

**The**

# Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

April 2011

**Rainier Audubon Presents**

**Bernie McKinney & Lisa Parsons**

## **The Middle Green River Coalition**

**Bass, Beaver and Dandy Lake Natural Area**

Monday April 18, 2011 6:30 PM

Federal Way United Methodist Church



Varied Thrush

**T**he Middle Green River Coalition (MGRC) will be giving a presentation on birds in the greenway and the opportunity for future birding in the Bass / Beaver / Dandy Lake natural area. Robert Fuerstenberg, Senior Ecologist, did a study that showed that the Bass Lake area has the most diversity of song bird species in King County. We want Audubon to help make this a premier place for birding.

Bernie McKinney is Vice President, Restoration Committee Director, Fund Raising Committee Chairman and Long time resident of the Enumclaw Plateau. Bernie became involved in MGRC because of his passion for forest stewardship. He became a King County Park Ambassador for the Bass / Beaver / Dandy Lake Complex. He is also one of the principal organizers of the "Rock the Green Clean" event which raises money to support the Cleanup events for the Green River Gorge. In addition, Bernie is a grant writer, musician, producer, photographer & native plant enthusiast.

"The opportunity to return thousands of acres of land back to its natural condition is exciting to me. This all seems like a dream come true..." Bernie McKinney.

Accompanying Bernie will be Lisa Parsons. Lisa Parsons

has been working on land conservation in southeast King County for the past 12 years. She is the Executive Director of the MGRC and works very hard, for free, on land conservation. Through her love of the outdoors and exploring she has discovered and worked to preserve some of the last wild places in southeast King County that have value due to their uniqueness as well as their recreational, habitat, and aquatic resources. She is also a conservation photographer who uses her medium as outreach to conserve key areas and bring them to the public's attention. When she isn't working as the Executive Director of MGRC or working as a paramedic, she travels internationally and enjoys frequent backyard adventures here at home.

Now that it is finally spring, please join us as we welcome fellow conservationists and hear about their efforts to preserve some wonderful habitat, not only for the birds, but for all of us. This promises to be an inspiring evening. As always, refreshments and conversation available before, during and following the program.

**Rainier Audubon programs are held at**

Federal Way United Methodist Church, 29645 - 51st Ave. So.  
98001 (in unincorporated Auburn)

**Directions:** In Federal Way, take 320th St. EAST past The Commons, crossing over I-5 and Military Rd.

At 321st St, turn left. Stay on 321st as it becomes 51st Ave. So. Follow 51st Ave. to 296th. Church will be on your left.

### **RAS Mission Statement**

To conserve and restore natural ecosystems and protect birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and biological diversity in South King County and the world we live in.

## President's Message by Nancy Streiffert

**Y**eah, Spring has sprung! A lovely time of year in the northwest as we enjoy spring earlier than where I grew up in western New York where the slush could go on and on! Migration is still going on and new and greater numbers of birds are being seen everywhere. Courting and nesting are in full swing for many species – a very silly black-capped chickadee keeps pecking at the windows of our house, intriguing my cats, apparently threatening a rival – his reflection!

Yet I am in a constant and renewing sense of mourning – every time I drive out of my cul-de-sac, I am confronted by the carnage of a neighbor's clear cut. Over a dozen huge firs, the kind you couldn't get your arms around, have been felled, their limbs chopped off and their stumps dug up, making what was once a lovely treed yard a wasteland of mud and piled logs. I only met the family years ago when I gave them a rooster and liked them – they keep chickens and bees. I guess I thought that made them "my kind of people" – sort of natural sorts. Now I envision them as "bad", uncaring of the environment and their fellow creatures who depend on trees. How judgmental of me in so many ways. In my more sane and rational moments, I know that I and all of us, unless we live in a tree house, live in houses made of cut down trees and on properties where trees were cut down to make room for us. It's just the observation of the process in its destruction and death of living and potentially living things that makes it hard to get my mind around. We often hear and see pileated woodpeckers in our yard and neighborhood – I

could swear I heard one from the direction of that yard making a sort of normal call that ended in an odd mournful note. But I've been known to anthropomorphize before.

