

Walla Walla birding trip one for the ages

By Jack Parsons

A group of nine birders – including my wife, Paula, and me – joined Susie Schaefer on a trip to Walla Walla and back. In three cars, we traveled back roads across the state, stopping at ponds, rivers and meadows to put nine pairs of binoculars to work finding birds. And, such birds we found! Avocets, Stilts, Bluebirds, Kingbirds, Phalaropes, Horned Larks, White Pelicans, Burrowing Owls, Warbling Vireos, Tanagers, Orioles ... and a camel. Wait, what? Yes, we saw a camel in a pasture in one small town. "Izzy the camel," read the sign on the nearby barn.



Great Grey Owl, by Don Metzner

We were really hoping to see a Green-tailed Towhee. Susie emailed a photo to get us excited to find one. We didn't see one. But we found so many others – 127 species in all – that most of us forgot to be disappointed about the rare towhee.

With so many experienced birders searching, we were bound to see the towhee if it was there. Or, we would find something even better. And we did. That most elusive of birds. Yes, the holy grail of birding!

Some say the Great Grey Owl only shows itself to those birders of superior character (my opinion). Others say that only the most skilled birders get to see one. My car was the middle car in our caravan as we drove through a forest. We waited for the car ahead of us to move forward. As it did, a large silent shape flew into a nearby tree and nervously stared at our car. It was close to us.

Three of us watched it through our binoculars and were amazed. It was huge. Its eyes were the most piercing of any animal I have seen. Paula got on our walkie-talkie to report it to the other cars. The first car returned, the third car pulled up behind us. They were too late. One second before they arrived, the Great Grey turned and dissolved into the forest. I won't say that we were tired of watching it, but we did see it for quite some time. The experience changed the three of us in the car. We walk taller. We have little to say to those who haven't seen one. We wonder what is left for us in birding now.

(See "Walla Walla" on page 6)

July program meeting is in Stanwood!

Friday, July 13, 7 p.m.

Please join us on Friday, July 13, for a special program meeting at the Stanwood Library. Virginia will be there with her scrumptious refreshments and Larry Schwitters will share his enthusiasm and in-depth knowledge of Vaux's and other local swifts. Don't miss it!

Special location – July only!

Stanwood Library meeting room
9701 271st Street NW, Stanwood

For more information, call 425.252.0926

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

Calling all orphaned bird books

If you have bird books you no longer need, please consider donating them to Pilchuck Audubon for resale. Donated books are offered for sale at program meetings and other events. The money raised from book sales is used for operating expenses, educational programs and environmental action. Donations are tax deductible.

Please contact Rex Guichard at xerbird@frontier.com for more information.

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President's message

By Kathleen Snyder, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



I'm not really a collector, but I do enjoy collecting quotes. I found my first when I was in middle school: "Never slam a door. You might want to go back," by Don Herold. I found it right after a major argument with a friend. It stayed on my bulletin board until I left for college.

Since then, I've been a casual quote collector, but seem to be picking up the pace lately – most probably a symptom of aging. Here's one – an Irish saying – I used to have stenciled on our wall: "Be happy while you're living, for you're a long time dead." Visitors sometimes didn't appreciate the *carpe diem* message I had hoped to convey.

Lately, I seem drawn to quotes that speak to the foibles of human nature. This one is shellacked on a small rock and sits in a pile of vintage marbles in our living room: "Against stupidity the very gods themselves contend in vain," by Friedrich von Schiller.

I ran across this in *The Futurist*, by James Osthmer: "People don't want wisdom. They want shortcuts for getting more." And, "Before plastics, only rich people could afford to have poor taste," from Donald Featherstone, the inventor of the plastic yard flamingo. As a birder, that one is especially satisfying.

Speaking of birding, a few quotes recently added to my collection revolve around birds. From Kenn Kaufman, well-known birding expert, from *Guide to Advanced Birding*: "I've often said that birding is something we do for enjoyment. So, if you enjoy it, you're a good birder."

From Bill Thompson comes this: "They (gulls) are the Gordian knot of avian identification challenges, a black hole into which hope and sanity are sucked, never to be seen again." (*Identify Yourself*) Here's a silly one from Joseph Hickey, "Birdwatching is a disease which can be cured only by rising at dawn and sitting in a bog."

