

The

Heron Herald



Rainier Audubon Society

September 2011

September General Membership Meeting
Monday September 19, 2011 7:00 p.m.
Federal Way United Methodist Church

Washington Wolves

Kit McGurn - Conservation Northwest

Join us at 6:30 for refreshments and conversation. Kit McGurn will give us an update based on the following press release from Conservation Northwest:

Jul 05, 2011

New wolf pack confirmed in the Washington Cascades

A wolf caught on a Conservation Northwest remote camera in the Teanaway. This photo launched a state and federal investigation which this week confirmed the presence of the second known pack in the Cascades in decades.

Today, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) [confirmed](#) the second known pack of wolves in the Cascade Mountains in decades. The "Teanaway Pack" was first discovered by volunteers working for Conservation Northwest's [wildlife monitoring program](#).

After sharing our remote camera images from the Teanaway with state and federal agencies, biologists began further investigation and confirmed today through DNA analysis that these canids are in fact wild wolves.

Further images caught on remote cameras show multiple animals in one shot, confirming the presence of a pack, as opposed to one dispersing individual. Earlier this month, WDFW trapped and collared a lactating female wolf, a sign that the pack may be producing pups.



"Conservation Northwest is proud to be a part of the effort to document the return of the wolf to the Cascade Mountains," said Jasmine Minbashian, special projects director for Conservation Northwest.

"Wolves bring life back into the Cascades. They can help restore balance to ecosystems through their role as top dog of the wilderness."

This announcement of a new wolf pack in the Cascades comes on the heels of reports that only two animals remain in the original Lookout Pack. Authorities believe their numbers were severely reduced by illegal killing, and [federal indictments](#) have been leveled against members of a Methow Valley family. To address this challenge to wolf recovery in Washington, Conservation Northwest recently partnered with WDFW to establish a [state reward fund to apprehend poachers](#).

In the meantime, the state has convened a diverse group of stakeholders, including Conservation Northwest, to develop a state [recovery and management plan](#) for wolves. "We're working to make sure that as wolves return to Washington they are managed in a way that minimizes hardship on local ranchers and hunters, while still allowing them to recover," Minbashian said.

Rainier Audubon programs are held at

Federal Way United Methodist Church, 29645 - 51st Ave. So.
98001 (in unincorporated Auburn)

Directions: In Federal Way, take 320th St. EAST past The Commons, crossing over I-5 and Military Rd.

At 321st St, turn left. Stay on 321st as it becomes 51st Ave. So. Follow 51st Ave. to 296th. Church will be on your left.

RAS Mission Statement

To conserve and restore natural ecosystems and protect birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and biological diversity in South King County and the world we live in.

President's Message by ???

We have no President. Please contact a Board Member if you are interested in the job!

Join us for a hoppin' good time at the 15th Annual Frog Frolic! !



Celebrate our community and environment with family activities, bog tours, potluck, live music and raffle! Drinks & cake provided; potluck dishes are always appreciated!

WHEN: Saturday, September 10: 1-5pm

WHERE: Shadow Lake Bog , 21656 184th Avenue SE; Renton

Please RSVP to info@shadowhabitat.org or 425-432-4914

Save Habitat And Diversity Of Wetlands (SHADOW)

www.shadowhabitat.org

RAINIER AUDUBON OFFICERS

President	Open	
Vice President	Steve Feldman*	360-802-5211
Treasurer	Jim Tooley*	253-854-3070
Secretary	Heather Gibson*	253-856-9812
Program Chair	Dale Meland*	253-946-1637
Field Trip Chair	Carol Schulz	206-824-7618
Membership Chair	Pat Toth*	206-767-4944
Backyard Habitat Chair	Carol Stoner*	253-854-3207
Conservation Chair	Dan Streiffert*	253-796-2203
Mailing Chair	Debra Russel	425-271-0682
Hospitality	Sandra Embry	
Newsletter Editor	Dan Streiffert	253-796-2203
Webmaster	Nancy Hertzell	253-255-1808
Ivy Eradication Coordinator	Bernedine Lund	253-839-3729
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

*Also serves as Board Member.

