



# Shorelines

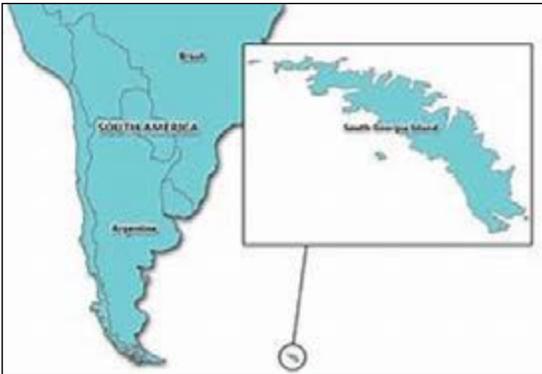
Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society  
January 2019

*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, January 10 in Freeland* **South Georgia Island**

### *One of the Most Amazing Wildlife Spectacles on Earth*

Join Dave Parent as he presents a program on the circumnavigation of South Georgia Island with a bit of the Falklands, Chile and Argentina. He has been fortunate to travel to South Georgia Island in the South Atlantic Ocean and will share his experiences and show photos and videos of most of the seabirds, endemics (species unique to the area) and marine mammals that breed on



South Georgia Island is off the southern tip of South America as shown here.

this remote island.

Dave Parent is a veterinarian

who co-owns the Useless Bay Animal Clinic in Freeland. He has been interested in wildlife since a very early age. As a child, he says, he was always turning over rocks at the beach and trying (unsuccessfully) to dig up moles. His long-suffering mother allowed him to keep various wild reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals.

While raising a family and keeping them afloat with various jobs, Dave earned a degree in wildlife science at the University of Washington and then a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University (wsu). While at wsu, he was



Dave Parent, DVM, researching wildlife on South Georgia Island, off the tip of South America.

## **Upcoming Field Trips**

**Saturday, January 5: FORT CASEY STATE PARK.** Start the New Year with a fun walking, birding trip at Fort Casey State Park. We'll explore the habitat near the lighthouse then head up the trail through the forest to the picnic area. If there is time, we will head to the ferry parking lot and check out what's hanging out there and in the water. Meet at 9 a.m. at the lighthouse parking lot. Drive up the road into the park (1280 Engle Road, Coupeville) and take a right by the flag pole (do not go down the hill to the fort) and drive to the end of the road to the light-

**Join Us!**  
**Thursday evening**  
**January 10**  
**Unitarian Universalist**  
**Congregation**  
20103 State Route 525, two miles north of Freeland  
7:00 socializing  
*donations for snacks welcome*  
7:15 brief meeting  
7:30 program begins

active in the raptor rehabilitation program. Upon graduation, he worked as a veterinarian in Port Orchard, Washington and then purchased the Useless Bay Animal Clinic in Freeland in 1990. He immediately took the test to become a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in the state and treats between 30 to 50 wild

# Puget Sound Energy Powerful Partnership Grant

Puget Sound Energy (PSE), our electric utility provider, selected Whidbey Audubon Society for a 2019 Powerful Partnership award of \$5,000. We will use the funding to educate Whidbey Island residents and other interested citizens about the importance of protecting birds and reducing harmful environmental impacts using efficient energy practices. In addition to providing events to help educate the public about PSE's energy efficiency and renewable energy options, we will publicize PSE's efforts on its continued commitment to support the Migratory Bird Treaty Act through its Avian Protection Program. We will engage in a cooperative effort to investigate the feasibility of Osprey nesting at Cranberry Lake in Deception Pass State Park with the Deception Pass Park Foundation.

Events include opportunities to hear speakers at our meetings

and at Deception Pass State Park, to speak with energy specialists at our meetings and at other venues, such as the January Way of Whales workshop and to participate in a field trip to PSE's Wild Horse Wind Farm near Ellensburg.

