

# The Corvid Crier

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 27, No 6 – JULY/AUGUST 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.*



## Eastside Audubon Marymoor Bird Festival Marymoor Park, Redmond (Parking Lot G) Saturday, August 2, 10:00 to 2:00!

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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.

Join us as we celebrate the grand opening of our new BirdLoop Nature Trail at Marymoor Park, and the unveiling of our new chapter name and logo. Enjoy bird and native plant walks, food, entertainment, hands-on activities for children and adults, and informative displays. A ribbon-cutting ceremony with local dignitaries takes place at noon.

Help us celebrate the end of the first phase of the BirdLoop project funded by King County, and take a look at the results of two years of work parties by EAS (formerly ELWAS) volunteers:

- kiosks with lovely bird images and maps
- interpretive signs with gorgeous artwork
- native plantings for the birds
- two new trails
- brochure that shows you where to go and what to see.

### Work Party: Audubon BirdLoop at Marymoor Park

Many projects are coming to a head in the next few months as we anticipate the Grand Opening of the BirdLoop on August 2. **We need your help** in getting some tasks completed before then. There will be further announcements of more work parties than just the regular ones because we want to finish with the two kiosks (painting, installing the panels, filling the display panels with informative text and pictures), start (and finish?) the boardwalk extension, install interpretive signs, install bike racks if they get done in time, install some trail signs, work on habitat restoration, and just help put the whole BirdLoop in excellent condition.

**We will have lots for you and your friends to enjoy:**

- bird and native plant walks
- vendors with a variety of food and drinks
- kid's educational activities and face painting
- environmental exhibitors - several with interactive stuff to do
- show of Marymoor work parties
- Audubon information table

We will also have talks and presentations by Marymoor Park, County, and EAS folks.

To find out more or to volunteer to help out, contact Mary Holt: [pandmholt@juno.com](mailto:pandmholt@juno.com).

**Again, there is much to do and we need your help!** If you are willing to help in any of these projects but do not get work party announcements from Therese Eby, please let me know: Jim Rettig, 425-402-1833, [jrettigtanager@verizon.net](mailto:jrettigtanager@verizon.net). Give me your name and email address and I will send them on to Therese.

The next scheduled **work party is set for July 12, 9:00 am to noon** (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. We're avoiding Saturday, July 5). See you there?

## The Little Things

By Christy Anderson, ELWAS President



Sometimes little things can bring us back to a sense of what is really important. There are times in all of our lives when we feel like the walls are moving in on us. The problems we deal with seem insurmountable. Working on environmental issues, trying to “save the planet”, sometimes feels like

treading water, or rather like swimming against spring rapids. It's difficult, it requires effort and strategy and finally, you break through and there's the reward of calm water. But then you realize that that noise in the distance is the next rapid fast approaching.

It can be easy to get discouraged and wonder what the point is. Then something happens, almost always a small thing, and your whole outlook changes.

My small thing was a hummingbird. Actually, it was many hummingbirds. While visiting Walla Walla recently, I was able to go out to Dixie, northeast of town, to finally see Hummingbird Crossing. An 84 year old gentleman named Tom Lamb lives here in a modest little house in a lovely natural setting his family has called home since 1859. Pulling into the driveway, Duchess, his massive German Shepherd comes out to meet you. One bark puts you on notice, and then you are family.

Tom has hummingbirds. Tom has flocks of hummingbirds. He has turned his little yard into a hummingbird heaven. He has hung feeders, small and large, on branches around the yard. And as you might expect for a place that has hung out the “Free Lunch” sign, the crowds come. There are Anna's, Black-chinned, Calliope and Rufous. Dozens of them.

And Tom has not only posted a welcome sign for hummers, but for people, too. He comes out to greet guests, offers chairs and advice on where to stand for the best view. He insists I sit among the feeders and the tiny birds fly so close to my face and hands that I can feel the mini-windstorm generated by their wings. He instructs me how to hold my hand near one feeder and a tiny Calliope lands on it to drink. I thought my heart would stop.

