

# The Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

November 2017

## Rainier Audubon Membership Meeting

### The Birds of Costa Rica

Sam Merrill, Black Hills Audubon, Olympia  
7:00 PM November 20, 2017

Costa Rica, with an area less than a third of Washington state, has about as many bird species as the United States. With tropical forests ranging from dry to very wet and elevations from sea level on both the Pacific and the Atlantic to a central spine rising over 12,000 feet, and much rugged terrain in between, the land supports many different habitats. Costa Rica has had no army and a relatively stable government for over 60 years, and has many national parks and eco-lodges. Sam Merrill will illustrate his presentation of a two-week guided birding trip to Costa Rica with his photos of tropical specialties of this fascinating country, such as the Collared Aracari, the Montezuma Oropendola, and the Turquoise-browed Motmot.

Sam has had a lifelong interest in birds and has been active in Audubon for the past twenty years. A former president of Black Hills Audubon, he is currently Conservation Chair and a member of the Steering Committee of the WA State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC). Retired from college teaching, he holds a Ph.D. in mathematics and does research in mathematics and political science.

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 PM at the  
**Federal Way United Methodist Church**  
29645 - 51st Ave. So. 98001 (in unincorporated Auburn)

## New 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](mailto:RainierAudubon@googlegroups.com)

If you did not get an invitation, you may request to join the group by going to [groups.google.com](https://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](http://RainierAudubon.org) website.

## Upcoming Programs Dale Meland

- December 2017 - "Pigeon Guillemots: The Adorable Seabird with Bright Red Feet" by Govinda Rosling
- January 2018 - "The Birds of New Zealand: Past and Present" by Kim Adelson
- February 2018 - "Elwha Dam Removal and Recovery Update" by Jeffrey Duda
- March 2018 - "Wolf Haven International: World of Wolves"
- April 2018 - "Washington Birds and Climate Change" by Trina Bayard and Jen Syrowitz
- May 2018 - "Bees and Wing Nut Honey" by Emmy Scharnberg

## Rainier Audubon Society Directory

Position	Name	Board Member	Phone	email
President	Heather Gibson	Yes	206-226-2050	<a href="mailto:hedder_swedder@yahoo.com">hedder_swedder@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President	Jay Galvin	Yes	253-939-3094	<a href="mailto:gjgalvin@comcast.net">gjgalvin@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	Open			
Treasurer	Laura Lavington	Yes	253-941-7372	<a href="mailto:laura.lavington@gmail.com">laura.lavington@gmail.com</a>
Membership Chair	Pat Toth	Yes	206-767-4944	<a href="mailto:h2opat@msn.com">h2opat@msn.com</a>
Education Chair	Cindy Flanagan	Yes	253-941-3933	<a href="mailto:camcalcin@hotmail.com">camcalcin@hotmail.com</a>
Program Chair	Dale Meland	No	253-946-1637	<a href="mailto:dmeland@hotmail.com">dmeland@hotmail.com</a>
Field Trip Chair	Barbara Petersen	Yes	253 389 3204	<a href="mailto:bpbatfan@aol.com">bpbatfan@aol.com</a>
Publicity Chair	Jay Galvin	Yes	253-939-3094	<a href="mailto:gjgalvin@comcast.net">gjgalvin@comcast.net</a>
Backyard Habitat Chair	Marie West-Johnson	Yes	206-817-8754	<a href="mailto:crgrie123@yahoo.com">crgrie123@yahoo.com</a>
Conservation Chair	Dan Streiffert	No	253-796-2203	<a href="mailto:dan_streiffert@hotmail.com">dan_streiffert@hotmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Dan Streiffert	No	253-796-2203	<a href="mailto:dan_streiffert@hotmail.com">dan_streiffert@hotmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Treesa Hertzell	No	253-255-1808	<a href="mailto:Autumn207@comcast.net">Autumn207@comcast.net</a>
Member at Large	Stephen Feldman	Yes	360-802-5211	<a href="mailto:stephanfeldman@gmail.com">stephanfeldman@gmail.com</a>
Hospitality	Sandra Embrey	No	253-517-3633	<a href="mailto:sandra.embrey@gmail.com">sandra.embrey@gmail.com</a>
Mailing	Debra Russell	No	425 829 4008	<a href="mailto:debrarussell@comcast.net">debrarussell@comcast.net</a>
Lifetime Members	Max 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 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.