Board meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month and are open to all members.

Swifts Head South Via Selleck

In September, thousands of Vaux's Swifts head south for warmer, buggier areas. The Old Selleck Schoolhouse is just east of us here in South King County, and it is one of the premiere roosting sites in Washington State. Looking at the 2010 data posted on the Vaux Happening website (www.vauxhappening.org) the best time to see the spectacle may be between the 5th and 15th of September. An observer can expect to see at least four thousand swifts swirl into the chimney to spend the night. During several nights in this time period, the Vaux Happening volunteers counted more than ten thousand swifts dropping into Selleck. If the weather is clear, the swifts fill the sky above the old school and begin to drop into the chimney around sunset. On rainy days, the swifts enter the chimney throughout the day to escape the showers.

If you go to Selleck, remember that the school is private property. The residents are used to birders coming out to the end of the road to watch their swifts, but they will appreciate your thoughtfulness when you show respect for their property and quiet community.

Can't go to Selleck? Watch swifts on the web at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wildwatch/vauxcam/>. You can choose the outside view or the inside the chimney camera. The pictures come from the chimney at Wagner Elementary in Monroe.

Carol Stoner

Sign up for our new Google Group!

We have recently created a new group to serve as an email list server for Rainier Audubon. The intent of this site is to assist in publicizing our activities members and the general public relating to our club activities. Anyone may join or leave the group at any time. You may sign up on our website or at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/ras-activites?hl=en>

Thousands of birds flocking to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge thanks to expanded lake

Malheur Lake is more than three times bigger than it was at this time last year and has attracted a wide spectrum of migrating waterfowl, wading birds and shorebirds. This summer's explosion of birds underscores what's been lost on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge since the artificial introduction of carp in the 1940s diminished its waterfowl habitat. Check out this article in the Oregonian for more information:

http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2011/07/thousands_of_birds_flocking_to_malheur_national_wildlife_refuge_thanks_to_expanded_lake.html



Western Grebes feeding babies—Taken at Malheur Lake. August, 2011

Photo by Dan Streiffert



American White Pelicans doing Communal Feeding—Taken at Malheur Lake, August, 2011

Photo by Dan Streiffert



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.

Soos Creek Owl Prowl

Saturday Night, Sept 10, 2011
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 down the road about ¼ mile on the left at a barn and chain-link-fenced parking lot.

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

Kent Ponds and Boeing Ponds

Saturday, September 24
8:30 AM to Early Afternoon
Leader: Carol Schulz

Take a birdwalk in the Kent Valley where the birds gather in the early fall. This trip was a lot of fun last year, and we saw good birds. We'll meet near Kent Ponds and drive to where ducks, herons, warblers, and other birds should be in surrounding areas. People who want to leave early may do so. We'll walk on level trails up to 1 1/2 miles total.

Bring walking shoes or boots, warm clothes, water, and snacks or lunch. Scopes are welcome.

Meet: At Wendy's Restaurant at the corner of S 212th St, and 64th Ave S in north Kent at 8:00 AM. (Restaurant now opens for breakfast.)

Directions: From I-5, take exit 152, Orillia Road. Turn east to go down into the Kent Valley. In the valley Orillia becomes S 212th St. Continue east on 212th about 1 mile. Wendy's is on the right at the corner of 64th Ave S. From I-167, take the S 212th St exit north of Kent, and turn west. Travel west across the valley on S 212th about 1.5 miles. Turn left on 64th Ave S, and take a right to double back into the Wendy's parking lot on the corner.

Sign-up: Call or email Carol Schulz, carol.schulz50@gmail.com, [206-824-7618](tel:206-824-7618).

Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW)

October 8, 2011—Moses Lake

No Birding Class Lectures this Fall

By Carol Schulz

After teaching the RAS Introduction to Birding Class for ten years, I am no longer able to do the lectures. My faithful assistants during those years were Deb Russell (for 6 years), and Adele Freeland (for 4). They were a terrific help, especially when we discussed bird ID and backyard habitats, and displayed mounted birds.

