



Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society

June 2022

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 Thursday, June 9 on Zoom Homewaters with David Williams

In his talk based on his book, *Homewaters: A Human and Natural History of Puget Sound*, David B. Williams will focus on the long story of the Sound, tracing human history from the earliest records more than 12,500 years ago to present. Along the way, he'll discuss Native people, the arrival of explorers and settlers and how the various inhabitants adapted to place. He will also weave in stories of the natural world, covering often overlooked species such as Olympia oysters, rockfish, geoduck, kelp and herring, as well as salmon and orca.

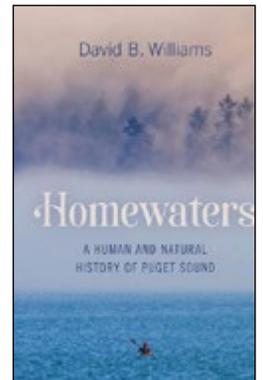
David B. Williams is an author, naturalist, and tour guide whose new book is a deep exploration of the stories of this beautiful waterway. He is also the author of the award-winning book, *Too High and Too Steep: Reshaping Seattle's Topography*, as well as *Seattle Walks: Discovering History and Nature in the City* and *Stories in Stone: Travels Through Urban Geology*. Williams is a Curatorial Associate at the Burke Museum. Follow him on Twitter [@geologywriter](https://twitter.com/geologywriter).

Please join us at **7 p.m. on Thursday, June 9** for our general membership meeting. Program will begin at 7:30. This meeting will be Zoom only as we work on the technical difficulties that became apparent at our May meeting. The program is free and open to the public. Whidbey Audubon members will receive a Zoom link by the afternoon of June 9. Nonmembers may register by going to the [Whidbey Audubon Society website](https://www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org). [The red text is hyperlinked. Just click.]

There will be no meetings or Shorelines during July and August. See you in September!



David Williams is pictured with the Seattle skyline above. Williams' book, *Homewaters*, was published in April 2021 by the University of Washington Press.



San Juan Cruise to View Tufted Puffins on June 23

Have you ever wanted to see Tufted Puffins? How about a cruise from La Conner to Smith Island to search for Tufted Puffins? This is part of the Whidbey Audubon Society (was) 40th Anniversary Celebration. It is a great cruise offered by San Juan Cruises. Some was members enjoyed going last year. You get to view birds during the cruise, and it includes a delicious picnic lunch. They have a professional naturalist plus the captain to discuss



Photo by Elizabeth Labunski, USFWS; NOAA/OER/Hidden Ocean 2016: The Chukchi Borderlands, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/noaaphotolib/3943039320/>

Tufted Puffin

the birds and help you spot them. There are more birds to see besides the puffins. Bring your binocs, a camera, sunscreen and a jacket/windbreaker. There's plenty of indoor and outdoor seating available.

The booking agent for San Juan Cruises is holding 20 tickets for was for the June 23 bird trip to view Tufted Puffins from La Conner. The cost is \$100/person. They can only hold the tickets through June 3 so you must individually register for the cruise now if you want to be included. There may be more tickets available **if you register after June 3**, but you won't be specifically with was.

See the site www.whales.com/other-cruises/bird-watching-cruise/ for more information. To register online or call 1-800-443-4552 **now**. Hope to see you there.

— Patty Cheek



President's Column: From the Window Perch

The Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) Board decided this week to have a full Zoom meeting in June. Then, starting in September, we will have worked on technical aspects of presenting hybrid meetings so that people who attend in person and those on Zoom can experience better presentations than the past two hybrid experiments have illustrated. I appreciate all the suggestions for helping in this process. Stay tuned.

I want now to present to you our new board members and one from last year that many of you don't know. They are outstanding individuals that give a broad prospective to our board and we welcome their ideas for forging ahead.



