

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

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Volume 40, No. 7 www.skagitaudubon.org September 2021

SEPTEMBER MEETING – PRESENTED ON ZOOM

“To Feed or to Fight? Behavioral Eco physics of Hummingbirds”

Presented by: **Alejandro Rico-Guevara, PhD.**

Tuesday, September 14, 7:00 PM

Energetically constrained animals have evolved adaptations to enhance caloric intake. On the other hand, animal competition sometimes turns into physical combat, and particular weaponry evolves. Dr. Rico-Guevara will present findings on each of these fronts, along with a case study of hummingbird bill weapons. These discoveries revive questions about how these birds budget energy gain and expenditure to enable hovering, the most expensive form of locomotion, establishing coevolutionary relationships with the plants they pollinate.



Dr. Alejandro (Alejo) Rico-Guevara is an evolutionary biologist. He attended Universidad Nacional de Columbia as an undergraduate. He received his PhD. from the University of Connecticut as a Fulbright Scholar and carried out postdoctoral research as a Miller Fellow at UC Berkeley. He received the Pitelka Award for excellence in research from the International Society for Behavioral Ecology. His research has been featured by the NY Times, National Geographic Magazine, and in 6 nature documentaries/TV series, in addition to articles in numerous peer-reviewed publications. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington and the Curator of Ornithology at the Burke Museum.

Please register for this Zoom event at: <https://bit.ly/septsas>

Preregistration is required and is limited to 100 attendees. Please only one registrant per household. After you register you will receive an email with the link to sign in at the time of the event. Questions? Please contact carlajhelm@comcast.net.

Due to the continuing emergency response to the COVID-19 virus, our in-person member meetings, field trips and hikes, and most other activities have been cancelled until further notice. This includes the offer of personal field trips for future donations to Skagit Audubon Society of \$100 or more. Please visit our website for updates.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Greetings members and friends of Skagit Audubon,

As of this writing in mid-August we are just now starting to see a few more cloudy days. The forecast temperatures are in the 70's with fewer 80's in sight and the nights are cooler and just a little longer. The summer has flown by and already the shorebirds are starting to show up in the fits and starts of migration. Peeps and yellowlegs and phalaropes and other common and not so common shorebirds are making life interesting. The morning chorus in my garden has been subdued for a number of weeks now as nesting and defending of territories passes. Things feel like they are changing.

And yet, some things that we hoped would change have not. There is a new COVID surge, and the long-anticipated end of the pandemic has been put off. When the staff at the Breazeale Padilla Bay Center told us that we would not be in our meeting rooms until at least January, I thought they were being too cautious. Turns out they were pretty smart about this pandemic. So, for the foreseeable future we are going to be Zooming our business and membership meetings. When we are able to transition into meeting rooms again we will be seriously considering the option of hybrid meetings for those that prefer to not travel as much.

For me, this year's goals will include implementing a succession plan. We have the Vice President's chair open, and I would like to step down at the end of this year. I believe that we would benefit from new people and new ideas in these positions. It makes the most sense to have a President and VP that have served on the Board and know the workings of the business meetings.

If you think you may have an interest please feel free to join a business meeting to see what goes on. *You are always welcome at any of the regular business meetings.* You don't have to be the best birder on the block (I'm a prime example of that), you don't have to have expensive binoculars or scope, all you need is a willingness to serve Skagit Audubon for a relatively short period of time. Please consider joining us at a regular business meeting to see how it works.

Thanks, and happy birding
Be safe, wear your mask, get vaccinated.

Jeff Osmundson
President



Purple Martins - Update on Ship Harbor Nests!

On June 12th and again on June 26th, Skagit Audubon volunteers conducted surveys of the Purple Martin nest boxes located at Ship Harbor in Anacortes (next to the ferry terminal vehicle holding area).

Don Jonasson, Jane Brandt, Mary Selting and Mia Somenek observed and counted the birds and their activities. They are happy to report that:

28 of 30 nest boxes were in an active state of being used!

