



# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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www.pilchuckaudubon.org

## Plan birding, activism activities for 2011

A number of fun and informative wildlife festivals, birding trips, events and meetings are planned for the first half of 2011. Don't miss out! Start planning now.

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

You're invited to the annual Environmental Priorities Coalition Legislative Workshop. The workshop is scheduled for January 8, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., in the Gwinn Commons on the campus of Seattle Pacific University. It's a fun way to learn about the 2011 Environmental Priorities and how you can take action to support them.

There'll be experts on hand and a panel of state legislators to answer questions about this year's Environmental Priorities. In addition, there will be helpful break-out sessions on how to use social media to get the message out and be a citizen lobbyist.

And, new this year, the workshop will feature a session titled *Activism 2.0*, for those ready to take their activism to the next level to help build the environmental movement.

All together, the 2011 Environmental Priorities will ensure Washington state citizens have clean water, clean air, create new jobs and maintain core environmental protections in a time of slashed budgets.

Cost is \$20 with lunch, \$10 without lunch and \$10 for students with lunch.

Gwinn Commons is located at 3310 Sixth Ave. West, Seattle.

For more information, call Kerri Cechovic at 206.437.6317.

### Free screening of *Winged Migration* January 13 Northwest Stream Center, Everett

Join the Adopt-a-Stream Foundation for a free screening of *Winged Migration* on Thursday, January 13, beginning at 7 p.m. Follow a variety of bird migrations over the vast seas and each of the seven continents and see why *USA Today* called *Winged Migration* "one of the most beautiful films."

This is a free event, but advanced registration 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.

(See "Festivals" on page 8)

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

### ***A double feature!***

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

Alan Bauer, photographer and hiker, will share his knowledge of local and natural history.

#### **Reiter Foothills update**

Karl Forsgaard of the North Cascades Conservation Council has news about the Reiter Foothills ORV park. Karl's info is particularly timely because the deadline for public comment on this issue is January 31. Please plan to attend and take action.

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.**

## Where to hike?

The Great Backyard Bird Count is Sunday, February 20. How about a hike? The question is where? Jonathan Blubaugh is hoping you'll help him decide. Please contact him with your ideas for that day, as well as the rest of the spring: 425.244.7633 or aracfi@msn.com. He and Terry Nightingale are cooking up ideas for more Weekend Bird Hikes beginning in March. They'd love your input!

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# President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



I was recently rummaging around my bookshelves, looking for a mushroom book so I could identify interesting mushrooms in my backyard. Before I found it, I came across the *Fieldbook of Natural History*, published in 1949 – a book I didn't even know I had. The nomenclature is always changing where birds are concerned. So I turned to the section on birds to find birds that had been renamed over the last 60 years. I wasn't disappointed.

When I found that the Anhinga was once called the Water Turkey, I knew I'd found a treasure trove of archaic bird names. For instance, the American Wigeon was once called the Baldpate. Peregrines were known as Duck Hawks. From my youth, I remember Pigeon Hawks and Sparrow Hawks, but didn't know they were Merlins and Kestrels. The California Woodpecker became the Acorn Woodpecker. When it was the California Woodpecker, five subspecies were listed: Anteating, Mearns, California, San Pedro and Narrow-fronted. Sibley doesn't mention any subspecies, nor does Peterson.

Before becoming a birder, I knew the Gray Jay as the camp robber. Sixty years ago, it was called the Canada Jay and the Whiskey Jack. The Northern Hawk Owl was the American Hawk Owl – despite being primarily a full-time Canadian resident.

Scrub Jays are becoming regular visitors to our part of the world. But it was once called the California Jay with seven subspecies. Looking in Sibley's, I find only four related species. I wonder what happened to the other three. As a matter of fact, the field guide lists five Crow subspecies: Eastern, Southern, Florida, Western and Northwestern. Sibley notes only four: American, Fish, Northwestern and Tamaulipas.

