

The Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

March 2019

Rainier Audubon Membership Meeting
March 18, 2019

“Wildlife of Brazil’s Cerrado and Pantanal”

- Sally Vogel

Vogel has been a lifelong naturalist. She has a degree in Botany and formerly ran adventure travel trips to countries in Central and South America, Asia and Africa during vacations from her job teaching high school Spanish.

After retiring, she continued to travel and in 2016 she went to Brazil to see as much of its wildlife as possible in a two week trip. Photography is her main interest these days and she has won awards for many of her images.

In this program you'll see BIRDS, mammals, insects and plants from two of Brazil's major ecosystems, the Cerrado and the Pantanal. Close encounters with tool-using Capuchin monkeys, maned wolves and jaguars are among some of the great experiences Sally will share with us.



The Cerrado is one of the richest of all tropical savanna regions and has high levels of endemism. Characterized by enormous ranges of plant and animal biodiversity, World Wide Fund for Nature named it the biologically richest savanna in the world, with about 10,000 plant species and 10 endemic bird species. There are nearly 200 species of mammal in the Cerrado, though only 14 are endemic.

The Pantanal is considered one of the world's largest and most diverse freshwater wetland ecosystems.

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/>

Nominations for New Board Members are Open

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

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

- 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	gjalvin@comcast.net
Secretary	Barbara Petersen	Yes	253 389 3204	bpbatfan@aol.com
Treasurer	Laura Lavington	Yes	253-941-7372	laura.lavington@gmail.com
Membership Chair	Ken Schroeder	No		kenschroeder@msn.com
Education Chair	Cindy Flanagan	Yes	253-941-3933	camcalcin@hotmail.com
Program Chair	Dale Meland	No	253-946-1637	dmeland@hotmail.com
Field Trip Chair	Barbara Petersen	Yes	253 389 3204	bpbatfan@aol.com
Publicity Chair	Jay Galvin	Yes	253-939-3094	gjalvin@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	Stephan Feldman	Yes	360-802-5211	stephanfeldman@gmail.com
Hospitality	Sandra Embrey	No	253-517-3633	sandra.embrey@gmail.com
Mailing	Debra Russell	No	425-82- 4008	debrarussell194@comcast.net
Lifetime Members	Max Prinsen	Yes	425-432-9965	
Lifetime Members	Erin Wojewodski-Prinsen	Yes	425-432-9965	

Crossbird Puzzle - Kenneth Schroeder

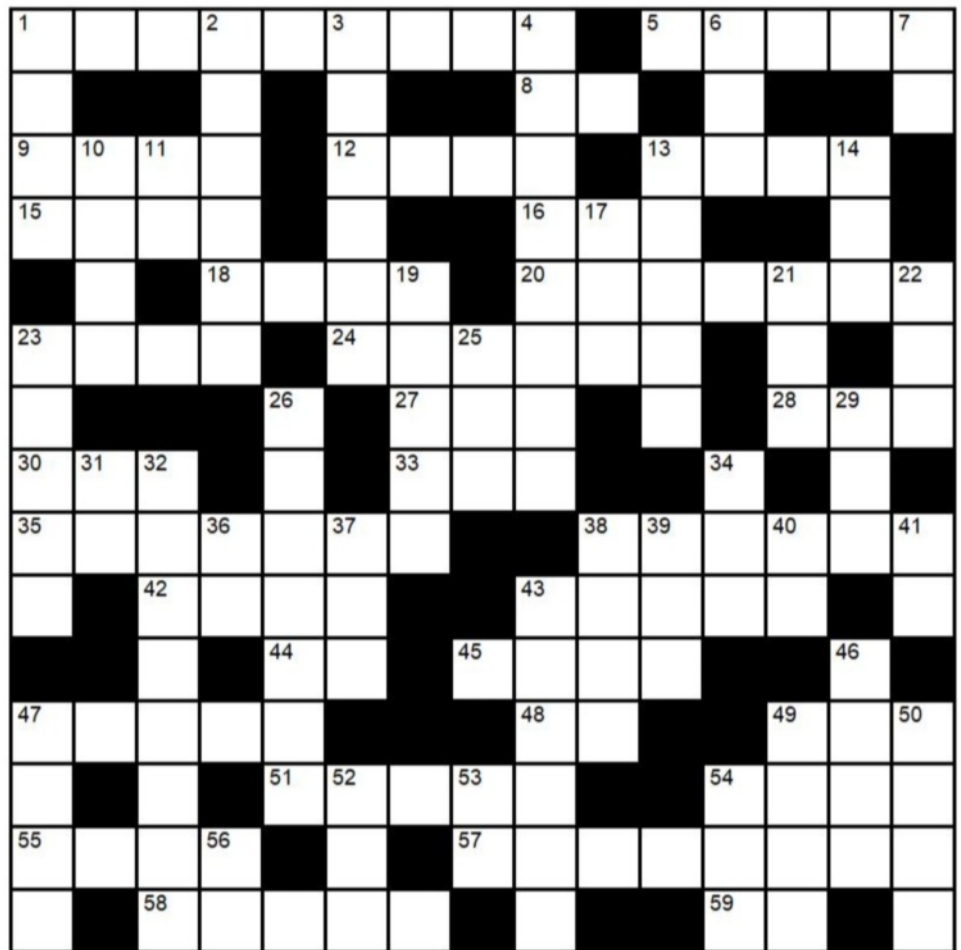
ACROSS:

