General Membership Meeting with Dan Froehlich
Frequent Fliers of the Bird World: Long Distance Migrants

Birds dominate the skies of our planet pursuing their life histories across oceans and continents. Each year Arctic terns scour the frozen edges of both the Arctic and the Antarctic while four-gram hummingbirds traverse 800 miles of open water between their winter and summer homes. Ornithologist Dan Froehlich will reveal some of the migratory feats performed by birds and what science has discovered in recent years about this particular wonder of the world. Please join NCAS to learn about the long-distance bird migrants that visit our shores and beyond. Dan Froehlich is an avid ornithologist, tour guide and field researcher who is dedicated to bird conservation. He is a master bird bander and teacher of field techniques whose peregrinations have led him to bird studies on six continents.

Always on the 4th Tuesday of the month:
April 22, 7pm at the Whatcom Museum
(in the Rotunda Room of the Old City Hall building)
free & open to the public!

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Next board meeting:
April 7

Please send the President of NCAS an email if you would like to attend.

president@northcascadesaudubon.org
Mission Statement
The purpose of this society is to promote the study and conservation of birds and other wildlife, their habitat, and the environment; to increase public appreciation of the values of wildlife, plants, and the natural environment; and to stimulate action to protect and preserve them for the future.

Avalanche Staff
Designer/editor: Kelley Palmer-McCarty
Writer/editor: Lynne Givler

If you are interested in contributing, the deadline for the May 2014 issue is...
April 15.
Send materials to Kelley Palmer-McCarty at: content@northcascadesaudubon.org

NCAS Board Members

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Conservation   Steve Irving  384-1618

Associated Persons
Scholarship   Don Burgess
Mailing      Alan and Susan Rhodes

Annual NCAS Campout at Pearlygin Lake State Park

Friday, June 6 to Sunday, June 8

For the third year NCAS has reserved the group camp at Pearlygin Lake State Park, just north of Winthrop, for a weekend of outstanding birding under the warm, clear skies of Okanogan County. The birding was exciting last year so if you enjoyed it, please come again. If you missed it, here is another chance. Birds such as ruffed grouse, red-naped sapsucker, common poorwill and white-breasted nuthatch visited our campsite. Redhead, veery, MacGillivray’s warbler, Nashville warbler and lazuli bunting were seen within easy walking distance. Our Audubon group listed over a hundred species within the 48 hour period including field trips to Beaver Pond and Pipestone Canyon.

The group camp is separated from the main campground and situated in the midst of excellent habitat. The site is accessed by a narrow, gravel drive and is designated for tent camping only but smaller RVs can be parked in the adjacent lot. Cost for the two days is $20.00 per camping unit to cover the rental fees.

For more information please contact Paul Woodcock at vp@northcascadesaudubon.org or (360) 380-3356.
Win a Spot on a Bird Walk with David Allen Sibley

Sunday, April 20, 2-3:30pm

Purchase a copy of David Allen Sibley’s new book, *The Sibley Guide to Birds of North America, 2nd Edition*, at Village Books, and you can enter a raffle to be one of 16 people chosen to go on a bird walk with David on Sun., April 20, 2-3:30pm. The walk will begin at the Readings Gallery of Village Books and will follow a local trail. Enter the raffle at the main counter of Village Books. The raffle ends Sun., April 13th. Winners will be called on Mon., April 14th. One entry per book purchased.

The Sibley Guide to Birds, 2nd Edition
With David Allen Sibley

*Co-sponsored by the North Cascades Audubon Society*

**Sunday, April 20, 4pm at Village Books**
1200 11th Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

The publication of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* in 2000 quickly established David Allen Sibley as the author and illustrator of the nation's supreme and most comprehensive guide to birds. Used by millions of birders from novices to the most expert, *The Sibley Guide* became the standard by which natural history guides are measured. The highly anticipated second edition builds on this foundation of excellence, offering massively expanded and updated information, new paintings, new and rare species, and a new, elegant design.

