

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 38, No. 6 www.skagitaudubon.org June/July/Aug. 2019

June Meeting and Program

Skagit Valley Bald Eagles – Bringing Up the Next Generation

Presented by Michelle Landis

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



Michelle Landis has been working with and teaching about raptors for the last twenty years. She has banded raptors with the Falcon Research Group out of Bow, WA and also at sites in Washington and Oregon with Hawkwatch International. Most recently, she has been conducting a study on Bald Eagle reproduction in Whatcom and Skagit counties. This study, now in its fourth year, is looking to see if climate change may be affecting timelines. Tonight's presentation will talk about our local eagle population and show how they bring up the next generation.

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SPRING & SUMMER ARE ESPECIALLY BUSY

***WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND INJURED OR ORPHANED BIRDS OR
WILDLIFE***

***CALL WOLF HOLLOW WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER
360.378.5000 (24/7) OR VISIT THEIR WEBSITE www.wolfhollow.org
for more information***

***REMINDER – no programs or general meetings in
July and August – see you in September!***

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST FIELDTRIPS, by Libby Mills

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 (if you have them). 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. **NOTE:** If you plan to join a field trip some place other than the described starting point, call or email the trip leader the day before to ensure a successful rendezvous. Trip plans may change.



Friday-Sunday; June 14-16, 2019

Annual Klipchuck CG Campout- Mile 175 - SR 20

Each summer members and friends of Skagit Audubon gather in this US Forest Service campground off Highway 20. It is 1.2 miles up a side road on the north side of the highway near Mile Post 175 at an elevation of 2,900 feet. There are usually plenty of sharp eyes in our group and the birding is great right on the campground loops as well as further down in the Methow Valley. There is no formal schedule or plan beyond a Saturday night dinner potluck. Informal groups form to look for birds, or folks go out on their own with binoculars or cameras. Klipchuck is a magnet for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, woodpeckers, hummingbirds and wildflowers. A trail to Driveway Butte leads up the hill right out of the campground for the ambitious hiker. Deer are usually fawning around the campground so dogs are not recommended and must be kept on leashes at all times. Need more info? Contact Libby at libbymills@gmail.com.

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

Big Four Trail and Wetlands

6:30 am or 8:00 am – Early Afternoon

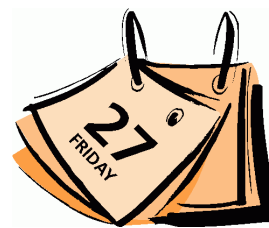
Meet at 6:30 am at Exit 212 off I-5 Park & Ride for carpools or 8:00 am at the Big Four Picnic Area on Mountain Loop Hwy. 92. The beautiful Big Four area lies along the south fork of the Stillaguamish River east of Granite Falls. Plan to hike around 2 miles and bring a lunch. We'll do a combo field trip with history, birds and plants. The birding is exceptional in June. The picnic area has spectacular views of Big Four Mountain and Hall Peak. We will break up in the early afternoon. A NW Forest Pass is required. Leaders: Pam Pritzl 360.387.7024 and Jeff Osmundson, 360.435.4297 or jeffo4297@gmail.com.



SKAGIT AUDUBON EDUCATION PROGRAM

receives \$2,000.00 grant from the Skagit Community Foundation for education activities. This is the 4th year the Foundation has awarded this grant. The funds will be directed to increasing our collection of bird mounts (like this Northern Pygmy Owl), replica skulls, other teaching tools and children's activities. Skagit Audubon thanks the Skagit Community Foundation for their support of our educational program.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



