



Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society
May 2017

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 Society Meets Thursday, May 11 in Coupeville Climate Change in the Salish Sea



Richard H.
Gammon, PhD

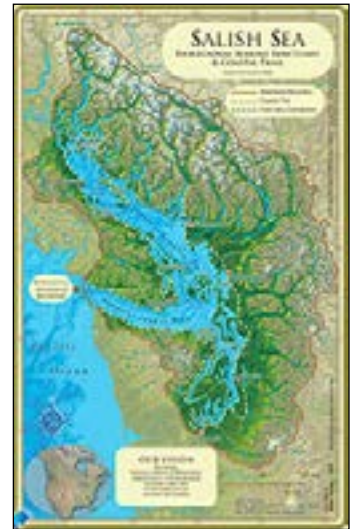
Richard H. Gammon, PhD, a scientist with the University of Washington, will present a program to update us on the latest scientific data and predictions for our corner of the world. Among his topics:

- Update of climate science and global climate/weather events since IPCC 2013/2014
- Predicted climate impacts in the Pacific Northwest (from reports by the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group and the most re-

cent National Climate Assessment)

- Action: What can we do? What can you do?

Dr. Gammon is professor emeritus of chemistry and oceanography and adjunct professor emeritus of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington (UW). He is a former codirector of the UW Program on the Environment (2004 to 2007). Gammon received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Princeton University (1965) and his master's and doctorate in physical chemistry from Harvard University (1970).



Professor emeritus Gammon has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in chemistry, oceanography, atmospheric science, global biogeochemical cycles and climate change. His research has emphasized the measurement and interpretation of atmospheric trace gases critical to climate change. He served as the Director of Science at the Pacific Science Center (1979 to 1980) and remains actively involved in improving the understanding of the climate-change challenge with frequent public talks.

Join us starting at 7 p.m. for socializing, followed by a brief meeting that includes the election for Whidbey Audubon Society board treasurer. The program begins at 7:30.

Join Us!

Thursday evening
May 11

Coupeville

Recreation Hall
901 NW Alexander Street

7:00 socializing
(donations for snacks welcome)

7:15 meeting/election

7:30 program begins

Upcoming Field Trips

May 6 or 7: BIRDATHON. See article in this issue. Call Kathy Obersinner at 503-964-0873 to create or join a team.

Saturday, May 13: EARTH SANCTUARY. A wonderful area at any time of year, but it's especially lovely in the spring when the birds are singing. We will look and listen for arriving spring migrants and our resident birds establishing nesting territories. The Earth Sanctuary parking lot is very small, so we'll meet at 8 a.m. at Bayview Park & Ride lot and carpool. Please be prepared to pay a \$7 entry fee. For more information on *Earth Sanctuary*, see its website by clicking the red text. The trip is limited to 12 participants so please email trip leader Linda Bainbridge to reserve your space: lkgbirder@gmail.com

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.

AmazonSmile Benefits Birds

Choose Whidbey Audubon Society, via the AmazonSmile Foundation, smile.amazon.com, when making purchases with Amazon.

Getting to Know Your Board: Jenny Brown

I am Jenny Brown and I am the Editor of the Whidbey Audubon Society's newsletter, *Shorelines*. It is published nine months of the year (excluding December, July and August) and is also available on our [Whidbey Audubon Society](http://WhidbeyAudubonSociety.org) website.

The following questions I posed to all our board members, and here are my answers:

Describe what your committee does for Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS): Our main task with the newsletter is to keep WAS members informed about what is happening or has happened in the bird world on our island and surrounding areas. We also like to educate and encourage participation in WAS activities.

How did you become interested in birding? I became interested in birds after my father retired to Arizona in 1973. He had not been much of a birder, but he was so enthusiastic about the Cardinal, Quails and other desert birds, it rubbed off on me. After the spark was lit, I recall being at Deception Pass, spending an hour or so with a bird guide, trying to make my first identification of a bird nestled in the rocks below. It turned out to be a Pigeon Guillemot!

What's your favorite birding site? I must say I love birding on my own property. It's wooded and I spend lots of time just watching the forest birds. If you watch the same birds over a period of time, you notice certain behaviors. For example, the Dark-eyed Juncos space themselves in a certain way when they are feeding. If one gets too close to another, they both jump up and readjust their spacing. I am convinced there is a hierarchy in the Junco world. My second favorite is the Swan Lake area which is near the beach where I do my Pigeon Guillemot survey.

