

Echo



Olympia, Washington
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BHAS Election and Leadership

The leadership of BHAS has changed in some important ways with the May election and the June 1 Board meeting. The position of President is temporarily open. Other officers are Vice-President Elizabeth Rodrick, Treasurer Kim Adelson, and Secretary Bruce Jacobs. At-large Board Members are Ken Brown, Steve Curry, Hank Henry, Craig Merkel, Sam Merrill, Paul Moody, Sharon Moore, Deb Nickerson, Mary Russell, Bob Wadsworth, Jim Wilson, and Joe Zabransky.

The greatest change is that Deb Nickerson has resigned as President after serving in this position for four years. The Board is unanimous in their gratitude for the remarkable job she has done, which has helped make BHAS an important voice in our community. Deb will continue to serve on the Board as a member at-large and will chair the Hospitality Committee and co-lead the Program Committee with Leslie Lynam. So the President position is formally open. The Chapter obviously needs a new President, and anyone who is interested in taking on this responsibility should contact Vice President Elizabeth Rodrick (vice-pres@blackhills-audubon.org).

While we are searching for a President, the Board decided at its June 1 meeting to delegate some of the President's duties to the Vice President and to ask our officers and committee chairs for extra support as needed. While this is not an ideal situation, we will try it for the time being. Vice President Rodrick will draft agendas, facilitate Board meetings and the Board retreat, handle communications with the state Audubon office, and write the annual report to National Audubon. Additional routine work will be handled primarily by the various committees.

BHAS has a "working" board where all members are active on committees. We have functioned adequately without a President in the past and are confident that we will rise to the challenge!

Monthly Speaker Series

Thursday September 14, 2017

Birds of Costa Rica / Sam Merrill

Costa Rica, with an area less than that of West Virginia, has about as many bird species as the United States. With forests ranging from dry to very wet and elevations from sea level on both the Pacific and the Atlantic to a central spine over 12,000 feet, and much rugged terrain in between, the land supports many different habitats. Costa Rica has had no army and a relatively stable government for over 60 years, and has many national parks and eco-lodges. Sam Merrill will illustrate his presentation of a two-week guided birding trip to Costa Rica with his photos of tropical specialties of this fascinating country, such as the Collared Aracari, the Montezuma Oropendola, and the Turquoise-browed Motmot. Sam has had a lifelong interest in birds and has been active in Audubon for the past twenty years; he is currently Conservation Chair of BHAS. Retired from college teaching, he holds a Ph.D. in mathematics and does research in mathematics and political science.

Thursday October 12, 2017

Wildlife of Brazil's Cerrado and Pantanal / Sally Vogel



Come join us to hear birder, author, artist, and photographer Sally Vogel talk about her adventures in Brazil. She writes, "A dual interest in art and photography has led me to specialize in design in nature. It was the advent of the digital darkroom which

allowed me to combine these two passions to achieve my artistic vision. My working life was devoted to education. My "vacation" time was spent traveling the world with groups I organized for my adventure travel business. In retirement I continue to travel, to hike, to boat and enjoy what remains of this imperiled planet."

The monthly Speaker Series is on the second Thursday of each month at Temple Beth Hatfiloh, 201 8th Avenue S.E. (corner of 8th and Washington), Olympia, WA. Arrive at 7 p.m. to socialize; programs begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Armchair Birding: *The Incidental Steward: Reflections on Citizen Science*, by Akiko Busch

by Anne Kilgannon

While I was not quite ready to walk ocean beaches in search of dead birds for Dr. Julia Parrish and the COASST team, our Annual Dinner speaker inspired me to learn more about citizen science projects and what ordinary people can do to help our increasingly imperiled world survive. Instead of just worrying about climate change and habitat loss, what could I do to make a difference? I don't have a background in science or natural resource work and consider myself to be a mere beginner as a birder. More heart than head, really, but keen to learn.

