



State legislators need to hear from you

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair, Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Washington legislature's regular session ends March 8. Usually, the second session of a biennial legislature is when supplemental appropriations are considered – to see where funding approved in the previous session is adjusted, based on new revenue and expense figures. Not many policy bills are introduced.

It was bad news going into the regular session of 2011, and a final budget for fiscal years 2011-2013 has not yet been determined. More policy bills than usual were introduced this time – many to weaken environmental laws. It's up to the governor whether a special session is needed after March 8. And, it's pretty much her call as to what will be considered in a special session, which is usually limited to 30 days. Usually, only fiscal matters are handled in special sessions.

In the meantime, all policy bills which hadn't had a hearing or been voted on in committee are dead for this session. Bills opposed by PAS that have died include Senator Hobbs' (44th District) Senate Bill (SB) 6154, which would have required citizens to pay a \$400 fee to file an appeal before growth management hearings boards. Good news! There is still no fee and citizens don't have to go to considerable personal expense to prove they have standing to appeal. Your board and Futurewise see this as a good thing.

Senate Bill 6209 also died – another good thing in the minds of conservationists. Essentially, this bill sought to prevent a statewide ban of lead bird shot in upland bird hunting and use of lead ammunition in other sports hunting. There is no legislation seeking to ban these uses of lead shot and ammunition, although Audubon chapters across the country advocate alternatives to lead to decrease poisoning of birds and other wildlife.

PAS supported House Bill 2241, a bill to reduce introduction of lead into the aquatic environment – in this case, small lead fishing sinkers and lead-weighted fish hooks. It died for lack of sufficient support in the face of huge opposition from some anglers' groups and equipment manufacturers. Supporters need to talk with these groups to better inform them that their worst fears are misplaced and that proponents want sports fishing to continue, but without poisoning water birds.

The PAS board encourages you to contact legislators to support the reduction of cancer-causing chemicals still used in bedding, toys and other materials made for children. Two related bills were introduced, but Senate Bill 6120 was twice substituted in two committees. The first substitute bill weak-

(See "Legislature" on page 2)

March program meeting
Friday, March 9, 7 p.m.
***Understanding shorebirds:
the miracle of migration***
Tim Boyer, photographer and naturalist, will share his award-winning photos.

April program meeting
Friday, April 13, 7 p.m.
***One swallow doesn't
make it spring***
Frances Wood's presentation features the five swallows, one martin and one swift found in our area. She'll cover facts and folklore surrounding these small, long-distance flyers and offer suggestions for attracting swallows to your yard.

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.**

**PAS board meetings
are open to all**

The PAS board meets the first Tuesday of each month, at 6 p.m., at the Sno-Isle Coop meeting room (2804 Grand Ave., Everett). All are welcome to attend to learn about chapter goals and priorities. For more info, contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505.

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Legislature ...

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ened the original. The second substitute had stronger language and passed the senate on February 10. It moved to the House Environment Committee for a hearing February 17.

Please contact your House members by phone or mail and ask them to support the stronger Toxic-free Kids Act (SB 6120). Tell them to support the "full chlorinated Tris ban and review of safer alternatives in the bill."

Call 1.800.562.6000 (toll free). Leave a message with the person answering your call.

SB 2162 deserves your opposition. It modifies existing land use and shoreline management laws, allowing development of coal export facilities, gravel mines and other large scale upland projects with shoreline components – when shoreline management permit requests or issuances are on hold by court order.

This bill would allow the upland development to continue to the point where, if shoreline management permits were not issued, erosion and runoff from the upland development could adversely affect the shoreline without requiring mitigation.

Call your senators and representatives at 1.800.562.6000 and ask them to oppose this bill and similar language in other bills.

If you have questions about the above legislation or other conservation matters, please contact me at 425.338.5466.

How to reach your state representatives

21st District (Lynnwood, Edmonds, Mukilteo, some Mountlake Terrace): Senator Paul Shin (D), representatives Mary Helen Roberts (D) and Marko Liias (D).

38th District (Everett, Marysville, Tulalip and county): Senator Nick Harper (D), representatives John McCoy (D) and Mike Sells (D).

39th District (Arlington, Snohomish, Monroe, eastern Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish and NE King counties): Senator Val Stevens (R), representatives Dan Kristiansen (R) and Kirk Pearson (R).

