



IT'S BEEN GRAND

By: *Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President*

In April 2012, I became president of Pilchuck Audubon Society. I started on the PAS board as secretary in 2009 and learned about our organization working with the indomitable Mike Blackbird, president, and the tireless Susie Schaefer, vice-president. Given those role models, I had much to live up to but I took the office anyway with a not much more than organizational skills and the willingness to learn.

I learned lots. Thank to Kathy Johnson, our Forest Practices chair, I learned about NEPA and SEPA and DNR and many other acronyms that are so important in the conservation world. Thanks to Allen Gibbs, our Conservation Chair, I learned about the people and history of government and non-profit environmental agencies in the Pacific Northwest and how the politics of public lands can play out. Thanks to Carolyn Lacy, former treasurer, I learned what true long-term dedication to an organization means. Terry Nightingale, our vice-president, was a shining example of a calm, welcoming presence who approaches situations with an eye of the big picture. Kathy Piland, secretary, Jay Ward, at-large member, Laurel Cheap, at-large member, Jim Beneteau, Development Chair, and Bonnie Campbell, Membership chair, have been aboard this train with me for years and always had so much support and energy to offer. Judy Hall, Treasurer, and Jim Clark, Avian Projects Chair, have just joined our team but I have already seen what wonderful contributions they have made.

Kristin Kelly was our Smart Growth Executive Director when I joined the board and is still filling that role today, as well as becoming the PAS Executive Director. She has built an incredible knowledge base and personal network that is very important to our county's natural lands and waters. I shudder to think of the day that she will retire.

I thank them all from the depths of my heart.

In April, I will become a past president of PAS and I look for the highlights of the past four years. The Riverview Wildlife Refuge in Snohomish is definitely a highlight. As a member of a city committee, I helped create a refuge that includes land which Pilchuck Audubon owns. This is a lovely place to walk and bird and I plan to be there more often in the future.

The Purple Martin colony in Port Gardner Bay (Jetty Island area) is another highlight. We have gone from one derelict martin nest box to twelve new ones with the corresponding rise in the number of martins who breed there. We have also put up four Barn Owl nest boxes but no luck yet in attracting any.

The Save Our Swifts project is a wonderful accomplishment for PAS and me. Working with Larry Schwitters, our swift guru, is like working with the energizer bunny. He takes an idea, researches options, and then carries out the most optimal plan.

(Continued on page 4)

MARCH PROGRAM MEETING STUDENTS IN ACTION

Friday, March 11, 7:00 PM



The March program will be presented by 2 groups of students who are involved in local environmental action in Snohomish County. The first group will be 2nd and 3rd graders from Pioneer Elementary School, Arlington, who will share how they restored a wetland area next to their school and learned about the birds who live there. This project was funded by a Pilchuck Audubon Classroom Conservation Award.

The second group will be the Students Saving Salmon Club from Edmonds Woodway High School. They are doing water quality monitoring as a part of the City of Edmonds plan to daylight Willow Creek.

Pilchuck is pleased to present both groups which are working hard and want to share this with us.

FRIDAY, March 11, 2016

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Everett Firefighter's Hall

2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

Questions? Leave a message at 425-610-8027

In This Issue

About.....	2	Feature Article.....	1,4
Backyard Birding.....	3	Trip Calendar.....	5

PAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

By: *Kristin Kelly, PAS Executive Director*

With change comes opportunity. Pilchuck Audubon Society board members now have a part-time Executive Director position and, if you didn't know, I am that person. Most of you know me as the Smart Growth Executive Director for the last 10 years, which I also will continue. Working in both these capacities for such a wonderful organization is a great opportunity for me.

However, with change and opportunity comes some bumps. I will be challenged somewhat while I work to scale back my Smart Growth work into a half-time position after working full-time for 10 years. And I will be on a learning curve for a little bit in my new role as Executive Director for the organization.

My goal will be to continue to concentrate and advocate for achievable wins on the most important issues for protection of our air and water quality and our wildlife habitat as our county continues to grow and develop.

In my new role as half-time Executive Director, I will be carrying out my responsibilities with enthusiasm. It's definitely a work in progress, but I am confident that Pilchuck Audubon Society will continue to be the champion for the environment. If there is something you want to share with me or want me to know about, please feel free to contact me at execdiretor@pilchuckaudubon.org.

With change comes opportunity and challenges but, most importantly, with change comes success.

