



# Shorelines

Newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society

Volume 42 Number 9

June 2023

*Whidbey Audubon Society is dedicated to the understanding, appreciation, and protection of birds and other wildlife species and their habitat on Whidbey Island and surrounding waters.*

## Whidbey Audubon Meets on Thursday, June 8 in Coupeville Celebrating Birds and Birders

Join us for the last general membership meeting of the 2022-2023 season and celebrate all of us who keep aloft the wondrous work of Whidbey Audubon Society. This is an in-person meeting only and starts at **7 p.m. at the Coupeville Recreation Center at 901 Northwest Alexander Street** in Coupeville. The next meeting of the 2023-2024 season will be on September 14.

We'll be congratulating our new officers and thanking the outgoing ones. The President's Award will be presented to the most outstanding member of this past year.

We will be sharing our bird sightings, photos, anecdotes and games. The Bronze Owl Bank will be awarded to the team who inspired the greatest monetary donations during this recent Birdathon.

This is an opportunity to socialize, share and learn about our

new plan for growing volunteers, query some of our own local experts of various birding fields, talk about this past year, summer plans and what's up for next season.

Refreshments are provided, but please feel free to contribute your favorite snack. Bring your photos to share — printed or on a flash drive for screen sharing. A book exchange will be available. The new batch of Whidbey Audubon Society ball caps will be available for a \$30 donation.

Everyone's welcome.



Photo by Tim Kuhn

Purple Martin nesting pair.

## Birding Whidbey Island: A Guide to 15 Special Spots

Since Whidbey Audubon does not schedule field trips during the summer months, you might want to explore a location on Whidbey Island on your own. There will be maps and brochures available at the June 8 social gathering in Coupeville to help you explore.

Consider joining the Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) groups which will be meeting all summer. Birding in Neighborhoods are outings in search of birds. Generally, these are morning outings identifying bird species in different areas of Whidbey Island though participants may occasionally travel off-island to see especially interesting birding areas. These outings are a great way to learn about birding areas on Whidbey Island, hone your bird identification abilities and if you are just starting, get support from other birders. Read more on page 5.

**BIN South** meets every other Thursday, email [Cathi Bower](#) by clicking on the red text. **BIN North** meets on the second Wednesday of the month, email [Denise Marian](#) or [Nancy Luenn](#).

The map to the right shows 15 prime birding spots to visit. On the [Whidbey Audubon Society website](#), you can find more

detailed information about each area. For example, directions and what birds and other wildlife you might see. As a bonus, there is also information on [Deer Lagoon](#).

You can also download and print the map and other information. From the home page, select **Birds** from the menu along the top, then **Birding Whidbey Island** from the drop-down menu; or select this [link](#).





## President's Column: Another Successful Year

This wraps up another successful year for Whidbey Audubon. We're getting the word out to our community and beyond.

Special thanks to every single volunteer who has contributed anything from one minute to many hours. Every one of you is important. Two board members are leaving — Sheri Croll, our treasurer for the past four years and Anita Badri, our secretary for the past two years. Sheri has been instrumental in helping us to have a solid financial background. I cannot thank her enough for all the support she has given me during my tenure as president. Anita stepped in to carry the secretary position with just a little beginning knowledge of Whidbey Audubon Society (was) as an organization and its activities. She joined the team and had to learn a lot of background. Thank you to both of you.

To those of you who were not at our last general meeting on May 11, I announced that Jenny Brown is stepping down as *Shoreline's* editor after 12 long years at the helm. She is a whirlwind of activity helping us keep up to date through the newsletter. She's been a great partner with Susan Prescott, publicity chair. Together they have done a splendid job getting out the news and coming up with new ideas for was. She has also been exceptionally good for keeping us out of legal trouble. I am so grateful to Jenny.

Finally, thanks and congratulations to Stephanie Neis, our

program leader and the chair of Wings over Whidbey Bird Festival. I am awed and astonished at the work she has done in presenting our first bird festival. I have known Stef for years but never had any idea that she could erupt with such a volcano of ideas and energy. Along with her volunteers, including Prescott and Sheri as well as other board members, she has placed Wings over Whidbey on the map of bird festivals. Thanks for all you have done.

Thanks just doesn't seem adequate. How many ways can you say it? Not enough. With gratitude!

