



Smart Growth Report

by Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Early in 2012, I reported on the Transportation for Washington campaign (T4Washington.org) headed by Futurewise and Transportation for Washington. Through the year, the campaign worked steadily to expand its coalition partners, which includes more than 200 public officials and organizations representing the social justice, housing, faith, health, environment, labor and business communities. In Snohomish County those partners include, League of Women Voters, Sustainable Development Task Force, Pilchuck Audubon Society, Snohomish County Transportation Coalition, State Senator Nick Harper, State Representatives Luis Moscoso, Derek Stanford, Marko Lias, Mike Sells, Community Transit and Everett Transit.

Our legislators will find many challenges ahead to pay for all the needs of this state. Education and transportation are both vital components of a healthy Washington and Pilchuck Audubon members need to be engaged and informed about our campaign. T4Washington recently provided their 2013 action plan to newly elected Governor Jay Inslee and to the Chairs of the Transportation Committees. Below are some excerpts from the action plan.

Our transportation system should provide opportunity, not expense, headache and danger. We need safe, efficient roads on which we can rely. For too long, we have focused limited transportation dollars on expanding highways, not preserving our existing system. Now our roads and ferries are in disrepair. Bus service has been slashed by as much as 43% in some communities despite record high ridership. In total, twelve transit agencies have had to reduce service since 2009.

The good news is that by shifting investments toward fixing roads, bridges and ferries, expanding transit service, and making our streets safer, we will not only provide the backbone of a strong economy, we will also put more people to work. National studies find that road repair creates 17% more jobs than new highways, and, even more impressively, both new bicycle and transit infrastructure create 40% more jobs.

(Continued on page 3)

February Program Meeting Friday, February 8, 7 PM *Tracking the Marbled Murrelet with Tom Bloxton*

The Marbled Murrelet is a chunky Pacific seabird that nests high up in large, old trees in coastal forests. Logging and development of forested nesting habitat are considered the greatest threats to this endangered species. Join Wildlife Biologist, Tom Bloxton, to hear about research which monitors murrelet populations at sea and their breeding ecology (via radio-telemetry) in Washington. Tom works with the US Forest Service's PNW Research Station in Olympia. For more information, call 425.252.0926.

**Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett**

Snohomish Conservation District Native Plant Sale

You can be assured of getting the plants you want if you order before February 18 or you can simply come to the plant sale at the Monroe Fairgrounds on March 1, 2 and 3. The prices are reasonable and the plants,

although bare root and small are healthy, hardy and local. If you have never been to the plant sale before and come this year you will never want to miss it again. It is well worth the drive! For more information, go to <http://snohomishcd.org/plant-sale>



In This Issue

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------|-----|
| 2013 Birding..... | 6 | President's Message..... | 2 |
| About..... | 2 | Seed Sale..... | 7 |
| Birding Report.... | 4 | Smart Growth..... | 1,3 |
| Convention..... | 6 | Trip Calendar..... | 8 |
| GBBC..... | 8 | Trip Report..... | 5 |
| Guest Article..... | 6 | | |

President's Message

by Kathleen Snyder, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

I have been blessed beyond belief to once again introduce you to a new Pilchuck board member. **Paulette Hunter** lives in Mukilteo and is a retired elementary school principal. She has been involved with the Monroe Swifts after-school clubs. Also, she has previously served on the board of Seattle Audubon as their education chair. Paulette will become a board member-at-large and all of us on the board look forward to working with her and utilizing her passion and knowledge of children, education and conservation.

Pilchuck Audubon also has a new Avian Projects. Members include Joan Poor (PAS board member), Alan Mearns (NOAA scientist and backyard birding expert), Terri Wentworth-Davis (biologist for Snohomish Co Public Works) and Kraig Hansen (Chief Naturalist for Everett Parks). Their first project is to decide how PAS will use money bequeathed to us by Elwin Anderson. We have received \$3300 so far and expect about \$16,000 more over the next ten years.

