

The Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

September 2010

Rainier Audubon Presents
Monday September 20
6:30 PM

The White Swans of Winter

Come, share and learn the facts, myths, and legends of Washington's white birds of winter. Martha Jordan is a well-known wildlife biologist and is impassioned about swans. She will present a program about our native trumpeter and tundra swans and also shed some light on the problems and controversies these birds face on their wintering grounds and how we can insure their future. She will talk about continuing lead poisoning die-off and other survival issues swans face in Washington State as well as other parts of the country. She believes their beauty and grace instill in people a sense of awe that makes us want to save them and their habitats. "Swans are ambassadors, bringing people together when other aspects of an issue would divide them."

Martha has a degree in wildlife science from Oregon State University. Her interest in swans began in the late 1970s and she has been a major contributor of information



geraldplowman 08

to state and federal agencies on the status of Trumpeter Swans in the state of Washington, including the first swan management plan. She has been a board member of The Trumpeter Swan Society from 1985-2009 and currently chairs the Washington Swan Working Group. She is self-employed, and works as a wildlife biologist as well as a human and animal massage therapist and Feldenkrais practitioner.

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.

Join us for a hoppin' good time at the 14 th Annual Frog Frolic! !



Celebrate our community and environment with family activities, bog tours, potluck, live music and raffle! Drinks & cake provided; potluck dishes are always appreciated!

WHEN: Sunday, September 18: 1-6pm

WHERE: Shadow Lake Bog , 21656 184th Avenue SE; Renton

Please RSVP to info@shadowhabitat.org or 425-432-4914

Save Habitat And Diversity Of Wetlands (SHADOW)

www.shadowhabitat.org

President's Message by Nancy Streiffert

Welcome back to Rainier Audubon's 2010 - 2011 season of monthly meetings. Our program chair, Dale Meland, has scheduled interesting and informative speakers I'm sure you will enjoy. Carol Schulz will again teach her Beginning Birder class. The Christmas Bird Count and Great Backyard Bird Counts will give you a chance to contribute to citizen science projects important to the future of the birds we love. Meet new friends and renew old acquaintances at our meetings while enjoying tasty snacks, thanks to our new hospitality chair, Sandra Embry. Volunteer to host a table at a community event to get the word out about Rainier Audubon and the wonderful world of birding.

I hope you have all enjoyed our rather cool, cloudy, late summer (at least as of this writing) and seen lots of birds here and afar. Personally, I've been thrilled with the success of the native plant garden we started in 2004. Although it is less than half an acre, it is now more like a forest and needs constant and vigorous pruning for the paths to remain passable for humans! Deer, coyote, raccoon and birds all frequent it. We never had cedar waxwings come and stay until this year when I think a pair may have nested - they were gathering bits of string and have been gorging daily on serviceberry, twinberry, Oregon grape, and highbush cranberry but their all time favorite is hawthorn! Robins, chickadees, juncoes, house



Chipmunk Eating Flowering Currant Berries

and gold finches, bushtits and even pileated woodpeckers have taken advantage of the bounty. Please let us know what you've been seeing - you can email Dan at dan_streiffert@hotmail.com.

Looking to the future: I know most of us joined Rainier Audubon for our love of birds, not for our love of politics! Unfortunately, birds and politics (as well as almost every other aspect of our lives) are intertwined. This is an election year. While few laws or court decisions deal directly with birds, many do impact our environment directly or indirectly, and thus, birds. Think of the Boldt decision on fishing, court decisions

about logging that affect spotted owls and marbled murrelets, anything having to do with the Clean Water, Clean Air or Endangered Species Acts and how they are enforced - or not! Educate yourself about the issues and candidates on the ballot and VOTE. It's one of the easiest ways you can influence whether or not the birds we love will continue to amaze and delight us or whether they will go the way of the passenger pigeon and dodo.

Looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting, September 20.