CONSERVATION REPORT – by Tim Manns

Summer provided a pause in Audubon's involvement in local environmental issues as the Skagit County Planning Commission mulled over the many public comments on the draft Shoreline Master Program, Planning & Development Services followed up on the docketed Comprehensive Plan changes, and so on. In the last few months, through generous private donations and public grants Skagit Land Trust protected 50 more acres of important bird habitat at the entrance to Samish Island and added 3.5 protected acres at the March Point heronry, largest on the West Coast. And there were positive environmental developments at the state and national level.

With that introduction, I need to shift this report's tone and focus on a significant threat to both human well-being and wildlife in Skagit County mentioned briefly in the last *Skagit Flyer*. We look to the state's Growth Management Act (GMA) to protect the environment, prevent uncoordinated growth, and ensure quality of life. People value the rural character of much of Skagit County with its world-class agricultural soils and extensive forests. Audubon members also recognize the importance these rural areas have for supporting bird populations. Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, Snow Geese, many species of ducks, Dunlin and other shorebirds, raptors: all depend on farmland as an important component of the habitat they require. Many other species need the varied forests and wetlands of Skagit County.

Under the GMA, Skagit County must accept a certain amount of human population growth. By agreement among the county's incorporated towns and the county, 80% of this growth is to be accommodated within the towns or their adjacent designated "urban growth areas" (UGAs). Since 2015, Bellingham-based developer "Skagit Partners" has repeatedly sought the County Commissioners' permission to build a so-called "Fully Contained Community" (FCC) in Skagit County. In a concession made to help ensure its passage in 1990, the GMA allows these large housing developments at urban density to be built in rural areas if a county so chooses. FCCs can include thousands of homes, and because they are in unincorporated areas, there are none of the services incorporated municipalities provide. Developers thus leave it to the county to add to its responsibilities the provision of basic services such as fire, police, and public works departments, libraries, schools, etc., all funded by the residents of the whole county.

Changing tactics following repeated denial of permission for a particular FCC ("Avalon"), Skagit Partners has now requested a change in the county's planning policies to give general permission for FCC's. If granted by the County Commissioners, the door will be open for not one, but many, large scale housing developments on rural land over future decades, changing Skagit County forever to an array of sprawling suburban developments with ever less farmland and forest. In May of this year, the Skagit County Commissioners ignored 700 letters in opposition (one Commissioner openly stating he chose not to read them) and docketed the petition to amend the county's planning policies to allow FCCs. Docketing directs the county's planning department to further study the proposed policy change and sets up the very real possibility of final approval by the Commissioners. Under Skagit County's antiquated three-Commissioner system, it takes just two votes to approve even so monumental a change as this.

Counties nearer Seattle which allowed FCC's now regret these large housing developments which plunk urban density onto rural areas leaving the county responsible for all services. Several have reversed their FCC policies. Skagit County's UGAs have enough capacity for the projected growth. Developer Skagit Partners argues that FCCs will solve Skagit's housing shortage and provide much-needed affordable housing. The very real shortage is no reason to ignore the fact that Skagit's towns and UGAs have sufficient capacity for more development, and there is no guarantee that FCC housing will be "affordable" or will provide housing needed by people here now. The more accurate term for FCCs is sprawl. Opening the door to them would significantly threaten Skagit's agricultural and forested lands. The lack of sufficient housing and its skyrocketing cost are serious problems, but allowing multi-thousand home developments outside incorporated areas is not the solution and could well mean the end of much that we value, including habitat for swans, snow geese, bald eagles, dunlin, falcons, ...

For a clear overview of the FCC issue, read Margery Hite's article in the *Skagit Scoop* (<https://skagitscoop.org/blog/fully-contained-communities-and-why-we-should-be-worried-about-them/>). The FCC threat is bringing together groups with diverse political, economic, and environmental interests. Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland is leading the way organizing opposition to allowing FCCs in Skagit County. To learn more and support this important effort to protect Skagit County as we know it for both people and birds, go to <https://www.skagitonians.org/fight-fccs>.

