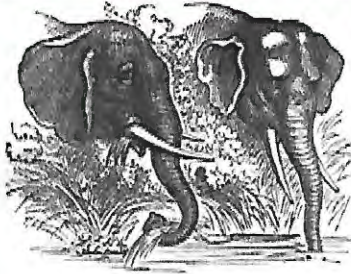


# Pilchuck Audubon Profile



Published by Pilchuck Audubon Society Vol. 34, No. 6 July/August 2007

## Friday, July 13, 7PM — Program Meeting Birds & Wildlife of Tanzania & Madagascar with Kathy Clark



PAS member and friend of Africa, Kathy Clark returns to present a slide show of her photographs of Tanzania and Madagascar. An excellent photographer, Kathy will present images of her latest trip to Africa. See some of the most interesting, beautiful, and rare birds and mammals in the world. Don't miss this photogenic presentation.

See some of the most interesting, beautiful, and rare birds and mammals in the world. Don't miss this photogenic presentation.

**No August program meeting. Have a great summer!**

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

## Funding...our biggest challenge

Thanks to our members for their continuing donations to the Smart Growth program. This program depends on your donations, especially in times of uncertainty with foundation and grant contributions. This last year, despite grand efforts to acquire funds for 2007, we have not been very fortunate.

We did receive \$5,000 from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Foundation, as well as a few smaller grants, but so far have been denied requests from the Burning Foundation, the Bullitt Foundation, and the Greater Everett Community Foundation.

For our program for 2008, we will be again apply for grants with the Burning Foundation, the Bullitt Foundation, and the Paul Newman Foundation, in hopes they will consider our work as important as we do, and will need at least \$10,000 from our membership to keep the Smart Growth program alive and fighting for good growth management for a livable Snohomish County.

Please consider all the important works Pilchuck Audubon is engaged in when making your charitable donation plans.

## New! Weekend Trips!

Meet our new PAS Weekend Field Trip Leader Jonathan Blubaugh. Jonathan is a new member recently transplanted from Northern California. An excellent birder and a fantastic field trip leader, he did a great job as a field trip leader at the recent Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds and was a very valuable participant in both PAS 2006 Christmas Bird Counts.

Jonathan has planned two (possibly three) great birding hikes for this summer (see calendar page 4) that sound very fun for everyone. The trips will get us out enjoying the birds and flowers on a Northwest summer day! And, you won't find a better guide than Jonathan! Mark your calendars now!

## Annual Darryl Thompson Volunteer Appreciation Day Picnic

Mark your calendars now for Aug. 18, 11-2pm in Jennings Park, Marysville. This is a potluck picnic, please bring a dish to share along with your own place settings, silverware, and beverage containers. Pilchuck will provide napkins, beverages, and condiments.

We will honor the memory of Darryl Thompson and recognize the many volunteers that help keep Pilchuck Audubon Society a force to be reckoned with in Snohomish County.

Jennings Park, 6915 Armar Road, Marysville. Take I-5 to Exit 199 East. Turn right onto 47th Ave NE and continue straight onto Armar Road which ends at Jennings Park.

Please mark this on your calendar and take a break for lunch with old friends, new friends, and others who share your commitment to Pilchuck and our special environment.

## Disappearing Common Birds Sends Environmental Wake-up Call

Population declines for some of the most common birds in Washington State echo disturbing findings from the National Audubon Society. A new scientific analysis reveals how local and national threats are combining to take a toll on birds and their habitats across the country.

"These are not rare or exotic birds we're talking about—these are the birds that visit our feeders and come to our nearby lakes and seashores and yet they are disappearing day by day," said Audubon Chairperson and former EPA Administrator, Carol Browner.

The national study found that populations of some common birds plunged over the past 40 years, with several down nearly 80 percent. In Washington State, the five common birds in steepest decline are: Evening Grosbeak (down 97%), Bonaparte's Gull (down 97%), Purple Finch (down 87%), Yellow-headed Blackbird (down 72%) and Western Meadowlark (down 60%).

