



## A Little Bit New – Field Notes from the President

By *Cindy Easterson*

Outside my library window I've noticed a pair of Black-capped Chick-a-dees working at one of the nest boxes. I haven't kept up with their progress and because they are cavity nesters, the fruits of their labors are tucked out of sight. Still, I can imagine the creamy, brown-speckled eggs and the emerging hatchlings.

I hold a lot of empathy with those new babies. As your new president, I, too, am working to find my legs, and I have only inklings that wings will come somewhere down the road. No doubt in these first months my mouth will appear bigger than my brain, and my actions will be more reflexive than purposeful. Still, like those chicks, I will learn. The rhythm of developing through experience will help me take my place in the tribe and, like a banditry of chick-a-dees, I am surrounded by the most amazing support system and guides. Your Pilchuck Audubon Society board is rich with dedicated and passionate people who give tirelessly of their time and energy.



I am zealous about citizen science, and so I'm delighted with our involvement in monitoring birds at Leque Island. This effort will inform us of impacts to birds as that estuary restoration project moves forward. Please applaud the results of our classroom conservation grants and the upcoming Kids Bird Fest at the Imagine Children's Museum for helping to grow knowledge and develop a passion in young people for the natural world. I'm so impressed by those who serve as a voice for PAS through comment letters, meeting attendance, and tireless research of issues on the local, state, and national front; they carry on the legacy we hold of fighting for the environment. Please consider attending the upcoming Barn Dance to support Smart Growth, or drop a donation in the mail so those efforts to contain urban sprawl can continue.

I love small birds, those Little Brown Jobs or LBJs that few

*(Continued on page 4)*

## MAY PROGRAM MEETING Bird Migration Patterns To and From the Pacific Northwest

Woody Wheeler



Join us as seasoned naturalist Woody Wheeler tells the stories of birds that make epic journeys as well as those that migrate shorter distances or live nearby year-round. Woody will also share a few relevant readings from his new book, *Look Up! Birds and Other Natural Wonders Just Outside Your Window*.

Woody Wheeler is a Master Birder, a Certified Interpretive Guide, and the owner of Conservation Catalyst, a birding and natural history firm. He previously worked for The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, and Seattle Parks Foundation. Connecting people with nature is Woody's passion, and he does so through trips, classes, presentations, and most recently through his new book.

**Friday, May 13, 2016**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Everett Firefighters' Hall**

**2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett ([map](#))**

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

### ***In this issue***

Backyard Birding .....	7	Kids' Bird Fest .....	3
Barn Dance .....	4	Smart Growth Report .....	7
Birdathon .....	3	Trip Calendar .....	5
Highway 20 Update .....	3	Youth Opportunities .....	2

## UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES and SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUTH

**Western Field Ornithologists (WFO)** is offering youth scholarships for the WFO 2016 conference to be held in Humboldt County, California, from September 28 through October 2. Eight scholarships are available for youth between the ages of 12 and 22, with six scholarships for youths in Grades 6 through 12 and two scholarships for collegiate youth working toward a Bachelor's degree. The application deadline is May 15, 2016. Visit the WFO website, <http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org>.

**Puget Sound Bird Observatory (PSBO)** is offering two great opportunities to learn the skills needed to participate in monitoring and research programs involving bird banding. Additional information can be found on the PSBO website at <http://pugetsoundbirds.org/training/bander-training-program/>. Scholarships for youth, ages 16-22, may be available to offset partial cost of the training. Email [contact@pugetsoundbirds.org](mailto:contact@pugetsoundbirds.org) for more information. ✧

## TIRED OF FEEDING SQUIRRELS ??

According to Mark Lorch, Senior Lecturer in Biological Chemistry at University of Hull (Yorkshire, UK), you can add chili pepper powder to your bird seed to keep away those pesky squirrels or any other mammals, including rats. Birds are immune to the capsaicin, the ingredient that causes the burning sensation, and will blithely ignore its presence. But mammals will definitely notice and leave the seed alone. ✧

## DESPERATE TIMES...

Well, OK maybe not desperate, but PAS is in need of a Volunteer Coordinator or a Volunteer Engagement Committee. It's a job that can be shared so the burden of time is not too great for any one person. We have a number of events and activities on the horizon that will need staffing or require citizen science engagement. Please consider this opportunity to support PAS activities. Contact Cindy Easterson for more information ([president@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:president@pilchuckaudubon.org)). ✧

## 2015 VOLUNTEER-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD



*Outgoing president Kathleen Snyder presents the 2015 Pilchuck Audubon Volunteer-of-the-Year award to Larry Schwitters, Save Our (Vaux's) Swifts researcher and program coordinator. Larry has donated his time, money, and expertise to protect and understand this amazing species.*

## About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon Profile, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society, is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members in efforts

to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

### Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles to [newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org) or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

### To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.610.8027.

The monthly Profile is available online at

[www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

### Board of Directors

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Consultant

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## BIG EVENT FOR CHILDREN COMING SOON!

