

Echo

June 2023
Olympia, Washington



BHAS ANNUAL PICNIC

The Black Hills Audubon Annual Picnic will be held
on the afternoon of **Sunday, June 25th**.

We will meet at the Rose Shelter at Squaxin Park (formerly Priest Point Park) in Olympia. We will start gathering at 3:30 with dinner and a short program starting at 4:30. After a rousing game of Bird Bingo (with prizes), those who wish can join in a bird walk around the park grounds before heading home.

We will be honoring all our loyal volunteers plus giving special recognition to our Volunteer of the Year (see accompanying article). We will also honor our recipients for the Jack Davis Conservationist of the Year Award and the Dave McNett Environmental Educator of the Year Award (see accompanying articles).

Details: Sunday June 25th
Squaxin Park Rose Shelter
Arrive between 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Bring your picnic food and utensils

BHAS will supply dessert, soft drinks and water

Questions? Ask Stevie Morris at stephaniemrrs2@gmail.com

SPECIAL ACTIVITY: We are going to have a swap table! Bring any bird-related items you no longer want to our swap table and see if there is anything on it that you would like to take. Most of us have received a variety of avian-themed gifts over the years and may have more than we need. Any items left over from this will be donated to a worthy thrift store.

There will be no COVID protocols for this event.

Name Change Survey

By Kim Adelson

After a year spent gathering data and deliberating, the National Audubon Society decided to retain the Audubon name. The question of changing the name arose once it was discovered that John James Audubon was a slave owner and unsavory individual. (See [The Myth of John James Audubon | Audubon](#).) They made the decision to retain his name because they believe that losing the name “Audubon”, which stands for “birds” and not “slavery” in most people’s minds, would lower our name recognition, and hence clout, when advocating for birds. Concurrently, the organization announced a new \$25 million initiative to promote diversity and equity. (See [National Audubon Society Announces Decision to Retain Current Name | Audubon](#) for a more complete explanation of their decision.)

The way that Audubon is structured, each local Audubon chapter is largely autonomous and has the right to decide for itself what it would like to be called. Therefore, we are conducting a survey of our members to understand their position on this question.

This survey is now available on our website at this [link](#). The included questions are listed below for preview. The survey will close July 31, 2023.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

1. Do you believe that the Black Hills Audubon Society should retain our current name?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I very strongly believe the name should be changed	I believe that the name should be changed	I lean towards changing the name	Neutral/Don't care	I lean towards retaining the name	I believe that we should retain our name	I very strongly believe that we should retain our name

2. If you believe that the name should be changed, would you be willing to help do the work involved to make the change happen? (It would be a big job.)

1	2	3	4
No.	I would be willing to do a little work on the name change.	I would be willing to devote a good amount of time on the name change.	I would be willing to take on a leadership role to make the name change happen.

If you are willing to work on a name change, please include your name and contact information:

3. Please feel free to add any comments you'd like, or to suggest a new name for our group.

Jack Davis Conservationist of the Year Award - 2023

The **Jack Davis Conservationist of the Year Award** for 2023 goes to the **Legacy Forest Project** for its work in collaboration with the **Center for Responsible Forestry**. The informally organized Legacy Forest Project is a local group that preserves legacy forests, and does so in association with the more formal Center for Responsible Forestry, which operates in western Washington. We especially recognize Greg Bargmann for his keystone work as part of the Legacy Forest Project. The award will be presented at the Black Hills Audubon Annual Picnic on June 25, at the Rose Garden shelter in Squaxin Park.

The work focuses on forests managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It is particularly directed toward mixed species forests that are naturally regenerated, structurally complex, and on a healthy trajectory to old growth and sustained habitat for many species of wildlife. Such forests contrast with mono-crop, single-age plantations, a.k.a. "tree farms," which are disease and fire-prone.

The unique nature of these carbon dense “Legacy Forests” provides diverse wildlife habitat and the ability for the public to engage with such forests, often in local settings. Given the dominance of the industrial logging paradigm, which seeks to convert these Legacy Forests into lumber and plywood, it has been a challenge to move the dial so these stunning forests together with the wildlife they support are not logged.

