

The Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

January 2019

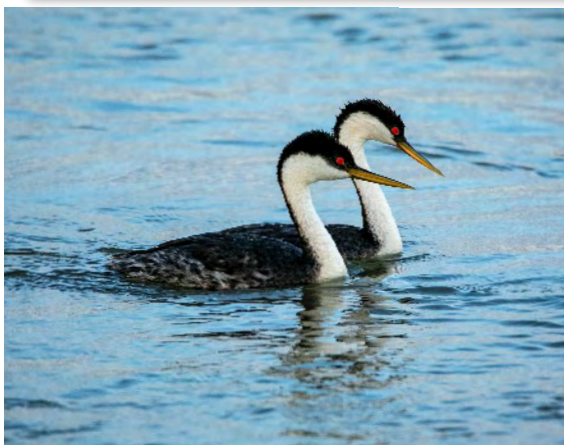
Rainier Audubon Membership Meeting

The Great Salt Lake

Jay Galvin

7:00 P.M. January 21, 2019

The Great Salt Lake holds the key to preserving a suitable habitat for millions of birds in the West. This oasis in the middle of a huge desert expanse provides food and shelter for a major portion of migratory birds. Please attend and learn about the ecology of this miraculous habitat. Jay Galvin will guide you through the history, present conditions, and future of this fragile habitat.



Jay Galvin is on the Board of RAS and has been a member for ten years. Nature photography is his passion with a goal to share his knowledge with others in the hope of making the world a better place for all creatures.

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/>

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.

Upcoming Programs

- 2/18/2019 - Malheur NWR - Dan Streiffert
- 3/18/2019 - "Wildlife of Brazil's Cerrado and Pantanal" - Sally Vogel
- 4/15/2019 - "The Falconer" - John Prucich
- 5/20/2019 - Open

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.

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	Open			
Treasurer	Laura Lavington	Yes	253-941-7372	laura.lavington@gmail.com
Membership Chair				
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	Stephen 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	debrarussell@comcast.net
Lifetime Members	Max Prinsen	Yes	425-432-9965	
Lifetime Members	Erin Wojewodski-Prinsen	Yes	425-432-9965	

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

Ride to Nisqually with Barbara Petersen

Wed, Jan 30th, 7:10AM
 Meet at Star Lake Park & Ride

Phil Kelley's weekly walks at Nisqually are always educational. We'll be on well maintained paths and boardwalks. It can be a short walk or longer. We each can decide how far to go before turning back for the Visitors' Center. The refuge should be full of raptors and waterfowl this time of year. See more details above, and come along with Barbara to this gem of a refuge. Contact Barbara at BPbatfan@aol.com or 253 389 3204 to sign up.

Soos Creek Owl Prowls

Feb 23rd and Mar 23rd, 2019

10:30PM - 1:00AM

Free, ages 12+

Register through Covington Parks and Recreation

Come learn about and see the four owl species that live in Soos Creek Park. After a 45-minute talk indoors, head out into the park to locate and view owls in their natural habitat through night scopes. Dress in warm layers! Meet at the Maintenance Building on 148th Ave.

Migratory Bird Festival

April 11 - 14, 2019

HARNEY COUNTY

February 4, 2019: Membership Registration

February 11, 2019: Open Registration

The Harney County Migratory Bird Festival was first held in 1981 to celebrate the large annual migration of birds passing through Harney Basin on the Pacific Flyway. Harney Basin is one of the three most important areas left in the western United States for spring migratory birds stopping on their way north.

Over 300 species of birds use the refuge throughout each year, making Harney Basin a bird watcher's paradise. Today, we continue to celebrate the migratory birds' return each year with guided tours led by experts, workshops, and fun activities for both youth and adults.

<https://www.migratorybirdfestival.com/>



Seen & Heard by Calen Randall

In my seven years of writing the Seen & Heard, there has not been a more featured bird species than the beloved Trumpeter Swan. From the massive flocks in the Skagit Valley, to the mystery of the roosting swans of Kent Ponds, to venturing out in freezing Monticello, Minnesota to visit the "Swan Lady's" yard, in many an article I've recounted a tale revolving around North America's largest feathered flyer. I've also been fortunate to connect with Martha Jordan the Executive Director of Northwest Swan Conservation Society (NWCS). The NWCS focuses on two main swan populations, the Pacific Coast Population and the Rocky Mountain Population. According to the NWCS "More than half of all North American Trumpeter Swans nest, breed, or winter in this (the Pacific Northwest) geographical area." As our population of swans is so critical to monitor, Martha keeps track of the population numbers through winter swan surveys. Though the bulk of the wintering Pacific swans are found in Skagit and Snohomish counties, Martha hopes for more information about swans in the South Puget Sound.



