

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 33 No. 7

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS

By Libby Mills

About the field trips

Beginning birders and 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, September 13 Dragonfly Workshop

Details to be announced by reminder email. Email Libby Mills to receive Field Trip email updates and information on the Dragonfly Workshop.

libbymills@gmail.com

Dragonfly Field Trips and Workshops are very dependent on good weather. Dragonflies are out only **Field Trips continue on page 5**

SEPTEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

Adventures with Dragonflies

by James S. Walker

Tuesday, September 9, 2014
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10441 Bayview-Edison Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington



Common Whiteface Dragonfly
Photo by James Walker

Dragonflies are fascinating creatures, with a rich heritage of folklore and fables that vary greatly from culture to culture. European cultures tend to see dragonflies as dangerous, malevolent, and even deadly. Asian and Native American cultures see them as signs of good luck, prosperity, and longevity. The facts about dragonflies are even more interesting than the fables:

- They have six legs, but can't walk.
- They have acute vision, but can't hear.
- They predate dinosaurs, but are still going strong today.

Professor James Walker shares his enthusiasm for dragonflies in a lively, humorous lecture and slideshow that includes his own slow-motion videos of dragonflies bathing and spin-drying on the wing, in addition to other interesting behaviors. Known to his friends as "The Dragonfly Whisperer," Professor Walker will even share tips on how to coax a dragonfly to perch on your finger!

Walker is a retired professor of theoretical physics from Washington State University, where he was the Boeing Distinguished Professor of Science and Mathematics Education. The author of several university-level textbooks on physics, Professor Walker and his wife Betsy divide their time between Western Washington and Arizona, and enjoy birding and dragonflying in both locations.

Learn more about dragonflies at James Walker's blog:
<http://thedragonflywhisperer.blogspot.com>



SKAGIT AUDUBON

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GULL TAKING OFF
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



For the last several months the Website Committee has been working on a new website. We hired a professional web developer, Art Shotwell of Anacortes, to design and implement it. After it went live in May, Ron Pera took over again as Webmaster and does frequent updates with new information. Our intent was to provide you more information about our activities and make it more readily accessible. For example, under the menu “**Activities**” there are various views of our calendar and all activities including programs, field trips, and hikes beginning last spring.

Another objective has been to bring you the best information that we could find on the internet. We hoped to make it easier for you to learn more about birds and to familiarize you with the activities of our state and national Audubon organizations. See “**Resources**” for the best websites we could find. We hope you will find the new information useful. The new website is also designed to be easily readable on smart phones and tablets.

The “**Birding**” menu is meant to provide you with better information on birding in Skagit County and Washington State with improved site descriptions (“**Birding Skagit**”) and better “**Checklists**”. The “**County Arrivals**” menu was added to expose you to Skagit County data on eBird.org.

The Education Committee menus present you with all new information. For example, look at the “**Featured Bird**” article on the “**Home**” Page. Also, “**Did You Know?**” features interesting articles. The second item: “**Birdsnap**”, is a clever and handy one-page reference combining bird taxonomy, pictures and sounds all on one page. The content on both of these menus will change frequently so take a look on a regular basis.

An all-new and extensive “**Conservation**” section will be published over the next few weeks including “**Conservation News and Issues**”, “**Conservation Essays**”, “**Important Bird Areas**”, “**Citizen Science**” and others areas and will give you a good understanding of many of the most important conservation issues.

One of the benefits of the new website technology is that it allows us to save the monthly *Skagit Flyer* information so you don't have to look through old *Flyers*. You can access previous months' articles at the bottom of “**Programs**” (in “**Activities**”), “**Bird Sightings**” (in “**Birding**”), and “**Featured Bird**” (on “**Home**” Page, and in “**Education**”). Enjoy discovering our new website! www.skagitaudubon.org

SKAGIT AUDUBON HIKING ~ SEPTEMBER**BY JOAN MELCHER**

Great fall hiking begins this month. Keep in mind that weather conditions, forest fires and smoke, logging, construction, aggressive bears or other unexpected circumstances may cause changes in the following hikes. 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.

WILDERNESS HIKES: The information on the various wilderness hikes is too lengthy to print here. For information or other questions contact **Joan Melcher 360-424-0407** or at jdmelcher@comcast.net.

WED. – SEPT. 3 – WILDERNESS HIKE**WED. – SEPT. 10 – WILDERNESS HIKE****WED. – SEPT. 17 – MAPLE PASS LOOP**

Here is one of Ira Spring's and Harvey Manning's "100 Classic Hikes in Washington." This 7.5 mile loop has a 2000 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. Return to trailhead at 3:30 p.m.

Northwest Forest Pass Parking Permit required.

