

## A Breathtaking Baritone

by Thomas Bancroft

The trees are just beginning to show a little shape as I inch my way along the dike at Stillwater Wildlife Area (three miles north of Carnation). It is 5:00 AM on a Sunday morning in early May 2017, and sunrise will not come for another hour, even longer before the sun hits this area at the western base of the Cascades. My flashlight is off so as not to disturb any wildlife. The songs of American Robins fill the air. Their “cheerily, cheer up, cheer up, cheerily, cheer up” melody proclaims spring has arrived, and they are ready for another day, even though it looks like night.



*Stillwater Wildlife Area  
Photo © Thomas Bancroft*

A different sound makes me stop—a gulping, like someone is swallowing large mouthfuls of air. It comes from the marsh across the small pond to my south. Five gulps are quickly followed by an eerie call: “pump-er-lunk,” then another “pump-er-lunk” and finally a “dunk-a-doo.” A male American Bittern is trying to woo a female.

I’ve come to record this exact sound, so I settle onto the ground to put my stereo microphone rig on a tripod and see if I can hold still for the next hour. I slide off the gravel-topped dike to station my mic with its back to the bank, partially blocking sounds from behind me. The water is ten feet below; a few bushes and cottonwoods line the pond’s edge. Open water extends fifty yards to a thick marsh. The bittern is probably sitting at the water’s edge, hoping a female will like his display. A second male begins gulping; he is roughly a hundred yards east of my seat. The closer one instantly responds with his answer.

*(Bittern, continued on Page 4)*

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## APRIL PROGRAM MEETING

Friday, April 13, 2018 • 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

### STORIES FROM 10 YEARS OF PUGET SOUND SEABIRD SURVEYS

JENNIFER LANG, PRESENTER

*Conservation Science Coordinator*

*Seattle Audubon Society*

Everett Firefighters’ Hall

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

April 2018 marks the last month of the 10<sup>th</sup> season of the Puget Sound Seabird Survey, conducted throughout Puget Sound.

With the help of more than 200 dedicated citizen scientists braving the Pacific Northwest winter, Puget Sound Seabird Surveys have been conducted at 122 waterfront sites regularly on the first Saturday of the month from October to April. Volunteers diligently identify, count, and collect data on seabirds in nearshore habitats to help us learn more about seabird hotspots, both for birding and for conservation. Join Jennifer as she talks about some interesting stories and birds that have been seen over the decade of this citizen science program.



Jenn joined the Seattle Audubon team as the Conservation Science Coordinator in August 2017 after completing several



*Barrow's Goldeneye | Doug Schurman*

seasons monitoring and surveying all kinds of birds, from fairywrens to puffins, for various organizations around the world. She earned a Master's degree from the UW analyzing data from the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team

(COAST) and a Bachelor’s degree in wildlife science from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF). ✧

## Spring Birding Classes

Taught by Candy Brown



Rufous Hummingbird |  
Photo © Mick Thompson

### 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.

**Wednesday, May 9, 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. We will also discuss the best ways to attract birds to your yard. Designed for adult beginning birders, but children ages 12+ are welcome.

**Wednesday, June 6, Edmonds at Frances Anderson Center**

6:30-8:00 p.m.

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

To register, call 425-771-0230

## Annual Meeting Elections

Please join us for the April 13 program meeting and exercise your right to vote! Our annual business meeting will include elections for board President and Secretary (each a two-year term), a summary of this year's expenses, and the Volunteer of 2017 Award presentation.

The nominating committee's slate includes Cindy Easterson, who has agreed to serve another term as Chapter President, and Richard Smith, who would like to serve as Secretary. Richard has been a Puget Sound Bird Fest planning committee member for a few years, and his focus has been social media. The Facebook page he started for Bird Fest has grown in "likes," along with an increase in Bird Fest attendance. In addition, nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

As always, refreshments will be provided, and a wonderful program will follow. ✧



Dark-eyed Junco © Mick Thompson

## 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)

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## **ACTION ALERT**—I need your help today!

There is no denying it. Snohomish County is in another growth spurt. Along with this spurt are now two attempts to put a wrench in long-range planning for healthy communities.