Trying to see the bright side of this neighborhood loss of habitat, I think I am seeing way more chickadees in my yard than usual. I can only hope that my very thriving 7 year old native mini-forest will provide some of the needs of the resident and returning birds who will be baffled to find their past homes gone. We are fortunate to have a sort of green belt on a steep slope nearby, hopefully too steep for development, where displaced species may find refuge, although perhaps in competition with those already there! I also try to see it as part of the idea of the urban growth boundary. The way I understand that, it is better to "fill in" the available land within the urban areas where roads and services are already available instead of constantly pushing out into the wilderness, extending roads and destruction to new areas. Still, it seems that urban areas need some percentage of green space available for every day enjoyment and respite as well as stepping stones for species to migrate and keep gene pools viable. Until humans decide to limit their numbers and their consumption, this conflict can only increase.

Now I have to get out in the fresh air and listen and watch the wild things to cheer myself up! Remember to do the same! Nancy

### RAINIER AUDUBON OFFICERS

President	Nancy Streiffert	253-796-2203
Vice President	Steve Feldman*	360-802-5211
Treasurer	Jim Tooley*	253-854-3070
Secretary	Heather Gibson	253-856-9812
Program Chair	Dale Meland*	253-946-1637
Field Trip Chair	Carol Schulz	206-824-7618
Membership Chair	Pat Toth*	206-767-4944
Backyard Habitat Chair	Carol Stoner*	253-854-3207
Conservation Chair	Dan Streiffert*	253-796-2203
Mailing Chair	Debra Russel	425-271-0682
Hospitality	Sandra Embry	
Newsletter Editor	Dan Streiffert	253-796-2203
Webmaster	Nancy Hertzell	253-255-1808
Ivy Eradication Coordinator	Bernedine Lund	253-839-3729
Education Chair	Annette Tabor*	253-927-3208
Christmas Bird Count Coordinator	Nancy Streiffert	253-796-2203
Board Member	Max Prinsen*	425-432-9965
Board Member	Erin Wojewodski-Prinsen*	425-432-9965
*Also serves as Board Member.		
Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month and are open to all members.		

### Native Plant Sale

The Washington Native Plant Society Spring Sale is the REAL DEAL if you are looking for native plants for your garden. While the King Conservation District annual sale is the most economical way to get quantities of the most common native trees, shrubs and a few ground covers, the WNPS sale on May 7th from 10-4 is the place for more variety and unusual specialty natives. It is extremely popular and lines go around the block hours before opening so be prepared. Some people bring wagons to haul their loot but it is also in a limited space so be ready for a real elbow to elbow experience with fellow plant lovers! It is at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. For information: [www.wnps.org](http://www.wnps.org)



Nancy Streiffert

## What's Happening in Selleck?

Vaux's Swifts are happening in Selleck. Thirty-five thousand birds will drop by the former schoolhouse during the six weeks of the northbound migration. Starting in mid-April, hundreds of swifts roost in the chimney in Selleck. By the end of the month, the numbers reach more than 1000 each night. In 2010, the highest numbers were recorded on May 20, 21, and 22. On each of those nights, more than 3,000 birds spent the night in the schoolhouse chimney.

It takes a bit of luck to see the highest numbers swirl into the chimney, but most nights between late April and the end of May several hundred Vaux's Swifts put on a thrilling show as they flutter into the roost. If you arrive 30 minutes before sunset, you will see and hear the swifts gathering in the sky around the old school. As sunset approaches, the swifts fly in tighter and tighter circles, occasionally scattering, before returning to circle the school. Finally, a bird will pause, and with a brief flutter, parachute into the chimney. Others will follow flowing into the roost like water.

If you decide to see the show for yourself, please remember that the Old Selleck School is now private residences and be considerate of the folks who live there. The counters with the Vaux's Happening project are there to collect information most nights during migration, so the people in Selleck understand why strangers drive to the end of the road to stare at a chimney.