The money is to be used to "benefit the birds of Everett" and ideas the group has come up with so far include placement of purple martin gourds, improvements on Spencer Island, and supporting our nesting Caspian Tern population. If you have ideas to offer, please email them to birdinfo@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Another Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has come and gone and I am very impressed with our turnout this year. PAS sponsors two circles, Everett and Edmonds. The Everett count, organized by Scott Atkinson, involved 60 people who counted over 30,000 birds of 132 species. The Edmonds count, organized by Duane Karna, had 75 people counting almost 43,000 birds of 123 species. Thank you everyone, especially Scott and Duane, for your dedication to our birds and your contributions to this oldest citizen science project.

**WANTED:
EXPERIENCED BACKYARD
BIRDERS**



Pilchuck Audubon is exploring the idea of providing mentors to beginning backyard bird enthusiasts. If you have some time and energy to volunteer towards this project, please contact Alan Mearns at birdinfo@pilchuckaudubon.org.

A short training session will be planned to acquaint our mentors with the program and other valuable resources.

About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon *Profile*, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society, is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to

encourage the involvement of our members in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles to newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290-1742.

Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

The monthly *Profile* is available online at www.pilchuckaudubon.org

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(Continued from page 1)

Other Key Findings

- From 2001 to 2009, young people between the ages of 16-34 drove less, cutting miles driven by 23%.
- AARP estimates that 1 in 5 people age 65+ do not drive and more than 50% of these non-drivers stay home due to lack of transportation options.
- Fixing a road that is worn out can cost three times as much as properly maintaining it.
- Less than 2% of the state's \$9.8 billion transportation budget is allocated to keeping buses and trains running.
- 13% of all trips and 10% of all miles traveled are made by bicycle or on foot; bicycle and pedestrian projects, however, get less than 1% of the state's transportation budget.
- In Seattle, a household can save an estimated \$11,622 each year by riding transit instead of driving.
- Transportation accounts for more than half our state's greenhouse gas emissions.

Solutions

Fix It First

- Prioritize new highway investments to fix bridges and roads, and maintain our ferry system.
- Increase direct state investments and authorize new local funding tools to enable local governments to repair, maintain, and improve local roads, traffic signals, and facilities for safe biking and walking.
- Adopt a Fix It First policy to guide state investments and federal fund allocation.
- Invest in road projects that will increase the movement of people and goods, create jobs, and improve the health, safety and sustainability of our communities.
- Have realistic financing plans that are fiscally responsible.

More Transit

- Increase direct state funding for transit and intercity rail operations from diversified revenue sources.
- Invest in transit improvements to accommodate anticipated population growth.
- Authorize a diverse menu of additional local and regional revenue options including a local option motor vehicle excise tax (MVET).

Build Great, Healthy Communities

- Provide grants to local governments to implement Complete Streets, Safe Routes to Schools, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Establish an Equitable Transit Communities grant program to promote affordable housing near high-capacity transit stations.

- Invest in clean water infrastructure to reduce polluted stormwater runoff.
- Create a Deputy Secretary for Sustainable Communities to ensure that policies to improve transportation, housing, health and environment are coordinated throughout state government.
- Adopt a plan to ensure that the transportation system meets the state's greenhouse gas emission limits.

Revenue Sources

- Our state needs multiple revenue streams implement this action plan. Transportation for Washington supports the following guidelines:
- Every option should be on the table but the legislature should prioritize sources that are stable and fair.
- No one mode of transportation should be solely funded by any one tax or fee.
- The legislature must consider public support to guide decisions on revenue as the voters will likely have the final say.
- The Connecting Washington Taskforce identified these funding options:
 - State Level—increased passenger and commercial weight fees, gas tax for movement of people and goods, tolling, barrel tax, hazardous substance tax, road user charge, emissions tax.
 - Local Options—motor vehicle excise tax (MVET), fuel tax, property tax, tolling, parking fee or levy, car insurance surcharge, congestion reduction charge.
 - Additional Options—carbon tax, tire and battery fees, rental car tax, hotel/motel tax, transportation utility fees, elimination of the exemptions on gas sales and use taxes.



