

A WIN for Education, Diversity, and—of course—Birds!

PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED!!!

By *Cindy Easterson, PAS President*

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) was awarded an Audubon Collaborative Grant to further our outreach to the Hispanic and Latino communities in our region. Through the dedicated efforts of our weekend trip leaders, Jonathan Blubaugh and Terry Nightingale, plus the facilitation of a community facilitator/teacher, we have engaged with a small segment of the Hispanic and Latino community within our region.

These education and outreach leaders have been instrumental in growing our link to this community, a population that represents 10% of Snohomish County’s population (US Census 2015). Through continued outreach we now frequently enjoy participation of up to 30 people for weekend field trips. However, bilingual birding guides and teaching tools were needed to help teach about our local birds, their habitats, and what is needed to preserve healthy bird populations.

PAS was awarded funding to purchase 10 new bilingual field guides and to design and produce 50 sets of 20 bird ID cards focused on common birds of Snohomish County.

If you’d like to help by granting us the use of your photography or by supporting the design and development of these education cards, please get in touch with me to help fulfil this project. I can be reached by email at president@pilchuckaudubon.org or by phone at (425) 876-1055. ✧

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JANUARY PROGRAM MEETING

Friday, January 13, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.



Robert D. Everitt

Regional Director, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Bob will discuss the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s “Wild Future Initiative”. For the past year, WDFW has reached out to people across the state to gather perspectives on the priorities that should drive the agency forward over the next few years. This effort reflects the WDFW’s commitment to work with all interest groups to address the most important challenges facing fish and wildlife conservation in the state. This process has resulted in a number of strategies, policy ideas, and funding recommendations . Bob will discuss those and seek input from the group to help WDFW better inform its upcoming legislative strategy.



Bob Everitt is a graduate of the University of Washington (Go Dawgs!) master’s program in Wildlife Sciences. He spent several years post-graduation working for the National Marine Mammal Laboratory in Alaska before coming to work for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in 1980 as a field biologist. In subsequent years, he worked in several field and supervisory positions before being appointed the Regional Director for Northern Puget Sound’s Region 4. Bob is the agency Director’s policy representative in the region and works closely with all the agency programs, stakeholder groups, legislators, etc.

Everett Firefighters’ Hall

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

CONSERVATION

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair



State Legislature

With focus on funding of education and mental health programs, environmental issues will not be a “biggie” this session. Those “cans” will not likely be kicked down the road this time.

Recent election suggests grim outcomes at the federal level. News is better closer to home. Look for new alliances in support of carbon tax proposals. Some work was underway before last election, anticipating I-732’s failure to pass. Focus will likely be more toward 2018.

Bills extending opportunities for community solar power projects will be submitted. More about these in future *Profiles*.

Look for alerts and calls to action this session with quick turn-arounds.

The State Senate is still controlled by the Republicans. Senator Doug Ericksen of Ferndale (and co-chair of Trump’s Washington State Campaign), will again chair the Senate’s Energy, Environment, and Telecommunications Committee, where most legislation supported by Audubon has “died” under his leadership.

Not good news, according to Audubon’s Olympia “watcher,” Neal Beaver, is that last session there were more moderates of both parties in both chambers. The 2016 election shift is toward more conservative members. Climate change deniers are more visible, spelling trouble for better air- and water-quality legislation and support of Governor Inslee’s regulatory initiatives.

The House of Representatives is not good news where Democrats lost seats and have a very thin majority. Come 2017, moderates in both parties are fewer. The divide is more polarized with

“far left” and “far right” members. If inaction is a desirable outcome, this is the division to have. If one wants to protect the legislative and regulatory environmental successes of past years, this division does not help.

Money! Money! Good news here! House Capital Budget Chair, Steve Tharinger (D-Dungeness) continues as one of the “money gatekeepers.” Continuing to chair House Appropriations is Timm Ormsby (D-Spokane).

In January, I will revise the State Legislature updates for our Snohomish County and Camano Island delegation.

Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC)

Votes are in from the EPC’s members, which includes Audubon. State legislative priorities are: (1) oil transportation; (2) protect funding of the Model Toxics Control Act, which has been raided by both parties for purposes other than reduction and control of toxic chemicals in our air, water, and soils; and (3) water issues in light of a recent state court decision restricting “draws” from groundwater supplies in Whatcom County. This is a major threat to developers and agricultural interests across the state, so look for a bunch of bad bills.

Congress

“Drill, baby, drill!” will be a major chant from the White House and Congress. It won’t be limited to Republicans. Montana’s only congressman, Ryan Zinke (R), has been selected for the Interior Secretary post. He does seem to support importance of federal public lands. No word about Agriculture Secretary, who oversees the Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Tough times for the EPA. ✧

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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UPDATE ON EVERETT BACKYARD HABITAT PROGRAM

The Everett Backyard Habitat committee is pleased to announce that Jed Holmes has been retained as an independent contractor to administer our new program. Starting January 3, Jed will be setting up and running our effort to enroll 200 new Everett households in the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife Backyard Certification program.

Jed comes from a strong Audubon background. In fact, his father, Ron, is a board member of Skagit Audubon, and Jed has accompanied his dad on many Audubon outings. Most recently, Jed coordinated the Skagit Democrat election campaign. Prior to that, he worked in Moscow for fourteen years, mostly as a liaison to US corporations doing business in Russia, handling their media needs.

Jed has great ideas to get the ball rolling on our Backyard Habitat campaign, which is being funded by the Robert Royce legacy gift. He will be creating information pages for our website, doing community outreach, and helping homeowners with both their yards and the necessary certification paperwork.

If you have an Everett mailing address (you don't have to be within the city limits) and you are interested in getting your yard certified, contact Jed in January at habitat@pilchuck-audubon.org. We are excited to get someone of Jed's caliber and to know this program is on its way to reality. ✦

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

Last year there were lots of last-minute changes and one trip was finally cancelled; this year should be easier.

For the past 9 years, PAS member Susie Schaefer has organized longer and far-ranging trips to other parts of Washington and Oregon. These trips are limited to no more than 12 people in 3 cars, with up to 4 people in each car. These are not guided tours; instead, they are group adventures, and we keep costs as low as possible by sharing gas, food, and lodging costs. This means that we get to go to fun and interesting places and find birds, wildflowers, mammals, butterflies, and wild areas that are different from those we know in Snohomish County. We have always had at least one trip to Klickitat County each year (except last year when the group cancelled due to Susie's surgery). We go to this amazing area again because so far we have never run out of places to see and things to do and because it is truly one of the most beautiful places in Washington, filled with wonderful birds and flowers and the awesome Klickitat River and canyon (AND did I mention Mt. Adams?).

After the once-in-a-lifetime, 9-day trip to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in the southeastern desert of Oregon last spring, we are staying closer to home this year

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Photo Credit: Scottmliddell@flickr

Winter Gulls of Puget Sound: Learn Adult Gull Identification with Mike Donahue

Does identifying gulls make you feel like you're seeing fifty shades of gray? Gulls are one of the most challenging groups of birds to identify. You've been saying that you want to take a gull ID class, so now's your chance!

A classroom session will cover identification of adults of all the gulls that regularly occur in Washington in winter. There will be a half day (8:00 a.m. to 12 noon) field trip to visit several local gull hotspots on south Lake Washington.

Class: February 1, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: PUD Building (Upstairs); 2320 California Street; Everett, WA 98201

Field Trip: Saturday and Sunday, February 4 and 5.

Instructor will lead field trip both days. **Participants will sign up for one of these days** at the first class. If there are 12 or fewer in the class, the field trip will be on Saturday only.

Cost: \$50 for class and field trip; \$30 lecture only. Youth/Young Adults (under 24): \$30 for class; \$15 lecture only.

To Register:

[Pay Online](#)

Click the [Pay Online](#) link, then click **Event** in Designation drop-down, then type **Gull Class** in the second box.

OR

[Pay by Check](#)

Pay by check made out to Pilchuck Audubon Society.

