

The

Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

March 2011

Rainier Audubon Presents

Chris Caviezel

Hummingbirds of Snoqualmie Pass

Monday March 21, 2011

6:30 PM



Chris Caviezel is a noted Hummingbirder, as well as Kittitas Audubon Member, who has been attracting Hummingbirds to his house for the past 7 years. He started attracting Hummingbirds after visiting a friend that lives near his house at Snoqualmie Pass. His friend had a few feeders outside and the next day Chris drove to the store to buy a hummingbird feeder and after he hung it up he had a hummingbird visiting him within one hour. His hummingbird feeders have done through as much as 300 ounces of nectar in one day. This past winter, for the first time ever at Snoqualmie Pass, he had an Anna's Hummingbird visiting his feeder for ten days.

Chris will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation of the

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.

hummingbirds visiting his house at Snoqualmie Pass. His program has been well received by other groups and a very nice article was featured on the front page of the Seattle Times in 2009. The article can be found at http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2009149195_hummingbirds30m.html

As winter slowly recedes and spring begins to awaken, this will be an excellent program to give everyone a birding appetizer for the upcoming season. Come and enjoy the "Hummingbirds of Snoqualmie Pass" with Rainier Audubon. As always, refreshments and conversation available before, during and following the program.

Environmental Lobby Day – February 15, 2011

This year's lobby day had a record turnout of over 500 participants. This is the third year that I have attended and each year the numbers have increased. The highlight of the day was a public committee hearing on the Coal Free Future for Washington (HB 1825 | SB 5769). The environmentalists flooded this meeting and filled two or three overflow areas. They were joined by a large contingency of workers wearing TransAlta buttons. I do not know the relative numbers between these groups, but the committee organizers decided that they had to split the hearing room 50/50 between the two groups. As a result, many of us did not get in, in spite of being at the head of the line! The outdated TransAlta plant is Washington's only coal-fired power plant, and it is the state's largest single source of toxic mercury, air and climate pollution. Coal pollution is linked to serious health problems including learning disabilities, cancer, heart and lung disease, and asthma among kids and seniors.

In a related issue, Climate Solutions, Earth Justice, Washington Environmental Committee, and the Sierra Club have joined in a legal appeal to stop an Australia-based coal company from opening the door to make Washington the coal-export hub of

(Continued on page 9)

President's Message by Nancy Streiffert

Spring? Every day that we DON'T have a blizzard or some other horrendous weather event in our area like the rest of the country and even the world seem to be having, I am glad. Also a little nervous, like we've dodged a bullet so far but how long can our luck last?! Only one snowstorm back in November. The heavy rain is what's supposed to happen here in the Northwest so that doesn't rank very high on the scale of weather problems. Will we pay with another cool, rainy summer? Who knows?



The early bulbs are pushing up and the small purple Wanda and larger yellow, slug-resistant primroses are flowering (maybe they are slug resistant because they are growing before it is warm enough for slugs! Pink, purple and white heather is also starting to bloom. The first native plant to flower noticeably is the Osoberry or Indian Plum whose white pendulous flowers hang down from the slender branches arranged usually in a loose vase-shaped small tree. They provide nectar and pollen for early native bees and nectar for overwintering Anna's hummingbirds. Both male and female trees have flowers. Only the female trees have purple plums usually less than 1/2 inch diameter on bright red stems. Robins love the fruit and will strip a tree quickly, leaving the bright red fruit stems on the tree. Trees are often seen on the side of the road where they hang out to catch the sun. Birds spread the seeds and they germinate easily in sun or shade to make more bird food! Flowers, unfortunately, have a cat-pee smell if brought indoors! Watch for and enjoy this early sign of things to come!