Washington only works state when all people have an equal opportunity to get to where they need to go. But too many neighborhoods lack safe streets and sidewalks for us to get around safely. And despite record ridership, transit agencies are having to cut bus service.

We can't just expect state legislators to do the right thing. Hundreds of us need to make it clear: unsafe streets and more service cuts are unacceptable. We need real funding options. That's why we need you to come to Transportation Advocacy Day in Olympia.

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

United Churches of Olympia

Capital Way S & 11 Ave SE

Register for free at <http://t4washington.org/2013-Transportation-Advocacy-Day/>

Backyard Birding Highlights

by **Mara Price**, *Sightings Coordinator*

November 26, 2012 - December 25, 2012

After a year of reporting from Forest Park in Everett, **John Davis** will now be volunteering for the Forester of Everett Parks Project. This will be his last report on the bird species spotted on his walks through the park. His total species count of 35 included 48 American Robins, 2 Brown Creepers, a Fox Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron overhead, 5 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, 2 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, a Hutton's Vireo, a Merlin harassing a crow, 4 Northern Flickers, 5 Pacific Wrens, over 100 Pine Siskin in the trees, 12 Red Crossbills, 5 Song Sparrows and 7 Varied Thrush. I will miss his reports and hope that he will resume them some day.

Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins topped **Carole and Larry Beason's** report this month. They reported 30 Evening Grosbeaks and 100+ Pine Siskins from their home on Lake Bosworth. They also reported 18 Bufflehead and 5 Common Mergansers on the lake. Their total species count of 34 also included 50+ American Crows flying over, 2 Canada Goose, 24 Dark-Eyed Junco, a Hutton's Vireo, 41 Mallard flying over the lake, 3 Purple Finch at the feeders, 9 Lesser Scaup on the lake, 7 Song Sparrows, 14 Spotted Towhee, 4 Varied Thrush and a Great Horned Owl.

Reporting from Brier, **Gail Dibernardo** listed 21 species. Her total count included a Bewick's Wren, 2 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 12 Dark-Eyed Junco, 20+ Pine Siskin, 10 American Robins in her yard, 5 Spotted Towhee, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers at the feeders, 6 Steller's Jays, 6 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees and 25 Band-Tailed Pigeons at the feeders. What a sight that must have been.

More Pine Siskins and Dark-Eyed Juncos at **Hilkka Egtvedt's** home in Mukilteo. Her report included 17 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 23 Dark-Eyed Junco, 50+ Pine Siskin, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 12 Bushtit, 3 California Quail, 3 Fox Sparrows, 4 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 5 Steller's Jays, a

Townsend's Warbler and a Varied Thrush for a total species count of 27.



Mourning Dove by Dick Daniels



Hutton's Vireo by Minette Layne



Bufflehead by Dick Daniels

There are a lot of Chickadees and European Starlings at **Kriss Erickson's** place in Everett. She reported 17 Black-Capped Chickadees and 11 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees at the feeders. Her total species count of 18 also included 72 European Starlings in her yard, also 4 Hermit Thrush, a Bewick's Wren, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 16 Bushtit, 13 Western Gulls, 4 American Goldfinch, 7 American Robins and 23 Dark-Eyed Junco.

A Cooper's Hawk has been busy at **Julie O'Donald's** home in Brier. It took one of the Band-Tailed Pigeons from her yard. She reported 7 Band-Tailed Pigeons in the yard along with 3 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 4 Northern Flickers at the suet, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 2 Steller's Jays, a Varied Thrush, a Black-Throated Gray Warbler at the stream, a Barred Owl and 40 American Crows flying over for a total species count of 21.

Mary Sinker's yard in Stanwood was very busy again with 63 Dark-Eyed Junco, 14 Steller's Jays, 11 Black-Capped Chickadees, 12 American Robins, 17 Mourning Doves, 2 Bald Eagles, 8 Kinglet Species, 5 Evening Grosbeaks, 5 Bushtit, 11 Pine Siskin, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 4 Pacific Wren and 4 Varied Thrush for a total species count of 28.

