

# The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

[www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org)

Vol.30 No. 2

## FEBRUARY 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](mailto: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.

### Saturday a.m., February 5 Port Susan Bay: Estuary Food Chain Bald Eagles, Shorebirds, Waterfowl

The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of February is the annual Arlington Bald Eagle Festival with birding at Port Susan Bay, a salt

Field Trips continued on page 7

## FEBRUARY MEETING AND PROGRAM

### Back by Popular Demand Picture Potpourri By Skagit Audubon Members

Tuesday, February 8, 2011  
7:00 Social, 7:30 Program  
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center  
10433 Bayview-Edison Road  
Mount Vernon, Washington



**Masked Booby Feeding Young  
Galapagos Islands**

Photo by Jackie Boss

*This February 8<sup>th</sup> we will be sharing our favorite nature photos to give a collective view of how the Skagit Audubon Society members have viewed nature, both here and abroad.*

*We have had some fine photos donated already but there is room for more. Libby Mills is gathering the submitted digital photos and making a "slide show" of them for projection. Libby knows more photographers among you, so please don't be shy ~ show your work to your friends and fellow nature lovers.*

Please email Libby Mills at [libbymills@gmail.com](mailto:libbymills@gmail.com) to submit up to five images. If you are shooting a film camera, your slides are welcome and we will show them on a slide projector. Please contact Libby to tell her if you will bring slides. A special request to participate goes out to all junior members who love photography. This show is open to **EVERYBODY**. We look forward to an evening of sharing among the membership. It's not a contest, just a show! Thanks for participating!



**SKAGIT AUDUBON**  
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[msibishop@hotmail.com](mailto:msibishop@hotmail.com)



**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/](http://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](http://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](mailto:skagitmembers@gmail.com).



The December *Skagit Flyer's* message prompted Martha Jordan of the Trumpeter Swan Society to send an article written by Jim King for the Juneau Audubon Society in 1986. Now retired from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Jim was a pilot biologist who pioneered aerial swan surveys in Alaska, and he is one of the founding members of the Trumpeter Swan Society. Twenty-five years after its first publication, Jim King's article bears reading for its foresight. Take a look and reflect on how protected lands and continuing agriculture work together today in the Skagit to support robust wintering populations of trumpeter and tundra swans and snow geese. How have we done in the last quarter century providing for the needs of these birds we all value? Will the county's Envision Skagit 2060 planning, growth management, and other regulations and plans ensure continuation of the Skagit as a refuge for these species? That's certainly Audubon's goal.

### MORE BIRD REFUGES NEEDED IN VANGENE

Jim King, April 1986, written for Juneau Audubon Society

"When freeze up drives clouds of geese and swans from virgin Alaskan nesting marshes, many must fly hundreds of miles over inhospitable forest and coast before reaching the green Eden that lies west of the Cascade Mountains. Lowland valleys of the Fraser, Skagit, Columbia, Willamette and a dozen smaller rivers may hold the best winter goose habitat in America. Once heavily forested and heavily hunted by pioneers, these valleys were not always hospitable for large water birds. The native Trumpeter Swans and Canada Geese were largely exterminated. Eventually agricultural practices provided a new source of sustenance for these lordly creatures. The moist winter climate and extensive grass and pasture lands are ideal for grazing birds. Geese and swans are becoming more and more winter dependent on the northwest as water quality and wetlands in the southwest continue to decline.

"Places where grass is always green attract people too. The megalopolis spreading in the narrow slot from Vancouver, British Columbia to Eugene, Oregon is turning into a super city one might call VanGene. In Vancouver, Seattle, Portland and many smaller cities the spreading population of VanGene is over three million and rising. Urbanization nibbles here and gobbles there at farmlands and floodplains that sustain waterfowl. Sandwiched between high mountains and sea,

VanGene's farmlands are endangered and may soon be absorbed by the massive developing city.

People of VanGene are planning ahead for open space/recreation needs and public parks and forests are abounding in the surrounding mountains. The entire Columbia Gorge is being acquired for a National Recreation Area. No such program is directed at saving the remaining floodplain/pasturelands of the lower Columbia. National organizations that purchase or lobby for wilderness, wild land and scenic preservation have no agenda for protection of agricultural land even where it is essential for birds.

"With geese and swans responding to better wildlife management and farmlands decreasing, painful conflicts are inevitable as birds try to make do on golf courses, city parks and other places where they may not be welcome or safe.