The dramatic declines are attributed to a variety of factors, including the loss of shrub steppe, grasslands, mature forests and wetlands, and other critical habitats from multiple environmental threats such as sprawl, energy development, intense management for single resources, and the spread of clean farming techniques. The national study notes that these threats are now compounded by new problems including the escalating effects of global warming and demand for corn-based ethanol.

"Here in Washington, the biggest problem comes from cutting up our landscapes into smaller and smaller disconnected pieces. We should keep our landscapes intact and connected for future generations of farmers and foresters. Doing so will keep our common birds in good shape too," said Nina Carter, Executive Director, Audubon Washington.



# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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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.*

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 also 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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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. To volunteer, contact Judy Lowell at 425.353.8150.

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



There's an old adage that consistently seems to ring true, 'Politics makes strange bedfellows.'

Perhaps the strangest of all bedfellows is a current collaboration between the military and environmental community.

Few people realize that some of the most pristine and untouched land left in America is within several US military reservations. Camp Pendleton in California covers 200 square miles and 17½ miles of shoreline—the largest undeveloped portion of coastal area left in Southern California.

With nearly 400 species of mammals and birds much of the land remains as it was when Spanish missionaries first came to California over 200 years ago. Without Camp Pendleton there would be one huge megalopolis between Los Angeles and San Diego. Unfortunately, Camp Pendleton is not accessible to the public.

Not so the crown jewel of Seattle's city parks, Discovery Park. Starting life as Fort Lawton, it was built in response to a climate of social unrest across the 1890s United States. The Seattle city fathers—almost all real estate developers—demanded the McKinley administration build a military installation on the outskirts of town to keep the public peace.

It was one of the few times, if not the only time, a United States military installation was built to protect against a perceived internal threat rather than an external one.

By 1968, Fort Lawton was no longer a viable military installation. Much to the chagrin of developers, US Senator Henry Jackson introduced and managed to get passed bill enabling cities to acquire federal lands at no cost for park and recreational purposes. In our region, Discovery Park was the result.

Currently, there are those determined to build the Cross-Base Highway in Pierce County with taxpayer dollars. The proposed State Route 704 would be a four-lane, 6-mile highway between Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base, creating a corridor for easier development of eastern Pierce County.

Combined, the two bases create a large area not subject to light pollution and favored by the army for night maneuvers, consequently the military opposes the highway.

Audubon also opposes the project because it would ruin Puget Sound prairie habitat as well as bisect one of the few remaining oak prairie woodlands.

This represents the last 3% of the rarest form of habitat in Washington State, the Puget Sound lowland prairies. When the missionaries first landed at San Diego, these prairies covered more than 150,000 acres of our region.

Whether inadvertent, as in the case of Discovery Park, or by design, as in the case of Camp Pendleton, the United States military has been proven to be an advocate of the environment.

One hopes our current alliance with the military to defeat the \$250 million Cross-Base highway is successful. Rapacious growth without regard to at least preserving the remnants of natural habitat is soul searing and not conducive to a healthy society.



## 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.



# July/August 2007 Calendar

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

## TUESDAY, JULY 3

### NO TRIP THIS WEEK

Enjoy the fireworks if you can. The critters and I don't.

## THURSDAY, JULY 7

### SUNRISE, MT. RAINIER NATIONAL PARK

All day trip. Meet 8AM, Everett Mall parking lot near Regal Cinema, 1402 Everett Mall, Ste. 133. From I-5 N or S take Exit 189, S/R 99, Everett Mall. Carpooling recommended. Moderate, 3-mile alpine loop with a 500 ft. altitude gain in one section. Pack lunch, water, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, bug repellent, and a Cascade wildflower guide. Be prepared for a brief, sudden afternoon thunderstorm. \$15 per vehicle or Golden Eagle pass at the gate. Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh 425.244.7633, [aracfi@msn.com](mailto:aracfi@msn.com)

## TUESDAY, JULY 10

### FIR ISLAND

Meet 7:30AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, towards Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Last year's highlights were a green heron and a black-crowned night heron, 46 species total. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## TUESDAY, JULY 17

### STEVENS PASS AREA

Meet 7:30AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, 1/2 mile west of the Fairgrounds. Trying for summer birding success at higher altitudes. Will visit The Old Cascades Highway, Smithbrook Road and maybe the ski slopes. Warblers, grouse, sparrows, flycatchers, ravens, nutcrackers, chipmunk and hare. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

