

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

Published by Pilchuck Audubon Society Vol. 34, No. 10 December 2007



## North Whidbey PAS Bird Trip Has Mother Nature's Cooperation by Art Wait

Our group of six met in Marysville and motored to Deception Pass State Park where, just inside the park, on the south shore of Cranberry Lake, a Bald Eagle sat in a tree across the lake, a Great Blue Heron flew across in front, and Double-Crested Cormorants swam and dove. Tall evergreens above us held Nuthatches and Golden-Crowned Kinglets. At a spot on the east shore were Juncos, Winter Wrens, and Song Sparrows. From West Point at the southwest edge of the pass were more than a hundred Western Grebes, as well as Red-Necked and Horned Grebes, 150 Pigeon Guillemot, 71 Surf Scoter, one White-winged Scoter, and lots of gulls. Virginia set her scope to 60X and convinced most of the group that specks way out there were two Common Murre.

On the other side of the pass at Coronet Bay, we found Mallards, Canada Geese, Bonaparte's and Mew Gulls.

Next stop was Ala Spit, just east of Hope Island. The highlight was a Swainson's Thrush in the roadside brush, detected by Margaret. The usual Kingfisher and Great Blue Herons were there, as were a half dozen Bonaparte's Gulls, standing on a floating log, which was racing toward the pass on the outgoing tide. One by one they opted to not continue the free cruise and abandoned ship.

Down Jones Road we drove to Dugwalla Bay which held Mallards and many American Wigeons. Dugwalla Pond, across Dike road held Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Ring-Necked Ducks, a Shoveler, a Pied-billed Grebe, and about 150 Canvasbacks of which only half turned out to be hunters' decoys!

Bill wanted to investigate thousands of specks spotted to the south so we motored to Dugwalla Bay Heights. On the way, car number two spotted a perched Coopers Hawk. The specks turned out to be about 1,500 American Wigeons, six Eurasian Wigeons, and one pintail. Something startled them, and they all flew. All, except for the pintail—another plastic decoy.

Next we traveled west on Ault Field Rd. to Rocky Point Road where we saw another Cooper's Hawk, a Red-Tailed



Photograph by Dave Bateman on N. Whidbey trip

## No December Meeting! Merry Christmas!!

**Friday, January 11, 7PM — Program Meeting**  
**Singing in the Brain: Seasonal Change in the Neural Circuits that Control Bird Song**

**with Chris Thompson**

Chris will take us inside a bird brain and share his findings on the brain circuitry that controls singing behavior as well as how seasonal changes effect the circuitry, helping explain the yearly changes in birds' songs.



Recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academies of Science, Chris has a BS in Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution and minor in Chemistry from the University of Ill, Champaign-Urbana. He's currently pursuing his PhD in Neurobiology and Behavior at the UW, working in Eliot Brenowitz's lab. Their most recent work focuses on seasonal regression of the song control system in Gamble's white-crowned sparrows.

**Note: New location—Mariner HS Library, Everett**

See map on back page for directions to program meetings.  
For more information, call 425.252.0926.

Hawk, and a Northern Harrier. A quarter mile to the west is the West Beach portion of Joseph Whidbey State Park, where from the high bluff we had good looks between extended dives at five Long-tailed Ducks. We also saw Red-Necked and Horned Grebes, as well as Common and Red-Throated Loons. In amongst some serious brambles Margaret, Virginia, and Fran found three Fox Sparrows shyly flitting about.

However, it was at Bos Lake that our adventures in birding began: we heard a Marsh Wren singing (always a pleasure for those of us tending towards deafness), found lots of Mallards, six Hooded Mergansers, 25 Ruddy Ducks, several Northern Pintails, and 30 Lesser Scaup. We spotted five shorebirds, three of which flew away, and weren't identified. The two remaining were argued about for some time. We finally concluded one was a Long-Billed Dowitcher and the other a Pectoral Sandpiper (nice bird!)

Viewing from the high bluff over the Sound across the road from the lake were lots of the usual scoters, grebes, loons, etc. My high point was a view of a beautiful winter-plumaged Red-Throated Loon, close to shore at the foot of the bluff only 20 feet away.

The last place visited, Whitecap County Park at the intersection of Hastie Lake Rd. and West Beach Rd. yielded the usual plus the bonus of a close look at a Harlequin Duck drake.

