

THE

# HERON HERALD



Rainier Audubon Society • May 2007

Check us out on the web: [www.rainieraudubon.org](http://www.rainieraudubon.org)

Vol 26 No.5

Rainier Audubon Presents:

## For The Birds: Wild Birds Unlimited

Free  
and open to the public



Andy Waters from Wild Birds Unlimited in Burien will bring to our May program a variety of bird-houses, birdseed, birdbaths, and other products for backyard bird watchers, so come prepared to fill your yard with bird-attracting items! This program comes at the perfect time, in the month of May, as our weather is warming up, birds are migrating through, and we are all spending time outside planting and redesigning our space. Andy will discuss how to lure birds to your yard and will answer any questions you may have. The program will open with a slide show by Rainier's Backyard Habitat Chair Carol Stoner on attracting wildlife to an urban area, and some successful designs for wildlife landscaping. Doors open at 6:30, and there will be good conversation and refreshments available before and after the program.

### Good Birding

According to the Spring 2007 *Washington Birder*, edited by Ken Knittle, 13 Washington birders surpassed 300 species on their 2006 state list, and two of the top five are Rainier members and field trip leaders. In first place was Charlie Wright with 339 species; and in fifth place, Kathy Andrich with 321.

Please note: This is our final program of the year. Monthly programs will resume in September.

#### May Program

Monday, May 21, 2007

7:00 PM

(doors open at 6:30)

Federal Way  
United Methodist Church

(directions below)

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

#### DIRECTIONS:

**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.

# Spring & Summer Calendar

MAY 3, THURSDAY, 7:00 PM

**Rainier Audubon Presentation to Washington Native Plant Society: "Native Plants and the Birds that Use Them"**

See "Busy Elves" on this page for details

MAY 6, SUNDAY, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

**Native Plant and Water-Wise Garden Tour at Covington Water District**

See "Busy Elves" on this page for details

MAY 12, SATURDAY, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

**Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Faire**

See Page 3 for details

MAY 13, SUNDAY

**RAS Field Trip: Soos Creek Bird Walk**

See page 4 for details

MAY 15, TUESDAY, 7:00 PM

**Rainier Audubon Presentation at REI Southcenter in Tukwila: "Birds a Hiker Might Encounter"**

See "Busy Elves" on this page for details

MAY 19, SATURDAY

**RAS Field Trip: Snoqualmie Pass to Vantage**

See page 4 for details

MAY 25-28, FRIDAY THROUGH MONDAY

**Annual Audubon Campout at Wenas**

See page 3 for details

JUNE 3, SUNDAY

**RAS Field Trip: Soos Creek Bird Walk**

See page 5 for details

JUNE 9, SATURDAY

**RAS Field Trip: Soos Creek South**

See page 5 for details

JUNE 23, SATURDAY, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

**Covington Water Wise Garden Faire**

See "Busy Elves" on this page for details

JULY 14, SATURDAY, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

**RAS Garage Sale**

See "Busy Elves" on this page for details

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

# Busy Elves

**Y**our friends at Rainier have been busy over the last few months, putting together and showing presentations around the state. In April, **Carol Stoner and Linda Bartlett** traveled to Everett to present a slide-show to Pilchuck Audubon on *Native Plants and the Birds That Use Them*. Carol and Linda said the audience was wonderful and friendly and it was a great experience to meet these like-minded friends.

Meanwhile, **Ross and Annette Tabor** were invited to Shadow Lake Elementary School as part of an Earth Day celebration; they talked to the children about birds and engaged them in activities such as stamping and looking up state birds.

**Carol** will be presenting the *Native Plants and Birds* program again to the Washington Native Plant Society on MAY 3, THURSDAY, at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture; her support person at this presentation will be **Nancy Streiffert**.

On MAY 6, SUNDAY, **Carol and Nancy Hertz** will be sipping lemonade at the Covington Water District's outdoor garden from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, waiting for people interested in native plants and water-wise gardening to drop by. Carol will be happy to identify native plants and discuss smart watering with anyone who shows up. This is a free event and all are invited.

