



Audubon Advocacy Day

By Kathleen Snyder, President

Going to Olympia to interact with your legislators is always a mixed blessing. There is some nervousness about meeting an elected official and answering his/her questions. Plus you need to spend some time reading and studying the issues. And the drive to Olympia through the miasma of Seattle is never enjoyable.

Once you get there, surrounded by like-minded people and feel the building energy, you begin to get excited. When it comes time to meet with your legislators, it is surprisingly easy, especially if you are from the 38th District. This was my experience on Feb 18th when Audubon WA hosted Audubon Advocacy Day in Olympia. Five of us from the Pilchuck Audubon attended – Terry Nightingale, Allen Gibbs, Joan Poor, Kathy Piland and me. We live in different districts so we met with different legislators. All of us enjoyed the day – meeting other Auduboners, becoming informed on our issues, seeing our government in action, and having the satisfaction of doing something positive about the problems we face.

The Audubon WA staff formulated our three priority issues. The first is **“Forage Fish Management” (House Bill 1152/Senate Bill 5166)**. Forage fish is a term for tiny, schooling fish that feed larger fish, marine birds and marine mammals. The House and Senate bills have passed out of committee and, as I write this, are being heard in finance committees. There seems to be little opposition to these bills which will fund two studies and require a license for recreational surf smelt fishing so we are hopeful for passage.

Second is the **“Carbon Pollution Accountability Act” (House Bill 1314/Senate Bill 5283)**, Gov. Jay Inslee’s plan to implement a carbon pollution market program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as generate tax revenue. It is essential to slow, then reverse, carbon emissions if we are to protect the habitat our birds require for survival (not to mention our own habitat). Unfortunately, this bill has not been heard in the Senate committee. The House committee has passed it and referred it to Appropriations.

Our third priority is **“Oil Transportation Safety Now” (House Bill 5087/Senate Bill 1449)**. This deals with the transporting oil through WA by train or ship. It would proactively protect birds and the environment with augmented tug escorts and improved information access so emergency responders could be better prepared. The West Virginia train derailment occurred just a few days prior to our Advocacy Day so this issue was on many people’s minds. As above, the Senate committee has not heard it and the House committee has passed it on to the Finance committee.

These are the three concerns we brought to our elected representatives. My first meeting was with Rep June Robinson who was very receptive to Audubon. She rightly pointed out that funding for our bills will depend on fully funding basic education first as mandated by the state Supreme Court. One possible solution would be to institute a capital gains tax for WA that would be applicable to only the highest income families. Considering how regressive our current tax system is, this seems a reasonable route.

(Continued on page 4)

March Program Meeting Birds, Backyard Habitat & Beyond

a film by Craig & Joy Johnson

Friday, March 13, 7:00 PM



Puget Sound area watercolor artist and photographer Craig Johnson, and his wife, writer Joy Johnson, have created a remarkable DVD that beautifully illustrates what can happen when native habitat is allowed to flourish, even in as small a space as a suburban backyard. This engaging film provides a window to wildlife behaviors many people have never seen before. Watch and wonder as creatures forage for food, create nests, raise young, maintain their plumage and much more.

Using Craig’s animations, graphics and photographs, the Johnsons offer some simple suggestions to increase the variety of birds visiting your yard. For more information, leave message at 425-610-8027

7:00 - 8:30 pm
Everett Firefighter’s Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett WA

Gifts Of The Crow

UW Professor, John Marzloff, will tell fascinating, amusing, and endearing stories about our favorite neighborhood bird, the crow.

Dr. Marzloff has been featured on the PBS show, Nature, and is a favorite TV and radio guest. His book, Gifts of the Crow, will be available for purchase.

Thursday, March 12th 7:00 PM
Rosehill Community Center
304 Lincoln Ave Mukilteo

A free, family event co-sponsored by Pilchuck Audubon with Mukilteo Wildlife Habitat Project.

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Smart Growth Report

By Kristin Kelly, Executive Director

A great opportunity to learn more about Snohomish County's 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update, and the update to the county's Critical Areas Regulations will be hosted by Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Executive Director in collaboration with Tim Trohimovich, Director of Planning and Law for Futurewise. Presenters will include planners from Snohomish County Planning and Development Services, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and the Chair of the Planning Commission.

