

## Musical Interlude: Part Three

KMUN Program

By

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From the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge to your backyard, we bring Willapa Nature Notes

A beautiful musical interlude introduces Nature Notes. As noted in my last nature note about our musical interlude, there are four birds that star along with the musical notes of the violin and the guitar. Today, the star of the show is the Killdeer.

The Killdeer is a shorebird about the size of a Robin. It is tall, has long legs and a relatively long tail. It is brownish above with a reddish rusty colored rump but is white below. It sports two distinctive black breast bands, a white throat and a black and white forehead. It also has a white eyebrow. Killdeer are well camouflaged for nesting since their nesting area choices are typically located on gravel, rocks, paths, roadsides, and even on driveways. The nest is a shallow scape to which they will sometimes add items such as rocks, sticks, pieces of shell and even trash.

The Killdeer is named for its distinctive call. Its familiar and boisterous call of Kill-deer, Kill-deer gives the bird its name. The Killdeer also has a fast bubbly call of rolling trills that sound like deedeede or teeteeteeteeteete ! Killdeer nest in the open and on the ground. They are versatile adapting to a wide variety of habitats. Besides its familiar, plaintive call, the Killdeer is also well-known for its broken wing act. A parent feigns injury by drooping a wing, fanning its tail, calling all the while as it walks quickly away from its nest or young when trying to lure a predator away.

Listen carefully to the musical interlude. Can you pick out the high, plaintive dee-dee or teeteeteeteeteeteete? Listen carefully and you will hear it.