



Smart Growth Report

By Kristin Kelly, Director

The Pacific Northwest is best known for its mountain ranges, the Puget Sound, and its large stands of evergreen and deciduous trees. Trees not only provide shade and beauty to our neighborhoods, they also house wildlife, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide the best stormwater detention system available. While we expect trees in our parks and recreation areas, urban trees are important as well. In the U.S. Department of Agriculture General Technical Report NRS-62, June 2010, "Sustaining America's Urban Trees and Forests," benefits include:

- Thermal comfort and reduced energy use by providing shade, transpiring moisture, and reducing wind speeds. The establishment of 100 million mature trees around residences in the United States is said to save about \$2 billion annually in reduced energy costs.
- Improved air quality by lowering air temperatures, altering emissions from building energy use, and removing air pollutants through their leaves. Urban trees in the lower 48 states remove some 784,000 tons of air pollution annually, with a value of \$3.8 billion.
- Help in reducing climate change by directly storing carbon within their tissues and by reducing carbon emissions from power plants through lowered building energy use. Urban trees in the lower 48 states currently store 770 million tons of carbon, valued at \$14.3 billion.
- Improved water quality and reduced need for costly stormwater treatment by intercepting and retaining or slowing the flow of precipitation reaching the ground.
- Reduced noise with properly designed plantings of trees and shrubs. Wide plantings of tall dense trees combined with soft ground surfaces can reduce apparent loudness by 50% or more (a reduction of 6 to 10 decibels).
- Help creating and enhancing animal and plant habitats and acting as "reservoirs" for endangered species. Urban forest wildlife offers

(Continued on page 4)

April Program Meeting Friday, April 11, 7 PM

Loons of the Salish Sea



Common Loon (Photo by Roy W. Lowe)

Four species of loons grace our local waters. This program will focus on identifying these fascinating and compelling birds and how they go about the business of fishing for a living. Presenters are Coupeville residents Steve and Martha Ellis. Steve is immediate past president

of Whidbey Audubon Society and Martha is a member of the Washington Native Plant Society. Together they have been leading field trips and giving talks on a wide range of natural history topics for 25 years. For more information, leave a message at 425.252.0926.

Annual Meeting Elections

Join us for the April 11 program meeting and voice your vote! Our annual business meeting will include elections for board President and Secretary (each a two-year term), a summary of this year's budget, and the Volunteer of 2013 Award presentation. The nominating committee has announced that Kathleen Snyder has agreed to serve another term as President and Kathy Piland would like to serve a term as Secretary. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. As always, excellent refreshments will be provided by Virginia Clark.

**Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett**

In This Issue

About.....	2	President's Message.....	3
Birding Report.....	7	Smart Growth.....	1,4
Classroom Awards....	6	Trip Calendar.....	3
Conservation.....	5	Trip Report.....	7
Festivals.....	5		

Birdathon – The Big Event is Approaching!

Teams are forming now for this exciting competition

It's almost time for our biggest competitive event of the year. Those of you who want to spend a month birding throughout the state and those of you with cameras in hand, your starting date is April 19. You will have one month, until May 19, to complete your tasks. Birders, you will find as many species as possible.

Photographers, you will take photographs to best show your skills. Before you do that, go to our website <http://tinyurl.com/msxtxuf> to read the competition parameters and rules. AND you need to gather pledges of at least \$25 to enter. The pledge sheet is on the website. You can let us know of your participation by emailing birdathon@pilchuckaudubon.org.

For those of you who want to participate in the competition weekend, your dates are May 16–19 (a 24 hour period within those dates). Block that weekend out on your calendar and be thinking if you want to go solo or work with a team of up to four members. You will also need pledges of at least \$25. You will find a letter template on our website which you can personalize and then send to your friends and family by email asking for pledges. Details are on our website (above) and more information will be coming in our May Profile.

Our goal is \$4,000. Your Pilchuck Audubon board has its team formed and is ready to roll. Prizes have been gathered including the Grand Prize of a three day/two night stay at an Ocean Shores cabin. The work we do and the need to protect the environment have never been greater. You can help keep Pilchuck active and have a great time in the process.



Volunteer Opportunity of the Month Assistant Treasurer

If you are interested in helping Pilchuck Audubon and like working with numbers, please consider the Assistant Treasurer position. We need someone to help our treasurer for the next year with the intent of becoming Treasurer in the future. The time commitment would be about four hours per month now and eight to ten hours per month later. Please contact Kathleen at 425.438.1505 or president@pilchuckaudubon.org.

