

# The Avalanche



North Cascades Audubon Society Newsletter

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

Volume 43, Issue 8

November/December 2012

## General Membership Meeting with Dave Tucker: *Diatryma* - Huge, Flightless Bird of the Chuckanut

Footprints of a giant flightless bird were discovered in a landslide above Kendall in 2009. These are the largest fossil bird footprints in the world, and are the only ones known from the 7-foot tall, 300 pound *Diatryma giganteus*. This talk describes the tracks, the bird, and the effort necessary to protect the tracks from fossil hunters before the 1200 pound slab of Chuckanut sandstone containing the impressive bird tracks could be rescued. The talk will also discuss the controversy surrounding an earlier "*Diatryma*" track found south of Seattle.

Dave Tucker is a research associate in the Geology Department at WWU and founder of the Mount Baker Volcano Research Center. He organized the "Big Bird Herd" of volunteers to protect and rescue the original tracks, and is co-author with George Mustoe and Keith Kemplin of the scientific paper describing the tracks and what they tell us about the life history of this ancient bird.

***OUR MISTAKE!*** *This meeting will be taking place in Fairhaven:*

**\*\*\* November 27th, 7pm at the Fairhaven Library Auditorium \*\*\***  
always free & open to the public!



### In this issue...

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Page</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Page</i>
Upcoming Events	2	Terminal Scoping Process	8, 9
Looking Back at NCAS	3, 4	Swans of the Skagit	10
<i>Green Fire</i> , Aldo Leopold	3	Meet a Board Member: Publicity	10
On Scudder Pond	5	Seeking Writers, Artists, Talkers	11
Christmas Bird Count	5	What Info Do You Want?	11
Late Fall Field Trips	6, 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-McCarty  
Writer/editor: Lynne Givler

If you are interested in contributing, the deadline for the January 2013 issue is...

**December 15, 2012.**

Send materials to Kelley Palmer-McCarty at:  
**vaktel@gmail.com**

## NCAS Board Members

### Officers

President	Paul Woodcock	380-3356
Vice Pres.	open	
Secretary	Judy Krieger	733-0086
Treasurer	Pam Borso	

### Board Members

Education	Rae Edwards	
Field Trips	Ken Salzman	756-0347
Membership	Carol Roberts	305-0899
Publicity	Jessica Shaw	(618) 910-8471
Newsletter	Kelley Palmer-McCarty	466-8601
Conservation	Steve Irving	384-1618

### Associated Persons

Scudder Pond	Joe Meche	
Scholarship	Don Burgess	
Christmas Bird Count,	Geri Walker	734-8563
Mailing	Alan and Susan Rhodes	



*"Something to Crow About"*  
photo by Blake Shaw,  
blakeshawphotography.com

## Upcoming Events

### November 5: NCAS Board Meeting

Held at the Cordata Coop, Local Roots Room, 7pm.  
Open to the public! (Please let Paul Woodcock, president, know you're coming. See left for contact details.)

### November 13: Green Fire (see p. 3)

### November 27: General Membership Meeting

With presenter Dave Tucker. FREE and open to the public. Held at the **Fairhaven Library Auditorium** \*\*  
**NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION.** Begins at 7pm.

### December 1: Swans of the Skagit (see p. 10)

### December 3: NCAS Board Meeting (see above)

### December 11: Annual Holiday Potluck

Taking place at the **Lairmont Manor** (405 Fieldston Rd, Bellingham), from **6pm to 9pm**. A great opportunity to celebrate the season and meet fellow chapter members. Live music and coffee will be provided. Bring a potluck dish to share, your own silverware and cup for drinks, and good cheer.

### December 16: Christmas Bird Count

See page 5 for more details. Contact Geri Walker (see contact list to left) if you're interested in participating.

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## Looking Back at NCAS

*Paul Woodcock, President*

Our chapter board has been discussing the fact that North Cascades Audubon Society possesses very few records from its past. Our secretary Judy Krieger in particular has been working to see what we can do to rectify this situation. The reality is that in its 42nd year of existence North Cascades Audubon is searching for its past.