The second edition offers a wealth of improvements and updates including: all illustrations reproduced 15 to 20 percent larger for better detail; nearly 7,000 paintings digitally re-mastered from original art for enhanced print quality; expanded text that includes habitat information and voice description for every species and more tips on finding birds in the field; and much more! *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, second edition, brings the genius of David Allen Sibley to the world once again in a thoroughly updated and expanded volume that every birder must own.

April Field Trips

Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair

Spring is here and the avian population is on the move and changing. Hummingbirds, swallows and warblers that spend their winters in warmer climates, some as far away as Central and South America, have returned or are on their way back to the Pacific Northwest. Our resident birds are becoming more active as we approach mating season. In short...... it’s a great time to go birding.

These field trips are open to everyone regardless of membership in NCAS. Our goal is to provide a quality experience that is enjoyable and educational for all levels of birders. Our field trip leaders, and many of the participants, are enthusiastic about answering questions and helping everyone focus in on the birds we encounter. So join us for the fun!

Even though temperatures are warmer now, please remember to dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. There’s nothing like being uncomfortable to ruin an otherwise great day of birding.

Saturday, April 5, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - 3 hours
Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock and Lynne Givler
No registration required

Semiahmoo Spit is always a great place to bird. Last month, in spite of very bad weather, upwards of 30 species were seen. Co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation, the trip covers all of the spit. This is a great trip for beginning birders as water birds are relatively easy to focus in on, and there’s sure to be a number of experienced birders attending that can help orient newcomers to the world of birding.

Sunday, April 6, Marine Park to Boulevard Park

Time: 9 AM in the parking lot at Marine Park- all day
Trip Leader: Joe Meche
Trip limit: 12
To register contact Joe Meche, 360-739-5383 or mechejmch@aol.com

Enjoy an easy Sunday stroll along the Bellingham waterfront from Marine Park in Fairhaven to Boulevard Park and back. We’ll walk along the shoreline past the Alaska ferry terminal and Padden Lagoon and connect to the Taylor Dock walkway to Boulevard Park. We’ll take a halftime break at Wood’s Coffee before heading back to Marine Park.

Sunday, April 13, Whatcom Creek Walk

Time: 10 AM in front of Bellingham City Hall - 2 hours
Trip Leader: Joe Meche
Trip limit: 12
To register contact Joe Meche, 360-739-5383 or mechejmch@aol.com

This easy walk is a regular, popular downtown walk to explore lower Whatcom Creek as it flows into Bellingham Bay. A good trip for beginners as well as experts.

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April field trips continued...

Wednesday, April 30, South Whatcom County
Time: 8:30 AM - 3 to 4 hours
Trip Leader: Steven Harper
Trip Limit: 12
To register and for more details contact Steven Harper, 360-650-9065 or stevenharper2@msn.com

This trip will focus on Whatcom Land Trust and Whatcom County public lands on the south end of Lake Whatcom and the South Fork of the Nooksack River. It includes both driving and walking through mixed habitats of fields, forests and shorelines. All levels of birders are welcome.

Saturday, May 3, Semiahmoo Spit
Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - 3 hours
Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock and Lynne Givler
No registration required

Co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation, the trip covers all of the spit. This is a great trip for beginners as well as experienced birders.
The extinction of the passenger pigeon is a poignant example of what happens when the interests of humans clash with the interests of nature. It is believed that this species once constituted 25 to 40 per cent of the total bird population of the United States. It is estimated that there were 3 billion to 5 billion passenger pigeons at the time Europeans arrived in America.

Early explorers and settlers frequently mentioned passenger pigeons in their writings. Samuel de Champlain in 1605 reported “countless numbers,” Gabriel Sagard-Theodat wrote of “infinite multitudes,” and Cotton Mather described a flight as being about a mile in width and taking several hours to pass overhead. Yet by the early 1900s no wild passenger pigeons could be found.

