



## Granite Falls Motorcross Park

*By Kathy Johnson, Forest Practices Chair*

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) has joined the Mountain Loop Conservancy (MLC) and North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC) in an appeal of Snohomish County's Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS) for a proposed six-track motocross park on the Mountain Loop Highway, north east of Granite Falls.

This project was first proposed in 2007, with a previous MDNS issued in 2010, on which PAS submitted comments. The MLC appealed that decision as well and the County withdrew its MDNS pursuant to further study. The new proposal did nothing to address earlier concerns and objections of MLC and PAS.

A motocross track in this location would be anything but "non-significant." It lies directly above a County mapped Critical Aquifer Recharge Area which would inevitably become polluted by petroleum products and other toxins from the operation. The high rainfall in the area would exacerbate this effect.

The site also occupies a plateau surrounded by ridges and mountain peaks which would amplify the generated noise for miles around. PAS is concerned about the effects of this noise on wildlife, particularly ESA-threatened marbled murrelets, which have been documented using an area 0.6 miles from the proposed site. Water pollution would affect many other species as well as the birds which feed upon them. The only mitigation proposed for this impact is the construction of a noise berm which won't be built until sometime after the track has begun operating, if materials are available.

Canyon Creek, which borders the northern boundary of the property and drains into the South Fork Stillaguamish to the south, contains populations of federally threatened species including coho salmon, Chinook salmon, bull trout, cutthroat trout, and steelhead. Residents and visitors to the area have observed other wildlife on or near the proposed site including Bald Eagles, Spotted Owls, Pileated Woodpeckers, Vaux's Swifts, deer, bear, cougar and a wide variety of amphibians and reptiles.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## November Program Meeting Friday, November 8, 7 PM

### Protecting Our Birds in Flight *with Mel Walters*

For over forty years Mel Walters has helped keep birds safe from man-made structures and electrical facilities.

As an environmental biologist and consultant, he provides expertise in wildlife and wetland mitigation, endangered species, osprey habitat, erosion control, and avian protection. Currently he manages Puget Sound Energy's Avian Protection Program. Within this program, he responding to avian power line incidents, prioritizes areas of concern, deploys actions needed to proactively prevent electrocutions and collisions, and improve system reliability. For more information, leave a message at 425.252.0926.

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

### Rescheduled Meeting Update

The Everett Mount Baker-Snoqualmie Forest Service Sustainable Roads Meeting has been rescheduled.

It will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 from 5:30-8 PM. New location is at the Everett Community College, Jackson Conference Center. RSVP is required to [sustainableroads@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableroads@gmail.com). More details in Conservation report on page 4.

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# President's Message

**Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon Society President**



The board of directors of Pilchuck Audubon thanks **Sarah Stout** for her service as our board secretary in the past year. Sarah and her husband are moving to Portland, Oregon where she has a new job with eco-friendly Pacific Natural Foods. We wish them both well in their new venture. We are now looking for someone to finish out Sarah's term as secretary through April 2014. Please contact me at 425.438.1505 if you are interested.

The board also welcomes **Laurel Cheap** as our newest At-Large Director. Laurel has taken over the chair of our Classroom Conservation Awards Committee which distributes ten grants annually to elementary teachers for conservation projects. Laurel grew up in Everett, graduated from Cascade High School, and earned a BS in Math & Computer Science from Western Washington University. She is now a software engineer at the University of Washington. She lives in Lake Stevens with husband Elliott. They have two sons, one a recent UW graduate and one a current WWU student. She first became involved with PAS in the late 1980s on the Conservation Committee and the Snohomish Wetlands Alliance (an offshoot of PAS). Laurel says she is happy to be getting more involved in PAS now that her chicks have fledged.

