

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 35 No. 8

OCTOBER 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.

**Oct. 15, Saturday
Birds, then Brew in Anacortes
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Extend your October Fest celebration with morning birding followed by beer tasting and lunch in Anacortes. We'll begin the day with a visit to Washington Park, then stop at Ship Harbor and on to other

Field Trips continue on page 7

OCTOBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

"Extraordinary Tales
From The Salish Sea"
by Joseph Gaydos

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2016
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10441 Bayview-Edison Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington



Two Pigeon Guillemots
Photo by Ken Archer

Joseph K. Gaydos, co-author of *The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest*, which combines a scientist's inquiring mind, dramatic color photographs, and a lively narrative of compelling stories. This book describes the Salish Sea ~ one of the world's largest inland seas containing 6,535 square miles of sea surface area and 4,642 miles of coastline. Fashioned by the violent volcanism of the Pacific Rim of Fire, plate tectonics, and the sculptural magic wrought by Ice Age glaciers, the Salish Sea is a unique ecosystem home to thousands of different species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and macro-invertebrates. Copies of this book will be available at the program.



Gull with Ochre Sea Star
Photo by Paul Colangelo

Joseph K. Gaydos is Chief Scientist for the SeaDoc Society, a marine science and conservation program focused on the Salish Sea. He is a licensed wildlife veterinarian.



SKAGIT AUDUBON

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irene@skagitaudubon.org

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Conservation: Tim Manns
conservation@skagitaudubon.org
360-336-8753

Education: Sheila Pera
skagiteducation2@gmail.com

Field Trips: Libby Mills
libbymills@gmail.com
360-757-4139

Hikes: Joan Melcher
jdmelcher@comcast.net
360-424-0407

Bird Sightings: Pam Pritzl
birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org
360-387-7024

Membership: Pam Pritzl
membership@skagitaudubon.org

Programs: Catherine Carter
programs@skagitaudubon.org

Publications: Jackie Boss
jackieaboss@yahoo.com
360-299-8067

Newsletter Distributor: Barbara Craner
craner2@frontier.com
360-770-3898

REPRESENTATIVES

Jean Ashby
jeanash66@gmail.com
Jane Brandt
janeb@skagitaudubon.org
Ivar Dolph
pidolph@frontier.com
Stephanie Fernandez
ferstephanie07@yahoo.com

Ron Holmes
ronh@skagitaudubon.org
Alice Turner
alicet2@msn.com

Hospitality: Stephanie Fernandez
ferstephanie07@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Ron Pera
skagitaudubon@gmail.com



**Red-breasted
Sapsucker**

Photo by Ron Holmes

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
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



Your Skagit Audubon membership is a pathway to learning, caring and sharing. Our monthly newsletters, programs, field trips, and hikes give you an opportunity to connect with like-minded people who care about the natural world focusing on birds and other wildlife.

Our newsletter has current information on chapter events and conservation concerns. A favorite monthly feature is Skagit Audubon Field Notes. These notes are bird sightings and the locations submitted by members. You can see where birds are showing up and the Skagit members who are actively looking and sharing their sightings. Pam Pritzl continues to collect this information and provide it to the newsletter. Please submit your sightings to birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org.

Our programs are educational and informative, with topics including restoration, travel, photography, geology, climate change, mammals, insects, and of course birds to name just a few. Catherine Carter, program chair, seeks programs connected to the natural world which brings our membership together each month September through June. Please submit program ideas to programs@skagitaudubon.org. A favorite annual program is the December Membership Social featuring a photo slide show. This year's show will be produced by Ronan Ellis. Each member may submit up to 8 photos and/or videos. Photos should be .jpeg format with a photo size of at least 1 to 3 megabytes (smaller pictures don't show well). Videos, no longer than 1 minute in .mov, .mp4 or .avi format will be accepted. Also, please include a short introduction with the "who, what, where and when". Send to ronaniellis@gmail.com by December 1.

This fall take advantage of your Skagit Audubon membership and attend a program, field trip and/or hike. Take time to share your bird sightings and photos with our membership. Our active chapter gives you the opportunity to connect as we learn, care and share our love of the natural world together.

SKAGIT AUDUBON OCTOBER CONSERVATION REPORT**By TIM MANNIS**

For years now plans for hugely increased rail and marine transport of coal and oil to and from Pacific Northwest ports have filled the news. Terminals are, or were, slated for many environmentally sensitive locations. Carried out, these plans would make our region ground zero for fossil fuel commerce. They have roused many Audubon members to opposition because of the environmental and safety threats these projects pose. The perhaps ultimate reason for opposition is the reality of climate change and the urgency and common sense of transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources rather than investing more in fossil fuel infrastructure. Record high temperatures, increasingly large and frequent wildland fires, rapid glacial melting, and water shortages affecting salmon, farmers, and people hoping to build homes in water-deficient basins all point to the need to speed this transition as well as adapt to unavoidable environmental change.

