

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol.29 No. 10

DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

By Libby Mills

Skagit Audubon Field Trips

Beginning birders are always welcome on Skagit Audubon field trips, and membership in Skagit Audubon is not required. Participants gladly help each other identify and enjoy the birds. Please be prepared for the weather with suitable clothing, and bring field guides, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Don't forget snacks or lunch and a thermos with warm drinks for winter walks. Carpool whenever possible and please offer to contribute to the driver's expense.

Watch the e-mail reminders for the latest information, including any changes and/or additions to the field trip schedule. To be added to the e-mail distribution list contact Libby Mills: libbymills@gmail.com

Please note that the field trip descriptions are deliberately brief and do not describe complete trip itineraries. If you plan to join a trip other than at the described starting point, call the leader the day before to ensure a successful rendezvous. Plans change as conditions shift and opportunities arise. Timely notification by email isn't always possible.

We have two regular field trips and two **Christmas Bird Counts** scheduled for December.

Saturday, December 4
Rockport and Vicinity
8:30 a.m. to Early Afternoon
Peak of Chum Salmon run,
Seeking salmon-eating birds

Field Trips continued on page 5

DECEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

The Southern Cross Peregrine Project and the Chilean Earthquake/Tsunami of 2010

By Bud Anderson

Tuesday, December 14, 2010
6:00 Finger Food Potluck
7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10433 Bayview-Edison Road
Mount Vernon, Washington



Chilean Earthquake Feb. 2010
Photo from Bud Anderson

Over the last four years, the Falcon Research Group has been tracking the movements of Peregrine Falcons migrating from South America to the North American arctic via satellite transmitters (www.frg.org).

On 27 February 2010, Bud Anderson and others of the Falcon Research Group were camped right on the beach of the Pacific coast of Chile, having just begun their fourth season of study. At 3:34 a.m., a massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake, one of the largest in recorded history, struck a short distance off shore. Within minutes, a wall of water, the first of many, swept onto the coastline, causing massive damage and destruction as well as a great loss of life among the Chilean people.

Bud Anderson's presentation will describe the final results of the Falcon Research Group study and also what happened to them on that night, that they saw how utterly catastrophic a major seismic event of this kind can be.

Since we live in a similar seismically active area here in western Washington, we'll also discuss a few things that we should all be aware of about earthquakes and tsunamis in our region based on what was learned from our Chilean experience.



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Peregrine Falcon
Photo by Ron Pera

MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTIONS

General membership meetings of the Skagit 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 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.

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.



No where else do Trumpeter Swans winter in such numbers as in Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom Counties. Seeing these largest of North American waterfowl gleaming white against the winter sky brightens the gloomiest day. In November, Martha Jordan of The Trumpeter Swan Society told a packed house at Padilla Bay, "Swans are here because of dairies." Dairies? Yes, dairies! Returning from Alaska and Canada, swans flock first to harvested corn fields. Left-overs from fields planted to feed dairy cows and (second most important) potatoes left behind are favorite swan foods. Connections between agriculture and Skagit birds don't end with swans, of course. Dunlin winter here by the thousands, moving into the fields at high tide and feeding Peregrines in spectacular displays of flight and agility, life and death. Snow Geese from Russia's Arctic Coast crowd Fir Island fields in great blankets of white to the dismay of some farmers and tolerance of others, depending on what the birds consume.

Elsewhere in Skagit County, other bird species depend on riparian forests or salmon, on old-growth or younger forests or high-mountain slopes. It's this full range of habitats from salt water bays to farm fields, from rivers and forests to 9,000 foot peaks, that makes the Skagit both scenic and endlessly fascinating for people interested in birds and other natural history. Another recent presentation gave a further perspective on the fragility of this bounty. Late in October Dr. Robert Lang of Brookings Mountain West (University of Nevada and

