



# Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society

October 2022

*Whidbey Audubon Society is dedicated to the understanding, appreciation, and protection of birds and other wildlife species and their habitat on Whidbey Island and surrounding waters.*

## Whidbey Audubon Society Meets, Thursday, October 13 in Coupeville and on Zoom

### *What is a Raptor Anyway?* with Thomas Bancroft

Birders love to look for raptors, and we often talk about these birds. But what are they? Hawks, eagles and falcons for sure, but what about owls? Some say “vertebrate” eaters with talons, but does that eliminate kites that eat a lot of insects? What about shrikes which seem like ferocious hunters? Lots to think about. Fascinating, too, is how these birds evolved. Recent genetic work shows that falcons are not very closely related to hawks, eagles and kites. It turns out that the closest relatives of falcons are parrots and passerines rather than those other “raptors.” Then, what do we do with vultures?

We will spend our time exploring what a raptor is, the evolution of these groups and how convergence to exploit vertebrate

**THOMAS BANCROFT** has been a birder all his life and has a PH.D. in Ornithology. Tom's career focused on birds, their science and conservation. After graduate school, he worked on Everglades and Florida Keys protection, studying wading birds, White-crowned Pigeons and the ecosystems of south Florida. Then, he moved to Washington, DC to work at the interface of science



and policy. Before moving to Seattle, Thomas served as Chief Scientist for National Audubon, helping them integrate with the work of Birdlife International across the Americas and advising the Department of Interior on their guidelines for siting wind turbines. He remains active in pushing a conservation agenda.

Tom is a scientific advisor to *BirdNote* and recently finished a six-year appointment on Washington Audubon's board. In addition, he volunteers for the Washington Ornithological Society and the Mountaineers. Most of his time is spent spreading the wonder and fascination of birds and nature. He teaches, writes, leads field trips and photographs to spread that love. Join him on this journey.



Photo by Thomas Bancroft

A Prairie Falcon pair taken at Petroglyph Point, Lava Bed National Monument.

prey has molded different evolutionary lines. The science of these birds is rapidly changing, and what was thought in the 1970s when I was in graduate school changed dramatically by the early 2000s and is transforming yet again. You might have noticed when you buy a new bird book that the sequence of families and species changed from earlier versions. We will concentrate on raptors of Western North America but might peek at some from Australia, Africa, Panama and Brazil. This evening will leave you with much to ponder.

— Thomas Bancroft

This program is open to all. **Zoom registration is now required for members and nonmembers.** Please register on the [Whidbey Audubon Events page](#). If you intend to participate via Zoom. If you want to be there in person the meeting will be held at the Coupeville Recreation Hall, 901 NW Alexander Street.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. with socializing. A brief meeting will start at 7:15 followed by the presentation at 7:30.

## Upcoming Field Trip

We had a nice field trip at Libbey Lake beach and Fort Ebey. Sarah Schmidt filled in at the last minute and we are so grateful she did as she was able to spot some **Marbled Murrelets**

Field Trip, see [page 5](#)

## Conservation Column: Native Plants Enhance Garden Habitat

The days are getting shorter and cooler, trees are changing color, pumpkin spice everything is everywhere — autumn must be upon us! Fall gardening chores are on the agenda for many. If your *To Do* list includes adding new plants to the landscape, now is a great time to do it. By adding native plants to your garden, you enhance the habitat for birds and other wildlife. Your *To Do* list just may be shortened in the future as native plants generally do not need as much care or watering as ornamental plants.

Autumn is a great time for installing native plants. The cooler temperatures and rain that's sure to come help newly planted natives get a great start. Their roots will grow and get established over the fall and winter giving them a good start to the growing season next spring. To give any plant a good chance to flourish, be sure and site it in the appropriate place. A sun lover is not going to flourish in deep shade, and a denizen of the marsh will not be happy in a dry, sandy location.

Many resources are available to those wishing to learn more about gardening with native plants. The website for the *Washington Native Plant Society* is a great place to start. Helpful books on the topic include *Real Gardens Grow Natives* by Eileen M. Stark and *Gardening With Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* by Arthur Kruckeberg.