The Legacy Forest Project formed in Thurston County from a group of neighbors concerned about a proposed timber cut that would fundamentally change the character of the community. The group began reaching out to DNR but soon realized that their small group needed more expertise and resources to convince DNR not to cut these Legacy Forests. In this way, the Legacy Forest Project and Center For Responsible Forestry (C4RF) found each other.

Beginning in 2020, the non-profit C4RF has fought to preserve Legacy Forests from being converted to plantation forests and cut. It has supported the Legacy Forest Project by providing communication support, data, research, publicity, and opportunities for networking.

Over the last several years, the members and leadership of both the Legacy Forest Project and C4RF have:

1. Provided significant and frequent comments relative to preserving Legacy Forests at the monthly DNR meetings.
2. Engaged local government leaders to educate them on the value of preserving Legacy Forests resulting in a formal request to DNR by the Board of County Commissioners to oppose logging of selected Legacy Forests in Capitol Forest.
3. Hosted walks in DNR Legacy Forests to showcase their extraordinary beauty and diversity.
4. Educated and informed the public concerning support for preserving these forests.
5. Engaged with DNR to provide data and promote alternative management concepts such as Carbon Sequestration.
6. Provided information to media organizations on the public value of legacy forests beyond cutting for timber sales.

Several proposed timber sales of DNR tracts in Thurston County have been mitigated or averted, including the Oracle and Critter Units, and portions of the Smuggler Unit.

Both organizations continue work to stop the Legacy Forest sales planned by DNR and influence a change to DNR policy to a new direction balancing the financial needs of DNR Trust Lands with the needs of the environment, wildlife habitat, and the public to whom these forests belong.

Members of the Legacy Forest Project

Bruce Anderson
Greg Bargmann
Bonnie Blessing
Paul Butler
Peggy Butler

Shane Carlson
JC Davis
Sherri Dysart
Lynn Fitz-Hugh
Miranda Mellis
Robert Metzger
Cynthia Moe-Lobeda
Victor Osprescu
Eirik Steinhoff (LFP and C4RF)
Kim Walter
Christy White

BHAS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2023

ELIZABETH RODRICK

Elizabeth Rodrick was born in Tacoma but spent most of her growing-up years in various locations with her Navy family. She returned to Tacoma for high school and then went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and a Master's in Wildlife Biology, both at the University of Washington.

The most memorable place she lived as a child was on Midway Island in the late 1950s. She was able to return there fifty years later to help with an albatross census project.

Elizabeth's career was spent with the WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife where she specialized in identifying and protecting habitats for endangered and threatened species. She retired in 2013 and became very active with Black Hills Audubon. She first joined Audubon in the 1990s. Her biology background was welcomed by the Conservation Committee on which she has volunteered through to the present day. In 2014, she became a BHAS Board member and by 2018, she was Acting President.

As President, she started the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. She also attended regional and state Audubon meetings, hosted our Zoom program speakers, submitted the National Audubon yearly reports, headed up the Nominating Committee, and continued her work on the Conservation Committee.

We are so happy to have Elizabeth as the recipient of the 2023 Volunteer of the Year. The office of presidency is one that involves many moving parts and a substantial time commitment. Anyone who steps into that role deserves every available accolade. We honor Elizabeth for her past work and her continuing dedication to habitat conservation.

By the way, Elizabeth wants our members to know two things: one, she thinks our volunteers are a joy to work with and, two, she is not a morning person so even though she loves birds, she rarely makes it to our field trips.

THANK YOU, ELIZABETH, FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE.

Dave McNett Environmental Educator of the Year - 2023

This year's recipient of the Dave McNett Environmental Educator of the Year Award, Stephanie Bishop, has managed Thurston Conservation District's South Sound GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network) watershed education program for over 11 years and is revered for her dedication and passion. The GREEN program teaches watershed education for Thurston County youth in grades 3 through college and Stephanie works with more than 500 students and 80 teachers annually from Thurston County.

