



Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society

September 2020

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 Society Meets Virtually Thursday, September 10

The Snowy and Great Gray Owls: Visual Natural Histories

Join award-winning author and photographer Paul Bannick on an intimate visual exploration of the life histories of the Snowy Owl and the Great Gray Owl. Through dozens of never-before-published images of these great birds, also known as Arctic Owl and the Great Gray Ghost,



Photos by Paul Bannick

Snowy or Arctic Owl, pictured left; Great Gray or Gray Ghost Owl, on the right

Paul will help us understand how they survive, breed and live alongside other wildlife on the Arctic tundra, the Western mountains and in wintering areas farther south.

Paul Bannick is an author and wildlife photographer specializing in the natural history of North America with a focus on birds and habitat. Coupling his love of the outdoors with his skill as a photographer, he creates images that foster the intimacy between viewer and subject, inspiring education and conservation.



Paul Bannick, loaded with camera gear

Paul is both the author and photographer of two best-selling bird books, *Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls* (Braided River 2016) and *The Owl and The Woodpecker, Encounters with North America's Most Iconic Bird* (Mountaineers 2008). Washington's

State Museum, the Burke, created two traveling exhibits based on his first book, *The Owl and the Woodpecker*. His second book, *Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*, received the Gold Medal in the 2017 Independent Publisher Book Awards, Animals/Pets category.

After graduating from the University of Washington, Paul worked successfully for 15 years in the computer software industry, beginning as one of the original 75 employees of the Aldus Corporation. Later he served as a Director for Adobe Systems, and also worked as a senior manager at Microsoft. Wishing to combine his passion for wilderness conservation with his career, Paul turned his attention to nonprofit work and currently serves as the Director of Major Gifts for Conservation Northwest, an organization dedicated to protecting and connecting wild areas and recovering native species from the Pacific Coast to the Canadian Rockies.

The presentation will be on Zoom

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 10

In order to register and receive the password for the room, go to the new website www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org. Select "Events" and find the program on "Events List," click the blue "View Event" button which takes you to the page for signing up. Current members will receive an email with the Zoom meeting address prior to the meeting.

See "Tips for Using Zoom as a Participant" on [page 2](#)



President's Column: The Window Seat Perch

Hello, everyone, COVID-19 continues, politics roar on and we feel overwhelmed by it all. I suggest that all of us rejuvenate now. We can sit at home and fret, watch TV reruns and sleep away our lives or, in spite of it all, we can increase our awareness and our actions in the world.

Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) is more committed than ever to finding fulfilling programs and special online educational programs that will stimulate us all to increase our knowledge and to know how to act during these trying times.

We have lost three billion birds and their habitats in the past 50 years. What can we do to get off our collective duffs? We need to learn everything we can to help birds and our environment. We need to talk to everyone including our families, friends, acquaintances and legislators, emphasizing the vital importance

of protecting the integrity of the natural world. This is a way to restore us physically, emotionally and spiritually.

We are offering everything we can to stimulate you to get involved. Zoom meetings, of course, are not as fulfilling as in-person activities. But they can be educational and interesting, and it is a way to be involved and proactive.

We have many new activities with our programs and online educational classes all via Zoom. Join me and our other board members in this new adventure. It is a challenge, not a problem. Go for it!

— Patty Cheek, President

Would that I were under the cliffs, in the secret-hiding places of the rocks, that Zeus might change me to a winged bird.

— Sophocles – Hippolytus, 428 B.C.

Tips for Using **zoom** as a Participant

Gathering in person for Whidbey Audubon classes and monthly programs has been curtailed since last March due to the risk of spreading the coronavirus. Hence the board has subscribed to the ever-popular Zoom computer program in order to *virtually* stay in touch and hold meetings, programs and classes which each of us can participate in from our own homes via our personal computers, telephones or devices.

If you've never used Zoom before, and to keep things smooth, it is easiest to download the Zoom application to your computer, smart phone or iPad. Use the following link: zoom.us. Or you can go to the App Store on your device to download the free Zoom app, i.e. application. Remember that either way, there is no charge. You do NOT have to have the app on your device. It just makes things easier.

Although the invitation will have a password and identification (ID), all you have to do is click the "Join Zoom Meeting" link.

