

The

Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

May 2014

May 19 2014

RAS Membership Meeting

Meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

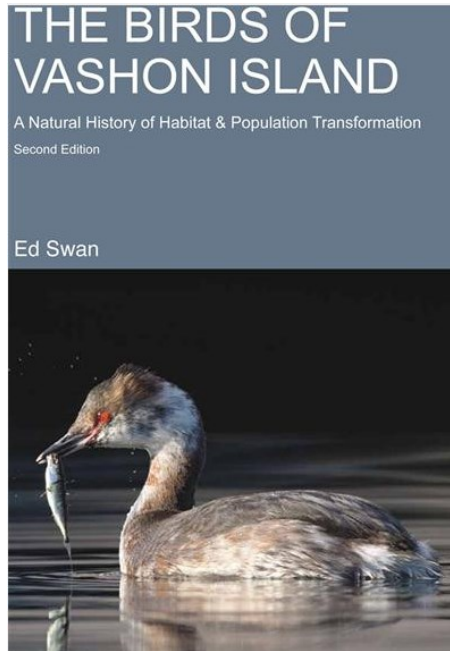
Ed Swan

Nature writer and guide

Ed will be talking about habitat change over time in Puget Sound from the early settlement period to the present. The region experienced several waves of change that produced large alterations in the avifauna of the area. He takes a step by step look at those changes to show how habitat is usually the key factor in species populations and what happens to species, using birds as the example, when big change occurs.

He will use Vashon Island as an example because there's a wealth of well documented information on habitat change there over time and he has a large data base of bird records for the last fifteen years describing the current status of habitat and birds on the Island.

He will also use the Vashon example to discuss how citizen science and action can have a big impact in favor of conservation. Vashon's bird populations appear largely stable, probably greatly in part to the efforts of the Vashon Maury



Island Land Trust, government agencies, Vashon Audubon and others to identify, document and preserve important wildlife habitat on the Island.

Background

Vashon Island, like most of the lowland Puget Sound region consisted of predominantly old-growth coniferous forest habitat prior to settlement. The Island was totally logged off over a 30-40 year period. That eliminated bird species

dependent on old-growth coniferous forest. Species that could live in several

Join us for an end-of-season appreciation dinner at 5:30.

Enjoy an evening of good food, an engaging speaker and some big THANK YOUS to the folks who make our organization great! Renton Technical College will cater the dinner which will include appetizers, a choice of entrees, salad, bread, 2 sides, beverages and dessert. Cost is \$10/person.

Sign up with Janet Williams (503-851-7721) by May 10, 2014.

Board Elections will be held at this meeting. See the April issue for more information.

This is our last General Membership Meeting until September 15, 2014.

different forest habitats survived as there was usually some woods on some parts of the Island at any given time. Cutover thicket areas and agriculture replaced the forest for at least two-thirds of the land area. A whole new group of birds moved in to take advantage of the new habitat such as Western Bluebirds and Western Meadowlark, birds we now associate more with areas east of the Cascades. European-American settlers also created many ponds that didn't exist

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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.

The Month of May is **BIRDATHON**



What is it?

It's "birding for dollars!" Count as many bird species in one day as you can! Choose any day in May. **Get family, friends and co-workers to sponsor you**, then go birding! Afterwards, send them a list of what birds you saw, and they will donate X amount for each species you saw (i.e. 25 cents). Or they can just donate a flat fee. 100% of the proceeds support Rainier Audubon activities in south King County.

You can also conduct your Birdathon birding on one of our field trips. Earn money for chapter activities while enjoying a great field trip led by an expert birder. Or just stay at home and count bird species at your feeder. Or be creative and come up with your own Birdathon experience!

Sponsors are happy to support your efforts, and many look forward to being asked again the following year. They especially enjoy your list of bird species seen. We will provide helpful hints, examples of solicitation

and report letters, prizes for birders, thank-you gifts for sponsors, and one-on-one help as needed.

