

# The Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

March 2015

## RAS Membership Meeting

March 16, 2015

### ***"COASST – WHAT DEAD BIRDS CAN TELL US"***

Charlie Wright

Meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

In fall 2007, almost fifty murres floated into usually empty Puget Sound beaches. In summer 2009, thousands of scoters washed ashore along the Olympic Peninsula. This fall and winter, 2014-2015, has seen an unprecedented wreck of tens of thousands of Cassin's Auklets along the entire West Coast. What provoked these die-offs? Are they natural? Are they signs of a catastrophe? How do we even know about them? The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) is a citizen science program bringing together over 800 citizens with marine scientists from the University of Washington. Since 1999, COASST has collected data on over 50,000 beached birds (170 species!) from hundreds of sites, Alaska to northern California.

These real data from real people form the definitive baseline against which the impacts of oil spills, fishery bycatch, harmful algal blooms, and global warming can be assessed.



Under the tutelage of RAS greats such as Thais Bock, Carol Schulz, and Jim Flynn, he began leading field trips and writing a monthly column, and he has continued in the study of birds ever since. Recently, Charlie has moved to Seattle and become the primary data verifier for the COASST program. In the summers he has been taking a break from the world of dead birds to do field work with live seabirds and songbirds throughout Alaska.

Join us at 6:30 PM for conversation and refreshments.

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Rainier Audubon programs are held at  
**Federal Way United Methodist Church**  
29645 - 51st Ave. So. 98001 (in unincorporated Auburn)



## **Taco Time Coupon Books For Sale at March Membership Meeting**

Books contain \$5 worth of savings at Taco Time NW restaurants and are sold for \$1, with all proceeds going directly to the non-profit organization.

“Through the coupon book program, Taco Time NW has helped more than 600 local non-profits, says Gretchen Everett, marketing and advertising director of Taco Time NW. “We’ve been committed to our community since Taco Time NW was founded almost 50 years ago, and the coupon books are our way to help local organizations reach their fundraising goals.”

### **Rainier Audubon Officers**

President	Dan Streiffert*	253-796-2203
Vice President	Steve Feldman*	360-802-5211
Treasurer	Laura Lavington*	253-941-7372
Secretary	Heather Gibson*	253-856-9812
Program Chair	Dale Meland	253-946-1637
Field Trip Chair	Michele Phiffer	206-246-0873
Membership Chair	Pat Toth*	206-767-4944
Backyard Habitat Chair	Marie West-Johnson	206-817-8754
Conservation Chair	Dan Streiffert*	253-796-2203
Mailing Chair	Debra Russell	425-271-0682
Hospitality	Sandra Embrey	253-517-3363
Newsletter Editor	Dan Streiffert*	253-796-2203
Webmaster	Treesa Hertzal	253-255-1808
Education Chair	Annette Tabor*	253-927-3208
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	253-946-3820
Board Member	Ed Stanton	206-870-3107
Publicity	Tom Sernka	253-529-8970

\*Also serves as Board Member

Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Federal Way United Methodist Church, and are open to all members.

### **Upcoming Programs**

by Dale Meland

- **April 20** - John Marzluff - He and his wife did the Ravens in Maine program for us a few years back. He has a new book out called Welcome to Subirdia, which the Seattle Times recently did an article on. He will be doing a program based on that.
- **May 18** - Dan Streiffert - Yellowstone in Winter - from a tour in February, 2015.

### **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.

# Seen & Heard by Calen Randall

**A** tree frog bellows a low hoarse croak. The Juncos are flitting from bush to bush, back and forth over the path, singing their mating calls. “Ping” “Ping” “Ping” One of my favorite sounds is the “ping” of the pine cones opening. Today the air is full of them. I wish that the pings were followed by the shrill squeaks of a “crookedness” of Red Crossbills. The sun shines high on this clear February day and warms my back. Spring is waking early this year, at least three weeks ahead.

the Great Blue Herons were spotted starting another nesting cycle. One tree was home to at least thirteen nests. Boeing Pond has also had much bird activity. Earlier this month, I heard that a Townsend’s Solitaire had been sighted at the pond. The pond was host to a flock of Western Meadowlarks in mid-February, and on Valentine’s Day, Tree and Barn Swallows were spotted swirling the skies. What have you been seeing along the Green River? I would love to read about your Green River area adventures.



spotted one (grosbeak) at the feeder, then two others in a nearby tree. What a great way to start the day!”

