

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 30 No. 6

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

By Libby Mills

About the field trips

Beginning birders and their friends are always welcome on Skagit Audubon field trips. Membership in Skagit Audubon is encouraged but not required for participation. Please be prepared for the weather with suitable clothing, and bring field guides, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Carpool whenever possible and contribute to the driver's expense. Watch the email reminders for the latest information, including any changes and/or additions to the field trip schedule. To be added to the email distribution list contact Libby Mills: libbymills@gmail.com

If you plan to join a field trip some place other than the described starting point, call the trip leader the day before to ensure a successful rendezvous. Trip plans may change.

Friday - Sunday, June 17 - 19 Annual Klipchuck Campout Klipchuck Campground Mile 175, Hwy Route 20

Each summer members and friends of Skagit Audubon gather in this U.S. Forest Service Campground (USFS) off Highway 20, 1.2 miles up a side road on the north side of the highway near Highway mile 175, at elevation 2,900 ft. There are usually plenty of sharp eyes in our group and the birding is great right on the campground loops as well as on nearby trails and birding areas further down in the Methow Valley. There is no schedule or plan beyond a Saturday

**Klipchuck and other Field Trips
continued on page 6**

JUNE MEETING AND PROGRAM

Puget Sound Energy's Avian Protection Program

By Haley Edwards

Tuesday, June 14, 2011
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10433 Bayview-Edison Road
Mount Vernon, Washington



Bald Eagle
Photo by J.B. Smith

All around the Skagit and Samish flats we can see the work of Puget Sound Energy's Avian Protection Program. Collisions between swans and power lines can be fatal. Raptors landing on power poles may suffer injury or death. This program describes how Puget Sound Energy (PSE) addresses these problems.

PSE has been managing avian issues since at least 1979 when the company moved its first osprey nest from a utility pole. Since then, the program has grown to include an Avian Protection Plan, avian-safe construction standards, reporting and response systems, and many mitigation projects. PSE works closely with federal and state wildlife agencies. (For more information see: www.pse.com/aboutpse/Environment/Pages/Bird-Protection.aspx)

Haley Edwards is a Natural Resource Scientist for Puget Sound Energy. She assists with the Avian Protection Program and manages projects under the Baker Hydroelectric Project license relating to birds and their habitat. Prior to coming to PSE she worked in Michigan and Washington state on habitat restoration and avian survey projects, including spotted owls, marbled murrelets, and others.



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Spotted Spreadwing
Smiley's Bottom, Anacortes
Photo by Jim Walker

MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTIONS

General membership meetings of the Skagit Audubon Society are held at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 1043 Bayview-Edison Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA—7:00 PM Social/ 7:30 PM Program—on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June. The board of directors meets at the same location at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month.

Skagit Audubon Society (SAS) membership provides a local chapter affiliation and newsletter, **The Flyer**, for individuals who want all their funds to benefit their local chapter. Newsletters from additional chapters can be sought by contacting their websites and membership chairs from links at www.audubon.org/states/wa/. **To join Skagit Audubon Society** please use the form below.

National Audubon Society (NAS) membership is separate from SAS membership and includes Audubon magazine. National Audubon membership does not provide Skagit Audubon membership; however, NAS will assign you an affiliation with a local chapter. To change your chapter assignment call 800-274-4201. **To join National Audubon Society** use the form below.

Skagit Audubon Society is a Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Skagit Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership in the Skagit Audubon Society includes 10 issues of our newsletter, *The Skagit Flyer*, available on our website. Membership includes all members of your household.

\$20 one (1) year \$40 two (2) years

I wish to donate \$_____ to Skagit Audubon Society.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. _____ Email _____

Clip form/Mail to/Payable to:

Skagit Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1101
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1101

Please do not share my personal information with National Audubon Society. (It is the policy of SAS not to share information with any other groups.)

Using the form below to initially join the **National Audubon Society** will ensure that the **Skagit Audubon** chapter receives a cost share to support local programs.

National Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership to the National Audubon Society includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine. Membership includes all members of your household.