Why do it? Rainier Audubon needs the money! The portion of your membership dues to Rainier Audubon covers only a portion of the costs associated with running a successful Audubon chapter. Birdathon is our largest fundraiser, and we depend on it to provide a stable funding base for our many activities and services such as: printing and mailing our chapter's newsletter, general administrative costs, programs

(speaker fees), environmental education activities, conservation committee activities, etc., We wouldn't want to have to cut back on any of our activities due to lack of funds!

Our goal for Birdathon 2013 is \$3,500, which is attainable if everyone helps!

Stay tuned for prize announcements such as most money raised, first time birder, and most species seen.



Sponsor sheets are available at Rainier Audubon membership meetings or on-line at www.RainierAudubon.org.

-Alex Juchems

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	Open	253-854-3207
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
Board Member	Jim Tooley	253-854-3070
Publicity	Tom Sernka	253-529-8970
Volunteer Coordinator	Janet Williams	503-851-7721

*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.

Annual Board Retreat

The retreat will be held at Seve Feldman's house on August 3rd at 2:00 PM.

This is our annual planning session for the coming year. All members are welcome to attend.

15702 13th Ave. SW, Burien WA 98166

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.

Book Reviews by Laura Lavington

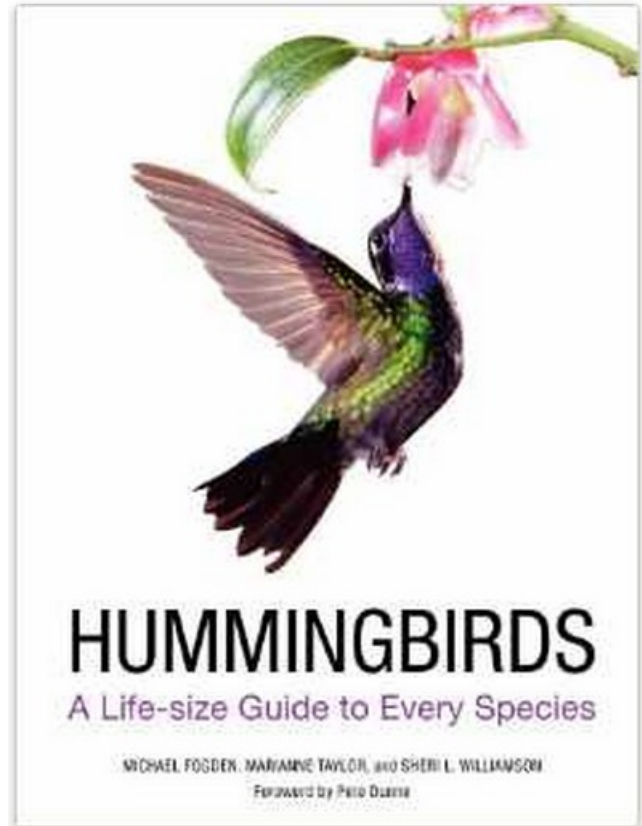


W

hen I found out about *Hummingbirds: A Life-size Guide to Every Species* by Michael Fogden, Marianne Taylor, and Sheri L. Williamson, I had to pre-order it. My copy of this new hummingbird guide arrived a few days ago, and it is quite beautiful. The book states that it is the first guide to profile all 338 known species of hummingbird, and it does so with full-color photographs. I am coming across species of which I had never heard a thing, such as the Horned Sungem (yes, it has little horn-like tufts) and the Bearded Helmetcrest (adorable-yet-fierce).

As the title indicates, the photographs in *Hummingbirds: A Life-size Guide to Every Species* are the same size as the real-life birds. As I looked at the book in bed, I imagined the hummingbirds buzzing around my bedroom (particularly when I looked at the Bee Hummingbird, which at two inches is the world's smallest bird). In the photographs, it is as if the image of the hummingbird had been cut out and then placed upon crisp white paper. Unfortunately, many species profiles show only a male or a female (for example, Frilled Coquette shows just a female, so one must read the description of the male's frills and imagine him), and some profiles have no pictures at all (the critically endangered Turquoise-throated Puffleg falls in that category). I personally would have preferred to have spent five dollars more and have gotten more photographs—but that is not to say that you won't enjoy looking at the many pictures in this book, because I'm sure you will: the book is still worth the money.

