



Classroom Conservation Awards

By Laurel Cheap, Committee Chair

In 2006, retired teachers and lifetime conservationists Phil and Laura Zalesky made a generous donation to Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) for the purpose of promoting conservation education in elementary classrooms throughout Snohomish County. They collected a group of like-minded supporters and went about the business of establishing the Pilchuck Audubon Society Classroom Conservation Award committee. This committee developed an application and, over time, streamlined procedures to distribute, review, and select applications for the award. Elementary teachers apply for the award which comes with associated grant money to be used to fund a conservation project for their classroom. This program has been a great success! Over the past eight years, the committee has reviewed over 120 applications and given out 75 awards in 15 school districts for total of over \$23,000. Just this past year, the committee gave out 10 awards of \$400 each.

Over the years, PAS has funded a wide variety of projects to support student learning about such subjects as recycling, composting, water cycle, salmon life cycle, butterfly life cycle, food chains, web of life, bird identification, and gardening. One popular request has been to assist with the funding of field trips. We have helped send students to fish hatcheries, Adopt-A-Stream programs, parks, interpretive centers, wetlands, estuaries, and on boat trips. For other projects, we have helped to purchase supplies for school gardens, plants to attract birds, rain barrels, salmon rearing tanks and supplies, worm compost bins, educational reference books, bird identification books/field guides, binoculars, insect kits, science lesson plans and supporting materials, owl pellets, classroom visits by experts (e.g. Sarvey Wildlife Care Center), after-school study clubs, and tools and materials to build interpretive trails at various schools. It has been very encouraging to learn that there are many exciting projects happening in our local schools that teach students about our natural world and how to help take care of it.

We encourage PAS members to pass the word about this award program. Announcements are sent to all

(Continued on page 5)

February Program Meeting Friday, February 14, 7 PM

Attracting Birds to Your Backyard

Learn how to attract and care for birds in your backyard through plant selection, gardening practices, nest boxes and water features. The Seattle Audubon Society Outreach Chair and Master Birder, Neil Zimmerman, will be leading this program. For more information, leave a message at 425.252.0926.

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



Ross's Geese (Photo by Ray White)

Snow Goose and Birding Festival

PAS is once again a co-sponsor of the Stanwood Snow Goose Festival on Feb 22 and 23 and will be hosting a booth. Take advantage of the wonderful lectures, trips and other activities.

PAS members **Jonathan Blubaugh, Virginia Clark** and **Rick Taylor** will be leading field trips throughout the two day festival. To sign up for these and other field trips, visit <http://www.snowgoosefest.org>.

In This Issue

About.....	2	Festivals.....	3
Birding Report	4	GBBC.....	6
CBC.....	7	President's Message.....	7
Conservation	6	Smart Growth.....	5
Feature Article.....	1,5	Trip Calendar.....	3

Mountain Loop Motocross Park Hearing Begins February 3

By *Kathy Johnson, Forest Practices Chair*

We need your help! Please write a comment letter or testify at the hearing, telling the Hearing Examiner in your own words why you oppose the Motocross Park. If you enjoy recreational activities on the Mountain Loop Highway, this will affect you. If you care about wildlife, air and water quality, and human safety, speak from your heart about these issues.

PAS, North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC), and the Mountain Loop Conservancy (MLC) have appealed Snohomish County's Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS) for the proposed motocross racetrack on the Mountain Loop Highway, northeast of Granite Falls. The project would involve the construction of a six-track motocross park on approximately 80 acres of a currently forested 437 acre site. The public hearing for this appeal, as well as for the proposed rezone from 'Forestry' to 'Forestry and Recreation' and Conditional Use Permit, begins in early February. The public is invited to attend and public testimony will be taken. Issues to raise can be found on our website under Advocacy.



