



The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 38, No. 5 www.skagitaudubon.org May 2019

May Meeting and Program *Birds and Window Collisions* *Presented by Kim Nelson*

Tuesday, May 14th
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10441 Bayview Edison Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington



It is estimated that between 365 million to 1 billion birds are killed by window collisions in the United States each year. You can help by getting involved with collision prevention and monitoring efforts. This presentation will examine the effectiveness, aesthetics, and affordability of various window treatments used in collision prevention as well as collision monitoring programs. There will also be examples of real life window treatments for people to check out in-person.

Kim Nelson has a MA in Biology from Miami University. Her studies focused on community engagement regarding avian conservation issues with an emphasis in bird-window collision prevention at zoological facilities. She recently joined Skagit Audubon Society and has been assisting with educational programs and field trips.

IN THIS ISSUE:
Field Trips, Page 2
Hiking, Page 4
Conservation, Page 5
Field Sightings, Page 6-7

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 information**

**Wolf Hollow serves all of San Juan and Skagit Counties
and northern Whidbey Island**

MAY 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.



Saturday, May 11, 2019
Northern State Recreation Area and Marsh
8 am to 1 pm approx.

Meet at the corner of Helmick Rd. and State Route 20. From there after an hour or so looking at (or for) American Bitterns, Red-winged Blackbirds, Marsh Wrens, Canada Geese, Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks, we'll go to the parking lot by the Veterans Community Picnic Shelter and hike the gravel trail/road over to Hansen Creek area and Fruitdale Road wetland. Plan to finish up around 1:00pm. Dress appropriately; bring snacks, binoculars, scopes and an expectant attitude and open ears. The bird song may be great. It's a fine way to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day.

Leader: Ron Holmes, ronh@skagitaudubon.org



Skagit Audubon Society members volunteered to repair, clean and remount 31 Purple Martin boxes, located at Ship Harbor, Anacortes. Skagit Audubon has maintained these boxes for several years and the returning Purple Martins thank Don Jonasson, Jack Middleton, Larry Bangerter, Bruce Fithian, Bernard and Mary Selting and Jane Brandt for their hard work and dedication to this housing project.

Purple Martins are North America's largest swallow and they take communal nesting to new heights. They are known for their speed and agility in flight, diving from the sky at high speeds with their wings tucked when approaching their housing. In the West, Purple Martins can be harder to find because they nest in woodpecker holes; however, they can be attracted to boxes if they are located in wide open spaces near water. These aerial acrobats hunt insects at higher elevations than other swallows. They migrate in large flocks to and from South America – be sure to look for them over the summer at Ship Harbor.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

May 1 – Skagit Audubon Hike – Fort Ebey State Park/The Kettles

May 3-5 – Gray’s Harbor Shorebird & Nature Festival; www.shorebirdfestival.com

May 4 – Global Big Day; ebird.org/globalbigday

May 7 -- Skagit Audubon Board Meeting

May 8 – Skagit Audubon Hike – Hoypus Point/Ala Spit

May 11 – Skagit Audubon Birding Field Trip – Northern State

May 11 – US International Migratory Bird Day; <https://www.birdday.org>

May 14 – Skagit Audubon Program and General Meeting

May 15 – Skagit Audubon Hike – Lost Lake Trail

May 16-19 - Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest; www.LeavenworthSpringBirdFest.org

May 22 – Skagit Audubon Hike – Ebey’s Landing

May 24-27 – Wash. State Audubon Campout; <https://www.wenasaudubon.org>

May 29 – Skagit Audubon Hike – San Juan Island



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
Field Trips:	Libby Mills.....libbymills@gmail.com.....360-757-4139
Hikes:	Joan Melcher.....jdmelcher@comcast.net.....360-424-0407
Bird Sightings:	Pam Pritzl.....birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org.....360-387-7024
Membership:	Pam Pritzl.....membership@skagitaudubon.org
Programs:	Catherine Carter.....programs@skagitaudubon.org
Publications:	Mary Sinker.....publications@skagitaudubon.org
Hospitality:	Pamelia Maxwell
Representative:	Jeff Osmundson....jeffo4297@gmail.com
Representative:	Katherine O’Hara.....katherineoh@skagitaudubon.org
Representative:	Jane Brandt....janeb@skagitaudubon.org
Representative:	Alice Turner.....alicet2@msn.com
Representative:	Don Jonasson.....donjonasson@hotmail.com.....360-299-1415
Representative:	Wes Jansen.....jansenwes7@gmail.com
Newsletter Distribution:	Barbara Craner.....craner2@frontier.com.....360-770-3898
Webmaster:	Ron Pera.....skagitaudubon@gmail.com

MAY 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.



