



Welcome Back Swans

According to past records, our native swans, Trumpeter and Tundra, should be arriving back in Snohomish and Skagit fields in late October and staying through the end of March to early April. Tundra Swans arrive earlier than Trumpeters often by a few weeks. The largest concentrations of Trumpeter Swans in the lower 48 states are found in the Skagit Valley (8,400). The number found in Snohomish County has been increasing steadily over the past few years (1,200). They are North America's largest waterfowl and among its rarest native birds. To many, they are the embodiment of grace and beauty.

Here are some facts about Trumpeter Swans.
Measurements: length 54–62 in., wingspan 84–96 in., and weight 21–30 lbs. The Trumpeter Swan was hunted for its feathers from the 1600s into the early 1900s, causing extirpation from all but a small geographic area in Montana in the lower 48 states. Its large primary flight feathers were considered to be the best quality quill pens. Wild Trumpeter Swans have been known to live longer than 24 years. One recent banding record from the Rocky Mountain population of a wild Trumpeter Swan was a 38 year old bird. Trumpeter Swans form pair bonds when they are three or four years old and the pair stays together throughout the year, including migration and wintering. Trumpeters are known to mate for life but some individuals do switch mates and will find a new mate if one of the pair dies.

According to the Trumpeter Swan Society, the greatest threats to these gorgeous birds are lead poisoning, power line collisions, illegal shooting, wetland and agricultural habitat loss, climate change, disease, and human disturbance during nesting and wintering periods. This last threat is the purpose of this article. Pilchuck members are very concerned about the preservation of individual birds, bird species, and wildlife habitat. Sometimes we must educate our fellow wildlife watchers in order to benefit the creatures who captivate us. Trumpeter Swans are among those species which elicit much admiration and interest from the general public (Snowy Owls as well). If you have been on Fir Island when the swans and Snow Geese are in residence, you have seen what can happen. Cars pull off the road en masse and people, especially

(Continued on page 7)

October Program Meeting Friday, October 11, 7 PM

Loons of the Salish Sea *with Steve and Martha Ellis*

Four species of loons grace our local waters. This program will focus on identifying these fascinating and compelling birds and how they go about the business of fishing for a living. Presenters are Coupeville residents Steve and Martha Ellis. Steve is immediate past president of Whidbey Audubon Society and Martha is a member of the Washington Native Plant Society. Together they have been leading field trips and giving talks on a wide range of natural history topics for 25 years. For more information, leave a message at 425.252.0926.

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

WANTED Secretary

Your dynamic board is in need of a secretary to finish the term of office ending April 2014. It involves attending board meetings on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

Need to be able to take notes, compile the minutes and distribute via email. Involves about four hours per month.

Call Kathleen at 425.438.1505 if interested.

In This Issue

About	2	Festival Recap	5
Birding Report	8	President's Message.....	2
Conservation	6	Trip Calendar.....	3
Demo Garden	7	Upcoming Events	4
Featured Article.....	1,7		

President's Message

Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon Society President



Once in awhile, Pilchuck Audubon gets some very great news. Last May was such an occasion. Mixed in with our regular mail was a letter from a Marysville lawyer. It seemed that a wonderful individual had bequeathed PAS \$100,000 in his will. Hearing this was both shocking and elating! Probate took some months but we now have deposited this gift into a restricted fund designated for special projects.

Robert Royce is our benefactor. He lived on four acres on Quil Ceda Creek in the Tulalip area. He retired from a career in the Navy and served in four wars. After the Navy, he worked for Boeing and as a house inspector. His passion was feeding his backyard birds. Even when health and personal issues prevented him from doing much else, he always attended to his many bird feeders daily. We are honored and privileged to be the recipient of Mr. Royce's legacy and are very appreciative of his executor, Edward (Rusty) Roylance, for all his help as well.

This windfall will not be used for the day-to-day expenses of our organization. The money will be kept separate from our regular account and used solely for projects which go above and beyond what we are currently doing. We will be exploring ways to benefit birds and their habitats, possibly focusing on education

and outreach as well as promoting backyard wildlife habitat. We would also like to dedicate a memorial bench for Mr. Royce, probably somewhere on or near Spencer Island.

Be sure to check "Flights of Fancy" on our website, www.pilchuckaudubon.org. This month we have a new piece in "Close Encounters of the Bird Kind" which is an amusing self-test for birders. Photographs from Jack Meyer will be posted for another month in the Gallery.

