



Smart Growth and ST3

By Kristin Kelly, Executive Director

The November ballot will be filled with many elected offices and will also include Sound Transit 3 (ST3) and seven changes to the Snohomish County Charter. ST3 and two of the charter changes directly relate to the work of the Smart Growth program.

While ST3 will increase taxes and fees to those who live in the district, the typical adult in the Sound Transit District would pay \$169 per year, or \$14 per month, in new taxes. The pay-off will be a vast array of new transit services, including light rail, to our communities in Snohomish County and the three-county region that includes King and Pierce counties. ST3 will help to alleviate car travel, which will aid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, one of the leading causes of global warming. The information I'm providing is not the complete list, but it highlights some of the positive aspects of ST3.



ST3 will provide 62 miles of light rail, with stations serving 37 additional areas for a regional system reaching 116 miles. It includes an extension of light rail from Lynnwood to Everett and Boeing Field. This will establish Bus Rapid Transit on I-405/SR-518 and SR-522/NE 145th; expand the capacity and service of the Sounder south rail line; improve access to stations for bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers; pick-up and drop-off services; and expansion of parking at stations. Light rail is projected to serve about 600,000 riders every day.

While there will not be added service to the Sounder from Everett to Seattle, ST3 will be adding more capacity to other Sounder service areas and will add more parking to the Edmonds and Mukilteo stations.

There will be many improvements and upgrades to the express bus service, including a bus-on-shoulder program so buses can use shoulders on freeways and state highways to bypass congestion where feasible. Plus there will be improved access to stations including here in Snohomish County at the Everett Station and Mariner Park-and-Ride, South Boeing Access Road, Mukilteo, and Edmonds.

ST3 is responding to our region's current population and projected future growth. According to WSDOT, in the last five years car travel on our highways has increased 95 percent; this, in turn, has increased the peak-hour time drivers are stuck in traffic to an average of 63 hours a year. Our region is receiving

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OCTOBER PROGRAM MEETING

Larry Schwitters, MSc

Vaux's Happening

Friday, October 14, 2016 • 7:30 p.m.

Everett Firefighters' Hall

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

Larry Schwitters earned a Master of Science degree from East Texas State University. He spent thirty years in the trenches of public education, mostly as a middle school science teacher and coach in the Renton School District. After early retirement, his first involvement with the avian *Apodidae* family was Black Swift field research for the American Bird Conservancy. His experiences in this endeavor were the subject of the cover story for the American Birding Association's *Winging It*. That article can be viewed at <http://www.aba.org/wingingit/v19n1p1.pdf>. Schwitters also contributed to Rich Levad's stunning *The Coolest Bird*, a natural history of the Black Swift and those who have pursued it. Some information and download possible at <http://earbirding.com/blog/archives/2354>.



After tracking down and evaluating all the Washington State waterfalls that could be safely approached, he turned his attention to the smaller, more urban Vaux's Swifts and their communal migratory roost sites. Vaux's Swift was a little-studied species, for which there was, outside of Portland, a surprising lack of awareness of their evening roosting spectacle. Schwitters, working with Audubon, has changed that. His Vaux's Happening project is the subject of a Smithsonian online article that can be viewed at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-disappearing-habitats-of-the-vauxs-swifts-409845/>.

Vaux's Happening, Pilchuck Audubon, the Audubon Society of Corvallis, and the City of Albany, OR, have just erected a 30-foot-tall, 15-ton, preformed concrete, dedicated swift roost to replace a demolished roost chimney.

For the last 16 migrations, Larry has pressed on with his Vaux's Happening project, documenting more than eight million roosting swifts. With his wife Leora, he continues to explore the edges of the continent in their quest for up-close-and-personal time with each bird species found in North America. ✧

Smart Growth and ST3

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about 1,000 new residents each week and the three-county region is expected to grow to 800,000 new residents in the next 20 years, with 200,000 in Snohomish County.

