

# The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

[www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org)

Vol. 35 No.3

## MARCH 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](mailto: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, March 5**

**Camano Island /  
Stanwood Birding Hot Spots  
& Pub Lunch**

**8:00 a.m. to Noon**

We'll check out Stanwood/Camano hot spots (to be determined by leader) including Eide Road on Leque Island.

Field Trips continue on page 7

## MARCH MEETING AND PROGRAM

**[{ RESCHEDULED }]**

**Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet**

By Maria Mudd Ruth

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

7:00 Social; 7:30 Program

Padilla Bay Interpretive Ctr.

10441 Bayview-Edison Road

Mt. Vernon, Washington



Marbled Murrelet

Maria will present her work on Marbled Murrelets:

**Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet.**

Alcid nests are typically found on ledges and in burrows on rocky outcrops and coastal bluffs near the water's edge. The Marbled Murrelet is not your typical alcid. It is unique in its choice of nesting sites. During the summer breeding season, the Marbled Murrelet flies well inland to nest in trees. And not just any trees, but the large-limbed ancient conifers of the mature and old-growth coastal forests. In these trees, the Murrelet finds high, wide, mossy platforms where it can make its web-footed landing, lay and incubate its one egg, and feed its chick until it fledges. During its time in the forests, this Murrelet is camouflaged, silent, and secretive; its nest, egg, and chick are well hidden. They are central to the controversy regarding logging old growth.

Join us as we learn from Maria the secrets of the Marbled Murrelet!



# SKAGIT AUDUBON

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[irene@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:irene@skagitaudubon.org)  
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[phil@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:phil@skagitaudubon.org)  
360-299-8212

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: Tim Manns  
[conservation@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:conservation@skagitaudubon.org)  
360-336-8753  
Education: Sheila Pera  
[skagiteducation2@gmail.com](mailto:skagiteducation2@gmail.com)  
Field Trips: Libby Mills  
[libbymills@gmail.com](mailto:libbymills@gmail.com)  
360-757-4139  
Hikes: Joan Melcher  
[jdmelcher@comcast.net](mailto:jdmelcher@comcast.net)  
360-424-0407  
Bird Sightings: Pam Pritzl  
[birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org)  
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[membership@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:membership@skagitaudubon.org)  
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[programs@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:programs@skagitaudubon.org)  
Publications: Jackie Boss  
[jackieaboss@yahoo.com](mailto:jackieaboss@yahoo.com)  
360-299-8067  
Newsletter Distributor: Barbara Craner  
[craner2@frontier.com](mailto:craner2@frontier.com)  
360-770-3898

### REPRESENTATIVES

Jean Ashby  
[Jeanash66@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanash66@gmail.com)  
Jane Brandt  
[janeb@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:janeb@skagitaudubon.org)  
Ivar Dolph  
[pidolph@frontier.com](mailto:pidolph@frontier.com)  
Ron Holmes  
[ronh@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:ronh@skagitaudubon.org)  
Bob Kuntz  
[annebobkuntz@gmail.com](mailto:annebobkuntz@gmail.com)  
360-424-9099  
Alice Turner  
[alicet2@msn.com](mailto:alicet2@msn.com)  
Hospitality: VACANT  
Webmaster: Ron Pera  
[skagitaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:skagitaudubon@gmail.com)



**Golden-crowned Sparrow**  
**852 counted in CBC**  
*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 **1st** 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 **2nd** 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 at: <http://www.skagitaudubon.org/newsletter>. Membership includes all members of your household.

Check one:  \$20.00 one (1) year  \$40.00 two (2) years

Additionally, I wish to donate to Skagit Audubon Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Tax #91-1207770)  
*Donations of \$100.00 or more receive a personal field trip by a Skagit Audubon field trip leader.*

Check one:  New Membership  Renewing Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SAS does not share your contact information.