This book has great photographs, but it is valuable for its text, as well. The information for each species is moderate in length: I've seen bird guidebooks with less information, and I've seen guidebooks with more. I like that the species profiles both include a map and describe the specific range of the species. I noticed while looking at the book that for some species that live in isolated locations, certain information is still unknown, such as average



weight. From browsing through species profiles, I realized that hummingbird species that live in the mangrove forests of Latin America are particularly susceptible to becoming threatened or endangered (largely a result of the destruction of the mangrove forests).

Sheri L. Williamson was the primary hummingbird bander when I attended the banding session in southeast Arizona last September, and it was neat to see that she is one of the authors of this new book. I'll have to remember to take it with me to get autographed on my next trip to southeast Arizona. I am definitely no scientist, but I think if I were to be reborn an ornithologist, studying hummingbirds would be a good way to go.



Photo Sketch—by Dan Streiffert

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, 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



south Kent is very large, and their woods drops all the way down to the Green River. Their area is a migrant wonderland during May. Look for warblers and other birds in the bushes and feeders, in various habitats in the yard, and in the neighbor's pasture. Warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and more can be seen and heard down on the trails in the woods. Learn some spring bird song with us! Maybe get some new species for the year!

Cost is \$15. donation to Birdathon. Includes a light brunch.

Please RSVP and/or fill out a sponsor form so we know how many to plan for.

Call or email Dan and Nancy Streiffert, dan_streiffert@hotmail.com, 253-796-2203 to sign up and get directions.

A free, all-day event to educate and inspire people to welcome wildlife - such as birds and butterflies - into their backyards, gardens and communities. Come to celebrate wildlife, nature and gardening at the 14th Annual Backyard Wildlife Festival! This event features presentation from local experts including Ciscoe Morris and Marianne Binetti, along with a variety of educational exhibitors, arts & craft vendors and native plant sales.

Birding on Vashon Island

Wed May 7

Leader: Ed Swan

Midweek Trip: arrive 8:35 am ferry leave 12:50 or 1:50 pm ferry from Fauntleroy to Vashon Is

Limited to 12 participants (2 cars besides Ed's car)

"Early May offers an exciting time for migrants on Vashon. We'll hit the hotspots for vireos, flycatchers, warblers and others. Last year on this date, we

(Continued on page 5)

Birding at the Streiffert's

Saturday, May 3

7:00 to Noon

Birdathon Donation - \$15.

This is much more than a "Backyard" field trip. The Streiffert's yard on the hill in

14th Annual Backyard Wildlife Festival

Saturday, May 10th, 2014

9:00am to 3:00pm

Tukwila Community Center

(Field Trips—Continued from page 4)

found a Palm Warbler at KVI Beach. Purple Martins will already be swarming around their nest boxes at several locations. At the same time, the last of the waterfowl will still be around and we may yet see three loon species, grebes, ducks, all three cormorants in breeding plumage, Harlequin Ducks and more.”

Meet: Ed will walk on ferry to Fauntleroy & meet people on the view deck of the 8:35 am ferry back to Vashon Island.

Sign-up: Email Ed at edswan@centurytel.net. When you email Ed to sign up say whether you are willing to drive. Driver ticket on ferry is \$17.40 and passenger is \$5:10. Please be prepared to share the cost of the driver ferry ticket besides the passenger tickets (approx \$8.20 per person in car)

Capitol State Forest and The Black Hills

Tuesday May 13
MIDWEEK Trip - 5 am to 5 pm
Leader: Shep Thorp

Join popular leader and expert birder Shep Thorp on a trip exploring Mud Bay, McLane Creek Nature Trail, Black Hill's Capitol Forest, Mima Mounds and the Bob Bammert Grove. Target species include Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Sooty Grouse, Virginia Rail, Greater Yellowlegs, Band-tailed Pigeon, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Hutton's Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Hermit Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, and Purple Finch.

