

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 34 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.

**June 11, Thursday
Big Four Trail and Wetlands
6:30 or 8:00 a.m. to Early
Afternoon**

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 Mountain Loop Highway 92. The Big Four area

Field Trips continue on page 7

JUNE MEETING AND PROGRAM

HOW I SHOOT BIRDS-SO THAT- WE BOTH GET TO GO HOME

by Jerry Eisner

Tuesday, June 9, 2015
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10441 Bayview-Edison Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington



**Infant Green Herons
Waiting to be Fed**

Photo by Jerry Eisner

This will be a talk about my methods when I go photographing birds. It will be about how I set up, what types of cameras and lenses used, as well as some techniques. I will talk about what I am looking for in the scene and how serendipity always plays a role in wildlife photos.

Each photo will be discussed more from the point of view of a photographer, rather than as a birder.

I hope people will feel encouraged to go out and do it themselves after that.



THANKS TO AUDUBON MEMBERS, STAN KOSTKA, STEVE ASLANIAN, & MARK PERRY

The Purple Martins of Ship Harbor in Anacortes again have homes. Winter storms had destroyed their nest boxes, but thanks to these men new nest boxes have been provided.

Photo by Mark Perry



SKAGIT AUDUBON

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phil@skagitaudubon.org
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COMMON GOLDENEYE

Photo by Joe Halton

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 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, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Tax #91-1207770

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



My two year term as your president is ending. It's been challenging but deeply rewarding. The challenges were more easily met with the help of all the dedicated board members and volunteers that Skagit Audubon is lucky to have.

As I've learned about many interesting programs or activities of other Audubon chapters, I've wondered if we should take some of them on. But I've come to realize that not only does our chapter carry out a wide range of activities but in fact, we have more activities than most chapters our size. We have a core group of volunteers who are doing either what they are passionate about or who care enough about our chapter to take on time-consuming activities that need to be done.

The recent activities of the Education Committee stand out as a great example. Sheila Pera and Jean Ashby have given several talks to local groups such as garden groups and retirement homes. Irene Perry has been teaching a popular monthly class at an elementary school in Anacortes this school year. For many years, Education committee members and volunteers have participated in Mount Vernon High School Science Night. At our booth they bring our large tri-fold display and eye-catching props like bird skulls to capture the interest of the students. Irene also led a group of volunteers giving bird walks at the International Migratory Bird Festival at Camp Casey on Whidbey Island for the second year.

I'm pleased to tell you that most of our committee chairs will continue in their present roles. Sheila Pera will step down as Membership chair. Pam Pritzl will take on that task, while Sheila will become the sole Education Chair. Jean Ashby will step down as co-chair of Education, but will continue with education activities and be on the Board as a Representative. Libby Mills will continue as Field Trips Chair, Jackie Boss as Publications Chair, and Joan Melcher as Hikes Chair. A special thanks to Tim Manns, Conservation Chair and Immediate Past President, who was always there to help when I needed advice. Ivar Dolph, Alice Turner, and Bob Kuntz will continue as Board Representatives. I want to welcome Ron Holmes and Jane Brandt who are also joining as Board Representatives. Barbara Craner will continue as newsletter distributor and Ron Pera as Webmaster. A special thanks goes to all those who led field trips. I particularly want to thank Irene Perry, our Vice President, who has agreed to step up as our new President. Irene brings great leadership skills in addition to demonstrating an impressive ability to conduct a wide variety of educational programs. The above changes will be formalized at our Annual Membership Meeting on June 9. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you as we work together to make our beautiful area one in which birds and other wildlife continue to thrive.

SKAGIT AUDUBON JUNE CONSERVATION REPORT**By TIM MANNS**

The past few months have seen several examples of public involvement achieving positive results for the environment. When Washington Department of Ecology issued a permit for shellfish growers to spray the neurotoxin imidacloprid in Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay, Audubon Washington and others sprang into action. Public comment plus warnings that restaurateurs would cancel orders apparently caused the shellfish growers to realize they were jeopardizing any image they might have of growing healthful food in an environmentally friendly manner. They requested DOE withdraw the permit. There are ways to grow shellfish without using neurotoxins not permitted for application in water anywhere else in the U.S. As Auduboners know, Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, and the marine life they host are supremely important to many thousands of migrating shorebirds and other chemically-vulnerable creatures.

