

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 34 Nos.2 & 3

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS

By Libby Mills

About the field trips

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. 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 field trip list contact Libby Mills:

libbymills@gmail.com

If you plan to join a field trip some place other than the described starting point, call the trip leader the day before to ensure a successful rendezvous. Trip plans may change.

**Saturday, February 7th
Arlington Eagle Festival
Port Susan Bay field trip
8:30 a.m. to noon
(Volunteers Welcomed)**

The annual Eagle Festival in the city of Arlington will have talks, arts and special programs in town. Skagit Audubon helps

Field Trips are continued on page 8

FEBRUARY MEETING AND PROGRAM

Welcome to Subirdia

Presented by John Marzluff

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Ctr.
10441 Bayview-Edison Road
Mt. Vernon, Washington



Book Cover

Author: John Marzluff

Professor John Marzluff's presentation will be based on his latest book, *Welcome to Subirdia: Sharing Our Neighborhoods with Wrens, Robins, Woodpeckers and Other Wildlife*. We all know that human development can threaten the environment. Runoff pollutes our streams. Homes and businesses encroach on wilderness habitat. Energy use warms the planet. Too many species are in decline. And yet... for some of our most charismatic wild creatures, suburban and urban habitats offer surprising opportunities to thrive.

Welcome to Subirdia reveals that our suburbs and city parks are often remarkably rich in bird diversity—holding more species than either wilderness areas or urban centers. In fact, suburbs may play a key role in preventing loss of species in the face of the dramatic disruptions of climate change and other human impacts. By bearing the well-being of birds in mind as we develop and live in exurban, suburban, and urban environments, we can have a tremendous and lasting positive impact.

John Marzluff is James W. Ridgeway Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington, where he teaches ornithology, urban ecology, conservation and field research. His previous books include, *In the Company of Crows and Ravens* (with Tony Angell), *Dog Days, Raven Nights* (with his wife Colleen), and *Gifts of the Crow* (with Tony Angell). He is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union.



SKAGIT AUDUBON

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Anna's Hummingbird A Winter & Spring Jewel

Photo by Joe Halton

MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTIONS

General membership meetings of the Skagit Audubon Society are held at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center, 1043 Bayview-Edison Rd., Mt. Vernon, WA—7:00 PM Social/ 7:30 PM Program—on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June. The board of directors meets at the same location at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month.

Skagit Audubon Society (SAS) membership provides a local chapter affiliation and newsletter, **The Flyer**, for individuals who want all their funds to benefit their local chapter. Newsletters from additional chapters can be sought by contacting their websites and membership chairs from links at <http://wa.audubon.org/audubon-locations/>. **To join Skagit Audubon Society** use the form below.

National Audubon Society (NAS) membership is separate from SAS membership and includes Audubon magazine. National Audubon membership does not provide Skagit Audubon membership; however, NAS will assign you an affiliation with a local chapter. To change your chapter assignment call 800-274-4201. **To join National Audubon Society** use the form below.

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.

Skagit Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership in the Skagit Audubon Society includes 10 issues of our newsletter, *The Skagit Flyer*, available on our web site. Membership includes all members of your household.
\$20 one (1) year \$40 two (2) years

I wish to donate \$_____ to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. _____ Email _____

Clip form/Mail to/Payable to:

Skagit Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1101
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1101

Please do not share my personal information with National Audubon Society. (It is the policy of SAS not to share information with any other groups.)

Using the form below to initially join the **National Audubon Society** will ensure that the **Skagit Audubon** chapter receives a cost share to support local programs.

National Audubon Society Membership Form

Annual membership to the National Audubon Society includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine. Membership includes all members of your household.

