

CONSERVATION

by Allen Gibbs, Chair, Conservation Committee

Carbon tax

To get this column off to a “reality start,” pigs will fly before a carbon tax bill acceptable to the governor passes the legislature this session. Most carbon revenue bills were to benefit state agencies having programs new and old to counter adverse effects of climate change. Bills have significant differences as to the “why” and “how,” and use of any revenues generated. There are important viewpoints not yet included in legislative proposals. More time is needed for discussion and negotiations before and during future sessions.

Budget

Absent a carbon tax this session, the State Senate’s budget released March 21 reduces the following amounts from the governor’s budget request, which assumed a carbon tax passing: 5.2% less for the Department of Ecology; 11.1% less for the Department of Fish and Wildlife; 5.5% less for the Department of Natural Resources; and 3% less to the Puget Sound Partnership. At this writing, it will be interesting to see what the House budget proposal contains when released March 28.

Examples of bad and good news

- A solar energy bill (HB 1048) benefiting individuals and communities, supported by Audubon and other conservation groups, has not passed, even though there is no apparent opposition. A “striking bill,” sponsored by Ferndale Senator Doug Ericksen to reverse last year’s



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APRIL PROGRAM MEETING

Friday, April 14, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Spring Birding in Snohomish County

with Rick Taylor

This presentation will help you maximize your spring birding. Rick uses data to identify the 20 hottest birding locations in Snohomish County. He also shares the most likely times and locations for some of the county’s most sought-after migrants. Rick will show how to mine the wealth of data in eBird to ensure that you hear about the latest noteworthy bird finds. The presentation will include evolving technologies that provide weekly migration forecasts. Rick will share his strategies for getting record-setting results in the Big Sit, Big Day, and Big Month for the Pilchuck Audubon Birdathon in May.

Rick Taylor has lived and birded in Snohomish County for 16 years. He is the co-compiler for the Edmonds Christmas Bird Count and one of the curators for the soon-to-be-released, on-line version of *A Birder’s Guide to Washington*. He and his wife, Tina, bird the entire state of Washington and have seen more than 175 species in each of Washington’s 39 counties. They enjoy birding exotic locations and have birded in South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, as well as pelagic birding from cruise ships.

Below is a photo of a Say’s Phoebe taken a few days ago in Snohomish County, only the second sighting of this species by Rick Taylor.



Everett Firefighters’ Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett ([map](#))



- expansion of the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve, is not passing.
- Funding of the Model Toxics Control Act for its original purpose has survived. However, funding via tax on fuel is reduced due to projected lower cost of fuel at the pump. High prices at the pump produce more income to the MTCA; low prices decrease.
- Both parties in the legislature have had discussions with the governor in developing their responses to his December 2016 executive budget. Negotiations resume in earnest now that budget proposals from the Senate and House are known.
- March 16 came with the partial release of President Trump’s executive budget request to Congress, which substantially reduced federal funding to many programs taken on by states. New “gaps” are concerning. Governors Jay Inslee (WA-D), Kate Brown (OR-D), and Jerry Brown (CA-D) have vowed to oppose the president’s efforts to weaken environmental protection laws and regulations, especially those state laws and regulations rooted in federal laws and regulations most vulnerable to federal funding cuts.

“The president proposes; the Congress disposes.” All presidents propose federal funding for various purposes, only to watch congresses support some parts and ignore other parts, or build a very different budget. So, the states must wait, perhaps into the next fiscal and/or calendar year, to see the extent to which federal funding arrives. The dance of legislation in a democracy goes on. ✧

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTIONS

Please join us for the April 14 program meeting, and exercise your right to vote.

Our annual business meeting will include elections for board Vice-President and Treasurer (two-year terms), a summary of this year’s budget, and the Volunteer-of-2016 Award presentation.

Current Vice-President Terry Nightingale and current Treasurer Judy Hall have agreed to serve another term in their respective offices.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

In addition to the wonderful program, excellent refreshments will be provided by Virginia Clark. 😊

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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Yakima River Canyon Birding Festival

May 12-14

Ellensburg, WA

Hosted by Kittitas Environmental Education Network

Come bird with KEEN (Kittitas Environmental Education Network) for three days during the second weekend of May, and discover the natural beauty of Central Washington State.

Kittitas County features diverse and spectacular habitats ranging from snow-capped mountains, thousands of acres of public forest, lush riparian corridors, and endangered shrub-steppe open space. The Yakima River Canyon is an Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) with some of the highest densities of passerines and birds of prey in the state, some of them obligates to the shrub-steppe habitat.