44th District (Lake Stevens, Everett, Mill Creek, SW Snohomish County): Senator Steve Hobbs (D), representative Hans Dunshee (D) and Mike Hope (R).

Telephone messages for all these folks can be left at 1.800.562.6000 (toll-free).

Mailing address for all House members: PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600.

Mailing addresses for Senators:

Harper: PO Box 40438, Olympia, WA 98504-0438

Hobbs: PO Box 40444, Olympia, WA 98504-0444

Shin: PO Box 40421, Olympia, WA 98504-0421

Stevens: PO Box 0439, Olympia, WA 98504-0439

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, March 6

Camano Island

This trip replaces a trip canceled in January because of feared snow and ice. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and wherever else Virginia leads us. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sunday, March 11

Japanese Gulch

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We'll carpool to Japanese Gulch in Mukilteo. We'll hike down to the water and check out the waterfowl and up the trail into the gulch in search of forest birds. Elevation gain is gradual and is about 200 feet on a former railway grade. Based on time, weather and the will of the group, we may also bird the Mukilteo Lighthouse Park. This is a half-day hike so pack a lunch or plan to join us in Mukilteo for a hot meal.

Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383, tnight@pobox.com

March 13 Montlake Fill (Union Bay Natural Area)

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Lynnwood Walmart lot at 1400 164th Street SW (I-5, exit 183). Park at the edge of the lot, away from the store, to the west. This is one of the most productive birding areas around. Many rarities have been observed here. If time allows, we may visit Foster Island, Magnuson Park and other areas of north Lake Washington. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181
Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sunday, March 18

Montlake Fill

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. The Montlake Fill – or Union Bay Natural Area – is a renowned Seattle birding hotspot. We'll walk the shoreline and maybe part of the adjacent campus. Like many college campuses, the UW grounds are park-like in their own right. About a half a day. We'll probably stop along Lake Union or in Fremont on the way home for socializing over a late lunch. Maybe we'll see a few early migrants.

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

Tuesday, March 20 Serpentine Fen, Blackie Spit

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. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds, scenery – and to do some walking. This is a trip to Canada, so bring your passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, March 27

Point No Point

Meet at 7:20 a.m. at the Willow Creek Hatchery, 95 Pine Street, Edmonds. Pine Street crosses Edmonds Way (SR 104) in downtown Edmonds. Turn west off SR 104 to Pine Street. We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point and Foulweather Bluff. Waterfowl, shorebirds, passerines, beauty and serenity. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sunday, April 15

Wiley Slough and Samish Flats

All done with your taxes? Celebrate by birding with us! 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'll carpool to Wiley Slough in Skagit County and walk the trails. There will likely be mud, so bring your hiking boots. We'll look and listen for marsh birds and shore birds. Then we'll drive a short distance further north to the Samish Flats in search of raptors. This will be a half-day or full-day hike, depending on the will of the group. Pack a lunch and snacks for the trail. Discovery Pass is required.

Leader: Terry Nightingale, 206.619.2383, tnight@pobox.com

Sunday, April 22

Fort Casey State Park

Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. Highly varied habitat – from wind-swept shoreline to high bluffs, fresh to brackish estuarine marsh and shady woodlands. All day. Pack a snack. We'll probably stop somewhere on Whidbey Island for socializing over a late lunch. Plus, we'll do a little pelagic birding on the ferry crossings! Annual Discovery Pass \$35 per car or \$16 daily pass is required. Ferry toll is \$17.80 per car round trip.

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

Walla Walla birding

June 7-11

The trip to Walla Walla is still on. But, please note the dates have changed to June 7-11. The birding will be even better then. Our plan is to look for the Green-tailed Towhee in the Blue Mountains – possibly the only place in Washington to find them. Susie has been working with the Blue Mountain Audubon chapter and is following their web site. We'll spend three days birding there and two days of travel to Walla Walla. This area is unique and offers great birding. The trip will be limited to three cars (12 people). Please contact Susie Schaefer if you're interested: susie.schaefer@comcast.net.

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.

