



The Comings and Goings of Backyard Birds

by Alan Mearns, Avian Projects Committee

My wife and I have been counting backyard birds at our Edmonds home some 20 times a month for over ten years. We've had over 70 species so far, with about 30 that are "common". I've turned the counts into data, charts and graphs. The graphs show not only the seasonal changes (high counts and more diverse in December, low in early summer) but also dramatic year-to-year and longer term changes. The counts have substantially decreased since 2005; the mean annual bird abundance decreased from a daily average of 34 in 2005 to 19 in 2012. 2005 was a phenomenal year in terms of abundances, frequencies of occurrence and numbers of species.

The decline is partly due to local extinction of house sparrows, last seen in January 2008. Dark-eyed Juncos used to leave for the summer but in the past three summers, small flocks have remained and produced fledglings. The number of Band-tailed Pigeons dropped for four years (2007 to 2010) when flocks of Rock Doves (street pigeons!) showed up and then finally disappeared. Townsend Warblers have been showing up more frequently.

Being an ecologist, I ask "Why?" Is it loss of tree canopy? Do Band-tailed Pigeons and Rock Doves compete? Is it climate change? Which period was "normal"? Is now normal and 2005 abnormally high? Is there a new normal?

So I've been mining other data; historical satellite photos in Google Earth showing neighborhood tree cover change, temperature and rainfall at Everett's Public Works weather station, and climate indices such as El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). This is data that both terrestrial and marine ecologists explore to explain changes in fisheries, colonial sea bird populations, and plant disease outbreaks. Lo and behold, years when the PDO index was high (positive - indicating warming), the yard bird populations were also high. And when PDO was low, such as during the past 5 years, the counts dropped.

(Continued on page 4)

April Program Meeting Friday, April 12, 7 PM

Caspian Terns in Puget Sound

In 2009, 250 Caspian Terns established a small nesting colony on the Bellingham waterfront at an abandoned Georgia Pacific pulp mill. By 2010, more than 3,000 terns nested on the site. In 2011, the Port of Bellingham brought in wildlife control agents to deter the terns. The Everett waterfront now has a similar situation at a closed Kimberly-Clark mill building. Joe Meche, former president of the North Cascades Audubon Society, monitored the colony for four and a half months and will give an overview of his findings. For more information, call 425.252.0926.

Anniversary Celebration and Elections

Join us for the April 12 program meeting to celebrate Pilchuck Audubon's 40th anniversary. It will also serve as our annual business meeting and will include elections for board Vice-president and Treasurer (each a two-year term). In addition, there will be a summary of this year's budget, the Volunteer of 2012 Award presentation, and recognition of current Vice-President Susie Schaefer's service to PAS. The nominating committee has recommended Terry Nightingale for Vice-president and Carolyn Lacy has agreed to serve another term as Treasurer. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Please join us for this brief business meeting. As always, excellent refreshments will be provided by Virginia Clark.

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

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Upcoming Events and Festivals

Check out www.pilchuckaudubon.org for more information

Sandhill Crane Festival April 5 – 7

The Festival has many tours for crane viewing along with specialty tours. Specialty tours have included Columbia National Wildlife Refuge/Potholes area wildlife tour, Missoula Floods and the Channeled Scablands geology tour, Lower Grand Coulee birding tour and Wahluke Slope/Shrub Steppe birding tour. Pre-registration is suggested to reserve your seat as some fill up quickly. For more information, visit <http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>.

Othello

National Audubon Convention July 12 – 15

After 13 years, the Audubon Convention returns. Join Audubon staff, volunteers, and Chapter leaders to learn about how our work contributes to Flyways conservation. Experience four days of cutting-edge science, networking, birding and FUN in the Pacific Northwest. For more information and to receive email updates visit <http://www.audubon.org/2013convention>.

