

Program Meeting

*Nisqually Typologies
a year at Billie Frank Jr. NWR
Zachary Person
virtually see pages 4 & 9
April 2, 2023 1:30 - 3:30 pm*

March
April
2023



The Sandpiper



Climate change alters a human-raptor relationship

Dairy farmers welcome Bald Eagles

Bald Eagles and dairy farmers exist in a mutually beneficial relationship in parts of northwestern Washington State. According to a new study, this “win-win” relationship has been a more recent development, driven by the impact of climate change on eagles’ traditional winter diet of salmon carcasses, as well as by increased eagle abundance following decades of conservation efforts. The research is published in the journal *Ecosphere*.

“The narrative around birds of prey and farmers has traditionally been negative and combative, mainly due to claims of livestock predation,” explained lead author Ethan Duvall in the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at Cornell University. “However, dairy farmers in northwestern Washington do not consider the eagles threats. In fact, many farmers appreciate the services that the eagles provide such as carcass removal and pest-deterrence.”

Duvall, with collaborators Emily Schwabe and Karen Steensma from the University of Washington and Trinity Western University in Canada, conducted face-to-face interviews with farmers on small, medium, and large dairy operations in Whatcom County to better understand this unique relationship. The study was motivated by Duvall’s most recent research showing that eagles were redistributing from rivers to farmland in response to the declining availability of salmon carcasses during the past 50 years.

“Climate change has altered the chum salmon spawning schedule, causing them to run earlier in the winter,” said Duvall. “Now the salmon are spawning when annual Nooksack River flooding is at its peak. The fish who spawn and die are swept away by the high water instead of being deposited on shore where the eagles can easily access them.”

Duvall notes that the shift in timing has reduced the number of available carcasses on the local river, not the number of individual salmon. However, many rivers in the Pacific Northwest have experienced dramatic salmon population declines, also eliminating winter resources for eagles.

To make up for the reduction in their natural food supply, eagles have turned to the steady stream of dairy farm by-products resulting from the births and deaths of cows and prey on waterfowl populations which feed and rest in the agricultural areas. Bald Eagles also keep a lid on traditional farm pests, such as rodents and starlings.

“We know this positive interaction between farmers and Bald Eagles is not the norm in many other agricultural areas, especially near free-range poultry farms where the eagles snatch chickens,” said Duvall. “But this study gives me hope that, moving forward, farmers, wildlife managers, and conservationists can come together to think critically about how to maximize benefits for people and wildlife in the spaces they share.”

Reference: Ethan. S. Duvall, Emily K. Schwabe, and Karen M.M. Steensma. Photo Priscilla Morris, courtesy of Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The President's Perch



By Janet Strong

The Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature festival has risen from its virtual-only existence into a full-blown and in-person celebration this coming May 2023 (Friday, May 5 through Sunday, May 7). As successful as our pandemic-dictated virtual events were, it is really exciting to return to the normal greeting of the migrating shorebirds. The festival will feature field trips, classes and talks, poster contestants and winners, Saturday banquet, plus speakers both Friday evening (plus desserts!) and Saturday evening after the banquet. Both vendors and exhibitors will set up their displays in the Hoquiam Middle School, from which field trips will originate. Friday and Saturday evening events will occur in the Hoquiam High School.

Since September, 2022, the incredible Shorebird Festival Committee has worked diligently to bring back the festival to its former glory and add a few extra touches. Please check out the festival schedule in this newsletter and support the newly energized festival. You can do so by fully engaging in as many activities as you can. All the shorebirds migrating through Grays Harbor never stopped through the pandemic. Now it's our turn to personally welcome them again on their journey to their nesting territories in Alaska and Canada. I personally plan to hang out at the boardwalk, take advantage of the field trips, learn something from the speakers and exhibitors and enjoy the dining opportunities. It will be a wonderful weekend!