the Brookings Institution) spoke in Mount Vernon about the phenomenon of megalopolises and the likelihood of Portland to Vancouver, B.C., becoming such a place. In this scenario Skagit County will soon be a northward extension of Seattle with a much larger population and a tighter tie to that city's economy. The idea that growth is coming is not news to most of us nor is the concern about what this could mean for agriculture, for habitat preservation, for birds and other things we value. Fortunately, there are Skagit people who have been thinking for some time about human population growth and preserving what we value. "Envision Skagit 2060" is the collaborative community effort in Skagit County to picture what we want this place to be like 50 years hence. Skagit Audubon as an organization, and each of us as citizens, can participate in this work. Birds and other wildlife and their habitat needs should be part of the long-term vision and the regulations it will influence. Beginning this January there will be opportunities for public input. Until then, search "Envision Skagit 2060" on the web for more information. As people interested in both our own quality of life and the well-being of Trumpeter Swans, other wild birds and wildlife, we need to support local agriculture, preservation and restoration of habitat, environmental education, and a way of life ensuring that future generations will enjoy a natural world as least as rich as we do today.

WDFW NEWS RELEASE: HOTLINE TO REPORT DEAD OR ILL SWANS AVAILABLE

WDFW NEWS RELEASE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

November 18, 2010

Contact: Jennifer Bohannon, (360)466-4345 ext.281

OLYMPIA – In a continuing effort to monitor Trumpeter Swans that have succumbed to lead poisoning, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has re-established a hotline to report dead or ill swans in Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish counties.

People can call (360)466-4345, ext.266, to report dead or ill swans. Callers should be prepared to leave a message including their name and phone number and the location and condition of the swans. The hotline is available 24 hours a day through the end of March. Some Trumpeter Swans in Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish counties, and in southwestern British Columbia, die each winter from lead poisoning after ingesting lead shot in areas where they feed.

Lead shot has been banned for waterfowl hunting in Washington and British Columbia for more than a decade, but biologists believe swans are likely reaching shallow

underwater areas in fields and roosts where spent lead shot is still present.

People who see sick or dead swans are advised not to handle or attempt to move the birds, said Jennifer Bohannon, WDFW wildlife biologist, WDFW and Puget Sound Energy employees, as well as volunteers from the Washington Waterfowl Association and The Trumpeter Swan Society, will pick up the birds, she said

The collected swans will be among the wild birds WDFW is testing for avian influenza.

For the past several years, hazing crews have worked to scare swans away from Judson Lake, a source of lead poisoning on the U.S.-Canada border in Whatcom County. During that effort, the average number of lead-related swan mortalities significantly dropped to 63 a year, about 70 percent less than the previous five-year average, said Bohannon.

For the second straight year, biologists will place bamboo poles in portions of the lake to keep birds from landing or swimming in areas with concentrations of lead shot, Bohannon said. Swans that do access those areas will be hazed from the lake, she said. .



Hikes continue in December with 5 hikes scheduled. Hikes may be canceled or destinations changed due to weather conditions, logging, construction or other unforeseen circumstances. A hike will be canceled if there are high wind warnings, flooding conditions, or snowy or icy road conditions. All the hikes are on a Wednesday. Questions? Contact Joan Melcher, jdmelcher@comcast.net or 360-424-0407. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes. If dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times.

DECEMBER 1 EAST SHORE LAKE WHATCOM: 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 8:30 a.m. at the I-5/Cook Road Park-n-Ride. You may leave when you return to the trailhead.

DECEMBER 8 DECEPTION PASS AREA: Hike on trails at Sharpe Park, Pass Lake, Rosario, and Bowman's Bay. Up to 10.7 miles, 1,000 ft. total elevation gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at Sharpe Park trailhead off of Rosario Road south of Anacortes. Parking is limited at Sharpe Park so please car-pool if possible. Contact Joan Melcher (see above) if you need driving directions to Sharpe Park. 2:30 p.m. return to trailhead for those who do the maximum distance.

