



BIRDATHON 2017

The great competition known as Birdathon has arrived, and YOU can join the fun!

There are three ways to become involved:

1. Form a team (1 to 4 people), choose your event, and have at it.
2. Pick up your camera, start shooting bird photos, and then peruse your 2017 archives (you need to do that anyway) to find up to six photos for our camera contest.
3. Pledge your favorite team, and cheer them on to victory.

Birdathon is a major fundraiser for Pilchuck Audubon, and our goal is \$5,000. These funds are essential to carry out our mission of conservation, education, and citizen science. An overview of the rules and the 2016 photos are on our website (www.pilchuckaudubon.org) under Programs, Birdathon.

The competition takes place over the month of May, and the Big Day event is during May 19–22. The winners will be announced at our June 9 program meeting where the prizes will be distributed (yes, there are fabulous prizes). Any questions can be directed to Kathleen Snyder at legacy@pilchuckaudubon.org.

May the competition begin!

In this issue

Backyard Birding	5	Earth Day	4
Bird Blitz, Lord Hill Park	3	Hummingbird Film	7
Birdathon	1	Pigeon Guillemot Survey ...	3
Birding Farther Afield	6	Smart Growth	3
Birding Trip Calendar	5	Spring Birding Classes	2
Conservation	4	Weekend Bird Walk	7

MAY PROGRAM MEETING

Friday, May 12, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The Qwuloolt Restoration Project: Implementation and Initial Recovery

with Kurt Nelson, M.S.

Environmental Division Manager, Tulalip Tribes

Kurt Nelson will update us on the Qwuloolt Restoration Project (<http://www.qwuloolt.org/>). The project is located in the Snohomish River Basin, the second largest watershed in Puget Sound. The Qwuloolt Estuary is located within the Snohomish River floodplain, approximately three miles upstream from its outlet to Puget Sound and within Marysville city limits.

Historically, the area was tidal marsh and forest scrub-shrub habitat, interlaced by tidal channels, mudflats, and streams. Prior to the levee breach on August 28, 2015, the project area had been cut off for more than a hundred years from the natural influences of the Snohomish River and Salish Sea tides by levees, drained by ditches instead of stream channels, and characterized by a monoculture of invasive reed canary grass instead of native shrubs and grasses. Through the cooperation of its many partners, this project has returned the historic and natural influences of the river and tides to the Qwuloolt.



Since the restoration project was completed in August 2015, it has begun to deliver multiple ecosystem benefits, including salmon access to 354 acres of developing estuarine wetlands and improving access to 16 miles of upstream rearing and spawning habitat.

Kurt Nelson has a B.S. in Fisheries from the University of Minnesota and M.S. in Wildlife Hydrology from the University of Washington. He has authored or co-authored many publications regarding salmon and habitat.

Everett Firefighters' Hall

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

SPRING BIRDING CLASSES

taught by Candy Brown

HUMMINGBIRDS

Learn about our smallest birds, with an emphasis on identification, their unique reproductive habits, and how to attract them to your yard. These beautiful, feisty creatures are fun to observe and are great pollinators.

Tuesday, May 2, Edmonds at Frances Anderson Center

6:30-7:30 p.m.

\$17 for residents, \$19 for non-residents

To register, call 425-771-0230

BACKYARD BIRDS

Enhance your understanding of common birds, and improve your ability to identify them. Includes basics of anatomy, migration, reproduction, foods, and foraging. Designed for adult beginning birders, but children ages 12+ are welcome.

Tuesday, May 23, Edmonds at Frances Anderson Center

6:30-8:00 p.m.

\$17 for residents, \$19 for non-residents

To register, call 425-771-0230

DEMO GARDEN ACTIVITIES IN MAY

Saturday, May 6, 11:00 to 3:00

2017 Watershed Fun Fair

Family event. Exhibits, games, crafts, nature walks, and activities especially for kids. Sponsored by Edmonds Parks and Recreation, 425-771-0227.

Held at Willow Creek Hatchery and Habitat Demonstration Garden

Saturday, May 13, 10:00 to 1:00

Work Party

Clean up, weed, mulch, garden maintenance. Tools and garden gloves, training and supervision, plus coffee, juice, and snacks.

Saturday, May 20, 1:30 to 3:30

Art and the Garden Workshop

with Nancy Moore and April Richardson

Native plants, field sketching and drawing, creating dyes from local native plants.