WED. – SEPT. 24 – WILDERNESS HIKE**WED. – OCT. 1 – RAILROAD GRADE**

Hike to and up a moraine on the south side of Mount Baker. Great views if the weather is good. 6 to 8 miles round trip, 1900 to 2100 ft el gain. Significant streams to cross by rock hopping or wading if temporary bridge is not in place. Meet at 7:30 am at the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. 4 pm return to trailhead.

Northwest Forest Pass Parking Permit required.



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

Cinnamon Teal 1 at DeBay's Slough on 8-6 (GB)

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Northern Bobwhite 1 at Edgewater Park on 7-27 (LC&JS); 1 on Burkland Rd, Mt. Vernon on 8-10 (BVK)

Sooty Grouse 2 at Sauk Mountain on 6-7 (GB)

PELICANS

American White Pelican 12 in the Swinomish Channel on 7-2 (D&PO); flock at Goat Island near La Conner on 7-6 (LT); 30 flying from English Boom, Camano Island to Port Susan Bay on 7-8 (BB)

HERONS AND ALLIES

American Bittern 1 at Green Road pond on 6-7 (GB)

Green Heron 1 in Burlington on 6-7 (GB)

VULTURES

Turkey Vulture 5 at Francis Road on 8-11 (RH)

OSPREYS

Osprey 1 at Iverson Beach, Camano Island on 8-12 (S&RP)

Osprey
Photo by Joe Halton



PLOVERS

Semipalmated Plover 1 at Channel Drive on 8-6 (GB)

SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES, and ALLIES

Lesser Yellowlegs 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 8-6 (GB)

Whimbrel 1 at March Point on 8-10 (DA, JP)

Least Sandpiper 25 at Swan Lake, Whidbey Island on 8-10 (DA, JP)

Semipalmated Sandpiper 1 at Swan Lake, Whidbey Island on 8-10 (DA, JP)

Western Sandpiper 100 at Swan Lake, Whidbey Island on 8-10 (DA, JP)

Long-billed Dowitcher 11 at the Skagit Game

Range on 8-6 (GB)

Red-necked Phalarope 7 at Channel Drive on 8-6 (GB); 2 at Eide Road on 8-10 (DA, JP)

ALCIDS

Marbled Murrelet 1 at Green Point on 7-20 (GB)

GULLS and TERNs

Bonaparte's Gull 2 at March Point on 8-6 (GB)



Bonaparte's Gull
Photo by Joe Halton

Heermann's Gull 4 at Green Point on 7-20 (GB)

Caspian Tern 10 at Iverson Spit, Camano Island on 8-12 (S&RP)

NIGHTHAWKS

Common Nighthawk 1 near Cockreham Island on 6-10 (GB)

SWIFTS

Black Swift 20 near Cockreham Island on 6-10 (GB)

WOODPECKERS

Red-breasted Sapsucker 1 at Butler Hill on 7-15 (RH)

Hairy Woodpecker 1 female at the Newhalem Ag ponds on 8-7 (AW)

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Least Flycatcher 1 near Marblemount on 6-14 (GB)

Eastern Kingbird seen throughout July at the Skagit Game Range (DA, JP); 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 7-31 (GB)

VIREOS

Cassin's Vireo 1 at the Newhalem Ag ponds on 8-7 (AW)

Hutton's Vireo 1 at Camano Island home on 8-14 (PP)

Red-eyed Vireo 3 at the Sauk Boat Launch on 6-7 (GB)

CORVIDS

Gray Jay 2 near Cutthroat Pass on 8-12 (GB)

Clark's Nutcracker 1 near Cutthroat Pass on 8-12 (GB)

SWALLOWS

Purple Martin 5 at Bay View on 6-7 (GB)

Bird Sightings continue on page 5



Bird Sightings continued from page 4

WRENS

House Wren 1 at Sauk Prairie on 6-7 (GB)



THRUSHES

Swainson's Thrush 2 at Butler Hill on 7-7 (RH)

Swainson's Thrush
(*Juvenile*)
Photo by Joe Halton

WOOD WARBLERS

Nashville Warbler 1 at the Hardy Burn on 8-12 (GB)

American Redstart 3 juveniles at the Newhalem Ag ponds on 8-7 (AW)

Yellow Warbler 1 at the Newhalem Ag ponds on 8-7 (AW)

Black-throated Gray Warbler 1 pair at the Newhalem Ag ponds on 8-7 (AW); observed a couple times during sighting period at Camano Island home's water feature (S&RP)

TANAGERS and ALLIES

Western Tanager 1 male at Butler Hill on 7-15 (RH)

Black-headed Grosbeak 8 at Butler Hill on 8-6 (RH); many seen throughout sighting period at Camano Island home (S&RP)

Lazuli Bunting pair at Butler Hill on 7-8 (RH); 1 at Cockreham Island on 8-5 (GB)

BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES

Bullock's Oriole 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 8-6 (GB)

FINCHES and ALLIES

Pine Siskin 50 at the Hardy Burn on 8-12 (GB)

Evening Grosbeak 5 at Butler Hill on 8-11 (RH)

(DA) Dick Abbott; (BB) Barbara Brock; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (LC) Let Curvers; (RH) Ron Holmes; (B&VK) Betty & Von Kuehn; (D&PO) Dick & Patti Olds; (JP) Josh Parrott; (S&RP) Sheila & Ron Pera; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (JS) Jay Scott; (LT) Linda Talman; (AW) Andrea Warner

Field Trips continued from page 1

in sunny weather.

Thursday, September 18

Vaux's Swift Roost

Old Northern State Hospital, Sedro-Woolley
5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Mid-September is a good time to catch the southward migration and nightly roosting of Vaux's Swifts at the former Northern State Hospital. The old powerhouse stack where the swifts roost for the night is a designated Important Bird Area (IBA) due to the thousands using it spring and fall en route to and from Latin America. As night falls, the fast-flying swifts converge above the towering stack in a great swirl before diving in. On prime (i.e. rainless) evenings, this is one of Skagit's great avian phenomena (on a rainy evening, we may see very few swifts). Bring binoculars, folding chair, spotting scope (optional). 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 5:45 p.m. to arrange carpools.

Leader: Tim Manns, 360-336-8753

bctm@fidalgo.net

Saturday, September 20

Whidbey Island Fall Migration

7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We will visit Crockett Lake, Keystone Ferry Landing, Penn Cove, West Beach in Deception Pass State Park and other locations on the north half of Whidbey Island to look for fall migrant shorebirds and songbirds. Dress for the weather. Bring a lunch, boots (just in case we visit some mudflats), binoculars, bird ID guide, and a scope if you have one. Meet at March Point Park and Ride (southwest corner of March Point, just off SR-20).

Leader: Bob Kuntz, 360-424-9099

annebobkuntz@gmail.com

A **Washington State Discover Pass** is required to park at several of the places we will visit.

(*ALTERNATIVE DRAGONFLY DATE*)

Saturday, September 27

Dragonfly Workshop

For details email Libby Mills to be put on her email information list.

libbymills@gmail.com

Dragonfly Field Trips and Workshops are very dependent on good weather. Dragonflies are out only in sunny weather.



SKAGIT AUDUBON SEPTEMBER CONSERVATION REPORT

By **TIM MANNS, CONSERVATION CHAIR**

A few days before this newsletter's deadline, Skagit County Planning reconfirmed its decision not to require a full environmental impact statement (EIS) but only impose additional requirements on Shell's crude-by-rail project at its Anacortes refinery. What Skagit Audubon and others have been requesting of our public agency is a detailed analysis of potential effects on people and the environment from the rail transport of Bakken crude to our shores. A thorough, scientifically based study minimizing assumptions and wishful thinking is not too much to ask given the potential adverse consequences of this project and related activities. The Skagit Audubon board will look carefully into what Skagit Planning is requiring of Shell and then decide whether to comment on and appeal the agency's decision.

Earlier this summer, Skagit Audubon submitted comments to the Army Corps of Engineers and Washington Department of Ecology on Shell's requests for permits required under the Clean Water Act. These are two of the 13 permits Shell needs for its rail project. Comments also went to the Army Corps on its plan to kill 16,000 cormorants near the mouth of the Columbia to reduce predation on out-migrating salmon. This would reduce the western population of Double-crested Cormorants by 25% and act out the age-old prejudice against this species. We believe habitat loss, hydropower, over-harvest, and hatcheries have very much more to do with salmon decline. Skagit Audubon also joined other organizations in asking the Army Corps to beef up the quality of its court-mandated EIS on the effects of the North Dock at the BP Cherry Point Refinery. The dock sits amidst Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve, a major spawning site for Pacific Herring and, thus, a significant feeding area for declining sea birds. There are also important implications for increased shipping traffic in the Salish Sea with associated risks of collisions and spills.

In late spring, Skagit Audubon joined other organizations and Audubon chapters in commenting on what should be addressed in Environmental Impact Statements for two projects at the Port of Grays Harbor in Hoquiam. These would provide for receiving Bakken oil and other crudes by rail for transfer to large tankers bound for west coast refineries, such as those at Anacortes. The Grays Harbor area has huge importance for many bird species, particularly shorebirds and the federally listed western snowy plover and streaked horned lark. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has also strongly expressed its concerns.

In summary, since the last *Skagit Flyer* none of the big issues have gone away. Rather, things continue to grind onward with these projects which offer a host of potential impacts to people and the environment. Many also foster our fossil-fuel-based way of life without regard to climate change.

