

Oil spill: Audubon "gravely concerned"

Courtesy National Audubon

The gulf oil spill is a disaster unfolding in slow motion, threatening birds, wildlife and Gulf Coast communities.



Brown Pelicans are among the first species affected by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Photo by Bill Strippling

While immediate impacts on birds haven't been as dramatic as many first feared, Audubon is gravely concerned about the ultimate toll this unprecedented environmental crisis will have on the already strained Gulf Coast ecosystem.

Audubon is concerned oil is already disrupting the underwater ecosystem. It is certain that fish, shrimp and other vital cogs in the food chain are dying underwater, unseen. The loss of these sources of food has potentially devastating consequences for both birds and the coastal economy. Comprehensive assessment and documentation of the spill's impacts on marine life is essential to support the emergency response and ongoing recovery of the Gulf Coast ecosystem.

The birds that dive into open water for food – Brown Pelicans, terns, Magnificent Frigatebirds and other pelagic species – are among the first reported victims of oiling. This group will also be the first to encounter food losses. However, because many spend much of their lives on the open water, their deaths will likely go unmarked and unrecorded.

Onshore and in coastal wetlands, the legacy of habitat loss has left smaller and smaller areas for birds and wildlife. Disruption of the remaining habitat – even as a result of well-intentioned efforts to protect the Gulf Coast and its barrier islands from damage through cleaning and movement of sand and other materials – may disrupt nesting birds and wildlife, with long-term consequences.

There's added risk of a storm-driven surge of oil that would render useless the booms in place to protect the gulf's coastal islands, leaving millions of nesting birds vulnerable to oil on breeding islands, beaches, sand flats and mudflats, and seeping into wetlands and coastal terrestrial habitats.

Audubon has registered more than 12,000 volunteers to assist with on-the-ground response efforts. They will also provide bird and wildlife monitoring and other assistance to advance the massive long-term restoration that will be needed.

To learn more about how you can help, visit the National Audubon web site: www.audubon.org.

July program meeting
Friday, July 9, 7 p.m.



The Joy of Dragonflying



Join Jim and Betsy Walker for an evening dedicated to the appreciation of dragonflies and damselflies (odonates). The emphasis will be on identifying the beautiful odonates of Snohomish County – including everyone's favorite, the Happy-face Dragonfly. Photos of odonates from Oregon, California, and Arizona will be featured, as well.

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.

Friends of Port Susan Bay Birds

Thanks to all the volunteers who counted shorebirds this spring! Surveys took place until the end the May, as the last of the migrants were coming through. Watch for results in the next issue of *The Profile*.

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Twice now, I've had the privilege to accompany Susie Schaefer on her annual Ferry County five-day birding trip. The birding day begins early and ends late, and is well worth it. This year, 10 birders identified 133 species, including a Great Horned Owl being mobbed by crows, a Golden eagle soaring overhead and then landing in a nearby tree for photos, a drive up a mountainside on a narrow, rough, wash-board road seeking Black-backed, Three-toed and White-headed woodpeckers. We did find the Black-backed and Three-toed woodpecker, both new to my life list.

While the primary purpose of the trip was to watch birds with excellent birders, there is an added dimension of continuing education. Stephen Elston is not only a good birder, he taught geology at Princeton. He gave us a running geology tutorial of north central Washington. A good many of the roads we traveled in pursuit of birds crossed the Republic Graben. Rocks in this area are andesite and rhyolite, which erupted from volcanoes about 50 million years ago. The best exposures of white glaring rhyolite ash can be seen in the road cuts of the area.

But, the most impressive exposure of rhyolite is a striking formation of twisted and grooved rhyolite on a mountainside near Curlew. I saw it last year and was fascinated by it because it dramatically stands out from the other rock formations around it. Steve noted that it was a dome of rhyolite initially formed inside the caldera of a volcano. The caldera eroded away, leaving the rhyolite dome behind. Fascinating stuff.

In the gloaming, one evening, I was preparing to call owls

with my birdJam. Someone asked me to play a Great Gray Owl call. I said that a Great Gray was diurnal, not nocturnal. Reg Reisenbichler said, no, a Great Gray is crepuscular, meaning it's oriented to twilight between light and darkness. I had never heard that word. It took me the rest of the evening to get my tongue wrapped around crepuscular. But, I'm now good to go, anxious for the opportunity to drop that little gem into a sentence.

