



Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society
November 2018

Whidbey Audubon Society is dedicated to the understanding, appreciation and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats on Whidbey Island and in surrounding waters.

Whidbey Audubon Meets Thursday, November 8 in Freeland The Mysterious Marbled Murrelet

For a shy, elusive and well-camouflaged seabird, the Marbled Murrelet spends much time in the lime light. Maria Mudd Ruth, author of *Rare Bird: Pursuing*

the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet, celebrates the world of this fascinating species at the center of ongoing controversy about the conservation of our Pacific Coast coastal forests. In her illustrated talk, Maria highlights the bizarre breeding behavior of the murrelet, the 185-year-long



Pen and ink drawing by Paul Harris Jones

Marbled Murrelet chick with a fish.



search for its elusive nest, and the impact of the 1974 discovery of its nest on forest management and information on the murrelets in Washington and around Whidbey Island.

While unravelling many mysteries about the murrelet, Maria explores larger questions: Why should the murrelet matter to us? Why and how should we care about this chunky little seabird? Do we have a moral obligation to save this bird?

Maria is the author of more than a dozen nonfiction books on natural history topics for children and adults. She is also the author of *A Sideways Look at Clouds*,

which won a Nautilus Award in 2018. Maria is a member of the Black Hills Audubon Conservation Committee and lives in Olympia, Washington with her husband and not far from her two adult sons.

Remember, there is no meeting or program in December. See you on the Christmas Bird Counts or next year. Have a wonderful holiday!



Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, November 3: CROCKETT LAKE AND SURROUNDING AREA. Join us for a fun morning of birding at the historic Crockett Lake in Coupeville. Crockett Lake is designated as an Important Bird Area in Washington State and is host to a number of wintering birds species. We can expect to see ducks, shorebirds, seabirds and raptors as we view the area around the ferry dock, meadows and lake. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Coupeville ferry parking lot. Bring your Discover Pass, binocs and scopes. Contact Ann Casey if you need further information at cspcoach@aol.com or 360-331-4679.

Thursday, November 15: BIRDING AT FREELAND PARK AND FREELAND WETLAND TRAIL. Meet at Freeland

Park (bottom of Holmes Harbor by the boat dock and ramp) at 9 a.m. Join Janet Hall for a two-hour field trip. First we will scan the harbor for birds at the park then head over to Freeland Wetland Trail for a walk in the forest to the wetland. The hike is flat with some bumps. If you have a scope, please bring it for the harbor viewing. It will be November so if the weather looks really windy and rainy, please call Janet at 360-331-3634 on Thursday morning between 7 and 8 a.m. or on her cell phone after 8 a.m. at 360-969-1340 to see if the trip is still happening.

Saturday, December 15: NORTH WHIDBEY (WAOH) AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Contact Jay

Upcoming Field Trips, see page 3

Getting to Know your Board: Dave Allen

David describes himself as “not a birder” but fully committed to the Audubon mission and thus eager to support Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) in any way he can. Most of his

2017–2018 WAS Finances

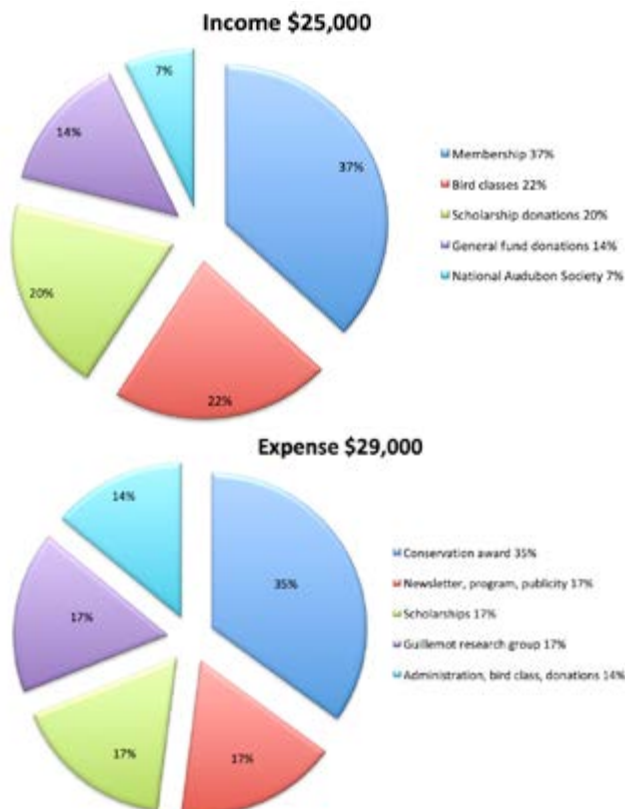
Whidbey Audubon Society’s (WAS’s) fiscal year begins July 1 and ends June 30. Total revenue for the 2017 to 2018 year was about \$25,000, including bird class fees collected for both 2017 and 2018 fiscal years. Donations included \$500 from Puget Sound Energy to support the Bird Festival. Annual revenue from membership and Birdathon scholarship contributions exceeded the previous fiscal year.

