



Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society
June 2019

Whidbey Audubon Society is dedicated to the understanding, appreciation and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats on Whidbey Island and in surrounding waters.

Whidbey Audubon Meets Thursday, June 13 in Coupeville Puget Sound Energy's Avian Protection Program

Join Us!

Thursday evening
June 13

Coupeville
Recreation Hall
901 NW Alexander Street

7:00 socializing
(donations for snacks welcome)

7:15 brief meeting

7:30 program begins

No meetings until September
Have a great summer!

A major goal of Whidbey Audubon Society's 2019 Powerful Partnership with Puget Sound Energy (PSE), our electric utility provider, is to educate the public about PSE's continued commitment to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act via its avian protection program. Our June speaker is Melvin Walters, manager of the protection program. He oversees continual improvement and maintenance of the program, responds to all avian power line incidents and prioritizes areas of concern and actions

needed to prevent electrocutions and collisions and improve system reliability.

Walters has had a career in the environmental industry for over 45 years. His areas of expertise include wildlife mitigation, osprey habitat improvement and avian protection near man-made structures and electrical facilities. He can provide updates on the avian protection measures at the Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility and other PSE facilities and the successful relocation of osprey nests away from power poles on Whidbey Island. PSE's newest avian protection program brochure and other information will be on display at the meeting.

Editor's Note: Remember, there are no meetings or issues of *Shorelines* in July or August. See you in September.



from PSE website

Osprey pair on nesting platform prepared by PSE's avian protection program.

PSE's Green Power Campaign

Puget Sound Energy (PSE), our electric utility provider, selected Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) as one of only 10 of the statewide 2019 Powerful Partners who will benefit from a campaign during the summer to increase Green Power customers. WAS will receive additional funding for each new sign-up.

- The campaign will last from June 1 to August 31, 2019.
- Ten Powerful Partners from across PSE's service territory are participating.
- For every customer that signs up for Green Power or Solar Choice during the campaign, \$10 will be donated to participating Powerful Partners. The total will be divided equally among them.

Here is the link to learn more about PSE's renewable energy programs: www.pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/Renewables/Pages/default.aspx

Walt Blackford, PSE's Outreach Manager for Island County, will provide additional information at our June membership meeting.

— Linda Dwight

Upcoming Field Trips

Saturday, June 29: PIGEON GUILLEMOT COLONY. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Freeland Park and Ride at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Note: No other field trips are scheduled for the summer. However, check out some of Whidbey's special birding spots that are listed on the [Whidbey Audubon Society website](http://www.whidbeyaudubon.org).

Consider visiting the 25 places Craig and Joy Johnson filmed in their recent video *Birding Whidbey Island*. It was presented at the May 9 meeting and many members got a copy for a donation.

Or get the app for the Great Washington State Birding Trails

Upcoming Field Trips, see page 3

Whidbey Audubon's 2019 Birdathon Results

The Birdathon provides a snapshot of bird species that either live on or migrate through Whidbey Island in early May. Depending on the year, migrating birds such as Snow Geese or Wimbrels may or may not be seen while a team is out for their 24-hour window of counting. And for some reason, that every-day bird may be elusive on your Birdathon day.

A total of 157 bird species have so far been sighted during Birdathon 2019 (Fledglings' data is not in as of this writing), with the rare Eurasian visitor, the Ruff, sporting bright orange legs and a bulky appearance, being perhaps the most unusual and exciting.

With five of the six teams having reported their sightings, it appears that the **All for Knot** team (Joe Sheldon, Jay Adams, Dave Parent) have edged the coveted Golden Binoculars away from 2018 winners, the Coupevillains, with 133 species sighted. The trophy will be conclusively awarded at the June meeting when all data is in.