Check out our local nurseries for native plants if you want

to start adding to your landscape now. For future planting, a great source can be found through the Whidbey Island Conservation District. They host an online pre-sale of native plants each November. Orders are placed when the sale begins, and plants are picked up in late

February. The plants are typically sold in bundles of ten. They arrive bare root, so you will need to pot them up or get them in the ground shortly after you collect them. The variety of plants available for purchase varies from year to year. In the past, they have offered a wide assortment including ferns, grasses, perennials, shrubs, deciduous trees and evergreens. If you would like to be notified when the pre-sale will begin, sign up at their website "*Subscribe to our newsletter*" and check the "native plant sale updates" box. Be forewarned: many plants sell out early, so be sure to place your order as soon as you can!



— Linda Griesbach, Acting Conservation Chair

## Update on Washington Aviation System Planning

*Information provided by Martha Jordan, Northwest Swan Conservation Association, September 15, 2022*

In 2019, the state legislature created the Commercial Aviation Coordination Commission (CACC) to, among other things, come up with a recommended location for a new, large airport within 100 miles of Seattle. This assignment was based on the idea that commercial air traffic is growing rapidly and more airport capacity is needed. As you may have already read, the CACC recently issued a list of 10 possible sites for a large new airport from which they will select one to recommend by June 15, 2023.

Two sites in Snohomish County and two sites in Skagit County [were] on the list of 10 possible airport locations. In addition, there are sites in King County near Enumclaw and more. Check out this link to the *Washington State Department of Transportation Washington Aviation System Plan* to see the study.

Click the red text to find the main website for the *Commercial Aviation Coordination Commission*.

In **Snohomish County**, the Northwest site is west of the current Arlington Airport with the East/West center line on SR

531. The Southwest site is west of Monroe encompassing from about SR 522 circling north over SR2 and taking a huge chunk of farmland and wetlands. Both these areas are important waterfowl migration and wintering areas and quality farmland.

**Skagit County:** one site is what we generally refer to as Samish Flats. The other is Skagit Flats, between SR 20 and La Conner. Both areas are very important to significant bird populations as well as to agriculture and other things we value highly.

**UPDATE:** Friday, September 23, the Commission removed the two Skagit County sites from further consideration. The Commission plans to name its top two sites by October 15, and the final location by June 15, 2023. Read more about the why and where in the *Seattle Times* article, "*Skagit County no longer being considered for a commercial airport,*" by By Racquel Muncy of the *Skagit Valley Herald*, Friday, September 23, 2022; [Thankfully two] important winter waterfowl habitats [were not lost]. Please take a moment to comment to the CACC on any of the sites with which you are familiar (look at the Enumclaw area, for example). The September 23 public meeting was recorded and is available at the main website. If you missed the other public meetings, you can also see them on the CCAC website.

## Online Class: The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl

Everybody knows a Mallard, right? And Northern Shovelers are those guys with big bills. But do you *really* know your waterfowl, even the so-called easy ones? Can you identify each species by gender, in eclipse, in flight and by voice? Western



Photos by Gregg Thompson

Female Common Goldeneye taking off, left; Barrow's Goldeneye, female, right.

Washington is the winter home of more than three dozen different species of swans, geese and ducks. It *is* possible — and fun! — to know them all, in all their guises. Let master birder Connie Sidles show you how to identify these webbed wonders while she takes you on a virtual journey into their lives

Registration is now open for *Winter Waterfowl*, a five-session, online-class series each Tuesday, November 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Fees are \$125 for members, \$150 for nonmembers. Sign up at on the [Whidbey Audubon Society website](#).

Constance Sidles is a master birder, a former board member

## Wings Over Whidbey Festival – May 2023

I am excited to announce a new event for Whidbey Audubon coming in May 2023 called WINGS OVER WHIDBEY. This will be a two-and-a-half-day festival, open to the public, that will include free program presentations, free guided birding tours, a free K-12 bird photo contest, a photography class (\$30 fee) and our “Bird in Hand” free event.

