

The

Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

December 2013

December 16, 2013 RAS Membership Meeting

Meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

"Habitat Enhancement Projects in the City of Kent"

Matt Knox

Many local environmentalists, especially birders, have discovered and explored the resources available at the Green River Natural Resources Area (GRNRA*), a 304-acre flood-control, stormwater treatment and wildlife habitat creation project constructed by the City in 1996. Matt will briefly cover the resources available there and recent progress, and will talk about big plans slated for the near future. He will also talk about two other large habitat creation projects along the Green River that are currently in the design stage and touch on a number of others. Bring your Kent questions and be ready to discover some new wild areas right in your local neighborhood.

Matt Knox found employment as the Site Manager at the City of Kent's Green River Natural Resources Area (GRNRA) in December of 1997. The GRNRA is a 300-acre enhanced wetland / wildlife refuge located near the Boeing Kent plant. Matt primarily worked at the GRNRA for 10-years monitoring wildlife, water quality, hydrology, and fish-use of the site, and he oversaw the propagation and planting of over 20,000 native plants per year on this site as he worked towards completion of an extensive landscape master plan. Currently, his work consists of designing environmental enhancements and mitigation to support City capital improvement projects and regional salmon habitat plans.



Merlin at the GRNRA

Prior to working for the City of Kent, Matt worked as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist at the 86,000 acre Fort Lewis Military Reservation, as a Wilderness Ranger in the 1.5 million-acre Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and as a naturalist for Washington State Parks.

Matt attended high school in Yakima, received his BA in Biology from Pacific Lutheran University and completed graduate work in Wildland Recreation Management and Environmental Science at Washington State University, The Evergreen State College and the University of Washington. Matt received his Professional Wetland Scientist certification from the Society of Wetland Scientists Professional Certification Program in March of 2013.

In his spare time, Matt is an avid outdoorsman and fitness enthusiast. He qualified for and completed the Boston Marathon this April (finishing before the bombs!) and plans to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania as his "bucket-list" accomplishment on his 50th birthday.

Join us at 6:30 for our annual "Cookie Feed".

* Also know locally as the "Kent Ponds"

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—Dan Streiffert

We have a new Treasurer!

Laura Lavington

Bio:

I have casually maintained bird feeders for years, but I became particularly involved in birding in fall of 2011, and I joined Rainier Audubon in early 2012. I am most interested in songbirds, hummingbirds, and woodpeckers: the types of birds one might see in one's yard. At times, I have over thirty bird/squirrel feeders up in various places of the yard. My favorite birding partner is my mom Lisa, whether we are bird-watching out of state or at Nisqually (a great spot for kinglets!). Bewick's wren might be my favorite bird, but I am also very fond of all species of hummingbirds and of bushtits. I enjoy going for leisurely bird-watching walks, viewing my feeders, and reading books and magazines about birds and birding.



RAINIER AUDUBON OFFICERS

President	Dan Streiffert*	253-796-2203
Vice President	Steve Feldman*	360-802-5211
Treasurer	Laura Lavington	
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Christmas Bird Count Coordinator	Alex Juchems*	253-529-8996
Board Member	Max Prinsen	425-432-9965
Board Member	Erin Wojewodski-Prinsen	425-432-9965
Board Member	Lisa Mesplay	206-946-3820
Board Member	Ed Stanton	206-870-3107
Board Member	Jim Tooley	253-854-3070
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 at the Federal Way United Methodist Church, and are open to all members.

Volunteers Needed!

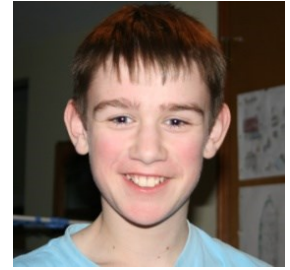
Please contact a Board Member

- Door Greeters for Membership Meetings
- Articles for Heron Herald—send to dan_streiffert@hotmail.com
- Conservation Chair.
- Projection & Sound setup person for meetings.

Upcoming Speaker List

- Jan. 20—Jay Galvin - Photography
- Feb. 17—Theresa Labriolla - Columbia River Keepers
- Mar. 17—Betty Udesan - Bird Photography
- Apr. 21—Dan Streiffert - Tanzania
- May 19—Ed Swan - The Birds of Vashon Island

Seen and Heard by Calen Randall



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

Red alert! Or more appropriately, I should say yellow alert. We had our first ever yellow-shafted

Northern Flicker in our back yard this month. In the past year, I received notice of several sightings of yellow-shafted flickers. Previously, I had not seen one in my backyard, despite the number of flickers that feast on the fruit of our apple tree and the millions of bugs.

