

Ask the state to ban lead fishing weights

By Bill Lider

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will accept comments through October 2 on sport fishing rule proposals for 2011-2012 – including one dealing with lead fishing weights.



This x-ray of a dead loon shows lead weights and other fishing gear in its gizzard.

When lead fishing sinkers are lost through broken lines or other means, birds can inadvertently eat them. Water birds like loons and swans often swallow lead when they scoop up pebbles from the bottom of a lake or river to help grind their food. Eagles ingest lead by eating fish which have themselves swallowed sinkers.

A bird with lead poisoning will have physical and behavioral changes, including loss of balance, gasping, tremors and impaired ability to fly. The weakened bird is more vulnerable to

predators, or it may have trouble feeding, mating, nesting and caring for its young. It becomes emaciated and often dies within weeks after eating the lead.

We have banned the use of lead in toys, paints and gasoline. It's time to ban the use of lead in recreational sport fishing. The human exposure hazards to lead are well known. Should our children continue to be exposed?

Currently, WDFW bans the use of lead sinkers on only a handful of lakes with documented breeding populations of loons. The new proposal covers far too small an area to provide any meaningful environmental or wildlife protection from the hazards of small lead sinkers.

Please contact the wildlife commission and request a state-wide ban on all lead sinkers less than a half-inch (measured on the smallest axis) or less than 1.5 ounces. There are non-toxic alternatives readily available.

Comments on the WDFW lead proposals can be submitted by mail to WDFW Rules Coordinator Lori Preuss at lori.preuss@dfw.wa.gov or 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501.

In addition, the wildlife commission will take public testimony on this issue Saturday, October 2, at about 10:30 a.m. PAS volunteer of the year, Bill Lider, plans to attend and would love for you to join him. Said Bill: "It would be timely to show the environmental community's high degree of interest on this issue by testifying in person. The sportsmen have an organized lobby and shrilly oppose any limitations on their recreational use of lead."

(See "Lead lures" on page 10)

**October program meeting
Friday, October 8, 7 p.m.**

***The future ain't what
it used to be: a case for
forest stewardship***

Join Kevin Zobrist, of the WSU Extension forestry team, as he explores the ecology of Puget Sound forests, human impacts on forests in the Puget Sound Basin and implications for stewardship of our remaining forests into the future.

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.**

Seed sale on now!

Pilchuck Audubon Society – and Art Wait, "Mr. Birdseed" – will offer birdseed for sale until November 2. As always, he's offering a variety of seeds for sale at a good price.

All orders must be placed with Art no later than noon on November 2. Reach him by phone at 360.563.0181. Seed can be picked up in Snohomish on Friday afternoon (November 5), at the Everett Station from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday (November 6) or in the south county by special arrangement.

Place your order soon!

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Almost 3 billion years ago, when the Precambrian sedimentary rocks of north Idaho were laid down, there were no animals or plants. The only fossils from that ancient time are blue-green algae. However, in the present era – and in the right circumstances – these ancient rocks offer safe haven for the scarce and elusive Black Swift.

Located in north Idaho, a couple of miles from the mouth of Yellow Dog Creek, a tributary of the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, 25-foot-high Shadow Falls and 15-foot-high Fern Falls spill over water resistant quartzite rock under laid by less resistant, thinly layered argillite Precambrian rock, forming undercut faces of the cliffs. The layers of argillite have eroded in varying degrees creating ledges, ideal for Black Swift nests.

I didn't know any of this when I last visited both falls 20 years ago. Even then, they were a popular tourist spot with a well maintained trail. Both are accessible to the degree you can walk along the edge of the plunge pool and look behind the water curtain. I was a birdwatcher in those days, but certainly not knowledgeable to the degree I am today.

I was aware American Dippers nested behind waterfalls. On that last visit, I made a point of looking behind Shadow Falls. I saw the head of a nestling in a nest on a ledge. I didn't have my binos with me, plus it was late in the day. So I was

looking into the gloaming. I assumed the nestling was an American Dipper.



A Black Swift on a nest near Shadow Falls, Idaho, by Terry Gray

These days, I'm a much better birder and my interest in swifts has been piqued by being involved with the Vaux's Swifts in Monroe. I became convinced the nestling I saw all those years ago was a Black Swift. On my annual trip to north Idaho for the "Gathering of Men," or as Florence calls it, "my male bonding trip," I wanted to confirm that Black Swifts were nesting at Shadow and Fern falls.

Before leaving home, I did some research. The Black Swift is our largest swift and all dark; its wing span is 18" as opposed to our more familiar Vaux's Swift 12" wing span. Black Swifts lay one-egg clutches.

After the egg hatches, the parents forage widely and sometimes at great heights from dawn to dusk. The chick goes into a torpor, waking up long enough to be fed when the parents return at the end of the day with full throat pouches.

In 1961, Owen Knorr listed five characteristics of Black Swift nest sites: presence of moving water, the presence of niches in rocks for nest sites, inaccessibility to terrestrial predators, sunlight not reaching occupied nests and unobstructed flyways immediately in front of nests. I was convinced Fern and Shadow falls met Knorr's criteria.

