

# The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

Find us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/skagitaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/skagitaudubon)  
Volume 41, No. 7 [www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org) September 2022

\*\*\*\*\*

## SEPTEMBER MEETING – PRESENTED IN-PERSON AND ON ZOOM

*“The Swinomish Village Osprey Nest: Life on a Cell Tower”*

Presented by: John S. Farnsworth, PhD.

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7:00 PM

Please join Skagit Audubon Society on Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm for our first in-person meeting in two years at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 10441 Bayview-Edison Rd., Mt. Vernon; or attend virtually on Zoom (see below for Zoom registration details).

Skagit Audubon’s new vice president, John Farnsworth, along with SAS member Charles Talman, spent the summer monitoring an osprey nest atop a cell tower near Fisherman’s Dock in the Swinomish Village. Trying to determine a basic phenology, they spent hours every day observing through spotting scopes from across the channel at the garden club’s butterfly garden, atop the hill in La Conner. They were amazed at what they discovered, especially in terms of conflicts between eagles, the osprey, and even a peregrine falcon.



John S. Farnsworth, PhD, is Senior Lecturer in Environmental Studies and Sciences, Emeritus, at Santa Clara University. He is the author of *Nature Beyond Solitude: Notes from the Field*, and a forthcoming book on the ecology of the Skagit Flats. Photo credit: John S. Farnsworth

**In-person attendees must be fully vaccinated and please do not attend if you have any symptoms of illness. Masks are optional unless guidance from the Wash. State Dept. of Health changes.**

If you plan to attend the event virtually on Zoom, please register for this Zoom event at: <https://bit.ly/SASSept1322>. Preregistration for the Zoom event is required. Please only one Zoom registrant per household. After you register, you will receive an email with the link to sign in at the time of the event. Questions? Contact [programs@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:programs@skagitaudubon.org).

If you missed the June 14<sup>th</sup> presentation, or just want to watch it again, “Moths: Super Interesting Bird Food” by David Droppers is available for viewing on YouTube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCWspmEeOGO&t=380s>

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - from John Day**

Dear Members and Friends of Skagit Audubon Society,

Adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic has been a huge challenge from the global level on down and Skagit Audubon Society (SAS) is no exception. Thanks in large part to the wonderful support we have received from our chapter membership, community members, and cooperating organizations, however, SAS has “turned lemons into lemonade” during this time. The following are just a few examples. Our membership and donation levels, now facilitated on our website by an online payment system set up by SAS Treasurer Neil O’Hara, are as high as they have ever been. Our excellent series of presentations at virtual monthly meetings, organized by Carla Helm, has consistently drawn large audiences. After a hiatus during some of the worst of the pandemic, SAS hikes and field trips have started up again with appropriate COVID precautions in place, under the leadership of Joan Melcher and Colleen Shannon respectively. Our Helen Engle Award-winning Conservation Chair, Tim Manns, ensures that our informed membership and the Board provide cogent, timely comments on environmental issues of local, regional, and national significance. And, whether you read it online or receive it in the mail, Mary Sinker continues to maintain her high standards for the Flyer.

Much of what we have accomplished during the pandemic would have been practically impossible without information technology such as virtual meeting software. Zoom has generally been a boon (but sometimes has felt like a bit of a curse as well). Love it or hate it, though, it’s appearing unlikely we’ll go back to having our meetings entirely in person as we did before COVID came along. At the same time, now that immunity levels have significantly increased and transmission has greatly decreased, we would like to provide the opportunity for those who are fully vaccinated and symptom-free to attend in person as well as for anyone who so desires to continue to attend virtually.

Accordingly, our September 13<sup>th</sup> general meeting, with a presentation by SAS Vice President John Farnsworth, PhD, on his extensive observations of a pair of nesting Ospreys and their young (see program announcement above for more details), will be held at 7:00 pm in a hybrid in-person/Zoom format, with the in-person component once again taking place in the large meeting room at the Padilla Bay Reserve Breazeale Interpretive Center. As noted in the announcement, we ask that all in-person attendees be fully vaccinated and not attend if they have any potential symptoms of COVID or other communicable illness.