So I hitched a ride with Maria Ruth early one morning to get a firsthand look at a citizen science project. We headed for a little-noticed dock by the port to monitor one of the clusters of Pigeon Guillemots that populate lower Puget Sound. I found these birds in my guidebook but had never noticed them on the water before. Their name was puzzling: a pigeon that swam?

Maria instructed me on survey protocol and introduced me to her teammate, Woody Franzen, who came equipped with a spotting scope. We found the birds here and there in the water. Counting Guillemots involves a steady murmur of, "There's one, now two. Look over there, another one. Try to find where it bobs up. Does it have any fish in its beak? One just landed on the dock. Oh, it dove." The hush was punctuated only by loud cries from the resident Osprey, guttural croaking from a Blue Heron, gentle lapping of water against the pier posts, and a hum of machinery in the port area. It was a perfect clear morning. The Guillemots were busy: bodies low in the water, or flapping to new spots, bright red legs thrust out for landing, distinctive black and white plumage catching the light. Now I'll know them anywhere, and I began to get interested in everything about them. The beauty of this work is you don't have to be an expert with a string of science degrees, just willing to show up. You'll be welcomed and trained.

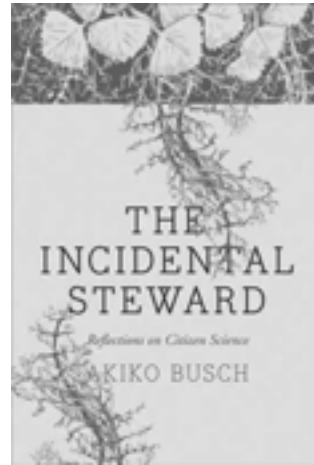
Writer Akiko Busch relates how she stumbled upon a local science project when a biologist studying bats asked permission to search her Hudson River property for a radio-tagged bat. She went along and discovered a hidden world of nocturnal neighbors she did not know were there, and also a community of scientists who study and protect these fragile creatures. Busch began to explore how she and others could participate in this work to gather the raw facts and numbers that help programs track the whereabouts of birds, amphibians, butterflies, and plants. Also, to measure water quality and flow, map and remove invasive species, chart weather fluctuations and migration patterns. She found people of all walks and ages who bring patience, persistence and dedication to protecting the nearby lands, water and local

wildlife dependent upon their health. She discovered active programs tracking bats, ridding the Hudson of invasive plants, counting herring, addressing insect infestations threatening trees, monitoring eagle and coyote populations, and even helping support the migration of eels. Busch waded in to pull water chestnuts choking the river and pondered the complex role of loosestrife in local marshes.

She tabulated, measured, got wet and dirty, made some mistakes but learned an impressive amount of natural history. And she met new friends and deepened her own relationship to her home ground.

Each chapter of her book examines a different program and brings us along for the adventure. She shares with us her interior dialogue as she learns new science concepts and experiences these salvage efforts firsthand. Her approach is deeply philosophical and wide-ranging, infused with her own insights from the world of art and design. She asks provocative questions and lets ideas filter down through layers of thought and experience, open to change and insight. She muses as she investigates. And she has fun! Glass eels delight her. A day on the river is a joy. Everything is deeply interesting and worth poking into. Busch is an engaging amateur; that is, she brings her affection—her amore—to whatever activity calls to her. This is the true beating heart and strength of the citizen science approach: inspired by this affection and concern about one's local flora and fauna, and the desire to know the world more intimately and constructively, ordinary people can help do extraordinary work to protect and defend the world.

Akiko Busch shows us almost a dozen imaginative ways to get involved in important projects, highlighting her own Hudson River ecosystem. Closer to home, the Pigeon Guillemot study is but one example. You can learn more about the original study on Whidbey Island here: <http://pigeonguillemot.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/nwn15-312E1.pdf> and see a Bird Note posting here: <http://birdnote.org/blog/2013/08/studying-pigeon-guillemots-citizen-scientist>. Read the latest posted monitoring report on the Nisqually Reach Aquatic Reserve for which we were gathering data, explained and compiled here: <http://www.nisquallyestuary.org/pigu.pdf> by BHAS member Anne Mills for the Citizen Stewardship Committee with Jerry Joyce of the Washington Environmental Council in 2014.