\$20 for one-year introductory membership with one chapter affiliation

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. _____

Clip form/Mail to/Payable to:

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center Y21
P.O. Box 422246-2246
Palm Coast, FL 32142
www.audubon.org

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 September through June. Unsolicited material for the next month's Flyer should be sent to the editor by the third Saturday of the current month. For questions or problems about your Skagit Flyer subscription, contact membership chair: Sheila Pera, skagitmembers@gmail.com



MARCH MEETING AND PROGRAM

Bald Eagles of the Skagit



Photo by Libby Mills

Presented by Libby Mills
 Tuesday, March 10, 2015
 7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
 Padilla Bay Interpretive Ctr.
 Bayview-Edison Road
 Mt. Vernon, Washington
Adult Bald Eagles of Skagit



Photo by Libby Mills

Bald Eagles are one of the most visible and powerful birds living in the Skagit Valley. Their numbers have made a remarkable comeback from a low in the 1970's all over the continent. Migratory Bald Eagles make a big presence all winter feeding on both salmon along our river and waterfowl throughout our fields and wetlands. March is the beginning of the nesting season and this program will look at a year in the life of the Bald Eagle.

Our speaker Libby Mills has worked for 23 seasons following wintering eagles for the Nature Conservancy on the preserve by Rockport. She is a very popular class and field trip leader for Skagit Audubon and North Cascades Institute.

March 2015 Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---|---|---------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Port Susan Snow Goose & Birding Festival | 2 | 3 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM | 4 Hike: Lily Lizard Lakes Loop | 5 | 6 | 7 Field Trip: Deception Pass State Park & nearby areas |
| 8 | 9 | 10 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM | 11 Hike: Sugar Cube & Whistle Lake | 12 | 13 | 14 "Wings Over Water" Northwest Birding Festival |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Hike: Goose Rock Perimeter Hike | 19 | 20 | 21 Field Trip: Wiley Slough, "Skagit Wildlife Area" & Fir Island |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Hike: Around Mt. Erie Base | 26 | 27 Othello Sandhill Crane Festival | 28 Othello Sandhill Crane Festival |
| 29 Othello Sandhill Crane Festival | 30 | 31 | April 1 Hike: Lookout Mountain Preserve | April 2 | April 3 | April 4 |



In December many of us spent a great day outdoors participating in the National Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, along with tens of thousands of others across North America. This count started in 1900 and is now in its 115th year. Skagit Audubon's Padilla Bay CBC was started in the 1990s and, like all count areas, is a 15-mile diameter circle. Ours is split into 16 areas. It starts in the northwest near the northern tip of Samish Island and extends almost to Edison in the northeast, and continues east of the Skagit County Airport to La Conner, then west to Deception Pass and the north end of Whidbey Island. It's an ideal area since it includes most of the best birding areas in Western Skagit County.

My first direct involvement with the CBC after we moved to Skagit County in 2000 was in the Similk Bay area where I tagged along with Steve and Gail Aslanian and learned how the count was done. The next year I accompanied John Douglass on March Point/East Anacortes and I've done that area ever since. About ten years ago, Joe Halton organized our section into 3 sub-areas, with Joe, Ivar Dolph and me as leaders.

Nearly 65 people participated in our count. The weather wasn't ideal, as we had some rain, but the sun actually shone briefly in the afternoon. The count wouldn't be possible without Tim Manns, who along with Alice Turner organized all the area leaders and participants ahead of time, and Bob Kuntz who has compiled and submitted the results for many years. These results will be available on our website

(<http://www.skagitaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-count>) by the end of January. These are both time-consuming tasks and we owe them a big thanks. Many thanks go out to all of you who participated.

The CBC is an important part of what Audubon calls Citizen Science. Data has now been collected for more than one hundred years and helps researchers study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America and provides a picture of how bird populations have changed in time and space over this period of time.

If you would like to participate in a bird count, you don't have to wait until next December. You can participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, which takes place February 13 – 16, 2015. Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the GBBC was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to quickly display results. Since then, more than 100,000 people from across the world have joined the count to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. You can find the details here: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

SKAGIT AUDUBON FEBRUARY ~ MARCH CONSERVATION REPORT

By TIM MANNIS, CONSERVATION CHAIR

The 2015 Washington State Legislative Session is scheduled from January 12 to April 26, 2015. This year, Audubon Washington is partnering with Sound Action and the Environmental Priorities Coalition to focus its advocacy efforts on marine birds/forage fish, carbon emissions reduction, and safe fossil fuel transport through Washington State - - three big issues very relevant to where Skagit Audubon members live!

