

The Avalanche



North Cascades Audubon Society Newsletter

www.northcascadesaudubon.org

Volume 49, Issue 1

January 2018

General Membership Meeting with James Walker Discovering Dragonflies

Did you know that dragonflies and damselflies have excellent vision, but can't hear; have six legs, but can't walk; are fierce predators of other insects, but are harmless to humans? Retired Professor James Walker, "Dragonfly Whisperer," is the author of *Common Dragonflies and Damselflies of the Pacific Coast*, a unique field guide that combines state-of-the-art features for identifying dragonflies—such as range maps, flight season charts, life-size and annotated photos for each species—as well as exciting new discoveries about their lives. An example of the latter is the splash-dunk/spin-dry behavior, in which a dragonfly plunges into the water multiple times to bathe, and then spins at 1,000 rpm in mid-flight to shed the water—the fastest known spinning motion of any animal! The guide also introduces the intriguing happy-face dragonfly—whose official name is the paddle-tailed darner—and provides tips on how to get a dragonfly to perch on your finger. Filled with beautiful photos and original illustrations, this field guide will help to get you on a "first name basis" with these wonderful, yet little-known, creatures. Dragonflies, and their close relative the damselflies, have been the focus of Professor Walker's interest for the past ten years. He has led numerous dragonfly field trips, along with his wife Betsy Walker, and has given numerous presentations on dragonflies in both Washington and Arizona.

James S. Walker is an Anacortes resident and retired professor of theoretical physics from Washington State University, where he was the Boeing Distinguished Professor of Science and Mathematics Education. He received his Ph. D. in theoretical physics from the University of Washington, and has also taught physics courses at Western Washington University. The author of several university-level textbooks on physics, Professor Walker and his wife Betsy divide their time between Washington and Arizona, and enjoy birding and dragonflying in both locations.

Don't miss Jim's engaging presentation on the amazing and unusual behavior of dragonflies and damselflies of the Pacific Coast.

Always on the 4th Tuesday of the month:

January 23rd, 7pm

Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room

free & open to the public!



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 February 2018 issue is...

January 15.

Send materials to:

content@northcascadesaudubon.org

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

Thank You from NCAS Happy New Year!

Thank you to all our members and non-members who joined us for our Holiday Potluck in December, as well as the Whatcom County and San Juan Ferry Christmas Bird Counts and the first annual Family Christmas Bird Count. We finished 2017 with a bang and we're excited to share new experiences with you in 2018.

See you in 2018!



Downy woodpecker, photo by Andrew Reding

In this issue...

Topic	Page
Winter Wings Festival	3
Wanted: Volunteer Coordinators	3
January Field Trips	4, 5
The First Bellingham CBC: A Reflection	5, 7
December NCAS Board Minutes	6, 7

Copy Source <small>Imagination • Creation • Print Solutions</small>	
Full Color Posters & Banners	Full Color Copies / Prints
50% OFF <small>Indoor or Outdoor • Paper or Vinyl Call for Details</small>	35¢ <small>Each Side 60# white paper 8.5" x 11"</small>
<small>With Coupon only • Some Restrictions May Apply • Not Valid with other offers • Exp: 1/31/18</small>	
www.CopySource.com Sales@CopySource.com	360.738.1280 1122 N. State Street • Bellingham, WA 98225

Winter Wings Festival 2018

Thursday–Sunday, February 15 - 18
Oregon Institute of Technology:

3201 Campus Drive
Klamath Falls, Oregon

Come experience winter birds at their finest! Winter Wings brings together birders and photographers of all stripes to learn and explore with top notch professionals and enthusiastic local guides. The Klamath Basin is renowned for its massive wintering population of bald eagles, but is also prime habitat for many other raptors including owls, as well as a stunning abundance and diversity of waterfowl. The 2018 festival will feature three dynamic keynote speakers: author and woodpecker specialist Stephen Shunk, Nikon Ambassador and wildlife photographer Moose Peterson, and author and instructor with the Cornell Lab Kevin McGowan.



