

Linda Nielsen

From: Wright, Lindsay <lindsay_wright@fws.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2017 1:06 PM
To: Erin Page; Fbks-ES@msn.com
Cc: Yarborough, Fenner F (DFW); Andrew Hicks; Emily Teachout
Subject: Re: Comment request for Sandy Point dredging project
Attachments: Sandy Point HL detection Sept 2016.pdf; SHL at Sandy Point_TA_Likely not SHL but E a alpina instead.pdf

Hello everyone,

Yes, I am the species lead for streaked horned larks at our office.

I recently received an inquiry about a potential sighting of a streaked horned lark at Sandy Point related to a different project at Sandy Point. After seeing the photos in ebird I thought it was NOT a streaked horned lark, but instead was a different subspecies of Horned Lark, likely the Alpine Horned Lark, which is common in that area. I attached some information relevant to the sighting and the recommendation we made to the inquirer.

Just to be safe, for your consultation, I would stick to the NLTAA determination for SHLA because A) there is suitable habitat, B) there is historical occupancy in the vicinity, C) there is no upland disposal of dredge spoils in suitable lark habitat, and D) we expect their presence is extremely unlikely based on the information we have about their distribution.

Chris Fairbank: If you could please provide the reference info. for the sighting referred to in the BA Section 10.1 "streaked horned larks have been observed foraging in the grassy meadow to the area adjacent to the project area known as South Cape", I will follow up and check this out. That would be very interesting information to the folks who work with the streaked horned lark in Washington!

Thank you and please let me know if there are any questions!

Lindsay

Lindsay Wright, MES
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On Wed, Aug 9, 2017 at 10:10 AM, Erin Page <epage@co.whatcom.wa.us> wrote:

Hi Lindsay and Fenner,

It is my understanding that you are the USFWS and WDFW point of contact for Streaked Horn Lark. According to the attached BA, there have been sightings of this bird recently on Sandy Point. Have these sightings been confirmed? I have a marina dredging project on Sandy Point, that I am reviewing for impacts to listed species and habitats and would appreciate any comments regarding potential impacts to Streaked Horned Lark. I have requested an impact assessment in the attached memo.

Please email with further questions regarding this project.

Thank you for your comment and expertise, since I am not trained in this species.

Erin

Erin Page, PWS

Critical Areas and Mitigation

Whatcom County PDS

360-778-5953

Disclaimer: Public documents and records are available to the public as required under the Washington State Public Records Act (RCW 42.56). The information contained in all correspondence with a government entity may be disclosable to third party requesters under the Public Records Act.



Wright, Lindsay <lindsay_wright@fws.gov>

Re: question

Wright, Lindsay <lindsay_wright@fws.gov>
To: Vikki Jackson <vikki@nwecological.com>

Fri, Feb 10, 2017 at 11:40 AM

Hi Vikki, I looked at the pictures posted on ebird and I'm fairly certain that it is not a streaked horned lark. I attached a photo of a female streaked horned lark and you can see how yellow her face is. The horned lark in ebird does not have the characteristic yellow face. Males have very distinct "horns" as well, and females to a lesser degree. I also included a photo of a male streaked horned larks so you could see the "horns".

Here is a side-by-side (you can see the lack of yellow around the face of the bird photographed at Sandy Point):



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On Fri, Feb 10, 2017 at 8:59 AM, Vikki Jackson <vikkinweco@gmail.com> wrote:

Lindsay,

It is great to meet you (virtually). I will get that info over to you today. I am in the office (waiting for the ground to thaw) today, so pretty much anytime today after 11 am would be good for a phone call.

Vikki

On Fri, Feb 10, 2017 at 8:35 AM, Wright, Lindsay <lindsay_wright@fws.gov> wrote:

Hi Vikki, I'm Lindsay, the lead for streaked horned lark in our office for Section 7 and 10 related issues. Let me know how I can help you. If you could send me information about where the larks

were observed, when (approx.), and by whom, I could cross-reference and see if there is historic occupancy in that area.

I'd love to talk, let me know a good time to reach you,

Lindsay

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On Fri, Feb 10, 2017 at 8:29 AM, Waterstrat, Teal <teal_waterstrat@fws.gov> wrote:
Hi Vikki:

Great to hear from you and wonderful that you get to work with some more exciting species. We an excellent and knowledgeable resource here at our office: Lindsay Wright!

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I bet she would be very eager to engage especially on SHL up north (if that is where the project is).

Hope you melt out soon and looking forward to working with you soon.

Sincerely,

Teal

On Thu, Feb 9, 2017 at 9:45 AM, Vikki Jackson <vikkinweco@gmail.com> wrote:

Teal,

I hope you are doing well and the snow has cleared out down there. We still are in a mess up here. I have a question, not related to OSF. I am working on an assessment where we have Streaked Horned Lark documented as being present near a site periodically. Can you direct me to the person covering this species at USFW? I have not worked with this species before and I am trying to understand it better. Thanks and I will be talking with you and Deanna this afternoon on OSF.

