

The Avalanche



North Cascades Audubon Society Newsletter

www.northcascadesaudubon.org

Volume 47, Issue 8

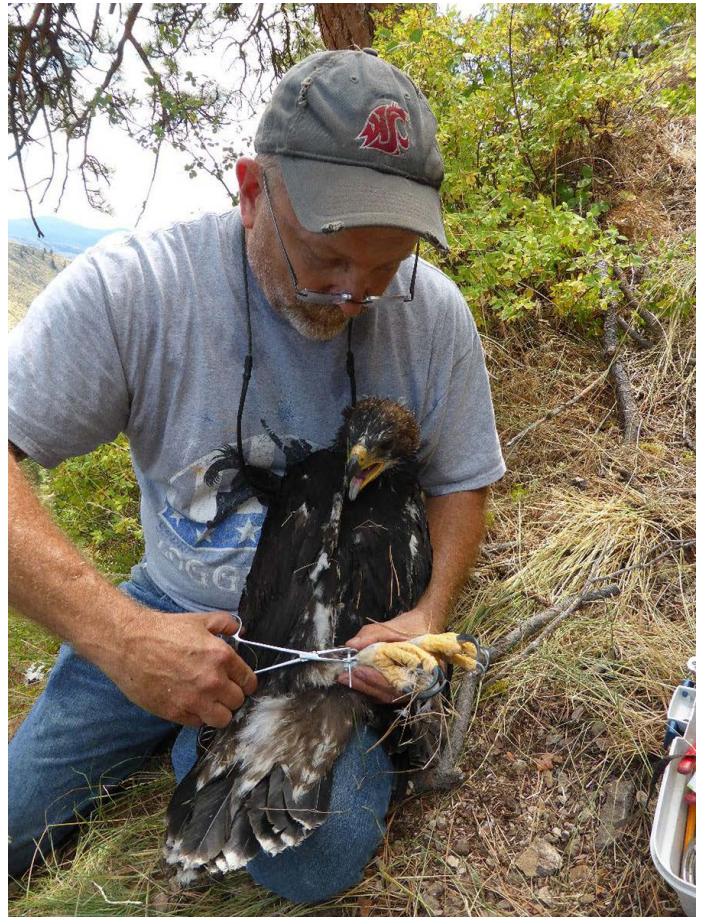
Nov/Dec 2016

General Membership Meeting with Jim Watson Raptors of Western Washington: From Shoreline to Summit

Often seen, often admired, often maligned. Raptors are important apex predators in western Washington associated with ecosystems centered on water and forests. Join us for an evening discussion that will be of interest both to novice and experienced birders and avian ecologists. We'll establish some common ground as we discuss key specialized adaptations of raptors that make them successful hunters, and learn about the ecology of species most often encountered in ecosystems west of the Cascades. Then we'll highlight interesting findings from current statewide raptor research studies including effects of recent forest fires on golden eagle and northern goshawk nest ecology, and impacts of wind power development on golden eagles and ferruginous hawks. Both forest fires and wind power development are expected to increase over the next several years in western Washington. Finally, you'll have the opportunity to ask questions, especially those raptor questions you've always pondered, whether fact or fiction. Although we may not be able to derive the answers, it will make for a lively discussion!

Jim Watson is a Wildlife Research Scientist with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and the lead researcher for statewide raptor studies. He has spent the past 45 years studying raptors in the western United States and abroad. Jim's research focus includes raptor population dynamics, migration ecology, and management of raptors in human landscapes.

Always on the 4th Tuesday of the month:
November 22nd, 7pm
Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room
free & open to the public!



Mission Statement

The purpose of this society is to promote the study and conservation of birds and other wildlife, their habitat, and the environment; to increase public appreciation of the values of wildlife, plants, and the natural environment; and to stimulate action to protect and preserve them for the future.

Avalanche Staff

Designer/editor: Kelley Palmer-McGee

Writer/editor: Lynne Givler

If you are interested in contributing, the deadline for the January 2016 issue is...

December 15.

