



## *Where Will the Birds Go? Protecting Habitat is the Key to Saving Birds*

Saving our most treasured places on Whidbey and Camano Islands is something that makes us all feel good and has great practical value.

Your financial support allows us to protect working farms that produce our food, forests that purify our water and air, and critical habitat for the salmon and wildlife that bring such richness to our lives.

Birds, especially, need all the help they can get.

The National Audubon Society recently published a study on impacts of predicted climate changes on 588 North American bird species. The study found 314 bird species are at

serious risk from climate change, including 126 species projected to lose more than 50% of the habitat they need to survive by 2050.

Can't these highly mobile species just move or adapt to new places? The simple answer is no. Most of the available natural places are already completely filled to capacity.

Expecting displaced birds to move in and share habitat with existing bird species leads to competition for food, nesting sites and resting habitats. It's like coming home to find that an unknown family from Arizona has moved into your house and is eating your food and sleeping in your bed.



*The Double-crested Cormorant (pictured above) and Northern Harrier (top photo) are each likely to lose more than 80% of their summer habitat range according to the new Audubon study. Photos: Craig Johnson.*

What can we do to minimize our effect on our beloved bird species?

*continued on page 2*

continued from page 1



The two most important things are to reduce our use of fossil fuels and preserve more habitat that birds need to endure the coming changes. With your support, we will continue to protect those places that birds need today and tomorrow to survive.

We've already protected thousands of acres of critical habitat in Island County, including upland forests (e.g., Trillium Community Forest and Indian Point), prairie remnants (Admiralty Inlet Preserve), freshwater riparian areas and wetlands (e.g., Maxwellton Valley and Crockett Lake), estuaries (Livingston Bay), and saltwater shorelines (e.g., Dugualla Bay and Glendale).

The time to act is now if we want to continue to share our world with birds.



Many of our beloved Island birds are considered "climate-endangered," i.e., projected to lose much of their required habitat needs by 2050. Included are the Bald Eagle, Bufflehead, Dunlin, Hooded Merganser, Northern Harrier, Trumpeter Swan and Varied Thrush (pictured above). Photo: Craig Johnson.

To read the full Audubon study, visit [www.audubon.org/climate](http://www.audubon.org/climate).

## A Record Year for Grants

### Leveraging Your Membership Dollars with Grant Funding

Thanks to your generosity, we significantly leverage your support by successfully competing for and securing financial grants that help protect our Islands' treasured lands and waters. This year we set a record, submitting 18 requests totaling approximately \$7.8 million!

We've already been awarded \$2.4 million of our total request. The funding decisions on most are still pending approval, including five of our grants that are likely to be funded by the State Legislature in

the spring of 2015. Of these, three grants were each ranked as the top project in the state!

This year, we also received four "windfall grants" totalling another \$569,000. These are state monies that are allocated to the next project on a prioritized funding list when unused monies are returned by other project sponsors.

Securing these grants will allow us to protect some amazing new properties, including four historic

working farms and two waterfront projects, one with 2,000 feet along Possession Sound. Other grants will pay for restoration work at three Land Trust preserves and a parking area and trailhead development at Trillium Community Forest.

Thanks to your support of our operations and our success in securing competitive financial grants, we'll continue to be wonderfully busy in 2015, as we work to protect and restore more community-treasured island lands. Photo below: Mark Sheehan.





## Beaches for Kids and Streams for Salmon

### Glendale Properties are 'Off the Market' — Stewardship Begins

First step accomplished! We've purchased the three "at-risk" waterfront properties, with 420 feet of low-bank beach, at Glendale on southeast Whidbey Island using bridge loans and member gifts.

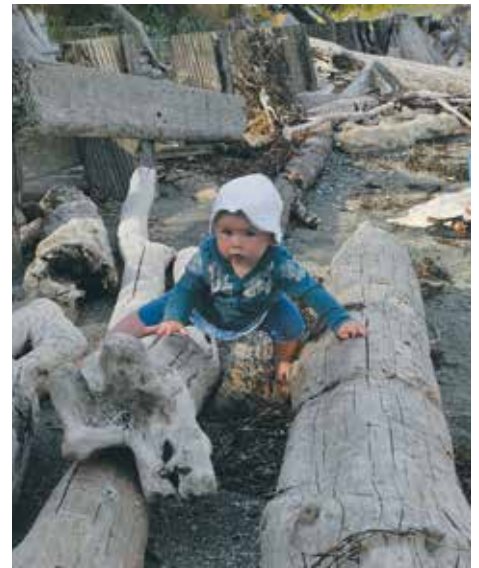
For the second step, we've partnered with Island County on two state grant-funding requests.

Both grants ranked first in statewide competitions, meaning the County is likely to receive funds in the summer of 2015 to purchase and remove the properties' development rights. That will allow us to repay the two bridge loans, one from The

Conservation Fund and the other from two generous individuals.

Also, more than 100 donors stepped up to help us close the funding gap between the loans and the project cost. Thank you all for your vision and confidence in us!

Stewardship work is already underway at the site to remove hazards and invasive plants. The property will be open to the public in the fall of 2015. If you'd like to make a real difference in our ability to manage the day-to-day use of the properties, please donate to the Glendale Stewardship Fund at [www.wclt.org](http://www.wclt.org).