This past fall, we've had four flickers frequent our backyard. One day, as three of the flickers took off from the apple tree, I spotted a flash of bright yellow. Could it be a Yellow-shaft? I stared at the evergreen trees it had disappeared into. It did not reappear. About a week later, I was looking out my kitchen window, and there stood a flicker on the fence. When I looked closer, I saw that it had a red nape patch, a marking of a Yellow-shafted Flicker. I wondered if the flicker was an intergrade; however, as it turned, I saw its black moustache (malar). Suddenly, it took off, flourishing its yellow wings.

Though our Red-shafted Flickers remain here year-round, the Yellow-shafts are migratory. Karen Wiebe, a researcher at Riske Creek, British Columbia, has the largest long-term study for understanding reproductive ecology, life history, and population ecology of flickers. Riske Creek is located in central B.C., and is in the hybrid zone where east meets west. This is the breeding ground where Yellow-shafts and Red-shafts mix. As a result, the wonderful markings of the two subspecies are blended. I wonder from where my Yellow-shafted Flicker has migrated?

Recent Bird Sightings:

Sorry, not too many reports this month. Thanks to Ralph and Sandra Embrey for their report.

Mystery Bird of the Month

Ralph and Sandra Embrey enjoyed watching this bird. They spotted it carrying a crow in its talons. Here are the clues:

A group of me is called a "boil", "knot", "spiraling", "stream", and a "tower"

Sometimes, my kind have been known to hunt as a pair, guarding opposite sides of the same tree to catch squirrels.

I am one of the largest birds in North America, weighing a mere three pounds

When mating, the males and female of my kind will perform a courtship ritual in which they dive and roll in the sky. Sometimes, they even lock talons and plunge downwards until breaking apart.

No other birds has my great sounding cry. It is often used in movies and commercials to represent that of an eagle.

I am not Broad-winged, Rough-legged, Zone-tailed, or Red-shouldered, and I am certainly not Short-tailed

Who am I?

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

Bio: Calen is a 14 year old birder. He enjoys birding around Lake Fenwick, Frager Road, and Boeing Ponds—especially with Charlie Wright. Calen is

RAS Christmas Bird Count

Rainier Audubon's Christmas Bird Count will be Sunday, December 29, 2013. Come celebrate the end of a busy and eventful year with other birders and the birds who tough out the winter with us in the Puget Sound area. This event has been going on for over 100 years in some parts of our country and over 30 with our own RAS! If you've never done a CBC, it's basically getting up at dawn, joining an expert birder and some hardy helpers and spending the day (very short at this time of year!) in a specific area of our 15-mile diameter circle counting and recording all the birds you see and/or hear. The data has been compiled ever since the beginning of the counts in the eastern U.S. and is a wealth of knowledge available for scientists, policy makers, environmental and other decision-making organizations. Come be a part of this great citizen science project. Contact - Alex Juchems, cooperjuchems@mac.com.

Answer: Red-tailed Hawk

Bio: Calen is a 14 year old birder. He enjoys birding around Lake Fenwick, Frager Road, 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 Michele Phiffer



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

Kittitas County Birding in Winter

Saturday, December 7, 2013
6:30am to evening
Leader - Charlie Wright

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



American Pipit

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. 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 from there.

Sign-up: Contact Charlie Wright, cwright770@gmail.com, 253-468-4146. Email is preferred.

Field Trip Photos

On Oct 12, Steve Johnson led a great field trip called Beaches and Parks, Fall Color and Fall Birds. Steve Sumioka took some wonderful photos of the trip. Click on Steve Sumioka's pix below.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/steveto2645/sets/72157636508642576/>

Alliance for Tompoti

Rainier Audubon has had speakers from Alliance for Tompotika, an organization with links to Vashon Island, that seeks to preserve endangered habitats in Indonesia. Their recent newsletter is available at www.tompotika.org It includes several "good news" items:

The Republic of Indonesia has declared maleo bird and sea turtle habitat an Essential Ecosystem which provides protection to these habitats.

