

The Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

April 2019

Rainier Audubon Membership Meeting

April 15, 2019

“The Falconer”

- John Prucich

Please join The Falconer for an in-depth birds of prey encounter with Rainier Audubon! Take a passport tour and meet The Falconer's raptor ambassadors species from all around the world. The program will cover the natural history, conservation issues, falconry, and beyond with birds of prey! The program weaves together all these topics and more for a fun evening of learning. The Program also strives to engage the program goes as much as possible. At The Falconer we love questions and the more questions the better. This is an amazing chance! Come meet species of raptors not native to North America! Come face to face with one of the largest owl species in the world, the national bird of Mongolia, and one of the most unknown falcons of Africa to name some.

We hope you can join us!



The Falconer is owned and operated by John Prucich. John's professional and personal background is anchored in the field of birds. A dual BS/BA degrees in Biology with an emphasis in ornithology. From the Evergreen State College. As well as a previous professional background working with zoo birds of prey with Woodland Park Zoo, and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. Personally, John is a licensed practicing master falconer in Washington State since 2010, holding a federal raptor propagation permit, and is an avid birder. John Started "The Falconer" out of his love of raptors, and to share that love with the public through education.



The Falconer
206-450-0577
john@the-falconer.com
www.the-falconer.com

Join us at 6:30 for conversation and refreshments.

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.

Rainier Audubon programs are held at 7:00 P.M. at the
Federal Way United Methodist Church
29645 - 51st Ave. So. 98001
(in unincorporated Auburn)

Rainier Audubon Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/rainieraudubonsociety/>

Heron Herald is Available Online

The current issue of the Heron Herald is always available to download from www.RainierAudubon.org. I will try to send an email on our mailing list as soon as it is posted.

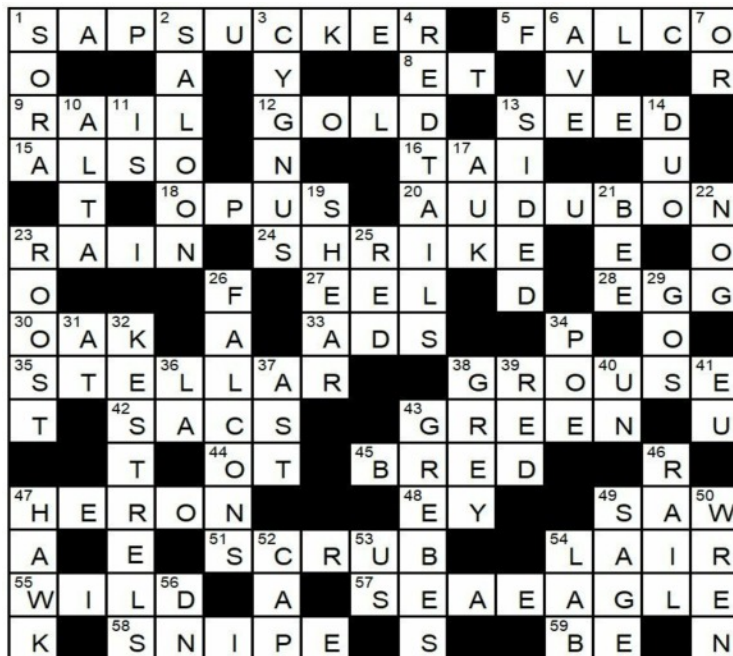
New Rainier Audubon Google Group / email list

We are combining the old Rainier Leaders email list with the ras-activities list into a new RainierAudubon google group.

The [ras-activities] group has been renamed to [RainierAudubon]. So if you were previously a member of this list, then you are still a member of the renamed group. The only difference being that when you send an email to this group, the address is RainierAudubon@googlegroups.com

If you did not get an invitation, you may request to join the group by going to groups.google.com and searching for "Rainier Audubon". You can then request to join the group. Alternatively, you can sign up on the RainierAudubon.org website.

