



Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society

November 2022

Whidbey Audubon Society is dedicated to the understanding, appreciation and conservation of birds, other wildlife and their habitats on Whidbey Island and in surrounding waters.

Whidbey Audubon Society Meets Thursday, November 10 via Zoom ***A Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure with Ken Bevis***

What happens when a tree dies in the forest? Follow along as we track the changes in the dead tree, from fresh dead, to hard snag, to soft snag to down log and all of the life that follows in the decaying wood. The important ecological role of dead trees is explored, particularly by way of habitat use by the many species. In fact, almost 40 percent of forest wildlife are somehow dependent and tied to dead wood for their survival. Suggestions for management are included. The presentation is photo rich and might even include a song!



Ken Bevis

Ken Bevis is the Stewardship Biologist for the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Small Forest Landowner office. Ken is a lifelong hiker, hunter, fisherman, skier, bird watcher and avid naturalist. Originally from Virginia, he has lived in Washington since 1986, and has held a variety of positions in natural resource management including: the Forest Service, Yakama Indian Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (15 years) and now, DNR. Ken has a bachelor of science degree in Forestry and Wildlife

from Virginia Tech (1979), and a master's degree in biology from Central Washington University (1994), where he studied cavity nesting birds in three eastern Washington forest types. He



Photo by Prescott

Topped dead tree at South Whidbey State Park.

now helps landowners learn how to manage small private forest lands for wildlife on their property. He makes frequent presentations for workshops, classes and Washington State University Extension programs and is a talented singer/guitar player as well. He continues to be fascinated with dead trees and works daily on finding humor in everything.

This program is free and open to the public. It is *not* hybrid this month, only **online via Zoom**. **Registration is required.** Please register on the website, www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org. Join in at 7 for socializing and a short meeting; the program begins at 7:30.

Upcoming Field Trips

Friday, November 11: PADILLA BAY AND SAMISH ISLAND. Meet 9 a.m. at Windjammer Park, 1600 Southwest Beekma Drive in Oak Harbor to carpool and drive to Padilla Bay and Samish Island for chance to see migrating raptors.

We are happy to announce another year of coordinating field trips with **Deception Pass State Park**. These two hour trips will take place twice a month at different locations at the park. This is a great opportunity for new birders to experience the different

birds around the park.

Saturday, November 5: WEST BEACH. Meet at 10 a.m. Meet at the north end of the *parking lot near Cranberry Lake*.

Saturday November 19: BOWMAN BAY. Meet at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

Questions? Click red text to email *Charlotte Ginn* or call 209-352-6534.



President's Column: The Window Seat Perch

My perch is here on Whidbey Island, and it is great fun to watch the birds here. However, this month, I had the opportunity to go to Cape May, New Jersey for the fall bird festival. The weather was very good, and the trees were changing color — reds, yellows, purple, orange and all the in between colors.

The fall migration was a little slow this year in comparison with other years. The most common bird I saw was the **Myrtle Yellow-rumped Warbler (YRWA)**. In one day, there were 44,000 counted. I saw clouds of **Tree Swallows** and the sight was glorious. I've never seen migrating Tree Swallows.

Each day, I did three bird tours in various areas around Cape May. The Rea Farm also known as "The Beanery" had been completely transformed from a lima bean farm to one of the best places to observe the fall migration. Again, the migration is late this year, so that the birds we saw were not as plentiful. The **Blue Jays** were shouting their screams and in this, my first bird trip in Cape May, I only saw ten Blue Jays. The bird I heard most often was the **Carolina Wren**. I picked up many hints on bird calls in the area. They had many mimics — **Brown Thrasher, Catbird**, and of course, **Mockingbird**. As usual, there were many **Red-winged Blackbirds, American Goldfinch, House Finch**, and of course, **American Robins**.

At Higbee Beach, I saw **Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Swamp Sparrow, Blackpoll Warbler** and **Palm Warbler** as well as more typical birds that we see here too.

The raptor ID was extremely interesting. We saw many **Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk**, a few **Osprey, Broad-Winged Hawk, Bald Eagle** (not nearly as many as are here), **Peregrine Falcon, Merlin** and one **Northern Harrier**. Lots of kettles in the skies around Cape May. We also counted all the other species we saw outside of hawks and the session I was in, we counted 29 species. We counted over 2000 Tree Swallows. Wow! One leader had quite a few tips about distinguishing differences between Cooper's and Sharp-skinned Hawks. Although many leaders were extremely good, they never hesitated to say, "I don't know."