V

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Vikki Jackson, PWS, senior ecologist >:;;;-----<

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Web: www.nwecological.com - Check Out Our New Website!

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F, Teal Waterstrat

Fish and Wildlife Biologist
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Vikki Jackson, PWS, senior ecologist >:::;----<

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2 attachments



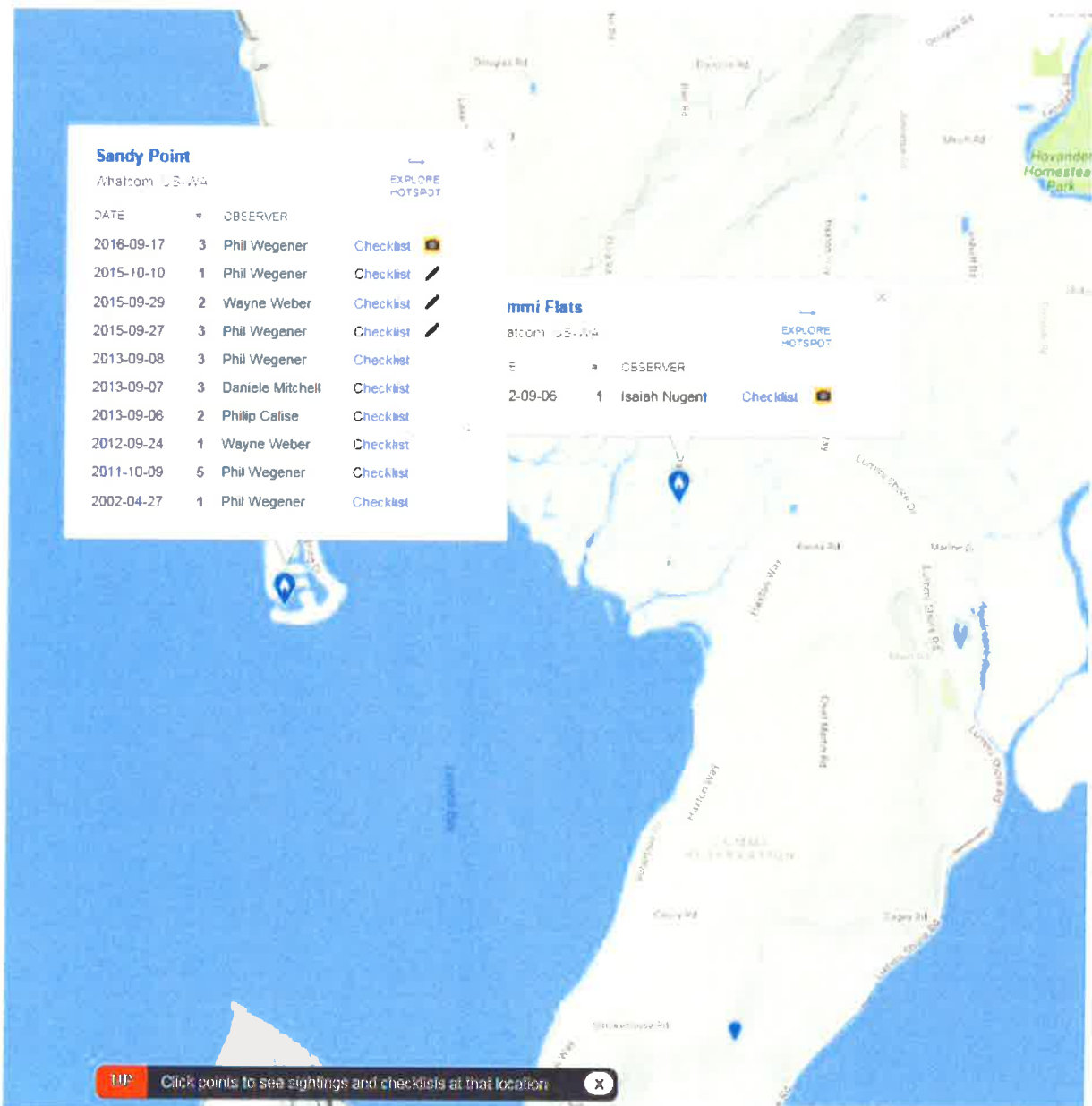
female SHL.jpg
224K



male SHL.jpg
110K

eBird detections of Horned larks at Sandy Point, Washington, accessed April 25, 2017.

USFWS biologist: Lindsey Wright



Location Lummi Flats, Whatcom County, Washington, US [Map](#) [Hotspot](#)

Date and Effort Thu Sep 06, 2012 3:00 PM

Protocol: Traveling
Party Size: 2
Duration: 1 hour(s)
Distance: 0.5 mile(s)
Observers: Isaiah Nugent
Comments: N/A

Species 10 species (+1 other taxa) total

[View Media](#)

- 40 Northern Pintail
- 50 duck sp.
- 3 Horned Grebe
- 25 Double-crested Cormorant
- 4 Great Blue Heron
- 1 Northern Harrier
- 1 Short-billed Dowitcher
- 5 Greater Yellowlegs
- 45 Glaucous-winged Gull
- 4 American Crow
- 1 Horned Lark





Pic on the left is a streaked horned lark, shown to compare with the bird on the right, which was observed at Sandy Point, WA.