### JETTY ISLAND

Meet 8:30AM at the waterfront kiosk, 10th St. Boat Launch and Marine Park, 10th Street and West Marine View Drive in Everett. We will board a 9AM special boat to Jetty Island for osprey, eagles, gulls, seabirds, shorebirds, and probably a peregrine falcon. Pack a lunch, swimsuit, and your kite board.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## TUESDAY, JULY 31

### BOUNDARY BAY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Meet 7:00AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, towards Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Bring US Passport or driver's license and original birth certificate. Don't recall having been here in summer, but this area has always been exciting. Plus visiting OWL Wildlife Rehab greatly furthers one's raptor knowledge. 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.

## Save the Date—Birds, Bluegrass & Beauty at BirdFest & Bluegrass 2007!

The Friends of Ridgefield Wildlife refuge present BirdFest and Bluegrass, Sat-Sun, Oct. 13-14 2007 in Ridgefield WA just north of Portland.

Celebrate the return of the Sandhill cranes, the rich natural beauty and cultural history while toe-tapping to some mighty fine bluegrass music.

Follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark to a replica of a Cathlapotle Plankhouse; hand built using ancient Chinookan techniques and tools. Kayak on a guided paddle tour with a wildlife biologist.

Free children's activities include, bird walks led by an Audubon naturalist, live rap-

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

### ANACORTES

Meet 7:00AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, towards Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. So many beautiful birding places; lakes, beaches, marinas, and even a mountain. Come see it. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

### CHINOOK PASS AND HIGHWAY 410

Meet 6:30AM Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, 1/2 mile west of the Fairgrounds. This will be an exploration, but if birding is poor, we will still have beautiful scenery. The pass is at 5,432 ft. and intersects the Cascade Crest Trail. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

### ROSS LAKE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Meet 8AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, towards Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Carpooling is recommended. All day. Exact trail TBD. Expect a moderate 2-6 mile hike with a modest altitude gain through a forested valley alongside a stream or lake. Bring lunch, water, bug repellent, and \$15 per vehicle or Golden Eagle pass.

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

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

### SPENCER ISLAND

Meet at 7:30 at Langus Park, Everett. Let's see what summer birds can be found. Maybe try the Everett Sewage Ponds. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

### DECEPTION PASS AREA

Meet 7:00AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, towards Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Art always enjoys this area and the birds usually cooperate. So let's go. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750,

Art Wait 360.563.0181

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

### TBD

Tentative bird hike. Iffy due to work schedule: full update in the next *Profile*. Showtime for carpooling will be 8AM. Location TBD. Expect a moderate hike in the high Cascades.

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





# Smart Growth Report

Kristin Kelly, Director

While summer time should be about relaxation, music, swimming, boating, vacations, and picnics, this summer it is also about elections and county government decisions!

## Primary Debates in July

This year marks the beginning of a change to the timeline for primaries. With the filing period for candidates running for public office ending June 8, there are a host of county and city government positions to be filled.

As part of the Livable Snohomish County Coalition—a coalition of groups and individuals who came together in March—we will be hosting candidate debates for the primary and general election, focusing on land use and environmental issues for a sustainable Snohomish County.

For the primary, the coalition identified three city races and one county council race deserving of a forum for open public debate. The debates will be likely take place in late July, as ballots will be mailed out August 2.

Assuming the candidates' cooperation, we will be hosting debates for the following:

### City of Everett Position 4

Candidates are: Ron Gibson, Charlene Rawson, Jim Staniford

and John Henry Williams.

### City of Everett Position 7

Candidates are Jackie Minchew, David Simpson and Shannon Affholter.

### City of Lake Stevens Pos. 3

Candidates are Stephen Brooks, John Spencer and Kerry Watkins.

### City of Sultan Position 4

Candidates are Brady Bucher, Sarah Davenport-Smith, and Richard Hill.

### County Council District 2

Democratic candidates Jean Berkey and Brian Sullivan.

