



Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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PAS picnic August 22

Save our Swifts. Futurewise. Festivals. Classroom grants. Weekly birding trips. Program meetings. Friends of Port Susan Birds. Weekend bird hikes. Environmental Lobby Day. County council meetings. Fundraisers. Christmas Bird Count.

Pilchuck Audubon is a busy, dynamic organization. Volunteer environmental champions work tirelessly to ensure outings, festivals and projects are successful. Key word: **volunteer**.

Please join PAS in honoring its volunteers at a chapter potluck picnic and volunteer recognition ceremony at Jennings Park in Marysville on Sunday, August 22, beginning at 11 a.m.

Bring a potluck dish to share, as well as your preferred beverage. PAS will provide plates, napkins and utensils.

Jennings Park is located at 6915 Armar Road, Marysville. Please note: alcohol is prohibited in Marysville parks.

Enjoy local food, wine at Feast with Friends

The Fourth Annual Feast with Friends fundraiser is slated for Thursday, August 26, 6-9 p.m., at AngelArmsWorks Studio, 230 Avenue B, Snohomish. The feast, at the home and art studio of Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak and Warner Blake, celebrates local farmers, wineries and chefs. Enjoy delicious food and wine and support Futurewise and PAS in their work to protect farmland, forests, water quality and wildlife habitat while creating vibrant, livable, urban communities.

Tickets are \$50 per person, but there are additional sponsorship opportunities: Individual Sponsor (\$100, one ticket), Chef's Choice Sponsor (\$250, two tickets), Tasting Sponsor (\$500, four tickets) and Culinary Sponsor (\$1000, 6 tickets).

Please RSVP by August 22 to kristin@futurewise or call 425.923.8625. Or, RSVP and pay at www.futurewise.org.

Feast with Friends sponsors include Chuck Woods, Citizens for Responsible Growth of Greater Lake Stevens, Snohomish County Councilmember Dave Somers, Dayville Hay and Grain, Ed Peterson, Ellen Hiatt Watson of 7-Lakes, State Representative Hans Dunshee, Kathleen Gamble, Mickie Gundersen and Mike Waggoner. Hosts include Carlo Voli, Dave Ridgeway, Gail and Steve Aslanian, Mike and Florence Blackbird, Gina Clarke, Greening Properties, Julie and Karim Meghji, Kathy and John Dewhurst, Kristine and Ralph Petereit, Lee and Asia Bennett, Nick Harper, Rebecca Wolfe, Sonia Thompson, and Susan and Philip Paschke.

Participating farmers and wineries: Bailey's Vegetables, Hayton Farms, Chinook Farms, Garden Treasures, Craven Farms, Rents Due Ranch, Swan's Trail Farms, Carleton Farms, National Food Corp., Taylor Shellfish, Pioneer Farms, Marshland Produce Farm, Darigold, DiStefano Winery, Red Sky Cellars, Cedar Ridge Winery and Port Gardner Bay Winery.

Participating chefs include The Charmed Radish, Zippy's Java Lounge, Grilla Bites, Kristy's Cuisine, Simply Seasoned, Mongos, The Repp and Java Haus Café.

**September program meeting
Friday, September 10, 7 p.m.**

Opening ceremony of Puget Sound Bird Fest

Join us at the opening reception of Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds. The featured speaker will be Lyanda Lynn Haupt, author of *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness*. Everyone welcome!

Location for the September meeting only:

Edmonds Library, Plaza Room
650 Main Street, Edmonds

For more information, call 425.252.0926

Watch www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the most up-to-date information.

Helpers needed at Bird Fest

Volunteers are needed to work the PAS table at the upcoming Puget Sound Bird Fest on Saturday, September 11. If you can spend two hours handing out PAS materials and talking to visitors about PAS projects and volunteer opportunities, please contact Laura Spehar at 425.672.2150 or edmondsbwh@gmail.com.

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



In May, 2009, Florence (my wife) and I joined three other couples on a transatlantic cruise to Europe. The eight of us met 30 years ago while living in southern California – when we were young and our kids were little.