Crossbird Puzzle Solution from last month - Kenneth Schroeder



Rainier Audubon Society Directory

Position	Name	Board Member	Phone	email
President	Heather Gibson	Yes	206-226-2050	hedder_swedder@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jay Galvin	Yes	253-939-3094	gjgalvin@comcast.net
Secretary	Barbara Petersen	Yes	253 389 3204	bpbatfan@aol.com
Treasurer	Laura Lavington	Yes	253-941-7372	laura.lavington@gmail.com
Membership Chair	Ken Schroeder	No	253-939-7470	kenschroeder@msn.com
Education Chair	Cindy Flanagan	Yes	253-941-3933	camcalcin@hotmail.com
Program Chair	Dale Meland	No	253-946-1637	dmeland@hotmail.com
Field Trip Chair	Barbara Petersen	Yes	253 389 3204	bpbatfan@aol.com
Publicity Chair	Jay Galvin	Yes	253-939-3094	gjgalvin@comcast.net
Backyard Habitat Chair	Marie West-Johnson	Yes	206-817-8754	crgrie123@yahoo.com
Conservation Chair	Dan Streiffert	No	253-796-2203	dan_streiffert@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Dan Streiffert	No	253-796-2203	dan_streiffert@hotmail.com
Webmaster	Treesa Hertzell	No	253-255-1808	Autumn207@comcast.net
Member at Large	Stephan Feldman	Yes	360-802-5211	stephanfeldman@gmail.com
Hospitality	Sandra Embrey	No	253-517-3633	sandra.embrey@gmail.com
Mailing	Debra Russell	No	425-82- 4008	debrarussell94@comcast.net
Lifetime Members	Max Prinsen	Yes	425-432-9965	
Lifetime Members	Erin Wojewodski-Prinsen	Yes	425-432-9965	

Seen & Heard by Calen Randall



yet knowing, soon I won't be seeing him for a while.

The other song I've enjoyed waking to in the morning is one of a very minor key. Kind of a one-note wonder. Cousin to the robin, a masked marvel who is also known as Shy Guy. Guess who? The Varied Thrush. So special it is to hear the song of the Varied Thrush—a true Pacific Northwest forest treat.



What bird song are you enjoying while you start your day? I'd love to know. Send me a report. calenbirds@hotmail.com

Recent Sightings: March 14th, 2019, Auburn, King County

Ken Schroeder and Linda Carlson had the surprise of the decade at their property east of Auburn near Lake Holm Road. For only the second time in about 12 years, they saw a male Ring-necked Pheasant. According to Ken, it appears the bird has pretty much taken up residence, as they have seen and heard him calling every day for about a week. eBird shows that Ken and Linda's prize fowl is only the 7th Ring-necked Pheasant reported in King County this year, and the only one sported south of Redmond. Hopefully Ken and Linda can entertain him long enough that we can count him in our next Christmas Bird Count!

Thanks for the great report Ken and Linda.

Bio: Calen is a 19-year-old birder entering his eighth year writing the Seen and Heard. Currently attending the University of Washington, Calen enjoys exploring new birding areas in Washington and familiar regions in South King County.

Cantation fills the morning air—spring is upon us. My first of the year bird song comes from a 'glowing little king' whose Latin name is *regulus calendula*. Not only is its song kingly, so too is its ruby crown that is so aptly displayed while singing. Know who it is? A male Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

This hard to spot flitting monarch frequents the spruce trees in my backyard, happily gleaning insects. Its distinct 5-second song starts with a soft high note beginning and builds into a loud finale that amazes me. How can such a small thing create such volume? This song is just his dress rehearsal. Soon, he will pack up his Lowland show and head for higher ground in our mountain forests. It's kind of bittersweet enjoying his song

Taking five minutes in the morning to just sit outside and listen is one of the best ways to start one's day. It's absolutely magical how much song fills the air in an April morning. Something special that is coming this April that is full of bird song is a book by Nathan Pieplow, *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Western North America*. Why I'm looking forward to this book is Pieplow's use of spectrograms to graph bird songs and calls in a field-guide style format. Like his field guide for Eastern North America, bird songs that are similar are grouped together—making it easier to narrow down the bird.

