

Program Meeting
Hoquiam Library Meeting Room
February 9 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Where The Falcon Flies
A Review by Dan Varland
NOTE DATE CHANGE
AVAILABLE VIA ZOOM see page 9

January
February
2025



The Sandpiper



photos by Laura Busby

Christmas Bird Count

by Dianna Moore

On Saturday, January 4th, 29 intrepid souls braved rainy conditions to participate in the 2024 Grays Harbor Christmas Bird Count. Most of these people do more than one count and many are from Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympia areas. I call that dedicated! I hosted a woman from Twisp this year. She was visiting Ocean Shores to escape the snow and ice for a week, looked on the GH Audubon web site, saw our notice and contacted me about participating. She's still learning but was very enthusiastic and eager to learn about birds on the coast. Most of the others count the same area year after year, and that works for me as they know where to look and what to look for as well as what's missing or developing trends.

As you may have guessed, the usual numbers of little birds were not out there. They were hunkered down keeping dry if possible. But we had some noteworthy (to me at least) exceptions.

Area 1 is the south end of the Ocean Shores peninsula where a Black Scoter was seen, the first in a very long time. They used to be common between Westport and Ocean Shores. Area 2 is from Point Brown Ave. to the beach, and Marine View Dr. north including Perkins Pond and the finger canals. They found an astounding 97 Yellow-rumped Warblers along their route. Area 4, my area, delivered nice numbers of mixed shorebirds and Canada Geese at the Ocean Shores Airport and a Sitka Spruce on the bank of Duck Lake with 15 Double-crested Cormorants perched in the tree...all vocalizing....a first for me. On one of the nearby residential streets we found 12 Rock Pigeons feeding on the ground, another first.

We rarely see pigeons out here due to our falcons. Our biggest miss, Bald Eagles. Not one. Area 5 is up and down SR 115 and includes the Quinault Beach Resort property and the Ocean City SP. Only four Trumpeter Swans, down from the usual 11, but they had 12 Greater Yellowlegs, 11 Horned Grebes, two Short-eared Owls, and 51 Varied Thrush to name a few standouts. Mary O'Neil found the usual Spotted Sandpiper on the Hoquiam River in Area 7a as well as four California Scrub Jays. They're moving in! Area 7b which includes the Refuge and Bowerman field area always comes through for us with geese numbers which included a lone Snow Goose. Also seen were 360 scaup, 350 Pine Siskins (this has been a big year for siskins), two Cooper's Hawks and eight Bald Eagles. Area 9 covers Johns River Wilderness Area and Bottle Beach SP and was covered by our own Laura Busby and Renee Kova. They had 65 Marbled Godwits. Finally, Area 10 covers Westport, always a good one. They found two Long-tailed Ducks, 36 Common Loons, a Great Egret, a remarkable 72 Long-billed Dowitchers, one adult Heerman's Gull, our only Merlin, and my favorite, 10 Western Meadowlarks. I love those birds. So that wraps up a count I'll be sending to National Audubon in about a month.

I'm always a bit surprised by the numbers and how they vary, or remain similar, year after year. This count was established in 1972, so this is the 52nd and there have been lots of changes over those years. One thing remains the same, the dedication and excitement of the participants. I remain grateful for all those who walk in the rain for this event.

If you would like to participate next year please contact me and I will add you to my contact list.

Dianna Moore osdlm1945@gmail.com



The President's Perch



By Janet Strong

Happy New Year and Let's Celebrate our 30th!

2024 – 2025 marks the 30th Anniversary of our Grays Harbor Audubon Society and we should celebrate this milestone. At first, I had envisioned a low-key celebration among members at our February members' meeting, but GHAS Board Members got pretty enthusiastic about all the great people in our chapter's history. So we decided to give ourselves enough time to gather up past and present members and friends at our June, 2025 meeting and go down memory lane in fine style.

