

Bird Fest, Swifts will highlight fun weekend

Plan on a full weekend of birding activities September 9-11. The seventh annual Puget Sound Bird Fest kicks off on Friday, September 9, with a presentation by Dr. Dennis Paulson called "Changing world, changing birds." Dr. Paulson is director emeritus of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound, as well as a teacher, researcher and author.



The opening reception gets underway at 7 p.m. in the Plaza Room at the Edmonds Library, 650 Main Street, Edmonds.

The three-day festival continues Saturday with more speakers, guided bird walks, land and water-based field trips, exhibits and educational activities and a tour of certified backyard wildlife habitats. Saturday field trips include a morning birding cruise on Puget Sound with the Edmonds Yacht Club and an evening bus trip to Monroe to see thousands of Vaux's Swifts.

There will be workshops and presentations all day at the Frances Anderson Center, including sessions focusing on woodpeckers and murrelets, beginning birding, bird photography, coexisting with urban wildlife and an introduction to live raptors from the Sarvey Wildlife Center.

The featured activity at Puget Sound Bird Fest on Sunday is an open house at the Willow Creek Hatchery Wildlife Habitat and Native Plant Demonstration Garden and certified backyard wildlife habitats in Edmonds.

For more details and a full schedule of events, speakers and field trips, visit www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org.

And, if you are interested in volunteering at Puget Sound Bird Fest or serving on a committee, please contact Sally Lider at 425.771.0227 or lider@ci.edmonds.wa.us.

Save Saturday, September 10 for Swifts Night Out in Monroe

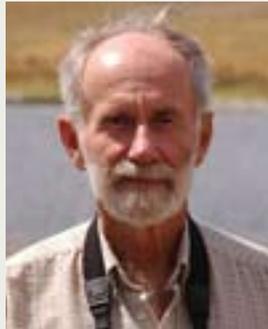
Even if you can't make it to Edmonds, be sure to trek to Monroe Saturday evening for the third annual Swifts Night Out at Frank Wagner Elementary, 639 West Main Street. The festivities begin at 4 p.m. with docents available to answer questions, a spaghetti dinner, educational exhibits, kids' activities and more.

At 6:30 p.m., Larry Schwitters will lead a presentation in the school auditorium. Then, grab a blanket, find a spot on the lawn and wait for the show to start! Last year, more than 1000 folks attended, so be sure to get to Monroe early!

Join us at the opening ceremony of Puget Sound Bird Fest!

Friday, September 9, 7 p.m.

Changing world, changing birds



In the natural world, one of the constants is change. The distribution and abundance of animals and plants have always changed through time, but the activities of humans have accelerated these changes, sometimes dramatically. Nowhere is this more obvious than

in birds – including dramatic changes among the birds of the Puget Sound region.

Join Dr. Dennis Paulson – Director Emeritus of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound, teacher, researcher and author – as he tackles these difficult subjects.

Special location – September only!

The Edmonds Plaza Room, 650 Main Street, above the Edmonds Library

For more information, call 425.252.0926

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

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



One midsummer, an Anchorage buddy and I loaded up his camper and trundled off on a land odyssey in the Alaska outback to watch birds and scramble over glaciers. Near the end of our trip, we were on the east end of the Denali Highway headed for Tangle Lakes to spend the night.

As we came over a rise, I asked Ron to pull off the road so I could look for an Arctic Warbler in the willows alongside the road. We pulled up behind a parked camper with Texas license plates. I walked up to the driver's side and asked the fellow behind the wheel if he was a birder. Grumpily, he replied, "No, my wife is."

I said, "So are you a birder's assistant?"

Without answering my friendly query, he pointed across the highway at a barely perceptible trace of a road running through the muskeg up the side of a hill. He told us his wife was up there. Ron and I started up the faded track and soon met her coming down.

She excitedly told us that, at the end of the road, less than a quarter of a mile away, she'd found nesting Smith's Longspurs. The habitat was right. Smith's Longspurs are ground nesters favoring dry ridge top tundra, though they would be rare to this part of Alaska.

Ron and I continued up the hill to the end of the road and found the Smith's Longspurs where my now favorite Texan



Smith's Longspur

birder said they were. I was pleased to note a new lifer in my trip journal. When we went back down the hill, I found the Arctic Warbler in the willows, another lifer, the reason we'd stopped in the first place. Sweet.