In the state legislature, a bill passed making progress towards improving the safety of oil transportation. At the May 6 Anacortes forum we heard many assurances that plans are in place to protect us and the environment though more needs to be done. The Dept. of Ecology, lead state agency for addressing oil spills, has yet to craft a Geographic Response Plan for Skagit River spills with implications for the water supply of Anacortes, Oak Harbor and for the 5 species of salmon and 3 other sea-run salmonids that depend on the river. The Skagit River rail bridge is older than any of us. It is threatened every time a flood piles debris against its supports. At least public involvement (and derailments) have gotten the attention of elected officials and non-elected corporations, without which there would be no action towards improvements.

Also on the positive side, Washington State Parks has backed way off plans to thin forest in Deception Pass and Dugualla State Parks. There could at some point be a careful plan for reasonable management actions, no doubt this time with public review, and may be some ways volunteers can help address problems with invasive plants in these parks. There's good basis for optimism too on the future of the important Vaux's Swift roost site at old Northern State Hospital. The significance of the decommissioned smoke stack for this bird is now well on the radar of the planners and officials involved in proposing a reinvigorated future for this state property.

Each month I prepare a summary of on-going conservation issues for the Skagit Audubon board, which I am happy to send to any interested member of the chapter. Contact me at conservation@skagitaudubon.org.



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**
birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org or **360-387-7024**.

WATERFOWL

Cackling Goose 48 at Hayton Reserve on 4-19 (GB)
Wood Duck 4 at Green Road Marsh on 5-5 (RK); 45 at Gages Slough on 5-11 (RK, KK)
Eurasian Wigeon 2 at Jensen Access on 4-19 (GB)
Blue-winged Teal 4 at the Skagit Game Range on 5-15 (RK)
Cinnamon Teal 3 on Minkler Flats on 4-19 (GB); 2 on Burmaster Road on 4-28 (RK)
Long-tailed Duck 1 off Ship Harbor on 5-2 (GB)

PELCANS

American White Pelican 20-25 flying over Anacortes on 5-12 (MF)

HERONS

American Bittern 1 at Skagit Game Range on 4-18 (SAS); 1 in Lyman on 4-24 (GB); 2 at Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley on 4-30 (TM); 1 at Northern State Recreation Area on 5-9 (SAS)
Green Heron 1 has returned to Gages Slough in inner city Burlington (LE); 1 at Gages Slough on 5-11 (RK, KK)

OSPREYS

Osprey 2 on nest at Corkindale Creek on 5-9 (SAS)

RAILS

Virginia Rail 1 at Ship Harbor wetlands on 4-28 (EE)
Sora 3 on Minkler Flats on 4-19 (GB); 2 at Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley on 4-30 (TM)

OYSTERCATCHERS

Black Oystercatcher 1 at March Point on 4-24 (RK)

PLOVERS

Semipalmated Plover 4 at March Point on 4-25 (GB); 11 at March Point on 4-26 (RK)

SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES, and ALLIES

Solitary Sandpiper 1 at Gear Road on 5-10 (GB); 1 at Burlington Industrial Park on 5-11 (RK, KK); 3 at Estes Road on Samish Flats on 5-15 (RK, KK)
Whimbrel 100-200 on Rekdal Road, Camano Island 5-4 to 5-13 (SRP, PP); 24 along Chuckanut Drive on Samish Flats on 5-5 (RK); 210 at west end of Colony Road on 5-8 (GB); 60 along Chuckanut Drive and Samish Flats on 5-15 (RK, KK)
Long-billed Curlew 1 at March Point on 4-24, 4-26, 5-11 (RK); 1 seen (originally found by Wayne Weber) off

March point on 4-25 (GB)

Marbled Godwit 1 off March Point on 4-25 (GB); 2 at March Point on 4-26 (RK)

Semipalmated Sandpiper 1 at the West 90 on 5-15 (RK, KK)

Western Sandpiper 4 at Jensen Access on 4-19 (GB); 200 at English Boom, Camano Island on 5-4 (PP)

Least Sandpiper 1 at Van Horn Ponds on 4-22 (GB); 20 at Burlington Industrial Park on 4-26 (RK)

Wilson's Snipe 5 at Burlington Industrial Park on 4-26 (RK)

Wilson's Phalarope 3 on Minkler Flats on 5-8 (GB); 3 in Estes Road wetland (intersection of Estes and Chuckanut Drive) on 5-14 (JB)

GULLS and TERNs

Franklin's Gull 1 off March Point on 4-25 (GB)

