

The Avalanche



North Cascades Audubon Society Newsletter

www.northcascadesaudubon.org

Volume 48, Issue 5

May 2017

General Membership Meeting with Kathleen Bander

It's a Bird, It's a Plane, No It's a Bat

An unexpected up-close encounter with a little brown bat was the beginning of Kathleen Bander's fascination with bats. Trying to find more information about Northwest bats and the people who were knowledgeable about them, alerted her to the fact that there was no regional entity with the goal of protecting this most misunderstood and maligned mammal. Recognizing the need, she enlisted the help of a diverse group of volunteers, and Bats Northwest, a non-profit conservation group, was formed in 1998.

Kathleen will introduce the basics about bats: their biology, echolocation, feeding, life cycle, and habitats. Benefits of bats to humans, as well as the threats of humans to bats, will be covered, and the real story of bats and rabies will be told. The presentation will include information about bats around the world, with a special focus on bats of the Northwest. A properly designed bat house will be shown, with information on how to site it. There will also be stuffed bats for some close-up views.

Bats Northwest and its dedicated members reach out to the public through schools, libraries, garden and recreational groups, service organizations, festivals, and conventions. It contributes to and helps coordinate research efforts, and participates in regional planning and conservation efforts.

Always on the 4th Tuesday of the month:

May 23rd, 7pm Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room

free & open to the public!

Check out a special program on May 25:
Red Light to Starboard: Recalling the Exxon Valdez
Disaster. Event information is on **page 3**.

Register for the Pearrygin Lake Campout.
The event takes place on June 1 through 4 this year.
See **page 2** for more details and contact information.

Our next board meeting is on May 1.
Email president@northcascadesaudubon.org
if you would like to join us.

In this issue...

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Page</i>
NCAS Annual Campout: Pearrygin	2
Exxon Valdez Special Program	3
NCAS Officer Nominations	3
May and Summer Field Trips	4
Birds and Brews: May 20	5
Local Bird Festivals: May and Sept	5
NCAS April Board Minutes	6, 7
Whatcom Land Trust Survey Update	6

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 September 2017 issue is...

August 15.

Send materials to Kelley Palmer-McGee at:
content@northcascadesaudubon.org

NCAS Board Members

Officers

President	Pam Borso	319-9004
Vice Pres.	Paul Woodcock	966-6549
Secretary	Steven Harper	650-9065
Treasurer	Sue Parrott	650-9065

Board Members

Education	Chris Brewer	336-207-7505
Field Trips	Ken Salzman	756-0347
Membership	Owen Bamford	393-3481
Publicity	Twink Coffman	
Newsletter	Kelley Palmer-McGee	466-8601
Conservation	Steve Irving	384-1618
Archives	Judy Krieger	
Programs	Steven Harper	650-9065
Scholarship	Nicole Huson	
Website	Jamie Huson	
Member at Large	Rae Edwards	

Associated Persons

Scholarship	Don Burgess
Hospitality	Anne Ziomkowski

If you are interested in volunteering with our Audubon chapter, please contact the President at president@northcascadesaudubon.org

Pearrygin Lake Campout and Field Trips

Thursday afternoon - Sunday morning, June 1-4

Steven Harper, Secretary

Our tenth annual NCAS Campout will be held at Pearrygin Lake State Park group camp with great people, great weather and of course great birding. There is lots of room for people with tents. Vans or pickup toppers are allowed in the parking area. RVs and trailers are not allowed. Picnic tables and grates are available for cooking (bring your own food) and water and a toilet are on site. A swimming area is also on site to enjoy after a warm day of birding. Showers and full service bathrooms can be accessed 1½ miles away in the main campground. Anyone not enamored with or unable to stay in the group camp site can make reservations in the main campground or stay at a motel in the Winthrop area.

Of course the primary focus of the campout is birds. Field trips, led by leaders familiar with the area, will be scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. Campers are free to roam on their own on Thursday and Friday. There will be plenty of time for lounging and enjoying the sunny and clear weather and for visiting. In past years a number of people have brought their musical instruments and we have had a sing-along each evening. Cost is \$10/night for each party.

