Chilly, but cheery, Christmas Bird Counts

By Diane Yorgason-Quinn

It was another very cold Christmas Bird Count season in Gig Harbor, which is in the environs position of hosting pieces of two Christmas Bird Count circles, Tacoma Audubon’s Area #3 and Vashon Audubon’s North Pierce area, December 17th and January 2nd respectively. In spite of some frozen fresh water, our groups had great fun, and quite a few birds lined up to be counted or played hide-and-seek with us. No falling snow, though a little bit was saved up in shady spots. On both count days, we experienced stunning sunrises! The January 2nd count started on the morning of the latest sunrise of the season (7:58 a.m.), and in this chill we all appreciated the shortness of the day. Views of Mt. Rainier and the Olympics also warmed our hearts, if not our noses.

Several groups were stopped in their tracks by militant Ruby-crowned Kinglets who wanted to prove they were bigger than any human! Luckily they really weren’t, or we’d be in big trouble! Showing those little red crowns to us was much more important than actually getting out of our way!

Jim O’Donnell spotted a black Gray Squirrel north of the harbor! These are fairly common above the Canadian border, so maybe because of the low temperature this guy thought he was in Canada. We’ll have to watch for more of these on the peninsula in case it’s the beginning of a trend.

Two “new” species were more populous this year than in the past – the California Scrub-jay (formerly known how birds are doing. In 2016, over 18 million individual birds were counted during the GBBC!

This year, the GBBC is February 17 through 20, and Tacoma Audubon invites you to join us for two special family-friendly GBBC sessions on Saturday, Feb. 18. These sessions are especially designed for new birders and for kids and patterns. YOUR counting helps us know how birds are doing. In 2016, over 18 million individual birds were counted during the GBBC. This year, the GBBC is February 17 through 20, and Tacoma Audubon invites you to join us for two special family-friendly GBBC sessions on Saturday, Feb. 18.

A great February activity: Get ready for the 2017 Great Backyard Bird Count! Each year, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) connects people with birds in their “backyards”—whether that’s in a local park or your own backyard. The GBBC is a great way to test out bird watching and to learn to identify birds commonly seen in your area this time of year.

Plus, the counting that invites you to join us for two special family-friendly GBBC sessions on Saturday, Feb. 18.

FREE Family-friendly Events @ Adriana Hess Audubon Center – Saturday, February 18 Adriana Hess Audubon Center (2917 Morrison Rd W, University Place)

Join us! for our 48th Annual Meeting & Celebration!

See more on page 9!  Or click here.

Meeting & Celebration!
2017 Annual Meeting & Celebration Thursday, February 16
Museum of Glass
(1801 Dock St, Tacoma) 5 - 8 pm
Social hour, 5 - 6 pm, $15/Person Program, 6 - 7:30 pm: FREE Please RSVP at: bit.ly/48thAnnualMtg

Washington Swans

Martha Jordan, a well-known swan biologist, was unable to present about Washington swans for the October 2016 program, but never fear—she’s coming on March 23, when she’ll present Washington Native Trumpeter & Tundra Swans.

During this program, you will learn about swans’ life history, biology, and some patterns in how our state’s west and east sides are connected for swans in the North Cascades. Come share and learn the facts, myths and legends of the swans of Washington’s winter. You will also discover ways you can contribute to our understanding of swans in Washington.

Martha is founder and Executive Director of Northwest Swan Conservation Association (NWSCA). Martha has been a major contributor to state and federal agencies, documenting the status of Trumpeter Swans in Washington state.

Doors to the event open at 6:30 pm for socializing, and the program will begin at 7 pm.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S Corner

2017 brings new programs and partnerships!

As we look forward to the year ahead, I am excited to say there will be many new opportunities to engage with Tahoma Audubon Society. Fear not, however, as we will continue to bring you the opportunities to engage in recreation, education, and conservation that you have come to love and enjoy!

Many of our new opportunities come from continued and expanded partnerships with other local organizations, such as the National Wildlife Federation, Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, MetroParks Tacoma, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and more. We will also be looking to all of you for feedback through member and participant surveys and evaluations. We hope you will continue to share your thoughts to help us with planning new programs and also to help us better serve all of you.

I look to current and future editions of the Towhee for more information, as well as checking out our website for current opportunities. We also plan to have regular updates from our committee chairs in the Towhee so you can learn more about the great work that these volunteers are involved in.

Last month I encouraged all of you to get involved with our Conservation Committee, and I hope you will continue to engage with all the great work the Conservation Committee is involved in. This month, I am encouraging you to save the date for Audubon Advocacy Day, happening on February 21st. Join members of Tahoma Audubon and other Audubon chapters throughout the state as we head to Olympia, WA. No experience is necessary! The day will include training on lobbying and talking to legislators, as well as an issues briefing. Curious to check it out, but not sure you’ll want to say anything? That’s okay! Getting involved and showing your support by your presence is a great start! Check out our February e-Newsletter and website for more details.

I also hope you will join us for our 48th Annual Meeting and Celebration, happening this year on Thursday, February 16 from 5 to 8 pm at the Museum of Glass. This is a great opportunity to meet and socialize with the board, staff, and other members of Tahoma Audubon Society, hear about our highlights from 2016, participate in board member elections, celebrate our volunteer award recipients, support Tahoma Audubon’s Scholarship and Internship fund, and explore the Museum of Glass. See page 9 for full details. Please join us!

As always, feel free to reach out to me to share your comments, suggestions, or ideas. I am happy to schedule a time to grab coffee, go for a walk, or visit at Hess. Thank you for your ongoing support, interest, and engagement with Tahoma Audubon Society! The birds, and our environment, thank you!

Indoor Yard Sale at Adriana Hess!

Stop in and see what’s available following our spring housecleaning at Adriana Hess Audubon Center, 2917 Morrison Rd W, University Place.

