

The

Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

March 2013

March General Membership Meeting
Monday March 18, 2013 7:00 p.m.
Federal Way United Methodist Church

Birds and Natural History of Costa Rica

Dennis Paulson

Costa Rica is a jewel in the crown of tropical ecotourism. It has an abundance and diversity of habitats, from beaches and mangroves through open dry woodland and dense rain and cloud forest to high volcanoes. Great expanses of these habitats are preserved in parks, and the infrastructure is well developed for tourism, with hotels and lodges situated in and near these pristine habitats. The bird life is nothing short of spectacular, and the rest of the wildlife is just as exciting.



Join Dennis Paulson for an evening of photos showing off the natural history of this beautiful Central American country.

Dennis Paulson retired from his position as the Director of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound seven years ago but continues to teach and write. After receiving his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Miami, he has taught college and adult-education courses about natural history for over 40 years, and he continues to be active in local educational programs. One of his primary goals as a biologist has been to blend the science of biology with the study and appreciation of nature. His special research subjects have long been birds and dragonflies, but from childhood his interests spanned the breadth of nature, and he has traveled throughout the world to experience nature, from Arctic to Antarctic. He has written or coauthored 90 scientific papers and nine books, including *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*, *Dragonflies of Washington*, *Alaska: The Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guide*, *Shorebirds of North America: The Photographic Guide*, *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West* and *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East*.



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.

Refreshments and good conversation are available before and after the program.

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.

President's Message by Dan Streiffert

Nisqually Owlets—February 15, 2013

The owlets were in a perfect location this year; about 20 feet off



the ground with an unobstructed view from the gravel path next to the Nisqually River. You could look straight into the nest!

The lighting was not great that day, so I went back on Sunday afternoon hoping for some evening sun. The lighting was perfect, but the owls had fledged! One was just below the boardwalk, next to the water in a location impossible to photograph. The other was missing. Momma was in the trees watching the photographers. For a video, check out http://danstreiffert.smugmug.com/Other/Recent-Photos/5478949_xWhQLX

RAINIER AUDUBON OFFICERS

President	Dan Streiffert*	253-796-2203
Vice President	Steve Feldman*	360-802-5211
Treasurer	Jim Tooley*	253-854-3070
Secretary	Heather Gibson*	253-856-9812
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Education Chair	Annette Tabor*	253-927-3208
Christmas Bird Count Coordinator	Nancy Streiffert	253-796-2203
Board Member	Max Prinsen	425-432-9965
Board Member	Erin Wojewodski-Prinsen	425-432-9965
Board Member	Alex Juchems	253-529-8996
Board Member	Lisa Mesplay	
Board Member	Ed Stanton	206-870-3107
Board Member	Terry Thurber	206-450-5446
Publicity	Tom Sernka	253-529-8970

*Also serves as Board Member.

Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the church conference room and are open to all members.

Upcoming Programs

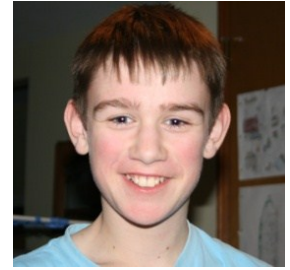
- 5/20/2013—Elena Fox - Crows (West Sound Wildlife Center)

Volunteers Needed!

Please contact a Board Member

- Assistant Treasurer—need someone familiar with Quick Books to work with Jim Tooley.
- CBC Coordinator— Contact Nancy Streiffert
- Door Greeters for Membership Meetings
- Articles for Heron Herald—send to dan_streiffert@hotmail.com

Seen and Heard by Calen Randall



Coexist. Never before did I think that I would be using this word to describe raptors. Over the winter I have been birding frequently along West Valley Highway, between 37th Street and 277th Street. That stretch measures roughly a quarter of a square mile. When out birding in that area, I repeatedly see eight regulars: two Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Red-tailed Hawks, one male American Kestrel, a Merlin and a Barn Owl. What amazes me most is that on such a small patch of land all of these five species can coexist. What makes this little area such a raptor hotspot? How is it that all of these raptors are getting enough to eat?