**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

Have fun, be entertained and get smarter

Killer Whale Tales

Saturday, March 10 Northwest Stream Center, Everett
See our southern resident orca whales "swimming" on the walls at the Northwest Stream Center. Thanks to amazing videography by Jeff Hogan from Killer Whale Tales (www.killerwhaletales.org), you can learn how to identify each of the 86 members of the southern resident pods, who call the Salish Sea their home.

The presentation begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 10, at the Adopt-a-Stream Foundation auditorium in McCollum Park, 600 128th Street SE, 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 NW Stream Center is the last structure at the end of the road.

Cost is \$5 for PAS members. Advance purchase required. For more info, call 425.316.8592.

Envisioning a restored estuary

Friday, March 16 Stanwood

The Nature Conservancy invites you to "Envisioning a restored estuary," a presentation and tour of the Port Susan Bay preserve on Friday, March 16. The event begins with a presentation at 10 a.m., then a birding walk on the Nature Conservancy's property from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Participants should meet at the Stanwood-Camano School District Administration and Resources Center, 26920 Pioneer Highway, Stanwood.

Wings over Water Northwest Birding Festival

March 17 Blaine, Washington

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

For more information, visit www.blainechamber.com or phone 800.624.3555.

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

March 23-25 Othello, Washington

Plan to attend the 15th Othello Sandhill Crane Festival, March 23-25. The festival features field trips to view Sandhill Cranes, along with other specialty tours such as Columbia National Wildlife Refuge/Potholes wildlife tour, Lower Grand Coulee birding tour and Wahluke Slope/Shrub Steppe birding tour. Trips fill up quickly. Pre-registration is recommended.

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

For more information, visit the festival web site at www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org or contact Susie Schaefer: susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425.771.8165.

Olympic BirdFest

March 30-April 1 Sequim, Washington

Join the Olympic BirdFest 2012 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, March 30-April 1. The stage is set ... quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a long sand spit and an island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Wetlands, tide pools, rainforests and lush valleys. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours and a gala banquet.

Come bird with us and experience the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ... you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings at www.olympicbirdfest.org or call for a brochure: 360.681.4076.

Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

May 4-6 Hoquiam, Washington

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

This year's festival features field trips to view shorebirds and raptors, plus lectures, workshops, a nature fun fair, a birding marketplace and more. The keynote address will be by Richard Crossley, author, birder and photographer.

For more information, visit www.shorebirdfestival.com or phone 360.289.5048.

Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest

May 17-20 Leavenworth

Discover the natural beauty of north central Washington at the tenth annual Leavenworth Spring Bird Festival, May 17-20. The Leavenworth area features spectacular habitats ranging from snow-capped mountains to sunny ponderosa pine forests, to lush riparian zones, to shrub-steppe. Learn about the wide variety of migratory birds that come here for a brief, but important part of their year: the breeding season.

Hear the songs sung only during breeding season while you stroll, bike, boat, or van during the height of wildflower season. While birding is the heart of the weekend, activities also include wildflower walks, arts events, and family activities to ensure fun for birders of all skill levels, with enough built-in "down time" to explore the friendly Bavarian village, too.

This year's keynote address will be delivered by Dr. David Craig, chair of the biology department at Willamette University. His field research focuses on the response of avian predators to human modified ecosystems and subsequent impact on community structure. This work combines life history, physiological and ecological information to address questions related to predation on endangered fishes by colonial nesters, such as Caspian Terns. This research grew out of earlier research on behavioral and population ecology of corvids, such as crows, ravens and jays.

For more info, visit www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com.

Birdathon: Try it. You'll like it. And, it's good for PAS.

PAS bird seed sale is on now – order today!



Just in time for the spring migration, the next PAS bird seed sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 3. To order bird seed and suet, contact Carolyn Lacy at carolynlacy137@frontier.com or 206.245.5836. Orders must be placed by Tuesday, February 28.

Pick up your order in Everett between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, March 3, at Bering Sea Fisheries, 3862 Railway Avenue. Jay Ward and other volunteers will be on hand to collect payment and help load the seed.

To get to Bering Sea Fisheries from I-5 northbound, take exit

193 (Pacific Ave.) and head north on Walnut St. to Hewitt. Turn right onto Hewitt. Hewitt becomes Highland Drive. After about a mile, turn right onto California Street. California becomes Railway Ave. Bering Sea Fisheries is ahead on the right.