Total expenses were about \$29,000. Total general fund operating expenses were about \$14,000 and scholarship fund expenses were \$5,000. The \$10,000 award to the Whidbey Camano Land Trust for habitat protection on the Borgman property was obtained from our savings and \$2,000 in grants received from the Allstate Foundation. Annual expenses exceeded income by about \$3,400.

Whidbey Audubon Society currently maintains sufficient funds for two years of operation, and additional savings are used for special projects.

If you would like additional details, please contact me.

— *Treasurer Linda Perry Dwight*
treasurer@whidbeyaudubon.org



professional life as a nurse was spent in faculty and administrative roles at the University of Washington so he brings a range of research and organization skills to his role as Vice President (or, as he prefers to say, Sharon’s assistant). His other major volunteer commitments are being on the board and chair of the quality committee for Providence Regional Medical Center and, with his wife Kathy, helping Friends of Whidbey State Parks maintain trails in South Whidbey State Park. His main hobby is building Arts and Craft style furniture.

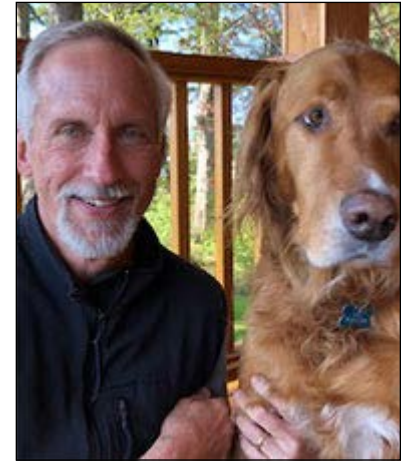


Photo by Kathy Stetz

Dave Allen and his dog named Loki, after the Norse god of mischief.

Dave became interested in birding by observing the “amazing array of birds” on his Bush Point property and trying to figure out what each was. Thus, his favorite birding site is his yard, but also enjoys Deer Lagoon because “the ducks stay long enough for me to identify some of them.”

Dave is a brand-new member of WAS. He attended the Birds of Whidbey Class last year. Former President Ann Casey took notice of him, suggesting to the Board that he might be helpful. His vision for Whidbey Audubon is “To increase our focus on habitat preservation and renewal.”

Embrace the Winter! Count Feeder Birds for Science

Another fantastic opportunity to contribute to Citizen Science (or “Community Science”, as we’re supposed to say now) through Cornell Lab Winter Feeder Watch program. This season runs for 21 weeks — November 10, 2018 through April 5, 2019.

You can contribute to a scientific data base from the convenience of your home and explore the results from all over the country. (Do you know the most common feeder bird? It’s the Dark-eyed Junco).

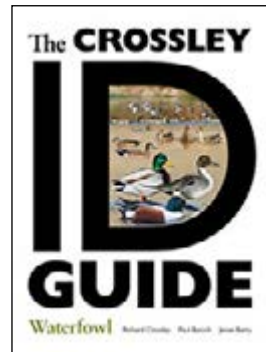
All you need to know is on the Project FeederWatch website, www.feederwatch.org.