Two public hearings have been scheduled on two land-use ordinances that, if adopted by the Snohomish County Council, could have significant negative impacts on how growth and development continue and could set a precedent for long-range planning efforts. Pilchuck Audubon Society, together with our coalition partner Futurewise, is opposing both these ordinances. I am requesting you to send an email to all five county council members today, and, if possible, attend one or both of the public hearings. Both hearings will be held in the Council's chambers, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor of the County Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue in Everett.

The first hearing on Ordinance 18-027 is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 4. Ordinance 18-027 would change Snohomish Countywide Planning Policy DP-3. If adopted, 18-027 would allow consideration once a year for Urban Growth Area (UGA) land swaps, instead of waiting to review all land-use changes during the 8-year comprehensive plan updates. Only one jurisdiction in the state, the City of Tacoma, has used UGA land swaps, and this swap involved land areas adjacent to each other. The DP-3 policy change, if adopted, would mean a UGA boundary would be reduced to allow for another UGA boundary to expand so long as the population increase would stay the same. This policy change could potentially downzone landowner properties that have been inside a UGA for years. A downzone inside the UGA disregards the higher taxes paid for those years, devalues the property, and strips a landowner's ability to redevelop at higher densities. Not only will this change pit landowners in the county against each other, it will create havoc at every level and undermine long-range comprehensive land-use planning. UGA land swaps could be entertained by the County Council every year, and it could happen without a comprehensive look at how such UGA land swaps would affect environmental and transportation impacts, as well as capital and transportation money to pay for such changes.

Clearly, the County Council is entertaining this CWPP change to DP-3 because they are also having a public hearing on Motion 17-117 on April 11 at 10:30 a.m. to consider whether three UGA expansion proposals in the Southwest UGA should be added to Docket XIX for further analysis and consideration in 2019. In past Smart Growth reports, I have written extensively about the problem with allowing for significant UGA expansions between Comprehensive Plan Updates, and that these proposals will not comply with the Growth Management Act, the Countywide Planning Policies, or the Puget Sound Regional Council's multi-planning policies. Hence, why the change to CWPP DP-3 is before the council on April 4. Again, PAS and Futurewise are

opposing UGA expansions. Both organizations believe at least two of these three UGA proposals, SW-2 and SW-3, should not be added to the docket for more work by the Planning Department on environmental, transportation, and financial impacts. If added to Docket XIX after the April 11 hearing, there will



most likely be more public hearings this year and into 2019 for possible adoption.

Both proposals are dangerous for Snohomish County. If our County Council allows for UGA expansions of this magnitude into our rural areas, the development community will feel blessed to continue asking for more. The reports I hear is that the Master Builders Association wants all the rural land in the Southwest UGA between Mill

*The reports I hear is that the Master Builders Association wants all the rural land in the Southwest UGA between Mill Creek and Bothell to be urban all the way to Highway 9, and the sooner the better.*

Creek and Bothell to be urban all the way to Highway 9, and the sooner the better.

This is not wise use of our land. The County cannot keep up with this type of urban sprawl, and disregards all the work and money toward transportation infrastructure that would help build better cities and urban centers in the county. Sprawling out into our rural areas so that more King County workers can buy homes here and clog our roads with cars commuting back and forth is not a long-term solution to growth in our county or our region.

Please send an email today to the County Council and tell them to vote no on Ordinance 18-027 allowing UGA land swaps, and on Motion 17-117 adding UGA expansion SW-2 and SW-3 to Docket XIX.

Email addresses for the council are:

[Stephanie.Wright@snoco.org](mailto:Stephanie.Wright@snoco.org); [Terry.ryan@snoco.org](mailto:Terry.ryan@snoco.org);  
[Brian.sullivan@snoco.org](mailto:Brian.sullivan@snoco.org); [Sam.low@snoco.org](mailto:Sam.low@snoco.org);  
[Nate.nehring@snoco.org](mailto:Nate.nehring@snoco.org).