- Books!
- Field Guides!
- T-shirts & caps!
- Unique gift ideas!
- Artwork!
- Kids’ books!
- New and gently-used items!
- Backyard birding supplies!
- Variety of nature posters!

Mondays through Fridays, 10 am – 1 pm, March 6 – March 17 and during other scheduled programs. Items available by donation while supplies last.

All proceeds go to the Tahoma Audubon Scholarship / Intern Fund.

Tahoma Audubon Society’s Feathered Nest Circle

We’re pleased to honor our visionaries who have named Tahoma Audubon in their estate plans making them members of the Feathered Nest Circle. This list updated as of Dec 16, 2016.

Anonymous (3)
Jane Brosius
Dick & Terry Curtner
Terry* & Bev Conner
Ruth Daugherty*
Rhona Diehl
Helen Engle
Bryan Flint
Thomas Galdabini
John Garner & Caroline Harris
Thelma* & Chuck* Gilmur
Marjorie Griffin*
Noel & Bill Hagens
Carni Harris
Frances Heidner*
David R. Hirst
Krystal Kyer
John & Pat Lantz
Peggy Kopf* & Pat Mail
Diane J. Malone
Jean McCord
Guy* & Cicile* Montgomery
Gary & Sharon Nestegard
Melissa Newell
Dona Cooper Pepos*
Barbara Peterson
Marcus Roening & Heather Ballash
Sarah C. Skout*
Beatrice E. Thompson*
*Deceased

The Pierce County Chapter of The National Audubon Society

Located in University Place’s Adriana Hess Wetland Park
2917 Morrison Rd W University Place, WA 98466
253-565-9278 • www.TahomaAudubon.org

Tammy Wang
Printed on recycled paper
Local groups defeat Big Oil in Grays Harbor

By Bruce Hoeft

After the oil barge Nestucca spilled a quarter of a million gallons of oil off the mouth of Grays Harbor in 1988, followed by the massive Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska, the Washington State legislature passed a law entitled the Ocean Resources Management Act (ORMA). The statute allows people whose jobs depend on clean coastal waters to sue for protections from projects that threaten their livelihoods.

Since then, no ORMA suit has ever been filed. Until now.

Over the past five years, a coalition of grassroots groups, including Grays Harbor Audubon, Citizens for a Clean Harbor, and the amazing Quinault Nation, have been fighting to protect oil export terminals in Hoquiam. If approved, there would have been daily oil trains down a rocky rail line following the Chehalis River, and a couple of tankers or barges hauling crude across the estuary every day.

But the Tribe and the citizen’s groups fought the permitting, appealed an initial Department of Ecology ruling that no environmental review was necessary, won, then participated in the dozens of hearings and appeals to determine the likely environmental impact of the ports. They petitioned the Hoquiam City Council, the Mayor, other Grays Harbor communities, wrote letters and articles for the local paper. The usual. And the not-so-usual. They filed an appeal under the ORMA law, which in 25 years, had never been done before. They lost. They appealed. And lost again. Finally they appealed to the State Supreme Court. By this time two of the three oil port proposals had been dropped, but the last project remaining had just entered its final permit request in December.

And on January 17th, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs. The Court decided unani-

mously that the entire review process, which had concluded that many adverse environmental impacts were unavoidable, had to adopt a more stringent stan-

dard of protection. So the permitting is back to square one, and it’s likely that the City of Hoquiam will decline to approve the required shoreline permit. And also likely that the remaining crude export terminal will join the other two projects that give up. These wet country people are just too feisty.

The next time you visit the fabulous Shorebird Festival, congratulate the organizers from Grays Harbor Audubon for their determination. Ducky!

Marbled Murrelets need your help! Comment on long-term conservation strategy by March 9

By Art Wang

Marbled Murrelets are amazing little seabirds. They were the last bird species in North America to have their nests identified - not until 1974. Although they are seabirds, they nest in old growth forest, flying up to 5 miles inland from the ocean where they feed. They are also birds whose population has declined in Washington State by 44% over the last 15 years, leaving only about 7,500 birds remaining. It is no wonder that their status was just downgraded from “threatened” to “endangered” as the population continues to decline each year.

The biggest threat to marbled murrelet populations appears to be loss of breeding habitat, exacerbated because nests outside of old growth are subject to predation by corvids. Some of the Marbled Murrelet breeding habitat is on state land administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Although DNR has a constitutional fiduciary duty to trust beneficiaries, such as schools and local governments, it also has a duty under the Endangered Species Act to minimize and mitigate the impact of “taking” Marbled Murrelets, to not reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the species in the wild, and to make a significant contribution to maintaining Marbled Murrelet populations over the course of the Habitat Conservation Plan. DNR has delayed for many years in developing a Habitat Conservation Plan to allow the incidental “taking” of Marbled Murrelets through logging on state lands. In the last two years, it has undertaken extensive studies that have resulted in six options under a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Unfortunately, the Marbled Murrelet population in our state is projected to continue to decline under all of the options. The available state lands are only a part of the breeding habitat of Marbled Murrelets, they are still an important part.

Also read Kirk’s article on Proposition 1 on page 5.

Protection for Agriculture back before the county council

By Kirk Kirkland

The controversial decision to protect Agriculture lands from suburban sprawl is back before the county council. The goal is to correct the error made in 2007 when the county council reduced the minimum size of protected farms from 31,000 to less than 23,000 acres. Since 2007, restaurants, grocer’s and farmer’s markets have increased the demand for locally grown food. The Agriculture sector of the county’s economy has become over a $93 million business employing over 22,000 people.

County Council wrestled with the error last year looking for a solution that works for farmers, for urban people who want local food and for environmental groups who are concerned with food safety and want to see food grown within 250 miles of Tacoma. After many years of droughts in California, people are concerned with becoming dependent on food grown in California’s irrigated fields.