\$20 for one-year introductory membership with one chapter affiliation

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. _____

Clip form/Mail to/Payable to:

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center Y21
P.O. Box 422246-2246
Palm Coast, FL 32142

www.audubon.org

For members receiving a paper copy of The Skagit Flyer, the mailing label includes your membership expiration date in the upper right corner. If that date is highlighted in orange it is a reminder that your membership is about to or has expired. All other members will receive an email notice when their membership is about to expire. The Skagit Flyer is published monthly from September through June. Unsolicited material for the next month's Flyer should be sent to the editor by the third Saturday of the current month. For questions or problems about your Skagit Flyer subscription, contact membership chair: Sheila Pera, skagitmembers@gmail.com



Perusing government reports may not be your favorite leisure time activity, but here's a good one to scan, and not just on a rainy day: the 2011 *State of the Birds Report* (www.stateofthebirds.org). The report comes out yearly, organized by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with the involvement of the other federal land managing agencies, some of their state equivalents, and a good list of non-governmental groups such as our very own National Audubon Society. Last year's report focused on global warming in relation to birds. This year it's about how public lands (federal, state, local) support bird populations and to what degree they do so. In trust for us, public agencies manage about a third of all land in the U.S., though law and policy focus only some of that management on conservation. In the *State of the Birds Report* you will learn, for example, that "these publicly owned habitats support at least half of the entire U.S. distributions of more than 300 bird species." To give just one example, almost all the Trumpeter Swans wintering in the lower-48 breed in Alaska on public land, especially areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

It's heartening that public lands are as important as they are to many bird species because we have a say in the management of this land, if we care to exercise it. This is one of the things Audubon does, both nationally and at the state and chapter level: we advocate with public agencies for birds and

other wildlife and their habitat. One thing this report can do for us is suggest areas on which we, as well as the land managing agencies, would do well to focus more attention.

The report ends with a description of the databases which generated the many percentages and statistics throughout the 48 pages (there are nice bird photographs too). Of particular interest is the central importance of eBird data in providing information about bird distributions. eBird is the grand citizen science project of Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology that allows (and urges) each of us to contribute our bird sightings on-line (www.eBird.org). If you submitted sightings to eBird, you helped create this picture of bird distribution across the U.S. Read that section of the report's page 45 to get fired up about how your birding can contribute. And read the list on page 29 to see ways you can influence how public lands support birds, such as buying the annual federal duck stamp. Since that program began in 1934, stamp revenues have purchased over 5 million acres of waterfowl habitat. What the list cannot do, because this is a government publication, is urge you to tell your legislators how you would like land managing agencies to be funded and staffed. Public ownership of land has clearly been essential to the preservation of many bird species and will continue to be so. Read the *State of the Birds Report* and you will appreciate more than ever what a rich legacy we have in our public lands – and the birds that depend on them.

SKAGIT AUDUBON SUMMER HIKING ~ 2011**By Joan Melcher**

NOTE: This summer hiking schedule was prepared on May 16, 2011. As of this time the following hikes appear to be a "go" in the sense that we should be able to drive to the trailheads. However, there is a chance that one or more of the hike destinations will be changed due to unforeseen circumstances. If a hike destination is changed, the meeting time and meeting place will remain the same.

WILDERNESS HIKES: The information on the various wilderness hikes is too lengthy to print here. For information contact Joan Melcher 360-424-0407 or at jdmelcher@comcast.net

- **Northwest Forest Pass** (parking permit) required.
- All the hikes are on Wednesdays.
- **Adopt-A-Tail work parties** with Dan Rogers are on Mondays. Wear old clothes and have gloves, fluids to drink, and lunch. Tools provided.
- **Dogs are discouraged** on Audubon-sponsored hikes. If dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times.
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JUNE 1, WEDNESDAY ~ SAN JUAN ISLAND

Hike on trails at American Camp, Whale Watch Park/Limekiln State Park, and English Camp. Meet at 8:15 a.m. at March Point Park-n-Ride to pool rides. No ferry walk-ons as we will need cars on the island. We will take the 9:30 a.m. ferry from Anacortes, arriving in Friday Harbor at 10:35 a.m. Return ferry sailings are 4:15 p.m. and 6:25 p.m. Carpool

according to return times. People staying on the island for dinner will take the 6:25 p.m. sailing back.

