



# San Juan Islands Audubon *The Trumpeter*

December 2002

San Juan Islands Audubon Society

P.O. Box 595, Eastsound, WA 98245

## Christmas Bird Count Saturday December 28th

The *San Juan Islands Audubon Society* is once again participating in the annual Christmas Bird Count. Information gathered during the count is added to the longest running database on bird populations in the United States. The count will be held this year on Saturday December 28th. If you wish to participate please contact Barb Jensen on San Juan at: 378-3068; Bob Myhr on Lopez at: 468-2258; Ginger Ridgway on Orcas at: 376-7057. If you would like to conduct a feeder count at your or a friend's house that falls within the circle call the person above on your island. For more information about the Christmas Bird Count visit the Notional Audubon Societies web site at: <http://audubon.org/> .

### Birds of North America Series

The series *Birds of North America* will soon be in the libraries of San Juan, Orcas and Lopez Islands. Thanks to all who contributed to this effort. We are still in need of some support to

completely fund this project. If you are interested in making a donation please call Bob Myhr at 468-2258.



### 2002 Field Trips

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| January 19, Sat.  | Lopez                |
| February 16, Sat. | San Juan             |
| March 16, Sat.    | Orcas                |
| April 21, Sun.    | Shaw                 |
| May 18, Sat.      | Lopez                |
| June 16, Sun      | Orcas                |
| July --           | No trip              |
| August 17, Sat.   | San Juan             |
| September 21 Sat. | Shaw                 |
| October 20, Sun.  | Lopez                |
| November 16, Sat  | San Juan             |
| December 28, Sat. | Christmas Bird Count |
| -                 |                      |

For more information contact:

John Sangster, Lopez 468-2962  
Jerry Kasperek, Orcas 376-5524  
Barb Jensen, San Juan 378-

Everyone is welcome on all field trips. Most trips are half day and are usually done around noon. The Island sponsoring the trip should provide transportation, so please help out when a trip is on your island.

### MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL, JANUARY 17-20, 2003

Migrate to one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots and join the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for the 7th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. Morro Bay, an important stop on the Pacific Flyway is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds with over 200 species identified during past Festivals. This event is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival limits field trip group sizes to maxi-

mize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the Festival, check out their website at <http://www.morro-bay.net/birds/>, which is updated on a regular basis, or call the Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce, (800)-231-0592. Registration deadline is December 31, 2002 and early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.

### Cascade Loop Birdings Sights Map

Audubon Washington has produced a free map of the best birding spots of the North Cascades called *The Great Washington State Birding Trail, Cascade Loop Edition*. For a free copy by mail of the map call 866-922-4737 (a free call) or order online at: <http://wa.audubon.org/>.

**New from University of Washington Press**  
**Hazel Wolf: *Fighting the Establishment***  
**By Susan Starbuck**

This new biography of famed activist Hazel Wolf will be of great interest to all members of the Washington State chapters of the Audubon Society. Additionally, please note that author Susan Starbuck is available for presentations and lectures.

When Hazel Wolf died, at the age of 101, more than nine hundred of her friends—from the governor of Washington to union organizers, from birdwatchers to hunters—crowded Town Hall in Seattle to honor the feisty activist and tell the often outrageous "Hazel stories" that were their common currency. In this book, Hazel herself tells the stories. From twenty years of taped conversations, Susan Starbuck has fashioned both a biography and a historical document, the tale of a century's forces and events as played out in one woman's extraordinary life.

Hazel Wolf earned a national reputation as an environmentalist and was awarded the National Audubon Society's Medal of Excellence, an honor she shared with Rachel Carson and Jimmy Carter. She laid the groundwork for a unique coalition of Native Americans and environmentalists who are now working together on issues related to nuclear energy, fisheries, and oil pipelines. She lectured and taught at schools and universities all over the U.S. She lobbied Congress on irrigation, labor rights, nuclear energy, and peace, and she corresponded with a global network of environmental leaders. But for all her influence, she never held a political post higher than precinct committee officer in Seattle's 43rd legislative district, and her highest office in the environmental movement was that of secretary in the Seattle Audubon Society, where she served for thirty-five years.

This book follows Hazel Wolf from childhood to old age, a lifetime of burning with a fierce desire for justice. She saw the quest for justice as a collective responsibility. Time and again, she met that challenge head on. Whether organizing for labor rights or founding chapters of the Audubon Society, battling to save old-growth forests or fighting deportation to her native Canada as a Communist, over and over she put herself in the line of fire. "I was just there," she said, "powerless and strong, someone who wouldn't chicken out."

