

Black Hills Audubon Society

Olympia, Washington

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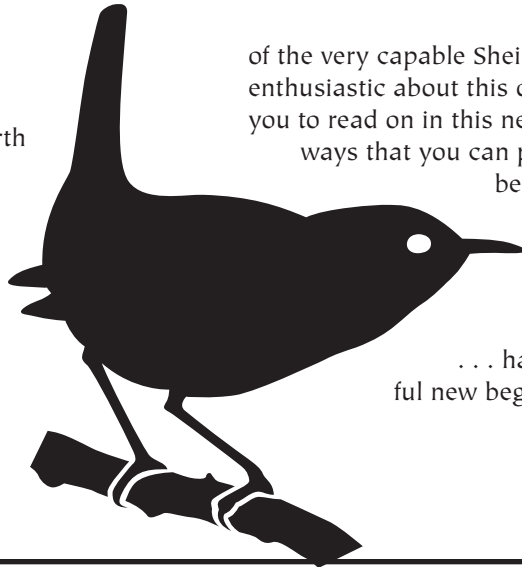
March/April 2008



Sightings

As this issue goes to press your board members are working hard to bring forth our 20th Annual Dinner, Auction and Conservationist of the Year Award. We hope that a good time was had by all who attended this year. We also hope we can provide 20 more years of fun and recognition to the special people who have earned our highest regard.

Speaking of fun, we are starting something new this year. A **Birdathon!** This will happen during the month of May and is being organized with the efforts



of the very capable Sheila McCartan. We are very enthusiastic about this opportunity and I encourage you to read on in this newsletter for details, dates and ways that you can participate in what is sure to become a great, new tradition for our Chapter.

We also have the spring feeder cleaning coming up on April 5th. So happy Spring . . . have good growth and successful new beginnings.

—Linda

Saturday, March 1 Annual Dinner!



Thursday, April 17 Rare Bird tales

Olympia author and “accidental naturalist” Maria Ruth will tell tales from her book, *Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet* (Rodale 2006) and present a brief slide program about this strange little seabird that captured her heart and imagination. *Rare Bird* is part detective story, part environmental inquiry, and part personal chronicle of an endangered species of the Pacific Northwest. Maria has published more than a dozen books on natural history topics for children, young adults, and adults. To read an excerpt and reviews of *Rare Bird* or to see photos and video of marbled murrelets, visit www.mariaruthbooks.com

BHAS membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 W. 21st Street, in Olympia. Social hour is at 7pm, with programs beginning promptly at 7:30. Driving directions: From I-5 in Olympia, take Exit 105 following the State Capital/City Center route. After the tunnel, turn left (south) onto Capital Way. After 7 blocks, turn right on 21st Avenue. The museum is two blocks down on the left. The Coach House meeting room and adjacent parking are behind the Museum building of Olympia).

Help support House Bill 2844/Senate Bill 6469

As development sweeps across the state, urban trees are destroyed and replaced by impervious surfaces like concrete and blacktop. The State's population is anticipated to grow by 2.3 million by 2030, and action is needed to support planting and maintaining of our urban-forested lands. Currently, only limited numbers of our communities have up-to-date tree inventories, management plans, or tree retention ordinances. Maintaining and planting urban trees can significantly enhance quality of life, air quality and water quality, as well

as providing effective storm water management and habitat for birds and wildlife. Increased tree coverage in urban areas can have numerous social impacts as well, including lower energy costs, higher property values, increased consumer spending, and lowered crime rates.

The Evergreen cities bill will help and create infrastructure to retain and maintain urban trees to ensure the Evergreen State is filled with Evergreen Cities for future generations.

With session moving forward fast, and adjourning March 13th, it is time to show your support for protection of our State's trees. Visit www.leg.wa.gov, where you can check on the progress of the bill as well as find information on your legislators and how to contact them, or call the legislative hotline at **1.800.562.6000**. 🐦



Norm Dicks Receives Ansel Adams Conservation Award

Washington, D.C.

