

The Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

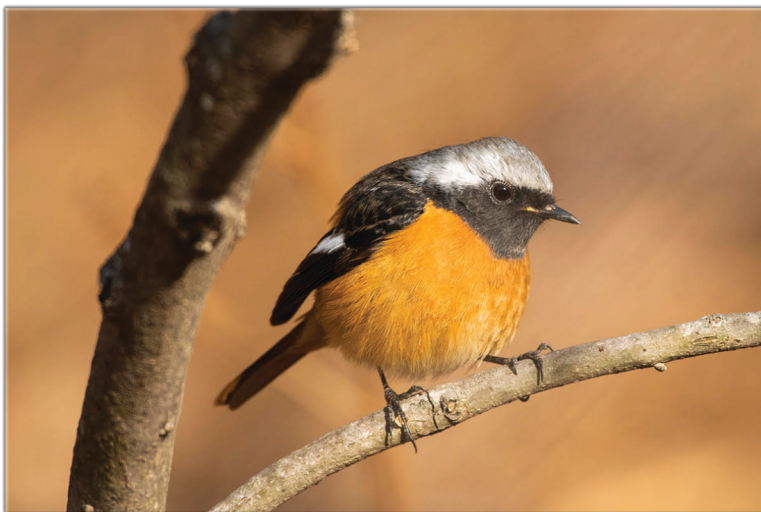
September 2019

Membership Meeting
7 pm September 16, 2019

“Winter birds of South Korea”

By Dave Cowell

When folks think of South Korea, a few things that come to mind are kimchee, the Demilitarized Zone, K-pop music or technology. The country has all of those things, but it also sits in the heart of the East Asian–Australasian Flyway and hosts a multitude of birds. It also includes some critical overwintering habitat for several endangered species. During the program, Dave will share the birds he has photographed and the surprising circumstances that have provided a some of them their winter home.



Dave Cowell spent his childhood days exploring the woods and creek that ran behind his Upstate New York home. This time in nature granted him a lifelong appreciation for nature. Photography has always nourished him and balanced the chaos of daily life. The challenge of creating compelling images of wildlife is his personal way of experiencing the wonders of nature and connecting with others. He is especially grateful for the opportunity to share his work with like minded people who love, respect and depend upon natural places to enhance their daily lives.

Join us at 6:30 PM for conservation and refreshments

Rainier Audubon programs are held at
Federal Way United Methodist Church
29645 - 51st Ave. So.
Auburn, WA 98001

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.

Upcoming Programs

- 10/21/2019 Robert Howson Sparrows
- 11/18/2019 Jay Galvin "Secretive Marsh Bird Survey"
- 12/16/2019 Photo Sharing and Brown Bag Auction
- 1/20/2020 Jerry Broadus "Birds of Borneo"
- 2/17/2020 Dan Streiffert TBD
- 3/16/2020 David Gluckman "Winter Birds of South East Arizona"
- 4/20/2020 Kim Adelson "The Dinosaurs Amongst Us"
- 5/18/2020 Sally Vogel "Ethiopia Birds & Mammals"



Resources

- **Rainier Audubon Facebook Page** www.facebook.com/rainieraudubonsociety/
- **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 Email List** - You can join our email list 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 www.RainierAudubon.org website.

Rainier Audubon Society Directory

Position	Name	Board Member	Phone	email
President	Jay Galvin	Yes	253-939-3094	gigalvin@comcast.net
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Lifetime Members	Max Prinsen	No	425-432-9965	max.prinsen@comcast.net
Lifetime Members	Erin Wojewodski-Prinsen	No	425-432-9965	

Crossbird Puzzle - Kenneth Schroeder

ACROSS:

1. Red or white breasted
7. Oak loving woodpecker
11. Exploding star
12. Largest owl in the world
14. Short for identification
15. Exhausted worker
16. Not Papa: just plain old ____
18. Nene state: abbr.
19. Chinese Philosophy: "The right way"
20. Willow ptarmigan state: abbr.
21. Largest North American corvid
23. Arctic, Caspian, Least, etc.
24. One of the finches
25. Bigger one than the "Downy"
27. Bird of peace
31. First responders supply it
32. American goldfinch state: abbr.

