

# The Avalanche



North Cascades Audubon Society Newsletter

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

Volume 48, Issue 7

October 2017

## General Membership Meeting with Ed Deal

### Seattle's Adaptable Urban Cooper's Hawks

25 years ago, Cooper's hawks began colonizing urban and suburban landscapes throughout the United States, developing a tolerance for living in proximity to humans. Ed Deal, from the Seattle Cooper's Hawk Project (SCHP), will provide insights into these common but elusive raptors through photos and videos taken during the breeding season. The SCHP study, one of several in large U.S. cities (e.g., Tucson, Milwaukee and Albuquerque), is monitoring the Seattle population's nesting density and annual productivity. In addition, a banding program looks at fledgling dispersal, longevity, and adult breeding and winter site fidelity. The results show annual increases in productivity, little evidence of migration, strong site fidelity, and (mostly) short dispersal distances by offspring.

You would think someone born in Cooper Hospital and raised in Audubon, New Jersey would be a child prodigy birder. But Ed's mid-life conversion resulted from taking Bud Anderson's Hawk identification class in 1991. He went on to volunteer on fall migration hawk banding projects in Nevada, the Florida Keys, Cape May, Diamond Head, and Chelan and Entiat Ridges in Washington. He also volunteered with the Falcon Research Group's 17-year study of nesting peregrine falcons in the San Juan Islands and just completed his 24th year monitoring nesting peregrines in the Seattle area. For the last six years he has worked with a group of volunteers studying the expanding urban population of Cooper's hawks in Seattle. He holds a Federal Master Raptor Banding Permit, is a graduate of the Seattle Audubon Master Birder Program, and is a recovering lister.

*Always on the 4th Tuesday of the month:*

**October 24th, 7pm**

Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room

*free & open to the public!*

### In this issue...

Topic	Page	Topic	Page
Winter Birds of Whatcom County	2	51st Annual Christmas Bird Count	5
Whatcom Museum's Hall of Birds Exhibit	3	December Holiday Family Bird Count	5
Olympic BirdFest 2018	3	NCAS September Board Minutes	6
September Field Trips	4	NCAS Education Report	7

## 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 November/December 2017 issue is...

**October 15.**

Send materials to Kelley Palmer-McGee at:

**content@northcascadesaudubon.org**

**Our next board meeting is on  
October 2 at 7pm**

Contact [president@northcascadesaudubon.org](mailto:president@northcascadesaudubon.org)  
for more information.

**NCAS Holiday Potluck  
December 11, 2017**

Mark your calendar for this festive annual event!  
More details to come in the next newsletter.

## NCAS Board Members

### Officers

President	Pam Borso	360-319-9004
Vice Pres.	Paul Woodcock	360-966-6549
Secretary	Steven Harper	360-650-9065
Treasurer	Sue Parrott	360-650-9065

### Board Members

Education	Chris Brewer	336-207-7505
Field Trips	Ken Salzman	360-756-0347
Membership	Owen Bamford	360-393-3481
Publicity	Twink Coffman	
Newsletter	Kelley Palmer-McGee	360-466-8601
Conservation	Steve Irving	360-384-1618
Archives	Judy Krieger	
Programs	Steven Harper	360-650-9065
Scholarship	Nicole Huson	
Website	Jamie Huson	
Member at Large	Rae Edwards	

### Associated Persons

Scholarship	Don Burgess
Hospitality	Anne Ziomkowski

*If you are interested in volunteering with our Audubon chapter, please contact the President at [president@northcascadesaudubon.org](mailto:president@northcascadesaudubon.org)*

## Coming to your local library: Winter Birds of Whatcom County

Deming Library: Saturday, Oct 7, 3 -4pm

Ferndale Library: Saturday, Oct 21, 2-3:30 pm

South Whatcom (Sudden Valley): Saturday,  
November 4, 2-3pm

Who's that bird that just flew in? Join the North Cascades Audubon Society at County libraries this fall for a presentation about the many birds that migrate to our area for winter as well as those who reside here year-round. We'll look at the large seabird populations our waters draw, plus the bald eagles, hawks, owls and backyard passerines you can expect to see this season. Local bird photographer Ken Salzman provides amazing images. Presentations are by NCAS Board Members Ken Salzman and Chris Brewer. Lots of free information about birding available.

