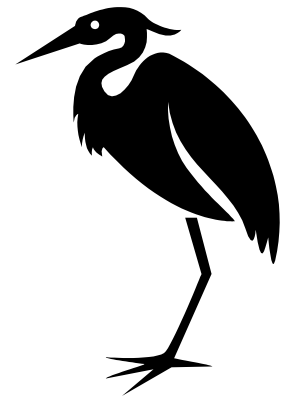


The

Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

November 2010



Rainier Audubon Presents
Monday November 15, 2010
6:30 PM

The Magic of Mushrooms

Fungi play a critical role in forest ecosystems, and some birds, such as Pileated Woodpeckers depend upon them. They work chemical magic in the soil, have wars over resources, have saved millions of lives, form the biggest organism on earth and many of the them are beautiful and tasty too. Join naturalist and teacher Rob Sandelin as he helps us understand the ecological connections of Fungi in the landscape where we live.

Rob Sandelin is a naturalist living in

Snohomish County, who has since childhood spent much of his life observing and studying nature in the mountains of the Northwest. He is co-author of A Field Guide to the Cascades and Olympics and sends out the popular "This Week in the Woods" email column. He has served as a park naturalist at Yosemite National Park, Olympic National Park, and Denali National Park. Rob teaches at the Environmental Science School and lectures about nature and wildlife around the state. Rob has presented two program at previous Rainier Audubon meetings, which were very well received, as he is an excellent and captivating speaker.

Come and enjoy the "Magic" of mushrooms with us. I hear Rob may even bring some samples.

Environmental Priorities Coalition Legislative Workshop

When: Saturday, January 8th, 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Where: Seattle Pacific University, Gwinn Commons

Environmental Priorities Coalition Lobby Day

When: Tuesday, February 15, 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM

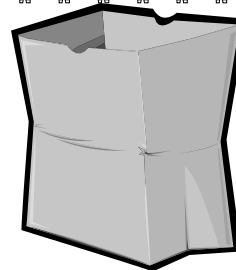
Where: United Churches, Olympia, 110th East 11th Ave

Rainier Audubon programs are held at

Federal Way United Methodist Church, 29645 - 51st Ave. So. 9800
(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.



This month is our annual "**Brown Bag Auction.**" This is the perfect opportunity to

possibly pick up some stocking stuffers while supporting your local Audubon. Refreshments and conversation will be available before, during and following the program.



President's Message by Nancy Streiffert

It's definitely Fall - so many changes: the leaves, the birds and other animals, the rain, the variety of fresh produce available in the stores and in our gardens. In ancient cultures, living closer and being more dependent on the earth and its cycles, months or seasons were named after natural phenomena. Years ago, Heidi Bohan of the Washington Native Plant Society did a series on these names. Here in the northwest, this time of year was known as Dog Salmon Moon when the rains caused rising rivers, allowing the salmon to return. Dog salmon are fall- returnees and their lean meat was prized for smoke drying for the winter. Proper ceremonies of respect and thanks assured that the salmon would return each fall to nourish the people. (At home, I refer to this time as "the moon of moldy towels" - the heat isn't on yet but drying weather is rare so towels need washing more often - definitely not as picturesque a name!)

As we all hunker down for the darker, colder months, alleviated by harvest meals and various "festivals of light", I hope you will participate in our activities:

The November meeting includes our Brown Bag Auction fundraiser.

Save your gently-used, freshly-baked or homemade items and come ready to shop, recycle and contribute to our programs - all at once!

- The December meeting includes a voluntary cookie exchange.
- Field trips continue to enjoy the birds who winter with us. Please see page 4.
- Join the Christmas Bird Count on December 26. Please see page 9.

See you at our next meeting! Nancy Streiffert



**BIRDNOTE CALENDARS ON SALE AT
OUR NOVEMBER 15 MEETING FOR
\$15!**

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



RAINIER AUDUBON OFFICERS

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

*Also serves as Board Member.

Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month and are open to all members.