On MAY 15, TUESDAY, at 7:00 PM, **Carol and Merlin Wiese** will be presenting to REI Southcenter a slide-show on *Birds a Hiker Might Encounter*. This presentation is free and open to all.

The annual *Covington Water-Wise Garden Faire* will be on JUNE 23,

SATURDAY, this year, and Rainier will have a booth. We will also be giving a 15-minute slide show on native plants. Drop by for a walk, a tour, or to browse the tables and booths. We are hoping the Mason Bee Man will be there again this year with his wonderful blocks of wood with bees in them. Again, this event is free and everyone is invited.

And finally, on JULY 14, SATURDAY, we will be having our annual fund-raiser *garage sale*. If you are spring-cleaning and find something you can donate, email Nancy at [autumn207@comcast.net](mailto:autumn207@comcast.net) and she will arrange to pick it up. If you don't have anything to donate, think about coming by and sitting with us on a beautiful summer day while we greet the neighbors and sock away those dimes and quarters for future environmental and birding projects.

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

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Readers are invited to send in articles, photos or artwork for possible inclusion. Final deadline for material submission is the 18th of the month preceding publication.

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# Birding Festivals

## 7th Annual Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Festival

SATURDAY, MAY 12 — 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

TUKWILA COMMUNITY CENTER

A free, all-day event to inspire people to welcome wildlife such as birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, into their backyards, gardens, and communities. The event will host a variety of activities and educational opportunities on how to attract and support wildlife through garden and landscape practices, and creating and preserving wildlife habitat in our region.

### Event highlights:

#### PROCESSION OF THE SPECIES

**COSTUME PARADE** – a procession of children of all ages dancing and marching in costumes that mimic their favorite northwest wildlife animal. (12:00 p.m.)

**GUIDED BIRDING WALK** on the Duwamish River by Carol Schulz of the Rainier Audubon Society (10:30 a.m.)

**NW TREK KIDS ZONE** – Educational workshops to allow kids to explore the world of nature and wildlife through hands-on activities.

**REI PAVILION** – Activities teaching kids stewardship and respect for wildlife habitats out in the natural world.

**NATIVE PLANT SALES** – Talk to the experts about what plants will thrive on your property, ask about drought-tolerant plants and have your questions answered while you purchase the plants that will make your property a wildlife-friendly paradise.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS MARKETPLACE** – browse gardening and nature related product booths including plant sales, fresh produce, bird-houses and more.

**GARDEN TOUR** – A self-guided tour of certified wildlife habitat gardens in the area. (Begins at 3:00 p.m.)



## Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, MAY 18-19, 2007

The third annual **Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds** has something for everyone! This year's event includes the "On Wing" Juried Art Show throughout the month of May at the Edmonds Conference Center, culminating with an artists' reception on Friday evening, May 18. On Saturday, May 19, guided walks and field trips take advantage of birding opportunities in local parks, wildlife reserves, along the Puget Sound shoreline, at the Edmonds Marsh. Indoor activities include speakers on Bird-watching Basics, Identification of Common Backyard Birds, Bird-Friendly Gardening, Bird Photography, Raptor Education, and Birds of Puget Sound. Many activities will appeal to children, including "The Migration Game" at the marsh. For more information, contact Sally at (425) 771-0227, or visit [www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com/](http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com/)

## International Migratory Bird Day 2007

MAY 12, SATURDAY

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) was created in 1993 by visionaries at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Now under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IMBD continues to focus attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird -- its journey between its summer breeding grounds in North America and its wintering grounds in Mexico, Central, and South America. IMBD takes place on the second Saturday in May each year, with activities around the country which encourage bird conservation and increase awareness of birds through hikes, bird-watching, festivals, information about birds and migration, public events, and a variety of other educational programs and festivities. The theme for IMBD 2007 is "Climate Change." Birds have long been indicators of environmental change, sounding the alarm about such things as the impact of pesticides and polluted water and the loss of contiguous forest.

