

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 32 No. 9

NOVEMBER 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

SATURDAY, NOV. 2 Padilla Bay Interpretive Center & Bay View Uplands 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

plans may change.

Libby Mills will lead this field trip/workshop to help you learn to ID the winter songbirds of the Salish Sea lowlands. This time of year is often dicey for weather, especially for birds. We'll meet in the parking lot at Padilla Bay's center, then search the neighborhood's hedgerows and forest edges for sparrows and mixed flocks of winter songbirds.

Field Trips continued on page 6

NOVEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

EAGLES AND OTTERS, ROBINS AND RED-TAILS.....

by Shona Aitken

Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Ctr
10433 Bayview-Edison Rd
Mt. Vernon, Washington



Sharp-shinned Hawk

Dissatisfied Customer

These two raptors, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Bald Eagle, are just some of the many injured and orphaned wild animals that have been cared for at Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center during its 30 years of operation.

How do these animals get injured? How are they treated and prepared for release back into the wild? How many of them come from Skagit County? How do they get to the rehabilitation center?

To discover the answers to these and other questions you may have, join Education Coordinator Shona Aitken for a presentation about Wolf Hollow's work and the animals that are cared for at the center. Drawing from over 20 years working in rehabilitation and education at Wolf Hollow, Shona will share stories about some of the animals and situations she has experienced. Ask her about the Owl in the Toilet!

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SKAGIT AUDUBON

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Snow Goose

Celebrating their Return

Photo by Joe Halton

MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTIONS

General membership meetings of the Skagit Audubon Society are held at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 1043 Bayview-Edison Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA—7:00 PM Social/ 7:30 PM Program—on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June. The board of directors meets at the same location at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month.

Skagit Audubon Society (SAS) membership provides a local chapter affiliation and newsletter, **The Flyer**, for individuals who want all their funds to benefit their local chapter. Newsletters from additional chapters can be sought by contacting their websites and membership chairs from links at www.audubon.org/states/wa/.**To join Skagit Audubon Society** please use the form below.

National Audubon Society (NAS) membership is separate from SAS membership and includes Audubon magazine. National Audubon membership does not provide Skagit Audubon membership; however, NAS will assign you an affiliation with a local chapter. To change your chapter assignment call 800-274-4201. To join National Audubon Society use the form below.

Skagit Audubon Society is a Chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Skagit Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership in the Skagit Audubon Society includes 10 issues of our newsletter, *The Skagit Flyer*, available on our website . Membership includes all members of your household.

\$20 one (1) year	\$40 two (2) years			
I wish to donate \$	to Skagit Audubon Society.			
Name				
Address				
City/State	Zip			
Telephone No				

Clip form/Mail to/Payable to:

Skagit Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1101

Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1101

II 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 <u>form below</u> 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 P.O. Box 422246-2246

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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.c



PRESIDENT'S NOVEMBER MESSAGE

By Phil Wright

I attended my first Audubon Conference of Washington (ACOW) on October 4 and 5 in Bellevue. Twenty-one of the twenty-five Washington Chapters were represented and more than eighty people attended. Audubon Washington organized the conference, along with Eastside Audubon, which hosted the conference. Audubon Washington, which nearly shut down during the recession, has been reconstituted and has a staff of five. They operate out of the Seward Park Environmental and Audubon Center on Lake Washington in south Seattle. The National Audubon Society's 2013 Conference in July was held for the first time in many years in Washington State in Skamania on the Columbia River. A number of the participants at ACOW reported that it was a very successful event.

The ACOW Conference started Friday night with a meeting of the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee, comprised of the Conservation Chairs from each chapter. Tim Manns, our Conservation Chair and Immediate Past-President, is our representative. Steve Aslanian, a former President of Skagit Audubon, also serves on the Committee in his capacity as a member of the smaller Steering Committee attended this meeting.

