

**San Juan Islands Audubon Society**  
P.O. Box 224, Orcas, WA 98280



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Orcas, WA  
98280  
Permit No. 1

**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: Audubon, P.O. Box 224, Orcas, WA 98280  
or e-mail to <[dridgin@rockisland.com](mailto:dridgin@rockisland.com)>

**Membership in the San Juan Islands Audubon Society** is \$15/year and includes a subsription 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 (5 issues per year).

**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

**Y 18**

**Include this code with  
all memberships.**

National Audubon Society dues:

- Basic \$35
- New Member \$20



# San Juan Islands Audubon *The Trumpeter*

February 2002

San Juan Islands Audubon Society

P.O. Box 224, Orcas, WA 98280

## Christmas Bird Count 2001 Great Weather for a Change

The 102nd annual Christmas Bird Count happened on Saturday the 29th of December. There were 55 participants this year who enjoyed the relatively warm temperatures and calm conditions. The totals and statistics can be found on the insert. Thanks to all who helped with the CBC this year and a special thanks to Barb Jensen for getting the results to the National database. The data collected adds to "the longest running database in ornithology, representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas." If you'd like to see the database visit [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and click on '102nd Christmas Bird Count'.

### November Birdwalk - Orcas

The Audubon Birdwalk group met at the Orcas Ferry landing about 7:30AM Saturday the 17th of November. We had the Mann's from San Juan, Kay Gagnon from Lopez and a visitor from the Olympia chapter named Beth Doglio joining those from Orcas. The weather and the birds were both reasonably cooperative. We headed to Killebrew Lake where we met Barbara Brown who had already spotted a few Pied-billed Grebes. From there we went via caravan to West Sound stopping along Nordstroms Lane to view a Red-tailed Hawk perched in an apple tree. In West Sound the highlights were Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser

and a Kildeer on the beach. Next we were off to the bridge at the end of Cayou Cove in Deer Harbor where we spotted more ducks, a group of Greater Yellowlegs, Crows mobbing a Raven and a Great Blue Heron sleeping in a tree. Several passerines were viewed as we walked a dirt road heading northwest. The trip finished at Richardson Marsh where we saw many ducks including a Northern Shoveler and a few Green-winged Teal. The immature Red-winged Blackbirds were practicing their song a bit out of season. The group split up to make ferry connections and get home in time for some 'important' football.

### 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	378-3068

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.

The San Juan islands Audubon newsletter is soon to be available on the internet. If you would like to have the link e-mailed to you when it comes on-line please e-mail Bob Myhr at: [myhr@rockisland.com](mailto:myhr@rockisland.com)

## Ask Dennis

Exploring the world of birds with noted ornithologist  
Dennis Paulson.

Q. What birds that we see in Washington might also visit or breed in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?

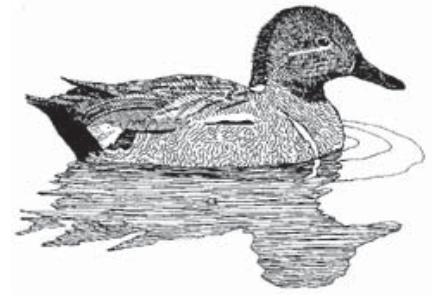
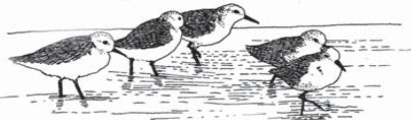
A. The answer is clear: a whole lot. Of the 151 species of birds that occur regularly on the refuge, all but 21 also occur regularly in Washington. The exceptions include birds such as Blackpoll Warbler and White-rumped Sandpiper that migrate to the east of Washington and winter in South America, Yellow Wagtail that winters in Asia, Spectacled Eider that winters in the Bering Sea, and Siberian Tit and Willow Ptarmigan that are resident at higher latitudes.

But the greater group comprises the birds shared between Washington and ANWR. It includes birds that are common in the North and visit us at the periphery of their winter range, for example Common Redpoll and Gyrfalcon, as well as birds that are common in Washington and barely reach the south slopes of the refuge as breeders, for example American Kestrel and Townsend's Solitaire. But the group also includes many of our most common birds, for example, the widely distributed American Robin, Horned Grebe, Cliff Swallow, and Bonaparte's Gull.

It's of great importance to understand how these two regions complement one another. Hordes of migrating sparrows move through the Northwest each spring, heading for the meadows and shrublands of Alaska to produce their young in the short Arctic summer, and then back to the warmer climes of Washington and points south for the winter. But why go north at all? It is because the vast uninhabited spaces of Alaska provide abundant insect food for the thousands of sparrow families that can be raised there. By breeding at tree line and wintering in the California chaparral, a White-crowned Sparrow can get the best of both worlds. But it still needs Washington as a refueling stop for its journeys north and south.

