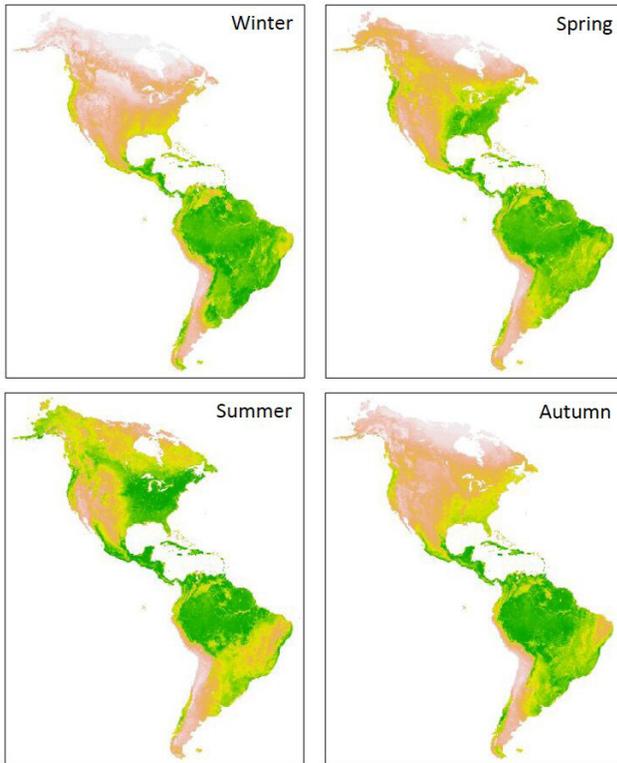


*Program Meeting
Wildlife Rescue
Dr. Sonnya Wilkins
1:30 pm December 6th Via Zoom
details via email to follow*

November
December
2020



The Sandpiper



Most migratory birds rely on a greening world

Continued climate change could spell disaster for many species

A new study from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology confirms that most birds—but not all—synchronize their migratory movements with seasonal changes in vegetation greenness. This is the first study of its kind to cover the Western Hemisphere during the year-long life cycle of North American migratory birds that feed on vegetation, seeds, nectar, insects, or meat. The findings were published today in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*.

“As you might expect, migration synchronization with vegetation greenness is strongest for birds that eat vegetation, seeds, or both, during spring and autumn migration, but especially during spring,” says lead author Frank La Sorte at the Cornell Lab.

“You could say they follow the ‘green wave’ north in the spring and then follow it in reverse during the fall, keeping pace with a wave that is retreating ahead of the North American winter.”

But the pattern does not hold for carnivores, such as hawks and eagles, in the West during either migration period. The evidence is also weak for synchronization among insect-eating birds during spring migration in eastern and central portions of the United States. Birds that rely on nectar—hummingbirds primarily—also showed looser ties to vegetation greenness in the West. The reason for the lack of synchronization for insect-eating birds in the East is a massive geographical barrier to migration: the Gulf of Mexico. Birds wintering in Central and South America cannot detect vegetation changes on the U.S. side of the Gulf in spring and vice versa in the fall.

Scientists used data from satellites to estimate the greenness of vegetation year round and cross-referenced that data with eBird observations for 230 North American migratory bird species from 2006 through 2018. eBird is the Lab’s worldwide bird observation reporting platform. So why does all this matter? Climate change.

Vegetation green-up in the spring is controlled by changes in temperature and precipitation; die-back of vegetation in the autumn is controlled by temperature and hours of daylight—all factors important in timing of migrations.

“Our findings emphasize the need to better understand the environmental cues that regulate migratory behavior and the implications for migratory birds if these cues change,” La Sorte says. “Unchecked climate change means it’s more likely that there will be a mismatch—migratory birds during stop-over or when arriving on their breeding or wintering grounds could miss the peak food supply—no matter what they eat.”

The President's Perch



By Janet Strong

Can you hear that giant WOOSH!? It's the national sigh of relief that this election is finally over. That's not to say that everything has been resolved, but it will be in time. And we hope that the dangers to our environment, our wildlife and our public lands will be greatly diminished.