In order to make this festival happen, we will be looking for sponsorships from local businesses and individuals. I am just planting this seed of opportunity now so that if you or if you know someone that would like to support this festival, please let them know that the January newsletter will have information on how to become a sponsor.

We will also need Audubon volunteers for the birding tours and events set up and take downs. If you are interested in guiding or helping, please contact me at [stef@whidbey.com](mailto:stef@whidbey.com). Separately Robin Llewellyn will be reaching out for volunteers to assist in the Bird in the Hand event.

Watch for updates in each newsletter going forward!

— Stef Neis



of Seattle Audubon Society, a current member of Seattle Audubon's Conservation Committee, chair of Seattle Audubon's Publications Committee, an environmental educator and an author who has written four books about nature. Her most recent book is entitled *Forty-Six Views of Montlake Fill*. It's a book of poems and Sumi-e paintings about how to find joy in the connections we make with nature and with each other.

You can find it at Seattle Audubon's Nature Shop, or you can order it online from Constancy Press. Connie graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in Egyptology, which proved to be enlightening but not lucrative. Instead of working on ancient cultures, Connie has spent her time working on current issues, especially environmental preservation.

## Volunteer Corner: Weed Wranglers Work Parties at Deer Lagoon

Join fellow Whidbey Audubon Society members (and friends!) to help keep on top of weed removal and suppression at Deer Lagoon. Weeding parties are scheduled for three upcoming **Tuesdays, October 4, October 18 and November 1**, beginning at 10 a.m. No special training is required. Please bring pruning shears and/or small hand weeders or hori-hori knives if you have them. We hope to borrow special weed ratchets from the county for dealing with some of the Scots broom. Thankfully, there is *no* large Scots broom to deal with at this time. We're hoping that our efforts will keep that in check. If you can attend, or if you have any questions, please get in touch with [Linda Griesbach](#).

# Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings



Photo by Michael Sheldon

## California Scrub-Jay

**September 2:** Three **California Scrub-Jays** in same location previously reported by George Heleker, Cathi Bower and others Location: In Clinton at intersection of Humphreys and Olive.

— *Michael Sheldon*

**September 18:** **Western Scrub-Jay.** On peanut feeder in back yard. Location: Marine View Drive, Lagoon Point.

— *Dave Earp and Louise Abbott*

**September 20:** Had a close encounter with an **owl** this morning the one time I didn't have a phone/camera with me. We watched each other for about five minutes. When I came home, I looked through our bird identification book and I think it was a Spotted Owl. Location: South Whidbey Community Park, Westling Loop near the upper parking lot.

— *Colin Huffman*

**Editor's note:** Colin, it was probably a **Barred Owl**. They are fairly common here and not shy around humans. The Spotted Owl is extremely rare. It does look very similar to the Barred Owl, but smaller.

**September 27:** **California Scrub-Jay** heard and seen. This is the third time this species has been seen by us in

this location in the past eight neighborhood, Coupeville. years. Location: Lindsay Street

— *Jay Adams*

**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](http://www.facebook.com/WhidbeyAudubonSociety).

## Birding in Neighborhoods North Explores Freund's Marsh



Photo taken by a passerby

The Northend birders on September 14.

**September 14:** Eight North Island birders walked the Freund Marsh Trail. Linda Dwight helped us identify **Ring-billed Gulls** among the juveniles at Windjammer Park. We found many small residents sheltering in the thickets along the trail, includ-

ing **American Goldfinches**, **Bushtits** and a **Marsh Wren**. We were pleased to see numerous **Cedar Waxwings** and juveniles flitting in the Bitter Cherry trees, and a **Downy Woodpecker** foraging on a dead tree. A large flock of **Surf Scoters** floated in the harbor with several **Pied-billed Grebes** and **Red-necked Grebes** diving closer to shore. In all we spotted 30 species.

**Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) North** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. Contact *Denise Marion* or *Nancy Luenn*.

