

# The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

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

Vol. 31 No. 5

## MAY FIELD TRIPS

By Libby Mills

### ONE Discover Pass Can Be Used for Two Vehicles

The annual Discover Pass is now transferable between two vehicles. For passes already printed, use **ink** to legibly write in a second license number, either in the license plate box or in a blank spot on the front of the pass. In the future, passes will be printed with two lines for license numbers. The pass is still only good for one vehicle at a time.

Field trip attendees need to purchase the **Discover Pass**, issued by the state for parking on State Lands including State Parks, (Deception Pass, Bay View, Larrabee, Birch Bay) Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife lands like the Skagit Wildlife Area and the West 90, as well as Dept. of Natural Resources lands. (Chuckanuts, Blanchard Mountain).

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

The passes are issued for a single day (\$10) or as an annual pass (\$30 - \$35) good for 365 days from day of issue. The new pass has become an essential fee in funding our State Parks for our day use, as well as other state lands.

### About the field trips

Beginning birders 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

Field Trips continued on page 5

## MAY MEETING AND PROGRAM

### Seeking Swifts

By Larry Schwitters

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

7:00 Social; 7:30 Program

Padilla Bay Interpretive Center

10441 Bayview-Edison Road

Mount Vernon, Washington



Five years ago Larry Schwitters, in conjunction with Pilchuck Audubon, started the Vaux's Happening project to learn more about the migratory Vaux's Swift and document its important roost sites. During the last eight migrations, over 100 volunteer observers have noted nearly 3.5 million Vaux's Swift roostings at more than 100 suspected roost sites in 5 states and Canada. Larry initiated counts at the very busy Old Northern State Hospital roost site in Sedro-Woolley and led the way in saving the very significant roost at the Monroe Wagner Elementary School. Cameras mounted inside this chimney have recorded and live streamed the secret lives of these fascinating birds.

Larry will talk about Vaux's Happening and share what has been learned about this very interesting bird ([vauxhappening.org](http://vauxhappening.org)).

Larry Schwitters holds a Masters of Science degree and spent 30 years in public education, mostly as a middle school science teacher and coach. Over the last 10 years he has become Washington's Swift Expert. His current Audubon Vaux's Happening project has brought public awareness and preservation efforts to these special little birds all across Western North America.



## SKAGIT AUDUBON

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**Yellow-rumped Warbler  
(Audubon Race)**

Photo by Joe Halton

## 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)*



## PRESIDENT'S MAY MESSAGE:

By Tim Manns

When Skagit Land Trust was just a few years old, several land donations and a small grant protected 100 acres of Barney Lake and adjacent uplands. Right at Mount Vernon's eastern edge, this several hundred-acre collection of wetlands, forest, and grassy fields is a bit challenging for people to reach but enormously attractive and accessible to waterfowl and other birds. For over ten years now, Brenda and I have regularly visited Barney Lake as volunteer land stewards for the Trust. We've seen first hand how important this place at the urban fringe is for the Skagit's abundant birdlife. When Trumpeter Swans first reappeared in Skagit County after an absence of many years, it was Barney Lake to which they came. Now more numerous in our area than in any other U.S. wintering spot, Trumpeters feed at Barney Lake and shelter there at night in the company of great numbers of ducks and geese. In recent years, attracted by this abundance, 3 pairs of Bald Eagles have been nesting around the lake. Many other bird species use this complex of wetland, fields, and uplands near the junction of the Nookachamps River's two branches.

As development proceeds, a time of threat arrives for every place we hold dear. These are the times we especially need to step up in defense of what we value and of the inheritance we hope to leave generations to come. If we want an abundance of Great Blue Herons, we need to protect the heronries where they nest and the bays and fields where they feed. If we want to live amidst Bald Eagles, we need to protect their nest trees and other key elements of their habitat. So it goes for each species. Protecting Barney Lake protects key habitat for charismatic swans and numerous other birds and creatures which collectively add to our quality of life. Beyond that, preserving such important habitat helps fulfill our moral obligation to live in awareness that we are one species among many and need to share the earth we so often think of as ours alone.