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## Whatcom Museum's Hall of Birds

*Opened March 16, 2017; Ongoing; Old City Hall. The article was originally published on the Museum's website.*

This new exhibit in Old City Hall provides a glimpse into the local history and culture of the Victorian Era, when taxidermy flourished and mounted animals often decorated interior spaces. For the Museum, this collection of birds is also important to the building's history. If it hadn't been for John M. Edson, Old City Hall might not be standing here today. While city officials were considering demolishing it, Edson saw an opportunity to not only save the building, but also to create a public museum within its walls. He dreamed of having a permanent home for his bird specimen collection, and the museum became the perfect showcase.

Now, more than 75 years later, the Whatcom Museum has taken this important collection and reinterpreted it as an educational experience. Designed in collaboration with the North Cascades Audubon Society, the new exhibit provides opportunities to learn about bird migration, conservation success stories, birds in peril, and the importance of studying bird specimens today. Alongside the interpretive panels and the birds themselves, the Hall of Birds provides a variety of interactive opportunities, including video clips of birds in our local habitats, audio files of Puget Sound area bird calls, and hands-on activities for children. We look forward to sharing this important collection with visitors for years to come.

## Olympic BirdFest 2018

### Come Bird With Us

Sequim, Washington, April 13-15, 2018

*Grab your binoculars and join the 15th annual Olympic BirdFest 2018 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 13-15, 2018.*

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready ... marbled murrelets, rhinoceros auklets, harlequin ducks, black oystercatchers, peregrine falcons, barred and pygmy owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tour, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker this year, Claudio Vidal has been exploring & birding since the age of 12 and currently leads birding/nature tours & photo safaris through Patagonia, Chile & South America.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ...you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by going online ([www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org)).

Precede your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 10-12, 2018. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort.

Extend your Birdfest weekend with the Neah Bay post-trip, April 16-17, 2018: two and one-half days exploring northwest coastal Washington, a region rarely seen by birders.

Contact us by phone, at 360-681-4076,  
E-mail us at [info@olympicbirdfest.org](mailto:info@olympicbirdfest.org) ,  
Or write to us at:  
Dungeness River Audubon Center  
P.O. Box 2450

### Open Mondays at Our New Location

Mon-Fri. 10-5:30  
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108 Ohio St.  
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## September Field Trips *Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair*

Fall is here and birds have already been on the move for a couple of months. Gulls are migrating as are shorebirds, and seabirds have already arrived. While early fall is not the most productive time to bird, it can be exciting since migration often brings unexpected oddities.

Here are the field trips scheduled for the month of October.  
Please check the November newsletter for more fall trips.

North Cascades Audubon field trips are open to everyone, members and non-members, free of charge. See you in the field!

### Saturday, October 7, 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 meant for 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 other seabirds as well as raptors and songbirds.

### Thursday, October 12, Fairhaven Park, Padden Creek and Estuary, Marine Park, and Woodstock Farm

**Time:** 8:30 - 11:30 AM

at the entrance to Fairhaven Park

**Trip Leader:** Bob Myhr

**To register contact:**

Bob Myhr at [romyhr@comcast.net](mailto:romyhr@comcast.net) or 360-933-4352

After meeting at Fairhaven Park we'll be carpooling to additional sites. All levels of birders are welcome. We'll be encountering local resident species, late shore migrants, and arriving winter marine birds. Come with binoculars and dressed for the weather.



*Short-billed dowitcher,  
photo by Andrew Reding*

## 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](mailto:kpsalzman@comcast.net).

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## 51st Annual Whatcom County Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 17

*The San Juan Islands ferry route will take place the day before, Saturday, December 16.*

Stay tuned for registration details.

Annually between mid-December and early January, tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the world take part in an adventure that has become a holiday tradition. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission to count birds - often from dawn to dusk. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of our natural environment has driven dedicated people to get out in woods, fields and wetlands to celebrate the holidays.