Over dinner on Saturday, Jack Parsons revealed he's a Civil War re-enactor, and has been doing it for 17 years. I didn't realize Civil War Reenactment is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the United States. And, with good reason. Not only does it reinforce our sense of pride in our heritage, but it's something in which the entire family can participate. It's educational. And, finally, it's a great way to escape the worries of today and "pretend" in the great outdoors.

On Saturday, Jack spotted a bear a couple of hundred yards away in a meadow. He appeared to be a young bear, probably a 2-year-old, recently separated from his mother. In reality, he was a black bear. But, he was cinnamon colored. Bears are nearsighted. We could see him, but he wasn't aware of us. Eventually, though, he may have picked up our scent because he bounded off into the trees.

Growing up in rural Idaho, I've seen lots of bears. All were black that I remember. So, to see a cinnamon bear was a new experience. But, it gets better. Late Monday afternoon, while

(See "Blackbird" on page 8)

About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon *Profile*, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members

in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Newsletter submissions
Submit articles to annette.colombini@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the fifth of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

The *Profile* is available at www.pilchuckaudubon.org



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Trip calendar

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

Tuesday, July 6

Stevens Pass area

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, a half-mile west of the fairgrounds. Trying for summer birding success at higher altitudes. We will visit The Old Cascades Highway, Smithbrook Road, the ski area and maybe the Lake Wenatchee area. Warblers, grouse, sparrows, flycatchers, ravens, nutcrackers, chipmunk and hare. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, July 13

Snohomish and Ebey Island

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Snohomish Park and Ride, at the junction of Highway 9 and Bickford Ave. Enjoyable and relaxed trip. We will take a short walk on the dike along Ebey Slough. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181. Virginia Clark will advise.

Sunday, July 18

Paradise Glacier (Mt. Rainier)

Meet at 7 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. This hike will be up and back, 5.16 miles total (not a loop). Park entrance fee \$15 or Golden Eagle Pass. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Tuesday, July 20

Stilly and Sauk River exploration

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We'll explore areas near the rivers around Darrington. Past trips in the area left fond birding memories for Wilma and Virginia. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750
Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028

Saturday, July 24

Edmonds wooded park walks

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Station, 3201 Smith Ave., Everett. Park in the northwest corner of the parking lot, across Smith Avenue from the Everett Station building. We'll carpool to Edmonds and explore Maplewood, Yost Memorial and Pine Ridge parks which include open fields, forest and wetlands. Total distance is 3 miles with negligible elevation gain. This is a half-day hike, so pack a lunch.

Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383

Tuesday, July 27

Mount Baker Highway

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Golden Eagle, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Ptarmigan, swifts, pipits, larks and numerous mammals are possible. Expect wildflowers and adventure. We don't recall this trip being offered before. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tuesday, August 3

Anacortes

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. So many beautiful birding places: lakes, beaches, marinas and even a mountain. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Saturday, August 7

Mt. Pilchuck

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

Tuesday, August 10

Chinook Pass and Highway 410

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

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750
Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tuesday, August 17

Snoq Valley, Monroe-Carnation

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

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, August 24

SR 20: Rockport to Diablo Dam

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Lots of wood warblers last time. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

**DATE
CHANGE!**

Sunday, August 29

Mountain Loop

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We weren't able to get up there last year due to storm damage.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Tues., Aug. 31

Portage Creek, Lake Cavanaugh, Big Lake

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Virginia is going to show us her neighborhood, including her feeders. No need to pack a lunch for Virginia will provide at her place.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sunday, September 19

Lord Hill Regional Park

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

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Notice to field trip participants: Field trips are open to members and non-members alike. No advance notice required unless otherwise stated in the trip description. Trips go, rain or shine. However, in case of snow or ice, contact trip leader! Bring a sack lunch, beverage, binoculars, scope and field guide if you have them. If not, we'll share. Please, no perfume or cologne. Be prepared to share gas money with carpool drivers. Pets, even leashed, are prohibited on field trips. Please leave them at home.

Have fun, be entertained and get smarter

Wednesday Weekly Weeders

Every week Native Plant Demo Garden, Edmonds

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

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

Hummingbird banding workshop

July 25 Native Plant Demo Garden, Edmonds

Learn about hummingbird banding at a special program beginning at 8 a.m. on Sunday, July 25, at the Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Edmonds.

This workshop will feature Dan Harville, local hummer expert, who's been banding hummingbirds across the state for more than 10 years to help track populations. Dan plans to catch and band Anna's and Rufous hummingbirds at the garden. Or, if necessary, attendees will move to a nearby location.

