

The

Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

February 2014

February 17, 2014 RAS Membership Meeting
Meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

Hanford & the River

Theresa Labriola | Hanford Coordinator
ColumbiaRiverkeeper.org



Theresa works with Columbia Riverkeeper as their Hanford Coordinator. She has an extensive background in advocacy, pursuing legal and grassroots solutions to environmental pollution and the exploitation of our natural resources. As an environmental litigator, she prosecuted lawsuits against some of the worst polluters of our air and water. Before joining Riverkeeper, Theresa most recently worked on a campaign to protect our ocean's by protecting forage fish, an important link in the marine food chain.

Historically, Hanford discharged contaminated wastewater directly into the Columbia River, giving it the distinction as the most radioactive river in the U.S. But Hanford's pollution didn't just run downstream, it affected the fish and wildlife and communities that rely on the Columbia River, including the endangered American White pelican.

Theresa will detail Hanford's dirty history and the cleanup's current state of disrepair and the continued impact on the Columbia River, surrounding communities and wildlife. She'll let you know what Riverkeeper is doing to stop further contamination of the Columbia River by Hanford and what you can do to help.

Join us at 6:30 for snacks and conversation.



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.

Stuff Happens

On January 8, Nancy went out in the garage and discovered a large puddle in the middle of the floor. Apparently we had sprung a leak in the roof. After climbing up into the attic, I discovered that there were numerous leaks on both sides of the garage, and others over the rest of the house. This on a “40 year roof that had been installed 16 years ago.

So I called the installers and tried to make a claim. It turns out the installation is only covered for five years, and the shingles warranty is prorated based on the time since installation. I called the shingle manufacturer, and they said they would send me a set of materials, and that to file a claim, I had to send them back some sample shingles. They would then analyze them and determine if there was a failure. So how long will this take? Maybe 4 weeks.

Of course there is plenty of time. It’s January and my roof is leaking. Also, Nancy was scheduled for foot surgery on January 13.

So I called several installers and started getting bids. Nancy suggested using Angie’s list, so I signed up for a month’s subscription and this seemed to work pretty well. They came out last week. On January 15, took off the old roof, and on January 16 put on a new roof. I was very impressed. I took time

-lapse photos which you can watch at <http://danstreiffert.smugmug.com/Events/Roofing>.

They were finishing up about 3 PM on Thursday. I was in the front yard, when I heard a large “Boom” coming from inside the house. I went in side, and discovered water all over the bathroom floor. Apparently our toilet had exploded! There was water sprayed all over and up to at least 6 feet high on the walls. Fortunately, it was all “clean” (no grey water) so it was easy to mop up.

After cleaning everything up, I tried flushing the toilet and everything seems to work just fine. I am, however, reluctant to sit on the thing...

I have called several plumbers and no one has ever heard of a 6 foot gusher coming out of a toilet. It just can not happen.

The toilet does have a pressure-assisted flush mechanism. I searched the web and found there have been some 300 incidents of this tank exploding, (ours did not) resulting in broken porcelain flying through the air. We actually got a modification kit last year that was suppose to fix this problem. So I called up the folks that made this thing and

they claimed that this system simply cannot cause the gusher problem that I am having. They did agree to send me a replacement system.

Anyone interested in testing it?



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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!

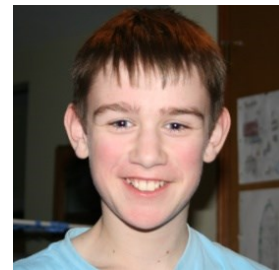
Please contact a Board Member

- 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

- 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



Whoever coined the phrase “eats like a bird” was clearly not a birder. Whenever birds are not flitting through the air or posturing for food, they are eating. This month’s Heron Herald is dedicated to a hunk of suet hanging in my backyard. I was so entertained watching the birds dine at our suet Haute Cuisine that I decided to record a day of ‘suet suppers’.

