

*Program Meeting  
Forest Health in Washington  
Amy Ramsey, speaker*

*April 7th , 1:30pm  
Hoquiam Library  
Downstairs Meeting Room*

March  
April  
2019



# The Sandpiper



## **24th Annual Shorebird & Nature Festival by Arnie Martin**

This year's Shorebird and nature Festival is the 24th version, and it's the first to be held exclusively at the Hoquiam Middle School (on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday and Sunday). This year we will have two major speakers: Noah Strycker, who wrote the book "Birding without Borders" which tells of his 2015 Big Year when he saw over half of the birds of the world, and Brian Atwater of the US Geological Survey and the U of Washington who was instrumental in exposing the dangers of great tsunamis from the Cascadia Subduction Zone and determining the date of the last great earthquake, January 26, 1700 at 9:00 PM.



Noah Strycker  
7pm Friday



Brian Atwater  
6:30pm Saturday

You can hear about Noah Strycker's birding on all 7 continents at the Hoquiam Middle School Gymnasium and cafeteria starting at 6:45 PM on Friday, May 3rd. There will be wonderful dessert treats in the cafeteria and the opportunity to talk to Noah before his program starts at 7:30 PM in the gymnasium. Wait until you see the stack of birding guides and bird ID books he used for his big year of 2015!

On Saturday you can have the opportunity of eating great food from O'Brien's Catering of Aberdeen. The annual festival banquet us at the Hoquiam Elks Lodge with a social hour beginning at 5:30 PM, and the banquet at 6:30 PM. The dinner speaker, Brian Atwater, will tell you of the years of detective work in the US and Japan that revealed the location and date of the great earthquake and tsunami of January 1700. The speech will be followed by a presentation of what has been accomplished in nature education AmeriCorps programs funded by the Shorebird Festival proceeds. You will be given an opportunity to contribute to the education program, which provides presentations to many Grays Harbor County 3rd and 4th graders.

Perhaps the biggest change this year is the continuation of our birding field trips to local locations, which will have both the usual Friday trip to Tokeland and also an additional expansion of our Sunday Westport trip to include all of the sites of the Tokeland trip. For further information about the 2019 Shorebird Festival visit [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com) and you will be able to download the entire festival schedule, trip descriptions and registration forms from the "quick links". Also, if you are interested, another quick link will tell you about a training program offered by COASST (coastal observation and seabird survey team). If you frequent our beaches, you can join the team to determine information about the health of the birds and the health of the Pacific Ocean.

## The President's Perch



*By Janet Strong*

Snow or no snow, Spring is heading to Grays Harbor! In mid-April we will begin to see the sky-river of shorebirds migrating northward to their nesting territories in Canada and Alaska. We will celebrate this impressive natural phenomenon at the Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival, on May 3 – 5. Hoquiam Middle School is grand central station for numerous activities for birders, children and the public in general. Included are speakers, vendor and exhibitor tables, poster contest winning displays with a youthful parade to a skilled storyteller and many more. Field trips to the Grays Harbor Refuge and many other rewarding birding spots highlight the days while Friday and Saturday evenings bring a dessert/ speaker combo and a banquet/speaker event, respectively. Read Arnie Martin's informative article in this issue and check out the Festival website ([www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com)) for complete information.

Homemade bread and soup, coffee and goodies punctuated great discussions at the recent GHAS Board retreat. The Board planned for the rest of 2019, emphasizing the need for expansion of our outreach, increased membership, Board recruitment, better publicity for programs/ field trips and improved web page. The group wants to place a special focus on attracting young people to all aspects of the chapter, from birding trips to program participation, especially programs for new birders. In that regard, Bob Morse, birder par-excellence and author, is willing to help with funding. GHAS also hopes to become involved with local libraries in making binoculars and birding books available to patrons who are curious about how to begin watching our fascinating birds.

