



Singletary Timber Sale Update

By Katherine Johnson, Forest Practices Chair

PAS members may remember that in December 2015 we signed on with the Skykomish Valley Environmental and Economic Alliance (SVENA) and Friends of Wild Sky (FOWS) to a letter of intent to sue WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) over Clean Water Act violations incurred during construction, use, and maintenance of bridges and culverts associated with timber harvest on State lands in the Skykomish Valley.

Although we had hoped this action would have had far-reaching effects statewide, our primary impetus was the proposed Singletary timber sale in mature second-growth forest adjacent to Wallace Falls State Park, for which several bridges would need to be constructed. Our attorney, Wyatt Golding, negotiated with DNR, with no specific resolution achieved. However, we now understand that the sale has, at least temporarily, been dropped. In a public presentation, Kyle Blum, Deputy Supervisor of State Uplands, recently described the sale as deferred, and it appears that DNR will not get needed bridge construction permits in time.

While this is excellent news, we still have much work to do to achieve permanent protection for this forest. It now becomes all the more important to work for creative political and financial solutions to the long-term problem of logging on State land around Wallace Falls State Park. For more information or to get involved, please contact PAS Forest Practices Chair Kathy Johnson at forest@pilchuckaudubon.org or 360-659-7252. And a big thank-you to everyone who has already taken action to preserve this area—your voices have been heard! ✧

NO PROGRAM MEETING IN AUGUST

Join us for the ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC

**Sunday, August 14, 2016
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Langus Riverfront Park
400 Smith Island Road, Everett**



Pilchuck Audubon Society will be celebrating our volunteers at our annual Volunteer Potluck Picnic, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 14, at the scenic Langus Riverfront Park, 400 Smith Island Road, Everett. Please bring your favorite dish to share (and a serving utensil). PAS will be providing plates, drinks, and eating utensils.

Virginia Clark will lead a bird walk from 10 a.m. to noon, and the potluck picnic will be from noon to 2:00 p.m. Directions can be found at <https://everettwa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Langus-Riverfront-Park-27>.

Y'all Come!



Eat, Sleep, Bird! ... and the Heermann's Gull

by Cindy Easterson, President

I recently purchased a T-shirt with the slogan, "Life is Simple—Eat, Sleep, BIRD." I love the idea of that, a simple



life where my key goal is to just see birds, but I realize the privilege of seeing birds is irrefutably hinged on the responsibility to save birds. National Audubon Society (NAS) recently released its 2016-2020 Strategic Plan to document its focus on five conservation

priorities. These include Coasts, Working Lands, Water, Bird-Friendly Communities, and Climate. NAS will look to us for help to enlist volunteers and to engage the public to achieve its goals. Detailed information can be found on the NAS website, https://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/strategic_plan_2016-2020_final.pdf, but let me give you an example. To achieve the goal to "**Manage, protect, and restore more than 1 million acres of habitat in watersheds,**" they will look to "**Get 250,000 people engaged in advocacy on local water-conservation measures.**"

Also recently released was the 2016 State of North American Birds report by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. Using a complex and rigorous model, this report assigns a threat level to each species across the continent. While the scores identify threats throughout the life cycle of each species, I thought it would be interesting to see what birds, either resident or spending significant time in the Snohomish region, are shown by this report to be species of concern. To my surprise, topping the list was Heermann's Gull.



Over the next few months I'm hoping to take a look at some of these initiatives and data on birds that need our attention. If anyone is interested in looking into the feasibility of a Heermann's Gull monitoring effort, I'd love to chat with you. ✧



Seed Sale coming in October
Details in September *Profile* and on the website
Order Deadline: October 4

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 news-letter@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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Would you like to participate in the largest citizen science-driven seabird census in the Pacific Northwest?!

The new season of Seattle Audubon's landmark **Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS)** kicks off on October 1, 2016, and we are currently recruiting enthusiastic, skilled, and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. This truly regional effort provides a significant data set on marine bird populations from the south end of Puget Sound all the way across the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Your work will strengthen Seattle Audubon's bird census database and serve as a foundation to support the implementation of a new strategic plan, *Seattle Audubon 20/20*, during our organization's 100th anniversary year.

Volunteers should be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to conduct a 30-minute seabird survey. Training on survey methodology will be offered at numerous locations in September. If determining between Eared and Horned Grebe is a challenge, we'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors.

If you love birding and want to help ensure we're doing all that we can to support Puget Sound's seabird populations, this is your opportunity to make a lasting contribution to Seattle Audubon's work in our second century of conservation achievements. Learn more, including training dates, at www.seabirdsurvey.org. Email Toby Ross, Science Manager (toby@seattleaudubon.org), if you would like more information or to take part. ✧



Change Status of Bald Eagle and Marbled Murrelet?

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

"While we'd like to celebrate recovery and higher populations in some of these [bird] species, we know there are still a number of threats waiting in the wings that could impact these species," said Pilchuck Audubon President Cindy Easterson in a recent *Everett Herald* interview (7/17/2016).

She was commenting about a recent news release from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) announcing it is seeking comments on the Washington state listed status of four bird species that occur in the state. This is part of periodic reviews of WDFW's status of 45 species listed as endangered, threatened, or sensitive species.