Backyard and Birds Garden Party!

By Marie West-Johnson

Save the date Saturday May 25th from 1 - 5 PM.

It's a Garden Party for Rainier Audubon members, family, and friends. This will also be a Spring fund raiser for our chapter.

So, come and experience a small yard bird habitat, get some native plant ideas, and have a glass of wine at the yard of Marie West-Johnson. (My garden looks best with a glass of wine)

The address is 903 Olympia Ave NE Renton 98056.

Hope to see you there!



Field Trip Report

By Barbara Petersen

Steve Johnson's March 16th field trip, Lakes and Parks of Federal Way & Vicinity, occurred on one of the first warm days of the year. Steve seems to have great luck with weather on his popular trips.

At Lake Fenwick we were met with an immature Bald Eagle perched high in a fir and a Purple Finch singing from a treetop. An Anna's Hummingbird was observed collecting lichen from a tree trunk, but we were unable to track to its nest. We enjoyed good looks at a Red-breasted Sapsucker and Brown Creepers here, and heard then saw a Varied Thrush.

We proceeded to Steel Lake where the Brennans welcomed us onto their deck in the northeast corner of the lake. Some got a striking view of a close Golden-crowned Kinglet on a conifer branch. Many species were on the water including well over fifty Ruddy Ducks. We next visited Weyerhaeuser Pond to view Killdeer, Redheads, Canvasbacks and other waterfowl.

We moved on to the Brown's Point Lighthouse and scoped distant Marbled Murrelets, always a highlight, along with Rhinoceros Auklets and Pigeon Guillemots. The repeated song of a nearby White-crowned Sparrow here convinced us that spring is indeed right around the corner. Dash Point Pier and a walk around Dash Point Campground added Common Raven, Hutton's Vireo and Downy Woodpecker to our trip list.

At our last stop, Dumas Bay Center, we finally found a Common Loon floating far below us. Our final birds of the day, viewed from the parking lot before getting into our cars (how did Steve ever arrange this??) were a stunning pair of Pileated Woodpeckers, perfectly backlit by the afternoon sun.

This field trip ended with a trip list of sixty-two species, and with ten happy birders who no doubt look forward to their next Rainier Audubon outing.

Thank you, Steve!

28 Days in May illustrated hand-bound art book Auction

"Join us at the March 18 and April 18 membership meetings to view a splendid volume of art and poetry, bound by hand. This item will be up for auction at the May 20 meeting. Proceeds of the auction will benefit Rainier Audubon.

The book has poems and illustrations of birds. Rainier Audubon member Len Elliott wrote the haiku poems and his daughter Lisa Ruth made collage artwork based on observations of birds they observed. The artwork is composed of tiny bits of paper, assembled to form delicate replicas described in the poetry.

Rainier appreciates the generous gift made for the benefit of our chapter "



Field Trips - Barbara Petersen



Weekly Birdwalks at Nisqually

Wednesdays 8 am to 11 am

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 visitors' 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.

Bring: Good walking shoes or boots, rain gear, 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

Olympic Peninsula BirdFest

April 12 - 14, 2019

This festival provides participants the opportunity to view a wide variety of birds normally seen on the Olympic Peninsula. Field trips are planned for Sequim Bay, Port Angeles Harbor, Ediz Hook, Dungeness Spit, the Elwha River, Neah Bay and boat trips to Protection Island, as well as wooded areas to view songbirds and locate owls in the evening. Dates of this festival are timed to overlap wintering birds and the arrival of spring migrants.

For more information go to www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

May 3 - 5, 2019

Celebrate the natural world and the spring shorebird migration at this festival in Hoquiam, WA. Some shorebird species can be found all year in Grays Harbor County; others are only here during their migration. A good way to learn about shorebirds is to attend the festival's shorebird identification class and field trip. People come from around the world to view the birds during this migration event of hemispheric importance, and this festival brings people together for that purpose.

For more information go to www.shorebirdfestival.com.

Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Festival

May 11, 2019, 10 AM - 3 PM

Tukwila Community Center

Celebrate wildlife, nature and gardening at this annual festival which features presentations by local experts along with a variety of educational exhibitors, arts & craft vendors, and native/garden plant sales. Bring the kids as there is plenty to keep the entire family engaged and entertained.

Soos Creek Trail & Covington Community Park

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Half Day, 8:00 to 12:00

Leader: Barbara Petersen

Come with us to Kent's marvelous Soos Creek Trail where we'll walk up to a mile on pavement. We'll look for migrants and resident birds and signs of spring such as nest building and feeding activity. A variety

of woodpecker nests have been found in the past along the trail, as well as nests of Anna's Hummingbird, Brown Creeper and more. Of course we'll watch for Great Blue Herons flying in and out of the heronry there if it's still active. If time allows we'll proceed to Covington Community Park to look for additional species and nests.

Bring: binoculars, spotting scopes, cameras, water, snacks.

Meet: on the north side of Star Lake Park & Ride, which is just west of I-5 and north of S. 272nd St. Take exit 147 off I-5, go west, turn right onto 26th Ave S, enter P&R lot, proceed to north side.

Sign up: by contacting Barbara at BPbatfan@aol.com or at 253-389-3204 (text or voice message).

Seahurst Beach Birding Basics Class

A Spring Outdoor Experience

Sat, April 6th and Sat, April 13th
8:30 - 10:30 AM

Kevin O'Malley, lead naturalist and birder at South Sound Nature School, will teach a Birding Basics class for beginning and intermediate birders wanting to further their knowledge about birding. Class will focus on bird language, behavior, habitats, nests and bird tracks. Birding is such a fascinating recreational activity. Participants will learn to talk more in depth about the birds they're hearing and seeing. Burien's Seahurst Park has both forest and ocean habitats offering a great diversity of bird species. Binoculars are recommended but not required. These small classes are geared toward ages 16 and up. Classes are \$30 per class or \$50 if you sign up for both. Maximum eight participants, already filling quickly so sign up soon. Dates are Sat, April 6th and Sat, April 13th, 8:30 - 10:30. Register at <https://southsoundnatureschool.org> (click on Menu then Basic Birding Seahurst Park) or email Kevin at omalley23@gmail.com.



The Month of May is Birdathon

It's "birding for dollars!" Count as many bird species in one day as you can! Choose any day in May. Get family, friends and co-workers 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.

You can also 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 just stay at home and count bird species 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.

Why do it? Rainier Audubon needs the money! The portion of your membership dues to Rainier Audubon covers only a portion of the costs associated with running a successful Audubon chapter. Birdathon is our largest fundraiser, and we depend on it to provide a stable funding base for our many activities and services such as: printing and mailing our chapter's newsletter, general administrative costs, programs (speaker fees), environmental education activities, conservation committee activities, etc., We wouldn't want to have to cut back on any of our activities due to lack of funds! Sponsor sheets are available at Rainier Audubon membership meetings!



JOIN THE GLOBAL BIG DAY CHALLENGE SATURDAY, MAY 4th, 2019



Source: eBird.org, Artist Luke Seitz

e Bird's Global Big Day is around the corner. Take the Rainier Audubon Challenge: form a birding team and join in on the Global Big Day fun.

Global Big day runs from midnight to midnight on Saturday, May 4th. All you do is get out and go birding. You chose the place and time. Then, enter your bird sightings onto eBird.org or—while you are out in the field—use the eBird Mobile app <https://help.ebird.org/customer/portal/articles/2411868>

Everyone's sightings will be entered into a single massive Global Big Day list—while also collecting data for scientists to use to better understand birds. You can keep track of all of the day's stats on the Global Big Day page <https://ebird.org/globalbigday>

If you don't have an eBird account, go to **ebird.org** to create an account. Click the **Get started** tab and follow the steps.

Rainier Audubon Challenge

Last year, we had 2 teams participate in the Rainier Audubon Challenge for Global Big Day. Throughout the day the two teams kept in touch about what they were seeing and where they were—and of course, both were competing to see how many species they saw.

