

# The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 27, No 4 – MAY 2008

*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.*

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## Directions to ELWAS HQ

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.

TAKE THE BUS! Routes 540, 230 and 255 serve State Street in Kirkland.

## Protecting America's Arctic: The Polar Bear Seas and Alaska's North Slope Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 pm (after the social hour) Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church (ELWAS Headquarters)

We are pleased to introduce J. Patrick Kelley, new ELWAS Communications Chair, who recently traveled to Washington, DC for the Alaska Wilderness League's "Wilderness Week," a citizen lobbyist effort focusing on the American's Arctic.

Patrick's presentation reviews the status of three key areas in the American Arctic in the context of current and pending legislation: the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, Teshekpuk Lake, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. We'll look at slides of all three areas, along with maps showing the impact of oil drilling and exploration on the North Slope of Alaska and how it affects migratory wildlife such as birds, whales, and caribou.

The impact of global warming and current oil fields on the Native Alaskan Inupiat and Gwich'in peoples will also be discussed. We will see slides of an Inupiat whaling camp and video excerpts from interviews with residents from Nisquit, an Inupiat village near Prudhoe Bay.

Patrick will review the status of the recent oil lease sales in the Beaufort Sea, the progress towards getting the polar bear added to the Endangered Species List, and the status of the Arctic National Wildlife Protection Act. He will discuss what you can do to help preserve these last great wilderness areas.

Kelley is the principal of PK Communications, a writing and public relations firm. Although his formal training was in literature and linguistics, he has been interested in natural history for most of his life and he and his spouse are avid birders.

Patrick and Mark Johnston, a Seattle-area



conservationist who also attended Wilderness Week, will be available to answer questions after the presentation. Johnston has a degree in Natural Resources from the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. He is active in the Sierra Club and the Alaska Coalition of Washington and teaches "birding by ear" to Seattle Audubon's popular Master Birder Class.

Please join us **Thursday, May 22** for Patrick Kelley's entertaining and informative presentation. Come at 6:30 for the social hour and the **Silent Print Auction**. You will have an opportunity to view these prints and bid on them from 6:30 to 7:00 and from 7:40 to 8:00. (more information on page 4)

The social hour, meeting, and presentation are **free and open to the public**. Invite a friend or anyone who wants to know more about Arctic lands at risk – and who wants an opportunity to bid on beautiful art for their homes.

Directions to ELWAS office / Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church are on this page (lower left).

## Bits and Pieces

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President



As I write this column, I have just returned from a state-wide meeting of all the Audubon chapters in Washington. As a matter of fact, almost all the Board members were able to go. These meetings of the Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) are al-

ways good experiences, but this one was particularly rewarding. The spirit of collaboration between chapters has been growing more each time I've attended these meetings, and it's a great thing to see. We all came home inspired and ready to go back to work.

We have been partnering with other groups to be more effective. In February, we worked with the Sierra Club to present a workshop on global warming. There was a great turnout, and most folks left wanting more. We've involved several businesses in our Marymoor Park BirdLoop project. Partnerships with other groups enable us to utilize our resources more effectively. Our money and our volunteer energy go further when we share the load with someone else. That's true for our chapter and our lives, isn't it?

The Green Festival was recently in Seattle. The convention center was filled with hundreds of booths all touting their green credentials and their way to save the planet. Green is definitely "in" these days. Every company seems more eager than the last to let us know that they are doing the right thing, and the earth is actually better off because of their product. Indeed, there were many worthy groups represented, non-profits and for-profit businesses alike. Awareness of environmental issues and the desire to do something about the problems is high.

But let's rethink this whole idea. Saving the planet by buying more stuff? Is this the best way to take action?

Check the rest of this newsletter for information about Birdathon. What a great opportunity for you to personally support the work your chapter does! You can make a difference in a number of ways. Birding, buying a beautiful photograph, sitting down to a great breakfast! Whatever your choice, you make possible programs like our nature camp scholarships for kids, the new kiosks and native plants on our BirdLoop trail in Marymoor Park, and our series of workshops on global warming.

If you've never done Birdathon before, contact me. I will be leading a team of 1<sup>st</sup> time Birdathoners, and we will do all our birding by public transportation!

That's more satisfying to me than buying another "thing," green or not. I hope you agree.

Keep in touch.