Finally, from Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

Being actively involved in the conservation efforts of Pilchuck Audubon combines "useful" and "happy" beautifully. What could bring more joy than seeing a gorgeous migrant bird in habitat preserved by PAS or the synchronized flight of a thousand Dunlin above Port Susan Bay (now designated an Important Bird Area by National Audubon)? You can be the person who works on habitat conservation or the citizen scientist who collects data which influences public policy.

If you are looking for the meaning of life, please contact me. Pilchuck Audubon has opportunities both to volunteer and to enjoy the incredible wonder of our natural world. After all, "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children." (Bonhoeffer)

To volunteer or to add a quote to my collection, please e-mail me at ksnyder75@gmail.com.

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 pas.profile@gmail.com 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 3

Anacortes

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. So many beautiful birding places: lakes, beaches, marinas and even a mountain. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, July 10

Fir Island

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. Let's try this in July. In 2006, it was pretty exciting. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sunday, July 15

Snoqualmie National Forest Franklin Falls Wagon Road Trail

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. This hike goes uphill along a cascading creek through the forest on the west side of the pass, and loops back downhill on the opposite side of the creek. We may sneak over to the Snoqualmie “ponds” again. There were Green-winged Teal and Yellow Warblers last year. We'll probably make an additional stop afterwards for a little socializing over dinner – maybe at the summit. A Northwest Forest Pass is required for each car. Cost is \$5.

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

Tuesday, July 17

Stevens Pass

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. Will visit The Old Cascades Highway and maybe the ski slopes. Warblers, grouse, sparrows, flycatchers, ravens, nutcrackers, chipmunk and hare. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, July 24

Blue Stilly Park and Virginia's neighborhood

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. Virginia will show us her neighborhood, including her feeders. No need to pack a lunch. Virginia will provide at her place.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, July 31

Chinook Pass and Sunrise Visitor Center

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, a half mile west of the fairgrounds. Expect breathtaking views and beautiful wildflower meadows. The pass is at 5432 feet and Sunrise is at 6400 feet. Gray Jays, Clark's Nutcracker, Vaux's Swifts and Mountain Chickadees. Per car \$15 access fee or Senior or Golden Age passes may be required. Expect a long day. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750
Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Sunday, August 12

Langus Riverfront Trail, Spencer Island

Let's gather for a walk before the chapter picnic. Plan to meet at Langus Riverfront Park at 10:30 a.m. We'll return in time for lunch at 12:30.

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

Sunday, September 16

Mercer Slough canoe trip, Bellevue

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. Canoe trip starts at 8:45. Limit is 10 participants. Four people have signed up so far, so we're looking for six more. Cost is \$16 per person. Call to register early with me. I will pay the group registration fee in advance. Please mail your check to PAS at 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Please let me know, as well, so that I can have a roster when the trip is filled. First come, first served. This will be led by the Bellevue Park rangers who are lifeguards, naturalists and canoe instructors. They will lecture about the natural history and cultural history of the area. We may make a stop on the way home for a little socializing over lunch.

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

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

Help wanted: newsletter editor

Pilchuck Audubon Society is looking for a new newsletter editor. Annette Colombini has served in this capacity for more four years, but family demands prevent her from continuing. The PAS Board assembled a committee to evaluate the current newsletter, as well as the newsletters of other chapters of like size. The committee determined there are ways to incorporate some newsletter content on the web site, which means the newsletter can be scaled down a bit.

If you're interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505. Asking for more information won't be taken as a commitment to take the job.

Thanks to Annette, who has produced an exemplary monthly newsletter for PAS. We look forward to her ongoing help producing our printed pieces.

Have fun, be entertained and get smarter

Gifts of the crow: how smart birds behave like humans **Wednesday, July 18 Northwest Stream Center**

Join John Marzluff, UW professor and crow researcher, at the Northwest Stream Center on Wednesday, July 18, beginning at 7 p.m. and be amazed by his stories of crows from around the world.

New research indicates that crows are among the brightest animals in the world. They can make tools and respond to environmental challenges, including those posed by humans. Indeed, their long lives, social habits and large, complex brains allow them to observe and learn from us, as well as think, plan and reconsider their actions.

Marzluff portrays creatures that are nothing short of amazing: they play, bestow gifts on people who help or feed them, use cars as nutcrackers, seek revenge on animals that harass them, are tricksters and dream.

Marzluff has teamed up with artist and fellow naturalist, Tony Angell, to offer an in-depth look at the incredible creatures in a new book, *Gifts of the crow, how perception, emotion and thought allow smart birds to behave like humans*, to be released in June. There will be a book signing after the presentation.