I first became involved with NCAS in 1974, fairly early in its life. At that time I was told the story of the chapter's founding four years earlier at a meeting in Bellingham organized by Hazel Wolf of Seattle Audubon. Hazel was a force of nature so, as I am discussing Audubon history, I need to introduce you all to her. Through the 1970s, 80s and 90s Hazel was an environmental activist and the public face of Audubon in Washington State even though she did not even join Audubon until she was over 60 years old. Of the 26 existing Audubon chapters in our state, Hazel organized 21 of them.

Hazel's life spanned the entire 20th century and was shaped by the social and political forces of that century. Like many Auduboners I was privileged to get to know Hazel during her later years as she turned her love of nature into action to defend it. Hazel Wolf's history has been preserved in an outstanding biography, Hazel Wolf: Fighting the Establishment, published by the University of Washington Press in 2002, two years after her death. Most of the book is Hazel's own words so, if you wish to, you can still get to know Hazel.

**continued on page 4...**

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*Common loon in winter plumage,  
photo by Ken Salzman*



### Documentary Explores Life of Aldo Leopold

*Tuesday, November 13*, 7:00 – 8:30 PM  
 Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship,  
 1207 Ellsworth St., Bellingham

Don't miss the Bellingham showing of *Green Fire*, an award winning film about the life and environmental ethics of Aldo Leopold. Leopold (1887-1948) is the author of *A Sand County Almanac*, one of the most influential environmental books ever written. Anyone interested in keeping natural areas intact will be inspired by this film. More information about the film can be found at:

[www.GreenFireMovie.com](http://www.GreenFireMovie.com)

“There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot.”  
 (Aldo Leopold, 1948 in his foreword to  
*A Sand County Almanac*)



## Looking Back at NCAS, continued from page 3

Anyone in Washington State who joined the National Audubon Society in the 1950s and 60s was designated a member of Seattle Audubon unless you happened to live in the vicinity of Spokane or Olympia, the only other chapters in the state. As secretary of Seattle Audubon, Hazel looked for communities that had a group of about 20 or more members and wrote to them all, suggesting that they form a chapter and offering her help to do so. Just getting the National Audubon members from an area together so that they could get to know each other was a major step toward forming a local organization. So this was probably the process that caused the birth of NCAS in 1970.



*Year-round resident on our rocky coastlines:  
black oystercatcher, photo by Ken Salzman*

While all this history is interesting, I still wanted to know who attended that first meeting and who were the first officers and board members. Among those always mentioned as founding members of NCAS are Lois and George Garlick and Terry Wahl. George is no longer with us but I had conversations with both Lois and Terry to find out whatever they could remember. They were there alright but after the passage of so many years they could not add much to what I already knew; except that the meeting took place downstairs at the Bellingham Public Library in the same room where we currently meet and that only about six to eight local people attended. Another name that came up as I contacted other long-time chapter members was that of Paul Tholfsen, who also still lives in Bellingham. Paul was present at that first meeting and remembered that he had contacted Hazel to help arrange the meeting.

One important chapter history resource that NCAS does have is a fairly complete set of newsletters which have

been passed down from editor to editor through the years starting with Lois Garlick in 1970 to our current editor, Kelley Palmer-McCarty. Checking with Kelley I found that we do have an issue from 1970 which lists the following members of our first board of directors:

President - Robert Jepperson  
 Treasurer - Mrs. Paul Tholfsen  
 Secretary - Mrs. Connie Rismoen  
 Newsletter - Mrs. Lois Garlick  
 Conservation - Dr. John Hodge  
 Field Trips - Terry Wahl

Right now this is what I know about the beginning of the North Cascades Audubon Society. I suspect there are others in the community who can add to this oral history and I would be pleased to hear any additional information anyone might be willing to share. We are lucky to have had newsletter editors with the foresight to have preserved copies of their work. But as so often happens in volunteer nonprofit organizations, continuity and transfer of records have not been maintained. Consequently we are missing records of the business conducted by the chapter over the years- minutes of board meetings, correspondences and financial records. We are missing much of our history.

