



The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Volume 37, No. 9 www.skagitaudubon.org Nov. 2018

November Meeting and Program **The Lake Yajoa Birding Blitz and Avitourism in Honduras** **Presented by Jeff Osmundson and Colleen Shannon**

Tuesday, Nov. 13th
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10441 Bayview Edison Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington



The first Lake Yajoa Birding Blitz took place in 2015 and was attended by Jim Chu, US Forest Service International Migratory Bird program, and Jeff Osmundson, alongside numerous other birders from Honduras. In 2017 Jeff and Colleen Shannon returned to Honduras to once again experience the Birding Blitz and other avitourist activities. We will talk about our experiences in and around Lake Yajoa, Gracias Honduras and the ruins of Copan.

Jeff and Colleen will highlight the importance of local communities, farms and young birders in both the Blitz and ongoing avitourism. Jim Chu, if available, will help us understand the role of USAID and the US Forest Service in the Lake Yajoa region.

The goal of the Lake Yajoa Birding Blitz is to attract more birders and nature lovers to the area, provide a venue for international scientific and cultural exchange and monitor the bird life in the basin.

IN THIS ISSUE:
Field Trips, Page 3
Hiking, Page 4-5
Conservation, Page 6-7
Field Sightings, Page 8-10

Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count

This year's count will be on Saturday, December 29, 2018. For information about participating, contact Tim Manns (conservation@skagitaudubon.org or 360.333.8985)

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. Printed copies are black-and-white and electronic copies are full color. *The Flyer* is available online at www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter.

Board of Directors

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED The Education Committee needs volunteers to help with a number of adult presentations coming up in the next several months. These Power Point presentations are scheduled at libraries and private organizations/clubs in the area. If you can help give part of a presentation (already written), that would be great; or, you can assist with the computer and help answer questions from the audience. If you can lend a hand, please contact Sheila at skagiteducation2@gmail.com. Thank you!

NOVEMBER 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.

North Whidbey Island Birding Route

Saturday, November 10th

8:00 AM

Meet at March Point "Shell Park and Ride" to carpool, located off Highway 20, at the traffic light east of Sharpe's Corner and just south of the oil refineries.

Join us as we bird the auto route that visits Deception Pass, Dugualla Bay, Swantown, Penn Cove/Coupeville and Cornet Bay. This trip is mostly in and out of cars with little walking involved. We'll search north Whidbey Island, mostly the shorelines, for a variety of charismatic sea ducks and puddle ducks, on both salt and fresh water.

Some of the nearby trees and shrubs can enrich the birding with a variety of small songbirds and a few shorelines offer shorebirds some years. Bring your binoculars and a scope if you have one, a lunch and hot thermos. Good rain and wind gear are essential as shorelines can be cooler than surrounding protected areas. Many birds will be distant, but beginners are welcome to come learn from more experienced participants. Sometimes it is helpful for the leader to know if you plan to attend, for notifying at last minute in the event of impossible weather.

Leader Ivar Dolph, 360.344.8369, pidolph@frontier.com



DECEMBER POTLUCK AND SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION,

will once again feature photos and videos submitted by you! Please send your pictures and videos to ronaniellis@gmail.com. Pictures should be in .jpg format with a resolution of about 5mb. Videos should be in Quicktime format or .mp4, and less than 1 minute (actually, any video

format that works on Mac). Also, please include the who, what, were and when, so Ronan can introduce your presentation. Finally, **please have your pictures and videos submitted to Ronan no later than Dec. 1st.**

NOVEMBER HIKES by Joan Melcher

Cold season hikes begin this month. We move from the high country to lowland hikes near the water and on the foothills. Safety comes first so hikes may be canceled or destinations changed due to weather conditions, forest fires and/or smoke, 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. All the 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 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 drivers.