Stevenson

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival April 26 – 28

Each spring hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in Grays Harbor estuary on their migration northward. Coming from as far south as Argentina, these Arctic-bound shorebirds are among the world's greatest migrants. Tens of thousands of shorebirds feed on the open mudflats in the estuary. 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. For more information, visit <http://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>.

Hoquiam

Western Field Ornithologists and the Washington Ornithological Society Conference August 22 – 25

Hosted by Black Hills Audubon Chapter
Workshops: Fall Warblers with Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett, Sapsuckers – ID challenges and research update with Steve Shunk, Gull Identification with Mike Donahue, Dragonflies with Dennis Paulson and more.

Keynote talks: John Marzluff on those amazing Corvids. Two sessions of talks on recent research in the region with a plenary talk by Dennis Paulson. A full set of field trips (including Pelagics). Photo and Bird Sounds ID sessions. For more information, go to <http://www.westernfieldornithologists.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

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Trip Calendar

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

Tuesday, April 2 **Mill Creek and Vicinity**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Lynnwood Wal-Mart 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 trip will include Silver Lake, Martha Lake, Rhody Ridge Arboretum, North Creek Park, and whatever else we may discover. John is expert on this location. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750,
John dePlace 425.357.0944

Tuesday, April 9 **Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge**

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Lynnwood Wal-Mart 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 will be a long road trip of some 70 miles each way. Once at the refuge we will need to walk several miles to fully experience the delights and surprises of 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: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, April 16 **Mountlake Fill**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Lynnwood Wal-Mart lot at 1400 164th St SW (I-5 Exit 183). Park at the edge of the lot away from the store, to the west. The Union Bay Natural Area is one of the most productive birding areas in this vicinity. Many rarities have been observed here. If time allows we may visit Foster Island, Magnuson Park and other areas of North Lake Washington. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181,
Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Sunday, April 21 **Vashon Island**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We will visit a few sites to stretch our legs, do a little birding, and enjoy the bucolic pleasures of Vashon Island. It might be interesting to check out Dockton Park on Quartermaster Harbor, Robinson Point, or Maury Island Marine Park. I plan to bring a little spending money in case we encounter a farm stand or small market. There are over a dozen established eBird hotspots on the Island. And of course we'll get to do a little "pelagic" birding on the Fauntleroy Ferry crossing. Bring binoculars, water, hat, good walking boots, a snack, and foul weather gear. We will probably stop and sample the local cuisine for a little socializing over a late lunch. Estimated round trip ferry toll: \$27 per car. Carpooling strongly recommended.
Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633,
aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, April 23 **Guemes Island**

Meet at 7:30 AM at the 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). Ride a tiny ferry, then relax and enjoy unique Guemes Island, its people, birds and dogs. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, April 30 **Smith and Spencer Islands**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Langus Riverfront Park, 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 (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 Leaders: Ed Cushing 425.438.4146, Art Wait 360.563.0181



2013 Birding Adventures **By Susie Schaefer, Pilchuck Audubon Society Vice President**

Klickitat County trip, May 18, 19 and 20

There are still a few openings for this trip so please contact me right away if you want to go, as we need to make our Motel reservations very soon (there is only 1 motel in Glenwood). This trip is limited to 12 people.

Ferry County trip, June 6 – 10

Ferry County is a very special place in the northeast corner of Washington. One of the most unique things about this trip is that we will visit lots of wonderful public areas as well as private properties. We will base in Curlew at a wonderfully comfortable home and will cook some of our meals there and then after dinner try to find some owls in their back yard. We will also spend time looking for Grey Owls, Bobolinks, Yellow Breasted Chats, Williamson's Sapsuckers, Dusky Flycatchers, Pine Grosbeaks, Crossbills, Lazuli Buntings, Bank Swallows and many other Eastern Washington Birds. We always turn up lots of unexpected birds and mammals too.

June weather is usually nice but can be variable. We have had hot days, as well as rain and cold, so we will be prepared for all conditions. We will also need to take mosquito repellent but lovely wildflowers and butterflies will make up for the mosquitos. As with all my trips we try to keep costs down by sharing gas expenses, fixing our own meals and having four people to a car. It is a long trip but we will be busy finding birds and having fun all five days.