Stephanie's dedication to outdoor education is evident in her work history. She graduated from The Evergreen State College with a degree in Natural History. Prior to her job with GREEN, she served as the Education and Outreach Coordinator for Mason Conservation district for almost 6 years. She has also volunteered for Stream Team, works as a Capitol Land Trust land steward, and has been a salmon docent at Kennedy Creek.

Stephanie was nominated and is supported by her fellow workers who frequently mentioned her hard work, passion, and "masterful planning." She organizes learning experiences outdoors for local students and collaborates with teachers to support their curriculum, works with local tribes & environmental organizations, writes grants, plants trees, creates curriculum, closely plans with teachers, and much more. Trips for students might include Water Quality Monitoring, exploring Puget Sound Beach, or learning about salmon spawning.

Stephanie is proud of the work GREEN did during the COVID outbreak to continue to transform their whole program to be accessible virtually. For instance, they used document cameras for virtual tours of the salmon trail and even dissected salmon over Zoom. Many of the resources developed during COVID are still in use as pre- and post-lessons. Another source of pride is that every North Thurston Public School 5th grade class is included in the Water Quality Monitoring in collaboration with the Nisqually River Education Project.

According to Sarah Moorehead, Executive Director of TCC, "she always has the best interest of the kids at heart." Another frequent accolade was summed up by Sam Nadell, South Sound GREEN Program Coordinator, who said: "She works to give students a quality experience outdoors and goes the extra mile—above and beyond." Congratulations to Stephanie Bishop for such dedicated efforts to the outdoor education of Thurston County's students.

The Enchantment of the Familiar

Part One

By Rachel Hudson

As the woman sitting on the airplane seat next to me accidentally elbowed my side and woke me up for the umpteenth time, I briefly entertained the idea of what would happen were I to actually lose my mind and let myself snap halfway into my tenth and final plane ride within the last four weeks. I groggily envisioned my quiet, reserved self suddenly standing up and ranting and raving about how I'd had enough of it all and just wanted to be far, far away from all the insanity. After a light chuckle—*No way I would ever do that, nor could I even raise my voice to do so*, I thought—I tried my best to curl into a tight ball against the wall of the plane, carefully leaning far enough sideways to avoid being elbowed by the person next to me, far enough forward to not have my spine jabbed by the person kicking the seat behind me, and far enough backward to avoid having the top of my skull cracked open (for the fourth time) by the person in front of me, who periodically leaned backward in his seat so violently that the dinner tray latch kept impaling my head as I tried to sleep. I also had to avoid my beloved window, for the sun was blazing right into it at that time of day, and I was forced to carefully balance my jacket between myself and the closed window shutter to keep from being burned.

This hadn't exactly been my favorite flight of them all, but it did give me an odd sort of clarity in my drowsy musings of what all had transpired on my Grandest Adventure. Sure, this flight may have been rough, but did it hold a candle to having an automatically flushing toilet with a broken sensor repeatedly flush itself, spraying me with its water, as I miserably sat in an airport stall with a violently bloody nose that wouldn't stop? What about having to hike up a steep trail at 5,000 feet above sea level three times over two days because I'd missed my target Life Bird by mere minutes each time... all while suffering from crippling allergies and a severe lack of oxygen in my body? Or perhaps having to bird on the run while sprinting through what should have been a lovely patch of trees and wildflowers on the Gulf Coast... but what was instead overrun with beefy mosquitoes an inch long that could easily keep pace with (and persistently bite) a running human in the stiff ocean breeze?

As I remembered my least favorite experiences of the journey, I caught my heart longing for my home, which I'd only seen for a brief couple of days in between one set of flights in the last month. I realized that I had been taking many things for granted for years, such as refrigerated filtered water, my "Little Pillow" that I'd slept with since 7th Grade, noise-canceling over-ear headphones, power outlets that worked, my own car... even the ability to sit for an extended period of time without being moved sounded like Heaven to me.