JUNE 4, SATURDAY ~ NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Celebrate trails! Go for a hike or walk with family and/or friends. The Pacific Northwest Trail Association will sponsor trail work at Deception Pass State Park. Contact Joan Melcher (360-424-0407 or at jdmelcher@comcast.net) for details if interested.

JUNE 6, MONDAY ~ ADOPT-A-TRAIL WORK PARTY
(If Hwy 20 is open)

Trail work with Dan Rogers (Ed Rogers son) in the Okanogan National Forest. Wear old clothes, have gloves, a lunch, and fluids to drink. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. Work site will be the annual maintenance on the Ruby Creek and Canyon Creek Trails.

JUNE 8, WEDNESDAY ~ ROSS LAKE, WEST SHORE

Hike down to Ross Dam and beyond along the west Shore Ross Lake as far as the Big Beaver if you wish. There are many other turn-around points. It is up to 13 miles round trip and up to 1,800 ft. total elevation gain. There are two return times: 4:30 p.m. for those who wish to hike to Pierce Creek or Big Beaver and 3:00 p.m. for those who turn around before. Carpooling will depend upon what return time you

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Hikes continued from page 3

select. Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot.

JUNE 15, WEDNESDAY ~ BAKER RIVER

Hike along the Baker River to Sulfide Creek, entering the North Cascades National Park along the way. Dogs are not permitted on the National Park section of the trail. It is 5 miles round trip, 300 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. A Northwest Forest Pass (parking permit) is required. There is a 1:30 p.m. return to the trailhead, if you do just the river hike; 2:00 p.m. return if you also walk south to Hidden Creek on the north Baker Lake Trail.

JUNE 22 WEDNESDAY ~ OLD SAUK RIVER TRAIL

The Old Sauk River Trail is a hike along the scenic Sauk River. On this low-elevation trail you will walk through patches of old growth Douglas firs. It is 6 miles round trip, with little elevation gain. When all the people in your car have returned to the trailhead, you may leave. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Mount Vernon Safeway.

JUNE 29 WEDNESDAY

BAKER LAKE TRAIL FROM THE NORTH

Hike over the Baker River Bridge, the Blum Creek Bridge, and along the northern section of the Baker Lake Trail to Noisy Creek and back. It is 9.2 miles round trip, with a slight elevation gain. Meet at 8 a.m. on the east side of the parking lot at the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion. A Northwest Forest parking permit is required. Return to the trailhead at 3 p.m.

JULY 6, WEDNESDAY ~ HEATHER LAKE

Hike to and around a scenic lake at an elevation of 2,400 ft. off the Mountain Loop Highway near Mt. Pilchuck. It is a 4.8 miles round trip; with a 1,000 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 8 a.m. in the Mount Vernon Safeway parking lot. Seattle/Snohomish County/Camano Island hikers can go directly to the trailhead. Return to the trailhead for faster hikers at 1 p.m.; return for slower hikers at 2:30 p.m. Carpool accordingly.

JULY 11, MONDAY ~ ADOPT-A-TRAIL WORK PARTY

Trail work with Dan Rogers in the Okanogan National Forest. There will be bridge work on the Rainy Lake Trail. Wear old clothes, have gloves, a lunch, and fluids to drink. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot.

JULY 13, WEDNESDAY ~ WILDERNESS HIKE

JULY 20, WEDNESDAY ~ SAUK MOUNTAIN

This hike is 4.2 miles round trip, with a 1,200 ft. elevation gain with an option to walk down to Sauk Lake, It is 7.2 miles round trip, 2,400 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion. Return to the trailhead for those who go to summit only at 12:30 p.m.; return for those who do both summit and Sauk Lake at 2:30 p.m. Carpool accordingly. Add hikes in Rockport State Park after the Sauk Mountain hike if you wish.

JULY 27, WEDNESDAY ~ WILDERNESS HIKE

AUGUST 3, WEDNESDAY ~ WILDERNESS HIKE

AUGUST 8, MONDAY

ADOPT-A-TRAIL WORK PARTY

Trail work with Dan Rogers in the Okanogan National Forest. The worksite is to be determined. Wear old clothes, have gloves, a lunch, and fluids to drink. Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot.