Scholarship Committee Book Event

Generous individuals have provided beautiful bird books to the Scholarship Committee to support the scholarship fund. At the November 8 membership meeting, the Committee will offer these lovely books in exchange for a donation at the beginning and end of the meeting. Selections include guides, life histories and books from a set of the 1995 special printing of the Peterson field guide series. This is a great opportunity to obtain Christmas presents or stock up on extra copies of your favorite field guides.

There are also two silent auction items. A signed copy of the *Crossley ID Guide to Waterfowl*, which starts with a minimum bid of \$50. Also a beautiful bird feeder donated by Joe Sheldon, which starts with a \$15 bid.



Whidbey Audubon Makes Plans for the 119th Annual Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the longest and largest running citizen science project in the world. The data is open to all and provides information for research, planning and conservation.

Whidbey Audubon Society is lucky to have not one, but two official Christmas Bird Counts going on this winter. Like I used to always say when I worked at a wine shop and someone couldn't decide if they wanted to buy a bottle of Syrah or Malbec — buy them both. Same goes here. You can participate in both CBC's. Double the fun.



We need volunteers!

- Experienced birders, who would like to lead an area section
- Non-experienced birders who can be an extra pair of eyes in the sky to say, "Hey, what's that?"
- Intermediate birders who know some birds.
- Feeder watchers to count birds from the comfort of your living room. If you put out bird feeders, be certain they are full on the scheduled count days.
- Teams are looking for hot spots to count; do you have lots of birds on your property? Let us know and we would love to come over and count birds.
- There is also a separate nocturnal birding data for your owling efforts.

Volunteers are placed in teams; meet in the morning typically 8 a.m. and bird typically until 4 p.m. (daylight hours). At the end of the day we meet for post tabulation food and fun. North end meets at Pacific Rim Institute on Parker Road and South end meets at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland.

In addition to field observers we need kitchen help and volunteers to donate side dishes for those hungry birders. Do you make a mean zucchini bread? Squash Soup? We need you!

Contact

North Whidbey CBC

— Jay Adams,

protectionisland8.9@gmail.com. We're looking for people to help with the food.

South Whidbey CBC — Govinda Rosling, govinda@whidbey.com

for field counting or feeder counting. Nicole Luce to bring a dish, soup, drinks, etc. at 360-331-3634 or by cell phone at 234-222-0766 or ilndgals@whidbey.com

— Govinda Rosling and Jay Adams

North Whidbey Christmas
Bird Count (WAOH)
Saturday, December 15

South Whidbey Christmas
Bird Count (WASW)
Saturday, December 29

Upcoming Field Trips, from page 1

Adams at protectionisland8.9@gmail.com to participate.

Saturday, December 29: SOUTH WHIDBEY AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Contact Govinda Rosling at govinda@whidbey.com to participate.

Saturday, January 5: FIELD TRIP WITH JANET HALL. Details will be on the website later: www.whidbeyaudubon.org

Field Trip Checklist

- ✓ Field trips are free and open to anyone interested in birding or conservation. Bring your friends!
- ✓ Beginners are very welcome.
- ✓ Carpooling is encouraged and even required for some sites with limited parking.
- ✓ Dress for the weather and in layers.
- ✓ Very bad weather cancels a trip. Check with the trip leader.
- ✓ If you have them, bring binoculars, scope and field guides.
- ✓ If you might need them, bring a drink and snack.

We are always looking for new trip leaders and assistants. If you are interested, please contact Patty Cheek at pattypipe@gmail.com.

Sightings Sightings Sightings...Sightings...Sightings

October 2: Fall and October have definitely arrived. This morning, I heard my first **Varied Thrush** of the fall near Pacific Rim Institute.

— *Joe Sheldon*

October 6: A **leucistic Junco** was seen by the bird class field trip today. The bird was with a flock of normal colored juncos. The head was mostly white with a couple of black spots. Location: Fort Ebey State Park, camping area. — *Steve Ellis*

October 10: **Northern Saw-whet Owl** flying across the road. Interestingly enough, I just released a Saw-whet Owl that we had rehabilitated after crashing into a glass porch railing. That bird was released where found on Ledgewood Beach Road. Location: Newman Road. — *Dave Parent*

October 11: **Red Knot** with a mixed flock of **dowitchers**, **dunlin**, and **plovers**. Location: Swantown/Bos Lake south end on the west beach road edge.

