

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol.30 No. 1

JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

By Libby Mills

Skagit Audubon Field Trips

Beginning birders are always welcome on Skagit Audubon field trips, and membership in Skagit Audubon is not required. Participants gladly help each other identify and enjoy the birds. Please be prepared for the weather with suitable clothing, and bring field guides, binoculars, and spotting scopes. Don't forget snacks or lunch and a thermos with warm drinks for winter walks. Carpool whenever possible and please offer to contribute to the driver's expense.

Watch the e-mail reminders for the latest information, including any changes and/or additions to the field trip schedule. To be added to the email distribution list contact Libby Mills: libbymills@gmail.com

Please note that the field trip descriptions are deliberately brief and do not describe complete trip itineraries. If you plan to join a trip other than at the described starting point, call the leader the day before to ensure a successful rendezvous. Plans change as conditions shift and opportunities arise. Timely notification by email isn't always possible.

Sunday, January 2
Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count
All day, a potluck dinner follows at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
The annual Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count takes place this year on Sunday, January 2. Volunteers are needed to help with this valuable –

Field Trips continued on page 5

JANUARY MEETING AND PROGRAM

A Birder's Year at the Montlake Fill By Connie Sidles

Tuesday, January 11, 2011
7:00 Social, 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
10433 Bayview-Edison Road
Mount Vernon, Washington



Spotted Sandpiper
Photo by Kathrine Lloyd

*Author and master birder, Connie Sidles, reads from her delightful collection of essays about birding the Montlake Fill, **In my Nature: A Birder's Year at the Montlake Fill**. Come along on a journey to her favorite place on earth, a paradise of nature in the heart of a big city. The Montlake Fill is a former landfill on the University of Washington campus, now a nature reserve that has been birded for more than 100 years and has hosted more than 240 species of birds. Connie writes about these birds as if she knows them personally – she goes to the Fill nearly every day.*

Connie's book is not just about birds, though. She makes observations about nature that show us how to enjoy life, laugh at ourselves, and find meaning and happiness in the simple things. Connie is the author of five books. She has written more than 550 magazine articles and has won two Maggie Awards for best nonfiction feature articles. Her book will be available for sale at the meeting.



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Black-capped Chickadee

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 www.audubon.org/states/wa/. **To join Skagit Audubon Society** please 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 website . Membership includes all members of your household.

\$20 one (1) year \$40 two (2) years

I wish to donate \$ _____ to Skagit Audubon Society.

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.



Raptors, swans, eagles, snow geese, shorebirds, ducks, seabirds ... Yet another Skagit avian wonder is the abundance of great blue herons and the large heronries where they nest. Of these the grandest is in a forest patch on March Point sandwiched between State Route 20, a saw mill, metal fabrication plant, and parking lot. This tree island may well contain the largest heronry in the western U.S. On December 4th, the Skagit Land Trust, owner of a good portion of the heronry, did its annual nest count with a number of Skagit Audubon members participating. The results: 418 nests on Land Trust acreage and 65 more on adjacent properties where the Trust is allowed to count. Several hundred more were glimpsed on other adjacent land. One big leaf maple held 31 nests! These numbers are testimony to the rich prey base of nearby bays, fields, and riparian areas.

In contrast to this good news, a week later we learned in the *Skagit Valley Herald* of the cutting of a tree in Burlington in which, according to local residents, bald eagles had been building a nest. As of this writing the outcome of the resulting investigation has not been announced, but the incident brings to mind several thoughts. Bald eagles have recovered well after declines due to DDT, habitat loss, shootings, etc., and as of 2007 the species is no longer listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Nonetheless, bald eagles are still protected along with many other birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918) against being harassed, injured, or killed. The act protects nests too. As our national symbol the bald eagle along with its nests and nest trees has additional, strong legal protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (1940 & 1962) with civil and criminal penalties and a portion of fines paid to the reporting witnesses. And there's a Washington State law as well, the Bald Eagle Protection Act (1984).

