

*Program Meeting
Take Refuge - Nisqually and
Grays Harbor
Glynnis Nakai
June 2nd, 1:30pm
Hoquiam Library
Downstairs Meeting Room*

May
June
2019



The Sandpiper



24th Annual Shorebird & Nature Festival by Arnie Martin

We probably had the best weather for the Festival since 2006 (the first Festival I attended). Unfortunately we also had the least diversity in shorebird species on the boardwalk during the same time period. Everywhere I looked, there they were again: Western Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Semipalmated Plover. Sure, there were the occasional Black-bellied Plover, Least Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher flyover, and the occasional raptor attacking the flock, but where were the Red Knots, the Least Sandpipers, Godwits and the Whimbrels?

Seriously, we had great turnout for the fieldtrips, and for the speeches. Part of the turnout was due to the advertising from the National Refuge Foundation advertising, and the great speakers we had, but we also need to credit the hard work we had from our registrar – Jean Davis. Jean found the trips for the late registrants - she and Suzanne Hierholzer welcomed all the attendees at the Refuge Headquarters and the Middle School, and calmed their fears of missing a longed-for trip. Of course, Jean's idea of having a second Tokeland fieldtrip on Sunday was a big hit.

If one of you has a wonderful idea for a keynote speaker who could top the interest in Noah Strycker, please tell a member of the Festival Committee. That was such an enthusiastic audience, with such good appetites for the desserts!

My thanks to all of the Hoquiam School District employees, the Nisqually Refuge Complex personnel, the volunteers, especially those from Nisqually who worked so hard during the festival, and to the AmeriCorps volunteers – Julia and Gracie, who

worked so hard during the festival setup and tear-down. You and the WCC workers – we couldn't have done it without you. Hope to see you next year.



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, June 2nd, Hoquiam Meeting Room. We'll sell tickets at Grays Harbor Audubon meetings in June, August, October, and December.

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

The President's Perch



By Janet Strong

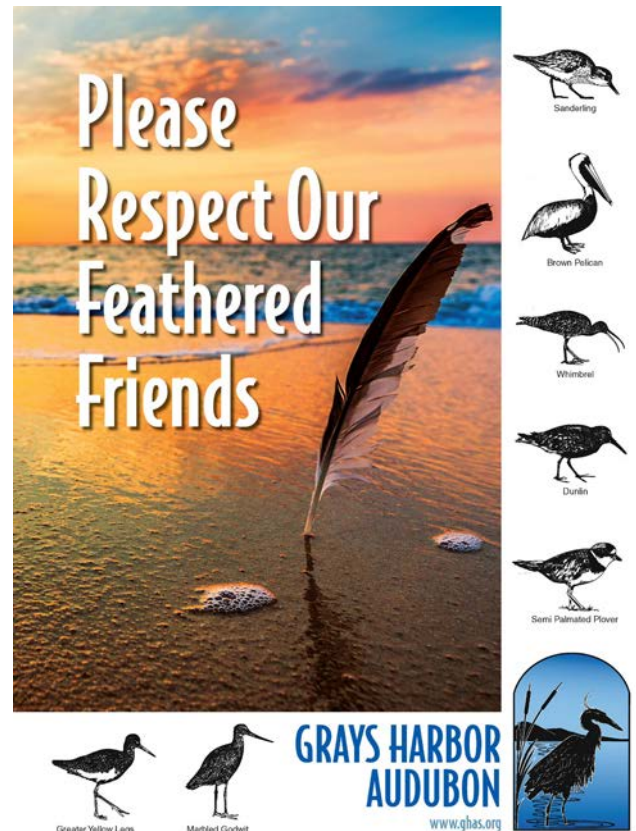
By now most of the Pacific flyway migrators have headed north to nesting grounds in Canada and Alaska. So we prepare for different migratory tides to fill our beaches, human vacationers flocking to the Pacific shores. Many of us have been concerned with the safety of the resident birds with the large crowds filling up the spaces used by local avians. We want folks to recognize and appreciate the richness of bird life in their midst, and to realize that an active Audubon Society works and plays right here along the Pacific coast in Grays Harbor County, in Ocean Shores, Westport, Grayland and points in-between.