We have two teams registered so far:

Barbara Petersen's clan will be celebrating Global Big Day in honor of Pat Toth, long-time outstanding member of Rainier Audubon. The team is hush on their chosen path, but have a penchant for digging up great rarities. Last year, Clan Petersen spotted a Wilson's Phalarope at M Street in Auburn.

Team 2TallyBirdy, consisting of Calen Randall and Cindy Flanagan, are doing a cross state birding bonanza: starting on the eastern border at Coeur D'Alene and Spokane traveling along I-90 then venturing along Hwy 101 to Grays Harbor and finishing at Hoquiam. Hoping to shatter the 100 species mark!

Global Big Day is the perfect day to participate in Rainier Audubon's annual fundraiser: Birdathon. Get sponsors to donate money for each species you see while you are out on your Global Big Day. Or, have them donate a flat rate for your birding day. A sponsor sheet is included in this Heron Herald or go to RainierAudubon.org to get a sponsor sheet.

Join in on the fun! If you form a team, and want to participate in the Rainier Audubon Challenge, contact Cindy Flanagan 253-315-0799 or email camcalcin@hotmail.com



Education Matters

eBird Online Workshops and Field trip Series

In April, Rainier Audubon's Calen Randall will offer two online eBird workshops and an eBirding field trip:

How to use eBird to find birds in your area

Thursday, April 11th 7-8:30 PM

Online class size: 10

This workshop is an entry level class to explore the world of eBird, especially in your local area. We will go over the basics of how to

- create an eBird account and profile
- search under Species
- search under Hotspots
- explore eBird Science Status and Trends

How to use eBird to record your bird observations

Thursday, April 18th 7-8:30 PM

Online class size: 10

This entry level workshop is part 2 of the eBird series. We will go over the basics of how to

- set up an eBird account and profile

- upload an eBird App on your mobile device
- learn to enter your bird sightings, photos, audio from your computer or electronic device
- share checklists

For the online workshops, we will use the GoToMeeting platform. Once you register, you will receive an email invite to attend the GoToMeeting session.

eBird Workshop Field Trip "eBirding" the Hylebos

Saturday, April 20th 8 am-12 PM

Meeting Place: Marlene's Market and Deli, 2625 S Gateway Center PI, Federal Way, 98003

For this field trip, we will practice our eBirding skills—locating places along the East and West Hylebos and vicinity to find target birds. We will also enter bird sightings using eBird from our mobile phones.

This fieldtrip is for online workshop participants. If there is space available for the field trip, others who didn't participate in the online workshop are welcome to sign up.

To sign up, contact **Cindy Flanagan**

email: camcalcin@hotmail.com

phone: 253-315-0799

Dungeness River Audubon Center—An Invitation to help "Inspire Wonder"

The Dungeness River Audubon Center is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with a capital

campaign to expand the building and create better access to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's Railroad Bridge Park near Sequim. Thanks to the partnership between the Center, Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; we're more than halfway to our fundraising goal of \$3M.

We were recently awarded a "last-in" \$300K grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust – which means we won't get the money if we can't complete the rest of the campaign. If you've been one of the thousands of people who have visited the Center and Park, for BirdFest or otherwise, we hope you'll consider making a gift to help us meet this challenge.

View a video to see the Center and Park and how they interact with visitors...and contribute through the website at dungenessrivercenter.org. For more specific questions, please contact Center Director Powell Jones at 360-681-4076.





It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment. - Ansel Adams



Rainier Audubon Membership Subscription or Renewal Form

One-year Membership in Rainier Audubon
\$25—Individual Membership / \$30—Family Membership

Circle one New / Renewal

For new members:

How did you hear about Rainier Audubon Society?

To join or renew, mail this application with your payment to:

Rainier Audubon Society - Membership

PO Box 778

Auburn, WA 98071



Are you interested in:

- Volunteering?
- Field Trips?
- Classes?

(Please circle)

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____