Find out about how each of the Comp Plan alternatives will affect growth and development in your community and what is being proposed for changes to the critical areas regulations. It is anticipated that the Snohomish County Council will be holding public hearings in May 2015.

Free Livable Snohomish County Workshop
 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM
 Saturday, April 11, 2015
 PUD Building Auditorium, 2320 California Street, Everett
 Complimentary Coffee, Tea, Juice, Muffins and Fruit
Please RSVP by April 9th to Kristin@futurewise.org

(The 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update includes consideration of three Alternatives. The Critical Areas Regulations cover wetlands, streams and rivers, geologically hazardous areas, aquifers, and fish and wildlife conservation areas.)

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

PAS Board Retreat



Photo by Rex Guichard

On February 8th, the leaders of Pilchuck Audubon had a retreat at the home of Carolyn Lacy to discuss both past accomplishments and future plans.

Of primary concern was the implementation of the priorities, chosen by the PAS Board of Directors, for the Robert Royce legacy gift.



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Conservation Report

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair

State Legislative Update – Thanks to all who have urged their state legislators to support or oppose bills of interest to us this session. I also want you to know that Jennifer Syrowitz, our State Audubon Chapter Associate, has done excellent work in keeping conservation committee chairs and chapter presidents well informed about state legislative and agency activities.

February 20th was the last day for bills, excepting fiscal bills, to be considered in committees of chambers of origin. Bills not voted out of the committees are now “dead”. This makes it easier for us to track bill actions, as there are fewer to track. Updates on Audubon’s three priorities are covered in the feature article by Kathleen Snyder.

Fishing Line Recycling (SB 5356) is not among Audubon’s top three priority bills but one of many we tracked and have supported. It is championed by sports fishers, river and lake recreationists, and birders. It directs WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to develop a pilot program to recycle monofilament fishing lines and nets cluttering shorelines and killing birds, fish and other wildlife. It did pass out of Senator Kirk Pearson’s Natural Resources and Parks Committee to the Senate Ways and Means. It may have survived the 20th cutoff. Sponsor Senator Mullett of Issaquah has introduced it twice and says if it doesn’t pass this session, he won’t introduce again.

By the time of the April PROFILE, this legislative session will be down to the nitty gritty, focused upon the few bills coming up against the April 15th cutoff. Stay tuned for call to arms!

Forest Service NW Forest Plan Amendment Listening Session – The Forest Service will hold “listening sessions” to get ideas on how to go about public engagement in next round of revising forest management plans of “northern spotted owl national forests” in WA, OR and northern CA. Public meetings will be held on March 18th in the SEATAC vicinity, in Portland on March 17th and at Redding, CA on March 25th.

The Seattle area meeting will be Wednesday, March 18th, 5:30 PM- 8:30 PM at the Conference Center inside SeaTac Airport. Please contact Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair, at conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425-338-5466 for more information.

Pilchuck Audubon Program Meetings 2015

Pilchuck Audubon program meetings are held on the second Friday of every month starting at 7:00 PM. We do not have a PAS program meeting in August or December. All but two meetings are held at the Everett Firefighters Hall 2411 Hewitt Ave in Everett.

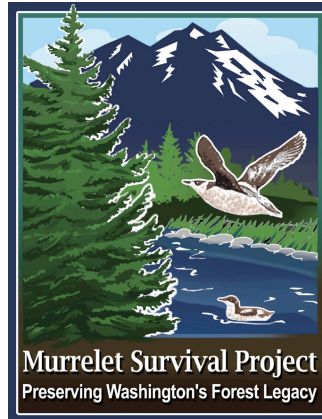
The July meeting (July 10th this year) is at the Stanwood library. This location was selected for the convenience of North County and Camano Island PAS members and friends. In September the program meeting is held in Edmonds to coincide with the keynote speaker for Puget Sound Bird Fest. This year the date of the September program meeting will be Friday night, September 11th.

