

THE

HERON HERALD



Rainier Audubon Society

September 2008

September 15, Monday, at 7:00 PM

Rainier Audubon Presents

The Sandhill Cranes of Bosque del Apache

Photography by Dan Streiffert

Located in central New Mexico, the “Bosque” is one of the most popular bird photography sites in the U.S. Its primary attraction is Sandhill Cranes, which winter there by the thousands. When first established in 1941, there were 17 cranes and about as many snow geese. Today they number in the tens of thousands, providing visitors with magnificent views and sounds. Dan will show us photos he took on a visit to the refuge in November 2007.

Dan has been focusing on bird photography since he retired in 2007. He is also the Conservation Chair for Rainier Audubon. You can see more of his photos at <http://danstreiffert.smugmug.com>.

Please join Rainier Audubon and Dan as we begin a new season with this exciting and spectacular program. Whether you are a birdwatcher, photographer, or just enjoy nature at her finest, this program will have something for everyone. Refreshments and conversation available before, during and following the program.

Federal Way United Methodist Church
29645 - 51st Ave. So.
Federal Way



Welcome back!

Rainier Audubon welcomes you to another year packed with programs, field trips, and fun and educational activities focused on protecting and enjoying our birds and wildlife. We look forward to seeing you at some of our activities.

And don't forget that we are always looking for volunteers! If you have some spare time and a desire to participate in fun, nature-oriented activities with other like-minded individuals, please send us an email! There is something for everyone to do, and we promise you will be asked to do only what you enjoy.

info@RainierAudubon.org

Directions to Federal Way
United Methodist Church

In Federal Way, drive east on 320th St. past The Commons (formerly Sea Tac Mall), crossing over both I-5 and Military Rd.

Turn left at the light at 321st St. Follow 321st and keep going as it becomes 51st Ave. Church will be on your left at 296th.

Fall Field Trips

By Carol Schulz

Foothills Trail

Saturday, September 20
7:30 AM to Early Afternoon
Leader: Carol Schulz

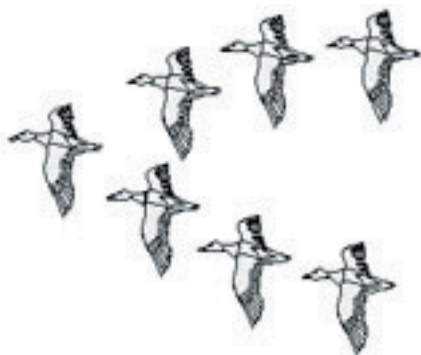
Join us on an exploration of the Foothills Trail, near Orting in Pierce County. Late summer and fall is the most productive season for birding the trail, which flanks South Prairie Creek. Songbirds, sparrows, flycatchers, woodpeckers, and more may be found along this trail and in the town of South Prairie in the fall. We will also look for American Dippers and salmon along the creek and on the Carbon River.

BRING: Lunch, water, and snacks. A scope is welcome. We may walk up to 1 1/2 miles on level trails. There is a road which runs near the trail, for folks who can't walk far. If it rains, dress for the weather, as the birding just gets BETTER in bad weather during fall migration!

MEET: 7:30 AM at Jack-in-the-Box Restaurant (open 24 hrs) on Ellingson Rd in Pacific & Algona. You may bring your car on the trip, and leave early if you wish.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of I-167 and Hwy. 18 in Auburn, travel south on I-167 1.8 miles. Exit onto Ellingson Rd, and travel east 0.2 miles toward Algona and Pacific. Go through the 4-way stop. Jack-in-the-Box is on the left.

SIGN UP: Call or email Carol Schulz, linusq@att.net, (206) 824-7618.



Birds at the Coast

Sunday, September 28
6:30 AM to Early Evening
Meet at WESTPORT at 9:00 AM.
Leader: Guy McWethy

Meet Guy McWethy out at WESTPORT at 9:00 AM. The main target species for this trip will be migrating shorebirds. There will be a chance for a large trip list of other birds too. Areas to visit will include Westport, Bottle Beach, Midway Beach, and Tokeland. If you ever have been birding with Guy, you know that he really knows his birds, and his trips are great. The trip will be at the perfect time of year for shorebirds.