You will be sent a special meeting ID and password that gives you private access to the various meetings. This is a safety measure to prevent zoom bombers from interfering with our meetings. Whidbey Audubon Society will send these out the day before its meetings to its members or for an event you have registered for.

There are tutorials on the zoom.us website that are brief and

show you how to join a meeting.

Here is a sample invitation:

Zoom Host is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: "Zoom Host's Zoom Meeting"
Time: Aug 11, 2020 09:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91951260882?pwd=UnRWSzMrc2kzaTRqSnQwYlRDbG5uUT09>

Meeting ID: 919 5126 0882

Passcode: 006477

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

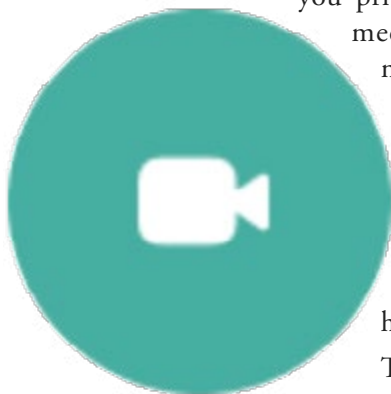
You can also dial the number on your phone to access the meeting. Just remember that you have to have the password and ID.

I know this seems a bit confusing at first. However, I think you will see that it's very easy to join a meeting. I will be giving more information on using the Zoom app when we meet the first time. If you have questions or want more information, call me at 425-246-1766 or email me at president@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org.

—Patty Cheek, President

Volunteer Corner

Whidbey Audubon is looking for a person who can program in Perl or PHP. If you feel comfortable in Perl or PHP and you're willing to help out on the website, please send a message to website@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org.



Whidbey Audubon Class Offering: Photography for Birders with Bill Ray



Bill Ray, Photography for Birders class instructor.

This educational class series is for beginning to intermediate photographers who want to make striking photos of the birds they love. To quote Ansel Adams: *The most important feature of the camera is the 12 inches behind it.* This is certainly true when photographing birds. Thoughtful people with modest camera gear can produce excellent results because they understand their gear and their subjects. No need to break the bank or the back.

Session 1 – Wednesday, September 16, 2020 – Making a successful bird photograph: see what makes a memorable photograph through composition and capturing the decisive moment. Learn what's different between birding and photography. Discover several typical shooting situations that will help make sense of the technology in the next two sessions.

Session 2 – Wednesday, September 23 – Camera gear and setting: going beyond snapshots with a bridge, mirrorless or DSLR camera. Practical approaches for exposure and focus that largely use the camera's smarts with your selective overrides. Get sharper photos by matching autofocus settings to how the birds move around.

Session 3 – Wednesday, September 30 – Post processing



THE BIGGEST NEWS: Whidbey Audubon Society Has a New Website

Our *new* website has been launched! Please visit www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org to check it out and bookmark this address for the future.

We are so excited to have this updated website. You will be able to renew your membership online, register for online educational classes and sign up for other events. Yes, you can now pay through the website. Tell your friends they can join online as new members.

The site looks wonderful. Thanks to Dave Krause and his marvelous committee that have been working since last October to produce this website. Their combined volunteer hours total over 600.

to bring out the best, most natural results: in the real world with birds we are unlikely to capture the photo perfectly in camera – too many moving parts. Consider several popular software editors from free and simple to sophisticated. Recent artificial intelligence breakthroughs reduce the need for heavy lenses and tripods.

Bill Ray is an award-winning photographer and instructor whose prints have been in juried art shows like the Edmonds and Kenmore Arts Festivals. His images capture beauty in the natural world for its own sake and keeps us in touch with the planet in our increasingly urbanized world. As an instructor he enjoys demystifying technical material for non-technical people.

Bill is a lifelong photographer, starting with the Ansel Adams Zone System as a teenager. An early Photoshop user from scanned film, he switched to fully digital in 2006, delighted to find his arts avocation had converged with his computer engineering profession. He is an instructor for the Schack Art Center in Everett, ArtWorks in Edmonds and online. He is an active member of northwest camera and birding clubs.

This class series will be presented via Zoom. In order to register, go to [Whidbey Audubon Society website](http://WhidbeyAudubonSociety.org). Or from the home page, click on “Education,” then “Online Educational Classes.”

