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Birds, Patterns, and Poetry Winter 2022

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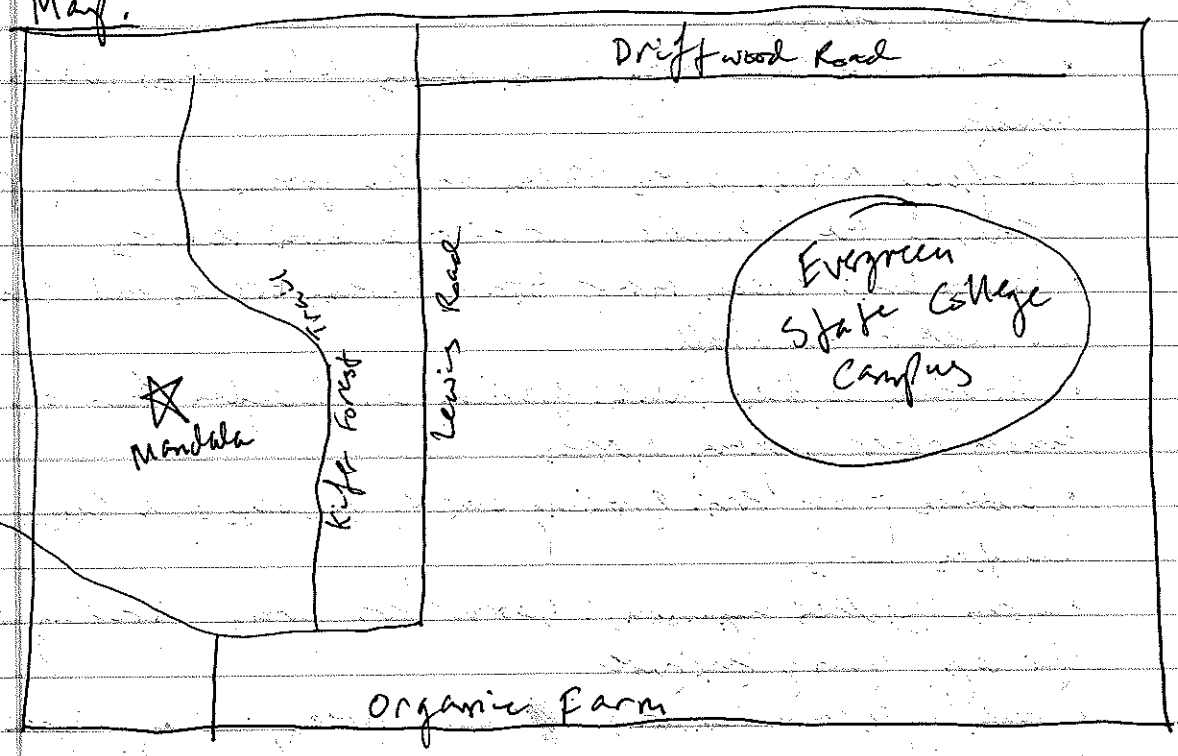
Week 1 Field Mandala Observation

Abbey Ryle
6 January 2022

<u>Location:</u> Kefir Forest, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington.

Map:



<u>Habitat Information:</u>
My mandala's habitat consists of mixed canopy temperate rainforest. The forest is second-growth, having last been logged in 1967. Trees are primarily western red cedar, western hemlock, bigleaf maple, and red alder. Understory vegetation consists of salal, sword fern, red huckleberry, and oregon grape.

<u>Climate Information:</u>
Temperature: 50° F
Wind Condition: 2 in the understory, 3 in the canopy from 1:30 – 2:30, increased to 3 in the understory at 2:40pm.

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1.6.22

Sky Condition: 8 (Showers)

Data Collected / Observations:

Species List:

- Douglas Fir (logs bordering mandala): covered in various mosses/lichens
- Oregon grape: mostly green leaves, a few yellow leaves, no fruits
- Bigleaf maple: leaves fallen on the ground, tree not present itself in the mandala, rust-orange colored leaves
- Sword fern: green, most stalks/stems broken and compressed by recent snowfall
- British soldier lichen: growing on Douglas fir logs among other lichens/mosses
- Licorice root fern: growing out of the base of a fallen Douglas fir log
- moss (species unknown): sword-fern green, growing on Douglas fir logs, furry texture
- lichen (species unknown): pale green, spiky, growing on Douglas fir logs
- Snow: 3"x4" patch of snow on the ground in the center of the mandala, left from recent snowfall

Questions:

- How many inches of snow fell in my mandala before it started to melt?

Narrative: I joined a group with Mary-Claire, Glen, and Kylie. Our goal was to become familiar with Kifer Forest and establish our field mandalas. I had a personal goal as well, which was to familiarize myself with my mandala well enough to remember its location and

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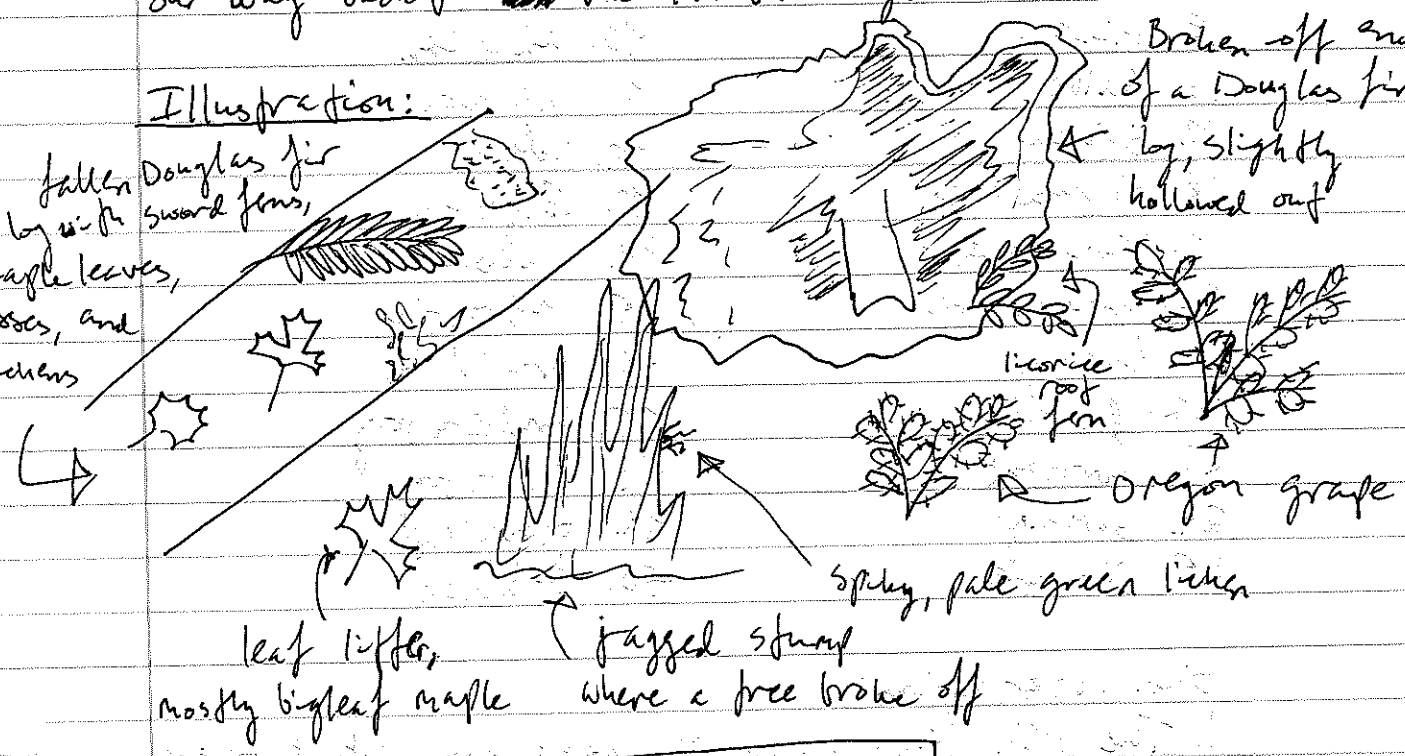
1.6.22

boundaries without needing any flagging tape. We began by practicing compass navigation and pace measurement together as a class, then walked to the Kefir Forest trail and split into groups to search for our mandalas. My group noticed a large fern-covered mass to the left of the trail and decided to check it out. It turned out to be a rootball from a fallen Douglas fir tree. From here we split up and found our field mandalas. I chose a mandala bordered by two Douglas fir logs, with sword fern, oregon grape, and many types of mosses and lichens. I attempted to take notes and sketches in my field notebook, but the heavy rain made it difficult, and I eventually resorted to taking notes on my phone; my notebook would have gotten too wet otherwise. I observed my mandala for ~40 minutes and saw no animals of any kind in that time. I then rejoined the group and we saw several golden-crowned kinglets on our way back to the lab buildings.

Illustration:



My Mandala

Ryle
1·6·22

Poetry Exercises:

50 Loved Words:

1. Thereafter
2. Torrential
3. Petrichor
4. Seeping
5. Verdant
6. Coniferous
7. Slicked
8. Alpenglow
9. Teeming
10. Crosswise
11. Shroud
12. Verity
13. Pensive
14. deluge
15. mizzle
16. Salve
17. squall
18. obfuscate
19. Viridescent
20. greensward
21. fecund
22. prolific
23. dormant
24. looming
25. verdure
26. foliage
27. boreal
28. squelch
29. ochre
30. copse
31. rollicking
32. Salubrious
33. edifice
34. temple
35. sanctum
36. sodden
37. eminence
38. aurum
39. gilt
40. aurelian
41. halcyon
42. idyll
43. Elysian
44. bucolic
45. agrestic
46. arcadian
47. understory
48. overstory
49. steadfast
50. staunch

Six Observations:

1. The rain lands on my raincoat's hood with a sharp pitter-patter, like taps of a long-nailed finger.

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2. Cold rain glazes my fingers as it drips from the cuffs of my raincoat.
3. Sigh-soft wind stirs the sword fern's fronds.
4. The rain-softened earth sinks beneath my boots as I walk.
5. Raindrops taste like nothing and yet something, pure and cold and earthy.
6. The leaf litter brings a not-unpleasant scent of decomposition.

A Delight: The golden-crowned kinglets have a near-fluorescent crown of yellow atop their heads, forming the brightest color I saw in the forest today.

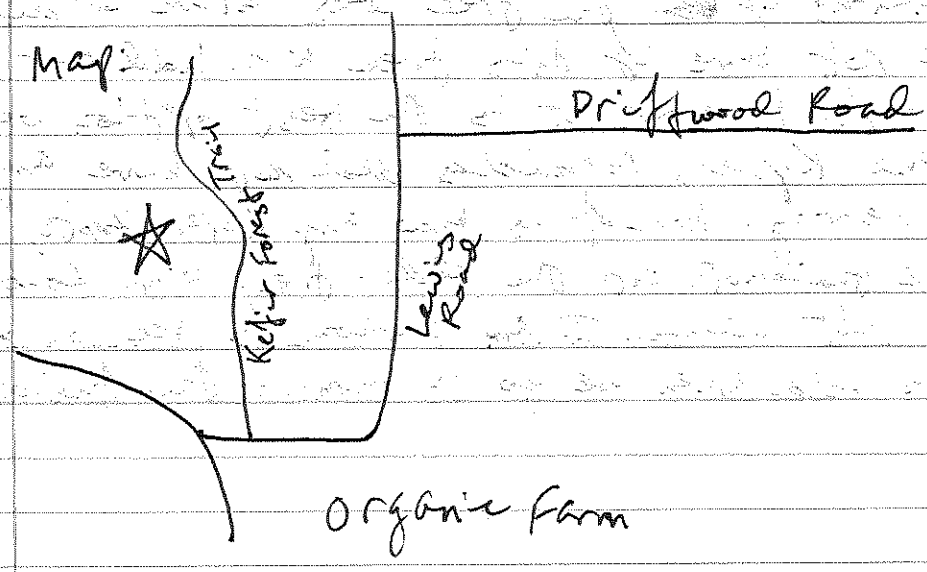
Audiomoth Deployment

Abbey Ryle
1.7.2022

Location: Kefir Forest Trail, The Evergreen State College

Coordinates: 47.07100° N, 122.98900° W

Map:



☆ = Mary-Claire's Field Mandala, Audiomoth location

Habitat: Mixed-canopy temperate rainforest, second-growth trees. The forest is surrounded by urban areas.

Climate:
Temperature: 44° F
Sky Condition: 2 (overcast)
Wind Condition: 4

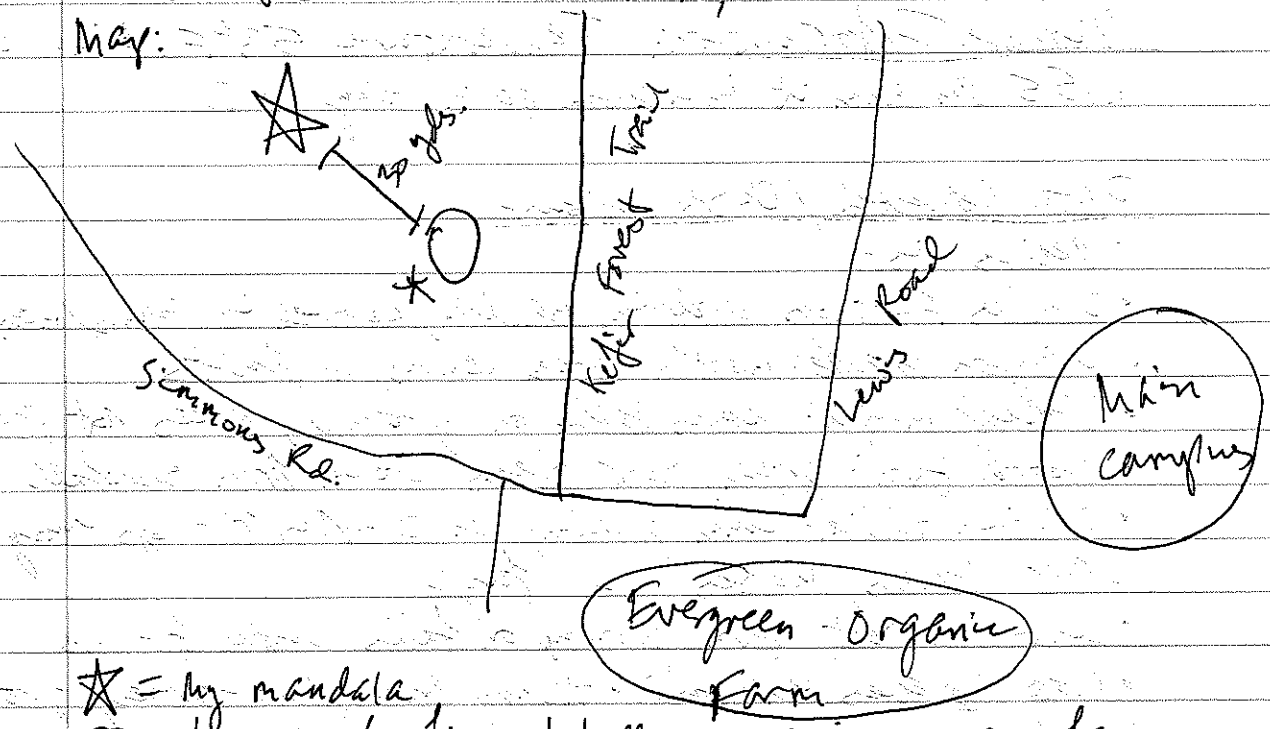
Observations: We set up our Audiomoth on one of the few red alder trees in the area. All the snow appears to have melted at this point. We saw no animals, but heard golden-crowned kinglets, chestnut-backed chickadees, and Pacific wrens.

Narrative: We chose to deploy our Audiomoth in Mary-Claire's field mandala, because she had the most suitable tree to tie the Audiomoth to. I was in a group with Mary-Claire and Kylie. We tied the Audiomoth to a small red alder tree, but had difficulty determining if the tree was alive or dead, so we are not sure if this tree will hold our Audiomoth well enough. However, it is the best option we had, as mine and Kylie's mandalas did not have any suitable trees nearby. None of us knew any proper knots, so we tied the Audiomoth onto the alder tree with double knots, and this felt secure. I am curious to see how well our work has held when we go to remove the Audiomoths.

Week 2 Mandala Observation

Abby Ryle
January 13, 2022

Location: Kifer Forest, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA
Coordinates: 47.0707777°N, 122.9891421°W
Map:



☆ = my mandala
○ = large Douglas fir root ball, covered in moss and ferns
✳ = small western hemlock tree

Description: Starting from the organic farm end of the Kifer Forest, my mandala is on the left side of the trail. There will be a large root ball from a fallen Douglas Fir tree with a small western Hemlock tree next to it. From here, walking ~30 yards towards Simmons Road and slightly right will lead to my mandala, which can be spotted by the broken-off Douglas Fir log that will be facing the viewer from this direction.

Habitat Information: My mandala's habitat consists of mixed canopy temperate rainforest. The forest is second-growth,

having last been logged in 1967. Trees are primarily western red cedar, western hemlock, bigleaf maple, and red alder. Understory vegetation consists of sword fern, salal, red huckleberry, and Oregon grape.

Climate Information: Temperature 53°F, wind 0-1 until 2:55 pm when it increased to 2, sky 1-2

Data Collected / Observations:

Species list:

- Douglas Fir: logs bordering mandala, covered in lichens/moss/ferns
- Oregon grape: mostly green leaves, no fruits
- Bigleaf maple: leaves fallen on ground, trees not present
- Sword fern: green, most stems broken from snowfall
- British soldier lichen: growing on Douglas fir logs among other lichens, mosses, and fungi
- Licorice root fern: growing on fallen Douglas fir logs
- Moss (species unknown): spongy and yellow-green, growing on Douglas Fir logs
- lichen (species unknown): pale green, spiky, growing on Douglas Fir logs
- Pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): calling in the distance, 1-3 "chip" sounds, lower in understory
- Common Raven (Corvus corax): circling in a flock of 4, calling, 1-3 "roc" sounds, trilling frog-like call
- small, pale flying insects (species unknown)
- 1 brown and white spider, size of half a grain of rice, in a web on a Douglas fir log
- Tiny brown mushroom (species unknown): growing on Douglas fir log, actual size = [illegible]
- Domestic rooster crow heard in distance
- Northern Flicker: calling in distance, single high screech ♂ (Colaptes auratus)

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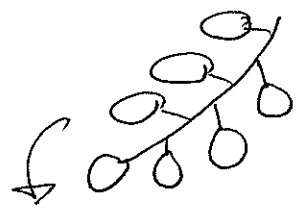
1-13-22



• long-stemmed plant with round, smooth, green leaves: species unknown, growing out of base of Douglas fir log

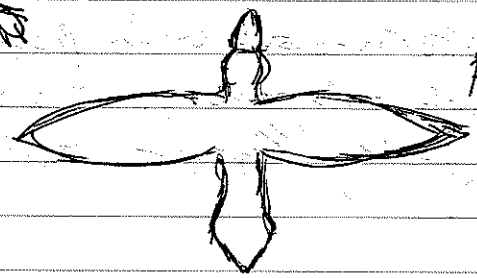
Novel Information: birds present today (none last week), all snow melted, no new plant growth apparent, invertebrates present today (flying + walking, perhaps out due to lack of rain)

Questions: Why were the ravens circling repeatedly over the same section of forest? When will the first new herbaceous plant growth appear?

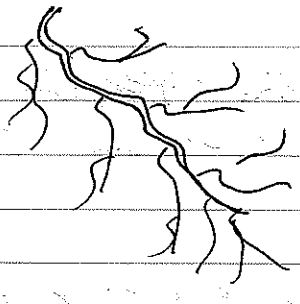
Narrative: My partner Kylie Daniel and I navigated to each other's mandalas, using verbal instructions because neither of us had drawn detailed enough maps. Then, after a 30 minute observation at her mandala, I returned to my own for an hour. This week I did hear bird sounds, unlike last week when heavy rain interfered. The whole forest seemed to be more active in the post-rain break of sun, with birds, insects, and even fungi visible in much greater numbers than last week. I was able to identify all the bird species I heard: the Pacific Wren, the Common Raven, and the Northern Flicker. I heard a sound that I first thought was a tree frog, but realized was a raven, making a sort of trilling, twittering "ribbit" sound; this was a vocalization I have not heard before. I was pleased that I was able to find my mandala again easily, as I did not use any flagging tape on purpose, wanting to put my memory and sense of direction to the test.

Illustrations:

long, feathery moss



Flying common raven (Corvus corax) silhouette



Pale green, springy, rootlike lichen

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50 Loved Words

1. Resounding
2. Roiling
3. Insouciant
4. Primordial
5. Vagabalage
6. Obelisk
7. Charlatan
8. Cavalcade
9. Spawning-Ground
10. Transpose
11. Coffer
12. canard
13. gloaming
14. Ethereal
15. Wellspring
16. glean
17. Enjambment
18. Pinkert
19. opulent
20. eloquence
21. Loquacious
22. Legerdemain
23. Thaumaturgy
24. Beldam
25. aftercop
26. foment
27. mote
28. elixir
29. raze
30. smithereens
31. supple
32. verdure
33. amalgam
34. meld
35. whorl
36. sphagnum
37. jut
38. whetted
39. undulating
40. loom
41. warp
42. weft
43. star-strewn
44. whimsical
45. bildungsroman
46. argent
47. murmuration
48. susurration
49. reckoning
50. kenning

The Inspired Poet Exercises – chapter 1:

1. For I will consider the child that lives inside of me,
For though I have accomplished nearly two decades she does not quiet.
For she still wonders if there are fairies living in the birdhouse.
For she gasps in delight at finding a sun-bleached bone in the forest,
For she is not ladylike, thank you very much.
For she knows too many words and thinks too many thoughts.
For she is herself, right this very moment, but does not know it yet.
For Someday she will.

2. Ever steadily we march towards greater Entropy.
If I make a wish on this fallen eyelash, it will come true.

In the genetic anomaly of a four-leafed clover I find good fortune.

In every small moment, serendipity.

Such a chicken-and-egg matter.

Which came first?

The luck borne on ladybugs' wings?

Or the propensity to find magic and meaning in these countless little happenings?

In the end, does it really matter which?

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1.13.22

and curled

3. Past salmonberry, alder, bracken fern,
Across well-worn trails with winding turns,
Look, → There it burbles, silver and true,
In my heart, and for this moment in your heart too.

That creek called McLane, where every fall
Return dogged salmon, against currents all.
Their eggs laid in pools of finest soft silt,
Till bright minnows hatch, all silver and gilt.

Purple-black ravens loose croaks to the wind,
Bumpy-skinned newts found around every bend.
Adventure is out there, and mostly it's here,
in this wonderland of childhood I to this day hold dear.