Reservations are required. If you want to make a reservation or if you have any questions please email or call Steven Harper at stevenharper2@msn.com and 360-650-9065.

5 DAYS

Copy Source
Imagination • Creation • Print Solutions

OF SAVINGS

MONDAY	LAMINATION	• \$2.99 per running foot on 24" wide
TUESDAY	ENGINEERING COPIES	• \$1.79 Each up to 24" x 36" in B/W
WEDNESDAY	COLOR COPIES	• 49¢ Each side on 8.5"x11" text
THURSDAY	POSTERS/BANNERS	• 1/2 Off Printing
SATURDAY	CUSTOM T-SHIRTS	• One T-Shirt with image up to 8.5" x 11"

VISIT OUR STORE FOR FULL DETAILS • SOME RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY

www.CopySource.com
Sales@CopySource.com

360.738.1280
 1122 N. State Street • Bellingham, WA 98225

Red Light to Starboard: Recalling the Exxon Valdez Disaster

With author Angela Day

Thursday May 25, 2017; 6:30-8:30 pm
Bellingham Unitarian Church:
1207 Ellsworth St., Bellingham

Angela Day, PhD, will offer a book reading, presentation, and Q&A session on her book, *Red Light to Starboard: Recalling the Exxon Valdez Disaster*. This book documents a tragic event that stunned the world, discusses the disaster's environmental impacts, and recounts the regional and natural history of Prince William Sound. Day's book won the Western Writers of America 2015 Spur Award in the Best Western Contemporary Nonfiction category, and was a finalist in the annual Forward Reviews' INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards.

Angela Day lives in Snohomish, Washington, and is married to Bobby Day, a long-time fisherman from Prince William Sound. The book centers on his story and that of his family, whose history is deeply rooted in the region. Nearly 100 years ago, the Day family settled on the edge of Valdez Bay where they carved out a small town, salmon cannery, and sawmill from remains of an old army fort. Based on a wealth of family history and first-hand experiences, the book offers a deeply personal account of the oil spill's impacts on individual lives and local communities.

This topic is keenly relevant to our community. "I hope to provide some insights about what the past can teach us about the future," said Angela Day. "Whatcom County residents are faced with a potentially large increase in crude oil tanker traffic in the Salish Sea due to the proposed expansion of the Kinder Morgan Mountain pipeline project."

The Kinder Morgan project, terminating in Vancouver, will nearly triple capacity along an existing line from Edmonton, Alberta, to Burnaby, B.C., from about 300,000 barrels per day to about 890,000 barrels per day. "I especially look forward to having a discussion about lessons learned and how they apply to the risks in the Salish Sea today," Day said.

The presentation is co-sponsored by RE Sources for Sustainable Communities and the North Cascades Audubon Society. "We are really excited to host Angela's presentation here in Bellingham," said Lee First, North Sound Baykeeper with RE Sources for Sustainable Communities.

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities works to promote sustainable communities and protect the health of northwestern Washington's people and ecosystems through application of science, education, advocacy and action. North Cascades Audubon Society has represented the interests and importance of wildlife, habitat and the environment in Whatcom County since 1970.

For more information, please contact Lee First, North Sound Baykeeper at leef@re-sources.org.

NCAS Officer Nominations for 2016-2017

It is customary for NCAS to conduct its annual election of officers at the May Membership Meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the meeting if there are others interested in running. The slate of officers being presented by the Board of Directors is:

Pam Borso	President
Paul Woodcock	Vice President
Steven Harper	Secretary
Sue Parrott	Treasurer

Please be there to vote!

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



May Field Trips *Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair*

Spring is getting into full swing in the month of May. Rufous hummingbirds have returned along with swallows, and the melodies of songbirds have become evident. Toward the end of the month nesting will begin, and bird finding will become easier as numbers and vocalizations increase. So join us on our field trips and enjoy spring birding in the great Northwest.

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 helping everyone to focus in on the birds we encounter.

While the weather is greatly improved, it is still important to dress appropriately. There's nothing like being wet and uncomfortable to ruin an otherwise great day of birding. And depending on the venue, you may want to include insect repellent!

