



Birdathon Takes Off

What this world needs is more competition! Right? Well maybe not, except for a good cause. Our expanded Birdathon event is definitely for a good cause. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year and our goal is \$4000. This year we have created four ways for folks to have fun, enjoy birds, win prizes, and support Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS). Two of these competitions are already under way. The Big Month involves hunting for as many bird species as possible in Washington state between April 19 and May 19. The Photo contest has our many photographers taking photos of Washington birds during the same time period. Each photographer can enter four photos which will be judged by **Michael Dossett** and **Dennis Paulson**. We will print the winning photograph in the Profile and share it on our social media sites.

The intense competitive event is between May 16 through 19. Teams of birders will spread out over Snohomish County and Camano Island to find the most bird species they can within their chosen 24 hour time period. Prior to this, they will have solicited pledges from friends and family, mapped out their route, gassed up the car and stocked up on snack food to get them through the day (and night). Since speed is not for everyone, the Big Sit is also offered which is birding in a 200 foot area. All events will conclude on Thursday evening, June 22, at the awards dessert buffet where winners will be announced in a variety of categories. These include: most species, most pledges, best sighting, best team name, etc. Winners will be entered into the grand prize drawing — three days and two nights at a cabin in Ocean Shores, the perfect place to be during migration.

It is not too late to enter into the fun for any of these competitions. The only requirement is a minimum \$25 pledge which you can donate yourself or collect from pledges. This amount qualifies you for all four of the competitions, so what are you waiting for? You can form a team or go solo. You can pick a clever competition name or just use your own name. You can be a competitor or make a pledge to another competitor. The PAS Board has formed a team, the PPS (pronounced peeps) for **Joan (P) oor, Kathy (P)iland** and **Kathleen (S)nyder**. Another board member, **Terry Nightingale**, has rounded up his

(Continued on page 4)

May Program Meeting Friday, May 9, 7 PM

Big Old Trees and Little Trees

Dr. Jerry Franklin, professor of ecosystem processes and forest ecology at the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington, will speak about the importance to wildlife and vegetation of big, old trees, based on research of forest lands becoming bare of trees due to drought, wildfire, erosion, windstorms, insect infestations and disease, invasive species, and logging. Dr. Franklin was among the principal architects of the NW Forest Plan. He was appointed by President Clinton to his White House Forest Conference in 1993. That plan significantly decreased cutting of "old growth" trees on federal lands in Washington, Oregon and northern California, to preserve old growth stands and to restore habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl. For more information, leave a message at 425.252.0926.

Everett Firefighters Hall 2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

May at the Demo Garden

May 3, Work Party and Summer Blooming Summer Flowers program

May 10, Nest Box Building Workshop

May 17, Work Party

May 31 and **June 1**, Edmonds Waterfront Festival garden tours.

Be sure to check the PAS website calendar or contact Susie Schaefer garden@pilchuckaudubon.org for more information.

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Conservation Committee Report

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Sustainable Roads Update

The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, PNW Research Station (Forest Service) and Portland State University will report soon on the results of last year's public surveys when participants were asked about their use of the forest. Over 200 people attended eight community meetings that were held in King, Pierce Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom counties. In addition, nearly 1,800 people responded to an online questionnaire to say how they use, and want to continue using the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Public meetings to receive the preliminary findings will run in May and June. In July and August, there will be public fieldtrips led by the Forest Service to see the condition of forest roads and how they are managed under current conditions. Each ranger district will hold at least one field trip (Mt. Baker, Darrington, Skykomish and Snoqualmie); details to be announced.

No Discharge Zone Letter

PAS has co-signed a letter, along with 12 conservation groups, addressed to Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), supporting a DOE petition to the federal government to establish a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) for Puget Sound, Lake Washington and connecting waters. A NDZ is a federally established area where

discharge of toilet sewage from boats, whether treated or not, is prohibited. The DOE petition goes to the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act reauthorization (FLREA)

Last year, we learned that this Act may not be reauthorized. The Act allows the Forest Service, National Park Service, BLM, and the Fish and Wildlife Service to charge fees for use of some facilities such as Forest Service trailhead parking lots. The NW Pass is such a paid pass used in Washington and Oregon national forests.

