



# Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society

November 2023

*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 in Freeland on Thursday, November 9 Between the Tides — Whidbey's Birding Gem: Deer Lagoon Preserve***

Deer Lagoon is a state recognized Important Bird Area (IBA) with at least 211 different bird species having been documented at the lagoon. Washington State Fish and Wildlife has concluded Deer Lagoon is the single most important site on Whidbey Island for use by waterfowl, year around. The lagoon is a critical resting and feeding site for migrating shorebirds in the spring and fall. It has been labeled the most important wetlands in Island County and for this reason alone deserves the highest levels of protection.

Carlos Andersen shares images and stories to illustrate his love and passion for birds and the natural environment at Deer Lagoon Preserve on Thursday, November 9 as the featured program of the Whidbey Audubon Society (was) general meeting. He is a Whidbey Audubon Society member, field trip leader and former Conservation Committee member. He



Carlos Andersen leading a field trip at Deer Lagoon.

has dedicated his life to environmental protection and preservation. You can often find him down at Deer Lagoon, looking through his scope or binoculars at the incredible diversity of life that lives at or passes through. Andersen is leading a field trip to Deer Lagoon the following day, November 10 at 9 a.m. See upcoming field trips below.

The meeting is hybrid, free and open to the public at the



Photo by Carlos Andersen

American White Pelicans at Deer Lagoon.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation meeting house, 20103 State Route 525 in Freeland. Doors open at 7 p.m. for socializing and refreshments, a brief meeting at 7:15 and the program begins at 7:30. To register to attend virtually, visit the [WAS website](#).

**Reminder:** There is no General Meeting in December and no *Shorelines*. Check out how to participate in the annual Christmas Bird Count on page 3.

Have a wonderful holiday season! See you next year.

## **Upcoming Field Trips**

**Friday, November 10: DEER LAGOON** with site expert Carlos Andersen, who will lead this exploration of one of our island's most desirable birding areas. Meet at the parking area at the end of Deer Lagoon Road off Millman Road at 9 a.m. A walk along the dikes and marshy areas will be sure to find wintering waterfowl arriving for the season as well as a number of marsh residents. This trip is limited to 12 people. As of this publication date, the field trip is FULL..

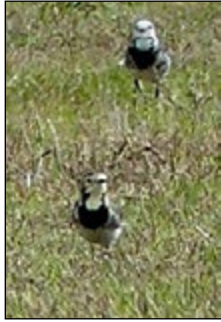
**Saturday, November 18: FORT EBEBY STATE PARK** Local expert Steve Ellis will lead a trip into this jewel of a state park, which offers a mixture of forest and seabird species. Be prepared for a bit of walking. And if you are lucky you may spot an orca, as participants did on last year's trip. Meet at 9 a.m. at the end of Libbey Road at Libbey Beach County Park. We will car-pool from there to the state park. A Discover Pass or day fee is

**More Trips, page 3**



## From the Perch

We had a grand time touring London and Scotland over three weeks in September and October. It seemed like every day I had planned to go birding, it was windy, 20 miles an hour, and very rainy. I had been told by a good friend who has lived in London and Seattle, but is now in Tucson, that two places in London were very special, Walthamstow Wetlands and Hampstead Heath.



Rose-ringed Parakeet, left. White Wag-tail on the right.

We were able to see the **Little Grebe**, **Great Crested Grebe**, **Eurasian Coot**, **Black-headed Gull**, a **Rose-ringed Parakeet**, and several **Eurasian Magpies**. The Little Grebe looks similar to the Pied-billed Grebe that we have except no pied markings. It's smaller than a Moorhen with a powder puff below its tail. In winter plumage, it has a dark crown with a bill that has moderate yellow at the back. A special sighting was the Great Crested Grebe that was still mostly in breeding plumage. She had two juveniles and they still had stripes on their heads. Really elegant. Unfortunately, they were too far away to be photographed effectively. In all, we saw nine species that day.



All photos by Patty Cheek

Eurasian Magpie

The day I planned our trip to Walthamstow, it looked as though we wouldn't have much chance to see birds. But we decided to risk it anyway. We planned our trip via tube to Walthamstow. It was rather gray when we started. Of course, my binoculars broke immediately in an unusual way. We picked them up and they were broken below the eyepiece. Never seen that. So, we only had our eyes and Larry's Recreational Equipment binocs.