6 Sensory Observations:

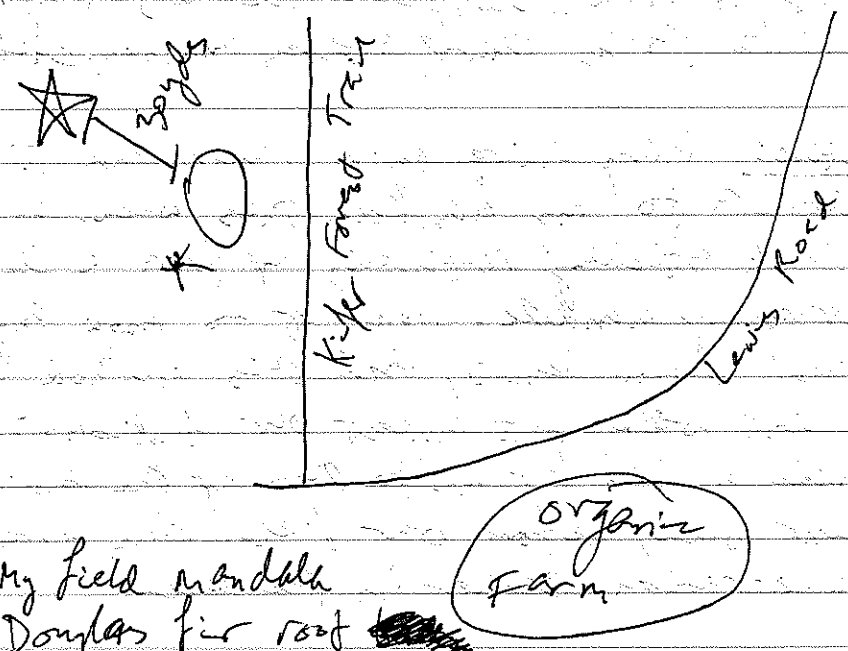
1. The soft suggestion of wind caressing my face.
2. The round, pebbly-smooth croak of a raven overhead.
3. Clear, unfettered sunlight throwing the forest into sharp relief.
4. The cool, damp, mineral scent of leaf litter, tinged with the spice of distant woodsmoke.
5. An edge of chill creeps in as I sit, a reminder of what an oddity a naked ape is in this northern forest.
6. Carmine heads top pale green lines of British soldier lichen, marching in formation down a Douglas fir log.

A Delight: A single tiny brown spider creeps through a miniscule world of lichens, mosses, and mushrooms, living in a universe every bit as complex as ours, just on a smaller scale.

Audiomoth Deployment

Abbey Ryle
1-14-2022

<u>Location:</u> Kefir Forest, my field mandala, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA
Coordinates: 47.070777°N, -122.9891421° W
Map:



★ = my field mandala
O = Douglas fir root ball, covered in ferns
* = small Western hemlock tree

Description: Entering Kefir Forest from the Organic Farm, my mandala is on the left side of the trail. There will be a large Douglas fir root ball covered in ferns, and from there my mandala is ~30 yards away, straight but slightly to the right. A broken-off Douglas fir log marks one boundary of my mandala.

<u>Climate:</u>
Temp: 43°F Wind: 0 Sky: 4

Observations:

- Pacific wren (troglodytes pacificus): "chip" calls, foraging on the ground
- Brown creeper (Certhia americana): calling in distance
- Scarlet cup fungus (Sarcoscypha coccinea): growing along the Kefir forest trail
- Song sparrow (Melospiza melodia): singing in distance
- high, twittering chirp, species unknown, chickadee?

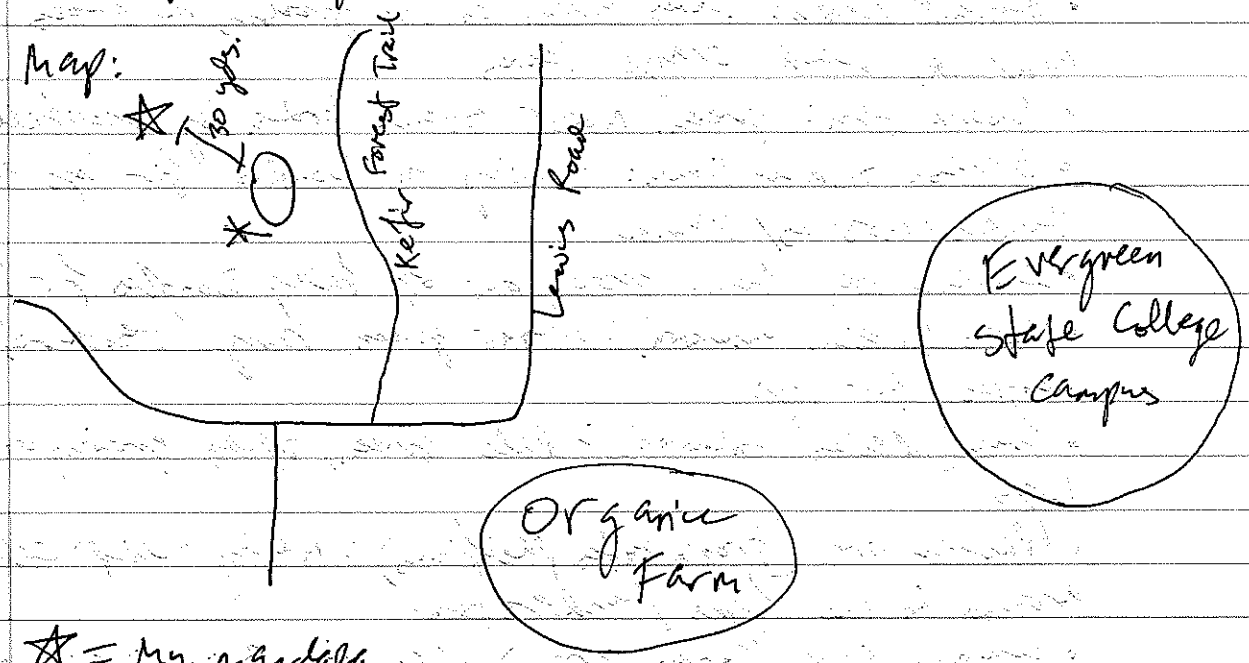
Narrative: Mary Claire, Kylie Daniel, and I took the Audiomoth to my mandala this week. We set it up on a branch sticking vertically up from a Douglas fir log bordering my mandala. None of us know any proper knots, so I tied double knots, and this method worked just fine last week, so I expect our Audiomoth will stay put. We made a plan for me to pick up the Audiomoth on Thursday of next week, before our field time, even though I may do my observation earlier in the week.

Week 3
Field Mandala Observation

Abbey Ryle
16 January 2022

<u>Location:</u> Kefir Forest, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington. My field mandala: 47.070777°N, -122.98900°W.

Map:



☆ = My mandala
○ = large Douglas fir root ball covered in ferns
* = small western hemlock tree

<u>Habitat Information:</u>
My mandala's habitat consists of mixed canopy temperate rainforest. The forest is second-growth, last logged in 1967. Trees are primarily Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, bigleaf maple, vine maple, and red alder. Understory vegetation consists of salal, sword fern, red huckleberry, and Oregon grape.

<u>Climate information:</u>
Temperature: 43°F Wind: 0-1 Sky: 4 (foggy)

Data Collected / Observations:

Species list:

- Douglas fir: fallen logs bordering mandala, covered in mosses + lichens + fungi
- Oregon grape: green leaves, no fruits or buds
- Bigleaf maple: leaves fallen on the ground, no trees present in mandala, dead orange leaves
- Sword fern: green, most stems broken by snowfall
- British Soldier lichen: growing on Douglas fir logs among other lichens/mosses/fungi
- Licorice root fern: growing out of fallen Douglas fir log
- Moss (species unknown): bright green, furry texture, growing on Douglas fir logs
- lichen (species unknown): pale green, spiky, growing on Douglas fir logs
- Pacific wren (troglodytes pacificus): making "chip" calls, flitting around in the ferns / understory
- Common Raven (Corvus corax): making 3 "roc" calls in the distance
- small songbird (species unknown): not visible but making high-pitched chirps, possibly brown creeper (Certhia americana)?
- domestic rooster: crowing, from homes behind mandala or Organic Farm?
- small brown and white spider: size of half a grain of rice, building a web inside the base of a Douglas fir log

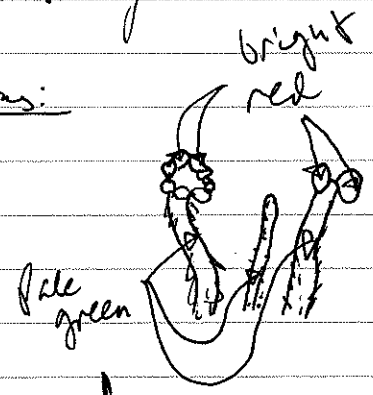
Questions:

- What are the Pacific wrens doing low in the understory? what are they feeding on / foraging for?
- Am I seeing more spiders because the break in rain allows them to build their webs, or because it is a season of breeding / higher activity for them?

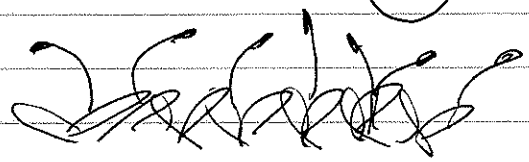
Ryle
1-16-22

Narrative: For my independent observation this week, I decided to visit on Sunday, January 16th. My mom came with me and we walked the whole Kifer Loop trail after my observation, which was lovely. Again, I have had no issues recalling my mandala's location from memory, without any outside resources, thus meeting my goal. I was able to identify Pacific wren calls easily this week, an improvement. I heard a new call, a high-pitched chirp that I believe was a brown creeper, but I am not sure. My mom and I saw chickadees and juncos near the campus, but not once we got into the woods. I noticed that sound carried well in the cold foggy weather, and the air seemed very still. We also saw blacktail deer droppings on our way to my mandala. I would be curious to set up a game camera and see when they come through.

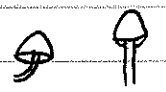
Illustrations:



British soldier lichen (only some stalks had red "heads")



← small brown stalks with "heads" protruding from the moss on a Douglas fir log



small brown mushroom (actual size), cap hollowed underneath, gills present, growing from Douglas fir log

6. Sensory Observations:

1. The heavy, looming silence of the foggy morning.
2. The earthy, damp, mineral scent of wet soil and moss.
3. Vibrant green moss, the color extra saturated against the pale, wool-grey sky.
4. Glittering silver beads of dew adorning spider webs.
5. The sharp invigoration of the winter air filling my lungs.
6. The startling "pop" of a stick snapping under my boot, slicing through the forest's silence.

A Delight: Getting to turn an ordinary field observation into a walk with my mom, full of meaningful quality time.

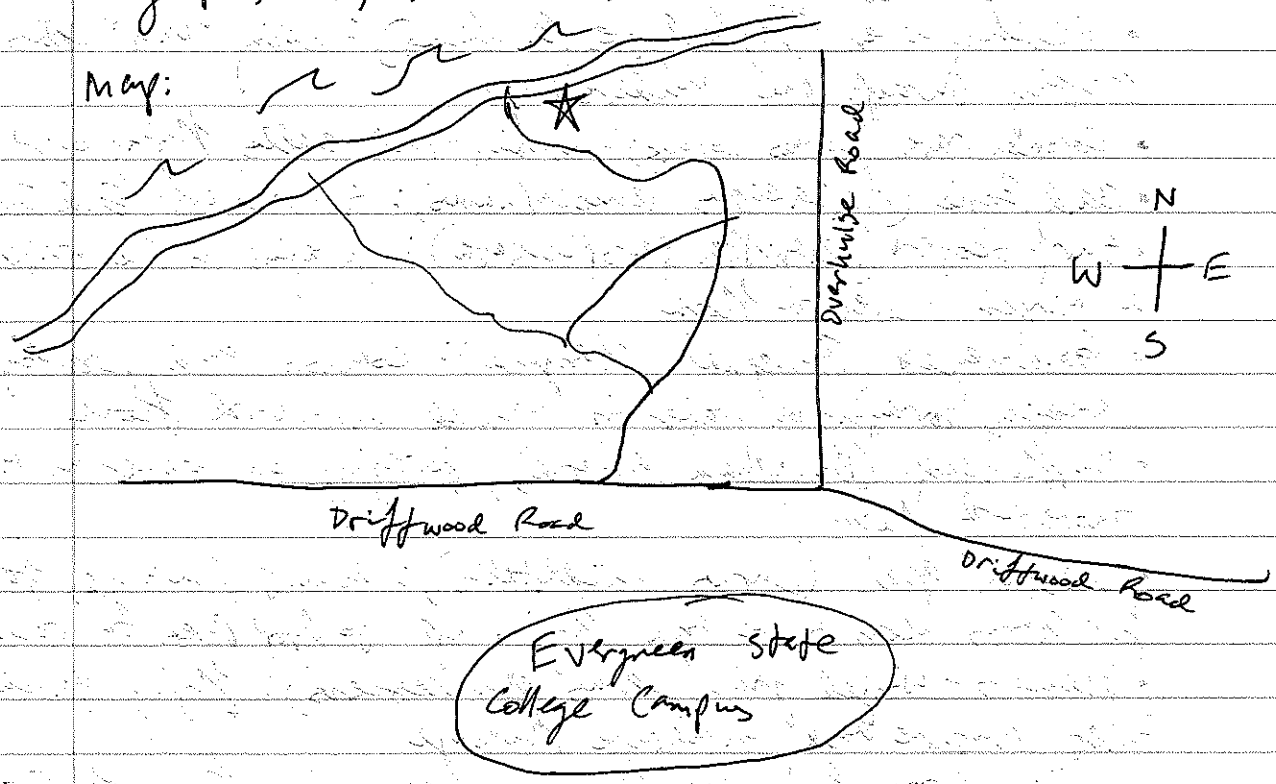
Week 3

"Choose Your Own Adventure"

Abbey Pyle
20 Jan. 2022

Location: Evergreen Beach Trail, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA; 47.08211°N, -122.98162°W

Map:



☆ = location where we walked along beach

Habitat Information: The trail from Evergreen to the beach is through a mixed-canopy temperate rainforest, which includes Douglas Fir, western Red Cedar, Red Alder, Vine maple, Bigleaf maple, sword fern, salal, Oregon grape, and many varieties of mosses and lichens, plus fungi. The beach itself is covered in barnacle-encrusted rocks and sand, and forms one border of Eld Inlet, part of Puget Sound. There are also many fallen logs across the beach.

Climate Information:
Temp: 48°-50°F Wind: 3-4 Sky: 1-2

Observations:
Species List:
- Pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): making "chip" calls and flitting through the understory
- Common raven (Corvus corax): making "roi" calls, flying overhead
- Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus): soaring over Eld Inlet
- Surf scoter (Melanitta perspicillata): foraging in the water in a mixed shorebird flock
- Goldeneye (Bucephala clangula): common and possibly Barrows variety, foraging on water in mixed shorebird flock
- Bufflehead: (Bucephala albeda), foraging on water in mixed shorebird flock
- Western gull (Larus occidentalis): adult plumage, foraging for clams along shore and flying up to drop them on rocks
- Glaucous-winged gull (Larus glaucescens): flying quickly over inlet, mature and immature plumage
- Golden-crowned kinglet (Regulus satrapa): flock of 5-10, chirping in high-pitched rapid series, foraging low in cedar and vine maples, quick flitting between branches
- Chestnut-backed chickadee (Poecile rufescens): calling in distance
- Black-capped chickadee: (Poecile atricapillus), also calling and flitting around low branches by Campus Longhouse
- Common loon (Gavia immer): floating on water in Inlet

Questions:
- Is it common for the aquatic birds we saw to gather in mixed-species flocks?
- What is the typical size of a golden-crowned kinglet flock?

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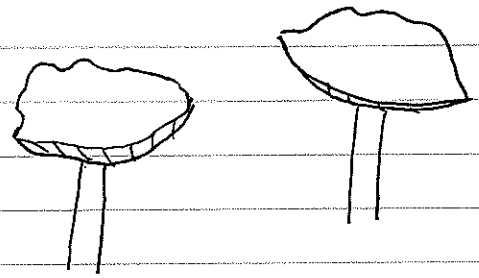
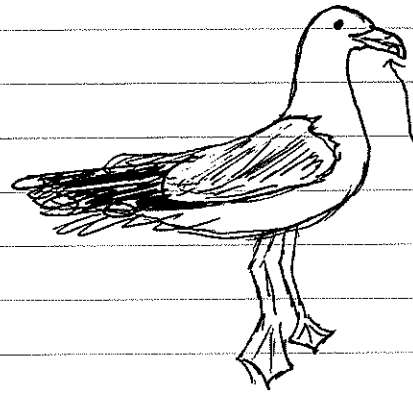
Narrative: For my "choose your own birding adventure," I chose to take the trail down to the beach, where I have not been before. On our way across campus and down the trail, we saw and heard Pacific wrens and chestnut-backed chickadees. Once we got down to the beach, we saw many different shorebirds feeding amongst each other on the water of Eld Inlet, most of which were new to me, as I don't have much experience identifying shorebirds. There was also a lovely rainbow, the result of capricious windy weather. We took the long way back up, choosing another trail to campus, and along the way we saw a flock of Golden-crowned kinglets calling and foraging, plus a large raven. Our group on the way down included Alison, Suzanne, Nathan, Hannah, Nathaniel, and myself, and Alison, Nathan, Hannah, and I broke off to take the longer route back.

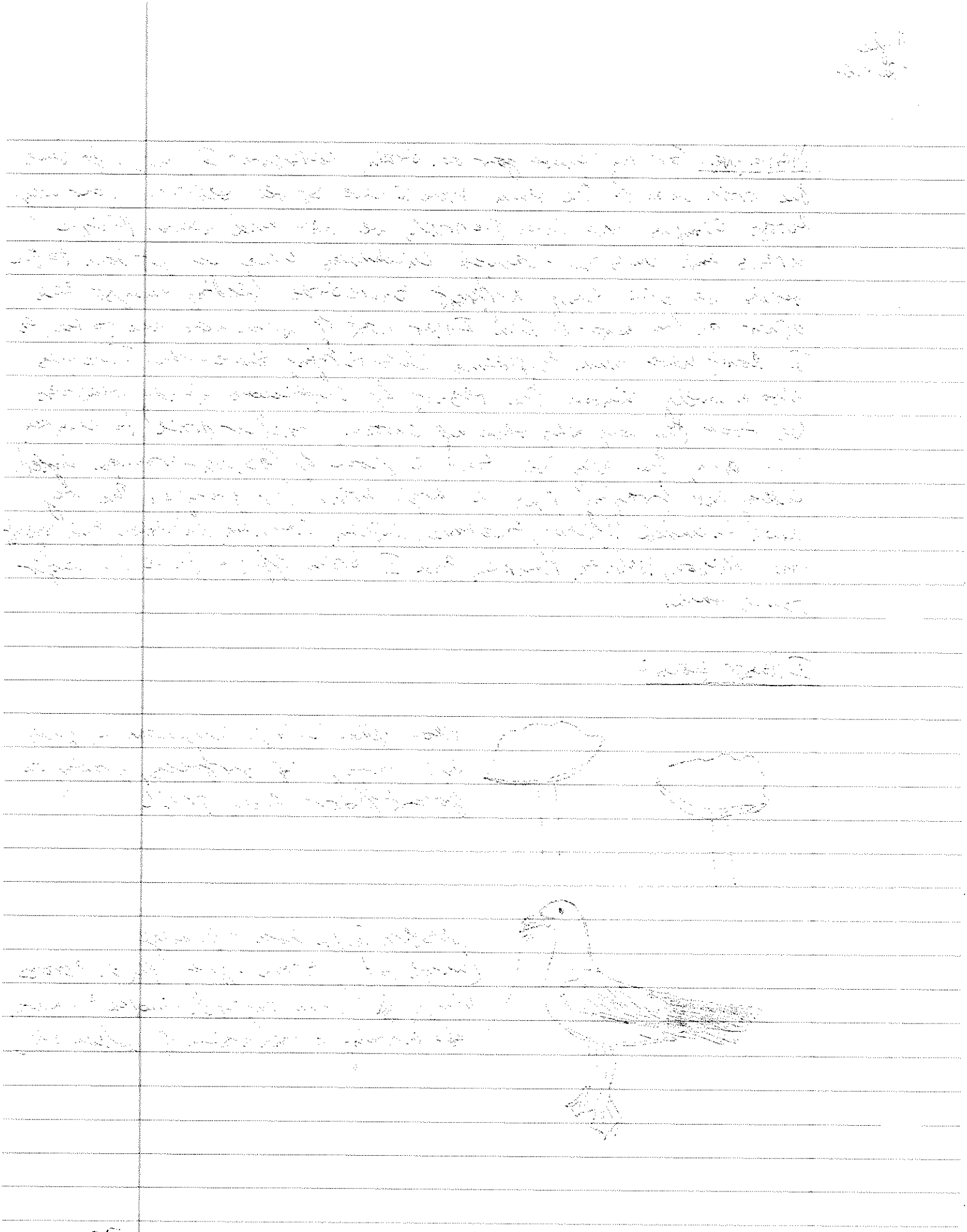
Illustrations:



Neon yellow/orange mushrooms w/ gills and slimy cap surfaces, growing on forest floor along trail



Western Gull adult plumage (white body, stone-grey patch across wings, black wingtips scalloped w/ white, red marking on underside of yellow bill)



Pyle
1.20.22

50 Loved words:

1. Feuftoon
2. Blazing
3. Quiescence
4. Invigorate
5. foundress
6. Zenith
7. Multifarious
8. Brevity
9. Iridescence
10. Antiquarian
11. Tonsure
12. Genuflect
13. Mercurial
14. Zanthic
15. [redacted] Descant
16. Elaiosome
17. Myrmecochory
18. Marauding
19. Corollary
20. Paucity
21. Biochemical swordplay
22. Venerable
23. parry
24. Zeitgeber
25. Thunderstruck
26. Exsanguination
27. Largesse
28. Abeyance
29. Semaphore
30. Bestiary
31. Fiddlehead
32. Spore
33. Auspicious
34. Whet
35. Heartneal
36. Phosphorescence
37. Languor
38. Luciferin
39. Exuberance
40. Nadir
41. Cygnet
42. Splendor
43. Happenstance
44. Audacious
45. Depredations
46. wisp of wolf
47. Ostensibly
48. Exultant
49. Accoutrement
50. Tintinnabulation

Pyle
1.20.22

The Inspired Poet Exercises:
Chapter 2, exercise 1:

And they all lived happily ever after....
Save the poor dragon watching from the rafters
of the splendorous castle in which his princess was married
To that frog of a prince who dallied and tarried
in saving a maiden so handsome and fair.

The princess had come of her own volition
to escape a life barefoot and pregnant in a kitchen,
Slaving away with no hope of respite,
till a convenient dragon listened to her plight
and welcomed her into his cavernous lair.

They oft flew together through skies gold and blue;
On his back the princess felt she were a dragon too,
fiery and bold with few fears in this world
save the errant knight's brash yet bumbling sword.
But nothing could down these two in the air.

Then one terrible, ill-fated, nightmarish day,
A young armored fool stole the princess away.
They rode back in style, on a stunning white horse,
while the wind blew away all those tears that would course
down the princess's face in her regretful despair.

The moment they returned to the stifling palace
A feast was prepared, and though there was no malice
in the king and queen's gesture still the princess recoiled
for the stink of peasants, liquor, and strange meats boiled
to the dragon's clean forests could never compare.

The wedding day came, strewn in sparkling white,
and the princess found herself quite frozen in fright
at the prospect of walking the church's gilt aisle
to meet that grinning, smarmy prince so righteous and vile,
the goodly king's only unfortunate heir.

But! Just as the princess began her doomed march,
there came a great roar from the church ceiling's arch
and a dragon unfurled himself to full weight,
with a snap! of his wings he launched into flight
and snatched up the princess, fulfilling her prayer.

Up and away, and onward they flew
through those rejuvenating skies, still all gold and blue.
And all the king's horses, and all the king's men
would never find the princess nor the dragon again.
And <u>they</u> lived happily ever after — so there!

Chapter 5, exercise 2: "Snegurochka"

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
or rather to a frigid winter's night?

The halcyon warmth and flowering are not
so fitting as boughs of pine enshrined in frost.

The chains of heat and dust no match
for mountain streams, cold and clear and fast.

Alas, my love, you are no August morn
But it's a compliment, to be braving, wild, winter gale-borne

Ryle
1-20-22

Chapter 23, exercise 1: "Ode to the Antler of a Roosevelt Elk"

I consider the six-tined branch atop my mantel,
wrought of earth-colored bone,
Scored with infinite miniature canyons,
liberated from some mighty cervine head
miles and decades away.

What sights, sounds, smells was this antler privy to,
From the time it bloomed, cloaked in ephemeral velvet,
to the instant it tumbled, time over time, to land in some
wonderland of ferns?

