

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/skagitaudubon
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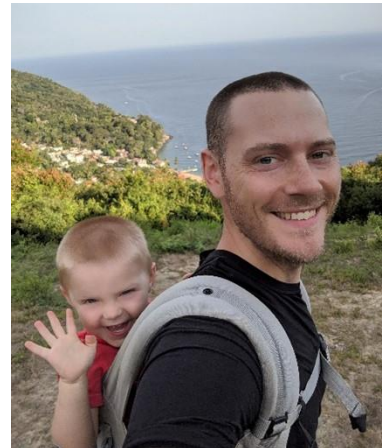
JUNE MEETING – PRESENTED ON ZOOM (no in-person attendance)

"A Bird's Eye View of Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge"

**Presented by: Jared Strawderman, Stewardship & Community
Engagement Coordinator, Gorge Refuge Stewards
Tuesday, June 13th at 7:00 pm**

Please join us for this month's meeting which will be held on Zoom only (no in-person attendance). To attend the Zoom event, please register at: <https://bit.ly/SASJun1323>. Preregistration for Zoom is required and please only one Zoom registrant per household. After you register, you will receive an email with the link to sign in at the time of the event. If you register and are unable to attend the Zoom event, please cancel your registration. Thank you. Questions? Contact programs@skagitaudubon.org.

Jared will provide an overview of the history of this refuge on the Lower Columbia River, the purpose, and benefits of the project, including new avian species seen, and community engagement and focus on accessibility of the refuge. Jared is the Stewardship & Community Engagement Coordinator with the Gorge Refuge Stewards. He majored in Biology at Bridgewater College in Virginia. He has worked at several National Wildlife Refuges including Pea Island, Ridgefield, Steigerwald, Franz Lake and Pierce. He is also Vice President of Vancouver Audubon. He enjoys hobby nature photography, and spending time exploring nature with his 5-year-old son.



RECORDINGS OF PAST PRESENTATIONS NOW AVAILABLE:

May 9th presentation "Endangered Tufted Puffins of Smith Island" by Amanda Colbert is available at the following link: <https://youtu.be/Sd6xF1nCahM>

Note: Amanda has provided this link to a report from WDFW for those interested:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/02051/wdfw02051.pdf>

April 11th presentation "Who Are You Calling a Bird Brain?" by Dr. Kim Adelson is available at the following link: <https://youtu.be/mo12BiPhrEg>

February 14th presentation "Birds of the Sonoran Desert" by Chris Williams is available at the following link: <https://youtu.be/exrtm6X12mo>

ABOUT SKAGIT AUDUBON: 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. General membership meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Some meetings will be presented on Zoom only. Others will be hybrid meetings on Zoom and in-person at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 10441 Bayview-Edison Rd., Mt. Vernon. Check the monthly Flyer for upcoming meeting details. The board of directors meets on the first Tuesday of each month, September through June, at 7 pm. Skagit Audubon membership provides a local chapter affiliation and newsletter, the Skagit Flyer, for individuals who want all their funds to benefit their local chapter. The Skagit Flyer is produced monthly from September through June and full color issues are available at: www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter. Unless noted, all images, drawings, clip art, etc. appearing in The Skagit Flyer are in the public domain. We reserve the right to edit.

Board of Directors-Officers

President: John Day; president@skagitaudubon.org
Vice President: John Farnsworth; vicepresident@skagitaudubon.org
Secretary: Don Jonasson; donjonasson@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Neil O'Hara; treasurer@skagitaudubon.org

Board of Directors-Committee Chairs

Communications: Mary Sinker; publications@skagitaudubon.org
Conservation: Tim Manns; conservation@skagitaudubon.org
Education: Jeff Osmundson; education@skagitaudubon.org
Field Trips: Colleen Shannon; fieldtrips@skagitaudubon.org
Finance: Lisa Hopkins; finance@skagitaudubon.org
Hikes: To be Determined (see hiking section for temporary contact)
Membership: Pam Pritzl; membership@skagitaudubon.org
Nomination & Governance: Lisa Hopkins; finance@skagitaudubon.org
Programs: Carla Helm; programs@skagitaudubon.org
Technology: Ann Skinner; anns@skagitaudubon.org

