

Bring friends, family to PAS picnic August 14

Pilchuck Audubon’s annual picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 14, at Langus Riverfront Park in Everett. Come along, relax, eat and enjoy the company of your fellow PAS members. We’re planning a truly fantastic day full of activities for the whole family.

At 10 a.m., Terri Wentworth-Davis (formerly Terri Spencer), environmental educator, past PAS Education Committee chair and long-time PAS member, will lead a bird and nature hike for the kids.

At the same time, there’ll be a birding competition between teams of PAS members and guests. August isn’t the greatest month for birding, so this will really be a challenge!

At 10 a.m., we’ll form teams (balanced with beginning, intermediate and expert birders). At 10:30, teams will set off and have until noon to find as many bird species as possible. The winning team gets oodles of Virginia Clark’s delicious cookies. Priceless!

To keep things as fair as possible, scopes and electronic calling devices won’t be allowed. But, you can use a vehicle and go wherever you want within the allowed time frame. Members of the team must stay within sight of each other during the competition.

(See “Picnic” on page 8)

Don’t miss the annual Feast with Friends

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director



Feast with Friends hosts: Warner Blake and Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak

Folks, it’s time to buy your ticket to the annual Feast with Friends Fund-raiser! The feast is Thursday, Sept. 1, 6 to 9 p.m., at the home of Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak and Warner Blake, 230 Avenue B, Snohomish.

For the past five years, they have donated their wonderful home and art studio for this event. Everyone who goes there loves it! The studio is filled with beautiful art and the gardens are wonderful!

(See “Feast” on page 8)

No August program meeting

In September, join us at the opening ceremony of Puget Sound Bird Fest!

Friday, September 9, 7 p.m.

Changing world, changing birds

In the natural world, one of the constants is change. The distribution and abundance of animals and plants have always changed through time, but the activities of humans have accelerated these changes, sometimes dramatically.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in birds – including dramatic changes among the birds of the Puget Sound region.

Join Dr. Dennis Paulson – Director Emeritus of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound, teacher, researcher and author – as he tackles these difficult subjects.

Special location – September only!

The Edmonds Plaza Room, 650 Main Street, above the Edmonds Library

For more information, call 425.252.0926

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

In this issue

President’s message ..	2	Christmas in June	5
Trip calendar	3	Smart Growth report ...	6
Shorebird research	3	Sightings	7
Upcoming Events	4	American Alps	9

President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



As I write this column, I see an interesting behavior I've not seen before: a Chestnut-backed Chickadee is hopping from branch to branch in my rose arbor, shaking the raindrops off the leaves, taking a shower. Isn't that fascinating?

At any rate, back to business. Salmon habitat restoration is in the forefront of conservation. One could even make a case that the salmon has become the iconic symbol of the conservation movement in our part of the world. Salmon restoration garners the majority of funding, many times at the expense of other conservation endeavors. However, rather than snivel about salmon being the 800-pound fish in the pond, I see it as a huge opportunity for birds.

Salmon hatcheries have become proficient at releasing millions of juveniles every year into the Snohomish River. That's a good thing. Unfortunately, on their way to the sea, the juveniles have few accessible wetlands to seek respite from predators. As a consequence, merganser and cormorant populations are expanding with this new-found bounty – at the expense of recovery efforts. Another significant consequence of large concentrations of predatory birds is that they may hammer the wild fish populations, as well.

In the early 1900s, much of the Snohomish River estuary was diked, converting wetlands to farmland. In an attempt to bring balance back into salmon restoration, there are plans to breach the dikes on many of the manmade islands in the estuary. The intention is not to eliminate existing farmland, which will be protected by new dikes, just return some diked land back to historic wetlands in an effort to give salmon juveniles a leg up, or rather a fin up, as they begin their long sojourn at sea.

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

So where do birds fit in this scenario, other than mergansers and cormorants preying on the salmon juveniles? Snohomish County is preparing to breach the dikes on Smith Island. The county notes that the Smith Island Restoration Project will allow multiple uses, including recreational and public access opportunities. Birds are a huge opportunity.

As Audubon members, we love the lore and beauty of bird-watching. But, it's also major economic force. According to a US Fish and Wildlife Service study, birdwatchers contributed \$36 billion to the US economy in 2006, and 20% of all Americans are identified as birdwatchers. The income level of birders has been found to be well above average.