Linda Griesbach, Vice President

Linda is a lifelong Washingtonian who grew up in Pierce County under the watchful eye of Mount Rainier and never far from a view of the majestic Olympics. Her husband, Gordy, and she have been fortunate enough to call Whidbey Island home for almost 25 years now. She has lived in the suburbs most of her life and became well acquainted with rob-

ins and crows and the occasional *little brown jobs* (LBJS). Through exploring the beauty of the island and gardening in her yard, she is aware of the abundant variety of birds we, on the island, are so fortunate to experience. It's piqued her interest in learning more about them with their different sizes, shapes, colorings, habitats, songs and calls. She has found this exploration fascinating. The more time she spends birding, the more she realizes how little she knows. She appreciates the time she's spent with Whidbey Audubon friends and all she's learned from them. She looks forward to sharing more experiences and learning even more in the future.



Janet Jernigan, Member-at-Large

— After living and working as a realtor and small brokerage owner in the Indianapolis area for 29 years, Janet dreamed of retirement. She and her husband fell in love with Whidbey Island after visiting her sister who had recently moved to the island. In 2017, they bought their future retirement home here on Whidbey. However, it took two more years

for them to make the move. During that time, she thought about and planned for her retirement. She had a very good friend and

assistant who loved, knew about, and talked about birds a lot. Janet knew nothing about birds, but her love inspired her to put it on her long list of things to do when she retired. Once she joined WAS, she met many of WAS' knowledgeable and dedicated members. She is finishing the Birds of Whidbey Island class at the end of May and birding has quickly become her biggest passion. She says that she's very honored to be able to serve on the WAS Board with people that are so committed to furthering the mission of this great organization.



Roy Seliber, Member-at-large

— Roy is a retired business manager, with a career in the cable, cellular and internet industries. He was a controller for a few Seattle-area startups. He grew up in Boston before moving to Seattle in 1990. He and his wife, Maria, moved to Whidbey in early 2020. Roy is still a passionate runner and is running a marathon in June. His interest in birds came from Maria

after she began studying backyard birds over a decade ago in their former house. Always birding together, she loves identifying them and Roy enjoys photographing them.



Anita Badri and her granddaughter.

Anita Badri, Secretary

— Anita was elected WAS secretary a year ago May. She is a native Nebraskan and moved to eastern Washington for high school. She moved to the Seattle area with

her daughter in 1979 and finally moved to Whidbey Island in 2000. She retired as an executive assistant from Washington Hospital Services in 2010. After retirement, she worked for Island Senior Resources as a volunteer receptionist/office assistant until the pandemic hit. She loves spending time with her daughter, granddaughter and sister who all live in Seattle. She is a 'cat lady' and currently has two rescued 'tail-tail' black kittens/cats. She enjoys ocean time with her sister at a beach house in Oregon several times a year. She also practices Tai Chi and dabbles in watercolor, crocheting, knitting, sewing, reading and gardening. She especially loves watching and listening to Whidbey Island birds from her home. Mary Hollen introduced her to WAS last year and, that's how she became secretary.

— Patty Cheek, President, Bird, Bird, Bird!

Birdathon 2022 Results

The Birdathon provides a view of bird species that either live on or migrate through Whidbey Island in early May. A total of 151 bird species were identified during this period, with some very interesting sightings. The Red Knot is a shorebird that is irregularly seen on Whidbey Island and was appropriately spotted by the All For Knot team! Several groups saw the Wilson's Phalarope, another rare-for-here shorebird. The Townsend's Solitaire and Chipping Sparrow are two more unusual and exciting species that were seen.



Photo by Prescott

Joe Sheldon of the All for Knot team, accepts the Golden Binocular Trophy from Birdathon chair, Kathy Obersinner, left.

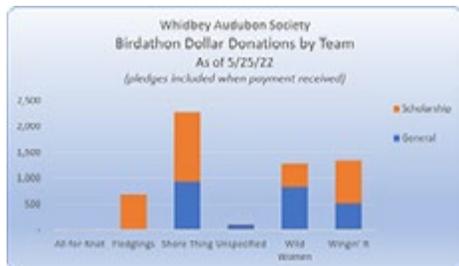


Photo by Kathy Obersinner

Team Shore Thing, doing their thing on the shore, pictured are Patty Cheek, left, and Cathi Bower.