AUGUST 10, WEDNESDAY ~ WILDERNESS HIKE

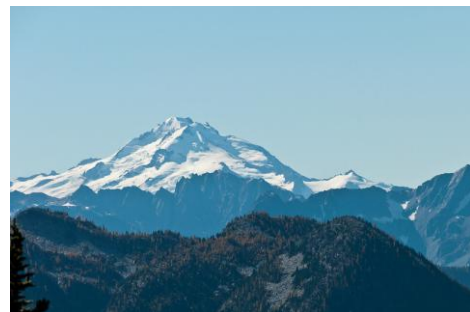
AUGUST 17, WEDNESDAY ~ WILDERNESS HIKE

AUGUST 24, WEDNESDAY ~ WILDERNESS HIKE

AUGUST 31, WEDNESDAY ~ MAPLE PASS LOOP

This is one of Ira Spring's and Harvey Manning's "100 Classic Hikes in Washington". It is a 7.5 mile loop, with a 2,000 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. This may be done as a loop or as an "in-and-out-the-same-way" hike. Return at 3:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 7, WEDNESDAY ~ WILDERNESS HIKE



Maple Pass

Photo by J. B. Smith

SKAGIT AUDUBON FIELD NOTES

By Pam Pritzl

This column reports submitted sightings. Any rare sightings should be accompanied by detailed written documentation and if possible a photograph. A second person to verify rare sightings is extremely helpful. Do not hesitate to call any observer to help document unusual sightings. Also do not hesitate to call if you need clarification on locations.

Please submit your sightings to **Pam Pritzl** ppritzl@frontier.com or 360-387-7024.

Greater White-fronted Goose 9 on Samish Flats on 4-30-11 (RM); 16 Samish Flats on 5-4-11 (RM); 3 at Skagit Game Range on 5-4-11 (RM)

1 at Van Horn on 5-15-11 (GB)

Snow Goose 200 at Hayton Reserve on 4-30-11 (RM); 300 at Skagit Game Range on 5-4-11 (RM)

Trumpeter Swan 1 at Hayton Reserve on 4-29-11 (RM)

Tundra Swan 1 on Samish Flats on 4-19-11 (GB)

Wood Duck 4 at Skagit Game Range on 4-22-11 (BK)

Blue-winged Teal 1 at Skagit Game Range on 5-7-11 (GB)