Of more interest to me is the book's "Zeitgeist." Historians, in an attempt to maintain objectivity, pay close attention to Zeitgeist, a German term meaning "the spirit of the times" or "the spirit of the age." A common pitfall is to look back on past events or periods in history and pass judgment based on today's knowledge. Zeitgeist is the general cultural, intellectual, ethical, spiritual and/or political climate of the era. The *Fieldbook of Natural History* is an excellent example of Zeitgeist regarding the economic value of bird life.

One of the authors, E. Laurence Palmer, evaluated birds' economic value to humans on three levels. Did a particular species compete with man for a food source – such as pelicans and cormorants for fish, or crows eating the corn crop? Vermin hunts were waged against hawks. In Pennsylvania, in 1937, a \$5 bounty was offered and 1090 were killed. With that in mind, the author notes that the English Sparrow (House Sparrow) – a harmful bird if any species is – is one of commonest and least bothered. Men try to destroy useful hawks and owls, but leave more destructive English Sparrows unharmed.

On the other hand, Meadowlarks were a "good" species. The author observes that, "With hay at \$10 a ton, saves \$25 a year in the average township by destroying insects which destroy hay." Tree Swallows, serving in their role of insect destroyers, make it unusually valuable in rural areas and in mosquito-infested regions. Fortunately for the Rough-winged Swallow, "Has no habits contrary to man's best interests..."

Lastly, of course, is their value as game birds. I expected to see ducks and geese listed as game birds but not Plovers, Killdeer, Turnstones, Rails, Dowitchers and Soras. Soras? In Connecticut, one hunter killed 181 Soras in one day! In all my years of birding,

(See "Blackbird" on page 9)

## 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)



### Board of directors

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# Trip calendar

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

**Jan. 4 Snoqualmie Valley, Monroe to Carnation**  
Meet at 8 a.m. at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, a half-mile west of the fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0180

**January 11 Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, BC**  
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. The refuge is in Canada, on Westham Island at the mouth of the Fraser River. Expect waterfowl underfoot and chickadees and nuthatches fed in the hand, plus surprise species. Bring your passport or enhanced driver's license. A birth certificate and regular driver's license will no longer get you across the border. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

**January 18 Camano Island**  
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. We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and wherever else Virginia's built-in GPS leads us. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

**January 25 Guemes Island**  
Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Ride a tiny ferry, then relax and enjoy unique Guemes Island, its people, birds and dogs. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## PAS dues to increase

The Pilchuck Audubon's Board of Directors recently voted to increase yearly membership dues from \$25 to \$28.

This increase is in response to two issues.

First, donations to PAS are down due to the economic slowdown. Second, PAS is collaborating with most other Washington chapters to hire a policy advocate to represent our views to state legislators. This is a new financial commitment for us – one which requires new funds.

As budget deficits and cuts impact all areas of state government, we strive to be a voice for conservation of state lands and the preservation of wildlife habitat.

Anyone interesting in donating to help fund this new position is invited to contact Jan van Niel at 425.778.7568. Jan represents our region on the state committee coordinating this effort.

**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)

**May 20-22 Kittitas County**  
More information to come. Reservations will be accepted beginning in January. Contact Susie Schaefer if you're interested: [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org) or 425.771.8165.

**June 2-6 Ferry County**  
More information to come. Reservations will be accepted beginning in January. Contact Susie Schaefer if you're interested: [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org) or 425.771.8165.

*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.**

## Volunteers needed to smile at Snow Goose Fest

You don't need to sell anything, you just need to smile!

Pilchuck Audubon is looking for friendly folks to staff its booth at the Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival February 26 and 27 in Stanwood.

The PAS booth will be set up at festival headquarters in the Floyd Horgaard Cultural Center, 27108 102nd Avenue NW. There'll be brochures, informational displays and other items to hand out. No selling is involved. We just need members to smile and invite folks to learn more about our field trips, demo garden and program meetings. Easy!

If you can help, please contact Laura Spehar, PAS Program Chair, to schedule your shift: 425.672.2150 or [edmondsbwh@gmail.com](mailto:edmondsbwh@gmail.com).