But, my tired brain reminded me, weren't you just crying a few hours ago because you had to leave?

Well... yes, I was. I was sad to leave my family, my fiancé, all the beautiful new landscapes, birds, flowers, and animals, and return to my “regularly scheduled life” after a month of adventures. And what incredible adventures they had been...!

To start with, I had traveled to Scotland for my very first time to explore the Glasgow area and part of the coastline with my beloved partner (now fiancé, as he proposed to me during that trip after an incredible experience getting to hold and fly several species of owls together at the Scottish Owl Centre). We saw so many amazing birds on our adventures; I got to watch as my first Northern Gannet bent its wings backward and plummeted into the ocean right in front of us! I got to hear the never-ending songs of European Robins, Eurasian Wrens, and Dunnocks for the very first time! I got to watch as a Carrion Crow harassed a Common Buzzard that had flown too close to the crow’s nest, a Eurasian Skylark belted out its song from up in the clouds then plummeted back down to Earth, a Great Crested Grebe shook its luscious locks in the breeze, and a pair of huge Great Spotted Woodpeckers quietly crept through an old forest.

One of the most amazing things I noticed while birding in Scotland was the parallel between the birds of Scotland and the birds of the Pacific Northwest. On my first full day there, I noted something that sounded for all the world like a finch to me... and sure enough, it was a European Greenfinch. A bit later, I heard calls from what I was certain was a pair of Bushtits; therefore, I started looking for their Scottish equivalent, the Long-tailed Tit. As I looked around, I saw that a pair of Long-taileds was indeed right there, dangling from the small tree next to me. They were cuter and fluffier and rounder, shockingly, than our little gray balls of happiness we know and love here. From then on, I trusted my instincts and my thorough knowledge of bird calls from the Pacific Northwest. Scotland is, after all, extremely similar in climate to Western Washington. Rain and mild temperatures are the year-round norm, the rocky coast is never far away, buttery yellow Gorse and Scotch Broom (which are native, important habitats for birds in Scotland) cover the hillsides and road edges, and many birds that live there behave just like ours do.

In the Pacific Northwest, when we enter a forest, we will often hear the bubbling song of the Pacific Wren; in Scotland, the trees can erupt with the similar bubbling song of the Eurasian Wren, which looks just like our tiny Pacific Wren. Well-kept lawns here in Washington are home to many American Robins, which are known for their habit of creeping about for a few steps, standing upright and watching/listening, and then repeating the process, sometimes freezing and staring intently at the ground before stabbing downwards and pulling up a large earthworm. In Scotland, our American Robin’s equivalent is the Eurasian Blackbird, another *Turdus* thrush which is, in essence, a robin painted jet-black, with the same mannerisms as the robins we know here. Backyard habitats and birdfeeders in Washington are magnets for American Goldfinches and various types of Chickadees; neighborhoods and feeders in Scotland attract European Goldfinches and several members of the Scottish “Chickadee-equivalents”, the tits: Great Tits, Eurasian Blue Tits, and sometimes Coal Tits. Mere minutes after I’d correctly identified the calls of Long-tailed Tits without ever having seen or heard one before, my ears

picked up the seemingly unmistakable high-pitched calls of a Golden-crowned Kinglet. In Scotland, the Golden-crowned Kinglet's equivalent would be the Goldcrest, a tiny bird that looks almost identical to our version. With that knowledge, I searched the tall evergreen treetops for my quarry and was once again proven correct, as I saw a Goldcrest flit around at the canopy, just like our kinglets do.

