

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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Friday, May 11, 7PM — Program Meeting Get to Know your LBJs & Others

with Virginia Clark, PAS Irder Extraordinaire

Do all those LBJ (little brown jobs) birds mystify you? Feel like they all 'look alike'? Need a bit of a birding brush up for the May Birdathon? Then you won't want to miss this great program. If you've ever gone on a PAS birding trip, you probably met Virginia Clark, if you haven't, you are in for a treat! Virginia will be sharing her slides (and most importantly her knowledge), of birds commonly seen on birding trips in the region. What a great way to get ready for spring birding!

Friday, June 8, 7PM — Program Meeting Mystery Guest!

We can't let the cat out of the bag just yet, but you definitely won't want to miss June's program, it's sure to be a real treat!

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

Great Washouts of the Darrington Ranger District Trip May 12

We've scheduled a special Saturday field trip so you can see first-hand what the results of poor engineering and road construction practices can be. We will visit Mountain Loop Highway, White Chuck River, White Chuck Bridge, Boundary Bridge, Suiattle River, and Tenas Creek to witness the devastating impacts this area has recently endured. This fragile environment is home to endangered salmon runs as well as marbled murrelets.

We will leave at 8am from Lynnwood Park & Ride and return around 5pm. Meet at the west side of the freeway direct access on-ramp at the P&R. Bring a lunch and dress for weather. This will mainly be a driving trip, but some hiking will be involved. Good walking boots are advised. For more information, call the PAS office at 425.252.0926.

Puget Sound Bird Fest at Edmonds

This is a festival you don't want to miss! On Friday night, Paul Bannick will show his spectacular wildlife photos as well as a reception for all artists with work in the festival. Saturday is filled with bird walks outside and great presentations inside. Saturday night, Dr. Jeff Price will be the keynote speaker on *A Bird's-Eye View of Global Warming*. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors. Take this opportunity to double your fun by volunteering to help out, no bird knowledge necessary. To volunteer contact Susie Schaefer 425.771.8165 or Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net.

Mountain Loop Highway Debacle

by Kathy Johnson, Forest Practices Chair

On November 11, 2006, I went with a group of interested parties to view the construction work on Mountain Loop Highway. We found major deviations from the Environmental Assessment (EA) and construction contract. We made another visit to the same areas on March 26, 2007. Because of what we found PAS board members are investigating whether to initiate legal recourse to correct possible violations of the Clean Water Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Some of the most serious issues we found include:

- Construction work and the complete lack of any erosion controls at mile post 35.6. This has destabilized the hillside and created an active slide resulting in a massive cut slope failure estimated at over 1,000 cubic yards and growing, immediately adjacent to the wild and scenic Sauk River. This slide is continuing to move and will require extensive efforts to achieve stabilization. The entire hillside could potentially slough into the river. The site was never prepared for over-winter shutdown last fall.

- Work below the ordinary high water line was accomplished outside of permitted fish windows in egregious violation of conditions of the USFS construction permits.

- Failure to install erosion controls and maintain even minimal sediment controls resulted in the release of turbid water to the Sauk River. Monitoring of turbid water releases by the contractor was not properly performed.

...continued on page 6



Washout along Mountain Loop Highway

Birding with a Purpose

It's May. It's spring. It's Birdathon time. PLEASE make this a year that you'll participate in Birdathon. The funds raised are used for PAS's educational and conservation efforts.

If you're a regular Profile reader, you'll know that Birdathon is our largest fund raiser of the year. But we need more than the usual core group of 'Thoners to really make it a success, to perhaps approach the \$10,000 to \$15,000 that other Audubon chapters raise each year.

Here are the essentials: Get pledge sheets at the program meeting, from Birdathon chair Hilikka Egvedt (cheqvedt@comcast.net or 425.347.4944), or our web site, www.pilchuckaudubon.org; sign up sponsors; go birding (for a total of 24 hours any time in May); report your sightings to your sponsors; collect their pledges; contact Hilikka to arrange for donation pickup, and then feel REALLY good about your efforts to help PAS. In addition, our generous sponsors always come up with some great prizes for Birdathon participants.

In this issue

Calendar.....3	Watershed Restoration Init..... 5
Conservation Corner.....3	The View from Here.....6
Smart Growth Report..... 4	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 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

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President's Corner

by Mike Blackbird



In March my daughter, Lynn, and I traveled to Zacapa, Guatemala with Hearts in Motion as members of a surgical team.