The first birds to scout out the new suet were the Juncos. The Juncos, the food critics for the other birds, hopped around the base of the suet feeder good-naturedly. One fluttered up onto the fence ledge, a narrow precipice next to the suet. She inched closer to the feeder, glancing at her cheering friends as though to say, “Hey everyone. Look at me!” Then she darted forward, poked his beak past the green bars of the suet cage, and pecked some chunks off the suet. She struck the gold in a large hunk which she gobbled ravenously, and her friends were rewarded as well. Suet crumbs rained down, littering the ground, igniting a suet feeding frenzy that would last the day. Clearly, they gave the suet a 5 star rating.

After the Juncos had their morning fill of suet, and left in search of another attraction, a flock of Bushtits blew in. Like fast-food diners, the Bushtits billowed in and out faster than you could say “thistle seed”, nibbling ravenously on the suet, a dozen clumped on the cage.

Next was the Stellar’s Jay pair. Having obviously slept in, the two of them looked in need of caffeine as they struggled to comprehend the dynamics of clutching the fence ledge and poking their bills into

the feeder. Like children standing on counters and straining to reach the cookies in the highest cupboard, they flapped and flapped, and bent this way and that persistent on getting more than a taste of suet. Several times they were on the verge of giving up and finding some other dining, but they did not. Birds will do a lot to dine at *Café Le Suet*. Just when I thought that the Jays would finally succeed in getting some brunch, a Northern Flicker swooped in, bent on fending the Jays off in order to get his share of the delicacy. Like a starving diner waiting for an open table, the flicker sat on the top of the fence and stared at the Jays, passive aggressively urging them to hurry up and leave. His glare was imposing, and the Stellar’s Jays cleared off in a hurry.

Once the Flicker had successfully rid the *Suet Stash* of other customers he welcomed the two other members of his trio to the feeder, as though to say “Look, I got us a table all to ourselves!” Though just as large as the Stellar’s Jays, the Flickers had the superior intelligence. They would flip upside-down, clutching onto the edge of the fence ledge, and pecking at the feeder. One-by-one each Flicker would sup on the delicious suet. A little after lunch, the Townsend’s Warbler stopped by after hearing the Juncos’ 5 star rating.

The Suet Diner seemed as though it could not get a bad report (except from the geometrically challenged Stellar’s Jays). In fact, the only bird that seemed to find it a letdown is the Downy Woodpecker. He landed on the suet cage took a glance at the suet and flew off to the *Evergreen Grill*

to grab some “grub”.

Finally, Mr. Chubbs arrived.

Mr. Chubbs is a third generation descendant to our favorite backyard squirrel, the late “Fat and Agile”. Mr. Chubbs has been favored with “Fat and Agile’s” flexibility gene, and possibly he has the same hunger gland. Mr. Chubbs hung with his toenails clutching the fence top and greedily clawed at the suet, spraying chunks into his mouth, all over his face, and onto the heads of the unsuspecting Chickadees below. It was a wonder he did not pull his groin. Mr. Chubb’s weight could not defy Newton’s Law of Gravity, and the rope holding the feeder to the fence gave way, plummeting to the ground, Mr. Chubbs on the bottom of it. Some say cats have nine lives, but squirrels must have a couple dozen. Once again, I was amazed that Mr. Chubbs had escaped serious injury, let alone a concussion. The feeder was not so lucky--no suet to be found, as it lay in the dirt. Mr. Chubbs took one look at it, and bounded off to the open feeder. That is how, the suet met its demise. *The Suet Diner* closed.

If you have any stories about birds at your suet or any surprising birds you have seen lately, you can email them to calenbirds@hotmail.com. Happy birding!

Recent Bird Sightings:

Thanks to this month’s reporters Ralph and Sandra Embrey, Pat Toth, Lisa Mesplay, and Ross and Annette Tabor.

Dec 25th On Christmas morning even

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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

Raptors of the Auburn/Kent Valley

Sunday, February 9, 2014

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 car pool 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.

Sign-up: 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, March 1st

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 early March, 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](tel:253-941-9852), johnsonsj5@msn.com

Owl Prowls in Feb and March

Soos Creek Owl Prowls

Saturday Night, [Feb 15](#)

or Sat. Night, [Mar 15](#)

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](tel: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.