From I-5 southbound, take exit 194 (Everett Avenue). At Everett Avenue, turn left. Follow Everett Avenue to Harrison Avenue and turn right. At Railway Avenue, turn left. Bering Sea Fisheries is ahead on the right.

To pick up your seed in Edmonds, let Carolyn know when you place your order. You'll need to arrange a pickup time with Paul or Laura Spehar at 425.672.2150.

Please remember: the price of seed fluctuates. So, the price the day you pick it up might be slightly different from what you were told when the order was placed.

Count birds, make money for PAS programs

It's not too early to start planning for Birdathon 2012. Birdathon is Audubon's largest annual fundraising event, and the world's largest bird-watching competition. Every year, thousands of people count birds, have fun and raise vital funds for Audubon's mission of environmental conservation, education and advocacy.

Here's how a Birdathon works: people count birds and collect pledges from sponsors based on the number of species they see. Then, start counting. Count as many species as you can during the month of May.

You can do it alone, with a group, or even form a team. You don't have to be an expert – some people even do Birdathons from their couch, counting the visitors to their feeder. Others cover dozens of miles in a day, racking up hundreds of species. The key is to have fun!



If you're someone who thrives on competition, we'll have prizes for the most bird species found, most money raised, largest number of sponsors, etc. Use that sense of competition to help PAS!

More information is available at program meetings or by contacting Hilkka Egtvedt at 452.347.4944 or chegtvedt@comcast.net. The Birdathon pledge sheet is available for download on the PAS web site (www.pilchuckaudubon.org).

Last year's nationwide Birdathon helped raise more than \$1 million in support of Audubon's mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and habitat for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. We hope you'll join with thousands of others in communities across the country who helped make Birdathon a success.

Please attend PAS annual meeting, board election

The PAS annual business meeting and board election will take place at the April program meeting on Friday, April 13, at 7 p.m. at the Everett Firefighters Hall. This year, the offices of President and Secretary are open. If you're interested in running for either of these offices – or would like to nominate someone – please contact us by phone at 425.252.0926 or send an e-mail through the "Contact Us" page at www.pilchuckaudubon.org. We will also take nominations from the floor.

The business meeting agenda includes the following:

- The state of PAS
- Budget and plans for 2012
- Program plans for 2012
- Questions from membership
- Elections

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

New Snohomish wildlife area moving forward

Pilchuck Audubon and the City of Snohomish have formalized a partnership to enhance a natural area near the city's sewage treatment ponds (where PAS also owns land) for the benefit of birds and other wildlife. The Boeing Bluebills, a group of retired Boeing employees, is interested in helping, as well.

When the plans are finalized and approved by the city council, Pilchuck members will be invited to help implement them. Opportunities may include installing native plants, building trails and putting up nesting boxes. We are particularly interested in trying to put up a barn owl house.

Donations are gladly accepted and we'll pursue some grants, as well. If this project sparks your interest, contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505 or ksnyder75@gmail.com.

Help install gourd homes for Purple Martins

In 2009, Pilchuck Audubon bought and installed Purple Martin gourd homes at the Edmonds marina. Unfortunately, the method we used to attach them failed. They all fell into the water. We're giving it another go! The Purple Martin Society donated four gourds and PAS purchased two more – all of which will be installed in the Edmonds marina – using a more secure method. The plan is to install the gourds before the birds arrive in the spring. We could use more volunteers. Please contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505 or ksnyder75@gmail.com for more information.



Volunteers perform maintenance on Purple Martin nesting gourds at Shilshole Marina, Seattle

We hope to expand this program into Everett and other Snohomish county locations in future years.

Purple Martins, the largest swallow in North America, are neo-tropical migrants: they migrate north in the spring to breed in Mexico, the United States and Canada. In late sum-

mer, after their young have left the nest, they migrate south to their non-breeding range in South America. Martins are secondary cavity nesters: they nest in a cavity, but don't excavate the cavity themselves.

East of the Rocky Mountains, Purple Martins have become almost completely dependent on humans. In the Pacific Northwest, where martins once nested almost exclusively in cavities in pilings along rivers and on the coast, they now nest almost entirely in human-supplied housing in these same habitats, thanks to widespread nest box programs. They nest in clusters of gourds and groupings of single-unit wooden boxes. In Washington, Oregon and

the southern tip of British Columbia, people who live on or near the water can help martins by installing such housing. For more information on Purple Martins, please visit www.purplemartin.org.