There are environmental and economic considerations as well.

- Regionally, transportation is the largest source of the air pollution that causes global warming.
- With ST3, annual vehicle miles driven in the region by 2040 are projected to reduce by 314-411 million miles as people shift from driving to transit.
- As a result of previously approved ST3 projects, an estimated 793,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions will be saved annually by 2040. That's the equivalent of burning more than 4,224 railcars of coal.
- ST3 is consistent with regional land use and transportation plans, encouraging development of vibrant, walkable communities, that can help contain sprawl.
- ST3 is projected to create more than 78,000 direct jobs and more than 144,000 indirect jobs over the 25-year period of construction, for a total of more than 223,000 jobs. A job is defined as full-time employment of one person for one year. (Sound Transit 3 Plan, Appendix C).
- Businesses consider transportation system performance as a factor influencing decisions about where to locate and expand.
- With ST3, by 2040 approximately 84 percent of Sound Transit District residents and 93 percent of district workers will have convenient access to the region's high-reliability rail and BRT system.

As one of the elected 15 charter review commissioners, I am

recommending a yes vote on all seven propositions that change the Snohomish County Charter. In particular, I brought forward and advocated for Propositions 4 and 5 on the ballot as both deal with more public participation and accountability of our elected council to their constituents. Proposition 5 will ensure at least one council meeting each year in each council district, and evening public hearings on updates and amendments to the county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This will give more people access to council members and will enable more people to attend public hearings on land-use issues that affect their communities. Proposition 4 will eliminate the County Council appeal process for land use and SEPA appeals that are with the Hearing Examiner. All appeals would go directly to Superior Court; this will save litigants money and time, take the politics out of the process, and keep the County Council as our legislators and not as "judges."

Voting is our responsibility especially as stewards of our environment and protection of birds and other wildlife. ✧

Autumn Seed Sale October 19

Order Deadline: October 5

For a price list and to order seed and suet, contact Carolyn Lacy at carolacy@gmail.com or 206-245-5836.

Orders must be placed by Wednesday, October 5.

Pick up orders in Everett between **4:30 and 7:00 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, October 19**, in the first floor lobby of the Sno-Isle Natural Foods Co-op, 2804 Grand Avenue, Everett 98201 (enter building from the back alley) ([map](#)).

Volunteers will be on hand to collect payment and help load the seed. If you'd prefer to pick up your seed in Edmonds, let Carolyn know when you place your order. ✧

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

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CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

by Jim Beneteau

We are getting more requests for events and we'd like to be able to respond positively, but we really, really need to increase the number of volunteers available. Most often, the events amount to PAS having an information table. Participation in these events usually means a couple of hours of answering questions and, optionally, conducting some simple games.

More and more, however, we are getting requests from schools and other organizations for a little more "informational" participation, that is, to provide "lessons" relating to birds. The Education Committee has visions of developing such materials, but time and volunteers are the limiting factor. Also, we would need to have volunteers available to present any material.

If you would like to be involved in some educational outreach—anything from a shift at a tabling event to presenting a lecture, please contact the Education Committee at education@pilchuckaudubon.org.

At this time, we have a request from the Everett Arboretum for a presentation on attracting birds through planting. Any takers? ✧



SWIFT NIGHT OUT

September 10, 2016

Swift Night Out 2016 was a wonderful success thanks to the many fabulous volunteers, donors, and participants who helped plan and stage the event. The story of these amazing birds and their migratory descent into the chimney at the former Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe, Washington, brings out hundreds of spectators to see the show. A delicious, home-made spaghetti dinner was prepared by Leann Jacobson and crew from Wild Birds Unlimited in Monroe, and fabulous educational booth displays were provided by Seattle and Eastside Audubon societies, PAWS, Bats Northwest, Return of the Salmon Celebration, and the Monroe Arts Council. Dedicated docents provided our guests with one-on-one conversations and detailed information about the Vaux's Swift, while featured listening and viewing stations allowed visitors to hear and see the birds up close and personal. Special thanks also to our event sponsor, Windermere Real Estate of Monroe.