Our ship made stops in the Azores, Portugal, Spain, France and Rome. It wasn't lost on me that we'd reach Europe at the height of the spring migration when birds crossed the Mediterranean from Africa to Europe near Gibraltar. The port of call closest to the Pillars of Hercules was Malaga.

Before we left, I did a little research and found that inland 80 miles from Malaga on the migration route is Fuente de Piedra Lagoon. Surrounded by a vast, monotonous terrain, the Lagoon of Fuente de Piedra appears like a glorious oasis in the extensive Llanure de Antequera, considered to be one of the largest natural lagoons in Spain.

The lagoon, which measures almost four miles long and nearly two miles wide, provides an ideal breeding spot for one of the most elegant and exquisite birds in the world: the Pink Flamingo. The Fuente de Piedra Lagoon is home to the largest nesting colony on the Iberian Peninsula for this beautiful and delicate bird.

It is very shallow, however. In a good year, it is less than 3 feet deep at its deepest point. Evaporation is a major factor.



Pink Flamingos of Fuente de Piedra Lagoon, Spain.

The flamingos need a certain amount of water to breed and will desert their eggs if the lagoon dries out too soon.

The setting of the Fuente de Piedra is significant, in part, because of its geographical location – very close to the African continent and thus a strategic point for migrating birds seeking rest before crossing the Mediterranean. It's not surprising the lagoon is deemed a protected area in an international treaty, as the loss of this unique habitat would cause a serious setback for the flamingo population.

One of the unique characteristics of the lagoon is the salinity of the water. The lagoon is fed by underwater springs that pass through mineral salt deposits, so the lagoon is saline. Normally, this does not constitute an attraction for a non-marine bird. However, in the case of the Pink Flamingo, it is this very concentration of

salt in the water which determines the presence of microscopic organisms, such as seaweed and crustacean, which are the basis of their diet.

The stop in Malaga was the longest we would spend in any port on the cruise: from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. I was determined to take advantage of those 12 hours and head inland.

When I told our travel companions of my plans to hire a driver and go to Fuente de Piedra, there was a collective gasp! I

(See "Blackbird" on page 7)

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



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Trip calendar

Check our web site at www.pilchuckaudubon.org for the latest information.

Tuesday, August 3

Anacortes

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. So many beautiful birding places: lakes, beaches, marinas and even a mountain. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Saturday, August 7

Mt. Pilchuck

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Eastmont Park and Ride, 9029 El Capitan Way, Everett. We'll carpool and hike to the top Mount Pilchuck. This is a strenuous, all-day hike, but we will take it slow. Expect to be rewarded with views of the Cascades, three volcanoes and all of Snohomish County. Bring a lunch, water and dress for weather. If the weather is foul, plan B is a low-elevation hike in the South Fork Stilly basin. A USFS trail park pass is required. Contact Bill Lider at 425.776.0671.

Tuesday, August 10 Chinook Pass and Highway 410

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, a half-mile west of the fairgrounds. The pass is at 5432 feet elevation and intersects The Cascade Crest Trail. Expect Gray Jays, Vaux's Swifts, Mountain Chickadee and beautiful scenery. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750
Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tuesday, August 17 Snoq Valley, Monroe-Carnation

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, a half-mile west of the fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, August 24 SR 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. Lots of wood warblers last time. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Rare "Yellowfoot" highlights IBA survey

By Kerry Marl

The results are in! Volunteers identified 15 shorebird species during our spring surveys, as well as a couple additional species not far from the survey sites. They also identified an individual Greater Yellowlegs at Warm Beach, seen by a few groups of volunteers from April 24 through May 9. This bird was missing one foot, so volunteers wondered if they should consider it a "lesser" or perhaps call it a "Yellowfoot."

Whimbrels were reported more frequently this spring than other seasons. The total number of Whimbrels during the surveys was 289. Other species identified this spring included a Wilson's Snipe, Pectoral Sandpipers and a Baird Sandpiper.



