



New Safeguards for West Coast Forage Fish

Local Seabirds, Marine Mammals & Fish to Benefit

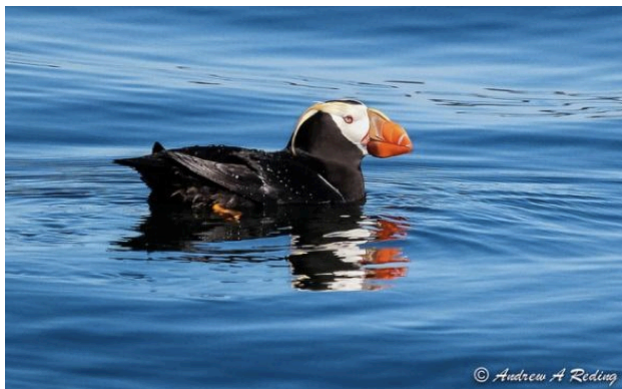
By Trina Bayard, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon WA

The future for our west coast marine life just got a little more secure. On Tuesday, March 10, the Pacific Fisheries Management Council approved new protections for forage fish species, a move that signals a shift towards a more ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management.

The Council is responsible for managing fish stocks in federal waters (3-300 miles) off of Washington, Oregon, and California and has been working to develop protective measures for unregulated forage species over the past three years.

Forage fish are increasingly in the limelight for the critical role they play in supporting the marine food web, as well as the rising global demand for fish meal and fish oil. The Council's action takes a precautionary approach to forage management. New fisheries must first demonstrate that harvest will not harm the ecosystem before they are approved. Although some well-known forage species such as anchovy and sardine are managed through existing fishery management plans, many other species, including sand lance, smelt, and pelagic squid, are not.

Among the seabirds that will benefit in Washington are the Tufted Puffin, which is currently being considered for listing as a state endangered species; the Marbled Murrelet, a state endangered seabird which feed its young with sand lance and smelt; and various auklet and storm petrel species, which feed on a wide variety of forage species. Dozens of other visiting and resident species also rely on forage species.



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"Our marine birds face enormous risks," said Gail Gatton, Executive Director of Audubon Washington, "including ocean acidification, habitat loss, oil spills, and climate change. We're thrilled that the Council took action to tackle at least one of the threats these birds are facing – diminished supplies of their major food source."

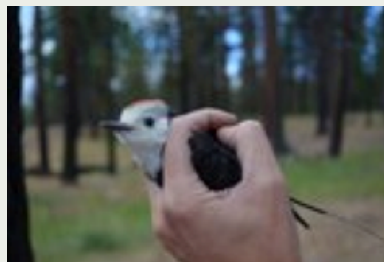
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April Program Meeting

White-Headed Woodpeckers of Eastern Washington

Teresa Lorenz

Friday, April 10, 7:00 PM



White-headed woodpeckers are an iconic species of the beautiful, stately ponderosa pine forests in eastern Washington. Recent research in eastern Washington has unveiled new information on this species occurrence and behavioral ecology. Teresa Lorenz, a research wildlife biologist with the U.S. Forest Service, will present in-depth research findings from four years of radio telemetry and color-banding studies with these amazing woodpeckers.

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Everett Firefighter's Hall

2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett WA

For more information, leave message at 425-610-8027

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTIONS!

Join us for the **April 10** program meeting and voice your vote!

Our annual business meeting will include elections for board Vice-President and Treasurer (each a two-year term), a summary of this year's budget, and the Volunteer of 2014 Award presentation.

The nominating committee has announced that Terry Nightingale has agreed to serve another term as Vice-President and Carolyn Lacy will serve another term as Treasurer. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

As always, excellent refreshments will be provided by Virginia Clark.

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President's Report

By Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President

I know many of you are connected to and interested in Leque Island/Eide Road near Stanwood. In the past few years, this area has become a hotspot for birdwatchers and photographers viewing many of our best resident, migrant, and occasional rare bird species.