## East Lake Washington Audubon Society

(425) 576-8805 — [www.ELWAS.org](http://www.ELWAS.org)

308 4th Avenue S. (Corner 4th Ave. S. and State)

P.O. Box 3115, Kirkland, WA 98083-3115

### Executive Officers

<b>President</b>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196 president@elwas.org
<b>Vice President</b>	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@comcast.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Carmen Almodovar	(425) 643-5922 Carmena2001@earthlink.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ellen Homan	(425) 836-5838 gammy@isomedia.com
<b>Executive Director</b>	Jan McGruder	(425) 822-8580 jan@elwas.org

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

<u>At large board member</u>	Helen LaBouy	(425) 868-9706 helenlabouy@mac.com
<u>At large board member</u>	Margaret Lie	(425) 823-2686 margaretlie12@gmail.com
<u>At large board member</u>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 natureisoutside@gmail.com
<u>Birding</u>	Brian Bell	(425) 485-8058 bellasoc@isomedia.com
<u>Adult Education</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Bird Photography</u>	Tim Boyer	(425) 277-9326 tboyer@seanet.com
<u>Field Trips</u>	Hugh Jennings	(425) 746-6351 fieldtrip@elwas.org
<u>Native Plant Walks</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Nature Walks</u>	Christopher Chapman	(425) 402-9313 cjchapman19@comcast.net
<u>Special Events</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Bird Questions?</u>	MaryFrances Mathis	(425) 803-3026
<u>Conservation</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580 tim@elwas.org
<u>Advocacy</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Citizen Science</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580
<u>Conservation</u>	Tim McGruder	(425) 822-8580 tim@elwas.org
<u>Marymoor Park</u>	Jim Rettig	(425) 402-1833 jrettigtanager@verizon.net
<u>Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 education@elwas.org
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<u>Library</u>	Carolyn Kishel	(425) 746-1817
<u>Communication</u>	Patrick Kelley	(206) 618-9674 birder@pkwrite.com
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<u>Newsletter</u>	Tom Grismer	(206) 720-9892 newsletter@elwas.org
<u>Publicity</u>	Tracey Cummings	(425) 788-4663 publicity@elwas.org
<u>Webmaster</u>	Nancy Nicklas	(425) 869-7827 webmaster@elwas.org
<u>Financial Development</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Birdathon</u>	Christy Anderson	(425) 747-4196
<u>Gift Wrap</u>	<b>Open</b>	
<u>Merchandising</u>	Cindy Balbuena	(425) 643-4074 cbalbuena@comcast.net
<u>Membership</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Hospitality</u>	Claudia Welch	(425) 827/2548
<u>Volunteer Coordinator</u>	Tricia Kishel	(206) 948-3922 natureisoutside@gmail.com

## ELWAS May Meetings

### May 7 (Weds) 6:00 pm Web Committee

Meets first Wednesday each month in ELWAS Office. All interested parties are invited. Questions? Email Nancy Nicklas at [webmaster@elwas.org](mailto:webmaster@elwas.org)

### May 8 (Thurs) 7:00 pm Photo Group

Meets in large room upstairs from ELWAS Office. Questions? Email Tim Boyer at [tboyer@seanet.com](mailto:tboyer@seanet.com)

### May 13 (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)

### May 22 (Thurs) 7:00 pm Monthly Program and meeting

See article on page 1.

## 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.

**(425) 576-8805 — [office@elwas.org](mailto:office@elwas.org)**  
**Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri — 9:00am - 1:00pm**

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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 or 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.

## Who is a Volunteer? The Best of the Best!

Thank you **Tom Grismer** for your hard work on the newsletter.

Thank you **Carmen Almodovar, Nancy Nicklas, Tricia Kishel** and **Tom Grismer** for all your hard work on the planning of the new and improved web site.

Thank you **Lou Ann Harris** for creating a video on our Malheur field trip, and donating 2 CDs of it to the Chapter.

Thank you **Mary Holt, Helen LaBouy, Michael Hobbs, Brian Bell, Sunny Walter, Tricia Kishel, Cindy Balbuena, Glenn Eades, Patrick Kelley** and **Jill Keeney** for your Volunteer work for the Marymoor Birdloop Grand Opening Celebration.

Thank you to those of you who helped at Marymoor on our Audubon Birdloop.

Thank you **Peg Jorgenson, Lea Knapp,** and **Barbara Dietrich** for all your work in getting out our Newsletter.