June 1 – National Trails Day

June 4 – Skagit Audubon Board Meeting

June 5 – Skagit Audubon Hike Baker River

June 11 – Skagit Audubon Program and General Meeting

June 12 – Skagit Audubon Hike Ross Dam to Diablo Dam

June 14-16 – Skagit Audubon Field Trip Annual Klipchuck Campground Campout

June 19 – Skagit Audubon Hike Heather Lake

June 25 – Skagit Audubon Field Trip Big Four

June 26 – Skagit Audubon Hike Thunder Creek

July 3 – Skagit Audubon Hike Wallace Falls

July 10 – Skagit Audubon Hike Wilderness Hike* - see page 5

July 17 – Skagit Audubon Hike Wilderness Hike* - see page 5

July 24 – Skagit Audubon Hike Sauk Mtn./Rockport St. Park

July 31 – Skagit Audubon Hike Wilderness Hike* - see page 5

Aug. 7 – Skagit Audubon Hike Wilderness Hike* - see page 5

Aug. 14 – Skagit Audubon Hike Wilderness Hike* - see page 5

Aug. 21 – Skagit Audubon Hike Wilderness Hike* - see page 5

Aug. 28 – Skagit Audubon Hike Maple Pass Loop

Sept. 3 – Skagit Audubon Board Meeting

Sept. 4 – Skagit Audubon Hike Cutthroat Pass

Sept. 10 – Skagit Audubon Program and General Meeting

Go birding and make a difference!

Are seabirds in the southern Salish Sea increasing or decreasing in numbers? Which species are changing their range? Help us find out. The Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) is a community and citizen



science project managed by Seattle Audubon that empowers volunteer birdwatchers to gather valuable data on wintering seabird populations across the southern Salish Sea.

You can contribute to this vital seabird science by joining the thirteenth season of this exciting project. We are now recruiting enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. Training on survey methodology will be provided at a location

near you in September and early October. Volunteers should ideally be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to conduct a 30-minute survey. But, if determining between Lesser and Greater Scaup is a challenge, we'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. To help us determine each volunteer's seabird identification skills, visit www.seabirdsurvey.com to take our quick, fun Seabird ID quiz.

Learn more, including training locations, at www.seabirdsurvey.org and email Toby Ross, Senior Science Manager toby@seattleaudubon.org if you would like more information or to take part.

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 at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 10441 Bayview Edison Rd., Mt. Vernon on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June. Social/7:00 pm and Program/7:30 pm. The board of directors meets at the same location the first Tuesday of each month, September through June, at 7:00 pm.

Skagit Audubon membership provides a local chapter affiliation and newsletter, *The Flyer*, for individuals who want all their funds to benefit their local chapter. *The Flyer* is produced monthly from September through June and full color issues are available at: www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter.

Board of Directors

President:	Vacant
Vice President:	Vacant
Secretary:	Ron Holmes.....ronh@skagitaudubon.org
Treasurer:	Neil O'Hara.....treasurer@skagitaudubon.org.....781-290-9083
Immediate Past President:	Vacant

Committee Chairs and Representatives

Conservation:	Tim Manns.....conservation@skagitaudubon.org.....360-333-8985
Education:	Sheila Pera.....skagiteducation2@gmail.com
Finance:	Phil Wright.....phil@skagitaudubon.org.....360-299-8212
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Representative:	Wes Jansen.....jansenwes7@gmail.com
Newsletter Distribution:	Barbara Craner.....craner2@frontier.com.....360-770-3898
Webmaster:	Ron Pera.....skagitaudubon@gmail.com

BIRD N' CRUISE TO VENDOVI ISLAND (owned by the *San Juan Preservation Trust*) – Observe nesting Pigeon Guillemots, explore the island's well-maintained trail system and enjoy stunning views on Vendovi Island (approx. 3 hours spent on the island).

Dates: June 15; July 13

Time: 10 am - 3 pm (arrive by 9:30 am)

Cost: \$106 per person plus suggested donation of \$2-\$5 for the San Juan Preservation Trust donation box

Departs: Island Express Charters, Skyline Marina, Anacortes

What to bring: binoculars, camera, lunch, appropriate footwear (dress for the weather)

Reservations: <https://skagitguidedadventures.com/calendar/>

Contact: Stephanie Fernandez at steph@skagitguidedadventures.com or (360) 47 47 47 9

This trip is not affiliated with or sponsored by Skagit Audubon Society

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST HIKES by Joan Melcher



Safety comes first so hikes may be canceled or destinations changed due to weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. All hikes are on a Wednesday and for questions or additional information contact Joan Melcher at jdmelcher@comcast.net or 360.424.0407. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes and if present they must be on a leash at all times. NOTE: upon arrival at 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. Carpools are arranged at the discretion of the drivers.

