

The

Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

February 2013

February General Membership Meeting
Monday February 18, 2013 7:00 p.m.
Federal Way United Methodist Church

A Tale of Three Islands: Seabird Ecology and Conservation in Washington

Dr. Peter Hodum

The marine waters of Washington State possess a rich diversity of seabirds as well as islands of regional conservation significance. Surprisingly little, however, is known about the ecology and conservation status of many seabird species of the region, including the rhinoceros auklet and tufted puffin. Both of these species have been the focus of a long-term research program undertaken by Peter Hodum and his colleagues. This presentation will discuss aspects of the ecology and conservation status of rhinoceros auklets and tufted puffins as well as of the islands on which they breed. In addition, Peter will provide an update of his group's ongoing, long-term conservation work in the Juan Fernández Islands, Chile.

Dr. Peter Hodum is an assistant professor at the University of Puget Sound and the Director of the Juan Fernández Islands Conservancy (JFIC), a conservation program of Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge. JFIC is dedicated to conducting applied conservation research, restoration and community conservation education programs in the Juan Fernández Islands and Isla Mocha, Chile. In addition to his work in Chile, he studies the ecology and conservation of islands and seabirds in Washington. He received his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California-Davis, and has conducted ecological and conservation research on birds in Chile, Antarctica, México, New Zealand, the Galápagos Islands, Canada, Washington and California. He is an enthusiastic educator who loves working in the field and with communities, both locally and internationally.

Everyone is invited to join Rainier Audubon as we welcome back Peter Hodum. Peter has visited us in the past and his programs are always very interesting.

Refreshments and good conversation are available before and after the program.

Rainier Audubon programs are held at

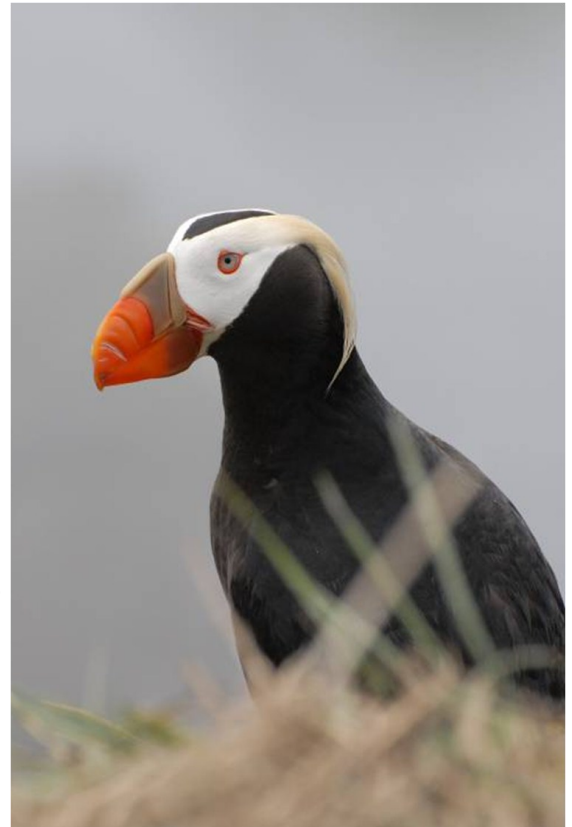
Federal Way United Methodist Church, 29645 - 51st Ave.
So. 98001 (in unincorporated Auburn)

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.

RAS Mission Statement

To conserve and restore natural ecosystems and protect birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and biological diversity in South King County and the world we live in.



President's Message by Dan Streiffert



New Year's Day Snowy Owl—Damon Point

This was one of those rare trips where you make a plan and the plan actually works!

We got up at 3:30 AM and drove to Ocean Shores, getting there about an hour before sunrise. Then we hiked out to the owls, and were in position for the gorgeous sunrise.

RAINIER AUDUBON OFFICERS

President	Dan 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	Open	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	Treesa 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
Board Member	Alex Juchems	253-529-8996
Board Member	Lisa Mesplay	
Board Member	Ed Stanton	206-870-3107
Board Member	Terry Thurber	206-450-5446
Publicity	Tom Sernka	253-529-8970

*Also serves as Board Member.

Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the church conference room and are open to all members.