Ever wondered where birds sleep?

By Joan Carson, courtesy The Kitsap Sun

It's never been easy to answer the question, "Where do birds sleep at night?" There's some info available and some of us have found sleeping birds. Still, a lot of questions about birds' nocturnal activities remain unknown.

Susan Sharbaugh, a biologist in Alaska, studied how Alaska's Black-capped Chickadees adapt to the cold. She and her students documented where these tiny birds spend the night during the region's cold winters.

These high-energy birds burn 10 percent of their body weight every night, which explains why they eat nonstop all day. If a 150-pound person had to do the same, he'd have to eat enough during the day to get his weight up to 165 pounds by nightfall. The following day, he would start all over. Those small birds aren't pigging out at the feeders because they are too lazy to forage in the wild. They're looking for all the food they can eat just to survive.

Our winter nights aren't as long nor as cold as those in the far north. Just the same, our chickadees also need to consume large amounts of food because they will lose body weight overnight. Once they're as full as time and daylight allow, the next challenge is finding a place to hole up for the night. That's just what they do.

Sharbaugh placed tiny transmitters on the backs of chickadees like tiny backpacks. When dusk settled in and the birds left the feeding station, they tracked them into the woods by using a handheld receiver. It gave out a "ping" signal that helped them follow the bird to its nightly roost.



Roosting box for a Black-capped Chickadee

Black-capped Chickadees in the interior of Alaska find small holes in trees and tuck themselves into these tight spaces. They don't snuggle up with other chickadees the way Bushtits pile in together. In addition to burning a high percentage of their body fat to generate heat, they fluff up their feathers and preserve that heat with a "jacket" of down feathers. The way these small birds survive a cold, hostile environment gives us an idea of the methods our own birds use. Roosting boxes were part of Sharbaugh's studies and roosting boxes are also used by the birds in our area. They are often unused bird houses, but there are designs for roosting boxes.

One way a roosting box differs from a bird house is the box's entrance. It should be at or very near the house's base. Small pegs are installed on the walls inside the house. These are perches. Birds enter at the base of the house and fly up to a perch. Other more simple arrangements can be small houses with room for one bird. They work best when tucked under the eaves of a building. Like nest boxes, roost boxes shouldn't be exposed to prevailing winds. How do you know if someone is using a roosting structure you have put up? The best way according to Sharbaugh is to get up before the sun and focus on the entrance. The bird is going to shoot out fast and if you aren't looking, you will miss it.

It's comforting to know our chickadees and other small birds don't have to endure long, cold winter nights like those in Alaska. Just the same, a roosting structure or several would probably be appreciated by our little friends.

Birding highlights

December 26, 2011-January 25, 2012

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

The snow storm caused problems for a lot of people, but there was a positive side to it as it brought out lots of different birds to feeders. The Varied Thrush was spotted by almost all of our sighters, up to 8 at a time.

I received a report that Scrub Jays were spotted near the Stanwood Fairgrounds before the big storm. Their range is the western US to Mexico, but they do make their way up here on occasion.

Carol and Larry Beason reported 8 Varied Thrushes at the feeders at their Lake Bosworth home. It was truly a treat to see so many at a time. They also reported a Belted Kingfisher flying over the lake, 15 Buffleheads on the lake, 44 Evening Grosbeaks at the feeders, 58 Pine Siskins, a Hutton's Vireo, 10 Song Sparrows, 15 Spotted Towhees, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, 2 Great Horned Owls hooting in the woods, a Bald Eagle, 43 Mallards and a Ring-necked Duck on the lake for a total species count of 42.

Reporting from Lake Stevens, Annette Colombini reported 6 Varied Thrushes. She also heard 2 Great Horned Owls hooting in the woods. Her total species count of 17 also included a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Common Ravens, 10 Black-capped Chickadees, 12 Bushtits, 3 Spotted Towhees, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 7 American Crows and 2 Northern Flickers.