Confirmation: white supercilium, heavy straight bill about the length of the head, dark legs, overall grayish above and light below with flecking on rump in flight and light gray tailfeathers, dark prima-

ries were about even with tail tip, some light “lacing” on the shoulders. Larger than DUNL, smaller than black-bellied plovers and dowitchers. Familiar with the species from when I lived in New Jersey and confident on the id. Reported previously by other birders at the same location.

— *Madrone Ruggiero*

October 15: **Northern Shrike** perched among **Robins** and **Cedar Waxwings** in berried shrubbery. It repeatedly flew to the ground and back up to the brush. At one point we thought it had gone after a bird, but the smaller birds like chickadees were keeping their distance. Not particularly unusual, but first of the season here, and seems a bit early. Location: Maxwelton Valley across from Midvale.

— *Cathi Bower and Kathy Obersinner*

October 21: **Yellow-billed Loon** from the Port Townsend ferry at 9 a.m. Boat-shaped, all yellow bill. Location: Port Townsend ferry, about mid channel. Fog obscured land views for orientation. Addendum: Bill and I again saw a(the?) **Yellow-billed Loon** from the Port Townsend

to Coupeville ferry this afternoon. I imagine likely the same individual as this morning. Both sightings were of an adult mostly still in breeding plumage, with all-dark head. This second sighting was at much greater distance, but the large yellow bill shone bright in the sunlight!

— *Sarah Schmidt and Bill Rick*

October 21: Flock of 23 **Snow Geese** flying south. One Juvenile. Location: Over

Saratoga Passage at the end of Greenbrier Lane, Langley.

— *Dave Parent*

October 28: Large numbers of waterfowl including five **Greater White-fronted Geese**, one **Snow Goose**, 20 **Cackling Geese**, 100+ **Canada Geese**, 100+ of both **Mallards** and **Northern Pintail**, and two **Gadwall**. The birds were foraging in the farm field.

Location: Immediately north of Cook Road on Ebey's Prairie, Coupeville. — *Joe Sheldon*

PLEASE POST UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS to the *Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) website*.

Sightings should be on Whidbey Island or relate in some way to Whidbey Audubon. Reports should refer to birds or other wildlife that are not commonly seen here. Alternatively, they may refer to migratory birds that arrive outside their normal seasons.

Reports of especially interesting sightings in nearby areas are welcome. Greater selectivity is needed to keep the email volume reasonable so editors will exercise judgment on whether the rarity, proximity and significance of sightings merit inclusion.

These guidelines reflect the interests of local birders. Please respect the essentially scientific nature of the Sightings feature. Thanks for your cooperation.

There are designated spaces to submit your information, such as what you saw, where you saw it and the date and approximate time. Although we are asking those who post to leave a phone number or email address with your sighting, they will not be included on the actual “Sightings” page. Thank you!

Keep up with “Sightings” on the was website, on your mobile device at www.m.whidbeyaudubon.org or on the *Whidbey Audubon Society Facebook page*.

Field Trip Report: Birding in Neighborhoods South Bids Farewell to Pelicans as Other Birds Arrive at Deer Lagoon

September 27: No regrets among the South-end early-birders — Deer Lagoon never gets old during migration, especially on a gorgeous morning such as last Thursday. We identified 40 species there, among them, hundreds of **Wigeons**, other ducks and shorebirds, and a few of “our” **Pelicans**, who were still hanging around. (FYI — last Fall, on October 12, there were still nine Pelicans.)

October 11: Terrific choice to head for Sunlight Beach. The fog burned off sooner than imagined, and between the busy beach and the east dike, we saw 44 species, including a **Great**

Horned Owl snoozing in a big willow just to the east of the trail!

Over at the beach, more **mergansers** than you ever saw in one place — mostly **Red-breasted**, a few **Common**, plus one lone **Hoodie** — and as we were contemplating the oddity of two **Shovelers** and a **Wigeon** amongst all the hundreds of other ducks, those three individuals suddenly took off together. Amusing, as if they realized they'd arrived at the wrong party.