Cost is \$5 for PAS members. Space is limited. Please call 425.316.8592 to reserve your spot. This presentation is recommended for middle schoolers and older.

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.

Cascades bird banding camp for teens **August 6-10 McDaniel Field Station**

The Puget Sound Bird Observatory invites teens ages 15-18 to learn birdbanding techniques in Washington's Cascade Mountains. Under the guidance of expert trainers, Dan Froehlich and Don Norman, participants will focus on the basics of net placement, bird handling and net extraction, ageing, sexing, molts and plumage.

Cost is \$500 per person, plus a \$50 materials fee. The fee covers training, materials, text book, meals and group camping equipment. Adult training is scheduled for August 12-18 at a cost of \$750 per person, plus a \$50 materials fee.

For more information, visit www.pugetsoundbirds.org or contact Emily Sprong at emily@pugetsoundbirds.org.

Feast with Friends **Thurs., August 30 AngelArmsWorks, Snohomish**

The sixth annual Feast with Friends fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, August 30, 6:30-9:30 p.m., at AngelArmsWorks, the home and studio of Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak and Warner Blake. This fantastic and delicious event raises money for the Smart Growth program. Local farmers donate local products. Local chefs create great food. Local wineries donate great wine. All you do is eat, drink and enjoy!

AngelArmsWorks is located at 230 B Street, Snohomish.

For more info – including sponsorship opportunities – visit www.futurewise.org or contact Kristin Kelly at Kristin@futurewise.org.

Puget Sound Bird Fest **September 7-9 Edmonds**

Plan on being in Edmonds September 7-9, for the eighth annual Puget Sound Bird Fest. This three-day event includes speakers, guided walks, land and water-based field trips, exhibits and educational activities for children and adults.

Friday evening features an opening reception and keynote address by Paul Bannick, bird and nature photographer. Paul's book *The Owl and the Woodpecker* is one of five finalists for the 2009 Washington State Book Awards in the general non-fiction category. More recently, Paul finished first among professional photographers in the "Birds and their habitat" category in the 2011 Audubon Magazine Photography Awards, with his photo of a Northern Pygmy Owl.

Saturday field trips include a morning birding cruise on Puget Sound with the Edmonds Yacht Club. There will be workshops and presentations all day Saturday at the Frances Anderson Center featuring bird photography, basic to advanced birding techniques, choosing and using bird feeders and nest boxes and current research on Puget Sound bird species. On Sunday, there will be more guided walks and activities at the Willow Creek Hatchery Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant Demonstration Garden. So, mark your calendar to be in Edmonds September 7-9 to celebrate birds and nature!

Visit www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org for more information. If you're 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.

Don't miss the PAS picnic August 12

Plans for the annual Pilchuck Audubon chapter picnic are coming together. Make sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, August 12, at the group picnic shelter at Langus Riverfront Park, 400 Smith Island Road, Everett.

The fun kicks off at 10:30 a.m. with a bird walk, led by Jonathan Blubaugh, on Spencer Island. Even in August, we're sure to find birds and other surprises. Lunch starts around 12:30 and features Silvana Meats hotdogs (grilled by Virginia) and potluck side dishes. After lunch, we'll recognize our fabulous volunteers and distribute tokens of appreciation.

Everyone is welcome – especially kids and grandkids. The bird walk, the hot dogs and after-lunch crafts will keep young ones happy.

PAS will supply utensils, coffee, juice and hot dogs. Please bring a side dish to share – and your binoculars. Join us, rain or shine, for a time of relaxation, socialization and celebration of our grassroots, volunteer spirit.

To get to Langus Riverfront Park, take Highway 529 (the highway between north Everett and Marysville) and turn east on Ross Avenue. For more detailed directions, please visit www.pilchuckaudubon.org or call 425.252.0926 and leave a message.

The Great Goldendale Adventure

By Susie Schaefer, Vice President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

On Friday, May 18, 12 Pilchuck Audubon members started on the Great Goldendale Adventure. We took three cars – each carried four people, at least one spotting scope, three days' worth of food for group lunches, a library of reference books on birds, butterflies, reptiles and amphibians, wildflowers, mammals, dragonflies and Washington state geography, geology and more.

