



Pilchuck Audubon Profile



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www.pilchuckaudubon.org

Bird Count a chance for citizen science

Birdwatchers from coast to coast are invited to take part in the 13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday through Monday, February 12-15. Participants in the free event will



More than 5500 Green-winged Teal were counted in Washington during the 2009 Great Backyard Bird Count. Photo by Minette Layne.

join thousands of volunteers counting birds in their backyards, local parks or wildlife refuges.

Each checklist submitted by these citizen scientists helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn about how birds are doing – and how to protect

them. Last year, participants turned in more than 93,600 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

"Taking part in the Bird Count is a great way to get outside with family and friends, have fun and help birds," said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. "Even if you only identify a few species, you provide important information that enables scientists to learn about how the environment is changing and how that affects our conservation priorities."

Anyone can take part in the Backyard Bird Count, from novice birdwatchers to experts. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

"The GBBC is a perfect first step towards the sort of intensive monitoring needed to discover how birds are responding to environmental change," said Janis Dickinson, the director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab.

"Winter is such a vulnerable period for birds, so winter bird distributions are likely to be very sensitive to change. There is only one way – citizen science – to gather data on private lands where people live and GBBC has been doing this across the continent for many years. GBBC has enormous potential both as an early warning system and in capturing and engaging people in more intensive sampling of birds across the landscape."

Bird populations are always shifting and changing. For example, 2009 GBBC data highlighted a huge southern invasion of Pine Siskins across much of the eastern United States.

(See "Bird Count" on back page)

February program meeting
February 12, 7 p.m.

The Salish Sea: a tour and its health

This presentation – by Chrys Bertolotto of the WSU Shore Stewards and Beach Watchers – will reconnect you with the processes of our local waters and shores, introduce some of the fascinating strategies that allow life to thrive in the coastal landscape and teach about Puget Sound health.

Shorebirds of our IBA, by Kerry Marl

Get an update on the Port Susan Bay IBA project and learn about ways you can get involved. We'll also discuss the fine art of shorebird identification with a slideshow. Start getting prepared for the spring migration!

Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

For more information, call 425.252.0926

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

We need your e-mail address!

If you want to receive notice when a new issue of the *Profile* is available online, or if you have a new e-mail address, please contact Kathy Piland at kathy.piland@pilchuckaudubon.org or 360.691.7695.

We want to make sure you get each issue when it's available!

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



The other day, I was looking for a book on my bookshelf, when I came across a marvelous book I read 30 years ago. Forgetting the book I was looking for originally, I sat down to re-read *The Story of San Michele*, by Axel Munthe.

Late in the 19th century, Munthe, a Swedish physician, had lucrative practices in Paris and later Rome. As a young man, he'd fallen in love with the Isle of Capri. As a successful doctor, he bought property on the island.

Employing local help, he soon began building a villa. While he and his workers were digging foundation trenches, they began to uncover pieces of glazed Roman tiles, pottery and sculpture. Munthe discovered that his property was on the site of Roman Emperor Tiberius' villa.

Over the years, as he built San Michele, this protestant physician was accepted and revered by the insular Catholic families of Capri. Today, Munthe's memory is honored for his beautiful villa, San Michelle, filled with the artwork he found on his property and that he'd collected throughout his life.

More importantly, it's evident the good doctor had great regard for all of God's creatures. Throughout Munthe's life, San Michele was home to a menagerie of animals, including an alcoholic baboon, a mongoose, and dogs – lots of dogs. Then there were the birds.

The Isle of Capri is on the flyway for the spring and fall bird migration between Africa and Europe. For Munthe, Capri was Paradise. But it was Hell for migrating birds: woodpigeons, thrushes, turtle doves, orioles, skylarks, nightingales, wag-tails, chaffinches, swallows, warblers and redbreasts.

Thousands and thousands of birds seeking respite from a long flight across the Mediterranean landed on Capri, only to fall into the nets of man. Every evening during the spring and fall migrations, the netted birds would be packed into small wooden boxes without food or water and dispatched by steamer to Marseilles to be eaten with delight in the smart restaurants of Paris.

