

BRAVO TEAMS:
BIRDS OF THE
SALISH SEAS



ARTWORK BY: GABE HEFLEY

BRAVO TEAM: BIRDS OF THE SALISH SEA

This is
our
team.



From left to right it's Gabe, Luca, Roland, Kyle, Hunter, Audrey, Connor, Anna, and Jasmine

OUR MISSION:

We are going to make habitats for the Purple Martin

Hello readers! Throughout Bravo Team's guide to the Birds of the Salish Sea, you shall read about many interesting bird species... from our main focus (the Purple Martins) to the common loon to several birds of prey. We have worked hard making this Guide, writing articles,

creating artwork, designing and putting the whole thing together. We have also made Purple Martin bird boxes that are placed at Point Hudson. So as you read our little guide please enjoy it. And think of the birds and the people who wrote about them!



Our team on a very wet and rainy day.

Purple Martins

By: Anna Molotsky



Purple Martins are in the swallow family and they like to live near water, often roosting with a mix of swallows. They eat bugs and feed in the open areas in midair. They also drink by skimming the surface of a pond and scooping water up in their lower beak. Adult males are iridescent blue-purple and females and immature Martins are duller. Purple Martins fly rapidly with a mix of beating their wings and gliding. Their endangered species status is “least concern” but their population is declining. The Native Americans hung carved-out gourds for the Purple Martins to make their nests in. Putting up Purple Martin houses used to be so common that John James Audubon used them as an indicator of better lodgings for the night. Once he remarked, “Almost every country tavern has a martin box on the upper part of its sign-board; and I have observed that the handsomer the box, the better does the inn generally prove to be.”

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

AERIAL

BEAK

BEHAVIOR

BIRD

BREEDING

CALL

CHICKS

EGGS

FLEDGE

FLIGHT

FLOCK

HABITAT

MIGRATION

NEST

PREY

ROOST

SPECIES

STATUS

TAIL

WING

I'M A BELTED KINGFISHER!
BY: LIA POORE

Belted Kingfisher

SUPER GOOSE!!

By: Chrissy McLean

If you walk along the shoreline of Point Hudson in the winter time, you are very likely to see a group of Brant Geese on the water's edge. These birds look like a smaller version of the Canada Goose, but upon closer inspection their coloring is more intricate and delicate. Their necklace of white feathers reminds me of a Victorian lace choker while their wings are like a pastel painting that fades from chocolate brown to creamy white.

Brant Geese breed in Northwestern Canada, Alaska, or Siberia and mostly winter on the west coast of Washington, but some birds winter in eastern Asia or Japan. They travel the farthest of any goose and migrate over a greater distance than most other bird species. They form long term pairs and nest in loose groups on small islands in ponds on the Tundra.

The Brant are one of the only animals to eat eelgrass as their main food. This used to be the vast majority of their food source, but they have had to expand their diet to consuming ulva (sea lettuce) and coastal grasses. Because of their dependence on eelgrass and their nesting area in the tundra, Brant are very vulnerable to human impacts and development. Eelgrass beds are declining rapidly due to shoreline development and bulkheading, while their tundra nesting grounds are at risk from the possibility of expanding petroleum development on Alaska's north slope.

Climate change is also a challenge to these birds. Recent warmer winters have encouraged up to



one third of Brant to stay in Alaska during the winter to feed on the lush eelgrass beds there. However, staying north puts them at risk for extreme, sudden cold snaps which can be devastating to the birds who stay north.

The next time you see a Brant grazing in the eelgrass offshore of Point Hudson take a moment to appreciate this amazing little goose. It flew almost 2,000 miles to rest and feed here!

CLASSIFICATIONS

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Anseriformes

Family: Anatidae

Subfamily: Anserinae

Tribe: Anserini

Genus: Branta

Species: *B. bernicla*

Subspecies: *B. b. nigricans*

BUFFLEHEADS

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF
ONE OF THE SALISH SEA'S MOST PROMINENT DUCKS.



Bufflehead

Welcome, Mr. Bufflehead and Mrs. Bufflehead

Mr. B. Thank you very much. We are delighted to be here...aren't we dear.

Mrs. B. Oh yes! I simply love meeting new people.

I understand that you have a common and scientific name, is that true?

Mr. B. Yes, indeed. Most of our close friends call us *Bucephala albeola*, but bufflehead is fine for you.

What would be a good dinner if we wanted to have you over to eat?

Mrs. B. Well I love aquatic insects or crustaceans. My husband loves mollusks (especially snails) in winter.

What is your preferred place to live during nesting seasons?

Mrs. B. I hate to say, but my husband is lazy so we always try to find old woodpecker holes.

Mr. B. You bet, nothing like a hole made by a Northern Flicker for a cozy place to raise your young. You might like it yourself.

I'll keep that in mind. How many young do you usually raise per year?

Mrs. B. We have six to eleven young each year. Makes for a very busy household you know. I

always envied those human mom's that have one baby at a time.

Mr. B. Keeps me on my toes catching insects for all those mouths to feed.

Are Buffleheads long lived?