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

Cascades Banding Camp

July 25-31 and August 9-13 Cascade Mountains

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

The adult camp is scheduled for July 25-31. The cost is \$700, plus \$50 for materials. For more information or to download registration forms, visit www.pugetsoundbirds.org.

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

Bees for your garden, with Dave Pehling

August 3 Native Plant Demo Garden, Edmonds

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

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

Puget Sound Bird Fest

September 10-12

Edmonds

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

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

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

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

So, mark your calendar to be in Edmonds September 10-12 to celebrate birds and nature!

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

Mark your calendars for the



**Pilchuck Audubon
chapter picnic**

Sunday, August 22
Jennings Park, Marysville

More information to come!

**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

**PAS board meetings
are open to all**

The Pilchuck Audubon Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at the Sno-Isle Natural Foods Coop meeting room (2804 Grand Ave., Everett), beginning at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the chapter's goals and priorities. For more information, contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505.

Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Wow! May was quite a month for our bird reporters. The Beasons, near Lake Bosworth, reported a record 44 species. I had 32 species. Adeline Gildow reported 33 and Mary Sinker saw 38.

Julie O'Donald witnessed an encounter between a **Rufous Hummingbird** and a **Band-tailed Pigeon**. Apparently the **Band-tailed Pigeon** flew high into a native honeysuckle. That was the turf of the little **Rufous Hummingbird**, who proceeded to chase the large pigeon, in flight, across the yard to another tree. **Rufous Hummingbirds** are clearly very territorial and feisty.

Julie O'Donald's report from Brier listed 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 4 **American Robins**, 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, a **Merlin** over the greenbelt, 2 **Orange-crowned Warblers**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 5 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **Wilson's Warblers** and 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** for a species count of 26.

Carol and Larry Beason's species count of 44 included 12 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **Barn Swallows**, 18 **Canada Geese**, a **Hammond's Flycatcher**, 2 **Osprey**, 12 **Pine Siskins**, 8 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 6 **Violet-green Swallows**, 12 **Tree Swallows**, 6 **Bufflehead** and 2 **Common Loons** on the lake, 8 **Mourning Doves** and 7 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**.

Adeline Gildow reported a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** from Camano Island. This bird is more normally seen in Eastern Washington. Her species count of 33 included 5 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, 13 **Great Blue Herons**, 4 **Mourning Doves**, 6 **House Sparrows**, 3 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 4 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Killdeer** and 1000s of **Dunlin** at the beach. She also reported a **Whimbrel**, which is similar to a **Long-billed Curlew**. **Whimbrels** are usually found in Alaska, but do transition down the coast.

Reporting from Brier, Gail Dibernardo listed 2 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, 2 **California Quail**, a **Bewick's Wren**, a **Brown Creeper**, 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **Golden-crowned Kinglet**, a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, a **Cooper's Hawk**, a **White-crowned Sparrow** and 3 **Northern Flickers** for a total species count of 27.

Hilkka Egtvedt is fortunate to have a **Bald Eagle** nest nearby. She reported 2 adults and at least one juvenile.



Bewick's Wren, by Paul Kusmin



Hammond's Flycatcher, by Michael Woodruff



Yellow-rumped Warbler, by Donald Metzner

April 26, 2010-May 25, 2010

Her total species count of 26 included 8 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 14 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 4 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers** (2 adults and 1 juvenile), 3 **Northern Flickers**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 2 **Violet-green Swallows**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, 4 **Pine Siskins** and a **Barn Swallow**.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett included 23 **Bushtits**, 13 **Black-capped Chickadees**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 2 **Song Sparrows**, an **Anna's Hummingbird**, 3 **American Robins**, a **Northern Flicker**, 2 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 6 **Mallards**, 2 **Wood Ducks**, 6 **American Coots** near Lowell and 3 **Steller's Jays** for a total species count of 15.

Two **Yellow-rumped Warblers** landed in a cedar tree outside of Mary Sinker's kitchen window on May 2. She also has two pairs of nesting **Tree Swallows** nearby. Her species count of 38 from Stanwood also included 20 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 4 **Barn Swallows**, 7 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, 4 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 2 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 14 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Veery**, a **White-breasted Nuthatch** and 5 **Rufous Hummingbirds**.