(See "Blackbird" on page 10)

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.

October 5

Sequim area

Meet at 7:25 a.m. at the Edmonds Marsh (south of West Dayton Street, turn left just before the railroad tracks). We'll take the ferry to Kingston, go through Port Gamble and across the Hood Canal Floating Bridge. We will bird Sequim Bay, Dungeness Recreational Area, Dungeness River Audubon Center and whatever else we see. Lots of waterfowl and even Sandhill Cranes three years ago. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

October 12

Silvana

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Pipits, Snowy Owls, 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

Sunday, October 17

St. Helens Volcano

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness – so we can carpool. Not a hike. Long day. We'll travel to Mt. St. Helens to learn how birds and other flora and fauna have colonized land decimated by the explosion 30 years ago. Possible activities include the Mount St. Helens Visitor Center, the Johnston Ridge Observatory, Silver Lake Wetlands Trail, Eruption Trail, guided walks and ranger talks. Entrance fee is \$11 or \$3 with a Golden Eagle pass.

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

October 19

Point No Point

Meet at 7:25 a.m. at the Edmonds Marsh (south of West Dayton Street, 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. Always lots of surprises, both in the air and on the water. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

October 26

City of Snohomish and outskirts

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Snohomish Park & Ride, located at the junction of Highway 9 and Bickford Ave. Enjoyable and relaxed trip. We usually have high species counts and surprises – even delights. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Art Wait, 360.563.0181
Virginia Clark will advise

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.

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

Teachers can apply now for conservation awards

Do you know an elementary school teacher – in Snohomish County public or private schools – doing or wanting to do a classroom conservation project? If so, encourage them to apply for a PAS Elementary Classroom Teacher Conservation Award. Pilchuck Audubon Society gives a \$300 award to 10 teachers each year to help carry out their project. In the past five years, we've awarded nearly \$12,000 to 46 teachers!

The committee believes the time to start thinking about conservation and science is when children are young. As a result of the 46 awards provided to date, many have been exciting and stimulating in student participation and involvement.

Parents, make sure your child starts learning about conservation. Ask your child's teacher to apply for the award.

Applications are available by e-mailing plzalesky@frontier.com, by calling Laura Zalesky at 425.337.2479 or by writing to Laura at 14905 Bothell-Everett Hwy, Mill Creek, WA 98012. Applications must be submitted to Laura Zalesky by November 1, and awards will be announced December 1.

If you are a member of PAS, please consider joining our committee. Committee members get special joy by secretly going to the classroom and presenting the award in front of students and teachers.

What's your vision of America's great outdoors?

Tell President Obama and Secretary Salazar

Our vast array of public lands – from national parks to wildlife refuges to wilderness areas – is a uniquely American idea. The first national park in the world was established in 1871 when Yellowstone National Park was designated as a public park and "pleasuring ground" for all to enjoy.

As part of a strong tradition started by President Theodore Roosevelt, President Obama hopes to continue the discussion on how to best expand and preserve our great natural heritage for generations to come. To that end, he has established the Great Outdoors Initiative to create a public dialogue on how we can protect and preserve our natural places and help reconnect all Americans with the great outdoors.

Let President Obama and Interior Secretary Salazar know you support protection and conservation of America's Great Outdoors. Go to <https://secure3.convio.net/nasaud/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=909> to submit your comments.

Have fun, be entertained and get smarter

Feather identification and book signing October 4 REI flagship store

Explore the mysteries of bird feather identification with naturalist and Wilderness Awareness School instructor Dave Scott, co-author of the newly released field guide *Bird Feathers: A Guide to North American Species*.

Learn to use feather shape and morphology, as well as color, to identify individual flight feathers found in the field. Whether you are a skilled birder, or just someone who enjoys spending time outdoors, this class will give you a new window into the intriguing science of bird feather identification.

The class will take place on Monday, October 4, from 7-9 p.m., at the REI flagship store, 222 Yale Ave. N., Seattle. It's free, but donations will be accepted. Visit www.rei.com for more details.

Learn about bobcats Friday, October 15 NW Stream Center, Everett

The Adopt-a-Stream Foundation invites you to join Kestrel Skyhawk and Baxter the Bobcat from the Sarvey Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for a presentation of the local habitats, feeding habits and family structure of bobcats.

The program runs from 10-11:30 a.m. on Friday, October 15, at the Adopt-a-Stream Foundation auditorium in McCollum Park, 600 128th Street SE, Everett.

Cost is \$5 for PAS members. Advance purchase required. For more info, call 425.316.8592 or visit www.streamkeeper.org.

New directions for Washington Audubon Saturday, October 16 Mount Vernon

Join us for an important one-day meeting to discuss the future of Washington Audubon and ACOW. Since we lost our state office, chapters have made it clear we want – and need – to have a strong voice on statewide issues. At this meeting, we will make critical decisions about how to make it happen.

The meeting will take place Saturday, October 16, 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., at the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Preserve, 10441 Bayview-Edison Road, Mount Vernon. Cost is \$10 per person, with an option to purchase a boxed lunch for \$11.50. Please register by October 13.