While the spaghetti feed dinner is our primary fund-raiser at this event, we also sold more than 250 swift headbands, and our volunteers at "Pilchuck Central" kept donations flowing into the cardboard chimney donor box. While funds are still being counted (and still welcome!), we made approximately \$1700 to

ARE BIRDS IN YOUR WILL?



Photo by Rick Brauer

Bequests are becoming more popular as a means for people to support non-profit organizations. By making an organization a beneficiary, one can retain funds for use but still leave a legacy. Pilchuck Audubon has received several bequests in the last few years so we have established a "Legacy Circle." This is an acknowledgment of those who have or who intend to make PAS a beneficiary of their estate.

Your support for Pilchuck Audubon reflects what you cherish—the birds that have brought joy to your life and the nature that surrounds you in our beautiful county. Leaving a legacy gift is a way to ensure that your values endure. It's a way to extend your reach beyond the bounds of time to enrich the lives of future generations.

A legacy bequest does not affect assets or cash flow during your lifetime. You can change your will or account beneficiaries at any time. There is no minimum gift required, and you can designate your gift to either a specific Pilchuck program or leave it unrestricted. Your gift in any amount is fully deductible from federal estate taxes.

Please let us know if you include PAS as a beneficiary in your estate planning. This, of course, has no effect on our budgeting but does help to show support for our mission. Our current Legacy Circle is listed below; periodic updates will be posted. If you are interested in more information, please contact Kathleen Snyder at legacy@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425-438-1505. She will be happy to sit down with you for further discussion.

Legacy Circle

Carleen Adams*
Elwin Anderson*
Anonymous
Carolyn Lacy
Robert Royce*
Susie Schaefer
Kathleen and John Snyder
Elsie Sorgenfrei*
Laura Zalesky*

*Deceased

support on-going research and conservation efforts for the Vaux's Swift through the dedicated efforts of Vaux's Happenings and Larry Schwitters.

Even the swifts cooperated this year, with 1121 of the 'wee birds' putting on a great show and dropping in just at sunset. Thank you, swifts! Thank you, volunteers! ✧

Editorial Perspectives for Considering the Carbon Tax Proposal (I-732) on the November Ballot

In 2014, National Audubon released its landmark study *Birds and Climate Change*, which modeled the predicted outcomes for 588 North American bird species if global warming continues at current rates. Of the 588 species in the study, 189 species (one-half of the species found in Washington State) are threatened. These sobering conclusions force birders to consider carefully efforts designed to lower the threat of global warming, and many take great strides to lower their own personal impact on the earth.

This November, Washington voters will be asked to vote on a carbon tax proposal known as Initiative 732 (I-732). While nearly all can agree on the need to limit greenhouse gas emissions and seek ways to lower our carbon footprint, not all conservation groups agree that I-732 is the pathway to achieve that goal. Indeed, some PAS board members find I-732 to have much merit; some find it wanting. The board has decided to take no position, but, to help understand the nuanced arguments of those supporting I-732 and those opposing in favor of a future alternative, Pilchuck Audubon Society is providing the following position statements from Gail Gatton (Executive Director of Audubon Washington) and from the Washington Environmental Council (provided by Sasha Pollack, Climate and Clean Energy Director).

Please consider both position statements offered here, and seek additional resources to help inform your decision this fall election. **YOUR VOTE MATTERS!**



PRO

I-732 Provides Opportunity to Help Birds Now

As published in the 9/18/2016 *Everett Herald*

Gail Gatton, Executive Director
Audubon Washington

Birds hold a special place in the hearts of many, providing connections to meaningful places or memories. In our urban parks, people are thrilled at the sight of an eagle diving for a fish or the sound of a Barred Owl calling *who-cooks-for-you*.