NOTE: This summer hiking schedule was prepared on May 2, 2019. As of this time, the following hikes appear to be a “go” in the sense that we should be able to drive to the trailheads. However, there is a chance that one or more of the hike destinations will be changed due to unforeseen circumstances. If a hike destination is changed, the meeting times and places remain the same.

WILDERNESS HIKES: The information on the various wilderness hikes is too lengthy to print here. For information contact Joan Melcher 360-424-0407 or at jdmelcher@comcast.net.

* Northwest Forest Pass (parking permit) required.

SATURDAY JUNE 1: NATIONAL TRAILS DAY: Celebrate trails! Go for a hike or walk with family and/or friends. SWITMO (Skagit, Island, Whatcom Trail Maintenance Org.) will sponsor trail work on the Pacific Northwest Trail near Baker Lake. Contact Joan Melcher (above) for details if interested.

JUNE 5: BAKER RIVER *: Hike along the Baker River to Sulfide Creek, entering North Cascades National Park along the way. Dogs are not permitted on the National Park section of the trail. 5 miles round trip, 300 ft. el. gain. Meet at 8:30 a.m. on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. Federal Northwest Forest Pass (parking permit) required. 1:30 pm return to trailhead if you do just the river hike; 2:30 pm return if you also walk south to Hidden Creek on the north Baker Lake Trail.

JUNE 12: ROSS DAM TO DIABLO DAM: Hike from above Ross Dam to below Diablo Dam, 7 miles one way along the north side of Diablo Lake between Ross Dam and the Diablo community. One can hike mostly downhill from Ross to Diablo, 900 ft. el. gain; 2200 ft. el. loss or one can hike mostly uphill from Diablo to Ross, 2200 ft. el. gain; 900 ft. el. loss. Drivers will exchange keys. Meet 7:30 am on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. Return to Diablo trailhead by 2:30 pm.

JUNE 19: HEATHER LAKE *: Hike to and around a scenic lake at an elevation of 2400 ft. off the Mountain Loop Highway east of granite Falls near Mt Pilchuck. 4.8 miles round trip; 1000 ft. el. gain. Meet at 8 am in the Mount Vernon Safeway parking lot. Audubon South hikers can drive directly to the trailhead. 1 pm return to the trailhead for faster hikers; 2:30 pm return for slower hikers; carpool accordingly. You may leave when your carload of people has returned. US Forest Service Northwest Parking Permit required—or a federal Senior Pass will also work.

JUNE 26: THUNDER CREEK: Hike up to 12 miles round trip, up to 1000 ft. total el. gain on one of the best forest hikes in the North Cascades. **Meet at 7:30 a.m.** on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. **Return time is 3:30 pm.**

Hikes continued on pg. 6

Hikes continued from pg. 5

JULY 3: WALLACE FALLS: This is a hike through forest and near spectacular waterfalls north of Gold Bar along the Stevens Pass Highway (WA-2). WA State Discover Pass required to park at Wallace Falls State Park. **Meet at 8 am** in the S.E. corner of the Mount Vernon Safeway parking lot. Seattle/Snohomish County/Camano hikers can go directly to the trailhead. Carpool according to hiking options below:



OPTION 1: Up to a 7 mile loop, 1400 ft. el. gain to top falls; **return time is 2 pm.**

OPTION 2: A 9.8 to 14 mile loop, 1800 ft. el. gain to Wallace Lake; **return time is 4:00 pm.**

JULY 10: WILDERNESS HIKE* - see instructions for Wilderness Hikes

JULY 17: WILDERNESS HIKE* - see instructions for Wilderness Hikes

JULY 24: OPTION 1: SAUK MOUNTAIN: 4.2 miles RT, 1200 ft. el. gain with an option to walk down to Sauk Lake, 7.2 miles RT, 2400 ft. el. gain. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion. 12:30 pm return to trailhead for those who go to summit only; 2:30 pm return for those who do both summit and Sauk Lake; carpool accordingly.