Send materials to Kelley Palmer-McGee at:

content@northcascadesaudubon.org

NCAS Board Members

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Scholarship	Don Burgess
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Upcoming Board meeting: November 7

Please email the President if you would like to attend:
president@northcascadesaudubon.org

NCAS Holiday Potluck

December 12, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

YWCA Ballroom

1026 N Forest Street, Bellingham

Join us at the YWCA Ballroom on Monday, December 12, from 6-9pm to celebrate another great year of birds, birding, and our Audubon community. There will be live music and Doug Brown, a local photographer and birder, will be presenting some of his photos. **Please bring plates, utensils, and a dish to share.** Coffee and tea will be provided.

Happy holidays!

NCAS Volunteer Opportunity: Meeting Host/Hostess

Interested in people as well as birds? We would like a volunteer to take over host/hostess duties in January. Your duties would include providing the refreshments for the monthly meetings September through May and organizing the Holiday party in December.

Anyone interested can email or call Pam Borso at borsope@aol.com or 360-319-9004.

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<p style="text-align: center;">Personalized 2017 Calendar</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">25% OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">13 pg, 12 Months Your photos/artwork and we will design your calendar!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Self-Serve Color Copies</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">39¢ EA.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">8.5"x11" • 60# white \$1 per each editing. Any other paper is 25 cents extra</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Posters & Banners</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">50% OFF</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Indoor or Outdoor Paper or Vinyl Call for Details</p>
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Audubon's Christmas Bird Count 2016

San Juan Ferry Transect CBC

Saturday, December 17

Make your holidays memorable by participating in NCAS's one-of-a-kind Christmas Bird Count (CBC) aboard the Washington State Ferry from Anacortes to Sydney B.C. and back. NCAS will cover the cost of the ferry passage for a limited number of counters. This challenging count has been conducted annually, whatever the weather, since the mid-1970s, following a protocol established by Jim Duemmel. Jim organized and compiled the count until 2002. Right now, Clayton and Linda Snider, who have been leading this count for the past nine years are looking for a few volunteers to assist with some challenging birding. If you are interested in participating in the San Juan Ferry CBC please contact Clayton or Linda Snider at 360-738-2232 or Paul Woodcock at vp@northcascadesaudubon.org, 360-966-6549.

How Our CBC Works

The Bellingham CBC circle is comprised of over 100,000 acres of Whatcom County stretching from Cherry Point to the west end of Lake Whatcom, and from Willey's Lake to Fairhaven Park. The circle is divided into 25 areas and each area is assigned a leader, an experienced birder who organizes the counters in his or her area. It is the leader's responsibility to gather the group needed to assure an accurate count. Many of our leaders have been faithfully doing this work annually for decades. Whatever the weather, most of the count parties are in the field from dawn to dusk on count day, or longer if they are searching for owls. The goal is to carry out useful citizen science while enjoying the CBC holiday tradition.

Volunteering

It is also our goal is to include all who wish to volunteer for the CBC experience, but in turn we ask that all volunteers consider the conditions and take the time commitment seriously. If you are interested please contact Paul Woodcock or Doug Brown at the addresses above. We will refer you to an area leader who is in need of assistance.

50th Annual Whatcom County CBC

Sunday, December 18

Annually between December 14 and January 5, tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the world take part in an adventure that has become a holiday tradition. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission to count birds - often from dawn to dusk. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of our natural environment has driven dedicated people to get out in woods, fields and wetlands to celebrate the holidays.

The National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a citizen science effort, conducted by thousands of community members whose purpose is to collect data on bird populations across the continent while celebrating the holidays and enjoying the wonders of nature. The CBC in Bellingham has been held annually since 1967, making this year our 50th year. So come celebrate and participate! For more information on the Bellingham CBC please go to www.northcascadesaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-count/#.

Participation in the Bellingham CBC is free. Results will be published by National Audubon in an online version of American Birds during the summer of 2017. You can find much more information on this event, as well as annual results and summaries, at birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count.