**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)

## Fox Island and the South Kitsap area

**Sunday, November 26th**  
Leader: Jim Flynn

7:30 AM to 5PM

Here is an area I bet most of us have never explored. Fox Island is SW of Gig Harbor and if you've ever golfed or birded at Chambers Bay near Lakewood you have probably seen Fox Island. It is joined to the Gig Harbor peninsula by a bridge and the birding along the bridges causeway can be quite good, with a variety of water birds like ducks, grebes, loons, gulls, etc. We will also take some time to head north into the Kitsap and explore some little lakes and other rarely birded spots. These parks will hopefully give us a chance to look for wintering birds like Fox Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Varied Thrushes. Maybe we will be lucky enough to find something like a Hutton's Vireo or ??? Rain or shine, we will have a chance to stretch our legs

and learn a little something about the birds of this area. Be sure to dress in layers for possible wet and cool weather. Be sure also to bring carpool money, lunch and drinks.

Meet at the Star Lake Park and Ride at S. 272nd Street and I-5. This is the P&R on the west side of I-5, right next to the freeway. Access is off S. 272nd and 26th Ave South.

Call Jim Flynn at 206-399-6418 to sign up, or email [merlinmania@comcast.net](mailto:merlinmania@comcast.net)

## Family Birding Walk at Salt Water State Park

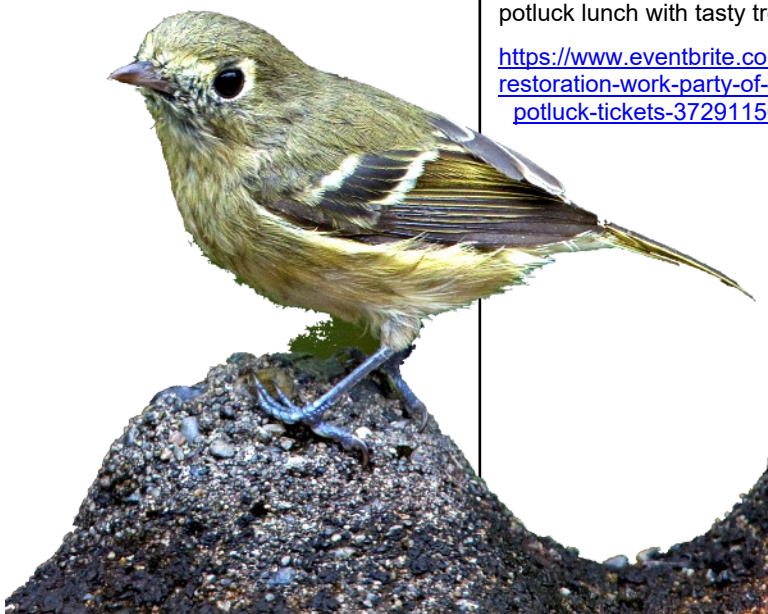
**Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Time: 10am-12 noon**

Leaders: Calen Randall & Cindy Flanagan

Come enjoy a family birding outing watching seabirds and exploring woodland birds. We will explore the waters of the Puget Sound and the forested trails of Saltwater State Park. All ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring binoculars if you have them. Dress warmly. Discover Parking Pass needed (or pay parking)

Contact Calen Randall to register [calenbirds@hotmail.com](mailto:calenbirds@hotmail.com)



## SHADOW Events

**Nov 17<sup>th</sup>: 10-11am**

### Guided Nature Walk

Explore the beauty of our trails with a guide to lead you through the diverse ecology represented at SHADOW Lake Nature Preserve. Guided Nature Walks are outdoor explorations that take place rain or shine. Come with weather appropriate clothes and shoes for moderate levels of walking – inclines or uneven ground may be encountered on this walk.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-nature-walk-tickets-37290964278>

### SHADOW Work Party

**December 9<sup>th</sup>:**

**10am to 2pm: Work Party**

**2pm – 4pm: Potluck**

### Last Work Party of the Year and Potluck

Bring your favorite dish to share and join us for restoration, community service, and fun to celebrate the end of the year!

From 10am to 2pm, help SHADOW get ready for winter! Join us for a restoration work party to help us winterize for our holiday closure.