OPTION 2: ROCKPORT STATE PARK TRAILS: Over 4 or more miles of trails in an old growth forest and out to the Skagit River and back. Same meeting time and place as hike shown above. Return time depends on those carpooling together.

JULY 31: WILDERNESS HIKE* - see instructions for Wilderness Hikes

AUGUST 7: WILDERNESS HIKE* - see instructions for Wilderness Hikes

AUGUST 14: WILDERNESS HIKE* - see instructions for Wilderness Hikes

AUGUST 21: WILDERNESS HIKE* - see instructions for Wilderness Hikes

AUGUST 28: MAPLE PASS LOOP*: One of Ira Spring's and Harvey Manning's "100 Classic Hikes in Washington". 7.5 mile loop, 2000 ft. el. gain. Meet at 7:30 am on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. 3:30 pm return to trailhead.

SEPTEMBER 4: CUTTHROAT PASS *: Do this hike on a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail as either a round trip, 10.0 or 11.0 miles, or as a one way, 10.5 miles. You have four options: Hike east to Pass and return to where you started on the west side; hike west to Pass and return to where you started on the east side; hike from the western trailhead to eastern trailhead; hike from eastern trailhead to western trailhead. Last two options require shuttling. Meet at 7:30 am on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. 4 pm return to trailhead.

15th Annual Puget Sound Bird Fest (Sept. 13-15) to feature keynote program Understanding Shorebirds, the Miracle of Migration, by award-winning nature photographer and master birder, Tom Boyer. A new festival layout, guided walks, boat cruises, field workshops, kid's activities and more await nature-loving festival participants. For more information visit the official Bird Fest website at: www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org.

CONSERVATION by Tim Manns

Washington State Legislative Session: With 25 chapters and 35,000 members, Audubon Washington is well positioned to rally support for legislation and agency action relevant to its conservation mission. Last month's *Skagit Flyer* deadline preceded the legislature's April 28th finish, so here's a look at the outcome



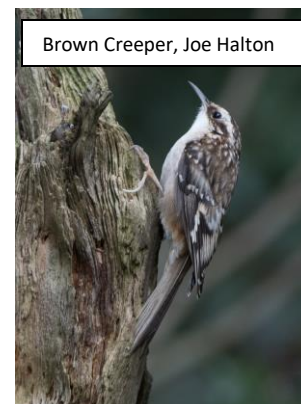
Eurasian Wigeon, Ron Holmes

for bills especially important to Audubon. Happily, as Audubon Washington's Government Relations Director Adam Maxwell said, this was the best Washington State legislative session ever for climate legislation. Nine related bills passed including Audubon's top priority, the 100% clean energy standard. Under this bill's provisions, in a series of steps all fossil-fuel produced electricity used in Washington will be phased out by 2045. All but 20% of our state's electricity is already fossil-free, and we now join the small group of states that have taken this important step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Also passed were bills improving the efficiency of new buildings and appliances. Failing to pass but with a chance next year was reduction of emissions related to

transportation. That sector accounts for over 40% of greenhouse gases here. Though the partial ban on single-use plastic bags did not pass, the prognosis is fairly good for next session.

Among state agencies the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is the lead for recovering rare, threatened, and endangered species and managing thousands of acres of wildlife habitat. This agency has experienced cuts from declining sales of hunting and fishing licenses, the mainstay of its budget revenue. Supporting full funding of WDFW's budget request was another session priority for Audubon. The smaller increase the agency received will only slow the decline in staff and services. Audubon Washington participates in the state-appointed committee to devise a more sustainable funding strategy for WDFW and other agencies with conservation missions.

