

Echo



Olympia, Washington
Volume 2015, Number 1
January/February 2015

President's Message

Opportunities Abound

By Deb Nickerson

Flooded fields, frozen puddles, and icy ears. Even as we venture out into the gloomy days of January to fix our binoculars on ducks or wintering passerines, the light and a warmer sun return to assure us that, once again, we've made it through the darkest days of the year. The short, wet days are often hard for me. It takes perseverance to continue to force myself outside for walks, runs or birding ventures. Yet, each time I do, I return to my warm house energized and happier.

Being outside, especially in the woods or on the beaches of our region, benefits us, helping us become centered, humbled, and more at peace with our lives and the world. So get out, smell and taste the winter; watch and wonder at the birds that flourish in this season.

While we reflect on all we've accomplished this year, we know there is much more to be done. Have you taken the survey on Thurston County's Plastic Bag



Ban? The survey is at www.surveymonkey.com/s/customerbag. Responses will be incorporated in a report this year. And look how quickly we've altered our behavior—bringing our own bags seems not to be the hassle many expected.

If you wish to engage in another citizen science project, take part in National Audubon's Great Backyard Bird Count. Go to this site to register: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/.org/>

has reviewed Audubon's own Climate Change report, presented its findings at the November program meeting, and has deemed it a focus of this year's work.

Reading articles and reports myself, I am daunted by what is required to slow down the advancing climate changes. (See President's Message on page 7...)

Thursday, Jan. 8th, 7 pm Washington State Wolves

Dave Ware, new Wolf Policy Coordinator for WDFW, will provide a presentation on the status of wolf recovery in Washington. The state adopted the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan in December 2011. Washington's wolf population is growing and spreading. However, the jury is still out on whether Washington citizens are ready for wolves and the management challenges they present.

Thursday, Feb. 12th, 7 pm Experience T and T

Sit back and be transported to a place far removed from the gray winter days of the Pacific Northwest. Join **Sheila McCartan** and **Tom Schooley** as they share their experience visiting and birding The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago off the coast of Venezuela. These tiny islands are home to over 420 species of birds. Learn about the important conservation work and education programs of the Asa Wright Nature Center. For a little added twist, there is a connection in this story to James Bond!

Monthly program meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at the First Christian Church meeting hall at 701 Franklin St. SE, in downtown Olympia. Arrive at 7 p.m. to socialize; programs begin promptly at 7:30.

Citizens and Climate Change

By Mary Russell, BHAS Education Chair

In the last issue of the *Echo* (Nov.-Dec. 2014), we wrote about a report by National Audubon on Birds and Climate Change. The November BHAS monthly program meeting began with presentations by four Audubon members about various aspects of climate change, with emphasis on its expected effects on birds, especially those in western Washington. The audience then broke out into small groups to discuss climate change and share ideas about what we can do about it.

The first question was, "What are the most visible signs of climate change that you've noticed or heard about?" Responses included noticing increased damage to forests (e.g., insects not getting frozen out in warmer winters), fewer Rufous Hummingbirds, flowers blooming earlier, fewer Steller's Jays due to increased competition with Scrub Jays, and higher water temperatures in Puget Sound, which affects forage fish and in turn affects the birds that depend on them for food.

The second question was, "What can we do individually or collectively to slow the effects of climate change?" This question got the largest response. Members stated that they could support groups that are making a difference in our community such as Capitol Land Trust; vote for politicians with a strong environmental record; invest in green companies instead of those in the fossil-fuel industries; reduce use of fossil fuels by using alternative

sources of energy; and plant more trees and shrubs that will flourish and support wildlife in the future. The economic impact of birding was also discussed. For example, if you travel to watch birds and other wildlife, tell people about why you are visiting an area and how important it is to the birds that live there. Programs in our schools such as Project Green and Stream Team were mentioned as making a positive difference in our community.

The third question was, "What can BHAS do to address the challenges that climate change will pose to our area?" Members talked about connecting with other environmental groups to find projects to work on together, such as work on water quality or forage fish. They mentioned getting children involved in caring for the environment; asking tough questions of politicians and those who will be making decisions about development in our area; taking a stand against oil trains coming through the South Sound; and continuing to advocate for and fund habitat-restoration projects (e.g., prairies).

Many people took away the reassurance that there are many like-minded people who care about the environment and are doing what they can to make a difference every day. Even the small things add up over time, and we should draw inspiration and encouragement from the work that BHAS members are doing. 🌱

Beginning Birding Class

Sponsored by Black Hills Audubon Society

Dates: Five Saturday Mornings January 10, 17, 24, 31, and February 7, plus two field trips (tentative dates for those: January 18 and 25).