Tell us a bit about your history with WAS: I have been an ac-

Dates to Remember

MAY

6 or 7: Birdathon

5 to 7: Bird Festival, Orcas Island

11: Whidbey Audubon Program: Climate Change in the Salish Sea with Dr. Richard Gammon, Coupeville

12 to 14: Bird Festival, Ellensburg

13: Field Trip: Earth Sanctuary

18: Deadline for June *Shorelines* submissions (Last issue until September)

21: Litter Pickup

24: Pigeon Guillemot Survey Training, Freeland

25: WAS Board Meeting: 7 p.m. Ledgewood Community Hall. Members welcome

26 to 29: Wenas Audubon Campout near Ellensburg

JUNE

8: Whidbey Audubon Society's 35th Birthday Celebration and Potluck, Coupeville



Photo by David Brown, Jenny's son

Jenny Brown goes "owling" in Deception Pass State Park.

tive member of the organization since 2007 when I retired from teaching. I have been on the education committee since then and still enjoy going into classrooms and other venues to teach kids and adults about birds. I have participated in the Christmas Bird Count for the past few years and helped organize it a few times. Before taking over as editor, I used to do the mailings. Last year I helped plan the programs. It's been a pleasure volunteering for WAS. So many great people and friendships!

Tell us a bit of your personal history: I was born in Indiana, but we headed west when I was nine — first to New Mexico, then Colorado. After spending a year in England, I returned to Colorado where I went to college. I finally ended up on Whidbey Island where I have lived for the last 45 years. I have a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Colorado and a master's of education in exceptional children from Western Washington. I taught special education and regular education in the Oak Harbor schools for 30 years and managed to sneak in a few bird lessons.

What are your visions for WAS? A long-term dream of mine is that WAS would someday have a nature center — or at least an office that would house a library and our specimens and staffed with someone to answer a phone. In the short term, I would love to have more members participate in our activities. We need some new blood to help us!

How can the membership help you and your committee? I encourage members to contribute to the newsletter: photos, stories, poems... anything. I love to hear people's stories and experiences with birds. Please don't worry about writing skills — that's what I am here for — to help you through it. I feel that *Shorelines* belongs to all our members. Our deadline is the third Thursday of the previous month.

Birdathon News — Six Teams to Compete

It's not too late to be part of Audubon's one and only fundraiser, the annual Birdathon. Any and all pledges help, whether eagle- or hummingbird-sized, with the money going into Whidbey Audubon's General Fund or the Scholarship Fund (we have some environmentally aware high school students we can support to become future bird stewards).



Former Birdathon Chair Linda Dwight with the coveted golden binocular trophy.

Excitement mounts as the May window of time for our Birdathon competition nears, and teams dream of sighting the most bird species in one day, thereby gaining possession of the fabulous Golden Binoculars Trophy. We'd like to welcome a new team, the Shore Thing, comprised of Cathi Bower, Kathy Obersinner, and Darwin Wile, for a total of six teams.

It just takes a mo-

ment to contact one of the team leaders and contribute an amount per species observed, or if it's simpler, a lump sum. Remember to let teams know if you are a Microsoft or a Boeing employee or retiree, as these businesses will match your donation. All business sponsors will be honored in our newsletter and on our website. Contact Kathy Obersinner at 503-964-0873 or obergage@gmail.com for additional information.

We will have a table at the May Audubon meeting if you would like to contribute at that time.

Birdathon teams you may support include:

- **All-for-Knot:** Joe Sheldon (jksheldon43@gmail.com) and Dave Parent
- **The Coupevillains:** Steve and Martha Ellis (sremse@comcast.net)
- **The Fledglings:** Jenny Brown (jennywahere@gmail.com)
- **Shore Thing:** Cathi Bower (whidbird@whidbey.com), Kathy Obersinner and Darwin Wile
- **Wild Women of Whidbey:** Phyllis Kind (phizhawk@whidbey.com) and Ann Casey
- **Winging It:** Sarah Schmidt (4bats@ixoreus.com) and Janet Hall

Ellis's Mammal Big Year Wrap-up and Challenge



Photo by Martha Ellis

Steve Ellis, flat on his stomach, looking into a hedgerow for the long-tailed weasel.

