

Program Meeting
A dam by any other name is still not a rose
Mark Glyde
February 2nd - 1:30 pm,
Hoquiam Library
Downstairs Meeting Room

January
February
2020



The Sandpiper



Photo by Jacob Spendelow

Birds such as the White-throated Sparrow fly into reflective glass because they confuse mirrored trees and other habitat for the real thing. New York City's new policy will greatly reduce this threat.

New York City Passes Country's Most Wide-Ranging Bird-Friendly Building Legislation

The New York City Council approved Proposed Initiative 1482B — to date, the most broad-reaching bird-friendly building policy in the country. The new policy requires that new buildings' materials meet bird-friendly standards that greatly reduce collision risks to birds. The policy also covers major renovations that include modifying existing glass, and applies to construction across the city's five boroughs.

"Bird-friendly building design should not be seen as an add-on or an extra," said Dr. Christine Sheppard, Glass Collisions Program Director for American Bird Conservancy. "Many strategies for controlling heat, light, and even security can be bird-friendly strategies, too. These can be incorporated into almost any building style, but should be built into project design from the outset to minimize additional costs. That's why this kind of legislation is so important."

The following consortium of partners worked directly with the City Council, providing background on the problem of bird-glass collisions and insight into materials and design solutions: American Bird Conservancy (ABC), New York City Audubon (NYC Audubon), the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIANY), the

Bird-safe Buildings Alliance, and architects representing FXCollaborative and Ennead Architects.

"This bill is a compromise forged by our diverse consortium, which wrestled with and reconciled competing interests of many sorts — design, light, height, use, location, cost, bird mortality.... It's a huge leap forward for long-term conservation," said Kathryn Heintz, NYC Audubon Executive Director. "It will reduce collisions and save migratory birds whose numbers are declining dramatically. As a whole community, we must do better for the future, better for the sustainability of urban living, and better for the health of both birds and people."

"It's our ethical responsibility as members of the building industry to address the role of glass in bird population decline," said Dan Piselli, AIA, LEED AP, CPHD, Director of Sustainability at FXCollaborative. "This informed our strategy for renovating the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in 2013." Once identified by NYC Audubon as the city's top bird-killing building, it was renovated with the goal of not only making the facility more transparent and welcoming, but also making it bird-friendly. New glass incorporated patterns that birds perceive as an obstacle and that also reduce cooling costs. Bird deaths have dropped by 90 percent and the building now uses less energy since the renovations were completed.

"The materials and techniques that prevent bird collisions are already commonly used for a variety of reasons in our buildings; this legislation mandates their use in ways that also protect birds in cost effective ways," said Benjamin Proskey, Assoc. AIA, Executive Director of AIANY and the Center for Architecture. "AIANY and its members are proud to have fought for this commonsense bill."

A recent study published in Science reported that the U.S. and Canadian breeding bird population dropped by more than one-quarter since 1970. Glass collisions are one major cause of this loss, killing up to 1 billion birds in the U.S. each year. According to NYC Audubon's Project Safe Flight, up to 230,000 birds die each year during their migrations through New York City alone. Fortunately, both home and commercial windows can easily be made safe for birds.

The President's Perch



By Janet Strong

Welcome to a new year and a new decade, the 2020's. As we enter this upcoming period, we realize that it is difficult not to be overwhelmed by the disturbing news from all over the globe, within our nation and within our state and communities. The environmental news seems especially grim. Articles within this newsletter will attest to that. We must not sit around and cry in our beer. We can vote for better conditions with our wallets with every purchase; we can become more active in issues we are passionate about; we can donate to organizations who will do same; we can take steps to lessen our consumptive footprint on the planet. As time goes by, these "cans" have moved to "shoulds" and are heading toward "musts." Let's look at what our Audubon chapter can do.

First, welcome to our two newest board members – Cecelia Boulais of Oakville, our new Treasurer, and Robin Moore of Hoquiam, new Member-at-large. Both bring many talents to the board. We look forward to working with them.

An Audubon Collaborative Grant has been awarded to GHAS in order to help pay for student bus transportation to the GH NWR during spring shorebird migration. So many more local children will be exposed to that natural area and to the wonder and drama of the shorebird migration. These trips will augment their classroom work and help them appreciate nature more. On the January 4 Christmas Bird Count, birders from throughout the area counted 122 bird species and recounted some pretty interesting bird dramas, too. Our circle, basically surrounding Grays Harbor, represents only a small fraction of the data these citizen scientists collect each year. But these same efforts throughout the nation, done every year in the same space and manner, build an enormous data base for future wise decisions for the protection of birds and their habitats. Let's hope it gets results.

