

# The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

[www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org)

Vol. 36 No. 10

## DECEMBER FIELD TRIPS

By Libby Mills

### About the field trips

Beginning birders and friends are always welcome on Skagit Audubon field trips. Membership in Skagit Audubon is encouraged but not required for participation. Please be prepared for the weather with suitable clothing, and bring field guides, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Carpool whenever possible and contribute to the driver's expense. Watch the email reminders for the latest information, including any changes and/or additions to the field trip schedule. To be added to the email distribution list contact Libby Mills:

[libbymills@gmail.com](mailto: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, December 2, 2017  
Washington Park**

**8:30 am – 12:30 pm**

On this trip we will visit Anacortes shorelines including Washington Park, Ship Harbor

*Field trips continue on pg.5*

## DECEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

“Potluck and Membership Slide Show”

Program Organizer: Ronan Ellis

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017

6:45 Potluck; 7:30 Program

Padilla Bay Interpretive Ctr.

10441 Bayview Edison Rd.

Mt. Vernon, Washington

Please bring potluck food to share. After the meal we will view favorite nature photos ~ a collective view of how Skagit Audubon Society members see nature both here and abroad.

If you haven't done so already, email no more than 8 photos in .jpeg format to [ronaniellis@gmail.com](mailto:ronaniellis@gmail.com). Videos can be no longer than 1 min. and in .mov, .mp4 or .avi format. Include name of photographer, description of subject, and location. Topics include Wild Nature, Flowers, Birds and other Animals, Landscapes, Trips, Backyard Habitat and Hikes. Photos must be at least 3 megabytes with sufficient resolution to project well.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE ~ DEC. 1, 2017**

This show is open to EVERYBODY and is not a contest, but rather a show where we look forward to an evening of sharing. Thanks to everyone participating!



**PADILLA BAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2017  
SATURDAY, DEC. 30<sup>TH</sup> - SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS**



# SKAGIT AUDUBON

## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

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Wilson's Snipe, 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 <http://wa.audubon.org/audubon-locations/>. **To join Skagit Audubon Society** use the **1st** form below.

**National Audubon Society (NAS) membership is separate from SAS membership** and includes Audubon magazine. National Audubon membership does not provide Skagit Audubon membership; however, NAS will assign you an affiliation with a local chapter. To change your chapter assignment call 800-274-4201. **To join National Audubon Society**, use the **2nd** form below.

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

### Skagit Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership in the Skagit Audubon Society includes 10 issues of our newsletter,

*The Skagit Flyer*, available at: <http://www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter>.

Membership includes all members of your household.

Check one:

\$20.00 one (1) year

\$40.00 two (2) years

Additionally, I wish to donate to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations of \$100.00 or more receive a personal field trip by a Skagit Audubon field trip leader.*

Check one:

New Membership

Renewing Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SAS does not share your contact information.

**Clip form/Mail to/Payable to:**

Skagit Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1101

Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1101

Use the form below to initially join the **National Audubon Society**.

### National Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership to the National Audubon Society includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine. Membership includes all members of your household.

\$20 for one-year introductory membership with one chapter affiliation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail chapter-created new membership forms to address below: (Payable to same)**

National Audubon Society Y21

P.O. Box 97194

Washington, DC 20090-7194

Attn: Chance Mueleck

For membership related questions and address:

Email: [customerservice@audubon.org](mailto:customerservice@audubon.org)

Phone: (844) 428-3826

*For members receiving a paper copy of The Skagit Flyer, the mailing label includes your membership expiration date in the upper right corner. If that date is highlighted in orange it is a reminder that your membership is about to or has expired. All other members will receive an email notice when their membership is about to expire. The Skagit Flyer is published monthly from September through June. Unsolicited material for the next month's Flyer should be sent to the editor by the third Saturday of the current month. For questions or problems about your Skagit Flyer subscription, contact membership chair:*

*Pam Pritzl [membership@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:membership@skagitaudubon.org)*