# Stronger action needed to ban lead gear

Last month, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission placed restrictions on the use of recreational lead sinkers on 13 remaining Common Loon breeding lakes in Washington. Lead weights and jigs measuring 1.5 or smaller on the longest axis will be banned the following 12 lakes: Ferry Lake and Swan Lake (Ferry County), Calligan Lake and Lake Hancock (King County), Bonaparte Lake, Blue Lake and Lost Lake (Okanogan County), Big Meadow Lake, South Skookum Lake and Yocum Lake (Pend Oreille County), Pierre Lake (Stevens County) and Hozomeen Lake (Whatcom County).

In addition, using flies containing lead was banned on Long Lake in Ferry County.



*This x-ray of a dead loon shows lead weights and other fishing gear in its gizzard.*

The purpose of this ban is to prevent the Common Loon from ingesting lead sinkers lost by anglers on these breeding lakes. The new restrictions take effect on May 1, 2011.

There is no restriction on the use of lead core fishing line or any other recreational lead use on any lake or stream in Washington.

Given the thousands of miles of streams and lakes in Washington, Pilchuck Audubon Society believes this action is far too weak to protect the Common Loon and other birds and wildlife that use Washington waters for feeding and habitat. And, it should be noted that loons use more lakes than just breeding lakes.

Last year, only nine Common Loon fledglings were documented in the entire state. PAS fears the Common Loon is well on its way to becoming extirpated in Washington. We believe it should be listed as an endangered species.

It isn't just loons being harmed from the use of recreational lead. Any birds – such as ducks, swans, Ospreys, herons, etc. – that ingest small split shot or lead sinkers will die a painful death. In turn, predators and scavengers (such as falcons, eagles, ravens, vultures, foxes and coyotes) who take these dead or dying birds will suffer lead poisoning, too.

Lead sinkers also pose a hazard to humans. They are easily swallowed by children. Or, the poisons can be ingested simply by handling the lead sinkers and then touching one's mouth or by eating without first washing hands with soap.

Lead has been linked to health problems in humans including brain damage, behavior problems, anemia, liver and kidney damage, hearing loss, hyperactivity, developmental delay and death.

In March 2009, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled thousands of Zebco fishing poles made in China because the paint used exceeded the safe standard of 90 parts per million lead. Yet these same poles were sold for children to use with lead sinkers that are 100% lead.

There are many effective and comparably-priced alternatives to lead sinkers and jigs. The WDFW provides a compendium listing of these lead-free alternative products on their web site <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/loons>.

PAS advocates the complete ban of the recreational use of lead in hunting and fishing in Washington. We have banned lead from children's toys, paints and gasoline. It's time for all forward-thinking citizens to demand the WDFW ban the recreational use of lead from sport fishing and hunting everywhere in Washington.

Without decisive action, the eerily melodic call of the loon – which epitomizes wilderness – may be lost in Washington.

## Call hotline to report dead or sick swans

In an effort to track Trumpeter Swans with lead poisoning, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has re-established a hotline to report dead or sick swans in Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish counties.

Folks can call 360.466.4345, ext. 266, to report dead or sick swans. Callers should be prepared to leave a message including their name and phone number, and the location and condition of the swans. The hotline is available 24 hours a day through the end of March.

To report sick or dead swans in Snohomish County (south of Marysville) and King County, please also contact Martha Jordan at 425.787.0258. By contacting her directly, the swans will be retrieved faster.

Some Trumpeter Swans in Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish counties, and in southwestern British Columbia, die each winter from lead poisoning after ingesting lead shot in areas where they feed.

Lead shot has been banned for waterfowl hunting in Washington and BC for more than a decade, but biologists

believe swans are likely reaching shallow underwater areas in fields and roosts where spent lead shot is still present.



*Trumpeter Swan, by Audy Loharungsikul*

People who see sick or dead swans are advised not to handle or attempt to move the birds, said Jennifer Bohannon, WDFW wildlife biologist. WDFW and Puget Sound Energy employees, as well as volunteers from the Washington Waterfowl Association and the Trumpeter Swan Society, will pick up the birds, she said.