Many of you may remember the Seen and Heard column in the Heron Herald written for many years by Charlie Wright. If you are new, the column was an opportunity to share information and even brag a bit about the birds you saw at home or out and about. Birders would contact Charlie by phone (before email and Internet!) and report interesting or unusual or "firsts" of birds they had seen in our area and Charlie would put that all together in a column with interesting information. If you would like to see that column return to the Heron Herald, consider becoming the contact and writer for it or

share the project with a friend. It doesn't have to be any particular length or format – the more different kinds of articles we have in the Heron Herald, the more interesting it and our website are!

Welcome back the spring migrants as they begin to come north – lots of robins seem to be coming through my area on the Kent east hill. Fill feeders if you want or enjoy the birds as they forage among native and non-native plants in your yard. Compare with your own past notes or other people's to see if migrants are showing up sooner or later – any trends? Join the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and

participate in one of their many different citizen science bird observation projects or just visit their web site for a wealth of up-to-date or archived information on birds. And cross your fingers that winter's worst will skip our area this year!

Nancy Streiffert

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 Hertzal	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.		

RAS Committees

As you know, we are gearing up for May's elections of new board members. We also hope to add people, at any time, to our committees to further our mission. Because new people are joining Rainier, I'd like to describe some of our committees that might interest you. Contact me or any board member for more information or to join a committee.

Membership Committee – Pat Toth is our Membership Chair. She updates our member data base, sends welcoming letters to new people, and tracks Heron Herald subscriptions. She works with the mailing committee and newsletter committee to update and prepare labels for the newsletter to be sure it gets sent in a timely fashion. The committee could use members who would follow up on Pat's welcoming letters by calling or meeting new people at our meetings, letting them know more about Rainier. Personal contact can make the difference between active involvement and by-stander status!

Newsletter Committee – Dan Streiffert is our newsletter editor and Jim Tooley takes the Heron Herald to the printer. Any member can help with the newsletter by submitting articles, art or ideas for articles to the editor.

Mailing Committee – Debra Russell is Chair. She picks up the newsletters and sometimes folds and sticks on the labels as well as the mailing seals. She stamps "Last copy, please renew" or "Complimentary copy, please renew", as needed. Then she sorts by zip code for lower mailing rates, prints out the forms needed to comply with Kent bulk mailing requirements and

takes them to the East Hill Post Office. She also sends or takes unfolded copies to 8 different regional libraries.

Program Committee – Dale Meland is Chair. He contacts speakers for our monthly programs and makes the necessary arrangements, financial and equipment-wise, and introduces them at the meetings. People with ideas for future programs would be welcome to join him.

Education Committee – Annette Tabor is Chair. Our main educational tool is Audubon Adventures, a program, complete with publications, ready-made for elementary school classrooms. Annette contacts teachers, often in person, to show and explain the program to them and takes care of signing them up. More committee members would mean a greater chance to get our message of care, protection and enjoyment of the environment out to young people.

Field Trip Committee – Carol Schulz is Chair as well as one of our trip leaders. Carol arranges field trips by expert birders in our area and farther afield as well as writing the field trip descriptions for the newsletter. She also often writes summaries of the birds seen on trips. More committee members could encourage more leaders to do more trips at various levels of expertise.

Hospitality Committee – Sandra Embrey is Chair. Sandra and Ralph bring the delicious snacks we enjoy at meetings as well as set up the snack table, make the coffee and water for tea and clean up after our meetings. Sandra puts out a sign-up sheet so others can share their goodies with us. More committee members would mean more help with the set up and clean up!

Conservation Committee – Dan Streiffert is Chair. The committee works with other Audubon chapters and other environmental organizations to set state legislative priorities, coordinate with our Audubon lobbyist in Olympia and attend lobby days to meet with our legislators about issues. The committee informs the board and members of current and upcoming legislation - national, state and local - that effect the environment and birds so that we, as individual citizens and/or Rainier Audubon Society, can take action by contacting our representatives to express our views and request specific action. This interaction with our government is at the heart of how and why the Audubon Society was formed in the first place – to stop the feather and plume trade! The birds cannot speak for themselves – we must do it for them, if we truly care. You can help by joining this committee and its activities.