While IMBD continues to promote the joy of birds, this year, it will also tackle the challenging, yet pertinent topic of climate change. For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/birds/imbd/>



## *Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Festival:*

### *Bird Walk in the Park and Along the Duwamish River at 10:30 AM*

**Saturday, May 12  
10:00 AM-3:00 PM**

A bird walk in the park and along the river will be offered at this annual festival held on International Migratory Bird Day. The event will include a variety of activities, programs, and educational opportunities presented by the Zoo and groups such as both Rainier and Seattle Audubon, and other nature groups. This is a fun, local festival! Bird walk starts near Audubon Booth at 10:30. More info and directions at <http://backyardwildlifefair.org>

## *Soos Creek Bird Walk*

**Sunday, May 13  
8:00 AM-9:30 AM**

**Leaders: Joe and Liz Miles**

Join Friends of Soos Creek Park volunteers Joe and Liz Miles for this spring bird walk along the north portion of Soos Creek.

**BRING:** Binoculars, and dress for the weather.

**MEET:** Gary Grant Park, 13700 SE 208th St. in Kent.

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-167, take the So. 212th exit in north Kent. Travel east (up the hill) 3 miles on 212th which becomes 208th. The park is on the left.

**SIGN-UP:** For further information, e-mail or call Joe Miles, [joe.miles@att.net](mailto:joe.miles@att.net) (253) 639-0123. Joe can answer your questions, and says this is a great trip for families. No need to sign up.

***Birders of all Levels are Welcome!***



## *Leavenworth Bird Festival*

**Friday through Sunday, May 18-20**

Three days of field trips and activities are offered at this superb spring festival. Many field trips are offered including owl-ing trips, raft trips, trips to the mountains and to sagebrush country, and even a wheel-chair accessible trip.

There will be a new birding-by-ear walk with David Drummond. Last year, 119 bird species were seen, including seven species of warbler, White-headed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Cinnamon Teal, and eight species of raptor.

Some trips require advance registration. For more information, visit [www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com](http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com)

## *Snoqualmie Pass to Vantage—BIRDATHON Field Trip*

**Saturday, May 19, 6:00 AM to Evening**

**LEADER: Jim Tooley**

This has been a very popular Birdathon trip in the past at a perfect time of year to see many migrant birds. On this big Eastern Washington trip, we will target as many bird species as possible at Snoqualmie Pass, Cle Elum, Teanaway, and Vantage. Sponsor Jim, get your own sponsors, or sponsor yourself to help our RAS Birdathon. This will also be an "Accessible Trip" for folks who can't walk far. Our viewing will be near cars and along level roads. After looking for songbirds at the Pass, we will head east along the I-90 corridor searching for warblers, flycatchers, and dippers. In the Cle Elum area, we will seek out migrant songbirds, and near the ponds, we hope to find many bird species. We will search for bluebirds and raptors near Teanaway, and then stop at the Teanaway River bridge to look for swallows, ducks, dippers, and other song-birds. In the afternoon, we'll go down the old highway toward Vantage, watching for birds of the sagebrush country. We'll scope the Columbia River and its cliffs before heading for home in late afternoon.

## *Wenas Campout Wenas Creek in Eastern Washington*

**Friday through Monday, May 25-28, Memorial Day Weekend**

A trip to Wenas SW of Ellensburg is sure to lead to a large bird list, including Bluebirds, White-headed Woodpecker, Calliope Hummingbird, warblers, and more. Some folks like to camp out, and some like to just visit for a day. Organized events include FIELD TRIPS, classes, and campfire programs starting Friday evening. Field trips will be led by advanced birders and naturalists. Many people enjoy hiking, botanizing, and birding on their own. This huge bird sanctuary and other habitats feature the special birds of the Eastern Washington forests, lakes, mountains, and valleys. Bring your own water. Sanicans are provided.

**MEET:** At the camp. See new website, [www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org).

Road is rough. Drive last 10 miles slow. Last year, two of us stayed at a motel in Ellensburg and drove into the camp. It takes about an hour to travel on a gravel road from Ellensburg.

An "Accessible Trip" means people do not have to walk if they don't want to. We will be visiting at many stops where there are restrooms. People doing Birdathon trips are invited, as we hope to get a large trip list! Non-Birdathoners are also welcome!