Baird Sandpiper, by Paul Kusmin

DATE CHANGE!

Sunday, August 29 Mountain Loop

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near

Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We'll hike the Old Government Trail in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Tues., Aug. 31 Portage Creek, Lake Cavanaugh, Big Lake

Meet at 8 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. Virginia is going to show us her neighborhood, including her feeders. No need to pack a lunch for Virginia will provide at her place.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

September 11-13

Puget Sound Bird Fest

I have volunteered to lead the Saturday afternoon walk at Yost Park. Details will follow when the schedule is finalized.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Sunday, September 19

Lord Hill Regional Park

Meet at 7 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. Or, meet us at the park entrance at 7:30. This is a pleasant loop around the hill through the forest and past streams and a pond. Probably just a half day because it's close by. If we're done early, maybe we can sneak over to Shadow Lake afterward.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

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.

The total numbers of the common shorebirds were lower than the past couple of years, as we were not able to survey at Davis Slough. Dunlin still won the prize for the greatest number of birds counted at more than 17,000. Western Sandpipers were the next most identified species, with 4,530. However, many of the 6,195 unidentified "peeps" reported could have been Westerns.

For more data, you can visit the Port Susan Important Bird Area page on the PAS web site. You'll also find a form to report large groups – or "pulses" – of shorebirds coming through the IBA. This spring was the first time we tried out

(See "Survey" on page 7)

Have fun, be entertained and get smarter

Wednesday Weekly Weeders

Every week Native Plant Demo Garden, Edmonds

During the summer, everyone is welcome to join the Wednesday Weekly Weeders each Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant Demo Garden in Edmonds. Bring your own tools or use ours.

The garden is located at the Willow Creek Hatchery, 95 Pine Street, Edmonds.

Cascades Banding Camp

August 9-13 Cascade Mountains

Teens can learn to band birds in Washington's Cascade Mountains with trainers Dan Froehlich and Don Norman. Training focuses on net placement, extraction and handling, ageing and sexing.

Training is scheduled for August 9-13. The cost is \$450, plus \$50 for materials. For more information or to download registration forms, visit www.seattleaudubon.org.

Bees for your garden, with Dave Pehling

August 3 Native Plant Demo Garden, Edmonds

Dave Pehling of WSU will present "Bees for your garden," on August 3, from 6:30-7:30 p.m., at the Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Edmonds. The program is free and registration is not required.

The garden is located at the Willow Creek Hatchery, 95 Pine Street, Edmonds.

Puget Sound Bird Fest

September 10-12

Edmonds

Plan on being in Edmonds September 10-12 for the sixth annual Puget Sound Bird Fest. The three-day event includes speakers, guided walks, land and water-based field trips, exhibits and educational activities and a tour of certified backyard wildlife habitats.

The opening reception on Friday evening features Seattle author and naturalist Lyanda Lynn Haupt. Her book, *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness*, was an LA Times and Seattle Times Best Book of 2009.

Saturday field trips include a morning birding cruise on Puget Sound with the Edmonds Yacht Club and an evening bus trip to Monroe to see thousands of Vaux's Swifts. There will be workshops and presentations all day at the Frances Anderson Center including sessions focusing on hummingbirds and Trumpeter Swans, bird photography, how to choose and use bird feeders and nest boxes, and an introduction to live raptors from the Sarvey Wildlife Center.

The featured activity on Sunday is a tour of the new Willow Creek Hatchery Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant Demonstration Garden and certified backyard wildlife habitats in Edmonds.

For more details, visit www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org. And, if you are interested in volunteering at Puget Sound Bird Fest or serving on a committee, please contact Sally Lider at 425.771.0227 or lider@ci.edmonds.wa.us.

Weekend hikers add life list bird in Monroe

By Terry Nightingale

In June, four birders joined me as I led my first Pilchuck Audubon Weekend Bird Hike to Monroe's Al Borlin Park on Buck Island. The park, situated on a long strip of land between Woods Creek and the Skykomish River, offers flat, wide trails through a riparian forest and several open areas for picnicking. If you go, here's a tip: bring insect repellent to avoid becoming an unwitting feast for the mosquitoes. Our group had applied liberal amounts, so we fared well.