The Yakima River Canyon Bird Fest will offer expert-led field trips, vendors, extended field trips, workshops, lectures, keynote speaker Paul Bannick, social events, a silent auction, and a plethora of bird watching during early spring. Come join us for spring in the shrub-steppe.

Contact: www.ycic.org

KEEN: 414 South Willow St, Ellensburg, WA 98926 ✧



IMAGINE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM KIDS' BIRD FEST

APRIL 29 IN EVERETT

Calling all parents, grandparents, and anyone who enjoys seeing children enjoy themselves.

We have all had that conversation—how children these days don't get outside enough to appreciate the natural world, and who will be the next generation of conservationists? Pilchuck Audubon is doing something about it. For the second year, we are sponsoring the Kids' Bird Fest at the Imagine Children's Museum in Everett. Families will visit a variety of tables to discover the incredible world of birds. The goal is to spark the interest of young children and their parents to look beyond their screens. Funds for this great project are being provided by the legacy gift of Robert Royce.

There are two ways to become involved. One, bring the young children in your life to the event. It runs from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** on Saturday, **April 29**. Or, two, you can volunteer for a four-hour shift at one of the tables. No experience is necessary, but a background check is (museum policy). Please contact Kathleen Snyder by **April 15** (425-438-1505 or legacy@pilchuckaudubon.org). The volunteers from last year had a great time. ✧

SMART GROWTH REPORT

by Kristin Kelly

Smart Growth Executive Director



I have two separate, but important, Snohomish County issues to report on this month.

First, in last month's Profile, I announced our loss with the Washington State Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB) in an appeal of Snohomish County's Critical Areas Regulations (CAR) Update. Good news is we have not yet given up.

Pilchuck Audubon Society and Futurewise are appealing two issues to the Thurston County Superior Court because these two issues are serious and need to be strengthened to comply with the Growth Management Act's mandate to protect the environment, people, property, and water quality and quantity. The two issues concern (1) landslide protections and (2) legal water availability for new development.

Landslide protections

First, in a Petition for Judicial Review, we argue that Snohomish County has failed to designate all areas subject to "geological events," including landslides, that "are not suited to the siting of commercial, residential, or industrial development consistent with public health or safety concerns, and that the County did not consider best available science when it updated these regulations." We must never forget Oso; Snohomish County must do more than what it is presently doing to ensure we never have another Oso tragedy.

Legal water availability for new development

Second in our Petition for Judicial Review is that Snohomish County requires only a description of the water source for new development but does not require any evidence that the water source is legally and physically available. This is particularly a problem for rural areas that rely on wells. While the GMHB did agree with us that the county cannot approve developments if water is not legally available, it did not believe these regulations should be part of the critical area regulations. We disagree, because one of the reasons for requiring legally available water for new development is to protect recharging of aquifers used for potable water.

Public Process for Amending Snohomish County's Comprehensive Plan

The other important concern for the Smart Growth Program begins soon when Snohomish County Planning and Development Services will introduce to the County Council private amendment proposals to the Comprehensive Land-Use Plan. Two of those proposals would expand the Southwest Urban Growth Area, which would allow more single-family homes on rural land. Those proposals are also packaged to reduce the urban growth area along the Lowell-Snohomish River and in part of the Granite Falls UGAs, which will affect current property owners and the development potential of their property. There will be a public hearing with the County Council, who will decide whether these or any other comprehensive plan amendment proposals should go forward for more analysis and environmental review. We believe this issue should not go forward.

I have received funding from a leading environmental foundation to work on this issue because of its importance in ensuring our county doesn't continue to sprawl out into rural and resource lands unless legally compliant with the Growth Management Act.

To be effective, I will need your help. Please look for action alerts in your email box, and help us stop unnecessary urban sprawl. ✧

WEEKEND BIRD WALK TO RASAR STATE PARK

21 January 2017

by Jonathan Blubaugh

Last year a couple of people asked if we could do a birdwalk to see some eagles. So I scheduled a trip to Rasar State Park [8 miles west of Concrete on the Skagit River] because there had been a reliable salmon run on the Skagit River in January and the Bald Eagle Festival would have been underway. Neither salmon nor Bald Eagles showed up.