The 2019 Birdathon results, along with the last seven years' statistics, will be posted to the website under "Stewardship" in a new format. **During this period, a total of 199 species have been observed (with the possibility that more sightings may be added when all data comes in).**

Although the focus has been on how many species were sighted, an important facet of the Birdathon is to raise money for Audubon. For the first time, the team that raises the most money will earn the **Bronze Owl Bank (BOB)** award. Team leaders are still collecting and submitting pledges and donations, but at this

point over \$4,100 has been deposited, with about \$1,800 for the general fund and \$2,400 for the scholarship fund. We don't know which team will turn in the most donations, as pledges can take a while to collect, so we will announce the winners of

the **BOB** in our September *Shorelines* and at the general membership meeting, September 12. However, updated information on donations collected should be available at the June 13 meeting.

Thanks to all team members for their great birding and fundraising, and thank you, thank you, to all our Birdathon supporters!

— *Kathy Obersinner, Birdathon Chair*



Photo by Jenny Brown

All for Knot team members Jay Adams, left, Joe Sheldon and Dave Parent (not pictured) won the coveted Golden Binoculars trophy for seeing the most species during the 2019 Birdathon.

Conservation Column: Water and Plastic

It looks like another dry summer. Most of western Washington has already been placed under a drought advisory. Here on central Whidbey Island, our rainfall since November 1, 2018 is 8.31 inches (as of May 22, 2019) according to the Washington State University weather station in Coupeville. Audubon Washington and Washington Department of Public Lands have both urged landowners to be prepared for wildfires. Keep combustible materials away from your home, maintain a defensible space and have a plan.

When it's dry, it's more important than ever to offer a source of clean water for birds — many people report more bird action at a fountain or bird bath than at feeders. Native plants are adapted to our climate and don't need watering once established and offer shelter and food to birds and other animals all summer. And the less lawn you have, the better — a manicured lawn is a desert for most insects and birds. Try watering less (or not at all -- grass will recover when the rains come) and setting your mower a bit higher and letting the clippings decompose. My lawn is short

and green, but gets no additional fertilizer, water or pesticides. It is not a monoculture — it has dandelions, clover, and weeds of various kinds — but it looks fine and only requires mowing. Lawns do sequester carbon to a degree, and deep-rooted weeds actually help do this job.

Watch for the series offered this summer by Sno-Isle Libraries about plastics — the problems, the opportunities, the alternatives. On a brighter note, my recent trip to Europe saw not a single plastic drinking straw offered — the only two times I was offered a straw, one was bamboo and one was metal. Every single hotel visited had eliminated single-use packaged shampoos and soaps in favor of refillable bottles attached to sinks and showers. And Europeans have been bringing their own shopping bags to market for years. Europe is on the road to becoming carbon-neutral by 2050...Washington hopes to get there sooner, but we all need to understand what that means and make the necessary changes. Have a great summer!

— *Kim Shepard, Conservation Chair*

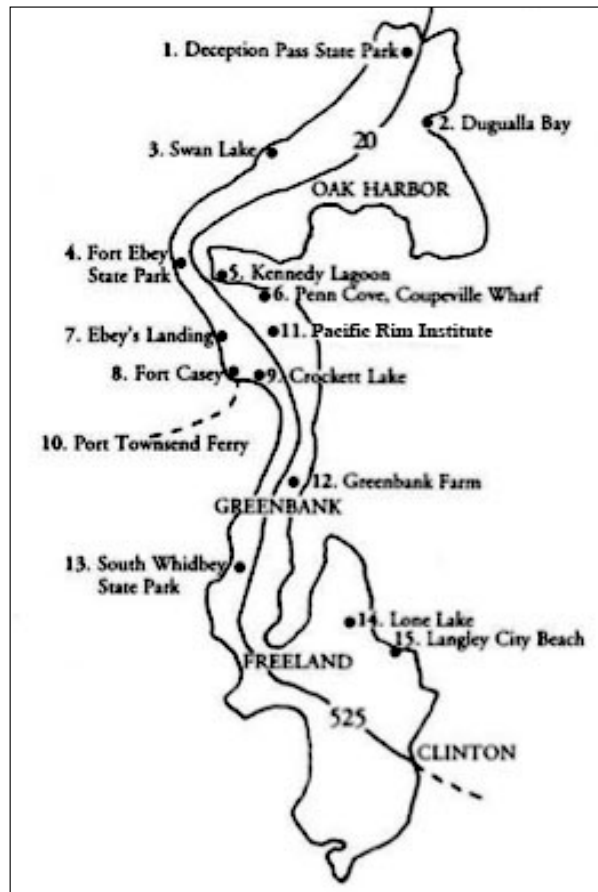
Upcoming Field Trips, from page 1

or a map at wa.audubon.org/birds/great-washington-state-birding-trail. Maps for the Puget Loop and some other regions can be found at Wild Birds Unlimited in Freeland or from the

Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS). The cost from WAS is a \$5 donation.

Whidbey Audubon Society's Guide to 15 Special Spots

1. **Deception Pass State Park:** Off State Route 20. Old growth forest, wetland, rocky/sandy shore, lakes, tide pools. Loons, grebes, murrelets, other waterfowl, eagles, kingfishers, warblers, swallows.
2. **Duguala Bay & Lake:** State Route 20, east on Frostad Road, north on Dike Road. Sheltered bay, mud flats, brackish lake. Swans, dabbling ducks including canvasbacks, other waterfowl, wading birds.
3. **Swan Lake, Joseph Whidbey State Park:** State Route 20, west on Swantown Road to West Beach Road. Rocky/sandy beach, freshwater lake, cattail marsh. Eagles, harriers, wading birds, loons, grebes, sea ducks including harlequin ducks, dabbling ducks, oystercatchers, yellowthroats, marsh wrens.
4. **Fort Ebey State Park:** State Route 20, west on Libbey Road, and south on Hill Valley Road. Second growth forest, thickets, lake, high bluff, beach. Seabirds and waterfowl, kingfisher, crossbill, woodpeckers, other forest birds including nuthatch, creeper, kinglets.
5. **Kennedy Lagoon:** State Route 20, east on Madrona Way. Sheltered lagoon. Kingfishers, waterfowl including hooded mergansers, goldeneyes, bufflehead, scaup, scoters.
6. **Penn Cove, Coupeville Wharf:** State Route 20, north on Main Street, west on Front Street. Large saltwater cove. Kingfishers, herons, loons, goldeneyes, bufflehead, scaup, pigeon guillemots. Look for river otters, harbor seals, jellyfish and sea stars.
7. **Ebey's Landing:** State Route 20, southwest on Ebey Road. High and low bluff, beach, farm fields, hiking trail. Loons, grebes, waterfowl, meadowlarks, blackbirds, raptors.
8. **Fort Casey:** State Route 20, south on Main Street, becoming Engle Road. Rocky beach, forest. Loons, grebes, auklets, guillemots, mergansers, gulls, great horned owls, passerines including chickadees,



nuthatches, creepers, winter wrens, warblers.

9. **Crockett Lake:** Adjacent to Fort Casey (see #8). Brackish lake, large sandy spit, open bay. Lakeside: abundant wading birds, waterfowl, eagles, harriers, peregrine falcons, other raptors. On spit: swallows, savannah sparrows. Open bay: auklets, cormorants, guillemots.

10. **Coupeville/Port Townsend Ferry:** Adjacent to Fort Casey (see above). Take a break and walk aboard the ferry for 30 minutes each way on the water. Cormorants, loons, grebes, gulls, guillemots, murrelets. Watch for sea lions and harbor seals.

11. **Pacific Rim Institute for Environmental Stewardship:** State Route 20 south of Coupeville, north on Parker Road. Open prairie and fringing woods. White-crowned and savannah sparrows, swallows, harriers, kestrels, eagles, woodpeckers, occasional western bluebirds.