We started at the trailhead on the banks of Woods Creek. As we stood at the interpretive sign, a small brown bird flew low into the branches a few yards from us. We had an excellent look and realized it was one of the Swainson's Thrushes we'd been hearing. While most of us had heard them before, it was new to see one, especially up close.

As we continued on the trail, we heard a rising whistle coming from the opposite side of the creek. We took advantage of a clearing on our side to scan for birds. One of our intrepid birders found the perch of a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, who was living up to his name. He made repeated short trips from the perch to hunt insects.



Red-eyed Vireo, by Marg Heslin

We didn't get far before another bird song caught our attention. This one came from high in the canopy of the forest on our side of the creek. It was a series of short musical notes interspersed with pauses. It took several minutes to track down the source, but eventually we found the small, yellow-brown bird with white and black eye stripes – a Red-eyed Vireo! A lifer for everyone in the group!

Encouraged by that exciting find, we continued on the trail. After stopping to observe a Brown-headed Cowbird, we came to a riverfront clearing with picnic tables. Apparently, this was good habitat for catching flies, because we observed Willow Flycatchers in the trees near the river, as well as three types of swallows out over the water: Violet-green Swallows, Tree Swallows and Northern Rough-winged Swallows.

Next, we saw waxwings perched on fallen trees out on a gravel bar in the river. We studied them carefully to confirm they were all Cedar Waxwings (no Bohemian Waxwings mixed in). We noticed that rather than foraging for berries,

(See "Hikers" on page 7)

Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Tried to sleep in with the windows open on one of these warm mornings? Maybe you hear the call of the **Song Sparrow** or **Spotted Towhee**. And, then, all of a sudden, the harsh call of the **Steller's Jay**. Hopefully, the **Black-headed Grosbeak's** melodic sound can lull you back to sleep. No chance, the **Northern Flicker's** high-pitched call wakes you again. By this time, it is 8:58 and "Bird Note" time.

Carole and Larry Beason must hear a lot of bird sounds in the mornings from their Lake Bosworth location. They had a total species count of 47, which wasn't a record for them, but close. Back in May of 2008, they reported 51 species. The **Muscovy Ducks** returned again this month along with 2 **Bald Eagles** in the yard, 3 **Barn Swallows**, a **Belted Kingfisher** over the lake, 16 **Brewer's Blackbirds** at the feeders, 4 **Common Loons** on the lake, 6 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 12 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, 3 **Swainson's Thrush** in the yard, 2 **Tree Swallows**, 12 **Violet-green Swallows** and 3 **Wilson's Warblers**.

The **Cedar Waxwings** are back. Gail Dibernardo reported 6 in her yard in Brier. She also listed 6 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 2 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 5 **Violet-green Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** over the park, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** and 2 **Brown Creepers** in her yard, 5 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Swainson's Thrush**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **Rufous Hummingbird**, a **Pileated Woodpecker** and 3 **Northern Flickers** for a total species count of 30.

Hilkka Egtvedt had a sad story to recount. A pair of **Bald Eagles** built a nest that she could see from her house in Mukilteo. She and her husband watched the progression of incubation and then the young eaglet being fed by its parents. Unfortunately, on June 16, the nest was gone after a heavy rain storm. She and her husband drove to the tree to see if they could find any signs of the youngster. All that remained was scattered branches. They had hoped to be watching when the eaglet took its first flight. Along with the 3 **Bald Eagles**, her report also listed 8 **American Goldfinches**, 15 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 5 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 4 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **Barn Swallows** and a



Song Sparrow, by Raymond Parsons



Swainson's Thrush, by Paul Kusmin



House Finch, by Donald Metzner

May 26, 2010-June 25, 2010

Wilson's Warbler for a total species count of 30.