Wood Pigeon

**The Perch, see page 7**

### Whidbey Audubon Society

[www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](http://www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org) • 509-906-1663 • [contact.us@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](mailto:contact.us@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org)

P.O. Box 1012, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

A chapter of National Audubon Society and a nonprofit organization EIN #80-0488910

### Board and Cabinet Chairs 2023-2024

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OPEN  
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Roy Seliber

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Field Trips – OPEN  
Birding in Neighborhoods South – Cathi Bower  
Birding in Neighborhoods North – Denise Marion  
Nancy Luenn

Page Peepers – Patty Cheek  
Birdathon – OPEN  
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Birds of Whidbey Class – Dyanne Sheldon  
Scholarship Program – Ann Sullivan

# Join the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the longest and largest running community science project in the world. The records are open to everybody. They provide information for research, planning and conservation.

Whidbey Island has been divided into two circles with a diameter of 15 miles. The northern circle, Whidbey Audubon Oak Harbor (WAOH) stretches from just south of Deception Pass to Crockett Lake. The south circle Whidbey Audubon South Whidbey (WASW) goes from Greenbank to the south end of the island. See more on the Christmas Bird Count page of the [Whidbey Audubon Society website](#) on the “Events” page, dropdown menu.

## Oak Harbor Circle

The WAOH 2023 Christmas Bird Count will take place on **Saturday, December 16**. Area captains should expect to hear from circle compiler, Jay Adams, by mid-November at the latest. Others wishing to participate should click red text to contact [Jay](#). Be sure to include your contact information.

## South Whidbey Circle

The South Whidbey Christmas Bird Count (WASW) is gearing up for its 13th year! Count day will be on **Saturday, December 30**. We have also picked an alternate day, of **Friday, January 5**, if weather for primary day is icy/windy.



Pacific Wren waiting to be counted

Photo by Govinda Holtby

## Our wish list:

- Team Leaders! We have a couple of sections that are open for team leaders.
- Feeder watchers! Count birds from the comfort of your living room! Feeder watcher instructions are on the Whidbey Audubon website.
- Waterfront property. We are looking to set up our scopes to get a good sweep of North Saratoga Passage. Whidbey Shores/Bell's Beach is a particular area that we need.
- Intermediate birders who know most birds.
- There is some room for beginning birders; **this will be on a first come basis; the sooner you sign up the more likely you will be in a team.**
- And last but not least...bathrooms? Do you live within the circle and can offer your bathroom? We want our birders hydrated and/or caffeinated. Having available *loos* along the route is very helpful.

Perhaps 2023 is the year that we **do** meet in person for post tabulations. As I type this, I am working on getting a space for us to count up our bird species and have some food. If you are not planning on birding; making snacks would be a great way to participate. Dust off those recipes, I know at least one of you out there can make a mean gingerbread cookie.

You can contact me, CBC South Whidbey chair [Govinda Holtby](#), for field counting, feeder or food questions. Though, please respect that there is a **deadline** to sign up — **Monday, December 18**.

## Fun Opportunities for You

Contact any of the Board and Cabinet Chairs listed in the box on page 2 and learn how you can serve Whidbey Audubon Society. We are also looking for candidates for President and Vice Presidents for the 2024-2025 year.

**Shorelines editor** – sets deadline, gets articles, works with layout artist and proofreads final before publishing. Interested? Click red text to contact [Prescott](#) for more information.

**Field Trip Chair** – organizes field trips (two or three per month), finds trip leaders, sets up schedule, places notice in *Shorelines* and on website. Interested? Contact [Charlotte Ginn](#) for more information.

**Birdathon Chair** – organizes Birdathon event, gets teams together, sets dates, gives out awards for most birds and most raised money. Interested? Contact [Kathy Obersinner](#) for more information.

## More Trips, from page 1

required for vehicles entering the state park. Snow or ice cancels the trip. Limit is 20 people, please register on the was website, [click here](#). For more information contact Steve at 360-678-2264, (no texts, please).