The Effects of Climate Change

by Kim Adelson

Although Black Hills Audubon members are nearly unanimous in believing that global warming is real, and are deeply concerned about it, not all our friends and neighbors agree. Data gathered by researchers at Yale University indicated that in 2016 only 73%, 68%, and 62% of Thurston, Mason, and Lewis County residents, respectively, accepted the truth of climate change; somewhat more than half the residents were worried about it. The PEW Foundation reported similar statistics last year, concluding that fewer than 2/3 of Americans are worried about global warming and that only 57% perceive it as a serious threat. Too many individuals persist in believing that climate change isn't important and won't directly affect them.

With the hope that some locally-relevant information can be used as talking points with the climate change skeptics in your life, let me reflect on the many ways global warming might personally affect us in the South Sound. Since not all regions of the globe will be equally or even similarly affected, it seems prudent to begin by describing how the Puget Sound area's climate is expected to change in the next 50-60 years. Although numerous climate models have been developed by different organizations and they anticipate varying amounts of additional atmospheric carbon – the driver of global warming – there is widespread, even unanimous, agreement as to how several key aspects of our area's climate will transform.

The bullet points below are largely adapted from the University of Washington's *Climate Impact Group 2015 Report*.

➤ First, *the Puget Sound region is expected to become significantly warmer*. By the middle of this century, we will likely experience average annual temperatures 4.2-5.5°F warmer than those in 1970-1999. By 2080, the increase is projected to be 5.5-9.1° F. All seasons, especially summer, are expected to become warmer.

➤ Second, *we will experience more extremely hot days, though we won't see as many heat waves as most other parts of the U.S. We will also have significantly fewer extremely cold days*.

➤ Third, although total yearly precipitation is expected to remain at current levels, all models predict that *we will encounter more frequent and more severe summer droughts as well as more frequent heavy winter and spring downpours*.

➤ Fourth, *our weather will continue to regularly fluctuate over years and decades*. This is because this region is

greatly influenced by atmospheric conditions over the Pacific Ocean, such as El Niño and La Niña, whose cyclical variations profoundly affect our weather. Exceedingly strong "super" El Niños are expected to become more frequent, exacerbating summer droughts and heat waves.

These changes are not only anticipated but have already begun. Washington's annual temperature has already risen 1.3°F since 1895, and 31 of the last 37 years saw temperatures above the 20th-century average. We have also already started to experience more frequent heavy rainstorms: as of 2009, the Pacific Northwest at large experienced 16% more extremely heavy precipitation events than in the previous 50 years. These changes matter and have real consequences. Climate disruption will impact our forests, prairies, wetlands, coastline, and oceans. It will affect our ability to generate electricity and will change the plants we can grow. It will pose hardships to birds and other wildlife. However, since nothing hits closer to home than health, consider some of the effects that climate change will have on our physical well-being.

The hotter, dryer summers will increase surface-level ozone concentrations and, because of more frequent air inversions (which are heat driven), more particulates in the air as well. Our air quality will degrade, directly affecting those with asthma or lung disease. (The Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that by 2020 medical costs from ozone pollution alone will increase nationally by \$5.5 billion.) People with pollen allergies will also notice a change for the worse: since plants produce more pollen when it is warm, pollen levels are projected to increase—in fact, to double by 2060 compared to 1900 levels. And the pollen season will be longer, extending the misery. The number of extremely hot days will surge as well; hospitalizations and heat-related mortality both increase greatly during severe heat waves, and children, the elderly, diabetics, those with heart and kidney diseases, and people who work outdoors are especially at risk.