But it didn't stop. Tom Lamb, and a tiny hummingbird, reminded me of what's important in this world. Why we work to preserve habitat and stop pollution and share nature's wonder with children. These tiny birds brought it all back. The hummingbirds and their guardian. A gentle man who loves to share his wonder with whoever is willing to be still enough to allow it to happen.

Whenever I need a dose of this magic, I will watch the chickadees on my back porch, the marsh wrens in Juanita Bay or I will head to Dixie. And I will remember why it is all so important.

## 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) 941-3501 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
<u>Programs</u>	Sunny Walter	(425) 271-1346 sunny@sunnywalter.com
<u>Youth Education</u>	Mary Britton-Simmons	(360) 794-7163 education@elwas.org
<u>Library</u>	Carolyn Kishel	(425) 746-1817
<u>Communication</u>	Patrick Kelley	(206) 618-9674 birder@pkwrite.com
<u>Historian</u>	Bob Gershmel	(425) 823-8840 rwgusnret1986@yahoo.com
<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

## July/August Meetings

### July 2/Aug 6 (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)

### July 8/Aug 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)

### July 10/Aug 14 (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)

## 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.

## Welcome to our 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.

Gillian Brightwater, Rosie Decker, Sherry & John Douceur, Tom Green, Kathryn Groves, Nancy Hubly, Audrey Hudgins, Jackie S. Paul, Jim and Nancy Picarello, Wendy and Scott Wands

## Board Notes for June

President Christy Anderson called a special board meeting to vote on the amended articles of incorporation. The board approved the amended articles which reflect the change in our chapter name and other related changes.

At the monthly board meeting, Executive Director Jan McGruder requested that the board fund the festival celebrating the grand opening of our new Bird Loop Nature Trail at Marymoor Park. The board approved a budget of \$3,000.

The board approved a renewal of Jim Rettig's contract as project manager for the Marymoor Bird Loop Nature Trail.

The board endorsed a resolution supporting the I-90 Wildlife Bridges. The Washington State Department of Transportation is planning on widening a section of

I-90 between Hyak and Easton from four lanes to six lanes. The wildlife bridges would ensure that wildlife has a safe corridor over the freeway.

The board voted to support Brightwater in their request for federal funding. Brightwater is King County's newest water treatment facility. Mitigation includes extensive habitat restoration, public trails, and an Environmental Education and Community Center.

The board approved a summer hiatus for conservation movie night. In the fall, the board will decide whether to continue this event.

## Use Your Skills, Have Fun, Make A Difference

The Communications committee can use your help. Opportunities to get involved range from a few hours a week to as much as you want to put into it. With a new web site, the grand opening of our BirdLoop Nature Trail, and our upcoming sustainability workshops, there are plenty of ways to make a difference in

the next few months.

If you're not able to participate right now, perhaps you know someone else who can help. Give Patrick Kelley a call (206-618-9674), tell him about your interests, skills, and availability—and become part of the solution!



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

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

**See the birds better!**

## Volunteers!

Whether you want to be in front of a crowd, or work behind the scene, we need you! Some of our volunteer opportunities are:

**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)

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

**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, and then uploaded to the site. The website is our first impression to the public at large, 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 general public, and that type of information takes time to accumulate and post. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**Adult Education Chair** – Recruit instructors, arrange for classroom and

hosts, draft publicity and evaluations (6 hours a month)

**ELWAS E-Mail List Moderator** – Moderate the ELWAS e-mail lists from the comfort of your own home. (5 hours a month)

**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.

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## Conservation Corner—by Jim Rettig

### *A Conversation on the Subject of Lawns*



*Imagine a conversation between The Creator and St. Francis on the subject of lawns.*

GOD: Hey, St. Francis, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there in North America? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistles, clover and other stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect “no maintenance” garden plan. Those plants grow in any soil type, withstand drought, and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees, and flocks of song birds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers “weeds” and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: But grass is so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, bees or birds – only grubs and sod worms. It's temperamental with temperature. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass to care for?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord.