We will also be scheduling general election debates for both county council races, the county executive race, and a few key city races as well. These will likely happen during the end of September and beginning of October.

For more information, please visit the website: [www.future-wise.org/snohomish](http://www.future-wise.org/snohomish).

## County decisions due

We all know that government can be slow to change, but Snohomish County has a particularly bad record.

Over two years late in adoption of a Critical Areas Ordinance that would best protect our lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, steep slopes, frequently flooded

areas and water supply, the process is still unfinished.

The next meeting for the council to deliberate an update to the CAO is scheduled for August 11. Let's keep our fingers crossed that council will take action and adopt!

Unfortunately, ...who knows when the Shoreline Master Plan update will be rescheduled? It could be next year before we see any action on this plan.

However, the county continues to move forward on updating their Unified Development Code (UDC) including hosting monthly workshops to involve the public.

The UDC is an integrated set of standards that regulate building and land development within unincorporated areas of Snohomish County. It's a component of the Snohomish County Code (SCC), the larger body of law that governs a broad array of public and private activities. The county's goal with this update is to:

- Align development regulations with Comprehensive Plan policies and changing state and federal laws.
- Provide for flexibility and innovation in development while protecting the environment as well as public health and safety.

• Anticipate issues and problems related to changes in development industry trends and practices.

• Reflect current and anticipated land uses not currently accounted for such as wineries and espresso stands.

• More clearly articulate the laws relating to such things as density and building height.

The schedule for the coming months are posted on the county's website at: [www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/PDS/Divisions/Code\\_Development/UDC/](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/PDS/Divisions/Code_Development/UDC/)

## Help change the world

If you live in County Council District 2 and would like to be part of decision making, consider applying for one of two position with the County Planning Commission.

The planning commission is an appointed position who makes recommendations to the county council concerning land-use and zoning issues.

If you are interested, contact Carri Schlade at 425-388-3494 or visit the county's website at [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) and search on Boards.

And, in between all the election debates and county meetings, enjoy your summer!!!!

## 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



## 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.



## Tam Dao National Park Junior Ranger Program

Congratulations to the PAS Biodiversity Committee for getting the Junior Ranger program up and running in Tam Dao National Park near Hanoi, Vietnam.

The Junior Ranger Program will promote birds, habitat, and biodiversity by promoting awareness through a program aimed at school-age children living in the buffer area of the park. The program is flexible and designed to help both the biodiversity of Tam Dao National Park, and the local people living in and near the park.

The program became a reality when its agent, Linh (Thi Huyen Linh Nguyen), successfully used a biodiversity debit card to withdrawal VND\$1,500,000.00 (US\$95.59) from IncomBank Bank in Hanoi to purchase 150 T-shirts for the Junior Rangers for a Biodiversity Event in the park on May 20, 2007. It is amazingly difficult and expensive to transfer money to Viet Nam. The Junior Ranger Program is a five-year program projected to cost US\$1,500 per year.

## Heybrook Ridge

The Town of Index is a beautiful place in the Cascades. Mt. Index is to the south,

Index Town Wall to the North, and pristine Heybrook Ridge just across the river.

The local citizens were alarmed to discover recently that Heybrook Ridge was permitted for logging. The property is owned by the Buse family, a local timber company with a long history in the Northwest. The Buse family had arranged access and permits, and were about to progress with the logging operation when the Index community learned of the plan.

A delegation from the Index community approached the Buse family, who, much to their credit, reacted in a very neighborly way, and offered to delay the logging operation to allow the townspeople an opportunity to preserve Heybrook Ridge. The Townspeople formed the Friends of Heybrook Ridge, and are in the process of trying to raise the US\$1.3million to purchase the property. The Cascade Land Conservancy is involved and is helping in the process.

The property is a steep slope and was logged over 100 years ago. The forest has some old growth characteristics. The north boundary of the property

is contiguous to Forest Service land, offering a possible cooperation to expand the benefits of a purchase.

The Biodiversity Committee has warm feeling towards the town of Index and its citizens. Index has been a consistent supporter of the Wild Sky Wilderness, unlike some other communities along SR 2.