This area is owned by the WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The portion of the island south of Highway 532 is about 250 acres and is isolated from tidal influence with perimeter dikes built in the early 1900's. The perimeter dikes are in a state of disrepair and high tides combined with storms have caused the dikes to be breached many times. The dike breached in 2010 has been temporarily repaired. These repairs were costly and were implemented with permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers that require their removal as soon as a long-term solution to the failing dikes is adopted.

The WDFW and Ducks Unlimited have collaborated on designing six alternatives for this land. The alternatives plus other information can be found at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/skagit/leque_island_project.php

Allen Gibbs, Joan Poor and I have attended "Stakeholder" meetings which involved giving input to the two organizations with an Audubon perspective. Of the six alternatives presented, we recommended the one which provided the most restored habitat while still allowing some access for wildlife watchers. While the habitat restoration will primarily benefit salmon (realistically, funding demands this), it will also benefit birds. We will see changes, however. Land raptors and passerines will

be replaced by marsh and sea birds. Pilchuck volunteers will be conducting pre- and post-dike breaching surveys so we can more clearly understand how projects of this nature affect avian populations.

The final choice of the preferred alternative by WDFW management will be later this spring, followed by the procurement of funding, and then construction beginning in spring of 2017.

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 the 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, non-profit 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. Submissions must be received by the 21st of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.610.8027.

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



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Conservation Report

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair

Washington State Legislative Update – Key dates ahead: April 1 Non-money bills not yet entered die for the session. April 7th is the last day for money bill reports from opposing chambers to remain alive. No doubt all of those bills will meet the 7th deadline. April 26th the Regular Session ends. Bills not passed to the governor for consideration will die. No significant talk about a Special Session is being heard.

Status reports for bills which Audubon has been following from Jennifer Syrowitz, State Chapter Associate:

Safe Oil Transport (HB 1449): Auduboners support this bill. March 18th hearing was held by the Senate Committee on Energy, Environment & Telecommunications with Auduboners testifying in support. This bill has not received a warm welcome from the majority party in that committee. It asks marine and rail transporters to notify state and local communities as to when and how much oil is moving through their jurisdictions. It requires transportation companies to be accountable for spill cleanups and damage, and to pay an increased fee per barrel to pay for community preparedness and spill response training.

Hazardous Material Transport (SB 5057): Auduboners oppose this bill which contrasts with HB 1449 above. SB 5057 only calls for more planning and more studies (which are already required). No public disclosure is required for government jurisdictions and it is very weak on marine transport protections. There is also no requirement for increased fees to pay for cleanup so most costs would continue to be borne by affected communities.

Forage Fish (SB 5166): Auduboners support. It requires spawning surveys for smelt and sand lance in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca and trawler surveys to establish "catch" and base populations. The push now is for authorizing and funding (\$1.9 million) for implementation.

Federal Conservation Action ---The Forest Service held public meetings in Seattle, Portland and Redding in mid-March, asking for public comments on how best to engage the public in updating the NW Forest Plan. This plan since 1994 has required national forest and BLM lands with resident Northern Spotted Owls (NSO) populations and habitat to manage for its protection.

The plan has guided management of NSO federal forests in WA, OR and northern CA, to balance timber harvest and conservation in those forests. As most folks know, this hasn't always pleased conservationists, the timber industry, or some state and local governments reliant upon shared revenues. The agency has announced that each NSO forest will develop individual plans in coming years. No specific dates established. Public outreach to stakeholders will occur by each national forest and on NSO BLM lands in western Oregon.

SOUTH CIRCLE CBC

Duane Karna has stepped down from being the compiler for the Edmonds (South Snohomish County) Christmas Bird Count.

The new compilers for the December 19, 2015 CBC will be **Rick Taylor** and **Bob Schmidt**. Duane will assist with some of the recruiting and continue on as Area 2 lead and running the marine count.

Thank you Duane for four excellent years of leadership!

