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 field trip 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, November 1
Deception Pass State Park, Rosario Head, & Lake Erie
8:30 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 Field Trips continue on page 7

Day Hiking the San Juans and Gulf Islands

with Craig Romano

Tuesday, November 11, 2014
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10441 Bayview-Edison Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington

Turtlehead Preserve
Orcas Island, San Juan Islands, WA

Come day hike the San Juan and Gulf Islands with award winning author, Craig Romano. In his new release, Day Hiking The San Juans and Gulf Islands (The Mountaineers Books) Craig will be spotlighting some of the best hiking destinations within the Salish Sea. The San Juan and Gulf Islands are a one-of-a-kind natural landmark; a region divided by two countries, sharing a common human, cultural and natural history. Yet each island retains its own identity—its own distinct atmosphere.

Craig hiked nearly a thousand miles on 28 islands researching this, his 12th book. Encompassing all of the ferry-accessible islands, Craig also includes trails on Anacortes/ Fidalgo Island, Tsawwassen/ Point Roberts, and Victoria/ Saanich Peninsula—the islands’ gateways. Come learn about fascinating trails within the new San Juan National Monument and Gulf Islands National Park Reserve. Discover trails on undeveloped islands; trails to secluded beaches, bays and coves; trails on rugged coastal ledges and bluffs; and trails through magnificent old-growth forests that were old even when George Vancouver sailed into the Salish Sea. Explore state and provincial parks, nature preserves, historic sites, lighthouses, hill tops, and open bluffs that burst with wildflowers.

Craig looks forward to sharing some of his favorite trails and wild places within the San Juan and Gulf islands.

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Craig looks forward to sharing some of his favorite trails and wild places within the San Juan and Gulf islands.
SKAGIT AUDUBON  
Board of Directors

OFFICERS
President: Phil Wright  
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Vice President: Irene Perry  
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Secretary: Mark Perry  
runtimp@msn.com  
360-336-8753
Treasurer: Hella Lee  
hlee@fidalgo.net  
360-848-5937
Past President: Tim Manns  
conservation@skagitaudubon.org  
360-336-8753

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Hikes: Joan Melcher  
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skagitmembers@gmail.com
Programs: VACANT
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Hospitality: Nancy Olsen  
nolsen@wavecable.com
Webmaster: Ron Pera  
skagitauubon@gmail.com

November 2014

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 Skagit 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 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 web site. Membership includes all members of your household.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost 1 Year</th>
<th>Cost 2 Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>$20</td>
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<tr>
<td>$40</td>
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<td>$80</td>
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I wish to donate $______ to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

**Address______________________________**
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<tr>
<th>City/State</th>
<th>Zip</th>
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**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.)


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

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost 1 Year</th>
<th>Cost 2 Years</th>
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**Address______________________________**
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<th>City/State</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Telephone No.________________________ Email________________________**

**Clip form-Mail to/Payable to:**
National Audubon Society  
Chapter Membership Data Center Y21  
P.O. Box 42246-2246  
Palm Coast, FL 32142  
www.audubon.org

**Snow Geese**
They’re Back!  
Photo by Joe Halton
The National Audubon Society released an important study “Birds and Climate Change” in September. This study by Audubon ornithologists concludes that global warming is the greatest threat birds face today. More than half of the nearly 600 North American birds studied are at risk and nearly one quarter face possible extinction by the year 2080.

The study was the centerpiece of the annual Audubon Washington conference, held in Ocean Shores in September. Gary Langham, Audubon’s Chief Scientist, made an impressive presentation at the meeting, explaining the science behind the study and the expected changes in the ranges of individual species which will result from the increase in global temperature. The study, which has taken seven years, uses many years of data from the Christmas Bird Count, the North American Breeding Bird Survey and forty years of North American climate data to understand the link between where birds live and the climatic conditions that support them. Understanding those links then allows scientists to project where birds are likely to be able to survive – and not survive – in the future.

Of the 313 regularly occurring birds in Washington State included in the study, nearly 100 are climate threatened or endangered. Some are projected to lose a substantial percent of their summer ranges as summer temperatures rise. For example: horned grebe and trumpeter swan (projected to lose 100% of their summer range), merlin, northern pygmy-owl and California gull (98% loss), Barrow’s goldeneye (97% loss). Although these birds are projected to lose less of their winter ranges (46-73%), if they are unable to breed due to loss of summer range, they are threatened with extinction.