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Instructor: Scott Mills

Where: The Visitors Center Lecture Hall at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge in Olympia

Cost: \$60.00 includes two Sunday field trips on January 18 & 25. Some Scholarships are available.

Contact Person: Mary Russell at greenbird321@msn.com

This course, taught by retired professor of ornithology **Scott Mills**, will provide an introduction to birding with an emphasis on developing identification skills. Other topics will include a review of birding tools including binoculars and field guides, an introduction to birding terminology, and some discussion of basic bird biology as they relate to identification. The course is designed primarily for beginning birders but should be useful for many mid-level birders as well.

The class is comprised of five classes and two field trips. Field trip dates to be determined at the first class.

Pre-Registration Required. Register by calling BHAS's voicemail at 360.352.7299 or emailing Mary Russell at greenbird321@msn.com. Class is limited to 24 persons. 🌱

2015 Black Hills Audubon Annual Dinner and Auction: Wonders of Washington

Black Hills Audubon Society will hold its **28th Annual Dinner and Auction** the evening of **Saturday, March 7, 2015.**

This year's event will be held at **South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC)**, in the Student Union Building, on Olympia's west side. Invitations to the event will be mailed in late January. A catered buffet dinner will be offered again this year. Tickets to the evening's activities will cost \$30 and must be purchased in advance. Information about the entrée choices and ticket purchasing will be in the invitation and on our website.

The dinner is our major social activity of the year, giving members and friends of BHAS a chance to come together to celebrate the chapter's achievements of the past year. The evening also includes several fundraising activities: a silent auction and raffle, plant sale, and sale of BHAS merchandise. The revenues raised are an important source of funding for our chapter's activities throughout the year. In addition, awards are presented recognizing the BHAS Environmental Educator and Conservationist of the Year.

The evening concludes with a special program presentation, "**Wonders of Washington**", featuring **Ken Bevis**, a multi-talented wildlife biologist, musician and performer. Ken's entertaining presentation will mix stories, photos and songs, along with a few scientific facts, to bring you closer to some of Washington's fish and wildlife. Ken lives east of the Cascades and has worked on forest, fish, and wildlife issues since 1986. He has worked with the US

Forest Service, the Yakama Indian Nation, and WDFW; currently he is the Stewardship Wildlife Biologist for DNR's Small Forest Landowner office.

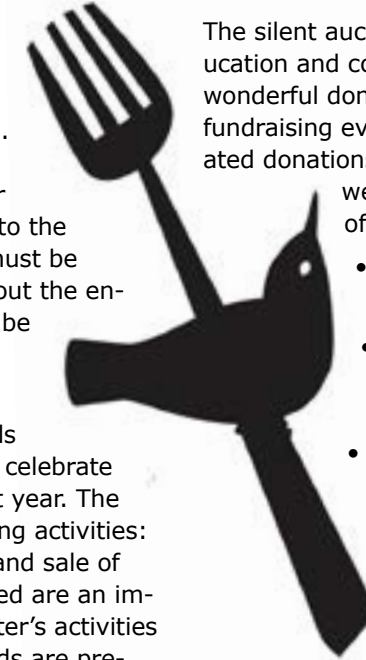
The silent auction and raffle raise money for our education and conservation work. Each year we receive wonderful donations from our membership for these fundraising events. In addition to the much appreciated donations of books, artwork, food, and jewelry, we would also welcome a broader range of items, such as:

- Gift Certificates for goods or services.
- Vacation Property Stay: Would you be willing to offer your vacation place for one or two nights?
- Experience Sharing: Do you have a special skill or talent that you would be willing to share? For example: arts or crafts instruction, cooking skills, or guided birding walks.

We are also looking for volunteers to pound the pavements in pursuit of donations from local businesses. Restaurants are a good target, but many other types of businesses might also consider a contribution if asked. Consider businesses, artisans, and craftspeople in Olympia, Tumwater, Lacey, and any of the small towns in Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Margery Beeler (mswampcat@aol.com; (360)-352-5437).

Please join us for an exciting evening. See you on March 7th at SPSCC!



Share Your Ideas for Field Trips



It's time to plan Black Hills Audubon's 2015 field trips. Our annual Field Trip Planning Meeting will be **Tuesday, January 13, at 5:30 p.m.**, at Bonnie Wood's house in south east Olympia. Please call 360-943-4612 for directions.

Wine and orange juice and light finger foods will be provided. BYOB if you'd like something else to drink.