Registration is \$30 for current Whidbey Audubon members and \$45 for nonmembers. And if you wish to become a member, the \$45 class registration will also pay your membership fee for one year.



Photo by Bill Ray

Goldfinch

Pilchuck Audubon Offers Online Classes Also

eBird: Good for You, Good for Birds (Online) September 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 2 to 3:15 p.m., with Holly Kleindienst, Tucson Audubon Society

Birding by Ear: Tackling the Tricky Ones (Online) September 15, 22 and 29 from 7 to 8:15 p.m. with Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser, Seattle Audubon Master Birder

Note: Whidbey Audubon will be offering a **General Birding by Ear** in April 2021.

Contact director@pilchuckaudubon.org if interested.

Sightings: Summer Highlights

June 28: Black-billed Magpie seen at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island. According to *eBird*, this species has never been reported in Island County before.

— *Mary Jo Adams*



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

Black-billed Magpie

June 28: (roughly counted) 200 **Common Merganser** in transitional plumage. Location: Dugualla Bay, west side.

— *Ruth Scrivner*

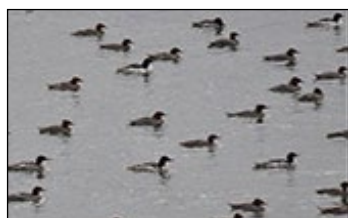


Photo by Ruth Scrivner

Common Mergansers in transitional plumage.

July 11: Juvenile **Brown Pelican** first seen by me in Port Townsend, Admiralty Inlet then conveniently relocated about a quarter mile from Fort Casey in Island County waters. — *Dave Parent*

July 11: Ebey's Prairie — an **Acorn Woodpecker** (deceased.) I'm visiting my parents, who live near the Sunnyside Cemetery at Ebey's Prairie. In their yard, I found a dead Acorn Woodpecker associated with a nest hole in a dead tree.

It's probably been dead for a week or so but is definitely an Acorn Woodpecker.

Confirmation: Shared photo with Sarah Schmidt, who agreed with identification.

— *Ken Hillers*

July 18: Twenty-six **Ring-billed Gulls**, many in breeding plumage feeding together with **Great Blue Herons** in the Dugualla Bay mudflats. Listed in Whidbey Audubon's Birds of Whidbey Checklist as "U" (unusual) in summer. Observed in the morning continuously for over the last two weeks. — *Ruth Scrivner*

August 4: Female **Bullock's Oriole** identified by distinctive laughing/chatter call. Bird was seen through binoculars but was far enough away to only identify general shape, size and rough coloration. Location: Pennington Loop, Coupeville. — *Patrick Kline*

August 8: Two juvenile **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** feeding alongside the road. Location: State Route 20 at Crockett Lake. — *Dave Parent*

August 11: I saw what I believe to be a **Red-necked Phalarope** this morning at Dugualla Bay. It was foraging along the beach with a flock of **Western Sandpipers**. Later there was also a **Peregrine Falcon** diving on a bunch of shorebirds at the west end of Dugualla Bay.

— *Mary Jo Adams*

August 16: I found a couple of **California Scrub Jay** fledglings in Clinton this evening. In October of 2017 I had several

show up at my place about a half mile north of here and stay for about three months. I saw as many as four at one time. I'm wondering if they have been on the island the whole time.

— *Debbie Stewart*



Photo by Debbie Stewart

California Scrub Jay, fledgling

August 21: **Unusual hummingbird** at feeder, could use some identification help. Leaning toward leucistic Anna's, but this hummingbird also had a bright orange bill. Very unusual. (Photos taken through a window screen)

Location: Pennington Loop, Coupeville. — *Patrick Kline*

August 23: **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, on the mudflats

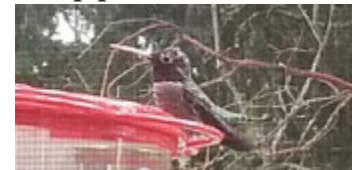


Photo by Patrick Kline

Possibly a leucistic Anna's Hummingbird.

north of the viewing platform. The bird flew west toward the pilings as we watched. Location: Crockett Lake.