Speaking of the Classroom Conservation Awards, it was with great sadness that we learned recently of the death of Phil Zalesky, one of our premier members. Phil and his wife, Laura, worked tirelessly on behalf of Pilchuck Audubon and other conservation organizations statewide. They started, funded and chaired our Classroom Conservation Award program for many years. Phil also was a co-founder of the North Cascades Conservation Council (NC3) and was still on their board. According to a Seattle Times article, Phil was a "focal point of seminal conservation battles of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s". He was able to help stop logging within the Olympic National Park and kept the rain forest included within its boundaries. With NC3 and the National Sierra Club, Phil and Laura worked to create Glacier Peak Wilderness and North Cascades National Park. The few times I met Phil, I was struck by his passion for the outdoors and for his wife of 68 years. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Laura.

Please consider becoming a citizen scientist this fall. We have two projects needing volunteer bird surveyors—the Pacific Shorebird Flyway Study and the Christmas Bird Count. No matter your skill level, we can find a spot for you. See the article on page 4 of newsletter for more information.

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

### Board of Directors

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# Trip Calendar

Check our calendar at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org) for the latest information

## Tuesday, November 5 Snohomish City and Outskirts

Meet at 8 AM at Snohomish Park & Ride, located at the junction of Highway 9 and Bickford Ave. Enjoyable and relaxed trip. We usually have high species counts and surprises. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750,

Art Wait 360.563.0181

## Tuesday, November 12 Reifel Sanctuary

Meet at 7:30 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. The George C. Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary is located on Westham Island at the mouth of the Frazier River in British Columbia, Canada. Bring your US Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes 360.629.2028,

Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

## Sunday, November 17 Whidbey Island

Meet at 8 AM at Everett Mall. Park in the back in the Transit Area, near L.A. Fitness. We'll carpool to Mukilteo and take the ferry to Whidbey Island to tour the birding hotspots of the southern half of the island, including Langley City Beach, Lone Lake, and South Whidbey State Park. Dress warmly and bring hat, scarf, gloves, water,

snacks, and foul weather gear just in case. This will be a half-day hike with the option to join us afterward at a local cafe for socializing and a late lunch.

Trip Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383,

tnight@pobox.com

## Tuesday, November 19 Birch Bay/Semiahmoo/ Drayton Harbor

Meet at 7:30 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. Should see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Wilma will provide lunch at her beach cabin.

Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes 360.629.2028,

Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

## Tuesday, November 26 Mountlake Fill

Meet at 8 AM at the Lynnwood Wal-Mart lot at 1400 164<sup>th</sup> St SW (I-5 Exit 183). Park at the edge of the lot away from the store, to the west. This is one of the most productive birding areas in this vicinity. Many rarities have been observed here. If time allows we may visit Foster Island, Magnuson Park and other areas of North Lake Washington. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark

360.435.3750

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## Community Events and Festivals

### Climate Change Public Listening Session

Thursday, November 7 Seattle

Audubon and our other partner group want you to speak out against climate change. During this session, you will have the opportunity to tell your personal story about how climate change is affecting you and your family. The session runs from 3–6 PM at the Jackson Federal Building, 915 Second Ave in Seattle. To register, go to [www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/public-listening-session-registration](http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/public-listening-session-registration).

### Owls with Paul Bannick

Sunday, November 10 Mukilteo

If you have never heard Paul speak and seen his photos, you should take this opportunity to do so. The quality of his work was recognized by National Audubon at their convention this past summer when they invited him to be the special program speaker for their Saturday night banquet. This free event runs from 2–4 PM at the Mukilteo Library. Hosted by the Japanese Gulch Group. Visit [www.japanesegulch.org](http://www.japanesegulch.org) for more information.

### Birds of Fall

November 16–17 Mount Vernon

Join naturalist, Libby Mills, listening and looking for fall

birds around Padilla Bay. From late sparrows in the uplands to early waterfowl and raptors, fall is an exciting time of coming and going. Bring warm clothing and a snack. Binoculars and field guides are available at the Breazeale Interpretive Center. Meet in the Padilla Bay parking lot. Each class limited to 15 participants. To register, please call at 360.428.558.