Bonaparte's Gull 10 off March Point on 4-25 (GB); 4 at March Point on 4-26 (RK)

Caspian Tern 38 at March Point on 4-26 (RK)

DOVES and PIGEONS

Band-tailed Pigeon 3 at Concrete on 5-9 (SAS)

OWLS

Great Horned Owl 2 at Green Road Marsh on 5-5 (RK)

SWIFTS

Vaux's Swift 1 at Minkler Flats on 4-22 (GB); 5200 at Old Northern State Hospital, Sedro-Woolley on 4-30 (TM)

FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 in Bay View yard on 5-8 (LM); 1 at Bay View Cemetery on 5-11 (RK, KK); 1 in Camano Island yard on 5-11 (PP)

Hammond's Flycatcher 1 in Hamilton on 4-26 (GB)

Dusky Flycatcher 1 near Cockreham Island on 5-8 (GB)

Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1 in Hamilton on 5-2 (GB)

Western Kingbird 1 on Hemlock Road, Sedro-Woolley, by Northern State Recreation Area on 4-30 (TM); 1 along SR 20 near Alder Drive on 5-9 (SAS); 1 in field south of Sauk Mountain on 5-9 (GB)

Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 in Bay View yard on 5-8 (LM); 1 at Bay View Cemetery on 5-11 (RK, KK); 1 in Camano Island yard on 5-11 (PP)

Hammond's Flycatcher 1 in Hamilton on 4-26 (GB)

Dusky Flycatcher 1 near Cockreham Island on 5-8 (GB)

Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1 in Hamilton on 5-2 (GB)

Western Kingbird 1 on Helmick Road, Sedro-Woolley, by Northern State Recreation Area on 4-30 (TM); 1 along SR 20 near Alder Drive on 5-9 (SAS); 1 in field south of Sauk Mountain on 5-9 (GB)

VIREOS

Cassin's Vireo 1 at Hillcrest Park, Mount Vernon on 5-

Field Sightings continue on page 5



Field Sightings continued from page 4

6 (TM); 1 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-9

(SAS);

Hutton's Vireo 2 at Hillcrest Park, Mount Vernon on 5-6 (TM)

Warbling Vireo 2 in Hamilton on 5-2 (GB); 2 at Hillcrest Park, Mount Vernon on 5-6 (TM)

SWALLOWS

Purple Martin 1 at Ship Harbor on 5-2 (GB); 4 at Ship Harbor on 5-12 (RK, KK)

WRENS

House Wren 1 at Bay View cemetery on 5-11 (RK, KK); 1 at Rosario Head on 5-12 (RK, KK)

THRUSHES

Swainson's Thrush 1 in Bay View yard on 5-7 (LM); 1 on Butler Hill on 5-7 (RK, KK); 3 at Nichol's Bar on 5-10 (GB); 1 at Camano Island home on 5-11 (PP)

Hermit Thrush 1 in Anacortes yard on 5-14 (JBo)

PIPITS

American Pipit 13 at North Fork Access on 4-19 (GB); large flock on Butler Flats on 4-30 (AW)

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler 10 at Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley on 4-30 (TM)

Nashville Warbler 1 at Rockport Quarry on 5-9 (SAS);

Yellow Warbler 1 male on Suet in Burlington yard on 3-18 (LE)

Yellow-rumped Warbler 20-40 "Audubon's" at home at south end of Bay View Edison Road from 4-21 to 25 (BW); 20 (1 Myrtle) at Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley on 4-30 (TM)

Black-throated Gray Warbler 1 in Hamilton on 4-26 (GB); 1 at Marblemount Fish Hatchery on 5-9 (SAS)

Townsend's Warbler 1 near Cockreham Island on 5-4 (GB)

MacGillivray's Warbler 1 in Camano Island yard on 5-4 (PP); 1 at Martin Road on 5-9 (GB)

Common Yellowthroat 24 at Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley on 4-30 (TM)

Wilson's Warbler pair in Camano Island yard on 5-1

(PP); 1 in Hamilton on 5-2 (GB)

TANAGERS and ALLIES

Western Tanager 10 at Hillcrest Park, Mount Vernon on 5-6 (TM); 1 in Camano Island yard on 5-9 (PP)

Black-headed Grosbeak arrived in Camano Island yard on 4-28 (PP); 1 in Burlington yard on suet on 5-15 (LE)

Lazuli Bunting 1 near Cockreham Island on 5-3 (GB)

