



## National Audubon Steps Up to Legislative Challenges

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

### Migratory Bird Treaty Act at a Crossroads

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) was enacted in 1918 to stop the plundering of birds for hat feathers and to stop market hunters who came close to extinguishing numerous species. Since then it has saved millions of birds.

Building on the proven success of this law, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is taking bold steps to bring the MBTA into the 21st century by regulating modern day bird “death traps” like uncovered oil waste pits (which birds can mistake for open water), power lines that can electrocute birds, and other hazards.

Audubon strongly supports the USFWS proposal and is actively working to make sure our point of view is well represented at a series of scoping sessions this summer. Unfortunately, this bold move has attracted some outrageous attacks from Congress.

### “Bird Killer Amendment” and Other Outrageous Congressional Actions

Each year, Congress must pass federal spending bills and Audubon turns a keen eye on this process because these bills fund Audubon’s conservation priorities. Unfortunately, this year many of these priority programs are being hit with historically low funding. The bills also contain language that guts some of our nation’s core conservation programs.

Two weeks ago, the House of Representatives passed HR 1806 to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. All Washington House Democrats voted against it. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) sits on the Senate committee. This bill prevents science-based agencies from working on any substantive issues regarding climate change. This means NOAA will no longer be able to publish its reports on global temperature trends, and NASA’s online resources about climate change will go dark.

This bill also contains the “Bird Killer Amendment,” offered by Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-SC), which guts the enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The amendment prevents the Department of Justice from spending any funds to prosecute violators of the Act, even if those violations are egregious, intentional and kill millions of birds. NAS is working diligently to ensure that the Senate does not include this offensive and harmful provision in its version of the funding bill.

**Take Action!** Consider sending “Thank You” emails to your House congressperson if he/she is among those who opposed this bill language. Consider sending a “heads up email” to Senator Cantwell urging her to support language lessening the damage caused by this House bill.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### June Program Meeting (NEW LOCATION)

#### The Future of Leque Island

CK Eidem, Ducks Unlimited



*Short-eared owl on Leque Island by Rex Guichard*

There are changes ahead for Leque Island, which sits just west of the Stanwood/Camano Island Bridge. The dikes are failing and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has settled on a restoration plan to benefit fish and wildlife but still accommodate wildlife viewing. Join CK Eidem to learn what these plans are, what the timeline is, and how you can be involved in Pilchuck’s plans to survey Leque’s birds both pre- and post-restoration efforts.

Mr. Eidem is responsible for the development, delivery and administration of Ducks Unlimited’s conservation programs in Western Washington. Ducks Unlimited’s mission is to conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America’s waterfowl. All over the county Ducks Unlimited works with farmers, government agencies, tribes, and other non-profits to restore and protect farmland and wetlands for birds.

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Stanwood Library  
9701 271st St NW Stanwood

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

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# President's Column

By Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President

Some of you have been following the Leque Island project process. At the beginning of June, we received notice that the Olympia headquarters of the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife had approved the "training dike" alternative as the preferred option. This alternative was recommended by Pilchuck Audubon. It provides positive results for habitat restoration as well as preserving some access for wildlife viewing. Ideas that will be considered for recreation include: elevated trails/pathways, parking areas, portable restrooms, informational kiosks and elevated mounds for photography blinds.

