

Neighborhood Wildlife Stewards

Teaching our Highlands neighbors how to live safely with wildlife and keep the wildlife wild.

Viewing Bald Eagles in Winter



Bald Eagle

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Bald eagles that nest in Washington State during the spring typically migrate north after nesting to feed on the salmon runs in Alaska and British Columbia for several weeks, and then return to Washington by late January. During the winter months they are joined by additional bald eagles that nest in Alaska and British Columbia, and then migrate south to feed on the salmon in Washington's rivers and streams.

The estimated springtime population of approximately 2,000 bald eagles in Washington grows to between 3,000 and 4,000 bald eagles during the winter months. As a result, the best time to view bald eagles in our state is from late November to late January.

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center

A popular location to view and photograph bald eagles is along the Skagit River. The staff and volunteers at the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center on Route 20 in Rockport can provide you with maps of Eagle Watcher sites, information handouts, souvenirs, guided interpretive walks, slideshows, and tours.

Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival

You might want to schedule your eagle viewing to coincide with the 2009 Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival. The festival celebrates the return of the bald eagle to our state and is scheduled for the weekend of January 24th and 25th.

Birdwatching News

The seventh annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is scheduled to occur February 13 to 16. Interested Issaquah Highlands residents can participate in this nationwide count, which provides needed information about bird population and habitat use trends. Just count birds by species in your backyard or local park or natural area, and submit your "data" on the GBBC Web site: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>. It's a good idea to check their Web site first.

For additional information about the wild birds in our area and winter bird feeding tips, see:

- Bald Eagles in Washington
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/factsheets/baldeagle.htm>
- Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center
<http://www.skagiteagle.org/IC/IC-index.htm>
- Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival
<http://www.skagiteagle.org/IC/IC-Directions.htm>

If you care about the welfare of the wildlife in our area, want to learn more about living safely with the wildlife, and would enjoy meeting your neighbors, join us for our monthly meetings.

February's topic: *TBD*

Time and place: 7:00 p.m. on February 10 at Blakely Hall