



# Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society

October 2020

*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.*

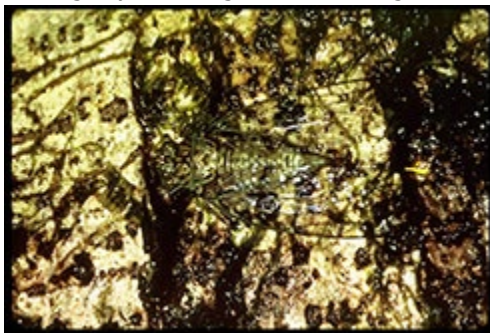
## Whidbey Audubon Society Meets Virtually Thursday, October 8

### Insects versus Birds with Joe Sheldon *Strategies Insects Use to Avoid Being Eaten*

The relationship between birds and their insect prey has been and continues to be a source of amazement and study by both naturalists and scientists alike. The bizarre appearance of many



Top photo is a wing of a katydid that mimics a dead leaf. Below is a highly cryptic cicada with nearly transparent wings that is "hiding" by blending into the background.



the foundational assumptions of insect mimicry. This presentation will examine that story and will overview the various strategies utilized by insects to avoid bird predation. Come, enjoy, and be amazed!

Joe attended high school in Saint Helens, Oregon, received his bachelor of science degree at the College of Idaho in biology and his ph.D. at the University of Illinois in entomology, insect ecology. He married Donna in 1965 and they have two children. He had thirty-six years of college teaching at Eastern College and Messiah College, both in Pennsylvania, as well as summer teaching

at Au Sable Institute of Environmental Science from 1987 to 2007. Joe served as President of the American Entomological Society (1991 to 1997) and President of the American Scientific Affiliation (1998 to 1999). He was invited to and did present expert testimony on the Endangered Species Act for the House Committee on Resources in 2004. Joe retired to Whidbey Island in June of 2007. He is a founding board vice chair of Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship (2009 to 2015), board Secretary for Whidbey Island Theological Studies (wtrs) 2014 to the present and has been a board member of Whidbey Audubon Society since 2016, serving as Field Trip Chair, Secretary and now Member-at-Large.



This is a soldier fly is mimicking a vespid wasp to avoid being bird prey.



Joe Sheldon on Mount Rainier this past summer.

**The presentation will be on Zoom  
7 to 8:30 p.m.  
Thursday, October 8**

Joe's presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a brief meeting beforehand. To register for Joe's presentation on October 8, go to our website, [whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](http://whidbeyaudubonsociety.org). The sign up is on the front page. Just scroll down a bit. Both Whidbey Audubon members and nonmembers are welcome!



## President's Column: The Window Seat Perch

Who says we can't do anything? I just got through reading a very interesting column on the Purple Martins that were roosting in Nashville. There were 150,000 of them nesting at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. 150,000 Purple Martins! That's a lot of bird poop. The building itself is made of limestone and is extremely porous. You can just imagine trying to protect the property. The property owners were planning to exterminate the birds thinking they were starlings. Not so. All of a sudden six people got together and stopped the extermination from happening. One of the people explained to the exterminators that these birds were part of the protected species by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. As she explained about it, texts and tweets flew and News Channel 5, the mayor's office, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Tennessee Wildlife Federation, the Nature Conservancy in Tennessee and the Nashville Wildlife Conservation Center joined together. The exterminators left. Hurray!

It turns out to be a quite happy ending. The column is called "A 150,000 – Bird Orchestra in the Sky" and well worth a read by our members. They started a fundraising campaign to pay for the cleanup and restoration of the trees around the building. The appeal raised the money for the cleanup in just a few hours and continues now to be used to further future Purple Martin roosts near the Symphony Hall. The appeal may also help the Nashville Symphony musicians get back to work. What a wonderful story! It makes me feel so much more optimistic about our relationships with nature and our willingness to take positive action.

Read the article in the *New York Times*, September 7, 2020 at [www.nytimes.com/2020/09/07/opinion/a-150000-bird-orchestra-in-the-sky.html?searchResultPosition=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/07/opinion/a-150000-bird-orchestra-in-the-sky.html?searchResultPosition=1).

— 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.

