



Black Hills Audubon Society

Olympia, Washington

<http://www.blackhills-audubon.org>

Volume 2011,
Number 1

January/February 2011

Annual Dinner and Auction March 5, 2011

The BHAS Board of Directors is excited about our upcoming Annual Dinner and Auction. Your invitation should reach you in early February.

We are very pleased to announce that Dennis Paulson will be our featured speaker. He will be sharing with us his renowned expertise on the subject of Dragonflies, with a presentation entitled "Dragonflies: Rainbows on the Wing".

Dennis is truly a star naturalist, doubling as both a birding and dragonfly expert with many books and articles to his credit. His knowledge of dragonflies has made him the authority in this field in the Pacific Northwest. He has provided common names for half of all Washington species and has described 50 new

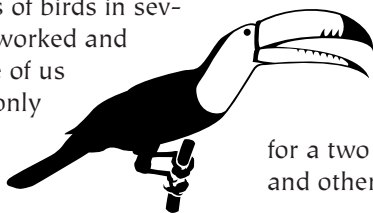
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Thursday, Jan. 20th, 7-9 pm Birds of Iraq

Matt Pike was deployed with the US Army in Iraq for two tours, 2003-4 and 2006-7. Matt was able to photograph more than 180 species of birds in several types of habitats in which he worked and in which these birds live. For those of us who picture Iraq as bird-less and only desert, please join us and become enlightened! 🦋



Thursday, Feb 17th, 7-9 pm Critters of Costa Rica

Costa Rica has a wide variety of habitats. As a result, Costa Rica has an unbelievable diversity of species with not only dragonflies and damselflies, but also birds, butterflies, moths, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

In August 2010, Valerie Elliott signed up for a two week trip to Costa Rica for dragonflies and other wildlife lead by Dennis Paulson and Dave

Continued on page 2

*These Monthly Program meetings will be held at the Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 W. 21st St, in Olympia. Social hour is at 7pm, with programs beginning promptly at 7:30 pm. BHAS membership meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month (exceptions: no March, July, or August meetings). **Driving directions from Olympia:** From I-5, take exit 105 following the "State Capitol/City Center" route. Go straight, through the tunnel. At the light (Capitol Way) turn left (south). After 7 blocks, turn right onto 21st St. The Museum is two blocks down on the left. The Coach House meeting room and parking are south of and behind the Museum.*

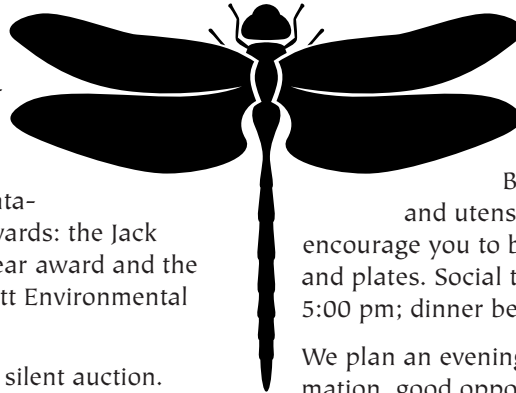
Annual Dinner

from first page

species worldwide. He houses 60,000 collected odonates in his basement. He is currently Director Emeritus of the Slater Museum of Natural History in Tacoma. We are honored that he will be joining us.

Another important component of the evening will be the presentation of our two major annual awards: the Jack Davis Environmentalist of the Year award and the recently established Dave McNett Environmental Educator of the Year award.

It is also the night of our annual silent auction. This fun event is one of our major fundraisers. Items offered often include books, artwork, experiences, food, jewelry, and gift certificates from local merchants. This year we will be featuring a terrific



selection of birding and gardening books, generously donated by a downsizing supporter. If you have an item or experience that you'd like to donate, please see the information below on this page.

This annual dinner is a potluck event featuring the culinary talents of our members and their guests. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. While BHAS will provide paper plates and utensils, in order to reduce waste we encourage you to bring your own utensils, cups, and plates. Social time and auction perusal start at 5:00 pm; dinner begins about 5:45.