Smart Growth Report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

If you are concerned with how your neighborhood will grow over the next 20 years and how the county plans on protecting the environment that we all value, you should attend the FREE Livable Snohomish County Workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, April 11th at the PUD Building Auditorium, 2320 California Street in Everett, sponsored by Pilchuck Audubon Society and Futurewise.

To RSVP, email me at Kristin@futurewise.org.

At the workshop, you will learn more about the three alternatives being considered by the County Council on the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update. The Update determines where growth will happen, what policies will ensure affordable and sustainable communities, and why we support Alternative 1. The workshop will also cover the County's Critical Areas Ordinance update and how our how recommendations will better ensure protection of wetlands, waterways, riparian habitat, flood zones, aquifers, and landslide areas.

The Snohomish County Council will most likely begin this process on April 22nd and continue until May 13th. Being informed will empower you to be involved!

We are excited to have an array of planners from Planning and Development Services, Public Works and the Parks and Recreation departments as well the Chair of the Planning Commission. In addition, Tim Trohimovich, Director of Planning and Law for Futurewise, will share concerns and recommendations to help prepare you for the County Council public hearings.

To learn about the recommendations being proposed by Pilchuck Audubon Society and Futurewise for both the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update and the Critical Areas Ordinance Update, click below:

<http://pilchuckaudubon.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page§ionid=150>

New Safeguards for West Coast Forage Fish...

(Continued from page 1)

Trina Bayard, Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon Washington, called the Council's decision a win for birds, fish, and people alike. "Forage species are the bread and butter of the marine world, providing food not just for marine birds like the Tufted Puffin and the Western Grebe, but for economically important fish such as salmon and lingcod. The Council has taken an important step to ensure that forage species, and the human, wildlife, and economic values that they support, can be sustained for generations to come."

Coincidentally, this landmark decision comes at a time when forage fish are facing an important juncture in Washington state waters. Senate Bill 5166 would help fill important gaps in our understanding of regional forage fish populations, including Pacific herring, Pacific sand lance, and surf smelt. This includes basic information like how many there are, and where and when they spawn. Without this information, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the agency responsible for managing these species, is essentially operating in the dark.

The protection and recovery of west coast forage fish populations is a high priority for Audubon throughout the Pacific Flyway. Audubon groups in Washington, Oregon, and California partnered with Pew Trusts and a broad range of other groups over the last three years to advocate for these protections. In Washington, 18 local Audubon chapters ranging from the Olympic Peninsula to Spokane voiced support at key junctures along the way. The rule must now go before the National Marine Fisheries Service for approval.

2015 Birdathon

By Jim Beneteau

The merry month of May is almost upon us and so it is time to gear up for our annual Birdathon competition! This year we are again encouraging teams to go out and count species to compete for fabulous prizes and regional glory. We also have last year's records to try to beat!

BIG MONTH COMPETITION – One or two people teams can bird from April 18th to May 18th anywhere in Washington. Last year, Rick and Tina Taylor nailed this competition with 211 species! Can you beat it?

BIG DAY COMPETITION – Pick a 24 hour period during May 15th to May 18th, gather a team of four, and bird in Snohomish County and Camano Island. The Taylors also nailed this competition with 113 species. Is there anyone out there willing to take on the challenge to surpass them?

PHOTOGRAPHY – New and expanded this year, photographers can enter photographs taken anywhere in WA between April 18th – May 18th OR enter photographs taken ANYWHERE in the world in the last year (May 18, 2014 – May 18, 2015). Number, size, and other rules can be found on our website; see link below.

BIG SIT – If you know of a good spot (including your backyard) to bird, try our Big Sit competition. A circle of 200 feet and 24 hours to watch – can you beat my record of 27 from last year?

DESSERT AND PRIZES – Our dessert awards where we hand out prizes & draw the grand prize will be Thursday evening, May 21st. at the Everett PUD building. The grand prize is 3 days and 2 nights at an Ocean Shores cabin.

This is Pilchuck's biggest fundraiser of the year. To support our ongoing conservation, education and advocacy work, participants collect pledges for the number of bird species they find. Minimum donation is \$25, which qualifies the participant for one or more of the competition categories. Our goal is \$5000.