**Clip form/Mail to/Payable to:** Skagit Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 1101  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273-1101

Using the form below to initially join the **National Audubon Society**.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail chapter-created new membership forms to address below: (Payable to same)**

National Audubon Society Y21  
P.O. Box 97194  
Washington, DC 20090-7194  
Attn: Chance Mueleck

For membership related questions and address:  
Email: [customerservice@audubon.org](mailto:customerservice@audubon.org)  
Phone: (844) 428-3826

*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:*

*Pam Pritzl [membership@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:membership@skagitaudubon.org)*



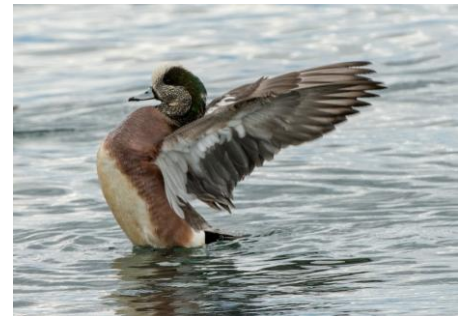
Skagit Audubon Volunteers make a difference for birds: CBC and PUMA project Updates

The results of the **2015 Christmas Bird Count** are in and can be found on our website under the heading Birding. Fifty-nine volunteers participated recording 131 species for a total of 126,029 birds. Four species had the highest numbers recorded. These include Canada Goose 395, Mourning Dove 167, Anna's Hummingbird 63 and Golden-crowned Sparrow 852. One species was a new addition to our CBC records, King Eider. Species with the highest totals were ducks, American Wigeon 30,559 and Northern Pintail 27,641. Results of CBC are used by ornithologists to study population trends including numbers and movement. CBC data is helping scientists understand the effects of climate change on bird species. Special thanks to Tim Manns and Alice Turner who organized the 2015 CBC and to Bob Kuntz for his continued efforts compiling and submitting our Chapter's data.

Turning to our spring project, volunteers have completed 24 new nesting boxes for the **Purple Martin Project**. Installation of these boxes will be scheduled for a low tide in mid-April. Training for monitoring nesting boxes will be scheduled after the boxes are installed. If you are interested in volunteering to be a monitor, please contact me at [irene@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:irene@skagitaudubon.org). You will be asked to observe the nesting site over the breeding period May through July. Purple Martins nest in cavities and will use manmade nesting boxes. They return year after year to successful nesting sites. Their numbers are increasing in Skagit County. Providing man-made nesting alternatives gives these birds a chance against the more aggressive House Sparrow and European Starling cavity competitors. Thank you to Mark Perry for organizing the PUMA project. Special thanks to Frontier Lumber of Anacortes, members Jerry Scultzler, Fred Hodge, and Jim Redding, who contributed to building 24 boxes with more on the way!

**VISIT FIR ISLAND AND THE SKAGIT FLATS**

This March we can celebrate two of Western Washington's most spectacular winter and spring events together: the flocks of thousands of migrating Snow Geese and Swans in the fields and bays of Fir Island and the Skagit Flats, plus the added beauty of fields of daffodils. Don't miss these two free exceptional events!



**American Wigeon**  
30,599 counted in the CBC  
*Photo by Joe Halton*



**Mourning Dove**  
167 counted in the CBC  
*Photo by Joe Halton*



**Anna's Hummingbird**  
63 counted in the CBC  
*Photo by Joe Halton*



## SKAGIT AUDUBON MARCH CONSERVATION REPORT

By **TIM MANNIS, CONSERVATION CHAIR**

The 2016 Washington State legislative session, scheduled for just 60 days, should end about mid-March. You may recall that for this session the Environmental Priorities Coalition, which includes Audubon Washington, chose just one focus rather than its usual several. That one, Safeguarding Our Environment, anticipated attempts to roll back hard-won laws protecting our natural resources - - clean air, clean energy, clean and abundant water, and healthy public lands. With the session half over at this writing in mid-February, it's clear the coalition was right to be concerned.

A bill under consideration in the senate would keep the Department of Ecology from finishing and implementing its Clean Air Rule, presently in draft and open for public comment through April 8. This is our state's first attempt to limit and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Senate Bill 6173 would essentially repeal part of the state's Clean Air Act.