Board of Directors-At-Large Directors

Jeff Sinker jmsinspect999@aol.com
Katherine O'Hara katherineoh@skagitaudubon.org
Libby Mills libbymills@skagitaudubon.org

Other Volunteers

Hospitality: Pamela Maxwell
Newsletter Distribution: John Edison

In response to the COVID-19 virus, some of our general meetings are being held at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center with an option to attend via Zoom, while others will be available on Zoom only. Please check the monthly program description for meeting details. As with our hikes and field trips, only vaccinated, symptom-free individuals should attend meetings in person. Please visit our website: www.skagitaudubon.org for updates.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS – JUNE 13TH

Skagit Audubon Society will hold its annual meeting and elections for officers and directors on June 13, 2023 at 7 pm. The meeting will be conducted on the Zoom platform. An email will be sent out in early June explaining how the vote will be conducted. Candidates for the following positions will serve a one-year term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Officers

Vice President: John Farnsworth
Treasurer: Neil O'Hara

At-Large Directors

1. Ann Skinner
2. Colleen Shannon
3. Don Jonasson
4. Jeff Osmundson
5. Jeff Sinker
6. Libby Mills
7. Lisa Hopkins
8. Mary Sinker
9. Nancy Crowell
10. Pam Pritzl
11. Renee Westlund
12. Tim Manns



Note: The President, John Day will be serving the second year of his two-year term. There were no candidates for the position of Secretary.

Contribute to Science Through Birding

The Puget Sound Seabird Survey is looking for birders in Skagit County – in particular, the Edison area - to join this established Community Science program. Volunteers are asked to conduct 7 surveys with a small team of fellow surveyors at specific locations throughout the Sound. All surveys are synchronized to take place once per month on the first Saturday, October – April. You will be provided training in the survey technique, and ideally will have good seabird identification skills. However, there are



roles on the survey teams for birders of all levels. Now in its 15th season, you'll be contributing to valuable science that monitors wintering seabirds across Puget Sound and informs important management decisions. Previously, the project was part of Birds Connect Seattle's (formerly Seattle Audubon) science program but transitioned to its new home at Puget Sound Bird Observatory in 2022. More information can be found at <https://www.pugetsoundbirds.org/about-psss> and if interested in taking part, please reach out to Program Manager Toby Ross t_ross@pugetsoundbirds.org. Photo: Common Loon by Doug Schurman

FIELD TRIPS – by Colleen Shannon

Beginning birders and friends are always welcome on Skagit Audubon field trips. Please be prepared for the weather with suitable clothing and bring field guides, binoculars, and spotting scopes (if you have them). Please note specific COVID guidelines in each field trip description. Questions? Contact Colleen Shannon, fieldtrips@skagitaudubon.org.



Saturday June 17, 2023, Barnaby Slough near Rockport, 8:30 a.m. to noon

Leader: Tim Manns; conservation@skagitaudubon.org

Barnaby Slough is a complex of oxbow wetlands on the south side of the Skagit River east of Rockport. It's a great place to see neotropical migrants such as warblers, flycatchers, tanagers, and vireos. Wetland birds such as grebes, herons, and rails are possible. Meet at 8:30 am at the turnoff to the old fish hatchery on Martin Ranch Road: Take SR20 east to Rockport. At Rockport, turn right on SR530. About 1.6 miles south of SR20, turn left on Rockport-Cascade Road. In about 1.5 miles, turn left on Martin Ranch Road. In about 1.25 miles, you'll reach the turnoff to the old fish hatchery. Two or three vehicles can park at the gate on the old hatchery access road. Others can park to the side of the turnoff or along the shoulder of Martin Ranch Road. (N48.479906 W121.536426). Bring binoculars, a scope if you have one, sturdy shoes, snacks, and dress for the weather. Sign up using this link: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ba4af28a4f4c16-barnaby#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ba4af28a4f4c16-barnaby#/)