The county hired a consultant to take a “Fresh look at Agriculture”. Their proposal dropped the hay requirement needed for a farms to qualify for designation. They also examined the range of soil types needed to grow row crops worth $23 million annually. And they examined the soil type needed for pastures for livestock stock production worth $74 million annually. Their proposal eliminated pastures with mostly rocks and little top soil.

This “Fresh Look” solved critical questions, but set minimum farm size in the south part of the county requiring a minimum of 40 acres to qualify. It protected less then half of the ranches in South County area. The average farm size in the county is 33 acres. In South County District, 16,296 acres of farmed pastures were protected.

Down in the Puyallup Valley, the Fresh-Look proposal, omitted 1,000 acres of prime crop land in the Alterior area. The proposal set the minimum farm size at 10 acres instead of using the “predominant parcel size” of some farms of 3 acres parcles. The proposal failed to include small parcels that were being actively farmed which were in continuous ownership by the same farm family.

At the Planning Commission meeting, several farmers showed their frustration with the proposal. One 284 acre farm, worth $4.2 million had only three of its 8 parcels qualify with 40 acres for ARL designation. The remaining parcels were omitted. A developer looked at developing the property and found it had enough space for 59 homes – if it wasn’t zoned ARL.

The Planning Commission met on January 10 to receive some of these issues. The County Council will review their recommendations and hold another round of public hearings in the spring.

The county council has a track record of resolving complicated legislation like this one. In the past four years they’ve tackled shorelines, Impact fees for Parks and revised the County’s Comp Plan. In Pierce County politics is personal. It works because citizens show up and these council members listen.

To learn more about this issue and a role you can play in making local democracy work, attend the Conservation Committee’s meetings. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at UPS in Thompson Hall in Room 209.

Pacific Seabird Group Conference coming to Tacoma

By Art Wang

Tacoma will host an international conference on seabirds on Feb. 22-25. The 44th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) will be at the Tacoma Convention Center in downtown Tacoma. Theme of this year’s conference is Sound to Sea: Marine Birds Across the Landscape. Tahoma Audubon is a cosponsor of this year’s conference.

The Pacific Seabird Group is a society of professional seabird researchers and managers dedicated to the study and conservation of seabirds. Members come from 16 countries across the Pacific. The annual conference features symposia and technical papers on current research affecting seabirds, as well as exhibits and social events.

It is rare that Tacoma gets to host a major international scientific conference on birds! More information about the conference, including registration and fees, is available at: http://www.pacificseabirdgroup.org/annual-meeting/
Winter Birds of Washington State (3 sessions)
A perfect class for beginner- or intermediate-level birders. Learn to identify over 200 summer bird species found in Washington. Class includes: identification of species, habitat and season, locations, and tools needed. Also presented are birding techniques and ethics.

Bird Watching in WA (6 sessions, 1 field trip)
A perfect class for beginner- or intermediate-level birders. Learn to identify nearly 300 bird species found in Washington. Class includes: identification of species, habitat and season, locations, and tools needed. Also presented are birding techniques, safety and ethics. A field trip will enhance your learning experience.

Beginning Bird Photography (2 sessions, 1 field trip)
During this workshop for beginning bird photography, Heather Voboril, instructor and photographer, will overview the basics of light, exposure, autofocus, points, camera settings, and techniques in a classroom setting. A field trip to photograph birds in multiple habitats will allow students to practice the tips and techniques discussed in the classroom. At the final classroom session, field trip photos will be worked through. Required materials: a camera instruction manual and a camera.

Spring Common Western WA Birds (3 sessions)
Join us for a look at 25 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the spring. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Spring Birds of Washington State (3 sessions)
A perfect class for beginner- or intermediate-level birders. Learn to identify over 205 spring bird species found in Washington. Class includes: identification of species, habitat and season, locations, and tools needed. Also presented are birding techniques and ethics. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society. Required materials: National Geographic Society Field Guide to North American Birds, 6th Edition.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Spring Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the spring. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Spring Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the spring. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Spring Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the spring. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Spring Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the spring. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Spring Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the spring. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Spring Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the spring. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Spring Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the spring. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.

Summer Common Western WA Birds (1 session)
Join us for a look at 35 of the most common bird species that are found in Western Washington State in the summer. This class is a great starting place for backyard bird watchers. The instructor, David Kaynor, is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society.
**Summary of Transit Proposition 1**

**By Kirk Kirkland**

Seattle has always been the major job engine which powered the state economy and invited lots of new businesses. Since the August 2017 vote, 99.5%, 33% of Pierce County workers left Pierce County for jobs in Seattle and Olympia every morning. Now 38% of the county’s employed simultaneously commute to and from work daily in single-occupancy vehicles. 32% of employees have to take public transit or walk, bike, or scooter to make their commute.的意思是：

Seattle has always been the major job engine which powered the state economy and invited lots of new businesses. Since the August 2017 vote, 99.5%, 33% of Pierce County workers left Pierce County for jobs in Seattle and Olympia every morning. Now 38% of the county’s employed simultaneously commute to and from work daily in single-occupancy vehicles. 32% of employees have to take public transit or walk, bike, or scooter to make their commute.
Western Scrub-jay and Eurasian Collared Dove — with both species seen in more than one area. Both are expanding their ranges into our area, the Scrub-jay from California and Oregon and the Dove from Florida. A formerly “new” species, Anna’s Hummingbird, is now so established that we saw them everywhere. They are the eye candies one never gets tired of. Many people don’t realize that it’s just been a few short years since they arrived in Washington. Tacoma had the first nesting site, documented in 1972, so Pierce County can claim these little ornamentalists (by behavior) as our own. It’s thought that their northward movement has been facilitated by feeders. There’s no shortage of people out there with advice on keeping their hummingbird feeders unfrozen in the winter, and both the feeder owners and the hummingbirds get a mutually rewarding daily visit. One memorable sighting was Saw-whet inside the harbor for the first time! We’ve seen them at the mouth of the harbor pretty regularly in recent years, flocking in the waves with each other to celebrate eating everything in the trees. While counting them, a cow Harbor Seabird event about 10 a.m. We saw a lot of Herons, Cormorants and other marine mammals, we did see plenty of our favorite Harbor Seals, and we heard at the count dinner about Humbbacks having been seen! Also, Aleut (Mines, Glacier Bay, etc.) were very hard to get, maybe because the Sea Lions had eaten all their fish.