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 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, nonprofit 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 98290-1742.

Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

The monthly *Profile* is available online at www.pilchuckaudubon.org

Board of Directors

President	Kathleen Snyder	.....	president@pilchuckaudubon.org
Vice President	Terry Nightingale	.....	vice-president@pilchuckaudubon.org
Secretary	Kathy Piland	.....	253.736.4937
Treasurer	Carolyn Lacy	.....	360.668.2494
Conservation	Allen Gibbs	.....	conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org
Membership Chair	Bonnie Campbell	.....	425.493.8721
Avian Science	Joan Poor	.....	avianprojects@pilchuckaudubon.org
Development	<i>Open</i>		
Members at Large	Laurel Cheap	.....	classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Kathy Johnson	.....	425.252.0926
	Jay Ward	.....	425.418.3226
Consultant	David Gladstone		

Committee Chairs

Bird Sightings	Mara Price	.....	backyard@pilchuckaudubon.org
Conservation Awards	Laurel Cheap	.....	classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
Education	<i>Open</i>	.....	education@pilchuckaudubon.org
Field Trips	Art Wait	.....	360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson	.....	forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
Hospitality	Virginia Clark	.....	360.435.3750
Legal Advisor	Pete Dewell	.....	206.281.8082
Newsletter Editor	Lindsey Cramer	.....	newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org
Program	Susie Schaefer	.....	garden@pilchuckaudubon.org
Publicity	Judy Alles	.....	360.793.1343
Volunteer Coordinator	Judy Chapman	.....	volunteer@pilchuckaudubon.org
Webmaster	Carol Curtin	.....	webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org

Staff

Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly	425.923.8625
--------------	---------------	-------	--------------

© 2012 Pilchuck Audubon Society. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Opinions expressed are those of the credited writers and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Pilchuck Audubon Society.

Trip Calendar

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

Tuesday, April 1 **Smith and Spencer Islands**

Meet at 8 AM at Langus Riverfront Park in Everett. Go North on SR529 (Broadway) over the Snohomish River; turn right onto 28th Place NE. Follow signs to Langus Waterfront Park; continue past the park to a parking lot past the left curve in the road (under I-5 and just past the shell house and Everett Animal Shelter). Trying for spring migrants. Walk the Langus Riverfront Trail, view the Everett Sewage Ponds. Lots of walking. Pack a Lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, April 8 **Everett Waterfront**

Meet at 8 AM at Legion Park off North Marine Drive, Everett. A very relaxed easy trip that proceeds south along the waterfront, sometimes all the way to Mukilteo. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Art Wait 360.563.0181

Saturday, April 12 **Monroe**

I learned recently that the Crescent Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) outside Monroe has the fourth largest avian species diversity in Snohomish County eBird data. Pilchuck Audubon Vice President and trip leader, Terry Nightingale, and I drove by on a Goose Chase in 2011. It's lovely and there are tons of birds. We will also peek at the Monroe Prison Farm Pond hotspot. The WMA has a grassy loop trail with a 200 foot wooden bridge (bring a gold coin to tip the bridge troll). Flat. Discovery Pass \$30. Meet at 8 AM at Everett Mall. Park in the back near L.A. Fitness and the Everett Transit Center facility. Bring munchies for the path, water, bug spray, hat, waterproof walking shoes, foul weather gear, and binoculars, if you have them. As always we plan to stop on the way home for a little socialization over a late lunch. Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633, aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, April 15 **South Whidbey Island**

Meet at 7:15 AM at the Eastmont Park and Ride, I-5 exit 189, east side, aiming for the 8 AM ferry from Mukilteo. Crockett Lake always yields a large and varied species list and the rest of South Whidbey is great birding. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes 360.629.2028

Tuesday, April 22 **Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge**

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Lynnwood Walmart lot at 1400 164th Street 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 to reach our destination near Olympia. Once at the refuge we will need to walk several miles to fully experience the delights and surprises of it's marshes, tide flats, 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

Tuesday April 29, **Mountlake Fill**

Meet at 8 AM at the Lynnwood Walmart lot at 1400 164th St SW (I-5 Exit 183). Park at the edge of the lot away from the store, to the west. This is one of the most productive birding areas in this vicinity. Many rarities have been observed here at the Union Bay Natural Area. If time allows we may visit Foster Island, Magnuson Park and other areas of North Lake Washington. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

President's Message

By Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon Society President



April is our annual membership meeting with elections and I thought it would be interesting to learn more about our membership. Pilchuck is the 3rd largest Audubon chapter in Washington, after Seattle and Tacoma (Tacoma) chapters. We currently have about 1400 members, most of whom come to us through their membership in National Audubon.