Introduction to Birding Class

This fall, Rainier Audubon will be offering an Introduction to Birding class. This enjoyable class will consist of one lecture and two fun and educational field trips. Class will be held at the Federal Way United Methodist Church (see address and directions on page 1) on Tuesday evening, October 26, 2010. Time 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Field trips will be Sat, Oct 30, and Sat, Nov 6, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Your teachers will be Master Birder Carol Schulz and Assistant Instructor Debra Russell. We will use the National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America (3rd, 4th, or 5th edition) as the class text. Please bring this guide to the class. Cost will be \$25 for Rainier members and \$40 for non-members. For more information or to reserve a spot in the class, please call or email Carol Schulz at (206) 824-7618 or carol.schulz50@gmail.com



Heron Herald Needs Your Input

We need articles for future editions of the Heron Herald. If you've had an interesting birding experience you'd like to write about, send it to us. Would you like to see Charlie Wright's Seen & Heard column continued in the HH? Why not volunteer to collect sightings and write the column? This is your newsletter and it's only as good as the input we receive from our members.

Dan Streiffert – Interim editor.

Field Trips by Carol Schulz

Weekly Birdwalks 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.

Kent Ponds and Boeing Ponds

Saturday, September 18

8:30 AM to Early Afternoon

Leader: Carol Schulz

Take a birdwalk in the Kent Valley where the birds gather in the early fall. Our first stop will be Kent Ponds and surrounding areas. We will then travel north about 1 mile to Boeing Ponds. A short walk around the ponds should reveal ducks, herons, and other birds. We hope for a nice list of birds at this time of year in the Kent Valley. People who want to leave early may do so. We'll walk on level trails up to 1 1/2 miles total. Bring walking shoes or boots, warm clothes, water, and snacks or lunch. Scopes are welcome. Meet: At Wendy's Restaurant at the corner of S 212th St, and 64th Ave S in north Kent at 8:00 AM. (Restaurant now opens for breakfast.)

Directions: From I-5, take exit 152, Orillia Road. Turn east to go down into the Kent Valley. In the valley Orillia becomes S 212th St. Continue east on 212th about 1 mile. Wendy's is on the right at the corner of 64th Ave S. From I-167, take the S 212th St exit north of Kent, and turn west. Travel west across the valley on S 212th about 1.5 miles. Turn left on 64th Ave S, and take a right to double back into the Wendy's parking lot on the corner.

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



Dan Streiffert

Merlin at Kent Ponds

Field Trips by Carol Schulz (continued)

Mountain Ridge Hawkwatch

Sat Oct 2

7:00 A.M. to late afternoon

Leader: Roger Orness

In the fall, eagles, hawks, and falcons migrate south along mountain ridges. Watchers travel to sites in our state to ID and count the raptors during a hawkwatch.

For the first time, Roger Orness is leading a hawkwatch field trip. We will travel to where raptors are being seen.

This could be an exciting trip. We hope to observe hawks and their behavior, possibly see them fly fairly close, and we'll try to ID distant birds. (With Roger's help.)

We hope to see other birds, beautiful scenery, and fall colors.

Bring: Clothes for changeable weather in the mountains.

It may be windy. Bring sturdy shoes or boots, lunch, drinks, and snacks. Bring a scope if you have one.

Meet: 7:00am SHARP at the Auburn Safeway store 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. 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 at r.orness@comcast.net or 253-922-7516. Email is preferred.

This trip is limited to 8 people in 2 or 3 high-clearance vehicles, so sign up early. We will carpool.

Our destination site will be determined later in September.

Contact Roger for more information.

Coastal Birding in the Fall

Saturday, October 9

7:00 AM to early evening

Leader: Jeff Cohen, Asst. Leader: Carol Schulz

Come to the ocean with us this fall when shorebirds and seabirds are migrating south. We'll check bird reports and weather, and journey to the areas where the birds are being found, either Ocean Shores/Hoquiam (to the North from Aberdeen), or Bottle Beach, Westport, and Tokeland to the South. The trip will be at the perfect time of year for fall shorebirds such as sandpipers, large shorebirds, and plovers. Sea birds will also be returning.

Bring: Plenty of food including lunches, snacks, and beverages. (It will be a long day.) Bring gear and clothing for changeable, windy weather. Bring rubber boots if you have them, for walking on sand beaches, or going into the Ocean Shores game range. If you don't have tall boots, bring waterproof boots, or old extra tennis shoes. Bring a scope if you have one. We may walk up to 2 miles. These coastal sites are well-described in "A Birder's Guide To Washington".

Meet: At 7:00 SHARP at McDonald's Restaurant in Fife. Take I-5 south to exit 137, turn left on hwy 99, and go about 1 1/2 blocks. Turn left at the light to McDonald's. Drive all the way back to the McD's restaurant.