### Festival of the Cranes

November 16–17 Socorro, New Mexico

What a thrill to see skies full of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese at this world-famous birding festival. Enjoy tours, talks, workshops, field trips, dusk fly-ins and dawn fly-outs. For more information on, go to [www.festivalofthecranes.com](http://www.festivalofthecranes.com).

### Eagle's Pride Golf Course Bird Walk

Thursday, November 21 Fort Lewis

This trip, at the Joint Base Lewis-McChord golf course, will be from 1–3 miles long on relatively level ground. It will explore forest, water, and open area species. No security passes are required. Trip starts promptly at 8 AM at the golf course driving range parking lot and will end around noon. Sponsored by Black Hills Audubon Chapter. More details at <http://blackhills-audubon.org/fieldtrips-events.htm>

## Volunteers Needed for Bird Counts

*You make Citizen Science possible!*

### **Puget Sound Shorebird Survey**

Training and survey dates have been set for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual survey at the Skagit and Port Susan Bay sites. There will be different survey dates for Padilla and Samish Bays sites. The Puget Sound Shorebird Survey is part of the Pacific Flyway Shorebird survey, a large-scale multi-partner standardized monitoring effort designed to help guide the management and conservation of wintering shorebirds in the Pacific Flyway. Like the Christmas Bird Count and Breeding Bird Surveys, this effort relies on volunteer citizen-scientists passionate about conserving bird populations.

The following training classes will focus on shorebird identification, counting and how surveyors can enter their own data:

Thursday, Nov. 7, Padilla Bay Breazeale Center, 7–8:30 PM  
Wednesday, Nov. 13, Mill Creek WDFW office, 7–8:30 PM

The following recommended survey dates and times have been chosen to account for changes river height:

Saturday, November 16 from 11:00 AM–2:00 PM  
Saturday, November 30 from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM  
Sunday, December 1, 9:30 AM–12:30 PM

If you have any questions or want to help, please contact Gary Slater (gslater@ecoinst.org).

### **Christmas Bird Count (CBC)**

It is not too early to start thinking about getting involved with PAS' Christmas Bird Counts. The levels of participation include Area Leader, Field Observer, and Feeder Watcher. At this time there are two maybe three openings for area leaders for the Edmonds count. Area leaders and feeder watchers should be experienced birders. Both experienced and inexperienced birders are welcomed to join the field effort. Inexperienced birders will team up with more experienced people.

If you are interested in joining the National Audubon Society's 114<sup>th</sup> Annual CBC, please contact the Compilers below. For information on the national CBC see <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count> and for our local counts see CBC under Programs at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org).

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## Conservation Committee News

*By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair*

### **Leque Island**

The WA Department of Fish and Wildlife has scheduled a public meeting at Stanwood's Middle School cafeteria (9405 271<sup>st</sup> Street NW), to discuss the Leque Island Alternatives Analysis and Design Project. The meeting is Wednesday, October 30 from 6:30–8 PM. The WDFW staff will present background information, project goals, and the anticipated timeline for selection of a preferred alternative. Citizens can volunteer to participate in Leque Project Working Groups which will consider issues that arise throughout the process. Attendees of the meeting can provide written feedback via a survey. There will be another public meeting once the design alternatives are drafted. The Pilchuck Audubon Conservation Committee and Board will be very involved throughout this process as Leque Island is among the most popular birding spots in our area.

### **Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Sustainable Roads Meeting**

This meeting has been rescheduled for November 13, 5:30–8 PM, at the Jackson Conference Center, Everett Community College. This is your opportunity to give input on which Forest Service Roads within MBS Forest should be kept open. If you pre-registered for the Oct 9 meeting which was cancelled, you will be notified of the change. If you have not registered and wish to attend, register by emailing [sustainableroads@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableroads@gmail.com). To provide comment online, go to <http://mbssustainableroads.wordpress.com>.

### **Lead Ammunition Banned in California**

Governor Brown signed a bill banning lead ammunition use and sale. One in five California Condors has significant levels of lead in its bloodstream as a result of eating carrion shot with lead ammunition. Death results. The legislation will phase out lead ammunition use and sales by 2019.