Of course, in the moons between, the antler found itself
Thrashed.
Raked.
Grated against limbs of cedar and fir until its velvet veneer
Hung off in bloody strips, revealing raw bone beneath.

How must it have felt, to crown a thousand pounds
of Cervus canadensis? Bearing witness to bugles
loosed, thunderous, across conifer-covered ridges
to the ears of waiting cows?

What contrast, then, to lie silently amongst the leaf litter,
discarded after a season like an old hat,
not even properly hung on a hatstand but tossed,
abandoned without second thought, no "farewell, and thank you"
from the old bull in the end.
And why should there be?
He'll only grow another next spring. (A bigger one, too.)

But that is no matter, for now a new pair of eyes alights upon the half-buried treasure (a little chewed by squirrels).

Up, the antler rises, lifted from the ferns by human passion, now given life and adoration immortal, equally majestic from my vantage point on the living room sofa as if surely was atop a thick-furred beast, forging through dark woods.

Indeed, one elk's trash is this woman's treasure.

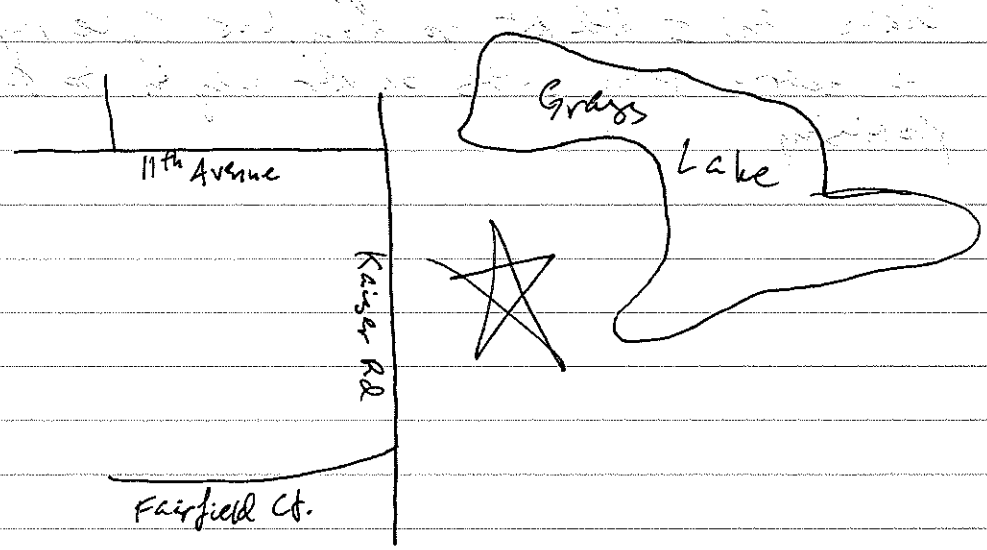
Week 3

Audiomoth Deployment

Abbey Pyle
21 January 2022

Location: Grass Lake Park, Olympia, Washington.
47.05364° N, -122.95565° W. 11:43 am.

Map:



☆ = Grass Lake Nature Reserve

Habitat Information: The reserve contains wetlands and a freshwater lake with surrounding marshes. Trees and vegetation include Douglas firs, Bigleaf maples, Oregon grape, Salal, sword fern, and various mosses/lichens. The forest is second and third-growth.

Climate:
Temp: 44°F Wind: 0 Sky: 2

Observations:
- Freshwater pond nearby
- Frogs calling
- Pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): Calling
- Dragon fly

Narrative: This week, my group [redacted] (Mary Claire, Kylie, and I) decided to deploy our Audiomoth at Grays Lake Nature Reserve, hoping to record more abundant and varied bird songs / calls here. Kylie went and deployed the Audiomoth there after lab this morning, [redacted] as she lives nearby. Mary Claire and I did not go along, but Kylie reported back that she heard many birds on her way in, so this location seems promising.

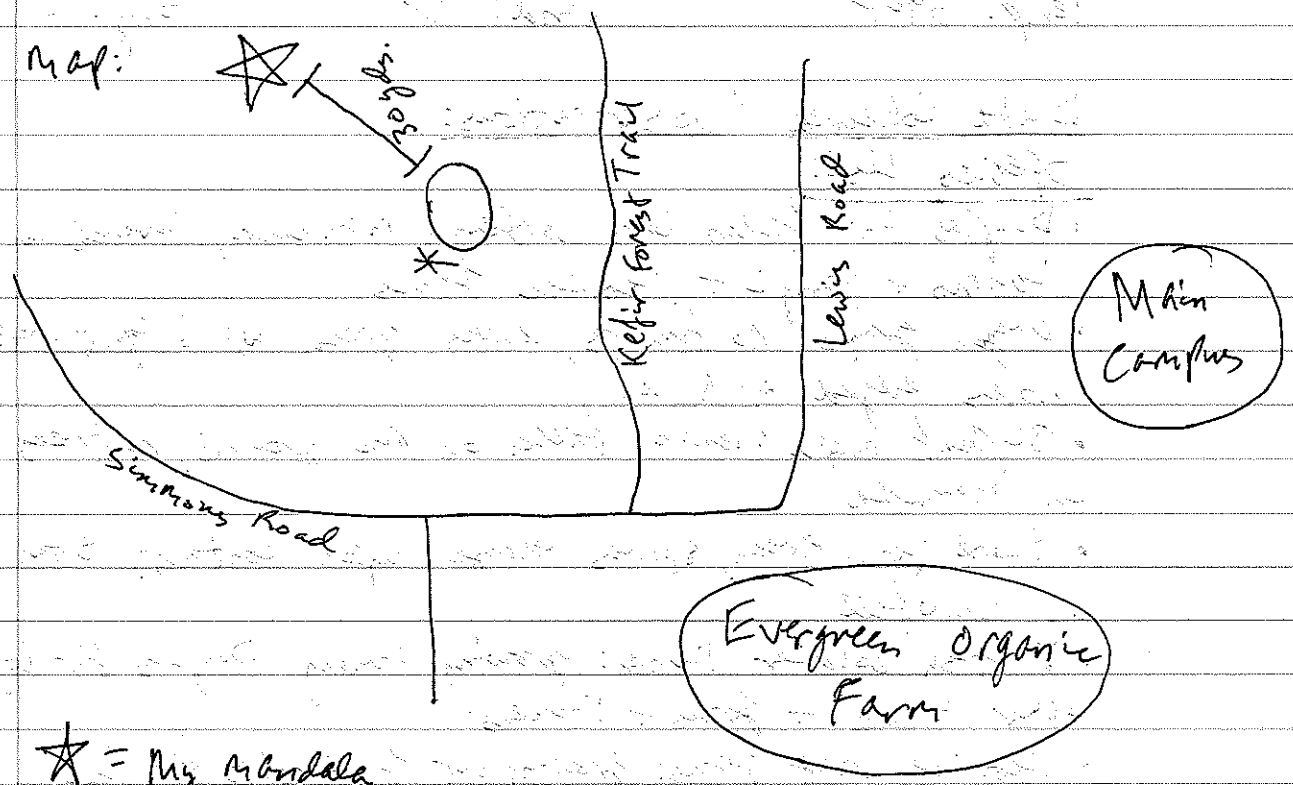
Week 4

Field Mandala Observation

Abbey Pyle
27 January 2022

<u>Location:</u> Kiefer Forest, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA; 47.0707779°N, -122.9891421° W

Map:



☆ = My mandala
O = Large Douglas fir root ball, covered in moss and ferns
* = Small Western hemlock tree

Description: Starting from the Organic Farm, my mandala is to the left of the trail. There will be a large root ball from a fallen Douglas fir tree, with a small Western hemlock tree next to it. From here, walk ~30 yds. straight and slightly to the right, and my mandala will be visible by the end of a broken-off Douglas fir log.

<u>Habitat Information:</u> My mandala's habitat consists of second growth, mixed canopy temperate rainforest. Trees are primarily

Western Red Cedar, Western hemlock, Douglas fir, bigleaf maple, and red alder. Understory vegetation consists of sword fern, salal, Oregon grape, red huckleberry, lichens, and mosses.

Climate Information:

Temp: 39°F Wind: 0 Sky: 0 (clear)

Data Collected / Observations:

Species List:

- Douglas fir: fallen logs bordering mandala, covered in mosses + lichens + fungi + licorice ferns
- Oregon grape: no fruits, leaves green w/ bright red spots + holes edged w/ brown
- Bigleaf maple: leaves fallen on the ground, no trees present in mandala
- Sword fern: green, spores release upon contact, stalks compressed by snowfall
- British Soldier lichen: growing among Douglas fir logs among other mosses + ferns + lichens
- licorice root ferns: growing out of Douglas fir logs
- moss (species unknown): bright green, furry texture, growing on Douglas fir logs
- lichens (species unknown): pale green, spiky, scattered on ground
- Pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): making "chip" calls, foraging in undergrowth
- American Robin (Turdus migratorius): foraging for worms in flock of ~10, making high-pitched "seep" call, all froze in alarm at some unseen threat
- American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos): cawing in distance
- Chestnut-backed chickadee (Poecile rufescens): calling, flying from tree to tree

Kyle
1.27.22

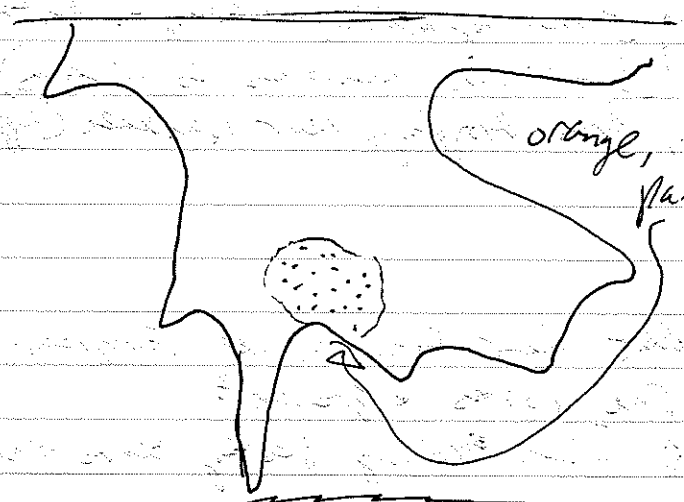
- Black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus): making warble and "chicka dee dee dee" calls
- Brown creeper (Certhia americana): making high-pitched two-note chirp calls
- Golden-crowned kinglet (Regulus satrapa): small flock, foraging in Douglas fir trees, high twittering call
- Dark-eyed junco (Junco hyemalis): calling in distance
- Blacktail deer (Odocoileus hemionus columbianus): bounding away, sex unknown, fresh droppings near mandala (appear to be doe droppings)

Questions:
- How many resident deer live on/near Evergreen's campus?
- What caused the robins to freeze?
- Does the sound of BLM artillery testing scare wildlife?

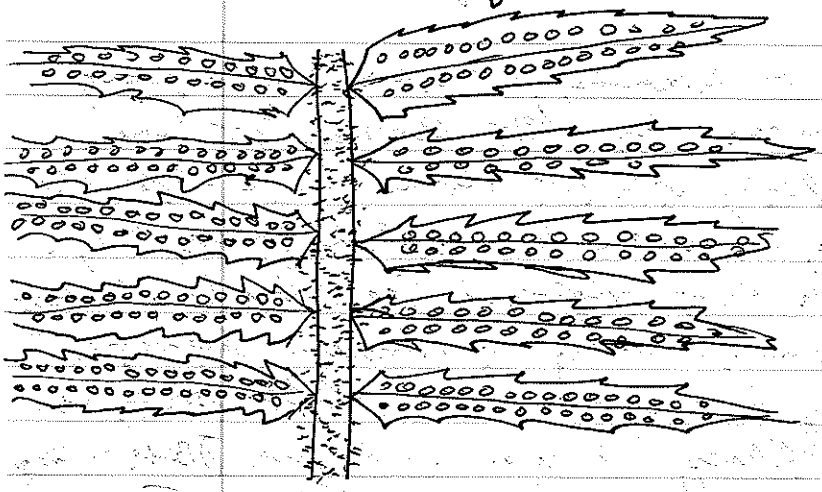
Narrative: En route to our mandalas, our class saw a flock of robins foraging for worms; they felt alarmed for some reason and froze completely still for several minutes after. Here we also saw kinglets, chickadees, towhees, and juncos, though we did not confirm what frightened the robins (we suspect it was a Cooper's Hawk). During my mandala observation, I heard more anthropony than I ever have in Kiffer forest, with many loud trucks, airplanes, and loud "booms" from BLM artillery testing. This made it difficult to hear birdsong. I noticed that the air looked a bit smoky, and seemed stagnant, likely a result of the heavy fog earlier today, and lack of wind. There was not much new herbaceous growth at all, but I don't know if my mandala's ecosystem would have much anyway; I think the ferns and Oregon grape probably dominate the ground/understory in this part of the forest. I also noticed that the Oregon grape leaves had large holes punched out of them, and

bright red spots; this is most likely insect predation I would think. The spider webs are looking beautiful this week, able to stay intact with the calm, dry weather.

Illustrations:



Bigleaf maple leaf, dead, orange, part of leaf litter, with patch full of tiny black dots; insect eggs or fungi/mold?



Underside of sword fern; rough/hairy stalk w/ light orange spores on the underside of each leaf

6 Sensory Observations:

1. The pure, verdant radiance of afternoon sunlight shining through the ferns.
2. The glimmering gossamer threads of spider silk, perfectly woven into webs.
3. The cold seeps into my legs from the log I sit upon.
4. The warm salve of sunlight on my cold-flushed face.

Ryle
1.27.22

5. Fern spores erupt in a shimmering cloud of gold as I wade through them.
6. The grating, incessant cacophony of trucks, airplanes, and artillery.

Delight:
The sight of a black-tailed deer bounding away through the ferns as I approached my mandala.

Kyle
1.27-20

The Inspired Poet Exercises:
Chapter 8, exercise 1:

"Ode to Dandelion"

Oh dear Dandelion, with your jubilant shining face
you are dandy indeed. Brightening summer fields
and welcoming all manner of bees with beaming hospitality.

Do you know you are the great whimsical wish-granter
for wide-eyed young ones everywhere? With bated breath
they whisper dreams into your downy crown of seeds.

If you know this you must know, also, how they loathe you.
"They" being not children but the middle-aged war-hawks
of suburbia. You disrupt their altars to monoculture.

Some of us are learning, though. Learning that every part of you,
from flower to stem to leaf to root, is perfectly edible.
Now what a bountiful garden is the abandoned field!

Chapter 12, exercise 1:

The fear rose like bile in her throat,
Sharp and sour, gagging.
Animal heart pounding,
Sinews of the limbs taut
and ready for [redacted] chase that will not come.
Run.
Every fiber screams and yet she cannot.
Ancestral instinct insists the wolf is waiting
but this is no longer a straightforward era.
No use, is it? Running from a beast shackled to your own mind.

Chapter 34, exercise 1:
"If I was Dead" + "The Bees" + "Whoever She Was" +
"Seven Strings"

Her harp had seven strings.
He, being a bodhrán player, had no idea
how many strings a harp was meant to have,
but hers had seven.

Walfred right into the session, she did.
Took a place between two pipers,
looked unquestioningly towards the caller,
and at his cue began to play.

Never had the music been richer
in the land of milk and honey
as it proved to be that night.
And nobody could put their finger on the difference.

He could. Martin Kilkelly watched
her fingers, precise to the point of magic
lifting lilting melodies as if
that harp were mere extension of her.

He knew, too, that this would
be the end of it, never again
would the tunes flow so fair appeared
as the night the black-haired lass

"If I was dead," he mused,
bodhrán beat steady though
his heart was certainly not,

Ryle
1.27.22

"Can't say as I'd terribly mind."

"I'd march up to the gates,
whichever set I sided up before,
and tell all the saints I am
after the grandest session in all Eire."

Though The saints did not hear Martin,
for he lived through the spellbound night,
a similar sentiment made its way
to the garden and the beasts come down.

"Witchcraft," said Martin, boots sunk
into the frozen spring mud, "Whoever
she was..." his poor young mind
snagged on the memory of clever blue eyes,

"Whoever she was" and now he
found himself before the gently
buzzing hives, and the Bees did
not reply, only listened.
But they heard.

50 Loved Words:

1. Rapacious
2. Pernicious
3. Cervine
4. Hauteur
5. Affinity
6. Acumen
7. Agrarian
8. Suffrages
9. Discomfiture
10. Incongruous
11. Albeit
12. Curlew
13. Inscribe
14. Variegated
15. Stratum
16. Tenacity
17. Tenable
18. Presage
19. Painterly
20. Dun
21. Russet
22. Pareidolia
23. Vexations
24. Enfailed
25. Fraught
26. Dichromat
27. Spar
28. Elke
29. Tracery
30. [redacted] Rend
31. Esoteric
32. Calamity
33. Profligacy
34. Fledgel
35. Humus
36. Slake
37. Rhizosphere
38. Tendril
39. Paragon
40. Homestead
41. Forage
42. Reciprocity
43. Thrip
44. Moulder
45. Foray
46. Extravagance
47. Sciurid
48. Lambent
49. Enumeration
50. Ineffable

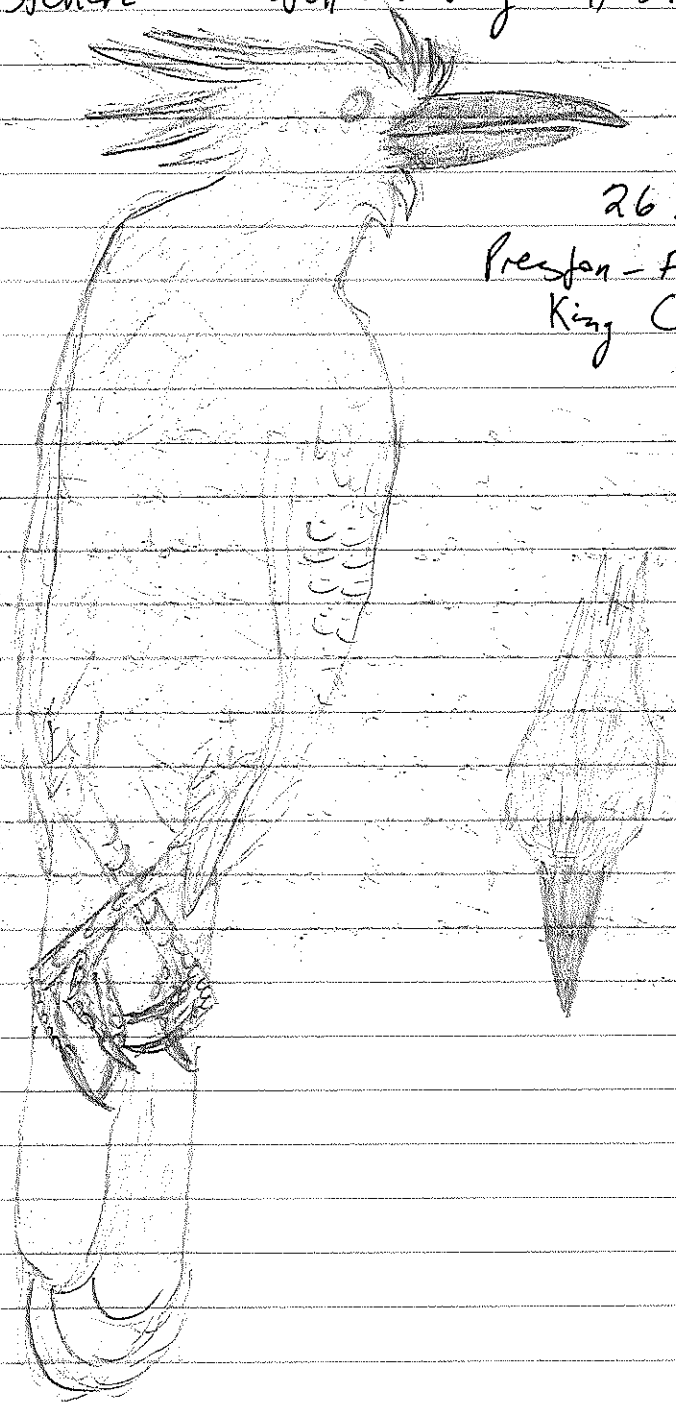
Week 4

Scientific Illustration Lab

Abbey Ryle
28 January 2022

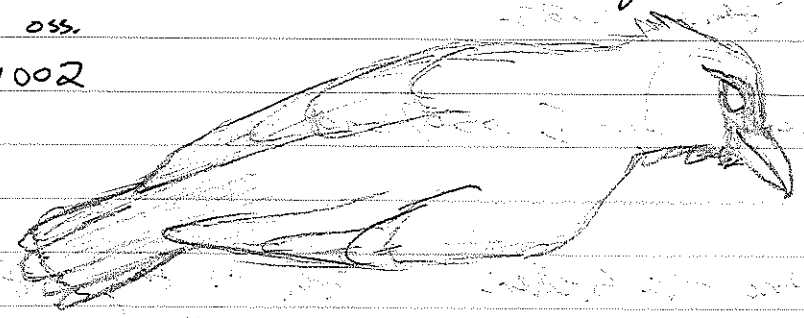
Location: Lab I 1050/1040

Cyanocitta stelleri Stellar's Jay #3406 135g

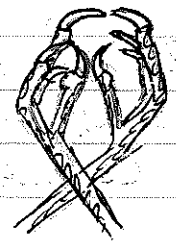


26 Apr. 1995
Preston - Fall City Rd
King CO, WA

Bombycilla Cedrorum Cedar waxwing 3412 32g ♂
Skull 60% oss.
39 J.V002



14 July 2010 Woodard Bay and Libby Rd, Olympia, WA
CP: 6mm, stomach contents: Rosaceas seeds

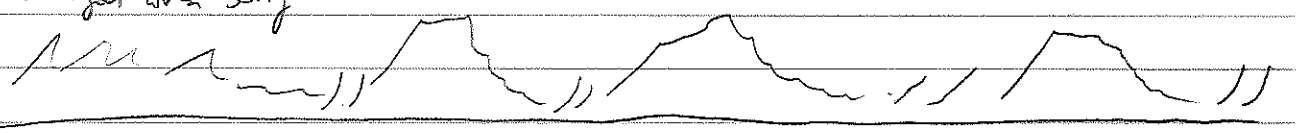


Narrative: I learned that birds hatch with fragmented skulls, which ossify with age like ours do. I had also never heard of the extension of the large intestine that gets absorbed by ~1 yr. of age; this was very interesting to learn. I also was intrigued by the idea of drawing the shape of bird soon as we hear it, and plan to try this in future field outings. Drawing/sketching the specimens was quite challenging, especially given their bold, stiff positions. However, it was fascinating to get such a close, detailed look at birds we'd otherwise only see in motion and at a distance. The markings and varying feather types really struck me.