NOVEMBER 7: LITTLE CRANBERRY LAKE -Terry Slotemaker or his designee will lead a hike in the Anacortes Forest Lands in the Little Cranberry Lake area. The exact miles and elevation gain are not known at this time. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the trailhead located on “A” Ave between 37th and 41st Streets in Anacortes. You may leave when all in your vehicle return to the trailhead. Historically, all are back by 1 pm. Terry can be reached at 360.293.6514.

NOVEMBER 14: LITTLE MOUNTAIN - Explore the trails on Little Mountain SE of Mount Vernon WA, part of the Mount Vernon City Park system. A number of options are available. There will be elevation gains. Meet at 9 am on the Little Mountain Park access road. Park on the side of the road, before the gate. (The gate opens at 10 am.)The Little Mountain Park access road is off the Little Mountain Road which is off the Blackburn Road. You may leave when you return from the hike.

Driving instructions:

1. From I-5 SOUTHBOUND, take exit 225(Anderson Road exit). Cross over the freeway and drive east on Anderson Road which will make a sweeping curve to the left; where it changes into S. Laventure. At the 4-way stop at Blackburn turn right on Blackburn. In a mile or so you will come to right turn, which is the Little Mountain Road. About 0.3 mile up the Little Mountain Road, turn right onto the Little Mountain Park access road. Parking will be on the left hand side of the road.

2. From I-5 NORTHBOUND, take exit 225 (Anderson Road exit). Drive east on Anderson Road which will make a sweeping curve to the left where it changes into S. Laventure. At the 4-way stop at Blackburn turn right on Blackburn. . In a mile or so you will come to right turn, which is the Little Mountain Road. About 0.3 mile up the Little Mountain Road, turn right onto the Little Mountain Park access road. Parking will be on the left hand side of the road.

NOVEMBER 21: THANKSGIVING WEEK - No hike.

NOVEMBER 28: THE TURSI TRAIL - Hike the Tursi Trail in Deception Pass State Park and add the Big Cedar Trail Loop on your way back to the Pass Lake parking area. This trail connects Deception Pass State Park with the Anacortes Forest Lands and completes the long-awaited Cross Island Trail on Fidalgo Island. It is part of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. 5.3 miles round trip. Total elevation gain of about 1400 feet. Meet at 9 am at the Pass Lake Parking Lot; try to pool rides as parking is fairly limited in this lot. WA Discover Pass needed to park here. You may leave when you return to the trailhead.

Hikes continued on Page 5

Hikes continued from Page 4

DECEMBER 5: EAST SHORE LAKE WHATCOM and/or THE CHANTERELLE TRAIL



A. The East Shore of Lake Whatcom hike is a fairly level hike among trees beside the east shore of Lake Whatcom. 6.25 miles round trip, little elevation gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Chuckanut Drive park-n-ride lot. This lot is on the east side of I-5, off Exit 231 of I-5. You may leave when you return to the trailhead.

B. The Chanterelle Trail climbs 1000 ft in 2.4 miles to an overlook of Lake Whatcom. Meeting time and place is the same as A. above.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Nov. 6 – Election Day

Nov. 6 – Skagit Audubon Board Meeting

Nov. 7 – Skagit Audubon Hike – Little Cranberry Lake

Nov. 10 – Skagit Audubon Birding Field Trip – North Whidbey

Nov. 13 – Skagit Audubon General Meeting and Program

Nov. 14 – Skagit Audubon Hike – Little Mountain

Nov. 28 – Skagit Audubon Hike – The Tursi Trail

Dec. 5 – Skagit Audubon Hike – East Shore Lake Whatcom and/or The Chanterelle Trail

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

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 Sept. through June. Unsolicited material for the next month's *Flyer* should be sent to the editor by the third Sat. of the current month. We reserve the right to edit. For questions or problems about your *Skagit Flyer* subscription, contact membership chair:

Pam Pritzl membership@skagitaudubon.org



Congressman Rick Larsen goes birding with Skagit Audubon – see page 7 for full article. Photo by Laura Gewicks.