For the past several years, hazing crews have worked to scare swans away from Judson Lake, a source of lead poisoning on the US-Canada border in Whatcom County. During that effort, the average number of lead-related swan mortalities significantly dropped to 63 a year, about 70 percent less than the previous five-year average, said Bohannon.

For the second straight year, biologists will place bamboo poles in portions of the lake to keep birds from landing or swimming in areas with concentrations of lead shot, Bohannon said. Swans that do access those areas will be hazed from the lake, she said.

# 2010 Classroom Conservation Awards

More than 1000 students from nine schools and five school districts in Snohomish County will benefit from the 2010 Classroom Conservation Awards provided annually by Pilchuck Audubon Society.

The program – in its fourth year – provides \$300 awards to 10 elementary and preschool teachers in Snohomish County and Camano Island. Funds are used for conservation and science activities and/or materials to support a classroom program. The goal of the Classroom Conservation Awards is to instill in students the desire to conserve and protect natural resources. The projects must involve all students in the class and demonstrate achievable and relevant wildlife and conservation goals.

Shortly after the school year began in September, the Classroom Conservation Awards committee sent a program overview and application form to elementary principals to distribute to their teachers. The CCA committee reviewed the applications and selected the recipients in November. Awards were presented to the teachers before Christmas break.

Projects funded in past years have included the following:

- Improvement of bird and butterfly habitat around the school with additional plants
- Purchase of an egg incubator
- Materials and expertise to help build a nature trail adjacent to the school
- Purchase of digital recorders so students could create monthly podcasts about local environmental issues such as recycling, littering, taking care of trails, being careful with campfires and taking care of water and salmon
- Reintroducing native plants to the grounds around the school

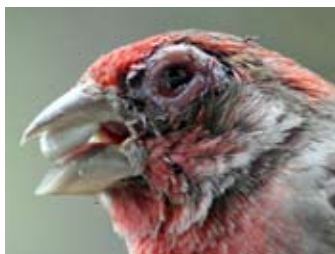
The Classroom Conservation Awards project is the vision of retired teachers Phil and Laura Zalesky. The Zaleskys believe environmental and conservation awareness should begin early. In 2007, they made a generous donation to establish the award program.

## Clean backyard feeders to prevent avian pox

By Bill Lider

The finch at right was at my feeder last month. Its eye was crusted with a warty ring – avian pox – which could swell and blind it. The lesions occur on a bird's head, legs or feet.

Avian pox is transmitted by biting insects, by direct contact with infected birds or by contaminated surfaces such as a feeder or bird bath. Infected birds are vulnerable to predation, starvation or exposure. House Finches are particularly vulnerable because they travel in flocks.



House Finch with avian pox, by Bill Lider

PAS welcomes donations to maintain the Classroom Conservation Award program. To contribute, make your check payable to PAS and indicate "Classroom Conservation Awards" in the memo line. Or, donate by credit card on the PAS web site: [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org).

### ***This year's conservation award recipients***

**Anne Neuman, Kim Majors and Kandi Shouman** from Highland Elementary in Lake Stevens. Project: field trip to the Stillaguamish fish hatchery, tree planting, salmon conservation.

**Debra Rose Howell** from Monte Cristo Elementary in Granite Falls. Project: Padilla Bay field trip.

**Paul Church** (two-time awardee!) from Discovery Elementary in Mukilteo. Project: Padilla Bay field trip to collect species for examination in class.

**Andrew Fritz** from Glenwood School in Lake Stevens. Project: San Juan Islands pelagic trip.

**Mark Derson and Hillary Felix** from Cedar Wood Elementary in Everett. Project: school-wide, five-year conservation project to include raised garden beds, rain barrel, worm bed and signage.

**Autumn Morrison** from Skyline Elementary in Lake Stevens. Project: identify native plants and animals and learn how they can be protected.

