

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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April 2007



## Friday, April 13, 7PM — Program Meeting Native Plants, the Birds and Birders Who Use Them

with Carol Stoner, Washington Native Plant Society

Urban density and suburban sprawl have changed the plantscape of the Puget Sound region. Our birds and other wildlife benefit plants in



Savannah Sparrow by Steven D'Amato

when we use native our yards and gardens. Come and learn why both the avid birder and the ardent gardener love native plants.

See map on back page for directions.

For more information, call 425.252.0926.

## Wenas Campout

May 25-28, 2007

[www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org)

For over 38 years Audubon families have been camping at the Wenas Creek Campground officially named the Hazel Wolf Wenas Creek Bird Sanctuary. The location, SW of Ellensburg, is now in an "Important Bird Area" which Auduboners have been assured will be in protective status soon.

The free, "primitive" campground along the north fork of Wenas Creek has exceptional opportunities for birding, botanizing and enjoying spring in the eastern foothills of the Cascades.

Visit the new Wenas web site, by Webmaster Michael Hobbs, to see a familiar smiling face and get lots of downloadable information about our campout. [www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org). There's a bird checklist, wildflower checklist, outline of field trips and program, directions to the campground, and more.

## PAS Trip to Republic

May 25-28

Once again PAS will be having a special trip to Republic and Ferry County this spring. This year the trip will take place on Memorial Day weekend. We will leave Snohomish County after work on Friday the 25th, head for Winthrop, and spend the night there. On Saturday we'll head over to Ferry County and arrive in the afternoon. Trip participants can stay over night in Curlew or in Republic.

We will go to private residences as well as explore more of the county on Sunday and Monday and head home Monday afternoon. If interested in going, call Susie Schaefer ASAP as you will need to book motel space as soon as possible. We also want to organize car pools. This is always a super fun trip and a great chance to see Eastern WA spring birds.

## Help Birdathon Fund PAS Activities

Want to know how to have a lot of fun while helping fill PAS' coffers? Birdathon—that's how! The group who "do" Birdathon each year know how exciting a Birdathon birding trip can be and what a good feeling it is to help out PAS in this way. Won't you join us this year and share the fun?

It's so easy, here's what you do: First get a Birdathon sponsor form at the April meeting, from the PAS web site ([www.pilchuck-audubon.org](http://www.pilchuck-audubon.org)), or direct from Hilka. Then ask everyone you know to sponsor your birding efforts, either with an amount per species found or for a flat amount.

Choose any 24-hour period in May, either in one loooong day or divided in small chunks on different days, and go birding anywhere in Washington State. Bird your yard and neighborhood, go to your favorite spot, or use this good excuse to explore new territory.

Then report your sightings to sponsors and collect their pledges. Birdathon chair Hilka Egtvedt (425.347.4944 or [chegtvedt@comcast.net](mailto:chegtvedt@comcast.net)) who will arrange to pick up your donations.

Though Birdathon regulars say they participate because they want to help PAS, and not because of prizes from sponsoring merchants, these are always a great bonus for "Thoners."

There will be prizes for most species found, most money raised, largest number of sponsors, and many others. So, whatever your incentive, won't you PLEASE become a "Thoner this year? And discover how much fun it is!"

## Puget Sound Bird Fest

May 18-19

There are some really fun opportunities at this special annual festival in Edmonds. Volunteers are needed to help lead field trips, staff the birding sites, provide information at the PAS tables, and other miscellaneous tasks. The festival is fun and the time goes by quickly. You will have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the rest of the festival. Please check the web site at [www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org](http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org) as the schedule for the activities is almost complete.

Contact Susie Schaefer to volunteer 425.771.8165 or e-mail [Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net](mailto:Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net).

## Grays Harbor Festival April 27-29, Hoquiam

From Friday through Sunday you'll find field trips, lectures, exhibits, and a Saturday evening banquet and auction. For more information, contact Dianna Moore [dlmoor2@coastaccess.com](mailto:dlmoor2@coastaccess.com) or 800.303.8498.

## Earth Walk Adventure

April 21, 10-2pm

At Jennings Nature Park and Marysville Wastewater Treatment Plant. Highlights include: Forbidden Places, Flying Dinosaurs, Untamed Wilderness, Weird Aquatic Creatures, Science Fiction, Raising the Dead, and help Fight the Alien Invasion. Interested in joining our Earth Day Walk? To sign-up, contact Cara Ianni at [cara@stillysnofish.org](mailto:cara@stillysnofish.org) or 425.252.6686.

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**Pilchuck Audubon Profile**, the official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society, is published monthly September–April, and bi-monthly May–August.