The most prolific place on the island to net birds was on the slopes of Mt. Barbarossa. The mountain was owned by one man, fittingly, a butcher by trade. Ever since Munthe began to build his villa, he'd been at war with this man to halt the practice of netting migrating birds. He'd appealed to the local and central government. To no avail. He even appealed to the Pope without result. The butcher twice sued the doctor for interfering with his lawful exercise of trade – and won.

In desperation, Munthe sold some of his finest artworks to raise the money to buy the mountain. The butcher doubled the price. In despair, Munthe fled the island during migration because it was too painful to watch.

On returning at the end of one migration, the first thing Munthe heard was that the butcher was at the point of death. The priest asked Munthe to attend the man. Noting the butcher was already under the care of the village doctor, he refused. Finally, after a number of appeals by the priest, Munthe agreed, but only if the man sold him Mt. Barbarossa.

He refused.

However, that night, when he received Last Rites, he swore

(See "Blackbird" on back page)

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.

February 2

Meet at 8 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. Expect almost anything: Golden Eagle, Northern Shrike, Tundra Swans, Merlin, etc. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Fir Island

February 23

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. Hunting season will be over and the East and West 90, Alice Bay and Samish Island can produce five falcon species, buteos, owls, eagles, shorebirds, etc. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Samish Flats

February 9

Port Gamble to Port Townsend

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Edmonds Marsh (south of West Dayton St., turn left just before the railroad tracks). We'll take the ferry to Kingston, go through Port Gamble and cross the Hood Canal floating bridge. We'll visit Marrowstone Island and Indian Island and enjoy views of Admiralty Inlet. Waterfowl, seabirds and maybe even Orca. Past year's trips have been memorable and rewarding. Lunch in a restaurant.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

May 21-23

Klickitat County

We'll travel through Yakima, stay in Goldendale and bird this very interesting and birdy area. **We need to make reservations by March 15** and the trip will be limited to no more than three cars. To reserve your space on this new adventure, contact Susie Schaefer: 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

February 16 Birch Bay, Semiahmoo, Drayton Harbor

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. Expect Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks, Brant and lots of other seagoing avian species. Wilma will serve hot soup and dessert at her cabin.

Leader: Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028

June 4-7

Annual trip to Ferry County

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

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 shiny new PAS web site is now live!

Be sure to check out the new-look Pilchuck Audubon web site. The transfer of information, data and photos from the old web site to the new is labor intensive, but Paul Spehar and his team are making good progress. Your patience is appreciated as these volunteers continue to work out the bugs.

You'll notice the new site features an updated masthead banner featuring a new color scheme and photos of Mt. Pilchuck and Snow Geese.

The photo of Mt. Pilchuck was taken by PAS member Carol Riddell. It's difficult to get a good, unobstructed angle of our backyard mountain, and we're lucky Carol was able to get this shot on a beautiful, clear day. Carol is a fine bird photographer, as well.

The Snow Geese photos were taken by PAS member,



Gerald Plowman, of Arlington. Gerald is retired and enjoying life behind the camera. He has taken a number of photos for The Swan Society. We are pleased to feature his Snow Geese photos on our new web site and letterhead.

We look forward to enjoying more photos by Carol, Gerald – and you – on the web site, in the Profile and on the digital photo frame in our event booth.

If you have photos to share with other members, please send them to our newsletter editor at annette.colombini@pilchuckaudubon.org.

If you have questions about the web site, please feel free to contact Paul Spehar at pspehar@gmail.com.

Upcoming regional festivals

GroundFrog Day and Frogorama 2010 January 30 Snohomish

The Snohomish Chamber of Commerce invites you to celebrate GroundFrog Day and Frogorama 2010 on January 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the National Guard Armory in Snohomish.

Snohomish Slew, Meteorologist Frognosticator extraordinaire, will get a jump on Punxsutawney Phil and his shadowy claim to fame. Should we brace for eight more weeks of soggy and wet? Or, do we look forward to gray, moist and breezy?