## Volunteers!

Whether you want to be in front of a crowd, or work behind the scene, we need you! With your help and expertise, and a little of your time, we can grow the Chapter and do even more in our community - we can do more classroom presentations, more habitat improvement, more advocacy, more education, and more birding. Some of our volunteer opportunities are:

**Website Volunteer** - Work with the Web Committee to update or add new content to the ELWAS website. You don't need to know anything about working on a website. All content may be written in Word, Excel or other similar programs, then uploaded to the site. The website is our first impression to the public, and the more thorough and professional the website, the better it will represent the chapter. We also aim to make the website a resource for members and the public, and that type of information takes time to accumulate and post. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**Program Meeting Greeter** – Set up the nametags and supplies before each program meeting, and greet guests and members as they come in. (1.5 hrs/mo)

Thank you **Patrick Kelley** for becoming our Communications Chair.

Thank you **Helen LaBouy** for becoming a Member at Large.

Thank you **Christopher Chapman** for becoming our new Nature Walk Coordinator.

Thank you **Diane Whitman** for becoming our new Shade Grown Coffee Campaign Coordinator.

Thank you **Bev Jennings, Hugh Jennings, Len Steiner, Paul Jensen, Jan Loux, Helen LaBouy, Pat Vernie** and **Jill Keeney** for volunteering to work in the office.

Thank you **Brian Bell, Tricia Kishel** and **Patrick Kelley** for your work in getting a new logo designed for the organization.

Thank you to all of those who I don't hear about but still put in many hours to help our organization grow and thrive.

**Adult Education Chair** – Recruit instructors, arrange for classroom and hosts, draft publicity and evaluations. (6 hours a month)

**Events Coordinator** – Work with various organizations and ELWAS volunteers for outreach events at various venues on the Eastside, and organize display and materials for each event. These events are our biggest outreach opportunities to get the word out about ELWAS. (4 hours a month)

**ELWAS E-Mail List Moderator** – Moderate the ELWAS e-mail lists from the comfort of your home. (5 hrs/mo)

**Bird List Organizer** – Using field trip records, create bird lists for the website Birding Hot Spots.

We will work with each volunteer, and give them as much training and support as they need to be successful. You may read a thorough description for each opportunity on our website, or 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!**

## Silent Auction of Framed Prints at May Program Night.



Members of the ELWAS Photography Group (who produced those magnificent shows at the Christmas Dinner)

have donated their beautiful bird, wildlife, landscape, and flower prints

to benefit the 2008 Birdathon.

The print exhibit will be hanging in the sanctuary all during the month of May. You will have an opportunity to view these prints and bid on them on May 22 from 6:30 to 7:00 and from 7:40 to 8:00. Winners will be an-

nounced after the program (information about program and directions on page 1).

## Welcome New Members

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.

Kathleen Badiozamani, Richard and Pat Carlson, Joanne Cormier, Adrienne Dinst, Monique Elfman, Deborah L. Fly, Judith Gurney, James Hill, DVM, Hanna Karczewski, Bill Keppler, Tessa King, Laurie Klein, Patricia Koncsek, Al Kovats, Richard Lichtenstadter, Anne

Lutrick, Hank Myers, Susan Prokop, Klaus U. Schutz, Warren R. Stearns, Candi Taggart, Gregg Wilson.

## What's in Your Cup?

Did you know that you can protect important bird habitat, promote healthy forests, and support the livelihood of farmers with one cup of coffee? Coffee is the second most widely-traded commodity in the world, behind oil, and it should come as no surprise that coffee drinkers in the U.S. account for the majority of coffee consumption. What would we all do without our morning caffeine buzz to get us going?

So what does coffee have to do with birds? Much of the globe's tropical waistline (between 20°N and 20°S latitude) provides the ideal climate and soils for coffee production. In the Americas, this is the same region that our migratory birds visit annually. Traditionally, coffee shrubs were planted under the diverse tropical forest canopy and were allowed to mature slowly to produce the best beans. However, with ever-increasing demand and global poverty, new, sun-tolerant species allow for higher yields on a shorter timeline.

The majority of coffee sold today is of the *robusta* variety and is grown under direct sunlight in the open fields of Vietnam, Brazil and beyond. However, growing coffee quickly comes at a price. Habitat is removed, soil gives way to erosion, and more chemicals are added to the environ-

ment to ward away pests. Birds and other wildlife are forced to find new homes, though many habitat specialists simply can't adapt.

The shade coffee plantations of Latin America provide irreplaceable habitat for resident and neotropical migratory bird species. Local farmers also rely on these plantations for security, and various cash crops may be interspersed with coffee plants. As a consumer, your choice to purchase shade-grown coffee will help guarantee a future for coffee farmers while protecting healthy habitat for wildlife, including birds.

When purchasing coffee, look for the Bird Friendly® certification seal to know that your coffee is shade-grown, or ask your roaster to learn more. Visit [www.shadecoffee.org](http://www.shadecoffee.org) for more information.