Goldendale is the county seat for Klickitat County, located just below Yakima County. It's bordered on the south by the Columbia River and lies in the shadow of Mt. Adams. It's a beautiful place and perfect for a great adventure.

Our trip also included great birding in Yakima County, too, as we visited several sites including the rest stop coming down the hill into Yakima on Highway 97, Fort Simco and the Toppenish Wildlife Refuge – among others.

Our group compiled a list of 117 birds, 10 mammals, three reptiles and amphibians and numerous butterflies, dragonflies and wildflowers. To say we had a great time is an understatement.

We got off to a good start observing a Peregrine Falcon on a nest in King County. A stop at the very important rest stop in Yakima produced, among other things, Barn Owls with a fluffy baby and a couple of mountain sheep. Fort Simco was new to most of us and we found Great Horned Owls with young, plus the first of many Bullock's Orioles, Lewis's Woodpeckers, Lazuli Buntings, Yellow Warblers and Western Tanagers. The trip through the Toppenish Wildlife Refuge was a first for us, but we found it full of birds including a nesting colony of Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets, Cinnamon Teals in all their glory, Snipes on every post, four species of swallows, Soras and more. We arrived in Goldendale tired, but excited



Klickitat group, by Rex Guichard



Fort Simco Great Horned Owls, by Rex Guichard

about our day and looking forward to more adventures. Three hardy souls observed the night sky at the telescope in the state park in Goldendale and had a real life highlight there. We all would recommend the Ponderosa Motel and Glass Onion Restaurant in Goldendale.

Saturday was another full day of birding adventures and exciting sightings of Lesser Goldfinches, a five warbler tree, nesting Say's Phoebes, flycatchers of sizes, numerous sparrows (which were often challenging to identify) and just more and more birds to see in different types of habitats. We had hoped for an Acorn Woodpecker. But, despite our 24 eyes, it proved to be elusive.

As planned, we spent the night at the Mountain Inn in Glenwood, which, again, is a good place to be. We took advantage of the close proximity to the Conboy National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday evening and again Sunday morning. It is a wonderful refuge and more than fulfilled our expectations including three Bitterns together, Sandhill Cranes (one with a baby

and one on a nest), fields of Blue Camas and other wildflowers, a porcupine and birds everywhere.

The three days went by fast and no one could believe it was already time to start home Sunday afternoon. Special kudos to Bill Davey who did all the research on where to find the birds and laid out the birding schedule for us! Until next year ...

Conservation remix

By Kathleen Snyder, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

Kudzu Blossom Sorbet, vertical farming, living roofs to aid avian conservation, billion pixel images, spider-web inspired glass to reduce bird strikes, carbon-dioxide-removing cement, energy efficiency "mining" and a standup economist advocating the taxing of pollution instead of property – these were some of the amazing concepts introduced at Conservation Remix, a day-long event sponsored by *Conservation Magazine*. PAS board member, Joan Poor, and I attended the Seattle symposium in June and came away with uplifted spirits and renewed hope for the future. Although we didn't always understand the concepts of the speakers, we could appreciate the varied and incredibly imaginative people working on our most pressing sustainability challenges. If you'd like more information on the ideas listed above or any of the other ideas we learned about, please contact me through the PAS web site "Contact Us" form.

**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

Update on various local conservation issues

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair, Pilchuck Audubon Society

Suiattle River Road EA

At this writing, the Federal Highway Commission hasn't issued its decision whether to repair the Suiattle Road 26 to its end, or to repair less of the road. More than 400 individuals and groups submitted letters commenting on proposed alternatives. Thanks to all the PAS members who submitted an opinion.

Sunset Falls hydropower facility on South Fork Skykomish River

Snohomish County PUD is seeking permits from federal and state agencies to evaluate Sunset Falls for a hydropower structure. It wouldn't be a large dam, but some of the river would be diverted through turbines, and the project would require construction of power generation facilities. PAS has joined Save Our Sky River and other groups in petitioning the PUD to not further study this free-flowing river for development. Washington State has designated the South and North Forks of the Skykomish downriver to Sultan as wild/scenic. In the forest service forest plan from the 1980s, there is a recommendation to designate the South Fork – within the

national forest boundary – as a wild/scenic/recreation river. Congressional action and presidential approval are required for that designation under the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Legislation for that purpose has not been proposed.