Every September, people from all over gather in Monroe for Swift Night Out to watch the spectacle of thousands of Vaux's Swifts as they funnel into the Wagner Center chimney to roost along their journey to wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America.

But these birds – and the sights and sounds they bring to our lives – are at risk. Audubon science shows more than half of our North American bird species are at risk from climate change. Of the roughly 500 species that call Washington home for some part of their lifecycle, 189 of them are at risk from climate change.

The swifts that descend upon Monroe each fall are projected to lose 99 percent of their summer range by 2080. Rufous Hummingbirds could lose their entire winter range. Bald Eagles could lose nearly 75 percent of their summer range, threatening their ability to breed and reproduce. From common birds such as Mallard ducks to the bright and beautiful neotropical migrants such as Western Tanagers, many of our birds face an uncertain future.

Here in Washington, we have a unique opportunity to take action to protect birds and people from this growing threat. Initiative 732 is a tax swap that would put a price on the things we want less of, like harmful carbon pollution that contributes to global warming, while reducing our taxes on the things we want more of – sales and manufacturing. The state-wide grassroots effort that gathered over 360,000 signatures to put this citizen's initiative on the ballot



CON

Position on I-732 of Washington Environmental Council/Washington Conservation Voters

After careful consideration and engagement across a wide range of communities and groups who will be affected by climate change, WEC has made the difficult determination that we do not support Initiative 732.

We support putting a price on carbon pollution because it is a fundamental driver for the transition to clean energy, but it needs to be the right approach for Washington. While we applaud the motivations and hard work of I-732 supporters and volunteers, in policy decisions like this, details matter. We take seriously our responsibility to advocate for the right carbon pricing system and we believe, in this instance, this ballot measure is flawed for a number of reasons. Below are the problems we see with the way I-732 is designed.

- Despite the initiative's intent to be revenue neutral, the state Office of Financial Management has analyzed the policy and found that enacting it would create a \$900 million hole in the already insufficient state budget over the next two biennia. This budget hole would increase burdens on vulnerable populations, reduce dollars for enforcing existing environmental laws, and prevent needed investments in transitioning to clean energy.
- It relies solely on economic signals to drive down emissions. This does not ensure that we will achieve the pollution reductions that are required in state law, but are currently unenforced.
- Instead of strategically reinvesting revenue into clean energy, which would accelerate the transition from fossil fuels, and into an equitable transition for workers and disadvantaged communities, I-732 devotes the majority of the carbon tax revenue to tax cuts.

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TRIP CALENDAR

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



Saturday, October 1 Annual Mushroom Hike

PLEASE NOTE: This hike is now full; however, you can call to be added to a waiting list, as people sometimes cancel at the last minute. Contact Kathy to reserve your place on this hike, limited to 12 participants. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Sultan Park & Ride. We'll hike the relatively easy first mile of the Lake Dorothy Trail, to the bridge at Camp Robber Creek. This will be an all-day hike with expert mycologist and pharmacist Greg Hovander. Greg is an encyclopedia of mycological knowledge, from identification of hundreds of fungal species, to medicinal qualities, to nutrition and cooking methods. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Kathy Johnson, [360-659-7252](tel:360-659-7252) or forest@pilchuckaudubon.org

Tuesday, October 4 Southern 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 from Mukilteo. Lots of waterfowl and shorebirds. Crockett Lake is exciting, and the scenery is gorgeous. Pack a lunch. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes, [360-629-2028](tel:360-629-2028)

Tuesday, October 11 Silvana Roads

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. Past years we had Northern Shrikes, a Pectoral and a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and three falcon species. If time allows, we may visit the Port Susan Nature Conservancy site. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Saturday, October 15 Green Everett Day and Bird Walk at Howarth Park in Everett