While our elected representatives are at work in Olympia, you can find Audubon Washington legislative updates at <http://wa.audubon.org/legislative-session-2015>. Better yet, sign up for Audubon's WaGeneral listserv at <http://wa.audubon.org/communication-tools>. New in 2015, Audubon Washington will send out participatory action alerts around our most pressing issues. Be sure to take advantage of these easy activist actions and help us show the power and extent of Audubon Washington's grassroots network! Audubon is the only conservation organization in the state with a truly statewide system of chapters, which gives us leverage other groups may lack.

Conservation Report continues on page 5



Conservation Report continues from page 4

Our state government's website for legislative information is www.leg.wa.gov. You can watch or listen to hearings and work sessions on www.tvw.org.

On Wednesday, February 18, 2015, join other Audubon members in Olympia meeting with our members of the House and Senate to show our support for the priorities mentioned above. **Please sign up now for Audubon Advocacy Day at <http://wa.audubon.org/legislative-session-2015>.**

Closer to home, your chapter is tracking a variety of local issues in Skagit County or nearby related to management of public lands, fossil fuel transportation by rail and ship, habitat restoration, etc. For more information, contact Tim Manns at conservation@skagitaudubon.org.

2015 Washington State Legislative Session

- The 2015 Legislative Session is scheduled from January 12 to April 26, 2015.
- Audubon Advocacy Day is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2015.
- Audubon Washington legislative updates are posted at:

<http://wa.audubon.org/legislative-session-2015>

- For up-to-date legislative information, visit: www.leg.wa.gov
- Watch or listen to hearings and work sessions on: www.tvw.org

Communication & Action

Weekly legislative updates will be sent from the state office to the WaGeneral and WSACC listservs. If you are not on one of these lists, please sign up now to be among the first to know about statewide Audubon issues! To sign up, visit:

<http://wa.audubon.org/communication-tools>

New in 2015, Audubon Washington will send out participatory action alerts around our most pressing issues. Be sure to take advantage of these easy activist actions and help us show the power and extent of our grassroots network!

SKAGIT AUDUBON FIELD NOTES:

By PAM PRITZL

Dec. 21, 2014 through Jan. 15, 2015

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 **Pam Pritzl**
ppritzl@frontier.com or **360-387-7024**.

WATERFOWL

Tundra Swan 62 in Dodge Valley on 1-11 (GB)
Eurasian Wigeon 1 on Butler Flats on 1-11 (GB)
Canvasback 15 on Lake Erie on 12-21 (GB); 4 off Bay View State Park on 1-11 (KK)

Redhead 21 on Lake Erie on 12-21 and 1-4 (GB); 14 at Lake Erie on 1-6 (BK)

Ring-necked Duck 650 on Lake Erie on 12-21 (GB)

White-winged Scoter 3 at Clayton Beach, Larrabee State Park, on 1-2 (TM)

Ruddy Duck 7 on Lake Erie on 12-21 (GB)

HERONS and ALLIES

Black-crowned Night-Heron 5 at Reifel Refuge on 1-15 (SAS)

RAILS

Field Notes continued on page 6



Field Notes continued from page 5

Virginia Rail 2 at Green Road pond on 12-25 (GB)

SHOREBIRDS

Greater Yellowlegs 30 at the Skagit Game Range on 12-24 (GB); 7 at Bingo Hall Lagoon on 1-10 (GB)

Lesser Yellowlegs 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 12-24 (GB) **rare in winter**

Spotted Sandpiper 1 at Secret Harbor, Cypress Island, on 1-15 (TM)

Black Turnstone 50 at Clayton Beach, Larrabee State Park, on 1-2 (TM)

Least Sandpiper 6 at March Point on 1-10 (GB)