No matter what mode you choose to participate in SAS activities, I look forward to seeing you!

### **WILEY SLOUGH – CONWAY – TEMPORARY CLOSURE – Aug. 1-Sept. 30, 2022**

The Headquarters Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area will be closed to all public access in August and September due to construction activities. Wildlife Area users will not be allowed to park at the front gate and walk into the Headquarters Unit. Alternate Skagit Wildlife Area access sites are suggested below for use during this closure.

**Reason for Closure:** The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and partner contractors will be performing a dike maintenance project. Due to the nature of the project, use and storage of heavy equipment on site, and safety and security concerns, the entire Headquarters Unit will be closed for the duration of the project, including evenings and weekends. Parking areas will be used for equipment and material storage, and trucks will be frequently entering and exiting the site.

**Alternative Wildlife Area Units:** Users are encouraged to visit the following nearby Skagit Wildlife Area Units: [Fir Island Farm Game Reserve Unit](#) (no dogs allowed), Jensen Access, North Fork Access (Rawlins Rd.), [Leque Island Unit](#), and [Samish Unit](#). Directions to these Units can be found on the [Skagit Wildlife Area](#) page. The nearest boat launch is the Skagit County Parks and Recreation site under the South Fork (Conway) bridge, accessed from Dike Road. Project Contact: Greg Meis, WDFW Skagit Wildlife Area Manager, (360) 333-812.

## FIELD SIGHTINGS - by Ann Skinner

This column reports a summary of selected sightings. Rare sightings should be submitted with detailed written documentation and if possible, a photograph. A second person to verify rare sightings is encouraged. Do not hesitate to contact any observer to help document unusual sightings.

Please submit your sightings to [birdsightings@skagitadubon.org](mailto: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**

Cinnamon Teal (8) 7/30, (4) 8/9, (FIFR) (NOH)  
Blue-winged Teal (3) 6/19, (SWAWS); (1) 6/26, (FIFR) (NOH)  
Northern Shoveler (6) 7/30, (FIFR) (NOH)  
Common Merganser (1) 7/25, (FIFR) (NOH)  
Hooded Merganser (3) 7/23, (6) 7/28, SHIP (NOH)

Pectoral Sandpiper (1) 7/24, (SWAWS); (MS/JS)  
Semipalmated Sandpiper (25) 8/3; (2) 8/9, (FIFR) (NOH)  
Whimbrel (2) 5/22, (FIFR) (GB)  
Long-billed Curlew (1) 5/22, (FIFR) (GB)  
Red Knot (1) 5/30, (FIFR) (NOH)  
Wilson's Phalarope (1) 8/9, (FIFR) (NOH)

### **PIGEONS and DOVES**

Band-tailed Pigeon (20) 6/19, (SWAWS); (NOH)

### **ALCIDS**

Rhinoceros Auklet (1) 7/29, WA Park; (1) 8/8, Rosario (NOH)

### **NIGHTHAWKS**

Common Nighthawk (2) 6/25, Healy Road (GB)

### **SHEARWATERS & PETRELS**

Manx Shearwater (1) 6/25, Rosario Head(GB)

### **SWIFTS**

Black Swift (7) 5/25, Healy Road (GB)

### **GULLS and TERNs**

Bonaparte's Gull (50) 6/26, (100) 7/10, (FIFR) (NOH)  
Heermann's Gull (3) 7/7, Green Point (GB); (15) 7/28, SHIP (NOH)

### **HUMMINGBIRDS**

**Rufous Hummingbird** (1-2) 5/17, 5/20, 5/31, 7/10, SHIP (NOH)

### **LOONS**

Common Loon (1) 7/10, SHIP (NOH); call overhead 8/5, E Fidalgo Is. (RW)

### **RAILS and COOTS**

Virginia Rail (2) 7/24, (SWAWS); (MS/JS) (1) 8/3, (FIFR) (NOH)

### **CORMORANTS**

Double-crested Cormorants (8) in flight 8/13, E.Fidalgo Is. (RW)