Breeding Code F Flyover

3 Horned Lark

not really rare species. multiple reports at high elevation and fairly regular migrant at this location. Photos show variations of facial marking

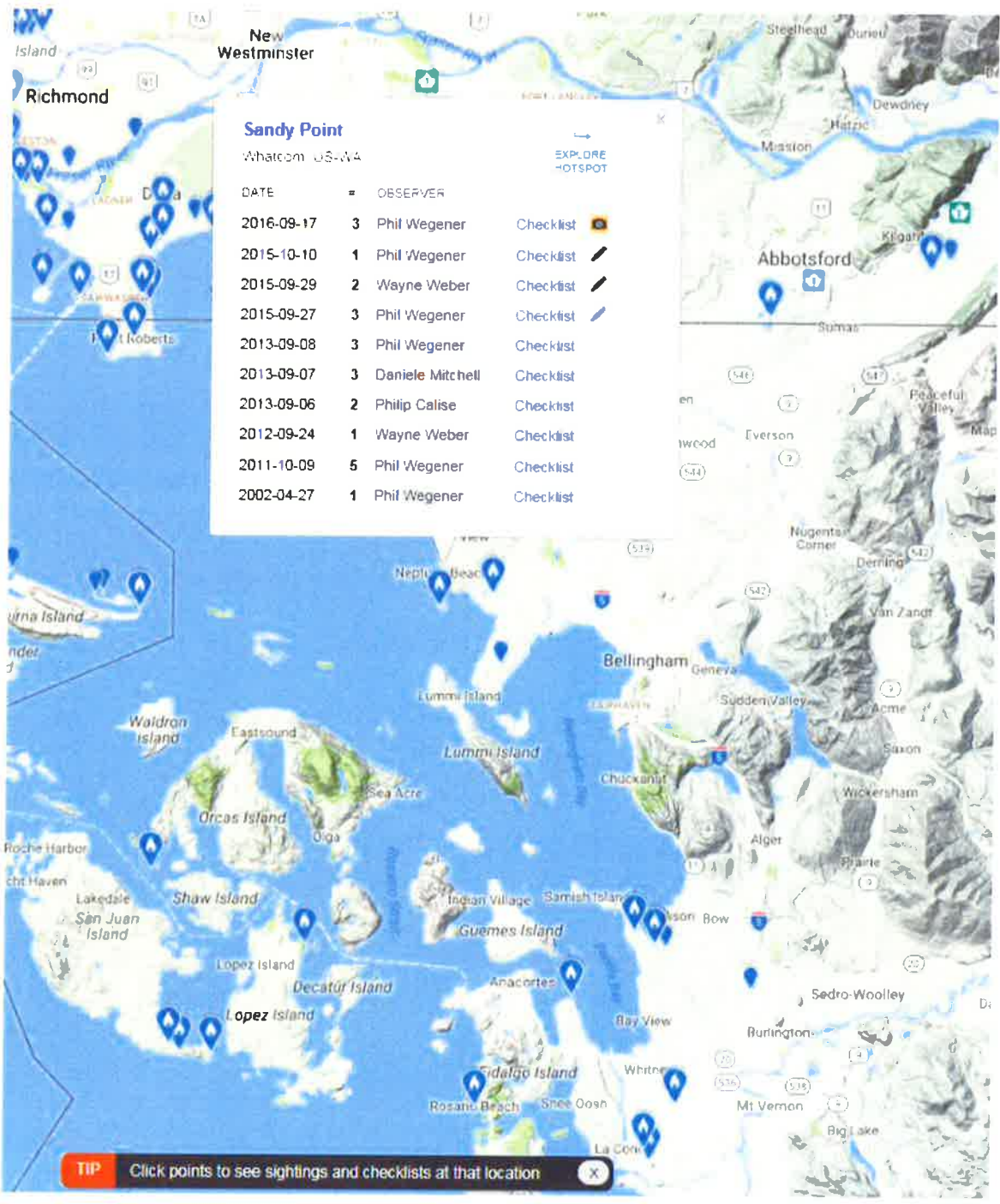


ML35362291

Macaulay Library

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Sandy Point

Whatcom US-W4

DATE	#	OBSERVER	CHECKLIST
2016-09-17	3	Phil Wegener	Checklist
2015-10-10	1	Phil Wegener	Checklist
2015-09-29	2	Wayne Weber	Checklist
2015-09-27	3	Phil Wegener	Checklist
2013-09-08	3	Phil Wegener	Checklist
2013-09-07	3	Daniele Mitchell	Checklist
2013-09-06	2	Philip Calise	Checklist
2012-09-24	1	Wayne Weber	Checklist
2011-10-09	5	Phil Wegener	Checklist
2002-04-27	1	Phil Wegener	Checklist

TIP Click points to see sightings and checklists at that location