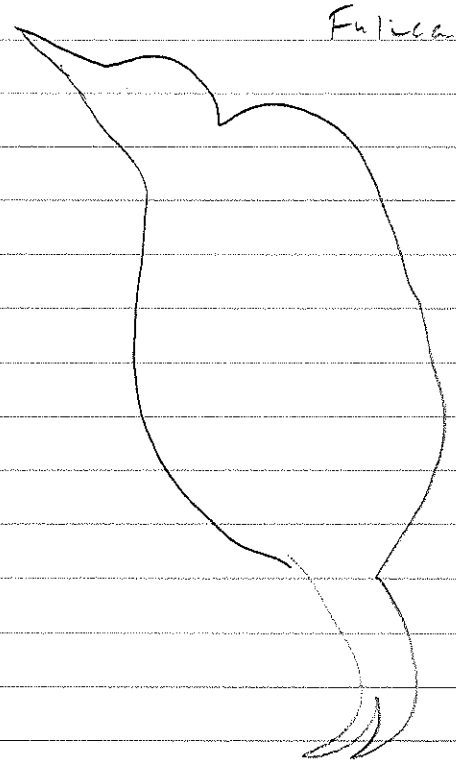
Kyle
1.28.22

Blind Contour Line Drawing + Song Drawing

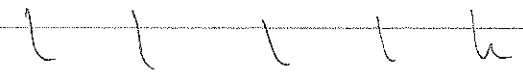
Canyon wren song



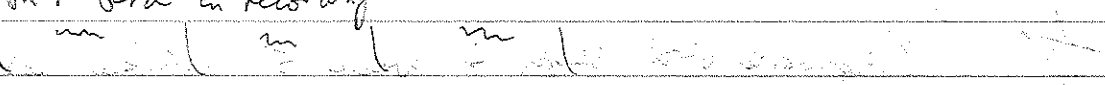
Fulica americana



Northern Water Thrush



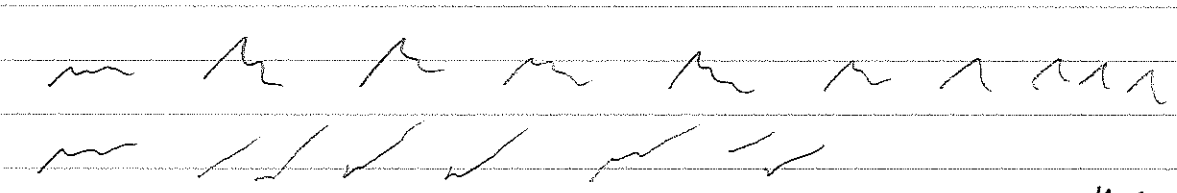
+ other bird in recording



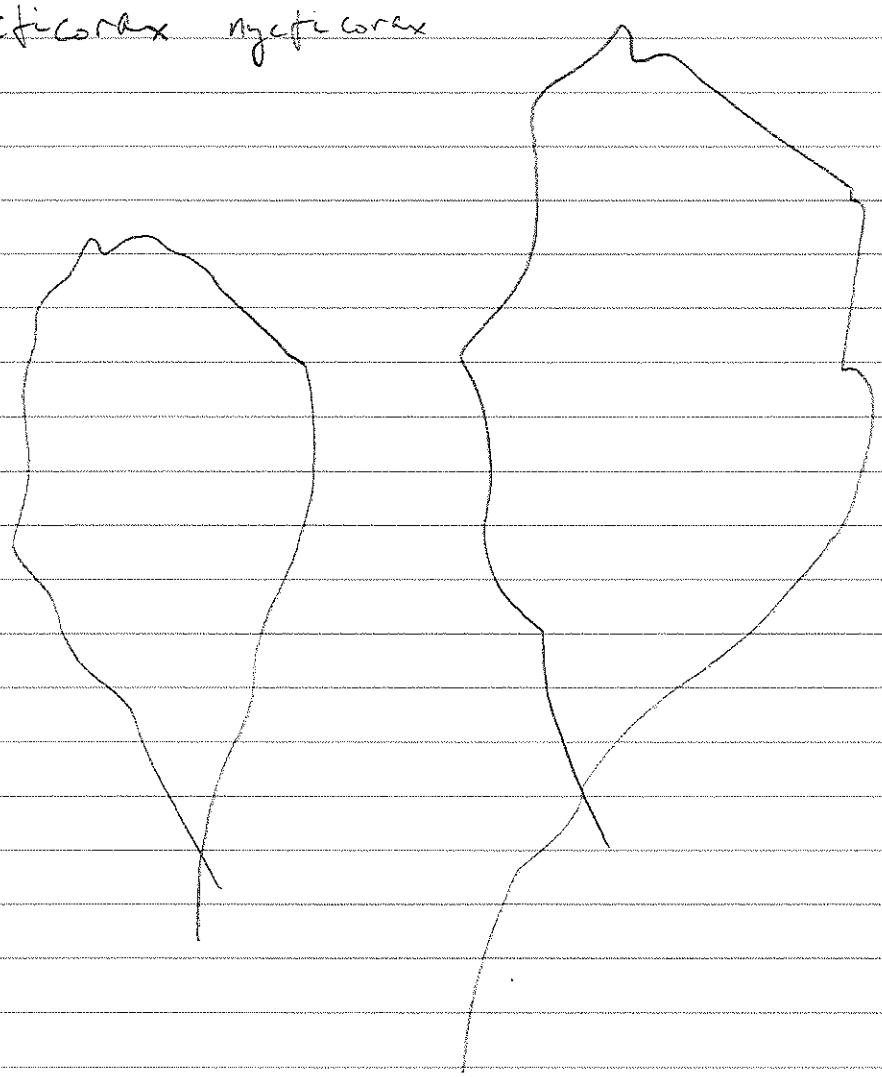
Pacific wren song

1/2

1/4



Nycticorax nycticorax



☆ (Homework bird sketch in week 5 mandala observation journal, sketch of Pacific wren)

Week 5

Field Mandala Observation

Abby Ryle
30 January 2022

Location: Kiefer Forest, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA, 47.07116° N, -122.989240 W, elevation 171 ft.

Map of Changes:

This was the first day I've ever seen a bird in my mandala itself: it was a Pacific wren foraging underneath a sword fern.

Habitat Information: My mandala is in a second-growth temperate rainforest. Trees consist primarily of Douglas fir, western red cedar, Bigleaf maple, red alder, and Western hemlock. The understory consists of sword fern, red huckleberry, holly, Oregon grape, licorice root fern, salal, and various mosses, lichens, and fungi. The canopy is mixed.

Climate Information:
Temperature: 41°F Wind: 1, escalated to 3 Sky: 2 (overcast)

Data Collected / observations:

- Trees groaning / squeaking in the wind: I thought this was a bird call at first, it was a high-pitched squeak
- Pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): I saw + heard several, but one was at my mandala, making "chip" calls and foraging under sword ferns
- unknown bird call: /\ — (how I heard it), in the distance, bird not visible, maybe warbler of some kind?
- Chestnut-backed chickadee (Poecile rufescens): "hey sweetie" calls in distance, not visible
- no new herbaceous growth, or new lichens/mosses/fungi
- deer scat: blacktail doe, likely same scat I saw last week

Usual species list of:

- Douglas fir
- Bigleaf maple
- Sword fern
- Oregon grape
- Licorice root fern
- British soldier lichens

Questions:

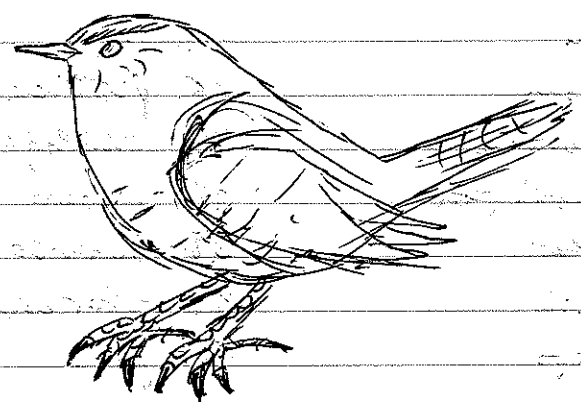
- when will the sword ferns sprout new fiddle heads?
- will my mandala ever grow new herbaceous plants on the ground, or do the ferns and oregon grape take over?
- what is the identity of the bird I heard calling?

Narrative: For my independent mandala observation this week, I went with my dad, and we did the whole Kifer forest loop after my observation. Today was the first time I have ever seen a bird (or any non-invertebrate animal) in my mandala itself: there was a Pacific wren foraging under the sword fern

Kyle
1.30.22

bordering my mandala. It quickly flew off when it saw us approaching. My dad used the app On-X maps to get coordinates for me, so they were a little different from the usual ones I get from Google maps. This app also gave the elevation, of 171 feet. We heard tree trunks creaking in the wind, which we thought at first was a bird call, but then we did hear a strange call. I heard it as /\—, and though I looked on the Macaulay Library's site, I could not figure out what we'd heard. My guess is that it was a warbler of some kind, as that is what it sounded closest to. On our way back to the main trail, we saw blacktail deer scat, likely the same scat I saw last week. There must be resident deer in the area. I still have not observed any new plant growth in my mandala, but I expect to within the next couple of weeks, probably. My dad pointed out that the sword ferns will likely start sprouting fiddleheads soon.

Illustrations:



pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): medium brown, bars on wings and tail, short up-turned tail, slight "eyebrow" marking of darker brown

50 Loved words - Focus on Sound:

1. percussive
2. cacophony
3. euphony
4. forte
5. fermata
6. cantata
7. fugue
8. sprachspiel
9. limerick
10. lilting
11. warble
12. Chorus
13. Crescendo
14. diminuendo
15. ethereal
16. otherworldly
17. evensong
18. chorister
19. Thrum
20. Raucous
21. echolocation
22. Syncopation
23. downbeat
24. tremolo
25. staccato
26. legato
27. arpeggio
28. cadence
29. Cadenza
30. twittering
31. adagio
32. overture
33. onomatopoeia
34. andante
35. undulating
36. Berceuse
37. caprice
38. chorale
39. elegy
40. slip-jig
41. leitmotif
42. mazurka
43. nocturne
44. opus
45. pizzicato
46. rallentando
47. rubato
48. scherzo
49. sforzando
50. trill

6 Sensory Observations:

1. The rain-slicked green of sword ferns.
2. The dry, spiky texture of an unknown lichen.
3. The cold, salubrious air lifting my lungs.
4. The rich ochre fans of mushrooms protruding from a log.

Ryle
1.30.22

5. The whining complaints of trees creaking in the wind.

6. The invigorating pound of my heart as I hike up a hill.

<u>A Delight:</u> Getting to turn a mandala observation into a lovely hike and quality time with my dad.

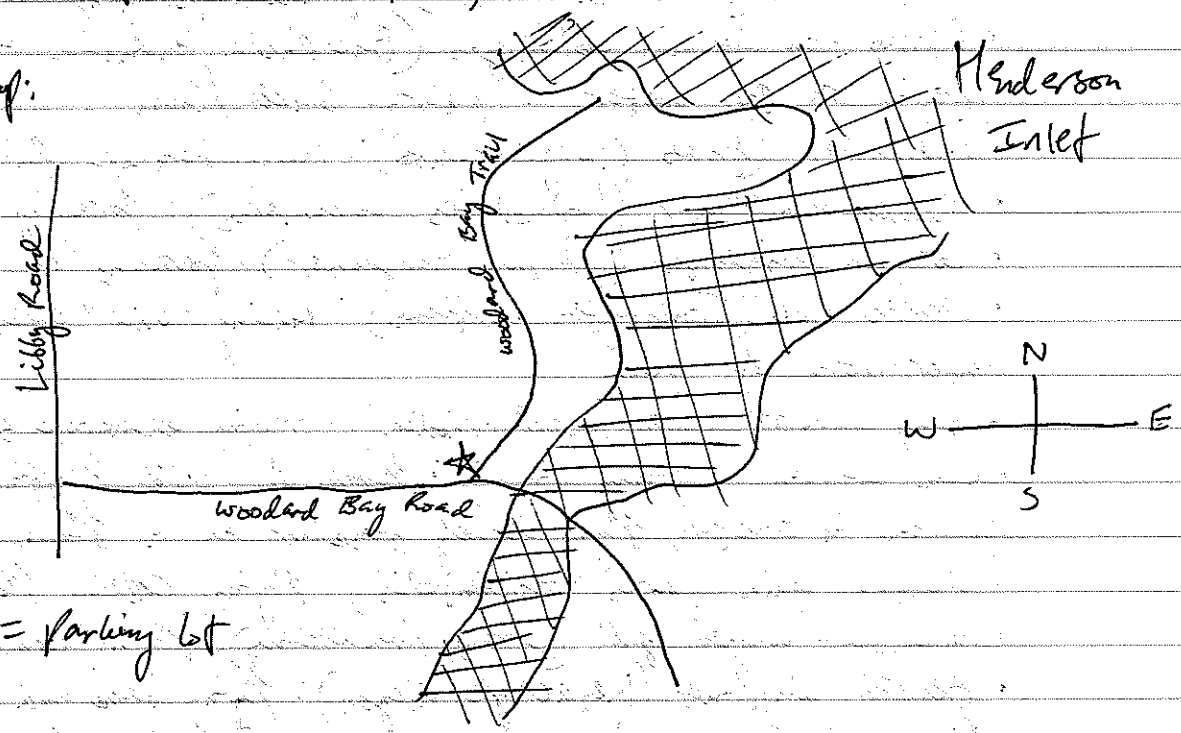
Week 5

Woodard Bay Field Trip

Abbey Ryle
3 February 2022

Location: Woodard Bay Conservation Area, Olympia, WA
Coordinates 47.126734° N, -122.8528630° W

Map:



☆ = parking lot

Location Description: Woodard Bay Conservation Area is a walking trail located in Olympia, looking out to Henderson Inlet and Puget Sound. Heading west on Woodard Bay Road towards Libby Road, there will be a parking area and the trailhead to the right.

Habitat Information: The trail through the woods is in a mixed canopy temperate rainforest, with trees and vegetation including western red cedar, bigleaf maple, red alder, Douglas fir, sword fern, salmonberry, and holly. The trail ends at a mixed rocky/sandy beach with madrona trees and various shrubs. There are also clams, mussels, oysters, and barnacles on the beach and pilings out in the water. The Sound is saltwater.

Climate information:

Temp: 47°F Wind: 1-2 Sky: 1-2, slightly misty at times

Data Collected / observations:

- Bufflehead (Bucepala albeola): females foraging in group, splashing
- Barrows and Common Goldeneyes (Bucephala islandica + B. clangula): foraging on the water in pairs / small flocks
- Mallards (Anas platyrhynchos): male/female pairs forming
- Hooded merganser (Lophodytes cucullatus): foraging on water
- Common merganser (Mergus merganser): foraging on water
- Pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): making "chip" calls, foraging in understory of ferns
- Song sparrow (Melospiza melodia): singing elaborate song in distance
- Pine siskin (Spinus pinus): flock of ~12 flitting about, foraging in treetops, flying closely together as a flock
- Western gull (Larus occidentalis): flying, calling, floating on water
- Glaucous-winged gull (Larus glaucescens): flying, calling, floating on water
- Belted kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon): flying back and forth, "rattle" call
- Pelagic cormorant (Phalacrocorax pelagicus): perched on pilings, sleeping and preening, some flying low over water
- Olympic gull (L. occidentalis × L. glaucescens): picking apart + eating a fist-sized crab on the beach
- Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias): "seige" of ~23 gathered on old railroad, most standing w/heads tucked under wings or preening
- Western grebe (Aechmophorus occidentalis): foraging on water, diving
- Surf scoter (Melanitta perspicillata): foraging on water
- Common crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos): calling, flying over beach
- Bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus): perched on tree top, chattering call, flew in circle before returning to perch
- Rock dove (Columba livia): perched on old railroad
- Harbor seal (Phoca vitulina): alternately diving and floating on surface
- Golden-crowned kinglet (Regulus satrapa): foraging midway up

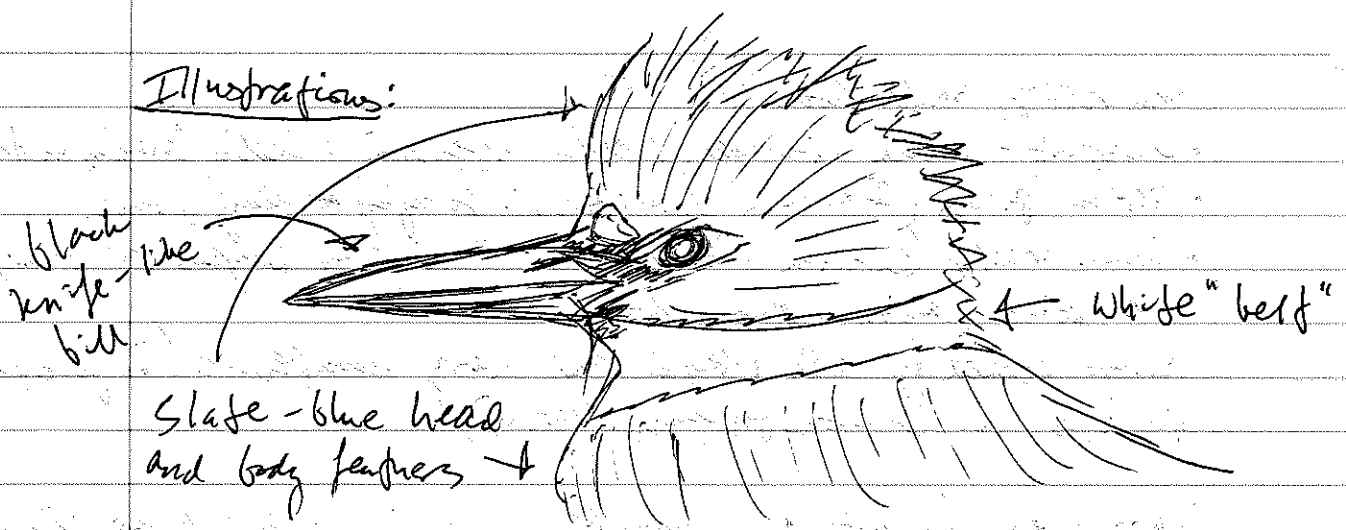
Kyle
2·3·22

understory, small flock of <5
- Chestnut-backed chickadee (Poecile rufescens): calling, foraging in trees
- Varied thrush (Ixoreus naevius): foraging along ground
- Brown creeper (Certhia americana): climbing up Douglas fir trunk, at one point hanging upside down
- snags pecked by both pileated and hairy woodpeckers (Dryocopus pileatus and Leuconotopicus villosus)

Narrative: We met as a group at the parking lot and noted climate and location information, as well as several shore bird species in Henderson Inlet. Along the forested trail, we saw and heard various songbird species, with many similar to those found in Kiser forest, but a few new faces as well: pine siskins, a varied thrush, and a song sparrow singing. Once we reached the end of the trail and could see across the harbor, we saw many shorebirds, including multiple species of gulls, grebes, goldeneyes, ducks, etc. There was also a large "seige" of great blue herons, about 23, sleeping and preening on the section of old railroad. This was more herons than I've ever seen in one place; it was an amazing sight. We also saw a cormorant rookery, which is not active yet but will be soon. On our way back along the wooded trail, we saw more songbirds including kinglets. All in all it seemed quite an active day for bird life. We noticed as well that the ducks, especially the mallards, are beginning to form mating pairs.

Questions:
- when do pelagic cormorants begin nest-building in the rookery?
- How common is it for great blue herons to gather in large groups like these ones did?

Illustrations:



Belted Kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon)

6 Sensory Observations (focus on sound):

1. The hollow, rattling call of a belted kingfisher.
2. The piercing cry of gulls, calling to mind a slew of childhood memories of rocky ~~[illegible]~~ northern beaches.
3. The bracing aroma of brine and mud revealed as the tide retreats.
4. The saturated slate-silver-gold of afternoon clouds ripe with rain.
5. The rapid fire rippling sound of shore bird wings upon the water.
6. The call of a bald eagle, high and sharp and clear, majestic enough in its own right, even if Hollywood does not deem it so.

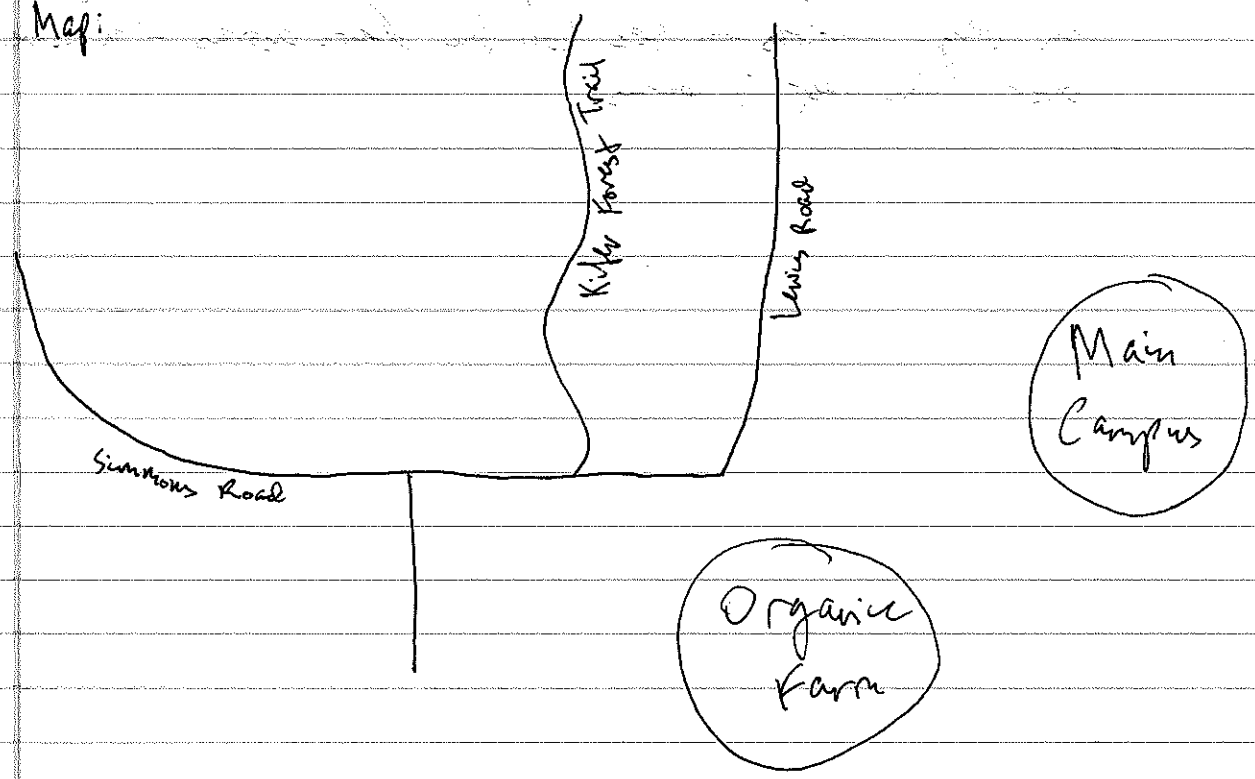
Week 5

Audiomoth Deployment

Abbey Pyle
2.4.2022

<u>Location:</u> Kifer Forest, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA, 10:30am
coordinates: 47.071229° N, -122.988756° W

Map:



<u>Climate:</u>
Temp: 43°F Wind: 2 Sky: 2 (overcast)

<u>Observations:</u>
- pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): making two-note "chip" calls, foraging in sword ferns
- chestnut-backed chickadee (Poecile rufescens): calling in distance
- not much bird activity overall

Narrative: Mary Claire, Kylie, and I decided to deploy our audiomoth in a central location between our three mandalas, to get one last set of data from our Kifer plots this winter. We did not hear much activity, only two bird species, but we went out when the dawn chorus was probably over (10:30am). We will check the audiomoth for a final time in two weeks, and I am very curious to see how the dawn chorus will have shifted over the last 7 weeks.