U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Belfair, has received a national award from The Wilderness Society recognizing his leadership in conservation funding programs.

Dicks has worked to preserve natural resources for more than 30 years, said William Meadows, president of The Wilderness Society. As the chairman of the House Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, Dicks has championed initiatives on water quality and climate change, including a new \$40 million Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Program.

Michelle Ackerman, Pacific Northwest director for the organization, said she is working closely with Dicks to restore the Skokomish River watershed in the Olympic National Forest.

The Ansel Adams Award, named for the celebrated photographer, was presented to Dicks on Wednesday during a reception in the House of Representatives. Previous recipients include President Jimmy Carter, former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, former Vice President Al Gore, former Idaho governor Cecil Andrus and U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington. 🐦

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

May 2-4, 2008

Hoquiam, Washington

1-800-303-8498

www.shorebirdfestival.com

Help Tomorrow Today

Leave a legacy that will last for generations to come. A planned gift to the Black Hills Audubon Society's Conservation Legacy Fund will carry forward your compassion for birds and our natural spaces.

Gifts of stock, bequests in your will, gift annuities, or charitable remainder trusts may help you achieve certain financial goals while providing substantial support for the Black Hills mission. We would be glad to discuss your giving options with you in confidence and with no obligation.

Contact Linda Carter, Chapter President at 360-357-4499. 🐦

May is Birdathon Month!

Birdathons are great for raising awareness of birds, promoting bird conservation, and raising money at the same time!

Anyone can participate—as a sponsor, a birder or both!

Here’s how it works. You decide where and when during May you want to go birding. Then you find some sponsors to pledge some cents per species. Now go find those birds! Afterwards, report back to your sponsors on how many species you saw, and collect the pledges.

Your birding day does not need to be an intense all-out effort. You would be surprised how many species will show up around your yard and neighborhood over the course of a day. Black Hills Audubon offers several Birdathon field trips to exciting destinations in Washington. Or you just go out on your own to a few local parks. One key to success-

ful birdathon fund raising is giving your sponsors a guess on how many species you may find. If you only expect 25 species, a pledge of fifty cents a bird is only a \$12.50 pledge.

And you don’t have to be an expert birder to participate! Field trip leaders will help you find the birds and rack up the number of species!

Contact your friends, family, co-workers, and anyone else to pledge towards the number of birds you hope to see during a 24-hour time period. Sponsors can donate a lump sum in your name, but what is the fun in that? Talk up the drama of the search!

After your Birdathon day, write a short report on the great species you found, figure out the amount each sponsor bet, and ask your sponsors for their pledges.

100 percent of the money raised through the Birdathon will be used to support the Black Hills Audubon Society and its education and conservation programs.

If you’d like to participate fill out the form here. You can also contact Sheila McCartan at blackhillsbirdathon@comcast.net or (360) 357-9170. 🐦

2008 Birdathon Fundraiser May 1–31

I will go birding for the BHAS Birdathon and will recruit at least five pledges totaling at least \$1 per species.

I will sponsor a birder at \$_____ per bird species the birder sees.

Name of birder: _____

I wish to sponsor Field Trip Team(s) _____ at \$ _____ per bird species seen.

Team A: Phil KellyMay 7.....Nisqually NWR..... estimated species: 70

Team B: Tom SchooleyMay 10Kittitas County estimated species: 100

Team C: Dave and Sherry HaydenMay 10Ridgefield NWR estimated species: 65

Team D: Lonnie Somer and Jim Pruske.....May 17Capitol Forest estimated species: 50

Team E: Jean MacGregorMay 31Watershed Park estimated species: 40

Team F: Woody FranzenMay 21Priest Point Park estimated species: 50

I wish to join Field Trip Team(s) _____ and will recruit at least five pledges totaling at least \$1 per species.