Restoration work continues at Shadow Lake Bog

As winter approaches, staff, interns and volunteers at Save Habitat And Diversity Of Wetlands (SHADOW) have been busy preparing a 5 acre restoration site for planting with conifers, deciduous trees and shrubs. This restoration project, located along the west side of Shadow Lake in unincorporated Renton, WA, will enhance habitat for resident species such as Pileated woodpecker, bufflehead, red legged frog, mountain beaver,



deer and bobcat, to name a few. This restoration work is a continuation of restoration begun more than 10 years ago with the help of dedicated volunteers at Rainier Audubon. Similarly, what is known about the animals at SHADOW is in large part based on the bird surveys completed by Rainier Audubon members. To tour the restoration project and/or participate in work parties on Saturday, Nov 6 or Saturday, Dec 11 at 10a-2p, please contact info@shadowhabitat.org or 425-432-4914. SHADOW is also looking for amateur birders that are interested in resuming bird surveys at SHADOW. Please call or email for details.

Thank you,
Mikhaila B. Gonzales, Project & Outreach Coordinator
425-432-4914

Stamps for Albatrosses

Tahoma Audubon just received 12 boxes (the size that 500 envelopes come in) full of commemorative stamps from an anonymous donor for the albatross stamp project! That's fantastic! They will be processed and sent to England to help with albatross recovery efforts. Remember to save your stamps and bring them to meetings.

The Trillium Forest Is Saved

How about some good news in these difficult days?

The 664-acre Trillium Forest on Whidbey Island has been preserved for wildlife and people. It was a rollercoaster ride of looming deadlines, almost enough money and desperate, last minute appeals, but the Whidbey Camano Land Trust completed the transaction in September this year. The Land Trust will own the property for a year while a site management plan is developed and the conservation easement is drafted. Once these protections are in place, the land will be transferred to Island County.

Who saved it?

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust received donations from 1485 people. Some supporters were famous, like author Elizabeth George. Some were creative, like Vicki Robin, who figured out her carbon emission and donated that sum to the effort. Some, like elementary school children, gave small amounts. Many were anonymous. According to Steve Ellis, president of Whidbey Audubon, "Our Audubon Chapter purchased 1 acre and our individual members contributed more. The land trust tracked giving and concluded that giving was higher per capita from the birding walks than from any of the other field trips. Birders rock!"

Why is this area significant?

Perhaps the most important features of this property are its size and location. It's a square mile of land that will be managed for wildlife and passive recreation. The Trillium Forest has been logged in the past, but it is close to the old growth forest in South Whidbey State Park. So far, Steve Ellis has a list of 35 bird species including Western Tanagers, Willow Flycatchers, Hutton's Vireo, and Red Crossbills have been seen on the property. The site is used by a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers as well as Band-tailed Pigeons. He suspects that species that nest in South Whidbey's old growth forage on the Trillium property.

What happens now?

The Trillium property will soon have a new name to reflect its new function as a community forest.

The next steps will involve planning the long-term development of the site and providing for its maintenance. The agreement between Island County and the WCLT means that Land Trust will provide a fund of \$50,000 for maintenance and will organize a group of volunteers to care for the site. Fund raising continues.

The property should be opened to the public in the spring of 2011.

Carol Stoner

Field Trips by Carol Schulz



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. [See new changes happening at Nisqually at bottom of this field trip.] 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. The walk totals about 2.5 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.

Birders have been enjoying a new dike that was completed in Jan, 2010 at Nisqually. It can be seen from the Twin Barns, and leads from the Nisqually River almost over to McAllister Creek. Now, a BRAND NEW boardwalk extension is being built. It will provide access out to the mouth of McAllister Creek, and the tide flats, and may be complete by the end of 2010. For information about the Nisqually NWR estuary reconstruction project and more, go to

<http://www.fws.gov/nisqually/> .

Click on wildlife, or on other sections.

