

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 32 No. 8

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

By Libby Mills

About the field trips

Beginning birders and their 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.

**Saturday, October 12
Blaine, Semiahmoo,
Birch Bay, & Sandy Point
8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

Our focus will be on water birds and shorebirds, and surprises might be oystercatchers, terns, or an unusual gull. For water birds, our targets are all three

Field Trips continued on page 7

OCTOBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

Documenting the Wonders of Our Waters by Jessica and Christopher Newley

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2013
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10433 Bayview-Edison Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington



Salmon

(c) Photo by Jessica Newley

Jessica Newley is an award winning underwater photographer and environmental educator. Her husband, Chris, is a documentarian and ardent modern day explorer. For the past five years, this duo has focused on visiting and documenting fragile marine environments while also investigating what it means to push the boundaries of exploration in an ever-shrinking world. They have ridden motorcycles across South East Asia, explored underwater cave systems of the Yucatan, documented deep shipwrecks of the Pacific Northwest and dove the seldom-seen reefs of northern Sudan.

Through photography, film, and compelling stories, the Newleys hope to convey the beautiful yet fragile nature of our seas and inspire in others the same desire they have to protect it. Come enjoy an evening of captivating images and see where they have been, where they're going and how they will use passions and skills to do all they can to protect these precious natural resources that we are surrounded by every day.



SKAGIT AUDUBON

Board of Directors

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ppritzl@frontier.com

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Webmaster: Julie Bishop
msjbishop@hotmail.com



Mink at Cap Sante, Anacortes

Rowers have been spotting them!
Joe has photographed one!

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/. **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



SKAGIT AUDUBON SOCIETY CONSERVATION MESSAGE

By TIM MANNS, CONSERVATION CHAIR

Since the founding of local Audubon groups and then the national organization over a century ago, Audubon members have been involved in conservation issues. Across the U.S., almost 500 Audubon chapters organize field trips and programs and provide other activities for members. Addressing conservation issues also continues to be an essential reason for every chapter's existence and a focus of the national office. Page two of each *Skagit Flyer* issue has our chapter's mission, the same as National Audubon's: 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.

This statement helps narrow the wide field of issues to the ones most pertinent to Audubon. There are several ways Skagit Audubon acts on conservation issues. We donate to like-minded organizations, send board-approved letters to elected and agency officials, study environmental impact statements, management plans, and other public documents to give input at public meetings and in writing, participate on the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee, and spread word among Skagit members about opportunities to express opinions on conservation issues.

Here are a few examples of issues we're currently following:

- Washington Department of Natural Resources' preparation of a long-term management plan for the federally-listed marbled murrelet on state trust lands
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's planning for Leque Island near Stanwood and Hayton Farms Snow Goose Reserve on Fir Island
- Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest's experimental thinning plan for the Finney Creek Adaptive Management Area (related to spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat)
- Skagit County's revision of its Shoreline Master Program and the county commissioners' consideration of a motor raceway at Northern State Recreation Area near Sedro-Woolley

There are many more issues at the local, county, state, and national level pertinent to Skagit Audubon. Not all involve potential threats to wildlife and the wild lands we value. Some, such as the planned restoration of the fisher to North Cascades and Mount Rainier national parks, are clearly positive. An organization such as ours with 200 plus members may have limited clout, but a group of voters consistently paying attention and submitting constructive comments will be heard and can have a positive effect.

If you would like to support Audubon's conservation work:

- Sign up for Audubon Action alerts about national and regional issues (http://www.audubonaction.org/site/PageServer?pagename=aa_homepage)
- Contribute funds and time to groups such as Skagit Land Trust, other local land trusts, The Nature Conservancy, and other organizations that acquire and/or restore habitat.
- Get involved with Skagit Audubon's tracking of and response to conservation issues. Contact Tim Manns, bctm@fidalgo.net 360/336-8753



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**.



Warbling Vireo 1 at Padilla Bay Center on 9-7 (SAS)

Warbling Vireo
Photo by Joe Halton

WATERFOWL

Greater Scaup 2 at March Point on 9-7 (GB)
Harlequin Duck 10 at Rosario Head on 9-14 (GB)

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Sooty Grouse a hen and 4 chicks on the Chain Lakes Trail on 9-18 (AT)

LOONS

Common Loon 24 on Samish Bay off Clayton Beach, Larrabee State Park on 9-2 (TM)

RAPTORS

Cooper's Hawk 1 in Burlington yard recently (LE)