**Quick fact:** Many of our neotropical migrants will soon be returning to Washington from their winter stay in the shade coffee plantations of Central and South America. Keep an eye out for returning Wilson's Warblers and Lazuli Buntings.

Soon, East Lake Washington Audubon members will be able to buy shade grown, organic coffee online from Grounds for Change, a coffee roaster located in Wash-

ington State. Each purchase will help the birds and support the chapter. A link from our website will send you directly to the roaster's website.

ELWAS welcomes Diane Whitman, who is heading up this campaign for the chapter. If you would like to learn more, or help the chapter become more active on this important issue, please call the office at (425) 576-8805 and leave us a message.

-- by Lindsey Edwards, Northwest Shade Coffee Campaign, Seattle Audubon



## MacGillivray's Warbler, *Oporornis tolmiei*

Length	5.25 in
Wingspan	7.5 in
Weight	0.37 oz, 10.5 g
AOU Band code	MGWA

As with many of our western birds this warbler is named after human beings. John James Audubon named it in honor of the Scottish ornithologist William MacGillivray who authored the 5-volume *History of British Birds* (1837-1851). However, it was later learned that John Townsend (of Townsend's Warbler and Townsend's Solitaire) had named it for William Tolmei, a physician who worked for Hudson Bay Company. So both men are remembered: one in the scientific name (*tolmiei*) and the other in the common name. *Oporornis* is combined from the Greek *opora* for autumn and *ornis* for bird, because this bird was seen more often in the fall migration (Holloway, 2003). However, spring is an excellent time to find this bird in the Cascade Mountains.

MacGillivray's Warbler is a western specialty that can be elusive. It has been described as "skulking" by both John Dunn (1997) and Brian Bell (2006). Spring migration brings these birds to our area with striking gray hoods which meet their bright yellow breast. Their

back is olive. Separating this species from the very similar Mourning Warbler are the white arcs above and below the eyes. The black lores connect across the forehead and seem to run into each eye prominently setting off the white arcs, which are always present in the MacGillivray's. The ranges of these two species overlap in central British Columbia. The birds stay low in woodland brush and thickets of alder and willow and forage for a variety of beetles and caterpillars. They build a nest of course grass, stems and bark between 2 and 5 feet from the ground in the vertical fork of branches. They typically have four white eggs spotted with brown and incubate them for about 13 days.

The birds keep to the understory so when they do pop out onto the top of a shrub a birder can get a very nice view of them. During migration a number of birds can be found in a small area. There have been very good congregations of them near the West Summit Exit (52) off I-90. Good areas to check are the shrubbery at the edges of the parking lot for the West Summit chairlifts and along a short trail on the north edge of the ski area going up the slope under the chair lift. There is also a frontage road off SR-906 at Exit 53 that can be very good. See *A Birder's*



*Guide to Washington* by Opperman (2003, p 269) for more details.

The population of MacGillivray's Warbler is fairly stable. Their liking for undergrowth shrubs is fortunate for them as it is supported by new growth after logging has taken place. With a little persistence this lovely bird with a very melodious song can be seen this month and make a nice addition to a day's bird list.

To hear song follow this URL:

[http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/333/overview/MacGillivrays\\_Warbler.aspx](http://identify.whatbird.com/obj/333/overview/MacGillivrays_Warbler.aspx)

(Photo used with permission as a donation by Tom Munson, <http://www.pbase.com/clinton62/profile>. References available on request, [andy\\_mcc@hotmail.com](mailto:andy_mcc@hotmail.com))

## Welcome to our Class



you experience?

The volunteer arrives early with fascinating bird mounts—a Red Tail Hawk, a Northern Flicker, an Anna's Hummingbird and other intriguing birds. She finally gets all of her items laid out on two big tables at the front of the classroom, and your teacher signals the beginning of a presentation entitled "What makes a bird a bird?"

Then, the excitement begins. Seated on

the floor in front of the volunteer, you handle a huge Ostrich egg, carefully pass around a bird's nest, examine feathers with a magnifying glass and listen with interest as the volunteer explains that birds are endothermic (a new word to add to your vocabulary). You even get to flap your arms to determine how many times you can beat your "wings" in ten seconds and then gasp at how many more times a hummingbird can beat its wings in the same amount of time. And you like raising your hand when the volunteer asks, "How many of you have down jackets" and then explains that birds have down feathers to keep them warm—just like your favorite jacket keeps you cozy. The 45-minute class ends with the volunteer playing the songs of the bird mounts on

the table. You will have to listen more carefully when you play in the woods near your house.