— Patty Cheek, President

## Wings over Whidbey Roundup

The overall comments for the festival were lots of appreciation for the whole festival, thankfulness for pulling together community organizations, range and topics of the speakers, the fun bird walks, the Bird in the Hand event, the kid's activities and most popular, the kids bird passport. Several people said they wish they had paid more attention when they realized the full variety of activities offered over a few days. All in all, many

WoW Roundup, see [page 6](#)

### Whidbey Audubon Society

[www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](http://www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org) • 509-906-1663 • [contact.us@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](mailto:contact.us@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org)

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

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

### Board and Cabinet Chairs 2023-2024

#### Executive Committee

President Patty Cheek  
Vice President Linda Griesbach  
Interim Treasurer Stephanie Neis  
Secretary Michelle Munro

#### Auxiliary Committee

Past-president(s) Sharon Gauthier  
Nominating 2023 Kathy Obersinner  
Sharon Gauthier  
Patricia Duarte  
Internal Audit Stephanie Neis  
Roy Seliber

#### At Large Appointments

Cathi Bower  
Roy Selibert  
Janet Jernigan  
Kathy Obersinner

#### Core Cabinet Chairs and Subcommittees

Support Services Jann Ledbetter  
Membership Management, Jann Ledbetter  
Online Services & Technology Support OPEN  
Special Project Grants and Fundraising OPEN  
History and Records -Michelle Munro

#### Conservation & Science Charlotte Ginn,

Interim Conservation Chair - Linda Griesbach  
Salish Sea Guillemot Network - Frances Wood

Salish Sea Guillemot Network - Cathi Bower  
Christmas Bird Count North - Jay Adams,  
Christmas Bird Count South - Govinda Holtby  
Bird Specimen Library - Robin Llewellyn

#### Outreach Susan Prescott

Publicity - Susan Prescott  
Newsletter Editor- Jenny Brown  
Volunteer Recruitment and Management-Sheri Croll  
Social Media - Cathi Bower

#### Events Stephanie Neis

Membership Meetings & Programs - Stef Neis  
Field Trips - Charlotte Ginn  
Birding in Neighborhoods South - Cathi Bower  
Birding in Neighborhoods North - Denise Marion  
Nancy Luenn

Page Peepers - Patty Cheek  
Birdathon - Kathy Obersinner  
Birds 'n' Beer - Patty Cheek  
Bird in Hand Festival - Robin Llewellyn  
Wings over Whidbey Festival - Stephanie Neis

#### Education Sharon Gauthier

Online Educational Classes, Patty Cheek  
Public Presentations OPEN  
School Programs OPEN  
Birds of Whidbey Class - Dyanne Sheldon  
Scholarship Program - Ann Sullivan

# 2023 Scholarships Awarded at May Dinner

During a beautiful Thursday evening awards dinner on May 11, three graduating Whidbey high school seniors were introduced as awardees of a Whidbey Audubon Renee Smith Scholarship to study an environmentally related field as their university major.

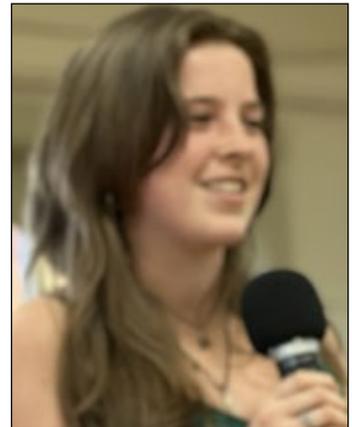
Wynter Arndt, Coupeville High School, a member of a five generation Coupeville farming family, has been a long-time volunteer throughout high school with the school farm garden and the Farm-to-School lunch program. She will major in environmental studies.



Wynter Arndt



Sydney Carver



Madeline Racicot was introduced at the Whidbey Audubon Dinner on May 11.

County (with all the skills and activity that it required!). Sydney will major in environmental science and biology.

Madeline Racicot, South Whidbey High School, has been a member of the Ecology Club, United Student Leaders (usl) advocating successfully for an environmental science class given now at her high school. She has made bee boxes for pollination, created a recycling system and joined a tree planting campaign. Madeline will major in environmental engineering and biology.