New Field Trip Report Posted Online

Jonathan Blubaugh, one of our field trip leaders, submitted an exciting article recounting his recent trips available at www.pilchuckaudubon.org. Highlights included seeing a flock of Red-necked Phalaropes on a boat ride and witnessing a male Anna's Hummingbird's diving display. Check out these memorable trip reports!

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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Trip Calendar

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

Tuesday, October 1 **Smith and Spencer Islands**

Meet at 8 AM at Langus Riverfront Park in Everett. Go north on SR529 (Broadway) over the Snohomish River; turn right onto 28th Place NE. Follow signs to Langus Waterfront Park then continue past the park to a parking lot that is past the left curve in the road (under I-5 and just past the shell house and Everett Animal Shelter). We should see lots of waterfowl and raptors. We will walk the Langus Riverfront Trail and Spencer Island. Pack a Lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750,
Art Wait 360.563.0181

Tuesday, October 8 **Point No Point**

Meet at 7:20 AM at the Edmonds Wade James Theater Parking Lot. The theater's address is 950 Main Street, Edmonds, 98020, just east of 9th Avenue on the South side of Main Street. We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point, and Foulweather Bluff. Always lots of surprises, both in the air and on the water. Pack a lunch

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, October 15 **Silvana Roads**

Meet at 8 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. Last year, we had several Northern shrikes, a Pectoral and a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and three falcon species. If time allows, we may visit the Port Susan Nature Conservancy site. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Saturday, October 20 **Mount Rainier National Park, Old Mine Trail**

No Weekend Bird Walk season is complete without a trip to Mount Rainier National Park. It's why we live here. In 2006, the Carbon River entrance road was damaged and closed by flooding. Now it is used for hiking and biking. The total trip out and back will be just short of three miles. The easy walk takes us a little over a mile along the

old road, then a quarter mile up a steeper spur trail to the old mine site. Meet at 8 AM at Everett Mall. Park in the back near L.A. Fitness and the Everett Transit Center facility. Bring munchies for the trail, water, sun screen, hat, good walking shoes, foul weather gear, and binoculars, if you have them. Afterwards we might gather for a little socializing over a late lunch on the way home.

Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633,
aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, October 22 **Serpentine Fen and Blackie Spit**

Meet at 7 AM at the Quilceda Village Walmart 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

Saturday, October 26 **Annual Mushroom Hike**

Meet at the Sultan Park and Ride at 9 AM to carpool to Wallace Falls State Park. Call or email Kathy to reserve your place on this hike, limited to 12 participants. This is an all-day hike with expert mycologist and pharmacist, Greg Hovander. We'll proceed at a leisurely pace at first, as Greg expounds on the fungi we find. Those who desire can complete the hike to the series of waterfalls, 5.5 miles round trip. Others may return at their own pace.

Washington State Discover Pass required to park at trailhead. Location details can be found at <http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/wallace-falls>

Trip Leader: Kathy Johnson 360.659.7252,
forest@pilchuckaudubon.org

Tuesday, October 29 **Southern Whidbey Island**

Meet at 7:15 AM at the Eastmont Park and Ride, I-5 exit 189, east side, aiming for the 8:00 AM ferry from Mukilteo. Lots of waterfall and shorebirds. Crockett Lake is exciting and the scenery is gorgeous. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes 360.629.2028

Learn Bird Sounds with Larkwire!

Ever wish you knew how to identify birds by ear? It's one of the most essential birding skills, but one of the hardest to learn. Some folks from Seattle's Audubon chapter set out to make learning bird sounds truly accessible to everyone.

Larkwire is a game-based learning system that uses cognitive techniques to make it easier to learn and remember bird sounds. Combining quiz games, an extensive sound library, and tips from renowned birdsong

expert Michael O'Brien, Larkwire makes the learning process not only much easier but fun. Customizable levels from beginner to advanced invite both the backyard birder and the serious student to play and learn.

What's better is that a minimum of ten percent of all proceeds go to support conservation. Pilchuck Audubon has joined their affiliate program; enter our code when you purchase and we'll receive 20% of the purchase price! Our code: PILAUD

For more info, visit: www.larkwire.com.

Community Events, Classes and Festivals

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

Ridgefield Bird Fest

October 5–6

Ridgefield

Join the Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge Staff as we celebrate the coming of fall and the wildlife that make the Refuge their home. BirdFest is an opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of fall migration. Most events are free and registration required. Visit <http://ridgefieldfriends.org/> for more information.