Come join Pilchuck Audubon as we team up with the Green Everett Partnership to improve the health of Everett's forested parks and natural areas! Over 100 volunteers will gather at Howarth Park (9:00 AM to 12 Noon) to plant a forest and celebrate the work we are accomplishing in this partnership. There will be raffle prizes, food, special community guests, and a few more surprises, not least that we'll conduct a bird walk starting at 9:30 AM for any folk who need a break from planting trees. We'll explore the park's 28 acres looking for wildlife, including a scan of the beach for shorebirds and the adjacent Possession Sound for waterfowl. Save the date and register for Green Everett Day here: <http://tinyurl.com/j4dktnv>. Trip Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206-619-2383, tnight@pobox.com

Tuesday, October 18 Point No Point

Meet at 7:10 AM at the Edmonds' Wade James Theater parking lot. The theater's address is 950 Main St., Edmonds, 98020, just east of 9th Ave. on the south side of Main St. We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the

docks, Point No Point, and Foulweather Bluff. Always lots of surprises, both in the air and on the water. Pack a lunch. Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Saturday, October 22 Turtleback Mountain Preserve Orcas Island

Meet at 9:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quil-Ceda Blvd. and next to I-5. The San Juan County Land Bank recently created the Turtleback Mountain Preserve and endowed it with public use trails. We can hike up one of several hills, the highest of which is Turtleback Mountain at 1500 feet. The altitude gain to the summit is about 2.5 to 3.5 miles, making this a moderate (not easy or ADA) hike. The group can choose any of a handful of hikes throughout the park. The Anacortes ferry sails at 10:35 AM. Estimated round-trip ferry toll is \$99 per car. Carpooling strongly encouraged. All day. Bring lunch, snacks, water, hat, sunscreen, sturdy hiking boots, and foul-weather gear for the trail, just in case. For the return trip, the ferry departs Orcas at 7:50 PM. We usually stop for a little optional socializing over a meal on the way home. We may need to be a bit flexible this time (perhaps a late supper in Anacortes). What we don't want to do is cancel our socializing because we find ourselves in a hurry.

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

Tuesday, October 25 Serpentine Fen and Blackie Spit

Meet at 7:00 AM at the 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. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds, and scenery, and to do some walking. This is a trip to Canada so bring your US Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch.

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

CLASSROOM CONSERVATION

AWARDS: Apply Now!

by Laurel Cheap

The PAS Classroom Conservation Awards Committee is gearing up for another year of supporting conservation projects in Snohomish County elementary school classrooms. **If you are an elementary school teacher in Snohomish County, please apply!** If you know an elementary school teacher in Snohomish County, encourage her or him to apply!

We will be giving multiple awards of \$400 for conservation- and science-related learning activities and/or materials that enhance and enrich a classroom program. For an application and more information about the awards, please go to the PAS website, www.pilchuckaudubon.org, (find us under "Programs"). **Applications must be received by November 1, 2016.** ✧





Birds at the Burke

Saturday, October 8

10 AM – 4 PM

Burke Museum

Included with museum admission; FREE for Burke members or w/ UW ID

Flock to the Burke Museum for a fun-filled day celebrating all things feathered! See hundreds of specimens and get expert tips for spotting and identifying birds from the Puget Sound Bird Observatory and the Seattle Audubon Society.

Scheduled Activities

- Meet Taima the Hawk! Have your photo taken with the Seattle Seahawks Augur Hawk from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM
- Paul Bannick will discuss the genesis of his new book, *OWL: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*. His talk, full of compelling new photos and videos, will discuss everything from how his first book *The Owl and Woodpecker* educated his focus, to how he selected a publisher, targeted photos, found owls, and tailored a narrative. Talks at 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM.
- Test your birding skills with Bird Jeopardy at 12:00 Noon and 2:30 PM.

Additional Activities

- Learn about hummingbird migration.
- Get to know neighborhood birds with bird specimens, nests, and eggs of Seattle.
- See remarkable California Condor specimens.
- Get to know Marbled Murrelets and their conservation needs.
- Touch beautiful wings from the Burke's spread wing collection—the largest collection of its kind in the world. Examine extinct bird specimens.