Total species count was 66 and Mother Nature kept the weather real nice.

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December 2007 Vol. 34, No. 10

## In this issue

Calendar.....3	Chapter News.....6
Weekend Trip Report.....3	Evergreen Cities.....6
Smart Growth Report.....4	K'wanárajət.....6
Conserve Working Farms.....5	Birding Highlights.....7

*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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### 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.

### MONTHLY MAILING PARTY

Newsletter mailing parties are held the third Monday of the month. If you'd like to have some fun with other PAS members, contact Judy Lowell [organicjudy@juno.com](mailto:organicjudy@juno.com), 425.353.8150 for information on the time and place.

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



Climate change will be the overarching issue of the 21st Century. It's already impacting agriculture, increasing the threat of wide-spread disease, diminishing water supplies, drowning others with cyclones and hurricanes exhibiting the extreme mood swings of a tormented nature. It's starting to change myriad things that make our world habitable ...and that we take for granted.

Climate change, despite the denial of many political leaders, will be front and center on the world political stage for generations to come. As Auduboners, our consciousness has long been raised to understand it's all about habitat. We know our feathered friends are simply the most visible barometers gauging the health of our planet's ecosystems.

In incremental steps, our interest in birds has led each of us to awareness of the health of the visible world around us. With awareness comes commitment to share our interest and knowledge with succeeding generations so that they too, become hyper-sensitive to our ability to live on the earth.

Here in Snohomish County, we have an ideal conduit to create a heightened level of awareness for the environment for a new generation.

Each year, thousands of Vaux's Swifts use the tall brick chimney at Monroe's historic Frank Wagner Elementary School as one of their roosting sites during spring and fall migrations. It's one of the few structures, natural or man-made, left in the region that can accommodate the little birds' needs.

As natural history enthusiasts, we would be remiss if we didn't encourage the excellent teaching moment this old chimney offers the children and adults of Monroe. The swifts' yearly round trip to Central America provides a unique opportunity for our

community to learn about the impacts of climate and ecosystem change from a very personal viewpoint.

However, there is some apprehension regarding the chimney. The school was built in 1930s and there are valid concerns about the chimney's seismic stability and the safety of students.

Recently a delegation of chapter officers from the Pilchuck, East Lake Washington, and Seattle Audubon societies met with Monroe School District Superintendent Ken Hoover. We were seeking to find common ground and establish a spirit of cooperation that would protect the students while insuring viability of the roost.

I'm pleased to report the superintendent and his staff welcomed us warmly. Meeting with us late in the day, they were generous with their time. They shared with us in detail their concerns over the never-ending lack of resources to fund all the needs of the school district.

We were pleased to find that demolition of the aging chimney is far down on the priority list of funding needs. That doesn't make the chimney any safer and its seismic stability will eventually have to be addressed. However, it does give us time to assist in finding a solution as well as utilize this teachable moment to educate and involve a new generation in the future health of their habitat.

The Vaux's Swift is a little cigar-shaped bird that spends the greater part of its life on the wing. The Vaux's Swift feeds on the wing, mates on the wing, and perhaps even sleeps on the wing.

If given the opportunity, with our help, Monroe's brave little swifts will fly into the imaginations of generations of school children, awakening their interest in the world beyond the latest computer game. That would be a good thing.

## Aleutian Goose Festival

March 28-30

Come celebrate Spring and the return of the once endangered Aleutian Geese to the extreme northern coast of California at the 10th Annual Aleutian Goose Festival, March 28-30 2008 in Crescent City/Del Norte County, CA. Located in the home of Redwood National Park and the Smith River National Recreation area, the festival offers 60+ workshops/field trips, Native American Heritage, birds-birds-birds, Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelets, Pelagic trip, Smith River Drifts, Geology, Botany and more... To see it all, visit [www.aleutiangoosefestival.org](http://www.aleutiangoosefestival.org).