If you've ever thought, "Gee, I'd like to have a field trip go to _____,"

or "Gee, I'd like to lead a field trip to _____,"this is an easy way to share your ideas and leadership impulses with a warm, sympathetic group. If you cannot make this meeting, please feel free to contact Bonnie Wood at 360-943-4612 or bwood2800@gmail.com with your thoughts.

Hope to see you there!

Bird-banding Training

Our Audubon chapter is pleased to offer two scholarships for a bird-banding training this coming May (2015)—one for an adult and one for a teenager/student. The six days of training will be presented by the Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM), over two three-day weekends. Final dates are to be determined soon.

The cost for training each person is \$450. BHAS will provide \$400 of the fee for each scholarship recipient, and each recipient will have to provide the remaining

\$50. After the training, each scholarship recipient will be expected to make a short presentation to a BHAS program meeting and participate in volunteer bird-banding using her/his new skills.



If you are interested in attending this camp and applying for one of the scholarships, please provide a statement explaining (1) why you would best be suited to receive the training, and (2) how this training will be applied to your professional work, personal pursuits, and/or interests. Send your statement to Sam Merrill,

Conservation Committee Chair, BHAS, at sammerrill3@comcast.net.

Citizen Science – More Important Than Ever

by Deb Jaqua

With the decrease in funding of scientific research in academia and government agencies, citizen science is taking on a far more important role than ever before. Citizens are needed to fill the gap and to gather basic data on species, especially those that are endangered or threatened. In addition, climate change may place more species, including birds, at risk of not surviving. Citizen science also serves as an educational tool and engages citizens to make a difference!

In the next few issues of the Echo, we will highlight some local citizen science opportunities. More information is available at the BHAS website on a new web page called "Citizen Science". Here are two of those projects:

Project Name and Contact	Description of Project
Pigeon Guillemot Foraging and Breeding Survey Contact: Anne Mills millsa@comcast.net 360-867-1487	One day per week, mainly in June, July, and August. The Pigeon Guillemot is one of the 314 birds the National Audubon Society has identified as at-risk from climate changes. Volunteers tally birds, activity at nest burrows, and record disturbances (Bald Eagles, boat traffic, dogs on beach, etc.). Results of the study are provided to federal and state agencies, and organizations monitoring the health of Puget Sound. The program is funded wholly or in part by the National Estuary Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
Stream Team Projects Contact: Michelle Stevie mstevie@ci.olympia.wa.us 360-753-8336	Timing and duration of projects depend on the species or habitat being monitored. Goal: Collect data/samples to monitor various indicators of water quality in the urban environment. Several Stream Team Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphibians (frogs and salamanders): Count egg masses • Purple Martins: Monitor downtown Olympia nest boxes • Stream bug: Monitor macroinvertebrates—aquatic insects • Shorebird survey • Identify and map invasive weeds • Shoreline surveys for forage fish

Armchair Birding By Anne Kilgannon

Finding the River: An Environmental History of the Elwa

Jeff Crane, Oregon State University Press, 2011

My days have been spent reading books that bleakly explain the downward spiral of global warming, my nights spent at meetings about awakening a burning desire in city officials to save the LBA Woods. The list of birds in trouble and the threat of more habitat loss right under my nose were haunting. I needed the boost of a success story, so when I saw the notice of a showing of the documentary film, *Return of the River*, by John Gussman and Jessica Plumb, I grabbed my friend and headed to the Evergreen Longhouse for some needed cheer. Photo footage of the wild Elwha river coming back to life was stunning and awe-inspiring, and it was heart opening to hear the story of how the vitality of the river, with its returning salmon, flowed into the lives of the people who had always lived there. It took a long time to get to this point, but we as a society can do the right thing, undo a great wrong, and heal a part of the earth and so heal ourselves, a little. It wasn't too late.

The film was extraordinary, but to delve into the back story a little more I pulled a book from my shelf: *Finding the River: An Environmental History of the Elwha*, by Jeff Crane. Jeff was born in this area, and having hiked the river and studied environmental issues at Evergreen, he seemed just the guide I wanted. Indeed, his book documents the eternal life of this river in rich, evocative prose: a river teeming with salmon and all their fellow creatures in their healthy millions, as well as the people of the river and their lore; and the water itself that is the river coursing through mountain fastnesses and rushing—life-giving—to the ocean where it spreads its wealth and mingles with the salt of the seas. The intricacy and wholeness of that world, of that life of river, salmon, and people, was of a piece and had worked that way for uncounted generations.