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.*

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	Susie Schaefer.....	425.771.8165
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### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Submit articles to [kate.halstead@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:kate.halstead@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.

For advertising rates, call 360.794.6081.

The Profile is also available online from our Web site:

[www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

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# President's Corner

by Mike Blackbird



When I became a sales manager for a Seattle based, regional, medical supply distributor many years ago I spent most of my days meeting with customers and working with my sales reps.

After three mergers, each with a bigger company than the last, today I work for a Fortune 20 company and those halcyon days are gone.

I've discovered with each new company having to deal with an ever-increasing level of corporate bureaucracy. My employer encourages its sales managers to telecommute when they are not meeting with customers or working with their sales reps. Whether government or corporate, bureaucracies are fueled by reports.

People who must commute to work every day may see telecommuting as a luxury, but I've come to view telecommuting with a jaundiced eye. Being chained to the desk in my home office from dawn to dusk two or three days a week to meet a deadline can be mind numbing experience.

Twelve feet or so from my office window is a trellis and a climbing rose. In between, on a four armed pole I've placed a birdfeeder, thistle feeder, hummingbird feeder, and suet feeder.

While trying to explain a drop of two basis points in margin on a product line for a green eyeshade-wearing minion at headquarters, six feet outside my window chestnut-backed chickadees, juncos, and a pesky pair of red-breasted nuthatches are visiting my feeders.

Two or three times a day a pair of Northern flickers stop by in the company of a yellow-shafted flicker. How cool is that?

Recently a pair of pileated woodpeckers have taken to dropping by every day to partake of the suet feeder.

All are unaware of the machinations of corporate America, a reminder that despite of a margin drop of two basis points, the sun will come up tomorrow.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, I was putting the finishing touches on my presentation for corporate management in the coming week. This was one of those watershed presentations that can seriously impact a career.

I had been a little 'owly' over the prospect all week and was not all that pleasant to be around. Sitting at my desk, completing the last slide of my presentation, a pair of red-breasted sapsuckers flew to the suet feeder.

The Greeks and Romans believed birds were closely associated with the gods and could represent portentous events. Woodpeckers particularly were considered to be birds of prophecy.

I'm a rational man and not the least superstitious, but when that pair of sapsuckers arrived I knew the portents were in my favor.

It turned into a stellar week.



Double-Crested Cormorant by Daniel S. Kilby

**Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)**

The environmental community is supporting a budget of \$100 million for this ambitious program. Monies are used for local and state parks, water-access sites, trails, critical habitat, natural areas, riparian and urban wildlife habitat, and farmland preservation.

In the process, the program helps offset the effects of global warming as more land is put to work growing crops or habitat, the plants help remove carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas.

Audubon Washington is working with WWRP on the

become apparent that warming is occurring and human activity has contributed to it. There are big chunks of ice that have fallen off some of the glaciers in Antarctica, making it harder for some of the birds to go out and get food and bring it back to their young. As a result, both the hatchlings and the parents die from starvation.

Audubon Birding Trail program, identifying birding trail sites to be supported by WWRP funds. This continues to emphasize the connection between nature tourism and recreation.