— *Jay Adams*



Photo by Jay Adams

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

PLEASE POST UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS to the *Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) website*. Select the aqua button, "Report a Sighting." You can also submit a photo using the aqua button labeled "Submit Gallery Photos."

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 or on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WhidbeyAudubonSociety.

Correction

In the June 2020 issue of *Shorelines*, the photograph of the Lapland Longspur in the Sightings article should have been attributed to Carlos Andersen. We regret the error.

— *Jenny Brown, Editor*

Busy Summer for Birding in Neighborhoods South

June 12: One of the advantages to holding a virtual event, is “Rule” fluidity.

With some amount of latitude due to weather, well into the afternoon, between all of us on the South end, we observed at least 56 species on a dreary Thursday. From feeders to forest to shore, everybody who participated reported at least one or more unique species to our list.

One of the disadvantages of a virtual event report is that you won't be hearing birder descriptors such as *intrepid band*, *undaunted* or *valiant*. Alone, we dodge the weather and bolt back indoors for cocoa. (Are we becoming soft?)

If by miscalculation you find yourself out in less than optimal conditions, you'll notice that the birds themselves appear to be all of the above — though not soft. They're actually looking fairly bedraggled, if undaunted, but the Procreation Show must go on. Our **Brown Creeper** nests have fledged, but there are regular **Red-breasted Sapsucker** and **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** cavity visits, second batches of **Juncos** and **Robins** and the continual **Bewick's Wren** nest building. **Ospreys** are likely sitting on eggs due to hatch any week now And of course, the **Pigeon Guillemots**.

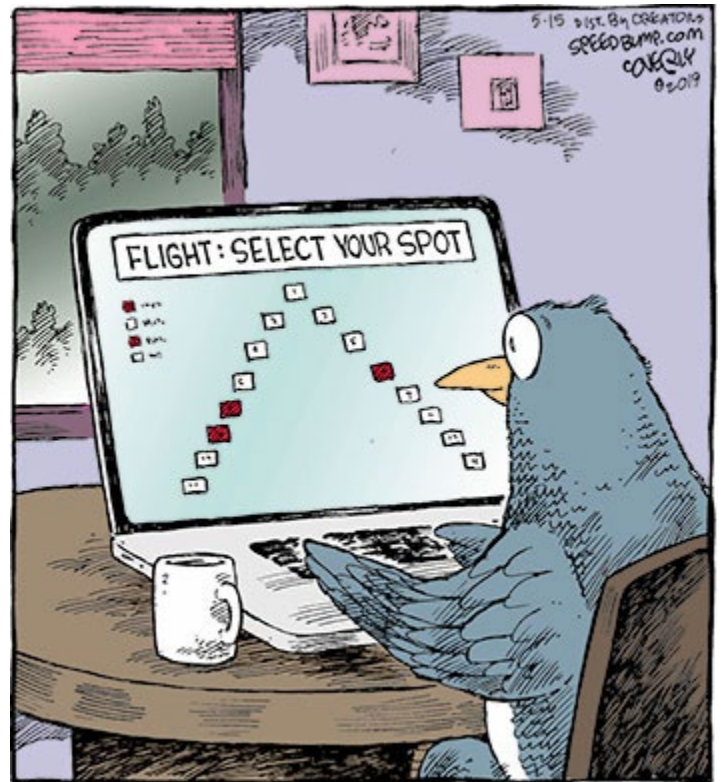
July 9: Our run of Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) morning weather luck may have taken a turn. Last Thursday was really, really damp, but everyone was determined — and perhaps desperate — to see what was out there. Surprisingly, we observed at least 20 species carrying on, in spite of the drizzle.

A couple of the morning's particularly bright spots included a **Western Tanager** and a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, as well as the usual expected shrub tweeters. Plus! A super-well-camouflaged, active **Bushtit** nest, just off the roadside, its entrance about eye level.

We did see a lone **swallow**, which reminded me that if it were not raining, this would be a very buggy location, to keep in mind when visiting on a more pleasant day.

On the Whidbey Camano Land Trust site, find the history, maps and access points for miles of walking trails in the **Trillium Community Forest**.