My little California Quail is hanging in there. He has been all alone since he lost his mate earlier in the year. My total species count of 25 from Marysville also included 20+ American Crows, 16 Dark-Eyed Junco, 4 Downy Woodpeckers, a Common Raven, 4 Brewer's Blackbirds along I-5, 15 Pine Siskin at the feeders, 2 Mourning Doves, a Red-Tailed Hawk, a Merlin on the wires near the fields, 20+ American Widgeon and 120+ Western Gulls in the flooded fields, 8 Ring-Necked Ducks at the pond and a Red-Crossbill at the feeder.

Weekend Trip Report

Parks and Wetlands of the King-Snohomish County Line

by Terry Nightingale

On Saturday, January 5, eight birders defied the foul weather predictions and tried our luck at birding a few of the hotspots near the King-Snohomish county line. Surprising for this region, there was scarcely any traffic on I-5 as we journeyed south from Everett. Our first stop was Terrace Creek Park in Mountlake Terrace.

We started at the south end of the park, which features a children's playground and a picnic structure. Immediately upon getting out of the cars, we started hearing familiar forest birds. A group of about twenty **Pine Siskin** flew above us and landed high up in the nearby trees. **Black-capped Chickadees** were calling nearby, and we heard the cackle of a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**. Heading north past the grassy fields, the park's main trail next moves into a long and skinny stretch of woods. Here we got nice close-up views of the **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, as well as **Golden-crowned Kinglets**. No binoculars required! Just as we started to wonder, "Where are all the woodpeckers?" the locals introduced themselves—first a **Pileated Woodpecker** called from high up, giving us nice binocular views, and then a **Downy Woodpecker** made its "peep" calls from a snag a bit deeper in the forest. One of our birders with sharp eyes spotted a **Brown Creeper** making his way up a tree trunk, and we had nice views of a flock of **Varied Thrush** near the trail. If you visit the park, be aware that it also serves as a disc golf course. Toward the end of our visit, we encountered several golfers, who were all friendly and courteous, but you'll see more birds early in the morning when disc golf is not yet in progress.

Having seen a good number of birds and only having gotten rained on a little, we set off next for Log Boom Park in Kenmore. This is a small park on the shores of Lake Washington, tucked between Bothell Way and the lake. It also happens to be on the Burke-Gilman Trail. The primary feature of the park that we were interested in was the lengthy pier that leads out into the lake, giving us a wide panorama of waterfowl. Alongside **Mallards** and **Gadwall** were **Ring-necked Ducks**, **Common Mergansers**, **Hooded Mergansers**, **Bufflehead**, **Double-crested Cormorants**, and a group of 150 **American Coots**. The highlight, at least for me, was a group of twenty-seven **Canvasback**. I've only seen this species a few times before, and never before on Lake Washington.

Less than a mile away is another of Kenmore's parks, Wallace Swamp Creek Park, which was our next destination. Most of us were hankering for lunch, so we barely scratched the surface of exploring this park, sticking to its main, paved trail. This was also the time of day when the birds tend to go quiet, so we didn't see or hear much. The most exciting find was a male **Anna's Hummingbird**

who was perched in a small tree near us. We got a nice look at his beautiful green color, and one birder saw his gorget light up in brilliant magenta when the light caught it just right.

While walking back toward the cars, we came across two friendly ladies walking their Corgies, who told us about the "bird lady" who regularly birds the park, and who had led the local Christmas count of the area a few weeks before. Now that we know which trails to follow, we can return and look for the owls. These ladies reported having seen baby owlets, which is quite intriguing indeed!