Name _____

Evening Phone _____

E-mail _____

Send completed form to: Birdathon, PO Box 2524, Olympia WA 98507

For more information, contact blackhillsbirdathon@comcast.net, or call Sheila McCartan at 360.357.9170. Thank you for your support!



Upcoming Field Trips and Events

Beginner's Bird Walk at McLane Nature Trail Saturday, March 15 7:30 to 10 a.m. Leader: Jean MacGregor and Whittier Johnson

Early spring is the perfect time to take up bird-watching. Both beginners and experienced birders are most welcome on this early morning walk, but we will focus on strategies for bird-finding, bird observation, and bird identification. Bring binoculars and field guides and dress for the weather and walking on easy trails on the McLane Nature Trail on Delphi Road. Register for this trip at 360-352-7299

Capitol Lake Saturday, March 22nd, 9 am until about 11 am Leader: Sheila McCartan

Are you a parent with small kids? Do you like to bird watch but never find the chance to get out? Well here's your opportunity! Join field trip leader, Sheila McCartan for a walk around Capital Lake. Bring your kids in a stroller and let's see what ducks and other birds we can see. This will be a leisurely walk lasting about 2 hours. Meet at Marathon Park at 9am. No reservation needed. Call Sheila at 357-9170 with questions.

Learning to Bird by Ear at the McLane Nature Trail Saturday, March 29 7:30 to 10 a.m. Leader: Jean MacGregor and Whittier Johnson

Many year-round resident birds will be cranking up their birdsongs in late March and we will probably hear from a few migrants too. Both beginners and experienced birders are most welcome on this early morning walk that will focus on bird song: why it happens, how to listen for it, and how to begin learning common songs and vocalizations. Bring your listening ears, binoculars, and field guides and dress for the weather and walking on easy trails on the McLane Nature Trail on Delphi Road. Register for this trip at 360-352-7299.

Saturday, April 12, 2008. Skokomish Delta, 8 am to early afternoon Leader: Andrew Beélik

The Delta changed in significant ways last year: dikes were removed west of the river, admitting tidal waters to a portion of the former Nalley Farm. These moves are part of a plan to restore a salt marsh in the Delta. The new tidelands are traversed by an elevated steel-and-concrete "boardwalk", a branch of which gives access to the Canal waterfront. The transformation will take time, but then observation of waterfowl will

be easier. Join members of the Skokomish tribe on their land to see first hand the promise of the changes. Meet in the Lucky Dog Casino parking lot in Potlatch along US Hwy 101 at 8:00 am. We'll walk about 3 miles, all on the level. You might want to bring lunch. We aim to be back at the Casino by about 2 pm. Limit: 14 persons, four vehicles. *Phone Andrew to sign up: (360) 426-6262. Do not phone Black Hills Audubon.*

Kennedy Creek, Mud Bay, and Perry Creek Sat., April 19th, 10 am to late afternoon Leader: Scott Morrison

Explore Eld and Totten tideflats for some of those early migrating shorebirds. (This is also a good chance to learn these areas that can be good for gulls in the fall.) High tide is late afternoon, so meet at the Mud Bay Park and Ride at 10:00am. Call Scott Morrison at 360-412-1260 to reserve a spot on the trip. Limited to 4-5 vehicles.

Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties Saturday, April 26th, 6:30 am to evening Leaders: Ruth Sullivan and Kristin Stewart

Ruth Sullivan of Tacoma has graciously agreed to lead a trip to the coast. This is a joint trip with Tahoma Audubon; Tahoma folks will meet a 6:00 am and then drive down to meet BHAS folks at the Martin Way Park and Ride at 6:30 am. Ruth wants to begin at Bowerman Basin to look for migrating shorebirds, and a place close by there for passerines. We will also stop at Bottle Beach, the Westport Marina, and the Westport Jetty. She also knows a place in Westport that can be good for sparrows. From there we will go to Tokeland looking for more shorebirds. On the return we will stop to search for Snowy Plovers at Midway Beach, drive through Brady Loop, and then check Wenzal Slough Rd. It will be a long day as Ruth has untold amounts of energy, but the day should also be very rewarding. BHAS will be limited to 2 cars. Call the BHAS number at 360-352-7299 to register.

