

# The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 36 No. 3

#### MARCH 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.

March 4, 2017 South Fidalgo Island & Deception Pass State Park 8:30 a.m. - Noon

Explore fresh and saltwater birds on West Beach in Deception Pass State Park. Look for Loons, grebes.

Field Trips continue on page 7

### MARCH MEETING AND PROGRAM

"Year of the Eagle" by Kevin Ebi



A Bald Eagle Speaks
To The Moon

Photo by Kevin Ebi The U how to hunt in the Hood Canal.

Tuesday, March 14, 2017
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10441 Bayview-Edison Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington

Nature photographer **Kevin Ebi** documented a year in the lives of Puget Sound-area
Bald Eagles ~ one of the few eagle populations that doesn't migrate. In his presentation, based on his book, "Year of the Eagle," you will see how they develop and learn to fly, survive their first winter in The Upper Skagit, and learn Canal

Kevin is a professional nature photographer, whose work has appeared in National Geographic, Smithsonian, and National Wildlife. His image of Haleakala National Park was featured on a Forever postage stamp commemorating the National Park Service centennial.



#### SKAGIT AUDUBON

#### **Board of Directors**

**OFFICERS** 

President: Irene Perry

irene@skagitaudubon.org

Vice President: VACANT Secretary: Mark Perry Treasurer: Hella Lee

> hhlee@frontier.com 360-848-5937

Immediate Past President: Phil Wright phil@skagitaudubon.org

360-299-8212

COMMITTEE CHAIRS Conservation: Tim Manns

conservation@skagitaudubon.org

360-336-8753 Education: Sheila Pera

skagiteducation2@gmail.com

Field Trips: Libby Mills

libbymills@gmail.com

360-757-4139

Hikes: Joan Melcher

jdmelcher@comcast.net 360-424-0407

Bird Sightings: Pam Pritzl

birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org

360-387-7024

Membership: Pam Pritzl

membership@skagitaudubon.org

Programs: Catherine Carter

programs@skagitaudubon.org

Publications: Jackie Boss

jackieaboss@yahoo.com

360-299-8067

Newsletter Distributor: Barbara Craner craner2@frontier.com

360-770-3898

REPRESENTATIVES

Jean Ashby jeanash66@gmail.com

Jane Brandt

janeb@skagitaudubon.org

Ivar Dolph

pidolph@frontier.com

Stephanie Fernandez

ferstephanie07@yahoo.com

Ron Holmes

ronh@skagitaudubon.org

Alice Turner

alicet2@msn.com

Hospitality: Stephanie Fernandez

ferstephanie07@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Ron Pera

skagitaudubon@gmail.com



#### **Bohemian Waxwing** One of this Winter's Invasion!

Photo by Joe Halton

#### MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

Skagit Audubon Society (SAS) membership provides a local chapter affiliation and newsletter, The Flyer, for individuals who want all their funds to benefit their local chapter. Newsletters from additional chapters can be sought by contacting their websites and membership chairs from links at http://wa.audubon.orgaudubon-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 M								
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.								
Wellibership includes all memb	cis of your nouschold.							
Check one:	\$20.00 one (1) year	ш	\$40.00 two (2) years					
Additionally, I wish to donate to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.								
in the amount of \$								
Definations of process of more receive a percental field trip by a creation from the receive								
Check one:	lew Membership		Renewing Membership					
Name								
Address								
City/State	Zip							
Email	Phone							
SAS	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 <u>form below</u> to initially join the <b>National Audubon Society.</b> National Audubon Society Membership Form								
Annual membership to the National Audubon Society includes a subscription to <i>Audubon</i> magazine. Membership includes all members of your household.								
\$20 for one-year introductory membership with one chapter affiliation								
Name	Phone							
Address								

Please mail chapter-created new membership forms to address below: (Payable to same) National Audubon Society Y21

P.O. Box 97194 For membership related questions and address: Washington, DC 20090-7194 Email: customerservice@audubon.org

Attn: Chance Mueleck Phone: (844) 428-3826

City/State

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



Zip

#### The Spirit of Skagit Audubon

I recently had the opportunity to volunteer at a local festival where I represented Skagit Audubon. It was of course a cold and rainy morning. This event attracted all birding skill levels, but particularly beginners. So with binoculars in hand and a scope set up nearby, I was ready to be enthusiastic for any birds, from the common Song Sparrow to the seldom seen American Bittern. Given the habitat, I wasn't surprised to see these two birds. What did surprise me were the many questions about Skagit Audubon.