## Conservation Column

### A Little Good News for a Little Toad

It's hard not to be overwhelmed by the bad news about our natural world. Songbirds falling dead from the skies in New Mexico. Massive habitat destruction by wildfires in eastern Washington, further imperiling endangered Sage Grouse, pygmy rabbit and Sharp-tailed Grouse. Smoke causing beyond-hazardous air quality at the height of seasonal bird migration and greatly increasing carbon emissions.

There is a bit of good news here in Island County for the western toad, a priority habitat species of concern. This small creature requires freshwater breeding grounds and forested uplands for its life cycle and has several known populations on Whidbey Island. Whidbey Environmental Action Network (WEAN) sued Island County to add rules to protect the toads while upland, not just at their wetland breeding grounds. The Court agreed with WEAN that in order to protect the toads, biological site assessments are required prior to development in the toad's upland dispersal area. The decision is lengthy and nuanced but does come down firmly on the side of science and common sense. If you want to read all 28

pages, here is the link: [www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/pdf/D2%2052923-8-II%20Published%20Opinion.pdf](http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/pdf/D2%2052923-8-II%20Published%20Opinion.pdf).



Protecting our environment requires commitment, knowledge, money and persistence. None of this is going to get easier, and it is up to all of us to help in the effort. Find an issue that speaks to you and figure out a way to help. We can't do everything, but everyone can do something. Thanks, WEAN!

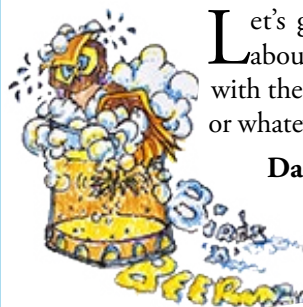
— Kim Shepard, Conservation Committee Chair  
Photo Source: USGS Western Ecological Research Center. Photographer: Chris Brown.

## Save the Dates: Upcoming Online Class on Owls

In December, Paul Bannick, our September program presenter on owls, is returning to do a three-part class on the *Owls of North America*. The Zoom classes will be held on December 8, 15 and 22.

More details to follow in the November *Shorelines* or check our website soon: [whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](http://whidbeyaudubonsociety.org).

## Birds 'n Beer Get-togethers



Let's get together to socialize and talk about birds. Bring your pictures to share with the group. Sit back, relax, have a drink or whatever. Just bring your smile and spirit.

**Dates:** October 21, November 28, December 17

**Time:** 5 to 6 p.m.

Email me to be sent the Zoom Room information:

[president@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](mailto:president@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org).

— Patty Cheek, President

## Bird of the Month: The Long-tailed Duck (*Changula hyemalis*)

Looking for something a little different to do this winter? May I suggest taking a day and heading to either Libby Road beach front or if you're up for a little drive, head north to Semiahmoo Bay and Birch Bay. Once there don your binocs and bring your scope because there you have a good chance of seeing one of our rarer winter migrants, the Long-tailed Duck. Oh, you may know this member of the Sea Duck family by its former name, Oldsquaw, but times have changed and now its name reflects its beautiful long, elegant tail feathers. They're a very distinctive and easily recognizable feature on this male duck.



Long-tailed Duck pair. The female is in the foreground.

Long-tailed Ducks winter in our coastal waters. As diving ducks go, they are the undisputed deep water champion, diving to depths of up to 200 feet and staying under water the longest, sometimes up to two minutes. They are hunting for their prey, typically, mollusks and crustaceans. This is one of the reasons that as you observe them, once they dive you seem to lose them; they don't surface quickly and typically not near the location where they dove. Don't be discouraged by this long wait; just keep scanning the area and hopefully you will see them come to the surface again, just before they dive again.

Long-tailed Ducks, like most sea ducks, have a tolerance for salt water. Around Western Washington, they tend to winter in the larger bodies of water, like the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Rosario Strait and the Strait of Georgia. Preferring colder temperatures, Long-tailed Ducks migrate from the colder coastal waters in the winter to the colder high Arctic tundra pond areas in the summer.

Courtship begins in the early winter so we will see Long-tailed Ducks in their breeding plumage. The male has a distinctive bi-colored bill, black at the base and pink, yes pink, towards the tip. There is a large black disc on the side of the cheek and of course the two long dark colored tail feathers. The rest of the body is white with some grey and black markings on the wings and breast. The female, a bit more subtle of course, has a brown /grey black back and breast with a dark head crown with a subtle black cheek disc and NO long tail feathers.