SPARROWS

Chipping Sparrow 1 near Cockreham Island on 4-25 (GB); 1 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-9 (SAS)

Vesper Sparrow 2 at Corkindale Creek on 5-9 (SAS);

Savannah Sparrow 17 at Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley on 4-30 (TM)

Song Sparrow 18 at Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley on 4-30 (TM)

Lincoln's Sparrow 3 at Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley on 4-30 (TM)

White-throated Sparrow 1 at Green Road Marsh on 4-26 (RK); 1 wintered near Cockreham Island through 4-26 (GB)

BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES

Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 on Minkler Flats on 5-10 (GB)

Bullock's Oriole 4 at Green Road Marsh on 5-5 (RK); 1 in Bay View yard on 5-7 (LM); 2 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 5-9 (SAS)

FINCHES

Red Crossbill 5 at Lake McMurray boat launch on 4-30 (AW)

MAMMALS

Bobcat 1 on Martin Road near Rockport on 4-26 (GB)

(JB) Joan Bird; (JBo) Jackie Boss; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (LE) Larry Edwards; (EE) Eileen Eimermann; (MF) Marilyn Foster; (KK) Kraig Kemper; (RK) Robert Kuntz; (TM) Tim Manns; (LM) Libby Mills; (SRP) Sheila and Ron Pera; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (AW) Andrea Warner; (BW) Ben Welcome

SKAGIT AUDUBON HIKING JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST BY JOAN MELCHER

NOTE: This summer hiking schedule was prepared on May 13, 2015. 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** either at **360-424-0407** or jdmelcher@comcast.net.

All the hikes are on Wednesdays. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes. If dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times. * **Northwest Forest Pass (parking permit) is required.**

Skagit Audubon Hiking continues on page 6



Skagit Audubon Hiking continued from page 5

WED. – JUNE 3 – SAN JUAN ISLAND

Hike on trails at American Camp, Whale Watch Park/Limekiln State Park, and English Camp. Meet at 8:15 a.m. to pool rides at March Point Park-n-Ride **UNLESS** you have a full vehicle, in which case you may go directly to the ferry terminal. 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., 6:25 p.m., and 7:45 p.m. **NOTE: This year drivers must make a reservation for both the outbound and return ferry trips.** Therefore, each person who plans to drive should know who plans to ride with them. Drivers can notify me (Joan Melcher, see above) if they have room for riders. People who wish to ride can notify me and I will put you on a waiting list. Carpool according to return times. People staying on the island for dinner will take the 6:25 p.m. or 7:45 p.m. sailing back. Cost of the ferry fare for the vehicle will be split among the riders. Each person will pay their own individual fare.

SAT. – JUNE 6 – 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 at Deception Pass State Park. **Contact Joan Melcher (above) for details if interested.**

WED. – JUNE 10 – 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. There are many other turn-around points. There are up to 13 miles round trip, with up to a 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 select. Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot.

WED. – JUNE – 17 - DUNGENESS SPIT

A beach walk along the Strait of Juan de Fuca is 5.5 miles out to the lighthouse and 5.5 miles back. We usually see seals near the lighthouse and shipping on the Strait. An entrance fee is required, but Golden Age passes work. Drivers must have a reservation for both ferry trips. So, get together with friends, decide who will drive, and have the driver make reservations ASAP. We will take the 8:45 a.m. sailing from Keystone (called Coupeville on the ferry schedule). Drivers should be there at least 45 minutes early, so their reservation is not cancelled. It usually takes 45 minutes to drive from the meeting place to the ferry dock. This means to be safe the meeting time at the March Point Park-n-Ride should be 7 a.m. Convenient ferry return times from Port Townsend to Coupeville are 5:15 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.

Reservations can be made on line—Google Washington State Ferries. You can also call customer service at 1-888-808-7977. Ask for the operator and speak to a person.

WED. – JUNE 24 – THUNDER CREEK

Hike up to 12 miles round trip with a 1,000 foot 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 p.m.**

***WED. – JULY 1 – MOUNT PILCHUCK**

This hike is 6 miles round trip with a 2,300 ft. elevation gain. Over 2/3 of this hike is on rock of various kinds. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Safeway parking lot. At 2:30 p.m. return to the trailhead. **A Northwest Forest Pass parking permit is required.**

WED. – JULY 8 – WILDERNESS HIKE

WED. – JULY 15 - WILDERNESS HIKE

WED. – JULY 22 - SAUK MOUNTAIN

This hike is 4.2 miles round trip with a 1,200 foot elevation gain, including an option to walk down to Sauk Lake, which is 7.2 miles round trip and a 2,400 foot elevation gain. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion. For those who go to the summit only, return to the trailhead at 12:30 p.m. There is a 2:30 p.m. return for those who do both summit and Sauk Lake. Carpool accordingly.