Jim Walker, Dragonfly Specialist leads annual field trips one of Skagit Audubon's variety of activities

A visiting millennial was the first to ask, "What makes Skagit Audubon different?" I didn't hesitate and answered, "It is the welcoming spirit of our chapter." She asked me to elaborate. "Skagit Audubon welcomes all people who care about protecting habitats and wildlife. You don't have to be an expert birder to join. In fact, many of our members are not birders. Some are interested in hikes or monthly programs. We have members focused on conservation and legislative issues. Of course, if you are interested in birding, our field trips are a great way to connect with people of all birding levels who are eager to share their knowledge and experiences with you. That's what makes us a chapter and not a birding club."

Having lived in seven different states and made a point of joining birding groups even when traveling, there is a big difference between a welcoming chapter and a bird club. First, a welcoming chapter makes you feel like you're part of something special. A club makes you feel like you need to know a certain code or pass a test to join. I've felt like an "outsider" with different groups and it's not fun. That's the difference. Skagit Audubon activities are fun, learning experiences where you have the opportunity to build friendships.

A gentleman nearby was overhearing the conversation. He turned to me and said, "Well I must confess, I used to be a duck hunter. Would Skagit Audubon welcome me?" After laughing, I replied, "Of course! Most duck hunters I've met are very interested in protecting habitat."

I have a confession to make too. I checked out Skagit Audubon before I joined several years ago. I went on a field trip which the newsletter said was opened to nonmembers and all levels of birders. I felt the welcoming spirit of Skagit Audubon on that very first encounter. Okay, but how would I feel at a monthly meeting and program? Yes, that same friendly atmosphere.

I would like to thank this chapter for making me feel welcome and inviting me to join. I strive to extend a welcoming spirit to all members and visitors to Skagit Audubon. Even on cold, rainy mornings when I'm on a field trip looking at Song Sparrows, I smile and say, "Welcome, I am from Skagit Audubon."



# SKAGIT AUDUBON MARCH CONSERVATION REPORT BY TIM MANNS

I'm writing this report February 17th, Day 40 of the Washington State Legislative Session, which will extend to April 23<sup>rd</sup> and likely beyond. Today is significant as the cut-off for many bills to be either voted out of committee or die. Several especially troublesome ones are meeting the latter fate. One would have required state land managing agencies to sell an acre for every new acre purchased. This would have ended all hope for buying replacement timber lands to save the Blanchard State Forest core. Another introduced bill would have, contrary to the state's constitution, required ceding all our nationally owned lands in Washington to the state, potentially for ultimate sale. Even Mount Rainier National Park? Yes, that too. Such crazy (to me and maybe you too) bills have little chance of passing, but even in Washington State, which we like to think of as a bulwark of truth, justice, and common sense, the legislature is delicately balanced. Legislators who fail to put the public good first sometimes back down when enough citizens speak out early and often against such radical raids on the public good.

On the national scene every day brings new, dramatic, and often alarming events. Attempts to gut the Endangered Species Act (ESA) are perennial but truly alarming under the new conditions in Washington, D.C. It's essential to preserve this 44-year old act at the heart of accomplishing Audubon's mission. Please add your name via National Audubon's website in opposition to destroying the ESA (<a href="http://www.audubon.org/takeaction">http://www.audubon.org/takeaction</a>). Better yet, contact your legislators directly.