Jeff writes: "The Elwha's beauty could serve as a model, an icon, of Pacific Northwest rivers. The deep green pools; the wide gravel beds with rich, aerated riffles; the variety of cobble and larger rocks in the riverbed—all suggest a perfect Pacific Northwest river, one that should roil with bright red- and green-hued spawning salmon. The fog coiling down from the mountainsides and the bent branch of a hemlock or cedar dipping in a quiet pool, being tugged by the river, seemingly forever without end, create an image and place of Zen-like solace and beauty." But, of course, after explaining the life cycle of salmon and their pivotal role in feeding every-

thing from insects and eagles to bears and people, he tells the story of new people who came to the river but understood none of its complexity and its importance, or who suppressed that knowledge to visions of smokestacks, industry and a different kind of wealth fueled by the river. A river dammed could power a different kind of dream, a different story and life.

The strength of the book is in its grounding in historical detail and understanding. The entrepreneurs of that day didn't set out to decimate the salmon runs, but no one knew their needs and life cycle, and who would have thought that such huge numbers could be hurt? Jeff relates the long struggle to mitigate the damage, the search for a technological fix—the work-around of hatcheries and fish ladders and barging small fish around turbines—that was tried here and all over the Northwest. And how, in the face of fishery "experts" and politicians and those of goodwill, the salmon numbers continued to decline. The dwindling of a great, once-abundant species in all its variety and particularities is a human-made tragedy and travesty.

People finally realized slowly—agonizingly slowly—that this dam would have to go; it was a realization without precedence or real guidance, and it found its own way through the torturous canyons of local, state, and national politics. At the time, no one knew if this radical solution would work and make the salmon return; no high dam like the Elwha had ever been breached, nor had a river of this size been restored. What would happen to the pent-up sediment? Could the river come back to health and once again support the pyramid of life it had known? Could the people and the river find a new balance and relationship?

Although we now witness the successful revival of the Elwha, the story loses none of its drama and importance. There is much to learn here about how to bring back a healthy river and correct our relationship to it by examining the human constructions that bound the river as much in ignorance and heedlessness as in concrete and steel. The Elwha is the story of how society's imagination had to change first, to re-imagine the river and re-imagine our possible life with a free river. This story can serve as a model for tackling the warming of our planet, the threats to our birds and farms, and to life as we know it. The river races to the sea again. There is hope.

For information about the film, see: www.elwhafilm.com/index.htm.

Return of Advocacy - Audubon Lobby Day February 18th

Here is our chance to collectively meet and talk with our legislators on issues of importance to our state, nation, and world. Audubon members from all over the state will be coming to Olympia on February 18th for this chance to have their voices heard in small group meetings with legislators and other governmental officials.

Cold and Tired, But Happy: Hardcore Birders' Field Trip Report

by Phil Kelley

On Saturday, November 15, eight of us enjoyed a cold but productive field trip from Olympia to Port Townsend. We met in 24-degree temperatures at the Martin Way Park & Ride at 6:00 a.m. and went to the 6th Avenue Park & Ride in Tacoma where we met the rest of the party and got our first birds of the day: Rock Pigeons and Crows.

Our first stop was in Gorst behind the closed strip club where we had great views up Sinclair Inlet. Here we saw Hooded Mergansers, Mallard, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Northern Pintail, Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, Surf Scoters, Horned Grebe, Cackling Geese, Great Blue Heron, Greater Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Dunlin, Red-winged Blackbird, Crow, Song Sparrow, and Mew, Ring-billed, and Glaucous Winged, and Glaucous Winged x Western Gulls.

Next we visited Kitsap Memorial State Park where we added Common Loon, White-winged Scoter, Double-crested Cormorant, Red-breasted Merganser, Greater Scaup, and Gadwall on Hood Canal. In the firs around the camp ground we found Pine Siskin, Robins, Steller's Jay, Starling, Junco, Towhee, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Varied Thrush, Brown Creeper. We heard Red-breasted Nuthatch.

At Salsbury Point we added Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, and Marbled Murrelet to our trip list.

Our next stop was Lower Oak Bay Park where we got great views of water fowl inside the cut. Here we added our only Eurasian Wigeon of the trip as well as more Mallard, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Green-Winged Teal, and Bufflehead. We also added Belted Kingfisher, California Gull among some Mew and Ring-Billed Gulls, and a Heermann's Gull that flew in and joined the flock. On the jetty between the park and Indian Island we saw Black Oystercatchers, Black Turnstones and a

Our Black Hills Chapter, along with Audubon Washington, will be organizing and hosting this one-day event. **More volunteers are needed to prepare for the dozens of members we expect.** To make this an event affordable to all, we would like to offer housing for some out-of-town guests arriving the day prior. Do you have a spare room? Extra bed? If you would like to offer overnight hospitality, or can volunteer with a piece of the organizing, please contact Deb Nickerson at debranick@gmail.com. Watch our website for more information!