— Ann Sullivan, Scholarship Chair

## 2023 Birdathon Results

Every year is unique. Our spring bird count during Birdathon provides a view of bird species that live on or migrate through Whidbey Island in early May. A total of 155 bird species were identified during this count, with some very interesting sightings. The **Redhead**, a duck that has not been seen on Whidbey Island since we started keeping a list in 2013, was spotted by the Wingin' It team. Another rare sighting and first time during Birdathon was the **Solitary Sandpiper**, seen and identified by the All For Knot team. **Red-necked Grebes** were a special treat for many, as well as **loons** in breeding plumage, gently calling.

This year, the coveted Golden Binocular Award was recaptured by the All For Knot team (Joe Sheldon and Dave Parent), with 128 species sighted on their Big Day, narrowly edging it away from the Coupevillains (Steve and Martha Ellis, Sandy Shields and Bill Bradkin) at 127! They were followed by Shore Thing, with 102, Wingin' It with 101, Wild Women of Whidbey with 93, our newest team No Egrets! At 87 species and the Fledglings who are in it for the



Joe Sheldon accepts the Golden Trophy award from Kathy Obersinner.

### International Guillemot Appreciation Day

Friday, June 23rd, 2023 3-5 p.m.  
At Ott & Hunter Winery- 204 1st st. Langley



OTT & HUNTER

20 Years of  
the PG Survey!

- Guillemot Activities
- Data Findings
- Slideshow
- Appetizers
- Guillemot Poems
- Special Glass Pours



Everyone is invited to join this family friendly event



Brought to you by Whidbey Audubon Society  
Pigeon Guillemot Survey  
A partner of the Salish Sea Guillemot Network.  
[www.pigeonguillemot.org](http://www.pigeonguillemot.org)



Birdathon Results, see page 6

# Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings Sightings

**April 28: Western Tanager** by call. Location: Pacific Rim Institute. — *Joe Sheldon*

**April 30: Yellow-headed Blackbird** and **Red Crossbills**. Location: Wannamaker Road and Prairie Avenue, Coupeville.

— *Carolyn Rutherford*

**May 1: Fifteen Whimbrels** feeding at low tide. Location: Scatchet Head Beach.

— *Amy Gulick*

**May 2: First of season Swainson's Thrush**, visited fountain in backyard for about five minutes. Location: Aquila Drive, Langley. — *Stef Neis*

**May 2: Of the 43 bird species** I found at our place this morning, eight of them were **sparrows**, a record number of sparrow species for this location in a single bird count: Species included five **juncos**, four **to-whees**, four **Song Sparrows**, two **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, one **White-crowned Sparrow**, one **Lincoln's Sparrow**, one **Fox Sparrow**, and one **White-throated Sparrow**. We have had a White-throated (two a couple days ago) since 12/12/22. Today, he did his best singing ever, about three or four minutes of songs. Ah, such sweet, sweet music. Location: Two miles southwest of Clinton ferry dock.

— *George Heleker*



Photo by Patricia Duarte-Pocock

Black-headed Grosbeak

**May 2: First Black-headed Grosbeak** at my feeder. Location: Clinton.

— *Patricia Duarte-Pocock*

**May 4: Up to 31 American White Pelicans** at Deer Lagoon during the past couple of weeks; most/all in breeding plumage with dark orange/reddish around the bill near their neck and eyes and knob on the upper beak.

— *Libby Hayward*

**May 7: Solitary Sandpiper**. Yellow legs, speckled back, obvious white eye ring and lores. Location: Ewing Marsh.

— *Dave Parent*

**May 10: Six American White Pelicans** at the northwest end of Crockett Lake. They were actively foraging for grass from the lake. All were in breeding plumage with dark orange/reddish around the bill near their neck and eyes and knob on the upper beak.

— *Debbi Williams*

**May 10: Six Vaux's Swifts**. Location: South Whidbey State Park. — *Dave Parent*



Photo by Carlos Andersen

Solitary Sandpiper

**May 10: Solitary Sandpiper** at Ewing Marsh.

— *Carlos Andersen*

**May 13: Golden Eagle** soaring with two **Bald Eagles**. Location: Over Dugualla Bay Lagoon. — *Dave Parent*

**May 14: American White Pelicans** seen wading and bobbing in shallow water of low tide. Location: Sandy Hook. — *Brian Sitko*



Photo by Brian Sitko

American White Pelicans at Sandy Hook.

