

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

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November Meeting and Program

BIRDS OF TASMANIA

A Two-Week Glimpse of the Birds Down Under

Presented by Aleta Mueller

Tuesday, Nov. 12th
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10441 Bayview Edison Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington



Aleta will take us on a photo tour of her recent trip to the island state of Tasmania, a fragile and beautiful environment with rich biodiversity, which includes grasslands, evergreen eucalypt forest, alpine heathlands, rainforests and moorlands. We will look at some of the endemic bird species such as the Tasmanian Native Hen and the Yellow Wattlebird.

Aleta Mueller is a gardener, hiker, and general outdoors enthusiast. In 1980, her final quarter of college at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, she took an ornithology class, which sparked a fascination with birding. She and her husband have enjoyed rural living in Snohomish County since 1982.

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SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, DEC. 28th
2019 Padilla Bay Christmas
Bird Count

Contact: Tim Manns 360.333.8985 or
conservation@skagitaudubon.org

Contact: Denny Quirk
denny@skagitaudubon.org

NOVEMBER FIELDTRIPS, by Libby Mills

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 (if you have them). 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.

NOTE: If you plan to join a trip, contact the leader the day before to ensure a successful rendezvous. Trip plans may change.



Saturday, Nov. 2nd – North Whidbey Island Birding Route

8 AM; Leader: Ivar Dolph, 360.344.8369 or pidolph@frontier.com

Meet at March Point “Shell Park & Ride” to carpool. The Park & Ride is located off Highway 20 at the traffic light east of Sharpe's Corner and just south of the oil refineries.

Join us as we bird the auto route that visits Deception Pass, Dugualla Bay, Swantown, Penn Cove/Coupeville and Cornet Bay. This trip is mostly in and out of cars with little walking involved. Restrooms are available at several stops. We'll search north Whidbey Island, mostly the shorelines, for a variety of charismatic sea ducks and puddle ducks, on both salt and fresh water. Some of the nearby trees and shrubs can enrich the birding with a variety of small songbirds and a few shorelines offer shorebirds some years. Bring your binoculars and a scope if you have one, a lunch and hot thermos. Dress for the weather and shorelines can be cooler than surrounding protected areas. Many birds will be distant, but beginners are welcome to come learn from more experienced participants. Please confirm your attendance with the leader in case the trip is cancelled due to nasty weather. Discover Pass required for parking.

Saturday, November 9th – Padilla Bay Uplands and Samish Flats

8:30 AM to 12:30 PM; Leader: Libby Mills, libbymills@yahoo.com

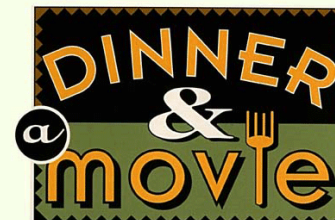
Meet in parking lot at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 10441 Bayview Edison Rd., Mt. Vernon.

Join us as we wander through the uplands of the Interpretive Center, check the waters of eastern Padilla Bay and search for birds on the Samish Flats. We should find geese, ducks and swans in addition to the tiniest of songbirds with the highest-pitched calls. All are welcome. Bring your binoculars and spotting scope, if you have them; if not, we will share. You may want to bring a warm beverage and snacks; restroom available at the Interpretive Center. Dress for the weather and a Discover Pass is required for parking at some of our stops.

DECEMBER POTLUCK AND SLIDESHOW

PRESENTATION, will once again feature photos and videos submitted by you! Please send your pictures and videos to ronaniellis@gmail.com. Pictures should be in .jpg format with a resolution of about 5mb. Videos should be in Quicktime format or .mp4, and less than 1 minute (actually, any video format that works on Mac). Also, please include the who, what, where and when, so Ronan can introduce your presentation.

Finally, **please have your pictures and videos submitted to Ronan no later than Dec. 3rd.**



CONSERVATION by Tim Manns

Last month's *Skagit Flyer* came out shortly before National Audubon's updated study projecting how climate change will affect birds from now to 2100. The bottom line: "Two-thirds of North American birds are at increasing risk of extinction." This news came not long after a report by other research organizations on the huge decline in North America's overall bird population. These reports on a part of the natural world of special concern to Audubon members only add to the urgency of energetically addressing the climate crisis. Letters to the editor in the *Skagit Valley Herald* remind us that there are still those among us denying the signs and science and angrily opposing action. Let's step around them and get on with it. Of the 604 North American bird species Audubon studied, 389 are at risk of extinction from climate change; that's 64%. If birds are in trouble, you know that many other living things are as well.

National Audubon puts it succinctly: "Birds can't fight climate change, but we can." The Fall 2019 *Audubon* magazine has pages of suggestions, in case you needed more. This information is also on the National Audubon website: <https://www.audubon.org/magazine/fall-2019>.