Kriss Erickson also reported a **Cedar Waxwing** in her yard in Everett. She now has 2 adult **Wood Ducks** and 6 ducklings in the yard along with 2 adult **Mallards** and 5 ducklings. Her total species count of 15 also included a **White-crowned Sparrow**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 3 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **House Finch**, 9 **Bushtits**, 12 **Black-capped Chickadees** with 4 juveniles and a **Bald Eagle** flying overhead.

Adeline Gildow spotted 69 **Great Blue Herons** mid-tide at Juniper Beach along with various duck species. She also reported 2 **Belted Kingfishers** along the hillside at Juniper. Her total species count of 35 from Camano Island also included 8 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **American Robins**, 6 **Bald Eagles**, 8 **Cedar Waxwings** in her yard, 2 **Osprey** at Warm Beach, 13 swallow species in her yard and overhead, 3 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Brown Creeper**, a **Red-tailed Hawk** and 4 **Anna's Hummingbirds**.

Two more **Cedar Waxwings** were reported by Julie O'Donald in Brier. She also spotted 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers**, a **Pacific Slope Flycatcher**, 4 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **Wilson's Warblers**, a **White-crowned Sparrow**, 12 **American Crows**, 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **Spotted Towhees**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Swainson's Thrush**, 2 **California Quail** and a **Western Wood Pewee** in the greenbelt for a total species count of 27.

Mary Sinker reported a total of 35 species from her Stanwood home. Two **Cedar Waxwings** were included along with 9 **Black-headed Grosbeaks** and 6 **Evening Grosbeaks**. She also listed 8 **American Goldfinches**, 15 **American Robins**, 7 **Barn Swallows** in her yard, 4 **Tree Swallows** in the pasture, 9 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 5 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 7 **Spotted Towhees**, 20 **European Starlings** and a rowdy 14 **Steller's Jays**.

Dick Vanderhoff's report from Stanwood included 6 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 2 **Bald Eagles** flying over, a **Downy Woodpecker** with juvenile, 6 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **Spotted Towhees** and 5 **Chickadee** species for a total species count of 6.

(See "Sightings" on page 7)

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Summertime! Who doesn't feel great when warm sunshine finally comes to western Washington? Our flowers, vegetable gardens and fruit trees start to flourish and Mt. Baker, Mt. Rainier, the Cascades and Olympics tower over beautiful Puget Sound. That's what we all love about Snohomish County – and why I work to ensure our county remains a wonderful, beautiful place to live.

I am thrilled to report several important county land use wins toward the goals of building better urban communities and protecting rural lands from unnecessary development and the costs of providing new infrastructure and services.

As you know, Snohomish County has a comprehensive plan for county lands, and each city has one for land within its city limits. Under the Growth Management Act (GMA), the county and cities are required "to consider" proposals from private citizens to change the land use plans. Even so, it is left to the county's discretion to decide whether to move these proposals forward for further environmental analysis and to determine if the proposed changes meet state law. In Snohomish County, this process "docketing."

Since the GMA's inception, there have been many proposals to change land use patterns. One year, more than 100 proposals were submitted. In most cases, the county planning staff finds the landowner requests do not meet the GMA, the county-wide planning policies or the county's own policies, and the requests are denied further consideration.

However, the year 100 proposals were submitted, they were included on the docket. That year, it became apparent how much tax payer money is spent for analysis. And, in the end, the majority of proposals were denied because they didn't meet the mandates of the GMA.

Historically, Pilchuck Audubon Society and Futurewise have appealed many of the county council's decisions on land use changes, which also costs taxpayers more money.

So, this year, we consider it great that the council denied all proposals for this round of the docket. There were two large urban growth area expansion requests by the cities of Monroe and Snohomish. The council agreed that the appropriate time to consider these two proposals – or any large urban growth area expansion – will be during the next 10-year comprehensive plan update in 2015.

It will be difficult for cities and landowners to make the case to expand urban growth area boundaries. They'll have to prove these expansions are warranted under state law. Given the economic downturn, the costs of transportation (which must accompany new growth into rural lands) and the need for new land to support new growth, it could be later than 2015 before any city sees an urban growth area expansion.