If you are interested in participating in the Bellingham CBC please contact Paul Woodcock at vp@northcascadesaudubon.org or 360-966-6549; or Doug Brown at bblackcat@comcast.net or 360-647-1657.

Open Mondays at Our New Location

Mon-Fri. 10-5:30
Sat. 10-4

108 Ohio St.
corner of Cornwall
Bellingham
360-734-0969

WildBirdChalet.com



November and December Field Trips

Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair

Late fall in the Pacific Northwest can provide some of the best and most exciting birding of the year. Rarities such as sharp-tailed sandpiper and Lapland longspur have already shown up in the area, making field trips seem like a treasure hunt. So grab your binoculars and field guide and come along for some great birding.

Our field trips are open to everyone regardless of membership in NCAS. Our goal is to provide quality field trips that provide enjoyment and education for all levels of birders. Our field trip leaders, and many of the participants, are enthusiastic about answering questions and providing a worthwhile experience, so join us for the fun!

Saturday, November 5, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock

No registration required

These monthly trips are co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation and are meant for birders of all skill levels. If you are not a birder but just curious, you are more than welcome to come along and share the experience. November is the start of increasing numbers of both seabirds and waterfowl, making the birding very exciting.

Help Wanted

Field trip leaders are needed!

We are looking for those of you with:

1. A love of and enthusiasm for birding
2. A reasonable knowledge of and skill related to identification of birds in our area
3. A willingness to share your knowledge and skill related to birding

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions about becoming a trip leader please contact Ken Salzman at: 360-756-0347 or kpsalzman@comcast.net.



Bewick's wren, photo by Andrew Reding

Thursday, November 17, Scudder Pond and Whatcom Falls Park

Time: 8:30 - 11:30 AM

Trip Leader: Bob Myhr

To register: contact Bob Myhr at romyhr@comcast.net or 360-933-4352

We hope to see year-round resident songbirds and arriving wintering waterfowl while walking in open areas and on easy trails. All levels of experience welcome. Come prepared for the weather.

	<p>VILLAGE BOOKS & PAPER DREAMS</p>	<p>Every time you click through from Audubon's website to Village Books' website and buy books, Audubon gets 5.5% of the purchase!</p> <p><i>Building Community in Whatcom County since 1980</i></p>
<p>1200-1206 11th Street in Bellingham's Historic Fairhaven & 430 Front Street in the Waples Mercantile Building, Lynden 671-2626 • 800-392-BOOK www.villagebooks.com</p>		

Friday, November 25, Semiahmoo/Blaine

Time: 9 AM to 1 PM

Trip Leader: Lynne Givler

Trip Limit: 14

To register and arrange carpooling: contact Lynne Givler at lynne.givler@gmail.com or 360-319-6042

Work off that Thanksgiving feast and avoid the Black Friday madness by joining this combined walking and driving field trip! We'll start at the end of Semiahmoo Spit where we'll scan the channel between Semiahmoo and White Rock, B.C. for loons, grebes, scoters, long-tailed ducks and a wide variety of other wintering water birds. We'll then circle around the resort next to the shoreline and through the upland grassy area before driving back to the park buildings for a further look at Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay. Next we'll carpool to Marine Park in Blaine and walk along the waterfront in search of other new or familiar species. Bring a spotting scope if you have one and snacks or a lunch. And come prepared for rain, wind, and/or sun!

Saturday, December 3, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock

No registration required

With winter only a few weeks away, the actual number of birds and the numbers of species of seabirds will be increasing. Duck numbers should also be up and there is always a chance for that rare individual to be found. Bundle up and get ready for some good birding. These monthly trips are co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation and are meant for birders of all skill levels. If you are not a birder but just curious, you are more than welcome to come along and share the experience.

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Bellingham's Largest Used Book Store

Used - Rare - Recent Titles35 Years Book Buying Experience Shows in Our
Quality Stock and the Prices We Pay**116 Grand Downtown Bellingham****New NCAS Initiative:
Birds and Climate Change***"You are what hope looks like to a bird."*David Yarnold,
CEO and President, *National Audubon*

In response to the recently released Audubon Birds and Climate Change report, NCAS is looking for volunteers to participate in a new work group. The goal of this work group is to develop Audubon sponsored initiatives that will help safeguard Whatcom County birds in a changing climate, and help slow the rate, or mitigate the effects, of climate change.

