

# The Avalanche



North Cascades Audubon Society Newsletter

[www.northcascadesaudubon.org](http://www.northcascadesaudubon.org)

Volume 46, Issue 6

September 2015

## General Membership Meeting with Govinda Rosling

### **Pigeon Guillemots of Whidbey Island: Ten Year Citizen Science Project**

The Pigeon Guillemot Research Group is a citizen science project of Whidbey Audubon. Over 50 volunteers have been tracking the pigeon guillemot populations around Whidbey Island since 2004. The study focuses on the type of fish that adults are delivering to chicks, reproductive success, disturbances, and colony behavior. Join Govinda Rosling as she presents photographs of local pigeon guillemots, provides an overview of their life cycle, and discusses the objectives and findings of the study. For more information on the Pigeon Guillemot Research Group visit [www.pigeonguillemot.org](http://www.pigeonguillemot.org).

Photographer Govinda Rosling co-coordinates the Pigeon Guillemot Research Group. Govinda helped expand the Nisqually Important Bird Area to reach the shores and bluffs of Anderson Island by specifically recording the presence of pigeon guillemots. Govinda involves herself in other bird-related activities including initiating and compiling data for the South Whidbey Christmas Bird Count Circle, now in its fourth year, and serving as a board member for the Whidbey Audubon Society.

*Always on the 4th Tuesday of the month:*  
**September 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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### **Upcoming Board meeting: September 7**

Please email the President if you would like to attend:  
[president@northcascadesaudubon.org](mailto: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 October 2015 issue is...

**September 15.**

Send materials to Kelley Palmer-McCarty at:

**[content@northcascadesaudubon.org](mailto:content@northcascadesaudubon.org)**

## NCAS Board Members

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### Associated Persons

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## Pearrygin Lake Campout and Field Trip

*Steven Harper, NCAS Secretary*

Our eighth annual NCAS Campout was held at Pearrygin Lake State Park group camp May 28-31 with a great group of people, great weather and of course great birding. Approximately 28 members joined together for three days of field trips, music, swimming and stargazing. Most stayed at the group camp but we also had a few members staying in Winthrop and joining us for the field trips.

New for this year was an added night (Thursday), giving people extra time to enjoy the wonderful birds in the campground and to explore the surrounding environs on their own. Saturday started out with field trips to Pipestone Canyon led by Doug Brown, Beaver Pond led by Paul Woodcock, and Methow River Valley led by Steven Harper. Temperatures were in the low 80's, so after returning from field trips many campers used the remainder of the afternoon to laze around in the shade or to swim. On Sunday morning the group divided into two groups and explored the park along with field trip leaders Paul Woodcock and Steven Harper. On Friday and Saturday nights many campers joined in an informal sing along led by Pam Borso.

Participants were very excited with the birding - the campground area was teeming with birds and a total of 113 different bird species were positively identified during the weekend. Highlights this year included lazuli buntings, golden eagles, prairie falcons, yellow-breasted chats, great horned owlets, Williamson sapsuckers and veerys. And especially exciting was watching the aerial food handoff when a male northern harrier brought food to the female harrier nesting in close proximity to the camp.

We are planning on having this campout again next year, tentatively scheduled for **June 2-5, 2016**.

If you have suggestions for next year's campout please contact me at **[stevenharper2@msn.com](mailto:stevenharper2@msn.com)**. This campout continues to be very popular thanks to the involvement of all the great participants.

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## **Visiting with Raptors: Sixth Annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival** **Saturday, September 12, 2015**      **Memorial Park in Pateros, Washington**

Join the Methow Valley Ranger District, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and HawkWatch International this fall for the sixth annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival! This free family event combines activities in Pateros with a field trip to the Wells Wildlife Area and a shuttle to the Chelan Ridge HawkWatch site to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. During the festival last year participants saw broad-winged hawks, goshawks, and a prairie falcon, along with many more common raptors.

Chelan Ridge sits 5675 feet above sea level along the flyway of migrating raptors. Biologists who live at the Ridge during the migration season will offer insight into what it is like to live and breathe raptors and show how the birds are banded and tracked. This is an amazing experience with environmental education and interpretation conducted by on-site educators, Forest Service personnel, and volunteers.

To learn more about the festival and to sign up for the shuttle visit [www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org).