## Birding in Neighborhoods South Welcomes Ducks Back to Deer Lagoon

**September 8:** The highly anticipated back-ordered **Merlin** arrived at Deer Lagoon, bothered flocks of **Blackbirds** into a frenzy, and performed a show well worth the wait and price of admission.

It's just that time of year.

**BIN South, see page 9**

## Field Trip Report: Fort Ebey State Park

### September 10: 22 species, plus 2 more during post-field-trip orca encounter

It was my good fortune to substitute for Steve Ellis to lead this trip, which concluded with my most wonderful orca encounter ever!

Four of us met at the end of Libby Road on a calm-wind morning to scope returning waterbirds, after which we carpoled to Fort Ebey State Park. We walked the Lake Pondilla Loop and concluded with a short forest walk near the gun batteries.

On the water off west Whidbey, we saw 10 species. Highlights included an abundance of **Red-necked Grebes** (in one scan I counted over 155, many well-camouflaged in the kelp beds). We had good views of **Marbled Murrelets**, almost all in their black-and-white winter plumage. One group of three — two in winter plumage and one in mottled brown—we guessed were a pair with this year's offspring.

We found no ducks on Lake Pondilla but did see a **Belted Kingfisher**. On the forest trails we picked up 11 species, more than half of which were heard but not seen: The *Merlin Sound ID* app helped us focus in on vocalizations and confirm a couple

species we'd otherwise have missed, such as the high tones of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and the distinctive call of a **Purple Martin** flying overhead.

**Species list:** Surf Scoter, Red-necked Grebe, Pigeon Guillemot, Marbled Murrelet, Heerman's Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Purple Martin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pacific Wren, Bewick's Wren, American Robin, House Finch, Red Crossbill, Song Sparrow and Spotted Towhee.

**Postscript:** On returning to our separate cars at Libbey Beach, we found people with cameras and huge telephoto lenses waiting for a pod of Bigg's (transient) orcas reportedly traveling northward from Ebey's Landing. After no whales appeared, two of us drove back to the state park gun batteries to look from that bluff.



Photo by Rachel Haight, posted on the Orca Network Facebook page on September 11, 2022

Orca pod T109A, Fort Ebey State Park.

### Field Trips, from [page 1](#)

down by Libby Beach. See field trip report on this page.

Next trip will be to **Crockett Lake on Saturday, October 22** at 9 a.m. Meet at the beach parking lot next to the ferry. We will scan Admiralty Inlet and then check out Crockett Lake. We expect to see a number of sea birds as they make their way into the Northwest. This is a good spot for new birders to get familiar with a lot of local birds. All are welcome to this free event.

Remember to dress warmly and a Discover Pass is required for those driving. Any questions, click red text to email [Charlotte Ginn](mailto:CharlotteGinn) or call 209-352-6534.

Anyone who would like to suggest an area or special interest, please contact me.

### 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 Charlotte Ginn at [cginnsixbit@yahoo.com](mailto:cginnsixbit@yahoo.com).

What a fortuitous decision! People lining the bluff pointed out the orca pod milling right below us! They stayed in one small area at the outer edge of the kelp bed. Beyond them was a line of a half dozen whale watching boats. We learned it was the T109As — seven individuals including a baby born this year, T109A3A. I stayed for an hour and a half — by far the longest and best orca viewing I've ever had. I also added two bird species while looking down over the exposed low-tide beach: **Harlequin Duck** and **Black Oystercatcher**.

**Heerman's** and **Glaucous-winged Gulls** wheeled low above the orcas and dropped down to pick things off the water surface, perhaps evidence the orcas were feeding on something below. The pod was very interactive — they'd roll over each other, surface with kelp on their backs, spy hop and tail slap, swim upside down, and leap in low breaches. Most sweet was watching the baby float on her back, small black flippers held at her side, showing her white belly.

— Sarah Schmidt, Trip Leader

# Another Pigeon Guillemot Survey Season Has Been Assigned to the 2022 Books

What a Team this year! Nearly 100 volunteers monitored 28 breeding colonies around the bluffs of Whidbey Island. The Guillemots appear to be maintaining a steady population, and once we have compiled all of the data gathered during this summer, we will have more to report about that.