Upcoming Programs

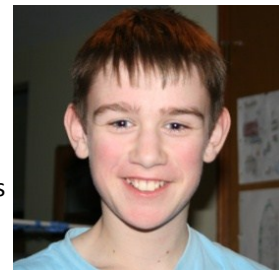
- 3/18/2013—Dennis Paulson - Butterflies and Birds of Costa Rica
- 5/20/2013—Elena Fox - Crows (West Sound Wildlife Center)

Volunteers Needed!

Please contact a Board Member

- Assistant Treasurer—need someone familiar with Quick Books to work with Jim Tooley.
- CBC Coordinator— Contact Nancy Streiffert
- Door Greeters for Membership Meetings
- Articles for Heron Herald—send to dan_streiffert@hotmail.com

Seen and Heard by Calen Randall



It was a warm winter morning. The newly risen sun warmed my back as I, along with the other Christmas Bird Counters, peered into the bushes along the Green River. Suddenly, trumpeting sounds that rivaled Louis Armstrong interrupted our Kinglet count. We all turned in the direction of the *glissando*. Three Trumpeter Swans flapped over West Valley Highway heading toward Carpinito's Pumpkin Patch. They had flown from the Kent Ponds direction. I asked our CBC leader Charlie Wright, "Do you think that they're roosting at Kent Ponds?" He replied that they usually did. Finally! Their roosting place solved. Interestingly, the entire flock of twenty-six did not fly all together. Instead, the swans arrived at the pumpkin patch flying in twos and threes over a course of a couple of hours.

I had always watched the Trumpeter Swans during the day, but never stayed late enough to watch them depart to their roosting spot. I guessed that they would go to Lake Fenwick. It was out of the way from predators, a short distance from the field where they foraged, and aside from the odd ultimate Frisbee player or birder, Lake Fenwick had little human activity during the winter. Talking with Charlie, he figured that Kent Ponds was easier access because the swans had more takeoff and landing room.

A couple of weeks later, late at night, my Mom and I were driving along West Valley Highway. I stared out at Carpinito's pumpkin patch or more appropriately Lake Carpinito--thanks to the past few days of heavy rainfall. The moonlight reflected on the water and I noticed

silhouettes of various shapes and sizes in the water. In amongst hundreds of ducks was a dark mass, with an s-shaped neck. The silhouette was a Trumpeter Swan! It wasn't just one swan, there were about thirty others! Why had they not gone back to Kent Ponds? Perhaps they chose to spend the night in the field so they could conserve energy.

I've often wondered why the Trumpeter Swans have chosen to winter on this tiny spot between 277th Street and Frager Road along West Valley Highway. Why are they not farther south along the Green River in the Auburn Valley in some of the other corn fields? In November, I met with Trumpeter Swan Stewards' Martha Jordan to show her the swans in our area. Martha also wanted to see the area where a couple of Trumpeters had collided with power lines to determine if the power lines needed to be marked. Martha said

that 85% of all Trumpeter Swans foraged in dairy fields and fed on the corn residue that the farmers plant for the cows. It is ironic that Smith Brother's Dairy cows are long gone from this area--even the plastic one that rested atop the sign--and yet, the swans come! Are the old dairy buildings a sign for the swans? I hope that Carpinito Brothers and the few other farmers like Elliot Farms continue to grow corn and the swans continue to winter in this special spot. Perhaps to recognize our Trumpeters, Carpinito Brothers should make their corn maze in the shape of a Trumpeter Swan! If you are interested, Naturalist Jenn Dean produced a five minute video about Trumpeter Swans and Washington Dairy Farms (<http://vimeo.com/36392061>).

I am tracking swans in the south Puget



Trumpeter Swan—Lake Fenwick - Dan Streiffert Photography

(Continued on page 8)

Bio: Calen is a 13 year old birder. He enjoys birding around Lake Fenwick and Boeing Ponds—especially with Charlie Wright. Calen is thrilled to revive Charlie's 'Seen and Heard'. When not birding, Calen can be seen flying up and down the ice at Kent Valley Ice Center

Field Trips by Carol Schulz



Weekly Birdwalks at Nisqually

Wednesdays 8:00 am to Noon

Leader: Phil Kelley

Join Phil Kelley on his weekly bird walks as he counts the birds at Nisqually NWR. 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 dike, and back to the Riparian Forest. Some may choose to continue on the new boardwalk extension which goes out toward the mouth of McAlister Creek. It has benches and covered viewing areas.