The National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a citizen science effort, conducted by thousands of community members whose purpose is to collect data on bird populations across the continent while celebrating the holidays and enjoying the wonders of nature. The CBC in Bellingham has been held annually since 1967, making this year our 51st year. So come celebrate and participate! For more information on the Bellingham CBC please go to [www.northcascadesaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-count/#](http://www.northcascadesaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-count/#).

Participation in the Bellingham CBC is free. Results will be published by National Audubon in an online version of *American Birds* during the summer of 2017. You can find much more information on this event, as well as annual results and summaries, at [birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count](http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count).

## December Holiday Family Bird Count

Saturday, December 30; 8:30am - ~ 2:30pm  
\$15 per family (scholarships available)  
Space is limited, register early at  
(336) 207-7505 or [chrisboyd353@gmail.com](mailto:chrisboyd353@gmail.com)

Families can join NCAS and Wild Whatcom for a fun day during winter holiday break to participate in a bird count at Lake Padden. Each year NCAS joins in the global Christmas Bird Count but our Family Bird Count occurs after the CBC so families can enjoy participating in this winter bird outing together. Our day starts at the Cedar Grove Clubhouse on Bullard Lake for a morning overview of birds we might see. Next, we head across the road to Lake Padden for our bird count. Back at the Clubhouse we'll compile our data while we warm up and have lunch.

Children must be accompanied by at least one adult who can drive one mile from the Clubhouse to Lake Padden. Bring your own sack lunches; Audubon will provide nutritious drinks and a morning snack.



Cedar waxwing, photo by Andrew Reding



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## North Cascades Audubon Society

### Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

September 18, 2017, 7:00 PM

**Board Members Present:** Pam Borso, Paul Woodcock, Steven Harper, Sue Parrott, Ken Salzman, Rae Edwards, Owen Bamford, Nicole Huson, Jamie Huson, Steve Irving, Chris Brewer

#### 1. Additions to Agenda – No additions

#### 2. Approval of August Minutes - Approved

3. Treasurer's Report – Sue discussed the treasurer's report and clarified how various expenses are directed to some of the line items in the report.

#### 4. Committee Reports as needed:

Climate group update - Sue suggests that we discuss tabling at the market at the retreat to determine if want to continue next year and if we want to change any of our focus.

Education update – See below

Scholarship Committee - Jamie is looking for people to be on the scholarship committee to determine criteria and select candidates for the scholarships. The scholarships for WCC will be announced at the membership meeting this time in lieu of being in the WCC catalog. Ken and Nicole will work together to get the announcement in the next WCC catalog.

Website update - No update but Jamie will work on this for next meeting.

#### 5. Communications & Input

Audubon National Convention Report - Starting in October, Jamie and Nicole will give us reports on different topics that were of interest at the National Audubon Convention. Jamie described a group that National Audubon is partnering with called iMatter. The focus is on youth, being mentored by adults, that work on issues such as climate change, or lobbying local governing bodies, etc. Jamie wondered if this is a program we might be interested in participating in. Perhaps we could present something at one of our membership meetings.

WOS meeting update – The meeting and field trips will occur the weekend of Sept. 22-24. Several board members are leading field trips.

Holiday Potluck - Pam has confirmed that the gathering will be Monday, Dec. 11. Steven will talk to Doug regarding doing a short slide presentation as part of the program.

2018 Pearrygin Lake Campout - May 31-June 3 is a go and the group camp at Pearrygin Lake State Park has been reserved.

Newsletter input due by October 15 for the November newsletter.

#### 6. Old Business

Paul will do some checking on what is happening with the swan at the Whatcom Museum. Sue suggested that the Museum publicize the arrival of the swan. Paul will check on the plaque and whether they will let us provide one for the swan or insist on generating their own.

Chris will contact John Bower to ask about scheduling an evening listening session at his house during the migration.

#### 7. New Business

Rae brought up an idea for “Do Not Feed The Ducks” signs at Lake Padden, North Ridge Pond, Whatcom Falls Derby Pond and Bloedel Donovan with pictures and acknowledgement of NCAS to give more credibility. Rae will look into how much it will cost to sponsor the sign and to provide photos for the signs.