May Birdathon Field Trips

(See page 3 for details)

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Wednesday, May 7th, 8:15 am to mid-afternoon Leader: Phil Kelley

Join Phil on his weekly walk at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge as he does the first Birdathon trip of the month. This week will include the whole loop, and you can expect to see 60+ species. The spring migrants should all

have arrived, and resident birds including nesting waterfowl will be in evidence as well. The walking is easy and level but the loop is 5½ miles. Folks are welcome to begin the trip, and turn back at any point. Meet at the visitor center at 8:15 am. Sign-ups are not necessary.

Kittitas County—Snoqualmie Pass to Vantage

**Saturday, May 10th, 8 am to late evening
Leader: Tom Schooley**

The east slope of the Cascade Mountains provides a wide variety of habitats from the wet forest just over the pass to the dry desert along the Columbia River. Join Tom Schooley in a very full day in Kittitas County searching the firs, pines, cottonwoods, and sagebrush for Vaux's Swift, Gray Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Bank Swallow, Brewer's Sparrow, Veery, Calliope Hummingbird, and Cassin's Finch. Lucky finds may include Prairie Falcon, White-headed Woodpecker, Pygmy Nuthatch, or Clark's Nutcracker. Our target is 100 species for the day.

This trip is limited to 12 people/3cars and pledges of \$1.00 per species, preferably more. Expect a very long non-stop day of birding. We will leave the Martin Way Park and Ride at 5:30 am. We won't return home until after dark. Bring lunch, snacks, liquid, and sunscreen. Call BHAS at 360-352-7299 to register.

Ridgefield NWR

**Saturday May 10,
8 am—early evening
Leader: David Hayden and
Sherry Hayden**

Join Dave as he looks for continuing migrating birds, passerines, and ducks. Dave expects to see lots of Cinnamon Teal, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and White-breasted Nuthatches. Possibilities are Black-necked Stilts and Black Terns. Expect to see in the neighborhood of 70 species for the day. There will be some walking involved. Bring a lunch and dress for the weather. Meet at the Dept. of Labor and Industries parking lot at 8:00am. Call the BHAS at 360-352-7299 to reserve your spot. Also, this is International Migratory Bird Day and the Vancouver Audubon will have a booth set up at the refuge.

Toppenish NWR and Fort Simcoe State Park

**Saturday, May 17, Leave 6 am from
Centralia Park & Ride
Leaders: Lonnie Somer & Dave Hayden**

Experience some of the east side birds, including the country's western most population of Bobolink. Other species that we might see include Gray Catbird, Eastern Kingbird, Black-billed Magpie, Vesper Sparrow, Mountain

Bluebird, Red-naped Sapsucker, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Lazuli Bunting, Lewis' Woodpecker, Golden Eagle, and numerous other species.

This trip is limited to 12 people/3cars. Expect a very long day and a return home after dark. Bring lunch, snacks, liquid, and sunscreen. Call BHAS at 360-352-7299 to register.

Exploring Capital Forest—Spring Sunday, May 18th, 8:30 am to late afternoon

Leaders: Jim Pruske and Lonnie Somer

Spend the day exploring Capital Forest from sea level to 2,700 ft. We will be searching for bird species that nest in the forest. Warblers, including Hermit Warblers, Gray Jays, Western Tanagers, woodpeckers and other woodland birds are expected to be common. A special attempt will be made to find Northern Pygmy Owl and the elusive Mountain Quail. Unique elements of Capitol Forest flora will also be examined.



If anyone has specific knowledge or tips about Capitol Forest, please feel free to contact Jim (459-3656) or Lonnie at wheelermombie@comcast.net.