NOVEMBER CONSERVATION REPORT by Tim Manns

Audubon Priorities for the Washington State 2019 Legislature

The annual meeting of Audubon's Washington chapters took place October 12th and 13th in Woodinville. State Director Gail Gatton described the priorities the state board has adopted for Audubon to pursue in the 2019 legislative session in Olympia. Audubon's highly experienced legislative advocate Neil Beaver expressed confidence that the House would increase its two-seat Democratic majority and that the Senate's one-seat Democratic majority would expand as well. Audubon is a centrist organization, but given the potential change in legislators, this shift has good implications for passage of bills important to Audubon. Here's a quick summary of the 2019 priorities. During the legislative session anticipate being asked to contact your legislators about them.

- 100% clean energy standard. This bill would commit Washington State to generating all its electricity from renewable sources by 2045 and using no electricity generated by burning coal after 2025. This almost passed in the 2018 session and probably would have had time not run out during the short, 60-day session.
- Rangeland Fire Protection Associations. Audubon is concerned about the effects that wildland fire has in the sagebrush expanses of central and eastern Washington. The sagebrush ecosystem is habitat for a unique array of birds. Non-native cheatgrass changes the fire regime in this system, leading to elimination of the native plants on which the birds depend. The formation of Fire Protection Associations would allow private land owners to play a role in fire management, improving response and providing protection for areas now unprotected.
- Support for putting WDFW's budget on a sounder basis. Historically, the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) has depended on hunting and fishing license revenues as its main source of funding. License sales are declining, and the department has had to severely reduce staff in response. For WDFW to meet its mission of conserving all Washington species and their habitats, a mission which parallels Audubon's, the agency needs adequate funding and staff. Audubon supports a substantial increase in WDFW's budget for the next biennium and the identification of a permanent long-term funding source to replace funds lost as license sales decline. The Legislature directed WDFW to study possibilities for long-term funding, and now it's time to act.

Environmental Priorities Coalition

Each legislative session Audubon joins over 20 other conservation organizations in pursuing an agreed short list of environmental priorities. This year the list includes:

1. 100% Clean Energy. The same as Audubon's first priority above.
2. Oil spill legislation. This would enact the final pieces of a package of bills introduced during the last several sessions to prevent oil spills and beef up readiness to respond to spills in the Salish Sea and along the Columbia River. The focus in the 2019 session will be requiring escort tugs for oil barges such as those supplying the March Point refineries, and a rescue tug based in the San Juan Islands for tankers or other vessels that lose power and risk running aground.
3. Response to decline in Southern Resident Killer Whale population. The Governor's Task Force on this issue will have draft legislation probably addressing vessel noise reduction, increasing food (i.e. chinook salmon) for these particular orcas, and maybe addressing the problem of contamination in Puget Sound waters.
4. Statewide ban on plastic bags. There will be an attempt at legislation to ban plastic bags statewide as has been done in some of Washington's cities and towns.

The legislative session will begin January 14 and run for 105 days. This is the alternate year "long" session during which the next 2-year budget will be written (alternate year short sessions are 60 days).

Conservation notes continued on page 7

Conservation notes continued from page 6

You will be able to get regular updates on the progress of legislation on the websites of Audubon Washington (<http://wa.audubon.org/conservation/advocacy>) and the Environmental Priorities Coalition (<https://wecprotects.org/environmental-priorities-coalition/>). Please mark your calendars: on January 29th, Audubon Washington will have a lobby day in Olympia. Members of chapters from around the state will visit their legislators and urge them to support Audubon's priorities. This is always a worthwhile and educational event. Watch for the details and plan to participate! We can make a difference.