Two **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were also reported by Dick Vanderhoff in Stanwood. His species count of 21 also included 3 **American Goldfinches**, 20+ **Double-crested Cormorants** and 12+ **Common Murres** along Port Susan Bay, 6 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 2 **Bald Eagles** and 6 **Steller's Jays**. He also reported sightings from his visit to Palm Springs: 3 **Bullock's Orioles**, an **Acorn Woodpecker**, an **American Kestrel** and 3 **Greater Roadrunners**.

I'm afraid I have cowbirds in my yard, also, but I had a large number of species for the month. My total species count of 32 from Marysville included 8 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 12 **Evening Grosbeaks**, a **Great Blue Heron** and 2 **Buffleheads** on the pond along 100th, 5 **Pine Siskins**, 7 **Band-tailed Pigeons** in the feeders, 4 **Northern Flickers**, 3 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 8 **House Finches** and a **Mourning Dove**.

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

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Save the date for Feast with Friends

The Fourth Annual Feast with Friends Fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, August 26, 6 to 9 p.m., at Angel Arms Works, the home and studio of Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak and her partner, Warner Blake.

Local farmers and wineries have pledged to donate local produce and local chefs will prepare a fantastic meal. All you have to do is buy a ticket and enjoy yourself!

For tickets, please contact me at kristin@futurewise.org or 425.923.8625. And, you'll soon be able to pay using a credit card at www.futurewise.org.

Sponsors of the event include Chuck Woods, Citizens for Responsible Growth, Snohomish County Council member Dave Somers, Dayville Hay and Grain, Ed Peterson, State Representative Hans Dunshee, Kathleen Gamble, Mickie Gunderson and Mike Waggoner.

Hosts of the event are Gail and Steve Aslanian, Lee and Asia Bennett, Gina Clarke, Kathy and John Dewhirst, Greening Properties, Nick Harper, Susan and Philip Paschke, Kristine and Ralph Petereit, Sonia Thompson, Rebecca Wolfe, Sonia Thompson and Carlo Voli.

Year-round farmers market?

In a recent issue of the *Everett Herald*, I read about the possibility of a year-round farmers market in Everett. As Smart Growth Director, I support all opportunities for year-round farmers markets to help ensure the success of local farmers and so residents can buy fresh, local produce. So, I was fascinated to read of the plans.

An interesting part of the story was the lack of public input on this plan. The article notes the "city and Snohomish County officials quietly have worked on a plan for a market for the past several years. The study was paid for with \$10,400 of city money and grant money provided by the county."

Even more interesting, the market is to be located in the yet-to-be built riverfront development in Everett. And, according to the article, "...would occupy a space near the river's edge where a park and a plaza had previously been planned."

The article went on to say the farmers market "might include one large building or a series of inter-connected buildings. Inside, 50 permanent stalls would allow cheese makers, butchers and the like to sell their goods year-round. The market also would have seasonal stalls for farmers to rent space for a few months when their crops were in season. Preliminary plans call for restaurant and retail space, a commercial kitchen, business office and cold-storage facility. A ring of green space would surround the market so people could eat goodies outside on nice days and take in the view."

While this is a great idea, and an accessible location, it's unfortunate the City of Everett and Snohomish County left out the public when choosing the location. In Everett, residents tried to save the historic Collins Building on the city's "other waterfront." One idea for the Collins Building was a year-

round farmers market. Given the building already exists, maybe this might have been a less costly and effective location. Either way, there is definitely room for more than one year-round farmers market in Snohomish County!

In April, at the Snohomish County Planning Commission public hearing on Docket XIV, I provided written comments and testimony, asking for three significant changes to the county's plans for a mixed use Urban Village at the old Cathcart Landfill Site: more ballfields, an affordable housing demonstration project using inclusionary zoning and a year-round farmers market.

In a unanimous vote, the commission agreed and submitted that recommendation to the county council. There is no set date for the County Council hearings, but I will keep the PAS membership informed as plans develop. Are you on my e-mail list? If not, please consider joining, as e-mail is the most efficient way for me to send you information about upcoming public hearings. PAS member comments on this issue will help ensure its success and guarantee a better, more sustainable future for our kids.