Bird Lovers' Brunch

October 13

Tacoma

Enjoy a complimentary brunch and no-host bar and be among the first to purchase select Birds by Toikka created in the Museum of Glass Hot Shop. Artists Arto Lahtinen and Kirsi Antila will be present to sign these one-of-a-kind birds. Cost is \$12. Go to <http://museumofglass.org/> for more information.

Birds at the Burke

October 19

Seattle

Birds at the Burke returns with a rare collection of over 500 separate nests with eggs, part of which will be on display at the Burke's newest annual event – Birds at the Burke. The day will include bird specimen preparation, mist net demonstrations, research tables on Burke Ornithology, sample specimens, and talks on how and why birds sing and fly.

General admission ticket is \$10. For information, visit http://www.burkemuseum.org/events/browse/birds_at_the_burke.

Livable Snohomish County Summit and County Council Candidate Forum

October 12

Everett

This free event will be held at the Everett PUD Building in Everett from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. Activities include have a variety of speakers, presentations, films, free lunch, exhibits and informational tables, networking opportunities, and a County Council candidate forum, all of which will focus on how we can work toward building better urban and rural communities.

RSVPs are encouraged, so we can plan for food for the day. Please RSVP to Kristin Kelly at 425.923.8625 or kristin@futurewise.org.

ABA Birding Rally


October 12–16

San Diego, California

Join the ABA staff and local experts as they explore one of the birdiest cities in the world in search of migrants and regional specialties. In and around San Diego there is an incredibly diverse range of habitats hosting a great variety of birds. Field trips will visit four major areas and those that

opt for the extension will visit the Salton Sea as well, where vast numbers of migrants are encountered including the chance to see the Yellow-footed Gull.


Event cost is \$1195. Visit the ABA's website at <http://events.aba.org/aba-birding-rally-san-diego-ca/> for more information.

 **CASCADIA** 
SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT!

Pilchuck Co-Sponsored Event on October 25!
Every autumn evening at sunset, countless numbers of crows flock to the Cascadia Community College in a nightly ritual befitting the most classic horror films. Join Dr. Eric W. Murray, President, and a special guest speaker for a fascinating, creepy, cool look at Crows and why they make the campus home. Event starts at 6 PM with a light reception at the North Creek Event Center.

RSVP to Mark Collins at foundation@cascadia.edu or 425.352.8840.

COOL FASCINATING CREEPY COOL FASCINATING CREEPY COOL



Pacific Northwest Birds

Hone your bird identification skills as you learn more about the different birds and habitats of the Puget Sound region including raptors, owls, and birds of forests, fields, water, cities, parks and yards. Taught by Candy Brown. Prior attendance in Backyard Birds class recommended. Class dates and times include:

November 7, 7:00–8:30 PM

Offered at the Edmonds Parks Department. To register, please call 425.771.0230.

November 14, 7:00–8:30 PM

Offered at the Marysville Parks Department. To register, call 360.363.8400.

Bird Festivals Recap

By **Susie Schaefer, Program Chair**

September was a busy month for many PAS members with two big bird festivals in Snohomish County. Both the Edmonds Bird Fest and Swift Night Out in Monroe were outstanding.

Bird Fest

The event started off with gusto with a fascinating presentation by Thor Hanson telling all about his book, *Feathers*. What a treat to hear this wonderful presenter! All day Saturday was filled with birds! Thanks to our skilled PAS birding guides, we managed to find and record more species than ever before. The early morning boat cruises escaped the predicted rain and huge flocks of Western Grebes, Wilson's Phalaropes, Heermann's Gulls, Rhino Auklets, Pigeon Guillemots and other sea birds were seen. As always everyone appreciated the hospitality of the boat captains from the Edmonds Yacht Club.

Over a hundred children enjoyed the bird activities for kids. The presentations were all well attended and of high quality (including a presentation by our PAS Vice President **Terry Nightingale** on Birding in the Digital Age). A big thank you to all the PAS members who helped at our PAS table, pointed out birds and answered questions at the Edmonds Marsh, led field trips, and helped out as volunteers behind the scenes!

Swifts Night Out

A week later the weather again cleared for Swifts Night Out and the Vaux's Swifts gave another great show. True to form, PAS members including **Judy Alles** and her Monroe crew produced another smooth running festival for the hundreds of people comfortably sitting on the lawn of the Wagner Center. All those with an appetite enjoyed the wonderful spaghetti dinner skillfully prepared by **Leanne Jacobson**.

