



# Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society

September 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, September 8 in Coupeville and on Zoom*

### **White Swans of Winter**

Martha Jordan, well-known swan biologist, will present a program on the native swans in the Pacific Northwest, Trumpeter and Tundra. You will learn about their life history, biology and some swan identification tips. She will give updates on eastern Washington swans and how Washington's west and east sides are connected for swans not only in Washington but along the entire flyway. Learn about the connection between swans and snow geese and their management connections.

Martha will shed some light on the problems and controversies these birds face on their wintering grounds and what is needed to insure their future. Get updated on the swan lead poisoning problem, winter habitat issues, avian influenza and more. You will leave with resources to help you identify swans in the field. Learn how to help *Get the Lead Out* of both shooting and fishing sporting activities. This is vital to the welfare of swans and all waterbirds.

Martha Jordan has a bachelor's of science degree in wildlife science from Oregon State University. Professionally she has

## **Changes to Program Registration**

Effective immediately, registration will be required for all Whidbey Audubon online programs you plan to attend. This applies to monthly program meetings, Birds 'n' Beer, Page Peepers and so on.

In the past, the Zoom link for monthly program meetings was sent out to *all* members. To relieve some of the administrative effort, and to avoid sending email to Whidbey Audubon members who are not interested in an event, **we will now require you to register for each event you are interested in attending via Zoom.** Your name and email address are all that is required to register. You will then receive the Zoom link automatically,

**Program Registration, see page 8**



Photo by Daniel Poleschook

Swans taking off.

worked both in marine and terrestrial environments throughout Washington and parts of Alaska. In the late 1970s while volunteering to observe snow geese and reading their collars in the Skagit Valley, she began to look at the small group of Trumpeter Swans in the same area. By 1984 she had expanded her survey efforts to all of Western Washington and had contributed much information to both state and federal agencies on the status of Trumpeter Swans in Washington State. She wrote the state's first Trumpeter Swan management plan in 1985. She is still active in both field work and education related to Trumpeter and Tundra Swans throughout the region. She is currently the executive director of Northwest Swan Conservation Association, a regional nonprofit. The focus is on our native swans and their habitats throughout the northwest region.

This is the first general meeting program of the Whidbey Audubon Society's 2022-2023 season. The program is free and open to the public. It will be a hybrid meeting. To attend in person come to the Coupeville Recreation Hall at 901 Alexander Street. To attend via Zoom, **you must register online.** Please see article, "Changes to Program Registration." The event begins at 7 p.m. for socializing and a short meeting; the program begins at 7:30.



## President's Column: From the Window Perch

I received a heavy package in August that contained a nice surprise — *Hummingbirds: A Celebration of Nature's Jewels* by Glenn Bartley and Andy Swash. I had ordered it last spring during a preorder sale and had promptly forgotten I'd ordered it. When it came, I couldn't take my eyes off it. It is one of the most stunning books I've ever seen.

We only have two species of hummingbirds here on Whidbey — Anna's and Rufous. There are 14 species across North America. But I was amazed that there are 369 hummingbird species in North and South America. Wow! Absolutely incredible. There are over 540 photographs in this wonderful book. I wish I could share just one with you to show you how marvelous the book is, but this will have to be your surprise when you discover the book.

The book is well written by the two authors, Glenn Barley, a photographer *excellente*, and Andy Swash, an author and photographer. The book is published by BirdLife International Partnership who wanted to show the incredible lives of hummingbirds and to talk about the dangers of habitat destruction



*Hummingbirds, a Celebration of Nature's Jewels*, by Glenn Bartley and Andy Swash

that are putting pressure on the survival of hummingbirds in particular. There are 39 species now endangered. According to this book, the Rufous is one of those hummingbirds. In all my reference books, it was listed as Least Concern. But now I see that eBird is listing it as *Near Threatened*. Yipes.

The book has wonderful and well-researched information about the exceptional lifestyles, color and iridescence, breeding, biogeography, biodiversity, conservation and many other aspects of life for the hummingbirds. The excellent descriptions of color and iridescence are good for anyone, not just scientists. The photos can capture you for hours on end and the reading is first-rate for learning about the birds. One man has described the book

as riveting. It is. If you can't find me, I'm lost in this most amazing book.