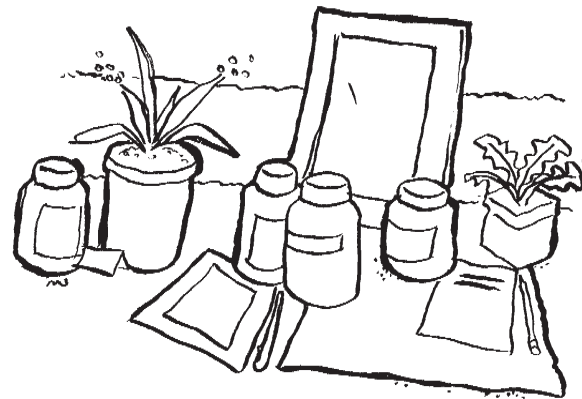
We plan an evening of good company, good information, good opportunities to socialize, and good food. We look forward to sharing this special evening with you. See you March 5th! 🦋

Bring Summer's Bounty to the Annual Dinner

Are you wondering what you might be able to donate to the Annual Dinner's Silent Auction on March 5th as a way to help raise funds for Black Hills Audubon's many worthy projects? Are you a gardener or foodie that put up some of summer's harvest: jams, jellies, preserves, pickles, relishes, salsas, chutneys, etc...?

Please consider this: put aside one or two of your favorites and donate it to our silent auction. We can put together baskets of a few different jars and add some variety to the auction offerings. As with all auction donations, we will need to know what you're bringing prior to March 5th. 🦋

Just a thought from Patt Brady.



BHAS Annual Dinner and Auction We Need Your Help

We are actively seeking donations for our annual silent auction, to be held on March 5th, 2011. The best items, from past experience, are field trips or unique experience items involving birding, wildlife, botany/gardening, boating or the loan of a vacation house. We also love to offer art, crafts, books and jewelry items with bird/wildlife/plant themes. A word of warning: art/photographic items valued above \$200 rarely produce bids worthy of the item.

If you have something to donate, please call or e-mail Margery Beeler (360-352-5437; mwampcat@aol.com) or Meagan Thorn (360-754-5557; mithorn@comcast.net). We must have advance notice of anything you plan to donate.

Also, if you can assist with setting up for the dinner (about 2 pm at the Olympia Center), help at the dinner, itself, or with cleanup, we would be deeply grateful. Please contact Margery or Meagan. 🦋

February program

from page 1

Smallshire. The tour began and ended in San José, proceeding to Villa Lapas and Carara National Park, on to Monteverde, Hacienda Solimar, Arenal, and La Selva. Despite the hot and extremely humid weather with some downpours, many species were observed. Valerie will present a relaxing program showing some of these species, hopefully set to music, with some information about the trip. 🦋

Backyard Bird Count

Join millions of bird watchers across North America to make your love of nature add up for science and for the future during the 14th annual Great Backyard Bird Count during “Presidents’ Day” weekend, February 18–21, 2011. Led by Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, anyone—expert or novice—can count birds from wherever they are and enter their tallies online at www.birdcount.org and see the results within minutes.

People of all ages and experience levels are invited to take part wherever they are—at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges. On the www.birdcount.org website, participants can compare results from their town or region with others, as checklists pour in from throughout the U.S. and Canada. In 2010, participants sent in over 97,000 checklists tallying 602 species and over 11 million individual birds.

These reports contribute valuable information for science and conservation while participants—families, teachers, children—enjoy nature and have fun. 🐦

Volunteers Wanted at JBLM

Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM, formerly Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base) is seeking volunteers to assist with the management of their purple martin and western bluebird nest box programs.

Work can be on McChord Field and/or Lewis-Main. Work would occur intermittently from approximately April through September. Work would entail installing nest boxes, monitoring nesting progress and submitting informal yearly reports. Bird banding is a possibility, if volunteer(s) is properly trained and permitted. Volunteer(s) would be welcome to attend appropriate species work group meetings. Volunteers would be required to use their own vehicles, but there is a possibility of mileage reimbursement for travel on base, if a grant is obtained.

