



# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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## Sustainable funding proposed for state lands

State lands are crucial to Washington’s quality of life. They provide habitat for fish and wildlife and access for recreation activities that generate billions of dollars annually for Washington’s economy. Spending by recreational fishers, hunters, wildlife watchers, boaters, hikers, horseback riders and other users of state lands supports small businesses and creates jobs across Washington, particularly in rural communities.

But, the economic engine, conservation benefit and recreation access offered by state lands are all at risk due to the lack of stable, sustainable funding for land maintenance.

The state budget crisis has affected an array of important state services – including state lands. As state revenues declined during the current recession, state general fund support to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has been slashed by 33% in the current 2009-11 biennium. More cuts are expected in the coming 2011-13 biennium.

This budget crisis has taken a toll on WDFW’s ability to care for the 900,000 acres of recreational land and 700 water-access sites the agency manages. WDFW’s land operation and management budget has been cut by nearly \$2 million over the past several years – from \$10.8 million to an anticipated \$8 million next biennium. As state revenues continue to decline, those cuts could grow deeper.

“Even before the budget crisis, we faced a backlog of maintenance needs on state lands, including weed control, habitat restoration, fencing, visitor facilities and other infrastructure needs,” said WDFW Lands Program Manager Jennifer Quan. “We recruit volunteers for some of this work, but we still need to fund equipment, materials and professional staff to coordinate projects.”

Unless new funding sources can be found to address critical operation and maintenance needs, some of these recreation lands face closure.

More than 5.6 million acres of state recreation lands managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) face similar threats. The Sustainable Recreation Work Group, a citizen panel created by the Washington Legislature in 2008, recognized the need for a long-term, dedicated funding source for maintenance of state recreation lands. Based on this panel’s recommendations, DNR proposed legislation in the 2010 legislative session to have the ability to charge an access fee. The proposed legislation made it through the house but ran out of time in the senate.

For the 2011 legislative session, the DNR and WDFW are jointly proposing new legislation to create stable, dedicated funding for state recreation lands. The legislative proposal includes several key features:

(See “Funding” on page 8)

**No December program meeting.  
Happy holidays!**

**January program meeting  
Friday, January 14, 7 p.m.**

***Birding along with hiking:  
a photographic journey***

Join Alan Bauer, freelance photographer and avid hiker, as he shares his knowledge of local and natural history.

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.**

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**Attn: former Verizon  
e-mail customers**

Has your e-mail address changed with the sale of Verizon to Frontier Communications? If so, please send your new e-mail address to [kathy.piland@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:kathy.piland@pilchuckaudubon.org) so we can ensure you continue to receive important information from Pilchuck Audubon.

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# President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Though the Greeks and Romans did not consider any actually divine, many birds were associated with the gods. And, all birds could bring messages from the gods. Consequently, observing birds for portents was a thread running through the fabric of ancient life.

Birds haven't played such a prominent role in modern life. However, that began to change five years ago when BirdNote started broadcasting two-minute vignettes that incorporate the sounds of birds with stories that illustrate their way of life. Today, BirdNote – a nonprofit radio program dedicated to education and conservation of birds and their habitats – can be heard on radio, online and via podcast.

The BirdNote program was the brainchild of Chris Peterson, who was director of the Seattle Audubon Society at the time. (BirdNote later spun off into its own nonprofit, which Peterson is now executive director of.) I met Chris one morning for breakfast. She was preparing to launch her brainchild and was seeking the endorsement and support of other Audubon chapters in the region, as well as help drumming up interest among members to build a base of support.

BirdNote first aired on February 21, 2005, on KPLU in Tacoma. It now boasts the largest audience of any environmental radio program in Pacific Northwest, with hundreds of thousands of listeners tuning in every day on several NPR affiliates throughout the country, as well as abroad.

During its first five years, BirdNote broadcasts expanded to seven two-minute programs per week. BirdNote also archives all its broadcasts as MP3 files so the public can freely stream

or download and listen to these programs anytime and anywhere, from a crowded subway car to a public library.

This popular radio program was designed to discuss the interesting and amazing abilities of birds, and to communicate what birds reveal about the complexity of the natural world. "Birds are important messengers with stories to tell," said Peterson. "Birds are not only a way to see the beauty of nature, but to understand the complexity of nature – and life."