Seattle Birding Areas



(After Thanksgiving "Walk-Off-The-Calories" trip)

Saturday, November 27, 2010

8:30 AM to Mid Afternoon

Leader: Carol Schulz

The Saturday after Thanksgiving is a good time of year to escape to the outdoors and see some birds. This year we will explore parks and trails in NW Seattle. We hope to visit The Arboretum, Foster Island (at Lake Washington by the Arboretum), Montlake Fill, The Center for Urban Horticulture, and Magnuson Park. If the weather turns bad, we will get into our cars and travel to another spot. (But bring layers in case it rains.)

We will be looking for dabbling and diving ducks, water birds, song-birds, woodpeckers, gulls, and hawks. We may walk up to 2 miles on paths and trails.

Bring: Warm clothes, lunch (turkey sandwiches?), hot drinks, snacks, and water. Scopes are welcome.

Meet: 8:30 AM at the Kent-Des Moines P&R. (People who wish to leave early may bring their own cars.)

Directions: Take I-5 to exit 149. Go east on Kent-Des Moines Rd. approx. one block. Turn left (north) 1/2 block on Military Rd. The P&R is on the left.

Sign-Up: Call or email Carol Schulz, 206-824-7618, carol.schulz50@gmail.com

Kittitas County Birding in Winter

Sunday, December 5, 2010

6:30am to evening

Co-Leaders - Charlie Wright and Roger Orness

Come enjoy a day of winter-season birding in central Washington. We will venture over Snoqualmie Pass and visit areas including Swauk Prairie and South Cle Elum along our route. Large numbers of raptors including Rough-legged Hawks and Prairie Falcons are seen wintering in the open, snow-covered fields of Kittitas. Proceeding east we will reach the Columbia River at Vantage, where waterfowl are sometimes present in vast numbers. Some target species will include unusual loons, ducks, American White Pelicans, and possibly rare gulls. Chukar are occasionally seen in the basalt outcroppings here.

Bring: Bring many layers of clothing for cold weather conditions, a lunch, and snacks. Scopes are welcome. Space is limited.

Meet: At 6:30am at Auburn Safeway at Auburn Way and Main St.

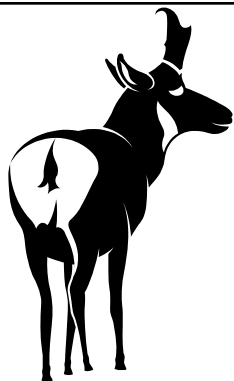
Directions: Take Hwy. 18 to Auburn and exit at Auburn Way. (Hwy 164). Turn north (right) on Auburn Way and drive three blocks north. Safeway sign and gas station will be on the left. Park in the Safeway lot just beyond the gas station and straight out from the Safeway door. We will meet and carpool (promptly) from there.

Sign-up: Contact Roger Orness, r.orness@comcast.net, 253-922-7516. Email is preferred.

Built For Speed – A year in the life of Pronghorn

By John A. Byers

When I visited Yellowstone National Park in October of last year, I had several encounters with pronghorns that left me curious to learn more about them. My first encounter was in the Lamar valley. As usual in Yellowstone, where ever there is wildlife to be seen, a traffic jam results. In this case people were parked along a curve in the road watching several pronghorns in a low spot inside the curve. As I watched (and photographed) the animals, I noticed that the females kept advancing towards the people as if they wanted to cross the road. The male however, showed no interest in going anywhere, and was content to rest on a large boulder much of the time. Occasionally, one of the females would take off in the opposite direction trying to escape. Each time the



male would run her down and bring her back to his harem. After watching this for a while, I ventured off to other opportunities. Later that day, I encountered exactly the same situation at another location in the valley. I began to wonder if the buck was actually using the people to assist him in managing his harem. I was never really able to verify this, but the experience piqued my curiosity about these animals enough to do some searching in the library. The result was discovering this book which documents the results of 20 years in the field observing and studying the pronghorn on the National Bison Range in western Montana.

The most unique feature of the pronghorn is its speed. They can accelerate from a standing start to a top speed of

nearly 60 mph, and can cruise at 45 mph for several miles. They are unquestionably the fastest mammal in North America, and can easily out-run anything that exists today. They are in fact survivors from the past which evolved 10 – 15,000 years ago when North America was populated by more fearsome and faster predators, including cheetahs, wolves, and fast-running bears. Although these predators have since become extinct, much of the behavior of today's pronghorn can be seen in context with this history.