If you divide our area into four sections, the north area of Camano, Stanwood, Arlington, Marysville, Lakewood, Silvana and Tulalip has 311 members. The central area of Everett, Mukilteo, Snohomish, Mill Creek and Lake Stevens has 531 members. The southern area of Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Brier, Edmonds, Woodway and Bothell has 399 members. And our eastern towns of Monroe, Sultan, Gold Bar, Startup, Granite Falls and Index have 89 members. That leaves more than 100 members from outside our chapter borders. Many come from other parts of Washington like Seattle, Shoreline, Tacoma and Richland. We also have members from out of state — Hawaii, California, Ohio, Idaho and New Mexico. Noteworthy is that Edmonds has the most members (231) even though it is only the third largest city in our area. Way to go Edmonds!

Pilchuck Audubon is grateful for each and every one of our members. Your financial and volunteer support is crucial to our policy work and projects. If you would like to become more involved, whether in a large or small way, please contact me at president@pilchuckaudubon.org. We have a place for you. And you are invited to our April 11 meeting in Everett for our annual meeting, elections and program on the Loons of the Salish Sea.

Smart Growth...

(Continued from page 1)

enjoyment to city dwellers and can serve as indicators of local environmental health.

- Absorption, transformation and containment of a number of contaminants by remediating soils at landfills and other contaminated sites.
- Can increase merchandise values. One study found that on average, prices for goods purchased in Seattle were 11 percent higher in landscaped areas than in areas with no trees.
- Makes the urban environment a more aesthetically pleasing and emotionally satisfying place. Urban trees also provide health benefits. Hospital patients with window views of trees have been shown to recover faster and with fewer complications than patients without such views.
- Makes important contributions to the economic vitality and character of a city, neighborhood, or subdivision.

Over the last 24 years, Snohomish County has witnessed a significant loss in its tree canopy. In fact, before 2009, when Snohomish County first adopted tree retention and replacement language in their residential development code, trees were cut down at alarming rates with no requirements to ensure that at least some of the existing tree canopy would remain.

As I write this, the Snohomish County Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing on March 25th to consider amendments to the existing 2009 tree retention/replacement code. It is not good. Developers are arguing that replacing significant trees with the current regulation of 3:1 (for significant trees) is a ratio that is not possible in highly forested areas of the Southwest Urban Growth Areas (SW UGA are areas outside the cities of Edmonds, Bothell, Lynnwood, Mukilteo, Mill Creek, Brier, and Everett) where hundreds of homes are planned. Unfortunately, Snohomish County planning staff has relented to the wishes of the development community.

Since Snohomish County does not have any county-wide tree retention/replacement policy in their General Policy Plan, these codes for the SW UGA fall under landscaping codes. Furthermore, these codes are only for the SW UGA, not for other unincorporated UGAs or for rural lands. Getting favorable codes now will help with future efforts to protect more trees throughout the entire county.

We will be at this hearing, commenting along with our coalition partners. Once the Planning Commission

closes the public hearing, they will be voting on their recommendation to the Snohomish County Council:

- support the planning department's suggested amendments,
- recommend changes to those amendments, or
- not to recommend the changes at all.

The good news is that there will be a separate County Council process on these amendments and the opportunity for more folks to get involved. If you love trees (and I believe you do), and know how important trees are, you can make your voice heard. Whether they are in our mountains, rural areas, cities or urban neighborhoods, trees provide wildlife habitat and make human habitat so much better. If you would like to receive more information about this by email, contact membership@pilchuckaudubon.org

Endangered Species Comments Period Open

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is reviewing the wildlife populations that are listed by the state as endangered, threatened or sensitive in a multi-year project. The agency will consider approximately 15 species at a time and will seek information from the public for one year before concluding the reviews. This process allows WDFW to determine whether each species warrants its current listing or deserves to be reclassified or delisted. The species evaluations will help WDFW and its partners to assess progress toward recovery of state-listed species.