MAY 1: FORT EBEEY STATE PARK & THE KETTLES This hike will be self-guided at Fort Ebey State Park and/or on the Kettles trails near Fort Ebey State Park. Miles hiked here depend on the individual. The wild rhododendrons may be starting to bloom. Meet at 9 a.m. at the March Point Park-n-Ride. Discover Pass required to park at Fort Ebey State Park.

MAY 8: HOYPUS POINT, HOYPUS HILL, and ALA SPIT Many hike opportunities on Hoypus Point. To Ala Spit via the most direct trail route and back is 6.5 miles. Other trails can be added to increase the mileage for the day. This hike is selected on this day because the tide will be falling to a low of -2 feet at 2:30 pm and hikers should be able to access the Spit before then. The Hoypus areas are in Deception Pass State Park. Meet at **9:30** a.m. at the trailhead at Cornet Bay in Deception Pass State Park. Cornet Bay has docking facilities and a rest room. NOTE: Discover Pass required for parking and have ear protection for the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station jets.

MAY 15: LOST LAKE TRAIL Hike to a mirror lake in a rock trench on Chuckanut Mountain. Both options below will utilize a new trail, the Rock Trail completed in 2014, connecting the Cyrus Gates Overlook with the Lost Lake Trail in the trench below. Discover Pass required for those parking in Larrabee State Park. Discover Pass not required for those parking in the North Chuckanut parking lot. Two options: Option I is a **STRENUOUS** 10 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2400 feet. Option II is a much less strenuous 7.2 mile hike with several hundred feet of elevation gain. For Option I (strenuous) meet at 8:30 am at the Lost Lake parking lot (formerly known as the Clayton Beach lot) at the south end of Larrabee State Park off Chuckanut Drive. Return time for this hike will be 3 pm. For Option II meet at 9 am at the North Chuckanut parking lot located on the east side of Chuckanut Drive between the Old Samish Highway and California Street. This is about milepost 18.5. Option II hikers will pool rides and drive to the Cyrus Gates Overlook where the hike will begin. Return time to the North Chuckanut parking lot will be 2 pm. Drivers will need to be shuttled back to the Cyrus Gates Overlook.

MAY 22: EBEEY'S LANDING, CEMETERY & PRATT LOOP This hike will begin at Ebey's Landing parking area and it will include the side trip to the cemetery, the Pratt Loop, the Bluff Trail and return to the cars by way of the beach. Up to 7.6 miles. Meet at 9 a.m. at the March Point Park-n-Ride. **OR** meet at Ebey's Landing at 9:45 am. Discover Pass required to park at Ebey's Landing but not on the side of the road along the beach. Low tide of minus 1.3 feet about 1 pm.

MAY 29: SAN JUAN ISLAND Hike on trails at American Camp, Whale Watch Park/Limekiln State Park, and English Camp. **NOTE: drivers must make a reservation for both the outbound and return ferry trips.** Contact Joan Melcher (see above) for information.

JUNE 5: BAKER RIVER Hike along the Baker River to Sulfide Creek (if downed trees have been cleared by then), entering the North Cascades National Park along the way. Dogs are not permitted. 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. Northwest Forest Pass or Senior Pass required to park. 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.

CONSERVATION by Tim Manns

State Legislature: The state legislative session was scheduled to finish April 28th with passage of the biennial general, capital, and transportation budgets. Each year, legislators introduce several thousand bills. Most drop out at deadlines in the session calendar. At this writing, the 100% Clean Energy bill (SB 5116), a top priority for Audubon and many other conservation groups, is destined for the Governor's signature. It sets a schedule for phasing out fossil-fuel generated electricity by 2045, a significant step in addressing carbon emissions and the climate change they cause. Adam Maxwell, Government Relations Director for Audubon Washington, said, "It's hard to overstate what a big deal this is. Washington would become the fourth state to pass a 100% clean electricity standard, but many other states are considering similar legislation."

