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OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR WAS UNABLE TO PUBLISH THIS NEWSLETTER. THIS DOCUMENT IS A POOR SUBSTITUTE. MY APOLOGIES – Kathleen Snyder, President

YEAR-END CONSERVATION REPORT

Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

It is that time of year for retrospectives about accomplishments and contemplation of the work ahead. Accomplishments:

- Leque Island management planning continues. Pilchuck Audubon representatives assisted in the basic planning with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and other conservation groups. WDFW has to remove the old dikes and will restore wetlands to benefit fish, birds and other wildlife. Word is that PAS will be invited, along with other groups, to advise on the design for future recreational uses of the island.
- Passage of the Forage Fish Act of 2015. Thanks to many PAS members for their emails and phone calls to their legislators in support of this legislation! This Act requires first-time ever spawning surveys for smelt and sand lance in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, as well as trawler surveys, to establish “catch” and base population numbers. This success required Audubon reaching far beyond its own “familiar waters” to work with new partners. Thanks to Dr. Trina Bayard for this successful building of new relationships. She is our State Director of Bird Conservation.
- The Tufted Puffin is now on Washington State’s endangered species list. WDFW is developing recommendations for recovery. Thanks again to PAS members for urging WDFW to take this action.
- Big Oil has been busy this year, but so too has Audubon! This is one of those long haul campaigns demanding our constant attention as Big Oil seeks to export oil through Washington to foreign markets. Yes, there remains a federal law prohibiting export of American oil. But the oil companies and others are working hard, especially in the US House, to change that.

Thanks go to Kathy Johnson for her work with Tim Manns of Skagit Chapter in preparing comments on Shell Oil’s proposal to increase unloading capacity (therefore transportation through Washington State) at its March Pointe refinery. Thank you also to PAS members who submitted comments.

There is more! Pilchuck joined all other Washington chapters opposing port development at Grays Harbor (Westway/Imperium Terminal Expansion). Add to the list Tesoro Savage's "crude-by-rail unloading and marine loading facility" proposed at the Port of Vancouver (WA). We will remain vigilant!

Don't forget first-out-the-blocks Cherry Point. Only a few years ago, it wasn't about oil but about coal. That hasn't gone away which is why the Lummi Nation continues to oppose Cherry Point through its treaty rights which seem to be the biggest hammer at that table. Our thanks to the Lummi Nation.

Ahead

There is much to come in 2016. Grassroots mobilization is building to get Congress to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Nationally, that is a top priority for nearly all outdoor recreation and conservation groups.

LWCF is a good news/bad news story in 2015. The bad news is that Utah Congressman Rob Bishop (R), chair of the House Natural Resources Committee (who is listening to his staffers with deep experience in the energy business), prevented any US House votes on the Land and Water Conservation Act before October 1st. Therefore, there is no longer a one percent share from off-shore oil/gas royalties to protect fish and wildlife habitat or to acquire more land for public outdoor recreation.

The good news is that our own Senator Maria Cantwell and Alaska's Senator Lisa Murkowski of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee have reauthorizing language in their energy bill. No doubt there will be action in the 2016 session of the Congress in spite of Congressman Bishop's preferences. Over half of the current Senate favors the language.

Looking ahead, I see a busy 2016. My thanks go to PAS members for their continued willingness to contact Members of the Congress, the state legislature, and various land management agencies on behalf of birds and their habitat!

Happy New Year to all.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT COMING SOON!

Visit Pilchuck Audubon website for all the details.

Don't delay; the counts are
Dec 19 and Jan 2



President's Report

There are some wonderful books being published for birders. I am constantly checking the non-fiction list of the new book section of the Sno-Isle Library website. I order any new book that is bird-related and I encourage you to do the same. Some of my recent finds include Birdology, Water Babies, Scott Weidensaul's new book on owls, and Gods of the Morning: A Bird's Eye View of a Changing World. Even when the weather forbids or night time falls, a birder can follow his/her passion in the pages of a book.

Like many of you, my bookshelf has an expanding section of bird books that I have actually purchased. If you decide to downsize and would like your no-longer-needed bird books to go to a good cause, I encourage you to contact us about donating them to our used book sale. At every program meeting, Rex Guichard brings a great selection of used bird books for purchase. The proceeds go to Pilchuck Audubon's general fund. You can contact Rex through me at president@pilchuckaudubon.org.