Conservation Column: Audubon at Work

By the time you read this, the fate of I-1631 will likely have been determined. (If you see this before you mark your ballot, please vote YES for 1631.) Win or lose, there are more steps to take and a vanishing amount of time to take them to slow global warming. The state legislature will be considering ways to move Washington to a 100 percent clean energy future by 2045 and also attempt to join California, Oregon and British Columbia in reducing transportation pollution with a low carbon fuel standard. Your elected officials need to hear that this

is important to you and important to the future of birds. We can't stop!

At the recent state Audubon convention, several legislators shared their surprise at the numbers Audubon could muster to attend hearings, send letters and emails, make phone calls and submit comments on environmental impact statements when the subject was protecting birds, wildlife and their habitats. They were impressed. Audubon voices speak loudly and knowledgeably from every part of the state.

This legislative session Audubon Washington will be supporting a budget increase for the Department of Fish and Wildlife which manages much habitat for birds, wildlife and recreational users. This push comes because the Conservation Committees of local Audubon chapters agreed to make this a priority. Revenue from hunting and fishing licenses has declined dramatically, but the need to maintain and protect public lands has not. Fees will increase, but the budget shortfall is expected to be 30 million dollars and doesn't address increases needed for salmon and orca recovery projects, watershed health, facility repairs and maintenance, and enforcement.

Please stay tuned to these issues and respond when support is requested. Let's keep impressing those politicians with what Audubon can do!

— Kim Shephard, Conservation Chair

Deadline **December 6** for Murrelet Protection

For comments supporting a more effective management plan to ensure murrelet survival, the deadline is Thursday, **December 6** by 5 p.m. The Marbled Murrelet Coalition has prepared a summary of talking points to the the Environmental Impact Statement, its flaws and what the Coalition would like emphasized. Please contact a WAS board member for a copy.

Submit your comments via the official comment portal: www.surveymonkey.com/r/MMLTCSRDEIS; or mail your written comments to: SEPA Center, Post Office Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015.

Bird in the Spotlight: Marbled Murrelet

Related to the Pigeon Guillemot, the Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) is an unusual seabird that forages for fish in our local waters but will carry its prey inland (up to 50 or more miles) to a chick that nests on a big mossy branch in an old growth forest. It was only in 1974 that the first nest was even confirmed in North America.

The Marbled Murrelet is a small compact seabird, with a short neck and small tail. Its breeding plumage is a mottled/marbled brown, and non-breeding plumage (pictured) has white underparts, belly, neck with white on the sides of its head.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) certifies Marbled Murrelet monitors and I was hired last winter to look for these seabirds during impact pile driving at the new Mukilteo ferry dock. If the birds were too close, the pile driving ceased. The Marbled Murrelet can disappear easily in the trough of a wave, so the waters needed to be calm to continue surveys. One day we had 18 Marbled Murrelets in the area!

The Marbled Murrelet was listed as a threatened species in the early 1990s. The population has been on a steep decline and is



Photo by Govinda Rosling

Marbled Murrelet in nonbreeding plumage.

still a threatened and endangered species due to multiple causes; the big one being habitat decline, also to predation on eggs, mortality in gill net fishing and possible low-prey availability.

DFW estimates 7,500 Marbled Murrelets in Washington State and with this current rate they say "...it is likely the Marbled Murrelet could become functionally extirpated in Washington within the next several decades."

Kim Shepard's October *Shorelines* article about the Marbled Murrelet

alerted us that the Department of Natural Resources is accepting comments regarding this seabird. I hope you all had a chance to speak up for this little guy.

The Marbled Murrelet can be seen around Whidbey Island, Mukilteo and Port Townsend. The photo here is featured in the 2019 *Mostly Feathers* Calendar* and was taken next to the derelict dock at the Langley Marina.

— Govinda Rosling

*2019 calendar is available at Moonraker or through the website, www.mostlyfeathers.com.

Field Trip Report: Spotted Owl Breeding Center

We had 16 birders going to the Northwest Spotted Owl Breeding Centre in British Columbia on October 14. We crossed the border with a friendly Canadian Border Agent and spent some time walking around Fort Langley and eating lunch. We were met by Jasmine and Hannah who divided our group into two sections before we spent nearly three hours learning about the owls and the program. We heard about the breeding process, visited the incubation areas, discussed the 21 owls,



Photo by Eileen Ryan

Patty Cheek, right with Jasmine and Hannah of the Northwest Spotted Owl Breeding Centre.

how the data were represented, and we saw the live rodents that Jasmine and Hannah feed every day before giving them as live food to the owls. We only

saw two of the owls, but it was extra special.