VISITING WITH RAPTORS

5th Annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival 2014

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat. Sept. 13

Visit Vendors, See Raptor Demonstrations, Listen to Live Music, Visit Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Site. Day shuttles run from Pateros to Chelan Ridge to See Raptors up close Banded and Released.

Also included is a field trip from 8a.m. to noon to the Wells Wildlife Refuge.

(Please note: field trips only for people above 11 years)

Just Added: Raptor ID Workshop with Jerry Liguori

Join Jerry Liguori of Hawk Watch International ID workshop in Pateros at 7p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12th.

Jerry is a premier raptor ID expert, has authored 3 books:

"Hawks from Every Angle", "Hawks at a Distance", and "The Crossley ID Guide: Raptors"

Jerry will also be available on Saturday up on the ridge for people taking the shuttle. He will discuss in-flight identification as birds migrate down the ridge, and in-hand identification including sexing and aging.

To sign up for any of the activities or to learn more about the festival please visit our website: ncwaudubon.org

or contact the director: Richard Scranton at rscranc4350@yahoo.com



Taken from the blog “The Dragon fly Whisperer” by James Walker

August 7, 2014

DRAGONFLY FIELD TRIP, SATURDAY AUGUST 9

Greetings Dragonflies!

We hope you can join us at noon this Saturday, August 9, for a fun field trip to look for dragonflies and damselflies in Anacortes! The weather looks favorable, and we expect to see a good number of species and individuals.

Here are the details:

Meet at Smiley’s Bottom at noon. We’ll gather in the parking lot next to the restrooms and picnic tables. Later, we’ll carpool to Little Cranberry Lake, which is just a mile or so away. We’ll probably finish up around 3:00 p.m. Bring binoculars and cameras. Also, bring a spotting scope if you have one – they provide excellent views!

Taken from the blog “The Dragon fly Whisperer” by James Walker

August 11, 2014

FOLLOW UP ON FIELD TRIP



The dragonfly field trip on Saturday, August 9, 2014, was a delightful success. Great weather, and a wonderful group of dragonfly enthusiasts to share the experience. Thanks to all of you for taking the time to join us on one of our odonate explorations. Your enthusiasm and insightful questions make the field trips a memorable experience for us.

The dragonflies were very cooperative, as you might expect on such a sunny, warm day. We saw the “usual suspects,” and a surprise species as well.

Pacific Forktail (Male)
Photo by James Walker

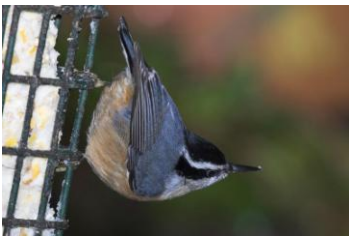
<http://thedragonflywhisperer.blogspot.com>

!!! CONTRIBUTE TO A BIRD FEEDER SALE !!!

~ OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING ~

Extra bird feeders you’re no longer using?

Bring them in for an October Second-hand Bird Feeder Sale!



Red-breasted Nuthatch
Photo by J. B. Smith

Last spring, Skagit Audubon Society member, Penny Weller, moved to Seattle. Rather than take all her bird feeders with her, Penny decided to donate them to our local Audubon Society. She suggested we sell them at a reduced price with the monies earned going to benefit our local Society. Penny moved to Seattle in the spring. Our

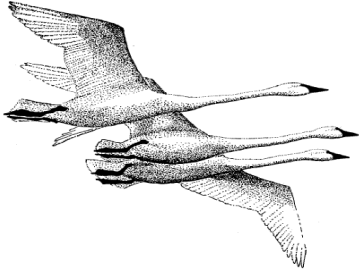
SAS Board thought it best to wait until fall when members are scrambling around to put up winter feeders.

....And further we thought, why not open the sale to other members so they too can clear out their homes of idle bird feeders. Yes, we welcome you to bring in those feeders hidden in secret corners around your garages and cellars.

Bring in those extra bird feeders to the October 13th General Meeting!
HELP your fellow SAS members prepare for the coming winter feeding!
At the same time help donate monies to our local Audubon Society!



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2014 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Aug. 31	1	2 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	3 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	4	5	6
7	8	9 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	10 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	11	12	13 Field Trip: Dragonfly Workshop (If good weather)
14	15	16	17 Hiking: Maple Pass Loop	18 Field Trip: Vaux's Swift Roost North. State Hosp. Sedro-Woolley WA	19	20 Field Trip: Whidbey Island Fall Migration
21	22	23	24 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	25	26	27 Field Trip: (Alternative) Dragonfly Workshop
28	29	30	Oct. 1 Hiking: Railroad Grade	Oct. 2	Oct. 3	Oct. 4

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

