



Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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www.pilchuckaudubon.org

It's Bird-a-thon time!

It's here, finally – May, Bird-a-thon month! This is when several PAS members do something fun while also earning money to benefit Pilchuck Audubon. They go birding.

Bird-a-thon isn't your "regular" birding experience – it's much more. These "Thoners" spend time before Bird-a-thon, collecting pledges for either a specific amount per species located, or a flat, maximum amount. Then they bird anywhere in Washington – for as long as they want to during the month of May. Bottom line: they have fun and raise money for PAS!

Won't you please participate this year? Get a pledge sheet – from Birdathon coordinator, Hilikka Egtvedt, at the May program meeting – or download it from the PAS web site. Or, you can contact Hilikka at 425.347.4944 or chegtvedt@comcast.net and she'll send one to you.

Then go birding, report your sightings to your sponsors, collect their pledges and get the money to Hilikka. We hope to have prizes donated by several area businesses for the most bird species found, the most money raised, the largest number of sponsors, etc.

Please be a "Thoner" this year!

Chapters ponder future of Audubon in state

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

Leaders from Audubon chapters across the state recently met in Leavenworth to develop a plan to keep Audubon front and center in the environmental arena, publicly and legislatively.

Due to travel time and expense considerations, it was recommended having one-day regional meetings. Also, rather than a single chapter being responsible for the meeting, it was decided to divide the state up into four regions with the regions responsible for organizing meetings.

The state Audubon web site domain, wa.audubon.org, is owned by National Audubon, which means all content must be vetted by National. Consequently, it's time-consuming and clunky to use the site. The decision was made to establish a new web site, Washington Audubon.

Stormwater pollution, the focus of the Clean Water Bill, is on life support. Oil companies parachuted 30 lobbyists into Olympia to apply pressure on legislators in an election year. Imagine 30 lobbyists lurking outside the senate and house chambers – as well as committee rooms – waiting patiently should a preoccupied legislator inadvertently wander into their trap. With the Audubon Washington office, we had a legislative government affairs representative to counter

(See "Leavenworth" on page 8)

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

Snohomish County Sound Stewardship Program

Keeley O'Connell, People for Puget Sound restoration ecologist, will explain the Sound Stewardship program, which engages locals as volunteer citizen scientists. The program stewards six restoration sites in the county, including Jetty Island, Picnic Point Park and Edmonds Marsh.

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.

May field-trippers will be Bird-a-thoners!

Anyone who participates in a PAS fieldtrip during May – including the Klickitat County trip – will be asked to donate \$20 to Bird-a-thon. This is voluntary and will be collected during the trips.

Field-trippers are encouraged to collect pledges and participate in Bird-a-thon all month. You'll even be eligible to win prizes!

PAS birding trips are loads of fun and expand our birding skills. Surely you agree this donation is an easy way to give back.

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Audubon chapter leaders met on a March Saturday in Leavenworth. With the closure of the Washington State Audubon office, a strategy session was in order to develop a plan to maintain a viable and unified voice in Olympia to keep critical environmental issues in front of the legislature. The strategy session was to begin in the afternoon after lunch. The morning session was to involve the chapter conservation chairs to discuss and make decisions around conservation issues.

Susie Schaefer and I started out for Leavenworth early. But, thinking we had plenty of time, made a couple of side trips to bird. We arrived at 11:30 and found, to our chagrin, that the agenda had been reversed. The strategy session had begun at 9 a.m. and was just finishing when we walked in. Both of us had missed the e-mail announcing the agenda change.

The meeting participants were breaking up into three small sessions to come up with a plan for communications, future meeting times and dates and issues. Susie and I joined the session on future meetings.

For my part, since I had no idea of what had been discussed in the morning session, had nothing to contribute so I did something I'm not used to doing in committee meetings: I just sat back listened, coming away with some insights worth sharing.

When committees meet, each participant is necessarily an actor, acting out a part of himself speaking the lines that identify him, asserting his identity. In essence, we're staking out our ground, which takes time and energy.

If it weren't for such compulsive behavior by individuals, committees would be a marvelous invention for getting collective thinking done. But, watching four strong women maneuver, on that Leavenworth Saturday, I realized we are designed, or coded, to put the highest priority on being individuals. And, we must do this first, at whatever cost, even if it means disability for the group.