While the Everett Farmers Market site can serve folks living in Everett and those willing to get off I-5, the preliminary plans call for the market to be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays – hardly enough time for commuters to stop and shop. This is why the Cathcart location also would be advantageous to Snohomish County as a year-round farmers market. The location sits above Snohomish River farmland and could:

- Prompt entrepreneurs to develop other agricultural products like wine, cheese, jams, salsas and smoked fish.
- Be open year-round (early in the morning until late in the evening) to be convenient for commuters.
- Become a destination for weekend visitors: the gateway to other ag-tourism in the Snohomish River Valley.
- Include booths and small shops, as well as spaces for local produce and products.
- Be an especially attractive place for a market due to its proximity to Highway 9 and a planned public transportation hub.
- Be built as a model development, focusing on low-impact development, walkable communities and mixed uses, as well as embracing the future of local agriculture rather than global.
- Allow for a small demonstration garden developed and maintained by the agriculture programs at local high schools.

Docket XV, Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Docket XIV will wrap up this summer, but the county council will also set the next docket. I will provide info about that public hearing when it's available. There are several large

(See "Smart Growth" on page 8)

Birding and ichthyology add up to fun for hikers

By Jonathan Blubaugh

In May, four birders joined the Weekend Bird Hike to Silverdale's Clear Creek Trail and Guillemot Cove Nature Reserve.

The most notable bird during the ferry ride from Edmonds to Kingston was a Cliff Swallow that flew close to the boat. It kept up with the boat with little effort. If they can migrate from Latin America and back again each year, I guess they can cross Puget Sound!

From Kingston, we drove to the end of Clear Creek Trail in Silverdale, at the head of Dyes Inlet. We walked to the trailhead at the shore. One of our birders, Sue, is an ichthyologist (studier of fishes), so she led us to the water's edge, where she turned over rocks to see what critters she could find. She showed us Acorn Barnacles, Little Necked Clams, Shore Crabs (*Carcinus maenas*, an invasive species), Periwinkles and a Little Brown Flatworm.

After exploring the shore, we headed inland along the trail, which winds along both sides of the creek. The highlights were an Osprey with a fish and a close up Chestnut-backed Chickadee, like a lively little brown, black and white tree ornament. The Clear Creek Trail is essentially an urban greenbelt, wending its way through unincorporated



Cliff Swallow, by Donald Metzner



Pigeon Guillemots, by Patty Bruno

Silverdale in Kitsap County north of Bremerton.

From Silverdale, we went west to Seabeck. We stopped along the road to view a couple of Bald Eagles and a few herons. On the way to Guillemot Cove, we saw two Black-tailed Deer alongside the road.

We hoped to be able to hike at Guillemot Cove. The Kitsap County Parks web site said the trail was flooded. The trail hadn't been washed out by storms, we discovered, but beavers had dammed the creek, partially covering the trail. There was a footbridge built over the creek, but it's useless because it stands in the new beaver

pond. We squeezed by on planks and branches laid over the creek upstream of the new pond. We were glad we went there: it's quiet and beautiful.

Two eagles flew low over the meadow. We heard kids say, "Those are Bald Eagles!" This shows how preserving parkland enables young people to become interested in the environment. The beavers' work seems to have enhanced the habitat, perhaps by limiting access.

(See "Hikers" on page 8)

Leader sought for new Development Committee

PAS is looking for a someone to head a vital new Development Committee – someone who understands the importance of and creativity of fundraising. This committee chair will serve a two-year term on the board of directors and act as liaison between our various fundraising activities and the board.

Currently, we have a few wonderful volunteers who take on our merchandise and book sales, Bird-a-thon fundraiser and generate fundraising letters. However, we need someone to coordinate these, plus look at new ways to expand our fundraising activities. And, if anyone can help with writing grants, we'd love to talk to you, too.

Call Kathleen Snyder for more info: 425.438.1505.

Don't miss the *Profile!* Provide your e-mail address today.

Attention PAS members: we need 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 or leave a message at 425.252.0926.

Don't miss a single color issue. Act today!

Vaux's Swifts news

More than 113,000 Vaux's Swifts were counted dropping into the old chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary School this spring. We've found the weather has a big influence on the numbers. And, as you know, we experienced just about every type of weather possible this spring!

Thanks to our merry – and faithful – band of swift counters, who made sure every shift from mid-April to June was covered. We are thrilled to have three years worth of spring migration data!

Contractors began work on the chimney retrofit on June 20. This important work is scheduled to be complete before the fall migration begins in mid-August. While the scaffolding is up, we plan to install two cameras near the chimney. Larry Schwitters, our resident expert on Vaux's Swifts, designed a system which allows one camera to point up – to catch the swifts dropping into the chimney – and another directed into

the chimney to catch the action there.

We're hopeful the cameras will be operational before the big Monroe Swifts Night Out on Saturday, September 11.