With higher temperatures and less summer rainfall, wildfires will become more frequent, destroying more habitat, killing more wildlife, and contributing to air pollution as well. Once again, this is particularly difficult on those with allergies or asthma. Finally, as water levels drop in the hot, dry summers, bacterial and chemical contaminants in water supplies become more concentrated and are more likely to cause harm. A reduction in the number of extremely cold winter days is not associated with increased hospitalization or mortality, but with higher winter temperatures, cold

(continued on page 5)

Field Trip Reports: Springtime Birding at Three Preserves

by Bonnie Wood

Among Black Hills Audubon Society's field trips this spring were forays to three preserves I had never visited before, two of them newly acquired by local land trusts: Darlin Creek Preserve, Powell Creek Preserve, and Morse Preserve. Thanks go to Capitol Land Trust and Nisqually Land Trust for partnering with us and sharing access to their new properties at Darlin and Powell Creeks. The Morse Preserve in Graham is open to the public the second Sunday of each month, April through October (Tahoma Audubon Society leads bird walks there these second Sundays), and by special appointment at other times. All three preserves boasted diverse habitat and offered us sights and sounds of our usual springtime Western Washington bird species.



Most birds recorded by me:

The Morse Preserve is a wonderful place. Its paths and boardwalks are well-maintained, their loops totaling about two miles. There are coniferous and deciduous woods, wetlands with boardwalks, meadows, and a tall observation deck. In mid-May, we saw and heard 41 species. Joe Zabransky would bet money he heard Western Tanager, but the bird eluded our efforts effectively that morning. Given Morse Preserve's habitat diversity, one would have expected to see it. Ah well...

Most accessible:

For those living in the Olympia area, Capitol Land Trust's Darlin Creek Preserve is the easiest to visit on a regular basis: located at the end of Lake Lucinda Drive in Tumwater, and open to the public all the time. The day we visited in early May, this spring's rain and cool had just waned. It was still very cool that morning, and while birds were singing and calling (Wilson's Warblers were especially insistent, and at one point we heard a Pileated Woodpecker), they did not stir so we could see them easily until the sun had warmed things up a bit. About 25 of us, in three groups, wandered different paths, exploring the preserve's ponds, upland second-growth forest, and riparian habitat. We had good looks at Western Tanager, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Wilson's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and others.



Most riverine:

Nisqually Land Trust's recently acquired Powell Creek Property in Yelm comprises over 460 acres along the Nisqually River. The Land Trust is restoring the property and has planted thousands of trees and put up bird houses, in which Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds have nested. (Alas, no Western Bluebird appeared for us, but the gorgeously iridescent blue-backed Tree Swallows watching us out their houses' holes were very cooperative.) We tramped through pasture past old slough wetland to Powell Creek's shore on a beautiful warm sunny morning and totaled 34 species. Notables were five swallow species, Vaux's Swift, Willow Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, female Common Merganser, Belted Kingfisher, Cedar Waxwing, Western Wood-Pewee, and Spotted Sandpiper. (Photos: Barn Swallow (top), Common Yellowthroat (center) - courtesy Janet Wheeler)

Go birding and make a difference!

Are seabirds in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca increasing or declining in numbers? Which species are changing their range? You can help us find out and more generally make some vital contributions to seabird science by joining the eleventh season of Seattle Audubon's Puget Sound Seabird Survey. We are now recruiting enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. Training on survey methodology will be provided at a location near you in September; the first seabird survey will be conducted on October 7, 2017. Volunteers should be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to conduct a 30-minute seabird survey. If distinguishing between Lesser and Greater Scaup is a challenge, we'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. Learn more, including training dates, at www.seabirdsurvey.org and email Toby Ross, Science Manager (toby@seattleaudubon.org), if you would like more information or to take part.



Barrow's Goldeneye
Photo - courtesy Doug Schurman

Bird of the Bimonth: Barn Owl

by Burt Guttman

Owls sometimes seem like birds of paradox, as some of the most common denizens of our woods yet some of the least seen. The paradox arises because they are primarily birds of the night, when we humans are generally not out and about observing. Of course, many species can be seen by day, but the Barn Owl is one of the most nocturnal. Its stealthy night-time habits, combined with its unusual "monkey" face, has made it a common harbinger of the mysterious, the occult, the sinister, ghostlike, and vaguely evil.



