

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

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JUNE MEETING – PRESENTED ON ZOOM

"Moths – Super Interesting Bird Food!"
Presented by: David Droppers
Tuesday, June 14, 7:00 PM

By providing a landscape for moths, namely their caterpillars, you're setting the dinner plate for birds and their young. But the main course is intriguing in its own right! This presentation is for the beginning moth-er! What makes moths worthy of study? How many moths are there? How do moths do battle with their feathered predators? And how do I provide a landscape to stage such a show? We will introduce you to the world of moths and show you why they should matter to birders.



David Droppers has been teaching courses on topics from birds to butterflies to trees to microorganisms for college biology courses and non-profit environmental groups. He has put his expertise to work for the National Park Service, US Forest Service, University of Washington, and Woodland Park Zoo, among others. He loves sharing his passion for the natural world with others. His enthusiasm is said to be contagious!

Please register for this Zoom event at: https://bit.ly/JUNE2022SAS. Pre-registration is required and limited to 100 attendees. Please only one registrant per household. After you register, you will receive an email with the link to sign in at the time of the event. Questions? Contact carlajhelm@comcast.net.

PREVIOUS MONTH'S PROGRAM: Please note the excellent May 10th Zoom presentation "Forage Fish Research and Management" by Phillip Dionne, Research Scientist, WDFW, was not recorded per the presenter's request. We will instead provide a PDF of the presentation at a future date, which will be made available to SAS members.

In response to the COVID-19 virus, our member meetings continue to be held via Zoom. Hikes and birding field trips are being organized for vaccinated individuals. Participants need to comply with the activity leader's guidelines. Please visit our website for updates.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Greetings friends and members of Skagit Audubon:

Well, here it is, my last President's message. When I first agreed to do this job, three years ago already, I was pretty nervous about it. I'm not the best birder in the club, I didn't know very many members and I didn't know much about doing the job. Some board members said not to worry; they had done it before and would be willing to help. And thank goodness they did.

Your Board of Directors over the last three years has been outstanding. We have accomplished a lot under challenging circumstances and are a better Chapter for it. John Farnsworth reported at the last member meeting that many of the smaller chapters, similar to ours, have pulled back while we have continued to have presentations, membership gains and generous contributions from people like you. We have given out quite a few scholarships to deserving students and continued on with our education programs. Joan Melcher's hiking groups continue to draw a lot of hikers every month. And let's not forget about the wonderful programs that Carla Helm has set up, with good suggestions from other board members helping out. I could go on...

The bottom line is that it has been my absolute privilege to sit in the President's chair and watch it all unfold. We don't always agree, but we do move forward for the benefit of our membership, the community, and the resources that we cherish. I would like to thank each and every one of you for your help and support during this time. I have learned a lot in the process.

Now it is time to offer the same support to John Day and John Farnsworth, our incoming President and Vice President. Some Board members have slipped away for now and we would like to thank Alice Turner, Di Hoffman, Kim Nelson, and Sheila Pera for their service. If we are lucky they will stay involved in some of our committee work. And thank you, the membership, for your continued support for your Board of Directors.

Thanks, and happy birding and hiking

Jeff Osmundson President

ANNUAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON JUNE 14th - The election of Officers and At-Large Directors for the Skagit Audubon Society fiscal year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 will be held during the annual meeting on June 14th, 2022 at 7 pm. The meeting will be conducted on the Zoom platform.

Officers	
President:	John Day
Vice President:	John Farnsworth
Secretary:	Don Jonasson
Treasurer:	Neil O'Hara

At-Large Directors

AUL	arge Directors		
1.	Ann Skinner	7.	Katherine O'Hara
2.	Carla Helm	8.	Libby Mills
3.	Colleen Shannon	9.	Lisa Hopkins
4.	Jeff Osmundson	10.	Mary Sinker
5.	Jeff Sinker	11.	Pam Pritzl
6.	Joan Melcher	12.	Tim Manns



FIELD SIGHTINGS - 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 <u>birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org</u>. For recent updates on bird sightings, check out **ABA Tweeters** and **Skagit County Ebird List** on the SAS website (Birding menu, Bird Sightings submenu).