All PAS program meetings are on conservation and bird topics of interest to PAS members. The topics are listed on the PAS website www.pilchuckaudubon.org about 1 month before the program.

Susie Schaefer is the Program chair for 2015. All meetings are free and open to the public. Books and other bird related items are for sale before and after the speaker.

Coffee, juice and homemade cookies (by Virginia Clark, Hospitality Chair) are served. We do ask for donations to cover Virginia’s costs.

How You Can Help The Marbled Murrelet



Do you want to help save the marbled murrelet and its imperiled forest habitat but don't know how to get started?

Just pick a task off the list below and make a contribution to the survival of this enigmatic forest-nesting seabird!

1. Attend a Board of Natural Resources meeting and make your voice heard
 - a. Tuesday, March 10th, 9am @ 1111 Washington St. SE, Olympia
2. Send a written or video comment to the Board of Natural Resources demanding that a science-based conservation strategy be implemented for the marbled murrelet
 - a. Email bnr@dnr.wa.gov or
 - b. Write to P.O. Box 47000, Olympia, WA 98504-7000
3. Write a letter or make a phone call to your county commissioners asking for their support of this campaign
4. Follow Murrelet Survival Project on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/MurreletSurvival>) and share interesting or important content
5. Volunteer with Murrelet Survival Project
 - a. Help plan an event to get the word out or
 - b. Recruit people to attend an upcoming Board of Natural Resources meeting or
 - c. Reach out to the media... we need the public to know about this issue! or
 - d. Lend your other skills or charisma. We can certainly use your help. Call Kevin, the campaign coordinator, at (360) 742-4808

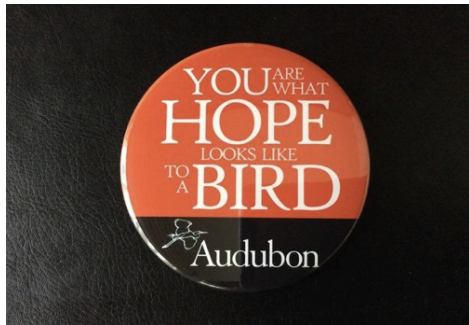
There are lots of ways to make a difference for the marbled murrelet. As we wait for the Board and Department of Natural Resources to take action, the murrelet population continues to decline. The most important thing is to do something!

Audubon Advocacy Day...

(Continued from page 1)

Rep Mike Sells was not available so I spoke with his legislative assistant and dropped off our materials. Meeting with Sen John McCoy was like a peek behind the curtain. Before our meeting, I was able to watch him participate on the Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee. Chaired by Sen. Doug Erickson, R-Ferndale, this committee is in charge of both the Carbon Pollution Act and the Oil Transportation Act and he is not inclined to put our favored bills on his agenda. We can help by contacting Sen Erickson & asking him to do so by commenting on the bill through email (you cannot email him directly unless you are a constituent). For instructions, go to <http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/BillCommentsHelp.aspx>. Then send the email asking that the committee chair, Senator Doug Erickson, to please schedule a committee hearing on SB 5283 and SB 5087. If we can build enough pressure, we can move mountains.

A highlight of the day was hearing from David Yarnold, President of National Audubon. He was pleased and impressed to see us all wearing the button below, made from his quote. Another highlight was attending a House Appropriations committee meeting and hearing Trina Bayard, Audubon WA Director of Bird Conservation, testify in support of the Forage Fish bill. All in all, the day was a success and an energizer. Please consider coming with us next year – nothing changes without effort.

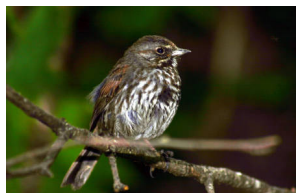


Backyard Birding Highlights

December 26, 2014 – January 25, 2015

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

It seems like we are not going to have a real winter this year. I am sure the birds are enjoying it except for all the rain. When it rains a lot the fields flood and the ducks and geese converge and enjoy the water.