Barn Owl
Photo - courtesy Carlos Delgado

Barn Owls constitute a single cosmopolitan species, widely distributed and native to most of North America, irregularly to the northern states and Canada. It is a lowland species that thrives in farmland, grassland, deserts, and some marshes. Pete Dunne notes that you are most likely to see one as it flushes from a structure you've just intruded into, or perhaps caught at the edge of your headlight beam as it flies in open country. Barn Owls do, indeed, commonly nest in structures such as barns, raising the interesting question of where they nested before humans built such structures. A. C. Bent, admitting he has had little personal knowledge of the species, quotes Bendire, from 1892: "Their nesting sites . . . include all sorts of places, such as natural hollows in trees, holes and cavities in clay banks and cliffs, burrows underground enlarged to suit their needs, in the sides of old wells, abandoned mining shafts, dovecots, barns, church steeples, etc." and even rarely on the exposed roof of a building. Local observers taking part in the Pigeon Guillemot study have reported Barn Owls nesting in the same cliff areas as the Guillemots.

A female commonly lays five to seven eggs at a time, at intervals of a few days, so the emerging nestlings vary considerably in age. Both parents incubate the eggs and are sometimes found incubating side by side, with the eggs spread beneath them. The young tend to be a noisy, very active, and pugnacious lot, fighting with one another and making strange noises. They remain in the nest for about 7-8 weeks after hatching, but may stay in the nearby trees where the parents continue to feed them. Their parents bring in abundant food of various small mammals, most commonly mice of different species, and so have traditionally been considered beneficial to agriculture.

The Effects of Climate Change

(continued from page 3)

weather flooding becomes more likely as snowfall shifts to rain. Although (fortunately) few persons drown in Washington floods, the high water levels pose other health risks. Drinking and recreational waters are more likely to become contaminated during floods (and hence so do those who drink, wade or swim in them). In addition, the resultant dampness encourages mold growth in water-logged residences. Respiratory symptoms can be expected to rise in vulnerable populations, then, in the winter as well as the summer.

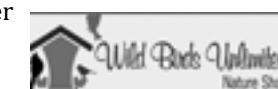


And we haven't even considered the increasing spread of insect-borne diseases, such as West Nile virus....

I know this information is bleak, but I hope it encourages you to act. Talk to friends and neighbors about climate change. Decrease your own carbon footprint. Vote for candidates who make this issue a priority. Provide water and shelter for wildlife. Although we can take some comfort that we Puget-Sound residents are sheltered from many of the worst health effects of unchecked global warming, we will not be completely immune from them.

Keep your feeders clean and safe for birds!

Wild Birds Unlimited on Cooper Point Road cleans bird feeders for \$6 each; trays and domes are \$1 each extra. Loaner feeders available. See David at the store.



Field Trips and Events

Field Trips and Events Capsule

September

- 2 **Event:** Monroe Swift Night Out (and other weekends in September)
- 2 **Field Trip and Event:** Birding and Breakfast
- 14 **Event:** Monthly Speaker Series
- 15-16 **Event:** Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival, Paternos
- 15-17 **Event:** Puget Sound Birdfest, Edmonds
- 21 **Field Trip:** Eagle's Pride Golf Course, JBLM
- 18 **Event:** Olympia Birds and Beer
- 27 **Event:** Shelton Birds and Brew

October

- 6-8 **Event:** Ridgefield Birdfest and Bluegrass Celebration, Ridgefield
- 7 **Field Trip and Event:** Birding and Breakfast
- 12 **Event:** Monthly Speaker Series
- 14 **Field Trip:** Big Birds of Clark County
- 19 **Field Trip:** Eagle's Pride Golf Course, JBLM
- 16 **Event:** Olympia Birds and Beer
- 25 **Event:** Shelton Birds & Brew



Weekly Guided Birding

Saturday Birding & Breakfast

Want to get a head start on your weekend? Join us for Birding and Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month, except July and August. Bird with us, then enjoy breakfast at a local restaurant. Beginning birders are welcome. Share what you know, connect, enjoy. For more information, contact Black Hills Audubon Society at 360-352-7299.