Due to military security issues, only U.S. citizens or Nationals should apply. A background check is required. Having base access is a plus. Contact Valerie Elliott, Natural Resource Planner, JBLM, McChord Field, at 253-982-6216 or valerie.r.elliott@us.army.mil, for additional information and to apply. Please apply before 31 March 2011. 🐦

Environmental Lobby Day

Save the date: February 15, 2011 (Tuesday), for the biggest advocacy event of the year, empowering citizens to lobby for the environment!

Come to Olympia with the state’s leading conservation groups—including Audubon chapters around the state—and hundreds of citizen lobbyists to push for the passage of the Environmental Priorities Coalition’s legislative package:

- Coal Free Future for Washington
- Reducing Phosphorous Pollution
- The 2011 Clean Water Act
- Budget Solutions for Our Environment

Test your powers of persuasion as you meet face-to-face with all three of your state legislators. Receive detailed briefings on each priority and training on how to lobby from top environmental lobbyists. We’ll fuel your activism with a breakfast and lunch.

And don’t forget the wrap-up party in the evening with a special celebration of the 20th Anniversary of People For Puget Sound. 🐦

For more information and to register (\$15–\$20), go to <http://pugetsound.org/connect/events/021511LD/>.

Become a Sound Steward

by Patricia Pyle

Stream Team is bringing back the Sound Steward Naturalist Program. The program was started in 1997 and ran for 3 years, using volunteer educators to lead walks around downtown’s shoreline.

2011 is significant because it is the 100-year anniversary of the “big dig”: the harbor dredging that altered Budd Inlet in a dramatic way by making a deeper harbor and filling in Swantown Slough. Many dredgings would follow that altered the shoreline even more so that no freshwater streams enter lower Budd Inlet without going through a pipe or dam. Curious to learn more about Olympia’s historical land use, the state of our water quality, impacts of sea level rise, our shoreline habitats, and salmon recovery? Then sign up for Sound Stewards!

The basic training will cover Budd Inlet geology, estuary habitat, history, industry, land use, water quality, marine life, and how to lead a hike and talk using an outline script and props. Training will begin in March, 2011. Interested people are encouraged to contact Patricia Pyle at ppyle@ci.olympia.wa.us. 🐦

Birding in Earnest: October–November 2010

By Bill Shelmerdine

To reports sightings call 866-9106 or email at
georn1@hotmail.com

The weather for the period deteriorated around mid-October and I bailed for the warmer climates of the desert southwest. Those that stayed and ventured afield found storms and a few good birds. A strong November storm brought **Red Phalaropes** to the outer coast and a few to Puget Sound. To my knowledge, none were reported from the local reporting area of Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties. The affects of a more recent storm system beginning around November 20 are still being assessed.

On October 1, a morning visit to the Nisqually Refuge produced a good variety of birds with a nice mix of early and late migrants. A first of the year (FOY) **Short-eared Owl** and continuing **Great Egret** and **Green Heron** topped the list. Also on that day were many **American Pipits**, **Greater White-fronted Geese (30)**, and **Cackling Geese (280)**, a significant increase over the previous week). The mix of shorebirds included **Greater Yellowlegs (10+)**, **Long-Billed Dowitchers (20+)**; **Western (30)**, **Pectoral (3)**, and **Least Sandpipers (2)**; with **Killdeer** rounding out the shorebird diversity.

On 10/18 Bob Sundstrom found an adult **Northern Shrike** at his yard in Tenino.

Dave Hayden birded Riffe Lake in Lewis County with several good finds mid-month including among other things a **Clarks Grebe** in a flock of **Westerns**; **37 Greater White-fronted Geese**, and one **Snow Goose** on 10/19. Marve Breece and Steve Pink hit the same area on 10/21 and turned up a **Red-necked Grebe** and **Pacific Loon** among the birds noted above. On 10/30 Dave Hayden and Lonnie Sommers turned up a **Peregrine Falcon** at Riffe and a **White-throated Sparrow** at Mossyrock.