**February 4<sup>th</sup>** Sandra Embrey heard the calls of a pair of **Great Horned Owls** in the trees below her house for the first time in “a very long time.” Sandra also reported of spying **Pileated Woodpeckers** at her feeder as well as “families” of **Northern Flickers**.

## Mystery Bird of the Month

Can you guess the bird? Here are the clues:

- A group of me is called a “blizzard”, a “chevron”, a “knot”, a “plump”, or a “string”

- I am of the genus Branta.
- My cousin is a Canada, not a Canadian.
- My Aleutian form nest on grassy slopes above cliff coasts.
- I am smaller than my cousin, though my wings appear longer in proportion to my body.

Who am I?

Answer on last page.

Send your sightings/hearings to [calenbirds@hotmail.com](mailto:calenbirds@hotmail.com) I love reading your reports!



I have been enjoying walking the Green River Trail from Neely Homestead through Russell Woods Park. I’ve noticed a lot of owl pellets in the Russell Woods Park area and the Kent Ponds, so this might be a good area to discover an owl’s nest. As well, many of the trees along the trail had cavities, so keep your eyes peeled for nesting woodpeckers and sapsuckers.

The Bald Eagle pair that nests by James Street in Kent, right along the Green River, spent their winter building a new nest, as their old was lost. The new nest was built much lower than the old one so viewing of the eagles perched and in the nest is much better. The pair has been putting on a great display of stick weaving.

Good news, more stick weaving is going on at the heron rookery behind the animal shelter on 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 216<sup>th</sup> Street. February 3<sup>rd</sup> was the first day that

## Recent Bird Sightings:

Thanks to this month’s reporters Pamela Phillips, Alex Juchems, and Sandra Embrey.

**January 24<sup>th</sup>** Pamela Phillips’s feeders have been frequented by a multitude of birds. Pamela’s yard was visited by **Varied Thrush**, **Pine Siskins**, and a **Brown Creeper**. One day, a **Cooper’s Hawk**, landed on the fence near the feeder, sussing out any potential prey in the yard, until it spotted Pamela in the window and flapped off. Pamela also commented of a lack of woodpeckers in her yard “I haven’t noticed any woodpeckers except for a **Northern Flicker**,” Pamela said.

**January 28<sup>th</sup>** The Juchems clan added to the growing number of **Evening Grosbeak** sightings. Alex said, “We

*Bio: Calen is a 16 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. In winter the estuary boardwalk will add an additional 1 3/4 miles total, so the whole walk including the boardwalk extension is up to 3 3/4 miles.

**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](mailto:scrubjay323@aol.com)

## Soos Creek Owl Prowls

Saturday Night, [Mar 07, 2015](#);  
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](mailto:friendsofsooscreekpark@q.com), (253) 639-0123. Joe can answer your questions but cannot arrange the sign-ups.

## Lakes and Parks of Federal Way & Vicinity

Saturday, March 7th  
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, [johnsonsj5@msn.com](mailto:johnsonsj5@msn.com)

## Boat Trip! Circumnavigation of Bainbridge Island

(course #131850-01 for registration)

Sunday, March 8th, 9:45am - 2:00pm  
Winslow City Docks, Cost \$75.  
Leader: George Gerdts

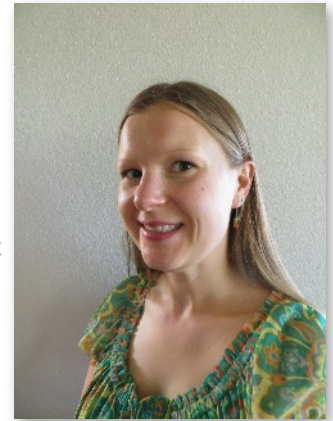
Join expert birder and naturalist George Gerdts on a birding/boat trip around Bainbridge Island. An 80-foot catamaran is suited for wildlife viewing, with a P.A. system, and excellent viewing from outside decks or from comfortable inside seating. View Eagle Harbor, Blakley Rock, Restoration Point, Rich Passage, Port Orchard, and Agate Pass. Expect to see multiple species of loons, sea ducks (including Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks), grebes (with a chance for Clark's and Eared), cormorants, and rocky-shore sandpipers. Expect great scenery and a unique, close-up view of the Bainbridge Island shoreline.