The connection is especially strong in shorebirds. The majority of those that breed on the Arctic Coastal Plain migrate along the coast of Washington, so an individual bird one might see on its breeding territory in Alaska might be in Grays Harbor, in fall migration, a month later. Both the amphipods of Bowerman Basin and the crane flies of the Arctic Coastal Plain are essential for the life of a Dunlin. But to depict the course of shorebird migration, you might have to connect even more dots--perhaps in California, Panama, and Peru. Each of these places would be of vital importance to the far-traveling birds that stopped there for a few days or a few months. The migratory birds of ANWR are among the best examples of the principle that in nature, everything is connected. Thus we must preserve the whole, its parts, and the connections among them.

**Dr. Dennis Paulson**, *Director of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound, is author of many publications on birding, including his latest, Alaska: An Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guide. He teaches for Seattle Audubon Society's Master Birder Program. Our thanks to Dr. Paulson and to Earthcare Northwest, the newsletter of the Seattle Audubon Society, for permission to reprint this column.*



### San Juan Nature Institute Winter Lecture Series 2002

The San Juan Nature Institute is giving a series of free lecture at the Friday Harbor Labs For more info call them at: 378-3646 or visit their website:

[<http://sjnature.org/>](http://sjnature.org/)

### Recent Sightings

A pair of *Kestrels* has been seen this winter by Mary Blackstone at Nordstroms Lane on Orcas. Several people have seen a *Eurasian Wigeon* at Buck Bay on Orcas. If you see anything of interest

feel free to e-mail the editor: [<dridgin@rockisland.com>](mailto:dridgin@rockisland.com).



### THE TRUMPETER

The Trumpeter is the newsletter of the San Juan Islands Audubon Society published 4 or 5 times 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

## Data for the 102nd CBC San Juan Islands Circle

The participants for the 102nd Christmas bird Count were: John Baker, Gayle Benton, Mary Blackstone, G. Blair, J. Blair, Barbara Brown, Debra Clausen, Sally Coffin, Gemma Dunn-Pratt, Robert Dunn-Pratt, Lou Falb, Joe Floren, Joe Goodner, Oakley Goodner, Mary Gropp, Anne Hay, Tom Hayes, Becky Heinlein, Dave Heinlein, Barbara Jensen, John Jensen, Sandy Kay, Jerry Kasperek, Anne Jones, Keith Jones, G. Lynch, J. Lynch, Pat Mann, Katherine Mattola, Bob Myhr, Sam Pottenger, Boyd Pratt, Elwyn Pratt, Linda Pratt, Lovel Pratt, Thane Pratt, Theo Pratt, S. Reeve, Tom Reeve, David Ridgway, Ginger Ridgway, Jerry Riley, Barbara Rosenkotter, Rick Rutz, John Sangster, Tom Schultz, Ed Strum, Kimbal Sundberb, Alice Swan, I, Unruh, S. Unruh, Susan Vernon, Peggy Warham , C. Whitney.

**Count Date:** 29-Dec-2001

**Number of Participants:** 54 (+ 1 @ feeders)

**Total birds on count day:** 15,961

**Low Temperature:** 35 F (2 C)

**AM Weather:** clouds - Partly Cloudy

**Species**                      **Number**

Red-throated Loon	1
Pacific Loon	13
Common Loon	40
loon sp.	17
Pied-billed Grebe	7
Horned Grebe	99
Red-necked Grebe	56
Western Grebe	8
grebe sp.	10
Brandt's Cormorant	40
Double-crested Cormorant	298
Pelagic Cormorant	48
cormorant sp.	873
Great Blue Heron	43
(Blue form)	
Canada Goose	889
Trumpeter Swan	41
Gadwall	137
Eurasian Wigeon	1
American Wigeon	575
Mallard	440
Northern Shoveler	56
Northern Pintail	169
Green-winged Teal	54
duck sp.	18
Ring-necked Duck	171

**Number of species:** 104

**High Temperature:** 50 F (10 C)

**PM Weather:** clouds - Partly Clear

**Species**                      **Number**

Greater Scaup	6
Harlequin Duck	50
Surf Scoter	170
White-winged Scoter	43
Long-tailed Duck	11
Bufflehead	1,088
Common Goldeneye	99
Barrow's Goldeneye	16
goldeneye sp.	1
Hooded Merganser	116
Common Merganser	94
Red-breasted Merganser	70
Ruddy Duck	1
Bald Eagle	44
Adults = 40, Immatures = 4	
Northern Harrier	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4
Cooper's Hawk	5
Red-tailed Hawk	25
Golden Eagle	1
Adults = 1, Immatures = 0	
American Kestrel	1
Merlin	2
Peregrine Falcon	2
Ring-necked Pheasant	4
California Quail	40

(over)

