



The As-Yet-Unnamed Snohomish Refuge

by Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon Society President

The proposed wildlife refuge located next to the City of Snohomish Waste Water Treatment Plant is coming along fine. There is a group of dedicated individuals that have been working on this project for over a year. Pilchuck Audubon owns a sliver of land adjacent to this area and have been involved with the planning since member, Bill Fulton, instigated an exploratory meeting with city officials in October 2011. Everyone at that initial meeting was enthusiastic and so began the journey of turning this valuable riparian habitat into a protected area for wildlife.

Recently, you may have heard about some controversy concerning the refuge in the news media. There is a group of citizens who very much want to be able to walk their dogs on this property. While that activity is appropriate for an urban park, it is the antithesis of a refuge; birds and other wildlife perceive dogs as threats. Picture the following scene: you are enjoying a "birdful" walk in some serene location when a dog, leashed or not, shows up and the area becomes devoid of birds; I'm sure this has happened to many of you.

That is only part of the problem. Dog waste, when not disposed of properly, becomes an environmental concern especially in areas abutting waterways. Such waste is associated with pathogens (*Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia lamblia*, *Salmonella* and *E. coli*) and parasites (roundworms). It can also adversely impact the human visitor's experience (you know, what I'm talking about). There are safety concerns for the dogs as well. The old lagoon, now dry except during extreme flooding, contains hazardous biosolids covered with dirt. No one would want his/her dog exploring that area.

For all these reasons, Pilchuck remains staunchly in favor of prohibiting dogs in the proposed refuge. The final decision will be made by the Snohomish City Council, probably in June. So far, there have been more public comments in favor of a canine-free refuge than for a dog

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March Program Meeting Friday, March 8, 7 PM *Whistling Wings & Chirping Tails*

An introduction to non-vocal feather-songs with Robert Niese. Discover which of your feeder regulars sing with their tails, meet a bird from the rainforests of South America that plays the violin like a grasshopper, and find out which city "pest" can covertly communicate using nothing but its wings. Robert is a science educator, writer, artist, and a life-long naturalist and birder. For more information, call 425.252.0926.

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

The Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest Chapter 20th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, March 1, 6 – 10 PM
Mountaineers Program Center
7700 Sand Point Way, Seattle

The speakers will address the accomplishments of the past 20 years of restoration and challenges in the next 20 going forward. The event will feature live music, locally-sourced food and refreshments. Restoration Walks that highlight restoration projects around the Cascadia Bioregion will also be held as part of the anniversary celebration. For more information, visit <http://chapter.ser.org/northwest/anniversary/>.

! Correction

The Snohomish Conservation District Native Plant Sale is only on March 2, from 8:30 AM to 6 PM, not March 1, 2, and 3 as previous stated

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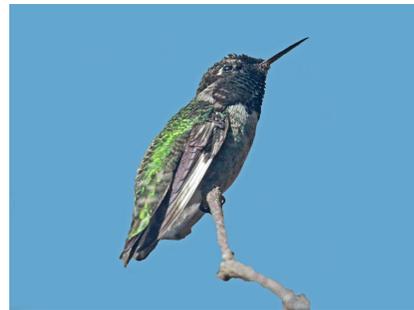
walkable park. If you would like to add your voice, please send comments to:
Ann Stanton, Snohomish Project Manager
116 Union Ave
Snohomish, WA 98290
Email: stanton@ci.snohomish.wa.us

If you would like to see this area for yourself, it is open and accessible to walkers. The trail starts at the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) building at 1801 First Street, Snohomish, which is at the west end of town. You will walk under Highway 9, past a sewage settling pond and then out on the dike next to the Snohomish River. We hope that one day the old lagoon on your right will contain swales and streamlets with native plants and the completion of a loop trail. There is a marshy area to the north of the city property that is very productive wildlife habitat. The east part of the marsh contains the PAS acreage.

I am working with Joyce Kelley, James Peck and Cathy Clark to produce a bird checklist for the refuge. Jonathan Blubaugh, Terry Nightingale and Sue Miller are surveying the area regularly to provide a baseline of bird data prior to any habitat improvements we plan. Other groups involved include the Boeing Bluebills (retired Boeing volunteers), Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Edmonds Community College

Restoration Horticultural students and the Snohomish School District; the school district hopes to use the area for student education and research.