As Tim Manns, our Conservation Chair, said in his October Conservation Report:

The Audubon report ends with two points: we can and should act to address climate change and the necessary transition from fossil fuels. And, the protection of habitat for birds and other creatures is key to their survival. Habitat protection drives Skagit Audubon’s conservation advocacy: supporting our local land trusts, encouraging public land managing agencies to protect and restore habitat, urging much greater care in the transport and processing of fossil fuels while transitioning away from them.

There is much information on Audubon websites about the study. The Audubon Washington website has a full list of resources under Conservation: http://wa.audubon.org/climate-change-0. This includes links to articles in the Puget Sound press and the best resources on Audubon’s website. I encourage you to take a few minutes to become familiar with this important study.

### Skagit Audubon Society Income & Expenses

**Fiscal year 7/01/13 - 6/30/2014**

*Submitted by Hella Lee, Skagit Audubon Society Treasurer*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Memberships</td>
<td>Audubon Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>$ 3,560</td>
<td>$ 1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nat’l Audubon Baseline</td>
<td>Skagit Audubon Project -</td>
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<tr>
<td>$ 1,434</td>
<td>Debay Slough Interpretive Sign</td>
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<tr>
<td>$ 15</td>
<td>$ 359</td>
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<td>Nat’l Audubon Dues Share</td>
<td>Conservation Donations</td>
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<td>$ 2,700</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
<td>Education Programs &amp; Supplies</td>
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<td>$ 1,401</td>
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<td>Hospitality</td>
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<td>$ 66</td>
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<td>Seabird Trip Fundraiser</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>$ 495</td>
<td>$ 313</td>
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<td>Skagit Flyer Printing &amp; Postage</td>
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<td>$ 1,403</td>
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<td>Speaker Expenses</td>
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<td>$ 140</td>
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<td>Website Design &amp; Maintenance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
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<td>$ 8,856</td>
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Migrating Vaux’s Swifts and three Merlins on the hunt made dramatic viewing at the Northern State Hospital roost site in September. Planning for the future of this state-owned property continues. Go to portofskagit.com/skagit-advantage/north-cascades-gateway-center-project/ to see the public support for varied uses, continued public ownership, and preservation of the historic structures. Skagit Audubon sent local and state officials and the planners a letter explaining the importance of the migratory roost stack and urging its preservation.

During September, your chapter submitted brief comments to the National Park Service supporting its plan to work with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) in restoring the fisher, a mustelid between the pine marten and river otter in size, to North Cascades and Mount Rainier National Parks. The fisher is believed to have been extirpated from Washington by the 1990’s. Restoring it fits well with Audubon’s mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats.

WDFW is finishing plans to restore 126 acres of tidal marsh habitat to support Chinook smolts at Fir Island Farms Reserve Unit (also known as Hayton Snow Goose Reserve) by moving back the dike on Skagit Bay. About 100 acres of farmed field will remain as a non-hunted resting spot for snow geese. WDFW will have to replace the 126 inundated acres with land for snow geese elsewhere under the grant terms of the property’s acquisition. For more information, go to wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/skagit/final_restoration_study.php.

There is now a third proposal for bringing unit trains of crude oil to Grays Harbor, this one submitted by Grays Harbor Rail Terminal, LLC (a subsidiary of U.S. Development). Unfortunately, in addition to increasing the overall risk of a spill into this harbor so important for migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, and several federal and state listed species, this terminal is to be built directly adjacent to Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is the most important part of the harbor for those shorebirds. For information, go to http://www.ecy.wa.gov/geographic/graysharbor/ght.html and send in your comments on what the environmental impact statement should cover by November 3.

******************************************************************************************

Tufted Puffins Need Your Help!

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is considering the addition of Tufted Puffins to the state’s endangered species list. This once common species of the San Juan Islands, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the outer coast of the Olympic Peninsula, has shown a marked decline or abandonment in 38 of 43 known breeding sites in Washington. WDFW estimates an 8.9% annual rate of decline for this well-known, colorful seabird.