September 3: Meet Deb Nickerson at 7:30 at Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, at the Visitor Center. Breakfast afterwards at a location to be chosen. 100 Brown Farm Rd. N.E., Olympia.

October 7: Meet Sam Merrill at 7:30 at the Woodard Bay Conservation Area. From Olympia: take Boston Harbor Road north, then right on Woodard Bay Road, crossing Libby Road. There is a small parking area requiring a Discover Pass on the left just before crossing the bridge over Woodard Bay; or drive across the bridge and up the hill to a County parking lot that does not require a Discover Pass -- an easy walk down to the lower parking lot. Bring your own breakfast.

Birds and Beer

Olympia
Join birders at 4:30 p.m. in Olympia on the 3rd Monday of the month (September 18 and October 16) at the Fish Tale Brewpub, 515 Jefferson St. S.E., Olympia. Folks meet at the couches in the back, where they share their "best birding spots in our area."



Shelton

Meet local birders on the last Wednesday of each month at the El Serape Cantina at 318 W. Railroad Ave., Shelton, WA. Drop by any time between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. to share your favorite birding spots and meet other bird lovers. Upcoming dates: September 27 and October 25. See you there!

Field Trip: Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR Every Wednesday, 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Leader: Phil Kelley
Summer is over at the Refuge, and the fall migration is imminent. Make a visit to the Refuge a priority to see what birds are stopping over at Nisqually or planning to stay the winter. Be prepared for any kind of weather and walking. Bring water and snacks and viewing equipment 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.

Field Trip: Eagle's Pride Golf Course, JBLM Third Thursday of Each Month, 8:00 a.m. - noon September 21 and October 19

Leaders: Denis DeSilva and David Wienecke

Only one-half mile from Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Eagle's Pride Golf Course's diverse landscapes attract a wide variety of birds. If you have never visited this birding site, you will be surprised by its accessibility and richness of habitat.

As always, dress for the weather and bring water and snacks as needed.

Meet at the driving range parking spaces. Take exit 116 off I-5N. Go west off the ramp and then right into the golf course. The driving range access road, a narrow gravel road, is an immediate left, or you can park in the main lot and easily walk up to the driving range.

If you have questions, contact David Wienecke at david.l.wienecke.naf@mail.mil or call his office phone, 253-964-0341.

Field Trip Details



Join the group "South Sound Birders" on Meetup.com to be reminded of field trips and correspond with members about birding.

by Bonnie Wood

September and October, 2017

I'm a morning person—a "dove," the sleep experts call me—and I am happy to rise with the light. Early in the spring, birds are busy long before I'm awake, their songs plentiful and melodious in my suburban yard. Now, mid-summer, it is much quieter until a little later in the morning. Yet there is plenty of activity. An Anna's Hummingbird comes regularly for a drink at my nectar feeder. This particular bird must have a wing feather awry, because its flight is noisier than that of other hummingbirds, noisier than a Rufous Hummingbird's. This morning a Western Scrub Jay was eating blueberries off my one bearing bush in the front yard. A Northern Flicker and a Bewick's Wren pecked at ants in cracks in the sidewalk.

Doubtless your summer is as busy as our birds' summer. I hope you enjoy your summer thoroughly, whether you are formally birding, exploring, or simply watching the activity in your own backyard. As summer fades, fall does boast a few alluring festivals, and Paul Hicks's field trip in October to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge will be a great weekend jaunt.

Friday-Sunday September 15-17

Festival: Puget Sound Birdfest

Location: Edmonds, Washington

Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds, Washington is an annual fall celebration of birds and nature found on the beautiful shores of Puget Sound. The three-day event includes speakers, guided walks, land and water-based field trips, exhibits, and educational activities for children and adults. (BHAS's Burt Guttman will give one of his talks on beginning birding.) Plan to spend the weekend in Edmonds, birding and meeting other birders, naturalists, photographers, and people engaged in fascinating bird research projects.