In fact, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), the planning body for Pierce, King, Snohomish and Kitsap counties, in its Vision 2040 planning document, recommended no large urban growth area boundary expansions for the next 30 years. Instead, the PSRC wants counties and cities to work harder to accommodate new people and development into existing cities and urban growth areas. This means developing land more densely and smartly. Development should focus on mixed use, transit oriented urban areas that provide amenities people want: more bicycle trails and connections, more open

space amid commercial and residential areas, taller buildings, and more ways to use transit and walk safely and easily.

The second big win came at the end of Docket XIV, last year's county comprehensive amendment process. We requested – and the county added to their plans to urbanize the old Cathcart Landfill site – policy language to include a year-round farmers market, more ball fields and an affordable housing demonstration project using inclusionary zoning.

However, the county still owes \$21 million on the bond to buy this land from the solid waste division. So, there will be pressure to build out the property without the amenities in the policy language. It will be up to citizens like us to ensure we get the amenities we want and that the development will provide for the public good while still providing for population growth and jobs.

Hearing scheduled for the Shoreline Master Program update

The Snohomish County Council will conduct a public hearing on the update to the Shoreline Master Plan on Wednesday, September 1. This update – mandated by the Shoreline Management Act – will determine what types of development should be allowed on shorelines, how it should be built, what areas should be protected (and how) and where there should be public access and recreation opportunities. Shorelines managed under the act include marine shorelines, as well as certain rivers, streams and lakes.

Pilchuck Audubon Society has been involved with this process since the beginning. We will need your help to ensure the best protections for wildlife habitat and water quality. One of the easiest ways get involved is by sending e-mails to the county council as part of my Action Alert system.

You can join the Action Alert system by sending me an e-mail at kristin@futurewise.org. I will send an Action Alert with talking points and a quick click to send your e-mail to county council members.

In addition, it's important that PAS members attend the hearings – whether or not you testify. The council responds well to hearing from citizens about why strong regulations to protect our shorelines and our wildlife habitat are important. If you can attend the hearing, contact me at kristin@futurewise.org or 425.923.8625.

**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

Blackbird ...

(continued from page 2)

would put my life in the hands of someone I'd never met and knew nothing about? To tell the truth, that hadn't crossed my mind. Spain had been civilized for about 3500 years. It had a stable government. What's to fear?

When we parted the night before the ship reached Malaga, there seemed to be a general feeling that they might never see me again. The ladies gave me an extra hug. The guys looked at me like I was some kind of fool going off into the darkest heart of Africa to see, of all things, flamingos.

The next morning, I was one of the first off the ship and the first to reach a long line of taxis. I walked up to the first taxi and asked the driver if he spoke English. He replied, "Si." That was the extent of his English and the extent of my Spanish.

But Euros are not lost in translation and soon we had negotiated a price for the trip. We exchanged names, and soon my new best friend, Pedro, and Miguel were off to the hinterland

Survey ...

(continued from page 3)

this data collection method. From year to year, it will be interesting to track any changes or see any patterns.

Thank you to those who have already participated. It seemed as though the most reports came in this spring around the very end of April and beginning of May.

Please consider helping us out with this during the "fall" migration as well! You do not need to be a trained volunteer to participate, you only need to be in the area and distinguish a shorebird from any other type of bird. The fall migration

Hikers ...

(continued from page 4)

they too were catching flies, a behavior none of us had ever seen. Very exciting!

We crossed Woods Creek on a nearby bridge and took a short uphill trail to Lewis Street Park, a small urban park set among large coniferous trees. On the bridge, we started hearing another musical bird song, similar to the American Robin, but a bit harsher. This time we never did see the singer, but believe it was a Western Tanager, a lifer for me.

