

# The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

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

Vol. 35 No. 6

## JUNE 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](mailto: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.

**June 30, Thursday**

**Big Four Trail and Wetlands  
6:30 or 8:00 a.m.**

**to Early Afternoon**

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Exit 212 off I-5 Park & Ride for carpools or 8 a.m. at the Big 4 Picnic Area on Mountain Loop Highway 92. The Big Four area lies along the south fork of the Stillaguamish River east of Granite Falls. The birding is exceptional in June. The picnic area has spectacular views of Big Four Mountain and Hall Peak.

*Field Trips continue on page 6*

## JUNE MEETING AND PROGRAM

*WHAT CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTIONS  
MEAN FOR PACIFIC NORTHWEST BIRD LIFE*  
by Trina Bayard

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

7:00 Social; 7:30 Program

Padilla Bay Interpretive Center

10441 Bayview-Edison Road

Mt. Vernon, Washington



Can you imagine winter in Skagit Valley without Trumpeter Swans, or summers in Eastern Washington without Townsend's Solitaires?

According to a first-of-its kind study by National Audubon Society, climate change threatens nearly half the bird species in the continental United States and Canada, including dozens of iconic birds like the Common Loon, Baltimore Oriole and Brown Pelican. At a local level, the data pinpoints 113 "climate-endangered" bird species that occur in Washington state that may lose 50% or more of their existing range by 2050, according to the projections. Washington species such as the Rufous Hummingbird, Bald Eagle and even the currently abundant Mallard could lose as much as 75% of their existing range, threatening their long-term survival.

Come join Audubon Washington's Director of Bird Conservation, Trina Bayard, and Chapter Conservation Manager, Jennifer Syrowitz, to learn more about what climate change projections mean for the bird life of our region and how you can take action to protect the places on the ground that we know birds will need today and in the future, and work together to reduce the severity of global warming. Together we can build a roadmap to a better future for birds and for ourselves.

*Trina Bayard is the Director of Bird Conservation  
Audubon Washington*

**Trumpeter Swans**  
*Photo by David Gluckman*



# SKAGIT AUDUBON

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## Rhinoceros Auklets

Photo by Stephanie Fernandez

## 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 <http://wa.audubon.org/audubon-locations/>. **To join Skagit Audubon Society** use the **1st** 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 **2nd** 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 at: <http://www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter>. Membership includes all members of your household.

Check one:  \$20.00 one (1) year  \$40.00 two (2) years

Additionally, I wish to donate to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Donations of \$100.00 or more receive a personal field trip by a Skagit Audubon field trip leader.*

Check one:  New Membership  Renewing Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SAS does not share your contact information.  
**Clip form/Mail to/Payable to:** Skagit Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 1101  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1101

Use the form below to initially join the **National Audubon Society**.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail chapter-created new membership forms to address below: (Payable to same)**

National Audubon Society Y21  
P.O. Box 97194  
Washington, DC 20090-7194  
Attn: Chance Mueleck

For membership related questions and address:  
Email: [customerservice@audubon.org](mailto:customerservice@audubon.org)  
Phone: (844) 428-3826

*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:*

*Pam Pritzl [membership@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:membership@skagitaudubon.org)*



I would like to thank volunteers who donate their time, talents and energy to Skagit Audubon. As a volunteer organization, every contribution from bringing refreshments for meetings to serving as a board member is appreciated.

Our active chapter offers monthly programs, weekly hiking trips, scheduled field trips and camping events with information provided through our monthly newsletter, website and email updates. All this is made possible by volunteers. Additionally, our mission includes conservation and education. We are advocates for conservation on a city, county, state and national level. Our strong conservation efforts include letter writing, attending public hearings, and citizen science data collecting to support the protection of habitats for birds and other wildlife. The education committee designs programs for all ages in a variety of venues, including schools, clubs, festivals, parks and field trips. Also, there are ongoing administrative tasks and record keeping performed by the not so visible volunteers who keep our chapter running smoothly.