Hikes continue in December with 4 hikes scheduled. Safety comes first so hikes may be canceled or destinations changed due to weather conditions, logging, construction or other unforeseen circumstances. A hike will be canceled if there are high wind warnings, flooding conditions, snowy or icy road conditions, or forecasts of continued heavy rain. Because this is hunting season, wear a bright-colored item of clothing. All the hikes are on a Wednesday and for questions or additional information contact Joan Melcher at [jdmelcher@comcast.net](mailto:jdmelcher@comcast.net) or 360.4240407. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes and if dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times. General safety note: upon arrival at the destination, if cancellation of the hike is determined at the discretion of the Audubon trip leader, any individual who elects to proceed is no longer considered to be a member of an Audubon-sponsored activity. Additionally, carpools are arranged at the discretion of the driver(s).



**DECEMBER 6: EAST SHORE LAKE WHATCOM or STEWART MOUNTAIN**

**1. East Shore of Lake Whatcom:** This hike is a fairly level hike among trees beside the east shore of Lake Whatcom. 6.25 miles round trip with a 270 ft. total elevation gain.

**2. Stewart Mountain:** This hike begins in the same area as the East Shore of Lake Whatcom hike but it goes up hill on the new Beke Trails and on the power line road. Most of this hike is on trail. The round trip is 5 miles.

**For both hikes,** meet at 9 a.m. at the Chuckanut Drive park-n-ride lot. This lot is in Burlington on the east side of I-5, off Exit 231 of I-5. Carpools are formed according to which of the two hikes you plan to do. You may leave when all in your car safely return to the trailhead.

**DECEMBER 13: DECEPTION PASS AREA** - Hike on trails at Sharpe Peak, Rosario and Bowman Bay. Up to 8.7 or more miles with up to 700 or 800 ft. total elevation gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at Sharpe Peak trailhead off of Rosario Road south of Anacortes. Parking is limited at Sharpe Peak so please carpool if possible. Contact Joan Melcher (see above) if you need driving directions to Sharpe Peak. WA State Discover Pass required for your vehicle if you park in Deception Pass State Park.

**DECEMBER 20: PADILLA BAY SHORE TRAIL** - Take some time out from a busy pre-Christmas week and spend the morning walking from the Breazeale Nature Center south along the Padilla Bay dike and back, an easy 6.7 miles. Meet at 9 am at the Breazeale Nature Center in Bayview. Leave when you return to your car.

**DECEMBER 27: DUGUALLA STATE PARK** - Spend part of a short day-light day at Dugualla State Park, a little-known park north of Oak Harbor. The park's several miles of trails meander through an alder grove, a wetland area, and offer a more challenging and steeper trek to a secluded beach. Meet at Dugualla State Park at 9 am. To get there from the Deception Pass Bridge, drive toward Oak Harbor. Before you get to Oak Harbor, turn left onto Sleeper Road. Continue on Sleeper Road approximately 2.6 miles until it dead-ends at a metal gate. Distance is 3.67 miles of perimeter loop including side trip to beach; additional mileage if one does "interior trails", 500 ft. elevation gain. WA State Discover Pass required for your vehicle.

**JANUARY 3, 2018: INTERURBAN TRAIL** - Walk off some of those holiday pounds on the Interurban Trail, several options available. Up to 14 or more miles; slight elevation gain. Meet at 9 am at the Lost Lake Trailhead parking lot, formerly known as the Clayton Beach Parking lot, at the south end of Larrabee State Park on Chuckanut Drive. Return time depends on hike option you select. WA State Discover Pass required for your vehicle.



**GARDENING FOR BIRDS; from Libby Mills together with the Xerces Society**  
 Pollinators and birds need you to do less this fall – leave the leaves or rake them around plantings. The insects and spiders underneath will be vital food for small birds. Beneficial insects are protected under that light layer of leaves. Sparrows, siskins, and finches snack on dead flower heads and fruits. A messy and natural yard leaves food and habitat for tiny birds that need all the energy they can find on short cold days. What you leave behind may provide the urgently needed calories that may mean winter survival for the wings that feed our spirit.