Meantime, we still have to contend with a significant threat to our well-being – the ever-increasing rate of Covid19 infections and hospitalizations, even here in Washington State. So please be extra careful at Thanksgiving and Christmas and all other times of celebration – until we have a reliable vaccine widely available to all.

Governor Inslee has recommended postponing the usual holiday and other group gatherings for this year only and doing something virtual. And I extend my fervent hope for a nice break in the cold, rainy weather for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanza and Christmas so we might also try a new and safe way to celebrate outdoors.

Just two days ago, my daughter and I gathered on ZOOM with our family members in Maryland and New York City and gabbed for an hour in plain sight of each other. It was absolutely so fun and meaningful.

Program Meeting

A reminder that we will be offering our program featuring Twin Harbors Wildlife Center (THWC) which was started in 2019 by two local veterinarians; Dr. Sonnya Wilkins and Dr. Corrie Hines. They are both licensed wildlife rehabilitators with over 35 years of wildlife rehabilitation experience between the two of them. THWC began to develop because they saw the need for a center in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties and knew that this was their calling. The support of the community has been incredible and this center has truly been and organic “work of heart” which has seemed to have sprouted and grown with little coaxing from any one person.

Dr. Sonnya is a 1999 graduate of Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. She loves veterinary medicine and treating and caring for small animals. Her special interests lie in exotic bird medicine, breeding and behavior. She also has special interests in dermatology and dentistry.

Sonnya began showing dogs 15 years ago with

bloodhounds. She is currently owned by 3 Otterhounds “Ted”, “Gracie”, and “Melody”, and a Great Pyrenees, “Bruce”. She enjoys showing and putting titles on her dogs in many other activities such as Rally and trailing.

Sonnya is also a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and co-director of Twin Harbors Wildlife Center. She has a macaw sanctuary for elderly macaws to live out the last years of their lives and she writes a monthly column for the county's newspaper, the Daily World. When she is at home, she enjoys quilting, painting, and other arts. Sonnya and Jim, her husband of 1.5 years, enjoy attending rock concerts and travelling. She has 3 children and 2 granddaughters.

The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84122539452?pwd=Q3o2aURQMfVOWQ0a2J3Q05kSDhOZz09>

Election

Alfred K. LaMotte

I voted.

I voted for the rainbow.

I voted for the cry of a loon.

I voted for my grandfather's bones that feed beetles now.

I voted for a singing brook that sparkles under a North Dakota bean field.

I voted for salty air through which the whimbrel flies South along the shores of two continents.

I voted for melting snow that returns to the wellspring of darkness, where the sky is born from the earth.

I voted for daemonic mushrooms in the loam, and the old democracy of worms.

I voted for the wordless treaty that cannot be broken by white men or brown, because it is made of star semen, thistle sap, hieroglyphs of the weevil in prairie oak.

I voted for the local, the small, the brim that does not spill over, the abolition of waste, the luxury of enough.

I voted for the commonwealth of the ancient forest, a larva for every beak, a wing-tinted flower for every moth's disguise, a well-fed mammal's corpse for every colony of maggots.

I voted for open borders between death and birth.

I voted on the ballot of a fallen leaf of sycamore that cannot be erased, for it becomes the dust and rain, and then a tree again.

I voted for more fallow time to cultivate wild flowers, more recess in schools to cultivate play, more leisure, tax free, more space between days.

Annual meeting scheduled December 6, 2020

December is our annual meeting in addition to our usual member presentation. As part of that meeting the members present will have an opportunity to elect 2021 officers and directors of the Board of Directors of the Grays Harbor Audubon Society.

This year we are presenting the following slate for your approval. We will vote on these names at the meeting during regular business activities.

President	Janet Strong
Vice-President	Arnie Martin
Secretary	Linda Orgel
Treasurer	Cecelia Boulais
At-Large	Mary O'Neil
	Robin Moore
	Jude Armstrong
	Mary Lou Gregory

English ivy (*Hedera helix*)

Invasive Species Pest Council

If you do a google search for English ivy, don't be fooled by the "how to care for" articles and weblinks, it is a Class C noxious weed on the Washington State Noxious Weed List, and is a B rated weed in Oregon.

