

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 32 No. 10

DECEMBER 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, DECEMBER 7 Birds and Salmon

Upper Skagit River Valley
8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Spawning salmon on the Skagit River and its tributaries above the town of Concrete attract Bald Eagles and other birds too. We'll see eagles, mergansers, dippers, and more, and possibly salmon too, as we stop at a variety of places upriver between Concrete and Newhalem. Binoculars and spotting scopes will be helpful.

Field Trips continued on page 7

DECEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

Back Again by Popular Demand Picture Potpourri and Potluck By Skagit Audubon Society Members

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013

6:45 Social; 7:30 Program

Padilla Bay Interpretive Center

10433 Bayview-Edison Road

Mt. Vernon, Washington



Iceland Gull: A Rare Skagit Visitor

*Photo by Ryan Merrill
Skagit Audubon Member*

Please bring potluck food to share. After the meal we will view each other's favorite nature photos, a collective view of how Skagit Audubon Society members have seen nature both here and abroad.

Ronan Ellis is gathering the submitted digital photos and making a "slide show" of them for projection.

Pictures must be received no later than December 1. (Send to: rie4707@gmail.com .) This show is open to EVERYBODY. We look forward to an evening of sharing. It's not a contest, just a show! Thanks to those participating!



SKAGIT AUDUBON

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Trumpeter Swan Celebrating their Return

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 DECEMBER CONSERVATION MESSAGE

By **TIM MANNS, CONSERVATION CHAIR**

The parade of conservation issues, large and small, continues without pause. Skagit Audubon commented on Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's (WDFW) proposal to restore wildlife habitat on the 103-acre Welts Property near the mouth of the Samish River. This seems a positive project for birders as well as for the hunters the department serves and the fishermen and women accessing the river when salmon are running.

In 1997 WDFW established the 331-acre Johnson/Debay's Slough Game Reserve as a refuge for swans to rest, feed, and roost. About 3 miles northeast of Mount Vernon, this area is closed to all hunting. For some years significant portions of the refuge have not been functioning as intended. Now WDFW and The Trumpeter Swan Society want data about how and when swans, ducks, geese, and other birds use the area. Skagit Audubon Society was involved in getting the refuge established, and we can better have a say in its future by helping obtain this information. If you can assist with surveys this winter, please contact me (**Tim Manns, 360-336-8753, bctm@fidalgo.net**). Martha Jordan of The Trumpeter Swan Society is working with WDFW biologists to design a protocol for us to follow.

A third WDFW item is the start of management planning for the Leque Island/Eide Road property between Stanwood and Camano Island. The agency faces a daunting task in reconciling interests of birders, waterfowl hunters, photographers, and pheasant hunters with needs for estuarine restoration to bolster salmon stocks, dealing with deteriorating dikes, and untangling road access problems. Several Skagit Audubon members attended the kick-off meeting and will probably participate on the stakeholders committee reviewing alternatives.

In early November Skagit Audubon commented to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration on proposed stronger standards for railroad tank cars. About one train a day delivers crude oil to the Anacortes Tesoro Refinery, and there will be more such trains if Shell also constructs its proposed rail holding facility at March Point. The new standards would reduce chances of these tank cars leaking or of them breaking open in a collision or derailment. Spills could end up in Padilla Bay, one of only 28 National Estuarine Research Reserves, or in Fidalgo Bay, one of Washington's 7 Aquatic Reserves, both areas of very high biological importance.

Besides the increasing shipping of crude oil to Washington's refineries by train, there is also a Tesoro plan to deliver North Dakota crude (and eventually tar sands crude too?) to a Vancouver, Washington shipping terminal, thence by ship to West Coast refineries, or overseas if federal law prohibiting export should change. The state's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council has expanded the comment period for the scope of an environmental impact statement on this project to Dec. 18. The council will make a recommendation to Governor Jay Inslee, who will decide on state approval. For more information and to submit comments: <http://www.efsec.wa.gov/Tesoro-Savage.shtml>. See also information about oil shipping on the Washington Audubon website: <http://wa.audubon.org/oil-trains>.

PADILLA BAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, Dec. 28, 2013 ~ Details page 7

Audubon Chapters nationwide organize and run hundreds of count circles; these good efforts are the reason the longest running "CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT" in the world is so successful.