Tuesday, June 20 to Friday, June 23 – Klipchuck Campground & The Methow Valley (Mile 175, SR20)

Leader: Libby Mills; libbymills@gmail.com

Each summer members and friends of Skagit Audubon gather in this U.S. Forest Service Campground off Highway 20, 1.2 miles up a side road on the north side of the highway near Highway Mile 175, at elevation 2,900 ft. There are usually plenty of sharp eyes in our group and the birding is good right on the campground loops as well as on nearby trails and birding areas further down in the Methow Valley. There is no schedule or plan beyond a Wednesday night dinner potluck. Informal groups form to look for birds, or folks go out on their own with binoculars or cameras. Libby offers to lead morning walks Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Klipchuck is a magnet for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, and wildflowers. A trail to Driveway Butte leads up and up the hill right out of the campground for the ambitious hiker. It's about 6 miles to Mazama, the nearest store, and alternate lodging. The overnight campground fee is around \$12 per site. Vault toilets and water (call ahead to the Ranger District in Winthrop to confirm water availability) are available. If you plan to hike from a trailhead, bring your Northwest Forest Pass, Interagency Pass, or Senior Pass.. If you need more information: Contact Libby Mills at libbymills@gmail.com. **Please send a confirmation email if you expect to join us with the subject line above.**

Thursday, July 13, 2023 – 7:30 am to 4:00 pm – North Cascades Highway to Washington Pass

Leader: Pam Pritzl; 360.387.7024 or ppritzl@frontier.com

Meet at the North Cascades National Park Office, 810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley at 7:30 am for car pooling. We'll make several stops along the way (Corkindale, Marblemount boat launch, County Line Ponds, Newhalem Ponds, etc.) to our final destination, the Washington Pass Overlook where we'll have lunch and walk easy trails. The trip will not be accessible due to the trails. Possible birds might be Clark's Nutcracker, Gray Jay, Mountain Chickadee, American Redstart, 3 species of finches, Sooty Grouse and more. The trip will be limited to 12 people. Please use this link to register: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ba4af28a4f4c16-north#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ba4af28a4f4c16-north#/)

FIELD SIGHTINGS – by Ann Skinner

This column reports a summary of selected sightings. Rare sightings should be submitted with detailed written documentation and if possible, a photograph. A second person to verify rare sightings is encouraged. Do not hesitate to contact any observer to help document unusual sightings.

Please submit your sightings to birdsightings@skagitadubon.org

For recent updates on bird sightings, check out **ABA Tweeters** and **Skagit County Ebird List** on the SAS website (Birding menu, Bird Sightings submenu).

WATERFOWL

Eurasian wigeon (2) CL, 4/30 (NOH)
Wood duck (11) CL, 4/30, (2) DS, 5/2 (NOH)
Ring-necked duck (2), CL, 4/30 (NOH) (15) GV, 5/2 (TM)
Hooded merganser (3) 4/21, FIFR, (6) 4/22 SHIP (NOH)

GALINACEOUS BIRDS

California quail (1) SHIP, 4/14, 4/28, 5/1 (NOH)

PIGEONS, DOVES

Band-tailed pigeon (2) EFI, 4/28 (AS)

CRANES & RAILS

Sora (8) GV, 4/17 (TM)

SWIFTS, NIGHTHAWKS

Vox's swift (1) SBL, 5/3 (JOS)

SHOREBIRDS

Black oystercatcher (2) SHIP, 4/14 (NOH)
Black-bellied plover (1) FIFR, 4/21 (NOH)
Long-billed dowitcher (12) FIFR, 4/21 (NOH)
Wilson's snipe (19) GV, 4/17 (TM)