For more information, visit the council's website for public hearings at: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/2134/Council->

## Two Dates to Save

**EDMONDS DEMO GARDEN**

**OPEN HOUSE**

May 14

**PUGET SOUND BIRD FEST**

September 14-16

Edmonds, WA

## REPORT: Bird Walk Around Lake Ballinger, 3 March 2018

by Douglas Resnick, Trip Leader

Lisa, Terry, Sue, Sheyeen, and I began the morning's outing shortly after dawn at the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center. Temperatures started in the 30s, but the sky was only partly cloudy, and the air warmed up considerably during the course of the outing. After carpooling to the parking area by Lake Ballinger's eastern boat launch, we walked around the north end of the lake, then crossed through Ballinger Park, observing a total of 39 species and three other taxa of birds, as recorded on eBird.

I'd like to thank the City of Mountlake Terrace for making a special effort to open the restrooms before the end of winter. My contact with the city also yielded the information that the city is carrying out a master plan for the park; the plan is posted online at <http://cityofmlt.com/446/Ballinger-Park>. I shared copies of the executive summary with the other birders during this trip, and we discussed feedback and support that we might offer the city with regard to the plan.

In the vicinity of the boat launch, we counted quite a few Canada Goose and American Wigeon, before Lisa spotted two Bald Eagles. One of the eagles dove for something on or in the lake, but came up empty-taloned. Recrossing the parking lot, where one door of the vehicle we came in was yet to be closed, we found a squirrel exiting the car, then taking shelter in a wheel well.

We walked north via the paved Lakeview Trail, taking in a view of the lake from high ground, then making a detour to watch more closely the birds flitting among the trees beside the Ballinger Clubhouse. While we were there, a Belted Kingfisher landed in one of the smaller trees beside Hall Creek, and some Mallards landed on a low building. Continuing northward, we crossed Lakeview Drive, in order to visit the wetland opposite Ballinger Park. Hall Creek resumed there, and we observed more songbirds in its vicinity.

Walking east, we reached the Interurban Trail, which we followed southward. This gave us views of the birds visiting several feeders near the houses on the west side of the trail, including our closest views of Red-winged Blackbirds and Golden-crowned Sparrows. We departed the trail at one point, in order to observe Edmount Island from the lake's western access point. On our way back north, Sue noticed a bird above some tall trees. After consulting with Terry, we agreed that this was a Band-tailed Pigeon. We then continued northward, until we reached the western gate opening onto Ballinger Park.

This area of the park, described in the executive summary as its contemplative side, was formerly a golf course. Walking over roughs and fairways, we visited the north side of the lake and several ponds, which gave us views of Hooded Mergansers and Ring-necked Ducks. After crossing Hall Creek on a small bridge, we walked southward back to our starting point, traversing the grass near the creek, then near the lake. Sheyeen brought our attention to a number of small birds active in the bramble beside the creek, among which

### Bittern, *continued from Page 1*

Last week, I was here with a group of birders. The sun had risen as we searched along this old railroad bed, now a hiking trail. One person discovered a male bittern, probably this same one, lurking in the reeds and focused her spotting scope on him. We watched the male contort its neck as it lunged forward to gulp in air, expanding its esophagus like a balloon, and then used that air to make this resonant "pump-er-lunk" sound.

In five decades of birding, I had never heard their call until last week. They don't breed in Florida (where I lived for more than two decades) and were not common breeders near my Maryland home either. The sound last week took me by surprise; I watched the male for a long time while the birding party walked farther down the dike. Every few minutes, the bittern would begin again to blow up his esophagus and bellow out this resonating sound. This behavior and sound was so astonishing that I felt the need to return to see if I could record this spectacular call.

Their courtship boomings have a ventriloquistic nature, and rural people have given them some interesting names such as "stake-driver" and "thunder-pumper." These are low-frequency sounds that will travel much farther through thick vegetation than the high-pitched songs of most birds. Ornithologists think that these calls function both to attract females and tell rival males that this marsh is taken.

American Bitterns are members of the heron family. Their streaky brown and buff plumage allows them to disappear into the reeds,

blending perfectly with the vertical shoots. They often freeze in a pose with their bills pointed skyward, neck stretched, so the streaks in their plumage will run parallel with the reeds. If they see people, they usually sulk back into the marsh.



*American Bittern* © Mick Thompson

But today I'm alone along this dike; no other person is out this early. I am hunched low; I have headset over my ears; my stereo mic is pointing right toward the marsh where the bird just called. My eyes are closed so I can concentrate on absorbing the morning chorus of birds. It is still 45 minutes

*(Bittern, continued on Page 5)*

Terry identified American Goldfinch and Purple Finch by voice.