[RSVP](#) on the Facebook event or visit the Burke Museum's website to [learn more!](#) ✧



WORK PARTY at the Wildlife Habitat Native Plant Demonstration Garden

Saturday, October 1, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Fall work party in conjunction with Earth Corps. Come for another fun day of weeding, trimming, and general clean-up to get ready for winter at the Demo Garden. Everyone is welcome to come and help. We furnish training and supervision; coffee, water, and snacks; garden gloves; and tools. We need a good turnout to get the garden looking good and ready for our Open House and planting at the work parties on November 5 and December 3. ✧

UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS farther afield

Compiled by Rick Brauer

October 1-2 **Birdfest and Bluegrass Ridgefield, WA**

Friends of Ridgefield Nat'l Wildlife Refuge bring you this weekend exploring wildlife, music, and Chinookan culture. Opening with a showing of Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" on Friday night, this unique festival will kick-off your October birding in style! Wild birds of prey, Sandhill Crane tours, classes, and plenty of things that peck dropping from the sky.

<http://ridgefieldfriends.org/events/birdfest-bluegrass/>

October 7-8 **Bridger Raptor Festival Bozeman, MT**

This free festival, held in and around Bozeman, MT, centers around the largest known Golden Eagle migration in the United States. Since 1991, a raptor migration count has taken place every fall at the Bridger Bowl ski area in the national forest just north of the city. Festival activities center on raptor viewing and include nature walks and talks as well as educational and entertaining programs and activities for people of all ages.

<http://www.bridgerraptorfest.org/>

October 8 **Bellingham, WA**

Class: Birding the Salish Sea by Boat

Venture onto Northwest waters in search of sea birds making their way along the Pacific Flyway. Aboard the *Snow Goose*, a 65-foot research vessel, you'll explore the waters of Bellingham Bay, Lummi Island, Rosario Strait, Chuckanut Bay, and surrounding areas in search of harlequin, long-tailed ducks, oystercatchers, murrelets, loons and surf scoters among others. Organized by North Cascades Institute and led by Joe Meche. <http://ncascades.org/signup/programs/birding-the-salish-sea-by-boat>

Dates Below **Florida**

Three Festivals/One State

They don't have a scary showing of "The Birds", but our friends at the opposite corner of the country have three avian-oriented festivals in Halloween month:

- Florida Birding & Nature Fest; Oct 13-16, Ruskin/Tampa, FL <http://www.floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org/>
- Wings and Wildflowers Festival; Oct 14-16, Leesburg, FL <https://www.wingsandwildflowers.com/>
- "Ding" Darling Days; Oct 16-22, Sanibel Island, FL <https://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/ding-darling-days> ✧



demonstrates Washingtonians don't want to wait to address climate change.

Putting a price on carbon is a proven method of reducing emissions. We can just look to our neighbor to the north for an example. British Columbia has shown this solution yields significant emissions reductions and is simple to administer.

Revenue collected through I-732 will be rebated back to Washingtonians through a one percent reduction in our state sales tax. There are also rebates for low-income working families and businesses. Some claim that this policy is not perfect. Yet in Audubon's view, I-732 offers a tangible, immediate, proven step in the right direction. The opportunity to take climate action today outweighs any potential argument for waiting for the "perfect policy." We can't afford to sit this one out.

Throughout history, birds have been indicators of human and environmental health. The proverbial "canary in a coal mine" was used to detect fatal gases and make sure mines were safe for humans. Eagles and other birds of prey were among the first to let us know the detrimental effects of the pesticide DDT. Now it's time to pay attention to how birds are responding to a shifting climate.

Let's say yes to a price on carbon and start combatting climate change for birds and people today. ✧



Instead, we support a policy that limits and reliably reduces carbon emissions. It uses revenues from a carbon pollution fee to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and invests in infrastructure for clean, abundant water and healthy forests that can stand up to the adverse impacts of climate change, while simultaneously assisting the most vulnerable workers and communities during our transition away from fossil fuels.