They go to great lengths to grow it and keep it green. They begin each Spring by fertilizing the grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The Spring rains and warm weather must make the grass grow fast.

That must make the Suburbanites happy. ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows, they cut it – sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bail it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away!

GOD: Now let me get this straight. They fertilize the grass so that it grows quickly, they cut it off, and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You are not going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense! At least they kept some of the trees. Trees were a sheer

stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the Spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the Autumn leaves fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the plants. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's my natural circle of life!

ST. FRANCIS: You had better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away, or, worse yet, they burn the leaves and pollute the air which all the creatures you created breathe in order to sustain life.

GOD: No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After getting rid of the leaves they go out and buy something they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore . . . .

*This poignant piece of humor comes from the Klamath Sustainable Communities of Oregon.*

**American Robin, *Turdus migratorius***

Length	10 in
Wingspan	17 in
Weight	2.7 oz
AOU Band code	AMR

*Cheerily cheery cheerily cheery. Cheerily cheer-up cheerily cheerio.* The morning song of the Robin is our avian alarm clock that begins just before dawn. Now that we may be leaving our windows open a bit at night we become more aware of our neighborhood robin which typically sings from the same perch every morning. Then on summer evenings we can also enjoy the robin's evening song as dusk arrives. For good reason the American Robin is one of our most beloved birds. It is often the first bird children learn to identify as "Robin Red-Breast" and soon they also learn the color "Robin's egg blue." This gregarious bird of our lawns and shrubs seeks earthworms and other invertebrates and gathers in large flocks in search of berries in the winter. Other berry-eating birds such as waxwings and other thrushes can sometimes be found mixed in these flocks as they swoop in on Coto-neaster, Hawthorn and Juniper in the winter.

The American Robin is the only North American breeding species in the very large genus *Turdus* which worldwide has 66 species. *Turdus* is Latin for thrush and *migratorius* relates to its migratory behavior. American explains its natural range, and robin is thought to be a diminutive of the English name Robert, the English pet name for the bird (Holloway, 2003). The red breast of the robin varies from deep, rich crimson to a peachy orange with males often darker. The head also varies along with the breast from black to a dark gray. There are white arcs above and below the eye. The bill is



yellow and the throat is streaked black and white. The belly and undertail coverts are white. The back is gray and the tail is black with white corners. A western subspecies *Turdus migratorius caurinus* breeds on the Olympic Peninsula and Vancouver Island and is smaller and darker with only a narrow white tipping on their outer tail feathers. The juvenile (pictured) is spotted dark below and is overall gray with the tips of white wing coverts visible. It can sometimes seem a little surprising to see spotted thrushes on the lawn until one realizes they are juvenile robins.

The Robin is extremely adaptable and can nest anywhere from your backyard to almost any kind of shrubby or wooded area. "Following the establishment of territories, thrushes form strong pair

bonds that last throughout the breeding season usually for two broods" (Sibley, 2001). The robin's nest is a deep cup built with grasses and mud and holds 3 – 4 eggs, which are incubated for about two weeks. In another two weeks the birds will fledge. The eggshell color is an exquisite light blue that becomes glossy during incubation. Both parents are aggressive in defending the nest and both also feed the young birds. In contrast to other brown thrushes robins have benefitted from forest fragmentation due to agricultural development and the creation of subdivisions and their populations are doing very well.

(Photo credit: Mike Hamilton. References available on request at [andy\\_mcc@hotmail.com](mailto:andy_mcc@hotmail.com))

**Green Kirkland Events**

There will be an ivy pull activity at Cotton Hill Park in Kirkland (110th Ave NE and NE 98th Street) from 9:00 to noon on Saturday, July 12th. You are invited to join the party there.

Also, on Saturday, August 9th, from 9:00 to noon, there will be another work party at Watershed Park to continue the native plant restoration efforts there. You are welcome to join in this project as well.

For more information about volunteer events, call (425) 587-3305 or email [srodman@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:srodman@ci.kirkland.wa.us).