Our Tahoma team in Gig Harbor was thrilled by a Great Blue Heron event about 10 a.m. We saw about a dozen flies into the dense counters at the south cusp of the mouth of the harbor and spotted more perched high in the trees. While counting them, a Bald Eagle flew at them, and our popped FIFTY heron! What a sight! And lest there still be a handful of seekers in the trees? The sky was full of herons in the sky. 

Birding was a perfect day, too, despite the group of 5 or 6 found an ancient apple tree near the old Gig Harbor grange and was seen to be eating lots of fan flowering on the fruit, actually something I’ve never seen before. Many birders have been lamenting a lack of Varied Thrushes this winter, but

**CBC** — from page 1

Western Scrub-jay and Eurasian Collared Dove — with both species seen in more than one area. Both are expanding their ranges into our area, the Scrub-jay from California and Oregon and the Dove from Florida. A formerly “new” species, Anna’s Hummingbird, is now so established that we saw them everywhere. They are the eye candies one never gets tired of. Many people don’t realize that it’s just been a few short years since they arrived in Washington. Tacoma had the first nesting site, documented in 1972, so Pierce County can claim these little ornamentalists (by behavior) as our own. It’s thought that their northward movement has been facilitated by feeders. There’s no shortage of people out there with advice on keeping their hummingbird feeders unfrozen in the winter, and both the feeder owners and the hummingbirds get a mutually rewarding daily visit. One memorable sighting was Saw-whet inside the harbor for the first time! We’ve seen them at the mouth of the harbor pretty regularly in recent years, flocking in the waves with each other to celebrate eating everything in the trees. While counting them, a cow Harbor Seabird event about 10 a.m. We saw a lot of Herons, Cormorants and other

**CBC** — from page 1

Western Scrub-jay and Eurasian Collared Dove — with both species seen in more than one area. Both are expanding their ranges into our area, the Scrub-jay from California and Oregon and the Dove from Florida. A formerly “new” species, Anna’s Hummingbird, is now so established that we saw them everywhere. They are the eye candies one never gets tired of. Many people don’t realize that it’s just been a few short years since they arrived in Washington. Tacoma had the first nesting site, documented in 1972, so Pierce County can claim these little ornamentalists (by behavior) as our own. It’s thought that their northward movement has been facilitated by feeders. There’s no shortage of people out there with advice on keeping their hummingbird feeders unfrozen in the winter, and both the feeder owners and the hummingbirds get a mutually rewarding daily visit. One memorable sighting was Saw-whet inside the harbor for the first time! We’ve seen them at the mouth of the harbor pretty regularly in recent years, flocking in the waves with each other to celebrate eating everything in the trees. While counting them, a cow Harbor Seabird event about 10 a.m. We saw a lot of Herons, Cormorants and other

**CBC** — from page 1

Western Scrub-jay and Eurasian Collared Dove — with both species seen in more than one area. Both are expanding their ranges into our area, the Scrub-jay from California and Oregon and the Dove from Florida. A formerly “new” species, Anna’s Hummingbird, is now so established that we saw them everywhere. They are the eye candies one never gets tired of. Many people don’t realize that it’s just been a few short years since they arrived in Washington. Tacoma had the first nesting site, documented in 1972, so Pierce County can claim these little ornamentalists (by behavior) as our own. It’s thought that their northward movement has been facilitated by feeders. There’s no shortage of people out there with advice on keeping their hummingbird feeders unfrozen in the winter, and both the feeder owners and the hummingbirds get a mutually rewarding daily visit. One memorable sighting was Saw-whet inside the harbor for the first time! We’ve seen them at the mouth of the harbor pretty regularly in recent years, flocking in the waves with each other to celebrate eating everything in the trees. While counting them, a cow Harbor Seabird event about 10 a.m. We saw a lot of Herons, Cormorants and other marine mammals, we did see plenty of our favorite Harbor Seals, and we heard at the count dinner about Humbbacks having been seen! Also, Aleut (Mines, Glacier Bay, etc.) were very hard to get, maybe because the Sea Lions had eaten all their fish.

Our Tahoma team in Gig Harbor was thrilled by a Great Blue Heron event about 10 a.m. We saw about a dozen flies into the dense counters at the south cusp of the mouth of the harbor and spotted more perched high in the trees. While counting them, a Bald Eagle flew at them, and our popped FIFTY heron! What a sight! And lest there still be a handful of seekers in the trees? The sky was full of herons in the sky. 

Birding was a perfect day, too, despite the group of 5 or 6 found an ancient apple tree near the old Gig Harbor grange and was seen to be eating lots of fan flowering on the fruit, actually something I’ve never seen before. Many birders have been lamenting a lack of Varied Thrushes this winter, but
New Board Members for Tahoma Audubon
By Art Wang

At the Annual Membership meeting on Feb. 16, 2017, at the Museum of Glass, Tahoma Audubon members will elect new Board members to serve three-year terms. The current Board is thrilled to recommend an outstanding class of new members: Gary Geddes, Nathanael Swecker, and Maria Jost. As part of the slate, the Board also recommends reelection to new terms for Ione Clagett and Art Wang. Brief bio for the candidates follows.

The Annual Meeting will also mark the completion of service on the Board for Lloyd Fetterly and Geoff Lawrence. Lloyd served two terms, including two years as President of the organization in 2012-14. He will continue on the Board of Audubon Washington, our state affiliate. Geoff served one term, including two years as Treasurer, 2014-16. He also continues to serve our community as Board President of the Mountaineers. Tahoma Audubon appreciates the dedication and service that both Lloyd and Geoff have given our organization and our members.