Slew will be joined by the Moby Duck, crewed by Seafair Pirates. Slew's mascot friends – Community Transit Oxygene, AquaSox Webby, Kla Ha Ya Days Tad – are scheduled to attend the event, which is themed "It's easy to be green." Frogorama will feature booths, arts and crafts, games, demos and entertainment – all about how we all can live, work, play and ride green.

For more info, visit www.cityofsnohomish.com or call 360.568.2526.

Arlington-Stillaguamish Eagle Festival February 6 In and around Arlington, Washington

The Arlington-Stillaguamish Eagle Festival is scheduled for February 6. Activities include guided eagle viewing trips, guided nature walks, natural history displays/exhibits, live birds of prey from Sarvey Wildlife Center, presentations, photography and poetry contests, Geocaching, a scavenger hunt, entertainment and much more.

This year's festival is sponsored by the Stillaguamish Tribe, the Nature Conservancy, Arlington Arts Council and the City of Arlington. For more info, contact Sarah Hegge, Recreation Coordinator for the City of Arlington at 360.403.3448.

Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival February 20-21 Stanwood, Washington

The geese are back in the Stillaguamish Valley, and plans are well under way for the 2010 Port Susan Snow Goose Festival on February 20-21, 2010. Watch the official festival web site – www.snowgoosefest.org – for more information as field trips and presentations are firmed up in the coming weeks.

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 if you can help. We will need at least three field trip leaders, as well as 10-12 volunteers for the PAS table.

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival March 19-21 Othello, Washington

This is an event you don't want to miss! The festival features a number of birding tours and specialty tours – and they all fill up fast. Also included in the price of admission are lectures and demonstrations.

If you plan to attend, please remember it's imperative you plan ahead as lodging is limited and field trips fill up quickly.

Visit the web site at www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org or contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org for more info.

Olympic Bird Festival April 9-11 Sequim, Washington

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

The stage is set ... bays, estuaries, sandy beaches, wetlands, tidepools, rainforests and lush river valleys.

The players are ready ... Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks and Black Oystercatchers. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours and a traditional salmon bake at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center.

Check out the offerings by visiting www.olympicbirdfest.org, or by calling 360.681.4076 for a brochure.

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

Coming in May ... Birdathon 2010 ... Just do it!

**Birdseed sale
planned for March**
*Watch for details in the next
issue of the PAS Profile.*

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.

Heading to Costa Rica for tropical birding?

Two years ago, Darrell and Lorna Smith, long-time PAS members, retired after successful careers as biologists for Snohomish County. They sold their home in Snohomish, packed up their belongings – including two dogs and a cat – in a camper and resettled in Costa Rica. They'd fallen in love with Costa Rica after many vacations there. We were sorry to see them go. They'd been involved in PAS since the early 1980s.

Since their move, several of us have traveled to Costa Rica to visit them. We've been treated – not only to great birding – but to seeing their lovely new homeland through their eyes. They know Costa Rican birds and great places to see them.



Violet Sabrewing, by Donald Metzner

The Smiths recently launched a new business: Birding on a Budget Costa Rica. They offer guided birding trips at budget prices. Check them out at www.birdingonabudgetcr.com.

For every PAS member who books a trip with them in 2010, Birding on a Budget Costa Rica will donate \$100 back to PAS.

They have four eight-day adventure excursions planned for March, May, July and November, as well as one-day trips and other services. Just think, on the November trip, you'll likely have the opportunity to see Vaux's Swifts (who probably used the chimney in Monroe on their way south)!

Swift helpers needed

Our Vaux's Swifts are wintering in warmer climes and aren't expected back until mid-April. However, we Auduboners have a lot to do this winter, thanks to the TogetherGreen grant from Toyota and National Audubon.

With the help of the TogetherGreen grant and other funds, the chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary will be retrofitted to make it more secure. And, a kiosk with educational displays will be installed at the school to teach about the amazing swifts and the importance of the chimney as the second largest roost in the world for the swifts during their spring and fall migrations.