After a relaxing lunch at Third Place Commons in Lake Forest Park, four of us decided to venture to one more birding spot, the North Creek Wetlands. True to the theme for the day, this office park and mitigation wetland literally straddles the county line in Bothell, adjacent to I-405. The first observation of note was a pair of **Bald Eagles**, looking quite majestic perched high in the trees. Could they be preying on the waterfowl in the ponds below? In addition to our waterfowl from earlier in the day, we added **Green-winged Teal** and **Common Goldeneye**. Thanks to Jonathan's tutelage, we can now better identify female goldeneyes, even when males are nowhere in sight!

By far the highlights of this leg of our journey were the two secretive birds that one of our sharp-eyed birders found. The first was a **Virginia Rail**, who walked out in plain sight for a few minutes before disappearing into the tall reeds near one of the park's ponds. The other was a **Wilson's Snipe**, hiding in the shadows under a Douglas fir tree.

Finding these elusive species was a fine way to wrap up another excellent day of birding! To see a few photos from the trip, go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/67331192@N04/>.



Common Goldeneye by Dick Daniels

Light Pollution Helps Shorebirds Forage at Night

by Roberta Kwok

Bright lights from cities and factories can blot out our view of the stars and disorient some animals. But scientists have found at least one benefit to the constant glare: it helps shorebirds forage more efficiently at night. The team studied the common redshank, a shorebird that hunts for food in intertidal areas. The birds search visually for their prey during the day. But when night falls, they have to rely on their sense of touch instead, dragging their bills through the mud till they bump into their next snack.

The researchers attached transmitters to 20 redshanks and let the birds loose at an estuary in Scotland. The transmitters emitted pulses at different rates depending on the bird's posture. Since touch-based foraging requires the bird to keep its head down as it sweeps its bill along the ground, the researchers could use the transmitter pulse rate to figure out each animal's foraging technique.

During the night, the redshanks spent more time foraging in parts of their habitat with more light, the study authors report in the *Journal of Animal Ecology*. Four birds, which stayed near a brightly-lit petrochemical complex and bridge, showed similar transmitter pulse rates during the day and night, suggesting they were sticking to visual foraging the entire time. In contrast, other birds' transmitter pulse rates increased at night, probably because they were foraging by touch instead.

The light from the estuary's industrial site "created, in effect, a perpetual full moon across the local inter-tidal area," the team writes. Since visual foraging is more effective than touch-based foraging, the artificial light is probably helping the birds nab bigger meals at night.

Source: Dwyer, R.G. et al. 2012. Shedding light on light: benefits of anthropogenic illumination to a nocturnally foraging shorebird. *Journal of Animal Ecology* doi: 10.1111/1365-2656.12012.

For more articles from freelance science writer, Robert Kwok, please visit <http://www.robertakwok.com>.



Common Redshanks by Nur Hussein



Audubon Convention 2013 Taking Flight Together Save the Dates: July 12-15, 2013

Join Audubon's amazing network of dedicated leaders to celebrate One Audubon! Recognize our history of achievement as we launch into an exciting and challenging future. Unite around flyways for hemispheric impact. Turn passion into action!

The convention will be held at the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington. Conveniently located 45 minutes from Portland International airport and in the heart of the spectacular Columbia Gorge.

Expect four full days of exciting field trips, inspiring speakers, in-depth hands-on workshops, and tens of program options highlighting strategic conservation successes from the four flyways.

To receive email alerts when the Convention Web site launches and when registration opens, send an email to convention@audubon.org titled "Convention Alerts" and include your email address, first and last name in the body of the message. For more information about the convention, go to <http://www.audubon.org/2013convention>.

2013 Birding Adventures

by Susie Schaefer, Vice President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

It's only February, but I'm already looking ahead to spring and summer birding! I'm tentatively planning two trips to explore the other side of Washington:

Klickitat County, May 18-20
Ferry County, June 6-10

These birding adventure trips are open to all and offer an opportunity to see birds we don't usually see in Snohomish County. On past trips, we've had fun looking at wildflowers and mammals too. Trips are limited to 12 people and only three cars and reservations are on a first sign up basis.