While observing along this raptor alley, I found there is a wide variety of prey in this area: insects, small birds, waterfowl, rodents, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Each raptor species likes to eat a particular prey. The American Kestrel grips the telephone wire above the ditch and bobs its tail, waiting for a tasty mole to peek out of its mound. There are more than enough rodents in this area to be shared amongst the Red-tails, the Barn Owl and the American Kestrel. The Sharp-shinned Hawks can frequently be seen standing in a tree, overlooking the brush area for small birds like starlings, blackbirds, sparrows and robins. Other days, they are standing on the snags in the Oak Harbour Freight Lines ponds, clutching an unidentifiable bundle of feathers. When not harassing or pirating the Sharp-shins, the Merlin can be seen zipping across the sea of pumpkins while scanning for its next treasure. Unfortunately, the Merlin has an aversion to the murder of crows that conglomerate near 277th Street!

Farther north I have enjoyed watching a Harlan's Hawk. My first sighting of it came on the Christmas Bird Count when Charlie Wright pointed it out in the trees bordering Mill Creek in Kent. Since December, the Harlan's has often been perched on a branch or a light post overlooking the Green River on Frager Road. I

often wonder if it is scowling at every passing car or merely sizing up what there is to eat. Interestingly, up until the 1980s, the Harlan's Hawk was considered its own species, mainly because it has different markings than other Red-tails. Now it belongs as a subspecies of the Red-tailed Hawk. Should Harlan's Hawks be considered a separate species?

Recent Bird Sightings:

Thanks to birders Jay Galvin, Barbara Peterson, Carol Schultz, and Ralph and Sandra Embrey for their reports.

Jan 26th Jay spotted a flock of 52 **Trumpeter Swans** on the Enumclaw Plateau! He also saw four adult **Bald Eagles** and 6 juveniles in the same area.--Jay Galvin

Jan 30th Carol Schultz, from the south viewing tower at Kent Ponds, watched 18 **Trumpeter Swans** land in the Kent Ponds lagoon. Later, she heard and saw a **Northern Shrike**. Carol spotted a female **Northern Harrier** flying around the meadow. Carol also saw two **Bald Eagle**, several **Red-tailed Hawks**, a **Scrub Jay**, and 72 **Eurasian Collared Doves**! At the end of Carol's bird-packed adventure, she viewed 25 Trumpeter Swans and two **Tundra Swans** on 83rd Avenue!--Carol Schultz

Jan 20-28th Barbara Peterson saw 29 **Trumpeter Swans** at Kent Ponds. Barbara reported that "they all lifted off by 10:30 leaving in small groups." She thought that they had roosted there. The next day, she saw 14 trumpeters on the east side of Washington Street. A week later she spotted eight.--Barbara Peterson, Federal Way

Feb 4th The Embreys had a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk** swoop through their yard. They also watched some **Bushtits** at their suet feeder, and some **Dark-Eyed Juncos** and **Spotted Towhees** "cleaning up the grounds".--Ralph and Sandra Embrey

Feb. 14th While the Pacific Northwest is enjoying an echo eruption of Snowy Owls, I learned from my grandparents that they are

having quite a boom of Great-Grey Owls in their area in North Eastern Manitoba, Canada. Normally, the Great-Grey Owls are further north.

Jan 29th I saw 31 **Trumpeter Swans** at Smith Brother's Farms in Kent. Later that day I saw 16 trumpeters, including four juveniles, at Spooner Farms in Puyallup. Afterwards, I discovered two groups of swans in Enumclaw. -Calen Randall, Auburn

Mystery Bird of the Month

The Embreys heard this bird hooting in their backyard at about 11 at night. Here are the clues:

I am from the family *strigidae*

A group of me is called a "bazaar", a "glaring", a "wisdom", or a "stooping" of owls

I have been spotted catching prey bigger than myself, including rabbits and Mallards

I am sometimes called a Little Horned Owl, Cat Owl, Mouse Owl, Puget Sound Owl, or a Washington Owl

I don't yell, holler, scream, or cry, but my name indicates that I'm noisy

I don't have whiskers, and my counterpart lives on the eastern side of the continent

Who am I?