FROM YOUR EDITOR - by Mary Sinker

Welcome back from summer and when we signed off in June, fledglings were starting to pop up all over the place. Young Spotted Towhees learned how to use those large tails and several Song Sparrow youngsters spent several days whizzing in and out of flowerpots on the back patio as they gained independence from their parents. Now fall migration is well underway and some of our local hotspots are hosting American Avocets and Red-necked Phalaropes. Soon we will say goodbye to Wilson's Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks and Western Tanagers as they depart for their wintering grounds hundreds or even thousands of miles to the south of us. During the summer I also experimented with some new plants for birds. For the first time I planted some Crocosmia and within a day the Anna's Hummingbirds were using it regularly. Another popular hummingbird plant was the Blue-black Salvia and bees spend hours each day feeding on the sunflower blossoms. Their pollination will ensure a bounty of sunflower seeds for the birds in a few weeks. Enjoy this transition from summer to fall and I hope you have made some new discoveries as well!

WELCOME BACK HIKING - by Joan Melcher

After more than a year, Skagit Audubon is pleased to announce the return of scheduled hikes beginning in September. Please visit our website www.skagitaudubon.org/activities/hiking-info for full details on the hikes. All hikers must have a current signed liability release form (available on the website) on file prior to participating in any Skagit Audubon hike. Please be prepared to follow current COVID pandemic safety protocols. Questions? Contact Joan Melcher at jdmelcher@comcast.net or 360.424.0407.



- Sept. 1: Cutthroat Pass**
- Sept. 8: Maple Pass Loop**
- Sept. 15: Schreibers Meadow Hikes**
- Sept. 22: North Baker Lake**
- Sept. 29: Orcas Island**
- Oct. 6: Ruby Arm**

THE BIG SIT - by Denny Quirk

The Big Sit is a free community birding event open to individuals and teams all over the world. Mark your calendar as this year The Big Sit runs Saturday October 9 and Sunday October 10. Last year Skagit Audubon Society fielded a Big Sit team for the first time at Wiley Slough (Skagit Wildlife Area - Headquarters Unit). Our rotating cadre of thirteen observers identified 60 species from a single location over a ten-hour period! Generous SAS members took the initiative to pledge \$1 per species seen by the team in support of the Skagit Audubon Society Environmental Conservation Scholarship. Additionally, nine members conducted their own Big Sit counts and some even received custom built nest boxes in recognition of their species counts or observing the secret species.



We plan to field an observer team at Wiley Slough again this year - most likely on Saturday October 9. Covid expectations for team participants, how to sign up for an observer shift, and how to make a pledge will be outlined in a forthcoming communication to all members. You are also encouraged to conduct your own Big Sit and participate from wherever you want - backyard, park, public wildlife area, etc. Visit www.thebigsit.org to learn more about how you can conduct your own count and log observations.

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

WATERFOWL

Blue-winged Teal 7 on 6/15, 1 on 6/18 & 1 on 7/1/21 at SWAWS (NOH)

Cinnamon Teal 3 on 6/15, 1 on 6/18, 7 on 7/7, 2 on 7/18, 15 on 7/31 & 13 on 8/3/21 at SWAWS (NOH)

Northern Pintail 200 at FIFR on 8/12/21 (NOH)

SWIFTS

Black Swift 12 at NSRA on 6/15/2021 (SAS)

RAILS and COOTS

Sora 1 at Fisher Slough TNC (restricted access) on 8/15/21 (JO/CS)

STILTS and AVOCETS

American Avocet 2 at FIFR on 8/19/21 (YH)

OYSTERCATCHERS

Black Oystercatcher 2 at Washington Park, Anacortes on 6/20/21 (MSJS)

PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover 38 at FIFR on 8/8/21 (NOH); 3 at FIFR on 8/17/21 (MS/JS)

American Golden-Plover 1 at FIFR on 8/16/21 (GB)

Semipalmated Plover 1 on 6/24, 2 on 7/18, 20 on 8/8 & 2 on 8/12/21 at FIFR (NOH)

SANDPIPERS and ALLIES

Whimbrel 1 at FIFR on 6/12/21 (GB)

Long-billed Curlew 4 at the West 90, Samish Flats on 8/14/21 (GB)