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



Board of Directors

President	Kathleen Snyder president@pilchuckaudubon.org
Vice President	Terry Nightingale vice-president@pilchuckaudubon.org
Treasurer	Judy Hall treasurer@pilchuckaudubon.org
Secretary	Kathy Piland 253.736.4937
Conservation	Allen Gibbs conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org
Membership	Bonnie Campbell 425.493.8721
Avian Science	Jim Clark avian@pilchuckaudubon.org
Development	Jim Beneteau develop@pilchuckaudubon.org
Members at Large	Laurel Cheap classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Jay Ward 425.418.3226
	Kathy Johnson 425.610.8027
	David Gladstone

Consultant

Committee Chairs

Asst. Treasurer	Carolyn Lacy carolacy@gmail.com
Bird Sightings	Mara Price 360.722.5752
Citizen Science Coord.	Sherrill Miller field.birds.pas@gmail.com
Communications	Lindsey May 425.610.8027
Conservation Awards	Laurel Cheap classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
Donations	Judy Chapman donations@pilchuckaudubon.org
Education	Jim Beneteau develop@pilchuckaudubon.org
Field Trips	Art Wait 360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
Hospitality	Virginia Clark 360.435.3750
Newsletter Editor	Christabel Lobo newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org
Program	Susie Schaefer garden@pilchuckaudubon.org
Publicity	Judy Alles 360.793.1343
Webmaster	Carol Curtin webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org

Staff

Smart Growth/PAS E.D.	Kristin Kelly pased2016@gmail.com
-----------------------	--

ANNUAL PAS MEETING!

Our annual business meeting and board election takes place the evening of the April program meeting Friday, April 8, at 7:00 PM at the Everett Firefighters Hall.

This year, the offices of President and Secretary 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 pilchuckaudubon.org. We will also take nominations from the floor.

The business agenda also includes:

- Summary of the year's budget
- Presentation of Volunteer of 2015 Award

Please plan to attend this important meeting!

CONSERVATION REPORT

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

State Legislative Update – The legislative session ends on March 10th.

This is a legislative session where the focus of conservationists has been to defend the good environmental laws and regulations in Washington State. There has been no lack of assaults to weaken those laws and regulations. Two bills were real stinkers!

The “Cow Poop bills” (Substitute Senate Bill 6568 and House Bill 2840) died. They would have restricted the ability of communities to enforce clean water laws that apply to management of massive manure/urine lagoons generated by large scale agriculture operations such as feedlots and dairies. The legislation would have increased contamination of municipal ground and surface water supplies, Puget Sound, and other waterbodies.

These are huge feedlots and dairies with thousands of animals -not like my great uncle’s Snohomish dairy of 50 cows back in the 1920s-1940s.

Conservation Heroes – A co-founder of the Tahoma Audubon Society, Helen Engle of University Place, is celebrating her 90th birthday anniversary with the very large family of PNW conservationists.

Born in Oakville, WA in Lewis County in 1926, she graduated from Tacoma General Hospital School of Nursing. While raising a large family with Stan Engle at University Place, she and Thelma Gilmur, environmental education leader in Puyallup and Tacoma, teamed up and founded Tahoma Audubon Society as the base organization to preserve the Nisqually River estuary from development into Puget Sound’s “super port” in the 1960s-1970s. They succeeded! Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1974.

Thelma Gilmur passed away on January 17, 2016 at age 92, just shy of 93 years. She was born on a farm in Alder, WA (now submerged by Alder Dam) and, after graduating from Pacific Lutheran University, became a teacher in the Puyallup and Tacoma school systems for 37 years, creating a legacy as teacher and Girl Scout leader. With husband Chuck and family, she was a champion of creating and preserving many now prominent urban green spaces in Pierce County.

Helen served nearly 20 years on National Audubon Society’s board and, with Stan, was a Mountaineer activist. Thelma and Chuck were active in the Sierra Club and other groups. Helen and Thelma, with others, helped found the Washington Environmental Council and other Puget Sound activist groups.

Helen Engle and Thelma Gilmur were awarded honorary Doctor of Science degrees by the University of Puget Sound in 2011 for their legacy works which benefitted future generations.

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

December 26, 2015 - January 25, 2016

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Please note that last month’s birding highlights were incorrectly labeled. They were from November 26 – December 25, 2015.