The first kiosk design meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, in Monroe. We'll start planning content for the kiosk. The goal is to have the kiosk up and running before the Swift Night Out celebration on September 11.

If you're interested in working on this project, please plan to join us on February 3. Check the PAS web site for the time and location of the meeting or contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

We're working on a web site for the Monroe Vaux's Swifts. We need people with web site design experience. Please contact Marina at ninasku@gmail.com if you can help. Thanks!

In March, planning for the Swift Night Out will begin. Watch for the meeting announcement in next month's *Profile*.

We need to have volunteers ready to start counting when the swifts return in April. Please contact Judy Alles, coordinator of the counters, at 360.793.1343 or jerryalles@aol.com if you'd like to participate in this year's citizen science project.

An incredible amount of scientific data has been gathered due to the efforts of our many wonderful volunteers. We can't thank them enough for all their help. We would love to have you join them this year if you can!

**Coming this May ...
Birdathon 2010
It's good for you!**

**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

Friends of PSB Birds launch meeting soon

The very first Friends of Port Susan Bay Birds meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, from 7-9 p.m., at the Stanwood United Methodist Church. Everyone is welcome to join us, and we especially encourage those who live in the area to participate.

**FRIENDS OF
PORT SUSAN
BAY BIRDS**

A voice for the birds!



Greater Yellowlegs

Sponsored by



Ruth Milner, from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, will present information on shorebirds studies.

Not only will this be an opportunity to learn more about the birds of the Important Bird Area (IBA), but also to discuss the conservation issues relevant to preserving Port Susan for people and wildlife. The birds are a visibly vital component of this ecosystem, but it is up to local citizens to give them a voice in the community.

Join us for refreshments as we contemplate the food chain. For more info about this meeting, or if you can't attend but are interested in this group, please contact Kerry Marl at 425.252.5243 or kerrymarl@yahoo.com.

Native demo garden to host public open house

PAS members, their friends and family members are invited to the first open house at the new Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Edmonds on April 25.

But, mark your calendars for three more work parties between now and then.

On February 6, work on the upper trail is scheduled to be finished. And, on February 27 and April 17, two additional planting parties are planned. Volunteers will also be asked to install bat boxes and bird houses.

In addition, helpers are still needed for work on the interpretive signs and educational literature. We're looking for volunteers to add to our core group in Edmonds. So, whether you live in Snohomish County – or even north King County – please consider joining us!

For more information, contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Thank you, Everett Firefighters

We are signed up to use the Firefighters Hall in Everett for our monthly meetings 2010. This wonderful hall has been home to our program meetings for more than a year and we certainly appreciate it.

Meetings take place the second Friday of the month, beginning at 7 p.m. There is no meeting in August or December. And, the September meeting takes place in Edmonds in conjunction with Puget Sound Bird Fest.

All meetings are open to members, friends and the general public. Our meetings always feature great speakers, lively conversation and delicious refreshments. These meetings provide an easy, fun way to get to know your fellow PAS members and learn about upcoming events.

Watch upcoming issues of the *Profile* for details on monthly speakers. See you at a program meeting soon!

Nest platforms ready for Ospreys' return

On January 10, PAS volunteers Jay Ward, Lee Douglas and Bill Lider "seeded" Osprey nest piles in Port Gardner Bay with sticks donated by PAS members. The hope is to entice the Ospreys to use the nest platforms when they return this spring. Ospreys spend winters in Mexico and Central America, but return to nest and raise young in Port Gardner Bay.

Ospreys have high nest fidelity, but will continue to use the same nest platform year after year, even if they are just hanging onto it by a sliver. Many of the Osprey nest piles in Port Gardner Bay have been damaged by marine borers and are near collapse.

Five nest platforms, supported by concrete piles, were installed for PAS a year ago. None of the new platforms was used by Osprey last season. But, by seeding the platforms with sticks, we hope to encourage the Ospreys to use them during the upcoming nesting season.

Watch future issues of the *Profile* for updates on the return of the Ospreys.