# December 2007 Trip Calendar

Check our web site at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org) for the latest information

## SATURDAY, DEC. 8

### HOWARTH PARK, EVERETT

Meet 8AM, Howarth Park for this pre-Christmas Bird Count field seminar and birding warm-up. After gathering for a review of the history and purpose of the upcoming Christmas Bird Count, we'll talk about how to hear, spot, and record data on some of the more commonly confused species we can expect to encounter. Then we'll head out and see what we come up with. The shoreline below and the forest and its edges above will definitely be on the agenda. Directions, meeting point, and path TBD. This is my request for experienced CBCers who would like to share their expertise on these topics to help train the next contingent of CBCers.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh 425.244.7633, [aracfi@msn.com](mailto:aracfi@msn.com)

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

### SAMISH FLATS

Meet 8AM, Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5 Exit 200. Park away from store, east next to I-5. Eagles, Buteos, Falcons, Ducks, Geese, Swans, Loons, Grebes, Scoters, Shorebirds, Owls, etc. Come see Peregrine Falcons attack shorebirds. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

### PORT GAMBLE TO PORT TOWNSEND

Meet 7:30AM at Edmonds Marsh. South of West Dayton St., turn left just before the railroad tracks. We'll take the ferry to Kingston, go thru Port Gamble, and across the floating bridge. We'll visit Marrowstone and Indian Islands with views of Admiralty Inlet. Waterfowl, seabirds, and maybe Orca. The trip last year was memorable and rewarding. Lunch in a restaurant, but bring snacks.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

### SILVANA ROADS

Meet 8AM, Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5 Exit 200. Park away from store, east next to I-5. Pipits, Snowy Owls, falcons, all the winter LBJs. We will visit the Port Susan Nature Conservancy site. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

### MERRY CHRISTMAS!



**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.

## Pt. Defiance Park Weekend Bird Hike Trip Report

by Jonathan Blubaugh

In addition to birdwatching, and despite inclement weather, birding data was recorded and later sent to Elizabeth Woodworth of the University of Illinois. Her research concerns the flock detection by the Federal Aviation Administration's new generation of weather radar.

This radar was designed to accurately detect precipitation. She seeks to determine if the system can have a secondary bird detection capability. Timely alerts to air crews from air traffic control could potentially prevent loss of human life and damage to aircraft (currently running into the hundreds of millions each year) to say nothing of the poor birds.

Although rare, there have been instances of tragic crashes due to in flight encounters with birds. This type of research requires observers in the field to provide "ground truth" to compare their data with that collected by the radar set.

Just north of the Vashon ferry dock there is a boathouse where shelter was sought for the latter

part of the shower. For the rest of the hike the rain strayed away. The hike covered the mostly flat, five-mile long Outer Loop Trail.

The Vashon ferry dock and boathouse are on the northeast shore of the park which forms a peninsula sticking out into Puget Sound. Along the shore is a low seawall topped by a broad promenade. A short concrete staircase leads down from the promenade to the gravel shore. The tide was high enough so the clear water lapped above the base of the seawall and onto the lowest stair.

A tiny Harbor Seal pup napped on the stair. Later on, farther down the shore an adult seal, probably the pup's mom, was swimming back in that direction. At Alki Beach in Seattle, the seal pups have volunteer pup sitters who put out traffic cones and yellow tape around the babies. Apparently not in Tacoma.

At the shore parking lot four raccoons trundled past a motorist. The lady said, "This is bad.

They're too tame. People must be feeding them."

I said, "Yep."

"Am I wrong?" she asked.

"Not at all," I said. "My parents feed them in Ocean Shores. They climb up the posts to the second floor balcony for dog food."

The coons stopped at the edge of the lot and began to feed.

The driver said, "I wonder what they're eating."

Being as I was wearing my binoculars I responded, "Let's peek. Dog food: someone left a whole pile of it there for them."

Figuring the rest of the trip was on borrowed time from the weather, no other stops were made except to check out the birds or views.

A partial list of the birds recorded includes three Horned Grebes, two Western Grebes, seven Double-Crested Cormorants, 67 Mallards, 140 American Widgeons, Bald

Eagle (heard one), 25 Glaucous-Winged Gulls, one Marbled Murrelet, Northern Flicker (heard one), Stellar's Jay (heard a couple), 43 Northwestern Crows, one Black-Capped Chickadee, two Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, one Bewick's Wren, three Winter Wrens, three Golden-Crowned Kinglets, two Ruby-Crowned Kinglets, Spotted Towhee (heard one), two Song Sparrows, seven American Goldfinches, and a House Sparrow. There was also an Eastern Grey Squirrel.

I was the only human there.

Later this month we foray into Illahie State Park. Soon I'm going to start incorporating our club's ongoing activities into the Weekend Bird Hikes.

We'll have hikes at the Stanwood Snow Goose Festival and the Edmonds Shorebird Festival at a minimum. I'll work out details over the holidays. Details coming in future issues.