Greater White-Fronted Goose
Photo by Dave Menke, USFWS

A new sighting from Carole and Larry Beason reporting from Lake Bosworth. They reported a Greater White-Fronted Goose swimming at the head of the line of Canadian Geese around the lake. Their report also included 4 American Coot on the lake, a Bald Eagle

on the dock eating a duck, a Common Raven flying over, 26 Dark-Eyed Junco in the yard, 7 Common Merganser and 15 Bufflehead on the lake, 4 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, a Great Blue Heron on the deck 4 Great Blue Herons in Macias field, 3 Pileated Woodpeckers, a Golden-Crowned Kinglet and 6 Ring-Necked Ducks on the lake for a total species count of 43.

Hilkka Egtvedt’s report from Mukilteo listed a Coopers Hawk and a Sharp-Shinned Hawk that arrived in her yard on the same day. The Coopers Hawk left, but unfortunately the Sharp-Shinned Hawk stay around. She also reported 3 California Quail, 8 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 4 Steller’s Jays, 6 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 11 Bushtit, a Yellow-Rumped Warbler, 5 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, a Fox Sparrow, 29 Dark-Eyed Junco and 3 Pine Siskin for a total species count of 26.

Kriss Erickson reported 29 species from her home in Everett which included 10 American Goldfinches, 10 House Finches, a Northern Shoveler, 2 Bald Eagles, 6 American Robins, 16 Western Gulls, a Pacific Wren, 2 Bewick’s Wrens, 19 Bushtit, 23 European Starlings, 2 Red-Winged Blackbirds, 4 Song Sparrows and 24 Black-Capped Chickadees for a total species count of 25.

Reporting from Marysville, Pam Myers report included 15 Dark-Eyed Junco, 3 House Sparrows, a Brown Creeper, 14 Pine Siskin, 12 Glaucous-Winged Gulls, 2 Eurasian-collard Doves, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 4 Song Sparrows, 3 Yellow Warblers, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 2 Anna’s Hummingbirds, 2 Downey Woodpeckers and 5 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees for a total species count of 24.

My count from Marysville is a little down this month. My total species count of 20 included 30+ American Crows in the fields, 6 Black-Capped Chickadees, 12 Dark-Eyed Junco, 12 Mourning Doves, 5 Northern Flickers, Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Song Sparrows, 6 Spotted Towhees, 5 Steller’s Jays, 40 Mallard in the flooded fields, 12 Canada Goose in the fields, 4 Varied Thrush under the feeders, and 2 Great-Horned Owls in the woods.



Great Horned Owl
Photo by USFWS

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

IT'S BEEN GRAND...

(Continued from page 1)

His dedication to this species is truly an inspiration – an inspiration that has taken Pilchuck to Albany, Oregon to erect the first Vaux's Swift artificial roosting tower.

The part that Pilchuck played in halting the development of the motocross track on Mt Loop Highway is also something of which I am proud.

The new legacy campaign and brochure were many months in the planning and are now implemented. Our website is more complete and always up-to-date thanks to my wonderful sister, Carol Curtin, whom I dragged into being webmaster.

The number of bird surveys we are involved in has increased. I am so happy that the Leque Island survey will be underway soon. How dike breaching affects bird populations is important for other dike breaching projects in the future.

What I didn't accomplish during my term is going to become my major focus as past president. In 2013, Robert Royce bequeathed \$100,000 to Pilchuck Audubon with no stipulations on its use. The board decided that this money would be used for new projects and came up with four priorities. The first was a memorial bench for Mr. Royce; we had the dedication ceremony for it in January. The second was for education. We have partnered with Imagine Children's Museum to host a Kids' Bird Festival in May. Reaching out to middle and high school students as well as offering some environmental scholarships still needs to be accomplished. Third is to implement a backyard habitat program and fourth is to expand the Save Our Swifts work. Getting these priorities up and running is going to be my mission for the next year.

As my term ends, I look back on all that I have learned and am satisfied. I have made wonderful friends, taken journeys never imagined, and gained knowledge about this world that will be valuable for the rest of my life. Thank you, Pilchuck Audubon, for a glorious experience.

SMART GROWTH REPORT - MARCH 2016

By: Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Executive Director

With the election of County Executive Dave Somers (and perhaps the selection of his replacement on the County Council), old and new land use and environmental issues that affect our communities will be on the horizon this year. Now that I'm working only part-time on land use issues, I will not be able to advocate as much as I have done in the past. However, I will do my best to keep the Pilchuck Audubon Society membership up to date on what I consider the most pressing land use issues that affect our air and water quality, wildlife habitat, and our future quality of life.