**BRING:** Warm clothes, lunches (maybe two), drinks and plenty of snacks, insect repellent, and sunscreen.

**MEET:** Auburn Safeway at Auburn Ave. & Main St. Take Hwy. 18 to Auburn and exit at Auburn Ave. (Hwy. 164). Turn north (right) on Auburn Way and drive three blocks north. Safeway sign and gas station will be on the left. Park in the lot just beyond the gas station before 6:00 AM. We will meet and carpool (promptly at 6:00) from there.

**SIGN-UP:** Call (before 8:30 PM) or email Jim Tooley, (253) 854-3070, or [actjct@aol.com](mailto:actjct@aol.com).cast.net

## Field Trips...cont'd

### *Soos Creek Bird Walk*

**Sunday, June 3**  
**8:00 AM to 9:30 AM**

**Leaders: Joe and Liz Miles**

Join Friends of Soos Creek Park volunteers Joe and Liz Miles for this spring bird walk along the north portion of Soos Creek.

BRING: Binoculars, and dress for the weather.

MEET: Gary Grant Park, 13700 SE 208th St. in Kent.

DIRECTIONS: From I-167, take the So. 212th exit in north Kent. Travel east (up the hill) three miles on 212th which becomes 208th.

The park is on the left. For further info: Email or call Joe Miles, joe.miles@att.net (253) 639-0123. Joe can answer your questions, and says this is a great trip for families too. No need to sign up.

### *Soos Creek South*

**Saturday, June 9, 2007**  
**8:00 AM-Noon**

**Leader: Kathy Andrich**

Take a lovely spring walk on Soos Creek Trail through the southern portion of Soos Creek Park. Flycatchers, Warblers, Thrushes, Woodpeckers, and more may be calling and singing. We may even look for Red-eyed Vireo. This section of the trail starts at the Soos Creek Park Maintenance Shop (the Barn), and leads south to Lake Meridian Park. Kathy is familiar with these birding areas, and will show us the way.

BRING: Walking shoes, insect repellent, trail snacks, and water. We will be walking two to three miles.

MEET: At the Soos Creek Park Maintenance Shop, Soos Creek Park/Trail, 24810-148th Ave. SE in Kent, at 8:00 AM.

DIRECTIONS: Take James St. 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 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 or email Kathy Andrich, (206)390-3159, or chukarbird@yahoo.com

## Effects of Global Warming on Wildlife

In its February 2007 report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, established by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, expressed more than 90% confidence that global warming is caused by human activity. Over the last several decades, scientists have carefully studied patterns of climate change around the world. In its recent assessment, the IPCC reviewed hundreds of these studies on such topics as past climate changes, observations of retreating ice, warming and rising seas, and other changes, as well as a wide array of supercomputer simulations to model how the planet has been and will be affected by increasing amounts of greenhouse gases. Together these studies offer a stark portrait of a rapidly changing world:

- *Temperatures have risen about 1.3 degrees F since the late 19th century.*
- *Mountain glaciers and snow cover are declining in most parts of the world. The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are melting and breaking up.*
- *The area covered by Arctic sea ice in winter has shrunk about 2.7% each decade since 1978, with even greater summertime reductions.*
- *Global sea levels rose between 5 and 9 inches during the 20th century.*
- *The North Atlantic has shown increased hurricane intensity since 1970.*

All organisms depend on their habitats for food, water, shelter, and opportunities to breed and raise young; therefore, climate changes that affect these habitats also affect the organisms. In fact, global warming impacts all life on earth, from individual organisms to entire populations, species, communities, and ecosystems. It can alter behaviors, population sizes, species distributions, plant and animal communities, and ecosystem functions and stability. How strongly different species will be affected varies, depending on differences in their ecology and life history. Species with small population sizes, restricted ranges, and limited ability to move to different habitat will be most at risk. Similarly, different habitats and ecosystems will be impacted differently, with those in coastal, high-latitude, and high-altitude regions most vulnerable.