For more information, contact Barbara Jensen at 360.378.3068 or skylark@rockisland.com.

All about bats Friday, October 22 NW Stream Center, Everett

Join bat expert Barbara Ogaard of Sarvey Wildlife Rehab Center for a voyage into the mysterious world of bats. See live bats up close and learn facts from myth. Do vampire bats really exist? Did you know bats are the sole pollinators of bananas? Discover how important bats are to the environment and the ecological role they play. Barbara and her bats will engage and entertain all ages. At the close of the program, you will go outside and call some bats.

The presentation runs from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Friday, October 22, at the Adopt-a-Stream Foundation auditorium in McCollum Park, 600 128th Street SE, Everett.

Cost is \$5 for PAS members. Advance purchase required. For more info, call 425.316.8592 or visit www.streamkeeper.org.

Killer Whale Tales Saturday, November 6 NW Stream Center, Everett

See our southern resident orca whales "swimming" on the walls at the Northwest Stream Center. Thanks to amazing video photography 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.

Thanks to a video-cam attachment, you will see a "whale's-eye view" of swimming in a killer whale pod (never seen on TV). "Jeff Hogan's entertaining presentation is not only very educational, but fun for young and old," says Adopt-a-Stream Foundation's Tom Murdoch. "He is not only a great teacher and photographer, but a trained actor to boot."

The presentation runs from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 6, at the Adopt-a-Stream Foundation auditorium in McCollum Park, 600 128th Street SE, Everett.

Cost is \$5 for PAS members. Advance purchase required. For more info, call 425.316.8592 or visit www.streamkeeper.org.

Environmental coalition legislative workshop January 8 Gwinn Commons at SPU

Mark your calendars for this important workshop, scheduled for 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the Gwinn Commons at Seattle Pacific University. More information to come in future issues of the *Profile*.

Environmental priorities coalition lobby day February 15 Olympia

Plan to attend this year's environmental lobby day from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 15, in Olympia. And, don't forget the reception afterwards. This year will be special, as we'll celebrate People for Puget Sound's 20th anniversary!

More information to come in future issues of the *Profile*.

Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival February 26-27, 2011 Stanwood, Washington

The geese are heading back to the Stillaguamish Valley, and plans are well under way for the 2011 Port Susan Snow Goose Festival on February 26-27, 2011.

Watch the official festival web site – www.snowgoosefest.org – and the *Profile* for more information as field trips and presentations are firmed up in the coming months.

Pilchuck Audubon sponsors the event, so we hope lots of members and friends will join us in Stanwood, as well as volunteers to help out. We'll host a table at festival headquarters and provide information to festival goers. There is always plenty to do and see at this festival.

Please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org if you can help. We will need at least three field trip leaders, as well as 10-12 volunteers for the PAS table.

Birds, weather don't disappoint at Bird Fest

The weather forecast for September 11 seemed to change daily in the week leading up to this year's Puget Sound Bird Fest. And, most of those forecasts were for cold, rainy weather. But, as luck would have it, the weather was fine and the festival was better than ever.

The festival started Friday night with a lively presentation by Lyanda Lynn Haupt about her award-winning book, *Crow planet: essential wisdom from the urban wilderness*.

On Saturday morning, six boats from the Edmonds Yacht Club set off with passengers and a guide. This was a record number of boats! Passengers enjoyed good weather and interesting birds. There were also four hosted bird walks Saturday morning. The rest of the day included kids' activities, information tables, interesting and educational presentations, birding and information at the Edmonds Marsh and carpools to Monroe to see the Vaux's Swifts.

Sunday brought more guided bird walks, an open house and plant sale at the Wildlife Habitat Native Plant Demonstration Garden and a tour of five backyard habitats.

Birding highlights included large rafts of Western Grebes, Red-necked Phalaropes, Rhinoceros Auklets, Caspian Terns, gulls (including Glaucous-winged, Bonaparte, California and Heermann's), warblers (Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned, Wilson's and Yellow-rumped) and Osprey, for a total of 60 species.

Thanks to Swifts Night Out and Bird Fest volunteers

In August, PAS had a special volunteer appreciation picnic for all PAS volunteers. Neither of our two September bird festivals would've been possible without a whole lot of wonderful PAS volunteers. I can't mention everyone, but would like to highlight a few – both old and new.

Cathy Clark has been a swift counter at Monroe since we started counting. On September 7 of this year, she was the counter when a new record of 26,552 swifts entered the chimney. For Swifts Night Out, Cathy staffed the PAS table, along with Art and Virginia.

She was a member of the Kiosk Committee and has helped with local planning for the past three years.

Curt and Connie Young live in Monroe and have been involved with the swift project since the beginning. Connie has represented the counting team at the administration building in Monroe more times than anyone else. But, on Swifts Night Out, she missed the big show there because she was helping Leann Jacobson with the spaghetti dinner.



Birders scan the sky at Yost Park during Puget Sound Bird Fest, by Bill Lider



Red-necked Phalarope, by Paul Kusmin



Bonaparte Gull, by Bud Marschner

Curt has become our "tech guy," and the videos of the live action in the chimney that are now available are thanks to him! He has also helped with the photos on the new kiosk. Both Curt and Connie are always available to help and are wonderful assets to PAS.