**Lorena Ahola** from the Early Learning Center in Lake Stevens. Project: teach preschoolers to reduce, reuse and recycle.

**Maria Panelli and Danielle Ramos** from Skyline Elementary in Lake Stevens. Project: studying the eco-system of Barn Owls and their impact on the community.

**Therese Adams** of Fryelands Elementary in Monroe. Project: picnic tables for lab work, bird houses, planter boxes.

**Shannon Wyant** of Mt. Pilchuck Elementary in Lake Stevens. Project: books, sorting kits and puzzles for "animal kingdom" study.

There is no effective treatment for wild birds. If you see birds with warty lesions, take your feeder down for a few days so the birds will disperse. Clean the feeder with bleach (one part bleach to 10 parts water). Rinse it completely before putting it back up. Gather and dispose of spilled seed.

Avian pox is not contagious to humans. As responsible birders, we should help limit the spread of this disease.

# Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

## 2010 Recap

Although the economic downturn has affected land use and development, 2010 was anything but uneventful. Here's a recap and update on some issues I worked on this year.

### **Strengthen the county's Shoreline Master Program (SMP).**

For five years, the county worked on a SMP update for approval by the Department of Ecology (DOE). By October 2010, public hearings were complete and the county adopted the update. PAS and its partners pushed for strong protections for water quality and habitat. Although we are happy with many of the provisions, a few problems still exist. In January, the DOE will begin its review and likely conduct more public hearings. DOE is required by law to accept the SMP.

### **Organize local activists for strong growth management.**

My most effective tools are education and coalition building. I hosted two Livable Snohomish County summits to inform citizens about what is going on in the county, where problems are and ways to solve them. Through this coalition, my Smart Growth Report, action alerts, letters to the editor, op-eds, phone calls and e-mails, people are getting involved.

In 2010, I brought together 12 people to participate on the LSCC (Livable Snohomish County Coalition) leadership committee to identify issues of importance. Those issues included the following Snohomish County Shoreline Master Plan update, Snohomish County Unified Development Code – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) update, urban centers, land use and farm/fish working groups, eastside rail line, TDR/PDR countywide, transit oriented development, dockets XIV, XV and LSCC web site and membership

We were successful on a number of these issues. The county's SMP update was adopted, along with the NPDES permit update and a new urban centers ordinance (including provisions for more affordable housing and receiving areas for a Transfer of Development Rights [TDR] program). And, we worked with the county's Land Use Working Group on ways to solve land use disputes and with Futurewise to educate planners and residents about the need for more transit oriented development. And, we convinced the council to deny urban growth area expansions throughout the county in dockets XIV and XV. We continue to update the LSCC web site to make it more useful. Check it out at [www.7-lakes.org/livablesnohomish](http://www.7-lakes.org/livablesnohomish).

**Ensure the yearly comprehensive plan amendment process doesn't allow for unnecessary Urban Growth Area (UGA) expansions and conversion of farms and forests.** Each year, during the comprehensive plan amendment process, there are attempts to expand UGAs, convert rural land to urban development and add taxes for infrastructure to support the sprawl.

I'm pleased the council changed its docketing process so it no longer allows yearly plan changes from the private sector – only council docket proposals or minor amendments. The new plan allows the consideration of major revisions every other year. This change should save funds previously spent to analyze requests that didn't comply with the Growth Management Act and were merely political in nature.

## Looking forward to 2011

In 2011, I'll support priorities of environmental organizations at the state level. I'll count on you to help – through e-mail action alerts, writing letters, attending hearings, donating to

the Smart Growth Program and discussing issues with friends and family. It will take all of us to build livable communities.

My priorities for 2011 include the following:

**Develop solutions to preserve farms and balance the need for salmon habitat restoration.** The Sustainable Lands Strategy committee, formed by the county executive and council, will work with the tribes and farmers to find win-win solutions to preserve the county's designated farmland and restore salmon populations and habitats.