"The super city of VanGene needs some superduper waterfowl refuges. Farmland is for sale now next to the small State refuge on Sauvie Island, next to the tiny Finley Refuge in the Willamette, in the scarce Trumpeter Swan habitat of the Skagit and elsewhere. Much of the floodplain habitat, now used for cattle, is still intact and perhaps available for public acquisition. An inventory and acquisition plan is needed right now.

"The Alaska National Interest Lands Act of 1980 established some 50 million acres of prime waterfowl nesting habitat as National Wildlife Refuges but commensurate wintering space is still undedicated. Waterfowl numbers are down. Their winter habitat is failing. Even National Wildlife Refuges, once deemed safe in perpetuity, are being lost as at Utah's Bear River NWR and California's Kesterson NWR. Alaska has the nesting potential to restore the great western waterfowl populations when adequate, safe, wintering capacity is available. Could VanGene spare a half million acres for wintering waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway? That would be less than a one hundredth part (1/100<sup>th</sup>) of the land now dedicated for nesting waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway.

"So, people of VanGene, as you thrive in the next few decades and multiply to 6, 12, 24 million strong, round out your new environmental paradise by making some superlative places for waterfowl. It will cost you little, you will benefit greatly, and your descendants will eulogize you for it."



# SKAGIT AUDUBON FEBRUARY 2010 HIKING SCHEDULE By Joan Melcher

Winter hiking continues in February with four hikes. Unexpected circumstances such as weather, logging, wash-outs, construction, or road conditions may cause cancellations or changes in the following hikes. A hike will be canceled if there are high wind warnings, flooding conditions, or snowy or icy road conditions. If you have questions or want information on any of the hikes, call JOAN MELCHER, 360-424-0407, or e-mail [jdmelcher@comcast.net](mailto: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.

**FEBRUARY 2 LUMMI ISLAND:** Walk a 7 mile loop on the north end of Lummi Island. The hike provides island, sea, and mountain views. A \$4 foot-passenger ferry fare is required. The hike is mostly level. Thus walking shoes are recommended. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the I-5/Cook Road Park-n-Ride. There is no specified return time, although most will take the 1 p.m. ferry back.

**FEBRUARY 9 SUGAR CUBE AND WHISTLE LAKE:** Terry Slotemaker (360-293-6514) 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. in the Heart Lake parking lot off the Heart Lake Road south of Anacortes. Return time to the trailhead at 1:30 p.m.

**FEBRUARY 16 CAMANO ISLAND:** Friends of Camano Island Parks (FOCIP), will lead us on hikes on Camano Island. The hike is up to 11.9 miles with shorter options available. Lunch is provided with a suggested donation of \$2. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the S.E. corner of the Mount Vernon Safeway parking lot or at 8:30 a.m. at the Blue Camano Center Building on East Camano Drive. There will be a brief orientation there. Restrooms will be available. We will first hike the Camano Ridge trails, then move to the Ivy Drylake Road cul-de-sac, where hikes from there can include Cama Beach trails and Camano Island State Park trails. A shuttle will be available.

**FEBRUARY 23 LORD HILL:** Hike trails in this Snohomish County park, up to 11 miles, with a several hundred ft. elevation gain. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the Mount Vernon Safeway parking lot or at the trailhead about 9:15 a.m. From Hwy. 9, south of Snohomish, turn east onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. In one mile turn right onto Lincoln Ave, which becomes the Old Snohomish-Monroe Hwy. After 2.7 miles turn right, south, onto 127<sup>TH</sup> Ave. SE and proceed 1.6 miles to park entrance and trailhead. You may leave when your car load of people is back to the trailhead.

**March 2 LILY LAKE LOOP:** Hike the Lily Lake Trail to Lily Lake and North Butte on Blanchard Mountain. Return to trail head via Max's Shortcut and the Larry Reed Trail. The hike makes an 8.5 mile loop, with a 1,600 ft. total elevation gain. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the I-5/Cook Road Park-n-Ride. Return to the trailhead at 2:30 p.m.

## Port Susan Snow Goose & Birding Festival Stanwood, WA ~ February 26 & 27

For information about the array of birding tours, seminars and special events you can enjoy at this festival, go to <http://www.snowgoosefest.org/Home.html>

Call for volunteers to help host the exhibits & help with the arts & crafts projects. Call Melanie Serroels: 425-503-8415

## Numbers to Call

Report poaching or other wildlife crimes:  
Emergencies ~ Incidents in progress: **911**  
Non-emergencies.~ Poaching Hotline  
Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife  
**1-877-933-9847**

Report injured or dead swans: **1-360-466-4345 x266**



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](mailto: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)

**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 Dahlstedt 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



**Waved Albatross**  
 Photo by Jackie Boss



**Snowy Owl**  
 Photo by J. B. Smith



**Black-capped Chickadee**  
 Photo by J. B. Smith



## *Looking for an Inspired Skagit Audubon Society Member!!! ~ Could it be you???*

National Audubon is forwarding the following information on a funding opportunity that might fit well with urban Important Bird Areas or other neighborhood outreach projects.

