

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 32 No. 7

SEPTEMBER 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 September 7

Padilla Bay

Interpretive Center

8:00 a.m. to 11a.m.

Let's see what surprises can be found at the beginning of September in the uplands of Padilla Bay. We'll meet in the parking lot of the Breazeale

Field Trips continued on page 6

SEPTEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

Wings of Beauty

by Idie Ulsh

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013

7:00 Social; 7:30 Program

Burlington Public Library

820 East Washington Ave.

Burlington, Washington 98233

Phone: (360) 755-0760



Red Admiral

(c) Photo by Idie Ulsh

A fast moving, fun program on butterflies! Idie will cover differences between moths and butterflies, natural history of butterflies, egg to adult development of two species, brief butterfly gardening ideas and identify many butterflies which occur in Skagit County. Through her photographs she will also show a butterfly emerging from a chrysalid.

The concept of butterflying is very complimentary to birding, requiring identification skills, but active when the birds are settled down for their mid-day naps. Roger Tory Peterson and Kenn Kaufman are among famous birders known as avid butterflyers.

This program is designed for all ages and the surprise ending will delight all who are fascinated by nature. Idie's passion and enthusiasm are contagious!

Idie Ulsh is the founding president of the Washington Butterfly Association, Past President of Seattle Audubon, freelance nature photographer, science advisor for BirdNote and an independent college counselor.

Obligatory disclaimer: The use of the Burlington Public Library facility or meeting rooms by any group or organization in no way constitutes endorsement of the policies or beliefs of that organization by the Library or the City of Burlington.



SKAGIT AUDUBON

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msjbishop@hotmail.com



Coyote

I heard crows raising an alarm...
...a coyote emerged!

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



Thank you, Tim!

For my first President's Message, I would like to begin by thanking Tim Manns for the terrific job he has done in his four years as our president. Tim has set a whole new standard in the position and has brought many innovations to our chapter. He has made the monthly membership meetings much more informative, keeping us up to date on events and important issues affecting us in Skagit County. Tim has revitalized our Chapter's conservation activities and, you can rest assured, he will continue as Conservation Chair where he will address the many important conservation issues that affect our county and region. In addition Tim is an excellent writer and will continue to prepare position letters for conservation advocacy, working not only closely with the board, but also writing frequent conservation updates in the *The Skagit Flyer*.

In taking this new position I am grateful that we have a wonderful group of volunteers who are very dedicated to carrying out the business of Skagit Audubon. However, we need and always welcome additional board members. As Tim has said, participation is not difficult, is often fun, and always brings satisfaction. We have a vacancy currently for Hospitality which involves making coffee for the membership meetings.

After serving as vice president for many years in two separate stretches, it's now time for me to shift to the president's position. Tim set an exceptionally high standard, always with intelligence, grace and good humor. I have recently retired and I am now able to dedicate more time to Audubon activities and I am excited to have this opportunity. Growing up in a household where my father was a zoologist at the University of Montana in Missoula and taught Ornithology, Mammalogy and Wildlife Management there for many years, I heard many interesting conversations involving birds, their life histories and research projects. Over the years I met many enthusiastic birders and this kindled a life-long interest in birds. But it wasn't until we moved to Skagit County more than ten years ago that I was able to really begin my own journey of discovery into this wonderful natural world involving birds, other wildlife and the growing importance of habitat preservation. It was my friends at Skagit Audubon, starting with Ivar Dolph, who reignited my current interest in birds and in Skagit Audubon. I hope I can return some of the benefits I have received over these years by giving back to this organization.

****A REMINDER****

The September monthly meeting of Skagit Audubon will be at the Burlington Library

Because the place we usually meet at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center is not available in September, our monthly meeting will be at the Burlington Library. Directions:
http://www.ci.burlington.wa.us/page.asp_Q_navigationid_E_78

Burlington Public Library 820 East Washington Ave., Burlington, Wa 98233 Phone: 360-755-0760

Membership Expiration Dates Announcement

For members receiving a paper copy of The Skagit Flyer, the mailing label includes your membership expiration date in the upper right corner. If the 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.

