



# Pilchuck Audubon Profile



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## Native demo garden to open April 25

By Susie Schaefer, Vice President, Pilchuck Audubon

Governor Chris Gregoire has declared April 25 through May 1 Native Plant Appreciation Week.

There's no better way to start the celebration than by attending the official grand opening of the Native Plant and Wildlife Demonstration Garden at the Willow Creek Hatchery in Edmonds.



Skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*), by Dan Hershman

The festivities begin at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 25, and include a ribbon cutting, tours and experts to answer questions about plants, butterflies, birds, bees and bats. Attendees will also have the opportunity to visit local homes with certified backyard habitats.

The garden, designed by Nancy Moore and a team of volunteers, was created to demonstrate how native plants can support wildlife. The goal is to provide information and inspiration for citizens, businesses, schools and government to "bring wildlife back to

Edmonds." Through education, leaders hope to inspire others to rebuild wildlife corridors in the rapidly-growing, high-density area.

The grand opening follows more than a year's work, which started with volunteers removing blackberry, ivy and other invasive plants from the Willow Creek site. Many work parties later, the site is planted and ready for the public.

Before the grand opening, volunteers are needed for the last big work party at the garden – at least for a while. Please plan to help with planting, weeding, installing signs and cleaning up on Saturday, April 10, at 10 a.m.

Helpers are also needed on the day of the grand opening.

The garden, located at the Willow Creek Hatchery on the northwest corner of Edmonds Way and Pine Street, was funded by the Hubbard Family Foundation, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington Native Plant Society.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Susie Schaefer at [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org) or 425.771.8165.

April program meeting  
Friday, April 9, 7 p.m.

### ***Cresting the waves: seabirds of Washington***

Washington is rich with a diverse array of seabirds. Although we know which species are seen here, the natural history of many as well as their conservation status are not understood. Dr. Peter Hodum, visiting professor at UPS, will discuss aspects of the natural history, conservation status and ID of common seabirds of our region and inspire us to venture offshore to experience these magical species.

Everett Firefighters Hall  
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

**For more information, call 425.252.0926**

**Watch [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)  
for the most up-to-date information.**

### **Birds of Costa Rica slideshow fund-raiser**

Learn about the birds of Costa Rica – and support Smart Growth's important work.

PAS members Darrell and Lorna Smith, Snohomish County retirees and operators of a bird-tour business in Costa Rica, will share their amazing photos at Angel Arms Works on Sunday, May 2, from 6–8 p.m. All proceeds benefit PAS' Smart Growth program.

Please RSVP to Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director, by April 30: [kristin@futurewise.org](mailto:kristin@futurewise.org) or 425.923.8625.

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# President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



As I write this, I'm looking out on my rose arbor that is almost completely leafed out, and the cherry trees on my street are in bud. In the middle of February! Olympic officials in Vancouver trucked in snow for events on

Cypress Mountain. We could probably make a case for global warming.

Unfortunately, where any meaningful (read *political*) approach to the problem is in Washington DC, which under a good deal of snow at the moment. Consequently, congressional climate change deniers insist the depth of the snow is conversely proportional to the size of the lie of climate change alarmists.

With a public in some doubt on the issue of climate change, it's a rare congressman or senator who will look past the next election. PAS member Bruce Burnbaum copied me on an e-mail which ably sums up the lack of vision of climate-change-denying politicians warming themselves in the reflected warmth of their collective gloat.

*With the recent crippling snowstorms in the Midwest and East Coast, the climate change deniers are having a field day, with such slogans as 'Here are 12 more inches of global warming for you.'*

*Are they watching the Winter Olympics in and near Vancouver, Canada, and noticing the slopes are nearly devoid of snow? Are they calling attention to the fact that daffodils are in full bloom in Seattle (this is mid-February, not late March) and up in the mountains north of Seattle where I live, their stems are already 7 inches tall? Hardly.*

*Do they acknowledge that parallels between these strangely wild weather swings and computer models of climate change that predict strangely wild weather swings? Hell, no!*

*Do they notice, care, or point out vocally that Arctic ice has receded so fast that talk has been about opening sea lanes for a Northern Passage? Of course not.*

*Beyond selective recognition of strange weather swings, they lack the sophistication to separate weather from climate. Weather is day to day; climate is long-term. So, since humans live short lifetimes (geologically speaking), and climate is long-term, the denier's claims easily resonate with a public that never really thinks about these things because it doesn't affect their daily lives.*

*That's the key problem in trying to deal with human-caused climate change: it simply happens too slowly for most people to comprehend. Unless you live on a small Pacific island. Or in Bangladesh. Or if you're a polar bear. Or sea coral. Or a walrus.*

Not to worry though, Bruce. By 2020, the debate will be settled because global warming will be evident to even the dimmest of climate change deniers. By 2020, they'll be denying they ever denied global warming was an issue. Their new issue will be how to keep all the climate refugees – fleeing rising water, drought and the spread of tropical disease into temperate climes – out of the country. Ending on an optimistic note though, there will be a demand for cheap labor to build the wall/dike.