Climate change is not just an environmental issue, but a matter of economic, social and racial justice, and public health. We have learned that in order to pass and sustain transformational carbon pollution policy, we must work with a broad, politically-powerful coalition. That's why WEC, WCV, and partners worked to establish the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy, where business, labor, communities of color, faith groups and health organizations, as well as grassroots activists around the state, have come together to advance workable solutions for all.

Many people in the State of Washington have already invested significant effort to advance the conversation about a carbon pollution pricing mechanism, including supporters of I-732, and we greatly appreciate their work. We are committed to enacting an effective, equitable, and electorally-viable carbon pricing policy in Washington. We will be advancing that approach in the coming months with our partners in the Alliance for Jobs and Clean Energy and others, with a goal of achieving its adoption as soon as possible.

Contact Sasha Pollack, Climate & Clean Energy Director, at sasha@wecprotects.org. ✧

Events at the Wildlife Habitat Native Plant Demonstration Garden

Saturday, October 8, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Community Open House and Celebration at the Demo Garden

This will be a day for everyone to come visit the Demo Garden and get acquainted with this wonderful community garden. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this special day. We have planned a fun time for everyone with garden tours, native plant sale, and leaf-printing workshop for kids of all ages with April Richardson, artist and naturalist. Experts will be there with lots of information to answer questions on topics such as:

- Pollinators
- Native Plants
- Birds—birding and attracting birds to your backyard
- Certification of backyards
- Frogs and turtles, and more

At 11:00 AM, with a special cake and goodies, we, together with local officials, will celebrate Edmonds' certification as a Backyard Community for the past six years. Enjoy fun and games for everyone all day.

Saturday, October 29, 1:00 to 2:30 PM

Special seasonal workshop on SPIDERS OF THE NORTHWEST with our own spider expert, Dr. David Richman. Love or hate spiders? Come and learn all about them and get answers to your questions about spiders. This workshop is for people of all ages. ✧



Waiting for the Vaux Swifts at the Wagner Center Chimney

WEEKEND BIRD WALK from Crystal Mountain Gondola

By Jonathan Blubaugh

Nearly twenty people turned out for our weekend bird walk down from Crystal Mountain, ski resort just east of Mt. Rainier National Park. We rode the gondola to the top. Then we hiked back down about 4.8 miles with an elevation drop of more than 2000 feet. It was well worth it for me because I love the mountain wildflowers. Crystal Mountain staff recommended July because that's when peak wildflowers would show. We were not disappointed. We saw vast alpine meadows and ski slopes covered with deep grasses and plenty of wildflowers. We saw fields full of Avalanche Lilies, red Columbine, several varieties of Indian Paint Brush, several varieties of lupine, daisies, asters, and more.

The view from the top of the mountain is nothing less than stunning. Superlatives simply can't summarize the view of Rainier Volcano. Fortunately for us, ace nature photographer Joanne Iskierka documented the trip; some of her highlights can be found at <http://www.meetup.com/North-Sound-Birders/photos/27144613/>. More than just a bird hike, we were treated to additional wildlife: 2 Hoary Marmots, an Elk, a Townsend's Chipmunk, a few hover flies, a Douglas Squirrel, a wood frog and scads of tadpoles, a few beautiful Bull Trout with gorgeous red fins, and a Red Fox in a black coat with a white tip on the tail. Jack Parsons got a great shot of the fox playing in the luxuriant grass surrounded by daisies, Indian Paintbrush, and Owl's Clover.

For several of us, the most heartwarming event was our encounter with a couple of Gray Jays. As many of you know, they are probably the tamest wild birds in the West. When we encountered them, I advised to "slowly pull out the trail mix and quietly hold out your hand." Sure enough, the jays came to enjoy cashews, raisins, and peanuts from the hands of two members of Team



Judy Hall and Gray Jay.