Fox Sparrow. Photo by Carla Stanley; USFWS

There many different species of water fowl at Carole and Larry Beason's home on Lake Bosworth. They reported 31 Canada Geese, 15 Bufflehead, 7 Common Mergansers, a Kingfisher, 6 Ring-Necked Ducks along with 3 Anna's Humming-birds, 2 Bald Eagles, 17 Evening Grosbeaks, 5 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 4 Mourning Doves, 14 Purple Finch, 48 Red-Winged Blackbirds, 5 Varied Thrush and 1 Winter Wren for a total species count of 41.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett included 4 American Robins, 4 Steller's Jays, 32 Bushtit, 3 Bewick's Wrens, 19 Dark-Eyed Junco, 8 Western Gulls, 6 Song Sparrows, 2 Downey Woodpeckers, 8 American Goldfinch, 9 Northwestern Crows, 11 Black-Capped Chickadees, 4 Cooper's Hawks and 12 House Finch for a

total species count of 19.

Hilkka Egtvedt had a very busy backyard this month. Her total species count of 24 from her home in Mukilteo included 5 American Robins, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 20 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 5 California Quail, 30 Dark-Eyed Junco, 2 Fox Sparrows, 2 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 3 House Finch, 3 Northern Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker, 30+ Pine Siskin, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, 3 Spotted Towhees, 5 Steller's Jays, a Townsend Warbler and a Varied Thrush.

My count from Marysville is about the same. I listed 15+ American Crows in the fields, 5 Black-Capped Chickadees, 15 Dark-Eyed Junco, our 2 Great-Horned Owls are still hooting at night, 30+ Mallard in the fields, a Mourning Dove, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch at the suet, 30+ Pine Siskins in the trees, 4 Spotted Towhees, 2 Common Ravens and 25+ Rock Doves on the wires for a total species count of 20.

We are still looking for more participants for the Bird Report. If you are interested, please contact me at 425-750-8125.

Classroom Conservation Awards

The Classroom Conservations Awards committee has completed another year of awards, giving elementary school teachers grants to fund conservation projects in their classrooms. This year each recipient received \$400. Pilchuck Audubon is having a positive impact on students throughout Snohomish County by providing support to the following teachers and projects.

Recipients of the 2014 awards:

1. **Barbara McKinney** - 2nd grade class at Kellogg Marsh Elementary School, Marysville School District. Students will learn about bees - their life cycle, habitat and the role they play in food production. Additionally, students will plant organic, native plants to feed bees and will promote replacement of hazardous pesticides which negatively affect their environment.
2. **Janae Schott, Pam Wheatley and Traci Adams** - 2nd through 5th grade students at Fryland Elementary School, Monroe School District. Supplies will be provided to the Swift Club, a before school science club which teaches students about the Vaux's swifts which roost in a chimney at the school.
3. **Michelle Hadley, Rebecca Rodriguez, Carrie Sweem and Elizabeth Mekelberg** - 2nd through 5th grade classes at Pioneer Elementary School, Arlington School District. Students will be supplied with tools and materials to maintain the wetland outdoor classroom at the school, learning about wetland ecosystems and human impacts.
4. **Julie Polkinghorn** - 3rd grade students at Eagle Creek Elementary School, Arlington School District. Students will learn about animal adaptations, local ecosystems, eagles and human impact on our environment, enhanced with a classroom visit from Sarvey Wildlife Care Center.
5. **Andrew Fritz** - 5th grade students at Glenwood Elementary School, Lake Stevens School District. Students will learn conservation skills, identification of birds, plant life, invertebrates and marine mammals by participating in a pelagic field trip in the San Juan Islands, accompanied by a WSU Beach Watcher and an ornithology expert.
6. **Jennifer Aribibola** - 3rd grade students at Presidents Elementary School, Arlington School District. With the purchase of new non-fiction books and a video camera, students will have the necessary resources to learn about water and energy conservation, reinforcing that learning by creating video commercials to teach other students at the school.