I can attest to the popularity and interest BirdNote has garnered among my non-birding friends. All know of my proclivity when it comes to birds. All have told me how much they enjoy BirdNote. One friend faithfully listens to BirdNote every morning before he leaves home to begin his sales calls.

The underlying subtlety of BirdNote is that it raises the consciousness of the challenges we face in protecting and maintaining healthy ecosystems despite a rapidly-growing population and the press of constantly expanding consumption. BirdNote explores how the public can change its behavior to reduce damages to wild bird populations and habitat.

"Using the power of good storytelling, we are encouraging listeners to pay attention to a larger reality – that of nature – and to think about their personal roles as active or supportive stewards of the future," Peterson explained. So Chris is correct when she says birds are important messengers, but they are also portents to be ignored at our peril.

It should be a distinct pleasure for members of Pilchuck Audubon to be associated with Chris Peterson and a contributor to BirdNote. Everyone take a bow.

## 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.

## December 7

### Samish Flats

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. Waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds, raptors and passerines to delight and excite. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## December 14

### Lummi Flats

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. Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike and Snow Bunting are very likely. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## December 21

### No trip. Merry Christmas!

## December 28 Clear Lake, Johnson-Debay Slough

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. Swans, eagles, hawks and falcons. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Saturday, February 5

### Corson Wildlife Preserve

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Station at 3201 Smith Ave. Park in the northwest corner of the parking lot, across Smith Avenue from the Everett Station building. We'll carpool to Lake Stevens and get a tour of the Corson Wildlife Sanctuary. This nature preserve features 160 acres of ponds, fields, marshes and a large collection of exotic birds. Total distance will be between 2-4 miles with minimal elevation gain. Actual distance will depend on how ambitious the group is feeling. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, hiking boots and foul weather gear just in case. This is a half-day hike so pack a lunch and we'll eat at one of the shelters on the grounds.

Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383, [tnight@pobox.com](mailto:tnight@pobox.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.

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

## Christmas Bird Counts set for December 18 and 30

Pilchuck Audubon Society invites all interested citizen scientists to help gather vital data during this year's Christmas Bird Counts. The north county count, led by Scott Atkinson, is scheduled for December 18. For more information, please contact Scott at [scottratkinson@hotmail.com](mailto:scottratkinson@hotmail.com).

The south county count, led by Jan van Niel, is scheduled for December 30 – from dawn to dusk. The south county "circle" extends from Edmonds and includes all of Mukilteo, part of south Everett, the Snohomish River Delta, the Bob Heirman Wildlife Preserve, Maltby, the Kohl Business Park, Kenmore, the northern tip of Lake Washington, parts of the Burke-Gilman Trail, Sheridan Beach, north Shoreline, Woodway and back to Edmonds.

Birders in our count circles can also help with the CBC by calling in (or e-mailing) backyard or feeder counts for December 18 (Marysville, Tulalip, Arlington, 7 Lakes area,

Smokey Point) and for December 30 (Mukilteo, Lynnwood, south Snohomish, Lowell, south Everett, Mill Creek, Bothell, Brier, Mountlake Terrace, north Lake Washington).

Phone your counts to 425.252.0926 on the day of the count or the next morning. Please include your name, phone number and address – with clear information about your location – as not all areas are located in the count area. Please be careful to submit an unduplicated feeder or backyard count.

If you see a "mystery bird," we will call you back and try to figure it out with you.

If you prefer to e-mail your counts, north county residents should send theirs to [scottratkinson@hotmail.com](mailto:scottratkinson@hotmail.com) and south county residents should submit theirs to [sjvanniel@comcast.net](mailto:sjvanniel@comcast.net). For more information, contact the area coordinator, Jan van Niel, at 425.778.7568 or [sjvanniel@comcast.net](mailto:sjvanniel@comcast.net).

## PS Bird Observatory is for the birds ... and you

The Puget Sound Bird Observatory is a fledgling organization dedicated to studying and informing the public about Washington's birds. A group of bird-banders hatched the idea during long volunteer hours banding birds at monitoring sites.



The group's vision grew to encompass an organization that identifies gaps in knowledge about local birds, mobilizes and trains people to collect data to address the gaps and provides the results both to the general public and to land managers.