Pledge forms and rules are on our website at:
<http://pilchuckaudubon.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&pageid=263§ionid=140>

Backyard Birding Highlights

January 26, 2015 – February 25, 2015

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

I am sure the birds must be enjoying our unusually warm winter with all the cherry trees in full blossom and the flowers popping up everywhere. The Varied Thrush has been sticking around waiting for a cold spell – doesn't look like it is going to happen.



Evening Grosbeak. Photo by George Gentry USFWS

Carole and Larry Beason had their usual large number of species to report from their home at Lake Bosworth. Their species count of 40 included a Bald Eagle over the lake, 14 Black-Capped Chickadees on a Lilac, 14 Bufflehead on the lake, 14 Canada Goose flying over, a Common Raven, 35+ Dark-Eyed Junco, 3 Anna's Hummingbirds, 16 Evening Grosbeaks, 5 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, a Vireo, 2 Pied-Billed Grebes on the lake, 26 Pine Siskins, 2 Pileated Wood-Peckers, 32 Purple Finch in s Douglas fir, 51+ Red-Winged Blackbirds in a tree, 2 Varied Thrush and 2 Winter Wrens.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt listed 22 species which included 3 American Robins, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Bald Eagles, 9 Band-Tailed Pigeons, a Bewick's Wren, 3 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 21 Dark-Eyed Junco, 3 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 2 House Sparrows, 4 Northern Flickers, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, 2 Spotted Towhees, 3 Steller's Jays, a Townsend's Warbler sipping at the hummingbird feeder and a Varied Thrush.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett included 6 American Robins, 26 Bushtit, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 4 Song Sparrows, 3 Spotted Towhees, 2 Downey Woodpeckers, 5 Mallard Ducks in the yard, 5 American Goldfinch, 62 Northwest Crows, 16 Black-Capped Chickadees, 8 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 2 Winter Wrens, 1 Cooper's Hawk flying over, 11 House Finch, 2 Varied Thrush, 16 European Starlings and 12 Cedar Waxwing eating Hawthorne berries for a total species count of 24.

Mary Sinker's report from February 2015 included 7 Anna's Hummingbirds, 4 Bald Eagles, 2 Barred Owls, 9 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 73 Dark-Eyed Junco, 2 Great-Horned Owls, 5 Killdeer in the pasture, 4 Mallard, a Northern Harrier in the pasture, 11 Pine Siskin, 5 Red-Winged Blackbirds, 3 Rufous Hummingbirds, 4 Varied Thrush and 3 Winter Wrens for a total species count of 36.

My report from Marysville included 12 Dark-Eyed Junco, a Cooper's Hawk, 2 Common Ravens in the woods, 2 Great-Horned Owls, 2 Mourning Doves, 4 Mallard at the pond, 39 Rock Doves on the wires, 2 Red-Tailed Hawks flying over the fields, 1 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 5 Steller's Jays, a Varied Thrush and 25+ Pine Siskin in the trees for a total species count of 21.

If you are interested in becoming one of our bird reporters, please email me at my new email address: pricemara1@gmail.com or leave a message on my cell at 425-750-8125.

Trip Calendar

Check our web site at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information.

Tuesday, April 7

Snohomish City & Outskirts

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

Trip Leader: Art Wait 360-563-0181

Tuesday, April 14

South Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:15 AM at the Eastmont Park and Ride, I-5 exit 189, East side. We will take the 8:00 AM ferry from Mukilteo. Crockett Lake always yields a large and varied species list and the rest of South Whidbey is great birding. Pack a lunch.

Trip leader: Wilma Bayes, 360-629-2028

Tuesday, April 21

Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Lynnwood Walmart lot at 1400 164th St SW (I-5 Exit 183). This will be a long road trip of some 70 miles each way. Once there, we will walk several miles to fully experience the delights and surprises of its marshes, tide flats, grasslands and riparian woodlands. Two hundred species have been seen here. Pack a lunch and expect a long adventurous day.