**Meet:** 9:45 AM at the Winslow City Dock. Boat leaves promptly at 10:00 AM. Travel to Poulsbo and then Winslow, or take the ferry from Seattle. Ferry participants can meet George at the Bainbridge Island Ferry Terminal and he will lead you on the short 1/4 mile walk to the City Dock.

**Sign up:** This trip is being offered through the Bainbridge Island (BI) Parks and Recreation Department. YOU MUST CALL THE BI PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AT [206-842-2306](tel:206-842-2306) ext. 118 IN ORDER TO REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP! Ask for activity **#131850-01, CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND.**

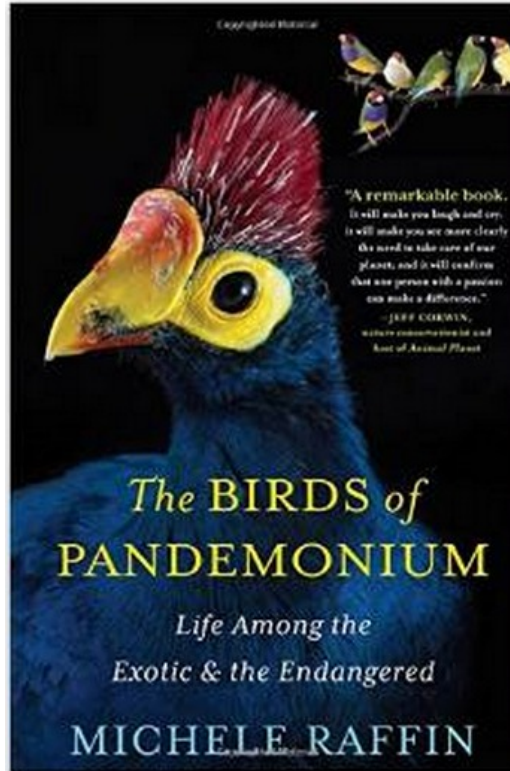
Participants can sign up with a credit card and get a receipt right over the phone. The cost is \$75.00. Anyone who is a member of Rainier Audubon Society (RAS) and indicates that when signing up (ONLY WAY BI staff will know) will get 20% of the cost (\$15.00) donated to RAS. If you leave your e-mail address when registering, George can forward explicit directions and a map.

# Book Reviews by Laura Lavington



**W**HEN I opened *The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the Exotic & the Endangered* by Michele Raffin at bedtime a few weeks ago, I expected to read a few pages before turning out my light. Instead, I was instantly captured by the book, and I didn't turn off my light until I was through seventy-two pages. I finished the book just a couple of nights later.

In her book, Michele Raffin describes how she came to have several hundred exotic birds living in and around her California home, and how her urge to save needy birds eventually led to her home becoming Pandemonium, a conservation organization dedicated to saving and breeding endangered birds. I enjoyed *The Birds of Pandemonium* for several reasons. First, as someone who imagines having a pet dog as a lot of work, I was genuinely interested in Raffin's busy routine caring for several hundred exotic birds (Pandemonium does now have volunteers, but in the beginning it was just Raffin). Yep, her day starts at four in the morning. Sometimes, I feel like stocking and cleaning my (wild bird) birdfeeders can be a fair amount of work, so all the effort that must go into keeping Pandemonium in running order boggles my mind. At the time Raffin wrote the book (it was published in 2014), Pandemonium had over 350 birds—that's a lot of mouths to feed! And since Pandemonium has more than forty species of birds, Raffin and her volunteers have to provide lots of types of food. Many of the birds are tropical and need specific types of fruit to eat. And think of all of the aviaries to keep clean! Also, Pandemonium requires a lot



of paperwork (that's what Raffin works on at four in the morning). Further, birds like parrots evidently have social and emotional needs that have to be satisfied—Raffin said that parrots are perpetual toddlers. (She satisfies some of the parrots' needs with a morning dance party before the sun comes up—the birds prefer Christmas music.) Just reading about the work that Pandemonium requires kind of fatigued me—but it was definitely interesting to read about the author's lifestyle and how she came to be the primary caretaker of so many birds.