Susan Starbuck teaches in the Graduate Program in Education at Antioch University, Seattle. To schedule events, please contact Gigi Lamm at the University of Washington Press.

408 pp., 60 illus., 6" x 9". Cloth, ISBN 0-295-98222-5, \$29.95.

For further information, contact:  
Gigi Lamm  
University of Washington Press  
P.O. Box 50096  
Seattle, WA 98145-5096 USA  
Telephone: (206) 221-4996 / Fax: (206) 543-3932  
E-mail: glamm@u.washington.edu

**Birding Travel?** Have you been on a trip in the past year during which birding was a part of your visit? If you have please submit a story about your trip to the Trumpeter. Observations about flora and fauna (birds especially), photos and sketches are all welcome.



**Recent Sightings**

Six Trumpeter Swans have been seen on Orcas Island at Cascade Lake (2 adults with 4 juveniles). Four have also been seen at Killebrew Lake on Orcas (2 adults and 2 juveniles). The first sighting was Nov. 1st. Ginger Ridgway spotted a female American Kestrel west of Nordstrom's Lane in Crow Valley on Orcas, Nov. 5th. Kay Gagnon saw a great display of *kleptoparasitism* (stealing another's captured prey item) between 2 Peregrine Falcons at Port Stanley Pond on Lopez in mid-October. Mary Blackstone saw a White-throated Sparrow at her house in Crow Valley on Orcas early this October; she has also seen migrating Northern Harriers.

E-mail recent sightings to the editor at: <dridgin@rockisland.com>



This bird was viewed at Cascade Lake, Orcas just north of the swimming area. Answer next issue.

**GISS puzzle..?**

**THE TRUMPETER**

The Trumpeter is the newsletter of the San Juan Islands Audubon Society published several a year. Subscriptions are \$15.00/year. The Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The editor welcomes articles, photographs, illustrations, and letters. Opinions expressed in The Trumpeter are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the S.J.I. Audubon Society. Original articles, unless specifically designated, may be reprinted without permission if credit is given to this publication and to a specific author where appropriate.

Editor: David Ridgway

### September Bird-walk, Shaw Island



It was a pleasant day for the 16 birders who met on Shaw Island for the September Bird-walk. Moderate temperatures and light winds accompanied by a clear sky helped to burn the morning

fog away. We birded the shoreline to the Community Center and walked the road once there. It was a definite time of transition as we found the Turkey Vultures and White-crowned Sparrows still lingering before their migration south. Mallard and Hooded Merganser were the only ducks, most other species hadn't arrived for the winter. The group had some great views of a Northern Flicker and Pileated Woodpecker working an apple orchard. The walk ended at Fred Ellis' property and pond where we saw many resident Pied-billed Grebes. Some of the birders stayed on for the *Friends of the San Juans* Annual meeting.

### Local Nearshore Habitat Project To Benefit Marine Birds - by Tina Whitman

A 3-year project conducted by *Friends of the San Juans* will improve the local prey base for seabirds by identifying and protecting spawning habitat for three critical species of forage fish: pacific herring, surf smelt and pacific sand lance. These fish are important prey species for 40 species of birds, 12 marine mammals and over 50 different fishes and squids in the Puget Sound ecosystem. The project is known as the Forage Fish Project.

Over the past 20 years, populations of 13 out of 18 diving duck species within Puget Sound have declined, with those species that depend on forage fish declining more than species that feed elsewhere in the food chain. Herring are believed to be the most significant food source for seabirds as a whole, while sand lance and surf smelt are more important seasonally and for certain species. Over 60% of Marbled Murrelet diets are estimated to be pacific sand lance and sand lance is also the dominant food source for nesting auklets. Sand lance are preferentially selected by breeding murrelet and auklet adults as food items for juveniles due to their extremely high fat content. This oil content, high enough to be used historically as a source for lamp oil, is the reason the sand lance is also known locally as candlefish. Other birds that rely heavily on forage fish include: grebes, mergansers, herons, loons and cormorants.

*Sources: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Puget Sound Action Team, and Washington Sea Grant.*

### October Bird-Walk - Lopez Island

Nine birders participated in the Lopez Bird Walk on Saturday the 20th of October. The Crane/Orcas group met at the ferry landing on Orcas in fog and light wind. They met the Lopez group as they disembarked. We birded as we drove and made stops at Humphrey Head and the Marina, Port Stanley and Port Stanley Pond. The fog cleared and it became a clear crisp fall day. At the Pond was a group of Long-billed Dowitchers and Green-winged Teal feeding. The Dowitchers took off in dread flight as a mature Peregrine Falcon flew over

and perched in a nearby fir. The falcon stayed visible for several minutes and flew as we departed. We saw quite a few species of ducks returning for the winter as well as a Red-tailed hawk on a snag near Hummel Lake. A required stop at Holly Bee's in town gave us the needed energy to finish the drive to Fish Bay Spit where we saw many ducks, shorebirds and seabirds. The Crane/Orcas group made it back to the ferry in time to walk-on. Thanks to our hosts on Lopez.