The walk totals 2.0 miles roundtrip to the boardwalk extension. The extension 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 is not necessary. Call or email Phil Kelley if you have questions. Phil Kelley, Lacey, (360) 459-1499, scrubjay323@aol.com

Raptors of the Auburn/Kent Valley

Sunday, Feb 10, 2013

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Leader: Roger Orness

Roger Orness will take us to prime raptor viewing spots in the valley during this very popular field trip. Past trips have been productive for falcons, accipiters and many red-tails to compare the different

color morphs. Eagles could be occupying their nest and there is a chance for an early nesting red-tail, if we are lucky.

Meet: We will meet at the Auburn Super Mall parking lot north of McDonalds on 15th SW off I-167 at 08:00 and start at 08:30. We will carpool and return by 2 PM.

Bring: Bring your lunch, drinks and snacks, dress warm for the weather and be prepared for a short walk on a level gravel road inside a closed area of the Kent ponds. Space is limited, so email or call Roger soon to reserve your spot.

Roger Orness, r.orness41@gmail.com, 253-922-7516, 253-312-6561(cell)

Lakes and Parks of Federal Way & Vicinity

Saturday, February 23

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Leader: Steve Johnson

Steve will be taking us on an excursion. We had a lot of fun doing this trip last year. We'll visit some of the many lakes and ponds in Federal Way, where we will seek rare to uncommon ducks. We will also be looking for songbirds and seabirds in Fife and Redondo.

In late Feb. we will be looking and listening for early migrants. We may walk up to a mile.

Bring: Lunch, drinks (hot drinks?), warm clothes. A scope is welcome.

Meet: 8:00 AM at the Star Lake P&R north of Federal Way. Folks who wish to leave early may do so.

Directions: Take I-5 to exit 147 north of Federal Way. Exit onto S 272nd St, and go west one block to the light. Turn right and go one block into the P&R on the right.

Sign-Up: Call or email Steve Johnson, 253-941-9852, johnsonsj5@msn.com

Owl Prowls in Feb and March

Soos Creek Owl Prowls

Saturday Night, Feb 23 -

or Sat. Night, Mar 23

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 1/4 mile on the left at a barn and chainlink-fenced parking lot.

Sign-up: Call Kent Commons, Kent City Parks and Recreation, 253-856-5000. This trip FILLS EARLY. Please register in advance. For further info: E-mail or call Joe Miles, friendsofsooscreekpark@q.com, (253) 639-0123. Joe can answer your questions but cannot arrange the sign-ups.

Christmas Bird Count Report

Carol Schulz

We had a very well-attended tally dinner for the CBC with some especially interesting birds reported in the Green River Valley. Total bird species reported by Charlie Wright at the tally dinner was 123 spp. The message below reports an additional. 2 spp. Very special ones!

There were 25 Trumpeter Swans reported in the Smith Bros area. A dark morph Rough-legged Hawk was seen at Kent Ponds. A Swamp Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow were seen and heard at the marsh at the north end of Soos Creek in Blvd. Lane Park. It's north of the middle school on 192nd St.

Tim Brennen reported on Tweepers that our CBC had an 11-sparrow day! As I recall there were at least 5 ravens seen. I think the Eurasian Collared Doves were up to 70 or so. (On Frager Rd in the south part of Kent.) There were more birds reported, and I made a list at the dinner, if anyone wants to know about specific species.

Right now I'm headed to the Auburn area of the valley to try to see the birds reported below by Brien Meilleur.

Brien told me some birding hints for winter birding. I told him that I had been hearing Red Crossbills doing their jip, JIP calls practically everywhere I go as they fly overhead this fall and winter, but told him I never can see them in the evergreen trees. He said they are usually in the hemlock trees, not necessarily at the top, but anywhere there are abundant hemlock cones in the trees. The other hint he gave me is that birds tend to be in towns in the winter. I had always avoided towns, thinking better habitat was in rural areas.

See Brien's report below about a certain Harris's Sparrow, a very-large sparrow of the Midwest.

Yours, Carol Schulz



Red Crossbill—Dan Streiffert

From Brien Meilleur to Tweepers, Sun, Dec 30,'12.

Subj. Harris's Sparrow, Common Redpoll in Auburn

Yo Tweepers,

Today, I participated in the Kent-Auburn CBC by myself and had a Common redpoll in the birch trees at the north end of M Street in Auburn, the well-known (now) dead end street west of Emerald Downs racecourse. It was feeding actively with two Goldfinches. A bit later, I found a Harris's sparrow in a mixed flock of White-crowned and Golden-crowned sparrows immediately north of "Base Café" at W. Main and H Street in Auburn.