Although the long term goals involve earth sculpting, stormwater overflow treatment, native plantings, and trail construction, the refuge has much to offer now. The dike trail is an easy, level walk with nice views of the river in spots. There is a resident Red-tailed Hawk pair, which I see every time I visit. There are woodpeckers, hummingbirds, spring/summer warblers, fall/winter ducks, and gulls all the time. My favorite bird sighting was a male Lazuli Bunting. Improvements that will be easy and immediate once the project is approved include signage, our brochure, park benches and maybe our specialty, an osprey nesting platform. This has the potential to be a truly unique spot, which will please birds and birders alike.



Anna's Hummingbird by Dick Daniels



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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Smart Growth Report

by Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Planning for the Fourth Livable Snohomish County Summit is underway and I am very excited about this year's event. I want to thank all the volunteers who are working now and those who will contribute to this event to make it the best yet. Please save the date for Saturday, October 12 from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. The event will be at the PUD Building located at 2320 California Street in Everett.

The theme will be *Building Livable Communities* which will include a variety of topics about the challenges, solutions and opportunities to making sure Snohomish County continues to be a great place to live, work, play and raise a family. Information about what all of us can do to ensure a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren will also be given.

As in years past, we will have some great keynote speakers in the morning, lots of breakout sessions and films throughout the day on a variety of important topics that include the following: public health, social equity, transportation, transit oriented development, food access, rural and urban concerns, growth management act, urban and rural issues, and how all of this can impact the upcoming land use comprehensive plan updates for 2015. The summit also includes a candidate forum for the three County Council seats up for election in November (Districts 1, 4, and 5).

This is a free event and will include a free lunch. Please register by sending an email to Kristin@futurewise.org, with the names of all who will be attending. We are also having a contest with a \$100 prize for the best video. Please share this information with your friends and family.

We are inviting folks to share in a short video or photo montage about what a Livable Community would look like. Theme could include transportation, livable spaces, or anything that each person thinks is important to a Livable Community, whether that community is urban or rural in nature. Keep in mind, this is all about creating livable communities here in Snohomish County

We will be showing the best videos to the attendees and participants at the summit. These videos will be judged by the Steering Committee.

Please submit your video either through a YouTube link or by DVD or CD to Kristin Kelly, 1429 Avenue D, # 532, Snohomish, WA 98290; or by email to Kristin@futurewise.org. Entries must be made by September 1, 2013.

For further inquiries, contact Kristin Kelly at Kristin@futurewise.org or 425.923.8625.

2013 Demo Garden Schedule

Willow Creek Hatchery Wildlife Habitat & Native Plant Demonstration Garden

MARCH

Saturday, March 9, 10 AM – 1 PM

Work party prepping phase 1 garden with tasks including clearing, building a new shed, weeding, and cleaning.

APRIL

Saturday, April 20, 10 AM – 2 PM

Work party with tasks including grubbing and mulching phase 2 area, clean-up, weeding, and repairing habitat features in phase 1 area

Saturday, April 27, 1 – 3 PM

Join Thayer Cueter, the Frog Lady and Nancy Moore, Native plant expert, for a program entitled Frogs, Plants, and Ponds

MAY

Saturday, May 4, 1 – 3 PM

Gardening With Native Plants with Nancy Moore to Celebrate Washington Native Plant Appreciation Week

JUNE

Saturday, June 22, 1 – 3 PM

The Birds (Hummingbirds) and The Bees (Mason) with Candy and Todd Brown

JULY

Date TBA for a program on Butterflies

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 21, 1 – 3 PM

Candy Brown will give a program on Feeding Birds and Bird Feeders

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 5 (time TBA)

Educational Program on Planting Trees and Shrubs, which includes leaf printing for Kids

Saturday, October 19, 10 AM – 1 PM

Work party that includes phase 2 clean up, preparation for planting, weeding, and clean-up.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 9, 10 AM – 1 PM