WATERFOWL

Snow Goose 300 on Bayview-Edison Rd near T on 5-6 (AW*/JB*)

Greater White-fronted Goose 39 on Fir Island on 4-28 (YH) Harlequin Duck 6 at Rosario on 4-14 (NOH) Long-tailed Duck 2 at SHIP on 4-29 (NOH)

PIGEONS and DOVES

Band-tailed Pigeon 28 at east Stanwood yard throughout sighting period (MS/JS) Eurasian Collared-Dove 2 at east Stanwood yard throughout sighting period (MS/JS) Mourning Dove 14 at east Stanwood yard throughout sighting period (MS/JS)

RAILS and COOTS

Virginia Rail 1 heard at SHIP on 4-23 (SAS); 1-2 seen/heard regularly at SHIP during sighting period (NOH)

PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover 53 at FIFR on 4-17 (NOH)

SANDPIPERS and ALLIES

Whimbrel 100 on Whidbey Island on 4-24 (YH); 300 on Rekdal Rd farm field, Camano Island on 5-7 (SAS) Sanderling 2 at March Point on 4-27 (GB)

Pectoral Sandpiper 1 at FIFR on 4-30 (GB) rare in spring Short-billed Dowitcher 1 at SWAWS on 4-23 (GB) Long-billed Dowitcher 3 at SWAWS on 4-21 (NOH) Wilson's Snipe 1 at SWAWS on 4-21 (NOH)

ALCIDS

Marbled Murrelet 4 at WA Park, Anacortes on 4-23 (SAS) Rhinoceros Auklet 70 at WA Park, Anacortes on 4-15 (YH); 10 at WA Park, Anacortes on 4-23 (SAS)

GULLS and TERNS

Bonaparte's Gull 30 at SHIP on 4-23 (SAS)

Caspian Tern 5 on Whidbey Island on 4-24 & 13 at FIFR on 4-28 (YH); 30 at Iverson Spit, Camano Island on 5-7 (SAS)

LOONS

Pacific Loon 1 at Green Point, WA Park, Anacortes on 5-7 (GB)

CORMORANTS

Brandt's Cormorant 30 at WA Park, Anacortes on 4-23 (SAS)

VULTURES

Turkey Vulture 1 at east Stanwood yard on 5-9 (MS/JS)

OSPREYS

Osprey 1 at SHIP on 4-16 and seen regularly throughout sighting period (NOH); 1 on Fidalgo Island on 4-21 (YH)

HAWKS, EAGLES and ALLIES

Red-tailed Hawk 1 bluewinged tagged "E-3" at Padilla Bay loop trail on 5-6 (AW*/JB*)

OWLS

Barred Owl 1 at Cranberry Lake, ACFL on 4-28 (NOH); 1 at English Boom, Camano Island on 5-7 (SAS)

WOODPECKERS

Lewis's Woodpecker 1 at SWAWS on 5-7 (GB) rare, Pileated Woodpecker 1 at ACFL on 4-26 (YH)

FALCONS

American Kestrel 1 at Padilla Bay loop trail on 5-6 (AW*/JB*) Peregrine Falcon 3 at FIFR on

Peregrine Falcon 3 at FIFR on 4-17 (NOH)

FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 at east Fidalgo yard on 5-1 (RW); 1 at Padilla Bay loop trail on 5-6 (AW*/JB*)

Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1 at east Fidalgo yard on 4-16 (RW); 2 at Cranberry Lake, ACFL on 4-28 (NOH); 1 at Padilla Bay loop trail on 5-6 (AW*/JB*)

Black Phoebe 2 at SWAWS on 4-22 (MS/JS)

Western Kingbird 1 at Corkindale on 5-6 (GB)

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo 1 on nest at WA Park, Anacortes on 4-23 (SAS) Cassin's Vireo 1 at Padilla Loop Trail on 5-6 (AW*/JB*); 1 at Cap Sante yard, Anacortes on 5-8 (JH)

Warbling Vireo 1 at Anacortes yard on 5-9 (YH)

Continued on pg. 4

Continued from pg. 3

SWALLOWS

Purple Martin 9 at SHIP on 4-23 (SAS); 3 at English Boom, Camano Island on 5-7 (SAS)

NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted Nuthatch 2 at east Stanwood yard daily throughout sighting period (MS/JS)

WRENS

House Wren 1 at Padilla Bay loop trail on 5-6 (AW*/JB*)

THRUSHES

Townsend's Solitaire 1 at NSRA on 4-17 & 1 on Lincoln Hill, Mount Vernon on 5-6 (TRM); 4 at Cascade River on 5-6 (GB)

Hermit Thrush 1 at Cranberry Lake, ACFL on 4-28 (NOH); 1 at SHIP on 4-30 (GB)

FINCHES and ALLIES American Goldfinch 5 at east Stanwood yard on 5-4 (MS)

SPARROWS and ALLIES

Chipping Sparrow 1 at WA Park, Anacortes on 4-23 (TRM) Vesper Sparrow 1 at SWAWS on 5-7 (GB)