In 2016, we decided to conduct a Mammal Big Year. *Shorelines* editor Jenny Brown suggested we share the results with you.

The overall total was 74 mammals, with 58 of them seen in Washington State. Our Whidbey Island tally was 30. All of these species were live and from self-sustaining populations in the wild.

We'd very much like to help others break our state and Whidbey totals. Contact us if you're interested in doing your own Mammal Big Year, sremse@comcast.net. Use "Mammal Big Year" on the subject line.

— Steve & Martha Ellis

Mammal Big Year Roll Call

Steve Ellis, 2016

- W = Whidbey
- * = Washington
- INSECTIVORES**
- W Vagrant Shrew
- * Coast Mole
- * Townsend's Mole

- BATS**
- W,* California Myotis
- W,* Silver-haired Bat
- W,* Big Brown Bat
- W,* Townsend's Big-eared Bat

- CARNIVORES**
- Gray Wolf
- W,* Coyote
- * American Black Bear
- Grizzly Bear
- W Northern Raccoon
- * Short-tailed Weasel (Ermine)
- W,* Long-tailed Weasel
- * American Mink

Roll Call, see page 8

Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings

April 4: Mountain Bluebird seen and photographed at Pacific Rim Institute in and around the prairie remnant area. — *Joe Sheldon*

[Editor's Note: The Mountain Bluebird sighted on March 14 was first found by Aaron Morgenstern at Pacific Rim Institute.]

April 5: Hermit Thrush heard in forested bluff above Lagoon Point in Greenbank.

— *Mary Hollen*

April 6: First cycle Glaucous Gull feeding with other large gulls in the large field between State Route 525, Cameron Road and Bush Point Road.

— *Dave Parent*

April 6: TWO Osprey back on the nest by Race Road Firehall — yay for spring! — *Jill Hein*

April 8: First male American Goldfinch of the season snacking on hulled sunflower seeds. Location: Northwest Broadway Street. Coupeville.

— *Traci York*

April 8: Female Yellow-shafted Flicker seen several times at our suet feeder this week. Does not appear to be hybrid. Location: Day Road near Christianson. — *Jodi Delay*

April 8: Red Crossbill spotted sitting on tip-top of cone-loaded conifer which was at about eye level and less than 50 feet away — lots of color — fabulous! My first Red Crossbill but hopefully the first of many. Location: On the bank above Deer Lagoon.

— *Ted King*

April 9: First Orange-crowned Warbler of the year singing in our yard today. Also first butterfly: *Satyr Comma* Location: Parker Road, Coupeville. — *Steve Ellis*

April 9: What a difference a

day makes! Yesterday with the wind, we could hardly find a shorebird in Deer Lagoon. Today, relatively calm, there are large numbers of Black-bellied Plovers and Dunlins. About a dozen Greater and one Lesser Yellowlegs. Large numbers of Brants. Several Ospreys. — *Darwin Wile*

April 9: Sighting by Aaron Morgenstern of Townsend's Solitaire at the Pacific Rim Institute on the eastern edge of the prairie. This is listed as a rare bird for Whidbey Island.

— *Joe Sheldon*

April 11: First Whimbrel of the year, seen near west dike, Deer Lagoon — *Darwin Wile*

April 13: Red-necked Grebe. Diving, a solo bird, very beautiful. Location: Fishing just off the ferry as I landed at Mukilteo from Clinton, in front of Ivar's.

— *Linda McFarlane*

April 13: Townsend's Solitaire photographed in bushes at the foot of a steep bank overlooking the beach. Could be connected to the Townsend's Solitaire seen at the Pacific Rim Institute on 9 April. Location: the beach below Harrington Road, Coupeville.

— *Laurie Wright*

April 14: Two Turkey Vultures sitting in trees, soared away when I got close. Location: Goose Rock perimeter trail. Deception Pass State Park, across from Cornet Bay Marina. — *Bob LeClerc*

April 15: I first heard an unusual raptor calling then observed crows diving on a bird perched in a tree. It was a Northern Goshawk that flew off with crows in pursuit on Parker Road, Coupeville. — *Steve Ellis*

April 15: An Evening Gros-

beak has been at my sunflower feeder the past three mornings. Location: North Whidbey near Silver Lake. — *Wendy Wilson*

April 16: First Lagoon Point Purple Martin of 2017. Location: Steelhead Drive and Salmon Street, Greenbank.