Governor Inslee will also be signing bills to help achieve the clean energy goal by improving efficiency of appliances and of newly constructed buildings. He will sign a bill requiring tug escorts for the crude oil barges bound for March Point and other refineries and a measure to speed recovery of chinook, the principal food of Southern Resident Killer Whales (HB 1579). And more! Audubon has been supporting improved funding for Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), which manages important habitat, and researches, protects, and restores endangered and sensitive species. At this writing, the likely outcome for the agency's budget is hopeful but not quite clear. A partial ban on single-use plastic bags, which has failed for this session, may succeed next year.

Marblemount Quarry: In late March, Skagit Audubon submitted comments to Skagit County Planning & Development Services on possible adverse environmental impacts from a proposed very large stone quarrying operation along the South Skagit Highway near Marblemount. Kiewit Infrastructure proposes to quarry very large, dense rocks for repairing jetties at the mouth of the Columbia River and elsewhere over the next 30 to 100 years. The project application omits or inadequately addresses potential adverse impacts to local residents, wildlife, air and water quality, etc. There is no mention, for example, of the fisher, a state-listed species being actively restored not far from the project site, and the application significantly downplays the presence of the state and federally-listed gray wolf. As WDFW recently announced, the documented existence of a male and female wolf in the Diobsud Creek drainage near



Marblemount constitutes a pack, the newest in Washington State and the first west of the Cascades in modern times. The scale and nature of the quarry project, inadequate application, and 15-day comment period provoked a hue and cry from local residents as well as organizations and agencies, many calling, as does Skagit Audubon, for an environmental impact statement.

Skagit County has opened a new comment period, closing May 13. To read about the quarry proposal and to comment, go to

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/PlanningAndPermit/Documents/notices2019/April/kiewit.johnc.04.12.19.pdf> (instructions about commenting) and

<https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/PlanningAndPermit/Marblemount>

[Quarry.htm](#) (project information and on-line comment form).

For more conservation issues of importance to Skagit Audubon, go to <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 Tweeters** and **Skagit County Ebird List** on the SAS website (Birding menu, Bird Sightings submenu).

WATERFOWL

Snow Goose huge flock at the east 90, Samish Flats on 4-6 (KR); hundreds in 2 flocks on the Samish Flats on 4-12 (AW); 500 flying over SWAWS on 4-16 (PP)

Trumpeter Swan 20 seen from Green Road on 4-12 (AW)

Tundra Swan 4 at Corkindale on 3-17 (RM)

Wood Duck pair at SWAWS on 4-9 (JO); pair at SWAHR on 4-9 (JO)

RAILS and COOTS

Virginia Rail 3 at SWAWS on 4-16 (PP)

HERONS and ALLIES

American Bittern 1 at SWANF on 3-22 (PP)

HAWKS, EAGLES and ALLIES

Cooper's Hawk pair hunting at bird feeders at east Fidalgo home on 4-8 (RW)

Rough-legged Hawk 1 in the east 90 area, Samish Flats on 4-12 (AW); 1 on Josh Wilson Road, Burlington on 4-15 (TM)

Golden Eagle 1 on Butler Flats on 3-16 (GB)

OWLS

Great Horned Owl pair hooting at east Stanwood home on 4-10 (MS)

Northern Pygmy-Owl 1 on fence post near east Stanwood home on 4-9 (MS)

Barred Owl pair hooting at Presentin Park on 3-30 (GB)

FLYCATCHERS

Pacific-slope Flycatcher heard on 4-4 at east Fidalgo home (RW)

Black Phoebe 1 at SWAWS on 2-20 (YH); 1 at SWAWS on 4-9 (JO)

Say's Phoebe 1 at Corkindale on 3-17 (RM); 1 near Marblemount on 3-30 (GB)

VIREOS

Hutton's Vireo 4 on Little Mountain, Mount Vernon on 3-25 (TM)

Cassin's Vireo heard at east Fidalgo home on 4-6 (RW)

CORVIDS

California Scrub-Jay 1 on Lincoln Hill, Mount Vernon on 4-15 (SB)

SWALLOWS

Tree Swallow 10 at Grandy Lake on 3-17 (GB); 20 at PSBTNC (restricted area) on 4-7 (JO); many at SWAWS on 4-9 (JO)