**May 15: Two Red Knots** found among *Dunlin*, peep sandpipers, and a single **Red-necked Phalarope**. Also large numbers of **Caspian Terns** and **Bonaparte's Gulls**. The knots were molting from grayish winter to reddish breeding plumage. Location: East end of Crockett Lake.

— *Jay Adams*



Photo by Tony Zoars

Red-breasted Sapsucker

**May 16: Sighted Red-breasted Sapsucker** in parking lot at Meerkerk Garden.

— *Tony Zoars*

**May 25: Two male Blue-winged Teal** and one male **Cinnamon Teal** swimming with **mallards** and **pintails** at east end of lake. Three **Purple Martins** (two female, one male) on the red-and-white martin house structure on pole just east of Callen's restaurant, perched and singing and looking into nest holes. (This after counting 17 **Purple Martins** at the martin houses on the cross-lake pilings.) A **Red-necked Phalarope** female in breeding plumage with five **Western Sandpipers** on mudflat east of milepost

14. Location: Crockett Lake.  
— *Sarah Schmidt*



Photo by Sarah Schmidt

Purple Martins checking a potential home for nesting.

**May 27: I saw what I thought** was a thrush as it was about the size of a robin and had streaking on its breast along the big drift logs high on the beach. I took pictures of it to help me identify it when I got home. I was quite surprised when I looked at the pictures as it obviously wasn't a thrush. I believe it is a **Sage Thrasher**. This bird is not on the Whidbey Island Audubon bird list and according to eBird has only been reported in Island County one other time. Location: Along the beach close to where Joseph Whidbey State Park land ends and Navy property begins. I was not on the beach when I saw it but on the trail between the beach and the marsh.

— *Mary Jo Adams*

**May 29: We were able to find the Sage Thrasher** again at Joseph Whidbey State Park in the same area where Mary Jo Adams reported it on 5/27. Got some photos but they're

**More Sightings, see page 5**

# BIN South Enjoys Deer Lagoon and Waterman Preserve

**May 4:** How pleasant a birding stroll with birding buddies. We identified at least 47 species out at Deer Lagoon Thursday, including a **Cinnamon Teal** *waaaay* over at the southwest of the lagoon with **Green-winged Teals**, **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Lesser Scaup**, a flock of **Northern Shovelers** (didn't know they came in flocks, did you?), **Northern Pintails**, **Mallards**, **Gadwalls**, **Buffleheads** and a couple of **Wigeons**. I name all these friends because it is the time of year that they begin to thin out and some move on. And yet, for shorebirds, we saw only a herd of **Whimbrels** and a **Killdeer!** A beautiful male **Harrier** came along eventually, as well as an **Osprey**, a lone **Cliff Swallow** and a little group of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. Does it seem like there are more **Common Yellowthroats** around this year?

That morning, we were startled most by a **Mourning Dove** on the beach. It blended in so well against the mud there that it was just nearly invisible, but for its little pecking motions.

The **Quail** were entertaining, too.

**May 18:** What a superb morning for a stroll down Waterman Shoreline Preserve south of Langley (Whidbey Camano Land Trust land). Doesn't get much better — satisfying, and we don't only obsess about naming birds. Conversations include travels and books and tech apps and plant identification and uses. It all exercises our sense of wonder. Even the landscape makes us think twice.

We imagine what it is the birds are saying to one another (or to us), which brings us to our favorite mnemonics. Here is an article with some fun starters, especially the **Brown Creepers** who remind us about the “Trees, trees, beautiful trees,” from the Portland Audubon Society Blog, *6 Bird Songs and Calls and How You Can Memorize Them*, by Kelsey Kuhnhausen, Communications & Graphic Design Coordinator, March 20, 2020, “Brown Creeper: Trees, Trees, Beautiful Trees;” [audubonportland.org/blog/6-bird-songs-and-calls-and-how-you-can-memorize-them](http://audubonportland.org/blog/6-bird-songs-and-calls-and-how-you-can-memorize-them).

We also can add a little **Wilson's Warbler** (WTWA) with his black cap perched on top of his little head. He zips about,

calling (thoughtfully) “I...can't...(then more desperately)... find-my-yarmulke!” So many Wilson's Warblers along the Waterman Preserve path — perhaps even more than Black-headed Grosbeaks. WTWA central today! Of course, there were as many **Robins**, **Swainson's Thrushes** and **Song Sparrows**, as well as the **Creepers**, **chickadees**, **nuthatches**, **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** and a few other surprises.