**Saturday, January 20: DECEPTION PASS LOON TRIP**  
Sarah Schmidt will lead. Details will be forthcoming.

**We are continuing to look for volunteer trip leaders as well as a Field Trip coordinator.** A birder doesn't have to be an expert to lead a trip. Part of the fun on a trip is that everyone can contribute different skills and knowledge. If you have a desire to bird a special spot or know some areas that you think would interest others, please click red text to contact [Charlotte Ginn](#), for assistance in setting up a trip. Also contact her about taking on the coordination of field trips.

# Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings

**October 21:** Ten **American White Pelicans** at Deer Lagoon today, both morning and afternoon. They were last seen by me at this location September 18. Visible, near the old pilings on the west side of the estuary, from the south end of Deer Lagoon Road, the west dike trail and Double Bluff Road. — *Libby Hayward*

**October 27:** An **American Pipit** was at Oak Harbor City Beach this after-

noon. It was flitting around, landing on driftwood and in the short weeds. There were also about 1,000 **scoters** in the bay, mostly **Surfs** with a few **White-wingeds**.

A northern elephant seal was lazing in the marina. Many **Black Turnstones**, **Surfbirds**, and **Least Sandpipers** were also present near the boat launch. — *Steve Ellis*

**October 28:** **Tropical Kingbird** flycatching from lone

bush/tree at south end of Penn Cove just south of yellow speed limit sign (SR 20) on Penn Cove.

— *Mike, Darwin and Lynette Wile*

**Confirmation:** This bird is not a Western Kingbird. No white outlets, much yellower than Western, yellow all the way up to throat.

**October 29:** One **Rock Sandpiper** with 120 **Black Turnstones** and 39 **Surfbirds** seen on the North shore of Penn Cove east of the old shellfish dock, viewed best overlooking the beach from Penn Cove Road where it leads west of Holbrook Road (Three Sisters Market). — *Sarah Schmidt*

**Confirmation:** No cam-

era for photographing the Rock Sandpiper. It was foraging on rocks at shore edge among Black Turnstones and Surfbirds. It had a gray back, head and chest with more heavily speckled sides than Surfbirds. Standing next to a Black Turnstone it was slightly smaller with shorter legs and a longer pointed bill with a slight droop at tip. The bill was dark with yellow visible at the base. Reported also on eBird.

**Editor's Note:** The posting software was down for the first three weeks in October. The problem has been repaired.

**Please post unusual sightings** to the *Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) website*; find it under the "Birds" menu.

## A Drizzly Morning at Fort Ebey State Park and Grasser Lagoon

An intrepid group of birders met at Fort Ebey State Park on October 11. We descended the steep trail to the beach and were rewarded by female **Surf Scoters** and a pair of **Horned Grebes** close to shore. **Gulls** wheeled overhead and **Double-crested Cormorants** flew by.

Hiking back up to the road, we followed the sign to Lake Pondilla. The lake was beautiful, but completely still. Not a bird to be seen. The woods, however, were full of bird song. **Golden-crowned Kinglets** flitted through the trees beside the trail. We identified a variety of species by ear: **Brown Creeper**, **Bewick's Wren**, **Pacific Wren**, **Varied Thrush**, **Red Crossbill**, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, **Spotted Towhee** and **Northern Flicker**, among others.

Several of us proceeded to Grasser's Lagoon. The tide was not ideal for shorebirds, but we spotted a small flock of **Yellowlegs** and a few **Killdeer**, plus a **Great Blue Heron**.

**Birding in Neighborhoods North (BIN North)** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. Email *Denise Marion* or call 501-655-3130; or email *Nancy Luenn*.

## Dates to Remember

Check the Whidbey Audubon Society website *events calendar* for further information on these upcoming events, including how to enter Zoom for online programs and meetings. There may also be further details on some of these events elsewhere in this issue.

### NOVEMBER

2: **BIN South**, 9 to 11 a.m.

## Birding in the Neighborhood South

**October 12:** At Crockett Lake **Meadowlarks** were singing, single shorebird species individuals were among mass flocks with **Western Sandpipers** who were *murmuring* as they do when a **Peregrine Falcon** is in pursuit! Additional shorebirds included **Killdeer**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Long-billed Dowitchers**, **Western** and **Least Sandpipers**, **Black-bellied Plovers**, a couple of **Pectoral Sandpipers** and one **Dunlin**. And **ducks!** Plenty of the usual suspects, except no **Wigeons** yet. Our first **Snow Geese** flew over. Scoping from Driftwood Park we watched some **Red-necked Grebes** and **Pigeon Guillemots**.