In regard to our wildlife habitat lands, the board made good progress toward future stewardship. Katie O'Neil, daughter of Mary O'Neil, will soon assume a volunteer stewardship role regularly monitoring some of our properties. The Chehalis River Basin Land Trust already conducts annual reviews of all GHAS lands under Conservation Easements with it, accompanied by GHAS Board members. However, more frequent patrols will better help GHAS keep an eye out for any problems and better document the ecological health of our lands. In order to fund all future stewardship activities, the board hopes to establish an endowment fund for that purpose. The first step is the sale of our King County property on Moneysmith

Lake. This is ongoing.

One small project, likely to morph into a much larger one, is our current effort to put up permanent signs in Westport and Ocean Shores to promote the protection of coastal birds. GHAS' logo and name will be on the signs, calling attention to us with locals and tourists.

Please stay tuned to more developments and become more active in your local Audubon chapter, as your time allows. Your chapter needs you!



## Owls on Display

We are pleased to be offering a raffle of this beautiful quilt made by a local quilter, Jule Monnens. Jule generously donated it to us as a fundraiser. The quilt measures 52" x 66". We will be selling raffle tickets at events throughout the year and hold the drawing at our December meeting, in time for the holidays. Tickets will be 1 for \$3, 2 for \$5. All proceeds will go to the Grays Harbor Audubon Society to help protect our wetland and forest properties.

You may view the quilt at the next program meeting, Sunday, April 7, Hoquiam Meeting Room. We'll sell tickets at Grays Harbor Audubon meetings in June, August, October, and December. We will also be selling tickets at our table at the Shorebird Festival, May 3-5, Hoquiam Middle School.

Buy lots of tickets, support our chapter, and win this great quilt!





*Helen Engle (1926 -2019)*

### **Passing of an Audubon icon**

*Gail Gatton, Executive Director Audubon, WA*

Dear Audubon in Washington – we pause today to remember someone who made, and continues to make, a difference to generations of people and birds, not just in Washington, but across the entire Audubon network. Our dear Helen Engle passed away late Monday afternoon, wrapped in the love of her children and grandchildren.

Helen provided something worthwhile to our world, and especially to the Audubon community. Along with Hazel Wolf, Helen is responsible for starting nearly every chapter in our state during the time period 50 or so years ago when Audubon put effort into building out the grassroots network that is still one of our major strengths today. Her own chapter, Tahoma Audubon, just celebrated its 50th anniversary in February. Helen was a fierce advocate for the birds, taking that passion everywhere, from the state capital to the halls of congress. She served on the National Audubon board and was honored with a lifetime achievement award in 2013.

We are grateful to have known such a profound person as Helen. As recently as this past year, Helen was still emailing me to make sure we were working on the things she thought important. She was also a constant supporter, taking the time to write and point out the positive things she thought Audubon was doing. One of my fondest memories is from just about 4 years ago. The conservation community writ large had stopped organizing a big lobby day in Olympia during the legislative session. Audubon decided to hold one because our members wanted to have a voice



in Olympia. Our national CEO, David Yarnold, was here for the occasion, and of course, Helen was there. It was Helen’s birthday and when we presented a card to her, she said, “There’s no place I’d rather spend my birthday than with my Audubon community speaking out for the birds.” I have attached a photo from that day that shows the joy Helen brought everywhere with her.

Kind wishes can be sent to Helen’s family care of:

Gretchen Engle  
8502 43rd Street West  
University Place, WA 98466

The family is planning a public celebration of her life later this spring.



## Program meeting

### *Forest Health In Washington*

On Sunday April 7, Grays Harbor Audubon Society will feature Amy Ramsey from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in a fascinating program on major forest health issues in Washington State. This will include research results on forest pathology and current trends in the health of WA forests. All of us are personally affected by our surrounding forests as our prevailing natural neighbors. This is a great opportunity to learn what's going on inside their realm. Welcome Amy!.

The program will be held at the Hoquiam Library meeting room from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be on hand for all.



Amy Ramsey is an environmental planner with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, where she has worked for 13 years. She is currently working on an all-hands, all-lands approach to forest health restoration in eastern Washington forests. Amy is trained as a Forest Pathologist and was in that role for the state until last year, where she worked with non-federal landowners to help identify forest and tree health issues and mitigation strategies. Amy received degrees from the University of Washington and University of Oklahoma, where she studied forestry, ecosystem analysis and botany. Amy loves living in the Pacific NW and enjoys spending time in nature, riding her bike, gardening and learning about life from her daughter, Dahlia.