33. ____ - green swallow
35. House, Winter, Canyon, Cactus: etc.
37. Fish diver; smaller than most gulls
38. Count your fingers
39. Dippers do it
41. Penguin brood size
44. "Let it __, let it __"
45. Bullock owned one
49. Red chicken state: abbr.
50. "To Kill a Mockingbird", Atticus ____
52. How Condors fly
53. Hummer with a girl's name
54. ____ knot ; sandy beach bird
56. Very strong gust of air
58. Three ____ woodpecker
59. Western meadowlark state: abbr.
60. "Jonathan Livingston" was one
62. Cry of pain: interjection

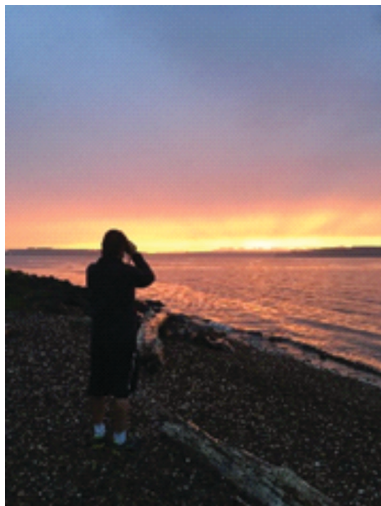
63. Colorful treetop feeder
66. The ultimate tiniest things
67. Eye color: see 37-down

DOWN:

1. Goatsucker group bird: after hours flyer
2. Trinitrotoluene
3. Night caller
4. Enclosure for birds
5. Raptor claw
6. RAS Newsletter
7. Yellowhammer state: abbr.
8. ____ waxwing
9. Carnival entertainment
10. Western meadowlark state: abbr.
13. Brown thrasher state: abbr.
17. Large wader with upturned bill
22. Eastern bluebird state: abbr.
23. Nisqually has two, daily
26. 78% Nitrogen, 21% Oxygen, 1% Other
28. Kitchen appliance bird
29. Bell, Hutton, and Cassin owned these
30. Long...long...long time period
32. Half of humanity
34. Spice winged duck
36. Arctic " ____ Passage": abbr.
37. Previously Rufous, now California
40. Large wader with downturned bill
42. Make a phone call: old style
43. Northern ____ tail duck
46. Red breasted worm eater
47. Common species color: see 45-across
48. Salamander life stage name
49. Species distribution map
50. "San Andreas" is one
51. They congregate in a murder
55. Banned pesticide
57. Niger and sunflower
58. Male turkey
61. Brown pelican state: abbr.
64. Cactus wren state: abbr.
65. Northern mockingbird state: abbr.

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Seen & Heard by Calen Randall



Can you believe it has been four months since the last Seen and Heard? The late spring and early summer months really zipped past like a pair of hummingbirds darting through my yard. With the April to August gap of articles, we miss a lot of great bird sightings and events. My favorite of such days occurs in

early May, just outside the cutoff window, the Global Big Day.

Started in 2015, the Global Big Day is a one-day international bird count that has dramatically increased in popularity in the last couple years. Participation varies wildly with some birders forming teams and scouring entire states to others sticking at home and submitting checklists from their yard. While individual Big Days are not new to the birding world, the Global Big Day was started by Cornell Lab of Ornithology in 2015 in hopes of generating mass eBird reports. This year's count alone featured record participation worldwide; nearly 35,000 participants and 6,875 species seen by birders on one day! The state of Washington should be proud as we produced just over 2% of the world's Global Big Day checklists on May 4th!

For many Global Big Day participants, the day is all about the birds and the massive specials totals that teams accrue. While I enjoy the excitement surrounding the birds, I love how the day highlights the many beautiful contrasting ecosystems we have at hand in our state, from plateaus of Eastern Washington to the tidal mudflat of the coast to the towering evergreens of the alpine Cascades. So many amazing habitats can be visited in one day. Last Global Big Day, our team, consisting of my mom Cindy, my sister Carley, my girlfriend Katerina, and me, chose to traverse the southwestern corner of our state. Here are a few of my favorites from the day:

Rainbow Falls State Park, Lewis County

Overshadowed by bordering counties that feature Grays Harbor, Mt. Rainier, and Nisqually, Lewis County is home to some underrated gems including Rainbow Falls State Park. Located half an hour west of Chehalis and Centralia, the park is a great place to visit on a summer weekday or a spring weekend before the campsites fill up. Several picnic tables and a large open grass field make it easy to sit and listen to calls of Hermit Warblers, which nest in the park. In case you are looking for a trek, the park also features some trails through riparian habitat

along the Chehalis River, including one up to the Rainbow Falls. Evening Grosbeak, American Dipper, and Cassin's Vireo have all been sighted within the park.

