

San Juan Islands Audubon *The Trumpeter*

December 2003

San Juan Islands Audubon Society

P.O. Box 595, Eastsound, WA 98245

Christmas Bird Count Dec. 27th, 2003

Join the SJIAudubon for the annual Christmas Bird Count on Saturday December 27th. The 104th Annual Christmas Bird Count continues a long standing tradition of gathering census data on early winter bird populations in the Americas. Counting in the San Juans is done within a 7.5 mile radius circle that centers in Friday Harbor. An island leader picks teams to cover the various areas around the islands within the circle. If you would like to join in the experience please contact these leaders:

San Juan: Barb Jensen, 360-378-3068, skylark@rockisland.com
Lopez: Bob Myhr, 360-468-2258, myhr@rockisland.com
Orcas: Ginger Ridgway, 360-376-7057, dridgin@rockisland.com
Crane: Lou Falb, 360-468-3631, loucrane@rockisland.com

San Juan Island Bird-walk

The September bird-walk was on San Juan Island and included several birders from Orcas, San Juan, Lopez and Crane. The group saw a total of 32 species. One of the highlights was seeing 'Marilyn's Merlin' at Cape San Juan. Also seen were Northern Pintail at False Bay and Harlequin Ducks at Cattle Point. After a morning of traipsing the hot spots the group enjoyed a meal at Maloula's in Friday Harbor then boarded the ferry for their respective islands.



AUDUBON IN EDINBURGH: *The Scottish Associates of James John Audubon*

Author: John Chalmers
ISBN: 1901663795 pp: 340
Published by National Museums of Scotland

Many books have been written about James John Audubon, the French-American ornithologist, but none of the other Audubon biographies concentrate on the Edinburgh period which was to prove a turning point in his life. It was in Edinburgh that Audubon's superb bird paintings were first engraved and he realized his ambition of having them published. This comprehensive book is based largely on the artist's own writings from journals and his prolific correspondence with his associate, the naturalist William MacGillivray, who supplied scientific data and supervised the production of BIRDS OF AMERICA. The author, John Chalmers, was inspired to write this book while on a bird walk in Portland Oregon.

2004 Field Trips

January 17, Sat.	Lopez
February 28, Sat.	San Juan
March 20, Sat.	Orcas
April 18, Sun.	Shaw
May 15, Sat.	Lopez
June 13, Sun	San Juan
July --	No trip
August 21, Sat.	Each Island
September 18, Sat.	Orcas
October 16, Sat.	Shaw
November 27, Sat	Lopez
December 26, Sun.	Christmas Bird Count
-	

For more information contact:

Bob Myhr, Lopez 468-2258
Jerry Kasperek, Orcas 376-5524
Barb Jensen, San Juan 378-3068
or visit: <<http://sjiaudubon.org/>>

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.

Special Duck-Issue (Geese and Swans too)

The ducks have returned to the San Juans for the winter to help brighten the short drizzly days. Inspired by a fondness for these dabblers and divers this issue focuses on our local species. Although it may sound like a political tactic the 'Duck-Issue' focuses on our feathered friends only.



Skagit and SJAudubon Lopez Bird-walk 10/25/03

Perhaps a record (!), a total of 38 persons joined the Lopez Island Field trip on Saturday, October 25, 2003, for a warm, clear day of birding. Special guests were 14 members of the Skagit Audubon Society that had jointly sponsored this trip.

The group, caravanned in nine cars, stopped traffic briefly as it observed Surf Scoters on Fisherman Bay. Key areas visited included the Odlin Park, Land Bank property on the Fish Bay Spit, Otis Perkins park, private land on south Lopez, Hummel Lake, and Swifts Bay.

Although the group missed the Northern Shrike (seen the previous day) and Golden Eagle (seen the following day), it did have great looks at Harlequin Ducks, Pacific Loons, and Red-necked, Pied-billed, and Horned Grebes. Several raptors observed were Bald Eagles, a Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Northern Harrier. A total of 30 species were seen.

Article by Bob Myhr

Orcas Island Bird-walk, 11/15/03

A group of eleven from the San Juans, plus Bellingham, Chicago and Iowa (yes, Chicago and Iowa), braved heavy overcast and threat of rain to visit Killebrew Lake, Diamond Lake, West Sound, Deer Harbor Lagoon, and Frank Richardson Marsh on Saturday, November 15.