In short, people who harm eagles, their nests, or nest trees are risking serious trouble. Protective laws, however, are only as effective as people's willingness to abide by them plus adequate enforcement. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service agents have always been few and far between. Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) also has excellent enforcement officers, but they too are few in relation to the job to be done, and the beleaguered situation of the state budget does not bode well for improvement in this situation. On a brighter note, it must be plenty evident to those who would ignore wildlife protection laws that eagles and other bird species have many friends in the community. We're out there observing the birds and we're taking pictures. The *Herald* article mentioned that the investigating WDFW officer was collecting photographs, presumably to document that eagles had in fact been using or building a nest in the particular tree. This suggests a way for people who care about birds to make a difference. When you're out and about birding, while you're on public property or your own, photograph eagle nests you see. Include enough of the surrounding area for the location to be clearly identifiable. Preserve your photos at home with the date and place labeled. If there are more incidents like that of December 11th, we can put out a call for those photos and help enforcement be effective at protecting eagles. And if you witness an incident underway or any other crime against wildlife, call 911. If the event is already past, call the WDFW poaching hotline: 1-877-933-9847. (See http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/reporting_violations.html for other ways you can report.) Landowners wanting to do the right thing in regard to eagles on their property should take a look at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/bald_eagle/ or call Mike Davison (WDFW) at (360)466-4345 (Mike.Davison@dfw.wa.gov). Wildlife, including wildlife on private property, belongs to the public. We can and should help protect it.

Environmental Priorities Coalition Lobby Day 2011

The largest single source emitter of carbon dioxide in Washington (and thus the largest single contributor to global warming) is the coal-fired power plant in Centralia. Proposed state budget cuts as of this writing (mid-December 2010) would cut state park funding over 40% and hit other natural resource agencies very hard too. What can we do about these and other issues relevant to the Audubon mission? January and February offer two special opportunities for each of us to take action on behalf of the environment. For some years now Skagit Audubon has joined many other environmentally attuned organizations in Washington State to sponsor Lobby Day. On February 15, buses and carpools carrying hundreds of members of organizations united as the Environmental Priorities Coalition will converge on Olympia. In this annual event citizens come to the capital to hear from legislators and environmental leaders and to learn about bringing issues to the attention of our elected representatives. We then meet with our

legislators to convey support for environmental priorities chosen for this year by the coalition. These include speeding the conversion of the giant coal-fired power plant at Centralia to gas, reducing phosphorus pollution by restricting the sale of phosphorus lawn fertilizer, increasing a tax on oil companies to pay for clean water projects, and sustaining core environmental protections in the next biennial budget. To learn more about the coalition and these issues and to register to participate, go to www.environmentalpriorities.org/. Leading up to Lobby Day, on January 8th there's an opportunity to learn about the issues and about being an effective advocate for environmental concerns by attending the coalition's Legislative Workshop in Seattle. Members of Skagit Audubon participate in Lobby Day every year. I hope you will too. The more of us the better!

- Tim Manns



Four hikes are scheduled for the first month of the New Year. Unexpected circumstances such as weather, wash-outs, closed trails, logging, 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, or snowy or icy road conditions. Call if you have questions on any of the following, call JOAN MELCHER, 360-424-0407, or e-mail at jdmelcher@comcast.net anytime up until 7:45 the morning of the hike. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes. If dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times.

JANUARY 5 FRAGRANCE LAKE: Hike to a lovely mirror lake above Larrabee State Park. It is a 7.3 mile loop with a 1,000 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Clayton Beach Parking lot at the south end of Larrabee State Park on Chuckanut Drive. Return to the trailhead at 1 p.m.

JANUARY 12 WHATCOM FALLS & CREEK AND THE STIMPSON FAMILY NATURE PRESERVE First hike along Whatcom Creek from Whatcom Falls Park to the I-5 Freeway bridge and back, 4 miles round trip with a slight elevation gain. Then drive to the Stimpson Family Nature Preserve and hike up to 4 miles there. There is about a 400 ft elevation gain. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the I-5/Cook Road Park-n-Ride **OR** meet at 9 a.m. at the Whatcom Falls Park parking lot on Arbor Street off of Electric Avenue. When all return to your car, you may leave.

JANUARY 19 LITTLE CRANBERRY LAKE Terry Slotemaker or his designee will lead the group around Little Cranberry Lake in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. It is 6.0 miles with a 670 ft. total elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the trailhead located on "A" Ave between 37th and 41st Streets in Anacortes. You may leave when all in your vehicle return to the trailhead. Historically, all are back by 1 p.m.

JANUARY 26 SUGAR LOAF and 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.

FEBRUARY 2 LUMMI ISLAND: Walk a 7 mile loop on the north end of Lummi Island. There are island, sea, and mountain views. A \$4 foot-passenger ferry fare required. The hike is mostly level. Walking shoes are recommended. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the I-5/Cook Road Park-n-Ride. There is no specified return time, although most will take the 1 p.m. ferry back.