Tokeland Spit, Pacific County

The most well-known location on the list, Tokeland sits on the shore of Willapa Bay, the second largest estuary on the Pacific Coast. The tidal mudflats provide excellent feeding grounds for shorebirds. While Grays Harbor attracts more birding attention, several rare species including Willet and Whimbrel are far more common in Tokeland than any other location in the state. Stop at the Tokeland Marina at the end of the spit to scope the bay and scan the coastline or visit Fisher Avenue where large shorebird flocks congregate and roost.

Oakville, Grays Harbor County

When one thinks of Grays Harbor birding, the town, Oakville, likely does not leap to mind. However, Oakville is a special place, especially to Tahoma and Rainier Audubon, as founder Helen Engle was born and raised in the town. It was readily apparent why Helen's connection with nature was forged from an early age. It was as though the town was one enormous backyard, with woods and wetlands and fields all within a couple blocks distance. Several trails lead from the town to the Capitol Hill State Forest, home to Sooty Grouse and Northern Pygmy-Owls. Cemetery Road leads through a long stretch of farmland and prairie, where Lazuli Bunting and Chipping Sparrows can be seen. We stopped by the Harris Creek Marsh on Slate Street and enjoyed the sounds of a mixed flock of songbirds. If you are looking for a less common birding location, Oakville is a great town to visit.

Tumwater Falls Park, Thurston County

The last location on our list is a black sheep of the quartet. Tumwater Falls Park will not be winning any pristine park awards any time soon. Sandwiched between I 5 and a beige monstrosity of a building, the park's main attracting feature is a rushing falls with numerous fallen trees decorating the banks. Ironically, this feature not only attracts human visitors for photos, but also American Dipper who forage in the swift waters. The hydrophilic bird was practically the first creature we saw after we stepped out of the car. I usually associate dippers with clean and undeveloped waters of the Olympic Mountains or the Green River Valley, so it was bizarre to watch a pair of them dipping about in such an urban park.

Have you been to any favorite birding locations recently? Send your reports to calenbirds@hotmail.com

Bio: After 20 years of searching in his backyard, Calen has yet to find his quest bird, Blue-footed Booby. Currently a student in Atmospheric Science at the University of Washington, Calen has spent the last 9 years turning in overdue Seen and Heard articles (I promise this year will be an improvement!). Calen loves exploring new regions of the Pacific Northwest, but always looks forward to returning home to familiar hotspots in the South Puget Sound

Recent Sightings:

May 10th-12th, Sedona, Arizona

In mid-May, Katerina Grishina took a trip down to the deserts of Arizona. There she saw an abundance of superb southern specialties. At the Palatki Heritage Site, Katerina glimpsed lifer Lesser Goldfinch and a bush full of shy Juniper Titmice. The trails were busy with birds and she saw a Northern Mockingbird and a Northern Cardinal. A bird feeder in Red Rock State Park hosted a large mix of birds. Two pairs of hummingbirds, the familiar Anna's and the lifer Black-chinned sipped nectar. A gorgeous Summer Tanager stood perched in a nearby tree. Katerina enjoyed spotting species that reminded her of our Pacific Northwestern variants like Woodhouse Scrub-Jay and Gila Woodpeckers. White-throated Swifts were another popular bird as Katerina passed many nesting spots. Katerina's favorite sighting came at a brief random rest stop where she was greeted by a 'boil' of soaring Common Black Hawks! "They looked like an enormous ravens with light shadows all around the wing feathers," said Katya.

June 23, Kent WA

A large Black Bear is sighted in the Streiffert's back yard. He went straight for the sunflower seeds, emptied the feeder, and left quietly. I believe he has since been captured and moved to a remote location.

June 29th, 2019 Fort Casey State Park, Whidbey, Washington

While on a day trip to Whidbey Island, I stopped by Fort Casey State Park for a hike. Atop the barrack rooftops, we took in beautiful views of the Straight of Juan de Fuca, Port Townsend, and the craggy Olympic Mountain peaks. A scan of the shoreline yielded Rhinoceros Auklets and several loafing California Gulls. An orange flash caught my eye and I stared upwards at a circling Cliff Swallow who curiously flitted above my head as though watching me, rather than bustling about the park fly-catching like the other swallows. I heard a muffled peeping sound next to me, near one of the retired historical barrack cannons. I stared around the hillside before realizing that the peeping sound was emitting from a small hole on the side of the cannon. Sure enough, when I peered into the crevice, tucked in at the back was a fledgling Cliff Swallow! It was particularly interesting to watch the parents. Even when humans got between their young and their airspace they remained calm, but when a couple of curious crows stopped by the swallows became very aggressive and agitated, even dive-bombing a juvenile crow.