Courtship for this pair, like most duck species, is always interesting and very observable. In his attempt to woo a mate the male does a lot of back and forth head shaking, raising his long tail feathers into the air and tossing his head back and pointing his colorful bill up into the air while calling out in a yodel-like fashion, hoping the female will choose him as her mate.

Long-tailed Ducks are ground nesters breeding and nesting near the high Arctic tundra ponds. They try to conceal their nests and protect them from predators, like skunks, minks and foxes, by hiding them among the tundra sedges and grasses and sometimes among rocks. Typically, they have just one clutch of 6 to 8 chicks, sometimes as many as 11, as mortality

rates are high for this ground-nesting species. Like all diving ducks, the Long-tailed Duck chicks are precocial, meaning they are able to see, swim and feed themselves within 48 hours of hatching. They will not develop their flight feathers for another month so the hen stays near her brood keeping them as safe as possible.

In late summer the Long-tailed Ducks begin their journey south, returning to our local coastal waters, where once again we can enjoy their beauty and appreciate

their life challenges. Which reminds me, let's make sure you and I are doing our part to aid in protecting and preserving the bountiful habitat entrusted to us; without that habitat we may not have these magnificent birds to enjoy.

Let's all be a bird's best friend (BBF).

— Ann Casey

**Editor's Note:** *Bird of the Month* is a new feature where a Whidbey Audubon Society member shares information about a favorite bird that is seen on Whidbey Island. If you would like to contribute, contact me at [newsletter@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org).

— Jenny Brown



Mark your calendars for October Big Day—17 October 2020! Big Days are a 24-hour opportunity to celebrate the birds both near you and around the world.

In addition, this year's October Big Day 2020 is happening during the first Global Bird Weekend. The goal of Global Bird Weekend is to make October 17–18 the biggest ever birding weekend and support BirdLife International's appeal to end illegal bird trade. One of Global Bird Week's aims is to have more than 25,000 people submit *eBird* checklists on 17 October — will you be one of them?

Click on [ebird.org/news/october-big-day-2020-bigger-than-ever](http://ebird.org/news/october-big-day-2020-bigger-than-ever) for more information.

# Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings

**Editor's Note:** The Sightings and Gallery pages on our new website have been down as we transition from old to new. They should be available as you are reading this or soon after. In the meantime, you can use *eBird* if you want to record your sightings for all eternity, or to share with fellow Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) members in next month's newsletter, you can email me at [newsletter@whibeyaudubonsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@whibeyaudubonsociety.org).

— *Jenny Brown*



Photo by Jay Adams

## Buff-breasted Plover

**August 27:** The **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** first reported on August 24 was relocated by Sarah Schmidt this morning and then seen and photographed by me early that afternoon. A much better photo is now available. Location: Crockett Lake. — *Jay Adams*

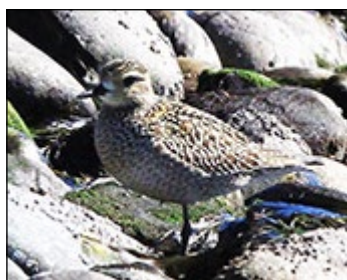


Photo by Carlos Andersen

## Pacific Golden Plover

**August 28:** **Pacific Golden Plover.** The bird was by itself, somewhat distant from my location, and in the fog. Still, it was possible to discern its overall pale brownish tones, hint of gold markings, capped look, short thin bill, dark cheek spot, and short primary projection (primary tips extending just beyond the tail). No chance for a photo given the fog and relative darkness. The bird did eventually fly by overhead, giving its distinctive flight call as it went by. Location: On the mudflats east of the viewing platform.