This year, the much-coveted Golden Binocular Award was captured by the All For Knot team (Joe Sheldon, Jay Adams, Ruth Richards and Dave Parent), with 134 species sighted on their Big Day. They were followed by Wingin' It, with 113, Wild Women of Whidbey with 97 and Shore Thing with 102 species. Great job, all teams! The 2022 Birdathon results, along with the last eight years' statistics, will be posted on the Birdathon website. During this eight-year period, a total of 208 species have been observed.

Though Big Day is traditionally about how many species of birds can be identified in 24 hours, an equally if not more important facet of Birdathon is to raise money for Audubon. This will be our third time to award the Bronze Owl Bank (BOB) award to the team that raises the most money. Team leaders are still collecting and submitting pledges and donations, but as of May 25, the amount we have brought in for Birdathon is \$5,473. The General fund is about \$2,100, Scholarship fund is about \$3,200. Our goal of \$9,660 may seem a ways off, but donations and pledges continue to come in, and if you haven't made a donation, there is still time to go on to our website and make a difference for birds.



Keep track of the fundraising progress on the Whidbey Audubon website on the Events page under *Birdathon*.

Because pledges and donations can take a while to collect, we will be awarding the Bronze Owl Bank at our September meeting. Updated info on donations collected is available on the website, and we'll announce the latest data at the June Audubon meeting.



Photo by Govinda Holtby

Wild Women of Whidbey on their stormy Big Day.

Thanks to all team members for their great birding and fundraising, and thank you, thank you, to all our Birdathon supporters. Your participation shows your deep caring for birds and our environment.

— Kathy Obersinner, Birdathon Chair

GUILLEMOT APPRECIATION DAY

Friday, June 24th 2022 3-5 p.m.

@ Ott & Hunter Winery

@ 204 1st street in Langley

Everyone is invited to join this family friendly event

Also join us Saturday 6/25 at 8:30 a.m. to visit a Pigeon Guillemot colony

We will carpool from Freeland Trinity Lutheran Church Park & Ride 18341 Hwy 525

- Data findings/Display
- Appetizers
- Special Glass Pours of Mutiny Bay Wine
- Guillemot Activities
- Slideshow

Brought to you by the Salish Sea Guillemot Network a Whidbey Audubon Community Science Project

www.pigeonguillemot.org

Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings

April 27: A flock of at least 54 **Greater White-fronted Geese** resting on the shore. When sleeping they were indistinguishable brown lumps tough to identify, until some raised their heads to reveal the pinkish-orange bill framed with white feathers, and another lifted a bright orange webbed foot to scratch. In sleeping posture, this goose that I think of as gray overall looked noticeably brownish. Location: The south shore of Crockett Lake a short way east of the cross-lake pilings.

— *Sarah Schmidt*

April 28: An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** is calling in our neighborhood. This is the first time I've heard one in April. Location: Parker Road, Coupeville. — *Steve Ellis*

April 29: First **Black-headed Grosbeak** of the season. Stayed for about ten minutes to munch a few seeds then took off. Location: Aquila Drive, Langley. — *Stef Neis*

April 29: **Western Kingbird** at Pacific Rim Institute near prairie remnant sign on fence. — *Carlos Andersen*

May 1: **Vesper Sparrow**, a pale, grayish-brown sparrow with distinct face pattern: a dark ear patch (auricular) outlined below and behind by a whitish crescent. Pale lores and eyeline. Structure unlike Savannah or Song sparrow. Location: Prairie remnant, Whidbey Camano Land Trust Admiralty Inlet Preserve.

— *Jay Adams*

May 2: On board the Coupeville/Port Townsend (PT) Ferry today. Coming back from PT there was a **Tufted Puffin** feeding in the tide rip about

a half mile offshore of Admiralty Head. Also in the flock was a very early adult **Heermann's Gull**. On the way to PT at noon there was a **Cassin's Auklet** in a very large feeding flock but, unfortunately, the bird was in Jefferson County waters but still a very nice sighting! — *Dave Parent*

May 4: Saw a **Townsend's Solitaire** in a small fruit tree. It perched on a lower limb of the tree, flew down to the ground, then back to the same place on the limb several times, then flew off. It appeared the bird was picking up an insect each time it flew to the ground. Location: South Sherman Road, near intersection with Cook Road. — *Val Hillers*



Photo by Sally McKenzie

Pileated Woodpecker.