The Endangered Species Act has everything to do with why we readily spot Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles in Skagit County. And it's the reason the Marbled Murrelet cannot simply be ignored by the Washington Department of Natural Resources in managing forested state trust lands. The murrelet is listed as threatened under the federal ESA. Under Washington's own equivalent law the Fish & Wildlife Commission changed the bird's listing to "endangered" just last December. Yet, without the federal listing, there would be far less pressure on DNR to not simply ignore the demise of this forest-nesting seabird and just maximize revenue from timber cutting. Through March 9, you can submit comments on DNR's draft Environmental Impact Statement for how it manages Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat (i.e. old forest), much of it on state trust lands (http://www.dnr.wa.gov/mmltcs). Modeling shows that none of the EIS's 6 alternatives will reverse the bird's decline. Let me know if you would like to learn about the "Conservation Alternative" prepared by organizations, including Audubon, working for a positive outcome from DNR's planning.

Without the federal ESA, the grizzly bear would almost certainly be at or near extinction in the lower 48 states and possibly the gray wolf, orca, and many salmon runs too. The long-delayed draft EIS for restoring grizzlies to the North Cascades Ecosystem, where a mere 5 may still exist in 6 million acres of U.S. and Canadian wilderness, closes for public comment on March 14 (https://www.nps.gov/noca/grizzly.htm). The most likely alternative's 60 to 100-year time line for bringing the bear population to 200 reflects the species' low reproductive rate and the care agency scientists and resource managers are taking. The grizzly is an umbrella species: by

Conservation Report continued on page 5



providing for its habitat needs, we accommodate many other species. Audubon members have the broad ethical perspective of people who recognize the rights of other species to exist and possess the willingness to accommodate them. Let's speak out for the country and the world we want.

## SKAGIT AUDUBON HIKING ~ MARCH

#### BY JOAN MELCHER

Five hikes are scheduled for March. Unexpected circumstances such as unforeseen trail problems, weather, predictions of heavy rain and/or wind, snow, ice, low wind chills, landslides, floods, logging, construction, or road conditions may cause cancellations or changes in the following hikes. If you have questions or want information on any of the hikes, call **JOAN MELCHER**, **360-424-0407** or e-mail at **jdmelcher@comcast.net**. All the hikes are on a Wednesday. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes. If dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times.

WED. – MARCH 1 – LILY LIZARD LAKES LOOP (The LLLL) This Loop will be done in a clock-wise order. On Blanchard Mountain hike the Lily Lake, Larry Reed, and Max's Shortcut Trails to Lily Lake and then on to Lizard Lake by way of a connector trail from the North Butte Trail. Return to trail head via the Lizard and Lily Lake Trails. It is a 8.6 mile loop with a 1,600 ft. total elevation gain. There is an opportunity to go to the Oyster Dome and the North Butte as well. We will divide into a faster and slower group. Car pool accordingly. 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. At 2:00 p.m., return to the trailhead for the faster group; 3:00 p.m. for the slower group. A Discover Pass is required to park at the trailhead.

WED. – MARCH 8 – SUGAR CUBE and WHISTLE LAKE Terry Slotemaker or his designee will lead us on a hike in the Anacortes Forest Lands. The hike is 6.8 miles with a 1,600 ft. elevation gain. A 3.41 mile self-guided option around Whistle Lake only, is also available. Meet at 9 a.m at. at the Heart Lake parking lot off the Heart Lake Road south of Anacortes. You may leave when you return to the trailhead.

WED. – MARCH 15 – GOOSE ROCK
PERIMETER HIKE Hike a loop that includes
Cranberry Lake, beaches, the south side of Deception
Pass, Cornet Bay and a 450 foot climb up Goose Rock.
Total elevation gain for the day is 750 feet. Meet at 9
a.m. in the east side parking lot at Cranberry Lake near
the main entrance to Deception Pass State Park. There
are 6.2 miles for the basic loop hike; add 4.0 miles, if
you hike on the beach south to the naval station border
(10.2 miles). You may leave when your car of people has
returned to the trailhead. A Discover Pass is required to
park at the Park..