The main conference was on Saturday. The keynote talk was by Kathy Dale, Director of Citizen Science for National Audubon, which is becoming an increasingly important source of data for researchers. She talked about several citizen science projects of National Audubon:

- The Christmas Bird Count (CBC), with online data going back to its origin in the early 1900's is now on-line. This data has been used by more than 350 scientists for research projects.
- The Great Backyard Bird Count started only 16 years ago and is held for 5 five days in February. The data collected is also important for research. 111 countries on all 7 continents participated. 39% of world species were recorded, representing 78% of bird families.
- She also introduced National Audubon's forthcoming Climate Change Model. This powerful new tool uses over 100 years of CBC data and historic climate data to project the future range of birds under three emission scenarios and time frames. The model will help them predict where habitat will remain stable, and where they can manage to help birds survive eminent climate change threats considered the greatest limiting factor for bird populations today.

The other main talk was by Trina Bayard, Ph.D., Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Washington.

- The first of two conservation initiatives in progress is the Sagebrush Steppe Conservation Initiative. Christi Norman, who headed up the Washington Birding Trails project, is the Program Director. The program is being developed to slow the decline of sage-brush associated bird species and to provide the foundation for birds and other wildlife to flourish in Washington State's Columbia plateau and elsewhere
- The second initiative is called Audubon Washington Coastal Stewardship initiative, Marine Birds and Habitats. This program will be focused in improving forage fish/food supplies through the establishment of ecosystem –based quotas, spawning ground protection and restoration, and reducing CO2 emissions. She reminded us that populations of coastal bird species have declined about 47% since 1979 when data were first gathered.

The conference was a good opportunity for me to meet other chapter leaders and volunteers and to learn of the activities that have been successful for them.

PADILLA BAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Saturday, Dec. 28, 2013

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

GET INVOLVED! CONTACT: Tim Manns at bctm@fidalgo.net or 360-336-8753



This column reports submitted sightings. Any rare sightings should be accompanied by detailed written documentation and if possible a photograph. A second person to verify rare sightings is extremely helpful. Do not hesitate to call any observer to help document unusual sightings. Also, do not hesitate to call if you need clarification on locations.

Please submit your sightings to Pam Pritzl ppritzl@frontier.com or 360-387-7024.

WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Goose 100 at Jensen Access on 10-6 (GB)

Snow Goose 1 adult blue goose at Jensen Access on 10-6 (GB); many on Fir Island on 10-4 (JB); 2 blue geese on Maupin Road on 10-14 (JB)

Cackling Goose 30 at Jensen Access on 10-6 (GB); 50+ at Maupin Road with large flock of snow geese on 10-17 (JB)

Blue-winged Teal 1 at Skagit Game Range on 10-4 (JB)

Cinnamon Teal 4 at Skagit Game Range on 9-29 (GB) Canvasback seen at Stanwood Water Treatment plant on 10-14 (JB)

Ring-necked Duck seen at Stanwood Water Treatment Plant on 10-14 (JB)

Harlequin Duck 4 at Rosario Head on 9-29 (GB) Surf Scoter 1 female on Lake Erie on 9-29, unusual on freshwater (GB)

Long-tailed Duck 3 at March Point on 10-13 (GB) Bufflehead 7 at Barnaby Slough on 10-5 (GB); seen at Stanwood Water Treatment Plant on 10-14 (JB) Ruddy Duck 3 on Lake Campbell on 9-29 (GB)

LOONS, GREBES

Pacific Loon 70 on Samish Bay off Larrabee State Park on 10-3 (TM)

Western Grebe 75 at March Point on 10-13 (GB)

RAPTORS

Osprey 1 above Lincoln Hill, Mount Vernon on 10-1; 1 at Larrabee State Park on 10-3 (TM)

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 at Skagit airport on 10-4 (JB) **Rough-legged Hawk** 1 at West 90 on 10-14 (JB) **American Kestrel** 1 on Dodge Valley Road on 10-4 (JB)

Peregrine Falcon 1 at Skagit Game Range on 10-4 (JB)



Sandhill Cranes Photo by Becky Rosencrans

SHOREBIRDS

Pacific Golden-Plover 1 at Hayton Preserve on 10-6 (GB) Lesser Yellowlegs 1 at Channel Slough on 10-17 (JB) Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 1 on Fir Island through 10-16 (GB)

Wilson's Snipe 1 at Skagit Game Range on 10-14 (JB)

GULLS

Bonaparte's Gull 1 at Green Point on 9-28 (GB) **Heermann's Gull** 70 at Rosario head on 9-29 (GB)