Bring: Lunch (maybe two), drinks, layered clothes, plenty of snacks, insect repellent. Scopes are welcome. Bring FRS radios and your DISCOVER PASS if you have them. Bathroom stops are available. Bring your Birdathon sponsor form if you have one, as we may get a large birds list! Wear hiking shoes and be prepared for any weather as we will drive, stop and walk

Meet: At the I-5 and hwy 512 P&R by McDonald's in south Tacoma at 5 am sharp. (Get there early.)

Directions: Drive I-5 south to exit 127. Turn west (right) 1/2 block, and turn left onto S Tacoma Way. Drive 1 block, and turn left into the big McDonald's P&R lot. Meet at McDonalds, inside or outside.

Sign up: Email or call Shep Thorp, sthorp@theaec.com, [253-370-3742](tel:253-370-3742)(cell)

[For those who wish to carpool w/ Carol Schulz, contact her at carol.schulz50@gmail.com, [206-824-7618](tel:206-824-7618)]

12TH Annual Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest

May 15-18, 2014

Bike, hike, boat, and bus through spectacular habitats ranging from snow-capped mountains to sunny ponderosa pine forests, lush riparian zones to shrub-steppe. All our field trips are led by experts and professionals in their field. While birding is the heart of the weekend, activities also include wildflower walks, art and music events, and family fun and learning for birders of all ages and skill levels.

New this year: will have online registration for all trips and events! Registration will open in early April. For more details and 2014 updates, please visit our NEW website, join our mailing list, and like us on Facebook.

We are excited to announce that our 2014

keynote will be internationally known scientist, best-selling author, and award winning broadcaster John Acorn, “The Nature Nut.” John is perhaps best known as the writer and host of the television series Acorn, The Nature Nut, a family-oriented, how-to-be-a-naturalist show. He also hosted Twits and Pishers, a travel show for bird watchers, as well as the gallery videos of the Royal Tyrell Museum of Paleontology.

John has written 17 books, including many well-received field guides, and he produces a regular column, The Terminal Segment, for The American Entomologist. John teaches at the University of Alberta and continues his involvement with public communication in a variety of forms.

John is the recipient of NSERC’s Michael Smith Award for Science Promotion, the University of Alberta’s Distinguished Alumni Award, two “Rosies” (as Best Host, in the Alberta Motion Picture Industry Awards), and two nominations for Canada’s national television award, the Gemini. The Royal Society of Canada, the Entomological Foundation, and the Canadian Society of Zoologists have all recognized his contributions to public education.

John Acorn will be speaking on May 17th, 7pm, at Snowy Owl Theatre. For more information, please visit www.LeavenworthSpringBirdFest.com.

Flaming Geyser and Green Valley Road

Saturday, June 14
8:00 AM to Early Afternoon
Leader: Steve Johnson

In June, the migrant birds should be singing on their territory near Auburn and in the beautiful Green Valley east of

(Continued on page 9)

Seen & Heard by Calen Randall



May 10th marks the International Migratory Bird Day. In celebration, the City of Vancouver, British Columbia is attempting to turn its citizens into birding aficionados with its great “City of Vancouver Bird Competition.” The city also hopes to encourage people to get outside to connect with nature. How does the competition work? The Greater Vancouver residents vote for their favorite flyer. The six contestants are Anna’s Hummingbird, Black-Capped Chickadee, Pacific Wren, Varied Thrush, Pileated Woodpecker, and Northern Flicker. I asked my friend and “Grand neighbor” Heather from Burnaby (a city of Greater Vancouver) if she was voting for the Varied Thrush. She responded with a curt “Not a chance!” and muttered something about “don’t want to shovel the snow that the Varied Thrush brings!” Perhaps the squeaky Northern Flicker that hammers on her light posts will get her vote.

Where are the raptors on the list? The shorebirds are protesting. Could the most offended be the owls? They are commonly seen in Vancouver forests. A possible explanation could be this. A permanent sign from the City of Burnaby is posted on the Byrne Creek Trail. The sign reads:

“**Caution** Swooping Barred Owls in park. Barred Owls, perch in nearby trees, swoop on trail users, and may follow for up to fifty meters. Recommended response:

- Do not run or panic

- Wave arms and shout
- Move away from area
- Keep watching the owl
- Wear a cap or hat when in the park, as it reduces the chance that owls will view park visitors as “squirrels” or other wildlife.”