If any of you reading this are past officers or board members of NCAS, please check to see if you have any documents stored away relating to the chapter's past. If you have anything you think we might be interested in or would just like to communicate with us please e-mail Judy Krieger at [secretary@northcascadesaudubon.org](mailto:secretary@northcascadesaudubon.org) or Paul Woodcock at [president@northcascadesaudubon.org](mailto:president@northcascadesaudubon.org).



*A common sight on the Skagit Flats:  
short-eared owl, photo by Paul Higgins  
copyright 2012*

## On Scudder Pond

*Joe Meche, Scudder Pond Steward*

After a long and possibly record-breaking dry spell across the entire Pacific Northwest, rain and wind returned in mid-October, much to the delight of those who understand and embrace the concept of precipitation on a regular basis. The west side of the Cascades is greener than the east side for a reason.

Coincidental to the lack of significant rainfall was the extraordinary lowering of water levels in lakes and ponds that rely on feeder streams and tributaries and their life-giving flows. Places like Scudder Pond, which relies to a great extent on rainfall and the consequent runoff from the east side of Alabama Hill, saw dramatically lower levels than usual. The water level in the pond never did reach that of last year when the pond and its denizens reveled in the clean fresh water that kept the levels high through most of the spring and early summer.

But now the lifeblood has returned and so have the wonderful colors of fall. The wind that accompanied the rain coaxed many leaves from their already tenuous holds and they now cover the ground on the trails leading to and from Scudder. Before long all deciduous trees will be leafless and colder days will be the rule.

I plan to lead field trips at Scudder Pond and into Whatcom Falls Park through the winter months and into early spring, just to monitor the seasonal changes. Scudder Pond will also be the starting point for the proposed NCAS Whatcom Creek Nesting Box Trail, so be sure to check this newsletter and our website for information on both of those activities, especially if you're interested in participating.

Keep in mind that our resident birds and even a few wintering waterfowl species will be active at the pond and in the park, so there's no need to stay home just because it's cold outside. Dress accordingly and enjoy another look at Scudder Pond. Winter birding often holds a few surprises, and the birds are always easier to see.

E-mail me at [mechejmch@aol.com](mailto:mechejmch@aol.com) if you have questions or wish to discuss anything about Scudder Pond.

## Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 16

From December 14 through January 5 tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission to count birds - often before dawn. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the Holiday season. (excerpt from Audubon website)

The National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count is a citizen science effort, manned by thousands of community members like you and me, whose purpose is to collect data on bird populations across the continent. 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)**

**Sunday, December 16** is the big day for Bellingham's count circle, and this year it is free! The National Audubon Society has decided to waive the \$5 fee per participant. They will be publishing an online version of the CBC American Birds issue instead of mailing out hard copies.

**Contact Geri Walker if you'd like to get involved.**

[gfoss\\_98225@yahoo.com](mailto:gfoss_98225@yahoo.com)

360-734-8563



*Female bufflehead on Scudder Pond, photo by Joe Meche*



## Late Fall Field Trips

*Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair*

Late fall in the Pacific Northwest can provide some of the best birding of the year. We've already seen fall migrants passing through and some exciting birds from Tacoma to British Columbia. Be especially tuned-in to seabirds, gulls, plovers and sandpipers. Recently the Pacific Northwest has been host to such rarities as the slaty-backed gull, Wilson's and snowy plover, and buff-breasted and sharp-tailed sandpiper. Northern shrikes and rusty blackbirds are also showing up, and with winter on its way, more rarities and vagrants should be expected. After the first of the year we will be going north to Delta and the Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary. These sites are noted for outstanding birding, so keep your eye on the schedule in the next couple issues of the newsletter.

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. We hope that beginning birders will not be afraid to join us. Our field trip leaders and many of our participants are enthusiastic about answering questions and providing a worthwhile experience no matter what level you're at. So come join the fun!