Fast forward five years. I had to be in Anchorage on business in May. I realized it was too early for the height of the spring migration. Still, I didn't want to miss the opportunity to drive the 120 miles of the graveled Denali highway from its western terminus at Cantwell to its beginning at Paxson on the Richardson Highway – hoping to find early migrants. My business meetings began on Monday so I flew up on Friday, leaving the weekend for the trip.

Before leaving home, I made a reservation for Saturday night at The Denali Highway Cabins, in Paxson. While making the reservations, I commented that I was driving the Denali Highway with the intention of birding along the way. The fellow making my reservation asked me what bird book I was using. When I told him *Guide to the Birds of Alaska*, he gently chided me and told me *A Birder's Guide to Alaska* was a much better book. And, the section on the Denali Highway was exceptional because he'd written it.

I ordered the book from the American Birding Association. When it arrived, I opened it to the Denali Highway section to

(See "Blackbird" on page 8)

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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Staff

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Trip calendar

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

Tuesday, September 6 Camano Island
Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. (next to I-5). We will bird Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit, Triangle Cove and points in-between and elsewhere. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tues., Sept. 13 Pt. Roberts (USA), Boundary Bay (BC)
Meet at 7 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5, exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Bring your passport or enhanced driver's license. You can no longer cross the border with only a birth certificate and driver's license. Shorebirds, waterfowl, seabirds, raptors and maybe a puffin or phalarope. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tues., September 20 Samish Flats, Samish Island
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. Let's look for waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds and raptors before hunting season begins in this world renown birding locale. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, September 27 Sequim
Meet at 7:30 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 the voyage, Sequim Bay, Dungeness Recreational Area and whatever else we fancy. Lots of waterfowl, shorebirds and surprises! Sandhill Cranes four years ago. Bring a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750, Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Meetings open to all

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

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Sunday, October 16 Snoqualmie Pass
Meet at 8 a.m. at Everett Mall – in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. This is a do-over of last year's trip that was washed out. The map shows a few short nature trails we can visit along the pass, each easily accessible from I-90. We may also briefly visit the ski resort's water treatment plant. Having never been there, I don't know if there is access. There is a fee of \$5 per car for a Forest Pass. All day. Pack lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, good walking boots and foul weather gear. We'll probably make an additional stop on the way home for a little socializing over dinner.

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

Sat., Oct. 22 Mushroom hike with Greg Hovander
By popular demand, the mushroom hike is back! This is an all-day hike with mycologist and pharmacist Greg Hovander. Greg is a walking encyclopedia of mycological knowledge. Not only can he identify hundreds of fungal species, but he can tell you their medicinal qualities, their nutritional value and cooking methods. And, on top of that, he is a *fun guy!*

Space is limited to 12, so contact Kathy as soon as possible to reserve your spot. Meeting time and place TBD.

Leader: Kathy Johnson, 360.659.7252 or katherine@earthlink.net

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

Another way to donate to PAS

Taxpayers older than 70.5 years may make tax-free distributions up to \$100,000 to a charity from an IRA. This counts toward the minimum distribution requirement. It's another way you may donate to PAS.

For other contributions or membership renewals, donate on the PAS web site: www.pilchuckaudubon.org, then click on "Join/Donate."

Please consult your tax advisor for specific information.

Call 24 hours a day for help for injured wildlife

Second Chance Wildlife Care Center
Snohomish, 425-335-0788



Deer Creek Wild Animal Rehab
Everett, 425-334-8171



Sarvey Wildlife Center: Arlington, 360-435-4817

PAWS: Lynnwood, 425-787-2500, ext. 817

Have fun, be entertained and get smarter

Feast with Friends

Thurs., September 1 AngelArmsWorks, Snohomish

The fifth annual Feast with Friends fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 6-9 p.m., at AngelArmsWorks, the home and studio of Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak and Warner Blake. This fantastic and delicious event raises money for the Smart Growth program. Local farmers donate local products. Local chefs create great food. Local wineries donate great wine. All you do is eat, drink and enjoy!

AngelArmsWorks is located at 230 B Street, Snohomish.

For more information, visit www.futurewise.org or contact Kristin Kelly at Kristin@futurewise.org.

Puget Sound Bird Fest

September 9-11 Edmonds

Plan on being in Edmonds Sept. 9-11 for Puget Sound Bird Fest. The three-day event includes speakers, guided walks, land and water-based field trips, exhibits and educational activities and a tour of certified backyard wildlife habitats.