The one-page summary report is available at wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01642. Public comments are being solicited through Dec. 11th. Send them by email to: TandEpubliccom@dfw.wa.gov Or by mail to: Penny Becker, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091

PADILLA BAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014

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
Cold season hikes begin this month. We move from the high country to lowland hikes near the water and on 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 bright-colored clothing. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes. If dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times.

For all hike information or other questions contact: Joan Melcher: 360-424-0407 or jdmelcher@comcast.net

**WED. – NOV. 5 – OLD SAUK RIVER TRAIL**
The Old Sauk River Trail is a hike along the scenic Sauk River. On this low-elevation trail you will walk through patches of old growth Douglas firs. It is 6 miles round trip, with a little elevation gain. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Mount Vernon Safeway. Audubon South hikers may go directly to the trailhead. Drive to Darrington. At the four-way stop there, turn RIGHT onto the Mountain Loop Highway. About 4 miles south of this turn you will come to the Clear Creek Campground. The trailhead is a little farther down the road. Turn LEFT into the parking area, which is a short way down a dirt road. Follow the trail through the forest and along the Sauk River until the trail comes out onto the Mountain Loop Highway. Then return the way you came. When all the people in your car have returned to the trailhead, you may leave.

*A U.S. Forest Service parking permit required.

**WED. – NOV. 12 – LITTLE CRANBERRY LAKE**
Do a hike around Little Cranberry Lake in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. It is 6.0 miles round trip, with a 670 ft. total elevation gain. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the trailhead located on “A” Ave. between 37th and 41st Streets in Anacortes. You may leave when all in your vehicle return to the trailhead. Historically, all are back by 1 p.m.

**WED. – NOV. 19 – LITTLE MOUNTAIN**
Explore the trails on Little Mountain southeast 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. Your car load may leave when you return from the hike.

**WED. – NOV. 26 – THANKSGIVING WEEK NO HIKE**

**WED. – DEC. 3 – EAST SHORE LAKE WHATCOM**
The East Shore of Lake Whatcom Hike is fairly level. You walk among trees bordering the lake shore. It is 6.25 miles round trip, with very little elevation gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at the new Chuckanut Drive Park-n-Ride. This lot is on the east side of I-5, off Exit 231 of I-5. Your carload may leave when you return to the trailhead.

**********************************************************************************************

!!! CRAIG ROMANO: Guidebook Author!!!
Craig Romano is one of the most prolific trails writers in the Northwest, having penned books covering the Olympic Peninsula, North Cascades, Eastern Washington, Idaho, and the Columbia River Gorge. His *Columbia Highlands: Exploring Washington’s Last Frontier*, was recognized in 2010 by Washington Secretary of State, Sam Reed, and State Librarian, Jan Walsh, as a Washington Reads book for its contribution to Washington’s cultural heritage.

Craig is currently working on several other books including a guide to Mount St. Helens. He lives with his wife, Heather and cats, Giuseppe and Mazie in Skagit County, WA, close to the San Juans. His writings can also be regularly found in magazines, websites, and his numerous books.

**********************************************************************************************
Birds at Risk in Washington State

The list below includes a small sample of climate threatened and endangered birds from Washington state. Audubon’s new study reveals the devastation global warming will likely have on birds—and identifies the habitat strongholds they’ll need to hang on.

For a more complete list see Washington in Pacific Flyway at: http://climate.audubon.org/geographical-search/washington

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIRD NAMES</th>
<th>SUMMER RANGE LOST</th>
<th>WINTER RANGE LOST</th>
<th>SUMMER RANGE LOST</th>
<th>WINTER RANGE LOST</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>100%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>Common Merganser</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cygnus buccinators</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mergus merganser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Pygmy Owl</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>American Kestrel</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Falco sparverius</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Harrier</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Mountain Chickadee</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circus cyaneus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Poecile gambeli</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Dipper</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>Red Crossbill</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cinclus mexicanus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Loxia curvirostra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red-breasted Nuthatch</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Golden-crowned Kinglet</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitta Canadensis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regulus satrapa</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double-crested Cormorant</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>Western Tanager</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phalacrocorax auritus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Piranga ludoviciana</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bald Eagle</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anas platyrhynchos</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

December Potluck and Membership Show

The tradition continues .......