GET INVOLVED! CONTACT: Tim Manns at bctm@fidalgo.net or 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.

WATERFOWL

Snow Goose 9 Blue-morph at Hayton Reserve on 10/28 (RM)

Cackling Goose 150 at the Skagit Game Range on 10-28 (RM); 1 at Colonial Creek CG on 10-29 (RM); 50 at Judy Reservoir on 11-3 (GB); 225 on northern Fir Island on 11-13 (BK)

Trumpeter Swan 6 at Judy Reservoir on 10-25 (GB); 4 in Livingston Bay, Camano Island on 11-10 (SRP), seen on Calhoun Road on 11-11 (JB, AW)

Tundra Swan 12 at Judy Reservoir on 10-25 (GB); seen on Calhoun Road on 11-11 (JB, AW)

Cinnamon Teal 3 at the Skagit Game Range on 10-28 (RM) 2 late birds at the Skagit Game Range on 11-3 (GB); 3 at the Skagit Game Range (JB, AW)

Redhead 1 female at Judy Reservoir on 10-25 (GB); 4 on Samish Island on 10-28 (RM)

Surf Scoter 1 female on Lake Erie on 10-20 (presumably the same one as seen here earlier this fall, **unusual on fresh water**) (GB)

Black Scoter 1 drake at Green Point on 11-3 (GB)

Common Goldeneye 2 at the Stanwood Water Treatment Plant on 11-11 (JB, AW)

Red-breasted Merganser 300 on Samish Island on 10-28 (RM)

Ruddy Duck 50 on Similk Bay on 11-11 (GB)

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Ruffed Grouse 1 on Cascade River Road on 10-19 (GB)

California Quail 9 at Rosario Head on 10-20 (GB)

LOONS

Pacific Loon 15 off March Point Road on 11-3 (GB)

HERONS

American Bittern 1 flying over marsh at North Fork Access on 11-3 (GB)

RAPTORS

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 at Scott Road, Samish Island on 10-28 (BK)

Cooper's Hawk 1 at Scott Road, Samish Island on 10-28 (BK); 1 at the West 90 on 11-11 (JB, AW); 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 11-13 (GB)

Rough-legged Hawk 1 at West 90, Samish Flats on 10-28 (BK); 4 at the West 90 on 11-11 (JB, AW)

Merlin 1 male adult on a snag at a home on Fidalgo Island on 10/29-31 (RW & SP); 1 on top of fir tree on Pioneer Highway on 11-11 (JB, AW)

RAILS

Virginia Rail 1 heard at the Skagit Game Range on 10-17 (BK); 1 heard at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 10-30 (GB); 1 heard at the Skagit Game Range on 11-13 (BK)

Sora 1 heard at the Skagit Game Range on 10-20 (GB); 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 10-28 (RM)

SHOREBIRDS

Spotted Sandpiper 1 at Bowman Bay, Deception Pass State Park on 10-13 (BC)

Surfbird 2 at Williamson's Rocks on 10-26 (SAS boat field trip aboard the MV Lightkeeper, GB guide)

Long-billed Dowitcher 1 at Eide Road, Stanwood on 11-11 (JB, AW)

Wilson's Snipe 13 at Skagit Airport Ponds on 10-26 (GB); 1 south of Bayview on 10-28 (BK); 1 at Padilla Bay on 11-11 (JB, AW); 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 11-13 (GB)

GULLS

Bonaparte's Gull 1 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 11-2 (GB); 3 at Jensen Access on 11-11 (JB, AW)

Heermann's Gull 6 near Rosario head on 10-13 (TM)

American Herring Gull 2 at Rosario Head on 10-28 (RM); 1 on Samish Island on 10-28 (RM); 5 at Rockport on 10-29 (RM); 2 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 10-31 (GB)

Thayer's Gull 1 at Jensen Access on 10-28 (RM); 3 at Rosario Head on 10-28 (RM); 1 on Samish Island on 10-28 (RM); 1 at Martin Road on 10-29 (RM); 2 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 10-29 (RM); 1 at Lyman on 11-11 (GB)



ICELAND GULL 1 first cycle bird at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 10-2, Skagit County second record (RM)