**October 21:** Among the birds sightings at Deer Lagoon were just one of each, a **Long-billed Dowitcher**, a **Greater-Yellowlegs** — that's it for shorebirds — a lone female **Bufflehead**. Our first of the season, a single young **Snow Goose** feeding on the far West shore, and — drum roll... a **Northern Shrike!** Plus we enjoyed the closeup **Coots** in the slough by the dike entrance, and a gang of **California Quail** calling and scurrying.

There was a maybe **Cooper's Hawk** spotted several times, but not clear enough to say for sure.

On the way to meetup, a **Pheasant** crossed the road, right by the Park and Ride.

**Birding in Neighborhoods South (BIN South)** meets every other Thursday morning at 9 a.m. Contact *Cathi*.

Dates to Remember, see page 8

## Nesting Boxes Monitored at Earth Sanctuary

This past breeding season a team of Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) volunteers monitored nesting boxes at Earth Sanctuary, a 72-acre wetland preserve near Freeland. After about a 10-year hiatus, Chuck Pettis, founder and visionary behind the forested wetland, requested that WAS once again monitor activity of cavity nesting waterfowl at the preserve, typically Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. Preparation for monitoring season began in February when members of Boy Scout Troop 57 clambered up ladders, cleaned out seven wooden boxes and readied them for nesting season by placing fresh wood chips in each. Ann Casey, who monitored boxes for several seasons in the past, graciously mentored the new volunteers, providing background, instruction and enthusiasm for this year's project.

Monitoring occurred once a week from late March to early August. A pair of monitors visited each box looking for signs of any activity — birds (or other animals) coming or going, signs of predation, bits of eggs or feathers. On the chilly morning of the first official monitoring date, March 24, at the very first box inspected a Hooded Merganser hen was seen blasting out of a box and landing on the adjacent pond. Monitors did not again see bird activity at a nesting box until April 26. That was when a presumed hen rocketed into a box so quickly its species could not be determined. During the course of the season, ducks were only seen flying in or out of four of the seven boxes. Early on, an eastern gray squirrel scampered into one of the boxes (birds aren't the only creatures who find nesting boxes handy). Avian activity was not seen at that box for the remainder of the season.

Despite few sightings of birds coming or going into the boxes, other signs of activity were seen. Over the season, a couple of the boxes became tilted and a couple had downy feathers cling-



Photo by Linda Griesbach

Nesting box placed in the Earth Sanctuary.

ing to them. Both Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers were sighted on the water at the Sanctuary. On April 26, monitors were rewarded when a Hooded Merganser hen appeared on a pond with seven fluffy ducklings. Another clutch was spied on May 24 when again a Hooded Merganser hen was seen with a bonanza of fifteen fluffy ducklings. Wood Duck ducklings were first spotted on May 31 when four (or five—it's not always easy to count them!) were seen with Mama. Throughout the rest of the season, there were sightings of ducklings of various ages — babies and “teenagers.” July 5 was the last sighting of small, fluffy ducklings. Monitors observed juveniles of both species sizing up over the season.

The females of both species assume parental duties. Wood Duck drakes were seen throughout most of the monitoring season, though rarely near any young. The Hooded Merganser drakes were not seen after late April.

Monitoring was an enjoyable and fascinating experience. The focus was on *hoodies* and *woodies*, but it was not possible to spend time at Earth Sanctuary without marveling in nature's abundance and variety throughout the evolving seasons. Beginning with chilly mornings and bare-branched deciduous trees, the days became warmer, the sun strengthened, tender green leaves appeared, splashes of color emerged as red-flowering currant, osoberry, Pacific Coast irises and native rhododendrons awakened. Of course, not just waterfowl call the Sanctuary home. The comings and goings of numerous species of birds delighted and entertained as the season progressed. Activity at the osprey nest did not go unnoticed. Birds were not the only animals busy at the Sanctuary. Among non-avian species seen and enjoyed were painted turtles, Douglas squirrels, Townsend's chipmunks, black-tailed deer, frogs, otters, the occasional garter snake, and early in the season, a bat.