Planning does take some time so please register soon if you want to go. This trip is also limited to 12 people (including me). To register contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or garden@pilchuckaudubon.org.

(Continued from page 1)

The Everett air temperatures follow the PDO and the bird count trends as well. In short, during the past 10 years, we have undergone a rather large range of climate change. Maybe our yard birds know it. Or maybe it's all just a coincidence and we need 10 more years of counts! Yikes!

But this poses another dilemma. My yard is only one tiny spot in the county. I need to know if similar trends are going on elsewhere around here, in similar suburban habitats. Many folks tell me that they watch their backyard birds but don't have any notes or counts. A couple of weeks ago President Snyder alerted me to an article about a Kent backyard bird watcher who complained to the media that his bird feeders were practically devoid of birds. I looked at my counts for the same period. Yep, we both had a dip. An ecologist colleague suggested that with the somewhat mild winter the birds may have preferred live bugs (which indeed have been out flying) to the seed and suet offered in feeders.

Recently, I compared my counts to one fairly easy-to-grab data set, the Seattle Audubon monthly (and annual average) counts for Magnuson Park in Northeast Seattle. This is some 13 mile from my house, however, the same long term trend story appeared.

So, that's two...count 'em, 2... spots in our basin that show the same trend! That makes me wish for more backyard bird count data from more local sites, maybe 30 or 50.

In the interest of stimulating more Snohomish County backyard bird monitoring, I was cajoled into giving beginning backyard birding classes in Edmonds, mainly in advance of the annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The number of GBBC checklists submitted by Edmonds residents increased dramatically in 2010. However, that is only one weekend a year. I haven't yet mined eBird.

To track suburban birdlife over a long time period, I am on a mission to not only stimulate year-round backyard bird counts across our Puget-lowland suburban communities, but also to get folks interested in "centralizing" the data and even exploring it ourselves. A nominal backyard bird count would be 15-30 minutes, once a week, year round. An ideal frequency would be two to three counts each week. I also call for any others to come forward who may have already made long term frequent backyard bird counts.

To that end, I challenge Pilchuck members to think about doing more backyard bird counting and also to assist beginning birders by mentoring them. Our common backyard birds may be telling us something about the health of our environment and where it is headed in the years and decades to come. Please contact me at birdinfo@pilchuckaudubon.org if you are interested in joining the effort.

Monroe Gets Ready to Welcome Back the Vaux's Swifts

Some time in mid-to-late April the Vaux's Swifts are expected to return to Monroe and start checking into one of their favorite Monroe Motels. They will be roosting in the chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary school on Main Street for one or more nights on their northbound migration as they head north and into the forests to begin their spring nesting cycle.

If you have been wanting to get involved with Monroe Swift Watch come and join us on April 9 at 7 PM at the Monroe Valley General Hospital located at 14701 179th Ave SE Monroe WA 98272, in the Goddard room. We will start planning for this year's spring and all migrations in Monroe. There are lots of ways to help; counting nightly as the birds go in the chimney, doing morning and daytime observations, updating the Monroe Swifts website, being a docent during the fall season, getting the word out about the swifts to young and old in the community and helping out with the big Swift Festival known as Swifts Night Out festival on Saturday, September 14. Also at this meeting you will get to meet Larry Schwitters, our own Swift expert, who will give us an short update on the Swift's migration and the importance of the Wagner Chimney.

We welcome all interested people including our faithful volunteers from the last five years and hope to see lots of new faces who want to become part of this very interesting and fun bird program. For more information contact Susie Schaefer at garden@pilchuckaudubon.org or Judy Alles at jerryjalles@aol.com.

Audubon Magazine Photography Award Winners



Northern Flicker by Alice Cahill, 1st place winner

To see all the winners, go to <http://www.audubonmagazine.org/multimedia/2012-audubon-magazine-photography-awards-winners>.