Byers explains how the anatomy of the pronghorn has uniquely evolved for running at high speeds. His 20 years of study provide many insights to their behavior and adaptation to prairie life. Although the book is mostly about antelope, it also contains many observations about other inhabitants of the prairie such as meadowlarks, eagles, coyotes, and ruddy ducks. This book is a real page turner. If you've spent any time on the prairie, I'm sure you will enjoy this.

Dan Streiffert

Swifts in Selleck

Three miles past the spot where the Kent-Kangley Road turns into the Kanasket-Kangley Road you come to the town of Selleck. The largest building in town is the old Selleck Schoolhouse, now a private residence. Rising above the northeast corner of the school is a 3.5 ft. x 3.5 ft. brick chimney. Since 2008, Larry Schwitters has organized volunteers to watch that chimney for an hour or two, most nights during spring and fall migration to count migrating Vaux's Swifts.

Vaux's Swifts move north from Mexico in the spring and begin to arrive in Washington at the end of April. During migration the birds spend the nights in communal roosts, using either old, hollow trees or unlined brick chimneys. Selleck hosts northbound birds from late April until the first week of June. The high counts generally occur in mid-May when as many as 8,000 birds swirl into the Selleck chimney

in spectacular show. The southbound migration begins in late August. The peak numbers in Selleck are often tallied during the first days of September. However, 2010 saw huge numbers mid-month. On September 10, Bob Stallcop checked 15,000 swifts into the Selleck chimney, and the following night he witnessed 17,000 birds settling in for a few hours rest.

This fall 101,042 swifts dropped into the Old Schoolhouse on their way to Mexico!

The data collected for Washington roost sites have consistently shown that the Selleck Schoolhouse ranks second only to Wagner Elementary in Monroe in terms of the number of swifts that use the chimney. This fall 101,042 swifts dropped into

the Old Schoolhouse on their way to Mexico!

It's a thrilling sight to watch hundreds or thousands of swifts suddenly pop into view over the old school. At first they fly in a random pattern, but as sunset approaches, they become a swirling, twittering funnel above the building. After many false approaches the first birds swoop low, pause and parachute into the chimney. Then a steady stream of birds flow into the chimney, as if they were being poured from the sky. It's a dramatic spectacle, happening every spring and fall, right in our own backyard.

For more information, visit the Vaux Happening website at www.vauxhappening.org. You'll find photos, maps, and information on Vaux's Swifts roosting sites up and down the West Coast.

Carol Stoner

Mewsings from Millie



Hello! Welcome back to my monthly montage of musings.

I don't know if it's global warming, the alignment of the planets, Mother Nature playing tricks or all of the above but some of our customers have had some very interesting sightings. A rose-breasted grosbeak in West Seattle! An albino purple finch in Des Moines! And numerous people have mentioned more frequently seeing scrub jays. Makes for some interesting feeder watching, that's for sure!

I was wondering the other day as I watched a couple of crows out in the parking lot how to tell the difference between a crow and a common raven. I learned that a raven is larger and often travel in pairs while crows travel in groups. A raven makes a croaking sound while a crow is a loud, clear caw. Most importantly is the shape of the tail. A raven's tail has longer feathers in the middle and when opened, it looks wedge-shaped. A crow's tail feathers are all about the same length and when opened, looks like a fan. Do you think you can tell the difference between a crow and a raven now?

While I'm thinking about ravens, did you know they have a long history of myth and lore connected with them? Some native peoples call them the "Keeper of Secrets" because it is believed they know the teachings of mysticism and magic. A raven's inky

black color is associated with the darkness where unconscious fears live.

There are also many myths related to bird migration. When the birds disappeared in the winter, people of the Middle Ages thought that they flew to the moon. Philosophers and scientists of ancient times simply thought that birds morphed into something else during the winter months. Some people believed that small birds hitched rides on larger bird's backs since it was thought the small birds couldn't fly very far and some people believed that birds hibernated in caves, trees and even burrowed under the mud to escape the winter's chill.