Marbled Godwit 1 at FIFR on 6/30/21 (AT)

Red Knot 4 at SWAJA on 5/22/21 (GB)

Stilt Sandpiper 1 at SWAWS on 8/14 & 8/16/21 (GB); 1 at SWAWS on 8/15/21 (NOH)

Pectoral Sandpiper 3 at SWAWS on 8/8 & 4 at FIFR on 8/12/21 (NOH)

Semipalmated Sandpiper 1 at FIFR on 8/8/21 (NOH)

Wilson's Snipe 5 at SWAWS on 8/13/21 (MS/JS)

Solitary Sandpiper 1 at SWAWS on 8/14 & 2 on 8/16/21 (GB); 1 at SWAWS on 8/17/21 (MS/JS)

Wilson's Phalarope 1 at SWAWS on 8/12/21 (JO/CS)

Red-necked Phalarope 2 at FIFR on 8/8/21 (GB); 2 at FIFR on 8/8/21 (NOH); 1 at SWAWS on 8/17/21 (MS/JS)

GULLS and TERNs

Bonaparte's Gull 1 at Samish Island Public Beach on 8/8/21 (GB)

Franklin's Gull 1 at FIFR on 8/16/21 (GB)

Heermann's Gull 3 at Rosario, DPSP on 7/29/21 (NOH); 1 at Rosario, DPSP on 8/12/21 (JO/CS)

Black Tern 1 at FIFR on 8/14/21 (GB) **RARE**

HERONS and ALLIES

Great Egret 1 at SHIP on 6/1/21 (NOH)

Green Heron 1 in Burlington on 6/12/21 (GB)

VULTURES

Turkey Vulture 4 at NSRA on 6/21/21 (NOH)

HAWKS, EAGLES and ALLIES

Cooper's Hawk 1 bathing at east Fidalgo yard, Anacortes on 8/2/21 (RW)

OWLS

Great Horned Owl heard baby owls calling in the evening on 8/14/21 & an adult hooting on 8/15/21 (RW)

Barred Owl 2 at Cranberry Lake, ACFL on 6/25/21 (NOH)

WOODPECKERS

American Three-toed Woodpecker 1 on trail between Rainy & Cutthroat Passes on 6/12/21 (GB)

FALCONS

Peregrine Falcon 2 at FIFR on 8/19 (YH)

FLYCATCHERS

Black Phoebe 5 (2 parents & 3 young) at SWAWS throughout summer (MS/JS)

CHICKADEES

Mountain Chickadee 2 near Cutthroat Pass on 6/12/21 (GB)

Field sightings continued on Pg. 6

Field sightings continued from Pg. 5

WRENS

Pacific Wren 5 total (2 parents & 3 young) at SWAWS on 7/5/21 (MS/JS)

THRUSHES

Swainson's Thrush 1 juvenile at Cap Sante yard, Anacortes on 8/17/21 (JH)

CATBIRDS

Gray Catbird 1 at Barnaby Slough on 6/23/21 (GB)

FINCHES and ALLIES

Cassin's Finch 1 at Cutthroat Pass on 6/12/21 (GB)
Red Crossbill 5 at east Stanwood home from 6/27 to 7/1/21 (MS/JS)

BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES

Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 at feeder near Cochreham Island on 6/24/21 (GB)

WARBLERS

MacGillivray's Warbler 1 at Cap Sante yard, Anacortes on 8/6/21 (JH)
American Redstart 1 or more in Utopia on 6/30/21 (GB) **unusual location**
Black-throated Gray Warbler 1 on Tursi Trail, DPSP on 6/12/21 (NOH)
Townsend's Warbler 1 at Cap Sante yard, Anacortes on 8/6/21 (JH); 1 at east Fidalgo yard, Anacortes on 8/14 & 8/15/21 (RW)

Wilson's Warbler 1 at east Fidalgo yard, Anacortes on 8/2 & 8/14/21 (RW)

TANAGERS and ALLIES

Western Tanager 3 on 6/7 & 1 on 6/25/21 at Cranberry Lake, ACFL (NOH); 1 on Tursi Trail, DPSP on 6/12/21 (NOH); 2 at NSRA on 6/21/21 (NOH); 1 female at Cap Sante yard, Anacortes on 8/18/21 (JH); 1 at east Stanwood home on 8/19/21 (MS/JS)

Lazuli Bunting 1 at Cap Sante yard, Anacortes on 5/28/21 (JH); 1 at Nichol's Bar on 8/12/21 (GB)

CRITTERS

Western Toad 1 at FIFR on 8/6/21 (GB) Note: WDFW asking for reports of this species.