ALCIDS

Ancient Murrelet 2 at Samish Island Public Beach on 12-7(GB)

DOVES, PIGEONS

Eurasian Collared-Dove 1 frequenting Burlington yard throughout count period (PLE)

Mourning Dove 125 in one small area of Minkler Flats on 1-11, unusually large concentration (GB)

OWLS

Barred Owl 1 seen on McClean Road on 1-13 (BO)

Long-eared Owl 2 at Eide Road, Stanwood, on 1-7 (SRP)

Short-eared Owl 1 at the end of Channel Drive, LA Conner on 1-6 (SRS); 5 at Eide Road, Stanwood, on 1-7 (RSP); 6 at West 90, Samish Flats on 1-13 (AW)

Northern Saw-whet Owl 1 at Harry Osborne State Forest on 12-25 and 1-9 (GB); 3 at Reifel Refuge on 1-15 (SAS)

WOODPECKERS

Red-breasted Sapsucker 1 on Pass Lake loop trail on 1-3 (SRS)

SHRIKES

Northern Shrike 1 at West-90, Samish Flats on 1-13 (AW)

CORVIDS

Western Scrub-Jay 1 in Mount Vernon yard on 1-

GREBES



We apologize that this photo of the **Pied-billed Grebe**, which appeared in the printed January 2015 Flyer was printed without the photographer's name.

This Pied-billed Grebe was photographed by Ron Holmes.

We Thank Ron and other photographers for their photographic contributions!

13 (JV)

WRENS

House Wren 1 on Samish Island on 12-27 (CBC)

WAXWINGS

Bohemian Waxwing 12 at Reifel Refuge on 1-15 (SAS)

Cedar Waxwing 17 on Lincoln Hill, Mount Vernon, on 1-4 (TM, BC); 19 on Lincoln Hill, Mount Vernon, on 1-12 (TM)

WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler 1 in Burlington yard throughout count period (PLE); 1 in Mount Vernon yard 1-7 to present (JV)

Yellow-rumped Warbler 1 "Audubon's" in Mount Vernon yard 1-7 to present (JV); 1 "Audubon's" at the Skagit Game Range on 1-11 (GB)

Townsend's Warbler 1 in Mount Vernon yard 1-7 (JV); 1 on Lincoln Hill, Mount Vernon, on 1-9 (TM)

SPARROWS

Savannah Sparrow 3 on the Butler Flats on 1-10 (GB); 6 at East 90, Samish Flats on 1-13 (AW)

White-throated Sparrow 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 1-13 (BK)

Harris's Sparrow 1 at Reifel Refuge on 1-15 (SAS)

BLACKBIRDS

Brown-headed Cowbird 50 on the Butler Flats on 1-10 (GB)

FINCHES

Pine Grosbeak 1 at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center on 12-27 (CBC)

Red Crossbill 28 in Bay View on 12-22 (JA)

Evening Grosbeak 11 in Bay View on 12-22 (JA)

(JA) Jean Ashby; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (BC) Brenda Cunningham; (CBC) Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count; (PLE) Pat & Larry Edwards; (KK) Kraig Kemper; (BK) Bob Kuntz; (TM) Tim Manns; (LM) Libby Mills; (BO) Bonnie Olpin; (SRP) Sheila & Ron Pera; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (SRS) Steven & Ruth Sutton; (JV) Jon Vanderheyden; (AW) Andrea Warner



Winter hiking continues in February with four hikes. Unexpected circumstances such as weather, logging, wash-outs, closed trails, construction, or road conditions may cause cancellations or changes in the following hikes. A hike will be canceled if there are high wind warnings, flooding conditions, predictions of heavy rain, or snowy or icy roads. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes. If dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times. All the hikes are on a Wednesday. Call if you have questions anytime up until 7:45 the morning of the hike. **Contact: Joan Melcher: 360-424-0407 or jdmelcher@comcast.net**