On 10/26, Shep Thorp located a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Nisqually.

By 10/31 there appeared a significant influx of **Rhinoceros Auklets** into South Sound Waters with 16 noted near Boston Harbor. It looks like it might be a big year for these guys on the South Sound, the highest number from this area noted so far included 90 on 11/21.

Back at Riffe Lake on 11/3, Dave Hayden noted a **Northern Pygmy Owl**, continuing **Red-necked Grebe**, and a turnover in the geese, with 12 **Greater White-fronted** and 2 **Cackling Geese**.

On 11/6 Keith Brady reported 40+ **Swans** on Capitol Lake “probably Tundras” and a first-of-season **White-Throated Sparrow** at his place in West Olympia. He also reported a first for his yard, a **Barred Owl**, around this same time.

Barred Owl reports for the period included the bird noted above by Keith, a bird photographed south of Olympia near the airport by Debbi Healy on 10/30, and bird noted near the Olympia Co-op around 11/7 (*fide*: W.J. Wittier).

A **Slate-colored Junco** was in West Olympia on 11/10. Also on that day, Phil Kelley reported continuing to see the **Great Egret** and **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Nisqually.

On 11/13, Bill Tweit reported a **Swamp Sparrow** and late **Tree Swallow** from Nisqually. It has been several years since our last report of Swamp Sparrow from this area.

Chum salmon, fishermen, and gull numbers have all increased at Perry Creek recently. On 11/19 there were an estimated 125 **gulls** there. Nearly all were **Glaucous-winged**, with a few hybrids. One **Herring Gull** was noted in the mix, a species that is never abundant here, but was absent from this location last year.

The **Great Egret** was last seen at Nisqually Refuge around 11/21, it apparently left just ahead of a large winter storm and cold front (the so-called “arctic blast”).

Phil Kelley reported the continuing **Short-eared Owl** at Nisqually on 11/24. Presumably the same bird found at the beginning of October (several reports through the period), it spends time both in the freshwater marsh and the saltmarsh restoration area.

By 11/25, **Cackling Geese** numbers had increased to an estimated 1500 to 2000. A single **Snow Goose** was with them, while the Greater White-fronted Geese had apparently moved on.

By mid-December and into January, Gull numbers here should swell to several hundred at Perry Creek, Kennedy Creek, and the mouth of the Skokomish where significant salmon runs provide good feeding opportunities. There is good species variety here as well; waterfowl to shorebirds capitalize on the spike in nutrients and feeding opportunities provided by the decaying salmon carcasses. This will also be a great time for checking valley bottoms and open pasture lands for a variety of species ranging from waterfowl, to raptors, gulls, and sparrows. 🦅




BHAS Calendar

January 2011

January 15th, Saturday, 9:00 am to noon. Field Trip: Downtown Ducks and Other Birds, too. Leader: Burt Guttman.

January 15th, 22nd, 29th, February 5th, 12th, from 9:00-11:00am, plus two field trips: Class: Beginning Birding with Dr. Scott Mills of BHAS.

Jan. 20th, Thursday, 7-9 pm, BHAS Monthly Program
Presentation: Birds of Iraq, by Matt Pike.

January 22nd, Saturday, 7am to about 6pm, Field Trip: Skagit River and Flats Field Trip for Youth and Adults.

January 29th, Saturday, 5:00 pm to mid evening, Annual Field Trip Leaders' Potluck Dinner (for current and prospective leaders of field trips).

February

February 3rd, Thursday (6-8 pm) evening class followed by field trip on Sunday, Feb. 6th—Birding Class: Gulls Need Love, Too.
Instructor: Matt Pike

February 5th, Saturday, 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure.
Field Trip: Samish and Skagit Flats. Leader: Scott Morrison

February 5th, Saturday, 8:30 am - about 12:30 pm, Field Trip: Nisqually NWR - End of Hunting Season; Leader: Phil Kelley

February 15th, Tuesday, Event: 2011 Environmental Lobby Day

Feb 17th, Thurs. 7-9 pm, BHAS Monthly Program Meeting
Presentation: Critters of Costa Rica, by Valerie Elliott

February 18-21, President's Day Weekend,
Event: Great Backyard Bird Count

February 26, Saturday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Field Trip: Hood Canal
Leader: Jim Pruske

March

March 5th, Saturday, Event: BHAS Annual Dinner and Silent Auction
5:00 pm: Social Time and Auction Perusal, 5:45 pm: Dinner Begins

Field Trip and Event Details

January 15th, 2011, 9:00 am to noon.

