

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 37 No. 6

JUNE FIELD TRIPS

By Libby Mills

About the field trips

Beginning birders and 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.

**Fri.-Sun. June 15-17, 2018
Annual Klipchuck CG
Campout – Mile 175 –SR 20**

Each summer members and friends of Skagit Audubon

Field Trips continued on pg. 5

JUNE MEETING AND PROGRAM

“The Importance of Place: Place-Based Science and the Swinomish Culture”

Presenter: Todd Mitchell

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

7:00 Social; 7:30 Program

Padilla Bay Interpretive Ctr.

10441 Bayview Edison Rd.

Mt. Vernon, Washington



The Swinomish People have long standing traditions of protecting, honoring, and thanking Mother Earth for the resources that nourish our people. The culture of the Tribe is intrinsically tied to the health of the environment that sustains the habitat for our important natural resources. While some of our work is directed at addressing immediate and specific environmental or ecological concerns, our objectives focus on the long-view and sustaining the Swinomish culture. We use the knowledge of our ancestors combined with scientific research to develop innovative ways to protect our environment and resources not just for now but for the next seven generations. Our work is strongly place-based and centered not just on protecting the natural resources themselves, but also sustaining access to the cultural practices they support. For Swinomish, it is not enough to simply work for the survival of a species or habitat: we strive to protect and preserve resources and their place in Swinomish culture.

Todd Mitchell, a Swinomish Tribal member, is a geologist and the Environmental Director of the Swinomish Department of Environmental Protection, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. His research includes the Tribe's water resources including tidelands, surfacewater, groundwater, wetlands, salmon habitat restoration research, and the connection of natural resources to the Tribal culture.



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MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTIONS

General membership meetings of the Skagit Audubon Society are held at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 10441 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 <http://wa.audubon.org/audubon-locations/>. **To join Skagit Audubon Society** use the **1st** 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 **2nd** 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 at: <http://www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter>.

Membership includes all members of your household.

Check one:

\$20.00 one (1) year

\$40.00 two (2) years

Additionally, I wish to donate to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, in the amount of \$ _____

Donations of \$100.00 or more receive a personal field trip by a Skagit Audubon field trip leader.

Check one:

New Membership

Renewing Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

SAS does not share your contact information.

Clip form/Mail to/Payable to:

Skagit Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1101

Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1101

Use the form below to initially join the **National Audubon Society**.

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 _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

Please mail chapter-created new membership forms to address below: (Payable to same)

National Audubon Society Y21

P.O. Box 97194

Washington, DC 20090-7194

Attn: Chance Mueleck

For membership related questions and address:

Email: customerservice@audubon.org

Phone: (844) 428-3826



Canada Goose on Nest, Mary Sinker

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:

Pam Pritzl membership@skagitaudubon.org



SKAGIT AUDUBON HIKING SCHEDULE-JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

BY JOAN MELCHER

NOTE: This summer hiking schedule was prepared on May 17, 2018. 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.

Safety comes first so hikes may be canceled or destinations changed due to weather conditions, logging, construction or other unforeseen circumstances. A hike will be canceled if there are high wind warnings, flooding conditions, snowy or icy road conditions, or forecasts of continued heavy rain. All the hikes are on a Wednesday – with the exception of July 5th which is a Thursday - and for questions or additional information contact Joan Melcher at jdmelcher@comcast.net or 360.424.0407. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes and if dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times. General safety note: upon arrival at the destination, if cancellation of the hike is determined at the discretion of the Audubon trip leader, any individual who elects to proceed is no longer considered to be a member of an Audubon-sponsored activity. Additionally, carpools are arranged at the discretion of the driver(s).

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.

SATURDAY--JUNE 2--NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: Celebrate trails! Go for a hike or walk with family and/or friends. SWITMO (Skagit, Island, Whatcom Trail Maintenance Org.) will sponsor trail work on the Pacific Northwest Trail near Baker Lake. Contact Joan Melcher (above) for details if interested.

JUNE 6--OYSTER DOME: Hike to the Oyster Dome on Blanchard Mountain.

OPTION 1: Begin and end at the Pacific Northwest Trail trailhead on Chuckanut Drive near mile post 10. 9 miles, 2,000 ft. elevation gain. **Meet at 9 am at this location.** Hikers need to download the map and instructions from the SWITMO web site, www.SWITMO.org. Go to the “Great Hikes” page and under “Skagit County hikes” click on “Blanchard, Oyster Dome from Chuckanut Drive and back”. If you wish, you may meet Joan Melcher at the Chuckanut Park-n-Ride by 8:30 am to get a map and instructions. **2:30 pm return** to the trailhead.