World Migratory Bird Day May 13, 2023

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), now World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD), was created in 1993 by visionaries at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. From 1995 to 2006, the program was under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Because of its consistent growth, these organizations sought a new home for the program. In 2007, IMBD found its "forever home" at Environment for the Americas (EFTA), a non-profit organization that connects people to bird conservation through education and research.

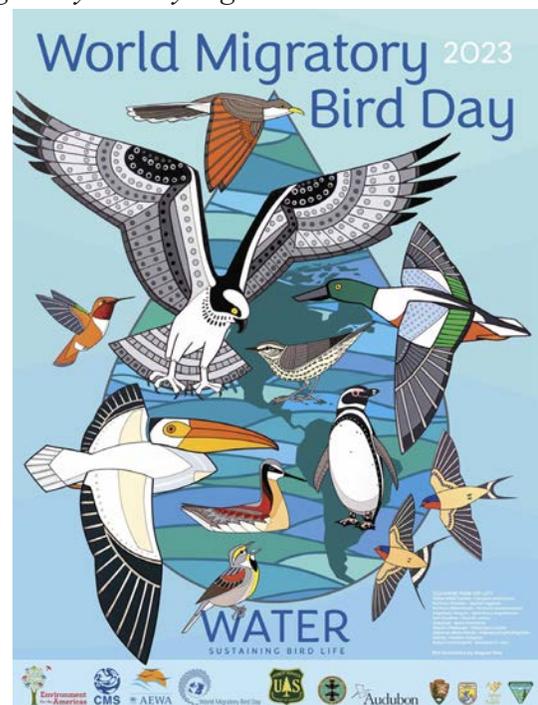
Over the years, EFTA has made changes and im-

provements to International Migratory Bird Day. They developed the concept of a single conservation theme to help highlight one topic that is important to migratory bird conservation. These educational campaigns have been integrated into numerous programs and events, focusing on topics including the habitats birds need to survive, birds and the ecosystem services they provide, the impacts of climate change on birds, and the laws, acts, and conventions that protect birds, such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Convention on Biodiversity.

EFTA also removed a specific date from the event. Once celebrated only on the second Saturday in May, it is now recognized that migratory birds leave and arrive at breeding and non-breeding states at different times, depending on many factors. They also stop at different sites across the Western Hemisphere to rest and refuel, providing opportunities to engage the public in learning about birds and their conservation. Today, the traditional event dates are the second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in October, while encouraging organizations and groups to host their activities when migratory birds are present.

In 2018, IMBD joined forces with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) to create the global event World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) to unify our voices around the world for bird conservation.

To learn more or get involved visit <https://www.migratorybirdday.org/>





Decision Made!

Open Letter from the CEO on Audubon's Name ***By Elizabeth Gray***

Dear Flock,

This past year, the National Audubon Society embarked on a process to reexamine the name of our organization, in light of the personal history of the organization's namesake, John James Audubon.

Our organization was named after John James Audubon, a naturalist and illustrator, more than 50 years after his death. His work was an important contribution to the field of ornithology in the mid-19th century and there can be no doubt of the impact of his life's work and passion for birds. And yet—he was also an enslaver whose racist views and treatment of Black and Indigenous people must be reckoned with.

Early last year, the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society began an evaluation process to determine whether our organization should move forward bearing his name. This process was thorough, spanning more than a year and involving extensive feedback from stakeholders within and outside the organization.

This is an issue that elicits strong views. I personally heard from many voices across our network with differing opinions on the right path forward, as did the Board, which was factored into their decision-making.

In March 2023, the Board of Directors voted to retain the organization's current name—the National Audubon Society.

We are at a pivotal moment as an organization and as a conservation movement more broadly. The urgency of our climate and biodiversity crises compels us to marshal our resources toward the areas of greatest impact for birds and people. This means centering equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging (EDIB) values in our programmatic work, as well as our internal operations, and implementing our new five-year Strategic Plan—core to which is our EDIB commitment. Regard-

less of the name we use, this organization must and will address the inequalities and injustices that have historically existed within the conservation movement.