It's heartening to live in a state where needed measures are beginning to be put in place. While it's important to rigorously critique plans for rail facilities and terminals, it's equally important to support positive action. In mid-September, Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) released its Carbon Rule reducing emission of greenhouse gases (e.g. carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane) by the largest sources, including the Anacortes refineries. The allowed quantity of emissions decreases yearly. Regulated companies and institutions may reduce their emissions or invest in projects doing so elsewhere in the state. Governor Inslee directed DOE to develop this rule after the legislature did not act on climate change.

November's ballot offers us an opportunity to enact an innovative law positioning Washington as a leader in regulating carbon emissions. **Initiative 732 taxes carbon at a steadily increasing rate** to create an economic incentive for companies, institutions, and us to use less fossil fuel and switch to renewable energy. As designed, I-732 will neither increase nor decrease state revenues. While we will pay more for gasoline, I-732 will somewhat reform Washington's regressive tax code by lowering sales tax 1% and offering financial support to low income families. It will also eliminate the B&O (business and occupation) tax, helping companies large and

Conservation Report continues on page 4



The state board of Washington Audubon, your Skagit Audubon board, and other (though not all) Audubon chapters have voted to support I-732. Some groups oppose the initiative for its revenue neutrality, given our state's need to better support education and other important public responsibilities. Some criticize I-732 as insufficiently focused on social justice, on rectifying the injustices suffered by lower income, often minority, people as a result of environmental degradation. Many good groups are working towards a better approach to reducing carbon emissions, but the most optimistic say it will be 2018 before we see a resulting initiative to the voters or introduction of legislation. **Meanwhile, Audubon Washington and the chapters supporting I-732 point to research showing climate change to be the greatest threat to birds as well as a profound threat to people.** There is urgent need for action. Climate change will not wait for the perfect initiative or bill. I-732, building on the model of British Columbia's successful carbon tax, is the opportunity we have right now to take positive action on climate change. The Skagit Audubon board voted to support I-732. We hope you will too. Learn more about I-732 at <http://wa.audubon.org/frontpage/why-we-support-i-732> and <http://www.sightline.org/series/putting-a-price-on-carbon/>.

**SKAGIT AUDUBON FIELD NOTES:
AUGUST 21 TO SEPTEMBER 16, 2016**

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 or **360-387-7024**.

WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Goose 13 on Samish Flats on 9-1 (GB)

American Wigeon 3 at Channel Drive on 9-4 (GB)

LOONS

Red-throated Loon 1 off Rosario Head on 8-25 (GB)

GREBES

Horned Grebe 2 at March Point on 9-10 (GB)

Red-necked Grebe 20 at mouth of Oyster Creek on 8-27 (GB)

HERONS and ALLIES

Green Heron 1 at pond along Blodgett Rd, Mount Vernon on 8-28, 8-29 and 9-9 (RK); 1 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-8 (JA)

RAILS

Sora 1 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 8-27 (GB)

SANDPIPERS

Solitary Sandpiper 2 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-2 (GB,RK); 1 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-8 (JA)

Long-billed Curlew

1 at March Point on 8-25 and 8-26 (GB)

Long-billed Curlew

*Photo by
Joe Halton*



Marbled Godwit 1 at March point on 8-25 and 8-28; 2 at March Point on 9-10 (GB)

Ruff 1 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-9 (RK); 1 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-10 (RW); 1 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-10 and 9-11 (GB)

Stilt Sandpiper 1 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-2 (RK); 1-2 present at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) almost daily 8-14 to 9-4 (GB)

Sanderling 3 at the West 90 on 8-21 (GB)

Baird's Sandpiper 30 at the West 90 on 8-28 (GB)

Pectoral Sandpiper 7 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-9 (RK)

Wilson's Snipe 12 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-9 (RK)

JAEGERS

Pomarine Jaeger 1 off March Point on 8-28 (GB)

Parasitic Jaeger 1 off Bay View on 8-28 (GB)

GULLS

Franklin's Gull 1 at Rosario Head on 8-25 (GB)

Heermann's Gull 22 at Rosario Head on 9-15 (RK)

DOVES and PIGEONS

Band-tailed Pigeon 12+ with young at Camano

Field Sightings continue on page 5



Island home throughout July (SRP)

OWLS

Great Horned Owl pair on Little Mountain on 9-14 (RK)



Barred Owl 1 at Marblemount Boat Launch on 8-22 (GB)

Barred Owl
Photo by Joe Halton

NIGHTHAWKS

Common Nighthawk 2 at home near Eaglemont area, Mount Vernon on 9-8 (JA)