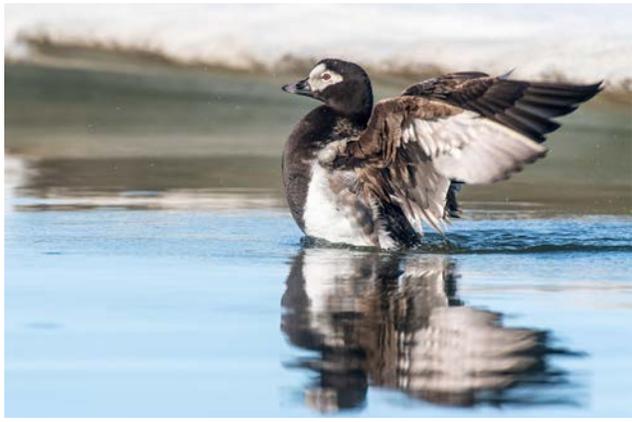
English Ivy originated in Asia and was brought to the US as an ornamental plant by European immigrants. This evergreen plant can produce thick vines up to 90 ft in length, and trailing stems on the forest floor. The leaves are waxy and alternate, and immature leaves are lobed but mature leaves are pointed. When the plant gets enough nutrients (including light) it produces green and white flowers and black berries. Berries are dispersed mainly through robins and starlings.



The most effective method of control is physical removal of the roots and vines. And it is extremely satisfying! Do be careful of anything that could be buried in the ivy. Wearing gloves is recommended. When pulling ivy off trees, you can remove the vines as high as you can reach comfortably, with a forked garden tool or a large screwdriver. Be sure to remove the vines from the entire circumference of the trunk, so the vines on the upper part of the tree are disconnected from the ground.

We want to catch this creeping vine because there are no natural checks and balances to keep it at bay. This will outcompete various native species such as our beautiful wildflowers and ferns, not to mention tree seedlings. So, if you can bear the rain and cold weather, please use your handy dandy EDDMapS app and report what you find!

For more information please visit <https://www.pnw-ipc.org/>



Long-tailed duck photo Peter Mather

What Biden's Presidential win means for birds and the environment

By Andy McGlashen Associate Editor,
Audubon Magazine

For four years, birds and other wildlife have been under attack. The Trump administration has weakened or spiked more than 125 environmental policies, the Washington Post reported recently, including protections for wetlands, Arctic breeding habitat, endangered species, and migratory birds themselves. It has not only dismissed the climate crisis but doggedly pursued an “energy dominance” agenda that has favored extracting planet-warming fossil fuels over other uses of our public lands. Before last week’s election, environmentalists feared that this regulation-slashing spree would only accelerate in a second Trump term.

Instead, American voters chose a new leader with a starkly different vision for the environment and climate. President-elect Joe Biden has pledged to end new fossil-fuel permitting on public lands, proposed a \$2 trillion climate plan with a carbon-free electric grid by 2035, and called for conserving 30 percent of the nation’s land and water by 2030. It remains to be seen if Biden’s actions after his January 20 inauguration will match his campaign rhetoric. And with the Senate still up for grabs—to take control of the chamber, Democrats must win both of the January runoff elections in Georgia—it’s unclear how many of his policy goals he’ll be able to deliver. Conservation advocates are hopeful, however, that Biden will use his executive authority and political experience not only to undo ecological damage inflicted in the Trump era, but to take significant new steps to rein in rising temperatures, protect wildlife habitat, and address environmental injustices.

“Now it’s time to turn promises into progress, with policy solutions and sound investments that

cut climate pollution, create millions of good-paying jobs, protect the health of our people, and advance justice and equity for us all,” said Gina McCarthy, president and CEO of the Natural Resources Defense Council, in a statement. “Now the White House can finally get back to leading the charge against the central environmental crisis of our time.”

Starting on day one, there’s plenty the president-elect can do to confront climate change, the single greatest threat to birds. Biden has pledged to immediately rejoin the Paris climate accord after the United States last Wednesday became the only country to withdraw from the global agreement. He’s also expected to scrap several Trump executive orders—including one that directed agencies to drop climate policies and instead promote fossil fuels—and issue others aimed at reducing emissions and boosting clean energy.