For additional information, please contact Linda Perry Dwight, [treasurer@whidbeyaudubon.org](mailto:treasurer@whidbeyaudubon.org).



## Registration Open Now

Sound Waters, a *one day university for all*, has been bringing together people passionate about life in Puget Sound since the early 1990s, and now attracts over 600 people yearly. No prior knowledge is required to attend — just an interest in learning about this amazing place that we call home.

It will be held at South Whidbey High School in Langley. Registration is from December 28 through January 20. For more information, visit [www.soundwaterstewards.org](http://www.soundwaterstewards.org).

Look for Whidbey Audubon Society's display in the exhibit area during the breaks and at lunch. (Also at Way of the Whales, January 26. Volunteers welcome, contact Linda, [treasurer@whidbeyaudubon.org](mailto:treasurer@whidbeyaudubon.org).)

## Dates to Remember

### JANUARY

**5: Field Trip: Fort Casey State Park**

**8: Raptor Class at Padilla Bay** for five weeks; [www.padillabay.gov](http://www.padillabay.gov)

**10: Whidbey Audubon Program: Southern Hemisphere Pelagics and Penguins** with Dave Parent, Freeland

**15: Field Trip: Loons at Deception Pass**

**17: Deadline for February Shorelines**

**24: Whidbey Audubon Society Board Meeting**, Methodist Church, Coupeville, 6 p.m. (*NOTE earlier time*) Members welcome

**26: Way of the Whales Workshop**, Coupeville Middle School Performing Arts Center, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; 360-223-5666 or [cindy@orcanetwork.org](mailto:cindy@orcanetwork.org)

**31: Native Plant Sale** end; for details, visit [www.whidbeycd.org](http://www.whidbeycd.org)

### FEBRUARY

**2: Sound Waters**, Langley; go to [www.soundwaterstewards.org](http://www.soundwaterstewards.org)

**9: Padilla Bay: Swans, Geese and Dabbling Ducks**, a class, [www.padillabay.gov](http://www.padillabay.gov)

**14: Whidbey Audubon Program: Puget Sound Seabird Survey**, Freeland

**15 to 18: Great Backyard Bird Count**

**21: Deadline for March Shorelines**

## Field Trips, from page 1

house. You will need a Discover Pass, binocs, and bring a scope if you have one. For more information contact Janet Hall at [birderbiker56@gmail.com](mailto:birderbiker56@gmail.com) or 360-969-1340.

**Tuesday, January 15: LOONS AT DECEPTION PASS.** Trip leaders are Sarah Schmidt and Joe Sheldon. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the north end of West Beach parking lot, Deception Pass State Park. We'll bird the beach and lake and hope to see hundreds of Red-throated Loons gathering to feed in the outflowing current of Deception Pass. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Depending on weather and interest, we will end at about noon, with a possible stop at Dugulla Bay on the way back toward Oak Harbor. If you like, bring water, a snack or a hot drink. Dress warmly and prepare for wind. To carpool, meet at 8 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Freeland Park & Ride, 8:30 in Coupeville at Prairie Station Transit Park, 201 South Main Street; or at 9 at Walgreen's in Oak Harbor (after State Route 20 turns 90-degrees left at Pioneer Way traffic light, the entrance comes up immediately on the right.) Cars parking at state park will need a Discover Pass. Questions: contact Sarah Schmidt, at [4bats@ixoreus.com](mailto:4bats@ixoreus.com) or call 360-929-3592.

## Field Trip Checklist

- ✓ Field trips are free and open to anyone interested in birding or conservation. Bring your friends!
- ✓ Beginners are very welcome.
- ✓ Carpooling is encouraged and even required for some sites with limited parking.
- ✓ Dress for the weather and in layers.
- ✓ Very bad weather cancels a trip. Check with the trip leader.
- ✓ If you have them, bring binoculars, scope and field guides.
- ✓ If you might need them, bring a drink and snack.