## 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](mailto:ldotorg@olearycreek.com) to review your current status.

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





**Balloons Are Now the Biggest Killer of Seabirds** *Scientific Reports*, #3202(2019) *Lauren Roman, Britta Denise Hardesty, Mark A. Hindell & Chris Willcox*

Pollution of the world's oceans by anthropogenic marine debris is a global problem. With 250 000 tonnes of marine debris afloat currently, our mismanaged waste presents a ubiquitous threat to marine wildlife. Ingestion of buoyant marine debris in the ocean is a widespread, emerging threat to seabirds, particularly so for albatrosses and petrels (Procellariiformes), which can mistake the floating trash for food. Seabirds are the world's most threatened group of birds, with nearly half of species experiencing population declines, and 28% threatened globally. Presently, half of the world's seabird species ingest marine debris, with the greatest expected adverse effects occurring in Australasia, at the Southern Ocean boundary of the Tasman sea where the highest global seabird biodiversity occurs.

Significant declines in Australasia's albatross and petrel populations are driven by a number of threats, but the contribution of marine debris ingestion is unknown. At least 51 of Australasia's Procellariiform species ingest marine debris, and likely more species ingest marine debris, though it has not been documented. Ninety nine percent of all seabird species are predicted to ingest marine debris by 2050. The ubiquity of debris ingestion among threatened and declining seabirds highlights the need to quantify the level of threat that it poses to seabirds. Quantifying the effects of the ingestion of marine debris on individual mortality, and ultimately on wild populations, is one of the primary research priorities in marine debris research.

While there are observations of seabird mortalities resulting from ingesting debris, and anecdotal evidence that ingestion has sublethal and lethal impacts on seabirds, a quantitative relationship is yet to be established. This is due to the difficulty of establishing a dose-response relationship between ingestion and mortality. In the absence of experimental feeding trials, the necropsy of wild seabirds collected deceased can provide the data to estimate a dose-response relationship. Wild

seabirds die for many reasons including starvation, disease, injury, fisheries by-catch, and the ingestion of marine debris. We used seabirds that had an identifiable cause of death (e.g. fisheries, by-catch or advanced disease) as a control group (assuming their death was random with respect to the ingestion of marine debris). We compared these birds that died of indeterminate causes to those that were identified as having died due to marine debris ingestion (gut blockage, perforation or impaction). With this information, we investigated whether the ingested debris load is lowest in seabirds dying due to non-marine debris related causes, increasing for seabirds with indeterminate causes of death (which could potentially have died due to debris ingestion), and highest in seabirds that died from ingesting marine debris. Ultimately, we also used all seabirds in the dataset to estimate the relationship between the probability of death due to marine ingestion and the load of ingested marine debris. With this information we aim to determine whether there is a dose-response relationship between marine debris ingestion and seabird lifetime mortality, and if so, to predict the relationship between the load of ingested marine debris and the probability of death due to marine debris ingestion.

Overall, even though eating any kind of plastic is big problem, they found that balloons are the highest-risk debris item for seabirds, and were 32 times more likely to result in death than hard plastic.

"Balloons or balloon fragments were the marine debris most likely to cause mortality, and they killed almost one in five of the seabirds that ingested them," said the study's lead author, Lauren Roman, a doctoral student at the University of Tasmania. "As similar research into plastic ingestion by sea turtles has found, it appears that while hard plastic fragments may pass quickly through the gut, soft plastics are more likely to become compacted and cause fatal obstructions."

The study's authors hope their findings will lead to change to address this problem, which is affecting marine species all over, whether they're consuming plastic bits, or getting tangled in strings. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), balloon debris is a national issue in the U.S., whether people are intentionally releasing them or accidentally letting them go, and waste from them is turning up all over our shores. The agency pointed to the Ocean Conservancy's annual coastal cleanup, which has provided a one day "snapshot" of balloon debris that showed that between 2008 and 2016, 280,293 balloons were found in the U.S., which is an average of 31,143 each year.