July 13th, 2019, Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Ridgefield, Clark, Washington

Possibly the most awesome experience of the summer was watching a Pied-billed Grebe gobble a bullfrog whole. When I first saw the ravenous grebe attempt to gulp the frog half its size I thought, "There is no way that little grebe is going to eat it in one piece." That grebe was out to prove me wrong. It threw its head back and down the frog slid, until it stopped, lodged in the grebe's gullet, legs dangling out like oddly positioned antlers. After a minute of pondering whether it would make it, the grebe swallowed hard and with a tremendous shudder, the grebe

squeezed it through. What a feat! For about five minutes we watched the grebe sit and stare blankly in a "food coma" before it finally plopped into the water. I can't imagine trying to swim with its recent weight gain!

In addition to a ravenous Pied-billed Grebe, Ridgefield featured a wide variety of birds. We were treated to a family of Virginia Rails crossing a pond in the S Loop. One-by-one young rail chicks would stare out of the bushes, cautiously slink across the mud flats, and skitter through the water to the safety of the reeds on the other side. Captivated by the rail family, we nearly missed an American Bittern who flapped across the path. The kerwee-kerwee calls of a Sora erupted from the grasses. We even managed to glimpse it slinking through the reeds!

July 19th, Auburn, King, WA

One July evening we got a text from neighbor Doreen Deaver asking for identification of a strange bird standing on a roof top. "Are you in eastern Washington?" I queried, for this bird had never been reported on eBird west of the Cascades. Doreen responded, "No, I'm at home." We took off uphill to meet Doreen and sure enough, perched on the crest of a roof was a Chukar! We shared great views of the thick-bodied bird with stubby red legs and a striking red eye. Throughout the week, the Chukar would pop up on various roof tops in the neighborhood. "How on earth would a Chukar reach Auburn from the eastern side of the Cascades?" After awhile, we stumbled upon the answer; Killers Birds, a game farm in Auburn that breeds pheasant, quails, and chukars for hunters. It seems our neighborhood Chukar never made "the incredible journey" over the Cascades but instead, quite literally, "flew the coop"!

August 2nd, Protection Island & Port Townsend, Jefferson, Washington

Led by the amazing trio of Michael O'Brien, Louise Zemaitis, and Glen Davis, Camp Cascades is a two week youth birding trip where young birders are exposed to a plethora of Pacific Northwestern flora and fauna. The campers bird around the Puget Sound at Fort Casey and the surrounding areas before heading up to Mt. Rainier for alpine hikes and majestic views. For the past three years, the Camp Cascades leaders have graciously invited my mom, sister, and I for a day trip on their camp. This year, we were treated to superb seabirding at Protection Island via the Puget

Sound Express. At the marina in Port Townsend we viewed an enormous flock of Heerman's Gulls. Unfortunately, there have been several poor gull breeding seasons in a row and every Heerman's Gull we saw was an adult. The campers arrived abuzz from a Cassin's Auklet sighting on the ferry from Fort Casey and everyone was eager to head out to Protection Island in search of highlight species, Tufted Puffin who breed on the island. On our way we passed more Rhinoceros Auklets than I had seen in my life, numerous Common Murre, and even a trio of Red-necked Phalaropes. "You always manage to see those phalaropes," I teased Michael, reminiscent of a day trip where Michael found a phalarope in a pond at 7,000 feet elevation at Sunrise on Mt. Rainier. The droves of Bald Eagles on the hillside and the hundreds of calling Pigeon Guillemot thrilled the campers. Suddenly, in flew the prize, a puffin! Spectacular views and photos were shared by all on the boat.

A big thanks to Michael, Louise, and Glen for including us on a fantastic trip and a shoutout to Puget Sound Express. The blueberry buckle and hot chocolate were delicious and the captain of the boat did a great job giving us all good views and was also very knowledgeable about birds.