### Saturday, November 3, Semiahmoo Spit

**Time:** 9 AM - approximately noon

**Trip Leaders:** Paul Woodcock and Lynne Givler

No Registration Required

This monthly trip gets better as winter approaches and the number of both birds and species increases. Beginning birders of all ages are encouraged to join Lynne. The birds at Semiahmoo are easy to see and remain still while you're learning to focus your binoculars!

### Saturday, November 10,

**Sandy Point, Lake Terrell, Birch Bay, Semiahmoo, Blaine**

**Time:** 8:30 AM – approximately 1:30 PM

Meet at the S.E. corner of Sunset Square parking lot (I-5 Exit 255) to carpool

**Trip Leaders:** Joan Bird (cell: 360-201-8418) and Andrea Warner

No Registration Required, One Discover Pass per car.

Join us for a whirlwind tour of fall birding hotspots, based on pre-trip scouting. We will focus on ducks, grebes, loons, gulls, alcids, raptors, and possible late shorebirds. Dress warmly. Bring lunch.

### Sunday, November 11, Whatcom Creek Walk

**Time:** 10 AM - approximately noon

Meet in front of City Hall

**Trip Leader:** Joe Meche

Trip Limit: 12

To register contact Joe Meche,

739-5383 or mechejmch@aol.com

This monthly bird walk along Whatcom Creek is a relaxing trip that can provide good views of local birds and the occasional "good find." It may be cold so dress warmly.

### Sunday, November 18,

**Scudder Pond and Whatcom Falls Park**

**Time:** 9 AM in the parking area off Electric Avenue, just south of the intersection with Alabama Street, 3-4 hrs

**Trip Leader:** Joe Meche

Trip Limit: 12

To register contact Joe Meche,

739-5383 or mechejmch@aol.com

Enjoy a Sunday morning walk over mostly level terrain as we check on late fall activity at NCAS's urban wetland. Waterfowl and passerine species should prevail at the pond this time of year. We'll continue along upper Whatcom Creek and into Bellingham's finest park, where we hope to see owls, dippers, and woodpeckers. We're sure to hear the ever popular Pacific wrens with their distinctive songs.



*Watching a varied thrush on the Interurban Trail near Woodstock Farm, photo by Jessica Shaw*

## Late Fall Field Trips Continued

### Saturday, December 1, Semiahmoo Spit

**Time:** 9 AM - approximately noon

**Trip Leaders:** Paul Woodcock and Lynne Givler

No Registration Required

With winter only a few weeks away, the actual number of birds and the numbers of species of sea birds will be increasing. Duck numbers should also be up and there is always a chance for that rare individual to be found. Bundle up and get ready for some good birding. Beginning birders of all ages are encouraged to join Lynne.

### Saturday, December 8, Samish Flats

**Time:** 8:30 - half day trip

**Trip Leader:** John Horner

To register contact John Horner for meeting place at 676-6029 or [horners@clearwire.net](mailto:horners@clearwire.net)

Come explore the Samish Flats for winter visitors. Raptors pursuing undulating flocks of shorebirds are certain to thrill us. Attendance is limited due to parking restrictions.

### Sunday, December 9, Blaine/Semiahmoo

**Time:** 9 AM, Applebee's parking lot on Sunset Drive and carpool to Blaine, 5-6 hrs

**Trip Leader:** Joe Meche

Trip Limit: 12

To register contact Joe Meche,  
739-5383 or [mechejmch@aol.com](mailto:mechejmch@aol.com)

Join us for a walking tour of Marine Park and the Blaine Harbor waterfront to search for shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors. We found snow buntings at the end of Marine Drive last year so be prepared for surprises. After the walking tour, we'll drive around Drayton Harbor to Semiahmoo Spit, with a couple of stops along the way. We'll have lunch and warm up at the Marina Cafe at Semiahmoo, before scoping the open water for loons, grebes, scoters, etc. Scopes and warm/dry clothing will be handy on this trip.

### Sunday, December 16, Whatcom Creek Walk

**Time:** 10 AM - approximately noon

Meet in front of City Hall

**Trip Leader:** Joe Meche

Trip Limit: 12

To register contact Joe Meche,  
739-5383 or [mechejmch@aol.com](mailto:mechejmch@aol.com)

Join us on this regular leisurely walk along the Creek. Dress warmly.