12. **Greenbank Farm:** State Route 525, east on Wonn Road. Open grassland, cattail marsh, farm pond, viewing platform. Harriers, eagles, red tailed hawks, yellowthroats, marsh wrens, red-winged blackbirds, swallows, herons, waterfowl.
13. **South Whidbey State Park:** State Route 525, west on Smugglers Cove Road. Old growth forest, beach. Osprey, varied thrush, woodpeckers, swallows, passerines including nuthatches, creepers, winter wrens.
14. **Lone Lake:** State Route 525, north on Bayview Road, then west on Anderson Road, then south on Lone Lake Road. Lake, woodlot, thickets. Steller's jay, bushtit, quail, waterfowl including mergansers, shovelers, scaup, bufflehead.
15. **Langley City Beach and Marina:** Beach access off First Street and Marina at east end of Wharf Street. Saltwater, thickets. Loons, grebes, cormorants, eagles, waterfowl including mergansers, scoters. Look for harbor seals, gray whales in spring. Sea stars, jellyfish visible from marina pier.

Sightings

April 26: If anyone would like to see a great example of a **Brandt's Cormorant** at close range in breeding plumage there is almost always one perched somewhere on the south side of the Mukilteo ferry dock. Sometimes within 20 feet of the ferry. There are usually Pelagic and Double-crested in the same vicinity for comparison.

— *Dave Parent*

April 27: Two **Pelicans** seen snoozing and lounging at Deer Lagoon, west side, looking toward Double Bluff Road.

— *Linda Griesbach*

April 28: A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** has been hanging out around my bird feeders on Sunlight Beach for the past five days.

— *Sharon Vanderslice*

April 29: First of the Year! **Black-headed Grosbeak**, male. Location: North of Oak Harbor. — *Jenny Brown*

April 29: Nine **Pelicans** (in two separate groupings). Location: west side of Deer Lagoon. — *Barbara Paul*

April 29: Two **Chipping Sparrows** in the garden for a short time this morning. Location: Freeland.

— *Carlos Andersen*



Photo by Jann Ledbetter

Western Tanager

Sightings

April 30: Three **White Pelicans** this morning mid Deer Lagoon on sandbar.

— *Libby Hayward*

April 30: First of year **Western Tanager** at my feeder the past couple days. Location: my home near downtown Coupeville. — *Jann Ledbetter*

May 1: May Day Warbler morning — **Orange-crowned Warblers** and **Black-throated Gray Warbler** hanging around the birdbath. Location: Windmill Drive. — *Jo Reeves*

May 2: First this year: **American Goldfinch**, both male and female. Just put my niger feeder up yesterday. Location: North of Oak Harbor.

— *Jenny Brown*

May 3: **Ruff** within a flock of peeps. Location: Mudflats SE corner Crockett Lake.

— *Dave Parent, Joe Sheldon, Jay Adams*



Photo by Carlos Anderson

The Ruff is a Eurasian shorebird rarely seen in North America

May 3: **Ruff** at Crockett Lake. Thanks to Jay, Joe and Dave who first spotted it.

— *Carlos Andersen*

May 3: Just in time for the Birdathon, the **Olive-sided Flycatcher** that calls near my property arrived Friday morning and is calling again this morning. I usually start hearing him the second or third week of May. Location: Greenbank near Honeymoon

Sightings

Lake — *Linda Bainbridge*

May 4: Four **Rock Sandpipers** in breeding plumage were on the Keystone Jetty. They moved from one side (east) to the other but didn't leave despite all the human activity.

— *Steve Ellis*

May 4: Jay Adams spotted a **Ruddy Turnstone** in the flock of surfbirds and **Black Turnstones**. If you try for this bird, go at high tide. Location: End of wooden pier, San de Fuca.

— *Dave Parent*

May 4: **Greater White-fronted Goose** mingling with **Canada Goose** companions. Location: North end of Lone

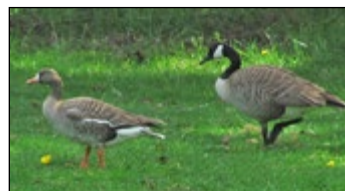


Photo by Linda Griesbach

White-fronted Goose seen on the left with a Canada Goose .

Sightings

Lake, private residence.

— *Linda Griesbach*



Photo provided by Jann Ledbetter

Red Crossbill pair

May 5: **Red Crossbill**, female, with several fledglings at a bird bath in my yard today. Location: downtown Coupeville

— *Jann Ledbetter*

May 6: Four **White Pelicans** resting on the North side of Crockett Lake.

