

## ACOW 2014 Meeting Summary

Saturday, September 20, 2014 at Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores, WA

### ATTENDANCE

A total of eighty-seven (87) people were in attendance representing 19 of 25 Audubon Chapters in Washington. An attendee list with contact information was made available on site and in the post-meeting email update. Please contact the [Chapter Associate](#) if you would like an electronic copy.

### MEETING INTRODUCTION

- Arnie Martin (Grays Harbor Audubon President) opened up the meeting with a warm welcome to Grays Harbor and an update on their current primary issue of concern, oil transport/export.
- Ken Wiersema (Co-Vice President, Olympic Peninsula Audubon) was awarded the second annual Helen Engle Volunteer of the Year Award by Helen Engle – Congratulations Ken! This year, the recipient received a framed license plate with the word “TOWHEE” on it. Helen Engle was involved in the establishment of personalized license plates in Washington State – this is one of her retired plates. The award will be brought back each year to ACOW so it may be passed on to the next awardee.
- Gail Gatton (Audubon WA ED) made some announcements including an Audubon Store set up in the lobby with items for purchase, and the StoryBird display – attendees were encouraged to share their personal stories about Washington State’s endangered birds through video recording.
  - We have made these [stories available here](#) via dropbox. Audubon Washington will continue to collect these great outreach pieces, and will later publish them in a professional format for all to use. Thank you for sharing your stories!

*All ACOW presentations have been made [available here](#) via dropbox.*

### AUDUBON’S CLIMATE SCIENCE

Gary Langham, NAS VP and Chief Scientist

- Gary explained the science behind the [Birds and Climate Change Report](#) – the use of climate change models, CBC and BBS data, and the bioclimatic variables that were included in the analysis.
- He showed how to read the report’s maps and illustrations, and identified some specific species of concern such as the Bobolink and Rufous Hummingbird.
- Gary ended by explaining how this new bird and climate data can (and should) be incorporated into existing work/layered with existing habitat data by chapters, organizations, agencies, etc., leading to new management strategies with partners across the country.

## AUDUBON WASHINGTON CLIMATE INITIATIVE WORKPLAN

Gail Gatton, ED, Audubon WA

- Gail began by highlighting the exceptional climate launch efforts by chapters in Washington.
- Washington has been chosen as a proof-of-concept state where we will focus on creating real impact, learning what does and doesn't work in the climate campaign world.
- Audubon Washington's strategy will involve identifying Washington's climate strongholds, related advocacy efforts, creating teen climate leaders, and engaging in the spread the word campaign with new climate programs and conversations.

## CLIMATE INITIATIVE GOALS, STRATEGY, STRUCTURE, CAMPAIGNS

Lynsy Smithson-Stanley, NAS Climate Deputy Director

- Lynsy emphasized that the power behind Audubon's Climate Initiative is in the mobilization of the chapter network.
- She spoke about the initiative's goals, the audience(s), and the strategies that will lead to campaign success.

## BREAKOUTSESSIONS

**Spread the Word**, Lynsy Smithson-Stanley

- Lynsy walked participants through various exercises to help begin identifying local audiences, recruitment channels and engagement practices.
- Materials and exercises to help you [Spread the Word are available here](#) via dropbox.

**Explaining the Science**, Gary Langham

- Gary answered participant questions about the science, why peer reviewed publication has been delayed, and how the data and materials can be used to localize the issue for action.

## PACIFIC FLYWAY INITIATIVES

Stan Senner, NAS Pacific Flyway Conservation Director

- Stan presented a great history of Audubon's actions in the Pacific Flyway, and the practical elements that have led to our success, all the way from education to litigation.
- Current efforts include saving seabirds, identifying coastal and marine IBAs, and protecting forage fish habitat.

## AUDUBON WASHINGTON UPDATES

**Coastal Stewardship**, Trina Bayard, Director of Bird Conservation

- Trina spoke about the progress made on the Audubon Washington Coastal Campaign: Marine Birds and Fish, including federal and state advocacy, engagement with local news outlets, and GIS work to identify areas of high marine bird concentration and species diversity.
- **ACTION REQUEST:** Trina is looking for a small group of people from coastal chapters in our state that have either expertise in coastal natural resource issues or a strong passion for coastal birds and habitats to help her identify and respond to opportunities that come up. This will help advance our conservation agenda, and also help chart a path for conservation actions in our marine bird priority habitats.