### **SHOREBIRDS**

Greater Yellowlegs (2) 7/31, (SWAWS); (MS/JS)  
Lesser Yellowlegs (7) 7/31, (SWAWS); (MS/JS)

### **PELICANS**

American White Pelican (50) 8/9, (FIFR) (NOH)  
Brown Pelican (2) 7/7, Green Point (GB)

### **STILTS & AVOCETS**

American Avocet (4) 5/22, (FIFR) (GB)

### **HERONS and ALLIES**

Great Blue Heron; (2); 7/31; (SWAWS); (MS/JS)

### **PLOVERS**

Black-bellied Plover (27) 6/26, (FIFR), (25) 7/15 (FIFR) (NOH)  
Semipalmated Plover (1) 7/10, (2) 7/15, (25) 8/3, (2) 8/9, (FIFR) (NOH)

### **VULTURES**

Turkey Vulture (1) 5/31 & 8/31, (FIFR) (NOH)

### **SANDPIPERS and ALLIES**

Baird's Sandpiper (1) 8/6, (FIFR) (NOH)  
Western Sandpiper; (23) 7/31, (SWAWS); (MS/JS)  
Least Sandpiper; (2) 7/31, (SWAWS); (MS/JS)

Field sightings continued on pg. 4

Field sightings continued from pg. 3

### **OSPREYS**

Osprey (1) 7/10, (2) 7/15, SHIP; (1) 8/6, (FIFR) (NOH)

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

Cooper's Hawk (1) 7/27, E. Fidalgo Is. (RW)  
Red-tailed Hawk (2) 7/24, E. Fidalgo Is. (RW)  
Northern Harrier (1) 7/30 & 8/9, (FIFR) (NOH)

### **OWLS**

Great Horned Owl (1) 6/26 (SWAWS); (NOH), (1) 6/27 E. Fidalgo Is. (RW) Owl "duet" 7/30 (RW)  
Barred Owl (1) 7/17 Heart Lk.; (1) 7/23 SHIP (NOH)  
Screech Owl calls on 8/10, E. Fidalgo Is. (RW)

### **WOODPECKERS**

Pileated Woodpecker (1) 7/5, (SWAWS); (NOH)  
Three-toed Woodpecker (1) 6/19, Swamp Creek (GB)  
Hairy Woodpecker (3) 5/29, Cranberry Lk.; (1) 6/6 & 7/28 Cranberry Lk. (NOH)

### **FALCONS**

Merlin (1) 7/5, (SWAWS); (NOH)  
Peregrine Falcon (1) 7/25, 8/6 & 8/9, (FIFR) (NOH)

### **FLYCATCHERS**

Western Wood Peewee (2) 8/7, Stanwood area home (MS/JS); (1) 8/13, E Fidalgo Is. (RW)  
Willow Flycatcher (2) 7/21, Stanwood area home (MS/JS)  
Olive-sided Flycatcher (5) 6/6, Cranberry Lk.; (2) 7/17 Heart Lk. (NOH)  
Grey Flycatcher (1) 5/17, Corkindale (GB)  
Dusky Flycatcher (1) 5/17, Bacon Creek (GB)

### **VIREOS**

Cassin's Vireo (1) 6/4, WA Park (NOH)  
Warbling Vireo (1) 6/6 & 6/30, Cranberry Lk (NOH)

### **SWALLOWS**

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1) 5/20, SHIP; (1) 5/21, Hanson Ck (NOH)

### **NUTHATCHES**

Brown Creeper (2) 8/3, Stanwood area home (MS/JS)

### **WRENS**

Pacific Wren (5) 6/28, Stanwood area home (MS/JS)  
Bewick's Wren (1-3) 5/29, Cranb. Lk; 6/26, (SWAWS); 7/23, SHIP (NOH)

### **THRUSHES**

Swainson's Thrush (2-6) 5/27, 5/30, 6/19 & 6/26, (SWAWS); (NOH)

### **FINCHES and ALLIES**

Evening Grosbeak (1) 5/29, 6/6 Cranb. Lk. (NOH)  
Black Headed Grosbeak (1-6) 5/20 & 7/15, SHIP; 5/27 & 6/19 (SWAWS); (NOH)  
Red Crossbill (2) 7/24, 7/28 Cranb. Lk. (NOH)