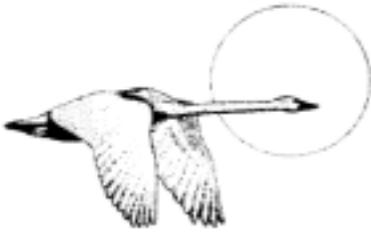
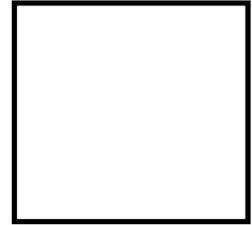


### 'Important Bird Area' Meeting'

Tim Cullinan, Director of Science and Bird Conservation, Audubon Washington met with five members of our local chapter to discuss 'Important Bird Areas'. 'Important Bird Areas' is a project started in Europe and first worked on in the US by the Bird Conservancy. Since taken on by Audubon, it identifies areas on a country and local level which are of importance to breeding, feeding, migration and habitat for birds of concern. Once an area has been defined as an Important Bird Area it can be monitored more closely and resources can be used to lobby for its preservation. One of the areas agreed upon as an Important Bird Area was the area at Cattle Pass and environs between San Juan Island and Lopez. This area is an especially fertile feeding ground for birds, fish and marine mammals all year. Another area the group agreed upon was between Deer Harbor and Crane Island where many Marbled Murrelets feed. The area between the Orcas Ferry Terminal and Shaw Island may be of concern for its large winter population of Brandt's Cormorants. Tim will be contacting Fish and Wildlife for more input concerning Preserve lands.

Tim also brought up a useful tool for recording observations about bird populations on a local level. He described a new website/database project that has been launched by Audubon and Cornell Labs. It allows individuals to enter their sightings and census information using an accessible and easy interface. The site is called 'ebird.org' and can be found at <<http://ebird.org>>. This is a way for birders to enter information about birds they have seen and monitor local populations throughout the year. This will add to the data collected at the yearly Christmas Bird Count. It is also a way of keeping track of your own sightings.

**San Juan Islands Audubon Society**  
P.O. Box 595, Eastsound, WA 98245  
December 2002



**SJI Audubon now On-line**  
<<http://sjiaudubon.org/>>

### Officers and Committees

|                       |   |          |
|-----------------------|---|----------|
| President             | Barbara Jensen, 5163 Roche Hrb. Rd. Friday Harbor, WA 98250 | 378-3068 |
| Vice President, Orcas | Jerry Kasperek, 322 Pt. Lawrence Rd., Olga, WA 98279        | 376-5524 |
| Vice President, Lopez | John Sangster, 483A Watmough Head Rd., Lopez, WA 98261      | 468-2962 |
| Vice President, Crane | Lou Falb, PO Box 85, Deer Harbor, WA 98243                  | 468-3631 |
| Treasurer-Membership  | Bob Myhr, 177 Caldwell Dr., Lopez, WA 98261                 | 468-2258 |
| Newsletter            | David Ridgway, 1172 Discovery Way, Eastsound, WA 98245      | 376-7057 |
| Education             | Rebecca J. Wolfe, P.O. Box 336, Shaw Island, WA 98286       | 468-4144 |

**Audubon Legislative Hot Line — Olympia** (206) 547-9017

Send all correspondence for the Newsletter to: SJI Audubon, P.O. Box 595, Eastsound, WA 98245  
or e-mail to <[dridgin@rockisland.com](mailto:dridgin@rockisland.com)>

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**Membership in the *San Juan Islands Audubon Society*** is \$15/year and includes a subscription to *The Trumpeter*. Send your check to **Bob Myhr, 177 Caldwell Dr., Lopez, WA 98261**

**Membership in the *National Audubon Society*** includes the national magazine and membership in the San Juan Islands Chapter. Membership includes subscription to *The Trumpeter* newsletter.

**Renewing members**, please use the form sent by the *National Audubon Society*. If you have moved from another chapter please inform the National Audubon Membership Data Center to change your affiliation to the San Juans chapter.

**New members**, please send your check to:  
National Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 51001  
Boulder, CO 80322-1001



**Include this code with  
all memberships.**

National Audubon Society dues:

- Basic \$35       New Member \$20