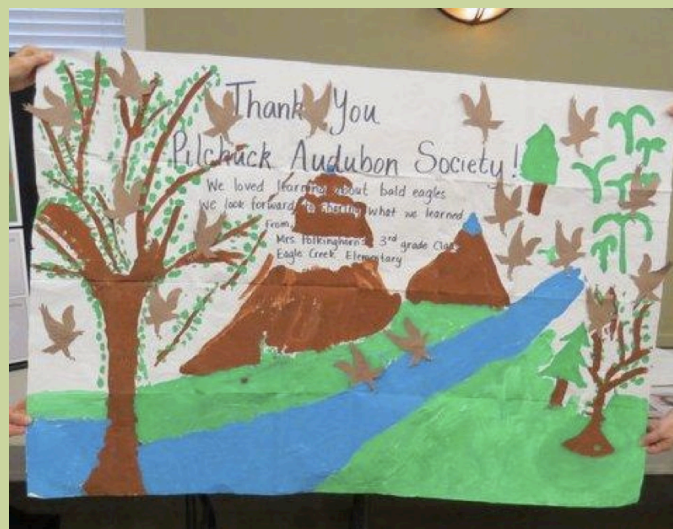
The next phase will be to secure funding for the project. The Dept of Fish and Wildlife, working with Ducks Unlimited, will be seeking grants for construction and permitting. Due to consistency with salmon recovery priorities and the low cost of constructing this design, it is very likely that grant sources dedicated to salmon recovery and habitat restoration will be found. WDFW is targeting the summer of 2017 to begin construction.

You may remember that PAS contracted with Gary Slater of Ecostudies Institute to design a pre- and post-dike breaching survey of Leque Island birds. We have the funding to get started on this. Gary feels there is a good chance that he will also get some funds for estuarine bird monitoring at Fir Island Farm in the Skagit. If so, we hope to roll that together with the Leque survey. Sometime in July/August he will complete a citizen science protocol and then we can start finding volunteers and implementing training. This will be an opportunity to partner with our good friends in Skagit Audubon. If you are not on my radar as a bird surveyor, please let me know if you are interested – [president@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:president@pilchuckaudubon.org).

Other surveys in which we are currently involved are the Canadian Western Sandpiper survey and the Brier City Lights Park survey. This fall we will once again participate in the Pacific

Flyway Shorebird Survey, the Vaux's Swift migration count at Wagner Chimney and, of course, the Christmas Bird Count. I feel proud to serve an organization that is so committed to the study of birds with the intent to improve their conservation.

## CONSERVATION GRANT THANK YOU!



The Classroom Conservation Grant Committee recently received a thank you from a 3rd grade class at Eagle Creek Elementary School. The class received a \$400 grant from Pilchuck Audubon to study eagles.

The students sent a thank you poster, some eagle reports and eagle portraits.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)



### Board of Directors

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# Smart Growth Report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

On June 10th, the Snohomish County Council adopted the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update. I will write an in-depth report next month but you can read about it now on the Pilchuck Audubon Facebook page.

The big win was the adoption of the Alternative 1 growth scenario that will direct more of the estimated 200,000 new people who will moving into Snohomish County in the next 20 years into the cities of Everett and Lynnwood.

The big loss was a change to the county's 2-year old Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program. I want to especially thank Council Chair Dave Somers for voting not to change the TDR program and Tristan Klesick of Klesick Family Farms for collaborating with us. Tristan will donate a percentage of all new customer sales from Pilchuck Audubon members to the Smart Growth Program. See details elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Please note:** There has been a change to the Annual Feast with Friends. Starting this year, all proceeds will go to Futurewise. For PAS supporters, you are, of course, still invited to attend.

My annual Barn Dance will now support the Smart Growth Program. That event will be from 5 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, August 2nd at Craven Farm in Snohomish featuring live music and food.

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

## BARN DANCE FOR SMART GROWTH

*Sunday, August 2 from 5:00-9:00 PM*

Craven Farms, 13817 Short School Road, Snohomish

\$20, kids under 12 are free!  
Pay at the door!

Fabulous live music from the CD Woodbury Band --  
[www.cdwoodbury.com](http://www.cdwoodbury.com)

Includes food, beer, wine & non-alcoholic beverages

All proceeds support the **PAS Smart Growth Program**

RSVP to Kristin Kelly at [kristin@futurewise.org](mailto:kristin@futurewise.org)

## KLESICK FAMILY FARMS ORGANIC PRODUCE DELIVERY

Farmer Tristan Klesick worked with PAS Smart Growth Director on farmland preservation. Tristan is dedicating 5 percent of new customer sales that come through Pilchuck Audubon Society to the Smart Growth Program.