WED. – FEB. 4 – SUGAR LOAF & MT. ERIE

Hike in the popular Anacortes Forest Lands. Terry Slotemaker, 360-293-6514, or his designee, will lead us on a 5 mile hike, with a 1,400 ft. total elevation gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Mt. Erie parking lot off the Heart Lake Road south of Anacortes. Most are back to the trailhead by 1 p.m. You may leave when you return to the trailhead vehicle. **A Washington State Discover Pass is required for your vehicle!**

WED. – FEB. 11 – CAMANO ISLAND

Friends of Camano Island Parks (FOCIP) will lead us on hikes on Camano Island. The main hike is up to 11.9 miles, with shorter options available. Lunch is provided with a suggested donation of \$2. Meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the S.E. corner of the Mount Vernon Safeway parking lot or at **8:30 a.m.** at the Blue Camano Center Building on East Camano Drive. There will be a brief orientation there; hike options will be discussed; maps will be given out; restrooms will be available. **A Discover Pass is required if you park in either Cama State Park or Camano Island State Park.**

WED. – FEB. 18 – LUMMI ISLAND

Walk a 7 mile loop on the north end of Lummi Island. Enjoy island, sea, and mountain views. A

\$7 foot-passenger ferry fare is required. The hike is mostly level. Walking shoes are recommended. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the Chuckanut Drive park-n-ride, exit 231 from I-5 on the east side of I-5. There is no specified return time although most will take the 1 p.m. ferry back.

WED. – FEB. 25 – CONWAY-AREA DIKE WALK

The dike on the east side of the Skagit River north of Conway is now open to public use. Hike 3.3 miles one-way and then back. Meet at **9 a.m.** in the parking area described below. You may leave when you return to your vehicle. You may lunch at the Conway Pub & Eatery. If the weather is clear there will be great views. Birds should be plentiful. From I-5 take exit 221 which is signposted Conway and Lake McMurray. This is also the Pioneer Hwy (SR 534) which leads to Stanwood. Turn west toward Conway/Stamwood and very shortly (100 yards) turn right on Fir Island Rd. into Conway. Go over the railroad tracks and in 100 yards turn right on Dike Rd. just before the bridge. Do not go over the South Fork of the Skagit River Bridge onto Fir Island! Parking is available on the left in 200 yards north of the unsigned dike district building.

Four hikes are scheduled for March. Unexpected circumstances such as unforeseen trail problems, weather, predictions of heavy rain and/or wind, snow, ice, low wind chills, landslides, floods, logging, construction, or road conditions may cause cancellations or changes in the following hikes. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes. If dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times. All the hikes are on a Wednesday. Call if you have questions anytime up until 7:45 the morning of the hike.

Contact: Joan Melcher: 360-424-0407 or jdmelcher@comcast.net

WED. – MARCH 4 – LILY LIZARD LAKES LOOP (LLLL)

This Loop will be done in a clock-wise order. On Blanchard Mountain hike the Lily Lake, Larry Reed, and Max's Shortcut Trails to Lily Lake and then on to Lizard Lake by way of a connector trail

from the North Butte Trail. Return to the trailhead via the Lizard and Lily Lake Trails. This hike is an 8.6 mile loop with a 1,600 ft. total elevation gain. There is an opportunity to go to the Oyster Dome

March Hikes are continued on page 8



March Hikes are continued from page 7

and the North Butte as well. We will divide into a faster and a slower group. Car pool accordingly. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the Chuckanut Drive Park-n-Ride, exit 231 from I-5 on the east side of I-5. The faster group will return to the trailhead at 2:00 p.m. The slower group will return at 3:00 p.m. **A Discover Pass is required to park at the trailhead.**

WED. – MARCH 11 – SUGAR CUBE & WHISTLE LAKE

Terry Slotemaker or his designee will lead us on a hike in the Anacortes Forest Lands. The hike is 6.8 miles, with a 1,600 ft. elevation gain. Also available is a self-guided option hike of 3.41 miles around Whistle Lake. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Heart Lake parking lot off the Heart Lake Road south of Anacortes. You may leave when you return to the trailhead.

