

The Avalanche



North Cascades Audubon Society Newsletter

www.northcascadesaudubon.org

Volume 47, Issue 4

April 2016

General Membership Meeting with Joseph K. Gaydos *The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest*

The Salish Sea, spanning the inland waters of Washington and British Columbia, includes 6,535 square miles of sea surface area and 4,642 miles of coastline, and is considered an international treasure. Joseph K. Gaydos, one of the co-authors of the new book *The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest*, has been studying fish and wildlife of the Salish Sea for more than a decade. Gaydos will take us on a spectacular tour of this ecological jewel, its amazing birds and wildlife, and how it helps to define our lives. Fashioned by the violent volcanism of the Pacific Rim of Fire, plate tectonics and the sculptural magic wrought by Ice Age glaciers, the Salish Sea is a unique ecosystem home to thousands of different species of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and macro-invertebrates. Gaydos is passionate about educating others about the wonders of the Salish Sea and the need to preserve it.

The book is the first of its kind to describe the sea and spent ten weeks on the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association bestseller list. With breathtaking color photography, *The Salish Sea* takes a look at the region's geology, fauna and history, and ends with hope for the protection of its future. The reader is left with a sense of wonder for this intricate marine ecosystem and the life that it sustains. Village Books will be on site so people can purchase the book and visitors will have the opportunity to ask questions and have their books signed.

Joseph K. Gaydos is chief scientist for the SeaDoc Society, a marine science and conservation program focused on the Salish Sea. He is a licensed wildlife veterinarian and has a PhD in wildlife health.

Always on the 4th Tuesday of the month:
April 26, 7pm at the Whatcom Museum
(in the Rotunda Room of the Old City Hall building)
free & open to the public!

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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-McGee

Writer/editor: Lynne Givler

If you are interested in contributing, the deadline for the May 2016 issue is...

April 15.

Send materials to Kelley Palmer-McGee at:

content@northcascadesaudubon.org

NCAS Board Members

Officers

President	Pam Borso	319-9004
Vice Pres.	Paul Woodcock	
Secretary	Steven Harper	650-9065
Treasurer	Sue Parrott	650-9065

Board Members

Education	Rae Edwards	
Field Trips	Ken Salzman	756-0347
Hospitality	Carol Roberts	305-0899
Membership	Owen Bamford	393-3481
Publicity	Twink Coffman	
Newsletter	Kelley Palmer-McGee	466-8601
Conservation	Steve Irving	384-1618
Archives	Judy Krieger	
Programs	Steven Harper	650-9065

Associated Persons

Scholarship Don Burgess

Upcoming Board meeting: April 4

Please email the President if you would like to attend:
president@northcascadesaudubon.org

Koma Kulshan, photo by Andrew Reding



Pearrygin Lake Campout and Field Trips Thursday, June 2 to Sunday, June 5

Our ninth annual NCAS Campout will be held at Pearrygin Lake State Park group camp, just north of Winthrop, with great people, great weather and of course great birding. There is lots of room for people with tents and vans, and pickup toppers are allowed in the parking area. RVs and trailers are not permitted. Picnic tables and grates are available for cooking, and water and a toilet are on site. A swimming area is also on site to enjoy after a warm day of birding. Showers and full service bathrooms can be accessed 1½ miles away in the main campground. Anyone not interested in staying in the group camp can make reservations in the main campground or stay at a motel in the Winthrop area.

Of course the primary focus of the campout is birds, with field trips on Saturday and Sunday led by birders familiar with the area. Campers are free to roam on their own on Thursday and Friday. There will be plenty of time for lounging and enjoying the sunny and clear weather and for visiting. In past years a number of people have brought their musical instruments and we have had a sing-along each evening. If you have any questions please email or call Steven Harper at stevenharper2@msn.com or 360-650-9065.

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Backyard Habitat & Native Flora Fair

Saturday, May 21; 10AM – 3PM

Fairhaven Village Green

Learn how to make your yard, school yard or business landscape wildlife friendly! This informative and fun event is sponsored by the Komo Kulshan chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society, North Cascades Audubon Society and Bellingham Parks & Recreation. Here are some of the day's offerings:

- Native plant sale with native plant experts from the Washington Native Plant Society to answer questions
- 1:00 pm - Native plant walk with the Washington Native Plant Society
- Nesting boxes for cavity nesting birds available from North Cascades Audubon Society
- Children's activities
- Noxious weed information
- Learn how to certify your yard, business landscaping or school as a wildlife friendly habitat

For more information call the Bellingham Parks Volunteer Program at 360-778-7105.

