

The Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

April 2020

Rainier Audubon Membership Meeting

April 20, 2020

“The Dinosaurs Among Us”

- Kim Adelson

Virtually all paleontologists agree that birds evolved from dinosaurs, and most even go so far as to claim that birds are, in fact, living dinosaurs. Dr. Kim Adelson, PhD will tell us about the remarkable similarities between birds and the creatures they evolved from. You will not only be surprised as to how dinosaur-like birds are, but also how very bird-like dinosaurs were. Dr. Kim Adelson was a professor of psychology for almost 30 years. Before she switched fields so as to better study behavioral evolution, she earned a master’s degree M.A. in evolutionary biology. Paleontology has been one of her avocations since childhood.



April’s Rainier Audubon program will be held online using GoToMeeting at 7:00 P.M.

On April 20th, at 6:45pm, put the following link in your URL:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/133828253>

Any questions getting on to the meeting email Cindy Flanagan at camcalcin@hotmail.com

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
Facebook Page**

[https://www.facebook.com/
rainieraudubonsociety/](https://www.facebook.com/rainieraudubonsociety/)

Upcoming Program

5/18/2020 Sally Vogel "Ethiopian Birds & Mammals"

Heron Herald is Available Online

The current issue of the Heron Herald is 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.

Nominations for New Board Members are Open

Board election takes place during our May Membership Meeting. If you are interested, or would like to nominate someone, please talk to a board member.

Rainier Audubon Society Directory				
Position	Name	Board	Phone	email
President	Jay Galvin	Yes	253-939-3094	gjgalvin@comcast.net
Vice President	open			
Secretary	Barbara Petersen	Yes	253-389-3204	bpbatfan@aol.com
Treasurer	Laura Lavington	Yes	253-941-7372	Laura.lavington@gmail.com
Membership	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	Heather Gibson	Yes	206-226-2050	hedder_swedder@yahoo.com
Publicity Chair	Jay Galvin	Yes	253-939-3094	gjgalvin@comcast.net
Backyard Habitat	Marie West-Johnson	No	206-817-8754	crgrie123@yahoo.com
Conservation	Dan Streiffert	No	253-796-2203	dan_streiffert@hotmail.com
Newsletter	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	425-829-4008	debrarussell94@comcast.net
Lifetime Member	Max Prinsen	Yes	425-432-9965	
Lifetime Member	Erin Wojewadski-	Yes	425-432-9965	

Field Trips - Heather Gibson

All events subject to change.

Weekly Bird Walk at Nisqually

Wednesdays 8 a.m. -11 a.m.

Leader: Phil Kelley

Join Phil Kelley on his weekly bird walks as he counts the birds at Nisqually NWR. The group walks to an area near the visitor 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 with questions. Phil Kelley (360) 459-1499, scrubjay323@aol.com

Message from Billy Frank Jr-Nisqually Natural Wildlife Refuge: We are suspending operations in the Visitor Center until further notice as part of a collective effort to halt the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appreciates your understanding and compliance.

Updates will be posted to the refuge website, www.fws.gov/refuge/billy_frank_jr_nisqually and Facebook page.

Duwamish River Birding Spots

Sat, April 18, 2020, 8:20 - noon

Leader - Barbara Petersen

Join Barbara on her monthly Burien

Wild Birds Unlimited store bird walk for a morning exploration of birding spots near the Duwamish River. You'll want to return to these places often in the spring when they can be quite busy with bird activity. Common sightings include Osprey, Bald Eagle, Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Western tanager, even Bullock's Oriole when the timing's right. We'll visit North Wind's Weir, Cecil Moses Park, Duwamish Hill Preserve, Duwamish Gardens and the river path

at Tukwila Community Center. We'll walk less than half a mile on paved paths. Bring drinks, snacks, binoculars, scopes, cameras as needed to enhance this half day outing. We'll sharpen our spotting skills, as a few of these spots have a lot of traffic noise. We'll walk less than half a mile on paved paths.

If you have concerns about the coronavirus and wish to stay home, rest assured there will be opportunities to join future bird walks. If you are healthy and symptom free and accept the risks of being with others, then meet us at the Wild Birds Unlimited store parking lot at 8:20 AM OR at the Tukwila Community Center main entrance at 8:45 AM. As a safety measure we'll caravan in our own cars instead of carpooling, and we'll engage in the recommended spatial distancing while birding. PLEASE bring thin gloves to wear while signing the usual store release form, and plan to wear them while sharing the spotting scope or touching the tripod. We'll aim to finish birding at 12:00.