# Smart Growth Report

*Kristin Kelly, Director*

Holy smoke!!! The news is disturbing these days: home foreclosures at an all-time high, home values falling, oil prices soaring, oil supplies out of reach, climate change already affecting ecosystems and organisms around the planet, federal government in debt spending taxes on everything but essentials like children's health care educational opportunities, and infrastructure. The prevailing news simply can't be ignored any longer!

So, it's really no surprise that a majority of folks around here want new leadership and don't want our tax dollars wasted. The November 6 election results are in, and the voters of Snohomish County have spoken very clearly. They want the developer frenzy hay day to end.

They also want a better solution for our transportation mess than what Prop 1 offered. All in all, the message is new growth needs to pay its own way, and we need effective leadership to make that happen.

In the County Council election, and in many of our fastest-growing and land-consuming cities, the newly elected people who will be serving for the next four years ran on campaigns that were sensitive to the concerns of citizens who have been speaking out against the negative impacts of development in our urban and rural areas.

It is clear the electorate wants a change in direction, but we can't just elect these folks to office and then walk away thinking they will have all the answers. We all must group together at every opportunity and take time to speak up and help guide these folks who have committed themselves to furthering our common voice throughout the county.

We are poised to be able to take back our communi-

ties from the developer's greedy hands, and ask our elected representatives to work with us to ensure our urban communities become places we all want to live in, and that our rural areas, farmlands, and forests are better protected from urban sprawl.

At the county level, the update to the Unified Development Code will continue. We need to make sure the new council adopts code changes that will stop density bonuses for rural cluster subdivisions; that will ensure large, healthy trees are left intact when we develop urban residential design standards; that there is money in the budget to pay for following the new stormwater regulations that can actually protect water quality; and that the code enforcement system will be funded at a level that can truly protect our communities and rural areas.

As you know, government doesn't stop for elections and changes of the guard. On Thursday, November 28, I hope you can attend the County Council public hearing on Transportation Demand Management Mitigation Fees. Also on the docket is whether or not to declare 164th Street at Ultimate Capacity.

Just recently posted on the County's website ([www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org)) are two press releases from the council; one regarding rural cluster subdivision density bonuses from Council member Dave Somers, and another, from Council member and Chair Dave Gossett on the proposed funding in this year's budget to try to fix 164th. Let me briefly explain why the council needs to hear from you.

Under the Growth Management Act, the only way to stop a development from occurring is if the development will put a county arterial road (such as 164th) into "arrears," which means the road is not

meeting the county's established level of service for handling all the traffic. There are many county arterials "in arrears," and more and more reaching that state every year.

Under GMA, the usual fix is for the developer or the county to show they can pay to fix the road (widen it) within six years of the development going in. If they can show they have the money in time, then the development is deemed concurrent and can proceed.

However, there are some county arterials that are already built to the maximum width. Homes and businesses have been built close to the roads that were expanded, and unless the county or developer buys up these properties so they can widen the road further, then the road is deemed at Ultimate Capacity.

Unfortunately, state law allows for Ultimate Capacity designation, but that shouldn't mean it's okay to add even more development and more cars with no hope for a fix. However, our county is appearing to be going in precisely this direction.

We need a system in place that will help get people out of their cars and into van pools, car pools, and on mass transit. Declaring 164th at Ultimate Capacity is not necessarily a bad thing. We can't continue to widen our roads forever to meet the demands of car travel.

But it is a bad thing if the County hasn't shown it can actually get people off the roads. While Public Works is currently undergoing a Congestion Management Strategy for 164th, it is not finished and won't be until probably late 2008

One part of the strategy plan is to raise mitigation fees for the county's Transportation Demand Management system, which assesses new develop-

ments to help pay for things like van pools and bus passes for folks.

Mitigation fees have not been raised in a very long time. The public hearing on Nov. 28 is about raising these fees to a level that can make a difference.

While this is a good thing, it is a bad thing if this is the one piece Council will use to declare 164th Street at Ultimate Capacity while allowing more developments to impact us.

We will be asking Council to adopt the highest mitigation fees for the TDM system, and we also will be asking Council NOT to declare 164th at Ultimate Capacity until the entire Congestion Management Strategy is running and shown to be actually getting folks out of their cars. I will be asking you to help voice that recommendation to Council via Action Alert.