When:

February 3, 2014 9 AM *No public testimony this day*
February 4, 2014 1 PM *Public testimony*
February 5, 2014 6 PM *Public testimony*

Where:

**Public Hearing Room #2, 1st floor
 Robert J. Drewel Building,
 Admin-East
 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett**

It is important that as many people as possible attend the hearing. Even if you do not wish to speak, you can help by coming to the hearing to show your opposition to this project! However, if you cannot make it in person, please send written comments to

hearing.examiner@snoco.org or mail to:

Snohomish County Hearing Examiner
 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 405
 Everett, WA 98201

Written comments need to reference the Project Name, Granite Falls Motocross Park and file# 07-101924-LU.

About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon *Profile*, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society, is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to

encourage the involvement of our members in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles to newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org

or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290-1742.

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

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

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

Board of Directors

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

Committee Chairs

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

Staff

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

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

Trip Calendar

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

Tuesday, February 4 **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

Tuesday, February 11 **Samish Flats**

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. Want to see what a premier winter birding area offers? Come along. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, February 18 **Port Townsend**

Meet at 7:20 AM at the Edmonds Wade James Theater parking lot. The theater's address is 950 Main Street, Edmonds, 98020; just east of 9th Avenue on the south side of Main Street. We'll take the ferry to Kingston, go through Port Gamble and across the floating bridge. On the way we'll visit Marrowstone Island and Indian Island with views of Admiralty Inlet, waterfowl, shorebirds and seabirds. Previous year's trips have been memorable and rewarding. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, February 25 **British Columbia**

Meet at 7:00 AM at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. We will be traveling to the Blackie Spit and Eastern Boundary Bay. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds, and scenery, and to do some walking. This is a trip to Canada so bring your US Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

2014 Field Trips to Eastern Washington

Reserve your spot now!

Klickitat County May 17-19



There will be a slight change of date for this field trip. It will be on the same weekend but it will be on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. We will be staying in Glenwood in cabins at the Mount Adams Lodge at the

Flying L Ranch this year. Please check out the website for this lodge if you are interested. Lodging is estimated at about \$50/night plus food and gas. This trip is limited to 12 people in 3 cars. The lodge boasts over 95 species on the grounds alone, so we will see a lot of birds and have a great time together. Please sign up early and reservations will be on a first come basis. If you have been thinking about this trip this will be a good year to join us.

Winthrop area June 12-15

Look for more information on this trip next month. Reservations will be on a first come basis, so be sure to sign up early; some of the 12 spots are already taken. Contact Susie for more information at susie.schaefer@comcast.net or 425.771.8165.

Community Events and Festivals

Skagit Marine Resources Committee Open House

February 5

Mount Vernon

Come learn about the Salish Sea Stewards and Beach Naturalists Volunteer Trainings that start in March. Information on other volunteer will also be available. Open house runs from 4-7 PM. More information can be found at <http://www.skagitmrc.org/news-events/2014/01/volunteer-opportunities/>.

Dig In!

February 6

Seattle

The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) is seeking passionate candidates for their year-round internship program. This info session runs from 6:30-8 PM. Learn about WEC opportunities at <http://wecprotects.org>.

Edison Bird Festival

February 8-9

Edison

The Edison Bird Festival features events that will inspire veteran birders and novice enthusiasts alike! Located in Edison, Washington about 70 miles north of Seattle and 20 miles South of Bellingham in the Heart of the Samish Valley. Events details can be found at <http://edisonbirdfestival.com>.

Winter Wings Festival

February 13-16

Klamath Falls, Oregon

One of the oldest birding festivals in the country, highlighting the beauty of the high desert winter in the Klamath Basin. Hundreds of eagles and other raptors as well as thousands of ducks, geese, and swans on the six National Wildlife Refuges. Birding, photography, and other activities for all ages and skill levels. Visit <http://winterwingsfest.org> for more details.

Swans in the Skagit Valley

February 15

Breazeale Interpretive Center

The swan as a mythical creature goes back to the earliest human cultures. Each year, the Skagit Valley is the winter home of thousands of swans that nest in the arctic. Swan biologist, Martha Jordan, will present swan mythology and life history, as well as current issues and tips for finding and observing swans without disturbing them. Event runs from 1-2:30 PM. Pre-register at <http://www.padillabay.gov/programregistration.asp>.