We are always looking for new trip leaders and assistants. If you are interested, please contact Patty Cheek at [pattypipe@gmail.com](mailto:pattypipe@gmail.com).

## Conservation Column: Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

Did you know that choosing five-day shipping over two-day shipping when ordering from Amazon reduces carbon emissions a lot? And that buying the same item in a brick and mortar store possibly reduces emissions even more? There are, of course, many variables, but an important factor is how that item was shipped. If it was shipped by boat then truck to a store as inventory, it was part of a larger shipment — a full, efficient container. The carbon footprint of a single item shipped that way will be relatively small, even including your drive to the store and back. Your five-day delivery was consolidated with other deliveries and thus more energy efficient. Your two-day Amazon order, on the other hand, likely got to you as a single box that was flown, then trucked, then delivered without much opportunity for consolidation or efficiency. Maybe the shipping was “free” and very convenient, but not green. We’ve all opened

large boxes and cut through layers of protective packaging to get at contents that were small and unbreakable. And sometimes, had to ship the item back!

We certainly have control over this much of our lives. We can try to find a product on the island or nearby. Eat more seasonally and locally. We can combine errands, consolidate our online purchases, choose a slower shipping method, buy less new stuff, buy more used stuff. Or maybe keep using the stuff we already have.

Washington did not pass Initiative 1631, but we can reduce our individual carbon footprint. We have to. You’ll be hearing a lot more about this in the upcoming months as the legislature reconvenes and begins the discussion of new laws that put Washington on a path to a 100 percent clean energy future.

—Kim Shepard, *Conservation Chair*

## Dan’s Blog: Looking Out for the Snowbirds

By Dan Pedersen and Craig Johnson, #328, December 15, 2018

**Editor’s note:** *Dan’s Blog* is published every Saturday morning. Clicking this website link will take you to: [www.pedersenwrites.blogspot.com](http://www.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).

It was a bitter cold winter morning. Ice coated the branches of trees all over Puget Sound, partially melted from the previous night’s snow and then refrozen overnight. It had all the makings of can explosion of orange birds in our crabapple tree.

Few sights are prettier on a winter morning than a flock of radiantly gold Varied Thrushes showing up in the yard.

Every summer our crabapple tree produces a blowout crop of fruit. The same is true of an apple tree in the yard of my blog partners, Craig and Joy

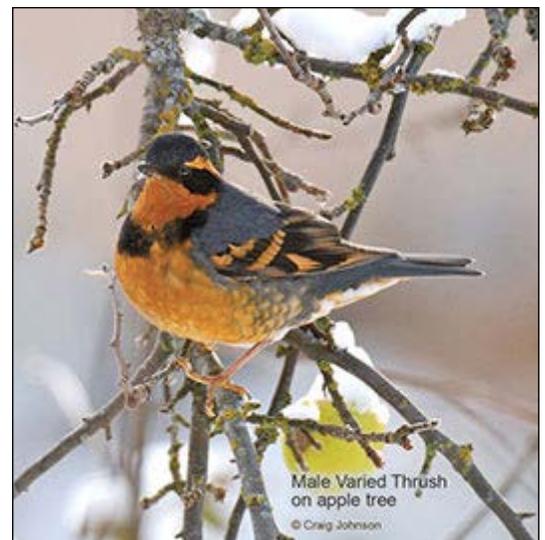
Johnson, except that they know exactly how they’ll use those apples. They’re for the wildlife.

We don’t harvest our crabapples, either, so the fruit clings to the tree for months afterwards, in reserve for the Varied Thrushes that show up here on the coldest of days. By then the deer have stripped the low-hanging fruit. Rabbits have stood on their hind legs to reach the bottom-most branches. Everything from deer-height upward now belongs to the thrushes.

As part of a photo series on winter birds of the forest landscape in Puget Sound, my blog partner Craig Johnson included Varied Thrushes in his selection, and it’s not hard to see why. These birds bring a splash of color and excitement everywhere they go.