Nancy Streiffert

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





Field Trips by Carol Schulz

Soos Creek Owl Prowl

Saturday Night,
March 19, 2011

10:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

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 prowl 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. The owls program is sponsored by Kent City Recreation Dept.

Meet: Meet at the Soos Creek Park Maintenance Shop. Soos Creek Park/ Trail 24810 148th Avenue 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 4 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 ¼ mile on the left at a barn and chain-link-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: E-mail or call Joe Miles, friendsofsoos-creekpark@q.com, (253)-639-0123. Joe can answer your questions but cannot arrange the sign-ups.

Circumnavigate Bainbridge Island Boat Trip!!

Saturday, March 12, 2011, 10:00 AM

Winslow City Docks, Cost: \$65.

Leader: George Gerdts



Join expert birder and naturalist George Gerdts aboard an 80-foot catamaran, as it travels the waters around Bainbridge Island. This

boat is suited for wildlife viewing, with a P.A. system, and excellent viewing from outside decks or from comfortable inside seating. Expect to see multiple species of loons, sea ducks (including Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks), grebes (with a chance for Clark's and Eared), cormorants, and rocky-shore sandpipers. George leads tours for Kitsap Audubon, and has conducted this popular boat tour annually for several years.

The trip leaves the Winslow City Dock at 10:00 AM and returns at 1:30 PM.

Call or e-mail George for a brochure and sign-up form. You will need to send a check for \$65. to reserve your spot. Call or e-mail SOON!

Signup: Call or e-mail George Gerdts for the brochure and more details: 206-842-8138, geopandion@gmail.com. Space limited.

Hylebos Wetlands, Creek and Waterway Federal Way to Commencement Bay

Sunday, March 20

8:00 AM to afternoon

Leader: Carol Schulz

Come exploring with us as we trace Hylebos Creek from the wetlands in Federal Way, south to the fields and bluffs in Fife, on to the Hylebos Waterway, and out to Commencement Bay in Tacoma. Friends of the Hylebos and Citizens for a Healthy Bay have restored and enhanced many of these sites, and we want to introduce you to these areas, where birding can be surprisingly productive. We did this trip in 2007 and had a great springtime trip. Since then more new areas have been restored.

Bring: Warm clothes, walking shoes or boots, lunch, snacks, and drinks. We may walk approximately one mile. Scopes are welcome.

Meet: At the South Federal Way P&R at 8:00 AM.

Directions: Take I-5 to exit 142. Turn west onto hwy18/S 248th St. Drive west on 248th about 1 mile to 9th Ave S and turn left into the Park & Ride. We will meet at the right side of the P&R.

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

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.

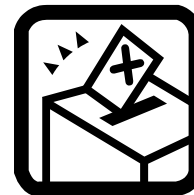
Sign-up: Call or email Phil Kelley to confirm details. Phil Kelley, Lacey, (360) 459-1499, scrubjay323@aol.com.

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.



Audubon Board Elections

Our Nominating Committee, consisting of Annette Tabor (253-927-3208) and Doug White (253-852-1077), are looking for candidates to run for three board positions in our May elections. Please contact them with suggestions.



Rafting the Marsh Fork of the Canning River

By Dan Streiffert
March 24, 2011
Kent Library 6:30 PM

Join us on a 12 day wilderness birding adventure along the western boundary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Called "America's Serengeti" for its tremendous biological productivity and diversity, the coastal plain is one of the most intact and untouched ecosystems in America. here in the long days of the Arctic summer.

This is a repeat performance of our December, 2010 program, presented by the South King County Group of the Sierra Club.