Autumn is always a good time to ponder our owl friends. Did you know we have thirteen species of owls that occur in Washington? I've found out some interesting facts about each of them that I'd like to share with you.

- The Saw-Whet Owl gets its name from the alarm call that it makes. It sounds like someone is whetting a saw.

- Barn Owls are able to fly silently due to soft fringe-edged feathers that do not swoosh when moved. Barn Owls are found on all continents except Antarctica.

- Barred Owls have brown eyes, not yellow eyes like most owls. It is also called the Swamp Owl, Striped Owl, Hoot Owl, Eight Hooter Owl, Round-headed Owl and Rain Owl.

- The Boreal Owl is uncommon in high elevation forests in Engelmann Spruce, Subalpine Fir and Lodge Pole Pine trees and is rarely seen below 4000 feet.

- Burrowing Owls live on the ground and nest in burrows.

- Great Horned Owls are found all across the United States and Canada and gets its name from its ear tufts.

- Spotted Owls can live to be seven-

teen years old.

- When a Western Screech Owl feels threatened it stretches its body and tightens its feathers causing it to look like a tree branch.

- Flammulated Owls are highly migratory and winter in Central Mexico.

- Great Gray Owls are rare but can be found in the East Okanogan and Ferry Counties.

- Short-eared Owls prefer shrub steppe, grasslands, farmlands, marshes and wetlands and nests on the ground.

- Long-Eared Owls make a loud hoot that can be heard almost a mile away.

- Snowy Owls live in the northern circumpolar region but will come south when food sources are low. The Snowy Owl is the official bird of Quebec.

Don't you feel wiser now? You'll feel even smarter after you learn a few more collective nouns that describe bird groups. How about a conspiracy of ravens, a ubiquity of sparrows and a dissimulation of birds. Big words for small creatures! I wonder if there are as many words to describe groups of cats as there are for birds!

Until next time,

Millie, the Muse of Mews

Until next time,

Millie, the Muse of Mews



The Quizzical Owl

By Thais Block*

1. In breeding plumage this sandpiper has a rusty cheek patch.
2. What heron wears a touch of yellow in its plumage?
3. This thrasher was named after an officer in the U.S. Army.
4. What is the term for the ridge on the top of a bird's bill?
5. Name the most common owl throughout North America.

*Reprinted with permission from Djana Block.

Answers are on bottom of page.

Christmas Bird Count December 26

This year's Rainier Audubon Christmas Bird Count will be on December 26 from dawn until dusk or for as long as you want to keep counting! The annual Christmas Bird Count started over 100 years ago as an alternative to the British custom of shooting as many birds of all kinds as possible during the winter holidays. It also coincided with the beginning of the Audubon movement, sparked by protests about the feather trade for ladies'

hats. Since then the count has expanded throughout the U.S., Canada and some other areas as a way to monitor bird populations. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology maintains the data base for this huge, on-going project. It is probably the biggest citizen science project ever! Thousands of volunteers - experienced birders aided by beginners and novices - cover designated count circles - the same areas each year so

that the numbers can be compared year to year. Each species is identified and then the number of individuals are counted or, in the case of huge flocks, estimated. RAS has a 15 mile diameter circle which we divide into 10 parts. Leaders know where the "hot spots" are so it is a good way for new birders to find good future birding spots!