You'll recall the all-out effort last year to come up with a plan for ensuring the survival of the Southern Resident Killer Whales. Task force recommendations boiled down to four bills, all of which passed the legislature in some form, along with a substantial percentage of the Governor's funding request for implementation. Taken together, these bills cover key aspects of what is needed to restore Puget Sound, the U.S. portion of the Salish Sea, ranging from reducing toxic pollution to speeding salmon recovery and better protecting against oil spills. This is all good for marine birds too, so many of which winter here and depend on the same food chain that ultimately feeds orcas.



Brown Creeper, Joe Halton

Skagit Issues

Skagit Audubon sent a second comment letter to Skagit County Planning & Development Services on the proposed quarry near Marblemount. This large operation, with potential duration of a century, would yield dense stone for repairing large jetties at the mouth of the Columbia River and elsewhere. Not mentioned in the project application and reports is the possibility that the rock, Shuksan greenschist, contains the asbestos mineral actinolite, raising the question of health effects to people and wildlife from the generated dust. Audubon's comments raise this and other issues and join many individuals and organizations in calling for a thorough environmental impact statement on the proposed project.

Skagit Audubon also joined many other groups signing a letter to British Columbia's Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources expressing concern over a potential large copper and gold mine near the Skagit River's headwaters. If developed, this mining claim surrounded by Manning and Skagit Valley Provincial Parks could easily send toxic pollution down the Skagit. Read more about this and other issues on the Skagit Audubon website: <https://skagitaudubon.org/conservation/notes>.

Skagit Audubon Field Notes by Pam Pritzl

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

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

WATERFOWL

Wood Duck 5 pair at SWAWS on 5-4 (MS); 4 at SWAWS on 5-9 (NOH)

Blue-winged Teal 1 at SWAWS on 5-11 (GB)

Cinnamon Teal pair at SWAWS on 4-24 (MS); 6 at SWAWS on 4-27 (NOH); 3 at SWAWS on 5-9 (NOH); 1 at Hansen Creek on 5-11 (SAS)

Northern Shoveler 4 at SWAWS on 5-9 (NOH)

Ring-necked Duck 1 at SWAWS on 4-24 (MS)

Harlequin Duck 1 at Rosario Beach on 4-23 (NOH)

Common Goldeneye 1, March Pt. on 4-27 (GB)

GREBES

Red-necked Grebe 1 at SHIP on 4-25 (NOH)

SWIFTS

Vaux's Swift 3 at Hansen Creek on 5-11 (SAS)

HUMMINGBIRDS

Anna's Hummingbird 1 at SHIP on 4-29 (NOH); 3 at SWAWS on 5-9 (NOH); 3 at SHIP on 5-10 (NOH)

Rufous Hummingbird 1 at SHIP 4-25 (NOH); 1 at SWAWS on 4-27 (NOH); 1 at NSRA on 4-28 (NOH); 2 at SHIP on 4-29 (NOH)

RAILS and COOTS

Virginia Rail 1 at SHIP on 4-25 (NOH); 1 at SHIP on 4-29 (NOH); 4 at Hansen Creek on 5-11 (SAS); 1 at Sharpe's Park, Anacortes on 5-12 (NOH)

Sora 1 at Big Ditch on 4-20 (MS); 2 at Hansen Creek on 5-11 (SAS)

American Coot 1 at SWAWS on 4-24 (MS)

OYSTERCATCHERS

Black Oystercatcher 2 at Rosario Beach on 4-23 (NOH); pair at north end Tommy Thompson trail on 5-1 (KR)

PLOVERS

Semipalmated Plover 18 at March Point 4-20 (GB)

SANDPIPERS and ALLIES

Whimbrel 6-200 at Rekdal Road farm field, Camano Island from 4-29 to -5-17 (AT & PP)

Marbled Godwit 4 at March Point 4-20 (GB)

Least Sandpiper 140 at SWAWS on 4-27 (NOH); 8 at SWAWS on 5-4 (MS); 3 at SWAWS on 5-9 (NOH);

Western Sandpiper about 50 at SWAWS on 5-4 (MS); 36 at SWAWS on 5-12 (MS)

Short-billed Dowitcher 2 dozen at SWAWS on 5-4 (MS); 6 at SWAWS on 5-9 (NOH); about 2 dozen at SWAWS on 5-12 (MS)