— *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.*

## Volunteer Corner: Deer Lagoon Weed Removal

Come join fellow Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) members at Deer Lagoon for weed removal training at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6. We will receive instruction from the Island County Noxious Weed Control Board and learn how we can help protect and enhance the environment of this very special place. If you are interested and available to help, contact [Linda Griesbach](#), [click red text for a hot link] and she will send you specific details once they are finalized. Deer Lagoon is a designated Important Bird Area, and this is a great opportunity for WAS members to show it some love!

## Sightings Editors Needed

Sighting reports have to be checked to see if they follow the guidelines. The process is quite simple: editors get a copy through email of each report as soon as it is submitted. The first editor who checks it clicks on a link in the email to approve or disapprove and if the report is approved it immediately is published on the website. The editors get follow-up emails informing them of the action taken.

To succeed, the process has to respond in a timely way and that requires a sufficient number of editors. The time and effort are minimal. At least intermediate birding skills are preferred. You can use the Whidbey Birds Checklist on the website if need be. You can become an editor and contribute to the effectiveness of the feature by sending your email address to [admin@was-cgi.pw](mailto:admin@was-cgi.pw).

## Birdathon 2022 Results

Once again, the obvious dedication towards protecting Whidbey Island birds and their habitats was displayed by the generosity of the donations to Birdathon. We raised \$8,587.25, of which \$3,334.37 is designated for the general fund, and \$5,252.88 for the scholarship fund.

Many thanks to everyone who participated, whether as a team member or a contributor!

As announced in June, the All for Knot team (Joe Sheldon, Jay Adams, Ruth Richards and Dave Parent), nabbed the Golden Binocular Award with their sightings of 134 species. All funds have now been collected and accounted for, revealing the team that raised the most money. For the third year in a row, the Bronze Owl Bank (BOB) Award goes to the Wingin' It team (Janet Hall, Sarah Schmidt, Libby Hayward and Dyanne Sheldon), who brought in \$2,916.50! Your hard work is much appreciated!

Whidbey Audubon would like to thank all businesses that contributed to our Birdathon effort, including:

- Penn Sports
- Whidbey Telecom
- Windermere Real Estate, South Whidbey

(Due to changes in how we receive donations, I apologize if I couldn't credit your business.)

We appreciate your support and dedication to birds.

— *Kathy Obersinner, Birdathon Chair*



The Bronze Owl Bank.

## Bird of the Month: American White Pelican

I grew up on the gulf coast of Texas and took pelicans for granted. I rarely paid attention to them except to notice them. Not so anymore. It's interesting that today's eBird is featuring American White Pelicans (AWPE) and that two times in the past week, I have seen 230+ of them on both Deer Lagoon and Crockett Lake in enormous pods (one of the group names for them). My husband, Larry, came up with another one — a panoply.

American White Pelicans, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*, are so huge — about 63 inches from the beak to the tail and up to nine feet, that's right, nine feet in wingspan. They can weigh 30 pounds. They are hard to miss now on Whidbey Island. They were here before 2016 in small groups. Five were seen at Deer Lagoon (dl) in May 2012 and one was seen in May 2015. Then in 2016 we saw huge pods of them on dl — 205 that first year. They do not show up here according to range maps on eBird or any of the bird books I have.

They are unmistakable with enormous bills and a large pouch that can hold up to three gallons of water while foraging. They have white wings with black tips and during breeding, their bill and legs will be bright orange. They also have white plumes and a "horn" on their upper mandible. Although we have had many with the horn, there is no evidence yet that they have bred here. They are monogamous for one season and have many courtship behaviors including a courtship flight, a strutting walk, head swaying and a bow.

They usually have only one to two eggs. The hatchlings are born naked and then gradually get whitish down that turns grayish later. If you see plumage that is dusky white, grayish crown and wing pattern beginning, they are juveniles. Although I have seen juveniles here, American White Pelicans breed mainly on isolated islands in freshwater lakes. They will fly to outlying rivers, marshlands and wetlands to forage as much as 60 miles away from their nests. Like all birds, they do have predators like red fox and coyotes as well as birds that steal their eggs. Great Horned Owls and Bald Eagles take the pelican young.