<http://www.washington.sierraclub.org/southkingcounty>



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-activities?hl=en>

Upcoming Programs

- April 18, 2011 Middle Green River Coalition—Bernie McKinney
- May 16, 2011 *Ravens and Dog Sledding* - John Marzluff Annual Membership Meeting
- May—BIRDATHON

Hello from Niel Beaver, Washington State Audubon's new contract lobbyist

I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Neil Beaver. I was hired as Washington State Audubon's contract lobbyist for the legislative session. Just to give you a little background, I grew up in rural Northeast Washington. I studied Geology at Eastern Washington University. When I finished school I went to work for the Lands Council, a small environmental group in Spokane, as the Water Program Director. From there, I worked as an organizer and was hired by Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown. I also worked for an Electoral Political Consulting Firm for the Bay Area.

I've been in contact with Shawn Cantrell (Seattle Audubon) and Bryan Flint (Tahoma Audubon, before he left) and they have filled me in on WSACC's top priorities.

As we begin week three of the 2011 legislative session I wanted to give you all an update. Things are moving very quickly and we are already making headway on the priorities. The two highest WSACC priorities are Oil Spills and the Budget; here is where things stand on those efforts --

- ◆ Oil Spill: House Bill 1186. The Senate will have a companion bill number this week. The bill will better prepare Washington for a potential Oil spill in the Sound, Outer Coast and Columbia River by requiring better equipment and far better training. The Senate is holding a public hearing on Wednesday. I would like to thank Jerry Joyce for helping me get up to speed on the subject matter.
- ◆ Budget: Over the past few years, environmental protections have been cut to the point where they're barely able to perform their core functions. Currently, environmental protections represent barely 1% of the budget. Even further cuts have been prevented only by transferring millions of dollars from a fund dedicated to toxic clean ups and programs that protect critical habitat. Over the next couple of weeks, I and representatives from other Environmental Priority Coalition organizations are working through messaging and solutions to help prevent further cuts.

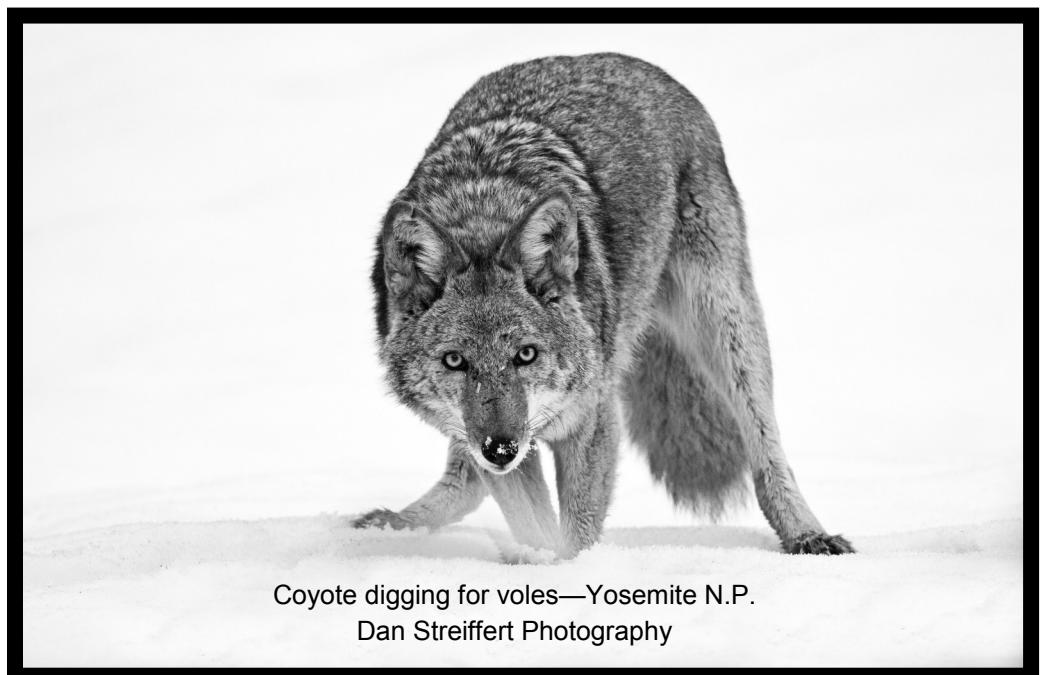
These solutions will include fees on

polluters and other users of natural resources.

