

**SMART GROWTH**

*By Kristin Kelly*

*Smart Growth Executive Director*

Last month I wrote about Snohomish County’s annual comprehensive land-use plan amendment process, called Docket, in which there were three proposals to expand the Southwest Urban Growth Area (SWUGA) along 43<sup>rd</sup> Street SE between 196<sup>th</sup> and Maltby Road (SW-2, SW-3, and SW-4). SW-4 is a request by the Northshore School District to expand the urban growth area to include the athletic fields of the newly-built high school that will open in the fall. We did not oppose this UGA expansion request because, under current county code, public uses such as schools that are adjacent to UGAs can be expanded. But we are opposing all three options for SW-2 and SW-3.

The public hearing was on Wednesday, June 28, and the Council’s chambers were packed with people on both sides of the issue. Clearly, as stated today from the council’s own legislative analyst, these UGA expansion proposals are not legal as they do not comply with the Growth Management Act (GMA), the Multi-County Planning Policies (MPPs), the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), or the County’s General Policy Plan (GPP). With the comprehensive plan update just two years old, and another update scheduled in just six years, there is no need for these proposals to go forward for analysis, wasting our tax dollars for four planners working full-time on UGA expansions that are illegal when there are other more important issues on which our county planners and council members should be focusing their energies and time.

But as you know, it is also campaign season for the County Council. Councilmembers Nate Nehring from District 1, Sam Low from District 5, and Terry Ryan from District 4 are up for re-election to keep their seats. Council member Brian Sullivan, with two years left before being termed out, is running for Everett mayor. So politics seems to have reigned over taking

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**JULY PROGRAM MEETING**

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

**Pigeon Guillemots: The Adorable Seabird with Bright Red Feet**

with Govinda Rosling



The Guillemot Research Group started as a Whidbey Audubon chapter-initiated citizen science project monitoring Pigeon Guillemot breeding activities around Whidbey Island.

Govinda will give a brief overview of the natural history of these charming seabirds including their life cycle, behavior, quirks, and antics. She will describe the Whidbey group’s 13-year study of the Guillemots and what they have learned. She will also give us a glimpse into plans to start a similar survey program on Camano Island, including possible survey sites.



Govinda Rosling grew up on Whidbey Island. She graduated from the Evergreen State College with a focus in ornithology. She has been involved with the Guillemot Research Group for the last seven years. Govinda also coordinates the South Whidbey Christmas Bird Count Circle, which includes part of Camano Island. She is a wildlife photographer, and many of her photos will be featured in the presentation.

**Please Note: The July program meeting will be held at a special location:  
Stanwood Library  
9701 271st St NW  
Stanwood, WA 98292 ([map](#))**

# CONSERVATION REPORT

by Allen Gibbs

## Federal Interagency Senior Pass Sales

Okay, folks! If you've had 62 or more birthdays and still don't have a federal "Interagency Senior Pass" that saves you a lot of money when visiting a national park or national forest where entrance fees and other fees may be charged, listen up!

The federal interagency Senior Pass saves you a lot of money when you visit a national park or national forest where entrance and other fees may be charged. The cost has been \$10 for decades, but it's going to change later this year to \$80.

An interagency senior pass is good for your lifetime! It saves you a bundle if you visit Mount Rainier or Olympic National parks, where entrance fees are charged. There are no entrance fees charged by Pacific Northwest national forests, but there are charges at Mt. St. Helens Volcanic National Monument. You may be able to get a 50% discount at some Forest Service campgrounds. The Senior Pass is good at any national forest or national park in the United States.

Doesn't make any difference if only you are in the car or you have grandkids stuffed into the rig; just flash your Senior Pass, and you are waved through the gate.

Hustle! Hustle! Hustle your way to a Forest Service or National Park Service office in Sedro Woolley, Glacier, Austin Pass/Heather Meadows when snow is cleared, Darrington, Skykomish, North Bend, Enumclaw, Leavenworth, Wenatchee, Entiat, Chelan, Winthrop, Colville, Cle Elum, or Naches.

The Senior Pass can also be purchased closer to home at

REI stores at Alderwood Mall, Seattle, Tacoma, and Bellingham. REI is under contract with the federal agencies to sell these passes. It may cost a few bucks more with the addition of a service fee.

All you need is \$10, be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, and have proof of age such as a driver's license or birth certificate.

There are other lifetime special permits for \$10, such as an Interagency Access Pass. If you are blind or otherwise permanently disabled, present a medical determination and documentation.

One can order the Senior Pass online. Because word is getting around about the huge price increase, the downside is that it now takes weeks from the time you pay until the pass arrives in the mail. Go in person to one of the above sites and, within a few minutes, walk away with your lifetime Senior Pass in hand. Keep it in your car so it's not forgotten on trips to national parks or national forest trailheads/campgrounds.