How did PAS ever manage before **Cindy Easterson** became one of our faithful and highly skilled volunteers? On September 11, the day of the bird festivals, she was one busy person. She finished making a great "Welcome to the garden" sign in time for the Sunday open house at the Wildlife Habitat Native Plant Demonstration Garden. She also led a bird walk Saturday morning at the Edmonds Marsh, Hatchery and Point Edwards. Then, she staffed the booth for the Puget Sound Bird Observatory all day. She is also a swift counter and a regular member of the work parties at the garden.

Dave Bakeman lives in Edmonds and has always helped with Bird Fest. If you have come by the Edmonds Marsh bird station over the past five years, Dave was there with his photo albums of local birds.

Jay Ward is one of the truly faithful Bird Fest and PAS volunteers. For the past several years, Jay has cheerfully staffed our PAS table and greeted all with enthusiasm. This year was no exception.

Every year, **Nan Jessberger** is asked if she would do the bird migration game for the kids (and adults who enjoy playing) one more time at Bird Fest. We cannot imagine

a Bird Fest without her.

Look for more volunteer highlights in upcoming issues of the *Profile*. And, thanks to ALL who helped with Swifts Night Out and Bird Fest this year.

Swifts never fail to amaze ... and surprise!

This year's Swifts Night Out was bigger and better than 2009 or 2008 (in most ways). An estimated 1700 people – and lots of dogs – showed up. And, best of all, despite the forecast, it did not rain!

The Monroe Swift Watch group did a ton of preparation for the event, under the leadership of Judy Alles and Neil Zimmerman. The Chamber of Commerce and the Monroe Parks and Recreation Department were also involved. The three Audubon chapters, Sarvey Wildlife and others provided educational booths and tables. And, Leann Jacobson, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Monroe, sold the best spaghetti for \$5 a plate – and just about sold out.

At 6:30 p.m., Larry Schwitters began his presentation. He stopped at 7:10 so nobody would miss the swifts, who were already entertaining the crowd and preparing for their dramatic entrance into the chimney.

Everything was going great – food, education, games, even Port-a-Potties this year. Then, suddenly all the swifts disappeared. Some folks saw a Cooper's Hawk arrive on scene, but others missed it and were baffled. A few minutes later, a group of 289 swifts flew dramatically into the chimney. Everyone waited for the rest of them to come back and enter the chimney. They did not come back. Folks scratched their heads and eventually left.

Meanwhile, the bulk of the swifts decided – without consulting festival organizers – to roost elsewhere. "Elsewhere" was the chimney at the Monroe School District Headquarters across town. "The Admin Chimney," as it is called, is smaller and used infrequently by the swifts.

And, until next spring ...

By Susie Schaefer, Vice President, Pilchuck Audubon

Three years ago, Art Wait of Pilchuck Audubon and Hugh Jennings of Eastside Audubon led a field trip to see the Vaux's Swifts using the brick chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe. Not this group of fieldtrippers – none of us, really – had any idea of what would happen there during the next several years.

This past summer was busy in Monroe. First of all, the school district began retrofitting the chimney for earthquake safety. The retrofit was complete over the summer and the bracing is now obvious. But, the chimney still looks great and no flying bricks should harm any children.

Before the work began, swift expert Larry Schwitters had figured out how to install two cameras on the chimney so we could see what was going on. With the help of the school district, Larry made his ideas a reality during the construction. Two cameras are now positioned on the chimney – one on top to see the birds as they enter and leave and the other inside to see the birds roosting inside.

Also over the summer, Marina Skumanich of Seattle Audubon and Sue Libow (one of the swift counters) put together a new web site about the swifts of Monroe: www.monroeswifts.org. The name says it all. It features information about the Vaux's Swifts who stop in Monroe on their spring and fall migrations. Be sure to check it out. The PAS web site will continue to provide info about and take donations to support the swifts.

Nearly every Wednesday during the summer, a group of

At Larry's request and before the birds disappeared, Pilchuck Audubon Vice President Susie Schaefer headed there. When she arrived, the first 20 of the birds had just entered the chimney. Susie counted 6,103 swifts at the administration building that night – a new record. Susie and two neighbors enjoyed a private show that evening!

Sunday night, another 300 people showed up on the school lawn to see "The Swifts' Show." And, for weeks after that, regulars and new swift observers came to see the Vaux's Swifts of Monroe do their thing at Frank Wagner Elementary.

Thanks to all who came and enjoyed the show this fall. And, a special thanks to the wonderful Local Swift Watch Committee for their work organizing the festival. This group is ready to start planning for the festival in 2011. What a team!

And, thanks to Judy Alles and all the nightly counters. For some, it is their third year. All are faithful (regardless of weather) and do a great job. Thanks to the docents to who have been there night after night to answer questions and hand out brochures.

A huge thank you to Larry Schwitters, who now knows more about Vaux's Swifts than anyone in the world. Larry is an amazing guy and does not have fear of heights!