DECEMBER 15 WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCULPTURES, LANDSCAPING, & THE SEHOME ARBORETUM: Sal Russo will lead us on a hike on the Western Washington University campus to view sculptures and unusual trees. Heidi Zertzke of the University will show and tell us about landscaping and trees on the campus. We will return to the cars by way of the Sehome Arboretum. The hike is five miles. Meet at the Village Green in old Fairhaven at 9 a.m. The Village Green is north of Harris Avenue (the street to the Alaska Ferry and the railroad depot) and west of 12th Street, which is the street that Chuckanut Drive turns into. When done with your walk, consider having lunch in one of the Fairhaven eateries. Find parking on the streets.

DECEMBER 22 PADILLA BAY SHORE TRAIL: Take time out from a busy pre-Christmas week and spend the morning walking from the Breazeale Nature Center south along the Padilla Bay dike and back, an easy 6.75 miles. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Breazeale Nature Center in Bayview. Leave when you return to the trailhead.

DECEMBER 29 INTERURBAN TRAIL: Walk off some of those holiday pounds on the Interurban Trail, several options available. Up to 14 or more miles; slight elevation gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Clayton Beach Parking lot at the south end of Larrabee State Park on Chuckanut Drive. Return time depends on hike option you select

JANUARY 5 FRAGRANCE LAKE: The first hike of the New Year will be to FRAGRANCE LAKE. Hike to a lovely mirror lake above Larrabee State Park. It is a 7.3 mile loop, 1000 ft. elevation. gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Clayton Beach Parking lot at the south end of Larrabee State Park on Chuckanut Drive. You may leave when you return to the trailhead.

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 **Pam Pritzl** ppritzl@frontier.com or **360-387-7024**.

Greater White-fronted Goose 12 on Camano Island on 10-17 (PP), 8 at Judy Reservoir on 11-12 (GB)

Snow Goose more than 500 flying NW over District Line Rd (unusual for location) on 11-16 (KJW)

Cackling Goose 1 on Camano Island on 10-19 (PP), 5 at Judy Reservoir on 11-12 (GB)

Trumpeter Swan 2 on Samish Flats on 10-24 (GB)

Tundra Swan 1 on Samish Flats 10-24 (GB)

Canvasback 1 at Bayview on 10-29 (GB)

Long-tailed Duck 12 at Iverson Spit, Camano Island on 11-14 (RR & PP)

Common Goldeneye 1 at Green Point, Anacortes on 11-11 (GB)

Northern Bobwhite 1 outside Mt. Vernon library on 11-4 (BW)

Pacific Loon 3 off Libbey Beach, Whidbey Island on 11-13 (SAS)

Eared Grebe 2 at Samish Island on 11-13 (GB)

Northern Goshawk 1 juvenile near Samish T on 11-10 (KJW)

Rough-legged Hawk 1 at Samish Flats on 10-29 (GB)

Black Oystercatcher 2 at Green Point, Anacortes on 11-14 (GB)

Pectoral Sandpiper 1 on Samish Flats on 10-29 (GB)

Dunlin 1,000 on the blue bladders by Mark Clark Bridge, Leque Island on 11-13 (SP); 10,000 on Samish Flats on 11-13 (GB)

Skagit Audubon Field Notes continued on page 5



Skagit Audubon Field Notes continued from page 4

Bonaparte's Gull 5 at Jensen Access on 11-14 (GB)
Heermann's Gull 1 at Green Point, Anacortes on 11-14 (GB)
Marbled Murrelet 4 off Libbey Beach, Whidbey Island on 11-13 (SAS)
Ancient Murrelet 5 at Green Point, Anacortes on 11-2 (TW); 100 at Green Point, Anacortes on 11-6 (TW); 4 off Libbey Beach, Whidbey Island on 11-13 (SAS)
Rhinoceros Auklet 3 off Libbey Beach, Whidbey Island on 11-13 (SAS)
Great Horned Owl 1 on numerous days in yard on District Line Road (KJW)
Barred Owl 1 actively hunting from 4 ft. perch on 11-4 & 11-5 in yard on District Line Road (KJW)
Short-eared Owl 1 at West 90 on 11-10 (TW)
Northern Saw-whet Owl 1 calling in yard in Mt. Vernon 11-4 (JP)
Northern Flicker 1 yellow-shafted at Iverson Spit, Camano Island on 11-14 (RR & PP)
Tropical Kingbird 1 in Bellingham on 11-6 (SAS)