So we have obtained a small grant and formed a committee to create attractive signs for the beaches of Ocean Shores, Westport and Ocosta State Park, signs with identifiable bird images and GHAS' familiar logo. Terri Small, sign designer, has produced a beautiful beach scene surrounded by accurate profiles of beach birds and their names. Green Hill School in Chehalis will manufacture the weather-resistant signs and we will get them installed as soon as possible. Be on the lookout for them in the coming weeks.

Thanks to committee members Linda Orgel, Jude Armstrong, Arnie Martin and to Terri for their patience in making the image as beautiful and accurate as it can be.

New Audubon signs to appear at a beach near you

When you visit your local beach access or wander about the trails of Bottle Beach these new signs will remind our fellow visitors about the birds and our environment. Thanks to Terri Small and her design team for making this happen.



PLEASE NOTE

The Grays Harbor Audubon Annual Picnic will be on SATURDAY, AUGUST 3rd starting at Noon

LAKE SYLVIA STATE PARK,
S2 BEACH SHELTER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



A Huge Thank You to all who donated the scrumptious desserts for the Dessert Reception at the Shorebird & Nature Festival Friday, May 3. You were all so generous - it was much appreciated. and much consumed.

The Sweet Season

Between the cold and the wet
And the hot and the dry
Lies the Sweet Season,
When sun drenches our clammy skin,
Warms us through to our bones

Winds switch from
Loud and frisky
To quiet and caressing
In only a second's time.
We hear the tree talks,
The grasses whisper their secret plans.

Flowers pop out overnight
With colors so vivid we gasp.
Every shade of green
Explodes into the daylight,
Dressing up those grays and browns
Until you forget the lush fashion show ever
stopped.
Nature's palette can't be improved upon.

The Season brings spark to feathered friends,
Hyperactive denizens of the sky,
Whose songs and call,
Dances and dashes
Hunts and home-building
Define the hectic page of Spring.

I want to drink in every moment
Of this short space in the year,
Nourish my soul through all my senses
And remember it well.

Janet Strong



Funky Nests

Ithaca, N.Y.—What prompts birds to build nests where they do? Some of their real estate choices are real head-scratchers. That's where the Funky Nests in Funky Places challenge comes in. Anyone who finds a bird nest in a creative, quirky location can participate. Entries can be photos, poems, stories, or artwork. Past participants have found nests built on statues, barbecue grills, traffic lights, wind chimes, golf shoes, and—pretty much anywhere. The contest is run by the Celebrate Urban Birds citizen-science project at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The entry deadline is June 30. Submit entries at funkynests.org.

Entries are judged in several categories, including nests that are the funkiest, the cutest, the funniest, and the most inconvenient. Kind-hearted people have given up a favorite or necessary activity while they wait for chicks to fledge from a nest nestled in a pair of golf shoes, a motorcycle helmet, or on a tractor tire!

Participants don't have to be bird or photography experts. We're just looking for interesting stories. All ages are welcome to participate as individuals or with a class, community center, or after school program. Entries are being accepted from anywhere in the world.

Prizes include Celestron binoculars, window feeders, pocket bird guides, online courses about birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology stickers, posters, and more.

Find more information about how to locate nests, approach them without disturbing the birds, and enter the contest at funkynests.org. In Spanish: nidoschiflados.org.



Program meeting *Discover the Diversity!*

Discover the diversity, the beauty and how critical to birds and wildlife are the three refuges that make up the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Please join Glynnis Nakai, Director of the Complex that includes the Billy Frank Jr, the Black River and the Grays Harbor NWRs, on Sunday, June 2 at 1:30 at the Hoquiam Library Meeting Room.