### *Four Effects on Birds*

#### 1) GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

The ranges of many plants and animals are moving toward the poles and toward higher elevations. For example, the ranges of many British breeding birds were, on average, more than 11 miles farther north in the period from 1988-91 than they were in the period from 1968-72, according to comparisons derived from breeding bird atlases. (British butterflies are also being found farther north.)

*cont'd on page 7*

# Seen & Heard

By Charlie Wright



*Finally the song-birds have arrived in full force! It was a very productive month for local birding, with many noteworthy sightings. The peak of spring*

*migration here in South King County tends to be around the 10th of May, so keep an eye on your yard and you will be rewarded!*

An **American Bittern** was at Kent Ponds 4/2 (PW). A growing, though still small, colony of **Great Blue Herons** exists along Soos Creek in Kent, when around 10 nests were counted (KA). The first **Osprey** report was from a nest site in Renton 3/31 (GO). The Kent Ponds **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen again 3/27 (LR). An adult **Golden Eagle** migrated over Bonney Lake 4/18 (CW). A brood of baby Killdeer had hatched by 4/18 in Kent (PW). A **Black-bellied Plover** was spotted at Smith Brothers' Dairy on 4/10 (MB). A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was seen at

Green River Community College 3/28, where sightings have been regular over the last few years (MV). Two **Red-naped Sapsuckers**, a

rare spring migrant west of the Cascades, appeared at West Hylebos State Park on 4/12 and continued until 4/16 (SB). A record-early **Vaux's Swift** showed up at Bonney Lake 4/8 (CW).

A **Say's Phoebe** was found at Kent Ponds 3/27 (LR). A female Mountain Bluebird was found at 204th Street in Kent 5/18 (PW). **Hutton's Vireos**,



RED CROSSBILL ©CHARLIE WRIGHT

overlooked most times of the year, were conspicuous on 3/25 when several were heard singing and one was seen eating a bee at Soos Creek (KA). A large movement of **Violet-green Swallows** occurred on 4/9, when 800 were seen at various valley locations (PW). The wintering **Palm Warbler** continued at Cedar River Park 3/27 (LR). **Common Yellowthroats** were numerous on Foothills Trail 4/8. Two **White-throated Sparrows** were along the Foothills Trail 4/14 (CW). A female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** appeared at Kent Ponds 4/6 (Twtrs). Twelve **Red Crossbills** were at Dash Point 4/1 (AF/MF), while a flock of 35

crossbills roamed the Foothills Trail during

April (CW). **Pine Siskins** became very widespread and omnipresent in late March. While no large flocks were reported, they were more common than they have been in

several years (m.obs).



BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER ©JOSEPH V. HIGBEE

## OBSERVERS:

KA-KATHY ANDRICH; MB-MATT BARTELS; TB-THAIS BOCK; SB-SETH BYNUM; AF-ADELE FREELAND; MF-MARK FREELAND; GO-GRACE OLIVER; LR-LOUISE RUTTER; CS-CAROL SCHULZ; MV-MARK VERNON; PW-PAUL WEBSTER; CW-CHARLIE WRIGHT; TWTRS-TWEETERS; M.OBS-MANY OBSERVERS.

## Birding Locations Mentioned in Seen & Heard

**Boeing Ponds (Kent):** From I-5, take exit 152 onto Orillia Rd. Go east on Orillia; Orillia will become So. 212th St. Turn left at the light at So. 59th Pl. and go half a mile. Just past the Boeing Kent Space Center, you will see the first of the ponds. Park anywhere you can and view the ponds. From there, continue on 59th about two blocks to a blocked-off road on the right. Park there and view birds in the water below. Walk to the other ponds on 62nd Ave So. (2005 Thomas Guide: King 685, F-5)

**Kent Ponds (Green River Natural Resource Area):** This area is bounded generally by the Green River to the west, So. 212th St. to the north, 64th Ave. to the east, and the Puget Power pedestrian/bike trail to the south. Two public gates allow pedestrian access to the site along Russell Road, and another may be accessed by foot or bicycle, along the south bike path. (2005 Thomas Guide: King 685, F-5)

**204th St:** Small road between Orillia and Frager Roads, just north of 212th.

**McMillin, Orting, and Buckley trailheads:** Take Hwy. 410 east to the Orting/Sumner exit (Route 162). Turn right towards Orting. The McMillin trailhead will be on the right just after the bridge. The Orting trailhead is two miles further on the right, located in Orting City Park. For the Buckley trailhead: Take Hwy. 410 to the Park Avenue exit and turn right (east). Turn at the first left onto North River Ave. Go straight to the National Guard parking.