Mr. B. Quite. The average lifespan is 2.5 years, but in captivity one of my great uncles lived to 18! What a geezer he was by the end, I tell you.

Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourselves?

Mrs. B. Yes there is, dearie. People always say we are large-headed ducks. What an insult! We prefer to be known as prominent-headed ducks.

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves
Order: Anseriformes
Family: Anatidae
Genus: Merginae
Species: *Bucephala Albeola*

CLASSIFICATIONS

KINGDOM :

Animalia

Phylum :

Chordata

Class :

Aves

Order :

Charadriiformes

Family :

Alcidae

Genus :

Cerorhinka

Species :

C. Monocerata

The Rhinoceros Auklet

By: Gabe Hefley

I bring all of you here today to discuss **Behavior :**

the one and only great Rhinoceros, the Rhinoceros Auklet to be exact. This little creature roams the waters of the North Pacific, with a funny looking little white plate that resembles something of a miniature horn above its beak, hence the name "Rhinoceros Auklet".

In some parts it is known as the Horn-billed Puffin, or the Puffin Unicorn because of the way it resembles a Puffin, with its black feathers, white eyebrows, mustache and a grayish-white belly.

The Rhinoceros Auklet likes to travel in little packs. They feed on fish and other small creatures of the sea in the pacific ocean; they enjoy nesting in little burrows dug into the ground. Both parents will incubate an egg for 45 days until it hatches. These fluffy unicorns can dive as deep as 57 meters to retrieve food and can hold their breath for up to 147 seconds.



Black Oystercatcher (Musselcatcher)

By: Sonia Frojen

Black body, flashy red beak,
Strong carrot-red bill
with black tip like a chisel
for prying clinging mollusks
(like limpets) off of rocks.

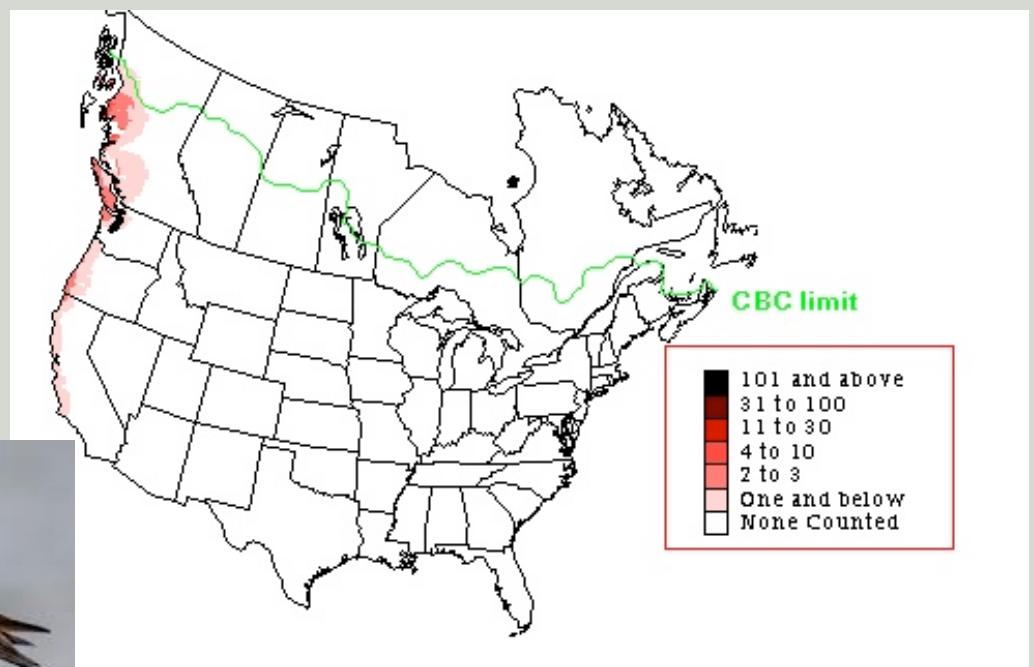
Yellow eye, red-eye-ring
goggles.
Voice is a piercing *KLEEP* over
and over,
KLEEP! KLEEP! KLEEP!
Large and conspicuous and
noisy.

Sturdy legs, they mate for life.

Nests resemble bowls made
with
rocks and shells near rocky tidal
food-filled habitat.

Mussels are its favorite.
Perhaps it should've been called the
Black Musselcatcher

Confident and loud, they migrate
the whole Eastern Pacific
shoreline
between the Aleutians and Baja.