Field Trip: Downtown Ducks and Other Birds, too

Leader: Burt Guttman

Black Hills Audubon is lucky to have Burt, who has been leading wonderful downtown winter trips for several years. These trips are primarily targeted for beginning birders, as he teaches participants how to distinguish various types of water birds from one another. They are trips that are quite delightful for all birders, however.

They are a wonderful chance to explore the downtown Olympia waterfront areas with a wide variety of birds; mostly water birds, but passerines as well, along with the occasional raptor.

Burt is a master teacher, as he is a retired TESC professor and really enjoys introducing folks to the delights of bird watching and identification.

Meet at the Marathon Park parking lot at 9:00 am. Be prepared for very cold and very wet weather, although, of course, that may not be the case. Water birds are not at all bothered by the weather, so no matter what the weather Burt and the birds will be there! Registration not required!

January 22nd, Saturday, 7am to about 6pm

Special Field Trip: Skagit River and Flats Field Trip for Youth and Adults

On January 22nd, our chapter will be chartering a bus and venturing to the Skagit River valley to learn about and view the wintering populations of birds there: Tundra Swans, Trumpeter Swans, Snow Geese, various Raptors, and of course the Bald Eagles which congregate for the last salmon run of the season.

There is room for only 48 persons, half of whom we would like to be young people. The bus leaves at 7am and will return about 6pm. The cost for the day is \$25.00 for adults, youth are free. This is one of our many educational offerings and this one is offered below cost. We would like more youth to discover the thrill of seeing this unique congregation of birds in western Washington. If you wish more information please contact Deb Nickerson at debranick@gmail.com.

Pre-registration is required. Space is limited.

January 29th, 2011, Saturday, 5:00 pm to mid evening

Annual Field Trip Leaders Potluck Dinner (for current and prospective leaders of field trips)

Location: Kristin and Michael Stewart's house

If you think you might be interested in leading a nature field trip for BHAS, either for adults, teens, or children, you are invited to this potluck supper. Come meet current leaders and ask questions. Field trips can be about birds, butterflies, dragon flies, native plants or any other nature-related topic about which you are knowledgeable.

For more information, please contact Kristin Stewart at Kristinstewart01@comcast.net or 360-456-5098 or 360-402-1526.

**February 3rd, Thursday (6-8 pm)
Evening class followed by field trip on Sunday, Feb. 6th**

**Birding Class: Gulls Need Love, Too
Leader: Matt Pike**

Birding-basics instructor Matt Pike will teach a gull identification basics class geared toward beginning to sort out the treacherous montage of gull species present in western Washington each winter.

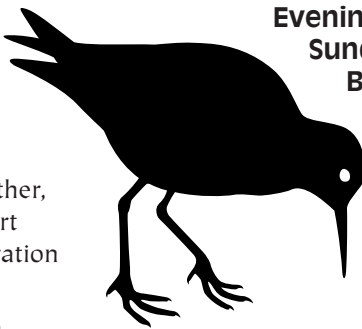
Classroom instruction focuses on learning gull molt cycle and its influence on gull appearance, the differences in molt cycles between gulls that mature at different ages, and the basics of Washington's regularly occurring gulls.

The field trip location is bird dependant, but could include locations as far west as the Westport Marina, as far north as the Cedar River mouth on Lake Washington, and any number of places in between. The field trip will focus on field application of the knowledge gained in the classroom, as well as some just plain fun birding. Contact Matt at hoodedcrow3b@yahoo.com for more information. Cost: \$15 to support the BHAS Education Committee.

February 5th, Saturday, 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure.