It was one of the most enlightening experiences of my life from a number of perspectives—one being the third world's apparent total lack of environmental sensitivity.

From the ubiquitous, wind-blown black plastic bags caught up in the trees along the highways to trucks and chicken buses (read *Romancing the Stone*) belching the black smoke that sustains the pall hanging over Guatemala City, to the polluted rivers roiling with scum and algae I must confess I've never seen anything like it, and hope I never will again.

I noted my observations to Howard Wright, a member of our team. A retired Delta pilot who has flown throughout Latin America for over 20 years, Howard observed that, "Perhaps environmentalism is the luxury of people with a full stomach."

Howard's comment gave me pause. Poor people scrambling day to day to feed their children most likely have little interest in melting glaciers and polar bears.

Medical practitioners know that one of the first faculties to fail from a poor diet is a person's vision. In a never-ending quest to feed and house their families, most third world parents are incapable of seeing past the next crop or menial job nor the 'luxury', if you will, to contemplate the effects of global warming 50 years hence.

In a recent essay in the *Economist*,



2007 Labor Day Trip to Ferry County

This special trip over the Labor Day weekend is a great opportunity to get to know and bird this unique part of northeastern Washington.

Contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net for more information.

rock music activist Bono wrote, "Our humanity is diminished when we have no mission bigger than ourselves." He noted the Celtic word 'meithea,' which encompasses the concept that neighbors help one another most when the work is the hardest.

It is incumbent upon those of us privileged to be part of the first world to address third world poverty effectively. Without that we haven't a prayer of halting, let alone reversing, the effects of global warming.

If we cannot find the political will for our own version of 'meithea', all our other grand efforts on behalf of the environment will be in vain.

Bono wrote that in 1957 the people of Europe embraced the European Union and its new constitution. Six nations signed the Treaty of Rome and started building a showcase of multilateralism, prosperity, and international solidarity.

He notes that we Americans can proudly point to the Marshall Plan in our own history; an example of global generosity on a scale never seen before. It defined America for a generation. Will we be able to see beyond ourselves and create a 21st century Marshall Plan?

Interestingly, I never saw evidence of road-kill on Guatemalan highways in spite of the reckless abandon of many drivers. An omnipresent Guatemalan native, the black vulture, keeps their highways nearly gleaned of road-kill, almost as soon as it appears.

There is a black vulture looming in our future as well if we choose to ignore the abject poverty of the third world. Whether or not we become road kill is up to us.

May/June 2007 Calendar

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

TUESDAY, MAY 1

C-POST ROAD, FORTSON PONDS, STILLAGUAMISH & SAUK RIVERS

Meet 7AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5-Exit 200. Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We will travel Highway 530 as far as time and stamina permit. Surprises are historical on this trip.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, MAY 8

EVERETT WATERFRONT

Meet 7:30AM at Legion Park off North Marine Drive in Everett. Last year's trip yielded 55 species including osprey, a peregrine falcon hunting Western sandpipers, and five species of swallows. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, MAY 15

SNOHOMISH AND EBAY ISLAND AREAS

Meet 7:30AM at Snohomish Park & Ride at the junction of Highway 9 and Bickford Ave. Lots of interesting species from where Art lives. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, MAY 22

STEVENS PASS TO LAKE WENATCHEE

Meet 6:30AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, 1/2 mile west of the fairgrounds. We will explore the upper end of Lake Wenatchee, Fish Lake, the Old Cascade Highway, and maybe Smithbrook Rd. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, MAY 29

CAMANO ISLAND

Meet 7:30AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5-Exit 200. Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Camano has so many good birding areas we can never visit

all in a day, but we'll surely go to English Boom for purple martin and osprey. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

BIG FOUR MEADOWS AND ICE CAVE

Meet 7:30AM at the Frontier Village Park & Ride. From Highway 9 turn east onto Market Place (Target Store), then north into the Park and Ride just west of Target. A beautiful setting for our annual potluck bird trip. Bring something to share. Expect swallows, hummingbirds, swifts, warblers, vireos, and dippers.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

LEAVENWORTH AREA

Meet 6:30 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, 1/2 mile west of the fairgrounds. Fifty seven species last year, including many rarely seen around home. We'll go up Icicle Creek and try for the calliope hummingbird and lazuli bunting in Camas Meadows. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

NORTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

Meet 7AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5-Exit 200. Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Highlights of this trip always include waterfowl, shore and seabirds. Sixty five species last year. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

MARBLEMOUNT TO DIABLO

Meet 7AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5-Exit 200. Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Have not birded here for years, but it may come back to us. Our memories are vague, but pleasant. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

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.