**Des Moines Beach Park:** 22030 Cliff Avenue South in Des Moines

**Nolte State Park:** Located north of the town of Enumclaw, Wash., at the western edge of the Cascade Mountains. From east of Enumclaw: On SR 410, turn north on 284th Ave., S.E., (look for sign) and continue approximately seven miles to park entrance.

**Flaming Geyser State Park:** From SR 18: Take the Auburn-Black Diamond Rd. exit. Travel east to Green Valley Rd. Turn right (southeast). Continue on Green Valley Rd. about nine miles to park entrance.

**Smith Bros. Dairy Farms** in Kent valley: 27441 - 68th Avenue So, Kent. South Prairie (town). Take Hwy 410 to Bonney Lake and take a right on South Prairie Rd. After four miles, turn right onto Pioneer Way (Hwy. 162) into Puyallup. Just across the bridge is South Prairie.

**Foothills Trail:** Follow directions to South Prairie (above). Trailhead for the Foothills Trail is in South Prairie just after Rainier Avenue.

## Going Birding?

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

## Our Biggest Fund-Raiser of the Year is this month!

Here's how BIRDATHON works: People go out to count birds, after collecting pledges from sponsors to pay a certain amount (for instance, a few cents) for each species they see. All a birder has to do is choose a date and time in the month of May and start counting. You can do it alone, with a group, or join a field trip. You don't have to be an expert—some people even do Birdathons from their kitchen window, counting the visitors to their feeder. Others cover dozens of miles in a day, racking up the species. The key is to have fun and to raise money for your local Audubon chapter. If you can help Rainier this spring by joining in Birdathon, we would be very grateful. Contact Ross, our Birdathon coordinator, at [rarailfan@aol.com](mailto:rarailfan@aol.com), to let him know you want to participate. You may also fill in the form below and send it to: Rainier Audubon, P.O. Box 778, Auburn, WA 98071

## Global Warming...*con't from page 5*

### 2) REPRODUCTION TIMING

Egg-laying, flowering, and spawning are occurring earlier for many species, in some cases disrupting delicate cycles that ensure that insects and other food are available for young animals. For example, Tree Swallows across North America have advanced egg-laying by as many as nine days from 1959 to 1991.

### 3) MIGRATION TIMING AND PATTERNS

Spring migration is occurring earlier and fall migration later in many species. For example, 25 migratory bird species are arriving in Manitoba, Canada, earlier than they did 63 years ago; only two are arriving later.

### 4) FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF PEST OUTBREAKS

Global warming increases droughts in some areas; spruce budworm outbreaks frequently

follow droughts, perhaps because dry weather increases the stress on host trees or allows more spruce budworm eggs to be laid. Spruce budworms can be lethal to spruce trees, and spruce-fir forests are a very important habitat type in the northern hemisphere for a wide variety of plants and animals.

*Think globally.*



*Act locally.*



## 2007 BIRDATHON Fund-Raiser April 28 – May 31

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- I will go birding for the Rainier Audubon Birdathon and will recruit at least five pledges.
- I will go birding or participate in a field trip, but rather than get pledges, I will make a donation to Rainier.
- I will sponsor a birder at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per bird species the birder sees.
- I will sponsor a birder by making a flat donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

# Birds & Bugs Go Hand-in-Hand



Many of our birds have bug-rich diets, such as the Purple Martin (100% bugs) and the Wilson's Warbler (90%). If you want to attract birds to your yard, one good way is to attract bugs first. Are you hesitating because you're not sure you want bugs in your yard? Think again! The Pacific Northwest has many beneficial insects that bless the yards of

lucky gardeners and birders. Some of these are:

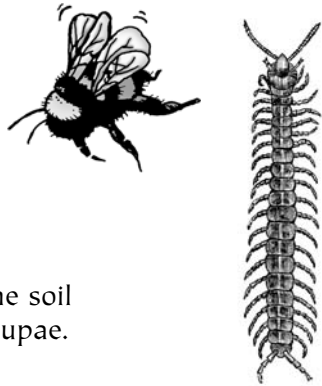
## **Bald-faced hornet**

Eats many pests, including crane flies and yellow jackets. They may also act as pollinators of some plants.