There are outdoor activities and opportunities through citizen science that our chapter schedules and supports. We appreciate the scheduled field trip and hiking leaders who volunteer their time and share knowledge of local birds, plants and trails with our members and others. Many of these leaders volunteer for multiple field trips and hikes throughout the year. The scheduled outdoor events keep us directly connected to wildlife and natural areas. Citizen science efforts include the annual Christmas Bird Count, shorebird, swan and swift surveys, and the monitoring of Purple Martin nesting sites. There are many photographers in our chapter who share their outdoor experience through photographs of nature and wildlife for our newsletter, website and education programs.

Please join me in thanking all these volunteers who make Skagit Audubon a strong and growing chapter connecting people with nature in our communities. Take the time to personally thank a board member, field trip/hiking leader, photographer or administrative volunteer. Consider offering your time to make a difference. There are lots of ways you can contribute.

**SKAGIT AUDUBON JUNE CONSERVATION REPORT****By TIM MANNS**

The list of conservation issues needing attention rarely shortens, but there are reasons for celebration too. The latest happened May 9<sup>th</sup> when the Army Corps of Engineers denied permits for the proposed Cherry Point coal export terminal. Concerted public opposition to this project goes back some years, but the Lummi Nation's assertion of its treaty rights made the decisive difference. A law suit or project redesign could prolong the proposal's life, but decline in the world coal market and other factors seem to make that unlikely.

The springtime return of warblers, swallows, flycatchers and other neotropical birds plus mild weather motivates us to get out, reconnect with the natural world, and recharge for facing the many issues that remain. It's just in time because while four proposals for coal export terminals in the Northwest have now collapsed, two stagger on: Longview, Washington and Vancouver, B.C. The Department of Ecology is accepting comments on the draft environmental impact statement for the former through June 13.

Leaving fossil fuels behind is urgent for so many reasons and is also of special interest to Audubon for the impact climate change has on avian habitats. Transportation of oil and petroleum products by rail and ship has even more immediate implications for bird populations in the Northwest. See the notice in this newsletter for information about an informative event on June 26: Oil, Orcas & Oystercatchers: Preparing for the Inevitable. Later this year we should see the draft environmental impact statement for the proposed rail facility at Shell's Anacortes refinery. Skagit Audubon will continue its involvement in reviewing and commenting on this proposal's potential for dire effects on the local environment as well as its larger implications. Also later this year there should be further developments in the Tesoro-Savage rail-to-ship terminal proposal for Vancouver, WA, and the several oil terminal projects at Gray's Harbor, one of the West Coast's most important bird areas.

At this writing in May, Skagit County and several of its cities are updating their Comprehensive Plans required under the Growth Management Act. Skagit Audubon has written in support of the county planning department's proposed changes, which now face opposition from the appointed Planning Commission. The commission's latest action was to remove the *Conservation Report continues on page 4*



20-year list of proposed non-motorized transportation projects (i.e. trails, bike paths) in response to concerted and long-term opposition from a small group against public funding for anything but roads, against trails for a variety of, well, strange reasons, against planning, and simply against government (and, yes, in the mix is denial of anthropogenic climate change). Making and keeping our community the way we want it to be, accommodating wild birds and native plants, elk, fishers, and all the components of the natural world, calls us to participate in the community and in local government as regularly as the anti-government people ironically do. Often all it takes is simply showing up at public meetings, writing a short comment, perhaps summoning the courage to stand up and say a few words. In the meanwhile, let's get out and listen and look for those spring birds that remind us why this all matters.