Skagit Audubon Field Notes continued on Page 5



Skagit Audubon Field Notes continued from Page 4

Cinnamon Teal 1 on Fir Island on 5-7-11 (GB); 2 at Green Road Slough on 5-14-11 (BK); 2 on Camano Island on 5-16-11 (PP)
Am X Eurasian Green-winged Teal 1 at Port Susan Bay on 4-29-11 (RM)
Harlequin Duck 2 on Jackman Creek on 5-14-11 (GB)
Ruddy Duck 1 at Barnaby Slough on 5-14-11 (TM, JD)
Ruffed Grouse singles drumming at Illabot Creek Rd, Barnaby Slough and Illabot Creek on 5-1-11 (RM)
Red-throated Loon 10 off Clayton Beach, Samish Bay on 5-6-11 (TM); 1 at Kiket Island on 5-7-11 (GB)
Eared Grebe 1 (breeding plumage) at Skagit Game Range on 4-17-11 (BK); 2 on Minkler Flats on 5-15-11 (GB)
American White Pelican 8 near March Point (JP, DA); 5 on Alice Bay on 5-19-11 (T&HA, MF)
American Bittern 1 at Green Road slough on 5-14-11 (BK); 1 east of Lyman on 5-17-11 (GB)
Green Heron 1 at Skagit Game Range on 5-4-11 (RM)
Osprey 2 nesting pairs at Ship Harbor in Anacortes 5-5-11 (JR)
Rough-legged Hawk 1 at Skagit Game Range on 4-30-11 (RM)
Golden Eagle 1 over Cockreham Island on 5-7-11 (GB)
Virginia Rail 2 at Ship Harbor in Anacortes on 5-5-11 (JR)
Sora 1 at Northern State on 5-8-11 (TM)
Sandhill Crane 1 on Samish Flats on 4-16-11 (GB)
Semipalmated Plover 27 at March Point on 5-4-11 (RM); 1 at March Point on 5-7-11 (GB)
Black Oystercatcher 3 at March Point on 4/27-5/13/11 (RM); 8 at Rosario on 5-14-11 (AT, RR, PP); 2 on Kiket Island on 5-14-11 (AT, RR, PP)
Lesser Yellowlegs 2 at Skagit Game Range on 4-29-11 (RM); 2 on Samish Flats on 4-30-11 (RM); 1 at Burmaster Rd on 5-1-11 (RM)
Whimbrel 32 on Butler Flats on 5-4-11 (RM); 106 on Butler Flats on 5-7-11 (GB); 23 at Chuckanut Dr on 5-14-11 (HA, MSD); 25 in field along Gardner Road on 5-14-11 (BK); 160 in farm field on Camano Island on 5-16-11 (PP, SP)
Marbled Godwit 1 at March Point 4/29-30/11 (RM)
Short-billed Dowitcher 4 at the Skagit Game Range on 5-7-11 (GB)
Long-billed Dowitcher 60 in flooded field at the West 90 on 5-15-11 (RM)
Wilson's Snipe 1 at Skagit Game Range 4-22-11 (BK)
Wilson's Phalarope 3 at Chuckanut Drive Pond on 5-14-11 (HA, MSD)
Red-necked Phalarope 3 on Minkler Flats on 5-15-11 (GB)
Bonaparte's Gull 1 on Butler Flats on 5-7-11 (GB)
American Herring Gull 1 on Rawlins Road on 4-29-11 (RM)
Caspian Tern 1 at Skagit Game Range on 4-22-11 (BK); arrived on Port Susan Bay on 5-14-11 (SP)
Eurasian Collared-Dove 1 at Martin Rd on 5-15-11 (RM)
Great Horned Owl 1 on Little Mountain on 5-1 and 5-8-11 (BK)
Barred Owl regularly seen throughout observation period at home on Camano Island (SP)
Calliope Hummingbird 1 female at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-15-11 (RM)
Lewis's Woodpecker 2 on Martin Road on 5-14-11 (TM, JD); 1 at Martin Rd on 5-15-11 (RM, GB); 1 at Marblemount on 5-15-11 (RM)
Red-naped X Red-breasted Sapsucker 1 at Barnaby Slough on 5-1-11 (RM)
Olive-sided Flycatcher 2 on Kiket Island on 5-14-11 (AT, RR, PP)
Western Wood-Pewee 1 in Concrete on 5-14-11 (GB)
Willow Flycatcher 1 at Rosario on 5-14-11 (AT, RR, PP)
Dusky Flycatcher 1 at Corkindale on 5-15-11 (RM); 3 at Newhalem on 5-15-11 (RM); 3 at County Line ponds on 5-15-11 (RM)
Say's Phoebe 1 at Marblemount on 5-15-11 (RM)
Western Kingbird 1 Stilly RM on 4-30-11 (RM); 1 on Hoehn Rd on 5-1-11 (RM); 1 on Cockreham Island on 5-7-11 (GB); 2 at Corkindale on 5-15-11 (RM); 1 at Marblemount on 5-15-11 (RM); 3 at Newhalem on 5-15-11 (RM)
Cassin's Vireo 3 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-15-11 (RM); 1 at Corkindale on 5-15-11 (RM)
Hutton's Vireo 1 at Barnaby Slough on 5-1-11 (RM)
Warbling Vireo 1 at Larrabee State Park on 5-6-11 (TM)