Iceland Gull
Photo by Ryan Merrill

Western Gull 1 adult on Lyman on 11-1, **unusual upriver** (GB)

ALCIDS

Common Murre 3 off West Beach, Deception Pass State Park on 10-13 (TM)

Marbled Murrelet 9 off Green point on 10-13 (TM); 4 off Rosario Head on 10-13 (TM)

Ancient Murrelet 7 off Rosario Head on 10-28 (RM)

OWLS

Short-eared Owl 1 at the West 90 on 11-8 (GB); 1 at the West 90 on 11-11 (JB,AW)

Field Sightings continue on page 5



Field Sightings continued from page 4

HUMMINGBIRDS

Anna's Hummingbird up to 3 regularly visiting feeders in Burlington (PLE)

WOODPECKERS

Red-breasted Sapsucker 1 at Camano Island home on 10-29 (PP)

SHRIKES

Northern Shrike 2 at Eide Road, Stanwood on 11-11 (JB, AW); 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 11-11 (JB, AW)

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo 1 at Martin Road on 10-29 (RM); 1 on 9th Street in Mount Vernon on 11-11 (TM)

SWALLOWS

Barn Swallow 10 late stragglers on the Skagit Game Range on 10-20 (GB)

BUSHTITTS

Bushtit 10 at Sauk Prairie on 10-29 (RM); 6 at Bryson Road on 10-29 (RM); a flock visiting a suet feeder in Burlington the week of 11-13 (PLE)

WRENS

Bewick's Wren 1 visiting suet in Burlington yard week of 11-13 (PLE)

THRUSHES

Townsend's Solitaire 1 seen in Bayview on 11-20 (LM)
Hermit Thrush 2 at Square Harbor, Guemes Island on 10-12 (TM)

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler 2 at Hayton Reserve on 10-28 (RM); 1 on 9th Street in Mount Vernon on 11-11 (TM)

Yellow-rumped Warbler 2 "Audubon's" at the West 90, Samish Flats on 10-28 (BK)

SPARROWS

Savannah Sparrow 4 on the Samish Flats on 11-11 (GB)

Fox Sparrow 1 at Scott Road, Samish Island on 10-28 (BK); several at end of Channel Drive on 10-28 (BK)
Lincoln's Sparrow 2 at the Skagit Game Range on 11-13 (BK)

White-throated Sparrow 1 near Cockreham Island on 10-19 (GB); 2 regularly visiting feeder in Burlington (PLE)

Golden-crowned Sparrow 2 regularly visiting feeder in Burlington (LE)

Snow Bunting 1 above Barney Lake, just east of Mount Vernon on 11-5 (BC, TM)

BLACKBIRDS

Brown-headed Cowbird 10 with other field-birds at SR 20 Milepost 76 on 11-11 (GB)

FINCHES

American Goldfinch 15 at Martin Road near Rockport on 11-11 (GB); 15 at the Skagit Game Range on 11-13 (BK)

MAMMALS

Coyote 5 together on beach at Howard Miller Steelehead Park on 10-30 (GB)

(JB) Joan Bird; (BC) Brenda Cunningham; (PLE) Pat & Larry Edwards; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (BK) Bob Kuntz; (RM) Ryan Merrill; (TM) Tim Manns; (LM) Libby Mills; (SRP) Sheila & Ron Pera; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Field Trip; (AW) Andrea Warner; (RW & SP) Regan Weeks & Scott Petersen

Hotline to Report Dead, Sick or Injured Swans Available

11/11/2013 Adapted from Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife News Release distributed 11/8/2013

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has re-established a hotline to report dead, sick or injured swans in three northwest Washington counties as part of its ongoing effort to assess the impact of lead poisoning on trumpeter swans.

People can call **(360) 466-4345, ext. 266**, to report dead, sick or injured swans in Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish counties. 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 those three 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 swans can still pick up and ingest lead shot while foraging in shallow underwater areas in fields and roosts where lead shot is still present.

"People who observe dead, sick or injured swans are advised not to handle or collect the birds," said Chris Danilson, WDFW wildlife biologist for Skagit and Whatcom counties. "Instead, people should call the hotline," he said. WDFW and Puget Sound Energy employees, as well as volunteers from the Trumpeter Swan Society, will pick up the birds.