John Davis spotted 7 Varied Thrushes on his walks through Forest Park. He also reported 90 Pine Siskins, at least 100 American Crows, 5 Pacific Wrens, 4 Bald Eagles, 4 Golden-crowned Sparrows, an Orange-crowned Warbler, a Hermit Thrush, 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds and a Wilson's Snipe for a species count of 33.

Five more Varied Thrushes were reported by Gail Dibernardo in Brier. Her total species count of 26 also included a Western Screech Owl in her yard, 15 American Robins, 20 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Fox Sparrows, a Cooper's Hawk, 5 Spotted Towhees, a Townsend's Warbler, 3 Pileated Woodpeckers, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Brown Creeper and 6 Canada Geese flying over.

Hilkka Egtvedt reported 5 Varied Thrushes plus 24 Evening Grosbeaks at her feeders. She also listed 25 Pine Siskins, 6 California Quail, 2 Bald Eagles, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 White-crowned Sparrows, 2 White-throated Sparrows, 5 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 34 Dark-eyed Juncos, 3 Fox Spar-



Evening Grosbeak



Varied Thrush, by Annette Colombini



Pine Siskin

rows and 2 Townsend's Warblers for a total species count of 29.

Kriss Erickson's report from her home in Everett included 6 House Finches, 9 Black-capped Chickadees, 2 Mallards, 2 Spotted Towhees, an Anna's Hummingbird, 6 Dark-eyed Juncos, a Pileated Woodpecker, 6 American Robins, 7 American Crows and a Pacific Wren for a total species count of 10.

Julie O'Donald listed 27 species from her home in Brier. She reported 3 Varied Thrushes, along with a Killdeer, a Townsend's Warbler, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 10 Dark-eyed Juncos, 16 Band-tailed Pigeons, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, 5 House Finches and a Yellow-rumped Warbler at the suet.

Mary Sinker reported 8 Varied Thrushes at her feeders along with 55 Dark-eyed Juncos, 12 Black-capped Chickadees, 9 American Robins, 4 Hairy Woodpeckers, 12 Steller's Jays, 2 Pacific Wrens, 7 House Finches, 2 White-crowned Sparrows, 6 Evening Grosbeaks, 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers in the yard and a Bald Eagle for a total species count of 28.

There are two reports for Dick Vanderhoff, December and January. In December, he reported 12 swan species with 5 young in a field off Marine View Drive. He also listed 12 Black-capped Chickadees, a Red-tailed Hawk and 4 Song Sparrows. His January report from Stanwood included 12 Steller's Jays, 6 Dark-eyed Juncos, 4 White-crowned Sparrows, a Great Blue Heron, 2 Bald Eagles flying over, a Snow Bunting, which is pretty rare for our area, and 1000+ Snow Geese in the fields off Marine View Drive.

I was surprised to spot 7 Varied Thrushes in my yard during the snow storm. I have never seen so many at one time. I also counted 16 Evening Grosbeaks, 24 Dark-

eyed Juncos, 6 Song Sparrows, 3 Mourning Doves, 2 Great Horned Owls in the woods, a Red-winged Blackbird on the deck, a Merlin on the wires overlooking the cow pasture, a Pacific Wren and an Anna's Hummingbird checking out the waterfall at the pond for a total species count of 23.

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

In this month's Smart Growth Report, Kristin Kelly continues to provide information on the Transportation for Washington campaign, led by Pilchuck Audubon's partners, Futurewise and Transportation Choices Coalition.

Transportation, jobs, Washington's future

Transportation is the mainstay of our economy. Communities and businesses depend on a network that provides reliable, safe and efficient service. Transportation projects create jobs, link people to jobs, education and services and facilitate robust commerce. The transportation decisions made now can affirm Washington's competitive edge, uphold our leadership in technology and infrastructure and set an example for the world with a modern, green and efficient network of infrastructure.

The problem

The transportation system employs millions of Americans and is an essential component in our state's economy. Transportation creates sustainable jobs that are immune from outsourcing and draw workers from diverse populations. Washington faces a high unemployment rate – 9.3 percent, a bit greater than the national average. Many counties have double-digit unemployment rates. Transportation investments must optimize job creation and retention.