The two large-scale, alarming studies prompted a message from a friend asking what Skagit Audubon intends to do about this avian crisis. Skagit Audubon is its members, and what this Audubon chapter can do is inform the members and urge them, each of us, to do what we can for birds and for the planet, remaining steadfast in the belief that our actions matter.

This friend's message focused on something very specific we can do to make the developed world more hospitable to birds, though unrelated to the climate crisis: keep cats indoors. Why would this matter in the face of a 3 billion bird decline in population? Studies by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Smithsonian found that cats kill 2.6 billion or more birds each year in the U.S. and Canada. Highly evolved predators, our feline friends are great hunters. They have a special advantage catching birds that didn't evolve in the presence of small felines. More and more people who love their cats but care about birds too and who don't want their pets hit by cars or scooped up by Great Horned Owls, keep them indoors or restrict their outdoor time to "catios". These screened structures exclude birds and confine cats. In the face of all the difficulties our developed world imposes on birds, this is one easy thing we can do. And if your community doesn't have an ordinance against allowing cats to roam (e.g. Anacortes), contact your city councilmember and tell them you'd like that changed. See Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's "Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds" (<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/seven-simple-actions-to-help-birds/>).

For national and Washington State Audubon conservation issues: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation> and <https://wa.audubon.org/conservation/advocacy>. For regional and local issues of special concern to Skagit Audubon: <https://skagitaudubon.org/conservation/notes>.

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 Tweeters** and **Skagit County Ebird List** on the SAS website (Birding menu, Bird Sightings submenu).

WATERFOWL

Snow Goose 100 on Fir Island on 9-24 (JB); flock at SWAHR on 9-30 (YH)
Greater White-fronted Goose 3 on Fir Island on 9-24 (JB); 50 at SWAHR on 10-12 (NOH)
Cackling Goose 35 at SWAWS on 9-21 (NOH); 50 on Fir Island on 9-24 (JB); 100 at SWAHR on 9-28 (NOH); 200 at SWAHR on 10-12 (NOH)
Tundra Swan 2 at SWAHR on 10-15 (GB)
Wood Duck 3 at SWAWS on 9-19 (NOH)
Cinnamon Teal 2 at SWAWS on 9-19 (NOH); 3 at SWAWS on 9-21 (NOH)
Redhead 1 at SWAJA on 10-7 (GB)
Barrow's Goldeneye 1 at Barnaby Slough on 10-7 (GB)

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

California Quail 10 at east Fidalgo home on 9-30 (RW)

PIGEONS and DOVES

Mourning Dove 2 at Anacortes home on 9-26 (TK)

HUMMINGBIRDS

Rufous Hummingbird 1 at Cap Sante, Anacortes yard on 9-3 (JH); 1 at Anacortes home on 10-8 (TK)

CRANES

Sandhill Crane 4 on Fir Island on 10-9 (GB)

PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover 4 at SWAHR on 9-19 (NOH)
Pacific Golden-Plover 1 at SWAHR on 10-15 (GB)
Semipalmated Plover 20 at SWAHR on 9-19 (NOH); 3 at SWAHR on 10-12 (NOH); 1 at SWAWS on 10-13 (NOH)

SANDPIPERS and ALLIES

Whimbrel 5 at SWAJA on 10-1 (GB); 1 on Padilla Bay Shore Trail tide flats on 10-2 (LM)
Marbled Godwit 1 at SWAJA on 10-5 (GB); 2 at SWAJA on 10-6 (MS)
Red Knot 10 at SWAHR on 9-13 (GB)
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 1 at SWAWS on 10-9 (GB); 1 at SWAWS on 10-13 (NOH)
Dunlin 1 at SWAHR on 9-17 (GB)
Pectoral Sandpiper 2 at SWAWS on 10-6 (MS); 4 at SWAWS on 10-13 (NOH)
Wilson's Snipe 4 at SWAWS on 9-21 (NOH)
Lesser Yellowlegs 2 at SWAWS on 10-15 (GB)

JAEGERS

Parasitic Jaeger 1 at SWAJA on 9-13 (GB)

GULLS and TERNS

Franklin's Gull 1 at SWAHR on 9-17 (GB); 1 at SWAHR on 9-19 (NOH)
Caspian Tern 1 at SWAHR on 10-6 (MS)

PELICANS

American White Pelican 1 at SWAHR on 10-9 & 10-10 (GB)

HERONS and ALLIES

Great Egret 1 on Fidalgo Bay on 9-19 & 20 (YH)