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Olympic BirdFest 2014

April 4-6, 2014, Sequim, WA

Visit the rain shadow of the **Olympic Peninsula** to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, silent auction, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker is Noah Strycker: “Bird World: the fascinating parallels between bird and human behavior”. The festival with the most spectacular setting!

Immediately following BirdFest, join us for a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 6-8, 2014.

Website address:

www.olympicbirdfest.org

E-mail address:

opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com

Contact name: Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, 360-681-4076

(Seen & Heard Continued from page 3)

the crows were congregating to celebrate. Sandra Embrey watched a murder of them “landing in the tops of the trees just below our house.” Sandra said “It started out with perhaps 10-20 and then it was like a convention with more smaller groups arriving until there was a big group. Then they rose up out of the trees in big clusters and left the area after circling the tree tops as they were in.”

Jan 1st The Embrey’s holiday bird count continued through the New Year. They saw a flock of **Golden-Crowned Kinglets** flitting around their bushes in their backyard for the first time in a couple of years! Hopefully everyone has the Embrey’s good fortune this New Year!

OLYMPIC PENINSULA **BirdFest**
April 4-6, 2014
Come bird with us!

- ♦ *San Juan Island Cruise*
- ♦ *Neah Bay Trip*
- ♦ *Guided Birding Trips*
- ♦ *Bird Drawing Class*
- ♦ *Auction & Raffle*
- ♦ *Photography Workshop*
- ♦ *Gala Banquet with speaker Noah Strycker*

For more information:
www.olympicbirdfest.org
info@olympicbirdfest.org
or 360-681-4076

Logos: OLYMPIC PENINSULA AUDUBON SOCIETY, JAMESTOWN SKLALLAM TRIBE, KIDEMELL GRILL, SEQUIM WASHINGTON, First Federal, www.visitsunnysequim.com 800-737-8462

Jan 10th Pat Toth’s first bird of the year was a **Black-Capped Chickadee**. Pat also spotted a **Townsend’s Warbler** and **Bushtits** in her backyard, the latter of which were drinking out of the water in the “hummingbird feeder ant moats.” Pat said “We also have a **Yellow-Rumped Warbler** “pal”-ed up with a **Bewick’s Wren** pecking on suet.” Pat also commented that she has seen a **Cooper’s Hawk** on a backyard feeder pole.

Jan 13th Lisa Mesplay’s birding New Year started strong when she spotted a pair of **Varied Thrush**. She also had some “late” winter returnees in **Golden-Crowned Kinglets** and a **Bewick’s Wren**.

Jan 14th Ross and Annette Tabor observed a **Hairy Woodpecker** in the trees outside their church facility. They also spotted a **Hermit Thrush** in their backyard. Annette also commented that “we have **Townsend’s Warblers** at our suet all the time.” They also saw two **Varied Thrush**.

Mystery Bird of the Month

Sandra Embrey added this bird to her Christmas Day Seen and Heard list. Here are the clues:

A group of me is called a “bazaar”, a “constable”, a “rant”, or a “storytelling”

I am extremely playful; I have been seen pulling dog’s and cat’s tails

I am a symbol of wisdom and cleverness to some cultures. To other cultures, I am an omen of evil and death

I am a spectacular flyer; I can perform many rolls and summersaults in midair. One of my kind has even been seen flying upside-down for almost a kilometer

I can mimic the calls of other animals.

A group of me can also be called an “unkindness”

