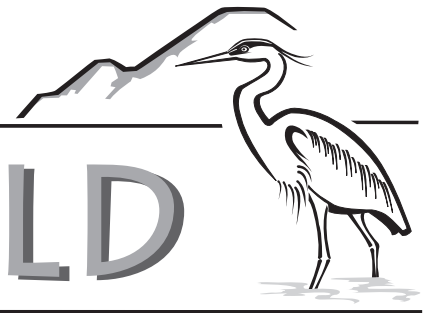


THE HERON HERALD



Rainier Audubon Society ~ February 2008

Vol 27 No 1

Check us out on the web: www.rainieraudubon.org

Rainier Audubon Presents: Evergreen Cities and the Spotted Owl

Monday, February 18, 2008, 7:00 PM



JENKINS CREEK PARK IN COVINGTON ©SAVECOVINGTONPARKS.ORG

Nina Carter and Lisa Paribello of Audubon's Washington State office will be at our February 18th meeting to tell us about the Evergreen Cities legislation campaign and bring us up-to-date on the latest Spotted Owl issues. Nina is the Executive Director of Washington State Audubon, and Lisa is the Chapter and Government Relations Coordinator. Evergreen Cities is one of the 'Priorities for a Healthy Washington 2008' that Washington State Audubon is concentrating on. Satellite

images of the Puget Sound area taken in the 1970s show huge green swaths, with just small black specks of buildings and roads. Recent images, however, are practically reversed, with large black areas dominating,

and small green patches shining through. The Evergreen Cities campaign is an effort to "retree" the entire state. As our population continues to grow, planting trees in our cities is one of the most cost-effective ways of improving water and air quality, as trees help mitigate the effects of climate change, air pollution, runoff pollution, and flooding.

Please join Rainier Audubon as we welcome Nina and Lisa for an informative and enjoyable evening. This is your chance to learn what our state office is

doing, ask questions about the Evergreen Cities campaign, and explore ways that we can all help. Refreshments will be available, and doors open at 6:30. The program is free and open to everyone.

**WHAT IS THE
EVERGREEN
CITIES ACT?
READ MORE
ABOUT IT
STARTING ON
PAGE 7.**

*Free
and open to the public*

**February Program
Monday, February 18th
7:00 PM
(doors open at 6:30)
Federal Way
United Methodist Church**

directions on page 2

Field Trips on Page 4

RAS Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

RAS Board Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

RAS Program

See page 1 for details

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

RAS Field Trip: Soos Creek Owl Prowl

See page 4 for details

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

RAS Field Trip: Renton Parks and Cedar River

See page 4 for details

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

RAS Field Trip: Marymoor Park and Medina Park

See page 4 for details

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

RAS Field Trip: Soos Creek Owl Prowl

See page 4 for details

<http://www.rainieraudubon.org/>

**Federal Way United Methodist Church
29645 - 51st Ave. So., Auburn, 98001**

DIRECTIONS TO THE CHURCH:

COMING FROM THE WEST: Take 320th St. heading east, past SeaTac Mall (now called The Commons). Cross I-5 and keep going east down towards Peasley Canyon Rd. At the first light after Military Rd. (321st St.), turn left. Stay on 321st St. as it winds up and around and becomes 51st Ave. So. The church will be on your left at 296th.

COMING FROM THE EAST: Take Peasley Canyon Rd. going west towards Federal Way. At the light at 321st St, take a right. Stay on 321st St. as it winds up and around and becomes 51st Ave. So. The church will be on your left at 296th.

Thank You to Christmas Bird Count Participants!

By Nancy Streiffert,
Rainier Audubon CBC Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2007 Kent/Auburn Christmas Bird Count! An informative article in the area "Reporter" newspapers brought lots of phone calls and about eight new participants. The count for participants this year was 70 in the field and 15 feeder watchers. It was great to have so many people. We had a dry, cold day — can't complain after so many days of rain recently. But thanks to all that rain, fields were flooded and waterfowl were abundant. The cold brought the small birds out to seek enough food to fuel them through another chilly night.