### **CHAT**

Yellow Breasted Chat (1) 6/27 Martin Road (GB)

### **BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES**

Yellow-headed Blackbird (3) 5/30, Jensen Access (NOH)

### **WARBLERS**

Common Yellowthroat; (2); 7/15; (SWAWS); (MS/JS)  
Orange Crowned Warbler (1-2) 5/23, WA Pk., 5/29, 6/30 & 7/28 Cranb Lk. (NOH)  
Townsend's Warbler (2) 5/1, (1) 5/29 Cranberry Lk (NOH)  
Wilson's Warbler (5) 7/17, Stanwood area home (MS/JS); (2) E Fidalgo Is. (RW)  
Yellow Warbler (3) 7/31, (SWAWS); (MS/JS)  
Yellow-rumped Warbler, (2) 7/15, (SWAWS); (MS/JS)  
American Redstart (3) 6/19, County Line Ponds (GB)

### **TANAGERS and ALLIES**

Western Tanager (1) 5/14, E. Fidalgo Island (RW); (2) 7/17, Stanwood area home (MS/JS)

### **MAMMALS**

Mink (1) 7/26 Game Range (GB)

(ACFL) Anacortes Community Forest Lands; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (FIFR) (FIFR) Farm Reserve aka Hayton Reserve; (MS/JS) Mary & Jeff Sinker (NOH); Neil O'Hara; (SHIP) Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve; (SWANFA) Skagit Wildlife Area North Fork Access; (SWAWS) Skagit Wildlife Area (SWAWS); (RW) Regan Weeks

## CONSERVATION REPORT - by Tim Manns

Here's a quick overview of some notable developments since June's Conservation Report and a bit about several new issues. Of all the challenges facing birds none is more significant than climate change ([Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink | Audubon](#)), so it's important to first mention President Biden's signing of the Inflation Reduction Act (H.R. 5376) on August 17<sup>th</sup>. While not sufficient in itself to halt the worsening effects of climate change, the act offers hope that we're capable of taking the bold steps needed to limit the damage.

Addressing climate change requires an all-of-the-above approach. Skagit County government has not generally seen it that way. However, the County Commissioners did react to concerted public criticism that the draft Shoreline Master Program (SMP) ignored climate change to at least amend the text to require "consideration" of such realities as sea level rise. Skagit Audubon and Audubon Washington participate in a coalition urging the county to make climate change considerations a requirement in Skagit County land use planning. The draft SMP is about to go to the Department of Ecology for review even while still significantly ignoring the best available science.

In July, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is not obligated to maximize revenue from state trust lands by timber cutting. Rather, DNR may manage public forests for multiple benefits and other ways of generating revenue for the trust beneficiaries. This decision could have relevance for the long-fought battle over protecting marbled murrelet habitat. Skagit Audubon has commented on this multiple times since 2012.

You may recall the April judgement against Washington State Parks on permitting Navy SEAL training in the parks. Skagit Audubon focused its earlier comments on the potential adverse impacts to birds, other wildlife, and the natural environment of the parks. In mid-June the deadline for an appeal passed without any filing by State Parks. Later in the summer a federal district court found for Washington State in its claim that the Navy's environmental review of expanding the Growler fleet at Whidbey Naval Air Station was inadequate. Among the multiple failures the court cited was the insufficient analysis of impacts on birds. Skagit Audubon's 2017 comment letter on the expansion pointed out the insufficiency of the environmental impact statements' attention to the federal and state listed marbled murrelet.

In July, a new challenge to protecting some of the most important bird habitat in western Washington was thrust upon us when the state's Commercial Aviation Coordination Commission included Samish and Skagit Flats among ten sites within 100 miles of Seattle to be considered for a large new airport. Skagit Audubon submitted a detailed comment letter, but it would be very helpful for members to also weigh in. Please go to [Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission online open house | WSDOT \(wa.gov\)](#), scroll down to "What's New," and click on "Greenfield locations." If you would like suggested message points, email [conservation@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:conservation@skagitaudubon.org) and see Skagit Land Trust's website: [Land Trust News - Skagit Land Trust](#).