### **Build support for a TDR program to protect farmland.**

Nearly 70,000 county acres are designated farmland and more than 30,000 acres of rural land are currently farmed. This constitutes a \$127 million industry. There is constant pressure to develop farmland. In response, the county adopted a strategy to preserve and keep farmlands economically viable. An effective tool to keep agricultural lands productive is with a TDR program. PAS will work to ensure strong codes to make this program a viable option.

**The Carthart Urban Village site.** Years ago, the county bought the landfill site and has worked on transforming it into an urban village. Recently, we convinced the council to provide a year-round farmers market, ball fields and an affordable housing demo project. The economy's put a hold on development. But, we'll work with the parties involved to keep our priorities top of mind. The development will serve as a model for responsible, sustainable design.

### **Ensure Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) update fulfills the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2040.**

Snohomish County Tomorrow has started to update the CPPs, a framework for county and city comprehensive plans. We provided recommendations to ensure this update complies with the PSRC's Vision 2040 and the Growth Management Act. This process will continue in 2011 as we work to incorporate our recommendations into the final plan update.

PAS and Futurewise recommend changes to the CPPs, including assigning 90% of future population growth to urban areas, ensuring UGA expansions don't include extensive critical areas, designated resource lands or floodplains and ensuring UGA expansions only occur when additional land is needed to accommodate the jurisdiction's adopted growth projections. In addition, recommendations discourage UGA expansions for schools and churches and encourage planning for "complete streets" designed to allow safe access for all users.

### **Build capacity and activate both PAS membership and the Livable Snohomish County Coalition (LSCC) in the above goals.**

In 2009 and 2010, PAS and the LSCC influenced the county council to make improvements in regulations guiding growth in urban and rural areas and convinced the county to eliminate the threat of new cities in rural areas. We fund the LSCC web site, which is a growing educational tool for all.

As you can tell, 2011 will be busy. I need your help! To be included in my action alert system and e-mail updates, please make sure your e-mail is in our database. Send me an e-mail at [kristin@futurewise.org](mailto:kristin@futurewise.org) and I'll add you to the list!

Hope your holidays were happy. Let's all toast to working for a better 2011.

# Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

October 26, 2010–November 25, 2010

The first snow almost always brings the **Varied Thrush** back to my area. The day after our Thanksgiving week snow, I stopped for the mail along 100th in Marysville. The grass was covered with 2-3 inches of fresh snow. I spotted several robin-sized birds fly in and begin digging their beaks in the snow, tail feathers in the air. I finally realized they were **Varied Thrushes**. I counted 8 in all.



Varied Thrush, by Jim Martin

The kinglets are out also. Carole and Larry Beason reported 12 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** in their yard near Lake Bosworth. They also reported 38 **Buffleheads** on the lake, along with 15 **Common Mergansers**, 2 **Hooded Mergansers**, and a **Great Blue Heron**. They reported 2 **Belted Kingfishers** flying over, 3 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers**, 15 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 6 **Northern Flickers**, 9 **Spotted Towhees**, 18 **Steller's Jays** and a **Varied Thrush** for a total species count of 37.



Great-horned Owl, by Donald Metzner

Hilkka Egtvedt had so many **Band-tailed Pigeons** at her feeders, she had her husband install a cage to allow just the smaller birds to fit through. She counted up to 30 pigeons at her feeder. They were eating her out of house and home. Along with the **Band-tailed Pigeons**, her total species count of 26 from Mukilteo included 54 **American Crows** flying over, a **Bewick's Wren**, 41 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 4 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Great Horned Owls** calling after dark, a **Townsend's Warbler**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 8 **California Quail** and 2 **Varied Thrushes**.

Kriss Erickon reported an **American Kestrel** in her Everett yard. She also listed 9 **American Robins**, 30 **Bushtits**, 12 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 7 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 7 **American Goldfinches** and a **Hairy Woodpecker** for a total species count of 18.