Tangkaladi is a new island sanctuary for bats and sea turtles.

Sea turtle nesting, hatching and survival of hatchlings to the sea all increased during the recent nesting season.

The Alliance helped repair 3 wells in one of the conservation areas to provide clean water for the citizens who are the backbone of these projects.

Roma, a village resident, was named one of 14 Disney conservation heroes for his work on education and working to eliminate poaching of the turtle and maleo eggs.



Mewsings from Mille

I wonder how the definition of "bird brain" came to mean "stupid, foolish or scatterbrained"? Take the Black-capped Chickadee for instance. According to Birdnote, one of my favorite radio shows to listen to when my people are away, the brains of these little birds actually grow in the late summer and early fall. They busy themselves during this time by caching food, usually seeds, throughout their home range. Come winter, they need to remember where they hid all these seeds and find what they stashed. The part of their brain that grows is the hippocampus which plays an important role in spatial memory. Research has found that as memory space peaks, chickadees discard the brain cells that hold the "old" memories and replace them with new cells that store "new" memories. Thus, they are able to find the seeds they have most recently hidden. Why is knowing this important? Studying

the ability of a bird's brain to generate new neurons might lead to the discovery of ways to replace brain cells lost due to injury, stroke or degeneration as happens in diseases like Parkinson's, Huntington's and Alzheimer's.

There is other evidence that demonstrates the intelligence of birds. The Egyptian Vulture manipulates a rock with its beak to crack open ostrich eggs. New Caledonian Crows use sticks with their beaks to dig insects out of logs. "Betty", a laboratory crow, improvised a hooked tool from a wire with no previous experience with tools. The Woodpecker Finch from the Galapagos Islands uses simple stick tools to obtain food.

Crows in urban Japan have created a technique to crack hard-shelled nuts by dropping them onto crosswalks and letting them be run over by cars. They retrieve the cracked nuts while the cars are stopped at the red light. Macaws have utilized rope to fetch items that normally would be difficult to reach. Chinese fishermen have used cormorants to help them catch fish. Some fishermen were observed in the 1970's fishing with cormorants allowing each bird to eat every 8th fish it caught. Once the quota of seven fish was filled, the birds stubbornly

refused to move again and would ignore orders to dive, sitting glum and motionless on their perches until they got their fish to eat! Meanwhile, other birds that had not filled their quotas continued to catch fish. Could the cormorants count up to seven?

Birds have been known to recognize and distinguish complex shapes, demonstrate spatial and temporal abilities, learn by observation and, of course, communicate with each other through song, calls and body language.

With all that said and done, it seems to me that being a "bird brain" might be a GOOD thing!

Until next time,
Millie, the Muse of Mews

A Near-Sighted Sharp-shin?

Leaving home on a recent foggy morning, I heard a loud chittering in my front yard, like an angry squirrel. Investigating, I found a juvenile sharp shinned hawk flying agitatedly back and forth among the broadly spreading limbs of our Fuji cherry tree. I walked part-way around the tree, thinking it was reacting to something on the ground but saw nothing and it continued to fly from branch to branch making threatening (?) noises. I finally realized that it was probably trying to scare away a snowy owl perched in the crotch of the tree! It was having no effect because the snowy owl is a rock sculpture – very lifelike but immobile! It finally gave up and flew away – in frustration?

I can't be sure if a hawk attack, later that afternoon, witnessed by our neighbor on one of our chickens was the same sharp shin or, more likely, a Cooper's hawk but maybe the frustrated sharp-shin was taking out its revenge! Fortunately, the chicken sustained only minor injuries and is fine.