Without the support of the Town of Index, it is unlikely the Wild Sky Wilderness would have come as far as it has. The PAS Biodiversity Committee would like to thank the Town of Index for their support of the Wild Sky, and has pledged US\$1,100 for the preservation of Heybrook Ridge.

## Get framed!

The Biodiversity Committee would like to encourage all members and PAS supporters to purchase and proudly display PAS license plate frames on their vehicles.

The frames are attractive, have "Pilchuck Audubon Society" and the snow goose logo on the top, and either "One Earth One Chance" or "WildPlaces Life Wildlife" on the bottom. License plate frames are always available at PAS meetings.



## Bird Fest Keynote Made Big Impact

by J.E. Sullivan

The third annual Puget Sound Bird Fest held in Edmonds in mid-May was again a resounding success, in no small part due to Pilchuck Audubon Society members Susie Schaefer and Rick Bauer, who both served on the Bird Fest's Steering Committee.

Many other Pilchuck members also contributed ideas, time and expertise at the Bird Fest, in order to introduce the public to the marvelous avocations of birdwatching and wildlife preservation.

The Bird Fest concluded on Saturday evening with a lovely dessert reception and an insightful keynote speaker. Susie Schaefer organized the dessert bar, which disappeared as fast as wine and coffee could be poured, and pies, cheesecakes, nuts, dips, and crackers could be served.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Jeff Price, was introduced by Sally Lider, Environmental Education Coordinator for the City of Edmonds, and given a warm welcome by approximately 60 people in the audience at the Edmonds Plaza Room.

Dr. Price, an assistant professor at California State University in Chico, CA provided multiple handouts, and gave a riveting, one-hour presentation on *A Bird's Eye View of Global Warming*.

He easily explained in layman terms the scientific process of global warming (i.e., carbon trapping), and warned that even a 1° permanent increase in global temperature could result in the extinction of many bird, animal, and plant species.

Among other things, Dr. Price emphasized that without human intervention, the average temperature could rise as much as 5° or 6° by the year 2100. This dramatic increase would not only affect all climate conditions (e.g., temperatures, precipitation, and storms), but also impact sea levels and coastal areas, as well as create havoc in the timing of natural events.

For example, bird species that were able to survive extinction would shift their geographic locations, change migration patterns, and undergo nesting, foraging, and

breeding difficulties. Washington's state bird, the goldfinch, would disappear entirely from the state (assuming it survived) as it tried to move farther north to match its current habitat.

Dr. Price noted however, that there were still many ways that each person—both in his/her individual and community capacities—could help avoid such a terrible destruction of our natural world. He suggested multiple actions to adopt, ranging from the very simple (e.g. using energy efficient lightbulbs) to the more difficult (reduce driving, using airplanes, etc).

After his formal presentation concluded, Dr. Price graciously took questions from the audience, and then remained at the Plaza Room to speak individually with many audience attendees. His humorous erudition and articulate keynote speech provided a perfect end to another very successful Bird Fest.



# The View from Here

## Time's Up

"And you run and you run to catch up with the sun, but it's sinking. Racing around to come up behind you again The sun is the same in the relative way, but you're older Shorter of breath, and one day closer to death."

—Mason, Waters, Wright, and Gilmore

My apologies to those unfamiliar with what is now called classic rock, but my point is we humans tend to see time as running fast, fleeting, chasing us.

However, it is anything but such a flighty thing. Time is methodical, plodding, relentless, and long. This truth about time has been revealed to us in the most important scientific discoveries.

It is our inability to incorporate the fundamental nature of time into our everyday actions that dooms us.

Charles Darwin saw the complex interaction of natural variation, competition, and time giving us the most important idea in biology.

In *Thinking Like a Mountain* Aldo Leopold tried to help us see that when humankind tinkers with ecosystems, it is the long view that reveals truth.

A mountain can perceive the expanse of time and knows the long-term effects of messing around in the wilderness. Rachel Carson in *Silent Spring* warned us that we are introducing compounds into the environment at a rate faster than organisms can adapt.

She learned her natural selection lessons well and saw the role time plays in ecosystems and warned us of the disaster. In doing so she started the modern environmental movement.