Birders come from many walks of life and watch a variety of birds in different settings. Their enthusiasm also translates into spending, thereby contributing significantly to national and local economies. The high values birders place on their birding trips is a solid indicator of birding's benefit to society.

Snohomish County already draws a large number of birders every winter from across the nation, even internationally, to see wintering Snow Geese and Trumpeter Swans. Judging from the plans, the Smith Island Project could draw birders in the spring and fall to see migrating shorebirds. The chance to see Black Bellied and Pacific Golden plovers is a draw for all serious birders.

The Stanwood Chamber of Commerce estimates the average visitor to the annual Snow Goose Festival spends \$200 in the community. I suspect that few Chamber members are birdwatchers, but they do recognize economic opportunity.

(See "Blackbird" on page 8)



Board of directors

President	Mike Blackbird.....	425.670.2491
Vice President	Susie Schaefer	425.771.8165
Treasurer	Carolyn Lacy	360.668.2494
Secretary	Kathleen Snyder.....	425.438.1505
Conservation	Jan van Niel.....	425.778.7568
Membership Chair	Margaret Bridge	360.862.1694
Avian Science	* Open *	
Development	* Open *	
Member at Large	Jay Ward	425.923.0005
Member at Large	Allen Gibbs.....	425.338.5466
Consultant	David Gladstone	

Committee chairs

Birdathon	Hilkka Egtvedt.....	425.347.4944
Bird Sightings	Mara Price	360.722.5752
Conservation Awards	Laura Zalesky	425.337.2479
Education/Program	Laura Harvell Spehar.....	425.672.2150
Field Trips	Art Wait.....	360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson	360.659.7252
Hospitality	Virginia Clark	360.435.3750
Legal Advisor	Pete Dewell	206.281.8082
Newsletter Editor	Annette Colombini.....	425.501.8125
Publicity	Judy Alles.....	360.793.1343
Volunteer Coordinator	* Open *	

Staff

Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly	425.923.8625
--------------	---------------------	--------------

© 2011 Pilchuck Audubon Society. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Opinions expressed are those of the credited writers and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Pilchuck Audubon Society.

Trip calendar

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

Tuesday, August 2

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

Tuesday, August 9

Chinook Pass, Highway 410

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, a half-mile west of the fairgrounds. We will have beautiful scenery. The pass is at 5,432 feet and intersects the Cascade Crest Trail. Gray Jays, Vaux's Swifts and Mountain Chickadee. Expect a long day. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tues., Aug. 16 Snoqualmie Valley: Monroe to 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 23 SR 20 from Rockport to Diablo

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 lots of wood warblers. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Seen a shorebird with a colored flag on its leg?

A team of researchers is marking several species of migratory shorebirds that make annual trips from wintering grounds as far south as South America to breeding grounds in the Arctic. You can help by recording and reporting information on marked birds you spot.

The marked birds – Red Knots, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Sanderlings, Whimbrels and Hudsonian Godwits – sport leg bands and flags colored according to the country where they were attached. Most flags also feature codes that make it possible to identify individual birds.

"Resightings" of marked birds provide needed data on movement patterns and habitat uses and needs. This information is vital to understanding and reversing the population declines migratory shorebirds are experiencing. And, scientists need your help collecting it.

All you need is a spotting scope, binoculars or camera and a willingness to watch for marked birds. When you see a banded bird, make a few notes and enter your findings in an online database. You can also look up the other data collected on the birds you spot.

To learn more, visit www.bandedbirds.org.

Tuesday, August 30 Stillaquamish and Sauk rivers

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 are going to explore areas near the rivers around Darrington. Past trips in the area left fond birding memories for Wilma and Virginia. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sunday, August 21 Mt. Rainier NP (Ohanapecosh), Silver Falls Loop Trail

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. Six-mile loop along the Ohanapecosh River near the park's Stevens Canyon Entrance. The falls are 75-feet high. National Park entrance fee \$15 or Golden Eagle Pass. Pack a lunch. We may stop on the way home for dinner.

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

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.

Don't miss the American Alps Challenge!

Saturday, September 24
North Cascades Highway



After plunging down from the mountains, the American Alps Challenge winds its way through the Skagit Valley to Marblemount. Photo by Jim Scarborough.

The American Alps Challenge is a cross-North Cascades relay race (bike, run, kayak and bike), plus multiple family nature events. Check out the Challenge at www.americanalps.org.

Be a part of the Challenge. Learn more about what the North Cascades has to offer. Help protect this incredible wild place.