Clearly, from this description, Barred Owls might be the new villainous wolves. I don’t know about you, but if I was a newbie out romping in the Greater Vancouver parks trying to contemplate my Bird of the Year vote, this sign might make me wonder if my newfound hobby would soon lead to my demise as ‘Owlzilla’ swoops in for squirrel. Maybe the Barred Owl will have better luck next year.

Perhaps we need a little excitement in our own Rainier Audubon territory—our first annual Rainier Audubon Bird of the Year Competition! [*Northern Flicker stops drum roll!*] Who would you choose as Rainier Audubon’s Bird of the Year? Definitely not any sort of finch this year! Send in your vote and a blurb about why you think



your bird should reign the Rainier Audubon this year!

Recent Bird Sightings:

Thanks to this month’s reporters Lisa Mesplay, Pamela Phillips, and Jane May.

March 25th 2014 Jane May spotted a **Varied Thrush** in her garden. What a crazy year it has been for the varied thrush count. In the fall of 2013, no one was reporting Varied Thrush. In early 2014, it seems everyone has been sighting Varied Thrush.

March 27th 2014 Lisa Mesplay had several surprises to her backyard this month. Early in the week, she saw a **Northern Harrier** perched atop one of the enormous Douglas Fir Trees in her neighborhood. Lisa said “It was either a female or a juvenile because of the orangey breast.” Lisa checked e-bird to see if there had been any other reports of a Northern Harrier in her area. There had not been any. Lisa theorized that the harrier had flown up from the valley. Maybe it has grown tired of doing the backstroke in the soggy fields!

April 8th 2014 Pamela Philip’s backyard has regularly received **Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Ravens, Pacific Wren, and Varied Thrush** this week.

Mystery Bird of the Month

Can you guess this bird? Here are the clues:

- A group of me is called a “flotilla”, a “gullery”, a “screech”, a “scavenging”,

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Bio: Calen is a 15 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

Mewsings from Millie



Hello & welcome to my mewsings!

If you know me, you know I like to talk. My people will ask me questions and I almost always answer with an appropriate mew or meow. They must understand me because I always get what I need.

Well, I've learned that birds "talk", too! Through songs, calls, chirps and tweets, birds send out alarms, declare territory, look for and attract mates and greet the day.



© Dan Streiffert

Bird song is most highly developed in a group of birds called passeriformes. Basically, this means "perching bird". Wrens, robins, blackbirds and thrushes belong to this group which is enormous. Around 5,400 of the world's 8 - 9,000 species are passeriformes and all of them sing - differently.

Each species has its own signature song. Some are basic chiff-chaffs but many are rich and complex. The Red-winged Blackbird and Swainson's Thrush come to mind.

Each song is different because initially it has to identify the singer's species. Then, the song has to say something about the health of the singer. A loud, long song could indicate a strong, healthy bird. Other males upon hearing this robust outburst may choose to seek space and females elsewhere. In some species, a wide variety of sounds in a song is especially attractive to females.

Birdsong is part of the breeding cycle. Most birds sing in the breeding season starting in January and stopping in July. Increasing daylight during this time prompts birds to sing as more light sets off their hormones. In response, they sing.

Birds stop singing when moulting begins. This makes sense as a male wouldn't want a female to see him when his feathers are falling out and wouldn't want to announce his presence to predators when he doesn't have his usual strength and energy to escape.

Some birds, like robins, sing in winter. This is to defend feeding territory, not for breeding. Interestingly, in winter, female robins sing as well as males.

Birdsong also coincides with a daily cycle. The most intense period is at first light, the "dawn chorus". If a male bird had not been able to feed well the previous day, it may die during the night. It sings to announce, "I have survived because I am excellent at finding food and will be a good provider!"

Also, many females lay eggs at first light and after this are at their most fertile. Males need to fend off other males and they do this with song.