Seven fish-blocking culverts are scheduled to be removed from the largest of GHAS' parcels near the Humptulips River in the summer of 2020. Salmon will have access to several more miles of stream for feeding, rearing and reproduction. The WA Family Forest Fish Passage Program will fund the project and the Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force will manage it. On another of our parcels, this one bordering Grays Harbor, plans are developing for the removal of a fish-blocking tide

gate and restoring adjacent habitat. No details are available right now but we will keep you posted.

And, of course, GHAS co-hosts the annual Shorebird and Nature Festival on the last weekend of April this year. Folks from all over the state and beyond "flock" to Grays Harbor to witness the amazing migration spectacle brought to us by those international shorebirds. We try to bring education and prosperity to the local communities and to attendees an inspiration to return home and work for better bird protection. And we so enjoy ourselves in the process. We hope you will enjoy the New Year and prosper in all you strive to accomplish.

Birding the basin

by Mary O'Neil

Many thanks to all who turned out for the Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Jan. 4. I know we all woke up fearing sidewise winds with sleetin rain, but much to our surprise, the weather cooperated and almost made us think we had overdressed for the occasion.

Going forward, I have planned a few field trips that I hope many/all of you might feel up for:

Copalis Beach - Wed/Jan 15th.

Meet 9:00 am at the Bowerman Basin Wildlife Refuge (Hoquiam Airport parking) to decide ride-share/carpool. Will return to parking area around 3:30 pm or as per group agreement. Expect some walking.

Raymond/Willapa Bay - Thurs/Jan 30th.

Meet at 9:00 am at Southside (Riverside) Mall near the old Sears Store. Expect a stop at the Yacolt Burn State Forest Butte Creek Day Use park with some light walking if the gate is not open. Next we will have some walking in and around Raymond, traveling as far south as the South Bend historic courthouse stopping occasionally for some water front pullouts.

Tokeland - Midway Beach - Grayland Saturday Feb 8

Meet at 9:00 at Southside (Riverside) Mall near the old Sears Store. This is planned to be a mostly car-birding trip.

McClane Creek (Olympia) and Tumwater Falls

Meet at 8:00 am at the Aberdeen Tractor Supply Parking area adjacent to Hwy 12. (Any one living East of Aberdeen, please call to arrange connections.) Plan on light walking at both stops. and water. Time allowing, we might even include a visit to the World's Largest American Chestnut Tree. This could get to be a full day.

continued on page 3

Birding the basin continued from Page 2

Nisqually Billy Frank Jr. Wildlife Refuge - Thurs March 19 *The First Day of Spring"

Meet at 8:00 am at the Aberdeen Tractor Supply Parking area adjacent to Hwy 12. (Any one living East of Aberdeen, please call to arrange connections.) Plan on walking. Expect a full day.

Remember to always wear sturdy foot gear. Bring your lunch, snacks, and water. Dress appropriately for the weather.

If anyone has another date on which they would like to make a get-a-way, please feel free to call me. If I am not otherwise committed, I would happily accompany you. My phone number is 360-533-9833. If I don't answer, just leave a message, and I will get back to you when I have an opportunity.

Remember: When stress gets you down Go Birding!



Long-Billed Curlew
Nick Saunders

Study finds bird migration timing skewed by Climate Change

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

A team of researchers has found that the timing of spring bird migration across North America is shifting as a result of climate change. The study, one of the first to examine the subject at a continental scale, is published in *Nature Climate Change*. The work was done by scientists at Colorado State University, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the University of Massachusetts.

Using 24 years of weather radar data, the study found that spring migrants were likely to pass certain stops earlier now than they would have 20 years ago. Temperature and migration timing were closely aligned, with the greatest changes in migration timing occurring in regions warming most rapidly. During fall, shifts in migration timing were less apparent.

"To see changes in timing at continental scales is truly impressive, especially considering the diversity of behaviors and strategies used by the hundreds of species the radars capture," says lead author Kyle Horton, an assistant professor at Colorado State University.

Horton noted that the timing shift doesn't necessarily mean that the birds are keeping pace with climate change. And there's concern about a mis-

match between when birds arrive and when the blooming plants and insects they need for food are at their peak.

Peak abundance for seeds, fruits, and insects is known to be occurring earlier than it used to (green line). The question posed by this animation is whether or not birds can shift their migration timing enough to stay in sync with peak food availability. Animation by Kyle Horton.