**SKAGIT AUDUBON FIELD NOTES: APRIL 14 TO MAY 19**

**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 to Pam Pritzl**  
**[birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org) or 360-387-7024.**

**WATERFOWL**

**Greater White-fronted Goose** 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 5-8 (GB)

**Cackling Goose** 23 at the Skagit Game Range on 5-8 (GB)

**Canada Goose** pair nesting in hole in horizontal beam on top of pilings at Anacortes Ship Harbor on 5-5 (DJ)

**Trumpeter Swan** 1 near Cook Road interchange on 4-23 (GB); 6 along I-5 at Burlington on 4-24 (TM)

**Tundra Swan** 4 near Cook Road interchange on 4-23 (GB)

**Mute Swan** 1 near Cook Road interchange on 4-15 (GB)

**Mallard** 7 older chicks with female at Anacortes Ship Harbor marsh on 5-5 (DJ)

**Blue-winged Teal** 2 at the Skagit Game Range on 4-23 (GB)

**Barrow's Goldeneye** pair at Grandy Lake on 5-12 (AW)

**Red-breasted Merganser** 1 at Skagit-Baker River confluence on 5-15 (**rare upriver**) (GB)

**PELCANS**

**American White Pelican** 11 at Jensen Access on 5-8 (GB)

**HERONS and ALLIES**

**American Bittern** 1 at Lyman on 5-5 and 5-14 (GB)

**RAILS and COOTS**

**Virginia Rail** adult with 3 chicks at Anacortes Ship Harbor Marsh on 5-5 (DJ)

**Sora** 2 at Barney Lake, Mount Vernon on 5-13 (TM)

**SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES, and ALLIES**

**Spotted Sandpiper** 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 5-8 (GB)

**Solitary Sandpiper** 1 on Minkler Flats on 5-7 & 5-8 (GB)

**Marbled Godwit** 1 at Jensen Access on 5-1 (GB)

**Least Sandpiper** 1 at Anacortes Ship Harbor marsh on 5-5 (DJ)

**Pectoral Sandpiper** 5 at the Skagit Game Range on 5-14 (GB)

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 5-8 (**rare in spring**) (GB)

**Short-billed Dowitcher** 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 4-28 (GB)

**GULLS and TERNS**

**Bonaparte's Gull** 30 off Samish Island on 4-17 (GB)

**DOVES and PIGEONS**

**Band-tailed Pigeon** 4 at Van Horn Ponds on 4-16 (GB)

**HUMMINGBIRDS**

**Calliope Hummingbird** 1 at feeder near Cockreham Island on 5-13 (GB)

**WOODPECKERS**

**Red-breasted Sapsucker** 1 at Grandy Lake on 5-12 (AW)

**FLYCATCHERS**

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** 1 at east Fidalgo home on 5-13 (RW); 2 at Secret Harbor, Cypress Island, on 5-19 (TM)

**Hammond's Flycatcher** 1 at South Cascade Road on 4-24 (GB)

**Pacific-slope Flycatcher** 1 at Illabot Creek on 4-16 (GB); several in woods at east Fidalgo home on 5-7 (RW)

**Black Phoebe** 1 (found originally by Ryan Merrill) at the Skagit Game Range on 4-28 (GB)

**VIREOS**

**Cassin's Vireo** 1 at Corkindale on 5-8 (GB)

**Warbling Vireo** 1 in Hamilton on 4-24 (GB); 1 at Hansen Creek, Northern State Recreation Area, Sedro Woolley on 4-26 (TM)

**CORVIDS**

**Clark's Nutcracker** 1 at the Hardy Burn on 5-15 (GB)

**SWALLOWS**

**Purple Martin** "lots" nesting at Anacortes Ship Harbor marsh on 5-5 (DJ)

*Field Sightings continue on page 5*



*Field Sightings continued from page 4*

**WRENS**

**House Wren** 6 at Secret Harbor, Cypress Island, on 4-21 (TM)

**KINGLETS**

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 1 at the Hardy Burn on 5-15 (GB)

**THRUSHES**

**Swainson's Thrush** heard first song of the year at east Fidalgo home on 5-13 (RW)

**PIPITS**

**American Pipit** 13 at North Fork Access on 4-19 (GB); large flock on Butler Flats on 4-30 (AW)

**WARBLERS**

**Nashville Warbler** 1 in Hamilton on 4-30 (GB)  
**Yellow Warbler** 1 at DeBay's Slough on 5-1 (GB)  
**Black-throated Gray Warbler** 1 at South Cascade Road on 4-16 (GB)