We finished the outing a bit before noon. Afterwards, several of us enjoyed a meal at Voula's Good Eats in Mountlake Terrace. ✧

## TRIP CALENDAR

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



### Tuesday, April 3

#### Marysville Area

Meet at 8:00 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 may bird the Marysville Wastewater Treatment Facility, Jennings Memorial Park, Harborview Park, and whatever else we can discover. Pack a lunch.

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

### Saturday, April 7

#### Two Gulches in Mukilteo

Meet at 7:30 AM near the entrance to the parking lot of the Swamp Creek Park & Ride (<https://www.communitytransit.org/busservice/transit-centers-and-parking>). We'll carpool first to Big Gulch Trail Park, then to the Japanese Gulch Conservation Area.

Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, [425-776-4811](tel:425-776-4811)  
(cell: [206-617-0019](tel:206-617-0019)), [dresnick1@comcast.net](mailto:dresnick1@comcast.net)

### Tuesday, April 10 Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Lynnwood/Mill Creek Walmart lot, 1400 164th St. SW (I-5 Exit 183). Park at the edge of the lot away from the store, to the west. This will be a long road trip of some 70 miles each way. Once at the refuge we will need to walk several miles to fully experience the delights and surprises of its marshes, tideflats, grasslands, and riparian woodlands. Two hundred species have been seen here. Pack a lunch and expect a long adventurous day.

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

### Tuesday, April 17

#### Deception Pass Area

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. Oystercatchers, Loons, Mergansers, LBJs. Pack a lunch.

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

### Tuesday, April 24

#### 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: Wilma Bayes, [360-629-2028](tel:360-629-2028)

### Sunday, April 29

#### Corson Wildlife Refuge

Join Pilchuck Audubon and Academia Latina for a Kid's Picnic and Birdwalk at Corson Wildlife Refuge. I will lead a caravan. Meet at noon at Everett Station, 3201 Smith Ave. Park in the northwest corner of the parking lot, across Smith Avenue from the Everett Station building. We'll carpool to Lake Stevens. This nature preserve features 160 acres of ponds, fields, marshes, and a large collection of exotic birds. Total distance will be between 2-4 miles with minimal elevation gain. Actual distance will depend on how ambitious the group is feeling. We will have

a picnic on the grounds at 1:00 PM and then begin our explorations. Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425-244-7633, [aracfi@msn.com](mailto:aracfi@msn.com)

### Tuesday, May 1 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)

### Saturday, May 5

#### Brier Parks

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Lynnwood Transit Center, which is in the vicinity of I-5 Exit 181; come to Bay D1, which is near the southwest corner of the parking lot. We'll carpool to Brierwood Park, Locust Creek Park, Brier Park, Hickory Way Park, and Abbey View Memorial Park. Boots are advised.

Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, [425-776-4811](tel:425-776-4811)  
(cell: [206-617-0019](tel:206-617-0019)), [dresnick1@comcast.net](mailto:dresnick1@comcast.net) ✧



### Bittern, continued from Page 4

until sunrise. In addition to the robins, the Red-winged Blackbirds have started their "conk-la-ree" song, and I can imagine them drooping their wings while leaning forward and puffing out their bright red shoulder patches as they bellow. They remind me of my high school years when the football jocks would strut down the aisle, not moving aside for anyone, puffing out their shoulders when passing a pretty girl.

The six-phrase melody of a Song Sparrow comes from right above me. He is probably sitting at the end of a branch, looking across the marsh, and raising his head, puffing out his chest when he sings his beautiful song. Individual male Song Sparrows have about nine different melodies, and they mix them up in their morning repertoire. He hopes this diversity will impress a mate.

These birds will be a good background to the bittern, creating musical filler between this heron's calls in my recording. He's my quest today. To think a bird could be such a breathtaking baritone. Each time the sound comes across the marsh, I am amazed by how these notes are made and want to show others this unique love song. Another bittern calls not far away to my left, and a third about at the limit of my hearing on the right. A long pause happens between their trumpets and then once one starts to gulp in air, the others follow. I try not to move or say anything in spite of my excitement as my recorder picks up every nuance of the morning.