More information about Vaux's Swift, the Vaux's Happening project and the data from 2008 to 2010 is available on the website:

[www.vauxhappening.org/Vauxs\\_Happening/Vauxs\\_Happening\\_Home.html](http://www.vauxhappening.org/Vauxs_Happening/Vauxs_Happening_Home.html)

— Carol Stoner

## Puget Sound Birding Maps

Carol Schultz and Adele Freeland continue to work with Christi Norman and Hilary Hilscher on the 7th and last of the Washington State Bird Maps, the Puget Sound Loop to be published this fall. Christi is the birding-trail program director and Hillary is the communication specialist, Carol and Adele have already nominated Kent ponds, West Hylebos Wetlands Park, Dumas Bay, Flaming Geyser State Park, Tukwila Pond, and Soos Creek and are working on Dash Point State Park and Seahurst Park in Burien. The Seattle Times had a great article about the bird maps on Thursday, January 20, 2011. While this project may seem like it would be of interest only to "birdy" types, "Audubon hopes to send bird-loving tourists and the dollars they spend in hotels, coffee shops and stores to places with healthy bird habitats helping surrounding communities economically while at the same time encouraging them to recognize the value of preserving wetlands, forests, thickets and other places for wildlife and people."

Not all places nominated end up on the final map for each area. To be listed, the location must have easy bird sightings in a natural setting and provide adequate safe parking. Compilers are looking for quintessentially "Washington" sites. So far, available maps include: Cascade Loop, Coulee Corridor, Southwest Loop, Olympic Loop, Sun and Sage Loop and Palouse to Pine Loop. As spring and summer beckon you out birding, check them out free online at [www.wa.audubon.org/birds\\_GreatWABirdingTrial.html](http://www.wa.audubon.org/birds_GreatWABirdingTrial.html).

Link from the same page to order printed maps, \$4.95 each. They are also for sale through Seward Park Environmental and Audubon Center (206-652-2444, ext. 103) and Seattle Audubon Nature Shop, 8050 35th Ave. N.E., Seattle.

Carol Schultz

## Win a Backyard Habitat Consultation!

Rainier Audubon Society is offering a chance for you to win a Backyard Habitat Consultation! An expert native plant specialist/bird enthusiast will come to your "estate", of any size, and help you design a beautiful, water-efficient, bird and wildlife-friendly habitat that both you and the critters you share space with will enjoy.

Tickets are \$1 each and will be on sale starting September 18th at the Frog Frolic at Shadow Lake Bog and from then on at our meetings and events until the drawing at our April meeting. Enter early and often! If you are too far outside our RAS boundaries or would prefer, you can choose Russell Link's book, *Living with Wildlife*. Questions? Nancy at [nancy\\_streiffert@hotmail.com](mailto:nancy_streiffert@hotmail.com)



## Volunteer Job Openings

- Publicity Chair
- Treasurer Assistant with knowledge of Quick Books

Contact a Board Member if interested.



## Recent Field Trips

Our field trips this winter have been very successful, with good numbers of participants. Trips included:

Kittitas County Birding in Winter Dec 5 with Roger Orness and Charlie Wright, leaders. Good weather, and good numbers of raptors seen.

Birds on the Eastside w/ Amy Schillinger-Powell, Jan 22. Great weather, great group, and we even saw a Magpie at Fall City!

Raptors of the Auburn-Kent Valley, Sun Feb 6 w/ Roger O. Good raptors seen including Peregrine Falcons. The trip had a wait-list, so Roger lead another one the next weekend, which was also good.

The Feb Soos Creek Owl Prowl by Joe and Liz Miles on Feb 19 was probably the best yet. Grt-Horned Owls, W Screech Owls, and a Northern Saw-whet on the trip. Participants said the trip was great!

A GREAT field trip led by Steve Johnson on Feb 26 called Lakes and Parks in Federal Way. Because the ponds and lakes were frozen (the whole morning of birding was in the 20's, brrr), Steve first took us over the hill and down to Lake Fenwick and then to Frager Rd by the fishing hole. We had lots of birds down there including Wood Ducks at Lk Fenwick, and many sparrows along Frager Rd. Down at the ranch on Frager Rd we saw 8 Eurasian Collared-Doves, and a look-alike Ringed Turtle Dove with them! We came back up to Fed Way, and had lots more birds including 13 Redheads at the Weyerhaeuser Pond, Varied Thrushes at several spots, and good looks at a Hermit Thrush. Our trip list came out to 58 species seen, a very-large count for us on a local field trip.