- 1. Redneck who enjoys sticky goo.
- 5. Kestrel genus name
- 8. Cute bug-eyed alien
- 9. I'm from Virginia
- 12. Not a platinum finch
- 13. White millet and safflower
- 15. In addition to
- 16. ___ chi; stress reliever
- 18. Cartoon penguin
- 20. It is for the birds
- 23. Condensed H₂O
- 24. My relative is into logging
- 27. I repeat, "I'm not a snake"
- 28. Ovoid encasement
- 30. Red, Pin, Myrtle, Scrub, etc.
- 33. Online annoyance
- 35. I own a sea-lion and a bird
- 38. Call me ruffed for short
- 42. Holds the yolks
- 43. One of the herons
- 44. Too much work; abbreviation
- 45. "Born and _____ in Washington"
- 47. Your mascot
- 48. Misspelled Canadian contraction...eh?
- 49. ___-Whet, big eyed predator
- 51. Was Western, now California Aphelocoma
- 54. Wild animal den
- 55. Not caged
- 56. Vertical clue; abbreviation
- 57. Swooper on the sea
- 58. Wilson owned one
- 59. Hamlet says it over and over

DOWN:

- 1. Secretive cattail chicken
- 2. Pacific ones hang out here
- 3. Milky Way flyer
- 4. Common Buteo carnivores

- 6. Latin for birds
- 7. Junco's previous home
- 10. Utah ski resort
- 11. Third person singular present of bel
- 13. Previously Rufus- _____ Towhee
- 14. Batman and Robin
- 17. Rhinoceros is a relative?
- 19. _____ water, ocean squid eater
- 21. Ultra-small hummer
- 22. Creamy holiday drink
- 23. After hours bird motel
- 25. Common ___ poll
- 26. Merlins are these
- 29. Three letters before Hawk
- 31. Astatine atomic symbol
- 32. Group of Falcons
- 34. Poet with Raven problems
- 36. Comes after "So – A needle pulling thread"
- 37. Before CST and after AST
- 38. One of the "Greatest" owls
- 39. Pileated crest
- 40. United Nations for short
- 41. As big as the US
- 43. Red-eyed water divers
- 46. Secretive, slender, cattail slider
- 47. "There's blood on my feathers"
- 49. Relative of 38 across
- 50. Small, brown, tail flickerer
- 52. Black-capped Chickadee has one
- 53. Smaller than Canada, bigger than Brazil
- 54. What Cornell Ornithology calls itself?



Seen & Heard by Calen Randall



2018 Christmas Bird Count Report

On December 29th, ten teams of birders scoured the Kent-Auburn CBC circle and the birds did not disappoint. The call for good weather was answered with clear skies and no rain, a warm contrast to the blustery downpour of the day before. With our count sandwiched between two winter storms, many bird species were very active, which made birding a treat. Overall the count was very boom-or-bust with 16 all-time high counts and several abnormally low species totals.

The waterfowl clearly enjoyed the sun. Cackling Geese continue to increase in the valley, as they smashed last year's high count by over 500 individuals. Teal had a good year as a high count was set for Green-wings and one Cinnamon was spotted at 212th Ponds. On the saltwater, several sea bird numbers were broken. Red-breasted

Mergansers enjoyed a high count, while Common and Red-throated Loons also set high marks. Interestingly Pacific Loons were absent from the count for a second year in a row. All three scoter species had lower than usual numbers (perhaps most were visiting Dash Point State Park), but grebes were prevalent. Pied-billed Grebes were seen in record numbers and Red-necked Grebes missed the all-time mark of 55 by one bird. Cormorants had a good count and the fourteen Pelagics set a new high.

Interestingly gulls had a down year, with an all-species combined total of just 441 (the Mew Gull high count from 2005 was 1549, almost four times higher). Herons also had quiet years. A Green Heron in Area 6C was sighted for the first time in three counts, but Great Blue Herons were five individuals away from tying their low of 17. For the third year in a row there were no Harriers, but Bald Eagles were close to breaking last count's high. Some more common species hit surprise high counts. Over a thousand Dark-eyed Juncos were reported on the count, while Rock Pigeon tripled their count number from last year. The rise of the Anna's Hummingbird has been astounding. On the 2016 CBC 84 hummingbirds were sighted, just four off the all-time high. Fast forward to 2018 where hummingbird numbers were exactly double what they were just two years ago! 168 Anna's Hummingbirds were seen which means each area sighted nearly 17 of our fast-flying friends!