*Spectrograph of American Bittern's calls on Page 6.*

**To hear the calls of the American Bittern, go to** <https://soundcloud.com/tom-bancroft-2/american-bittern>. ✧

# CONSERVATION REPORT

by Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

## Grizzly Bears in North Cascades

On March 23, at the joint Forest Service/National Park Service offices in Sedro-Woolley, Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke announced his support of recovering a grizzly bear population in the North Cascades. His announcement came as a surprise to attendees, both supporters and opponents to the recovery. An EIS is nearing final stages. Decision may be issued late this year.

## Jennifer Syrowitz Moves On

Our Audubon Washington office chapter coordinator has accepted a new job as executive director for Washington Wildlife Federation! Great news for Jen! She has been the only chapter coordinator for us since the newly reorganized state office came into being in 2012-2013. As Gail Gatton, executive director, Audubon Washington says in her notice, "Jen has been the heart of Audubon Washington since the first day she walked in the door." I'll have more about Jen's departure and future of the position she vacates in later PROFILES.

## Net-pen Farming of Non-native Fish to End?

Governor Inslee signed the net-pen Atlantic salmon farm fishing bill, which prohibits issuance of any new leases. The remaining leases end in 2025. This legislation began with a whirl of activity at the 2017 WASACC, coinciding with ACOW in Blyn, WA, at the Jamestown S'klallam Tribal Center in October. An Olympic Audubon Society resolution was passed calling for no renewal of existing leases and no new leases issued. Several bills with different approaches were introduced in the legislative session; one bill passed with bipartisan support. Amazing success from start to finish!

We learned on March 22 the victory is challenged! Hours before the governor's signing, *The Seattle Times* carried a story headlined, "Eyman wades into net-pen fray, pushes for public vote." Tim Eyman has filed with the Washington Secretary of State documents calling for at least two referendums. One referendum cancels the new law and puts new language up for public vote. The other referendum calls for a fish farm study. He must collect 129,811 signatures of

Washington voters for each referendum by June 6 to be on next November's ballot. Stay tuned for a campaign against the referendums if they gain enough signatures.

FLASH!!! Eyman on March 23 notified Washington Secretary of State he is withdrawing his request for both referendums. Cooke Aquaculture Pacific said it wants nothing to do with him and his referendums!



## Legislative Scorecard

In a March 14 email, Gail Gatton sent out her "Legislative Scorecard." There are some victories!

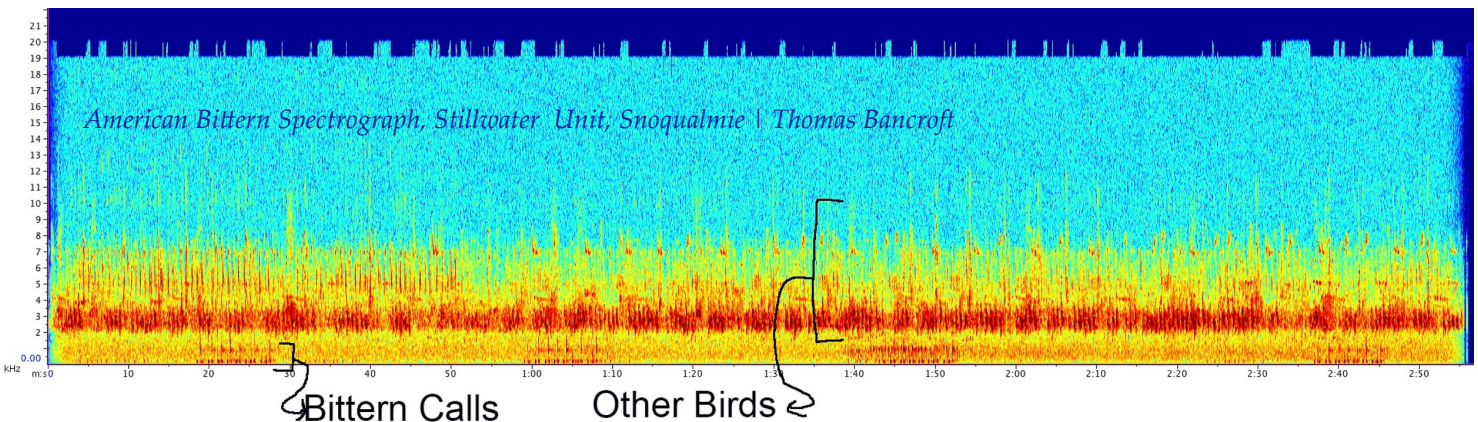
Noted above, non-native net-pen fish farms will be phased out and end in 2025 under House Bill 2957. Audubon waged a major campaign with friends.