I always told students that they could learn the most about birding by going on the two fall field trips that we offered with the class. Those field trips happened in late October to early November.

This year I'll offer a similar field trip which will be offered to all as a regular field trip. It will be free. We will emphasize bird ID, and fill out a checklist. Perhaps we will also offer a second backup trip, in case the first one gets rained out. The trip or trips will be on a Saturday or Sunday. We'll publish the dates in the October Heron Herald, and on our website rainieraudubon.org.

The two closest Audubon Chapters to RAS are Seattle Audubon Society (SAS), and Tahoma Audubon Society (TAS). Their chapters are larger, and they offer birding classes in the fall complete with field trips. Last year SAS offered an Intro class in the fall, and another class in January. TAS offered a class in the fall. Prices for the classes in the two chapters ranged from \$50. to \$75. for members, with non-members being about \$15. more. There should be more information about classes at those two chapters after September 1.

You can email or call me if you have questions about these classes, or contact the chapters. SAS is seattleaudubon.org, 206-523-4483. TAS is tahomaudubon.org, 253-565-9278. Both of the chapters sell items at 10% off for members. Seattle's items include binocs and scopes.

I'm sorry we are not offering classes this fall, but RAS hopes to offer classes in the future.

If you have more questions, contact Carol Schulz, carol.schulz50@gmail.com, 206-824-7618

Puget Loop Birding Trail Map - Sites are Complete

Carol Schulz, Puget Loop Committee Chair, Adele Freeland and Mark Johnston, Assistants

Rainier Audubon helped nominate favorite birding sites for the final loop in the WA State Birding Trail maps, which is called the Puget Loop. Puget Loop includes sites around Puget Sound from Mt. Rainier to the San Juan Islands. Sites for the map were nominated by ten Audubon Societies.

RAS asked for input from our members for their favorite birding sites. Then we edited all the many wonderful sites down to eight local sites that met Audubon Washington requirements. They were the following. 1. Green River Natural Resources Area (GRNRA, which is Kent Ponds). 2. West Hylebos Wetlands Park. 3. Dash Point SP & Vicinity (Including Dash Pt. Pier & Brown's Pt.). 4. Dumas Bay. 5. Flaming Geyser State Park. 6. Soos Creek. 7. Seahurst Park in Burien. 8. Tukwila Pond.

Because Audubon WA had received so many nominations, and because many sites had similar habitats, our sites that were finally selected were the following. GRNRA (Kent Ponds) (Kent), West Hylebos Park (Federal Way), Dash Pt. St Park combined with Dumas Bay (Federal Way), Soos Creek Park (Kent), Flaming Geyser St Park (Auburn). But Seahurst, Tukwila Pond, Dash Point Pier, and Brown's Point did not make the cut. Of course, the RAS Puget Loop committee was disappointed about those omissions.

Most of our sites are on our website, rainieraudubon.org, Local Birding Information. We will add Seahurst, Dumas Bay, Dash Point Pier, and Brown's Point to our website soon.

The nominations and descriptions have been completed by Christi Norman and Hilary Hilscher of Audubon Washington, and the paintings are in final completion. The plan is to have the maps available to the public in late fall 2011. We are looking forward to this beautiful new map with the Bald Eagles on the front.



For additional news see this article in the Seattle Times:

http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/outdoors/2013976046_nwwbirdtrail20.html

And see the maps online at: http://wa.audubon.org/birds_GreatWABirdingTrail.html



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“Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed.” - **Mohandas K. Gandhi** quoted in EF Schumacher, *Small is Beautiful*.

Rainier Audubon Membership Subscription or Renewal Form

One-year Membership in Rainier Audubon

- ◆ \$20—Individual Membership
- ◆ \$25—Family Membership

To join or renew, mail this application with your payment to:
 Rainier Audubon Society - Membership
 PO Box 778
 Auburn, WA 98071



Or go to <http://www.rainieraudubon.org/> to enroll online.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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