The pelicans group together to fish and herd the fish so they can gulp them up at the same time. They are coordinated, lined up in huge lines, and then like ballet dancers, all dip their heads down in unison and then they come up in synchrony to swallow their prey. They eat various fish but mostly small schooling fish. They also eat small amphibians and crayfish. When in pods, they will bill dip up to six times per minute. Sometimes the pod will separate into two groups and use bill dipping and beating wings to drive the fish toward each group. The food is swallowed and then carried to the colony.

The American White Pelicans are absolutely stunning in flight.



Photo by Patty Cheek

American White Pelicans at Deer Lagoon, August 3, 2022

They are graceful and can be in large flocks in flight formation often in a V. They use flapping and gliding. When they take off, they push with their feet and when they land, they stretch their webbed feet first, which act like skis. They swim on top of the water and put their heads down to scoop up fish. They do not high dive like the Brown Pelicans.

Be sure to watch my video of an August 3 sighting at Deer Lagoon on [YouTube](#). [Click the red text.]

— *Patty Cheek, President*

## Upcoming Field Trip

We have an exciting field trip scheduled for **Saturday, September 10** at 9 a.m. It will be at Fort Ebey State Park, led by Steve Ellis. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Libbey Road, (Libbey Beach Park). From there we will carpool into the park. Discover Pass permits required. Prepare for a little walking on this half day trip. This trip will give us a mix of water birds and forest birds. Target species are Harlequin ducks and woodpeckers. Hope to see you there! All field trips are open to the public. Old and new birders are welcome. Email [Steve](#) or call 360-678-2264 (no texting) with questions.

### 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).



# Sightings Summer Highlights

**May 31:** A pair of **MacGillivray's Warblers** was in an elderberry and oceanspray bush on the Pratt Loop Trail this morning. The male did some singing; nesting would be a first for Whidbey.

— *Steve Ellis*



Photo by Lachlan Pope

## Brown Pelicans

**June 12:** I came across a group of juvenile **Brown Pelicans** hanging out on a rock jetty near my home on the west side of Whidbey Island. Approximately 20 individuals. A lot of grooming. Some individual and group flights to the water, then eventually back up the jetty rocks. No diving. Observed for about 15 minutes then group took off together and headed south.

— *Lachlan Pope*



Acorn Woodpecker

**June 16:** My daughter noticed the woodpecker on our feeder on two occasions, during the afternoon on each day. She took a video (the photo is a screen shot) and then identified it using "Sibley's". Very unique, since we have seen all

of the woodpeckers on Whidbey over the years, but never an **Acorn Woodpecker**. Located near Polnell Shores on North Whidbey Island.

— *Steve*

**June 23:** A **Brown Pelican** was resting offshore at Fort Casey State Park this morning. It was easily visible without optics. — *Steve Ellis*

**July 6:** Beautiful formation flyby this afternoon about 3 p.m. of a flock of approximately 30 **White Pelicans** going north along the shoreline practically over Admiralty Head Lighthouse. Lovely view. Wish I had been camera-ready. — *Rick Mylander*

**July 6: Common Nighthawk**, heard but not seen. First one I have located on Whidbey in over 15 years. Location: Greenbrier Lane, Langley.

— *Dave Parent*

**July 10:** Two **Bank Swallows** seen over the bluff facing Saratoga Passage. Obvious belly band, smaller size than Barn and Violet-green Swallows and different flight pattern. Breeding somewhere nearby or just passing through?

— *Dave Parent*

**July 19: American White Pelican** appeared to be in distress on the west side of the west dike. It stopped flapping its wings, put its head down and appeared to die.

**July 20:** Sad to report two more dead **American White Pelicans** noted at Deer Lagoon this evening.

— *Carlos Anderson*

**July 20:** There seems to be a **Great Blue Heron** Rookery next to the dike at Sunlight Beach. We saw and heard a great deal of GBH activity to-

day. Has anyone else identified a rookery there?

— *Susan Bennett and Marilynn Strayer*

**July 21: Avian Influenza Potential.** There are now three dead pelicans reported from Deer Lagoon: Whidbey Audubon and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) are aware of the birds. One of the birds has been collected by staff of WDFW and it is being tested for Avian Influenza (AI). Please note: **do not** retrieve, touch or engage the other dead birds at Deer Lagoon, or anywhere here on the Island at this time. If you do (or have) wear gloves, wash your hands thoroughly, wash your clothing thoroughly and do not go near any domestic flocks of chickens or other fowl. Here is the [Center for Disease Control link](#), "Bird Flu Virus Infections in Humans." To be extremely cautious, assume that these birds do have AI and act accordingly. We will post more information as it becomes available. And for those who were wondering, the Trumpeter swan found dead on the wetland at Cultus Bay Road and French road was diagnosed with AI several weeks after the body was collected.