Every winter I look forward to the sight of these birds scratching at the leaf litter, sunning themselves or going from branch to branch to feast on crabapples. I suspect they may be drunk on the fermenting fruit. In any case the tree brings them much joy when other food sources are scarce.

I always know when Varied Thrushes are around because I hear their oddly metallic, whistling notes in the treetops in the



Male Varied Thrush  
on apple tree  
© Craig Johnson

Photo by Craig Johnson©

Craig photographed this male Varied Thrush on his wildlife apple tree.

mornings. I don’t usually see them unless they descend to the lawn or the fruit trees. They’re about the size and shape of an American Robin and sometimes appear with their cousins as part of a mixed flock, all working the ground together.

Varied Thrushes seem to specialize in digging through piles of leaf litter with their feet, looking for bugs and grubs underneath. I find my neat piles of leaves spread all over the lawn.

Varied Thrushes are just one of the birds that bring colorful surprises to Northwest yards. [Visit the blog to read about other “snowbirds” such as the Purple Finch, Anna’s Hummingbird and

# Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings

**October 29:** **Northern Shrike** perched on top of very long bamboo pole in garden (about 15 feet up.) First time I've seen one on our property. I see there was a sighting in Maxwelton area last week. Location: Midvale Road.

— *Sego Jackson*

**October 31:** A flock of 35 **Snow Geese** on Ebey's Landing Road across from Willowood Farm. First time I've ever seen them on our island.

— *Martha Hollis*

**November 2:** A duck with a redhead and large black stripe running laterally over face and eye area. It was by itself. Duck was mallard size. I'm an experienced birder and I could not identify it. Location: Deer Lagoon, one of the ponds.

— *Sue Minger*

**November 5:** Two **Snow Geese** one adult, one juvenile. The adult has a left leg lameness. Both foraging normally. Location: On the fairway near Dunlap Drive, Holmes Harbor Golf Course. — *David Parent*

**November 8:** Male **Ring-necked Pheasant** seen on our property Tuesday afternoon and this morning foraging in our horse pastures. Location: Near the north end of Pintail Road. — *Kellee Roberti*



Photo by George Heleker

Snow Bunting

**November 10:** **Snow Bunting** found at the lagoon area on the

beach between the lagoon and the bay, moving in and out of vegetation and driftwood and foraging on the sand. I saw one in the same area on March 6, 2018. An **American White Pelican** continues to hang out at the lagoon and the adjacent marsh. A **Northern Shrike** is still hunting in the area, first reported on 10/12/2018. A **Sora** continues. It called today for about 10 seconds. Likely the same bird that was first reported on 10/4/2018 and by several other observers since. Six **Snow Geese** again for this observer on the marsh side of the lagoon area. There have been one to 70 reported here this fall since 10/21/2018. Location: Deer Lagoon.

— *George Heleker*

**November 11:** Three **Trumpeter Swans** flying over Crockett Lake. — *Marie Shaw*

**November 11:** Walking the west dike — three male plus two female **Redheads** (not Canvasbacks) remarkable in that they are listed as rare on the Whidbey check list; at least four male **Eurasian Wigeons**; a **Peregrine Falcon** kept the ducks moving and the **Dunlins** murmuring. Didn't find George's Snow Bunting. Location: Deer Lagoon, west dike.

— *Darwin Wile*

**November 12:** This **Yellow-shafted Flicker** was seen with a flock of seven or eight **Red-shafted Northern Flickers** that have been coming to my yard regularly. Location: Coupeville (not far from downtown).

**Confirmation:** While Red-shafted Flickers are quite common, I'm learning that the Yellow-shafted is somewhat rare. This one has the brown



Photo by Jann Ledbetter

Yellow-shafted Flicker

face, black malar and red nape crescent, as well as the yellow shafts that seem to indicate it is a pure yellow-shafted Flicker, and not an intergrade. — *Jann Ledbetter*

**November 14:** A **Wilson's Snipe** appeared on my side lawn dipping his long bill repeatedly into the lawn obviously eating something delicious. Being from the Midwest, I immediately thought it was a Woodcock but got out the trusty bird books to discover it was a Wilson's or Common Snipe. Location: On the bluff of Deer Lagoon.