Gary Geddes
After working at a wildlife park in central Oregon for 8 years, Gary Geddes and his young family moved to this area in 1981 as he became Director of Northwest Trek Wildlife Park for Metro Parks Tacoma. He considers himself fortunate to meet Bob Ramsey at The Nature Center and Thelma Gilmur close to his arrival and began a long relationship with Tahoma Audubon shortly thereafter, 35 years ago. Gary served on the TAS Board over 20 years ago and, in 1996, as part of the Seattle University Masters in Non-Profit Leadership program’s culminating project, researched TAS’s operating structure and provided recommendations for long-term sustainability. In 1995 he assisted Thelma and several other veteran members in work with Lloyd and Maxine Morse on their donation of property in Graham to establish the Morse Wildlife Preserve. He has continued to serve on the Preserve’s Morse Force management committee since that time. In 1999 he served as Interim Executive Director for Metro Parks Tacoma before being named the Department Director for the Zoo, NW Trek and the Tacoma Nature Center for which he served until his retirement January 9th, 2017. Gary looks forward to continuing to serve on the Morse Force as well as exploring with the Board and staff ways to insure long-term sustainability of Audubon programs in our region.

Nathanael Swecker
Nathanael Swecker began birding in January 2013 when he downloaded the Audubon Bird Guide App on his iPhone. From there he found his passion in life: Birds. He quickly found a local group of birders at Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge to mentor him in the skills and lore of birding, where he regularly attended the weekly Wednesday walks for the next four years. Nathanael began volunteering by leading interpretive walks at Nisqually and assisting in monitoring bird surveys associated with the salt-marsh restoration. From there Nathanael began exploring Washington State seeing over 300 bird species in 2014. By 2015 Nathanael decided to explore Joint Base Lewis-McChord and dedicated his entire year to finding and recording bird life across the training areas of the military base. He was awarded a scholarship by Tahoma Audubon in the summer of 2015 to train as a bird bander for Morse Preserve and volunteered as a bander at Glacial Heritage that same summer.

Maria Jost
Maria Jost is a science educator and science illustrator in Tacoma. She first moved here in 2001 to attend the University of Puget Sound, where she completed a BS in Biology with a studio art minor. The subjects of art and science have always been dual interests: she is drawn to study nature by the intricacy and elegance of the patterns found in ecosystems and organisms, and her artwork is inspired in turn by an understanding of the biological processes of the natural world. Following college, Maria moved to Costa Rica to work for a Tropical Ecology and Conservation study abroad program. Already enamored with the beauty of the diverse flora found across the globe, it was in the highland cloud forests of Monteverde that first inspired her to try, and subsequently fall in love with, bird watching.

After returning to the Pacific Northwest, she expanded to learn and teach about local organisms and expanded her forms and stories in her artwork. She earned a MA in Science Education from the University of Washington, Tacoma and began to teach secondary science. Currently, she is a part-time instructor at the Science and Math Institute, located in Point Defiance Park, where she teaches classes such as Neuroscience and Environmental Field Biology. She is constantly inspired by the creativity, energy, and passion of young people. Maria also works as an illustrator, exploring the complexity of the surrounding natural world using watercolor, ink and colored pencil. Nathanael continues to explore the world of birding as a mentor to other birders by co-leading the monthly walks at Fort Steilacoom Park, leading the Christmas Bird Count for Area 5, banding at Morse Preserve, and developing a class curriculum for birding by ear. He hopes to contribute to his community by being a champion of local wildlife conservation and foster an appreciation of our last remaining natural lands here in Pierce County.

Ione Clagett
Ione Clagett has been active in the environmental community in Pierce County for more than 25 years and will be returning for another term on the TAS Board in 2017. She is active on the Morse Force, the management team for Morse Wildlife Preserve in Graham, and is a member of the newly revitalized Education Committee at Tahoma Audubon.

Art Wang
Art Wang has served on the Tahoma Audubon Board since 2011, including two years as President in 2014-16. He currently serves on the National Audubon Board as well, elected to represent chapters in the Pacific Flyway – North (Alaska, Washington, and Oregon). Art is a former legislator and judge and has been birding since he was 12.

Our friends need help
By Helen Engle
Audubon’s Best Friends need help! Across the country – in almost every state – the agency responsible for the care and health of creatures AND their habitat is the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. In my lifetime I have watched Washington’s agency change from concentrating on hunting and fishing to taking on the conservation and recovery of endangered species, preserving habitat and beginning to study and protect Washington’s biodiversity.

Much of the Department of Fish & Wildlife’s funding comes from sports-oriented sources. In 1937 Congress passed the Pritman-Robertson Act that established a conservation fund financed by hunters and recreational shooters. Money coming from sales of guns and ammo was earmarked to conserve game species, and later expanded to include sport fish.

It’s a unique collaboration between private industry, hunters & anglers, and the state fish and wildlife agencies. This partnership forms the backbone of a wildlife-related recreation market force.

Wildlife managers across the country are now looking at the 685 animal species listed as “threatened” or “endangered” under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the 1,001 species receiving “recovery plans,” monitoring, and appropriate habitat. And hundreds of other species are under consideration for listing, as climate change has generally increased the risk of extinction.

Building on the foundations of the past, and moving into the future, to manage all wildlife species in the state, with input and voices from all of the people of the state, will be challenging.

Very soon we’ll be seeing what this session of the legislature proposes to do to support Audubon’s Best Friends.
### Join us! for our 48th Annual Meeting & Celebration!

Join Tahoma Audubon to celebrate its 48th year at our special annual Member Meeting and Celebration!

This year, we return to the Museum of Glass after last year’s rave reviews. Admission to the Museum is free from 5 – 8 pm that evening, so you can enjoy the exhibits and the live glassblowing in the Hot Shop, as well as the chance to socialize with your fellow Audubon members and supporters.