WED. – MARCH 22 – AROUND MT. ERIE Mount Erie Base Circumference Hike - Hike through forests around the base of Mount Erie. On its south side are occasional views of lakes, straits, bays, passages and islands. Lots of ups and downs make for 1,300 ft. elevation gain. It is a 6.3 mile loop or is 6.6 with a side trip for the Whistle Lake view. **Meet at 9:00 a.m.** in the parking lot at the Sugarloaf Trailhead near the start of the Mt. Erie Road off the Heart Lake Road, which is located south of Anacortes. Estimated return time is 1:00 p.m. You may leave when you return to the trailhead.

There may be an option to hike up Mount Erie from the south side if a guide is available. Portions of this steep trail include minor scrambling.

WED. – MARCH 29 – LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PRESERVE AND/OR STIMPSON FAMILY NATURE RESERVE The Lookout Mountain trail is on the east side of Lookout Mountain above Lake Whatcom. It opened in 2013. The basic loop is 5.8 miles, which includes a side trail to a lookout; the elevation gain is 1,000 feet. One may also hike additional miles on the log road system above the Preserve. The Lookout Mountain Trailhead is located a mile or so south of the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve on the Lake Louise Road. Whatcom County hikers should drive directly to the trailhead. Other hikers meet at the Chuckanut Drive Park-n-Ride in Burlington at **8:30 a.m.** These people will drive to the trailhead by way of the Alger-Caine Lake Road, the South Lake Whatcom Boulevard and the Lake Louise Road. Stimpson Family Nature Reserve maps will be given out at the Lookout Mountain Trailhead. We will meet at the trail head about 9 a.m. You may leave when your group returns to the car.

WED. – APRIL 5 - WASHINGTON PARK & HEART LAKE & LAKE ERIE Terry Slotemaker, 360-293-6514, or his designee, will lead us on these two hikes scheduled in the spring to take advantage of wild flowers in bloom. Meet at 9 a.m. in LOT A at Washington Park in Anacortes. To get to Lot A, turn right just at the park entrance. The sign says "Picnic Hikes continued on page 6

March 2017 5



Hikes continued from page 5

Area" with an arrow pointing to the right. A child's play area is close to this large parking lot. When you return to your car, you may leave for the Heart Lake hike. To get

to Heart Lake, drive toward Anacortes from Washington Park. Turn right on D Avenue. Then turn left onto 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. Next turn right on H Avenue which will lead you to the Heart Lake Road and the parking lot..

## SKAGIT AUDUBON FIELD NOTES: DECEMBER 17 to FEBRUARY 18, 2017

by PAM PRITZL

This column reports submitted sightings. Any rare sightings should be accompanied by detailed written documentation and if possible a photograph. A second person to verify rare sightings is extremely helpful. Do not hesitate to call any observer to help document unusual sightings. Also do not hesitate to call if you need clarification on locations. **Please submit your sightings to Pam Pritzl birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org or 360-387-7024**.

#### WATERFOWL

**Greater White-fronted Goose** 3 just south of Bay View on 2-2 (RK)

**FALCATED DUCK** 1 on Padilla Bay on 1-16 (GB) **RARE** 

**Eurasian/American Wigeon hybrid** 2 on Samish Flats on 1-23 (NOH)

Cinnamon Teal 1 at Lindgren Road on 1-1 (GB) Canvasback 1 on Beaver Lake on 2-4 (GB)

#### LOONS

**Red-throated Loon** 2-300 in channel between West Beach and Rosario Head on 2-11 (PP) **Yellow-billed Loon** 1 at Rosario Head on 1-18 (JO); 1 at Rosario Beach on 1-19 (RK); 1 at Rosario Head on 1-21 & 1-28 (GB) **UNUSUAL** 

#### **GREBES**

16 (JB)

**Eared Grebe** 1 at Bowman Bay on 2-13 (RK); 1 at Rosario Head on 1-28 & 2-11 (GB) **Horned Grebe** 1 at Ship Harbor, Anacortes on 2-

HERONS and ALLIES

**American Bittern** 1 at Port Susan Bay Nature Conservancy on 2-4 (SAS); 1 in Hamilton on 2-5 & 2-12 (GB)

#### HAWKS, EAGLES, and ALLIES

Cooper's Hawk 1 adult south of Bay View on Bay View/Edison Road on 2-5 (AW)