Sunday, May 21, 1:00 to 3:00

National Turtle Day

Learn about the Washington native Western Pond Turtle and a turtle adoption program.

Workshop for all ages.

Edmonds Wildlife Habitat Native Plant

Demonstration Garden

95 Pine Street, Edmonds

Contact Susie Schaefer for more info, 425-771-8165.

GLACIER PEAK INSTITUTE FUND RAISER

The Glacier Peak Institute, a new environmental education center in Darrington, is having its inaugural fund raiser at The Mountaineers in Seattle on May 18. More information is available at <http://www.glacier-peakinstitute.org/inaugural-fundraiser/>. GPI's mission is empowering youth through action-based education to build resilient rural communities and ecosystems encompassing the Glacier Peak region. ✧

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	Cynthia Easterson	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	Jim Beneteau	membership@pilchuckaudubon.org
Avian Science	Vacant	
Development	Open	develop@pilchuckaudubon.org
Members at Large	Laurel Cheap ...	classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Kathy Johnson.....	forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Jay Ward	425.418.3226
	David Gladstone	

Consultant

Committee Chairs

Bird Sightings	Mara Price	360.722.5752
Citizen Science Coord.	Sherrill Miller	field.birds.pas@gmail.com
Communications	Kristin Kelly	execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org
Conservation Awards	Laurel Cheap ...	classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
Donations	Judy Chapman.....	donations@pilchuckaudubon.org
Education	Jim Beneteau	membership@pilchuckaudubon.org
Field Trips	Art Wait	360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson.....	forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
Hospitality	Virginia Clark	360.435.3750
Newsletter Editor	Carolyn Lacy.....	newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org
Programs	Susie Schaefer.....	garden@pilchuckaudubon.org
Webmaster	Terry Nightingale	webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org

Staff

Smart Growth/PAS ExecDir	Kristin Kelly	execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org
Everett Backyard Habitat Prgm	Jed Holmes.....	habitat@pilchuckaudubon.org

SMART GROWTH REPORT

By Kristin Kelly

Smart Growth Executive Director



A longer report on this topic, with more details about the process and the docket proposals, can be found on my website at www.pilchuckaudubon.org, click on Smart Growth, then Issues (or <http://pilchuckaudubon.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&pageid=387§ionid=150>).

In May, the Snohomish County Council will have three private proposals before them for the yearly comprehensive plan amendment process, all of which could expand the Southwest Urban Growth Area (SWUGA). At that hearing, the Council will decide whether to add these three proposals to Docket XIX for analysis during 2017-18, with possible adoption in 2019.

One proposal (SW1), proposed by the Northshore School District, would expand the SWUGA for their newly built high school. While not required under the Growth Management Act (GMA), Snohomish County's county-wide planning policies (CPPs) allow for UGA expansions for schools. PAS will not oppose this UGA expansion because it is legal under the county-wide planning policies.

The other two proposals are by private citizens, which would expand the SWUGA in two areas, both along 43rd Avenue Southeast.

One of these proposals (SW2) would expand the UGA between Jewell/196th to the north, south to 188th from 39th Avenue (next to the Northshore High School), and east to the Power Line Corridor (at approximately 46th Avenue).

The other proposal (SW3) would expand the UGA from 196th on the northern boundary south to Maltby Road, with the same boundaries east and west as SW2.

Each of these two proposals includes three sub-proposals for the County Council to consider: 1) expand UGAs; 2) expand UGA and reduce the SWUGA along the Lowell-Larimer Road; 3) expand UGA and reduce the Granite Falls UGA in the Menzel Road area.

There are many reasons why these two proposals should not be considered by the County Council, which I will outline on my website (see above). The Council will be setting a public hearing to consider testimony on this before the *Profile* is published. On Wednesday, April 26, I will have spoken to the County Council, requesting they notify affected landowners within these proposed UGA expansions and reductions, as well as those property owners 500 feet next to the proposed UGA areas, and 1,000 feet in the rural areas adjacent to these proposals, something unfortunately they no longer are required to do, but should do.