One of the Robins was on a nest, still as could be, and saying to herself (maybe) “If I just move my eye behind this leaf, then you people won't be able to see me.” We only spied her because it was an Ocean Spray shrub, so we were looking for a possible Bushtit nest.

Between the group we saw and/or heard at least 37 species, including four different **Woodpeckers** (and when I got home our feeder had a **Hairy** on it — always fun to acknowledge a five-woodpecker day). A **Flicker** screeched when we arrived, a little **Downy** was drumming, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** was hopping around where most everyone could see it, and we've deduced that odd sighting at the end of our walk was a **Pileated**, who suddenly flapped straight up out of the trees across the road, along with a few Robins. We're still wondering what might have startled everyone. Thanks to Nancy for sending comparison field guide photos of a Phainopepla and of a Pileated Woodpecker in flight. Sometimes it's worthwhile to give a first impression some credit, even if it doesn't really make sense at the time!

As a review, remember also that Song Sparrows say “Maids-maids-maids — put on your tea kettle-etle-etle,” White-crowned Sparrows say “See me — pretty, pretty me,” and Olive-sided Flycatchers say “Quick! Free beer!”

Depending on who you ask, a Song Sparrow might also declare “Hip-hip-hip hurrah, boys, Spring is here!”

— Cathi Bower, *Bird early — bird often*

**Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) South** meets every other Thursday morning. Time varies with the season. **Contact Cathi.**

## More Sightings, from page 4



Photo by Mary Jo Adams

### Sage Thrasher

not very good. Definitely looks like a Sage Thrasher

though. At one point it was foraging in the rocks on the beach, then went back to some bushes near the edge of the marsh. — *Carla Corin*

**Note:** Don't miss a chance to find unusual birds on Whidbey Island. Sign up for **Sightings Notifications** on the **Whidbey Audubon website.**

## BIN North Explores Pacific Rim Institute

**May 10:** On a glorious spring day, our group set off to explore the fields and woodlands of Pacific Rim Institute. We soon spotted the obligatory **Bald Eagle**, sunning itself near the top of a tree with its wings spread wide. It was a day of sparrows and swallows. We identified **White-crowned**, **Savannah** and **Song Sparrows** along the trail and perched in various locations. **Tree Swallows**, **Violet-green Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** swooped overhead.

The meadows were brilliant with Golden Paintbrush, Camas, Chocolate Lily, Biscuitroot, buttercups and lupine.

**BIN North, see page 7**

## WoW Roundup, from page 2

said they are looking forward to next time!

Statistically speaking, we had 118 individuals take part in bird and prairie walks, 167 people attend the presentations, and over 250, of which 90 were kids, attend the Bird in the Hand event. Not bad numbers for our first time.

Even though the kids photography contest did not pan out as we hoped, in spite of plenty of advertising, the families that did participate were extremely appreciative and said they learned so much. I think part of the problem was the poor weather and birding opportunities this spring until right before the festival. Nevertheless there were 11 winners over the three age groups.

I do know that we did generate interest from quite a few people about joining our Whidbey chapter. This



A curious crowd gathered around the preserved American White Pelican at the Bird in the Hand event on May 20.



A family engages with the display tables of affiliates, including Puget Sound Birds Observatory, Whidbey Camano Land Trust, Whidbey Watershed Stewards, Pacific Rim Institute, Salish Sea Guillemot Network, Puget Sound Energy Conservation Program and WSU Shore Stewards.

I learned firsthand and from other volunteers. So, if we all had a good time and inspired others to want to learn and participate more, I say we accomplished our mission!

Thank you to all who volunteered and special thanks to Dave Krause for his hard work in making all the information and sign ups on the website work and to Prescott who handled all the publicity and much more. Finally, a special ovation to Robin Llewellyn for her many hours spent to make the Bird in the Hand event come together.

Until next time, happy birding!

— *Stef Neis, Program Chair*

## Birdathon Results, from page 3

money they raise. Great job, all teams! The 2023 Birdathon results, along with the last nine years' statistics, will be posted on the Birdathon website. During this nine-year period, 210 species have been observed.