The opening reception on Friday evening features a presentation titled "Changing world, changing birds," by Dr. Dennis Paulson, Director Emeritus of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound.

Saturday field trips include a birding cruise on Puget Sound with the Edmonds Yacht Club and a bus trip to Monroe to see thousands of Vaux's Swifts. There will be workshops and presentations all day at the Frances Anderson Center including sessions focusing on Trumpeter Swans, photography, how to choose and use bird feeders and nest boxes and an introduction to live raptors from the Sarvey Wildlife Center.

The featured activities on Sunday are guided walks at Edmonds Marsh, Willow Creek, Yost Park and Pine Ridge Park.

For more details, visit www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org. And, if you are interested in volunteering at Puget Sound Bird Fest or serving on a committee, please contact Sally Lider at 425.771.0227 or liders@ci.edmonds.wa.us.

Swifts Night Out

September 10 Monroe

Be sure to save Saturday, September 10, for the fourth annual Swifts Night Out at Frank Wagner Elementary, 639 West Main Street, Monroe. The festivities begin at 6 p.m. with docents available to answer questions, educational exhibits, kids' activities and more.

At 6:30 p.m., Larry Schwitters will lead a presentation in the school auditorium. Then, grab a blanket, find a spot on the lawn and wait for the show to start! Last year, more than 1000 folks attended, so be sure to get to Monroe early!

For more information or visit www.pilchuckaudubon.org.

Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival

September 17 Pateros, Washington

North central Washington is home to some of the most amazing species in the northwest. But, did you know it's also a major pit stop for hawks flying from Alaska to the southwest and Mexico?

Come to the Chelan Ridge Hawk Migration Festival and learn about this migration and get face-to-face with raptors of

all shapes and sizes. This interactive event is scheduled for September 17, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Memorial Park in Pateros, Washington. It combines free activities in Pateros with trips to the Chelan Ridge Raptor Migration Site to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to their winter territories. There'll be vendors, raptor exhibits and projects for kids and birding field trips along the Columbia River.

The festival coincides with the peak of southbound raptor migration at Chelan Ridge. According to Kent Woodruff, a biologist for the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests, "The Chelan Ridge project is good news for hawks, which in some cases still face challenges for survival. It's also great for nature enthusiasts who like to see animals in the wild doing what comes naturally and see scientists at work trying to learn more about the raptors as they migrate south to spend the winter."

The 2010 festival drew several hundred people who were delighted to see hawks up close, build bird houses, and spend a day leaning all about raptors. Join us for the 2011 festival!

For more information or to make field trip reservations, visit www.ncwardubon.org/events.htm.

Freedom the Eagle

September 17 NW Stream Center

Join the Adopt-a-Stream Foundation on September 17 and meet Freedom, a magnificent Bald Eagle, and her keeper, Jeff Guidrey, from the Sarvey Wildlife Center. Together they'll share their inspiring personal story and intriguing facts about eagles and their habitat requirements.

Jeff is not one of Streamkeeper Academy's adjunct professors who comes from a scientific background. Instead, he is a rock and rhythm-and-blues guitarist who has played with artists like Brian Wilson (of the Beach Boys) and guitarist Roy Buchanan. But he has many years of "on-the-job-training" as a volunteer at the Sarvey Wildlife Center - working with bears, cougars, as well as eagles. He is now president of the organization.

The fun begins at 11 a.m. and is recommended for ages 6 and older. The cost is \$5 for PAS members. Advance registration is required. For more info, call 425.316.8592.

The Northwest Stream Center is located in McCollum Park, Everett. Take the 128th Street exit from I-5 and drive east for one-half mile. Turn right into the entrance of the park and drive to the south end. The Northwest Stream Center is the last structure at the end of the road.

Northwest heroes: partners in conservation

Saturday, October 1 Legion Park, Everett

Please join the Cascade Land Conservancy for an event honoring the community of heroes improving the quality of life in Snohomish County. Come to Legion Park in Everett on Saturday, October 1, 1:30-4:30 p.m. for an awards ceremony, live music, family activities and ice cream to honor leaders and partners in conservation and community building.

Legion Park is located at 145 Alverson Blvd., Everett.

For more information, contact Diedra Petrina at 509.962.1654 or diedrap@cascadeland.org.