As my time in Scotland progressed, I continued to marvel at every single thing I experienced there, regardless of how familiar it all seemed to be. Eurasian Jackdaws, smallish crow-like birds with white eyes and gray napes, frequently walked around where American Crows would have back home, and I delighted in stalking them and taking their pictures. I was thrilled to bits when I found a pair of Eurasian Nuthatches walking upside-down on a dead log in a forest... sound familiar? The Eurasian Coots were so obvious and barely distinguishable from our American version that I was eagerly spotting them from public transport windows, and when a Gray Heron snuck up behind my fiancé and I, I lost all composure as a birder and started taking scores of pictures of the Great Blue lookalike as it calmly walked past. Even Scotland's pigeons were exciting to me... outside the cities, the most commonly encountered pigeon was the Common Wood-Pigeon (aptly named), a large and spectacularly handsome bird which reminded me of our Band-tailed.

I started to realize that, to the casual observer, I was going nuts over things that were so ordinary, so "plain and boring"... but to me, these things were spectacular, new, exciting, and beautiful. As I spoke of my birds back home, I often found myself saying, "It's just exactly like your *this*, only *this* one little detail is different." If that was the case, with so many of Scotland's birds being so very similar to all the species I knew from Washington, why was everything so thrilling? I'd taken thousands upon thousands of photographs of only 70 species, many of which were "lookalike birds" to ones from the Pacific Northwest... Aside from the "New Life Bird!" factor, what was so enchanting about it all?

I wouldn't begin to appreciate what was happening until a few days later, on my first ever trip to Arizona, for a solid week of nonstop birding....

To be continued next month...

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Our monthly speaker program is the most widely enjoyed activity of Black Hills Audubon. We average between 40 and 100 people per program and were able to continue through the pandemic with the use of Zoom. Zoom has been a game changer. We are now able to access speakers and audiences throughout the world. We actually had someone attend from Scotland!

As much as we love the wider net that Zoom enables, we miss the interaction that happens when we meet in person. This summer, the Program Committee will investigate a hybrid meeting model. We envision setting up refreshments, chairs and a large video screen in our old meeting place, Temple Beth Hatfiloh in Olympia. The speaker will come to the room via Zoom and will be projected on the video screen. At the same time, people can also watch on their devices at home. We are hoping to offer the best of both worlds – personal interaction if desired, plus accessibility if that is not possible.

This will require some technical experimentation so we are looking for someone with computer skills to assist. This person need not be an expert – just someone who is not afraid of computers, cords, projectors or audio speakers.

Finding program speakers is also part of the Program Committee's work. Kathleen Snyder, Carla Miller and Sally Nole have been arranging speakers for the past two years. Both Kathleen and Sally are stepping down from this role while Carla and Bruce Jacobs are stepping up to take over and they could use more help. We offer nine programs a year (none in June, July or August) and the programs are scheduled for the second Thursday evening of the month. Speakers are found through a wide variety of sources. There is an Audubon WA speaker list to which we have access. Magazine articles, other Audubon chapters, Tweeters, and personal contacts have all resulted in wonderful programs.

If this is appealing to you, please contact Bruce to discuss further. You can reach him at treasurer@blackhills-audubon.org.

GLACIAL HERITAGE WESTERN BLUEBIRDS

The monitoring team for Glacial Heritage has been enjoying some wonderful weather and gorgeous wildflowers while keeping track of the comings and goings of our nest box occupants. Pictured above are two of our beloved bluebirds laying claim to one of the older nest boxes. We installed seven more boxes mid-May because there was so much competition for them. We now have 38 boxes with these birds occupying them as of May 25th:

Western Bluebirds: 6 pairs

Violet Green Swallows: 12 pairs

Tree Swallows: 8 pairs

There is still some competition going on between swallows for ownership of a few of the remaining boxes.

The plan is to go out every ten days to monitor. What a joy it is to witness all this bird activity!

SUMMARY OF EDMOND MARSH FIELD TRIP

This fine group of birding enthusiasts is enjoying a lovely morning at Dupont's Edmond Marsh. Denis DeSilvis, the first person on the right, led everyone on the 3.4 mile walk. One of the highlights was seeing a female Rufous Hummingbird on her nest. All in all, we saw 47 species in 4 hours. Hopefully, this will become an annual spring event.