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

Answer: Western-Screech Owl

Bio: Calen is a 13 year old birder. He enjoys birding around Lake Fenwick and Boeing Ponds—especially with Charlie Wright. Calen is thrilled to revive Charlie's 'Seen and Heard'. When not birding, Calen can be seen flying up and down the ice at Kent Valley Ice Center

Field Trips by Carol Schulz



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. The extension adds an additional 2.0 miles total, so the whole walk including the boardwalk extension is now 4.0 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

Des Moines to the Kent Valley

Saturday, March 16

8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Leader: Carol Schulz

Join our RAS group as we visit Des Moines Beach and Marina and Salt Water State Park, and then go down to the Kent Valley to walk some trails, and visit ponds and wetlands. On the salt water we will seek seabirds going into breeding plumage. In the valley, raptors may be active, and GB

Heron may be up in some of the 30 nests behind the Animal Shelter.

Bring: Warm clothes, waterproof shoes or boots or old tennis shoes, lunch, snacks, and drinks. We may walk up to 2 miles. PLEASE BRING YOUR DISCOVER PASS for the STATE PARK if you have a pass or want to drive! Scopes are very welcome.

Meet: At the Kent-Des Moines P&R. Take I-5 to exit 149 and turn toward Kent. Drive about 3 blocks, and turn left onto Military Rd. P&R is on the left. People who want to leave early may do so.

Sign-Up: Contact Carol Schulz, 206-824-7618, carol.schulz50@gmail.com.

Boat Trip! Circumnavigation of Bainbridge Island

Sunday, March 24, 9:45am - 2:00pm

Winslow City Docks, Cost \$75.

Leader: George Gerdts

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

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

Sign up: This trip is being offered through the Bainbridge Island (BI) Parks and Recreation Department. YOU MUST CALL THE BI PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AT 206-842-2306 ext. 118 IN ORDER TO REGISTER FOR THIS TRIP! Participants can sign up with a credit card and get a receipt right over the phone. The cost is \$75.00. Anyone who is a member of Rainier Audubon Society (RAS) and indicates that when signing up will get 20% of the cost (\$15.00) donated to RAS. If you leave your e-mail address when registering, George can forward explicit directions and a map.

Soos Creek Owl Prowls

Saturday Night, Mar 23

10:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Leaders: Joe and Liz Miles

Join Friends of Soos Creek Park volunteers Joe and Liz Miles for this late night program and walk exploring the world of owls. We'll start indoors for the first hour learning calls, ID, and info about our local owls, then venture outdoors to prowl for owls. There is limited space for this program. Reservations are required. Best for adults and children over 13 years. Group size is limited to 15. The owls program is sponsored by Kent City Recreation Dept.

Meet: Meet at the Soos Creek Park Maintenance Shop. Soos Creek Park/Trail 24810 148th Avenue SE, Kent.

Directions: Take James Street east from Kent. To reach James St, exit I-167 at Willis, turn east to Central, and North to James. Travel east on James as it becomes SE 240th St. Travel about 4 miles, as 240th dips and turns downhill. Turn right (south) on 148th Ave near the bottom of the hill. The Soos Creek maintenance yard will be

(Continued on page 9)

The Month of May is BIRDATHON



W hat 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 \$5,000, 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

Bird-a-Thon Sponsor Form

Duplicate as needed

I am happy to support the 2013 Rainier Audubon Bird-a-Thon!

- I am happy to pledge \$ _____ per species
- I prefer to make a flat donation of \$ _____
- I would like ____ tickets to Birding at the Streiffert's at \$15 / individual or \$20 / family for a total of \$ _____

My Check is enclosed, payable to Rainier Audubon Society (Donations are Tax Deductible!!!)