PAS will be recommending highly that the Council not proceed with these two urban growth area expansions. The comprehensive plan update is merely two years old, and it is a plan for the next 20 years. The next update is in six years, when such expansions should be considered. We are highly concerned because the SWUGA has already taken in 63 percent of the growth allocation that was adopted through 2035; concerned with environmental impacts, especially to Little Bear Creek; and, of course, concerned with adding more car traffic to roads already

GUILLEMOT BREEDING SURVEY

The Guillemot Research Group will be speaking about Pigeon Guillemots at the Sound Water Steward's 4th Wednesday Lecture Series on May 24 at 7:00 p.m., at the Camano Public Library at Terry's Corner. Please visit pigeonguillemot.org for more information. ✧



Lord Hill Regional Park BIRD BLITZ

Mark your Calendars

Grab your binoculars! Bring your clip board. And put those birding skills to good work.

We are planning a Bird Blitz to better understand the diversity of bird life and habitat within the Lord Hill Regional Park (12921 150th St SE, Snohomish). The information collected will be used to inform the master planning for this large green space within Snohomish County.

We feel this regional park offers an array of habitat and is likely home to many birds, both residents and migrants, so we are lobbying to maintain some low-impact areas within the park and to decommission trails in and around critical areas such as wetlands.

You can help by joining us: Sunday, June 25, 2017, 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.

RSVP to Cindy Easterson at 425-876-1055 or president@pilchuckaudubon.org for final details. ✧



([map](#))

heavily impacted.

Please look for action alerts as I will need your help to convince the Council that these proposals should not be considered. ✧

CONSERVATION REPORT

by Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

Special Legislative Session

The state legislature opened in Special Session April 24, after the Regular 2017 Session begun last January 9 ended April 23. The Special Session is for 30 days. According to news reports, do not expect much in way of floor or committee actions for a while. Primary focus is upon resolving many facets of funding basic education, including what is “basic education.”

Eight legislators, four in the Senate and four in the House; two Democrats and two Republicans in each chamber, are what is being called “McCleary negotiators.” Their work is to hammer out a school-funding deal satisfactory to the Washington State Supreme Court. According to news reports, they agree that more money is needed to pay for basic education. They do not agree how much money is needed and where the money should come from.

The conversations, which neither party calls “negotiations,” were occurring on Monday, April 24, after only a few hours’ break from end of the Regular Session. Their work is away from the Senate and House floors, and out of public view. Periodic reporting to the respective party caucuses in the Senate and House will occur. Eventually, there will be a compromise to be voted out by both chambers.

Is anything else to be addressed during the Special Session? Yes.

The *Hirst* decision seems to be the next most difficult high-priority policy matter to be resolved. This is the state Supreme Court’s ruling on a Whatcom County case that says the counties

must determine “... whether water is legally available in certain rural areas before the counties can issue building permits,” according to *Everett Herald’s* political writer Jerry Cornfield (April 24 edition). This means people with land available for building cannot obtain building permits in certain rural areas.

Senate Republican passed a bill in the Regular Session. The Environmental Priorities Coalition, of which Audubon is a member, opposed it. What had been a difficult situation for fish and wildlife watershed habitat conservation before the lawsuit would have been worsened. House Democrats didn’t hold hearings, in part due to disagreements between some rural and nonrural Democrats.

Then, there is the matter of the 2017-2019 biennial budget to operate state government. If there is no budget by July 1, 2017, a state government “shutdown” is the result (no doubt with some operations to continue where public safety and health matters prevail). Sound familiar?

Federal Scene

It sounds familiar because the Continuing Resolution (CR) passed by the Congress last December runs out Friday, April 28, meaning a federal government shutdown. By the time the *May Profile* is published, we will know what happened. Conventional wisdom almost always is that no political party wants to get the blame for government shutdowns. So, best guess is another CR passed, perhaps to end of calendar year 2017. ✧

Every Day is EARTH DAY!

Whether you planted a tree, embellished your yard, marched for science, or simply were thankful for the beauty and splendor the earth has to offer, thank you ALL for helping to make every day EARTH DAY. Several PAS members joined the March for Science, and the beautiful, hand-crafted birds carried by many of our members were a huge hit!

The day marked a great opportunity to ask ourselves how we might support conservation and environmental efforts. Whether it be through science-based surveys to protect important bird areas or by using native plants to better protect our waterways and offer habitat for native species, what you do matters. Looking for something more to do? Let us know; we have hundreds of ways



PAS members at the March for Science on Earth Day 2017.

you can support our planet by helping with healthy ecosystems and bird-friendly areas. ✧

TRIP CALENDAR

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



Tuesday, May 2 **South Whidbey Island**

Meet at 7:15 AM at the Eastmont Park & Ride (I-5 Exit 189), east side, aiming for the 8:00 AM ferry to 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: Wilma Bayes, [360-629-2028](tel:360-629-2028)

Tuesday, May 9 **Highway 20, Sedro Woolley to Marblemount**

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart, 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 the North Cascades Highway. Included are Lyman, Hamilton, Rasar State Park, and the Howard Miller Steelhead Park. Pack a lunch.