Planting of phase 2 area

At least two other programs are being planned on Bats and Bugs and will be scheduled soon. Check the PAS website under Programs for any changes or additions for this Calendar for 2013. If you would like to be on the email mailing list serve for announcement of all events please email garden@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Backyard Birding Highlights

by *Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator*

Hilkka Egtvedt is having problems with a Sharp-Shinned Hawk that has taken up residence at her Mukilteo property. Many of the birds she usually sees did not show up in January. She actually saw the Hawk take out an injured Song Sparrow from under the feeders. She is hoping it will move on soon. Her total species count of 22 also included 200+ American Crows flying over, 14 Bushtit, 14 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 3 Fox Sparrow, 4 Golden-Crown Sparrow, a Pileated Woodpecker, 100+ Pine Siskin flying around the neighborhood, 5 Steller's Jays, 2 Townsends Warblers, a Varied Thrush and a Red-Tailed Hawk soaring overhead.

Carol and Larry Beason spotted 15 Evening Grosbeaks at their feeders this month near Lake Bosworth. This is the only place they have been reported. They also listed 20 Bufflehead, 18 Canada Goose, and 2 Ring-Necked Ducks on the lake, 48 Mallard flying over the lake, 100+ Pine Siskin in the trees, a Hudson's Vireo at the hanging basket, 3 Pied-billed Grebes near the shore, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch at the suet, 12 Spotted Towhee, a Varied Thrush on the patio and 2 Anna's Hummingbirds for a total species count of 40.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett included 2 female American Goldfinch, 19 Bushtit in the yard, 17 Dark-Eyed Junco, 10 American Robins, 2 Northern Flickers, 2 Mallard Ducks, a Bewick's Wren, 12 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, a Hairy Woodpecker, a Downey Woodpecker and 3 Steller's Jays for a total species count of 14.

Another Anna's Humming Bird spotted at **Julie O'Donald's** home in Brier. The Anna's are here all year round so it helps to keep the feeders out for them. She also listed a Yellow-Rumped Warbler at the suet all month. Her total species count of 20 also included 20 American Crows flying over, 8 Band-Tailed Pigeons, a Black-Throated Gray Warbler at the stream, 3 House Finch, 3 Northern Flickers, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 2 Song Sparrows, 2 Varied Thrush and a Cooper's Hawk near the feeders.

Mary Sinker also reported a Sharp Shinned Hawk in her yard in Stanwood; it was near the feeders. She still reported a large number of species for the month. Her count of 26 included 22 American Robins, a Bald Eagle, 11 Black-Capped Chickadees, 53 Dark-Eyed Junco in the yard, 4 Downey-Woodpeckers, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 17 Mourning Doves, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 12 Steller's Jays, 2 Varied Thrush and 4 Pacific Wrens.

I was driving down 100th Street near my home in Marysville when I spotted 9 Trumpeter Swans in the grassy field next to the road; they actually stayed for several days. My total species count of 23 also included 6

December 26, 2012 – January 25, 2013

Ringed-Necked Ducks at the pond, 2 Great-Horned Owls, a Merlin, 3 Varied Thrush, 100+ Western Gulls in the fields, 4 Spotted Towhee, a California Quail, 8 Mallard in the field and a Pileated Woodpecker.

As you can see we only have six regular reporters now. I would like to invite anyone interested in becoming a reporter to contact me and I will send you the information needed. I can be reached at 425.750.8125 or email at pricemara@clearwire.net.



Yellow-rumped Warbler by Dan Pancamo

Get Ready for the Return of the Vaux's Swifts

by *Susie Schaefer, Pilchuck Audubon Society Vice President*

In Monroe we are beginning to plan for our spring and fall visitors, the Vaux's Swifts. On March 14, there will be a first meeting for anyone interested in getting involved. The meeting will be at Valley General Hospital, 14701 179th Ave SE, Monroe from 7 – 8 PM in the Goddard Room. Planning will start on welcoming back and counting as these little birds return from the South and spend a night or more at the Frank Wagner School chimney.