My next adventure will be the spring festival in Cape May. Maybe next year. Hmmm!

— *Patty Cheek, President*

Would that I were under the cliffs, in the secret-hiding places of the rocks, that Zeus might change me to a winged bird.

— *Sophocles – Hippolytus, 428 B.C.*

Whidbey Audubon Society

www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org • 509-906-1663

P.O. Box 1012, Oak Harbor, WA 98277

A chapter of National Audubon Society and a nonprofit organization EIN #80-0488910

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Christmas Bird Count South – Govinda Holtby,
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Birding in Neighborhoods South – Cathi Bower
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Birds 'n' Beer – Patty Cheek
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Join the 123rd Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the longest and largest running community science project in the world. The data is open to everybody and provides information for research, planning and conservation.

Whidbey Island has been divided into two circles with a diameter of 15 miles. The northern circle, Whidbey Audubon Oak Harbor (WAOH) stretches from just south of Deception Pass to Crockett Lake. The south circle Whidbey Audubon South Whidbey (WASW) goes from Greenbank to the south end of the island.

Here is the specific information on each circle:

Oak Harbor Circle

The WAOH 2022 Christmas Bird Count will take place on Saturday, December 17. All are invited to participate. Area captains should expect to hear from me by mid-November. Contact me, *Jay Adams*, if you would like to join a survey group.

South Whidbey Christmas Bird Count

South Whidbey CBC gears up again for another bird census. This is our 12th year, in the WASW CBC circle, a 15 mile diameter circle with Goss Lake as the epicenter. The count will be conducted on Thursday, December 29. We have also picked an alternate day, of Monday, January 2 (this is if the 29th is as icy/windy as it was last year). Contact *Govinda Holtby*, CBC South Whidbey Chair.

South Whidbey Wish List:

- Feeder Watchers! Count birds from the comfort of your living room. You can spend as little as 15 minutes, or as long as eight hours as a feeder watcher. Instructions on how to be a feeder watcher are on the *Whidbey Audubon website*, find it under the Events menu, “Christmas Bird Count”



Photo by Govinda Holtby

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet waiting to be counted.

or on the calendar.

- Waterfront property! We are looking to set up our scopes to get a good sweep of North Saratoga Passage. Whidbey Shores/Bells Beach is a particular area that we need.
- Intermediate birders who know most birds
- There is some room for beginning birders; this will be on a first come basis; the sooner you sign up the more likely you will be in a team.

The CBC starts at 8 a.m. and we will be surveying typically until 4 p.m. — there is also special data collection for nocturnal birding. Once again because of COVID we will be cautious, wearing masks and practicing social distancing. We will not be meeting for any post tabulations or potlucks.

You can contact me, Govinda for field counting or feeder counting questions.

Though, please respect that there is a deadline to sign up — that deadline is December 15.

An Invitation to Volunteer

Do you enjoy being a part of the big picture? Do you like working with other people? Or do you get satisfaction from pulling together to do what it takes to make something happen? I'd love to hear from you and plug you into a needed project?

The new organizational structure for the Whidbey Audubon Society (WAS) Board of Directors includes “cabinet” posts. Cabinet coordinators oversee a group of activities. I agreed to serve as Outreach. This includes a volunteer committee to address volunteer needs, compile a volunteer roster and track volunteer service.

Please contact me to learn more. I would love to engage you in one or more of the following:

- Coordinate the volunteer committee and report to me
- Maintain a roster of volunteers — a good fit for an introvert

- Volunteer for a specific program, i.e. education in schools, write thank-you notes, etc.

- Micro volunteer for a specific activity – a one-time event

Here are some projects that could use help:

- Weeding the newly planted Deer Lagoon Birding area;
- Distributing posters and brochures to visitor centers, libraries, etc.;
- Setting up and taking down chairs for programs;
- Taking birding activities into the schools;
- Leading a field trip or three;
- Recommending edits to the WAS website administrators;
- Coordinating and hosting a class;
- Planning the Wings Over Whidbey event May 18 to 20 and
- so much more ...to be continued.

— *Prescott*, [click red text to email](#) or call 360-682-8642

Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings

October 1: California Scrub-Jay. Location: near Casey Avenue and Olympic View Drive, Coupeville.