SHOREBIRDS

Semipalmated Plover 7 at March Point on 9-14 (GB)
Solitary Sandpiper 1 near Conway on 8-15 (GB)
Whimbrel 2 at Jensen Access on 8-15 (GB)
Short-billed Dowitcher 1 at West Edison on 8-19 (GB)

JAEGERS, GULLS

Parasitic Jaeger 1 at Rosario Head on 9-14 (GB)
Heermann's Gull 1 at Rosario Head on 9-14 (GB)
Ring-billed Gull 1,100 at Jensen Access on 8-15 (GB)

ALCIDS

Marbled Murrelet 4 at green Point on 8-8 (GB)

TERNS

Common Tern 23 off March Point on 9-7 (GB)

HUMMINGBIRDS

Black-chinned Hummingbird 1 male continues in Bayview, **UNUSUAL** for Washington state west side (CS)

FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 migrant near Cockreham Island on 8-25, **UNUSUAL** to find a migrant (GB)
Hammond's Flycatcher 1 at Marblemount Boat launch on 9-7 (GB)
Eastern Kingbird 1 in Birdsvew on 8-17 (GB)

VIREOS

Cassin's Vireo 2 at Marblemount Boat launch on 9-7 (GB)

Red-eyed Vireo 1 at Marblemount Boat Launch on 9-7 (GB)

Hutton's Vireo 1 in Anacortes, bordering Forest Lands on 9-8 (PW)

CORVIDS

Gray Jay 4 below Cutthroat Pass on 8-23 (GB)
Clark's Nutcracker 4 near Cutthroat Pass on 8-23 (GB)

SWALLOWS

Purple Martin 1 mobbing a small Peregrine Falcon in Bayview on 9-3 (LM)
Bank Swallow 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 8-26 (GB)

CHICKADEES

Mountain Chickadee only 3 on PCT between Rainy Pass and Cutthroat Pass on 8-23, **UNUSUALLY SCARCE** (GB)

KINGLETS

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 at Rosario head on 9-14 (GB); 1 in Anacortes, by Forest Lands on 9-21 (PW)

THRUSHES

Mountain Bluebird 2 at Cutthroat Pass on 8-23 (GB)
Hermit Thrush 1 at Camano Island home on 9-14 (PP)

WARBLERS

Black-throated Gray Warbler small group on Cascade Trail, east of Sedro-Woolley on 9-3 (DW); 1 at Padilla Bay Center on 9-7 (SAS); 2 on Lincoln Hill, Mount Vernon on 9-17 (TM); 1 in Anacortes bordering Forest Lands on 9-21 (PW)
Townsend's Warbler 1 at Padilla Bay Center on 9-7 (SAS); 1 at Washington Park, Anacortes on 9-14 (SAS)
MacGillivray's Warbler 2 at Presentin Park in Marblemount on 8-31 (GB)
Common Yellowthroat 1 at Padilla Bay Center on 9-7 (SAS)
Wilson's Warbler 1 at Padilla Bay Center on 9-7 (SAS)

TANAGERS

Western Tanager 1 at Padilla Bay Center on 9-7 (SAS) **Field Notes continue on page 5**



Field Notes continued from page 4

SPARROWS

Vesper Sparrow 1 at Corkindale and 1 at Van Horn pass on 9-7 (GB)

Fox Sparrow 1 below Cutthroat pass on 8-23 (GB)

Lincoln's Sparrow 12 at Padilla Bay Center on 9-7 (SAS)

Golden-crowned Sparrow 1 early migrant at Corkindale on 9-7 (GB)

MAMMALS

Long-tailed Weasel 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 9-14 (GB)

(GB) Gary Bletsch; (LE) Larry Edwards; (TM) Tim Manns; (LM) Libby Mills; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (CS) Cathy Scott; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Field Trip; (AT) Alice Turner; (DW) Daria Wheatley; (PW) Phil Wright

SKAGIT AUDUBON HIKING

OCTOBER 2013

BY JOAN MELCHER

October can produce great hiking weather along with beautiful fall colors. However weather conditions, forest fires and smoke, logging, construction, or other unexpected circumstances may cause changes or cancellations. For all the hikes call **JOAN MELCHER 360-424-0407** or e-mail at jdmelcher@comcast.net for information on or questions about the following. All of the outings 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.

***NOTE: A Northwest Forest Pass (parking permit) is required for starred hikes**

WED. – OCT. 2 MAPLE PASS LOOP*

One of Ira Spring's and Harvey Manning's "100 Classic Hikes in Washington." The hike is a 7.5 mile loop with a 2,000 foot elevation gain. Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. Return to the trailhead at 3:30 p.m.