— *Robert and Traci York*

May 6: Six **American Pipits** hanging out on the beach at the south edge of Deer Lagoon. Also, saw two on the beach near the end of Double Bluff beach on 4/27, and one walking near the water at the

Sightings, see page 6

PLEASE POST UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS to the *Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) website*.

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, on your mobile device at www.m.whidbeyaudubon.org or on the *Whidbey Audubon Society Facebook page*.

Scholarships Awarded for 2019

The Whidbey Audubon Society selected two Island seniors to receive the Renee Smith Conservation/Environmental Studies Scholarship for 2019. Here is some background information about the awardees:



Photo by Jenny Brown

Scholarship Committee Chair Ann Sullivan, left, introduces scholarship winner Kelly Gruenwald at the May 9 Whidbey Audubon general meeting.

Kelly Gruenwald, a 2019 Oak Harbor High School graduate, is majoring in environmental studies and environmental science at St. Louis University, Missouri. After graduating from the University, Kelly plans to work for two years in a Peace Corps program for environmental sustainabil-

ity, collaborating with native peoples to implement programs. With high academic marks in Spanish, environmental science, math, marine biology, and oceanography courses, Kelly had found this environmental scholarship to be "a great fit, ...that's me!" allowing her to merge a humanitarian passion with strong environmental interests.

Owen Boram, a 2019 South Whidbey High School/ Everett Community College dual-graduate, is majoring in oceanography at the University of Washington. While in high school, Owen completed 90 transferable college credits through study at the Ocean Research College Academy, a program associated with Everett Community College. His research was conducted at the Academy. He applied computer science skills and statistical analysis to calculate when river discharge enters the Snohomish River Estuary. Owen shared this research at regional and national conferences. A strong volunteer experience with Whidbey Watershed Stewards and teaching at the Maxwellton Outdoor Classroom demonstrate Owen's local environmental community service. His passion for environmental issues and research is both observable and contagious.



Submitted photo

Scholarship winner Owen Boram plans to major in oceanography.



Volunteer Corner:

Go Birding and Make a Difference!

Are seabirds in the southern Salish Sea increasing or decreasing in numbers? Which species are changing their range? Help us find out. The Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) is a community and citizen science project managed by Seattle Audubon that empowers volunteer birdwatchers to gather valuable data on wintering seabird populations across the southern Salish Sea.

You can contribute to this vital seabird science by joining the thirteenth season of this exciting project. We are now recruiting enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. Training on survey methodology will be provided at a location near you on Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Volunteers should ideally be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to conduct a 30-minute survey. But, if determining between Lesser and Greater Scaup is a challenge, we'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. To help us determine each volunteer's seabird identification skills, Click [Seattle Audubon Seabird Training website](#) to take the quick, fun Seabird ID quiz and to learn more, including training locations, at and email Toby Ross, Senior Science Manager, toby@seattleaudubon.org, if you would like more information or to take part.

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Birding in Neighborhoods South: Deer Lagoon Delivers

May 9: What a day at Deer Lagoon! We saw and/or heard at least 63 species. The **Ospreys** are back in full force — there have been as many as six or seven at a time, sitting on posts and eating their breakfast, all lined up across the lagoon.

Whimbrels were out, and so many **ducks** and **Savannah Sparrows** practically under foot.

The **Bushtit nest** is near where it's been in the past, but oddly, we did not spy any birds there that morning. Also, along the path to the dike, we saw two **Myrtle's Yellow-rumped Warblers** together!

There was a **Townsend's Solitaire** out by the beach, and although only one of our group saw him, I know that lately there

has been one spotted up by Shore Meadows beach and down by Possession. Either he's getting around or we've had unusual numbers of them this spring.

Reports of a Pelican or two have been circulating, but they weren't visible Thursday.

And yet another notable moment of the day, was hearing **Quail**. Not so exciting, you say — but it was a Lifer for a guest joining us from Texas!