Hikes continue in December with 4 hikes scheduled. Hikes may be canceled or destinations changed due to weather, logging, construction or unforeseen circumstances. A hike will be canceled if there are high wind warnings, flooding conditions, or snowy or icy road conditions, or forecasts of heavy rain. All the hikes are on a Wednesday EXCEPT FOR THE DECEMBER 26th HIKE WHICH IS ON A THURSDAY. Note: The JANUARY 2, 2014 HIKE IS ON A THURSDAY also. Questions? Contact **JOAN MELCHER, 360-424-0407** or e-mail at jdmelcher@comcast.net

Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes. If dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times.

WED. – DEC. 4 EAST SHORE of LAKE WHATCOM or STEWART MOUNTAIN

1. **East Shore of Lake Whatcom** This hike is a fairly level hike among trees beside the east shore of Lake Whatcom. It is 6.25 miles round trip with little elevation gain.

2. **Stewart Mountain** This hike begins in the same area as the East Shore of Lake Whatcom hike, but it goes up hill on the new Beke Trails and on the power line road. Most of this hike is on trail. It is a 5 mile round trip.

For both hikes, meet at 9 a.m. at the new Chuckanut Drive park-n-ride lot. This lot is on the east side of I-5, off Exit 231 of I-5. Car pool according to which of the two hikes you plan to do. You may leave when all in your car are safely back to the trailhead.

WED. – DEC. 11 DECEPTION PASS AREA

Hike on trails at Sharp's Park, Pass Lake, Rosario, and Bowman's Bay. The hike is up to 10.7 miles with a 1,000 ft. total elevation gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at Sharpe's Park trailhead off of Rosario Road south of Anacortes. Parking is limited at Sharpe's Park so please car-pool if possible. Joan will shuttle anyone who wants to walk between Sharp's Park and the park access off the Ginnett Road and, at the end of the hike, from Rosario up to Sharp's Park. Contact Joan Melcher (see above) if you need driving directions to Sharpe's Park. Joan's last shuttle will leave Rosario at 2:30 p.m. **A Washington State Discover Pass is required for your vehicle, if you park in Deception Pass State Park..**

WED. – DEC. 18 PADILLA BAY SHORE TRAIL

Take some 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 6.7 miles. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Breazeale Nature Center in Bayview. Leave when you return to your car.

THURSDAY – DEC. 26 CENTENNIAL TRAIL

Hike 8 miles round trip on the Centennial Trail in northern Snohomish County from the Nakashima Barn trail head just south of the Skagit/Snohomish County Line to Bryant and back. The big red Nakashima Barn, the large parking area, and the trail head are on the west side of Highway 9 near milepost 37.2. From I-5 take Exit 212, the Stanwood-Bryant exit, go EAST on the State Route 532 to Bryant. At Highway 9 turn LEFT and drive north a few miles to the Nakashima Barn and trailhead which will be on your left. Meet there at 9 a.m. You are free to leave when you return to the trailhead.

THURSDAY – JAN. 2 DUGUALLA STATE PARK

Spend part of a short day-light day at Dugualla State Park, a little-known park north of Oak Harbor. The park's several miles of trails meander through an alder grove, a wetland area, and offer a more challenging, steep trek to a secluded beach. Meet at Dugualla State Park at 9 a.m. From SR20 traveling from the north, turn left onto Sleeper Road. Continue on Sleeper Road approximately 2.6 miles until it dead-ends at a metal gate. If you do all the loops, there are 6 miles of trail with a 500 ft. elevation gain.

A Washington State Discover Pass is required for your vehicle.

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013 ~ Details page 7

Audubon Chapters nationwide organize and run hundreds of count circles; these good efforts are the reason the longest running "CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT" in the world is so successful.

GET INVOLVED! CONTACT: Bob Kuntz at annebobkuntz@gmail.com or 360-424-9099



Field Trips continued from page 1

Meet in front of the National Park Service/U.S. Forest Service office in Sedro-Woolley (810 State Route 20 just before Highway 9 North) at 8:30 a.m. to arrange carpools. Bring a lunch and birding gear, and dress for the weather, remembering it's often wetter upriver.