We live in an increasingly complex society in which we find ourselves more densely packed together. So the work of committees can be deadly serious business. This is especially so when there is a need to forecast the future. By instinct, we know this is a responsibility not to be trusted to any single person. We have to do it together.

Having spent a career in business and a time in government, I've seen a lot of different ideas on how to make committees more effective and efficient. Regardless, in the end, people assembled for group thought are still, first of all, individuals in need to express selfness.

As an observer, that Saturday, watching strong personalities jockeying to establish sway over the committee, I thought about an invention developed by the Rand Corporation in the 1960s: the Delphi technique.

It's quite simple: instead of having meetings, questionnaires are circulated to members of the group, and each person writes his answers out and sends them back, in silence. Then the answers are circulated to all members and they are asked to reconsider and fill out the questionnaires again,

(See "Blackbird" on page 9)

About Pilchuck Audubon Society

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

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



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Trip calendar

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

Tuesday, May 11

Cle Elum area

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on SR 2, a half-mile west of the fairgrounds. All-day trip. Bring lunch to augment the bakery stop. Different birds: Red-naped Sapsucker, Northern Goshawk, Calliope Hummingbird, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Magpie, Vesper Sparrow and Cassins Sparrow possible. Experience Cle Elum.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sunday, May 16

Clear Creek Trail, Silverdale

Meet at 7 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We'll take the Edmonds Ferry to Kingston and then on to Silverdale. The trail looks gentle. Time permitting, we'll sneak over to Guillemot Cove, near Seabeck. All day. Pack a lunch. Round trip ferry fare \$29.70 (car and driver) and \$6.90 per additional passenger.

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

Tuesday, May 18

Camano 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 (next to I-5). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and Cama Beach State Park. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

May 21-23

Klickitat County

We'll travel through Yakima, stay in Goldendale and bird this interesting area. Trip will be limited to three cars. To reserve your space, contact Susie Schaefer: 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Tuesday, May 25

Leavenworth

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Monroe Park and Ride on SR 2, a half-mile west of fairgrounds. Expect to see species rarely seen at home. We'll go up Icicle Creek for the Calliope Hummingbird and Lazuli Bunting in Camas Meadows. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, June 1

Smith and Spencer islands

Meet at 8 a.m. at Langus Riverfront Park, Everett. Go north on SR 529 (Broadway) over the Snohomish River. Turn right onto 28th Place NE. Follow signs to Langus Park. Continue to a parking lot after the left curve in the road (under I-5 and just past the shell house and animal shelter). Should see lots of waterfowl and raptors. Walk the Langus trail, maybe try the Everett Sewage Ponds. Lots of walking. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Ed Cushing, 425.438.4146

June 4-7

Annual trip to Ferry County

The Ferry County trip is full. To add your name to a waiting list, please contact trip leader Susie Schaefer: 425-771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Tuesday, June 8

Everett waterfront

Meet at 8 a.m. at Legion Park off North Marine Drive, Everett. Past trips species have included Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Martin and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tuesday, June 15

Big Four Meadows

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Frontier Village Park and Ride (9600 Market Place). From SR 9, turn onto Market Place (the street Target is on), then north into the park and ride just west of Target. A beautiful setting for our annual potluck bird trip. Bring something to share. Virginia provides hot dogs and potato salad and will advise if you want to know what to bring. Expect swallows, hummingbirds, swifts, warblers, vireos and dippers. A trailhead pass is required, but is obtainable en route.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, June 22

Mid-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 (next to I-5). This is the area between Crockett Lake and Swantown, an always-exciting experience for both birding and scenery. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750
Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028

Sunday, June 27

Snoqualmie Pass

Meet at 7 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. Details to follow.

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

Tuesday, June 29

Ellensburg

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on SR 2, a half-mile west of the fairgrounds. We will bird portions of Umtanum Creek, Robinson Canyon and other areas. This will be a long, rewarding day. Hope to see Yellow-breasted Chat, Warbling Vireo, Lazuli Bunting and maybe Canyon and Rock wrens. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028
Margaret Bridge, 360.862.1694

Sunday, July 18

Paradise Glacier, Mt. Rainier

Meet at 7 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. This hike will be up and back (not a loop). Details to follow.