### Saturday, January 5, Semiahmoo Spit

**Time:** 9 AM - approximately noon

**Trip Leaders:** Paul Woodcock and Ken Salzman

No Registration Required

It's winter and you'll need to protect yourself from the cold and possible wind, but the birding should be great. There's probably no better time of the year to bird the Semiahmoo Spit, and anything may show up this time of the year. Beginning birders of all ages are encouraged to join Ken.

## Want to Be a Trip Leader?

*We're always looking for volunteers.*

The following prerequisites are desired:

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 to become a trip leader please contact **Ken Salzman, 360-756-0347**  
or [kpsalzman@comcast.net](mailto:kpsalzman@comcast.net)

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## Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal/Custer Spur

### Scoping Process: September 24, 2012 to January 21, 2013

Pacific International Terminals, a subsidiary of SSA Marine, has proposed building a deep-water marine terminal at Cherry Point in Whatcom County. The proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal would handle import and export of up to 54 million dry metric tons per year of bulk commodities, mostly exporting coal. In a related project, BNSF Railway Inc. has proposed adding rail facilities adjacent to the terminal site and installing a second track along the six-mile Custer Spur. (from the Washington Department of Ecology website)

The following is excerpted from: *Guide to participating in NEPA and SEPA scoping and upcoming scoping meetings.* (available online in PDF form, [www.eisgatewaypacificwa.gov](http://www.eisgatewaypacificwa.gov))

The Co-Lead Agencies\* for the Gateway Pacific Terminal and Custer Spur modifications environmental impact statement (EIS) are holding a 120-day scoping process to hear from you. Read on to learn more about how you can participate in this important step in the state and federal EIS process.

(\*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Ecology, and Whatcom County)

### Scoping process

Scoping differs from public hearings in that there are many different ways to participate. During the scoping process, from September 24, 2012-January 21, 2013, you can learn about the proposals, the EIS process, and provide scoping comments. In addition to meetings in communities around the state, the Co-Lead Agencies are hosting an online meeting that is available to you anytime. Scoping comments provided through the web site will be available for review by others within one week of submittal.

Scoping comments will be accepted by:

\* Mail: GPT/Custer Spur EIS c/o CH2M HILL; 1100 112th Ave.NE, Suite 400, Bellevue, WA 98004

\* Email: [comments@eisgatewaypacificwa.gov](mailto:comments@eisgatewaypacificwa.gov)

\* Web: [www.eisgatewaypacificwa.gov](http://www.eisgatewaypacificwa.gov)

\* In-person: At a scoping meeting

### Scoping comments

As you're considering your scoping comments, remember that scoping is designed to gather input on four topics:

- \* Reasonable range of alternatives
- \* Potentially affected resources and extent of analysis of those resources
- \* Significant unavoidable adverse impacts
- \* Measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate effects of the proposals

The most useful scoping comments focus on these topics and provide agencies with your ideas about how these should be addressed in the EIS. Comments about the merits (pro or con) of the proposal or whether an EIS should be prepared at all will not be considered in determining the scope of the EIS. By initiating scoping, the Co-Lead Agencies have determined that an EIS is required before further decision making on the proposals can occur.

All comments will be compiled into a scoping report and considered by the Co-Lead Agencies. Similar comments will be grouped and considered together. All comments -- whether received once or numerous times or received by email, letter or in person -- will receive the same consideration. Decisions about what to include in the EIS will be made jointly by the Co-Lead Agencies and will be reported in a scoping report.

### Scoping meetings

(in and around Whatcom County)

In addition to the online scoping meeting, the Co-Lead Agencies will host scoping meetings. All scoping meetings are drop-in events where you can come at any time and stay as long as you like. All meetings will include an opportunity to provide comments verbally in a large group setting.