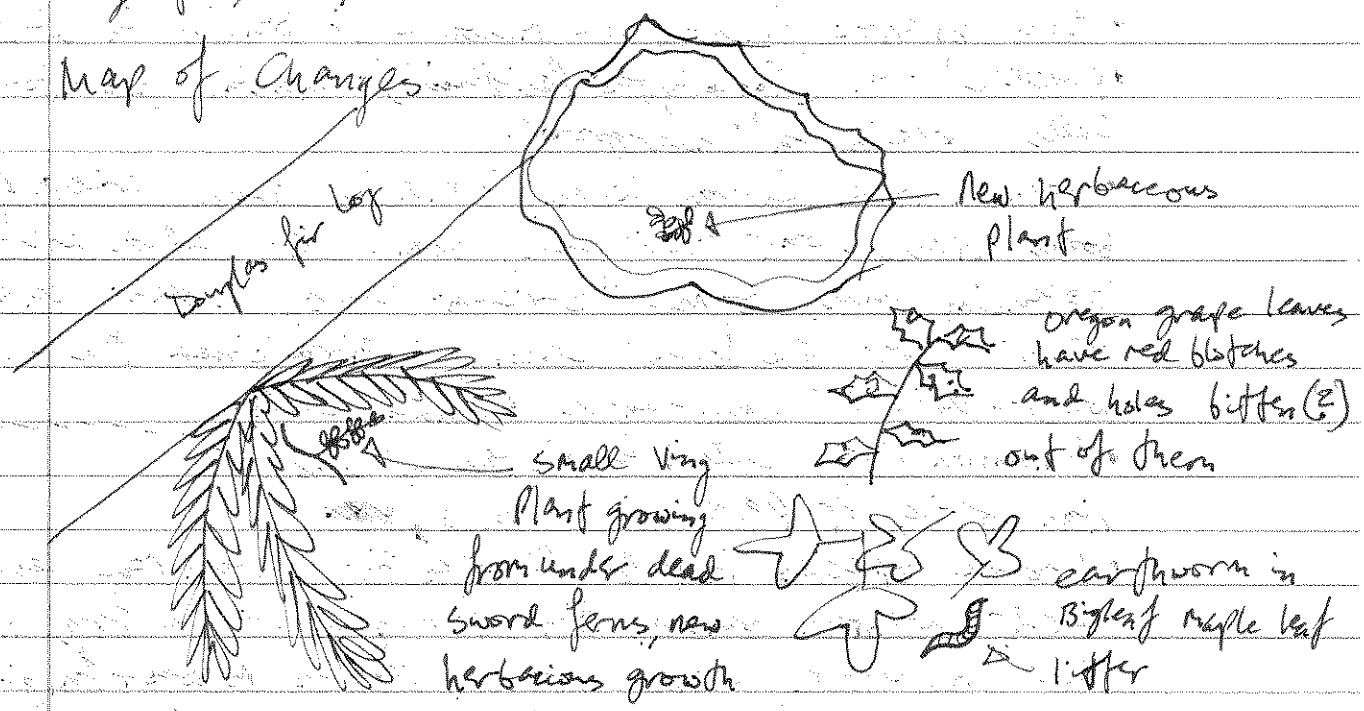
Week 6

Field Mandala Observation

Abbey Pyle
10 February 2022

Location: Kiefer Forest, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA, 47.071090° N, -122.98925610° W

Map of Changes:



Habitat Information: My mandala's habitat consists of second-growth, mixed canopy temperate rainforest. Trees include Douglas fir, Bigleaf maple, Western hemlock, Red alder, and Western red cedar. Understory vegetation consists of sword fern, salal, Oregon grape, licorice root fern, red huckleberry, and various lichens and mosses.

Climate Information:
Temp: 46° F Wind: 0 Sky: 2

Data Collected / Observations:

- Dark-eyed junco: (Junco hyemalis), foraging midway up small tree
- Spotted towhee (Pipilo maculatus): foraging on ground under sword ferns and salal
- Song sparrow (Melospiza melodia): singing in distance
- Pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): making two-tone "chip" calls, foraging in undergrowth
- Common raven (Corvus corax): making wide variety of calls, some spaced-out "roi" calls, some very rapid agitated-sounding calls, some "scream" calls, a pair chased each other over the forest canopy, a third joined the chase, some water-drip or wood-knock sounding calls
- Unknown bird call: in distance, loud, / ---------- , high series of percussive notes,
- Usual species list of: Douglas fir, western red cedar, red alder, western hemlock, Bigleaf maple, sword fern, salal, red huckleberry, Oregon grape, various mosses + fungi + lichens
- earthworm: crawling under Bigleaf maple leaf litter, moving quickly and actively, size = _____
- tiny, light brown spider: crawling among moss on Douglas fir log

Questions:

- Why were the ravens chasing each other? Was this due to a territorial dispute, mating behaviors, or something else?

Narrative: This week we did our usual one-hour observation at our Kifer Mandalas. At the Organic farm, on our way to Kifer Forest, we saw birds eating the chicken feed in their outdoor enclosure. As I reached my Mandala, a Pacific wren was foraging under some sword ferns. It flew off at my approach, but after I'd been sitting still for a while,

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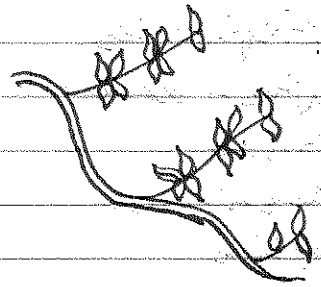
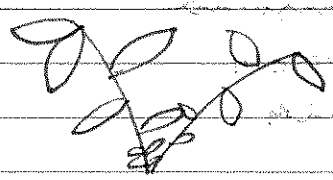
2.10.22

it returned, and came within ~2 feet of me. I watched an earthworm crawl around in the leaf litter, and it seemed very active. After that, I was entertained for a while by a small flock of ravens calling loudly and chasing each other around over the forest canopy. They were making such a fascinating variety of calls, including some that sounded like water drops or knocks on wood. I didn't notice much new herbaceous growth, except for two small leafy plants. I was expecting to see a bit more by now, especially the start of fern fiddleheads growing, but none have sprouted yet. We also noted that the scarlet cup fungus is still intact along the trail — this fungus sprouted around week 2, so it is cool that it is still intact and bright all these weeks later.

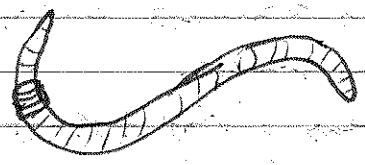
Illustrations:



Small viney plant, medium green, new growth, growing out from leaf litter under dead sword ferns



Small, medium green, leafy plant, new growth, growing from inside of broken-off Douglas fir log



Earthworm; it was fascinating to watch it stretch and contract as it moved through the soil and leaf litter

50 Loved Words:

1. Bequeath
2. Sacrament
3. Fruition
4. Winnowing
5. Alizarin
6. Superciliary
7. Spyglass
8. Sinew
9. Nefflesome
10. Clerc
11. Fossick
12. Pannifimage
13. Vifreous
14. Rime
15. Epoureau
16. Denizens
17. Rivers
18. Nought
19. Perspicacious
20. Timbrel
21. Sprite
22. Darkling
23. Coppice
24. Afar
25. Nigh
26. Quavering
27. Refine
28. Valiant
29. Earthly Marrow
30. Rove
31. Beguile
32. Brogue
33. Saltpeter
34. Enigmatic
35. Whist
36. Curvet
37. Pantomime
38. Decipherable
39. Lucid
40. Lurid
41. Fritillaries
42. Wine-dark
43. Solace
44. Besmirched
45. Afire
46. Bountiful
47. Cumulous
48. Sinusoidal
49. Lovelorn
50. Loam

6 Sensory Observations:

1. The harsh whisper of raven wingbeats overhead.
2. Dewy, pearl-strewn spider-webs.
3. The thrilling sight of ravens giving high-speed chase.
4. Cold, damp, rejuvenating, edge-of-winter air.

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2-10-22

5. Deep, pervasive green everywhere I look — winter hardly seems dormant here.
6. The soft sponginess of a rotting Douglas fir log.

A Delight:
I sat still and quietly enough for a pacific wren to land not two feet behind me — a sudden loud "chip" alerted me to its presence.

Pyle
2.10.22

The Inspired Poet Exercises:
Chapter 15, Exercise 2:

When I last ate my mother's ham-and-potato soup,
seasoned with bay leaves and love, I sat alone
in a room that didn't feel like mine yet,
a home meant to serve as a springboard for my dreams.

I hadn't known hunger, that universal life-force, in days,
so thoroughly had my fear feasted on what made me human.
This taste of home could not reach me, one hundred
ninety-seven miles distant. In the silence, I pushed the bowl away.

Chapter 16, Exercise 1: "I hope you love birds too. It is
economical. It saves going to heaven." -Emily Dickinson

Loving birds saves going to heaven?
Oh, thank - well, not God, I suppose.
So gladly will I store up
my treasures on this earth.

At the end of my days I will rejoice,
knowing I loved God's sun and felt
all the world's splendor, rather
than whiling the hours prostrate, repenting.

So if I must continue to worship
the sunrise and the wren outside my
window to escape a saccharine
eternity, let it be. Economical indeed.

Chapter 17, Exercise 4: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do/
with your one wild and precious life?" — Mary Oliver

I plan to harvest from the garden of my life
a great many sunrises, grown ripe and golden,
fertilized with gratitude and watered with perspective.

With my one wild and precious life I will adorn
my walls and skin with all my great loves,
hoarding aesthetics like a thousand-eyed dragon.

I will one day float my sight behind the elbow
of a half-ton elk, loose an arrow and slice, bloody
and still warm, a bull's heart out with my own hands.

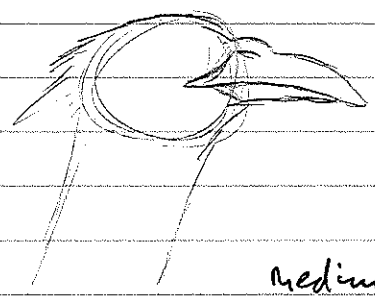
Most of all, I will spurn expectations, mingle
beauty and blood in a way no other need comprehend
so that I may one day count the rings of my life with a smile.

Week 6

Predative Ecology Lab

Abbey Ryle
11 Feb. 2022
Location: Lab I 1050/1040

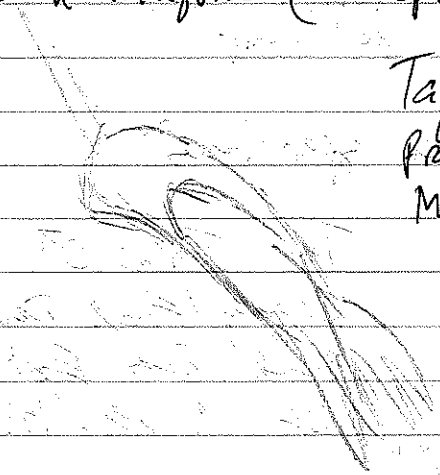
Ring-Necked Pheasant (Phasianus colchicus)



Tag Info: #108, S. Waltcher, Merritt Parkway (Rt. 15), exit 46, junction Rt. 59, Fairfield, Fairfield Co., Conn., 1,475 g., 29 Dec. 1979, ♂

medium thick, curved bill, standard insectivore?

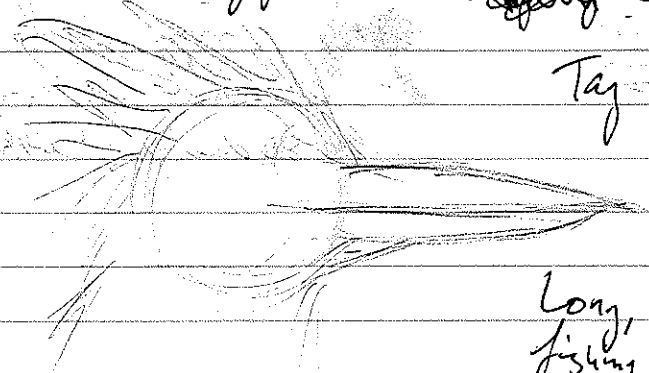
Rufous hummingbird (selasphorus rufus)



Tag Info: #1285, 76, Keith Brady, Probably Olympia, Thurston Co., WA, March 1988

Wings longer than body and tail, long and narrow, aerial forager, specialized

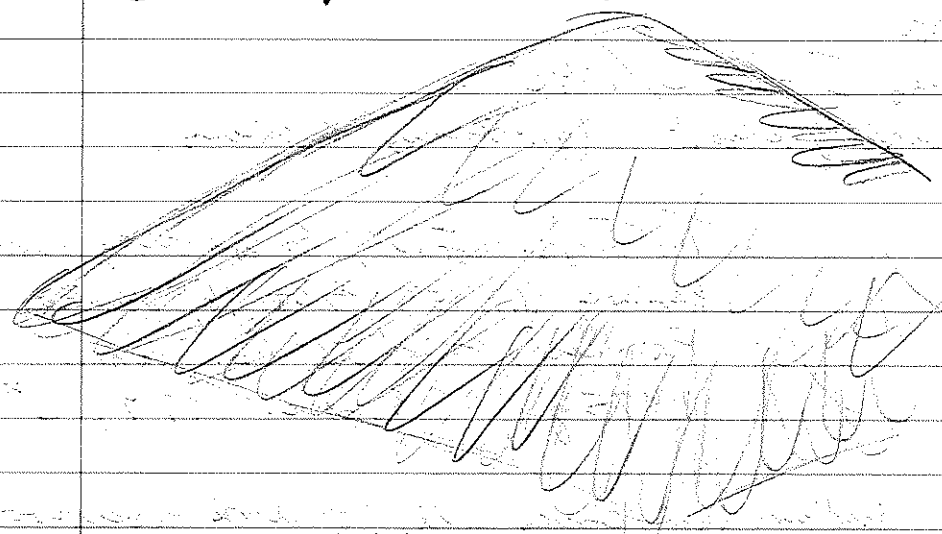
Belted Kingfisher (Megaceryle alcyon)



Tag Info: 3514, #009, ♂, L. Klyne, 6943 Woodard Bay Rd NE (P. Ward), Olympia, WA 98506, 120g, 1-4-2015

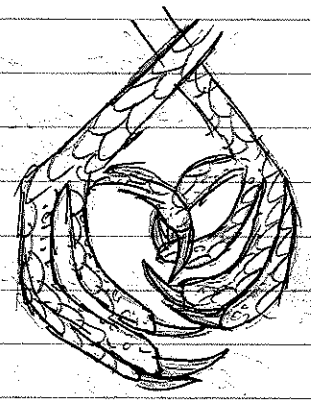
Long, straight, knife like bill for fishing, dagger-shaped

(Same specimen as previous, Belted Kingfisher)



Wings in-between sedentary and specialized aerial forager types, moderate length relative to body, wide but with end tapered to point

American kestrel (Falco sparverius)



Tag Info: ♂, 1346, 88, Keith Brady (Fred Dobler), Sheep Canyon Road, near Ephrata, Grant Co., WA, 18 Dec. 1988

Raptorial foot type, four strong digits w/ long claws for catching prey, anisodactyl, "killing" type

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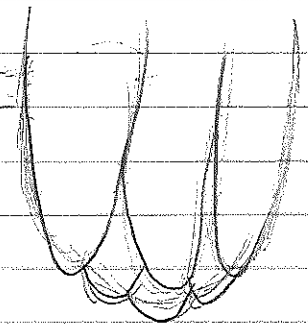
2-11-22

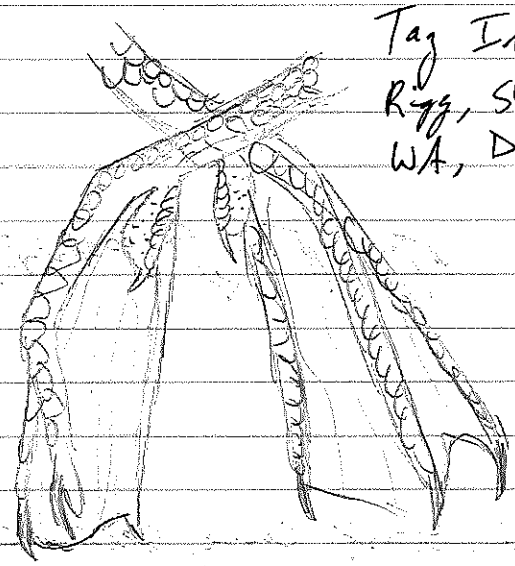
Mountain quail (Oreortyx pictus)



Tag Info: ♂, 3405, S.G. Herman (B. McBarry), Location unknown, 3 June 2003

Short, rounded tail, "no" tail type, terrestrial walker

Common Merganser (Mergus merganser)



Tag Info: 1775, ♀, 6, K. R. Rigg, Shelton Hatchery, Mason Co., WA, Date unknown 1990

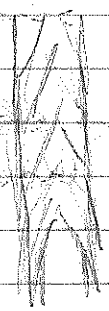
webbed for swimming

Anisodactyl

3 anterior digits webbed, 1 posterior digit separate, "Palmate"

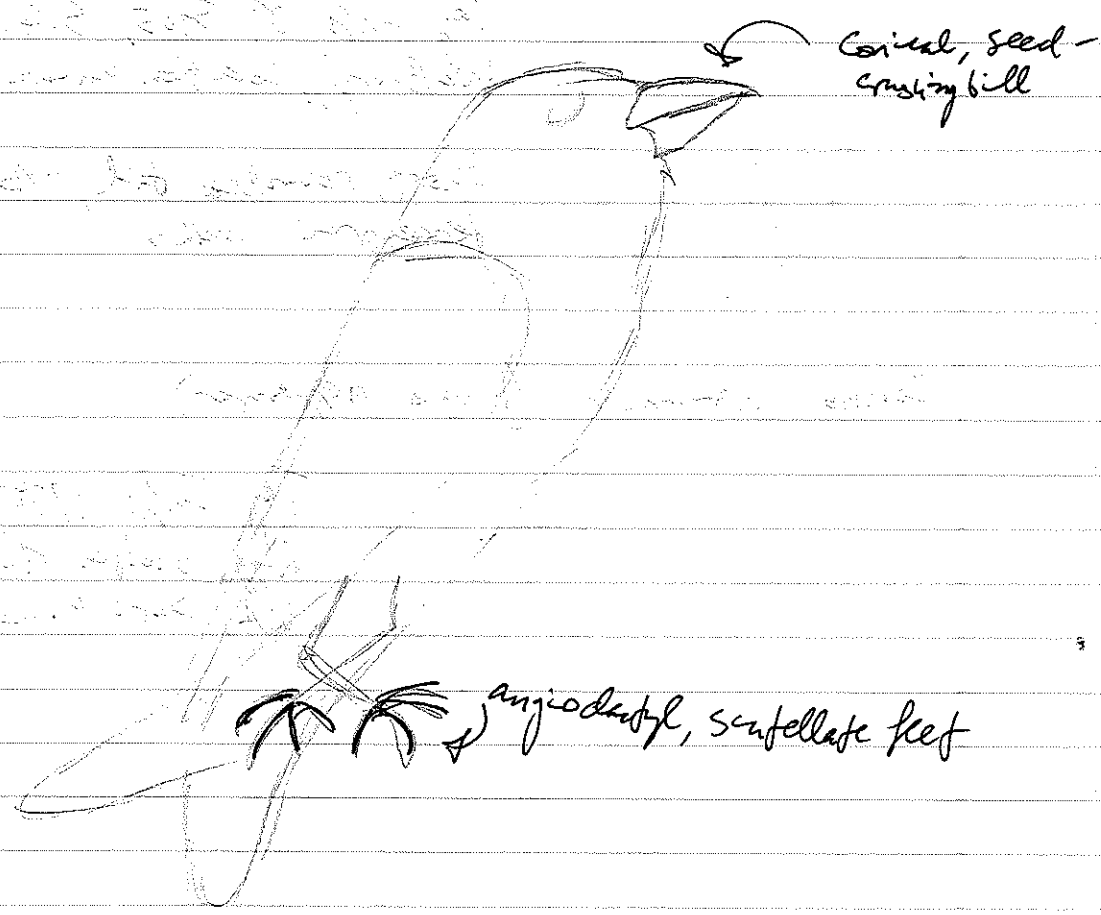
Brown creeper (Certhia americana)

Long, narrow, stiff, forked tail, tree-climber type



Tag Info: 35, 8.5g, Peter Hank (Larry Goldstein), Butler Cove, Olympia, WA, 10 Jan. 1986

2. Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus)



Bill: Conical, slight curve, seed-crushing
Wing: longer than body, in-between sedentary / infrequent flier and specialized aerial forager type, moderate length and width
Tail: rounded fork, aerial maneuvering type, medium length
Feet: scutellate, overlapping scale plates, anisodactyl

This bird eats seeds, inhabits terrestrial forests or possibly urban areas, moves by short bursts of flight, perches and walks

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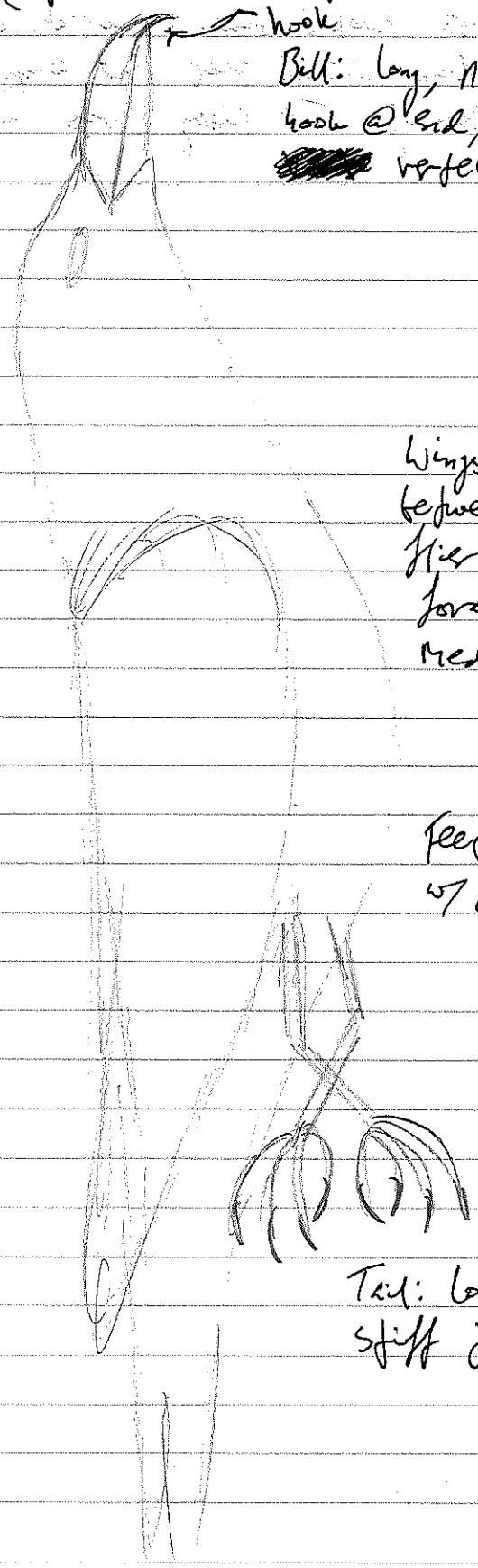
2.11.22

Scrub Jay (Aphelocoma californica)



Bill: long, narrow, curved w/ small hook @ end, large insect / small vertebrate - eating type

Wings: as long as body, in-between sedentary / infrequent flier and specialized aerial foraging types, flies w/ medium frequency

Feet: anisodactyl, scutellate w/ overlapping scale plate

Tail: long, narrow, no fork, not stiff free - climber type either

This bird feeds on insects and/or small vertebrates, catches prey with its hooked beak + rictal bristles around the bill. With its medium-sized feet and wings, this bird both flies and perches moderately. It likely lives in mixed forest/open habitat.

