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Happy Spring!

The Rookery

Activity Book for Seattle Audubon Youth Members

Triva answer: Switch the A and T in the word GREAT to spell GRETA!

Jokes and Puzzle Answers

Photo by Gloria Z. Nagler, Seattle Audubon - Seattle Times Photo Contest

Q: What do you call two birds in love?
A: Tweet Hearts!

Q: What does a 500lb. Songbird say?
A: Here, Kitty, Kitty.

Q: What does a bird say?
A: Tweet, Tweet!
Dear Adults

Spring is Great for Birding!

Spring is just around the corner, which means there are going to be many opportunities for you and your young birders to go outside and explore the world of birds. This issue of The Rookery is packed with outdoor exploration ideas, cool bird behaviors and songs to watch out for, and tips on what to do when you encounter the inevitable during the spring: a baby bird out of its nest!

Mark your calendars for the following youth- and family-friendly events:

- Fledglings and Friends Story Time: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month. (March 15, April 19, May 17, 10:30-11:15, in the Nature Shop, for ages 2-5.)
- *Restoration Work Parties with Earthcorps: Roll up your sleeves to pull, plant, and mulch! All tools, training, and snacks provided.
  - Saturday, March 25 – Lincoln Park (north parking lot) 10am-2pm
  - Saturday, April 15 – Magnuson Park (Kite Hill) 10am-2pm
- Join Bird-a-thon and do a Big Day in May: Gather your friends and family and take a day to see as many bird species as you can find! For more info and to register, visit our website.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

*Rookery members and families only, RSVP at the number below.

For more information, visit www.seattleaudubon.org or call 206-523-4483

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Puzzles and Games

Bird Alphabet

Let’s create a list of birds or bird words for every letter of the alphabet! (Example: A – Albatross, B – Bufflehead, F – Feather.) Stumped? You can use a field guide for help.

A:_________________ N:_________________
B:_________________ O:_________________
C:_________________ P:_________________
D:_________________ Q:_________________
E:_________________ R:_________________
F:_________________ S:_________________
G:_________________ T:_________________
H:_________________ U:_________________
I:_________________ V:_________________
J:_________________ W:_________________
K:_________________ X:_________________
L:_________________ Y:_________________
M:_________________ Z:_________________
**Raptor Word Search**

Learn about raptors with the word search below. Can you find all of the words that are in **BOLD**?