Backyard Birding Highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

October 26–December 25, 2013

Since we have missed a couple of Birding Reports, I am trying to catch up by including two months in this issue.

Carol and Larry Beason were excited to report 2 Red-Throated Loons at Lake Bosworth. This is the first time they have seen them there. Their reports also included a Belted Kingfisher, 6 Double Crested Cormorants, 15 Evening Grosbeaks, 2 Hutton's Vireo, 5 Lesser Scaup, 2 Red-Breasted Sapsuckers, 7 Mourning Doves and a Townsends Warbler for a total species count of 43 for November. Their total species count of 39 for December included 16 Bufflehead, 26 Canada Goose over the lake, 20+ Dark-Eyed Junco, 3 Fox Sparrows, a Great Blue Heron, 36+ Mallard on the lake, 2 Purple Finch, 22 Spotted Towhees and a Trumpeter Swan.

Reporting from Mukilteo, **Hilkka Egtvedt** reported 4 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 200+ Canada Goose flying over in a V formation, 2 Eurasian Collard Doves, 3 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 14 House Finch, a Varied Thrush and a White-Throated Sparrow for a total species count of 26 for November. She still has her California Quail in the yard; she spotted 8 in December. Her total species count of 25 for December also included 5 American Goldfinch, 21 Dark-Eyed Junco, 3 Fox Sparrow, 2 House Sparrows, 4 Northern Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Townsend's Warbler and 5 Steller's Jays.

Kriss Erickson reported 26 American Crows in her yard in Everett. She also listed 6 American Robins, 4 Northern Flickers, 16 Bushtit, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 5 Western Gulls for a total species count in November of 16. For December she listed 11 Black-Capped Chickadees, 4 Golden-Crown Sparrows, 17 Dark-Eyed Junco, 6 Song Sparrows, 2 Downey Woodpeckers, 7 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 17 European Starlings and a Pacific Wren for a total species count of 17.

Reporting from Snohomish, **Sue Klinker** listed 7 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 15 Dark-Eyed Junco, 3 Hairy Woodpeckers, 7 Northern Flickers (6 Red Shafted and 1 Yellow Shafted), 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 13 Pine

Siskin and 3 Red-Breasted Nuthatch for a total species count of 17 for November. In December she spotted 120 Trumpeter Swans in a field in Monroe and a Spotted Sand Piper at Priest Point. Her total species count of 25 for December included a Barn Owl, 5 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, 4 Anna's Hummingbirds, 5 Varied Thrush, a Belted Kingfisher, a Brown Creeper and 6 American Crows.

Julie O'Donald still hears the Western Screech Owl in the Greenbelt near her home in Brier. She listed it for November and December. Her November species count of 23 included 60 American Crows, a Barred Owl in the Trees, 2 Bewick's Wrens, a Cooper's Hawk on top of the feeder, 4 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch and a Townsends Warbler. Decembers count included 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 10 Dark-Eyed Junco, 3 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, a Hermit Thrush, a Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, 5 Varied Thrush and a Yellow-Rumped Warbler for a total species count of 24.

Mary Sinker's November report from Stanwood included 14 Black-Capped Chickadees, 8 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, a Great-Blue Heron at the creek, 13 Mourning Doves, 5 Northern Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker and a Red-Tailed Hawk for a total species count of 24. Her December species count of 25 included 27 American Robins, 2 Bewick's Wren, 58 Dark-Eyed Junco, 5 Downey Woodpeckers, 10 Pine Siskin, a Sharp-Shined Hawk, 14 Steller's Jays, 2 White-Crowned Sparrows and 2 Pacific Wren.

Reporting from Marysville, I listed 17 Species for November and 23 for December. My report included 40+ American Crows in the fields, 2 Great Horned Owls calling in the woods, 3 Northern Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Steller's Jays, a Cooper's Hawk that just seems to hang around, 30+ European Starlings in the fields, 5 Mallard in the pond, 2 Varied Thrush, a Pacific Wren, a Great-Blue Heron at the pond, a Ruby-Crowned Kinglet and 2 Common Ravens in the trees.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact me at pricemara@clearwire.net or 425.750.8125.