## **Bumble bee**

Emerging workers are able to fly in very cool weather, making them a valuable pollinator of a variety of plants.



## **Centipede**

Preys on pests and insects in the soil including slugs, worms, and fly pupae.

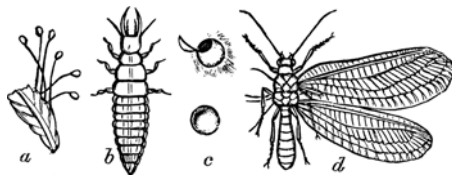
## **Dragonfly, Damselfly**

Eats mosquitoes, aphids, and other pest bugs.



## **Green lacewing**

Both larvae and adults feed voraciously on aphids and other small insects, insect eggs, and spider mites. They also eat leafhopper nymphs, whiteflies and small caterpillars.



## **Ground beetle**

These very common garden insects feed on many soil-inhabiting pests such as cutworms and root maggots. Some types eat slugs and snails.



## **Honeybee**

Important pollinators of many plants.



## **Lady beetle (also known as lady bug)**

Both larvae and adults feed on soft-bodied insects such as aphids, mealybugs, scale insects and spider mites as well as insect eggs.



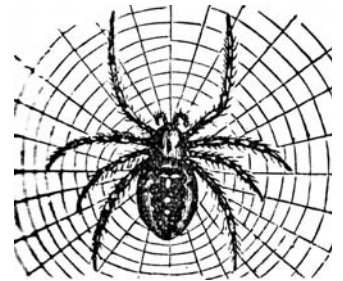
## **Mason bee**

These gentle bees pollinate apples, cherries and other tree fruit. They are active between apple blossom and cherry blossom season, then die out by summer.



## **Spider**

Our most important predators on insects, killing more than all other predators combined. They feed on a broad variety of pest insects year-round.



## **How to Attract These Beneficial Insects**

Try to leave a section of your yard undisturbed. A little "wild place" can offer a haven for many beneficial insects that would otherwise be killed by tilling and mowing.

Provide a water source such a bird bath or a small pond; anyone who maintains a bird bath knows that there are always insects around it!

Plant native flowers that produce pollen and nectar, as they are a primary food source for these good bugs.

Plants in the cabbage, carrot, and sunflower families are especially attractive to insects. Other plants that attract beneficial insects include angelica, bee balm, buckwheat, calendula, candytuft, ceanothus, chervil, cilantro, clover, daisy, dill, erigeron, evening primrose, fennel, goldenrod, gypsophila, lovage, parsley, Queen Anne's lace, rue, snowberry, sunflower, sweet alyssum, sweet cicely, thyme, valerian, and yarrow.



# What is King Conservation District and Why do They Have Annual Native Plant Sales?

In the 1930s, the Great Plains experienced a severe, sustained drought; eventually, the dry soil began to blow away, creating huge dust storms that blotted out the sun. These dust clouds reached as far south as Texas and as far east as New York. On Capitol Hill, while testifying about the erosion problem, soil scientist Hugh Hammond Bennett threw back the curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. In an effort to take action that might save our nation's agricultural lands, Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national priority; however, since about three-fourths of the land in the continental United States is privately owned, Congress realized they would need to find a way to work together with these landowners: "Conservation districts" were born.

In the 70 years since then, the nation's 3,000 conservation districts have partnered with landowners to help them improve management of their land while also practicing sound environmental stewardship.