If you have questions about your membership or a change of address, please contact:

Skagitmembers@gmail.com



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

Blue-winged Teal 5 on Minkler Flats on 5-23 (GB)
Cinnamon Teal 1 male at the puddle at Sauk Prairie on 6-21 (RM)

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Sooty Grouse 1 heard on Illabot Creek Road on 6-1 (GB)

GREBES

Horned Grebe 41 at Jensen Access on 8-15 (GB)

HERONS

American Bittern 1 heard at Green Road Pond on 6-1 (GB)
Green Heron a nest observed in Gages Slough in inner-city Burlington (LPE)

RAPTORS

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 near Cockreham Island on 8-15 (GB)
Merlin 2 at the Skagit Game Range on 8-12 (GB)
Peregrine Falcon 1 caught a Violet-green Swallow (30' above me) at Diablo on 6-21 (RM); 1 at Jensen Access on 8-15 (GB)

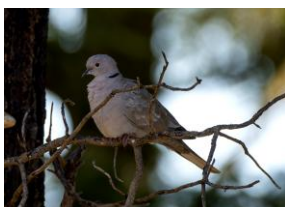
RAILS

Sora 1 heard in Hamilton on 6-16 (GB)

SHOREBIRDS

Black-bellied Plover 79 at the West 90 on 8-8 (GB)
Black Oystercatcher 4 at Rosario head on 6-9 (BK)
Willet 1 on Minkler flats (UNUSUAL) on 5-25 (KJW)
Whimbrel 2 at Jensen Access on 8-15 (GB)
Pectoral Sandpiper 5 at east end pond on Burmaster Road on 5-24 (BK); 12 on Minkler Flats on 5-25 (GB)
Wilson's Phalarope 1 at wetland along Bay View-Edison Road, just north of Sullivan Road on 6-9 (BK)
Red-necked Phalarope 3 on Channel Drive on 8-8 (GB)

DOVES, PIGEONS



Eurasian Collared-Dove
Photo by Joe Halton

Eurasian Collared-Dove 1 sighted, first in my Anacortes yard 8-8 (JB)

GULLS

Heermann's Gull 1 at Green Point on 8-8 (GB)
Ring-billed Gull 1100 at Jensen Access on 8-15 (GB)

ALCIDS

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

OWLS

Northern Pygmy-Owl 2 on Illabot Creek Road on 6-1 (GB)
Northern Saw-whet Owl 1 on Illabot Creek Road on 6-1 (GB)

SWIFTS

Black Swift 4 near Cockreham Island on 6-11 (GB); 5 at Marblemount and Corkindale on 6-21 (RM)

HUMMINGBIRDS

Anna's Hummingbird 1 in Lyman on 8-15 (GB)

WOODPECKERS

Red-naped Sapsucker 1 at Rainy Pass on 7-30 (BK)

FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 singing daily from 5-27 through 8-7 on SW side of Little Mountain in Mount Vernon (BK)
Willow Flycatcher 63 in Upper Skagit Valley on 6-21 (RM); 2 near Cockreham Island on 8-15 (GB)
Least Flycatcher 1 at mouth of Ilabot Creek on 6-1 (GB)
Hammond's Flycatcher 28 in Upper Skagit Valley on 6-21 (RM)
Dusky Flycatcher 1 at Howard Miller Steelhead Park on 6-1 (GB)
Say's Phoebe 1 at Van Horn Ponds on 5-19 (GB)
Western Kingbird 1 at Corkindale Creek on 5-24 (BK); 1 at Marblemount on 6-21 (RM)
Eastern Kingbird 1 at Barnaby Slough on 6-16 (GB); 2 at Bryson Road and Corkindale on 6-21 (RM); 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 6-29 (JRT)

VIREOS

Red-eyed Vireo 24 in Upper Skagit Valley on 6-21 (RM)

CORVIDS

Gray Jay
Photo by Joe Halton

Gray Jay 1 heard at the Hardy Burn on 7-30 (GB)



SWALLOWS

Purple Martin 18 at Ship Harbor, Anacortes on 6-1 (GB); 8 at Ship Harbor, Anacortes on 6-9 (BK)
Bank Swallow 5 at Ovenall (USFS property along Skagit River) on 5-20 (TM); 38 at Bryson Road and Corkindale on 6-21 (RM); 6 at Green Road slough on 7-18 (BK)

Field Sightings continued on p. 5



Field Sightings continued from p. 4

WRENS

House Wren 2 at Bay View cemetery on 6-17 (GB)

THRUSHES

Western Bluebird pair nesting near Lake McMurray on 5-27 (GB); pair nesting near Lake McMurray on 5-28 (BK)

Hermit Thrush 1 on Hannegan Peak trail on 8-1 (JA)

MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS

Northern Mockingbird 1 by Corkindale Creek along the south edge of the highway on 6-21 (5th RECORD FOR THE VALLEY) (RM)

Sage Thrasher 1 at Corkindale (UNUSUAL) on 5-24 (GB)

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler 1 at Rockport Quarry on 6-21 (RM); 1 near Lincoln School, Mount Vernon on 8-16 (TM)

Nashville Warbler 1 at Rockport Quarry on 6-16 (GB)
1 singing bird along the Sauk River at the northern two large pullouts of Illabot Creek Road on 6-21 (RM)

Yellow Warbler 1 near Cockreham Island on 8-15 (GB)