FLREA expires December 31, 2014 unless reauthorized. Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest will suffer a loss of at least a \$1 million for its recreation operations, including facilities at Big Four Ice Caves, Austin Pass Visitor Center at Mt. Baker, and Glacier and Verlot visitor centers.

A hearing on reauthorization was held in Washington, DC on April 4. PAS is consulting with local outdoor recreation and conservation groups for thoughts about the bill as now proposed.

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, May 6 **Snoqualmie River Valley**

Meet at 8 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, one half mile west of the Fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Saturday, May 10 **Nisqually Wildlife Refuge**

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with Pilchuck Audubon! Meet at 8 AM in the back of the Everett Mall near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We'll carpool south to Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge near Olympia. Upon arriving, Marine Biologist Sue Miller will give a brief talk about the ecology of the Nisqually area, and then we'll search for birds as we walk on the wide, accessible trails and boardwalks. Expect warblers, waterfowl, raptors, and swallows, among many other birds. Bring snacks for the trail, water, hat, sunglasses, and plenty of sunscreen. On the way back, we'll also stop for a late lunch at a nearby cafe as an optional socializing opportunity.

Trip Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383, tnight@pobox.com

Tuesday, May 13 **Cle Elum Area**

Meet at 6:30 AM at the Monroe Park and Ride, on Highway 2, 1/2 mile west of the fairgrounds. An all day trip. Different birds: Red-naped Sapsucker, Northern Goshawk, Calliope Hummingbird, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Magpie, Vesper Sparrow, and Cassin's Finch possible. Experience Cle Elum. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, May 20 **Camano Island**

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

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, May 27 **Leavenworth Area**

Meet at 6:30 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, 1/2 mile west of the Fairgrounds. Many species rarely seen around home. We will go up Icicle Creek and certainly try for the Calliope Hummingbird and Lazuli Bunting in Camas Meadows. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Saturday, May 31 **Rotary Park Bird Walk and Forest Restoration Event**

Pilchuck Audubon is teaming up with the Green Everett Partnership — Everett's citywide effort to restore 354 acres of forested parks and natural areas. A morning bird walk from 8–10 AM will be followed with a work party at 10 AM–1 PM.

Meet in main parking lot at 3505 Lowell-Snohomish River Rd. Wear long sleeves, boots and dress for the weather (rain or shine). Bring water for hydration. Tools and snacks provided. Do not leave valuables in your car! Day of event contact person is Sara Noland 425.210.3764. RSVP at greeneverett@forterra.org.

Trip Leader: Terry Nightingale 206.619.2383, tnight@pobox.com

Community Events and Festivals

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. All our 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 online at www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com.

Free Author Event

May 17 at 2 PM

Everett

Noah Strycker, ornithologist, adventurer, and associate editor of Birding magazine speaks about the findings in his new book, *The Thing with Feathers*. Event location is at the Everett Public Library Auditorium, 2702 Hoyt Avenue. The book focuses on bird behavior, especially as it parallels that of humans. For more info, visit <http://epls.org>.

Wenas Creek Audubon Camp-Out

May 24–26

North of Yakima

You don't want to miss this unique Audubon outing held each year over the Memorial Day weekend. Enjoy spring birding and wildflowers at their best! Visit the Wenas Audubon website at www.wenasaudubon.org for directions, field trips, programming, etc. Preregistration is not required. The campout is free and open to all ages; donations are encouraged. Discover Pass is required. Contact Doris Johnson at dellenj@comcast.net.

Spring Birding By Ear

May 24–25

Padilla Bay

Come and enjoy the busy breeding season for Padilla Bay birds. Libby Mills will lead beginners and experts alike, listening and watching for spring birds. Eggs are hatching and the feeding work has begun. Dress snugly. Binoculars are available for those who need them. The group will meet at the Breazeale Interpretive Center and begin with a slow walk around Padilla Bay's uplands. Field trip runs from 8 AM to noon. Please register online at www.padillabay.gov or call the Interpretive Center.