## WA Government Shutdown?

Come publication of the July *Profile* on July 1, we will know if the state legislature voted out a biennial operations budget and capital budget. If it doesn't pass an operations budget, our state parks will be closed immediately until a 2017-2019 operations budget is passed. ✧

## About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon Profile, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society, is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members in efforts

to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

### Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles to [newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org) or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

**To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.610.8027.**

The monthly Profile is available online at

[www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

## Board of Directors

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## BIRDATHON RESULTS

Our 2017 Birdathon was a big success. The goal of \$5,000 was surpassed by pledges totaling \$5,850. Thank you to everyone who competed and pledged. The winners are below.

<b>BIG DAY</b>	The Timberdoodles team of Virginia Clark, Joyce Hershberger, Frank Caruso, and Kathleen Snyder won with a total of 96 bird species.
<b>BIG SIT</b>	The Heron Addicts team of Rick and Tina Taylor saw 37 species from their Everett home's deck.
<b>BIG MONTH</b>	The Heron Addicts also claimed this competition with a record 225 species found throughout Washington during May.
<b>BEST SPECIES BIG DAY</b>	Snohomish Starlings' Doug Resnick found both a Sora and a Hermit Thrush to claim this prize.
<b>BEST SPECIES BIG MONTH</b>	The Heron Addicts spotted a Fork-tailed Storm Petrel during their month-long quest.
<b>MOST PLEDGES</b>	Hilkka and Claire Egtvedt slam-dunked this category with \$2,280.
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST</b>	We had a record 10 photographers submit 44 photographs in two categories. All the photographs will be posted on our website under Programs, Birdathon.
<b>BIG MONTH</b>	Rick Brauer won with this image of a Marsh Wren taken in WA during May:



# CITIZEN SCIENTISTS Take to the Trails in LORD HILL REGIONAL PARK to Document Bird Life and Wildlife Habitat

Walking through the trails at Lord Hill Regional Park in June, one is surrounded by bird song—the trill of the Swainson’s Thrush, the wolf-whistle of the Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and the shrill cries of young nestlings still trying to convince mom they are not ready to be on their own.

Developing a better understanding of how this public space functions as a breeding and refuge area for birds was one of



*Stuart Johnston*

the goals for designing a ‘Bird Blitz’ event at the park. On June 25, 2017, more than 20 volunteers navigated their way to approximately 45 point count stations to document all of the bird life (both seen and heard) as

well as completing a rough order habitat assessment throughout the park. This was no small task! The park sprawls across 1,480 acres and contains 32 miles of trails, not all well marked and, as one volunteer put it, “It’s uphill both ways!”

While data sheets are still being collected, compiled, and analyzed, we already know that the team documented more than 50 species of birds, including eight species not previously submitted to eBird. A clear standout from the captured data is the diversity across families of bird—not only songbirds but also raptors, woodpeckers, waterfowl, owls, sandpipers, and hummingbirds, all of which have made use of this regional green space and corridor on a single day in June.

Snohomish County Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department, is embarking on a Site and Management Plan Update for this park. Some of the



*Doug Resnick*



*Cindy Easterson, scoping and staking*

proposed concepts include major trail expansion for mountain bikes, a potential development that would have devastating impacts on existing bird habitat. Results from this PAS survey effort will be compiled and used to help advocate for the conservation of wildlife habitat and the preservation of Lord Hill Regional Park as an important place for birds.

A heartfelt thanks to our volunteers for your time and talents! ✧



*Kelli Marks*

## TRIP CALENDAR

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



### Tuesday, July 4

### No Scheduled Trip

Have a safe and sane Independence Day.

### Tuesday, July 11

### Blue Stilly Park and Other Places in Virginia's Neighborhood

Meet at 7:00 AM at Virginia's home (call Virginia for directions). Virginia is going to show us her neighborhood, including her feeders. No need to pack a lunch; Virginia will provide at her place. Virginia requests each person who has a folding chair to bring it.

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

### Tuesday, July 18 Highway 20, Sedro Woolley to Diablo

Meet at 7:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). We are going to visit areas along the North Cascades Highway. Included are Lyman, Hamilton, Rasar State Park, Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Newhalem, and Diablo. Pack a lunch.

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

### Tuesday, July 25

### Anacortes

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). So many beautiful birding places: lakes, beaches, marinas, and even a mountain. Pack a lunch.

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

## SMART GROWTH, *Continued from Page 1*

the vote today at the public hearing. The council has decided to delay the vote until August 16, weeks after the primary election on August 1.