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

Sunday, August 22 Mountain Loop Highway

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

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.

Have fun, be entertained and get smarter

"Radically local" author to read from new book **April 29** **Scuttlebutt Brewing, Everett**

Whidbey Island resident, Kurt Hoelting, will read from his new book, *Circumference of home: one man's yearlong quest for a radically local life*, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, at Scuttlebutt Brewing Company in Everett.

Hoelting said: "In 2008, I completed a year-long vow to go car-free and stay within a 100 kilometer radius of my home on Whidbey Island as a personal response to the challenge of climate change. *Circumference of home* chronicles my explorations around Puget Sound under my own power, with reflections on the importance of place-based living in an era of global climate crisis."

Hoelting's reading is sponsored by People for Puget Sound. Scuttlebutt is located at 1524 West Marine View Drive, on the Everett waterfront.

Tickets are \$5. Visit www.pugetsound.org for more information and to reserve your spot.

Walkin' Jim to present multi-media show **May 8** **Personal residence, Everett**

One of America's most unique folk singers and backcountry travelers, Walkin' Jim Stoltz, on tour from the mountains of Montana, will bring his powerful multi-media show, *Forever Wild*, to a private home in north Everett on Saturday, May 8, at 7 p.m.

Walkin' Jim got his name from walking nearly 28,000 miles through the wild country of North America, carrying a guitar and writing songs along the way. His lyrics express a great love and respect for the Earth and wild places.

Stoltz's *Forever Wild* show combines live music and poetry with stunning images of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and his Yellowstone to Yukon walk to create a stirring celebration of the natural world.

PAS members may recall that Walkin' Jim performed a benefit concert for us about 10 years ago. Since then, he's walked another 4,000 miles and continues to be a tireless advocate for environmental protection.

Don't miss this outstanding event. Seating is limited. Call Ed Bremer to reserve your spot: 425.750.7561. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10.

Learn more about Walkin' Jim at www.walkinjim.com.

**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

Wenas Campout

May 28-31, 2010 **Near Ellensburg, Washington**

For decades, Audubon families have camped at the Wenas Creek Campground over Memorial Day weekend.

The campground, officially called the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary, is near Ellensburg, in an important bird area. It's a free, primitive campground on Wenas Creek and offers exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

There'll be field trips, a campfire each evening, programs, singing, storytelling and recapping the sightings of the day.

Visit www.wenasaudubon.org for downloadable campout information, bird lists, field trips, directions and photos. Or, contact Helen Engle at 253.564.3112 or hengle@iinet.com.

Birding by ear with Mark Johnston

Thursday, June 3 **Tiger Mountain**

Join Mark Johnston for a birding-by-ear expedition on the Tradition Plateau. Please note: this trip is limited to 11 total birders, so pre-registration is required! Contact Mark Johnston at 253.297.0705.

Participants will meet at 7 a.m. at the Issaquah park and ride (Tibbett's lot, 1676 Newport Way NW) and spend five hours birding the mix of habitats at the base of Tiger Mountain. The focus will be identifying species by vocalizations. We'll discuss some aspects of the ecology of acoustic communication in birds. This walk involves a five-mile walk. We'll be back by 1 p.m. Carpool cost is \$3 (shared equally by riders).

Cascades Banding Camp

July 25-31 and August 9-13 **Cascade Mountains**

Teens and adults can learn to band birds in Washington's Cascade Mountains with trainers Dan Froehlich and Don Norman. This field camp features riparian and mountain birding and banding with opportunities to see and handle a wide variety of Northwest birds. Training focuses on net placement, extraction and handling, ageing and sexing.

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

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

Mark your calendars for the
Pilchuck Audubon picnic

Sunday, August 22
Jennings Park, Marysville

More information to come!

Events, weeding planned for demo garden

Although the Edmonds Wildlife Habitat Native Plant Demonstration Garden opened officially on April 25, the work continues in two ways.

First, monthly community education programs kick off in May. On Endangered Species Day, May 21, there'll be a special program by "The Frog Lady," Thayer Cueter.