Birdathon...

(Continued from page 1)

team and they are Counting Crows. All the details and rules can be found on our website at the following quick link: <http://tinyurl.com/msxtxuf>. If you have any questions, please email birdathon@pilchuckaudubon.org.

The force behind this competition are the folks on the Development Committee: **Rick Brauer**, **Carolyn Lacy**, **Leann Jacobson** and **Kathleen Snyder**. Besides Birdathon, they are working to start a legacy gift campaign. This will encourage members to mention Pilchuck Audubon in their wills. Swifts Night Out is also on their agenda. With around a 1,000 people in attendance, it is a good opportunity to sell merchandise. If you are interested in joining this dedicated group of folks, please email president@pilchuckaudubon.org or leave a message at 425.252.0926. You would be welcomed with open arms.

Back to Birdathon — if asking friends and family for money is not something you are comfortable doing but you would like to participate, head over to our website. On it, you will find a humorous letter template which you can personalize and send out to your contacts by email. Voilà — a way to ask for pledges without uttering a word! The Development Committee will also compose a summary letter template for you to send to donors after the conclusion of Birdathon. Keeping our wonderful donors informed of the outcome will hopefully encourage their participation again next year. Merchants who have donated prizes include Snow Goose Bookstore in Stanwood, Wild Birds Unlimited in Monroe and Everett, Wild Bird Nest in Lynnwood, QFC in Mukilteo, Fred Meyer in Everett, Canopy Tours on Camano Island, and many others. All in all, this competition is just what the world needs, at least the world of conservation in Snohomish County and Camano Island.

International Migratory Bird Day

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is Saturday, May 10, and PAS is hosting a number of events throughout Snohomish County to celebrate. All events are free and families are welcome. Here are the events planned locally for May 10 (contact information is on the web calendar at www.pilchuckaudubon.org):

8 AM Day-long field trip to Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 8 AM in the back of Everett Mall near the transit facility by LA Fitness. Bring binoculars, trail snacks and dress for the weather. There will be lots of walking on flat trails and boardwalks.

Lunch stop on the way home. Leader is PAS VP, Terry Nightingale.

9–11 AM Morning Bird Walks

Bring binoculars and dress for the weather for the following walks:

1. Corson Wildlife Refuge

10114 54th Pl NE Lake Stevens.

Parking will be on private driveway. The access to this refuge is restricted. This is an opportunity to explore a hidden gem with leader, Al Elliott.

2. Edmonds Marsh

Meet at the viewing platform next to Blue Collar Dog House in the Harbor Square Business Complex off of 180 W Dayton Street, Edmonds. Leader, Bill Anderson, knows the marsh like no one else.

3. Spencer Island

Follow Smith Road past Langus Riverfront Park in Everett, under I-5 and past the Everett Water Treatment Plant. When the road turns to gravel, watch for small parking lot on right. This area is known for its great birding. Leader is Virginia Clark.

4. North Creek Park

Meet in the parking lot at 1011 183rd St SE in Mill Creek. This is a productive wetland within an urban center. Leader is Christine Dubois.

1–3 PM Building Owl Nest Boxes

Willow Creek Demo Garden, 95 Pine Street, Edmonds Build Saw-whet and Screech Owl nest boxes to be hung in local parks. Families encouraged to attend. Monitoring of nest boxes will be discussed. Donations accepted to offset the cost of materials. Co-sponsor is Puget Sound Bird Observatory.

8–9 PM Vaux's Swift Watch

Wagner Center, 639 West Main Street, Monroe Bring a blanket or lawn chair and watch the swifts enter the chimney roost at dusk. Binoculars are recommended. A docent will be available.



IMBD Edmonds Marsh Bird Walk, May 2013

President's Message

By Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President



One of the best parts of being Pilchuck Audubon's president is giving out the "Volunteer of the Year" award each April.