It was lightly raining. No surprise there. Nevertheless, eleven Resistance members showed up for the outing. We gathered at the nice picnic shelter. There still was a little snow left on the ground, especially where plows had heaped it up around the edges of the parking lot. We decided to walk down by the river to see if we could find any eagles. Already though, I sensed that it was too quiet except for the caretaker's leaf blower. Could it have scared off the birds? Or made them more difficult to hear? Or was it because of a failed salmon run? Often the parking lot is a great place to get lots of birds when you first get to a new place. Not this time. We headed down to a trail that ran a ways downstream. Very few birds. The snow was almost gone and rain ended, but there was still plenty of moisture in and on the trees.



Skagit River @ Rasar SP

We backtracked after having reached the park boundary and caught another trail bringing us upstream. Goldeneyes and Common Mergansers were present in small numbers. Later we got a closer view of the Goldeneyes and could determine that most were Barrow's Goldeneyes. Next, we skirted around the perimeter of an open field back to the picnic shelter. No birds. At least the leaf blower was finished, but maybe it was too late.

For our late lunch, PAS lifetime member Doug Resnick directed us to the Co-op in Mt. Vernon. It was bustling with people, for good reason, but not too crowded.

Here's a list of most of the birds we encountered in the park: a Common Goldeneye, nine Barrow's Goldeneye, three Common Merganser, three Double-crested Cormorant, a Bald Eagle, a Glaucous-winged Gull, eight Golden-crowned Kinglet, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Hermit Thrush, two Dark-eyed Junco, and a Spotted Towhee. Additionally, we heard the following: a Downy Woodpecker, a Common Raven, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Pacific Wren, and a Song Sparrow. All were uploaded to eBird via the mobile app. ✧

TRIP CALENDAR

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



Tuesday, April 4

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 Park, Harborview Park, and whatever else we can discover. Pack a lunch. Trip Leaders: Art Wait, [360-563-0181](tel:360-563-0181), and Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, April 11 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: Art Wait, [360-563-0181](tel:360-563-0181)

Tuesday, April 18

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 25

Guemes Island

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. Ride a tiny ferry, then relax and enjoy unique Guemes Island, its people, birds, and dogs. Pack a lunch.

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

BIRDATHON JUST AROUND THE CORNER



2016 Birdathon winning photo of Western Sandpiper by Rex Guichard

Pilchuck Audubon's annual fundraiser, Birdathon, is gearing up for another successful run in May. Birdathon consists of teams and individuals competing in several categories like Most Species, Best Species, and Most Money Raised. There are also two photography contests—bird photos taken in Washington in the month of May and worldwide photos taken throughout the past year. The guidelines are available on our website, <http://pilchuckaudubon.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&pageid=263§ionid=140>.

Our goal is \$5000, and we need as much participation as possible. If you are interested in forming a team for a Big Day, Big Month, or Big Sit, go for it! If you would like to sponsor a team or individual, that's super. You can contact Kathleen Snyder, legacy@pilchuckaudubon.org, for guidance. There are a variety of prizes that are donated by area merchants. Winners will be announced at the June program meeting.

THIS IS A REALLY FUN WAY TO SUPPORT
PILCHUCK AUDUBON AND CONSERVATION! ✧

American White Pelican



Mick Thompson Photo

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION



Pilchuck Audubon Society will help host an Earth Day Celebration sponsored by 350 Everett on Saturday, April 22, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Evergreen Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1607 Fourth Street, in Marysville. Donations are welcome.

The event will include a movie titled *A Fierce Green Fire*, which is about the history of the environmental movement—what passionate and committed people did to start effective organizations such as the Sierra Club and Green Peace. Music will be provided by Junior Geezer, and refreshments will be provided by local businesses. ✧



Susie's 2017 Spring Field Trips

Klickitat County May 27 to 30

4-day, 3-night trip over Memorial Day Weekend

Olympic Peninsula June 7 to 12

— 6 days, 5 nights

Susie's 2017 trips are filled, but she has waiting lists. If anyone is interested, contact her (garden@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425-771-8165). People's plans change, and a vacancy might just happen. ✧

UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS

farther afield

Compiled by Rick Brauer

Seattle Audubon Classes

Dates below

Seattle, WA

April 7: Birds and Plants of the Shrub-Steppe

Andy Stepniewski

April 10 & 17: Birding by Ear—Learning NW Bird Voices

Bob Sundstrom

April 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>

Olympic Peninsula BirdFest

April 7-9

Sequim, WA

Details in the March Profile. <http://www.olympicbirdfest.org/>.