— *Jay Adams*

**August 31:** I saw (via light from a headlamp) a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** fly out of a tree in pursuit of a large moth. Location: Behind our yard in Coupeville. This area not open to the public. — *Steve Ellis*

**September 2:** Some other bird watchers along the edge of the

Keystone Jetty parking lot spotted and called my attention to a single **Pacific Golden Plover**. It was in the seaweed-covered rocky area just below the restroom building. The bird was down along the edge of the water foraging and then moved higher in the rocks and stood on one leg with its head tucked under its wing to nap. — *Mary Jo Adams*

**September 2:** A **Merlin** caught a **Mourning Dove** and ate it on our front sidewalk. The Merlin spent about 45

minutes eating the dove and when the carcass was light enough he/she flew away with the remainder of the carcass. Location: South Sherman Road. — *Val Hillers*

**September 20:** We had 12 or so **Vaux's Swifts** circling overhead along Parker Road in Coupeville. They were headed in a general south easterly direction. It is easily the biggest flock of swifts I've ever seen over Whidbey Island.

— *Steve Ellis*

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

## BIN South Discovers Delights at Deer Lagoon

**August 27:** Deer Lagoon, you never disappoint, even if at first, second thoughts arrive with the early morning fog.

Thankfully, that burned off quickly, and we saw and/or heard over 50 species. We most enjoyed the squeaky calls of immature **Caspian Terns**, as compared with the familiar adult ruckus. Also entertaining, were **Greater Yellowlegs** on the mud so close to the dike path that we really got a good look at them foraging there.

The alders and shrubbery at the end of the dike closest to the water, were absolutely alive with **Warblers, Sparrows, Siskins, Blackbirds, Finches, Tanagers** and a **Cedar Waxwing**, so that

it was hard to move on to the shorebirds. Late in the morning, a couple of **Red Crossbills** flew up from driftwood into the trees near there, as well.

**September 10:** Last week we managed to beat the smoke out at Deer Lagoon, saw and/or heard at least 46 species and enjoyed several captivating observations. First of all, there were a bazillion **American Coots** across the lagoon near the far shore. That's quite a few up from zero the past few weeks.

## Lagoon Point Purple Martins Seventh Summer Addendum

**UPDATE:** On the morning of August 24 I heard the Lagoon Point Purple Martin flock screaming and looked over to see a heron on Jim and Melody Carney's dock (east side of east canal on Lagoon Point) with a bird dangling from its beak, flapping wildly. The heron stood there for a bit and then tried to swallow the baby bird. The efforts were half-hearted (apparently Purple Martins don't taste like fish) and the heron dropped the bird. It flopped a couple of times and lay still. Although the same size as the adult Purple Martins, it was distinguished by its white gape. I called Carneys to rescue it — which they did. They took it in to Dr. Dave Parent at Useless Bay Animal Clinic for treatment and recovery from injuries caused by the heron's sharp beak. One severe injury proved too much, and the baby was euthanized after several days of care and treatment. A sad note in an otherwise successful season with many new fledglings learning to fly and hunt on their own.



This happened at the end of the fledging season, apparently just luck that this first flight ended up on a dock within reach of a heron's beak. Stan Kostka, secretary of the Western Purple Martin Working Group and keeper of the data in the Pacific Northwest, informed me that there have been other reports of Great Blue Herons eating Purple Martins. He also had lots of good advice on how to give the baby, should it survive, the best chance of rejoining the flock for the southward migration.

A final note was the “mystery” birds in the neighborhood days after our main flock left. I knew that migrating martins take nest boxes they encounter, to rest for the night on their long journey from wherever they nested. So here I am one still evening watching the gourds and scanning the sky above, when suddenly, at 7:50 p.m., a body drops silently from the sky, flutters briefly near the gourds and disappears. (I think it only disappeared because I lost sight of it while fumbling with my binoculars.

Seconds later, another body drops from the sky and I see it shoot into Gourd Number Two! Racing to my scope, I study the opening. YES! It is a Purple Martin face looking back at me from the opening. This is nothing like nesting season; there is not even a chirp of warning, let alone their normal distinctive song. How did they target these cavity openings from far away? Far enough that, even though I was scanning the sky, I had no idea they were coming until they dropped straight to the gourds like torpedoes.

This happened again, until the firesmoke. They flitted silently in and sneaked out at dawn. Sheri Croll (Lagoon Point) and Jay Adams (Crockett Lake and the Coupeville boat launch) both saw late migrating martins as well. And Cathi Bower got a late report of a couple dozen martins congregating in trees down her way (Maxwellton area).