Why choose Barney Lake for this month's topic? An opportunity is upon us, one that won't recur. Of the wetlands and grassy fields at Barney Lake, 255 acres are up for sale. Years of work by Land Trust staff and a partnership with Ducks Unlimited have yielded a grant under the North American Wetland Conservation Act for much of the roughly \$1 million purchase price. What remains to be done is raising \$200,000 to complete the job and prevent development that would degrade the quality of this rare remnant of natural freshwater wetland. Visit Skagit Land Trust's website for details about this important project ([skagitlandtrust.org](http://skagitlandtrust.org)) or call 360/428-7878. The purchase-and-sale agreement in hand allows only until this October to raise the funds. Please help if you can.

### Welcome New National Audubon Members

**The Skagit Audubon Society** welcomes new National Audubon Society members by sending complimentary copies of our newsletter for 3 months. Join us at our monthly programs on the second Tuesday of the month.

National dues do not cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, so if you'd like to receive *The Skagit Flyer* after the complementary 3 issues, please join **The Skagit Audubon Society**.

Visit our Web site at: [www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org)



# 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 for the June Flyer to:  
[ppritzl@frontier.com](mailto:ppritzl@frontier.com) or 360-387-7024.

## WATERFOWL

**Greater White-fronted Goose** 35 on Samish Flats from 3-18-23-12 (OG); 38 on Sullivan Rd, Samish Flats on 4-11-12 (JB); 50+ over Butler Flats on 4-13-12 (BC)

## GREBES

**Pied-billed Grebe** 2 on Saddlebag Mountain on 3-25-12 (GB)

## RAPTORS

**Rough-legged Hawk** 1 at Eide Road, Stanwood on 4-15-12 (JP, TM)

## SHOREBIRDS

**Black-bellied Plover** 7 in breeding plumage on District Line Road, Burlington on 4-16-12 (JW)

**Greater Yellowlegs** at Iverson Spit on 4-9-12 (SP)

**Lesser Yellowlegs** 3 at Estes Road, north of Edison on 4-11-12 (JB)

**Whimbrel** heard flock on District Line Road, Burlington on 4-9-12 (JW)

**Surfbird** 3 on Williamson's Rocks 3-17-12 (GB)

**Dunlin** 10 at Wylie Slough (some in breeding plumage) on 4-15-12 (JP, TM); 19 in breeding plumage on District Line Road, Burlington on 4-16-12 (JW)

**Short-billed Dowitcher** 3 at Wylie Slough on 4-15-12 (JP, TM)

**Long-billed Dowitcher** 3 at Edison on 3-17-12 (GB)

**Wilson's Snipe** 6 at Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley on 4-5-12 (TM)

## TERNs

**Caspian Tern** at Iverson Spit on 4-9-12 (SP)

## ALCIDS

**Marbled Murrelet** 2 in breeding plumage at Deception Pass SP on 4-11-12 (JB)

## DOVES, PIGEONS

**Band-tailed Pigeon** 5 at Corkindale on 4-14-12 (GB)

## OWLS

**Barn Owl** babies begging for food in nest box near District Line Road, Burlington during April (JW)



Anna's Hummingbird  
Photo by Joe Halton

## HUMMINGBIRDS

### Anna's Hummingbird

1 at Cap Sante Marina on 3-17-12 (GB)

## SHRIKES

**Northern Shrike** 1 at Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro Woolley on 4-5-12 (TM)

## VIREOS

**Hutton's Vireo** 1 at Camano Island home on 3-23-12 and 4-19-12 (PP)

## SWALLOWS

**Cliff Swallow** 1 at Wylie Slough on 4-15-12 (TM)

## THRUSHES

**Mountain Bluebird** 2 at Northern State Recreation Area. Sedro-Woolley on 4-5-12 (TM); 8 at Corkindale on 4-14-12 (GB); 8 at Corkindale on 4-14-12 (GB); 4 at Marblemount Boat Launch on 4-14-12 (GB); 1 on Concrete-Sauk Valley Road on 4-14-12 (GB)

## WARBLERS

**Orange-crowned Warbler** 1 on Lincoln Hill, Mt. Vernon on 4-8-12 (BC); 1 at Camano Island home 4-14-12 to present (PP)

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** 1 "Audubon" race at suet feeder in Anacortes on 4-7-12 (JaB)

**Common Yellowthroat** 3 at Martin Road on 4-14-12 (GB); 4 at Eide Road on 4-15-12 (JP, TM)

## SPARROWS

**Brewer's Sparrow** 1 at Diablo Lake on 4-14-12 (GB)

**Lincoln's Sparrow** 5 at Eide Road, Stanwood on 4-15-12 (JP, TM); one singing on 4-16-12 on District Line Road, Burlington on 4-16-12 (JW)