# SKAGIT AUDUBON NOVEMBER CONSERVATION REPORT

## BY TIM MANN'S

- **Millennium Bulk Terminals – Longview:** Last month the Cowlitz County Hearing Examiner denied Shoreline permits which the proposed terminal needs to proceed. This decision could be appealed (as the earlier water quality certification denial by the Department of Ecology), but it's another blow to this last of 6 coal export terminals proposed for the Northwest.
- **Washington, DC Lobbyist Robert K. Weidner:** By the time you see this report, there may have been news articles about Skagit County's long-time relationship with Washington, D.C. lobbyist Robert K. Weidner. See my report in the October *Flyer*. The focus of Mr. Weidner's advocacy is somewhat mixed, but much of it is on rolling back environmental laws, increasing resource extraction on national public lands, and furthering the cause of "county supremacy." For more information, contact me ([conservation@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:conservation@skagitaudubon.org)). Mr. Weidner's contract is probably up for renewal at year's end. Our County Commissioners need to hear from us.
- **"Clean Products Upgrade Project" at March Point:** Fifty-five people spoke at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing on the Shoreline permit Tesoro needs for at least portions of its "Clean Products Upgrade Project" at March Point. Most speakers expressed concerns: about potential impacts on orcas from increased shipping, effects a xylene spill would have on birds and marine creatures, possible human health and safety problems. The Hearing Examiner's decision should come in early December.
- **Long-Term Strategy for Managing Marbled Murrelet Nesting Habitat on State Trust Lands:** On November 7<sup>th</sup> the Washington Board of Natural Resources, which oversees the Department of Natural Resources, chose a preferred alternative for a long-term strategy for managing marbled murrelet nesting habitat on state trust lands. Disappointingly, the board chose the staff-recommended alternative, which, models indicate, does too little to stem the bird's sharp population decline. Marbled murrelets need large, old-growth trees for nesting, and much of the remaining such habitat close enough to the marine waters where murrelets forage is DNR-managed. Loss of such habitat is the most important reason for this bird's rapid decline in Washington. It's listed as "threatened" (with extinction) under the federal Endangered Species Act and "endangered" under the equivalent Washington State law. Next, DNR will write a supplemental environmental impact statement more closely analyzing the preferred alternative, take public comment, and send the final plan to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for approval. You can be sure the timber industry is fighting hard to minimize the acreage set aside for preventing this bird's extinction in Washington. Skagit County employee Kendra Smith spoke at the November 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Natural Resources meeting to represent our county as wanting a minimum acreage protected, which shows our County Commissioners' stance on this issue. A coalition of conservation groups, including Seattle Audubon representing Washington's 25 Audubon chapters, will continue to push for an alternative that would prevent the murrelet's demise.
- **Protecting the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge From Oil Drilling:** Last, but very important, let me mention protecting the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling. For years, certain federal legislators have tried to open this vital bird nesting and caribou calving area to drilling for yet more oil (and revenue for Alaska). Next time you see Tundra Swans among the Trumpeters in Skagit fields or a big flock of Northern Pintails, think about their dependence on nesting habitat on that coastal plain. By the time you read this, the U.S. Senate may already have passed a budget bill with a provision tacked on to open the refuge to drilling. What can you do? Read about the issue at the National Audubon website: <http://www.audubon.org/conservation/advocacy> and take the suggested action. Then please sign up for Audubon action alerts.



Northern Pintail, by Mary Sinker



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Audubon Washington “engages diverse people across the state to conserve birds and their habitat.”  
Visit [www.wa.audubon.org](http://www.wa.audubon.org).

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*Field Trips continued from page 1*

Interpretive Center and Guemes Channel Trail. Birds to see at these sites include loons, grebes, gulls, ducks, murrelets and many more sea and shoreline species. Dress warmly for windy conditions. Plan to park at the first lot on the right after entering Washington Park. Meet in the open green space near the boat launch. At Washington Park, plan for a .5 mile walk to West Beach, stopping along the way for both shoreline and forest birds. Next, we will drive to the parking area at the end of Edwards Way for both the Ship Harbor and Guemes Trail walks. There are some uneven surfaces. Spotting scopes are useful on this trip. Contact the leaders if you plan to attend and for possible weather changes. Leaders: Mark and Irene Perry, 931.623.2084 or [irene@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:irene@skagitaudubon.org).