Trip Calendar

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

Tuesday, March 3 **Camano Island**
Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart (I-5-Exit 200). Park near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, March 10 **Blaine Birch Bay Semiahmoo**
Meet at 7:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart (I-5-Exit 200). Park near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We will eat a lunch provided by Wilma at her waterfront cabin.
Trip Leaders: Wilma Bayes 360-629-2028, Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Saturday, March 14 **Lake Stevens**
Meet at 10114 54th PI NE, Lake Stevens. From 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. Corson Natural Area, normally closed to the public, will be the site for a bird and amphibian walk. IMPORTANT: Wear shoes or boots meant for mud and puddles!
Trip leader: Al Elliott 360-659-3180

Tuesday March 17 **Samish Flats**
Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart (I-5-Exit 200). Park near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Want to see what a premier winter birding area offers in early spring? Come along. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Saturday, March 21 **Bellingham**
Meet at 8:00 AM at Everett Mall in back by LA Fitness next to the transit center. Bird walk at Larabee SP new 4 mile geology trail. All day. Discovery Pass needed. Will stop for late lunch at a café on Chuckanut Drive.
Trip leader: Jonathan Blubaugh 425-244-7633, aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, March 24 **Point No Point**
Meet at 7:15 AM at the Edmonds Wade James Theater Parking Lot; address is 950 Main St., Edmonds. We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point, and Foulweather Bluff. Waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, March 31 **Smith and Spencer Islands**
Meet at 8:00 AM at Langus Riverfront Park, Everett. Go past Everett Langus Riverfront Park and under the freeway. Parking lot is on right just past the Treatment plant buildings. Trying for spring migrants. Lots of walking. Pack a Lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Upcoming Events, Festivals and Classes

Wings Over Water Festival
March 13 – 15 **Blaine WA**
This multi-day birding expo in the northwest corner of Washington State has lots of free activities for the whole family. Enjoy live raptor presentations, wildlife exhibits, expert speaker presentations, displays, on site craft vendors, kids' activities, guided field trips (\$) and boat cruises (\$).
<http://www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com>

Tundra Swan Festival
March 22 **Usk WA**
Spring brings hundreds of swans through the Pend Oreille River

Valley. They are on their trip to breeding grounds, resting and feeding on Calispell Lake. The event is co-hosted by the Natural Resources Department of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and the Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance (PORTA). We will gather at the Camas Wellness Center on LeClerc Road in Usk and travel via bus to Calispell Lake at 10:00 AM. We will return to the Camas Wellness Center for lunch by noon. Register by PayPal on the PORTA website: www.porta-us.com. Lunch is included. Seating is limited.

Birding Walk – Eastside Audubon
March 25 **Lake Sammamish State Park WA**
This 2 to 3 mile walk offers a wide assortment of birds and habitats. Dress appropriately some of the trails can be very wet. Meet inside the main entrance before 8:00 AM. The walk is free, but a Discover Pass is required to park. <http://eastsideaudubon.org/>

The House of Owls
April 23 **Mill Creek WA**
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. <http://www.streamkeeper.org>

Annual PAS Meeting

The PAS annual business meeting and board election will take place at the April program meeting, Friday, April 10, at 7:00 PM at the Everett Firefighters Hall.

This year, the offices of Vice-President and Treasurer are open. If you're interested in running for either of these offices or would like to nominate someone please contact us by phone at 425.610.8027 or send an e-mail through the "Contact Us" page at www.pilchuckaudubon.org. We will also take nominations from the floor.

The business meeting agenda also includes:
Summary of the year's budget
Presentation of Volunteer of 2014 Award

Please plan to attend this important meeting!

BIRDATHON 2015 IS COMING!



Photo by Rex Guichard

WATCH THE APRIL PROFILE FOR DETAILS.
THE BIG WEEKEND WILL BE MAY 15 – 18.

If you have a gift card that you won't use, consider donating it to Birdathon for use as a prize.
develop@pilchuckaudubon.org



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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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E-mail _____

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.

GOSHAWK SURVEY

PAS has been asked by the US Forest Service to monitor two possible Goshawk nest sites in the northeast corner of our county this spring.

Would involve very early start, FS logging roads and possibly walking rough, steep terrain.

Auditory skills needed; training provided.

Please respond by **March 9th** to Kathy Johnson forest@pilchuckaudubon.org or 360-659-7252 for more information.