ALCIDS

Common Murre 1 at Green Point on 10-4 (JB)
Pigeon Guillemot 1 at Green Point on 10-4(JB)
Marbled Murrelet 25+at Green Point on 10-14 (JB)
Ancient Murrelet 1 at Rosario Head on 9-29, early
(GB)

Rhinoceros Auklet 1 at Green Point on 10-4 (JB)

DOVES, PIGEONS

Band-tailed Pigeon 7 in Skyline, Anacortes on 10-2 (BJH)

SWIFTS

Vaux's Swift 12+ at Green Point on 10-4 (JB)

HUMMINGBIRDS

Anna's Hummingbird 1 in Costco Parking lot, Burlington on 10-13 (GB)

WOODPECKERS

Pileated Woodpecker 1 at Roger #1 WDFW Samish River Access on 9-28 (GB)

Pileated Woodpecker Photo by Joe Halton



SHRIKES

Northern Shrike 12 at the Skagit Game Range on 10-16 (GB); 1 juvenile at Skagit Game Range on 10-17 (JB)

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo 2 along College Way near Big Rock east of Mount Vernon on 10-14 (TM)

SWALLOWS

Barn Swallow 12 at the Skagit Game Range on 10-16 (GB)

WRENS

Bewick's Wren 1 at Illabot Creek mouth on 10-5 (GB) **Field Sightings continue on page 5**



CRANES

Sandhill Crane 1 at

9-29 (GB)

Jensen Access on

Field Sightings continued from page 4

DIPPER

American Dipper 1 at Cascade River by FR 1550 bridge on 10-12 (GB); 1 at Pomona Grange on 10-14 (JB)

THRUSHES

Hermit Thrush 1 at Rosario Head and 1 at Lake Erie on 9-29 (GB); 1 at WSU Discovery Garden west of Mount Vernon on 10-14 (TM)

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler 1 at Pressentin Park on 10-12 (GB)

Common Yellowthroat 1 at Illabot Creek mouth on 10-5 (GB)

TANAGERS

Western Tanager 1 at Roger #1 WDFW Samish River Access on 9-28 (GB)

SPARROWS

American Tree Sparrow 1 at Eide Road on 10-14 (JB)

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW 1 at Skagit Game Range on 9-29, unusual for area (GB) White-throated Sparrow 1 along Hansen Creek, Northern State Recreation Area on 10-15 (TM) Black-headed Grosbeak 1 at feeder near Cockreham Island through 10-2 (GB); 1 near Hillcrest park, Mount Vernon on 10-3 (BC)

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES

Western Meadowlark seen on Maupin Road on 10-14 (JB)

MAMMALS

Humpback Whale 1 at Green Point on 10-13 (GB) **River Otter** 3 at Hamilton on 10-12 (GB) **Jaguar** 7 recently seen in Pantanal, Brazil (KJW)

(**JB**) Joan Bird; (**BC**) Brenda Cunningham; (**GB**) Gary Bletsch; (**BJH**) Bob & Judy Higgens; (**TM**) Tim Manns; (**KJW**) Keith & Jan Wiggers

SKAGIT AUDUBON HIKING

NOVEMBER 2013

BY JOAN MELCHER

Cold season hikes begin this month. We move from the high country to lowland hikes near the water and in the foothills. Hikes may be canceled or destinations changed due to weather, logging, construction or unforeseen circumstances. A hike will be canceled if there are high wind warnings, predictions of very heavy rain, flooding conditions, or snowy or icy road conditions. Because this is hunting season, wear a bright-colored item of clothing. For information on or questions about the hikes, call **JOAN MELCHER**, **360-424-0407** or e-mail at **jdmelcher@comcast.net**. All of the outings 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.

WED. - NOV. 6 NORTH CHUCKANUT MTN.

Hike trails on the northwest side of Chuckanut Mountain. The main hike is a loop hike of 8.7 miles. There are options for shorter hikes as well as side trips. The outbound loop consists of parts of the Interurban Trail, the Hemlock Trail, The Lost Lake Trail, the Lower Salal Trail (Hush-Hush), and all of the Raptor Ridge Trail. The return consists of the Hemlock and Interurban Trails. There is up to a 1,700 ft. elevation gain. 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 about at milepost 18.5. You may leave when your car-load has returned.