From her bird's-eye view of Juniper Beach, Adeline Gildow reported 2 **Great Blue Herons**, 200 **Dunlin**, 8 **Trumpeter Swans**, 100+ **Snow Geese** near Conway, 4 **Bald Eagles** flying over, a **Brown Creeper** on a pine tree in her yard, 15 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 7 **House Sparrows**, 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** and 80 **Brown Pelicans** at Ocean Shores for a total species count of 32.

A **Barred Owl** was reported by Julie O'Donald from her Brier location. She also reported 2 **Varied Thrushes**, a **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, 2 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, an **Anna's Hummingbird**, 3 **Band-**

**tailed Pigeons**, 8 **Bushtits**, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and 3 **Steller's Jays** for a total species count of 20.

Mary Sinker's feeders are very busy with 19 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 15 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 50 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 12 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Winter Wrens**, 3 **Pine Siskins**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 3 **Varied Thrushes** and 2 **Great-horned Owls** in the trees. Her total species count from Stanwood was 27.

Dick Vanderhoff also has great viewing areas in Stanwood. He reported 500+ **Snow Geese** at the Skagit Reserve, 50+ **Trumpeter Swans** along Marine Drive, 3 **Marsh Hawks** in the trees at the reserve, 3 **Evening Grosbeaks** at the feeders, 3 **Spotted Towhees**, 12 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 10 **Steller's Jays**, a **Mourning Dove**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 2 **Bald Eagles** for a total species count of 12.

The highlight of my report from Marysville was the 8 **Varied Thrushes**. I also spotted 30+ **Mallards** with 15 **Canada Geese** in a flooded field along 100th in Marysville, 30-40 **American Crows**, 6 **California Quail**, 4 **Black-capped Chickadees**, a **Common Raven**, 3 **Red-tailed Hawks**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, a huge flock of **European Starlings** swarming the fields and a **Great Horned Owl** in the woods for a total species count of 21.

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.

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

# Festivals ...

(continued from page 1)

## Is Puget Sound sound?

January 27

Mill Creek City Hall

This free event begins at 7 p.m. and will feature the directors of the Puget Soundkeepers Alliance, the Adopt-a-Stream Foundation and the Snohomish County Conservation District. There will also be a special guest appearance by Sammy the Salmon, who'll discuss the trials and tribulations of swimming through Puget Sound en route to North Creek, which flows next to Mill Creek City Hall. It will feature candid discussions about the current state of Puget Sound and uplifting ideas on how you can make a positive difference.

No advance registration required. Mill Creek City Hall is located at 15728 Main Street, Mill Creek.

## White Birds of Winter

January 28

Northwest Stream Center

Come, share and learn the facts, myths and legends of Washington's *White Birds of Winter*. Martha Jordan will present spectacular images and a lecture. She is director of the Washington Swan Working Group, a non-profit dedicated to assuring the vitality and welfare of wild swan populations.

The presentation begins at 7 p.m. 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.

## Environmental priorities coalition lobby day

February 15

Olympia

Come to Olympia with hundreds of other citizen lobbyists to push for the passage of the Environmental Priorities Coalition's legislative package.

Test your powers of persuasion as you meet with your state legislators. Receive detailed briefings on each priority and training on how to lobby. We'll fuel your activism with breakfast, lunch and all the coffee you can drink!

Don't forget the wrap-up party with a special celebration of the 20th anniversary of People for Puget Sound.

For more info about Lobby Day and representing PAS there, contact Mike Blackbird, Jan van Niel or Susie Schaefer.

## Great Backyard Bird Count

February 18-21

Everywhere!

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is February 18-21, 2011. The four-day event is free and open to birders of all ages and skill levels.

Participants watch birds for any length of time on one or more days of the count and enter their tallies at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species.

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

For more info about the GBBC, visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

## Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival

February 26-27

Stanwood, Washington

The geese are back and plans are set for the 2011 Port Susan Snow Goose Festival on February 26-27. Check the official festival web site – [www.snowgoosefest.org](http://www.snowgoosefest.org) – for a complete list of field trips, seminars and other activities.

PAS sponsors the event, so we hope lots of members and friends will join us in Stanwood, as well as volunteer to help out. Please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org) if you can help.