Today, Snohomish County is on the cusp of great growth. Are we going to think like a mountain? I don't think so. Developers, politicians, the community at large, and the environmental community look at development in the moment, not the long run.

Developers, politicians, and the community do not think like a mountain. They see quick profits, votes, and a strip mall near their home that itself pushed farther into forest and farmland, extending suburbia still farther.

We in the environmental community tend to see the long-term effects of unplanned growth, but are constrained by politics to fight from moment to moment.

In Snohomish County we don't have any more time.

The monied elite has a bank full of cash and they are grooming their political friends both Republican and Democratic.

There has always been a tension between the rich elite and work-a-day populous. In the past, we fought with reason and the law and won votes shaping policy, but this is changing.

Money now matters more than ever, the rich are richer,

and their money is winning the debate. Money elects politicians and politicians change the laws. No longer will reason win the argument.

The environmental community has little money and needs money people now. We need people who have money, know how to make money, are willing to mix it up in the politics of land use, and can think like a mountain.

Not to simply buy land and set it aside. Mick and Keith once sang, "Tiiiiime is on my side..." I don't think so any longer.

As always, if you have comments you would like to share, please write me at jon.d.baker@gmail.com, I would like to hear what you have to say.



## by Colleen Weber, Volunteer Coordinator

## Kwənánət

### Earth Day success

Our annual Earth Day event, the first Pilchuck Audubon project I worked on, was a wonderful success.

When the survey forms came back, each one said they would volunteer again. Hopefully, this is a good sign.

Thank you to the following for stepping forward and volunteering for Earth Day: Art Wait, Ileen Weber, Dave Doop, Bob & Sheila Sindelar, Mara Price, Sally & Jan VanNiel, and Al Elliot.

When the *Profile* goes to print and mailing there will be two projects in progress with more to follow.

### Volunteer Picnic

The annual Volunteer Appreciation Day will be held Saturday, August 18 from 11AM

to 2PM. The site for this year's picnic will be at Jennings Park in Marysville. This picnic is where we honor the memory and legacy of someone who worked very hard to make Pilchuck what it is today, our consummate volunteer—Darryl Thompson.

We will also honor the many, many other volunteers and friends of PAS for the hard work they do every year attending hearings, writing letters, showing up for events rain or shine, helping with meetings, fundraisers, and mailings—the number of tasks our dedicated cadre of volunteers perform is literally too long to list!

### Need birders

We are currently seeking birders to help with the Port Susan Bay Project and satisfy one of the grant requirements.

While a long-term project the actual time commitment is not large. If you have good birding skills, and an interest in helping the Port Susan Bay Project succeed, please contact me for more information.

### Many hands, light work

Do you like event planning and/or talking to like-minded folks that also care about the environment? Are you looking for some way you can help make a difference?

Did you know there are numerous studies that all show a health and well-being benefit to volunteering? People who volunteer have richer, fuller lives with a better quality of life.

Pilchuck Audubon needs people just like you to help re-establish our volunteer corps. We have plenty of tasks big and

small you can help with that contribute towards the success of our organization.

Give me a call if you are interested in learning more about volunteering with Pilchuck Audubon. It's a rewarding and fun way to spend time while knowing you are doing something important to help make the world we leave our children a better place than we found it.

Give me a call, or drop me a line, you'll be glad you did! Colleen Weber: 425.210.5626, Harm2None@comcast.net

*Before this issue went to press, I talked with our editor about what to title this monthly column; what might be a good name. And, she came through.*

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



# Birding Highlights

March 26 through May 25, 2007

Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Don't you just love this time of the year? The colorful **Black-headed Grosbeaks** return along with the various **Warblers**. The numbers of **American Goldfinch** have increase dramatically and the **Swallows** have returned including **Violet-Green Swallows**, which were spotted in all parts of the county from Brier to Camano Island.

I hope everyone was able to get out for the Earth Day celebration at various locations around the county and Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds May 18-19. They were great events for the whole family.