WED. - NOV. 13 LITTLE CRANBERRY LAKE

Terry Slotemaker or his designee will lead the group around Little Cranberry Lake in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. The hike is 6.0 miles with a 670 ft. total elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the trailhead located on "A" Ave. between 37th and 41st Streets in Anacortes. Leave on your return to trailhead. Historically, all are back by 1 p.m.

WED. - NOV. 20 LITTLE MOUNTAIN

Explore the trails on Little Mountain SE of Mount Vernon WA. It is a part of the Mount Vernon City Park system. A number of options are available. There will be elevation gains. Meet at 9 a.m. on the Little Mountain Park access road. Park on the side of the road before the gate. The gate opens at 10 a.m. The Little Mountain Park access road is off the Little Mountain Road which is off the Blackburn Road. You may leave when you return from the hike.

WED. – NOV. 27 THANKSGIVING WEEK No Hike.

WED. - DEC. 4 E. SHORE LAKE WHATCOM

The E. Shore of Lake Whatcom hike is a fairly level hike among trees beside the east shore of Lake Whatcom. It is a 6.25 mile round trip, with little elevation gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at the new Chuckanut Drive park-n-ride lot. This lot is on the east side of I-5, off Exit 231 of I-5. Leave on return to the trailhead.



SKAGIT AUDUBON SOCIETY CONSERVATION MESSAGE By TIM MANNS, CONSERVATION CHAIR

There was movement during October on several issues of interest to Skagit Audubon. I'll summarize a few. Evergreen Islands, particularly focused on Fidalgo Island environmental matters, appealed Skagit County Planning and Development Services' Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance for the proposed timber harvesting and home building on 40 acres of Mt. Erie's southern slopes. Skagit Audubon had submitted a letter to the county requesting measures to protect the 2 peregrine nest sites on the cliffs near this property and expressing concern about habitat loss and potential effects on other sensitive species. I attended the hearing before the County Hearing Examiner on October 9th at which Evergreen Islands presented its case and the county defended its decision. Evergreen Islands argued that the buffer for the peregrine nests is inadequate, the aesthetic effects and impacts on long-established recreation, especially rock-climbing, were inadequately considered, and that the analysis of potential for landslides, erosion, and rock falls fell short. They request that the county require the land owners to prepare a thorough Environmental Impact Statement. Skagit Audubon again submitted a letter, this time stating the need for a more thorough analysis of impacts on sensitive bird species in particular and reconsideration of the peregrine buffer. The Hearing Examiner may issue his decision in November.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has begun preparing a management plan for Leque Island/Eide Road near Stanwood, a favorite place for both bird hunters and watchers. Skagit Audubon and Pilchuck Audubon board members attended the informational meeting the department held October 30th. Alternatives will be prepared, including one or more to restore estuarine habitat in this area where maintaining dikes has become a problem.

Phil Wright and I participated in a conference call with various National Audubon luminaries, including President David Yarnold, about Audubon's controversial acceptance of a sizeable grant from Sustainable Forests Initiative (SFI), a timber-industry funded group that certifies lumber. SFI was apparently established in response to the non-industry affiliated Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). For want of space for details here, suffice it to say that if you are buying lumber, look for FSC's more rigorously based label rather than SFI's.

If you have questions or suggestions about these or other conservation issues, please contact Tim Manns, bctm@fidalgo.net 360/336-8753

Field Trips continued from page 1

If the weather is favorable we'll conduct the whole class/field trip outdoors. If it's stormy and challenging we'll spend part of our field time looking at images of the birds indoors. Learn to accurately ID the little birds. While having fun doing so!