Pileated Woodpecker (Photo by Judy Rowe Taylor)



Great Blue Heron (Photo by Robert Burton)

Classroom...

(Continued from page 1)

elementary school teachers through their school districts in the fall, by early October. Applications are due by November 1 and decisions are made by December 1. Awards are presented by committee members to the teachers either in their classroom, as part of an assembly or at staff meetings, often in coordination with the school principal as a surprise to the teacher and the students. This is the most exciting and rewarding part of the process for many members of the committee. Being in the classrooms and seeing the enthusiasm and appreciation of the teachers and the students really inspires us. The students are always so eager to share what they have learned! The committee also often receives feedback and letters of appreciation from the teachers and the students. We frequently hear that projects would not have happened or not have been as successful without the financial support of the award.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the committee members for making this program such a success. The committee currently includes **Candy Brown, Laurel Cheap, Don Healy, Liz Healy, Carolyn Lacy, Colleen van Niel, Jan van Niel, and Laura Zalesky**. If you would like to learn more about what we do, are interested in joining the committee, or would like to donate to the classroom awards fund, please contact me—Laurel Cheap, committee chairperson, at classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org.

The stated goal of the Classroom Conservation Award is to instill in elementary students a sense of need to conserve and protect our natural resources. The time to start thinking about conservation and science is when children are young. Students also take these newly learned concepts home to share with their families which broadens the impact we are having beyond just the children in the classroom. We believe we are fulfilling our goal and that PAS is having a significant impact on our community, especially on its young people who will become our leaders of tomorrow.



Don and Liz Healy presenting an award to Anna Walter of Martha Lake Elementary



Have the birds eaten you out of house and home this winter? The birds at Echo Lake have given us no respite from filling two tube and two tray feeders daily. Save the date for the spring

seed sale—March 8, from 9 to 11 AM.

For a price list and to order seed and suet, contact **Carolyn Lacy** at carolynlacy137@frontier.com or 206.245.5836. Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 2. Pick up orders between 9–11 AM on Saturday, March 8 at Sno-Isle Natural Foods Co-op, 2804 Grand Avenue, Everett, 98201. Enter building from the back alley and meet us in the first floor lobby. **Jay Ward** and other volunteers will be on hand to collect payment and help load the seed.

If you'd prefer to pick up your seed in Edmonds, let Carolyn know when you place your order. You'll need to arrange a pickup time with **Joan Poor**, 425.771.5581 or paperboats@aol.com.

Want to prepay for your seed with a credit card? Carolyn will tell you how when you place your order. Please remember: the price of seed fluctuates. So, the price the day you pick it up might be slightly different from what you were told when the order was placed. Lastly, a thank you goes out to the management of the Everett Public Market for allowing PAS to use their space for the delivery of bird seed.

Smart Growth Update

In January, the Everett Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding their long-awaited Master Plan Development of the Everett Riverfront. Polygon Northwest, which recently took over the project, asked for significant changes to the plan, reducing the housing density from 1400 housing units to 408. This would reduce the amount of open space and parks.

After much testimony, most in opposition, plus over 120 opposition emails from citizens, the Planning Commission was unable to agree on a recommendation to the City Council. The next Planning Commission meeting is Tuesday, February 11 and will address the amendments that Polygon has now submitted in response to public input. More information on our web site at <http://pilchuckaudubon.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page§ionid=150>.

Get Geared Up for the Great Backyard Bird Count

Bird watchers needed to gather crucial data

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, bird watchers from more than 100 countries are expected to participate in the 17th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 14–17, 2014. Anyone anywhere in the world can count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count and enter their sightings at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>. The information gathered by tens of thousands of volunteers helps track the health of bird populations at a scale that would not otherwise be possible. The GBBC is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society with partner Bird Studies Canada.