May 4: First time sighting a male **Pileated Woodpecker** at my feeder Location: West Beach between Fort Nugent and Hastie Lake.

— *Sally McKenzie*



Photo by Raven Jirikovic

Turkey Vultures.

May 5: Two **Turkey Vultures** flying low over Greenbank Farm fields for a long time, then landed near the barns.

— *Raven Jirikovic*

May 7: Male **Lazuli Bunting** on my bird feeders. Location: Clinton: Terra Bella Lane.

— *Patricia Duarte-Pocock*



Photo by Patricia Duarte-Pocock

Lazuli Bunting.

May 8: Male **Pine Grosbeak** on Steelhead Drive sighted and heard. Others possibly heard. Labeled *Occasional* to Whidbey Island.

— *Mary Hollen*

May 9: **Wilson's Phalarope** feeding on the surface of the

water using its typical circular foraging motion. Location: Ewing Road Marsh.

— *Joe Sheldon*

May 11: Gazing out the kitch-



Photo by Deb Stewart

Lazuli Bunting.

en window while doing dishes and see a brilliant flash of blue in my lilac bush. I have the occasional California Scrub Jay in my yard, but this guy was smaller! Grabbed my camera

More Sightings, see page 8

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.

Bird of the Month: Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

You've seen them in super-flocks at our shores. They are small, plump birds with a long and slightly droopy bill. They are Dunlins. Dazzling in their breeding finery, with vivid rusty back and black belly patch, the Dunlin was once called the Red-backed Sandpiper. It's now named for its nonbreeding plumage, a mousy gray-brown or *dun* color. The name Dunlin comes from *dunling*, the earliest known English name of the species, which dates back at least as far as 1531. *Dunling* is a compound of the English word *dun* (meaning gray-brown) and the diminutive *-ling*. So the name Dunlin essentially means "little brown job."

Dunlins are an abundant species that nests around the world's arctic regions. They winter in large flocks along bays, estuaries and coastlines. They have notably long, curved bills that they use to feed on invertebrates just barely below the surface.

During the nonbreeding season, Dunlins are among the most widespread of the North American shorebirds, readily found in coastal areas. In spring, fall and winter, thousands gather on the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts to feed as the tide falls, exposing mudflats. A spotting scope is useful to distinguish them from the many similar (but smaller) sandpipers known as "peeps." Dunlins pass over most of the continent on migration, so any wetland with exposed muddy margins, sewage treatment plant or muddy, harvested farm field could host a few flocks during migration. That means thousands of swirling birds following each other, making a dazzling display.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunlin#/media/File:Dunlin_easton_bavents.jpg

Dunlin at Easton Bavents, Suffolk, UK

Shorebird hybrids are very rare, but careful observation by birders have turned up hybrids between Dunlins and at least two other arctic-nesting species: White-rumped Sandpiper and Purple Sandpiper.

Dunlins breeding in northern Alaska apparently move westward, skipping the rest of North America and migrating down the eastern side of Siberia to Japan and China.

— Judy Kaplan

Our Condor Adventure

Dear friends, here is a journal of our two-state Condor adventure. The World Center for Birds of Prey is an inspiring place to visit, and I hope I was able to get that across.

— Susan and Steve Bennett

May 4: Late in the afternoon we arrived at the Paria Canyon Vermilion Cliffs Condor Viewing Site, at the bottom of those steep red cliffs. A fenced sort of corral contained a sign "No Parking" and several trucks with all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) trailers. We found a spot and trained our scope on the release site directly above. At about 3:30 p.m. Pacific Time (technically we were in Arizona), five California Condors glided in and spent about an hour swirling over the top and along the front of the cliffs. They took advantage of every air current and never flapped once except when taking off from the building's fence. The white heads showed them to be mature birds, giant vultures making shadows against the cliffs.