Lastly, we finished the loop trail, with several side diversions to look out over the river again. We were rewarded with a nice view of a Merlin, preening and snoozing on a log atop another gravel bar in the middle of the river – typical behavior just after a meal. One other surprise awaited us on the return trip: an American Crow, apparently sunning, with beak open and pointed skyward. This fellow remained so still for so long that he had us all convinced he was no longer of this world. At least until he moved his head and proved us all wrong!

Overall, it was a great day for birding and fun.

of southern Spain. I'm sure I overpaid for the trip, but Pedro and I got on quite well and had marvelous time together.

When we reached the lagoon, Pedro waited while, for the next four hours, I roamed the shoreline luxuriating in flocks of Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Red-crested Pochard, Red Shank and Ruff. But the most spectacular were the flamingos. I've seen flamingos in zoos, but never in the wild. They're quite spectacular and worth every Euro. In all, I added 17 new species to my life list.

That night at dinner, everyone was pleased to see that I had returned unscathed from Miguel's Excellent Adventure and to hear that I had done nothing to harm Spanish-American relations. During the day, my travel mates got to see one more cathedral, the third or fourth on the trip to this point.

As for me, I got to see one of the most intensely felt sights in God's creation: flamingos in flight.

can begin as early as July and tends to be mostly over by the middle of September. So keep your eyes open and your scopes out!

Also for the fall, the IBA Action Team is looking for a new leader. Although I will still be on the committee, due to work restraints, I will no longer be able to coordinate the project. It is a fun and supportive group to work with, so please consider the position. Contact me at kerrymarl@yahoo.com or 425.252.5243 to learn more.

Sightings ...

(continued from page 5)

Everything is about the same at my Marysville home. I did spot 2 **Evening Grosbeaks**, but they did not stay long. My total species count of 27 included 40-50 **Mallards** in the flooded fields, 9 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 7 **House Finches**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** (including 2 juveniles), a **Spotted Towhee** with 3 juveniles (no **Brown-headed Cowbird** juveniles yet this year), 2 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 6 **California Quail**, 6 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, 2 **Pine Siskins** and 8 **Tree Swallows**.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please e-mail me at pricemara@clearwire.net or leave a message at 425.750.8125.

All PAS membership dues and donations are tax-deductible. The PAS tax ID number is 96-6183664. Consult your tax professional for full details.

Fall Vaux's Swift action starting soon

Don't miss the third annual Swifts Night Out at Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe on Saturday, September 11. Organizers promise this year's event will be bigger and better than ever, with help from the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and Monroe Parks and Recreation. So, bring your friends and family, peruse the educational displays and then claim your spot on the lawn to watch the fantastic aerial show. The fun starts at 4 p.m.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the PAS table, as

well as docents to wander the crowd. Don't worry, if you volunteer, you won't miss any of the action. Please contact Susie Schaefer at susie.schaefer@comcast.net to sign up.

The fall migration begins in mid-August, and counters and docents will be needed at Frank Wagner each evening until the migration trails off in mid-October. If you can help, please contact Judy Alles at judy.alles@pilchuckaudubon.org or leave a message at 425.252.0926. And, watch the PAS web site for info about docent and counter training.

Birdathon 2010 recap

Three thousand dollars. That's about how much this year's Birdathon raised for Pilchuck Audubon. Many thanks to all the Birdathon participants and sponsors for their hard work. And, a big thank you to the Tuesday Birding Trip participants, who generously donated to the cause.

Please be sure to patronize the generous local merchants who donated prizes for Birdathon participants. The list includes the Everett Fred Meyer store, QFC in Mukilteo and Wild Birds Unlimited stores in Everett and Lake Forest Park.

PAS board meetings are open to all

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.

Audubon membership information

Joint membership in National Audubon Society (NAS) and Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) includes NAS's quarterly magazine *Audubon* and PAS'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 PAS. **All PAS membership dues are tax-deductible.* The PAS tax ID number is 96-6183664.**

PAS receives only a small portion of your national dues to support the work of the chapter. If you do not want to be a national member or you want your dues to stay local, you can join PAS separately. Local membership in PAS includes a one-year subscription (10 issues) to PAS'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

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

* Consult your tax professional for full details.

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