Snohomish County is at a crossroads with transportation and the way we live. Collectively we need to work together to find solutions.

Individually, we need to change the way we get from point A to point B as well as learning how to lessen the number of trips we make each day. Car exhaust is the number one contributor to global warming pollution. Our insatiable desire to drive our cars is costing us money and lives. We need to press leadership to work towards building livable, walkable, and enjoyable cities.

Pilchuck Audubon Society's Smart Growth program is only as effective as its membership. I need you to keep our voice strong as we move into the new year with new leadership with both man- and woman-power as well as funding. Thanks for all you do to preserve Snohomish County as we move into some most interesting times.

The Cascade Agenda views the preservation of our region's working farms as an important ingredient in its plan for an economically strong and environmentally sound future. Research done by the Agenda found that a viable farm economy could be sustained in the region if as few as five percent of calories consumed here came from local farms.

Eating locally cannot save agricultural land by itself. The Cascade Agenda advocates for the use of innovative market-based techniques to mitigate development pressure on the region's natural areas and working lands.

The Agenda found that if only 20 percent of the expected increase in population in the Central Cascades region were accommodated by Transfer of Development Rights, we could achieve much of the conservation of working farms, forests, and natural areas envisioned by the Agenda.

TDRs work for everyone. Farmers and family foresters can sell the development rights on their property at a market rate, realizing the appreciation in the value of the property. They can then remain on that land as owners and stewards, entrusting the land to their children and grandchildren. They can continue to work the land, providing jobs and raw materials to our growing state. Urban landowners can then purchase the right to develop more intensely, adding additional height or density than would otherwise be allowed.

TDRs are viable in Washington. The Girl Scouts from Totem Girl Scout Council used TDRs to conserve their historic 438-acre Camp River Ranch Girl Scout camp near Carnation, which includes half a mile of shoreline along the Tolt River – critical

spawning habitat for endangered chinook salmon.

The Girl Scouts gave King County a free, permanent conservation easement and received \$210,000 for 14 development rights from City Investors II, LLC, an affiliate of Vulcan Inc. The additional development rights will allow for a bonus of 28,000 square feet of residential space at Vulcan's 2201 Westlake Project in Seattle. Both parties benefit from this voluntary agreement. In the process, growth is directed toward the urban core while critical habitat is preserved.

Since 1999, King County's voluntary TDR Program has permanently conserved almost 92,000 acres of rural lands for farming, forestry, and habitat for threatened or endangered species, diverting growth to urban areas. That's nearly twice the land of any other TDR program in the United States.

Transfer of Development Rights is a simple idea. Its premise is to create a market-based transaction between the owner of resource land and development of land in urbanized areas. The rural landowner voluntarily sells their right to develop their property to an urban landowner who uses that "development right" to construct greater density than the underlying zoning would allow. Rural resource lands are protected, rural landowners receive a fair value for their lost ability to develop their land and new construction occurs where we want it to be developed.

As conservationists, we may have started in the woods, but increasingly we have come to recognize that we have to succeed at making our cities spectacularly livable. First, the best way to conserve our landscapes is to make our cities magnets for attracting the region's growth rather than helping create sprawl

across our lands. Second, as we succeed at conserving our countryside, we have an almost moral responsibility to make the cities not

just places where our families happen to reside, but places where they in fact very much want to reside. Vibrant lively cities are fundamental to securing a region that grows with grace and purpose – and cities set in conserved landscapes are great. And, we know the population and growth is coming.

Population is expected to double in the central Cascades region of Washington State in the next 100 years. Cities and counties are looking beyond zoning for new tools to direct this growth into appropriate areas while protecting natural areas and working lands and respecting property rights. The Cascade Agenda identified Transfer of Development Rights – TDR – as a key strategy in its plan for an economically strong and environmentally sound future for our region.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) is a market-based mechanism that promotes responsible growth, while conserving areas such as prime agricultural and environmentally sensitive lands. It is designed to redirect growth—not to limit or stop development.

The CLC and the Cascade Agenda have had success in pushing the idea of TDRs. The Washington State Legislature passed a bill last session that starts a process to design a regional Transfer of Development Rights



*Teanaway Ridge*

marketplace in the four-county Puget Sound region.