(ACFL) Anacortes Community Forest Lands; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (DPSP) Deception Pass State Park; (FIFR) Fir Island Farm Reserve aka Hayton Reserve; (JH) Joe Halton; (NOH) Neil O'Hara; (YH) Yvonne Houppermans; (NSRA) Northern State Recreation Area; (SHIP) Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve; (JO) Jeff Osmundson; (CS) Colleen Shannon; (JS) Jeff Sinker; (MS) Mary Sinker; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (SWAJA) Skagit Wildlife Area Jensen Access; (SWAWS) Skagit Wildlife Area Wylie Slough; (TNC) The Nature Conservancy; (AT) Alice Turner; (RW) Regan Weeks



The two colorful birds pictured above (MacGillivray's Warbler) on the left and (Townsend's Warbler) on the right are both Wood Warblers, members of the Paruliade family of birds. Brilliantly colored in yellow, green, and blue, these active birds spend most of their time flitting between branches in trees looking for small insects they find on twigs and leaves. This makes them really tough to spot and they don't stay in one place very long. They also don't flock together but rather a few individuals will join mixed flocks of chickadees, nuthatches, and other songbirds. They also prefer dense coniferous forests or mixed woodlands and are often found near water. Learning their calls and songs helps to identify these beautiful and elusive summer visitors. Photos: Joe Halton

WHO'S NEW AT WILEY SLOUGH - by Mary Sinker

Surprises during migration are always welcome, and recently a Red-necked Phalarope has been spotted several times at Wiley Slough near Conway.



Small shorebirds with needle-like thin bills and also known for spinning on the water's surface to bring food to the surface, Red-necked Phalaropes utilize lakes, bogs, marshes, and Arctic tundra for raising their families. In an interesting twist, the females are larger, more colorful than the males and compete to choose their mate. The mated pair selects a nest site on the ground near standing water and after eggs are laid, the male incubates the eggs and raises the young. The downy camouflaged youngsters hatch after 17-29 days of incubation and leave the nest within one day of hatching.

Shorebirds aren't normally associated with the open sea, but these resourceful birds spend the winter in the open ocean where upwelling currents bring their favorite food, zooplankton, to the surface. Because Red-necked Phalaropes spend the winter at sea, it is difficult to determine their overall population status.

Learn more about Red-necked Phalaropes at: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/red-necked-phalarope. Photo credit: breeding female by Dorian Anderson (eBird.org).

RARE BIRD ALERT - Meet the Black Tern, by Mary Sinker

There are three species of terns known as "marsh terns" because they breed and nest in dense freshwater marshes. The Black Tern is one of these marsh terns (the other two being White-winged Terns and Whiskered Terns).

Long-distance migrants, Black Terns can turn up at lakes, sewage lagoons, beaches, and even far out to sea. This particular bird was spotted recently by Gary Bletsch at Fir Island Farm Reserve (Hayton) near Conway. Black Terns are voracious insect eaters, and they also eat small fish. However, unlike the common Caspian Terns who spend the summer here, Black Terns do not dive deeply to catch fish.



Black Terns are very social and breed in loose colonies utilizing freshwater marshes at least 50 acres in size and where the vegetation is protected from waves and wind. If water conditions are favorable, they frequently return to the same breeding sites year after year. Group courtship displays are common and after individual pair bonds are formed, the pairs will share food to reinforce their bond. Black Terns raise one brood, incubation takes 19-21 days and nestlings spend 18-24 days in the nest before fledging.

