



Island Wings

- to enjoy, learn about, & preserve the diverse natural habitats of these islands & beyond

Volume 18 Number 3

November-December 2007

PROGRAM

Responding to the Climate Crisis Reducing Our Carbon Footprint One Action at a Time

7pm, **TUESDAY**, November 13, 2007
Land Trust Building 10014 SW Bank Rd.
Contact: Laura Bienen 206 567-4613

Please note, Audubon members, friends and relations: For our November program, Climate Project Presenters Janie Starr and Meg Gluckman focus on what actions you can make in the face of climate change. Mark your busy calendars now, and invite your friends and neighbors, because, in my mind, very few topics or events should take priority over this one! And yes, of course this issue is vitally important to the birds!

Many of us saw Al Gore's film, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Speaking personally, I found the dramatically warming state of the Earth alarming and overwhelming. I was daunted by the global elements in the climate change picture and the degree to which it seemed to be out of my personal control.

Janie Starr, experienced as a facilitator, and Meg Gluckman, with a background in renewable energy, decided to make a personal commitment to go beyond alarm and fear to work positively and energetically towards generating solutions.

Al Gore Mentors Starr and Gluckman

As Sustainable Vashon Working Council members, Starr and Gluckman traveled as a volunteer team to Nashville, Tennessee, in January 2007. There, they participated in the training led by Al Gore and the Climate Project team. Training was based on the presentation showcased in the documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Since then, they have brought their considerable commitment and powerful focus back to Vashon and the Northwest to talk, teach, and generate individual and community commitment. This commitment determines what each of us can do now to make a positive difference in reducing our carbon footprints and engaging our leaders in making public policy decisions to stop global warming!

After a brief slide presentation, Starr and Gluckman will lead a brainstorming session to define action steps and point out ways to develop a personal action plan, stay committed, and engage others in making a difference.

I hope a packed house will welcome the dynamic duo of Starr and Gluckman. Start to do your part by just showing up! For more information: sustainablevashon.org and vashonaudubon.org. The event is free; coffee and cookies are provided; all are welcome.

Submitted by Program Chair, Laura Bienen

The Annual Adventure Christmas Bird Count *Masters and Initiates Needed*

The Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society invites chapter members as well as students in the *Enjoyment of Birds* class to join with other birders across the Western Hemisphere to participate in one of Audubon's winter traditions, the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Our CBC occurs on Sunday, December 30 and is open to birders of all skill levels.

Here's your opportunity to contribute to our growing winter bird census data, spend a day in the field with expert birders, and enhance your birding skills. Today, over 55,000 volunteers from all 50 states, every Canadian province, parts of Central and South America, Bermuda, the West Indies, and Pacific islands count and record every individual bird seen or heard in a designated count circle.

Local Area: Blake, Kitsap, Vashon, Maury

A count circle is 15 miles in diameter, roughly 177 square miles total. Our count circle covers all of Vashon-Maury Island, swings north over most of Blake Island, and hops across Colvos Passage to encompass a large swath of the Kitsap Peninsula. Volunteers count within the circle from dawn to dusk on December 30. Teams are assigned sections of the circle and cover their areas either by car, by ferry, or on foot. Most team members spend the entire day in the field, while others contribute the minimum 4 hours.

We especially need volunteers to help cover Kitsap, joining teams led by Gary Shugart, Sue Trevathan, and a team led by Faye McAdams Hand and Diane Yorgeson Quinn from Tahoma Audubon chapter. In our 9 years of participating in the CBC, we have never had a team that covered Blake Island. So, if a kayak or boat trip to Blake appeals to your more adventurous spirit, that island is yours for the counting.

All Abilities Welcome, Needed

Volunteers of all birding ability levels are encouraged to participate. You may be interested in joining a team or simply counting birds at your feeders or in your backyards. It's an easy, fun way to contribute to vital statistics on the health and status of resident and migratory birds.

We welcome reports from feeder watchers, so if you have an especially popular feeding station and would

Continued on p2, col2

Audubon Local Chapter's Board Assesses Its Strengths and Needs

Building on discussion from the 2006 Vashon-Maury Audubon Board Retreat, the October 2007 Audubon board meeting brainstormed, then added two strengths (see #15, 16 below) to our list of what our chapter does well.