Wednesday, May 3, South Whatcom County

Time: 8 AM – 1 PM

Trip Leader: Steven Harper

Trip Limit: 12

To register: Contact Steven Harper, stevenharper2@msn.com or 360-650-9065

This trip will focus on Whatcom Land Trust and Whatcom County public lands on the south end of Lake Whatcom and the headwaters of the Samish River. Spring migrants will be passing through and the local birds will be singing up a storm. We will focus not only on observing and identifying the birds by sight, but also identifying birds by their songs. All levels of birders are welcome. Bring snacks, lunch and water.

Saturday, May 6, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock

No registration required

Spring is here and Semiahmoo Spit is a great place to go birding on, hopefully, a nice sunny morning. The trip covers all of the spit and is co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation. This popular trip is great for all levels of birders.

Wednesday, May 10, Birdwatching on the Nooksack – Centennial Riverwalk Park in Ferndale

Time: 10 AM

Free! No Registration Required.

Strap on your walking shoes and discover some of the incredible birds and plants along the Nooksack River. The walking tour will be led by the North Cascades Audubon Society, and will begin at the Centennial Riverwalk Park, located across the street from the Ferndale Senior Center. The walk will last about an hour and cover under a mile, although participants are welcome to go as far as they feel comfortable. Bring your own binoculars.

This is part of City of Ferndale's "Summer of Fun", a series of recreational activities in Ferndale Parks. For more information, check out www.cityofferndale.org/parks.

Saturday, June 3, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock

No registration required

Come join us for some early summer birding at a great location. The trip covers all of the spit and is co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation. This is a great trip for beginning as well as experienced birders.

Summer Outings

Paul Woodcock's monthly trip to Semiahmoo occurs on the 1st Saturday of each month. Meet at 9am.

July 1, August 5, and September 2

Audubon at the Museum

On the 4th Sundays from 2-4 pm over the summer -
May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27

HENDERSON BOOKS

734-6855

Cash Paid for Books

Bellingham's Largest Used Book Store

Used - Rare - Recent Titles

35 Years Book Buying Experience Shows in Our
Quality Stock and the Prices We Pay

116 Grand Downtown Bellingham



Saturday, May 20, Birds & Brews

Time: 2 PM at Stones Throw Brewery, Fairhaven

Trip Leaders: Nicole and Jamie Huson

No registration required

This is the first time NCAS is offering this unique field trip, and birders of all levels of experience are welcome. We will start from Stones Throw Brewery at 1009 Larabee Ave. in Fairhaven and spend about 1 ½ hours along Padden Creek. At the end of the walk we will enjoy some local brew and “bird talk.” Please join us for what we hope will be just the first of many Birds & Brews field trips.

Come Visit North Cascades Audubon at the Bellingham Farmer’s Market

NCAS wants to increase the public’s awareness that global warming and climate change put birds at risk. Our Bird and Climate Change Action Group has organized a display for tabling at the Bellingham Farmer’s Market on the third Saturday of the month in May, June, and July, and possibly through September. Come visit us! For more information visit our website, or contact Sue Parrott at 650-9065 or parrottdv@yahoo.com, or Pam Borso at 319-9004 or borsope@aol.com.

Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest

Friday, May 12 – Sunday, May 14

Near Ellensburg

Kittitas Environmental Education Network (KEEN) is hosting a new birding festival this year- the Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest. Events include guided field trips, workshops (photography, birding by ear, bird illustration), family-oriented activities, a kids’ day camp, keynote speaker Paul Bannick (on owls), a banquet at Red’s Yakima River Canyon Resort, an owl prowl, self-guided field trips (maps provided), and more! You can get all the information on the website:

www.ycic.org/yakima-river-canyon-bird-fest

Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds, Washington

September 15-17

Mark your calendars for the return of a beloved fall tradition for nature lovers throughout the Northwest- the 13th annual Puget Sound Bird Fest. Acclaimed as one of the Seattle area’s best events on www.events12.com, this festival celebrates birds and nature on the beautiful shores of Puget Sound with speakers, guided walks and field trips, Puget Sound boat tours, exhibits, and educational activities for children and adults.