— *Nancy Van Wormer*

**November 15:** **Chipping Sparrow** at Pacific Rim Institute, moving between the parking area and the fenced orchard/garden plot. Listed as rare on Whidbey list, though there seem to be annual sightings at this location.

— *Carla Corin*

**November 24:** **White-throated Sparrow** (tan striped) under our bird feeder today (along with the usual suspects, including 16 **California Quail**). Second one we've had this year, the other was in May. Location: West Beach and Barque, Oak Harbor.

— *Carla Corin*

**November 30:** I saw a completely white gull. ALL of its

feathers were white. The bill was very pale, almost white, with a black ring, like a Ring-billed Gull. The eyes were black, not pink, and I couldn't get a good look at the legs, but I "feel" like they were black. The bird was fairly elusive, though it was walking about and feeding with some immature ring billed gulls. I was about forty or fifty yards from it. A friend who was with me today said he saw the same bird yesterday at a different location on the golf course. Location: Whidbey Golf Club

**Confirmation:** I only list this as rare, not because it's a ring billed gull, but I've been an avid birder for forty years and have never seen an all-white gull before today. Update to all white ring-billed gull posting: I was much closer to the bird again yesterday. The bill is a pale yellow, with the clearly marked black ring around the end of the bill. The legs and feet are pink, not black. It is a much larger gull, at least 15 to 20 percent larger than the dozen immature ring-bills it was traveling with, so large that it seemed like a giant next to them, like a seven-foot basketball player walking among six footers. It walked around the grassy area with them, but they would not quite mingle with it on land. They flew to a nearby pond and the dozen immatures swam together, but the all-white gull had to swim around the pack at about twenty feet away. If it swam toward them, they would move away slightly, keeping their distance. — *Vince Hagel*

**December 8:** There were

**Sightings, see page 6**

## Field Trip Report: Freeland Park and Wetland Trail

Who would have thought we would have a calm, warm day for the birding trip in November? Six of us (two from off-Island) started at Freeland Park at the end of Holmes Harbor on November 15. The scopes were set up and we started scanning, seeing four **Grebes** including **Western, Horned, Red-necked** and **Pie-billed Grebes** along with **Bufflehead** and **Double-crested Cormorant**. It was really helpful to see all of them in one place for comparison. We had to study one bird and finally decided it was a female **Surf Scooter**. The vertical white loreal-patch was very faint. Another bird had us stumped until we looked in the book and realized a juvenile **Rhinoceros Auklet** has a dark beak, not a yellowish one.

It was quite entertaining watching one lone **American Wigeon** swimming up to the beach, mingling with several **Mallards**, then back out in the water. It seemed the bird wasn't comfortable "hanging out" with them. We also saw **Common Loon, Canada Geese, Belted Kingfisher, American Crow, Bald Eagle, Glaucous-winged X Western Hybrid Gull, Mew Gull** and even a **Bonaparte Gull**.

We headed up the grassy slope behind Freeland Hall, walking between forest and brush habitats. The **Bushtits** surrounded us along with a few **Black-capped** and **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**. Farther up the path in the brush we saw **Golden** and **White-crowned Sparrows**. Looking in the forest we spotted a **Brown Creeper** and heard a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. The **Golden-**



Photo by Roger Riss

Intrepid birders at Freeland Park include Patty Cheek, Kim Shepard, Janet Hall, Jo Waldron and Marilyn Strayer.

**crowned Kinglets** showed up along with **Spotted Towhee** and **Dark-eyed Junco**. Walking back to the park we saw **Eurasian-collared Dove, House Sparrow** and **European Starling**.