Sponsored by the Klamath Basin Audubon Society

Registration opens December 16, 9 am PST

Visit the website to register and for more information: www.WinterWingsFest.org



Ruby-crowned kinglet, photo by Andrew Reding

© Andrew A Reding

Wanted: Volunteer Coordinators

As North Cascades Audubon Society grows, so do our outreach opportunities in the community. This role is being created for individuals who want to help organize our volunteer base and create a rewarding volunteer experience for our members. The responsibilities of a volunteer coordinator will be any of the following:

- Communicate in person, over the phone or through email to volunteers
- Coordinate volunteers for events
- Manage rewards for outstanding volunteers
- Help to increase volunteerism throughout membership

We are looking forward to all the new and exciting events this coming year.

For more information about this role please contact Nicole Huson by emailing her at: scholarships@northcascadesaudubon.org, or speak to her in person at our next membership meeting.

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



January Field Trips *Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair*

While the weather isn't always ideal in winter in the Pacific Northwest, the birds don't seem to mind, and January is one of the best months for birding in our area. Seabirds and waterfowl winter in the area and there are many resident species to be seen.

All our field trips are open to everyone whether or not they are members of NCAS. Our goal is to provide quality field trips that are 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! And be sure to bundle up to have the best and most pleasurable birding experience.

Saturday, January 6, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Lynne Givler

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. January is an excellent time to go birding at the spit.

Thursday, January 18, Lake Padden, Fairhaven Park, and Padden and Chuckanut Creek Lagoons

Time: 8:30 - 11:30 AM, meet at Fairhaven Park

Trip Leader: Bob Myhr

Pre-registration required

To register contact Bob Myhr at romyhr@comcast.net or 360-933-4352

This is another "urban" field trip. We'll meet at Fairhaven Park and carpool to the various sites looking for wintering waterfowl and local resident species. Come prepared for cold weather. Everyone welcome.

Monday, January 22, Skagit Flats and Samish Flats

Time: 9 AM - 3 PM

Trip Leader: Steven Harper

Pre-registration required (limited to 11 participants)

To register contact Steven Harper at 360-650-9065 or stevenharper2@msn.com

This all-day field trip will be spent searching the Samish Flats and Skagit Flats for raptors, waterfowl, and any other interesting birds that happen to be around. The trip will begin and end at the Alger Park & Ride, I5, Exit 240. We will carpool in 3 cars while we search for birds. Bring water, hot beverages, snacks and lunch to eat on the run. If we have time we'll stop at the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center for a break and to warm up. Dress to keep dry and warm and bring binoculars and a spotting scope if you happen to have one. We'll see trumpeter swans, snow geese, bald eagles, rough-legged hawks, northern harriers, red-tailed hawks, and American kestrels, and will search for other less common raptors such as short-eared owls and merlins.

HENDERSON BOOKS

734-6855

Cash Paid for Books

Bellingham's Largest Used Book Store

Used - Rare - Recent Titles

35 Years Book Buying Experience Shows in Our
Quality Stock and the Prices We Pay

116 Grand Downtown Bellingham



Belted kingfisher, photo by Andrew Reding

Thursday, February 1, Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, British Columbia

Time: 8:30 AM at the Ferndale Park & Ride (carpool).

Return time to Ferndale approximately 4 PM

Trip Leaders: Jane and John Aspnes

Pre-registration required (limited to 15 participants)

To register contact Jane or John at 360-303-2675 or jdaspnes@alaska.edu

February is a good time for hawks, eagles, owls, sparrows, woodpeckers and extensive waterfowl at George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Three 4-passenger vehicles will be needed, in addition to Jane and John's. The gate fee at Reifel is \$5 adults/\$3 seniors. Bring a sack lunch. There is a nice warming cabin where everyone can eat lunch. A passport, NEXUS card or enhanced driver's license is required for the border crossing. Let Jane or John know if you have a NEXUS card. They would like all their passengers to have NEXUS cards if possible.

Saturday, February 3, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Lynne Givler

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. This time of the year, Semiahmoo Spit is one of the best places to bird in all of Whatcom County.

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.