Geothermal Exploration in Skykomish Watershed

The US Bureau of Land Management has asked the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest to expand acreage open to geothermal exploration and development within the national forest. One proposal would add acres in the vicinity of Baker Lake in Skagit and possibly Whatcom counties. Skagit Audubon is responding to that proposal. The Skykomish Ranger District has notified PAS of a similar proposal in the South Fork Skykomish watershed. It is seeking comments. We will respond. We also have signed on to a letter developed by Washington Wild requesting a 30-day extension of the July 5 deadline for comment. This process is new to local conservation groups. And, before we comment, we want additional time to learn more.

Walla Walla ...

(continued from page 1)

The next day, we visited a man who has 44 hummingbird feeders in his yard. We saw three species: the Rufous, the Calliope and the Black-chinned. One estimate was that there were 200 hummers there. We sat on a bench just feet from 20 feeders and watched the show. Two Black Chins got into a disagreement. One bird backed away and into the hearing aid in my right ear. Wow, it was loud! We gave the homeowner 15 pounds of sugar as a thank you.

Susie continued to direct us to new hot spots for birding. Along one back road, we saw Flycatchers, Western Wood-Pewee, a Yellow-breasted Chat, Tanagers, Warblers, Catbirds and more. At another spot, we watched a young Great Horned Owl. Below its tree were the remains of a Barn Owl.

We drove through deserts and mountains, saw pounding rains, snow and hail. We were sometimes cold and later had to use our air conditioner. Since we often drove on gravel roads, my car acquired many pounds of Walla Walla soil. So much dust and soil, that when I washed it, I saw the car rise as all the heavy mud came off.

Susie planned our trip to fill our waking hours with birding, but left time for visits to wineries. The nine of us ate in better restaurants. Lunches were picnic style with each person bringing their assigned foods that together made great meals for all of us. Susie even provided a home cooked lasagna dinner! We drove in a close caravan and used walkie-talkies to



Black-backed Woodpecker

communicate. Many more birds were seen because we had communication between cars. The radios were a necessity. We stayed four nights in a small motel in East Walla Walla, making long day trips in search of birds.

The next time you see an invitation from Susie Schaefer offering a birding tour, take it! It will be the finest and least expensive birding adventure ever offered. The eight people in our tour group collectively lower our binoculars and give Susie Schaefer a rousing "Huzzah!"

A sample of the 120 species of birds we saw includes Williamson's Sapsucker, Cooper's Hawk, Black-backed Woodpecker, Nighthawks resting on tree limbs, Magpies, a Northern Harrier and Cinnamon Teal. A few of the animals we saw included yellow-bellied marmots, elk with calves, mule deer, coyote, two foxes and chipmunks. Our plant expert pointed out wildflowers.

Thanks to Susie Schaefer, Reg Reisenbichler, Kim Kendall, Rick Brauer, Bill and Linda Davey and Judy Lowell for the fantastic company!

(Editor's note: Susie wants to make sure credit is given where it's due. She extends a huge thank you to Bill Davey, who spent countless hours researching routes, locations and birds. She says the trip was enhanced greatly by Bill's work.)

Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

April 26, 2012-May 25, 2012

Unfortunately, the Brown-headed Cowbirds are back. There must be some way to keep them out of the nests of other birds. On the brighter side, there are several reports of Red Crossbills returning to the area, along with all the Grosbeaks, Cedar Waxwings and Thrushes. It is going to get busier and busier at the feeders as the weather gets warmer.

I wish I could list all 48 of Carole and Larry Beasons species count, but space is limited. Reporting from their home at Lake Bosworth, their count included 32 Band-tailed Pigeons, 9 Brown-headed Cowbirds, 24 Evening Grosbeaks, 2 Ospreys, 24 Red-winged Blackbirds, 4 Swainson's Thrushes, a Turkey Vulture, 12 Violet-green Swallows, 2 Wilson's Warblers, a Western Tanager, 4 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 3 Barn Swallows and a Black-throated Warbler.

This was the very best month ever for John Davis. He reported 60 species and 163 total birds on his walks through Forest Park. He listed 6 Cedar Waxwings, 4 Anna's Hummingbirds, a Barred Owl, a Belted Kingfisher, 2 Brown-headed Cowbirds, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, 2 Glaucous-winged Gulls, 2 Killdeer, 6 Pacific Wrens, 2 Savannah Sparrows, 12 Song Sparrows, 3 Vaux's Swifts, 5 Western Tanagers, 9 Yellow-rumped Warblers and a MacGillivray's Warbler (a first for this report

The Red Crossbills are hanging around Gail Dibernardo's feeders at her home in Brier. She reported 5 females and 2 males. Her total species count of 23 also included a Swainson's Thrush, a Brown Creeper, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, a Pacific Flycatcher, 5 Violet-green Swallows, a Bewick's Wren, 5 Black-capped Chickadees, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, 6 Steller's Jays, 3 Northern Flickers and 2 Bald Eagles hanging out in a fir tree near her yard.