Next, we headed over to the Freeland Wetland Trail. It's a nice walk but the woods were quiet. We did hear a **Pacific Wren, Common Raven** and **Northern Flicker**. Overall, we counted 35 birds and had a fun time birding on a nice November day

— Janet Hall, Trip Leader

## Crockett Lake with Birding in Neighborhoods North

**November 16:** All three **Cormorants, Pelagic, Brandt's** and **Double-crested**, were in their expected location on the old pilings off the beach. **Pigeon Guillemots** and a **Common Loon** in their winter plumage were nearby. The **Belted Kingfisher** was on the wire by the restaurant, as expected, but the **Harlequins** were missing from the ferry landing. We also saw **Dunlin, Western Sandpipers, Yellowlegs** and **Black-bellied Plovers**. On the lake were more **Green-winged Teal** than I have ever seen at once. A surprise sighting was a pair of **Mourning**

**Doves**, which often seem to be missing in favor of the **Eurasian-collared Doves**. Including some very busy **Northern Harriers**, we saw 26 species.

— Marcia Lazoff

**Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) North** meets at 9 a.m. on the second Wednesday of most months. We bird from Crockett Lake to Deception Pass. Locations each month are chosen on the Monday before we go. If you would like to receive an email of where we are going, please contact Marcia Lazoff at [mlazoff@comcast.net](mailto:mlazoff@comcast.net) and I will add you to the list. The former list no longer exists and we are starting anew.

## Birding in Neighborhoods South Explores Deer Lagoon

**November 8:** What a spectacular day at Deer Lagoon Thursday! We saw 52 species, and that doesn't even include any possible additions from those of us who finally had to drag ourselves away early. Did you happen to spy the **Coots, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Creeper, the Lincoln's Sparrow, woodpeckers, House Sparrows?** And what about a final confirmation on all the various peeps and shore-walkers?

Among all the usual sightings, we did all get to watch a **Trumpeter Swan, Snow Geese, a Northern Shrike**, at least

five different **gulls**, a couple of **Eared Grebes** (thanks to George H. for spotting them), and finally found those three **Eurasian Wigeons** amongst the hundreds of other ducks.

**November 22, Thanksgiving:** What a good group to dodge the rain at Deer Lagoon to see and/or hear 32 species! Wind kept a few of the usual avian visitors under cover, but it was fun to bump into many human walkers with family and friends, enjoying the decent weather window before afternoon gatherings.

**BIN South, see page 7**

## Wildlife Spectacles, from page 1

birds, mammals and reptiles each year. He has also participated in wildlife research in the Olympic Mountains, the Selkirk Mountains, Alaska and Madagascar. He enjoys birding, telemark skiing, being out on the open ocean and just wandering around in the mountains and the Olympic coast beaches. He is married, and his combined family includes seven children and eleven grandchildren.

Photo by Sam Crimmin

## Sightings, from page 4

46 **Black Oystercatchers** feeding along the shoreline. Location: Oak Harbor City Beach. — *Vince Hagel*

**December 10:** Female **Short-eared Owl**. Location: West side of Crockett Lake on a metal T-post.

— *Traci & Robert York*

**December 19:** For the past three weeks, **American Goldfinch** in beautiful non-breeding colors have been enjoying my backyard feeders. Started with one and now have 12 to 16 feeding and bathing every day. Anyone else seeing these? This is a first for my backyard in winter. Location: Lagoon Point on the bluff, Greenbank. — *Shirley Hendricson*



Photo by Traci and Robert York

### Short-eared Owl

**December 21:** Male **Canvasback** with a flock of **Greater Scaup** and **Surf Scoters** along City Beach in Oak Harbor. I've never seen a Canvasback there! — *Carla Corin*

**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](http://www.m.whidbeyaudubon.org) or on the *Whidbey Audubon Society Facebook page*.