SKAGIT AUDUBON FIELD NOTES

By Pam Pritzl

This column reports submitted sightings. Any rare sightings should be accompanied by detailed written documentation and if possible a photograph. A second person to verify rare sightings is extremely helpful. Do not hesitate to call any observer to help document unusual sightings. Also do not hesitate to call if you need clarification on locations.

Please submit your sightings to **Pam Pritzl** ppritzl@frontier.com or **360-387-7024**.

Cackling Goose 43 over Judy Reservoir on 12-11 (SAS)

Trumpeter Swan 37 on Livingston Bay on Camano Island on 12-12 (RP, SP)

Tundra Swan 3 with neck collars at Samish Flats (birds were banded near King Salmon, AK July 2009 as adults) on 12-14 (AW); 1 on Cockreham Island on 12-3 and 12-7 (GB)

Canvasback 1 at Skagit Airport Ponds and 1 on Lake Erie on 12-5 (GB)

Ring-necked Duck 200 on Lake Erie on 12-5 (GB)

Greater Scaup 1,000 on Bayview on 11-27 (GB)

Lesser Scaup 100 on Lake Erie on 12-5 (GB)

Barrow's Goldeneye 18 at Concrete on 12-4 (GB)

Hooded Merganser 40 on Lake Erie on 12-5 (GB)

Common Merganser 465 Lake Erie on 12-5 (GB)
Brandt's Cormorant 15 Rosario Head n 12-5 (GB)

Sandhill Crane 1 at Samish Flats on 12-4 (spotted by LM, also seen by DA, HA, Jar, TA); 1 on Samish Flats on 12-12 (DA, HA, PA)

Black Turnstone 7 on beach at north end of March Point on 11-21 (GB)

American Herring Gull 1 on Samish Island on 11-27 (GB)

Ancient Murrelet 3 at Green Point, Anacortes (JB, MB)

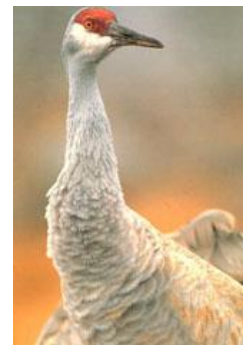
Barred Owl 1 in west Mt. Vernon on 12-1 (JA)

Short-eared Owl 3 at the West 90 (JB, MB)

Barn Swallow 2 near McElroy Slough 12-16 (RH)

Townsend's Solitaire 1 at Milepost 100 on S. R. 20 on 12-16 (BB, BK, TM, LM)

Yellow-rumped Warbler 1 Samish Flats 12-4 (GB)



Sandhill Crane
Nebr. Game & Parks



Skagit Audubon Field Notes continued from page 4

Lincoln's Sparrow 1 Hayton Preserve 12-11 (GB)
White-throated Sparrow 1 at the Skagit Game Range on 12-11 (GB)
Brown-headed Cowbird 5 on Samish Flats on 12-4 (GB)
Red Crossbill 30 at Rosario Head on 11-26 (JB, MB)
Evening Grosbeak 2 at feeder at Cap Sante, Anacortes (CR), 1 at feeder on Camano Island on 11-26 (PP); 2 at feeder in west Mt. Vernon on 11-28 (JA); 5 at feeder on Camano Island on 12-1

(PP); 2 at feeder in Anacortes on 12-3 (CG, EG), 3 at feeder on Camano Island on 12-13 (RP, SP)

(DA) Doug Armstrong; (HA) Howard Armstrong; (JAr) Julian Armstrong; (PA) Petra Armstrong; (TA) Thais Armstrong; (JA) Jean Ashby; (BB) Bob Barry; (JB) Joan Bird; (MB) Mitch Blanton; (GB) Gary Bletsch; (CG) Carolyn Gastellum; (EG) Ed Gastellum; (RH) Rick Haley; (BK) Bob Kuntz; (LM) Libby Mills; (TM) Tim Manns; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (RP) Ron Pera; (SP) Sheila Pera; (CR) Cynthia Richardson; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (AW) Andrea Warner