Initiatives developed by the work group will:

- identify achievable and measureable actions by citizens that slow or mitigate the effects of climate change, and protect habitat and survival of Whatcom County birds
- have a local focus
- be cost effective
- be manageable by NCAS Audubon volunteers

It is not too late to join us! If you would like to be part of this new work group, please contact Pam Borso at borsope@aol.com.

**The 2016 Fraser Valley
Bald Eagle Festival**

Saturday and Sunday, November 19 & 20

Mission to Harrison Mills, British Columbia

Come celebrate the beauty and biodiversity of the Fraser River Valley by honoring the majestic bald eagle and the cycle of the salmon. The Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival takes place at several sites along Scenic 7 Highway from Mission to Harrison Mills with a focus on the Harrison River.

For festival details and directions visit:

fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca

*First place and 2016 festival
theme photo winner,
Betty Englehart*



Help NCAS Fund a Gift to the Whatcom Museum in Memory of Lois and George Garlick

*A very special thank you to those who have contributed to the Lois and George Garlick Memorial Fund.
We have raised \$750, almost all of the way to our goal of \$800!*

Since Lois Garlick passed away June of 2015, North Cascades Audubon has been seeking a fitting way to honor Lois and her husband George, who preceded her in death in 2005. George and Lois were members of a small group of dedicated conservationists who founded NCAS in 1970. This memorable pair of individuals dedicated their lives to the protection of wildlife and the environment of Whatcom County and were instrumental in refurbishing the Whatcom Museum's historic bird collection in the late 1970s.

Our goal is to raise about \$800 from the public and our members to cover the costs of taxidermy for a trumpeter swan and a plaque dedicating the gift in the memory of the Garlicks. Whether you knew or remember George and Lois or not, please consider a tax deductible donation to the NCAS Lois and George Garlick Memorial Fund. Donations can be sent to North Cascades Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5805, Bellingham, WA 98227-5805 designated for the Lois and George Garlick Memorial. We appreciate your support!

Native Plants: Setting the Table for Native Birds by Lynne Givler

Like many enthusiastic birders I dutifully fill feeders with seed and suet. I tell myself I'm doing this primarily to help bird populations, but the truth of course is that I really want a close-up view of the species that share our backyard. As much enjoyment as this brings me, it doesn't quite compare with the joy of watching these birds feeding from native plants. We live in a heavily forested area and over the years have promoted the growth of native plants around our house that are particularly good for wildlife by cutting back other plants that are competing for sun and space. We have transplanted species not in our yard from other parts of the property and have purchased native plants missing from the area. We reap the benefits of these efforts as we watch pileated woodpeckers and American robins feeding on Pacific dogwood fruits, rufous hummingbirds taking sips from red-flowering currant and red columbine flowers, pine siskins and red crossbills tearing into western hemlock cones, and Swainson's thrushes and western tanagers savoring cascara and twinberry fruits. And in addition to food, these plants provide nesting sites and shelter from predators.

The National Audubon Society is developing a database to reach an important and achievable goal: "Let's grow one million bird-friendly plants together." Check out their website at www.audubon.org/native-plants, enter your zip code and read about native plants recommended for your area. (Note that the database is new and in need of some refinement, e.g., white sagebrush is recommended for our area. You can help with the process and share any feedback with NAS.) More resources for information about wildlife-friendly native plants include the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (Living with Wildlife), the Washington State Cooperative Extension, the City of Bellingham, the Komo Kulshan Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society and a number of local nurseries. Check them out on-line and search under "native plants". Then join the nation in growing one million bird-friendly plants!