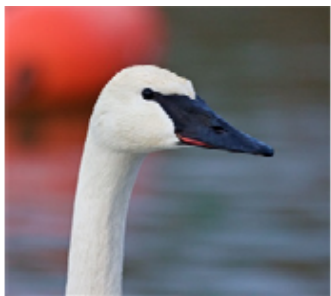



Mail to:

Pilchuck Audubon Society
1429 Avenue D, #198
Snohomish, WA 98290

WINTER WHITE – Swans and Snow Geese

The cold, clear days of January and February present a great opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with some of the most majestic birds of winter: the Tundra Swan, Trumpeter Swan, and Snow Goose. I quite often field questions about how to sort these species out.

Of course, for the premier expert on everything “swan,” visit Martha Jordan’s website for the Northwest Swan Conservation Association at www.nswswans.org. There you will find information on current conservation efforts as well as swan identification tips, but here are some quick diagnostic tips to help you in the field. If you spot a banded bird in the field, please note the location and band number and report it at BBL@usgs.gov.

DIAGNOSTIC	TRUMPETER SWAN	TUNDRA SWAN	SNOW GOOSE
Vocalization	Deep, loud, and full sound that is bugle-like (thus the name!).	Higher pitched than the Trumpeter and often wavering like baying hounds: <i>Kwoo ooo woo</i> .	Higher pitched still and more of a honking sound: <i>Awu-unk, awu-unk</i> , and <i>kuk, kuk, kuk</i> .
Head Profile	 <p>Crown slope matches bill</p>	 <p>Rounded square shape</p>	 <p>Very round</p>
Bill (size shape and color)	Heavy in proportion to head, sometimes with red border on lower mandible (careful – this can be present in Tundra swans too). Sometimes can see distinct “V” shape where the forehead comes into the bill. Wider, black lores that connect to the eye.	Large black bill usually with some yellow near the lores. More rounded shape where the forehead meets the bill. Different shape of lores usually makes the eye more distinct in the Tundra Swan than the Trumpeter Swan. Bill is shorter and more proportionate to head.	Bill is much shorter in proportion to head and does not connect to the eye. Bill is dark pink/orange with a black ‘grin patch.’
In flight	No black wing tips. Because Trumpeter Swans are larger or more ponderous, their take-off seems slower and with more effort. As they become airborne, they will often pull their necks into a shallow “S” curve for a brief time during the initial wing beats.	No black wing tips. Does not curve the neck during take-off as does the Trumpeter Swan.	 <p>Distinct black wing tips. Shorter neck in proportion to body than swans.</p>

TRIP CALENDAR

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



Tuesday, January 3 **Smith and Spencer islands**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Langus Riverfront Park, Everett. From Everett, go north on SR529 (Broadway) over the Snohomish River; turn right onto 28th Pl. NE. Follow signs to Langus Waterfront Park; continue past the park to a parking lot past the left curve in the road on the south side of 4th St. SE. Trying for raptors and waterfowl. Walk the trails, view the Everett sewage ponds. Lots of walking. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, January 10 **Blackie Spit & Boundary Bay, BC**

Meet at 7:00 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds, and scenery, and 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)

Tuesday, January 17 **Clear Lake and Johnson-Debay Slough**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Swans, eagles, hawks and falcons. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Saturday, January 21 **Rasar State Park**

Meet at 8:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from the store to the east near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. I have requests from a couple of people for a chance to view Bald Eagles. Rasar State Park is one place we can reasonably assume is a good place to see eagles during the salmon run on the Skagit River in January. The Skagit Eagle Festival will be underway on weekends in January. I floated down the Skagit River in January 2007. We saw 19 eagles from the boat. But it was too cold on the water. So this time I think I would prefer to view them from the shore. Weather permitting, there are more than three miles of trails throughout the state park, including some along the water's edge. Bring: snacks, water, binoculars, and foul-weather gear, just in case. There will be an option to socialize over a late lunch at one of the cafes in the Skagit Valley.
Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425-244-7633, aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, January 24 **Lummi Flats**

Meet at 7:00 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, and Snow Bunting are very likely.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, January 31 **Camano Island**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit, and wherever else Virginia prefers. Pack a lunch.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS farther afield

Compiled by Rick Brauer

Classes at Padilla Bay NERR **Mt. Vernon, WA** January 6 or 8 **Winter Birding**

Our hardy resident birds are busy with winter foraging, while migrants from the north are filling the fields and bays. Come explore the uplands, farmland, and waters around Padilla Bay with Libby Mills.