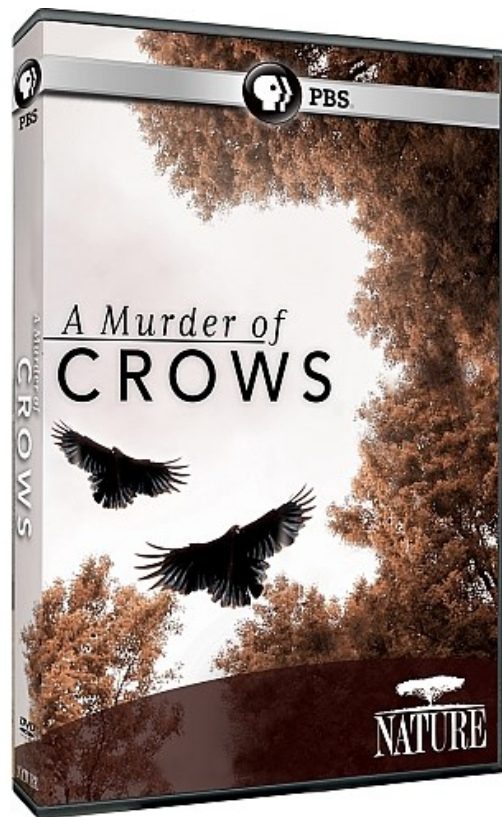
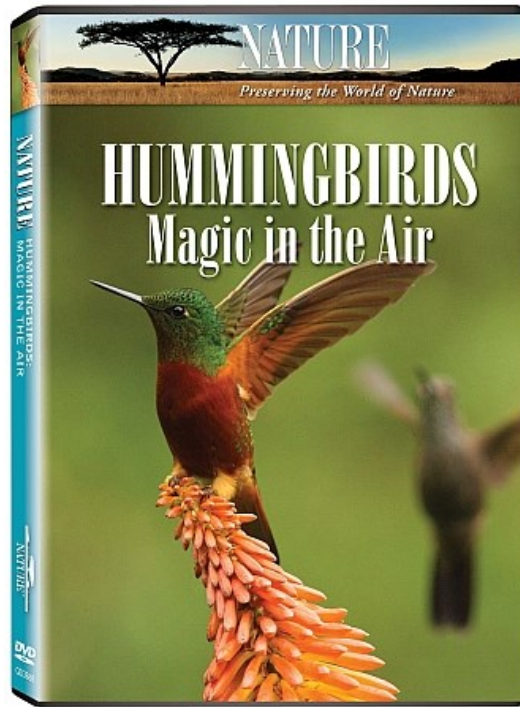
Who am I?

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

Answer: Raven

Book Reviews by Laura Lavington

This month I decided to review two documentaries about birds, instead of writing my usual book review. Both documentaries are PBS films in the *Nature* series and are slightly shorter than an hour. *Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air* was published in 2010, and the film is definitely worth watching for the visuals alone. The film's crew used high speed photography to slow down the hummingbirds' movements. Now, we are able to see the hummingbirds' wing beats and the rocking of their bodies. Thanks to the high speed photography, what otherwise would just be a blur of two males is now a slowed-down dual between rivals. According to the "Behind the Scenes" feature (which I recommend watching), the documentary was filmed in six different countries. I was particularly interested in the Andean hillstar living at 12,000 feet atop high volcanic peaks of South America, which conserves its energy in thinner air by frequently hopping between flowers rather than flying. The video also shows us purple-throated caribs living on the island of Dominica. The purple-throated carib males and females have completely differently shaped bills because the sexes feed on different species of heliconia. In addition to providing the viewer with striking hummingbird visuals, *Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air* features recent scientific research. For example, after a team studies the male Anna's hummingbirds' dive display at a park in San Francisco, the scientists determine that the popping noise at the bottom of the dive is created by the birds' tail feathers (formerly people had thought it might be vocal). The DVD contains a "Behind the Scenes" feature, which tells about the creation of the film, and also five deleted scenes (scientific studies that presumably did not fit in the documentary).



A Murder of Crows, published in 2011, has some interesting visuals as well. The docu-

mentary is less of a feast for the eyes, but I enjoyed the close-ups of bright-blue-eyed baby crows. I also liked it when the camera was placed at crow level, and it was as if the audience were seeing through the eyes of a crow. *A Murder of Crows* largely focuses on the intelligence of crows and on recent research. Evidently scientists are continually finding that crows are more intelligent than ever before thought. Fittingly, the documentary follows John Marzluff, University of Washington crow researcher and author of *In the Company of Crows and Ravens* and *Gifts of the Crow: How Perception, Emotion, and Thought Allow Smart Birds to Behave Like Humans*, as he bands and studies a small group of Seattle crows. Marzluff's goal during the documentary is to see if wild young crows learn social interactions from their parents: specifically, to use a warning call when they see a specific caveman mask. *A Murder of Crows* features several other research facilities, in addition to Marzluff's work in Seattle. At the Konrad Lorenz Institute in the Austrian Alps, carrion crows figured out a cognitive experiment almost as quickly as human children. Also, the documentary travels to New Caledonia, home of arguably the smartest crow species (a crow that makes and uses tools), and documents a New Caledonian crow encountering an experiment for the first time. I had read about New Caledonian crow tool making before, but it was really neat to be able to actually see a crow make tools onscreen.