Strengths:

1. Good board
2. Wide interest/background on board
3. Expertise available to board
4. Available allies/partners
5. Community has high interest
6. Vashon natural history book (*Swan's Birds of Vashon*)
7. 4th Grade Program well respected (see p3 story)
8. Basic birding and birding-by-ear classes
9. Field trips mix of local and off island
10. CBC well organized (see p1 story)
11. Variety of program topics/speakers
12. Very distinct area focus (island/salt water)
13. Good environment for birds
14. Great web site (www.vashonaudubon.org)
15. Membership is experiencing a growth spurt
16. Ebb Tide programs/Low Tide Festival educate about the marine environment

To-Dos: 2007-8 Contact a board member if you want to help accomplish one of the following unassigned tasks.

1. **Signs:** Signs detailing "Birds of Puget Sound" or "Birds En Route" on the ferries or at terminals.
2. **Publicity:** Reach folks about programs, work parties, and board recruitment.
3. **Membership:** Keep membership recruitment reaching into the Island's untapped folks.
4. **Volunteers:** A process (and a person in charge) to solicit, record, train volunteers and/or new members, and then link them to appropriate projects. Help prevent volunteer burnout.
5. **ACOW** (State-wide Chapters meeting): Anticipate obligation by scheduling Island facility.
6. **Board:** Recruitment needs a process.

Visit our website
www.vashonaudubon.org

Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Board

Officers:

President	Jill Andrews	463-9909
Vice President	Sue Trevathan	463-1484
Secretary	Mary O'Brien	463-6209
Treasurer	Lindsay Hofman	463-5356

Chairs:

Conservation	Michelle Ramsden	463-1312
Education	Sue Trevathan	463-1484
	Kathryn True	567-5389
Field Trips	Sherry Bottoms	463-1312
Island Wings	Barbara Chasan	463-2571
	Ann Spiers	463-9858
Membership	Ron Simons	463-3627
Programs	Laura Bienen	567-4613
Publicity	Jean Aspinall	463-3178
	Basha Brownstein	463-4135
Welcome	Fran O'Reilly	463-4255

Christmas Bird Count Continued from p1

rather not venture forth on a cold winter morning, please count birds from the warmth of your home. See *Rules for Feederwatchers* below.

Potluck, Birding Stories End Day

At the end of the day, please join us for our CBC potluck at the Land Trust building, shortly after sunset (around 5pm). This is a great opportunity to hear stories about the birds that were seen or missed either here on the Island or over on the Kitsap. Here's your chance to meet veteran birders from off-island teams, many of whom have participated in our CBC since its inception in 1999.

In the past folks who have attended the potlucks have been the first to hear about rare birds that were tallied during the count, such as Ruffed Grouse, Northern Goshawk, White-fronted Goose, Red Phalarope, Gray Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Shrike, and Harris's Sparrow.

Our CBC organizer/compiler is Sue Trevathan. It's a huge area to cover so if you are interested in helping out, contact Sue at 463-1484 or sue.trevathan@centurytel.net.

Simple Rules for Feeder Watchers

Remember that birds coming to feeders should not be summed over the day. Only the high number of individuals of any species seen at one time should be the final count for that species. For example, when watching a feeder over the course of an afternoon, 14 dark-eyed Oregon Juncos are seen all at once, then leave, 5 more appear, then leave; later on 6 more appear at the feeder. The number added to your dark-eyed Oregon Junco total is 14, and not 25. Recognizing the call of a bird and not seeing it is fine as long as you are confident in your ID.

Submitted by Sue Trevathan

>VOLUNTEER TODAY>

Joyful Jobs Coming Up!

Chapter Merchandise Coordinator

Please consider this position. It isn't a big time commitment and you meet many interesting people. The job includes selection and sales of books and other merchandise, as well as coordinating the set-up for Strawberry Festival and Holly Daze sales.
Jill Andrews: 463-9909

Annual Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 30.
Join the annual bird count as a recorder or spotter
(See p1 story).
Call Sue Trevathan: 463-1484

4th Grade Birding Program

Here's an opportunity to share your love of birds and spend time developing the same love in children. The program takes place in February at Chautauqua Elementary. Sue Trevathan needs help in the classrooms with the bird skin display, use of binoculars/scopes, especially on the all-day field trip.
Please call 463-1484 or e-mail sue.trevathan@centurytel.net.

Guest Editorial by Kathryn True

Dr. Nalani Nadkarni Queen of the Forest Canopy Science, Action, Inspiration

My friend calls them the “global griefs”—the sadness and sometimes overwhelming feelings of inadequacy that result from living in a world in so much need. Hearing and reading one bad news item after another, I’d been feeling particularly downhearted about my ability to make a difference. Dr. Nalani Nadkarni, the keynote speaker at the Audubon Washington Awards dinner in October, was able to open my world-weary heart with her enthusiasm, sense of humor, and innovative actions for her passion: trees.