— Cathi Bower, *Bird early – bird often*

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

Birding in Neighborhood North Goes Waaay North

May 8: Our group decided that since we were BIN North, we would take the opportunity to go NORTH to the Reifel Bird Sanctuary in British Columbia. Although I knew people who had gone there and had also read about the park, I was still surprised when I got there. I expected a wild and wide-open space where undaunted birders braved the wind and weather to catch a glimpse of some fantastic bird flying by. Instead, it is a very organized system of 3.6 miles of pathways through a variety of habitats. Of course, we walked it all, not wanting to miss anything, even though it was “between seasons.”

On our walk we were accompanied by an assortment of avian

friends. **Canada Geese**, **Mallards**, and **Wood Ducks** followed us along the path looking for handouts. **Sandhill Cranes** posed for pictures by the pond and **Red-winged Blackbirds** ate barley out of our hands. **Spotted Towhees** appeared around every corner and the **Marsh Wrens** made a ruckus as we passed them in the bushes. The **Purple Martins** had just arrived and were staking their claims on nesting boxes over the marsh. Swallows swooped, Sparrows sang and Sandhill Cranes sat on their nest, Dad giving mom a much-needed break. We saw 41 species at the park and had a wonderful day. Who knows what adventures we will have next?

— Marcia Lazoff

Sightings, from page 4



Photo by George Heleker

American Pipit

south end of Ewing Road. Marsh on 5/2.

— George Heleker

May 7: Harris Sparrow. Location: Useless Bay Animal clinic under the feeders, Freeland — Dave Parent

May 10: A Townsend's Solitaire visited our feeder. Location: On the bluff overlooking Deer Lagoon.

— Nancy Van Wormer

May 16: A Yellow-headed

Blackbird landed on the pole of our feeder for a few brief moments. Simply glowing yellow head and neck. Location: On the bluff above Deer Lagoon. — Nancy Van Wormer

May 18: Today a **Western Kingbird** was perched on a fence post at the Greenbank Farm. It dove into the grass and I lost sight of it. This is pretty late in the season for a kingbird. — Steve Ellis

May 22: Chipping Sparrow seen this morning in the Oak plantation section at Pacific Rim Institute. — Jay Adams

May 25: Black Oystercatchers. Location: On the beach in front of Lake Hancock.

— Rob Craig

Birding in the Neighborhood (BIN) North meets the second Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in being on the email list, contact Marcia at mlazoff@comcast.net.

Dates to Remember

JUNE

13: Whidbey Audubon Program: Puget Sound Energy and Avian Protection, Coupeville

21 or 22: Summer Birding by Ear, 8-11:30, www.padillabay.gov

28: Pigeon Guillemot Appreciation Day Happy Hour 3 to 5 p.m. Langley

29: Pigeon Guillemot Appreciation Day Field Trip 8 a.m. Freeland

JULY/AUGUST

No activities. Have a Great summer!

SEPTEMBER

12: Whidbey Audubon meeting: To be announced

13 to 15: Puget Sound Bird Fest, Edmonds

28: Puget Sound Seabird Training 11:30 to 1:30

Field Trip Report: Edmonds on May 11

Six enthusiastic birders — five from Whidbey along with Bev Bowe, Edmonds resident and trip host — enjoyed a day of birding with afternoon sun. We saw a multitude of recently-arrived tropical migrants, with a total of 54 species. Traveling on the 8:30 a.m. ferry to Mukilteo and the 5 p.m. ferry back to Clinton, we had a closeup-view both ways of a **Brandt's Cormorant** in full breeding plumage, showing off white cheek plumes and sapphire throat patch, perched on a piling at the Mukilteo ferry dock just feet from the car deck.

A theme of the day turned out to be observing birds at their nests. We began at Pine Ridge Park, a small gem with rich conifer and riparian habitat buried in an Edmonds neighborhood. We spotted **Hairy Woodpecker** and **Bushtit** at their nests, and Bev showed us the entrance to a **Barred Owl** nest in a broken snag. A fun surprise was the persistent singing of a **Varied Thrush**. Together with Bev's report of seeing a Varied Thrush with a bill full of worms in the parking lot a week earlier, it suggests that a pair of these thrushes may be nesting in Edmonds.