Members envision an organization that can bridge the space between the resource management and monitoring efforts of the state government, the research efforts of academic institutions, the public outreach of Audubon chapters and a motivated birding public. This concept evolved into Puget Sound Bird Observatory's motto: Sound Science – Scientific Information – Informed Public.

For more information or to join this dynamic group, visit [www.pugetsoundbirds.org](http://www.pugetsoundbirds.org).

# Have fun, be entertained and get smarter

## Environmental coalition legislative workshop January 8 Gwinn Commons at SPU

Mark your calendars for this important workshop, scheduled for 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Gwinn Commons at Seattle Pacific University.

## Environmental priorities coalition lobby day February 15 Olympia

Plan to attend this year's environmental lobby day from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, in Olympia. And, don't forget the reception afterwards. This year will be special, as we'll celebrate People for Puget Sound's 20th anniversary!

More information to come in future issues of the *Profile*.

## Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival February 26-27, 2011 Stanwood, Washington

The geese are heading back to the Stillaguamish Valley, and plans are well under way for the 2011 Port Susan Snow Goose Festival on February 26-27, 2011.

Watch the official festival web site – [www.snowgoosefest.org](http://www.snowgoosefest.org) – and the *Profile* for more information as field trips and presentations are firmed up in the coming months.

Pilchuck Audubon sponsors the event, so we hope lots of members and friends will join us in Stanwood, as well as volunteer to help out. We'll host a table at festival headquarters and provide information to festival goers. There is always plenty to do and see at this festival.

Please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org) if you can help. We will need at least three field trip leaders, as well as 10-12 volunteers for the PAS table.

# Geology, history draw weekend hikers to volcano

By Jonathan Blubaugh

October 17 marked the last Weekend Bird Hike of 2010 and the best attended of the year, too. This was a pleasant surprise, as our destination – Mt. St. Helens – represented the longest journey of the year, as well. The eight of us were anxious to see how life had reinvigorated the volcanic landscape more than 30 years after the massive eruption.

We started at foggy Seaquest State Park. It features a boardwalk across the shore of shallow Silver Lake. The Wetland Haven Trail follows along a former rail-bed. (It's not the first time we've hiked an abandoned rail-bed. They're good to hike because they can't be too steep.) Like the other trails we took that day, it included interpretive signs about the site.

We learned Silver Lake was created by a long ago, massive debris flow off the volcano and down the Toutle River. It's amazing to realize that a tremendously destructive lahar can produce such productive habitat.



Mt. St. Helens, by Renae Smith, [www.synappedphoto.com](http://www.synappedphoto.com)

Not long after starting up the road, we broke out of the fog into brilliant sunshine.

We stopped at the Johnston Ridge Observatory and listened to a ranger discuss details of the eruption of May 18, 1980: the speed, temperature and violence of the blast were overwhelming.

Yet, everywhere we looked, we could see plants and animals had returned in abundance. It was reassuring, if not entirely surprising. After all, the northern half of the continent was recently covered by ice, but is now covered by luxuriant life.

We then walked the half-mile Eruption Trail. There was plenty of new plant growth over the blown down forest, but the only bird we saw was a solitary raven.

Our last stop was at the Hummocks Trail. This trail took us

(See "Volcano" on page 8)

# The year in Pilchuck Audubon programs:

*Keep learning even after the speaker has left the building*

By Laura Spehar, Program Chair, Pilchuck Audubon Society

**January, 2010:** PAS members, Alan and Bonnie Means, gave a talk called "Backyard birding with a purpose." If you'd like to participate in feeder monitoring – like Bonnie and Alan – join "Project Feeder Watch" through Cornell's Lab of Ornithology. Learn more at [www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw).

**February, 2010:** Kerry Marl offered a presentation on "Shorebirds of our IBA at Port Susan Bay." Learn more about IBA projects in Washington at [wa.audubon.org/science\\_IBAWashington.html](http://wa.audubon.org/science_IBAWashington.html).

Also in February, Chrys Bertolotto, from the WSU Extension's Beach Watcher and Shore Stewards programs, talked about how to stay involved with the local coastal community through WSU's programs. For more information, visit [www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/snohomish](http://www.beachwatchers.wsu.edu/snohomish).

