



# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

Published by Pilchuck Audubon Society Volume 37, Number 3 March, 2010  
www.pilchuckaudubon.org

## National Audubon president steps down

By John Flicker, President, National Audubon Society

As we begin this new decade, I am completing my 15th year as president of Audubon. That's longer than anyone has served in this position for more than half a century. For me and for Audubon, it's time for a change.

I've been talking with board chair Holt Thrasher for some time now about a transition in my role at Audubon. I have decided to step down as president, but I intend to continue working for Audubon in another capacity to advance our conservation agenda. On January 19, the board met by conference call to accept my resignation as president and to appoint Frank Gill as interim president. The board will immediately launch a nationwide search for a new president.

I am pleased and grateful that Frank has graciously agreed to serve as interim president. As many of you know, I recruited Frank to Audubon from the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences shortly after I became president. He served as Audubon's chief scientist for nine years and was then elected to the board of directors. He brings enormous experience and credibility to this position. His steady hand will inspire confidence among donors, the board and the staff during this period of transition. He has my full confidence and support.

We have accomplished much together in the past 15 years. We refocused Audubon on protecting birds, other wildlife and their habitats, and building the next generation of conservation leaders. We decentralized the organization by building on our distributed network of chapters, state programs, Audubon Centers and Important Bird Areas. We demonstrated our capacity to achieve landscape-scale conservation in key areas from Florida's Everglades to Alaska's Arctic, and to protect Important Bird Areas internationally through our partnership with BirdLife International. And we launched a network of urban Audubon Centers to help us better reflect the changing face of America. Among all of these accomplishments, I am most proud of the exceptional and dedicated team of staff and volunteers that made this all happen.

For now, I'm taking some time off to "go birding." I will be available to help any program leaders with specific transition matters in project areas where I have been involved.

I'm not retiring. I will continue working in conservation, and it is my hope to do that in another role as part of this great Audubon team. That new role has not yet been worked out. I will be talking with Frank about where I might best continue contributing to Audubon's mission. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve for so long as Audubon's president, and I am most grateful to all of you for your tremendous dedication, support and friendship.

March program meeting  
Friday, March 12, 7 p.m.

### Gardening for butterflies in the Puget Sound region

Seed feeders and berry-producing shrubs aren't enough for local birds to thrive. They need soft-bodied insects to feed to their families. Join "The Butterfly Guy," David Droppers, and learn which plants to put in your garden to attract egg-laying butterflies to your hungry feathered friends.

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.

## Seed sale on now!

Pilchuck Audubon Society – and Art Wait, "Mr. Birdseed" – will offer birdseed for sale until March 9. As always, there is a variety of seeds for sale at a good price.

All orders must be placed with Art no later than noon on March 9. Reach him by phone at 360.563.0181. Seed can be picked up in Snohomish on Friday afternoon (March 12), in Everett Saturday morning (March 13) and in Edmonds Saturday afternoon (March 14).

Place your order soon!

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# President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Among the University of Idaho's digital library archives is T.N. Barnard's photographic collection documenting life during the early mining days in north Idaho's Coeur d'Alene mining district. Looking at the photos of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, it's evident that in those days of the old west, miners had no sense of conservation and little regard for the environment.

Early on, the mountains surrounding north Idaho's Silver Valley were denuded of trees to feed the furnaces of the lead and zinc smelters. The resulting sulfuric-acid-laden smelter smoke then prevented new growth from gaining a foothold. The lifeless waters of the south fork of Coeur d'Alene River ran gray with mine tailings. It was a poisoned and dead or dying landscape when I grew up there in the 1940s and 50s.

There's one photo in the Barnard collection that is emblematic of the Zeitgeist of the mining district's inhabitants. Gem was a small, one-street mining community of 1700 people hugging the steep mountainside of Burke Canyon. Barnard's photograph shows Gem's houses hugging the steep mountainside with the train track occupying the only level ground running alongside Canyon Creek.

As a consequence, room to build was a premium, so the good citizens of Gem built their outhouses over the creek. Gem's solution to pollution was dilution. Consideration for people living downstream wasn't even a concept.