— *Carolyn Rutherford*



Photo by Deb Stewart

California Scrub Jay

October 1: It looks like the Humphrey Road **California Scrub-Jay** family has had another successful breeding season. They have remained in this area for a number of years. I currently have four confirmed (but think there are six) screaming around my yard which is located on Spencer Lane. Location: Humphrey & Berg in Clinton.

— *Deb Stewart*

October 2: Lapland Longspur. Location: South side of the west section of the spit road across from Crockett Lake. The bird would feed along the roadside, fly to the driftwood, and return to feed again. — *Jay Adams*

October 6: Flyover of two **Horned Larks.** Location:

Southern terminus of the Keystone Spit Road.

Clay-colored Sparrow, I walked the Keystone Spit Road searching for Jay Adams' previously reported longspurs. I didn't locate them but *pished up** a sparrow with clean breast, grey nape and prominent lateral throat stripes and supercilium. It was in a flock of **Savannah, White-crowned** and **Song Sparrows.** I did not locate this bird, or the flock, on my return trip.

— *Dave Parent*

October 8: Thirty + **Turkey Vultures** kettling above, then soaring single file south. Location: Cultus Bay Road and French Road.

— *Dyanne Sheldon*

October 10: One rather late-ish **Red-necked Phalarope** and with peeps, **Long-billed Dowitchers, Dunlin, Pectoral Sandpipers.** Location: East end, Crockett Lake.

— *Jay Adams*

October 10-11: **Scrub-Jay** underneath the suet feeder. Two days in a row. Location: East side of Bayview Road, South of State Route 525.

— *Vivian Stemberidge*

October 23: What appeared to be an **all-white dove** flew



Photo by Linda Griesbach

White dove among Rock Pigeons, see lower center.

into an alder and settled in with a flock of **Rock Pigeons.** Location: North end of Lone Lake. — *Linda Griesbach*

October 26: There was a pair of **Redheads** at Dugualla

Bay this morning. They were swimming with several **Coots** near the little island in the lake at the west end. There are also a lot of coots; I counted 88.

— *Mary Jo Adams*

*A *pish* is an imitated bird call used by birders and ornithologists to attract birds. The action of making the sound is known as pishing or spishing. This technique is used by scientists to increase the effectiveness of bird diversity surveys, and by birders to attract species that they might not otherwise see.

— *Wikipedia*

PLEASE POST UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS to the *Whidbey Audubon Society (was) website*, Select the aqua button, "Report a Sighting." You can also submit a photo using the aqua button labeled "Submit Gallery Photos."

Sightings should be on Whidbey Island or relate in some way to Whidbey Audubon. Reports should refer to birds or other wildlife that are not commonly seen here. Alternatively, they may refer to migratory birds that arrive outside their normal seasons.

Reports of especially interesting sightings in nearby areas are welcome. Greater selectivity is needed to keep the email volume reasonable so editors will exercise judgment on whether the rarity, proximity and significance of sightings merit inclusion.

These guidelines reflect the interests of local birders. Please respect the essentially scientific nature of the Sightings feature. Thanks for your cooperation.

There are designated spaces to submit your information, such as what you saw, where you saw it and the date and approximate time. Although we are asking those who post to leave a phone number or email address with your sighting, they will not be included on the actual "Sightings" page. Thank you!

Keep up with "Sightings" on the was website or on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WhidbeyAudubonSociety.

BIN South Makes a Fall Visit to Deer Lagoon and Ferry Dock

You know it's been a long-lingering summer when someone can't take two minutes on a computer to tell you about some recent neighborhood birding. You know that's been going on awhile when those past bird lists still include Ospreys, for example.

Back in September out at Deer Lagoon one Thursday morning, we spied 34 species, including some shorebirds we may not have noticed except for Sarah knows what she's looking at in that department. She pointed out the **Pectoral Sandpiper** among the **Killdeer, Least** and **Western Sandpipers.** She was not willing to call which **dowitchers** those are out there (Short or Long-billed). But everyone was probing the mud together, so

it was another great comparison opportunity. Other surprising observations included a **Horned Grebe** on the freshish-water-side, and dabbling ducks diving — *what the H!* As disturbing as that was, we decided that perhaps they were just bathing, the way they were swooshing under like that. Whew. Some things should just be dependable — diving ducks dive, dabbling ducks dabble and that's the way it should stay. (Because if it looks like a duck, dives like a duck...)