After a couple of hours the ATV riders blew in, drove the machines onto the trailers and left. Rather than parking the camper in the "No Parking" zone overnight, we left too, and found a quieter off-road place to spend the night.

May 5: At 7 a.m. the weather was (temporarily) warm and sunny. We drove across Navaho land past the cliff dwellers inter-



Photo by Andrew Orr, www.peregrinefund.org/explore-raptors-species/vultures/california-condor

California Condor

pretive site and many unusually eroded boulders strewn across the landscape (but not the road). Next stop — Navaho Bridge, across the Colorado River. Two spans cross the river, one for pedestrians and one for vehicles. A pleasant gift shop and parking lot were also there. As we started across the pedestrian bridge, we saw a few people watching five Common Mergansers at the

Condor Adventure, see [page 7](#)

More Than Just Rats

Rat poison kills owls, hawks, ravens and coyotes. We all inherently know rodenticide is bad... but just how bad? Well, think of today's rat poison as how DDT* was considered back in the day.

Most all rodenticides contain First and Second-Generation Anticoagulants, (FGARS) and (SGARS.) They contain *brodifacoum*, *bromadiolone*, *difenacoum* and *difethialone*; all of these ingredients are very toxic. It works by preventing blood clotting; it kills slowly,(death occurs anywhere from a few days to two weeks!) and it takes months to break down... That's a triple whammy death sentence for the owl/hawk that eat the infected rat. The raptors die from the bioaccumulation of the poison the rat ingested. That rat may have gone back to eat that poison multiple times, being quite lethal to anything that eats it; take note also, an owl can eat anywhere from one to four rats per day.

There have been previous efforts from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to restrict certain ingredients in rodenticides and partially ban sales of SGARS; however, rat poison manufacture companies were too powerful with their lobbyists and lawsuits; and the All Mighty's raptors and ravens, seem to lose out to the all mighty dollar.

It's not all doom and gloom though; there may be some hope as current efforts from the EPA are at it again looking to ban all anticoagulant rodenticides, and this time there are more lobbyists on our side. Also, a California state bill has recently gone through to ban the use of almost all SGARS and Massachusetts has a similar and current bill which is still in committee as of March 28, 2022.

A local organization out of Seattle, *The Urban Raptor Conservancy*, are in the midst of a rodenticide and raptor study; they are partnering with Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) to test the deceased raptors that come to the animal shelter. Once the study is complete, the data can be forwarded (I hope) to get a similar bill in Washington to ban SGARS. So far, they've tested 125 raptors belonging to seven species of owls and hawks. The next phase in the study will be testing falcons and eagles. This is where the wheels of justice turn ever so slowly, so kicking some money their way will help speed this along; as each testing sample costs \$100.

Their website also has more information on how to help keep rats away from your home and yard.

The only rodenticide company that I found to be wildlife friendly by not using any anticoagulants is *Ecoclear products*. I've talked with them multiple times, received their Safety Data Sheet; they are the real deal. Their ingredients include gluten

* dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane

meal, maltodextrin and corn. Their brand name is rat X and mouse X. It works by coating the sensors of the mouse or rat so it doesn't detect thirst and foregoes drinking water. You can purchase Rat X, Mouse X, at our local hardware stores, Sebos, on South Whidbey at Bayview just started picking it up at my request. (Note a little peanut butter on the pellets make it more appealing to the rats.)

So I sing (with apologies to Joni Mitchell) "...Hey Surety Surety, put away those toxic black boxes; I want the variety of wildlife, the owls the ravens and foxes..." and let's keep hearing those owls hooting for a cleaner world.