Common threats to this bird include the drainage or conversion of freshwater marshes for development or agriculture. In some areas, these activities have resulted in severe declines of local populations of Black Terns. Learn more about Black Terns at: www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black_Tern.

BIRDCAST IS BACK FOR FALL MIGRATION, from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

BirdCast provides real-time information on the when, where, and how birds are migrating. Daily forecasts show the expected movements of migratory birds across the world and in your own neighborhood! Learn more at: <https://www.birdcast.info>.

SKAGIT AUDUBON SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Last year Skagit Audubon Society established and awarded its first \$1000 scholarship to a Skagit Valley College student enrolled in the Environmental Conservation Degree Program. This year, in recognition of the ongoing pandemic challenges faced by students, our board elected to award two \$1000 scholarships. The letters from this year's scholarship recipients Whitney Latimer and Michael Damon show how much these scholarships mean to the students, and how important it is for us to support environmental conservation education. Both students also received a two-year membership to Skagit Audubon Society - welcome aboard Whitney and Michael!

May 26, 2021

Dear Skagit Audubon Society Scholarship Donors,

I would like to start this letter off by thanking you deeply for your generosity in awarding me the Skagit Audubon Environmental Conservation Scholarship. I have had the pleasure of meeting some of your members through my job at my mother's business Mister T's Awards and Embroidery and have had lovely interactions with said members. The knowledge that the Skagit Audubon Society provides our community through education programs is invaluable, and I am honored to be awarded this scholarship from such a kind group of people.

Currently I am a freshman in the Environmental Conservation program here at Skagit Valley College and have completed 29 credits with a 4.0 GPA. We are just three and a half short weeks away from completing the Spring 2021 quarter which will add 20 credits to that amount. I grew up in Arlington, WA with my brother, sister, and parents, and I have always loved the outdoors and animals. Your kind gift will allow me to continue furthering my education with the hopes of taking that love of nature and using it to help make our planet better for future generations. Ideally, I would like to work with animals or habitat restoration after graduation, where I can put my knowledge to good use whilst working in a field I adore.

Thank you again for aiding me in fulfilling this dream, I am honored and grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Sincerely,
Whitney Latimer

SKAGIT AUDUBON SCHOLARSHIP NEWS (continued)

08 June 2021

Dear Skagit Audubon Society Scholarship Trustees,

I am writing you to thank you for your generous \$1000 Environmental Conservation Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am continuing my chosen path of study in Environmental Conservation with an emphasis in the Aquatic/Terrestrial field and will begin my second year in this program for the Fall quarter of 2021 at Skagit Valley College. I plan on furthering my education by applying for the college's Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Conservation once I complete my Associates of Applied Science. After graduation, I plan to pursue a career as an environmental technician in a state or Indigenous environmental conservation agency. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to my goals.

By awarding me your scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, which is learning. Your generosity is allowing me to make my goals a reality. I hope one day I will be able to give back and help other students achieve their goals. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Michael Damon

FALL MIGRATION IS UNDERWAY, by Jeff Sinker

Back in early July, it seemed like the last of the spring migrants had just left when I spotted Yellowlegs at Wiley Slough, a sure sign that fall migration was beginning. Although exactly how birds migrate isn't fully understood, what is certain is these twice-annual movements over thousands of miles by billions of birds is a true spectacle.

In Skagit County, we are blessed with two hotspots in Conway (Fir Island Farm Reserve-Hayton and Wiley Slough) that have already or currently are hosting numerous species of shorebirds, some of them rare visitors here: American Avocets, Stilt Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Short-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, Baird's Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Whimbrel and Black-necked Stilts.

Washington State is located on the Pacific Flyway which stretches from the Arctic to Patagonia. Western Sandpipers utilize the entire length of the Flyway while Black Oystercatchers migrate shorter distances. The Flyway encompasses four distinct climate zones: Arctic, North-temperate, Neotropical, and South-temperate. Along the way, birds use a myriad of estuaries, lakes, ponds, rivers, mudflats, flooded fields, grasslands, and seasonal wetlands to rest and refuel for their journey.