Northern Shrike 1 at Iverson Spit, Camano Island on 11-3 (PP); 1 on Dalhstedt Road on 11-8 (KJW); 1 on Butler Flats on 11-13 (GB)
Hutton's Vireo 1 at Larrabee State Park on 11-4 (TM)
Western Scrub-Jay 1 near Cockreham Island from 10-16 to 10-21 (GB); 2 on Fir Island on 10-18 (AG); 2 near Drayton Harbor, Whatcom County on 11-6 (SAS); 2 at WSU Discovery Garden, Mt. Vernon 11-13 (PP)
Red-winged Blackbird 1 albino at West 90 on 11-4 (JP)
Brown-headed Cowbird 30 on Butler Flats on 11-13 (GB)
Evening Grosbeak 12 in yard on Camano Island on 11-4 (SP)

(GB) Gary Bletsch; (AG) Ani Gurnee; (TM) Tim Manns; (JP) Josh Parrott; (SP) Sheila Pera; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (RR) Roxie Rochat; (KJW) Keith and Jan Wiggers; (BW) Bonnie Wilkens; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (TW) Tweeters

Rockport and other Field Trips continued from page 1

Every winter birds and mammals gather on the upper Skagit to feed on marine protein as salmon move from the Pacific up the river. It's fun to seek salmon and we usually find them either around Rockport or Marblemount. With the bounty of fish come birds and it's a good day to look for them surrounded by hills and peaks in the upper Skagit valley. We'll meet in Sedro Woolley in the Thrifty Foods parking lot on the outer edge of the lot toward the east and south at 8:30 a.m. You can also meet us about 40 minutes later at Howard Miller Park in Rockport, but please notify the leader if that's your plan. Be sure and check in with leader if snow is in the forecast to see if the trip is cancelled or a go. Leader: Libby Mills, libbymills@gmail.com, 360-708-6975 cell phone

Saturday, December 11

"Lake District" Birding

9:00 a.m. to Early Afternoon

We'll meet at the USNPS/USFS center at Sedro-Woolley, consolidate into a few cars, and do the "Lake District." We can hit DeBay's Slough, then Clear Lake, Mud Lake, Beaver Lake, and Judy Reservoir. We can look for the Redhead. Besides working on waterfowl, there are some nice passerines up at Judy Reservoir and down at DeBay's. Bring a lunch and thermos of warm drinks. We'll look for a shelter to eat our lunches. Leader Gary Bletsch, Contact Gary at garyblutsch@yahoo.com

Saturday, December 18

North Cascades National Park

Christmas Bird Count

6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Each year the National Park Service does a Christmas Bird Count centered on Newhalem along the North Cascades Highway. The species count is low but often includes surprises and species not seen in the downriver world. When the weather is good, the scenery makes this about the most beautiful Christmas Count you could hope to attend close to home. It may also still be the only Christmas Count taking place in Washington's Cascade Mountains, giving even greater importance to the data gathered. Participants meet at National Park Service headquarters, 810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, at 6:30 am. If you would like to participate or have questions about the count, please contact Bob Kuntz at 360-854-7320, or Robert_Kuntz@nps.gov

Saturday, January 2

Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count

All day, followed by a potluck dinner

The annual Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count takes place this year on Saturday, January 2. Volunteers are needed to help with this valuable – and fun – endeavor, so plan ahead. Some teams start before dawn to count owls, while others brave the elements from first light to dusk. The data collected by our "citizen scientists" is used to document bird population trends over time. Plan to spend the day birding, and then – as a bonus – enjoy a potluck dinner and good company at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center. After dinner the day's observations are tallied, and fun stories (some of which are true!) are swapped. For details regarding times, places, and area assignments, please contact Leader/coordinator: Bob Barry at 360-299-8443, dabarrybest@verizon.net or Alice Turner at 360-387-1781, alicet2@msn.com.