Brien Meilleur
Lake Forest Park, WA
brienm@live.com

Bird of the Month: Kinglets

Reprint Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited, Burien

Kinglets are tiny birds of the forest. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is one of America's smallest birds. It is recognized by its constant wing-flicking. The male shows its red crown only infrequently.

Although the Ruby-crowned Kinglet is small, it lays a large clutch of eggs. Each egg weighs only .02 of an ounce but an entire clutch may weigh as much as the female herself.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets are most often found in spruce-fir forests in the northwestern United States and Canada. They nest high in the trees and prefer older, taller and denser stands to younger ones.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets prey on spiders and many types of insects including aphids, wasps, ants and bark beetles. They will also eat a small amount of seeds and fruit.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets build their nests gathering grasses, feathers, mosses, spider webs and cocoon silk for the outer structure and fine plant material and fur for the inner lining. The nest is elastic enough that it can stretch as the brood grows.

Golden-crowned Kinglets are small, continuously active birds most frequently found in coniferous woods. Golden-crowned Kinglets winter northward to Canada and Alaska.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet usually raises two large broods of young despite the short nesting season of the northern boreal forest.

The female Golden-crowned Kinglet feeds her large brood only on the first day after they leave the nest. She then starts laying the second set of eggs while the male takes care of the first brood. The male may have eight or nine young to feed and manages to feed himself and occasionally the incubating female, too.

Each of the Golden-crowned Kinglet's nostrils are covered by a single, tiny feather.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet eats small insects and their eggs.

Golden-crowned Kinglets build their nests with moss, lichen, spider webs and bark strips, lined with feathers, fine grasses, plant down, lichens and fur. The nest hangs from twigs in a tree.





Mewsings from Millie

I was musing about the Snow Geese and Tundra Swans in the beautiful Skagit Valley and pondering about some of our other awesome wildlife areas such as Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge and Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge and I got to wondering what had happened back east to areas like that as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

I discovered that many natural areas and birding sites were damaged, some severely, by the monster storm. Areas from Rhode Island to North Carolina were closed in late October due to the destruction. Several parks and refuges are expected to remain fully or partially closed well into the new year.

Block Island and Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island are closed indefinitely. Block Island is a fall-migration hotspot and Sachuest Point is known for its winter population of Harlequin Ducks.

In New York City, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge reopened a few weeks after the storm but two important bird habitats, East and West Ponds were breached by the ocean and now are full of salt water, not fresh water. Also, the birding trail around West Pond is no longer a loop.

The Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area in New Jersey is closed. This is an important nesting area for Piping Plover, Least Tern and Black Skimmer. It's also a wonderful place to watch songbirds and raptors. Officials hope it will be open by summer.

Also, in New Jersey, the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge is partially open due to many of the dikes being breached by the storm.

I then wondered, what happens to the birds when one of these humungous storms comes through? Are they able to stay safe or do they get blown hither and yon?

It so happens that birds are very sensitive to changes in air pressure and know instinctively to take cover. A sharp drop in barometric pressure warns them that a big storm is coming.

When birds detect a storm approaching, especially when they don't have a nest or babies to protect, they can fly the coop and get out of the storm's path. Strong-flying birds fly ahead of the storm carried by the winds at the forefront. Other birds find any sort of shelter out of the wind and rain.

Another thing that helps birds in stormy weather is how their feet work. When a bird lands, special muscles make their toes automatically tighten around the branch they are perching on. Birds must make an effort to unclench their feet when they are ready to fly. (This is also why they don't fall off branches when they sleep!) So, during a hurricane, perching birds do not need to hold on tighter, they need to relax!

Woodpeckers and other cavity nesters seek shelter in tree holes which is okay unless the tree snaps or is uprooted. Shorebirds leave the beaches and head inland.

Some birds may be picked up by a storm and carried long distances. These "hurricane birds" become trapped in the eye of the storm remaining there until the storm begins to weaken and they can escape. It is the eye of the storm that displaces birds, not the strong winds.

We get some good wind storms around here now and then but hopefully our feathered friends will never need to deal with something like Sandy!

With that, I think I'll blow on outta here.