Also under consideration in the state senate is a bill halving the time allowed the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) to assess proposed large scale energy-related developments. It would also require this state agency to make its recommendation to the governor on a given project even before sufficient information is available. The bill's introduction seems to coincide with the record-setting 290,000 public comments on the draft environmental impact statement for the crude oil-to-vessel terminal planned for Vancouver along the Columbia River. Skagit Audubon and Audubon Washington were among the thousands commenting about what would be the largest of all such facilities in the U.S. and its inadequately evaluated potential effects.

To read concise updates on such legislation during the session, go to <http://wecprotects.org/environmental-priorities-coalition/>. Jen Syrowitz, WA Audubon's Chapter Conservation Manager, can also add you to her list for updates and action alerts ([jsyrowitz@audubon.org](mailto:jsyrowitz@audubon.org)).

Many Skagit Audubon members rose to the occasion in January and February urging our state legislators to fully fund the Blanchard Forest Strategy. This hard-won agreement would protect a core 1,600 acres of Blanchard Mountain at the southern end of the Chuckanut Mountains. A favorite recreation area and ecologically important place where the Cascade foothills meet the sea, Blanchard Forest is DNR-managed state trust land. Its official purpose is to produce revenue through timber sales for the trust fund beneficiaries, including the Burlington-Edison Schools, Hospital District 1, and more. Lands must be bought to replace any removed from timber harvest so that the beneficiaries remain financially whole. The deadline for this funding has now passed, and during these difficult times for the state budget, it's a struggle to be optimistic about the Blanchard Forest Strategy being fully implemented. We shall see.

### SKAGIT AUDUBON FIELD NOTES: December 22 through February 20, 2016

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: 360-387-7024** or [bird sightings@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:bird sightings@skagitaudubon.org)

#### WATERFOWL

**Greater White-fronted Goose** 1 on Cockreham Island on 1-23 (GB)

**Cackling Goose** 1 at Bingo Hall Lagoon on 2-12 (GB)  
**Mute Swan** 1 at Britt Slough on 12-21 (GB)  
**Swan sp.** 650 at Johnson-Debay Swan Reserve on 2-13 (TM)  
**Canvasback** 2 on Beaver Lake on 1-30 (GB)  
**King Eider** 1 in Anacortes on 1-3 (GB) **UNUSUAL**  
**Long-tailed Duck** 30+ at Samish Island Public Beach on 2-16 (PP); 8+ on Fidalgo Bay, seen by OARS boats on 2-17 (JB, BK)  
**Barrow's Goldeneye** 20 off Clayton Beach, Larrabee State Pak on 1-3 (TM)  
**Ruddy Duck** 140 on Big Lake on 1-30 (GB)

**Bird Sightings continue on page 5**



**Bird Sightings continued from page 4**

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS**

**Ruffed Grouse** 1 at Barnaby Slough on 2-7 (GB)

**LOONS**

**Red-throated Loon** 300 at West Beach, Deception Pass State Park on 2-20 (SAS)

**GREBES**

**Eared Grebe** 1 at March Point on 1-31 & 2-6 (GB)  
**Western Grebe** 56 in Skagit Bay (from boat) on 2-18 (ID)

**HERONS and ALLIES**

**American Bittern** 2 at Northern State Recreation Area on 1-31 (GB)

**HAWKS, EAGLS, & ALLIES**

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** 1 immature observed regularly throughout sighting period at Burlington home (LE)

**FALCONS**

**Gyr Falcon** 1 on Samish Flats on 2-6 (GB)

**SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES, & ALLIES**

**Spotted Sandpiper** 1 in Anacortes on 1-3 (GB); 1 at Coronet Bay, Deception Pass State Park on 2-20 (SAS)  
**Long-billed Curlew** 1 at March Point on 1-1 (GB)  
**Marbled Godwit** 1 at Tosi Point on 1-2 (GB)  
**Long-billed Dowitcher** 5 along Swinomish Channel on 1-2 (GB)