WDFW recommends: 1) removing Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons from the State's endangered species list; 2) down-listing American White Pelicans from endangered to threatened status; and 3) elevating Marbled Murrelets from threatened to endangered status.

The Bald Eagle population in Washington is widely distributed, with at least 1,334 nesting sites in 2015 compared to 100 in 2005. If the Bald Eagle were delisted by WDFW, the federal Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Act of 1978 will still protect the eagles.

The Marbled Murrelet population continues to decline. Listed as "threatened" in 1993 by WDFW, it has declined 44 percent between 2001 and 2015, mostly due to loss of old growth forests.

The Peregrine Falcon was listed as "endangered" by WDFW in 1980 when only five nesting pairs were known statewide. There are now 148 Peregrine Falcon nesting sites, up from 70 in 2002. It would continue to be protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty, regardless of listed status by the WDFW. Comments are due to WDFW by October 10. Pilchuck Audubon will submit comments. Members of PAS are urged to submit personal comments via email to TandEpubliccom@dfw.wa.gov or by USPS mail to Hannah Anderson, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091. The WDFW news release is available online: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

Six WDFW Planning Workshops will be held in August to discuss department proposals to expand conservation programs and provide more fishing and hunting opportunities through a combination of state funding and license fee increases.

The workshop in our area will be at the WDFW Mill Creek regional office on August 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The address is 16018 Mill Creek Blvd, near the Mill Creek Post Office. PAS will have representatives in attendance. ✧



Marbled Murrelet



Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial 1916-2016

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

This year we mark the centennial of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds - also called the Migratory Bird Treaty - that was signed on Aug. 16, 1916. This [Migratory Bird Treaty \(446.6KB\)](#), and three others that followed, form the cornerstones of our efforts to conserve birds that migrate across international borders.

The treaty connects the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with our federal, state, private, non-government, tribal, and international partners who share a long, successful history of conserving, protecting, and managing migratory bird populations and their habitats. Celebrating the centennial of the first treaty allows us to bring together those who have contributed to its success, and to galvanize efforts to protect migratory birds for generations to come.

Migratory birds

- connect people with nature and add beauty, sound and color to our world. They provide countless opportunities for enjoyment by birders, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts, and they have cultural and spiritual importance.
- contribute environmental benefits, including pollination, insect and rodent control, and seed dispersal.
- are good indicators of environmental health because they are so visible and are relatively easy to study. Studying birds can give us a picture of what is going on in the natural world.

- play a key role in the U.S. economy, [supporting recreational opportunities \(22.9MB\)](#) that create jobs and generate billions of dollars in revenue.

Centennial Campaign goals include promoting key actions that anyone can take to help birds. This includes participating in [citizen science programs](#) such as bird counts; expanding property and homeowner use of bird-friendly practices such as lights out programs, reducing collisions, and maintaining wildlife-friendly gardens; and increasing sales of the [Federal Duck Stamp](#), which protects habitat for migratory birds. It also includes expanding opportunities for engagement in activities such as bird watching, hunting, and conservation, including bird-focused programs and festivals, especially in [Urban Bird Treaty Cities](#) and [Urban Refuge Partnerships](#), [International Migratory Bird Day](#) events; participation in the [Junior Duck Stamp](#) program; and youth birding and hunting events at [national wildlife refuges](#).

Migratory Birds Treaty Centennial

Remaining Major Events

[North American Ornithological Conference](#)

Washington, DC August 16-20, 2016
Pre-conference workshop, symposium planned, and other events

[Federal Duck Stamp Contest](#)

Philadelphia, PA September 9-10, 2016
The nation's most prestigious
Wildlife art competition



*Mountain Bluebird photo by Mick Thompson.
Used with permission.*

TRIP CALENDAR

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



Tuesday August 2 **Snoqualmie River Valley, Monroe to Carnation**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Monroe Park & Ride on Highway 2, one-half mile west of the Fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, August 9 **Stillaguamish and Sauk Rivers**

Meet at 7:30 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. We are going to visit areas along Highway 530 near the rivers. Included are Fortson Ponds, Squire Creek County Park, and Sauk River Boat Launch. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Sunday, August 14 **Bird Walk and Volunteer Picnic at Everett-Langus Riverfront Park—see page 1**

Tuesday, August 16 (no scheduled trips)

Saturday, August 20 **Camano Island State Park and English Boom Preserve**

Meet at 8:30 AM at Everett Mall. Park in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We will spend about half a day hiking the perimeter trail around Camano Island State Park and the Al Emerson Nature Trail. Afterward, we can have a picnic at the park next to the beach with sweeping views of Saratoga Passage. On the way home we will have an optional stop at Camano Island's lovely English Boom Preserve. This will give us the opportunity to take part in a citizen science project. PAS volunteers have been taking part in on-going, multi-year counts of migratory shorebirds along the Salish Sea. In this case, the study we will be supporting is by David Hope of Simon Frazier University in British Columbia. Our start time at English Boom is based on the schedule requested by David and is driven by the tide, so we will be starting our shorebird count there at 2:30. Bring a picnic lunch, water, sunscreen, binoculars, hat, and good walking shoes. Discover Pass for Camano Island State Park is \$10, or \$30 annually. Admission to English Boom is free!