Frogs are in danger worldwide. More than 200 different species of frogs have gone extinct in the last five years. "Frogs are our number one indicator that there's a problem," Cueter said. "When they start moving around and telling us we have a problem, we should be listening."

She'll talk about our local frogs and then lead a walk to find some. And, she'll bring some froggy friends you can meet up close, too. This family-friendly program starts at 6:30 in the education building at the Willow Creek Hatchery in Edmonds.



"The Frog Lady," Thayer Cueter

The blackberries are still in attack mode. Let's not let them advance!

If you're interested in joining this fun group, just come to the garden or contact Susie Schaefer for more information: 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Other exciting monthly programs are in the works for the summer. Come to the garden to learn more about hummingbirds, creating a wildlife-friendly garden, butterflies, ospreys and more. For a complete lineup as it evolves, check the PAS web site under "programs" and Edmonds Wildlife Habitat Native Demonstration Garden.

Second, any gardener knows gardens need continual tending. The demo garden is no different. We are relaunching the Wednesday Weekly Weeders program each Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Volunteers busy counting spring migrants

By Kerry Marl, IBA Coordinator, Pilchuck Audubon Society

A great group of volunteers is busy counting and counting, as the spring shorebird migration is well under way at the Port Susan Bay Important Bird Area. The volunteer team consists of many members of the local community and members of the three local Audubon chapters: Pilchuck, Skagit or Seattle.

Dennis Paulson provided shorebird identification training in early April, and volunteers quickly started putting their skills to work. During the first survey on April 10, volunteers reported groups of yellowlegs, plovers, and dunlin.

One of our survey sites, Davis Slough, became inaccessible due to flooding. Volunteers who signed up for that site have been filling in at other sites as needed. We will wait and hope

the waters recede so we can survey the area for shorebirds later in the season.

The migration pulse form is up and running on the PAS web site! If you see large groups of shorebirds around the IBA, please visit www.pilchuckaudubon.org and report it. The form takes only a couple minutes to fill out, and it will help us compare with the pulses from other sites or see if there are yearly patterns.

Thank you to everyone who is helping with this project! And, it's not too late to volunteer. Please contact Kerry Marl at kerrymarl@yahoo.com for more information.

First Vaux's Swifts arrive in Monroe April 17

Roll out the red carpet! The first-of-the-season Vaux's Swifts were spotted at Frank Wagner Elementary in Monroe on April 17. The trusty tally troop counted more than 200 birds on that misty evening. More birds are expected soon, as they have been spotted using an old chimney in downtown Los Angeles, as well as another roosting site in central California.

Planning for Swifts Night Out, scheduled for September 11, is well underway with the committee. As in years past, the celebration will take place on the lawn of Frank Wagner Elementary. And, this year, Monroe Parks and Recreation and the Monroe Chamber of Commerce will be participating.



Vaux's Swifts huddle up in Mexico

Be sure to check out the new web site – www.monroeswifts.com – for the most up-to-date information on Monroe swifts happenings. You can also follow the link on the PAS web site.

The planning committee meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the Goddard Room at Valley General Hospital in Monroe. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, with additional meetings planned for June 9, July 14 and August 11.

New members are welcome. Please contact Eileen Hambleton (ewhambleton@comcast.net) for more information.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Transportation poll

According to a recent national poll by Transportation for America (www.transportation4america.org), American voters overwhelmingly support broader access to public transportation and safe walking and biking. More than eight of ten voters (82%) said "the United States would benefit from an expanded and improved transportation system, such as rail and buses." And, a solid majority (56%) "strongly agree" with that statement.

This is a widely-held view with voters in every region of the country and in every type of community. Fully 79% of rural voters agreed with the statement, despite much lower use of public transportation compared to Americans in urban areas. When asked about reducing traffic congestion, three-in-five voters favored improving public transportation and making it easier to walk and bike over building more roads and expanding existing roads (59% to 38%).

On a personal level, two-thirds (66%) said they "would like more transportation options so they have the freedom to choose how to get where they need to go." Along these same lines, 73% currently believe they "have no choice but to drive" as much as they do, and 57% would like to spend less time in the car.

One in five voters have used public transportation in the last month (19%) in order to go to school, work, run errands or go shopping. In addition, 44% said they have walked and 13% say they have biked for non-recreational purposes.