To become a new customer and help fund Smart Growth, click on <http://klesickfamilyfarm.com#kelly>

# Backyard Birding Highlights

April 26, 2015 – May 25, 2015

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Carole and Larry Beason reporting from their home at Lake Bosworth had a very special sighting this month: a Lazuli Bunting on their patio. They had spotted one several years ago. Their total species count of 50 included 4 American Goldfinch, 2 Barn Swallows flying over, a Belted Kingfisher over the lake, 8 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 7 Brewer's Blackbirds, 17 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 61 Canada Geese flying in formation over the lake, 4 Evening Grosbeaks, 6 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 2 Osprey over the lake, 14 Purple Finch, 2 Red-Breasted Sapsuckers, 18 Red-Winged Blackbirds, 2 Swainson Thrush, a Turkey Vulture flying over, 15 Violet-Green Swallows and a Western Tanager.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from her home in Mukilteo included 4 American Goldfinch, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, a Bewick's Wren, 4 Brown-Headed Cowbirds (they are back again), 4 California Quail, a Great Blue Heron flying over, 4 House Finch, 10 pine Siskin, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, 3 Steller's Jays, 3 Violet-Green Swallows, 2 Western Tanagers and a White-Crowned Sparrow for a total species count of 27.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett included 3 Varied Thrush at the end of April. Her total species count of 29 included 8 American Robins, 4 Anna's Hummingbirds, 18 Bushtit, 4 Mourning Doves, 11 Western Gulls, 7 Song Sparrows, 2 Mallard Ducks, 18 Black-Capped Chickadees, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 24 European Starlings, a Merlin, 2 Townsend's Warblers, 2 Yellow Warblers and a Golden Crowned Kinglet.

Mary Sinker's yard in Stanwood was very busy this month with a total of 43 species reported. She listed 20 American Goldfinch, 7 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Bald Eagles, 6 Barn Swallows, the Black-Chinned Hummingbird is still there, 6 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 11 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 8 Downey Woodpeckers, 11 Evening Grosbeaks, 10 Mourning Doves, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker, 4 Red-Winged Blackbirds, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, 12 Steller's Jays, 2 Veery, and 2 Wilson's Warblers.



*Wilson's Warbler by Donna Dewhurt/USFWS*

The report from my home in Marysville includes 10 American Crows, 5 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 2 Common Raven, 2 Downey Woodpeckers, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 3 Mallard Ducks at the pond, 2 Northern Flickers, a lonely Dark-Eyed Junco, 4 Spotted Towhee, 6 Steller's Jays, a Western Tanager, 2 Purple Finch, 2 Mourning Doves, a male California Quail, 4 Wilson's Warblers and a Red-Winged Blackbird for a total species count of 24.

If you are interested in becoming one of our bird sighters, please email me at [pricemara1@gmail.com](mailto:pricemara1@gmail.com) or leave a message on my cell at (425)750-8125.

# National Audubon Steps Up to Legislative Challenges...

(Continued from page 1)

## US House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

This summer, the House will work on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies' funding, which includes the EPA, National Park Service, Forest Service, and related Interior regulatory agencies such as US Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently the bill contains low funding levels for many of our priority efforts. More importantly, the bill contains policies that are harmful to conservation. The bill prohibits the Interior Department from ruling on the status of the Greater Sage-Grouse. This is yet another attempt to undermine years of work among Audubon, government agencies, and other partners on the fate of the sage-grouse.

The bill prohibits the EPA from implementing any new regulations on greenhouse gases for power plants. It also prevents the agency from regulating the lead content of ammunition and fishing tackle. Lead builds up in the environment, directly harming fish- and carrion-eating birds.