The most well-known place in the South Puget Sound for swans was Carpinito's Brother's Pumpkin Patch in Kent on West Valley Highway. At one point several years ago, there were nearly 50 swans feeding in the fields. Recently the crown jewel for swan counting in the South

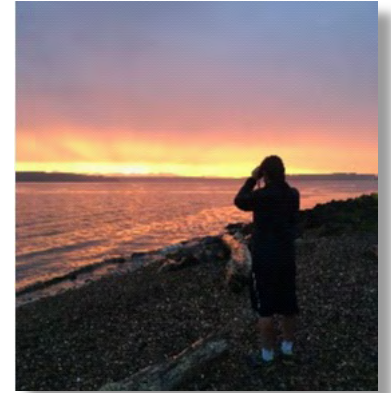
Puget Sound has shifted to Alderton's Van Ogle's Ford Road, a farm just off Riverside Road near Sumner. Last winter over 200 swans were counted at the farm, a phenomenal total for anywhere south of Snohomish County. While Van Ogle's Ford Road and Carpinito's Pumpkin Patch are well known swan havens, numerous other hotspots in our South Puget Sound region host wintering swans. That's why this month, I challenge Seen & Heard readers to get outdoors and keep track of where other Trumpeter Swans are sighted. Here are lesser known, but great places, to look for swans:

Lake Tapps—Last winter a quartet of swans were seen on Rainier Audubon's Red-breasted Nuthatch survey. Recently there have been reports of swans around the lake. Swans could potentially be sighted from the northern point of the lake by the dock at Lake Tapps Park.

Enumclaw Plateau—Much of the farmland along Highway 164 (Auburn to Enumclaw) is suitable for flocks of trumpeters. Some years large flocks have been sighted in the fields around 212th

and 228th Avenue in Wabash and 448th Street in Osceola. Often, these flocks will fly down to the Puyallup River Valley for the day.

Orting—With more people searching the Pierce County area for swans since Van



Ogle's Ford Road became more popular several areas further south of Alderton have had swan sightings. Two of those locations, West Orting Farms and 188th Street, were located in Orting, south of Sumner following Highway 162. A flock of 40 swans were sighted in western Orting this mid-December, so many have returned for another winter.

Bonney Lake—The final location, Maris Farms, is a fairly unknown location where trumpeters have reportedly visited. Numbers were mostly modest, until earlier this December, when over 150 were spotted at the farm, situated on the north side of Sumner Buckley Highway.

Curious about how to follow recent swan sightings in the area? Anyone can access information about recent sightings on eBird, regardless of whether you have an account. After searching ebird.org, find the row of tabs on the top of the screen and select "Explore". From there you will be sent to a new screen. Under "More Ways To Explore" click "Find Species". After your page changes to a map of the world, you can enter Trumpeter Swan in the "Species" box and select a local city of your choice in the "Location" box. This should give you a map of your selected area with points in red and blue. Recent sightings of Trumpeter Swans in red (seen within the last month) and past sightings of swans are in blue.

Recent Sightings:

December 1st, 2018, Puget Sound Seabird Survey

While there was no rare bird encounter for this month's Puget Sound Seabird Survey, our outing was marked by the return of both goldeneye species and other sea ducks. **Rhinoceros Auklet** were sighted at all three locations (a first for me at Dumas Bay) while **Eared Grebes** once [\(Continued on page 5\)](#)

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.

(Continued from [page 4](#))



again showed at Dash Point State Park. At Brown's Point, eight **Red-breasted Mergansers** surprised us along with a lone **Brandt's Cormorant** that flew over Commencement Bay.

November 29th, 2018 University of Washington campus, Seattle, King County

The UW campus has featured a nice blend of gulls lately. In addition to the regular Glaucous-winged and Olympic (Glaucous-winged and Western Gull hybrids) several surprises made appearances. A lone **Ring-billed Gull** soared around the

Drumheller Fountain, while a pair of **Mew Gulls** scored meals while scouring Red Square. A **Herring Gull** caught my eye as it flew down the Rainier Vista lawns with a band of Olympics. The highlight of the gull-fest was a lone **Iceland Gull** which was perched upon a light stand just outside the Link LightRail Station. Both the Herring Gull and the Iceland Gull were my firsts on campus!

Special Note—Remembering Pat Toth

I am very saddened to hear of the passing of long-time Rainier Audubon member Pat Toth. I count myself fortunate to have known Pat during all my years at Rainier Audubon. Many of us will remember Pat's warmth and friendliness--the first person you saw as you arrived at a meeting--though Pat was much more than a face in the crowd, she was deeply committed to making her world and community a better place. I was routinely impressed by the diligence Pat not only put into running her store, Wild Birds Unlimited in Burien, but also her years of volunteer work as the RAS Membership Chair and a RAS Board Member. Pat also channeled her passion for nature from a creative aspect in her monthly contributions of articles to the Heron Herald. She was truly a cornerstone of our birding community.

My thoughts are with Pat's family and friends.

If you have an interesting sighting or story you want to share send your reports to me at calenbirds@hotmail.com.



The Great Backyard Bird Count is almost here!

(excerpt from National Audubon website)

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 21st annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 16, through Monday, February 19, 2018. Please visit the official website at birdcount.org for more information and be sure to check out the latest [educational and promotional resources](#).

“Get Nutty”: Join Our Climate Watch Survey

Want to use your birding skills to advance our understanding of climate change's impact on birds? Then Climate Watch is for you.