Carol Schulz

## Local Birdwalk in Kent

Saturday, April 1  
8:00 AM to Noon  
Leader: Carol Schulz

Spring is a terrific time of year to bird in our local areas. We will walk in the woods, around lakes and ponds, and visit the fields in Kent. We'll look for migrant song birds, sparrows, and other birds; and listen to bird song. Those who do not enjoy walking should find nice birds right near the cars. Our first stop will be at Lake Fenwick, and then we'll drive to other areas in the valley.

**Bring:** Dress for the weather. Trails may be muddy. Bring snacks, drinks, and lunch if desired. Scopes are welcome. We may walk up to one mile.

**Meet:** At the Kent-Des Moines P&R at 8:00 am. We will carpool, but those who wish to leave early may do so.

**Directions:** Take I-5 to exit 149. Turn toward Kent. In one block, turn left (north) onto Military Rd. P&R is on the left.

**Sign-Up:** Contact Carol Schulz at [carol.schulz50@gmail.com](mailto:carol.schulz50@gmail.com), 206-824-7618.

## 2011 Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

April 29—May 1,

Many field trips long and short are offered at this festival in Hoquiam. More details at 1-360-289-5048, or [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com)

## Spring Birds on the Eastside

Saturday, April 30  
7:30 AM to Early Afternoon  
Leader: Amy Schillinger-Powell

Discover some new, exciting birding areas in Fall City and Snoqualmie Valley! These areas are close to Issaquah. We will seek American Dipper, warblers, and spring migrants, and listen to bird song.

**Bring:** Lunch, snacks, and drinks. Dress for the weather, as we hope to walk up to a mile to see the birds. Bring a scope if you have one.

**Meet:** At Issaquah Burger King on hwy 900 (near the park and ride). Take I-90 to exit 15. Turn right and travel 1 block. Turn right on Gilman Rd to enter Burger King parking lot. We'd like to limit the number of cars if possible, so be prepared to carpool.

**Sign Up:** Contact Amy Schillinger-Powell, [schillingera@hotmail.com](mailto:schillingera@hotmail.com), 425-243-2269

## Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Festival

Sat May 14— from 9am-3pm

A bird walk in the park and along the river will be offered on Migratory Bird Day. Programs and activities will be presented by several groups at this festival. RAS, Seattle Audubon, retail stores, and nature groups will be there. This is a fun, local festival! Birdwalk starts near Audubon Booth at 9:45.

More info and directions at <http://backyardwildlifefair.org>

## Weekly Bird Walks at Nisqually

Wednesdays 8:00 A.M. to Noon  
Leader: Phil Kelley

Join Phil Kelley on his weekly bird walks as he counts the birds at Nisqually NWR. The new boardwalk is open! The group walks over to an area near the visitor's center to view the entry road estuary, and then takes the boardwalk/trail loop out to the Twin Barns, and the Nisqually overlook area. From there, the group walks the new dike, and back to the Riparian Forest. Some may choose to continue on the NEW boardwalk. The walk totals 2.0 miles round-trip to the new boardwalk extension. The new boardwalk adds an additional 2.0 miles total, so the whole walk including the boardwalk extension is now 4.0 miles.

**Bring:** Good walking shoes or boots, raingear, water, snacks, and \$3 for entry fee unless you have a pass. Scopes are welcome.

**Meet:** At the Visitor's Center Pond Overlook.

**Directions:** Take I-5 south from Tacoma and exit to Nisqually NWR at exit 114. Take a right at the light.

**Sign-up:** Call or email Phil Kelley to confirm details. Phil Kelley, Lacey, (360) 459-1499, [scrubjay323@aol.com](mailto:scrubjay323@aol.com).

A new dike open to the public was completed in Jan, 2010. It can be seen from the Twin Barns, and leads from the Nisqually River almost over to McAllister Creek. A BRAND NEW boardwalk extension that goes out toward the mouth of McAllister Creek opened on Feb 1, 2011.