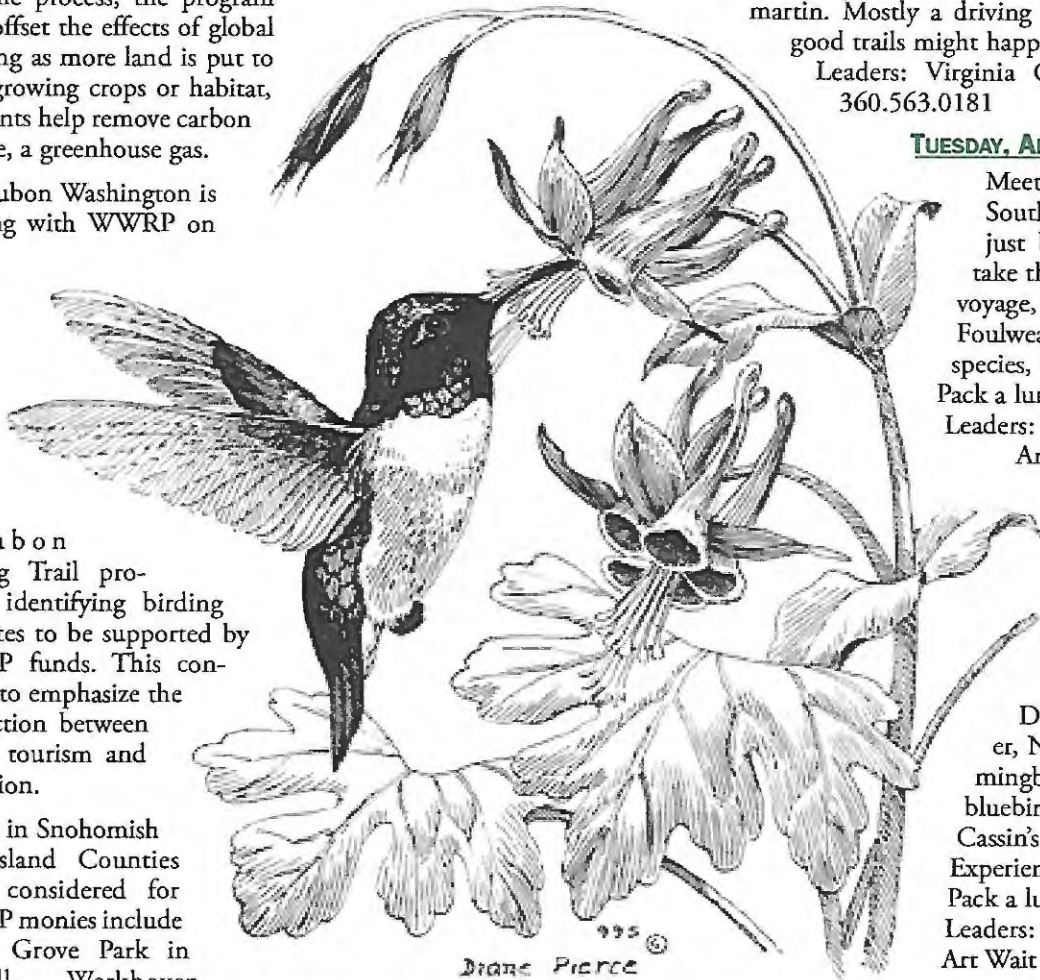
Sites in Snohomish and Island Counties being considered for WWRP monies include Cedar Grove Park in Bothell, Werkhoven Dairy acquisition, Broers Organic Berry Farm acquisition, Spencer Island Trails, and Leque Island Public Access, to name a few. Please contact your legislators to let them know about your support for this program.

**Global Warming**

There has been extensive debate as to whether global warming has been occurring and whether it has been caused by human activity. It has

In the Arctic, polar bears are having a very hard time. In the first place, the seals are having a hard time finding enough solid ice to haul out on. If the polar bear tries to capture one of the seals, they both fall off into the icy water and frequently drowned. At this rate, polar bears are expected to become extinct by 2050.

Global warming is not a myth.



**TUESDAY, APRIL 3**

**GUEMES ISLAND**

Meet 7:30AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville, I-5 exit 200. Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd. Relax and enjoy Guemes and its people, birds, and dogs. Pack a lunch.  
Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

**TUESDAY, APRIL 10**

**NORTH EVERETT TO SOUTH MARYSVILLE**

Meet 7:30AM Legion Park off North Marine Drive in Everett. Explore the Everett Waterfront and the Snohomish River Estuary. View osprey, eagles, hawks, shorebirds, gulls and maybe purple martin. Mostly a driving trip, but who knows where the good trails might happen. Pack a lunch  
Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17**

**POINT NO POINT**

Meet at 7:30AM at Edmonds Marsh. South of West Dayton St., turn left just before the railroad tracks. We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point, and Foulweather Bluff. Last year we had 69 species, and much beauty and serenity. Pack a lunch.  
Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

**TUESDAY, APRIL 24**

**CLE ELUM AREA**

Meet 6AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, 1/2 mile west of the fairgrounds. An all-day trip. Bring lunch to augment the bakery stop. Different birds: Red-naped sapsucker, Northern goshawk, calliope hummingbird, Western bluebird, mountain bluebird, magpie, vesper sparrow, and Cassin's sparrow were listed last year. Experience excitement and exhaustion. Pack a lunch.  
Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

**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 perfumes or cologne. Be prepared to share gas \$\$ with carpool drivers. Pets, even leashed, are prohibited on field trips. Please leave them home.

**Leave a Living Legacy**

Bequests are an important source of support for Pilchuck Audubon Society. PAS is dedicated to the protection of the natural world through education and advocacy for the wiser use and preservation of our natural resources. Invest in the future by making a bequest to Pilchuck Audubon Society. Talk to your attorney for more information on how you can leave a legacy for the future of our natural world.

# Smart Growth Report

Kristin Kelly, Director

## Finally!

Finally, the Snohomish County Council has scheduled public hearings on the county's Critical Areas Ordinance update. The hearings are scheduled for 1:30 and 6:30PM in the first floor Public Meeting Room in the new County Administration Building East, 3000 Rockefeller Street, Everett.