— *Dyanne Sheldon*

**Editor's Note:** See article by Dave Parent about Avian Flu in this issue, [page 5](#).

**July 25: Water Bird Mortalities:** as some of you are aware, avian influenza has become a regular part of life out there in the bird world including parts of western Washington. Mortalities are being reported, especially from south Whid-

bey Island and now up in the Padilla Bay area and maybe more areas that are not being reported. Several White Pelicans have been found dead in both of these areas in the past few days. One has been tested for AI and the results will not be known for at least a week or more. If it is not AI then WDFW will send it in for a full necropsy to hopefully determine why it died. Meanwhile, here is the latest information from WDFW on what to do should you find dead pelicans, ducks, shorebirds, etc: **Do not touch the bird. Report it.**

Report observations to the following: Online report to the [WSDA Avian Health Program](#), "Who to Call." Alternatively, people can email [teammillcreek@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:teammillcreek@dfw.wa.gov) or call 360-902-2936 This will be the fastest way for a response from WDFW. They are aware of the pelican mortality issue, and the one dead Trumpeter Swan that did test positive for AI (South Whidbey Island wetland). Thank you for keeping watch for birds in distress. WDFW is working hard to track this deadly disease.

— *Martha Jordan, Everett, WA, 206-713-3684*

**July 28:** Twenty + **Tufted**



Photo by Michael Sheldon

Tufted Puffins

**Summer Sightings,**  
see [page 7](#)

## Local Veterinarian Provides Information about Avian Flu

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a viral bird disease. It is quite rare in other species but, as we know with the new monkey pox scare, viruses can and do jump species. It has been detected in Washington State in backyard poultry flocks and in several species of sick and dead wild birds. The virus is endemic to Southeast Asia and is carried by migratory birds to other continents. Here on Island County, we had a scare when three dead pelicans were found in Deer Lagoon. Fortunately, these birds tested negative for the virus. The cause of death is still under investigation.

Here is a partial list of signs associated with HPAI.

- Bluish skin or legs
- Nasal and eye discharge
- Blood-tinged nasal or eye discharge
- Tilting head
- Lack of coordination
- Depressed/ruffled feathers
- Sudden death

As you can see, signs of HPAI vary widely and just about any sick bird is a suspect. It is impossible to separate HPAI from the other diseases found in wild birds without testing for the virus. At this time, the wildlife service at Useless Bay Animal Clinic will euthanize any bird, except those showing signs of trauma, displaying any neurological signs.

Should you take down your feeders? My seed and nectar feeders are still up and running but I will take them down at the first sign of bird illness. I recommend *not* feeding wild birds if you have a backyard poultry flock or if you keep pet birds. The risk is just too great. If at all possible, try to keep wild birds out of poultry runs. I know this can be very difficult.

What should you do if you find a sick or dead bird? It is best to call PAWS Wildlife Rescue (425-412-4040) or Useless Bay Animal Clinic (360-331-3100) before taking action with any live bird. As always, do not attempt to capture any raptor or heron as these birds can cause injury to you. If you must move a dead bird, wear gloves or pick it up with your hand in an inverted plastic bag. Seal the bag securely. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (360-902-2200) is the entity that makes the decision, along with the Health Department, to test the birds. At this time, testing priority is given to poultry. There is a backlog of wild birds waiting for testing. These decisions change frequently.

Much further online information is available online through the [Washington Departments of Health and Fish and Wildlife](#). Our wish is that the virus will run its course and disappear from North America for a long time.

— Dave Parent, DVM

## Birding in My Yard (BIMY)

As we all know, birds are fascinating creatures. All 10,000 plus species worldwide have characteristics that have evolved in many diverse ways with a common goal: *survival*.

Let's face it, birds do not have an easy life. They spend most of their waking hours searching for food, water, trying to escape from predators (unless they are a predator) or trying to safely raise their young. Not much leisure time.