Padilla Bay CBC & more Field Trips continued from page 1

and fun – endeavor, so plan ahead. Some teams start before dawn to count owls, while others brave the elements from first light to dusk. The data collected by our "citizen scientists" is used to document bird population trends over time. Plan to spend the day birding, and then – as a bonus – enjoy a potluck dinner and good company at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center. After dinner the day's observations are tallied, and fun stories (some of which are true!) are swapped. For details regarding times, places, and area assignments, please contact **Leader/coordinator: Bob Barry at 360-299-8443, dabarrybest@verizon.net or Alice Turner at 360-387-1781, alicet2@msn.com.**

Saturday, JANUARY 8, 2011

Johnson DeBay Swan Reserve and other sites near Clear Lake and Burlington

2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
The Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife's "Johnson DeBay Swan Reserve" is the only place in the U.S. specifically set aside for swans. In winter, our home area hosts Tundra Swans and the largest concentration of Trumpeter Swans in the world. To see hundreds of this largest of North America's waterfowl in one place is a remarkable opportunity. On this field trip we'll visit the reserve and some other sites near Clear Lake and Burlington, particularly looking for waterfowl and raptors. We'll be at the swan reserve before dusk in hopes of seeing the great white birds flying in for the night. Dress for the weather, including possible wind. Bring binoculars and, if you have one, a spotting scope. A WDFW Vehicle Use Permit (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/vup/>) is required for parking at the reserve. Meet at the parking lot in front of PETCO in Mount Vernon just off College Way near I-5. We'll form carpools there. (For information about swans in Washington, go to <http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org/wswg/washington.htm>) Leader: Tim Manns (360-336-8753 or bctm@fidalgo.net)

Friday, JANUARY 14, 2011

Samish Flats

8:00 a.m. to noon

The flats between Bay View, Edison and Samish Island are the centerpiece of winter raptor watching for Skagit Audubon birders. This month veteran birder and field trip leader Howard Armstrong will take us around the route as we seek hawks and falcons, eagles and harriers, with shorebirds and waterfowl from subtle to showy, on the side. Bring your Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Parking Pass to park at the "West 90". Meet at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center
Leader: Howard Armstrong, godwits@wavecable.com

Saturday, January 22, 2011

Rasar State Park, mid-Skagit Valley

8:30 a.m. to early afternoon

Come visit the often overlooked State Park not upriver, nor downriver, in mid-winter with local leader Gary Bletsch. Birding with Gary is fun, and the group will look for sparrows, woodpeckers, maybe even some river fowl. Meet at the U.S. Nat'l Park Service/U.S. Forest Service parking lot in Sedro-Woolley at 8:30 for car-pooling. Gary Bletsch garybletsch@yahoo.com

Friday, January 28, 2011

Reifel Refuge in British Columbia

8:00 a.m. to late afternoon

Keith and Jan Wiggers will be our guides for a mid-winter trip to the ever-popular Reifel Refuge. Feed chickadees from your hand, observe waterfowl and their iridescent plumage at close range, and look for Saw-Whet Owls. Meet to arrange car pools at 8:00 AM at the Park-and-Ride on old Hwy 99 immediately south of Cook Road (Exit 232 from I-5). Bring appropriate ID for the border crossing – such as a **passport**, or an **enhanced driver's license**, – a crossing-friendly lunch, and a few dollars for the entry fee and bird feed. There will be additional stops for any special birds reported in nearby areas, which may include Snowy Owls at the Boundary Bay dike and unusual shore and water birds at Blackie Spit. Leaders: Keith and Jan Wiggers (360-757-0772)





Winter at Montlake Fill

Photo by J. Lawrence Howard

Skagit Audubon Society Board Member, Joan Melcher, Wins 2010 “State Trail Worker Award” at American Trails National Symposium

“In the early 1990s, Joan Melcher retired as a High School Chemistry teacher from the Issaquah Washington School District. She and her husband Duane moved back to the family farm in Mt. Vernon, WA. Joan was an avid hiker and one day while she was hiking on Blanchard Mountain she happened to come across Ron Strickland, the founder of the Pacific Northwest Trail.”

Fast forward: “In 1996 the Melchers” (Joan and her husband Duane) “took over the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) from Ron, formed the Skagit Trail Maintenance Organization, and got really serious about the PNTA through Skagit and Whatcom Counties.”

“Because of Joan’s diligence and determination the route of the Pacific Northwest Trail through Skagit and Whatcom counties became a dream for hikers. Today the PNTA sees more than 25,000 hikers per year on these segments. The PNTA was asked in 2003 to do maintenance of the PNT through Deception Pass State Park, on Whidbey Island, and who led the charge, Joan Melcher. Today the PNTA has an Adopt-A Trail agreement with the park to not only maintain the PNT, but all of the trail system through the park. The Skagit group today maintains approximately 85 miles of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, much to the joy of the myriad of hikers using those segments.”