Andrew Farnsworth, co-author and researcher at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, says the team's research answers some key questions.

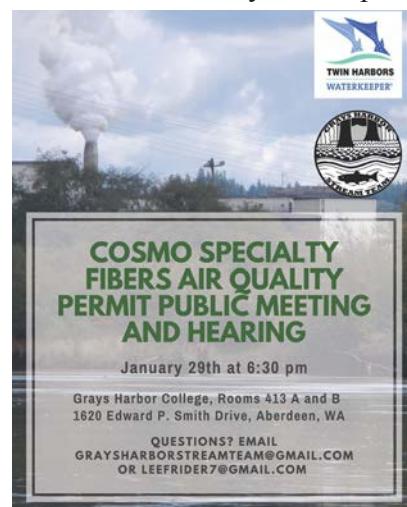
"Bird migration evolved largely as a response to changing climate," he says. "It's a global phenomenon involving billions of birds annually. And it's not a surprise that bird movements track changing climates. But how bird populations respond in an era of such rapid and extreme changes in climate has been a black box. Capturing scales and magnitudes of migration change over time has been impossible until recently."

The study authors found the lack of change in fall migration patterns surprising, but say migration also tends to be a "little bit messier" during those months when there's not the same pressure to reach wintering grounds, and migration tends to move at a slower pace.

The researchers plan to expand their data analysis to include Alaska, where climate change is occurring faster and having more serious impacts than in the lower 48 states.

Public Hearing Grays Harbor College

Cosmo Specialty Fiber has been experiencing significant odor problems and needs to renew their air permit. A public hearing has been scheduled, for the 29th of January at 6:30pm



Learn more about this and other hearings and actions at <http://twinharborswaterkeeper.org/act-now-important-dates>



Photo by Jacob Spendelow

The Devastating Role of Light Pollution in the 'Insect Apocalypse'

By Jason Daley smithsonian.com November 25, 2019

Insect numbers have plummeted at an alarming rate due to a variety of factors, including increased use of pesticides, farming practices that destroy habitat, and industrial pollution. A new study in the journal Biological Conservation adds another major cause to the list: human-created light pollution.

In a meta-analysis, researchers reviewed 229 previous studies that looked at the impact "artificial light at night" has on insect species. About half of the millions of insect species on Earth are nocturnal, meaning artificial light can have a big impact on their nocturnal life cycles, reports Damian Carrington at The Guardian. Currently, artificial light covers about a quarter of the Earth's surface.

"Artificial light at night is human-caused lighting—ranging from streetlights to gas flares from oil extraction," co-author Brett Seymour of Washington University in St. Louis says in a press release. "It can affect insects in pretty much every imaginable part of their lives."

The impacts vary between insect orders. Excess light makes it difficult for some species, like fireflies, that rely on bioluminescent cues to find mates. Some insects use polarized light to find bodies of water where they breed and reflections from outdoor fixtures confuse their sense of direction. For instance, mayflies, which only live and breed for a day, can be confused by light bouncing off asphalt and lay their eggs in the street instead of a lake or stream. A mistake like that can wipe out an entire population over night.

Insects are also attracted to the headlights of moving cars, with an estimate 100 billion meeting their end on the highway in Germany each summer, according to the study. Artificial light also interferes with the way some insects hunt at night.

Then there are the moths and other flying insects drawn to outdoor lights. It's estimated about one

third of the bugs swirling around those lights die by morning, either by being gobbled up by predators or simply from exhaustion.

"We strongly believe artificial light at night—in combination with habitat loss, chemical pollution, invasive species, and climate change—is driving insect declines. We posit here that artificial light at night is another important—but often overlooked—bringer of the insect apocalypse."

While the other challenges facing insects requires a total overhaul of the agricultural system and billions of dollars in conservation work, Seymour tells Yessenia Funes at Earther that light pollution is relatively easy to fix. "With some small changes and some upgrades to lighting, we can still have light at night and drastically reduce light resulting in insect declines," he says.

According to the press release, the best ways to reduce light pollution are to install directional covers on outdoor lights so they only illuminate the areas where they are needed. Making lights motion-activated so they're only on when people are around is another solution. Seymour also says people should pay attention to the color of the light bulbs they use in urban settings. Insects are most attracted to blue and white light, though shades of orange, yellow and red also draw them in. For now, he recommends using amber lights near homes. But the best piece of advice is to simply shut off lights at times and in places when they are not necessary.

