

# The Avalanche



North Cascades Audubon Society Newsletter

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

Volume 49, Issue 2

February 2018

## General Membership Meeting with Dick McNeely Birding Adventures with Videos

Join Dick McNeely for a wonderful and insightful program on how video observations can give us insight into the complex world of birds. Habitats, competition between birds, migration, survival in adverse conditions and attracting birds to feeders are areas explored in videos taken during countless hours observing the bird life of Whatcom and Skagit Counties. Dick will place special emphasis on the importance of involving youth in different types of learning experiences; something he has learned during his 30 years as an Educator for the Burlington-Edison School District.

Dick's background includes a B.A. Ed. from Western Washington University and a M.A. Ed. (Creative Learning) from Lesley University. Dick taught for 17 years in the ACTS PROGRAM (Active, Creative, Talented Students) during his time with the Burlington-Edison School District. Classes were held after school and included weekend field trips throughout Skagit County, Whatcom County, and British Columbia. Students learned about bird identification, habitats, survival, daily observations, storytelling, art and presentation skills. They developed their own individual projects to use across the curriculum and to share with parents and community members at a special ACTS Program Presentations Event.

Dick's birding experience began in Pennsylvania at age 9. Observing and photographing birds has been a major part of his life ever since. Being able to share this rewarding experience with others is a special joy. He has been involved with Audubon as a volunteer and CBC leader for over 40 years and has participated in Breeding Bird Surveys. Dick has also led tours for ELDERHOSTEL, Wings Over Water, and whale boat tours and has been active in efforts to preserve salmon. His photos of birds have been used in bird guides and on a book cover.

*Always on the 4th Tuesday of the month:*

**February 27th, 7pm**

Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room

*free & open to the public!*

### In this issue...

Topic	Page
Volunteer Opportunities	2
Garlick's Trumpeter Swan on Display	3
"Native Plants and Birds" in Libraries	3
2018 Wings Over Water Festival Dates	3
February Field Trips	4, 5
"Birding in the Pacific Northwest" Class	5
2017 NCAS Accomplishments	6
2017 NCAS Revenue and Expenses	7

## 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 March 2018 issue is...

**February 15.**

Send materials to:

[content@northcascadesaudubon.org](mailto:content@northcascadesaudubon.org)

## NCAS Board Members

### Officers

President	Pam Borso	360-319-9004
Vice Pres.	Paul Woodcock	360-966-6549
Secretary	Steven Harper	360-650-9065
Treasurer	Sue Parrott	360-650-9065

### Board Members

Education	Chris Brewer	336-207-7505
Field Trips	Ken Salzman	360-756-0347
Membership	Owen Bamford	360-393-3481
Newsletter	Kelley Palmer-McGee	360-466-8601
Conservation	Steve Irving	360-384-1618
Archives	Judy Krieger	
Programs	Steven Harper	360-650-9065
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](mailto:president@northcascadesaudubon.org)*

## Volunteer Opportunities

*Find new, fun ways to get involved with NCAS.*

### Publicity Chair Volunteer Position

Want to help North Cascades Audubon for about two to three hours per month? We're looking for someone interested in posting our events and programs in newspapers, magazines, social media and other public media (radio and TV) as our Publicity Chair. Please contact Pam Borso at [borsope@aol.com](mailto:borsope@aol.com) or 360-319-9004.

### Volunteer Coordinator Position

As North Cascades Audubon Society grows, so do our outreach opportunities in the community. This role is being created for individuals who want to help organize our volunteer base and create a rewarding volunteer experience for our members. The responsibilities of a volunteer coordinator will be any of the following:

- Communicate in person, over the phone or through email to volunteers
- Coordinate volunteers for events
- Manage rewards for outstanding volunteers
- Help to increase volunteerism throughout membership

We are looking forward to all the new and exciting events this coming year.

For more information about this role please contact Nicole Huson by emailing her at [scholarships@northcascadesaudubon.org](mailto:scholarships@northcascadesaudubon.org), or speak to her in person at our next membership meeting.