Field Trips cont'd

Birding Basics Classes at Seahurst Park

A Spring Outdoor Experience

Sat April 25th & Sun April 26th, 8:30 - 10:30 AM

and/or

Sat May 2nd & Sun May 3rd, 8:30 - 10:30 AM

Kevin O'Malley and Barbara Petersen will be teaching Birding Basics classes this April for beginners, intermediate and expert birders wanting to further their knowledge about birding. Classes will focus on bird language, behavior, habitats, nests and bird tracks. Birding is a fascinating recreational activity. Participants will learn to talk more in depth about birds they are seeing and hearing. Burien's Seahurst Park has both forest and saltwater habitats offering a great diversity of bird species. Binoculars are recommended but not required. Kevin is lead naturalist at South Sound Nature School. Barbara leads bird walks and field trips for Wild Birds Unlimited and Rainier Audubon.

Classes will be \$50.00 per weekend. Maximum 8 participants. For more information and to register go to: southsoundnatureschool.org

Morse Wildlife Preserve Open Days

Don't miss your chance to visit this special place!

Morse Wildlife Preserve is a privately-owned nature preserve, open to the public on special days throughout the year, including Second Sundays in the month of April-October. This year those days will be May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13 & October 11. The events are from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The events are free, with donations gladly accepted.

Please leave pets at home. Carpooling is encouraged.

For more information, email

morsewildlifepreserve@gmail.com.

Yakima River Canyon Bird Festival

May 8-10, 2020

Come bird for 3-days during the second weekend of May and discover the natural beauty of Central Washington State! The Yakima River Canyon is an Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) with some of the highest densities of passerines and birds of prey in the State.

The Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest offers expert-led field trips, vendors, extended field trips, keynote speaker, social events, and a plethora of bird watching during early spring! <https://www.ycic.org/yakima-river-canyon-bird-fest>

Leavenworth Spring Bird Festival

May 14-17, 2020

Celebrate the return of migratory birds in the midst of peak wildflower season while enjoying field trips, events and free family activities for all ages and abilities in Leavenworth, Washington, and throughout the Wenatchee River Valley. The keynote speaker on Friday evening, May 17th, will be Richard Crossley, talented birder, photographer and award winning author of 'The Crossley ID Guide' series. Go to www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.org for more information and to register.

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!

Mewsings from Millie

Reprinted courtesy of Burien Wild Birds Unlimited

Hello once again, and welcome back! Spring is here and although it's been a bit chilly, many people are talking about the male goldfinches beginning to turn bright yellow and hearing songs of the Bewick's Wren, White-crowned Sparrow and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Since it is nesting time for many birds, I thought I would share some information with you regarding some of our common songbirds and their nesting habits.

Black-capped Chickadees nest from April through July. A hole excavated in rotten wood or an old woodpecker hole is filled with leaves, hair, moss, plant down and feathers. Chickadees are frequent users of nest boxes.

American Robins also nest from April through July. They build a nest of mud and grass usually in a tree, but they have adapted so well to human settlement that they will also utilize a fence or a building to support their nest.

Another April through July nester is the Yellow Warbler. Yellow Warblers will nest in backyards if there are dense shrubs. They are also quite tame when building their nests and can be observed while they work. The female builds the nest using plant fibers, grasses, wool and moss and lines it with hair and cotton.

Red-winged Blackbirds nest from March through July. The nest is a loosely woven cup made of rush strands, moss and mud, and is bound to the stems of cattails, rushes or other plants often in marshes and over water.

March through August is the nesting time for the House Finch. They build a nest of grasses, leaves, twigs, string, wool and other odds and ends in a tree, a cavity or an abandoned nest. House Finches will use standard nest boxes.

The American Goldfinch is one of the last birds to nest. They nest from June through September. Loose colonies of American Goldfinches will nest in bushes or trees. The nest cups are sometimes so tightly woven that they can hold water! The nest is often lined with thistle down which correlates with the fact that their favorite food during breeding time is thistle seed.

Although they are not songbirds, the Osprey and the Belted Kingfisher have some interesting nesting habits.

April 2020

Osprey nest near fresh or saltwater. The nests may be near the ground or up to sixty feet high on trees, poles, platforms and, recently, cell phone towers. The nest is constructed of very large and small sticks and lined with bark, sod, seaweed and grass.

The Belted Kingfisher excavates a burrow in the bank of a river, lake or gravel quarry. It has even been known to use abandoned rabbit holes. The burrows are usually three to six feet deep but some nesting holes can extend to fifteen feet!

All of this talk about nesting has made me feel all warm and cozy. I think it's time to curl up for a nap! Before I drift off to dreamland, however, I'll leave you with a few more words that describe groups of birds: a FLIGHT of swallows, a TRIMMING of finches and a CAST of falcons.

Until next time,

Millie, the Muse of Mews

April 2020



Rainier Audubon Society
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Auburn, WA 98071

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

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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



Are you interested in:

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?

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