We didn't see Pelicans out there that day, but FYI, there have still been a few lately — last year, there were still 30 at the end

BIN South, see [page 6](#)

Bird of the Month: The Bald Eagle: a History

The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) became the national bird in 1872. The newly formed government wanted to create an official seal, and after three committees failed, they finally chose the Bald Eagle.

According to legend, Benjamin Franklin wanted the Turkey to be the national bird because the Bald Eagle was a scavenger, “a bird of bad moral character that does not get his living honestly,” often stealing fish from Osprey and is “too lazy to fish for himself.” However, he did not express his opinion publicly, but only through a letter to his daughter.

At the time there were an estimated 100,000 eagles in America. Over the years, the population declined mainly because of hunting and habitat decrease.

By the mid 1900s, the eagle population had declined drastically and was threatened with extinction. In 1940, Congress passed the Bald Eagle Protection Act which prohibited killing, selling or possessing the species. A 1962 amendment included the Golden Eagle.

Then shortly after World War II, dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) was introduced as a new insecticide to kill mosquitoes and other insects. Unfortunately, the residue seeped into nearby waterways and was absorbed by aquatic plants and fish. Eagles were then poisoned when they consumed the contaminated fish. Although DDT did not kill the birds outright, it interfered with the ability of the birds to produce strong eggshells. Thus, the eggs often broke during incubation or failed to hatch. By 1963, there were only 417 nesting pairs known and extinction seemed imminent.

Due mainly to the publication of Rachel Carlson’s 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, the dangers of DDT became known. The newly formed Environmental Protection Agency banned DDT and related pesticides in 1972. At the time, this move was historic and considered controversial. The Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) listed the Bald Eagle as endangered throughout the 48 states (except for

Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Washington and Wisconsin). This allowed the USFWS to accelerate recovery through captive breeding programs, law enforcement and nest protection.

By 1995, the eagle population had recovered enough to be reclassified to the “threatened” category and in 2007, our national bird was removed from the list of threatened species. There were at least 9,789 breeding pairs. The last survey done by the USFWS in 2009 estimated the eagle population in the lower 48 states to be 72,434 individuals.

The Bald Eagle in Washington State

I first moved to Washington in 1972. I wasn’t a birder back then, and living mainly in the midwest, I don’t think I had ever even seen a Bald Eagle. I was aware they were a rare sight. The first winter here, my sister and dad came to visit. We were still exploring the area, so we drove up the Skagit River valley. We stopped along the river when we saw a bunch of birds (30? 50? It was a long time ago) standing on a gravel bank in the river. My sister shouted, “Those are Bald Eagles!” I scoffed and replied, “No way,” thinking I already knew about the eagle population in Washington. Of course, my sister was right, and we all know that the Skagit River even to this day is a popular place for Bald Eagles to congregate in December and January to feast on the carcasses of dead salmon. Parts of the river are a Bald Eagle reserve and there is an interpretive center in Rockport. There are also tours down the river on float boats during the winter months. Charlotte Ginn, our field trip chair, is looking into organizing a trip in January. Or if you are interested in going it alone, you can contact Skagit Eagle Tours.

Washington state eagles were never on the federal endangered species list, but considered threatened. They were removed from that list in 2007 but are now designated as ‘sensitive’ according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WSDFW). The last estimation of breeding pairs was 900. However, the total population is much higher than that since eagles don’t begin breeding until their fourth or fifth year and many migrants from farther north winter here.

Whidbey Island Eagles

We all have had many experiences with Bald Eagles on Whidbey Island. For many of us, they are a daily occurrence. The last survey by air was done by the WSDFW in 2005. They counted 47 nesting pairs. Of course, because of migrants and juveniles, the population is higher than that. According to Steve Ellis, former president of Whidbey Audubon Society, the Bald Eagle population on Whidbey Island may have maxed out.



Deer Lagoon Cleanup



Photo by Linda Griesbach

(Ob)noxious weeds pulled by the Deer Lagoon Weed Wranglers, headed for the county transfer station.

Birding in Neighborhoods South, from page 4

of October.