The beach at Glendale will soon be a great place for kids of all ages to explore the outdoors. Learn more on the project fact sheet at [www.wclt.org/glendale](http://www.wclt.org/glendale).

## Trail Enthusiasts Unite!

### An Additional Trailhead at Camano Ridge Preserve

Trail enthusiasts on Camano Island may soon have reason to celebrate! We're working with Island County to acquire a five-acre parcel adjacent to the Camano Ridge Forest Preserve to create a new trailhead and parking area.

The 400-acre Forest Preserve currently has only one trailhead, making it hard for many Camano residents to access its five miles of hiking trails. The property was logged two years ago and lies between Camano Ridge Road and the Preserve boundary—an ideal place to create a parking area.



A hiker enjoys the Camano Ridge Forest Preserve on Camano Island. Photo: John Edison.

We're currently asking for donations to leverage a Conservation Futures Fund grant the County plans to apply for in 2015 to help fund the project. A generous Camano Island family has pledged a lead gift of \$10,000 to start the campaign. You can donate at [www.wclt.org](http://www.wclt.org); please make sure you note it's for Camano Ridge. Thank You!

## Conservation Success In the Works

### *Crockett Lake, Central Whidbey*

Another 210 acres of critical habitat for wildlife and scenic open space will soon be protected at Crockett Lake. The properties being acquired include fresh and salt water wetlands, mature forest, rich mudflats, open water and grassy fields.

Located along the Pacific Flyway, Crockett Lake provides vital food, refuge and nesting areas for more than 238 species of birds.

*Photo right: Cac Kamak.*



### *Keystone Forest, Central Whidbey*

This summer we partnered with the U.S. Navy to remove the development rights on 96 acres of working forest land off Keystone Hill Road near Crockett Lake. Another 54 acres will soon be protected for watershed and habitat values.

Keeping the forestlands near Crockett Lake from being developed is essential to provide forest cover for the thousands of birds that rely on the Crockett Lake area for survival.



The dark green areas on the map represent the new properties to be added to Trillium Community Forest.



### *Trillium Community Forest, South Whidbey*

Thanks to a successful partnership we established with Island County and a willing property owner, a parking area and trailhead accessible for people of all abilities will be constructed in 2015 at Trillium Community Forest. We're also partnering with the County to pursue additional funding to construct a parking area and trailhead for horse trailers and other large vehicles with a connecting trail to the six miles of trails.



## Continuing Cornie's Farming Legacy

Cornelius "Cornie" VanderVoet's four children are working to honor their dad's dream and keep his farming legacy alive. We're partnering with the VanderVoet family as part of our commitment to protect Island County's most significant farmlands.

Born in Oak Harbor in 1915, Cornie spent his entire life in the area, becoming a respected farmer at a young age. For 51 years, until just before his passing in 2004, Cornie worked the family's 254-acre farm, located along Monroe Landing Road across from the Blue Fox Theater. There he ran a successful 200-head Holstein farm known for its orderliness and productivity.

Island farmers and businesses, like Conway Feed and Darigold, commended the high-quality goods that Cornie produced. His daughter, Bonnie Balster, attributes the farm's success to her dad's work ethic and commitment to doing things right the first time and not cutting corners.

We've secured funding for this project from three competitive grants to remove most of the development rights and are appraising the property now. If our offer is accepted by the family, we will have exciting conservation news in 2015. Stay tuned to our website for updates.

*Top photo: Mark Sheehan.*



*Lifelong farmer and Whidbey Island resident, Cornie VanderVoet, is shown above on the VanderVoet farm picking leeks. Photo: VanderVoet Family.*

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Claire Gets Her Hands Dirty

We received an extra boost this summer from Claire Logan, a great and enthusiastic intern. Claire, a junior biology major at Whitman College, wanted to get her hands dirty and gain experience. Could we ever help with that!

During the summer, Claire attended almost every Land Trust work party and worked two days a week at our Admiralty Inlet Preserve. Her specialty was seed propagation and invasive species removal.

Claire's energy and strong work ethic made her an outstanding intern for the Land Trust.



*Claire, our outstanding summer intern, will write her final college paper on the Land Trust's efforts to restore the golden paintbrush prairie plant at Admiralty Inlet Preserve. Way to go and thank you, Claire!*

# THANKS TO YOU —

*Wildlife habitat, family farms, scenic vistas and trails in our community are protected.*

*Thank you to the following who contributed from August 1, 2014 to October 15, 2014.*

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Photo: Craig Johnson.

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Your monthly or other recurring donations can play a major role in protecting the most important places on our precious islands. Setting up your monthly gift is simple and it brings us predictable funding that makes a lasting difference.

To learn more, visit:  
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*Background photo: Thomas Bast.*



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The Whidbey Camano Land Trust protects our Islands' most important natural habitats, scenic vistas, and working farms and forests in partnership with landowners and the broader community.



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### **Annual Holiday Open House**

**December 10, 2014, 5 pm - 7 pm**

**Land Trust Office, 765 Wonn Road, C-201 in Greenbank**

We hope you'll join us to celebrate the new season, enjoy the company of old and new friends and toast to a successful year of protecting treasured lands and waters. Please RSVP to: [info@wclt.org](mailto:info@wclt.org) or call (360) 222-3310.

*Top photo: Maxwellton Beach, by Jeffrey Stone.*