Leader: Libby Mills, contact at 360-708-6975 or libbymills@gmail.com

SATURDAY, NOV. 9 North Whidbey Island Birding Route 8:30 a.m. to early afternoon

Join us as we bird an auto route visiting Dugualla Bay, Cornet Bay, Swantown, Penn Cove, and more. Meet at the Shell Park 'n Ride near Sharpe's Corner by Rt. 20 at 8:30 a.m. We'll search North Whidbey Island hoping to find Canvasbacks, Long-tailed Ducks, Ruddy Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, and possibly 3 kinds of Scoters. We'll seek water birds both on fresh water and salt water and hopefully shorebirds, especially at Penn Cove. There

will be minimal walking, mostly binocular and scope setting in coastal areas. The trip will end around 1:00. Dress for the weather and remember it can be cold in the wind this time of year. (Hot thermos beverages are recommended.) Bring scopes, as many birds will be off in the distance. **NOTE: A Discover Pass (parking permit) is required for state parks.**

Leader: Ivar Dolph, contact at 360-293-5951 or pidolph@frontier.com

SATURDAY, NOV. 16 Rosario Head, Deception Pass State Park 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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 **Field Trips continue on page 7**



Field Trips continued from page 6

have yielded views of Red Crossbills, Brandt's Cormorants, Belted Kingfishers, Ducks, Marbled Murrelets, and more. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and lunch. This field trip will especially focus on helping beginning birders find, identify, and learn about species in different habitats. Meet in the parking lot at Rosario Beach, and be sure to dress for the weather. **NOTE: A Discover Pass (parking permit) is required for state parks.**

Leader: Phil Wright contact at 360-299-8212

SATURDAY, NOV. 23 Padilla Bay and Samish Flats 8:00 a.m. to about 2:00 p.m.

Our trip is mostly drive-and-bird field trip across the raptor-rich Samish Flats and surrounding area. Though justly famous for its raptors, the flats also provide numerous opportunities to spot shorebirds, ducks, and songbirds. Bring a lunch (snacks), warm clothing, and rain gear (We'll go birding in any weather). Meet in the parking lot of the Breazeale Interpretive Center at Padilla Bay to arrange carpools. **Please bring your Discover Pass if you have one** for parking at the West-90 and other sites requiring a permit.

Leader: Bob Kuntz: contact at 360 424-9099 or annebobkuntz@gmail.com



December Potluck and Membership Show



An annual tradition continues! At our **December 10th meeting** we will have a potluck followed by our popular membership photography program. **The potluck will start at 6:45, followed by the program at 7:30**. Skagit Audubon member Ronan Ellis will be preparing this year's show.

Ronan says, "Ronan knows nothing about birds, so please be prepared to present your work at the meeting." Here are the picture requirements:

- *Please send your pictures to: rie4707@gmail.com
- *Please send no more than 5 pictures or video clips.

Pictures should be in .jpeg format and of sufficient resolution to project well, about 1 mb should be fine. Videos should be less than a minute in duration.

- *Your email should include:
 - Who, your name
 - What, your subject, i.e. birds
 - Where, location
 - When, date of event
 - Why, a brief description of what you are showing

Ronan will prepare an introductory slide from the information you provide.

. <u>Please send your pictures no later than December 1.</u>

A "CLIMATE CHANGE" SIGN OF THE TIMES

I found in the last Audubon Chapter Services (10/18/13) a notice informing:

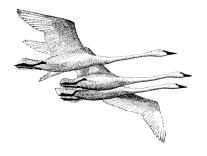
"Audubon is relocating its servers to reduce the impact of future extreme weather events in the New York metropolitan area."

I am personally happy to belong to an organization that sees climate change as a reality to prepare for. Hopefully, other organizations, commercial, or otherwise are also preparing for the future!

--Jackie Boss, Skagit Audubon Society Flyer editor



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER POTLUCK
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Tuesday, Dec. 10
!SEND YOUR PICTURES BY DEC. 1!
FOR DETAILS SEE PAGE 7

November 2013 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30 Hiking: Ruby Arm and/or Ruby Creek Trail	Oct. 31 Halloween	1	2 Field Trip: Padilla Bay & Bay View Uplands
3	4	5 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	6 Hiking: North Chuckanut Mtn.	7	8	9 Field Trip: N. Whidbey Island Birding Route
10	11	12 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	13 Hiking: Little Cranberry Lake	14	15	16 Deadline SAS November Flyer Field Trip:Rosario Deception Pass
17	18	19	20 Hiking: Little Mountain	21	22	23 Field Trip: Padilla Bay & Samish Flats
24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Week – No Hike Dec. 4 Hiking: East Shore Lake Whatcom	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	Dec. 28, 2013 Xmas Bird Count Padilla Bay

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