Week 7

Nisqually Field Trip

Abbey Pyle
17 February 2022

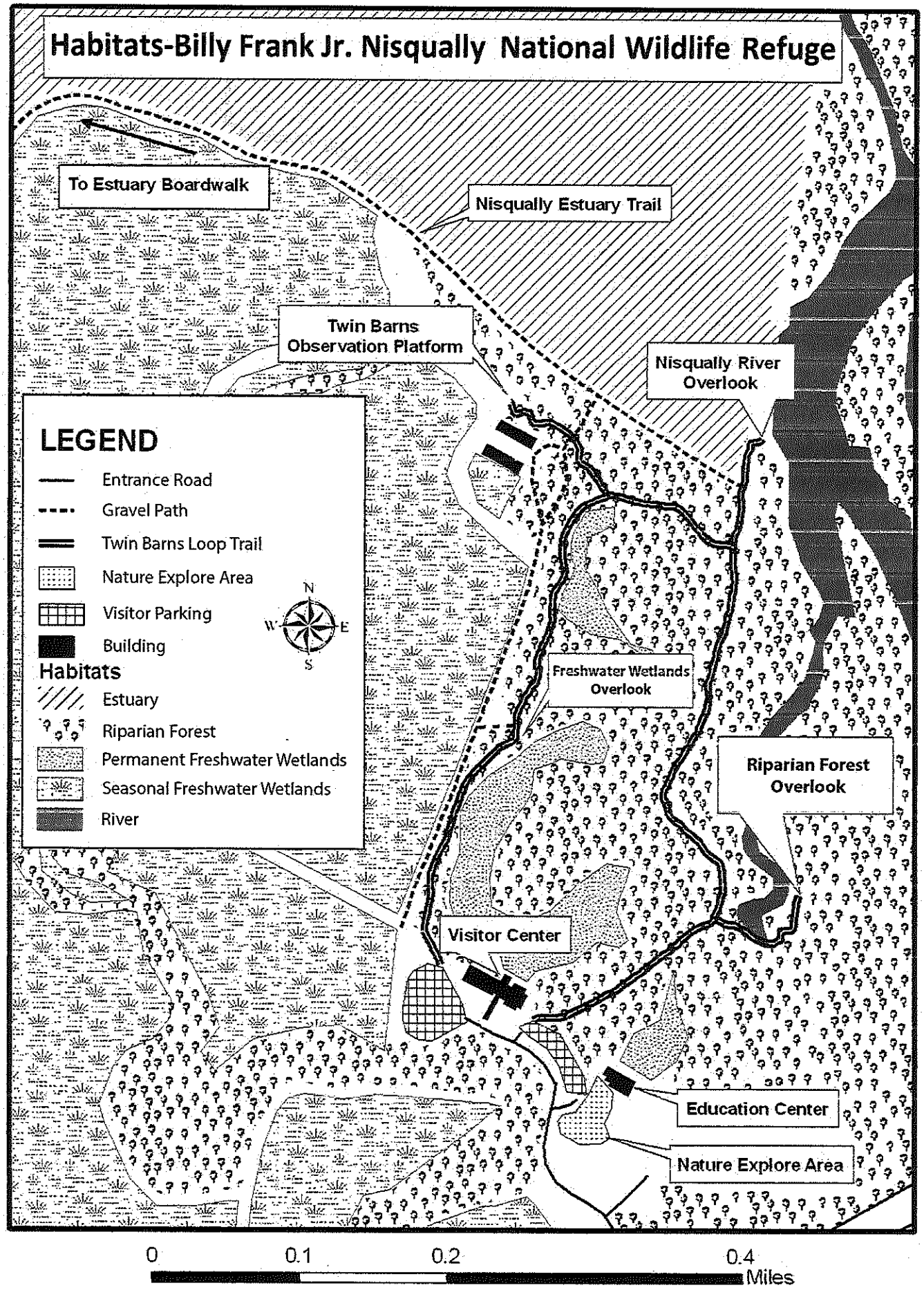
Location: Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Washington, 47.072899470 N, -122.712676 1° W

(Map attached on next page)

Habitat Information: The refuge includes multiple habitat types: freshwater marshes, tidal mudflats, riparian forest, estuary, open salt water, coniferous forests, and seasonal freshwater marshes. Trees include red alder, bigleaf maple, Douglas fir, black cottonwood, and willow. Other vegetation includes skunk cabbage, licorice root ferns, snow berry, salmonberry, mosses, and marsh grasses, cattails, and reeds. The tide appeared to be at about half level - not particularly high or low.

Climate Information:
Temperature: 43°F Wind: 2 in forest, 3-4 on mudflats Sky: 1-2

Data Collected / Observations:
- Cackling goose (Branta hutchinsii): "cackling" honk calls, in pairs and flocks, feeding on marsh edges
- Mallard duck (Anas platyrhynchos): in pairs, feeding on water
- American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos): flying, "caw" calls
- Ring-necked duck: (Aythya collaris), foraging in flock on water
- American coot (Fulica americana): foraging in flock of ~10, on water and along side of trail in marsh grass
- Purple martin (Progne subis), calling w/ high twittering chirps, flying in tree tops along boardwalk


Habitats-Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge
To Estuary Boardwalk
Nisqually Estuary Trail
Twin Barns Observation Platform
Nisqually River Overlook
LEGEND
Entrance Road
Gravel Path
Twin Barns Loop Trail
Nature Explore Area
Visitor Parking
Building
Habitats
Estuary
Riparian Forest
Permanent Freshwater Wetlands
Seasonal Freshwater Wetlands
River
N
W
E
S
Freshwater Wetlands Overlook
Riparian Forest Overlook
Visitor Center
Education Center
Nature Explore Area
0
0.1
0.2
0.4
Miles

- Northern Shoveler (Spatula clypeata): foraging on water in mixed seabird flock
- Song sparrow (Melospiza melodia): singing, foraging on logs partially submerged in freshwater marsh
- Immature bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus): 2nd year plumage, circling over freshwater marsh
- Northern flicker (Colaptes auratus): single high call in distance
- American robin (Turdus migratorius): foraging in leaf litter along trail out to mudflat boardwalk
- Great blue heron (Ardea herodias): several flying and standing still along water's edge, one walking into Nisqually River
- Black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus): foraging in branches of a tree thicket along gravel trail
- Golden-crowned kinglet (Regulus satrapa): foraging in branches of a tree thicket along gravel trail, just one bird by itself
- unknown species: small olive/drab songbird, likely a vireo of some kind? foraging in branches of tree thicket along gravel trail in mixed songbird flock
- American wigeon (Mareca americana): foraging in mixed duck flock in seasonal freshwater wetland
- Mature bald eagles (Haliaeetus leucocephalus): soaring in pair over wetlands, then perching in short snag trees
- Green-winged teal (Anas carolinensis): calling, whistling chirp sound, foraging in mixed duck flock on seasonal freshwater wetlands
- Herring or western gull (Larus Smithsonianus or L. occidentalis): adult nonbreeding plumage, walking along mudflat
- various gull species: mixed flock, flying over and walking along tidal mudflats
- Common raven (Corvus corax): calling, flying over bluffs
- Surf scoter (Melanitta perspicillata): foraging in salt water in small flock
- Greater yellowlegs (Tringa melanoleuca): calling, walking +

Kylie
2.17.22

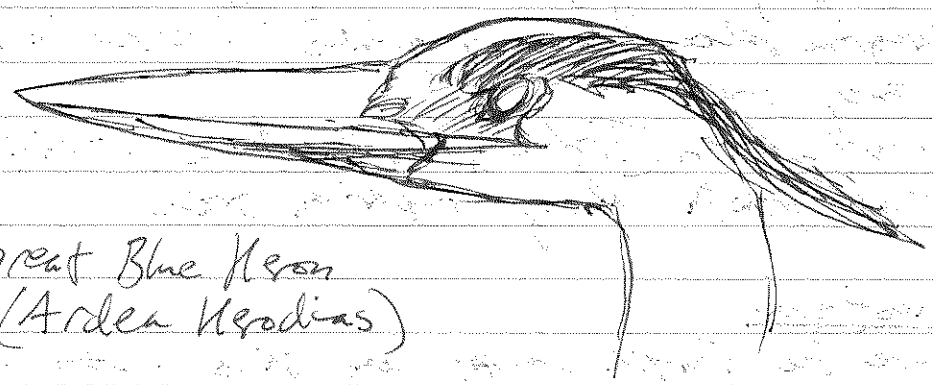
foraging along tidal mudflat in mixed seabird flock
• Northern pintail (Anas acuta): foraging in large flock in seasonal freshwater wetland, diving and using long tails for stability
• Gadwall (Mareca strepera): foraging in mixed duck flock on seasonal freshwater wetlands
• Golden-crowned sparrow (Zonotrichia atricapilla): foraging in small flock in leaf litter beneath Himalayan blackberry
• Peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus): perched in large snag off gravel trail
• Pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): "chip" calls, foraging in undergrowth along riparian trail

Questions:
• Are the pintail ducks' long tails purely ornamental, or do they help stabilize the ducks during dabbling?

Narrative:
Our class met up by the Visitors' Center, then decided which way to go. I formed a group with Mary Claire, Kylie, Glim, Bela, Rey, and Katie, and we walked the first half of the Twin Barns loop, then headed along the gravel trail towards the boardwalk. Mary Claire, Kylie, and I split off and walked the whole length of the boardwalk, all the way out to Puget Sound. Though I have been to Nisqually many times before, I had never walked the whole boardwalk before, so this was a fun new experience. After returning from the boardwalk, we took the trail along the Nisqually River, including the river lookout point. This looped us back around to the Visitors' Center where we waited for our class. I learned to identify a lot of new species today, mainly waterfowl, as I had not known many duck species before. We saw many herons and bald eagles, which were beautiful. I had also never been over

to the Nisqually River side of the refuge, so that was interesting to see. My group and I ended up walking over 5 miles, and had a lovely time out in nature.

Illustrations:



Great Blue Heron
(Ardea Herodias)

6. Sensory Observations:

1. The aroma of salt and brine wafting up from the mud flats.
2. The contemplative, arresting gaze of a peregrine falcon observing the world from a snag.
3. A song sparrow's reedy, lilting song.
4. The bracing bone-deep cold brought on by incessant wind.
5. A great blue heron's long, wispy feathers dancing in the breeze.
6. The resilient, hopeful green of tiny new buds on the trees.

A Delight:

My group and I, while we loved all the new species we saw today, were hoping to also spot a Pacific wren, because they are such a quintessential species on all our other field outings. We saw and heard one just as we were nearing the Visitors' Center at the end of the riparian trail — the wren came through for us right in the nick of time.

Kyle
2.17.22

The Inspired Poet Exercises:
Chapter 26, exercise 1.

The Last Time I Saw You

The last time I saw you
was the second time we
reconnected, but by no
means the last.

Through the woods, we fell
into step ~~[illegible]~~ and conversation
naturally as if years fell away
with each footstep

Driftwood blocked our path
You offered your hand, in
your simple, open way, but
in my surprise I did not take it

Two years later, to the day,
and oh, how I wish I had

Chapter 30, exercise 3:

The Stone Is Mightier Than the Sword

The stone is mightier than the ~~[illegible]~~ sword
(and the chisel, for that matter)
for what to timeless mineral is fragmentation?

Man can file and hack the day away,
killing time and each other, but what
can blood do but mar a stone's surface?

Closer to immortality than any goal
man conceives, the stone resides
on a plane of its own — we named it Geologic Time

And so our exalted sword? But
a paltry plaything of steel, in the face
of the glacier-heaved One

Chapter 27, exercise 1:

The child practicing the trombone sounds, like desperation,
honks and bleats pulled — not coaxed — from slide and breath.
Every note a plea — let this make me enough.

50 Loved Words:

1. Brazen	15. Hitherto	27. Apricity	43. Impel
2. Delve	16. Whit	30. Asunder	44. Fae
3. Laudable	17. Zed	31. Bodkin	45. Briar
4. Portfechnicon	18. Precipice	32. Forsooth	46. Infernal
5. Countenance	19. Puddingstone	33. Grimalkin	47. Hew
6. Dirge	20. Abolish	34. Hearken	48. Arable
7. Veritable	21. Entreaties	35. Heretofore	49. Eft
8. Raiment	22. Infernal	36. Morrow	50. Fain
9. Churl	23. Perchance	37. Willeann	
10. Broomsticks	24. Hereupon	38. Animalcule	
11. Fiddlesticks	25. Sennight	39. Blackguard	
12. Obsequious	26. Moncalf	40. Embouchure	
13. Befallen	27. Affright	41. Ferroequinology	
14. Begone	28. Stark	42. Tomfe	

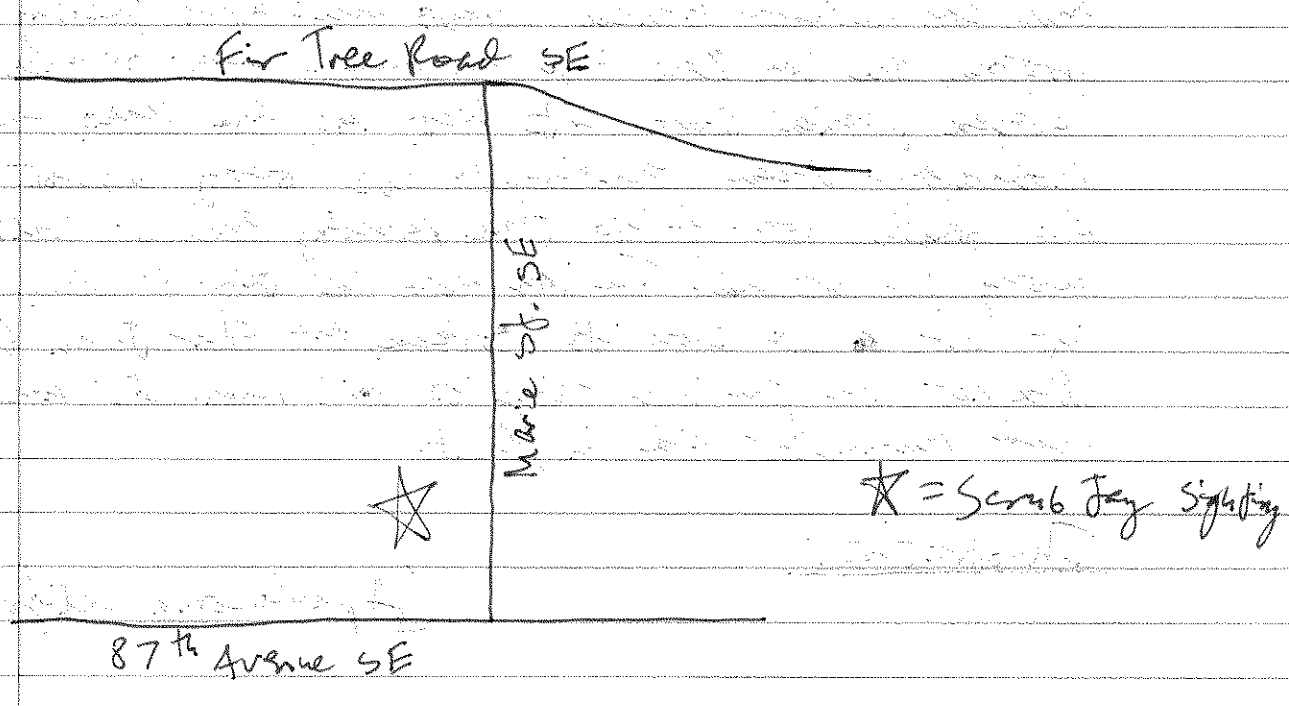
Week 7

Predictive Ecology Lab Homework

Abby Fyle
18 February 2022

Location: A residential yard near my house, Olympia, Washington, 98501; coordinates 46.962040°N, -122.823558°W

Map:



Habitat Information: This habitat was a yard in a rural residential area. It contains many different types of both native and non-native vegetation, including cypress trees, some kind of oak, and thick hedges. The yard contains multiple well-maintained garden spaces. High biodiversity.

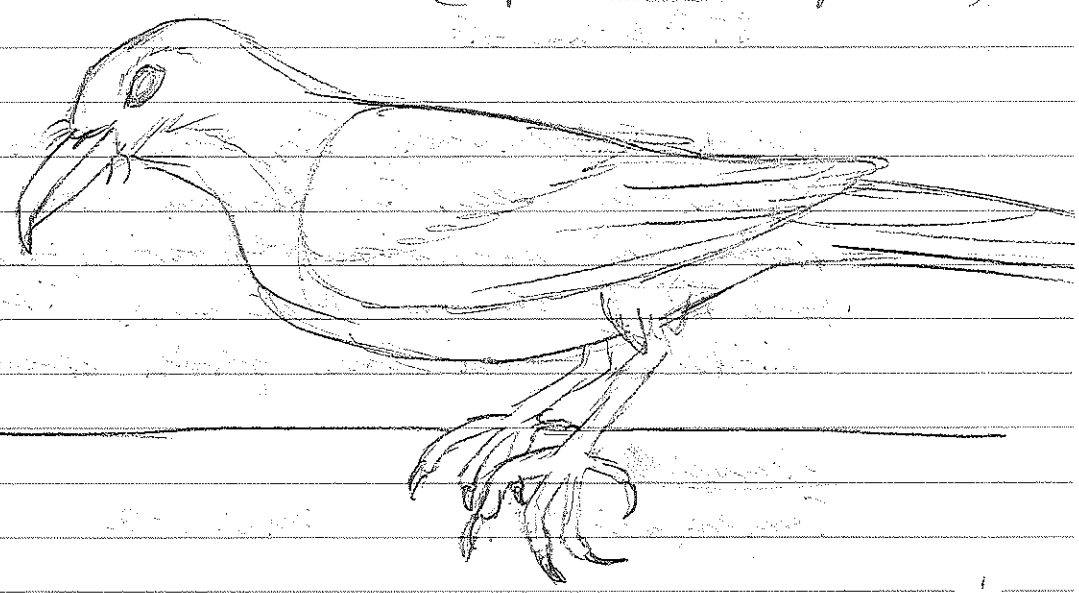
Climate:

Temperature: 48°F Wind: 1-2 Sky: 1

Data Collected / Observations: The scrub jay flew low into the yard and landed on the ground. It began what I assume was foraging, leaping forward and driving its bill into the ground. Such behavior and bill ~~[illegible]~~ use aligns with my prediction that the scrub jay is an insectivore / small invertebrate eater. Its flying and wing use also align with my prediction that it flies with moderate frequency over moderate distances, and can navigate mixed forests well: after feeding on the ground, the jay flew into an oak's lower branches and stayed perched there. Its feet, legs, and claws, all fairly moderately-sized relative to its body, suggest a bird who spends some of its time perching and/or walking to feed along the ground. The jay used its tail to land, fanning it out to slow its speed, but other than this I did not see the jay using its tail much. It must be used mainly for aid in flight.

Illustration:

(Aphelocoma californica)



Narrative: I observed this scrub jay performing the behaviors detailed above while on my daily walk. It was in a neighbor's yard around 1pm.