A Reflection on the First Bellingham Christmas Bird Count in 1967

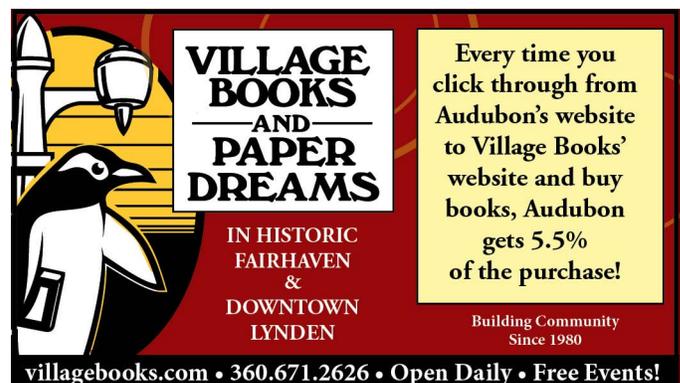
This text was provided by Jim Duemmel. To see a photocopy of the first Bellingham CBC report, go to page 7.

Some background: In 1967 the shoreline of Bellingham Bay was lined with log booms from Fairhaven all the way to the boat harbor, which itself was much smaller than at present. (These booms were favored roosting spots for gulls and shorebirds.) Georgia Pacific ran full tilt on the waterfront. Bellis Fair, the Sunset complex and Fred Meyers did not exist. On Sandy Point, the west side of Sucia Drive held a sparse line of houses – no other houses, no moorage canals gouged into the point, existed. An ill-maintained gravel road roughly followed the course of present-day Salt Spring Drive to the end of the point. The aquaculture dike was years in the future. The area west of Hillaire Road was a naval base (whose *raison d'être* was top secret – to this day I do not know what they did there - to gain access to the outer dike by Plover Island you were required to stop at base headquarters on Kwina Road and get permission from the officer of the day). Hillaire and South Red River Road were gravel roads. The "Sparrow Spot" along South Red River no longer exists.

If my memory is accurate, we each paid twenty-five cents to participate in the count. This helped defray the cost of publishing the results of all counts in the nation in the Audubon Field Notes. Every observer received a copy of the report.

On that first Bellingham CBC there were 22 observers in six parties, compared to last year's 58 observers in 25 parties. On the average, territories on the first count contained four of the present territories. The Lummi Flats, Sandy Point and Lake Terrell were the heart of one territory!

... continued on page 7 ...



VILLAGE BOOKS AND PAPER DREAMS

IN HISTORIC FAIRHAVEN & DOWNTOWN LYNDEN

Every time you click through from Audubon's website to Village Books' website and buy books, Audubon gets 5.5% of the purchase!

Building Community Since 1980

villagebooks.com • 360.671.2626 • Open Daily • Free Events!

North Cascades Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

December 4, 2017, 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Pam Borso, Paul Woodcock, Steven Harper, Owen Bamford, Nicole Huson, Jamie Huson, Chris Brewer, Kelley Palmer-McGee, and Steve Irving

1. Additions to Agenda – Additions added as needed below

2. Approval of November Minutes – Approved by board as amended with date changed for January presentation

3. Treasurer's Report – Steven discussed the treasurer's report and it was approved.

4. Committee Reports:

Education Update – We have 3 new pairs of binoculars to try out at a total cost of about \$300. We continue to look at projectors and the laptop and will probably purchase by the end of the year. The Whatcom Library System was really pleased with the programs presented by NCAS and we will present at the *Skagit Bald Eagle Festival* as well. Pam and Chris are working on the *Native Plants and Birds* educational program to be presented at least 3 times in March in time for the Whatcom Conversation District plant sale. Chris is working with Wild Whatcom on the *Family CBC* on Dec. 30, although they changed leadership and everything is delayed slightly. Chris discussed possible funding for youth birding, possibly sending some youth to the *Wings Over Water* festival. Nicole indicated that we have 28 -33 people that have responded to our volunteer survey and she will compile the data in time for the retreat in January.

Scholarship Committee – Owen has updated information on the website. The next step is to reach out to Don Burgess in January. Owen e-mailed the persons receiving the scholarships last year to request a report on the research that the money was used for.

Website Update – Jamie will demo the new website template at the retreat. No progress on Google Docs as our nonprofit status has not been acknowledged.