Identification, Early Detection, and Reporting of Invasive Plants Workshop

Thursday, April 21; 1 - 3:30 PM

322 N. Commercial St., Suite 110, Bellingham

Free! Capacity limited- register with Julie Combs at pnw.ipc.org@gmail.com or 615-812-5295

The PNW Invasive Plant Council is a non-profit conservation group (<http://www.pnw-ipc.org/>) working in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Washington Dept. of Agriculture, county noxious weed boards, and other state and local conservation groups on a Citizen Science Early Detection Rapid Response program. The Council is gearing up for a fifth year to search for priority and newly emerging invasive plants in our National Forests, parks and beyond. If you are hiking, boating, kayaking, horseback riding or working on public lands and are interested in participating in this program and/or interested in learning more about invasive plants and the problems they cause you are invited to attend.

Volunteers will learn to identify target invasive plants in this training which includes a PowerPoint presentation and examination of herbarium specimens and live material. Survey forms will be provided along with a training booklet to help identify species in the field. Trainings will equip volunteers with the knowledge necessary to conduct invasive plant surveys in the places they love to recreate. The Council hopes that each volunteer will conduct at least one or two surveys over the field season.

New NCAS Initiative: Birds and Climate Change

"You are what hope looks like to a bird."

David Yarnold, CEO and President, National Audubon

In response to the recently released Audubon Birds and Climate Change report, NCAS is looking for volunteers to participate in a new work group. The goal of this work group is to develop Audubon sponsored initiatives that will help safeguard Whatcom County birds in a changing climate, and help slow the rate, or mitigate the effects, of climate change.

Initiatives developed by the work group will:

- identify achievable and measurable actions by citizens that slow or mitigate the effects of climate change, and protect habitat and survival of Whatcom County birds
- have a local focus
- be cost effective
- be manageable by NCAS Audubon volunteers

It is not too late to join us! If you would like to be part of this new work group, please contact Pam Borso at borsope@aol.com.

Open Mondays at Our New Location

Mon-Fri. 10-5:30

Sat. 10-4

108 Ohio St.
corner of Cornwall
Bellingham
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WildBirdChalet.com



April Field Trips

Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair

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

NCAS field trips are open to everyone regardless of membership. Our goal is to provide quality field trips that provide enjoyment and education for all levels of birders. Our field trip leaders, and many of the participants, are enthusiastic about answering questions to help everyone focus in on our feathered friends. 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 2, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock, no registration required

The spit is always a great place to bird. Although most of the regular winter birds will have departed, there are always a number of species that will be seen on this trip. Co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation, the trip covers all of the spit. This is a great trip for beginning birders but experienced birders also love this monthly trip.

Wednesday, April 6, Scudder Pond and Whatcom Falls Park

Time: 9 AM - Noon

Trip Leader: Doug Brown

Trip Limit: 10

To register: Contact Doug Brown, 360-647-1657

Scudder Pond and Whatcom Falls Park are full of avian activity in the spring and usually produce a number of passerines as well as waterfowl. Meet Doug at the Scudder Pond trailhead (corner of Alabama and Electric) for a leisurely walk and some great birds.



Gadwall pair, photo by Andrew Reding

Sunday, May 1, South Whatcom County

Time: 8 AM - ~4 hours

Trip Leader: Steven Harper

Trip Limit: 12, to register: Contact Steven Harper, stevenharper2@msn.com or 360-650-9065

This trip will focus on Whatcom Land Trust and Whatcom County public lands on the south end of Lake Whatcom and the headwaters of the Samish River. Spring migrants will be passing through and the local birds will be singing up a storm. We will focus not only on observing and identifying the birds by sight, but also identifying birds by their songs. All levels of birders are welcome. Bring snacks and water.

Saturday, May 7, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock, 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 beginning as well as expert birders.

	<p>VILLAGE BOOKS & PAPER DREAMS</p>
	<p>1200-1206 11th Street in Bellingham's Historic Fairhaven & 430 Front Street in the Waples Mercantile Building, Lynden 671-2626 • 800-392-BOOK www.villagebooks.com</p>
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<p><i>Building Community in Whatcom County since 1980</i></p>	

Local Birding Classes Through WCC

Joy of Birding (Beginning Birding)

Thursdays, May 26 - June 9, and Saturday June 11

North Cascades Audubon Society Board member Ken Salzman will be teaching a beginning birding class on three consecutive Thursday evenings. A fourth four-hour session will take place in the field on June 11 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.