Congressman Rick Larsen Goes Birding

On October 15th, at the request of Second District Congressman Rick Larsen, members of Skagit Audubon took him and Laura Gelwicks, his Bellingham-based Community Liaison, birding at Wylie Slough. Also joining us was Adam Maxwell, the new Campaign Manager for Audubon Washington. While some cooperative Wilson's Snipe and a few other species provided easy birding, we had an opportunity to tell the Congressman about Audubon's concern with the Administration's cutting the heart out of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. In this 100th anniversary year of the act, which Audubon helped pass in 1918, the law faces its most severe threat ever. This is the law that has long been interpreted as requiring power and oil companies and others to take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable, inadvertent injury to birds. It is the legal basis for Puget Sound Energy (PSE) being required to equip power lines in Skagit County with devices increasing their visibility to swans. Collision with powerlines is one of the two top causes of accidental deaths of swans (poisoning from ingesting lead shot in lake and marsh sediments being the other). The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is the law that causes PSE to modify power poles to prevent electrocution of eagles and hawks. When an oil spill results in birds dying, this is the law whose stiff fines give companies an incentive to be more careful. The Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in 1 million bird deaths and a \$100 million fine for that part of the spill's impact.

In December 2017, the Solicitor's Office of the Department of the Interior released a reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act exempting all accidental bird deaths, thereby removing the incentive for companies to avoiding killing birds. Multiple environmental groups, including Audubon, and eight state attorneys general, are suing the Administration to reverse this action. There are several things we need to do:

- Write Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson asking him to add our state to the suit (<https://www.atg.wa.gov/contact-us>)
- Write Congressman Rick Larsen if you live in the 2nd District, or Congresswoman Suzan DelBene if you're in the First District, and ask them to oppose legislation that would codify the Administration's weakening of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Such a bill has been introduced by Congresswoman Liz Cheney (Wyoming). When Skagit Audubon people went birding with Representative Larsen and brought up this act, he immediately turned to his staff person and asked how many letters or emails his office had received on it (none). We need to send him letters or emails to ensure his attention to this problem.
- Please also go to National Audubon's website and send an email on this topic: <https://www.audubon.org/news/migratory-bird-treaty-ac>

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 About 60 at Hayton Reserve on 10-19 (AW)

Cackling Goose 30 at Hayton Reserve on 10-19 (AW)

Eurasian Wigeon 1 at Jensen Access on 9-30 (GB)

Greater Scaup 14 off Bay View State Park on 9-16 (GB)

Lesser Scaup 12 on Lake Erie on 10-21 (GB)

Ring-necked Duck 4 at Dugualla Bay on 9-16 (NOH)

Harlequin Duck 4 at Libbey Beach on 9-9 (NOH)

Long-tailed Duck 8 at Swantown/Bos Lake on 9-16 (NOH)

Bufflehead 4 (first of season) in Burrows Bay on 10-15 (NOH)

Hooded Merganser 4 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-14 (NOH); 1 at Dugualla Bay on 9-16 (NOH)

Red-breasted Merganser 1 at March Point on 10-20 (GB)

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe 1 at Dugualla Bay on 9-9 (NOH); 3 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-11 (NOH); 4 at Skagit Wildlife

Area, Wylie Slough on 9-14 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-15 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 10-15 (NOH)

Horned Grebe 3 in Burrows Bay on 11-1 (NOH); 4 at Ship Harbor Interpretive Center on 9-15 (NOH); 2 at Swantown/Bos Lake on 9-16 (NOH)

Red-necked Grebe 1 in Burrows Bay on 10-1 (NOH)

Western Grebe 40 in Burrows Bay on 10-17 (NOH)

RAILS and COOTS

Virginia Rail 1 at Dugualla Bay on 9-9 (NOH); 1 at Libbey Beach on 9-9 (NOH); 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-11 (NOH); 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-14 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-15 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 10-15 (NOH)

American Coot 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 10-15 (NOH)

CRANES

Sandhill Crane 2 at Hayton Reserve on 9-21 and 9-22 (GB)

PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover 2 at Swantown/Bos Lake on 9-16 (NOH)