Representatives Derek Kilmer (D-6th District; Olympic Peninsula/Kitsap Peninsula) and Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-3rd District; Southwest WA) sit on various House appropriations committees. Letters to these Washington State representatives to oppose this language are urged.

## Audubon Takes a Stand for the Arctic Ocean

Audubon has joined two legal challenges to Shell's plans for the onset of Arctic Ocean drilling this summer. The first legal challenge is to the Department of Interior's decision to approve the long-contested oil and gas lease 193, which allowed Shell to lease the areas in the Chukchi Sea where it plans to drill. The Administration has admitted there is a 75 percent risk of a major oil spill if the lease is developed.

The second challenge is to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's rushed approval for Shell's 2015 drilling plan. Shell's plan is bigger, dirtier, and louder than its disastrous 2012 plan, and poses a very real threat to Arctic Ocean wildlife.

## EPA Announces Clean Water Protections

The EPA issued its final rule to expand which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act, ensuring vital safeguards that will benefit hundreds of bird species that rely on streams and wetlands.

People, communities, and economies throughout the country will also benefit. One in three people receive drinking water from these sources, and they provide critical water quality and flood protection benefits. Nevertheless, there are efforts underway in Congress to repeal this rule. Audubon stands firmly opposed to any efforts that would undermine this common-sense approach to safeguard our nation's streams and wetlands.

## PAS Congressional Districts - Local Offices (to contact by email, go to the legislator's webpage)

**Senator Patty Murray**  
2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 903  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-259-6515

**Senator Maria Cantwell**  
2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 9B  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-303-0114

## Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA, 2nd District)

2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 9F  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-252-3188

## Representative Suzan DelBene (D-WA, 1st District)

22121 17th Avenue SE, Suite 220  
Bothell, WA 98021  
425-485-0085

## 10TH ANNUAL FEAST WITH FRIENDS

Thursday, September 3 from 6:30-9:30PM

Home/Art Studio of Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak & Warner Blake  
230 Avenue B in Snohomish, WA

\$50; sponsorships available

All proceeds support the work of **Kristin Kelly for Futurewise**

RSVP to Kristin Kelly at [kristin@futurewise.org](mailto:kristin@futurewise.org)

## NEW DISPLAY BOARD

April Richardson, Pilchuck Audubon volunteer and artist, recently completed a double-sided display board featuring local bird species which are threatened by climate change.

Six birds - Vaux's Swift, Barrow's Golden-eye, Trumpeter Swan, Rufous Hummingbird, Western Tanager, and Northern Saw-whet Owl - will see their historic habitat ranges diminish over the coming decades. This display will be used at future tabling and educational events.





# Trip Calendar

Check our web site at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org) for the latest information.

**Tuesday, July 7** **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 Leader: Art Wait 360-563-0181

**Sunday, July 12** **Camano Island**  
Meet at 8:30AM in the Quilceda Walmart parking lot near the freeway. We'll carpool to Camano Island and visit English Boom, Iverson Spit, and Leque Island, which is the subject of the July 10 program meeting. We'll look for gulls, terns, eagles, purple martins, and hummingbirds. Participants are welcome (but not required) to join us for a little socializing over lunch in Stanwood. Bring hat, sunscreen, snacks, water, and foul weather gear just in case. Half-day event.  
Trip Leader: Terry Nightingale, [tnight@pobox.com](mailto:tnight@pobox.com) 206-619-2383

**Tuesday, July 14** **Blue Stilly Park and Other Areas**  
Meet at 8:00AM at Quilceda Village Walmart parking lot near the freeway. Virginia is going to show us her neighborhood, including her feeders. No need to pack a lunch for Virginia will provide at her place.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

**Tuesday, July 21** **Stevens Pass Area**  
Meet at 7:00AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, 1/2 miles west of the Fairgrounds. Trying for summer birding success at higher altitudes. Will visit The Old Cascades Highway, and maybe the ski slopes. Warblers, grouse, sparrows, flycatchers, ravens, nutcrackers, chipmunk and hare. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