Though Big Day is traditionally about how many species of birds can be identified in 24 hours, another important role of Birdathon is to raise money for Audubon, especially as it is the major fundraiser for the scholarship fund. This will be our fourth year to award the Bronze Owl Bank (BOB) award to the team at our September meeting, after all funds are in.

Team leaders are still collecting and submitting donations, but at this point, over \$6,280 has been deposited, with around \$2,500 for the general fund and \$3,800 for the scholarship fund. Our goal of \$8,600 is not far away as donations continue to come in. If you haven't made a donation, there is still time to go on to our website and make a difference for birds! Updated

info on donations collected is available on the website, and we'll announce the latest data at the June Audubon meeting.

Thanks to all team members for their great birding and fundraising, and thank you, thank you, to all our Birdathon supporters! Your participation shows your deep caring for birds and our environment.



Pictured are donation envelopes for each team. The team with the most donations wins BOB, the Bronze Owl Bank.

— *Kathy Obersinner, Birdathon Chair*

## Purple Martin Majesty

Believe it or not, this is the start of the 10th summer of Lagoon Point Purple Martins! They arrived a bit late, probably on account of the nasty weather, but I think I am seeing more adult birds than usual. There are some big changes in the works for the Lagoon Point Purple Martin landlords — I will have more on that in time for the September *Shorelines* issue.

— Mary Hollen

**Note:** Learn more about *Whidbey's Purple Martins* on the Whidbey Audubon Society's website, on the Stewardship page under "Fact Sheets."



Photo by Mary Hollen

Purple Martins gather at the north piling at Lagoon Point.

## Volunteer Corner:

### Contribute to Science Through Birding

The *Puget Sound Seabird Survey* is looking for birders in Island County to join this established Community Science program. Volunteers are asked to conduct seven surveys with a small team of fellow surveyors at specific locations. All surveys are synchronized to take place once per month on the first Saturday, October – April. You will be provided training in the survey technique, and ideally will have good seabird identification skills. However, there are roles on the survey team for birders of all levels.



Photo by Doug Schurman

#### Common Loon

Now in its 15th season, you'll be contributing to valuable science that monitors wintering seabirds across Puget Sound and informs important management decisions. Previously, the project was part of Birds Connect, Seattle's (formerly Seattle Audubon) science program, but transitioned to its new home at Puget Sound Bird Observatory in 2022. More information can be found on

our website and if interested in taking part, please reach out to Program Manager *Toby Ross*, click red text to email.



Photo by Toby Ross

Puget Sound Seabird Survey volunteers at Richmond Beach on October 2015.

### BIN North, from page 5

Along the edge of woodlands, we encountered **Chestnut-backed Chickadees, House and Bewick's Wrens, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco** and **Spotted Towhee**.

On a nesting box at the far end of a field, we spotted an **American Kestrel**. We debated about the identity of a raptor perched high in a tree until it took flight and was recognized as a **Red-tailed Hawk**.

**Birding in Neighborhoods (BIN) North** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m. Click red text to contact *Denise Marion* or call 501-655-3130; or email *Nancy Luenn*.

Photo by Jann Ledbetter

Whidbey Audubon has signs made to bring attention to sensitive bird habitats on Whidbey. If you have suggestions for locations that could benefit from one of these signs, please send a note to *Jann*.



## Birding Pal

Are you planning to go birding in a new location, wish you had a guide to show you around but don't want to spend the money to hire a professional? Then Birding Pal may be just what you are looking for.

Birding Pal is a world-wide service that links birders with volunteer guides. It is as simple as that.

Here is how it works:

- First, spend \$10 to become a Birding Pal member. Note — payments must be made via PayPal.
- Once you have signed up and received a passphrase, use the world map on the [Birding Pal website](#)
- and click on your destination: for example, North America. Next, choose the state you plan to visit.
- From there, scroll down to find the town or city you have in mind, or another location near your destination. Look to see if there are birding pals in the area.
- Read the descriptions next to each name. If you find a



listing that appeals to you, contact that birding pal via the website. You can contact as many as you wish. If one of

the contacted pals is interested and available on the dates you provided, s/he will write to you, again via the Birding Pal website. If you find a match, you will be able to communicate directly to make final arrangements with the chosen pal.

Birding Pals do not charge for their services, but if the pal does the driving, or you stop for lunch, paying for the fuel or food is the right thing to do.

If you in fact are looking for a professional guide, those folks are also listed if they guide in or around your destination.