Anyone interested in helping next year should leave a message at 425.252.0926 or e-mail Judy Alles at jerryjalles@aol.com. New volunteers are needed and always welcome!

As the fall migration ends, we bid farewell to our friends the Vaux's Swifts. See you next spring in Monroe!

faithful and determined volunteers met and designed the new kiosk for the school. This design-a-kiosk-by-committee process was not for the faint of heart nor thin of skin. I don't think members of this group will jump up and volunteer to design another kiosk anytime soon. However, they should be proud of the kiosk, with all its easy-to-read and understand information. The materials to build the kiosk were donated by Lowe's hero program at the Monroe store. The construction of the kiosk was done by the woodshop at the Monroe correctional facility.

But, that's not all. A group of teachers and staff from Frank Wagner Elementary, along with Paulette Hunter of the steering committee, designed a curriculum for all grades that takes advantage of the learning opportunities available by the swifts' regular visits at the school.

Last, but not least, Larry Schwitters has combined all the data about these wonderful little birds over the past three years. He organized teams of volunteers at sites from Canada to Mexico for the fall count.

The local Monroe Swift Watch Committee spent all spring and summer planning the 2010 community celebration: Swifts Night Out. What a group of volunteers. They are the greatest!

All of the activities mentioned above – with the exception of the of the actual retrofit – were funded by the Together Green

(See "Until spring" on page 8)

Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

July 26, 2010–August 25, 2010

Wouldn't you know it? Just after I said I hadn't seen a **Black-Capped Chickadee** for awhile, one appeared off my deck the next morning. It fussed at me for while and then hit the feeders. Looks like they are back. However, we still show a decline in **Evening Grosbeaks** and **Pine Siskins**.

Carole and Larry Beason are doing well from their Lake Bosworth location. Their total species count of 43 included 12 **American Goldfinches**, 26 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, 2 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 12 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 11 **Canada Geese**, a **Cedar Waxwing**, 2 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 22 **Mallards** on the lake, 15 **Mourning Doves**, an **Osprey**, 33 **Pine Siskins**, 7 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 11 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **Western Tanagers** and 3 **Wilson's Warblers**.

Hilkka Egtvedt is still reporting **Anna's Hummingbirds** from her Mukilteo home. She also listed 6 **American Goldfinches**, 14 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 6 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 15 **Bushtits**, 4 **California Quail**, 4 **Northern Flickers**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 3 **White-crowned Sparrows**, a **Wilson's Warbler** and 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers** for a total species count of 24.

Reporting from South Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 10 species, which included 4 **American Robins**, 16 **Bushtits**, 2 **Horned Larks**, 2 **House Sparrows**, 6 **Black-capped Chickadees**, a **Northern Flicker**, a **Hairy Woodpecker**, a **Bewick's Wren**, a female **Anna's Hummingbird** and a **Western Gull** flying over.

Adeline Gildow was surprised to find an escaped parrot in the bird-bath. It was red from beak to tail, but did not stay long enough for a complete description. Her total species count of 26 included 7 **Bald Eagles** at low tide on Juniper Beach, 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, 4 **Cedar Waxwings**, 7 **Great Blue Herons** along Juniper Beach, 17 **House Sparrows**, 3 **Osprey** at Warm Beach, 2 owl species, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 3 **Ring-necked Pheasants**, 47 swal-



Cassin's Vireo



Horned Lark, by Donald Metzner



California Quail, by Matt Knoth

low species on a power line and 6 **Killdeer** along Juniper Beach.

Julie O'Donald's report from Brier included a **Cassin's Vireo** in the blueberries, 2 **Osprey**, 2 **Western Tanagers**, 20 **Barn Swallows**, 3 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 4 **Violet-green Swallows**, a **Western Wood-Pewee** and a **Wilson's Warbler** for a total species count of 30. She also reported 2 **Bald Eagles** in the tall tress on Lake Ballinger all month.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker listed 10 **American Goldfinches**, 10 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 10 **Black-headed Grosbeaks** (the fledglings love to bathe in their patio fountain), 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, 4 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 5 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 17 **Mourning Doves**, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at the Pilchuck Tree Farm, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 12 **Steller's Jays** and 4 **White-crowned Sparrows** for a total species count of 27.

Dick Vanderhoff's total species count of 8 from his home in Stanwood included 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 2 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, a **Rufous Hummingbird**, 2 **House Sparrows**, a **Red-tailed Hawk** along Marine View Drive, 2 **Northern Flickers**, 30+ swallow species flying around the house and a **Pileated Woodpecker** at the feeder.

My 27 species from Marysville included 2 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 2 **Barn Swallows** in the fields, 20 **California Quail** (all the new little ones), a **Bewick's Wren**, a **Winter Wren**, 9 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Common Ravens**, 6 **Tree Swallows**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Western Tanagers** and a **Wilson's Warbler** chasing a **Black-capped Chickadee** in the bushes.

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

Mountain Loop Highway funding update

By Bill Lider

On September 7, Owen Carter of Snohomish County Public Works briefed three of the county council members (Sanders, Sullivan and Gossett) on the county's Forest Highway Cooperative Agreement with the USFS to maintain a portion of the Mountain Loop Highway (MLH).