**TANAGERS and ALLIES**

**Western Tanager** 1 at suet at east Fidalgo home on 5-10 (RW)

**Black-headed Grosbeak** first of year on suet in east Fidalgo Island on 5-6 (RW); 1 at Grandy Lake on 5-12 (AW); 2 pair at Camano Island home on 5-13 (SRP)

**Lazuli Bunting** 1 near Cockreham Island on 5-9 (GB); 3 at Northern State Recreation Area on 5-16 (JB)

**SPARROWS and ALLIES**

**Chipping Sparrow** 1 near Cockreham Island on 5-9 (GB)

**BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES**

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** 1 on Minkler Flats on 4-8 (GB)  
**Bullock's Oriole** 1 at Milltown on 5-14 (GB)

**FINCHES and ALLIES**

**Red Crossbill** 18 at Bacon Creek on 5-15 (GB)  
**Evening Grosbeak** 20+ at Lincoln Hill, Mt. Vernon 4-8 to 4-22 (TM)

(JB) Joan Bird; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (DJ) Don Jonasson; (TM) Tim Manns; (SRP) Sheila and Ron Pera; (AW) Andrea Warner; (RW) Regan Weeks

**SKAGIT AUDUBON HIKING JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST BY JOAN MELCHER**

**NOTE:** This summer hiking schedule was prepared on May 17, 2016. As of this time the following hikes appear to be a "go" in the sense that we should be able to drive to the trailheads. However, there is a chance that one or more of the hike destinations will be changed due to unforeseen circumstances. 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.

**If a hike destination is changed, the meeting time and meeting place will remain the same.**

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

**WED. – JUNE 1 – ORCAS ISLAND**

This hike is 8 or more miles with an up to 1,600 ft. elevation gain. There are several hike options available in Moran State Park. Return on the 5:15 p.m. ferry, or if you wish to have dinner in Eastsound, take the later 7:50 p.m. ferry, Meet at 6:30 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 7:30 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 Washington State Discover Pass is required to park in Moran State Park.**

**SAT. – JUNE 4 – NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**

Celebrate trails! Go for a hike or walk with family and/or friends. SWITMO (Skagit, Island, Whatcom Trail

Maintenance Organization) will sponsor trail work at Deception Pass State Park. **Contact Joan Melcher (contact information above) for details, if interested.**

**WED. – JUNE 8 – OYSTER DOME**

Hike to the Oyster Dome on Blanchard Mountain. In both options below, the hiker can hike on the newly completed Blanchard Connector Trail with its switchbacks replacing the steep section to the main trail that leads to the Dome.

**OPTION 1:** Begin and end at the Pacific Northwest Trail trailhead on Chuckanut Drive near mile post 10. The hike is 9 miles with a 2,000 ft. elevation gain. **Meet at 9 a.m. at this location.** Hikers need to download the map and instructions from the SWITMO (Skagit, Island, Whatcom Trail Maintenance Organization) web site. Go to the "Great Hikes" page and under "Skagit County



*Skagit Audubon Hiking continued from page 5*

Hikes” click on “Blanchard, Oyster Dome from Chuckanut Drive and back.” If you wish, you may meet Joan Melcher at the Chuckanut Park-n-Drive by 8:30 a.m. to get a map and instructions.

**At 2:30 p.m. return to the trailhead.**

**OPTION 2:** Begin and end the hike at the Samish Overlook. **A Washington State Discover Pass is required at this location.** The hike is 6 to 7.4 miles with a 900 ft. elevation gain. Return to the trailhead at 2:00 p.m. There are opportunities for side trips to North Butte, Lily Lake, and Lizard Lake. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Chuckanut Drive Park-n-Ride, Exit 231 from I-5 on the east side of I-5.

**WED. – JUNE 15 – 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. There are up to 13 miles round trip, with up to a 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 before. Carpooling 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.