In addition, the educational kiosk should be in place in front of the school before the September celebration. A team of volunteers is working on the design and construction of the kiosk, which will provide lots of information in both English and Spanish.

Thanks to our Together Green grant, we have the opportunity to share what we've learned with the community. Who would have imagined the little swifts would become so famous!

This year's Swifts Night Out promises to be our best yet. Watch the PAS web site and the September *Profile* for more information.

Blackbird ...

(continued from page 2)

wrapping up our last birding day before heading home, Bill Davey spotted another bear. Whoa! It was a blonde bear. A cinnamon bear and a blonde bear on the same trip! Amazing!

Apparently, the first Europeans saw only black-colored bears when they arrived in America. As settlers pushed westward, they began to encounter bears of different colors. They thought they were seeing different species.

Bears in moister, more densely forested regions tend to be black. While bears in the West, where conditions are drier and vegetation is sparser, tend to be brown or cinnamon. A black coat allows the bear to blend into the shadows created by dense trees and brush, and a brown coat blends better

with the sandier, browner landscape. In addition, black retains heat far more than does a lighter color, so brown-phase bears are less susceptible to heat stress in more open terrain. Only 1% of the black bears in Pennsylvania are brown or red in color, while more than 90% of the black bears in Yosemite National Park in California are tan, light brown or cinnamon.

However, the question remains: do blonde bears have more fun? I don't know. But I sure did, spending five days with a group of bright, engaging people in the crepuscular time of my life.

Hikers ...

(continued from page 7)

Finally, we saw a few more seabirds on the return ferry trip from Bremerton to Seattle. There were gulls, Pelagic Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots and Surf Scoters.

Here's a partial list of the birds we found: a Common Loon, 5 Pelagic Cormorants, 2 Brandts, ~80 Surf Scoters, 9 Great Blue Herons, a Turkey Vulture, 7 Bald Eagles, an Osprey, a Red-Tailed Hawk, 6 Killdeer, 7 Pigeon Guillemots, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Downy Woodpecker, 4 Purple Martins, 6 Tree Swallows, a Violet-green Swallow, a Cliff Swallow, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Bushtit, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Brown Creeper, 2 Bewick's Wrens, Marsh Wren, 2 Yellow Warblers, a Townsend's Warbler, a Wilson's Warbler, 2 Spotted Towhees, 2 White-crowned Sparrows, 2 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 5 Red-winged Blackbirds and 3 Brown-headed Cowbirds. In all, we counted 49 avian species, four mammals and five invertebrates.

Smart Growth ...

(continued from page 6)

Urban Growth Area (UGA) expansion requests by the cities of Monroe and Snohomish. I will request the county council deny them, based on the fact there's more than enough land for growth in current UGA boundaries. There's no need to expand into rural areas.

Shoreline Master Plan Update – update

We're still waiting for the Snohomish County Council to set a hearing date on the Update to the Shoreline Master Plan, which has been on hold for four years. I'm confident a public hearing will be sometime this year. I'm hopeful PAS members will be my allies during the public hearing process to ensure water quality and wildlife habitat are protected, while also allowing public access and appropriate use.

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

Catching up with Michael Dossett

Many PAS members know Michael Dossett for his extraordinary photography and great birding skills. For those of you who don't know Michael, he's been a member of PAS since he was a teenager – out birding all of us.

Michael is working on his Doctorate in Botany at Oregon State University. Michael knows more about wild black raspberries than you can imagine. He has given a number of wonderful program meetings for PAS over the last 10 years. He has taught many photography workshops at the Puget Sound Bird Fest and other places.

We received news on two fronts about Michael. First, Michael got married at the end of June to a wonderful young woman (a veterinarian), Jaye Hartman.

And secondly, one of Michael's photographs is in the new International Conservation Photography Awards Exhibit at the UW's Burke Museum until Sept. 6. The Burke Museum is located at the corner of 17th Avenue NE and NE 45th Street in Seattle. It is open daily.

Congratulations, Michael!

Summer is here!



The thermometer isn't on board yet, but summer has definitely arrived. Here, a male Hairy Woodpecker (nicknamed "Harry") feeds suet to his young son in newsletter editor Annette Colombini's Lake Stevens yard.

Are you seeing fledglings at your feeders, too? If so, please send your photos and commentaries to annette.colombini@pilchuckaudubon.org. If you don't hear back from her, that means she didn't receive your e-mail (it happens sometimes, as we all know). Please keep trying.

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: _____

Email: _____