



Field Guide to the Future: Nearly Half of North America's Birds at Risk from Global Warming

Nearly half of the bird species in the continental U.S. and Canada are threatened by global warming. Many of these species could go extinct without decisive action to protect their habitats and reduce the severity of global warming. That's the startling conclusion reached by National Audubon scientists in a new study released in September.



Photo by Rex Guichard

Of 588 bird species examined, 314 are at risk. Of those, 126 species are at risk of severe declines by 2050, and a further 188 species face the same fate by 2080, with numerous extinctions possible if global warming is allowed to erase the havens birds occupy today. 313 of these at risk species regularly occur in Washington State; 92 are considered climate endangered, and 97 are climate threatened. That means that over half of birds regularly occurring here are climate endangered/threatened including the iconic Bald Eagle, the Rufous Hummingbird and even the Mallard. These species are projected to lose as much as 75% or more of their existing range in coming years, threatening their long-term survival. The study, which identifies the future projected range of Washington's climate-endangered bird species, can be accessed at <http://climate.audubon.org/article/audubon-report-glance>.

"The greatest threat our birds face today is global warming," said Audubon Chief Scientist Gary Langham, who led the investigation. "That's our unequivocal

(Continued on page 4)

October Program Meeting Washington's Large Carnivores

Lorna and Darrell Smith, longtime wildlife experts and Port Townsend residents, are dedicated to improving public understanding of black bears, cougars, grizzly bears, and gray wolves across Washington State. They will discuss their work with the nonprofit Western Wildlife Outreach, which aims to address public concerns about these iconic animals and create wildlife-safe communities, while working to restore and maintain healthy populations of these species who have long inhabited the Pacific Northwest. Lorna and Darrell were long-time PAS members until they left Snohomish County for Costa Rica.

**Friday, October 10, 2014
7:00 PM— 8:30 PM
Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett**

SMART GROWTH REPORT By Kristin Kelly, Director

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Feast with Friends fundraiser the most successful yet! Over 150 people attended and the compliments on the quality of the food and wine were abundant. The proceeds from this annual event support my work as Smart Growth Director for Pilchuck Audubon Society and as Snohomish/Skagit Program Director for Futurewise.

Winner of the Top Chef Award was Roger's Riverview Bistro from Snohomish with his "Roger's Clams". A full report on the event, including a list of the participating chefs, wineries, and farms, can be found at:

<http://pilchuckaudubon.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&pageid=324>

In This Issue

About.....	2	President's Message	2
Conservation	5	Smart Growth.....	1
Feature article	1,4	Trip Calendar.....	3

President's Message

By Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President

Sometimes, the changes in our world come into sharp focus with one event. This happened to me a couple of weeks ago when a woman from Washington D.C. answered our ad in Idealist to be our new Profile editor. There are three things here that are noteworthy. First is our use of Idealist which is a website which links people to internships, paid employment and volunteer opportunities. This is not your traditional forum for finding volunteers. Second, the prospective volunteer (more on her to come) lives way outside of our service area. Third, she becomes our second PAS leader who lives out of state. She joins Bonnie Campbell, our membership chair, who lives in Moab, Utah.

It is a new, smaller world with fewer boundaries and more interconnection. This is true not only for organizations and people but also for the conservation efforts. Looking at flyways instead of political borders allows us to see new strategies for improving habitat throughout a bird's lifespan. As revealed by National Audubon's recent climate change study, this is imperative if we are to save many of our bird species. Although it can be difficult, we need to embrace change that will ultimately benefit the earth and its inhabitants.

Our new Profile editor is Christabel Lobo. She works for The Humane Society of the United States as an

administrator in the Companion Animals department. She's tech savvy with experience in social network platforms, graphic design and Adobe software. Thankfully for us, she was looking for an opportunity to volunteer in an organization with a focus on conservation of natural ecosystems and protecting wildlife. Welcome Chistabel – we are fortunate to have you.

She is replacing Lindsey Cramer who becomes our Communications Chair. Lindsey is currently managing our Facebook and Twitter pages. She is setting up a Meetup.com group with Whidbey Island Audubon. It will be called North End Birders and will feature field trips, programs and work parties for the two organizations. Meetup.com is an online social networking portal that allows members to find and join groups unified by a common interest, such as birding or political action. It will be active soon. Thank you Lindsey for two years of beautifully designed Profile newsletters.

About Pilchuck Audubon Society



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

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

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

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

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

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

Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles to newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290-1742.