Surfbird in among the Turnstones, and some Western Grebes out along the far shore.

At Indian Island Park we stopped for lunch and added Bald Eagle, Red-Tailed Hawk, House Finch, and Golden-Crowned Kinglet. Mystery Bay State Park didn't add anything new to our list but did have Greater Yellowlegs, Pine Siskins, and Golden-Crowned Sparrows.

At Fort Flagler State Park we found several Black Bellied Plover on the parade field and saw Pacific Loon and a couple of River Otters at Marrowstone Point Light.

At Fort Flagler Campground we viewed a nice flock of Harlequin Ducks in full sun giving spectacular views. We also had more Black Bellied Plover, a White-Crowned Sparrow in with some Golden Crowned Sparrows, Pelagic and Double Crested Cormorants, and our target bird of the trip. As we were preparing to leave Micah spotted some Long-Tailed Ducks out off the boat ramp. We all had good looks at a flock of nine Long-Tailed Ducks drifting with the current. Made my day! Valerie also watched a pair of River Otters cross the spit and swim off up Kilisut Harbor.

From there we went to Point Hudson and saw Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Rhinoceros Auklet, Red-Throated Loon, Black Brant, and a half dozen or so Sanderlings scurrying around with some Black Turnstones.

We made a quick dash to Kai Tai Lagoon for a quick look as darkness fell. In among the waterfowl we added Ruddy Duck and Coot to our list as well as Lincoln's Sparrow, Virginia Rail (heard), Marsh Wren and Pacific Wren. As darkness fell we called it a day and headed home, tired but happy.

Besides the River Otters the other mammals we saw were Black-tailed Deer and Harbor Seals.

For the day we had 75 species! 🦋

President's Message

(Cont'd from page 1)

It seems the major things we individuals can do now are just what we did during the oil crisis of the 1970's. Remember odd or even days to purchase gas? Economy cars getting 30-40 mpg were becoming ubiquitous? Energy efficiency audits were done and we turned our thermostats down to 55° at night.

Yet all the changes we make in our individual lives simply aren't enough to make a significant difference; municipalities, states, and the nation must implement best practices to lessen our carbon footprint. I feel fortunate to have Governor Inslee walking the talk and forging ahead with legislation and policies that are a model for other states. Lessening dependence on fossil fuels means we must quickly develop alternative energies that all people can afford. Being "green" shouldn't be reserved for the upper middle class; everyone needs incentives for projects they can afford to implement in their lives.

As a librarian, equal access is a paramount principle for me and it should be a guide in work on sustainable futures also. I applaud regional leaders for progressive moves to cut back on carbon emissions, decry the increase of oil and coal trains, support the use of alternative technologies in governmental buildings, and work with businesses to reduce pollution. Replacing fossil fuels, making individual lifestyle changes and collective governmental action will make a difference. I have to believe it. Doing the right things for birds is also right for humans.

More Citizen Science...

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count

Presidents' Day Weekend, Feb. 13-16

Looking for a way to enjoy the great outdoors this February? Join millions of bird watchers across North America and the world to make your love of nature add up for science and for the future. Participate in the 18th annual Great Backyard Bird Count during "Presidents' Day" weekend, February 13-16, 2015.

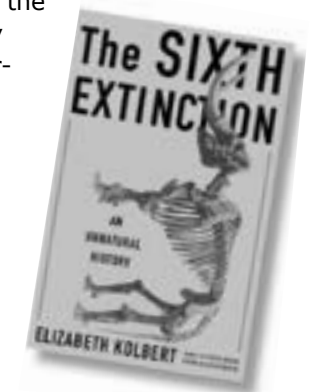
Sponsored by Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, anyone—expert or novice, all ages—can count birds from wherever they are, at home, in schoolyards, at local parks, or wildlife refuges.

BHAS Book Discussion:

"The Sixth Extinction"

The book, *The Sixth Extinction*, by Elizabeth Kolbert, will be discussed January 23rd, 2015, at 6:30 pm at Deb Nickerson's house.

Hailed as "A major book about the future of the world, blending intellectual and natural history and field reporting into a powerful account of the mass extinction unfolding before our eyes", we will gather together after reading the book and have a lively discussion of its importance in our lives.



"Over the last half a billion years, there have been five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us. 🦋

Introduce someone new to bird watching!

Participants enter their tallies online, see the results of their observations within minutes, and compare to those of thousands of others. In 2014, participants sent in over 140,000 checklists worldwide.

These reports contribute valuable information for science and conservation. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux, as they are affected by short-term weather and long-term climate change. And while they are gathering data, participants—families, teachers, children—enjoy nature and have fun!