The Cascade Land Conservancy vision is to conserve our surrounding landscapes so that they will continue to be places of majesty that in turn make our communities better places to live. Working farms, farmers markets, and the value they bring to our urban setting are key to that vision. Great landscapes and great communities are the two sides of a common and compelling vision.

## **The Cascade Land Conservancy**

Cascade Land Conservancy is an entrepreneurial nonprofit land conservation organization, currently working in King, Kittitas, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. CLC is uniquely positioned in the conservation community, known for its willingness to take bold steps in partnership with public and private organizations to address the community's desire for a healthy environment. Since 2005, it has been the host organization of the Cascade Agenda, which links conserving great lands with creating great communities.

For more information, please visit [www.cascadeagenda.com](http://www.cascadeagenda.com) and [www.cascadeland.org](http://www.cascadeland.org) or contact Leda Chahim at 206.292.5709 x 228 or at [ledac@cascadeland.org](mailto:ledac@cascadeland.org).

## Edmonds Starts Planning to be a Certified Community Backyard Wild Life Sanctuary

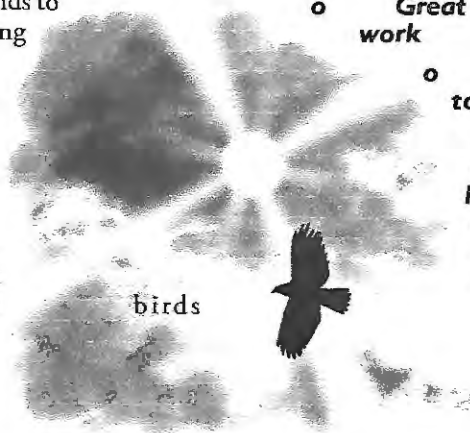
On November 1, a group of Edmonds PAS members met together with other like minded people to start gathering information about what would be needed to get the Edmonds Community certified.

We heard from representatives from National Wildlife Federation, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Camano Island, Cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. Everyone attending agreed that we need to get going on this in Edmonds. Another meeting is being scheduled for December.

If you need more information about what needs to happen to get a city certified. Please contact Laura at 425.672.2150 Laura\_Harvell@yahoo.com for more information about Community Certification. To get on the mailing list or the Edmonds PAS list serve contact Susie Schaefer 425.771.8165 Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net. There is something for everyone to do in this project so all bird lovers in Edmonds are needed to get the ball rolling and make certification a reality.

## Thank you, Art Wait!

A special thank you to Art Wait for another successful PAS bird seed sale in early November. People called in their bird seed orders and Art had almost \$1,200 worth of orders. Art worked hard to plan for delivery and convenient pickup of the seed. Although like everything else, the price of bird seed went up, PAS still offered a good deal plus had a successful fund raiser for PAS. We will probably have another sale in February. In the meantime our friends at our local Wild Bird Unlimited stores offer quality bird seed and other bird feeding necessities year around. Remember to tell them that you are a PAS member whenever you shop at these stores as they give PAS a percentage of every dollar you spend in their stores. They are great friends to PAS along with our own Art Wait and help us to keep our backyard well fed.



## Benefits of Volunteering

- o Meeting people who have your passion regarding an issue you hold true to your values
- o Knowing you are doing something to make the world a better place for yourself and the ones you love
- o Learning more about the cause or issue you support
- o Getting off the couch and away from the television
- o Building self-esteem and self-confidence
- o Broadening your interests base
- o Feeling needed and valued
- o Great way to network
- o Can lead to employment
- o Potential for enjoying better health

Now... take the above information

tion and put it to good use by calling or emailing me with your choice of the volunteer opportunities available with Pilchuck. You can go to our website, www.PilchuckAudubon.org print out the Survey Form and send it to me or give me a call. My phone number and email are listed in this newsletter.

1. Publicity Chair
2. Public Relations working with the Action Team of Port Susan Bay IBA

These are the "big ticket" items with Pilchuck, however, you will have the advantage of forming your committee and working with other like-minded members to make Pilchuck one of the best chapters in Washington!

Please remember to keep the last week of April and the first week of May open for the Spring Migration of shorebirds for the Port Susan Bay - IBA survey count! It should be a lot of fun.

Thank you!