Photos by Bill Lider and Annette Colombini



Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

In last month's Smart Growth Report, I included an article from the *New York Times* about climate change, and how some environmental groups were beginning to consider nuclear energy as a tool to combat global warming. My intention was to stir conversation and begin a dialogue about climate change, which continues to be the focus of my work for land use and environmental protection in Snohomish County. Well, I was successful!

My intention was not to suggest the PAS Board, PAS members or I endorse nuclear power as a solution to our energy needs or as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I can't speak for the entire PAS membership, but I do know the Board is definitely opposed to nuclear energy. And so am I.

In next month's *Profile*, Board Member David Gladstone will offer a different viewpoint by sharing information which looks at our growing energy needs in a more sustainable, environmentally sound way.

Last October, I organized the second Livable Snohomish County Summit, called: "Climate change and land use: How to plan for a livable Snohomish County." Speakers covered impacts of global warming and what we can do to turn things around. It will take an international effort to truly make a difference, if it is still possible. But, as individuals, neighborhoods, communities and regions, we need to start now.

In 2010, I'll advocate better land use planning to reduce vehicle miles traveled and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from tailpipes. Every urban growth area expansion that will increase single occupancy commute trips must be denied. Every resource land conversion that would reduce trees and vegetation, which aides significantly in sequestering carbon from the atmosphere must be denied.

Our city leaders need to find ways to encourage new development or redevelopment that results in more walkable, transit oriented development to meet growth projections and stop unnecessary urban sprawl. Snohomish County and the cities must implement tree-planting ordinances to re-green urban areas.

There's a lot each of us can do to turn the tide of global warming. Each and every action must include that discussion.

I'm reading *Hot, Flat and Crowded*, by Thomas L. Friedman, a book about why we need a green revolution and how it can renew America. I can't sum up the entire scope, here's an excerpt that captures the core argument:

"America has a problem and the world has a problem. America's problem is that it has lost its way in recent years – partly because of 9/11 and partly because of some bad habits, lazy thinking, and financial recklessness we have let build up, particularly since the end of the Cold War, which together have weakened our society's ability and willingness to take on big challenges and realize our full potential.

"The world also has a problem: it is getting hot, flat and crowded. And as we try to grow everyone's standard of living in such a world, we are rapidly depleting our natural resources, intensifying the extinction of plants and animals, deepening energy poverty, strengthening petro-dictatorship, and accelerating climate change – all at unprecedented rates.

"I am convinced that the best way for America to solve its big

problem – the best way for America to get its groove back – is for us to take the lead in solving the problems of a hot, flat and crowded planet. And that means creating the tools, strategies, energy sources, and values that will allow the world as a whole to grow in a cleaner, more sustainable way.

"There is a Chinese proverb that says, 'When the wind changes direction, there are those who build walls and those who build windmills.'

"Well, the wind has definitely changed direction, and we need to build the kind of windmills that can sustainably harness it. The old ways will not suffice any longer. The era we are heading into will be an era which our lives, our ecosystems, our economies, and our political choices will be constrained if we do not find a cleaner way to power our future, a more sustainable way to manage our finances, and a better way to protect the natural world.

"In such an America, our air will be cleaner, our environment will be healthier, our young people will see their idealism mirrored in their own government, and our industries will have more tools to do good for themselves and the planet at the same time.

"In such an America, we will have our groove back. We will be respected, trusted, and inspiring to others, because we will again be leading the world on the most important strategic mission and value issue of the day. The rest of the book is about how to make it happen."

Update on 2010 issues

Given the huge budget shortfalls in Snohomish County and its cities, I'm uncertain how many land use policies and regulations will be considered this year.

Snohomish County will resume work to update the County's Shoreline Master Program. A briefing to the Planning Commission is scheduled for January 26 and a Planning Commission public hearing February 23. Imperative is adoption of a Shoreline Management Plan that will protect our shoreline ecosystems, prevent flooding and reduce inappropriate shoreline development. It's one of my top priorities.

If you would like to join the Action Alert system to have a voice in this issue, please e-mail me at kristin@futurewise.org and I will make sure you are included.

The county is currently working to finalize urban center policies and regulations. The State Department of Ecology will review the county's update to the NPDES permit, which will help deal with surface water from development.