Have fun, be entertained and get smarter

"Puget Sound: I love you" day camp

August 1-5

Monroe

Have a student looking for something fun to do this summer? Join the Stilly-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force for a five-day summer environmental camp called Puget Sound: I love you (P.S. I love you). This free camp runs from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., August 1-5, at Monroe High School. It's for students entering grades 6-12.

For more info and to register, visit www.stillysnofish.org or contact Sarah Nelson: sarah@stillysnofish.org or 425.252.6686.

Learn about raptors

August 4

Northwest Stream Center

Venture into the world of raptors with Kestrel SkyHawk and friends from Sarvey Wildlife Center on Thursday, August 4, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Northwest Stream Center.

Kestrel will discuss habitat requirements of these magnificent birds and what it means to have "eagle eyes." As a special treat, you'll meet Hu lyake, a large Golden Eagle!

Cost is \$5 for PAS members. Advance purchase is required. Please call 425.316.8592.

The Northwest Stream Center is located in McCollum Park, Everett. Take the 128th Street exit from I-5 and drive east for one-half mile. Turn right into the entrance of the park and drive to the south end. The Northwest Stream Center is the last structure at the end of the road.

Stilly Festival of the River and Pow Wow

August 12-14

River Meadows Park, Arlington

The Stillaguamish Festival of the River is a fun way to celebrate summer – and the environment of the Pacific Northwest. Enjoy great music, food, crafts, wild bird presentations, kids' activities and much, much more.

This year's event will feature a giant storytelling tent, interpretive salmon habitat tours and a salmon barbeque.

For more information, visit www.festivaloftheriver.com.

Feast with Friends

Thurs., September 1

AngelArmsWorks, Snohomish

The fifth annual Feast with Friends fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 6-9 p.m., at AngelArmsWorks, the home and studio of Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak and Warner Blake. This fantastic and delicious event raises money for the Smart Growth program. Local farmers donate local products. Local chefs create great food. Local wineries donate great wine. All you do is eat, drink and enjoy!

AngelArmsWorks is located at 230 B Street, Snohomish.

For more information, visit www.futurewise.org or contact Kristin Kelly at kristin@futurewise.org.

Puget Sound Bird Fest

September 9-11

Edmonds

Plan on being in Edmonds Sept. 9-11 for 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 a presenta-

tion titled "Changing world, changing birds," by Dr. Dennis Paulson, Director Emeritus of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound.

Saturday field trips include a birding cruise on Puget Sound with the Edmonds Yacht Club and a 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 Trumpeter Swans, photography, how to choose and use bird feeders and nest boxes and an introduction to live raptors from the Sarvey Wildlife Center.

The featured activities on Sunday are guided walks at Edmonds Marsh, Willow Creek, Yost Park and Pine Ridge Park.

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.

Swifts Night Out

September 10

Monroe

Be sure to save Saturday, September 10, for the fourth annual Swifts Night Out at Frank Wagner Elementary, 639 West Main Street, Monroe. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. with docents available to answer questions, educational exhibits, kids' activities and more.

At 6:30 p.m., Larry Schwitters will lead a presentation in the school auditorium. Then, grab a blanket, find a spot on the lawn and wait for the show to start! Last year, more than 1000 folks attended, so be sure to get to Monroe early!

Watch next month's *Profile* for more information or visit www.pilchuckaudubon.org.

San Juan Islands cruise

October 3-5

Leaving from Sequim

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this fall for a three-day wildlife cruise through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. Cruise from Sequim to Roche Harbor Resort and San Juan Island, whale-watching along the way. Picnic on Sucia Island, and cruise back to Sequim via dramatic Deception Pass.

For more information, visit www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org or contact 360.681.4076 or rcoffice@olympus.net.

Fall Audubon Chapters of Washington (ACOW)

October 8

Moses Lake

The fall ACOW meeting will be a one-day affair – on Saturday, October 8, at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake. The main topic on the agenda will be recommendations and deliberations of the group working to rejuvenate the state office. More details will follow in future issues of *The Profile*.

Livable Snohomish County Summit and candidate forum

Saturday, October 29

PUD building, Everett

Plans are in the works. Watch future issues of *The Profile* for more information about this free event.

To volunteer at the event, contact Kristy Kelly at kristin@futurewise.org.