T.N. Barnard's photograph of the outhouses of Gem came to mind when I attended the Environmental Priorities Coalition Lobby Day in Olympia the last week in January. After register-

ing, 400+ environmentalists assembled to listen to presentations on the three issues we would be lobbying the legislators from our respective districts on: Working for Clean Water, Safe Baby Bottle Act and Sustain Environmental Protections in the budget. The issue that struck a chord with me was working for clean water.

Contaminated runoff from our roads and urban areas is the number one water pollution problem in the state. As a matter of fact, 14 million pounds of toxics a year wash into Puget Sound.

Toxics such as copper dust from automobile brake pads, oil and transmission fluid are a consequence of a mobile society slowly killing a major part of the reason we relish living here.

Local governments need to be able to complete stormwater infrastructure and retrofit projects now if we are to pass a on a cleaner Puget Sound to our children. Stormwater clean-up projects are labor-intensive. They put money back in the pockets of workers in communities throughout the state. Thousands of these jobs will be created by this bill. Creating jobs and cleaning up our water. Smart business, if you ask me.

We pay for pollution clean-up through our property tax and utility rates. And the costs are rising. Local governments are required to control stormwater pollution, but don't have the resources. A balanced approach would have polluters help pay their fair share.

More than 20 years ago, Washington voters supported a tax on hazardous substances to clean up toxic pollution. But, in all

(See "Blackbird" on back page)

## About Pilchuck Audubon Society

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Newsletter submissions

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

**To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.**

The *Profile* is available at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)



### Board of directors

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### Staff

Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly .....	425.923.8625
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# Trip calendar

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

## March 2

### Silvana roads

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. Pipits, falcons, all the winter LBJs. If time allows, we may visit the Port Susan Nature Conservancy site. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## March 9

### North Whidbey Island

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. Highlights of this trip include beautiful scenery, waterfowl, shorebirds and seabirds. Seventy one species last year. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## March 16 C-Post Road, Fortson Ponds, Sauk River

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at 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 travel Highway 530 as far as time and stamina permit. Surprises are historical on this trip. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Art Wait, 360.563.0181

## March 23

### Point No Point

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Edmonds Marsh (south of West Dayton St., turn left just before the railroad tracks). We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point and Foulweather Bluff. Waterfowl, shorebirds, passerines, much beauty and serenity. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## March 30

### South Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Eastmont Park and Ride (I-5, exit 189, east side). We'll aim for the 8 a.m. ferry from Mukilteo. Eighty seven species last year. Crockett Lake is always exciting and Whidbey always beautiful. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028

## May 21-23

### Klickitat County

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

## June 4-7

### Annual trip to Ferry County

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

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

## Spehar wins NWF award



Congratulations to Laura Spehar, who was awarded a Conservation Service Award by the National Wildlife Federation. The award recognizes Spehar's efforts as an exceptional community member and volunteer.

"The energy, enthusiasm and commitment Laura brings to our conservation community is something to behold," the Wildlife Federation said in a news release. "We are very proud to have her as a part of our organization."

Laura, the PAS education and program chair, was instrumental in getting the Fidalgo Backyard Wildlife Habitat project off to a great start before moving to Edmonds. Now, she acts as the leader of the Edmonds Certified Wildlife Habitat team. She is also the Habitat Steward Host, a mentor to other habitat communities (Mukilteo, Brier, Mountlake Terrace), a Master Gardener, Master Beach Watcher, Master Birder and member and volunteer for dozens of local conservation groups.

Congratulations, Laura, on your well-deserved award!

## Weekend Bird Hikes set to resume March 28

Jonathan Blubaugh reports the first Weekend Bird Hike for 2010 is scheduled for Sunday, March 28, at the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

These lands form an extensive series of city parks on beautiful Fidalgo Island. Some units were part of the Anacortes municipal watershed and at least one was a former state park. They are laced with interwoven trails over viewpoint hills and around numerous ponds and lakes.

There are a couple of loop trails, each 3-5 miles long, the group can choose from. Plan for an all-day outing. No pets. Pack a lunch.

Meet at 7 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.

For more information, contact Jonathan Blubaugh at 425.244.7633.

Watch the Trip Calendar for more info on upcoming Weekend Bird Hikes.

# Upcoming regional festivals

## Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

March 26-28

Othello, Washington

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

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

Visit the web site at [www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org](http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org) or contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org) for more info.