The data from the count is being entered into the National Audubon database (http://cbc.audubon.org/cbccurrent/current_table.html), so in the near future you will be able to look up our statistics on the web!



CBC GLOBAL RESULTS
©WWW.AUDUBON.ORG



FOX SPARROW ©JEAN KUNS
WWW.BIRDSOURCE.ORG

2008 Great Backyard Bird Count is February 15-18

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds!

Rainier Audubon Society is the
Washington State
South King County Chapter
of the National Audubon Society.

The Heron Herald is published by Rainier
Audubon Society 9 times a year.

Readers are invited to send in articles, photos or artwork for possible inclusion. Final deadline for material submission is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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Email materials to:

Nancy Hertzelt, editor:

autumn207@comcast.net

Rebecca Westby, layout artist:

hhartist@wildblue.net

Volunteer Opportunities 2008

Volunteer for Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands

FEBRUARY 9, FROM 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

West Milton Nature Preserve

Wood in streams is incredibly important for salmon. Come help us plant trees on the streambanks that will eventually end up in the Hylebos. Please RSVP to Hillary Kleeb by email at streamteam@hylebos.org or by phone at (253) 874-2005.



FEBRUARY 16, FROM 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

West Milton Nature Preserve

Site preparation is just as important as maintenance. We'll be suppressing invasive species to prepare the site for planting later this year. The site may be wet, and waterproof shoes will be a good idea. Please RSVP to Hillary Kleeb by email at streamteam@hylebos.org or by phone at (253) 874-2005.

MARCH 15, FROM 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Brooklake Blueberry Farm

We will be providing some much needed maintenance to the restoration sites at Brooklake. These areas are almost able to survive without our assistance — we just need to cut back the blackberry every now and then. We'd love your help! Please RSVP to Hillary Kleeb by email at streamteam@hylebos.org or by phone at (253) 874-2005 if you are interested in participating.



We Need You!

Rainier Audubon has an opening for a **Volunteer Coordinator/ Publicity Chair**. This person would research and gather environmentally-oriented volunteer opportunities in the south King County area for our members, and also promote our monthly programs with local newspapers and other media. If interested, please contact Carol at: stonefam@gte.net.

Spring Birding Festivals

Winter Wings Festival ~ February 15-17 *Oregon Institute of Technology ~ Klamath Falls, OR*

The Klamath Basin Audubon Society (KBAS) is sponsoring the Winter Wings Festival in conjunction with the Klamath Wingwatchers. The Festival will offer a keynote speaker, reception, field trips, workshops, mini-sessions, and other special events. In addition, there are many free activities, vendors, live birds, and displays targeted to families and children. For more information, visit www.winterwingsfest.org/

Port Susan Snow Goose Festival *February 23-24 ~ Stanwood, WA*

The Snow Geese, swans, waterfowl, and raptors are back in our area for the winter, and plans for the Third Annual Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival are well under way. This fun and educational festival will include speakers, a panel of experts, vendors, artists, tours, field trips, and even live birds! For more information, visit www.snowgoosefest.org/

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival ~ March 28-29-30

The Othello Sandhill Crane Festival has many tours for crane viewing, along with specialty tours. Specialty tours in the past have included Columbia National Wildlife Refuge/Potholes area wildlife tour, Missoula Floods and the Channeled Scablands geology tour, Sage Grouse Lek tour, Lower Grand Coulee birding tour and Wahluke Slope/Shrub Steppe birding tour. For more information, visit www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/

Olympic BirdFest 2008 ~ April 4-6 ~ Sequim, WA

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2008 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center! Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, and a traditional salmon bake at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center. New this year — Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 6-8. Visit San Juan, Orcas, and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. For more information, visit www.olympicbirdfest.org or contact us by phone, at (360) 681-4076, or by email at info@olympicbirdfest.org.