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### **Register Now for Fall 2015 ACOW**

**Date:** Saturday, October 24

**Location:** Best Western Plus, Skagit Valley Inn, 2300 Market Street, Mount Vernon, WA

**Agenda and Information:** <http://wa.audubon.org/chapter-meetings>

**Registration:** \$40 at <http://ow.ly/QSS6w>

Register now for the 2015 annual meeting of the Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW), hosted by Skagit Audubon Society and the "NW I" Chapters! ACOW is our annual state-wide meeting where members from all Audubon chapters in Washington gather together for a weekend of information sharing, knowledge gathering, and fellowship. This year's meeting will focus on state and federal level policy actions around Audubon's climate initiative, as well as showcase chapter work being done to educate communities about the impact of climate change on birds.

In an effort to curb the impacts of climate change on birds and people, Audubon is working to increase the use of renewable energy while reducing carbon emissions output. Learn about multiple carbon reduction action plans being proposed in Washington State including the Governor's carbon cap, the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy's cap-and-trade, and Carbon WA's carbon tax (learn more at <http://wa.audubon.org/carbon-and-clean-energy>). We will also host staff from National Audubon's Policy Office in Washington, D.C. who will provide the inside scoop regarding federal action on carbon emissions, and describe how Audubon's grassroots network can be an effective advocate for change at the local, state, and national level.

Presentations from Kittitas Audubon Society and Black Hills Audubon Society will highlight just some of the exciting work being done by chapters on behalf of birds in Washington State. Take home tips and tricks on how to engage reluctant audiences in climate action, and how to transform your neighborhoods into a true bird-friendly community, one backyard at a time.

Expect a dynamic day of discussion and collaboration around meaningful actions we can take together to augment our conservation impact, creating places where birds and people prosper. Additional weekend activities include:

**WSACC (WA State Audubon Conservation Committee) Meeting** – Friday, October 23 at 4:30pm at the Port of Skagit County

**Audubon Works Tutorial** – Saturday, October 24 at 7:30am before ACOW begins

**Field Trips** – Sunday, October 25 at 8:30am, Deception Pass State Park or Washington Park and Ship Harbor

A block of rooms at \$79 per night is being held at the Best Western Plus, Skagit Valley Inn, conveniently located at Exit 227 just off I-405. Hotel reservations may be made by calling (360) 428-5678. AUDUBON SOCIETY is the group name. All meeting information, including the agenda, accommodations, and weekend logistics may be found on the Audubon Washington website at <http://wa.audubon.org/chapter-meetings>. See you there!

## September Field Trips

*Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair*

As fall approaches, shorebirds continue to migrate through our area making for some exciting birding. Songbirds will soon follow suit. If you are also feeling the urge to move you can vicariously experience the thrill of migration by heading out to the fields, forests and waterways to observe the southward flow of all sorts of avian creatures. It can be quite a show! At the same time you can enjoy our remaining days of summer weather and experience the subtle changes that come as one season slips into another.

Sharing this experience with fellow birders, friends or new-found friends, is an enjoyable way to bird and get outdoors to commune with nature. Please consider this an invitation to join in any or all of our NCAS field trips. It is our aim to provide a variety of field trip experiences that appeal to birders and naturalists of all interests and abilities. Your participation is greatly appreciated as well as any ideas or feedback you have about our field trips.

North Cascades Audubon field trips are open to everyone, members and non-members, free of charge. The number of participants is sometimes limited in order to reduce negative impacts on the environment and ensure a quality experience. See you in the field!

### Saturday, September 5, Semiahmoo Spit

**Time: 9 AM** at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

**Trip Leader:** Paul Woodcock

No registration required

These monthly trips are co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation and are geared towards birders of all skill levels. If you are not a birder but just curious, you are more than welcome to come along and share the experience. Semiahmoo is a special place and September should be an outstanding time for shorebirds, waterfowl, and seabirds as well as raptors and songbirds.

### Saturday, September 19, Blaine, Semiahmoo, Birch Bay State Park, and Sandy Point

**Time: 8 AM to 2 PM**

**Trip Leader:** Andrea Warner: 360-734-9881, 360-224-9291 (cell), or warneraj@me.com

No registration required

We will begin birding at Blaine on the incoming tide, moving on to Semiahmoo and Birch Bay State Park, and ending at Sandy Point. Our focus will be on water birds, targeting scoters, loons, grebes, and shorebirds including turnstones, plovers and sandpipers. If time permits we will drive through the Lummi Flats looking for early raptor migrants. Bring binoculars, scopes, lunch, and wind and rain gear. Drivers will need a Discover Pass for parking at Birch Bay State Park. Meet at the northeast corner of the parking lot at Sunset Square (Orleans and Sunset, by the Safeway).