Christmas in June for weekend hikers

By Terry Nightingale

The weather gods smiled on four birders who traveled to the Cedar River watershed to explore Rattlesnake and Christmas lakes on June 12. The watershed is the primary source of drinking water for the greater Seattle area, so it's important to keep it clean. That means much of the watershed is off-limits to the public. The public areas, however, include a visitor center with educational exhibits and helpful staff and trails of varying difficulty.

Taking a leaf from the book of Hugh Jennings, an experienced birder I respect a great deal, I recommended to the group that we walk two trails of negligible elevation gain. The first was Rattlesnake Lake Trail, a half-mile loop which leaves the visitor center, follows one side of the lake, then returns to the visitor center from the opposite direction.

First, we birded the yard area between the visitor center and the lake. In the nearby trees, we heard a Yellow Warbler singing loudly, and it wasn't long before we caught sight of his bright yellow plumage. We also heard, but never did see, a Willow Flycatcher joining in with his "fitzspew!" song. Further away, we could hear the bubbly song of a Black-headed Grosbeak and what sounded like a Warbling Vireo. Circling overhead were three Turkey Vultures, notable for their apparent lack of a head until one spies them in the binoculars.

We started down the trail and heard a Swainson's Thrush calling from nearby bushes. We were treated to a rare glimpse as he flushed from the bushes to more distant trees. Then, we saw not one, but two Warbling Vireos in tall trees nearby.

The path along the lake was productive. We saw a pair of Cedar Waxwings, also in the high trees between the lake and the visitor center. We stopped near the lake and scoped some Canada Geese on the far side, watched two Ospreys glide by on their long, pointed wings and confirmed that a large flock of hikers was at the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain. A Spotted Towhee made himself known with his tinny song, and a White-crowned Sparrow perched on a fence and sang in a spot where we could get a nice look. We went behind the visitor center, and happened to see a Rufous Hummingbird perched in a small tree. He gave us excellent looks at his brilliant orange gorget, and how much it changed color when he turned his head.

Next stop: the Christmas Lake trailhead, about a mile down the road. The trail starts as a wide, well-kept gravel road heading slightly uphill and off into the forest. About a quarter mile, we took the Christmas Lake spur, which was narrow and overgrown. If you hike there, be careful of two prominent devil's club plants near the trail. Further into the thick of things, we were surrounded by a cacophony of birdsong.

A Pacific Wren was the first familiar song, followed by the



Swainson's Thrush, by Derek Zaraza

song of another Swainson's Thrush and a Red-winged Blackbird. A small flock of chickadees – including black-capped and chestnut-backed – passed from tree to tree. This trail was a gold mine for flycatchers, yielding another willow, but also a Pacific-slope and an olive-sided.

We were able to pick out another Warbling Vireo from the din, but then saw a small bird darting through branches about 20 feet away. We realized this was not the Vireo. It was a drab bird overall, but with a big black patch on its throat: a Black-throated Gray Warbler! We were quite excited.

This patch of forest held a few other warblers, as well: Wilson's, MacGillivray's and yellow. The only

low-light of the trip was that we got – at most – a passing and distant view of Christmas Lake itself. But, we consoled ourselves by commandeering a picnic table and enjoyed a nice lunch. In sum, it was a beautiful sunny day, and fun was had by all.

Here are the birds we heard or saw at Rattlesnake Lake: 13 Canada Geese, 3 Turkey Vultures, 2 Osprey, a Rufous Hummingbird, a Willow Flycatcher, 2 Warbling Vireos, an American Crow, a Black-capped Chickadee, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Swainson's Thrush, 2 American Robins, 2 Cedar Waxwings, a Yellow Warbler, a Spotted Towhee, a Song Sparrow, a White-crowned Sparrow and 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks. Near Christmas Lake, we heard or saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Willow Flycatcher, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, a Warbling Vireo, a Common Raven, a Black-capped Chickadee, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Pacific Wren, a Swainson's Thrush, a Cedar Waxwing, a Yellow Warbler, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, a MacGillivray's Warbler, a Wilson's Warbler, a White-crowned Sparrow, a Black-headed Grosbeak, and a Red-winged Blackbird.

Upper Ridge Cottages



custom small homes
2 acre wooded site
exceeding green standards
old fashioned community life
pre-selling 6 homes - \$350 +
we break ground summer 2011

www.upperidgecottages.com
425-353-8150

Hikers enjoy great variety at Elger Bay

By Jonathan Blubaugh

The Weekend Bird Hikers spent a beautiful day the Elger Bay Preserve on Camano Island on June 26. The citizens of Camano Island have donated many hours of labor to improve the trail system there and elsewhere on the island. And, we were treated to no less than 12 migratory species at the preserve. But, I digress.