Weekly Bird Walks at Nisqually

Thursdays 8:15 AM to 12:30 PM

Leader: Phil Kelley

Join Phil on his weekly bird walk as he counts the birds at Nisqually NWR. On the first Thursday of the month, the group walks fairly quickly around the full loop, a distance of over five miles. Other weeks, the trip is shorter; walking out to McAllister Creek, back to the Visitors Center, then out to the Twin Barns and the Ring Dike Trail, totaling about four miles.

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

MEET: At the Visitors Center.

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

Soos Creek Owl Prowl

**Saturday Night, February 23
10:30 PM to 1:30 AM**

Leaders: Joe and Liz Miles

Join Friends of Soos Creek Park volunteers Joe and Liz Miles for this late night program and walk exploring the world of owls. We'll start indoors for the first hour learning calls, ID, and info about our local owls, then venture outdoors to prowling for owls. There is limited space for this program. Reservations are required. Best for adults and children over 13 years. Group size is limited to 15. This year the program is being sponsored by Kent City Recreation Dept.

MEET: Meet at the Soos Creek Park Maintenance Shop. Soos Creek Park/Trail, 24810 - 148th Ave. SE, Kent.

DIRECTIONS: Take James Street east from Kent. To reach James St, exit I-167 at Willis, turn east to Central, and North to James. Travel east on James as it becomes SE 240th St. Travel about four miles, as 240th dips and turns downhill. Turn right (south) on 148th Ave. near the bottom of the hill. The Soos Creek maintenance yard will be down the road about 1/4 mile on the left at a barn and chainlink-fenced parking lot.

SIGN-UP: Call Kent Commons, Kent City Parks and Recreation, 253-856-5000. This trip FILLS EARLY. Please register in advance. For further info: Email or call Joe Miles at joe.miles@att.net 253-639-0123. Joe can answer your questions but cannot arrange the sign-ups.

Renton Parks and Cedar River

Sunday, February 24

8:00 AM to Early Afternoon

Leader: Amy Schillinger

Amy is leading this trip to several Renton Parks that are new to Rainier people. The parks include Ron Regis Park, Liberty Park, Riverbend Park, and the mouth of the Cedar River. We will look for waterfowl, and listen for birds tuning up their spring songs.

BRING: Lunch, snacks, and drinks. Scopes are welcome.

MEET: 8:00 AM at Starbucks/Thriftway on Grady Way in Renton.

Directions: Take I-405 to the interchange of 405 & 167 (Exit 2), and turn toward Renton on Rainier Avenue. Drive one block north on Rainier Ave. Turn right onto Grady Way. Thriftway/Starbucks is about 2 blocks down Grady Way on the right. Meet near Starbucks.

SIGN-UP: Call or email Amy Schillinger, 425-443-6931, or amyschillinger@comcast.net

Marymoor Park and Medina Park

Saturday, March 8

8:00 AM to Early Afternoon

Leader: Kathy Andrich

Join Kathy for a trip to Marymoor and Medina Parks. Marymoor Park is at the north end of Lake Sammamish. We will see sparrows at the compost piles at Marymoor. At this time last year, quite a few songbirds were already tuning up their songs for spring, and a Great Horned Owl was being seen. The Tree Swallows were back and woodpecker species were around. This park is known for attracting rarities. At Medina Park near Bellevue, the Great Blue Herons are the stars, with their small but steady colony there; a few nests are in the open and easy to observe. Eurasian Wigeon are possible and other waterfowl will be found here.

BRING: Lunch, drinks, walking boots. Dress for the weather. Plan to walk about one mile total.

MEET: Newcastle Park & Ride at 8:00 AM.

Directions: Take I-405 to north of Renton. Take exit 9 (Newcastle), turn right up the hill about 1/2 block (do not go straight), and drive into the park & ride. Meet towards the north end of the Park & Ride.

SIGN-UP: Contact Kathy Andrich at chukar-bird@yahoo.com or 206-390-3159.