Among those who haven't taken a bus, train or ferry in the last month, the primary reason cited was it is simply not available in their community (47%), while another 35% said it is not convenient to their work, home or school. Only 8% said they simply preferred to drive.

When asked how much of each federal transportation dollar is currently spent on public transportation, voters were fairly accurate in their assessment: 19 cents was the average estimate (compared to 17 cents in reality). These same respondents would prefer to nearly double the allocation, saying 37 cents of every federal transportation dollar should be the norm. Fully 59% of the electorate cite some amount greater than what the federal government currently spends.

When the respondents learned that currently 80 cents of each federal transportation dollar goes to highways, 17 cents to public transportation and the remainder for other transportation needs, a majority (58%) indicated more should be allocated to public transportation. At the same time, 35% believed the allocation was correct. Only 5% said less should be allocated to other transportation options.

The bottom line: American voters have a strong and broadly shared desire to expand their transportation options and want the federal government to be more active in financing a wide range of transportation options, including public transportation, biking and walking.

Landscaping for Washington's wildlife

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife released the final version of *Landscape planning for Washington's wildlife: managing for biodiversity in developing areas*. This is new to their series of priority habitats and species management recommendations, science-based documents to help in local land

use planning and conservation decisions across the state.

Landscape planning provides information about how terrestrial wildlife responds to residential development at a variety of densities, real-world examples of how habitat and biodiversity assessments can be performed at the county, watershed and site scale and recommendations for those interested in incorporating wildlife needs and biodiversity conservation into local planning.

You can view the document at www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/psrecs.htm. There is an Adobe Acrobat PDF of the main document and three additional Excel spreadsheets. There will be no hard copy or CD versions produced by WDFW.

Emerging trends in real estate

Emerging trends in real estate 2010, an annual report from the Urban Land Institute and PricewaterhouseCoopers, indicates a growing market for infill development.

To quote the report:

Infill vs. suburbs. Road congestion, higher energy costs and climate change concerns combine to alter people's thinking about where they decide to live and work. It's a fundamental shift.

The lifestyle cost-of-living equation starts to swing away more dramatically from bigger houses on bigger lots at the suburban edge to greater convenience and efficiencies gained from infill housing closer to work. These homes may be more expensive on a price-per-pound basis, but reduced driving costs and lower heating/cooling bills provide offsets.

And time saved avoiding traffic hassles moderates stress and enhances productivity. Two-hour commutes reach a tipping point with higher energy costs and near-in suburbs will do well especially if they link to business cores by mass transportation.

Empty nesters and later-marrying echo boomers continue to flock to cities and urbanizing suburban areas. For aging baby boomers, infill apartment or townhouse living means less upkeep and better proximity to cultural and entertainment attractions. The young singles crowd stays closer to the action, too – they don't need to worry about finding the right suburban school district for children. As 30-something couples have kids and consider schools, more will orient to infill locations and less edge – increasing numbers of suburban school systems will lose advantages as tax bases falter.

Source: Urban Land Institute and PricewaterhouseCoopers, *Emerging trends in real estate 2010*, October 2009, page 32. The entire report is available at www.uli.org/researchandpublications/emergingtrends/americas.aspx.

Note of thanks

Thanks to all of you who get involved in land use issues in our county, whether it is by e-mailing the planning commission or a council member after an Action Alert, or by writing a letter to the editor, or by writing comments or testifying at hearings, or by just talking with your neighbors about what is going on. It absolutely makes a difference! Please visit my calendar for upcoming public hearings, meetings and events at www.futurewise.org/snohomish (click on "calendar").

PAS supports Osprey tracking, awareness project

At the most recent PAS board meeting, chapter member and tireless advocate Bill Lider proposed an Osprey tracking and awareness project.

The board voted unanimously to support it.

The purpose of the project is to increase the public's awareness and appreciation of these amazing creatures by engaging high-school students from Snohomish and Skagit counties. The scope includes temporarily attaching a tracking device to an Osprey from Port Gardner Bay colony.

The Falcon Research Group (FRG), in cooperation with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other governmental agency biologists, will be employed to capture, tag, weigh and examine one adult Osprey near Preston Point in Everett.