## Nisqually Wildlife Refuge - Shorebirds and More

Tuesday, April 26  
8:00 AM to approximately 2:00 PM  
Leader: Shep Thorp

We will be looking for shorebirds from the NEW BOARDWALK. This should be the perfect time of year to see these birds.

This trip goes later into the afternoon out on the boardwalk, to concentrate on the shorebirds on the incoming tide. But we hope to see other migrants on our walk such as warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and more. The walk is up to 4 miles, depending on whether you walk all the way out on the new boardwalk.

**Meet:** At the Visitor Center Pond Overlook at 8:00am.

**Bring:** Dress for the weather. Bring lunch, drinks and snacks. Scopes are encouraged.

**Directions:** Take I-5 south from Tacoma and exit to Nisqually NWR at exit 114. Take a right at the light.

**Sign up:** Contact Shep Thorp, [sthorp@theaec.com](mailto:sthorp@theaec.com), 253-370-3742.

## SHADOW Events

Save Habitat And Diversity of Wetlands  
425-432-4914

- **Saturday, April 2: 10a-1p** - Kick off Earth Month by helping to clean up the neighborhood. In partnership with Rainier Audubon, our Adopt-a-Road clean up will cover 2 miles, and skirts the Lake Youngs Trail, Shadow Lake and neighborhood farms & residences. We will provide kits with helmets, vests, garbage bags & gloves, and road signs. Please wear sturdy shoes and bright clothing. Event is followed by optional tour and light refreshments. Please RSVP to [in-fo@shadowhabitat.org](mailto:info@shadowhabitat.org) with number in your party.
- **Saturday & Sunday, April 9 & 10: 10a-4p** - Garage sale! Please support our education program by dropping off any gently used items between Mon, Apr 4 to Fri, Apr 8 between 10a-4p.
- **ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY EVENTS:**  
April 16: 11a-2p - **Gig Harbor Arbor Day**  
April 16: 6p - **Covington Rotary Club Auction**

## Sign up for our new Google Group!

We have recently created a new group to serve as an email list server for Rainier Audubon. The intent of this site is to assist in publicizing our activities members and the general public relating to our club activities. Anyone may join or leave the group at any time. You may sign up on our website or at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/ras-activites?hl=en>

## Upcoming Programs

- May—**BIRDATHON**
- May 16, 2011 **Ravens and Dog Sledding** - John Marzluff  
Annual Membership Meeting



# The Quizzical Owl

By Thais Bock\*



1. What is the name of the smallest No. American gull?
2. When a bird is found far from its usual area, it is called an \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We have two species of shorebirds called Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs; which one rarely swings its bill while probing for food?
4. The Latin word, *Oscine*, defines what group of birds?
5. Name a western warbler with an unmarked golden face and crown.

\*Reprinted with permission from Djana Bock.

Answers are on bottom of page.



## Mewsings from Millie

**H**ello and welcome once again to my monthly musings!

Each day the daylight is lasting a wee bit longer than the day before and many of the migratory birds are beginning to make an appearance.

Soon we will be seeing Violet-green Swallows, Turkey Vultures, Orange-crowned Warblers, Virginia Rails, Osprey among others and, of course, the Rufous Hummingbird.

The tiny Rufous makes one of the longest migratory journeys of any bird in the world as measured by body size. Just over three inches long, it flies roughly three thousand nine hundred miles one way from Mexico to Alaska, a distance equivalent to seven hundred eighty four thousand, five hundred body lengths! It makes me tired just thinking about it!

Rufous Hummingbirds are known to

have very good memories and will often return a year later to a spot where a bird feeder once was or still is.

The female Rufous is larger than the male and has white on the tips of its tail.

Rufous Hummingbirds do not have a song but make a sharp chipping noise. In flight, the male Rufous' wings make a buzzing sound.

Although being the smallest bird in our region, Rufous Hummingbirds are very aggressive and will chase other birds away from feeders.

Rufous Hummingbirds nest further north than any other hummingbird. Because of their high metabolism, they must eat constantly dining on flower nectar, sap from trees, and tiny insects and spiders.

Another critter that shows up around this time of year is the amazing Orchard Mason Bee (OMB) also known as just Mason Bee or the Blue Orchard Bee (BOB).