Go to <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/> for more information and to submit your observations during the Bird Count weekend.

Field Trips and Events

It may seem as though winter birding is not as exciting—it's certainly not as song-filled as spring birding, but you never know; there may be a flurry of activity and interesting birds suddenly there!

Field Trips and Events Capsule

January

Every Wednesday—**Bird walks**, Nisqually NWR.
All January: Skagit Bald Eagle Festival
3 **Field Trip & Event:** Birding & Breakfast
8 **Event:** Monthly Program meeting
10 **Field Trip:** Downtown (Olympia) Ducks
13 **Meeting:** Field Trip Planning/Idea Sharing
15 **Field Trip:** Eagle's Pride Golf Course, JBLM
19 **Event:** Birds and Beer, Olympia
23 **Book Discussion:** "The Sixth Extinction"
24 **Field Trip:** Woodard Bay
28 **Event:** Birds and Beer, Shelton
29 **Meeting:** Audubon Outreach Committee

February

Every Wednesday—**Bird walks**, Nisqually NWR.
7 **Field Trip & Event:** Birding & Breakfast
12 **Event:** Monthly Program meeting
12-15 **Event:** Winter Wings Festival, Klamath, OR
16 **Event:** Birds and Beer, Olympia
TBD **Event:** Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival (Exact date unknown at time of Echo printing)
18 **Field Trip:** Eagle's Pride Golf Course, JBLM
25 **Event:** Birds and Beer, Shelton

Recurring Field Trips & Events

Birding & Breakfast

Join us for Birding and Breakfast at **7:30 a.m. on the 1st Saturday of each month.** Bird with us, then enjoy **breakfast at a local restaurant at 9:30 a.m.** Or, if you're a late riser, just join us for breakfast and we'll give you the run down on what birds are in the area. Beginning birders are welcome. Share what you know, connect, enjoy. No expert guide. For more information contact Black Hills Audubon Society at 360-352-7299 unless otherwise specified.

January 3rd: Birding near Bayview Thriftway, 516 4th Ave W, Olympia; breakfast at Bayview upstairs

February 7th: Birding at Priest Point Park (Rose Garden shelter); breakfast at Spar Café, 114 E. 4th Ave., Olympia

Birds and Beer

Join birders each month at two different locations and times. People will share their "best birding spots in our area."

Birders gather at 4:30 p.m. in **Olympia on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Fish Tale Brewpub**, 515 Jefferson Street SE, Olympia, where they meet at the couches in the back. Birders also gather in **Shelton at 5:00 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month at Smoking Mo's**, corner of Railroad Ave & 2nd Street.

Guided Field Trip, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge,

Every Wednesday, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Join Phil Kelley to see overwintering waterfowl and other birds at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Although hunting season closes part of the refuge until the end of January, a large portion of the refuge and boardwalk is still open to birders and other explorers. Be prepared for any kind of weather and for walking. Bring water and snacks as needed.

The Refuge has a \$3.00 entrance fee, which is waived if you have a Golden Eagle Pass, federal interagency pass, or other applicable pass.

Guided Field Trip, Eagle's Pride Golf Course, JBLM

3rd Thursday each month, 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Although it's a quiet birding time at the golf course, its ponds, thick, diverse habitat, and location (only one-half mile from Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge) make it a good wintering and feeding location for many bird species, even in winter. The guided monthly trips are from one to three miles long on relatively level ground.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the driving range parking lot. Take exit 116 off I-5. Turn north off the ramp and then right into the Golf Course. The driving range access road is an immediate left onto a narrow gravel road. Contact David Wienecke at david.l.wienecke.naf@mail.mil or (760) 828-8788 (cell).

Field Trip Details

January 10 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Field Trip: Downtown Ducks at Capitol Lake

Leader: Burt Guttman

Join Burt Guttman on his annual quest for winter birds in downtown Olympia. There are all kinds of ducks, geese, grebes, and the occasional loon possible, as well as passerines in the trees and shrubs. The health of Capitol Lake has affected bird numbers and diversity in the last two to three years: in a sense, you will be acting as citizen scientist and observer, and your observations of the bird populations at the lake this year will add to our knowledge.

This trip begins at Marathon Park at Capitol Lake and generally includes Tumwater Historical Park and Percival Cove. Sometimes visits to lower Budd Inlet are included. This trip is especially oriented toward beginner birders, but all interested folks are welcome.