You can read the ordinance and attachments from the county's web site at: [www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Council/About/Meeting\\_Calendar/long\\_term\\_calendar.htm](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Council/About/Meeting_Calendar/long_term_calendar.htm)

Pilchuck Audubon Society joined forces with other groups under the name "Land Protection Coalition." In 2006, we submitted comments and gave testimony to the planning commission and county council asking for strong protections for water quality and wildlife habitat.

It has been almost a year since those hearings, and during that time, the county has embarked on a lengthy review process of the planning commission recommendations, working with the county council to come up with an array of possible amendments to the original draft the Land Protection Coalition reviewed.

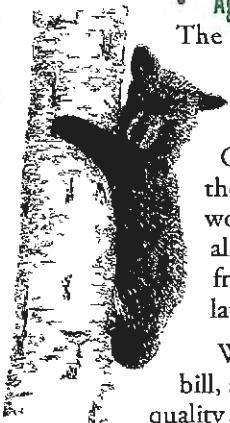
A brief summary of most of those amendments follows. If you would like to be part of the Land Protection Coalition as an individual or a neighborhood group or association, please contact me.

• **Applicability.** We support that regulations apply to all land use activities in critical areas and their buffers regardless of whether they require a permit or not. Currently, the county only requires critical area regula-

tions apply to lands that require a building, grading, or clearing permit. Many activities done without a permit, especially clearing, harm our water quality and wildlife habitat because of this lack of regulation.

• **Monitoring.** Without monitoring the short- and long-term effects of regulations, it's impossible to know if they are working. While monitoring mitigation plans may be costly, we believe it is important to ensure water quality is protected.

Science has proven that many mitigation projects, especially enhancement of critical areas and buffers, do not work. There can be degrees of monitoring that would make it less expensive to monitor, but all lands, not just our farmlands, need monitoring.



## • Agricultural Activities.

The farming community is split on how to protect critical areas on farmland. Currently, a bill before the State legislature would outright exempt all agricultural land from critical areas regulations.

We do not support this bill, as it could harm water quality significantly. We agree with many of the farmers that most farm activities can be exempted from regulations if a farm plan is in place that uses best management practices.

• **Wetland Buffers.** There is a lot of controversy over buffer widths. Master Builders and Realtors argue that large buffers are "dumb." But the science says they are not dumb and are needed to protect functions and values of our wetlands.

We encourage the county to adopt Department of Ecology's Table 8C-8 which is more project- and wetland-type specific.

• **Undisturbed Connections Between High Habitat Wetlands (Corridors).** The county is proposing that all wetland buffers, in both urban and rural areas of the county, have the same buffer width and be protected in the same way.

However, there needs to be more provisions for protection of wildlife habitat corridor connections, especially with other priority habitat as defined by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

• **Provisions for Development in Small Wetlands.** Again, this is quite controversial. The science states that all wetlands, regardless of size and category need protection. While we know that all wetlands can't be protected, all wetlands lost to development need to be mitigated, and that only the smallest, and less significant wetlands can be sacrificed, but only with a mitigation plan in place.

• **Provisions for "Minor" Development Activities in Critical Areas and Their Buffers.** While there are some activities that might need to occur in critical areas and their buffers, this list of activities needs close scrutiny and a comprehensive monitoring plan.

• **Provisions for Residential Development in Buffers.** The current ordinance drafted would allow up to 4,000 square feet of encroachment into a buffer area for building a single family residence if the lot is totally constrained by critical areas and buffer. While we think no development should occur in buffers, a small allowance of 2,500 feet would be a more reasonable compromise.

• **Buffer Reductions.** While developers are for heftier buffer reductions, we support limiting buffer reductions to no more than 25 percent in area.

• **Effective Impervious Surface.** We agree with the current draft ordinance language that states

that new effective impervious surface is not allowed in buffers and is limited to 10 percent within 300 feet of fish bearing waters or wetlands with high level water quality improvement function scores.

The planning commission had recommended removal of this regulation, which would hurt water quality significantly. The best and least expensive way of protecting our water is by leaving the natural vegetation in buffers.

• **Critical Species.** The draft supports protection of species listed as threatened or endangered by the federal and state government, and includes a process for nominating species and/or habitat of local importance. We support protecting more species under the regulations than the current draft proposes by adding species listed as sensitive by the state.

If you would like to be part of my Action Alert system, which allows you to submit comments to the council on the CAO update and other issues as they come forward, please send me your e-mail address TODAY!