## 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 the 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, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

**Newsletter submissions**  
Submit articles to annette.colombini@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the fifth of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

**To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.**

The *Profile* is available at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)



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# Trip calendar

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

## April 6 Highway 20: Rockport to Diablo Dam

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We've visited this area in winter, then summer. Now we're giving spring a try. You may certainly expect surprises. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## April 13 Serpentine Fen and Blackie Spit

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds and scenery. And, expect to do some walking. *This is a trip to Canada so bring your passport or enhanced driver's license. An original birth certificate and regular drivers license is no longer sufficient to cross the border.* Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## April 20 Deception Pass Area

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We'll visit all the lakes, beaches and trails near the pass. Art always enjoys this area and the birds usually cooperate. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750  
Art Wait, 360.563.0181

## Saturday, April 24 Reiter Foothills

The Reiter Foothills, just east of Gold Bar, abut Wallace Falls State Park and the Wild Sky Wilderness. DNR closed this controversial area to motorized vehicles due to damage from ORVs. DNR is considering reopening 1,000 acres for ORV use.

See low-elevation birds and historic artifacts on this state trust land before the dirt bikes and quads return. Bring a lunch, water and dress for weather to hike several miles. We will leave Lynnwood at 8 a.m.

Contact Bill Lider – 425.776.0671 or [bill.lider@verizon.net](mailto:bill.lider@verizon.net) – for carpooling and additional information.

# Historic changes at Reiter Forest

By Karl Forsgaard, North Cascades Conservation Council

*(Editor's note: this is a condensed version of an article which appeared in The Wild Cascades, the journal of the North Cascades Conservation Council. You can read the entire article at [www.north-cascades.org/public\\_html/TWC\\_Winter\\_2009-2010\\_web.pdf](http://www.north-cascades.org/public_html/TWC_Winter_2009-2010_web.pdf).*

**Bill Lider of PAS and Mike Town of North Cascades Conservation Council (NC3) will lead a hike at Reiter on Sat., April 24. See more info under "Trip calendar," above.**

Significant breakthroughs have been achieved in the campaign to protect Reiter Forest from damage caused by off-road vehicles (ORVs). DNR has temporarily closed the entire 10,000-acres to motorized use. DNR plans to reopen it in mid-2010. When it reopens, DNR plans to limit ORV use to 1,100 acres, thereby prohibiting ORV use on about 8,900 acres of the forest, despite vigorous opposition from ORV users. It is the largest ORV closure in Washington in almost 20 years.

## April 27 Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Lynnwood Walmart at 1400 164th Street SW (I-5, exit 183). Park at the edge of the lot, away from the store, to the west. This will be a long road trip of 90 miles each way. Once at the refuge, we will walk several miles to experience the delights and surprises of its marshes, tide flats, grasslands and riparian woodlands. Two hundred species have been seen here. Pack a lunch and expect a long, adventurous day.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## May 21-23 Klickitat County

We'll travel through Yakima, stay in Goldendale and bird this very interesting and birdy area. The trip will be limited to no more than three cars. To reserve your space on this new adventure, contact Susie Schaefer: 425.771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org).

## June 4-7 Annual trip to Ferry County

This year, the Ferry County trip has been expanded to four days to make sure we can visit as many birding areas as possible. Reserve your spot early with trip leader Susie Schaefer: 425-771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org).

**Notice to field trip participants:** Field trips are open to members and non-members alike. No advance notice required unless otherwise stated in the trip description. Trips go, rain or shine. However, in case of snow or ice, contact trip leader! Bring a sack lunch, beverage, binoculars, scope and field guide if you have them. If not, we'll share. Please, no perfume or cologne. Be prepared to share gas money with carpool drivers. Pets, even leashed, are prohibited on field trips. Please leave them at home.

**Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in. – Unknown**

Two years ago, ORV users believed DNR would designate the entire Reiter Forest as an ORV sports park. That was avoided through effective advocacy, participating in management planning meetings, lobbying agency officials, drafting comment letters and articles, publishing ugly photos of ORV-caused damage and organizing many ground-truthing field trips with volunteer activists. The campaign was aided by the ORV users' own YouTube videos of riders doing the damage.

## The place

Reiter Forest sits between Gold Bar and Index on the north side of Highway 2, and it borders the west end of the Wild Sky Wilderness area. It also borders Wallace Falls and Forks of the Sky state parks. In Reiter Forest, along May Creek, are the main routes to Lake Isabel in Wild Sky Wilderness. There are non-motorized

(See "Reiter Forest" on page 9)

# Upcoming festivals, events and meetings

## Olympic Bird Festival

April 9-11

Sequim, Washington

Grab your binos and join the Olympic BirdFest 2010 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 9-11.

Check out the offerings by visiting [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org), or call 360.681.4076 for a brochure.

Also in 2010! Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 11-13. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Get program information and registration forms online at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org).