Additionally, Biden has said he’ll end new fossil-fuel permits on all federal lands and waters. Doing so would not only slash emissions from public lands but also reduce threats to birds that live there, such as Greater Sage-Grouse in western oil and gas fields and the millions of waterfowl and other avian inhabitants of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, where the Trump administration is barreling toward the first-ever oil and gas lease sale. (Experts caution, however, that while the president could order a moratorium on federal leasing, only Congress could issue an outright ban.)

Advocates also anticipate action on public-lands conservation. One likely step toward Biden’s stated 30-by-30 conservation goal would be restoring the boundaries of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, which Trump significantly shrank in 2017. Conservation groups also hope Biden will step in to reverse Trump’s recent decision to open 9.3 million acres of Alaska’s Tongass National Forest, whose old-growth woods are a powerful carbon sponge and home to species found nowhere else, including the Queen Charlotte Goshawk and the Prince of Wales Spruce Grouse.

“After a tense season, the outcome of this election provides a ray of hope and a welcome respite from the relentless attacks on the wildlife and wild places of the last four years,” said Jamie Rappaport Clark, president and CEO of Defenders of Wildlife, in a statement. “We look forward with a sober awareness of the work ahead but with optimism and a focused determination to change the direction for wildlife.”

continued on page 5

Biden win continued from page 4

Advocates are optimistic that the president-elect can work with a divided Congress to make meaningful environmental progress.

Should Democrats fail to take the Senate, sweeping climate legislation may be out of reach for now, but many advocates are optimistic that—given Biden’s history of across-the-aisle deal-making and support among voters of all stripes for conservation and clean energy—the president-elect can work with a divided Congress to make meaningful environmental progress. “I like to think that, with reality of climate change setting in for more members of Congress, there will be more of an incentive to do something for communities that are impacted, because they’re impacted in every state, red or blue,” says Nada Culver, vice president for public lands and senior policy counsel for the National Audubon Society. As an example, Culver points to the broad support for using economic stimulus funding to put people to work plugging “orphaned” oil and gas wells that have been abandoned by bankrupt companies and are leaking methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Green groups also hope the new administration will reverse several of its predecessor’s attacks on some of the nation’s core environmental laws. Trump’s agencies are now in court defending several major rollbacks, including weakening the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. The Biden administration could ask the courts to put those and other cases on hold while it rewrites regulations, says Bethany Davis Noll, litigation director at New York University’s Institute for Policy Integrity. “The big picture is that a lot of work on the environment is going to continue to happen at the agency level,” she says. “Their biggest priority would be rewriting these rules.”

A gridlocked Congress in recent decades has driven presidents increasingly to assert their own authority, Davis Noll says, leading to flurries of executive orders and partisan, tit-for-tat policy swings when the White House changes hands. But no president has been as aggressive as Trump in rolling back a predecessor’s policies. In several instances, such as its interpretation of the Clean Water Act, the Obama administration compiled a substantial scientific case for its environmental policies. The Trump administration, on the other hand, often provided little rationale for weakening those rules, Davis Noll says. So, agencies under Biden should be able to quickly rewrite rules based on the Obama-era scientific record. “I see them saying, let’s get back to business,” she says.

For the new administration and for green groups, one focus of those rule rewrites and other policy efforts will be environmental justice. The Biden transition website says he will strive to make sure environmental justice “is a key consideration in where, how, and with whom we build — creating good, union, middle-class jobs in communities left behind, righting wrongs in communities that bear the brunt of pollution, and lifting up the best ideas from across our great nation — rural, urban, and tribal.” One likely step toward that goal would be reversing Trump rules that significantly weakened the National Environmental Policy Act, historically one of the strongest legal tools for predominantly Black and Indigenous communities, low-income neighborhoods, and other marginalized groups to stop polluting projects or make them less harmful.