The Art of Photographing Birds

June 13, 15, 18 and 20

North Cascades Audubon Society Board member Ken Salzman will be teaching a class on bird photography on the evenings of Monday, June 13 and Wednesday, June 15. The class also includes a photo field trip on Saturday, June 18 and a critique session on the evening of Monday, June 20.

For more information contact Ken at kpsalzman@comcast.net.

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

Help NCAS Fund a Gift to the Whatcom Museum in Memory of Lois and George Garlick

Since Lois Garlick passed away last June, North Cascades Audubon has been seeking a fitting way to honor Lois and her husband George, who preceded her in death in 2005. George and Lois were members of a small group of dedicated conservationists who founded NCAS in 1970. This memorable pair of individuals dedicated their lives to the protection of wildlife and the environment of Whatcom County and were instrumental in refurbishing the Whatcom Museum's historic bird collection in the late 1970s.

Our goal is to raise about \$800 from the public and our members to cover the costs of taxidermy for a trumpeter swan and a plaque dedicating the gift in the memory of the Garlicks. Whether you knew or remember George and Lois or not, please consider a tax deductible donation to the NCAS Lois and George Garlick Memorial Fund. Donations can be sent to North Cascades Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5805, Bellingham, WA 98227-5805 designated for the Lois and George Garlick Memorial. We appreciate your support!

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:
360-756-0347 or kpsalzman@comcast.net.

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2015 Whatcom County Christmas Bird Count Results

Thank you to everyone who helped organize this winter's CBC. We would also like to thank members of the North Cascades Audubon Society and the Bellingham birding community at large for their continued participation in this massive citizen science project. For those of you who are interested in participating next year, please contact Paul Woodcock in November of 2016 to receive email updates and to be assigned a volunteer group.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>
Greater white-fronted goose	19	Sharp-shinned hawk	5	Common raven	48
Brant (black)	2,568	Cooper's hawk	14	Chestnut-backed chickadee	249
Cackling goose	351	Bald eagle	142	Bushtit	246
Canada goose	2,044	Red-tailed hawk	118	Red-breasted nuthatch	24
Trumpeter swan	2,189	Red-tailed hawk (Harlan's)	4	Brown creeper	30
Tundra swan	8	Rough-legged hawk	4	Pacific wren	58
Wood duck	119	Virginia rail	3	Marsh wren	8
Gadwall	27	American coot	2,991	Bewick's wren	35
Eurasian wigeon	12	Black oystercatcher	1	American dipper	1
American wigeon	8,820	Killdeer	32	Golden-crowned kinglet	379
Mallard	3,224	Black turnstone	134	Ruby-crowned kinglet	170
Northern shoveler	66	Surfbird	1	Mountain bluebird	2
Northern pintail	7,147	Dunlin	1,564	Hermit thrush	1
Green-winged teal (American)	698	Wilson's snipe	19	American robin	516
Canvasback	2	Common murre	1	Varied thrush	83
Ring-necked duck	176	Pigeon guillemot	10	European starling	10,685
Greater scaup	1,192	Mew gull (American)	552	Cedar waxwing	8
Lesser scaup	47	Ring-billed gull	125	Yellow-rumped warbler	5
Harlequin duck	10	Western gull	1	Fox sparrow	128
Surf scoter	1,161	Thayer's gull	3	Dark-eyed junco (Oregon)	2,336
White-winged scoter	519	Glaucous-winged gull	1,939	White-crowned sparrow	510
Black scoter	92	Rock pigeon	762	Golden-crowned sparrow	188
Long-tailed duck	25	Eurasian collared-dove	192	White-throated sparrow	2
Bufflehead	659	Barn owl (American)	2	Savannah sparrow	4
Common goldeneye	238	Barred owl	5	Song sparrow	484
Barrow's goldeneye	83	Short-eared owl	2	Lincoln's sparrow	5
Hooded merganser	110	Anna's hummingbird	71	Spotted towhee	268
Common merganser	577	Belted kingfisher	20	Red-winged blackbird	851
Red-breasted merganser	88	Red-breasted sapsucker	2	Western meadowlark	57
Ruddy duck	270	Downy woodpecker	41	Brewer's blackbird	443
Ring-necked pheasant	3	Hairy woodpecker	16	House finch	351
Red-throated loon	23	Northern flicker (red-shafted)	235	Purple finch	13
Pacific loon	15	Pileated woodpecker	3	Red crossbill	2
Common loon	32	American kestrel	5	American goldfinch	47
Pied-billed grebe	23	Merlin	7	Evening grosbeak	2
Horned grebe	76	Gyr Falcon	1	House sparrow	400
Red-necked grebe	25	Peregrine falcon	4		
Western grebe	45	Northern shrike	4		
Double-crested cormorant	375	Hutton's vireo	1		
Pelagic cormorant	76	Steller's jay	180		
Great blue heron (blue form)	81	Western scrub-jay	3		
Northern harrier	31	crow sp.	1,702		