January 24 (Saturday), 9:00

a.m. - approximately noon

Field Trip: Woodard Bay

Leader: Burt Guttman

Wood Bay was closed all summer and fall for replanting and renovation, a joint project by the Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy to restore Woodard Bay's oyster beds and health. It is due to open to the public again at the end of December. Be one of the first to see the accomplished refurbishment, as well as the birds of all kinds (and seals) who call Woodard Bay their winter home.

Woodard Bay Conservation Area has a small parking lot which requires a Discover Pass. Up the hill to the south is a larger free parking area. Simply walk down the hill and over the bridge to meet up with the group.

January 2015

Event: Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival in Concrete, Rockport, and Marymount, Washington

Bald eagles are thick on the Upper Skagit River from December through February, feeding on

salmon carcasses. The Upper Skagit towns of Concrete, Marymount and Rockport invite you to come see the eagles and enjoy the towns' hospitality. The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center is open every Saturday and Sunday in January from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and will be open during the Christmas holiday break through January 2. Most every weekend in January, local experts will offer guided hikes along the wild and scenic Skagit River at 11:00 a.m. and informative presentations at 1:00 p.m. To obtain information about the Interpretive Center's full schedule of activities, call 360-953-7626 or see www.skagiteagle.org.



Thursday February 12 - Sunday February 15
Event: Winter Wings Festival
Klamath Falls, Oregon

For a sojourn in a drier ecosystem, away from our rain rain, head south to Klamath Falls, Oregon for their annual Winter Wings Festival. Klamath Lake and its environs is one of the Pacific Northwest's, if not the nation's, birding hotspots, especially during this time of year. The keynote speaker this year will be Richard Crossley, internationally known birder, photographer, and author of The Crossley ID Guide.

Sure, it's a long ways away, but there are 10 good reasons to attend this festival, festival organizers contend. To read their reasons, and for more information and registration details, go to www.winterwingsfest.org.

February, 2015 - dates to be announced
Event: Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival

Port Susan, Washington

Every year, thousands of Snow Geese descend on the Stillasquamish and Skagit River deltas. The Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival attracts participants who come to see these large numbers of Snow Geese, Trumpeter and Tundra Swans, Bald Eagles, herons, ducks, and many other species, even including Snowy Owls and Gyrfalcons!

Sponsored by the Pilchuk Audubon Society, most events and tours are free. To see a calendar of events, check their website www.snowgoosefest.org in mid-January. 🦅

Black Hills Audubon Society Contacts:

Mailing Address: PO Box 2524, Olympia, WA 98507
BHAS Message Phone: 360-352-7299
Website: www.blackhills-audubon.org
E-mail: 4info@blackhills-audubon.org

BHAS Officers:

President: Deb Nickerson 360-754-5397
pres@blackhills-audubon.org
Vice-President: Elizabeth Rodrick
vice-pres@blackhills-audubon.org
Secretary: Tracey Scalici
secretary@blackhills-audubon.org
Treasurer: Susan Markey 360-438-5663
treasurer@blackhills-audubon.org

Other Board Members (At Large):

Margery Beeler, Shelley Horn, Deb Jaqua, Leslie Lynam, Craig Merkel, Sam Merrill, Paul Moody, Mary Russell, Kris Schoyen, Anne Van Sweringen, Bob Wadsworth.

Committee Chairs:

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Hospitality/Outreach:
 Leslie Lynam..... 360-402-9513
Programs: Kris Schoyen 360-754-1710
Publications, Webmaster, Echo Layout:
 Deb Jaqua 360-491-3325
webdeb1@gmail.com

The *Echo* is published bi-monthly. The Editor welcomes articles, photographs, artwork, etc. for the newsletter.

The deadline for the next issue will be February 1st for the March-April 2015 issue of the *Echo*.

Audubon's Mission

To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. BHAS Chapter goals are to maintain, restore, and protect our ecosystems for future generations; and to promote environmental education and nature-based recreation.

Audubon Outreach

Audubon Outreach welcomes new members, creates opportunities to bird and socialize together, assists with chapter projects and events, and organizes educational experiences for Thurston, Lewis, and Mason counties. By volunteering alongside others, we get to know each other better.

- 1) Come to First Saturday Birding and Breakfast and answer questions about Black Hills Audubon
- 2) Greet or bring refreshments at a Program meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month.
- 3) Staff a table with Audubon materials and answer questions about Black Hills Audubon at local events.

- 4) Post birding events on website event calendars of local radio stations, newspapers, Chamber of Commerce and others.
- 5) Post Birding and Breakfast and Birding and Beer posters at local libraries and businesses.

Newcomers are welcome!

The Outreach/Hospitality Committee meets the 4th Thursday of September, January, and April.

The next Outreach meeting is January 29.

Please call Deb Nickerson (360-754-5397) for location.