Until next time,

Millie

The Muse of Mews

Birding Trail's Puget Loop For Sale \$4.95

Delight your favorite birders with the newest – the seventh and final – map of the Great Washington State Birding Trail: the Puget Loop. Hot off the press, this signature route features 220 of our 346 annually recorded bird species around Puget Sound from Seattle to Mt. Rainier, plus Lake Washington, Kitsap Peninsula; and Vashon, Bainbridge, Whidbey and San Juan islands. .

On Sale at our Membership Meeting and at Wild Birds Unlimited (Burien Store <http://www.southseattle.wbu.com/>).

All proceeds go to Rainier Audubon.

Seen and Heard (Continued from page 3)

Sound, so if you have any sightings—
Trumpeter, Tundra (even Bewicks!) please
send your report calenbirds@hotmail.com

Recent Bird Sightings:

Thanks to this month’s reporters Dan
Streiffert, Barbara Peterson, Rick and Jan
Espe, Ralph and Sandra Embrey , Pat Toth,
and Lisa Mesplay.

Dec 26th Dan videoed a **Sharp-shinned
Hawk** that showed up at the Streiffert’s
feeder. Amazing footage –Dan Streiffert

Jan 1st Barbara Peterson saw a **Band-
Tailed Pigeon** as her first bird of the year.
Afterwards, she spotted a **Red-Breasted
Sapsucker** bathing in her bird-filled water
feature. Barbara also spotted **Varied
Thrush, a Red-Tailed Hawk, Pileated
Woodpeckers, and Townsend’s Warblers**
in her backyard.–Barbara Peterson, (now
in Federal Way).

Jan 1st Rick and Jan Espe saw a **Northern
Flicker** flying from the top of an alder
down to their apple tree and suet feeder.
It was also their FOY. Later that day, they
saw **Evening Grosbeaks**, and three **Bald
Eagles** soaring above. They commented
“It was a good start for the year at the
Espe homestead.” A good start indeed.–
Rick and Jan Espe

Jan 3rd An immature **Cooper’s Hawk** made
two passes through the Embrey backyard.
They also discovered a **Pileated**

Woodpecker and a female **Yellow-
Rumped Warbler** (Audubon’s form)
hanging out in the tree with the suet
feeders.–Ralph and Sandra Embrey

Jan 8th Pat Toth’s first bird of the year was
a **Dark-Eyed Junco**.–Pat Toth

Jan 9th The first bird of Lisa Mesplay’s new
year was an **Anna’s Hummingbird**. Lisa
said that “Two of them live in my
backyard year-round. The female is the
first bird up each morning and the last
bird to leave each evening, and she guards
both feeders like grim death all day
long.”–Lisa Mesplay

While on the Christmas Bird Count, I
spotted a **Green Heron** hunched on a
branch beside a pond. On January 1st, I
awoke to find a **Spotted Towhee** scuffling
around in the leaves, looking for a New
Year’s meal. **Barn Owls** (Jan. 12th) and
Sharp-shinned Hawks (a pair in neighbor’s
yard Jan. 1) seem to be getting a lot to eat
in our neighborhood --Calen Randall,
Auburn

Mystery Bird of the Month

Barbara Peterson saw one of these
bathing in her water feature. Here are the
clues:

When I build my nest, I make an
entrance and an exit

I’m the only North American

representative of the family

Certhiidae

A group of me is known as a “spiral”

My family members have been
known to make nests behind
window shutters, under roofs,
inside fence posts, even inside
concrete blocks

During cold weather, I’ll huddle
together with others of my kind
in a crevice

I’m the only songbird that molts its
tail as woodpeckers do

I often pass my cousin, the nuthatch,
when foraging. The nuthatch
forages head facing downward,
while I glean for insects while
ascending the tree.

I climb trees by “creeping” up and
around the tree in a spiral-like
shape

Who am I?

Send your sightings/hearings to
calenbirds@hotmail.com I love reading
your reports!

Answer: Brown Creeper

FREE DISCOVER PASSES FOR MEMBERS OF RAINIER AUDUBON SOCIETY

To support our state parks – and to boost membership - the local chapter of the Audubon Society, called the Rainier Audubon Society, is giving away free Discover Passes to any new member who joins Rainier Audubon during 2013.