— *Patty Cheek, Field Trip Chair*



Photo by Eileen Ryan

Spotted Owl resident

BIN South, from page 4

Minutes before we'd finished for the day, the Lagoon's one remaining **White Pelican** flew around and joined the gull frenzy off the beach.

A quick reminder about accessing the Sunlight Beach location — please be considerate, park only on the county-owned lot between houses 2440 and 2436 E. Sunlight Beach Road. Please don't park on the road or in front of any homes. To walk the dike, access is at the East of 2467 E. Sunlight Beach Road.

October 25: Duck observation does not get any better than right now out at Deer Lagoon. Hundreds and hundreds of **Wigeons**, **Northern Pintails** and **Buffleheads**, dozens of **Gadwalls** and **Mallards**, plus **grebes**, **scaup**, **shovelers**, **teals**, **hoodies**, **gulls**, **shorebirds**.... To answer the Wigeon ratio question — on *eBird* this week, an observer reported one Eurasian, among 3,000 American (three thousand)! But we did not see him today.

The ducks were tucked in so close to the west dike side, near the wooded trail, that we happily enjoyed their distinctions and beautiful plumage, while we were all protected from the blustery weather. Dedicated birders are described variously — hardy, sturdy, diehard, determined, persistent.... Today, we five are *smug*.

In spite of the wind and threatening weather, and some notably absent species, we identified 30, including a vocal **Virginia Rail**, and the **Cooper's Hawk**, who landed on a branch not 20 feet from us, while we were enjoying the ducks. It's also quite a sight to see those huge flocks of **Wigeons** all lift off at an **eagle**

disturbance. It never gets old.

Next Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) is Thursday, November 8.

— *Cathi Bower*

BIN South meets every other Thursday. Time varies with the seasons. For location information, contact Cathi Bower at whidbird@whidbey.com. (Click on red for hotlink.)

Fall's Back for BIN North

September 12: Jay Adams led the outing at Crockett Lake and 37 species were seen. Highlights included an **American Pipit**, **Pectoral Sandpiper** along with **Least** and **Baird's**, both **Dowitchers**, and a sighting of **Black-bellied Plovers** flying over the lake.

October 10: What a great day for birding at Dugualla Bay! Lots of ducks including a **Ring-necked Duck**, many **American Wigeons** with a **Eurasian** floating alongside, and both **Horned** and **Pied-billed Grebes**. We also saw **Song**, **White-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Sparrows**. On the west side of Dike Road on the small island we saw a pair of **Western Meadowlarks**. A great sighting to cap off a nice morning of birding. We saw or heard 32 species.

— *Marcia Lazoff*

Birding in Neighborhoods North (BIN North) meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. Contact Marcia Lazoff at mlazoff@comcast.net for location.

Free Thayer Birding Software for Kids

The Young Birder Program

Any young birders or students interested in birds and nature who are enrolled in pre-K, grade school, middle school or high school can download the new version 7.7 of Thayer's Birds of North America —for free.

Just visit www.ThayerBirding.com, select the Windows or the Mac download and enter our special code: **WhidbeyYoungBirder**. Then click the Apply button and Free Checkout.

This amazing birding software, for Windows or Mac computers, features the 1,007 birds that have been seen in the continental United States and Canada. The software includes 6,856 color photos, 1,506 songs and calls, 552 video clips of birds in action, 700 quizzes and much, much more. Use the ID Wizard to identify unknown birds in your yard. Keep track of the birds you see. Compare any two birds side-by-side. Read all about the

bird's nests, eggs, feeding habits and more.

Thayer Birding Software's founder, Peter Thayer, decided that this would be the perfect way to celebrate his 70th birthday.

It is time to give back something to the birding community and to the millions of young birders (and potential young birders) who just need a spark to get them started on a life-long quest for knowledge about our natural world and the importance of preserving the habitat we still have. What better way than this to celebrate the year of the bird? Our goal is to give away one million free copies of the birding program to kids everywhere.