**March, 2010:** March winds blew David Droppers in from the Washington Butterfly Association to talk about "Washington butterflies and how to garden for them." To view and print his western Washington Butterfly Garden list, visit [www.naba.org/chapters/nabaws/butterfly%20Food%20Plants.pdf](http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabaws/butterfly%20Food%20Plants.pdf).

**April, 2010:** Peter Oikonos from the Sea Doc Society gave a program on the "Conservation programs for endangered land and seabirds." To learn more or to subscribe to the Sea Doc Society's e-newsletter, visit [www.seadocsociety.org](http://www.seadocsociety.org).

**May, 2010:** John Houghton introduced us to the Friends of the Edmonds Marsh with a good view of how the marsh

once looked versus how it looks today. Keeley O'Connell from People for Puget Sound also spoke of the FOEM and PFPS have partnered to save what is left of this dear pocket estuary. For more information on FOEM work parties and People for Puget Sound, visit [www.pugetsound.org](http://www.pugetsound.org).

**June, 2010:** We went batty with Barbara Ogaard, who presented "Bats of the Northwest." Barbara entertained us with her live bat friends. Bats Northwest is a small but growing organization that could always use more help and membership. To learn more, visit [www.batsnorthwest.org](http://www.batsnorthwest.org).

**July, 2010:** We learned about the whimsical ways of dragonflies through Jim and Betsy Walker's talk called "The joy of dragonflying." Through magical photos we learned IDs, mating behavior and much more. Recently, local author Dennis Paulson released a book titled, *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West*. Betsy and Jim recommend checking it out.

**September, 2010:** Puget Sound Birdfest! PAS hosted the opening program with delightful author, Lyanda Haupt. To learn more about Lyanda's books and work, visit [www.lyandalynnhaupt.com](http://www.lyandalynnhaupt.com).

**November, 2010:** We're into the winter hiking season now with author Craig Romano. Visit his web site at [www.craigromano.com](http://www.craigromano.com).

See you in 2011! Don't forget to bring a friend or two!

## Arctic Wildlife Refuge celebrates 50 years

In 1960, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was established for the purpose of preserving unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values.



*Snowy Owls nest in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*

Today, the 19.6 million-acre refuge is an exceptional example of a complete, intact, arctic and subarctic ecosystem – on a vast scale. It provides habitat for 180 species of birds for nesting, breeding, staging and molting. Bird species from six continents use the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Arctic

Refuge provides important habitat for 36 land mammals and nine marine mammals, including such iconic Arctic species as polar bear, musk ox, Arctic fox, Snowy Owl and beluga whale.

While thousands of people have found adventure, solitude and reflection in visiting the Arctic Refuge, millions more find inspiration in knowing that this unique piece of America exists. As the founders had hoped, the Arctic Refuge has become a symbolic landscape.

## 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.

## 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

# Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

## Thoughts from my recent vacation

It's my last night in Vernazza, Italy. I'll soon take the long flight home to Seattle. I spent two wonderful, restorative weeks in Italy. When I return, I'll need to write my Smart Growth column. Instead, I'll write it as I sit in a friendly bar in the piazza of Vernazza, a once vital fishing town – now filled with tourists from March through October. I feel compelled to write now while thoughts are fresh and I can smell the sea breeze off the Mediterranean. I feel compelled because there are many things about Italian life and culture that Americans can learn from.

From the beauty of the sea to the bounty of the Tuscan fields, one thing stands clear: Italians take little for granted when it comes to their food. Italians use almost every inch of their rural lands for some type of agricultural product (I'm sure this isn't accurate, but it sure seems that way).

But, it is accurate to say that they know where their food comes from – which is mostly from their home lands. And, the food is honored in preparation and with laughter and conversation. In the Cinque Terre, whether at a small pizzeria, bar or a fancy restaurant, the food was simple and menus small. Pizzas, foccacia sandwiches, bruschetta, anchovies, pesto, fresh fish ... the food defined the culture. In Tuscany and Umbria, the food was even simpler and defined the region. Fresh tomatoes, olive oil only found here, cheeses to die for, lamb, chicken, pork ... and, of course, pastas.

I'm traveling with two women who also work for non-profits in Washington: Ellen Gray, the original Smart Growth Director for PAS, now the Executive Director for Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network, and Mary Embleton, Executive Director for Cascade Harvest Coalition. Ellen works to help small farms market their products to local schools and restaurants. Mary works to connect local farmers with people who want to farm and who want to buy product directly from farmers. And, of course, I work on local policy to protect farmland and stop the scourge and costs of urban sprawl.