Known as the “Queen of the Forest Canopy,” Dr. Nadkarni is a pioneer in forest canopy studies and is known for sharing her research with scientists and laypeople around the world. She is on the faculty at The Evergreen State College in Olympia and adjunct faculty at the UW. Her research concerns the ecology of tropical and temperate forest canopies, with a focus on the roles of canopy-dwelling plants. She has research stations in Costa Rica and the Olympic Mountains.

In her engaging presentation, Dr. Nadkarni set her data to music and played us a “canopy symphony”—giving her beloved plants a harmonic voice. She showed us the artwork of trees, and human artists’ views of the canopy—part of her recent efforts to integrate art and science.

One of Dr. Nadkarni’s main goals is to reach audiences outside the “choir.” She’s found them in inner-city children. A rap artist wrote songs about their shared experiences, then the kids recorded a CD to take home as a reminder of their canopy knowledge. She employs prisoners to experiment with moss propagation to address the problem of over-harvesting by the florist industry—simultaneously giving prisoners much needed “nature time.”

At churches, she studied holy books to find references to trees, attended services of all kinds, befriended parishioners, and was invited to give sermons to Baptists and Buddhists alike. For young girls, she hires seamstresses to spiff up thrift-store Barbies, outfitting them in climbing gear to bring the story of tree canopy science to doll play. Dubbed *Canopy Barbie*, the dolls are fund-and awareness-raiser.

Her own successes prompted Dr. Nadkarni to create the Research Ambassador Program to assist and reward academic scientists for linking with an existing interest, trade or hobby of the general public, with a special focus on environmentally unaware audiences.

In sharing her work, Dr. Nadkarni challenged us to find new audiences for birds and birding: Whom can we share our love of birds with outside our own choir?

Since hearing her talk, I’ve been asking myself to think about uninitiated birders and how I can reach them. How can I extend my passion for birds and nature beyond these islands to find people who might change their habits if they fall in love with the song of a Varied Thrush, or discover “that big bird out there” is a Great Blue Heron?

For more on Nadkarni’s work, www.researchambassador.com.

Submitted by Kathryn True,

co-facilitator of the local Fourth Grade birding program and a writer/naturalist. View her recent work on www.kathryntrue.com.

4th Grade Bird Program Receives Outstanding Education Award; Chapter Calls for 2008 Volunteers

In October, Washington State Audubon gave their Outstanding Education Award to the 4th Grade Birding Program sponsored Vashon-Maury Island Audubon.

Current co-facilitator Kathryn True and founder and past facilitator Carol Ferch attended the second annual awards dinner at Seattle’s Museum of History and Industry. They received the award in the name of the Vashon chapter, the volunteers, teachers, and fourth graders who make the program a success. The award is for “distinctive work in environmental education” and “for their countless years of dedication to environmental education.”

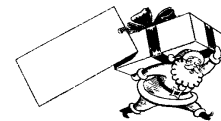
True reports that “the program consists of five teaching sessions culminating in a field trip to KVI Beach where children see birds ‘up close’ through scopes and binoculars, and learn about the animals and plants that live in the estuary and along the shoreline. After participating in the series, students have learned the common Vashon birds and the use of binoculars and field guides, and have gained confidence in their bird identification skills.”

The birding program began more than 15 years ago, when then fourth-grade teacher and Audubon member Carol Ferch used the local Partners-in-Education grant to link art and science. While the art component has been dropped, the program is now a regular part of science programming for fourth graders.

Beginning in February of each year, the program needs volunteers to join in the classroom and on a KVI field trip. If you’re interested in volunteering, please call Sue Trevathan, 463-1484, or Kathryn True, 567-5389. True is also interested in starting an after-school birding program for Chautauqua students and would like to share ideas with others.

Kathryn True contributed to this story

Seasonal Gifts Go Green; Go Birdy



Audubon Membership includes newsy *Wings* newsletter, field trips, and program notices. See enclosed form.

Hire Super Guide to Vashon Birds, Ed Swan, to lead your visiting relatives and friends for a few hours a-birding on the Island’s green spaces. 206-463-7976.