Purple Martin 7 at Ship Harbor in Anacortes on 5-5-11 (JR)
Tree Swallow many at Anacortes Forest Lands on 4-24-11 (B&VK)
Violet-green Swallow many at Anacortes Forest Lands on 4-24-11 (B&VK)
Northern Rough-winged Swallow many at Anacortes Forest Lands on 4-24-11 (B&VK)
Bank Swallow 1 at Port Susan Bay on 4-29-11 (RM); 1 at Illabot Creek on 5-1-11 (RM); 5 at Corkindale on 5-15-11 (RM)
Barn Swallow many at Anacortes Forest Lands on 4-24-11 (B&VK)
Brown Creeper 1 at Camano Island home on 5-9-11 (SP)
House Wren 2 at Rosario on 5-14-11 (AT, RR, PP)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 at Newhalem on 5-15-11 (RM); 1 at County Line Ponds on 5-15-11 (RM)
Mountain Bluebird 2 at Corkindale on 4-23-11 (BK); 1 near Cockreham Island on 5-7 and 5-8-11 (GB)
Townsend's Solitaire 1 at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center on 4-22-11 (LM); 3 at Washington Park on 4-23-1 (B&VK); 1 at Coirkindale on 4-23-11 (BK); 16 Rockport to Newhalem (incl 7 in view at Corkindale) on 5-1-11 (RM); 1 at Martin Rd on 5-15-11 (RM); 1 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-15-11 (RM); 3 at Corkindale on 5-15-11 (RM)
Swainson's Thrush 1 at Rosario on 5-14-11 (AT, RR, PP); 2 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-15-11 (RM)
Hermit Thrush 1 near Campbell Lake on 5-14-11 (AT, RR, PP)
American Pipit 110 at Corkindale on 5-15-11 (RM)
Orange-crowned Warbler 2 at Larrabee State Park on 5-6-11 (TM)
Nashville Warbler 1 at Illabot Creek Rd on 5-1-11 (RM); 1 at Northern State on 5-8-11 (TM); 3 at Newhalem on 5-9-11 (BK); 1 at Newhalem Ponds on 5-10-11 (BK); 15 from Rockport to Newhalem on 5-15-11 (RM)
Yellow-rumped Warbler 48 (19 Audubon's, 11 Myrtle) at Skagit Game Range on 4-29-11 (BK); 1 "Myrtle" at Corkindale on 5-15-11 (RM)
Myrtle X Audubon's Warbler 1 at Corkindale on 5-15-11 (RM)
MacGillivray's Warbler 1 female in yard on 5-6-11 (AD)
Wilson's Warbler 1 at Larrabee State Park on 5-6-11 (TM)
Western Tanager 7 on 5-14-11 (HA, MSD); 5 near Similk Bay on 5-14-11 (AW)
Chipping Sparrow 6 at Martin Rd on 5-15-11 (RM); 4 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-15-11 (RM); 6 at Newhalem on 5-15-11 (RM)
Vesper Sparrow 1 at Martin Rd on 5-15-11 (RM)
Lincoln's Sparrow 1 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-15-11 (RM)
White-throated Sparrow 1 near Warm Beach on 5-9-11 (JT)
Golden-crowned Sparrow several observed at Camano Island home on 5-2-11 (SP) 4 at Martin Road on 5-15-11 (RM); 3 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-15-11 (RM); 2 at Corkindale on 5-15-11 (RM); 4 at Newhalem on 5-15-11 (RM)
Black-headed Grosbeak at Camano Island home on 5-11-11 (SP)
Lazuli Bunting 4 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-15-11 (RM); 3 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-17-11 (BK)
Western Meadowlark 1 on Cockreham Island on 5-15-11 (GB)
Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 at feeder on Ponder Roses Lane between Rockport and Marblemount on 4-28-11 (NJ); 1 at Port Susan Bay on 4-29 to 5-1/11 (RM); 1 on Cockreham Island on 5-7-11 (GB)
Bullock's Oriole 1 at martin Rd on 5-1-11 (RM); 1 on Burlington Hill on 5-14-11 (BK); 2 at Martin Road on 5-15-11 (RM); 2 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-15-11 (RM); 1 at Corkindale on 5-15-11 (RM); 1 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-17-11 (BK)
Cassin's Finch 2 at feeder near Cockreham Island on 5-2-11, 1 on 5-3-11 (GB)
Red Crossbill 12 at feeder throughout period on Camano Island (PP)
Evening Grosbeak 2 at feeder on Camano Island on 4-23-11 (PP)

(DA) Dick Abbott; (T&HA) Thais & Howard Armstrong; (HA) Howard Armstrong; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (MSD) Mary Sue Dallas; (JD) John Day; (AD) Ann Dursch; (MF) Marna Fletcher; (NJ) Nancy Johnson; (B&V K) Betty and Von Kuehn; (BK) Bob Kuntz; (LM) Libby Mills; (RM) Ryan Merrill; (TM) Tim Manns; (JP) Josh Parrott; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (SP) Sheila Pera; (JR) Jack Richardson; (RR) Roxie Rochat; (JT) Judy Taylor; (AT) Alice Turner; (AW) Annette Woolsey.