July 22: It was about time that we finally got back over to Deer Lagoon last Thursday. We saw and/or heard at least the usual 56 species, and although there are not a whole lot of water birds right now, we enjoyed watching the **Pelicans**, **Ruddy Ducks**, **Hooded Mergansers** and also puzzling out the *peeps*, and trying to figure out what was waaaay over at the opposite shore. We debated about whether or not our **American Wigeons** over there were Gadwalls, but I left them as AMWI on our list here for now. What we saw about a mile away, with spotting scopes and sort of decent lighting, were a lot of black butts. But — with them, there were clearly little mounds of that beautiful toast/brown/chocolate/date color of — say — Ruddy Ducks (too big). Or maybe Cinnamon Teal (too many). Or Wigeons — never reported at Deer Lagoon between mid-June and mid-August. Maybe we were seeing the Gadwall back ends and the Ruddy middles.



Permission to publish in Shorelines received from artist Dave Covey.

If I had been quicker to point out the **Raven** following a **Crow** overhead, we could have enjoyed that comparison.

As our little band scattered back individually, I received reports of **Long-billed Dowitchers**, **Bushtits** and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** along the way. Not far from our dependably proud and vocal **Marsh Wren** gathering hawkweed seed fluff for his nest, some of us actually spied a **Virginia Rail** preening away on the shore.

Now that I think of it, I'm going to switch the Wigeons to Gadwalls. *Poof!*

August 3: Welcome to the in-between season.

As we like to say around here — if you're disappointed, just lower your expectations. With that in mind, we really surprised ourselves Thursday when we saw and/or heard at least 38 species at Lone Lake. Very rewarding.

Especially endearing was a trio of **Pied-billed Grebe** youngsters, though not much other duck action. But even after most everyone left, a couple of us heard a **Western Wood-Pewee** and **Bewick's Wren** and saw a **Wilson's Warbler** and a **Brown Creeper**.

August 6: Virtual Birding Day

For a rainy morning, we did good! It's clear who are the fair-weather birds (and birders) — 71 species showed themselves in a variety of habitats, including the observations of the few birders

Conservation Column: Good News!

Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs. They don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.

— Harper Lee, *To Kill A Mockingbird*

On August 11, 2020, the U.S. District Court ruled that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act protects birds from incidental and accidental kills, as well as intentional acts that threaten them. The current administration proposed rule changes in 2018 that would exempt businesses from enforcement action for all except intentional bird kills. Many conservation groups, including National Audubon Society, sued the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife to prevent this change. Previous policy had required industries to try to prevent bird mortality that was unintentional but caused

by uncovered waste pits, collisions oil spills agricultural chemical applications, electrocutions and other industrial practices.

The court's opinion stated: *It is not only a sin to kill a mockingbird, it is also a crime. That has been the letter of the law for the past century. But if the Department of the Interior has its way, many mockingbirds and other migratory birds that delight people and support ecosystems throughout the country will be killed without legal consequence.*

— Kim Shepard, *Conservation Chair*

BIN South, from page 5

who did not know they were playing. Thankfully, someone made it out to Deer Lagoon for a half dozen additions, and to Keystone, for another dozen, including shorebirds, all three Cormorants, and our favorite entertainers, the Pigeon Guillemots.

Between us, we also saw and/or heard all four of our **Pigeons/Doves**, our three **Corvids**, most of our five **Woodpeckers** (guess who was missing?... nope — it was a Sapsucker), and most of our **Swallows**, plus **Purple Martins** and some **Warblers**, including a **Townsend's**. What the back-forty woods didn't produce, South Whidbey State Park had — the rest of the expected shrub tweeters, and also the random **Red Crossbills!**

August 13: Best conditions ever! Last Thursday at Deer Lagoon is hereby declared the Birding Morning by which all other Birding Mornings are judged. (Try to change my mind.) The sky was the limit. Also limiting were food and facilities. But we did stay out long enough to even try puzzling out some gulls, in spite of bird guide quotes such as this one in Sibley's, referring to a second winter California Gull — *resembles 3rd-winter Herring or 1st-winter Ring-billed...* Really? Really. It's no wonder that most of us don't tackle Gulls (that, and it would irritate the gulls). But the **Bonaparte's** were easy to ID, weighing in at less than a pound, and looking particularly diminutive alongside their companions, the 10-pound **Geese** and 16-pound **Pelicans**. (No birds were literally tackled.)