An Island Book can be gift-wrapped with a green-bias, non-profit’s T-shirt. Give *Birds of Vashon* by Ed Swan, *The Nature of an Island*, an Island anthology of natural science essays; *Vashon Island’s Agricultural Roots* by Pamela J. Woodroffe. Available at local bookstores

Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society
P.O. Box 838
Vashon Island, WA 98070

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The Annual Adventure
Christmas Bird Count
Masters and Initiates Needed



Sunday, December 30
dawn to dusk

For information
Sue Trevathan 463-1484
or sue.trevathan@centurytel.net

See p1 story for details

November/December 2007

Saturday, November 10, 8-10am -- Ober Park 'n' Ride. Monthly Second Saturday
ISLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP --. Bring binoculars/scope if you have them! *Sherry Bottoms 463-1312.*

Sunday, November 11, 1pm -- at Judd Creek in Paradise Valley (21500 111th - look for the windsock)
WELCOME BACK SALMON CELEBRATION -- See site of Land Trust's new project to preserve land along island's healthiest salmon-spawning stream. Bring yourself, the neighborhood kids, instruments, poems, anything that will support this annual celebration. *Jane Neubauer 567-5404 or Yvonne Kuperberg 567-4005.*

Tuesday, November 13, 7pm -- Land Trust Building, 10014 SW Bank Road
VASHON AUDUBON PROGRAM -- Responding to the Climate Crisis: One Step at a Time. Climate Project
Presenters Janie Starr and Meg Gluckman. Laura Bienen 567-4613.

Saturday, November 24, 8:30-10:30pm -- North End Ferry Dock beach. Meet at AJ's Espresso Stand
FULL MOON BEACH WALK -- An Audubon Ebb Tide Program, with Island beach naturalist Sandra Noel. Co-sponsored by People For Puget Sound. Bring flashlights, extra batteries, wading boots, warm hat and jacket, and dry gloves. The tide will be -3.8' at 10:25pm. *Michelle Ramsden, 463-1312 pr Rayna Holtz 463-3153.*

Thursday, December 6, 7 pm -- First Thursday every even-numbered month
VMIAS BOARD MEETING -- Phone Jill Andrews for confirmation, 463-9909.

Saturday, December 8, 8-10am -- Ober Park'n'Ride Monthly Second Saturday
ISLAND AUDUBON FIELD TRIP -- Bring binoculars/scope if you have them! *Sherry Bottoms 463-1312.*

Saturday, December 22, 9pm -- Tramp Harbor Beach
LOW TIDE BEACH WALK - An Audubon Ebb Tide Program with Michelle Ramsden and Rayna Holtz. Bring flashlights, extra batteries, wading boots, warm hat and jacket, and dry gloves. The moon will be nearly full, and the tide will be -3.4' at 9:23pm. *Michelle 463-1312 or Rayna 463-3153.*

Sunday, December 30, dawn to dusk -- Vashon-Maury Islands and Kitsap Peninsula
AUDUBON'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT -- See story for details. *Sue Trevathan 463-1484 or sue.trevathan@centurytel.net.*

Moonlight Beach Walk

Ebb Tide Program Series

November/December Moonlight Beach Walks

Last year's November full moon beach walk was so much fun that Vashon Audubon plans to do it again this year in November and December. The November walk is at a minus-3.8 feet low tide around 10:30pm on Saturday, November 24. Join Sandra Noel from 8:30 to 10:30pm to wander the beach and find sea stars, shrimps, sea pens, nudibranchs, crabs, and other shore life.

Audubon will have cafes of hot chocolate and tea at AJ's Espresso Stand again at 8:30pm, right near the ferry dock. We'll also have small magnifiers on necklaces to loan to participants. We will circle up there and talk about beach etiquette and wait for other arrivals.

This low tide walk is on the Saturday evening of Thanksgiving weekend. It'll be a good time to give thanks for our Vashon-Maury beaches,



Beachwalkers huddle by lamplight to share a marine find at Full Moon

Low Tide

Photo by Ray Pfortner

and for the beach naturalists who are helping us learn how to appreciate and protect them.

Last year we found the tiny nudibranch *Phidiana crassicornus* gliding slowly across a miniature tide pool in the concrete base of a piling under the ferry dock, flashing neon aqua stripes down its back and moving its soft spines tipped with neon orange. We stared at the sea pens waving their orange plumes in shallow water. We examined the differences between the mottled stars and purple stars, and marveled that there were so many (nine or ten) of the large sunflower stars. Tiny shrimp glowed neon green in some pools, and we counted at least four types of crabs.