Meet at Mud Bay Park and Ride at 8:30 am. This trip is limited to 3 cars. Call BHAS at 360-352-7299 to register.

Priest Point Park Wednesday, May 21st, 8 am—noon Leader: Woody Franzen

Priest Point Park is one of the Thurston County sites chosen for the southwest WA loop of the Great Washington Birding Trail. Join Woody for a mid-week walk through this beautiful park, while looking for forest birds. There is a limit of 12 participants. Meet at the Rose Garden on the east side of the park at 8:00 am. Call BHAS at 360-352-7299 to register.

Watershed Park Bird Songs Saturday, May 31st, 7 am—10 am Leader: Jean MacGregor

This walk in one of Olympia's most beautiful parks will focus on bird song and learning the common bird songs of Watershed Park. It is also an opportunity to check out the wildflowers in bloom at the end of May. The trail at Watershed is not long (about a mile and a half), but is steep and can be slippery. Meet at the park entrance along Henderson Boulevard at 7:00 am. Call the BHAS phone at 360-352-7299 to register.

BHAS calendar

See Field Trip Descriptions for details.

March 15th, Saturday 7:30am to 10:00am.

Beginners Bird Walk at McLane Nature Trail

Leaders: Jean MacGrgor and Whittier Johnson—360-352-7299

March 22nd, Saturday 9:00am until about 11:00am.

Capital Lake

Leader Sheila McCartan—360-357-9170

March 29th, Saturday 7:30am to 10:00am

Birding by Ear at McLane Nature Trail

Leaders: Jean MacGregor and Whittier Johnson—360-352-7299

*****No membership meeting scheduled for March due to the Annual Dinner.**

April 12th, Saturday 8:00am to early afternoon.

Skokomish Delta

Leader Andrew Beelik—360-426-6262

April 17th Membership meeting, 7 to 9 pm at the Capital Museum

Coach House, 211 W. 21st Street, Olympia. Program begins at 7:30.

April 19th, Saturday 10:00am to late afternoon.

Leader: Scott Morrisson—360-412-1260

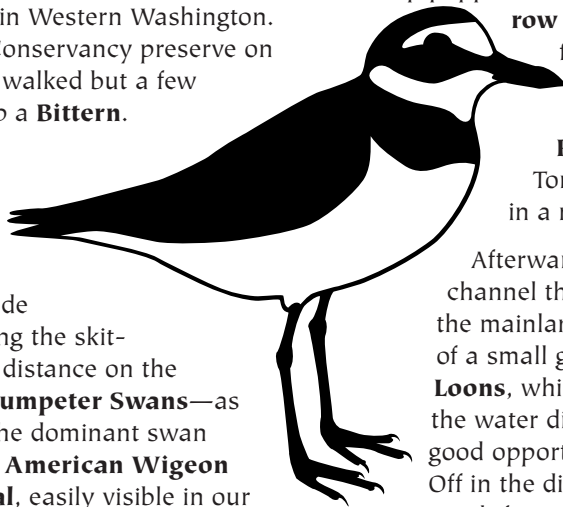
April 26th, Saturday 6:30am to evening

Leaders: Ruth Sullivan and Kristin Stewert—360-352-7299

Field Trip Report Port Susan

Those who went on the field trip to the Port Susan area near Stanwood—all four of us including trip leader Tom Schooley—enjoyed uncommonly good weather for January 20 in Western Washington. Arriving at the Nature Conservancy preserve on Port Susan bay, we had walked but a few feet before we scared up a **Bittern**. Ahead of us on the dike walk were a number of **Snow Geese** and larger flocks flew overhead. A couple of hunters waited in vain just outside the preserve, likely eyeing the skittish Snow Geese. In the distance on the edge of the bay were **Trumpeter Swans**—as Tom pointed out, now the dominant swan in the area—along with **American Wigeon** and **Green-winged Teal**, easily visible in our scopes. But wait, is that a **Merlin** that just swooped by? Yes, it clearly was, as it stopped for a rest in easy scoping range. Oh, and I forgot to mention a species that seemed a bit too common to remark about—the **Bald Eagles**. Looking on the impoundments behind the dike, we saw **Coots**, **Northern Shovelers**, **Gadwalls**, and **Great Blue Herons**, among others. Unfortunately, the three Barn Owls that had lived in the Preserve's roosting area had all been caught and disposed of by Great Horned Owls.