## Keeping wild rivers wild

April 15

Seattle, Washington

Despite the abundance of free-flowing rivers in Washington, segments of only six rivers are protected are under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: the White Salmon, Klickitat, Skagit, Cascade, Sauk and Suiattle rivers. In contrast, Oregon protects reaches of 60 of its rivers.

Join the Mountaineers Club as it presents *Keeping wild rivers wild: opportunities for conservation through Wild and Scenic River designation in Washington* on April 15 at the club's program center, 7700 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle. A reception is scheduled for 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m.

With legislation in Congress to designate the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie and Pratt Rivers as "wild and scenic," there's an opportunity to ensure the state's most outstanding rivers are permanently protected for salmon, wildlife, clean water and world-class recreational opportunities.

Learn more about Washington rivers identified for protection, the status of current campaigns and ways to help ensure these wild rivers remain wild forever.

Please RSVP to [brice@americanrivers.org](mailto:brice@americanrivers.org).

## Training set for surveyors

Dennis Paulson is back to teach shorebird identification to IBA spring survey volunteers. Training is scheduled the evenings of April 7 and 8 in Stanwood. In return, participants are asked to commit to two surveys during April and May.

If you miss the training, but would like to be a survey volunteer, please contact Kerry Marl at 425.252.5243 or [kerrymarl@yahoo.com](mailto:kerrymarl@yahoo.com). Some experience and a spotting scope are helpful. Times and dates will vary with the tides.

Starting this spring, we are trying to track the migration pulses. A pulse is when a large group of birds, such as Dunlin or sandpipers, comes through at once. We are curious to know if these pulses come through at the same time every year, and if they correspond to the times when other sites get pulses.

To find out, we ask spotters on or near the bay to let us know when they see large groups of shorebirds come through. There will be a short form available online once the migration starts, and paper copies available to those who are able to participate. An ability to distinguish a shorebird from other types of birds will be the only required identification skill!

## Edmonds habitat certification celebration

April 24-25

Edmonds, Washington

The National Wildlife Federation will award its Community Wildlife Habitat certification to Edmonds on Saturday, April 24, at Yost Park. This award is the culmination of almost two year's work by the team, plus the support of more than 150 residents, five schools, and 19 common places/parks who registered property as certified Backyard Wildlife Habitats.

The celebration coincides with the Watershed Fun Fair. On April 24, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors can peruse displays, purchase native plants, enjoy live animal demos and participate in hands-on activities at Yost Park, 9535 Bowdoin Way.

On Sunday, April 25, the certification celebration continues with the grand opening of the Native Plant and Wildlife Demonstration Garden at the Willow Creek Hatchery, 95 Pine Street. Maps to for a self-guided tour of Edmonds Backyard Habitat Certified Yards will be available at the hatchery.

For info, visit [www.edmondsbackyardwildlifehabitat.org](http://www.edmondsbackyardwildlifehabitat.org).

## Wenas Campout

May 28-31, 2010

Near Ellensburg, Washington

For decades, Audubon families have camped at the Wenas Creek Campground over Memorial Day weekend.

The campground, officially called the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary, is near of Ellensburg, in an important bird area. It's a free, primitive campground on Wenas Creek and offers exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

There'll be field trips, a campfire each evening, programs, singing, storytelling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Visit [www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org) for downloadable campout information, bird lists, field trips, directions and photos. Or, contact Helen Engle at 253.564.3112 or [hengle@iinet.com](mailto:hengle@iinet.com).

## April's meeting: program and more

The April program meeting is also the annual business meeting. Each year, PAS elects two of our four officers and votes on issues that need approval from the general membership.

Two articles of bylaws are up for revision, covering the board and committee structure. PAS is revitalizing and reorganizing our committees and subcommittees for greater efficiency, communication and cooperation. Details will be distributed at the meeting. They're also available on the web site under "About Us."

We'll also vote for president and secretary. Mike Blackbird has agreed to run for president again if no other volunteer steps forward. Same is true for Kathleen Snyder, secretary. And, we'll award the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award to one of our outstanding members.

All this and a program, too!! Please plan on being with us April 9 to support our wonderful chapter.

# The swiftest Vaux's Swifts will arrive soon

On March 5, Larry Schwitters, our Vaux's Swift expert, got word from spotters in California: a small group of Vaux's Swifts were seen at Point Reys. That means the swifts are likely heading north right now.

When the little wonders arrive in Monroe, volunteers will count them nightly as they check into the chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary. Follow the action on the PAS web site.

Thanks to a grant awarded to the Pilchuck, Seattle and Eastside Audubon chapters from TogetherGreen last October, there will be lots happening in Monroe this year. We hope PAS members and friends will join in the fun.

Before the third annual Swifts Night Out celebration on September 11, a kiosk will go up in front of the school. It will provide information – in English and Spanish.

More volunteers are working on a web site where people from all over the world can follow the action in Monroe.

And, the Save Our Swifts steering committee, along with

the Monroe School District and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, plans to install a web cam inside the chimney.