Sign Up: Contact Jeff Cohen, kokobean2@hotmail.com, 206-354-5542. Email is preferred.

[If you wish, you can us meet at the Bakery at Mud Bay, west of Olympia as you head toward the coast. Ask Jeff for details.]



The Quizzical Owl

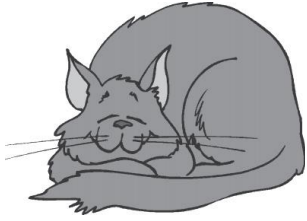
By Thais Block

1. Name a large shorebird with bright red legs
2. What are the tail feathers of a bird called?
3. Flightless ducks are said to be in _____ (2 words)
4. The word "plover" from the Latin "pluvial" means _____.
5. This swallow wears a dark breastband.

Answers are on bottom of page 6

Reprinted with permission from Djana Block

Musings from Millie



Hello! As some of you may know, I have been on vacation for a little while. I have now returned and would like to share some of my travels with you.

I began my journey with a stay in Kitty Hawk which is located on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. When Orville and Wilbur Wright were seeking privacy to work on their plans for the first manned flight, they came to the isolated fishing village of Kitty Hawk. Now it is a thriving summer resort with sunny, blue skies and beautiful sandy beaches. It is also part of the Atlantic Flyway which means thousands of migratory birds pass through each year. During my stay there I saw plovers, sandpipers, terns, loons, ruddy turnstones, osprey and many different kinds of gulls.

I then ventured west to an interesting location, Cat Island, Mississippi. It is off the Gulf Coast and is named for the raccoons that wander the island which Spanish explorers mistook for cats. It has a unique "T-shape" created by colliding currents. It is unique among the gulf islands because its sandy beaches are backed by dense forests of slash pine and iron oak. It is a refuge for migratory birds and on October 27, 2000, Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge was established. The refuge covers 9,623 acres and is the home to a variety of wildlife including black bears, white-tailed deer, bobcats, minks and river otters. Cat Island is located within an area of high importance for neotropical migratory birds including the swallow-tailed kite which is a species of special concern. While I was there I spotted these birds: yellow-crowned night heron, yellow-billed cuckoo, white-eyed vireo, carolina chickadee, carolina wren, a stunning blue-gray gnatcatcher and an awesome painted bunting.

Finally, I decided to go up north and spend some time in the lush Catskill Mountains in New York State. They are about 100 miles northwest of New York City and southwest of Albany. Although they are nothing like the mountains we have out here, there are a dozen peaks that are more than 3,500 feet tall and the area is rich in woodlands and wildlife. The name "Catskill" comes from the Dutch meaning "cat creek" but why the area was given this name remains a mystery. One explanation is that bobcats were seen near Catskill Creek and the present-day village of Catskill and the name followed from there. However, there is no record of bobcats ever having been seen in significant numbers on the banks of the Hudson River

and the name Catskill does not appear on paper until 1655, more than forty years later! I didn't see any bobcats but I did see some wonderful birds while I was there including a red-shouldered hawk, a northern cardinal, a northern goshawk, Bicknell's thrush, a black-throated green warbler, a mourning warbler and a yellow-bellied flycatcher.

It was exciting and great fun seeing all of these birds many of them for the first time ever since they don't live in our part of the country. It really made my vacation that much more special!

And now for your monthly lesson regarding collective nouns that describe groups of birds: a cover of coots, a band of jays, a loft of pigeons, and a muster of storks.

Until next time,

Millie, the Muse of Mews

Thank yous and Welcomes

As we begin our new season, it is time to thank the people who make Rainier Audubon Society a great organization:

- Board members: Steve Feldman, Dale Meland, Carol Stoner, Dan Streiffert, Annette Tabor, Jim Tooley, Pat Toth
- Newsletter editor: Nancy Hertzell who has been doing our printed newsletter and our web page. Nancy has resigned as Heron Herald editor while she continues to be our webmaster. Thank you for your years of beautiful newsletters!
- Field trip chair and Birding class instructor: Carol Schulz
- Hospitality: Jane Gardner has been supplying treats. Jane has resigned. Thank you for all the goodies!
- Alex Gitman, our administrative assistant/secretary, this past year, is now a student in Bellingham. Many thanks for her help with meeting minutes, the Christmas Bird Count and the Tukwila Wildlife Festival. As a person who had never used binoculars or birded, she learned on the job! We wish her well in her studies.
- Our new Hospitality person is Sandra Embry - welcome and thank you. Please notice the sign up sheet on the snack table where you can help Sandra and share your favorite goodies with us!
- Our interim Heron Herald editor is Dan Streiffert - Welcome and thank you.
- Our new Board Secretary is Heather Gibson.