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Are you a member of National Audubon? Yes ___ No ___

Mail Pledge to:
 Rainier Audubon
 PO Box 778
 Auburn, WA 98071

Bird of the Month: Pileated Woodpecker

Reprint Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited, Burien

The Pileated Woodpecker is one of the largest forest birds on the continent.

Pileated Woodpecker nest holes are uniquely rectangular and offer crucial shelter to many species including swifts, owls, ducks, bats and pine martens.

The Pileated Woodpecker digs rectangular holes in trees to find ants.

When the Pileated Woodpecker excavates or hammers on a tree looking for food it hits the tree with its beak with a force equivalent to slamming into the tree at 25 mph.

The Pileated Woodpecker and all woodpeckers have an enlarged brain case which allows the brain to sit above the level of the direct hammer impact.

The Pileated Woodpecker's tongue is three times as long as its bill.

Pileated Woodpeckers are monogamous and a pair will stay together on its territory year round, defending the territory in all seasons but tolerating new arrivals during the winter.

Other woodpeckers and House Wrens may come and feed at the excavation site of a Pileated Woodpecker.

Pileated Woodpeckers prefer large trees for nesting and depend on dead and mature trees and snags.

The Pileated Woodpecker's primary food is carpenter ants, supplemented by other ants, woodboring beetle larvae, termites and other insects. They will also eat wild fruits and nuts and will visit backyard feeders for seeds or suet.

The male Pileated Woodpecker excavates the nesting hole with some help from the female. The hole is lined only with wood chips left from the construction. It takes 3 - 6 weeks to create the nesting hole and it can be anywhere from 10 to 24 inches deep.

Pileated Woodpeckers lay 3 - 5 white eggs with the average clutch size being 3 - 4.

The oldest known Pileated Woodpecker was 12 years, 11 months old.



Photo by Dan Streiffert

Northwest Native Plant Society Native Plant Sale

The Northwest Native Plant Society Native Plant Sale is Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 10-4. NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR: Mercedale Park, Mercer Island, 77th Avenue SE and SE 32nd Street; Mercer Island 98040 this is a great opportunity to buy native plants that enhance your landscape, are adapted to our climate and weather, are beautiful and provide food and habitat for our native wildlife. See information at our meeting about native plants especially popular with birds or contact Nancy Streiffert for ideas on what works (and what doesn't!) depending on your landscape. nancy_streiffert@hotmail.com Go to wnps.org to find a list of species on offer a few weeks before the sale. Go to wnps.wordpress.com to find natives useful in the garden.



Mewsings from Millie

Hello and welcome back to my musings!

I think I've mentioned before that when my people go home to their respective dwellings they always leave the radio on for me. Most likely it is left on KPLU and every morning I look forward to learning something from the Birdnote program. This month, I'd like to share with you some of the interesting tidbits and stories I have heard.

Have you ever wondered where the term "jaywalker" originated? Back in the early 1900's, cars were becoming more common and stepping out into traffic was dangerous. During this time the word "jay" was slang for a hick or country bumpkin. The good people of Boston had a very low tolerance for rural folk and coined the term "jaywalker" to describe anyone new to the ways of the city and modern traffic signals and impudent enough - like a jay - to step in front of traffic.

Trumpeter Swans are the world's largest water bird with a wingspan of up to nine feet.

The bills of young Red Crossbills are not crossed when they hatch but cross as they grow.

The Northern Goshawk is the largest hawk of the northern forest and the most fearsome and admired of all birds of prey. Falconers have regarded the goshawk as a bird of great distinction since at least medieval times. Attila the Hun even had an image of a goshawk on his helmet.

