, worms, and molds inside it, along with leaf matter, bits of twigs, some rocks and sand. All this improves the nutritional value of food, improves human health, protects the health of farm workers, and protects the local environment, watersheds, wild lands, and animals by reducing or eliminating fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. **Spiritual Practice:** Ask why you are purchasing organically grown food. Is it only because you want to reduce the pesticide load in your own body? Or are you also interested in practices that protect the health of farm workers and assure fair labor standards? Does the produce manager know about the labor conditions of the producers who supply his store? This practice may provide an opening to the spirit of God speaking to you intrapersonally about personal health, environmental stewardship, and social justice issues.

Act Four: Once each week drive or ride your bike to your local farmers' market and buy some apples. The money you pay for apples (or other products you may purchase) goes to someone who lives locally and who will use that money to pay for something else in this region (i.e., their own labor or the farm workers' labor). Your money will contribute to your own local economy. **Spiritual Practice:** Get to know your farmer. Tell him or her how good the apples taste; this becomes an occasion for a relationship. Expand your food choices for what is seasonal. Use the food available from the farmers' market to mark the different seasons! Carol says this practice may provide an opening to the spirit of God speaking interpersonally through the voice of another.

Engaging in such practices may help us all live more lightly on the land. And Mother Earth will thank us for it! (If anyone is interested in reading the full article, two pages long, I'll be glad to send a copy.)

Support Birds and Habitat. Vote NO on I-933.

Submitted by Dana Kiehl, Audubon WA Intern

- **A power plant and pumice mine in a national volcanic monument.**
- **Potential park land converted to a 350-lot subdivision.**
- **Gravel mining in wine country.**
- **Tree farms becoming enormous housing developments**
- **Orchards as golf courses.**

Audubon Washington is working to protect Washington taxpayers from the threat to environmental and community protections that Initiative 933 would create. Washington birds depend on diverse ecosystems for feeding and nesting. Initiative 933 would threaten these ecosystems by creating loopholes, allowing irresponsible developers to pave wetlands and build subdivisions on forests and farmlands.

I-933 turns back the clock on environmental protections by creating a “pay or waive” system. This “pay or waive” system forces taxpayers to either shell out potentially billions of dollars to make people follow laws that are already on the books, or those protections must be waived.

Even before local communities are forced to waive laws for special interests, rules created by I-933 will cost hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars just to administer. Initiative 933 also mandates that taxpayers must pay for claimants' attorneys' fees.

Initiative 933 would be retroactive and roll back community and environmental protections at least 10 years and potentially further, allowing for the destruction of habitat at an alarming rate.

Farmers want to stop 933.

Farmland provides valuable habitat for many bird species, including Trumpeter Swans. The NO on 933 campaign continues to gain support in the farming community. Western Washington Agricultural Association has joined the United Farm Workers, Tilth Producers of Washington, Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland and many other family farmers in endorsing the NO on 933 campaign.

Initiative 933 would open up land for development that is currently protected for agriculture. Farmers don't want to have to compete with irresponsible developers for land to grow crops. This would make it more costly and more difficult to stay in business.

As the *Skagit Valley Herald* puts it in a recent editorial, if Initiative 933 passes... “you can kiss farming good-bye in Skagit County.”

Oregon has seen farmland come under attack from its similar, but less extreme, Measure 37. So far there have been more than 2,800 Measure 37 claims, for over \$3.8 billion dollars. Sadly, over 1,100 of those claims are for changes to more than 80,000 acres of farmland.

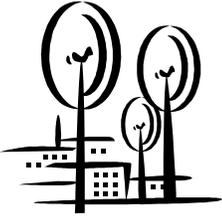
Growing NO on 933 Coalition

Audubon Washington has helped to grow the NO on 933 coalition and communicate with people who care about Washington. The diverse and growing coalition of organizations and individuals across Washington state includes the Washington State Council of Fire Fighters, League of Women Voters, American Lung Association of Washington, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Washington Environmental Council, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and many more. The entire list is available on the campaign website www.NOon933.org. These groups share the common thread of wanting to preserve the rights of communities and our quality of life by defeating this costly and destructive initiative.