Lastly, in August Skagit Audubon sent the Department of Transportation comments on its study of how sites of court-ordered fish passage improvement along State Route 20 could also provide safe wildlife corridors under the highway. We urged them on.

For more detail and other issues Skagit Audubon is tracking, see the Conservation Notes on the chapter's website ([Skagit Audubon Society - Home](#)) under the Conservation tab at the top of the page.

## HIKING - by Joan Melcher



Skagit Audubon is pleased to offer scheduled hikes. Please visit our website [www.skagitaudubon.org/activities/hikes](http://www.skagitaudubon.org/activities/hikes) 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](mailto:jdmelcher@comcast.net) or 360.424.0407.

**Sept. 7: Schreibers Meadow Hikes\* (multiple options; see website for full details)**

**Sept. 14: Wilderness Hikes\* (see website for full details)**

**Sept. 21: Wilderness Hikes\* (see website for full details)**

**Sept. 28: North Baker Lake**

**Oct. 5: Ruby Arm**

## FIELD TRIPS



Beginning birders and friends are always welcome on Skagit Audubon field trips. Participants must be fully vaccinated against COVID. Please be prepared for the weather with suitable clothing and bring field guides, binoculars, and spotting scopes (if you have them). Carpool whenever possible, contributing to the driver's expense and wearing a mask when riding with anyone not a member of your household. Questions? Contact Colleen Shannon at [fieldtrips@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@skagitaudubon.org)

**Sat., Sept. 3: Shorebird Migration (Back by Popular Demand!) – 9:30 am – Noon; Fir Island Farms Reserve**

**Leader: Libby Mills; contact: [Libbymills@gmail.com](mailto:Libbymills@gmail.com)**

Meet at 9:30 at Fir Island Farms access to Skagit Wildlife Area. Discover Pass required for parking. Libby will take the group on a walk of approx. 100 yards or so. Shorebirds are fun to watch, sometimes hard to distinguish species and often very small and far away. The incoming tide high tide for two hours hopefully brings the birds closer to our viewing area. A spotting scope and binoculars are useful and raptors and other waterfowl are often present. Everyone is welcome and pre-registration is not required. Please consider wearing a mask if we are closer together than six feet.

**Sat., Sept. 17: Leque Island – 8:30 am – Noon**

**Leaders: Pam Pritzl and Jeff Osmundson**

Meet at 8:30 near the Stanwood Starbuck's near QFC to carpool (parking is limited at Leque Island). We will be concentrating on shorebirds but will look at everything. Plan to walk on a flat path for 1.5 miles. Scopes helpful. If you plan to attend, contact Pam at [membership@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:membership@skagitaudubon.org) or 360-387-7024. A Discover Pass is required as well as being fully vaccinated. This trip is universally accessible (Birdability). **Birdability focuses on removing barriers to access for birders with mobility challenges, blindness, or low vision, are deaf or hard of hearing**

**Wed., Sept. 28: Sauk Mountain Parking Area for Raptors – 8:30 am to mid-late afternoon (approx.)**

**Trip Leaders: Jeff Osmundson, Tim Manns (contact info below) and Bob Kuntz**

This trip will involve little to no walking. We'll make a stop or two enroute to the start of the Sauk Mountain Trail. Most of the birding will take place while we sit or stand near the trailhead searching the skies for raptors, especially Golden Eagles. Other interesting birds such as Sooty and Ruffed Grouse and Northern Pygmy Owls are possible. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the National Park Service/U.S. Forest Service building at 810 State Route 20 in Sedro-Woolley. To minimize the number of vehicles, we will carpool from there. Sauk Mountain Road is a steep, fairly rough gravel road twisting its way up Sauk Mountain, just west of Rockport. Higher clearance is useful but not essential. Scopes will help identify soaring raptors, although binoculars alone will be good enough in most cases. Bring lunch and water; pack clothing for a variety of conditions, especially if the forecast includes rain. Some may wish to bring a folding chair. There is an outhouse at the trailhead. Sunscreen and insect repellent may be useful.