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

Tuesday, August 23 **Deception Pass, Campbell Lake, Rosario Beach, Cranberry Lake**

Meet at 7:30 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. Maybe seabirds, shorebirds, LBJs, etc. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, August 30

Samish Flats

Meet at 7:30 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. Want to see what this area offers in Summer? Come along. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

September 9-11 **Puget Sound Birding Festival in Edmonds**

Go to www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org for more information.

September 10

4:00 p.m. until dusk

Swift Night Out

Wagner Center

639 West Main Street, Monroe

Come witness an amazing natural event occurring in our community. See page 8 for details.

Sunday, September 18

Seahurst Park, Burien

Meet at 8:30 AM at Everett Mall. Park in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We will carpool to Seahurst Park in Burien to walk the trails and explore the beaches. Bring snacks for the trail, water, sunscreen, binoculars, hat, good walking shoes, and bug repellent just in case. We'll probably stop for a little socializing over lunch in the Burien area. This will be a half-day trip.

Leader: Terry Nightingale, [206.619.2383](tel:206.619.2383)

Saturday, September 24

Iron Goat State Park/John

Wayne Pioneer Trail at Keechelus Lake

Meet at 8:30 AM at Everett Mall. Park in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We will hike the segment of the trail from Snoqualmie Pass along the southwest shore of the lake. The trail is a flat former railbed. The lake, at just over 2700 feet elevation, is about four miles long. I'd probably suggest hiking for about an hour and half, then turning back. Bring snacks for the trail, water, sunscreen, binoculars, hat, good walking shoes, and bug repellent just in case. We'll probably stop for a little socializing over dinner on the way home. Northwest Forest Pass \$5 per day or \$30 annually (not to be confused with a state Discovery Pass). The USFS website says the pass can be purchased online or at a local store at Snoqualmie Pass, but as of this writing their web page is down.

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



Backyard Birding Highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

The bird species with the largest number reported in the two-month period are listed for May 26 to June 25, 2016.

Summer is finally here. So far it has been a mixture of beautiful sunny days and then cool rain. But, this is the Pacific Northwest. We are so lucky.

Happy summer to Carol and Larry Beason. Their report from their home at Lake Bosworth listed 44 species which includes a Bald Eagle, 2 Barn Swallows, a Kingfisher in a spruce tree, 7 Cowbirds, 2 Brewer's Blackbirds, a Band-tailed Pigeon, 8 Canada Geese, 5 Dark-eyed Juncos, 3 Cedar Waxwings, 8 Hooded Mergansers, 2 Ospreys over the lake, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 7 Purple Finches, 2 Red-breasted Sapsuckers, 12 Red-winged Blackbirds, 5 Rufous Hummingbirds, 4 Swainson's Thrushes, a Turkey Vulture overhead, and a Western Tanager.

Hilkka Egtvedt still has her 4 California Quail. She is the only one of our reporters who has them in her yard. Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilkka also listed 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, a female Hairy Woodpecker with a juvenile, 3 Violet-green Swallows, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 2 Western Tanagers, 3 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 2 Spotted Towhees, 2 White-crowned Sparrows, 4 Purple Finches, 3 House Finches, and 4 American Goldfinches for a total species count of 23.

Another Bald Eagle was spotted by Kriss Erickson from her Everett home. Her report included 4 American Robins, 2 Spotted Towhees, 5 Band-tailed Pigeons, 18 European Starlings, 18 Western Gulls flying overhead, 3 Song Sparrows, 3 Northern Flickers, 12 Northwestern Crows in her yard, 3 Mallard Ducks plus 8 little Ducklings, 8 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 23 Bushtits, and 4 Dark-eyed Juncos, for a total species count of 21.

Linda Kielland's report listed 34 species this month. She reports from her home in Everett and the various locations she travels to on her job. The species listed from Everett include 10 Evening Grosbeaks, 6 American Goldfinches, 7 Brewer's Blackbirds including 2 juveniles, 2 Fox Sparrows, 6 Pine Siskins, 2 Barn Swallows, and a Cedar Waxwing eating ants in her driveway. Species from other locations include 12 Canada Geese flying over the Snohomish River, 5 Great Blue Heron flying near 10th the at boat launch, 3 Killdeer at Miller Shingle entrance near the Snohomish River, and an Osprey with a fish in its mouth flying low over the Snohomish River near Miller Shingle.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood listed 10 American Goldfinches, 8 American Robins (including 4 young ones fledged successfully from the nest beside her home, 6 Bewick's Wrens also including 4 fledglings from their nest, 6 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 4 Bushtits, 3 Downy Woodpeckers, 2 Killdeer in the pasture, 17 Mourning Doves, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-tailed Hawk, 8 Rufous Hummingbirds, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, 5 Song Sparrows, 2 Tree Swallows, a Western Tanager, and 3 Wilson's Warblers, for a total species count of 37.

UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS

Southeast Arizona Birding Festival August 11-14

Tucson, AZ

Tucson promises a premier birding experience. Field trips, workshops, social events/dinners and a vendor fair are featured in this popular festival (re-named this year). The keynote speakers are Jeff Gordon, President of the ABA, and Sheri Williamson, hummingbird expert and founder of the Southern Arizona Bird Observatory. Rick Wright will present a series of workshops and lead a field trip as well. Don't forget sunscreen! <http://tucsonaudubon.org/what-we-do/festival.html>

Ghost Bears: the North Cascades Grizzly Leavenworth, WA August 14-20

Embark on a backpacking adventure with expert wildlife biologists Bill Gaines, Andrea Lyons, Aja Woodrow, and James Begley and venture into stunning mountain scenery in search of "ghost bears" – the North Cascades Grizzly. This in-depth experiential learning experience will include research techniques, biology and ecology of rare carnivores, and the recovery and conservation of endangered species. Requires backpacking gear; fee: \$250-\$300. <http://wenatcheeriverinstitute.org/events/ghost-bears-elusive-north-cascades-grizzly>

2016 Big Bend Nature Fest August 25-27

Big Bend NP, TX

Often called 'three parks in one', Big Bend's variety of habitats supports more species of ants, bats, birds, scorpions, butterflies, cacti, reptiles, and scorpions than any other national park in the USA. Enjoy an introduction to Big Bend taught by subject matter experts. The event will feature field trips and lectures highlighting the park's diversity, along with music, parties, a Texas barbecue, and scorpions. Fee: \$100. <http://www.bigbendnaturefest.com/home.html>. Did we mention there will be scorpions...?

Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival August 26-28

Fairbanks, AK

Celebrate the fall migration of Sandhill Cranes through Interior Alaska. The keynote speaker is past director of Rowe Sanctuary, Paul Tebble. Other activities include birding tours, nature talks, guided walks, live birds of prey, kids' activities, and best of all, NO scorpions. <http://www.creamersfield.org/> ✧

Reporting from Marysville, my total species count of 22 Included 2 Anna's Hummingbirds. The Hummingbirds let us know when the feeders are empty. They come and buzz the windows or follow us around the yard. The Steller's Jays will make a racket when they want something. Also listed in my report were 5 Black-capped Chickadees, 4 House Finches, 3 Hairy Woodpeckers, 5 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 4 Mourning Doves, 2 Spotted Towhees with 3 juveniles, 5 Steller's Jays, 4 Evening Grosbeaks, 4 American Goldfinches, 3 Common Ravens flying over, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch.

If you are interested in participating in our bird sightings, please email me at pricemara1@gmail.com or leave a message on my cell at 425-750-8125. ✧



You Are Invited to Feast on the Farm

Please join Pilchuck Audubon Society for our annual Feast on the Farm. Our Smart Growth Program is working every day to continue connecting the importance of protecting our county's farmlands, forests, wildlife habitat, and rural communities while creating healthy communities.

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Craven Farm

13817 Short School Road

Snohomish, WA 98290

Tickets are \$50 per person. RSVP by August 26.

Pay on line at:

<https://www.chi-cash-advance.com/sforms/appeal1038/Contribute.aspx>, click on Smart Growth in Designation drop-down Box, and type in Feast on the Farm in the second box.

OR

RSVP to Kristin Kelly at execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org and then mail your check payable to Pilchuck Audubon Society to:
Kristin Kelly
Smart Growth Executive Director
Pilchuck Audubon Society
1429 Avenue D, #198
Snohomish, WA 98290



Our annual Feast combines the talents of our local guest chefs who use local farm products to create delectable bites, complemented by local wines, brews and spirits. Live music and dancing provided by The CD Woodbury Trio.

Proceeds benefit the Smart Growth Program for Pilchuck Audubon Society. Please purchase tickets by August 26.

GUEST CHEFS: Andy Gibbs--Andy's Fish House; Anne Dottai--Grilla Bites; Cindy Sherwood--French Creek Manor; Dana Daniel; Marilyn Rosenberg--Café Zippy; Roger Edyt—Roger's Riverview Bistro; Terra Kelly--The Hungry Pelican

FARMERS AND PRODUCERS: Bailey's Vegetables; Bright Ide Acres; Caruso Farm; Craven Farm; Darigold; Farmer Frog; Hayton Farm; J&S Homestead; Cherry Lane Eggs; Red Barn Community Farm; Skipley Farm

WINERIES/BREWERIES/DISTILLERIES: Dubindil Winery; Randolph Cellars; Van Camp Cellars; Prison Break Brewery; Sno Town Brewery; Skip Rock Distillers

CHEF'S CHOICE SPONSORS: County Executive Dave Somers; Fire Commissioner Guy Palumbo; Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak and Warner Blake; State Representative June Robinson; Sno-Isle Food Coop; Snohomish Conservation District

INDIVIDUAL HOSTS: HopeWorks Executive Director Ed Peterson; Ellen Gray; County Council member Hans Dunshee; Mukilteo Mayor Jennifer Gregerson; Julie Meghji; Michelle Gundersen; State Senator Marko Liias; State Representative Mike Sells; Nancy Dawson; Steve Aslanian

Sponsored by:



Monroe, Washington • FREE EVENT

SWIFT NIGHT OUT

September 10, 2016
4 pm till dusk

WAGNER CENTER

639 West Main Street, Monroe Washington

Celebrate the Vaux's Swift migration and watch thousands of birds come to roost in the chimney at Wagner Center

FREE PARKING

Parking is available at

- Monroe City Hall
- Frank Wagner Elementary
- Park Place Middle School
- ADA parking is available across from the Center at Windermere Real Estate.