**Tuesday, July 28** **Anacortes**  
Meet at 7:30AM at Quilceda Village Walmart parking lot near the freeway. So many beautiful birding places; lakes, beaches, marinas, and even a mountain. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

## Upcoming Events, Festivals and Classes

**Sounds of Summer Birds**  
**July 3** **Padilla Bay**  
Feeding the brood is the name of the game for summer birds, and it's the tail end of the bird song season. Join naturalist, Libby Mills, listening and looking for summer birds around Padilla Bay. Be prepared for a slow walk around the reserve uplands.  
8:00AM-12:00PM. Registration is required.  
<http://www.padillabay.gov/classdetails.asp?programID=682&classID=1405>

**Murrelet Survey**  
**July 16-17 or 23-24** **Yachats OR**  
Sponsored by Portland Audubon, join the 10th annual Marbled Murrelet citizen science survey. Training will be provided; no prior experience needed. RSVP required. Oregon State University ornithologist and Marbled Murrelet expert Kim Nelson will lead. Murrelets on both breeding territory and in

their near-shore feeding areas will be seen and heard.  
<http://audubonportland.org/issues/species/murrelet/survey>

**Sedona Hummingbird Festival**  
**July 31 – Aug 2** **Sedona AZ**  
The Sedona Hummingbird Festival is always held the first weekend in August when Sedona's hummingbird population is highest and most diverse – 5 to 6 species – and with typically five times the number of hummers as in early summer.  
<http://hummingbirdsociety.org/hummingbird-festival/>

**How Birds Fly**  
**through Sept 4** **Seattle**  
The exhibit How Birds Fly is developed by The Museum of Flight in partnership with the Burke Museum, and is guest curated by Dr. Peter Cavanagh, an avid bird photographer and bio-mechanicist at the University of Washington. The exhibit explores bird evolution, anatomy, and behavior, as well as the impact birds have had on human flight from the designs of Leonardo da Vinci, the Wright brothers, and even today's aerospace engineers.  
<http://www.museumofflight.org/exhibits/how-birds-fly>

## BIG WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 11-13 BIRD FESTIVALS, SNOHOMISH

The weekend of September 11-13 is a big one for BIRD FESTIVALS in Snohomish County.

The **Puget Sound Bird Fest** in Edmonds [www.puget-soundbirdfest.org](http://www.puget-soundbirdfest.org) will start Friday night September 11th with the key note speaker Dr. John Marzluff. Saturday, September 12th is filled with a full day of activities including guided bird walks and boating cruises, workshops and presentations, fun for kids and teens. More guided bird walks continue on Sunday, September 13th.

Starting at 5:00pm on Saturday September 12th in Monroe, the **2015 Swifts Night Out** will begin another fun full evening at the Wagner Center chimney. This annual festival will take place as the Vaux Swifts are on their migration route south and stop by to roost in the Wagner Chimney. Everyone is invited to join them on the lawn at the Center for food, fun and the big swirling show by the swifts!

*Mark your calendars and plan to attend these very special festivals here in Snohomish County. Look for more detailed information in the August Profile.*



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  
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Send me these via email (check all that apply & include your email address above):

- Profile Newsletter  Program Announcements  Action Alerts

Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Secretary of State's office. Your contributions are tax deductible.

## County Residents Ask to Share Thoughts on Vaping

Health District Looks to Expand Smoking in  
Public Places Law

To vape, or not to vape—in public—that is the question. Amidst the growing popularity of electronic cigarettes and vaping, and rising ambiguity by business owners on whether it's allowed in their establishments, the Snohomish Health District is evaluating options to prohibit vaping and vapor products in public places.

A webpage has been created for this process, and the public is encouraged to visit <http://www.snohd.org/Healthy-Living/Smoke-Free-Living/Vaping-Vapor-Products>. This page will be kept updated with details for the meetings and comment period, as well as links to resources and educational materials.