## Fund Raising

Part of my work consists of securing funding to keep the Smart Growth program alive. I want to personally thank each person who has contributed to the Smart Growth program over the years.

Without donations, the program will cease. This year will be no different than others. While I do all I can to secure funding through grants, these awards are never guaranteed. In fact, one year the program can receive a grant, and the next year be denied.

Your continued donations to the Smart Growth program are vital. Thank you all for your generosity.

## New Volunteer Coordinator

by Ileen Weber

For several years we've been looking for someone we could jolt into becoming our Volunteer Coordinator. We were desperate.

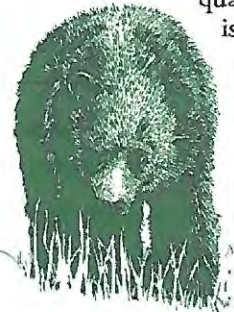
"If only I could convince my sister to move here from Florida, she would be perfect," I thought. She has years of social work experience, sometimes involved with coordinating volunteers. Perfect! She's outgoing and loves to talk on the phone. Perfect! She's getting close to retirement so has a little more time. Perfect!

I'm delighted to report that last fall I convinced her the PNW was for her. When I suggested that a good way to get to know people would be to become PAS' volunteer coordinator, she immediately said "Sure." Wow! That was easy.

Don't ask her to identify that strange bird you saw. She's still learning to identify a mallard but she is, like me, concerned about saving the earth for the creatures. And when she can't answer your PAS questions, she'll just walk into the next room and ask me.

If you're one of those folks who said they wanted to volunteer, please give her a call. Her name is Colleen Weber and she uses the same phone as I do: 425.423.9069. Her e-mail is HarmNone2@comcast.net.

We apologize for the past haphazard response to your offers to volunteer; we need you, but without a volunteer coordinator the response has been inadequate. All that is going to change, so call Colleen and she will match your needs with ours.



## Christmas Bird Count Tallies

by Michael Dossett

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the south county Christmas Bird Count Dec. 30, 2006. This was the 18th year for the count and it was very successful.

After all the numbers came in, participants counted 45,971 individual birds (WOW!) of 122 species on a chilly, but dry day. Very impressive!

In addition, there were seven species which were seen in the count circle during count week, but not on count day. We added four new species to the count circle on count day including Western Bluebird, Emperor Goose, and Whooper Swan.

This was one of the best counts ever for this area, so we owe a huge thank you to all the participants and their hard efforts.

I'd also like to thank Susie Schaefer and Carol Riddell for stepping in at the last minute and helping with the organization of this year's count. Great job everyone!

## Join Sanctuary Committee

by Susie Schaefer

The Sanctuary Committee will be picking up speed this spring. PAS has two sanctuaries: one on Jim Creek out of Arlington, the other by the Snohomish sewage pond.

Dave Ward and Joyce Kelly would like your help ensuring the future of these important wild areas. The next committee meeting will be April 18, 6PM at Zippy's Java Lounge, 1804 Hewitt Avenue, Everett.

For more information, contact Dave Ward, 360.794.7552, daveward@nwlink.com.

If you were involved when the sanctuaries were acquired and can help Dave with their history please give him a call.

## PAS Office Goes Virtual

by Susie Schaefer

There is a lot going on at PAS right now. The board decided to give up our Rockefeller office space as of April 1. We have not made good use of the in a long time; the rent went up again; and another ceiling leak on our books and records, not to mention parking difficulties has made use of the space challenging to say the least.

After months of searching and having all leads fall through, we decided to move our supplies and materials into a storage unit for now and put the rent monies towards our activities.

This doesn't mean PAS is going away, we're just operating as a 2007-style virtual office.

We have a new mailing address:

Pilchuck Audubon  
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198  
Snohomish WA 98290

The mailbox is checked at least twice a week or more. It will be sorted and forwarded as appropriate.

We still have the same telephone number—425.252.0926—operating just as it always has. It is checked daily.



The Smart Growth director's number won't change either Kristin Kelly, 425.923.8625.

As we go to press, the PAS board is choosing between several convenient storage units. All the materials we use frequently for display tables, educational programs and outreach efforts will be located near the door of the unit and will be easy to pick up and return.

Lots of energy is going into sorting and recycling all the stuff that has been in the office and basement for years. New filing cabinets and boxes will be used for necessary historical records at the storage unit.

A special thank you to all the board members, committee chairs and other PAS members who have helped with this huge moving effort. An extra big thank you to Jan van Neil for his organizational skills in setting up the storage unit.

Check the web site and future Profiles for new information on our progress.