You promise the volunteer that you will take home the letter from the Education Committee that explains to your parents how they can attract and keep birds safe in your backyard. Then, the volunteer stamps your hand with a Great Horned Owl, gives you a bird bookmark and promises to return in a week to take you on a walk to find birds in the nearby woods. In the meantime, you will look for birds around your neighborhood and tell your friends what amazing creatures they are.

-- Mary Britton-Simmons, Education Chair

## 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 month's field trips.**

**Increase in carpool costs** – Effective in May the carpool cost for passengers on field trips will increase to reflect higher fuel costs. Carpool cost will be **10 cents/mile for each passenger** based on estimated mileage for the trip; eg., a 100 mile trip is \$10/person.

### Meeting Places for Field Trips:

- **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. 1300 116th Way NE, Kingsgate.
- **Newport Hills Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 9. 5115 113th PL NE, Newport Hills.
- **South Kirkland Park and Ride:** 108th Ave. NE just north of hwy 520 and Northup Way. 10610 NE 38th Pl.
- **Wilburton Park and Ride:** I-405, exit 12. 720 114th Ave, Bellevue.

### May 2 (Fri) – 8:00 to noon — Marymoor Park

#### **\*\*Birdathon Walk\*\* Leader MaryFrances Mathis**

Join our morning walk along the nature trail. Bring binoculars and meet at the SW corner of the Dog Area parking lot (Parking Lot D). No registration 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 the third stop sign to go to the dog area parking lot. Please bring cash or a check for **donation of \$20 to Eastside Audubon (ELWAS) for Birdathon. MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

### May 3 (Sat) 9:00 to noon

#### **Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration**

Join us in restoring native habitat at the Marymoor Park interpretive area on the 1st Saturday of every month. Dress for the weather and bring clippers, gloves, snacks and water. Park in Lot G and follow the signs to work parties. Free parking passes are provided. **Glenn Eades 425-885-3842**

### May 4 (Sun) 8:00 to noon

#### **Birding and Brunch at the McGruder's—Limit: 8 people**

Join Jan and Tim McGruder for a morning of birding and brunch at their home in Kirkland. Watch birds in their bird-friendly yard, walk through the Willows Greenbelt nearby, and finish with a home-cooked meal. The Willows Greenbelt contains a wonderful collection of native plants in the largest remaining wildlife habitat in Redmond. You must sign up in advance. **Donation of \$50.00 to ELWAS. Call 425-822-8580 to sign up and get directions.**

### May 10 (Sat) – 7:00 am

#### **Scatter Creek Wildlife Area – Limit: 12 people**

#### **\*\*Birdathon Trip\*\* Leader Hugh Jennings**

The riparian and wetland areas are dominated by Oregon Ash, white oak, Garry Oak, shrubs, and grasses that invite warblers, vireos, tanagers, and flycatchers. Chipping and Savannah Sparrow and Western Bluebird may be found in the short-grass prairies. Owls and woodpeckers are possible in the

mixed woods. Expect to walk about 4 miles. Bring food and drink for this full day of birding. Carpool drivers are **required to have a WDFW Vehicle Use Permit**. Meet before 7:00 am at Newport Hills Park N Ride, I-405, Exit 9. Return early evening. Please bring cash or a check for **donation of \$35.00 to Eastside Audubon (ELWAS) for Birdathon**. There will be an additional **passenger cost/person of \$12.00** as a share of carpool costs. **Call or email Hugh Jennings to register: 425-746-6351 or hughbirder@earthlink.net**

### May 17 (Sat) 6:30 am

#### **Ellensburg/Eastern Washington - Limit: 10 people in 3 cars**

#### **\*\*Birdathon Trip\*\* Leaders Mike West and Joyce Meyer**

Plan a day traveling through varied habits: riparian, forest and farm. Expect to see warblers, vireos, bluebirds, flycatchers, woodpeckers and possibly curlews and raptors, too. Bring a lunch and fluids. Return evening. Meet before 6:30 am at Tibbetts Park & Ride, Issaquah (I-90 exit 15) to carpool. **Limited to 10 participants**. Please bring cash or a check for **donation of \$35.00 to Eastside Audubon (ELWAS) for Birdathon**. There will be an additional **passenger cost/person of \$15.00** as a share of carpool costs. **Call Joyce at 425-868-7986 to register.**