Pelicans were so close in, and also flying low overhead, and fun to watch. Also close in were a couple of **Spotted Sandpipers** (SPSA) with a **Least Sandpiper** on a little exposed mud strip. We remarked that we perhaps had not seen SPSA in that area before. Everyone was tolerating one another, until a **Mallard** joined them upon their mud, and that is where they drew the line.

We saw and/or heard nearly 50 species during a notably quiet time of year.

Also entertaining, were a young **Red-breasted Sapsucker** sharing a bare snag with two **Brown Creepers**.

— Cathi Bower

Birding Together with BIN North

June 10: Masked up and ready to go, our group head off to Joseph Whidbey State Park in search of Cedar Waxwings. Well... I was in search of Cedar Waxwings. Everyone else was up for anything. It was so nice to be back together looking for birds. We saw a total of 26 species including the **Cedar Waxwings**, **Northern Harriers**, **Red-tailed Hawks**, **Bald Eagles**, and a **Raven** overhead, plus the star of the day a **Common Yellowthroat**.

July 15: We miss having a good scope to share at Crockett Lake. Our eyes did not fail us, though, nor did our ears. We saw or heard 37 species (no White Pelicans) including lots of **Cormorants**, **Pigeon Guillemots**, a variety of **Gull species** and **Purple Martins** on the nesting boxes. Treat of the day was Martha's special spot where we saw many **Cedar Waxwings** including some feeding their young.

August 12: The most glorious day at Fort Ebey. Although we only saw 22 species, we had a lot of fun trying to identify "some ducks" sitting on a log at Lake Pondilla. The final consensus was **Merganser**, either **Common or Red-Breasted**. Never reached consensus on that. Laugh of the day was the identification of a gull species as "Teeny Way Far Away." Thanks, Ruth.

Over the summer at in person birding we saw a total of 50 different species. We saw some birds at all three locations including **Chickadees**, **Cormorants**, **Crows**, **Gulls**, **Flycatchers**, **Nuthatches**, **Sparrows**, **Swallows** and **Towhees**.

Now we are ready for ducks.

— Marcia Lazoff

Birding in Neighborhoods North (BIN North) meets the second Wednesday of the month. Contact Marcia at mlazoff@comcast.net. The group is following all guidelines from the state and county about Covid-19.

Birding in Neighborhoods South (BIN South) usually meets every other Thursday morning, with some virtual birding days in between. Contact Cathi at whidbird@whidbey.com. The group is complying with state and county guidelines concerning Covid-19.

Lagoon Point Purple Martins Seventh Summer – 2020

What a delight to be able to see these birds! They reside in Brazil until spring, and then they fly thousands of miles to nest in our neighborhood. Their pluck and determination is inspiring. These birds surmount incredible challenges to get here to their historic breeding grounds. Then they deal with more



Photos by Sheri Croll

Adult Purple Martin in the sun checking out housing, May 8.



Healthy babies looking for food.

challenges from our human-altered environment once they get here. They face it all with a calm demeanor and beautiful song. This year I was able to spend more time observing nesting behavior. I like these birds better than ever.



Photo by Sheri Croll

Four nestlings are thinking about flying, August 8.

The awesome Purple Martin landlords on Lagoon Point are having a record-setting season. At least 36 strong, healthy nestlings have fledged (or are on the cusp of fledging) as I write this. Landlords elsewhere on Whidbey Island are doing their part to support recovery, too. Jay Adams reports martins using the boxes he and Ruth Richards put up at Crockett Lake and a single pair nesting in the dock at the Coupeville boat launch. He plans to add boxes there for next year.

We have one additional box available on Lagoon Point this year. The bird mites have not been a big problem either this year, while introduced House Sparrows (HOSP) have taken only four of our currently available sixteen nest boxes and cavities. This, in spite of a COVID-19 refugee from the mainland feeding seed to the HOSPs, crows and starlings.

For information on previous seasons, Click this hot link in red, [Whidbey Audubon website](#), to navigate to the “Stewardship” page then from the drop-down menu, select “Local Fact Sheets.” and find the Purple Martin story.

It’s been seven years of efforts to support this at-risk native bird. What a huge pleasure to enjoy a successful season like this.