Soos Creek Owl Prowl

**Saturday Night, March 22
10:30 PM to 1:30 AM**

Leaders: Joe and Liz Miles

This is the second Soos Creek Owl Prowl of the year. Please see write-up from Feb 23 (bottom left column).

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

Friday - Sunday, March 28-30

Othello, Washington

Reported by Carol Schulz

I'll be heading over to the Othello Sandhill Crane Festival again this year. The FIELD TRIPS and lectures are great. I learn a lot, and see a lot of birds. We especially get to see OWLS! I also attend a banquet presented by the high school students on Saturday night. There are many birding tours which include local trips for Burrowing Owl and Sandhill Crane, as well as longer field trips featuring birding, geology, and nature. Many of the tours leave Othello in buses each morning and afternoon. Some birds seen last year on the tours were Sandhill Crane, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Burrowing Owl, and Long-eared Owl. I stay in accommodations over there, and I can recommend some to you. The banquet should not be missed! It is famous and very-gourmet! Registration information and tour info is available at www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org or call (866) 726-3445 toll free (after 4:00 PM). The most popular trips and accommodations fill early, so register ASAP. For more information about the festival, call or email me (Carol Schulz) at linusq@att.net, or (206) 824-7618. Email is preferred. Bring your own car. (Or... I leave early on Friday and return on Monday if you want to follow on the way over. Last year, we saw lots of birds on the way over.)



Unpredictable weather and equally unexpected birds have marked the winter thus far in King County. We had an outstanding turnout on the Christmas Bird Count - thanks to all of you who attended! The data gathered during this event can be analyzed and certain trends can be teased out. We notice patterns while out birding - for example, the scarcity of Varied Thrushes in the lowlands this winter - but to confirm our observations we need some harder data. With the CBC and newer ventures like www.eBird.org, citizen science is becoming a great source of that data.

A flock of 50 **Trumpeter Swans** 12/28 was exceptional for the valley (RO), and another flock of up to 74 frequented Van Ogle's Ford Road near Sumner (that count on 1/2). A **Snow Goose** was at Boeing Ponds 1/2 and at Smith Brothers Dairy 12/1. A count of 112 **Canvasback** at the Cedar River mouth was amazing. A hybrid **Ring-necked Duck x Scaup** was studied at Gene Coulon Park on 12/1. A **Clark's Grebe** was at the Cedar River mouth on 12/1 and 12/23 (CW).



CLARK'S GREBE ©JOSEPH H. HIGBEE

A **Green Heron** wintered at Boeing Ponds (m.obs), and one was seen at Glen Nelson Park on 12/30 (MB/JF). An **American Bittern** seen several times in December at Thomas Ponds was recovered dead on 1/13, and was given to the Slater Museum (KA). As per normal for this bird, the **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Kent Ponds was seen only a couple of times, most recently on 1/13 (KA). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted at Kent Ponds on 11/24 (PW). Two **Slaty-backed Gulls** were found at the Cedar River mouth in Renton: an adult on 12/23 (CW) and a fourth-winter bird there on 12/28 (RM). Single **Glaucous Gulls** were found at Frager Road on 12/30 and Foothills Trail 1/1 (CW), while two were at Gene Coulon Park 1/1, including one adult (CP/GM).

A flock of 75 **American Pipits** at 204th Street on 12/22 provided a good winter-time count (KA). One of the **Tropical Kingbirds** from last period remained at 287th Street through at least 11/24 (Twtrs). A **Western Scrub-Jay** was along Hwy 410 at Sumner, a new site for that species. A big mixed flock of birds in the Renton highlands on 12/19 included 10-15 **Townsend's**



COMMON REDPOLL ©WHATBIRD.COM

Warblers (AS). A Swamp Sparrow was at Kent Ponds 12/1. A **Common Redpoll** was among a large flock of Pine Siskins near Boulevard Lane Park on 12/30 (CW). **Pine Siskins** were observed in large flocks this season, and were far more widespread than they have been in several years (m.obs). Representing a first record for Pierce County, a **Rusty Blackbird** appeared on Van Ogle's Ford Road in Sumner on 11/29 (CW).