OPTION 2: Begin and end hike at the Samish Overlook. WA State Discover Pass required at this location. 6.0 to 7.4 miles, 900 ft. elevation gain with a **2:00 pm return** to trailhead. Opportunities for side trips to North Butte, Lily Lake, and Lizard Lake. **Meet at 8:30 a.m.** at the Chuckanut Drive Park-n-Ride, exit 231 from I-5 on the east side of I-5.

JUNE 13--ROSS LAKE, WEST SHORE: Hike down to Ross Dam and beyond along the west shore of Ross Lake as far as the Big Beaver if you wish. Many other turn-around points. Up to 13 miles roundtrip with up to 1,800 ft. total elevation gain. Two return times: 4:30 pm for those who wish to hike to Pierce Creek or Big Beaver and 3:00 pm for those who turn around before. Carpooling will depend upon what return time you select. **Meet at 7:30 am** on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot.

JUNE 20--HEATHER LAKE: Hike to and around a scenic lake at an elevation of 2,400 feet off the Mountain Loop Highway east of granite Falls near Mt Pilchuck. 4.8 miles round trip; 1,000 ft. elevation gain. **Meet at 8:00 am** in the Mount Vernon Safeway parking lot. Audubon South hikers can drive directly to the trailhead. 1:00 pm return to the trailhead for faster hikers; 2:30 pm return for slower hikers; carpool accordingly. When your car load of people is safely back, you may leave. US Forest Service Northwest Parking Permit required—or a Golden Age Passport will also work.

JUNE 27--THUNDER CREEK: Hike up to 12 miles round trip, up to 1,000 ft. total elevation gain on one of the best forest hikes in the North Cascades. **Meet at 7:30 a.m.** on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. **Return time is 3:30 pm.**

JULY 5--WALLACE FALLS: This is a hike through forest and near spectacular waterfalls north of Gold Bar along the Stevens Pass Highway. WA State Discover Pass required to park at Wallace Falls State Park. **Meet at 8:00 am** in the S.E. corner of the Mount Vernon Safeway parking lot. Seattle/Snohomish County/Camano hikers can go directly to the trailhead. Carpool according to the option below you plan to do.

Hiking schedule continued on pg. 4



Hiking schedule continued from pg. 3

JULY 25—WALLACE FALLS (continued from above)

OPTION 1: up to a 7 mile loop, 1400 ft. elevation gain to top falls; **return time is 2:00 pm.**

OPTION 2: a 9.8 mile to 14 mile loop, 1,800 ft. elevation gain to Wallace Lake; **return time is 4:00 pm.**

JULY 11--WILDERNESS HIKE

JULY 18--WILDERNESS HIKE

JULY 25--OPTION 1: SAUK MOUNTAIN: 4.2 miles roundtrip, 1,200 ft. elevation gain with an option to walk down to Sauk Lake, 7.2 miles roundtrip, 2,400 ft. elevation gain. **Meet at 7:30 a.m.** in the parking lot of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion. 12:30 pm return to trailhead for those who go to summit only; 2:30 pm return for those who do both summit and Sauk Lake; carpool accordingly.

OPTION 2: ROCKPORT STATE PARK TRAILS: Over 4 or more miles of trails in an old growth forest and out to the Skagit River and back. Same meeting time and place. Return time depends on those carpooling together.

AUGUST 1--WILDERNESS HIKE

AUGUST 8--WILDERNESS HIKE

AUGUST 15--WILDERNESS HIKE

AUGUST 22--WILDERNESS HIKE

AUGUST 29--MAPLE PASS LOOP:* One of Ira Spring’s and Harvey Manning’s “100 Classic Hikes in Washington”. 7.5 mile loop, 2,000 ft. elevation gain. **Meet at 7:30 am** on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. 3:30 pm return to trailhead.

SEPTEMBER 5--CUTTHROAT PASS: * Do this hike on a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail as either a round trip, 10.0 or 11.0 miles, or as a one-way, 10.5 miles. You have four options: Hike east to Pass and return to where you started on the west side; hike west to Pass and return to where you started on the east side; hike from the western trailhead to eastern trailhead; hike from eastern trailhead to western trailhead. Last two options require shuttling. **Meet at 7:30 am** on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. 4:00 pm return to trailhead.