We should all be proud that PAS sponsored these two festivals again this year.



A large crowd enjoyed Swifts Night Out hosted by Pilchuck Audubon and other organizations on September 14 at Wagner Center in Monroe.

News from Audubon Washington

The Lake Creek Important Bird Area is a biodiversity corridor following one of the largest remaining patches of shrub-steppe and associated riparian habitat in the eastern Washington Channeled Scablands. The Bureau of Land Management provides public recreation areas and the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area manages for Sharp-tailed Grouse and other shrub-steppe obligate species. Wetland habitat is being improved to better serve as a stop-over for migrating shorebirds and water birds. Lake Creek is recognized as a Greater Sage-grouse habitat concentration area. A five year partnership between the agencies and Spokane Audubon contributed to the increased grouse populations. Lake Creek IBA is on the Great Washington State Birding Trail Palouse to Pines Loop as site #26, Swanson Lakes; and site #27 Telford.

Good News on Two Environmental Issues

In September, a federal district court maintained conservation protections for marbled murrelets. The court rejected the remaining claims in a timber industry lawsuit that sought to expand logging of the seabird's old-growth forest nesting habitat. The lawsuit was the timber industry's fourth attempt in the past decade to eliminate protections for the old-growth forests that marbled murrelets call home, despite undisputed scientific evidence that murrelets are continuing to disappear from the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California.

From The Daily Herald states that economic forces, pollution concerns and competition from cleaner fuels are slowly nudging nations around the globe away from coal. The US has announced new pollution rules that may prohibit the construction of new coal plants. And China, which burns 4 billion tons of coal a year — as much as the rest of the world combined — is taking steps to slow the staggering growth of its coal consumption and may even be approaching a peak. Michael Parker, a commodities analyst at Bernstein Research, calls the shift in China "the beginning of the end of coal." While global coal use is almost certain to grow over the next few years — and remain an important fuel for decades after that — coal may soon begin a long slow decline.

Passionate about the Audubon Society's Policy Work?

Sign up [here](#) to get action alerts sent to your email. You will be automatically matched to your specific federal and state lawmakers and have full access to all of the options at the Audubon Action Center.

Conservation Committee News

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

The Everett public meeting to voice your personal comments on which roads you want to remain open will be at the Everett Firefighters Hall on October 9, 5:30-8:00 PM. It is hosted by PAS and a four-wheel drivers group. This is the last of these meetings to be held. It will no doubt have limited seating due to high turnout. I recommend registering before October 9.

To register for a seat via email, contact:
Contact sustainableroads@gmail.com.

To give input online via an online questionnaire:
Go to <http://mbssustainableroads.com/>. The online questionnaire site closes October 31.

To learn more about the sustainable roads analysis:
Go to <http://www.wta.org/events/mountain-baker-snoqualmie-national-forest-sustainable-roads-analysis>.

Planners expect demand for seating to exceed space available. If you show up without having registered for a seat, there may be no room for you and you may be turned away at the door. So, register as soon as possible!



Snohomish PUD Sunset Falls Hydro Project

PAS submitted a letter to the NW Power and Conservation Council, which has been seeking public comments concerning amendments to its Fish and Wildlife Program. Of special interest to PAS is the Council's Protected Areas designation which keeps about 20% of northwestern rivers free flowing and protected from future hydropower development. PAS asks the current listing of the South Fork Skykomish River to remain free flowing, in light of Snohomish County PUD's proposed Sunset Falls hydro project. Thanks to **Joan Poor** for drafting our letter that was submitted on September 16, 2013!

American Alps Status

Negotiations continue between the American Alps Legacy Project committee and various other groups on possible legislation which could expand the North Cascades

National Park Complex. Focus now is mostly upon discussions with the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe. The Tribe supports the concept and is very committed to protecting tribal treaty rights, according to American Alps Executive Director, Jim Davis. The same can be said of all other tribes with treaty rights pertaining to hunting, fishing and gathering. Discussions between American Alps and the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe will resume this fall.