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, OH

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/> ✧

GRAB YOUR READING GLASSES!

Readers (*and organizers*) wanted!

Books don't just go with you; they take you where you've never been.

Anonymous

I don't know anything about starting a book club, but at a recent gathering of Audubon Chapter leaders, several mentioned that one of the most enjoyable activities they support is a book club.

If you are interested in helping to start up a book club for Pilchuck Audubon Society, I'd love to chat with you. Or perhaps you are just interested in participating; I'd still love to hear from you. If we have enough people interested, I'm sure we can come up with a format and all kinds of good reasons to dive into a book.



Contact Cindy Easterson at 425-876-1055 or president@pilchuckaudubon.org to express your interest in a PAS book club. ✧

FEAST ON THE FARM: Save the Date and Call for Chefs

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Executive Director

The annual Feast on the Farm fundraiser to help support the Smart Growth Program is **Wednesday, August 30**, at Craven Farm. The feast celebrates our local farms, chefs, wineries, breweries, and distilleries, and brings our community together for culinary treats, with great live music from one of our finest local bands.



If you or someone you know would like to be one of our chefs this year, contact Kristin Kelly at execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org. It is a great way to showcase the chef's talents and advertise a business, support the work of the Smart Growth Program, learn about the great local products from our local farmers, and network with all our wonderful guests and dignitaries. ✧

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

26 January to 25 February 2017

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator (pricemara1@gmail.com)

Good news! We have 2 new Sightings reporters. They will be submitting their reports at the end of April.

Carole and Larry Beason's report from Granite Falls included 6 American Crow, a Bald Eagle, 28 Bufflehead, 50 Canada Goose, 2 Black-capped and 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Common Merganser, 16 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy and 4 Hairy Woodpecker, a Great Blue Heron, 8 Hooded Merganser, 6 Mourning Dove, 5 Steller's Jay, and 5 Pacific Wren, a total species count of 40.

Reporting from Everett, Kris Erickson listed 5 American Robin, 2 Bewick's Wren, 3 Steller's Jay, 2 Song Sparrow, 8 Northwestern Crow, 4 Western Gull, 11 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Bald Eagle, 16 Dark-eyed Junco, and 33 Bushtit, a total species count of 18.

Mary Sinker's total species count of 29 from her home in Stanwood included 11 American Robin, 5 Anna's Hummingbird, 13 Black-capped Chickadee, a Brown Creeper, 35 Dark-eyed Junco, Great Blue Heron, 17 Mourning Dove, 4 House Finch, 2 Killdeer in the pasture, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 6 Spotted Towhee, 4 Varied Thrush, and 3 White-crowned Sparrow.

My report from Marysville includes 4 American Robins, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, an Anna's Hummingbird, 14 Dark-eyed Junco, 11 Mourning Dove, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, 6 Steller's Jay, a Cooper's Hawk perched on the bird feeders, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, a Red-tailed Hawk flying over, a Great Blue Heron, and 4 Spotted Towhee, for a total species count of 17. ✧

BIRD MONITORS NEEDED—Edmonds Marsh Habitat Use Monitoring

Please join us in this important monitoring effort to better understand how birds are using the habitat at the Edmonds Marsh. Only moderate birding skills are required; training will be made available on Sunday, April 30, 2017. Here are the details. Mark your calendars, and contact Cindy Easterson (president@pilchuckaudubon.org, 425-876-1055) or Sherrill Miller (field.birds.pas@gmail.com) if you are interested supporting this important project.

TRAINING: Learn how to identify and document specific bird behaviors to document foraging, refuging, and/or breeding behavior by resident and migratory birds in the

wetlands or buffer areas of the Edmonds Marsh. Mark your calendars for April 30, 2017, for an in-depth training session that will cover species-specific behavior, monitoring protocol, and data documentation. Time and location to be determined, but plan on about five hours of training time.

COMMITMENT REQUIRED: Monitoring will be year around, but we are hoping to engage enough citizen scientist participants so that each person will have one or two monitoring commitments per year. Monitoring surveys will take approximately three to four hours to complete. ✧



Left to Right:
Marsh Wren,
Red-winged
Blackbird,
Virginia Rail



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 _____
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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

Annual Meeting / Program Meeting	April 14
Kids' Bird Fest	April 29
Birdathon	Merry Month of May
PAS Picnic @ North Creek Park	August 6
Swift Night Out	September 9
Puget Sound Bird Fest	September 15-17
Bird Seed Sale	October