GULLS, TERNS

Caspian terns (in flight), EFI (RW)

HUMMINGBIRDS

Rufous hummingbird (many) EFI, daily (AS/RK)

RAPTORS/VULTURES

Osprey (2-3) SHIP 4/22 & 28, 5/1 & 5/6, (NOH)
White-tailed kite (1) E-90, 5/6 & 7 (AW) & (PDA)
Photo Verified (**rare**)
Turkey vulture (1) EFI, 4/16 (RW)

WOODPECKERS

Hairy woodpecker (1-3) CL, 4/30 & 5/7 (NOH)
Lewis's woodpecker (1) Bryson Rd, 5/3 (JOS)

FLYCATCHERS

Pacific-slope flycatcher (2) CL, 5/7 (NOH); (6) LM 4/27 (TM)
Olive-sided flycatcher EFI, 5/12 (RW)

VIREOS, SHRIKES

Warbling vireo (1) LM, 4/29 (TM)
Cassin's vireo (3) SP, 5/3 (JOS)

CORVIDS

California scrub-jay (1) 4/27 & 5/5, MVLH (TM)

LARKS, SWALLOWS

Cliff swallow (30) GV, 5/2 (TM)
Violet-green swallow (multiple) since 4/1 (RW)

BUSHTITS/KINGLETS

Bushtit (1-3) SHIP 5/1 & 5/3

NUTHATCHES

Red-breasted nuthatch (2) EFI., daily (AS)

WRENS

Marsh wren (10) GV, 5/2 (TM)

THRUSHES

Western bluebird (1) BLCA, 4/27 (TM)

PIPITS

American pipit (45+) Fisher Slough, 5/2 (JOS)

Field sightings continued on Page 6

Field sightings continued from Page 5

FINCHES, SPARROWS

White-crowned sparrow (nesting pair) EFI, 4/14 (RW)

Black-headed grosbeak (1) EFI, 4/30 (RW)

Evening grosbeak (2) EFI, 4/28 (AS/RK)

WARBLERS

Yellow-rumped warbler (12) DS, 5/2 (NOH)

Orange-crowned warbler (1-3) 5/1 & 5/6, SHIP (NOH); (3) LM, 4/29 (TM)

Townsend's warbler (1) CL, 5/7 (NOH); (6) LM, 4/29 (TM)

Wilson's warbler (1) CL, 5/7 (NOH); (8) LM, 4/29 (TM)

Audubon's warbler (2) EFI, 5/1 (RW)

TANAGERS/GROSBEAKS/BUNTINGS

Western Tanager (1) EFI, 5/1 (RW); CS, 5/10 (JH)

(SHIP) Ship Harbor; **(SF)** Samish Flats; **(CL)** Cranberry Lake; **(EFI)** East Fidalgo Island; **(CISP)** Camano Island State Park; **(CS)** Cap Sante; **(SP)** Sauk Prairie; **(SBL)** Sauk boat launch **(MVLH)** Mount Vernon Lincoln Hill; **(DS)** Debay Slough; **(GV)** Guemes Valley; **(BUR)** Burlington; **(BLCA)** Barney Lake Conservation Area **(LM)** Little Mountain; **(JOS)** Jeff Osmundson; **(BH/JH)** Bob and Judy Higgins; **(TM)** Tim Manns; **(AW)** Andrea Warner; **(PDA)** Paul & Diane Anderson; **(JH)** Joe Halton; **(RW)** Regan Weeks

HIKING

Skagit Audubon is pleased to offer scheduled hikes. Please visit our website: www.skagitaudubon.org/activities/hikes for full details on the hikes. All hikers must have a current signed liability release form (available on the website) on file prior to participating in any Skagit Audubon hike. Please be prepared to follow current COVID pandemic safety protocols and all hikers must be fully vaccinated. Questions? Contact Tom Ozretich, tom.ozretich@gmail.com; 360.424.8466 *Means Wash. State Discover Pass required.