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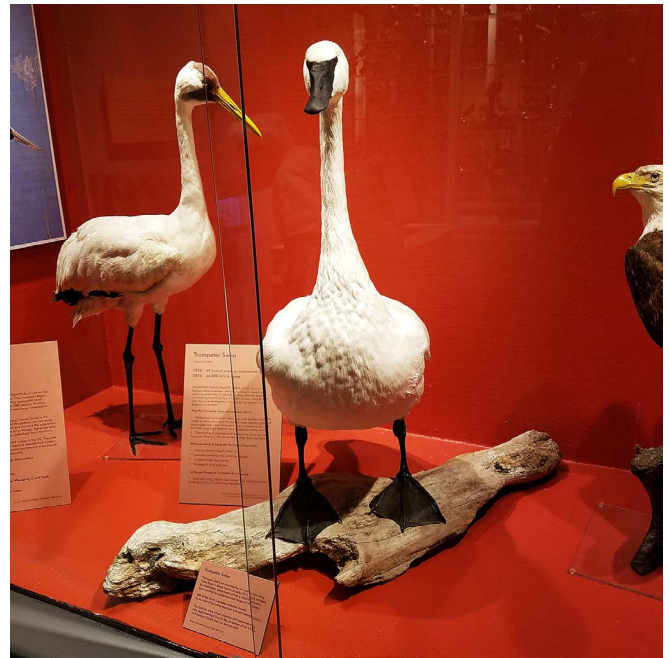
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## Trumpeter Swan Now on Display at the Whatcom Museum

The Lois and George Garlick memorial trumpeter swan has finally landed at the Whatcom Museum! It can be found in the Edson collection in the “Successes” exhibit in the Old City Hall building. Just as the trumpeter swan has made a successful comeback from 69 known in 1925 to 46,000 known in 2010, Lois and George Garlick made our local Audubon chapter successful. They worked tirelessly on local conservation issues, including wildlife protection and habitat restoration. North Cascades Audubon is pleased to be able to dedicate this trumpeter swan to their work and memory.

*Thank you to all our generous donors.*



## “Native Plants and Birds” Coming to Your Local Libraries!

### Saturdays

**Blaine:** March 3 at 2 pm

**South Whatcom:** March 10 at 2 pm

**Ferndale:** March 24 at 2 pm

**Deming:** April 14 at 3pm

Discover the benefits of native plants in your yard for birds, bees, bugs and beauty! North Cascades Audubon Society will share how and why growing native plants will improve your backyard habitat. You'll pick up great gardening ideas your birds will love and plenty of materials to get you started.

## 2018 Wings Over Water Northwest Birding Festival

*Friday - Sunday, March 16-18*

The 16th Annual Wings Over Water (WOW) Festival celebrates the incredible variety of migratory birds that flock to the coastal waters of Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay and Semiahmoo Bay. Designated as an Important Birding Area (IBA) on the Pacific Flyway, this area is one of the country's premier bird viewing areas where you can observe a large variety of birds close at hand. Activities at the festival include wildlife field trips, bird observation stations, speakers, workshops, kids' activities, and wildlife cruises.

Be sure to check [wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com](http://wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com) as the festival time approaches for more details. As this article went to print, the website was being updated.

**CAUTION:** Bird feeding makes you happy!

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

108 Ohio Street  
Bellingham  
360-734-0969

[WildBirdChalet.com](http://WildBirdChalet.com)



## February Field Trips *Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair*

The mild winter has made birding more comfortable, and the birding in the Pacific Northwest has been as good as ever. This month's field trips include Reifel Bird Sanctuary in British Columbia as well as our regular trip to Semiahmoo. All these venues have produced great birds in the past.

Our field trips are open to everyone regardless of membership in NCAS. Our goal is to provide a quality experience that provides 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. So join us for the fun.

Please remember to dress warmly and wear appropriate footwear. There's nothing like being cold and uncomfortable to ruin an otherwise great day of birding.