A Northern Gannet was flying over the Atlantic Ocean near New Jersey's south shore just as Superstorm Sandy arrived. The gannet just happened to have a tiny GPS transmitter on a tail feather so scientists were able to track its movements. As the gannet neared the northern edge of the storm, the crafty bird suddenly did an about-face and flew quickly north and east beyond the reach of the winds and out of harm's way. After the storm, the gannet flew back to where its detour had begun!

The Downy Woodpecker is the smallest

woodpecker in the United States and can be seen coast to coast and border to border in 49 states.

The American Bittern nests in marshes throughout much of Canada and winters along both U.S. coasts south into Central America. Their deep, resonant calls have earned it the nicknames of "thunder-pumper" and "stake-driver".

The Suquamish tribe tells the story of why the American Robin has a red breast. Many years ago, the South Wind blew long and hot. The animals banded together and sought out the source of the wind which ended up being a fortress on top of a rocky mountain. At night, the animals crept into the fortress and defeated the men who protected the South Wind. Afterward, the animals danced around the fire, all except the Robin who refused to dance. Robin sat quietly and stared into the fire staying so long that his breast became red and remains red to this day.

Owl's eyes are fixed in their sockets so they must turn their heads to look around. Although my people and I can move our eyes around, we can't turn our heads like owls do. That's because owls have fourteen neck vertebrae which is twice as many as humans have. Owls can turn their heads 270 degrees which is 90 more degrees further than a human.

I hope you have found some of this fascinating and or amazing. Birds certainly are awesome - maybe not as awesome as I am but awesome none the less.

Until next time,

Millie

The Muse of Mews

Birding Trail's Puget Loop For Sale \$4.95

Delight your favorite birders with the newest – the seventh and final – map of the Great Washington State Birding Trail: the Puget Loop. Hot off the press, this signature route features 220 of our 346 annually recorded bird species around Puget Sound from Seattle to Mt. Rainier, plus Lake Washington, Kitsap Peninsula; and Vashon, Bainbridge, Whidbey and San Juan islands. .

On Sale at our Membership Meeting and at Wild Birds Unlimited (Burien Store <http://www.southseattle.wbu.com/>).

All proceeds go to Rainier Audubon.

Birding in Seattle and King County: Site Guide and Annotated List

by Eugene S. Hunn

I picked this book up at the Barnes and Noble in downtown Seattle for \$21.95. I checked, and Amazon only sells it through third party sellers.

This book, published in 2012, is the second edition, and the updated version increases the 1982 page count from 160 to over 250 pages. Within the book are excellent maps, charts, and both colored and black-and-white photographs.

Birding in Seattle and King County is primarily composed of three sections along with several appendices. The author describes thirteen King County habitats, from open saltwater to riparian woodland to an urban setting. Hunn discusses the King County locations of each habitat, the historical presence of those habitats, and the birds that inhabit those areas.

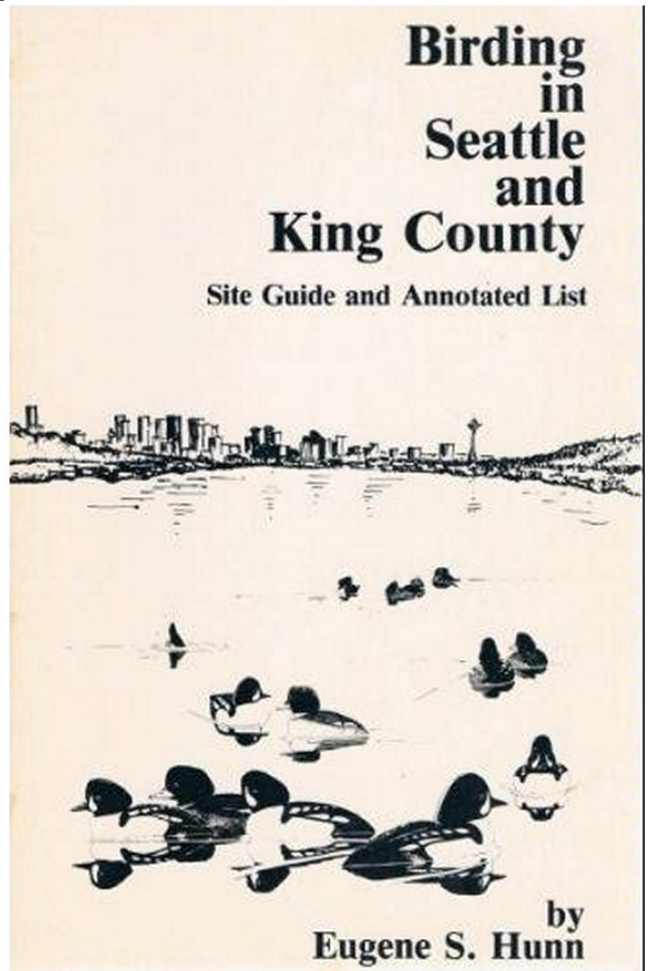
In the next section, eleven King County Birding areas are covered (four of which are in South King County), within which specific birding sites are described. Excellent maps combine with detailed directions (the author sometimes even says where to park) of birding sites lead readers to a variety of locations. The author lists particular birds that may be seen at each site and the months during