President's Message

by Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon Society President

Happy anniversary to us! This is the 40th year that Pilchuck Audubon Society has been in existence. National Audubon granted our members a Charter of Chapter Participation on December 1, 1973. Remember the gas crisis of 1973? It ran from 10/73 to 3/74 and the November 1973 issue of the Profile had an editorial on the subject. I know because I have pulled out a binder of old Profiles, which is living in our storage shed. These newsletters were produced by mimeograph, purple ink and all. I also found a record book of PAS board meeting minutes which were written in long-hand, mostly by **Maybelle Nichols** and **Joyce Kelly**.

Browsing through these old records, I found familiar themes. Our first Christmas Bird Count was December of 1972. Our first birding field trip was to Deception Pass. Members were asked to attend meetings on the development plans of the Port of Everett, transportation issues and, of course, the oil embargo. There were potlucks, camp outs and bird surveys. Although I am not ready to read 40 years of Profiles and minutes, I do know that Pilchuck was involved in the Olo Mountain Too suit (Spotted Owl) and the Critical Areas Ordinances case involving the City of Mukilteo's desire to cut riparian setbacks in half. These were major court rulings in which Pilchuck worked for the protection of wildlife habitat and the livability of our county and state. They are part of a wonderful legacy that our predecessors left us and I hope you will join me at the April 12 program meeting to enjoy cake, memories and a pat on the back.

In Other News

Great news from our Save Our Swifts project! Thanks to all the work by **Larry Schwitters**, our Swift guru. National Audubon has recognized four chimneys in Washington as Important Bird Areas and as far as we know, these are the first manmade habitats to make this prestigious list. The locations include our own Frank Wagner School chimney in Monroe, the Old Northern State hospital chimney in Sedro-Wooley, a chimney on Joint Base Lewis - McChord, and the chimney at Selleck Schoolhouse in southeast King County. Congratulations to all the folks who have worked on this and continue to work for the protection of the Vauxs.

During the March 12 field trip, **Gary Loyd's** cool head and **Art Wait's** tendency to be prepared for every emergency combined to rescue a young deer from the wire fence in which he had entangled himself. The wire had encircled his torso as well as his rear legs but when the wire was finally cut off, he bounded away seemingly unhurt. Way to go, guys!

The board of directors for National Audubon met in February in Panama. This was the first time in nearly two decades that Audubon's board of directors met outside the US, testament to the important and ambitious work being done in partnership with BirdLife International.

Check out our new website feature, "Close Encounters of the Bird Kind". You can find the link on the home page. This page will feature writings about birds by our members. Our first entry is "A Black Swan Event" by **Wayne Johnston**. If you have had a magical birding moment, consider writing it up and submitting it to webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org.

April Birding Classes

Birds Are Awesome! class for kids

April 20 in Marysville, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
www.marysvillewa.gov or 360.363.8400

Pacific Northwest Birds

April 16 in Marysville, 7 - 8:30 PM
www.marysvillewa.gov or 360-363-8400
April 11 in Edmonds, 7 - 8:30 PM
www.reczone.org or 425.771.0230



Rough-legged Hawk by Judy Rowe Taylor

Smart Growth Update

Please visit our Smart Growth webpage at:
<http://pilchuckaudubon.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page§ionid=150>

Stay up-to-date on the Snohomish countywide Comprehensive Plan Update which will be a main focus of County Council attention over the coming two years. **Kristin Kelly**, our Smart Growth Director, will be tracking where development will be funneled over the coming 20 years (2015 - 2035), an issue which will affect each of us. She will be looking for ways to protect rural areas for agriculture and wildlife and to keep our transportation corridors functional and livable. She needs our membership to be informed and involved so please visit her webpage.