— *Mary Hollen*

April 18: Two male Myrtle-type with four male Audubon's-type Yellow-rumped Warblers. Location: Around the fenced wetland area off Krueger Road in Coupeville. — *Jay Adams*

April 20: Numbers of Caspian Terns have returned to Deer Lagoon.

— *Darwin Wile*

April 20: Two sightings today: First sighting: Two Ospreys circling our neighbor's newly-cleared field, gathering sticks, presumably flying to their nest on top of the cell tower on Cultus Bay Road. Second sighting: Two Band-tailed Pigeons flew over our field. One later returned and perched on our bird seed feeder on Log Cabin Road and Cultus Bay Road in Clinton.

— *George and Lynne Jensen*

April 21: Six Whimbrels walking through a farm field foraging food from newly-turned earth. Not a rare bird for Whidbey Island, but an unusual location for the Whimbrels to be foraging. (Perhaps they learned from the gulls who always follow the farmers' equipment). Location: On Ebey Prairie, viewed from Cook Road.

— *Val Hillers*

April 21: There is a Say's Phoebe hanging around Deer Lagoon; noteworthy because I do not see the bird on the Whidbey Island check list. Also large numbers of

Bonaparte's Gulls and Caspian Terns. — *Darwin Wile*

April 22: Two pairs Evening Grosbeaks at our feeders today, the first of the season for us. Location: Log Cabin Road near Cultus Bay Road.

— *George and Lynne Jensen*

April 23: Heard my first Pacific-slope Flycatcher of the year this morning while walking my cat. Location: Off Towhee Lane in Greenbank.

— *Linda Bainbridge*

April 22: Saw about 30 Black Turnstones at Langley Harbor nestled in the greenery bordering the dilapidated dock where the Double-crested Cormorants perch on April 20, then got this picture of over 100 of them hanging out on the floating dock on April 22; haven't seen so many at once here... quite a chatty group! — *Gideon Seraphine*



Photo by Gideon Seraphine www.whidbeyaudubon.org

April 23: About 40 Common Mergansers in Kennedy's Lagoon and resting on the floating deck. Been there every couple of days or so for a couple of weeks.

— *Martha Hollis*

April 24: Sharp-Shinned Hawk dive-bombing my hummingbird feeders twice that I noticed today. Feeders are extremely active with both Anna's and Rufous Hummingbirds. Location: My back yard on Winterhawk in Coupeville.

— *Russ Schulz*

April 26: While tending Pur-

Sightings, see page 5

How to Help Wildlife in Distress or Do They Need It?

Nesting and birthing season is very near and a word about care of our wild animals is in order.

Many wild animals do not need to be “rescued” and there is almost NEVER a time when you should remove a baby wild animal from its natural environment, even if it appears abandoned. In the vast majority of cases, just leaving a young animal alone affords it the best chance for survival.

Every year, hundreds of young wild animals such as fawns, baby seals and baby birds are needlessly “rescued” and referred to wildlife rehabilitators. This is extremely detrimental and harmful to the young animal, as well as disruptive and costly to wildlife rehabilitators when they most need to concentrate limited resources on truly orphaned or injured wildlife. Unless the animal is showing obvious signs of illness or injury such as bleeding, vomiting, panting, lethargy, ruffled feathers or fur or attack by cat/dog, leave them there! You can help by ALWAYS consulting a licensed wildlife rehabilitator prior to touching the animal.

Why don't these babies need to be rescued? Young animals are often left alone for hours while their parents gather food. They are being tended by the parents in ways best suited to their survival and appropriate for that species, ensuring that they retain wild behaviors. It is normal and typical behavior for

a deer fawn to be left alone for many hours, sometimes they even walk around vocalizing. This does not mean that they are orphans! Seal pups are often left by their mothers on beaches that are frequented by humans. It may be several hours before the mothers come back. It is important to leave them alone and stay well away. If the mother comes back and sees people or dogs surrounding her pup, she will leave FOREVER, abandoning the pup. This almost always means a death sentence for the seal pup. There is a common and almost sacred myth that young birds leave the nest when they are ready to fly, returning at night. What REALLY happens is that they almost always leave the nest before they are fully feathered or flight-ready. They will be fed by the parents on branches or even on the ground for a few days until they are ready to fly. Rest assured the parents are still taking care of them.