### Thursday, February 1 Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, British Columbia

**Time:** 8:30 AM at the Ferndale Park & Ride (car-pool). Return time to Ferndale approximately 4 PM

**Trip Leaders:** Jane and John Aspnes

**Pre-registration required**

(trip is limited to 15 participants)

To register contact Jane or John at 360-303-2675 or [jdaspnes@alaska.edu](mailto:jdaspnes@alaska.edu)

February is a good time for hawks, eagles, owls, sparrows, woodpeckers and extensive waterfowl at George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Three 4-passenger vehicles will be needed, in addition to Jane and John's. The gate fee at Reifel is \$5 adults/\$3 seniors. Bring a sack lunch. There is a nice warming cabin where everyone can eat lunch. A passport, NEXUS card or enhanced driver's license is required for the border crossing. Let Jane or John know if you have a NEXUS card. They would like all their passengers to have NEXUS cards if possible.

### Saturday, February 3, Semiahmoo

**Time:** 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

**Trip Leader:** Lynne Givler

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. This time of the year, Semiahmoo Spit is one of the best places to bird in all of Whatcom County.

### Thursday, February 15 Skagit Flats and Samish Flats

**Time:** 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

**Trip Leader:** Steven Harper

**Pre-registration required**

(trip is limited to 11 participants)

To register contact Steven Harper at 360-650-9065 or [stevenharper2@msn.com](mailto:stevenharper2@msn.com)

This all-day field trip will be spent searching the Samish Flats and Skagit Flats for raptors, waterfowl, and any other interesting birds that happen to be around. The trip will begin and end at the Alger Park & Ride, I5, Exit 240. We will carpool in 3 cars while we search for birds. Bring water, hot beverages, snacks and lunch to eat on the run. If we have time we'll stop at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center for a break and to warm up. Some walking is involved so wear shoes that are suitable for damp conditions. Dress to keep dry and warm and bring binoculars and a spotting scope if you happen to have one. We'll see trumpeter swans, snow geese, bald eagles, rough-legged hawks, northern harriers, red-tailed hawks, and American kestrels, and will search for other less common raptors such as short-eared owls and merlins.

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**Thursday, February 22**  
**Lake Padden, Fairhaven Park, and**  
**Padden and Chuckanut Creek Lagoons**

**Time:** 8:30 - 11:30 AM

**Trip Leader:** Bob Myhr

To register contact Bob at [romyhr@comcast.net](mailto:romyhr@comcast.net) or 360-933-4352

We'll meet at Fairhaven Park and carpool to the other sites looking for ducks, woodpeckers, and other local winter resident species. Come prepared for the weather. Everyone welcome.

**Saturday, February 24, Lake Padden**

**Time:** 9AM - Noon

**Trip Leader:** Ken Salzman

To register contact Ken at 360-756-0347 or [kpsalzman@comcast.net](mailto:kpsalzman@comcast.net)

Winter at Lake Padden is especially good for waterfowl. Some of the typical ducks to be found are American wigeon, canvasback, scaup, ruddy duck and bufflehead. In the past two years we have also had Eurasian wigeon. Passerine species will also be present. This is an easy walk and a great trip for beginners. Bring a scope if you have one.



**Scholarships Available for**  
**Ken Salzman's Class "Birding in the**  
**Pacific Northwest" at Whatcom**  
**Community College**

The North Cascades Audubon Society is offering three scholarships for Whatcom Community College's community education class "Birding in the Pacific Northwest". The scholarship will cover half of the tuition cost. Students will need to pay the tuition upfront to WCC, reimbursements will be distributed after the class has been completed. To apply for this scholarship please contact Nicole Huson, NCAS scholarship chair, by emailing [scholarships@north-cascadesaudubon.org](mailto:scholarships@north-cascadesaudubon.org)

**Birding in the Pacific Northwest**

Thursdays, February 8, 15 and 22

6 -9 PM at WCC's Cascade Hall 105

Saturday, February 24

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM at Semiahmoo Spit

Discover the joys of birdwatching with local expert Ken Salzman! We'll cover birding basics, including choosing and using birding equipment and tips for identifying birds in the field. The final session on Saturday, February 24 will be a trip to Semiahmoo Spit- an internationally recognized birding area with an abundance of seabirds. If you have binoculars or a field guide, bring them to class.