- Nancy Streiffert



Juncos

Reprint Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited, Burién

- The Dark-eyed Junco is currently divided into six distinct populations that include the following: Oregon, Pink-sided, White-winged, Slate-colored, Gray-headed, and Red-backed Juncos. There are an additional 12 subspecies divided among these populations.
- Slate-colored is widespread in boreal forests; White-winged breeds in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming; Oregon is the west coast bird; Pink-sided breeds in the northern Rockies; Gray-headed breeds in the southern Rockies and Red-backed can be found along the New Mexico, Arizona and Mexican borders.
- The Dark-eyed Junco has been documented to produce hybrids with White-throated Sparrows.
- Dark-eyed Juncos are often called "Snowbirds," possibly due to the fact that many people believe their return from their northern breeding grounds foretells the return of cold and snowy weather. Another possible source of the nickname may be the white belly plumage and slate-colored back of the junco which has been described as "leaden skies above, snow below."
- Juncos spend the entire winter in flocks averaging in size from six to thirty or more birds.
- Dark-eyed Juncos tend to return to the same area each winter. Chances are that you have many of the same birds at your feeder this winter that you had in previous years.
- Visiting flocks of juncos will usually stay within an area of about 10 acres during their entire winter stay.
- To avoid the competition, many female juncos migrate earlier and go farther south than most of the males. In Michigan only 20% of the wintering juncos are females, whereas in Alabama 72% were found to be female.
- Male juncos tend to spend the winter farther north in order to shorten their spring migration and thus gain the advantage of arriving first at prime breeding territories.
- When migrating, female juncos move south before the males do, and adult females leave before the young females.
- Juncos migrate at night at very low altitudes and are susceptible to collisions with communication towers and other structures.
- Each winter flock of juncos has a dominance hierarchy with



adult males at the top, then juvenile males, adult females and young females at the bottom. You can often observe individuals challenging the status of others with aggressive displays of lunges and tail flicking.

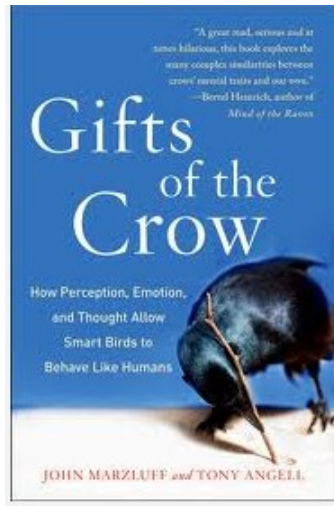
- While almost all Slate-colored Juncos in the Eastern portion of North America migrate, a population of juncos in the Appalachian Mountains is residential, remaining in the same area year-round.
- While the southward migration of Slate-colored Juncos is complete by early December, there is some evidence that indicates that harsh winter weather may spur some Juncos to move further south at anytime during the winter.
- Juncos have over 30 percent more feathers (by weight) in the winter than they do in summer.
- Juncos prefer to roost in evergreens at night but will also use tall grasses and brush piles. They return to the same roost location repeatedly and will share it with other flock mates, but they do not huddle together.
- The name junco is derived from the Latin word for the "rush" plant found in wetlands.
- Partners in Flight currently estimates the North American population of Dark-eyed Juncos at approximately 260 million, second only to the American Robin in overall population size in North America. A separate research paper estimates that the junco population could actually be as high as 630 million.
- According to Project Feeder Watch, juncos are sighted at

(Continued on page 9)

Two very different, and quite excellent, books about crows written by Seattleites have come out in the last few years. *Gifts of the Crow: How Perception, Emotion, and Thought Allow Smart Birds to Behave Like Humans* by the University of Washington's John Marzluff and Tony Angell was published in 2012, and it is filled with recent scientific studies and delightful corvid illustrations. Marzluff and Angell's book can be quite scientific at times, describing processes of the corvid brain accompanied with anatomical diagrams, but I found the text to be very readable, even though I am not personally a scientist. *Gifts of the Crow* focuses on crows and ravens, but also includes research on other corvids. What I found to be particularly interesting was the authors' inclusion of information by corvid-watching non-scientists. Individually, such citizens' reports seem anecdotal, but together they help to emphasize that corvids are even smarter and more humanlike than people have traditionally acknowledged.

John Marzluff has studied corvids for decades, and includes descriptions of his interactions with crows on the University of Washington campus. He explains to the reader that crows easily learn from one another which humans to mob (specifically the scientists that tag crows and inspect nests), and a crow population collectively remembers the information for years. In another place in the book, Marzluff describes an amusing incident in the North Cascades in which a mischievous raven named Hitchcock steals cars' windshield wipers. Ultimately the scientists have to be called in to train Hitchcock to leave windshield wipers alone (and also to stop whitewashing the visitor center). Throughout the book, when he describes anecdotal corvid behavior, Marzluff suggests scientific explanations and motivations, many of which emphasize the intelligence of corvids.