## 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 June 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.

### July 12 (Sat) 9:00 to noon

#### Marymoor Park Habitat Restoration

Join us in restoring native habitat at the Marymoor Park interpretive area. 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. See article on page 1.

**Jim Rettig, 425-402-1833**

### July 12-13 (Sat-Sun) 11:00 am

#### Amy McQuade Hurricane Ridge Wildflower Walk

Our annual Olympic Peninsula wildflower trip featuring views, birds, and varied wildlife. On Saturday, at 11:00 am we will meet at the picnic table across the street from the Hurricane Ridge Visitor Center for a snack lunch. (This is the center at the base of the foothills, the one before you actually enter the park.) Look for the ELWAS sign. After lunch, we will head for the main visitor center at the top of Hurricane Ridge, making one stop to check out wildflowers along the way. If you miss lunch, look for us at the trailhead of Hurricane Hill, about a quarter mile beyond the main visitor center. Again look for the ELWAS sign. Motels and campsites are available if you want to stay overnight. For anyone staying overnight, Hugh Jennings will lead a trip to Ediz Hook, Dungeness Spit and the Sequim area on Sunday.

**Bill Schmidt 425-881-6037**

### July 13 (Sun) – 8:00 am

#### Reecer Canyon Wildflowers and Butterflies

Join our trip up Reecer Canyon north of Ellensburg to see one of the most prolific areas for butterflies in Washington. Although the record for this area is 70 butterfly species, we expect to see 35 to 40 species. We will also see more than 50 species of shrub-steppe wildflowers as we drive up Reecer Creek Road and

about 30 more wildflower species in the vicinity of the springs and meadow near Lion Rock.

Bring a butterfly book, native plant book, close-up binoculars (if you have them), camera, lunch, snacks, sun protection, and lots of water. No facilities. Plan to be back by early evening.

Meet before 8:00 at north (small) end of the Issaquah P&R (I-90 exit 15, corner of SR 900 and Newport Way) to carpool. Please contact **Sunny Walter** if you plan to join us, **425-271-1346 or**

**sunny@sunnywalter.com. Passenger cost/person \$20 (\$15 with 2 passengers, etc).**

### July 15 (Tues) 8:00 to noon

#### Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk

A relaxed walk in the Park, seeing what birds are in the area. Meets the **3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00.** Bring binoculars and meet in parking lot. No registration required. **MaryFrances Mathis 425-803-3026**

### July 19 (Sat) 9:00 am – Big Finn Hill Park

A 2-hour nature walk at Big Finn Hill Park (138 acre King County park bordering Denny Park and St. Edwards State Park); trails are muddy and not maintained. We will meet at 9:00 am at H.D. Thoreau Elementary School parking lot (8224 NE 138th St, Kirkland).

**Mark Crawford 425-823-0938**  
(markscrawford@gmail.com).

### July 19 (Sat) 9:00 am – Watershed Park

A 2-hour nature walk in this Kirkland park takes place the **3rd Saturday of each month** at 9:00 am. Nature walks enter the park off NE 45<sup>th</sup> Street, north of the railroad tracks on 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, east of 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. Watershed park has more than 70 acres of mostly upland second growth forest; there is some riparian habitat. Several plant and bird species can be seen in the park. Bus stop nearby on 108<sup>th</sup>, near 45<sup>th</sup>. Limited street parking.

**Jan Johnson 425-814-5923**

### July 28 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon

#### Birding the Hot Spots of King County

Monthly field trip on **4th Monday** of each month to wherever the birds are. Meet before 9:00 am at north end of the Newport Hills Park-N-Ride (I-405, exit 9) and plan to be back by noon. **Passenger cost/person \$2.00. Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

*(Continued on page 7)*

**August 1 (Fri) – 8:00 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 Dog Area parking lot. Parking is \$1.

**August 9 (Sat) 9:00 am -- Mercer Slough**

Mercer Slough introduction to birding walk, where we'll see Mallards, Cedar Wax Wings, Green and Great Blue Herons, Song Sparrows, and hopefully other surprises. Meet at the South Bellevue Park and Ride at 9 am for a leisurely walk. Bring binoculars if you have them, but don't worry if you don't. Look for the goofy looking guy with binoculars around his neck, carrying a spotting scope. **Merry and Bill Schmidt 425 881 6037**