Plan to wear wading boots, warm coats, hats, gloves and possibly rain gear. Bring flashlights and spare batteries. People for Puget Sound will co-sponsor this event with Vashon-Maury Island Audubon Society.

The December **LOW TIDE BEACH WALK** will be *Saturday, December 22, 2007, 9 pm – Tramp Harbor Beach, an Audubon Ebb Tide Program with Michelle Ramsden and Rayna Holtz.*

Submitted by Rayna Holtz

DRAMATIC BIRD DECLINE REVEALED BY CITIZEN SCIENCE

From the Audubon Website: Audubon's national office analyzed the combined data from the US Geologic Society's Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and from Audubon's Christmas Bird Count (CBC), the world's longest-running uninterrupted bird census. The data, both the CBC and BBS are gathered by citizens, reports how populations of all common North American species have fared during the past 40 years.

Since 1967, the average population for the common birds in steepest decline has fallen 68 percent, from 17.6 million to 5.35 million. Some species have nose-dived as much as 80 percent and all 20 birds included in the *Common Birds in Decline* report have lost at least 50 percent of their population in just four decades.

The findings point to serious problems with both local habitats and national environmental trends. Only citizen action can make a difference for the birds and the state of our future. For complete details, see link to *2007 State of the Birds* report on the Audubon Washington website at wa.audubon.org.

The following are the 20 common North American birds with the greatest population declines since 1967. Birds expected to be seen on the Island are in bold type. #1 Northern Bobwhite 82%; #2 **Evening Grosbeak**; #3 Northern Pintail 77%; #4 **Greater Scaup** 75%; #5 Boreal Chickadee 73%; #6 Eastern Meadowlark 72%; #7 **Common Tern** 71%; #8 Loggerhead Shrike 71%; #9 Field Sparrow 68%; #10 Grasshopper Sparrow 65%; #11 Snow Bunting 64%; #12 Black-throated Sparrow 63%; #13 Lark Sparrow 63%; #14 Common Grackle 61%; #16 **Rufous Hummingbird** 58%; #17 Whip-poor-will 57%; #18 Horned Lark 56%; #19 Little Blue Heron 54%; #20 Ruffed Grouse 54%.

SWAN'S NOTABLE SIGHTINGS

The following Island bird sightings were reported by bird guide and author Ed Swan. See his *Birds of Vashon Island* for further seasonal notes and places to bird on the Island.

What was seen:

August 21: I saw 20+ **RN Grebes** migrating through Tramp Harbor and at least two **Surf Scoters** and two scoters too blurry for me to tell if they were White-winged or Surf. (Aug 26: Returning molting adult RN and Horned Grebes noted by Gene Hunn at KVI.)

August 22: Emma Amiad reports **Ospreys** building or repairing a nest on the cell tower at 156th and Vashon Hwy. This is a strange time for them to be building or even repairing a nest. This is the first Osprey nest other than the 188th and Golf Course nests over the last decade. Amy Kitchener reports that the 188th nest was definitely successful, so this is probable a new pair or one of the old getting a new site ready. We'll have to watch next year to see if all three sites are used. Jill Andrews reports another site in years past by her place on Quartermaster Harbor up on Burton Hill. Joy or others might know of other locations prior to that. Other news on the golf course Ospreys is that one of the young ones got tangled with the golf course net. Emma suggests building another nesting platform nearby for them to switch to. Ricki Carlson reported eight **Black Turnstones** on the shore by the parked road equipment on Quartermaster Harbor.

August 23: Gary Shugart saw **phalaropes** in the green debris about halfway to the Fauntleroy dock and some **murres** closer to Vashon. (Aug 26: Gene Hunn saw three Red-necked Phalarope flying past the ferry near the Vashon dock and a fair number of adult Common Murres in mid channel.) This morning there were about 200 **Barn** and **Violet-green Swallows** on the wires on 232rd, the "Kestrel" road at the south end of Wax Orchards. I also saw a female **Townsend's Warbler** at Mukai Pond; we should really be watching for interesting warbler and other passerine migrants besides the gull and shorebird rarities.