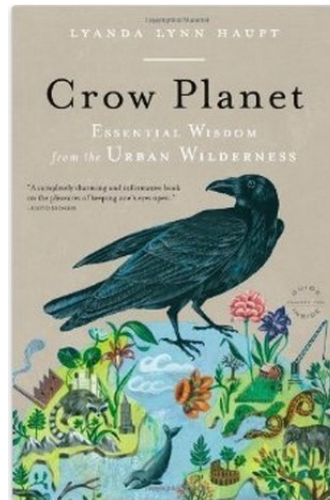
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Several times while reading *Gifts of the Crow*, I found myself charmed by the corvids: it was as if I were reading a heart-warming depiction of a cat or dog. Not only does the reader recognize how humanlike corvids are, but one cannot help but compare them to our own furry companions. I felt this particularly while reading about corvid play in the "Frolic" chapter. Not only do corvids windsurf, but ravens have been seen in various spots in the world sledding down hills, sometimes sliding on their bellies, and sometimes even using plastic lids as sleds. Crows also play with pet cats and dogs, with each other, and with toys.

Like humans, crows are social and are opportunistic generalists, but I had never realized just how similar to humans they are, even though I have always admired crows. In fact, corvids can use language, even borrowing human phrases. Early in the book, the authors tell us how Betty, a highly studied New Caledonian crow, can bend wire to make tools—a definite sign of advanced intelligence. I particularly liked the Swedish magpies that rang a doorbell to solicit food, which they only did when a particular resident of the house was home (Inda is magpie-friendly, but her husband is not, so his car gets routinely white-washed).

Lyanda Lynn Haupt's 2009 *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness* is also about crows, but all it shares in common with Marzluff and Angell's book is a fundamental respect for crows.



A former Seattle Audubon employee and a West Seattle resident, Haupt points out that crows are the native animal that we see most often during our urban and suburban day-to-day lives. Although she is a dedicated bird-watcher, Haupt tells the reader that she was never a particular crow devotee. Instead, Haupt's editor suggested that she write a book about crows, which she initially refused (but later agreed to). Thus this memoir-

like book is not just about crows, but it also about the process of writing, allowing us to follow Haupt as she diligently observes the crows around Seattle and composes her thoughts.

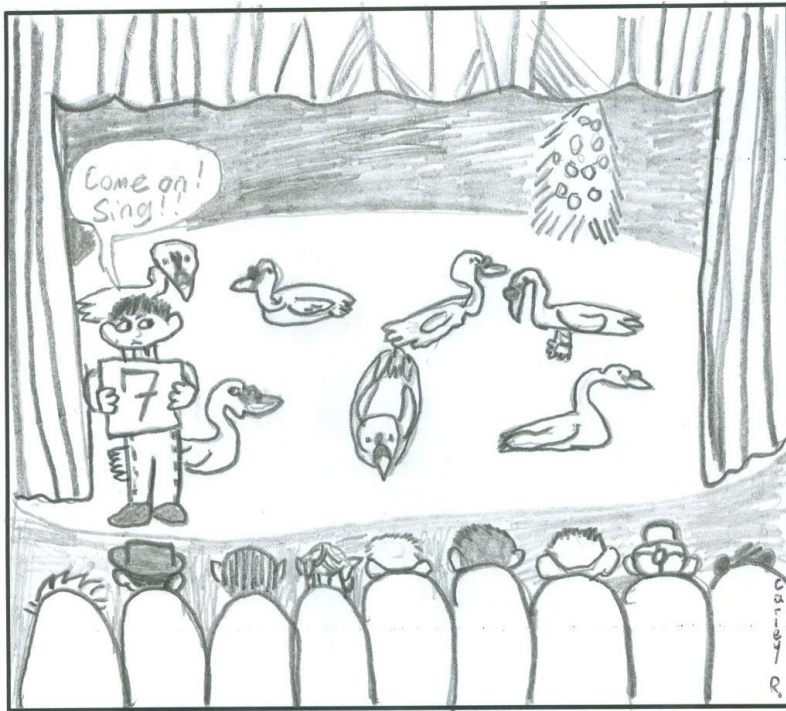
The subtitle of Lyanda Lynn Haupt's *Crow Planet*, "Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness," refers to two elements of Haupt's book. First, while the author is clearly well-read, this book is not particularly scientific. Instead, it is filled with observations and philosophical musings: the "essential wisdom." Undoubtedly Haupt is an excellent writer, and I never find the philosophical aspects of the book to be too heavy. In complement to being a bit of a philosopher, Haupt is an environmentalist and naturalist, and part of the message of *Crow Planet* is the interconnectedness of life, even within an urban setting. Haupt's tone remains reflective and hopeful, even when discussing environmental problems such as climate change, and she encourages us to not be the "dour environmentalists" that bemoaningly anticipate utter disaster. It is thought-provoking, but thankfully not preachy.