SANDPIPERS and ALLIES

Red Knot 1 at Swantown/Bos Lake on 9-9 (NOH); 1 at Swantown/Bos Lake on 9-16 (NOH)

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-23 (GB)

Stilt Sandpiper 3 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-11 (NOH)

Baird's Sandpiper 2 at the West 90, Samish Island on 9-29 (GB)

Least Sandpiper 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-14 (NOH)

Wilson's Snipe 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-11 (NOH); 11 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-11 (NOH); 3 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie

Field sightings continued on page 9

Field sightings continued from page 8
Slough on 9-15 (NOH); 3 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 10-15 (NOH)
Spotted Sandpiper 1 at Dugualla Bay on 9-9 (NOH)

JAEGERS

Parasitic Jaeger 1 off Jensen Access on 9-15 (GB)

ALCIDS

Marbled Murrelet 1 in Burrows Bay on 10-1 (NOH)

LOONS

Red-throated Loon 1 at Swantown/Bos Lake on 9-9 (NOH); 3 at Swantown/Bos Lake on 9-16 (NOH)

Common Loon 2 in Burrows Bay on 11-1 (NOH); 4 at Swantown/Bos Lake on 9-16 (NOH)

HERONS and ALLIES

Great Egret 1 at West Edison on 9-16 (GB); 1 in Padilla Bay near Sharpe's Corner on 9-18 (BR); 1 in Padilla Bay near Sharpe's Corner on 9-19 (KH); 1 at March Point on 9-20 (JH)

OSPREYS

Osprey 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-11 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-14 (NOH)

HAWKS, EAGLES and ALLIES

Northern Harrier 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-11 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-14 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-15 (NOH); 2 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 10-15 (NOH)

Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 at east Stanwood home on 10-18 (MS)

Cooper's Hawk 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-11 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-14 (NOH)

Red-tailed Hawk 3 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 10-15 (NOH)

Rough-legged Hawk 1 dark morph hunting on MacLean Road on 10-14 (AW); 2 at Sibley Pass on 10-14 (GB)

Golden Eagle 4 at Sibley Pass on 10-14 (GB)

OWLS

Short-eared Owl 1 hunting at Hayton Reserve on 10-19 (AW)

WOODPECKERS

Pileated Woodpecker 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-15 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 10-15 (NOH)

FALCONS

American Kestrel 1 in Bow on 9-25 (KR); 1 perched on Bay View/Edison Road on 10-17 (AW)

Merlin 1 at east Fidalgo home on 9-30 (RW)

Peregrine Falcon 1 adult flying on Sullivan Road on 10-17 (AW); 2 adults perched in "eagle nest tree" at Hayton Reserve on 10-19 (AW); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-11 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-15 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 10-15 (NOH)

FLYCATCHERS

Black Phoebe 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 10-19 (AW)

SHRIKES

Northern Shrike 1 at Dugualla Bay on 9-16 (NOH)

BUSHTITS

Bushtit 25 in Anacortes yard on 9-29 (JB)

WRENS

Pacific Wren 1 at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center on 9-25 (KR)

Bewick's Wren 1 at Bryson Road on 10-6 (RM)

Field sightings continued on page 10

Field sightings continued from page 9

THRUSHES

Varied Thrush 1 in Anacortes yard on 9-29 (JB)

FINCHES and ALLIES

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch 35 at Sibley Pass on 10-14 (GB)

LONGSPURS and BUNTINGS

Lapland Longspur 4 at the West 90, Samish Island on 9-29 (GB); 2 at Jensen Access on 9-30 (GB)

SPARROWS and ALLIES

Fox Sparrow 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-15 (NOH); 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 10-15 (NOH)

Lincoln's Sparrow 1 at Skagit Wildlife Area, Wylie Slough on 9-14 (NOH)

Swamp Sparrow 1 at Sauk Prairie on 10-6 (RM)

White-throated Sparrow 1 at Rasar State Park on 10-10 (GB)

Golden-crowned Sparrow 1 in Anacortes yard on 9-29 (JB)