Migrating birds will be arriving and departing into November. Now is a good time to see many of these long-distance travelers take a break here before some move on. Grab your binoculars and enjoy!



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- 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 Skagit Flyer*, for individuals who want all their funds to benefit their local chapter. *The Skagit Flyer* is produced monthly from September through June and full color issues are available at: www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter. Unless noted, all images, drawings, clip art, etc. appearing in *The Skagit Flyer* are in the public domain. We reserve the right to edit.

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 Hospitality: Pamela Maxwell
 Newsletter Distribution: John Edison
 Webmaster: Ron Pera.....skagitaudubon@gmail.com

WHO TO CALL FOR SICK OR INJURED BIRDS OR WILDLIFE?

San Juan, Skagit, and Northern Whidbey Island: Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, located on San Juan Island, serves these areas, and can be reached 24/7 by phone at 360.378.5000. Visit their website at www.wolfhollowwildlife.org for more info.

Snohomish County: Sarvey Wildlife Care Center, located in Arlington, serves Snohomish County, and can be reached by phone at 360.435.4817. Visit their website at www.sarveywildlife.org for more info.

Snohomish County: PAWS, located in Lynnwood, serves Snohomish County and for wildlife concerns can be reached by phone at 425.412.4040 or 425.787.2500 ext. 817. Visit their website at www.paws.org for more info.

JOIN US FOR THE 2021 BIRD FEST SEPTEMBER 11-12

To maintain a safe environment for everyone, group sizes will be limited, and current COVID safety recommendations will be followed including masking and distancing for all in-person activities.



WELCOME KEYNOTE SPEAKER MARIA MUDD-RUTH

The Not-So Awkward Auks

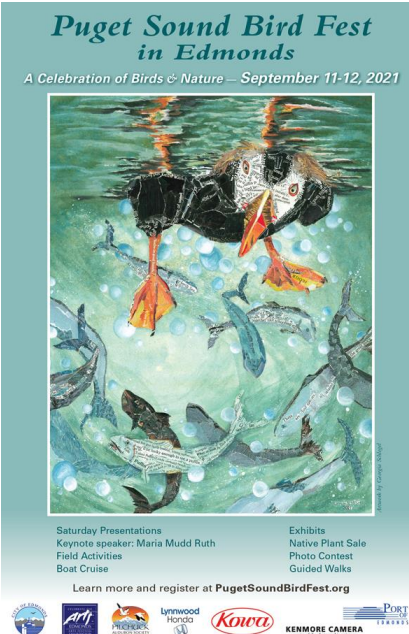
The Salish Sea is home to a fascinating family of diving seabirds known as auks, or alcids. Though often described as “awkward” or “clumsy” in field guides, these web-footed birds are amazingly well adapted to life in the air, on land, and especially at sea. Maria will talk about two of her favorite auks—the shy, cryptic, secretive, tree-nesting Marbled Murrelet (the subject of her 2005 book, *Rare Bird*) and its clownish, extroverted, burrow-nesting cousin, the Pigeon Guillemot (the subject of her next book).

*Maria is the author of more than a dozen books on natural history topics for children and adults. She is the author of *Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet*, a narrative natural history of an endearing and endangered seabird. Her most recent book of non-fiction, *A Sideways Look at Clouds*, was awarded the Nautilus Silver Medal in 2017. She lives with her husband in Olympia, Washington where she is working on two books--on Pigeon Guillemots and on lake swimming and lake ecology in Washington.*

For full details visit: <http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com/index.php>

Find the event schedule (including field trips; pre-registration required, no walk-ups allowed due to COVID protocols) here: <http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com/index.php/schedule-for-event>

Puget Sound Bird Fest is not affiliated with or sponsored by Skagit Audubon Society.



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in Edmonds**
A Celebration of Birds & Nature – September 11-12, 2021

Saturday Presentations
Keynote speaker: Maria Mudd Ruth
Field Activities
Boat Cruise

Exhibits
Native Plant Sale
Photo Contest
Guided Walks

Learn more and register at PugetSoundBirdFest.org

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