BHAS ELECTION RESULTS

The new Board for Black Hills Audubon was elected at the program meeting on May 11th. Here are the results:

President	Kim Adelson
Treasurer	Bruce Jacobs
Secretary	Kathleen Snyder
Director-at-Large	Reinhold Groepler
Director-at-Large	Rachel Hudson
Director-at-Large	Sam Merrill
Director-at-Large	Carla Miller
Director-at-Large	Stephanie Morris
Director-at-Large	Charlotte Persons
Director-at-Large	Bob Wadsworth

We still have openings for Directors-at-Large and would love to talk to you if you are interested. If you would like to learn more, please contact Kim Adelson at vice-pres@blackhills-audubon.org. Our Board meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm via Zoom. Board members are also expected to take a leadership role on a BHAS committee and participate in our other events/projects as able. Black Hills Audubon is an organization you can be proud to support with your time and energy.

Our all-volunteer organization only thrives when people like you step up and get involved!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

All chapter work is done by volunteers for whom we are very grateful. If you are interested in volunteering in something other than the opportunities listed below, please contact Kathleen Snyder ksnyder75@gmail.com.

ELECTION COORDINATOR: We just had our annual election for officers and Board members. It could have run more smoothly if we'd had one person to make sure all the details came together. This is a short term (March, April, May) job coordinating newsletter announcements, website updates, and running the actual vote. Please consider this if you are looking for a volunteer opportunity with limited commitment. ksnyder75@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHERS: BHAS has a photo gallery on our website and an Instagram account (Blackhills352). We would love to add new bird photographs to these platforms. Please contact Quentin Phillips at gmp932@hotmail.com. He will give you the parameters for what we can use.

COMMUNICATION CHAIR: Are you plugged into social media and see the need for BHAS to step it up in that area? We would love to talk to you about doing just that. Please contact Kathleen Snyder ksnyder75@gmail.com

BHAS Retains Attorney for Habitat Conservation Plan

BHAS retained Paul Kampmeier, a Seattle attorney with Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) expertise. Paul helped prepare our stakeholder comments and recommendations for improving the draft Bush Prairie (Tumwater) HCP. BHAS expressed concerns regarding the future populations of the federally listed Olympia Pocket Gopher, Streaked Horned Lark, Oregon Vesper Sparrow, and Oregon Spotted Frog. The BHAS Chapter will provide more detailed comments when the SEPA/NEPA (State and National Environmental Policy Acts) environmental review is open for comment this fall.

Contribute to Science Through Birding

The Puget Sound Seabird Survey is looking for birders in Thurston County - in particular the Olympia, Lacey, and Boston Harbor areas - to join this established Community Science program. Volunteers are asked to conduct 7 surveys with a small team of fellow surveyors at specific locations. All surveys are synchronized to take place once per month on the first Saturday, October – April. You will be provided training in the survey technique, and ideally will have good seabird identification skills. However, there are roles on the survey team for birders of all levels. Now in its 15th season, you'll be contributing to valuable science that monitors wintering seabirds across Puget Sound and informs important management decisions. Previously, the project was part of Birds Connect Seattle's (formerly Seattle Audubon) science program but transitioned to its new home at Puget Sound Bird Observatory in 2022. More information can be found on our [website](#) and if you are interested in taking part, please reach out to Program Manager Toby Ross at t_ross@pugetsoundbirds.org

It's Time to Build a Truly Inclusive Outdoors

As the nation continues to confront racism, the birding community must embrace difficult conversations.

By Corina Newsome

Article first published in Audubon Magazine, summer 2020. Used with permission. Link to original article here: [It's Time to Build a Truly Inclusive Outdoors](#)

It's early April and American Woodcocks have begun twilight mating displays, making whistling, twirling falls from the sky. You've seen them before with friends, but to abide by social distancing rules you decide on a solo trip. Then you recall the sound of gravel behind you as a police car followed you to a trail head the other day. You quickly but calmly grabbed your binoculars and pointed them to a nearby tree. Not because you saw a bird, but to prove your innocence—to de-escalate what you feared could unfold. It's cold outside and will be colder tonight when the woodcocks dance. You should layer up with your hoodie, but you know how that makes you look. Especially at night. Especially alone. You decide it's better not to go.