Then, from 2pm to 4pm, join us for a potluck lunch with tasty treats to share!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/last-restoration-work-party-of-the-year-and-potluck-tickets-37291150836>

# Seen & Heard by Calen Randall



As September rolls into October students—like the droves of waterfowl returning to their wintering grounds, students (including myself) flock back to school. For me, the past couple of autumns, at school have also meant a return to birding around the Highline College pond before classes. This year I have moved on to the University of Washington, but Highline College still has its birding connection as my sister Carley found out this October. In her first quarter at Highline, she enrolled in an anthropology course taught by Rainier Audubon member Lonnie Somer. An avid birder, Lonnie enjoys weaving birding anecdotes into his anthropology lectures, most notably his definition of ‘subculture’. Unlike most students who react with befuddled expressions when Lonnie describes the eccentric community of birders, my sister just nods and laughs at the familiar descriptions. Lonnie chuckles at her and said “Yeah, she knows all about this. Her brother is a birder,” and adds, “You meet a lot of fascinating people out birding.”

Though it is well known that there are many incredibly interesting birders, Lonnie’s statement was particularly true for me on one birding trip on the University of Washington campus. Home to over 150 species of trees and a wide variety of habitats, the UW campus is a fantastic place to watch birds. The crowning jewel is the well-birded Union Bay Natural Area or more commonly known as the “Montlake Fill” or “The Fill”. Formerly a lakeside landfill, it now features a diversity of habitats and a plethora of birds. In early October, I was on my way to the fill when I passed a man locking his bike to a fence. Many people come to the fill to walk or run, so I didn’t pay too much attention to him and continued walking. Suddenly I heard a pishing call from behind me and the bushes erupted with the sounds of finches and sparrows. I whirled around, and to my surprise the cyclist had

swapped his bike for a pair of binoculars. Had I found another birder from school? Little did I know I was in for a fascinating surprise.

“It’s not often I run into other birders on campus,” I said and introduced myself, “Do you bird on campus often?” It turned out that I had seen several reports on eBird from the birder, whose name was Chris. However, he had only just moved to the Seattle area from New Jersey (He informed me, that he had arrived in Seattle the same day the Swallow-tailed Gull was spotted at Carkeek Park), but he was originally from Scotland. “Are you a student or teacher here?” I inquired as we walked down the path together. “Actually neither,” he stated, “I’m doing my post-doctorate research in particle physics; I study the movement of protons, neutrons, and electrons.”

“What are the odds,” I thought to myself, “that I would find myself counting coots at school with a Scottish particle physicist? That sounds too extraordinary to believe.” As we birded we had a great conversation ranging from how hard it was to spot and photograph Pacific Wrens to how in the UK birders just say “jay” or “dipper” when referring to Eurasian Jays and White-throated Dippers. Strolling around The Fill birding with a physicist over a dozen years my senior was truly a memory I will never forget and one that, to me, epitomizes the beauty of birding. Here were two people, one professionally researching how the micro-components of our world move, and the other starting baseline first-year motion physics, brought together by a shared passion for the birds of our world.

Birding with Chris reminded me that though this is a polarizing time and our local and global environments are changing, it is important to pause and appreciate how birding continues to transcend these challenges and bring people of different backgrounds together. Be it youthful teenage birders, or list-crazy chasers, or Scottish particle physicists, numerous types of people have been enchanted by the birds. You just have to get outside and bird to find them.

Have any fascinating birder stories? Send them to me at [calenbirds@hotmail.com](mailto:calenbirds@hotmail.com)

## Special Edition Sightings “Seen and Heard Goes Global”

September was a historic month for *The Seen and Heard* as reports were sent in from an unprecedented three continents and four countries! Thanks to Katerina Grishina and Vitor Valenti for their reports.

### Omsk, Omskaya Oblast, Russia

In early September, Katerina Grishina and her mom Jenya visited family in the Russian city of Omsk. Located in the western Siberian plains, Omsk is 12 time zones away, and is home to an array of both European and Asian species such as Eurasian Blue Tit (imagine a bright blue chickadee) and Oriental Turtle Dove. When she arrived, **Hooded Crows** and **Eurasian Magpies** greeted her. Katerina also mentioned, “The **Rock Pigeons** are taking over the city, as common as crows are in Seattle.” Later on, Katerina’s aunt mentioned a wetland park in the city where many local university ornithologists went to observe birds for research; so Katerina, her mom, and grandparents all set out to go find some birds in the park, accurately named “Birds Harbour”. While in the park, Katerina and her family spotted several **Little Gulls**, similar to our Bonaparte’s Gulls which were very—yes you guessed it—little. Overhead the beautiful **Bohemian Waxwings** called. She also spotted far off in the distance **Gray Herons**, the drabber version of their Great Blue relatives. However, the birding highlight of her trip was pishing a couple **Coal Tits** (a close relative of our chickadee species) out of a bush in a downtown park. Katerina said “I thought I could hear something like a chickadee, so I pished and immediately, the Coal Tits popped out! Awesome birds Katya!”