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

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

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

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Trip Calendar

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

Saturday, October 4 Mushroom Hike

We'll hike the North Fork Sauk Trail off the Mt. Loop Highway. Meet at the Granite Falls IGA (115 S. Granite Ave) at 9:00 AM. Limited to **12 participants**. All-day hike with expert mycologist and pharmacist Greg Hovander. Optional: hike steep one-mile Red Mountain Trail. NW Forest Pass required to park (we will carpool). Trip Leader: Kathy Johnson, 360-659-7252

Tuesday, October 7 Point No Point

Meet at 7:20 AM at the Edmonds Wade James Theater Parking Lot: 950 Main St., Edmonds, 98020. We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point, and Foulweather Bluff. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Saturday, October 11 Paradise Valley Area

Meet at 9:00 AM at 3201 Smith Ave. Park across Smith Ave from the Everett Station building. We'll carpool to the Paradise Valley Conservation Area near Maltby and walk a loop trail through this 793-acre wildlife area looking for forest and wetland birds. Optional: Socializing event over lunch at Maltby Café. Bring snacks, water, and foul weather gear just in case. This is a half-day event. Trip Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383

Tuesday, October 14 Serpentine Fen & Blackie Spit

Meet at 7:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart (I-5-Exit 200). Park near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds, and scenery. 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

Tuesday, October 21 Clear Lake

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart (I-5-Exit 200). Park near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Waterfowl and Raptors. Pack a Lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Saturday, October 25 Qwuloolt Estuary

Explore the Tulalip Tribe's restoration project, Qwuloolt Estuary. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Marysville utility bldg, 80 Columbia Ave. Will carpool. Bring snacks and wear weather appropriate clothing. Will include some walking along dirt trail. Ducks, geese, passerines, good chance for Merlin. Trip Leader: Al Elliott, 360-659-3180

Tuesday, October 28 Southern Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:15 AM at the Eastmont Park and Ride, I-5 exit 189 (East side). Will take 8:00 AM ferry from Mukilteo.

Crockett Lake is exciting and the scenery is gorgeous: waterfalls & shorebirds. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes, 360-629-2028

Upcoming Events, Festivals, and Classes

BirdFest and Bluegrass Celebration

October 4 - 5

Ridgefield

Join the Friends & Staff of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge as we celebrate the coming of fall and the wildlife that make the Refuge their home. BirdFest and Bluegrass is an opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds of fall migration. <http://ridgefieldfriends.org/birdfest/>

Birds at the Burke

October 18

Seattle

Birds take the roost for our annual Birds at the Burke event! Head to the Burke for a fabulous day filled with all things feathered—from live bird shows to the basics of birding in your backyard—there's something for everyone! 10 am – 4 pm http://www.burkemuseum.org/events/browse/birds_at_the_burke1

Birding Central Whidbey

October 25

Whidbey Island

Join Whidbey Island Audubon for an adventure that may include Crockett Lake, West Beach Drive, Penn Cove and more. Meet at 9:00 AM at Pacific Rim Institute (180 Parker Road, Coupeville) to carpool. This trip is suited for all fitness levels. Possible walks of up to a 1/4 mile. Trip Leader: Joe Sheldon, 360-678-9060

Classroom Conservation Awards - Apply Now!

The PAS Classroom Conservation Awards Committee is gearing up for another year of promoting conservation projects in Snohomish County elementary school classrooms. If you are an elementary school teacher in Snohomish County, please apply!

If you know an elementary school teacher in Snohomish County, encourage them to apply! We will be giving out multiple awards of **\$400** for conservation and science-related learning activities and/or materials that enhance and enrich a classroom program.

For an application and more information about the awards, please go to the [PAS website](#) (find us under "Programs").



Applications must be received by November 1st, 2014.

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(Continued from page 1)

conclusion after seven years of painstakingly careful and thorough research. Global warming threatens the basic fabric of life on which birds – and the rest of us – depend, and we have to act quickly and decisively to avoid catastrophe for them and us.”

To understand the links between where birds live and the climatic conditions that support them, Langham and other Audubon ornithologists analyzed 30 years of historical North American climate data and tens of thousands of historical bird records from the U.S. Geological Survey's North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Understanding those links then allowed scientists to project where birds are likely to be able to survive – and not survive – in the future.

The study also reveals areas that are likely to remain stable for birds even as climate changes, enabling Audubon to identify “stronghold” areas that birds will need to survive in the future.