**WED. – JUNE 22 – THUNDER CREEK**

Hike up to 12 miles round trip with 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.**

**WED. – JUNE – 29 - DUNGENESS SPIT**

A beach walk along the Strait of Juan de Fuca is 5.5 miles out to the lighthouse and 5.5 miles back. We usually see seals near the lighthouse and shipping on the Strait. An entrance fee is required, but Senior Age passes work. Drivers must have a reservation for both ferry trips. So get together with friends. Decide who will drive, and have the driver make reservations ASAP. We will take the 8:45 a.m. sailing from Keystone (called Coupeville on the ferry schedule). Drivers should be there at least 45 minutes early, so their reservation is not cancelled. It usually takes 45 minutes to drive from the March Point Park-n-Ride to the ferry dock. This means

to be safe the meeting time at the March Point Park-n-Ride should be 7 a.m. Convenient ferry return times from Point Townsend to Coupeville are 5:15 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 6:45 p.m. Reservations can be made on line – Google Washington State Ferries. You can also call customer service at 1-888-808-7977 ask for “operator” to speak to a person.

**WILDERNESS HIKES**

**WEDNESDAYS – JULY 6, 13, & 20**

**WED. – JULY 27 - SAUK MOUNTAIN**

This hike is 4.2 miles round trip with a 1,200 foot elevation gain, including an option to walk down to Sauk Lake, which is 7.2 miles round trip and a 2,400 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion. For those who go to the summit only, return to the trailhead at 12:30 p.m. There is a 2:30 p.m. return for those who do both summit and Sauk Lake. Carpool accordingly.

**ROCKPORT STATE PARK TRAILS:**

ALTERNATES FOR THOSE

**WHO DO NOT WISH TO DO SAUK MOUNTAIN**

There are over 4 miles of trails that have been freed of downed trees that blocked hikers in the past. The meeting time and place will be the same. Return time depends on those car-pooling together.

**WILDERNESS HIKES**

**WEDNESDAYS – AUG. 3, 10, 17, & 24**

**WED. – AUGUST 31 – MAPLE PASS LOOP**

This is one of Ira Spring’s and Harvey Manning’s “100 Classic Hikes in Washington”. It is a 7.5 mile loop with a 2,000 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. The return to the trailhead is at 3:30 p.m.

**A Northwest Forest Pass parking permit is required!**

**WED. – SEPTEMBER 7 – CUTTHROAT PASS**

Do this hike on a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail as either a round trip of 10 or 11 miles, or as a one way hike, 10.5 miles. You have four options: (Contact Joan Melcher **BEFORE THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST** for the details which are too lengthy to print here. See page 5 for Joan’s contact information.) Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. At 4 p.m. return to the trailhead.

**A Northwest Forest Pass parking permit is required!**

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*Field Trips continued from page 1*

The 1 mile trail takes you on a boardwalk across a fresh water marsh. Expect to see Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Flycatchers, and Warblers. As we cross a bridge over the south fork of the Stillaguamish River, we will look for Dippers, Common Mergansers, Harlequin Ducks, and Spotted Sandpipers. Entering into the forest,

Pacific Wrens, Brown Creepers, Western Wood-Pewees, and Varied Thrushes may appear. Eventually we reach a huge cirque that ends at a lookout area. We’ll plan to eat lunch here. Wear hiking boots and expect to walk a leisurely 2 miles round trip, with a 200 ft. elevation gain.

*Field Trips continue on page 7*



Field Trips continued from page 6

We will break up in the early afternoon.

**Leader: Pam Pritzl, 360-387-7024 For parking a U.S. Forest Pass or Senior Age Pass is required!**

**Annual Klipchuck Campout**

**June 17-19, 2016**

**Klipchuck Campground**

**Mile 175, State Route 20**

Each summer members and friends of Skagit Audubon gather in this U.S. Forest Service Campground off Highway 20, 1.2 miles up a side road on the north side of the highway near Highway Mile 175, at elevation 2,900 ft. There are usually plenty of sharp eyes in our group and the birding is great right on the campground loops as well as on nearby trails and birding areas further down in the Methow Valley. There is no schedule or plan beyond a Saturday night dinner