Counting Crows, Lisa Weber and Judy Hall. *Photo by Joanne Iskierka.*

Our large group became attenuated on the trail. A couple of carloads walked on ahead; they arrived at the parking lot and headed home, disappointed that they hadn't seen all that many birds. Those who spent a longer time on the trail listening to and admiring the birds saw more avian life. As we moved on, some progressed slowly and some finished the trail much earlier than others.

Here's a list of most of the birds we saw or heard, including eight species from our meeting point at the Everett Mall: 20 Canada Geese, 10 Mallards, a Cooper's Hawk, 12 feral pigeons, a Eurasian Collared-Dove, a hummingbird, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, 9 American Crows, 2 Gray Jays, 2 Steller's Jays, 2 Common Ravens, a Tree Swallow, 6 Violet-green Swallows, a Barn Swallow, 2 Mountain Chickadees, 3 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 2 Townsend's Solitaires, 3 American Robins, a Varied Thrush, 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers, a Chipping Sparrow, 5 White-crowned Sparrows, 3 Brown-headed Cowbirds, 2 Pine Siskins, and an American Goldfinch. Birds we heard were Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, a Pacific Wren, and a few Dark-eyed Juncos. ✧

WHO'S VISITING OUR BACKYARDS?

Bird Sightings July 26 to August 25

Compiled by Mara Price

August is a transition month where we can see most of our summer species before they head to their winter locations. The counts will start to change in September.

Carole and Larry Beason reported 43 species with a total bird count of 358 from their home at Lake Bosworth. Their count included an **American Goldfinch**, a **Bald Eagle** in a Fir tree, 30 **Barn Swallows** flying over, 4 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, 9 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 30 **Canada Geese** flying over, 2 **Cedar Waxwings** on the lily pads, a **Hammond's Flycatcher**, a **Kingfisher** over the lake, 5 **Lesser Scaup** on the lake, 25 **Pine Siskins**, 4 **Purple Finch**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 30 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, a **Swainson's Thrush**, 2 **Western Tanagers**, and a **Turkey Vulture** over the road.


Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo included her **California Quail** family of 2 adults and 6 juveniles. She also listed 3 squawking **Caspian Terns** flying over, a **Rufous Hummingbird**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, a **Western Scrub Jay**, 100+ **American Crows** flying over, 4 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 8 **Bushtit**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, 2 **Western Tanagers**, a **White-crowned Sparrow**, 5 **House Finch**, and 4 **American Goldfinch**, for a total species count of 27.

Kriss Erickson's total species count of 19 from home in Everett included 6 **American Robins**, 10 **Steller's Jays**, 4 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 20 **European Starlings** in her yard, 4 **Western Gulls** flying overhead, 3 **Song Sparrows**, 3 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 12 **Northwestern Crows**, 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 12 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 7 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, 3 **Bewick's Wrens**, and 42 **Bushtit**.

Mary Sinker had a very good month with large numbers of different species. Her report from Stanwood included 5 **American Goldfinch**, 30 **American Robins**, 8 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 18 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 17 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 4 **Cedar Waxwings**, 9 **House Finch**, 11 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, 6 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 6 **Song Sparrows**, 17 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Veery**, and 3 **Wilson's Warblers**, for a species count of 34.

My species count of 18 from my home in Marysville included 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 3 **American Goldfinch**, 5 **American Robins**, 3 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, 2 **Dark-eyed Junco**, 2 **House Sparrows**, 6 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 7 **Mallards** at Twin Lakes, 5 **Mourning Doves**, 3 **Northern Flickers**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, 5 **Steller's Jays**, and a **Pileated Woodpecker**.

Would you like to join our sighters and share with us the number and type of birds that visit your yard? It's really easy. You just complete a birding report and mail or email it in each month. If you are interested or have questions, please contact me, pricemara1@gmail.com or 425-750-8125. ✧



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