IBIS

White-faced Ibis 6 at SWAHR on 10-12 (NOH) **RARE**

HAWKS, EAGLES and ALLIES

Bald Eagle 3 at Sauk Mountain on 9-25 (SAS)
Northern Harrier 1 at Sauk Mountain on 9-25 (SAS)
Sharp-shinned Hawk 8 at Sauk Mountain on 9-25 (SAS) *continued on pg. 5*

Continued from pg. 4

Cooper's Hawk 1 at Sauk Mountain on 9-25 (SAS); 1 on Persons Rd on 10-15 (AW); 1 in Anacortes on 10-16 (YH)

Red-shouldered Hawk 1 juvenile in Sauk Valley on 9-16 (RM); 1 at SWAJA on 10-5 (GB) **RARE**

Red-tailed Hawk 1 at Sauk Mountain on 9-25 (SAS); juvenile at Padilla Center (blue wing tag E3) on 10-8 (AW)

Rough-legged Hawk 1 at east 90 on 10-8 (AW)

Golden Eagle 1 at Sauk Mountain on 9-25 (SAS)

OWLS

Great Horned Owl heard 3 hooting at east Fidalgo home morning of 9-15 (RW)

Northern Pygmy-Owl 1 at Sauk Mountain on 9-25 (SAS)

Barred Owl 1 at Blanchard Mountain on 9-18 (NOH)

Northern Saw-whet Owl 1 at Bayview Ridge home on 9-28 (LM)

WOODPECKERS

Northern Flicker 1 “intergrade” in hedgerow near Anacortes home 1st week of October (KH); pair “yellow-shafted” at Anacortes home on 10-7 (TK)

FALCONS

American Kestrel pair perched on snag on Bayview-Edison Rd on 10-15 (AW)

Merlin 1 at SWAWS on 9-19 (NOH)

Peregrine Falcon 1 at SWAHR on 9-30 (YH); 1 at Iverson Spit, Camano Island on 10-1 (YH); 2 at SWAHR on 10-6 (MS); juvenile on Bayview-Edison Rd (near Samish River bridge) on 10-15 (AW); adult perched in tree observed from Young Rd on 10-15 (AW)

FLYCATCHERS

Black Phoebe 2 at SWAWS on 9-19 (NOH)

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo heard at east Fidalgo home on 9-29 (RW);

SWALLOWS

Bank Swallow 1 at March Point on 9-22 (GB) late

BUSHTITS

Bushtit 12 at SWAWS on 9-19 (NOH); flock at Burlington home week of 10-7 (LE)

DIPPERS

American Dipper 1 at Donovan Park, Friday Creek on 9-28 (YH); 1 at upper Pilchuck River on 10-5 (JS)

KINGLETS

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 at east Fidalgo home on 9-23 (RW)

THRUSHES

Townsend's Solitaire 2 at Sauk Mountain on 9-25 (SAS)

Hermit Thrush 1 at east Fidalgo home on 9-29 (RW); 1 on Guemes Mountain Trail on 10-6 (YH)

Varied Thrush 2 at east Fidalgo, Anacortes home on 9-17 (RW); 1 at Sauk Mountain on 9-25 (SAS); pair in Cap Sante, Anacortes yard on 9-27 (JH); 1 on Guemes Mountain Trail on 10-6 (YH); 1 at Burlington home since 10-7 (LE)

FINCHES and ALLIES

Evening Grosbeak flock on Guemes Mountain Trail on 10-6 (YH); flock on Bayview Ridge on 10-14 (LM)

Pine Siskin 10 at Anacortes home on 10-14 (TK)

LONGSPURS and BUNTINGS

Lapland Longspur 30 at SWAJA on 9-29 (GB)

SPARROWS and ALLIES

Vesper Sparrow 1 at Sauk Prairie on 9-16 (RM); 1 at Corkindale on 9-16 (RM)

Lincoln's Sparrow 1 at SWAHR on 10-12 (NOH)

White-throated Sparrow 1 in hedgerow near Anacortes home on 10-4 (KH); 2 at Camano Island home since 10-14 (PP)

White-crowned Sparrow 1 at Anacortes home on 9-26 (TK)

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Continued from pg. 5

BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES

Western Meadowlark 2 at SWAHR on 9-21 (NOH)

Rusty Blackbird 1 at Thilberg Rd on 10-15 (GB)

WARBLERS

Chestnut-sided Warbler 1 at Marblemount boat launch on 9-16 (RM) **RARE**

Townsend's Warbler 1 at east Fidalgo home on 9-17 (RW); 3 in Cap Sante, Anacortes yard on 9-27 (JH)

TANAGERS and ALLIES

Lazuli Bunting 1 at Sauk Prairie on 9-16 (RM)

(GB) Gary Bletsch; (JB) Joan Bird; (LE) Larry Edwards; (JH) Joe Halton; (KH) Kristi Hein; (YH) Yvonne Houppermans; (TK) Trevor Kyle; (RM) Ryan Merrill; (LM) Libby Mills; (NOH); Neil O'Hara; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (JS) Jeff Sinker; (MS) Mary Sinker; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (SWAHR) Skagit Wildlife Area Hayton Reserve; (SWAJA) Skagit Wildlife Area Jensen Access; (SWAWS) Skagit Wildlife Area Wylie Slough; (AW) Andrea Warner; (RW) Regan Weeks

NOVEMBER HIKES by Joan Melcher

Safety comes first so hikes may be canceled or destinations changed due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. All hikes are on a Wednesday 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 present they must be on a leash at all times. NOTE: upon arrival at 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. Carpools are arranged at the discretion of the drivers.