Mary and Ellen were invited to attend the Terre Madre "Slow Food" Conference, which takes place every other year in Turin. While they were meeting people from all over the



Vernazza, Italy, by Kristin Kelly



Landscape in the Umbria region, central Italy, by Kristin Kelly

world, learning to protect indigenous food crops that are disappearing as farmlands disappear, I enjoyed the bounty of Italy in Cinque Terre. Of course, in our work, the three of us do many things, but this is the one common passion we have. For more information on Terre Madre and Slow Food, visit [www.slowfoodusa.org/index.php/programs/details/bringing\\_terra\\_madre\\_home](http://www.slowfoodusa.org/index.php/programs/details/bringing_terra_madre_home).

An important part of our trip was to visit an agri-tourism working farm for a cooking class. On the advice of a friend, we visited Roberto Russo at Relais Parco Fiorito – outside Cortona, on the Tuscany-Umbria border. It was quite an ordeal to get to this remarkable farm and wellness center. We rented a car and drove without a GPS, in the rain and with a broken windshield wiper. Roberto greeted with wine and dinner. Our three-day stay was mesmerizing and we were sad to leave.

Roberto is almost a misnomer in Italy. He has an organic farm and uses his own crops in his cooking. In our class, he showed simple recipes that define the culture of these regions: from

simple homemade pesci (pasta) with just olive oil and parmesan-reggimone cheeses, to braised lamb with orange sauce and chocolate explosion cake made without sugar or flour. WOW!!! The recipes are simple, but the technique and love that goes into them was complex and complete. But, much more, the realization that all the food came from his farm – local, fresh and healthy – is a lesson we need to glean. For more on Relais Parco Fiorito, visit [www.parcofiorito.it](http://www.parcofiorito.it).

In my work for PAS, I will continue to push for policies to protect precious farmland in Snohomish County. I will collaborate with others, such as Ellen and Mary, to help connect residents with local farm products, and will insist that farmers ensure that farmland becomes more productive – not just with hay for horses and trees and shrubs for new homes – but with vegetables, fruit, chickens, pigs, lamb, beef, dairy, cheeses, herbs – the stuff we want and need to keep healthy.

(See "Smart Growth" on page 9)

# Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

September 26, 2010–October 25, 2010

Nothing really unusual this month. The Beasons sent a picture of the **Muscovy Ducks** in their yard. They are hoping they will stay through the winter. The **Varied Thrush** will be returning with the cold weather. They seem to like the cold and snow.

I just returned from Kona, Hawaii, and very warm weather. I am concerned about the decline in the number of birds we saw. This year we only saw 2 **Java Sparrows**, 2 **Saffron Finches**, several **Collared Doves** and **Pygmy Doves**, a lot of **Myna Birds** and **House Sparrows**, 1 **Northern Cardinal**, 5 **Hawaiian Ducks** and many **Pacific Plovers**. We usually see a lot more species around the property where we stay. The **Pacific Plovers** roam all over the golf courses there.

Carol and Larry Beason reported 38 species this month from their Lake Bosworth location. Their total included a **Kingfisher**, 5 **Buffleheads**, a **Common Loon**, 12 **Evening Grosbeaks** at the feeder, a **Hutton's Vireo** in the shrubs, 5 **Northern Flickers**, 12 **Pine Siskins**, 24 **Red-winged Blackbirds** at the feeders and trees, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 5 **Spotted Towhees** and a **Western Grebe** on the lake.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from her Mukilteo location included 2 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 8 **Bushtits**, 3 **California Quail**, 13 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 9 **House Finches**, 4 **Northern Flickers**, an **Orange-Crowned Warbler**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 3 **Red-winged Blackbirds** and 5 **Steller's Jays** for a total species count of 23.

Six **Cedar Waxwings** topped Kriss Erickson's report from Everett. She also reported a **Barred Owl** in the yard, 1 **Anna's Hummingbird**, 12 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 12 **American Coots** near Lowell, a **Bewick's Wren**, 35 **European Starlings** in her yard, 6 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers** and 8 **House Finches** for a total species count of 20.