*Kw'nanəŋət is a Coast Salish word meaning 'help someone' or, in modern vernacular 'volunteer.' It's pronounced 'que-nong-ett.'*

## Evergreen Cities Legislative Campaign

by Lisa Parabello

It is time to stop losing the trees and forests in our cities. Keeping existing trees and planting new ones enhances quality of life, increases property values and gives us cleaner water and habitat for birds and wildlife. In January, Auduboners across the state will spearhead the Evergreen Cities legislative campaign, one of the four top environmental priorities for 2008!

Some of our cities have innovative programs to retain, plant and maintain trees, but there is much room for improvement because only:

- 47% of our communities have tree ordinances
- 20% of our communities do routine tree care
- 12% of our communities have management plans, and
- 10% of our communities have up-to-date tree inventories

In 20 years 70% of some cities public forest lands will be dead or dying due to poor maintenance and thousands of community forest acres will be removed for new development.

Washington's population is expected to increase by 2.3 mil-

lion by 2030. We need action today to support tree planning and management for cities to ensure the Evergreen State is full of Evergreen Cities.

Scientific studies show that trees in cities provide many benefits including reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, improved storm water management, 20% increase in property values, 12% increase in consumer spending, lower crime rates, and of course enhanced bird and wildlife habitat areas.

This legislation will provide funding and encourage partner-

ships to help local governments' update ordinances and management plans to grow healthy trees and urban forests. The bill will establish statewide performance standards for tree retention and forest canopy goals, guaranteeing benefit from healthy trees in our communities.

To get involved contact Lisa Paribello at 360.786.8020 ext. 201 or lparibello@audubon.org, visit <http://wa.audubon.org>, or sign-up for Audubon's biweekly updates and action alerts at: [www.audubonaction.org/washington](http://www.audubonaction.org/washington).

# Birding Highlights

September 26 through October 25, 2007

Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Large numbers of **American Crows** were counted this month from Brier, Camano Island, Marysville, and Granite Falls. American Crows tend to form large communal roosts at night where thousands gather in trees. The 120+ Crows I spotted were all flying northeast over the woods. Julie O'Donald counted 150 to 200 Crows jeering and cawing in the trees around her house over a two-day period.

Carole and Larry Beason included 47 **American Crows** in their total species count of 33 from their Lake Bosworth location. A **Red-Breasted Nuthatch** was also spotted along with 16 **American Goldfinches**, 10 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 3 **Golden-Crowned Sparrows**, 32 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk**, a **Western Tanager**, and 6 **Violet-Green Swallows**.

Hilkka Egtvedt counted 40+ **American Crows** flying over her Mukilteo home in October. Her total species count of 23 also included 6 **American Goldfinches**, 12 **American Robins**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 9 **California Quail**, 12 **House Finches**, 4 **Pileated Woodpeckers** (she usually sees 1 or 2, but not 4 at one time), a **Red-Breasted Nuthatch**, 8 **Steller's Jays**, and 3 **White-Crowned Sparrows**.

Kriss Erickson reported at least 17 **Black-Capped Chickadees** at the feeders and in the yard of her home in Everett. She also reported 13 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, 5 **American Robins**, 64 **European Starlings**, 11 **Bushtits**, 8 **Northwestern Crows**, 3 **Fox Sparrows**, 12 **House Sparrows**, and **Northern Flickers** for a total species count of 15.

Reporting from Tulare Beach on the Tulalip Reservation, Clayton Haberman's total species count of 24 included 45 **Double-Crested Cormorant**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **Western Grebes**, **Glaucous-Winged**

**Gulls**, 3 **Great Blue Herons**, 25 **Common Mergansers**, 10 **Surf Scoters**, a **Downy Woodpecker**, and 3 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**.

Verna Hisey's report from Lake Stevens included 4 **Northwestern Crows**, a **Bald Eagle**, a **Winter Wren**, 18 **House Sparrows**, 2 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, a **Red-Tailed Hawk**, a **White-Crowned Sparrow**, a **Northern Flicker**, a female **Red-Winged Blackbird**, 23 **Rock Doves**, and a **Downy Woodpecker** for a total species count of 12.

Shelia and Michael Huber are still reporting large numbers of **American Goldfinches** from their Machias location. Their report included 8 **American Goldfinches**, 12 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 4 **Mourning Doves**, 11 **American Robins**, 3 **Northwestern Crows**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 7 **House Finches**, 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, 4 **Purple Finches**, 4 **Northern Flickers**, and 2 **Spotted Towhees** for a total species count of 15.