This summer I spent time observing a tiny population of the birds and other creatures for about an hour each day as they went about their daily business to survive. I live on 2½ acres of mixed forest — alder, Douglas fir and hemlock-with lots of undergrowth. I've even turned my lawn into a "meadow." I help them in their quest for food and water by providing two bird baths, a suet feeder, black oil sunflower seeds, peanuts and cracked corn.

Here are some of my wildlife observations:

- Deer love the vegetation in my meadow. They have created paths through it. They also will eat the occasional apple I throw out for them.
- The rabbits keep the grass on my driveway trim.
- I have daily visits from Townsend's chipmunks, Douglas squirrels and eastern gray squirrels. They quickly eat or hoard the peanuts and then come back for the sunflower seeds.
- I have learned that the smaller Douglas squirrel is the alpha rodent, chasing off the larger gray all the way down the driveway. The chipmunks usually just scurry away and sneak back later.

### Fledgling Central

Baby **chickadees** have perched on the gutter above the suet feeder chirping "feed me, feed me" as the parent grabs suet to bring to each of them. They impatiently wait for their turn. I'm still seeing fledgling chickadees, so they must have raised two or three broods.

Fledgling **woodpeckers** awkwardly hang from the suet feeder, inches away from the food and wait for the parent to feed them.

A **junco** fed a much larger baby, probably a cowbird whose parent laid an egg in the junco nest.

Four Fledgling **Flickers** showed up one day, perching on the gutter, squawking as the parent grabbed some suet. Something spooked them and they all awkwardly flew off, one flying within inches of where I was sitting. Brought back memories of the movie, *The Birds!*

I saw a covey of **Quail** strut down my driveway. The first time in about 10 years. It must have been a blended family. There were four adults and about 15 babies.

What a stressful time for those parent birds! They not only have to constantly feed their babies both in the nest and after but protect them from all kinds of threats. At least the nesting period is relatively short-not like humans that lasts 18 years-and beyond!

### Owls Galore

Lots of owl sounds this summer, both **Great Horned** and **Barred**. Usually in the early morning or at night but sometimes during

**My Yard, see page 9**

## Birding in Neighborhoods North Summer Outings

The north neighborhood birders visited three sites this summer.

**June 8** five of us followed Moyers Trail in Joseph Whidbey State Park. We had a partly sunny day, rather cool and spotted 25 species. A cooperative **Willow Flycatcher** perched and sang, and a pert little **Pacific Wren** didn't mind us watching him pop in and out of his nest hole.

**July 13** we followed the Pratt Loop Trail overlooking Ebey's Prairie. Seven birders saw 24 species including a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**, **Black-headed Grosbeak**, **Bewick's Wren** and a juvenile **Pileated Woodpecker** optimistically blundering from tree to tree.

In **August**, seven of us explored Admiralty Inlet Preserve. We had cloudy weather and the flat light made visual identification challenging. We spotted thirteen species including the **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and **Golden-crowned Kinglet**. While we listened for birds, we had time for plant identification. The highlights of this pastime were Scarlet Paintbrush and an ancient, gnarled Douglas Fir, survivor of Admiralty Inlet winter winds. The thunderstorm we observed looking west toward Port Townsend, broke just as we reached our vehicles. We happily fled the ensuing deluge.

**Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) North** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. Email [Denise Marion](mailto:DeniseMarion@gmail.com), or [Nancy Luenn](mailto:NancyLuenn@gmail.com) to be notified.

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## BIN South Visits Deer Lagoon and Beyond this Summer

**June 16:** A rewarding morning at Deer Lagoon. For a slow start, we wound up with at least 38 species — a little of everything — including **Ospreys** enjoying brunch, a 'fitz-bewing' **Willow Flycatcher**, four different **swallows** who were not keeping up with the bugs, all the expected other friends, plus a **Great Horned Owl** attempting to snooze near the beginning of the dike path.

**June 30:** During the dreary days, consider last Thursday, a morning hard to beat.

Down at Possession Sound Preserve near Clinton, we watched a **Pigeon Guillemot** Colony, busy delivering fish to burrows, plus right next door, **Kingfishers**, ditto! And **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, also in and out of a neighboring hole. Busy bluff. On the way down the path to the beach, we noticed a huge Eagle's nest, apparently unoccupied, as three **Steller's Jays** were hopping all around and on it, swiping sticks and who knows all what they were doing there — given the calls we heard, possibly pretending to be raptors. A **Swainson's Thrush** foraging amongst the high wrack line and driftwood.