Over the years I have made regular use of the Birding Pal service. Each episode went well. The pals were all great birders who knew the best local spots. They were always ready to show me the target species I was hoping to find.

Finally, I have been a Birding Pal on Whidbey since moving here in 2015. There has not been much demand, but when there is, I stand ready to pay the program back by happily showing folks around. (If you also want to be a Birding Pal, you can sign up on the website).

— Jay Adams

## 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.

### JUNE

- 1: Birding in the Neighborhood (BIN) South**, 8 to 10 a.m.
- 8: Celebrating Birds and Birding**, Coupeville Rec Hall. 7 p.m.
- 14: BIN North**, 9 to 11 a.m.
- 15: BIN South**, 8 to 10 a.m.
- 23: International Guillemot Appreciation Day**, Ott & Hunter Winery, Langley, 3 to 5 p.m.
- 29: BIN South**, 8 to 10 a.m.

**JULY:** No meeting or *Shorelines*

- 12: BIN North**, 9 to 11 a.m.
- 13: BIN South**, 8 to 10 a.m.
- 27: BIN South**, 8 to 10 a.m.

**AUGUST:** No meeting or *Shorelines*

- 9: BIN North**, 9 to 11 a.m.
- 10: BIN South**, 8 to 10 a.m.
- 22: Whidbey Audubon Board and Cabinet Retreat**
- 24: BIN South**, 8 to 10 a.m.
- 24: Deadline for September *Shorelines***, send articles, photos and information to [publicity@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](mailto:publicity@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org)

### SEPTEMBER

- 7: Birds of Whidbey Class** series begins
- 14: Program and meeting**, to be determined

**Note:** There are two other Birding Pals registered on Whidbey Island, in addition to Jay Adams, Michael Sheldon and Casey Bardue can be contacted. Consider registering yourself to guide a visitor.

## Whidbey Audubon Bird Class Status

Whidbey Audubon is offering the comprehensive class: **Birds of Whidbey**. It is a nine-month series of lectures and field trips taught by some of the most experienced birders on Whidbey. The class will start on September 7, 2023 and end May 16, 2024. Classes will be held on the south end of Whidbey (location yet to be determined) and meet the first and third Thursday's from 6:30 till 8:30 p.m. There is at least one Saturday field trip/month. As of May, 2023 there are 60 people on the wait list for the class. Notification for the opportunity to register for the class (based on those already on the wait list) will begin in June, when we have a definite location for the classroom identified. If you'd like to sign up on the wait list for a future class, please click this hyperlink in red [Whidbey Audubon Society website](#).

— Dyanne Sheldon



## Editor's Column: It's Time to Go

Dear Birder Friends,

After more than 12 years, I have decided to retire as the editor of *Shorelines*, the newsletter of the Whidbey Audubon Society. When I began, I had a fourth-grade level of editing skills (from teaching), an average knowledge of birds and minimal computer skills.

I did have a few goals from the beginning beyond keeping the grammar and punctuation acceptable:

- Have a variety of articles that would inform our readers about local events and environmental issues, increase their knowledge about the birds of Whidbey Island and what's happening within our organization.
- Encourage members to contribute articles and photos to the newsletter. I felt that *Shorelines* should be a community project.
- Have regular columns that would be written by members and allow them to keep their "Voice" within the rules of English, mostly.

Looking back, I think I have met these goals, with help from all the contributors, but especially, Susan Prescott. Her main job is to design the layout (how everything fits together) which makes the newsletter look good. She has also been a mentor, an editor and a journalist and computer teacher, an encourager as well as a friend. Fortunately for the new editor, Prescott is staying on as layout designer.

We are now looking for someone to be *Shorelines* editor. Please contact me, [newsletter@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@whidbeyaudubonsociety.org) or *President Patty Cheek*. Work on the next issue begins mid August.

The first few years were harder to get people to write articles to publish, but now, we sometimes receive too many and Prescott must use her special skills to squeeze everything in. We rarely reject anything unless it's not appropriate (a.k.a. *The Poison Dart Frog of the Amazon*). We will sometimes defer an article until the next month. I will definitely donate my email list of potential contributors to the next editor.

I'm not going to list every task that the editor does, but if you are interested, contact me and I'll give you more details. The job is intense for about a week every month, but we manage to get the newsletter out in a relatively timely manner. I do have a method to keep organized that I will share.