### **Around the North Sound News**

A developer proposing to bottle water from Anacortes' municipal supply has dropped such plans.

The Swinomish Indian Tribe won a lawsuit protecting in-stream flows.

A race track/destination resort is being proposed at the state/county park located on the grounds of the former Northern State Hospital, which is adjacent to the smokestack and now a roosting site for Vaux's swifts.

Head to [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org), under Advocacy to read news about annual Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee's resolutions and priorities. Do you want to receive 2014 Legislative Alerts? Contact me at [agibbspr@gmail.com](mailto:agibbspr@gmail.com).

## Central California Farmers Save Rare Blackbirds

By Louis Sahagun

An estimated 65,000 rare, tricolored blackbirds, roughly one-fifth of the species' entire global population, were saved this year when six Central California dairy farmers were paid to delay harvesting their silage crops through the nesting season.

With help from Audubon California and the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Tulare and Kern County farmers were paid about \$393 per acre for the resulting disruptions to their labor schedules and drop in the quality of grain.

The voluntary program made the farmers about two weeks later than usual in harvesting their crops. However, the birds, which tend to nest in farmlands that resemble the marshlands of their historic range, successfully fledged by the end of May. "It's not an ultimate solution," said Anita Brown, spokesperson for the USDA. "But by working together, farmers are going forward so that we can eat, and birds are nesting for the survival of their species."

Tricolored blackbirds once numbered in the millions. Today, the population, which has one of the smallest ranges of any bird in North America, has declined to about 400,000.

The species is listed as a federal bird of conservation concern and a California state species of special concern.

In 2011, similar agreements with three farmers in Riverside County and Central California resulted in the protection of 50,000 tricolored blackbirds. The conservation organizations are working toward a long-term plan that would provide alternative nesting grounds in the farming region for the glossy black birds with dark red shoulder patches tipped with white.

Source: Sahagun, Louis. "Central California farmers save 65,000 rare, tricolored blackbirds." *Los Angeles Times* 14 June 2013. Web. 27 October 2013.



Tricolored Blackbird (Photo by Dave Menke)

## Year-End Swift Report

By Larry Schwitters, Vaux's Swifts Expert

Audubon Vaux's Happening wants to thank you for another year of supporting our wildlife project. It was a good year for the Wagner swifts, the community Swifts Night Out celebration, and the live streaming IP camera.

Some of our accomplishments included:

- Volunteers were on duty all nights of both the north and southbound migrations, documenting 67,000 roosting events in the spring, and 170,000 in the fall.
- The inside chimney camera worked remarkably well, started right up and pretty much kept an eye on the birds until the last swift was gone.
- Our South African WildEarth service provider made an improvement on June 26 that allowed us to archive all the chimney action of the past southbound migration.
- On October 1 and 2, there were over 20,000 swifts each night. To view this amazing sight, visit <http://beta.wildearth.tv/cam/vauxs-swifts>.

Our data suggests that in the last six years this species has pretty well held its own. I would like to think that together we have had something to do with that. See you again in the spring!

## WANTED

### Secretary

Your dynamic board is in need of a secretary to finish the term of office ending April 2014. It involves attending board meetings on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

Need to be able to take notes, compile the minutes and distribute via email. Involves about four hours per month. Call Kathleen at 425.438.1505 if interested.

## Cornell's Lab FeedWatch

Project FeederWatch's 27<sup>th</sup> season starts November 9 and you can be a part. The information you and others report online provide a crucial resource to help us track changes in the numbers and distribution of birds across the continent. People of all interests and skill levels are welcome. A \$15 fee (\$12 for Lab members) covers staff time and project kits. Returning this year will be the BirdSpotter photo contest, sponsored by Bob's Red Mill Natural Foods.

Join today and receive your kit at <http://store.birds.cornell.edu/>.

## Motorcross...

*(Continued from page 1)*

The consultant responsible for the wildlife survey was only in the field for one day!