(See "Festivals" on page 8)

Weekend Ross Lake hike just ducky

By Jonathan Blubaugh

In mid-July, the weekend bird hikers visited the spectacular Ross Lake National Recreation Area, part of North Cascades National Park. Aside from the industrial facilities associated with a couple hydroelectric dams, the area is essentially a national park.

On our way to Ross Lake, we stopped at Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockford. A home at the entrance to the park had feeders, birdhouses and lovely gardens that were attracting lots of feeding and nesting birds. The park itself also had birdhouses, so we found lots of breeding birds. As we strolled around the park, we spotted 18 species of birds including a little Merlin who, as usual, seemed to be in a big hurry.



Common Goldeneye on Ross Lake, by Judy Rowe Taylor

Next, we drove a short way down Martin Road on the other side of the river in Rockport. We were glad. We saw lots of yellow and orange migratory birds and many juveniles. It's always fun to see bright yellow birds.

Continuing uphill, we stopped briefly at the visitor center in Newhalem. The rangers are enthusiastic about birding, as well as diligent about trail conditions throughout the park. They recommended the Thunder Knob Trail. Due to the 200% snow-pack, it was one of the few trails completely open.

We enjoyed lunch near the trailhead on the shore of Ross

(See "Hike" on page 9)

Birds, fun and food highlight PAS picnic



Toby Miller, son of Sue Miller, works on a masterpiece at the annual Pilchuck Audubon picnic. Photo by Annette Colombini.



Art Wait shares a laugh with old friends during the recent Pilchuck Audubon picnic. Photo by Annette Colombini.

A hardy group of Pilchuck Audubon members gathered on Sunday, August 14, for our annual picnic and volunteer recognition at Langus Riverside Park. Although the skies were grey, no rain actually fell and the food tasted delicious regardless of the cool temperatures.

Terri Whitworth-Davis took a group of us out on a nature walk and scavenger hunt. The group spotted 20 bird species in that 90 minutes, as well as wildflowers, scat, insects and rocks. Virginia Clark's prized cookies were divided among those who participated.

Virginia was also chief cook and Art Wait was chief of the charcoal for the barbequed hot dogs.

Following lunch, Mike Blackbird recognized all the hard work done by our many volunteers to keep Pilchuck Audubon functioning. Each volunteer was presented with a lens cleaning cloth and our heartfelt thanks. Volunteers who were not present will also receive a lens cloth as we can get them distributed.

The board of Pilchuck Audubon extends a big thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers!

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, *Smart Growth Director*

I've worked with many great people since becoming Smart Growth Director for PAS in 2005 and Snohomish Program Director for Futurewise in 2002 – great people both in



Planning Commissioner Angela Day

government and the private sector, paid employees and volunteers. Now and then, a person stands out by going above and beyond in contributing their time, knowledge and talents to land use policy and environmental regulations. One such person is Angela Day.

My first encounter with Angela was in 2005 when she joined the Snohomish County Planning Commission. I've listened to her thoughtful and balanced viewpoints on difficult issues. She understands the complexity of land use policy and how decisions affect communities and citizens.

Angela recently retired from the Planning Commission. I've chosen to dedicate this month's Smart Growth report to her ... with my deep respect and thanks.

Please enjoy the following interview – and get to know Angela Day a little better.

KK: Please tell me about yourself. How long have you lived in Snohomish County?

AD: I grew up on Oregon, California and Texas. I moved to Snohomish County with my family as a junior in high school. I graduated from Snohomish High and have lived in Snohomish County almost 25 years.

I've been married to my husband, Bob Day, for 14 years. He's from Alaska and fished for a living until the economic and emotional impacts from the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill made it too difficult for him. I wrote a book manuscript about the impact of the spill on his life and livelihood. It was recently accepted for publication by a local publishing house.

I'm working on my doctorate in political science at the UW. I have a bachelor's in business administration and a master's in public administration.

In the past eight years, I've worked with organizations such as the Ruckelshaus Center and the Hanford Concerns Council, which afforded me a bird's eye view of policy making processes and consensus building. For fun, I enjoy writing, reading and playing the piano. My husband and I enjoy hiking with our dog, Tessa.

KK: I know your husband owns a farm and farm issues are important to you.