Jeff Osmundson ([jeffo4297@gmail.com](mailto:jeffo4297@gmail.com)), Tim Manns ([conservation@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:conservation@skagitaudubon.org))



## FROM YOUR EDITOR - by Mary Sinker



Welcome back after our summer break! When we signed off, spring migration was ongoing and many of our summer visitors had arrived, selected mates, and set up housekeeping to raise their families.

Have you found it challenging to be able to identify our summer visitors because many of them are small, and often more heard than seen? Well, I have and this summer I was introduced to a new tool to help me sort out all of the sounds and songs I was hearing from the trees and bushes.

Known as “Merlin”, this free app from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology was just what I needed to sort out the Western Wood Peewee from the Willow Flycatcher and so forth. I downloaded the app to my smartphone along with the regional playlist for this area and I was off and running – well, listening! Merlin is super simple to use and can be used for both photo ID and for sound ID. Simply open the app on your phone, select what you want to do, and Merlin does the rest.

While Merlin is listening for bird songs and calls, a real-time list of birds that it has identified will be displayed. The recordings are automatically saved to your phone, and you can select any bird identified within the recording to hear their songs, and calls to confirm (or not) that it was the bird you saw or heard. The example shown here is from the Merlin website.

Merlin isn’t infallible of course but it is another tool that can be used to identify birds that are difficult to see. With Merlin’s help I was able to successfully “bird by ear” and eventually more easily see several summer visitors that spent weeks here in the woods near our home or out at favorite birding spots.

I hope your summer has brought you new and exciting birding adventures. Fall migration is underway and who knows what unusual or exciting birds will stop by on their journey south – welcome back! To download Merlin or learn more about the app visit [www.merlin.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.merlin.allaboutbirds.org).

## TECHNICAL HELP NEEDED!

The transition to using Zoom for our meetings and programs, and now to a hybrid in-person/Zoom format, continues to be a big challenge for us.

Consequently, Skagit Audubon could really use the assistance of some tech-savvy volunteers: The three main roles are:



1. Assist our Programs Chair Carla Helm with managing the Zoom aspect of our hybrid meetings and presentations.
2. Managing our new Google Workspace for Nonprofits account, including setting up and maintaining groups, document access, etc., and;
3. Managing our [www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org) website.

If you would like to help out with this, please contact John Day at [president@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:president@skagitaudubon.org).

## SAVE THE DATE! October 8, 2022 – THE BIG SIT

The Big Sit is a free community birding event open to individuals and teams all over the world.

Mark your calendars as this year The Big Sit runs Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9. The past couple of years, Skagit Audubon Society fielded Big Sit teams at Wiley Slough (Skagit Wildlife Area-Headquarters Unit). Rotating cadres of observers identified 50-60 species from a single location over a ten-hour period!

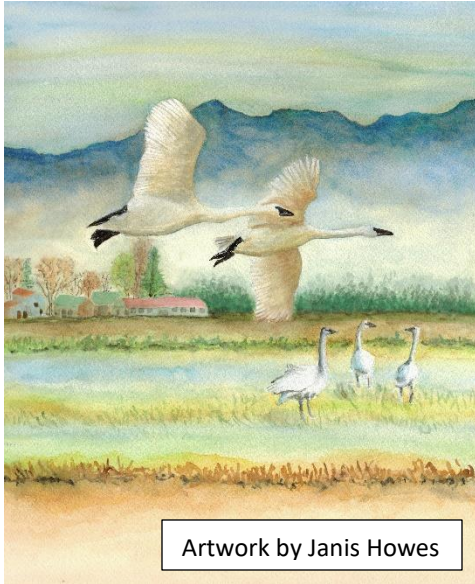
Generous SAS members took the initiative to pledge \$1 per species seen by the team in support of the Skagit Audubon Society Environmental Conservation Scholarship. Through the generosity of SAS members, we raised about \$1,000 each year which enabled SAS to award additional scholarships. Additionally, members conducted their own Big Sit counts.

We plan to field an observer team at Wiley Slough again this year – on Saturday, October 8th.