In the first set of species, there are two bird species which are found in Snohomish County and on which Pilchuck will want to submit comments: Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet. Comments are due in April 2015. Our Avian Science Director is looking for input, especially in these areas: demographics, habitat conditions, threats/trends, new research, and conservation measures which have benefited the species. Please contact Joan Poor at avianprojects@pilchuckaudubon.org.



Snowy Owl (Photo by John Schwegman)

Community Events, Classes and Festivals

Olympic Bird Fest

April 4–6

Sequim

Participants can view a wide variety of birds normally seen on the Olympic Peninsula. Field trips are planned for Sequim Bay, Port Angeles Harbor, Ediz Hook, Dungeness Spit, the Elwha River, Salt Creek and Neah Bay. Boat trips to Protection Island are also planned. The date of the Olympic BirdFest is timed to overlap wintering birds and the beginning of spring migration.

Pre-registration necessary at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Author Event

April 21

Lake Forest Park

American ornithologist David Sibley, author and illustrator of *The Sibley Guide to Birds* joins us for an evening of conversation with local author and illustrator Tony Angell, co-author of *Gifts of the Crow* and *In the Company of Crows and Ravens*. Event starts at 7 PM at Third Place Books. More information can be found at <http://www.thirdplacebooks.com/event/sibleys-guide-birds-second-ed-david-sibley-conversation-tony-angell>.



Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

April 25–27

Hoquiam

Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in Grays Harbor estuary on their migration northward. This concentration of birds offers people a great chance to view a number of shorebird species, and with luck, to see the birds fly together in beautiful formations while trying to escape the fastest

creature on earth, the Peregrine Falcon.

Preregister for speakers, lectures, tours, and banquet at www.shorebirdfestival.com.

Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest

May 15–18

Leavenworth

Bike, hike, boat, and bus through spectacular habitats ranging from snow-capped mountains to sunny ponderosa pine forests, lush riparian zones to shrub-steppe. Field trips are led by experts and professionals in their field. While birding is the heart of the weekend, activities also include wildflower walks, art and music events, and family fun and learning for birders of all ages and skill levels.

Register early in April at www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com.

Monthly Conservation Report

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair

Legislative Summary

The “short session” ended March 13, pretty much as predicted by legislative leaders and observers. Historically it works on supplemental budget requests. This means that the second session of a biennial budget responds to actual, rather than estimated, revenue and expenditures used in the first session. A supplemental budget was passed this session. For the first time in a long time, if ever, no capitol project budget was produced. No transportation funding package passed.

Neither of the two top priorities by the Environmental Priorities Coalition passed. The **Big Tax Loophole** was not closed. It did pass in the House. Sponsored by Rep. Reuven Carlyle (D-Seattle), his bill sought to close an unintended loop hole dating back to 1949, before there were any refineries in Washington State. His bill also committed the \$59 million created by closing the loophole to Kindergarten – Grade 12 classroom purposes. There are legislators and interests who like the idea of closing the loophole but want the new revenue used for other purposes. The “oil industry” prefers no change.

The **Oil Transportation Safety Act** brought attention to these problems but did not garner enough support to make it to the governor's desk. Recent oil train explosions focused public attention on oil spills and hazardous train cargo and we expect this issue will be revisited in the future.

Not all bad news here. There was bipartisan agreement in the final hours of the session, to include in the supplemental budget \$300,000 for a study by the DOE. The DOE will study some degree of statewide risks and possibilities to increase public safety, improve oil response and preparedness.

Legislative Elections in Snohomish County

The 2014 primary and general elections will be busy. Two Senate positions and all House positions will be up for election. Rep. Mike Hope (R-Mill Creek) and Rep. Mary Helen Roberts (D-Lynnwood) announced recently they will not seek reelection. Senators Marko Lias (D-Mukilteo) and John McCoy (D-Tulalip) were appointed by the Snohomish County Council to fill the vacancies created when Paul Shin (D-Edmonds) resigned for health reasons and Nick Harper (D-Marysville) resigned for personal reasons. The Snohomish County Council appointed Lillian Ortiz-Self (Mukilteo) and June Robinson (D-Everett) to fill those vacancies. All have said they will run for reelection.

A more detailed report can be found on our website under Advocacy.