On the other four issues identified by WSACC for me to work on, here is where things are:

- ◆ Clean Fertilizer Bill: Senate Bill 5194 and House Bill 1489 This bill will manage the sale of Phosphorus in Lawn Fertilizers. Phosphorus stimulates algae and aquatic weed growth, killing fish and wildlife, restricting recreation and costing businesses and local governments millions. The Senate has scheduled a hearing for Friday the 28th and the House set a hearing for February 4th.
- ◆ Clean Water/Storm Water Bill: The team working on this Bill have not introduced it yet. This would raise money to update the states storm water infrastructure. In many areas of the state, storm water runoff is the greatest source of pollution.
- ◆ Clean Coal: No one has introduced a bill yet. This bill would transition the Centralia Coal fired power plant to cleaner energy sources.
- ◆ Defense: There are few bad bills coming up as well. Namely, a bill that would weaken the State Environmental Protection Act. and bills that would harm the Growth Management Act. Once I have bill numbers I will send them on to the Conservation Committee.

Neil Beaver
509.979.9550



Coyote digging for voles—Yosemite N.P.
Dan Streiffert Photography

The Quizzical Owl

By *Thais Bock**



1. The name of our smallest merganser is _____?
2. What North American duck had become extinct by 1875?
3. This bird is sometimes called the "cherry bird".
4. Name a blackbird species recently discovered nesting in eastern WA.
5. What is our largest bird in the sandpiper family?

**Reprinted with permission from Djana Bock.*

Answers are on bottom of page.



Mewsings from Millie

Hello again and welcome back to this month's musings!

There's been a lot going on but the big excitement around here is the pair of Steller's Sea Eagles that have been brought to the Woodland Park Zoo recently as part of a conservation program the zoo is participating in. A couple of my people went to see these birds and said they are absolutely awesome! So, of course, I needed to find out more.

These eagles are rare with only about 5,000 of them in existence. They are considered to be the most powerful and aggressive of its cousins, the Bald Eagle and the White-tailed Sea Eagle and they are HUGE! This bird stands three to three-and-a-half feet tall with a wing-span of up to eight feet! Their heads are about the size of a large cantaloupe and their gigantic beaks are, to say the least, intimidating!

Their feathers are a deep, rich brown with white on the shoulders of the wings, on the tail and the undersides.

During breeding time, their main diet is salmon but they will also eat other fish, crabs, shellfish, squid, small animals, ducks, gulls and carrion.

The Steller's Sea Eagle breeds in far eastern Russian along the Siberian coast and islands of the Sea of Okhotsk and Bering Sea. They are most common on the Kamchatka Peninsula but are occasionally found on the tiny islands off the northwest tip of Alaska. Many of these eagles will migrate in winter, flying south to Japan and sometimes even farther. Others do not migrate but move to open water during the winter season.

So, you may be wondering, "Is this the same Steller that our lovely Steller's Jay is named after?" and the answer is, "Yes, it is!" So, who the heck was Steller and why are these birds named after him?

Georg Wilhelm Steller was born in Germany in 1709 but lived most of his life in Russia. He was a zoologist and naturalist.

In 1740, he sailed with Captain Vitus Bering (as in the Bering Sea) on an expedition to the Kamchatka Peninsula in the far north eastern regions

of Russia. After that trip, he was appointed by Bering to join him on a voyage to America. The expedition landed on Kayak Island, Alaska on July 20, 1741. During their short stay there, Steller became the first European naturalist to describe a number of plants and animals including a particular jay most of us are familiar with.