So we headed on to a church camp, which has some excellent, bird-rich wetlands. After watching some **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and a **Red-tailed**



Hawk at the edge of the woods, we spotted a wintering **Great Egret**, **Mew Gulls**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, and a **Eurasian Wigeon** among the many **American Wigeon**. Out in the wetlands were several **Greater Yellow-legs**, **Long-billed Dowitchers**, and **Dunlin**, and in the brush up popped a **Fox Sparrow** and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** in the same bush followed by a busy flock of **Bushtits**. In even wetter areas, we listened to **Marsh Wrens** and the rattling call of a **Virginia Rail**. Back at the car to have lunch, Tom spotted a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in a nearby snag.

Afterwards, we took a dike walk along the channel that separates Camano Island from the mainland, happening on an excellent view of a small group of **Pacific** and **Red-throated Loons**, which seemed to play musical chairs in the water diving over and over providing us a good opportunity to compare the two species. Off in the distance, a **Peregrine Falcon** stood watch from a post far out in the water. Other birds seen that day included **Surf Scoters**, **Red-breasted Mergansers**, a **Cooper's Hawk**, **Horned** and **Western Grebes**, and on and on for a total of 64 species, not counting hybrid **Glaucous-Winged** and **Western Gulls**. All in all, a very good day, thanks to good weather and a very knowledgeable and helpful leader. ✨

—Sam Merrill

Hood Canal Trip Report

On Saturday, February 2, we met at Twanoh State Park. It drizzled. Good show of ducks and grebes, no passerines. Next stop was Potlatch State Park. It drizzled. That didn't disturb the birds, we met a better variety than ever: **Evening Grosbeaks** in a maple, several **Varied Thrushes** on the grass, and a good mix of **ducks** relatively close. The first thrill of the day was a pair of **Harlequin Ducks**, preening and hopping on and off a small float anchored a short distance beyond the north end of the park. Noteworthy also was a mixed flock of both **Scaups**. Then we stopped at the power plant's boat launch park. It still drizzled. The outfall of the power plant was teeming with ducks, mostly **Goldeneyes**, of both kinds.

From here we pushed all the way to the Hamma Hamma to catch the peak of the high tide at noon.

Continued on page 10

Feeder Cleaning Saturday, April 5

Saturday, April 5th is the next Bird Feeder Cleaning. Get your feeders cleaned from the rains of winter so birds remain healthy and happy. Drop off your feeders at Wild Birds Unlimited on Cooper Pt. Road from 9am to 3pm and have us scrub them for \$5.00 each (slightly more if unusually large or dirty). Proceeds go to further the chapter's conservation and education work. If you have time and want to volunteer to help us clean, we would greatly appreciate the help. Call Debbie Nickerson to sign up to be part of the cleaning crew! 754-5397 ✨

Black Hills Audubon

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Black Hills Audubon Society

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E-mail: bhas@blackhillsaudubon.org

Black Hills Audubon Society is a non-profit organization. A member chapter of the National Audubon Society, it represents Audubon members in Lewis, Mason and Thurston Counties.

Our goals are to maintain, restore and protect our ecosystems for future generations, and to promote environmental education and nature-based recreation.

General membership meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday evening of each month, September through June, at the Capitol Museum Coach House, 211 West 21st Street, in Olympia.

Board meetings are at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. The site varies from month to month, so please call us at the office if you would like to sit in.