July 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	2	4 HOLIDAY	5 HIKE Wallace Falls	6	7
8	9	10	11 HIKE Wilderness Hike	12	13	14 Padilla Bay Interp. Ctr. Class Mud Flat Safari
15 Padilla Bay Interp. Ctr. Class Upland Trail Walk	16	17	18 HIKE Wilderness Hike	19	20	21
22	23	24 Padilla Bay Interp. Ctr. Class Mud Flat Safari	25 HIKE Sauk Mtn/Rockport St. Park	26	27	28
29	30	31	Aug 1 HIKE Wilderness Hike	Aug 2	Aug 3	Aug 4



FIELD TRIPS – continued from page 1

gather in this US Forest Service campground off Highway 20. It is 1.2 miles up a side road on the north side of the highway near Mile Post 175 at an elevation of 2,900 feet. There are usually plenty of sharp eyes in our group and the birding is great right on the campground loops as well as further down in the Methow Valley. There is no schedule or plan beyond a Saturday 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, vireos, flycatchers, woodpeckers, hummingbirds and wildflowers. A trail to Discovery 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 at all times.



Thursday, June 21, 2018
Big Four Trail and Wetlands
6:30 am or 8:00 am – Early Afternoon

Meet at 6:30 am at Exit 212 off I-5 Park & Ride for carpools or 8:00 am at the Big Four Picnic Area on Mountain Loop Hwy. 92. The beautiful Big Four area lies along the south fork of the Stillaguamish River east of Granite Falls. Plan to hike around 2 miles and bring a lunch. We'll do a combo field trip with history, birds and plants. The birding is exceptional in June. The picnic area has spectacular views of Big Four Mountain and Hall Peak. We will break up in the early afternoon. A NW Forest Pass is required. Leaders: Pam Pritzl 360.387.7024 and Jeff Osmundsen, 360.435.4297 or jeffo4297@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Education Committee needs volunteers to help with a number of adult presentations coming up in the next several months. These Power Point presentations are scheduled at libraries and private organizations/clubs in the area. If you can help give part of a presentation (already written), that would be great; or, you can assist with the computer and help answer questions from the audience. If you can lend a hand, please contact Sheila at skagiteducation2@gmail.com.

August 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HIKE Wilderness Hike	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 HIKE Wilderness Hike	9 Padilla Bay Interp. Ctr. Class Mud Flat Safari	10	11
12	13	14	15 HIKE Wilderness Hike	16	17	18
19 Padilla Bay Interp. Ctr. Class Upland Trail Walk	20	21	22 HIKE Wilderness Hike	23	24	25 Padilla Bay Interp. Ctr. Class Mud Flat Safari
26	27	28	29 HIKE Maple Pass	30	31	Sept 1
Sept 2	Sept 3	Sept 4 SAS Board Meeting; 7:00 PM	Sept 5 HIKE Cutthroat Pass	Sept 6	Sept 7	Sept 8



A Breathtaking Baritone by Thomas Bancroft

The trees are just beginning to show a little shape as I inch my way along the dike at Stillwater Wildlife Area. It is 5:00 AM on a Sunday morning in early May, and sunrise will not come for another hour, even longer before the sun hits this area at the western base of the Cascades. My flashlight is off so as to not disturb any wildlife. The songs of American Robins fill the air. Their “cheerily, cheer up, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up” melody proclaims spring has arrived, and they are ready for another day, even though it looks like night. A different sound makes me stop, a gulping, like someone is swallowing large mouthfuls of air. It comes from the marsh across the small pond to my south. Five gulps are quickly followed by an eerie call: “pump-er-lunk,” then another “pump-er-lunk” and finally a “dunk-a-doo.” A male American Bittern is trying to woo a female.

I’ve come to record this exact sound, so I settle onto the ground to put my stereo microphone rig on a tripod and see if I can hold still for the next hour. I slide off the gravel-topped dike to station my mic with its back to the bank, partially blocking sounds from behind me. The water is ten feet below, and a few bushes and cottonwoods line the pond’s edge. Open water extends fifty yards to a thick marsh. The bittern is probably sitting at the water’s edge, hoping a female will like his display. A second male begins gulping; he is roughly a hundred yards east of my seat. The closer one instantly responds with his answer. Last week, I was here with a group of birders. The sun had risen as we searched along this old railroad bed, now a hiking trail. One person discovered a male bittern, probably this same one, lurking in the reeds and focused her spotting scope on him. We watched the male contort its neck as it lunged forward to gulp in air, expanding its esophagus like a balloon, and then used that air to make this resonant “pump-er-lunk” sound.