<p><i>Whatcom County's Favorite Bookstore since 1980</i></p>	<p><b>Every time you click through from Audubon's website to Village Books' website and buy books, Audubon gets 5.5% of the purchase!</b></p> <p><i>Building Community One Book at a Time</i></p>
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<p>1200 11<sup>th</sup> Street in Bellingham's Historic Fairhaven <b>671-2626 • 800-392-BOOK</b> www.villagebooks.com</p>	

### Saturday, September 26, Lake Padden

**Time: 9 AM to Noon**

**Trip Leader:** Ken Salzman

To register contact Ken Salzman at 360-756-0347 or kpsalzman@comcast.net

Lake Padden is a wonderful place that not only provides recreational opportunities but is also an excellent spot to experience wildlife, including a number of bird species year-round. This is a great trip for both beginners and experts. Please join us for an easy and leisurely walk.



**Joy of Birding (Beginning Birding)  
Thursdays, October 22, 29, and November 5, 2015**

North Cascades Audubon Society Board member Ken Salzman will be teaching a beginning birding class on three consecutive Thursday evenings (October 22, 29, and November 5). A fourth four-hour session will take place in the field (date TBA) for a hands-on experience. The class is designed for beginning birders and individuals who want to learn about birding equipment and basic bird identification.

**Art of Photographing Birds  
November 17, 19, and 21, 2015**

Ken will also be teaching a class on bird photography on the evenings of Tuesday, November 17 and Thursday, November 19 with a photo field trip on Saturday, November 21 to Semiahmoo.

For more information contact Ken at [kpsalzman@comcast.net](mailto:kpsalzman@comcast.net).

To register for the Joy of Birding (beginning birding) or the Art of Photographing Birds go online to Whatcom Community College (<http://whatcom.ctc.edu>) or call (360) 383-3200.

## Help Wanted

### **Field trip leaders are needed!**

We are looking for those of you with:

1. A love of and enthusiasm for birding
2. A reasonable knowledge of and skill related to identification of birds in our area
3. A willingness to share your knowledge and skill related to birding

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions about becoming a Trip Leader please contact Ken Salzman at: 756-0347 or [kpsalzman@comcast.net](mailto:kpsalzman@comcast.net).

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## Remembering Lois Garlick

by Sally Hewitt

Lois Garlick passed away on June 28 but left a lasting legacy. Her civic involvement ran the gamut, from creating the North Cascades Audubon Society Chapter in 1970 to working on the Shoreline Management Act. She also led the Clean Water Alliance and worked to preserve Bellingham's Scudder Pond and rehabilitate wildlife. The list goes on and on. Her shoes will not easily be filled.

Lois' late husband George assisted her in many of these efforts, preferring to stay out of the limelight. Tirelessly, Lois also assisted George in his stewardship of Chuckanut Island, a short boat ride from their home on Chuckanut Point Road. They walked down the many wooden steps to their dock and boated over to check out Chuckanut Island, a preserve protected by the Nature Conservancy. Both birders, they reveled in the birdlife and beauty of the island and bay.

Their home sat high above the rocky coastline, with a gazebo to the south, facing toward Pleasant Bay. Behind the gazebo to the east stood Lois' bird rehabilitation pens, constructed lovingly by George. While Lois tended to wounded birds, ranging from songbirds to pigeons to barred owls to hawks, George worked in their garage, building nest boxes for the North Cascades Audubon western bluebird project. (Volunteers nailed the boxes to conifers up in the Mt. Baker area until bluebirds stopped nesting in the region.) Visitors could watch Lois in action, tending to her injured patients, whether feeding them with an eyedropper or splinting a broken leg with a popsicle stick in her gazebo workshop.

Back in the days when Lois worked in the biology department at WWU, she created and managed the North Cascades Audubon newsletter mailing list on the school computer, updating the list with new members and deleting members who did not resubscribe. Lois had a vested interest in North Cascades Audubon, as she was instrumental in the formation of the chapter in 1970, along with Seattle Audubon icon Hazel Wolf, George Garlick, Terry Wahl, Paul Tholfsen, and a few others. Lois' first NCAS undertaking was the newsletter.