Other projects funded by the TogetherGreen grant include developing swifts-related curriculum for first and second graders at Frank Wagner Elementary and development of a monitoring system at roosting sites along the migration route from Mexico to Alaska. More information is available at [www.vauxhappening.org](http://www.vauxhappening.org).

The Swifts Night Out planning team, led by Eileen Hambleton, will meet in April to plan for the big fall celebration. Watch the PAS web site for the meeting date and time. And, please consider joining this dynamic group.

Obviously, we have much work to do! Old and new volunteers are welcome to help out with this FUN and exciting project. For more info, contact Susie Schaefer at [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org).

## Bird-a-thon: you count birds, PAS counts cash

Want to count birds and raise money for PAS at the same time? Then Bird-a-thon is for you! All you do is sign up sponsors, then hit the forest, park, shoreline ... and bird! Track the number of species you see in May, collect money from your sponsors and PAS wins!

The Bird-a-thon rules have changed slightly this year. In the past, participants were limited to a total of 24 hours birding. This year, you're allowed to count species you find in Washington for the entire month of May. So, if you were hung up on the idea of a 24-hour birding marathon, fret no longer. Bird as much as you want in May and help PAS for months to

come. All funds generated will be used for PAS's educational and conservation efforts.

To participate, you need a sponsor pledge sheet. Pick one up at the April or May program meeting or download it from [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org). Or, contact Bird-a-thon coordinator Hilkka Egtvedt at 425.347.4944 or [chegetvedt@comcast.net](mailto:chegetvedt@comcast.net). Ask family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to sponsor you for a specific dollar amount per species or a flat amount. Then start counting on May 1!

If you can't participate by birding, offer to sponsor someone else. Once you try it, you'll be hooked. Just give it a try!

## Support Friends of Edmonds Marsh

Join Friends of Edmonds Marsh at their next meeting on Thursday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. in room 302 of the Frances Anderson Center in Edmonds.

The mission of the group is to expand and restore functional estuarine habitat within Edmonds Marsh and protect the remaining wildlife habitat by engaging the community to preserve, steward and enjoy this valuable natural asset.

We envision a healthy, functioning pocket estuary – freely connected to Puget Sound – that provides habitat for a variety of native plants, fish and wildlife and is maintained as a recreational asset for the Edmonds community.

Why is Edmonds Marsh important? The current Edmonds Marsh is a remnant of a barrier estuary, a uniquely-rich Puget Sound habitat. Less than 20% of historical tidal wetlands in Puget Sound remain intact. Nearly 100% of barrier estuaries, like Edmonds Marsh, have been completely lost in central Puget Sound.

Since Edmonds was founded, the marsh has lost 50% of its size, the majority of which was salt marsh habitat.

Reestablishment of proper hydrology in the marsh system would add elasticity to handle flushing from storm events, improve storm water management, and help adapt to sea level rise.

Preserving and enhancing current native plant, fish and wildlife resources provided by mudflat and remnant salt marsh habitat maintains local biodiversity.

Edmonds Marsh represents a unique opportunity for the community to help envision and create a healthy wildlife and recreation area that attracts visitors to our community.

The goals of Friends of Edmonds Marsh are to inform the community of the existence and importance of Edmonds Marsh, become an advocate in the effort to daylight Willow Creek, identify and engage primary stakeholders and scope, fund and contract a marsh enhancement/daylighting feasibility study that builds upon existing studies.

For information or to join this important group, contact Keeley O'Connell at 206.382.7007, ext. 184 or [koconnell@pugetsound.org](mailto:koconnell@pugetsound.org).

# Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

By the time you read this, the state legislature might be finished with its special session for 2010 (or at least let's hope so). I had hoped to provide a conclusive update on the three environmental priorities and other bills affecting growth management and my work as Smart Growth Director. But, the work isn't finished yet.

Here's where things stand.

The Safe Baby Bottle bill passed. This measure eliminates bisphenol A (BPA) from baby bottles and other containers in Washington. The evidence was clear that BPA is harmful to children and has been linked to cancer, miscarriage, obesity, reproductive problems and hyperactivity. This is a great win for kids!

The other two priorities – the clean water bill and no rollbacks on environmental funding – should be resolved during the special session. Both are tied to the budget. We support the House budget proposal because it would fund the clean water bill and other existing environmental programs.

The clean water bill is about creating jobs, rebuilding the local economy and cleaning up polluted waterways (like Puget Sound and the Spokane River) from the leading water pollution issue in our state: toxic storm water runoff, which results in millions of gallons of petroleum in the water each year. This is a serious threat to the health of citizens and the environment.

Originally, this bill would have raised the current hazardous substance tax paid by polluters by 2%. This would have funded projects statewide. But, the bill is strongly opposed by the petroleum industry and agricultural interests. And, in this economy, raising taxes and fees is a huge stumbling block for many state legislators.

The third environmental priority, stopping budget rollbacks on the environment, is still unresolved and part of the main reason for the special session. We hope the elements in the House bill protecting the state's environment will pass.