Black Hills Audubon Society (BHAS) Membership Form

Become A Member Or Renew Your Membership

Please check the appropriate box, complete, and mail:

Option 1. BHAS Chapter-Only Membership: (includes individual or household):

This membership is intended for those NOT wishing to be a member of the National Audubon Society. As a chapter-only member, you receive the BHAS newsletter, The ECHO; all of your dues go directly to BHAS for its programs. Please make check payable to Black Hills Audubon Society.

Regular Member: 1 year: \$20 2 year: \$35 3 year: \$50

Senior/Student: 1 year: \$15 2 years: \$25 3 years: \$35

Option 2. National Audubon Society Membership:

Chapter C9ZY120Z

If you live in Thurston, Lewis, or Mason County, your NAS membership includes your BHAS membership. Most of your dues go to support national efforts. You receive Audubon magazine and The Echo. Please make check payable to National Audubon Society. [Use this form only for new NAS memberships. Make NAS renewals using the forms sent to you by NAS and send directly to them.]

Regular Member: \$20 Senior/Student: \$15

I would like to help Black Hills Audubon's education and conservation programs. Enclosed is an additional tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ [Please make checks payable to Black Hills Audubon Society.]

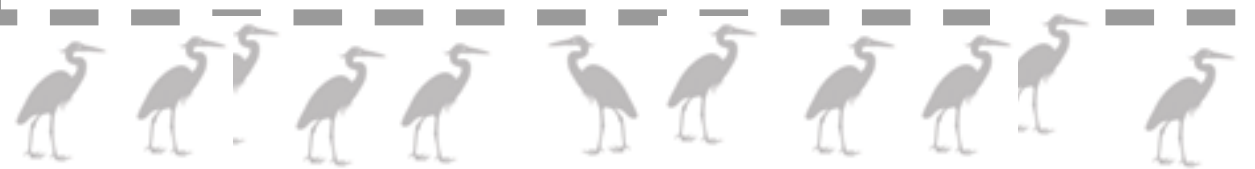
Name: _____

Address _____ City/State/zip: _____

Phone/email: _____

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed. Mail to: BHAS Membership
 PO Box 2524, Olympia WA 98507

Black Hills Audubon Society, a member chapter of National Audubon Society, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with members in Lewis, Mason and Thurston counties. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Reminders About Your Membership:

- ☞ If you are a National Audubon Society member, you do not need a separate BHAS Chapter membership: your chapter membership is included in your NAS membership.
- ☞ If you wonder when your membership is up for renewal, check the label on your ECHO. Above your name, you should see a number such as 201609. This means your membership expires in September 2016. National Audubon members should renew through NAS which often offers special promotional rates.
- ☞ BHAS gives you a grace period of 6 months after your renewal date. You will receive the ECHO and other mailings in this period.
- ☞ BHAS only sends renewal notices to those who are 'chapter only' members.
- ☞ If you and your spouse or partner reside in the same household, you do not need two individual memberships for either NAS or BHAS.


If you have any questions about your membership, please feel free to contact Margery Beeler, Membership Chair; (360)352-5437; mwampcat@aol.com.



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HELP WANTED:

BHAS Annual Dinner Coordinator

BHAS seeks an organized volunteer with good people skills to become the new Annual Dinner Coordinator. Our Annual Dinner is a large undertaking, made possible by many, many volunteers. The person who has coordinated this event for the last several years has been Meagan Thorn. We are so grateful for Meagan's easy-going yet dedicated manner of getting things done. Meagan has announced that the 2015 Annual Dinner will be her last as Coordinator. However, she has graciously agreed to mentor the new Coordinator for the 2016 Annual Dinner, beginning next October (2015).

If interested, please contact Meagan Thorn at meagan.thorn@gmail.com, for more information.

Helping hands wanted to share the joys of preparing for the upcoming Annual Dinner on March 7, such as:

- **Bring an appetizer** to share (contact Mary Russell at greenbird321@msn.com).
- **Bring a scrumptious dessert** to share (contact Leslie Lynam at 360-402-9513).
- **Help pot plants** for the plant sale (contact Patt Brady at pattbrady1@gmail.com or Kristin Stewart at kristinstewart01@comcast.net).
- **Help with invitation-stuffing** in late January (contact Meagan Thorn at meagan.thorn@gmail.com).
- **Help with room set-up** prior to the dinner or assist at the registration table that evening (contact Meagan Thorn at meagan.thorn@gmail.com).
- **Solicit donations** or donate to the auction and/or raffle (contact Margery Beeler at 360-352-5437; [mhwampcat@aol.com](mailto:mwampcat@aol.com)). 