Scouts from Troop 57 plan to return in December to climb the ladders and clean out the boxes. Monitors will be there to look for nesting materials, eggshell fragments, and other evidence as to box use. This will bring the project full circle for this year and provide valuable information about the nesting habits of the Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks of Earth Sanctuary.

Thanks to Jann Ledbetter who got this project going again and who had the brilliant idea of getting the scouts involved and to Ann Casey for her guidance. Thanks also to the monitoring team for their diligence and interest in this project: Barbara Bennett, Dominique Emerson, Ellen Nelson, Gordy Griesbach, Janet Jernigan, Maria Seliber and myself.

— Linda Griesbach, Vice President and interim Conservation Chair

## Field Trip Report: Semiahmoo Spit

Six Auduboners made the drive to Semiahmoo Spit in Whatcom County on September 22.

The principal goal was migrating shorebirds. We used *eBird* reports to help choose a weather-friendly and birdy day. The weather cooperated but alas, our only such bird for the trip was an extremely buffy **Baird's Sandpiper**. Other species observed include **White-winged** and **Surf Scoters**, **Horned** and **Red-necked Grebes**, **Common Loon**, **Double-crested Cormorant**, **“Olympic”** and **Ring-billed Gulls**, **Savannah Sparrow**, **American Pipit**, **Cedar Waxwing** and **Harlequin Duck**.

— Jay Adams, trip leader

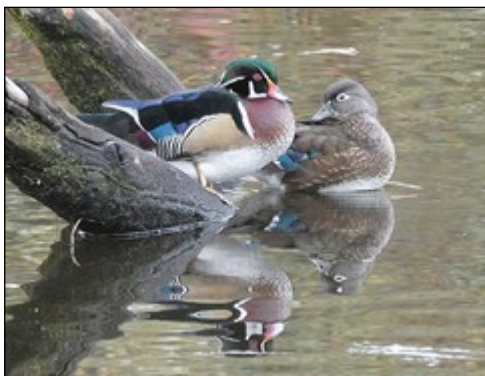
## Bird of the Month: Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)

There is no lack of handsome waterfowl to be seen here on Whidbey, but perhaps the most head-turning of all waterfowl to grace our environs is the Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*. In breeding plumage, the drake is a Dapper Dan who sports an iridescent green-helmeted head with distinctive white “bridle” and striping, bright orange eye and matching bill, and a speckled chestnut breast. The deep teal jewel tones on his wings are usually not on display when on the water, but may be evident when the bird is perched. As is the case with many bird species, there is distinct dimorphism of the sexes. But Ms. Wood Duck is no Plain Jane. She wears thick, white Cleopatra-style eyeliner around her dark eyes. Her soft gray head sports more of a mullet than a helmet. Her speckled breast is of a soft tawny hue, and her wing feathers are also bejeweled with deep teal.

Wood ducks have no close relatives in North America. The only other member of the genus *Aix* is the Asian Mandarin duck, *Aix galericulata*. And if you thought the wood duck was a head-turner, then the Mandarin duck is a traffic stopper. Why are the males of certain bird species so stunningly gorgeous? One school of thought is that the females get to take the credit. She chooses with whom to mate and whose genetic material will be passed on to her offspring. In the case of certain bird species, apparently the ladies are especially impressed with handsome gents. As the species evolved and the females were attracted to the *crème de la crème*, the males became more flamboyant over time. Birdwatchers everywhere reap the benefit of the females’ discriminating tastes.