I hope you read the op-ed in The Herald recently written by me and three very important community activists - Laura Hartman, Mickie Gundersen, and Joan Smith - regarding our concerns about the current tree canopy ordinance and why we hope this issue will be revisited by the County Executive and County Council. In addition, there will be other important issues to

tackle. Please visit the Smart Growth Webpage to stay up-to-date on current meetings and public hearings throughout the county and cities, and I will be sending out information and ways to be involved.

**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE:
Barn Dance to support the Smart Growth Program,
Sunday, May 15th from 3:00 to 7:00 PM at Craven Farm.
More details next month!**

LEQUE ISLAND BIRD SURVEY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ecostudies Institute has begun a study to assess the response of birds to estuary restoration projects on lands owned by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. As part of this project, we are gathering information investigating how birds currently use Leque Island, located between Camano Island and Stanwood, WA.

We are looking for volunteer citizen scientists to assist with breeding bird surveys in spring 2016. Volunteers will perform short area searches at specific locations at Leque Island. This is a perfect opportunity for amazing birdwatching during this spring, and to contribute to our understanding of avian responses to restoration efforts!

Advanced birding skills are not required. Our protocol allows for birders to work together to ensure that the project is fun and the data collected are of high quality.

We will be offering a training session on the protocols we will use, as well as a field practice session at 1:00 PM on April 10th at the Stanwood Library.

To sign up or ask questions about the project, please contact Leah Rensel at lrensel@ecoinst.org



Carolyn Lacy receives a birdy apron at her last board meeting as Treasurer.

TRIP CALENDAR

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

Tuesday, March 1 **Camano Island**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and wherever else Virginia prefers. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Sunday, March 6 **Skagit Flats**

Meet at 8:30 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). We'll carpool to the Skagit Flats to view the raptors (Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Rough-legged Hawk), and also look for shorebirds and waterfowl. Snow geese and swans are likely. Bring: snacks, water, binoculars, and foul weather gear just in case. Afterwards, lunch at a cafes in the Skagit Valley. Half-day event.

Trip Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383, tnight@pobox.com

Tuesday, March 8 **South Whidbey Island**

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

Trip leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, March 15 **Blaine, Birch Bay Semiahmoo, Drayton Harbor**

Meet at 7:00 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. Expect Harlequin and Long tail Ducks, Brant and lots of other seagoing avian species. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Sunday, March 20 **Meadowdale Beach Park**

Meet at Meadowdale Beach Park, 15433 75th Pl W, Edmonds, WA 98026 at 1:30 PM for a family picnic. At about 2:00 PM, we'll visit the beach and wander the trails of Meadowdale to take in the natural setting and look for wildlife including birds. Bring binoculars, if not, we have several pairs to lend for the event if you do not have your own. For the bird walk, bring: snacks, water, binoculars, and foul weather gear just in case. This is a family event and children are welcome. Please no pets. Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383, tnight@pobox.com

Tuesday, March 22 **Snoqualmie River Valley, Monroe to Carnation**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, one half mile west of the Fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. This trip will be concluded in time to allow buyers and sellers to attend the Pilchuck birdseed sale in Everett at 4:30 PM. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, March 29 **Point No Point**

Meet at 7:15 AM at the Edmonds Wade James Theater Parking Lot. The theater's address is 950 Main St., Edmonds, 98020, just East of 9th Ave. on the South side of Main St. We'll take

the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point, and Foulweather Bluff. Waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines, and much beauty and serenity. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

UPCOMING EVENTS, FESTIVALS, & CLASSES

Wings Over Water Birding Festival

March 11-13

Blaine, WA

The WOW festival celebrates the variety of migratory birds that visit Blaine, Semiahmoo, Birch Bay, and Drayton Harbor with field trips, nature cruises, wildlife demonstrations, arts & crafts, kids' activities, expert wildlife speakers and more. <http://wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com/>

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

March 18-20

Othello, WA

This festival celebrates the annual return of nearly 35,000 Sandhill Cranes to Othello as they migrate to their breeding grounds in Alaska. There are opportunities to view the cranes up-close, with tours led by local experts, as well as tours of the flora, fauna and geology of the area, lectures, and kids' activities. <http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

Washington's Woodpeckers

March 18-19 + May 21

Kirkland, WA

Our friends at Eastside Audubon offer this class exploring the woodpeckers of Washington. Twelve species inhabit our state from the boreal forests of the west to the semiarid valleys of the East. Brian Bell will lead an evening session on March 18, followed by a half-day field trip in Western Washington on March 19, and a full day trip to Eastern Washington on May 21. Fee varies.