Volunteers braved the seasonal inconveniences and/or hazards of rain, heat, narrow misses (high tides and bluff slides) and observations sometimes difficult to unsee (burrow predation or little red feet sticking up from a big ole Orca maw).

A late season and some slow starts picked up later and has run later than have many typical summers.

Mid-season, we gathered together (in person) for Guillemot Appreciation Day, and we learned of a fascinating study over on Protection Island this year. More on that later, also! Support of the Protection Island research is partly a result of the fire out there last year.

Whidbey's Team Volunteer Coordinator position is beginning restructuring to spread around the joy of maintaining this long-running community science project. Frances Wood, who has been steering the ship that is the Salish Sea Guillemot Network/Pigeon Guillemot (PG) Breeding Survey — now regaining her land legs — invites everyone aboard. See the Salish Sea Guillemot Network, *Why do we study them?* to find out more about joining in and to learn all about the project or contact *Frances Wood*.

The PG season may be wrapping up, but the memories abide, and we are so grateful to the many, many generous volunteers who drag them-



Photos by Cathi Bower

Pigeon Guillemots, see [page 9](#)

JOIN US FOR THE  
**SALISH SEA GUILLEMOT NETWORK**  
**END OF SEASON CELEBRATION**  
 WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2022 @ 6-7:30PM  
 VIA ZOOM

FEATURING:  
**Pigeon guillemots**  
**of the Farallon**  
**Islands**

WITH  
**DR. MIKE JOHNS,**  
 SENIOR MARINE  
 ECOLOGIST OF  
 POINT BLUE  
 CONSERVATION  
 SCIENCE

Point Blue  
 Conservation Science  
 for a healthy planet

Come together to Share Stories and  
 Celebrate another Season of Community  
 Science Across the Salish Sea!

[Click image for link](#)

Imagine the conversation this pair of Pigeon Guillemots might have been having.

# Bird of the Month: Purple Martin (*Progne subis*)

## Lagoon Point (and more) Purple Martins 2022

**Editor's note:** *Mary has been sharing her experiences with the Purple Martin for many years. To learn more, go to [Whidbey Audubon Society "Stewardship"](#) page, then "Local Fact Sheets".*



Photo by Mary Hollen

This pair of Purple Martins find this cedar box quite acceptable for raising a family.

This year brought some changes for me — the biggest was giving away my Purple Martin gourd setup. Last year I decided I'm too old to be maintaining plastic gourds on heavy gear while perched atop a ladder on a floating dock, in the stiff breeze that is always present during daylight high tides.

But I didn't want to give up on being a Purple Martin landlord.

So while it was still winter, my neighbors Chuck Hammer and Dave McKee took the Vancouver Island Purple Martin box plans and got to work. Boxes built to these plans and installed on Vancouver Island, the B.C. mainland, and even some at Crockett Lake here on Whidbey Island have raised decades of Western Purple Martins and saved the subspecies from near extinction.

The nest box plan isn't too complex but I wanted flexibility to care for the baby birds in a densely populated area unlike the wildlands where the original boxes are sited. Lagoon Point has raccoons, cats, and most significantly lots of House Sparrows that pose threats to baby birds. I wanted to be able to open both ends of the boxes plus take them off their frames during the season if necessary.

My design changes meant a couple of trips for modifications and testing. Chuck and Dave were troopers and produced two excellent boxes to join the other Bob Vierra nest boxes on my dock.

Meanwhile over at Sheri Croll's dock, Gary Hammer put up

the two boxes Gary custom designed and built. He also moved his big Purple Martin condo to the land behind Callen's by the Keystone (now Coupeville) ferry dock. This gear was getting no attention at Gary's home on the bluff beneath his neighbor's Great Horned Owl in the giant fir. Time for a change.



Photo by Mary Hollen

Male Purple Martin

Bert Pack put up his two-unit condo and two individual gourds down here on the flat; all of us ready for the season.