Look for the updates on the plans for these trips in the March *Profile*. Email Susie for more information garden@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Eight Annual
PORT SUSAN
Snow Goose & Birding Festival

February 23-24, 2013 • Sat. 9-4 & Sun. 12-4

You are invited to help us celebrate the designation of the Skagit/Stillaguamish Delta as a Site of Regional Importance in the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network (WSHRN).

Feb. 23rd, 2013 from 4:30 to 8:00 PM
Four Springs Lake Preserve on Camano Island

Join us for this fun and informative event that will include food, art show, prizes, and silent auction. Special speakers include an award ceremony address by Charles Duncan, the Executive Director of WSHRN, and a keynote address by Dr. Rob Butler, a world-renowned expert on shorebird conservation.

Tickets are \$17.

Tickets include hors d'oeuvres and your choice of one complimentary glass of wine or beer. Coffee, tea, and water will also be available.

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Charles Duncan: "Conserving Shorebirds at a Grand Scale"
Shorebird numbers are dropping quickly, with some species projected to go extinct within our lifetime. Charles will discuss the WSHRN program and why protecting these birds is an important international conservation priority that requires proactive and coordinated efforts within each of the countries these birds fly through.

Dr. Rob Butler: "Birds of the Wind"
"Birds on the Wind" is a story of scientific discovery of the migration of the western sandpiper, from its tropical winter home to the tundra breeding grounds. The story of the migration of 3 million tiny sandpipers will make you look at birds in a new way and the scientific discovery will entertain and surprise.

For more information and to purchase your ticket, go to the Snow Goose Art and Birding Festival website: www.snowgoosefest.org.

Tickets are limited. Catered by Cama Beach Cafe
Transportation available from Stanwood to Four Springs.



Acrylic Painting by Bev Paulson

Director of WSHRN, will travel from Maine to talk about how the WSHRN program is conserving shorebirds across the Americas. Dr. Rob Butler, a world-renowned expert on shorebirds and President of the Pacific Wildlife Foundation in Vancouver, BC, will weave an enchanting story detailing the scientific discovery of the migration of the western sandpiper.

This event is part of the Snow Goose Art and Birding Festival, which has embraced shorebirds as a central theme. We encourage you to check out the festival, which will include activities, a shorebird ID class, vendors, speakers, and tours for all ages, so consider spending the day. For more information about the event and to purchase a ticket to the WSHRN celebration, go to <http://www.snowgoosefest.org/>. Tickets are limited, so sign up soon.

Bird Seed Sale, In Time for Spring Migration



During the cold weather, the birds flocked to feeders and consumed a prodigious amount of seed. Is your seed supply depleted? Then mark your calendar for the next PAS birdseed sale, Saturday, March 2. Be ready for the spring migrants!

For a price list and to order birdseed and suet, contact Carolyn Lacy at carolynlacy137@frontier.com or 206.245.5836. Orders must be placed by Sunday, February 24. Pick up orders between 10 AM and noon on Saturday, March 2, at Bering Sea Fisheries, 3862 Railway Avenue, Everett. Jay Ward and other volunteers will be on hand to collect payment and help load the seed.

Bering Sea Fisheries is located on the Snohomish River, east of I-5. From I-5 northbound, take exit 193 (Pacific Avenue) and head north on Walnut Street to Hewitt. Turn right onto Hewitt Avenue. Hewitt becomes Highland Drive. After about a mile, turn right onto California Street. California becomes Railway Avenue. Bering Sea Fisheries is ahead on the right.

From I-5 southbound, take exit 194 (Everett Avenue). At Everett Avenue, turn left. Follow Everett Avenue to Harrison Avenue and turn right. At Railway Avenue, turn left. Bering Sea Fisheries is ahead on the right.

If you'd prefer to pick up your seed in Edmonds, let Carolyn know when you place your order. You'll need to arrange a pickup time with Joan Poor, 425.771.5581 or paperboats@aol.com.

Please remember: the price of seed fluctuates. So, the price the day you pick it up might be slightly different from what you were told when the order was placed.