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](http://www.thebigsit.org) to learn more about the event. To volunteer for shifts or to donate, contact Colleen Shannon at [fieldtrips@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@skagitaudubon.org).



## PUGET SOUND BIRD FEST RETURNS-SEPT. 10-11, 2022



Artwork by Janis Howes

Mark your calendars for the 2022 Puget Sound Bird Fest on September 10–11 in Edmonds. This beloved fall tradition will return in person with two days of speakers, guided walks, field trips, boat tours, exhibits, and educational activities for children and adults.

The 2022 event will kick off Saturday with early-morning guided walks offered by the Pilchuck Audubon Society followed by a keynote address by swan biologist Martha Jordan at 10 am in the Edmonds Plaza Room. In her special presentation “Washington’s Swans and Snow Geese: Connections to land use, agriculture, and dairy farms,” Martha will explore how changes in agriculture and land-use practices will affect the distribution and population dynamics of wintering waterfowl in Washington, as well as the farms and farmers themselves.

The [Edmonds Library](#) will host a special Bird Fest Family Storytime on Saturday. Then, families can head next door to the Bird Fest Exhibits Hall at the [Frances Anderson Center](#) for hands-on learning and exploration. Booths staffed by representatives from regional conservation organizations, artists, and scientists. Select vendors will be open all day Saturday, and guests can enjoy presentations on backyard birding, local birding hotspots, and more in the Edmonds Plaza Room.

For folks wanting to get outside, Bird Fest offers lots of opportunities throughout the weekend including guided nature walks at parks and viewing stations in and around Edmonds, field workshops on bird identification, nature photography, and a Sunday boat cruise to Protection Island.

Edmonds has a wide variety of bird [habitats](#): saltwater, freshwater, wetlands, fields, ravines, woods, and backyards—263 species documented in the city. The [Cascade Loop Birding Trail](#) includes [Edmonds Marsh and Waterfront](#). Enjoy birding this location and many others on one of our guided birding tours. Visit our [website](#) for a [checklist](#) of *Birds of Edmonds, Washington*, and check out the Bird Lore column at [MyEdmondsNews.com](#).

Located in picturesque Downtown Edmonds, Bird Fest guests can enjoy a rich array of shops, galleries, restaurants, cafes, and bistros that cater to arts and festivals. Many acclaimed eateries in the center of town and along the beachfront are within easy walking distance of the festival venue.

Many Bird Fest activities are free and open to the public, with some activities requiring a small fee and/or pre-registration. For the latest information, please visit [www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org](http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org) or email [jennifer.leach@edmondswa.gov](mailto:jennifer.leach@edmondswa.gov).

## **SKAGIT AUDUBON SOCIETY Environmental Conservation Scholarships at Skagit Valley College Make a Difference**

and for the upcoming school term, two scholarship recipients will be continuing to pursue their degrees in Environmental Conservation. These scholarships are made possible by your generous donations to the Skagit Audubon scholarship fund and please enjoy the thank you acknowledgements from both students.

Dear Skagit Audubon Society,

I am honored to have been awarded the Skagit Audubon Society Environmental Conservation Scholarship for the 2022-2023 academic year at Skagit Valley College. Thank you for your generosity – it has allowed me to continue my academic journey here in Washington State. This award will help me reach both my academic and personal goals this coming school year.

I am a Hispanic first-generation high school graduate, as well as the first to attend college in my family. I am also from Phoenix, Arizona and decided to attend college out of state. Although it was very tough having to leave my family behind, I was very hopeful for the new opportunities I'd have here in Washington. I have always loved the state and would visit very frequently – majoring in Environmental Conservation has allowed me to pursue a career that involves what this beautiful state has to offer.

Thank you again for your generous support – I am now a step closer to achieving my goals here at Skagit Valley College. This award is very meaningful not only financially, but emotionally as well. With your help, I am now able to focus more on my education, as well as make my family back home proud.

Thank you,

Geneva Alvarez

Dear Skagit Audubon Society,

I am writing to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Skagit Audubon Society Environmental Conservation Scholarship. I am honored to be selected for this generous contribution to my academic journey at Skagit Valley College.