This year’s awards will go to: John Garner, Legacy Award; The Willettes and Noel & Bill Hagens, Distinguished Service Award – Membership; Museum of Glass and Jeff Mayor, Distinguished Service Award – Community. Please RSVP if you plan to attend the social hour and program or if you just plan to attend the program.

Tickets for the social hour are $15 per person and can be purchased online at http://bit.ly/48thAnnualMtg or by mailing a check to Tahoma Audubon Society, 2917 Morrison Rd W, University Place, WA 98466. If you mail a check, please include a note with the number and names of registrants and whether or not any portion of the check should go to the scholarship and intern fund.

**Support Our Scholarship + Intern Fund**

In conjunction with this year’s Annual Meeting, we are raising money for our scholarship and intern fund. Each year, Tahoma Audubon provides a $2,000 summer teen intern stipend, and we’re also looking to raise $3,000 this year for scholarships for youth and adults. Scholarships are used to make nature classes, summer camps, bird banding courses and more available to people who could not otherwise participate.

Your support of intern stipends and scholarships is yet another way for you to connect people with nature in transformative ways. Thank you!

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation with your registration to support our scholarship and intern fund. There will also be an opportunity to give at the event. Thank you to our event partners for their in-kind support of the Annual Meeting: Museum of Glass, X Group Catering. Corporate sponsorship opportunities are still available for the 2017 Annual Meeting. Please contact Andrea Michelbach if you are interested: 253-565-9129 or andream@tahomaaudubon.org.

---

## Nature Education & Adventu...
Morse barn update

By Ione Clagett

The long-awaited repair and restoration of the old barn at Morse Wildlife Preserve (MWP) began last November with the rebuilding of the west lean-to. For safety reasons, the west lean-to is considered part of the older structure. The Morse Wildlife Preserve begins its popular “Second Sunday” open trails program for 2017 this coming April when the general public will have the opportunity to check out the barn after a six year hiatus.

Future Book Club selections include:

April 4th We’re celebrating National Poetry Month. Read a book of Poetry by Mary Oliver and bring your favorite poem to share. Facilitator Marsha Williams.
June 6th Lab Girl” by Hope Jahren. Facilitator Dorothy McBride.
Sept. 5th “The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World” by Andrea Wulf. Facilitator Helen Enge.

A fresh look at the Hess Center!

By Margie Shea

Visitors to the Adriana Hess Audubon Center have noticed the fresh look of the entry, offices, and meeting spaces. New carpeting and the flooring was installed at the end of last year, giving the place a well-deserved and much-needed makeover. Research into materials and products that met environmentally friendly standards and were also affordable led to a meeting with Gayle Selden, of Ed Seldon Carpet One Floor & Home in Lakewood. Gayle suggested using Marmoleum flooring for the kitchen and entry areas, as it is made of natural and sustainable materials – linseed oil, cork, and wood pulp, with jute backing. The production recipe is the same as 100 years ago, with the exception of asbestos which is no longer used. It’s biodegradable and has no VOCs (volatile organic compounds). It’s a highly durable material, which is important when the flooring may need to be in place for decades of use.

When Emily Kalnicky, TAS executive director, told Gayle of her experience with “green” certification of products used on the east coast of her previous job, Gayle did further research. She found differences in certifications used on the east coast and the west coast. She also shared that the “green” designation often comes from the manufacturers themselves, so finding an outside source to corroborate is important for credibility. Gayle uses LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the products sold at her business, which is a worldwide recognized hallmark in sustainable, non-toxic, and environmentally responsible practices.

It’s a party! You’re invited!

By Sally Larson

Join the Thelma Gilmur Education Committee in our first annual Thelma Gilmur Birthday Celebration to honor her many contributions to Pierce County environmental education. We will meet Saturday, February 25, at 10:00 a.m. at Thelma Gilmur Park at 1404 Evergreen Drive in Fircrest. The Education Committee will lead the short half mile walk. We will enjoy the beautiful urban forest, check out on the pond overlook, learn about the origins of the park, and pay tribute to Thelma’s life of work. Seeding birds and the ever-elusive Pacific Stare, Marsha Williams, Dona Townsend, Fred Colvin, and a whole buncha cows.

Exploring Nature Book Club update

During our December 6th meeting we discussed the book “What the Robin Knows” by Jon Young. Roxy Giddings was our facilitator and explained her reasons for choosing this reading. Members were able to describe parts of the book that were helpful in understanding and tuning into bird vocalizations and behavior that can increase our pleasure while observing birds.

At our January 3rd meeting we discussed “Why We Bird” by David Rice. Art Wang was our facilitator and did a very nice job identifying the core reasons for ‘why we bird’ in Rice’s book. Our Members were encouraged to share their reasons for birding.

Book Club meetings occur on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm at Adrianna Hess Audubon Center in University Place. For more information, contact Martha Scoville at mscoville@harbormet.com or call 253-732-5014. You can also visit our website tahomaaudubon.org/bookclub.

City of Tacoma and Thelma Gilmur Birthday Celebration to honor her life of work.

Grass fed beef

We visit a cattle ranch that uses sustainable grazing practices

By Dennis Townsend

Eight Audubon members visited Fred Colvin’s cattle ranch in Tenino for a tour on October 25. The members had read “Cowed” by Dennis Hayes and Gail Boyer Hayes as part of a recent book club selection, which documented the environmental impacts and other consequences of industrial beef production, and they wanted to see how the Colvin ranch - with only grass-fed beef - operated.

Fred Colvin graciously hosted the tour, offering a hayride around the 500-acre farm that was homesteaded by his family back in the 1850s. He spoke of the aspects of his operation, including herd management and feeding, conservation easements and agricultural open space designations that help save family farms. The cows aren’t penned, live on the farm (not shipped out to feedlots) all their lives, and live longer and healthier as a result of their grass-only diet.