The County's obligations to maintain the Mountain Loop Highway beyond the Lake 22 trailhead (Twenty Two Creek Bridge 497) is muddled. The county has a court decision authorizing maintenance from Granite Falls to Bridge 497.

The MLH from Bridge 497 to Silverton is on USFS land. While the county may have some form of legal right to this roadway, the county does not have a clear obligation to maintain the road. According to Owen Carter, it would take a court decision to clear up the county's rights and obligations in this area.

The railroad granted jurisdiction over the MLH from Silverton to Monte Cristo to the county in 1941. However, the county has not maintained the road between Barlow Pass and Monte Cristo since major washouts in 1980.

The MLH from Barlow Pass to the White Chuck River is maintained by the USFS. Snohomish County wants nothing to do with maintaining this section of the MLH.

In 2001, the USFS granted the county an easement to maintain the MLH from the White Chuck River to Darrington.

According to Owen Carter, the county has spent more than

\$2 million on road capital and surface water projects outside the dedicated county right-of-way. The \$2 million figure seems low and does not include all maintenance costs on the road between Darrington and the White Chuck River.

No decision was made after the briefing on September 7, and council will take this matter under advisement.

Pilchuck Audubon's position on the MLH is clear: it is wrong for the county to spend its limited funds maintaining a USFS road. Global warming and severe storms are likely to increase these maintenance costs in the future.

PAS members are asked to contact county council members and urge them to void the 1958 cooperative agreement with the USFS and halt county funding from Twenty Two Bridge to Darrington.

County council members are best contacted by e-mail:

District 1: John.Koster@co.snohomish.wa.us

District 2: Brian.Sullivan@co.snohomish.wa.us

District 3: Stephanie.Wright@co.snohomish.wa.us

District 4: Dave.Gossett@co.snohomish.wa.us

District 5: Dave.Somers@co.snohomish.wa.us

Mountain Loop bird and history hike

By Jonathan Blubaugh

On August 29, Pilchuck Audubon Society volunteer of the year, Bill Lider, joined me for what was planned as a Weekend Bird Hike. Bill offered to attend because he is familiar with the area and has been involved in issues surrounding the county's administration of it. As it turned out, it was just the two of us.

I turned the itinerary over to him so he could introduce me to the area's sights and issues.

The most pressing issue is the county's costs to maintain the highway across federal land within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Bill questions the use of county money for this purpose, which is based on an old agreement with the

feds that was intended to stimulate mining, logging and development. Basically, it boils down to enormous expense and ultimate futility to maintain a road and bridges in the path of mountain torrents that can be expected to increase with ongoing warming. See Bill's article above for more information.

Our hike turned out to be more of a show-and-tell. And, we didn't do much birding. We did walk the boardwalk at the Big 4 trailhead and along the abandoned rail bed that used to go to the ghost town of Monte Cristo. Here are the birds we saw there: three Vaux's Swifts, a Steller's Jay, a Violet-green Swallow, a Golden-Crowned Kinglet, an American Robin and a Song Sparrow.

**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

Until spring ...

(continued from page 6)

grant from Toyota in partnership with Audubon, an ALEA grant from the Department of Fish and Wildlife and donations from the three local Audubon chapters: Pilchuck, Seattle and Eastside. A special thanks to PAS Treasurer, Carolyn Lacy, for her work managing the money for the last three years.

And, remember: the PAS web site makes it easy to donate to keep things going for the Vaux's Swifts of Monroe.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Forums scheduled for 38th and 44th district legislative candidates

Pilchuck Audubon and Futurewise, along with the Housing Consortium of Everett, will sponsor a forum for candidates running in the 38th and 44th legislative districts.

The 38th district forum is scheduled for Monday, October 4, 6:30-8 p.m., in the Weyerhaeuser Room on the top floor of the Everett Station, 3201 Smith Avenue, Everett.

The 44th district forum will take place the following day, Tuesday, October 5, 6:30-8 p.m., at Lake Stevens Senior Center, 2302 Soper Hill Road, Lake Stevens.

For more information, contact Emily Alvarado, Advocacy Project Coordinator, Housing Consortium of Everett at 425.330.1015 or emily@housingconsortium.org.

Skincare event in November to benefit Smart Growth program

Please reserve Monday, November 7, 7 to 9 p.m. for a special fundraising event. Snohomish resident, Lya Badgley, and I will offer an evening sampling organic skincare products from Neal's Yard Remedies (NYR Organic). Lya will donate 25% of her sales from this event to the Smart Growth program.

We're placing more and more importance on what we put ON as well as INTO our bodies. NYR Organic has offered effective, certified organic skincare products for almost 30 years. NYR Organic is a family business and they've stayed small and independent to remain true to the vision of an accessible and sustainable lifestyle for everyone.

The company believes the social and environmental cost of ingredients is more important than price. They follow the "precautionary principle" and strive to be fully aware of the effects of any ingredients before they are allowed into their products.

The NYR Organic skincare sampling event is a chance for you to try these wonderful products ... and maybe do your holiday shopping. The event will take place at Lya's home, 425 Pine Avenue, Snohomish. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Kristin@futurewise.org or call 425.923.8625.