January 7 **Introduction to Hawks of the Skagit**

Learn to recognize the most common species in our area with raptor biologist and falcon aficionado Bud Anderson. This will introduce you to raptor biology, field characteristics, and common behaviors.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/padillabay/education/classSchedule.html>

Classes with Seattle Audubon **Seattle, WA** January 7, 14, 21, 28

Complete (Almost) Western Washington Shorebird Identification

This multi-day class will help you to identify shorebirds with more confidence by using all the identification clues available to you including shape, voice, and habitat, as well as plumage. Many photographs of each species and mixed flocks will be shown. Participants will have multiple opportunities to practice identification on "virtual fieldtrips" with Dr. Scott Mills and Mike Donahue.

January 12 **Birds of Winter: Where Are They Now?**

In the cold, dark months of winter, while we humans yearn for the sun to return, many bird species think of Seattle as the balmy south, a place with bountiful food, mild temperatures, and great habitat. Connie Sidles takes you on an armchair tour to the haunts and secret places where the birds of winter hang out. Find out what these birds are up to now, as they survive and thrive in our winter and prepare for spring.

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

January 13-16 **Morro Bay, CA** **Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival**

Every MLK weekend, more than 500 bird festival lovers visit Morro Bay, CA, a Globally Important Bird Area, to see, photograph, and learn more about birds. The area offers pristine beaches, beautiful state parks, an excellent natural history museum, panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and, best of all, thousands of birds. <http://morrobaybirdfestival.org/> ✧

Failed Trip to Orcas Island Report

By Jonathan Blubaugh

I failed. I made reservations for us to catch the Anacortes ferry to Orcas Island on October 22. We planned to hike up Turtleback Mountain. We arrived fifteen minutes before the ship was to set sail, and we were denied boarding. Seems one is supposed to make reservations, arrive half an hour prior to sailing, wait for half an hour, and then see if you are allowed to board the ferry.

As the ferry was boarding we crept up in line, but it didn't look promising. The gate was lowered, and away she sailed. The next sailing was hours away. Our trip was ruined. The ticket clerks graciously refunded our fare when I explained our circumstances and disappointment.

Plan B was to divert to Fidalgo and nearby Whidbey islands, which have numerous wonderful sites for hiking and bird watching. I gathered our bird watchers who were strolling around the pier, explained our situation, and told them about the adjacent nature park. They had already been admiring the abundant waterfowl and the lovely autumn morning on the island. We just moved the car out of the ferry line into a nearby parking lot and took flight to bird.

We found a shortcut trail from the terminal to the adjacent park known as Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve. In addition to birds, we found a couple of old apple trees with fruit; the apples were small but sweet and delicious!

Professor Sue Nightingale first heard them—the clear, fairly loud “ting” of male Anna’s Hummingbirds’ tails snapping as they performed their spectacular diving courtship display for rapt females, completely oblivious to the comings and goings of the boats and cars. Sue called us over and WE stood rapt at the heartwarming display. We found at least two nearby spots where the displays were being conducted, counting five birds involved in the activity. Our highly conservative counting protocol suggests there were probably several more in the immediate vicinity, each in his own territory.

We drove down to Deception Pass State Park and ended up hiking in the state park on Skagit County’s Fidalgo Island from Bowman Bay out to Urchin Rocks peninsula. We didn’t hike particularly far, but we saw more than 18 bird species.

Our trip ended with a lovely seafood dinner in Oak Harbor.