Other highly significant issues include traffic backups on the highly popular, two-lane Mountain Loop Highway, designated as a National Scenic Byway. An estimated 250,000 visitors travel this road every year to pursue hiking, camping, fishing & hunting, sledding, skiing, kayaking, bird watching and a wide variety of other activities. Increased traffic as well as the inherently dangerous activity of motorcycle racing would overwhelm the local small, all-volunteer emergency service provider.

Of course, the proposal would contribute significantly to carbon dioxide emissions and climate change as well. Calculations by the County estimate that it would pump 25 million pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere at build-out and another 6 million pounds annually during operation. It would also fill the air with dust and vehicle fumes whenever the tracks were in use.

There will be a hearing combining our State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) appeal and the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Rezone applications. The appellants, applicant, and Snohomish County staff will present testimony and expert witnesses, followed by opportunity for public testimony. You can help by attending this hearing, whether or not you choose to testify. The hearing will begin at 9 AM on February 3, 2014 in the Robert J. Drewel (Administration East) Building on the Snohomish County campus, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue, in Everett. Testimony from the public (that's YOU!) will be taken beginning at 1 PM on February 4 and 6 PM on February 5. The hearing may be continued as the Examiner determines until the proceedings are completed.

Our attorney has told us that having a good show of local opposition (warm bodies in the room) at this hearing can be very helpful. Of course, speaking at the hearing is better yet—or you can submit written comments. To send a letter or email to the County, see contacts on this page of the MLC website: <http://mtloopconservancy.org/No%20Motocross/resources/GovContacts.htm>. There are considerable expenses for an appeal of this nature.

For more information about the motocross appeal, or to make a donation to MLC, a 501(c)(3) organization, for its appeal costs, see the MLC website at <http://www.mtloopconservancy.org/>. If you have questions or comments regarding PAS' involvement in this issue, contact Kathy Johnson at [forest@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:forest@pilchuckaudubon.org) or 360.659.7252.

## Barn Owls Occupy Spencer Island

*By Joan Poor, Avian Projects Chair*

That is the hopeful forecast of PAS members that recently installed two nest boxes built specifically for Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*).

Several years ago barn owls were known to inhabit an old barn that stood near the jack knife bridge at the entrance to Spencer Island. That barn was lost in a windstorm in 2006. Barn Owls have been sighted infrequently since then and PAS hopes to encourage these owls by offering substitute habitat.

Two sites were selected on the eastern trail of Spencer Island Regional Park near the conjunction with the Cross Dike Trail. Care was taken to choose sites in hollows that offered a clear line of vision for the owls yet were as discreet as possible to people on the nearby trail. Site selection also took into account the presence of a Great Horned Owl known to roost on the west and southwest of the Island, overlooking the treatment ponds. Great Horned Owls are predators of the smaller Barn Owls, as are Red-tailed Hawks during the day.

Placement of the nest boxes to the east of Spencer Island distanced the boxes from railroad activity to the west and vehicle traffic to the south; two other causes of mortality to Barn Owls. Also to the east, across Steamboat Slough, are private agricultural lands (and a large old red barn) that look promising for food sources of small mammals. A family of Barn Owls can consume 1300 rats each year!

The nest boxes were designed by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and built by **Jay Ward** and friends. PAS members installing the boxes included President **Kathleen Snyder, John Snyder, Gary Loyd, Doug Cooper,** and **Brian and Joan Poor**. Special thanks to Snohomish County Parks and Recreation for permission and enthusiasm for the project, and to Platt Electric Supply for donation of the metal posts used to support the boxes. This project was funded by the Elwin Anderson Legacy to support the birds of Everett. The boxes will be maintained by PAS volunteers.



*Photo by Joan Poor*

# Backyard Birding Highlights

By *Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator*

August 26 – September 25, 2013

The Evening Grosbeaks are now replacing the Black-Headed Grosbeaks that have headed to winter in Mexico along with the male Rufous Hummingbird. Things will change again next month when more birds head south for the winter.