which they are present. If you want to see both American dippers and Lewis's woodpeckers, the Skykomish area is a good bet. Closer to home, both Marymoor Park and the waterfront trail between Washington Park Arboretum and Foster Island are likely areas to see Bullock's orioles.

A large portion of the book details the patterns of occurrences of King County birds. The locations of each bird species (and sometimes subspecies) are stated. Months and seasons of residence are listed, and the descriptions are accompanied with charts. Have you seen evening grosbeaks in your yard in the spring? They are on their way to the forests of the east slopes of the Cascades to nest, and you should consider yourself lucky if they visit you, as Hunn states that flocks of evening grosbeaks are not as plentiful in King County as they once were.

Towards the end of the book, the author includes non-avian species, ranging from rodents to whales to frogs. Dall's porpoise, which looks like a miniature orca, is the area's most common whale.

Eugene S. Hunn has included all of the information available to him about birds



and birding in King County in *Birding in Seattle and King County*, and the book will definitely be used during my bird-watching outings. Also, the book does not overly-focus on Seattle areas, but instead covers all areas of the county. I definitely recommend this book, and I'm glad I noticed it at Barnes and Noble.

-Laura Lavington

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 2013.

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.



Save Habitat and Diversity of Wetlands

What's A Bog?

A bog is a type of wetland that is dominated by acid-loving moss, including sphagnum moss. Sphagnum moss releases tannins and acids that leach into the lake and groundwater, creating

a highly acidic environment.

This high acidity makes the area inhospitable to decay organisms that break down leaves and wood debris on the forest floor. So instead of rotting away quickly, fallen trees, twigs, and leaves break down very slowly over hundreds of years. Meanwhile, more moss grows to cover this decomposing plant material in a dense blanket.

Over hundreds of years, layers of moss-covered debris accumulate one on top of the other, creating rolling green landforms called hummocks. As more layers accumulate, older layers are compressed under their weight. This compression forms peat, nutrient-rich moss that is familiar to many people as potting mix for house plants.

Layers of peat moss absorb and hold many times their weight in water, which is one reason peat bogs are so important to the environment. A bog's most important function is to absorb water, which prevents flooding and renews groundwater. Another critical function is the absorption of carbon dioxide. The slow decay process in a bog reduces the amount of carbon released from the forest as carbon dioxide.

SHADOW is currently hosting our educational programs every Friday for families to come and learn different aspects about



nature. Our Wilderness Adventures provide a program featuring inquiry based learning with activities, song, and experiential learning to educate environmental topics to school aged students. Our Outdoor Preschool program provides an opportunity for families to join us in outdoor exploration with various games and activities to build a nature connection while getting exercise and learning about native plants and animals. We also have restoration events everyday Saturday at SHADOW for the community to participate in.