At Yost Park we explored the mixed deciduous woodland and creek bottom. **Crow**-alarm caws helped us spy a roosting **Barred Owl**. Returned tropical migrants included **Wilson's**, **Yellow**, **Yellow-rumped** and **Black-throated Gray Warblers**, and we observed **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** at their nest.

Lunching on Edmonds Pier we saw **Purple Martins** at nest

boxes built over water near **Pigeon Guillemots** with a pair of distant **Marbled Murrelets**.

To conclude the trip, Bev led us north to the 10th Street Boat Launch in Everett. Port Gardner Bay was filled with **Osprey** nests.

The prime attraction was the **Great Blue Heron** rookery atop pilings in the southeast corner of the bay, where we watched numerous spiky-topped-recently hatched nestlings and their attentive parents. The trip concluded with a visit to a nearby abandoned warehouse with **Caspian Terns** nesting on the roof. Much gratitude to Bev for sharing some great birding spots.

— Sarah Schmidt, Trip Leader



Photo by Sarah Schmidt

Great Blue Herons with fledglings in Everett. Photos were taken through a spotting scope with an iPhone.

A Postcard from Wenas

The continuing evolution of the annual Wenas Audubon Campout (May 24 to 27) has been declared a success for the 56th year! For past participants, this year has been a particular challenge. Though things look very different than in previous years, the adaptability of this admirable group will continue to provide a fine event for many more to come, and the Wenas Creek-side is now protected from all vehicle traffic.

For those of us who attended for the first time with no expectations, it is an inspiring gathering, relaxed and friendly and overflowing with hospitality and information, and even the non-birding community across the way was not quite the nuisance that might be expected. For more information on the history of the site and the Campout and its beginnings, visit the [Wenas website](#) and its [Facebook page](#), and also be sure to read about Hazel Wolf's remarkable life.

Within the Wenas drainage, from Friday morning through Monday evening, together we identified 124 bird species (35 of which never — or rarely — reach Whidbey) — with 121 Wenas Campout participants signed in; hopefully that means everybody saw at least one. My personal count for the weekend was 78, including four Lifers, especially the awesome **Lewis's Woodpecker**.

A dozen enjoyable Seattle Audubon Young Birders, accompanied



Photo and painting by Cathi Bower

The photo and drawing shows a Red-naped Sapsucker and signage about the new habitat provided by the revised roadwork and campsite reconfiguration at Wenas. Carleen Zimmerman was around all weekend at Wenas, offering sketching supplies and instruction. Cathi was inspired to try, and not be shy about submitting this rendition.

Wenas Postcard, see [page 8](#)

Dan's Blog: Those Robust Singers, the Wrens

by Dan Petersen with Craig Johnson, #348, May 4, 2019, pedersenwrites.blogspot.com/2019/05/348-tulips-and-wrens.html

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

Of all the birds of spring in the Pacific Northwest, the four species of wrens can be easy to overlook. At least these little brown birds might be overlooked if not for their robust singing and the sharp eye of my blog partner, Craig Johnson, who overlooks nothing.

To help readers learn where to find these birds, Craig has produced videos and still photography that bring them out of the shadows. If you've heard their songs, Craig's images will lead you to them. That's how many people learn about wrens — by hearing their songs and wondering what bird is singing with so much heart.

That's certainly true of the inconspicuous Pacific Wren, formerly known as the Winter Wren. "The Pacific Wren has the longest song of any bird in North America," Craig adds. "You can hear them singing in forested areas along the road, even when traveling at 50 miles per hour!"



Photo by Craig Johnson©

The small, brown, Pacific Wren may seem inconspicuous, but there is nothing shy about its song!

Wenas Postcard, from page 7

by a couple of AmeriCorps leaders were in attendance, and one pair of those young ears detected a **Black and White Warbler**, which has only been reported up at Wenas four times in 60 years. Several of our company managed to watch it before it later moved on.