American Bittern, by Joe Halton

In five decades of birding, I had never heard their call until last week. They don’t breed in Florida where I lived for more than two decades and were not common breeders near my Maryland home either. The sound last week took me by surprise; I watch the male for a long time while the birding party walked farther down the dike. Every few minutes, the bittern would begin again to blow up his esophagus and bellow out this resonating sound. This behavior and sound was so astonishing that I felt the need to return to see if I could record this spectacular call. Their courtship boomings have a ventriloquistic nature, and rural people have given them some interesting names; “stake-driver,” “thunder-pumper.” These are low-frequency sounds that will travel much farther through thick vegetation than the high pitch songs of most birds. Ornithologists think that these calls function both to attract females and tell rival males that this marsh is taken.

American Bitterns are members of the heron family. Their streaky brown and buff plumage allows them to disappear into the reeds, blending perfectly with the vertical shoots. They often freeze in a pose with their bills pointed skyward, neck stretched, so the streaks in their plumage will run parallel with the reeds. If they see people, they usually sulk back into the marsh.

But today I’m alone along this dike; no other person is out this early. I am hunched low; I have headset over my ears; my stereo mic pointing right toward the marsh where the bird just called. My eyes are closed so I can concentrate on absorbing the morning chorus of birds. It is still 45 minutes until sunrise. In addition to the robins, the Red-winged Blackbirds have started their “conk-la-ree” song, and I can imagine them drooping their wings while leaning forward and puffing out their bright red shoulder patches as they bellow. They remind me of my high school years when the football jocks would strut down the aisle, not moving aside for anyone, puffing out their shoulders when passing a pretty girl. The six-phrase melody of a Song Sparrow comes from right above me. He is probably sitting at the end of a branch, looking across the marsh, and raising his head, puffing out his chest when he sings his beautiful song. Individual male song sparrows have about nine different melodies, and they mix them up in their morning repertoire. He hopes this diversity will impress a mate. These birds will be a good background to the bittern, creating musical-filler between this heron’s calls in my recording. He’s my quest today. To think a bird could be such a breathtaking baritone. Each time the sound comes across the marsh, I am amazed by how these notes are made and want to show others this unique love song. Another bittern calls not far away to my left, and a third about at the limit of my hearing on the right. A long pause happens between their trumpets and then once one starts to gulp in air, the others follow. I try not to move or say anything in spite of my excitement as my recorder picks up every nuance of the morning.



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 birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org. For recent updates on bird sightings, check out ABA Tweepers and Skagit County Ebird List on the SAS website (Birding menu, Bird Sightings Submenu).

WATERFOWL

Wood Duck 5 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (NOH); 9 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 and 5-13 (MS); 4 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-14 (NOH)

Cinnamon Teal 7 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 4-24 (NOH); 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 and 5-13 (MS); 5 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (NOH); 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-14 (NOH)

Northern Shoveler 4 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-13 (MS)

Gadwall 1 male hybrid Gadwall x American Wigeon at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-12 (GB)

Surf Scoter 1 at Tommy Thompson Trail, Anacortes on 4-18 (RWJ)

Long-tailed Duck 3 at March Point on 4-28 (GB)

Bufflehead 7 at Tommy Thompson Trail, Anacortes on 4-18 (RWJ)

Common Goldeneye 1 at Bay View SP on 5-5 (GB)

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe 1 at Northern State Recreation Area on 4-22 (NOH)

PIGEONS and DOVES

Band-tailed Pigeon 6 at east Stanwood home on 5-12 and continuing (MS)

RAILS and COOTS

Virginia Rail 3 at Northern State Recreation Area on 4-22 (NOH)

Sora 1 on Butler Flats on 4-15 (GB); 2 at Northern State Recreation Area on 4-22 (NOH)

STILTS and AVOCETS

American Avocet 1 at Hayton Reserve on 4-28 and 5-12 (GB) **RARE**

OYSTERCATCHERS

Black Oystercatcher 2 at Kukutali Reserve on 5-12 (NOH)

PLOVERS

Semipalmated Plover 8 at Hayton Reserve on 4-28 (GB)

Killdeer 2 adults on nest with 4 eggs at Hayton Reserve on 5-13 (MS)

SANDPIPERS and ALLIES

Whimbrel 8 AT Hayton Reserve on 4-28 (GB); 92 on Rekdal Road farm field, Camano Island on 5-6 (AT); 12 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (MS); 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-13 (MS); 250 on Camano Island farm field at junction Highway 532/Heichel Road on 5-18 (PP); 80 at junction of Rekdal/Utsalady Road, Camano Island on 5-19 (SP)