One final word about human smell. Wild parents almost never reject a young animal because they have human scent on them. With few exceptions, birds have a poor sense of smell. I have seen cases where fawns were bathed in human shampoo and the mother still readily accepted them!

The bottom line — it is always best to call first before handling any wild animal. Fortunately, there are resources for you to use. Here are some useful phone numbers:

- PAWS Wildlife Center 425-787-2500
Lynnwood, Licensed Rehabilitator
- Orcanet..... 1-866-ORCANET
All marine mammals, dead or alive
- Useless Bay Animal Clinic..... 360-331-3100
Injured wildlife, Freeland
- Best Friends Veterinary Center..... 360-679-6796
Injured wildlife, Oak Harbor

— Dave Parent, DVM

Note: This information is now on our *Whidbey Audubon Society website*. Select “Wildlife Rescue Resources.”

Sightings, from page 4

ple Martin gourds I found a giant blue egg. My neighbor Alan Ginn identified it as a **Great Blue Heron** egg. I thought someone was teasing me for discarding (blue) starling eggs from the nearby piling cavity to help out with reintroduction of the Western Purple Martin who would otherwise nest there. Happy to have found the egg before the crows did. Location: Salmon Street and Steelhead Drive. — *Mary Hollen*

April 27: Townsend's Solitaire perched on a fence in our front yard. We watched for 15 minutes and captured photos. S/he flew off to the west. A rare treat in the neighborhood, and our first yard sighting. Location: Rhodena Drive, Coupeville.

— *Sarah Schmidt*

April 27: Male Yellow-head-

ed Blackbird visited a feeder (photo sent to me). Location: Crockett's Lake Area Date and time: April 21.

— *Steve Ellis*

Please post sightings to, the *Whidbey Audubon Society* (WAS) website. There are now designated spaces to submit your information, such as, what you saw, where you saw it and the date and approximate time. These changes are meant to enhance the sightings reports and will be helpful for our readers. Although we are asking those who post to leave a phone number or email address with your sighting, WAS will not include this information 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 our *Whidbey Audubon Society Facebook* page.

Wanted: Dead Birds

The Whidbey Audubon Society Specimen Library needs some dead birds. Ten preparers have been recruited and they need some practice specimens. Any bird will do as long as it's freshly dead when found.

Please put the bird in a plastic bag and label with your name, date and place found. Put in your freezer until you can deliver it at either the May or June meeting. If you find a bird during the summer, call Robin Llewellyn at 360-678-5403.

The bird specimens are being successfully used in classrooms throughout the island, the Birds of Whidbey Class and other events.



Field Trip Reports:

Langley Marina on March 25

We were a birding group of 10 — extremely lucky with the weather being breaking sun. We saw a total of 22 species; lots of **mergansers** and **grebes**. A highlight was seeing two **Red-necked Grebes** close in and we counted four **Pigeon Guillemots**, one of whom was sitting in the beam of the old marina dock — perhaps checking out a potential nest site. A **Pelagic Cormorant** was seated close in at the dock and glistened its iridescence in the sun. Later through the scope we could just make out a large flock of maybe 200 what looked like **Western Grebes**.

Next, four of us reconvened to Lone Lake and picked up another 11 species there. **Ruddy Ducks** and **Tree Swallows** were the favorites.

— *Govinda Rosling, Trip Leader*

Deer Lagoon

After a day of blustery wind and heavy rain, 21 birders met at Deer Lagoon on Saturday, April 8, for a chance to enjoy some spring birding. From the moment we entered the lagoon we were not disappointed. We heard a **Virginia Rail** in the tall cattails and both **Marsh** and **Bewick's Wrens**. We watched **Red-winged Blackbirds** making nests and protecting their territory. A little farther down the path Frances Wood spotted a **Robin** entering her new nest in an alder alongside the path. Most interesting to all of us was watching the **Bushtits** come and go from their new nest hanging from a sea foam bough. We watched as many very busy Bushtits come and go from this unusual-looking hanging nest, often described as looking like an old sock.

Most of us were delighted to see our first **Osprey** of 2017 returning to our area. We watched as the Osprey cruised above the lagoon, scouting out the area after a long hiatus. We got a good look at an adult **Bald Eagle** enjoying a good-sized fish while perched on a semi-submerged fence post, and we enjoyed watching the graceful flight of a **North Harrier**, gliding low over the wetlands.