SPAGHETTI FEED DINNER

Feed the family at our Fund-raising Spaghetti Feed.

Spaghetti and Salad Dinner

Just \$6.50

Hotdogs, dessert, beverages and other snacks available.

ACTIVITIES

Children's Games and Crafts
Wildlife Education Booths
Vaux's Swift Research Station
Swift Headbands

...and of course the Swifts!

THANK YOU TO OUR KEY SUPPORTERS



TRIP REPORTS

Weekend Bird Walk to Guillemot Cove Nature Preserve

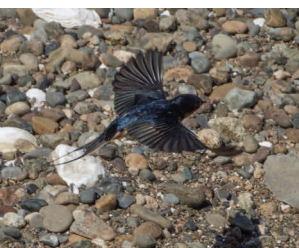
By Jonathan Blubaugh

A while back, one of our members asked if I knew where Seabeck is. I said, "Well sure, we've done a bird walk there before." It turns out Audubon had published a photo of a Bald Eagle swooping dramatically over a Great Blue Heron near Seabeck. Naturally, people wanted to know where that was, but we didn't know the exact location where the picture was shot. So, since we take requests, we took a bird walk to Seabeck's Kitsap County Guillemot Cove Nature Preserve June 4.

We are now posting announcements for Weekend Bird Walks on the Meetup website. This announcement brought in couple of new people. Some asked if they could meet us there. I said, "Why not? The problem was we couldn't predict whether we would be able to catch a specific ferry. So one of the participants went ahead of us on a different ferry. He told me he got some terrific photos, and he went home before we even got there! Another lady wanted to meet us at Seabeck, but the only way to contact her was on the Meetup app. When we arrived in Seabeck, I posted a note on Meetup that we had arrived, but we missed her, too. I also received a very helpful suggestion: for people coming from different directions that it might be most useful to meet at the ferry terminal prior to sailing rather than trying to meet at separate locations. I'll have to remember that. In the end we had eight in our group plus the two others.

On board the ferry we got a good little checklist. The best sightings might have been a couple of Rhinoceros Auklets with their breeding "plumage" horn ornaments on their upper bills.

The guest who went ahead called to advise me that there were lots of photographers and bird watchers at a bridge over a river on the way to Seabeck. He told us that was where he got his good photos. I said, "Okay, we'll keep an eye out." As we were driving from the Kingston Ferry Terminal to Seabeck, we crossed a bridge where a stream was flowing into Hood Canal. It had tons of cars stopped on both sides of the road.



Purple Martin
by Joanne Iskierka

I realized, "This is it. We need to turn the car around." So we found a good place to make a U-turn and, sure enough, it was the site of the famous heron-and-eagle photo. Not much of secret: we were the last to know. Turns out it's already an eBird hotspot: Big Beef Harbor. The reason so many people were there was because the tide was extra low, bringing in predatory herons and eagles to fish.

Residents at the mouth of the stream hung up a series of gourds, and appreciative Purple Martins were nesting in them. We could hear the babies cheeping as their parents kept up a bucket brigade of fresh bugs for them. Photographer Joanne Iskierka (in our group) got some great shots as well. I attached her precious photos of the Martins and a Swallow to the eBird reports.



Purple Martin female
by Joanne Iskierka

By that time, we were hungry so we stopped in the



Photo by Joanne Iskierka

village of Seabeck for pizza. On the pier there, the Martins' gourds had been set out so close to the railing that we could see the lovely purple plumage without our binos and clearly hear the mellow calls. Thank God, we'd be up to our eyeballs in mosquitos otherwise. Joanne shot the amazing photo of

the rainbow miles above in the cirrus.

After lunch, we found our way to the Preserve. The trail has been moved to accommodate industrious beavers who had dammed the creek, so we didn't need to tiptoe through the marsh this time. The view of the Olympics did not disappoint, and we had the park practically to ourselves. We detected more than thirty species—many by ear. We were surprised that the only seabirds we saw were some gulls way out over the water. We heard lots of migratory warblers and others but they stayed under cover. We were also surprised that we missed a turn on the hike back out. We had to backtrack a ways, but it just gave more time to bird watch.

Here's a list of most of the birds we saw or heard:

Saw: Canada Goose (31), Surf Scoter (3), Pelagic Cormorant (1), Great Blue Heron (10), Turkey Vulture (3), Bald Eagle (11), Pigeon Guillemot (7), Rhinoceros Auklet (3), Glaucous-winged Gull (55), Pigeons (3 feral), Band-tailed Pigeon (1), Red-breasted Sapsucker (1), Olive-sided Flycatcher (1), ((I missed)), Crow (28), Common Raven (1), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (4), Tree Swallow (1), Violet-Green Swallow (1), Purple Martin (37), Barn Swallow (6), American Robin (1), Varied Thrush (1 (I missed)), European Starling (1), Cedar Waxwing (3), White-crowned Sparrow (2), Dark-eyed Junco (3), Red-winged Blackbird (6); **Heard:** Killdeer (2), Pacific Slope Flycatcher (1), Warbling Vireo (1), Chestnut-backed Chickadee (1), Brown Creeper (1), Pacific Wren (1), Bewick's Wren (1), Swainson's Thrush (1), Common Yellowthroat (2), Wilson's Warbler (1), Yellow Warbler (1), Yellow-rumped Warbler (1), Black-throated Grey Warbler (1), Song Sparrow (2), Spotted Towhee (1), Western Tanager (1), Black-headed Grosbeak (1), Purple Finch (1), Red Crossbill (2), Evening Grosbeak (1) (I missed).