The Osprey will be fitted with a device that will report the Osprey's location in the Western hemisphere on a daily basis. The data will be posted on the PAS and FRG web sites for the duration of the project.

The goals of this project include:

1. To determine the migration route of the Port Gardner Bay Ospreys and whether additional conservation efforts are needed to preserve habitat along the migration corridor and winter range.



Port Gardner Bay Osprey, by Annette Colombini



Southern resident Orcas (who eat salmon only), by Annette Colombini

2. To increase public awareness of the bio-magnification hazards of pesticides and pollutants in the aquatic environment and the danger to top food chain predators such as Ospreys, Orcas and humans.

3. To actively engage high school students in learning about the Port Gardner Bay Osprey colony, cultivate a student environmental ethic and promote an interest in birding for recreational enjoyment.

4. To coordinate a field trip and welcome-back ceremony for the Ospreys in Legion Park with various elementary schools, members of the public and elected officials.

5. To educate private and public property owners to conserve the Port Gardner Bay Osprey colony and solicit their cooperation in future nest pile replacements.

The project's estimated cost is \$7,500, which will cover the tracking device, satellite time and web site maintenance. Funding will be obtained from one-time donations from PAS members

and grants from sources yet to be identified. Grant funding sources conflicting with Smart Growth funding won't be used.

PAS hopes to have funding in place, permitting secured and a team assembled by the time the Ospreys return next spring. Watch for updates – and your chance to get involved – in future issues of the *Profile*.

Leader sought for new Development Committee

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

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

Call Kathleen Snyder for more info: 425.438.1505.

Bill Lider named 2009 Volunteer of the Year

Congrats, Bill, and thank you for the amazing work you do as the quintessential Champion for the Environment!



Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

February 26, 2010–March 25, 2010

Northern Saw-whet Owls were heard this month by Annette Colombini (Lake Stevens) and me (Marysville). About 10 years ago, we saw a **Northern Saw-whet** in our yard, shortly after it captured a **Dark-eyed Junco**.

Also, **Tree Swallows** have already been reported by the Beasons from their Lake Bosworth home. It is going to be a good year for birding.

Along with 5 **Tree Swallows**, Carole and Larry Beason's report included 4 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, 8 **Buffleheads**, 4 **Common Mergansers**, 42 **Evening Grosbeaks**, a **Golden-crowned Sparrow**, 4 **Hooded Mergansers**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 2 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers**, 8 **Song Sparrows**, a **Varied Thrush** and an **Osprey** for a total species count of 38.

Annette Colombini's report from Lake Stevens listed 10 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 20 **American Crows**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** eating a woodpecker, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, a **Brown Creeper**, 5 **Pine Siskins**, a **Mountain Chickadee** (heard only) and the **Northern Saw-whet Owl** heard nearby for a total species count of 14.

Gail Dibernardo had a good month – 22 species reported. She listed 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, 17 **Pine Siskins** in her yard, a **Townsend's Warbler**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, a **Marsh Wren**, a **Winter Wren** (by song), 12 **Dark-eyed Juncos** and 8 **Spotted Towhees**.

Two **Orange-crowned Warblers** topped Hilkka Egtvedt's report for March. Her total species count of 28 also



Northern Saw-whet Owl, by Raymond Barlow

included 25 **American Robins**, 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 17 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 4 **California Quail**, a **Fox Sparrow**, 5 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 5 **Pine Siskins**, a **Townsend's Warbler** and a **Varied Thrush**.

Kriss Erickson still has seven **Wood Ducks** in her Everett yard. She also reported 8 **Buffleheads**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 3 **Cooper's Hawks**, 7 **American Goldfinches**, 16 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 5 **Mallards**, 4 **Western Gulls** flying over, 4 **Song Sparrows** and 20 **Bushtits** for a total species count of 19.

Two **Great Horned Owls** topped Mary Sinker's report this month. Her total species count of 30 also included 23 **American Robins**, 38 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 5 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 2 **Evening Grosbeaks**, a **Great Blue Heron**, 17 **Mourning Doves**, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, 5 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, a **Rufous Hummingbird** and a **Varied Thrush**.