### Gernando de Noronha Archipelago, Brazil

The South American report of this month came from my Brazilian birding friend, Vitor. I met Vitor at the Cornell Young Birders Event, and ever since we have kept in touch through WhatsApp. In early October, Vitor traveled to the Fernando de Noronha Archipelago off the Brazilian coast in the Atlantic Ocean. The archipelago provides opportunity to see lots of rare Latin American birds, all in

*Calen is an 18 year old birder entering his seventh year writing the Seen and Heard. Currently attending the University of Washington, Calen enjoys birding in the South King County and coastal British Columbia region.*

one cluster of islands. However, life on these islands is hard for birds, as there is no source of fresh water from rivers, so only five land birds are usually found there including, the **Eared Dove**, similar to our Mourning Dove but more colorful with a blue eye ring. Endemic to the archipelago are the **Noronha Vireo** and the **Noronha Elaenie**. The vireos “ignore human existence” and sing everywhere and often. Vitor said “they behave like a House (or Bewick’s) Wren.” On the other hand, the Elaenie are endangered and reclusive.

Fortunately, 70% of the archipelago is a protected as a National Marine Park.

**Cattle Egrets** congregate in flocks much larger than on the mainland.

Anyone hoping to escape **House Sparrow** might need to choose a different location. They were introduced to the archipelago 300 years ago and have stayed ever since. Vitor’s list of common marine birds at the archipelago is enough to make a birder from the Pacific Northwest dream with species like **White-tailed Tropicbirds**, **Red-footed Boobies**, and **Magnificent Frigatebirds**! Vitor offered advice to anyone searching for a Brazilian bird experience, “Do I need to say more? Don’t waste time, Fernando de Noronha

is open for any birder.” Great sightings Vitor!

#### **Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada**

Just before the start of a new school year, my family and I ventured up to coastal British Columbia. This time, we stayed on Vancouver Island, in the town of Campbell River. On our first day there, we went on a whale watching tour up Johnstone Strait to Blackfish Sound, which is famous for its Orcas. In addition to numerous Orcas, dolphins, porpoises, and humpback whales, we also saw some great birds. On the way up we passed a flock of **Red-necked Phalaropes** swimming on the open water and dozens of **Surf** and **White-winged Scoters** flew past us. We also got great views of **Ancient Murrelet** from up close on the boat, but the highlight of the sea birds were several **Fork-tailed Storm Petrel**, which were foraging over the water. We were lucky enough to stay in a Chalet a mere 100 feet from the straight, and some of the best birding hotspots in the area were just a short walk away. At one of them, called Oyster Bay, we spotted **Black-bellied Plover** running amongst the **Western Sandpipers** and **Black Turnstones** flapped in to forage in the bay.

## **Recent Bird Sightings “Seen and Heard Goes Local”:**

Back at home there were also some great sightings. Here are some from Carol Schulz and Maurine Valentine:

#### **Des Moines, Washington**

In October, Carol Schulz wrote of viewing a “kettle of 42 **Turkey Vultures**” flying over Des Moines. Carol also provided a weather report with her description of the birds too. She said “There were lots of tall looking clouds with the dark grey bottoms and the birds were flying in between them towards the blue sky to the southeast.” Good spot Carol!

#### **Lynwood, Snohomish, Washington**

While leaving the Alderwood Mall in Lynwood, WA, Maurine Valentine and her cousin spotted a **Brewer’s Blackbird**. Maurine commented that at first it looked like a grackle, but it had a much shorter tail so they identified it as a Brewer’s. Thanks for the first-time report Maurine!

## **Rainier Audubon Christmas Bird Count December 31, 2017**

The Rainier Audubon Christmas Bird Count for 2017 is in the works. We hope everyone will come out and be part of our chapter’s thirty-seven years of citizen science.