For the last 4 years, Pilchuck Audubon Society has been helping to document the importance of the Skagit/Stillaguamish Delta to shorebirds. These efforts were rewarded in August 2012 when this remarkable area was accepted into the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network (WSHRN) as a Site of Regional Importance. The Skagit / Stillaguamish Delta joins 86 other sites in the network. Sites are found in 13 countries, spanning from the northern tip of North America to the southern tip of South America.

We will celebrate this exceptional recognition on the evening of Feb 23 at the Four Springs House on Camano Island from 4:30 – 8:00 PM. This project has touched many volunteers, property owners, and members of the birding community. The event provides an opportunity to extend our appreciation and gratitude to the volunteers and landowners that made this recognition possible, including those from Pilchuck Audubon. Furthermore, it is an opportunity to raise awareness in the community about the value of shorebirds and the importance of this site to all birds.

We are delighted to invite all PAS members to attend this fun-filled and informative event. In addition to food, drink, art show, and raffle and prizes, we are honored to be entertained by two exceptional speakers, both renowned shorebird experts. Dr. Charles Duncan, the Executive

Trip Calendar

Check our calendar at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information

Tuesday, Feb 5 **Snohomish City and Outskirts**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Snohomish Park & Ride, located at the junction of Highway 9 and Bickford Ave. Enjoyable and relaxed trip. We usually have high species counts and surprises. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181,
Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, Feb 12 **Port Gamble to Port Townsend**

Meet at 7:20 AM at the Edmonds Willow Creek Hatchery, 95 Pine St., Edmonds. Pine Street crosses Edmonds Way (State Route 104) in downtown Edmonds (Turn West off 104 to Pine Street). We'll take the ferry to Kingston, go through Port Gamble and across the floating bridge. On the way we'll visit Marrowstone Island and Indian Island with. Previous year's trips have been memorable and rewarding. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sunday, Feb 17 **Seattle**

In conjunction with the Great Backyard Bird Count, we will be visiting the Montlake Fill (Union Bay Natural Area) and University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture. Over 200 bird species use these locations' wetlands, exotic gardens, and shoreline. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Everett Mall

in back by the transit center and LA Fitness. Bring your binoculars, water, snacks, good hiking boots, foul weather gear, and gas money for those who wish to carpool. We'll probably visit a local cafe afterwards for a little socializing over a late luncheon.

Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Tuesday, Feb 19 **Fir Island**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect almost anything, Golden Eagle, Northern Shrike, Tundra Swans, Merlin, etc. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, Feb 26 **Serpentine Fen and Blackie Spit**

Meet at 7:00 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds, and scenery, and to do some walking. This is a trip to Canada so bring your US Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Pilchuck Audubon Society Membership Information

Support your local Audubon chapter by becoming a member. PAS dues are tax deductible (consult your tax professional for details). The PAS tax ID number is 91-6183664.

- New Member..... \$28
- Renewal..... \$28
- Lifetime Member..... \$1,000
 - 10 monthly payments of \$100
 - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
 - 1 payment of \$1,000
- Donation \$ _____

Make checks payable to
Pilchuck Audubon Society
Mail to PAS
1429 Avenue D PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____



Don't forget about the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 15 – 18 this year. This is an important event and everyone can participate. Find online instructions at www.birdsource.org. All you need to do is record the birds you see anytime during these four days. We usually have a good showing from Snohomish County and Camano Island and we want to continue to have that kind of data. Most of all it is fun for all ages and is a good way to get more familiar with our own backyard birds. Once again this year, our own Alan Mearns will provide a beginners training session.

Training Session Information

Saturday, February 9
Edmonds Wildlife Habitat Native Plant Demonstration Garden
95 Pine Street, Edmonds
10 – 12 AM
Meet at the Edmonds Willow Creek hatchery building

Donate / Join / Renew online:
<https://www.chi-cash-advance.com/sforms/appeal1038/Contribute.aspx>