Destination: Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

By Reg Reisenbichler

The following is a summary of the exploits of seven intrepid birders from Pilchuck Audubon Society traveling from Snohomish County to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and back 8-15 June 2016. They were Kim Kendall, Carolyn Lacy, Judy Lowell, Paula Parsons, Carlos Pintos, Reg Reisenbichler, and Barb Smith. Our fearless leader, Susie Schaefer, could not go because of a last-minute health problem.

The group met at Reg and Kim's house in Brier on Wednesday, June 8, at 5:45 a.m. and then again at the Brickyard Park & Ride on I-405 at 160th Street for final consolidation into two cars for the trip. Baggage included lunches and several breakfasts for the entire week, so the cars had little room to spare.

We had to deal with miles of backed-up traffic but finally reached I-90 and were then able to breeze up to Snoqualmie Pass and on to the Cle Elum Bakery to test pastries. At Ellensburg, we took Highway 821 through the Yakima Canyon, stopping at the mouth of Umtanum Creek where the birds were putting on a great midday chorus. Our sightings included Yellow-breasted Chats, Lazuli Buntings, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Prairie Falcon, and Two-tailed Swallowtail Butterflies.



Yellow-breasted Chat (Photo by Mick Thompson)

We continued to Highway 97, stopping at Brooks Memorial SP near Goldendale for lunch. Sightings included Brewer's Blackbird, Steller's Jay, Northern Flicker, Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, and Swainson's Thrush. We crossed the Columbia River and took I-84 west to the mouth of the Deschutes River, where we birded the lush riparian habitat for about an hour. Mulberry trees were loaded with tasty berries, attracting both birds and birders. Sightings included Canada Goose, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, California Quail, Belted Kingfisher, Cedar Waxwing, Bullock's Oriole, and Western Kingbird. We proceeded west to The Dalles and then south on Highway 197, passing through scenic Tygh Valley and rustic Maupin, a pleasant little town (catering to river boaters and fishermen) where the highway crosses over to the east side of the Deschutes River. We ate dinner and spent the night in Madras along Highway 97.

The next morning (Thursday, June 9) we visited Lower Bridge on the Deschutes River west of Terrebonne, a small, lovely canyon with a healthy riparian area and good numbers of birds.



Lesser Goldfinch

Sightings included Bullock's Oriole, House Wren (nesting in a trailside plastic bag dispenser), Yellow Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Brown-headed Cowbird, five species of swallow including Bank Swallow, American Robin, Black-headed

Grosbeak, Red-tailed Hawk, and American and Lesser



Goldfinch. We continued south on Hwy 97, stopping briefly at Newberry Volcanic National Monument south of Bend. Most notable at the monument were the many Pandora Moth caterpillars crawling (or squashed) on the ground. We continued south to Highway 31 and on to the Silver Lake Ranger Station, where we ate lunch. Birds observed included Red-naped Sapsucker, Common Nighthawk, Turkey Vulture, Pine Siskin, American Robin, Brewer's Blackbird, and swallow spp. We finally reached our second primary target of the day—Summer Lake Wildlife Management Area. Some of the birds we saw were Cinnamon Teal; Northern Shoveler, Sandhill Cranes tending their rusty-colored chick as they negotiated the thick marsh vegetation; American Bittern; Gadwall; Ruddy Duck; American Coot; Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebe; Wilson's Phalarope; Willet; American White Pelican; Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds. With the day evaporating, we persevered, stopping only briefly for a photo of the town sign for Paisley, in honor of Susie's beloved dog. We stayed overnight at the Lakeview Lodge Motel along Highway 395.

Three of us met at six the next morning (Friday) to bird Bullard Canyon at the eastern edge of town. The small canyon was terrific and held a goodly number of birds including Prairie Falcon, Yellow Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting. We returned to the lodge at 7:00 a.m. for a quick breakfast, and the entire group headed back north to Highway 140 and CR 3-10 to see Crump Lake, Hart Bar, and Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge. We had lots of wildflowers, beautiful meadows, some rugged terrain, and lots of rolling sage brush terrain. We saw a Nighthawk roosting on the top rail of a buck-and-rail fence,



Loggerhead Shrike

serenaded by Western Meadowlarks. We also found Pronghorn, Sage Thrasher, Horned Lark, American Pipit, Brewer's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow Warbler, American Avocet, Western Grebe, Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Mule

Deer, Black-tailed Jackrabbit, Mountain Cottontail, Townsend Ground Squirrels (emitting what sounded to us like a bird-like call—confusing until we recognized the source), White-tailed Antelope, Ground Squirrel, and more. We enjoyed beautiful wildflowers including Tansy-leaf Evening Primrose, Mallow, Blue Iris, Lupine, Balsam Root, Wild Onion, Buckwheats, Cinquefoil, Blue Flax, and

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Destination: Malheur

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Penstemon. We continued to Hwy 205 and a brief stop at Frenchglen, where we saw Wilson's Snipe; along Hwy 205 we spotted a White-faced Ibis; and cruising slowly on Diamond Road, we spotted Wilson's Phalarope, Black-headed Gull, Peregrine Falcon, and Bobolink. We then proceeded north to Diamond Lane and east to Hotel Diamond for a large, delicious family-style dinner. We enjoyed talking with the staff whose family, we learned, has been there for five generations. After dinner, we continued north on Lava Beds Road and Hwy 78 to Crystal Crane Hot Springs, where we spent the next three nights. We had high wind and cold temperatures from Diamond to Crane, which made us glad that we were not tent camping at the hot springs.