We came away from the walk with the identification of at least 33 species, plus a nice hat. Thank you for sharing the joy that is Pigeon Guillemots at work.

**July 14:** As we enjoyed last Birding in Neighborhoods (BINS) South, there is always something interesting to watch and learn — *even* at Deer Lagoon, mid-summer!

A **Cooper's Hawk** out there was creating a kerfuffle among the Dike Path residents, while it worked the feeders there. It hung out for good looks, while everyone else fled to other trees. Some of us have photos of those treetops filled with a variety — **Eurasian Collared-Doves**, a **Mourning Dove**, **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Starlings**, **Cedar Waxwings** and **House Sparrows**, all hoping for safety in someone else's numbers. *Coop* was a beauty, but you still can't help but root for the adorable immature **Cedar Waxwings**. Also for the odd lone floating **duck** that

dove out of talons' way as an **Eagle** made a couple of half-hearted attempts at brunch. From across the wetland side, a **Pied-billed Grebe** called, and we shared stories of all the things that it used to make us wonder, back before we had learned that "chimpanzee" call.

If you take a look at the latest Whidbey Bird checklist, there is a long blank column right down the middle of most of the Shorebird section frequency chart. That was June, and this is now. The peeps are returning, and all of a sudden, the July column fills in.

We saw and/or heard at least 32 species, including some **flycatcher** that we never pinned down. Likely a Western Wood-Pee-wee. Or a Willow Flycatcher. Maybe an Olive-sided Flycatcher. I didn't see (or hear) it — I was with the part of the group that was watching otters!

Up at Lagoon Point, monitoring the Purple Martins, it appears to be a bit early yet this season to visit them, but possibly in a couple weeks.

**July 28:** Sometimes something as simple and unexpected as a sunray lighting up a **Bushtit** nest makes it all worth the price of admission — which these days is just slogging through the summer bird-doldrums. We watched the busy adult bringing in worms to nestlings. A couple days later, I saw that just a few feet above it there had been a hummingbird nest! Never noticed that before while it was active earlier in the season — the Bushtit nest was built there afterwards and is a second brood.

We lucky few wandered around the woods and fields, and checked out Miller Lake here in the Maxwelton Valley, where we saw a little of everything and ahead of rising temps, identified at least 23 species. Plus, when it's slow birding, there's always *FINS* (and not the fish the Osprey was after), but Flora in Neighborhoods — because, you know... *Habitat*. Attached here



## 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](mailto: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.

### Summer Sightings, from page 4

**Puffins** and one **Horned Puffin** on San Juan Cruises' trip to Smith Island. Onboard naturalist Victoria Souza supplied the estimate and said it was the best sighting of the season and confirmed to her that the colony here is in good shape.

— *Michael Sheldon*



Photo by River Barrett

#### Bonaparte's Gull

**August 15:** Among a group of **American White Pelicans**, one has a distinctive yellowish neck, breast and belly. Location: Deer Lagoon estuary near the middle on the Double Bluff Road side. Seen and photographed from the south end of Deer Lagoon Road.

— *Libby Hayward*

**August 18:** Adult male, **Black-chinned Hummingbird** observed twice at my home feeders. First time I had a quick glimpse of a 'different' hummer. On the second visit, I confirmed its identification. Location: Feeders at private home. Greenbrier Lane and Saratoga Road, Langley.

— *Dave Parent*

**August 21:** Around my yard I was seeing a bird in flight that I knew wasn't a 'usual suspect' but couldn't get enough of a look to identify it. I spotted it

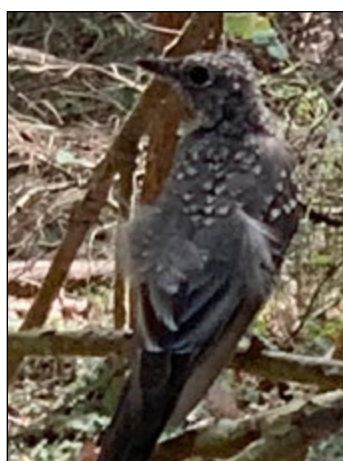


Photo by Dave Parent

#### Black-chinned Hummingbird

in the woods next to my driveway, a juvenile **Townsend's Solitaire**. Location: Bush Point Road. — *Jo Reeves*

**August 22:** A light morph **Parasitic Jaeger** flew by Fort Ebey State Park heading south. Lots of other interesting birds there, too: **Red-necked Grebes**, **Common Loons**, **Harlequin Ducks**, **Rhino Auklets**. There was a big flock of **crossbills** in the trees surrounding the parking area. — *Steve Ellis*



Photo by Gina H.