### May 17 (Sat) 3:00 pm

#### **Juanita Bay Park \*\*Birdathon\*\* Photography Trip**

Members of the ELWAS Photo Group are sponsoring this trip in support of Birdathon. We'll lead you to the birds and provide you with photo tips to capture lovely bird images. We will also make an 8" x 10" print of one of your images from the trip. Juanita Bay is one of the finest wildlife-oriented waterfront parks on Lake Washington and we can get fairly close to birds there. If you want to try digiscoping, bring your equipment. If you want to bring your Canon SLR, we will have 500-600mm lenses for you to hook up with. **Donation of \$50 to ELWAS for Birdathon includes photo tips and a print**. Half day. Meet at 3:00 pm at the Juanita Bay Park Parking lot. E-mail Ginger at [gholser@yahoo.com](mailto:gholser@yahoo.com) if you have questions. **Call office at 425-576-8805 to register by May 13th.**

### May 17 (Sat) - 7:30 am

#### **Ellensburg Wildflowers and Birds**

Join our trip to Ellensburg to see native plants of shrub steppe and forest habitats. We'll drive south along Umptanum Road to see bluebirds, raptors, and other bird species, as well as shrub-steppe wildflowers. We then head up Observatory Road and walk along the open flats along Manastash Ridge from the observatory to see desert parsleys, yellow goldstars, daggerpod, grass widows, white western spring beauty, white prairie stars, purple sagebrush violets, phlox lupine, brodiaea, balsamroot, bitterroot and much more. On the way back we'll stop at

*(Continued on page 7)*

Hayward Hill for more shrub-steppe plants. Bring a wildflower book, lunch and lots of water. Plan to be back by early evening.

Meet before 7:30 am at north end of the Issaquah P&R (I-90 exit 15, corner of SR 900 and Newport Way) to carpool. Co-leaders Len Steiner and Sunny Walter. Please **contact Sunny if you're planning to join us, 425-271-1346 or sunny@sunnywalter.com. Passenger cost/person \$20.00.**

**May 18 (Sun.) 7:00 am**

**Grays Harbor and Pacific Co. – Limit: 12 people in 3 cars**

**\*\*Birdathon Trip\*\* Leader Kathy Andrich**

Thousands of shorebirds migrate through this coastal area each year on their way to Alaskan Breeding grounds. The Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival is May 3 and 4th. The main migratory push will be over but we should still see numbers of shorebirds and a very good chance for Red Knot in breeding plumage. We will also look for migrating songbirds. Plan for a full day of fun birding. Bring lunch, snack, drinks and dress in layers for changeable coastal weather. Bring a scope if you have one. Meet before 7am at the north end of Wilburton Park and Ride (I-405, exit 12). Please bring cash or a check for **donation of \$35.00 to Eastside Audubon (ELWAS) for Birdathon. Additional passenger cost/person of \$20.00** as a share of carpool costs . **Call or email Kathy Andrich to register: chukarbird@yahoo.com or 206-390-3159.**

**May 19 (Mon) 7:30 am — Dry Creek Waterfowl**

**Joint Trip with Seattle Audubon Society – Limit: 8 people**

Here's a chance to see eiders, smews, Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequins, Red-breasted Geese, and more -- really close.

Cameras welcome. Arnold Schouten is one of a few successful breeders of certain ducks. Spend time in the fascinating ecosystem he has created near Port Angeles, a true labor of love. Afterward we'll have time for coastal birding. Scopes good for coastal stops. Back early evening. Meet by 7:30 am at Ravenna P&R in Seattle. **Carpool cost: \$36.00 plus ferry to be shared by all riders.** Leaders: **MaryFrances Mathis (425-803-3026), Megan Lyden (425-603-1548)**

**May 20 (Tues) 8:00 to noon**

**Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk**

**\*\*Birdathon Walk\*\* Leader MaryFrances Mathis**

Join us for a relaxed walk in the park, seeing what birds are in

the area. Bring binoculars and meet in the Juanita Bay Park parking lot. No registration required. Please bring cash or a check for **donation of \$20.00 to Eastside Audubon (ELWAS) for Birdathon. MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

**May 26 (Mon) 9:00 to noon**

**Birding the Hot Spots of King County**

Monthly field trip on **fourth Monday** of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. Passenger cost/person **\$2.00. Warren Jones 425-391-7409**