White-throated Sparrow 1 in Cap Sante, Anacortes yard on 5-7 (JH)

BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES

Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 on Rekdal Rd farm field, Camano Island on 5-7 (SAS); 7 at Burmaster Rd on 5-7 (GB)

WARBLERS

MacGillivray's Warbler 1 at Cap Sante, Anacortes yard on 5-8 (JH)

Yellow Warbler on nest at SWAWS on 5-10 (PP) Yellow-rumped Warbler 2 "Audubon's" & 1 "Myrtle" at NSRA on 4-17 (TRM); 2 at SWAWS on 4-22 (MS/JS) Black-throated Gray Warbler 1 at Padilla Bay loop trail on 5-6 (AW*/JB*)

Townsend's Warbler 2 at Heart Lake, ACFL on 4-26 & 1 at Cranberry Lake, ACFL on 4-28 (NOH); 1 at Padilla Bay loop trail on 5-6 (AW*/JB*)

Wilson's Warbler 1 at Padilla Bay loop trail on 5-6 (AW*/JB*); 1 at east Stanwood yard on 5-10 (MS)

TANAGERS and ALLIES Western Tanager 1 at

Stanwood yard on 5-7 (AK); 1 at east Fidalgo yard on 5-8 (RW)

Black-headed Grosbeak 1 at east Fidalgo yard on 4-30 (RW);

1 at Anacortes yard on 5-5 (YH); 1 male at Cap Sante, Anacortes yard on 5-9 (JH); 5 at east Stanwood yard on 5-9 (MS)

MAMMALS

Northern Elephant Seal 1 at Bowman Bay on 4-21 (YH) Weasel 1 at east Fidalgo yard wrestling a rabbit (weasel won) (RW)

(ACFL) Anacortes Community Forest Lands; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (JB*) Jane Brandt (observed on trip led by Libby Mills); (**FIFR**) Fir Island Farm Reserve aka Hayton Reserve; (**JH**) Joe Halton; (**YH**) Yvonne Houppermans; (NSRA) Northern State Recreation Area); (AK) Ann Kramer; (TRM) Tim Manns; (NOH); Neil O'Hara; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (SHIP) Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve; (**JS**) Jeff Sinker; (**MS**) Mary Sinker; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (SWAWS) Skagit Wildlife Area Wylie Slough; (AW)* Andrea Warner (observed on trip led by Libby Mills); (RW) Regan Weeks

WELCOME BACK HIKING - by Joan Melcher

Skagit Audubon is pleased to announce the return of scheduled hikes. Please visit our website www.skagitaudubon.org/activities/hikes for full details on the hikes. All hikers must have a current signed liability release form (available on the website) on file prior to participating in any Skagit Audubon hike. Please be prepared to follow current COVID pandemic safety protocols. Questions? Contact Joan Melcher at jdmelcher@comcast.net or 360.424.0407.

June 1: San Juan Island
June 8: Lost Lake Trail
June 15: Skagit River Gorge
June 22: The Lime Kiln Trail
June 29: Thunder Creek
July 6: Wallace Falls
July 13: Wilderness Hike

July 20: Sauk Mountain (Option 1)

July 20: Rockport State Park (Option 2)

July 27: Wilderness Hike
Aug. 3: Wilderness Hike
Aug. 10: Wilderness Hike
Aug. 17: Ross Lake-West Shore

Aug. 24: Maple PassAug. 31: Cutthroat Pass

Sept. 7: Schreibers Meadow Hikes (3 Options)

WELCOME BACK FIELD TRIPS!

Beginning birders and friends are always welcome on Skagit Audubon field trips. Participants must be fully vaccinated against COVID. Please be prepared for the weather with suitable clothing and bring field guides, binoculars, and spotting scopes (if you have them). Carpool whenever possible, contributing to the driver's expense and wearing a mask when riding with anyone not a member of your household. 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 or 360.757.4139.



Saturday, June 11, 2022; 8:00 a.m. to early afternoon Skagit Land Trust's Marblemount Conservation Area Leader: Tim Manns

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the National Park Service/U.S. Forest Service building at 810 State route 20 in Sedro-Woolley. Skagit Land Trust acquired the 67-acre Marblemount Conservation Area with its 2,900 feet of Skagit River shoreline in 2020. The property's trails through riparian forest with mixed conifers and hardwoods should be good for finding a variety of spring migrants plus year-round resident birds. The Trust has given special permission for this field trip as the property is not yet open to the general public. If time permits, we'll also visit Pressentin County Park in Marblemount where a major salmon spawning habitat restoration project will just have been completed. Bring binoculars and lunch. Dress for the weather. Wear boots suitable for walking on forest trails. If you plan to attend, contact Tim Manns at bctm@fidalgo.net or 360-333-8985.