I understand people may be wondering how that is possible if Audubon remains in our name. That is a question the Board has grappled with, and ultimately, they decided that the organization transcends one person's name. "Audubon" has come to symbolize our mission and significant achievements that this organization has made in its long history.

As we move forward, we will mindfully craft a new future and strategically marshal resources to maximize impact. In doing so, it is critical to empower and resource work to fully realize our values of equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging. We have therefore announced a new \$25 million commitment to fund the expansion of EDIB-specific work in both internal and conservation initiatives over the next five years.

Our conservation work to protect birds also impacts people and communities as well. We must ensure that our influence is felt in those communities who have historically been excluded by the conservation movement and those who are most affected by the threats of climate change. Our commitment to expanding our funding for our EDIB work will enable the organization to build on its success co-developing solutions with communities of color, as we did with the Little Calumet Marsh Restoration Project, and grow educational programs designed to reach students of color, as we did in our Native Plants program in the Delta region. We will expand our efforts to partner with Indigenous communities, like we have with our Boreal Conservation program.

The National Audubon Society has taken many forms throughout its long and storied history: from the founding women of the Audubon movement who rallied against the bird trade, to activists who helped advocate for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, to today's expansive and diverse network of more than 450 local chapters and 160 campus chapters across the country.

Today, Audubon is committed to uniting people from all walks of life who share a love of birds and a commitment to protecting their environments. As we move forward, we will build on the exceptional accomplishments in conservation that this organization has made since its founding by bringing together communities across the Americas to protect birds and the places they need.



Member Meeting
April 2, 2023 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Nisqually Typologies

One year at Billy Frank Jr. NWR

The Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge is known for many things: its abundant and varied wildlife, the long and complex story of the Nisqually River delta and its role as a portion of the traditional homelands of the Nisqually people, and for the refuge's modern-day role as a distraction from the vagaries of every-day urban and suburban life for residents of Washington State and beyond.

Our guest, Zachary Person has written a documentary book which avoids the traditional lens through which wildlife refuges are viewed and approaches the complex subject from a less-explored angle. His focus is entirely on the environment in its present state, showcasing the unique natural systems that comprise the refuge as they adapt to each season, with no judgements being made about the historical or current usage of the refuge lands, or the complex role that the refuge and its assorted issues play in local or regional political thinking.

The groundwork and research for project began in early 2021, when he began visiting the refuge every few weeks explore the environment and start formulating an approach to documenting the widely varied landscapes and ecological systems. Beginning in January 2022 he began visiting the refuge roughly every few weeks to explore the environment most representative of the refuge as they went through their seasonal metamorphoses.

Meeting link:

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



photo by Marky Mutchler/Macaulay Library

Great Backyard Bird Count

2023 Final results -Half a million birdwatchers

Birds unite the world each February for the Great Backyard Bird Count, organized by The Cornell Lab, Audubon, and Birds Canada, Oiseaux, Canada and its founding sponsor, Wild Birds Unlimited.

Collectively, 7,538 species of birds were found — 2/3 of the known 10,960 species we share the planet with. More than 200 countries came together to share bird sightings, making our global submission map light up for four consecutive days. Our gratitude extends to each and every contributor around the world who shared Merlin Bird ID(s), eBird checklist(s), or photos, sounds, or videos from February 17–20, 2023. Enjoy this summary from the four-day event.

In a snapshot

- 7,538 species of birds identified
- 202 participating countries
- 390,652 eBird checklists
- 372,905 Merlin Bird IDs
- 151,479 photos, videos, and sounds added to Macaulay Library
- 555,291 estimated global participants

Thank you to everyone who participated in GBBC 2023. Numbers may change slightly as final checklists are added and validated by our reviewers. Data reflect totals through March 6, 2023.