I will track and comment on the final recommendations to the County Council of the Land Use Working Group, recommendations from the Farm and Habitat Policy working group and the Transfer of Developments Rights program. In addition, I'll comment on the annual comprehensive plan amendment process to ensure good land use policy meets the intent of the Growth Management Act.

Lastly, 2010 marks the 20th anniversary of the Growth Management Act. I'll call on you – as necessary – during the 60-day legislative session ensure the GMA continues to be an effective law for maintaining quality of life in Washington.

Birding highlights

November 26, 2009–December 25, 2009

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

December's weather brought flocks of **American Crows**, **European Starlings**, **Snow Geese**, **Trumpeter Swans** and gulls. Plus, more **Varied Thrush** were reported throughout the county.

It was busy at Carol and Larry Beason's Lake Bosworth location. Their species count of 33 only included 4 **American Crows**, but they saw 31 **Bufflehead**, 16 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 6 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 7 **Spotted Towhees**, 10 **American Coots**, a **Cooper's Hawk**, 2 **Hooded Mergansers** and a **Varied Thrush**.

Annette Colombini reported at least 50 **American Crows** near her Lake Stevens home. She also reported 4 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, a **Northern Flicker**, a **Song Sparrow**, 3 **Steller's Jays**, 5 **Spotted Towhees**, a **Bald Eagle** and 3 **Varied Thrush** for a species count of 12.

On December 5, Hilkka Egtvedt spotted 200+ **American Crows** flying over her Mukilteo home. Her report also included 30 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 11 **Bushtits**, 37 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **Fox Sparrows**, 2 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, 2 **Townsend's Warblers** and 2 **Varied Thrush** for a species count of 24.

Kriss Erickson reported an amazing 30 **Great Blue Herons** flying over the Lowell neighborhood in Everett. Her species count of 15 also included an **American Kestrel** taking a chickadee in her yard, 2 **American Goldfinches**, 300+ **European Starlings**, 16 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 12 **Back-capped Chickadees**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 9 **Mallards**, 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 5 **American Crows**, 6 **House Finches** and 2 **Spotted Towhees**.

Highlights from Julie O'Donald in Brier included 2 **Townsend's Warblers** and a **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. She also listed 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 30 **Bushtits**, 4 **Northern Flickers**, a **Killdeer**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Ruby-crowned**



Ring-necked Duck, by Nigel



Rough-legged Hawk, by Donald Metzner



American Wigeon, by Annette Colombini

Kinglet, 2 **Varied Thrush** and a **Western Screech Owl** for a species count of 22.

From Stanwood, Mary Sinker's report was topped again by 50 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 15 **Mourning Doves**, 14 **Steller's Jays** and 11 **Black-capped Chickadees**. She also reported a **Brown Creeper**, 6 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Winter Wrens** and 9 **Spotted Towhees** for a species count of 25.

Dick Vanderhoff's report from Stanwood listed 200+ **Trumpeter Swans** and 100+ **Snow Geese**. He also listed 5 **Spotted Towhees**, 10 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, a **Hairy Woodpecker**, 6 **Song Sparrows**, 10 **Steller's Jays**, 5 **Winter Wrens**, 3 **Northern Flickers**, 4 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, an **Anna's Hummingbird** and 2 **Bald Eagles** for a total species count of 13.

Darlene Walker listed a new species: a **Rough-legged Hawk** spotted on Camano Island. Her report also included 12 **Mourning Doves**, 10 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 14 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 8 **Fox Sparrows**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 25 **Canada Geese**, 225 **Trumpeter Swans**, 4 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **Marsh Hawks** and 10 **House Finches** for a total species count of 17.

I had extra species this month because of the water in the fields along 100th Street. I spotted 4 **American Wigeons**, a **Eurasian Wigeon** and 100+ **Mallards** in the fields. My species count of 27 also include 20+ **American Crows**, 10 **California Quail**, 17 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, a **Mourning Dove**, 30+ **Rock Doves** along the wires, 7 **Spotted Towhees** (a record for my yard), 2 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 50+ **Glaucous-winged Gulls** and 7 **American Robins** eating frozen apples along 100th.