**White-throated Sparrow** 1 near Cockreham Island on 3-21-12 (GB)

**White-crowned Sparrow** at feeder on Camano Island (SP)

**Lazuli Bunting** 1 on Martin Road, Rockport on 3-23-12 (JD)

## FINCHES, WEAVER FINCH

**American Goldfinch** several in breeding plumage a feeder on Camano Island (SP)

(JaB) Jackie Boss; (JB) Joan Bird; (BC) Brenda Cunningham; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (JD) John Day; (OG) Oscar Graham; (TM) Tim Manns; (JP) Josh Parrott; (SP) Sheila Pera; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (JW) Jan Wiggers.



## Field Trips continued from page 1

any changes and/or additions to the field trip schedule. To be added to the email distribution list, contact Libby Mills at [libbymills@gmail.com](mailto:libbymills@gmail.com)

**If you plan to join a field trip other than at the described starting point, call the leader the day before to ensure a successful rendezvous.** Trip plans may change!

### Friday – Sunday, May 4-6, 2012 Gray's Harbor Shorebird Festival

This is a wonderful bird migration event every year. Find all information on field trips, lectures, events, activities, and best tides for shorebird observation at [shorebirdfestival.com/](http://shorebirdfestival.com/).

### Sunday, May 6 Washington Park, West of Anacortes Spring Wildflowers

**9:00 a.m. to Noon**  
Walk around the perimeter of Washington Park, about 2.5 miles, using trails where possible and the roads in between, searching for plants and wildflowers in their spring bloom on this rocky point. Flowers range from blue camas to yellow monkeyflower, tiger lily to delicate orchids. Join wildflower enthusiast and photographer Barbara Kiver for this leisurely walk and discussion of the plants and some of their ethnobotanical tales.

Meet at the parking area to the right as you drive into Washington Park, the other side of the speed bumps. The walk will begin at 9 a.m. and be about three hours long. Bring water, snacks, and a lunch if desired. Birds may join us along the way!

**Leader, Barbara Kiver, [froghollow@sisna.com](mailto:froghollow@sisna.com)**

### Saturday, May 12 Spring Migratory Bird Count

This is the date set aside for the North American Migration Count. Once again, Skagit County will be one of the three counties in our state which continues to participate. If you would like to be a part of this count, please contact Gary Bletsch. "It's all the fun of the Christmas bird count without the chilblains," as Gary likes to say. Please contact Gary early

to get on a team for the day. **Coordinator/Leader: Gary Bletsch, 360-826-3750 or [garybletsch@yahoo.com](mailto:garybletsch@yahoo.com)**

### Saturday, May 19 Vaux Swift Migration Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro-Woolley 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

During migration, Vaux's Swifts roost for the night in the 120 foot smokestack at former Northern State Hospital in Sedro-Woolley. Last fall, nightly counts found more swifts using this spot than at any other known roost site in the western U.S. As night falls, potentially thousands of swifts converge above the stack, swirling about before diving in. We have permission to watch from the grounds of the former state hospital, and we hope that our chosen date coincides with both clear weather and many swifts. On prime evenings, this is one of Skagit's great avian phenomena.

Bring binoculars, a folding chair, spotting scope (optional), and flashlight. Dress for the weather. Meet in front of the National Park Service/U.S. Forest Service office in Sedro-Woolley (810 State Route 20, just west of where Highway 9 turns north) at 7:15 p.m. to arrange carpools. **Leader: Tim Manns 360-336-8753 or [bctm@fidalgo.net](mailto:bctm@fidalgo.net)**

### Saturday, May 26 Upper Skagit River Songbirding 7:00 a.m. to Mid-day

Come bird the peak of spring activity with upriver songbirds, with Jan and Keith Wiggers. Meet in Sedro-Woolley at the Food Pavilion parking lot's southeast corner to carpool a 7:00 a.m. (remember birds don't sleep in in May!). This will be a good opportunity to learn some songs of nesting birds as well as observing interesting behaviors in our colorful, migratory species. Bring a lunch and drinks. Plan to be out until mid-afternoon seeking songbirds in some of the best birders' haunts of the lovely upper Skagit Valley. Dress for the weather and enjoy the holiday weekend without the crowds of camping out.