— Mary Hollen

---

### BIN South, from page 4

A **Virginia Rail** came out near us, triangulating calls with two of its fellows.

Finally, a few **Pied-billed Grebes** were busy catching the tiniest flashy little silver fishies, the sort of behavior which always leaves more questions than answers and possibly even inspiration for a children's rhyme.

Oh yeah — and your **American White Pelicans** are still with us. These past five years, they've been known to hang around at least through the end of September, and into October, with a few staying as late as November some years.

**September 24:** In spite of the forecast, this week a surprising little gathering at Deer Lagoon mused about the lack of little birds lately — in the howling wind and threatening rain. We did deduce that it may have to do with the lack of insects out in those conditions.

However — the raptors! As we were enthralled by the antics of two **Peregrine Falcons**, overhead a **Bald Eagle** flew, clutching her brunch — some type of unfortunate **duck**. About

2000 other ducks were wiping their collective brow (if ducks had brows).

Nearby, a single female **Northern Shoveler** was spending more time tipped over tail-up than just scooting around head down, as might be expected. She had no other shoveling model among the **Wigeons** and **Pintails** and **Mallards**. This got us to musing about habits developed based on surroundings of all sorts. Some of the **Coots** were also close in this week.

We held onto our hats and blew on our fingers as long as we could and dashed back just before the rain. We saw at least 28 species, including two beautiful **Fox Sparrows**, which sadly signal the summer's close. But — Fox Sparrows!

— Cathi Bower, *Bird early – bird often*

It's re-up season. Please drop me a note if you would like to continue to receive notifications for Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) South, [whidbird@whidbey.com](mailto:whidbird@whidbey.com).

If you have been recently added to the bins list, or if you are a regular participant, no need to let me know.

## Dan's Blog: Pelicans in Flight

#418, September 5, 2020, [pedersenwrites.blogspot.com/2020/09/418-pelicans-in-flight.html](https://pedersenwrites.blogspot.com/2020/09/418-pelicans-in-flight.html); this article is excerpted with permission from Dan Pedersen. Read the entire blog by following the link.

**Editor's note:** *Dan's Blog is published every Saturday morning. Type this website into your browser: [pedersenwrites.blogspot.com](https://pedersenwrites.blogspot.com). If you'd like to be added to Dan's email list to receive the link to the latest post each week, write to Dan Pedersen at [dogwood@whidbey.com](mailto:dogwood@whidbey.com).*

David Welton doesn't consider himself a wildlife photographer, but I think he hit it out of the park with this shot of American White Pelicans in flight at Double Bluff Beach, on Whidbey Island. The fog and the trees are wonderful, along with the character of the light and the almost eye-level angle. I know without asking that he was doing backflips to react fast enough when he saw the birds coming.

One of my goals this summer was to find and photograph pelicans, which have become summer regulars on our island. I didn't succeed at the photography piece, but David did. He is well known for his exceptionally fine portraiture and event coverage. Two other photographers I follow also had good success, so keep reading to see the images Carla Corin and Jack Hartt got.



Photo by David Welton, © 2020

American White Pelicans in flight at Double Bluff Beach. Visit the Dan's Blog link under the headline and then click on the image to enlarge it even more for a closer look.



Photo by Jack Hartt, © 2020

Deer Lagoon pelicans eating.

...Now here's a nice change-of-pace. Jack Hartt got lucky and caught this group feeding at Deer Lagoon, with plant material hanging from their bills.

American White Pelicans are known to consume only fish -- about four pounds a day -- so I'm intrigued with the plant material. They are social and often hunt in groups, scooping up fish and tipping back their bills to drain out the water before eating their catch immediately. They do not store food in their bills. Under some circumstances, pelicans will consume tadpoles, salamanders, frogs, crayfish and crabs.