Other notable high counts included Greater Yellowlegs, Pigeon Guillemot, Orange-crowned Warbler, and California Scrub-Jay. On the low side Canvasback and Greater Scaup were two of the few waterfowl disappointing totals, while Spotted Sandpipers skipped the count entirely. It was a poor year for parasitic nesters and old world species. House Sparrows were far below the historic high. European Starlings were not far off last year's record low, Brewer's Blackbirds avoided the Kent & Auburn Valley as only 21 were viewed, and a lone Brown-headed Cowbird was sighted. Perhaps development and changes to the region has forced them elsewhere (such as the Enumclaw plateau where they are abundant) or other passerines of the area have finally gotten better at differentiating their own eggs from other "imposter's"!

The count did feature a pair of rarities. A Black Pheobe was again sighted at the 212th and 204th Streets, but this time it was viewed on the day of the count and not as a "count week" species. I am sure many of us are curious if it makes a return for the 2019 CBC. Last, but certainly not least, Area 7's saltwater team consisting of Charlie & Linnaea Wright (congrats to Charlie for his 20th RAS CBC) and Adrian Lee spotted one of the biggest surprise species in RAS CBC history. As they counted birds on the water Adrian glimpsed a very odd-looking sea bird. Meanwhile, Charlie was engrossed with a Bald Eagle flapping towards Des Moines Marina at break-neck speed, bent on snagging some lunch. As Charlie stated, "it turned out that these events were not mutually exclusive." After Adrian and Linnaea pulled Charlie's attention away from the bee-lining eagle, they gasped in amazement as they realized the mystery shorebird was a Short-tailed Shearwater! Based on eBird reports, this was the first time a Short-tailed Shearwater had been sighted on the King County side of the sound. To their bewilderment their prized sighting became the Bald Eagle's prized lunch. The adventure was a thrilling story, unfortunately at the expense of the very off-course shearwater.

A huge thanks to everyone who participated in the count and to everyone who helped set up the dinner event! As always, I cannot wait for all the adventures and stories of the next Rainier Audubon CBC.



Photo by Jay Galvin

CBC 2018 Checklist

Snow Goose	1	Great Blue Heron	22	Merlin	3
Brant	1	Green Heron	1	Peregrine Falcon	1
Cackling Goose	2582*	Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	Black Phoebe	1*
Canada Goose	1530	Cooper's Hawk	14	Hutton's Vireo	6
Trumpeter Swan	17	Bald Eagle	56	Steller's Jay	87
Wood Duck	8	Red-tailed Hawk	70	California Scrub Jay	33*
Gadwall	51	Virginia Rail	13	American Crow	4280
Eurasian Wigeon	5	American Coot	797	Common Raven	9
American Wigeon	2371	Killdeer	103	BC Chickadee	584
Mallard	1820	Greater Yellowlegs	1*	CB Chickadee	118
Cinnamon Teal	1	Dunlin	120	Bushtit	420
Northern Shoveler	237	Least Sandpiper	Cw	RB Nuthatch	45
Northern Pintail	3582	Long-billed Dow.	2	Brown Creeper	28
Green-winged Teal	1485*	Wilson's Snipe	Cw	Bewick's Wren	113
Canvasback	1	Common Murre	7	Pacific Wren	32
Redhead	52	Pigeon Guillemot	21*	Marsh Wren	34
Ring-necked Duck	692	Rhinoceros Auklet	3	American Dipper	1
Greater Scaup	7	Mew Gull	50	Golden-crowned Kinglet	273
Lesser Scaup	54	Ring-billed Gull	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	145
Harlequin Duck	41	California Gull	1	American Robin	824
Surf Scoter	51	Herring Gull	2	Varied Thrush	14
White-winged Scoter	3	Iceland Gull	1	European Starling	1263
Black Scoter	3	Glaucous-wing. Gull	245	American Pipit	25
Bufflehead	343	Olympic Gull	146	OC Warbler	6*
Common Goldeneye	176	Rock Pigeon	1551*	Yellow-rumped Warbler	21
Barrow's Goldeneye	31	Band-tailed Pigeon	561	Townsend's Warbler	5
Hooded Merganser	109	Eu. Collared-Dove	23	Fox Sparrow	95
Common Merganser	103	Mourning Dove	2	Dark-eyed Junco	1091*
RB Merganser	91*	Barn Owl	2	White-crowned Sparrow	159
Ruddy Duck	131	Great Horned Owl	5	GC Sparrow	193
California Quail	8	Barred Owl	4	Lincoln's Sparrow	5
Red-throated Loon	16*	Northern SW Owl	2	Spotted Towhee	194
Common Loon	19	Western Screech Owl	2	White-throated Sparrow	2
Pied-billed Grebe	81	Anna's Hummingbird	168*	Song Sparrow	486
Horned Grebe	125	Belted Kingfisher	14	Lincoln's Sparrow	5
Red-necked Grebe	44	RB Sapsucker	13	Spotted Towhee	194
Western Grebe	80	Downy Woodpecker	32	Red-winged Blackbird	396
Brandt's Cormorant	3	Hairy Woodpecker	5	Western Meadowlark	45
DC Cormorant	189	Northern Flicker	126	Brewer's Blackbird	21
Pelagic Cormorant	14*	Pileated Wood.	11	Brown-headed Cowbird	1
American Goldfinch	231	American Kestrel	6	Short-tailed Shearwater	1*
House Sparrow	125				