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

Future brighter for state's aging forest roads

Congress and the Obama administration are responding – with on-the-ground results – to appeals by a coalition of conservation groups and the state Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife.

After years of neglect, deteriorating forest roads are getting a record amount of federal dollars to reduce the risk they pose to clean water and the environment. Substantial federal funding coming to Washington and Oregon in 2010 doubles the federal allotments provided in 2008 and 2009 combined.

Muddy runoff from the roads degrades both drinking water and the vital habitat that threatened and endangered salmon and other fish need to spawn and reproduce.

"The most encouraging sign is that we are beginning to see a long-term funding plan to address this decades-old problem left behind from timber harvesting in national forests in our state and across the nation," said Sue Gunn of Wildlands CPR, the director of the Washington Watershed Restoration Initiative (WWRI) coalition.

The Washington state coalition helped create a national effort that in the last three years has secured \$180 million for the Forest Service to restore watersheds and water quality while enhancing recreational access. The Forest Service is using these funds to repair and reclaim degraded roads and trails within national forest system lands across the country.

"We especially want to thank Congressman Norm Dicks for his incredible leadership in helping Congress understand and begin fixing this problem," Gunn said.

While numbers for 2009 are still being compiled, results of the funding for Washington and Oregon in 2008 included:

- 23 road-stream crossings constructed or reconstructed for fish passage, which opened 65 miles of habitat.
- 934 miles of roads improved or maintained.
- 132 miles of road reclaimed.
- 219 miles of trails improved or maintained.

In addition to the bright note about funding, the coalition recently received national recognition for its campaign to build awareness about the problem. Representatives from WWRI went to Washington, DC, Dec. 16 to accept the "Rise to the Future-Public Awareness Award" from the Forest Service.

Stephen Bernath, policy lead for forestry issues with the Washington Department of Ecology said, "We are honored to receive this national award. The Forest Service has been an appreciated partner and understands the gravity of the problem in the Pacific Northwest. The WWRI members have worked tirelessly to address the harm roads and trails have on clean water and fish habitat."

WWRI members include the Washington State Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife, Alpine Lakes Protection Society, Cascade Chapter-Sierra Club, Conservation Northwest, Olympic Forest Coalition, Pacific Rivers Council, Pilchuck Audubon Society, The Mountaineers, The Wilderness Society, Washington Trails Association, Washington Wilderness Coalition and Wildlands CPR.

A Chemical Reaction to make NW debut

On the heels of sellout premieres across the US, *A Chemical Reaction*, an inspirational and controversial documentary, makes its northwest premiere on Saturday, February 20, at 2 p.m. The Coalition of Organic Landscape Professionals (COOL) and Seattle Tilth will co-host the screening at Lake Washington Technical College in Kirkland.

The event will also feature Paul Tukey, executive producer and narrator of the film. Tukey is the founder of SafeLawns.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting natural lawn care and grounds maintenance. The event will feature displays and resources from several environmental organizations, books for sale, refreshments, and a question-and-answer session and book-signing with Tukey after the movie.

Tukey appears in *A Chemical Reaction*, interviewing key figures in the anti-pesticide movement in Canada and the US. He said his goal in making the film is to create awareness of the health hazards and environmental degradation associated with lawn care chemicals.

Much of the movie focuses on Dr. June Irwin, dermatologist, who led the first drive to ban lawn and garden chemicals in



Paul Tukey and Dr. June Irwin.

SafeLawns.org
FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET

Canada in 1991. When her hometown, Hudson, Quebec, told ChemLawn it couldn't apply its synthetic chemical products within town borders, it set off a chain of high-profile court cases that culminated in the Canadian Supreme Court in 2001.

The town won the case in a 9-0 decision, and the chemical ban soon spread to the entire province of Quebec. Ontario enacted lawn chemical restrictions on Earth Day 2009, and hundreds of other Canadian municipalities have passed similar legislation.