The fun sighting for Adeline Gildow this month was 8 **Canada Geese** and a **Snow Goose** landing in the Everett CC pond. Her total species count of 24 also included 3 **Bald Eagles** overhead, a **Brown Creeper**, 180 duck species flying east to west along Juniper Beach, 3 **Great Blue Herons** mid-tide, 4 **Killdeer** along Juniper Beach, 4

**Mourning Doves** at the feeders, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds** and 60 swallow species along the power lines at Juniper Beach.

The only **Varied Thrush** reported this month was at Julie O'Donald's home in Brier. Her total species count of 20 also included 30 **American Crows** in the trees, 6 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 15 **Bushtits** in the shrubs, a **Cooper's Hawk** flying low, 8 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, a **Yellow Warbler** at the stream, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** and a **Townsend's Warbler**.



Java Sparrow, by Donald Metzner



Western Grebe, by Patty Bruno



Snow Goose and Canada Goose, by Bud Marschner

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood included 10 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 10 **Bushtits**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, 4 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 5 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 17 **Mourning Doves**, 4 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 12 **Steller's Jays**, a **Wilson's Warbler** and a **Winter Wren** for a species count of 28.

Dick Vanderhoff reported 15 **Mountain Chickadees** eating peanuts at the feeder in his yard in Stanwood. He also listed 3 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 5 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 4 **House Sparrows**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, a lot of **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, a **Downy Woodpecker**, 3 **Mourning Doves**, an **Anna's Hummingbird** and 125+ duck species flying over for a total species count of 12.

My report from Marysville includes 22 **California Quail** under the feeders, 4 **American Robins** along the road, 11 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 4 **Mallards** at the pond, 3 **Northern Flickers**, 3 **Red-tailed Hawks** overhead, a **Cooper's Hawk** at the feeder and in the trees, a **Common Raven**, a female **Pileated Woodpecker** that comes everyday and 4 **Steller's Jays** for a total species count of 20.

Annette Colombini still has not replaced her feeders since the bear destroyed them last month. She is waiting until it is safe to do so.

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

# State protects additional 60,000 acres of aquatic lands

People for Puget Sound hailed the recent designations of Smith, Minor and Protection islands as state aquatic reserves. With these designations, 60,000 acres of aquatic lands were protected by the state within a month.

"Within a month, we have taken dramatic steps forward to protect these important Puget Sound habitats," said Dave Peeler, programs director at People for Puget Sound, whose members have supported both Protection Island and Smith and Minor Island designations.

"Protecting these aquatic lands from future harmful development and restoring habitat damaged from past practices will ensure that marine birds and mammals will have a safe haven and that the eelgrass and kelp beds (so much of our marine life depends on) will be protected."

Two birds in particular, Rhinoceros Auklets and Tufted Puffins, will benefit enormously from the reserve. Protecting important habitat like this is critical to reverse the serious decline of Puget Sound populations of fish, birds and other marine life.



*Tufted Puffin (with dinner) off Minor Island,  
by Annette Colombini*

The Smith and Minor Island reserve contains a diversity of physical habitats and seaweeds that are essential for the reproduction, foraging, and rearing success of many fish and bird species.

One of the primary goals of the reserve is the protection and preservation of the largest bull kelp bed in Washington. The reserve is critical to the survival of seabirds in Puget Sound – most notably, Rhinoceros Auklets. The reserve provides necessary foraging habitat for these and many other seabirds.

Protection Island, located between Sequim and Port Townsend off the Olympic Peninsula, provides breeding and rearing habitat for many migratory birds and waterfowl, including Tufted Puffins, Harlequin Ducks, Double-crested Cormorants and Bald Eagles.

The area supports seals and sea lions and there are extensive eelgrass and kelp beds surrounding the island.

## Funding ...

*(continued from page 1)*

**An increase in the portion of Washington's gas tax revenues available to DNR, WDFW and Washington State Parks for managing recreation lands for boaters, snowmobilers and off-road vehicle riders.** The proposal would calculate the one percent refund on the full 37.5-cent-per-gallon gas tax base, rather than at the current 22-cent-per-gallon rate, beginning in 2013. The gas tax refund change would provide about \$250,000 annually in new funds for WDFW lands.