— Govinda Holtby

References:

- Restrictions on Rodenticide Products**, US environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/rodenticides/restrictions-rodenticide-products>
- "Anticoagulant rodenticides in three owl species from Western Canada, 1988-2003;" National Library of Medicine, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19826750/>
- "Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs);" California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation, www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/registration/reevaluation/chemicals/sgars.htm
- Massachusetts State House Bill #3991 accompanied with current draft as of 3/28/2022, <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/H3991>
- Surety-Bell Laboratories Safety Data Sheet EPA Registration Number: 12455-133, https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/ppls/012455-00133-20191022.pdf
- Rat x Safety Data Sheet (SDS), ManualShelf.com; www.manualshelf.com/manual/ratx/100516268/1-sds-english.html



Conservation Column: On-site Advice Available for Your Native Garden

Have you struggled to identify or attract birds in your yard? Wondered what native plants best support birds and might work in your garden? Thought about thinning your trees or re-landscaping your land to make it more wildlife friendly? We have board and committee members with expertise in all these things (we are not professional landscapers but have numerous years of trial and error in our own yards).

If you'd like a brief (under two hour) visit from a couple of us, please reply to: conservation@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org and put Native Plant Consultation in the subject line. Tell us what information you need or what issues you'd like to discuss. If you'd like to get your backyard certified for "Plants for Birds" (an Audubon Bird-Friendly Community program) or certified as a National Wildlife Federation backyard habitat, we can help with that, too. We will be in touch to arrange a time.

There will be no charge for this consultation, Whidbey

Audubon would be grateful for any donation you care to make. We look forward to meeting with you.

Scholarship Award Information on Website

Webmaster, Dave Krause, has masterfully posted pictures and mini-bios of the Whidbey Audubon Society's 2022 scholarship awardees on its [website](#). (A must see!)

Ian, Samantha and Logan, all to study Environmental Science, express heartfelt gratitude to each donor supporting their future educational endeavor.

— Ann Sullivan, Scholarship Committee

Condor Adventure from page 5

edge of the river far below. Towards the far end of the bridge was the jackpot — members of the Peregrine Foundation monitoring two California Condor nest sites, one close to each side of the bridge. A male Condor was taking a quick break outside one shallow cave, and a female Condor was staying on her nest because, the Foundation volunteers said, the single egg was about to hatch. We discussed the Condor history and left after deciding to go to the World Center for Birds of Prey when we got to Boise, Idaho on the way home.

May 11: On the outskirts of Boise, alone on a dry sagebrush hill, is the World Center for Birds of Prey, where the Peregrine Fund has exhibits of their work since 1970 to bring back raptors from almost certain extinction, and at other times to bring them back off the Endangered list. It began with the DDT poisoning of Peregrine and other Falcons and Bald Eagles. Dr. Tom Cade and others captured wild falcons and bred falcons donated by falconers and in 1999, more than 4,000 Peregrine Falcons had been released and the bird removed from the list, as DDT was banned in the United States.

The Peregrine Fund has since cooperated with local residents all over the world to help prevent the extinction of other raptors and vultures. They have 50 California Condors in their breeding program now; this year eight nests produced one chick each. We were guided through the living exhibits by a volunteer who discussed the different birds, beginning with two Condors in a huge cage, one adult (white head) and one young (black head, so the other Condors know it's not ready to mate). We learned that the white legs and feet are periodically covered with feces (he called it poop) containing strong uric acid to kill any harmful bacteria picked up from the carrion they eat. They also

have very strong digestive juices to keep from being poisoned by their food. Unfortunately, lead from hunters' shot does not get excreted and accumulates in the birds' bodies. Every several years, all the Condors they can find are captured and subjected to a difficult chelating process to remove the accumulated lead. Even so, many die young. The change from lead to steel and copper shot has not been made yet, and lead remains in prey, going up the food chain; and will continue for years to come.

Other living exhibits were a Red-tailed Hawk on a nest, a talkative Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Kestrel, Barred Owl, Harpy Eagle, and a Milky Eagle Owl (*Bubo lacteus*) from Sub-Saharan Africa on a tether swooping back and forth over our heads. The latter has huge eyes, facing forward like all raptors, a facial disk to improve hearing, a big beak and huge feet and talons. He (I think) was born in a zoo in Ohio and brought to the Fund for education purposes.