Marbled Godwit 7 at March Point on 4-13 (GB)

Dunlin 16 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 4-24 (NOH); 12 at Hayton Reserve on 5-14 (NOH)

Least Sandpiper 12 at Hayton Reserve on 5-5 (MS)

Western Sandpiper 18 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 4-24 (NOH)

Short-billed Dowitcher 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 4-24 (NOH)

Greater Yellowlegs 9 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (MS); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-13 (MS)

GULLS and TERNs

Caspian Tern 25 at Hayton Reserve on 5-6 and 6 on 5-13 (MS); 7 at Hayton Reserve on 5-14 (NOH)

LOONS

Common Loon 2 at Tommy Thomson Trail, Anacortes on 4-18 (RWJ)

CORMORANTS

Brandt's Cormorant 40 off Cypress Island on 4-20 (GB)

PELICANS

American White Pelican 7 at South March Point on 4-27 (NOH); 2 at March Point on 4-28 (GB)

HERONS and ALLIES

American Bittern 1 at Northern State Recreation Area on 5-12 (GB)

Great Egret 3 just east of Whitney-LA Conner Road/SR 20 junction on 5-13 (GB)

VULTURES

Turkey Vulture 1 at Northern State Recreation Area on 4-22 (NOH); 2 at Kukutali Reserve on 5-12 (NOH)

OSPREYS

Osprey 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-14 (NOH)

HAWKS, EAGLES and ALLIES

Northern Harrier 1 at east Stanwood home on 5-13 (MS); 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-14 (NOH)

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 at the East 90, Samish Flats on 5-1 (AW)

Northern Goshawk 1 adult at Ilabot Creek Road on 5-12 (GB) **RARE**

Field sightings continued on pg. 8



Field sightings continued from pg. 7

Rough-legged Hawk 1 at the East 90, Samish Flats on 5-1 (AW)

WOODPECKERS

Red-breasted Sapsucker 1 at east Stanwood home on 5-16 (MS)

FALCONS

Peregrine Falcon 1 at Ship Harbor Interpretive Center, Anacortes on 5-5 (NOH)

FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 calling at Camano Island home on 5-15 and 16 (PP)

Pacific-slope Flycatcher 2 at Kukutali Reserve on 5-12 (NOH)

Black Phoebe 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-14 (NOH)

Say's Phoebe 1 on Sauk Prairie on 4-14 (GB)

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo 1 at the Padilla Bay Upland Trail on 5-1 (AW); 1 at Camano Island home on 5-16 (PP)

SWALLOWS

Purple Martin about 20 at English Boom, Camano Island on 4-29 (AT)

Cliff Swallow 1 in flooded field along Bay View-Edison Road on 5-1 (AW)

BUSHTITS

Bushtit 1 at Ship Harbor Interpretive Center, Anacortes on 5-5 (NOH)

NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted Nuthatch 2 at east Stanwood home on 5-12 and 5-15 (MS)

CREEPERS

Brown Creeper 1 at east Stanwood home on 5-11 and 5-13 (MS)

WRENS

House Wren 1 near Cockreham Island on 5-6 and 5-7 (GB)

Pacific Wren 1 at Padilla Bay Upland Trail on 4-27 (NOH); 2 at east Stanwood home on 5-11 (MS)

Bewick's Wren 1 at Padilla Bay Upland Trail on 4-27 (NOH)

THRUSHES

Swainson's Thrush 1 at Camano Island home on 5-13 and continuing (PP); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-14 (NOH)

WAXWINGS

Cedar Waxwing 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-14 (NOH)

FINCHES and ALLIES

Evening Grosbeak 12 at east Stanwood home on 5-13 and continuing (MS)

Cassin's Finch pair at feeder at east Fidalgo home on 5-5 to 5-7 (RW)

American Goldfinch 17 at east Stanwood home on 5-8 and continuing (MS); several feeding on dandelion fluff at Bow home on 5-17 (KR)

SPARROWS and ALLIES

Grasshopper Sparrow 1 at Marblemount on 4-29 (GB)

RARE Golden-crowned Sparrow 2 at Tommy Thompson trail, Anacortes on 4-18 (RWJ)

BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES

Bullock's Oriole 4 at Bow home on 5-11 (KR)

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler 1 at Kukutali Reserve on 5-12 (NOH)