Attempts to save the species by breeding the surviving captive birds were not successful. The passenger pigeon was a colonial and gregarious bird and needed large numbers for optimum breeding conditions. It was not possible to reestablish the species with a few captive birds. The small captive flocks weakened and died.

The last known individual of the passenger pigeon species was “Martha” (named after Martha Washington). She died at the Cincinnati Zoological Garden, and was donated to the Smithsonian Institution, where her body was once mounted in a display case with this notation:

MARTHA
Last of her species, died at 1 p.m., 1 September 1914, age 29, in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden.
EXTINCT

This is adapted from the Smithsonian Institution
You can learn more at this website:
http://www.si.edu/encyclopedia_Si/nmnh/passpig.htm
Olympic BirdFest 2014
April 4-6, Sequim, WA

Visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—marbled murrelets, rhinoceros auklets, harlequin ducks, American dippers, black oystercatchers, long-tailed ducks, and more. Activities include guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, a silent auction, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker is Noah Strycker: “Bird World: the fascinating parallels between bird and human behavior”. Come enjoy this festival with the most spectacular setting!

Program information & registration can be found at:
www.olympicbirdfest.org, opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com

San Juan Islands Birding/Sightseeing Cruise
April 6-8

Immediately following Olympic BirdFest, stay around the area for a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands.

Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon

NCAS Program Chair Wanted

Our chapter’s meeting programs are a central part of our educational efforts. Choosing pertinent topics, finding qualified presenters, arranging for the venue and seeing to all the necessary details required to facilitate a successful meeting is no small task. Nevertheless, the chapter has been functioning without a Program Chair for over four years and these tasks are being performed by other board members. Finding an energetic volunteer to fill this role would greatly enhance the functioning of our board and allow NCAS to better serve our community. Currently NCAS presents educational programs at eight monthly meetings annually, September through May. Those meetings, plus the Holiday Potluck in December, are the extent of our programming efforts and the responsibilities of the Program Chair. This is the status quo and not a limitation if someone out there wants to do more. Your board members are enjoying themselves doing Audubon work. There is always more that could be done. If you are interested in joining the NCAS team as Program Chair or in another capacity please contact Pam Borso at:
president@northcascadesaudubon.org

Wenas Audubon Campout
Memorial Day Weekend (May 23-26, 2014)
Wenas Creek Campground (SW of Ellensburg)

You’re invited to attend a celebration of birds, botany, and the beauty of spring in eastern Washington.

The Wenas Audubon Campout is an annual event with a wide variety of activities, including birding field trips, flower walks, field sketching, and bat and owl prowl. You do not need to be an Audubon member to attend. All are welcome.

Visit the Wenas Audubon website (www.wenasaudubon.org) for directions, an outline of field trips and programming, and more information. Pre-registration is not required. The campout is open to all ages and is free, although donations are encouraged. Every vehicle must display a Washington State Discover Pass (http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov).

Contact: Doris Johnson, dellenj@comcast.net

Black-headed grosbeak, photo by Ken Salzman
North Cascades Audubon Society Membership

We hope you will support North Cascades Audubon by joining the chapter locally. Your commitment to Audubon is important to us. We will continue to provide you with information regarding local chapter activities through our website and all activities will remain FREE and open to the public. If you are interested in receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, you can join the local chapter for one year at any of the levels to your right. The newsletter is published monthly between September and May, including a double issue for November/December. All issues are also available online. If you do not wish to receive a paper copy, email membership@northcascadesaudubon.org.

Please check your mailing labels for accuracy, including the expiration date. To make any necessary changes, please send an email to membership@northcascadesaudubon.org.

Join or Renew (circle one)

Please make checks payable to North Cascades Audubon. Each membership applies to one household.

- $20 Kestrel
- $35 Merlin
- $50 Prairie Falcon
- $75 Peregrine Falcon
- $100 Gyrfalcon

I’d like to go paperless. (include email below)

Name:

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