Violet-green Swallow 1 near Mount Erie, Anacortes on 3-20 (TM)

Cliff Swallow 1 at PSBTNC (restricted area) on 4-7 (JO)

Barn Swallow 2 at PSBTNC (restricted area) on 4-7 (JO); 1 at SWAWS on 4-9 (JO)

WRENS

Marsh Wren 1 at SWAWS on 2-20 (YH)

KINGLETS

Golden-crowned Kinglet 2 in Anacortes yard on 2-10 (YH)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1 at SWAWS on 2-6 (YH)

THRUSHES

Western Bluebird 1 at Bryson Road on 3-23 (GB) **RARE**

Mountain Bluebird 2 on Rockport Cascade Road on 3-23 (GB)

Townsend's Solitaire 1 on Lincoln Hill, Mount Vernon on 3-26 (TM)

Field sightings continued on pg. 7

Field sightings continued from pg. 6

FINCHES and ALLIES

House Finch 1 “yellow phase” seen several times in Anacortes yard in Feb. and Mar. (YH)

Red Crossbill 5 at Marblemount boat launch on 3-23 (GB)

American Goldfinch 35 at Marblemount on 3-17 (RM)

SPARROWS and ALLIES

White-throated Sparrow 2 still present (since Nov 2018) at Camano Island home on 4-16 (PP)

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler heard on 4-4 and 4-17 at east Fidalgo home (RW)

Common Yellowthroat 1 near Trumpeter Creek, Mount Vernon on 4-5 (TM); 2 at

DeBay’s Slough on 4-7 (GB); 1 at SWAWS on 4-9 (JO); 1 at SWAHR on 4-9 (JO)

Yellow-rumped Warbler several at SWAWS on 2-20 (YH)

Wilson’s Warbler heard at east Fidalgo home on 4-17 (RW)

(**GB**) Gary Bletsch; (**SB**) Suzanne Butler; (**YH**) Yvonne Houppermans; (**TM**) Tim Manns; (**RM**) Ryan Merrill; (**JO**) Jeff Osmundson; (**PP**) Pam Pritzl; (**PSBTNC**) Port Susan Bay Nature Conservancy; (**KR**) Kerry Rye; (**MS**) Mary Sinker; (**SWAHR**) Skagit Wildlife Area Hayton Reserve; (**SWANFA**) Skagit Wildlife Area North Fork Access; (**SWAWS**) Skagit Wildlife Area Wylie Slough; (**AW**) Andrea Warner; (**RW**) Regan Weeks

BIRD N’ CRUISE TO VENDОВI 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: May 11 (led by Ivar Dolph); 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

PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT by Wash. State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife on the draft Tufted Puffin Recovery Plan and Periodic Status Review. Since being listed as endangered in Wash. State in 2015, Tufted Puffins have continued to experience population declines along the coast with no indication that the situation is improving. These charismatic birds used to be common along the outer coast, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the San Juan Islands, but many breeding colonies have completely disappeared.

The reasons for the decline are unclear but may include predation at the remaining nesting colonies, reduced prey availability, climate change or human disturbance. Specific strategies and tasks are outlined in the plan and even if you don’t have any specific criticisms, it is important to affirm WDFW recommendations to show the public cares about Tufted Puffins and how the State is managing their recovery. **Comment Deadline: May 22, 2019; to review the plan and submit your comment, visit: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02051/>.**



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Skagit Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership in the Skagit Audubon Society includes 10 issues of our newsletter, *The Skagit Flyer*, available in color at <http://www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter>. Membership includes all members of your household.

Check one: _____ \$20/one year _____ \$40/two years _____ New _____ Renewal

Additionally, I wish to donate to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, in the amount of \$_____. Donations of **\$100 or more** receive a personal field trip by a Skagit Audubon field trip leader.

Mail form and payment to: Skagit Audubon Society
PO Box 1101
Mt. Vernon WA 98273-1101

Name: _____ Areas of Interest (check all that apply)

Address: _____ Birds _____ Gardening _____

City/State/: _____ Education _____ Conservation _____

ZIP: _____ Phone: _____ Field Trips _____ Hiking _____

Email: _____ Other: _____

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