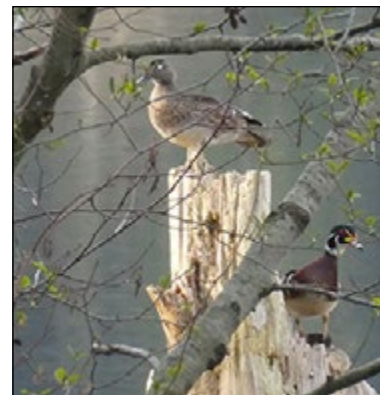
Wood Ducks are a medium-sized duck, averaging 18.5 to 21 inches, in the ballpark of Hooded Mergansers or American Wigeons. They might be considered dabbling ducks because they do indeed dabble on the water and will take an occasional shallow dive. But they are truly perching ducks. As the name implies, these are ducks of the woodlands. Originally very common in the southeast, they are at home in wooded swamps, rivers and ponds, or shallow inland lakes or slow-moving rivers, especially those wet areas surrounded by deciduous or mixed woodland. These birds are built for that habitat. Their webbed feet have strong claws which allow them to grip tree bark and perch atop branches or snags. They are strong fliers. Their short, broad wings enable them to deftly fly through woods.

These denizens of the woodlands are cavity nesters. A Wood Duck pair will look for a tree usually one to two feet in diameter, typically where a branch has broken off or where the heartwood is rotted. The cavity may be anywhere from two to 15 feet deep and may be anywhere from two to 60 (yes 60!) feet off the ground. The female makes the cavity cozy by lining it with her own downy breast feathers. Mom bears the responsibility for incubating the eggs and rearing the young. Dad is so darn gorgeous he would draw attention to the nest if he hung around, so



Photos by Linda Griesbach

Wood Ducks at Juanita Bay Park in Kirkland, Washington.



Wood Duck pair atop a snag at Lone Lake.

for the sake of his family he takes a vacation. Hens lay clutches of six to 16 oblong eggs which vary in color from creamy white to tan. Dads may not be the only parent with a nonchalant attitude toward child rearing. Wood Duck hens sometimes lay their eggs in other females’ nests, thereby avoiding the inconvenience of motherhood. This behavior is known as “dumping.” This misdeed doesn’t always go unpunished, however. A wildlife photographer witnessed a hen remove a dumped egg from her nest and then puncture it and sink it under water.

The chicks are precocious, to say the least. The day after they hatch, they’re expected to take a little trip. Mom leaves the cozy nest, heads for the water, and then calls out to her young. Using their handy claws, each must scramble out of the cavity, flutter down to the ground (which may be a 60-foot plunge), maneuver across the terrain to the water, and then find Mom. No small feat for a tiny creature less than 24 hours old!

Once abundant in the southeast, Wood Duck numbers plunged significantly in the early 20th century due to over-hunting and habitat loss. In 1918, the federal government specifically banned Wood Duck hunting. Their numbers slowly increased after the ban. In 1937 a plan was formulated for the placement of nesting boxes for the ducks. This proved to be successful, and by the 1980s their numbers had rebounded such that their range had expanded to previously unoccupied areas from northern Mexico to northwestern Canada.

There are a few areas here on the island where you may be fortunate enough to get a glimpse of these dazzling ducks. They are usually reliably seen at Earth Sanctuary near Freeland. They have been spotted in wooded areas around Lone Lake. Birders report seeing them at Lake Pondilla (Fort Ebey State Park), Cranberry Lake (Deception Pass), as well as on ponds along Hastie Lake Road and Koontz Road. One birder reports seeing a drake land next to the Keystone Ferry slip, which is highly unusual for what is typically a freshwater duck. So keep those binoculars handy, and you may be rewarded with a true visual treat!

Sources: *All About Birds.org*; *Audubon.org Field Guide*

— Linda Griesbach

## Page Peepers: *How the Penguins Saved Veronica*

Join the Whidbey Audubon Society book club, Page Peepers. Gatherings are the fourth Wednesday of every other month at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Wednesday, November 29 is the next meeting and is hosted by **Patty Cheek**. Register for the zoom link on the *Whidbey Audubon Society website, Calendar* for November 29.



Our book this month is *How the Penguins Saved Veronica* by Hazel Prior. It was published by Penguin [of course] Random House in 2020. The description via the publisher: *Eighty-five-year-old Veronica McCreedy is estranged from her family and wants to find a worthwhile cause to leave her fortune to. When she sees a documentary about penguins being studied in Antarctica, she tells the scientists she's coming to visit—and won't take no for an answer. Shortly after arriving, she convinces the reluctant team to rescue an orphaned baby penguin. He becomes part of life at the base, and Veronica's closed heart starts to open.*

Hazel Prior is a harpist based in Exmoor, England. Originally from Oxford, she fell in love with the harp as a student and now

performs regularly. She's had short stories published in literary magazines and has won numerous writing competitions in the UK.