While Kathleen and I waited for the other hikers at Everett Mall, we peeked into the mitigation pond and were rewarded with nearly a dozen ducklings, safely behind a chain-link fence with Mom. What a great way to start the day!

On our way to the preserve, we made a stop on East Camano Road behind Utsalady Elementary School. There, we saw a mature Bald Eagle, a pair of Chestnut-backed Chickadees with a baby, four robins, a Cedar Waxwing and a White-Crowned Sparrow.

At Elger Bay Preserve, we walked the well-signed, pleasant trail to tally the numerous migrants. The trail wraps around the east side of Elger Bay Elementary School. One of the high-



Virginia Rail, by Paul Kusmin

lights for me was a boardwalk with perfect benches in the shade next to a quiet beaver pond.

We didn't see any beavers, but there were plenty of birds. Here's what we heard or saw at the preserve: a Great Blue Heron perched in a tree, another mature Bald Eagle, a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, a Virginia Rail, a Mourning Dove, a pair of Rufous Hummingbirds, a Willow Flycatcher, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, a Violet-Green Swallow, five Barn Swallows, three Northern Rough-winged Swallows, a pair of Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a pair of Bushtits, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Swainson's Thrush, five Cedar Waxwings, an Orange-crowned Warbler, a Yellow Warbler, a MacGillivray's Warbler, a Spotted Towhee, two Dark-eyed Juncos,

a pair of Song Sparrows with a chick, a male Western Tanager, a male Black-headed Grosbeak, a male Red-winged Blackbird, four Brewer's Blackbirds, a cowbird, a couple of (probable) Purple Finches carrying nesting material and three American Goldfinches perched on the school fence.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

On July 7, Community Transit (CT) concluded an awareness and outreach campaign regarding a 20% budget cut that will affect bus service. Last year, a decrease in sales tax revenue forced CT to cut its budget by 15%. The result was the loss of Sunday and holiday service and the elimination of a few routes. This year, in response to a continued decline in sales tax revenue, three alternatives were drafted by CT staff.

The Board received nearly 1700 e-mails with citizen input about which routes to keep. About 40 people spoke at the public hearing. It's clear not everyone will be happy with the decision the CT Board will have to make. The biggest questions are how CT will keep the most buses running for the most people, especially on heavy commuter routes. Which direct routes to Seattle will be lost, forcing riders to transfer at larger park and ride stations such as Lynnwood or Everett? Will Sunday service be restored? Not easy decisions! Every community transit agency in Washington is being affected.

The Transportation for Washington (T4WA) campaign is gaining momentum to solve some state transportation problems that will be the hot topic of consideration in the 2012 Legislative Session. T4WA is based on three principles:

Fix it first. Save lives. We need to fix our existing crumbling bridges and roads first, then ensure new investments create jobs, spur economic growth and improve the safety and health of the community.

More transit. Increased transportation choices will reduce congestion, improve freight mobility, decrease pollution, connect people to jobs, ensure equitable transportation options for everyone and connect rural communities.

Build healthy, livable communities. Development and transportation go hand-in-hand. We need an efficient transportation system that supports affordable and healthy neighborhoods and connects Washingtonians to jobs, communities and each other.

The second principle will help to fix CT's service cuts by providing a different source of revenue – other than just sales tax, which fluctuates with the economy. As part of the T4WA, this piece is called the Local Transit Act. It will provide a long-term solution to our transit crisis by creating new, voter-approved transit funding tools to save jobs, preserve mobility for citizens and protect the environment. In the past three years, eight out of 10 local transit ballot measures have passed because citizens understand the economic, social and environmental benefits of transit service. Citizens shouldn't be stranded at bus stops due to service cuts – they deserve the right to vote for transit.

The T4WA campaign initial supporters include people from business, government and social equity and environmental groups. In Snohomish County, it is supported by County Council members Dave Somers, Dave Gossett, Brian Sullivan and Stephanie Wright, Lynnwood City Council Member Mark Smith and Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak.

To help support the T4WA campaign and the Local Transit Act, visit www.t4washington.org, or contact Viet Shelton at Transportation Choices Coalition (viet@transportationchoices.org or 206.329.2336) or Brock Howell at Futurewise (brock@futurewise.org or 206.343.0681).

Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Red Crossbills, a **Lazuli Bunting** and **Bullock's Orioles** topped this month's sightings. Hilka Egtvedt reported 26 **Red Crossbills** from Mukilteo. The **Lazuli Bunting** and **Bullock's Oriole** were reported by Carole and Larry Beason from Lake Bosworth. Another **Red Crossbill** was reported by William Burr at Warm Beach. Hopefully, we will see more!

Carole and Larry Beason's total species count of 48 included 20 **Evening Grosbeaks**, the **Lazuli Bunting** and the **Bullock's Oriole**, 8 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **Barn Swallows**, a **Belted Kingfisher** near the lake, 9 **Mourning Doves**, 5 **Cedar Waxwings** on the lilac, 5 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Ospreys**, 12 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 4 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, a **Swainson's Thrush** and 2 **Violet-green Swallows**.

A **Swainson's Thrush** was also reported by Annette Colombini from her Lake Stevens home. She also listed 3 **American Robins**, 2 **American Crows**, 1 **Turkey Vulture** eating a bunny, 5 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **American Goldfinches**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, a **Northern Flicker** and 2 **Pine Siskins**.

John Davis was out of town for two weeks in June, but you can't tell from his report from Forest Park. He was excited to report three different flycatchers an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** and a **Willow Flycatcher**. His species count of 37 also included 3 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **Barred Owls**, a **Belted Kingfisher**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, a **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, 2 **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**, an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, a **Warbling Vireo**, 2 **Western Woodpeewees** and a **Western Tanager**.

A **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was spotted by Gail Dibernardo in her yard in Brier. She also reported 5 **Golden-crowned Sparrows** under the feeders, 5 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** (an adult with juveniles), 4 **American Goldfinches**, a **Bewick's Wren**, a **House Wren**, 2 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers**, 4 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, 5 **California Quail** and a **Swainson's Thrush** for a total species count of 27.

Hilka Egtvedt had a total species count of 34 this month from Mukilteo. Besides the 26 **Red Crossbills**, she also reported 5 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 4 **Caspian Terns**, 10 **Evening Grosbeaks**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**, a **Wilson's Warbler** and 16 **Band-tailed Pigeons**.

Kriss Erickson still has those **Wood Ducks** in her yard in Everett. Her total species count of 14 also included 32



Lazuli Bunting, by Patty Bruno



Red-breasted Sapsucker, by Annette Colombini



Olive-sided Flycatcher

Bushtits, 12 **Mallards** (4 adults and 8 ducklings), 18 **American Crows**, 11 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 6 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 6 **Western Gulls** overhead and 6 **American Robins**.

Adeline Gildow spotted a total of 32 **Great Blue Herons** at Juniper Beach near her home on Camano Island. It had to be the highlight of her day. Her species count of 30 also included 12 **American Goldfinches**, 8 **Bald Eagles**, 4 **Eurasian Collared Doves**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, 11 **Caspian Terns**, 2 **Ospreys**, 5 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 3 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Northern Harrier** and a **Western Tanager**.

Another **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** were reported by Julie O'Donald from Brier. She also spotted a **Western Screech Owl** and a **Western Wood-pewee** along the green-belt. Her species count of 30 also included 4 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 5 **Bewick's Wrens**, a **Merlin**, 4 **House Finches**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, a **Swainson's Thrush**, a **Violet-green Swallow** and 2 **Western Tanagers**.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood included 12 **American Goldfinches**, 17 **American Robins**, 11 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 17 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 15 **Mourning Doves**, 12 **Steller's Jays**, 11 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 5 **Bewick's Wrens**, 6 **Tree Swallows**, 9 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 4 **White-breasted Nuthatches** and 2 **Pacific Wrens** for a total species count of 38.

Dick Vanderhoff's report from Stanwood included a **Red-tailed Hawk**, a **Cooper's Hawk**, 10 **Steller's Jays**, 4 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 4 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Bald Eagle** and 2 **Evening Grosbeaks** for a total species count of 8.

I had a total species count of 29 from my home in Marysville. I also had a total species count of 29 in two days on a trip to Montana. The count from my home includes the usual: 6 **American Robins**, 2 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Mourning Doves**, 6 **Spotted Towhees**, 4 **Purple Finches**, 5 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 9 **Black-headed Grosbeaks** and 2 **Western Tanagers**. The Montana trip included 3 **Ospreys**, 7 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**, 8 **Black-billed Magpies**, 2 **Golden Eagles**, 20+ **Ringed-billed Gulls** at Moses Lake, 10+ **Western Meadowlarks** and 15-20 **Cedar Waxwings**.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome. You can contact me at pricemara@clearwire.net or 425.750.8125.