Horned Grebe

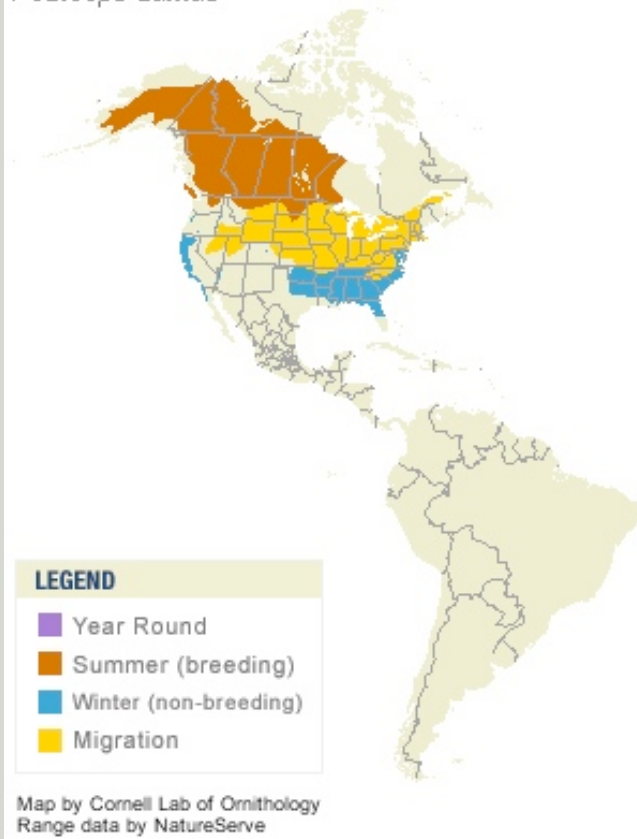
By: Audrey Drake

The Horned Grebe is a small water bird, with a small head and a short, small and pointy bill. It has a long reddish neck, black cheeks, and its famous yellow tufts (horns) behind their eyes that they can lift at will. The juveniles of the species look very similar to the non-breeding adults. The only differences are that their backs are tinged with brown and that they have a slightly duller shade of white.

Adults are about 31 to 38 cm long and weigh between 300 and 570 grams. Their wingspan can be up to 75 cm wide, 55 cm being the smallest. These birds on the conservation status is "VU" or vulnerable, which lands it in the threatened section.

They dive for most of their food, such as small fish, aquatic arthropods, and crustaceans. But they will still eat flying insects on the water's surface.

Horned Grebe
Podiceps auritus



CLASSIFICATIONS

KINGDOM- Animalia
PHYLUM- Chordata
CLASS- Aves
ORDER- Podicipediformes
FAMILY- Podicipedidae
GENUS- Podiceps
SPECIES- P. auritus (P-Podiceps)

Bald Eagle

By: Kyle Mackey

The Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) may be the proud national bird symbol of the United States, but it is much more than that. For many years the Bald Eagle was hunted for the protection of fish and other wildlife; now they are nearly wiped out in the US. These majestic birds use their sharp talons to hunt for fish. However they often get their food by stealing the kills of other animals (this is why Ben Franklin argued against the Bald Eagle as the country's national symbol). They

sometimes use the same nests over and over again, year after year.

Believe it or not, the Bald Eagle is not actually bald. It has white feathers all up its head and neck. Bald Eagles live up to 28 years old and size all the way up to 43 inches and have an outstanding wingspan of up to 6 feet. They also weigh up to 14 lbs.

So all in all, the Bald Eagle is most definitely the most majestic, high flying, food-stealing bird out there. They truly are America's Bird.



CLASSIFICATIONS

Common name:

Bald Eagle

Kingdom:

Animalia

Phylum:

Chordata

Class:

Aves

Order:

Falconiformes

Family:

Accipitridae

Genus Species:

Haliaeetus (sea eagle)

leucocephalus (white head)

RED TAILED HAWK

By: Roland Donanberg- Platt



CLASSIFICATIONS

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves
Order: Accipitriformes
Family: Accipitridae
Genus: Buteo
Species: Jamaicensis

Red tailed hawks are one of the most commonly seen hawks in North America. They mainly live around open country, wooded areas, prairies, grasslands or mountains. Their main food sources are smaller birds, mammals or reptiles. They hunt by looking around from high in the trees, rocky ledges or other high perching spots. When they spot their prey, they fly down and attack it. Red Tailed Hawks usually nest in trees around 120 ft. off the ground. They usually choose trees that are the tallest in a group of trees, although they can also nest on cliffs, cacti, or tall buildings. The young hawks get fed by their moms for the first couple weeks, then food is dropped to them and they feed themselves. By the sixth or seventh weeks they leave the nest.

Top Ten Facts About Peregrine Falcons

#1. The Peregrine Falcon lives in high manmade or dead tree places.

#2. They are most common around the coast. They live on the west coast year round

#3. Peregrine Falcons are cannibals; they eat smaller birds, and even other peregrine falcons.

#4. They can dive up to 200 mph on a good day.

#5. Adults are blue-gray above with barred underparts and a dark head with thick sideburns.

#6. Juveniles are heavily marked, with vertical streaks instead of horizontal bars on the breast.

#7. They often sit on high perches, waiting for the right opportunity to make their aerial assault.

#8. Wingspan 39.4–43.3 in

#9. Length 14.2–19.3 in

#10. Weight 18.7–56.4 oz

Peregrine Falcon
Falco peregrinus



LEGEND	
■	Year Round
■	Summer (breeding)
■	Winter (non-breeding)
■	Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe



Peregrine Falcon



Sources

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