### **Call for Mini-Grant Applicants**

*Funds help organizers create fun neighborhood events*

Ithaca, NY--The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "Celebrate Urban Birds" project is now accepting applications for another round of mini-grants. Grants average \$250-\$500 and are used to fund neighborhood events that promote an appreciation for birds and nature.

Neighborhood events or projects feature activities involving birds, community service, art, greening, and science. Participants collect simple information about common birds and report to the Cornell Lab. Celebrate Urban Birds mini-grants could be used to support a bird-activity day at a local museum, afterschool program, library, or community center, or fund art and gardening activities at your club, business, school, senior center, or neighborhood.

To apply for a mini-grant, visit [www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org](http://www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org). Organizations working with underserved communities are strongly encouraged to apply. No experience with birds is required.

Deadline to apply is Feb. 15, 2011

Celebrate Urban Birds is a free, year-round citizen science project in which participants watch birds in their neighborhoods and report what they see. This information helps scientists better understand how birds survive in cities and make use of green spaces, including parks and gardens.

Contact: Karen Purcell, Project Leader, (607) 254-2455, [urbanbirds@cornell.edu](mailto:urbanbirds@cornell.edu)

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## **2011 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

**Save the dates: Friday, February 18 through Monday, February 21, 2011**

### ***2010 Great Backyard Bird Count Highlights***

*By Robert Petty, Audubon; Marshall Iliff, Cornell Lab, Brian Sullivan, Cornell Lab; Dick Cannings, Bird Studies Canada*

#### **Overview**

The 2010 Great Backyard Bird Count broke another participation record--bird watchers across the continent and Hawaii set a new record by submitting more than 97,200 checklists--a nearly 4% increase over last year. Checklists came in from all 50 states in the U.S. and from all 10 provinces and 3 territories of Canada. Participants reported 602 species in 11.2 million individual bird observations. Patterns detected in GBBC data are used to alert scientists to particular species or questions that may require more detailed follow up studies.

#### **Early Migrating Species**

Mid-February is an interesting time for a bird count. The count is timed on the cusp of migration for many early migrants. And it is that window of transition that affords an opportunity to pick up changes in those early treks northward.

Some species showed dramatic increases in numbers from past years. For example, although the number of states reporting Tree Swallows was down from 25 in 2009 to 20 this year, the number of individuals reported increased nearly four-fold, from 22,431 to 84,585. Whether this is a result of warmer temperatures and earlier migrations is not yet clear.

#### **Range Shifts**

One of the great benefits of the GBBC is that it creates an instant snapshot of the status of all birds across an entire continent and in Hawaii. Over the course of many years, these valuable data can reveal patterns and trends.

For example, the introduction and expansion of the Eurasian Collared-Dove from the Caribbean, to Florida, to a wide swath of North America is clearly illustrated in the GBBC data--in 1999, just over 1,000 doves were reported in nine states; this year more than 14,000 doves were found in 39 states. Some of that change is due to an increase in the number of birders participating in GBBC, but still the pattern is strong.

*For more information see: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html>*



**Pt. Susan and other Field Trips continued from page 1**

marsh estuary and pond just south of the Skagit Delta. Libby Mills will lead early birders out on the Nature Conservancy's property to look for all kinds of birds from 8-10. From 10 to 12 those who wish to stay longer and share their scopes will become the volunteer helpers for the eagle festival to teach festival visitors some of the birds they are watching! This is a good place to see Trumpeter Swans in the estuary and Snow Geese working the fields and bay. We'll meet in Stanwood at 8:00 a.m. and carpool to the property. Bring snacks and hot drinks, rain or wind gear to wear.

Please contact leader Libby Mills if you plan to come. She will email you a map to our carpool spot at the north end of Marine Drive at Stanwood, just south of highway 532.

Leader Libby Mills at 360-708-6975 or [libbymills@gmail.com](mailto:libbymills@gmail.com))

**Sunday, February 13**

**Sharpe Park on Fidalgo Island**

**8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or so**

An easy walking trail goes to the pond at Sharpe Park with a chance to see wood ducks and other colorful waterfowl. There will be passerines to seek as well. Let's meet at 8:30 a.m. and dress weather appropriately. This will be a short trip of two to three hours with a possible side trip to little Mud Lake or if enough are interested, we may hop down to Rosario Head. Meet in the parking lot at Sharpe Park on Rosario Road.