<http://eastsideaudubon.org>

Harney County Migratory Bird Festival

April 7-10

Burns, OR

It's been a unique winter at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge... At press time, the refuge was still closed, but they're hoping to have the 35th annual Migratory Bird Festival. This festival in Southeast Oregon occurs during the height of the spring crane, waterfowl and shorebird migrations. Over 100 bird species, and perhaps some interesting people, may be viewed during the festival. http://www.fws.gov/refuge/malheur/events/bird_festival.html

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?

If you are interested in helping Pilchuck Audubon with some volunteer work, here is a list of what is needed at the moment.

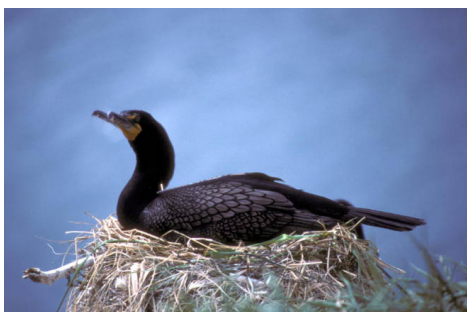
If you don't find anything that suits you, please contact me and we will discuss what you would like to do. president@pilchuckaudubon.org.

- Sell donated books on your Amazon account
- Learn to set up AV equipment at our monthly program meetings
- Join our soon-to-be formed Backyard Habitat Committee
- Help at our bird seed sale twice a year

WEEKEND BIRD WALK TRIP REPORT: EVERETT MARINA & KRUCKEBERG BOTANIC GARDENS

By: Terry Nightingale, Vice President PAS

On Saturday, February 13, we had an amazing turnout of eighteen birders in support of the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). For anyone who is not familiar, this is an annual citizen science project aimed at counting birds in your back yard, or anywhere else you would like. It's very easy (and free) to sign up, and you don't need to be an expert to participate.



Double-Crested Cormorant
Photo by Donna Dewhurst, USFWS

Our first stop was at the Marine Park in Everett. This is the "mainland" park where, in the summer months, you can catch the ferry to Jetty Island. We set up our scopes and started scanning the water for birds. Some of the usual suspects were there, like a handful of Mallards and American Wigeon, along with eight Double-crested Cormorants, who we knew like to go fishing in this area. Hauled out on the wooden dock was a harbor seal, one of the 250,000 of these seals who live in Puget Sound. Nearby in the calm waters created by the jetty, a pair of Barrow's Goldeneye ducks swam so close, we could see the "swoosh" on the male's face without binoculars. Looking over toward Jetty Island, we spotted a group of Common Mergansers feeding near the shore, and three adult Bald Eagles perched in the trees on the island.



Immature Bald Eagle
Photo by Bill Buchanan, USFWS

They were soon joined by another adult and another eagle of full size but sporting the mottled brown plumage of an immature (teenager?) eagle who has not gained his white head and tail just yet.

A survey of the parking lot on the mainland side turned up a large flock of gulls, including a few Mew Gulls and a large group of the more-common and bigger Glaucous-winged Gulls.

Next we carpooled down to the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden in Shoreline. Our original plan had been to visit Everett's botanical garden at American Legion Park, but it is closed for soil clean-up. Kruckeberg is owned by the Shoreline parks department, and was founded in 1958 by Dr. Arthur Kruckeberg and his wife Mareen. The park represents the results of their 50-year plant collecting endeavors, and is managed by a non-profit foundation supported by donations and sales of outdoor plants available on the grounds of the garden.

While the park is not large (4 acres in total), we found an abundance of birds taking advantage of its habitat. Most conspicuous were the flock of American Crows, who at one point were mobbing a Sharp-shinned Hawk near the tops of the trees that shelter the garden. If this hawk managed a meal this day, we did not see it, thanks to the harassment of the crows. Also nearby were a Spotted Towhee calling at us from a bush just off the path, and an Anna's Hummingbird who we could only guess must be over-wintering in the area.