Photo by Dyanne Sheldon

Gourd homes for Purple Martins at Red Door Farm in Clinton.

Sego Jackson helped me find a home for my gourd setup — with Dyanne Sheldon on her Red Door Farm. She went ahead with the installation, but told me she had trouble keeping Tree Swallows out of the gourds.

The nesting season started with a bang when the first birds showed up from Brazil on April 23. Purple Martins filled the skies and sang their beautiful songs. I was delighted to see that my new boxes are almost inaccessible



Photo by Mary Hollen

The first pair to set up housekeeping.

**Purple Martins, see page 8**

## Purple Martins, from page 7

ble to alien invasive Starlings. The opening is very low and the porch too short for their long legs. A male alien invasive House Sparrow (HOSP) tried to convince its mate to take one box, but no dice. There were fewer HOSPs this season, perhaps because I stopped offering water near the canal. Whatever, I had Purple Martins in every nest box!

Soon the parent birds were delivering tasty insects to hungry babies.

Anita Badri reported birds at her and Neil's, but no nests in that section of the East Canal.



Photo by Mary Hollen

Babies peeking from their cedar nest box.

The most fun for me was the visit by South Whidbey Birding in Neighborhoods field trip on August 11, when the baby-feeding was at its peak. The BIN South group started their day at Deer Lagoon, picking up some Seattle Auduboners who followed them up to Lagoon Point to see the martins. We all enjoyed watching food deliveries of some pretty spectacular-looking dragonflies and damselflies. It got hot, and everyone trooped over to Sheri's to lounge on her deck and watch her PUMA show. Meeting Whidbey Audubon Society members in person whom I'd only seen on Zoom, included Patricia Duarte and others, was great! What a fun day!

During the season I got reports of Purple Martins at Sunlight Beach and Crockett Lake from Cathi Bower and Jay Adams. Mark Borden had a pair using one of his kestrel boxes up on the ridge between Smith and Ebey's Prairies. No one reported food deliveries at these other sites, at least that I was able to discern. Food deliveries are the sign of an active nest.

Back at Lagoon Point, fledging took place during the second and third weeks of August, with much fuss and fanfare. Sheri

made detailed observations, including of adults physically assisting the new fledglings in flight. Over on my side of the street, I saw a fledgling sitting atop a nest box dive-bombed by a nest mate. Sibling rivalry? Both screamed but survived the encounter.

Our Lagoon Point season results were eleven active nests, ten of which fledged a new generation of Western Purple Martins. What a gift!

— Mary Hollen

## 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.

### OCTOBER

**4: Volunteer: Work party at Deer Lagoon.** 10 a.m.

**5: Pigeon Guillemot End of Season Celebration,** [www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/events-list/pigeon-guillemot-breeding-survey-end-of-season-event](http://www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/events-list/pigeon-guillemot-breeding-survey-end-of-season-event)

**13: Program: *What Is a Raptor Anyway?*** with Thomas Bancroft, Coupeville. 7 p.m. Hybrid meeting

**18: Volunteer: Work party at Deer Lagoon.** 10 a.m.

**19: Birds 'n' Beer.** 5 to 6 p.m. Zoom

**20: Deadline for November *Shorelines***

**22: Field Trip: Crockett Lake.** 9 a.m.

**26: Page Peepers Book Group.** No meeting. Now every other month.

**27: Board Meeting.** Coupeville Library, 6 p.m. All are welcome.

### NOVEMBER

**1: Volunteer: Work Party at Deer Lagoon.** 10 a.m.

**1: Online Class: *The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl.*** Session 1. 7-8:30 p.m. Register on website

**4: Class: *Fall Birding.*** Padilla Bay. [www.padillabay.org](http://www.padillabay.org). Repeat of September 4 class

**8: Online Class: *The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl.*** Session 2

**10: Program: *A Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure*** with Ken Bevis, Freeland, Hybrid. 7 p.m.

**15: Online Class: *The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl,*** Session 3

**16: Birds 'n' Beer.** 5 p.m. Zoom

**22: Online Class: *The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl.*** Session 4

**29: Online Class: *The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl.*** Session 5

**30: Page Peepers Book Club.** 7 p.m. via Zoom *Flight Lines: Across the Globe on a Journey with the Astonishing Ultramarathon Birds*