The record for public comments remains open up to and through the continued public hearing on August 16, so if you have not had a chance to weigh in with an email, a phone call, a mailed letter, or even a visit, you now have time. I have sent out two email action alerts; if you received one, please review and send in your thoughts to the council members. If you did not receive the alert, you can read about the reasons we are opposed to placing these two proposals in our June newsletter. I will be happy to email you a copy of our comment letter as well.

In the meantime, I continue to work on other important county issues as well as the Feast on the Farm event, which I hope will be as fun and well-attended as in previous years.

Contact me at [execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org), and I'll get back to you promptly. ✧

## CHELAN RIDGE HAWK MIGRATION FESTIVAL

Memorial Park, Pateros

September 16, 8 AM to 3 PM



Join the Chelan and Entiat Ranger districts, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and HawkWatch International this fall for the eighth annual Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival! This family event combines free activities in Pateros Memorial Park with trips to Chelan Ridge to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories.

Prior to the festival, on Friday night, September 15, we will offer a workshop with an expert about raptor migration and field identification to prepare you for your trip up to the ridge. On Saturday, free shuttles to Chelan Ridge will leave from Memorial Park throughout the day, lasting four hours. Participants will get to see migrating raptors, and they will get up-close views of banded raptors being released. At the park there will be vendors, live raptors, interpretive booths, and projects for kids. A field trip to Wells Wildlife Refuge will leave at 8 and return about noon.

More information and on-line registration for the shuttles, field trip, and workshop will be available July 1 at [www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org).

If you have any questions, please contact Richard Scranton at [rscran4350@yahoo.com](mailto:rscran4350@yahoo.com). ✧

## WANTED: OTTER SPOTTERS

Birding this summer in the cooler riparian areas of our state? Keep an eye out for river otters while you're out there, and share your sightings with the Woodland Park Zoo.

Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle has been operating the [Otter Spotter Community Science Initiative](#) for about a year. They are **inviting the public to submit observations of North American river otters throughout Washington state.**

River otters are top predators in river systems and can serve as sentinels of ecological health. Currently, there is little information about their state-wide distribution, and the zoo is asking community members to help build a sightings map. Resources available:



- The Otter Spotter website, [www.zoo.org/conservation/otterspotter](http://www.zoo.org/conservation/otterspotter), has a button for submitting otter observations and a map of the nearly 500 sightings to date.
- WPZ blog post, <http://blog.zoo.org/2016/04/become-otter-spotter-for-new-community.html>.
- WPZ Facebook post, <https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandParkZooSeattle/photos/a.59340272707.67993.8297947707/10154109357692708/?type=3&theater>.
- Contact Courtney Straight, Otter Spotter Intern, at [otterspotterwpz@gmail.com](mailto:otterspotterwpz@gmail.com) with questions or more information. ✧

# UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS *farther afield*

Compiled by Rick Brauer

## North Cascades Institute Classes Dates below Various Locations

- July 22: Mt. Baker Geology 1: Fire & Ice in Morovitz Meadow ..... Dave Tucker
- July 29: Urban Dragonflies ..... Dennis Paulson
- Aug 5: Mt. Baker Geology 2: Artist Point ..... Scott & Marca Babcock
- Sep 16-17: Hawkwatching at Chelan Ridge ..... Kent Woodruff
- Sep 22-24: Wildlife Tracking ..... Marcus Reynerson

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

## Bird and Nature Art Fair July 8 Seattle, WA

Birds embody the beauty and complexity of the natural world. On Saturday, July 8, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, the Seattle Audubon Nature Shop parking lot will be hosting local artists with booths filled with bird-inspired artworks for sale. <http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/>

## Swallow-tailed Kite Outing July 22 Allendale, SC

The Swallow-tailed Kite, with its distinctive black and white plumage, is one of the most elegant birds of the Americas, and unmistakable in the skies above the Savannah River swamps. Birders, photographers, and naturalists of all ages will have the opportunity to witness their amazing aerial displays as dozens of Swallow-tailed Kites and Mississippi Kites forage on insects in a long-standing Kite hotspot. <http://lowersavannahriveralliance.org/events.html>

## Sedona Hummingbird Festival July 28-30 Sedona, AZ

Arizona is well known as a top state (with Texas) for seeing the most hummingbird species. Sedona *also* is in Red Rock Country, and, as such, claims to be “The Most Beautiful Place in America to See Hummingbirds.” The Chamber of Commerce’s claims aside, they do have 7 species of hummers, their famous geography, and an interesting town. <http://www.hummingbirdsociety.org/hummingbird-festival/>