— Mary Hollen

Dan’s Blog: A Water Park for Birds

#414, August 8, 2020, pedersenwrites.blogspot.com/2020/08/414-bathing.html; this article is reprinted with permission from Dan Pedersen

Editor’s note: Dan’s Blog is published every Saturday morning. Type this website into your browser: 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.

Our new toy this week is a solar-powered, recirculating fountain that fits inside the bowl of a birdbath. It was received enthusiastically by our huge population of summer birds, especially the Pine Siskins, one of whom is doing a happy dance in the photo. It takes birds a little time to work up the courage to try something new. The bird in



Photos by Dan Petersen

A Pine Siskin gets into the spirit of the new fountain.

Dan’s Blog, see [page 8](#)

Dan's Blog, from page 7



the [photo on page 7] was one of our early-adopters.

These gadgets are inexpensive — around \$10 to \$30 — and are easy to find online or at wild bird stores. We got an especially good deal on ours — it was a gift from our friend, Lyn Kiernan, who received a pack of these when she thought she had ordered just one.

I read the customer reviews online, which ranged from "love it" to "hate it," and "It stopped working after one day."

Ours is going strong. I could feel it pulsing before I even set it in the bowl. Right out of the box, it shot a spray of water about eight inches into the air and continued doing so — but less and less well— for about twenty minutes, till it stopped.

Well heck! walked away, and an hour later my wife declared it was working beautifully, and no longer pulsing. I think it just needed some time in the sunshine to build up a charge.

In fact it worked too well. When I filled the basin above the level of the solar cell and placed it in the direct sunlight, water sprayed a foot high and right out of the bowl. I had to switch to a different spray head from the several provided to achieve a lower, thicker column.



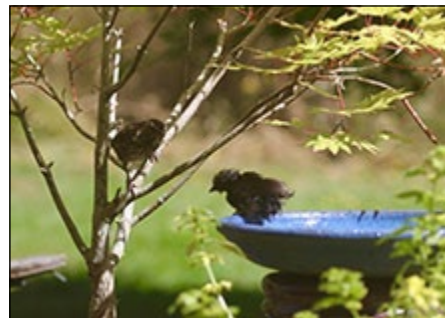
Everywhere we turn now, birds are playing in the water. We have four bird baths and, at times, all four are in use. That's what a hot, dry summer will do for you. The rhythm of our summer is changing by the week. The dawn

chorus of birdsong was deafening a few weeks ago. Now, it is mostly finished, with the birds having moved to a different phase of their activity. They have established their territories and found a mate, and many already have nested successfully. They are now feeding their young beak-to-beak and teaching them to get along in the world. The annual drought is crisping up vegetation

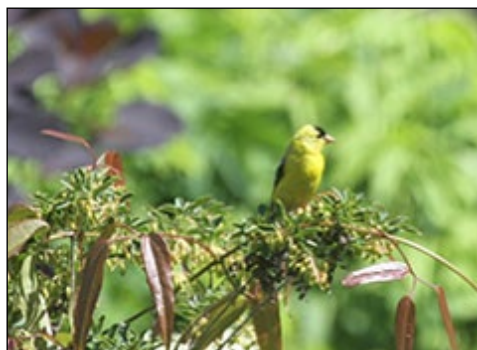
and trees, but it's also ripening salal berries, on which some birds feed.

Our Violet-green Swallows fledged from their nest box a week ago and disappeared entirely, as they do every summer at this time. We see fewer bright yellow Goldfinches than a few weeks ago.

Also scarcer are the beautiful, yellow-and-red Western Tanagers. We see only a few juvenile and female hummingbirds going from blossom to blossom.



Fresh from the pool, wet and happy.



I'm going to miss our bold, yellow Goldfinches when summer ends.



A Siskin family — adult and fledglings.

But other birds are abundant — Chickadees, Nuthatches, Pine Siskins, Juncos, Sparrows, Towhees, Robins, Stellers Jays, Northern Flickers, House Finches and Hairy Woodpeckers. There is much beak-to-beak feeding.

It's a sweet time of year to sit on the deck and enjoy the wholesomeness of nature.

Puget Sound Bird Fest Is Online this Year

The Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds is going virtual this year. It will be on the weekend of September 12 and 13. Keynote speaker Kaeli



Kaeli Swift is the keynote speaker.