Conservation Corner

by Jan & Sally van Niel

For those of you who were fortunate to attend the Livable Snohomish summit, you heard from outstanding speakers presenting a variety of problems in the county. The biggest issue is over land use; think of the battle over development of farmland at Island Crossing. That battle has been going on for 17 years. There is a question as to whether this most recent decision will be appealed. Stay tuned.

One of the reasons Pilchuck has been fighting this battle for so long is that we want to save the land for farming as well for wildlife.

Several years ago Jan and I were driving south on I-5 and looked over at the batch of trees north of 128th St. SW in the median. Coyotes may not be your favorite animal but they can serve as an example. We saw a pair of young coyotes standing at the edge of the trees. Last week there was a single coyote standing on the shoulder watching all the cars go by, far away from the trees, there was nowhere to hide.

A parallel can be made when we cut down trees and destroy nests and nest sites. The standard reply is often that they can go somewhere else. The

somewhere else is often used by another organism and wild animals can't make condos or apartment houses.

At the summit, a point made by Dave Bricklin—one of the best environmental land use attorneys in the state—was that the political culture of Snohomish County seems to favor development.

This makes it difficult for those that want a better balance between farms, forests, recreation areas, and urban development. Talk to Kristin Kelly and see what you can do to help land use occur the way you

want – or at least part of the way you want.

Another point made was that you need to pay attention to the land use application posters put up at the side of the road. If you want to provide meaningful input, you have to get in at the beginning.

You cannot wait until you see the developers cutting down a tree containing an eagle's nest and then expect to stop them in their construction. We know that some of you have been disappointed when you call for help and are told it is too late.

Smart Growth Report

Kristin Kelly, Director

I am most happy to report that the Livable Snohomish County Summit that I hosted was a huge success! Maybe because it was a windy, cold and rainy day, or maybe because there is a huge amount of frustration over land use planning in our county, or maybe because of the enticement of free food and drink, whatever the reason, about 200 people showed up and stayed attentive and engaged throughout the entire day-long event.

I want to thank everyone that participated, especially the people who made presentations. Those folks were: Aaron Ostrom, Executive Director of Futurewise; Craig Ladiser, Snohomish County Planning Director; Sally Abbey and Maxine Teurk of SnoPorch; Rick Reed of Snohomish Stewards; Tim Clancy of Warm Beach Stewards, Jeff Massie of CPUSRV; Dave Bricklin, Attorney with Bricklin, Newman and Dold; Joan Smith of Woodsound Homeowners Association; Julie Meghji of Edmonds-Mukilteo Action Committee; Lillian Kaufer of Citizens for a Better Mill Creek; Dave Gossett, Snohomish County Council 4th District; and Dave Somers, Snohomish County Council 5th District.

Many folks there felt this type of summit should happen at least once a year, possibly more often. That is something to consider as we go forward working on an action plan for the future of land use planning in Snohomish County.

The conclusion I've drawn from the event is that people want the county to do a better job of planning and allowing for developments in our urban and rural areas. They also want better protection of our farmland and forest land and water quality.

Hence, several people have

signed up to be part of the leadership committee who will work with me for positive change.