Trip Leaders: Art Wait 360-563-0181, Virginia Clark 360 435 3750

Saturday, April 25

Selected Parks of Marysville

Meet at 8:30 AM in the Quilceda Walmart parking lot. We'll carpool to the city of Marysville and explore a few of its parks including Deering Wildflower Acres, Jennings Park, and Ebey Waterfront Park. After the bird viewing, participants are welcome (but not required) to join us for a little socializing over lunch. Half-day event.

Leader: Terry Nightingale tnightin@yahoo.com

Tuesday, April 28

Mountlake Fill (Union Bay Natural Area)

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Lynnwood Wal-Mart lot at 1400 164th St SW (I-5 Exit 183). This is one of the most productive birding areas in this vicinity. Many rarities have been observed here. If time allows we may visit Foster Island, Magnuson Park and other areas of North Lake Washington. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Upcoming Events, Festivals and Classes

Olympic Peninsula Birdfest

April 10 – 12

Sequim

The Festival provides participants the opportunity to view a wide variety of the birds found on the Olympic Peninsula. Many Field Trips are planned, as are Lectures. The events are sponsored by the Dungenous River Audubon Center, the Olympic Peninsular Audubon Society, and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

For more information call 360-681-4076 or Email info@olympicbirdfest.org or visit the website: <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org>

The House of Owls

April 23

Mill Creek

Tony Angell is the author or illustrator of numerous books in the fields of art and natural history. He will be presenting his book The House of Owls at the Northwest Stream Center at 7:00 PM. Admission is \$7.00 for non-members and \$5.00 for members. Advance purchase is necessary.

Call 425-316-592 <http://www.streamkeeper.org>

Orcas Island Birdfest

April 30 – May 3

Eastsound

BirdFest is a celebration of birds! Nature tours, workshops, art exhibits and a scientific symposium; all focusing on the health and wonder of birds and grassroots solutions. Orcas Island offers an unforgettable experience showcasing the natural splendor of the San Juan Islands. This year's scientific symposium delegates will deliberate on the status of the birds in the Salish Sea.

Call 360-376-2273 or visit the website: <http://www.orcasislandbirdfest.com>

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

May 1 – 3

Hoquiam

Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in Grays Harbor estuary on their migration northward. This concentration of birds offers people a great chance to view a number of shorebird species, and with luck, to see the birds fly together in beautiful formations while trying to escape the fastest creature on earth, the Peregrine Falcon.

Call 360-289-5498 or visit the website: <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com>

WENAS AUDUBON CAMPOUT

Memorial Day Weekend (May 22-25, 2015) Wenas Creek Campground (SW of Ellensburg)

You're invited to attend a celebration of birds, botany, and the beauty of spring in eastern Washington!

This annual, casual and friendly gathering offers a variety of activities, including birding field trips, flower walks, field sketching, and bat and owl prowls. You do not need to be an Audubon member to attend. All are welcome.

Visit the Wenas Audubon website (www.wenasaudubon.org) for directions, an outline of field trips and programming, and more information. Pre-registration is not required. The campout is free and open to all ages; however, donations are encouraged. Every vehicle must display a Washington State Discover Pass (<http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/>).

Contacts:

Doris Johnson, dellenj@comcast.net

DON'T FORGET!

amazon smile

You can help Pilchuck Audubon when you shop Amazon by simply going through the Amazon Smile portal.

Here is the link to get you started: <http://tinyurl.com/smilepas>. Select Pilchuck Audubon to be your designated charity (only needs to be done once) and when you start shopping from that page, Pilchuck receives a small donation.

THANK YOU!



Pilchuck Audubon Society
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290

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 \$ _____
 - My employer will match my contribution!
My employer's gift matching form is enclosed with my contribution.

Make checks payable to: Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail to: Pilchuck Audubon Society
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Send me these via email (check all that apply & include your email address above):
 Profile Newsletter Program Announcements Action Alerts

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