Swift will kick off the festivities on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. with a live interactive webinar *Something to Crow About*, followed by other interactive webinars throughout the day. Cast your vote in the annual Bird Fest Photo Exhibition and Contest. Other festival favorites such as the Kids Corner and a Birders' HelpDesk will also be available online, as well as video-based virtual birding tours featuring some of the local hotspots. Bird Fest is free, but registration is required for access.

Enjoy all your festival favorites from the comfort of your own home. To see the full 2020 bird fest program and to register, go to www.pugetsoundbirdfest.com.

Welcome New and Renewing Members

New Members

Finley Attwood	Michelle Munro
David & Jill Edward	Janet Smith
Earle Carroll	
Juanita Morgan & Michael Moch	
Marcia Davidson, Scholarship	
Joann Hamick & Joe Quinta, Spotted Towhee	
Patricia Cable, Pigeon Guillemot	
Marty & Roger Scrafford, Red Tailed Hawk	

Renewing Members

Marcia Lazoff, Scholarship	Gregg & Linda Ridder
Marilyn & John Thomas	Pam Nodus
Kathy & Mervyn Floyd	Vincent Ho
Wayne & Eileen Clark, Scholarship	
Nancy Van Wormer, Spotted Towhee	
Robert Tank, Pigeon Guillemot	
David Allen & Kathy Stetz, Red Tailed Hawk	
Debbie & David Stoetzel, Red Tailed Hawk	
George & Sara Gray, Red Tailed Hawk	
Tom Leschine & Kit O'Neill, Red Tailed Hawk	
Mark Wicks, Red Tailed Hawk/Scholarship	

Whidbey Audubon Society Membership

Join or renew **online** (click on red type) or mail the coupon below with a check.

Please make it payable to **WHIDBEY AUDUBON SOCIETY (WAS)**

Mail to: Jann Ledbetter, 1112 Maple Place, Coupeville WA 98239

Name _____ **Y20**

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Phone _____ Email _____ (Your issues will be emailed to you.)

_____ Check here to receive your *Shorelines* by mail. Please add an additional **\$5.00** to defray mailing costs.

SELECT a Category of Membership

_____ Individual Annual Membership \$20	_____ Pigeon Guillemot \$75
_____ Household Annual Membership \$30	_____ Red-tailed Hawk \$100
_____ Spotted Towhee \$50	_____ Osprey \$ _____
\$ _____ Additional Donation to be used for Scholarships	

All memberships include 9 issues of *Shorelines* annually, a WAS window decal, discounts and early registration in our educational classes.

_____ **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.*

Whidbey Audubon Society

Whidbey Audubon programs are 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month except December, July and August

Meetings are conducted virtually this year using ZOOM, register at www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org

Whidbey Audubon Board and Committee Chairs 2020-2021

President.....	Patty Cheek
Immediate Past President.....	Sharon Gauthier
Vice President.....	Dave Allen
Secretary.....	Cathy Queeno-Wall5
Treasurer.....	Sheri Croll
Programs.....	OPEN
Membership Chair.....	Jann Ledbetter
Newsletter Editor.....	Jenny Brown
Conservation Chair.....	Kim Shepard
Education Chair.....	Nan Maysen
Field Trip Chair.....	OPEN
Publicity Chair.....	Susan Prescott
Webmaster.....	Dave Krause
Board Member-at-Large.....	Cathi Bower
Board Member-at-Large.....	Joe Sheldon
Board Member-at-Large.....	Dave Krause
Board Member-at-Large.....	Kathy Obersinner
Christmas Bird Count North Chair.....	Jay Adams
Christmas Bird Count South Chair.....	Govinda Holtby
Birdathon.....	Kathy Obersinner
Scholarship Committee.....	Ann Sullivan
Hospitality Chair.....	OPEN
Newsletter Mailing.....	Marcia Lazoff
Specimen Library.....	Robin Llewellyn

Printed on 100% Recycled Content Paper by Whidbey Weekly & Company in Oak Harbor

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Thursday, September 10

7 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom

The Snowy and Great Gray Owls Visual Natural Histories

with Paul Bannick

Class series September 16,
23 and 30

Photography for
Birders
with Bill Ray

Whidbey Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1012
Oak Harbor, WA 98277