One of the reasons that I had difficulty putting *The Birds of Pandemonium* down was the account of the birds themselves.

I had already read books that talked about avian intelligence, but I was still struck by how smart some of the birds were. In addition, Raffin really highlighted the distinct personalities of the birds. Sometimes it was as if the author were describing a human or someone's pet cat or dog. The book talks about some of the emotional scars that parrots develop since the long-lived birds often get shuttled between various owners. Also, toward the beginning of the book, Raffin told about a dove that died from heartbreak upon being separated from its mate. Ultimately, I think it is the birds themselves (complemented by Raffin's colorful depiction of them) that make this book so interesting.

To be honest, I'm not sure how I feel about keeping birds in captivity (particularly when the birds' wings are clipped so that they are unable to fly). I was at the Los Angeles Zoo in January, and I felt a bit depressed looking at some of the big majestic birds kept in enclosures too small to allow much flying. However, I still think that Pandemonium is a worthwhile project, despite my reservations. There is a strong possibility that some of the species at Pandemonium may go extinct in the wild in the not-so-distant future. Maybe if the species can go on in captivity, we can wait for a better time when the descendants of those birds can once again be free and reclaim whatever is left of their ancestral homes.

**Featherhaven**  
Native Songbird Rehabilitation  
[featherhavensr@gmail.com](mailto:featherhavensr@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 242, Enumclaw, WA 98022

**CHECK OUT THE NEW RAINIER AUDUBON MEETUP GROUP AT**  
<http://www.meetup.com/Rainier-Audubon-Society/>

## Backyard Habitat - by Marie West-Johnson

# Backyard 'n Birds "Neighborhood Bullies"

Many noxious weeds start out as "backyard favorites." Weeds escape backyards with the help of birds or hitchhiking on tires or shoes. Invasive weeds are over-running our parks, trails, and waterways. They choke out native trees and understory plants that help support birds and wildlife.

Garlic mustard, Giant hogweed, Impatiens Glandulifera, Garden loosestrife, and Purple loosestrife are all noxious weeds that state law REQUIRES private and public property owners to control in King County. These plants are actually quite pretty and sometimes sold in our local nurseries. I have accidentally grown two of these noxious weeds in my garden.

King County strongly urges property owners to remove these plants before they become invasive: All Knotweeds, Scotch broom, Poison Hemlock, Himalayan Blackberry, Nightshade, Herb Robert, Old man's beard vine, Atlantic and English ivy, Morning Glory or Bindweed. Many of these are sold in local garden shops. Plant starts or seeds are often shared among gardeners. These plants are aggressive and difficult to eradicate.

What can we do? Prevention, don't give weeds a chance. Remove before they go to

seed. Dig up weeds, roots and all before they become established. Sometimes chemical control is necessary. Use the least toxic herbicide, read labels, and target weeds only. Don't use chemicals around wetlands or streams. For more specific herbicide recommendations contact the King County Noxious Weed Control Program at 206-477-WEED (206-477-9333). Their website:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxiou-s-weeds.aspx>

As the new Backyard Habitat Chair, I want to hear from you! What would you like to see and do? Some suggestions have been a Backyard Habitat Tour and a raffle of Washington State native plants. You can email me your ideas at: [crgrie123@yahoo.com](mailto:crgrie123@yahoo.com).

### Noxious weeds in King County

#### Quick Links



[English Ivy](#)



[Scotch Broom](#)



[Giant Hogweed](#)



[Blackberry](#)



[Knotweed](#)



[Garlic Mustard](#)

## White River Valley Museum

### Of a Feather: Artists, Birds and the Northwest

January 14 – June 7, 2015

*As this region's winter birds roost outdoors, admirers can appreciate their beauty in an inspired indoor setting.*

On January 14, as the Northwest's wintering eagles dive and feed on local salmon, the White River Valley Museum opens a powerful northwest art exhibit of works featuring and inspired by birds.

This exhibit presents seemingly disparate works of art and ties them together with a common subject matter--birds. The collection reveals artists inspired by place and nature, by birds as metaphors for human experience and hope, and by more than a touch of the divine and mystical.