Here’s a list of most of the birds we saw: 30 American Wigeons, 5 Surf Scoters, a Bufflehead, 4 Horned Grebes, 2 Red-necked Grebes, 61 Double-crested Cormorants, 12 Pelagic Cormorants, 2 Great Blue Herons, 2 Bald Eagles, 10 Marbled Murrelets, a Mew Gull, 2 Ring-billed Gulls, 20 Glaucous-winged Gulls, 40 feral pigeons, 5 Anna’s Hummingbirds, a Belted Kingfisher, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flickers, 5 crows, a Common Raven, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Pacific Wrens, 12 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 14 American Robins, 10 European Starlings, 4 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Spotted Towhees, a Red-winged Blackbird, a House Finch, and 32 Pine Siskins. We heard Killdeer, Pileated Woodpecker, Steller’s Jay, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrows, and House Sparrow. ✧

BIRDING CLASSES

Winter/Spring 2017 Classes Taught by Candy Brown

WATERBIRDS

We will discuss several of the different kinds of ducks that live in the Puget Sound region as well as geese, gulls, blackbirds, herons, shorebirds, and others. We will see the unique nests they make and how their babies are very different from those of songbirds.

Edmonds at Frances Anderson Center — Tuesday, January 17, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. \$15 for residents, \$17 for non-residents. To register, call 425-771-0230.

Mukilteo at the Rosehill Center — Tuesday, February 7, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. \$15. To register, call 425-263-8180.

MORE AMAZING BIRDS

Many interesting and beautiful birds visit our region at different times of the year or are permanent residents. We will look at and discuss the habits of sparrows, warblers, wrens, woodpeckers, cedar waxwings, and more.

Edmonds at Frances Anderson Center — Tuesday, February 21, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. \$15 for residents, \$17 for non-residents. To register, call 425-771-0230.

Mukilteo at the Rosehill Center — Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. \$15. To register, call 425-263-8180. ✧



Great Blue Heron ~ Mick Thompson

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Susie’s 2017 Spring Field Trips

and going to the Olympic Peninsula for 6 days for a wide variety of habitats including the Olympic Mountains, Pacific Ocean, Hood Canal, Hoh Rainforest, and Elwha River.

Everyone is welcome on these trips. Acceptance is according to the date of application, with one exception: those who are willing to take their cars will be given preference and will not have to pay any gas costs. Cars need to be reasonably sturdy and with sufficient passenger space to carry 4 people.

Please contact Susie for more information. Applications may be submitted beginning in January and should include whether you can take your car or not, and your interests, areas of expertise, experience, and abilities. Email Susie at garden@pilchuckaudubon.org; her phone is [425-771-8165](tel:425-771-8165). ✧

SMART GROWTH

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Executive Director

Happy New Year!

2016 started with some challenges and opportunities. After losing my half-time position working for Futurewise, I was thrilled that the PAS Board hired me as part-time Executive Director. Working full-time for PAS in both capacities has been completely rewarding, and I look forward to 2017 and what the Smart Growth Program and PAS will accomplish.

In 2016, our County Council lost a champion of the environment when Dave Somers won the election as County Executive; he was replaced with the appointment of another great environmental champion, Hans Dunshee. Unfortunately, he was replaced during this year's election. I will be meeting with Councilmember Sam Low soon to discuss land use and environmental issues. In addition, Councilmember Ken Klein is leaving his council position to work for Executive Somers, and the council will be appointing a replacement. Both Council Member Low, Council Member Terry Ryan, and whoever the council appoints will be running against unknown opponents to keep these seats for another four years. Our County Council is responsible for all land use and development regulation decisions in unincorporated urban growth areas and for rural and resource lands, and their decisions stand as law unless vetoed by the County Executive or appealed. Their decisions can be good or bad for our natural resources, wildlife habitats, water quality, and impacts from climate change. Next year's election will be an important one for Snohomish County's future.

2017 will continue to have opportunities and challenges. Snohomish County will be deciding which comprehensive plan amendment proposals will go forward for more analysis and consideration for possible adoption in 2019. There are several proposals to expand the southwest urban growth area (UGA) by taking other areas out of the UGA, including Granite Falls. Any action affects property values. Many communities throughout the county have started organizing about developments that are being proposed. **The Smart Growth Program does not have the capacity to stop development at the permit level,** and that is exactly why I need people to be involved at the policy and development regulation levels. Still, it's important for people to be involved in inappropriate development in their communities, and I'm there to help where I can.