Common Yellowthroat 2 at Northern State Recreation Area on 4-22 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 4-24 (NOH); 1 at Padilla Bay Upland Trail on 4-27 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (NOH); 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-14 (NOH)

Yellow Warbler 1 male at La Conner home on 4-21 (RWJ); 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (NOH); 1 at Ship Harbor Interpretive Center, Anacortes on 5-13 (NOH); 5 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-14 (NOH)

Yellow-rumped Warbler 4 "Audubon's" at Northern State Recreation Area on 4-22; 3 "Audubon's" at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 4-24 (NOH); 1 "Audubon's" at Padilla Bay Upland Trail on 4-27 (NOH); 1 at Ship Harbor Interpretive Center, Anacortes on 5-5 (NOH); several at Burlington home on 4-28 (LE); 11 "Audubon's" at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (NOH)

Townsend's Warbler 1 on the Padilla Bay Upland Trail on 5-1 (AW)

Wilson's Warbler 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (NOH); 1 at Kukutali Reserve on 5-12 (NOH); 1 at Camano Island home 5-16 and continuing (PP)

TANAGERS and ALLIES

Western Tanager 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (NOH); several at Bow home on 5-11 (KR)

Black-headed Grosbeak 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-6 (NOH); 8 at east Stanwood home on 5-13 and continuing (MS); 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area (Wylie Slough) on 5-14 (NOH)

MAMMALS

Bobcat 1 at Martin Ranch Road on 4-21 and 5-5 (GB)

(GB) Gary Bletsch; (LE) Larry Edwards; (NOH) Neil O'Hara; (RWJ) Rosi & Wes Jansen; (KR) Kerry Rye; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (SP) Sheila Pera; (MS) Mary Sinker; (AT) Alice Turner; (AW) Andrea Warner; (RW) Regan Weeks



SKAGIT AUDUBON CONSERVATION REPORT - JUNE/JULY/AUGUST

BY TIM MANNIS

Initiative I-1631: This May, Audubon State Director Gail Gatton said, “Our mission is clear: we support climate action that will swiftly and effectively reduce carbon pollution, the number one threat to birds.” This sense of urgency to address global warming, combined with a pragmatic willingness to not insist on perfection, led Audubon Washington and many of the state’s 25 chapters to actively support Initiative-732 two years ago. Had it become law, there would already be a price on carbon emissions in Washington State. Over 40% of voters supported that initiative, which gives hope that I-1631, for which signatures are now being gathered, can pass. Economists across the political spectrum believe that taxing greenhouse gas emissions is an efficient and effective way to quickly reduce fossil fuel dependence and transition to renewable energy. The Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, a large coalition of environmental, labor, and social justice groups, worked long and hard to draft I-1631 and now has a large effort underway gathering the signatures needed to put it on this Fall’s ballot. The board of Audubon Washington, Governor Inslee, and many other organizations and individuals are in support. As of this writing, the Skagit Audubon board has not yet had the opportunity to decide whether to join in but should vote at its June meeting. Please take a few minutes to read about how I-1631 addresses global warming in a way with real promise to be effective while also redressing the disproportionate impacts of carbon pollution on communities and groups and helping ensure a transition for workers in the fossil fuel industry. Go to <https://jobs-clean-energy-wa.com/> Details of the initiative are at <https://jobs-clean-energy-wa.com/ballot-filing-statement/>

The basics of the pricing scheme: Beginning in 2020, a fee equal to \$15.00 per metric ton of carbon content. In 2021, the fee increases \$2.00 per year until the state’s 2035 greenhouse gas reduction goal is met and the state’s emissions are on a trajectory towards compliance with the state’s 2050 goal. The Washington legislature set these carbon emissions reduction goals years ago but has yet to establish a path to meet them. I-1631 would do this. See what you think. Sign the initiative petition so that voters this Fall can decide whether to support what would be an example to the rest of the U.S.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act: Of the many other current issues, let me reiterate the need to uphold the long-held interpretation of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It is the deepest irony that this July 3rd marks the hundredth anniversary of the signing of this most important law protecting North American birds even as it is being very seriously weakened by the current presidential administration. While we should be celebrating, we instead need to make an all-out effort to hold the line. If the Administration’s re-interpretation of the act holds, individuals and corporations will no longer need to take measures to avoid accidental or incidental injuring and killing of birds. Failure to prevent birds from landing and dying in oil field waste pools, colliding with power lines, and many other artificial hazards would no longer have consequences. There would be no motivation to even try to prevent such incidents. Go to <https://www.audubon.org/> and scroll down to information about the Act and how to contact your member of Congress about it.