I'm happy to see the California Quail are still around Hilka Egtvedt's home in Mukilteo. The juveniles should



Brown-headed Cowbird, by Paul Kusmin



MacGillivray's Warbler, by Don Metzner



California Quail

be out soon. She also reported 10 American Goldfinches, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, a Brown-headed Cowbird, a Eurasian Collared-dove, 5 Pine Siskins, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, 3 Steller's Jays, 2 Violet-green Swallows, 2 Wilson's Warblers and a Red Crossbill for a species count of 33.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett still includes the Wood Ducks. She listed a male and a female in her yard. She also reported 5 Mallards, 4 Steller's Jays, 3 American Crows, 6 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 Band-tailed Pigeons, an Anna's Hummingbird, a Northern Flicker, 6 Bushtits, a Bald Eagle and 2 Red-winged Blackbirds for a total species count of 11.

Julie O'Donald had a busy month with 31 species reported from her home in Brier. I think the highlight of her list was the Warbling Vireo in a tree above a stream. She also listed 4 Anna's Hummingbirds, a Barred Owl, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 5 Dark-eyed Juncos, a Fox Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron, 2 House Sparrows, a Pacific Wren, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and 2 Wilson's Warblers.

I am happy to report the California Quail are back at my house. I was afraid something had happened to them. We now have four in our Marysville yard. My total species count of 27 also included 8 American Robins, 8 Evening Grosbeaks, 3 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 3 Purple Finches, 2 Spotted Towhees, 4 Steller's Jays,

a beautiful Western Tanager, 3 Tree Swallows in the fields, 2 White-crowned Sparrows, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Cooper's Hawk and 2 American Goldfinches.

Would you like to join our sighters and share with us the number and type of birds that visit your yard? It's really easy. You just complete a Birdsigning Report and mail it in each month. If you are interested or have questions, please contact me at pricemara@clearwire.net or 425.750.8125.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Snohomish County Shoreline Master Plan Update

For those of you following the saga of Snohomish County's Shoreline Master Plan Update, you'll be delighted to know the Snohomish County Council adopted its update! The process began in 2004 with a year-long stakeholder committee review of policies, which led to an alternative recommendation to the county. The stakeholder group consisted of farmers, tribes, Futurewise (FW), PAS, People for Puget Sound (PFPS), PUD representatives, shoreline landowners, state agencies and county staff.

It wasn't easy to get the different interests to agree on policies that met the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and the Shoreline Management Guidelines. But, the task was completed and the plan was submitted to the county in March, 2006.

Almost immediately, the process stalled, the stakeholder committee was dismissed and the recommendation shelved. The county was facing deadlines to complete their Critical Areas Ordinance, and decided that process should be completed before tackling the Shoreline Master Program Update, despite the fact that the State awarded Snohomish County a grant to be an early adopter.

The Critical Areas Ordinance took more time than originally planned and wasn't completed until 2007. From 2006 until a few weeks ago, the county began a total revamp of the Shoreline Master Program. With the Department of Ecology (the agency that reviews and signs off every SMP in the state) watching closely, the county wrote and rewrote the policies and regulations, supplied analyses, restoration reviews, staff reports, public meetings and provided updates to the county council, planning commissioners and the agricultural board.

During this stretch, our sister organization, Futurewise, received grant funding for a Shoreline Planner, who has worked on most of the Shoreline Plans for counties and large cities in the state. People for Puget Sound also partnered with Futurewise, and PAS was fortunate to have more expertise examining and commenting on the shoreline policies and regulations as the process continued.

It was a long wait for me, as I tried to keep members educated and engaged to help ensure the end product would be good enough to protect the most pristine natural areas along shorelines – while still meeting the guidelines of the Shoreline Management Act.

When the County Council finally adopted the Shoreline Master Plan last year, we believed many problems with it remained. The next step was for the Department of Ecology to review the SMP. This included another set of public hearings, which we attended and submitted comments.