While I am on the subject on donations, please read the next article about setting up a legacy gift to Pilchuck. My husband and I have done it; it was easy and felt wonderful. There is something about reaching out to the future that is hopeful and powerful.

Happy Holidays to all of you wonderful Auduboners and many thanks to the stalwart individuals who will be participating in our Christmas Bird Count. Stay warm!

Pilchuck Audubon Legacy Circle

Jim Beneteau, Development Chair

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

Are
Birds
in your
Will?



We also have a new brochure discussing this convenient and effective way to support our mission. PAS wants to remind folks to think of a legacy for birds and avian habitat when they are doing their estate planning.

We think the cover is very eye-catching, don't you? Wait 'til you peek inside!

The brochure not only discusses ways to leave a bequest to PAS, it provides some examples of previous bequest uses and is filled with some very striking images of birds.

We are hoping that folks will let us know when they include PAS as beneficiary in their estate planning. This, of course, has no effect on budgeting but does help to show support for our mission. We are calling this list the "Legacy Circle" and we will post periodic updates.

PAS members will be receiving a copy of the brochure along with the annual President's letter in December. Copies will also be available at the PAS table during various events and festivals.

Many, many thanks to Rick Brauer for not only providing the wonderful photos but also for doing all the work of the layout through several iterations as the Development Committee (Rick, Kathleen Snyder, Carolyn Lacy, and Jim Beneteau) worked their way through the design and content. Reviews by Washington and National Audubon staff were helpful to the final product as well.

<p style="text-align: center;">Legacy Circle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carleen Adams*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Elwin Anderson*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Curtis and Carolyn Lacy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Robert Royce*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kathleen and John Snyder</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Elsie Sorgenfrei*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* (deceased)</p>

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

December 15 Samish Flats

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. Want to see what a premier winter birding area offers? Come along. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

December 22 No Field Trip Happy Holidays

December 29 No Field Trip Happy New Year

UPCOMING EVENTS, FESTIVALS, AND CLASSES

Bird Feeder Workshop Dec 13 Edmonds

BIRD FEEDER WORKSHOP with April Richardson for our hungry winter birds. We will use pine cones and peanut butter. Everyone is welcome. Your backyard birds won't want you to miss this workshop! Donations appreciated. For more information – Susie Schaefer 425-771-8165.

Eastside Audubon Field Trip**Dec 16****Lake Sammamish State Park**

This urban park offers a wide assortment of birds and habitats due to its varied ecosystems. The trip will involve walking approximately 2-3 miles. Meet just inside the main entrance, take the first left into the large parking lot and meet at the northeast end. A Discover Pass is required to park. NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. 8 am – noon http://eastsideaudubon.org/calendar/copy3_of_lake-sammamish-state-park

Winter Wings Festival**Feb 11 – 14****Klamath Falls OR**

Enjoy winter birding and photography at its best in the scenic Klamath Basin located in Southern Oregon and Northern California. This festival is highly rated as organized and friendly. 37th year. <http://winterwingsfest.org/>

**Join us Wednesday, December 16th from 5 to 7 p.m.
“Celebrating Sustainability with Futurewise”
Angel Arms Works, 230 Ave B in Snohomish.**

This will be a farewell Green Drinks for Kristin Kelly as Snohomish/Skagit Program Director of Futurewise for the last 13 years who will be closing the field office as of December 31, 2015.

Enjoy a tour of the beautiful Angel Arms Works. Karen Guzak and Warner Blake purchased the former St. Michael’s Catholic Church in 1993 and have made many modifications designed with the community in mind. Angel Arms Works has recently added solar to their sustainable efforts.

Futurewise is working throughout Washington State to create livable communities, protect our working farmlands, forests, and waterways, and ensure a better quality of life for present and future generations.

Kristin will continue as Executive Director of the Smart Growth Program sponsored by Pilchuck Audubon.