OBSERVERS: KA-KATHY ANDRICH; EB-ELAINE BEERMANN; MB-MARISSA BENAVENTE; TB-THAIS BOCK; JF-JIM FLYNN; GM-GUY MCWETHY; RM-RYAN MERRILL; RO-ROGER ORNESS; CP-CURTIS PEARSON; AS-AMY SCHILLINGER; CS-CAROL SCHULZ; PW-PAUL WEBSTER; CW-CHARLIE WRIGHT; TWTRS-TWEETERS; M.OBS-MANY OBSERVERS.



Going Birding?

Report your sightings to Charlie at (253) 862-0520 or email c.wright7@comcast.net.

Results – Kent-Auburn Christmas Bird Count – 12/30/2007

BIRD SPECIES COUNT

Red-throated Loon . . . . .	.1
Common Loon . . . . .	.3
Pied-billed Grebe . . . . .	.64
Horned Grebe . . . . .	.29
Red-necked Grebe . . . . .	.6
Western Grebe . . . . .	.2
DbI-crested Cormorant . . . . .	.160
Pelagic Cormorant . . . . .	.2
Amer. Bittern . . . . .	.1
Great Blue Heron . . . . .	.44
Green Heron . . . . .	.1
Tundra Swan	<1>
Trumpeter Swan . . . . .	.16
Gr Wht-fronted Goose . . . . .	.10
Snow Goose . . . . .	.1
Cackling Goose . . . . .	.176
Canada Goose . . . . .	.416
Wood Duck . . . . .	.95
Green-winged Teal . . . . .	.1048
Mallard . . . . .	.1031
Northern Pintail . . . . .	.1034
Northern Shoveler . . . . .	.139
Gadwall . . . . .	.146
Eurasian Wigeon . . . . .	.18
American Wigeon . . . . .	.735
Canvasback . . . . .	.156
Redhead . . . . .	.9
Ring-necked Duck . . . . .	.181
Greater Scaup . . . . .	.282
Lesser Scaup . . . . .	.80
Harlequin Duck . . . . .	.123
Surf Scoter . . . . .	.39
White-winged Scoter . . . . .	.29
Common Goldeneye . . . . .	.100
Barrow's Goldeneye . . . . .	.44
Bufflehead . . . . .	.210
Hooded Merganser . . . . .	.139
Common Merganser . . . . .	.86
Red-breasted Merganser . . . . .	.18
Ruddy Duck . . . . .	.139
Bald Eagle . . . . .	.52
No. Harrier . . . . .	.5
Sharp-shinned Hawk . . . . .	.9
Cooper's Hawk . . . . .	.8
Red-tailed Hawk . . . . .	.80
Amer. Kestrel . . . . .	.1
Merlin . . . . .	.3
Peregrine Falcon . . . . .	.3
Ring-necked Pheasant . . . . .	.0
Ruffed Grouse . . . . .	.0
California Quail . . . . .	.9
Virginia Rail . . . . .	.16
American Coot . . . . .	.522
Killdeer . . . . .	.75
Western Sandpiper . . . . .	.2
Dunlin . . . . .	.6
Wilson's Snipe . . . . .	.4
Mew Gull . . . . .	.57
Ring-billed Gull . . . . .	.32
Herring Gull . . . . .	.1
Thayer's Gull . . . . .	.3
Western Gull . . . . .	.3
Glaucous-Winged Gull . . . . .	.482
Common Murre . . . . .	.2
Pigeon Guillemot . . . . .	.2
Rock Pigeon . . . . .	.541
Band-tailed Pigeon . . . . .	.29
Mourning Dove . . . . .	.35
Barn Owl . . . . .	.2
Western Screech-Owl . . . . .	.2
Great Horned Owl . . . . .	.5
Northern Saw-whet Owl . . . . .	.3
Anna's Hummingbird . . . . .	.35
Belted Kingfisher . . . . .	.5
Red-breasted Sapsucker . . . . .	.6
Downy Woodpecker . . . . .	.29
Hairy Woodpecker . . . . .	.7
Northern Flicker . . . . .	.106
Pileated Woodpecker . . . . .	.7
Steller's Jay . . . . .	.68
Western Scrub Jay	<1>
Common Raven . . . . .	.2
American Crow . . . . .	.4566
Blk-capped Chickadee . . . . .	.503
Chestnut-bk'd Chickadee . . . . .	.92
Bushtit . . . . .	.276
Red-breasted Nuthatch . . . . .	.29
Brown Creeper . . . . .	.18
Bewick's Wren . . . . .	.59
Winter Wren . . . . .	.55
Marsh Wren . . . . .	.29
American Dipper . . . . .	.1
Golden-cr. Kinglet . . . . .	.352
Ruby-cr. Kinglet . . . . .	.99
Hermit Thrush . . . . .	.1
American Robin . . . . .	.1308
Varied Thrush . . . . .	.31
American Pipit . . . . .	.15
Cedar Waxwing . . . . .	.30
Northern Shrike . . . . .	.2
European Starling . . . . .	.2868
Hutton's Vireo . . . . .	.2
Orange-crowned Warbler . . . . .	.1
Yellow-rumped Warbler . . . . .	.35
Townsend's Warbler . . . . .	.12
Spotted Towhee . . . . .	.128
Savannah Sparrow . . . . .	.3
Fox Sparrow . . . . .	.55
Song Sparrow . . . . .	.329
Lincoln's Sparrow . . . . .	.28
White-throated Sparrow . . . . .	.3
Golden-crowned Sparrow . . . . .	.127
White-crowned Sparrow . . . . .	.31
Dark-eyed Junco . . . . .	.697
Red-winged Blackbird . . . . .	.316
Brewer's Blackbird . . . . .	.257
Brown-headed Cowbird . . . . .	.6
Purple Finch . . . . .	.22
House Finch . . . . .	.212
Red Crossbill . . . . .	.27
Pine Siskin . . . . .	.1744
American Goldfinch . . . . .	.466
Evening Grosbeak . . . . .	.7

