

The Skagit Flyer

Skagit Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

www.skagitaudubon.org

Vol. 36 No. 7

SEPTEMBER 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 distribution 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, September 16
Migration Birding
Padilla Bay Interpretive
Center and surrounding areas
8:00-11:30 am**

In mid-September all kinds of Birds are winging south. Will
Field trips continue on pg.5

SEPTEMBER MEETING AND PROGRAM

“Journey to South Florida”

with

Dennis Paulson

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017
7:00 Social; 7:30 Program
Padilla Bay Interpretive Ctr.
10441 Bayview-Edison Rd.
Mt. Vernon, Washington



It's not winter yet, but as the days shorten and the temperature drops, our thoughts turn toward lower latitudes.

Join Dennis Paulson on a trip he and his wife made to southern Florida last December. Birds were abundant, as were not surprisingly so many other forms of wildlife – lizards, turtles, butterflies and dragonflies – that disappear from our state in winter.

Enjoy a photo-illustrated tour of Florida, from manatees and dolphins at Crystal River to Great White Herons and White-crowned Pigeons in the Florida Keys.



SKAGIT AUDUBON

Board of Directors

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Vice President: VACANT

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ronh@skagitaudubon.org

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ferstephanie07@yahoo.com

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skagitaudubon@gmail.com



Wilson's Warbler, 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 organizations, in the amount of \$ _____

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

Use 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
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





Red-breasted Nuthatch after a bath. *Photo by Joe Halton*

Welcome to Skagit Audubon

Skagit Audubon offers opportunities to connect with nature year-round. Our monthly programs run September through June. Guest Speakers present topics including birds, wildlife, geology, photography, environmental research, ecology and nature travel to name a few. Mark your calendars to attend a program each second Tuesday of the month at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. for a fun social time before the program begins at 7:30. Most programs are free and open to the public.

Check our calendar each month for field trips and hikes. All levels of birding experience are welcome on field trips. Libby Mills continues to chair our field trip committee. If you would like more information on attending, leading or suggested locations, please contact libbymills@gmail.com. Hikes are planned each Wednesday with varying degrees of difficulty. Our active hikers are led by Joan Melcher. Hiking locations include trails in Skagit County and beyond. For more information, contact jdmelcher@comcast.net. Carpooling is encouraged to field trip and hiking locations. Remember if you're driving, you may need a Discover Pass or U. S. Forest Service parking permit. Riders should help with the driver's expense. Be a part of reducing fossil fuel emissions.

Our board continues to grow. At the June general meeting, members voted to add two new Representative positions. Many returning board members are past presidents, chairpersons and representatives who continue to volunteer their time and talents to keep our chapter strong, active and a recognized advocate for environmental causes in our communities. Ron Holmes has moved from Representative to Secretary. A special welcome to new board members, Neil O'Hara, Treasurer, Mary Sinker, Publications; and Representatives, Jeff Osmundson, Scott Petersen and Katherine O'Hara. Past President's will be leading our chapter meetings. If you are interested in becoming a board member or would like to attend a board meeting, please contact, Irene Perry, Immediate Past President, irene@skagitaudubon.org. Board Meetings are held first Tuesday of the month September through June at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center conference room, 7:00 p.m.

Whether you're a returning member or new to our chapter please plan to attend at least one event or activity each month, inform others on conservation issues important to you and invite a friend, relative or new neighbor to a program, field trip or hike. Membership is encouraged for \$20.00 per household each year. Pam Pritzl, Membership Chair, will answer any questions regarding membership, membership@skagitaudubon.org. Membership forms are available through our newsletter and on our website. Our mission is watching birds, protecting habitat and connecting with nature. Spread the word and share this mission with others. Get involved and together we'll make a difference.

Public Comments Sought on Draft Olympic National Park Mountain Goat Management Plan – The National Park Service, the US Forest Service, and Wash. State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife invite the public to review and comment on a proposal to translocate non-native mountain goats from Olympic National Park to the North Cascades where they are native and declining. To review the draft plan and submit a comment, visit: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/OLYMgoat>.