So please put Sunday, June 9, at 1:30 at the Hoquiam TR Library on your calendar and start collecting stories to share with the rest of us at the celebration. If you can send us your memories, stories and/or other tidbits about your experience with GHAS by the time of the Shorebird and Nature Festival (end of April), we will try to print them up in a folder for the occasion. Please be brief, if you don't mind. They could include your first chapter birding trip, or picnic, or your favorite program, or new friends in birds or an early festival event, or a clean-up event on one of our habitat properties! Send by email or snail mail to Jan Strong at janet.strong4@gmail.com or P.O. Box 287, McCleary, WA 98557.

Of course, we will have birthday cake and many other refreshments for you also.

Meantime, spread the word about our new mural, go on a birding trip or volunteer for the Shorebird Festival. Happy New Year!



Offshore Wind Report Webinar

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. PT

Join an informative webinar overview of the content in a new report from Audubon, *Birds and Offshore Wind: Developing the Offshore Wind that Birds Need*. This report makes the case for responsibly sited offshore wind development and offers clear strategies and policy recommendations for addressing potential risks to birds based on the best available science. All are welcome. Panelists include:

- Sarah Rose, Vice President, Climate Action, North America
- Alice Madden, Senior Director, Climate Strategy
- Brooke Bateman, Senior Director, Climate & Community Science

In this session, you will learn how Audubon chapters and members can raise awareness of the need for offshore wind and the importance of responsible planning and monitoring in building the necessary clean energy of the future. We further outline the potential impacts of offshore wind development on birds and their habitats, while providing solutions and effective strategies to address them. To sign up visit https://act.audubon.org/a/birds-and-offshore-wind-webinar?contactdata=ERrla8SbM3uW+KHu+dgYPpGJJJa6g6B0lnr5dbwOCL0ZUBIRYJCBI8jn2ZIKl6l34cKYV-8vaolLMCRcn4z1vgwPbghDBpwlAFkVEFpWgzGSXRNRvD1YA99FoqJSEK5X5%2f+Uo%2fncTY9eaSAHAOuCQ1dL5r350NA4oq%2fcqy4XB3zy7ZYONbTANECYfF91KaJw5+Eb7IOHUm6PIUsXr+F8Kj+tFBH+j%2fS2uIcCy+ODANfxZIUOSrv5BHtYYWfjsb6G&ms=network-eng-email-ea-x-engagement_20250110_weekly-chapter-update_&emci=c239714a-84cf-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&emdi=6d20f683-a8cf-ef11-88d0-0022482a9d92&ceid=3060054



Spanish Language Bird Book

Several years ago, *Black Hills Audubon Society (BHAS)* decided to spend some of their funds to provide Spanish-language children's books about birds to our local libraries. To their great surprise, there were no educational books that featured North American birds available in Spanish: the few that had been written were all out of print. So, they decided to write one.

Writing the text was not difficult, but figuring out a way to create the illustrations was: the book features 25 birds that needed to be pleasant to view and (reasonably) accurately drawn. Enter AI, with its ability to convert text to pictures. The process involved multiple iterations, but eventually I was able to create the needed images.

The book is 40 pages long and it's pitched for Pre-K through 3rd graders. Most of the book is in a question-and-answer format; there is a question on one page and then the answer follows on the next page. A majority of the pages feature birds, but a few of the pages show non-birds (e.g. bats, butterflies) for contrast.

The final two pages list the names of all the birds in the book (e.g. Song Sparrow on the cover).

The book would have been greatly delayed if it wasn't for Sheila Rodriguez' tireless work learning about the self-publishing process and finding us a printing company. Kudos to Sheila! We have already arranged to provide 40 copies of the book to the Timberland Regional Libraries; in eBook form, it has been placed on the webpage of the State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction so that it is freely available for teachers to use across the state.

We are in the process of donating copies to local elementary school libraries. We hope that access to this book will encourage an interest in birds in children that otherwise might not be able to read about them! You can't start instilling a love of birds at too young an age! <https://blackhills-audubon.org/childrens-spanish-language-bird-book/>

Editor's note: Thanks to Becky Durr whose interest in learning Spanish led to the discovery of this book, and to Kim Dolgin for permission to post.