Field Trips - Barbara Petersen



Weekly Birdwalks at Nisqually

Wednesdays 8 AM to 12 PM

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

Fort Steilacoom Park Bird Walk

Tues, September 3, 2019, 8AM-12Noon

Join Russ Smith and/or co-leaders rain or shine for this monthly walk on the first Tuesday to explore the diverse habitat types in the 342-acre park, where 146 species have been seen/heard.

No need to reserve a spot, but contact Russ at wrsmith@msn.com if you'd like more information. All ages/skill levels welcome.

Bring binoculars, field guide, weather appropriate clothing.

Directions: Meet at West end of paved lot between old red barns and Waughop Lake. Enter the park off Steilacoom Blvd, turning south at traffic light at NE corner of park at intersection with 87th Ave SW, then turning right into the park. Immediately turn left around the south side of the playfield, proceed to end of Dresden Lane (aka Waughop Lake Rd) to paved lot past barns.

Lake Fenwick & Normandy Park Cove

Burien Wild Birds Unlimited Bird Walk
Sat, Sept 7th, 2019, 8:15-12noon

Join Barbara Petersen for a late summer visit to Lake Fenwick. We'll search the water for returning ducks, the woods, trails and edges for local birds and possible migrants. We'll move on to Normandy Park Cove Beach and Park to scan for returning saltwater species. We'll check the Cove pond, marsh, and walk a short portion of the boardwalk, stopping by noon.

To sign up call the WBU store at 206 241 3201, or text/email Barbara at 253 389 3204/BPbatfan@aol.com. Bring binoculars, camera and warm layers. We'll meet at 8:15 at the store, 15858 1st Ave S, Burien, 98148, to form carpools, leaving promptly at 8:30.

Puget Sound Bird Fest

September 13-15, 2019

Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds, Washington, is an annual fall celebration of birds and nature found on the beautiful shores of Puget Sound. This three-day event includes speakers, guided walks, field trips on land and water, exhibits and educational activities for children and adults.

The Friday evening Keynote Presentation, Understanding Shorebirds - **the Miracle of Migration, by award-winning photographer Tim Boyer**, will cover six of Washington's common shorebirds.

Edmonds has 263 different bird species documented within the city limits, with 180-190 seen during a typical year. What a great place to visit for birding, and what better time than during this annual festival!

Visit www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com for more information.

'Birthday Birding' at the Beach

Sat, September 14, 2019, 8AM-12Noon
Seahurst Beach and Park, Burien

Join Steve Johnson, Barbara Petersen and Curt Petersen for a great morning of 'Birthday Birding'! Calling all birders with September birthdays, and all other birders, too, to explore the beach and trails of Seahurst Park with us.

We'll walk along the wide beach trails and amble up the maintenance road at a leisurely pace. If weather allows we'll also walk a forest trail. We hope to find and study returning waterfowl and sea ducks as well as raptors, gulls and passerines. Come help us spot any migrant species working their way south through the park. At noon we'll head for an optional post field trip lunch at a local restaurant to be named later, where, whether you have a September birthday or not, we'll celebrate another great year of birding and living.

To sign up call/email Steve at 253 941 9852 / johnsonsj5@msn.com or Barbara at 253 389 3204 / BPbatfan@aol.com.

Coming from the south, meet Steve at the Star Lake Park & Ride at 8:00AM, on west side of I-5 north of S 272nd in Federal Way. If you live north, meet Barbara and Curt at Seahurst Park's beach parking lot at 8:15AM. Bring sturdy shoes, warm layers and optics.

Shadow Lake Nature Preserve's "Frog Frolic" Volunteer Help Needed

The Shadow Lake Nature Preserve's "Frog Frolic" is Saturday, September 14. Rainier Audubon will be participating with an information booth. This year's event will feature bog tours, live music, information booths, a silent auction, and activities for children.

RAS could use several volunteers to help out with setup and staffing during the one-day event. If we have several volunteers, there would be some free time for all to enjoy the day's activities and do some "Bog Birding"! If you can help out between 12pm-5pm, please contact Ken Schroeder.

The Shadow Lake peat moss bog is a 5,000-year-old remnant from the ice age. The bog is home to plants found nowhere else in Washington; including Pacific Sundews and Bog Cranberry. The accessible boardwalk trail allows visitors to explore this interesting habitat. The preserve is close to Lake Youngs and not far from HWY 18 in Renton. The "Frog Frolic" event details can be found online using the link; <https://shadowhabitat.org/frog-frolic/>

Shadow Lake Nature Preserve
21656 184th Ave SE
Renton, WA 98058.