Among the bills that have been resolved is a legislative fix to the Supreme Court decision on shoreline critical area protection. Critical areas will be protected under city or county regulations until the jurisdiction updates its Shoreline Master Program. Snohomish County is currently in the process of updating its Shoreline Master Program and cities are required to do the same by 2011.

After these master programs are updated, designated areas will be protected under the master program. Agricultural land is protected under Snohomish County's old critical areas regulations until there is resolution in the Ruckelshaus Process.

Years ago, when King and Snohomish counties were involved in updating critical areas regulations, the Washington State Farm Bureau and other groups fought how critical areas on designated agricultural land should be regulated. In an effort to solve this issue, the Ruckelshaus Process began.

The William D. Ruckelshaus Center is a joint effort of the UW and WSU, dedicated to helping public, tribal, private, non-profit and other leaders build consensus around difficult public policy issues. The center provides neutral expertise to improve the quality and availability of voluntary collaborative approaches for policy development and multi-party dispute

resolution. Unfortunately, no conclusions were adopted from this process. In another effort to keep it going, the legislature approved process funding for another year. Hopefully, this will prove productive, as we need to protect critical areas and ensure farming remains viable in Washington.

In other news, law makers killed a bill that would have delayed counties and cities from collecting impact fees on new development from time of permit to after a home or business was sold and occupied. Delaying impact fees hasn't worked in other jurisdictions. And, in some cases, nearly 25% of fees were never collected. It also puts too much onus on escrow companies, who opposed it, as well. Impact fees for new development help pay for new roads, parks and schools required when more people move into a community.

Unfortunately, the bill to allow for a \$20 car-tab fee to help Community Transit in Snohomish County (and transit services in Pierce county, too) died. The bill would have allowed Community Transit to form a transportation benefit district and enact the fee to help offset its \$5 million budget deficit. This means more cars on the roads, when we're working to get cars off the roads to deal with greenhouse gas emissions.

Last, but not least, to deal with a \$200,000 cut in the Growth Management Hearings Board budget, all three boards have been combined into one.

We're not ecstatic about this, but are happy the new seven-member board still exists. It will have three panels to serve the central, eastern and western regions of the state. Each of the three-member panels must include a lawyer and a previously elected local official, and the majority of the panel must represent – politically – the majority of the entire Growth Management Hearings Board.

## **Update on the Shoreline Master Plan update**

The Snohomish County Planning Commission conducted a hearing on the update to the county's Shoreline Master Plan. This process began in 2004 and should have ended in 2005. However, the Department of Ecology (which must approve the master plan), has spent four years working with Snohomish County to ensure the update is more in compliance.

I was there to testify on behalf of PAS and Futurewise. Please send me an e-mail ([kristin@futurewise.org](mailto:kristin@futurewise.org)) for a copy of our comments.

The planning commission began deliberating March 23. They have the option to extend the window for public comment time, or proceed in making recommendations to the county council. We have strongly recommended the planning commission proceed with their recommendations so the county council can begin the public hearing process. We hope for adoption this summer. Because the county is four years late, it runs the risk the Department of Ecology will take over and make decisions for it.

The Shoreline Master Program is an important set of regulations to protect shorelines from new development, keep water clean and protect wildlife habitat. This is among my highest priorities this year. I will work to organize PAS members and other county citizens to attend the county council hearings in June.

Stay tuned. And, stay involved!



## Ann Hayes

October 15, 1929-March 3, 2010

Ann Hayes, longtime PAS member, passed away on March 3. Ann was known to many for her participation on field trips and at program meetings, along with her help at newsletter mailing parties. She was involved in a number of educational organizations and served as president of Planned Parenthood of Snohomish County. Ann enjoyed family activities, travel, hiking and yoga. She and her husband, Jim, lived for 30 years in a home they built on Priest Point.

**Pilchuck Audubon expresses its condolences to Ann's family, as well as its gratitude for suggesting donations be made to PAS in Ann's memory.**

A special thanks to Susan Babitsky, Lorraine Bentley, Sally Bloom, Robert Boyle, Betty Garza, Edward and Susan Geddes, Henry and Sandra Newton and Patrick and Rhonda Nolan for donating to PAS in Ann's name.

## Festival trip report

By Jonathan Blubaugh

The Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival in February was a rousing success. I was lucky enough to lead the outing to the Nature Conservancy's Port Susan Preserve. My co-leader and host was the Conservancy's Doug Osterman. We enjoyed perfect weather. Doug and I will take credit for that.

The excitement started immediately. Along the road into the preserve, we found a group of eight Bald Eagles, mostly immature, plus a couple of crows feasting on an unlucky Snow Goose.

Doug met us at the preserve and talked the Conservancy's plans for the habitat's restoration. The entire Port Susan Preserve, we learned, is a restoration project.

Last year, in my trip report, I wrote that The Nature Conservancy's stewardship of Port Susan Bay is viewed by some to be controversial. In his remarks this year, Doug mentioned the preserve's acquisition had been made possible, in part, by salmon recovery funds.