**Pigeon Guillemots, from page 6**

selves out onto the beach every week to watch antics of the most adorable birds anywhere. It's a chore, but they persevere. And then there is backstage. Data entry and compilation has gone even smoother this year, and as usual, Dave Krause (and the rest of you who know who you are), have never let up streamlining, consolidating and (ahem) simplifying the new system.

Watch the surrounding waters for the Guillemots sporting their winter garb, and this space for more about the continuing studies around the Pigeon Guillemots of Whidbey and the Salish Sea. They always entertain, move, surprise, humble and remind us why we do what we do.

— *Cathi Bower*

**BIN South, from page 4**

**Ducks** are arriving — have I mentioned lately how much I love Duck season? The first **Ring-necked Ducks** showed up with the DL regulars — **Teals, Mallards, Pintails, Wigeons, Geese** and even some **Coots**.

— *Cathi Bower Bird, early – bird often*

**Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) South** meets every other Thursday. The time varies with the season. Click red text to contact *Cathi*.

**Welcome New and Renewing Members**

***New Members***

- Arthur & Becky Noto, Osprey
- Roger Bessey, Spotted Towhee
- Joanne Martinis, Spotted Towhee
- Penny Harger
- Nina Holmstrom

***Renewing Members***

- Mary Jo Stansbury, Osprey
- Marty & Roger Scraftford, Red-tailed Hawk
- Bill Rick & Sarah Schmidt, Pigeon Guillemot
- Charles Stempler & Sally McKenzie, Pigeon Guillemot
- Mary Hollen, Spotted Towhee
- Elizabeth Jacques, Spotted Towhee
- Stephen & Susan Bennett
- Jeaneen Watkins & Michelle Munro
- Michael Holtby

Use the form below to join or renew. Or sign up and pay on the ***Whidbey Audubon Society website***. Consider joining at higher level or donate to the scholarship fund.

**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](http://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:**

- Individual Membership \$20
- Household Membership \$30
- Spotted Towhee \$50
- Pigeon Guillemot \$75
- Red-tailed Hawk \$100
- 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 Cabinet Chairs 2022-2023

### Executive Committee

President..... Patty Cheek  
Vice President..... Linda Griesbach  
Secretary ..... Anita Badri  
Treasurer ..... Sheri Croll

### Core Cabinet Chairs

Support Services ..... Jann Ledbetter  
Membership Management, Online Services & Technology Support, Special Project Grants and Fundraising, History and Record Keeping  
Conservation & Science ..... Charlotte Ginn  
Conservation, Pigeon Guillemot Survey, Christmas Bird Count, Bird Specimen Library  
Outreach ..... Susan Prescott  
Publicity, Newsletter, Volunteer Recruitment and Management, Social Media, non was Festivals and Fairs  
Events ..... Stefanie Neis  
Membership Meeting & Program, Field Trips, Birding in Neighborhoods, Page Peepers, Birdathon, Birds 'n' Beer, Bird in Hand Festival  
Education..... Sharon Gauthier  
Online Educational Classes, Public Presentations, School Programs, Birds of Whidbey Class, Scholarship Program

### At Large Appointments

Cathi Bower (Salish Sea Guillemot Network rep)  
Roy Seliber (Audit committee)  
Janet Jernigan  
Kathy Obersinner (Birdathon chair)

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## General Meeting & Program

Thursday, October 13

Doors open at 7 p.m. Program  
at 7:30

## What Is a Raptor Anyways?

with Tom Bancroft

Coupeville Recreation Hall  
901 NW Alexander Street

or

**REGISTER**

*to attend via Zoom*

**Online Class Series**

**The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl**

with Connie Sidles

every Tuesday in November, *register now*