My report from Marysville included the **Northern Saw-whet Owl** heard in the woods, plus 8 **American Robins**, 8 **California Quail**, 2 **Common Ravens** flying over, a **Great Blue Heron** at the pond on 100th Street, 5 **Mallards**, 4 **Northern Flickers** at the feeder, a **Mourning Dove**, a **Cooper's Hawk** flying around the yard, 5 **Pine Siskins** and 15 **Dark-eyed Juncos** for a total species count of 28.

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

Leavenworth ...

(continued from page 1)

industry lobbyists. We no longer have a super hero on the ground to thwart the anti-Puget Sound intentions of the well-moneyed oil lobby.

For years, off-road vehicles have pretty much had the run of the 10,000 acres of the Reiter Forest state trust lands between Sultan and Index. After years of motorized vehicles damaging trees, creating erosion issues and silting up streams, the Department of Natural Resources closed the area to ORVs while holding out the carrot of creating an ORV park from some of the acreage. The DNR is proposing an 1100-acre ORV park and has guaranteed that the trail system will be designed in a manner to stay away from streams and assure ORVers will stay on designated trails.

Pilchuck Audubon has recommended the DNR do an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed ORV park. We've been informed this will not happen and that DNR has a handle on controlling the situation, pointing to the success of the Walker Valley ORV Park. Martin Luther King once said that

past failure is a poor recommendation for future success.

Recently, this reporter and Bill Lider hiked some of the ORV trails at Walker Valley. What we found was disturbing. Many of the trails have become drainage ditches from the spring rains. One trail, Pat's Trail, was in reality Pat's Creek. We found where someone with a backhoe had created three big bumps to speed over in a four wheeled quad, but a stream runs between two of the bumps. I guess the thing that offended me the most was that if one were to get lost on the extensive trail system of Walker Valley, all one would need to do is follow the beer cans back to the parking lot.

When I was a much younger man, a friend and I backpacked into a high Sierra Mountains lake carrying a case of beer. We packed out the empty cans. The hike out downhill was much easier than the hike in. So the question is ... just how hard can it be for someone riding an ORV to carry the empties to parking lot garbage can?

Anacortes Community Forest Lands trip report

By Jonathan Blubaugh

Five birders turned out on March 28 for this season's first Weekend Bird Hike to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. We chose a loop hike around Cranberry Lake.

When we arrived at the lake, we read a notice on a kiosk, warning that enraged owls had been attacking joggers on a path near their nest.

We said, "Let's go that way!" We didn't see owls, but it sure was a pretty trail.

We had chosen that particular loop, in part, because the map indicated bikes and horses weren't allowed. This turned out to be our downfall.

Bikes and horses weren't allowed because the trails were nearly impassable with boulders, narrow margins at the edge of the pond, roots, fallen logs and various other obstacles. But, our group was up to the challenge.

Next, we headed to Lake Erie on the south side of Fidalgo Island, where I saw my first Latin American migrants of the season: a Rufous Hummingbird and an Osprey. Finally, we ventured to the top of Mt. Erie and enjoyed sweeping views of the Salish Sea, Deception Pass, Whidbey Island and the many lakes of Fidalgo Island. We could even see two countries from there!

Here's a list of what we heard or saw that day: a Double-crested Cormorant, four Great Blue Herons, a pair of Wood

Blackbird ...

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after paying attention to the other views. Three cycles are generally enough. By that time, as much of a consensus has been reached as can be reached. The final answers are said to be substantially more reliable, and often more interesting, than the first time around.

Maybe, after all, this is a way of preserving the individual and all his selfness, and at the same time linking minds together so that a group can do collective figuring. The best of both worlds.

Delphi really is a quiet, thoughtful conversation, in which everyone gets a chance to listen. The recurrent sonic booms of vanity are eliminated and there is time to think. There are



Northern Shoveler, by Donald Metzner



Lesser Scaup, by Patty Bruno

Ducks, 36 Mallards, 4 Northern Shovelers, 20 Northern Pintails, 6 Ring-necked Ducks, 3 Lesser Scaups, 9 Buffleheads, 4 Hooded Mergansers, an Osprey, 4 Bald Eagles, 4 Red-tailed Hawks, 20 American Coots, 5 Glaucous-winged Gulls, a Rufous Hummingbird, a Belted Kingfisher, a pair of Downy Woodpeckers, 2 Northern Flickers, 3 Common Ravens, 4 crows, a Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, heard a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, 2 Winter Wrens, 3 Golden-crowned Kinglets, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 5 American Robins, a Varied Thrush, 5 European Starlings, a Spotted Towhee, 4 Song Sparrows, 3 White-crowned Sparrow, 3 Dark-eyed Juncos, 3 Red-winged Blackbirds, 5 House Finches, a Pine Siskin and 3 American Goldfinches.