Not everyone is convinced that light pollution is a threat on the same level of pesticides. "Light pollution could have significant ramifications at the insect population, species or community level," Nigel Raine, a pollination researcher from Guelph University in Canada, not involved in the study, tells Carrington. "But it might be too soon to say the impacts are as significant as other stressors."

According to the new paper, however, the full impact of light pollution on insects hasn't been assessed, mainly because ecologists have a bias toward studies that take place during the day. That's one reason Seymour hopes to dig deeper into the impacts of light pollution on individual orders of insects. In particular, he hopes to look into the ways it affects butterflies, which is more likely to spur public concern, he tells Funes.

Stopping insect declines is urgent. Not only do they pollinate crops and countless wild plants, they are also the basis of many food chains. Without the bugs, many forms of agriculture would cease and entire ecosystems would collapse.

"If we lose these insects, you're also gone," Seymour tells Funes. "It's over."

Membership Due

Your local Grays Harbor Audubon Society depends on the kindness of you, and a couple of strangers. January marks the date when memberships are due for renewal. If you have not already renewed, simply turn to page 8 of this Sandpiper and fill out your renewal at a level that is comfortable for you.

We depend on your support to bring you the programs you enjoy at the bi-monthly get-togethers. Subscribing at a higher-level allows us to enhance the care and consideration we give to our over 3,000 acres of essential wetlands and habitat for birds and other wildlife species. Grays Harbor Audubon protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, but only with your support. Make sure you renew or upgrade today. If you are unsure, contact Linda Orgel at ldotorg@olearycreek.com to review your current status.

Thank you in advance for caring about the birds, and your Chapter.

A Happy Winner



Marj Leone of Bellingham, Washington was the lucky winner of the owl quilt raffle. Marge bought her tickets at the Shorebird Festival Dessert Reception. She remarks that she "...is thrilled."

Meeting program

A dam by any other name is still not a rose

Mark Glyde's presentation on February 2nd will focus on key issues around the proposed dam on the Upper Chehalis River, including the dam's potential impact on salmon, particularly Spring Chinook, how the dam's unique design would work and who will and will not benefit in the Chehalis Basin from the stated purpose of the dam to reduce flood damage. 2020 is setting up to be a big year for debate and public input on the proposed dam with the state releasing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on February 27 and the federal government set to release a separate DEIS later in the year.

He will also talk about the ambitious Aquatic Species Restoration (ASRP) Plan to restore habitat across the Basin. The ASRP and proposed dam are the two main initiatives of Washington State's Chehalis Basin Strategy.

Mark works with the Quinault Indian Nation on community and media outreach efforts to protect the Nation's treaty rights and resources. Mark first worked with the Quinault Nation in 2016 when he led the Nation's communications strategy and media outreach opposing proposed crude oil export terminals in Grays Harbor.

Prior to working with the Quinault, Mark spent 12 years with Resource Media, a non-profit communications shop with a mission to drive social change. He has also served as communications director for several regional non-profit organizations, including the NW Energy Coalition.

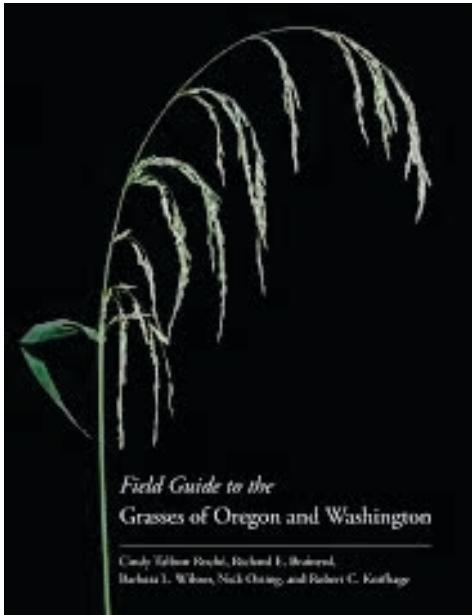
Refreshments will be served. The meeting convenes at 1:30 pm at the downstairs meeting room of the Hoquiam Library 420 7th Street, Hoquiam, 98550



2020 Othello Sandhill Crane Festival on Registration begins February 1st

The 2020 brochure will be posted online at <http://www.othellosandhillcrane festival.org/>. Some tours do sell out quickly, many within the first week of registration.