## Birdathon: join the fun!

Birdathon is just around the corner! This fun Pilchuck Audubon Society fundraiser has a major rules change for 2010. Instead of being limited to 24 hours of birding, participants can now count birds during **the entire month of May**. Imagine all the species you can count in a 31-day month!

Here's a quick synopsis of what's involved: pick up pledge sheets. Sign up sponsors. Find as many bird species as possible in Washington during May. Report your sightings to your sponsors and collect their pledges.

Most veteran "Thoners would say prizes aren't the reason they participate in Birdathon. Instead, they're excited to help raise money for PAS doing something they love: birding. Even so, we hope to award prizes for the most bird species located, the largest number of sponsors and the most money raised.

Watch for more information in the April and May issues of the *Profile*, at upcoming program meetings or by contacting coordinator Hilkka Egtvedt at [chegtvedt@comcast.net](mailto:chegtvedt@comcast.net) or 425.347.4944.

## Call for PAS officer nominations

In April, the terms of office for the current PAS president and secretary will end. These are two-year terms and require attending monthly board meetings.

The duties of president include presiding over local meetings, training and guiding all board members and committee chairs, being the chapter spokesperson, preparing a monthly column for the *Profile* and attending regional meetings.

The duties of secretary include attending and taking minutes for business meetings, posting the monthly board meeting agendas and assisting with PAS correspondence. Both officers are required to be current PAS and/or NAS members.

If you are interested in becoming president or secretary for a wonderful Audubon chapter, please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 by the end of February. She'll provide more details on the duties and rewards of these offices. Pilchuck Audubon is truly blessed in the number of dedicated and enthusiastic members whose vision has achieved concrete results for conservation in our beautiful area.

## Olympic Bird Festival

April 9-11

Sequim, Washington

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

Check out the offerings by visiting [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org), or by calling 360.681.4076 for a brochure.

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

## Shorebird pics wanted

Thanks to all of those who joined our first Friends of Port Susan Bay Birds meeting in January. Ruth Milner gave a great presentation on shorebirds and how our studies are being used. For those who could not make it, stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved.

Our spring surveys are approaching soon. If you're interested in attending our training and are able to commit to two or three surveys in April and May, please contact Kerry Marl (see below). Take advantage of this opportunity to advance your skills in shorebird identification and contribute important data!



We are also looking for clear, close-up photographs of the common shorebirds of Port Susan Bay. They may be used in PowerPoint presentations, educational displays or for a Citizen Science

Guide that could be ready for volunteers this spring.

If you are willing to donate your pictures, please contact Kerry Marl at [kerrymarl@yahoo.com](mailto:kerrymarl@yahoo.com) or call 425.252.5243.

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

## PAS board meetings

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

# 2009 Edmonds Christmas Bird Count recap

On December 20, 38 hardy souls turned out for a day of bird watching and counting. They were divided into 14 teams and scoured a 176-square-mile circle from the north end of Lake Washington at Kenmore to about 41st Street in Everett and from Maltby to half-way across Puget Sound by Edmonds.

A total of 48,818 birds and 118 species were identified. The most unusual birds seen were four Eurasian Collared Doves, never previously reported on our CBC, seen by Martha Jordan near Shadow Lake and a Swainson's Thrush reported by Bill Davey and Reg Reisenbichler. While this species is heard fairly commonly in spring and summer, this is only the



*Eurasian Collared Dove, by Paul Kusmin*

second time it has been recorded on our CBC. An unusual sighting of 16 Western Bluebirds was reported by Russ Canniff just west of Snohomish. A Heermann's Gull was also reported as seen within the count week.

Many species were less common this year than in previous years, but new high numbers were seen of Wood Ducks (59), Blue-winged Teal (31), Gadwall (663), Common Mergansers (188), Pied-billed Grebes (140), Northern Red-shafted Flicker (108) and Brown-headed Cowbirds (10). Bonaparte's Gull (only 1) and Western Grebes (only 15) were the most obvi-

ous low counts. A complete listing of the results will be posted on the PAS web site: [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org).