### Anticipation and Excitement!

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

## KIDS' BIRD FEST!

Bring your children, your grandchildren, or your neighbor's children (suitable for ages 2-10). 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 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Place: Imagine Children's Museum, 1502 Wall Street, Everett

Admission: \$10, all ages. No adult (except volunteers) will be allowed in *without* a child (security policy).

Questions: Jim Beneteau: [beneteau@wavecable.com](mailto:beneteau@wavecable.com)

Val Wade: [valeriejwade@gmail.com](mailto:valeriejwade@gmail.com)

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

## BIRDATHON 2016—Here it comes!

### By Jim Beneteau, Development Chair

Hear those birds calling? They are talking to YOU! It's time to sign up for the annual Birdathon, either as a team or individual participant, or as a pledge to your favorite team.

Remember, the Big Sit can be done any 24 hours between May 20-23 from any nice comfortable spot (200-foot circle) you choose, such as your backyard with bins and beers (no, you can't count doubles if you have too many of the latter).

The photo contests are another great opportunity: either in the month of May or any time or place for the previous year. (If you got that great, once-in-a-lifetime shot of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, it pretty much guarantees a win!).

If you just can't do any birding yourself, there are several teams already formed. You can support one of those. (Don't know of one? Might I suggest the Board team?)

Join in our big fundraiser. Tell your friends. ✧



## BIRDATHON

Pilchuck Audubon's competitive birding event, Birdathon, takes place during the month of May.

- The **Big Month** for the species count competition will take place anywhere in Washington during the month of May.
- The **Big Day** species competition will be any 24-hour period during May 20-23.
- The **photography** contest will have two sections. *Big World, Big Year* is for photos taken anywhere in the world from June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016. *Washington Big Month* is for photos taken during May in Snohomish County and Camano Island.

More details can be found in the Rules of Competition, <http://pilchuckaudubon.org/index?fuseaction=page&pageid=263&sectionid=140> ✧

## NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY UPDATE

Highway 20 is open. Good news for those of us who look forward to a spring visit to Okanogan country! Friends tell me they are seeing all the usual members of the woodpecker family, but in greater numbers, enjoying the burned forests that now host insects feeding on dead/dying trees. A benefit to such fires.

Do take lots of safety care. Let someone know where you plan to be birding or wildflower viewing, and when to expect you to report in at end of the day. Standing trees in burned areas often have little in way of root systems holding them

upright. Roots burn out; some trees even have some green needles but rotting root balls. Not a safe place to be during windy/wet conditions. I suggest taking a small Swede saw along in case a tree falls blocking your way out of or through the forest, large enough to handle a tree up to about 18" diameter; good work gloves (not soft cotton). No word on whether a good year for the morels. Lots of communication dead zones over there with no cell phone coverage in the side Methow and Okanogan valleys.

Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair ✧

## From the President

(Continued from page 1)

people find fascinating. I'm also drawn to big ideas, the kinds that raise eyebrows and sound like a lot of work. My "door" via email, phone, or a cup of coffee/tea is always open. I want to hear your thoughts and feedback about how we can continue to serve our constituency and our community.

Like that newbie chick, my eyes are just opening to the wonder of the PAS world, but I am dreaming of flight and engaging with the flock. ✧

### JULY PROGRAM MEETING—SAVE THE DATE

**July 8, 2016 7:00 PM**

Once-a-year program meeting in Stanwood. Ecostudies Institute (<http://www.ecoinst.org/>) will be sharing its information on the pre- and post-dike breaching studies at Leque Island.

### BARN DANCE AND CHILI FEED

Proceeds benefit the Smart Growth Program

FEATURING "THE CD WOODBURY TRIO"



4 hours of great music, and dancing, too!  
Includes chili and all the fixings, beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks  
All for \$20 at the door • Kids under 12 are free!!