Glynnis will share with us the unique properties of each refuge and some little-known secrets about the creatures who call each home. Each of the refuges contains extensive wetlands and/or shorelines, yet each serve different functions and different populations of birds and wildlife. All are so important in western Washington's natural systems.

Glynnis, who grew up in Colorado, has been with the National Fish and Wildlife Service for almost 29 years, working in wildlife refuges in Hawaii and Massachusetts before landing in Washington. She has served as director of Nisqually NWR complex for the past 6 years. After a Bachelors Degree in Zoology, she earned a Masters in Wildlife Biology from the University of Massachusetts.

Please join us for this program on June 2, the last one until October (don't forget the picnic in August). Everybody is welcome. Refreshments will be there for you to enjoy.

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.



Save The Date!

Audubon Council of Washington

When: September 27-29, 2019

Where: Vancouver Water Resources Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA 98661

Registration: \$40/person

Theme: *100% Audubon*

Inspired by our recent victory in passing the 100% Clean Energy legislation, we have been reflecting on all we can accomplish when we – as an Audubon community – are 100% committed. By combining forces, all our initiatives are stronger, and with a mentality of 100% we remove the barriers that keep us from thinking big in what we can accomplish together.

In this year's ACOW, we will focus on big initiatives that could impact 100% of Audubon chapters. Key speakers include the director of Audubon's new Migratory Birds Initiative and the leader of the Campus Chapter Program. We will take time to celebrate recent achievements, in the legislature (e.g., 100% Clean Energy) and across the landscape (e.g., completion of the Sagebrush Songbird Survey in Eastern Washington.) And we will honor longtime Audubon leader Helen Engle, who exemplified what it means to be 100% in for the birds.

During this weekend, we'll reserve time to share our work, learn from each other, identify opportunities to collaborate, and network with Auduboners from across the state.

ACOW will start on Friday afternoon with education and conservation committee meetings, followed by pizza and an evening speaker. We will meet all day Saturday and conclude with field trips on Sunday to see cranes and other special birds in the region.

Please save the weekend on your calendars now, and watch the website for more information as it becomes available. See you in Vancouver!

Teresa S. Anderson
Chapter Network Manager
206.652.2444 x108



Sharp-tailed grouse cross the Canadian border for new Okanogan home

It took an international team of early risers to increase the population of sharp-tailed grouse, an endangered species in Washington, during a two week mission in late April.

Washington State and Canadian biologists teamed up with a tribe, public utility district, conservation district and other agencies and groups to capture, fit with transmitters, and relocate 40 sharp-tailed grouse from habitat in British Columbia to Okanogan County, including on privately owned land.

"A public-private partnership like this is critical and we appreciate the landowners who were willing to have an endangered species released on their land," said WDFW biologist Jeff Heinlen. "Our partners were a huge part of this success."

Sharp-tailed grouse once numbered over 100,000 in Washington, but conversion of land to other uses reduced its habitat to less than five percent of what it once was. The bird was listed as threatened until recently, when it was reclassified as endangered due to continually dwindling numbers. WDFW has worked over the years to increase population numbers of the sharp-tailed grouse, including enhancing habitat and other translocation efforts like the one that was just completed.

Through a partnership with the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, WDFW was able to get a special permit to capture sharp-tailed grouse in areas of the Canadian province that have healthy populations, then release them in Washington. This is the second effort of its kind in two years, both of which were highly coordinated to ensure their success.

"This translocation mission took a lot of coordination to catch the birds, examine and tag them, and get them across the border within an extremely window of time," said WDFW biologist Jeff Heinlen. "Some of our people were getting up at 3:30 in the morning to get this done."

Two of the birds caught were fitted with solar-powered satellite transmitters that are new to the department and donated by a member of the public; just one of the ways the agency is integrating new technology into the work to help endangered species. Other birds captured in this effort were fitted with traditional VHF collars.