Classroom Conservation Awards

By Laurel Cheap, Committee Chair

We are excited to be getting positive feedback from the 2013 Classroom Conservation Award recipients. Each recipient received \$400 to help fund their project. It is very encouraging to hear how Pilchuck Audubon is having a positive impact on students throughout Snohomish County.



Trina Whitaker and her 3rd and 4th grade students at Olivia Park Elementary School, Mukilteo School District, sending a "thank you" to Pilchuck Audubon.

Recipients of the 2013 Awards are as follows:

1. **Stephanie Chlebowski and Steve Metzger** – 2nd grade class at Machias Elementary School, Snohomish School District. Students will increase their understanding of local food chains and gain an appreciation for native birds and animals by viewing photos and videos of birds and other wildlife taken with a motion activated camera to be installed on the nature trail outside of their classroom.
2. **Christine Cobb** – 3rd and 4th grade classes at Pinewood Elementary School, Marysville School District. Students will learn about birds of Washington and the need to take care of the environment they live in through educational materials from the Burke Museum, a classroom visit from Sarvey Wildlife Care Center, dissecting owl pellets, and participating in a paper conservation and recycling program.
3. **Jessica Conte** – kindergarten classes at Frank Wagner Elementary School, Monroe School District. Students will learn about waste and recycling and the impact of composting through new picture books, classroom activity books, a compost container and a worm composter.
4. **Andrew Fritz** – 5th grade students at Glenwood Elementary School, Lake Stevens School District. Students will learn conservation skills, identification of birds, plant life,

invertebrates and marine mammals by participating in a pelagic field trip in the San Juan Islands, accompanied by a WSU Beach Watcher and an ornithology expert.

5. **Joan Litzkow** – 4th and 5th grade students at Woodside Elementary School, Everett School District. With the purchase of new hands-on materials, books, video and a "Science Seekers - Safe Groundwater" lesson plan, teachers will help students learn the importance of not polluting our air, roads and streams by researching and studying the real-world problems of road and air pollution and how it affects our ground water, streams and oceans.
6. **Kim Moritz** – 3rd and 4th grade students at Emerson Elementary School, Snohomish School District. Students will learn about the water cycle and conservation of our natural resources by installing new rain barrels to collect rainwater to use in their existing vegetable and herb garden.
7. **Polly Muller** – 4th, 5th and 6th grade students at Sky Valley Education Center, Monroe School District. Students will learn about composting lunch scraps, soil health, and attracting and identifying birds in their school garden with a new compost bin and bird identification books.
8. **Anna Walter and Erin Alfieri** – 4th grade students at Martha Lake Elementary School, Edmonds School District. Students will learn scientific concepts and skills in a natural setting by taking a field trip to North Creek Park to release their salmon fry and work with a biologist to collect invertebrates and conduct water quality testing.
9. **Trina Whitaker** – 3rd and 4th grade students at Olivia Park Elementary School, Mukilteo School District. Students will study the salmon life cycle and learn about local conservation efforts to protect and preserve salmon habitats by taking a field trip to Carkeek Park and participating in the "Salmon in the Watershed" program.
10. **Marcella Wise** – 3rd and 4th grade students at Mukilteo Elementary School, Mukilteo School District. Students will take an overnight camping field trip to the Ohop Valley to learn about the flora and fauna that has sustained many generations of life and how to preserve it for future generations.

For more information about this program and how to apply in 2014, go to the PAS web site, under Programs and select Classroom Conservation Awards.

Backyard Birding Highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

January 26 – February 25, 2013

Now that Spring is approaching and things start to warm up, some of the bird species you see now will change. Little Rufous will return along with the Finches and the Swallows. I am really looking forward to the warmer weather and sunshine.

There are still large numbers of Evening Grosbeaks at **Carole and Larry Beason's** home at Lake Bosworth with 14 reported. They also reported a Kingfisher flying near the shore. Their total species count of 42 included 10 Bufflehead on the lake, 4 Anna's Hummingbirds, 18 Dark-Eyed Junco, 5 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, a Purple Finch, a Common Raven and an Osprey over the lake, 9 Varied Thrush, a Turkey Vulture over the house, 8 Ring-Necked Ducks near the shore, 32 Canada Goose on the lake and 44 Red-Winged Blackbirds in the trees.