Both *Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air* and *A Murder of Crows* are available through the King County Library System, and the DVDs are also fairly inexpensive on Amazon.





Mewsings from Millie

Hello and welcome once again to my musings!

My people have been mentioning colder temperatures, wearing more layers of clothes and the nice man came by and painted snow-covered trees on the front windows. Winter must be here!

That doesn't mean activity in the world of birds slows down, however. In fact, winter is one of the best times to see falcons.

The Merlin is one raptor to be on the lookout for. Merlins stand ten inches tall and have a two-foot wingspan. They hunt small birds ranging from sparrows to sandpipers. Small but powerful, a Merlin will buzz a Bald Eagle if it wanders into its airspace.

The Peregrine Falcon nests across the country but its numbers are greatest in winter especially near the coasts. Peregrine means "wanderer" and this falcon has the longest migration of any North American bird. Tundra-nesting peregrines winter in South America and may move 15,500 miles

in a year.

A very fast flier, Peregrine Falcons normally cruise at 25 – 34 miles per hour. When pursuing prey, flight speed can reach 69 miles per hour and when diving on some unsuspecting pigeon or dunlin its airspeed approaches 200 miles per hour!

Other raptors to look out for this time of year include Red-tailed Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Hawks and Kestrels.

"Hoo" the heck thinks of nesting in the winter? The Great Horned Owl does! You may see a large nest in a cottonwood tree and spot a dark shape with a broad head and two earlike tufts. That would be a female Great Horned Owl sitting on some eggs. Her mate is likely nearby roosting silently in a conifer. These two have been hooting back and forth since December establishing their relationship and nesting site.

But why nest now when the weather is so cold and dreary? After a month of incubation, the owlets will hatch. Great Horned owlets need to remain with their parents a long time, much more than most birds. The owlets will stay with mom and dad through the summer into early fall. This will allow them the time needed to learn the skills they need to hunt on their own before the next winter begins.

Great Horned Owls are fierce predators. Their powerful talons require a force of 28 pounds to open.



They use them to sever the spines of large prey such as Ospreys, Peregrine Falcons, other owls and crows. They also hunt rodents, frogs and scorpions.

Great Horned Owls are covered with extremely soft feathers that insulate in the winter and allow them to fly silently. Their eyes do not move in their sockets but they can swivel their heads 180 degrees and possess exceptionally sensitive hearing.

One pretty, little bird you may see flitting about this time of year is the Yellow-Rumped Warbler, fondly known as "butterbut". Yellow-Rumped Warblers love to munch on juniper berries, viburnums and mountain ash. Because they have a specially developed digestive system with high levels of bile salt which aids in digesting saturated fat, they are also able to eat bayberry and wax myrtle. This gives them the ability to

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WILD OLYMPICS CAMPAIGN HAILS BILL TO PROTECT PENINSULA'S ANCIENT FORESTS & RIVERS

DIVERSE COALITION OF LOCAL BUSINESS LEADERS, SPORTSMEN, ELECTED OFFICIALS, CONSERVATIONISTS & RECREATIONISTS PRAISE INTRODUCTION OF WILD OLYMPICS WILDERNESS AND WILD & SCENIC RIVERS ACT.

Friday, January 17, 2014 <http://www.wildolympics.org/>

QUILCENE, WA - A broad and diverse coalition of Olympic Peninsula community members cheered the introduction today of the Wild Olympics Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 2014 by Representative Derek Kilmer and Senator Patty Murray. The measure, similar to that introduced in the last Congress, by Senator Murray and former Congressman Norm Dicks would permanently protect more than 126,000 acres of ancient and mature forests on Olympic National Forest as wilderness and 19 Olympic Peninsula rivers and their major tributaries as Wild and Scenic.