These cute, little bees are gentle, peaceful creatures. They don't have a queen to defend so they will not attack if disturbed. The males don't even have a stinger! Mason

Bees are smaller and rounder than a honeybee and are a beautiful dark blue-green with a metallic shine.

These bees only live for four to six weeks. They don't make honey but spend their entire lives collecting nectar and pollen to feed themselves and their young and pollinating plants and trees. Mason Bees are native to our area so they are well suited to doing this job.

Though tiny, Mason Bees are very industrious. A female will visit about one thousand eight hundred seventy five blossoms a day!

The name "Mason" comes from the fact that the female builds mud walls to make compartments for each of the larva that hatches. Unlike honeybees, Mason Bees do not colonize. They are very independent and are known as "solitary" bees.

Most birds that we know are not solitary and that is why there are so many collective nouns describing groups of birds. This month's offerings include: a covey of grouse, a nide of pheasants and a stand of flamingoes.

Until next time,

Millie, the Muse of Mews

Answers to Quizzical Owl: 1. Little Gull, 2. accidental, 3. Lesser Yellowlegs, 4. songbirds, 5. Hermit Warbler

## Western Field Ornithologists Conference

**Sierra Vista, AZ August 17-21,  
2011**

If you've never been to southeast Arizona during the late summer season (or even if you have), this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. We will offer field trips to all the southeast Arizona hotspots looking for local specialties like Scaled and Montezuma quail, Gray, Short-tailed, and Zone-tailed hawks, a dazzling variety of hummingbirds and flycatchers, Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Cassin's, Botteri's, Rufous-winged, and Five-striped sparrows and much more. To register and see full details go to [www.westernfieldornithologists.org](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org) and click on the 'Annual Conference' banner in the middle of the page. You will probably want to download the Conference Details document and review before you begin registration. Non-member registration includes a one-year membership to WFO and a subscription to our publication, Western Birds.

The rains that come during late summer to southeast Arizona create breeding conditions for some species and, for others, ideal conditions for molting prior to movement to the wintering grounds. This phenomenon of molt migration will be the subject of a Keynote address by Peter Pyle during the conference, and will be make the field trips particularly interesting. As always, we'll have Science Sessions Friday and Saturday afternoons, a wide variety of field trips, and workshops on topics like flycatcher identification, bird banding, study skin preparation, and wilderness first aid. Dan Fischer will give a talk about the first naturalists to visit the southwest. We are offering pre- and post-meeting field trips to the Chiricahua Mountains and California Gulch and a Sunday trip focusing on butterflies and dragonflies. Many local experts will be helping us out with workshops and field trips including Tony Battiste, Bob Behrstock, Homer Hansen, Melody Kehl, Michael Marsden, Ted Mouras, Heather Swanson, Wezil Walraven, Jack Whetstone, Sheri Williamson, and Erika Wilson. In addition, you'll have chances to bird with members of the WFO board like Ken Able, Jon Dunn, Kimball Garrett, Dave Krueper, Kurt Leuschner, Dave Shuford, and Jay Withgott.

As so many discovered last year, you need to register very early to be sure to get your first choice of field trips and workshops, so visit the WFO web site ([www.westernfieldornithologists.org](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org)) right away to see full details and to register.

## Stamp Sale Benefits Albatross Project

In a previous issue of the Heron Herald, the Albatross Project of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was featured. Rainier Audubon has been supporting the project by sending postage stamps to England for resale to collectors ever since Thais Bock started it. Rainier recently got to a huge donation of stamps but realized that the cost of shipping the stamps versus the money raised in England no longer computed. Instead, our faithful stamp person, Fred Ritsema, delivered the stamps to a Renton stamp dealer "as is" and they paid us \$75 which we sent to the Royal Society. You can learn more about the project and follow its progress at the following website:

The easiest way to get updates is to follow the albatross task force blogs which are updated quite frequently.