Wednesday to Friday, June 15 - 17, 2022 Klipchuck Campground and the Methow Valley; Mile 175, State Route 20 Leader: Libby Mills

Each summer members and friends of Skagit Audubon gather in this U.S. Forest Service Campground 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 Thursday 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 Driveway Butte leads up and 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, and alternate lodging, so come with what you need or plan to drive a bit further to resupply. The overnight campground fee is around \$12 per site. Vault toilets and water are available. If you plan to hike from a trailhead be sure and bring your Northwest Forest Pass, Interagency Pass, or Senior Pass available from USFS offices in Sedro-Woolley and Winthrop. If you need more information:

Contact Libby Mills at libbymills@gmail.com. Please sent a confirmation email if you expect to join us.

Thursday, June 23, 2022; 6:30 or 8:00 a.m. to early afternoon Big Four Trail and Wetlands

Leader: Pam Pritzl

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Exit 212 off I-5 Park & Ride for carpools or 8 a.m. at the Big 4 Picnic Area on the Mountain Loop Highway 92. 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. The 1-mile trail takes you on a boardwalk across a freshwater marsh and into the woods. Expect to see Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Flycatchers, and Warblers. The bridge over the south fork of the Stillaguamish River is out, but we can still look for Dippers, Common Mergansers, Harlequin Ducks, and Spotted Sandpipers. We'll eat lunch in the picnic area. If you plan to attend, contact Pam Pritzl at membership@skagitaudubon.org or 360-387-7024. A Northwest Forest Pass or an America-the- Beautiful Access, Annual, Military, or Senior Pass is required as well as being fully vaccinated. This trip is universally accessible.

ABOUT SKAGIT AUDUBON – 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. General membership meetings are held at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 10441 Bayview- Rd., Mt. Vernon on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June. Social/7:00 pm and Program/7:30 pm. The board of directors meets at the same location the first Tuesday of each month, September through June, at 7:00 pm. Skagit Audubon membership provides a local chapter affiliation and newsletter, The Skagit Flyer, for individuals who want all their funds to benefit their local chapter. The Skagit Flyer is produced monthly from September through June and full color issues are available at: www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter. Unless noted, all images, drawings, clip art, etc. appearing in The Skagit *Flyer* are in the public domain. We reserve the right to edit.

Board of Directors - Officers

President: Jeff Osmundson....president@skagitaudubon.org

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Don Jonasson.....donjonasson@hotmail.com.....360-299-1415 Treasurer: Neil O'Hara....treasurer@skagitaudubon.org...781-290-9083

Immediate Past President:

Board of Directors - Committee Chairs and At-Large Directors

Tim Manns.....conservation@skagitaudubon.org....360-333-8985 Conservation:

Sheila Pera....skagiteducation44@gmail.com Education:

Kim Nelson...kimn@skagitaudubon.org

Libby Mills....libbymills@gmail.com....360-757-4139 Field Trips:

Finance: Lisa Hopkins.....finance@skagitaudubon.org

Joan Melcher....jdmelcher@comcast.net....360-424-0407 Hikes:

Membership: Pam Pritzl.....membership@skagitaudubon.org Carla Helm.....programs@skagitaudubon.org Programs: Mary Sinker.....publications@skagitaudubon.org **Publications:**

Alice Turner....alicet2@msn.com Representative:

Ann Skinner.....anns@skagitaudubon.org Representative: Representative: Diana Hoffman....dianah@skagitaudubon.org

Representative: Jeff Sinker....jmsinspect999@aol.com Representative: John Day.....jday0730@gmail.com John Farnsworth.....ifarnsworth@scu.edu Representative:

Katherine O'Hara.....katherineoh@skagitaudubon.org Representative:

Other Volunteers

Bird Sightings: Pam Pritzl.....birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org.....360-387-7024

Hospitality: Pamelia Maxwell Newsletter Distribution: John Edison

FROM YOUR EDITOR - by Mary Sinker

Here we are at the end of another cycle of Flyers and time really seems to fly by. Jeff and I recently returned from a trip over to Olympic National Park and there is something serenely beautiful in seeing a breeding pair of Common Mergansers fly up the Sol Duc River, probably looking for a spot to raise a family. American Dippers were feeding above Sol Duc Falls and along the Salmon Cascades sections of the river. Over on the northern coast, the first lines of Brown Pelicans were spotted flying in formation not far off the beach. Although winter's grip remains firm at Hurricane Ridge with still over six feet of snow on the ground, at the lower elevations a pair of Great-horned Owls were hooting, and Gray Jays were spotted in picnic areas. We also saw a black bear feeding on fresh vegetation alongside the road into Sol Duc and on the ferry from Port Townsend to Coupeville some porpoises were spotted. We are fortunate to live in such a diverse region where there is something for everyone – hiking, camping, bird watching, wildlife photography – and the list goes on.