Of the 25 Washington State Audubon chapters, Whidbey Audubon was among the 13 represented around the evening "Hazel Wolf Campfire," where we shared daily summaries of the field trips, birds, other wildlife and wildflowers, tributes and fascinating expert presentations about Crows, the local bats and studies of the area's iconic White-headed Woodpeckers.

If you think Wenas is not for you, think again.

— Cathi Bower, *Wish you were here!*



Photo by Cathi Bower

White-headed Woodpecker on a Ponderosa Pine at the campsite.



Bewick's Wren video copyright Craig Johnson, 2019.

From Dan's Blog #348, click on the arrow to view video, and turn up your volume to hear the bird sing and Craig narrate. Or find it at <https://player.vimeo.com/video/262138226> (several other videos are embedded in the blog)

"They are most common in old growth forests, but have adapted to woodlots and younger forests." On my wooded property, I hear them all the time.

And they are voracious hunters.

"If you're a spider, there's no place to hide from a hungry wren," Craig says. "I've seen Pacific Wrens dart into wood piles, rockeries and crevices, almost always emerging with a spider or insect."

Incredibly, Craig has attracted three of the four species of wrens to his yard. "They nest on our small property, beginning with Bewicks and Pacific wrens, followed by the migratory and feisty House Wren."

"Wrens are primarily cavity nesters, with the widespread House Wren taking advantage of just about any available site," Craig said. "They are often seen in dispute with much larger birds, such as Downy Woodpeckers, over a nest cavity."

"House Wrens are the only wren of the four typically found in this area to migrate, wintering in the southern US and Mexico," Craig says.

He continues, "Wrens are known for having large broods of up to 10 eggs. And if the season is good, they'll have a second brood."

I especially love this image Craig shot of the Marsh Wren, singing its heart out.



Photo by Craig Johnson©

Marsh Wren

GUILLEMOT APPRECIATION DAY
 Friday, June 28th 2019 3-5 p.m.
 @ Ott & Hunter Winery

OTT & HUNTER
 @ 204 1st street in Langley

- Data findings/Display
- Appetizers
- No Host Wine Tasting
- Guillemot Activities
- Slideshow

Everyone is invited to join us to learn more about Whidbey's favorite seabird.

Also join us Saturday 6/29 at 8 a.m. to visit a Pigeon Guillemot colony
 We will carpool from Freeland Trinity Lutheran Church Park & Ride 18341 Hwy 525

Brought to you by Guillemot Research Group - a Whidbey Audubon Community Science Project
www.pigeonguillemot.org

Welcome to New and Renewing Members

New

(No new members this month)

Renewing

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Naomi Lev and Jan Nelson | Irene Christofferson |
| Corinne Ludy | Betsy Brace |
| Patricia and David Cohick | Wendy and Mark Visconty |
| Linda McFarlane | Lea Kouba (Spotted Towhee) |
| George and Sarah Gray | Carole Tyson (Spotted Towhee) |
| Kathy Stella | Sheryl Norris |
| Barbara Hudson Nichols | |
| Ann Linnea and Christina Baldwin (General Fund) | |
| Janet Hall and Nicole Luce (Scholarship Fund) | |
| Jim Somers and Melissa Merickel (Spotted Towhee) | |
| Barbara and Mark Jabbusch (Spotted Towhee) | |
| Claudia George (Spotted Towhee) | |
| Margaret Elphick (Scholarship Fund) | |
| Deb and Tony Schiro (Red-tailed Hawk) | |
| Jann Ledbetter (Pigeon Guillemot) | |

I will send you an email reminder when it is time to renew your membership.

— Linda Bainbridge, Membership Chair

Whidbey Audubon Society Membership

Please make your check payable to **WHIDBEY AUDUBON SOCIETY (WAS)**
 Mail to: Linda Bainbridge, 4459 Towhee Lane, Greenbank, WA 98253

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|---|-----------------------------|
| _____ 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.

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