This year I was so pleased to honor my friend and fellow board member, **Margaret Bridge**, as Volunteer of 2013. Margaret moved here from the east coast in 2005 and immediately become an active Pilchuck member. She served on the Board of Directors for eight years in various roles — Secretary, Database Chair and Membership Chair. She instituted our first Membership Renewal Campaign, handled all of our donation receipts for a number of years, and used her public policy experience to address board issues with wit, candor and intelligence. Not only that but she is one of the best birders around. She will be missed at board meetings and on Tuesday field trips and we wish her well in her new life on Orcas island.



(Photo by John Snyder)

New on Our Website

Be sure to check out our new photographer, **Keith Lehn**, in the photo gallery and our new essayist, **John Scruff**, in Close Encounters of a Bird Kind. **Susie Schaefer** recently had a very nice profile of her work on the Willow Creek Demo Garden in the Edmonds Beacon. It is reprinted on the People of PAS page.

Other Opportunities

Your bird observations can help scientists understand the influence of changes in climate on the environment. The USA National Phenology Network brings together scientists, resource managers and the public to collect information on phenology, or the timing of life cycle events in plants and animals such as flowering, hibernation and migration. To learn how you can help with this citizen science project, visit <https://www.usanpn.org/node/35>.

Sunset Falls Hydropower Project

By Joan Poor, Avian Science Chair

Snohomish PUD recently announced an updated design for their proposed hydropower project at Sunset Falls on the Skykomish River near Index. The new design reduces some of the costs and duration of impacts that are of a concern to Pilchuck Audubon. Many of our concerns, however, remain.

As birders and outdoor enthusiasts, PAS wants assurances that wildlife and watershed protections are in place and that cultural and recreational values are respected. We recognize that nearly 50% of breeding bird species in the western United States nest only in riparian vegetation. Lowland riparian forests are a critical stopover resource for migrating songbirds. The proposed Sunset Falls Hydropower project is a modification of the natural flow of the Skykomish River. It is a man-made disturbance to a vital river ecosystem in Snohomish County and may contribute to population declines and loss of species diversity of Pacific Flyway birds and other wildlife.

PAS members are Snohomish PUD ratepayers and we look to the utility for viable, renewable energy. The Sunset Falls hydropower project may not be beneficial for local customers. Most of the energy production from Sunset Falls would be in the spring when customer needs are low. During the 20 plus years it would take to pay off construction debt, the project will continue to need repairs and maintenance to turbines, gates and valves, as well as upgrades to substations. As ratepayers we want assurances that our costs and our rivers are not subsidizing an out-of-state energy certification program.

The PUD has submitted preliminary plans to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In May, the PUD is planning to survey ratepayers about the project through its website. The survey includes questions on public access, recreation use, aesthetic preferences and other background information. Visit www.snopud.com/sunset to take the survey.

The south fork of the Skykomish River is an essential riparian ecosystem of Snohomish County. PAS supports a protected designation of the Skykomish River and opposes the loss or endangerment of native riparian forest, any endangerment of bird species, or any decline of the distinct biological diversity of riparian ecosystems. We especially opposes modifications to our wild rivers for the construction of hydroelectric projects produced to facilitate the marketing of power for "green" energy certification programs. PAS will continue to participate with other principal organizations involved with a response to the project, including the Sierra Club, The Mountaineers, American Rivers and the Tulalip Tribe.

Smart Growth Update

By Kristin Kelly, Director

In the April Profile, I wrote about the proposed changes to the tree retention/replacement code for residential areas of the Southwest Urban Growth Area that Snohomish County planning staff were considering. On behalf of Pilchuck Audubon, along with five coalition partners, I submitted a letter to the Snohomish County Planning Commission with our concerns. Several citizens spoke at the public hearing and 135 people sent in email messages to the Commissioners supporting our position. That comment letter can be found on our website, under Smart Growth.

The Planning Commission heard staff present five amendments to the proposed ordinance based mostly on our recommendations. The majority of the commissioners did not recommend that the proposed ordinance be adopted by County Council. The planning staff has scheduled a meeting on the 1st of May for the main stakeholders involved in this issue — the Master Builders Association, concerned citizens including PAS member Michelle Gundersen, some developers, and me — to see if we can find some consensus on how to retain and replace trees before the proposed ordinance goes to the County Council.

