

## **NCAS Accomplishments in 2020, Year of COVID**

**COVID-19 restrictions required NCAS to severely curtail in-person activities. However, the restrictions also provided an impetus to develop on-line membership meetings and educational presentations. Even with all of the restrictions, members and volunteers came through stronger than ever to support our efforts and NCAS is well positioned to expand education and outreach when the COVID restrictions are lifted. Thank you for making a difference.**

### **Making a Difference for Birds - Protecting Birds and Bird Habitat**

NCAS continued to take action as a representative on the Whatcom County Environmental Caucus Working Group and joined with Washington and National Audubon and other environmental organizations in opposing numerous efforts that continue to threaten birds and their habitat.

### **Monitoring Birds through Community Science**

NCAS continued to actively support community science through a number of actions including: the annual Christmas Bird Count, the ongoing Cherry Point and Whatcom Land Trust property bird surveys, and annual scholarships to select Western Washington University students.

### **Community Partnerships**

Programming and volunteer partnerships with the Whatcom Museum, Whatcom Land Trust, Whatcom County Library System and RE Sources continued. We were also just beginning new initiatives with Kendall Elementary School, Wild Whatcom and Shifting Gears. We will expand our partnerships as COVID restrictions are eased.

### **Engaging Members & Volunteers**

NCAS continued to schedule high quality, provocative educational presentations at our membership meetings. We started the year with our in-person membership meeting presentations and quickly converted to virtual Zoom presentations. We also used Zoom to continue to present our “Plants for Birds” programming and other educational presentations. These proved to be exceptionally popular and included attendees from all over the United States and Canada! Using input from a member survey conducted in September, NCAS added new resources to its website, including a section on family-friendly birding.

### **Celebrating Birds**

During the limited time NCAS was able to schedule in-person events, thirteen field trips, four “Audubon at the Museum” (Edson Bird Exhibit) events, six educational programs in collaboration with Whatcom County libraries, and a number of bird identification educational programs were organized for the community to celebrate the wonderful diversity of birds found in our local area.