BRING: Plenty of food including lunch, snacks, and beverages. (It will be a long day.) Bring gear and clothing for changeable weather. Bring rubber boots if you have them, for fording a small stream at Bottle Beach State Park. Bring a scope if you have one.

MEET: Guy will already be out at the coast. Meet him at 9:00 AM on Sunday in Westport at the Observation Deck on Neddie Rose Drive. It will take approximately 2 1/2 hours to get there from south King County, with minimal stops on your route. Plan to leave early!

SIGN-UP: Email Guy at lguy_mcw@yahoo.com, or call (425) 255-9478 (evening), or (253) 924-2460 (days). Email is preferred. Contact before Friday, September 26. Sign up early - trip is limited to 8 people.

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy. 105 from Aberdeen. Near the town of Westport, turn right onto Montesano St. and travel 3.6 miles to Westport. The road swings right and becomes Dock Avenue. At the stop sign in 0.1 mile, take Westhaven Drive (the main street along the docks) left to the rock breakwater, then go right onto Neddie Rose Drive (0.3 mile). Park at the end of the road (0.3 mile), and walk up onto the observation platform next to the public restroom. (A map of Westport is in the *Birder's Guide to Washington*, page 64.)

Field Trips, cont.

West Seattle in the Fall

Sunday, October 12

8:00 AM to About 1:00 PM

Leader: Kathy Andrich

Visit the West Seattle shoreline in the fall when the seabirds return to Puget Sound. We will be looking for seaducks, shorebirds, grebes, Brant geese, mixed flocks of small birds, and resident Bald Eagles.

BRING: Gear and clothing for changeable October weather. Bring a scope if you have one. Bring coffee money, as we will stop at the Alki Bakery for coffee and a snack.

MEET: At the Kent-Des Moines Park & Ride at 8:00 AM to carpool.

DIRECTIONS: Take 1-5 to exit 149, go east (toward Kent) on Kent-Des Moines Rd 1/2 block, then take a left onto Military Rd. The P & R is on the left.

SIGN-UP: Contact Kathy Andrich at (206) 390-3159 or at chukarbird@yahoo.com.

Weekly Bird Walks at Nisqually

Wednesdays 7:30 AM to Noon

Leader: Phil Kelley

Big changes are happening at Nisqually NWR!

Join Phil on his weekly bird walk as he counts the birds at Nisqually NWR. On the first Wednesday of the month, the group walks fairly quickly on a longer hike; other weeks, the trip is shorter, out to the Twin Barns, the Nisqually overlook area, and the riparian area, totaling about 3 miles.

BRING: Good walking shoes or boots, raingear, water, snacks, and \$3 entry fee unless you have a pass. Scopes are welcome.

MEET: At the Visitor's Center.

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDING CLASS

This fall, Rainier Audubon will be offering an Introduction to Birding class. This enjoyable class will consist of one lecture, and two fun and educational field trips.

Class will be held at the Federal Way United Methodist Church (see address and directions on page 1) on Tuesday evening, October 28, from 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM. Field trips will be Saturday, November 1, and Saturday, November 8, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Your teachers will be Master Birder Carol Schulz and Assistant Instructor Debra Russell.



We will use the *National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America* (3rd, 4th, or 5th edition) as the class text. Please bring this guide to class.

Cost will be \$25 for Rainier members and \$40 for non-members. For more information or to reserve a spot in the class, please call or email Carol Schulz at (206) 824-7618 or linusq@att.net.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-5 south from Tacoma and exit to Nisqually NWR at exit 114. Take a right at the light.

SIGN-UP: Call or email Phil to confirm details (especially during the trail construction period): (360) 459-1499, scrubjay323@aol.com. [Construction on a 3-4 year estuary reconstruction project has begun on some of the trails. The trail to McAllister Creek will be closed temporarily in August and into early September. For more information about trail closures, go to <http://www.fws.gov/nisqually/> and click on Events and News.]



Rainier Audubon Society
PO Box 778
Auburn, WA 98071

Nonprofit Organization
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Permit No. 441

Rainier Audubon Membership Subscription Form

One-year Membership in Rainier Audubon — \$15

To join, mail this application with your payment to:

Rainier Audubon Society - Membership
PO Box 778
Auburn, WA 98071

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____