Of a Feather is composed of 26 major works of art from 19 northwest artists, working in a variety of media including stone sculpture, jewelry, sumi, printmaking, papier-mâché, oil, acrylic, wood, and feathers. Highlights include: Michael Spafford's print series entitled 13 Ways of Seeing a Blackbird, Morris Grave's oversized and ethereal Black Swan and Bill Holm's wooden transformation mask, Sea Eagle Changing to Sun.

Local artist, scholar and guest curator Kenneth Greg Watson comments, "Northwest art lovers are coming to view Auburn's White River Valley Museum as a special place between Seattle and Tacoma where they can experience and enjoy art of the finest quality. Of A Feather will continue this gem of a museum's reputation for innovative exhibits with world class art and broad regional appeal."

Of a Feather is sponsored by 4Culture. All of the artwork is on loan from other museums, galleries, artists and collectors.

#### Location

918 H Street SE  
Auburn Community Campus  
Auburn, WA 98002  
(behind the Auburn Library, in Les Gove Park)

#### Hours

Wednesday - Sunday, noon - 4:00pm and every First  
Thursday from 6 - 8pm.



## Mewsings from Millie

Reprint Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited, Burien

**Y**ou've heard of empty-nesters, how about early-nesters? My people have had a live bird cam on showing a Great-Horned Owl sitting on two eggs in a nest in Savannah, Georgia. It got me wondering if birds in our part of the world nest early. It turns out some do. The Great-Horned Owls that live here nest early as well as the Western Screech Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Wood Duck, American Kestrel and the Anna's Hummingbird.

The Great-Horned Owl nests in trees such as cottonwood, juniper, beech, pine and others. It adopts a nest that was built by another species, usually Red-Tailed Hawks or other hawk species, Crows, Ravens, Herons or Squirrels. They also will use cavities in dead snags, live trees, deserted buildings, cliff ledges and human-made platforms. The nest consists of sticks and varies in size depending on which species originally built it. The owl lines the nest with bark shreds, leaves, downy feathers plucked from its own breast, and fur or feathers from prey. Nests are seldom re-used. The Great-Horned Owl lays 1 - 4 dull white, nearly spherical eggs that have a rough surface. The newly hatched owlets are helpless with closed eyes, pink skin and some white down on the upper parts.

The Western Screech Owl nests in tree cavities or uses nest boxes. It adds no nesting material to the cavity. It lays 2 - 7 white eggs. These owlets hatch with eyes closed, covered in white down.



The Hairy Woodpecker nests in a cavity 8 - 12" deep. It is excavated in the dead stub of a living tree or in a dead tree. The inside is wider at the bottom to accommodate the eggs and the incubating bird. The nest is typically bare except for woodchips for the eggs and chicks to rest on. The nestlings are born naked with pink skin, a sharp egg tooth at the end of the bill and eyes closed. These babies are very clumsy.

Wood Duck breeding pairs look for a nesting cavity in a tree during the early morning hours. Nest cavities can have openings as small as four inches or as large as a couple of feet across. Cavity depths average about 2 feet but can be deeper. Wood Ducks will also use nest boxes. The Wood Duck mom lays 6 - 16 creamy white to tan eggs. The ducklings are hatched alert with full coats of down. A day after hatching, the ducklings will use their clawed feet to climb the wall of the cavity and jump out of the nest.

The American Kestrel is also a cavity nester. It is incapable of excavating one on its own so it relies on old woodpecker holes, natural tree hollows, rock crevices, nooks in buildings and other human-built structures. The male searches for nest sites, presents them to the female and she



makes the final decision on a nesting location. Typically, the nests are along wood edges or in the middle of open ground. America Kestrels will also use nest boxes. The American Kestrel lays 4-5 eggs that are white to yellowish or light reddish-brown, mottled with violet-magenta, gray or brown. The hatchlings are feeble with sparse, white down over pinkish skin. Their eyes are partially opened by the 1st or 2nd day after hatching.

The female Anna's Hummingbird chooses the nest site, usually a horizontal branch of a tree or shrub 6 - 20 feet off the ground near a nectar source. The nest is made of plant down from cattail, willow, leaves, thistle or small feathers and is woven together with spider webs and insect cocoons. The outside is decorated with lichens and mosses. The Anna's Hummingbird lays 2 white eggs. The nestlings are born with eyes closed, very little down and are virtually helpless.

All this talk about naked babies is making me shiver! I think I'll go curl up on my cozy Seahawk's welcome mat and warm up.