**Field Trip: Samish and Skagit Flats
Leader: Scott Morrison**

Western Washington Raptor Central is the nickname for these delta areas. It's a locality which often produces all five falcon species which regularly oc-



Continued on next page

Field Trips and Events

From previous age

cur in the state. There are also plenty of Bald Eagles in all plumages, Red-tailed Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared Owls, and Northern Harriers. Flocks of Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, Snow Geese, and numerous species of ducks are typical. Many rarities have been recorded in these areas, however the trip is focused on wintering raptors.

The trip is limited to three vehicles -12 to 14 people. Call Scott Morrison at (360) 412-1260 to reserve a place on the trip. Please indicate your willingness to drive. Vehicles must hold a minimum

Board the Bus Grants

Our chapter is dedicated to supporting environmental education opportunities whenever we can. To this end, we are offering four \$200 grants to teachers in Thurston, Mason or Lewis County for transportation assistance for a class trip to a local natural area for the purpose of study. Bus transportation can be a barrier to some who wish to take their youth outside the classroom. If you have a field trip that could use such a buoy, please write to us with the number of students you wish to accommodate, the place you are planning on going, what the intended outcomes of the trip would be and a bit about the academic background that has prepared students for such an experience. Please apply for this grant by sending the above information to Deb Nickerson, Education Committee Chair at debranick@gmail.com. 🐾

Beginning Birding Class with Dr. Scott Mills

Registration has begun for our winter beginning birding class taught by Scott Mills. This class provides an introduction to birding with an emphasis on developing your identification skills. There will be discussion on binoculars and field guide choices, and lectures and discussions on birding terminology, basic birding biology and classification. The course is designed primarily for beginning birders but mid-level birders will find it useful as well.

The instructor, Dr. Mills, is a professional biologist with nearly fifty years of birding experience throughout the United States and several foreign countries. He has taught a number of beginning and speciality birding classes as well as ornithology at the college level. In retirement, he remains very ac-

of four people and we will convoy to the beginning of the field trip in Skagit County. This is a very long day with quite a bit of driving. Meet at the Hawks Prairie Home Depot parking lot near the Cutter's Point coffee shop at 6:50 a.m. for a 7:00 departure.

February 5th, 2011, 8:30 am - about 12:30 pm Field Trip: Nisqually NWR - End of Hunting Season

Leader: Phil Kelley

Location: Nisqually NWR

Lots of ducks and geese on the refuge at this time of year, raptors, too. Meet at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge visitor center at 8:00 am. Figure about 4 hours. Bring food, water and dress for weather. Call Phil at 360-459-1499 for more information.

February 26, 2011, Saturday, 8:30 to 4:00

Field Trip: Hood Canal

Leader: Jim Pruske

We will visit estuaries along Hwy 101. The most productive is always that of the Hama-Hama. While the canal waterfront there is private, we will enter with permission. There we count on Harlequins, Brants, and all three scoters. By the end of the day we should have seen 15 species of ducks, other waterfowl, with luck Red Crossbills, and a few raptors.

We'll meet at 8:30 in Shelton at the Chevron station at Arcadia and Olympic Hwy So. Limit three vehicles, 12 persons. Sign up with Jim at (360) 459-3655. You may also join us at the picnic area of Potlatch State Park, provided you had signed up. The trip continues from the park at 9:30. Bring lunch, walking will not exceed one mile. 🐾

tive with bird surveys at sea on NOAA ships as well as a trip leader for the pelagic trips through Westport Seabirds.

When: Five consecutive Saturdays beginning on January 15th, 2011. There will be two field trips with dates to be determined.

Time: 9:00-11:00am.

Where: Nisqually Wildlife Refuge.

Cost: \$40 for non-members of Black Hills Audubon Society, \$30 for members.

Pre-registration is required for this class. For register or questions: contact Shelley Horn at shelleysmail@me.com, or 352-0075 before 9:00pm. 🐾

Black Hills Audubon Society Contacts

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Committee Chairs may also serve as Board Members.