The result is a roadmap for bird conservation in coming decades under a warming climate. The study provides a key entry point for Audubon's greater engagement on the urgent issue of global warming. Responding to the magnitude of the threat to our birds, Audubon is greatly expanding its climate initiative, aiming to engage a larger and more diverse set of voices in support of protecting birds.

The 25-strong Audubon chapter-network in our state and the Audubon Washington office are actively engaged in bird and habitat conservation. Some of these activities include community-science efforts to protect the sagebrush songbirds of Eastern Washington, advocacy work to safeguard food and habitat resources for marine birds, youth conservation leadership training, and advocacy concerning oil and coal transport, contributing to a brighter future for birds and people in our region.

Solutions will include personal choices to conserve energy and create backyard bird habitat, local action to create community climate action plans, state-based work to integrate Audubon's climate science into work on marine bird conservation and sagebrush steppe habitat prioritization, and other efforts to identify and protect bird habitats.

Within Pilchuck Audubon, we will be focusing on our two Important Bird Areas. At Port Susan Bay, we will be involved in the Leque Island dike project and working with WA Audubon on forage fish conservation. Also, using the Monroe Vaux's Swift Chimney Corridor site as

a base, we will be researching more on the life cycle of the bird as well as experimenting with artificial tower construction. In addition, we plan to ramp up our overall educational efforts, promote backyard wildlife habitat, and focus on other habitat projects within Snohomish County and Camano Island. The important thing is to keep moving forward and not become immobilized at the seeming enormity of the task ahead.

We can use anyone's and everyone's help. Please contact president@pilchuckaudubon.org for more information.

For more information on the study, visit <http://climate.audubon.org/>.

News on the Vaux



Photo by Kevin Lucas

Larry Schwitters has been able to coordinate a new research project on our Vaux's Swifts. Transmitters have become small enough and light enough to be used on Vauxs'. In September, these devices were placed on six Swifts exiting from the Johnson's Auto Glass chimney in Yakima. Volunteers are stationed up and down the known west coast roosting sites waiting to pick up the signals from the transmitters.

It is hoped that the data collected will provide answers to questions such as how long a swift remains at a roost before traveling on, the exact route taken, and whether there are roosts that are not currently known. The photo above shows one swift with its new gear (look closely).

Stay tuned for further developments.

Conservation News

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair

WASACC Annual Meeting— Along with Audubon Councils of Washington's annual meeting at Ocean Shores on September 19-21, most of the 25 chapter conservation committee chairs met to consider which chapter resolutions merited implementation. WASACC (Washington Audubon Conservation Committee) approved two resolutions.

Hanford Reach National Monument— The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society resolution asked WASACC to support implementation of President Clinton's Executive Order (EO) of 2000. The EO designated buffer lands of the Hanford Reservation not contaminated by Hanford's activities to become the Hanford Reach National Monument. Tri-Cities area business interests want the lands opened to development. These are lands rich in shrub-steppe habitat important to birds (such as Burrowing Owls, Ferruginous Hawks, Sagebrush Sparrows), mammals, reptiles and insects.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is to manage the monument. A Hanford Comprehensive Conservation Land Use Plan must be developed via an environmental impact statement. The resolution urges chapter to send letters to US Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray to advance implementation of the EO.

Oil Transportation Through WA State— A Tahoma Chapter resolution opposed transportation of oil through Washington State for export. It also speaks to need to improve safe transport of oil in the state whether by rail, water, pipeline or highways.

New Business – Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is working with the National Marine Fisheries Service and USFWS, in developing a **Draft Marine Fisheries Conservation Plan** for some 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands managed by the DNR. Details are on USFWS website: <http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/>

The public comment period is open for 90 days from September 5th at Skagit Valley College on October 7, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Call Allen Gibbs if you want to attend.

Granite Falls Motocross Track Update

Snohomish County Hearing Examiner (HE) Phil Olbrechts has ordered a new hearing on the permits needed by the proposed motocross project east of Granite Falls. The purpose of this hearing, requested by Snohomish County, is to allow the HE to consider the applicant, Gary Strode's plan to provide additional information requested by the original decision. The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, November 6th from 10 am to 5 pm.

The HE required additional noise studies targeting the nearby Marbled Murrelet nesting habitat. However, the applicant's proposal is still inadequate. They only plan to monitor noise near Murrelet areas once per year, after the nesting season is under way—meaning that the birds could be seriously harmed before any excessive noise is documented. Unfortunately, the HE only required one annual monitoring, but to have any meaning, this must be done at the beginning of Murrelet nesting season in April.