But there are still around two and a half months before Trump leaves office, and conservationists are bracing for his administration to push aggressively to undo more regulations in the lame-duck period. Culver says she expects to see the administration push ahead to sell oil and gas leases in the Arctic refuge and in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, and to continue finalizing a rule to gut the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, despite a recent court ruling that the rule’s underlying legal interpretation is flat-out wrong.

Environmental protection is, of course, not the only pressing issue Biden will face when he takes office. Coronavirus outbreaks are reaching frightening new levels—the country reached 10 million reported cases over the weekend—and confronting the pandemic and its economic fallout will be job one. The new administration is also expected to make early moves on immigration, foreign policy, and racial equity. But after four years under a president who called climate change a hoax, marginalized science, and jackhammered the foundations of American environmental law, conservationists will soon have an ally in the White House. The challenges ahead are great, but so are the possibilities.



Sandhill Crane Photo by Steve Torna



Wilson's Snipe - Juanita Park, Kirkland

A Snipe Hunt

by G. Thomas Bancroft

The organic muck on the beach formed a rolling carpet with lots of bumps and depressions; wave action during the last storm molded this place. The shoreline was wide, maybe a dozen feet, from the water's edge up to the growing plants and then curled around Juanita Bay. I was snipe hunting and had my binoculars up to my eyes. One of these shorebirds should be hiding here.

One night back in the mid-1960s, I was sent on my first snipe hunt. All the new scouts were gathered together, and the camp counselors had us bring a t-shirt to hold one of these elusive creatures. The head person held a flashlight tight to his chest, shinning it at his chin as he gave us directions. The light created a ghostly look, making his voice sound ominous. We were to search the dark woods, making grunting sounds to attract a snipe and then grab it, wrapping it in our spare shirt. "Don't come back until you have one," was his last words. That critter, though, was imaginary, and the older Boy Scouts had sent us on a fool's errand. I knew snipes existed by high school and had found this bird in swampy areas in Western Pennsylvania.

Behind a row of muck was a little cinnamon, off white, and black with some long creamy-colored lines, the back of a snipe. She had her long bill tucked under her back feathers, and her eyes closed. One yellow leg held her up from the mud. Her exquisite plumage was what I needed, and my spirits seemed to rise. It was early November, and the coronavirus pandemic of this past year had cast a heavy weight on my soul. Isolation, distance, masks, and zoom seemed the way of life. I needed contact with something alive, mysterious, and wonderful.

With that thought, the Wilson's Snipe stretched and turned to walk down to the water's edge. Her six-inch bill began to probe into the mud. Her eyes

set well back on the sides of her head allowed her to see behind her while she searched for invertebrates. Apparently, the bill tip is flexible, allowing just the end to separate to grab a worm. A second bird joined this one, and they moseyed along the shoreline while I settled to watch these beautiful examples of adaptation.

A couple of dozen yards along their stroll, they stopped, turning their bills back along their sides, and began to preen. One twisted its tail, showing the barring and brown tips, pulling that bill through some under-tail coverts. As a flying snipe descends, the wind flowing overspread rectrices makes that incredible eerie winnowing sound so crucial in their courtship and territorial defense. Each of the last few summers, I've been able to listen to it in the mountains of Washington, joy filling my body.

Here on the shores of Lake Washington, one began to pull on its scapular feathers, the upper mandible bent upward near its tip, and I realized I'd just seen the end flex. These individuals continued preening, working their sides, breasts, and tails. Eventually stopping all activity, they put their bills under their back feathers and closed their eyes. I'd been watching them for close to an hour, and the chilly November temperatures had penetrated my bones. But these avian marvels had given me a sense of peace and serenity. Hope had returned to my soul.

Membership Dues 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 ldotorg@oleary-creek.com to review your current status.

Thank you in advance for caring about the birds, and your generous support of our Chapter.

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



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**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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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eagle | \$100.00 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Newsletter only | \$ 15.00 |

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Copy deadline 10th of
month preceding
membership meeting

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The Sandpiper

P.O. Box 470
Montesano,
WA 98563



Program Meeting

Twin Harbors Wildlife Center

Wildlife Rescue

Dr. Sonnya Wilkins

1:30 pm

Via Zoom