## PAS represented at Lobby Day in Olympia

Environmental organizations from across the state were represented by more than 400 attendees for the annual Environmental Priorities Coalition Lobby Day in Olympia on January 26. This year, the coalition's priorities are The Safe Baby Bottle Act, Working for Clean Water and Sustain Environmental Protections in the Budget.

Washington has established itself as a national leader in protecting children from toxic chemicals. In 2008, it enacted the nation's strongest standards for toxic chemicals in toys. This leadership directly led to the US Congress passing legislation banning lead and phthalates in children's toys.

By banning Bisphenol A (BPA), which evidence shows is harmful to children's health, Washington would lead the way one more time. Used as a hardening agent in plastic products such as baby bottles, BPA has been implicated in miscarriage, obesity, reproductive problems and hyperactivity. And, of course, cancer.

The bill banning BPA in baby bottles and sippy cups has since passed both houses of the legislature.

It's disturbing, or at least should be, to learn that stormwater runoff is the biggest contaminate of Puget Sound, bigger than all the oil spilled by the Exxon Valdez. The Working for Clean Water bill will clean up polluted waterways, create new jobs and ask polluters to pay.

More than 3000 toxics flow into the Sound in contaminated stormwater. The bill would increase the toxics fee, which hasn't been increased since 1987. The increased fees would fund grants to cities and counties to manage stormwater. Building swales and catch basins is labor intensive and local, so ultimately this is a jobs bill, though part of the fees raised for the first two years would go to address the budget deficit.

The third priority is to sustain environmental protections in the budget such as toxic contamination, air quality, water quality, water resources and habitat protection. The natural resources budget was cut 25% last year. It accounts for only about 1.3% of the annual state budget. Further cuts in these budgets would mean staff reductions which would leave the agencies involved so shorthanded that they could not do even

a minimal part of their job. We're asking the legislature and the governor to hold the line on these critical elements of environmental protection, so no more cuts.

There is growing concern that Initiative 937 (mandating that 15% of the state's energy be from renewable sources) is under attack by the utilities. Diligence is necessary in assuring the utilities do not succeed in this important and necessary program.

Lastly, a bill is working its way through the legislature which would allow people to return unused pharmaceuticals to a pharmacy – rather than flush them down the toilet and ultimately into Puget Sound. There is growing evidence that pharmaceuticals have a deleterious effect on fish.

### COASST training planned

Enjoy walking on the beach? Want to play an active role in marine conservation? Become a COASST volunteer!

A 6-hour training session is scheduled for April 17, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Breazeale Interpretive Center on Padilla Bay (near Anacortes). At this interactive, hands-on training, you will learn how seabirds – particularly beached birds – fit into marine conservation. You'll be introduced to bird identification using *Beached Birds: A COASST Field Guide*, test your ID skills and learn how to conduct a COASST survey.

Once you've completed the training, you'll be asked to sign a contract agreeing to survey the beach of your choice once a month.

Training is free, however, participants are asked to pay a \$20 refundable deposit for the kit and guide. For more information, email [info@coasst.org](mailto:info@coasst.org) or phone 206.221.6893.

# Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

In January, we reprinted a *Washington Post* article about nuclear energy. In my opinion, the article contained highly important news about nuclear energy as it relates to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide new energy sources to combat global warming.

In no way did I print this article to imply PAS is in favor of nuclear power. I did it to spur thought and discussion and

perhaps inspire folks to take action. I was indeed successful in that. Following, David Gladstone, a member of the PAS board, offers the counterpoint to that article.

In the coming months, I will provide more food for thought on this very important local and global issue.

*Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director*

## Nuclear power revisited: an alternative perspective

By David Gladstone

The January *Profile* contained an article on nuclear power that claimed some environmentalists, as well as a number of countries, were revising their views to encompass the use of nuclear energy in the mix to supplant the use of fossil fuels. In particular, the article claimed that "... nearly zero emission energy [is now being embraced] overriding the dangers of radioactive waste disposal and nuclear proliferation."

Well, I'm here to tell you it ain't so. No less a figure than Amory Lovins, co-founder and chief scientist of the non-profit, independent Rocky Mountain Institute, and one of the brightest and most knowledgeable people in the US, has long studied this subject and written a number of detailed analyses on nuclear energy.