WASHINGTON DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
<http://wdfw.wa.gov>

Sustainable Funding Proposed for State Lands

State lands are crucial to Washington's quality of life-providing habitat for fish and wildlife, and access for recreation activities that generate billions of dollars annually for Washington's economy.

Spending by recreational fishers, hunters, wildlife watchers, boaters, hikers, horseback riders, and other users of state lands supports small businesses and creates jobs across Washington, particularly in rural communities.

But the economic engine conservation benefit, and recreation access offered by state lands all are at risk due to the lack of stable, sustainable funding for land maintenance.

The state budget crisis has left its mark on an array of important state services, including state lands. As state revenues declined during the current recession, state General Fund support to the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has been slashed by 33 % in the current 2009-11 biennium. More cuts are expected in the coming 2011-13 biennium.

This budget crisis has taken a toll on WDFW's ability to care for the 900,000 acres of recreational land and 700 water-access sites the agency manages. WDFW's land operation and management budget has been cut by nearly \$2 million over the past several years, from \$10.8 million to an anticipated \$8 million next biennium. As state revenues continue to decline those cuts could grow deeper.

"Even before the budget crisis, we faced a backlog of maintenance needs on state lands, including weed control, habitat restoration, fencing, visitor facilities and other infrastructure needs," said WDFW Lands Program Manager Jennifer Quan. "We recruit volunteers for some of this work, but we still need to fund equipment, materials and professional staff to coordinate projects.

Unless new funding sources can be found to address critical operation and maintenance needs, some of these recreation lands face closure.

Over 5.6 million acres of state recreation lands managed by the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) face similar threats. The Sustainable Recreation Work Group, a citizen panel created by the Washington Legislature in 2008, recognized the need for a long-term, dedicated funding source for maintenance of state recreation lands. Based on this panel's recommendations, DNR proposed legislation in the 2010 legislative session to have the ability to charge an access fee. The proposed legislation made it through the house but ran out of time in the Senate.

For the 2011 legislative session, the DNR and WDFW are jointly proposing new legislation to create stable, dedicated funding for state recreation lands. The legislative proposal includes several key features:

- An increase in the portion of Washington's gas tax revenues available to DNR, WDFW, and Washington State Parks for managing recreation lands for boaters, snowmobilers, and off-road vehicle riders. The proposal would calculate the one percent refund on the full 37.5-cent-per-gallon gas tax base, rather than at the current 22 cent-per-gallon rate, beginning in 2013. The gas tax refund change would provide about \$250,000 annually in new funds for WDFW lands.
- An "Explore Washington Pass" for access to WDFW and DNR lands. This pass would replace WDFW's current annual vehicle-use permit. Under the proposal, annual lands access pass would be \$40 for general users age 19 and older, or \$5 for those purchasing fishing or hunting licenses or a watchable-wildlife package. Short-term passes would be available at \$20 for a three-day pass; \$15 for a two-day pass; and \$10 for a one-day pass. The passes would be sold through WDFW's existing WILD recreational licensing system. Revenue from the new pass, estimated at \$5.5 million annually, would be split between WDFW and DNR for land management capital, operational, maintenance and enforcement needs.
- A \$10 increase in the cost of personalized license plates (raising the cost of new plates from \$42 to \$52, and renewals from \$32 to \$42 annually). The change would generate an estimated \$1.3 million in additional revenue each biennium, dedicated to habitat work for threatened and endangered species on WDFW lands.
- Provisions that would allow WDFW and DNR to jointly enforce land use regulations, and would allow the agencies to seek restitution from those who damage state lands.