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

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.

Birding and Photographing on the Enumclaw Plateau

Saturday, March 30
8:30 AM - 12 PM

Leaders Jay Galvin and Barbara Petersen

Come with Jay and Barbara as we explore the winter fields of the Enumclaw Plateau for Trumpeter Swans, Eagles, Geese, Sparrows, and Thrushes, just to name a few.

We will meet at the Park and Ride lot located on the Auburn-Black Diamond Road. Take Hwy. 18 East and take the SE Auburn- Black Diamond exit. The Park and ride is to the right.

Travelling up the green River Valley we will keep our eyes open for birds in the trees and pastures. We will leave the valley before Flaming Geyser State Park and enter the plateau from the north.

We should be done birding by Noon and head back to the Park and Ride. Bring binoculars, food, and proper clothing.

Signup: Call or email Jay Galvin 253-939-3094, gjgalvin@comcast.net

Lakes and Parks of Federal Way & Vicinity

Sat, March 16, 2019
8:00AM to 2:00PM

Leader: Steve Johnson

Steve will be taking us on his always popular excursion to visit some of the many lakes and ponds in Federal Way, where we will seek uncommon to rare ducks. We will also look for songbirds and seabirds in the Fife and Redondo areas. Since this takes place in mid March we'll be looking and listening for early migrants along the way. We may walk up to a mile.

Bring: Binoculars, lunch, hot or cold drinks, warm clothes. Scopes are welcome.

Meet: 8:00AM at the Star Lake Park & Ride north of Federal Way. Folks who wish to

leave early may do so. We'll form carpools accordingly.

Directions: Take I-5 to Exit 147 north of Federal Way at S 272nd St. Turn to west and proceed. Park & Ride will be on your right. Turn right at light at 26th Ave S, then right again into P&R and head to the north side.

Sign-Up: Call or email Steve Johnson, 253-941-9852, johnsonsj5@msn.com

Seahurst Beach Birding Basics Class

A Spring Outdoor Experience

Sat, April 6th and Sat, April 13th
8:30 - 10:30 AM

Kevin O'Malley, lead naturalist and birder at South Sound Nature School, will teach a Birding Basics class for beginning and intermediate birders wanting to further their knowledge about birding. Class will focus on bird language, behavior, habitats, nests and bird tracks. Birding is such a fascinating recreational activity. Participants will learn to talk more in depth about the birds they're hearing and seeing. Burien's Seahurst Park has both forest and ocean habitats offering a great diversity of bird species. Binoculars are recommended but not required. These small classes are geared toward ages 16 and up. Classes are \$30 per class or \$50 if you sign up for both. Maximum eight participants, already filling quickly so sign up soon. Dates are Sat, April 6th and Sat, April 13th, 8:30 - 10:30. Register at <https://southsoundnatureschool.org> (click on Menu then Basic Birding Seahurst Park) or email Kevin at omalley23@gmail.com.

Backyard and Birds

By Marie West-Johnson

A cleaner Puget Sound starts with us. Making small changes in our daily habits can protect surface water quality, which protects our health and our pets' health. And benefits the environment.

Here are 10 easy ways we can all do our part to prevent storm water pollution.

1. Never dump anything into storm drains or streams.
2. Scoop, bag, and place pet waste in the trash.
3. Wash vehicles at a commercial car wash that is environmentally safe.
4. Check for and repair car leaks. More info at: fixcarleaks.org
5. Practice natural yard care. More info at: naturallyardcare.org
6. Do not use synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
7. Use a carpet cleaning service that doesn't discharge into storm drains.
8. Properly use, store, and dispose of hazardous materials. More info hazwastehelp.org
9. Retain or plant trees, or install a rain garden to reduce runoff.

Inspect and maintain on-site best management practices associated with your property per covenant or codes.

We have the power to make a difference.

Migratory Bird Festival

April 11 - 14, 2019

HARNEY COUNTY

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/>





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

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



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 _____

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