Phone and e-mail messages are welcome, but please remember that we are a volunteer-based organization, and it may take us a few days to get back to you.

The Echo is published bi-monthly. Editor: Linda Carter. Layout and design by Lee Miller. Graphics by Nature Icons/Ultimate Symbol unless initialed.

Material for *The Echo* should be sent to PO Box 2524, Olympia, WA 98507, or e-mailed to Linda Carter at lindashair@comcast.net

Deadline for the May/June 2007 issue is
April 10, 2007.

Black Hills Audubon Society (BHAS) Membership form

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to:

Membership
Black Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 2524
Olympia WA 98507

Black Hills Audubon Society is a 501-C-3 organization. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Type of Membership

Yearly benefits

Member of Black Hills Audubon Society Chapter (BHAS) only

Singles or household—check appropriate box

- \$20, regular member
- \$35, regular member for 2 years **NEW!**
- \$50, regular member for 3 years, **NEW!**
- \$15, senior or full-time student
- \$25, senior or full-time student for 2 years **NEW!**
- \$35, senior or full-time student for 3 years **NEW!**

Please make check payable to Black Hills Audubon.

All dues go to support local Black Hills Audubon chapter efforts. Receive the chapter newsletter, *The Echo*, which describes local chapter conservation action, events, and field trips.

Member of Black Hills Audubon Society Chapter and National Audubon (both)

Check appropriate box—singles or household

- \$20, first-time member price
 - \$15, Senior or full-time student
- Please make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Most of the dues go to support national efforts. Receive the award-winning national magazine, *Audubon*, and the chapter newsletter, *The Echo*.

Subscription only—receive the chapter newsletter, *The Echo* (does not include membership)

- \$10 chapter newsletter only
- I would like to help Black Hills Audubon's programs of education and conservation. Enclosed is my additional donation of \$_____

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society.

Receive the chapter newsletter, *The Echo*

Renewals: please renew your National Audubon Membership by filling out the forms sent to you by National and sending directly to National Audubon. Thanks!

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/zip _____

Phone/Email _____

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Thank you for supporting the Black Hills Audubon Society!



Hood Canal

From page 7

There it stopped drizzling. In trees along Hwy 101 we watched a flock of **Red Crossbills**. Once again we had the privilege of walking on the Robbins' private road along the river to their oyster beds at the Canal. There we saw the best birds of the day. A male **Harlequin** perched on a low rock at the mouth of the river, allowing itself to be telescoped and photographed for minutes at close range. The Canal waters were calmer than on past trips, making it much easier to scrutinize ducks floating on a broad front: scores of **Surf Scoters**, dozens of **White-winged Scoters**, and the prize, half a dozen **Black Scoters**. On the way back we spotted two female **Hooded Mergansers** on the lagoon.

We continued north to check the Duckabush. We were glad we did: four **Trumpeter Swans** were at the outer edge of the marshland, two mature, and two young. Heading back south we stopped at the Lilliwaup to add **Common Mergansers** and then finished at the fish hatchery at Purdy Creek. We were hoping for **Dippers**, and were not disappointed. And, as a bonus, we came across a pair of **Wood Ducks** and a **Hermit Thrush**. On the way back to Twanoh, four more **Trumpeter Swans**, all mature, near the Hunter's Farm Store.

Black Hills Audubon Society
PO Box 2524
Olympia WA 98507-2524



Eight participants, the lowest ever, 51 species of birds, the highest ever, a good day. The species count would have been more modest had it not been for Jim Pruske's keen-eyed spotting. We felt lucky having had him with us. 🦋

—Andrew Beélik

Olympic BirdFest 2008 Sequim, WA April 4–6, 2008

Visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, silent auction, and a salmon banquet with our partner, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

New this year: A three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 6-8, 2008, immediately following BirdFest. The festival with the most spectacular setting! Contact: Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382; 360-681-4076; email: info@olympicbirdfest.org; or go online at www.olympicbirdfest.org. 🦋

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