As in the past, participants can sign up to go out with a team and count birds in our Audubon circle. Teams will bird by car and by foot from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Contact Cindy Flanagan to sign up to go out in the field. ([camcalcin@hotmail.com](mailto:camcalcin@hotmail.com))

If you can’t go out with a team, but want to count birds in the comfort of your own home, there’s always the CBC Backyard Bird Count. Just record what you see in your yard on the CBC date and send your results to:

Calen Randall  
6012 S 298th Place  
Auburn, WA 98001  
Email: [calenbirds@hotmail.com](mailto:calenbirds@hotmail.com)

We’re looking at possibilities for the traditional meal after the day’s events where we hear the day’s species tally and share about interesting finds of the day. We might try something different this year, and we’d like to have your input on this.

If you’d rather not be part of the bird count, maybe you would be able to help with the meal. We’d like help planning in advance. Also help with set-up and take down that day.

Please contact Heather Gibson 206-226-2050 [hedder\\_swedder@yahoo.com](mailto:hedder_swedder@yahoo.com) or Marie West-Johnson 206-817-8754 [crgrie123@yahoo.com](mailto:crgrie123@yahoo.com)

# Bird of the Month: Dark-eyed Junco

Reprint Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited, Burien

The Dark-eyed Junco is a flashy, little sparrow. It is medium-sized with a round head, a short bill and a fairly long tail. Although they can vary, the Dark-eyed Junco is usually dark gray or brown with a pink bill and white outer tail feathers that flash when in flight.

It is a bird of the ground and can be seen hopping around the bases of tree or shrubs or on lawns looking for fallen seeds.

The Dark-eyed Junco breeds in forests across much of North America and at elevations ranging from sea level to more than 11,000 feet. During winter and on migration it will utilize a wider variety of habitats including open woodlands, fields, roadsides, parks and gardens.

Primarily a seed-eater, the Dark-eyed Junco prefers millet to sunflower seeds at feeders. During breeding season, it will also eat insects including beetles, moths, butterflies, caterpillars, ants, wasps and flies.

The female junco builds the nest weaving a foundation of twigs, leaves and moss. The nest is then lined with grasses, ferns, rootlets, hair and more moss. The nest is usually on the ground

or a rock face or in the tangled roots of a fallen tree. Around people a nest may be found in or underneath buildings. Occasionally, a junco may build a nest above ground level on a branch, a window ledge or in a hanging flower pot or light fixture. A nest is rarely reused.

The female will lay three to six eggs and may have up to three broods of chicks. The eggs are white, gray, pale bluish-white or pale greenish-white with brown gray or green specks. The eggs will be incubated for twelve to thirteen days and the chicks will fledge in ten to thirteen days.

The Dark-eyed Junco is also called the "snowbird" as it appears as winter sets in.

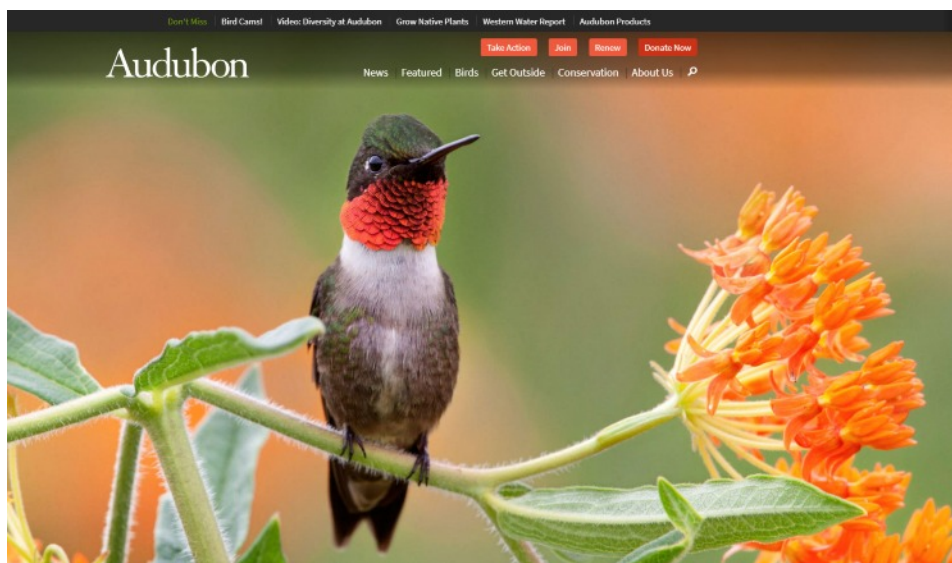
It is one of the most common birds in North America and can be found across the continent, from Alaska to Mexico and from California to New York.

The oldest recorded Dark-eyed Junco was at least eleven years, four months old.