**Saturday December 9, 2017**  
**Weaverling Spit, Fidalgo Bay**  
**8:30 am to before noon**

Here's to birding the shortest days of winter. Weaverling Spit is a walk and a scoping field trip on the western edge of Fidalgo Bay, land owned by the Samish Indian Nation. We have permission to go out and inspect the neighborhood for avifauna, a chance to seek both songbirds in the vegetation and water birds on the bay. To find the area, drive parallel to Hwy. 20 on Fidalgo Bay Rd., just south of Anacortes and turn off it onto Weaverling Rd. Meet at the parking lot at the RV Park which is across the Tommy Thompson Trail and to the right. Dress warmly and seasonally (it's Dec. after all). Trip will end before noon. Scopes will help with the water birds. Some minimal walking on the Spit and Tommy Thompson Trail. Leaders: Von and Betty Kuehn, cellphone 360.770.5905.



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### **Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count 2017**

This year is the 118<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Bird Count, sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the nation's longest-running citizen science project. Each year between December 14 and January 5, volunteers across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands count bird species and individuals within almost 2,500 count areas. Each area is a 15-mile diameter circle. In western Skagit County the count circle centers on March Point by Padilla Bay; hence the name “Padilla Bay Christmas Bird

Count” though it includes a much larger area than Padilla Bay. Skagit Audubon Society has organized this count for several decades, each year recruiting up to 20 teams to cover sub-areas of the circle. The National Audubon website has much information about the Christmas Bird Count and how the data gained is used (e.g., predicting climate change's effects on birds): [www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count](http://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count).

**This year's Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count is December 30<sup>th</sup>.** For information about participating, contact Tim Manns ([conservation@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:conservation@skagitaudubon.org) or 360.336.8753) by December 15.

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### **SWAN HOTLINE**

If you see a dead, sick, or injured swan, call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife 24-hour hotline: (360) 466-4345, ext. 266. Do not handle the bird. Leave a short, detailed message with your name and phone number plus the location and condition of the swan(s). WDFW collects information to assess the impact of lead poisoning and power line collisions, the main causes of accidental swan deaths.

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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 [birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:birdsightings@skagitaudubon.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**

**Greater White-fronted Goose** 1 in field west of Honda dealership, Burlington on 11-6 (JH)

**Cackling Goose** 2 "Aleutian" mixed in with 100 cacklers in field west of Honda dealership, Burlington on 11-6 (JH)

**Trumpeter Swan** 3 at Hayton Reserve on 10-27 (NOH); 4 flying over Anacortes neighborhood on 11-3 (KH); 3 adults, 3 juveniles in Burrows Bay, Anacortes neighborhood (NOH)

**Northern Shoveler** 2 at Skagit WMA, Wylie Slough on 10-27 (NOH)

**Mallard x Northern Pintail hybrid** 1 at Bingo Hall Lagoon on 11-12 (GB)

**Redhead** 1 at Lake Erie on 11-12 (GB)

**Black Scoter** 3 at Sandy Point, Whatcom County on 11-4 (SAS)

**Common Goldeneye** 3 males, 5 females in Burrows Bay, Anacortes on 11-5 (NOH)

**Hooded Merganser** 50 on Lake Erie on 11-11 (NOH)

**Common Merganser** 200 on Lake Erie on 11-11 (NOH)

#### **GREBES**

**Pied-billed Grebe** 1 at Hayton Reserve on 10-27 (NOH)

#### **RAILS and COOTS**

**Virginia Rail** 1 at Skagit WMA, Wylie Slough on 10-27 (NOH)

#### **PLOVERS**

**American Golden-Plover** 2 at Samish West-90 on 10-22 (GB)

**Pacific Golden-Plover** 1 at Samish West-90 on 10-22 (GB)

#### **SANDPIPERS. PHALAROPES and ALLIES**

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** 1 at Hayton Reserve on 10-28 (JO); 1 at Hayton Reserve on 10-28 and 11-5 (GB)