For details on the long journey the birds took to get to Washington, and photos and videos of the extravagant mating ritual that distracted them so biologists could capture the birds, read the latest post on the WDFW blog at <https://medium.com/@wdfw/canadian-sharp-tailed-grouse-find-new-home-in-okanogan-bbfa256d9085>.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is the state agency tasked with preserving, protecting and perpetuating fish, wildlife and ecosystems, while providing sustainable fishing and hunting opportunities.

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.



Pileated Woodpeckers. Photo: Sylvia Hunt/
Audubon Photography Awards

Washington Passes Strongest Clean Energy Bill in the Pacific Flyway

The Washington State House voted 56 to 42 to establish a 100 percent clean energy standard across the state. The Senate passed this legislation last month and will now need to vote to concur with a few changes before it goes to Governor Jay Inslee to be signed into law.

“Movements need trail blazers and Washington has stepped up. The urgency to create a clean energy future has never been clearer, but it requires the leadership Washington has shown. The Evergreen State is living up to its nickname and creating a cleaner, safer future for Washington’s birds and people,” said David Yarnold (@david_yarnold), president and CEO of National Audubon Society.

“When it comes to reducing carbon pollution, birds tell us we don’t have time to waste. We have four states down, 46 to go, and the West is showing the way.”

Washington joins Hawaii, California, New Mexico and Puerto Rico in setting 100 percent clean energy standards. Audubon Washington was a major partner in a coalition of clean energy advocacy groups that rallied communities across the state in the effort to get Olympia legislators to support the bill.

“I’m so proud of the tens of thousands of Audubon members in Washington who helped get us here today,” said Gail Gattou (@GailGatton), executive director of Audubon Washington, the state office of the National Audubon Society.

“Poll after poll show the move to clean energy is supported overwhelmingly by Washingtonians and is, simply put, the right thing to do. This is truly a great day for Washington.”

Senate Bill 5116 would:

Phase out coal from our electricity grid by 2025, accelerating the closure of coal plants in Montana and Wyoming that are among the largest sources of climate pollution in the American

West;

Put in place interim emission reduction targets starting in 2030 that would prevent unnecessary and costly near-term build out of new fracked gas infrastructure in our electric grid -- ensuring an orderly transition to clean electricity;

Require investment in low-income communities to address historic energy inequities and inclusion of equity in the planning and acquisition of clean energy;

Increase investments in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency, adding more jobs to the state’s clean energy industries that already employ more than 82,000 Washingtonians - 13 times as many as fossil fuels.

Commit to powering Washington State’s entire electric grid with 100% clean energy by 2045. In 2014, Audubon released its Birds and Climate Change Report, which showed more than half of the bird species in North America at risk of disappearing by 2080 due to shifting and shrinking ranges caused by climate change. Included in the list of 314 were many found in Washington State, including the Bald Eagle, Mallard, and Anna’s Hummingbird.

About National Audubon Society

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education and on-the-ground conservation. Audubon’s state programs, nature centers, chapters and partners have an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire and unite diverse communities in conservation action. Since 1905, Audubon’s vision has been a world in which people and wildlife thrive. Audubon is a nonprofit conservation organization. Learn more at www.audubon.org and @audubonsociety.

About Audubon Washington

Established in 1981, Audubon Washington works statewide with its 25 independent chapters and 35,000 members on the conservation of the sagebrush shrub steppe ecosystem in Eastern Washington, protection of coastal estuaries, and actions that address climate change, the number one threat to birds today. Through the Seward Park Audubon Center, it provides science, nature and environmental education programs for youth and families. Learn more at <http://wa.audubon.org/>, @audubonWA.

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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

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Field Trip Coordinator	<i>Mary O'Neil 533-9833 deed2et2et@yahoo.com</i>
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National Audubon	(212) 979-3000
GHAS Website	http://ghas.org
GHAS Blog	http://ghas.org/blog

Follow us on FaceBook <https://www.facebook.com/graysharborbirding>
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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Program Meeting

Discover the Diversity
Glynnis Nakai

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