Black-throated Gray Warbler

Photo by Joe Halton



Black-throated Gray

Warbler 1 at Camano Island home on 6-11 (SRP); 3 near Cockreham Island on 8-15 (GB); 1 near Lincoln School, Mount Vernon (TM)

American Redstart 1 at Sauk Boat Launch on 6-16 (GB); 1 second year male singing at NP213 Road, 6 at Ag Ponds on 6-21 (RM)

MacGillivray's Warbler 20 in Upper Skagit Valley on 6-21 (RM)

Common Yellowthroat 1 near Cockreham Island on 8-15 (GB)

Wilson's Warbler 1 singing near Cockreham Island on 8-15 (GB); 1 near Lincoln School, Mount Vernon on 8-16 (TM)

TANAGERS

Western Tanager 1 male in Sedro-Woolley on 6-24 (PS); 1 at Camano Island home on 6-11 (SRP); 2 near Cockreham Island on 8-15 (GB)

SPARROWS

Spotted Towhee 2 young frequent patio area daily in Burlington (LPE)

Black-headed Grosbeak a bunch near Cockreham Island on 8-15 (GB)

Lazuli Bunting 1 at Iron Mountain Ranch on 5-20 (TM); 36 in Upper Skagit Valley on 6-21 (RM); 10 at Hansen Creek, Northern State recreation Area on 7-15 (TM); 1 near Cockreham Island on 8-4 (GB)

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES

Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 on Minkler Flats on 5-23 (GB)

Bullock's Oriole 3 at Howard Miller Steelhead County Park on 5-24 (BK); 1 immature male singing at Martin Road on 6-21 (RM); 2 at Hansen Creek, Northern State Recreation area on 7-15 (TM)

FINCHES

Cassin's Finch 3 at the Hardy Burn on 7-30 (GB)

Evening Grosbeak 1 male and 3 female in Sedro Woolley on 6-4 (PS)

(JA) Jean Ashby; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (JB) Jackie Boss; (LPE) Larry & Pat Edwards; (BK) Bob Kuntz; (TM) Tim Manns; (RM) Ryan Merrill; (SRP) Sheila & Ron Pera; (PS) Paula Shafransky; (JRT) Judy Rowe Taylor; (KJW) Keith & Jan Wiggers

3rd Annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival 2013

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat. Sept. 14

Memorial Park, Pateros, Washington

A great opportunity to learn about an amazing migration! Get face-to-face with raptors of all shapes and sizes. Join the **Methow Valley Ranger District**, **North Central Washington Audubon Society**, and **HawkWatch International** for the **3rd Annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival!** This festival coincides with the peak of southbound raptor migration at Chelan Ridge—the best place in Washington to view this journey. This family event combines free activities in Pateros with trips to the Chelan Ridge site to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. ~ Catch shuttles for field trips to the spectacular Chelan Ridge raptor migration site, 5,675 feet above sea level. Biologists who live at the Ridge during the migration season will tell how the birds are studied and tracked.

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

Reserve a spot on the shuttle to Chelan Ridge, at the [registration page](#) on the [HawkWatch International](#) website.

Still have questions? Please email: rscan@aol.com or call Richard Scranton: **509-421-3166**



Great fall hiking begins this month. However, 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 Wednesdays. 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 contact Joan Melcher 360-424-0407 or at jdmelcher@comcast.net

WED. – SEPT. 4 WILDERNESS HIKE.

trailhead at 4 p.m..

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

WED. – SEPT. 11 WILDERNESS HIKE

WED. – SEPT. 18 WILDERNESS HIKE

WED. – OCT. 2 MAPLE PASS LOOP*

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

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

WED. – SEPT. 25 SCOTT PAUL TRAIL*
Hike **CLOCKWISE** on this loop trail beginning and ending at Schreibers Meadows. By hiking clockwise one crosses two significant streams, which may or may not be bridged, earlier in the day when the water level is lower. The hike is a 7.9 mile loop, with a 1,800 foot elevation gain. Meet at 7:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. Return to the

Field Trips continued from page 1

Interpretive Center at 10441 Bayview-Edison Road, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. From there we will make a slow walk through the uplands searching for migrating songbirds and passing raptors. Depending on the time, we may also head out onto the flats and see what's flying around the winter stops we usually visit in December. September is an interesting time for birding, singing is largely over. We are birders because we love to be surprised, and that can happen right in your own backyard. If you need to ask a question contact Libby Mills, Leader: libbymills@gmail.com or 360-708-6975

Saturday, September 14
Washington Park, Anacortes
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Join us for this two mile walk on the Washington Park loop road and trails. We will walk at a moderate pace stopping to view seabirds along the shoreline and forest birds in the wooded areas. This is a great warm-up for the migratory season ahead and good field trip for beginning birders. Meet at the first parking area on the right after entering the park. Bring binoculars and/or

spotting scopes, and dress for weather near the water. Leader: Irene Perry, 931-623-2084 or irene.perry@yahoo.com