Hotline to report dead, sick or injured swans available

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has re-established a hotline to report dead, sick or injured swans in three northwest Washington counties as part of its ongoing effort to assess the impact of lead poisoning on trumpeter swans. People can call [360\) 466-4345, ext. 266](tel:3604664345), to report dead, sick or injured swans in Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish counties. Callers should be prepared to leave a message including their name and phone number, and the location and condition of the swans. The hotline is available 24 hours a day through the end of March.

MARBLED MURRELET UPDATE

Kevin Schmelzlen, Murrelet Survival Project

Thanks to all who attended the Board of Natural Resources meeting on November 3rd. The Board had arguably its most exciting meeting in years, with two of the members successfully pushing back against

Commissioner Goldmark in order to include an “Alternative C+D”, which will combine the protection measures of Alternatives (options) C and D into the set of accepted Alternatives. This idea was introduced at the October Board meeting by the Murrelet Survival Project campaign as a means of improving the two second-best alternatives, neither of which are deemed appropriate long-term strategies for the survival of the Marbled Murrelet by the conservation community. These two Board members, Ron Mittelhammer (representing WSU) and JT Austin (representing Gov. Inslee), were also responsible for including an analysis of Alternative E, the science-based option we are supporting that includes 150m buffers, 50 meters more than the currently proposed protective buffers around occupied nesting habitat. As we move closer to the selection of one Alternative as the future Long-Term Conservation Strategy, we hope you will continue to stay tuned in and make your voice heard when it will have the greatest impact.

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

August 26, 2015 – September 25, 2015

Mara Price – Sightings Coordinator

There seems to be a large number of American Crows this time of year with 40 reported at Lake Bosworth, 50 in Everett and 46 in Marysville.

Carole and Larry Beason reporting from Lake Bosworth listed 40 American Crows flying over, 4 Ann’s Hummingbirds, a Belted Kingfisher, 14 Canada Goose on the lake, 18 Dark-Eyed Junco, 4 Evening Grosbeaks, 22 Mallard on the lake, an Osprey, 2 Pied-Billed Grebes on the lake, 10 Purple Finch at the feeders, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 40+ Red-Winged Blackbirds at the feeders and in the trees, a Turkey Vulture overhead, 16 Violet-Green Swallows and 2 Western Tanagers for a total species count of 43.

Hilkka Egtvedt’s report from Mukilteo included the 50 American Crows along with 7 California Quail, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk in a tree outside the kitchen window, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, a Red-Tailed Hawk circling over the house harassed by 2 Common Ravens, a Bewick’s Wren, 15 American Robins, 3 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, a Fox Sparrow, 7 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 3 White-Crowned Sparrows, 7 house Finch, 4 American Goldfinch and 2 Evening Grosbeaks for a total species count of 29.

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erikson listed 32 Cedar Waxwings, 12 American Robins, 4 Anna’s Hummingbirds, 43 Bushtit, 15 Dark-Eyed Junco, 14 Western Gulls, 6 Mallard Ducks, 3 Northern Flickers, 24 Black-Capped Chickadees, 6 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 65 European Starlings, 2 Yellow Warblers, 13 Northwestern Crows and 5 Golden-Crowned Kinglets for a total species count of 28.

I am happy to welcome our new Bird Reporter from Marysville, Pam Meyers. Her report included 500 + European Starlings in the trees around the yard, 8 House Finch, 3 Evening Grosbeaks, 7 Downey Woodpeckers, 5 Northern Flickers, 3 Eurasian-Collard Doves, 46 American Crows, 4 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 4 House Sparrows, 6 White-Crowned Sparrows, 3 Western Scrub Jays, a Fox Sparrow, 2 Bewick’s Wrens and 14 American Robins for a total species count of 24.

My report from Marysville lists 9 American Robins, a Anna’s Hummingbird, 6 Black-Capped Chickadees, 5 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 4 Dark-Eyed Junco, a Cooper’s Hawk sitting on the feeders, a Great-Horned Owl in the wood, a Merlin, 6 Mourning Doves in the yard, a Pileated Woodpecker, 5 Spotted Towhee, 5 Steller’s Jays, a female Western Tanager, a Song Sparrow and 2 House Finch for a total species count of 22.

If you are interested in becoming one of our bird reporters please email me at Pricemar1@gmail.com for call my cell at (425) 750-8125.