Long-billed Dowitcher 2 at SWAWS 5-12(MS)

Dowitcher sp. 8 at SWAWS on 4-24 (MS)

Spotted Sandpiper 1 at Bryson Road 5-3 (JO)

Solitary Sandpiper 1 at Francis Road 5-4 (GB)

Lesser Yellowlegs about 25 at SWAWS on 5-4 (MS); 1 at SWAWS on 5-12 (MS)

Greater Yellowlegs 3 at SWAWS on 5-4 (MS)

Yellowlegs sp. 50 at SWAWS on 4-24 (MS)

Wilson's Phalarope 1 at SWAHR on 5-11 (GB)

ALCIDS

Marbled Murrelet 4 at Washington Park, Anacortes on 4-28 (YH)

Rhinoceros Auklet 1 at Washington Park, Anacortes on 4-28 (YH)

GULLS and TERNS

Bonaparte's Gull 139 at SWAHR on 5-11 (GB)

Caspian Tern 1 at Port Susan Bay TNC on 5-9 (JO)

Common Tern 1 at SWAHR on 5-11 (GB)

Field sightings continued on pg. 9

Field sightings continued from pg. 8

CORMORANTS

Pelagic Cormorant 1 possible partial leucistic (picture avail.) at Rosario Beach on 4-19 (YH)

PELICANS

American White Pelican 7 at March Point on 4-27 (GB); 7 flying over Skyline area, Anacortes on 5-1 (JL)

HERONS and ALLIES

American Bittern 1 at NSRA on 4-28 (NOH); 3 at Hansen Creek on 5-11 (SAS); 2 in Hamilton on 5-12 (GB)

OSPREYS

Osprey 1 at Wash. Park, Anacortes 4-17 (YH)

HAWKS, EAGLES and ALLIES

Bald Eagle 5 at SWAWS (nest with 2 adults and 2 chicks) on 5-4 (MS); 3 adults on nest on Sullivan Road this season (AW) **UNUSUAL**
Golden Eagle 1 at South Cascade Road on 4-21 (GB)

OWLS

Great Horned Owl 1 in La Conner yard on 5-10 (RWJ)
Short-eared Owl 1 at the East 90, Samish Flats on 4-23 (RWJ)

KINGFISHER

Belted Kingfisher 1 at SWAWS on 5-4 (MS)

WOODPECKERS

Red-breasted Sapsucker 1 in La Conner yard throughout sighting period (RWJ)
Pileated Woodpecker 1 in Bow yard 5-2 (KR)

FALCONS

Merlin 1 at SWAWS on 4-27 (NOH)
Peregrine Falcon 1 at SWAWS on 5-12 (MS)

FLYCATCHERS

Dusky Flycatcher 1 near Cockreham Island on 5-5 (GB)
Black Phoebe 2 on nest at SWAWS on 5-4 and 5-12 (MS); 1 at SWAWS on 5-9 (NOH)
Say's Phoebe 1 at Marblemount Boat Launch on 4-14 (GB)

Western Kingbird 1 at Bryson Road on 5-3 (JO); 1 at Burmaster Road on 5-4 (GB)

VIREOS

Warbling Vireo 1 on Lincoln Hill, Mount Vernon on 4-29 (TM)

SWALLOWS

Purple Martin 1 at SHIP on 4-20 (GB); present on 4-29 at English Boom, Camano Island (AT); 1 at Port Susan TNC on 5-9 (JO)
Tree Swallow 6 at La Conner home on 5-15 (RWJ)

CREEPERS

Brown Creeper 1 at SWAWS Near boat launch on 5-4 (MS)

WRENS

Bewick's Wren 1 at SHIP on 4-25 (NOH)
Rock Wren 1 at Illabot Creek Alluvial Fan on 5-4 (GB) **RARE**

THRUSHES

Townsend's Solitaire 1 at Wash. Park, Anacortes 4-28 (YH); 1 at Bryson Rd 5-3 (JO)

MOCKINGBIRDS

Northern Mockingbird last seen at 1220 6th St, Anacortes on 3-21 (JOC)