The keynote speaker will be Steve Shunk, whose presentation, "How Woodpeckers Can Save the World (or at least your local forest!)" will be Friday, September 15, 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Edmonds Plaza Room, Doors will open at 7 p.m. Woodpeckers represent one of the most specialized bird families in the world, and North America's woodpeckers play a critical role in our continent's forests and woodlands. In fact, nowhere else on Earth are woodpeckers such important contributors to forest ecology.

Steve will take you inside woodpecker anatomy and translate anatomical adaptation into the fascinating behaviors we love to watch among our favorite woodland carpenters. He will explain how these amazing birds can slam their heads against trees without injury; he will share the broad variability among our local woodpecker species, and will explain how several species can coexist in the same stand of forest without competition. You will hear stories of fly-catching woodpeckers, ant-eating woodpeckers, and heavy-duty excavators. Steve will explain the keystone ecological roles played by our local woodpeckers, and he will send you home with a mission. Prepare to be entertained, educated, and inspired to be ambassadors for woodpecker and forest conservation.

September's first weekend (or any September evening!)

Festival: Monroe Swift Night Out

Location: Monroe, Washington

For this year's details, visit the Monroe Swifts website (<http://monroeswifts.org>). Eastside Audubon and other local organizations

invite you to Swift Night Out, their annual festival held on a Saturday evening in September to celebrate the peak of the Vaux's migration in Monroe. Each September thousands of migrating Vaux's Swifts pause to roost in the old brick chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe, a rest stop on their route from northwestern Canada to Central America and Venezuela. An unforgettable spectacle unfolds each evening when the Vaux's are in town. About an hour before sunset they begin to gather, circling the chimney in growing numbers. All at once as the sun goes down, they whisk into the chimney—tails first! There can be as many as 20,000 Vaux's on an evening during the first weeks of September, and the birds keep coming in smaller numbers even into early October.

Friday-Saturday, September 15-16

Festival: Chelan Ridge Hawk Watch Migration Festival

Location: Pateros, Washington

Join the Methow Valley Ranger District, HawkWatch International, and North Central Washington Audubon Society this fall for the 9th annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival. This free family event combines activities in Pateros, Washington and shuttle trips to the Chelan Ridge migration site to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. You will get to visit vendors, see raptor demonstrations, listen to live music, and take a trip to the spectacular Chelan Ridge HawkWatch where visitors can see raptors such as Cooper's Hawk up close when they are banded and released. Chelan Ridge sits 5,675 feet above sea level along the flyway of migrating raptors. HawkWatch International field crew who live at the Ridge during the migration season will offer insight into what it is like to live and breathe raptors and show how the birds are banded and tracked. This is an amazing experience with environmental education and interpretation conducted by on-site educators, Forest Service personnel, and volunteers.



Friday-Saturday, October 6-8

Festival: Ridgefield Birdfest and Bluegrass Celebration

Location: Ridgefield, Washington

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge holds a special place in many birders' and naturalists' hearts. Each year, volunteers put together a weekend full of field trips, concerts, and more. Keep an eye on their website www.ridgefieldfriends.org for details and schedule as they evolve.

Saturday, October 14

Field Trip: Big Birds of Clark County

Leader: Paul Hicks

Sandhill Cranes will be our "target" species, along with Great Egrets and herons, geese and other waterfowl. These "big birds" should be plentiful at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Woodland bottoms, and Vancouver lowlands. Other interesting but long-shot specialties include Red-shouldered Hawk, American White Pelican, (continued next page)

Black Hills Audubon Society

BHAS Officers:

President: Open
Vice-President: Elizabeth Rodrick.....
vice-pres@blackhills-audubon.org
Secretary: Bruce Jacobs.....
secretary@blackhills-audubon.org
Treasurer: Kim Adelson.....415-603-1768
treasurer@blackhills-audubon.org

Other Board Members (At Large):