When: Tuesday, Dec. 9    Time: 6:45 Potluck ~ 7:30 Program
Program Organizer: Libby Mills

EMAIL PHOTOS TO: libbymills@gmail.com

- Libby asks: Send no more than 5 pictures in .jpg format
- Pictures should be sufficient resolution to project well: between 300 KB & 1 MB
- Include Name of Photographer, Description of Subject, and Location
- Topics include Wild Nature, Flowers, Birds and other Animals, Landscapes, Trips, Backyard Habitat, and Hikes

Please Send Your Pictures ASAP ~ NO LATER than DECEMBER 1
Field Trips continued from page 7
winter songbirds, waterfowl, gulls, and other seabirds. Past trips have yielded Red Crossbills,

[Image]

Red Crossbill
*Photo by Joe Halton*

Brandt’s, Pelagic, and Double-crested Cormorants, Belted Kingfishers, several duck and gull species and more. Then we will drive to Lake Erie below Mt. Erie to look for the several species of ducks and waterfowl that we didn’t see at Rosario. Meet in the parking lot at Rosario Beach and be sure to dress for the weather.

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

**Leader: Phil Wright**, contact at plwright@comcast.net or 360-299-8212

**Saturday, November 8**
**Fisher Slough, near Conway**
**8:30 a.m. to about 12 Noon**
Meet at 8:30 at the South Mount Vernon Park and Ride south of the I-5 Anderson road exit at Hickox and Highway 99. Carpool to Fisher Slough as there is limited on-site parking along the north dike of Fisher Slough. Joelene will be at the site early to make sure the gate is open and help park cars. A map will be provided in field trip reminder mail. This field trip will look at the Nature Conservancy’s restoration project, its goals, what's been done, monitoring, and what’s been learned. Come ready to learn about estuaries. Bob will lead the bird portion of the tour. It is a good location to see some of Skagit's big wintering waterfowl.

**Leaders: Joelene Boyd, 919-323-0345 cell**
**Bob Kuntz, annebobkuntz@gmail.com**

**Saturday, November 15**
**North Whidbey Island Birding Route**
**8:30 a.m. to Early Afternoon**
Join us as we bird on an auto route visiting Dugualla Bay, Cornet Bay, Swantown, Penn Cove, and more. Meet at the Shell Park ‘n Ride located one-half mile east of Sharpe’s Corner on SR 20 at 8:30 a.m.

We'll search north Whidbey Island hoping to find Long-tailed Ducks, Ruddy Ducks, Harlequin Ducks, and possibly 3 kinds of Scaups. We'll seek birds on both fresh and salt water and hopefully shorebirds, especially at Penn Cove. Expect minimal walking, as we will depend on binocular and scopes in these 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 distant.

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

**Saturday, November 22**
**Padilla Bay and Samish Flats**
**8:30 a.m. to about 12 Noon**
Meet at 8:30 at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center parking lot for a morning of exploring the area for winter specialties of Samish flats and Padilla Bay. We'll begin by looking for birds in the uplands of Padilla Bay then take carpools to the bay and then finally, drive onto the flats to search with binos and scopes for our favorite winter birds. Bring a hot thermos, scope if you have one, and appropriate clothing. We will end around noon.

**Leaders: Libby Mills, libbymills@gmail.com**
360-708-6975 and** Kraig Kemper**

---

**Our Skagit Audubon Society Needs a Program Chair**

We are in need of a Program Chair to assist in finding speakers for our membership meetings and in coordinating the arrangements. This is a collaborative effort as other board members often have good ideas, and potential speakers often contact us directly.

Please contact Phil Wright if you might be interested: 360-299-8212, plwright@comcast.net
November 2014 Calendar

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<thead>
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<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 29 Hike: North Chuckanut Mountain</td>
<td>Oct. 30</td>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>1 Field Trip: Rosario Head, Deception State Park, Lake Erie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 26</td>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>Oct. 28</td>
<td>5 Hike: Old Sauk River Trail</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 Field Trip: Fisher Slough, near Conway</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM</td>
<td>12 Hike: Little Cranberry Lake</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 Field Trip: North Whidbey Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM</td>
<td>19 Hike: Little Mountain</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 Field Trip: Padilla Bay &amp; Samish Flats</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26 No Hike Dec. 3 Hike: East Shore Lake Whatcom</td>
<td>27 Thanksgiving</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Thanksgiving</td>
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