

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What did you like most about Rare Bird? What did you like least?
- 2) What did you think about Maria Mudd Ruth's research? Was it easy to see where she got her information? Were her sources credible?
- 3) In chapters 4-8 the author reviews the early history of Pacific Northwest exploration and ornithology. Did you find these chapters interesting?
- 4) Why do you think the author chose to tell this story?
- 5) Do you have a bird that has captivated you? Why have you chosen your bird?
- 6) What new things did you learn from reading Rare Bird?
- 7) What questions do you still have?
- 8) "How to Help the Marbled Murrelet" at the end of the book lists 5 specific actions. The first is to avoid feeding wildlife and pick up any bits of food when near old-growth forests and parks to avoid attracting predators. In Big Basin Redwoods State Park in California, campers must sign a contract and provide an \$825 credit card guarantee that no crumbs will be left at their campsite. The importance of the Marbled Murrelet is explained, and the consequence that the park will be closed if it's habitat is not preserved. Is this an idea to consider in other parks with old-growth forest?
- 9) Citizen-scientists are discussed in the book (page 253). Is the author supportive?
- 8) Are there other books related to Rare Bird that you would recommend to the group?