King Conservation District (KCD) is one of 47 conservation districts in the state of Washington. KCD defines itself as "a natural resources assistance agency authorized by the State of Washington and guided by the Washington State Conservation Commission." A five member Board of Supervisors is responsible for all District programs and activities. KCD promotes conservation through demonstration projects, educational events, providing technical assistance, and, in some cases, providing or pointing the way to funds which may be available for projects. The KCD has no regulatory or enforcement authority; they only work with

those who choose to work with them. All landowners within the District boundaries are entitled to free information and technical assistance for water quality protection, wildlife habitat enhancement, farm management plans, soil and slope stability information, native plant products, volunteer opportunities, stream restoration/enhancement assistance, and many other natural resource topics.

KCD helps farmers choose what crops to plant and how much fertilizer to use, in ways that will best protect our natural resources. They help to restore wetlands, and install efficient irrigation systems and flood protections. Urban expansion poses a variety of problems, too, from threatening plant and animal habitat to compromising water quality; modern construction practices often accelerate erosion, allowing sediment to wash into waterways; and homeowners often use too much fertilizer and pesticide in their yards, and that also ends up in the waterways. KCD helps with all of these management issues. Some of KCD's current programs are:

## **1) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)**

CREP pays landowners to plant trees and shrubs on salmon streams. CREP uses monetary incentives to encourage landowners to restore stream and river corridors, rather than relying on regulation. All costs of the restoration are paid by the government, not the landowner. Land must be on a salmon or steelhead stream to be eligible.

## **2) Manure Share**

Manure Share is a simple, free way to recycle valuable nutrients

and organic matter. This is a program to help people share manure with one another.

## **3) Wetland Plant Cooperative and Native Plant Holding Facility**

In 1997, KCD was awarded a \$55,000 King County Water Quality Block Grant to start and maintain the Wetland Plant Cooperative to address the increasing need for native wetland plants as well as the restoration community's desire for native plants grown from seed collected in local watersheds. Today, over 30 species of wetland plants are grown at the District's facility, with an average annual inventory ranging from 10 to 15 thousand individual plants.

The KCD Wetland Plant Cooperative provides wetland emergent plants for nonprofit and governmental agencies in trade for volunteer service at the nursery or in-kind contributions such as soil, lumber, or pots. It is often the case that community groups have a stronger volunteer base than funding source. The cooperative allows these groups to utilize their volunteers to receive plant material for wetland or salt marsh restoration project that otherwise could not be implemented for lack of funding.



# The Quizzical Owl

by *Thais Bock*



1. The name of this shorebird means, literally, "the little one of the sand."
2. What warbler is named after its far northern breeding range?
3. The word "Laridae" or Larid refers to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What owl is closely related to the Great Horned Owl?
5. Name the innermost feathers lining the wings, especially noticeable in certain shorebirds.

ANSWERS ARE UPSIDE DOWN BELOW

## Birds in Peril

**F**ollowing are the seven birds classified as endangered in the state of Washington by the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. (Endangered is defined as: A species native to the State of Washington that is seriously threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the state.)

*American White Pelican*

*Brown Pelican*

*Sandhill Crane*

*Snowy Plover*

*Upland Sandpiper*

*Spotted Owl*

*Streaked Horned Lark*



*cont'd on next page*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SANDHILL CRANE, BROWN PELICAN, UPLAND SANDPIPER, STREAKED HORNED LARK, SNOWY PLOVER, SPOTTED OWL, AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN. (SNOWY PLOVER AND SPOTTED OWL ©CHARLIE WRIGHT)

# Birds in Peril

cont'd from previous page

**T**he five birds below are listed as threatened (defined as: A species native to the state of Washington that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats):

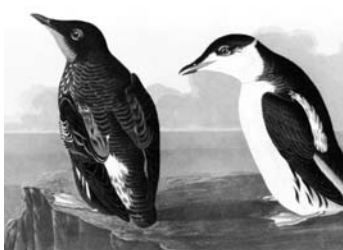
**Bald Eagle**

**Ferruginous Hawk**

**Marbled Murrelet**

**Greater Sage-Grouse**

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**



TOP TO BOTTOM: BALD EAGLE, FERRUGINOUS HAWK, MARBLED MURRELET, (R) GREATER SAGE-GROUSE, (L) SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

## 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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