We also encourage people who do not wish to face whatever the weather may bring (or who do not like to get up too early) to count birds at their feeders and in their yards if they are within our boundaries. Either way, the numbers are reported to our compiler, Mark Freeland, who sends them on to Cornell. After a day in the field or watching out your window, please join us for a potluck dinner at the church where we will share our best sightings and note any changes we've seen. A map of our area will be at the October meeting and there will be an opportunity to sign up or find out more. Questions? Nancy nancy_streiffert@hotmail.com



Lewis's Woodpecker—Dan Streiffert

Upcoming Programs

- Dec. 20, 2010 *Rafting the Marsh Fork of the Canning River*—Dan Streiffert
[Cookie Exchange!]
- Dec. 26, 2010 Christmas Bird Count & potluck.
- Jan. 17, 2011 *Backyard Habitat*—Ellen Kriteaman and Nancy Alto
- February 21, 2011 *Mason Bees*—Jim Ulrich
- March 21 2011 *Hummingbirds of Snohomish Ponds*—Chris Caviziel
- April 18 ?
- May 16, 2011 *Ravens and Dog Sledding* - John Muzloff

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 at:

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

Answers to Quizzical Owl: 1. Silt Sandpiper 2. Yellow-crowned Night Heron 3. Bendire's Thrasher 4. Culmen 5. Great Horned Owl

This and That

October 8—Carol Schultz

I was down at Tukwila Pond about 2pm yesterday. It was cloudy, slightly windy, and almost drizzling. Nevertheless, it was really birdy! There were at least 30 Yellow-rumped Warblers flying about. I heard a Hutton's Vireo. Out in the water there were many ducks and other birds. A Pied-billed Grebe pair had two stripey young. They were begging in that wee, wee call, and when they approached the adults, the adults would sink down in to the water out of sight. Many of the ducks are back and active. The Gadwalls are whistling, bobbing, and calling to each other, and are in breeding plumage. Ring-necked Ducks, Northern Shovelers, some Mallards, and one male Ruddy Duck are also there. There are many coots. One GBH. The Yellow-rumps were all Myrtles and often flew w/in 15 feet of me. I think there were bugs in the air. Tukwila Pond has quite the little park back there, w/ benches and a nice overlook. Tukwila Pond is in back of Toy R Us on S Ctr Parkway. But Toys R Us has moved. It combined w/ Babies r us, is a big new store, and is where the book store, Pet Smart, and JoAnns was. JoAnns is still there. You turn west into it at the light.

Saturday, October 09, 2010—Carol Schulz

Today a small Rainier Audubon field trip

group birded Mud Bay west of Olympia, the Hoquiam Sewer Pond, and then as the rain got very heavy, Ocean Shores. At mid-day, we entered OS, and went straight ahead through the traffic circle. About 4 blocks beyond on Pt Brown Ave, we saw geese and gulls on the golf course to the right. We stopped in back of a church and viewed Greater Wht-fronted Geese, gulls, and a few Black-bellied Plovers at a flooded pond. One of those was in breeding plumage. As we looked at them, we realized that one of the plovers was slightly smaller, had a very obvious supercilium (eyebrow), a smaller bill, and long primaries past the tail. The bird was gray like the Blk-bellies. But then it flew a short distance, and had no black wing-pits. An AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER! Two of the many Greater Wht-fronted Geese were very dark, and very big. Maybe a third again larger than the others. Thanks to Ruth Sullivan, we called those Taiga GWFr Geese!

Despite heavy rains, and hugely high tides styming our efforts to see shorebirds, we saw 71 bird spp today including 10 shorebird species. We all agreed that we had never birded in such heavy rains. It was a challenge.

Jeff Cohen had arrived back in town just in time to lead the group. We all thanked him for what turned out to be a pretty good day.

68 Groups Join Call to Ban Lead in Ammo, Fishing Tackle



Sixty-eight organizations in 27 states have now signed on to the Center for Biological

Diversity's petition to ban toxic lead in hunting ammunition and fishing tackle. The Center and allies filed a legal petition in August asking the Environmental Protection Agency to require ammo and tackle to be free of lead, which needlessly kills and harms 10 million to 20 million birds each year -- including bald eagles, trumpeter swans and severely endangered California condors -- and jeopardizes human health to boot. Animals are poisoned when they scavenge on carcasses containing lead-bullet fragments or ingest spent lead-shot pellets or lost fishing weights, mistaking them for food or grit.