"Senator Murray and Representative Kilmer deserve tremendous thanks for working to ensure that our beloved Olympic Peninsula will be here for our grandchildren," said Connie Gallant, chair of the Quilcene-based Wild Olympics Coalition. "This landmark legislation will protect the Olympic Peninsula's ancient forests, free-flowing rivers and stunning scenery for all time. It will safeguard critical salmon habitat and sources of clean drinking water for our local communities, protecting our unmatched quality of life on the Peninsula. We are extremely grateful to Representative Kilmer for continuing the work begun years ago by Representative Norm Dicks and Senator Murray to protect the Wild Olympics. It is testament to the commitment and hard work of Senator Murray and Representative Kilmer that we may -- for the first time in nearly 30 years -- see new wilderness on Olympic National Forest, as well as the first-ever protected wild and scenic rivers on the Olympic Peninsula."

"Safeguarding our natural environment is a key to providing steady and sustainable income to our rural economies," said Roy Nott, an Aberdeen Business Leader and former Timber Company Executive. "The Olympic Peninsula's stunning scenery sport fishing, clamming, hiking, hunting, bird watching and other forms of outdoor recreation all contribute to our local economic health and are critical to attracting and retaining the highly skilled employees that growing, technology-based companies want and need."

"This bill will protect and promote the same spectacular public lands and high quality of life that are helping to drive growth and create local jobs in real estate, construction and many other sectors of our economy today," said Harriet Reyenga, an independent realtor for Windermere Real Estate in Port Angeles. "Our ancient forests, salmon, rivers and amazing landscapes are the north Olympic Peninsula's competitive economic advantage over other regions." Reyenga, who won the 2012 Realtor Achievement Award from the Port Angeles Association of Realtors, added, "We should do all we can to protect and promote these natural treasures. The Wild Olympics legislation will do both."

"People think that because these areas appear as they've always been, that they are safe," said Dave Bailey, Past President of the Grey Wolf Fly Fishing Club in Sequim, WA and a co-founder of Sportsmen for Wild Olympics. "Unfortunately, that is the furthest thing from the truth. There is a determined effort in Congress to roll back safeguards on our public lands and open these sensitive spawning grounds to small hydropower development, industrial clear-cutting and more road building once more. That's bad for fish, game, and sportsmen. This legislation is critical to preserve what we have."

"Places like lower Gray Wolf, Lena Lake, South Fork Skokomish and South Quinalt Ridge deserve the 'gold standard' of protection, and that is what this visionary bill provides," said Tim McNulty, of Sequim, Wild Olympics Coalition member and author of Olympic National Park: A Natural History. "The conservation community has been working for decades to safeguard these unparalleled areas. Today is a day to celebrate, but now we must work to get this important legislation passed by Congress and signed into law. Future generations deserve no less."