You will be hearing more about this soon. This is an important issue for the SWUGA residential areas and it could also be the start of a larger discussion for retention of more trees throughout Snohomish County. To receive action alerts on important issues such as this, please send your email address to Kristin@futurewise.org.

Weekend Field Trip Report: Larabee State Park

By Terry Nightingale, PAS Vice President

On Saturday, March 22, my co-weekend trip leader, Jonathan Blubaugh, was unexpectedly called away for work duties, so I happily agreed to stand in for him as leader for the planned field trip to Larabee State Park. Though only one other birder elected to come on the trip, he is one of our weekend regulars and it was a treat to explore the park together.

For anyone who hasn't been there, Larabee State Park is located in Whatcom County, on Chuckanut Drive. Based on the trail guide I had found via the Washington Trails Association's website, the best place to start is at the trailhead on the east side of Chuckanut Drive. Once there, we hadn't walked far when the sounds of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** greeted us from the trees above. More visible were the **American Robins** near the ranger station, who first hailed us with warning chirps from tall

trees, and then dropped down to a nearby grassy area, presumably looking for worms. We could hear a woodpecker drumming on a tree, but the pattern was not quite distinctive enough to identify which species. A **Spotted Towhee** also made himself known from the brush on the hillside with his cat-like mewing call. A **Song Sparrow** and **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** also joined in with their distinctive songs. So far we were having a great birding day, and hadn't even left the parking lot!

After a quick stop, we headed back up the hill to the trailhead and started our ascent toward Fragrance Lake. On the way, we encountered many of the forest birds one might expect. **Pacific Wrens** were conspicuously "chunking" from the low brush. We got a very nice look at a **Brown Creeper**, just feet away, when he flew to a nearby tree and started his own ascent looking for grubs and other goodies for breakfast. Both **Black-capped** and **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** were calling from the branches above, and we heard the tin-horn call of the **Red-breasted Nuthatch** coming from somewhere nearby as well.

Around this time was when we came to the halfway point of the trail. A quick snack and a rest gave us the energy to keep moving on up toward the lake. Several times we heard a **Pileated Woodpecker** calling loudly and then heard deep, resonant drumming coming from the same direction, but alas our woodpecker never showed himself to us.

Upon reaching Fragrance lake, we decided to circumnavigate the lake and keep on the lookout for birds. We were not disappointed! About halfway around, we started hearing the peaceful, flute-like song of a **Varied Thrush**, something I have heard many times from my backyard but I don't usually get a chance to see the singer. This time, the thrush was perched in a Douglas fir tree only twenty feet away from us, and we got spectacular views of him when he jumped from branch to branch! A very nice treat as a reward for ascending the hill to reach the lake.

The highlight of our descent from the lake was seeing a pair of **Hairy Woodpeckers** making their way through the forest, first pecking at a downed log and then alighting on trees to peck at them for bugs and other tasty morsels. The theme of close looks continued, with these colorful characters only 20–30 feet away, yielding nice binocular views of their black and white plumage and the male's bright red head feathers.

On the drive south, we stopped in at the Oyster Bar restaurant, where we could see through the bay windows several **Great Blue Herons** wading in the shallows of the mudflats below and hunting for fish, crabs, or whatever else tasty that they could find. We had no trouble finding tasty items from the lunch menu, a great way to top off a fine day of birding!

Backyard Birding Highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

February 26 – March 25, 2014

Now that Spring is officially here we see more changes in our bird populations. The Dark-Eyes Juncos are starting to leave along with the Varied Thrush and the House Finches are returning along with the Swallows.