Please contact me or a board member if you have questions about Rainier, birds or anything - we may not know the answer but we'll try to aim you in the right direction to find out! Thank you to all the unmentioned folks who make this a fun place to be!

Nancy Streiffert

Great Washington State Birding Trail - Puget Loop

We are finally working on the last map in Audubon's terrific Great Washington State Birding Trail series. It's called the PUGET LOOP, and it includes our area! Rainier Audubon is within the loop boundaries. We can send in nominations for our favorite birding sites until the end of September. To view the boundaries of the Puget Loop and all 6 previous maps in the series, click on <http://wa.audubon.org/birds/GreatWABirdingTrail/PugetLoop.html>.

Many of you have seen at least one of the six maps in Washington already published. The first one was the Cascade Loop and featured a Pileated Woodpecker on its cover. The 68 sites on that map had been recommended by Audubon members and other birders; they included favorite sites such as Skagit Flats, Samish Flats, Blaine, Leavenworth, and Wenatchee areas.

Rainier is one of several Audubon chapters in the new Puget Loop, and we have a committee to take suggestions for favorite sites. Our committee chairman is Carol Schulz, who is also our Field Trip chair. She will take all your suggestions!

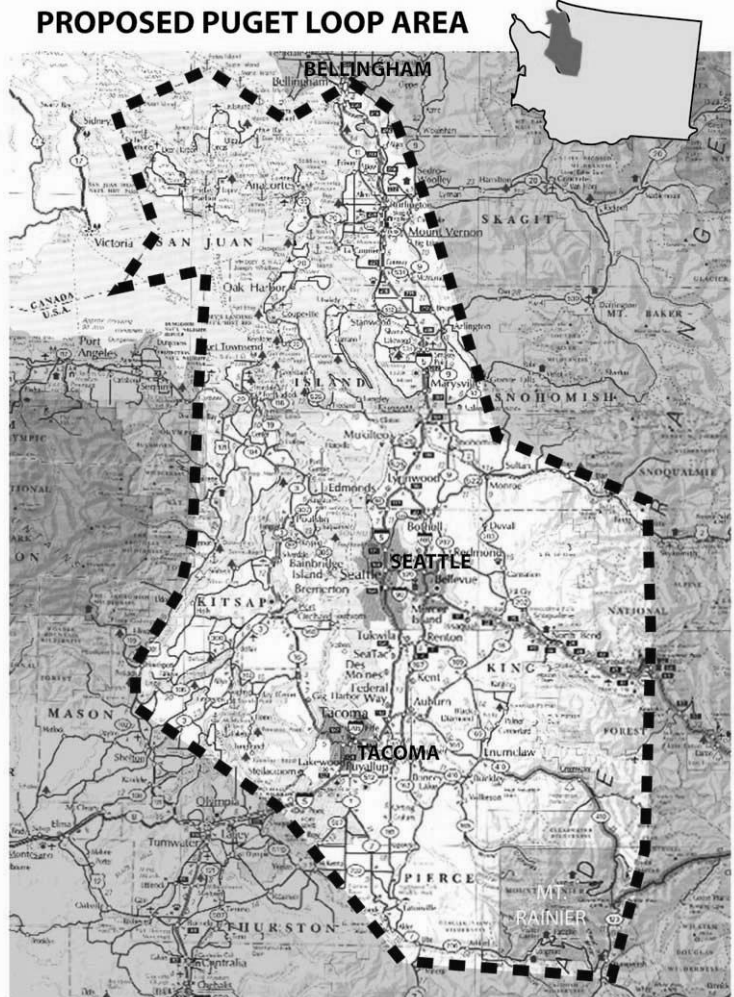
The Grt. WA. St. Birding Trail maps are tours for driving our state, and visiting birding "hot spots". Most of the sites feature quite a few birds that can be viewed within 15 to 20 minutes of arriving during recommended seasons. Most do not involve a lot of strenuous walking from parking areas, and may even include pullouts along some roads. The maps are used by visitors to our state, and are increasingly being used by local residents. They can be bought online from WA Audubon, from Seattle Audubon, and from Tahoma Audubon. Best of all, you can click on the maps online (see website above), and then click within the map on a number within an area.