Source: *Penguin Random House*

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### The Perch, from page 2

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The other place in London, Hampstead Heath, we were able to see when we got back from Scotland. The day was absolutely beautiful and very warm — 75 degrees. We had a wonderful view of London from the tallest hill in the park and we saw 11 species that day including lots of **Tufted Ducks, Stock Doves, Carrion Crows** and **E. Magpies**. The park hosted a Saturday farmer's market, the best one we've ever seen.

In Glencoe, a small town in the northern Scottish Highlands, we went to a visitor's center that had feeders and we were able to see lots of **Common Chaffinches, Great Tits, Goldcrests, Eurasian Robin, Eurasian Blue Tits** and **Eurasian Goldfinches**. Why didn't I take a picture? I don't know. I was just enjoying it.

How many species did we see? We saw 49 species and I got 35 lifers. Not bad for a nonbirding event.

— *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.*

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## WHIDBEY AUDUBON SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP

Please make your check payable to: WHIDBEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Mail to: Whidbey Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1012, Oak Harbor, WA 98277  
Or pay online: [www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/membership](http://www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/membership)

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Newsletters will be **emailed** to you —OR—  **Check here** to receive your *Shorelines* by mail.

Please add an **additional \$10.00** to defray mailing costs.

### Select Category of Annual Membership:

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**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.*

# What Happened to Those Wild Birds?

It was the fog! The program of the October 12 general meeting was to be a live presentation about the Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue. Cynthia Daily and Joseph Molotsky were on the 3:30 p.m. ferry from Port Townsend with “a car full of birds.” Cynthia phoned a message to Prescott stating “...there’s no visibility and they can’t land.” Prescott was out of town and didn’t find this message until later. Just before the hall was to be set up at 6 p.m. the news got out. President Patty sent an emergency email around to all members. Jann Ledbetter rushed over to the

Coupeville Recreation Hall and posted a cancellation notice. Cathi Bower and Kathy Obersinner, had come early to set up. They stayed at the hall to meet any attenders who may not have gotten the report. About 20 people showed up.

The Whidbey Audubon program committee deeply regrets this cancellation and apologizes for the inconvenience to everyone who planned to attend. The Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue staff hopes to do a presentation at another time.

## Dates to Remember, from [page 4](#)

- 8: BIN North**, 9 to 11 a.m.  
**9: General Meeting and Program** — *Deer Lagoon* with Carlos Andersen at 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Freeland; hybrid meeting  
**10: Field Trip** to Deer Lagoon, 9 to 11 a.m.  
**15: Birds ’n’ Beer**, via ZOOM 5 p.m.  
**16: BIN South**, 9 to 11 a.m.  
**18: Field Trip** to Fort Ebey State Park, 9 to 11 a.m.  
**23: Thanksgiving**  
**29: Page Peepers**, via ZOOM at 7 p.m.; *How the Penguins Saved Veronica* by Hazel Prior  
**30: BIN South**, 9 to 11 a.m.
- DECEMBER**  
**13: BIN North**, 9 to 11 a.m.
- 14: BIN South**, 9 to 11 a.m.  
**14: Board Meeting**, 6 p.m. at the home of *Patty Cheek*, all are welcome. No general meeting  
**16: Christmas Bird Count North**  
**18: Christmas Bird Count South signup** deadline  
**21: Deadline for January Shorelines**  
**28: BIN South**, 9 to 11 a.m.  
**30: Christmas Bird Count South**
- JANUARY**  
**10: BIN North**, 9 to 11 a.m.  
**11: BIN South**, 9 to 11 a.m.  
**11: General Meeting and Program** — Woodpeckers with Jeff Kozma, via Zoom

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## General Meeting & Program

Thursday, November 9

Hybrid: in person and via Zoom

Doors open 6:30 p.m. • Program at 7

**Between the Tides**

**Whidbey’s Birding Gem**

**Deer Lagoon Preserve  
with Carlos Andersen**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Meeting House**

20103 State Route 525 in Freeland

Those wishing to attend remotely,  
click red text to register on the

[Whidbey Audubon website.](#)