We dodged a group of about 50 children and went across the parking lot to the Falconry Exhibit. Mostly it was falconry-related art — pictures, embroidered caps and perches, sculptures, from many countries and eras. A special exhibit was recently donated by the family of the late Sheik Zayed of the United Arab Emirates, a keen falconer and collector. A large tent was erected in the room, furnished with clothing, cushions, a coffee set and falconry items.

We were not birders in the 1970s, but we both had a distant memory of the crash of the raptors, whether from Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* or Earth Day, or whatever. But somehow the loss and the slow recovery stayed with us, and we paid our respects this day to the people who continue to do what it takes to save birds of prey.

Birding in Neighborhoods South Visits Wetlands

April 21: Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) weather luck was with us again this last time, when we birded in Dyanne's Neighborhood. Thank you so much for the invite, Dyanne! We identified 38 species that morning, as we enjoyed the grand tour and learned some stuff about the wetlands there. We speculated about seemingly reduced waterfowl population this season, as many have noted — not the same rafts of ducks as in the past, which could be due to conditions elsewhere, local conditions, or the grumpy **Swan** that has taken up residence. However, any day, anywhere with **Wood Ducks** is a good day.

May 5: Thursday BINS was speed-birding because the morning's very determined handful of birders were home warming up within the hour, after ticking off 29 species in persistent, near freezing rain.

More Sightings from page 4

in time to see the culprit land on the rock wall of my driveway and snagged a couple of noisy photos of a non-breeding male **Lazuli Bunting!** Location: Near Clinton Ferry.

— *Deb Stewart*

May 13: Male and female **Evening Grosbeak** on plat-



Photo by Patricia Duarte-Pocock

form feeder in my back yard.

— *Patricia Duarte-Pocock*

May 13: A **Western Kingbird** continues at the Pacific Rim Institute. We watched it change perches a few times.

— *Steve Ellis*

May 20: I found four warbler species at the Greenbank Farm Forest today: **Orange-crowned, Wilson's, Black-throated Gray, Yellow-rumped.** Other neotropical migrants included **Swainson's**

Thrush, Western Tanager, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. A **Virginia Rail** carrying an earthworm ran across the lower road at the farm wetlands.

— *Steve Ellis*

May 23: Several **Western Tanagers** came to my suet



Photo by Jan Faulkner

feeder and stayed most of the day. This is my first up close sighting of these beauties. Location: Ledgewood Beach.

— *Jan Faulkner*

May 23: There were 8 to 10 **Black-throated Gray Warblers** at the Rhododendron Ballfields this afternoon. At least four were males that were singing. — *Steve Ellis*

We went to Ewing Marsh for the Cinnamon Teals, and stayed for — no, we didn't even stay. The Teals didn't show, however we all agreed that watching a **Wood Duck** sitting on a fence was worth the price of admission.

If you have never seen 30 **American Goldfinches** in one place, that is also worth the drive over to Ewing. They were flying onto the fence line and down to the grasses, up by the barns across the road from the hundreds of **swallows** perched on the power lines.

That was just among the 16 species at Ewing — we added another 13 at an equally quick stop at Sunlight Beach, where the rain wasn't bothering **Whimbrels, Western Sandpipers, Green-winged Teal,** the **gulls,** the **terns** or the **Osprey,** who we finally watched from the car, as he fished along the beach. I guess if you're wet already...

— *Cathi Bower*

Birding in Neighborhoods South meets every other Thursday morning. Time varies with the season. Contact Cathi at whidbird@whidbey.com.

Birding in Neighborhoods North in the Forest

Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) North visited the Price Sculpture Forest in Coupeville on the morning of May 18. It was a cold windy day as we started so birds were hiding and silent, and the undergrowth made it difficult to see into the forest. As the day brightened the birds became more active, and the forest filled with song. It was fun to sharpen our ears to try to identify the songs of the different birds. The highlights of the day were **Pacific Wrens** who sang us their concert prominently perched on their special bare branch. Because it was so difficult to see through the leaves many of the birds listed were identified by the Merlin Bird ID app.