WED. – OCT. 9 CUTTHROAT PASS* Do this hike on a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail as either a round trip, 10.0 or 11.0 miles, or as a one way, 10.5 miles. Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. Return to the trailhead at 4 p.m. **NOTE:** If you plan to do this hike, contact Joan Melcher (see above) for additional information which is too lengthy to print here.

WED. – OCT. 16 IRON GOAT TRAIL*

This trail, on the old Great Northern route, connects Wellington and Scenic. There are different starting and ending point options. The trail is 5 to 10 miles depending on the route taken. Use shuttle cars, if needed. If you hike uphill between Scenic and Wellington, there is a 1,000 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Mt. Vernon Safeway. A flashlight is recommended if you wish to walk through the Windy Point tunnel. Seattle, Snohomish County, and Camano Island hikers can meet the group at the Skykomish Ranger Station, located a few miles east of Skykomish on Highway 2 at 9 a.m. Return to Scenic by 3 p.m.

WED. – OCT. 23 BAKER LAKE: FROM NORTH DOWN TO NOISY CREEK*

Hike over the Baker River Bridge, the Blum Creek Bridge, and along the northern section of the Baker Lake

Trail to Noisy Creek and back. It is a 9.2 mile round trip, with a slight elevation gain. Meet at 8 a.m. on the east side of the parking lot at the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion. Return to the trailhead at 3 p.m.

WED. – OCT. 30 RUBY ARM and/or RUBY CREEK For both hikes, meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. Return to the trailhead at 3 p.m. No parking permit is required.

I. RUBY ARM: Hike on the East Bank of Ross Lake Trail over a carpet and under a canopy of fall leaves. Kick leaves to your heart's content. Hike to either Ruby Arm, Hidden Hand Pass, or part way up Little Jack Trail. It is a 7 to 8 mile round trip.

II. RUBY CREEK TRAIL: Hike the beautiful Ruby Creek trail from Panther Creek to Canyon Creek and back. It is a 7 mile round trip with a 650 ft. total elevation gain.

WED. – NOV. 6 NORTH CHUCKANUT

MOUNTAIN: Hike trails on the northwest side of Chuckanut Mountain. The main hike is a loop hike of 8.7 miles. There are options for shorter hikes as well as side trips. The outbound loop consists of parts of the Interurban Trail, the Hemlock Trail, The Lost Lake Trail, the Lower Salal Trail (Hush-Hush), and all of the Raptor Ridge Trail. The return consists of the Hemlock and Interurban Trails. There is up to a 1,700 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at the North Chuckanut Parking lot located on the east side of Chuckanut Drive between the Old Samish Highway and California Street. This is about milepost 18.5. You may leave when your car-load has returned.





SAS Education Committee at Work

Throughout 2013 the Skagit Audubon Society (SAS) Education Committee, Jean Ashby, Irene Perry and Sheila Pera, have



been doing outreach programs in Skagit, Snohomish and Island Counties. The goal of the outreach programs is to share with all people, young and not so young, about the wonderful and exciting world of birds. During the summer Jean volunteered with the North Cascade Institute Kulshan Creek Program and the Girl Scouts at Camp Kirby. Irene and Jean volunteered with Campfire Days on Samish Island, and Sheila was a docent at Cama Beach State Park. They also represented the Skagit Audubon Society at the Stanwood Snow Goose Festival, the Mt. Vernon Science Night, Edison Bird Festival and the Mt. Vernon Salmon River Festival.

The pictures above were taken at the Mt. Vernon Salmon River Festival.

If you would like to become involved in these education programs please contact:
Jean Ashby jeanash66@gmail.com

Skagit Audubon Society Income & Expenses Fiscal year 7/01/12 - 6/30/2013 *Submitted by Wendy Walker, Skagit Audubon Society Treasurer*

Income:

Chapter Memberships	\$4,065
Nat'l Audubon Baseline Funding	\$1,434
Nat'l Audubon Dues Share	\$ 70
Interest Income	\$ 81
Donations	\$ 927
Hospitality (Coffee Can)	\$ 126
Total	\$6,703

Expenses:

Audubon Washington	\$500
Conservation donations	\$2,950
Education Programs \$ Supplies	\$ 1,759
Hospitality	\$ 85
Insurance	\$ 313
Office Expenses	\$ 209
Skagit Flyer	
Printing	\$ 961
Postage	\$ 274
Speaker Expenses	\$ 75
Website	\$ 105
Total	\$7,231



Barred Owl

*Photo by
Joe Halton*



Field Trips continued from page 1

scoters, a variety of ducks, grebes, with Eared Grebes a hopeful, and all three loons. For shore-birds, we'll be looking for plovers, yellow-legs, turnstones, and peeps. Bring your binoculars, scopes if you have one, lunch, and wind and rain gear (because undoubtedly it will be doing one or the other or both!)