WARBLERS

Wilson's Warbler 1 at Sauk Prairie on 10-6 (RM)

MAMMALS

Harbor Porpoise 3 in Burrows Bay on 10-1 (NOH)

River Otter 3 at creek at east Stanwood property on 9-29 (MS); 7 in Guemes Channel on 10-1 (NOH)

(GB) Gary Bletsch; (JB) Jane Brandt; (JH) Joe Halton; (KH) Kristi Hein; (RM) Ryan Merrill; (NOH) Neil O'Hara; (BR) Bob Ross; (KR) Kerry Rye; (MS) Mary Sinker; (AW) Andrea Warner; (RW) Regan Weeks

Please Comment on the DNR Murrelet Plan by Tim Manns

As mentioned many times in this newsletter, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is writing a long-term strategy for managing Marbled Murrelet habitat on state trust lands. This small seabird, listed as a Threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act, nests high in old growth trees and dives after the small fish it eats in marine waters. Much of the best, not-yet-protected nesting



habitat for the fast declining bird is on state trust lands, and DNR has a legal responsibility to manage that habitat to help the bird survive. It also has a legal mandate to provide timber harvest revenue to support schools and other public institutions that are trust fund beneficiaries. DNR's latest try at a long-term strategy balancing these requirements is open for public review through

November 6th. Specifically what is out for review is a lengthy, revised environmental impact statement.

Audubon is part of a coalition of conservation groups studying that EIS and preparing talking points for suggested comments. As of this writing, the points are not yet available but will be when you see this newsletter. It's important that DNR hear from people who want our public agency to have a scientifically-based plan with real promise to stop and reverse the murrelet's decline.

If you have questions on Audubon's perspective on this issue and would be willing to write a comment letter, contact Tim Manns for the talking points (conservation @skagitaudubon.org). DNR's website has a large amount of information on the topic, including the complete text of the revised draft environmental impact statement at <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/marbledmurrelet>. Image of marbled murrelet can be found at:

https://www.audubon.org/search_results?search=marbled%20murrelet.

FROM AUDUBON WASHINGTON

Statewide Audubon Support for I-1631

Skagit Audubon is one of 16 Washington Audubon chapters voicing its support for I-1631. These endorsements represent the organization's commitment to supporting strong climate action and passing effective climate policy that will prevent further damage to our climate. A full list of Audubon chapters endorsing I-1631 can be found at <http://wa.audubon.org/press-release/audubon-washington-supports-initiative-1631>.

Audubon Washington, the state field office of the National Audubon Society, has consistently supported climate action – both in the legislature and at the ballot box. The broad and growing support around I-1631, shows that the community recognizes the urgent need for climate action and is uniting around an opportunity right now to put the nations' strongest climate policy on the books.

"Climate change is the biggest threat facing birds and people, and the clock is ticking," said Gail Gatton, Executive Director, Audubon Washington. "Through our statewide programs, partnerships, and strong member support, Audubon Washington is steadfast in its determination to say 'Yes' to a 100% clean energy future. Today we stand in support of sound science and our vision for a carbon-free Washington and urge our members and all residents of Washington state to support I-1631."

I-1631 is supported by a coalition comprised of over 250 groups, representing scientists, working families and organized labor, communities of color, environmental advocates, clean energy companies, health professionals, businesses, faith organizations, and tribal nations. These groups are working together to pave the way for a cleaner future.



Varied Thrush by Joe Halton

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.

About Audubon Washington

Established in 1981, Audubon Washington works statewide with its 25 independent chapters and 35,000 members on the conservation of the [sagebrush shrub steppe ecosystem](#) in Eastern Washington, [protection of coastal estuaries](#), and [actions that address climate change](#), the number one threat to birds today. Through the [Seward Park Audubon Center](#), we provide science, nature and environmental education programs for youth and families. Learn more at <http://wa.audubon.org/>

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**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)