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THAROSPREYRDOC
FVJOJOTEFEOERKAO
UAIOATUSITTAIR
KVLLKKARRBVSTNT
NTOCWERDYZADYIS
VNVAOADRECTCCVV
SWOHNABCRIOOOTT
ELGAEKIECPWNER
KITEEPTPDZATLDER
FMZRCINUWCKGOSU
GSCOTDTBUZWSRQT
BEOEARACARACVZL
SURAIYKIWWOCYU
RCBRELQITQNOAV
PGODEYESIGHTVH
```

Raptors are birds of prey or **PREDATORS**, that are **CARNIVORES**, characterized by their very **GOOD EYESIGHT**, **HOOKED BEAKS**, and **TALONS** that they use to catch their prey. There are many types of raptors: **HAWK**, **OWL**, **EAGLE**, **CARACARA**, **FALCON**, **HARRIER**, **KITE**, **OSPREY**, **VULTURE**, **CONDOR**, **SECRETARY BIRD**, and more! Hawks are commonly divided into two categories: **ACCIPITER** (found in wooded areas with wings and tails to help maneuver through trees), and **BUTEO** (birds with wide, broad wings to help them **SOAR**.) The fastest bird on the planet is the peregrine falcon, which can reach speeds of up to 250mph when they go into their diving **STOOP**.

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**Let's Go Birding!**

Spring is Nesting Season

Everywhere you look, birds are busy claiming their territories, finding mates, building nests, and raising young. So much to observe, so little time! The good thing is, you don’t have to go far from home to find evidence of bird breeding! How many of the behaviors listed below can you find?

**Nesting Behavior Scavenger Hunt**

- A bird carrying nesting materials in its beak
- A northern flicker drumming on a tree or a house
- A bird nest (Bonus if a bird is sitting on eggs!)
- A male Anna’s hummingbird doing his display dive (Listen for the explosive, loud squeak at the end)
- A male rock pigeon fluffing its feathers and following around a female
- Crow fledglings begging for food from their parents
- Common bird songs heard in the spring:
  - Owls calling to each other at dusk and dawn
  - *Cheerily Cheer-up Cheerio* (American robin)
  - *See-mee pretty pretty mee* (white-crowned sparrow)
  - *Conka-ree-o* (Red-winged blackbird)
  - *Yank-yank-yank-yank* (the nasally call of a Red-breasted nuthatch)
- Other: ____________________________
My Birding Journal

Today’s Date: _______________  Weather: ______________________
Location: _________________________________

My Observations

The birds I saw today: ____________________________________________ ...

Use the space below to sketch what you saw:

Spotlight on Greta

Who is Greta?
Greta is the official Rookery mascot, a great blue heron. The real Greta (a real stuffed great blue heron, lives at the Seattle Audubon Nature shop, and even hangs out at Nature Camp during the summer!)

Why is Greta the Rookery mascot?
Greta is a perfect Rookery mascot for several reasons:
• The great blue heron is the official city bird of Seattle
• They are beautiful birds that are commonly seen around the area, making them easy to identify
• The large areas in which herons nest are commonly called rookeries

How did Greta get her name?
How DID Greta get her name? Hint: Look closely at the common name of her species... (Answer on back)

Visit a Heron Rookery!
There are many locations in and around Seattle where you can go see herons nesting in their large groups. But watch out for falling droppings!!!

• Commodore Park (Ballard Locks)
• Marymoor Park (park in lot D and walk South along the trail next to the Sammamish River)
• University of Washington (Next to the Medicinal Herb Garden)
• City of Kenmore (North end of the Kenmore Park and Ride)
Great Blue Heron

Scientific Name
Ardea herodias

General Info
Great blue herons are very large wading birds with slate grey bodies. Their neck and legs are very long.

Habitat and Diet
Great blue herons are quite common in many Seattle parks with bodies of water. (Ponds, lakes, marshes, wetlands, etc.) They are often seen slowly wading through shallow waters as they stalk their fish/amphibian prey before they swallow them whole. They also eat reptiles, small birds, and small mammals.

Nesting
Great blue herons nest in tall trees in colonies of several pairs to hundreds of breeding pairs. Both parents help with nest building, incubating, and rearing the 3-5 chicks. The eggs are about the size of a chicken egg and blue with speckles.

Behavior
Though they nest in large colonies, most herons spend their days alone or with one or two other herons. They beat their 6-foot wingspans slowly and fly with their necks tucked in to their bodies. They are stealthy hunters and will patiently stalk their prey before grabbing it or piercing it with their sharp beaks.

Help! I found a baby bird!

During the spring, it is common to find young birds out of their nests, looking helpless and sad. So what should you do when you find a baby bird?

If the baby is a nestling and looks healthy:
If you can see the nest, try to place the bird back in it. (The parents will NOT smell you and abandon the nest). If you cannot reach the nest, place the bird in a small container lined with some paper towels and nail/wire it to the tree, as close to the nest as possible.

If the baby is a fledgling and looks healthy:
Leave it alone. Keep all people and pets away from the bird and keep watch from a distance. Some fledglings will leave the nest before they can fly, and the parents will keep feeding it while on the ground. Make sure that the parent returns within two to three hours. If not, see below.

If the bird looks injured/sick or if the parents don’t return, call a local wildlife rehabilitator:
• PAWS Wildlife Center – 425.412.4040
• Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife – 360.902.2936
• Sarvey Wildlife Care Center - 360.435.4817

Please remember: When in doubt of what to do, it is best to leave it alone and call a professional!
Let’s Draw Greta
Use the grid to help you copy the drawing of Greta on the next page, then color them both!