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

Saturday, May 13 **Migratory Bird Day** **Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve; Chilliwack, BC**

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We will travel to Chilliwack, British Columbia, where there is a huge Great Blue Heron rookery. There were more than one hundred nests last year in just a dozen trees with easy access for photography and viewing. We will be able to explore nature trails and the Rotary Visitors' Centre. Details about the Great Blue Heron Reserve can be found at <http://chilliwackblueheron.com/>. Bring your passport or enhanced driver's license, snacks, water, binoculars, and foul-weather gear, just in case. All day. We will probably stop on the way home for a little socializing over a late lunch/early supper. Trip Leaders:

Lisa Weber, [650-888-9087](tel:650-888-9087), 45.lisa@gmail.com

Jonathan Blubaugh, [425-244-7633](tel:425-244-7633), aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, May 16 **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](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, May 23 **Highway 530, Arlington to Darrington**

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart, 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)

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

February 26 to March 25, 2017

Carol and Larry Beason have also been loyal supporters for many years. Their report from their home at Lake Bosworth lists 17 American Robin, 2 male Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Brewer's Blackbird, 50+ Canada Goose in a field near Granite Falls, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a Muscovy Duck on the lake, 3 Hairy Woodpecker at the suet, 2 Pied-billed Grebe on the lake, 12 Purple Finch eating seeds, 2 Red-Tailed Hawk overhead, 30+ Red-Winged Blackbird, 3 Ring-necked Duck, 8 Spotted Towhee, 2 Turkey Vulture over Newburg Rd., 2 Varied Thrush and 5 Violet-Green Swallow, for a total species count of 40.

Hilkka Egtvedt's total species count of 20 from her home in Mukilteo included a Bald Eagle, 2 California Quail, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, a Rufous Hummingbird, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Steller's Jay, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren foraging among the plants on her deck, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, 8 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Purple Finch, and an American Goldfinch.

Kriss Erickson reports from her home in Everett lists 2 Bewick's Wren, 4 Song Sparrow, 6 Northwestern Crow, 6 Western Gull flying overhead, 2 Mallard Duck, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 7 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 13 Black-capped Chickadee, 34 Dark-eyed Junco in her yard, 28 Bushtit in the yard, 2 male Red-breasted Sapsucker, and 2 American Goldfinch.

Mary Sinker reports from her home in Stanwood. Mary's total species count of 29 includes 37 American Robin, 8 Anna's Hummingbird, 20 Black-capped Chickadee, a Brown Creeper, 50 Dark-eyed Junco in her yard, 7 Downy Woodpecker, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 4 House Sparrow, 4 Kinglet species, 15 Northern Flicker, 2 Pine Siskin, 11 Red-winged Blackbird, 6 Rufous Hummingbird, 14 Steller's Jay, 3 Varied Thrush, and 4 Pacific Wrens.

My total species count of 18 includes 2 American Robin, 20+ American Crow in the fields, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, a Great Blue Heron flying over, 10 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpecker, a Hairy Woodpecker, 6 Mallard Duck on the pond, 2 Canada Goose in the fields, 2 Pileated Woodpecker at the suet, 3 Northern Flicker, 3 Spotted Towhee, a House Finch, and 5 Steller's Jay.

If you are interested in participating in our Backyard Birding count, please email me at pricemara1@gmail.com or leave a message at 425-50-8125. ✧

Tuesday, May 30 **Leavenworth Area**

Meet at 6:30 AM at the Monroe Park & 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](tel:360-435-3750)

Sunday, June 11 **Kid's Picnic and Tidepool Adventure** **Beach TBD**

This is a change in schedule dictated by the low tide. More information in the June *Profile* issue. Trip Leaders:

Jonathan Blubaugh, 425-244-7633, aracfi@msn.com

Sue Nightingale, 206-356-9198, suemiller1@gmail.com ✧

UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS *farther afield*

Compiled by Rick Brauer

Seattle Audubon Classes

Dates below

Seattle, WA

May 7: Birds and Plants of the Shrub-Steppe	Andy Stepniewski
May 10 & 17: Birding by Ear—Learning NW Bird Voices	Bob Sundstrom
May 18, 25, & 29: Introduction to the Mammals of Washington	Mike Donahue
May 16: Garden Hospitality—Inviting Birds and Bugs to Your Yard	Penny Bolton
June 3: Native Tree ID	Van Bobbitt

<http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/GetInvolved/Classes/ClassSchedule.aspx>

North Cascades Institute Classes

Dates below

Various Locations

May 6-7: San Juan Treasures: Exploring Jones & Yellow Islands by Boat & Boot	Kevin Campion
May 13: Spring Snake Search in the Methow Valley	John Rohrer & Scott Fitkin
May 19-21: Hands to Work: Environmental Learning Center Stewardship Weekend	NCI Staff
June 23-25: In the Company of Corvids	John Marzluff
July 22: Mt. Baker Geology 1: Fire & Ice in Morovitz Meadow	Dave Tucker
July 29: Urban Dragonflies	Dennis Paulson
Aug 5: Mt. Baker Geology 2: Artist Point	Scott & Marca Babcock
Sep 16-17: Hawkwatching at Chelan Ridge	Kent Woodruff
Sep 22-24: Wildlife Tracking	Marcus Reynerson

Information for these classes and more at: <https://ncascades.org/signup/programs/classes>

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

May 5-7

Hoquiam, WA

Grays Harbor Audubon Society, Grays Harbor NWR, and the City of Hoquiam bring you this festival. The event is timed to match the annual migration of hundreds of thousands of 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 (Tim Boyer and Julia Parrish are featured this year), and flocks and flocks of birds. <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>

Orcas Island Bird & Wildlife Festival

May 5-7

Orcas Island, WA

This San Juan Islands are lush with wildlife. Orcas Island's festival will pay tribute to the splendor of the outdoors on land and sea. Participants can enjoy nature talks, wildlife tours, and other activities. The festival is also partnering with Outer Island Excursions, Deer Harbor Charters, Orcas Island Eclipse Charters, and Shearwater Kayak Adventures to offer whale and wildlife tours.

<http://orcasislandbirdfest.com/>

The Biggest Week in American Birding

May 5-14

Oak Harbor, Ohio

Last year, 236 species of birds, including 36 species of warblers, showed up during the ten days of the festival. Could it be that this festival might just live up to its humble name? *(Please note: This event is in the state of Ohio, not on Whidbey Island.)*

<http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/>

Horicon Marsh Bird Festival

May 12-15

Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

This weekend-long event provides family-friendly activities and educational experiences designed to showcase Horicon Marsh's role as an important habitat for birds and wildlife. The marsh is both a State Wildlife Area and a National Wildlife Refuge. Horicon Marsh has been designated as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention and a Global Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy. <http://horiconmarshbirdclub.com/bird-festival/>

Acadia Birding Festival

June 1-4

Mount Desert Island, Maine

Celebrate the ecological wonders of the birds of the Gulf of Maine. Explore Mount Desert Island and its birds through numerous events and venues. Enjoy warblers on early morning birding walks, visit with puffins and pelagic birds at sea, and observe Peregrine Falcons at an active breeding site in Acadia National Park. <http://www.acadiabirdingfestival.com/>

PSBO Banding Class

August 18, 19, 20, 26, and 27

Edmonds, WA

Christine Southwick will teach a beginner's banding course at the Willow Creek Hatchery in Edmonds, where the PAS Native Plant Garden and the Edmonds Marsh support a variety of resident and migrating birds. Instruction follows the North American Banding Council guidelines and includes five full days of classroom/field instruction. Class focus will be on developing skills to safely extract birds from mist-nets, proper banding techniques and the accurate collection and documentation of data. This is an introductory course which covers netting and trapping techniques, removal of birds from mist nets, proper handling, processing, data management, relations with the public, and banders' code of ethics. No previous experience required. Ages 16 to 100.

<http://pugetsoundbirds.org/> ✧

FIRST FLIGHT: A MOTHER HUMMINGBIRD'S STORY



The Adopt A Stream Foundation and Snohomish County Parks and Recreation are presenting "First Flight: A Mother Hummingbird's Story" at the Northwest Stream Center in Snohomish County's McCollum Park (600-128th St. SE, Everett, WA 98208), Thursday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m. Space is limited. Admission is \$3. Reservations required by calling [425-316-8592](tel:425-316-8592).