On Saturday, September 14, we will again have a big festival known as Swifts Night Out. This is always a super fun festival and this year we will start our planning for it and meet the second Tuesday of each month through August. We need people to help make this festival happen; planning it is half the fun, so please come and join us!

If you can't come to the March meeting but want to help please contact Judy Alles at jerryjalles@aol.com and leave your email address. We also will be seeking volunteer counters and docents for 2013, so we hope to see you soon on March 14. Old and new swift-lovers of all ages are always welcome in Monroe!

Trip Calendar

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

Tuesday, March 5 **Camano Island**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and wherever else Virginia leads us. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sunday, March 10 **Camano Island**

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quil Ceda Walmart on the east side of the parking lot near I-5. We'll carpool to Camano Island to visit a few of the birding hotspots: English Boom, Iverson Spit, and Davis Slough. No elevation gain. We'll look for shorebirds, waterfowl, passerines, and raptors. Dress warmly and bring rain gear and bird scopes if you have them. Somewhere along the way, when the group gets hungry, we'll stop for lunch.

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

Tuesday, March 12 **South Whidbey Island**

Meet at 7:15 AM at the Eastmont Park and Ride, I-5 exit 189, East side, aiming for the 8:00 AM ferry from Mukilteo. Crockett Lake is always exciting and Whidbey always beautiful. Pack a lunch.

Trip leaders: Wilma Bayes 360.629.2028, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Sunday, March 17 **Tolmie State Park, Olympia**

We will explore the seashore at this south Puget Sound state beach looking for seabirds and maybe coastal

invertebrates and fishes. Then we can take the loop trail through the forest. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Everett Mall in back by the transit center and L.A. Fitness. Bring your binoculars, water, a snack, good hiking boots, foul weather gear, and gas money for those who wish to carpool. We'll probably visit a local cafe afterwards for a little socializing over a late lunch (maybe at Hawk's Prairie). Discover Pass \$12 or \$30 annually per car.

Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh 425.244.7633, aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, March 19 **Birch Bay Semiahmoo, Drayton Harbor**

Meet at 7:00 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect Harlequin and Long tail Ducks, Brant and lots of other seagoing avian species. Wilma will serve lunch for us at her waterfront cabin.

Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028

Tuesday, March 26 **Point No Point**

Meet at 7:20 AM at the Edmonds Willow Creek Hatchery, 95 Pine St., Edmonds. Pine Street crosses Edmonds Way (State Route 104) in downtown Edmonds (turn West off 104 to Pine St.). We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point, and Foulweather Bluff. Waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines, and much beauty and serenity. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Spring Birding Adventures 2013

by *Susie Schaefer, Pilchuck Audubon Society Vice President*

Early in the morning on May 18, we will be heading for Klickitat County for the fourth year of fun and adventure. This year we will take I-5 to below Olympia and head over White Pass with several stops looking for Woodpeckers and other birds; this is assuming the Pass is open and free of snow. When we get to highway 97, we will head south and explore the Toppenish Wildlife refuge. We had a great time there last year and saw a lot of birds. Next, we will head on south towards Goldendale where we will have a wonderful dinner at the Glass Onion. We will spend the night at the Ponderosa Motel.

Saturday will be our day of Klickitat adventures to lots of great birding spots. We will also enjoy the wildflowers and butterflies. We will spend this second night in Greenwood and early in the morning we will return to the Conboy Wildlife refuge. We will then come back on Highway 97 to Ellensburg with stops along the way and

get home Monday night. I have no predictions of the exact return time, so please try and be flexible. As usual on these trips we will stop for picnics at lunch times as each person will be assigned to bring lunch specialties and as stated we will not take more than three cars with a maximum of 12 happy people.

For our June trip, we will leave early morning on Thursday June 6 and return home Monday night June 10. We will spend the first night in Winthrop and the other nights in Ferry County. So far, we have some great plans to return to Sinlahekin Valley in Okanogan County and we will once again visit David Gladstone's wonderful private property off Highway 20 east of Tonasket.

For more details of this chocked full of birds and adventures trip check the April *Profile*. Sign up at susie.schaefer@comcast.net or 425.771.8165.