**Leaders: Jan and Keith Wiggers, [jkwiggers@gmail.com](mailto:jkwiggers@gmail.com)  
cell phone: 360-540-3464**

### YOU ARE INVITED TO THE WENAS CAMPOUT, May 25-28, 2012

**For four decades Audubon families have spent Memorial Day weekend at the Wenas Creek Campground.**

Named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary, it's located SW of Ellensburg, in an "Important Bird Area" and has been assured protective status by the Washington Dept. of Natural Resources. The "primitive" campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades. Wonderful field trips are scheduled, and there will be an old-fashioned campfire in our "approved" firepit device each evening. We do story telling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Visit Webmaster Michael Hobbs' beautiful **Wenas Website, [www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org)**, to see lots of downloadable information. There are bird & wildflower checklists, field trip & program descriptions, and more.

**Every vehicle will be required to have a "Discover Pass."**

Doris Johnson, [dellenj@comcast.net](mailto:dellenj@comcast.net); Helen Engle, [hengle@iinet.com](mailto:hengle@iinet.com)



Hikes in May will take us from the North Cascades National Park to the shores of Puget Sound. As usual, weather, logging, construction or other unexpected conditions might cause changes or cancellations in the following hikes. **Call JOAN MELCHER 360-424-0407 or email at [jdmelcher@comcast.net](mailto:jdmelcher@comcast.net)** for information on or questions about the following hikes. 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.

### **MAY 2 THUNDER CREEK**

Hike up to 12 miles round trip and up to a 1,000 ft. 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.**

### **MAY 9 EBEBY'S LANDING AND THE KETTLES AT FORT EBEBY STATE PARK**

Today's hike will be done in two sections. Each car of hikers will be its own group, so plan on riding with others who will do the same hikes you do. The first hike will be a 3.6 mile loop hike up the bluff, down to the beach, and back to the cars. There will be a low tide of -3 feet about noon. One can add 2 miles to this hike by walking to the cemetery and back. The next hike will be a self-guided hike on the Kettles trails near Fort Ebey State Park. Miles hiked here depend on the individual. There should be wild rhododendrons in bloom. **Meet at 9 a.m.** at the March Point Park-n-Ride. (At the stop light at the intersection of HWY 20 and the Christianson and March Point Roads, turn RIGHT and then an immediate RIGHT turn onto the frontage road and soon turn LEFT into the Park-n-Ride.) **OR meet at Ebey's Landing at 9:45 a.m.** Discover Pass required to park at Fort Ebey State Park.

### **MAY 16 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 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.

### **MAY 23 SKAGIT RIVER GORGE**

The trail below the Ross Dam Trailhead to the base of Ross Dam is still closed due to a huge rock slide that occurred last year. Therefore this hike will begin and end near the North Cascade Institute above Diablo Dam. Hike 2.6 miles (about 800 ft. total elevation gain) east to the Ross Dam View Point near the power lines or 3.6 miles (about 1,600 ft. total elevation gain) east to the Skagit River. There are great views of the Skagit River Gorge along the way. There should be wild flowers. **Meet at 8:00 a.m.** on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. **Return to cars by 2:00 p.m.** Be sure to check for ticks on your body after the hike.

### **MAY 30 ORCAS ISLAND**

The hike is 8 or more miles and up to a 1,600 ft. elevation gain. Several hike options will be available in Moran State Park. **Meet at 9 a.m.** at the March Point Park-n-Ride. (At the stop light at the intersection of HWY 20 and the Christianson and March Point Roads, turn RIGHT and then an immediate RIGHT turn onto the frontage road and soon turn LEFT into the Park-n-Ride.) **We will take the 10:35 a.m. sailing from Anacortes to Orcas Island.** No ferry walk-ons as we will need cars on the island. Ferry fare is required. A Discover Pass is required to park in Moran State Park. **Return on the 5:10 p.m. ferry or if you wish to have dinner in Eastsound the 7:45 p.m. ferry.**

### **SATURDAY JUNE 2 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**

Celebrate trails! Go for a hike or walk with family and/or friends. The Pacific Northwest Trail Association will sponsor trail work and hikes at Deception Pass State Park. **Contact Joan Melcher (contact info above)** for details if interested.