If you are driving north to Slater Road from Skagit County and have extra room in your vehicle, please maximize carpooling as there is limited parking space at some stops on this field trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m. to arrange carpools at the new **Chuckanut Park-and-Ride** lot on Chuckanut. Cars will leave promptly at 8:15 a.m. We'll join the leaders, Joan Bird and Andrea Warner, at 8:45 a.m. at the Arco Gas Station on Slater Road. (There is nowhere to leave a car here) Take I-5 Exit 260, turn right and you'll see the Arco Gas Station on your right.

Vehicles need a **Discover Pass** for Birch Bay. It can be purchased many places as you will see on the website, <http://discoverpass.wa.gov/>. Leaders: Joan Bird (cell: 360-201-8418) or jbird202@hotmail.com, and Andrea Warner, warneraj@me.com

Saturday, October 19

Birding Aboard the *M/V Lightkeeper*

8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Skagit Audubon member and field trip leader Gary Bletsch will help us find and learn about seabirds, shorebirds, waterfowl, and possibly other wildlife as we cruise out of Anacortes. The *M/V Lightkeeper* (www.burrowsislandlighthouse.com/lightkeeper.htm) will leave Cap Sante Marina bound for Williamson's Rocks and other points either side of Rosario Strait. Please arrive by 8:30 a.m. for departure at 9:00 p.m. sharp. We'll return between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. If the October 19 weather forecast is unfavorable, we'll try for October 26 if enough people are available. Dress warmly and bring a lunch and drink. Cost: \$50.00 per person. Reservations required (limited to 33): phone or e-mail Tim Manns: 360-336-8753 and/or bctm@fidalgo.net

To confirm your place Skagit Audubon must have your check made out to "Skagit Audubon" no later than October 12. Please mail payment to: Skagit Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1101, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Include your phone number and email address so you can be contacted in case of trip rescheduling or cancellation. This event is a small fundraiser for Skagit Audubon and the Northwest Schooner Society's project to restore the Burrows Island Light Station (www.burrowsislandlighthouse.com/restoration.htm).

Tim will email you additional details a few days before the trip.

Holding the Line for Restoration *From Audubon Advisory ~ September 2013*

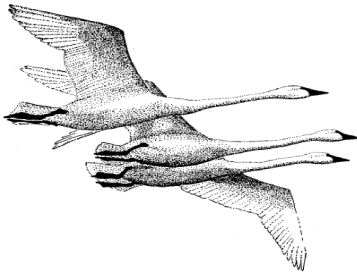
In the next few weeks the House of Representatives is expected to move their version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). WRDA provides significant funding for a number of important restoration projects like the Everglades, the Mississippi River, the Gulf Coast, the Great Lakes, and Western Rivers. Unfortunately, language that proposes to "streamline" the project review process threatens to undermine environmental safeguards and public input vital to ensuring that proposed projects don't harm wetlands, other important habitats, and local communities. The Senate has already passed some of these same "environmental streamlining" provisions in its version of the WRDA bill (S.601). Streamlining also means that consultation with agencies, like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, would not take place, leaving the assessment of project impacts on birds and wildlife in the hands of other agencies ill-qualified to make those judgments.

The current project review process has worked to save many hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars while protecting wetlands vital to flood protection, migratory waterfowl, and clean water. In the face of increasing fiscal challenges, severe storms, floods, droughts, and sea level rise, now is not the time to undermine these critical safeguards.

Audubon staff will work with House Members to make sure that appropriate review of projects is not undermined by so-called "streamlining."



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Birding Aboard
the M/V Lightkeeper
Saturday, October 19**
See page 7

October 2013 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sept. 29	Sept. 30	1 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	2 Hiking: Maple Pass Loop	3	4	5
6	7	8 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	9 Hiking: Cutthroat Pass	10	11	12 Field Trip: Blaine to Sandy Point in Whatcom County
13	14	15	16 Hiking: Iron Goat Trail	17	18	19 Deadline SAS November Flyer Field Trip: Birding onM/VLightkeeper
20	21	22	23 Hiking: Baker Lake: North Down to Noisy Creek	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Hiking: Ruby Arm and/or Ruby Creek Trail Nov 6: N. Chuckanut Mtn.	31	November 1	November 2

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at www.skagitaudubon.org The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