AD: My husband started Dayville Hay and Grain, supplying hay to Snohomish and surrounding counties, in 1992. We moved to the Snohomish Valley and expanded the business to include feed and farm supplies in addition to hay. We've enjoyed being a part of the community and supporting local 4-H and FFA programs. As we watched agriculture change in the county over the past decade, we recognized the importance of encouraging youth to raise animals, work the earth and serve as stewards of the land.

As resources and arable farmland become increasingly scarce worldwide, we believe there'll be many opportunities for a vibrant and viable agricultural economy right here in Snohomish County. As business owners and community members, we look forward to playing a role in supporting and promoting local agriculture.

KK: People know your work on the planning commission. Please talk about your volunteer work.

AD: I served on the Snohomish County Planning Commission from 2005 to 2011. During that time, I became intrigued by the land use planning and decision making processes. I came to realize that decisions about land use may be among the most important made within our democracy. The look and feel of our cities and rural areas, transportation and traffic and the combination of public facilities and private development affect the quality of our daily lives.

As a commissioner, I valued the citizens, business interests and public interest advocates who took the time to provide input and participate in the land use decision making process. I was grateful to contribute to the process – hearing from stakeholders, gathering input from PDS and council staff and working with my fellow commissioners to formulate recommendations on land use policies to shape the future of the county.

I also served as chair of the Land Use Working Group in 2009 and 2010. The group was appointed by the county council and tasked with reducing the number of land use appeals and ensuring public participation processes were working as intended. The group represented a range of interests and its members shared a history of frustration with the land use decision making process in the county.

Each member brought a sincere desire to work through their concerns. Over time, the group gained an appreciation for the interests that each brought to the table. Because the process helped to foster trust and understanding, the group was able to submit a final report to the county council that contained a number of substantive recommendations for changes in procedure or allocation of resources. And, in some cases, policy changes.

I am most proud of the fact that these recommendations were made by consensus of this diverse group, and that county council members, PDS staff and the Hearing Examiner's office continue to refer to this report as a resource.

(See "Smart Growth" on page 10)

Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

We may have a summer yet. **Cedar Waxwings** were reported from Camano Island to Brier. Also there is an increase in the number of **Swainson's Thrushes** reported. I don't remember so many being reported before.

Carole and Larry Beason reported 7 **Swainson's Thrushes** near their Lake Bosworth home and a **Cedar Waxwing** in a birch tree. Their species count of 41 also included 4 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 6 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 6 **Northern Flickers**, 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 5 **Rufous Hummingbirds** and 2 **Western Tanagers**.

Annette Colombini's report from Lake Stevens included a **Northern Harrier** and a family of 5 **Bushtits**. Her species count of 16 included 12 **American Crows**, 3 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 3 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 3 **Swainson's Thrushes**, 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 5 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **Pine Siskins** and 3 **Spotted Towhees**.

John Davis spots a variety of birds on his walks through Forest Park. This month he reported 4 **Swainson's Thrushes**, 2 **Western Tanagers**, 25 **American Crows**, 3 **Bald Eagles**, a **Barred Owl**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**, 4 **Violet-green Swallows** and a **Willow Flycatcher** for a species count of 33.

Gail Dibernardo reported 6 **Cedar Waxwings** in her neighbor's cherry tree. Her species count of 28 from Brier also included a **Swainson's Thrush**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 2 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 6 **California Quail**, 3 **Chipping Sparrows**, 3 **Barn Swallows**, 5 **Violet-green Swallows**, an **Osprey** and a **White-crowned Sparrow**.

Even though Hilka Egtvedt was away part of July, she still had a total species count of 26 from her Mukilteo home. She spotted 8 **American Goldfinches**, 53 **American Crows** on June 26, 5 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 3 **Red Crossbills**, 3 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, 4 **Steller's Jays** and 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**.

Kriss Erickson still has the 2 **Wood Ducks** in her yard in Everett. Her total species count of 11 included 28 **Bushtits**, 3 **American Robins**, 12 **American Crows**, 7 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 4 **Steller's Jay**, a **Band-tailed Pigeon**, 6 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** and 2 **Song Sparrows**.

Two more **Cedar Waxwings** appeared at Adeline Gildow's Camano Island yard. The most amazing sightings were 32



Cedar Waxwings, by Mike_tn from flickr.com



Chipping Sparrow, by Gale McCullough



Caspian Tern

Great Blue Herons mid-tide at Juniper Beach and a **Northern Shrike** at Pilchuck Creek Preserve. Her species count of 35 also included 13 **Bald Eagles**, 5 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 4 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 3 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 6 **Eurasian Collared Doves** on the hillside, 11 **Caspian Terns** and an **Osprey** over Juniper Beach.