Last year's Great Backyard Bird Count shattered records after going global for the first time, thanks to integration with the eBird online checklist program launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab and Audubon. Participants reported their bird sightings from all seven continents, including 111 countries and independent territories. More than 34.5 million birds and 3,610 species were recorded—nearly one-third of the world's total bird species documented in just four days.

The GBBC is a great way for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with nature and make a difference for birds. It's free and easy. To learn more about how to join the count visit the website and view the winning photos from the 2013 GBBC photo contest.

Training to hone your birding skills

Saturday, February 8

The training will take place at the Edmonds Wildlife Habitat Native Plant Demonstration Garden from 10 AM to noon. Dr. Alan Mearns will be leading this workshop about how to participate in the GBBC and you will have some time to work on bird ID in the classroom and garden. If you haven't been to Alan's workshop or if you would like a refresher you will enjoy it and be better prepared to be part of this important bird count.

Field Trip to have fun as a group

Saturday, February 15

Jonathan Blubaugh will lead this trip at the Powder Mill Gulch in Everett. It is the next gulch over from Japanese Gulch, which we have visited a couple of times. We'll do a loop, up one gulch and down the other. Jonathan will be submitting an eBird checklist for this trip. For anyone new to the GBBC, he will share the eBird checklist with participants. If you are not on eBird yet, the group can sit down at Starbucks afterwards and get everyone signed up. Bring your laptop for this optional eBird clinic.

Due to limited parking at the gulches carpooling is critical. Meet at 8 AM at Safeway, 4128 Rucker Avenue in Everett. Park away from store, to the east, next to

Evergreen and the bus stop. Starbucks is co-located with Safeway. Lock away your laptop in the trunk. More information on this field trip, contact Jonathan at 425.244.7633 or aracif@msn.com.



Conservation News

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

Snohomish County state legislative vacancies filled

After Nick Harper (D) resigned from the 38th District Senate seat for personal reasons last fall, the Snohomish County Council appointed Rep. John McCoy, 38th District, Democrat, House Position 1, to fill the vacancy until the end of the current legislative year. June Robinson (D) was appointed to fill McCoy's former House seat.

Senator Paul Shin, 21st District, Democrat, resigned in December 2013 for health reasons. Rep. Marko Liias (D) has been appointed to fill that seat, also to the end of this legislative year. The county council appointed Lillian Ortiz-Self (D) of Mukilteo fill Liias' former House seat. McCoy, Liias, Robinson, and Ortiz-Self have said they will run for reelection in November's general election for their respective seats.

PAS Legislative Directory Revision

As soon as all of the aforementioned legislators are listed in the Washington State Legislative Directory, the phone number, email and office room number for each will be listed in the PAS Legislative Directory, located in the PAS Website's Advocacy section.



Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab of Ornithology

A new iPhone app has been released to help people identify 285 birds in North America. Created with support from the National Science Foundation, the app asks just five questions, then displays photos of birds that match your description, customized to your location and time of year. Download it [here](#) from iTunes.

Christmas Bird Count 2013 Results

by Duane Karna, Edmonds Area Compiler

The Everett (north Snohomish County) and Edmonds (south Snohomish County) counts occurred, respectively, on Dec 14 and Dec 21. Both CBCs experienced record setting participation by field and home (feeder and yard) observers, who counted 37,328 and 47,685 individual birds in 135 and 121 bird species for the respective counts.

Summary of the North Snohomish County Count

Eighty nine participants (71 field and 18 home observers) recorded new or tied previous high counts for 14 species: Ring-necked Ducks (2558), Pelagic Cormorants (79), Black-bellied Plovers (186), Eurasian Collared-dove (18), Anna's Hummingbirds (54), Red-breasted Sapsuckers (15), Downy Woodpecker (tied 36), Northern Flicker (153), Steller's Jay (193), Black-capped Chickadee (668), Bushtit (368), Fox Sparrow (196), Golden-crowned Sparrow (211), and Dark-eyed Junco (1333).