**Wilson's Snipe** 2 at North Burlington Industrial Park wetland on 2-2 (RH)

**Wilson's Snipe**  
*Photo by Joe Halton*

**ALCIDS**

**Ancient Murrelet** 3 at Samish Island Public Beach on 1-25 (GB)

**GULLS & TERNS**

**Western Gull** 3 at Jensen Access on 2-14 (GB)  
**California Gull** 1 in Burlington on 2-14 (GB)  
**Thayer's Gull** 1 in Burlington on 2-14 & 2-15 (GB)

**OWLS**

**Barred Owl** 1 at Sauk Boat Launch on 2-13 (GB)  
**Short-eared Owl** 1 flying over Padilla Bay Trail on 1-19 (LE)  
**Northern Saw-whet Owl** 1 at Bay View home on 12-31 & 2-3 (CS); 1 on Swinomish Reservation on 1-2 (GB)

**HUMMINGBIRDS**

**Rufous Hummingbird** 1 male at home on east Fidalgo Island home on 2-18 (RW) **EARLY**

**WOODPECKERS**

**Red-breasted Sapsucker** 1 at home on east Fidalgo Island throughout sighting period (RW); 1 at Lake Erie on 2-20 (SAS)  
**Pileated Woodpecker** 1 on Cascade Trail just south of Highway 20 at Helmick Road on 12-29 (DW)

**VIREOS**

**Hutton's Vireo** 1 at Camano Island home on 2-10 (PP), 1 (heard) at home on east Fidalgo Island home on 2-9 (RW)

**CORVIDS**

**American Crow** 500 near Cockreham Island on 12-26 (GB)  
**Common Raven** 83 on Sauk Prairie on 2-13 (GB)

**KINGLETS**

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** several small flocks on ground on Interurban Trail near Larrabee State Park on 1-6 (LE)



**Golden-crowned Kinglet**  
*Photo by Joe Halton*

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 1 observed regularly 12-20 to 2-4 at an Anacortes home (JB)

**THRUSHES**

**Mountain Bluebird** 1 on Martin Road on 1-18 (GB)  
**Townsend's Solitaire** 1 in Concrete on 12-22 (GB)

**WAXWINGS**

**Cedar Waxwing** 10 on Lincoln Hill, Mount Vernon on 1-20 (SB)

**WARBLERS**

**Orange-crowned Warbler** 2 on suet at Burlington home last week of January (LE); 1 occasionally at suet 12-28 to 2-4 at Anacortes home (JB)  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** 3 on suet at Burlington home on 1-17 (LE)  
**Townsend's Warbler** 1 at Mount Vernon home on 12-26 (BE)

**SPARROWS & ALLIES**

**Swamp Sparrow** 1 at North Fork Access on 1-1 (GB)

**FINCHES & ALLIES**

**Common Redpoll** 80 at Corkindale Creek on 1-18 (GB)

(GB) Gary Bletsch; (JB) Jackie Boss; (SB) Susan Butler; (ID) Ivar Dolph; (BE) Beth Edwards; (LE) Larry Edwards; (RH) Ron Holmes; (BK) Betty Kuehn; (TM) Tim Manns; (PP) Pam Pritzl; (CS) Cathy Scott; (SAS) Skagit Audubon Society; (RW) Regan Weeks; (DW) Daria Wheatley



Five 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. If you have questions or want information on any of the hikes, call **Joan Melcher, 360-424-0407**, anytime up until 7:45 the morning of the hike or email Joan at [jdmelcher@comcast.net](mailto:jdmelcher@comcast.net).

**WED. – MARCH 2 – LILY- LIZARD LAKES LOOP (The 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 trail head via the Lizard and Lily Lake Trails. The loop is 8.6 miles, with a 1,600 ft. total elevation gain. There is an opportunity to go to the Oyster Dome and the North Butte as well. We will divide into a faster and 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. At 2:00 p.m. the faster group returns to the trailhead; 3:00 p.m. for the slower group.  
**A Discover Pass is required to park at the trailhead!**

**WED. – MARCH 9 – 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. A 3.41 mile self-guided option around Whistle Lake is also available. 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 16 – 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 basic loop hike is 6.2 miles; add 4 miles if you hike on the beach south to the naval station border (10.2 miles). You may leave when your car or people has returned to the trailhead.  
**A Discover Pass is required for parking in the Park!**

**WED. – MARCH 23 –MOUNT ERIE LOOP**  
**Mount Erie Base Circumference Hike** - Hike around the base of Mount Erie through forests! 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 is 6.3 miles or 6.6 miles for a

side trip to 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, which is located south of Anacortes. The estimated return time is 1:00 p.m. You may leave when you return to the trailhead.  
 There may be an option to hike up Mount Erie from the south side, if a guide is available. Portions of this steep trail include minor scrambling.