SWIFTS

Vaux's Swift few at Padilla Bay Headquarters on 9-9 (AW, RW); 44 went into "Vic's 66" chimney at sunset, Sedro-Woolley on 9-10 (SAS)

WOODPECKERS

Red-breasted Sapsucker 1 at Padilla Bay Headquarters on 9-9 (RW)

FALCONS

Merlin 1 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-8 (JA); 1 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-10 (RW)

Peregrine Falcon 1 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-10 (RW)

FLYCATCHERS

Willow Flycatcher 1 at Camano Island home on 9-16 (PP)

Grey Flycatcher 1 at Corkindale on 9-4 (GB)

UNUSUAL

Dusky Flycatcher 1 at Marblemount Boat Launch on 8-22 (GB)

Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1 at Padilla Bay Headquarters on 9-9 (AW)

Eastern Kingbird 1 near Cockreham Island on 8-21 (GB)

CORVIDS

Western Scrub-Jay 1 at home near Hamilton on 9-16 (WC)

SWALLOWS

Purple Martin few at Padilla Bay Headquarters on 9-9 (AW, RW); last group fledged at English Boom, Camano Island on 9-15 (SK) **LATE**

WRENS

House Wren 1 at Corkindale on 9-4 (GB)

KINGLETS

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 at Corkindale on 9-4 (GB)

THRUSHES

Townsend's Solitaire 1 at Cap Sante, Anacortes yard on 9-13 (JH)

Varied Thrush several arrived at east Fidalgo Island home on 9-12 (RW)

LONGSPURS

Lapland Longspur 1 at the West 90 pm 9-3 (GB)

WARBLERS

Northern Waterthrush 1 at Skagit Game Range (Wylie Slough) on 9-3 (GB)

Orange-crowned Warbler 1 at Cap Sante, Anacortes yard on 9-5 (JH)

Common Yellowthroat juvenile at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-8 (JA)

American Redstart 1 at Marblemount Boat Launch on 9-4 (GB)

Yellow Warbler 1 male and 1 female at CapSante, Anacortes yard on 9-5 (JH)



Townsend's Warbler
1 female at Cap Sante, Anacortes yard on 9-5 (JH)

Townsend's Warbler
Photo by Joe Halton

Wilson's Warbler 1 male at Cap Sante, Anacortes yard on 9-5 (JH); 1 at Washington Park, Anacortes on 9-15 (RK)

SPARROWS and ALLIES

Chipping Sparrow 2 on Butler Flats on 9-3 (GB)

Lincoln's Sparrow 2 at Marblemount Boat Launch on 8-22 (GB); 1 on Leque Island on 9-15 (PP)

Golden-crowned Sparrow 1 at Channel Drive on 9-4 (GB); first of season arrived at east Fidalgo Island home on 9-5 (RW)

BLACKBIRDS

Yellow-headed Blackbird pair at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-8 (JA)

FINCHES and ALLIES

Purple Finch 3 at Skagit WMA (Wylie Slough) on 9-8 (JA)

(JA) Jean Ashby; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (WC) Wade Clark; (JH) Joe Halton; (RK) Robert Kuntz; (SK) Stan Kostka; (SRP) Sheila & Ron Pera; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (AW) Andrea Warner; (RW) Regan Weeks



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. If you have questions on any hikes, call **JOAN MELCHER, 360-424-0407** or e-mail her at jdmelcher@comcast.net. All hikes are on a Wednesday. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon sponsored hikes. If they are on a hike, dogs must be leashed at all times.

***Means that a Northwest Forest Pass or a federal Senior Pass is required for parking.**

***WED. – OCT. 5 – IRON GOAT TRAIL**

This trail, on the old Great Northern route, connects Wellington and Scenic. There are different starting and ending point options. Use shuttle cars if needed. There is a 1,000 ft. elevation gain if you hike uphill between Scenic and Wellington. The hike is 5 to 10 miles, depending on the route taken. 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. A Northwest Forest Parking Permit is required. At 3 p.m. return to Scenic

WED. – OCT. 12 - 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. There are two different return times; carpool accordingly. It is 2 p.m. for those who do shorter hikes; 3:30 p.m. for those who hike longer distances. **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. Enjoy kicking leaves to your heart's content. Hike to either Ruby Arm, Hidden Hand Pass, or part way up Little Jack Trail. These are 7 to 8 miles round trip.

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

***WED. – OCT. 19 – BAKER LAKE TRAIL FROM THE SOUTH**

Hiking to Maple Grove and Anderson Point makes an 8 miles round trip with a 620 ft. total elevation gain. Enjoy beautiful forests and, if the weather is clear, views of Baker Lake, Mt. Baker and Mt. Shuksan. Meet at 8 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. There are two return times to trail head: 1:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m.; car pool accordingly.