For two months straight, Carole and Larry Beason have had a total species count of 45 from their views of Lake Bosworth. Their April highlights included 16 **Pine Siskins** (including one with a white head), 11 **Tree Swallows**, 6 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 4 **Violet-Green Swallows**, 5 **Brown-Headed Cowbirds**, 2 **Hairy** and 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, and a **Hutton's Vireo**. May's count included 19 **Band-Tailed Pigeons**, 7 **Brewer's larkbirds**, 2 **Osprey**, 5 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Greater Scaup**, and 18 **Canada Geese**.

Gail Bernardo is enjoying bird watching in her yard in Brier although she expressed concern for the lack of sightings of the **Red-Breasted Nuthatch** and **Bewick's Wren**. The wrens have been sighted throughout the county, but there are very few nuthatch sightings. Gail's April count of 24 included 5 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, a **Great Blue Heron**, 2 **Mallard** that come to eat on the lawn everyday and 2 **Bald Eagles** with their talons locked, tumbling through the air over 44th and 196th Street in Lynnwood. Her May species total of 29 included 3 **Barn Swallows**, 5 **Western Tanagers**, a **Savannah Sparrow**, 5 **Violet Green Swallows**, a **Swainson's Thrush**, 2 **White-Crowned Sparrows** that nest in the yard, a **Red-Breasted Sapsucker**, and 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**.

A **Bewick's Wren**, 8 **California Quail**, 20 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 4 **Golden-Crowned**

**Sparrows**, and 3 **Red-Tailed Hawks** playing in the air over the house topped Hillka Egrvedt's April species count of 25. Her May species count of 31 from her Mukilteo home included 4 **American Goldfinch**, 5 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 4 **Violet-Green Swallows**, 4 **Chestnut-Backed Chickadees**, 3 **Steller's Jays**, an **Olive-Sided Flycatcher**, and 4 **Hairy Woodpeckers**.

The **American Goldfinch** are enjoying the feeders at Kris Erickson's Everett location with 20 reported in April. Also reported were 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, 6 **Violet-Green Swallows**, 20 **American Coots**, 11 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, and 5 **American Robins** for a total species count of 22. May's species count of 19 included 8 **Barn Swallows**, 6 **Western Gulls** in a nearby field, 30 **Northwestern Crows**, 3 **Mourning Doves**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 3 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, and 2 **Wood Ducks** on nearby water.

Reporting from the Tulalip Reservation with views of the beach along Tulare Way, Clayton Haberman's April count of 27 species included 34 **Pine Siskins** (I believe the most seen at one time this year), 2 **Spotted Towhees**, 4 **Band-Tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Buffleheads**, 12 **Common Mergansers**, 11 **Horned Grebes**, and 13 **Mourning Doves**. Five **Northern Rough-Winged Swallows** made their appearance in May along with 6 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 6 **Pigeon Guillemots**, 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, 2 **Common Loons**, 1 **Red-Breasted Nuthatch**, and 9 **American Goldfinch** for a total species count of 31.

Verna Hisey has been having some difficulty attracting birds to her location in Lake Stevens. Hopefully things will improve once the **Bald Eagles** leave. Her April species count of 10 included 2 **Northern Flickers**, 5 **Steller's Jay**, a **Red-Tailed Hawk**, 3 **Varied Thrush**, 2 **Spotted Towhees**, and 25+ **House Sparrows**. May's species count of 8 included 3 **Canada Geese**, 4 **American Robins**, 2 **White-Crowned Sparrows**, 3 **Red-**

**Winged Blackbirds**, 5 **Northwestern Crows**, and 2 **Bald Eagles**.

Reporting from Camano Island's Juniper Beach, Adeline Gildow listed 25 species for May. Her feeders were busy with 16 **American Goldfinch**, 6 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 5 **White-Crowned Sparrows**, 6 **House Finches**, 3 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, and a **Red-Breasted Nuthatch**. Her sightings along the beach and overhead included 5 **Bald Eagles**, 6 **Great Blue Herons**, 11 **Canada Geese**, 30 **Swallow** species, and 40 or so **Duck** species.

