

The Avalanche



North Cascades Audubon Society Newsletter

www.northcascadesaudubon.org

Volume 47, Issue 5

May 2016

General Membership Meeting with Trevor Bloom Shrinking Summits: The Impact of Climate Change and Wildfire on a High Elevation Flower in Western North America

High elevation plants are disproportionately affected by warming, and species level extinctions are expected over the next century under current trends. As mean annual temperatures rise, the amount of available high-subalpine/alpine habitat in Western North America will decrease resulting in the potential extinction of species that exist nowhere else. In addition to the direct effects of climate-driven habitat loss, high elevation plants must also respond to changes in disturbance regimes, or indirect effects. One of the most tangible indirect effects is the increase in wildfire frequency and intensity in regions where fire was previously rare or absent, including the high-subalpine and alpine.

The spotted saxifrage, photo courtesy of Trevor Bloom

As a graduate student in the Biology Department of Western Washington University, Trevor Bloom conducted a field expedition across the entire Rocky Mountain chain to investigate the combined influence of climate change and wildfire on the high elevation flower, *Saxifraga austromontana*. This is the first non-timber based study on the combined impacts of climate change and wildfire on a high elevation species. Forecasting changes in the distribution of high elevation species is critical for informing scientists and managers on the best strategies for preserving critical habitat and rare species. Beyond scientific research, it is Trevor's goal to raise awareness on the issues of climate change in the alpine through public outreach and an upcoming documentary titled "Climb-it Change". Find out more at www.climbitchange.com.



*Always on the 4th Tuesday of the month:
May 24, 7pm at the Whatcom Museum
(in the Rotunda Room of the
Old City Hall building)
free & open to the public!*

Upcoming Board meeting: May 2

Please email the President 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-McGee

Writer/editor: Lynne Givler

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

August 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

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Field Trips	Ken Salzman	756-0347
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Archives	Judy Krieger	
Programs	Steven Harper	650-9065
Scholarship	Nicole Huson	
Member at Large	Jamie Huson	

Associated Persons

Scholarship	Don Burgess
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NCAS Officer Nominations for 2016-2017

It is customary for NCAS to conduct its annual election of officers at the May Membership Meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the meeting if there are others interested in running. The slate of officers being presented by the Board of Directors are:

Pam Borso	President
Paul Woodcock	Vice President
Steven Harper	Secretary
Sue Parrott	Treasurer

Please be there to vote!



Rufous hummingbird, photo by Andrew Reding

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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.

Pearrygin Lake Campout and Field Trips

**Thursday Afternoon, June 2 to
Sunday Morning, June 5**

Steven Harper, Secretary

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 (bring your own food) 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 or unable to stay in the group camp site 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.

***Reservations are required and cost is
\$10/night for each party.***

If you want to make a reservation or if you have any questions please email or call Steven Harper at stevenharper2@msn.com and 360-650-9065.

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 measureable 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
360-734-0969

WildBirdChalet.com



May Field Trips

Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair

Spring is getting into full swing in the month of May and we are already starting to see spring and summer birds in the area. Rufous hummingbirds have returned along with swallows, and the melodies of songbirds have become evident. Toward the end of the month nesting will begin and bird finding will become easier as numbers increase as well as vocalizations. So join us on our field trips and enjoy spring birding in the great Northwest.

NCAS field trips are open to everyone regardless of membership in NCAS. 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 and helping everyone focus in on the birds we encounter in forest, field and shore.

While the weather is greatly improved, it is still important to dress appropriately and wear appropriate footwear. There's nothing like being wet and uncomfortable to ruin an otherwise great day of birding. And depending on the venue, you may want to include insect repellent!

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

Spring is here and Semiahmoo Spit is a great place to go birding on, hopefully, a nice sunny morning. The trip covers all of the spit and is co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation. This popular trip is great for all levels of birders.

Pearrygin Lake Campout and Field Trips

Thursday, June 2 to Sunday, June 5

To register or if you have any questions contact Steven Harper at: stevenharper2@msn.com or 360-650-9065.

See **page 3** for detailed information.

Saturday, June 4, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park ~ 3 hours

Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock

No registration required

Join us for some great spring birding on the shores of Drayton Harbor and Semiahmoo Bay. The trip covers all of the spit and is co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation. This is a great trip for everyone from beginning birders to experts.



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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.

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

Friday-Sunday, May 6-8

Hoquiam, Washington

Each spring, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in Grays Harbor estuary on their migration north. Coming from as far south as Argentina, these Arctic bound shorebirds are among the world's greatest migrants. Some birds travel over 15,000 miles round trip! Tens of thousands of shorebirds feed on the open mudflats in the estuary. This concentration of birds offers people a chance to view a number of shorebird species, and with luck, to see the birds fly together in beautiful formations while trying to escape the fastest creature on earth, the peregrine falcon.