Black-capped Chickadee

Spotted Towhee

Song Sparrow

Purple Finch

Pacific Wren

Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Northern Flicker

Robin

Pacific-slope Flycatcher

Olive-sided Flycatcher

American Goldfinch

Raven

Brown Creeper

Red-breasted Nuthatch

BIN North meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. Contact Denise Marion, dpmorder@gmail.com or Nancy Luenn, nluenn@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

Editor's Note: After 10 years of organizing, attending and reporting on BIN North field trips, Marcia Lazoff is retiring. Thanks, Marcia!

Dates to Remember

Please check the *Whidbey Audubon Society Events Calendar* and *Listings* on its website for more detailed information and how to enter Zoom for some of these upcoming events. There also might be further information elsewhere in this issue.

JUNE

- 2: **Whidbey Audubon Society's 40th Anniversary Celebration**
- 9: **Program: *Homewaters* with David Williams**, 7 p.m.
- 14: **Birding by Ear Class**, Session 1
- 15: **Birds 'n' Beer**. 5 p.m.
- 16 **Birding by Ear Class**, Session 2
- 18: **Field Trip: Rosario Beach**, 8 a.m.
- 21: **Birding by Ear Class**, Session 3
- 22: **Page Peepers Book Group**. 7 p.m.
- 23: **Tufted Puffin Cruise**
- 24: **Pigeon Guillemot Appreciation Day**
- 25: **Pigeon Guillemot Field Trip**

AUGUST

- 18: **September *Shorelines* deadline**

SEPTEMBER

- 8: **General Membership Meeting** and program

Welcome New and Renewing Members

New Members:

Patricia Matthews, Spotted Towhee
Steve Smith

Renewing Members:

Candy & Robin Charlwood, Red Tailed Hawk
Deb & Tony Schiro, Red Tailed Hawk
Linda & Gordon Griesbach, Red Tailed Hawk
Barbara & Mark Jabbusch, Spotted Towhee
Christina Baldwin & Ann Linnea, Spotted Towhee
Claudia George, Spotted Towhee
Melissa Merickel & Jim Somers, Spotted Towhee
Sandra Dunning, Spotted Towhee
Carol & Tony Dougherty, Spotted Towhee
Carole Tyson, Spotted Towhee
Maria & Roy Seliber Janet Jernigan
Jan Nelson & Naomi Lev Judy Opheim
Mark & Elizabeth Johnson Lindsay Sievers

WHIDBEY AUDUBON SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP

Please make your check payable to: WHIDBEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
Mail to: Jann Ledbetter, 1112 Maple Place, Coupeville WA 98239
Or pay online: www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/membership

Name _____ Shorelines Recognition? Yes No

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____ (Our newsletters will be emailed to you.)

Check here to receive your *Shorelines* by mail. Please add an additional **\$10.00** to defray mailing costs.

Select Category of Annual Membership:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pigeon Guillemot \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household Membership \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Towhee \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey \$250 |

\$1000 Lifetime Membership

\$ _____ Additional Donation to be used for Scholarships

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

Whidbey Audubon Board and Committee Chairs 2022–2023

President.....	Patty Cheek
Immediate Past President.....	Sharon Gauthier
Vice President.....	Linda Griesbach
Secretary.....	Anita Baldri
Treasurer	Sheri Croll
Programs	Stephanie Neis
Membership Chair	Jann Ledbetter
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Brown
Conservation Chair	OPEN
Education Chair	OPEN
Field Trip Chair.....	Charlotte Ginn
Publicity Chair.....	Susan Prescott
Webmaster.....	Dave Krause
Board Member-at-Large	Cathi Bower
Board Member-at-Large	Roy Seliber
Board Member-at-Large	Janet Jernigan
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

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40th Anniversary Party

Thursday, June 2, 4 to 8 p.m.

M-Bar-C Ranch

R.S.V.P.

www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org

General Meeting

Thursday, June 9

7 p.m. via ZOOM

Program at 7:30

Homewaters

with David Williams

Pigeon Guillemot

Appreciation Days

June 24 & 25