**May 31 (Sat) 8:00 a.m.**

**Nisqually NWR – limit: 12 people**

**\*\*Birdathon Trip\*\* Leader Jim Rettig**

The Nisqually NWR offers a diverse combination of habitats and birds. The delta is bounded by rivers on each side with marshes, deciduous woods and wide open areas easily accessed by a 5 mile loop trail. Early spring migrants should be arriving to joining regulars such as woodpeckers and Great Horned owls. A variety of still wintering waterfowl and raptors should be present as well. Admission is free if you have a National Golden Pass or Federal Duck Stamp. Meet before 8:00 am at north end of the Wilburton Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. Bring a lunch. Please bring cash or a check for **donation of \$35.00 to Eastside Audubon (ELWAS) for Birdathon.** There will be an additional **passenger cost/person of \$8.00** as a share of carpool costs. **Call or email Jim Rettig to register: 425-402-1833 or jrettigtanager@verizon.net**

**June 17 (Tues) - 6:30 am to Evening**

**Eastern WA – Limit: 10 people - 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/Tibbetts Park-n-Ride to carpool (I-90 exit 15). **Passenger cost/person \$28.** Leaders - Mike West and Joyce Meyer. **Call Joyce at 425-868-7986 to register.**

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## **Green Kirkland Work Party at Watershed Park — Saturday, May 10**

Green Kirkland, a partnership of the Cascade Land Conservancy and the City of Kirkland, is sponsoring a work party at Kirkland's Watershed Park. From 9 till

noon, they will be pulling ivy and other invasive species. There may also be an opportunity for planting a variety of native species.

For more information, visit [www.greenkirkland.org](http://www.greenkirkland.org).

## **Wenas Campout, May 23-26**

For over three decades Audubon families have been camping at the Wenas Creek Campground officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary. The location, SW of Ellensburg, is now in an "Important Bird Area" which has been assured of protective status in a major

land swap with the timber company ownership.

Please visit the beautiful Wenas Website at [www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org), to get lots of downloadable information about our campout. There's a bird checklist, wildflower checklist, outline of field trips and

program, directions to the campground, and lots of photos.

If you don't do websites, contact me and I'll send you printed information.

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

# Birdathon! Birdathon! Birdathon! Birdathon!

Yes, it's for the birds – and for all the programs, activities, and great work that ELWAS does during the year. It's BIRDATHON 2008, our primary fundraiser that provides the largest part of our annual budget. As great as it would be to believe that we are a self-sustaining organization, we're not. The money we raise supports our commitments to conservation and education, specifically program speakers, classes, scholarships, and most importantly our efforts to preserve wildlife habitat.

The good news is that we raise funds for our chapter by having FUN! – by joining with fellow members to look for birds. BIRDATHON is about counting as many bird species as possible during a 24-hour period in May. It's all up to you where you bird, which day you choose, and how many of the 24 hours you want to bird.

You can participate in Birdathon in the following ways:

- Form your own Birdathon Team.



- Join an existing Birdathon Team. Current teams include Amy's Army with Jan McGruder, Bird Brains with Jim Rettig, Raven Maniacs with Christy Anderson, and Whidbey Wing-Dings with Hugh Jennings.
- Take one of several Birdathon Field Trips (See pages 6 and 7)
- Sponsor a team or an individual team member.

Sponsors pledge to a team or an individual. You can pledge either a set amount or a per species amount. When you give a per species pledge, you really motivate team members to scramble the entire 24 hours. In previous years, teams have gone from ocean shores to mountains to deserts and have identified more than 100 species in the 24-hour period allowed.

If you're not into marathon birding, you can just sit in your own back yard for a few hours and count what comes to your bird feeders. The important thing is to collect pledges from friends, family members, colleagues, doctors, dentists and more. Every dollar counts!

Join us for BIRDATHON 2008 and help ELWAS keep the birds singing!

## \$500 Birdathon Challenge!

Attention Birdathon Teams and on-the-fence Birdathoners – at the March chapter meeting, Nancy Roberts put forth a Birdathon Challenge. Jim and Nancy Roberts will pledge \$500 to the individual or team that comes up with the most creative way to conduct an environmentally conscientious Birdathon.

The Challenge winner will have:

- The most creative approach to low carbon emissions on their Birdathon
- A creative team name
- At least \$500 in pledges to match the Roberts' pledge

Having the highest number of birds seen is not necessary to win; it's all about a Birdathon with a low carbon footprint. So think outside the box and take a new ap-

proach this year to help ELWAS, the birds, and the environment.

To enter, email [office@elwas.org](mailto:office@elwas.org) after your Birdathon with the details. Jim and Nancy will judge the entries.

Thank you, Nancy and Jim, for issuing this generous offer, and for challenging us to think green for Birdathon!