To see the details, go to [www.rmi.org](http://www.rmi.org) and in the search tool, enter "2009-09" for an article titled *Four Nuclear Myths*, or "2009-10" for an article called *Nuclear Nonsense*. Both respond to a chapter on nuclear energy in a *Whole Earth Discipline: An Ecopragmatist Manifesto*, by Stewart Brand, an example of apologist environmental thinking.

A brief summary of Lovins' analyses follows.

The four myths Lovins carefully debunks, with copious footnotes and references (I have very briefly summarized Lovins' arguments after each myth) are as follows:

**Myth:** Variable renewable sources of electricity (windpower and solar) can provide little or no reliable electricity because they are not "baseloaded" – able to run all the time.

In truth, our electricity system does not rely on any energy plant (including, coal, hydro, etc.) to run full-time. Since all plants fail at some time, the grid uses the mix of all forms of energy to run continuously.

**Myth:** Renewable energy requires such enormous amounts of land, hundreds of times more than nuclear power does, that they're environmentally unacceptable.

In actual fact, after taking into account nuclear exclusion zones and the nuclear fuel chain, land needed for ground-mounted solar is the same or less than for nuclear (for building-mounted solar, there would be enough to power the world many times over without needing anymore land). Wind power requires thousands of times less land than nuclear.

**Myth:** All options, including nuclear power, are needed to combat climate change.

The reality is that some energy options are less effective than others. Nuclear power would reduce and retard climate protection – because it saves between two and 20 times less carbon per dollar, and is 20 to 40 times slower in doing so – than investing in efficiency and micropower. The more one fears climate change, the more judiciously we should invest to get the best solution per dollar and per year. Nuclear flunks both these tests.

**Myth:** Nuclear power's economics matter little because governments must use it anyway to protect the climate.

In actuality, if nuclear power is not needed, worsens climate change (compared to more effective solutions) and energy security and cannot compete in the marketplace in spite of outrageously large subsidies (see below), then the nuclear imperative disappears. Of the supposed 52 (or 53 in the *Washington Post* article) nuclear plants currently being built, 36 are in only four countries (China, India, Russia and South Korea), none of which uses competitive markets to choose whether or which power plants to build, and none of which is very transparent about current construction status or the decision process. The energy competitors beating nuclear power thrive in democracies and free markets.

The *Washington Post* article suggests that nuclear is making a comeback in Britain. What it fails to note is that proposed plants there can get no financing. On the key issue of financing/economics, not one dollar of private financing has come forward in the US for more than a decade.

Further, no insurance company in the US will insure either construction or operation of a new nuclear plant. In fact, the subsidy from our tax dollars to build a nuclear power plant in the US today is more than 100%.

Finally, after 50 years of trying, no safe, long-term method of disposing of the highly dangerous radioactive wastes produced by nuclear plants has yet been devised, even though all concerned parties admit these wastes remain lethal for more than 10,000 years.

Here's one environmentalist who will unabashedly remain anti-nuclear forever.

# Birding highlights

December 26, 2009-January 25, 2010

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

What an interesting month! January's rain and warm temperatures meant water accumulated in fields, which brought in the gulls and waterfowl. Then there were the large numbers of **Snow Geese** and **Tundra Swans**.

I received a report of a male **Pine Grosbeak** from Noel Lareau at his feeder on Burn Road south of Arlington. They are not usually in our area, but it could have slipped down from Canada.

Carole and Larry Beason are still reporting large numbers of **Evening Grosbeaks** from their Lake Bosworth location. Their report listed 40 this month. I wish a few would drift over to Marysville! Their species count of 37 also included a **Belted Kingfisher**, 9 **Buffleheads**, 6 **Common Mergansers**, 4 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, a **Fox Sparrow**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 40 **Pine Siskins**, 12 **Purple Finches** and 20 **Red-winged Blackbirds**.

Annette Colombini still has the gang of **American Crows** hanging out in Lake Stevens. Her species count of 11 included 50 **American Crows**, 5 **American Robins**, 9 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **Spotted Towhees**, 3 **Northern Flickers**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** checking out the Juncos, 12 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 5 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** and 2 **Brown Creepers**.