For more information see <https://www.bird-count.org/>

**27th Annual
Grays Harbor
Shorebird and Nature Festival**

Celebrating the Spring Migration of Shorebirds in Grays Harbor County



*"Enjoy the View" by Grayson Black, Grade 4, Lincoln Elementary School
2022 Best of Show*

May 5 - 7, 2023
**Hoquiam Middle School and
Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge**

**www.shorebirdfestival.com
shorebirdfestival@gmail.com**

Shorebird viewing ▪ Field trips to local areas ▪ Exhibits ▪ Vendor fair

GH Shorebird and Nature Festival

Mark your calendars for the fun May 5 - 7



This year we will all meet in person to witness and celebrate the amazing journey of over 500,000 migratory birds as they pause to refuel on the shores of the Grays Harbor Estuary.

Visit <https://www.shorebirdfestival.com> for registration and more detailed information about the field trips and other activities.

Join us on Friday evening at 6:45 for a Desert Reception prior to our Keynote Speaker's 7:30 pm presentation at the Hoquiam High School Little Theater. *From the Studio - Experience Birds Through the Eyes of a Wildlife Artist.* Bart Rulon (<https://bartrulon.com>), wildlife artist, photographer, author and natural science illustrator presents an incredibly colorful slide show demonstrating painting and photography techniques. He has written and illustrated five books which focus on painting and photographing birds, wildlife, and landscapes and he taught at the University of Washington for 15 years. His award winning paintings and photographs have been featured in many international exhibitions, museums and publications. Travels to research wildlife have taken him on long trips to Africa, India, South America, Alaska, and Costa Rica, and in recent years Bart has started leading wildlife photography tours to some of his favorite spots, both local and exotic.

The Dessert Reception and Keynote presentation are \$20 in advance at <https://www.shorebird-festival.com> or tickets available at the door.

Annual Fundraising Dinner and Speaker

Saturday, May 6, 5:30pm
Elks Lodge, Hoquiam

Advance reservations are required
by April 4th, 2023

5:30pm Social & No-host Bar;
6:30pm Dinner \$40; ~ 7:00 Fundraiser;
7:30 Speaker

This year's dinner is catered by Librairie Gourmande located in Hoquiam. The buffet style dinner offers a choice of chicken piccata or eggplant lasagna, for vegan and gluten-free diners, with mixed green salad with fresh strawberries and house vanilla citrus vinaigrette, focaccia, rolls, and cookies and bars for dessert.

After dinner, a Raise the Paddle fundraiser to support the environmental education program at Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge will take place. Help us reach our goal of \$4000 to provide bus transportation for student field trips to the refuge.

Featured Speaker Dan Varland

Adventures with Gyrfalcons in Washington and Norway

The Gyrfalcon is the largest and most powerful of 19 falcon species. They nest in arctic and subarctic zones around the world. While most remain in the far north for winter, some migrate south to Washington and other northern states.

Dan Varland (<https://coastalraptors.com/>) has captured and color banded eight Gyrfalcons during 27 years of surveying raptors on the Washington coast. Last June Dan traveled to Arctic Norway to join a research team monitoring Gyrfalcon nesting success in what was their 35th year for this effort. In this presentation, Dan will share his adventures with Gyrfalcons in Washington and Norway.



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Publicity Committee	Janet Strong, 495-3950 <i>janet.strong4@gmail.com</i>
Webmaster/Communications	Mary Lou Gregory 533-4897 <i>kuaygal@gmail.com</i>

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



Other Audubon Contacts

GHAS voice mail	(360) 289-5048
National Audubon	(212) 979-3000
GHAS Website	<i>http://ghas.org</i>

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

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or

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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** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State/Zip** _____

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

- Please do NOT publish my name in the newsletter in the list of GHAS members

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

News & Editorial

send materials to
P.O. Box 1044
Westport, 98595-1044
or email to
rd@olearycreek.com

Copy deadline 10th of
month preceding
membership meeting

Program Meeting
April 2, 2023 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Nisqually Typologies
a year at Billie Frank Jr. NWR
Zachary Person

See Membership article

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

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The Sandpiper

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