We came in search of shorebirds, and were disappointed only spotting a few **Greater Yellowlegs**; perhaps it was still too windy. However, a few of us stayed late and visited the east dike and spotted numerous **Black-bellied Plovers** in their distinctive breeding plumage.

All in all, it was a fantastic morning at Deer Lagoon, one of our Important Bird Areas on Whidbey Island. We sighted a total of 36 species.

— *Ann Casey, Trip Leader*

Joseph Whidbey State Park

The nine attendees on the April 15 field trip didn't find the event "taxing" in the least. The first bird sighted was a **Whimbrel** at Windjammer Park at Oak Harbor City Beach. Other species there included **Common Goldeneye**, **Western Grebe**, and **Pigeon Guillemot**. Several **Black Oystercatchers** were on the beach along with a lone **Black Turnstone**.



Photo by Martha and Steve Ellis

The first bird sighted was a Whimbrel at Windjammer Park at Oak Harbor City Beach.

We proceeded to the forested section of Joseph Whidbey State Park, where we found a **Hairy Woodpecker**, **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, both **chickadee** species, **Mourning Dove** and other common birds. A highlight was sightings of multiple **Brown Creepers**, including one gathering nesting material.

We reached the open field side of the park as the sun broke through. A singing **Orange-crowned Warbler** gave us a great view as it perched in the open. At one point, a male **Rufous Hummingbird**, gorget flashing in the sun, chased after the warbler. We sighted a **Red-tailed Hawk** aloft over the fields, along with a **Bald Eagle** and a pair of **Northern Harriers**.

Down at the beach, a splashing commotion alerted us to a couple of **harbor seals** interacting offshore. We spotted **Horned Grebes** in breeding plumage, along with **Surf Scoter**, **Common Loon** and **Bufflehead**.

Swan Lake was our final stop, for **Canada Geese** (no goslings yet), **Northern Pintail**, **American Wigeon**, **Double-crested Cormorant** and **Northern Shoveler**. A **Great Blue Heron** hunted the cattail portion of the wetland, which was alive with voices of **Red-winged Blackbirds**. A couple of **Violet-green Swallows** coursed overhead.

We found a total of 50 bird species, including a lone **Rhinoceros Auklet** as we prepared to leave.

In addition to the seals, our mammal sightings were **black-tailed deer**, **Townsend's chipmunk**, **Douglas squirrel** and **eastern cottontail rabbit**.

— *Steve Ellis, Trip Leader*

Celebrating 35 Years

See the Whidbey Audubon Society display in the Freeland Library. Nice work Robin Llewellyn and Cheryl Bradkin. Plan to celebrate June 8 at the Coupeville Recreation Hall.

Conservation Column: Some Hopeful News

In the face of environmental gloom and doom, there are a few things to ponder and be cheered by. It's spring, and birds are returning. Who wasn't thrilled to see the tiny, feisty, voracious Rufous Hummingbirds arrive? And the Osprey, and the warblers....

In the last few weeks, a court in India declared that the filthy Ganges and Yamunu rivers have the same status as humans in the law — making it easier for river guardians to use the legal process to address pollution and runoff. New Zealand granted the Whanganui River human rights after Maori on the North Island, who consider the river an ancestor, spent generations trying to protect it. And Ecuador, home of the Galapagos Is-

lands and their treasure of biodiversity, enshrined the rights of nature alongside those of people in its constitution more than a decade ago. It boggles the mind. But if corporations are considered people under our legal system, why not animals and ecosystems?

So when you fill your hummingbird feeder for the eleventh time in a week, think of it as respecting the rights of this thumb-sized marvel, who may someday legally be declared (and in fact in the minds of all birders, already is) your equal. Bring on the sunshine!

— Kim Shepard, *Conservation Chair*

Island County Conservation Futures Fund Summary

The Island County Conservation Futures Fund is a tiny assessment on our property tax (mine was just under \$20 this year) to pay for the purchase or maintenance of land of public conservation importance. A Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) appointed by the County Commissioners evaluates each application, assigning points to them according to a preset of criteria, and submits the evaluations to the Board of Island County Commissioners (BICC), along with a report written by the chair of the committee detailing any other information expressed by the committee.