Hilkka Egtvedt still has her California Quail. She is the only one reporting the Quail now. Her report included 9 California Quail, 4 Anna's Hummingbirds, 7 American Robins, 10 Band-Tail Pigeons, 2 Fox Sparrows, a Golden-Crowned Sparrow, 10 House Finch, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Spotted Towhee, 6 Steller's Jays, 2 Townsend's Warblers and a Varied Thrush for a total species count of 24.

Kriss Erickson listed 44 Northwestern Crows from her home in Everett. It is very difficult to distinguish between the American Crow and the Northwestern Crow as they are identical. Some distinguishing facts include that the Northwestern is slightly smaller, its call lower pitched, and its populations are primarily found on the coast. Her report also included a Pacific Wren, 11 Black-Capped Chickadees, 4 Song Sparrows, a Steller's Jay, 2 Northern Flickers, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Mallard Ducks, 3 House Finch, 3 Red-Winged Blackbirds, 2 Downey Woodpeckers and 8 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees for a total species count of 18.

Somehow **Julies O'Donald's** list was erased so she just submitted 14 of the more interesting species spotted at her home in Brier. Her report included an Anna's Hummingbird, a Barn Owl, 3 Band-Tailed Pigeons, a Fox Sparrow, 2 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, 3 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker, a Red-Crowned Kinglet, a Townsends Warbler, a Varied Thrush, a Pacific Wren, a White-Throated Sparrow and a Yellow-Rumped Warbler.

Mary Sinker submitted her reports for the last two months. December 26 to January 25 she reported 37 American Robins, 3 Bewick's Wrens, 2 Brown Creepers, 7 Bushtit, 60 Dark-Eyed Junco, 8 House Finch, 15 Mourning Doves, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 4 Song Sparrows, 5 Varied Thrush and 2 White-Crowned Sparrows for a total

species count of 27. Her February Report included 10 Black-Capped Chickadees, 5 Downey Woodpeckers, 4 Hairy Woodpeckers, 3 Northern Flickers, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker, 8 Spotted Towhee, 14 Tree Swallows and 4 Pacific Wren for a total species count of 26.

Port Susan Shorebird and Birding Festival Trip Report

By Jonathan Blubaugh

During the festival, I led a field trip to the Nature Conservancy's private Port Susan Sanctuary. On the bus ride over we passed about 300 Trumpeter Swans and another large group of Snow Geese. I answered questions and spoke about the preserve's history.

Our field trip was fun but brief. Our walk took us along the recently strengthened inner levy. We stopped frequently so that everyone could look at the birds through spotting scopes. With our scopes, we could see little past the breached outer levy in the distance. We saw nineteen species in our short hour. Not long after arriving the flock of Snow Geese arose. They were inland of us. We could hear the high pitched "honking" even at our distance of at least a half mile. Our count of 5000 is a mere estimate. Out beyond the levy, and very hard to see without the scope, were at least thirty more Trumpeter Swans. Also well beyond the levy was a very large flock of Dunlin. Again our number of 2000 is a rough estimate.

Once during one of our numerous stops to scope the birds, someone asked me, "Gosh, Jonathan, what's that funny looking hawk perched on the post in the scope?" I said, "Let's take a look." I made my way over to the scope. My binoculars were beginning to fog up in the rain by then. I peeked through the scope and announced, "That's a Short-Eared Owl." I think just about everybody got to see the owl through the scope. A special thanks is due to those guests who brought scopes to share for us. Some of us also got a brief glimpse of a Barn Owl not surprisingly flying away from us. The Sanctuary has always been a good sight for owls and diurnal raptors. There's plenty of prey.

We all got back to the Anderson Center on time; wet but happy. Here's a list of the rest of the birds we tallied: 41 Mallards, 10 shovelers, a Northern Pintail, 8 teal, 2 Bufflehead, 2 Great Blue Herons, a female Northern Harrier, 3 Bald Eagles, a Red-Tailed Hawk, a couple of Northern Flickers, an American Kestrel, an American Robin, 4 Song Sparrows flushing ahead of us on the levy, and 18 Golden-Crowned. I posted the eBird checklist for viewing at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?>



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

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..... \$ _____

Make checks payable to
Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail to PAS
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

WANTED

If you have birding books you no longer need, we would love to have them for our used book sale at our monthly program meetings.

Please contact Kathleen at
president@pilchuckaudubon.org.