House Sparrow . . . . .	.189
Common Redpoll (New) . . . . .	.1
Glaucous Gull (New) . . . . .	.1

Total Individuals24105
Total Species122

<1> = Seen during Countweek

CBC TOTALS

NUMBER OF OBSERVERS85
IN THE FIELD70
AT FEEDERS15
NUMBER OF SPECIES122
INDIVIDUAL BIRDS24,105

RAS 2007 CBC Participants

IN THE FIELD

CAREN ADAMS	ALEX AND BRIAN MEILLEUR
KATHY ANDRICH	JOE AND LIZ MILES
TOM AVERSA	ROGER ORNESS
LINDA BARTLETT	BARBARA PETERSEN
MARISSA BENAVENTE	WILLIAM POWELL
ANN BENGELINK	POLLY RASER
MERRI BERG	CHERYL REMINGTON
JONATHAN BLUBAUGH	PETER AND NAOMI RIMBOS
TOM BOWEN	TED AND KRIS RIPLEY
HEIDI BOWEN	DEBRA RUSSELL
CHRIS BROWNE	KIRK SCARBROUGH
KEN BRUNNER	AMY SCHILLINGER
MARY AND BILL BUSH	CAROL SCHULZ
BARBARA CARMICHAEL	BONNIE SCOTT
SHARON CHRISTENSEN	LORI SHIELDS
JEFF COHEN	BOB STALLCOP
PATTI COOLSEN	CAROL STONER
LIZ CORMIER	DAN AND NANCY STREIFFERT
JOANNE CORMIER	VERN AND JEANNIE SUMNER
SHARRON CORMIER-AAGAARD	ROSS TABOR
LUCIA FAITHFUL	JOE AND RUTH TERLOUW
JIM FLYNN	TERRY THURBER
HEATHER GIBSON	BRENDA TOM
DANA GLENN	JIM TOOLEY
MARILYNN HOBBS-GIBSON	RON TOONEN
STEVE JOHNSON	PAT TOTH
CAROL JOHNSON	JANET AND JOE VOGEL
LISA JOHNSON	CHERYL WHITE
NANCY LANDER	MERLIN WIESE
JAN MARRS	CHARLIE AND GORDON WRIGHT