Weekend Bird Walk Trip Report: Camano Island Hot Spots

by *Terry Nightingale*

On Sunday, March 10, twelve birders exclaimed “pshaw!” to the start of Daylight Saving Time and took advantage of the weather to visit a few of the birding hotspots around Camano Island. We were fortunate to have Virginia Clark, a co-leader of Pilchuck Audubon's weekly Tuesday birding trips. Virginia is an excellent birder and the baker of the tastiest cookies I have ever tasted.

We headed north and west from Tulalip through Stanwood and across the high-rise bridge to Camano Island. As soon as we got out of our cars, we saw **Mourning Doves, American Robins, Brewer's Blackbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds** and lots of sparrows feasting on seed in an antique shop's parking lot. These included, **Song Sparrows, Golden-crowned Sparrows, House Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, a Spotted Towhee**, and even a **Fox Sparrow**. A few of us thought for a moment we had spotted a new kind of sparrow, larger than the others, and with lots of yellow mixed in with generally streaky plumage—but just then we realized we were describing the female red-winged blackbird.

After this productive stop, we ventured on to English Boom, a lovely park on the north side of the island that features a view to the north toward Fir Island, a beach with walkable trails, and forest made up of fir trees clinging to the side of a cliff. It was a bit early in the season, but there was still much to see and hear: two **Northern Flickers** apparently squabbling over a nice bit of breeding territory, two **American Crows** mobbing a **Common Raven** and chasing it out of their territory, a **Belted Kingfisher** perched on a piece of driftwood along the beach, three **Bald Eagles** perched on pilings, and **Great Blue Herons** hunting in the shallows. Out on the water were **Double-crested Cormorants**, and lots of ducks: **Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Green-winged Teal**, and **Northern Pintail**.

Our next quick stop was a farm field just off the main highway, where Virginia thought we might see some interesting birds. **Trumpeter Swans** were there grazing with **Greater White-fronted Geese** and one **Cackling Goose**, a diminutive cousin of the familiar Canada goose. We also picked up another dove species: a **Eurasian Collared-dove** in a nearby bush. A little farther west, Virginia directed us to a spot on Utsalady Point, where the kind souls with bird scopes allowed the group to feast our eyes on more ducks, distant **Surf Scoters**, and a **Red-throated Loon** far out in the bay, which was a real treat! Only a few of us had ever seen that species before.

Continuing our journey, we next made our way to the east side of the island, where Iverson Spit juts northeastward from Camano. Here is another nice park

where forest meets beach, but this time there are extensive grasslands as well. We happened upon a mixed flock of small passerine birds: **Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Bushtits**, and **Black-capped Chickadees**. We're not sure whether to count the **Pileated Woodpecker** who flew over us as one of this flock, but it was nice of him to fly by and give us a nice look at his black and white plumage and brilliant red head. Perched on a willow tree was a tiny male **Anna's Hummingbird** who showed us his brilliant purple throat when the sun caught it just right.

Our day of birding was almost done, and we said farewell to most of the group. After a quick lunch, four of us stopped off at Eide Road. A word of caution if you decide to go there: it's dangerous to turn left onto Eide Road from the main highway, and in fact there are signs telling you not to. It's much safer to go to Camano Island first, and then when you are heading back toward the mainland, turn right onto Eide Road.

If you plan to visit, remember that you'll need your discover pass. The trip was definitely worth it, as we saw the first big flock of **Dunlin** shorebirds of the day. Also notable were **Common Mergansers** swimming on the slough nearby. But the stand-outs for this stop, and arguably the entire trip, were an **American Bittern** hiding in tall grass, an amazing find to see one rather than just hear it making its “thump-wump” sounds, and a **Short-eared Owl** perched in a tree, who then took flight and we got to see its majestic flapping and soaring. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the **Snowy Owls**, four in total. Paulette Hunter snapped a photo of one perched on a piece of driftwood near the slough's edge.

Overall, another fine day of birding, and we hardly even got rained on! My thanks go to Virginia for joining us and pointing out some excellent birding spots.