## Southwest Wings August 2-5 Sierra Vista, AZ

Sierra Vista, located at 4600-foot elevation, lies at the foot of the Huachuca Mountains, only minutes away from some of the most famous birding spots in the United States—places such as Garden, Sawmill, Huachuca, Ramsey, Carr, Miller, and Ash canyons. These canyons are known for their great biodiversity, not only of birds, but of butterflies, and other insects, as well as mammals and reptiles. The Huachucas have close to 1000 species of plants. This festival offers a plethora of guided trips, lectures, and other birding fun unique to the region. <http://www.swwings.org/>

## PSBO Banding Class August 18, 19, 20, 26, and 27 Edmonds, WA

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

<http://pugetsoundbirds.org/> ✧

### SAVE THE DATE

August 6  
Annual PAS Picnic  
at  
North Creek Park





*Banding a Western Tanager*

## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

April 26 to May 25, 2017

Debbie Dern, one of our new bird reporters, submitted her forms for April, but it was omitted in last month's report, so this month I will list both of her reports. Debbie reports from Snohomish. Her total species count of 24 for April included 4 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Pine Siskin, a Red-tailed Hawk, 5 Red-winged Blackbird, 2 House Sparrow, 3 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 European Collard Dove, a Fox Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron, 5 White-crowned Sparrow, and 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Debbie's report for May listed 2 Downy Woodpecker, 4 Rufous Hummingbird, 7 Pine Siskin, 4 American Goldfinch, 2 American Crow, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Steller's Jay, 3 Black-



Photo | Mick Thompson

Lesser Goldfinch

headed Grosbeak, 3 Purple Finch, a Song Sparrow, 2 Northern Flicker, 2 Common Merganser in woodland on the Lewis River, 2 Bald Eagle flying above the river, and 4 Lesser Goldfinch, for a total species count of 27.

Carole and Larry Beason's report from Lake Bosworth included 3 Bald Eagle flying over the lake, 2 Barn Swallow, 7 Brown-headed Cowbird at the feeders, 9 Black-headed Grosbeak, 4 Brewer's Blackbird, 13 Band-tailed Pigeon under the feeders, 3 Cedar Waxwing, 3 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a Hutton's Vireo, 2 Muscovy Duck on the lake, an Osprey over the lake, 11 Purple Finch, 12 Red-winged Blackbird, 2 Ring-necked Duck on the lake, 7 Rufous Hummingbird, and a Western Tanager, for a total species count of 48.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from her home in Mukilteo included 2 Mallard Duck on her lawn, 2 California Quail, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, a Bewick's Wren, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Western Tanager, 3 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a White-crowned Sparrow, 2 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Purple Finch, and 2 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 24.

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erickson's total species count of 22 included 3 Spotted Towhee, 8 American Robin, 2 Bewick's Wren, 15 Western Gull, 5 Mallard Duck, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 23 European Starling, 9 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 23 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Mourning

## SAVE THE DATE

### Feast on the Farm August 30

Feast on the Farm fundraiser to support the Smart Growth Program and celebrate our local farms and businesses will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30, at Craven Farms. Tickets will go on sale in July.

Sponsorships are welcome. Volunteers are needed! Local chefs; local farms; local wines, beers, and spirits!! And live music by the CD Woodbury Trio.

For more information, contact Kristin Kelly, [execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org). ✧



Dove, 18 Bushtit, 2 Varied Thrush, and 2 Yellow Warbler.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood included 11



Photo | Mick Thompson

Black-chinned Hummingbird

American Goldfinch, 20 American Robin including several juveniles, 9 Anna's Hummingbird, 5 Bewick's Wren, a Black-chinned Hummingbird,

a Brown Creeper, 10 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Evening Grosbeak, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 7 House Finch, 15 Mourning Dove, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 8 Rufous Hummingbird, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 9 Tree Swallow, a Western Tanager, and 2 Wilson's Warbler, for a total species count of 39.

My report from my home in Marysville included 2 American Goldfinch, 4 American Robin, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Dark-eyed Junco, a Common Raven flying over, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 8 Mourning Dove, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Spotted Towhee, 5 Steller's Jay, 6 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 White-crowned Sparrow, 4 Tree Swallow, a House Finch, a Western Tanager, a Bewick's Wren, and 5 Brewer's Blackbird, for a total species count of 25.

If you are interested in joining our team of Bird Reporters, please email me at [pricemara1@gmail.com](mailto:pricemara1@gmail.com) or leave a message on my cell phone at (425) 750-8125. ✧

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
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- Donation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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Make checks payable to **Pilchuck Audubon Society**

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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.

*Mark Your Calendar*

Program Meeting @ Stanwood	July 14, 7:00 p.m.
PAS Picnic @ North Creek Park	August 6
Feast on the Farm	August 30
Swift Night Out	September 9
Puget Sound Bird Fest	September 15-17
Bird Seed Sale	October