2018 Officers – Pam noted that people need to begin thinking about who should be the new president and vice-president of NCAS as neither Pam nor Paul can continue next year. (per NCAS bylaws)

Christmas Bird Count – Paul will be gone during this time and needs assistance. Dec. 17 is the CBC. Paul will talk to Doug and then recruit other volunteers.

ACOW – In Sequim, Oct. 13-15. Let Pam know if you want to go.

#### 8. Programs & Events

Audubon at the Museum - September 24, October 22, November 26 at 1:30 – 3:30.

September 26 Glen “Alex” Alexander Diking the Skagit River Delta

October 24 Ed Deal Seattle's Adaptable Urban Cooper's Hawks

November 28 Evelyn Brown Stuck in the Middle: The Ecology, Knowledge Gaps or Misunderstandings, and Issues Surrounding Forage Fish

December 11 Holiday Party at YWCA

January 24 James Walker Dragonflies and Damselies?

February 27 Dick McNeely Unusual Bird Videos?

April Dan Streiffert Arctic Wildlife Refuge Presentation

Whatcom Museum - Audubon presence January 18, 2018 Presentation for Museum Advocates group

Adjourn - Next Meeting, October 2, 2017. Improv Playworks 1011 Girard St, Bellingham, Wa 98225

*... continued on page 7 ...*

*... continued from page 6 ...***Education Report: Sept 2017**

*Education Program updates for fall 2017 are shown below.*

**Whatcom County Birds Library Presentation Dates:**

October 7, 2-3 at Deming

October 21, 2-3 at Ferndale

November 4, 2-3 at South Whatcom (Sudden Valley)

People interested in presenting this program in the future—see Chris. Will have presenter's notes in the PowerPoint by October 21st. The notes are designed for potential presenters to study and use when presenting to other groups. The Board is invited as 'ambassadors' and to be at materials table—signup sheet provided at meeting for helping out.

**Audubon Plants for Birds: Pacific Flyway 2017** slide program is also available—well done, excellent notes!

Developed by Audubon, sent by Tod Winston, Program Manager of Plants for Birds, this program could be easily used to make an excellent presentation to support local native planting for birds. I would suggest this be kept in mind as an offering when NCAS is contacted about providing a program. Let Chris know if you want it to be emailed to you.

**Family Holiday Bird Count**

Wild Whatcom has confirmed co-sponsoring and will be advertising this. Chris is registering approximately 30 people for the event. Chris and Holly Rogers will put together some identification activities for the first section of the event. May be looking for people to take out family groups of 6-8 on the trail at Padden. We will start 4 groups at different areas--one at tennis courts (go counterclockwise up trail till meeting the clockwise group), one at tennis courts going to dog park, a third at the dog park taking the lake trail clockwise, last one at dog park going on the high trail (dog area). Waterfowl can be counted first at each end by combined groups of two—one starting at the tennis courts and the other at the dog park which can first check for waterfowls by the gazebo. Ken, Chris, Holly Rogers (Wild Whatcom) will each take a group birding but we could use a couple more people to help with birding/recording. Also use help preparing/setting out and cleaning up the food at the clubhouse. A signup sheet was distributed at the board meeting for those interested. Wild Whatcom may be engaging us in special activities in the future. Co-sponsoring the Family Bird Count.

**Birds and Brews** - Nicole and Jamie will wait till spring to do another program.

*2018 Activities / Events*

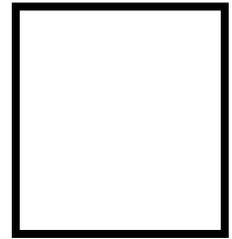
Education Committee will be working on confirming programs in October and may include:

- Spring break family bird walk
- Spring break birding activity—rented facility for class/birding; backyard birding/bird nesting
- Summer birding camp—two to three days using museum curriculum
- Backyard birding booth at March family festival?
- Provide a list on the website of 'in-the-can' programs we are available to share? We currently could provide Whatcom County Birds and Plants for Birds.



*Harbor seals, photo by Andrew Reding*

**North Cascades Audubon Society**  
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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.

## 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)

*Please make checks payable to North Cascades Audubon.*

Each membership applies to one household.

*Does your company match donations? Let them know you  
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- \_\_\_ \$20 Kestrel
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