Heron Rises From The Dark, Summer Pond

by *Mary Oliver*

*So heavy
is the long-necked, long-bodied heron,
always it is a surprise
when her smoke-colored wings
open
and she turns
from the thick water,
from the black sticks
of the summer pond,
and slowly
rises into the air
and is gone.
Then, not for the first or the last time,
I take the deep breath
of happiness, and I think
how unlikely it is
that death is a hole in the ground,
how improbable
that ascension is not possible,
though everything seems so inert, so nailed
back into itself--
the muskrat and his lumpy lodge,
the turtle,
the fallen gate.
And especially it is wonderful
that the summers are long
and the ponds so dark and so many,
and therefore it isn't a miracle
but the common thing,
this decision,
this trailing of the long legs in the water;
this opening up of the heavy body
into a new life: see how the sudden
gray-blue sheets of her wings
strive toward the wind; see how the clasp of
nothing
takes her in.*



In the field
field trips for the beginning of the new year
by *Mary O'Neil*

Wednesday, January 15 Bishop Athletic Complex/Chehallis Rvr Trailway

Meet at Southside Swanson parking area closest to coffee stand drive thru at 8:30am. Anybody coming from Westport/Grayland can meet us at the Bishop Complex. This is an almost new trail to me. It will be mostly walking and stopping and looking. It will be interesting to see if any birds show up.

Monday, January 27 Lake Sylvia

Meet at Tractor Supply Parking Lot closest to Hwy 12 at 8:30 am. For those coming from East of town, we can meet up at the Monster Mocha in Montesano. This little drive-thru coffee shop is just south of the Hwy 12 exit where the exit connects with Main Street/Hwy 107. We should arrive there around 8:50 am.

Saturday, February 8 Westport

Meet at the Southside Swanson at about 8:30 am. Anyone coming from the coastal area can meet us at the end-of-road parking lot in the Marina where the public fishing float begins. We should show up there around 9 am.

Tuesday, February 25 Brady Loop

Meet at the Tractor Supply Parking Lot closest to Hwy 12 at 8:30am. We can meet those arriving from East County at the Brady Store located at the intersection of Monte-Brady Road and Old Hwy 410. We should arrive there at about 9 am. This will be 90% birding from the car.

Friday, March 14 Copalis Beach/Griffith Priddy State Park

Meet at the former Flooring Company parking lot on the corner of Simpson St and 6th (near the bird mural) in Hoquiam. We can meet at 8:30 am. For the Ocean Shores birders we can meet up at the Griffith Priddy State Park parking lot around 9:00 am Remember your Discover Pass.

Sunday, March 30 Tokeland, WA

Meet at the Southside Swanson at 8:30. Any joining us from the Westport/Grayland area, meet at the Tokeland Marina near the restrooms. We should arrive there around 9:15 or 9:30 am.

Monday, April 14 Ocean Shores

Meet at the former Flooring Company parking lot on the corner of Simpson St and 6th in Hoquiam at 8:30 am. For those from Ocean Shores or other coastal locales, we can meet you at the parking lot with the public restrooms on the first beach access road (St. Rte 115/Damon Road) near the Lighthouse Suites Hotel.

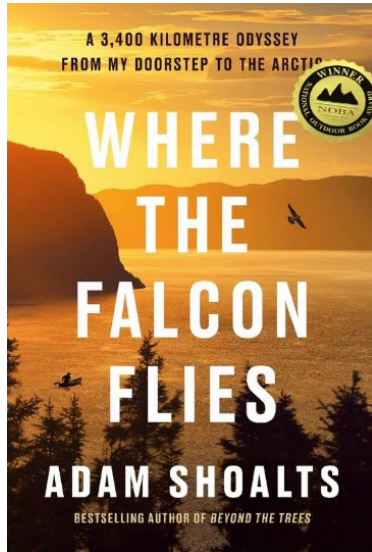
These are all fairly local destinations. As we get into Spring with the promise of better weather we can plan more distant locations.