For more information and details - including details on the 2017 Puget Sound Bird Fest Poster Art Contest - visit the festival website at:

www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org

VILLAGE BOOKS AND PAPER DREAMS

IN HISTORIC FAIRHAVEN & DOWNTOWN LYNDEN

Building Community Since 1980

villagebooks.com • 360.671.2626 • Open Daily • Free Events!

Every time you click through from Audubon’s website to Village Books’ website and buy books, Audubon gets 5.5% of the purchase!

North Cascades Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

April 3, 2017, 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Pam Borso, Paul Woodcock, Kelley Palmer-McGee, Steve Irving, Judy Kreiger, Steven Harper, Sue Parrott, Jamie Huson, Nicole Huson, Chris Brewer, Twink Coffman, and Ken Salzman

1. Additions to Agenda- Added below.

2. Approval of March Minutes – Approved by the board.

3. Treasurer's Report- Sue explained the report and it was accepted by the board. Benevity (the administrator for the companies that are matching donations for our members) made a pitch for Apple Pay and Jamie will investigate to see if it has value to NCAS for use as a payment option and whether it will work on our website.

4. Communications & Input

Newsletter – Kelley asked everyone about items they intend to submit for the next newsletter. She reminded everyone that the info needs to be submitted by April 15.

Wings Over Water Event update- Because of the rain it seemed that attendance was lower than in the past at many of the events although Chris had lots of people at her presentation. We will await more information.

Carol Roberts has resigned from the board and has appreciated all of the experience and interactions through the years on the board. We appreciate all of her assistance as a host for the meetings and the holiday party as well as other contributions.

Mature trees letter to City of Bellingham update – Rae finished the letter and it was sent to all of the people at the City that were recommended by Rae and the rest of the board.

Museum update: Audubon will be at the Museum from 2-4pm on the 4th Sundays in May – August. Pam is looking for volunteers for May 28, June 25 (Paul), July 23(Sue and Steven), and Aug 27.

Washington Ornithological Society (WOS) annual conference update- Ken is still looking for a few field trip leaders for this event to be held at Semiahmoo, Sept 21-25.

Google Doc update – Jamie has submitted information to Google to see what they can offer for a cloud storage system for all of Audubon's documents. She is waiting to hear back.

April 29 - Backyard Habitat and Native Flora Fair at Village Green – Sue, Steven, Judy, Paul and Chris have volunteered to attend this event.

Climate Group update- Sue has found volunteers to be at the Farmer's Market for every shift this spring (April 15 and May 20). Stands, displays and materials have been developed for the tabling.

Background Checks Account Application – Pam is waiting to hear from the Washington State Patrol (WSP).

Waiver liability form – There were concerns by Ken about using these forms since he feels it is duplicating the intent of our liability insurance coverage and would be difficult to manage. After discussion, the board agreed to try using the forms to see how they work.

New meeting room needed for board meetings – WECU will be converting the Education Center into offices in April so we will be having meetings in the old Baskin Robbins building through June. The board decided to use the Unitarian Fellowship Hall as our new meeting space beginning sometime after June.

The Audubon NW meeting is June 17. A lot of people would like to attend and Pam is looking into possibly having the date changed to accommodate higher attendance from our board.

We will be co-sponsoring a presentation, along with RE Sources, on May 25 at 6:30 pm at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall. The presentation and reading is by Angela Day author of the book Redlight to Starboard: Recalling the Exxon Valdez Disaster.

Whatcom Land Trust survey update – Steven gave an update on the meeting he and Paul had last week with WLT's Rich Bowers and Eric Carabba. WLT is very pleased with the survey work to date. They would like to expand coverage on some of the properties that are in areas where expanded purchases or conservation easement activity may occur. We discussed prioritizing the areas depending on the ability to recruit surveyors and possible grant funding in the future (especially from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology) to facilitate our efforts.

5. Old Business

Swan taxidermy update – Paul has not talked to the taxidermist lately but noted that we will need a plaque to go along with the swan in the display. Paul will coordinate this and wants everyone to think about what we should inscribe on the plaque.

Membership software – Jamie will keep investigating this but did not work on this during the past month.