## ***Audubon's New Native Plants Database***

National Audubon has a new online Native Plants Database that can be accessed at <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>.

Enter your zip code to use Audubon's native plants database and view a list of the best plants for birds in your area, as well as local resources and links to more information. By entering your email address, you'll receive an emailed list of the native plants you've selected, get additional tips on creating your bird-friendly habitat, and help us keep track of your contributions to our efforts to get 1 million native plants for birds in the ground.



# Mewsings from Millie

Reprint Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited, Burien



Some of my people have been reading a book lately entitled *The Genius of Birds* by Jennifer Ackerman. The other evening, a copy of it was left on the counter so I thought I'd take a look and see what tidbits of information I could get my paws on.

To begin with, Ms. Ackerman is quite the accomplished author! She has been writing about nature, science and human biology for almost thirty years and has been published in *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Scientific American* and many other publications. In addition, she has written numerous books of her own so it appears she knows what she's talking about.

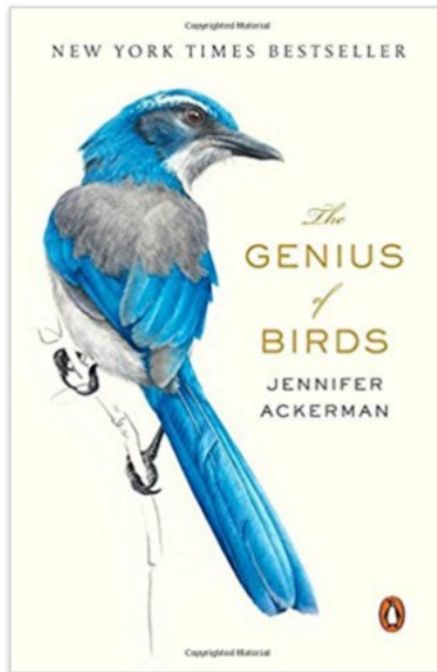
In this book, she tackles the existence of intelligence possessed by birds pointing out that "intelligence" may be expressed in many ways including problem solving, social learning, vocalizing, nest building and the ability to adapt to strange, new environments among others.

I'd like to share a few of the fascinating items I learned while pawing through and perhaps offer a muse here and there regarding them.

- Years ago, in the small town of Swaythling, England, Great Tits and Blue Tits figured out how to open the cardboard caps of milk bottles delivered to people's doorsteps to get at the rich cream on top. Although the exact bird that first accomplished this isn't known, they learned how to do this way back in 1921. By 1949, the behavior was being seen throughout England, Wales and Ireland! An example of social learning if there ever was one!

- Everyone's favorite, the chickadee, has been found to have one of the most sophisticated systems of communication of any land animal using their calls like language to convey location, the finding of food, the presence of a predator or to call for reinforcements.

- Birds like chickadees, crows, jays and others that are born small-brained and helpless continue to grow their brains after birth. Brain size is also correlated with how long a bird stays in its nest with its parents after fledging - no wonder crows are so smart!



- Speaking of crows, the crows of New Caledonia appear to be some of the smartest birds on the planet possessing excellent problem-solving skills. For instance, if presented with a container of water that is out of reach to drink, these crows will drop pebbles into the container to raise the water to a drinkable level!

- Scrub Jays will go to great lengths to protect food they have cached from thieves. If another bird is watching, the jay will hide the food behind a barrier. If the thief can hear him, it will hide the treasure in a less noisy substance (soft soil versus gravel for instance). Jays will even pretend to cache after the food has already been hidden somewhere else in an effort to confuse the perpetrator!

- Just like human children with normal hearing who are raised without exposure

to human speech resulting in abnormal vocalizations, baby birds raised without exposure to a "tutor" song sing an abnormal simplified version of the species song.

- The Long-tailed Tit, a chickadee relative, builds a nest that is a flexible bag made of mosses woven together with loops of spider egg cocoons. It then lines the inside with thousands of small feathers and covers the outside with thousands of tiny lichen flakes. When finished the nest is made of approximately six thousand separate pieces!

- Thirty White-crowned Sparrows were "bird-napped" as they passed through Seattle on their way from Alaska and Canada to their wintering grounds in Southern California and Mexico. They were then put into crates and flown by plane twenty-three hundred miles to a release site in New Jersey. The birds were let go and within a few hours the adult birds had reoriented themselves and set off traveling solo across the country towards the southwest.