Red-tailed Hawk 1 "light morph "Harlan's" on Sullivan Road on 1-29 (AW); 1"Harlan's" at Pulver & Chuckanut Ridge Road on 2-4 (AW); 1 "Harlan's" juvenile at North 90 in Samish Flats on 2-5 (AW); 1 "Harlan's" juvenile at East 90 on 2-11 (NOH)

Rough-legged Hawk 1 juvenile "dark morph" at Skagit Airport on 2-11 (AW); 1 "light morph" adult male on Sunset Road on 2-12 (AW)

Golden Eagle 1 at Port Susan Bay Nature

Conservancy on 2-4 (SAS)

#### **OYSTERCATHERS**

Black Oystercatcher 40 on rocks at West Beach,

Deception Pass State Park on 2-14 (PP)

#### SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES, and ALLIES

**Surfbird** flock of up to 8 at Rosario Head intermittently throughout sighting period (GB)

**Sanderling** 8 on rocks at West Beach, Deception Pass State Park on 2-11 (PP)

**Rock Sandpiper** 1 at Rosario Head intermittently throughout the sighting period (GB)

Western Sandpiper 25 at March Point on 2-6 (GB)

**Long-billed Dowitcher** 3 on Samish Flats on 1-30 (NOH)

Wilson's Snipe several present in Bay View meadow on 12-17 (LM); 1 at Rawlins Road on 1-7 and 1 on Samish Flats on 2-2 (NOH)

#### **GULLS and TERNS**

**Herring Gull** 1 on Minkler Flats on 2-11 (GB) **Thayer's Gull** 1 in Burlington on 1-22 (GB)

#### **OWLS**

**Northern Pygmy-Owl** 1 at Rasar State Park on 2-5 (GB)

**Barred Owl** 1 on logs at Guemes Channel beach on 1-22 (NOH)

#### WOODPECKERS

**Red-breasted Sapsucker** 1 at Cap Sante, Anacortes on 12-10 (JH); 1 at east Fidalgo Island home since 12-10 (RW)

#### **FALCONS**

**American Kestrel** 2 females on Peterson Road on 2-11 (AW)

Merlin 1 at North Fork Skagit River Access on 1-25 (RK); 1 each on Colony Road, Blanchard and Edison on 2-5 (AW); 1 "black" in Edison on 2-12 (AW)

**Peregrine Falcon** 1 on Samish Flats on 2-2 & 2 on Samish Flats on 2-4 (NOH); 2 adults in West 90 area on 2-4 (AW); 1 adult on Bay View/Edison north of SR 20 on 2-5 (AW)

**Prairie Falcon** 1 on Sunset Road on 2-5 (AW)

Field Notes continue on page 7



#### Field Notes continued from page 6

**Gyrfalcon** 1 at south end of Padilla Bay Trail on 2-18 (SAS)

#### **SHRIKES**

Northern Shrike 1 at Rawlins Road on 12-10 (NOH); 1 at North Fork Skagit River Access on 1-25 (RK); 1 at Ship Harbor, Anacortes on 2-16 (JB)

#### **BISHTITS**

**Bushtit** flock coming to suet feeder at home on Camano Island 2-3 to present (SRP)

#### **DIPPERS**

**American Dipper** 1 at Nooksack River Bridge on 1-13 (NOH); 1 at Marblemount Fish Hatchery on 1-21 (RK)

#### **THRUSHES**

**Mountain Bluebird** 1 in area south of Cedardale and east of Conway on 1-2 (GB); 1 found on 1-1 (KR)

**Townsend's Solitaire** 1 in Mount Vernon yard from 12-17 to 1-8 (JS); 1 at Martin Road on 1-8 (GB)

#### **WAXWINGS**

**Bohemian Waxwing** 92 at Skagit Wildlife Management Area (Wylie Slough) on 12-22 & 17 at Hayton Reserve on 1-1 (GB); 1 on Person's Road east of Bay View cemetery on 1-12 (JH)