***WED. – OCT. 26 – NORTH CHUCKANUT MOUNTAIN**

Hike trails on the northwest side of Chuckanut Mountain. There are two options: (1.) Raptor Ridge, 11.3 miles, with about a 1,800 ft total elevation gain. (2.) Madrone Crest, 8.7 miles, with about a 1,600 ft. total elevation gain. Shorter hikes are available for both options. 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 at about milepost 18.5. You may leave when your car-load has returned.

WED. – NOV. 2 – LITTLE CRANBERRY LAKE

This hike in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands is subject to change as it was planned several weeks before the August 25th Little Cranberry Lake fire. At the time of this writing it is unknown whether another hike will be substituted as parts of the Little Cranberry Lake trail are presently closed to the public.



Mt. Shuksan
Photo by Floie Vane



Mt. Baker
Photo by Gene Kiver

GET OUT!! ENJOY!!



Fidalgo Island hotspots. We're sure to see the return of many waterfowl as we say farewell to the last fall migrants. After birding, we'll break at noon for a refreshing beer tasting and lunch in town. Come for the birding. Come for the brew. Join us for both. Bring binoculars and a scope, if you have one. Expect some walking on smooth trails.

Meet at Washington Park, in Anacortes at the first day use parking lot to the right after entering the park. **Leader: Mark Perry, 931-623-2084 or runningspring3305@yahoo.com**

Oct. 29, Saturday

**Deception Pass State Park,
Rosario Head, & Lake Erie**

8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

The varied habitats near Deception Pass, from old

growth forest to the open waters off Rosario Head, attract a variety of birdlife. Expect to see winter songbirds, waterfowl, gulls, and other seabirds. Past trips have yielded Brants, Pelagic, and Double-crested Cormorants, Belted Kingfishers, several duck and gull species and more.

We will drive to Lake Erie below Mt. Erie after the Deception Pass foray to look for the several species of ducks and waterfowl that we didn't see at Rosario. Meet in the parking lot at March Point Park and Ride and be sure to dress for the weather.

A Discover Pass (parking permit) is required on this field trip.

Leaders: Phil Wright, phil@skagitaudubon.org, or Ivar Dolph, 360-299-8212

State Fears Extinction of Marbled Murrelets

by Maria M. Ruth



The past decades have not been kind to the Marbled Murrelet. Across its range, from Alaska south to central California, this imperiled seabird has suffered severe population declines—primarily from the loss and fragmentation of the forests where it nests, but also from predation, oil spills at sea, net fishing, and depletion of the small fish it feeds on.

The situation is so dire in Washington, that the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) has recommended elevating the protective status of marbled murrelets from threatened to endangered. Between 2001 and 2015, Washington's murrelet population numbers dropped 44

percent. Wildlife biologists believe the marbled murrelet could become extirpated in the state within the next several decades if solutions aren't found to address threats to this species.

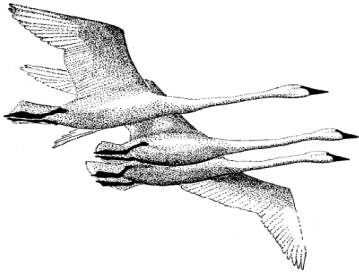
The WDFW is seeking public comment on their uplisting recommendation. Deadline for comment is October 10. Please see information below on how to submit your comments and participate in this critical conservation action.

The WDFW uplisting recommendations and draft status review are available online at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/endangered/status_review/. Comments on the reviews and recommendations can be submitted by October 10, via email to TandEpubliccom@dfw.wa.gov or by mail to Hannah Anderson, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

Maria M. Ruth is author of *"Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet."*



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VOTE!!
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016
The Future is in YOUR Hands
VOTE !! VOTE!! VOTE!!

October 2016 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
2	3	4 Skagit Audubon Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	5 Hike: Iron Goat Trail	6	7 ACOW 2016 Ed. Workshop 3-5 Paul Bannick New Book on Owls	8 ACOW 2016 Annual Meeting: Management of Public Lands
9 ACOW 2016 Field Trip: Fire Ecology in North Central WA	10	11 Skagit Audubon General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM Meeting 7:30 PM	12 Hike: Ruby Arm and / or Ruby Creek	13	14	15 Field Trip: Birds , then Brew in Anacotes
16	17	18	19 Hike: Baker Lake From the South	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Hike: North Chuckanut Mountain	27	28	29 Field Trip: Deception Pass, Rosario Head, & Lake Erie
30	31	Nov. 1 Skagit Audubon Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	Nov. 2 Hike: Little Cranberry Lake	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5

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