If you are interested, please contact us at www.shadowhabitat.org or call us at 425 432 4914.

Darren Beck
Community Engagement Coordinator

Field Trips (Continued from page 4)

down the road about 1/4 mile on the left at a barn and chainlink-fenced parking lot.

Sign-up: Call Kent Commons, Kent City Parks and Recreation, 253-856-5000. This trip FILLS EARLY. Please register in advance. For further info: E-mail or call Joe Miles, friendsofsooscreekpark@g.com, (253) 639-0123. Joe can answer your questions but cannot arrange the sign-ups.

Birdhouses for Sale

Spring is springing and the birds are singing and looking for places to build their nests! Enjoy hosting a feathered family in your yard – add a birdhouse to

your habitat. Rainier Audubon has beautiful handmade, sized to order, birdhouses for sale. Our blue-green swallow boxes are specially



designed with the preferred type of opening and a starling shield to ensure the comfort and safety of your guests. We have nut-hatch and finch houses. All for just \$20. See display at our meeting and pick up information about preferred locations for your house.

Nancy Streiffert

2013 Kent-Auburn CBC Results

Species	Count	Species	Count
Gr Wht-fronted Goose	13	Mew Gull	29
Snow Goose		Ring-billed Gull	3
Cackling Goose	530	California Gull	3
Canada Goose	863	Herring Gull	
Trumpeter Swan	62	Thayer's Gull	1
Tundra Swan	7	Brandt's Cormorant	
Wood Duck	14	Dbl-crested Cormorant	110
Gadwall	197	Pelagic Cormorant	1
Eurasian Wigeon	2	Amer. Bittern	1
American Wigeon	1397	Great Blue Heron	49
Mallard	1392	Green Heron	2
Green-winged Teal	518	Osprey	
Eurasian-Gw Teal		Bald Eagle	25
Blue-wing Teal		Adult	[n]14
Cinnamon Teal		Immature	[n]9
Northern Shoveler	161	No. Harrier	5
Northern Pintail	878	Sharp-shinned Hawk	9
Canvasback	7	Cooper's Hawk	14
Redhead	40	Northern Goshawk	
Ring-necked Duck	297	Red-tailed Hawk	114
Greater Scaup	13	Harlan's Hawk	[n]1
Lesser Scaup	27	Rough-legged Hawk	1
Harlequin Duck	8	Amer. Kestrel	7
Surf Scoter	184	Merlin	1
White-winged Scoter	25	Peregrine Falcon	4
Black Scoter	4	Virginia Rail	26
Bufflehead	309	Sora	
Common Goldeneye	128	American Coot	560
Barrow's Goldeneye	40	Black-bellied Plover	
Hooded Merganser	162	Killdeer	8
Common Merganser	152	Spotted Sandpiper	2
Red-breasted Merganser	41	Greater Yellowlegs	
Ruddy Duck	136	Black Turnstone	1
Ring-necked Pheasant		Western Sandpiper	2
Ruffed Grouse		Least Sandpiper	
California Quail	7	Dunlin	135
Red-throated Loon	3	Long-billed Dowitcher	2
Pacific Loon		Wilson's Snipe	10
Common Loon	7	Bonaparte's Gull	
Pied-billed Grebe	41	Blk-capped Chickadee	519
Horned Grebe	115	Mountain Chickadee	
Red-necked Grebe	16	Chestnut-bk'd Chickadee	223
Eared Grebe		Bushtit	347
Western Grebe	64	Red-breasted Nuthatch	67