Board Building and Governance Report – The committee met and it was very productive, looking at the position descriptions and how they relate to the by-laws. The committee will continue to meet and perhaps provide information for the retreat.

5. Communications & Input

Museum holiday tree was decorated and looked great.

Pam asked about continuing the *Sunday Audubon at the Museum* events and the board agreed to continue. We should make the quarter-sheet information handouts on our presentations, etc. available at the Museum on the Sundays when we are present.

CBC – There was an update that everything is under control, all people placed so far, some new leaders, some people dropping out, and the Squalicum Yacht Club is arranged. Chris will see if we can get an article in the Herald regarding the 50th Anniversary of the CBC for Bellingham and the Family CBC. Jim Duemmel has written up a nice piece that can perhaps be used. Terry Wahl should be acknowledged for all his efforts in starting the CBC and the other contributions he has made as an amateur ornithologist in the State of Washington.

Spiva Butte – Steven talked with Ferdi, the gentleman that purchased the property. Steven will write an article for the newsletter about this purchase and the protection efforts that are continuing for Spiva Butte.

Newsletter input due by December 15 for the January newsletter.

Holiday Party – Everything is all set. Pam has food covered, Nicole is working on decorations and a request has been made to Ken to make sure the projector is ready.

Retreat is Jan. 8, 5-9 pm at the Improv Space. Nicole will bring pizza and salads. Committee chairs and members are asked to communicate with Pam regarding plans for the coming year and other items that should be discussed at the retreat.

Starting in Feb. the board meetings will be at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship.

Sue would appreciate it greatly if 2017 invoices are submitted at the holiday party. Of course any purchases after that can be submitted later.

6. Old Business

Swan Donation – Victoria at the Museum has promised that the swan will be in the display by the end of the year. We will donate the remaining \$60 to the Museum to defray costs. When the swan is finally in the display we will place an article in our newsletter regarding the donation and the new display.

Advertising Update – All advertisers in the newsletter have committed. Valerie at the Wild Bird Chalet would like someone to discuss our relationship. Nicole and Jamie volunteered to stop by to talk with her.

Presentation for the Museum Advocates Group – Paul would like to do this on January 18 even though he will be just back from Australia. He knows the most about the cooperation between NCAS and the Museum in putting the exhibit together and knows most about the history.

7. New Business

Wings Over Water – It will be happening March 16-18. Paul will be attending but will be gone until Jan. 15, so someone else needs to put a call out for viewing station volunteers in the Feb. newsletter.

Donation – The board decided to make the following donations for 2017: Whatcom Humane Society \$300, VARC \$300, Sardis \$200,

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

Board Meeting Minutes continued from page 6 ...

Wild Whatcom \$200, and Northwest Swan Conservation \$200.

Huxley Environment Career and Internship Fair Thursday, 8 Feb 2018, 4:30-6:30 PM – Pam would like to consider whether it would be valuable for NCAS to have an intern. Everyone should think about what we could do with an intern and whether we have enough projects or enough leadership to be able to guide an intern. More discussion between now and the retreat.

8. Programs & Events

December 11	Doug Brown
January 18	Paul Woodcock
January 23	James Walker
February 27	Dick McNeely
April 24	Dan Streiffert

Birds of Belize

Whatcom Museum - Audubon presence (presentation for Museum Advocates group)
 Dragonflies and Damselflies
 Unusual Bird Videos
 Arctic Wildlife Refuge Presentation

Adjourn - Next Meeting: January 8, 2018, 5-9 retreat. Improv Playworks 1011 Girard St, Bellingham, WA 98225

1967 Christmas Bird Count continued from page 5 ...

Christmas Bird Count, Dec. 31, 1967

There have been a lot of name changes and species splits in fifty years. On that first count we saw birds with these names: Arctic Loon, Whistling Swan, Black Brant, Common Scoter, Pigeon Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Common Snipe, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren and Marsh Hawk (count period). We did not find a Duck Hawk, a fact that perhaps reflects the remarkable recovery the Peregrine Falcon has made in the past fifty years. We found not a single Canada Goose. Trumpeter Swans and Anna's Hummingbirds were far in the future. Notice we did attempt the essentially impossible task of separating local crows into two species.