Kiket Island and other Field Trips continued from Page 1

night dinner potluck. Informal groups form to look for birds, or folks go out on their own with binoculars or cameras. Klipchuck is a magnet for warblers and vireos, flycatchers and woodpeckers, hummingbirds and wildflowers. A trail to Driveway Butte leads up the hill right out of the campground for the ambitious hiker. Deer are usually fawning around the campground so dogs are not recommended and must be kept on leashes. It's about 6 miles to Mazama, the nearest store, so come with what you need or plan to drive a bit further to re-supply.

Overnight campground fee is \$12 per site. Vault toilets and water are available. If you plan to hike from a trailhead be sure and bring your USFS parking permit, available from USFS offices in Sedro Woolley and Winthrop.

If you need more information contact: Steve or Gail Aslanian 360-435-9493

Thursday, June 23

Big Four Area

6:30 a.m. to Early Afternoon

The Big Four area lies along the south fork of the Stillaguamish River east of Granite Falls. The birding is exceptional in June and the picnic area has spectacular views of Big Four Mountain and Hall Peak. Another bonus is the diversity of alpine wildflowers along the trail. The 1 mile trail takes you on a boardwalk across a fresh water marsh (expect to see Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Flycatchers, Warblers), across a bridge over the south fork of the Stillaguamish River (look for Dippers, Common Mergansers, Harlequin Ducks and Spotted Sandpipers), into the forest (Pacific Wrens, Brown Creepers, Western Wood-pewees and Varied Thrushes are common) and eventually to a huge cirque that ends at a lookout area (we'll plan to eat lunch here). Wear hiking boots and expect to walk a leisurely 2 miles round trip, 200' elevation gain. Bring lunch and USFS parking permit. Meet at Big 4 Meadows at 8 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. at the Exit 212 Park & Ride for carpools. Leader: Pam Pritzl 360-387-7024.

Friday, July 1

Port Susan Bay

9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

The 1st Friday of July is a great time to visit Port Susan Bay, a salt marsh estuary and pond just south of the Skagit Delta. Julie Morse of The Nature Conservancy will lead birders out on the Nature Conservancy's property to look for all kinds of birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, herons, and terns. This is a good place to see ducks and possible phalaropes in the pond and terns, swallows and raptors working the fields and bay. We'll meet in Stanwood at 8:45 a.m. and carpool to the property. Bring snacks and drinks.

Please contact leader Julie Morse if you plan to come and need directions. She will help you find our carpool spot at the north end of Marine Drive at Stanwood, just south of Highway 532.

Leader Julie Morse, jmorse@tnc.org, phone number (360-419-7033)

Thursday, July 14

Dragonfly Class

Padilla Bay Interpretive Center

7:30 p.m.

It's dragonfly season again. Time to brush up in the classroom on field marks for darners, meadowhawks, and skimmers. This year the class will include observations with slow-motion videos that have revealed dragonfly behavior never before seen or reported. For example, we now know that dragonflies not only dip into the water – somewhat like swallows – but after gaining altitude they spin head-over-heels at 1,500 rpm to spray the water off in all directions. Teacher: Jim Walker, contact at: 360-293-3036 and jswphys@aol.com

Saturday, July 16

Smiley's Bottom, Anacortes

11:00 a.m.

~ AND ~

Either Saturday, August 13 OR Saturday, August 20 Barnaby Slough or Lake Terrell

11:00 a.m.

This is the peak time of the year to get out in the field and observe dragonflies. Everyone is welcome on the field trips, so please plan to join us even if you can't make the class. The July trip will start in the parking lot of the baseball fields at Smiley's Bottom in Anacortes. The location of the August trip will be determined based on activity levels. All field trips are subject to change due to weather conditions. Please email me at jswphys@aol.com to be added to the dragonfly mailing list for all the latest information and updates. Leader: Jim Walker, contact at: 360-293-3036 and jswphys@aol.com