FEEDER WATCHERS

THAIS BOCK	RYAN, YVONNE,
JEAN LOTTER	AND DAVID SLATER
BERNEDINE LUND	BETSY AND MEILING SPROGER
ELAINE AND HENRY MAROS	ED AND BLYTH STANTON
EDWARD MOORE	LAURA STILES
BARBARA NYLUND	

Event organized and coordinated by Nancy Streiffert

Species tallied and checked by Charlie Wright

Data compiled and submitted by Mark Freeland

2007 Kent/Auburn Christmas Bird Count 2006

By Mark Freeland, CBC Compiler

Rainier Audubon held the 2007 Christmas Bird Count on 30 December. There was a great turnout, with many new people participating, and the weather cooperated, sparing counters from the forecasted rain. The species count was **122 species, 24,105 individual birds**, all seen within a single 24-hour period, by the combined efforts of 85 people either watching their feeders or out in the cold and windy expanses of suburbia. Here are some highlights:

- **Greater White-fronted Goose** — 10 near 212th Street
- **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** — with 800 Green-winged in Kent fields
- **Redhead** — in a marshy area near Federal Way
- **Green Heron** — near Glenn Nelson Park on west hill of Kent
- **Glaucous Gull** — one immature on the north end of Frager Road
- **Common Murre** — several on the Puget Sound, missed in prior years
- **Orange-crowned Warbler** — Frager Road
- **White-throated Sparrow** — seen at several sites
- **Common Redpoll** — one mixed in with a large siskin flock east of Kent

Some trends were obvious:

- Anna's Hummingbirds continue to increase.
- Varied Thrush were clearly below average numbers.
- Starlings and blackbirds were not found in large flocks.
- Siskins (and finches in general) were found in quite large numbers.

Missed Species:

- Black Scoter
- Pacific Loon
- Bonaparte's Gull

Thanks to our CBC organizer, Nancy Streiffert, and to Charlie Wright for the count summary. And for everyone's help! Until next year, stay warm and dry and keep your eyes open for those flighty birds.

Evergreen Cities

As our population grows, trees are replaced with impervious blacktop and concrete. Meanwhile, climate change is increasing runoff pollution and flooding. Trees in our cities are one of the most cost-effective ways to improve our water quality, air quality, and our quality of life. The Evergreen Cities proposal ensures that the Evergreen State is full of Evergreen Cities.

Benefits

Healthy and expanded urban forests will be helpful to communities and people across the state:

Trees reduce runoff, a top Puget Sound pollutant, and save tax payers over \$2.4 billion in stormwater management.

The right trees in the right place can reduce energy costs and associated greenhouse gas emissions by 30% for Eastern Washington home and business owners.

This proposal will increase communities' goals, objectives and management plans for urban forests and the environmental services they provide.

Trees absorb air pollutants that cause asthma and global warming.

Legislative Proposal

The Evergreen Cities Act restores, retains and establishes more trees and forests in our communities by creating:

Inventory and Assessment:

The bill directs the Department of Natural Resources to develop a statewide inventory and assessment of our communities' forests, providing critical technical assistance for local government ordinance and forest plan

cont'd on page 9

The Quizzical Owl

by Thais Bock



1. What old-world bird first crossed the Atlantic Ocean to settle in South America before arriving more recently in the United States?
2. In the late 1980s a rare Siberian visitor, overwintering in the Kent Valley for two seasons, appeared once on our local CBC.
3. The former Louisiana Heron is now called the _____.
4. The name, Phainopepla, a bird of the southwest, comes from the Greek meaning _____. (two words)

ANSWERS ARE UPSIDE DOWN BELOW



Bug of the Month: A Book Review

Go Buggy!