Total Individuals	62,906
Total Species Reported	124

NCAS Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2016

Present: Ken Salzman, Carol Roberts, Paul Woodcock, Pam Borso, Steven Harper, Sue Parrott, Rae Edwards, Kelley Palmer-McGee, Steve Irving, Twink Coffman, Jamie Huson, Judy Krieger and Nicole Huson

1) Approval of February Minutes – Approved by the Board

2) Treasurer's Report – Sue explained the highlights of the February Treasurer's Report. Board agreed to send a thank you to a person contributing through Microsoft and their employee match program.

3) Communications & Input

Climate Change Work Group Report – Sue gave a report on the group which includes three members besides current board members. Sue is looking for input on how to get more members involved. Next meeting is at Cordata Coop on March 21.

Scholarships - Pam will follow up with Don Burgess on making sure the information gets out to prospective students.

Wings over Water – A number of Audubon people including Ken and Steven are volunteering as field trip leaders for the Friday Reifel Bird Sanctuary Trip. There are also a large number of people volunteering as viewing station attendants on Saturday and Sunday, and Paul is leading field trips on Saturday and Sunday. Carol, Pam, Sue, Twink and Judy are also volunteering at the table or for other activities.

WDFW Private Lands Initiative – Steven and Paul and Eric Carabba of Whatcom Land Trust (WLT) met with Craig Cole of Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and discussed possible ideas for bird and wildlife viewing station locations. WDFW will be taking our ideas along with others to make decisions on possible sites in the future.

Instagram and Twitter Report – Jamie has set up both Instagram and Twitter accounts with ncascadeaudubon as the name for both accounts.

Conservation Initiatives – We are participating in opposing the proposed Export Pellet Plant at the Port of Bellingham. We signed on to a letter supporting edits to the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest Sustainable Roads plan.

4) Old Business

Lois and George Garlick Memorial – The museum is working on the paperwork for staging the trumpeter swan, and a good specimen is in the freezer. As soon as the paperwork is in place we will find a taxidermist and have it mounted. We will post info every month until we have money raised to pay for the work.

5) New Business

Expanded UGAs – Board approved opposing expanded Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) in the County Comprehensive Plan Update.

Holiday Party – We will reserve Dec. 13 at the Lairmont Manor for our 2016 holiday party

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) - Ken is wondering about Audubon being an affiliate or a chapter for NWF. Ken will contact the statewide contact person to get more information.

Backyard Habitat and Native Flora Fair - May 21, 10am -3pm. We will have bird houses for sale and kits to construct for kids. Ken will make 5-10 kits for constructing the houses.

Sustainable World Sourcebook- Pam will be getting a box of these books to give away to organizations, libraries, etc.

Summit Place - Ken gave a presentation this month at Summit Place.

Bird Surveys on WLT Properties – These will occur again this year with an expanded number of people involved.

6) Upcoming Programs

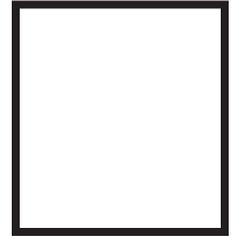
March 22 - Understanding Shorebirds, the Miracle of Migration with Tim Boyer

April 26 - The Salish Sea: Jewel of the Pacific Northwest with Joseph Gaydos

May 24 - Shrinking Summits: The Impact of Climate Change and Wildfire on a High Elevation Flower in Western North America with Trevor Bloom

North Cascades Audubon Society
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Bellingham, WA 98227-5805

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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.

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.

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Please make checks payable to North Cascades Audubon.

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- \$50 Prairie Falcon
- \$75 Peregrine Falcon
- \$100 Gyrfalcon
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