potluck. Informal groups form to look for birds, or folks go out on their own with binoculars or cameras. Klipchuck is a magnet for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, woodpeckers, hummingbirds and wildflowers. A trail to Driveway Butte leads up the hill right out of the campground for the ambitious hiker. Deer are usually fawning around the campground so dogs are not recommended and must be kept on leashes. It's about 6 miles to Mazama, the nearest store, and alternate lodging, so come with what you need or plan to drive a bit further to resupply. The overnight campground fee is \$12 per site. Vault toilets and water are available. If you plan to hike from a trailhead be sure and bring your Northwest Forest Pass, Interagency Pass, or Senior Pass available from USFS offices in Sedro-Woolley and Winthrop. If you need more information: **Contact Libby Mills at [libbymills@gmail.com](mailto:libbymills@gmail.com)**

**Oil, Orcas & Oystercatchers: Preparing for the Inevitable**

**Location:** Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 10441 Bayview-Edison Road, Mount Vernon, WA

**Date:** Sunday, June 26, 2016

**Time:** 12:00pm

In Skagit County, Shell Oil is looking to add an oil-by-rail facility to its existing refinery in Anacortes, bringing in six oil trains per week and 60,000 barrels per day. As we prepare to comment on the Shell-Anacortes Draft Environmental Impact Statement this fall, we are also learning how citizen science action could make a difference during an inevitable oil spill disaster in our marine waterways.

Join us where we will celebrate what we know and love about marine life in the Salish Sea, learn about the health of Salish Sea marine bird populations and the region's iconic Southern-resident orca population, hear in detail the threats they face due to increased oil tanker traffic, and participate in a hands-on introduction to citizen science first response observance training – a meaningful way volunteers can take action in the event of an oil spill.

*Summer July 2016 Calendar*

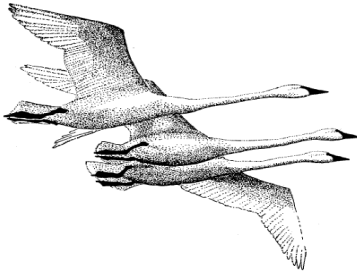
See "June 2016 Summer Calendar" on page 8

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29 Hike: Dungeness Spit	June 30	1	2
3	4 4 <sup>th</sup> of July	5	6 Hike: Wilderness Hike	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Hike: Wilderness Hike	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Hike: Wilderness Hike	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27 Hike: Sauk Mountain	28	29	30

*Summer August 2016 Calendar*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 31	1	2	3 Hike: Wilderness Hike	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Hike: Wilderness Hike	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Hike: Wilderness Hike	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Hike: Wilderness Hike	25	26	27
28 Sept. 4	29 Sept. 5	30 Sept. 6	31 Hike: Maple Pass Loop Sept. 7 Hike Cutthroat Pass	Sept. 1	Sept. 2	Sept. 3





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Oil, Orcas & Oystercatchers:  
Preparing for the Inevitable**

Padilla Bay National Estuarine  
Research Reserve

12:00 p.m. Sunday, June 26, 2016

*More Information ~ Page 7*

**Annual Klipchuck Campout**

June 17-19, 2016

**A Birding Weekend**

Mile 175, State Route 20

*More Information ~ Page 7*

*Summer June 2016 Calendar*

*See "July & August 2016 Calendar" on page 7*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
May 29	May 30	31	1 Hike: Orcas Island	2	3	4 National Trails Day
5	6	7 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	8 Hike: Oyster Dome	9	10	11
12	13	14 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	15 Hike: Ross Lake, West Shore	16	17 Klipchuck Camping Trip June 17 ~ 19	18 Klipchuck Camping Trip June 17 ~ 19
19 Klipchuck Camping Trip June 17 ~ 19	20	21	22 Hike: Thunder Creek	23	24	25
26 Oil, Orcas, & Oystercatchers: Padilla Bay Nat'l Research Reserve	27	28	29 Hike: Dungeness Spit	30 Field Trip: Big Four Trail Area	July 1	July 2

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at [www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org) The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