- House Sparrows in New Zealand learned to open an automatic sliding door leading into a cafeteria by flying slowly past the sensor, hovering in front of it or landing on top of it. They did this sixteen times in forty-five minutes and the door had only been installed two months earlier.

These are only a few of the amazing bird behaviors mentioned in Ms. Ackerman's book. If you would like to learn more, pick up a copy and join her in her exploration of the absolute genius of birds.

Until next time,

Millie,

The Muse of Mews

# Saving the Weyerhaeuser Campus: A Year of Progress

By Cindy Flanagan

One year ago, almost 500 concerned citizens and several historical, cultural and environmental organizations overflowed the Federal Way City Council for a study session on the fate of the 430-acre nationally acclaimed Weyerhaeuser Headquarter Campus, purchased by Industrial Realty Group (IRG) in February 2016. The reason--IRG had submitted a land use application for an industrial warehouse slated to be home to a fish processing plant and, also had plans for more large-scale warehouse development on the campus. Many concerns were raised:

- The fish processing plant was an industrial warehouse and should not be built, as it violated zoning restrictions in the 1994 Concomitant Agreement between the City of Federal Way and Weyerhaeuser
- The chemical anhydrous ammonia needed to refrigerate the plant could pose great risk to residents should a leak occur
- The increase in semi-truck traffic would cause traffic backups on Highway 18 exit ramp, I-5 and city streets surrounding the former Weyerhaeuser Campus, as well as traffic safety concerns for pedestrians and nearby residents.
- No comprehensive plan for the development of the campus; the cumulative impacts of development would not be considered, instead, piecemeal development would prevail.
- Loss of trails and open green space that had been available to the public for almost 50 years
- Loss of healthy second growth forest, loss of wildlife habitat, and impacts to water quality in the North Lake-Hylebos Watershed
- Loss of home for the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and Pacific Bonsai Museum
- Economic concern that warehouses would not bring family wage jobs to the area
- The warehouse development would not meet the 1994 Concomitant Agreement that new developments must be built to integrate with the nature and character of the campus
- The Headquarter building and its landscape was not only a regional gem, but a national gem, eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and warehouses would compromise the original design philosophy of the campus, which emphasized integration with the landscape and environmental sensitivity.

The group of fearful and angry citizens at the council study session quickly transformed into one of the strongest action-oriented grassroots group that the City of Federal Way has seen. As a result, collaborative efforts amongst Save Weyerhaeuser Campus group, Rainier Audubon, the city of Federal Way, King County, the state of Washington, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden and Forterra have begun with a focus to conserve the 54-acre shoreline of North Lake, Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, the Pacific Bonsai Museum and trails for connectivity.

## What's been accomplished:

- The warehouse proposal for the fish processing plant was altered; Orca Bay Seafoods withdrew their contract with IRG;
- The Washington Trust for Historical Preservation declared the former Weyerhaeuser Campus as Washington States most endangered historical place
- Forterra and the city of Federal Way have an agreement to conserve the 54-acre shoreline of North Lake; funds are being raised, currently the city of Federal Way allocated \$1 million of Storm Water Management funds, King County has awarded \$1 million of 2018 Conservation Futures money and the State Capital Budget includes money to be awarded by the state once the State Capital Budget is approved. As well, long-term funding plans are in the works.
- Forterra is also working with Rhododendron Species Botanical Gardens and the Pacific Bonsai Museum
- IRG has committed to keeping the Headquarter exterior and surrounding ring road area in its original state

Much of this positive action would not have been possible without the input of concerned citizens. Constructive comments and concerns raised during public comment periods, at city council meetings, in one on one meetings with government workers and officials, and in meetings with other stakeholders have spring-boarded efforts to preserving, protecting and maintaining the nature and character of the campus. Thank you to all who have contributed. Our work is not done, we will need the power of public voice to help continue our efforts to conserve, protect and maintain the nature and character of the campus.

## What's happening now?

### Conservation Efforts

Forterra has begun conversation with IRG to purchase the 54-acre shoreline of along North Lake. However, at this point, there is no agreement.

### Land Use Proposals

IRG currently has proposed 5 warehouses:

Applications for 2 warehouses totaling more than 443,000 square feet are being reviewed by the city on parcels in the southeastern area of the historic Weyerhaeuser campus. These two warehouses would generate a total of 290 semi-truck trips per day.