As a full-time student of Environmental Conservation, as well as a full-time parent, I understand that we hold the future of our earth in a delicate balance. I am humbled to have the opportunity to work toward preserving and enriching the natural resources of the Pacific Northwest.

Your support has made it possible for me to pursue a path in life that seemed impossible for many years. Because of your generosity, I will be able to earn a degree that will help me begin a career spent serving our community and protecting the resilience of the natural world. Beyond even that, I have the chance to show my child what it is like to truly engage in a labor of love. Thank you for making this dream possible, your gift is genuinely life-changing for us.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Hale

**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](http://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.

#### **Board of Directors - Officers**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| President:                | John Day.....president@skagitaudubon.org                   |
| Vice President:           | John Farnsworth.....vicepresident@skagitaudubon.org        |
| Secretary:                | Don Jonasson.....donjonasson@hotmail.com.....360-299-1415  |
| Treasurer:                | Neil O’Hara.....treasurer@skagitaudubon.org...781-290-9083 |
| Immediate Past President: | Jeff Osmundson.....jeffo4297@gmail.com                     |

#### **Board of Directors - Committee Chairs and At-Large Directors**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Conservation:      | To Be Announced   |
| Education:         | To Be Announced   |
| Field Trips:       | To Be Announced   |
| Finance:           | To Be Announced   |
| Hikes:             | To Be Announced   |
| Membership:        | To Be Announced   |
| Programs:          | To Be Announced   |
| Publications:      | To Be Announced   |
| At-Large Director: | Ann Skinner.....anns@skagitaudubon.org                        |
| At-Large Director: | Carla Helm.....programs@skagitaudubon.org                     |
| At-Large Director: | Colleen Shannon.....fieldtrips@skagitaudubon.org              |
| At-Large Director: | Jeff Osmundson.....jeffo4297@gmail.com                        |
| At-Large Director: | Jeff Sinker.....jmsinspect999@aol.com                         |
| At-Large Director: | Joan Melcher.....jdmelcher@comcast.net.....360-424-0407       |
| At-Large Director: | Katherine O’Hara.....katherineoh@skagitaudubon.org            |
| At-Large Director: | Libby Mills.....libbymills@gmail.com.....360-757-4139         |
| At-Large Director: | Lisa Hopkins.....finance@skagitaudubon.org                    |
| At-Large Director: | Mary Sinker.....publications@skagitaudubon.org                |
| At-Large Director: | Pam Pritzl.....membership@skagitaudubon.org                   |
| At-Large Director: | Tim Manns.....conservation@skagitaudubon.org.....360-333-8985 |

#### **Other Volunteers**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Bird Sightings:          | Ann Skinner.....birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org |
| Hospitality:             | Pamelia Maxwell                                 |
| Newsletter Distribution: | John Edison                                     |

**In response to the COVID-19 virus, our member meetings continue to be held via Zoom. Hikes and birding field trips are being organized for vaccinated individuals. Participants need to comply with the activity leader’s guidelines. Please visit our website for updates.**

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Join or renew online at: [www.skagitaudubon.org/about-us/join-us](http://www.skagitaudubon.org/about-us/join-us)**

**Skagit Audubon Society Membership Form**

Membership: \_\_\_\_ \$20/one year **OR** \_\_\_\_ \$40/two years \* \* \* \_\_\_\_ New **OR** \_\_\_\_ Renewal

Additionally, I wish to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please designate my donation to: \_\_\_\_ General \_\_\_\_ Education \_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund

Mail form and payment to: **Skagit Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1101, Mt. Vernon WA 98273-1101**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*By providing your email address and those of any household members, you/they consent to SAS's use of electronic transmission, such as email and website postings, for notices about SAS business. You may revoke this consent at any time on written request to the Secretary of SAS.*

Membership includes those members of your household whose names & emails you provide to us:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you have more than one additional member of your household who wishes to become a member of SAS, please provide their name(s) and email address(es) to [membership@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:membership@skagitaudubon.org))*

I want to be involved in (check all that apply): Education \_\_\_\_ Conservation \_\_\_\_ Field Trips \_\_\_\_ Hiking \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

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