The festival will feature classes, field trips, vendors and more. For more information visit www.shorebirdfestival.com.



Black-bellied plover, photo by Andrew Reding

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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.

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

*A very special thank you to those who have contributed to the Lois and George Garlick Memorial Fund.
As of mid-April these generous members have helped us raise \$425.
We are over halfway to our goal of \$800!*

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!

Call of the Birds! Syre Education Center Open

May 19 to June 4

Thursdays-Sundays, Noon-5 PM

201 Prospect Street; admission charged - Museum members free

The birds in our 500+ mounted display are calling you to come visit! This is a great time of year to check out who might be in your backyard.

Join members of the North Cascades Audubon Society for three special programs- included with admission:

Audubon at the Museum

Sunday, May 22; 2 - 4 PM

Check out our bird collection while local Audubon expert Paul Woodcock is on hand for casual conversation and interesting information about birds.

Tips and Tricks of Bird Photography

Saturday, May 28; 1 - 2:30 PM

Get tried-and-true methods for taking good bird photos with expert Ken Salzman. Beginners and advanced birders learn helpful tips as Ken shows photographs taken with different equipment and techniques. Whatever your camera equipment, you'll find ideas you can use.

Audubon at the Museum

Sunday, May 29; 2 - 4 PM

Check out our bird collection while local Audubon member Sue Parrott is on hand for casual conversation and interesting information about birds.

Fun with Feathered Friends:

Bird Camp for Kids

at the Syre Education Center

Monday-Friday; 9AM - 4PM

Session 1: June 27- July 1

Session 2: July 11-15

Ages: 7 - 12; 15 participants each session

Cost: \$190; \$170 Museum members; 10% sibling discount, NCAS scholarships available

Registration and Information: Chris, cbbrewer@cob.org
360-778-8985

Kids will enjoy joining the Whatcom Museum and North Cascades Audubon Society in exploring the museum's unique 500+ bird display and going on interesting nature walks. We'll learn about backyard birding, make bird feeders and even build a bird nest. Creative art, engaging games and playful science make this a memorable experience.

North Cascades Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2016

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

Approval of March Minutes: Approved by board

Treasurer's Report: Sue reported that \$425 has been raised so far for the Garlick Memorial. She is sending thank you notes from Audubon to people who have contributed money to the memorial.

Communications & Input

a. Climate Change Work Group Report

- i. Sue had Kelley send out a special email to the NCAS email list in an attempt to recruit more members for the work group. Four new members came as a result of this email.
- ii. Education and outreach was discovered to be the group's main passion
- iii. Group discussed creating bird friendly habitat in the wild and in backyards
- iv. Acquisition and management of land was also discussed

b. Land Trust Newsletter: Article about bird surveys and Christmas Bird Count. North Cascades Audubon was mentioned several times in the article. A copy will be kept in the archives.

Old Business

a. Garlick Memorial:

- i. Notes and donations have been mailed in
- ii. Put progress report in May newsletter to update chapter and encourage donations
- iii. Still looking for a reputable taxidermist for swans

b. Scholarships:

- i. Sent out to department heads at Western

c. Syre Center:

- i. Event- Backyard Birds has been canceled at the Syre Center due to lack of sign up. The event was scheduled for Saturday, April 9.
- ii. Syre Center will be open Thur-Sun between May 19 and June 4, 2016.

New Business

a. Officers for 2017:

- i. Will be announced in the newsletter
- ii. Carol and Ken are the nominating committee

b. The board voted to approve Pam for 4th year as President

c. The board voted to approve Paul for 4th year as Vice President

d. The board voted to appoint Nicole Huson as Chair of the Scholarship Committee

e. The board voted to appoint Jamie Huson as Board Member at Large

Upcoming Events

a. Northwest 1 Regional Meeting:

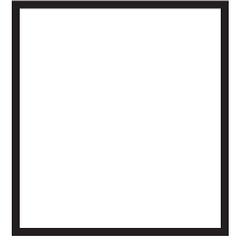
- i. April 30 at Padilla Bay, 9am-2pm
- ii. Open to all members

b. Whatcom Land Trust - Walk at Stimpson Family Nature Reserve:

- i. Naturalist needed- contact Dennis Conner at Land Trust
- ii. Sunday, May 8 from 12:30- 3pm

North Cascades Audubon Society
PO Box 5805
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.

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.*

*Does your company match donations? Let them know you
donated to North Cascades Audubon Society.*

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