Thanks so much for all your support! I do plan to submit some articles next year!

— *Jenny Brown*

### Welcome New and Renewing Members

New Members: 8  
 Renewing Members: 32  
 Total Members: 562

### WHIDBEY AUDUBON SOCIETY - MEMBERSHIP

Please make your check payable to: WHIDBEY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
 Mail to: Jann Ledbetter, 1112 Maple Place, Coupeville WA 98239  
 Or pay online: [www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/membership](http://www.whidbeyaudubonsociety.org/membership)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters will be **emailed** to you —OR—  **Check here** to receive your *Shorelines* by mail.  
 Please add an **additional \$10.00** to defray mailing costs.

**Select Category of Annual Membership:**

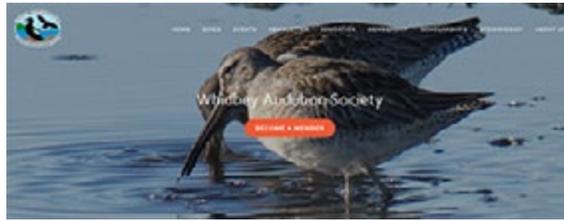
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk \$100                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household Membership \$30  | <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey \$250                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Towhee \$50        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership \$1,000                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pigeon Guillemot \$75      | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional donation 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.*

# Exploring the Whidbey Audubon Society Website

This summer, on a rainy day or a rare hot day, take a break from birding and spend some time exploring our website. During the past few years, we have made vast improvements and it is now a treasure trove of information. A standing ovation to Dave Krause, Susan Prescott and Rob Craig for creating and keeping up this website!



Here are the main topics. They are labeled at the top of the homepage, or on your cell phone, under the three lines in the right-hand corner. You may explore each category at your leisure:

- **Home Page:** The most recent and/or important information. All this information can be found in other places. Be sure to scroll all the way down.
- **Birds:** All about birds, where to find them, checklist, sightings and photos (you may add your own sightings and photos), lots of links to bird resources, birds in peril and what you can do to help.
- **Events:** Listed on a calendar and as a list with more information. We try to keep the events list updated. Let us know if we forgot something! You can also browse periodic events during the year.
- **Newsletter:** The latest issue of our newsletter, *Shorelines*,

in color! You can purchase a paper copy. And the last five years of issues are archived.

- **Education:** Birds of Whidbey Class runs from September through May, group presentations for adults and children (WAS needs more volunteers), online classes and recordings.
  - **Membership:** Become a new member or renew your membership or donate! You can pay online.
  - **Scholarships:** Given to graduating seniors from Whidbey's three high schools each spring. Major fundraiser is the Birdathon in May. How to apply, bios on previous recipients.
  - **Stewardship:** What you can do to help the birds of Whidbey Island and what has been done.
  - **About Us:** What we do, committees, bylaws, board members, contacts, history.
- When you have finished touring the website, you should have a good idea of how extensive our chapter is and hopefully want to help. You can contact the appropriate member from the contact list or our new volunteer committee chair, *Sheri Croll*. Also, we now have a phone number you can call: **509-906-1663**.

And here's the website: [whidbeyaudubonsociety.org](http://whidbeyaudubonsociety.org).

## Contents

Celebrating Birds and Birders.....	1
Birding Whidbey Island: A Guide .....	1
<i>President's Column:</i> .....	2
Wings over Whidbey Roundup .....	2
WAS Board and Cabinet Contacts .....	2
2023 Scholarships .....	3
2023 Birdathon Results .....	3
Pigeon Guillemot Appreciation .....	3
Sightings .....	4
BIN South Enjoys Deer Lagoon, etc. ...	5
BIN North Explores Pacific Rim .....	5
Purple Martin Majesty .....	7
Contribute to Science.....	7
Birding Pal .....	8
Dates to Remember.....	8
Whidbey Audubon Bird Class Status..	8
<i>Editor's Column:</i> It's Time to Go.....	9
New and Renewing Members.....	9
Membership form .....	9
Exploring the Website .....	10

Join us for a Social Gathering  
Thursday, June 8 at 7 p.m.

## Celebrating Birds and Birders

Coupeville Recreation Hall  
901 NW Alexander Street

*Enjoy the summer!*

Next program meeting is  
September 14