Until next time,

Millie the Muse of Mews

# Bird of the Month: Western Scrub-Jay

Reprint Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited, Burien

- The "blue jay" of dry Western lowlands, this strikingly beautiful bird is showing up more and more in the Pacific Northwest. The Western Scrub-Jay combines deep azure blue with dusty gray-brown and white. It does not have a crest like the Steller's Jay.

- The word "scrub" means an area of deep, well-drained, infertile sandy soil which describes one of the bird's preferred habitats. (Nowadays, it also describes a person who is not very good at playing video games.)

- Along the Pacific seaboard, Scrub-Jays live near oaks which may explain why they are showing up in our area, "following" the acorns north. They also live in the dense shrub-choked chaparral and coastal sage that lines coastal hillsides.

- Western Scrub-Jays eat mostly insects and fruit during spring and summer then switch to nuts and seeds during fall and winter. They may also eat small animals such as lizards.

- The Scrub-Jay's nest is a basket of twigs lined with rootlets, plant fibers and livestock hair. Both members of a pair help with building the nest.

- Western Scrub-Jays have a mischievous streak and they are not above outright theft. They've been caught stealing acorns from Acorn Woodpecker caches and robbing seeds and pine cones from Clark's Nutcrackers. Some Scrub-Jays steal acorns they've watched other jays hide.

- You might see Western Scrub-Jays standing on the backs of Mule Deer. They are picking off and eating ticks and other parasites which the deer appreciate very much.

- Western Scrub-Jays are fun to watch because they are very animated. They move about in bold hops and lunges, looking around with sharp turns of the head. They are vocal and playful. During breeding season they staunchly defend territories from other Scrub-Jays by flying at them, calling and occasionally pecking or grappling. Pairs stay together throughout the year.

- The oldest known Western Scrub-Jay was 15 years 9 months old.



## 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 2014.

All you have to do is come to a meeting, join up and get your free Discover Pass. The cost of joining is \$25.00/individual and \$30/family. The cost of a Discover Pass is normally \$35.00 dollars so you've just saved \$10.00 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](http://www.RainierAudubon.org).



# The 5th Annual Federal Way Family Green Fest

The 5th Annual Federal Way Family Green Fest scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2015, 10 am – 2 pm, at the Federal Way Community Center, 876 333rd St, Federal Way, WA 98003. Last year we had approximately 400-450 residents who are interested in learning more about green opportunities.

[www.cityoffederalway.com/familygreenfest](http://www.cityoffederalway.com/familygreenfest)

We encourage educational/informational booths, hands-on activities (especially for children) and green/sustainable items for sale. It is completely FREE to have a booth at this event! We use grant funding to provide the space, tables/chairs and promotion. Please let me know ASAP if you are interested in attending so I can update our website and promotional materials. I have attached the vendor application which we would greatly appreciate if you would complete and return by the end of March.

Feel free to pass this along to any green/sustainable organization or business that may be interested in sharing their message with the public. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Go Green!

Jeanette Brizendine-Jurgensen  
Solid Waste & Recycling Project Manager | City of Federal Way

33325 8th Ave S | Federal Way, WA 98003

253.835.2771 (p) | 253.835.2709 (f)

[recycle@cityoffederalway.com](mailto:recycle@cityoffederalway.com)

[www.cityoffederalway.com/recycling](http://www.cityoffederalway.com/recycling)