NOV. 6: LITTLE CRANBERRY LAKE – Hike in the Anacortes Forest Lands in the Little Cranberry Lake area. The exact miles and elevation gain depend upon the routes taken. Meet at 9 am at the trailhead located on “A” Ave. between 37th and 41st Streets in Anacortes. Historically back by 1 pm.

NOV. 13: LITTLE MOUNTAIN – Explore the trails on Little Mountain, southeast of Mt. Vernon, part of the Mt. Vernon City Park system. Number of options available; elevation gains. Meet at 9 am on the Little Mountain Park access road. Park on the side of the road, before the gate which opens at 10 am. The Little Mountain Park access road is off the Little Mountain Road which is off the Blackburn Road. Contact Joan Melcher above for driving directions.

NOV. 20: THE TURSI TRAIL – Hike the Tursi Trail in Deception Pass State Park and add the Big Cedar Trail Loop on your way back to the Pass Lake parking area. This trail connects Deception Pass State Park with the Anacortes Forest Lands and completes the long-awaited Cross Island Trail on Fidalgo Island. It is part of the Pacific NW National Scenic Trail; 5.3 miles round trip; total elevation gain about 1,400 ft. Meet at 9 am at the Pass Lake parking lot; try to carpool due to limited parking. Discover Pass required for parking.

NOV. 27: THANKSGIVING WEEK – NO HIKE THIS WEEK

DEC. 4: EAST SHORE LAKE WHATCOM and/or THE CHANTERELLE TRAIL

Option A: The East Shore of Lake Whatcom hike is a fairly level hike among trees beside the east shore of Lake Whatcom. 6.25 miles round trip; little elevation gain. Meet at 9 am at the Chuckanut Drive Park & Ride lot located on the east side of I-5 Exit 231.

Option B: The Chanterelle Trail hike climbs 1,000 ft. in 2.4 miles to an overlook of Lake Whatcom. Meeting time and place – same as Option A above.

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 Edison 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 Flyer*, for individuals who want all their funds to benefit their local chapter. *The Flyer* is produced monthly from September through June and full color issues are available at: www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter. Unless otherwise noted, all images, drawings, clip art, etc. appearing in *The Flyer* are in the public domain. We reserve the right to edit.

Board of Directors

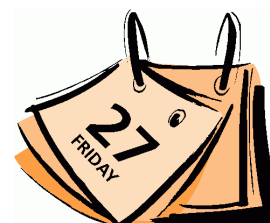
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Nov. 2 – Skagit Audubon Field Trip North Whidbey Island**
- Nov. 5 – Skagit Audubon Board Meeting**
- Nov. 6 – Skagit Audubon Hike Little Cranberry Lake**
- Nov. 9 – Skagit Audubon Field Trip Padilla Bay and Samish Flats**
- Nov. 12 – Skagit Audubon Program and General Meeting**
- Nov. 13 – Skagit Audubon Hike Little Mountain**
- Nov. 20 – Skagit Audubon Hike The Tursi Trail**
- Nov. 27 – Thanksgiving Week – no hike this week**
- Dec. 4 – Skagit Audubon Hike East Shore Lake Whatcom**



**SKAGIT AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO BOX 1101
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Skagit Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership in the Skagit Audubon Society includes 10 issues of our newsletter, *The Skagit Flyer*, available in color at <http://www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter>. Membership includes all members of your household.

Check one: _____ \$20/one year _____ \$40/two years _____ New _____ Renewal

Additionally, I wish to donate to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, in the amount of \$_____. Donors of **\$100 or more** receive a personal field trip by a Skagit Audubon field trip leader.

Mail form and payment to: Skagit Audubon Society
PO Box 1101
Mt. Vernon WA 98273-1101

Name: _____ Areas of Interest (check all that apply)

Address: _____ Birds _____ Gardening _____

City/State/: _____ Education _____ Conservation _____

ZIP: _____ Phone: _____ Field Trips _____ Hiking _____

Email: _____ Other: _____

(To join National Audubon Society, a separate membership, please visit: www.audubon.org)