## Biodiversity Committee

by Susie Schaefer

The Biodiversity Committee has not been active for some time. Current members are David Gladstone, Margaret Bridge, Susie Schaefer, and Tom Nowak. More information will be in an upcoming Profile including new guidelines and a standardized process for use of the Biodiversity Fund.



## Wild Birds Unlimited

Three locations to serve you:  
171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Park  
206.367.1950  
Mon—Sat: 10AM to 6PM  
Sun: Noon to 5PM



4821 Evergreen Way, Everett  
425.252.2220  
Mon—Sat: 10AM to 6PM  
Sun: Noon to 4PM

19915 SR2, Monroe  
360.863.9173  
Mon—Sat: 9:30AM to 6PM  
Sun: 11AM to 5PM

These great stores will donate a portion of your purchase price to Pilchuck Audubon Society. Just let them know you're a member.

## The View from Here

Go Green with CFLs

by Jon Baker

I live in a green house. The outside is painted green. Beyond that, the landscape is dominated by native plants to reduce the need for watering. But inside is where I want to make the house greener. Outside of paint, how do you make a house green on the inside?

One way to go green is by reducing energy consumption. Fortunately, there are many low-tech ways to accomplish this. I can turn my thermostat down to 68°F and wear a sweater. Many thermostats today are programmable and I take advantage of this.

I set the thermostat to heat only during the hours of the day we are present. All other hours it is turned down. The water heater is a significant consumer of energy and savings can be realized by turning down the thermostat to 120°. Don't forget weather stripping of doors and windows.

Now, I focus on compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). The plan is to replace each bulb as they go out with a CFL. So far, I have almost half the house CFL'd. But there were issues.

When I started on this program of conversion to CFLs I didn't know what to use. The only type available was the "twisty" bulbs. Their light was harsh. I did not like it, but I stuck to it and experimented.

In the kitchen, I have can lights that used incandescent spot lights. I have not found CFLs that produce spot light. So instead I use 14-watt soft white CFL bulbs. I lose the spot effect and some warmth to the light, but the kitchen is well-illuminated.

The problem is that you have to become accustomed to a different kind of light, to be willing to compromise. I like the old light but am warming up to the CFLs especially when I do

the math. Ten 75-watt incandescent spot lights using 750 watts were replaced by ten 14-watt CFLs using 140 watts.

Calculating usage based on 12 hours/day and using current Snohomish PUD rates, this translates to a savings of well over \$200 per year!

In my CFL quest I have been frustrated by a lack of selection and inconsistent inventory. Many times I would look for a CFL bulb similar what I purchased before only to find it not available. But as I warm up to CFLs, so do the stores. Now I am finding a much wider selection with CFLs made for many of the fixtures in your house.

But there is a dark side to CFLs (sorry about the pun.) Like all fluorescent bulbs, they contain mercury—a very nasty element if it gets inside of you. When a CFL finally emits its last photon, it should never be tossed in the garbage. CFLs are hazardous waste and need to be disposed of with care.

Visit [www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change\\_light/downloads/Fact\\_Sheet\\_Mercury.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/promotions/change_light/downloads/Fact_Sheet_Mercury.pdf) for helpful information about the disposal of CFLs. Careful disposal of CFL is made easy by Snohomish County Public Works Solid Waste Division, which has a program for recycling up to 12 CFL bulbs per visit to any of its eight solid waste facilities throughout the county. Check out [www.co.snohomish.wa.us/documents/Departments/Public\\_Works/SolidWaste/information/brochures/fluor-web07H04.pdf](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/documents/Departments/Public_Works/SolidWaste/information/brochures/fluor-web07H04.pdf).

I encourage you to CFL your home. It takes a bit of getting used to, but the technology is improving, and it is easy to safely dispose of the bulbs. As always, if you have comments you would like to share, please write me at [jon.d.baker@gmail.com](mailto:jon.d.baker@gmail.com).

## Hope Springs Eternal

...or does it?

by Kate Halstead

Even though the hills above were coated with snow this morning, it was sunny and I could find so many hopeful signs of spring: blooming crocus, early daffodils, swelling tree buds, greening grass, and gigantic molehills erupting with a random madness.

Now it's raining, windy, cold, dark, and miserable. I cannot see one sign of spring from where I sit. Obviously, there is no hope of spring showing up anytime soon.

A broader question comes to mind: Is there hope? Hope for a future free from pollution, degradation, and fear? Hope for an abundance of safe foods grown closer to home? And is there any hope our children and grandchildren will inherit an earth a little less wearied than the one we now inhabit?