**An "Explore Washington Pass" for access to WDFW and DNR lands.** This pass would replace WDFW's current annual vehicle-use permit. Under the proposal, annual lands access pass would be \$40 for general users age 19 and older, or \$5 for those purchasing fishing or hunting licenses or a watchable-wildlife package. Short-term passes would be available at \$20 for a three-day pass, \$15 for a two-day pass and \$10 for a one-day pass.

The passes would be sold through WDFW's existing WILD recreational licensing system. Revenue from the new pass, estimated at \$5.5 million annually, would be split between WDFW and DNR for land management capital, operational,

maintenance and enforcement needs.

**A \$10 increase in the cost of personalized license plates** (raising the cost of new plates from \$42 to \$52, and renewals from \$32 to \$42 annually). The change would generate an estimated \$1.3 million in additional revenue each biennium, dedicated to habitat work for threatened and endangered species on WDFW lands.

**Provisions that would allow WDFW and DNR to jointly enforce land use regulations, and would allow the agencies to seek restitution from those who damage state lands.**

Comments on this legislative proposal can be e-mailed to [explore@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:explore@dnr.wa.gov). Updates on the funding proposal will be available on WDFW's web site.

Detailed information about recreational opportunities on WDFW Wildlife Areas can be found at [http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife\\_areas](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas).

Water access sites (boat launch) information can be found at [http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/water\\_access](http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/water_access).

## Volcano ...

*(continued from page 4)*

through terrain deposited by the collapse of the north face of the volcano, which initiated – and was essentially accelerated by – the lateral blast.

I'd read about the Hummocks before and learned about them on TV. It is a randomly dumped pile of debris and dirt. It has not yet had time to develop what we would consider "normal" patterns of slopes and drainages. Hundreds of new ponds were impounded in the Hummocks area alone.

The area is dense with 30-year-old Red Alder and lush undergrowth. The catkins were attracting Pine Siskins. The ponds and unorganized drainage has attracted numerous

Beavers. We saw all the unmistakable signs: lodges, drowned trees, dams and gnawed down trees.

We didn't see all that many birds, but everyone knew this trip was as much about geology and local history as about birding. Here's a partial list of what we saw or heard: Canada Goose, four Mallards, a couple of Northern Flickers, a couple of Steller's Jays, the Common Raven, 11 Black-capped Chickadees, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 9 Bushtits, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, a couple of American Robins, 10 Cedar Waxwings, a couple of Spotted Towhees, a couple of Song Sparrows, about 15 Dark-eyed Juncos and about 10 Pine Siskins.

# Smart Growth ...

(continued from page 6)

## Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) Update

On October 13, the Snohomish County Council finally adopted the long-awaited update to their Shoreline Master Plan. Pilchuck Audubon, along with the Washington Environmental Council, People for Puget Sound, Everett Shorelines Coalition and members of the Livable Snohomish County Coalition, submitted comment letters and testified at the hearings. We recommended significant changes to the SMP to ensure the best protections of our shorelines, water quality and wildlife habitat. Many of our recommendations are part of the adopted Plan, but several were not adopted.

The good news is that shoreline plans must be approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology. We anticipate a public hearing by DOE early in 2011. This will be another opportunity to request changes to ensure good protections. We advocate that, in developing and implementing SMPs, they give preference (in the following order) to uses that:

- Recognize and protect statewide interest over local interest
- Preserve the natural character of the shoreline
- Result in long-term over short-term benefit
- Protect the resources and ecology of the shoreline
- Increase access to publicly owned areas of the shoreline
- Increase recreational opportunities for the public in the shoreline

Make sure you are notified of upcoming public hearings on the SMP and other important land use policies. Send me your e-mail address and you'll be added to our Action Alert system.

Thank you to all members of Pilchuck Audubon Society who donated to the Smart Growth Program for continued support – financially and through volunteer assistance. In 2011, I will continue to work to safeguard what we love most about Snohomish County: its resource lands, rural areas, wildlife habitats and precious rivers, lakes, streams and Puget Sound. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends!

**Needed: your e-mail address**

PAS needs your e-mail address so we can notify you when a new issue of the *Profile* is available online.

Please contact Kathy Piland at [kathy.piland@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:kathy.piland@pilchuckaudubon.org) or leave a message at 425.252.0926.

## 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.

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

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

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

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

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