Wilson's Phalarope

We spent Saturday between Crane, The Narrows, and Malheur's Buena Vista area. We spent considerable time watching a Burrowing Owl family near the hot springs and then a murder of crows mobbing a Golden Eagle. Further inspection revealed three more immature Golden Eagles in the near vicinity! We drove by the Refuge headquarters, which remain off-limits since the "Bundy occupation." We were able to see one American White Pelican on the headquarters pond but little else. At Buena Vista we found Trumpeter Swans with cygnets; Eared Grebes; Northern Pintail, Redhead, American Coot, Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Great Egret, and more. We met and visited with Andy (a maintenance man for the Refuge), who then invited us to his house to see nesting Kestrels and Great Horned Owl, and Western Tanager. Although the birds didn't show themselves, we enjoyed our extended conversation with Andy. We then headed north on the Central Patrol Road (CPR) along the Blitzen River, which yielded many swallows and Yellow Warblers; Eastern Kingbirds doing display flights; baby American Coots waving their very tiny wings frantically and oddly, presumably to get food from their parents; deer; Sandhill Cranes; Mallards; Prairie Falcon; and more (mosquitoes!). A Great Horned Owl flew to a perch along the river next to the car and was immediately mobbed by two Eastern Kingbirds, one of which landed on the owl's back and rode along as the owl flew off—



Black-necked Stilt (Photo by Mick Thompson)

reminiscent of a cartoon! We stopped at the Malheur Field Station gift shop and museum and enjoyed talking with proprietor Duncan Evered about birds, housing at the Field Station for

groups like ours, and other topics. We finished our day afield by revisiting the Burrowing Owl family, who diligently kept their eyes on us.

Sunday morning sunrise revealed the display flights and calls of three or more Willets and the antics of Black-necked Stilts at the hot springs. After more time watching the Burrowing Owls watch us, we devoted the rest of the day to birding the southern area of Malheur from Page Springs Camp Ground to Benson Pond. Birds at Page Springs CG included Yellow-breasted Chats, Cedar Waxwings, Willow Flycatchers, and Eastern and Western Kingbirds. Birds at P Ranch included Great Horned Owl with owlet, Yellow Warblers, and Bullock's Orioles. The southern portion of CPR yielded Ruddy and other ducks, American White Pelicans, Trumpeter Swans, Ring-necked Pheasant, Long-billed Curlew, Black-crowned Night Heron, and Bobolinks. Krumbo Reservoir held about six Eared Grebes and only a few other birds. Benson Pond held Trumpeter Swans with cygnets, Forster's Tern, Franklin's Gull, Canvasback, and good numbers of other water birds.



Willet (Photo by Mick Thompson)

We traveled highways 78, 395, 26, 7, and I-84 from Crane to La Grande on Monday. The first stop after getting gasoline in Burns was Idlewild Campground in Ponderosa Pine habitat (Elev. 5300 ft) with an intermittent stream and mostly willow riparian area. The sun was out and the air very pleasant to breathe. Life is good. Birds included



Mountain Bluebird (Photo by Mick Thompson)

Cassin's Finch, Chipping Sparrow, Brown Creeper, Mountain Chickadee, Gray Jay, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. On Hwy 395, we spotted the ubiquitous Turkey Vulture, Raven, Northern Flicker, Yellow Warbler, Western Wood Pewee, Killdeer, and (Paula's favorite) Mountain Bluebird. Further north, Tom Winters met us at Seneca and led us to his home in the forest. Tom is a retired Forest Service employee and a close friend of Carlos. Tom fed us a delicious lunch, gave us a tour of his largely self-sufficient house, and answered our many

questions about his solar panels and batteries, the local community, his local birding group, and a range of other topics. His yard and feeders yielded White-headed Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Cassin's Finch, White-breasted Nuthatch, and other birds. We enjoyed our time with Tom very much.

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Later in the day we passed through a large one- or two-year old burn but were unable to find any woodpeckers. Along Highway 7 we passed a several-mile stretch of old tailings left from dredge mining that ruined this segment of the Powder River for fish. Further downstream we stopped briefly at Phillips Reservoir. Birds included Sandhill Cranes, Osprey, Warbling Vireo, Great Blue Heron, Western Grebe, Tree Swallow, and White-headed Woodpecker.

We continued to La Grande for dinner and a good night's rest. Some of us visited the Bobolink (a shop) and enjoyed meeting local proprietor and bird tour leader Trent Bray (Phone: 541-980-4443) who generously offered advice and directions for birding the area. We stayed at the Quail Run Motel.