Snowy Owl by Paulette Hunter

Weekend Bird Walk to Tolmie State Park *by Jonathan Blubaugh*

For the March 17 Weekend Bird Walk Terry Nightingale and Sue Miller joined me on a field trip to Tolmie State Park near Lacey. It is somewhat typical of state parks on the shores of the Salish Sea; it has a marine sanctuary, a stream, upland forest, camping and picnic facilities, and nature trails. It's a formula that works well and that I can't get enough of. We all had plans back in town later that day, so this trip was a little shorter than most with only the one stop. We pretty much had the place to ourselves except for a few kids enjoying the seashore off in the distance.

As is so often the case, good birding could be had right away in the parking lot. We ended up spotting 21 species in just less than an hour. We lingered quite a bit longer than we had planned in the parking lot because we just kept seeing more birds there, the highlights for me being a Townsend's Warbler that Terry spotted and a few Varied Thrushes mixed in with a flock of robins. We also easily found a male Downy Woodpecker making his distinctive "PEEK" call. After a while, we decided to drop down to the shore. From there we scoped the bay wrapping up the majority of our birding for a short and sweet visit. If we had had more time, we definitely would have walked the loop trail.

Here's what we saw: an American Wigeon, 26 Mallards including a drake having a boisterous, splashy birdbath in the creek, a dozen Surf Scoters, 9 Buffleheads, two pairs of Common Goldeneyes (usually we expect to see Barrow's Goldeneyes on saltwater, but we easily spotted the smaller facial marks on the drakes), a Common Loon, a Double-Crested Cormorant, a Pelagic Cormorant in breeding plumage with sporty white wing patch, the Downy Woodpecker, a crow, a Black-Capped Chickadee, a couple of Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, heard a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, heard a Pacific Wren, three Golden-Crowned Kinglets, six American Robins, three Varied Thrushes, the Townsend's Warbler, heard a Spotted Towhee, three Song Sparrow, and three Pine Siskins.

On our way out we spent a little time looking for a Black Phoebe that had been seen hanging out at some settling ponds near Cabela's at Hawk's Prairie. We came up short due to our time constraints and some barricaded roads, but just wait 'til next time! During my lengthy sojourn to California the Black Phoebe was always my favorite bird to watch. They are so cute in their formal attire, and so intent on the business of bugsnatching. They are riparian, frequently hunting and calling off of a perch next to a stream.

Finally, we wrapped up the trip with a nice lunch at Ivar's on South Tacoma Way on the way home. Wish you were there!

Get ready for the Bird-a-Thon!

April is here and that means May isn't far behind. In May comes PAS' spring fund raiser. Please plan to participate this year.

Bird-a-thon is the national Audubon Society's largest fundraiser of the year, and some chapters raise as much as \$15,000 each year. Let's do this! Here's how it works:

You need a sponsor form: You can download the pledge sheet on the PAS website, get a copy at a program meeting, or by contacting coordinator Hilka Egtvedt at chegtvedt@comcast.net or 425.347.4944.

You need sponsors: Ask friends, neighbors, family members – or complete strangers – to sponsor you, either for a maximum total amount or for an amount per species. Remember to tell your sponsors their pledges are fully tax-deductible and will be used for our conservation and education programs.

You need to find birds! You can count bird species during the entire month of May, anywhere in Washington. So, plan outings to your favorite birding sites or explore somewhere new.

You need to collect: At the end of the month, report your sightings to your sponsors, collect their pledges and submit the funds to Hilka or to PAS Treasurer Carolyn Lacy.

You feel good: Bird-a-thon is exciting and satisfying – some even find it competitive. Form a team, bird on your own. Either way, you have the chance to win a fun prize. Becoming a bird-a-thoner can be one of the most rewarding experiences of the year.

For more information and to download the pledge form, go to <http://pilchuckaudubon.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&pageid=263§ionid=140>.

Happy Earth Day!
April 22, 2013



Earth Day aims to inspire awareness and appreciation for the earth's environment. So go out there and celebrate in your own unique way!



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

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