Our petition, citing nearly 500 scientific papers on lead's deleterious effects, was submitted with the American Bird Conservancy and three other groups -- and now, with the help of the Bird Conservation Alliance, we've enlisted signatures from scores of other organizations representing birders, hunters, zoologists, American Indians, physicians, veterinarians and public employees. "It's encouraging to see so many types of organizations unite for the common goal of ending lead poisoning of wildlife in this country," said the Center's Jeff Miller.

"Extensive science links lead poisoning in wildlife to spent ammunition and fishing weights. Now that there are safe and available alternatives for these outdoor sports, there's no good reason for this poisoning to continue."

New Directions for Washington Audubon

Washington State Audubon Chapters met together on October 16, 2010 at the National Estuarine Research Reserve in Padilla Bay with the intent of defining a new structure for the Statewide Audubon Regional Council. Key decisions resulting from this meeting included:

- To have one statewide meeting per year
- Meetings to be organized by Regions (rather than Chapters).

- One day meetings

The attending Chapters were unable to come up with sufficient funding for the original idea of hiring a single staff person for next year. The final decision was to re-approach National Audubon to determine if they would support some sort of fund matching partnership. A task force was put together to work on this idea. A plan will also be developed to assist Chapters in coming up with specific WSACC priorities for Lobby Day.

WSACC plans to meet Decmber (4 or 11).

Save Southeast King County

Yarrow Bay, a Kirkland Developer owned by an international corporation, has passed the first phase of planning to build 1520 apartments and 4530 houses in Black Diamond. And they are trying to build 1,165,000 square feet of commercial development. That's more than 10 Wal-Marts! This project is way too large. The main result will be traffic and high taxes. The development will destroy our environment and hurt our local businesses.

Yarrow Bay's proposal is full of loopholes that must be closed. This project is far from a "done deal", but it will require many people working together to reform City Hall and protect our neighborhoods, our environment, and our economy. Yarrow Bay's proposal is too large and too damaging to our future.



The Solution: Controlled Smart Growth, Transparent Local Government

Changes we can achieve:

- Yarrow Bay scales it down and the city imposes real requirements for an attractive, walk-able city.
- Ensure adequate wild lands for wildlife, and open space for public health and recreation.
- Urban schools for urban students and oppose school complexes in Rural Areas.
- Ensure current citizens' taxes do not pay for new citizens' infrastructure needs.
- Ensure adequate infrastructure (including roads) to support current and future residents and businesses.

TRANSPORTATION

WA State Department of Transportation has said they have NO MONEY to fix Highway 169even in their FORTY YEAR budget plans... Black Diamond has no money and the comprehensive plan shows Yarrow Bay paying little to nothing for road mitigations.

The city says they will get grant money from the state to pay for these needed mitigations. This grant money is a myth.

Why would other taxpayers support roads that will just encourage people to move out to the suburbs and stress the natural environment when Washington state residents are clearly in favor of trying to preserve the little wilderness we have left?

HISTORY and PLANNING

Black Diamond is a small town on the outskirts of the Seattle metropolitan area. There are about 1,500 households in the town. The town has grown slowly over the past century. The Black Diamond Comprehensive Plan emphasizes maintaining Black Diamond's existing small town character and reinforcing the identity of the town as a rural community.

Rather than propose development that is in keeping with Black Diamond's small town atmosphere, Yarrow Bay seeks to transform the community -- radically. It proposes to develop over a million square feet of big box and other commercial retail space and homes for up to 20,000 residents (quadrupling the town's population). There is virtually nothing about Yarrow Bay's development that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's mandate to protect the town's historic, small town character.



Please make a donation to support an appeal of Yarrow Bay's Master Planned

Developments and Environmental Impact Statements

Payable to Diamond Coalition- contributions are tax deductible

Mail to P.O. Box 448, Black Diamond, WA 98010

To learn more go to www.saveblackdiamond.org



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I meant no harm. I most truly did not.
 But I had to grow bigger. So bigger I got.
 I biggered my factory. I biggered my roads.
 I biggered my wagons. I biggered the loads...

~ "The Once-ler" from the Lorax, by Dr. Seuss

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