Two **Townsend's Solitaires** topped the April report from Shelia and Michael Huber in Machias between Lake Stevens and Snohomish. Also reported were 9 **Pine Siskins**, 5 **Violet-Green Swallows**, 18 **American Robins**, 5 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, and 10 **American Crows**. May brought 6 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, 9 **American Goldfinch**, 3 **Mourning Doves**, a **Red-Tailed Hawk**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Chestnut-Backed Chickadees**, and 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds** for a total species count of 26. They may have to take their feeders down again because the black bear is back in the neighborhood.

Julia O'Donald listed 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, 2 **Golden-Crowned Kinglets**, 4 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, and 2 **Winter Wrens** from her Brier location. Her April and May species totals were 24 each. The migrants returned in May with 8 **Violet-Green Swallows**, a **Western Flycatcher**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, a **Winter Wren**, 2 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, and an **Olive-Sided Flycatcher**. Also included were 2 **Red-Breasted Nuthatches**, a **Great Blue Heron** flying overhead and the **Western Screech Owl** nesting in a man-made box about 20 feet up a Douglas fir.

Bob Poulin has access to a large variety of bird species with his views of Port Susan Bay. April's 29 species included 6 **Bald Eagles** and 150 **Mew Gulls** on the beach, a **Common Snipe**, a **Great Blue Heron**, 13 **Northwestern Crows**, 3 **Red-Neck Grebe**, and a **Red-Winged Blackbird**. His May count includ-

ed a **Whimbrel** which is similar to a curlew, but grayer. It was probably on its way back to the Arctic from South America. Other species listed were 50 **Western Sandpipers**, 11 **Cedar Waxwings**, 5 **Buffleheads**, 3 **Harlequin Ducks**, 75 **Surf Scoters**, 2 **Mourning Doves**, and 13 **Caspian Terns** for a total species count of 30.

Darlene Walker, another Camano Island resident reported 20 species for April. She counted 10 **Fox Sparrows** and 20 **Pine Siskins** in her yard along with 6 **Mourning Doves**, 8 **American Robins**, and 500+ **Snow Geese** on Leque Island. Her species count jumped to 30 for May with 15 **American Goldfinch**, 14 **Violet-Green Swallows**, 8 **Barn Swallows**, 4 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, a **House Wren**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, and a very special sighting of a **Lazuli Bunting** usually not found along the coast.

April in Marysville was busy with 8 **American Robins**, 8 **California Quail**, 6 **Bald Eagles** in the trees above the fields that held the 30+ **Mallards**, a **White Crowned Sparrow**, 8 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, and finally **Pine Siskins**, 6 at the feeder for a total species count of 26. May was even busier with the return of the **Black-Headed Grosbeaks** (8), 2 **American Goldfinch**, a **Townsend's Warbler**, 2 **Evening Grosbeaks**, a **Hermit Thrush**, a **Western Tanager**, 3 **Common Ravens**, and the beautiful **Lazuli Bunting** within a few days of the sighting on Camano Island.

I received an email inquiry from Bill Lider regarding a **Band-Tailed Pigeon** with its entire lower beak missing. He was wondering if anyone else has seen this deformity and if it might be injury related or possible a chemically related environmental deformity. He can be contacted at bill.lider@verizon.net.

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 email [pricemara@earthlink.net](mailto:pricemara@earthlink.net).



**Return Service Requested**

**July Program Meeting  
 Birds & Wildlife of Tanzania &  
 Madagascar**

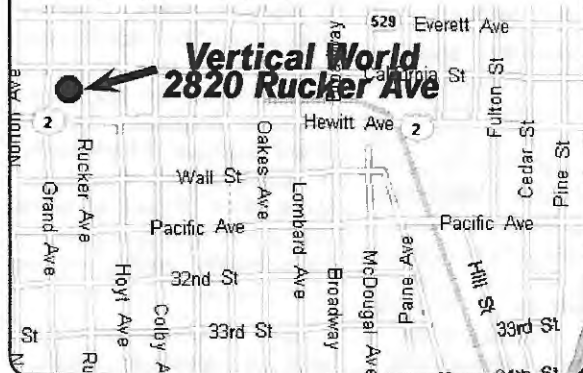
**with Kathy Clark**

Check Web site for latest info

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

**Friday, July 13, 7:00pm**

Program meetings are held at Vertical World in Everett and are always open to the public.



**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.

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**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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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.