"First Flight is a wonderful 60-minute award winning film," says Adopt A Stream Foundation Director Tom Murdoch. "This event will be a delight for the whole family."

During the movie, you will be able to witness the personal life of hummingbirds, witness breathtaking moments of Honey laying her eggs, and her tiny hatchings, Ray and Zen, pecking themselves into a new life. Then, you will get to see the new hummingbirds take their first flight from a tiny nest in Noriko and Don Carroll's back yard.

Producer Don Carroll has added new images to this version of the film—secrets of the Hummingbird's tongue, showing for the first time the intricate movements of hummingbirds extending their long, flexible tongues into a pool of nectar!

The gate of the Northwest Stream Center will open at 6:00 p.m. "Earlybirds" who arrive before 6:30 p.m. will be able to enjoy a walk on the Northwest Stream Center's new elevated nature walk and see hummingbirds finding nectar in native flowers along the route. At the end of the film (that begins at 7:00 p.m.), you will be able to see a real hummingbird nest and learn more about our local hummingbirds. ✧



WEEKEND BIRD WALK TRIP REPORT: WOODLAND PARK ZOO

25 March 2017

by Jonathan Blubaugh

On March 25, we made a return trip to Woodland Park Zoo for a Weekend Birdwalk. We had nine participants despite a dismal forecast. A handful of people cancelled at the last minute on Meetup. In the end, the weather cooperated, at least by our standards. As I am writing this, it is still a very long, wet, cold, and gloomy season. At least we got a brief enough reprieve from the storms to enjoy a nice day at the zoo.

Last year, I took two trips to San Diego, one recently to attend the Holiday Bowl with my mother. We had a great time visiting the two major zoos in San Diego. This is what I noticed. Woodland Park Zoo is not as big as the two zoos in San Diego. Nevertheless, Woodland Park is a very nice zoo. The big difference to me is the flowers. We were in San Diego in November and December. San Diego is in a much milder climate, and San Diego residents have planted tons of colorful flowers that bloom year-round. Also, tons of tropical trees thrive in the San Diego zoos. Woodland Park is green year-round. It has tons of tropical trees cast or sculpted from concrete.

A highlight for many of us at Woodland Park was feeding time for a family of Asian otters. We were swooning over the adorable kits. On our previous visit, a Russian Steller's Sea Eagle took the world's biggest bird bath in the stream in his enclosure. Now it appears he is about to become a father. He and his mate have constructed a



huge nest. We could see her sitting on the nest. The docent told us she appeared to have laid an egg, but nobody had seen it yet. Nearby, a pair of wild Bald Eagles were also busily working on their nest. The docent told us that last year while the Steller's Sea Eagles were raising their chicks, the Bald Eagle would perch nearby outside the enclosure and scream at them. It was amazing to see two eagle nests in close proximity with overlapping territories. The Sea Eagles have no choice.



Here are most of the wild birds we saw: fifteen American Wigeons, seven Mallards (one drake swimming in the Polar Bear enclosure behind the glass, wondering why the people wouldn't feed him), a Cooper's Hawk, the two

Bald Eagles, three cross-breed "Olympic" gulls, four feral pigeons, an Anna's Hummingbird, a Northern (red-shafted) Flicker, 39 crows, two Black-capped Chickadees, two Red-breasted Nuthatches, two Bewick's Wrens, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, an American Robin, a male House Finch, five American Goldfinches, and three House Sparrows. We also heard the following: a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Bushtit, a Pacific Wren, and a Cedar Waxwing.

Finally, I want to mention a special thanks to members of our core birdwatching and Birdathon group, Team *Counting Crows*. Recently, all have volunteered to step into import leadership positions. We cannot underestimate the value your experience and activism will bring to Pilchuck Audubon Society and our shared vision. Thank you. ✧

Pilchuck Audubon Society
 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
 Snohomish, WA 98290-1742



**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 e-mail (check all that apply & include your e-mail address above):

- Profile Newsletter
- Program Announcements
- Action Alerts

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

Mark Your Calendar

Birdathon	Merry Month of May
Program Meeting	May 12, 7:00 p.m.
Bird Blitz, Lord Hill Regional Park	June 25
PAS Picnic @ North Creek Park	August 6
Feast on the Farm	August 30
Swift Night Out	September 9
Puget Sound Bird Fest	September 15-17
Bird Seed Sale	October