Leader: Tim Manns contact at 360-336-8753 or bctm@fidalgo.net

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Christmas Bird Count:

North Cascades National Park

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

Each year the National Park Service conducts a Christmas Bird Count centered on Newhalem along the North Cascades Highway. Species are few but often include surprises and ones not seen in the downriver world. When the weather is good, the scenery makes this about the most beautiful count you could hope to do 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 a.m. If you want to participate or if you have questions about the count, please contact: **Bob Kuntz at 360-424-9099 or annebobkuntz@gmail.com**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Weaverling Spit, Fidalgo Bay

8:30 a.m. to before noon

Here's a birding start to the shortest day of the year. Weaverling Spit is a walk and scoping field trip on the western edge of Fidalgo Bay, land owned by the Samish Indian Nation. We have permission to go out and inspect the neighborhood for avifauna, a chance to

seek both songbirds in the vegetation and water birds on the bay. To find the area drive parallel to Highway 20 on Fidalgo Bay road, just south of Anacortes and turn off it onto Weaverling Road. Meet at the parking lot at the RV Park which is across the Tommy Thompson Trail and to the right. Dress warmly and seasonally (it's winter after all). Trip will end before noon. Scopes will help with the water birds. There will be some minimal walking on the Spit and Tommy Thompson Trail.

Leader: Jack Richardson contact at 360-299-9081

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Christmas Bird Count: Padilla Bay

All Day, Followed by a Potluck Dinner

The annual Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count takes place this year on Saturday, December 28. Volunteers are needed to help with this valuable – and fun – endeavor. Some teams start before dawn to count owls, while others brave the elements from first light to dusk. Christmas Count data collected by citizen scientists over more than a century 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 we tally the day's observations, and swap fun stories (some of them true!). To participate and for details regarding times, places, and area assignments, please contact:

Tim Manns at 360-336-8753 or bctm@fidalgo.net

Please, no later than December 21.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Padilla Bay Interpretive Center

9:30 a.m. ending time to be determined

A slow, comfortable start after the holidays to catch up on Christmas Bird Count finds ~ and possibly rarities!
Contact: **Gary Bletsch at garybletsch@yahoo.com**

SOUND WATERS -- Saturday, February 1, 2014

Keynote Address: William Steele, University of Washington Seismology Lab

Topic: Cascadia Fault Zone, Earthquake Hazards and Effort for Early Warning System.

Of special interest to birders are these 4 classes of the 65 classes offered:

“On an Incoming Tide: Seabirds, Marine Debris and Citizen Science”

“Feathered Architects: The Fascinating World of Bird Nests”

“Fishing for a Living: The Grebes”

“Bald Eagle Ecology”

Date: February 1, 2014 **Where:** Oak Harbor High School, Whidbey Island.

Registration: \$40 per person, discount of \$25 for students and active military.

Certified teachers 5 clock hours continue ed. credit through Washington State University.

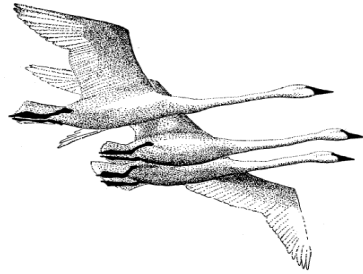
Sound Waters website has further information: **www.beachwatchers.net/soundwaters**.

Online registration January 2014, or Phone for info: (360) 678-7837

Hope to see you there!



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER POTLUCK
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, Dec. 10

**!SEND YOUR PICTURES BY DEC. 1!
FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 1**

December 2013 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	4 Hiking: Lake Whatcom, East Shore or Stewart Mountain	5	6	7 Field Trip: Birds & Salmon Upper Skagit River Valley
8	9	10 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	11 Hiking: Deception Pass Area Deadline Jan. SAS Flyer	12	13	14 Christmas Bird Count: <u>North Cascades National Park</u>
15	16	17	18 Hiking: Padilla Bay Shore Trail	19	20	21 Field Trip: Weaverling Spit, Fidalgo Bay
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Hiking: Centennial Trail	27	28 Christmas Bird Count: <u>Padilla Bay</u>
29	30	31 New Years Eve	Jan. 1 New Years Day	Jan. 2 Hiking: Interurban Trail	Jan. 3	Jan. 4 Field Trip: Skagit Rarities with Gary Bletsch

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