Transportation provides access to jobs and opportunities across Washington. Without multiple transportation choices, many citizens are forced to endure the high costs of auto travel or must depend on long and infrequent transit trips. Those who have the option to commute by public transportation save on fuel, operating, licensing, insurance and financing costs.

This historically unbalanced approach to transportation policy limited our ability to move people to jobs, education and services. This bias must be reversed. Urban and rural regions in Washington strive to create vibrant places to live, work, shop and play. They are working to attract businesses, many of which are enticed by areas that provide access to nearby transit choices, restaurants, coffee shops, personal services and more. Transportation projects must be planned and implemented to improve connections to economic opportunity for workers. Targeted workforce development strategies should create pathways to access living wage jobs.

America's reliance on an outdated and oil-dependent transportation system represents a serious competitive disadvantage in today's global economy. Our system's crumbling bridges and overburdened and dwindling transit systems do not meet Washingtonians' needs and hamstringing our ability to build a 21st Century economy.

Without balanced investments to fix our existing system, improve the multi-modal transportation system and create affordable transit communities, Washington's system will continue to fall behind. We will remain mired in congestion, stalling the efficient movement of people and goods across the state.

The solutions

Transportation dollars must be used to maximize job creation – helping put Washingtonians to work now. Washington faces the impacts of recession, unprecedented budget challenges and severe shortfalls. Continued road repair needs will make those shortfalls even more challenging. Washington can catch up on repair needs and create more jobs by investing first to fix our current transportation system. We must invest in critical road

and bridge repair and maintenance and change the way we evaluate investments in new capacity to ensure that these serve long-term job creation, economic development and affordability.

We must prioritize transportation investments that help grow our economy. Smart Growth America analyzed stimulus-funded infrastructure projects across the country for their ability to create jobs. The report concluded that investments in road maintenance and transit projects were far more efficient than original road construction at producing employment.

Each stimulus dollar spent on public transportation, for instance, yielded 70 percent more job hours than a dollar spent on building new roads. When transit programs are cut, there is a negative impact on the ability of people to get to work, education and services. Public transportation is part of the fabric of communities, whether you use it or not.

We need balanced investments in a system that promotes walkability and biking. Bike lanes create twice as many jobs as road repair work. Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure projects create 11-14 jobs per \$1 million of spending, while road infrastructure projects create approximately seven jobs per \$1 million in expenditures.

Finally, Washington should support transportation investments that preserve and create sustainable, affordable communities that attract businesses and employees. Transportation investments should discourage sprawl and promote reinvestment in urban areas to benefit current residents, as well as newcomers. It should extend quality transportation options to people in both cities and suburbs, and ensure affordable housing opportunities near transit.

Economic recovery from the most severe downturn since the Great Depression is occurring gradually. The choices made now have implications on jobs far into the future. Now is the time to rise to these challenges and grow our economy by fixing our transportation system, creating more transit, bicycling and pedestrian choices and building livable communities.

It's in the air

The EPA is poised to propose standards for new coal-fired power plants. New Source Performance Standards is our next best shot at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and slowing climate change.



With legislative climate solutions mired in bipartisan gridlock in congress, this new draft standard offers a way to make progress on one of the biggest polluters of carbon pollution – coal-fired power plants. If this rule goes well, dirty, older plants are next in line for pollution reductions.

Getting comments to EPA to support this standard is a priority for Audubon. You can help by sending in the postcard in the March/April of *Audubon Magazine*. Look for the Snowy Owl. Let's get an avalanche of support into EPA to reduce carbon pollution!

Bird of the month: Snow Goose



Quick facts

- Medium sized goose; 27-32" long, 54" wingspan
- Black patch on bill edges: the "grinning patch" or "smile"
- White morph: white all over, except for black primaries
- Blue morph: white head and front of neck, body dark gray-brown
- Entirely vegetarian

The Snow Goose breeds on the Arctic tundra and travels south in large, high-flying, noisy flocks. The swirling white of a descending flock suggests snow. Among them are darker individuals, Blue Geese, considered a separate species until recently. They're now recognized as merely a dark form (or "morph") of the Snow Goose.

Parents stay with their young through the first winter. Families travel together on both the southbound and northbound migrations, separating only after they return to the arctic breeding grounds. Family groups can easily be seen in migrating and wintering flocks.

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 91-6183664.**

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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E-mail: _____