Also around this time Lois began pioneering in wildlife rescue and rehab, which she did through NCAS for about 20 years. She named her business Raptor Roost. Lois continued her bird rehab work even when she and George moved into town to be closer to medical facilities. Her cages lined their patio on Lynn Street, and she often brought the birds inside during cold weather. Their garage served as her workshop and winter bird refuge. After George passed on, Lois adopted a black and white speckled bantam chicken, appropriately named Speck. Speck and her dog Ginger had the run of the house and Lois beamed while watching them cavort.

Thinking of future generations, Lois and George donated their family papers to the Goltz-Murray State Archives, housed in the building across from WWU on the corner of Bill McDonald Parkway and 25th Street.

The following website contains a wealth of bibliographical information about Lois and George Garlick: <http://west.wvu.edu/cpnws/findingaids/cpnws/Garlick/garlickbio.htm>.

A longer version of this tribute to Lois Garlick was first published in the August issue of *Whatcom Watch*. The author Sally Hewitt, former NCAS Board member, visited Lois weekly to help with Raptor Roost and to enjoy lunch and friendship with Lois and George.

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## Loss of Forest Snags in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

*Philip Fischer, woodpecker biologist*

Did you know that trees can be more important for wildlife dead than alive? When trees die, their wood softens and rots providing places for animals to create cavities that are used as nest and shelter sites. In the northwest, nearly 100 species of wildlife use snags including some of our favorite birds such as woodpeckers, bluebirds, owls, nuthatches, chickadees, wrens, ducks, swifts, swallows and kestrels.

But did you also know that due to outdated policies, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest allows the public to cut down snags? The Okanogan Wenatchee manages nearly 1.5 million acres and some of the most beautiful pine forests of the eastern Cascade Range. This forest is home to five at-risk woodpecker species in Washington State, including the black-backed woodpecker, white-headed woodpecker, pileated woodpecker, Lewis' woodpecker, and American three-toed woodpecker. Other cavity-nesting birds threatened by snag-habitat loss include the flammulated owl, mountain bluebird, and pygmy nuthatch. Yet every year, hundreds to thousands of snags in these birds' home territories are cut down by woodcutters, hunters, and campers.

Join us in a campaign to educate land managers with the Okanogan-Wenatchee to let them know the value of snags in our forests. Let them know that snags are vital components of our forests and snag felling should not be permitted for healthy forest management.

- Nearly every other land management agency in Washington prohibits snag felling because of the value of snags for wildlife. Agencies that prohibit snag felling include Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympic National Forest, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest, Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument, North Cascades National Park, Mount Rainier National Park, and Olympic National Park.
- The Okanogan-Wenatchee allows snag-felling under conditions of a woodcutting permit. However, snag-felling is not regulated leading to overharvest of snags each year.
- Illegal woodcutting is common, includes other illegal activities such as off-road driving, cutting within streams and water, cutting in areas marked "closed to woodcutting", and cutting of snags with white-headed and black-backed woodpecker nests.
- Woodcutting is allowed during the sensitive nesting season for birds and woodcutters are allowed to cut snags immediately adjacent to active nest trees. The noise and disturbance caused to nesting birds can be extreme and has led to nest abandonment in black-backed woodpeckers, three-toed woodpeckers and bluebirds.

The collective power of the Audubon network in Washington can make a difference. Please consider contacting the local forest staff and let them know that the loss of snags means the loss of forest birds and the loss of overall forest biodiversity and resilience.

**Mike Williams**  
Forest Supervisor  
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest  
215 Melody Lane  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
Mrwilliams01@fs.fed.us  
509-664-9323

**Kelly Lawrence**  
District Ranger  
Naches Ranger District  
10237 US Highway 12  
Naches, WA 98937  
kellylawrence@fs.fed.us  
509-653-1415

You can sign the online petition at <http://ow.ly/QSNfq>

**For more information please contact woodpecker biologist, Philip Fischer, at [pcfischer@gmail.com](mailto:pcfischer@gmail.com).**

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*The Avalanche* is the newsletter of the North Cascades Audubon Society, PO Box 5805, Bellingham, WA 98227. It is published 8 times a year; subscriptions start at \$20 per year. The editors welcome articles, artwork, photographs, and letters. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of this organization. Original material may be reprinted if appropriate credit is given. The North Cascades Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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## **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](mailto: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](mailto:membership@northcascadesaudubon.org).

## **Join or Renew (circle one)**

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