Fully Contained Communities update

Snohomish County Councilmember Dave Somers recently called to let me know the Department of Natural Resources will work with the council to purchase 3,000 acres on the west bank of Lake Roesiger. This land was previously owned by Dave Barnett, who tried unsuccessfully to rezone this forest land in order to build a new city of 15,000 people. The land is now in foreclosure.

This is HUGE WIN. It wouldn't have been possible without you. Thanks for convincing the county council that Snohomish County doesn't need another city – and especially not on 3,000 acres of forest land 10 miles from a major arterial.

Please spread the word. Soon, I'll ask you to write letters urging support of this purchase. Please stay tuned.

In the meantime, please remember the good work Councilmember Dave Somers has done to protect quality of life in Snohomish County! Feel free to thank him personally at dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us.

Snohomish County Shoreline Master Program Update

I had hoped to have a more conclusive report on the Update to Snohomish County's Shoreline Master Program (also referred to as the Shoreline Management Plan) for this month's *Profile*. This process has been ongoing for five years – and was still underway at press time.

The county council extended the deadline for written testimony until September 8. In addition, an amendment may be introduced to alter the codes that allowed six radio towers to be built on farmland and a floodplain in the Snohomish Valley between Lord Hill and Bob Heirman parks.

Plus, during the last public hearing on September 1, 27 amendments were introduced. I know it's easy for citizens who live in shoreline areas – including farmers – to be confused about what could happen and how it might affect their property. In an effort to ensure water quality and shoreline wildlife habitat are protected – and to fulfill the requirements of the Shoreline Management Act – Pilchuck Audubon Society, Futurewise, People for Puget Sound, Washington Environmental Council, Everett Shorelines Coalition and members of the Livable Snohomish County Coalition submitted a lengthy comment letter addressing each of the amendments. Our position letter was also supported by the local League of Women Voters chapter and individuals at the hearing.

Our requests include:

- Redesignating 10 intact marine areas from Rural Conservancy to Natural Environment, which allows only low intensity uses to protect ecological functions.
- Limiting uses in the Natural Environment (outside urban growth areas) and in Urban Conservancy (inside urban growth areas) designations.
- Expanding minimum widths for lots fronting shoreline waters, in order to avoid a "wall" effect along the shoreline that effectively cuts off the shoreline from the upland – and also cuts off shoreline functions and wildlife habitat.
- Requiring buffers to be not only large enough, but also revegetated, if necessary, in order to decrease impacts that affect ecological functions.
- Limiting docks, piers and other structures because of their negative effect on shoreline functions, wildlife habitat and water quality.
- Instituting a tracking system for development in shoreline areas regardless if a permit is needed, because all development needs to comply with the Shoreline Master Program.

In next month's *Profile*, I hope to be able to report exactly what was adopted and how many of our recommendations were accepted. Most likely, the Department of Ecology (which must sign off on whatever changes the county proposes) will schedule additional public hearings after the county council adopts a plan.

(See "Smart Growth" on page 10)

Lead lures ...

(continued from page 1)

Bill plans to head to Olympia at 8 a.m. on October 2. If you're interested in joining him, please contact him directly at bill.lider@frontier.com or 425.776.0671.

Additional info on the proposed sport fishing rules is available at http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/rule_proposals.

Get the lead out!

Here are tips for anglers to help safeguard wildlife and human health:

- Use non-lead fishing weights. Inexpensive and ecologically-sound alternatives to lead fishing weights are available. Anglers should use sinkers and jigs made from non-hazardous materials such as steel, tin and bismuth.

Blackbird ...

(continued from page 2)

On a beautiful morning in the second week of July, my sister, brother-in-law and I drove to the parking area on Yellow Dog Creek and made the short hike to Fern Falls, located near the bottom of a steeply sloped valley. I used my compass to determine that both falls faced east.

With the morning sun reflecting off the cascading water of Fern Falls, I skirted the plunge pool to look behind the water curtain. I found no evidence of swift nests, which was to be expected since one of Knorr's five criteria for ideal nesting conditions was no sunlight reaching occupied nests.

Still, it was disappointing as we trudged up the short switch backed trail to the bigger Shadow Falls. Because of the deep forest and the cut of the stream down the mountainside, it was evident the morning sun could not reach Shadow Falls. Once again, I skirted the plunge pool and looked expectantly behind the curtain into a recess that's much deeper than Fern Falls. Almost immediately, I spotted the long wing of a female swift on a nest. Higher up the wall, movement caught my eye and I spotted a second nest with a female repositioning her egg. Above her was an unoccupied nest. Finally, closest to me, I found a fourth nest with a momma swift setting quietly.

My sister and brother-in-law didn't quite rise to the level of excitement I exhibited – grinning from ear to ear, fist pumping and shouting an exhilarating, "YES!" But, they did seem to enjoy my excitement.