Are you the local bird expert? You soon will be!

College and grad school students, use the code **STUDENT** for a 50-percent discount. Teachers use the code **TEACHER** for a 50-percent discount.



Field Trip Report: Fir Island

Six of us enjoyed a pleasant fall day at three Fir Island destinations on Saturday, October 20. Those who rode with me stopped by Bos Lake in Swantown on our way to Oak Harbor to look for a Red Knot and an Eared Grebe that had been staked out there. The shorebirds were at the far northern edge of the lake, too far in the lingering fog for a certain identification, although **Black-bellied Plovers** were clearly present. We did get good looks at the **Eared Grebe**.

From there we continued to Hayton Preserve, the first of three stops on Fir Island. In addition to tons of gulls and ducks, we were able to see a couple of hundred **Long-billed Dowitchers**.

Snow Goose	Northern Barrier
Cackling Goose	Cooper's Hawk
Canada Goose	Bald Eagle
American Wigeon	Red-tailed Hawk
Mallard	Virginia Rail
Northern Shoveler	Black-bellied Plover
Northern Pintail	Dunlin
Ruddy Duck (seen by the folks with me at Swantown)	Least Sandpiper
Hooded Merganser	Long-billed Dowitcher
Pied-billed Grebe	Greater Yellowlegs
Eared Grebe (Swantown)	Ring-billed Gull
Great Blue Heron	Glaucous-winged Hybrid (Olympic Gull)

Small flocks of distant peeps were also present. Maybe best of all, we were treated to a large flock of **Snow Geese**.

From Hayton Preserve we headed to Wylie Slough. The water was quite high by the time we arrived, so shorebirds were essentially absent. So, too, somewhat surprisingly, were ducks of any kind. We did get to see a few **blackbirds** and a couple of **raptor** species.

We finished our trip at Channel Drive. It was pretty quiet there, too, possibly due to the lateness of the season. In all, we saw 42 species. The full list is as follows:

Eurasian-collared Dove	European Sterling
Mourning Dove	American Pipit
Anna's Hummingbird	Cedar Waxwing
Northern Flicker	Golden-crowned Sparrow
American Kestrel	Song Sparrow
Black-capped Chickadee	Spotted Towhee
Brown Creeper	Red-winged Blackbird
Marsh Wren	Brewer's Blackbird
Bewick's Wren	House Finch
American Robin	

Thanks to the folks who participated.

— Jay Adams, Field Trip Leader

Dan's Blog: See You Next Summer (Said the Pelican)

by Dan Pederson, #320, October 20, 2018,
pedersenwrites.blogspot.com/2018/10/320-see-you-next-summer-said-pelican.html

Editor's note: *Dan's Blog* is published every Saturday morning. Click on this link: www.pedersenwrites.blogspot.com. If you'd like to be added to Dan's email list to receive the link to the latest post each week, write to Dan Pedersen at dogwood@whidbey.com.

“I shot these images from my deck while they were feeding,” Debra Campbell said of these American White Pelicans at Deer Lagoon on Whidbey Island. “They congregate on the other side of the dike in the reeds on a sandbar, but like to feed on my side during low tide.”

Debra published these images recently on Facebook. When I asked her for permission to republish them on this blog, she very graciously gave it.

“I am out there daily for walks and photography,” she said. “I took so many White Pelican photos but these two



Photo by Debra Campbell © 2018

American White Pelicans at Deer Lagoon in September.

Dan's Blog, see [page 9](#)

Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER

- 3: **Field Trip: Crockett Lake and Surrounding Area**
- 6: Election Day
- 8: **Whidbey Audubon Program: Marbled Murrelets** with Maria Mudd Ruth, Freeland
- 9: **Earth and Ocean Month 2019 Planning;** meeting 2 p.m. at Bayview Cash Store
- 15: **Field Trip: Birding at Freeland Park**
- 22: **No WAS Board Meeting. Happy Thanksgiving!**