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/community/blogs/albatross/archive/2011/01/31/open-sea-to-the-dry-desert.aspx>

## Native Tribes Invest in the Environment

As president of Rainier Audubon Society, I receive all kinds of publications – paper and electronic. The latest was the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission News Winter 2010-2011 edition. I never knew there was such a thing although we moved to Washington about the time of the Boldt decision so I knew how important salmon was to the native tribes and that they were deeply involved in all aspects of fisheries. As the title reflects, much of the news is about salmon but by restoring good salmon habitat, all the other species that share and benefit from that habitat or the salmon directly or indirectly are helped. In our immediate area, the coordination and cooperation of many agencies, including the Nisqually tribe, were necessary to restore the Nisqually River estuary from dammed and diked farmland to a more natural estuarine environment. While this change removed the wonderful 5 mile loop walk and some of the ponds and wetlands that so many people enjoyed, in the long run, the more natural water flow of the estuary will benefit migrating and wintering birds as well as the salmon. The tribe itself has restored 140 acres in the Nisqually area.

The tribe also built a rain garden on the reservation to collect water from the roof of the education center. Tribal youth participated in planting native strawberries and other plants important to the tribe's culture such as grasses and other vegetation found in the forest.

I wonder if there are ways that Rainier might work cooperatively with local tribes on environmental projects. Any ideas? Nancy



Rainier Audubon Society  
 PO Box 778  
 Auburn, WA 98071

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Kent, WA 98031  
 Permit No. 441

Birds are indicators of the environment. If they are in trouble, we know we'll soon be in trouble.

-Roger Tory Peterson

## Rainier Audubon Membership Subscription or Renewal Form

One-year Membership in Rainier Audubon

- ◆ \$20—Individual Membership
- ◆ \$25—Family Membership

To join or renew, mail this application with your payment to:  
 Rainier Audubon Society - Membership  
 PO Box 778  
 Auburn, WA 98071



Or go to <http://www.rainieraudubon.org/> to enroll online.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*RAS Chapter membership includes 9 issues of the Heron Herald annually but does not include AUDUBON magazine.*



# NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Vote to be held at our May 16, 2011 Membership Meeting

Or VOTE BY MAIL\_IN BALLOT BELOW

In accordance with our bylaws, Rainier Audubon hereby announces the upcoming Board of Directors election to be held at our Monday, May 16, 2011 Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Federal Way United Methodist Church, 29645—51st Ave. So. In unincorporated Auburn, WA.

If you cannot make it to our May program to vote in person, please take the time to do so now.

## Mail in Ballot

You may vote for as many individuals as you wish. There are three open positions.

Check the box beside the name of the individual(s) you wish to vote for.

- Alex Juchems** - Resident of Auburn for the past 10 years. Married with two children, ages 9 and 4. I'm a "stay at home" parent homeschooling our 9 year old daughter. I also serve as a cycle fitness instructor for 24Hour Fitness. Past employment outside the home included work for Weyerhaeuser as a health and safety manager and as an environmental health and safety consultant for Delta Environmental. I received a Master of Science degree in 1993 from the University of Iowa in the field of Occupational Health and a Bachelors Degree in Animal Science along with a minor in Zoology from South Dakota State University in 1983. Member of Rainier Audubon for the past 2 years. In addition to birding, other activities I enjoy include cycling, running, organic landscaping, and camping. I've served as president of a chapter of Lions Club while farming in central Iowa. I've also served as a board member and president of the Interurban Running Club, an organization of over 100 runners and walkers.
- Heather M Gibson** - Heather has lived on the East Hill of Kent for 12 years. She has worked at the Boeing plant in Renton as a buyer for 22 years. She became involved in Tahoma Audubon in the mid 1980s and then later joined Rainier. She is currently serving as secretary for RAS. Her favorite part of being a member is the field trips and she likes the pretty birds best.
- Stephen R. Feldman** - Stephen R. Feldman is an attorney who has served as a Board member for 9 years. His primary focus is around conservation and habitat concerns. On behalf of the Rainier Audubon Society he has participated in The Tukwila Wildlife Fair, the Christmas Bird Count, the Enumclaw Small Farm Expo, and the Backyard Habitat program. He is seeking his fourth consecutive term on the Board
- Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

Voter Signature \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Affix  
postage  
here

**Rainier Audubon**  
**PO Box 778**  
**Auburn, WA 98071**