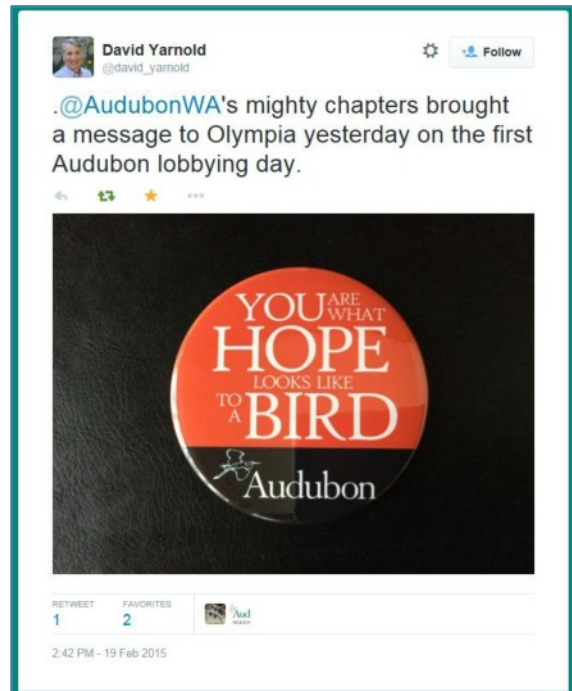


**Rainier Audubon has reserved a booth at this event.**

Please let us know if you are interested in helping. We would like to update our posters, have something for the kids, and need folks to help man the booth. - Dan Streiffert, 253-796-2203

## Audubon Advocacy Day 2015

- **Seventy-five Audubon activists** representing 13 (of 25) chapters, from 27 (of 49) legislative districts congregated in Olympia on February 18 to meet with our legislators and ask for their support of better management of forage fish (HB 1152 / SB 5166), safe transportation of oil throughout our state lands and coastal communities (HB 1449 / SB 5087), and action to save our birds from the effects of climate change (HB 1314 / SB 5283).
- We met with **over 80 legislators**, with the first meetings at 9:15 am and the last ones at 4:30 pm.
- David Yarnold, CEO & President of National Audubon, was there to start off the day with inspirational stories about the power of Audubon's network and take some legislative meetings with Audubon activists. He spoke with Senator James Hargrove about the importance of Grays Harbor for migrating shorebirds, thanked Senator Christine Rolfes for introducing the forage fish bill, and brought birds to the climate conversation with Senator Andy Hill.
- We created large buttons for everyone to wear, so we could recognize one another and so it was clear to people what we were about: Hope and Birds! The buttons served as conversations starter on the hill all day. One of the security guards even went so far as to imitate a crow cawing when he realized what our buttons said! David Yarnold later tweeted about us and the buttons.
- We had workshops on all of our priority topics so that our activists felt knowledgeable about the issues. A huge shout out to [Rein Attemann](#) from WEC, [Alex Epstein](#) from Climate Solutions, [Bruce Wishart](#) (lobbyist for Sound Action) and our own Chris Parsons (WSACC) for leading these sessions.
- Forage fish were the surprise hit of the day! While many legislators were familiar with the safe oil transportation bill and the carbon pollution accountability bill – and we weren't the first organization to come and talk to them about those – few were aware of the forage fish management bill. We were able to shine a spotlight on the wee fishes and bring attention to the important role they play in the marine ecosystem. Check out the [editorial about forage fish](#) from yesterday's Everett Herald.
- Our recent scholarship winner, Courtney Straight, attended her first ever lobby day. As we were chatting at the end of the day, she was excited and passionate about her meetings that had taken place. "I've always been one of those people who click on the 'Take Action' links that I receive in emails from Audubon and other conservation organizations. But now, after seeing the power of an individual speaking up, I am going to write my own emails and send my own stories about why something is important to me."



- [Kathleen Saul](#), a professor at The Evergreen State College, brought 3 students from one of her classes to provide them real-life experience in the legislative process. After she got home yesterday, she sent the following email: “Thank you for pulling together a fabulous day! I was impressed by the passion of the Audubon folks and their genuine welcoming attitude toward all of us. It was a perfect introduction for my students to the advocacy process--to what really goes on in getting bills passed and policy made. Although I had participated in Lobby Days in the past, I don't recall coming away feeling quite so energized.”
- Coincidentally, the Forage Fish bill had a hearing in House Appropriations. Audubon activists signed in to show support for the bill and packed the room. Trina Bayard gave eloquent testimony!
- Helen Engle was recognized for it being her birthday. Her response: “There is nowhere else I would rather be than with my Audubon people.”
- Thanks to Audubon Washington board members Todd Burley, Cathie Conolly, Allen Gibbs, Desiree Hoskins, Cathy Jaramillo, Judy Willott for being an active part of our first Advocacy Day. Todd and I had fun taking selfies inside the Capitol!
- Thanks to all the staff for helping to make our first Advocacy Day so successful. In particular, to Jen Syrowitz who organized a flawless day and helped galvanize our Audubon members in such a positive manner.



Answer: Cackling Goose





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“The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.  
The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference.  
The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference.  
And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.”  
— Elie Wiesel



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