I will be sending reminders for upcoming trips through my Birders email list. If you are not on it and would like to be, please email me at deed2et2et@yahoo.com

Your Field Trip Chairperson
Mary O'Neil



Member meeting
Sunday, February 9, 2025
Note Change of date to second Sunday



Where the Falcon Flies: Outdoor Adventures in Canada's Far North

Dan Varland will review the book *Where the Falcon Flies*, winner of the National Outdoor Book Award in 2024. He will share author Adam Shoalts' adventures of traveling by canoe from Lake Erie to the northern coast of Labrador where Peregrine Falcons nest. He will follow this with his own adventures on a 1984 falcon survey by canoe above the Arctic Circle in Canada's Northwest Territories.

Dan was born and raised in Rockford, Illinois. He has Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Zoology from Eastern Illinois University and a PhD in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University. He is the founder and Executive Director of *Coastal Raptors*, a not-for-profit organization focused on research and education programs for Pacific Coast raptors <https://coastalraptors.com>. He and his wife Sue live on Grays Harbor west of Hoquiam.



A bird we can't help but wax on about! *Cornell Lab, All About Birds*

Cedar Waxwings are beautiful and charming! Flocks of these fruit-eating birds are a delight to spy among berry-bearing branches across their winter range, from southern Canada to Honduras. These birds are as fascinating socially as they are beautiful! Here are a few fun facts about this beloved species:

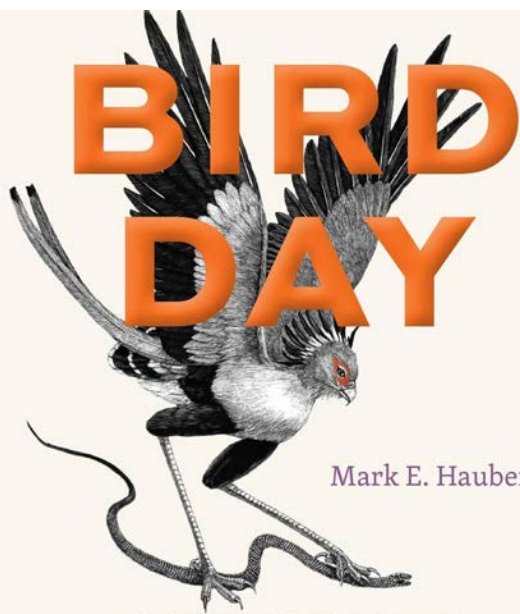
The name "waxwing" comes from the waxy red secretions found on the tips of the secondaries of some birds. The exact function of these tips is not known, but they may help attract mates.

Cedar Waxwings with orange instead of yellow tail tips began appearing in the northeastern U.S. and southeastern Canada in the 1960s. The orange color is the result of a red pigment picked up from the berries of an introduced species of honeysuckle. If a waxwing eats enough of the berries while it is growing a tail feather, the tip of the feather will be orange.

Frugivores to the Max: Cedar Waxwings are one of the few North American birds that specialize in eating fruit. Their heavily fruit-centered diet means that they might occasionally become intoxicated from eating too many overripe berries!

Seed Disperser: In cooler months, Cedar Waxwings travel widely in highly social flocks, voraciously feeding on fruits without separating the seeds. These behaviors make them especially effective at spreading fruiting plants!

Building a nest takes a female Cedar Waxwing 5 to 6 days and may require more than 2,500 individual trips to the nest. They occasionally save time by taking nest materials from other birds' nests, including nests of Eastern Kingbirds, Yellow-throated Vireos, orioles, robins, and Yellow Warblers.