Just like the glass half full/half empty debate, we can easily look at these issues and see so much negative. We can also see plenty of room for optimism and hope for a brighter future. It all depends on us and the conscious (and unconscious) decisions we make every day.

At the risk of being long-winded, I'd like to relate a recent experience that seems to illustrate that last point well.

I'm part of a citizen group that keeps tabs on a large mining operation. Our group is mostly what I would describe as environmentally aware and conservation-minded people. As one would suspect, the mine representatives in attendance do not give the appearance of being so greenly inclined. But appearances can be deceiving.

At a recent meeting, I brought along copies of a new brochure entitled, *10 Reasons to Buy Your Food from Regional Family Farms*.

After handing them round, the citizen group leader pointedly asked me just where one

was supposed to find these locally grown foods?

I described different options including farmers markets in the area, co-ops and stores that buy foods from local farmers, as well as nearby farms with CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares that provide a box of farm-fresh local produce to members each week.

While others seemed willing to look at those as viable options, our leader announced that her time was too valuable to be wasted driving to Everett, Snohomish, or a nearby farm for good food. In her eyes, supporting local farms was too much effort. Pretty much ended the conversation right there.

After the meeting, the young man that manages the mine came up to me privately and thanked me for bringing the pamphlet to share.

He's a hometown boy who remembers the farms that dotted the region. He lamented that many of those very same farmers were now driving truck and heavy equipment for him because they could no longer make a living on their farms. He asked if I would bring copies of the pamphlet to distribute via their truck scale to all the drivers and their families. I could have kissed him!

Every day we are faced with decisions that can help make our collective future on this planet brighter or dimmer. How we respond individually does make a difference. And we can look for things to be hopeful about and encourage them, or we can rage against the machine and claim that it's too difficult. It's our choice, and ours alone.

Thanks to folks like you, our wonderful PAS members, people are learning about the choices we have for the future... and the true consequences of our daily decisions. Keep it up

# Birding Highlights

January 26 through February 25, 2007

Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

What a wild month we just went through. Some of the sighters are reporting that the birds must have gone elsewhere as their feeders were empty over the last part of the month. Then again, some sighters are reporting no differences or maybe an increase in activity.

Carole and Larry Beason always report a high species count from their Lake Bosworth location. Their report for February included 11 **American Coots**, 14 **Buffleheads**, 10 **Common Mergansers**, 4 **Hooded Mergansers**, 4 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 9 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, 10 **Canada Geese**, 5 **Purple Finches**, a **Hutton's Vireo**, 6 **Mallards**, and a **Bald Eagle** for a total species count of 28.

Gail Dibernardo's Brier location yielded 24 species which included a **Yellow Warbler**, 2 **Townsend's Warblers**, 19 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 15 **Pine Siskins**, 24 **Siberian Wigeons** in the Brier retention pond, a **Red-Breasted Sapsucker** that is a regular at the suet feeder, 9

Hilkka Egtvedt expressed concern over the lack of birds at her feeders during the last part of the month. Her total species count was 27, but most were counted during the first few weeks of February. Her report included 5 **American Crows**, 7 **Bushtits**, 10 **California Quail**, a **Barred Owl** calling in the night, 3 **Golden-Crowned Sparrows**, 9 **Pine Siskins**, 8 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Red-Tailed Hawks**, a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk**, and a **White-Throated Sparrow**.

Kriss Erickson's report from her Everett location listed a great variety of species. She reported 20 **Golden-Crowned Kinglets**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 12 **Band-Tailed Pigeons**, 30 **Northwestern Crows**, 13 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 4 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, 4 **American Goldfinches**, 20 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 2 **Western Gulls**, 11 **Mallards**, and 8 **House Finches** for a total species count of 16.

Adeline Gildow submitted a very

interesting report also, but stated that the birds must have gone elsewhere during the month. Reporting from along

Juniper Beach her total species count of 17 included a **Slate-Colored Junco** among the **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 3 **Mourning Doves**, 6 **Bald Eagles** with 2 of them landing in the pine trees (one with a dead **Snow Goose**, the other with what was probably a **Gull**), 2 **Northern Flickers**, 170+ **Trumpeter Swans**, 5 **House Finches**, 2 **Red-Tailed Hawks**, 1000s of **Snow Geese** flying over Juniper Beach, a **Falcon** specie flying through the yard and an **Egret** specie in a field east of the Mark Clark Bridge.

Verna Hisey's report from Lake Stevens included 4 **Varied Thrush**, 5 **Steller's Jays**, 6 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, a **Downy Woodpecker**, 3 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, 3 **Spotted Towhees**, 25+ **House Sparrows**, a **Bald Eagle**, 5 **Northwestern Crows**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, and 5 **Canada Geese** for a total species count of 11.