Please call (509) 989-5606 or email othellosandhillcrane festival.org with any questions or more information



Book review - Field Guide to the Grasses of Oregon and Washington by Roché et al. (2019).

by Jude Armstrong

In the words of the author "Because grass is nearly everywhere, most people are "grass-blind". They view grass as a background in which wild-flowers and animals live or sports are played." But if you stop to think about it for just a mere moment, you will recognize the many ways that grasses play vital roles in our lives. The cereal you eat in the morning, the bread you eat at lunch, the chocolate cake at supper, all are from grasses. Huge numbers of animals depend directly on grasses, too, just like the cow who provided the milk you put on your cereal. Grasses add beauty to our world and are even featured in our national anthem! Grasses are found in virtually every major habitat on earth, so let's stop thinking of them as just 'wallpaper' and begin to give them the recognition they deserve.

You may have heard me say that learning to identify grasses is as difficult as learning to ID shorebirds, but I think I wasn't emphatic as I should have been. Grasses are way, way more difficult! But that is mainly because there are so many more of them! There are only 26 species of shorebirds to learn here, but there are 376 species of grasses! Don't let that faze you, though, once you learn the vocabulary involved with grasses it is, as some would say, "a piece of cake." When you get the vocabulary down and learn the rudimentary structure of grasses you are well on your way to identifying nearly any grass you come in contact with in Oregon and Washington.

There are many aspects of the book that make it a great guide, the relatively easy key, the range maps and the amazingly good photographs that show the defining structures of each species. It is not quite 'pocket size', but it would be a great field guide when you are out searching for grasses to ID. We grass lovers have waited a long time for a book like this one, and I am looking forward to using it on outings for many years to come.



Photo by William Kennerley/USFWS

Wisdom, world's oldest known banded wild bird, returns to Midway Atoll in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

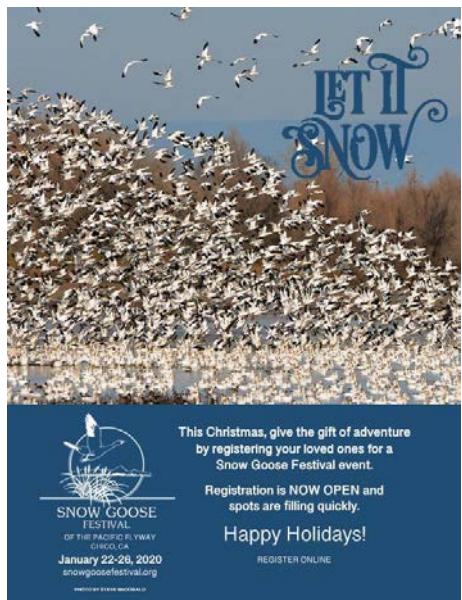
Wisdom, a Laysan albatross and the world's oldest known, banded wild bird has returned to Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Battle of Midway National Memorial. Wisdom is at least 69 years old and has hatched more than 35 chicks over the course of her life! Wisdom was first sighted at her nest site on November 22, 2019.

Wisdom's mate Akeakamai has not yet arrived for the season, but she is not alone. Midway Atoll in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is a globally important habitat for seabirds. The atoll is home to 73% of all Laysan albatross in the world. Each year in late October, more than a million albatross return to Midway from the sea and by the end of November nearly every available patch of land is claimed by a breeding pair.

Wisdom and her mate, like most albatross, return nearly every year to the same nest site. This behavior is known as "nest site fidelity" and it makes places with large colonies of nesting birds, like Midway Atoll, critically important for the future survival of seabirds like Wisdom.



Audubon's 120th Christmas Bird Count
was conducted between the dates of December 14, 2019 through January 5, 2020
Birds counted in the current year: 6,417,386
This is a preliminary count and a report will be forthcoming



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all area codes 360, unless otherwise noted	

Please Fill Out and Mail Back

ANNUAL GRAYS HARBOR AUDUBON CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

If you would like to join Grays Harbor Audubon Society (GHAS), please fill out the form below, *make check payable to Grays Harbor Audubon Society* and return it with your check to:

**Grays Harbor Audubon Society
P.O. Box 470
Montesano, WA 98563**

Chapter Memberships include a subscription to *The Sandpiper* newsletter. All Chapter Memberships above the Sandpiper category provide financial support to our Chapter. The Grays Harbor Audubon Society is totally self-supporting.

Name _____ *Date* _____

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|--------------------------|---------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Heron | \$ 25.00 |
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Program Meeting

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Mark Glyde

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1:30 - 3:00 pm**

***Hoquiam Public Library
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