DECEMBER

- 13: **No General Meeting. Happy Holidays!**
- 13: **WAS Board Meeting,** Methodist Church, Coupeville, 7 p.m.; members welcome
- 15: **Christmas Bird Count (CBC) North,** contact Jay Adams at protectionisland8.9@gmail.com
- 20: **Deadline for January Shorelines**
- 29: **CBC South,** contact Govinda Rosling at govinda@whidbey.com

JANUARY

- 5: **Field Trip with Janet Hall;** details to be posted on website: www.whidbeyaudubon.org
- 10: **Whidbey Audubon Program: Southern Hemisphere Pelagics and Penguins** with Dave Parent, Freeland
- 24: **WAS Board Meeting,** Methodist Church, Coupeville, 6 p.m. (NOTE earlier time); members welcome

Welcome New and Renewing Members

New

Patricia Relles and Gary McDanniel
 Nancy R Johnson Susan Burgers

Renewing

Kim Shepard (Spotted Towhee) Patricia France
 Joan Benedusi Frances Wood and Bill Graves
 Dave Parent (Spotted Towhee) Karen Brooks
 Rebecca Bolte Traci and Robert York (Osprey)
 John and Judith Opheim Geda and Phil Condit (Osprey)
 Ed and Sharon Wilkins
 Susan and Stephen Bennett (Pigeon Guillemot)
 Kathryn Beaumont and Jeff Rogers (Spotted Towhee & Scholarship Fund)
 Janet and Blair Paul (Scholarship Fund)
 Sarah Schmidt and Bill Rick (Pigeon Guillemot)
 Bill and Lauren Young (Spotted Towhee)
 Ann Casey and Carol Plunkett (Pigeon Guillemot)
 Sharon Vanderslice (Red-tailed Hawk)
 Randal Cowart and Bonnie Thie (Spotted Towhee)
 Karen Larsen and Stephen Gordon (Spotted Towhee)
 Bill and Cheryl Bradkin (Spotted Towhee)
 Marilynn Strayer and Sam Wolfe (Spotted Towhee)
 Martha and Vern Olsen (Spotted Towhee)

The expiration month for paper copies is on your address label. I will send an email reminder to both paper and electronic subscribers.

— Linda Bainbridge, Membership Chair

Dan's Blog, from [page 8](#)

were my favorites. They stuck together like good buddies, side by side for at least an hour."

Our Whidbey Island flock has dispersed south for the season now. But while they were here, they were favorites of the wildlife show for residents of the Deer Lagoon and Useless Bay areas, and a few other spots along our shores.

With a wingspan of nearly nine feet and a gigantic bill, White Pelicans are hard to miss. Considered rare on Whidbey, but maybe not any more, they began showing up at Deer Lagoon a couple of years ago, spending the spring and summer with us to the delight of island birders. Numbers this year peaked at about 400, according to Frances Wood of Whidbey Audubon, though typically the numbers are smaller.

"I'm guessing two dozen, possibly more," said Debra, who had a front row seat. "At one point they were down to about a dozen for a few weeks, and then one lone pelican who is no longer here."

She's hoping a coyote seen swimming in the area didn't get the straggler.

There is some speculation that climate change accounts for the pelicans extending their range north, but Wood says their presence could be the result of a combination of factors. "Birds move around and find new places to breed, with or without climate change. It's probably a combination of factors including population numbers and feeding opportunities in other places."

Cancellation Policy for Whidbey Audubon Events

If the Whidbey Audubon Society cancels or changes a meeting or event, we will put an announcement on the "[Upcoming Events](#)" page of our website by 4 p.m. on the day of the event. You will also be sent an email if we have your address.

You can sign up to receive special notifications as they are posted by going to the link on the "Upcoming Events" page [or click this red text](#). Mainly, the notifications will alert you to changes in meetings or field trips when the *Shorelines* newsletter already has been sent out. They may also describe other activities of interest to Audubon members.

Subscribers to the "Sightings" feature already are included and don't need to sign up on the website. Our goal is keep our members safe and informed.

— *Whidbey Audubon Society Board*



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_____ **SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP** for first year National Members only. Receive a joint membership in National and Whidbey Audubon for one year for only \$35. **Make check payable to National Audubon.**

The Whidbey Audubon Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible. It is Whidbey Audubon policy to never share our membership and subscription information with other groups.