Please contact Ken Schroeder if you can volunteer some time at this fun event..
Membership Chair
kenschroeder@msn.com
253-939-7470



Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) 2019

This year's convention is hosted by Audubon Southwest Chapters: Vancouver, Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, Tahoma and Black Hills.

We'll meet September 27-29, 2019 at the Vancouver Water Resources Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA 98661

Here you can find **REGISTRATION** information
https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/1_rIKDm0YUmgG2J84iKb1Q2

ACCOMMODATIONS

Below are the two hotels where we have reserved blocks of rooms for ACOW attendees and their guests at a discounted rate. If you would like to book with them, please give them a call and say you'd like to reserve in the Audubon block.

Days Inn & Suites
\$80/night plus tax
[9107 NE Vancouver Mall Dr., Vancouver, WA 98662](#)
6.7 miles from Water Resources Center
To reserve: Call 1-360-253-5000 or book online and ask for the

SAVE THE DATE!
SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2019

AUDUBON STATEWIDE MEETING 2019

Join us in Vancouver, WA
For the birds and the places they need.
Sep. 27 - WA Conservation Committee and Education Committee meetings
Sep. 28 - Annual Statewide Meeting
Sep. 29 - Field Trips to Steigerwald Lake Wildlife Refuge



group rate in the reserved Audubon block.

The Heathman Lodge
\$119/night plus tax
[7801 NE Greenwood Dr., Vancouver, WA 98662](#)

6 Miles from Water Resources Center
To reserve: Call 1-888-475-3100 and ask for the group rate in the reserved Audubon block.

Agendas coming soon!

Bird of the Month: Black-headed Grosbeaks

Reprint Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited, Burien

In western North America in spring and summer, a sweet lilting song drifts down from the tree-tops sounding somewhat like a robin that has had a little too much to drink! It's the beautiful warble of a Black-headed Grosbeak.

- Black-headed Grosbeak males are rich orange-cinnamon with a black head and black and white wings. Females and immature males are brown above with warm orange or buff on the breast. Some have streaks on the sides of the breast. In flight, bright yellow flashes under the wings. A hefty songbird, Black-headed Grosbeaks have very big, grayish bills. Their heads are also large and their necks, short and thick.
- Black-headed Grosbeaks hop about in dense foliage gleaning insects and seeds. A combination of large trees and rich understory seems to be the ideal habitat.
- Black-headed Grosbeaks' massive bills make them well equipped for cracking seeds, but those beaks are just as useful for snatching and crushing insects or snails. Beetles, spiders and other insects and animals make up about 60% of their breeding-season food. Fruits and seeds make up the rest. They will feed readily on sunflower seeds at feeders.
- After spring migration, male and female Black-headed Grosbeaks form tight-knit pairs. Males court females with vigorous singing and striking displays called "nuptial flights" lasting 8 to 10 seconds. The male will flutter up from a perch, singing and spreading his wings and tail to reveal the bold white-on-black patterns. He will rise several feet into the air before settling back down on the same perch.
- Black-headed Grosbeaks choose a nesting site in the outer branches of a deciduous tree or bush near a stream. The height of the placement is usually 25 feet or less. The female constructs the nest using slim twigs, stems, rootlets and pine needles. She lines it with finer stems, rootlets, hair, string and green material. The construction is very loose which may provide ventilation for keeping the nest and eggs cool.
- The female will lay 2 - 5 eggs that are pale to greenish blue and speckled with brown or reddish brown. The eggs will be incubated for 12 - 14 days. The chicks are hatched helpless, eyes closed and nearly naked with sparse grayish white down on apricot skin. They will fledge in 10 - 14 days.
- Both mom and dad sing on the nest, sit on the eggs and feed the young.

Here are some other cool, fun facts about Black-headed Grosbeaks:



- The nests of Black-headed Grosbeaks are so thinly constructed that eggs often can be seen from below through the nest.
- Black-headed Grosbeaks' huge beaks allow them to eat large grasshoppers, crickets and other insects that have tough exoskeletons.
- By singing a "male" song, the female Black-headed Grosbeak can trick her mate into thinking a rival male is nearby, forcing him to stay closer to the nest. Her song is generally a simplified version of the male's.
- Black-headed Grosbeaks are one of the few birds capable of eating toxic monarch butterflies. They discard the wings before eating the butterfly in an apparent attempt to reduce the amount of toxins they ingest.
- Black-headed Grosbeaks have been known to feed at oriole nectar feeders. The male Black-headed Grosbeak does not get its adult breeding plumage until it is two years old.