The Conservancy was granted nearly half a million dollars of state and federal salmon recovery money to purchase the property eight years ago. In addition, The Nature Conservancy raised more than twice as much in matching funds for the buy. And, nearly \$200,000 in state salmon recovery funds were granted to TNC for design and permitting of a project to set back the existing dike. Currently, 160 acres are surrounded. After the planned work, only 80 acres will be enclosed, leaving the rest as tidal mudflat at the mouth of the south fork of the Stillaguamish River, Hat Slough.

Last winter, storms breached the levy. Two years ago, we walked all the way around the 160 acres on the levy. This is no longer possible. The interior, which had proved ideal for some shorebirds and dabbling ducks, had become a shallow freshwater pond favored by diving ducks. We speculated that the presence or absence of the dike could lead to winners or losers for various species of birds.

(See "Trip report" on page 10)

***We had another successful birdseed sale. Thanks to Art Wait, for his hard work, and to everyone who purchased seed through PAS!***

## PAS board meetings

The Pilchuck Audubon Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at the Sno-Isle Natural Foods Coop meeting room (2804 Grand Ave., Everett), beginning at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the chapter's goals and priorities. For more information, contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505.

## Watch for recaps of local and state retreats

### ***PAS leader retreat***

On March 6, Candy Castellanos facilitated a PAS retreat and planning session attended by 20 leaders and active members. Participants not only reviewed progress and activities, but also discussed a plan to restructure PAS's committees and change the board membership. The resulting by-laws changes will be reviewed at the April annual meeting with a full report in the May *Profile*.

### ***The Phoenix Project***

On March 20, leaders from the 26 Audubon chapters in Washington met to plan chapter coordination and sharing. PAS was represented by Mike Blackbird and Susie Schaefer, as well as Jan van Niel, who attended the state conservation committee meeting. Look for a recap in the next month's *Profile*.

## Leader sought for new development committee

PAS is looking for a special person to head a most important of committees. Someone who understands the importance of and the creativity in fundraising.

The Pilchuck Audubon board has just formed the Development Committee. This committee chair will be on the board of directors and will act as liaison between our various fundraising activities and the board.

Currently, we have a few wonderful volunteers who take on our merchandise and book sales, Bird-a-thon fundraiser and generate our fundraising letters.

However, we need someone to coordinate these, plus look at new ways to expand our fundraising activities. And, if anyone can help with writing grants, we'd love to talk to you, too.

The Development Committee Director term is two years. Please call Kathleen Snyder for more information: 425.438.1505.

# Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

January 26, 2010-February 25, 2010

Carol and Glenn Lindenmuth, from North Everett, sent an e-mail reporting two **Anna's Hummingbirds** – a male and a female – at their feeders since late fall. The Lindenmuths have put up two feeders so the birds don't quarrel.

The only report of **Evening Grosbeaks** came from Carol and Larry Beason, who live inland, near Lake Bosworth, at an elevation between 800 and 1000 feet. They had new visitors this month: four **Muscovy Ducks**. Their February species total of 36 included 30 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 20 **Mourning Doves**, 12 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 46 **Pine Siskins**, 8 **American Coots**, plus 7 **Common Mergansers** and 9 **Buffleheads**.

Gail Dibernardo's report from Brier still includes the 2 **American Goldfinches**, but this month she also added 6 **Anna's Hummingbirds**. The **Red-breasted Sapsucker** is still present, along with a **Townsend's Warbler**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 10 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Brown Creepers**, 8 **Band-tailed Pigeons** and 13 **Bushtits** for a total of 26 species.

Hilkka Egtvedt is reporting 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds** this month – two males and a female. She also spotted 110+ **American Crows** flying over her Mukilteo home. Her total species count of 27 included 20 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, a **Fox Sparrow**, 2 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, a **White-crowned Sparrow**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, 2 **Townsend's Warblers** and 7 **Steller's Jays**.

Reporting from near Lowell Road in Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 4 **Mallards**, 8 **Wood Ducks**, 15 **American Coots**, 4 **Western Gulls**, 3 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 3 **Northern Flickers**, 11 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 15 **Dark-eyed Juncos** and 13 **Bushtits** for a total species count of 16.

Adeline Gildow has a **Peregrine Falcon** that won't leave her bird feeders alone. And, owls have been active around her Camano Island home. Her report included a **Barn Owl**, two



Muscovy Duck, by Tiffany Young



Pine Siskin, by Paul Kusmin



Common Loon, by Paul Kusmin

other owls, 5 **Bald Eagles** on the beach, 4 **Great Blue Herons**, an **Osprey** flying over, 3 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 1000+ **Snow Geese**, 100+ **Trumpeter Swans**, 27 **Killdeer**, 4 **Ring-necked Pheasants** and a **Common Loon** a total species count of 35.

Julie O'Donald still has the **Western Screech Owl** near her home in Brier. Her total species count of 22 also included a **Winter Wren**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 7 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, 15 **Bushtits**, a **Pileated Woodpecker** and 5 **House Finches**.