Most significantly, we encountered what my co-trip-leader Jonathan calls a "chick-let" flock. This is a mixed-species flock of small birds who feed primarily by way of gleaning small grubs from the leaves of trees. Because there is safety in numbers, and this flock had reason to be wary with a Sharp-shinned Hawk nearby, they flock together in winter to forage as a group. This flock included a Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Dark-eyed Juncos, and a Song Sparrow. Not to be outdone, the wrens were also well represented.



Pacific Wren
Photo by Mark Musselman,
National Audubon Society, USFWS

We heard the singing of a Pacific Wren (formerly known as the Winter Wren), and the scratchy scolding call of a Bewick's Wren. We stayed extra long to get good views of this last bird, not least because one of our participants who was from out of town had never seen one before. Luckily we managed to get her a good look at the bird before it flew for cover out of sight.

Feeling quite fortunate that the forecasted rain had not yet dumped down upon our group, several of us celebrated over lunch at the Pancake Haus in Edmonds. Only after lunch did the rains begin!

NEW VENTURE COMING SOON!

Anticipation & excitement!

Your education committee has been collaborating with Everett Imagine Children's Museum to offer

KID'S BIRD FEST!

Bring your children, your grandchildren, or your neighbor's children (suitable for ages 2-10). Or volunteer for two hours of fun!

This is a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD).

We will have bird art 'make & take' activities; an educational and competitive Bird Migration Game; bird jigsaw puzzles; a rooftop bird watching 'forest' complete with children's binoculars; a feed yourself with 'beaks' (we dare you to use the chopsticks!); a table for Pilchuck Audubon information and membership; and so much more. PAS is using a legacy gift for education about birds through a multi-year grant to ICM. The Museum will provide two of the activities for use at events like Swifts Night Out and the Snow Goose Festival.

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2016; 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Place: Imagine Children's Museum, 1502 Wall Street, Everett
Admission: \$10, all ages. No adults (except volunteers) will be allowed in without a child (security policy).

Please: Volunteer two hours, get in free, no child required. All volunteers must have a simple background check (via the State Highway Patrol), free, which takes two weeks to process. See the Imagine Children's Museum website or Jim Beneteau for the forms.

Questions:

Jim Beneteau, beneteau@wavecable.com
Val Wade, valeriejwade@gmail.com

Or leave a message on our Pilchuck phone
425-610-8027



Larry Schwitters working on closing an opening in a potential Swift migratory chimney in Chehalis. Feb 2016

BIRD SEED SALE MARCH 22, 2016

Yes, you read that correctly. The spring seed sale will be on a Tuesday because of the wholesaler's delivery schedule.

For a price list and to order seed and suet, contact Carolyn Lacy at carolacy@gmail.com or 206.245.5836. **Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 13.** Pick up orders in Everett between **4:30 PM and 7:00 PM** on TUESDAY, March 22, in the first floor lobby of the Sno-Isle Natural Foods Co-op, 2804 Grand Avenue, Everett 98201 (enter building from the back alley).

Volunteers will be on hand to collect payment and help load the seed.

If you'd prefer to pick up your seed in Edmonds, let Carolyn know when you place your order. You'll need to arrange a pick-up time with Joan Poor (425-771-5581 or paperboats@aol.com).

Want to prepay for your seed with a credit card?
No later than March 21:

- Go to the PAS website, pilchuckaudubon.org.
 - In the navigation menu, click on the Join/Donate/Volunteer tab.
 - On the Join/Donate/Volunteer page, click on "secure on-line link" in the sentence: "I'd like to join/renew/donate through the secure on-line link."
 - Once you're on the donation page, go to the box labeled Designation and select Other from the drop-down menu. In the adjacent box, type in Seed Sale.
 - Drop just below to the Total Amount to be Charged and insert the amount into the box. Please consider adding 5% to your order to cover the cost of credit card fees to PAS.
 - Then proceed through the remainder of the form and submit it.
- Please remember:** The price of seed fluctuates. So, the price the day you pick it up might be slightly different from what you were told when the order was placed.

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 _____
 Phone _____
 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.

BIRDATHON 2016 IS COMING!



*Northern Hawk Owl
 Photo by Rex Guichard*

BIRDING

BIG MONTH = MAY
 BIG DAY = MAY 20 – 23

PHOTOGRAPHY

YEAR = 6.1.2015 – 5.30.2016
 MONTH = MAY 2016

More details on Pilchuck website