This year there were two changes to the process:

- First, the BICC added possible bonus points for the Commissioners' current goals: Project provides access to shoreline for public use, project provides immediate public ac-

cess, and/or project is located in a critical watershed. The General Services Department prescored the applications for those criteria.

- Second, other criteria were prescored by the Planning Department and by the Health Department, leaving perhaps half of the criteria to be scored by the CAB.

This year, there are four projects for consideration:

- Additional land to be added to Barnum Point County Park on Camano Island, including immediate access to over two miles of beach,
- Acquisition of Pearson property including ½ mile of beach and forested uplands in the Columbia Beach area of Clinton on Whidbey Island,
- A conservation easement protecting almost all of the Whidbey Institute's property in the Maxwellton watershed except for the small areas already developed with buildings and infrastructure. The trail system through the forest, wetlands and meadows is already used by local residents and visitors at no charge.
- A conservation easement protecting Penn Cove Farm on Arnold Road within the Ebey's Landing Reserve. This farm has been in business for over 100 years and it worked with the Whidbey Conservation District to improve its recycling and waste management procedures, now releasing no contaminants into Penn Cove.

The report is being prepared for submission to the BICC, who will then conduct a public hearing to consider the proposals. The applications can be found on the General Services Administration Documents list, "2017 Barnum CFF IC Application FINAL" on the [Island County website](#), along with other relevant documents and applications from prior years.

— Susan Bennett, *Conservation Committee*

BIN North's Spring Visit to Dugualla Bay

April 12: It was a pretty nice day of birding for a windy day and the presence of a work crew at Dugualla Bay. Laurie Wright, a visitor from Wales, joined the group and took some great pictures. From his long lens we were able to confirm that the nesting **Osprey** pair have returned to their nest on the channel marker and also saw some close ups of **Mew Gulls**, **Ring-necked Ducks** and **Double-crested Cormorants** on a beacon by Goat Island. Although the Great Egret has departed, we saw **Northern Pintails**, **Great Blue Herons**, **Common Mergansers** and **Greater Scaup**. The first **Tree Swallows** of the season also made an appearance. In all, we saw 25 species.

— Marcia Lazoff

Birding in the Neighborhoods (BIN) North meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. Contact [Marcia Lazoff](#) to be on the email list.

Roll Call, from page 3

W,* Northern River Otter	White-tailed Deer	* Red-tailed Chipmunk	* Yellow-bellied Marmot
* Sea Otter	Moose	Golden-mantled	* Olympic Marmot
.....	Ground Squirrel	* Hoary Marmot
Striped Skunk	Pronghorn	* Cascade Golden-man-
PINNIPEDS	* Mountain Goat	tled Ground Squirrel	W,* Deer Mouse
W,* Northern Sea Lion	Bighorn Sheep	Uinta Ground Squirrel	* Bushy-tailed Wood Rat
(Steller's)	American Bison	Southern Idaho	W Norway Rat
W,* California Sea Lion	LAGOMORPHS	Ground Squirrel	* Creeping Vole
W,* Harbor Seal	* American Pika	* Columbian Ground	W, Townsend's Vole
W,* Northern Elephant Seal	W,* Eastern Cottontail	Squirrel	W,* Common Muskrat
CETACEANS	Desert Cottontail	Richardson's Ground	W,* American Beaver
* Gray Whale	Black-tailed Jackrabbit	Squirrel	* Nutria
W,* Northern Minke Whale	* Snowshoe Hare	Thirteen-lined Ground	* Northern Porcupine
W,* Humpback Whale	RODENTS	Squirrel	* Mountain Beaver
W,* Common Dolphin	W,* Northern Flying Squirrel	Black-tailed Prairie Dog	* Virginia Opossum
(Short-beaked)	W,* Douglas Squirrel		
W,* Orca	Red Squirrel		
W,* Harbor Porpoise	Eastern Fox Squirrel		
W,* Dall's Porpoise	W,* Eastern Gray Squirrel		
UNGULATES	Yellow Pine Chipmunk		
* Elk	Uinta Chipmunk		
W Mule Deer	Least Chipmunk		
	W Townsend's Chipmunk		

Number of species overall: **74**
 Number of species sighted in Washington: **58**
 Number of species sighted on Whidbey Island
 or in Whidbey waters: **30**

Steve & Martha Ellis, Coupeville, WA

BIN South Visits Lone Lake and Deer Lagoon

April 13: Fourteen of us did some great birding at Lone Lake this morning. We stopped first at the main parking lot and were pleased to see a pair of **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** on the nesting snags and feeding on other



Photo by Cathi O'Nan Bower

Wilson's Snipe seen April 13 at Lone Lake.

trees. We watched **Tree Swallows** going in and out of a nest hole in the snag. Highlights at the small parking lot were a **Wilson's Snipe** and **Common Yellowthroat**. We saw or heard 39 species.