Also at the website you can Pledge to Vote NO, check for NO on 933 events near you, read a detailed analysis and learn why so many of your fellow Washingtonians are going to Vote NO on 933!

Please visit www.NOon933.org and volunteer, put up a yard sign or have a house party and help us stop this reckless and costly initiative.

** The opening examples are taken from real claims filed under Oregon's Measure 37. Protect Washington from sprawl and irresponsible development by supporting the No on 933 campaign.*



Yes on Initiative 937

Submitted by Dana Kiehl, Audubon WA Intern

This November, Washington voters have an opportunity to choose a clean energy future. Initiative 937, Washington's Clean Energy Initiative, will help us clean up the air, reduce energy use and save money for Washington consumers. I-937 requires the largest electric utilities to get 15% of their electricity from new renewable energy by 2020. Utilities will also be required to pursue all cost-effective energy conservation opportunities for their customers. Now is the time to take advantage of home-grown, abundant sources of clean, renewable energy like wind and solar power and break our addiction to dirty fossil fuels.

Initiative 937 is a great opportunity for Washington State to be a leader in the fight against global warming. With a victory in November, we can move toward a cleaner future and safeguard precious natural habitat from fossil fuel pollution. It will make a strong statement about the public's desire to protect the environment. However, the polluters are lining up to defeat Initiative 937 with the usual distortions and scare tactics. A strong, well-funded opposition campaign, led by the Association of Washington Businesses and Weyerhaeuser, wants to stop clean energy in its tracks. That's why the campaign, Yes! on I-937, needs everyone who cares about working toward a clean energy future to get involved this fall. To find out what you can do to help, please contact the campaign staff at (206) 283-3335 or email them at info@yes937.org.

Juanita Beach Park Update

By Jan McGruder

In late 2005, the City of Kirkland adopted the Juanita Beach Park Master Plan, which calls for upgrades and enhancement to the facilities at this Park. Also planned are boat moorage and a non-motorized boat concession.

The prospect of the City actually renting boats and the anticipation of more boats attracted to the Bay gave the Board cause for worry. ELWAS has long been an advocate for wildlife in Juanita Bay, and see this area as a refuge.

The Board sent a letter to the Kirkland City Council expressing our concerns, and three volunteers from the Chapter testified at the City Council meeting prior to adoption of the Master Plan.

Thankfully, many on the City Council realize that Juanita Bay is a special place, and agreed to take a step back from adopting the Master Plan as proposed. The City staff was directed to work with ELWAS, and come up with a plan to discourage boaters from paddling into non-boating areas of Juanita Bay.

Last month, City staff met with representatives of ELWAS, the State Department of Wildlife, a kayaking group, and the Juanita Bay Rangers. We all expressed our various concerns and brainstormed ways to educate the public and protect the birds.

Our initial plan of attack is to add more boundary buoys to delineate the non-boating area, and the buoys will be imprinted with "Wildlife Refuge" as opposed to "No Boating." The City will also use a line of orange, floating buoys from each shore to the first delineation buoy, which a boater would have to pro-actively cross in order to come into the Bay.

ELWAS will also inventory and monitor the bird nests along the shoreline for the next five years, so we, the City and the State can see what effect more or less boating will have on the area.

We also discussed the possibility of changing the name and status of Juanita Bay Park to Juanita Bay Wildlife Refuge. The City staff was very encouraging and positive. In order to do this, ELWAS would have to draft a proposal of what this would look like, and present it to the Kirkland Parks Board. From there we would have to usher it through to the City Council level.

In order to do this, we would need volunteers to see this through. ELWAS has never done something like this before, so we don't know what type of commitment this would take. Not many cities have declared their parks as Wildlife Refuges, so there's not much help there. But maybe a National Wildlife Refuge could be the model?

Are you interested? Give me a call and let's talk.