### **Sagebrush Shrub-Steppe Conservation, Christi Norman, Program Director**

- Christi provided updates on the Eastern WA Sagebrush Songbird Survey program designed to establish a long-term sagebrush avian census program on Washington state public lands.
- The success of the program's pilot year is summed up nicely in a quote from LCBAS Past President, Robin Priddy: "The songbird survey made me think about our chapter's connections – to the region, the state, the flyway, and national Audubon. At the center of Audubon is the meaningful work that we do."
- **ACTION REQUEST:** Volunteers from across the state to expand the program from 2 chapters to 7 chapters. Each chapter will create a Steering Committee with support from Audubon WA staff. Trainings for the next field season begin spring 2015.

### **Engaging New and Ethnically Diverse Audiences, Joey Manson, Operations Manager**

- NAS has composed a new [statement on Diversity and Inclusion](#).
- Joey attended Audubon's recent Diversity and Inclusion summit at Hog Island, ME in August 2014. It included 23 Audubon chapter, state and center staff, and executive management who worked together to develop project strategies for ethnic inclusion and diversity.
- Seward Park Audubon is located in the most ethnically diverse zip code in the country. Working with primarily new immigrant communities, Joey's project works with community gate keepers to develop custom programs for each group. The project is about introducing people to the park *as a community*, providing a comfortable arena to explore Seward Park's natural space.

## **REGIONAL REPORTS**

### **NW I (North Cascades, Pilchuck, San Juan, Skagit, Whidbey)**

It was decided to update status of proposed actions from our March 29, 2014 regional meeting, and add new information.

#### North Cascades Audubon Society

Coal terminal proposals

-Lummi tribe totem poles being carved, travelled to Montana and back and installed to bring attention to Cherry Point proposals

-Audubon Chapter letter opposing Department of Ecology solicited comments on Cherry Point : got 120,000 comments and agreed to add consideration of worldwide impacts of coal exports.

-Submitting comments to Corps of Engineers to oppose permitting of second BP dock south of first dock to curtail export of additional oil

-Bellingham area wind farm proposal where raptors present was dropped. Kybosh! Good news!

#### Pilchuck Audubon Society

Motocross proposal near Granite Falls

-SEPA appeal with other conservation groups based on marbled murrelet nearby use was denied.

Filed for reconsideration (next hearing Nov 6)

Wallace Falls DNR Timber Sale

-Possible actions include not proceeding with timber sale or at least not all of it. A proposal has been made by a number of conservation groups in company with some Snohomish County council persons to convey some of the timber sale land back to Snohomish County; use for recreation purposes (trails especially). . No pending action at the moment.

Hooven Bog (located in Snohomish County near Woodinville)

-Saved from development.

One of the two developers wanting to build residences died

County designated as protected

Conservation Futures bought the property. SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME!

Vaux's Swifts

-Larry Schwitters had Yakima chapter put transponders on six swifts. Some noted in Oregon.

Artificial tower construction in Ellensburg hit snags on permitting. May not proceed..

Purple Martins

-More gourds on Jetty Islands; 2 new pairs added to 12 pairs

#### San Juan Island Audubon Society

-Reintroduction of blue bird transplants from JBLM 2013 was bad last year for survival at Ft. Lewis to trans to San Juan Island; this year better; brought pairs up from JBLM. Moved some to Gulf Island: better luck than at San Juan Island

-Orcas Island Chamber has invited San Juan Island Audubon Society to join Orcas Bird Festival

#### Skagit Audubon Society

Oil Refinery Proposal

-Shell Oil proposes new railroad at Anacortes refinery to expand current use by railroad for Bakken crude. Shell is using Bakken oil in refinery.

Skagit Audubon wants a full EIS on all oil refinery projects at Anacortes area.

Appeals: mediation to better seek a better outcome. Earth Justice lawyer is on the case

Sedro Woolley Vaux's Swifts

-Chimney at former Northern Hospital grounds: next hearing in five days as to future uses of the grounds. Public is starting to "get it" that this is an important place to preserve.

#### Whidbey Audubon Society

-Four draft Environmental Impact Statements involving the US Navy's Whidbey Air Station

Increasing noise, more squadrons, further buildings, active/passive sonar use, underwater demolition

Sonar activity: marbled murrelets

Proposal Whidbey Audubon Society select someone to designate Whidbey point of contact to work with Navy

-Whidbey Island logging on private lands increasing: WAS to hire experts (\$5k) — grad students

Pigeon Guillemots

-Study shows that birds are steady over last 11 years

Ratfish vs. sculpin

Surveying once a month for a year

[Anna Swartz is new President of Whidbey Audubon]

#### ACOW 2015 and WASACC 2015

-NW-I Region will locate conference facilities and host. At present, September 18-21, 2015.