Continued on Page 9

Warehouse A appeal hearings wrap up; hearing examiner's decision expected in early September

<http://saveweyerhaeusercampus.org/swc-appeals/>

After five days of hearings, the Save Weyerhaeuser Campus appeal of IRG's Warehouse A project concluded on Aug. 9, 2019. A major focus of SWC's appeal is the contention that the City of Federal Way was required to consider cumulative impacts from all five of IRG's proposed warehouses on the campus, not just impacts of Warehouse A.

The hearing examiner is expected to rule in the case in early September.

Listen to the hearing here:

[June 20](#) [June 21](#) [August 7](#)
[August 8](#) [August 9](#)

The hearing began June 20-21, but was continued for more than six weeks after the hearing examiner ruled that public comment had to be allowed under the city's appeal regulations. The August dates were the earliest available to accommodate publication of the public notice and the schedules of all the parties involved. The third day of the hearing (Aug. 7) included oral public comments; the public was also allowed to submit written comments.

Warehouse A is the first of five warehouse/industrial buildings proposed by Industrial Realty Group of California on the historic Weyerhaeuser campus. The appeal is the latest step in SWC's nearly three-year fight to assure that responsible, appropriate development and mitigation occur on the campus, which may qualify as a [National Historic Landmark](#).

[Click to read our original appeal.](#)

Seeking the 'big picture' view

SWC is seeking review of the cumulative effects from **ALL** of IRG's projects on the campus, so that the

"big picture" of impacts to traffic, the environment and the integrity of the historic design can be appropriately considered and mitigated.

Industrial Realty Group's other two projects on the campus -- Warehouse B (adjacent to Warehouse A), and the three-warehouse Greenline Business Park on the northern part of the campus -- are continuing through the application review process. (In case you're confused, IRG initially renamed the campus Greenline but more recently changed the name to Woodbridge Corporate Park. The permit applications were filed under the Greenline name, so that's why it continues being used.)

The SWC legal team appealed the city's SEPA (environmental) decision for Warehouse A that was issued in October 2018 and the land-use decision that was issued in February 2019. The two appeals were combined into a single hearing as required by law.

Under the Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance for Warehouse A, the city specified several mitigation measures required during construction, and a provision that Weyerhaeuser Way must be completely rebuilt if more than 28 trucks per week travel north of the project site.

However, the Washington State Department of Transportation and the King County Department of Transportation raised concerns about significant impacts of traffic from all three projects, and requested they be studied comprehensively, not one at a time. A WSDOT representative was among experts testifying for SWC in the appeal.

In addition, the Puyallup and Muckleshoot Tribes requested further environmental study of

cumulative impacts to the Hylebos stream system, which downstream provides habitat for endangered species including steelhead, chinook and bull trout. Millions of dollars have been spent on habitat restoration downstream from the Warehouse A site.

After reviewing the comments, the city added a requirement (requested by the WSDOT) that IRG expand part of the off-ramp from Highway 18 to Weyerhaeuser Way, but did not require comprehensive study of the cumulative impacts from the three project proposals.

Save Weyerhaeuser Campus also believes that comprehensive review is required because of the significant cumulative impacts of the three projects -- including the potential of more than 800 semi-truck trips to the campus every day. Although IRG has submitted these projects separately, they share common ownership, road system, stream system and zoning.

You can support Save Weyerhaeuser Campus' legal advocacy with a [donation of any amount](#).

Save Weyerhaeuser Campus is a 501(c)(3) organization: EIN 81-3674786

- The Black-headed Grosbeak's species name, *melanocephalus*, mean "black-headed". Its genus name, *Pheucticus*, refers either to the Greek *phreuticus* for "shy" or *phycicus* meaning "painted with cosmetics".
- The oldest known Black-headed Grosbeak was a male, at least 11 years, 11 months old, recaptured and rereleased in Montana.



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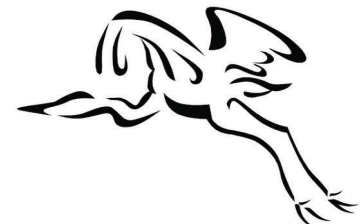
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RAS Chapter membership includes 9 issues of the Heron Herald annually but does not include AUDUBON magazine