Saturday, September 3

Fall Fill: Montlake Fill & Magnuson Park

7:00 a.m. to Mid-afternoon

Join us as we bird Seattle's Montlake Fill with Connie Sidles, Seattle Audubon board member and author of *In My Nature: A Birder's Year at the Montlake Fill*. The Fill is a lively place in early fall. We'll explore for migrants that might be coming through. Rarities at this time of year have included Ruffs, Red-necked Phalaropes, and Stilt, Baird's, Pectoral, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Dowitchers, and even Upland Sandpipers. Early Sparrow migrants and Buntings are also possible. For those who want a real challenge, we will take a close-up gander at our eclipsed Ducks and try to figure out the differences between Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal, Mallards and Gadwalls. After the Fill we'll make a brief visit to the ponds at nearby Magnuson Park. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and lunch. Meet at 7:00 a.m. to form carpools at the new Park & Ride along the frontage road west of I-5 and south of Anderson Road in Mt. Vernon. Or join us at 8:30 a.m. in the west parking lot of the Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle. Leader: Connie Sidles. Questions? Contact Tim Manns (360-336-8753 or bctm@fidalgo.net)

Samish Island Bird Walks with Howard Armstrong

As weather and time permit, Howard Armstrong leads bird walks on Samish Island for beginners and experts alike. To be contacted when these walks are scheduled, send a message to Howard (godwits@wavecable.com) asking to be added to his e-mail notification list.



Summer 2011 Calendar

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 29	May 30	May 31	1 Hiking: San Juan Island	2	3	4 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY Trail Work at Deception Pass State Park
5 Birding: SW Washington	6 Adopt-A-Trail Work Party	7 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00	8 Hiking: Ross Lake, West Shore	9	10	11
12	13	14 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	15 Hiking: Baker River	16	17 Klipchuck Campout	18 Klipchuck Campout
19 Klipchuck Campout	20	21	22 Hiking: Old Sauk River Trail	23 Field Trip: Big Four Area	24	25
26	27	28	29 Hiking: Baker Lake Trail from the North	30		

July 2011

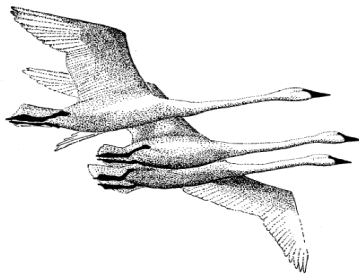
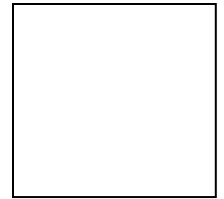
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Field Trip: Port Susan Bay	2
3	4	5	6 Hiking: Heather Lake	7	8	9
10	11 Adopt-A-Trail Work Party	12	13 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	14	15	16 Field Trip: Dragonflies
17	18	19	20 Hiking: Sauk Mountain	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	28	29 Birding: Port Susan Bay	30
31						

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Adopt-A-Trail Work Party	9	10 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	11	12	13 Field Trip or on the 20th Dragonflies
14	15	16	17 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	18	19	20 DrgFlyField Trip IF not 13th Deadline SAS September Flyer
21	22	23	24 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Hiking: Maple Pass Loop	Sept 1	Sept 2	Sept 3 Field Trip Mont lake fill & Magnuson Park
Sept 4	Sept 5	Sept 6 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00	Sept 7 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	Sept 8	Sept 9	Sept 10



SKAGIT AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1101
MOUNT VERNON WA 98273



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Check your
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expiration date!

American Alps Challenge

When: Saturday, September 24, 2011

Where: North Cascades Highway

Check it out at www.americanalps.org.

A North Cascades outdoor recreation event including a 65 mile road bike, run, kayak, and road bike relay from Washington Pass to Marblemount. Satellite activities: family canoeing, naturalist hikes, & bird watching. The primary purpose of the Challenge is to highlight the American Alps Legacy Proposal ~ a proposal to expand the North Cascades National Park.

Partners are the North Cascades Conservation Council, the Mountaineers Club, Seattle Audubon, Skagit Audubon, Republicans for Environmental Protection, North Cascades Institute, and more.

**Be a part of the Challenge!
Learn more about the North Cascades!
Help protect this incredible place!**

The Skagit Audubon Flyer Summer 2011 Calendar Inside

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at www.fidalgo.net/~audubon/

The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