Additional Conservation Issues: For information on other issues relevant to Skagit Audubon, check the Conservation Notes on the chapter website: <http://skagitaudubon.org/> at the conservation tab. I’ll try to update these from time to time during the coming months.

In May I traveled to Massachusetts visiting family and friends and stopped in Concord because of Henry David Thoreau. Last year was the bicentennial of his birth there, and I’d read a new biography that does a good job depicting him as the engaged Concord community member that he was. We tend to picture Thoreau as a skilled observer of the natural world and a loner best known for his brief time living in a small cabin at Walden Pond. In fact, for all his brief life Thoreau was deeply ingrained in the Concord community. While there, I went to the public library, where the special collections librarian made my day by retrieving from the vault Thoreau’s
Conservation notes continued on pg. 10



Conservation notes continued from pg. 9

original manuscript of his essay “Walking” and showing me, in Thoreau’s hand, the much-quoted words, “In wildness is the preservation of the world.” Thoreau wasn’t choosing between wild nature and society but finding the necessary balance between the two. Rather than escaping society to live in isolation, as he may have preferred, Thoreau lived a life of involvement with those around him while also engaging regularly with nature. Those of us that care about the wild world, we Audubon members, are called to such a life today.

NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE by Sheila Pera: For the third year in a row, The Skagit Community Foundation has award Skagit Audubon with a grant. This \$2,000 grant will be used to enhance our adult presentations and children's educational activities. Many of the children’s programs center around professionally mounted displays of birds and the use of these displays has added more interest to our educational programs. In the past, the grant funds have paid for mounts of owls, hummingbirds and Great Blue Heron. Part of the 2018 funds will pay for the mounting of a Peregrine Falcon and Cooper’s Hawk. Children are not the only ones enjoying the mounts and the Education Committee has several presentations geared for adults that are augmented by the use of them.

Iridescent Hummingbird Feathers by Jane Brandt

The structure of feathers of the head and gorget of an adult male hummingbird amplifies certain wavelengths of light reflecting them directly in front of the bird. Only the tips of these feathers have iridescent properties. The complex structures called barbules do not lie flat but form a 3-D structure with a V-shaped trough running along the barb. The barbule surface has layers of microscopic discs filled with tiny air bubbles which reflect some wavelengths and absorb other wavelengths. The structural color is registered by the eye in response to the reflected wavelengths. Source: The SIBLEY GUIDE to Bird Life and Behavior, Web.stanford.edu.



Anna’s Hummingbird, Neil O’Hara

Wash. State DOT Seeking Information on Birds Breeding on Deception Pass Bridges: In 2019, the Deception Pass bridges are scheduled to be painted. In preparation for this work, DOT has reached out to Audubon to help determine if birds are nesting underneath the bridges. Anyone having information on nesting birds is encouraged to contact Becky Rosencrans at rosencb@wsdot.wa.gov or 360.630.6745.

**From Pilchuck Audubon:
Snohomish County PUD Drops Sunset Falls
Hydro Project**

After seven years of controversy, the Snohomish County PUD Commissioners agreed to close their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission application and cancel the Sunset Falls Project. If approved, a 1.1 mile stretch of the river would have been rerouted through an underground tunnel to a powerhouse at the base of Sunset Falls. This project on the South Fork of the Skykomish River east of Index was opposed by environmental and fisheries groups as well as the local community, Pilchuck Audubon, and other environmental groups dedicated to preserving this portion of the river in its existing condition. Additionally, the US Forest Service has recommended the Skykomish River for

Federal designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act due to its scenic, recreational, fish, and wildlife values.

Upcoming Birding Class-Backyard Birds: Enhance your understanding of common birds and improve your ability to identify them. Topics include the basics of anatomy, migration, reproduction, foods, and foraging. We will also discuss the best ways to attract birds to your yard. Designed for adult beginning birders, but children ages 12+ are welcome. **Date: Wed., June 6, Edmonds, at Frances Anderson Center 6:30-8:00 p.m. \$17 Snohomish County residents, \$19 non-residents. To register or for more information, call 425-771-0230.**



NATIONAL ACTION ALERT – PEBBLE MINE, BRISTOL BAY, ALASKA

There are few places on earth as important for birds and for salmon as Bristol Bay, Alaska. And few places could be worse for a massive mining operation. Despite opposition from local residents, Native communities, and commercial fishermen, developers are pushing ahead with the dangerous Pebble Mine proposal, and the federal government is now considering whether to give the mine a green light. Bristol Bay supports an astounding number of birds. Up to 13 million seabirds depend on its bountiful waters as they forage across the Bay in the summer. The rocky cliffs and islands in this part of southwest Alaska draw in millions of nesting seabirds, including Tufted Puffins, while the rich lagoons and lowland areas attract hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds. These rich waters also bring in astonishing numbers of salmon, supporting thousands of jobs and the traditions and subsistence of Alaska Native people. Only a few years ago, the EPA determined that the impacts of this proposed mine could be “catastrophic.”