For something somewhat different, last week a few of us made our way to the end of the Clinton ferry dock, where we practiced our silhouette identification (ID) skills (completely socked in). Before heading out, we were visited briefly by a snowbird on his way south. 'Tis the Season – Happy trails, travelers. Down at the dock, we enjoyed watching the huge raft of **Surf Scoters**

scurry over to the pilings to feed each time the ferry pulled out. The tide was low enough to view big beautiful seas stars clinging there, and a friendly harbor seal was poking around. A **Common Loon** was uncommonly close in near the dock. Among the **pigeons**, there were a couple of particularly standout individuals, and we had to spend some time trying to decide whether or not they wore any jewelry. A single **Pigeon Guillemot** sported winter clothes, and a couple of 2022 model **Rhinoceros Auklets** took us a beat to ID.

As if all the ferry action wasn't entertaining enough, we drove a detour back, through the Clinton neighborhood of the **California Scrub-Jay**, and in no time spotted two of them! A **Cooper's Hawk** was shooting through the area also, and perched in a nearby tree, bothering everyone. But we enjoyed him, and all together, we identified 18 species for the foggy morning.

— Cathi Bower

Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) South meets every other Thursday. Time varies with the season. Contact Cathi at whidbird@whidbey.com.

Dates to Remember

Please check the *Whidbey Audubon Society Events Calendar* and *Listings* on its website for more detailed information and how to enter Zoom for some of these upcoming events. There also might be further information elsewhere in this issue.

NOVEMBER

- 1: **Native Plant Sale** begins; *Whidbey Conservation District*
- 1: **Volunteer: Work Party** at Deer Lagoon 10 a.m.
- 1: **Online Class: *The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl***. Session 1. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register on website
- 4: **Class: Fall Birding** with Libby Mills. *Padilla Bay*. Repeat of September 4 class
- 5: **Field Trip: Deception Pass**, 10 a.m. to Noon, West Beach
- 8: **Online Class: *The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl***. Session 2
- 10: **Program: *A Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure*** with Ken Bevis, Freeland, Zoom only. 7 p.m. [Click to register](#).
- 11: **Field Trip: Padilla Bay and Samish Island**
- 15: **Online Class: *The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl***, Session 3
- 16: **Birds 'n' Beer**. 5 p.m. Zoom, [click to register](#)
- 19: **Field Trip: Deception Pass**, Bowman Bay
- 22: **Online Class: *The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl***. Session 4
- 29: **Online Class: *The Wonders of Winter Waterfowl***. Session 5
- 30: **Page Peepers Book Club**. 7 p.m. Zoom *Flight Lines: Across the Globe on a Journey with the Astonishing Ultramarathon Birds*. [Click to register](#)

DECEMBER

- 8: **No Program. Board meeting**; 6 p.m.
- 15: **Deadline for January Shorelines**
- 17: **Christmas Bird Count North Whidbey**
- 29: **Christmas Bird Count South Whidbey**

JANUARY

- 12: **Program: *The Most Overlooked Birds in the North America: Females*** with Joanna Wu

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 18-20: Wings over Whidbey Festival. More information in January and February

BIN North Explore Stretch of Ebey's Trail System

October 12: Eight birders joined Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) North at the ball fields off of Patmore Road in the Rhododendron Park to walk a short way through the park to connect with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust's expanded Ebey's Trail System. The walk took us through a wonderful privately-owned forest of 100 to 120-year-old fir and cedars and along forest/pasture edge habitats to open fields. We were delighted when invisible and flighty **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in the forest drew close enough for us to watch. Other highlights were a **Kestrel**, a soaring **Red-tailed Hawk**, the puzzle of pinecones stuffed into holes in at the base of an alder and to be greeted by the farmers and their dog, Dale, along the way.

— Denise Marion

BIN North meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. Contact Denise Marion, Dpmorder@gmail.com or 501-655-3130.

Bald Eagle, from page 5

Territorial fighting has been observed. The WSDFW is no longer surveying the eagles on Whidbey, so we have no current data. There may be no more room for new nesting pairs. But as Steve says, that's a sign that the population here is doing "really well."

When you see your next Bald Eagle, soaring above you or perched on a high branch, take a moment to consider them as our country's major success story to save our national bird

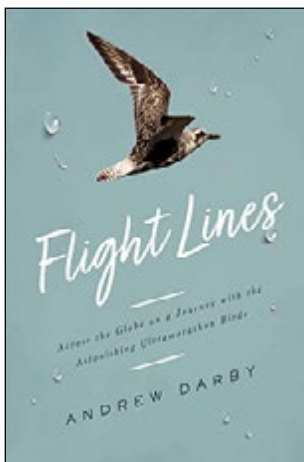
— Jenny Brown

Page Peepers Now Meets Every Other Month

The next Page Peepers book group meeting is Wednesday, November 30 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Please register on the Whidbey Audubon Society website to receive the Zoom link.