### **JUNE 6 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. It is up to a 13 miles round trip and, up to 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 earlier. Car pooling 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.



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## 20 Ways to Conserve Birds

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From International Migratory Bird Day 2012

<http://birdday.org/birdday/themes/2012-twenty-years-of-imbd/20-ways-to-conserve-birds>

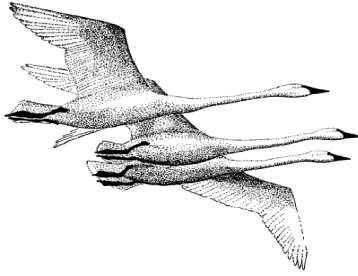
*Below are some of the suggestions from “20 Ways to Conserve Birds”*

It's easy to get involved in bird conservation, and like anything, some of your most helpful actions begin at home. Environment for the Americas surveyed biologists, educators, conservationists, birdwatchers, and bird enthusiasts to get their best ideas for getting involved in bird conservation. In celebration of International Migratory Bird Day's 20th Anniversary, we selected 20 issues and simple solutions. Imagine how many birds you can help finish their migratory journey, have a successful nesting season, raise young, survive the winter, if you just....

- 1. Prevent Bird Collisions with Your Windows** Collisions are one of the most frequent causes of bird deaths. Birds see nature reflected in the window or mistake houseplants inside the building for outdoor plants and fly into the glass. Putting up curtains or window decals helps make the window visible to birds.
- 2. Protect Birds From Pets** Unleashed dogs and outdoor cats can harm birds by disturbing, chasing, and even killing them. Keeping your cat indoors and your dog from straying saves millions of birds each year.
- 3. Clean Your Bird Feeders** Dirty feeders can spread disease. Disinfect and clean out old seed from feeders frequently and put fresh water in your bird bath every day.
- 4. Use Cloth Grocery Bags and Reusable Bottles** Birds that mistakenly eat plastic trash can become ill or even die. Avoiding plastic bags and bottles reduces plastic pollution and conserves resources.
- 5. Recycle** Anything you recycle reduces litter and saves resources. Get creative! You can make a bag from used juice containers and bird feeders from old dishes and plastic bottles.
- 6. Restore Natural Habitat in Your Community** Birds need a place to live and many bird habitats are disappearing. City parks and open spaces are natural places for birds. Work with your community to recreate the habitat that once existed in your area.
- 7. Keep Your Distance** Birds need space for feeding, nesting, and other daily activities. Approaching too closely may cause them to become nervous and deplete much-needed energy reserves. During the nesting season, it may even result in loss of eggs or young to predators.
- 8. Leave Fledglings Where You Find Them** Fledglings may spend several days on the ground after they leave the nest before they are able to fly. You can help by keeping people and pets away, so their parents can continue to care for them. If you think a bird is truly an orphan, call a rehabilitator for instructions. .
- 9. Plant Native** Native plants provide food, nest sites, and cover for birds.



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



Check your  
address label  
for membership  
expiration date!

## May 2012 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
April 29	April 30	1 <b>Board Meeting:</b> 7:00	2 <b>Hike:</b> Thunder Creek	3	4 – 6 <b>Gray's Harbor Shorebird Festival</b>	4 – 6 <b>Gray's Harbor Shorebird Festival</b>
6 <b>Field Trip</b> Anacortes Washington Park Spring Wildflowers	7	8 <b>General Meeting:</b> Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	9 <b>Hike:</b> Ebey's Landing & The Kettles at Fort Ebey State Park	10	11	12 <b>Spring Migratory Bird Count</b>
13	14	15	16 <b>Hike:</b> Washington Park, Heart Lake, & Lake Erie	17	18	19 <b>Field Trip</b> Vaux Swift Roost N State Rec Area <b>Deadline</b> SAS May Flyer
20	21	22	23 <b>Hike:</b> Skagit River Gorge	24	25 – 28 Wenas Campout Near Ellensburg	26 <b>Field Trip</b> Upper Skagit River Songbirding
27 May 25 – 28 Wenas Campout Near Ellensburg	28 Memorial Day May 25 – 28 Wenas Campout Near Ellensburg	29	30 <b>Hike:</b> Orcas Island June 6 <b>Hike:</b> Ross Lake, West Shore	31	June 1	June 2 <b>National Trails Day</b> I

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

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