Anacortes folks can get there by coming out Havekost Rd. continuing south to Sharpe Park. Folks coming from the mainland follow Rt. 20, taking the turn at the light which goes to Whidbey Island, continuing south to Campbell Lake Road. Turn right here and go past Campbell Lake veering left at the little store. At the Y take Rosario Road south for a couple of miles to the parking lot. Leader: Contact leader Ivar Dolph, at email: [pidolph@frontier.com](mailto:pidolph@frontier.com)

**Saturday, February 19**

**Samish Flats**

**8:30 a.m. to early afternoon**

Birders come from afar to experience the wonders of Samish Flats, right in our own front yard. Numerous and varied raptors, waterfowl, and shorebirds are just part of what's possible here. Don't let the winter pass without a detailed look around the flats. A drive-and-bird field trip to raptor-rich Samish Flats with a possible excursion to other hot spots nearby. Bring a lunch if you plan to continue into the afternoon. Spotting scopes will be particularly useful. Meet in the parking lot of the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center to arrange carpools. If you have one, please bring your WDFW Vehicle Use Permit for parking at the West-90. Contact leader Tim Manns at 360-336-8753 or [bctm@fidalgo.net](mailto:bctm@fidalgo.net)

**Saturday, February 26**

**Kiket Island—"Kukulali Reserve"**

**8 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Skagit Audubon will have a turn to visit the most recent addition to the State Park around Deception Pass.

Accompanied by a State Park Ranger we'll do a bird survey and walk around parts of the reserve currently open to the public. The trip is limited to 12 people at a time. If there is a big response to our offering we will run two two-hour trips back to back. Please sign up for this free trip with Libby Mills, [libbymills@gmail.com](mailto:libbymills@gmail.com) or 360-757-4139. Further details will follow in a reminder mail late in the month of February.

**February 26 – 27, 2011**

**Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival**

For two days the people of Stanwood will be the hosts to another winter birding opportunity. A number of field trips are listed on their website and some may require pre-registration. Though not affiliated with our club, we list this to alert members. Includes opportunities to visit Port Susan Bay. Please go to the web link below for details

<http://www.snowgoosefest.org/Home.html>

*There is also a call for volunteers to help host the exhibits & help with the arts & crafts projects.*

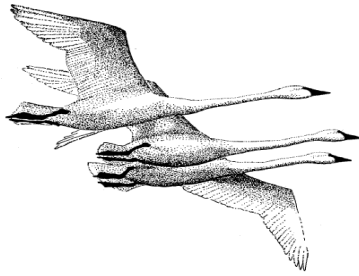
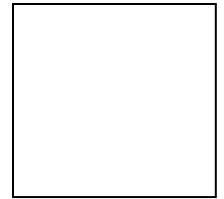
*Please call Melanie Serroels: 425-503-8415*

**Proposed Consolidation of State Natural Resource Agencies**

In December, Governor Gregoire proposed consolidation of natural resource agencies to improve efficiency and lower costs. Prominent among the changes would be combining the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and Washington State Parks along with several other functions into a new Department of Conservation and Recreation. At present a different commission oversees each of these two agencies. Under the consolidation plan, the commissions would still exist but have an advisory role while supervision of the new agency would be by the Governor. Would the distinctly different missions of these agencies be fulfilled better under consolidation? Would their somewhat different publics be better or worse served? The very small estimated savings are not enough to drive the decision. A summary of the proposal for this and other changes to state government is at [http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/budget/consolidate\\_services.pdf](http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/budget/consolidate_services.pdf). See what you think.



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## February 2011 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan. 30	Jan. 31	1 <b>SAS Board Meeting:</b> 7:00	2 <b>Hiking:</b> Lummi Island	3	4	5 <b>Field Trip:</b> Port Susan Bay: Estuary Food Chain
6	7	8 <b>SAS General Meeting:</b> Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	9 <b>Hiking:</b> Sugar Cube and Whistle Lake	10	11	12 "
13 <b>Field Trip:</b> Sharpe Park on Fidalgo Island	14	15	16 <b>Hiking:</b> Camano Island	17	18	19 <b>Field Trip:</b> Samish Flats  <b>Deadline</b> SAS March Flyer
20	21	22	23 <b>Hiking:</b> Lord Hill	24	25	26 <b>Field Trip:</b> Kiket Island Port Susan Snow Goose & Birding Festival
27 Port Susan Snow Goose & Birding Festival	28	March 1	March 2 <b>Hiking:</b> Lilly Lake Loop	March 3	March 4	March 5

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at [www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org)

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