Further, uncommon species observed were Long-tailed Ducks (7 in Possession Sound), Golden Eagle (1 on Smith Island), Semipalmated Plovers (3 on Jetty Island), a Selasphorus hummingbird (likely a female Rufous on Tulare Beach Road), Western Scrub-Jay (3 in Marysville and Everett), and an American Dipper (1 in the Tulalip Reservation). Thanks to the North Sound Kayaking Association, coverage was expanded by three kayak teams, totaling 13 observers, who covered 18 miles of the Snohomish River Delta. They observed 54 bird species. A bicyclist also covered 28 miles of the Centennial Trail.

Summary of the South Snohomish County Count

One hundred-thirty three participants (80 field and 53 home observers) recorded new or tied previous high counts for 30 of the 121 species seen, and a historic low count (9) for the Western Grebe. On further evaluation of the field and home counts, the numbers for 57 species were greater than one standard deviation above the 29-year mean (an up signal). Only one species, the Northern Harrier, was less than one standard deviation from the mean (a down signal). Another way of looking at this data is that 80 species equaled or exceeded the 29-year average count. Conversely, 71 species were found at or below the 29-year average count. These observations were made on about 32,000 birds without the American Crow count.

A second way to evaluate the data is by normalization

using factors that affect the count, like weather and the overall effort by the participants. Normalization should provide a clearer look at trends in the data on a level playing field. In normalizing by total count observation hours, only five species (Harlequin Duck, Anna's Hummingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee and Fox Sparrow) have record high counts and none with low counts. Further, the numbers for only 20 and 6 species were greater or less than one standard deviation from the mean, respectively. The tables for the above analyses will be forthcoming in a more comprehensive report that will be placed on the CBC section of PAS's web site.



Barred Owl (photo by Linda Phillips)

Uncommon birds seen were Ancient Murrelet (1 at Possession Point), American Pipit (1 in Edmonds) and Cedar Waxwing (2 in Area 9S). Likely the rarest bird in the count area was a Northern Mockingbird, never seen before during the CBC.

Full reports of the counts and a map of the south circle can be found on the Christmas Bird Count

President's Message

Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon Society President



It was with much regret that the Pilchuck Audubon Board bid **Margaret Bridge** goodbye last month. Margaret was our Secretary and then our Membership Director over the past eight years and we all depended on her level headed thinking. We wish her well in her new home on Orcas Island. Happily, we were able to find a new Membership Director — **Bonnie Campbell**. Bonnie's interests are as broad as her experiences, including standing atop a peak in the Bolivian Andes, solo hiking around Mount Rainier, cycling down Alaska's Dalton Highway, writing code, and preparing fine art prints. With degrees in Biology, Chemistry, Science Education, Environmental Engineering and masters level studies in Arctic and Civil Engineering, she's worked in a variety of scientific and technical fields (USAF officer, educator, design engineer, technical project manager, systems analyst, and park ranger). Currently she is a project based consultant.

Also a professional photographer, she and her partner Richard have photographed in special places like Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and in their free time, they may be found in a variety of local habitats. Welcome Bonnie; we are thrilled to have you join us.



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

Pilchuck Audubon Society Membership Information

Support your local Audubon chapter by becoming a member. PAS dues are tax deductible (consult your tax professional for details). The PAS tax ID number is 91-6183664.

- New Member.....\$28
- Renewal.....\$28
- Lifetime Member..... \$1,000
 - 10 monthly payments of \$100
 - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
 - 1 payment of \$1,000
- Donation..... \$ _____

Make checks payable to
 Pilchuck Audubon Society
 Mail to PAS
 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
 Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____



Volunteer Opportunity of the Month

PAS is looking for a person to become our Donations Chair which involves sending out thank you notes to our donors in a timely fashion. Familiarity with Word documents and database entry would be helpful. Most work will be done in late May, late June/early July, and late December/early January.

Time commitment involves about five hours per week during those periods and shorter intermittent sessions throughout the year. Work can be done from home. No meeting attendance required! Contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505 for more information.