



Island Wings

— to enjoy, learn about & preserve the diverse natural habitat of these islands & beyond

Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Program

The Great Washington State Birding Trail: Puget Loop with Mapmaker Christi Norman

Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Ann Spiers, Program Chair, 463-9858



Celebrate the publication of the Puget Loop map of the Great Washington State Birding Trail series with Washington Audubon's Christi Norman, the maps' program director. Accompanied by bird photos, she will take us on a state tour, telling tales of her favorite stops on each of the seven birding-trail maps. Highlights include some lesser known, but super sites, such as best stops for owls and woodpeckers, blue bird trails you've never heard of, rattlesnakes in Pipestone Canyon, slip-sliding in the snow in Salmo-Priest Wilderness, storm watching on the Olympic Peninsula leading to thousands of sea ducks at Neah Bay. Having done the legwork with each local chapter, she can guide us to funky but fun hotels and great local bistros in tiny Eastern Washington towns. Bring your questions about Washington's diverse landscapes, local birds and birder culture, and climate and conservation patterns. She has been engaged in Washington birding since 1995, managing backyard birding programs, bird censuses, and guide book publication.

Vashon-Maury's birding hot spots form the heart of the Puget Loop map, the seventh in the state series. After input from Vashon birders, selection of the Island stops was led by Vashon Audubon's Randy Smith with expertise from Ed Swan, author of *The Birds of Vashon Island*. Encompassing sites from south Tacoma to the San Juan Islands and from Mount Rainier to the Kitsap Peninsula, the Puget Loop locates stops at 42 main sites and 18 "more birding" sites. Each stop has notes on habitat, where to look, best viewing times, birds expected, and access. The map eases travel by car, bus, foot, ferry, bike or boat.

In total, the series' seven maps identify 376 sites. The loops' stops pinpoint access to 2,000,000 acres of bird habitat, which include 61 privately owned lands. The Birding Trail project partnered with all 26 Washington Audubon chapters, 41 counties and cities, 15 Chambers of Commerce, 14 local businesses, five state agencies, and five federal agencies. 540 volunteers contributed over 10,000 hours to the Birding Trail. Audubon Washington raised \$1,000,000 to create the Trail.

The Puget Loop maps (\$4.95) will be available at the program, and are presently available from Vashon Audubon and at Island stores including Wings, the bird supply store. This FREE program will be held at the Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Rd. and all are welcome.

Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society
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Calender of Events

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

Island Audubon Field Trips

Sat., Jan. 14, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Drop in, no charge and no experience necessary. Meet at Ober Park & Ride. Bring binoculars or scope if you have them. *Contact: Alan Huggins at alanhugs@comcast.net.*

Vashon Audubon Program

Tues., Jan. 17, 7:00 pm. The Great Washington State Birding Trail: Puget Loop with Mapmaker Christi Norman **FREE**, at Land Trust Bldg., 10014 SW Bank Rd.

Island Audubon Field Trips

Sat., Feb. 11, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Drop in, no charge and no experience necessary. Meet at Ober Park & Ride. Bring binoculars or scope if you have them. *Contact: Alan Huggins at alanhugs@comcast.net.*

For Your Information...

Vashon Nature Center, LLC welcomes information on any species (including birds and plants) occurring on Vashon Island. They are designing an interactive website with a nature blog and are building a database to keep track of species occurrences and phenology on Vashon-Maury and welcome any information/comments/questions you have. Let them know what you are noticing! For more information or to report a species occurrence, visit them at www.vashonnaturecenter.org, or email: info@vashonnaturecenter.org.