**Sunday, May 15**

**3 to 7 PM**

**Craven Farm**

**13817 Short School Road, Snohomish**

RSVP to Kristin Kelly at [execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org)

Feel free to forward this invitation to your friends and family.

## CONSERVATION REPORT

**By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair**

**Elections** – With the end of our state legislative session, there are announcements by legislators who are not running again and some who will run for higher office. Of particular interest is the growing list of announced candidates seeking the Public Lands Commissioner post now that Commissioner Goldmark is not running. So far, announced candidates are Democrats; no Republicans as yet.

PAS cannot engage in any campaigning that involves partisan races, per our 501(c)(3) IRS status. There will be no "sides" taken here.

**US Senate Energy Policy Modification Act (S.2021)** passed the Senate last month by a big majority, 85-12 with 3 not voting, which means strong bipartisan support. That is rarely done these days. Our own Senator Maria Cantwell (D) deserves thanks for leading the Democratic caucus in this matter. She, the Ranking Minority Member on the originating Senate Energy Committee, and Committee Chair Lisa Murkowski (Alaska-R), have been working for more than a year to find common ground for what Cantwell is quoted, "...a legislative relationship the country needed to move forward."

If you can access the *Everett Herald* editorial on April 22 about this legislation, it very well describes what has been accomplished and what is to be considered on another day. Such is the stuff of compromise.

One accomplishment is permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Act (LWCF). It was created 51 years ago by Everett's hometown US Senator Henry M. Jackson. It authorizes taking some offshore federal oil and gas lease revenues to protect historic sites and wild places and to acquire land for recreation sites.

2016 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service, and its maintenance needs are in the many hundreds of millions of dollars. Another accomplishment in the Energy Act is permanent authorization of the Historic Preservation Fund and its National Parks Maintenance and Revitalization Fund. One hopes this authorization will ensure more reliable funding for needed work to repair structures and infrastructure in our national parks and monuments!

While this is the good news, compromise means there are some things not so desirable. Permitting of liquefied natural gas exports is speeded up; probably means more fracking. Some conservationists are unhappy that burning of forest biomass (wood) for energy is defined as carbon-neutral.

How will this Senate bill fair in the House, which last year passed many bills adverse to the environment? Congressman Rob Bishop (UT-R) chairs the House Natural Resources Committee. As noted here many times during the past two years, he is out to kill off the LWCF Act. I anticipate opportunities for PAS to join other conservation groups in submitting comments when negotiators for the Senate and House meet. ✧

## TRIP CALENDAR

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

**Tuesday, May 3** **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

**Tuesday, May 10** **Cle Elum Area**  
Meet at 6:30 AM at the Monroe Park & Ride, on Highway 2, 1/2 mile west of the fairgrounds. An all-day trip. Different birds: Red-naped Sapsucker, Northern Goshawk, Calliope Hummingbird, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Magpie, Vesper Sparrow, and Cassin's Finch possible. Experience Cle Elum. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

**Sunday, May 15** **North Creek Park**  
Meet at Mill Creek Park Picnic Shelter, 1011-183rd St. SE, Mill Creek, WA 98012 at 1:30 PM for a family picnic. At about 2:00 PM, after the picnic, we'll wander the park's trails and boardwalk across the wetlands to take in the natural setting and look for wildlife, including birds. No experience is necessary—you need bring only your curiosity and binoculars, if you have them (binoculars, that is). We have several pairs of binoculars 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. ADA. Please, no pets.  
Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, [425-244-7633](tel:425-244-7633)

**Tuesday, May 17** **North Whidbey Island**  
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 will bird Deception Pass State Park, Ala Spit, Dugualla Bay, Swantown, and areas en route. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

**Tuesday, May 24** **Leavenworth Area**  
Meet at 6:30 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, 1/2 mile west of the Fairgrounds. Many species rarely seen around home. We will go up Icicle Creek and certainly try for the Calliope Hummingbird and Lazuli Bunting in Camas Meadows. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

**Tuesday, May 31** **Montlake Fill  
(Union Bay Natural Area)**  
Meet at 8:00 AM at the Lynnwood Wal-Mart lot at 1400 164th St SW (I-5 Exit 183). Park at the edge of the lot away from the store, to the west. This is one of the most productive birding areas in this vicinity. Many rarities have been observed here. If time allows, we may visit Foster Island, Magnuson Park, and other areas of North Lake Washington. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

## UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, FESTIVALS

**Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival** **Hoquiam, WA**  
**May 6-8**

Grays Harbor Audubon Society, Grays Harbor NWR, and Hoquiam lure you to this festival. The event is timed to match the annual migration of tons o' shorebirds as they pause at the Grays Harbor estuary to feed before departing for their nesting grounds in the Arctic. There are field trips, lectures (Robert Michael Pyle and Ken Bevis are featured), and flocks of birds. An event of "hemispheric importance"! <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>

**Creston Valley Bird Fest** **Creston, BC**  
**May 13-15**

Grays Harbor Audubon Society, Grays Harbor NWR, and Hoquiam lure you to this festival. The event is timed to match the annual migration of tons o' shorebirds as they pause at the Grays Harbor estuary to feed before departing for their nesting grounds in the Arctic. There are field trips, lectures (Robert Michael Pyle and Ken Bevis are featured), and flocks of birds. An event of "hemispheric importance"! <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>

**Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest** **Leavenworth, WA**  
**May 19-22**

Go east of the mountains to Wenatchee River Institute and Leavenworth's always enjoyable festival. There are plenty of lectures, field trips, and events for birders, beginner to expert, and the whole family, too. Lederhosen are optional.  
<http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.org/>

**Washington State Audubon Campout** **Wenas, WA**  
**May 27-30**

An Audubon tradition at the Hazel Wolf Bird Sanctuary at Wenas Creek Campground, this happening is a candidate for your bucket list. The camping is rustic (bring water), and so are some of the campers, but this is one of the "birdiest" spots in the state, and spending Memorial Day weekend with fellow birders from across Washington is highly recommended. Singing around the campfire has been known to occur. <http://www.wenasaudubon.org/>

### Susie's Spring Birding Trips Update

The trip to Klickitat County has been postponed until Spring 2017. The Malheur Trip will be heading off on June 8 as planned.

**Sunday, June 12** **Scriber Lake Park**

Back by popular demand! Meet at Scriber Lake Park, 5322 198th Street Southwest in Lynnwood at 1:30 PM for a family picnic. At about 2:00 PM, after the picnic, we'll walk the flat loop trail around the lake, looking for waterfowl on the lake and listening for warblers and other small birds in the trees. No experience is necessary—you need bring only your curiosity and binoculars, if you have them. We have several pairs of binoculars to lend for the event if you do not have your own. For the bird walk, bring: snacks, water, sunscreen, binoculars, and foul-weather gear just in case. This is a family event, and children are welcome. Please, no pets.

Trip Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206-619-2383, [tnight@pobox.com](mailto:tnight@pobox.com)

# WEEKEND BIRD WALK TRIP REPORT

## Meadowdale Park, Everett Forest Park, and Edmonds Demonstration Garden

By Terry Nightingale

It has been a while since my last report, so I will be covering the highlights of three recent field trips. Please check out our upcoming weekend field trip schedule. We would love to have you join us in the field!

On Sunday, March 20, we had another amazing turnout (especially considering the pouring rain!) of twenty-two birders for

a family picnic and birding event in the Meadowdale area of Lynnwood. We started with a picnic at Meadowdale Fields Park. Despite the driving rain, our intrepid participants set up a tarp over a picnic table, donned ponchos, and made the best of things. Next we traveled a short distance to Meadowdale Beach Park and commenced our bird walk. Meadowdale Beach is a beautiful park adjacent to

Puget Sound, with a variety

of habitats including temperate forest, picnic lawns, and, of course, the beach itself. Unfortunately, the beach access is closed for the foreseeable future while the pedestrian tunnel under the railroad is repaired. The current estimate is sometime in 2017 for access to be restored. Another aspect of Meadowdale that we took as a learning experience is that the forest trail is quite steep in places, and not ideal for young children, especially in strollers. Still, we managed to have a successful walk and observe some interesting birds, including: a **Red-tailed Hawk** perched in a cedar tree, **Pacific Wrens** singing their rapid, bubbly songs, **Golden-crowned Kinglets** foraging and calling to each other above our heads, and the distant, unmistakable call of the **Pileated Woodpecker**.