#### Green Heron

**August 1:** **Green Heron** at Deer Lagoon this morning. West of the big sign at the west dike trail Y.

— *Libby Hayward*

**August 8:** **Ruddy Turnstone**. Location: Off the left end of the peninsula behind Callen's Restaurant, across from the Coupeville ferry terminal.

— *Jay Adams*

**August 9:** First-summer **Bonaparte's Gull**, unusual in summer. Location: By Clinton Ferry. — *River Barrett*

**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).

## Dates to Remember

Please check the *Whidbey Audubon Society Events Calendar* and *Events 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.

### SEPTEMBER

- 4: Class: Fall Birding.** 8 to 11 a.m. Padilla Bay. Class also offered November 4. [www.padillabay.gov](http://www.padillabay.gov)
- 6: Deer Lagoon Weed Removal,** 10 a.m.
- 8: Program: *White Swans of Winter*** with Martha Jordan, Coupeville, 7 p.m. Hybrid meeting
- 10: Field Trip: Fort Ebey,** 9 a.m.
- 10–11: Puget Sound Birdfest,** Edmonds;  
[www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org](http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org)
- 15: Deadline for October *Shorelines***
- 21: Birds 'n' Beer.** 5 to 6 p.m. Zoom
- 22: Board Meeting.** 6 p.m. Coupeville Library. Members welcome.
- 22–25 Wings over Willapa Bird Festival.**  
[friendsofwillaparefuge.org/wings-over-willapa](http://friendsofwillaparefuge.org/wings-over-willapa)
- 23: Class: Divers and Dabblers.** 3 to 4 p.m. Padilla Bay.  
[www.padillabay.gov](http://www.padillabay.gov)
- 28: Page Peepers Book Group.** 7 p.m. *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law.* Zoom

### OCTOBER

- 13: Program: *Raptors*** with Thomas Bancroft, Coupeville. 7 p.m. Hybrid meeting
- 19: Birds 'n' Beer.** 5 to 6 p.m. Zoom
- 20: Deadline for November *Shorelines***
- 26: Page Peepers Book Group.** 7 p.m. Zoom
- 27: Board Meeting.** Location and time to be announced

## BINS South, from page 6

is our personal native plant list, for those who sounded interested. It does not include the Dog Vomit Slime Mold growing up on the wood chip pile, and which was immediately identified with *iNaturalist*. (Thanks, Dan.) Identifiers identify, whatever the subject. Plants of note and conversation were the currently pink-blooming Douglas Spirea, the Dewberry, which is the low, creeping small native blackberry, and the Evergreen Blackberry, which is that spiny, shrubby one that is most similar to the non-native, invasive Himalayan.

It warms my heart to occasionally take the opportunity to share our place. Shortly following our morning walk, of course more usual residents showed up — a **Raven**, a **Wood Duck**, a third (a fledgling?) **Bushtit** and a third **Osprey**!

— *Cathi Bower*

**Birding in Neighborhoods South** meets every other Thursday. Time varies with the season. Contact *Cathi Bower* for information.

## Program Registration, from page 1

and you will receive a reminder the day before the event. Go to the Events calendar to find the event for which to register: [www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/events-calendar](http://www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/events-calendar).

If you have not registered, you will not receive the Zoom link for the event and you will not receive a reminder of the event.

You are encouraged to use the “Add to Calendar” button if you use an electronic calendar. This will save the event, and the zoom link for that event, on your personal calendar.