To view a trailer of the film, visit www.chemicalreactionmovie.com.

Tickets for the screening are \$10 each, if purchased in advance from

www.brownpapertickets.com or \$15 at the door. Proceeds will benefit SafeLawns.org.

Lake Washington Technical College is located at 11605 132nd Avenue NE, in Kirkland. The movie will be shown in the West Building Auditorium, room 404.

For more information about the local screening of *A Chemical Reaction*, contact COOL at info@organiclandscapers.org or phone 206.362.8947.

Bird Count ...

(continued from page 1)

Participants counted 279,469 Pine Siskins on 18,528 checklists, as compared to the previous high of 38,977 birds on 4,069 checklists in 2005. Failure of seed crops farther north caused the siskins to move south to find their favorite food.

On the www.birdcount.org web site, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators.

Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by

Blackbird ...

(continued from page 2)

on a crucifix to sell the mountain if Munthe would attend him. The good doctor tapped the butcher's left pleura and drained a pint of pus. The man lived.

Today, Mt. Barbarossa is a bird sanctuary, saving 15,000 birds a year from the fancy restaurants of Paris.

In the last chapter of the book, Munthe imagines himself before St. Peter. Looking over his scanty records of his life on Earth, St. Peter says, "How come you're here? I'm sure there is some mistake." Eventually, Munthe is led into the Hall of Judgment and stands before an assemblage of saints, prophets and apostles. Handing over Munthe's credentials to the judges, St. Peter says, "It looks bad, very bad."

The Grand Inquisitor, St. Ignatius, rises from his seat and speaks, "His life is sullied with heinous sins, his soul is dark, his heart is impure."

Moses rises from his seat, gigantic and fierce, and thunders, "Cut him off from Heaven and Earth and send him to Hell!"

"To Hell! To Hell!" echoes throughout the Hall of Judgment.

uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC web site's photo gallery.

All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs and many other great birding products.

For more information about the GBBC, visit the web site at www.birdcount.org. Or contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 800.843.2473 or gbbc@cornell.edu, or Audubon at citizenscience@audubon.org or 202.861.2242, ext 3050.

Suddenly, Munthe hears the twittering of birds. A warbler lights on his shoulder and sings in his ear, "You saved the life of my grandmother, my aunt and my three brothers and sisters from torture and death by the hand of man on that rocky island. Welcome! Welcome!"

A skylark flies to him and relates a similar story of Munthe saving the lives of birds. Munthe asks for his help. The skylark flies away, trilling with joy, "I will trrrrrry!"

Munthe hears the bells of Assisi ringing the Angelus and then sees the pale Umbrian saint coming slowly towards him. With birds fluttering and singing around him, St. Francis comes to stand by Munthe and looks at the stern judges with his wonderful eyes, those eyes that neither God nor man nor beast could meet with anger in theirs.

Florence and I are going to Italy next fall. In planning our itinerary, I was insistent on only one thing. We'll be going to Capri. For my part, it's not to see the Blue Grotto, but it is as pilgrim, if you will. In a small way, I wish to pay homage to a man's memory and his legacy.

Audubon membership information

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

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

Local PAS membership
<input type="checkbox"/> New member \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime PAS member \$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 monthly payments of \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 quarterly payments of \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 payment of \$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____
Make check payable to: <i>Pilchuck Audubon Society</i>
Mail your check and this form to: <i>PAS Membership Chair</i> <i>1429 Avenue D, PMB 198</i> <i>Snohomish, WA 98290</i>

NAS membership (includes PAS membership)
<input type="checkbox"/> Introductory membership \$20
Make check payable to: <i>National Audubon Society</i>
Mail your check and this form to: <i>PAS Membership Chair</i> <i>1429 Avenue D, PMB 198</i> <i>Snohomish, WA 98290</i>

NAS renewal (includes PAS renewal)
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal \$35
Make check payable to: <i>National Audubon Society</i>
Mail your check and this form to: <i>NAS, Membership Data Center</i> <i>POB 52529</i> <i>Boulder, CO 80322-2529</i>

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____