## 56th Annual Wenas Audubon Campout

You're invited to attend a celebration of birds, bats, butterflies, botany, and the beauty of spring in eastern Washington.

The 56th Annual Wenas Audubon Campout will take place on Memorial Day Weekend (May 24-27, 2019) at the *The Hazel Wolf Bird Sanctuary at the Wenas Creek Campground* (SW of Ellensburg).

This casual and friendly gathering offers a variety of activities, including birding field trips, wildflower walks, field sketching, owl prowls, campfire presentations, PLUS a special guest speaker, corvid researcher Dr. Kaeli Swift. You do not need to be an Audubon member to attend. All are welcome to this family-friendly event.

Visit the Wenas Audubon website ([www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org)) for directions, an outline of field trips and programming, and more information (2019 program coming soon). The campout is free and open to all ages. No reservations or registrations needed; just show up, set up camp, and participate in activities.

Donations are encouraged to cover SaniCans, signage, and other administrative costs. Every vehicle must display a Washington State Discover Pass (<http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/>). Barring high fire danger, campfires will be allowed.

Follow us on Facebook, too! We'll be sharing photos and stories from past years, as well as tips from Wenas Campout pros to help make your trip a fun and memorable experience. [facebook.com/wenasaudubon/](https://www.facebook.com/wenasaudubon/)

### Contacts:

General questions? Contact Carol Kohler, [carolkohler98607@gmail.com](mailto:carolkohler98607@gmail.com)

Do you know other groups that should be invited? Feel free to forward this information, or send a note to Wendy Walker, [wendianajones@gmail.com](mailto:wendianajones@gmail.com) with your suggestions.



photo by Ron Dudley  
© Ron Dudley

## Sunny Days

Sunny days  
 Bracketed by frosty nights  
 Bring us out just to bask in the rays.  
 Too cold for work,  
 Just right for a walk.  
 Old patches of snow  
 Hide out in the shade.  
 But willow buds have seen the light,  
 Swell to broadcast their intentions.  
 A Kestrel above arcs the wind,  
 Then hovers on flashy wings  
 And drops like a stone.  
 Alas, mouse is stopped in mid-groom.  
 A tiny stream sings a duet  
 With sighs from the treetops  
 Who sway in sweet rhythm.  
 Wind announces the season  
 And sun makes it certain.

Janet Strong

## **GHAS Board of Directors**

Arnie Martin	612-0437	arnold6.martin@comcast.net
Mary O'Neil	533-9833	deed2et2et@yahoo.com
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Treasurer	Diane Schwickerath 470-2951 deananddiane@gmail.com
Secretary	Linda Orgel 648-2476 ldotorg@olearycreek.com

### ***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

## **Committee Chairs**

Conservation	Janet Strong, 495-3950 janet.strong4@gmail.com
Education	<i>Vacant</i>
Field Trip Coordinator	<i>Mary O'Neil 533-9833 deed2et2et@yahoo.com</i>
Habitat	<i>Vacant</i>
Hospitality	Linda Orgel 648-2476 ldotorg@olearycreek.com
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Program Chair	Janet Strong, 495-3950 janet.strong4@gmail.com
Publicity	Janet Strong, 495-3950 janet.strong4@gmail.com

## **Other Audubon Contacts**

GHAS voice mail	(360) 289-5048
National Audubon	(212) 979-3000
GHAS Website	<a href="http://ghas.org">http://ghas.org</a>
GHAS Blog	<a href="http://ghas.org/blog">http://ghas.org/blog</a>
Follow us on FaceBook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/graysharborbirding">https://www.facebook.com/graysharborbirding</a>

**\*\*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* \_\_\_\_\_

*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"/> | Introductory Membership | \$15.00  |

- 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  
P.O. Box 1044  
Westport, 98595-1044  
or email to  
rd@olearycreek.com  
Copy deadline ongoing

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