Saturday, September 21
Vaux's Swift Roost
Old Northern State Hospital, Sedro-Woolley
5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

This summer the U.S. committee for the international Important Bird Area (IBA) program recognized the tall smokestack at former Northern State Hospital in Sedro-Woolley as an IBA of global significance. During migration, thousands of Vaux's Swifts roost for the night in this and other stacks along their migration route to Latin America. As night falls, the fast-flying swifts converge above the stack in a great swirl before diving in. On prime (i.e. rainless) evenings, this is one of Skagit's great avian phenomena. 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 or bctm@fidalgo.net



Two New Skagit Important Bird Areas of Global Importance

In early August the U.S. Important Bird Area (IBA) committee added two Skagit County areas to the IBA list as areas of Global Significance. As described in the March 2013 *Skagit Flyer*, the IBA program is an international effort to identify, conserve, and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for bird populations. The lead organization is BirdLife International, based in the U.K. Audubon is the lead entity for the program in the U.S. and has been working since 1995 to identify and conserve IBA's all across the U.S. (see www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html).

In 2008, the only IBA so far designated in Skagit County joined the list: Padilla and Samish Bays. During the past two years, Pam Pritzl, Skagit Audubon Past President, reactivated the program working with Ruth Milner (WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife) to nominate Skagit Bay. Pam collected information from a wide variety of sources on the species and numbers of birds that frequent the bay and completed the complex nomination. It readily passed muster with the Washington State IBA committee and moved on to the national level committee. Because the data shows that Skagit Bay supports over 5% of the North American population of at least 4 species during a season or more than 1% at a given moment (Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, Lesser Snow Goose, and Dunlin) it meets the IBA criteria for "Globally Significant." This is the highest designation a site can receive.



Vaux Swifts at Northern State Hospital Smokestack
Photo by Jerry Eisner

Also last year, Pilchuck Audubon's Larry Schwitters, Vaux's Swift expert and another great volunteer, used data from Skagit Audubon and other volunteers to nominate the smokestack at Old Northern State Hospital near Sedro-Woolley where up to 20,000 migrating swifts roost nightly. This nomination, titled "Vaux's Swift Chimney Corridor" combined 4 significant swift roosts, Northern State plus Monroe Wagner Elementary School, Joint Base Lewis McChord Building, and Selleck Old Schoolhouse. The U.S. IBA committee confirmed that the high numbers of Vaux's Swifts using these chimneys during their annual migration met the criteria for designating them as Globally Significant.

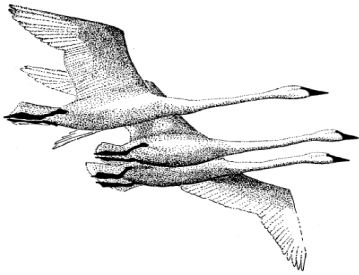
So what happens now? The IBA program has official recognition in Washington State through 2004 legislation creating a tie with the Dept. of Natural Resources' Natural Heritage Program. The designation shines a light on the importance of these places in a way which should give pause to those who would propose actions detrimental to them and to the birds the sites support. Skagit Audubon members will monitor the IBA's to ensure their conservation. Congratulations and thanks are in order to Pam and Larry and all the volunteers who over the years gathered the data at the heart of these successful nominations.

Audubon Council of Washington ~ 2013

Eastside Audubon Society and the King County chapters are hosting the 2013 annual meeting of the 26 Audubon chapters in Washington. The Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW for short) will convene for one day at Bellevue College on October 5. This year's agenda highlights citizen science with presentations by Kathy Dale, National Audubon Society's Director of Citizen Science, and Dr. Trina Bayard, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Washington. There will also be an opportunity to meet with other Audubon members from the Northwest 1 region, which includes Skagit Audubon. Find all the details you need to register at <http://wa.audubon.org/events/audubon-council-washington-2013>. All Audubon members are also welcome to attend the meeting of the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee on October 4th, also in Bellevue.



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

****A REMINDER****

Skagit Audubon September Meeting
at the Burlington Library
820 East Washington Ave.
Burlington, Washington

September 2013 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	4 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	5	6	7 Field Trip: Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
8	9	10 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	11 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	12	13	14 Field Trip: Washington Park Anacortes, WA
15	16	17	18 Hiking: Wilderness Hike	19	20	21 Deadline SAS October Flyer Field Trip: Vaux's Swift Roost, Old North. State Hosp.
22	23	24	25 Hiking: Scott Paul Trail	26	27	28
29	30	October 1 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	October 2 Hiking: Maple Pass Loop	October 3	October 4	October 5

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