Mary Sinker reported 2 **Great Horned Owls** around her Stanwood home, as well as a **Bald Eagle** near her yard. Her total species count of 29 included 12 **American Robins**, a **Brown Creeper**, 50 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, a **Great Blue Heron**, 5 kinglets, 18 **Mourning Doves**, 10 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 2 **Winter Wrens** and 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**.

I had an interesting experience with a **Bald Eagle** along 100th Street in Marysville. It flew low over my car and landed near chickens feeding along the street. I stopped to take and picture and it flew to top of a telephone pole. I sometimes see them when the fields are flooded and crowded with ducks.

Other than that, everything is much the same at my home in Marysville. My total species count of 23 included 6 **American Robins**, 8 **California Quail**, 15 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Mallards**, 30-40 **Rock Doves**, 30+ **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **Common Ravens** and a

**Peregrine Falcon** along Highway 529.

In February, Jim Eachus reported seeing **American Tree Swallows** near Crescent Lake Road south of Monroe. Their range is from Alaska, Northern Canada, but they winter in Southern Canada to the Midwest U.S.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please e-mail me ([pricemara@clearwire.net](mailto:pricemara@clearwire.net)) or leave a message at 425.750.8125.

# Reiter Forest ...

(continued from page 3)

trails along the upper May Creek waterfalls, along the top of the Index Town Wall (the Vertigo Rim Trail), and to the east side of Wallace Falls. If developed properly, these trails could provide year-round, lower-elevation recreation to many.

## ORV problems

Reiter Forest was essentially unmanaged for decades and had been overrun by ORVs: motorcycles, quads and jeeps carved miles of routes in the state trust lands. The “tube buggies” do



A “tube buggy” moves through trees scarred by previous ORV use. Photo courtesy Karl Forsgaard.

the worst damage, killing trees by stripping the bark off as they squeeze through. ORV users try to create new routes through the forest; they want the challenge and find established routes boring.

Sediment runoff is a problem. There is damage in stream and streamside habitats – streams which flow into salmon and steelhead spawning grounds. Vandalism and general law-

lessness by ORV users at Reiter displaced non-motorized recreation from these lands. DNR is now addressing these problems.

## DNR’s advisory committee process

In 2008, DNR launched a two-year process to develop a Reiter management plan. When the process began, it appeared headed toward designation of Reiter as an ORV sacrifice area – a dedicated ORV sports park. DNR appointed an advisory committee to help DNR develop the plan.

By 2009, conservation efforts began paying off. DNR staff defined separate non-motorized and motorized areas – including separate trailheads – plus a “further study” area in between. This plan allowed for reduced ORV acreage, despite ORV objections.

## The November 2009 closure

In October, DNR announced a temporary closure of the 10,000-acre forest to all but foot traffic. It was the first time the entire forest had been closed to motorized use.

DNR said it closed the area to repair ORV-caused damage and “design and build trails in more sustainable locations.” DNR said it would reopen the area “as soon as possible in 2010,” but refused to set a date, despite demands from ORV users and local legislators. DNR wants to take as much time as the restoration needs.

As noted, the temporary closure will likely become a permanent closure of almost 9,000 acres to ORVs. Assuming the final plan does not change, only 1,100 acres will be designated a “motorized area.”

The closure was unpopular with motorized users and their web-based forums exploded with angry chatter.

DNR, after announcing the closure, conducted a public meeting, where attendees expressed “doubt and dismay with the state’s plans to redraw the riding trails on a smaller parcel of land.”

## The draft recreation plan

Soon after, DNR released its draft “Reiter Foothills Forest Recreation Plan” for public comment.

The NC3 supported DNR’s plan to restore and repair the damage caused by ORVs, plus the temporary closure to ORVs. NC3 supported DNR’s plan to provide non-motorized recreation at Reiter, in areas separate from those open to ORVs and asked that non-motorized trails be developed along the upper May Creek waterfalls (May Creek Cascades Loop), along the top of the Index Town Wall (Vertigo Rim Trail) and to the east side of Wallace Falls.

The ORV users’ comments failed to acknowledge the damage that needs to be repaired and how the need for restoration drives much of the siting decision.

In early January 2010, DNR delayed its final decision, due to the volume of comments received (300+). As we went to press, the decision had not yet appeared.

## Restoration work and trail planning

DNR conducted volunteer work parties to begin restoration on stream crossings and Reiter Pond, as well as impacted trail surfaces. They also removed user-built structures – such as an unsafe bridge made of logs and chain-link fencing over May Creek.

More than 100 people attended a workshop in January and signed up for volunteer projects, to help plan trails and hear more about what’s going on.

DNR is hiring consultants to assist with designing trail systems for the motorized and non-motorized areas.

At Reiter, we have a rare opportunity to help land managers develop a system of non-motorized trails on public lands previously occupied by ORVs. The new Reiter trails opportunity is comparable to the strategic development of the Issaquah Alps trail system a generation ago. NC3 is proposing 15 miles of trail in the non-motorized area at Reiter, including the May Creek waterfalls loop, and the eastern approach to Wallace Falls. Our proposed trail developments complement the trail study provisions of the Wild Sky Wilderness Act.