June 8: Orcas Island*/** (*Discover Pass required to park at Moran State Park plus **advance Wash. State Ferry reservation required for your vehicle)

The summer hiking schedule was not available when this issue of the Flyer was prepared, so please visit our website (see above) for additional hiking dates during June, July, and August.

FIELD TRIP POSTPONED Pam Pritzl had planned to lead a field trip to Big 4 in mid-June; however, the USFS has closed that entire area from mid-May through June 30. They will be rebuilding the boardwalks and improving accessibility. Our field trip will be postponed until 2024.

CONSERVATION – by Tim Manns (will return in September)



FUN FACTS WESTERN TANAGER

- Summer visitor in Western Washington
- Closely associated with Doug-Fir forests
- Ranges farther north (into Canadian Rockies) than any other tanager
- Nests in open parts of the tree canopy
- Female does all nest building
- Can be attracted to feeders offering cut oranges and dried fruits
- Live at altitudes up to 10,000 feet
- Attracted to water features such as bird baths and ponds with moving water

Photo credit: Joe Halton

Learn more at: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western_Tanager

HAPPY BIRDBATHS = HAPPY BIRDS! by Mary Sinker

Have you considered adding a water feature to your yard but weren't quite sure how to do it? It's easier than you may think – a simple saucer on the ground or premade birdbath from the store provide an essential source of water for birds. Select a site where you can view the birdbath without disturbing the birds. Provide shrubs or other cover close to the birdbath so wet birds have a place to preen and be safe from predators. Keep the birdbath clean at all times because algae grow quickly and are harmful to birds. Wash the birdbath regularly with hot water and a clean scrub brush before refilling with clean water. The birdbath should be shallow – only one or two inches of water, max. Moving water is particularly attractive to birds and if you plan to add a pump to move water, place your birdbath close to electrical power or use a recirculating fountain. A plastic jug hung above the birdbath with a small hole in the bottom of the jug will slowly drip water into the birdbath. Birds also need a constant, clean supply of water during cold months, so consider adding a birdbath heater to keep the water from freezing. Species of birds not attracted to seed feeders can be attracted to water features, so you may receive new visitors. Happy birdbaths = happy birds!



FUN FACTS WHITE-tailed KITE

- Rare in Western Washington
- Small distribution in US with largest ranges in California and Texas
- Hover facing into the wind with head down as if attached to kite string – behavior known as “kiting”
- Grasslands (not heavily grazed), savannahs and open woodlands are preferred habitats
- Small mammals main prey
- Can hover from 80 feet high before diving to catch prey
- Nests built high up in trees 10-160 feet tall

Photo credit: Paul Anderson

Learn more: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/White-tailed_Kite

**SKAGIT AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO BOX 1101
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Skagit Audubon Society Membership Form

Membership: ____ \$20/one year **OR** ____ \$40/two years ● ____ New **OR** ____ Renewal

Additionally, I wish to donate \$_____ to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please designate my donation to: ____ General ____ Education ____ Scholarship Fund.

Payment: (1) Pay online with a credit card or PayPal (see skagitaudubon.org for details) **OR** (2) Mail this form & your check to: Skagit Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1101, Mt. Vernon WA 98273-1101

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/: _____

ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

By providing your email address and those of any household members, you/they consent to SAS's use of electronic transmission, such as email and website postings, for notices about SAS business. You may revoke this consent at any time on written request to the Secretary of SAS.

Membership includes those members of your household whose names & emails you provide to us:

Name: _____ Email: _____

(If you have more than one additional member of your household who wishes to become a member of SAS, please provide their name(s) and email address(es) to membership@skagitaudubon.org)

I want to be involved in (check all that apply): Education ____ Conservation ____ Field Trips ____ Hiking ____ Other ____

(To join National Audubon Society, a separate membership, please visit: www.audubon.org)