Picnic ...

(continued from page 1)

At noon, we'll gather for lunch. PAS will supply hot dogs from Silvana Meats, as well as buns, plates, napkins and utensils. Bring along your favorite salad, side dish or dessert to share. Bring your own beverage (alcohol is not allowed in the park).

After lunch, we'll honor all the folks who volunteer to make Pilchuck Audubon the great organization it is. We'll have a brief acknowledgement by Mike Blackbird, PAS president, and present small tokens of our appreciation.

So, make plans to attend what will be a great event. Feel free to bring guests, especially grandkids. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505 or ksnyder75@gmail.com.

Feast ...

(continued from page 1)

What makes the place even better is the donations from local farmers and wineries and the skill and dedication of local chefs to create great food for guests to enjoy. It's a night of celebrating farmers and farming heritage and supporting local restaurants and caterers. And, it's a night to help support the work I do as Smart Growth Director for Pilchuck Audubon Society and as Snohomish/Skagit Program Director for Futurewise. Your attendance is a win-win-win for everyone – including you.

This year, we'll feature products from Bailey Vegetables, Chinook Farms, Craven Farm, Darigold, Freshly Doug's Vegetables, Garden Treasures, Hayton Farms, Maltby Produce Markets, Shuh Farms, Taylor Shellfish Farms, Whitehorse Meadows Farms and Willie Green's Organic Farm. Wineries include Cedar Ridge Winery and Difestano Winery.

This year's chefs are Anne Dottai of Grilla Bites, Marilyn Rosenberg of Zippy's, James White of Java Haus, Gyda Harris of Sisters of Snohomish, Chris Cunio of Mongo's at Clearview, Cindy Sherwood of French Creek Manor, Conni Brownell of The Charmed Radish and Aimee Grace of Aimee Grace Catering.

Chef's Choice Sponsors include Dayville Hay, Grain Julie and Karim Meghji. Individual sponsors include Steve Aslanian, Lee and Asia Bennett, Mike Blackbird, Citizens for Responsible Growth of Snohomish County, Kathy Dewhurst, State Representative Hans Dunshee, Kathleen Gamble, County Council Member Dave Gossett, Michelle Gundersen, Senator Nick Harper, Ellen Hiatt, Kristine Peterreit, County Council Member Dave Somers, Sonia Thompson, Carlo Voli, Mike and Dorothy Waggoner, John Wolf and County Council Member Stephanie Wright.

If you're interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact me at kristin@futurewise.org or 425.923.8625. We have six sponsorship levels that award you recognition at the event and include tickets for your guests. Regular tickets to the event can also be purchased through me or online at www.futurewise.org (click on "Events"). Tickets are \$50 per person.

Hope to see you there enjoying the bounty of Snohomish and Skagit counties!

Help wanted for PAS financial review

Interested in a short-term volunteer project to help PAS? Are you not intimidated by numbers and finance? We need someone to do a financial review of PAS accounts for 2010.

This isn't an audit. It's a spot check of random transactions and bank accounts. Margaret Bridge, who took on the project last year, will show you the ropes. The task should take about 6 hours. You'll need a computer and an internet connection.

You'll earn our heartfelt appreciation should you decide to accept this assignment. For more info, please call Carolyn Lacy, Treasurer, at 360.668.2494.

Non-taxable IRA transfers to eligible charities

Taxpayers older than age 70 years, six months may make tax-free distributions up to \$100,000 to a charity from an IRA. This contribution counts toward the minimum distribution requirement. This is another way you may donate to PAS.

For other contributions or membership renewals, donate on the PAS web site: www.pilchuckaudubon.org, then click on "Join/Donate."

Please consult your tax advisor for specific information and tax implications.

Meetings open to all

The PAS board meets the first Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m., at the Sno-Isle Coop meeting room (2804 Grand Ave., Everett). All are welcome to attend to learn about chapter goals and priorities. For more info, contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505.

Blackbird ...

(continued from page 2)

Snohomish County would be remiss if it failed to follow suit where Smith Island is concerned.

An economic approach to birdwatching on Smith Island should entail creating a trail system on the Smith Island dikes. It would not be necessary to blacktop the trails. Creating hummocks in the wetlands for nesting waterfowl and roosting shorebirds should also be considered, as well as building barn owl boxes, and most assuredly keeping the existing barn, which is excellent barn owl habitat.