Shelia and Michael Huber's report from the Machias area had a total species count of 17 which included 6 **Steller's Jays**, 13 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, 2 **Red-Tailed Hawks**, a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk**, 4 **Northern Flickers**, 11 **American Robins**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, and a juvenile **Bald Eagle**.

Julie O'Donald also reported a **Barred Owl** from her Brier location. Her total species count of 19 included 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 14 **American Crows**, 18 **Bushtits**, 2 **Red-Breasted Nuthatches**, a **Winter Wren**, a **Killdeer**, 6 **American Robins**, a **Ruby-Crowned Kinglet**, a **Varied Thrush**, 2 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, and only a single **Bewick's Wren** this month.

Bob Poulin's total species count of 13 from Post Susan Bay included 39 **Barrow's Goldeneyes**,

5 **Mallards**, 85 **Glaucous-Winged Gulls**, 4 **Common Mergansers**, 35 **Northwestern Crows**, 5 **Double-Crested Cormorants**, a **Great Blue Heron**, a **Belted Kingfisher**, 11 **Common Merganser**, 3 **American Robins**, and 4 **Bald Eagles**, including one that tried to bring in a fish that was too large for it to carry. It worked on it for some time before giving up.

Over 250 **Snow Geese** were spotted by Darlene Walker on the flats along SR532 near Camano Island. Darlene's total species count of 15 also included 3 **Varied Thrush**, 10 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 8 **Fox Sparrows**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 10 **House Finches**, 5 **Spotted Towhees**, 20 **Pine Siskins**, and 7 **Mourning Doves**.

It seems a lot of bird species that were missing along the coast were spotted in the fields and ponds inland. The most unusual sighting for me this month was 5 **Bald Eagles** in trees overlooking the fields filled with ducks and gulls. There were 2 adults and 3 juveniles and they stayed for 3 weeks. My total species count of 25 included 8 **American Robins**, 30+ **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 8 **Northern Flickers** (I have never seen 8 at one time before), 30+ **Mallards** and 12+ **American Wigeons** in the fields along 100th, 300 **Glaucous-Winged Gulls**, 10 **California Quail**, 2 **Golden-Crowned Sparrows**, and a lonely **Canvasback Duck** in the pond along 100th.

Ann Hayes called in a report of 1,000+ **White-Winged Scoters** in the water near Priest Point. This particular Scoter is distinguished by a white wing patch and two white patches on the face.

If you are interested in adding to the *Birding Highlights* or would like other information included in the report, please call me at 425.750.8125 or e-mail [pricemara@earthlink.net](mailto:pricemara@earthlink.net).

## Help for Injured Wildlife

(not domestic animals)

The following numbers are available 24-hours a day:

**Second Chance Wildlife Care Center**  
Snohomish, 425.335.0788

**Deer Creek Wild Animal Rehab**  
Everett, 425.334.8171

**Sarvey Wildlife Rehab**  
Arlington, 360.435.4817

**PAWS**  
Lynnwood, 425.787.2500, Ext. 817



Red-Headed Duck by Daniel S. Kilby

**Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 US Postage Paid  
 Everett, WA  
 Permit 413**

**Return Service Requested**

**April Program Meeting**  
**Native Plants, the Birds  
 and Birders Who Use Them**  
 with Carol Stoner, WA Native Plant Society

Check Web site for latest info  
[www.pilchuckaudubon.org/programs.html](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/programs.html)

**Friday, April 13, 7:00pm**  
 Program meetings are held at Vertical World in Everett and  
 are always open to the public.

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

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

Y07

**Local PAS Membership**

- New Member.....\$25
- Renewal.....\$25
- Lifetime PAS Member....\$1,000
  - 10 monthly payments of \$100
  - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
  - 1 payment of \$1,000
- Donation .....\$\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
 Pilchuck Audubon Society  
 Mail your check and this form to:  
 PAS, Judy Lowell, Membership Chair  
 1803 Hewitt Ave #108  
 Everett, WA 98201

**NAS Membership**  
 (includes PAS membership)

- Introductory Membership \$20

Make check payable to:  
 National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:  
 PAS, Judy Lowell, Membership Chair  
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 Everett, WA 98201

**NAS Renewal**  
 (includes PAS renewal)

- Renewal \$35

Make check payable to:  
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- I'd like to save PAS money and read the *Profile* on the Web at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org). Please don't mail it to me. I've included my e-mail address at left so you can let me know when each issue is available.
- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.
- I am interested in the Conservation Committee.