Julie O'Donald expressed concern that she only spotted 2 **Violet-green Swallows** when there are usually more this time of year. She did spot several interesting species from her home in Brier: a **Western Wood-Pewee**, a **Warbling Vireo**, a **Pacific Slope Flycatcher** and a **Western Flycatcher**. Her species count of 31 also included 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, 14 **Bushtits**, a juvenile **Hairy Woodpecker**, an **Evening Grosbeak** and 3 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**.

Mary Sinker must have a lot of hummingbird feeders! She reported 12 **Rufous Hummingbirds** from her Stanwood home, as well as 12 **American Goldfinches**. Her species count of 35 also included 2 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** (seem to be fewer this year), 5 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Barn Swallows**, 5 **Pine Siskins**, 5 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Turkey Vulture**, a **Veery**, 2 **Western Tanagers** and 2 **White-breasted Nuthatches**.

Dick Vanderhoff's report from Stanwood listed 11 **Steller's Jays** at the feeders. Imagine how noisy that must have been! He has five feeders and also provides peanuts in the shell (jays love these). His species count of 13 also included 2 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, a **Downy Woodpecker**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 3 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 3 **Pacific Wrens**, 3 **Evening Grosbeaks** and a **Hairy Woodpecker**.

Nothing unusual at the feeders in my yard in Marysville. The **California Quail** pair started with 8 juveniles, but the number declined through the month. My species count of 21 also included 2 **American Goldfinches**, 7 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, 2 **Red-tailed Hawks** along 100th Street, a **Yellow Warbler**, 2 **Common Ravens**, 2 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Purple Finches** and 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**. I spotted something unusual at Albertson's: at least 20 **Western Gulls** sitting on the parking lot. Most were juveniles with the adults watching over. Thankfully, people drove around them.

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

Blackbird ...

(continued from page 2)

find the author's name and my host at the Denali Highway Cabins, Audubon L. Bakewell IV. I later discovered Audubon L. Bakewell IV had changed his name to complement his avocation. I smugly thought: "At least I was born to my aptonym."

The Denali Highway arcs across the southern slope of the Alaska Range. Unlike the Brooks Range – far to the north-east – the area was covered by ice during the last Ice Age, so there's plenty of ice-sculpted landscapes and kettle lakes formed by melting ice left behind by retreating glaciers.

May is still early spring in Alaska. Treeless and stark with snow remaining in its crevasses, the harsh and unforgiving mountains were desolate yet aesthetic in Alaska's early spring. The day was filled with scattered showers and the quick-moving shadows of clouds skimming over the somber landscape. The loneliness was palpable. With stopping and short hikes to look for early migrants, it took me most of the day to drive the length of the highway. I met one car all day.

At the end of the day, when I registered at the Denali Highway Cabins in Paxson, Audubon L. Bakewell IV wanted to hear about my day. I didn't have much exciting to report, although I said I had seen a Long-tailed Jaeger at Tangle Lakes. I told him I was disappointed to find a snow drift blocking the track up the hill coming out of Tangle Lakes

Festivals ...

(continued from page 4)

San Juan Islands cruise

October 3-5

Leaving from Sequim

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society this fall for a three-day wildlife cruise through the spectacular San Juan Archipelago. Cruise from Sequim to Roche Harbor Resort and San Juan Island, whale-watching along the way. Picnic on Sucia Island, and cruise back to Sequim via dramatic Deception Pass.

For more information, visit www.olympicpeninsulaaudubon.org or contact 360.681.4076 or rcoffice@olympus.net.

Fall Audubon Chapters of Washington (ACOW)

October 8

Moses Lake

The fall ACOW meeting will be a one-day affair on Saturday, Oct. 8, at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake. The main topic on the agenda will be recommendations and deliberations of the group working to rejuvenate the state office.

Livable Snohomish County Summit and Candidate Forum

Saturday, October 29

PUD Building, Everett

Please plan to attend "SnoH2Omish: learning about our water resources," on Saturday, October 29, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the PUD Building, 2320 California Street, Everett.

Please register for this free event by e-mailing kristin@futurewise.org.