Our first stop Tuesday morning was the nearby Ladd Marsh, where we saw lots of Red-tailed Hawks and Northern Harriers amid rain showers. We also observed Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds, Cliff and Barn Swallows, Mourning Doves, Mallards with babies, Song Sparrows, Marsh Wrens, Common Yellowthroat, Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Egret, Magpie, and Sora.

Our next stop was the wonderful Rhinehart Bridge/Philberg Road area with lots of mock orange in bloom and lots of bird song (between rain showers) and birds including Calliope Hummingbird, Gray Catbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, American Robin, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Yellow Warbler. About 15 birders in two vans from Portland Audubon Society were also birding the area and talked briefly with us. We next stopped for lunch at Minam State Recreation Area in a

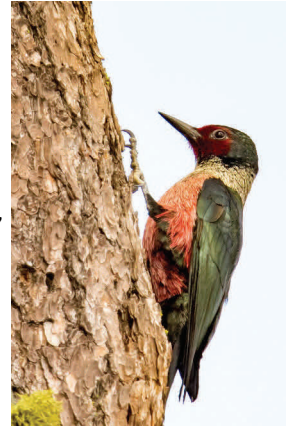


Red-naped Sapsucker
(Photo: Mick Thompson)

beautiful canyon below the confluence of the Minam and Wallowa rivers. Birds included Spotted Sandpiper, Pileated Woodpecker, Cliff Swallow, Canyon Wren, American Dipper, and Red-naped Sapsucker. We then continued through the beautiful Wallowa Valley to Enterprise, where we headed north toward Washington state. Our last stop for birds was the forest and meadows of Field Springs State Park and Puffer Butte, which are largely surrounded by the rolling

countryside of the Palouse. The Butte is known for its wildflowers. Birds included Cassin's Vireo, Calliope Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Wild Turkeys, Western Tanager, Townsend's Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and House Wren. We ate dinner in Clarkston and continued to Ridge House Bed and Breakfast outside of Pomeroy for the night.

Breakfast the next morning was terrific and the owners, Donna and Wally, were a delight. The accommodations were very pleasant and comfortable, and the property was surrounded by the beautiful rolling hills of the Palouse planted in Canola, which was in the early stages of gorgeous yellow bloom. Say's Phoebe and American Robins were the birds most noticeable in the yard. We also spotted Barn Swallows, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Ring-necked Pheasant.



Lewis's Woodpecker
(Photo: Mick Thompson)

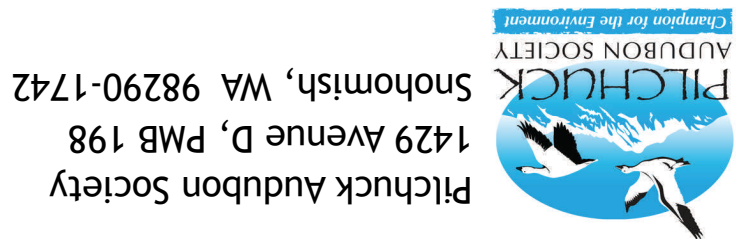
We took backroads through the Palouse west from the B&B to the W. T. Wooten WMA along the Tucannon River. Both the route and the Wildlife Area were great. Birds included Mountain Bluebirds, Brewer's Blackbird, Northern Flicker, sparrow spp., Ruffed Grouse, Raven, Horned Lark, Warbling Vireo, various swallows, Vaux's Swift, Veery, Downy Woodpecker, Meadowlark, American Kestrel, Savannah Sparrow, California Quail, and Lazuli Bunting. At Spring Lake in the Wildlife Area we were pleased to watch a very cooperative Red-naped Sapsucker working its nectary and protecting it from intruders including Black-chinned Hummingbirds. We also enjoyed watching Eastern Kingbirds with a nest in a broken snag out in lake. Cliff, Tree, and Violet-green Swallows found abundant insects while swooping over the lake. One segment of the Wildlife Area yielded a bonanza of Lewis's Woodpeckers—we saw more than a dozen of them along a half-mile stretch of road!

We made one additional stop for birds at Palouse Falls State Park where we saw a number of swallows, an unidentified stick nest in the canyon wall, a Bullock's Oriole, and White-throated Swifts (first of the trip!). We snacked at the Park and headed for home through Washtucna, arriving at the 160th Street Park and Ride about 8:00 p.m. It was a great eight-day trip.

I thank everyone on the trip for their various contributions, and I especially want to thank Susie for setting up the trip and for generously contributing time in the planning (and for lending her spotting scope). ✧



Lunch at Brooks Memorial State Park:
(L-R) Paula, Carlos, Judy, and Barb.



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Upcoming Events at the Edmonds Wildlife Habitat Native Plant Demo Garden By Susie Schaefer

Saturday, August 6, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Work Party with Earth Corps

We have not had a work party for months so all volunteers are needed for this big mid-summer work party. Please be sure to put this date on your calendar now.

Saturday, August 13

Special workshop on garter snakes

More information in the August newsletter.

If you are interested in joining the **Field Sketchers** group with Nancy Moore and April Richardson, call April (425-293-2175) or email Nancy (rayandnancy@comcast.net) about meeting times and places. ✧