Reporting from their home on Lake Bosworth, **Carole and Larry Beason** had quite a busy month. They reported 35 Snow Goose flying over the lake. They also spotted 18 Violet-Green Swallows and 2 Barn Swallows over the lake. Their total species count of 44 included 2 Bald Eagles, a Kingfisher, 2 Brown Creepers on a dead Alder, 17 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 16b Double-Crested Cormorants, 11 Evening Grosbeaks, 6 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, an Osprey over the lake, 2 Pied-Billed Grebes near the shore, 2 Purple Finches, 2 Red-Breasted Sapsuckers, 40+ Red-Winged Blackbirds in the tree and feeders, 3 Ring-Neck Ducks, 3 Rufous Hummingbirds and a Yellow-Headed Blackbird.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from her home in Mukilteo included 2 Townsend's Warblers making visits to the hummingbird feeder. She also listed 8 American Robins, 4 Band-Tailed Pigeons, a Bewick's Wren, 15 Dark-Eyed Junco, 4 European Starlings, 5 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 4 Northern Flickers, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, a Varied Thrush and 2 White-Crowned Sparrows for a total species count of 25.

Kriss Erickson reported 4 Varied Thrush in her yard in Everett on March 1 when it was still cold. Her total species count of 19 also included 14 Black-Capped Chickadees, 10 Dark-Eyed Junco, 4 Northern Flickers, 4 Ann's Hummingbirds, 7 House Finches, 4 Mallard Ducks, 3 Red-Winged Blackbirds near the water, 2 Downey Woodpeckers, 6 Western Gulls in the yard, 4 American Robins, 7 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, a Bald Eagle and 3 American Robins.

Mary Sinker reported a Black-Chinned Hummingbird from her home in Stanwood. This is the first time she has ever seen one. It has a black band under its beak and a white collar under the band. They range from Western U.S. to Northern Mexico. She also reported 17 American Robins, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 11 Black-Capped Chickadees, a Brown Creeper, 5 Bushtit, 20 Dark-Eyed Junco, a Great-Blue Heron by the creek, 15 Mourning Doves, 5 Northern Flickers, 13 Rufous Hummingbirds, 12 Steller's Jays and 2 Varied Thrush for a total species count of 30.

The fields were flooded again near my home in Marysville, so the Gulls came by the 100's and the Mallard Ducks. My total species count of 21 included several hundred Western Gulls in the fields, 40+ Mallard Ducks, 50+ American Crows also in the fields, 15 Dark-Eyed

Junco, 2 Great-Horned Owls calling in the woods, 3 Song Sparrows, 3 Varied Thrush, a Red-Tailed Hawk flying over the fields, a Cooper's Hawk at the feeders and in the yard, a Common Raven in the woods, a Pacific Wren and 3 Ring-Necked Ducks in the pond on 100th Street.



Little hands learn big lessons at the PAS booth Allen/Quilceda Watershed Action Team Earth Day event, April 2014 (Photo by Jim Beneteau)

Vaux's Swifts of Monroe

By Susie Schaefer, Programs Chair

They are back! On April 19, **Judy Alles**, mother of all swift counters, was out at Wagner Center and was able to welcome a small group of early arrivals; 29 Vaux's Swifts to be exact. We knew they were on their way north from the reports received from California and Oregon. All the teams along the routes in all three states are now only officially counting on Saturday nights but everyone is happy to be starting the Swift Spring migration again.

We are all very proud that our swifts are now known throughout the world. Our Swift Expert, **Larry Schwitters**, was invited to present in April at the International Swift Conference in Cambridge England. Larry gave a great presentation and maybe even convinced a few people of the value of citizen science. All of us at PAS should be very proud of this important bird project which is now known worldwide.

Speaking of Swifts, everyone should mark their calendars for Swifts Night Out 2014 on September 13. This festival is always a lot of fun with the swifts putting on the show. The local group is already getting organized and can always use help, so please contact Judy Alles, if you are interested in helping at 360.793.1343. Docents will also be needed for the festival and for the month of September. Please contact me at 425.771.8165, if you are interested in being a docent.



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 \$ _____
 - My employer will match my contribution!
 - My employer's gift matching form is enclosed with my contribution.

Make checks payable to: Pilchuck Audubon Society

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

Name _____
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Send me these via email (check all that apply & include your email address above):

- Profile Newsletter
- Program Announcements
- Action Alerts

Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Secretary of State's office. Your contributions are tax deductible.



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.