Sultan Outdoor Recreation Roundtable

This roundtable was hosted by Congresswoman DelBenne at the Sultan City Hall held in September. Invitees included public land management agencies, outdoor recreation industries, conservation groups, and outdoor recreation groups. Elected officials, civic leaders and Chambers of Commerce (mostly from the Highway 2 corridor) attended as well as folks from Sedro Woolley, Darrington, Arlington, Mount Vernon and Concrete. Focus was on bringing together stakeholders with interests in developing and providing outdoor recreation opportunities and to develop strategies for economic revitalization.

It was definitely an opportunity for Pilchuck Audubon Society to develop new partners in support of bird habitat preservation and to explain the importance of birding as a major contributor to the outdoor recreation industry in western Washington.

US House of Representatives Bill to Increase Logging

Washington Congressman Doc Hastings' bill, HR 1526, seeks to significantly reduce application of the NEPA process and Endangered Species Act (ESA) considerations, and to increase logging of national forests managed by the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) forests. The bill passed the House on September 19 and goes to the US Senate, where it will most likely die. The White House earlier said the president would veto the bill if it were to arrive on his desk. National Audubon Society issued an alert to chapter leaders and conservation chairs urging them to contact their congresspersons, asking them to vote against the bill in the House. There was very little turnaround time from the alert to the House vote, but some of the PAS extended board sent letters to their respective congresspersons.

As there are Senate bills which seek some increase in logging of federal lands, NAS and other conservation groups will keep us advised in coming months about the nature of these bills. There is increasing support by some conservation groups for some increased logging but with major caveats. There will be more information about these proposals in coming months, to enable better informed consideration of the various bills.

Swans...

(Continued from page 1)

photographers, can enter private fields to get closer to the birds. This often results in the birds being "flushed" up into the air which does a number of things that harm them. First, they are prevented from feeding or resting. Second, they are required to expend energy that, if undisturbed, they would retain. Third, it increases their chance of collisions with power lines and of contracting stress induced diseases. And fourth, if flushing happens often enough, a particular place could be shunned in the future decreasing available habitat.



Juvenile Trumpeter Swan (Photo by Judy Rowe Taylor)

The Washington Swan Stewards, chaired by our own **Martha Jordan**, offer the following suggestions to view swans and geese. Respectfully share these suggestions with other viewers who may not understand how their actions affect the safety of the birds.

To observe:

- Stay in your car. It is an excellent observation blind.
- Move slowly and quietly. If you do get out of your car, close the door quietly, stay close to the vehicle and use it to conceal your movements when possible.
- Use binoculars and spotting scopes. They allow you to closely see the birds without disturbance.
- Respect private property. Don't trespass in order to get a closer look.
- Park safely. Make sure your vehicle is completely off the road.

To photograph:

- Use your vehicle as a blind. Camera window mounts are available to put on your vehicle.
- Use a telephoto lens which are available to rent as well as purchase.
- Move slowly and quietly if you do get out of your vehicle. Set up your tripod and other gear near your car.
- Do not flush the birds in order to get a "flying" scene. This is stressful for the birds and illegal under federal law.

There are other things you can do to help. Fishing line and smaller lead fishing tackle are fatal to swans and other water birds. Please pick it up and dispose of it safely, wherever and whenever you see it. If you hear or

see shooting at swans, immediately call the Washington state poaching violation hotline at 1.877.933.9847. If you hunt, use only non-toxic shot over wetlands and farm fields. Lead shot kills swans and other birds when they ingest it as grit. If you find an injured or dead swan, please contact Martha at 425.787.0258.

Our November 8 program meeting will feature Mel Walters of Puget Sound Energy (PSE). He heads up the PSE Avian Protection Plan and has worked extensively on preventing swans from colliding with power lines. Please join us to hear about these as well as other efforts that PSE has instituted to protect birds.

Edmonds Wildlife Habitat Native Plant Demonstration Garden

October will be a busy month at the Demo Garden. Since late fall/early winter is the best time to install native plants, there will be a special workshop on the October 12, 10:30 AM–noon. "Trees, Shrubs and Leaves" will be led by our wonderful local experts on native plants, Gary Smith and Nancy Moore. They will give information on selecting the right native plant for the right place and explain the best way to plant them using the Demo Garden. Local artist April Richardson will help children make beautiful leaf prints in the hatchery Education building — a fun and free activity for the whole family.

On October 26, 10 AM–1 PM, there will be a work party to get Phase 2 ready for planting. As always volunteers are needed and welcome. Training will be provided. Planting will be done on November 9.