The book we are reading is *Flight Lines: Across the Globe on a Journey with the Astonishing Ultramarathon Birds* by Andrew Darby.

Darby is the winner of the Royal Zoological Society Whitley Award for the Best Natural History Book 2020. The book follows two Grey Plovers on their uncharted ultra-marathon flights from the Southern; coast of Australia to Arctic breeding grounds



Flight Lines by Andrew Darby: published by Allen & Unwin, February 2020; 336 pages.

— *Patty Cheek*

Welcome New and Renewing Members

New Members

Dave & Lourdes Venard	Cynthia Rausch
Joshua Engelbrecht & Kale Nole	Leslie Hale
Ed Coleman & Marci Ameluxen	

Renewing Members

Bill and Cheryl Bradkin, Red-Tailed Hawk	
Steve & Nancy Johnson, Red-Tailed Hawk	
Jack & Karol Pulliam, Red-Tailed Hawk	
Karen Larsen & Stephen Gordon, Pigeon Guillemot	
Bill & Lauren Young, Spotted Towhee	
Mark & Susan Bigger, Spotted Towhee	
Sam Wolfe & Marilyn Strayer, Spotted Towhee	
Barbara Douma, Spotted Towhee	
Deborah Nedelman & Melvyn Trenor	
Kim Shepard, Red-Tailed Hawk	Judith Kaplan
Janet Stein, Spotted Towhee	Anna & Stephen Banks
Joan Benedusi Spotted Towhee	John Leaser & Ann Sullivan
Angie & Jerry J. Homola	Corinne Ludy
Babette & John Thompson	Ingrid DeJong
Frank & Mary Taylor	Keith Elkon
Tom Leschine & Kit O'Neill	Pamela Stroud

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 Mail to: Jann Ledbetter, 1112 Maple Place, Coupeville WA 98239
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\$ _____ Additional Donation to be used for Scholarships

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP for first year National Members only. Receive a joint membership in National and Whidbey Audubon for one year for only \$35. Make check payable to National Audubon.

The Whidbey Audubon Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible. It is Whidbey Audubon policy to never share our membership and subscription information with other groups.

Birding in My Yard (BIMY) Fall Edition

There hasn't been much change this fall as I continue to watch the wildlife in my yard. The squirrels and chipmunks are still out and about, scarfing up the peanuts and sunflower seeds quickly to, I presume, cache for the winter months.

I don't get many migratory birds where I live. Sometimes a Golden-crowned Sparrow will pass through. I have been hearing a **Varied Thrush** a few times. Otherwise, it's the usual residents: **chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, towhees, Pacific Wren** and **Bewick's Wren** and an increasing number of **juncos**. According to the Merlin App, I also have **Red Crossbills** and **Golden-crowned Kinglets** high in the trees. I have also heard **Crows**, a **Raven** and a few flocks of **Canada Geese** flying south. The **Anna's Hummingbird** is still coming to the feeder, so I guess I feel obligated to keep the feeder up all winter.

I did have a bit of excitement this fall. I was inside and I heard a "whap, whap," the sound of birds hitting my window (I rarely get bird strikes because my feeders are either hanging from my eaves or far enough away from the house). I went outside in time to see that it was a **Cooper's Hawk** who had unsuccessfully attacked a **Hairy Woodpecker** that had been hanging from my suet feeder. The woodpecker escaped into the woods. The frustrated hawk soon after perched on my roof, perhaps looking for another chance. By then, all the possible prey had scattered.

I also had an unexpected visitor to my birdbath. A **Barred Owl** has come four times to either drink or bathe during the day. I managed to snap a photo from inside.

With winter approaching, I will probably do most of my birdwatching through my windows. I'm not that dedicated.

— Jenny Brown



Photo by Jenny Brown

Bathing Barred Owl in Oak Harbor.

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General Meeting & Program

Thursday, November 10
Meeting and Socializing at 7,
Program at 7:30 p.m.

A Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure with Ken Bevis

This meeting is on Zoom
REGISTER

www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org

No General Meeting in
December
Happy Holidays!