**2020 South Sound Pigeon Guillemot Survey Training Questions**

1. **Do they have predators?**

We have confirmation that peregrine falcons nesting on Ketron Island do prey on PIGUs. We presume that other raptors such as eagles would also prey on PIGUs. One attendee notes that Northern Goshawks prey on them up in Alaska. Corvids, gulls, and raccoons would round out the usual list of suspects.

1. **No other identifiers between male and female say on the water?**

PIGUs are not sexually dimorphic meaning both sexes appear the same.

1. **The video says they lay 2 eggs but more often is it only one?**

A typical brood is 2 eggs

1. **What is the typical breeding season?**

Here in Puget Sound mating occurs in the spring followed by a ~30 day incubation period after which chicks are reared for 4-5 weeks until they are ready to fledge and continue development on the water

1. **What is the conservation status?**

Here in Washington PIGU populations are stable. <https://vitalsigns.pugetsoundinfo.wa.gov/VitalSignIndicator/Detail/3>

1. **Do you normally start in June or is there a delay due to covid?**

We are starting as normal, but with precautions for COVID-19.

1. **Are there suggestions of places to buy binoculars in Thurston county that are open now that we are in phase 2?**

One attendee said that Wild Birds Unlimited in Olympia is open. <https://olympia.wbu.com/> I (Terence) can confirm that Cabela’s is now open as of Monday June 1.

1. **What is the best way to number and label the burrows on a photo? Does NRNC supply photos of the sites?**

Simply draw a circle around the burrow that is active and write the number associated with it. Photos are available upon request in digital or physical format.

1. **Are we assigned the day and timeframe for surveying our location?**

Volunteers are given the freedom to choose the day of the week and time as long as surveys are conducted as close to 1 week apart and no later than 08:00.

1. **Will we be looking for and collecting eggshells this year?**

The graduate student we were assisting has completed her research project and so we will no longer be collecting eggshells. If you find them, you can take photos and send them to us.

1. **What address will we send our map to?**

Physical maps can be mailed to

Terence Lee

Nisqually Reach Nature Center

4949 D’Milluhr Drive NE

Olympia, WA 98516

Digital maps can be emailed to: raelinda.boughton@gmail.com

If you were given a photo print with a sheet protector, you can use a permanent marker to circle the burrow and mark the ID number. Then you can take a photo with your phone and send it to Raelinda.

1. **Was the protocol sheet sent to us by email?**

No, but you can find the most up to date version on our website: <http://nisquallyestuary.org/citizen-science/pigeon-guillemots/volunteer-resources/>

1. **Do we count ledge sitters in the start, middle and end counts?**

When counting PIGUs, we count any on the water, on the beach, or on the bluff, but not the ones in the burrows.

1. **What is the tide website that will be used?**

[www.deepzoom.com](http://www.deepzoom.com) Ask us if you are unsure which tidal station to use or if you need help navigating the website.

1. **Do we need to record how long the visit was and the time they fly out?**

No, but this can be interesting information particularly during the incubation phase.

1. **Having more than 6 burrows active in one week will require two data sheets?**

This is highly unusual, but it is possible at a couple of the larger sites. Yes, you can use a second datasheet.

1. **Could a bird fledge leave the site in-between survey dates and cause fish deliveries to stop?**

PIGUs fledge at night and we would not expect to observe this event. This is why we continue surveying until there have been two consecutive weeks without fish deliveries for the entire site.

1. **Do you still want us to scan or mail a copy of the data sheet?**

Yes we still need scans or hard copies of data sheets sent to us. They are important for data validation. We can’t do it without them. Datasheets can be emailed or snail mailed.