WED. – MARCH 18 – GOOSE ROCK PERIMETER HIKE

Hike a loop that includes Cranberry Lake, beaches, the south side of Deception Pass, Cornet Bay and a 450 foot climb up Goose Rock. The total elevation gain for the day is 750 feet. Meet at **9 a.m.** in the east side parking lot at Cranberry Lake near the main entrance to Deception Pass State Park. The hike is 6.2 miles for the basic loop. Add 4.0 miles if you hike on the beach, south to the naval station border for a total of 10.2 miles. You may leave when your carload has returned to the trailhead. **A Discover Pass is required for parking.**

Field Trips continued from page 1

out at the morning field trip at Port Susan Bay. Skagit Audubon birders will volunteer to help the public see and enjoy the birds viewed from the graveled dike trail at the west end of Boe Road off Marine Drive, just 3 or 4 miles south of Stanwood, where the Nature Conservancy has its estuarine preserve. Bring your binos and scope if you have one, a field guide book to help show visitors the birds they see, and the usual generous spirit of sharing our knowledge and love of birds. Our field trip begins at **8:30 a.m.** when we will go out on the dike and take an hour and a half to scope out the birds to be found. We'll return to the trailhead about 9:50 and station ourselves along the dike until about

WED. – MARCH 25 – AROUND MT. ERIE – The Mt. Erie Base Circumference Hike

The hike is through forests around the base of Mt. Erie. On its south side are occasional views of lakes, straits, bays, passages and islands. There are lots of ups and downs for a 1,300 ft. elevation gain. The loop hike is 6.3 miles or 6.6 with a side trip to the Whistle Lake view. Meet at **9:00 a.m.** in the parking lot at the Sugarloaf trailhead near the start of the Mt. Erie Road off the Heart Lake Road located south of Anacortes. The estimated return time is 1:00 p.m. You may leave when you return to the trailhead.

If a guide is available there may be an option to hike up Mount Erie from the south side. Portions of this steep trail include minor scrambling.

WED. – APRIL 1 – LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

This trail is on the east side of Lookout Mountain above Lake Whatcom. It opened in 2013. The basic loop is 5.8 miles, which includes a side trail to a lookout. The elevation gain is 1,000 feet. Other options available include additional hiking above the Preserve and the Stimpson Family Nature Preserve. The trailhead is located a mile or so south of the Stimpson Family Nature Reserve on the Lake Louise Road. Whatcom County hikers should drive directly to the trailhead. Other hikers meet at the Chuckanut Drive Park-n-Ride in Burlington at **8:30 a.m.** These people will drive to the trailhead by way of the Alger-Caine Lake Road, the South Lake Whatcom Boulevard, and the Lake Louise Road. We will meet at the trailhead about **9 a.m.**

noon. There are often good showings of shorebirds, raptors and waterfowl among other birds. If you can offer help to the public and-or bring a scope ~

Please contact Coordinator: Libby Mills
libbymills@gmail.com

**Sunday, February 15
Padilla Bay, Bay View Ridge & Samish Flats
8:00 a.m. to Early Afternoon**

Meet at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center parking lot at **8:00 a.m.**, located at 10441 Bay View-Edison Road, Mount Vernon, 98273, located just north of Bayview State Park about 1/2 a mile. Plan to wear appropriate clothing, bring a scope if you have one,

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Field Trips are continued from page 8

We will search the edges of bay and brush, overlooks and ag fields for songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors! Bring a thermos of hot drinks and a lunch. Plan to stay out and bird into the early afternoon. Carpooling is encouraged. **Contact Leader: Kraig Kemper k_kemper@msn.com**

**Saturday & Sunday, February 28 & March 1
Port Susan Snow Goose & Birding Festival
Port Susan & Stanwood, WA
(Volunteers Welcomed)**