PIPITS

American Pipit 30 on Sullivan Road, Samish Flats on 4-21 (AW)

FINCHES and ALLIES

Pine Siskin 2 at Anacortes yard on 4-23 (JOC)
American Goldfinch 4 at Anacortes yard 4-23 (JOC); 2 at La Conner home on 5-15 (RWJ)

SPARROWS and ALLIES

Vesper Sparrow 1 at Illabot Alluvial Fan on 5-4 (GB)
Lark Sparrow 1 near Marblemount (found by Mike Nelson) on 4-29 (GB) **RARE**
Savannah Sparrow 1 in tall grass at Bow home on 4-30 (KR)
White-crowned Sparrow 2 at La Conner home since 5-1 (RWJ)
Field sightings continued on pg. 10

HOPE AND ACTION IN A WORLD OF LOSS by Tim Manns

People join Audubon for a variety of reasons, but it's safe to say that all share an interest in the natural world and, likely, concern for its future. Concern for the natural world makes sense, even for human-centered reasons, given our fate's inseparability from that of other living things. The challenge is maintaining interest and joy in the natural world while also acknowledging its losses and problems and acting on them. In early May, IPBES, an international organization assessing biodiversity and its effects on human well-being, issued a sobering report about the rapid loss of biodiversity and its implications for people. (<https://www.ipbes.net/news/ipbes-global-assessment-summary-policymakers-pdf>.) IPBES is the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, with 132 member nations. The conclusions were no surprise to most Audubon members, I'm sure; but wide media coverage provided a strong reminder of what has been lost, and what more will be, if we as this planet's dominant species don't quickly get our act together.

We do need reminders like this report, but for our frame of mind, it's good it appeared in May. The return of migratory birds – Western Tanagers, Common Yellowthroats, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Wilson's Warblers... - reminds us of the surviving beauty and diversity of the natural world around us. All is not lost. There remains much to celebrate and enjoy. There's reason to not decide it's too late to act.

In taking action, we can find much to attend to close to home. In May, the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife collected public comments on its recovery plan for the Tufted Puffin. The Washington population of this striking-looking bird has declined 90% in recent years and continues to drop. Speculation on why points to a range of culprits; starting with climate change and its effects on forage fish, the small species important in the diets of so many marine birds, mammals, and larger fish in the Salish Sea. Again the question arises: how to remain hopeful and motivated in the face of huge declines in wild populations and global warming's existential threat to nature and people? Focusing on the living, natural world that takes the brunt of our poor decisions and practices can be an effective answer.

It helps, for example, to concentrate on learning about a declining species, such as the Tufted Puffin, picturing its life and the world it needs. And then consider the proposed actions to bring back at least a semblance of the world's vanished abundance and diversity and call on elected leaders and agency staff to make it so, contributing our own efforts as we can. If we do what's needed to recover diminished species, we'll be doing much of what has to be done to ensure a livable earth for people as well. The wild world, and our future, depend on our caring and then moving from feeling to action.

FROM YOUR EDITOR by Mary Sinker

JUST SAY NO TO PEBBLE MINE and the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been extended to June 29, 2019. This open-pit mine, proposed for the headwaters of Bristol Bay, Alaska, is an environmental, cultural and economic catastrophe waiting to happen. Four migratory flyways overlap here with birds coming from Africa, Asia, the Central Pacific and the Americas. Bristol Bay is home to 27 globally significant Important Bird Areas and one of the world's greatest concentrations of seabird colonies. Bristol Bay holds the world's largest commercial sockeye salmon fishery with 40% of the US catch coming from Bristol Bay. The fishery generates \$1.5 Billion in annual revenue and tens of thousands of jobs depend upon this pristine wilderness and pure clean water. The proposed mine would destroy critical Sockeye spawning and Coho rearing habitat in one of Alaska's most active earthquake zones. **TAKE ACTION** and learn more at www.savebristolbay.org or ak.audubon.org/take-action.

**SKAGIT AUDUBON SOCIETY
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