“Joan continues to be the driving force behind the Skagit Trail Maintenance Organization and at the same time has taken over weekly hikes for a joint group of PNTA and Audubon members. This group hikes year round with different hikes each week.”

Joan Melcher is a member of the Skagit Audubon Society Board.

See hikes that Joan has arranged for the month of January, 2011 at the top of page 4 of this Skagit Flyer.

For more information on Joan’s “State Trail Worker Award” see <http://www.americantrails.org/awards/NTS10awards/WA-Joan-Melcher.html>

Back by Popular Demand

A Picture Potpourri

Photos By Skagit Audubon Members

Arranged by Libby Mills

Email Libby Mills, libbymills@gmail.com , up to five images **NO LATER THAN JAN. 31.**

In the subject area of the email write **AUDUBON SLIDE SHOW.** If you are shooting a film camera, your slides are welcome and we will show them on a slide projector. Please contact Libby to tell her if you will bring slides. A special request to participate goes out to all junior members who love photography. This show is open to **EVERYBODY.** We look forward to an evening of sharing among the membership. It’s not a contest, just a show! Thanks for participating!



Begin the New Year with American Birding Association Birding Ethics

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

Code of Birding Ethics

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

1 (a) Support the protection of important bird habitat.

1 (b) To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming. Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area. Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover. Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

1 (c) Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been obtained from private land-owners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities.

1 (d) Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

2. Respect the law and the rights of others.

2 (a) Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.

2 (b) Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.

2 (c) Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

3. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

3 (a) Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease. It is important to feed birds continually during harsh weather.

3 (b) Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.

3 (c) If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals, or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

4. Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.

Each individual in the group, in addition to the obligations spelled out in Items #1 and #2, has responsibilities as a Group Member.

4 (a) Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience, except where code 1(c) applies. Be especially helpful to beginning birders.

4 (b) If you witness unethical birding behavior, assess the situation and intervene if you think it prudent. When interceding, inform the person(s) of the inappropriate action and attempt, within reason, to have it stopped. If the behavior continues, document it and notify appropriate individuals or organizations. Group Leader Responsibilities [amateur and professional trips and tours].

4 (c) Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.

4 (d) Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

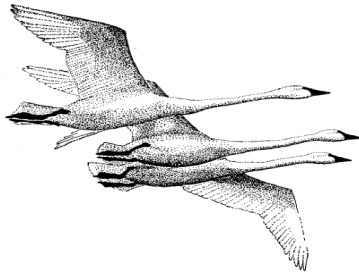
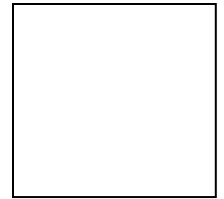
4 (e) Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practices this code.

4 (f) Learn and inform the group of any special circumstances applicable to the areas being visited (e.g., no audio recording devices allowed).

4 (g) Acknowledge that professional tour companies bear a special responsibility to place the welfare of birds and the benefits of public knowledge ahead of the company's commercial interests. Ideally, leaders should keep track of tour sightings, document unusual occurrences, and submit records to appropriate organizations.



SKAGIT AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1101
MOUNT VERNON WA 98273



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Check your
address label
for membership
expiration date!

January 2011 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec. 26	Dec. 27	Dec. 28	Dec. 29 Hiking: Interurban Trail	Dec. 30	Dec. 31 New Year's Eve	1, New Year's Day
2 Padilla Bay Christmas Bird Count	3	4 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00	5 Hiking: Fragrance Lake	6	7	8 Field Trip: Johnson DeBay Swan Reserve & more in the area
9	10	11 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	12 Hiking: Whatcom Falls & Creek & The Stimpson Family Nature Preserve	13	14 Field Trip: Samish Flats	15
16	17	18	19 Hiking: Little Cranberry Lake	20	21	22 Field Trip: Rasar State Park, mid-Skagit valley
23	24	25	26 Hiking: Sugar Loaf & Mt. Erie	27	28 Field Trip: Reifel Refuge in British Columbia	29
30	31	Feb. 1	Feb. 2 Hiking: Lummi Island	Feb.3	Feb.4	Feb.5

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at www.skagitaudubon.org

The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