## Volunteer Forest Watch program

DNR is launching a volunteer Forest Watch program of citizen patrols to help improve public safety and protect the environment. Patrollers will observe, document and report illegal activities. In addition, volunteer patrollers educate and communicate with fellow outdoor recreation enthusiasts about rules and appropriate conduct for recreating on DNR-managed land.

## What you can do

Volunteers need to hike the trails and re-establish the non-motorized community’s presence. Reiter today is similar to what Tiger Mountain was in the 1970s. And, look at what Tiger has become – thanks to many people who built and designed a trail system.

Please consider attending restoration work parties by day and planning meetings by night, or join Forest Watch patrols, or go on ground-truthing trips and document the conditions you observe. We need to give input to the agency on many topics, either by writing or in meetings. Or you can just go there and hike, which always helps. If you’d like to help and want more information, e-mail NC3’s Reiter team at [nccinfo@northcascades.org](mailto:nccinfo@northcascades.org).

# Birds declining due to climate change

By Dan Vergano, USA Today

Nearly one-third of U.S. bird species "are endangered, threatened or in significant decline," due to climate change, Department of the Interior chief Ken Salazar said recently.

Salazar issued a report, *The state of the birds: 2010 report on climate change*, created by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in collaboration with conservation groups. In it, researchers looked at five factors affecting bird species and weighed them against climate change effects. The factors were migratory vulnerability, breeding ground vulnerability, specialization to particular ecological niches, ability to move home terrains and breeding pattern robustness.

"The results indicate a majority of birds dependent on oceans and birds on Hawaiian Islands are highly vulnerable to climate change," says the report summary. All 67 species of oceanic birds, such as petrels and albatrosses, nest on islands that face flooding from rising sea levels.

For threatened mainland species such as the Golden-cheeked Warbler, Whooping Crane and Spectacled Eider, "the added vulnerability to climate change may hasten declines or prevent recovery." And common birds such as the American Oystercatcher, Nighthawk and Northern Pintail "are likely to become species of conservation concern as a result of climate change."

"Birds are excellent indicators of the health of our environment. And, right now, they are telling us an important story about climate change," said Dr. Kenneth Rosenberg, director of Conservation Science at Cornell. In a statement on the report, he said: "Many species of conservation concern will face heightened threats, giving us an increased sense of urgency to protect and conserve vital bird habitat."

# Trip report ...

(continued from page 7)

I've been counting birds at Port Susan for four years. During this year's festival, I saw more shorebirds than ever before. While we were there a huge flock of Dunlin arrived as the tide receded. I'm estimating 1500. The most prominent feature of the mudflat is that it's FLAT. So a slight drop in the tide exposes lots of mud. It's Heaven for migrating shorebirds. Perhaps leaving half of the formerly diked area enclosed is the best of both worlds for a larger variety of birds?

It's unclear when or if the Conservancy will set the levy back. We're watching an ongoing experiment in changing habitat. Sure beats paving it over!

The birds we saw included Great Blue Herons, Trumpeter Swans, Snow Geese, American Wigeons, Mallards, Northern Pintails, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Bald Eagles, American Coots, Black-bellied Plovers, Killdeer, Dunlin, Glaucous-winged gulls, Tree Swallows, Marsh Wrens, American Robins, European Starlings, Savannah Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds and House Finches.

## Call 24 hours a day for help for injured wildlife

Second Chance Wildlife Care Center  
Snohomish, 425-335-0788



Deer Creek Wild Animal Rehab  
Everett, 425-334-8171



Sarvey Wildlife Center: Arlington, 360-435-4817

PAWS: Lynnwood, 425-787-2500, ext. 817

# Audubon membership information

Joint membership in National Audubon Society (NAS) and Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) includes National Audubon Society's quarterly magazine *Audubon* and Pilchuck Audubon Society's *Profile* e-newsletter for one year. Cost is \$20 for an Introductory Membership or \$35 for renewals. When you join National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of Pilchuck Audubon Society.

However, PAS receives *none* of your national dues to support its programs. Local membership in Pilchuck Audubon Society includes a one-year subscription (10 issues) to Pilchuck Audubon Society's *Profile* newsletter. Cost is \$25. A special limited income category is also available for \$16.

### Local PAS membership

- New member ..... \$25
- Renewal ..... \$25
- Lifetime PAS member ..... \$1000
  - 10 monthly payments of \$100
  - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
  - 1 payment of \$1000
- Donation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:  
Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:  
PAS Membership Chair  
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198  
Snohomish, WA 98290

### NAS membership

(includes PAS membership)

- Introductory membership \$20

Make check payable to:  
National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:  
PAS Membership Chair  
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198  
Snohomish, WA 98290

### NAS renewal

(includes PAS renewal)

- Renewal \$35

Make check payable to:  
National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:  
NAS, Membership Data Center  
POB 52529  
Boulder, CO 80322-2529

- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.
- I am interested in the Conservation Committee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_