**Rock Sandpiper** 1 at Sandy Point, Whatcom County on 11-4 (SAS)

**Pectoral Sandpiper** 1 at Hayton Reserve on 10-28 (GB)

**Wilson's Snipe** 2 at Hayton Reserve on 10-27 (NOH); 1 at Skagit WMA, North Fork, Rawlins Road on 11-4 (NOH); 1 in field west of Honda dealership, Burlington on 11-6 (JH)

**Lesser Yellowlegs** 1 at Hayton Reserve on 10-28 (GB)

#### **ALCIDS**

**Marbled Murrelet** 1 at Green Point, WA Park, Anacortes on 10-28 (JB)

#### **HERONS and ALLIES**

**American Bittern** 1 at Skagit WMA, North Fork, Rawlins Road on 11-4 (NOH)

#### **HAWKS, EAGLES and ALLIES**

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** 1 adult at east Fidalgo home on 10-20 (RW)

**Cooper's Hawk** 1 juvenile and 1 adult at east Fidalgo home on 10-26 (RW); 1 juvenile at Skagit WMA, Wylie Slough on 10-27 (NOH)

**Rough-legged Hawk** 3 on Samish Flats on 11-6 (NOH); 5 on Samish Flats on 11-9 (NOH)

#### **OWLS**

**Great Horned Owl** 1 at Lake Erie on 11-16 (NOH)

**Northern Pygmy-Owl** 1 at Vogler Lake on 11-27 (GB)

**Short-eared Owl** 1 at Jensen Access on 11-4 (NOH); 12 on Samish Flats on 11-6 (NOH)

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** 1 at Harry Osborne State Forest on 10-28 (GB); 1 at east Fidalgo home on 11-1 (RW)

#### **WOODPECKERS**

**Hairy Woodpecker** 2 females at suet at east Fidalgo home on 10-12 (RW)

#### **FALCONS**

**American Kestrel** 1 at Skagit WMA, North Fork, Rawlins Road on 11-4 (NOH); 1 on Samish Flats on 11-6 (NOH)

**Peregrine Falcon** 1 at Jensen Access that caught a dunlin on 10-27 (NOH); 2 at Hayton Reserve on 11-4 (NOH)

**Prairie Falcon** 1 in Edison on 11-10 (GB)

#### **FLYCATCHERS**

**Black Phoebe** 1 at Skagit WMA, Wylie Slough on 10-28 (GB); 1 at Skagit WMA, Wylie Slough on 11-1 (JO)



## SHRIKES

**Northern Shrike** 1 at Jensen Access on 10-27 (NOH); 1 on Samish Flats on 11-6 (NOH); 1 on Padilla Bay Trail on 11-15 (KR)

## CHICKADEES

**Mountain Chickadee** 1 on Lincoln Hill, Mt. Vernon on 10-24 (TM)

## CREEPERS

**Brown Creeper** 3 at east Stanwood home on 11-5 (MS)

## DIPPERS

**American Dipper** 1 on upper Pilchuck River on 11-6 (JS)

## THRUSHES

**Varied Thrush** 1 at east Stanwood home on 11-5 (MS)

## FINCHES and ALLIES

**Pine Grosbeak** 1 at top of Eagle Cliff, Cypress Island on 10-28 (SP)

## LONGSPURS and BUNTINGS

**Snow Bunting** 1 at March Point on 11-12 (GB); 1 at March Point on 11-17 (TM)

## SPARROWS and ALLIES

**American Tree Sparrow** 1 near the mouth of Baker River on 10-27 (GB)  
**Fox Sparrow** 1 at Jensen Access on 10-27 (NOH)  
**White-throated Sparrow** 1 "tan-striped" at east Fidalgo home on 11-16 (RW)