A STORY OF 24 HOURS AND
24 AVIAN LIVES

ILLUSTRATED BY TONY ANGELL

From morning to night and from the Antarctic to the equator, birds have busy days. In this short book, ornithologist Mark E. Hauber shows readers exactly how birds spend their time. Each chapter covers a single bird during a single hour, highlighting twenty-four different bird species from around the globe, from the tropics through the temperate zones to the polar regions. We encounter owls and nightjars hunting at night and kiwis and petrels finding their way in the dark. As the sun rises, we witness the beautiful songs of the “dawn chorus.” At eleven o’clock in the morning, we float alongside a common pochard, a duck resting with one eye open to avoid predators. At eight that evening, we spot a hawk swallowing bats whole, gorging on up to fifteen in rapid succession before retreating into the darkness.

For each chapter, award-winning artist Tony Angell has depicted these scenes with his signature pen and ink illustrations, which grow increasingly light and then dark as our bird day passes. Working closely together to narrate and illustrate these unique moments in time, Hauber and Angell have created an engaging read that is a perfect way to spend an hour or two—and a true gift for readers, amateur scientists, and birdwatchers.

This book is available at the Hoquiam Branch of the Timberland Library



Here’s how we’ll navigate impacts of the new administration

We recognize that the outcome of this election brings a new set of challenges and it’s more important than ever that we stay united in our commitment to protect birds and the natural habitats they depend on.

A new administration under President Trump may bring renewed attempts to roll back the environmental protections we have fought so hard to secure. We understand that this news may feel daunting, but it also strengthens our resolve to fight for what we know is right: the preservation of our natural world for birds—and for all of us.

We have faced challenging times before, and each time, with your support, we have risen to the occasion. We will not let potential setbacks derail the progress we’ve made. Instead, we will double down on our efforts, working tirelessly to protect birds, their habitats, and the environmental laws that safeguard them.

Here’s How We’ll Continue the Fight:

Vigilance Against Rollbacks: We will closely monitor and respond to any attempts to weaken critical environmental regulations. Our policy experts are prepared to advocate fiercely in Washington, D.C., and across the nation to ensure that hard-won protections for birds and their habitats remain intact. **Strengthening Local and State Initiatives:** While federal policy may shift, our commitment to local and state conservation efforts remains steadfast. We will work with communities to build resilience, ensuring that conservation continues regardless of changes at the federal level.

Rallying for Resilience: We know that many of you share our concerns about the future, and we see this as an opportunity to come together like never before. In the coming months, you’ll hear about ways you can take immediate action to support our work. Your voice, your involvement, and your donations will be more critical than ever.

*Dr. Elizabeth Gray
CEO, National Audubon Society*



GHAS Mission

The mission of the Grays Harbor Audubon Society is to seek a sustainable balance between human activity and the needs of the environment, and to promote enjoyment of birds and the natural world

GHAS Board of Directors

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National Audubon	(212) 979-3000
GHAS Website	<i>http://ghas.org</i>

****all area codes 360, unless otherwise noted****

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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 your 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. The Grays Harbor Audubon Society is totally self-supporting. Please note that the Sandpiper Newsletter is sent via email, so please include your email address on this form or send it to Linda Orgel at Ldotorg@olearycreek.com

Name _____ *Date* _____

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Phone Number _____ *E-Mail* _____

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heron | \$ 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pelican | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Falcon | \$ 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eagle | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$ _____ |

- I am renewing my membership
 I am a new member

To join National Audubon or renew your National Audubon Membership, call 1-800-274-4201.

News & Editorial

send materials to
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or email to
rd@olearycreek.com

Copy deadline 10th of
month preceding
membership meeting

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The Sandpiper

P.O. Box 470
Montesano,
WA 98563



Program Meeting

Dan Varland
Where the Falcon Flies:
Outdoor Adventures in Canada's Far North

Hoquiam Library Meeting Room
420 Seventh Street
(7th & K)

ZOOM LINK

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82118695964?pwd=dDVqOXFlbUJrakxLWXhLNTRQL1ovUT09>

Meeting ID: 821 1869 5964

Passcode: 579465

One tap mobile

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NOTE NEW DATE

2nd Sunday

February 9, 2025

MEETING TIME

1:30 pm - 3:30 pm