We are encouraged by one development. One of the conditions of granting the permit is that the motocross track be annexed into either the Granite Falls Fire District No. 17 or the Robe Valley Fire District No. 23.

The latter has denied the applicant's initial request for annexation. The Fire District has not yet acted.

Please plan to attend the hearing or send comments to the HE. Testimony must be limited to the issues to be addressed by re-opening the hearing. PAS is of course particularly interested in the effects of the track on Marbled Murrelets, but the HE also requested additional information regarding other issues such as drainage and septic systems.

For more information, contact the Mountain Loop Conservancy or Kathy Johnson, forests@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Comments may be sent to: hearing.examiner@snoco.org or mail to:

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

You can also help by visiting the Mountain Loop Conservancy's crowd-funding site for legal expenses at <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/903392/ema/8420091> and sharing it with your friends.

Monroe Swift Night Out: A Rousing Success

By Judy Alles, Chairman, Monroe Swift Night Out Committee

Thanks to all the volunteers and community groups – you made Monroe Swift Night Out at the Wagner Center on September 13th such a rousing success. Whether behind the scenes or on the front lines, their efforts were essential to the public's enjoyment of the event. More than 1,800 attendees came to see the Vaux's Swifts put on a spectacular show on such a beautiful day!



Photo by Kathleen Snyder

Larry Schwitters, world-renowned swift expert, gave an informative annual lecture that was both entertaining and educational. Vikki Berard, principal at Frank Wagner Elementary School, was a delightful emcee and Hugo Molina, assistant principal at Frank Wagner and Chain Lake Elementary Schools, assisted on-lookers and participants.

Thanks to the staff at the Monroe School District, the City of Monroe and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce for their assistance. Kim Hoover, of the Monroe Arts Council: thank you for providing the Wagner Auditorium for our use. What a lovely, old building that is!

The Monroe Digital Copy Center donated pages from the Vaux's swifts coloring book in both English and Spanish to give to the children who came to the event.

Mike Farrell and his crew from the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department provided that ingredient essential to any public event—garbage cans and sani-cans. Thanks much, Mike!

It was great to see those darling paper-plate birds that the children made at the Monroe-Sky Valley YMCA table. And the children's activities, swift headbands and a bean bag toss into a replica chimney at the Swift Clubs from Frank Wagner Elementary and Frylands Elementary table. It was without a doubt that children had lots of fun things to do at this event.

Neil and Carleen Zimmerman presented a variety of bird skins (from chickadees to hawks) for visitors to touch and

examine at the Seattle Audubon Society booth, which was a great hit! The Bats NW booth was fascinating. And the Pilchuck Audubon Society booth was quite informative. Once again, Leann Jacobson, her daughter Rebecca, and her able crew, outdid themselves with the spaghetti dinner, hot dogs and apple crisp. So delicious! If you didn't get a chance to have any, be sure to get some next year.



Photo by Judy Alles

And it goes without saying that we could not have done this event without the support of the media. How many people would have missed it without them? The Monroe Monitor/Valley News, the Woodinville Weekly, The Herald and other publications wrote wonderful articles on Swift Night Out. And King 5 TV's Evening Magazine did a feature story on the Monroe chimney the night before the event.

It is so wonderful to come to the chimney to see the swifts and to have your questions answered by docents on the spot. Of course, you can check out several websites for more information about the Vaux's swifts, the Wagner chimney in Monroe as well as other roost chimneys from Canada to California, and our latest adventures with the swifts, such as radio tracking 6 swifts from Yakima in this migration (first time this has ever been done): monroeswifts.org, vauxhappening.org and pilchuckaudubon.org.

Cindy Easterson deserves a kudos for taking charge while our chairman was out-of-town. She did an excellent job overseeing the event and taking care of numerous last-minute details. An especially big thank you goes to the members of the Monroe Swift Night Out Committee, who spent many hours over several months planning the event and contributed their time and effort in so many ways that night.

And, of course, our thank you's would not be complete without a great big THANK YOU to all the people who came to Monroe Swift Night Out. Without you, there would be no event.

Weekend Bird Walk Trip Report: Jetty Island and Edmonds Boat Cruise

By Terry Nightingale, Pilchuck Audubon Vice President

Taking advantage of the beautifully sunny weather on August 23, seven birders ventured to a popular summer destination: Jetty Island. The island is a narrow strip of land running north-south for two miles just offshore from Everett's waterfront. In the summer months, there is a free ferry that makes the two-minute journey out to the island and back.