Have a wonderful summer and see you in September!

CONSERVATION REPORT - by Tim Manns

Like certain other birds, ospreys take readily to nesting opportunities people provide deliberately or inadvertently. A half century ago a pair of 100-foot towers were built along the Anacortes waterfront to illuminate nighttime construction of modular housing. These units were shipped to Alaska to accommodate workers building the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline System. For many subsequent years, ospreys nested atop these towers and became a familiar sight to observant Anacortians. Decades later, development plans called for removing the towers. The demolition permit which the city issued to site owner MJB Properties in 2020 required erecting a replacement nest platform without specifying when or where. Last fall the towers came down and concern grew that the replacement nest site would not be erected before the ospreys returned this spring. Maybe it was MJB's plan all along or maybe it was the result of many Anacortians contacting the city government and the developer, but suddenly there was a platform atop a pole in the northeast corner of the MJB property with an osprey pair in residence. Go to the Thrive Fitness parking lot for a good view of the nest. Thank you to all who helped achieve this outcome just in time for the ospreys' return. They could be the same pair that looked out over Anacortes from the tall towers.

Less happily, so-called Fully Contained Communities (FCC) have once again appeared among the proposed amendments to Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan (CP). The Growth Management Act requires a yearly call for proposed amendments to county and city CPs. Since 2015, Bellingham-based developer Skagit Partners has repeatedly submitted proposals to change our county's CP to allow these multi-thousand home developments on rural land outside the county's incorporated towns and their adjacent, designated Urban Growth Areas. The impacts to habitat and to agricultural and forested resource lands would drastically change Skagit County forever and devastate the bird diversity and numbers Audubon members so value.

Last year when the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) hinted support for an end run by Skagit Partners around the long-standing agreement among county, cities, and towns on how major development decisions are made, an unprecedented coalition formed among farming interests and conservation groups, including Skagit Audubon (Right Growth, Right Place (rightgrowthrightplace.org)). The upshot was a January 2022 BOCC resolution to abide by that 2002 agreement and defer further consideration of FCCs until the Growth Management Act Steering Committee (GMASC) deliberated the issue. The GMASC consists of the county commissioners and the mayors with the mayors' votes population weighted. At present, enough mayors oppose FCCs to protect Skagit County from this threat.

Skagit Partners is persistent. They yet again submitted an FCC-related proposed amendment (LR22-02) for the 2022 Comprehensive Plan docket, and Planning & Development Services is recommending the BOCC "defer" this proposal rather than simply excluding it (2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendments (skagitcounty.net)). Skagit Audubon sees no reason to defer this renewed proposal and remains strongly opposed to ever allowing FCCs in Skagit County. The deadline for comments to the BOCC was May 26th, but it wouldn't hurt to let the county commissioners hear about opposition to FCCs whenever you are so inclined: email: commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us. As long as Skagit County has undeveloped land, this issue will be with us. The commissioners will announce their decision on what proposed amendments to docket (i.e., to further consider) on June 14th.

For more background on FCCs and other issues Skagit Audubon tracked during the past year, see the Conservation Notes on the chapter's website: <u>Skagit Audubon Society - Home</u> under the Conservation tab at the top of the page.

SKAGIT AUDUBON SOCIETY PO BOX 1101 MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273

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Skagit Audubon Society Membership Form

Membership: \$20/one ye	ear OR \$40/two years	* * * New OR Renewal	
		bon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit Education Scholarship Fund	
Mail form and payment to: Ska	ngit Audubon Society, P.O. B	ox 1101, Mt. Vernon WA 98273-1101	
Name:			
Address: City/State/:		By providing your email address and those of any household members, you/they consent to SAS's use of electronic transmission, such as email and website	
Email:			
Membership includes those me	mbers of your household whose	e names & emails you provide to us:	
Name:	Email:		
(If you have more than one additional their name(s) and email address(es)		ishes to become a member of SAS, please provide	
I want to be involved in (check all th	at apply): Education Conserva	tion Field Trips Hiking Other	
(To join National	Audubon Society, a separate membership,	please visit: www.audubon.org)	