The summit and forum are sponsored by Pilchuck Audubon Society, KSER 90.7 FM, the Sierra Club, Transition Port Gardner, Citizens to Preserve the Upper Snohomish River Valley and Futurewise.

because I would have liked to have seen if the Smith's Longspurs were back.

He looked quizzical and asked how I knew about the longspur nesting ground? He said we didn't find it until two years earlier and after the publication of *Birder's Guide to Alaska*.

I replied, "Well, a birder from Texas and her birder's assistant found it five years ago." My host was a bit crestfallen with my revelation. He quickly checked me in and hurriedly sent me on my way to find my cabin.

The next day, driving back to Anchorage, I kicked myself because I had meant to have Audubon L. Bakewell IV autograph my *A Birders Guide to Alaska*. Rats!

A few years ago, I was birding in Texas. I took *A Birder's Guide to Alaska* with me, which ironically has a picture of a Smith's Longspur on the cover. A bit optimistically perhaps, on the oft chance I might run across the lady birder who'd found the Smith's Longspurs' nesting ground. I would have liked to have her autograph the cover as I told her of Audubon L. Bakewell, IV's disappointment.

But, Texas is a big state and we didn't meet.

Birds and whales of San Ignacio Lagoon

March 5-13, 2012

Baja, Mexico

Join Cabrillo Marine Aquarium March 5-13, 2012, for a trip that truly is the journey of a lifetime, especially for bird fans!

Pacific gray whales return to San Ignacio Lagoon each year to mate and give birth. During this nine-day excursion, you'll spend three exciting days anchored in San Ignacio Lagoon where friendly gray whales and their curious calves swim within arm's length of the skiffs.

For fans of our feathered friends, this is a chance to see albatrosses, osprey, black and American oystercatchers, frigate birds, a wide variety of herons and egrets, not to mention all the birds that hang out in the mangroves found in San Ignacio. The trip also includes naturalist-led visits to uninhabited desert islands where passengers will have the chance to see even more birds, unique habitats and tons of other wildlife.

Contact Carolyn Kraft (310.548.7562 or cmaprograms@gmail.com) or visit the aquarium web site at www.cabrillomarineaquarium.org for more info.

Hike ...

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Lake. There were five Common Goldeneyes (including three ducklings). While last year seemed to be great for hummingbirds, this summer seems to be the year of the ducklings. On various trips this summer, I've seen loads of Mallard ducklings, Wood Ducklings, Common Mergansers and these Goldeneyes. We hiked on up to the top of the Knob and were rewarded with sweeping views of the lakes and mountains.

By far, my best bird of the day was on the drive home. As we passed through Newhalem, I saw a bird on the shoulder. We stopped. It was a female Spruce Grouse. She was challenging to identify because none of us had ever seen one. In fact, I'd never seen any grouse in the field before. In hindsight, I wish I'd taken a photo because was right next to the car. The field guide says they can be seen beside roads and are fairly tame! She clucked softly and didn't seem to mind our presence at all.

In all, we saw or heard 37 species that day, including the five



Spruce Grouse, by Daniel Berna

Goldeneyes, the Spruce Grouse, an Osprey over Ross Lake, the Merlin, a couple of Band-tailed Pigeons, five Rufous Hummingbirds, a Northern Flicker, a Western Wood-Pewee, a Warbling Vireo, a Steller's Jay, four crows, a couple of Northern Rough-winged Swallows, a couple of Tree Swallows, four Violet-Green Swallows using nest boxes, five Barn Swallows (some on a nest), a Black-capped Chickadee, 11 Chestnut-backed Chickadees, a couple of Pacific Wrens, a Townsend's Solitaire, four Swainson's Thrushes, 11 American Robins, three European Starlings, at least five Cedar Waxwings, Common Yellowthroat, four Yellow-rumped Warblers including a fledgling, a Spotted Towhee, a juvenile Savannah Sparrow, a couple of White-crowned Sparrows, a couple of Dark-eyed Juncos, three Western Tanagers, a female Red-winged Blackbird, three Brown-headed Cowbirds, a few Purple Finches, a Pine Siskin, seven American Goldfinches and a couple of House Sparrows.