SKAGIT AUDUBON SEPTEMBER CONSERVATION REPORT

BY TIM MANNS



Barred Owl by Joe Halton

Nearing the end of a summer that passed too quickly, lots of conservation issues await attention. Locally, the main one conservation-minded citizens worked on through the summer was not new. In June, this report mentioned the Skagit County Commissioners' hiring an anti-Endangered Species Act organization, the self-proclaimed American Stewards of Liberty, for advice on preventing the US Fish & Wildlife Service and National Park Service from pursuing restoration of the grizzly to the North Cascades. This project is not some agency whim but, rather, required implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Public reaction to our commissioners taking this action and spending \$5,000+ of county funds to do it, was loud and swift. On August 7, the commissioners held an afternoon meeting with scant notice to take public comment and sign a letter to Secretary of Interior Zinke, written by American Stewards of Liberty, calling for a halt to any grizzly restoration work in the Cascades. The letter is replete with exaggeration and inaccuracy; nonetheless, the commissioners made a public show of signing it and claiming they do not

actually adhere to the anti-Endangered Species Act, anti-public lands ideology of the Stewards of Liberty. This is, in fact, easily proven untrue. Since at least 2001 Skagit County Commissioners have been paying a Washington, D.C. lobbyist (\$137,000 to date) to push for weakening the ESA, giving local officials such as themselves control over national public lands, and, with a recent \$5,000 additional payment, undercutting grizzly restoration in the vast wilderness of the North Cascades. The mission of the Audubon Society is the protection and restoration of wildlife diversity and the habitat to support it. Until now, we had little idea how contrary to this mission the thinking and activities of our county commissioners actually are. We will continue to work with other groups and individuals to preserve our national public lands and to keep this bedrock environmental law, the Endangered Species Act, strong.

Issues related to fossil fuels continue in the Northwest. With marine waters, two oil refineries at March Point, pipelines, and a mainline railway, Skagit County remains a key location in the question of whether investment in a fossil-fuel based economy continues or a concerted transition away from fossil fuels gets underway. If British Columbia's new provincial government is unable to block expansion of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline to Vancouver, there will likely be a doubling of the capacity of the Kinder Morgan pipeline already bringing tar sands crude to March Point. Will the refineries then double as terminals for exporting crude oil? These developments promise vastly increased oil tanker and barge traffic in the Salish Sea with a proportional risk of catastrophic spills. A related issue is the Coast Guard's rulemaking to designate commercial anchorages near Vendovi and Samish Islands without any serious environmental review. And, earlier in the summer, Skagit County Planning & Development Services determined Tesoro's project to produce and export xylene would have no adverse environmental effects requiring mitigation.

Current wildlife-related issues here in addition to grizzly restoration include Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's proposed plan for managing elk in the Skagit Valley, a National Park Service plan to transplant non-native mountain goats out of Olympic National Park to the North Cascades, where they are native but declining, and the Department of Natural Resources' long-awaited long-term management plan for the marbled murrelet on state trust lands. For more information on any of these or other issues too numerous to mention here, please contact me (Tim Manns, conservation@skagitaudubon.org). I'm happy to send any Skagit Audubon member the issues summary prepared for the board.



Keep in mind that weather conditions, forest fires and smoke, logging, construction, aggressive bears or other unexpected circumstances may cause changes in the following hikes. The information on the Wilderness Hikes is too lengthy to print here. For information on them or the October 4th hike contact JOAN MELCHER, 360-424-0407 or e-mail her at jdmelcher@comcast.net. For information on the September 20th and 27th hikes, contact TERRY SLOTEMAKER at 360-293-6514 or e-mail him at slotelo@wavecable.com. All the hikes are on a Wednesday. Dogs are discouraged on Audubon-sponsored hikes. If dogs are on a hike, they must be on a leash at all times.

*US forest service parking permit is required.

WED. – SEPT. 6 - WILDERNESS HIKE – contact Joan Melcher for detailed information

WED. – SEPT. 13 - WILDERNESS HIKE – contact Joan Melcher for detailed information

WED. – SEPT. 20 - MAPLE PASS LOOP* One of Ira Spring's and Harvey Manning's "100 Classic Hikes in Washington". 7.5 mile loop, 2,000 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 7:30 am on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. 3:30 pm return to trailhead. **This is not a wilderness hike.**

WED. – SEPT. 27 - CUTTHROAT PASS* Do this hike on a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail as either a round trip, 10.0 or 11.0 miles, or as a one way, 10.5 miles. Meet at 7:30 am on the east side of the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. 4:30 pm return to trailhead. **This is not a wilderness hike.**

WED. – OCT. 4 - SCHREIBERS MEADOW HIKES* Choose from three options—Railroad Grade, Park Butte, or the Scott Paul Trail. Great views if the weather is good. Significant streams to cross by rock hopping or wading. Meet at 7:30 am at the Sedro-Woolley Food Pavilion parking lot. Two trailhead return times: 2 pm or 4 pm; carpool accordingly.