Our next family birding event took place at Forest Park in Everett on Sunday, April 17. Once again Rosamaria Graziani, our ambassador to the Latino community of Snohomish County, came through with more than twenty participants. This time the weather was absolutely beautiful; after a satisfying picnic meal, we wandered along one of Forest Park's wooded trails. Here we found similar birds to those at Meadowdale, including the **Pacific Wren**, **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, **Song Sparrow**, and **Northern Flicker**. Jonathan also taught the group about the conifer trees and the native shrubs we encountered. Though the birds may be less active in the afternoon, the benefit of holding these family outings is undeniable—an entirely new group of interested participants can be out in nature, learning about and enjoying its splendor.

Finally, on Saturday, April 23, a group of six unflappable birders braved the morning downpour and convened in Edmonds to experience its birding highlights, rain or shine. Though we may have been unlucky with the morning's weather, we had the good

fortune that Paula, a local expert and resident of Edmonds, joined our trip and was kind enough to give us the "insider tour." Our first stop was the Edmonds Demonstration Garden, a beautiful patch of native plantings that serves as an example of how backyards can be cared for so as to attract birds. We observed many species taking advantage of this

habitat, including: **Steller's Jays**, **Song Sparrows**, **Bewick's Wrens**, **Black-capped Chickadees** and **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**. The highlight has to be the **Black-throated Gray Warbler** we heard singing from the conifer trees above us. We decided next to walk through the adjacent neighborhood, and were richly rewarded with a close view of nesting **Red-winged Blackbirds** and a **Gadwall** pair, including the

hen sitting on eggs. The

highlight here was a rare glimpse of a **Virginia Rail**, who sneaked quickly across the footpath.

By now the rain had stopped, and we actually observed sunshine! We made a quick stop at the nearby Edmonds Marsh, where Green-winged Teal were foraging in abundance, and we saw our first shorebirds of the day: a **Killdeer** and three **Western Sandpipers**. After a delicious lunch at the local wood-fired pizza restaurant, we wandered the Edmonds waterfront, finding **Rhinoceros Auklets** in breeding plumage (spectacular!), **Harlequin Ducks**, and a large flock of **Brant** geese.

In large part, thanks to Paula's sharing her knowledge of where to find the birds and where to find a good lunch, our group had an excellent time. ✧



Sunday birders at Forest Park in Everett.

### GET READY FOR THE JUNE PROGRAM MEETING

The June program will be a little different than usual but will be a lot of fun for everyone.

The program is called "BIRDY DOZEN." And it will work like this: PAS birders who are also photographers will bring and show their favorite Birdy Dozen photos of Washington birds and the rest of us will get to see all these great bird photos and show our appreciation of our fellow birders' photography skills. It should be a fun evening. Everyone is invited to bring photos to share (please register with Judy Lowell, [jlorganicjudy@gmail.com](mailto:jlorganicjudy@gmail.com) or 425-353-8150, and get more information). You won't want to miss this program on June 10 at 7:00 PM at our usual location at the Everett Firefighters' Hall at 2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett.

# SMART GROWTH REPORT

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Executive Director

## Snohomish County Council Report Card

Under the Issues section of the Smart Growth webpage ([www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)), I will have the Snohomish County Council Report Card of how council members have voted on land use and environmental issues. Starting with the most recent votes, and going back in time, this report card should help you to better understand the issues. I'm starting with the 2016 votes, which to date are votes for changes to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) exemptions for development and changes to the Vesting Rules for development. I will do my best to summarize the ordinance and amendments, the vote, and my perceptions about the process.

## Local Integrating Organization Implementation Committee (LIO) for Puget Sound Partnership

Local communities around the Puget Sound are working to integrate local efforts to advance the Action Agenda. The LIO includes local governments; tribes; non-profit organizations; watershed, marine resource, and salmon recovery groups; interest groups; businesses; educational organizations; and individual citizens. These groups and organizations are collaborating to develop and coordinate Local Integrating Organizations that foster implementation of Action Agenda priorities. The Local Integrating Organizations enable communities to guide the implementation of Action Agenda priorities at an ecosystem scale.

By invitation, I have served on the LIO that serves the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Watershed Basins. This committee makes recommendations to the Executive Committee, which helps to decide Action Plans and Near Term Actions for our region to be considered for funding to restore Puget Sound. If you are interested in learning more about how the LIO works and efforts to restore Puget Sound and protect it for future generations, visit the Puget Sound Partnership website at <http://www.psp.wa.gov/>.

## Sustainable Lands Strategy

The Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS) comprises representation from the Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes, local farmers, and environmental groups (currently, Ducks Unlimited and Pilchuck Audubon Society) that are working to find net gains in salmon and wildlife habitat restoration and farming.