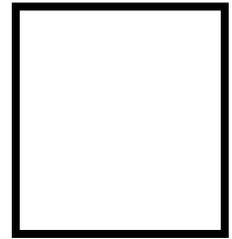
The day ended, as CBC's would for many years, with a friendly potluck at the home of Terry and Robin Wahl. Terry orchestrated all the various aspects of the count, compiled the results and within a week prepared the report shown here. This was well before the distinct convenience of computers, spreadsheets and laser printers.

Those 322 Herring Gulls – I cannot explain that.

BELLINGHAM, Wash. 48°49'N, 122°34'W (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center approximately at intersection of Great Northern Railway and Curtis Road, to include Bellingham, Ferndale, Lummi reservation, Sandy Point, Lake Terrell, Wisner Lake; open salt water, edges, 35%, lakes 2%, open farmlands, fields 32%, woods, coniferous and mixed 25%, marshes 1%, urban areas 5%). Dec. 31; 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast, fair visibility; temp. 38° to 43°; wind SW, 10-15 m.p.h.; intermittent light rain, no snow or ice cover. Twenty-two observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 44 (15 on foot, 29 by car); total party-miles, 224 (28 on foot, 196 by car).

Com. Loon	9	Pigeon Hawk	1	Robin	15
Arctic Loon	1	Sparrow Hawk	2	Varied Thrush	10
Red-thr Loon	37	Ruffed Grouse	1	G-c Kinglet	33
Red-n Grebe	36	R-n Pheasant	1	R-c Kinglet	12
Horned Grebe	26	Gray Partridge	8	Water Pipit	2
Western Grebe	6689	Am Coot	1123	Cedar Waxwing	60
Pied-b Grebe	19	Killdeer	26	N Shrike	1
D-cr Cormorant	43	Blk Turnstone	45	Starling	1006
Brandt's Cormnt	14	Com Snipe	1	House Sparrow	36
Pelagic Cormnt	6	Dunlin	4101	W. Meadowlark	5
Cormorants (sp)	36	Sanderling	2	Red-w Blackbird	58
Gr Blue Heron	13	Gl-w Gull	1937	Brewer's Blkbrd	55
W. Swan	6	Western Gull	4	E Grosbeak	1
Black Brant	81	Herring Gull	322	House Finch	68
Mallard	4855	Calif Gull	6	Pine Siskin	266
Pintail	2510	Ring-b Gull	3	R-s Towhee	29
Tr-w Teal	506	Mew Gull	637	Oregon Junco	321
Am Widgeon	2001	Bonaparte's G	2	Tree Sparrow	7
Shoveler	10	Gulls (sp)	341	White-cr Sparrow	18
Redhead	1	C Murre	520	Goldn-cr Sparrow	25
Ring-neck	4	P Guillemot	1	Fox Sparrow	23
Canvasback	5	M Murrelet	22	Song Sparrow	124
Tr Scaup	651	Mourning Dove	32	Snow Bunting	12
L Scaup	45	Short-e Owl	1		
Com Goldeneye	115	B Kingfisher	7		
Barrow's G-eye	51	Red-s Flicker	54		
Bufflehead	385	Y-b Sapsucker	1		
Oldsquaw	8	Hairy Woodpkr	2		
Harlequin	10	Downy Woodpkr	3		
W-w Scoter	64	Steller's Jay	2		
Surf Scoter	252	Com Raven	1		
Common Scoter	9	Com Crow	34		
Ruddy Duck	21	NW Crow	313		
Hooded Mergnsr	35	B-c Chickadee	165		
Com Merganser	124	C-b Chickadee	3		
Red-br Mergnsr	67	Com Bushtit	36		
Sharp-shin	2	Red-br Nuthatch	2		
Cooper's Hawk	1	Br Creeper	1		
Red-tail	6	Winter Wren	17		
Rough-leg	1	Bewick's Wren	11		
Bald Eagle	5	L-b Marsh Wren	1		

North Cascades Audubon Society
PO Box 5805
Bellingham, WA 98227-5805



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Find us at www.northcascadesaudubon.org or through social media:
Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @NCascadeAudubon



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
- \$_____ Other
- I'd like to go paperless. (include email below)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____