All you have to do is come to a meeting, join up and get your free Discover Pass. The cost of joining is \$20.00/individual and \$25/family. The cost of a Discover Pass is normally \$35.00 dollars so you’ve just saved \$15.00 and you have a year’s membership in the Audubon Society and a year’s free access to all of the state parks in Washington.

Each Discover Pass can be used for any two vehicles you own. Just fill out two license plate numbers on the Pass, hang it from the rear view mirror of whichever car you’re taking, and you’re good to go for a full year of state park recreation.

The Rainier Audubon Society meets monthly at the United Methodist Church in Federal Way, and presents programs on all aspects of nature, birding, conservation, outdoor photography, and many other topics that adults and children who love the outdoors enjoy. For more information go to www.RainierAudubon.org.

Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)

By Nancy Streiffert

Since I like Olde-Fashioned things, I enjoy checking out an old book that I “inherited” from Thais Bock, our founder. It is The Folklore of Birds by Laura C. Martin – she even has a bird last name! I first identified Brewer's blackbirds when I heard their loud call as I walked across my school parking lot. It seems they like parking lots as I've seen them in others! Their “official” habitat is open country, parks and suburbs in southern, central and western parts of the U.S. They eat grain or insects near the ground. Males are about 8” long and solid black with purplish-blue iridescent heads and yellow eyes. Females are dull gray-brown and have dark eyes. They walk with a distinctive jerk of the head.



The old nursery rhyme “Sing a song of sixpence,/ A pocketful of rye,/ Four and twenty blackbirds,/ baked in a pie” was based on the fact that many centuries ago European peasants often ate the European blackbird. Members of royalty were said to have used blackbirds as a party trick: they placed live blackbirds in a pie crust and when the “pie” was cut at the banquet, the birds would fly out, creating “great amusement among the guests”! (Think of the liability and legal issues that would create today!)

The symbolism of the blackbird is mixed – black usually signifying death and evil but the general symbolism for these birds connects them to everlasting life. As a result, blackbirds were sometimes considered symbolic of the struggle between good and evil, between body and soul. The bird is sometimes seen in paintings of the Mother and Child as a foreshadowing of the death of Christ.

Italian peasant lore holds that blackbirds were once all white but

one severe winter was so cold that they had to find warmth in the chimneys of the town and were colored black by the soot and have remained so to this day. January 31 and February 1 are sometimes called blackbird days.

Euphagus is from the Greek words for “good eater” (*eu* – good; *phago* – to eat). The species name *cyanocephalus* is from the Greek *kaynos* – blue and *kephale* – head. Brewer's blackbird was named for Thomas Mayo Brewer, a physicist, journalist, politician and ornithologist born in Boston in 1814. He was a friend of John James Audubon and an enthusiastic bird lover. Europeans coming to America saw various birds that looked like European blackbirds and called them by the same name. Ornithologists have determined that the English and the American blackbirds actually belong to different genera and are not related.

Liability Waivers

The Board discussed the issue of Liability Waivers for Birding Field Trips and Habitat Restoration events. We ended up passing a motion asking trip leaders to have all participants sign a RAS Liability Waiver form as a condition for participating in the event. This is for the protection of both the trip leaders and Rainier Audubon.

The waiver is intended for RAS sponsored events, and is not intended for trips sponsored by other organizations, which we might advertise in the HH or our website. So Nisqually Field Trips or GRNRA Surveys would not require the use of the waiver.

We will be sending waivers out in the near future.

Thanks,

Dan Streiffert

2013 Lobby Day

WHEN: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 from 8:30 am -4:00 pm
WHERE: United Churches of Olympia, 110 10th Ave SE, Olympia
REGISTRATION: \$15 for adults | \$10 for students
LUNCH OPTION: \$12 | lunch by [EZ Foods Olympia](#)
BUS TRANSPORTATION: \$25

This year, join 24 of the state's leading conservation groups and hundreds of citizen advocates to push for the passage of the Environmental Priorities Coalition's 2013 legislative agenda. We need you in Olympia on February 19, 2013, to garner the support of all three of your state legislators by using your power of persuasion as you meet face-to-face with them.

To register, go to <http://environmentalpriorities.org/>



Rainier Audubon Society
PO Box 778
Auburn, WA 98071

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

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."
—Mark Twain

Rainier Audubon Membership Subscription or Renewal Form

One-year Membership in Rainier Audubon

- ◇ \$20—Individual Membership
- ◇ \$25—Family Membership

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.