Comments on this legislative proposal can be emailed to explore@dnr.wa.gov. Updates on the funding proposal will be available through future Landline news notes and on WDFW's website.

Detailed information about recreational opportunities on WDFW Wildlife Areas can be found at http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/.

Water access sites (boat launch) information can be found at http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_access/.

.TALKING POINTS for "Sustainable Funding" by Martha Jordan, of The Trumpeter Swan Society, on page 7.



**TALKING POINTS: for the “Sustainable Funding Proposed for State Lands
by Martha Jordan of The Trumpeter Swan Society**

- The **current Vehicle Use Permit (VUP)** is \$14 per car and it may be used on two different vehicles with additional permits \$5 per each additional vehicle.
Currently you get a **VUP** free with any hunting or fishing license purchase.
- The **New Proposal: A \$40 fee** for anyone 19 and older will be required. This is a change from the current WDFW vehicle permit, this is a per person fee ~ a substantial increase in fees for a single person and even more for a family.
- A **proposed \$10** increase in vanity plate fees.

The above is simply not a sustainable format to raise money. The proposed fees are too high in an economy that is struggling. People need to have places to rest, relax, and recreate. We need to keep fees financially viable, but not in a manner that creates financial hardship. Funding for WDFW is complex with fish funds, wildlife funds, and the commercial license funding sides. Also there are Watchable Wildlife Decal Packages (another way to get a VUP today), and general funding through legislature (now being cut more and more).

Currently the hunter/fisher buys a license, while the birdwatcher, dog walker, or hiker pays nothing on state lands. This is not sustainable in today’s economy. We need to have a Conservation permit, just not for \$40. To be sure, funding for WDFW is going to take a huge cut in the legislative session. State Parks is already been told 30%. There is no easy answer, but a \$40 fee per person is simply not an answer to sustain our land and wildlife resources.

*****Sunday, January 2, 2011 - Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count*****

It is time once again for the annual **Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count**. Put the date **Sunday January 2** on your calendar! Then contact Bob Barry, 360-299-8443, dabarrybest@frontier.com to let him know you’re ready to take part in this important citizen science project.
Help in this gathering of otherwise unknown data!
(See bottom right hand column page 5 for more details.)

A Peregrine in Hand
Photo by Ron Pera



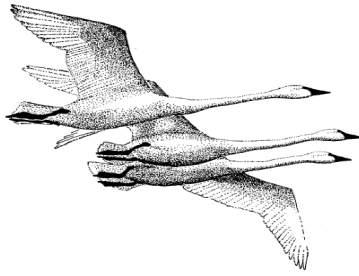
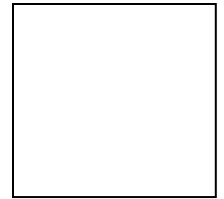
A Crack in the Earth
Chilean Earthquake
Photo from Bud Anderson



A Beached Chilean ATV
Photo from Bud Anderson



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Check your
address label
for membership
expiration date!

December 2010 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov. 28	Nov. 30	Nov. 30	1 Hiking: East Shore Lake Whatcom	2	3	4 Field Trip: Rockport and Vicinity
5	6	7 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00	8 Hiking: Deception Pass Area	9	10	11 Field Trip: "Lake District" Birding
12	13	14 General Meeting: Potluck 6:00 PM/ Program 7:30 PM	15 Hiking: Western Wash. University	16	17	18 Christmas Bird Count: North Cascades National Park Deadline SAS Jan & Feb Flyers
19	20	21	22 Hiking: Padilla Bay Shore Trail	23	24	25 Christmas
26	27	28	29 Hiking: Interurban Trail	30	31 New Year's Eve	Jan. 1, 2011 New Year's Day
Jan. 2, 2011 Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count	Jan. 3, 2011	Jan. 4, 2011	Jan. 5, 2011 Hiking: Fragrance Lake	Jan. 6, 2011	Jan. 7, 2011	Jan. 8, 2011

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at www.skagitaudubon.org

The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