I've begun uploading my sightings to Cornell's database at www.ebird.org. So, the list from our trip to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands has been added.

Please feel free to join me April 25 when I count shorebirds at Davis Slough for the

Port Susan Bay Important Bird Area survey. I'll count again on May 23 and would love for you to come along.

no voices, and therefore no rising voices. Debating is what committees really do, not thinking. Take away the need for winning points, leading the discussion, protection of one's face, gaining applause, shouting down opposition, scaring opponents, all the kind of noise activity, and a group of bright people can get down to quiet thought. It is a nice idea. But 50 years later, I don't see much evidence of it.

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

Keeping your hummingbirds healthy

Everybody loves hummingbirds: their flashy colors, their aerial acrobatics, their friendly buzz as they flit from flower to feeder to branch – and back again. The return of spring means the return of Rufous and Anna’s hummingbirds to our backyards. Here are a few tips from The Hummingbird Society that’ll help you attract these amazing birds to your yard – and keep them safe and healthy this spring and summer.

Flowers are the natural way to attract hummingbirds to your yard. But, for some folks, a flower garden is not an option: no space, no time or no skill. If that’s you, then man-made feeders are a great alternative. Even for those with gardens, feeders provide a supplement to flowers that increases the likelihood of attracting hummingbirds.

Sugar, whether from a flower or a feeder, is essential to hummingbirds. It provides the quick fuel it needs during waking hours. It’s definitely not “junk food.”

Tests show hummingbirds prefer the sucrose in flower nectar over other sugars (such as fructose and glucose). So, if you use the proper ratio of table sugar (sucrose), your feeder becomes a good approximation of the flowers hummers like best.

The best formula for home-made hummingbird nectar is four parts water to one part sugar. The water should not be distilled. The sugar should be white table sugar (not turbinado, raw, brown, or other forms). Do not use artificial coloring, as this doesn’t help attract hummingbirds and can be harmful. And, **never** use honey or artificial sweeteners.

You can mix the ingredients using cold water, but the nectar stays fresh longer if the water is boiled before adding the sugar. Don’t boil the mixture too long. Just long enough to dissolve the sugar. Store unused nectar in the refrigerator for up to a week.



Anna’s Hummingbird, by Matt Knoth

Any mixture of sugar and water will ferment and allow mold to grow. As a result, nectar must be discarded regularly to insure its freshness and healthfulness. In the moderate temperatures we experience in spring and summer, the nectar should last three to four days. However, if you notice the nectar is cloudy or you see mold, discard it immediately.

And, always clean a feeder with warm water and detergent before refilling it. Every few weeks, rinse the feeder with a mixture of one quart water and one tablespoon unscented bleach. Rinse thoroughly! You can also use undiluted white vinegar.

In choosing a hummingbird feeder, the most important consideration is the ability to keep it clean. You should avoid feeders with parts that can’t be easily cleaned.

Perches on the feeder are optional. You should always remove them, though, if temperatures drop near or below freezing.

For more on about attracting hummingbirds to your yard – or planting a hummingbird garden – visit The Hummingbird Society’s web site at www.hummingbirdsociety.org.

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.**

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

Local PAS membership

- New member \$25
- Renewal \$25
- Lifetime PAS member \$1000
 - 10 monthly payments of \$100
 - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
 - 1 payment of \$1000
- Donation..... \$ _____

Make check payable to:
Pilchuck Audubon Society

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

NAS membership

- (includes PAS membership)
- Introductory membership \$20

Make check payable to:
National Audubon Society

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

NAS renewal

(includes PAS renewal)

- Renewal \$35

Make check payable to:
National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
NAS, Membership Data Center
POB 52529
Boulder, CO 80322-2529

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

* Consult your tax professional for full details.

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