## Scoping meeting locations:

### Bellingham

11 am - 3 pm Sat., Oct. 27  
Squalicum High School  
3773 E McLeod Road  
Bellingham, WA

### Friday Harbor

12 pm - 3 pm Sat., Nov. 3  
Friday Harbor High School  
45 Blair Avenue  
Friday Harbor, WA

### Mount Vernon

4 pm - 7 pm Mon., Nov. 5  
McIntyre Hall  
2501 E College Way  
Mount Vernon, WA

### Ferndale

3 pm - 7 pm Thurs., Nov. 29  
Ferndale Events Center  
5715 Barrett Road  
Ferndale, WA

## Each scoping meeting will include:

\* A welcome area where you can learn about the meeting format and sign up to provide verbal comments

\* An open house area where you can review information, talk to staff, and write scoping comments

\* A quiet area where you can provide individual verbal comments to a staff person ready to record comments

\* A public comment area where you can provide verbal comments in front of other community members

## Ground rules for verbal comment area

While all comments will be considered equally, we know that many people want to provide verbal comments. To ensure an orderly and respectful process, the Co-Lead Agencies have adopted the following ground rules for the verbal comment area:

\* Comments will be limited to two minutes per person. If two minutes is not long enough, you can summarize comments verbally and provide more detailed comments in writing. Each individual will only be allowed to speak for two minutes regardless of how many people that individual represents.

\* People will be called up in groups of three to provide comments. When your group is called, please proceed to the front of the room and stay seated at the comment table until everyone in your group has spoken.

\* Those who wish to provide verbal comments must sign in 30 minutes before the scheduled end of each meeting. Individuals will be called to comment in the order that they sign in. If you are not present when your name is called, you will be placed at the end of the line.

\* All observers will be expected to listen quietly and respectfully. If you would like to show support for a speaker or an idea being expressed, please do so by raising your hand.

\* Please silence all phones and other noisemaking devices.

\* All comments will be recorded in writing and become part of the comment record.

\* Representatives of Co-Lead Agencies will listen to comments but will not respond to comments or questions in the verbal comment area.

A facilitator will be responsible for enforcing these ground rules to ensure that the verbal comment area is a safe place for everyone to share scoping comments. Please help us to maintain a civil atmosphere by showing respect to others.

## Equal access

To ensure equal access, the Co-Lead Agencies will provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Please call the project hotline at 360-398-5087 with any requests. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341. All meeting-related requests must be received 72 hours in advance.

## Trumpeter Swans of the Skagit with Martha Jordan

**Saturday, December 1, 10:30 AM – Noon**  
Christianson's Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mt. Vernon  
**Free; Reservations Required:**  
360-466-3821 or [www.christiansonnursery.com](http://www.christiansonnursery.com)



*Trumpeter swans,  
photo by K. Palmer-McCarty*

Each winter the Skagit Valley is host to the largest concentration of trumpeter swans in the United States; an awesome sight to behold when you consider that these elegant birds were close to extinction in the 1960s. Hear wildlife biologist Martha Jordan with The Trumpeter Swan Society describe these amazing birds and Skagit Valley's best places to view them. Get a free Swan Identification Pamphlet and see excellent slides to help you distinguish among trumpeter swans, tundra swans and other birds of the Skagit.

Trumpeter swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) are the largest waterfowl in the world. They have a wingspan of eight to nine feet, weigh between 25 and 30 pounds, and may stand four feet tall. They are long-lived, some more than 20 years, and they mate for life. (Martha will bring a life-size decoy of a trumpeter swan so you can experience their size. She needs a 6-foot long table to hold it!) When you hear their deep, loud call, you will understand why they are called trumpeters.

The trumpeter swan population is stable and increasing now, but Martha will shed light on some challenges the birds face in their wintering grounds, such as habitat loss and the ongoing problems of ingestion of lead shot pellets from years when lead shot was allowed for waterfowl hunting. She helps in the conservation of trumpeter swans by fostering cygnets (baby swans) in her backyard, in cooperation with Northwest Trek.

Martha is the coordinator for *Washington Swan Stewards*, which is the local branch of The Trumpeter Swan Society. She has a degree in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University, and will also be talking about the native tundra swans and the multitudes of snow geese that visit Skagit fields in the winter. For more information online, see [www.trumpeterswansociety.org](http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org).