The 200 **American Crows** topped Julie O'Donald's list from her Brier location. The Crows were heckling a **Barred Owl** that was hunting a squirrel in her yard. Her report also listed 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 10 **Cedar Waxwings**, 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, a **Red-Breasted Nuthatch**, 3 **Townsend's Warblers**, a **Western Screech Owl**, a **Varied Thrush**, 3 **Yellow-Rumped Warbler**, 3 **Golden-Crowned Kinglets**, a **Ruby-Crowned Kinglet**, a **Winter Wren**, and a **Red-Breasted Sapsucker** for a total species count of 27.

Bob Poulin's report from Camano Island along Port Susan Bay listed 50 **Double-Crested Cormorants**, 28 **Northwestern Crows** along the beach, 2 **Caspian Terns**, 14 **Common Loons**, 28 **Mew Gulls**, 7 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, 4 **American Wigeons**, 23 **Canada Geese**, 12 **Glaucous-Winged Gulls**, a **Killdeer**, 2 **White-Crowned Sparrows**, 3 **Horned Grebes**, and a **Belted Kingfisher** for a total species count of 23.

Also reporting from Camano Island, Darlene Walker's total species count of 17 included 12 **American Crows** in her yard, 12 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Sandpiper** species (most of the Sandpipers along our coast are **Spotted** and **Western**), 10 **House Finches**, 6 **American Goldfinches**, 10 **House Sparrows**, 8 **Fox Sparrows**, a **Northern Flicker**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 2 **Golden-Crown Sparrows**, and 2 **White-Crowned Sparrows**.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood included a **Varied Thrush**, a **Brown Creeper**, 14 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 10 **American Goldfinches**, 17 **Mourning Doves**, 39 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk**, 2 **Red-Tailed Hawks**, 9 **American Crows**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, and 2 **Winter Wrens** to a total species count of 21.

Reporting from Marysville near the farms along 100th, my total species count of 21 included 125+ **American Crows** flying overhead, 2 **American Goldfinches**, 10 **American Robins**, 12 **California Quail**, 17 **House Finches**, 3 **Northern Flickers**, a **Western Tanager**, 4 **Chestnut-Backed Chickadees**, 5 **Steller's Jays**, 6 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, and a **Red-Tailed Hawk**.

**NOTE:** Turkey Day Bird Count forms are available. Please let me know if you would like to participate in the Turkey Day Bird Count and I will send you a form with a return envelope. It's very easy to do.

Just mark off a 15-foot area for your count and report the largest number of a single species that you see at that time. Just count for an hour. You can also count the birds that fly over the area you have marked off for your count.

If you are interested in adding to *Birding Highlights*, please contact me at 425.750.8125 or email [pricemara@earthlink.net](mailto:pricemara@earthlink.net).

## Be a Citizen Science Volunteer!

This is your opportunity to be a part of the Port Susan Bay Important Bird Area Spring Migration Survey.

Set aside the last week of April 2008 through the first week of May 2008. We will station volunteers around Port Susan Bay for a coordinated survey.

Please keep watch in the upcoming Profile to find the exact date and time.

This information will also be posted on our website: [www.PilchuckAudubon.org](http://www.PilchuckAudubon.org).



## HELP WANTED

### Publicity Chair

Getting the news out about Pilchuck is the main focus of this volunteer position. You will work closely with the media giving them information about upcoming events with Pilchuck as well as any other newsworthy information our chapter wants to get out into the community.

Call Colleen Weber  
425.210.5626  
or e-mail:  
[Colleen.Weber@PilchuckAudubon.org](mailto:Colleen.Weber@PilchuckAudubon.org)

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**January Program Meeting**  
**Singing in the Brain**  
 with **Chris Thompson**  
 Check Web site for latest info  
[www.pilchuckaudubon.org/programs.html](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/programs.html)  
**Friday, January 11, 7:00pm**  
 Program meetings held at **Mariner High School Library**  
 in Everett and are always open to the public.

**Mariner HS Library**  
**200-120th St SW**

**New Location!**

**Audubon Membership Information**

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*  
*1429 Avenue D, PMB 198,*  
*Snohomish, WA 98290*

**NAS Membership**  
 (includes PAS membership)

- Introductory Membership \$20

Make check payable to:  
*National Audubon Society*

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

**NAS Renewal**  
 (includes PAS renewal)

- Renewal \$35

Make check payable to:  
*National Audubon Society*

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

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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.