**August 12 (Tues) 6:00 am to early evening**

**Table Mountain at Mt. Baker – limit 11 people**

Table Mt., in the Mt. Baker area east of Bellingham is an interesting area in mid-summer. We will work our way up, with stops on the way. At Table Mt., assuming the deep snow has melted, we will hike in search of White-tailed Ptarmigan, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches, and other mountain species. Bring lunch and fluids and sturdy walking shoes/boots. We'll meet at the Kingsgate P&R (116th Ave NE) at 6 am. Limit 11 people in 3 cars. Back early evening. **Passenger cost/person \$28.00.** Call **Brian Bell at 425-485-8058 to register.**

**August 12 (Tues) – 7:00 am**

**Sauk Mountain Wildflowers**

Lovely meadows of wildflowers everywhere and spectacular vistas. Round trip to the 5,537-foot lookout site is four miles, with an elevation gain of 1,200 feet. We will walk the first 1.5 miles of gentle switchbacks at a leisurely pace to take a close look at the outstanding show paintbrush, phlox, tiger lilies, aster, columbine, lupine, and many others.

Meet before 7:00 at the Kingsgate P&R, 13001 116th Way NE. Plan to be back by late afternoon. Northwest Forest Pass or Interagency Pass (formerly National Parks Pass) required. Bring a sack lunch, snacks, binoculars, sun protection, good walking shoes, and lots of water (rain gear if weather is questionable). Please contact **Melinda Bronsdon** if you're planning to join us, **425-827-5708** or **BRONSON874@aol.com.** **Passenger cost/person \$20 (\$15 with 2 passengers, etc)** **Trip limit is 12.**

**August 16 (Sat) 9:00 am – Watershed Park**

See July 19 entry.

**August 16 (Sat) 7:00 am — Grays Harbor Loop**

We will visit many different habitats from city parks, marinas, beaches, and forests for a variety of waterfowl, gulls, terns, shorebirds and songbirds. This is an all-day trip so bring a lunch. We will stop at the Raymond Waterfront City Park, Tokeland Marina and shoreline, Westport harbor, Westhaven State Park and Bottle Beach. Meet before 7:00 am at north end of the Wilburton Park-n-Ride (I-405, exit 12) to carpool. **Passenger cost/person \$33.00.** **Hugh Jennings 425-746-6351**

**August 19 (Tues) 8:00 to noon**

**Juanita Bay Park Bird Walk**

See July 15 entry.

**August 23 (Sat) - 7:15 am to early evening**

**Whidbey Island**

Take the ferry to Whidbey Island to check out several good places for waterfowl and shorebirds. Stops will include Deer Lagoon, Oak Harbor, and Dugualla Bay. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch and ferry fare. Meet before 7:15 am at south end of Kingsgate Park N Ride. Return early evening. **Passenger cost/person \$17.00 plus share ferry costs.** **Mike West and Joyce Meyer 425-868-7986**

**August 25 (Mon) 9:00 am to noon**

**Birding the Hot Spots of King County**

See July 28 entry.

**September 6 (Sat) – 6:30-8:00 pm**

**Vaux's Swifts in Monroe**

This is an evening trip to Monroe to watch thousands of Vaux's Swifts go thru their evening ritual before dropping in a chimney to roost for the night. Bring a folding chair or blanket if you don't like to stand for a long time. About an hour before dusk they begin circling and swirling around the chimney as the numbers keep increasing. A few will start making feints at the chimney, then a few will start dropping down into the chimney. These are followed by more and more until the sky is empty about dusk. We will meet at the south end of the Kingsgate P&R by 6:30 pm and carpool to Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe. **Passenger cost/person is \$3.00.** If you plan to go email **Hugh Jennings** at: **hughbirder@earthlink.net** or call at **425-746-6351.**