The weather was a bit windy, and the group found themselves surrounded by Colvin’s 85 cows, who were intent on eating the hay bale seats on the trailer, a great, educational time was had by all who attended. Colvin markets his grass-fed beef directly at the Proctor Farmers’ Market in Tacoma and online at www.colvinfarm.com.

Night Owl Book Club

The Night Owl Book Club will be meeting on February 21st at King’s Book Store at 7pm, 218 S Helen’s Ave, in Tacoma. The club will be discussing The Hidden Lives of Owls by Leigh Calvez on Feb. 21, and Rare Bird by Maria Mudd Ruth on March 21.

ECO Habits: Stick with bars of soap when you wash. They have a considerably lower impact on the environment and you’ll use less.
WELCOME to New and Returning Members

Nov 16, 2016 to Jan 15, 2017

New Members
Linda Bednarczyk, Beth Bricker & Kate Arango, Susan Bailey, Walt Bunchall, Deanna Bures, Beverly A Choloco-Devlin, Patrick Coddington, Yolanda Darudale, Jane Hallstrom, Danielle Harrington & Stephanie Leisle, Michael Hassur, Maryjo Jorewicz, Susan Marthugh, Kelly Moje, John & Judy Olano, Judith Roberts, Everett Royse, Nancy & Fred Schuneman, Stephen D Snyder, Julienne & David Thompson, Mick Thompson*

Returning Members

See Wildlife Clearly
Swarovski binoculars and spotting scopes available.

Support TAS with this promotion!
When you renew your Tahoma Audubon Chapter membership and donate an additional $50, you will receive a $25 gift certificate to Wild Birds Unlimited in Gig Harbor! This is a great way for you to provide additional support to Tahoma Audubon for birds and their habitats throughout Pierce County, and a great way to say thank you to our members with a gift in return for their generous donation. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Jim Ulrich of Wild Birds Unlimited for his continued support of our organization. *Please note that if you accept the $25 gift certificate offer, the tax-deductible portion of your donation is reduced by $25 (e.g., if you donate $50 and opt to receive the certificate, $25 of your donation is tax deductible).

Help Tahoma Audubon get 5% of sales from Wild Birds Unlimited in Gig Harbor
If you are a Tahoma Audubon Society Member you will receive a free set of "Bio-Straps" with your optics purchase. And, for every purchase made by a Tahoma Audubon Member, our chapter will receive 5% of the sale.
So, please visit the experts at Wild Birds Unlimited in Gig Harbor for all your birding and optic needs and help YOUR Tahoma Audubon! If you are not a member of our chapter, please join or renew today!

Wild Birds Unlimited
3120 ½ Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor, WA 253-851-2575 or 800-851-2575
Like us on Facebook or go to gigharbor.wbu.com

TaHoma Audubon Society
Membership
Tahoma Audubon is the Pierce County Chapter of National Audubon. As an Introductory Member of TAS, you will receive a joint membership with National and Tahoma Audubon with Audubon Magazine for one year. Renewing your chapter membership ensures that we can collectively continue to do our work in Pierce County. At all levels, Tahoma Audubon members will receive a discount for classes and workshops where fees are paid; a 10% discount in our Nature Shop, support of Important Bird Areas (IBA) and state and national conservation agendas; a newsletter (The Towhee) mailed to your home, unless they opt for an electronic notification; free participation in field trips; free family events; recognition in our newsletter; and invitations to special events and volunteer opportunities. Oak, Cedar, and Fir membership levels will receive additional invitations to exclusive events. All membership fees are 100% tax deductible. For questions about membership, call 253-565-9129 or email andrean@tahomaaudubon.org.

New Members

- Introductory Membership $20
  All new members will receive a joint membership with National and Tahoma Audubon for 1 year, including the Audubon Magazine and The Towhee mailed to your home.

New Chapter Membership Levels:

- **Household Levels**
  - *Oak* $60.00 or $30.00 online
  - *Cedar* $300.00 or $25.00 online
  - *Fir* $144.00 or $12.00 online

- **Individual Levels**
  - *Individual* $30
  - *Student/Jr. Audubon* $15
  - *Under 18 and/or college students* $15

**Tip:** If you have more than one senior in your household and would like to both be members and receive full benefits, consider joining at one of the household levels, which would cost less than 2 senior memberships.

- Member(s) Name:
- Address:
- City:
- State:
- Zip:
- Phone:
- Message:
- E-mail:

You may also join or renew online at: www.tahomaaudubon.org/membership

We also encourage you to support National Audubon Society by renewing directly with them. Checks payable to Tahoma Audubon, 2917 Morrison Rd. W, University Place, 98466

Tahoma Audubon Society, established in 1969, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

*Canopy-level member
**Monthly canopy-level member

SPECIAL THANKS to our canopy-level members for their sustaining support!

©2002 Adobe Systems Inc. All Rights Reserved.
FLYING AHEAD OF THE GAME

We still live with a bounty of birds to go with our chattering teeth. Nothing like a shot of Warbler, was seen in many places and brought smiles through the group with our binoculars.

The mystery of the missing Varied Thrushes is solved! Bald Eagles did not disappoint their many fans.

**February Program**

**Program:** WA Native Trumpeter and Tundra Swans
**Date:** 3/23/2017, 6:30-8pm
**See details on page 4.

**March Program**

**Program:** Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR Bird Walk
**Date:** 3/29/2017, 8 - 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**APRIL 2017**

**CLASS: Spring Common Western WA Birds (6 sessions, 1 field trip)**
Tacoma Nature Center, 4/13/2017, 6:30 – 7:30pm
**See details on page 4.