Submit your public comment to the US Army Corps of Engineers:

https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/HTdDmPH9HkysLFGxg8n1_Q2?ms=fbshare&snw=1&ref=d969b377-1b1b-4da5-a0e0-23df1b691b30

NATIONAL ACTION ALERT – ARCTIC REFUGE OIL AND GAS PROGRAM – Public Comment Deadline: On or before June 19, 2018 (postmark date not sufficient)

As the Trump administration moves forward to develop an oil and gas program in the Arctic Refuge, the first step in the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process – scoping out all the issues that the government will consider in the environmental impact statement – is beginning. Audubon is also very concerned with reports that the administration and other officials will expedite the NEPA process to finalize its decision by 2019. Now is the time for the public to step forward and submit public comments on your concerns involving matters such as vehicle tracks on tundra vegetation, caribou response to infrastructure, oil spill impacts on nearby bird populations, and infrastructure impacts and displacement of secretive and sensitive breeding bird populations. The coastal plain is the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge and the proposed infrastructure and development raises new questions that have never before been considered.

Submit your public comment: https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/XLp-5eB5qEaR_roG07v7Q2?



Snowy Owl, Ron Pera

PADILLA BAY INTERPRETIVE CENTER – Upcoming free classes (registration required—see link below)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/padilla-bay-national-estuarine-research-reserve-10922768887>

All Ages-Mud Flat Safari

Sat. July 14; 10:00 am
Tues. July 24; 10:00 am
Thurs. Aug. 9; 10:00 am
Sat. Aug. 25; 10:00 am

All Ages-Third Sunday Upland Trail Walk

Sun. Jun. 17; 10:00 am
Sun. July 15; 10:00 am
Sun. Aug. 19; 10:00 am
Sun. Sept. 16; 10:00 am
Sun. Oct. 21; 10:00 am

Adult Program-Songbirds of Your Backyard & Beyond

Sat. Jun. 2; 1:00 pm
Sat. Jun. 9; 1:00 pm

Celebrate the Year of the Bird at the 14th Annual Puget Sound Bird Fest, September 14-16, 2018

Mark your calendars for the return of a beloved fall tradition for nature lovers throughout the Northwest: Puget Sound Bird Fest returns the weekend of **September 14-16th**, 2018, in Edmonds. Highlights include:

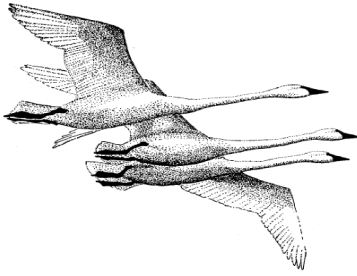
*Keynote address by professional nature photographer Kevin Ebi.

*Presentation by Noah Strycker—the first human to see more than half of the planet’s bird species in a single year-long, around-the-world birding trip.

For more information and schedules of events and activities, visit

www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org.





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

July Calendar: Page 4
August Calendar: Page 5

June 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY Padilla Bay Interp. Ctr. Class Songbirds Backyard and Beyond
3	4	5 SAS Board Meeting; 7:00 PM	6 HIKE: Oyster Dome Beginning Birding Class, Edmonds	7	8	9 Padilla Bay Interp. Ctr. Class Songbirds Backyard and Beyond
10	11	12 SAS General Meeting 7:00 PM Social 7:30 PM Program	13 HIKE: Ross Lake	14	15 FIELD TRIP Annual Klipchuck CG Campout	16 FIELD TRIP Annual Klipchuck CG Campout
17 FIELD TRIP Annual Klipchuck CG Campout Padilla Bay Class Upland Trail Walk	18	19	20 HIKE: Heather Lake	21 FIELD TRIP Big 4 Trail and Wetlands	22	23
24	25	26	27 HIKE: Thunder Creek	28	29	30
July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4 HOLIDAY	July 5 HIKE Wallace Falls	July 6	July 7

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at www.skagitaudubon.org The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