WED. – JULY 29 - WILDERNESS HIKE

***WED. – AUGUST 5 – 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. The return to the trailhead is at 3:30 p.m. **A Northwest Forest Pass parking permit is required!**

WED. – AUGUST 12 - WILDERNESS HIKE

WED. – AUGUST 19 - WILDERNESS HIKE

WED. – AUGUST 26 - WILDERNESS HIKE

***WED. – SEPTEMBER 2 – CUTTHROAT PASS**

Do this hike on a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail as either a round trip of 10.0 or 11.0 miles, or as a one way hike, 10.5 miles. You have four options: (Contact Joan Melcher for the details which are too lengthy to print here. See page 5 for Joan’s contact information.) Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. At 4 p.m. return to the trailhead. **A Northwest Forest Pass parking permit is required!**



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lies along the south fork of the Stillaguamish River east of Granite Falls. The birding is exceptional in June. The picnic area has spectacular views of Big Four Mountain and Hall Peak. The 1 mile trail takes you on a boardwalk across a fresh water marsh. Expect to see Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Flycatchers, and Warblers. As we cross a bridge over the south fork of the Stillaguamish River we will look for Dippers, Common Mergansers, Harlequin Ducks, and Spotted Sandpipers. Entering into the forest, Pacific Wrens, Brown Creepers, Western Wood-Pewees, and Thrushes may appear. Eventually we reach 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, with a 200 ft. elevation gain. We will break up in the early afternoon.

Leader: Pam Pritzl, 360-387-7024

A U.S. Forest Pass or Golden Eagle Pass is required!

Friday Night, June 19 to Sunday, June 21

Klipchuck Campground

Mile 175, State Route 20

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 feet. 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 night dinner potluck. Klipchuck is a magnet for Warblers and Vireos, Flycatchers, and Woodpeckers, Hummingbirds, and wildflowers. 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 prefer to get accommodations in the Methow Valley there are several motels in Mazama area as well as further down the valley. If you plan to hike from a trailhead be sure to bring your Northwest Forest Pass, Interagency Annual Pass, or Interagency Senior Pass, available from the U.S. Forest Service office in Sedro-Woolley and Winthrop.

Everyone is welcome!

Contact: Phil Wright by Mon., 6/15 if planning to come as we will only do the trip with at least 6 people
phil@skagitaudubon.org or 360-299-8212

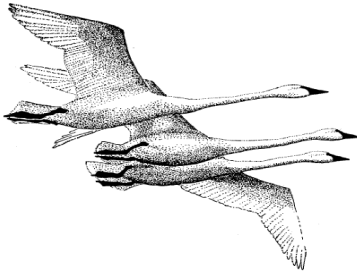
Summer July 2015 Calendar
 See "June 2015 Summer Calendar" on page 8

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 28	June 29	June 30	1 Hiking: Mount Pilchuck	2	3	4 4th of July
5	6	7	8 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Hiking: Sauk Mountain	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	30	31	August 1

Summer August 2015 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 Hiking: Maple Pass Loop	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	27	28	29
24	31	Sept. 1	Sept. 2 Hiking: Cutthroat Pass	Sept. 3	Sept. 4	Sept. 5





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Summer June 2015 Calendar
See "July & August 2015 Calendar" on page 7

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
May 31 Field Trip: May 28 ~ May 31 Okanogan Multi- day Field Trip	1	2 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	3 Hiking: San Juan Island	4	5	6 National Trails Day
7	8	9 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	10 Hiking: Ross Lake, West Shore	11 Field Trip: Big Four Trail & Wetlands	12	13
14	15	16	17 Hiking: Dungeness Spit	18	19 Kilpchuck Camping Trip June 19 ~ 21	20 Kilpchuck Camping Trip June 19 ~ 21
21 Kilpchuck Camping Trip June 19 ~ 21	22	23	24 Hiking: Thunder Creek	25	26	27
28	29	30	July 1 Hiking: Mount Pilchuck	July 2	July 3	July 4 4 th of July

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