Ken Brown, Steve Curry, Hank Henry, Craig Merkel, Sam Merrill, Paul Moody, Sharon Moore, Deb Nickerson, Mary Russell, Bob Wadsworth, Jim Wilson, Joe Zabransky

Committee Chairs:

Conservation: Sam Merrill.....360-866-8839
sammerrill3@comcast.net
CBC & Bird ID: Bill Shelmerdine.....360-866-9106
georn1@hotmail.com
Education: Open
Field Trips: Bonnie Wood.....360-352-7299
bwood2800@gmail.com
Membership: Margery Beeler.....360-352-5437
mswampcat@aol.com
Hospitality/Outreach: Deb Nickerson.....360-754-5397
debranick@gmail.com
Programs: Leslie Lynam.....360-754-1710
Communications: Jim Wilson.....sky11.jw@gmail.com
Echo Editor: Burt Guttman.....360-456-8447
guttmanb@evergreen.edu
Echo Layout: Jim Wilson.....sky11.jw@gmail.com

Audubon Outreach - Newcomers are welcome!

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.

Outreach opportunities include: helping with Annual Dinner in March of each year, answering questions about Black Hills Audubon at Birding and Breakfast, greeting or bringing refreshments to monthly program meetings, staffing tables at local events to provide Black Hills Audubon informational materials, posting birding events on website event calendars of local radio stations, newspapers, Chamber of Commerce, or at local libraries and businesses.

The Outreach/Hospitality Committee meets the last Thursday of September, January, and April. Contact Deb Nickerson at 360-754-5397 for more information on location.

Membership

Information about national and local Audubon membership is available at <http://blackhills-audubon.org/join/> or by contacting Margery Beeler, Membership Committee Chair.

Field Trip Details

(continued from page 7)

White-breasted Nuthatch, and Lesser Goldfinch. Late-migrating shorebirds, warblers and other passerines are also possible, along with new arrivals for the winter, particularly sparrows.

We'll be joined by some local experts, among the most knowledgeable birders in the state—a real treat!

Dress for the day's weather and bring food and drink as needed. A scope is highly recommended.

We'll meet up in Tumwater at the Southgate parking lot on Capital Boulevard (where Ace Hardware used to be) at 6:15 a.m. and return around 6 p.m. (Early return is okay by prior arrangement.)

To sign up, contact Paul Hicks at 360-870-3819 and provide your e-mail address. Limit: 12 participants and 4 cars. Please indicate whether you can drive. A contribution from participants given directly to drivers for gas and to local guides for their expertise will be appreciated (\$5 for drivers; \$2 for guides).



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.

Contact Information

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
Membership: <http://blackhills-audubon.org/join/>

Echo is published bi-monthly. The Editor welcomes articles, photographs, artwork, etc. for the newsletter. Graphics are by Nature Icons/Ultimate Symbol or public domain unless otherwise noted. The deadline for the next issue will be October 1 for the November/December issue of the *Echo*.

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 (1 year only; NAS no longer accepts either multiple-year or reduced-rate memberships)

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.



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BHAS Chapter Events and Field Trips

Detailed information about Black Hills Audubon Society Chapter events and field trips, as well as regional events can be found on pages 6-8. Information can also be found on the BHAS website www.blackhills-audubon.org.



September - BHAS Chapter Events and Field Trips

- 2 **Field Trip and Event:** Birding and Breakfast
- 14 **Event:** Monthly Speaker Series
- 21 **Field Trip:** Eagle's Pride Golf Course, JBLM
- 18 **Event:** Olympia Birds and Beer
- 27 **Event:** Shelton Birds and Brew

October - BHAS Chapter Events and Field Trips

- 7 **Field Trip and Event:** Birding and Breakfast
- 12 **Event:** Monthly Speaker Series
- 14 **Field Trip:** Big Birds of Clark County
- 19 **Field Trip:** Eagle's Pride Golf Course, JBLM
- 16 **Event:** Olympia Birds and Beer
- 25 **Event:** Shelton Birds & Brew