Every detail of this scenario is based on events experienced by me and my Black birding friends—and our fear is not for nothing. Law enforcement and vigilantes have endangered or taken Black lives more times than we can count. Names ring in our ears: Tamir, Breonna, George, Ahmaud. We have also seen the discomfort of white hikers and birders when they encounter us, sometimes suspicious or fearful, other times shocked we're even there. To raise our concerns, we've reached out to our birding communities. But instead of finding listening ears, we've been told that discussion is too political. Nature exploration is "neutral territory." How dare we bring race into birding.

As COVID-19 cases exploded, the outdoors, and birding in particular, became a source of solace and escape for many, bringing the anxiety and racism Black people experience in the outdoors into clear relief. Then a spark: [on video](#), a white woman tried to weaponize the police against a Black birder, Christian Cooper, by falsely claiming an African American man threatened her life. The issues we'd long known became international news, just as Black Lives Matter protests spread globally. My friends and I, [a group](#) of about 30 Black birders, scientists, and nature enthusiasts, decided it was the perfect time to tell the world that these aren't isolated incidents, but the fruit of an entrenched culture. With this resolve, we organized the first [Black Birders Week](#), which began May 31.

Through online events and conversations at hashtags like [#BlackInNature](#), [#BirdingWhileBlack](#), and [#BlackWomenWhoBird](#), hundreds of thousands of people saw, heard, and celebrated Black birders. Large organizations amplified our message; we were no longer silenced. Even as the pandemic kept many apart, we saw more fellow Black birders, scientists, and hikers than ever before.

Still, our efforts must continue—and white people must join. We are at the cusp of a turning point that embraces human diversity as joyfully as the diversity of feathered creatures. To get there, white people must value Black lives and hear our voices—and lean into uncomfortable conversations about racism and privilege that follow. The birding community must show that it is not neutral. Neutrality is dangerous, and this is our protest.

Corina Newsome is a biology graduate student at Georgia Southern University. She has worked in wildlife conservation for eight years, and is currently a field biologist studying the MacGillivray's Seaside Sparrow.

FIELD TRIPS AND OUTINGS

Birding Without Breakfast: Scatter Creek, June 3

Date: Saturday, June 3

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Leader: Deb Nickerson

Description: **Birding (without Breakfast) at Scatter Creek Wildlife Area** at 7:30 a.m., for a walk when migration is in full swing, through prairie and open woodlands of Garry Oaks. Expect to see Western Wood-Pewees and hear Olive-sided Flycatchers, as well as other prairie species. Discover Pass required. Birding without Breakfast walks are especially appropriate for beginning and intermediate birders. Participants will need to follow current COVID-19 protocols and sign a liability form relating to COVID-19. Note: We are unable to accommodate Covid unvaccinated individuals.

Meeting location: Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the South Tract of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area. Discover Pass is required. To reach Scatter Creek Wildlife Area from Olympia, take exit 95 from I-5 onto Maytown Rd. SW (toward Littlerock), but in 0.2 miles, turn left on Case Road. Proceed for about 6 miles on Case Rd,

going about a mile or so *past* the parking areas for the North Tract (which Google indicates for Scatter Creek Wildlife Recreation Area). Then right on 180th Ave SW, then right again at a T and immediately reach the parking area for the South Tract of the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, which has a sign.

No registration needed.

BIRDS AND BREW

JUNE 19TH 4:30 – 6 PM

LOCATION: BOSTON HARBOR MARINA

312 73RD AVE NE

OLYMPIA

It's time to move ourselves outside to enjoy the water and views from Boston Harbor. We will grab a table on the covered deck to enjoy each other's company and talk about birds. This is open to Black Hills members and non-members alike. Although it starts at 4:30 pm, it is a drop-in anytime event.

Our hosts are Craig and Vicki Merkel. Questions can go to Craig at quetsal48@comcast.net.