The National Audubon's Winter Red-breasted Nuthatch Climate Watch Survey runs from January 15-February 15. **Our Rainier Audubon needs surveyors who can go out on a team for 2-3 hours in the morning—either on a weekday or weekend to survey an area.**

What is Climate Watch?

This innovative community-science program enlists volunteer birders across North America to count certain bluebirds and nuthatches in the same place (or places) twice each year. By sticking to a scientific protocol and sharing their results, these community scientists help track whether birds are moving in accordance with projections from Audubon's climate models.

Location

Our Rainier Audubon Climate Watch consists of 10 survey squares in Auburn, Federal Way, Kent, Covington, Maple Valley, Des Moines, Enumclaw, and Bonney Lake/Lake Tapps areas

How to count

Using the maps provided, teams survey appropriate habitat within a designated area (10km X 10 km square) and conduct 12-point counts of five minutes each, then record the number and species of all birds seen or heard within 100 meters.

How data will be used

[Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report](#) predicts that more than 300 North American bird species will lose more than 50 percent of their current climatic range by 2080. For example, the beautiful Mountain Bluebird is climate-threatened because in the vast majority of its summer range, the climate conditions that this bird needs—temperature, amount of rainfall, and other environmental factors—will shift northward and eastward. This bird may be able to move into new areas over time, or it may struggle to adapt. To test the report's predictions, Audubon has developed Climate Watch, which aims to document species' responses to climate change and test Audubon's climate models by having volunteers in the field look for birds where Audubon's climate models predict they will be in the 2020s. This information helps Audubon target our conservation work to protect birds.

Sign Up

Contact Heather Gibson.

Email: hedder_swedder@yahoo.com

Phone: (206) 226-2050



Sightline Institute researcher and environmental law expert Tarika Powell has testified that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) produced by the City of Tacoma for the Puget Sound Energy Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project is false and misleading and "the most incompetent" she has ever seen. While the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is reviewing the emissions associated with natural gas from fracking well to final use, nobody is yet reviewing the inadequate safety findings in the EIS. As the lead agency in this process, it is the responsibility of the City of Tacoma to initiate and oversee a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) to better consider the serious safety hazards posed by this unnecessary facility. But they have not yet done so, despite repeated requests. We demand that the city fulfill its duty to protect the residents of Tacoma and open an SEIS to better review the safety aspects of this fracked gas plant.

https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/tacoma-lng-seis?source=direct_link&

Rainier Audubon Loses Friend and Longtime Board Member

Our Audubon chapter recently lost our friend and Membership Chairperson, Pat Toth, whose battle with cancer ended in early December. No service is planned at this time. Pat served as membership chair for twelve years, and was currently in the process of turning that role over to a new person. She also greeted people at the door at our membership meetings, helped with the printing and folding of the Heron Herald, and volunteered for Rainier in many other ways. Pat, a retired Teacher of the Deaf for Highline School District, was a lifelong educator. She taught us about birds and birding in person at her Burien Wild Birds Unlimited store and through her educational articles such as Mewsings from Millie and Bird of the Month, read by so many on the store web site and in the Heron Herald. Pat enjoyed domestic and international travel, going on cruises with husband Andy, traveling the US for business as a WBU owner, and attending America's Biggest Week in Birding in Ohio two years in a row. With fellow Rainier members she birded the southernmost tip of Canada, Point Pelee, and the foothills of the Andes Mountains in Ecuador. May our friend Pat continue to bird this world in spirit, and any other worlds she may next encounter. She will be missed so much by family and friends, remembered fondly by all who knew her, and never, ever forgotten.



Pat and Barbara

-Barbara Petersen

Pacific Northwest Condor Conservation: Learning from the Past to Prepare for the Future

February 16, 2019 - David Moen

A presentation to be given at the Migratory Bird Festival in Hines, Oregon

Tribes in the Pacific Northwest are proven leaders in many modern conservation efforts. They have been instrumental in fighting for salmon recovery in the Columbia basin, protecting bighorn sheep in Idaho, providing refuge for marbled murrelets in the coast range, and returning gray wolves to the entire region.

Currently, the Yurok and the Nez Perce Tribes are working in partnership with the Oregon Zoo, and many others, to bring California condors back to Oregon -- something we haven't seen in 100 years.

It is this shared vision of restoring our common ecology to contribute to a more diverse and resilient world that makes partnerships between local tribes, concerned citizens, and regional organizations such a natural development. Diverse partnerships working toward a common conservation goal are especially needed now that a growing human population threatens to, quite literally, consume the biological riches of our planet.

In his presentation, Nez Perce Tribe Conservation Biologist David Moen will discuss the Tribe's latest efforts toward returning condors to Hell's Canyon with particular attention on habitat evaluation and the issue at the heart of addressing Condor recovery - lead poisoning in scavenging raptors and how the use of non-lead ammunition makes hunting a vital conservation tool.

David will cover copper-based ammunition alternatives, why and how they work, and provide tips to shooters for switching to non-lead ammunition as a step toward honoring the deeply rooted conservation heritage of Tribal communities.



"Everything works out right in the end. If things are not working right, *it isn't the end yet*. Don't let it bother you—relax and keep on going."
- Michael C. Muhammad



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 _____