Double-crested Cormorants
Photo by Donna A Dewhurst/
USFWS

From the mainland side, we observed some of the usual Everett waterfront suspects: **Caspian Terns, American Crows, Rock Pigeons, a Glaucous-winged Gull, Great Blue Herons, and Double-crested Cormorants.** The ferry ride was pleasant and short, and gave us the opportunity to observe an **Osprey** fly overhead with

a large Starry Flounder in his talons!

Arriving on the island, our group decided to follow the trail north in search of birds. We immediately started to notice the **Barn Swallows** (most abundant), but the **Violet-green Swallows** and **Tree Swallows** were also present. We even saw one **Cliff Swallow**, which we weren't expecting. We at first heard the pleasing tones and then spotted the silhouettes of the **Purple Martins** who nest on the island. I tip my hat to our own Jay Ward, board member at large of Pilchuck Audubon, who erected the gourds in which the martins nest.

Heading toward the beach on the trail, we caught a glimpse of a mystery raptor, which we identified as a **Cooper's Hawk**. As the view of the vista to the north opened up, we could see about 450 gulls on the tide flats. We found four **Ring-billed Gulls** amongst them.

Halfway up the island, we encountered a friendly gentleman with a large bird scope. He was waiting for the tide to come in and was planning to observe the shorebirds. We chatted and swapped bird stories, and soon realized it was time to turn around and catch our ferry back. Before boarding the ferry, we picked up a few more species, including **Cedar Waxwings, a Savannah Sparrow, and an American Goldfinch.**

Back on the Everett side of the water, we ventured north again to scan the tide flats, and came upon a large flock of **Mallards, a Belted Kingfisher, a few Canada Geese, a Killdeer, and a flock of 500 Western Sandpipers.**

On Saturday, September 6, as a part of the Puget Sound Bird Fest, I served as the trip leader for one of eight boat

cruises. Every year, members of the Edmonds Yacht Club donate their time, boats, and fuel to take birders out on the water. Eight passengers joined our captain and I and we followed our usual scheme of cruising the middle of Puget Sound looking for the deep water species, followed by a pass near shore to find any of the shallow-water birds and maybe pick up a few of the land species by ear.

Starting with the unusual species for this location, on our way out to the Sound we saw a **Northern Harrier** and **Steller's Jay** flying above the marina. Our best guess was that the harrier had wandered over from the nearby Edmonds marsh, and the jay was attracted by the crowds looking for scraps. More typical were the hundred **Heermann's Gulls** perched on the rock jetty that separates the marina from the Sound. Two **Belted Kingfishers**, another common sight near the marina, were calling loudly and circling the area.

Out in the middle of the Sound, we spotted a large group of gulls, apparently feeding on fish. Among the species were **Ring-billed Gulls, California Gulls, and Glaucous-winged Gulls**, the most common species in the Puget Sound region. Toward the shore, we

saw a **Pigeon Guillemot's** small black body and white wing patches as he flew by, and two species we had been hoping for: **Rhinoceros Auklets** and **Marbled Murrelets**. We got close views of both these species, and the highlight of the trip was getting to view one of the auklets forage fish near the surface. He was an incredibly agile swimmer and kept this small school of fish swimming in many directions trying to evade him.

Not to be outdone by the birds, we also observed mammals and other creatures. Fried-egg jellyfish were plentiful as in previous years, and we did spy one lion's mane jelly. A harbor seal mother and pup allowed our boat to drift very close to them and give us a fabulous view.

I would like to thank our captain for his hospitality and generosity, and our passengers for coming along on the cruise. It was a beautiful way to spend the morning!



Marbled Murrelet floats on the water
Photo by R Lowe/USFWS



Pilchuck Audubon Society
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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 \$ _____
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Make checks payable to: Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail to: Pilchuck Audubon Society
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
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Send me these via email (check all that apply & include your email address above):

- Profile Newsletter
- Program Announcements
- Action Alerts

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

WANTED

Pilchuck Audubon Treasurer



WHOO will be our new Treasurer?

This is an opportunity to work with our dollars and your good sense in an essential role of conservation. The time commitment is 8-10 hours a month. Benefits range from support of the smallest visitor in our backyard habitats to the farthest flyers of the Pacific Flyway.

Please contact PAS President Kathleen Snyder at (425) 252-0926 or

president@pilchuckaudubon.org if you are interested in learning more about the position.