— *Jann Ledbetter, Support Services*

## Welcome New and Renewing Members

### New Members:

Yoram Levy & Cynthia Neighbors, Red-Tailed Hawk	
Ken Rosenthal & Judy Hucka	Al Lunemann
Liz & Stephen Platz	Susan McNab
Crystal & Kate Brazle	Lavonne Bissell
Berdene Saul	Gordy Mitchell

### Renewing Members:

Dominique Emerson, Lifetime	
Marge Plecki, Red-Tailed Hawk	
Eric & Deborah Arnold, Red-Tailed Hawk	
Chris Fisher & Judith Howard, Red-Tailed Hawk	
Ann Casey & Carol Plunkett, Pigeon Guillemot	
Bill Graves & Frances Wood, Pigeon Guillemot	
Marlys Erickson & Christine Hurley, Pigeon Guillemot	
Michael & Ellie Sheldon, Spotted Towhee	
Barbara & Dan Lavaty, Spotted Towhee	
Beth & Ferdinand Johns, Spotted Towhee	
Marilyn Thomas, Spotted Towhee	
Allison Hiltner & Jonathan Maas, Spotted Towhee	
Greg & Diane Stone, Spotted Towhee	
Lea Kouba, Pigeon Guillemot	Beth Shepherd
Patty Cohick, Spotted Towhee	Judith Ray Gordon
Marcia Lazoff, Spotted Towhee	Lee Benner
Sue Abbott, Spotted Towhee	Margaret Knoll
June Ivy	Katy Shaner
Lu “Anna” & Mark Orth	Richard LaChasse
Gregg & Linda Ridder	Eric Mayhew
Lois & Bill Mathews	Jenanne L. Murphy
Albert & Sandra Martin	Sharon Dunn
Julie & Hilton Herrin	Wendy Wilson
Judy G Dixon	Janet Smith
Kathryn Hirt	Denise Aubuchon
Pam Nodus	Lori Wost
Patrick Hussey	



## My Yard, from page 5

theday. I wonder if they are having territorial negotiations?

One day I looked out and saw what looked like a young Barred Owl on the ground having a stare down with a gray squirrel. They were about a foot apart. I'm not sure what that was all about...

### Tech Aids

I recently acquired a smartphone, so I decided to try out some apps to enhance my nature observations.

I already know most of the flora and fauna around me, so I was basically testing the apps for accuracy.

**Merlin** by Cornell Institute of Ornithology. This app will id birds both visually and auditorily. I used the sound ID mainly. All you do is push the sound button and it will record every bird sound it hears. It was very sensitive and very accurate. There were two birds that I didn't know were in my woods: The **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and a **Swainson's Thrush**.

**Seek.** This app identifies plants as well as animals. It is very accurate with the plants in my yard, both native and non-native. The animals, not so much. It identified my bunny as a marsh rabbit native to the Southeast and the deer as a species found only in Australia. It also thought my hose was a snake!

I have so enjoyed observing and learning from my feathered and furred neighbors this summer. I hope to continue into the fall.

— *Jenny Brown, Editor*

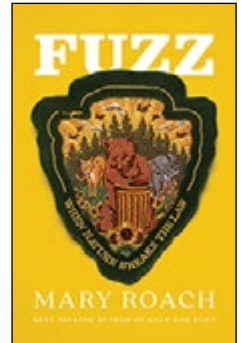
## Page Peepers Book Group

Join us at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28 for our first book this fall, a humor and science filled book, *Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law* by Mary Roach.

We'll meet via Zoom so be sure to register for this event. After you register you'll receive an email confirmation; and you will receive a reminder the day before the event.

There are many copies of the book on the Sno-Isle Libraries website and Patty Cheek has three copies of the book for only \$7.30 each, *email Patty* with a click on red text.

As stated on the Amazon website: *America's funniest science writer" (Peter Carlson, Washington Post), Mary Roach, on an irresistible investigation into the unpredictable world where wildlife and humans meet.*



*Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*, by Mary Roach; W. W. Norton & Company (September 14, 2021).

**REMEMBER TO USE AMAZON SMILE** when ordering from Amazon. Choose Whidbey Audubon Society as the beneficiary

## 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

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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          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$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..... Stephanie 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)å  
Roy Seliber (Audit committee)  
Janet Jernigan  
Kathy Obersinner (Birdathon chair)

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## General Meeting & Program

Thursday, September 8  
Doors open at 7 p.m. Program  
at 7:30

## White Swans of Winter

with Martha Jordan

Coupeville Recreation Hall  
901 NW Alexander Street

or

**REGISTER**

to attend via Zoom

[www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](http://www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org)