On the return journey, the expedition was shipwrecked on what later became known as Bering's Island. Captain Bering perished and almost half the crew died from scurvy. The remaining men had little food and water to survive the winter and were plagued by arctic foxes. Despite the horrific conditions, Steller studied the flora, fauna and topography of the island in great detail and observed among others the Northern Fur Seal, the Sea Otter, Steller's Eider, the Spectacled Cormorant, the Steller's Sea Lion (whose meat played a major role in the men's survival) and, of course, the Steller's Sea Eagle. Now, I'm not sure if he had already discovered the eagle on his voyage to Kamchatka Peninsula since it is more common there but he was the first to find and describe the bird.

Anyway, to conclude the story, the

(Continued on page 8)

Answers to Quizzical Owl: 1. Hooded Merganser, 2. Labrador Duck, 3. Cedar Waxwing, 4. Tricolored Blackbird, 5. Long-billed Curlew

The Month of May is

BIRDATHON



What is it? It's "birding for dollars!" Count as many bird species in one day as you can! Choose any day in May. Get friends to sponsor you, then go birding! Afterwards, send them a list of what birds you saw, and they will donate X amount for each species you saw (i.e. 25 cents). Or they can just donate a flat fee. 100% of

the proceeds support Rainier Audubon activities in south King County.

If you prefer, you can conduct your Birdathon birding on one of our field trips. Earn money for chapter activities while enjoying a great field trip led by an expert birder. Or be lazy — stay at home and bird at your feeder. Or be creative and come up with your own Birdathon experience! Sponsors are happy to support

your efforts, and many look forward to being asked again the following year. They especially enjoy your list of bird species seen. We will provide helpful hints, examples of solicitation and report letters,, prizes for birders, thank-you gifts for sponsors, and one-on-one help as needed.

Why do it? We need the money! The portion of your membership dues that our Rainier chapter receives does not even pay the total cost of preparing and sending out your newsletter. Birdathon is our largest fundraiser, and we depend on it to provide a stable funding base for our many activities. Funds raised go for services and activities such as: our wonderful newsletter, postage and PO box, printing materials, envelopes, programs (speaker fees), environmental education activities, conservation committee activities, etc., We wouldn't want to have to cut back on any of our activities!

Our goal for Birdathon 2011 is \$5,000, which is attainable but only if everyone helps!

Contact: Ross Tabor,
Rainier Audubon Birdathon Chair

Phone: (253) 927-3208

Email: rarailfan@aol.com

Thank you!

SHADOW

Blackberry massacre & community gathering

March 5th from 9:30am-12:00 pm

Come and help us remove some invasive plants and join us for light refreshments with SHADOW Board Members and Community Partners

Capacity: 1-20

Age: 8-adult

Program: Reforestation of your local wetland

How to Register: contact maria@shadowhabitat.org or 425-432-4914

Cost: Free!

Location: 21656 184th Ave SE; Renton, WA 98058

Description: Protect your watershed by removing invasive plants at your local wetland & nature preserve. Free introduction to succession forestry and watershed stewardship. At noon join us for light refreshments with SHADOW Board Members! .

Maria A. Chacon

Volunteer and Non- Profit Administrator

Save Habitat And Diversity of Wetlands

425-4324914

Mewsings from Millie

(Continued from page 7)

survivors constructed a boat in the spring and were able to sail back to the Kamchatka Peninsula. Steller continued to observe and study nature until his death from a fever in 1746.

So, what are you waiting for? Get thee to the zoo, support their conservation efforts and see these fabulous creatures for yourself!

But before you run out the door, take a second to learn a few more collective nouns describing groups of birds:

a cast of hawks

a sedge of cranes

a huddle of penguins

Until next time,

Millie, the Muse of Mews

Spring Birding Festivals

Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival –

(<http://www.skagiteagle.org/>)

Each winter, hundreds of bald eagles converge in the Upper Skagit River Watershed in Northwestern Washington. They are drawn by the thousands of spawned out salmon along the rivers. The eagles come from as far north as the Yukon and Alaska to enjoy this easy food source. They make up one of the two largest seasonal concentrations of bald eagles in the lower 48 states. The eagle migration peaks mid December to late January. On one overcast day, January 19, 2005, 451 eagles were counted between the towns of Newhalem and Sedro-Woolley.