**Eagle Eye**  
VISION CARE, P.S.

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

**See the birds better!**

## A Drop in the Ocean —by Jim Rettig



(The following was taken from the March 2008 issue of *The Reporter*, a publication of *Population Connection*.)

**S**lice an apple according to the instruction, narrating as you go.

1. Hold the apple so the group can see it. “This apple represents our planet.”
2. Cut the apple into quarters. Hold out 3/4 in one hand. Ask the group: “What do these represent?” (Water) Acknowledge the 1/4 that represents the land and set it aside.
3. Return to the 3/4 of the original apple that represents water. “Some of our food comes from the sea. Nearly one billion people, mostly in Asia, rely on fish as their primary source of protein. Yet, despite their vastness and seeming

uniformity, many regions of the world’s oceans are unproductive due to a lack of life-supporting nutrients.”

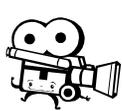
4. Set aside two of the three quarters. Cut the remaining 1/4 in half. Set 1/8 aside and hold out the other 1/8 portion. “This 1/8 represents the productive zones of the ocean along the equator and the western margins of continents. Currents in these areas cause upwelling, which brings nutrients to the surface. These nutrients support large numbers of marine plants and animals.”
5. Cut the 1/8 into four equal pieces. Select one of the four pieces (1/32) and carefully peel its skin.” Hold out the peel. “This peel represents the photic zone, the top 100 meters (330 feet) of the ocean which light can penetrate, supporting photosynthesis. Since the marine food chain depends on algae and photosynthesizing plants, especially phytoplankton, almost all ocean life depends on this narrow photic zone. At 100 me-

ters below the surface, the amount of light is only 1% of what it is at the surface.”

The oceans constitute the majority of the planet and affect and sustain all life on Earth. Human beings significantly influence the oceans. Increased pollution, depletion of fish and other marine resources, habitat destruction and degradation, and the introduction of invasive non-native species are only some of the ways people harm the ocean, with serious consequences for the entire planet.

(“A Drop in the Ocean” is part of a larger activity, “Earth: The Apple of Our Eye,” which also explores land use and food cultivation. The entire activity, along with discussion questions and answers, can be found at [www.populationeducation.org](http://www.populationeducation.org). Click on “Teaching Materials and Tools,” “Activities” and “Secondary (9-12).”)

## Conservation Movie Night – May 12 (Mon) – 7:00 pm (new format)



Join other ELWAS members as we view our May movie, **Hurricane on the Bayou**. Driven by a rousing jazz and gospel-fueled soundtrack, we follow a group of four musicians as they explore the electrifying culture of New Orleans: speeding through the beautiful, alligator-filled bayous on air boats, re-

counting their heart-wrenching personal stories of Katrina, and most of all, bringing the focus to the rapidly disappearing wetlands that are New Orleans first line of defense against deadly storms.

Enjoy a discussion after the movie about the importance of wetlands and what’s happening with wetlands in our own local

area: Juanita Bay Park, Lake Hills Greenbelt, Lake Sammamish State Park, Marymoor Park, and Mercer Slough. Bring your stories to share.

Mark these future movie dates on your calendar now! June 9 and July 14.

This event will be held at the ELWAS office in Kirkland (Directions on page 1).

## Summer Festivities Planned for BirdLoop Trail at Marymoor

Ready to celebrate? Thanks to two-plus years of committed volunteer effort the trail and meadow at the BirdLoop are looking wonderful and we’re ready to invite everyone to come and check it out.

We’re planning a celebration in mid-July to officially ‘open’ the trail and showcase

the improvements as well as promote Eastside Audubon and introduce the public to our new name, who we are and what we do.

The festivities will include speakers, exhibits, guided walks along the interpretive trail, learning activities for kids and adults

and, of course, refreshments.

If you’re interested in helping with any phase of this event please contact Tricia Kishel at [natureisoutside@gmail.com](mailto:natureisoutside@gmail.com) or call the office at 425-576-8805.

## Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park

*Hey folks, it’s crunch time!* Our Chapter is planning a Grand Opening of the Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park in July. This means we have only three regular work parties left to complete a lot of work: **May 3, June 7, and July 5**. Since we have informational signs to install,

kiosk panels and information to install, and a boardwalk to extend, we may need your help on days other than the three listed above. In any case, we need lots of workers to continue to remove invasive species and to care for the native species already planted. There is much work to

be done. We need many eager workers.

Join us the **first Saturday of each month, 9 to noon**, and help us get ready for the Grand Opening. Meet at the SE corner of Parking Lot G. Parking passes will be given to participants.