**WED. – MARCH 30 – LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PRESERVE AND/OR STIMPSON FAMILY NATURE PRESERVE**  
 The Lookout Mountain 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 ft. One may also hike additional miles on the log road system above the Preserve. The Lookout Mountain 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. The Stimpson Family Nature Reserve maps will be given out at the Lookout Mountain trailhead. We will meet at the trail head about 9 a.m. You may leave when your group returns to the car.

**WED. – APRIL 6 – WASHINGTON PARK, HEART LAKE, & LAKE ERIE**  
 Terry Slotemaker, 360-293-6514, or his designee, will lead us on these two hikes scheduled in the spring to take advantage of wild flowers in bloom. Meet at 9 a.m. in **LOTA** at Washington Park in Anacortes. To get there, turn right just at the park entrance. The sign says “Picnic Area” with an arrow pointing to the right. A child’s play area is close to this large parking lot. When you return to your car, you may leave for the Heart Lake hike. To get to Heart Lake, drive toward Anacortes from Washington Park. Turn right on D Avenue, then turn left onto 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. Turn right on H Avenue, which will lead you to the Heart Lake Road and the parking lot.



## Field Trips continued from page 1

Expect to see a variety of waterfowl, seabirds, raptors, and passerines. Meet at the Stanwood QFC parking lot near Starbucks at 8:00 a.m. to arrange carpools. Bring birding gear, and dress for the weather. Bring a scope (if you have one) and plan on lunch at a nearby Pub.

**Contact Leader: Pam Pritzl, 360-387-7024 or [birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org](mailto:birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org)**

**Remember your Discover Pass!**

### **Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, March 11, 12, & 13 “Wings over Water ~ Northwest Birding Festival” 975 H Street, Blaine Middle School**

#### **Blaine, Washington**

Celebrate the incredible variety of migratory birds that visit Blaine, Semiahmoo, Birch Bay, and Drayton Harbor. This annual birding festival is located on the Pacific Flyway in the Northwest corner of Washington State. Enjoy field trips, nature cruises, wildlife demonstrations, arts & crafts, kid’s activities, expert wildlife speakers and more. For more specific information check:

**<http://www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com/>**

#### **Saturday, March 19**

#### **Let’s Learn the Gulls!**

#### **Breazeale Interpretive Center, Padilla Bay**

**9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**



**Glaucous-winged Gull**

*Photo by Ron Holmes*

Join Bob Kuntz for a day of gull study. This trip is for birders who feel uncomfortable, or even overwhelmed, when it comes to identifying gulls in the field. We’ll look mainly at the three most common species of gulls in Skagit County: Glaucous-winged, Ring-billed, and Mew.

Participants should bring a sack lunch and binoculars. Spotting scopes are helpful but not required. It is an excellent idea to bring along your favorite field guide. Please be prepared with outerwear and footwear appropriate for the weather. Meet at Breazeale Interpretive Center, Padilla Bay, at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 19. We’ll start with a short classroom session in the theater before heading out into the field.