- **Warehouse A**, a 225,950 square-foot-building, 36-40 feet high, on the former Preferred Freezer/Orca Bay site. It would bring **199 semi-truck trips daily**. The 16-acre parcel includes **1,059 trees; 659 of them are in the interior area (not in the required buffer) and largely expected to be lost to construction**. The city is expected to issue a final decision on the application soon. The decision could be appealed.
- **Warehouse B** is depicted as 217,300 square feet, with a similar height to Warehouse A. It would bring **191 semi truck trips daily**. The site has **1,004 trees; 848 of them are in the interior area (not in the required buffer) and**



largely expected to be lost to construction. Public comment on the application will be accepted until October 30, 2017.

A concept for three more warehouses, totaling more than 1 million square feet, has been submitted to the city with a request for a preapplication conference. The Greenline Business Park concept consists of three warehouses totaling more than 1 million square feet on 146 acres including the existing Technology Center. It will include 1,446 parking spaces and 111 spaces for semi-trailers. Access will be via four driveways off Weyerhaeuser Way. The 146-acres is part of the North Lake-Hylebos Watershed.

Land Sales

DaVita (Genesis KC Development, LLC), the parent company of DaVita Kidney Care and HealthCare Partners has purchased 11.5 acres of land from IRG to extend its current corporate location at 32275 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S., which houses 500 employees. DaVita has proposed a new 200,000-square-foot building in the OP-1 zone that is part of the 1994

Weyerhaeuser Concomitant agreement with the city of Federal Way. No critical areas are identified on the sites

Concerned about the proposed developments and their impact on the environment and traffic? Your input makes a difference! Please send your comments to the city of Federal Way:

Mayor Jim Ferrell [jim.ferrell@cityoffederalway.com](mailto:jim.ferrell@cityoffederalway.com)

Brian Davis, Community Development Director  
[brian.davis@cityoffederalway.com](mailto:brian.davis@cityoffederalway.com)

Mailing address:  
33325 8<sup>th</sup> Ave South, Federal Way, WA 98003

To learn more, visit the Save Weyerhaeuser Campus website:  
[saveweyerhaeusercampus.org](http://saveweyerhaeusercampus.org)

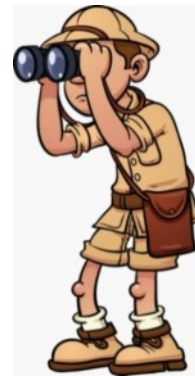
## Rainier Audubon Youth Naturalists

The Rainier Audubon Youth Naturalists have begun activities. Children (aged 5-12) and their parent/guardian meet twice a month to explore birds, their habitats and participate in conservation activities to protect wildlife. We meet twice a month: one indoor activity day and one outdoor fieldtrip day. Inspire a fledgling bird watcher! Come join our Youth Naturalist group. Next meetings:

**Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 1-3PM**  
Indoor activities at Federal Way United Methodist Church  
29645 51<sup>st</sup> Ave, Auburn, WA 98001

**Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> 1-3PM**  
Field trip Exploring ducks and waterfowl  
North Lake, Weyerhaeuser Pond and Rhododendron Species  
Botanical Garden

Contact Cindy Flanagan [camcalcin@hotmail.com](mailto:camcalcin@hotmail.com)



## Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey for 2017

Dear Pacific Shorebird Partners and Citizen Scientists,

This is an invitation to join the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey for 2017. This coordinated, multi-partner project, led by Point Blue Conservation Science will help guide shorebird conservation. You will be part of a team helping to protect shorebirds and wetlands

from Canada to South America through monitoring, research, and outreach. We need your help, as a biologist, a land steward, or a citizen scientist to help make this project a success.

I will be firming up dates for each area (Columbia River Estuary, Willapa Bay, and Grays Harbor) and sending out a doodle poll. This year we will conduct a 2-hour survey, which may include multiple survey sites around our local bays and estuaries.

Please let me know if you have availability and are interested so that I can include you in the doodle poll to select dates. It should be another great year for

shorebirds and an excellent opportunity to get outside!

Note: If you are not feeling confident in your shorebird ID skills, we can always pair you up with a previous observer.

Project site links:

<http://data.prbo.org/apps/pfss/>  
<http://data.prbo.org/apps/pfss/index.php?page=resources>

Vanessa Loverti  
Regional Shorebird Biologist  
USFWS Division of Migratory Birds  
911 NE 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232  
Office: 503-736-4497

Cell: 503-505-4048



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

"The good thing about science is that it's true, whether or not you believe in it."  
- Niel Degrasse Tyson



## 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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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