**Carole and Larry Beason** only had 4 Black-Headed Grosbeaks at their feeders this month. The Evening Grosbeaks totaled 14. Their report from their home at Lake Bosworth also included 6 American Goldfinch, 48 Barn Swallows over the lake, a King Fisher on a chair on the dock, 3 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 19 Canada Goose, 4 Cedar Waxwing, 2 Vireo, 2 Osprey over the lake, 10 Purple Finch, 2 Red-Breasted Sapsuckers, 3 female Rufous Hummingbirds, 3 Turkey Vultures, 2 Western Tanager and 2 Great Horned Owls for a total species count of 47.



Domestic Mallard (Photo by Mara Price)

**Hilka Egtvedt's** report from Mukilteo listed 3 Black-Headed Grosbeaks last seen on September 22nd. She also reported 2 American Goldfinch, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 3 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 4 California Quail, 12 European Starling, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 16 House Finch, 4 Northern Flickers, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch and 3 White-Crowned Sparrows for a total species count of 20.

**Kriss Erickson** always has a lot of Chickadees at her feeders at her home in Everett. She reported 8 Black-Capped Chickadees and 6 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees in her yard. She also reported 3 Anna's Hummingbirds along with a Bewick's Wren, 4 Steller's Jays, 12 Bushtit, a Northern Flicker, 6 Band-Tailed Pigeons 2 Mourning Doves, a Song Sparrow, a male Spotted Towhee and 7 American Robins for a total species count of 14.

A couple of owls topped **Julie O'Donald's** report. She listed a Barred Owl in her backyard and a Western Screech Owl in the Greenbelt. Her total species count of 21 also included 3 Anna's Hummingbirds, 20 American Crow, 2 Bewick's Wren, a Cooper's Hawk near the feeders, 5 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, a Hermit Thrush, an Orange-Crowned Warbler, 4 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, a Song Sparrow a Swainson's Thrush and a Black-Headed Grosbeak feeding on berries.

The Dark-Eyed Juncos are back and it looks like most of them stopped at **Mary Sinkers** home in Stanwood. She reported 65 Dark-Eyed Juncos in her yard. She only listed 4 last month. Her report also included 12 American

Goldfinch, 16 American Robins, 4 Bewick's Wrens, 20 Black-Capped Chickadees, 5 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, a Brown Creeper, 5 Downey Woodpeckers, 8 Evening Grosbeaks, 18 Mourning Doves, 9 Pine Siskin (they are returning also) and 3 Rufous Hummingbirds for a total species count of 24.

I listed 2 Black-Headed Grosbeaks and 6 Evening Grosbeaks this month from my home in Marysville. The most interesting I spotted were 25 or so Mallards at Twin Lakes. Among the Mallards was black duck with a white chest. It turns out that it was a Domestic Mallard often found in farm ponds and parks. My total species count of 21 also included 30+ American Crows over the fields, 5 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 4 Northern Flickers, a

Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, 3 Spotted Towhee, 5 Steller's Jays, a Cooper's Hawk flying through the yard and 3 Dark-Eyed Junco.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact me at [pricemara@clearwire.net](mailto:pricemara@clearwire.net) or call my cell at 425.750.8125.

## Smart Growth Report

By *Kristin Kelly, Director*

The Livable Snohomish County Summit and County Council Candidate on Saturday, October 22 was a huge success! I want to thank everyone who participated and attended. The summit focused on Building Livable Communities and was sponsored by Pilchuck Audubon Society and a grant from Puget Sound Regional Council's Growing Transit Communities program.

On October 22, we also submitted a SEPA scoping comment letter to Snohomish County Planning and Development Services regarding the three alternatives being proposed for the 2015 update to the county's comprehensive plan which will provide the policies and development regulations for the next 20 years of growth.

[Click here to find out more about the Summit and SEPA comment letter.](#)



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  
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 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 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. Contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505 if you are interested.