## Welcome New and Renewing Members

### New

Ali Erickson (Spotted Towhee)	Leslie Boies and Rob Harris
Tim and Patsy Mack	Charlotte Ginn
Robert Steelquist	Mary Jo Adams
Greg Routt and Kristie Kujawski	

### Renewing

Miriam Nack (Scholarship Fund)	Carlos and Toni Andersen
Pamela and Scott Wessel-Estes	Susan Berg
Linda Bainbridge	Linda Dwight and Stu Ashley
Beth Heffernan	Brian and Jan Martin
Jeff Campbell (Spotted Towhee)	Lori Holt
David and Stella Schoen	Baz Stevens and Sandra Towne
Christi Shaffer	Jeri Gregory (Spotted Towhee)
Jay Adams	Chip and Libby Hayward
David and Sharon Winkel	Nancy Luenn & Glenn Duncan
Mary Bloom (Scholarship Fund)	
Ann Sullivan and John Leaser (Scholarship Fund)	
Frank Ruggiero and Karen Posner (Pigeon Guillemot)	
Roy and Betty Branson (Spotted Towhee)	
Louise Abbott and Dave Earp (Red-tailed Hawk)	
Margie and Gary Parker (Spotted Towhee)	
Christie Hammond (Red-tailed Hawk)	
Tom Sparks and Flora Goldthwaite	
Sharon Gauthier and Tom Hyde (Red-tailed Hawk)	
Ed and Martha Hollis (Red-tailed Hawk)	
Barbara Fournier (Pigeon Guillemot)	
Marie Shaw and Colleen Fox (Red-tailed Hawk)	
Arthur and Iris Misner (Scholarship Fund)	
Mary Jo and Michael Stansbury (Osprey)	
Karen Johnson & Cynthia Barrett (Pigeon Guillemot)	

If you receive a paper copy, an additional **\$5.00** is requested at renewal to defray an impending postage increase. I will send email reminders to all subscribers before your membership expires.

— *Linda Bainbridge, Membership Chair*

## BIN South, from page 5

A pleasant start to the day. Thanks to the guests who joined us, too! Rewarding to watch the little ones noticing the ducks.

By the way, that **Pelican** is still hanging around out there with the **Canada** and **Snow Geese**. When the conditions are better, a Short-eared Owl has been out hunting lately.

**December 6:** It was such a nice day today, of course we went to the beach!

For a different perspective, we walked up from Shore Avenue to the south end of the Deer Lagoon West dike. Thanks to Gwen for providing our access from that direction.

But just a carload of birders braved the chill to identify at least 38 species, so perhaps we'll do that again later this season. We did not see any Snow Geese, Swans or the Pelican this time, but it really never gets old, observing the many types of beautiful ducks — at least a dozen species regularly at Deer Lagoon.



Birding Deer Lagoon on a very stormy December 20.

## Dan's Blog, from page 3

the Red Crossbill. The photos are gorgeous. Find this blog, #328 *Looking Out for the Snowbirds*, at [pedersenwrites.blogspot.com/2018/12/328-snowbirds.html](http://pedersenwrites.blogspot.com/2018/12/328-snowbirds.html).]

So while some birds and humans fly south for the winter, the real snowbirds stay right here in the Northwest and bring joy and surprises to all who keep an eye on the view outside their window.

**December 20:** The final BINS of 2018 had nearly everyone hunkered down, but for three birders, who managed to see (or hear — the **Rail**) 19 species, not surprisingly, mostly ducks.

Raptors, shore-walkers, most all the little guys — all hiding. But ducks didn't care a whit that it was dumping and howling out at Deer Lagoon. In spite of damp birders and their optics, I say that any day with a **Hooded Merganser** and/or a **Northern Pintail** is a good day. See you next year!

— Cathi Bower, *Bird early — bird often*

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

## Whidbey Audubon Society Membership

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

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.**

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It is Whidbey Audubon policy to never share our membership and subscription information with other groups.*