## WARBLERS

**Townsend's Warbler** 2 on Lincoln Hill, Mt. Vernon on 10-20 (TM)

## MAMMALS:

**Beaver:** 2 at Lake Erie on a night outing on 11-6 (NOH)  
**Coyote** 2 crossing Campbell Lake Road on 10-28 (NOH); 1 in field next to Cederdale Road and I-5 Conway exit on 11-7 (PP); heard at least 3 at Lake Erie on a night outing on 11-16 (NOH)  
**River Otter** 2 in Burrows Bay, Anacortes on 10-25 (NOH); 4 river otters in Burrows Bay, Anacortes on 11-4 and continuing throughout sighting period (NOH)

**(GB)** Gary Bletsch; **(JB)** Joan Bird; **(JH)** Joe Halton  
**(KH)** Kristi Hein; **(TM)** Tim Manns; **(NOH)** Neil O'Hara;  
**(JO)** Jeff Osmundson; **(PP)** Pam Pritzl; **(KR)** Kerry Rye;  
**(SP)** Scott Petersen; **(JS)** Jeff Sinker; **(MS)** Mary Sinker;  
**(SAS)** Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; **(RW)** Regan Weeks

## Winter Hummingbird Tip

**from Libby Mills:** Don't forget to bring in a hummingbird feeder after dark when the overnight temperature will dip below freezing. Place it in your kitchen sink so that you'll get it right back out again at dawn. These little jewels are early risers!



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**LEQUE ISLAND RESTORATION UPDATE:** This popular Stanwood birding area has reopened to the public. The parking area is unchanged and the entire site is accessible by foot. New channels have filled with water and more will fill as the rainy season continues. No pheasants were released on this site this year. The second phase of construction to facilitate removal of the dike is planned for the summer of 2019. For more information email [Loren.Brokaw@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Loren.Brokaw@dfw.wa.gov) or visit [http://wdfs.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas/skagit/leque\\_island\\_project.php](http://wdfs.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/skagit/leque_island_project.php)

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**GOT BINOCULARS? LOVE BIRDS?** Join Ecostudies Institute on Jan. 6, 2018 for their 7<sup>th</sup> Puget Sound Bird Count! The goal of this annual shorebird survey, which is conducted by citizen scientists, is to better understand shorebird trends and habitat use in Puget Sound. It is also part of a larger flyway-wide survey event. The Institute currently has 23 survey sites in Samish, Padilla, Fidalgo, Skagit, and Port Susan Bays. Please contact Leah Rensel at [lrensel@ecoinst.org](mailto:lrensel@ecoinst.org).

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## UPCOMING 2018 BIRDING FESTIVALS

**Skagit Eagle Festival:** Sat. and Sun. in Jan. (full weekends); more info [www.skagiteaglefestival.com](http://www.skagiteaglefestival.com)

**Arlington Stillaguamish Eagle Festival:** Feb. 2-3, more info [www.arlingtonwa.gov/index.aspx?page=427](http://www.arlingtonwa.gov/index.aspx?page=427)

**Winter Wings Festival:** Feb. 15-18; Klamath Basin Audubon Society, Klamath Falls, OR; more info [www.winterwingsfest.org](http://www.winterwingsfest.org)

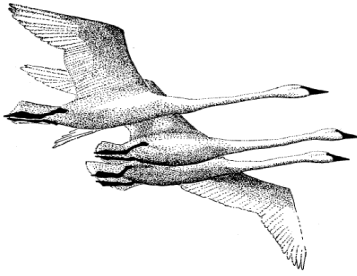
**Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival:** Feb. 24-25; Stanwood, WA; more info [www.snowgoosefest.org](http://www.snowgoosefest.org)

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Olympic Bird Fest:** Apr. 13-15; Dungeness River Audubon Center, Sequim, WA; more info [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)

**Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival:** Apr. 27-28; Hoquiam, WA; more info [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com) and 360.289.5048



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*December 2017 Calendar*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Field Trip Washington Park
3	4	5 SAS Board Meeting 7:00 PM	6 Hike East Shore Lake Whatcom/Stewart Mountain	7	8	9 Field Trip Weaverling Spit
10	11	12 General Meeting: Potluck 6:45 PM/Program 7:30 PM	13 Hike Deception Pass Area	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Hike Padilla Bay Shore Trail	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Hike Dugualla State Park	28	29	30 Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count
31						

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at [www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org) The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