Species	Count
Western Gull	3
Glaucous-Winged Gull	525
WestxGlc-Winged Gull [n]69	
Gull sp. [n]3	
Common Murre	
Pigeon Guillemot	4
Marbled Murrelet	
Rhinoceros Auklet	1
Rock Pigeon	679
Band-tailed Pigeon	39
Mourning Dove	34
Eurasian Collared Dove	113
Barn Owl	1
Western Screech-Owl	1
Great Horned Owl	6
Northern Pygmy-Owl	
Barred Owl	1
Short-eared Owl <cw>1	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1
Anna's Hummingbird	72
Belted Kingfisher	10
Red-breasted Sapsucker	11
Downy Woodpecker	38
Hairy Woodpecker	11
Northern Flicker	186
Y-shafted [n]2	
Pileated Woodpecker	9
Northern Shrike	1
Hutton's Vireo	2
Steller's Jay	158
Western Scrub Jay	13
American Crow	3142
Common Raven	8
Brown Creeper	26
Bewick's Wren	60
Pacific Wren	92
Marsh Wren	40
American Dipper	2
Golden-cr. Kinglet	330
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	176
Hermit Thrush	3
American Robin	1488
Varied Thrush	57
European Starling	1541

Species	Count
American Pipit	6
Cedar Waxwing	3
Orange-crowned Warbler	3
Yellow-rumped Warbler	52
Audubon's [n]29	
Myrtle	
Townsend's Warbler	12
Common Yellowthroat	
Spotted Towhee	219
Savannah Sparrow	4
Fox Sparrow	144
Song Sparrow	520
Lincoln's Sparrow	18
Swamp Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	1
White-crowned Sparrow	212
Golden-crowned Sparrow	367
Dark-eyed Junco	840
Slate-colored Junco [n]13	
Red-winged Blackbird	416
Western Meadowlark	
Yellow-Hd Blackbird	
Brewer's Blackbird	135
Brown-headed Cowbird	2
Purple Finch	14
House Finch	325
Red Crossbill	160
Common Redpoll	1
Pine Siskin	1430
American Goldfinch	85
Evening Grosbeak	32
House Sparrow	162
Swan (sp) [n]4	
Harris Sparrow	1
Total Individuals	24332
Total Species	131

<cw> means "Seen during countweek"
[n] means "Not countable as species"

First Name	Last Name	Mode
Elaine & Henry	Maros	Feeder
Lisa	Mesplay	Feeder
Mary	Kun	Feeder
Nancy	Streffert	Feeder
Anette	Tabor	Feeder
Cathea	Stanley	Feeder
Brian	Pendelton	Field
Carol	Cowan	Field
Ken	Brunner	Field
Caren	Adams	Field
Beverly	Webber	Field
Roger	Orness	Field
David	Griffin	Field
Jim	Tooley	Field
David	Swayne	Field
Barbara	Petersen	Field
Steve	Johnson	Field
Joe & Liz	Miles	Field
Merri	Berg	Field
Susan	Fink	Field
Jim	Flynn	Field
Pete	Vaheg	Field
JC	Vicente	Field
Alex & Sarah	Cooper-Juchems	Field
Michelle	Phiffer	Field
Hans-Joachim	Feddern	Field
Illa	Pomeroy	Field
Amit	Kulkabui	Field
Sandra & Ralph	Embree	Field
Annie	Myer	Field
Phil & Dawn	Frazer	Field
Gayle	Podralosky	Field
Ted	Doan	Field
Marilyn	Jones	Field
Etta	Cosey	Field
Cindy	Flanagan	Field
Calen	Randall	Field
Tim	Brennan	Field
Jonathan	Blubaugh	Field
Liz	Cormier	Field
Brien	Meilleur	Field
Bill	Bush	Field
Tom & Susan	Bowden	Field
Dan	Streffert	Field
Charlie	Wright	Field
Linda	Adams	Field
Carol	Schultz	Field
Ross	Tabor	Field
Michele	Tirhi	Field
Debra	Russell	Field
Pat	Toth	Field
Carol	Johnson	Field
Linda	Bartlett	Field
Kirk & Kerri	Scarborough	Field
Brenda	Tom	Field
Ron	Toonen	Field
Wayne	Sladek	Field
Cheryl	White	Field
Jay	Galvin	Field
Bonnie	Scott	Field



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—Mark Twain

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