## More CBC Data

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Number</u>
Virginia Rail	1	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	192
Killdeer	10	Bushtit	38
Black Oystercatcher	40	Red-breasted Nuthatch	78
Greater Yellowlegs	6	Brown Creeper	18
Black Turnstone	32	Bewick's Wren	19
sandpiper sp.	50	Winter Wren	88
Bonaparte's Gull	1	Marsh Wren	1
Mew Gull	260	Golden-crowned Kinglet	357
Herring Gull	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	54
Western Gull	2	Townsend's Solitaire	2
Glaucous-winged Gull	571	Hermit Thrush	3
gull sp.	190	American Robin	1,425
Common Murre	158	Varied Thrush	13
Pigeon Guillemot	32	European Starling	2,889
Marbled Murrelet	28	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Rhinoceros Auklet	2	Spotted Towhee	80
Rock Dove	97	Fox Sparrow	43
Band-tailed Pigeon	18	Song Sparrow	144
Western Screech-Owl	1	White-crowned Sparrow	9
Great Horned Owl	3	Golden-crowned Sparrow	61
Short-eared Owl	2	sparrow sp.	16
Belted Kingfisher	38	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	682
Red-breasted Sapsucker	2	Red-winged Blackbird	116
Downy Woodpecker	3	Western Meadowlark	1
Hairy Woodpecker	3	Brewer's Blackbird	105
Northern Flicker	65	Brown-headed Cowbird	1
Pileated Woodpecker	15	Purple Finch	5
Northern Shrike	2	House Finch	11
Steller's Jay	42	Red Crossbill	139
American Crow	545	Pine Siskin	897
Common Raven	34	House Sparrow	115



## Birding on Lummi (Sammish and Skagit) Flats? You Need a Permit—Here's How to Get One

### *Lummi Flats*

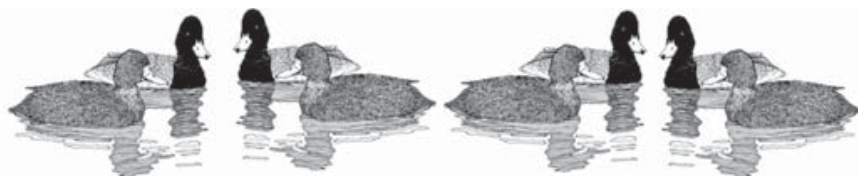
If you are planning on birding on the Lummi Flats north and west of Bellingham (including Hillaire Road or anywhere else on the reservation), you'll need to get a permit from the Lummi Tribal office. Like all landowners, the Lummis prefer to give permission for birding and to be able to tell trespassers from guests. A permit is good for up to three months and must be renewed at the beginning of each year. This longtime policy has been enforced more consistently recently (penalties for no permit include arrest, fine, or permanent expulsion).

Birding permits are available at the Lummi Tribal office at 2616 Kwina Road (from I-5, take the Slater Road Exit west to Haxton, south to Kwina, east to 2616, the only blue building). It's open from 8 to 4:30 M-F and you should ask for Ina, Elaine or Tracey in Tribal Operations. The phone is (360) 384-2304. Once you've filled out the form, the tribal police will have a copy and can settle questions that may come up. The permit has been free, but will cost \$5 beginning in 2002.

If you cannot get to the office during the week, you can FAX your name, address and phone along with a note about requesting a birding permit and the dates you want (or a range of dates such as January 1 to March 31, 2002) to Tribal Operations at (360) 380-1850 and they'll FAX you a form. Once you have the form you can return it with your \$5 fee and request that the permit be FAXed to you.

### *Sammish/Skagit Flats*

Some birding areas on the Skagit/Sammish Flats (such as the West 90 parking lot) require a DNR Access sticker for parking. The sticker is the yellow 'Access Stewardship' sticker you can purchase at sporting goods shops or other places that sell hunting/fishing licenses. The game Wardens are enforcing this requirement.



## Falcon Research Group

**The Falcon Research Group** based in Bow, WA has been conducting a study on the Peregrine Falcon population in the San Juan Islands for over 10 years. They are also conducting a **Global Peregrine DNA Survey** and recently returned from *Patagonia* and the *Falkland*

*Islands*. FRG has many other endeavors including the **Seattle Peregrine Project** atop the Washington Mutual tower. For more info call: 360 757-1911 or e-mail <[bud@frg.org](mailto:bud@frg.org)> or go to: '<http://www.frg.org>'



## Aububon Council of Washington Meeting

The Audubon Council of Washington (Spring ACOW 2002) will be hosted by the Willapa Hills chapter the weekend of April 12-14 at the Ocean Park Retreat Center, just north of Ocean Park, Wash., with a theme of Lewis and Clark to kick off the coming bicentennial observation of the famous expedition. A complete package of registration, five meals, and two nights lodging will cost \$120, with lesser amounts for fewer meals or lodging nights. For those who don't bring their own sleeping bags and towels, a \$10 fee will be charged for "linens." The center has RV space for \$15 a night for 1 or 2 people (\$7 for each additional person). A late fee of \$10 will be charged for registrations mailed after March 12. Motels are also available in the area.

For complete information and a registration form, e-mail Ruth Deery <[ruthd@kalama.com](mailto:ruthd@kalama.com)> or write her at 3148 Laurel Rd., Longview, WA 98632.

## January Bird Walk-Lopez

Only four stalwart birders, but high spirits for our Lopez trip. Weather turned out just fine. Saw 13 duck species and 34 species in all.

Highlights were a couple of pair of breeding bald eagles, two Trumpeter swans at the Ellis ranch, and close scope looks at Gadwall feather patterns. We, unfortunately, missed the golden eagle and peregrine.