- Never throw old fishing gear into the water or shore. Discard old lead sinkers and jigs properly. For example, take them to your local household hazardous waste collection site during your next visit.
- Never put a lead sinker in your mouth or bite down on slip shot – use a pair of pliers instead!
- Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling lead sinkers or cleaning out your tackle box.
- Spread the word. Tell other anglers about the problem, and encourage them to switch to non-lead sinkers and jigs. Talk to your favorite retailers and ask them to stock non-lead fishing tackle.

Calming down a bit, I observed the wet cliff face of the falls included a large number of different mosses, a few liverworts, even a lungwort and lots of ferns. All the nests appeared to be made exclusively from some of these plants.

Black Swifts have high nesting fidelity, which is easy to understand because so few locations meet the five nesting specifications. I suppose a sixth characteristic is that despite heavy visitation from tourists, unless they knew what they were looking for, most would be unaware of the nests.

There are 24 waterfalls in that part of Idaho that keep Montana from bumping into Washington. Idaho's panhandle is a region of Precambrian sedimentary formations, so it's conceivable some of these waterfalls harbor Black Swifts. It would be an interesting project to survey all of them, but it would also be ambitious because many are isolated and difficult to reach. I believe I'll leave that challenge to someone much younger than I.

I have to admit, though, I still get excited remembering in my mind's eye looking through the mist and behind the water curtain of Shadow Falls and seeing three momma Black Swifts on their nests. Perhaps one was the great-great granddaughter of the one I saw 20 years ago. How cool is that?

Needed: your e-mail address

PAS needs your e-mail address so we can notify you when a new issue of the *Profile* is available online.

Please contact Kathy Piland at kathy.piland@pilchuckaudubon.org or leave a message at 425.252.0926.

PAS board meetings are open to all

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

Smart Growth ...

(continued from page 9)

KRKO radio towers update

The final two of six radio towers are being built in the Snohomish River Valley. While this construction continues, the battle to stop and reverse it continues, as well. Three appeals have been submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from Citizens to Preserve the Upper Snohomish River Valley (CPUSRV) and others.

Until the FCC makes a decision, the fight is not over. CPUSRV and Stewards of Snohomish (another citizen group) testified at the Shorelines Public Hearing and asked the council to change regulations so privately-held radio stations can't build more radio towers on farmland or shorelines.

PAS endorsed this position, as well, and supports regulation changes that would stop inappropriate development of farmlands and pristine areas that are home to birds and wildlife.

Feast with Friends recap

The Feast with Friends fundraiser in August was a grand success. In fact, many attendees told me it was the best feast yet.

Thanks to all who donated to make the event so great, including the following farmers: Hayton Farms, Chinook Farms, Bailey's Vegetables, Garden Treasures, Craven Farms, Rent's Due Ranch, Swan's Trail Farms, National Food Corporation, Darigold, Taylor's Shellfish Farm, Pioneer Farms, Marshland Produce Market and Flying Tomato Farm.

Thanks, also to the following wineries: Lantz Cellars, Red Sky Cellars, Cedar Ridge Winery, DiStefano Cellars and Port Gardner Bay Winery.

And, to our chefs: James White of Java Haus Café and Catering, Anne Dottai of Grilla Bites, Christopher Cunio of Mongos at Clearview, Jonas Drake of The Repp, Edie Pierson of Simply Seasoned, Conni Brownell of The Charmed Radish, and, oh yeah, me, Kristy Kelly of Kristy's Cuisine.

The winner of the "top chef" competition was James White for his Washington farm fresh mixed green salad tossed with fresh feta cheese, mixed berries and candied hazelnuts in a nectarine vinaigrette, braised short ribs with a Walla Walla onion demi glace on a bed of bright light chard, cold smoked silver salmon with lemon verbena mint mayonnaise.

Next year, I hope even more of you will attend and support our local farmers, wineries, restaurants and caterers – and, of course, the work of Pilchuck Audubon Society and Futurewise in Snohomish and Skagit counties.

Audubon membership information

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

PAS receives only a small portion of your national dues to support the work of the chapter. If you do not want to be a national member or you want your dues to stay local, you can join PAS separately. Local membership in PAS includes a one-year subscription (10 issues) to PAS's *Profile* newsletter. Cost is \$25. A special limited income category is also available for \$16.

Local PAS membership
<input type="checkbox"/> New member \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime PAS member \$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 monthly payments of \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 quarterly payments of \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 payment of \$1000
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$ _____
Make check payable to: <i>Pilchuck Audubon Society</i>
Mail your check and this form to: <i>PAS Membership Chair</i> <i>1429 Avenue D, PMB 198</i> <i>Snohomish, WA 98290</i>

NAS membership (includes PAS membership)
<input type="checkbox"/> Introductory membership \$20
Make check payable to: <i>National Audubon Society</i>
Mail your check and this form to: <i>PAS Membership Chair</i> <i>1429 Avenue D, PMB 198</i> <i>Snohomish, WA 98290</i>

NAS renewal (includes PAS renewal)
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal \$35
Make check payable to: <i>National Audubon Society</i>
Mail your check and this form to: <i>NAS, Membership Data Center</i> <i>POB 52529</i> <i>Boulder, CO 80322-2529</i>

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

* Consult your tax professional for full details.

Name: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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