Audubon membership information

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

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

Local PAS membership	
<input type="checkbox"/>	New member \$28
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal \$28
<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..... \$ _____
<p>Make check payable to: Pilchuck Audubon Society</p> <p>Mail your check and this form to: PAS Membership Chair 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198 Snohomish, WA 98290</p>	

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

NAS renewal	
(includes PAS renewal)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal \$35
<p>Make check payable to: National Audubon Society</p> <p>Mail your check and this form to: NAS, Membership Data Center POB 420235 Palm Coast, Florida 32142</p>	

Contact me about volunteer opportunities.

I am interested in the Conservation Committee.

* Consult your tax professional for full details.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Smart Growth ...

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As a former member of the Snohomish High FFA, I'm grateful to be able to support a program which made a difference in my life and career. I've served as a volunteer judge for extemporaneous and prepared speaking contests, agricultural marketing contests and mock interviews for high school students. I'm also a member of the Snohomish High Advisory Board on Agricultural, Technical and Vocational Education.

In 2007, I joined hundreds of citizens and public interest groups in opposing an industrial development on farmland in the Snohomish Valley. The facility was to host AM radio antennas and broadcast two stations at a combined output of 100,000 watts. Our concerns were ultimately discounted by the county council. Not only did this development eliminate 40 acres of valuable farmland, it significantly detracted from the character of the valley's rural landscape. The Snohomish Valley is an idyllic treasure in the densely populated Puget Sound area, and serves as a place for local residents and visitors alike to enjoy the valley. The site is also adjacent to the Snohomish River and the Bob Heirman Wildlife Park, which is home to migrating birds.

Perhaps most importantly, I've been and remain concerned about the output of radiofrequency radiation from this site. The output for each station is the maximum allowed by the FCC. With two stations operating from the site, it generates a great deal of electromagnetic energy. After a significant amount of research into the possible health impacts such a facility may cause nearby residents, particularly children, the hearing examiner granted my fellow citizens and me a favorable ruling in 2008. It called for precaution in the face of evidence of potential harm that may arise from this project.

However, this decision was overturned by a slim majority of the county council. I remain concerned that this facility could be harming the quality of life and health for residents living in and around the Snohomish Valley.

KK: What are your future plans? What is your vision for Snohomish County?

The coming year is dedicated to completing my dissertation and doctoral degree at the UW. Then, I look forward to pursuing activities that draw upon my professional and volunteer experience, interest in my local community and passion for teaching and consensus building.

With scenery ranging from the Puget Sound to the Cascade Mountains, rich farmland in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish valleys and economic opportunities afforded by our proximity to a large metro area, Snohomish County is a great place to live and work. But decisions we make now will affect our

future prosperity and quality of life. My vision for the county includes economic and regulatory policies that attract and retain large employers, but also focus on small businesses such as manufacturing, high-tech development and farming, expanded infrastructure and public transit, opportunities for technical and higher education and preservation of rural areas and farmland.

Economic and regulatory policies: As small business owners, my husband and I have found that complying with building codes to establish or expand a business has proven onerous. Small businesses generally add character and commitment to the community, and encouraging their development and sustainability through common sense regulations should be a priority.

Expanded infrastructure and public transit: Clogged roads and freeways affect the movement of goods and the time we spend commuting. While a number of projects to help ease traffic have been completed, we still need additional capacity and transit. Increasing access to public transit can help reduce costs and hassle for commuters, while allowing for more capacity on existing roads. Increasing transit service to urban centers and expanding the number of park and ride lots can help reduce the number of cars on the road. Other projects such as rail service to Snohomish, commuter jet service from Paine Field and greater reliance on the Port of Everett for international trade could increase economic opportunities and improve quality of life in the county.

Opportunities for technical and higher education: The construction of Everett Station and expansion of branch campuses represent significant progress in this area. Creating a campus for technical and higher education within the county could further increase these opportunities and reduce the need for college-age students to relocate or commute, and allow others to change careers or expand their skills to meet changing market demands.

Preservation of rural areas and farmland: The best way to preserve rural areas and farmland is to increase the economic opportunities for small-scale agriculture. This includes reducing the complexity and burden of land use regulations on farmer's markets, agricultural buildings that could be used for direct marketing and facilities to create value-added products. Existing programs that provide subsidies and quasi-regulatory programs such as transfer of development rights can help, but may prove challenging to maintain in the current political and economic environment. With food and fuel prices on the rise, I believe farmland that has recently been laid fallow will once again become part of a vital agricultural economy if regulations allow.