For two days the people of Stanwood will be hosts to another winter birding opportunity. A number of field trips are listed on their website and some may require pre-registration. The festival includes opportunities to visit Port Susan Bay as well as many other interesting activities. Though not affiliated with our chapter, we want to alert members to a volunteering opportunity to help with a booth our Education Chairs are sponsoring. People can contact Pam Pritzl, Jean Ashby, or Sheila Pera at skagiteducation@gmail.com Please go to the web link below for festival details:
<http://www.snowgoosefest.org>

**Saturday, March 7
Deception Pass State Park and nearby areas
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

March is the last big month to see the diversity of Salish Sea wintering bird species. Red-throated Loons feed near West Beach while Pacific wrens will sing from the forest sword ferns. This trip can be enjoyed with minimal walking. Bring your lunch and water. Meet at the March Point Road Park-n-Ride near the refineries off S March Point Rd. at 11 a.m. The trip is timed for the tidal changes and best seabird viewing at West Beach. **Please contact Leader: Ivar Dolph, pidolph@frontier.com**
A Discover Pass is required for parking.

**Saturday & Sunday, March 14 & 15
"Wings Over Water"**

**Northwest Birding Festival
Blaine Middle School Cafeteria
975 H St., Blaine, WA**

Join this annual event held in one of the Pacific Northwest's premier bird viewing areas. Originally known as the Washington Brant Festival, this festival focuses on the thousands of Brant geese and other birds that visit the shores of Blaine and Birch Bay on their annual migration. At 5 p.m. there will be a talk by Paul Bannick on woodpeckers. There are many other great speakers throughout the weekend and North Cascades Audubon is hosting many field trips and viewing opportunities. For more information on this event, please visit:

wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com

**Saturday, March 21
Wiley Slough, "Skagit Wildlife Area"
& Fir Island**

7:30 a.m. until mid-afternoon

Visiting birders from near and far come to Fir Island to look for early-arriving migrants from every family of Skagit birds. We will do some walking on the gravel roads and grassy pathways, most of them level. Meet at Wiley Slough on Saturday, March 21st at 7:30 a.m. Bring your binoculars and scopes. We are hoping to find swallows, maybe a warbler, and white birds as they come and go. Bring lunch and water. There is a huge parking area close to the river. Hope to see you there to celebrate the spring!

**Please Contact Leader: Bob Kuntz at
360-424-9099 or annebobkuntz@gmail.com**

**Friday ~ Sunday, March 27-29
Othello Sandhill Crane Festival
Othello, WA**

Each year at the end of March is the Othello Sandhill Crane Festival in eastern Washington. Check their website as the schedule of events is worked out by festival organizers.

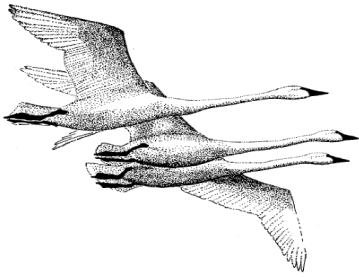
www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org

Our Skagit Audubon Society Needs a Program Chair

We are in need of a Program Chair to assist in finding speakers for our membership meetings and in coordinating the arrangements. This is a collaborative effort as other board members often have good ideas, and potential speakers often contact us directly.

Please contact Phil Wright if you might be interested: 360-299-8212, plwright@comcast.net





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FEBRUARY & MARCH ISSUE

March Program & Calendar

See page 3

A Day of Advocacy in Olympia

Focusing on Audubon issues of concern

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION

See pages 4 & 5 “Conservation Report”

February 2015 Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|----------------------------------|------|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM | 4 Hike: Sugar Loaf & Mt. Erie | 5 | 6 | 7 Arlington Eagle Festival |
| 8 | 9 | 10 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM | 11 Hike: Camano Island | 12 | 13 Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 13 ~ 16 | 14 Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 13 ~ 16 |
| 15 Field Trip: BayView Ridge, Padilla Bay & Samish Flats | 16 Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 13 ~ 16 | 17 | 18 Hike: Lummi Island | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Hike: Conway – Area Dike Walk | 26 | 27 | 28 Port Susan Snow Goose & Birding Festival |
| | | | | | | |

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at www.skagitaudubon.org The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