All three authors have published other books about wildlife, some of which I have read and recommend. I think that if you are interested in reading about crows, *Gifts of the Crow* and *Crow Planet* are two apt places to start. And after all, it is always fun to read books by locals.

—Laura Lavington

Bird Brainz

By Carley R



Billy's Christmas Concert was a bust. The seven swans he picked were Mute.

Birding Trail's Puget Loop For Sale

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.
\$4.95

Rainier Audubon Annual Goals

The following are the stated goals for the current year, along with specific things we did last year.

Goal 1: Increase participation in the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems.

We were awarded and participated in a Community Partnerships and Grants Program (CPG) with King County Parks for the Soos Creek Trail.

We participated in the Tukwila Wildlife Festival.

We donated \$1000 to the Audubon Chapter Associate position.

Goal 2: Increase diversity of membership (youth).

We sponsored the donation of Birdwatching Magazine to several schools.

We have sponsored Audubon Adventure Programs to local schools.

Stephen has donated free Discover passes to new members

as an incentive to join.

We gave a presentation at the Seahurst Environmental Center as a part of their Bigfoot Adventure Series.

We participated in the Water Festival Environmental Fair on March 5, 2013 for 4th & 5th grade students at Green River Community College.

Goal 3: Participate in activities related to the Pacific Flyway.

We are currently engaged in trying to stop the construction of a new King County Recycling Center in North Auburn. This would result in paving over some 15 acres of wetland.

The Board would appreciate hearing from the members about any specific activities that you would like to see us pursue in support of these goals. In particular, are there activities that you personally would be interested in doing?

Please send your ideas to me at dan_streiffert@hotmail.com. We also plan to have a short brainstorming session immediately after our January meeting. where we can share more ideas.

(Juncos *Continued from page 6*)

- more feeding areas across North America than any other bird. Over 80% percent of those responding report juncos at their feeders.
- A study in New Hampshire on the foraging habitats of the Slate-colored Juncos found that they spent over 65% their time on the ground, 20% in shrubs, 16% in saplings or low trees. They were never observed in the canopy of large trees.
 - Juncos, along with some other members of the sparrow family, practice an interesting foraging method called "riding." They fly up to a seed cluster on the top of a grass stem and "ride" it to the ground where they pick off the seeds while standing on it.
 - Juncos are known to burrow through snow in search of seeds that have been covered over.
 - On an annual basis, a junco's diet is made up of approximately three parts seeds to one part insects. During the nesting period, the percent of insects can increase up to 50 or 60 % of their diet.
 - You may not like these weeds in your yard, but the seeds of chickweed, ragweed, knotweed, pigweed, lamb's quarters and crabgrass are some of the main natural seed sources used by juncos.
 - You can attract juncos to your yard by feeding a seed blend containing millet and hulled sunflower seeds.
 - Male juncos return and reclaim the same breeding territory year after year.
 - Juncos typically have two broods per year with the female building her nest on or near the ground and laying 3-5 eggs. The male does not incubate the eggs but does deliver food to the young and helps the female to defend against predators. The young leave the nest in 9-12 days.
 - Studies have shown that Dark-eyed Junco's nests are the victim of predators between 20 and 80% of the time. Rodents such as chipmunks and deer mice are probably the major predators on the eggs of juncos.
 - "Slate-colored" is widespread in boreal forests; "White-winged" breeds in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming; "Oregon" is a West Coast bird; "Pink-sided" breeds in the northern Rockies; "Gray-headed" breeds in the southern Rockies and "Red-backed" is found along the New Mexico, Mexico and Arizona borders.
 - The longevity records for juncos are: White-winged - 7.5 years; Slate-colored - 11 years, 4 months; Oregon - 9 years, 9 months; Gray-headed - 10 years, 8 months. No information was found regarding the Red-backed junco.

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.



Rainier Audubon Society
PO Box 778
Auburn, WA 98071

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

No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar.

[Abraham Lincoln](#)

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.