North Cascades Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2016

Present: Kelley Palmer-McGee, Carol Roberts, Paul Woodcock, Pam Borso, Steve Irving, Twink Coffman, Owen Bamford, Rae Edwards

1. Additions to Agenda

Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve: Steve Irving is member on a committee to eliminate the cut-out for the pier suggested by the Department of Natural Resources.

2. Approval of September Minutes: Approved by the board

3. Treasurer's Report: Received by the board

4. Communications & Input

- a. Climate Change Group and I-732: Next Group meeting is October 24 at 7:00 PM at the Cordata Food Co-op.
- b. Facebook interface: Kelley reported that Ann is working on the interface.
- c. Online donations efficiency: No news
- d. CBC update: December 17 for the ferry count and the 18th for the mainland count. Doug Brown will be assisting Paul Woodcock. Paul has recommended having a pre-meeting so that people know what to expect with regard to commitments at the CBC.
- e. Asa Wright Nature Center Fundraising: If we advertise in our newsletter the tours of this nonprofit organization and someone signs up, they will donate \$100.00 to NCAS. Board approved advertising.

5. Old Business

- a. Garlick Memorial Award Report and Swan Update: Now have \$650.00. State permits acquired, now working on federal permits
- b. Holiday Potluck update: Set for December 12 from 6-9 at the YWCA ballroom. Carol will purchase rectangular table cloths and supply hot beverages. Nicole will help with decorations. Doug Brown will provide the program. It will be advertised in the newsletter and on the website and Facebook.

6. New Business

- a. Whatcom Land Trust Collaboration: An agreement was presented to WLT. We await WLT board approval.
- b. Volunteer recognition: Rae, who has been coordinating volunteers and has found appreciation events are not usually successful, recommended more broad reaching acknowledgement such as in the newsletter, on the website and Facebook.
- c. Jim Duemmel recognition 50 years CBC: Pam inquired about the best way to acknowledge Jim and suggested a nice red fleece. Paul recommended a plaque. Board approved acquisition limited to under \$500.00.

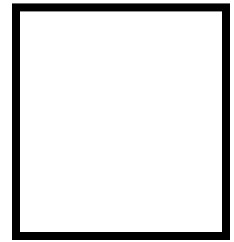
7. Committee Reports as needed

8. Programs

Oct 25 Gary Searing: Raptor Management at Vancouver BC Airport
November 22 Jim Watson: Raptors of Western Washington
Jan 24: Wildlife Refuges
Feb 28 Steve and Martha Ellis
April 25 or May 23 Jonathan White: Tides in the Salish Sea

Adjourn - Next Meeting: November 7, 2016, 7 PM WECU Ed Ctr; 311 Holly St, Bellingham, WA

North Cascades Audubon Society
PO Box 5805
Bellingham, WA 98227-5805



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Find us at www.northcascadesaudubon.org or through social media:
Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @NCascadeAudubon



The Avalanche is the newsletter of the North Cascades Audubon Society, PO Box 5805, Bellingham, WA 98227. It is published 8 times a year; subscriptions start at \$20 per year. The editors welcome articles, artwork, photographs, and letters. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of this organization. Original material may be reprinted if appropriate credit is given. The North Cascades Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

North Cascades Audubon Society Membership

We hope you will support North Cascades Audubon by joining the chapter locally. Your commitment to Audubon is important to us. We will continue to provide you with information regarding local chapter activities through our website and all activities will remain FREE and open to the public. If you are interested in receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, you can join the local chapter for one year at any of the levels to your right. The newsletter is published monthly between September and May, including a double issue for November/December. All issues are also available online. If you do not wish to receive a paper copy, email membership@northcascadesaudubon.org.

Please check your mailing labels for accuracy, including the expiration date. To make any necessary changes, please send an email to membership@northcascadesaudubon.org.

Join or Renew (circle one)

Please make checks payable to North Cascades Audubon.

Each membership applies to one household.

Does your company match donations? Let them know you donated to North Cascades Audubon Society.

- \$20 Kestrel
- \$35 Merlin
- \$50 Prairie Falcon
- \$75 Peregrine Falcon
- \$100 Gyrfalcon
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