Feb. 26 & 27, 2011

Port Susan Snow Goose & Birding Festival -

(<http://www.snowgoosefest.org/>)

The 6th Annual Port Susan Snow Goose Birding Festival will be held on February 26 & 27, 2011 in and around Stanwood and Camano Island, celebrating not only the arrival of the Snow Geese, but also all the wintering birds. The Festival will feature events for

both experienced and beginning birders, offering tours, activities and speakers at several locations.

March 19, 2011

Wings Over Water Northwest Birding Festival -

(<http://www.blainechamber.com/wow/>)

Greet fellow outdoor enthusiasts and view thousands of geese, sea ducks, and raptors that crowd the estuarine habitats ranging from the Canadian border at Blaine to the beaches of Birch Bay State Park. Exhibits of wildlife art, carvings, seminars, and field trips will highlight the one-day festival (livepage.apple.com)

April 8-9-10, 2011

Olympic Peninsula BirdFest -

(<http://www.olympicbirdfest.org/>)

Come and enjoy Olympic BirdFest 2011: From guided birding trips, boat tours, kayaking, salmon banquet, and many other presentations. Our festival has a full slate of extraordinary offerings waiting for you to enjoy.

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival -

(<http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>)

Grays Harbor Audubon Society, Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge, and the City of Hoquiam work with a host

of other local sponsors to bring you the Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival. This event is timed to match the annual migration of hundreds of thousands of shorebirds as they pause at the Grays Harbor estuary to feed and rest before departing for their nesting grounds in the Arctic.

May 12-13-14-15, 2011

Leavenworth Bird Festival - (<http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com/>)

Throughout the weekend, event and trip leaders used every opportunity to raise awareness that neotropical migratory songbirds come here for a very important, and brief, part of their year "to breed and fledge. They make the trek from Mexico and Latin America specifically for the fine habitat and choice cuisine the Wenatchee Valley offers.

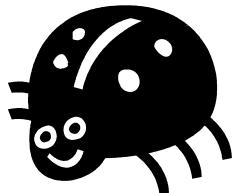
Sept 9-10-11, 2011

Puget Sound Bird Fest -

(<http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com/>)

Puget Sound Bird Fest is a celebration of birds and nature on International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). Join them for two days of bird watching, workshops, and expert lectures in and around downtown Edmonds, the Edmonds Marsh, and along the waterfront

The Lost Ladybug Project



The Lost Ladybug Project is calling all Citizen Scientist! You can help researchers at Cornell University School of Agriculture, find out why our once common native ladybug species are disappearing. Even though there are more than 5,000 species of ladybugs worldwide, 500 in North America, the disappearance of even a single species can be a great loss to a diverse ecosystem.

Cornell scientists want your help to find, document and photograph ladybug species in your backyard, school or anywhere you might find them. All ages can participate. The website has tips, tools and lesson plans to help with your research. Visit; (www.lostladybug.org) for more information about this project.

Adele

Environmental Lobby Day *(Continued from page 1)*

the Pacific rim. This company proposes to send coal mined in Wyoming and Montana on trains through the Columbia River Gorge, to the port of Longview and ship it across the Pacific to be burned in China. Their initial proposal called for 5 million tons of coal per year (The equivalent of what the TransAlta plant burns). A recent New York Times article (<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/15/us/15coal.html>) revealed that their long-term plan is to export 20 – 60 million tons per year. *This volume would require twelve; one mile long coal trains per day, every day of the year!* In addition, each one of these trains would release 20,000 lbs. of coal dust, spread out between Montana/Wyoming and Longview.

Please see Climate Solutions (<http://climatesolutions.org/>) for more information. - Dan Streiffert



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

-Roger Tory Peterson

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