For instance, if you are going on a driving trip to the estuary where Hood Canal starts, you can click on the the main website (see above), then Olympic Loop, and continue clicking on the following: See the trail, Section of state, Click somewhere within the loop, Move bars at bottom and side of map, and Click on the site. Up pops the description of Theler Wetlands with directions for driving to it. But if you'd like the big picture, you will probably want to purchase a map which you can take on your trip.

To send in your suggestions for favorite birding areas in the loop boundaries, please send an area or suggestion to Carol Schulz. Even if the site is not included on the final Puget Loop

map, the committee will now know about the area, and can ask more questions about it. The site may even be posted onto the Rainier Audubon website, or onto the websites of the other Audubon chapters in the Loop.

PROPOSED PUGET LOOP AREA



Please send all your suggestions to: Carol Schulz, Puget Loop Chairman carol.schulz50@gmail.com (206-824-7618). Email is preferred.



Answers to Quizzical Owl: 1. Black-necked Stilt, 2. Rectrices, 3. Eclipse plumage, 4. Rain, 5. Bank Swallow

Stamps for Albatrosses

Rainier Audubon Society has been participating for years in a project to protect the world's 7 species of albatrosses with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in England. The Society was founded as a protest to the millinery plume trade in 1889, just as the National Audubon Society in the U.S. originated with this movement. At first, it was a women-only organization and included wealthy and aristocratic women such as the Duchess of Portland – the kind of women who might be expected to wear plumes on their hats.

Originally called the Society for the Protection of Birds, their success in greatly diminishing the plume trade led to a Royal Charter in 1904 – when “Royal” was added to their name.

The Society's Albatross Task Force funds a global team that works with fishermen around the world, teaching them techniques to prevent the birds being caught in cables and nets. The birds' long wings can be snagged in such equipment, dragging them underwater. All 7 species are at risk of becoming “by-catch” in this way.

Funding for the task force comes from postage stamps which are collected around the world, sent to England, and sold to stamp dealers. Thais Bock has been doing this for many years, with the help of Fred Ritsema. Thais' daughter told Rainier's board that Thais would have wanted this project to continue after she died. Sara Slater volunteered to work with Fred to keep this valuable program going. The stamps have to be removed in a certain way from the envelopes and handled properly to ensure their value to dealers. Barbara Petersen was instrumental in helping connect the people and information to do this.

You can help! Bring your used postage stamps – still on the envelopes – to our meetings and they will be passed on! Thank you. Nancy Streiffert

Rainier Audubon Society
 PO Box 778. Auburn WA 98071.
 (253) 796-2203
 website:
 www.RainierAudubon.org
 email: info@RainierAudubon.org

Audubon State Office Chapter Proposal

At the March Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) meeting held in Leavenworth, an Ad-Hoc committee was put together to explore the possibility of re-establishing an Audubon state office presence and developing a proposal for Chapters to consider voting on during the October, 2010 ACOW meeting. The current proposal is to Structure of Statewide council meetings that will include:

- One ACOW meeting per year
- Organized Chapters by region (4-6 regions)
- One day vs. weekend meeting
- Identify a Fiscal Sponsor by a chapter for first two years
- Agreement to hire staff
- Financial commitment to raise funds to hire initial staff member
- Choose members for an Executive Committee and Chapter Services Committee to oversee the new State Office Staff

Funding for this is expected to be about \$3.00/member. As the only state wide organization with active membership in every corner of the state we hold our future in our hands. Please discuss this proposal at your board meetings and come to the October council meeting ready to represent your chapter and the future of Audubon in Washington State.

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
Backyard Habitat Chair	Pat Toth*	206-767-4944
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 Iradication 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.		



Rainier Audubon Society
PO Box 778
Auburn, WA 98071

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Rainier Audubon Membership Subscription or Renewal Form

One-year Membership in Rainier Audubon — \$15
To join or renew, mail this application with your payment to:
Rainier Audubon Society - Membership
PO Box 778
Auburn, WA 98071
Or go to <http://www.rainieraudubon.org/> to enroll online.

Name: _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

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