## Wings over Water Northwest Birding Festival

March 19

Blaine, Washington

Don't miss this great event for avid bird enthusiasts and casual observers alike! Fun festival activities take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and include guided field trips to Semiahmoo Spit, a wildlife cruise, an art show, live raptor presentations, family activities, prizes and more!

For more information, visit [www.blainechamber.com](http://www.blainechamber.com) or phone 800.624.3555.

## Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

March 25-27

Othello, Washington

Plan to attend the 14th Othello Sandhill Crane Festival, March 25-27. The festival features field trips to view Sandhill Cranes, along with other specialty tours such as Columbia National Wildlife Refuge/Potholes wildlife tour, Lower Grand Coulee birding tour and Wahluke Slope/Shrub Steppe birding tour. Trips fill up quickly. Pre-registration is recommended.

With your paid admission into the festival, you're entitled to attend lectures on topics such as falconry, Grouse of Washington, Othello History within the Drumhellar Channeled Scablands, Shrub-Steppe Flora and Fauna, Owls of Eastern Washington and Spring Migration in the Columbia Basin.

For more information, visit the festival web site at [www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org](http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org) or contact Susie Schaefer: [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org) or 425.771.8165.

## Olympic BirdFest

April 8-10

Sequim, Washington

Join the Olympic BirdFest 2011 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 8-10. The stage is set ... quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a long sand spit and a island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Wetlands, tide pools, rainforests and lush valleys. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours and a gala banquet.

Come bird with us and experience the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ... you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org) or call for a brochure.

Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day birding cruise in the San Juan Islands April 10-12. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands – and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort.

Get cruise info and registration forms at [www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org](http://www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org). Contact us by phone (360.681.4076), e-mail ([opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com](mailto:opas.birdfest.info@gmail.com)) or by mail: Dungeness River Audubon Center, PO Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382.

(See "Festivals" on page 9)



# Festivals ...

(continued from page 8)

## Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

April 29-May 1

Hoquiam, Washington

Each spring, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in Grays Harbor estuary on their migration north. These Arctic-bound shorebirds are among the world's greatest migrants. This concentration of birds offers people a great chance to view a number of shorebird species, and with luck, to see the birds fly in beautiful formations while trying to escape the fastest creature on earth, the Peregrine Falcon.

This year's festival features field trips to view shorebirds and raptors, plus lectures, workshops, a nature fun fair, a birding marketplace and more. The keynote address will be by Bart Rulon, artist, naturalist and photographer. You'll recall Bart spoke at the Puget Sound Bird Fest several years ago.

For more information, visit [www.shorebirdfestival.com](http://www.shorebirdfestival.com) or phone 360.289.5048.

## Blackbird ...

(continued from page 2)

I've seen a Sora only twice. Could that one Connecticut day be the reason why Soras are so secretive?

Snow Buntings were once shot for market. One city once reported to have had 80,000 Snow Buntings in cold storage. The author notes that, by 1949, such slaughter had been stopped.

It would be 13 years before Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* would be published. But, it's evident that E. Laurence Palmer was striv-

## Backyard Bird Festival

May 14

Tukwila, Washington

Join us for this annual event that helps educate and inspire us to welcome wildlife – like birds, butterflies and others – into our backyards, garden and communities!

This event will host a variety of activities and educational opportunities, including local gardener Ciscoe Morris speaking on how to attract and support wildlife through garden and landscape practices, and creating and preserving wildlife habitat in our region.

For more information, visit [www.backyardwildlifefair.org](http://www.backyardwildlifefair.org) or call 206.768.2822.

ing to change the prevailing attitude about birds. To the author's credit, he does discern that individual states are beginning to protect birds, and lists species that should be protected.

One of Palmer's observations in particular caught my eye, something I've been trying to convince Florence of for the 45+ years about a particular Blackbird, "While it may be a pest at times in certain areas, the good done generally far out-weighs bad."

# 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 \$25. A special limited income category is also 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 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: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_