* BHAS Board Member

Black Hills Audubon Society

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E-mail: 4info@blackhills-audubon.org

Black Hills Audubon Society is a non-profit organization. A member chapter of the National Audubon Society, it represents Audubon members in Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties.

Our goals are to maintain, restore and protect our ecosystems for future generations, and to promote environmental education and nature-based recreation.

Monthly program meetings are usually held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday evening of each month, September through June, at the Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 West 21st Street, in Olympia.

Board meetings are usually at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The site varies from month to month; please call the message phone number to inquire as to the location.

Phone and e-mail messages are welcome, but please remember that we are a volunteer-based organization, and it may take us a few days to get back to you.

The Echo is published bi-monthly. Editor: Deb Jaqua. Layout and design by Lee Miller. Graphics by Nature Icons/Ultimate Symbol unless otherwise identified. Titmouse above by Kirsten Munson.

Material for *The Echo* should be sent to PO Box 2524, Olympia, WA 98507, or e-mailed to Robin Shoal at rzshoal@comcast.net. The next *Echo* will be the March/April 2011 issue, the deadline for which is January 29th. 🐿

Black Hills Audubon Society (BHAS) Membership form

Type of Membership—check appropriate box

Member of Black Hills Audubon Society Chapter (BHAS) only

Singles or household

- \$20, regular member
- \$35, regular member for 2 years
- \$50, regular member for 3 years,
- \$15, senior or full-time student
- \$25, senior or full-time student for 2 years
- \$35, senior or full-time student for 3 years

Please make check payable to Black Hills Audubon Society.

All dues go to support local Black Hills Audubon chapter efforts.

Receive the chapter newsletter, *The Echo*, which describes local chapter conservation action, events, and field trips.

Member of Black Hills Audubon Society Chapter and National Audubon (both)

- \$20, first-time member price
- \$15, Senior or full-time student

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Renewals: please renew your National Audubon Membership by filling out the forms sent to you by National and sending directly to National Audubon. Thanks!

Most of the dues go to support national efforts.

Receive the award-winning national magazine, *Audubon*, and the chapter newsletter, *The Echo*.

Chapter: C 9 Z Y12 0 Z

Subscription only—receive the chapter newsletter, *The Echo* (does not include membership)

- \$10 chapter newsletter only

Please make check payable to Black Hills Audubon Society.

Receive the chapter newsletter, *The Echo*

- I would like to help Black Hills Audubon's programs of education and conservation.

Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____

Renewals: please renew your National Audubon Membership by filling out the forms sent to you by National and sending directly to National Audubon. Thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/zip _____

Phone/Email _____

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to the appropriate address:

Black Hills Audubon Society is a 501(C)3 organization. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Membership
Black Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 2524
Olympia WA 98507

Membership
National Audubon Society
225 Varick Street, 7th floor
New York, NY 10014

Thank you for supporting the Black Hills Audubon Society!



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Policy Advocate to Advance Wildlife Concerns of Washington Audubon Chapters

The 26 associated Audubon chapters in Washington State, in conjunction with National Audubon, will have a Policy Advocate for 2011 -- to benefit wildlife, their habitats and ecosystems -- by providing lobbying services and coordination of chapter participation. This move comes after a period during which the state office of Audubon Washington was unable to support a policy advocate. We are happy that that problem is being addressed through the efforts of the chapters, including Black Hills, which is taking an active role in this effort.

The Policy Advocate will coordinate with the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee (WSACC), which represents the chapters, network with allies in the conservation community, activate a grassroots network of Audu-

bon members to contact legislators concerning specific legislation, and interact with elected and agency decision-makers to communicate Audubon's policy priorities and legislative requests.

One of the functions of the Policy Advocate is to coordinate grassroots participation in the Environmental Lobby Day, Tuesday, February 15, 2011 in Olympia. The Environmental Priorities Coalition, of which Audubon is part, brings together many conservation organizations in Washington State with a common interest. For more information and to register for Environmental Lobby Day, go to <http://pugetsound.org/connect/events/021511LD/> or see the article on page 3 of this *Echo*. 