To register and for more information visit:  
<https://register.whatcomcommunityed.com/CourseStatus.awp?&course=18W8075020AA>

*Left: rock wren at Birch Bay State Park, photo by Andrew Reding*


## 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](mailto:kpsalzman@comcast.net).



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## 2017 North Cascades Audubon Society Accomplishments

*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.*

Consistent with the mission statement, the North Cascades Audubon Society accomplished the following in 2017:

### To promote the study and conservation of birds and other wildlife:

- In collaboration with RE Sources and the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Citizens, NCAS conducted the Cherry Point Bird Survey. Approximately 20 citizen scientists/birders conducted eight bird surveys in three locations in the Reserve. Data is compiled in accordance with the MESA Study protocol.
- Co-sponsored with RE Sources a special program: Recalling the Exxon Valdez Disaster.
- In partnership with the Whatcom Land Trust, 23 citizen scientists/birders conducted bird surveys on 12 select Whatcom Land Trust properties. Bird surveys were conducted in May, June and September.
- Coordinated all aspects of the annual Whatcom County Christmas Bird Count, involving over 70 volunteer citizen scientists.
- Provided four scholarships to WWU students engaged in research relevant to conservation of birds and their habitat.
- Developed and presented an educational and conservation oriented program at Deming, Ferndale and South Whatcom Libraries on "Winter Birds of Whatcom County."

### To increase public appreciation of the values of wildlife, plants and the natural environment:

- Hosted eight educational programs for the public at the monthly NCAS meetings.
- Partnered with the Whatcom Museum to provide information in assembling the John Edson Bird exhibit and also provided a presence at the Edson Bird exhibit the last Sunday of each month, April through December.
- Hosted the Family Bird Walk.
- Co-sponsored Wings Over Water in Blaine and Birch Bay.
- Organized 28 field trips for the public to identify birds in Whatcom and Skagit Counties.
- Publicized and organized the new Birds & Brew field trip.
- Hosted the annual campout (with birding field trips) attended by 26 people at Pearrygin Lake State Park.
- Built and distributed swallow and chickadee nest boxes.
- Participated in the Backyard Habitat and Native Flora Fair.
- Participated in outreach tabling at the Bellingham Farmer's Market once a month, May through September.
- Presented to various community groups including Adult Day Health, Lynden Senior Center, Summit Place Senior Living, and Sue Taylor's Green Gardening class.
- Hosted bird walks at Birch Bay State Park.
- Wrote three articles for the Bellingham Herald.
- Accomplished our goal in the fundraising effort for the George and Lois Garlick Memorial. The raised money was used to mount and install a taxidermy trumpeter swan in the Whatcom Museum Edson Bird Exhibit in the Garlick's name.
- Organized and hosted the first annual Family Holiday Bird Count.

### To stimulate action to protect and preserve birds and wildlife for the future:

- Paul Woodcock represented NCAS on the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Board.
- Pam Borso represented NCAS on the local Environmental Caucus Working Group.
- Joined with local chapters, WA State Audubon, and National Audubon in submitting comments on issues related to public policy implications for birds and their habitat. Actions included: letter to legislature opposing fix to Hirst decision; press release to oppose Port of Bellingham's Raw Log Export Lease; signed "Together for Birds" with 300 other conservation organizations; comment letter favoring protection of the Fraser River and Estuary; comment letter on marbled murrelet long term conservation strategy; letter supporting restoration of grizzly bears in the North Cascades; letter to the City of Bellingham urging retention of mature trees in the city; letter opposing the expansion of the Twin Sisters Swen Larson Quarry; letters supporting the Mt. Baker District, the Skykomish Ranger District and the Darrington Ranger District Emergency Road Repairs; letter supporting the Mountain Goat Translocation Management Plan; letter supporting the development of an EIS evaluating imidacloprid pesticide use in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor; letter opposing Tesoro's Shoreline Substantial Development Permit; and letter of concern on the Excelsior Mine redevelopment proposal, urging minimal impact to natural resources.