Sightings included: European Starling, Pelagic Cormorant, Pied-billed Grebe, Common Merganser, Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, American Wigeon, Kingfisher, Raven, Mallard, Song Sparrow, Hooded Merganser, Lesser Scaup, Common Loon, Mew Gull, Rock Dove, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-necked Grebe, Red-tailed Hawk, Greater Yellowlegs, Crow, Great Blue-Heron, Gadwall, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Wigeon, Double-crested Cormorant.

The Lopez contingent stopped at Otis Perkins Park on the way home and added to their day-list: Horned Grebe, Western Grebe, White-winged Scoter, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Common Goldeneye, Pigeon Guillemot, Harlequin Duck, Surf Scoter.

Article by Cass Dahlstrom



Recent Sightings

Susan Vernon wrote of several sightings of a flock of five Snow Buntings on Pickett's Lane at American Camp between October 30 - November 1, 2003 San Juan Island. Bob Myhr reports several recent raptor sightings for October 2003 on Lopez. Bald Eagles, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Merlin and the Golden Eagle, back at its familiar tree at the intersection of Richardson and Mud Bay roads. Mary Blackstone saw an immature Golden Eagle at her property on Plum Tree Lane in Eastsound September 29th.

Jackie Wolf saw a Great Gray Owl near her home at Jasper Cove on Lopez on Sept. 9th and 26th. She had been hearing it call regularly. This is a very rare bird for the San Juans.

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

THE TRUMPETER

The Trumpeter is the newsletter of the San Juan Islands Audubon Society published a few 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

Gyrfalcon at Samish Flats

A grey juvenile Gyrfalcon has been seen at the 'T' (and environs) of Bayview Edison Road and Samish Island Road on the Samish Flats since November 10th. The bird is quite tame and does not easily flush. The area of the 'T' is a favorite hunting ground for a Prairie Falcon and Peregrines as well. The Prairie has not been seen in the area this year. If you have not seen a Gyrfalcon before this may be your chance as it is being seen with regularity. The species is an Arctic bird that has migratory juveniles and females seen in some Northern States. Gyrfalcons hunt mammals, shorebirds, grouse and *duck*. They hunt from the ground, a perch or in flight. Birders travel across the country and from abroad to see this species. It is the national bird of Iceland and quite spectacular. One of the key features for IDing a Gyr is: "The primaries reach halfway down the tail." (Bud Anderson) If you are in the area and haven't seen it, stop and ask a fellow birder.



Special thanks to Barbara Urschel for donating the Audubon prints.



Common Local Winter Ducks to the San Juan Islands

Wood Duck
Gadwall
Eurasian Wigeon
American Wigeon
Mallard
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Ring-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Harlequin Duck
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Black Scoter
Long-tailed Duck
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Barrow's Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Common Merganser
Ruddy Duck

Look for these ducks in open ocean, bays, coves, lakes, ponds, wetlands as well as open fields.



Protecting Birds, Wildlife and Habitat

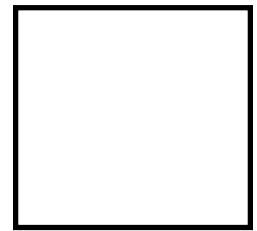
Whatever your political leanings you may be interested in protecting birds, wildlife and their habitat. The Audubon Society has provided a way of staying informed about the politics of the environment. If you wish to express your opinions to your representatives or just stay up to date on what the executive and legislative branches of federal and local government are doing, visit the Audubon website: <<http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/>>. Our opinions do count and many of our elected officials do listen. If you don't have a computer your local library personnel will be happy to help you get to this website and many others. If you prefer to stay away from computers call or write your local and federal representatives.

Excerpt from the current Action Alert website: "THE ISSUE AT HAND... The Bush Administration has proposed far-reaching changes to the government's implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) that will allow circuses, pet importers, and leather importers to promote the killing and capture of endangered species such as the Hyacinth Macaw and Red Siskin – two bird species prized for their bright plumage by the cage-bird trade, the Asian elephant, prized by zoos and circuses, the Morelet's crocodile, prized by leather importers, and Asian bonytongue, a valuable aquarium fish. All endangered species are currently protected by longstanding policy under the ESA that prohibits the importation of endangered species. The Administration proposes to rollback these longstanding regulations, and you have until December 10th to weigh in and tell them to back off!"

If you think this the appropriate action for the federal government feel free to do nothing. If you feel that this is the wrong policy please act now.

<<http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/>>

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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>

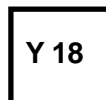
Membership in the *San Juan Islands Audubon Society* is \$15/year and includes a subscription to *The Trumpeter*

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