**Leader: Bob Kuntz, [annebobkuntz@gmail.com](mailto:annebobkuntz@gmail.com) or 360-424-9099** **Don’t forget your Discover Pass!**

### **Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, March 18, 19, & 20 “Othello Sandhill Crane Festival”**

#### **Othello, Washington**

Founded in 1998, the Othello Sandhill Crane Festival was designed to highlight the spring return of Sandhill Cranes to the greater Othello area and Columbia

National Wildlife Refuge. This year's banquet speaker is David Moskowitz, biologist, photographer, and outdoor educator; his lecture will be Wildlife of the Pacific Northwest. Saturday is the main Festival day for the whole family held at the Othello High School Gym. Pre-register for specialty tours, including a “Biking for Cranes” tour or the popular “Ice Age Floods and the Channeled Scablands” tour and morning or evening Crane tours. Sandhill Cranes

nesting in north migrate long distances (some cross the Bering Straits every spring and fall, en route to and from nesting grounds in Siberia). Those from the southern part of the main breeding range, in the northern and western parts of the lower 48 states, migrate shorter distances;

in recent years they have shown a trend toward migrating later in fall and earlier in spring, and some are now overwintering farther north than in the past. Populations nesting in Mississippi, Florida, and Cuba do not migrate. Make sure to enjoy this annual springtime happening!

**For further information: 1 (866) 726-3445 or**

**<http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>**



**Sandhill Crane**

*Photo by Ron Holmes*

## **LEQUE ISLAND BIRD SURVEY – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

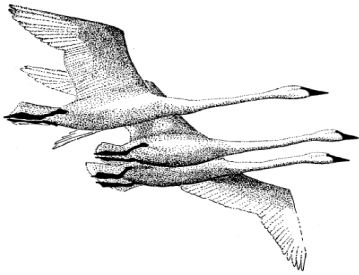
**Ecostudies Institute** has begun a study to assess the response of birds to estuary restoration projects on lands owned by the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife. As part of this project, we are gathering information investigating how birds currently use **Leque Island**, located between Camano Island and Stanwood, WA. We are looking for volunteer citizen scientists to assist with breeding bird surveys in spring 2016. Volunteers will perform short area searches at specific locations at Leque Island. This is a perfect opportunity for amazing bird watching during this spring, and to contribute to our understanding of avian responses to restoration efforts! Advanced birding skills are not required. Our protocol allows for birders to work together to ensure that the project is fun and the data collected are of high quality.

We will be offering a training session on the protocols we will use, as well as a field practice session at 1:00 pm on April 10th at the Stanwood Library. To sign up or ask questions about the project:

**Please contact Leah Rensel at [lrensel@ecoinst.org](mailto:lrensel@ecoinst.org).**



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**WINGS OVER WATER  
NORTHWEST BIRDING FESTIVAL**  
**Fri., Sat., & Sun., March 11, 12, & 13, 2016**  
Blaine, Semiahmoo, Birch Bay, & Drayton Harbor, WA  
*See Page 7 for more Information!*

**LET'S LEARN THE GULLS**  
**Saturday, March 19, 2016, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
Breazeale Interpretive Center, Padilla Bay  
*See Page 7 for more Information!*

**OTHELLO SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL**  
**Fri., Sat., & Sun., March 18, 19, & 20, 2016**  
Othello, Washington  
*See Page 7 for more Information!*

*March 2016 Calendar*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Feb. 28	Feb. 29	1 SAS Board Meeting: 7:00 PM	2 Hike: Lily – Lizard Lakes Loop (The LLLL)	3	4	5 Field Trip: Canano Island / Stanwood Birding & Pub Lunch
6	7	8 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/ Meeting 7:30 PM	9 Hike: Sugar Cube & Whistle Lake	10	11 Wings Over Water Northwest Birding Festival Blaine, WA	12 Wings Over Water Northwest Birding Festival Blaine, WA
13 Wings Over Water Northwest Birding Festival Blaine, WA	14	15	16 Hike: Goose Rock Perimeter Hike	17	18 Othellos Sandhill Crane Festival March 18-20	19 Class/Field Trip "Let's Learn the Gulls!" Sandhill C. Fest
20 Othellos Sandhill Crane Festival March 18-20	21	22	23 Hike: Mount Erie Circumference	24	25	26
27 April 3	28 April 4	29 April 5	30 Hike: Lookout Mt. Preserve, Stimpson Reserve April 6 Hike: Anacortes Area	31	April 1	April 2

Visit the Skagit Audubon Society Website at [www.skagitaudubon.org](http://www.skagitaudubon.org) The Skagit Flyer is printed on recycled paper