Early this spring, the Department of Ecology submitted (to the County Council) 19 required changes and several recommended changes to the SMP. The County Council opened public hearings on the DOE changes, which provided yet another opportunity for Futurewise, People for Puget Sound and Pilchuck Audubon Society to testify, not only in support of

the DOE changes, but on several problems that were not previously addressed.

To be clear, we weren't the only groups who saw problems with the SMP. The Snohomish County Farm Bureau, led by a few pro-development, property rights farmers, argued that the entire SMP should be shelved and that they should start over. Another group, Citizens for Sustainable Development, submitted a host of documents to try to prove the SMP wouldn't protect fish. This group has never identified who its members are, nor have its representatives ever testified at a public hearing. While some of the group's concerns were valid, we didn't find its approach productive.

In the end, the County Council adopted the Shoreline Master Program Update with all of the Department of Ecology's changes. The council did not adopt any of our recommendations, which we believe would have better protected shoreline habitats and water quality. Our recommendations included the following:

- 10 high-quality marine shorelines that should have been designated natural (instead of urban or urban conservancy).
- A change to the use table to limit the uses in the natural environment to very low intensity.
- Changes to the boating and dock construction standards, to provide a better distinction between what boating facilities and non-boating facilities are and a limit of docks and piers to only water-dependent uses.
- Opposition to private, single user launch ramps and boat-houses.
- Change in the Critical Areas Regulations (CAR), which are adopted by reference in the SMP update, that would not allow degraded buffers to be left in a degraded state when new impacts are created for all development situations.
- Ensuring, in the CAR, that buffer widths should have mitigation for restoration, regardless of the size, in order to ensure the buffers' success.
- Objection to the elimination of Category II and III wetlands smaller than 5,000 square feet and Category IV wetlands smaller than 10,000 square feet, because elimination of these wetlands will be a loss of wetland functions and values and will have adverse impacts on water quality and the shoreline environment.
- Prohibiting commercial aquaculture in the areas in our first bullet, by designating those areas as natural.
- Recommending that the county not only track all shoreline exemptions, but also review all shoreline exemptions.

It's unclear, at this point, if anyone will appeal the Shoreline Master Plan update to the Growth Management Hearings Board. Ultimately for PAS, PFPS and FW, all the hard work was worth it because we believe it is easier and cheaper to protect, rather than destroy and try to fix later.



Rex Guichard photo

QUICK FACTS

- Medium-sized songbird (6.5-7.5 inches long)
- Yellow with dark wings, tail and back. Two bright wingbars.
- Male's head is entirely red during breeding season.

The Western Tanager breeds farther north than other members of its mostly tropical family, breeding to nearly 60°N in the Northwest Territories.

It winters in open mountain pine woodlands, second growth and parks and gardens from southern California to Costa Rica.

COOL FACT: The red pigment in the face of the Western Tanager is rhodoxanthin, a pigment rare in birds. It's not manufactured by the bird, as are pigments used by other red tanagers. It's acquired from the diet, presumably from insects that acquire the pigment from plants.

BIRD OF THE MONTH: WESTERN TANAGER

Audubon membership information

Joint membership in National Audubon Society (NAS) and Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) includes NAS's quarterly magazine *Audubon* and PAS's *Profile* e-newsletter for one year. Cost is \$20 for an Introductory Membership or \$35 for renewals. When you join National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of PAS. **All PAS membership dues are tax-deductible.* The PAS tax ID number is 96-6183664.**

PAS receives only a small portion of your national dues to support the work of the chapter. If you do not want to be a national member or you want your dues to stay local, you can join PAS separately. Local membership in PAS includes a one-year subscription (12 issues) to PAS's *Profile* newsletter. Cost is \$28. A special limited income category is available for \$16.

Local PAS membership

- New member \$28
- Renewal \$28
- Lifetime PAS member \$1000
 - 10 monthly payments of \$100
 - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
 - 1 payment of \$1000
- Donation \$ _____

Make check payable to:
Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
*PAS Membership Chair
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290*

NAS membership

(includes PAS membership)

- Introductory membership \$20

Make check payable to:
National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
*PAS Membership Chair
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290*

NAS renewal

(includes PAS renewal)

- Renewal \$35

Make check payable to:
National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
*NAS, Membership Data Center
POB 420235
Palm Coast, Florida 32142*

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

* Consult your tax professional for full details.

Name: _____

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