Perhaps these pelicans were taking big scoops near the bottom and sifting a few small fish or invertebrates out of the vegetation

## Welcome New and Renewing Members

### New Members:

Bev Carpenter	Robin Olive Reich
Elizabeth Derrig	Meagan Rothschild
Oliver Grah	Carol Russo
Joan Green	Gaye Simpson
Chuck Guilford	Elise Smith
Wendy Johnson	Sheila Sokolosky
John Leaser	John Stewart
Dennis Reiersgard	Darwin Wile
Aaron Gill Eric & Deborah Arnold, Red-Tailed Hawk	
William Goetz, Red-Tailed Hawk	

### Renewing Members:

Ed & Becky Breeze	Wendy Wilson
Neil & Pamela Daener	Phyllis Kind, Pigeon Guillemot
Mary Hollen	Sheri Croll, Red-Tailed Hawk
David C LaBrecque	Kim Shepard, Red-Tailed Hawk
Stephen & Susan Bennett, Scholarship	
Allison Hiltner & Jonathan Maas, Scholarship	
Kathryn Beaumont & Jeff Rogers, Spotted Towhee	
Bill & Cheryl Bradkin, Spotted Towhee	
Sue Gustaf Hamilton, Spotted Towhee	
Bill Rick & Sarah Schmidt, Spotted Towhee	
Bill & Lauren Young, Spotted Towhee	
Ann Casey & Carol Plunkett, Pigeon Guillemot	
Angie & Jerry J. Homola, Red-Tailed Hawk	

Dan's Blog, see [page 7](#)

## Dan's Blog, from page 6

they dredged up. ...

...Carla and Lenny Corin of north Whidbey are serious birders and have been doing a great deal of photography all summer. On Tuesday, they were walking in the Keystone area, looking for a Buff-breasted Sandpiper that had been reported, an unusual sighting.



Photo by Carla Corin © 2020

Crockett Lake pelicans in flight.

"We didn't find it," Carla said. But she and Lenny were also keeping an eye on the pelican flock in the distance. It was the old story of wishing the birds would do something.

"They were all sleeping on the bar," she said. "All of a sudden, as we were leaving, they were soaring. I don't know what got them going!"

**Note:** Those who recently took Bill Ray's photography class will enjoy David Welton's photography tips in the main article.

[For example, Welton

says, ]"Pelicans in Flight' was f5.6 1/5000 second at ISO 400. Next time I will stop down a little bit to f8, with 1/2500 exposure time. I set the camera for motor drive, known today as continuous shooting, nine frames per second."



Photo by Jim Gage

Look closely, a Pileated Woodpecker is in one of the apple trees at the Obersinner/Gage home. "It made it's usual strident call as it flew out of the woods, over to our orchard, then settled down to chip away at the Gravenstein apples," Kathy said.

## Whidbey Audubon Society Membership

Join or renew online at [www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/membership](http://www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/membership). Or mail the coupon below with a check.

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Y20**

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### **SELECT a Category of Membership**

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Annual Membership \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ Pigeon Guillemot \$75

\_\_\_\_\_ Household Annual Membership \$30

\_\_\_\_\_ Red-tailed Hawk \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ Spotted Towhee \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Osprey \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation to be used for Scholarships

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP** for first year National Members only.

Receive a joint membership in National and Whidbey Audubon for one year for only \$35.

**Make check payable to National Audubon.**

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

# Whidbey Audubon Society

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

Meetings are conducted virtually this year using ZOOM, register at [www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](http://www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org)

## Whidbey Audubon Board and Committee Chairs 2020-2021

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

## Contents

<i>Insects versus Birds</i> with Joe Sheldon....	1
<i>President's Column</i> .....	2
<i>Conservation Column: Western Toad</i> ...	2
<i>Save the Dates: Class on Owls</i> .....	2
<i>Birds 'n Beer Get-togethers</i> .....	2
<i>Bird of the Month: Long-tailed Duck</i> ..	3
<i>Sightings</i> .....	4
<i>BIN South: Delights at Deer Lagoon</i> ...	4
<i>Lagoon Point Purple Martins 2020</i> ....	5
<i>Dan's Blog: Pelicans in Flight</i> .....	6
<i>New and Renewing Members</i> .....	6
<i>Pileated Woodpecker</i> .....	7
<i>Membership form</i> .....	7
<i>WAS Board and Committees</i> .....	8

Thursday, October 8

7 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom

**Insects versus Birds**  
**Strategies Insects Use**  
**to Avoid Being Eaten**  
with Joe Sheldon

**Birds 'n Beer**

Wednesday, October 21

5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom

**Join us for a Zoom Social**  
**to share bird sightings and**  
**stories.**

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