## Meet a Board Member: Publicity Chair

*Jessica Sharw*

I'm so excited to be helping out with publicity for the Audubon Society here in Bellingham. My goal is to help the chapter reach out to a wider variety of age groups and backgrounds of people so that it may fulfill its mission to educate and foster an appreciation of wildlife and their habitats.

Lately I have begun to focus on ways to get the word out about meetings to a wider audience. The chapter has been relying on the newsletter and newspaper community event calendars like the *Bellingham Herald* and *Cascadia Weekly*. In addition to this I would like to start running announcements on the local radio station KUGS. Coming soon you will also be able to connect to NCAS through our Facebook page. Here I hope to post reminders to RSVP for field trips, promote our guest speakers, and create a place where bird lovers can share their experiences and information about the local bird scene.

When I first moved here in February I attended a field trip to Semiahmoo Spit and another in downtown Bellingham. I wanted to get out and meet people, practice my identification skills, and learn about the new habitat that surrounded me. I found a friendly group of people that were great teachers and a great source of local knowledge. My educational background is in wildlife biology and I felt that this was a community of people that would help me to grow professionally and connect me to my new community.

My curiosity of new places led me from growing up in Illinois and studying in Kentucky to moving to Missouri, Idaho, Oregon, and now Washington for different field jobs. One of my favorite positions was surveying secretive marsh birds in northern Idaho. I can never forget the noise and the breeding dance on the water of those western grebes!





*One of our prettiest wintering dabblers:  
northern pintail male, photo by Ken Salzman*

## Seeking Writers, Artists, and Talkers

*The Avalanche* needs your help to stay fresh and interesting. If you have a newsworthy story, a pertinent topic, or an intriguing image you'd like to share please don't hesitate to contact us. If you're uncomfortable seeing your words in print, we can work with you on editing your piece or could interview you and put your words onto the page. For all the artists, photographers and designers out there, keep in mind that the printed newsletter will remain in black and white, so any color images need to translate well into that medium. Readers will be able to fully appreciate all of the visuals by going to the on-line newsletter which will be in color.

Contact Kelley to discuss the space available and the publication deadlines so we can make sure your article or image is printed in a timely manner. All contributors to the newsletter will be credited, so don't miss this chance to get your work before the public eye! To start the ball rolling and help make *The Avalanche* a success.....

Contact Kelley Palmer-McCarty at:  
[vaktel@gmail.com](mailto:vaktel@gmail.com)

**Thank you** to those members who have  
already submitted events, photos,  
and articles.

## What Info Do You Want Online?

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

There are many changes afoot at the North Cascades Audubon Society, from board members and field trip leaders to events. In addition we will be re-designing our website in the near future. In order to provide a forum for our members we're looking for your input.

### Information Station

What types of media and information do you want to see on our website? Some of our ideas include a rare bird hotline, a dynamic bird photo gallery with submissions from members, periodic field trip summaries and updates, conservation news, and our newsletter in a downloadable PDF format. What else would you like to see?

### Paperless Newsletter With Email Reminder

We know some of you prefer to receive this newsletter in a paperless format, but in the past we had no way of reminding you when the current issue was available online. To do that, we need your email -- and unfortunately we're missing a lot of you!

We are beginning to compile email lists for everyone and eventually transition to a mostly paperless venture. If you think we don't have your email, please send your membership info (first and last name, and email) to Carol Roberts at [membership@northcascadesaudubon.org](mailto:membership@northcascadesaudubon.org).

### Other Thoughts?

If you have any other thoughts on this matter or would like to get involved, please get in touch with Kelley, [vaktel@gmail.com](mailto:vaktel@gmail.com) or Ken Salzman, [kpsalzman@comcast.net](mailto:kpsalzman@comcast.net).

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**North Cascades Audubon Society**  
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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**

*Please make checks payable to North Cascades Audubon.*

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Prefer paperless? Please check here.

*As of right now, we do not send reminders to check online.*

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