Field Trips continued from page 1

we get lucky and find lots of migrants on a "fall-out" or have a relatively quiet Sept. day? Join me to find out. We'll walk the uplands at the interpretive center, check out the shoreline in Bayview, and if time allows check out some other nearby areas. This will include listening to some subtle bird calls, inspecting sparrows for fine lining, hoping for an early goose or two in flight! The beauty of birding is that it's its own kind of treasure hunt. Bring your binoculars, a scope if you have it, snacks or lunch. We will enjoy what we find. Leader: Libby Mills 360-708-6975 cell or libbymills@gmail.com.



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

Please submit your sightings to
birdsightings@skagitaudubon.org

For recent updates on bird sightings, check out **ABA Tweepers** and **Skagit County Ebird List** on the SAS website (Birding menu, Bird Sightings submenu).

WATERFOWL

Snow Goose 60 late lingering birds, Jensen Access on 5-21 (GB)

Wood Duck 3 at Wylie Slough on 6-23 (NOH)

Blue-winged Teal 2 at Lindgren Road on 6-11 (GB)

Greater Scaup 4 late lingering birds at March Point on 6-26 and 5 on 8-4 (GB)

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

Sooty Grouse 1 female with 2 young at Easy Pass trailhead on 7-16 (PP, JE)

SWIFTS

Black Swift 3 at Big 4 Meadows on 6-22 (SAS)

RAILS

Virginia Rail 1 at Wylie Slough on 7-23 (NOH)

PLOVERS

Black-bellied Plover 48 at Hayton Reserve on 7-23 (NOH); 50 on Alice Bay, Samish Island on 7-30 (HA, TA)

Semipalmated Plover 13 at Hayton Reserve on 7-23 (NOH); 20 at English Boom, Camano Island on 7-28 (PP); 8 on Alice Bay, Samish Island on 7-30 (HA, TA)

SANDPIPERS. PHALAROPES and ALLIES

Red-necked Stint 1 at Crockett Lake, Whidbey Island on 7-10 (JB, PP, JW); 1 at Crockett Lake, Whidbey Island on 7-11 (HA, TA, M&LD) **RARE**

Stilt Sandpiper 2 at Wylie Slough on 8-9 (GB)

Baird's Sandpiper 5 at Channel Drive on 8-9 (GB)

Least Sandpiper 12 at Hayton Reserve on 7-23 (NOH)

Semipalmated Sandpiper 1 at Hayton Reserve on 8-3 and 8-6 (GB)

Western Sandpiper 4 at Wylie Slough on 7-23 (NOH); 10 at Hayton Reserve on 7-23 (NOH)

Short-billed Dowitcher 22 at Wylie Slough on 7-23 (NOH); 4 at Hayton Reserve on 7-13 (NOH)

Solitary Sandpiper 1 at Wylie Slough on 8-3 (GB)

Greater Yellowlegs 1 at Wylie Slough on 7-23 (NOH)

Wilson's Phalarope 1 on Samish Flats on 5-21 (GB)

Red-necked Phalarope 2 at Wylie Slough on 8-3 and 8-7 (GB); 4 at Wylie Slough on 8-5 (SRP)

GULLS and TERNs

Heermann's Gull 8 off Green Point, WA Park, Anacortes on 8-4 (GB)

PELICANS

American White Pelican incursion continued throughout period, with many observations by various people, 150 at March Point on 6-26 (GB)

HERONS and ALLIES

Green Heron 1 flying into Gages Slough week of July 4 (LE); 1 at Wylie Slough on 7-23 (NOH); 1 at Wylie Slough on 8-3 (GB)

OWLS

Great Horned Owl 1 at Camano Island home on 7-10 (PP)

Barred Owl 1 at east Stanwood home on 7-11 and 8-7 (MS); 1 at

Camano Island home on 7-13 and 14 (PP); 1 in Cap Sante neighborhood, Anacortes on 8-9 (JH)

WOODPECKERS

Red-naped Sapsucker 1 at Swamp Creek on 6-18 (GB)

American Three-toed Woodpecker 1 at Hardy Burn on 5-27 (GB)

FALCONS

Merlin 1 at Wylie Slough on 7-23 (NOH)

Peregrine Falcon 1 at Wylie Slough on 7-23 (NOH)

FLYCATCHERS

Olive-sided Flycatcher 1 calling at Camano Island home from July 15 to present (PP)

Western Wood-Pewee 2 at Big 4 Meadows on 6-22 (SAS)

Willow Flycatcher 5 at Big 4 Meadows on 6-22 (SAS)

Pacific-slope Flycatcher 4 at Big 4 Meadows on 6-22 (SAS)