I have been part of the Executive Committee since its inception more than five years ago. I serve as secretary-treasurer, working along with a balanced representation of salmon habitat restoration and local farmers. Our work has been instrumental in bringing federal, state, and local agencies and governments to the table, together with the competing interests of our tribes and local farmers, to find ways we can restore salmon runs and protect and increase farmlands and production. At times, we have very difficult discussions, working through legal mandates and bureaucratic inefficiencies to come up with innovative and real solutions to difficult competing interests. The members of the SLS Executive Committee continue to be committed to this process. With recent news of the decline in Coho runs this year and the increasing impacts of climate change, our work continues to be even more important. ✧

# BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

February 26 to March 25, 2016

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

The beautiful Varied Thrush are still here. I think they like our weather.

Carole and Larry Beason reported 2 Varied Thrush from their home at Lake Bosworth. They also listed a Kingfisher over the lake, 7 Brewer's Blackbirds on the lawn, 4 Bufflehead, a Common Loon, and 3 Common Mergansers on the lake, 4 Evening Grosbeaks, 3 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, a Great-Blue Heron flying over the house, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 40 Red-Winged Blackbirds in the trees and at the feeders, a Ring-Necked Duck on the lake, 16 Violet-Green Swallows, and 20 Mallard on the lake and flying, for a total species count of 42.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett listed 6 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, 8 American Robins, 2 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 16 Western Gulls, 6 Varied Thrush, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 3 Northern Flickers, 12 Northwestern Crows, 12 Black-Capped Chickadees, 6 Chestnut-Back Chickadees, 3 Bewick's Wrens, and 22 Bushtit, for a total species count of 19.

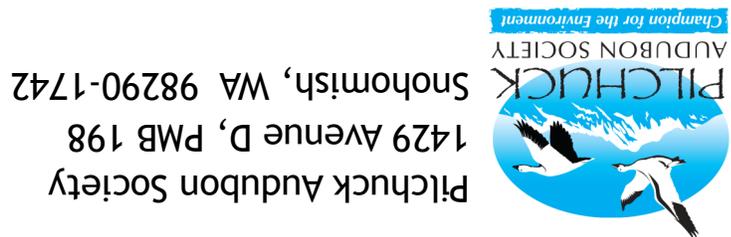
Hilkka Egtvedt's report from her home in Mukilteo listed a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, a Rufous Hummingbird, 6 Steller's Jays, 2 American Crows, a Bewick's Wren, 3 Spotted Towhee, a Fox Sparrow, 3 Song Sparrows, 4 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 1 White-Crowned Sparrow, 21 Dark-Eyed Junco, a single Pine Siskin, and 2 Evening Grosbeaks, for a total species count of 24.

Reporting from her home in Marysville, Pam Myers listed 10 Black-Crowned Chickadees, 1 Brown Creeper, 12 American Robins, 2 Yellow Warblers, 15 Dark-Eyed Junco, 30 Tree Swallows, 1 Red-Tailed Hawk, 7 Western Gulls, 4 Steller's Jays, 2 Canada Goose, 4 European Starling, a Rufous Hummingbird, a Great-Blue Heron, and a Bald Eagle, for a total species count of 27.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood included 11 American Robins, 11 Anna's Hummingbirds, 12 Black-Capped Chickadees, a Black-Chinned Hummingbird, 10 Dark-Eyed Junco, 5 Evening Grosbeaks, 2 Great-Horned Owls, 5 House Finch, 2 Killdeer, 17 Mourning Doves, a Northern Harrier in the pasture, 3 Rufous Hummingbirds, 6 Song Sparrows, 12 Steller's Jays, 2 Varied Thrush, and 2 Pacific Wrens, for a total species count of 34.

My report from Marysville only listed 19 species this month. There are feral cats around, and I think that has affected the number of birds that visit the yard to feed. My report lists 8 American Crows in the fields, 4 American Robins, 3 Black-Capped Chickadees, 20 Dark-Eyed Junco, 10 Mourning Doves, 3 Northern Flickers, 6 Steller's Jays, 3 Spotted Towhees, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Varied Thrush, 8 Mallard in the pond, 2 Bald Eagles over the fields, a Cooper's Hawk, 2 American Wigeon in the flooded fields, 2 Great Horned Owls, and 2 Pacific Wrens.

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



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