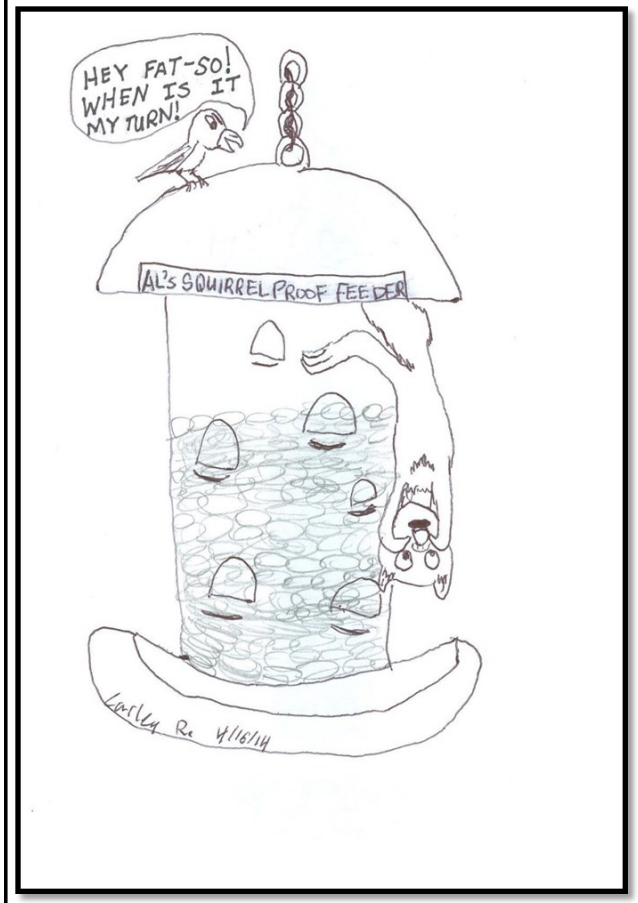
All in all, although a lot is known about birdsong, the study of it is quite a new science. It will be exciting to see what is discovered in the future about why birds sing.

Until next time,

Millie the Muse of Mews

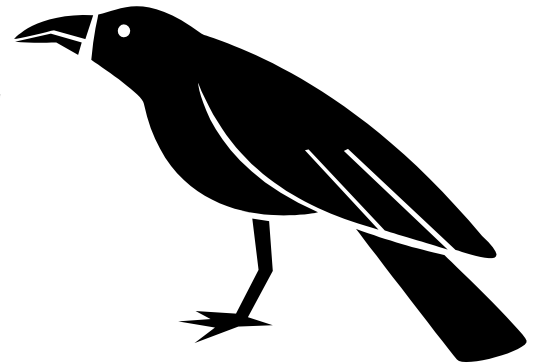
Bird Brainz

By Carley R



The American Crow

Reprint Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited, Buriem



The American Crow is a large, intelligent all-black bird. Even its bill and legs are black. It is a bird that is common over most of the continent. This bird usually feeds on the ground and eats almost anything - typically earthworms, insects and other small animals, seeds, and fruit but also garbage, carrion and nestlings.

In winter, American Crows congregate in large numbers to sleep in common roosts. These roosts can number from a few hundred up to two million crows. Some roosts have been in the same general area for over 100 years,

Young American Crows do not breed until they are at least 2 years old. Most do not breed until they are 4 or more. In most cases, the young help their parents raise the young for a few years. Families may include up to 15 birds and contain young from five generations.

The American Crow maintains a territory year round in which the entire family lives and forages together. During much of the year, however, individual crows leave the home territory to join large flocks at dumps and agricultural fields and to sleep in large roosts in winter.

Despite its tendency to eat roadkill, the American Crow is not specialized to be a scavenger. Their bills are large but not very strong. They must wait for something else to open a carcass or for the carcass to decompose so that it is tender enough to eat.

American Crows are crafty. Sometimes they will follow adult birds to find where their nests are hidden. At times they will steal food from other animals. They have been known to follow songbirds as they arrive after a long migration and capture the exhausted birds. Crows also catch fish, eat from outdoor dog dishes and take fruit from trees.