Bugs, insects, spiders, caterpillars, moths — all are critical to the life and well-being of our bird population, which feed on them. Here is a great little poem from a great new children's book about bugs — Leslie Bulion's *Hey There, Stink Bug*, illustrated by Leslie Evans and published by Charlesbridge in 2006. It is now out in paperback. Following each poem is a paragraph or two of factual information about the bug in the poem. If you're intrigued, this book is available from the King County Library or your local bookstore.

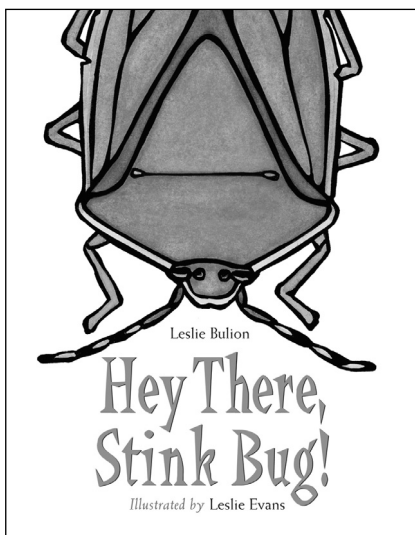
Do you
think butterflies are ornamental?
Are marching ants just accidental?
Are lady beetles sentimental?
Take a closer look.

They've spent
Four hundred million years evolving
Elegant, devious tricks, involving
Bug-get-buggy problem solving.
Take a closer look.

They can
Bug-hunt each other on chemical cue,
Play dead, spin thread, turn guts to stew,
Boast two hundred million per one of you.
Take a closer look.

This is
an insect world with humans in it.
We'll seize the day, but they will win it.
You've been forewarned, now let's begin it—
Take a closer look . . .

at BUGS!



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Evergreen Cities...

Cont'd from page 7

development.

Funding for local governments:

New revenue is generated by utility ratepayers for cities and counties to develop and implement tree ordinances, forest management plans, and for utilities to increase service reliability, leveraging increased federal funds.

Partnerships and Education:

Local governments will engage volunteers, conservation, homeowners and civic groups in forest plan development and implementation.

Regional performance standards:

Department of Community Trade and Economic Development convenes advisory committee and creates rules for eco-regional performance standards for tree retention, forest restoration, urban forest canopy, ordinances and management plans to achieve environmental objectives.

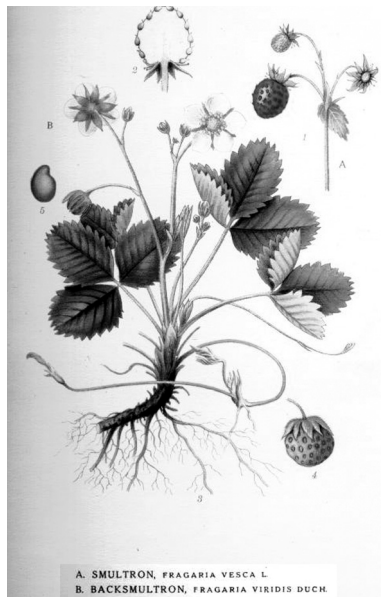
Tree ordinances and management plans:

Local governments are funded to update or adopt tree ordinances and urban forest management plans to meet these standards.

Free Native Plants

Free to gardeners interested in native plants:

Woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*). Easy to grow. Forms a dense mat of small, bright, dark green leaves. Mine have not formed flowers or fruit yet. Since they get lots of water where I have them, they may be putting all their energy into leaves and runners! If you could use some, please call Nancy Streiffert at (253) 852-8394.



Rainier Audubon Society

Rainier Audubon Society is the Washington State South King County Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, and to protect birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and biological diversity in South King County and the world we live in.

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