If you haven't been to the Garden for while, you will find that you can enjoy this garden anytime of the year. Contact Susie Schaefer at garden@pilchuckaudubon.org to learn more about how you can get involved with this exciting Demonstration Garden.



Native plant, Indian Plum, attracts hummingbirds (Photo at thegardenhelper.com)

Backyard Birding Highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

July 26–August 25, 2013

The seasons are getting ready to change again and some of our more colorful feathered friends are heading to warmer climates. I think the male Rufous has already left and the Grosbeaks will follow.

Carole and Larry Beason listed 13 Black-Headed Grosbeaks and 6 Evening Grosbeaks from their home at Lake Bosworth. They also listed a male Rufous Hummingbird and 3 females. Their total species count of 46 also included 4 American Goldfinch, 28 Barn Swallows, 2 Kingfisher, a Black-Throated Grey Warbler, 21 Canada Goose flying over the lake, 2 Cedar Waxwing, a Gray Flycatcher, 3 Hutton's Vireo, a Merlin, an Osprey, 2 Red Crossbill, 2 Swainson's Thrush, 12 Violet Green Swallows, 3 Western Tanager and a Wood Duck.

Six Western Tanagers were spotted by **Gail Dibernardo** in the fruit trees in her yard. She also spotted a Great Blue Heron, 5 White-Breasted Nuthatch, 6 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 4 juvenile Dark-Eyed Junco, 3 American Goldfinch, 10 Bushtit, a Bewick's Wren, a Great-Horned Owl, a Fox Sparrow and 2 Hairy Woodpeckers for a total species count of 18.

Hilkka Egtvedt is the only one of our sighters to list California Quail. All of mine disappeared over a month ago. Hilkka's total species count of 21 from her home in Mukilteo included the 8 California Quail, approximately 300 American Crows flying over, 2 American Goldfinch, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 5 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 6 European Starling, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 6 House Finch, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds and 3 White-Crowned Sparrows.

Kriss Erickson's report from her home in Everett included 16 Bushtit, 2 Northern Flickers, a Bewick's Wren, 2 Spotted Towhee, 6 Steller's Jays, 12 Chickadee species, 7 American Crows, 4 Anna's Hummingbirds, 7 Canada Goose flying over and 2 Western Gulls flying over for a total species count of 11.

Sue Klinker reported 27 Brown Pelicans on the ocean near

Astoria and the Columbia River. Reporting from her home in Snohomish she also listed 7 American Goldfinch, 20+ American Robins, 9 Anna's Hummingbirds, a Barn Owl, 12 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 3 Downey Woodpeckers, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 7 Northern Flickers, 4 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 11 Spotted Towhee, 5 Steller's Jay and a Wilson Warbler (a lifer for her) for a total species count of 21.



Cedar Waxwing (Photo by Manjith Kainickara, Flickr Creative Commons)

Another Wilson's Warbler spotted at **June O'Donald's** home in Brier. She also reported 2 Merlin in the tall trees, an Osprey flying over, 3 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 3 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 2 Bewick's Wren, 20 Bushtit, 4 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 2 Cooper's Hawks in the trees and Greenbelt, 4 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, 2 Song Sparrows and 2 Steller's Jays for a total species count of 22.



Female Rufous hummingbird (Photo by Jack Meyers)

Mary Sinker reported an impressive 32 species from her home in Stanwood. She listed 15 American Goldfinch for this period and 20 in July. She also reported 55 American Robins, 11 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 4 Cedar Waxwing, 4 Dark-Eyed Junco, 5 Evening Grosbeaks, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 15 Mourning Doves, a Red-Tailed Hawk, 6 Rufous Hummingbirds enjoying the garden flowers, 14 Steller's Jays, 4 Tree Swallows, 4 White-Crowned

Sparrows, 3 Wilson's Warblers and 2 Pacific Wren.

The highlight of my sightings would have to be the 2 Black-Throated Gray Warblers spotted at our pond. I also spotted an Olive-Sided Flycatcher in the woods. My total species count of 24 from my home in Marysville also included 5 American Crows in the yard, 2 American Goldfinch, 7 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 8 House Finch, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 3 Purple Finch, 4 Spotted Towhee, 20+ Tree Swallows on the wires, 50+ European Starlings in the fields, 6 Mallard at the pond along 100th Street., a Red-Tailed Hawk and a Common Raven.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact me at pricemara@clearwire.net or call my cell at 425.750.8125.



Pilchuck Audubon Society
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