#### **WARBLERS**

**Orange-crowned Warbler** 1 in Burlington yard on 2-7 (LE)

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** 1 "Audubon" immature in Burlington yard on 1-13 (LE)

#### SPARROWS and ALLIES

**American Tree Sparrow** 1 at Lindgren Road on 1-16 and 2-4 (GB)

Savannah Sparrow 1 on Samish Flats on 2-11 (NOH)

**Swamp Sparrow** 1 at SR 20 milepost 76 fields on 1-8 & 1 in Hamilton on 2-5 (GB)

White-throated Sparrow 1 in Anacortes yard on 1-30 (JH)

**Harris's Sparrow** 1 on Cockreham Island on 2-3 & 2-5 (GB)

#### **BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES**

Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 in mixed blackbird flock on Wylie Road on 2-14 (PP)

#### **FINCHES and ALLIES**

**Pine Siskin** 100 at Camano Island home from 2-3 to present (SRP)

#### **MAMMALS**

**Beaver** 1 on bank at Skagit Wildlife Management Area (Wylie Slough) on 1-7 (SAS)

(GB) Gary Bletsch; (JB) Jackie Boss; (LE) Larry Edwards; (JH) Joe Halton; (RK) Robert Kuntz; (LM) Libby Mills; (NOH) Neil O'Hara; (JO) Jeff Osmundson; (SRP) Sheila and Ron Pera; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (KR) Kurt Ranta; (JS) Jerry Schmidt; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (AW) Andrea Warner

#### Field Trips continued from p.1

oystercatchers and much more. Dress for wind and rain, just in case. If there's extra time we may check out south Fidalgo Island lakes and Cornet Bay.

Bring your **Discover Pass** to cover parking, and **meet at <u>8:30 a.m.</u>** in the March Point Park 'n Ride, off Highway 20 east of Anacortes.

#### Leader Ivar Dolph, pidolph@frontier.com

#### Saturday, March 18 Sparrows & Spring Songbirds & more Padilla Bay Interpretive Center 8 a.m. - Noon

Every year we strive to relearn the songbirds' tunes, so that we are more aware of the forest and hedgerow denizens that share our lands. Many people feel sparrows are hard to tell apart, but here

in Skagit Valley it's not such a huge challenge that vou can't work it out.

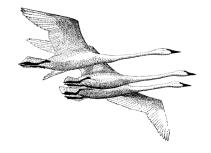
We will spend a little time looking at characteristics of the species, think about habitats, hear songs, and discuss other ways we learn about the birds. We will hope for a good songbird day, but if it's one of those wintery interims short on sparrows, we will look for the birds in the Padilla Bay / Samish Flats area that are best suited to the day's weather. Bring warm clothing for the entire morning, a thermos of hot drinks and a sack lunch.

Beginners and seasoned naturalists are all welcome. if you sign up ahead of time we will get you some study materials to think about before the field trip.

Leader, Libby Mills, libbymills@gmail.com



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



#### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# WINGS OVER WATER Northwest Birding Festival Blaine • Semiahmoo • Birch Bay March 10 ~ 12 (Google for Schedule Info)

## March 2017 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Feb. 28	1 Hike: Lily Lizard Lakes Loop (The LLLL)	2	3	4 Field Trip: South Fidalgo Island & Deception Pass State Park
5	6	7 Skagit Audubon Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	8 Hike: Sugar Cube & Whistle Lake	9	10 WINGS OVER WATER NW Birding Fest Blaine, WA	11 WINGS OVER WATER NW Birding Fest Blaine, WA
12 WINGS OVER WATER NW Birding Fest Blaine, WA	13	14 Skagit Audubon General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM Meeting 7:30 PM	15 Hike: Goose Rock Perimeter Hike	16	17	18 Field Trip: Sparrows & Song Birds & More
19	20	21	22 Hike: Around Mount Erie	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Hike: Lookout Mt &/or Stimpson Family Preserves Apr. 5 WA Park Heart & Erie Lakes	30	31	April 1

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at <a href="https://www.skagitaudubon.org">www.skagitaudubon.org</a> The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

March 2017 8