August 26: Gene Hunn sent a list of birds he saw at KVI beach. "...birds accumulated as the tide came up. Eventually there were perhaps 70 shorebirds of seven species in the lagoon at the beach, all juveniles, including 35 **Western Sandpipers**, 15 **Leasts**, one **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, two **Sanderlings**, the usual bunch of **Killdeer**, 10 **Semipalmated Plovers**, and a **Short-billed Dowitcher**...." The Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and dowitcher were first-of-the-season sightings. This is the fourth SB Dowitcher sighting for Vashon. They will likely always be very rare, while LB Dowitchers are probably annual in small numbers. The Findlays saw a dowitcher on April 30, 1990, for the only spring Vashon record for a dowitcher. Gene also saw the first **shovellers** of the season at Fisher's Pond.

Sept 3: Richard Rogers saw **Brown Pelicans** flying by Pt. Robinson the other day. There were a number of sightings around Puget Sound this weekend. Kathryn True got a new yard bird, a calling **Common Loon** overhead.

Sept 5: I saw a pair of **wigeon** fairly far out in Tramp Harbor by some of the flocks of RN Grebes and scoters. This is late probably by a week for wigeon for Vashon.

Sept 7: At Dockton Bob Hawkins saw three **Red-breasted Mergansers**, the first of the season and very early. Common Mergansers should also be coming through right now; be sure to check which merganser it is. (Sept 21: At Fern Cove today was a flock of 25+ C. Mergansers and a C. Yellowthroat.)

Sept 8: Today's field trip had a **Ring-billed Gull** at Fern Cove. Sherry Bottoms heard a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** calling by her

place and then later heard a mouse squeal as it was probably picked up by the owl. (Sept 19: John Friars heard a saw whet at 9:30 this morning at his place near KVI Beach.)

Sept 14: Sue Trevathan saw a dozen **Cliff Swallows** at KVI Beach, which is a high number for Vashon. I wonder if these were migrating by or from nests on Vashon.

Sept 15: Don Norman and Andrea Wunschel did a count at the Maury Island Regional Park and had the first **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and **Hermit Thrushes** to be reported, as well as a **Common Yellowthroat** and some other unidentified warblers and a flock of 15 **Band-tailed Pigeons**. (Sept 16: Bent and Marie Blichfeldt had 14 BT Pigeons at their Dockton place; maybe the same flock as above. Sept. 21: At Mukai Pond, many Hermit Thrushes were in the brush along the trail.)

Sept 16: Rich Siegrist had the first **GC Sparrow**, as well as some **Purple Martins** migrating by.

Sept 18: Don Norman found a **Fox Sparrow and Varied Thrush** yesterday, first of season reports at Camp Sealth.

Sept 21: Yesterday at the field along Old Mill Road and 220th was a flock of at least 20 **pipits**. There were also **Savannah Sparrows** and Barn Swallows. Bob Hawkins reports hearing **Black Scoters** near Dockton and saw four **Harlequin Ducks** fly by the ferry dock. (Oct 8: John and Ellie Friars saw Harlequins at their usual spot by Portage in Tramp Harbor for the first time this season.) A number of very curious and responsive **Lincoln Sparrows** were active in the brush and grass on the east side of Mukai Pond.

Sept 23: Bent and Marie Blichfeldt found a **snipe** at Mukai Pond. (Oct 17: At Fisher's Pond a snipe was in the mud among some short sticks in front of the little peninsula that sticks out with the Tree Swallow box, a place they often can be found in October.)

October 3: Rich Siegrist saw about 30 **GWF Geese** overhead at his place along the Colvos this morning. Many flocks were heard by many different observers last night and this morning around Puget Sound. Kathryn True heard GWF Geese over her place on the north tip of Vashon earlier this week. We got our first **Ring-necked Ducks** of the season at the pond along Old Mill Road.

October 5: Around 11am as I started my run from Ellisport I saw at least three **Turkey Vultures** spiraling just over the treetops. It was still very gray and completely overcast and trying to mist now and then. Two hours later I happened to be approaching the area again driving east along Cemetery Road and saw several groups flying just over the treetops again and then moving south. The weather had turned mostly sunny about half an hour before. I get the impression that the birds may have just risen with the warmth of the sun and then continued their migration. An observer saw about 60 vultures over Misty Isles, which could be the same flock I saw or a different one. The Findley's saw the first **Gr Scaup**, a female with scoters, in Quartermaster Harbor.

October 8: Joy Nelsen saw two **Spotted Sandpipers** at Pt. Robinson. Over the weekend the Blichfeldts had **Vaux's Swifts** overhead at their place near Dockton.

October 16: A single **coot** was with the growing wigeon flock at Ellisport. I haven't been able to spot a Eurasian Wigeon yet but one should be there any day now.