American Crows have been known to make and use tools. One captive crow used a cup to carry water over to a bowl of dry mash. In another example, a crow shaped a stick and stuck it into a hole in a fence post in search of food. Crows will break pieces from pine cones to drop on predators near their nest.

American Crows are highly adaptable and social birds. They work together, devise solutions to problems, recognize unusual sources of food and unite to defend against predators, a behavior known as "mobbing".

The oldest record of a wild American Crow's life was 16 years. A captive crow that died in New York lived to be 59 years 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 \$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.

(Field Trips—Continued from page 5)

Auburn. We'll visit Academy Drive, Green Valley Road, and Flaming Geyser State Park. We may see and hear warblers, thrushes, vireos, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Virginia Rail, flycatchers, and more. We may walk up to 2 miles on trails and roads. People who bring their own cars, and want to leave early may do so. Bring: Lunch, snacks, drinks, hiking shoes. Scopes welcome.

Meet: Auburn Safeway at Auburn Ave & Main at 8:00 AM.

Directions: Take hwy 18 to Auburn, and exit at Auburn Ave (hwy 164). Turn north (right) on Auburn Way and drive 3 blocks north. Safeway sign and gas station is on the left. Park in the lot just beyond the gas station straight out from the right entry door at Safeway at 8:00am.

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

Federal Way & Kent Area Birding

Saturday, June 21

8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Leader: Peter Berg

We will start at Lake Fenwick on the west hill of Kent, from there we head to the "Old Fishing Hole" just around the corner. From there, north to the "Green River Natural Area" on 64th Ave. Then we travel to the "Soos Creek Trail" north of 256th St on 148th. If time permits "Clark Lake" is on the agenda. The birds we may see include; various species of ducks, wrens, song birds, chickadees and raptors.

Meet: 7:45 am at the Star Lake P&R north of Federal Way.

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: E-mail Peter Berg at (berg_pa@hotmail.com) to let him know to look for you at the Park and Ride. Car pooling will occur when we get to the meeting place.

(Seen & Heard Continued from page 6)

or a "squabble" of Gulls.

- It has been discovered that my flocks have a loose pecking order, based on strength and size.
- I prefer drinking freshwater, but a pair of glands located above my eyes allow me to secrete the salt. Sometimes, salt excretion can be seen dripping from our nostrils and off the end of our bills.
- Communication between the birds of my kind is extremely complex. Both calls and body language have meaning.
- When incubating, I pant to cool myself down.
- Next time you give bread to one of me, think twice. One of my kind has been seen bait-fishing. He would float chunks of bread in a pond, and snap at goldfish that tried to feed on the bread.
- I am not Ring-billed, Glaucous-winged, Yellow-legged, or black-backed.
- The first part of my name has a fish in it.
- I am not "pickled"

Who am I?

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

Membership Meeting (Continued from page 1)

before, encouraging Wood Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks and others to arrive and also introduced directly several other species, mostly game birds such as California Quail and Northern Bobwhite. However, economic factors caused agriculture to fade and the forests regenerated to eat away at the open areas. Several different forest types that previously didn't exist, except as small patches came in, some coniferous dominated, several hardwood dominated and others a mix. Especially the new hardwood presence brought in many species such as Black-headed Grosbeaks and warblers. Development also intruded, taking away habitat and introducing a new predator mix with

uncontrolled cats and dogs. Loss of habitat and the new predator mix eliminated introduced game species and the bluebirds and meadowlarks also disappeared. Regional and continent-wide habitat change also caused range expansions so that birds like the Barred Owl moved west, others like the Anna's Hummingbird and Western Scrub-Jay moved north, and some like the Brown-headed Cowbird moved both west and east. A core group of species still exists after a 150 years of change but significant numbers of birds have disappeared to be replaced by still others. Most people don't realize the extent of the changes that have occurred or how wide ranging their effects have been.

Answer: Herring Gull



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“Progress is measured by the speed at which we destroy the conditions that sustain life.”
— [George Monbiot](#)

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