Eastern Kingbird 1 at DeBay Slough on 6-11 (GB)



CORVIDS

Gray Jay 4 at Rainy Lake parking lot on 7-16 (PP, JE)

Clark's Nutcracker 1 at WA Pass on 7-16 (PP, JE)

DIPPERS

American Dipper 1 at Big 4 Meadows on 5-31 (PP, JE)

THRUSHES

Hermit Thrush 1 at Rainy Lake trail on 7-16 (PP, JE)

FINCHES and ALLIES

American Goldfinch 1 leucistic in Cap Sante neighborhood, Anacortes in early August (JH)

CHATS

Yellow-breasted Chat 1 at Alice Bay, Samish Island on 6-4 (HA, TA, GB) and 6-5 (HA,TA)—found by HA, TA

BLACKBIRDS and ORIOLES

Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 on Minkler Flats on 5-28 and 6-1 (GB)

WARBLERS

Nashville Warbler 1 at Bacon Creek on 6-3 (GB)

MacGillivray's Warbler 1 heard at Big 4 Meadows on 6-22 (SAS)

Common Yellowthroat 14 at Wylie Slough on 7-23 (NOH); 1 at Hayton Reserve on 7-23 (NOH)

American Redstart 2 at County Line Ponds on 6-3 and 1 on 6-18 (GB)

Black-throated Gray Warbler 1 at Camano Island home on 8-4 and 8-6 (SRP)

CHELAN RIDGE HAWK MIGRATION FESTIVAL

Memorial Park, Pateros

September 15-16, 2017

Join the Chelan/Entiat Ranger district, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and HawkWatch International for the Ninth Annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival. This free family event combines educational activities in Pateros with field trips to the Wells Wildlife Area and Chelan Ridge HawkWatch site.

On Friday, Sept. 15th at 7 pm, join Dr. Dave Oleyar from HawkWatch International for a workshop on raptor identification and migration. The workshop will be held at the Pateros Fire House. On Saturday, Sept. 16th, a field trip to Wells Wildlife Area departs at 8 am and returns by noon. Another field trip to Chelan Ridge departs at 12:30 pm and returns at 4:30 pm.

Space for the workshop and field trips is limited so sign up early. Contact Richard Scranton at rscran4350@yahoo.com to register or if you need additional information. More details on festival activities and both field trips can be found at www.ncwaudubon.org.

Townsend's Warbler 1 at Rainy Lake trail on 7-16 (PP, JE)

TANAGERS and ALLIES

Western Tanager 2 at Camano Island home on 7-22 (SRP)

Lazuli Bunting 1 at east Fidalgo home on 8-9 (RW)

MAMMALS

Pine Marten 1 at Easy Pass trailhead on 6-17 (GB)

River Otter 1 in Burrows Bay on 6-16 and 6-19 (NOH)

Harbor Porpoise 2 in Burrows Bay on 6-16 (NOH)

Harbor Seal 1 in Guemes Channel on 6-16 (NOH)

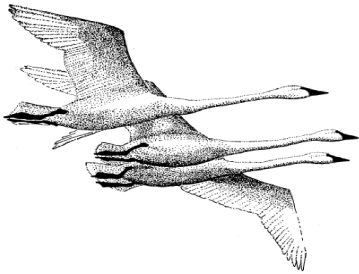
(**HA**) Howard Armstrong; (**TA**) Thais Armstrong; (**JB**) Joan Bird; (**GB**) Gary Bletsch; (**M&LD**) Mary and Lee Dallas; (**JE**) John Edison; (**LE**) Larry Edwards; (**JH**) Joe Halton; (**NOH**) Neil O'Hara; (**SRP**) Sheila and Ron Pera; (**PP**) Pam Pritzl; (**MS**) Mary Sinker; (**SAS**) Skagit Audubon Society Field Trip; (**JW**) Joanne Weldon; (**RW**) Regan Weeks



Cooper's Hawk; Photo by Joe Halton



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September 2017 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug. 27	Aug. 28	Aug. 29	Aug.30	Aug. 31	1	2
3	4	5 SAS Board Meeting 7:00 PM	6 Hike: Wilderness Hike	7	8	9
10	11	12 General Meeting: Social 7:00 PM/Meeting 7:30 PM	13 Hike: Wilderness Hike	14	15	16 Field Trip: Migration Birding
17	18	19	20 Hike: Maple Pass Loop	21	22	23
24 Oct. 1	25 Oct. 2	26 Oct. 3	27 Hike Cutthroat Pass Oct. 4 Hike: Schreibers Meadow	28	29	30

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