There were three climate change bills Audubon with friends had as top priorities this session. We got hearings, lots of supportive votes in both chambers, lots of new awareness across the board in Olympia instead of silence in the past. None passed, but we were within a few votes at times of passage on some bills.

We can claim success in laying strong foundations for energy bills next session. A "carbon fee" initiative has been filed by some Audubon friends. The state Audubon Board is waiting to see what that initiative language calls for, to decide whether or not to support.

## Federal Budget

On March 23, the President signed a very large omnibus appropriations bill. Another shutdown of the Federal Government was only hours away if he had not signed. Contents of the bill are difficult to know at the moment. The Interior Department survived the President's effort to defund significantly. For the first time ever, the Forest Service (within the Department of Agriculture) will have a separate wildfire emergency fund to draw upon as needed for firefighting purposes through 2027, instead of having to "borrow" from other of its accounts to cover firefighting costs. This applies to other federal agencies that have wildfire fighting components, too. ✨



## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

January 26, 2017 to February 25, 2018

We are ready for Spring by now with all the rain and cold weather. I know the birds are ready, except for the ducks who like the rain and water that accumulates in the fields.

Carole and Larry Beason saw more ducks that they have not seen for a while on Lake Bosworth. They reported 4 Barrow's Goldeneye, 2 Common Goldeneye, 8 Merganser, 2 Cormorant, a European Widgeon, 6 Hooded Merganser, 19 Mallard, 8 Ring-necked Duck, and 2 Pied-billed Grebe on the lake. They also reported a Fox Sparrow, 3 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3 Evening Grosbeak, 5 Mourning Dove, a Pileated Woodpecker, 6 Purple Finch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 18 Red-winged Blackbirds, 10 Spotted Towhee, and 7 Varied Thrush, for a total species count of 42.



Evening Grosbeak | USFWS

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo included a Bald Eagle, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Fox Sparrow, a White-throated Sparrow, 3 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 25 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Spotted Towhee, a Bewick's Wren, and 4 House Finch, for a total species count of 19.

Reporting from Everett, Kris Erickson reported 12 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 American Robin, 2 Bewick's Wren, 4 Steller's Jay, 4 Song Sparrow, 13 Northwestern Crow, 8 Western Gull, 14 Mallard Duck, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 16 Black-capped Chickadee, and a Pacific Wren, for a total species count of 11.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood includes 30 American Robin, 20 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Brown Creeper, 75 Dark-eyed Junco, 6 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Great Blue Heron, 2 Great Horned Owl, 25 Mourning Dove, 6 Northern Flicker, 10 Pine Siskin, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 8 Song Sparrow, 17 Steller's Jay, 5 Varied Thrush, 4 White-crowned Sparrow, 6 Red-winged Blackbird, and 3 Pacific Wren, for a total species count of 31.

My count from Marysville included 30+ American Crow in the fields, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 20 Dark-eyed Junco, 50+ Canada Goose in the fields, 12 Mourning Dove, 5 Northern Flicker, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 30+ Rock Dove on the wires, 100+ Mallard Duck in the fields enjoying all the water, 2 Spotted Towhee, 4 Steller's Jay, 3 Trumpeter Swan and 2 Common Raven flying over, a Varied Thrush, and 3 Bald Eagle flying around over the fields, for a total species count of 24.

If you are interested in participating in our Backyard Birding count, please email me at [pricemara1@gmail.com](mailto:pricemara1@gmail.com) or leave a message on my cell phone at (425) 750-8125. ✧

## SAVE THE DATE FEAST ON THE FARM PAS Fundraiser



August 29, 2018

Craven Farm

## UPDATE ON SUSIE'S 2018 FIELD TRIPS

**Klickitat** – May 26-29

The Klickitat trip is full, but Susie is accepting names for the wait list. She says, "Never have I had a trip without changes at the last minute. It is always a fun and very special experience to go to this beautiful part of our state."