Scholarship for WCC Community Ed Birding classes – Ken talked to WCC and they agreed to put the blurb regarding the scholarship in their catalog for the fall quarter. Nicole will develop the application form and bring it to the board. Nicole will be also be the lead person deciding on potential scholarships for the eligible class members.

City of Ferndale bird walk May 10 – Pam is looking for volunteers to help lead a bird walk. Paul agreed to assist. Judy is a possibility as well.

... continued on page 7 ...

Whatcom Land Trust Bird Survey Summary for 2015 and 2016

Project Description

Bird surveys were initiated in 2015 on twelve Whatcom Land Trust (WLT) properties and three Whatcom County Parks & Recreation (WCPR) properties with conservation easements held by WLT. The WLT properties included Bottiger's Pond, California Creek, Catalyst, Edfro Creek Preserve, Ladies of the Lake, Maple Creek Reach, North Fork Eagle, Port Blakely, Riverstead, Samish River Headwaters, Fenton Tract, and Kelsey. The WCPR properties included Squires Lake Park, Lily Point Marine Park, and Point Whitehorn Marine Reserve.

North Cascades Audubon Society (NCAS) recruited 20 birders to work in pairs, surveying their assigned properties three times a year: during spring migration (early May), breeding season (June), and fall migration (September). Surveys were continued in 2016 and will likely continue in 2017 and into the foreseeable future. These surveys will give WLT and NCAS baseline data on bird species and numbers, enabling us to track changes over time and to identify properties with species of significant concern or importance. The data may also support future grant requests and guide decisions about habitat enhancement, especially if critical species are found.

Results

In 2015 a total of 116 species of birds were observed on the properties surveyed, with 128 species in 2016. 104 species were observed in both 2015 and 2016, 12 species were observed only in 2015, and 16 species only in 2016. The largest number of species and greatest diversity were found at Ladies of the Lake, Riverstead, Samish River Headwaters, Catalyst, Lily Point, and California Creek (see accompanying table). All of these properties have a number of features favorable to birds, including wetlands, expanses of water, flowing water, forests, and openings such as fields.

Given that the survey is only two years old, it's difficult to describe any trends or to point to specific species or properties that deserve special attention. However, a good start would be to look more closely at those properties with the largest number of species and greatest diversity. Another year's results should allow WLT and NCAS to better understand the data.

For a list of all bird species seen at each of the surveyed sites, go to our website:
www.northcascadesaudubon.org/whatcom-land-trust-bird-survey-summary-2017

... continued from page 6 ...

6. New Business

Go Solar – Pam described a contact with someone working on a campaign to pass a solar resolution at the Bellingham City Council. She asked them to send us more information regarding the role we might play.

Summer board meetings – We will not be having a June board meeting and may skip July as well if we don't have any urgent business to attend to.

7. Committee Reports as needed

Education Committee

Birds & Brews – The Audubon sponsored event will be Saturday, May 20 with Jamie and Nicole coordinating. Others are invited to participate. Board members were asked to help distribute the great posters that were designed and produced for the event.

Scudder Pond walk April 7 at 9:30 am – Everyone is welcome to help out. Chris has put a great deal of effort into planning the event. People coming to the walk will be divided up into groups depending on skill level and age.

The committee is looking at two autumn activities to be held in rural Whatcom County. Chris has contacted Wild Whatcom and the Whatcom County Library System regarding programs in the future.

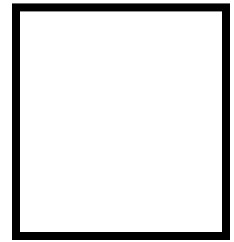
Nominating Committee – Nicole will be the nomination committee. Nominations must be in the May newsletter.

8. Programs

April 25-	Jonathan White:	Tides: Science and Spirit of the Ocean
May 23-	Kathleen Bander:	It's a Bird, It's a Plane, No It's a Bat
May 25-	Angela Day:	Red Light to Starboard
Oct. 24-	Ed Diehl:	Coopers Hawk Study in Seattle

9. Adjourn - Next Meeting, May 1, 2017, Unitarian Fellowship Conference Hall, Bellingham, WA

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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
- I'd like to go paperless. (include email below)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____