***Check out the January NCAS annual budget board meeting minutes online.***

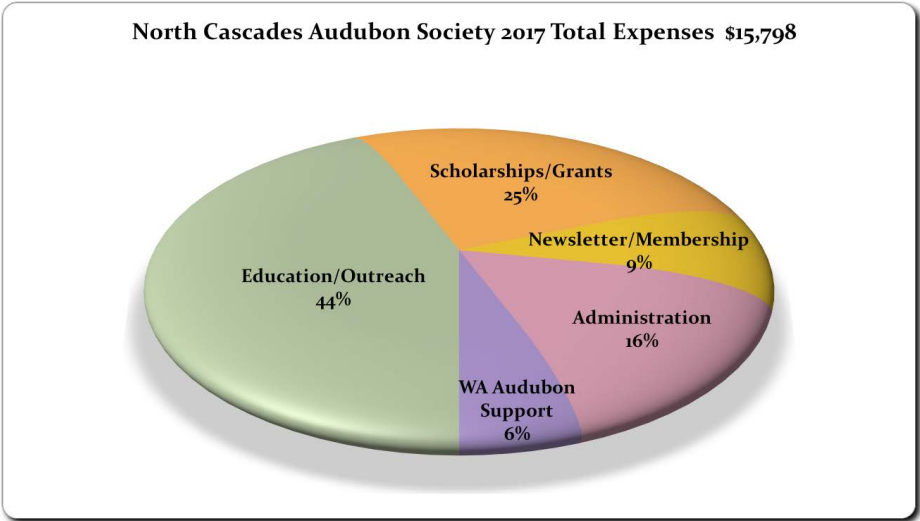
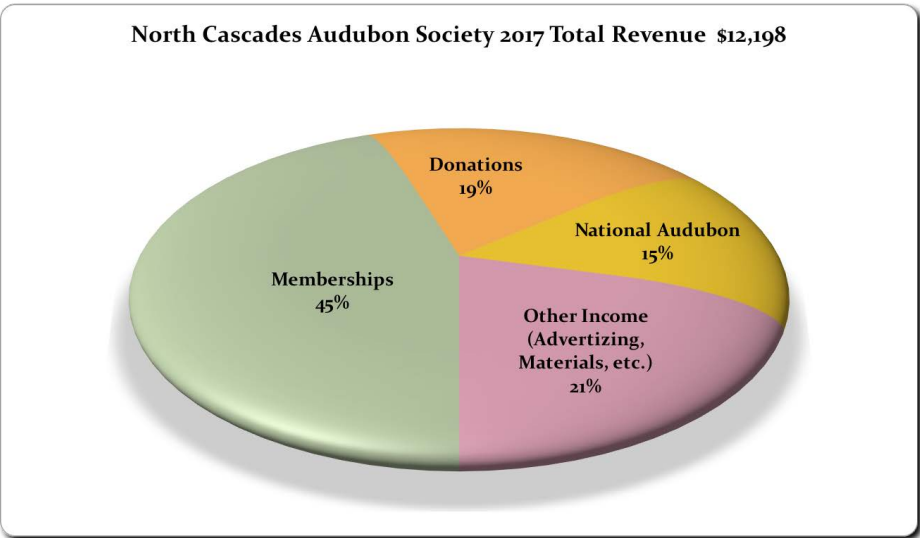
# NCAS 2017 Revenue and Expenses Summary

The pie charts below illustrate how our chapter generated \$12,198 in revenue in 2017 and how we spent \$15,798. NCAS has adequate reserves to cover the gap between expenditures and revenue.

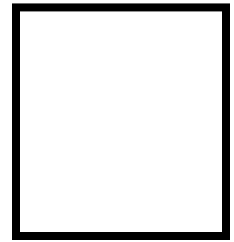
As you can see, memberships provided the most significant source of revenue. Donations included contributions made above the cost of membership, and funds raised through the sale of nest boxes and printed material. Other income was generated from advertising, and campout and program registration fees. Each year National Audubon provides income to each Audubon chapter throughout the country.

On the expenses side, education / outreach included stipends to speakers, Christmas Bird Count costs, and materials to support outreach activities. Scholarships / grants were provided to students at Western Washington University and to four local non-profit organizations whose missions are consistent with NCAS and whose work focuses on protection of birds. Administrative costs included website development and fees, liability insurance, post office box rental, and other board and meeting expenses. Newsletter / membership included printing and mailing costs. WA Audubon Support is an annual contribution we make to the Washington State Audubon Chapter Conservation Manager, a position that supports all the local state chapters.

*If you have any questions about the budget, please don't hesitate to contact Pam Borso, President, or Sue Parrott, Treasurer.*



**North Cascades Audubon Society**  
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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](mailto: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](mailto: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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