Spring regional meeting TBA.

#### **NW II (Admiralty, Kitsap, OPAS)**

We discussed the Regional Representative term, wondering if it is Admiralty's turn to send a representative. Discussion on term length and selection of Regional Representative should be on our agenda for our spring meeting, when we are all present.

As a followup to our Spring 2014 discussion on Purple Martins, we acknowledged the upcoming PUMA working group meeting in Olympia on Oct. 17 and how it would be great to have someone from the

region attend, if each chapter cannot send a representative. Ken volunteered to look at his calendar to see if he can attend. Others are welcome as well.

We discussed our chapter's contributions to the Chapter Associate position and our preference that we continue to have chapters fund part of the position since the Chapter Associate is so valuable to Chapters.

The group requested the regional representative forward news from the State Board meetings to the Chapters to keep us all current.

Spring regional meeting TBA, hosted by Kitsap Audubon.

#### **King County (Eastside, Rainier, Seattle, Vashon-Maury)**

Discussion focused on the National Audubon Climate Change Report, and specifically, what the KC chapters were thinking about doing to follow up on it.

Rainier – Dan has already arranged for Jen Syrowitz to speak at their October meeting, and was planning to ask her to speak about chapter coordination. Now he may ask her to do a presentation on the Climate Change report.

Eastside – Andy has a November meeting coming up, and may use it to present the Climate Change report.

Vashon – Randy is thinking that he first wants to get his Board and a few others informed about the Climate Change report. A presentation to the general membership would come later.

Seattle – no definite plans yet, but there is interest. Cynthia emphasized the need to define specific audiences and tailor the information to each audience's needs.

Other ideas about presenting the Climate Change report:

- 1) We could use the template from Audubon Works for presentations.
- 2) Jerry Joyce: could we ask Trina Bayard to help us all with the “regionalization” of the national information – that is, what does this national report mean for our area ... which species in our area are most likely to be affected, and how. This information could then be used by all chapters as they present the national report to their audiences.
- 3) We could ask Jen and Trina to do a “Train the Trainer” session for our chapters ... where they would help people from each chapter to understand the material, and learn how best to present it.
- 4) We decided to use Audubon Works to create a [King County \(WA\) Climate subgroup](#), to make it easier for those working on this topic to communicate with each other. Susan North of Seattle Audubon volunteered to set this up.

Spring regional meeting TBA.

#### **SW (Black Hills, Grays Harbor, Tahoma, Vancouver, Willapa)**

Notes forthcoming.

#### **Eastern (Blue Mountain, Central Basin, Kittitas, LCBAS, North Central WA, Palouse, Spokane, Yakima)**

Notes forthcoming.

#### **WSACC**

WSACC passed [two new resolutions](#) regarding 1) opposition of [oil transport and export](#) in Washington State and 2) inclusion of additional central Hanford lands into the [Hanford Reach National Monument](#).

A [summary of 2014 legislative outcomes](#) was presented, as well as proposed 2015 priorities currently being considered by Environmental Priority Coalition (EPC) members, i.e. carbon pricing, oil transportation, coal, solar, and toxics.

Almost all chapters in Washington are involved in oil transport and export issues; many are attending hearings across the state and writing comments. Please contact the [Chapter Associate](#) to request additional WSACC meeting information.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- **Pictures of ACOW 2014** are [available here](#) via facebook.
- **ACOW 2015:** September 19, 2015; NW I Chapters to host.
- **Audubon Convention 2015:** July 10-13, 2015, Leesburg, Virginia. [RFPs now available](#) and due November 15, 2014.
- **Audubon Works** – The new online community built to facilitate collaboration across the entire Audubon network! Audubon Works is a place for you and all of Audubon's staff, chapter leaders, volunteers, and trained activists to come together to share ideas, experiences, best practices, and information. Learn more at [wa.audubon.org/audubon-works](http://wa.audubon.org/audubon-works)
- Are you on the Washington Chapter Network listservs? Join us on **WAGeneral**: a voluntary email discussion list sponsored by Audubon members in Washington state. Or on **WSACC**: a voluntary email discussion list comprised of the conservation chairs and committee members from each chapter in Washington state. Contact the [Chapter Associate](#) to sign UP.
- Monthly **Leadership Council Conference Calls** will begin again October 23, 2014. These conference calls between chapter presidents, regional representatives, and Audubon Washington staff provide communication and sharing opportunities among the Audubon Network in Washington. They occur the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month from 5:30-6:30pm.