Week 7

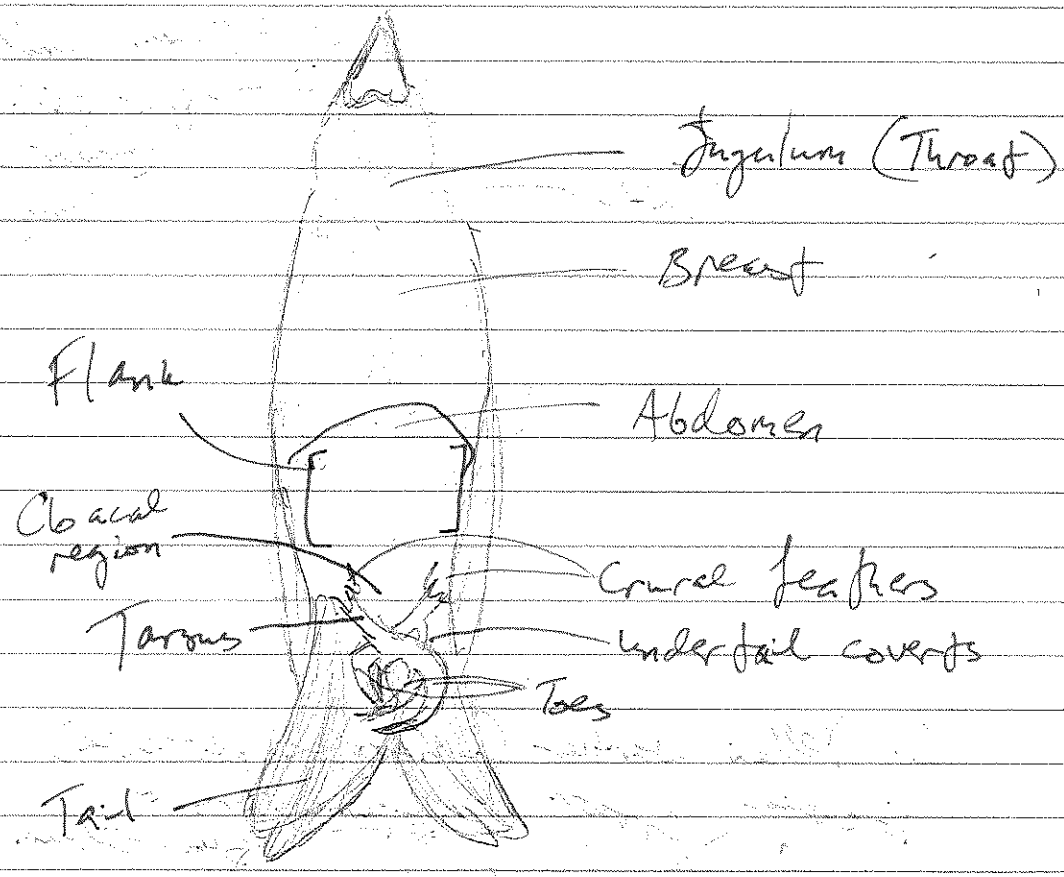
Topography Lab

Abbey Pyle
18 Feb. 2022

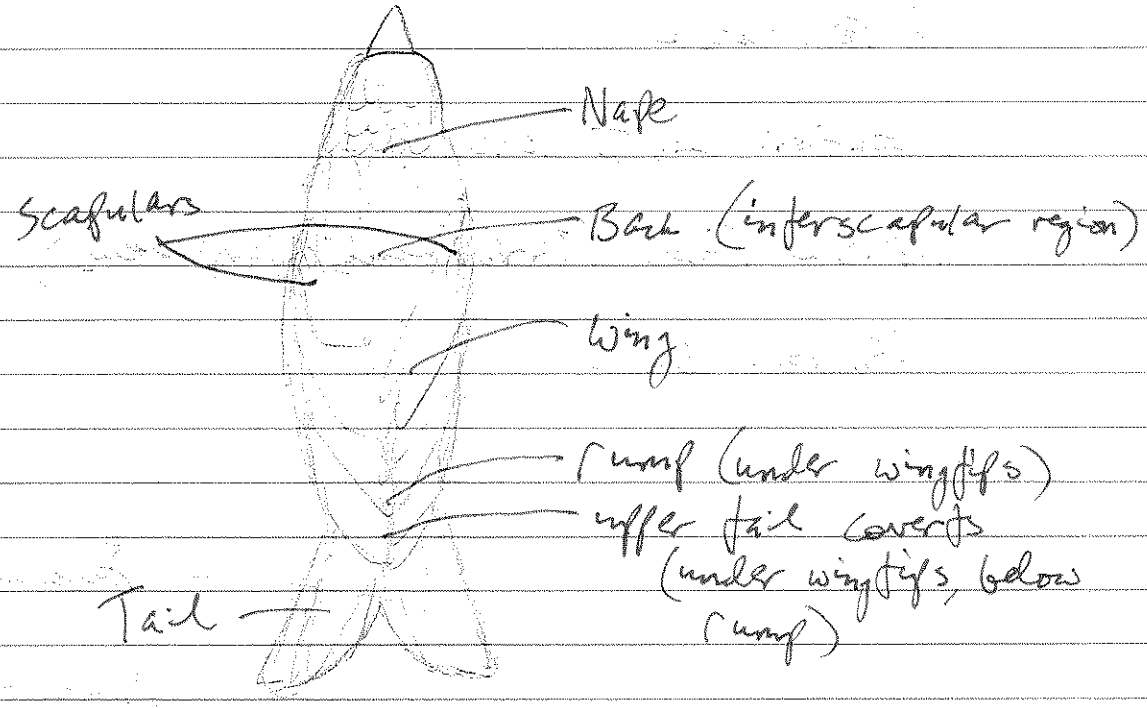
Location: Lab I 1040/1050

1. Purple Finch (Carpodacus purpureus)

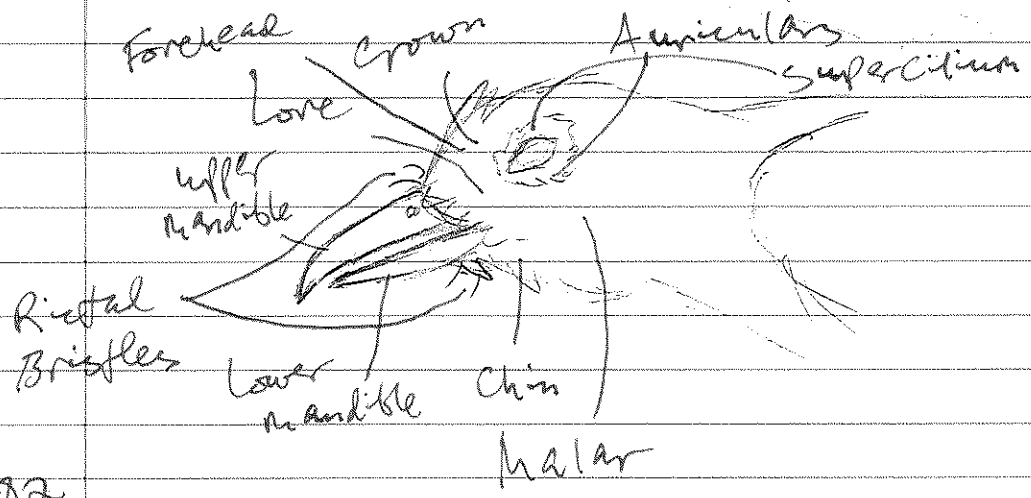
Ventral side



Dorsal side



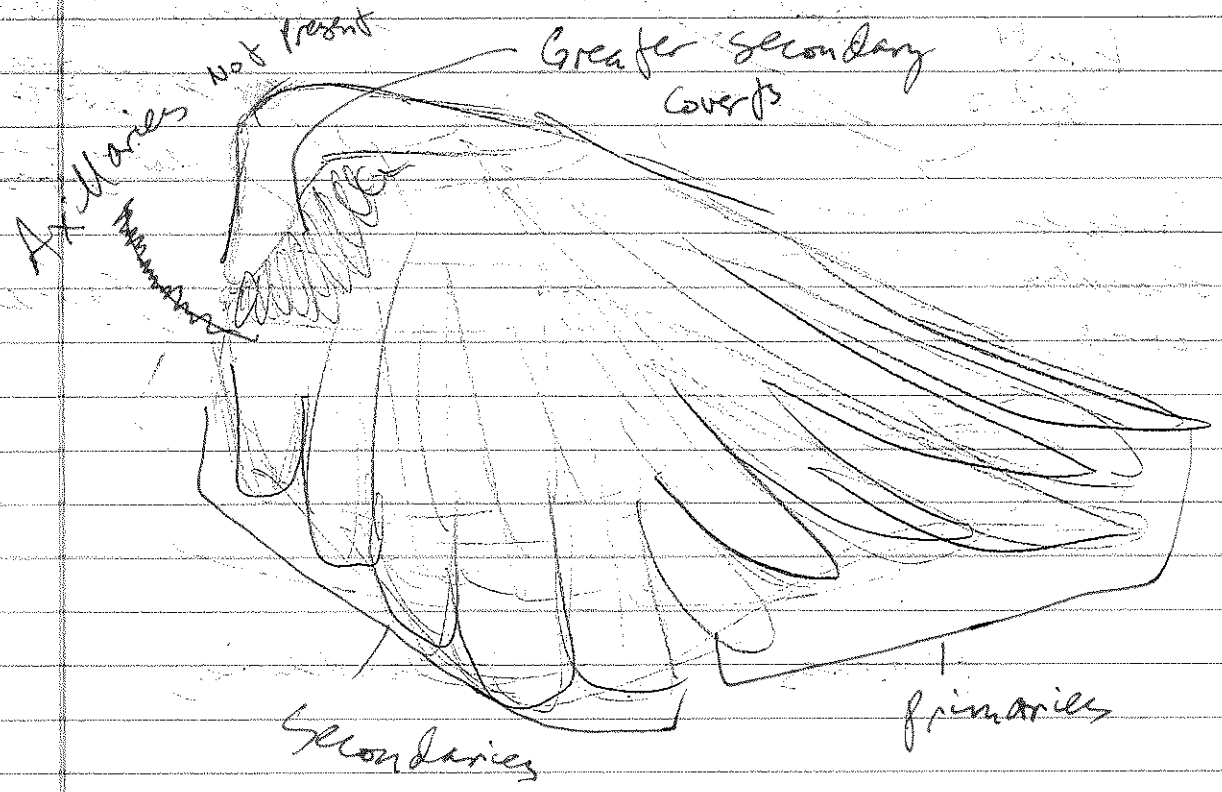
2. Yellow warbler (Dendroica petechia)



Pyle
2.18.22

3. Brown creeper (Certhia americana)

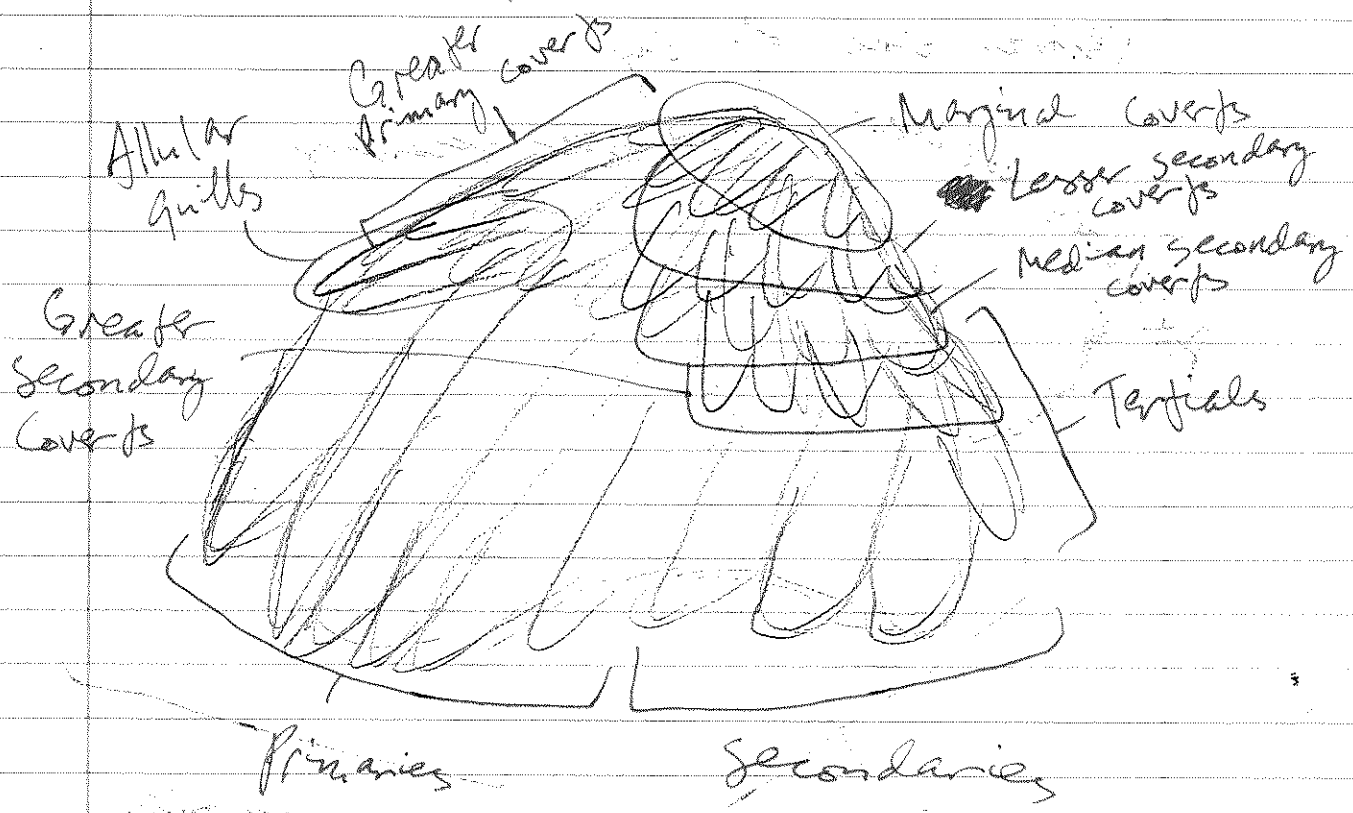
Ventral side of wing



Not present: Greater primary coverts, axillaries, marginal coverts

# of primaries: 8-9 (may be missing 1-2 feathers?)
# of secondaries: 7-8

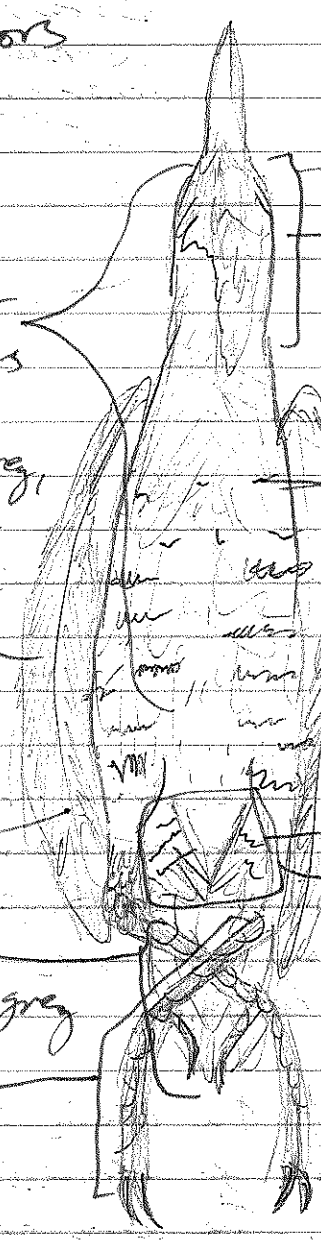
Dorsal side of wing



Ryle
2.18.22

4. Sora (Porzana Carolina)

Ventral Colors



The grayish slate blue color may be caused by eumelanin, with both pigmentation for the gray and structural features for the blue hue. The white feathers are structurally colored. The black feathers are caused by eumelanin pigment. The dark brownish gray is caused by eumelanin pigment. The yellow-beige undertail coverts are colored with pheomelanin pigment. On this specimen, there is a combination of pigmented and structural colors.

Northern flicker (Colaptes auratus cafer)

Wing Colors

The bright orange of the racing comes from carotenoid pigments, possibly a mix of carotenoids creating the shade between yellow and red. The dark browns are caused by eumelanin pigment, and the light browns are caused by pheomelanin pigment. There do not appear to be any structural colors present on this specimen, all are pigmented.

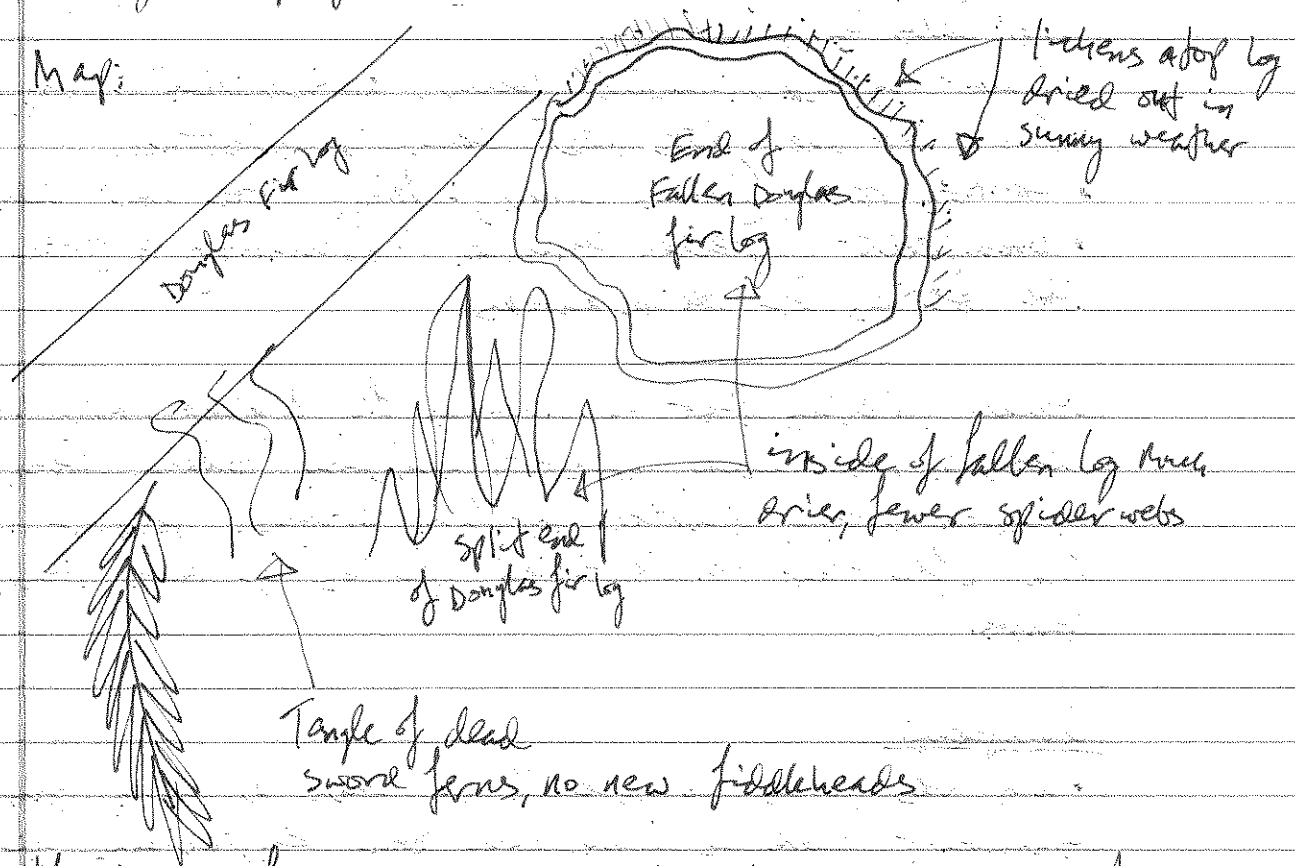
Week 8

Field Mandala Observation – Final

Abbey Pyle
24 February 2022

Location: My field mandala, Kifer Forest, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA; 47.071033°N; -122.989348°W

Map:



Habitat Information: My mandala's habitat consists of mixed canopy second-growth temperate rainforest. Trees include Douglas fir, bigleaf maple, western red cedar, red alder, and vine maple. Understory vegetation includes sword fern, salal, red huckleberry, licorice root fern, Oregon grape, and various lichens, mosses, and fungi.

Climate Information:
Temperature: 38°F Wind: 0-1 Sky: 0-1

Data Collected/Observations:

- Pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): one/few making "chip" calls in distance, one ~2 yards behind me at my mandala, making "chip" calls and foraging in undergrowth
- Chestnut-backed chickadee (Poecile rufescens): rapid "dee dee dee" calls in distance
- Black-capped chickadee (Poecile atricapillus): long, sustained "dee dee dee dee dee" calls in distance
- Common raven (Corvus corax): faint "roc roc" calls in distance
- woodpecker (species unknown): drumming on tree in distance, like series of rapid knocks

Usual species list of: Douglas fir, bigleaf maple, red alder, western red cedar, western hemlock, sword fern, salal, Oregon grape, licorice root fern, British soldier lichen, and a few other unidentified species of moss, lichen, and fungus.

Questions:

- Why was today so quiet? On such a calm, sunny day, shouldn't there be more bird song, especially given the time of year?

Narrative:

This week we did a typical field mandala observation, our last of the term. I heard the familiar cast of characters: wrens, chickadees, even a raven and a woodpecker. After I'd been sitting still and quiet for long enough, a wren came right up behind me, calling and foraging around the edge of my mandala. It is always such a reward to blend into nature enough that wildlife feels comfortable coming near. Overall, though, it was a very quiet, still day — the calmest

field outing we've had so far. This confuses me a bit, because now is the time when bird song should be increasing significantly. We were treated with noticing abundance this week, and the abundances that stood out to me were sunlight and quiet. It was a lovely final observation, a tranquil hour in nature.

Illustrations:

Sword fern

Pacific wren
(Troglodytes pacificus)

6 Sensory observations:

1. The sun warming my face with newfound strength — a suggestion of spring.
2. An occasional stirring breeze that brings with it an edge of winter — we are on a cusp.
3. The permeating stillness of this day — it is the most tranquil I have felt here at my mandala.
4. The soft rustles of a wren foraging unseen in the undergrowth behind me.
5. The rhythmic, solid taps of a woodpecker drumming on a tree in the distance.
6. The cold, clear, fresh scent of wild winter-spring air.

A Delight: A truly lovely final mandala observation; I had such a wonderful afternoon in the woods, and said a fond (but not

final) farewell to my mandala: I'm sure I will be back to visit throughout the year.

50 Loved Words:

1. fecund
2. fruition
3. fruiting body
4. mycelium
5. reciprocity
6. symbiosis
7. solidarity
8. taproot
9. cambium
10. Xylem
11. phloem
12. flotsam
13. jetsam
14. mollified
15. yaw
16. begotted
17. corpse
18. caprice
19. eminence
20. macroform
21. thorny
22. ritual
23. lupine
24. incendiary
25. heedless
26. hart
27. waxen
28. sardonic
29. temerity
30. skein
31. forthright
32. polydactyl
33. nuchal
34. deluge
35. hand-fast
36. implacable
37. prince
38. scriptorium
39. altar
40. inimical
41. wretch
42. uproot
43. spry
44. blasphemy
45. pliant
46. dapple
47. recalcitrance
48. aeon
49. merriment
50. polarity

Kyle
2-24-22

The Inspired Poet Exercises:
Chapter 32, exercise 1:
"Salmon of Knowledge"

It's the same place they were born,
my father tells me. These hump-backed
red and green monstrosities have arrived
from the distant whale-road, where they once
swam, quicksilver in their prime of life.
Now they quiet creeksbed runs red,
fish fighting, wiling their strength away
if only to advance an inch further.
Salmon of Knowledge, hero's fare,
is it indeed knowledge that guides
across leagues upon leagues?
Or is there some ancestral pull, greater
than instinct, a marrow-deep longing
for the silt of your infancy?
Is it love? Can it be? Can love fling
at your innards until the freshwater
of your infatuation pulls your very cells
apart? The years bring no answers, only appetite.

Chapter 31, exercise 1:
"Calliope House"

Did you know, Calliope, that a jig bears your name?
Irish, it is, and the fiddles take it in B major.
Lady of all things death-or-glory, you'd hate it.
Not an ounce of the epic exists in this rollicking
six-eight lark. As for eloquence of speech?
How can there be when the concertina vies

with the flute for sheer noise, every bow takes
a novel direction, and the bodhrán weilds
mallet and brush without a care, for it is spring.
But then, is such mirth not an epic in itself?
Heroic defiance, to carry on so when generations
of the English's Four Horsemen weigh on the collective
soul. Perhaps, Calliope, you'd fancy the jig after all.

Chapter 31, exercise 2:
"Swarm / Murder / Parliament / Love"

I am here under strict instructions
to thank my muse. But there isn't enough
paper in all the world to contain such
an ode, for to thank my muse is to thank
everything. The flower I saw on a vacation
five years ago, a dragonfly's wing
discovered en route to the bus stop,
the way the sun ignites the edges
of moss in the morning. My blessing
and my curse is to forever find inspiration
in all that I see, so my mind is ever
full and my every word lacking.

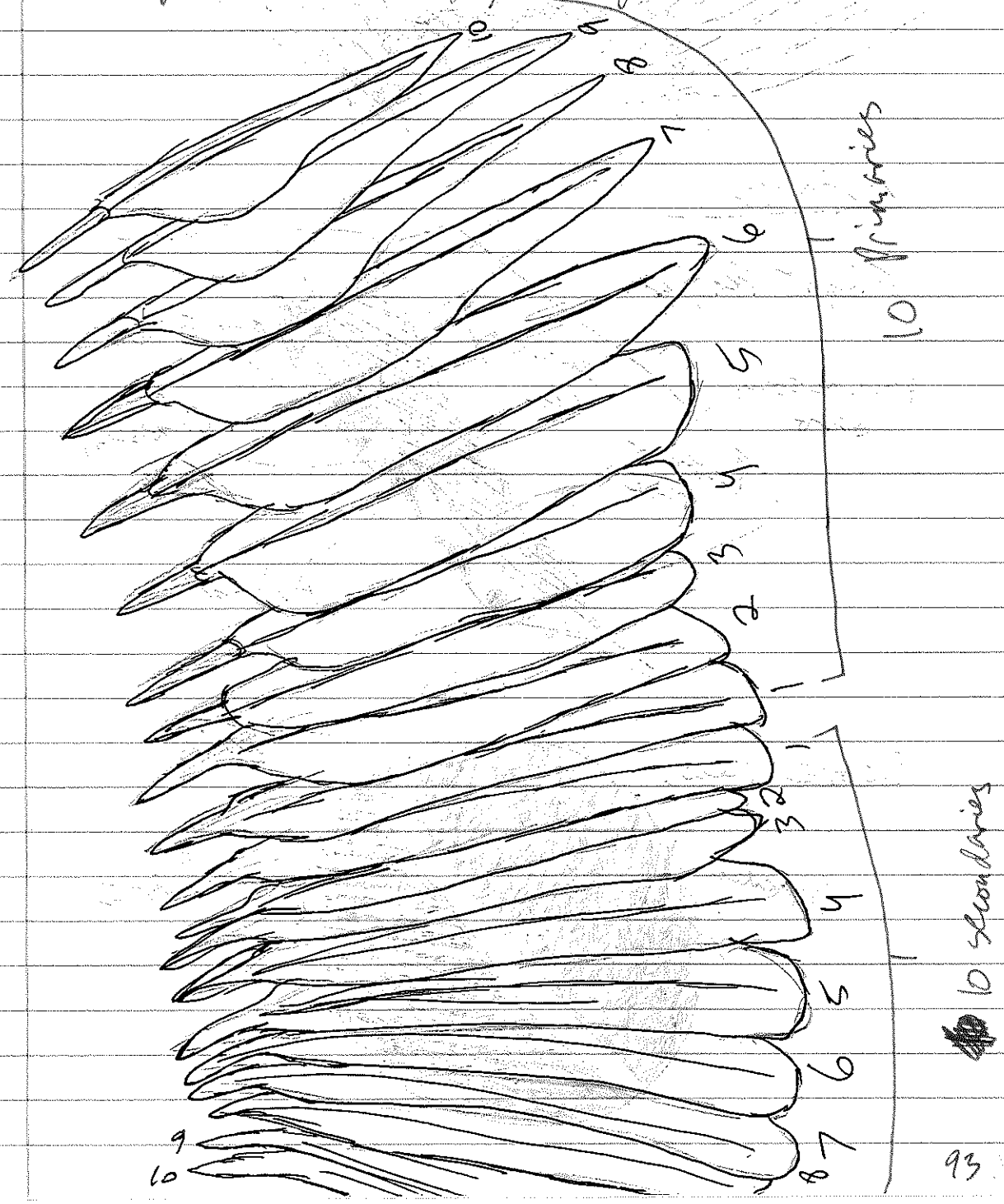
Week 8

Feathers and Molt Lab

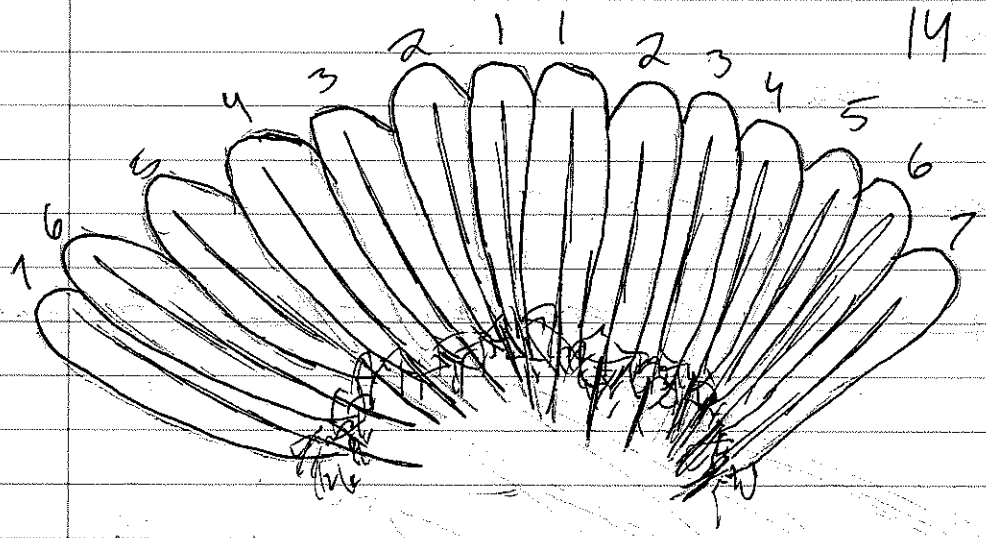
Abbey Pyle
25 February 2022

Location: Lab I 1040/1050

Activity 2 – Canada goose wings + tail (Branta canadensis)