I shared these facts and recommendations with the Snohomish County Environmental Services people responsible for the Smith Island Restoration Project. One can only hope that they're as wise as Pilchuck Audubon members.

ROAD BIKE > RUN > KAYAK > ROAD BIKE

AMERICAN ALPS

A 63 mile, four-stage Relay Race

Challenge

Saturday, September 24th, 2011
NORTH CASCADES HIGHWAY

American Alps Challenge

63 mile, four-stage Relay Race
Road Bike > Run > Kayak > Road Bike
9:40am—3pm

Family Nature Events

- > Guided Birding Hikes
- > Family Canoe Trips
- > Guided Nature Hikes

BBQ Picnic—Everyone welcome

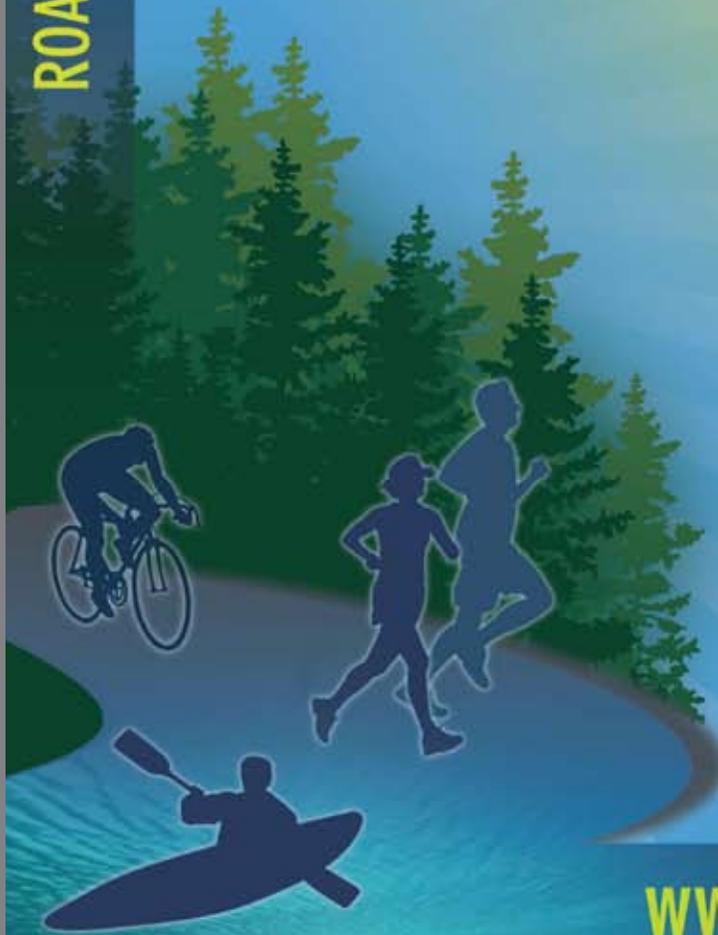
11am—3pm

American Alps Celebration & Awards Ceremony

3pm start at Marblemount Visitors Center
Exhibit booths, Food & Beer Garden

Register your Race team today!
For more details on the Challenge,
and other festivities, visit:

www.AmericanAlps.org



Bird of the month: Pine Siskin



Jim McCree photo

Quick facts

- Small finch (4-5" long, 7-8" wingspan)
- Brown and heavily streaked, paler underneath
- Two buff wingbars, yellow in wing at base of flight feathers
- Sometimes cranky!

Pine Siskins form flocks year round and are common at feeders. Dense concentrations may spread salmonella when feeders aren't properly cleaned.

They are active foragers and climb nimbly when foraging in forest canopies and hedgerows, often hanging upside-down.

Pine Siskins are common, permanent residents throughout Washington's lowlands. They're more common west of the Cascades than east, and flocks numbering 2000+ birds have been seen in winter along the outer coast.

Cool fact: Pine Siskins are attracted to sunflower or thistle seed. Tube feeders used for attracting finches and chickadees will attract Pine Siskins, too. They also like the seeds of pine, maple and birch trees. So, plant these in your yard to encourage them to come.

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 (12 issues) to PAS's *Profile* newsletter. Cost is \$28. A special limited income category is available for \$16.

Local PAS membership

- New member \$28
- Renewal \$28
- 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 420235
Palm Coast, Florida 32142

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

* Consult your tax professional for full details.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____