**Central British Columbia** – June 9-14

There is one opening in the Central BC trip.

If you are interested in adding your name to the Central BC trip or wait list for the Klickitat trip, contact Susie, [garden@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:garden@pilchuckaudubon.org). ✧



Red-breasted Sapsucker © Mick Thompson

## Noteworthy Events for Your Consideration

### Yakima River Canyon 2018 Bird Fest ..... May 11-13

A weekend of field trips (in and around Ellensburg and Kittitas County), workshops (avian illustration, photography, native plants for birds), a river raft trip, falconry demonstrations, keynote speaker John Marzluff from the UW (corvid and urban bird specialist) at the banquet, silent auction, and good company with other folks who share your passion. In and around Ellensburg, WA. Visit the website [www.ycic.org](http://www.ycic.org) for schedule and registration information.

### Annual Wenas Audubon Campout ..... May 26-28

You're invited to attend a celebration of birds, botany, and the beauty of spring in eastern Washington. The annual Wenas Audubon Campout takes place on Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-28) at the Wenas Creek Campground (SW of Ellensburg). This casual and friendly gathering offers a variety of activities, including birding field trips, wildflower walks, field sketching, owl prowls, and campfire presentations. You do not need to be an Audubon member to attend. All are welcome. Visit the Wenas Audubon website ([www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org)) for directions, an outline of field trips and programming, and more information (2018 program coming soon). Pre-registration is not required. The campout is free and open to all ages; however, donations are encouraged. Every vehicle must display a Washington State Discover Pass (<http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/>). ✧

## UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS farther afield

Compiled by Rick Brauer

### Brant Wildlife Festival through April 28 Parksville, BC

More than a month of varied nature-oriented events characterize this rather freeform "festival," which extends up and down Vancouver Island. Brant geese are, of course, the stars. <http://brantfestival.bc.ca/>

### Great Louisiana Bird Fest April 10-12 Mandeville, LA

The Great Louisiana BirdFest is held each year in the spring when many species are migrating north through Louisiana from Mexico and South America. The location in southern Louisiana makes this an excellent time of year for birding. The weather is typically warm but not yet hot, and the trees are usually leafing out, but still thin enough for improved visibility. BirdFest trips will visit varied habitat including swamps, wetlands, pine savanna, and hardwoods of southeast Louisiana. Among the many excellent birding locations scheduled for this year's BirdFest is Pine Island, a rookery located in a private preserve.

<http://northlakenature.org/birdfest/>

### Olympic Peninsula Birdfest April 13-15 Sequim, WA

Field trips are planned for Sequim Bay, Port Angeles Harbor, Ediz Hook, Dungeness Spit, the Elwha River, and Neah Bay, as well as trips through wooded areas to view songbirds and locate owls in the evening. There will be boat trips to Protection Island as well. In addition to the field trips, birders may participate in several presentations, workshops, a banquet, and even a tour explaining the Jamestown S'Klallam tribal totem poles at the Tribal Center and Seven Cedars Casino. (This is the only bird festival that I know of that features a trip to a casino!) Claudio Vidal is the keynote speaker. <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org/>

### Godwit Days April 18-24 Arcata, CA

This festival includes a wide array of birding activities, field trips, and workshops. Listen to fascinating lectures by acclaimed authors and naturalists, go on birding trips and view species in their natural habitats, enjoy kayaking trips and boat excursions. In addition to the featured Marbled Godwits, opportunities are planned to see many other species, including Marbled Murrelet, Spotted Owl, and Snowy Plover.

<https://godwitdays.org/>

### Grays Harbor Shorebird & Nature Festival April 27-29 Hoquiam, WA

Each spring, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed along the Washington Coast and in the Grays Harbor estuary during their migration northward. Flying from as far south as Argentina, these Arctic-bound shorebirds are among the world's greatest migrants. Some birds travel more than 15,000 miles round trip. The concentration of birds during spring migration offers people a great chance to view a number of shorebird species. This is one of the premier birding festivals in the country, and it is only a short drive from our region. <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/> (360-289-5048) ✧

### 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  
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Send me these via e-mail (check all that apply & include your e-mail address above):

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