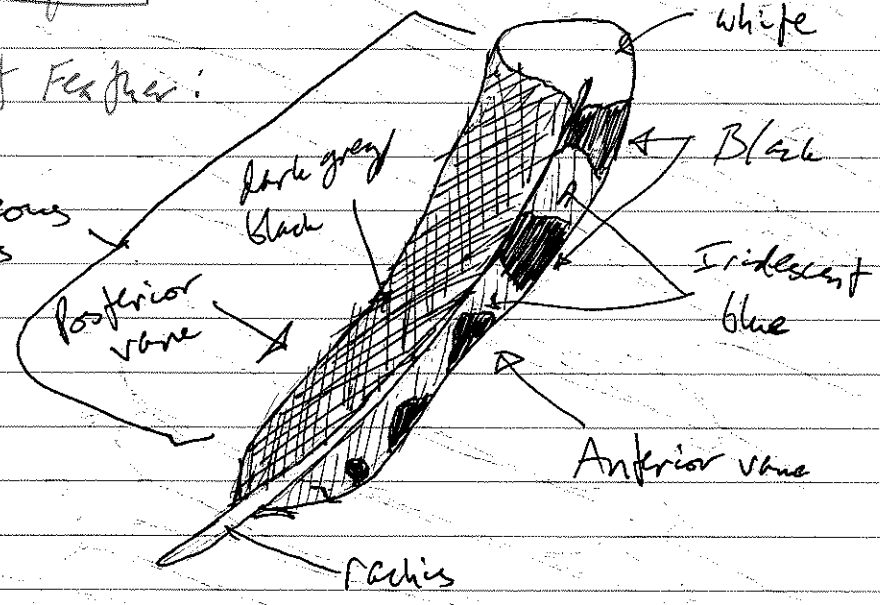


14 Rectrices

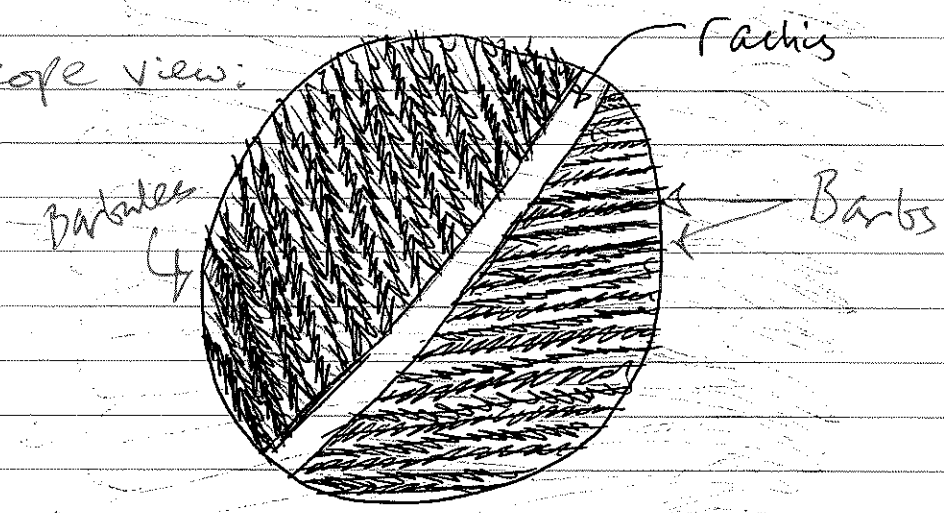


Activity 1

Flight Feather:

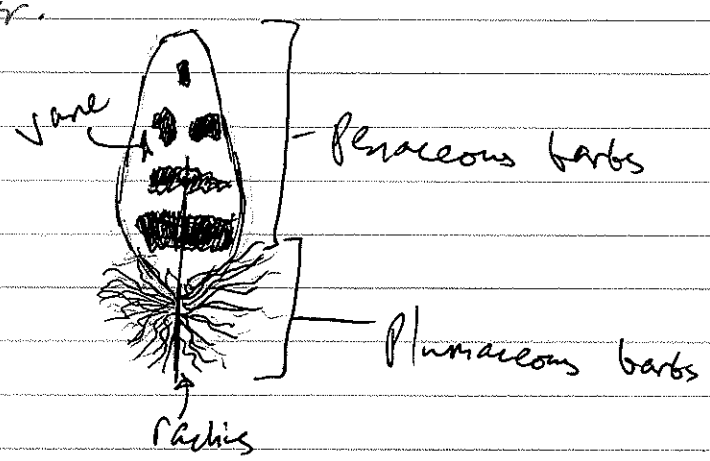


Scope view:

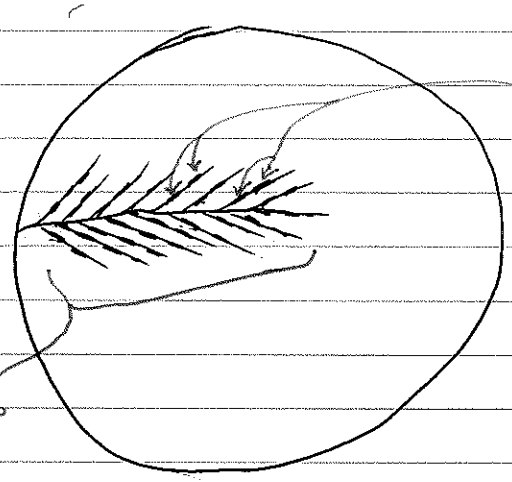


Kyle
2.25.22

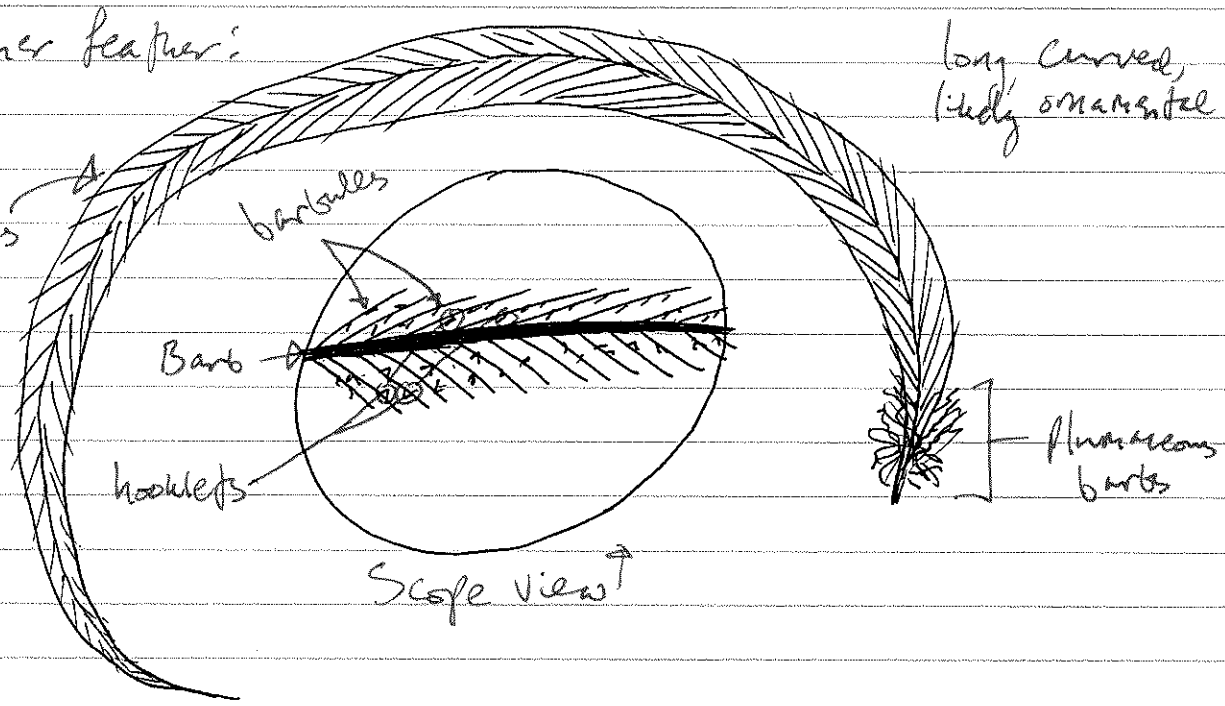
Contour feather:

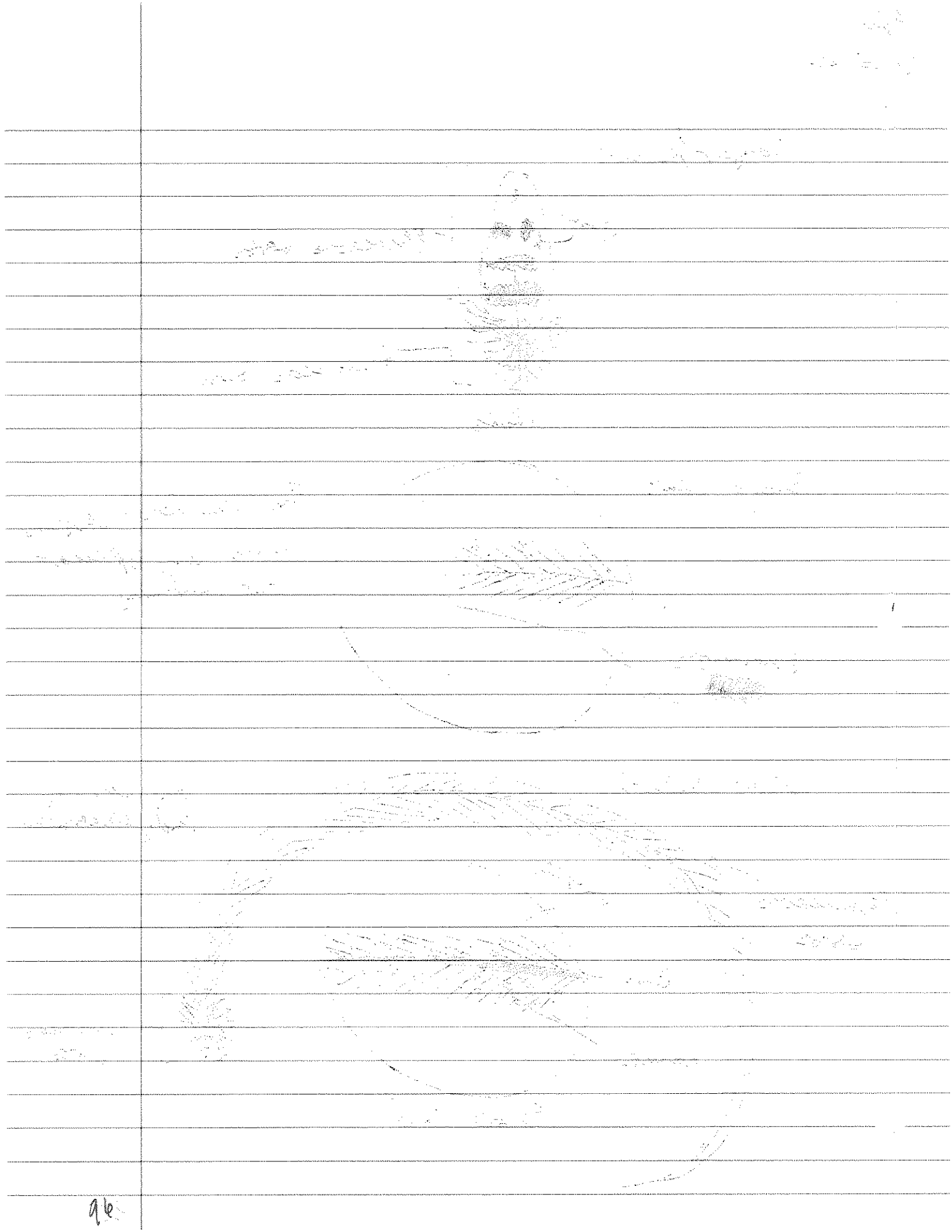


Scope view:



Other feather:





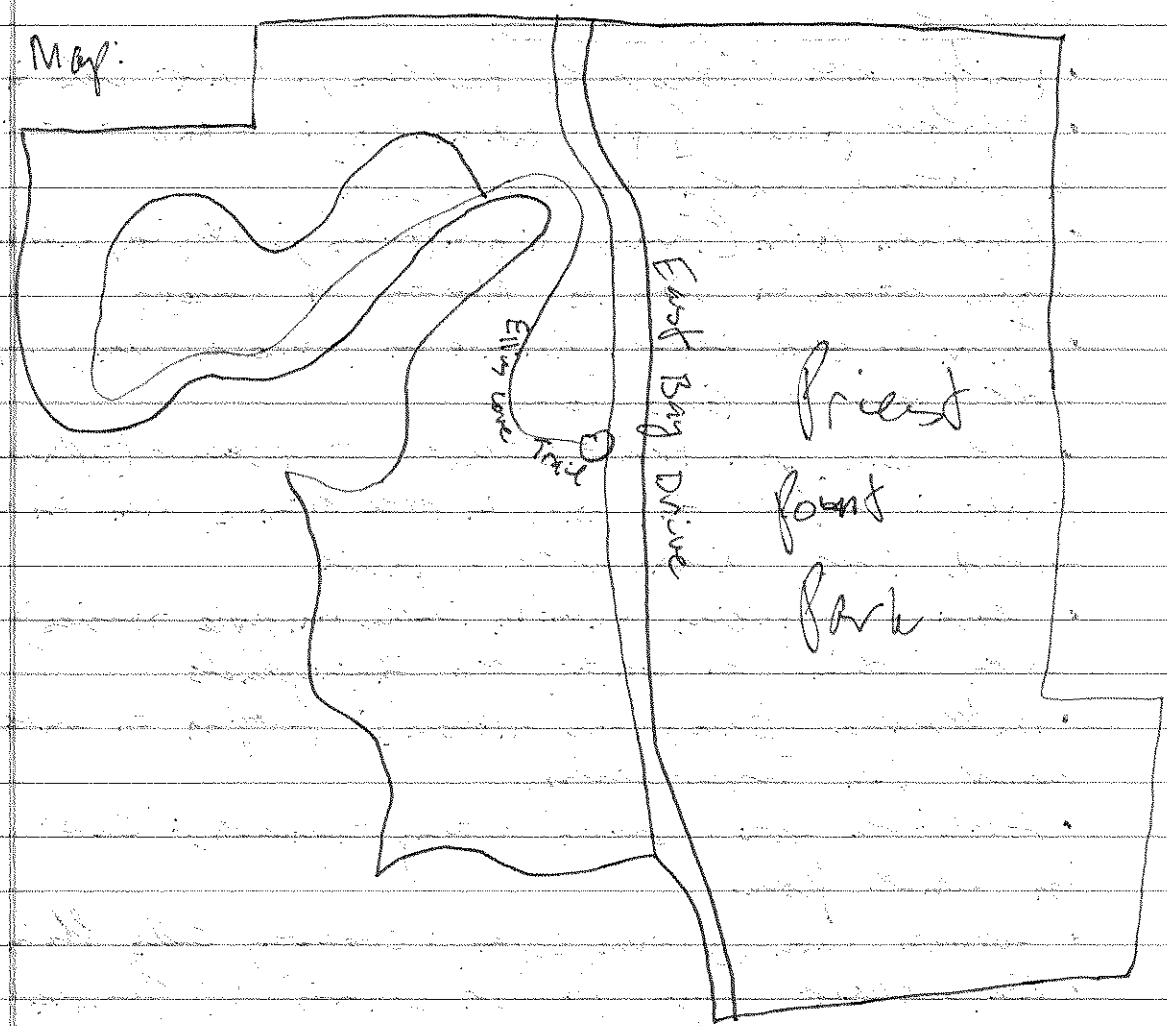
Week 9

Priest Point Park Field Trip

Abbey Pyle
3 March 2022

Location: Priest Point Park, Olympia, WA; 47.0700316° N, -122.8968480° W

Map:



Habitat Information: Priest Point Park features both mixed canopy temperate rainforest and rocky features bordering the salt water of Puget Sound. The forest includes vegetation like Douglas fir, bigleaf maple, western red cedar, western hemlock, salal, sword fern, licorice root fern, holly, and English ivy. The beach includes large rocks with barnacles on them, madrone trees, and steep exposed banks leading

up to the trail.

Climate Information:
Temperature: 49°F wind: 1 at trail, 3 on beach | Sky: 1-2

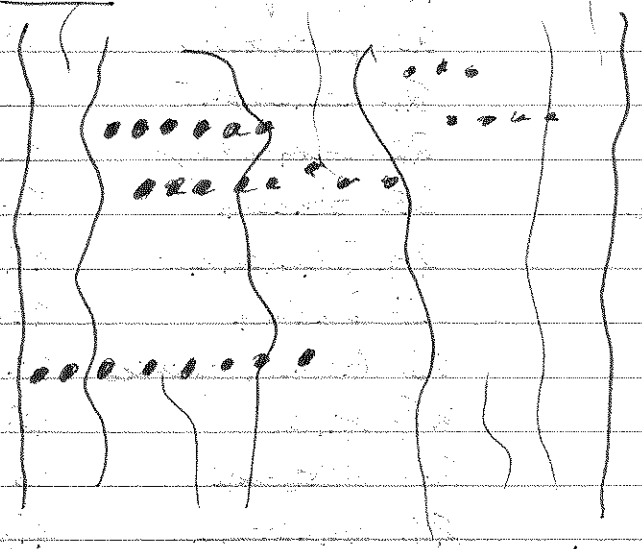
Data Collected / Observations:
- Pacific wren (Troglodytes pacificus): "chip" calls in distance
- Spotted towhee (Pipilo maculatus): drawn-out "mraw" call in distance, rustling in undergrowth
- American robin (Turdus migratorius): rapid, alarm-type call, flying around in branches midway up canopy
- Juvenile bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus): pair circling over water of Ellis cove
- Tree holes from Red-breasted sapsucker (Sphyrapicus ruber): rows of tiny holes in tree trunks, many in evenly-spaced lines, diameter of a pencil
- Seagulls (species unknown, likely multiple species): flying over cove, foraging on water, ~6 individuals
- Bufflehead (Bucephala albeola): foraging on water, diving under then resurfacing
- American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos): "caw" calls, flying in small flock.
- Common raven (Corvus corax): croaking calls, flying overhead
- Ring-necked duck (Aythya collaris): 3 females or possibly 1 male and 2 females, travelling together over water
- Cormorants (species unknown): flock perched together on some wooden structure out in the water (maybe an old dock)

Questions:
- How old were the juvenile / immature bald eagles we saw?

Kyle
3-3-22

Narrative: My group (Kylie, Mary Claire, and I) decided to go with Suzanne on the Kelly Cove trail, which I had not been on for a couple years. Part of the trail was closed due to a landslide, so we took a detour to get around to the beach. I noticed that the wind was much stronger on the beach than in the forest. One interesting thing we saw was a tree full of holes pecked by a red-breasted sapsucker; I've seen holes in trees like this before, but I assumed they were made by insects, so it was intriguing to learn that a sapsucker was responsible. The holes looked neat and methodical, in evenly-spaced lines along the trunk. We all felt spring in the air, and it was a wonderful hike.

Illustrations:



Tree trunk w/ holes pecked by red-breasted sapsucker (Sphyrapicus ruber), in neat rows, fairly even spacing w/in rows

6 Sensory Observations:

1. The newly warm quality in the air, promising spring.
2. The saturated vibrancy of colors: greens, browns, blues,

golds all intensified by the contrast of sunlight and clouds.
3. The soft thump of my boots against the trail's well-packed soil.
4. The familiar croak of a raven in the fir trees — a welcome joy.
5. The rapid, gyro-like squeaks of an Anna's hummingbird.
6. The highly-contrasting visual textures of a madrone tree: paper thin, peeling bark versus perfectly smooth, hard wood.

A Delight:
An invigorating springtime hike in good company, with many lovely sights and sounds courtesy of Nature.

50 Loved Words:

1. Echelon	19. Strafing	37. Evince
2. Haunt	20. Patchwork	38. Saprophyte
3. Spectral	21. Walkabout	39. Smaragdine
4. Scansion	22. Luminary	40. Sphere
5. Coalesce	23. Simoons	41. Hauberk
6. Aether	24. Denouement	42. Grammarian
7. Beholden	25. Dubious	43. Suzerain
8. Phenom	26. Memory-palace	44. Refuge
9. Shrike	27. Allay	45. Exchequer
10. Orifice	28. Assuage	46. Heralded
11. Ghoulish	29. Anathema	47. Vistas
12. Banshee	30. Conundrum	48. Inasmuch
13. Yonder	31. Incorrigible	49. Desired
14. Apparition	32. Ursons	50. Chaffering
15. Selkie	33. Effrontery	
16. Irruption	34. Angury	
17. Sphinxlike	35. Velveteen	
18. Alluring	36. Cusp	

Kyle
3.3.22

The Inspired Poet Exercises:

Chapter 35, exercise 1:

Magic was stored in the upper corners of my backyard.
Left, a Douglas fir; tall, but lean; young; solace and shelter.
Right, smooth green salal with its hairy purple berries,
knee-high to the person I once was. Whispers beneath
the bark pulled me in, and nowhere else was I so close
to the black-and-white words that sparked technicolor
visions behind my eyes. It was imagination. It was enough.

Chapter 35, exercise 2:

Inevitable, isn't it — encroachment?
Feeble, don't our constructs seem,
in the face of lightning and rust.
So much depends upon the towers,
Ivy of Babylon, we build only to guard.
If there are no gods, won't we scatter
all the same? Won't our tongues
forget their names and the wrench
no longer fighting for its red
stain and the strike blows every
plane to pieces and just like that
dust returns to dust. Tell me again
how our consciousness makes us superior.

Chapter 37, Concluding exercise:

Let these lines serve as an altar,
with a candle lit and an offering served
for each venerable wordsmith who sowed
seeds of inspiration in my arable mind.

To Neil Gaiman, who caught lightning
in a bottle, captured the essence
of my childhood mind with a mastery
I am ever striving to decipher.

To Erin Morgenstern, who wove atmosphere
like the finest thread, taught me never
to reflect a single sense, but to integrate
each one into a coalescent harmony.

To Sir Terry Pratchett, who lent me the secret
to magic, pulled back the curtain to reveal
that sometimes there is indeed mundane
behind the fantastical — and that is no less wondrous.

To Cicely Mary Barker, who promised
whimsy behind every unsuspecting flower,
dazzled my childhood wanderings
and implored me to turn over new leaves.

Such names I do not invoke in vain;
what can my hands offer to the figures
of my Personal Creation Myth?
May the inked dance of this pen suffice.