**Exploring Nature Book Club**
Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, 4/4/2017, 8 am – 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Beginning Bird Walk at Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR Bird Walk**
4/5/2017, 8 - 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Fort Stelleiacoom Bird Walk**
4/7/2017, 8 am – 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Fort Steilacoom Bird Walk**
4/4/2017, 8 am – 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Exploring Nature Book Club**
Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, 3/31/2017, 8:30 - 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Thelma Gilmur Education Committee meeting**
Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, 3/23/2017, 8 am – 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Class:** Winter Birds of WA State (3 sessions)
Tacoma Nature Center 2/20 – 3/6/2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
**See details on page 4.

**Membership Committee Meeting**
Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, 2/23/2017, 8 am – 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Conservation Committee Meeting**
University of Puget Sound, Thompson Hall, Room 221, 2/21/2017, 6:30 - 8 pm
**See details on page 5.

**Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR Bird Walk**
2/22/2017, 8 - 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Thelma Gilmur Birdathon Celebration & Walk**
Thelma Gilmur Park, Filerest, WA, 2/25/2017, 10am-12pm
**Details on page 10.

**April 2017**

**CLASS: Winter Birds of WA State (3 ses-
sions) Tacoma Nature Center 2/20 – 3/6/2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm** 
**See details on page 4.

**Membership Committee Meeting**
Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, 2/22/2017, 1 – 2:30 pm
**Contact Andrea for details: 253-565-9278 andream@tahomaaudubon.org

**Conservation Committee Meeting**
University of Puget Sound, Thompson Hall, Room 298 2/22/2017, 6:30 - 8 pm
**Contact Andrea for details: 253-565-9278 andream@tahomaaudubon.org

**Night Owl Book Club**
King’s Books, Tacoma, WA 2/21/2017, 9 – 8:30pm
**See details on page 10.

**Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR Bird Walk**
2/22/2017, 8 - 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**CLASS: Bird Watching in WA State (6 ses-
sions, 1 field trip) Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, WA 2/22 – 3/29/2017, 2 – 4 pm** 
**See details on page 4.

**Thelma Gilmur Birdathon Celebration & Walk**
Thelma Gilmur Park, Filerest, WA, 2/25/2017, 10am-12pm
**Details on page 10.

**Family & Friends Beginning Bird Walk – Ducks**
DeCourcy Park, Puyallup, WA
2/25/2017, 10-11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Exploring Nature Book Club**
Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, 3/21/2017, 1 – 2:30 pm
**Contact Andrea for details: 253-565-9278 andream@tahomaaudubon.org

**Thelma Gilmur Education Committee meeting**
Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, 3/14/2017, 1:30 – 3 pm
**Contact Andrea for details: 253-565-9278 andream@tahomaaudubon.org

**Class:** Bird Watching in WA State (6 ses-
sions, 1 field trip) Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, WA 2/22 – 3/29/2017, 2 – 4 pm
**See details on page 4.

**Thelma Gilmur Birdathon Celebration & Walk**
Thelma Gilmur Park, Filerest, WA, 2/25/2017, 10am-12pm
**Details on page 10.

**Family & Friends Beginning Bird Walk – Ducks**
DeCourcy Park, Puyallup, WA, 2/25/2017, 10-11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Thelma Gilmur Birdathon Celebration & Walk**
Thelma Gilmur Park, Filerest, WA, 2/25/2017, 10am-12pm
**Details on page 10.

**Family & Friends Beginning Bird Walk – Ducks**
DeCourcy Park, Puyallup, WA, 2/25/2017, 10-11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Exploring Nature Book Club**
Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, 3/21/2017, 1 - 2:30 pm
**Contact Andrea for details: 253-565-9278 andream@tahomaaudubon.org

**Class:** Spring Common Western WA Birds (6 sessions, 1 field trip)
Tacoma Nature Center, 4/2/2017, 6:30 – 7:30pm
**See details on page 4.

**Exploring Nature Book Club**
Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, 4/4/2017, 1:30 – 3 pm
**See details on page 10.

**AMSU Conference at the Museum of Glass**
1801 Dock St, Tacoma, WA, 3/21/2017, 1 – 2:30 pm
**Contact Andrea for details: andream@tahomaaudubon.org

**Night Owl Book Club**
King’s Books, Tacoma, WA 2/21/2017, 9 – 8:30pm
**See details on page 10.

**Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR Bird Walk**
3/15/2017, 8 - 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Early Bird Breakfast Fundraiser**
3/20/2017, 7:30 – 9 am
**Contact Andrea for details: andream@tahomaaudubon.org

**Birding Eagle’s Pride Golf Course**
3/20/2017, 8:30 am – 5 pm
**See details on page 3.

**Daffodils & Daffy Ducks Field Trip**
3/16/2017, 8 – 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Monthly Programs**

**February Program**
**Thursday, Feb. 16, from 5-8pm at**
**the Museum of Glass (1801 Dock St, Tacomca)**
Details page 9.

**March Program**
**Thursday, March 23, from 6:30-8pm at**
**the Tacoma Nature Center (1915 S Tyler)**
Details page 1.

**Beginning in March, our monthly programs will happen on the fourth Thursday of the month (instead of the third)**
and will begin a half hour earlier from 6:30-8 pm, with socializing and refreshments from 6:30-7 pm and the program running from 7-8 pm.

**April 2017**

**CLASS: Spring Common Western WA Birds (6 sessions, 1 field trip)**
Tacoma Nature Center, 4/2/2017, 6:30 – 7:30pm
**See details on page 4.

**Fort Stelleiacoom Bird Walk**
4/4/2017, 8 am – 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Exploring Nature Book Club**
Adriana Hess Audubon Center, University Place, 4/4/2017, 1:30 – 3 pm
**See details on page 10.

**Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually NWR Bird Walk**
4/5/2017, 8 am – 11 am
**See details on page 5.

**Beginning Bird Walk at the Audubon Center**
4/10/2017, 10 - 11:30 am
**Details on page 5.

For additional or updated information, go to www.tahomaaudubon.org and click on “visit our online calendar” or call 253-565-9278.