It should be no surprise that the development community will be working diligently to change county policies and regulations to benefit their financial interests at the expense of our environment and quality of life. As always, I will need your help this coming year, and I will do my best to keep you informed. Please visit the Smart Growth website and feel free to contact me (execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org) any time about an issue that is a concern to you. ✧

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

October 26 to November 25

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

It was a very interesting month. Lots of Canada Geese, Mallards, and Dark-eyed Juncos.

Carol and Larry Beason listed 33 Canada Geese on the Lake Bosworth, where their home is located. They also listed 36 American Coots, 11 American Robins, 5 Anna's Hummingbirds, a Belted Kingfisher, 30 Buffleheads and 8 Common Mergansers on the lake, 16 Dark-eyed Juncos, a Great Blue Heron flying over the lake, 6 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 5 Hooded Mergansers, 14 Mourning Doves flying over, an Osprey over the lake, a Red-tailed Hawk in a tree along the road, 24+ Red-winged Blackbirds in trees, and a Pacific Wren, for a total species count of 40.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt listed a total of 22 species that included a Sharp-shinned Hawk terrorizing the other birds, 8 California Quails, 15 Band-tailed Pigeons in her yard, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 4 Northern Flickers, 4 Steller's Jays, 4 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, 2 White-throated Sparrows, 4 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 16 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Purple Finches, and 9 House Finches.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett included 44 European Starlings in her yard, 14 American Robins, 22 Canada Geese flying over, 28 Cedar Waxwings, 15 Western Gulls flying over, 3 Downy Woodpeckers, 3 Anna's Hummingbirds, 18 Black-capped Chickadees, 43 Bushtits, 6 American Goldfinches, 7 Mallards on the water, a Great Blue Heron and a Bald Eagle flying over, and 12 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, for a total species count of 26.

Reporting from her home in Lake Stevens and her trips around Everett, Linda Kielland listed 10 House Sparrows, a Belted Kingfisher near the Everett Waterfront, a Great Blue Heron in a pond near Dagmars, 5 Spotted Towhees in her yard, 4 Fox Sparrows, a male Rufous Hummingbird guarding the feeder, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 6 Mallards at Everett Marina, 4 Buffleheads in a pond near Miller Shingle, and 11 Canada Geese grazing in a field near Everett Marina, for a total species count of 19.

My report from Marysville is short because I was away in Hawaii during November. My total species count of 14 included 70+ Canada Geese in the fields, 15 Dark-eyed Juncos, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Great-horned Owl, 2 Spotted Towhees, 60+ Rock Doves on the wires, 3 Steller's Jays, and a Spotted Towhee. In Hawaii, I spotted Saffron Finches, Night Herons, Red-crested Cardinals, Common Mynas (which are a lot like Steller's Jay—noisy and aggressive), Chukars, Francolins, and lots of sea birds. ✧



Great-horned Owl
~ Mick Thompson

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



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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.

Pilchuck Audubon Monthly Programs 2017

Pilchuck Audubon will continue to have monthly programs on the second Friday of each month, although no meetings are held in December and August. Please be sure to mark these dates on your new 2017 calendar:

January 13	March 10	May 12	July 14
February 10	April 14	June 9	September 15*
	October 13		November 10

These monthly meetings will be held at the Everett Fire Fighters Hall, 2411 Hewitt Ave, Everett, at 7:00 p.m. with two exceptions. The July meeting will be held at the Stanwood Library, and the *September meeting will be in Edmonds in conjunction with the Edmonds Puget Sound Bird Fest (September 15-17) and will be on the third Friday this next year. For January, Bob Everitt, Regional Director for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will be our speaker, and in February PAS member Ray White will share his photos of his birding trip to Ethiopia. The PAS website will have complete information about the monthly programs.

As Program Committee chair I welcome possible ideas and contacts for upcoming programs. Please send information to garden@pilchuckaudubon.org or call me at [425-771-8165](tel:425-771-8165). Committee members are also needed for two committee meetings each year. This is a fun and easy way for new and old PAS members to get involved and make a difference. Please contact me as soon as possible so we can schedule a time to get together in January.

Susie Schaefer, Program Committee Chair ✧