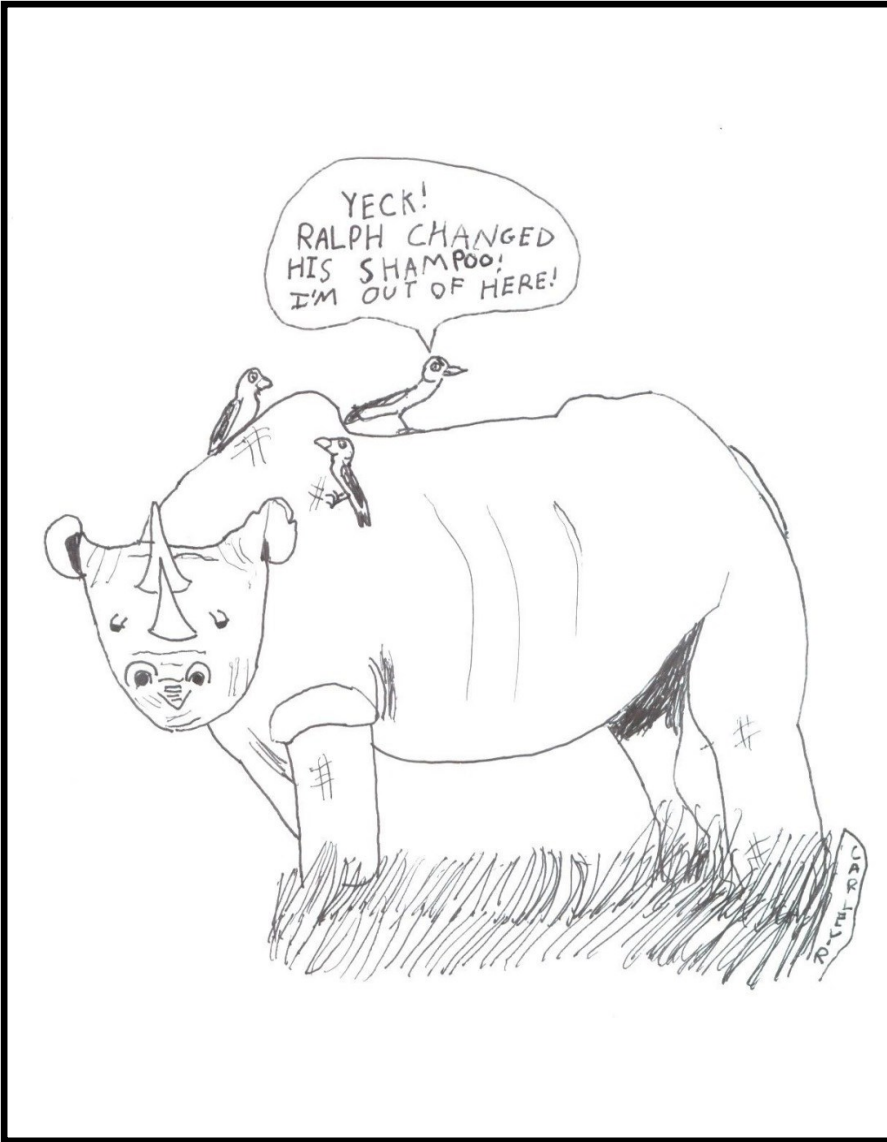
"The two largest shellfish hatcheries that supply seed to the West Coast industry are located on Hood Canal, said Bill Taylor President, of Taylor Shellfish in Shelton. "Well over 150 jobs are provided in Hood Canal alone by the industry, not including the indirect jobs such as processing, sales and shipping. By taking a watershed approach to protecting Olympic Peninsula forests and rivers we ensure clean and safe water so that shellfish companies can continue to grow and further benefit the economy and ecology of Washington state."

"As an outdoor recreation business owner and an avid outdoorsman, my livelihood depends on clean, free-flowing rivers," said Morgan Colonel, the Owner of Olympic Raft and Kayak in Port Angeles, WA. "I managed a Jackson Hole river company during the designation of the Snake River as Wild & Scenic, and saw firsthand the benefits of safeguarding this vital waterway. Active outdoor recreation contributes more than \$11.7 billion annually to Washington's economy, and supports 115,000 jobs. Businesses like mine

(Continued on page 9)

Bird Brainz by Carley R.

Another symbiotic relationship turns sour



Mewsings (Continued from page 7)

inhabit a winter range farther north than its other warbler friends, even as far north as Newfoundland.

Yellow-Rumped Warblers are the most versatile foragers. They will flutter out of a tree to catch an insect, easily switch to eating berries in the fall, pick insects out of washed-up seaweed, skim bugs from the surface of rivers and the ocean and even pick insects out of spider webs.

So, keep your eyes to the sky and be on the lookout for birds that are with us through the winter! You may see a bird you have never seen before and that is always exciting!

Until next time,

Millie, the Muse of Mews

Wild Olympics (Continued from page 8)

depend on access to the high quality natural resources the Olympic Peninsula is known for. Protecting these resources is an investment in our region's economic future, and the smart thing to do."

Wild Olympics is endorsed by **more than 470 local supporters** including businesses, farms, faith leaders, local elected officials, hunting, fishing and recreation groups:

Click here to obtain **Photos of the Wild Olympics Proposal** available for media purposes

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.



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The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time.

[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:

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PO Box 778
Auburn, WA 98071



Or go to <http://www.rainieraudubon.org/> to enroll online.

Name: _____

Address _____

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