April 27: What a beautiful morning out at Deer Lagoon, with a big group of us (or was that several smaller groups?) who were treated to a brief view of a **Short-eared Owl** hunting!

We walked both dikes, and on the west side we also watched the **Bushtit** nest and some day-old fuzzy **Gadwalls** swimming at the shore, mostly without their adults. We also tried to figure out the source of a strange squawk, which may have come from a goose, but appeared to be a **Canada** with an odd voice.

The Whimbrels are here and plenty of **Pintails**. Between us, we saw and/or heard 48 species.

Phyllis seemed to be enjoying her duty-free self.

Next Birding in the Neighborhood (BIN) South will be **May 11, with an earlier start time**, weather permitting — I will send reminders.

Support your local Whidbey Audubon Society and your favorite team(s) for the annual **Island-wide Birdathon fundraiser during May!**

Bird early — Bird often.

— **Cathi Bower**

BIN South meets every other Thursday. The time varies with the season. Contact **Cathi Bower**, the new facilitator, for more information. Many thanks to former BIN South leader Phyllis Kind who served for over a decade.

Attention Birders

When you are birding at Deer Lagoon, please do not park at the east dike (near the pumping station). That access is limited to Useless Bay Association members and their guests. Whidbey Audubon Society is hoping to negotiate with the association, but for now, please park at the Sunlight end of the dike. Parking is limited there, so please park legally.

— **Kim Shepard**

Reminder: Pigeon Guillemot Training

Wednesday, May 24 at the Unitarian Church just north of Freeland

6:30 p.m. for all new volunteers, those needing a refresher or those wanting to find out more about our project

7:30 p.m. returning volunteers please join for the rest of the training.

The survey extends from early June until late August, approximately 10 weeks. Volunteers spend one hour/week at the beach monitoring the birds. Many volunteers partner with others to allow for vacations, etc. For more information please go to the *Guillemot Research Group's website* or contact *Frances Wood*.

Volunteer Corner: Litter Pickup on May 21

Join us to help pick up litter along Whidbey Audubon Society's two-mile section of West Beach Road. Meet at the Hastie Lake boat launch area at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 21. We pick — rain or shine! Trash bags and safety gear provided. We need your help! Questions? Contact Steve Ellis, 360-678-2264.

Welcome New and Renewing Members

New

Julie Dougherty and Erick Winger
Nancy Van Wormer (Spotted Towhee)

Renewing

Patty Cohick	Louie Shellenberger
Linda and Andy McFarlane	Barbara Nichols
Barbara Fournier	Lynne and George Jensen
Judy Tomassene	Irene Christofferson
Sharon Berlin	Diana P. Nelson
Sharon and Anthony Zoars	Ruth and Mike Scrivner
Naomi Lev and Jan Nelson	Carole Tyson (Spotted Towhee)
Corinne and David Roberts-Ludy	
Bruce Livingstone (Spotted Towhee)	
Howard Garrett and Susan Berta (Scholarship Fund)	
Linda and Gordon Griesbach (Spotted Towhee)	
Shirley Hendricson (Red-tailed Hawk)	

The expiration month for paper copies is on your address label. I will send email reminders to both regular mail and email subscribers.

— *Linda Bainbridge, Membership Chair*

Note: *Shorelines* deadline for submissions to the June issue is Thursday, May 18. Contact **Editor Jenny Brown**.

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**

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_____ Household Annual Membership \$30	_____ Red-tailed Hawk \$100
_____ Spotted Towhee \$50	_____ Osprey \$ _____
\$ _____ Additional Donation to be used for Scholarships	

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

_____ **SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP** for first year National Members only. Receive a joint membership in National and Whidbey Audubon for one year for only \$35. **Make check payable to National Audubon.**

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