Gail Dibernardo spotted a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** in mating colors out her window. She also now has a pair of **Brown Creepers** that are regular visitors to the feeders. Her species count of 23 included 2 **Townsend's Warblers**, 8 **Spotted Towhees**, 2 **American Goldfinches**, 7 **California Quail**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, 20 **American Robins**, 2 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and 12 **Tundra Swans** flying over.

Hilkka Egtvedt spotted one of the few **Bald Eagles** reported this month. They must all be along the rivers or at eagle festivals. Her report from Mukilteo also listed 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 20 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 8 **Bushtits**, 28 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Fox Sparrows**, 3 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 4 **Townsend's Warblers** and 2 **Varied Thrush** for a total species count of 25.

On January 2, Kriss Erickson spotted 40 **Great Blue Herons** near Lowell. What a sight that must have been! She also reported 5 **American Coots** near Lowell. From her Everett home she reported 15 **American Robins**, 120



Pine Grosbeak, by Matti Suopajärvi



Evening Grosbeak, by Annette Colombini



Winter Wren, by Marg Heslin

**European Starlings**, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 3 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 2 **Wood Ducks** and an **Anna's Hummingbird** for a species count of 20.

Julie O'Donald heard two owls vocalizing in the trees along the green-belt near her home in Brier. They were probably **Barred Owls** or **Great Horned Owls**. At a stream nearby, she reported 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **Townsend's Warbler**, 12 **American Robins**, a **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, a **Song Sparrow** and a **Spotted Towhee**. She also spotted 5 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 18 **Bushtits** in the shrubs, 3 **Northern Flickers** and a **Winter Wren** for a total species count of 22.

Mary Sinker again reported a large numbers of bird species from her Stanwood home. She listed 18 **Mourning Doves**, 11 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 50 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 17 **House Finches**, 9 **Pine Siskins**, 12 **Steller's Jays**, 5 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 5 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, 2 **Great Horned Owls** and 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** for a total species count of 24.

Dick Vanderhoff's report from the Stanwood area included 2 **Bald Eagles** flying over, 200+ **Dunlin** over the bay, 10 **American Coots** and 10+ **Double-crested Cormorants** along the water. He also saw 10 **Spotted Towhees**, 12 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, 12 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 4 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 600+ **Snow Geese** along Highway 99 and 50+ **Tundra Swans** on Marine Drive for a total species count of 22.

I had the best month ever because of the water that accumulated in fields along 100th in Marysville. It was a challenge each day to see how many species I could spot. My total species count of 29 included 30 or so **American Wigeons**, 2 **Eurasian Wigeons**, 50-60 **Glaucous-winged Gulls**, and a 100+ **Mallards** all in the water in the fields. There were, at times, 30-40 **American Crows** in the fields along with 100 **European Starlings**. My report also lists 8 **California Quail**, 20 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 50+ **Tundra Swans** in the fields along I-5.

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

**Coming this May ...**

# **Birdathon 2010**

**Try it! You'll like it!**

## **Seed sale on now!**

Pilchuck Audubon Society – and Art Wait, “Mr. Birdseed” – will offer birdseed for sale until March 9. As always, there is a variety of seeds for sale at a good price.

All orders must be placed with Art no later than noon on March 9. Reach him by phone at 360.563.0181. Seed can be picked up in Snohomish on Friday afternoon (March 12), in Everett Saturday morning (March 13) and in Edmonds Saturday afternoon (March 14).

Place your order soon!

## **Blackbird ...**

*(continued from page 2)*

that time, the rate has never increased to meet the growing needs and cleanup costs. The hazardous substance tax is levied on the most significant stormwater pollutants: petroleum, pesticides and toxic chemicals. Extending the tax to cover polluted stormwater is a common-sense solution to the state’s biggest water quality problem.

Be assured industrial polluters will send in their lobbyists to meet with legislators in an attempt to kill the Clean Water bill. Their arguments will be that in a down economy, we can’t afford to increase fees on business. They will insist that jobs will be lost, further impacting the unemployment numbers.

To put their arguments in proper perspective, envision these lobbyists expounding their talking points while sitting in a Gem outhouse perched over Canyon Creek.

Washington, DC, has the K Street Gang. Washington State has the Gem Outhouse Gang?

## **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**

## **Audubon membership information**

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

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

### **Local PAS membership**

- 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*

- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

- I am interested in the Conservation Committee.

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

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

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_