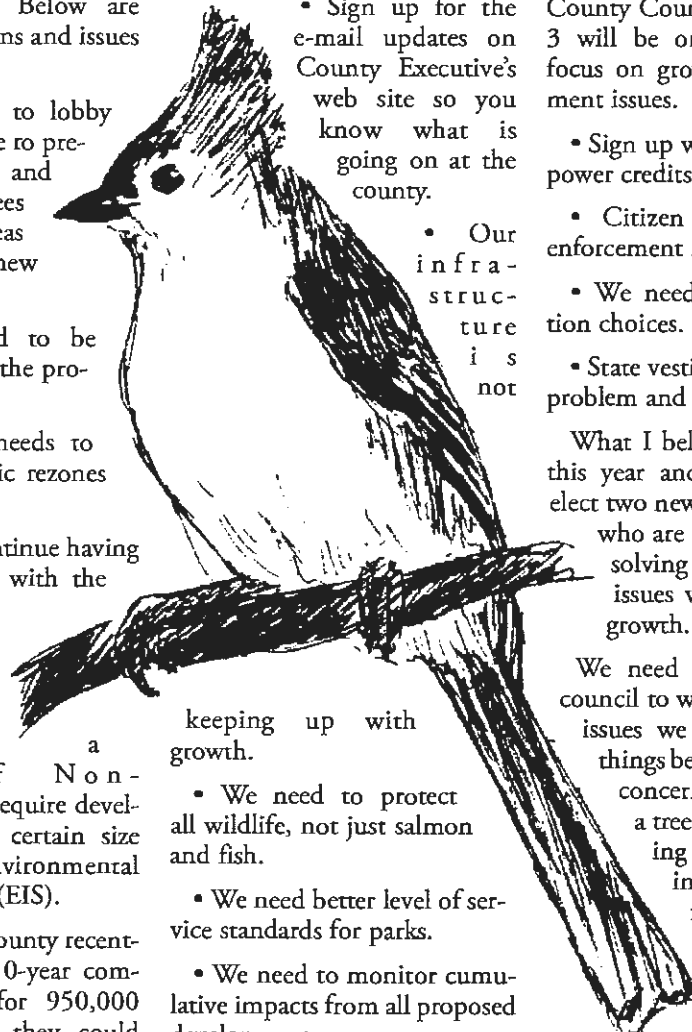
There were two lively roundtable discussions. Below are some of the concerns and issues that were raised:

- Citizens need to lobby for a tree ordinance to preserve old growth and large stands of trees in our urban areas and space to plan new trees.
- Citizens need to be involved earlier in the process.
- The county needs to eliminate automatic rezones to higher densities.
- We need to continue having monthly meetings with the county executive.
- The county must stop rubber-stamping development with a Determination of Non-Significance and require developments above a certain size to complete Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Although the county recently adopted their 10-year comprehensive plan for 950,000 residents, in fact they could allow for 1.2 million people in Snohomish County if they continue to allow cities to change their population targets and allow for UGA expansions to meet these moving targets.
- The 2005 Storm Water Manual needs to be adopted by the county. The 14-year old manual the county uses is out of date and not protecting our water quality.
- Schools are overcrowded and kids have to be bussed out of their school districts.
- Neighborhood groups need to work together to protect critical areas.

• Council members and the county executive need to get out to the neighborhoods and see what is happening.

• Sign up for the e-mail updates on County Executive's web site so you know what is going on at the county.

• Our infrastructure is not



keeping up with growth.

- We need to protect all wildlife, not just salmon and fish.
- We need better level of service standards for parks.
- We need to monitor cumulative impacts from all proposed development.
- Talk to your council member if you see something wrong. Let them know.
- The county needs to get information to the public in a timely fashion.
- Biodiesel production is a high priority for the county.
- Rural Cluster subdivisions are a big problem that needs to be fixed.
- Register to vote and vote for candidates that share your views on growth.
- Do not allow expansion of Harvey Airfield into the floodplain.

• We need more evening public hearings so the public can participate.

• Two candidate debates for County Council District 2 and 3 will be organized and will focus on growth and development issues.

• Sign up with PUD for solar power credits.

• Citizen complaint code enforcement is a big problem.

• We need safer transportation choices.

• State vesting laws are a huge problem and need to be fixed.

What I believe we can do in this year and next will be to elect two new council members who are more in-tune with solving some of the big issues we are facing with growth.

We need to encourage the council to work on the biggest issues we can fix to make things better. I believe those concerns should focus on:

- a tree ordinance; requiring full environmental impact statements for developments above a certain size; eliminating or severely amending the current Rural Cluster Subdivision code; hold the line on urban growth area expansions that cannot be supported with adequate roads, schools and parks; change floodplain development codes to keep people from building in our floodplains; and re-introduce subarea planning for our communities and eliminate automatic rezones.

If you would like to be more involved as we go forward, please contact me at kristin@futurewise.org; or 425.923.8625.

Oak titmouse by Kirsten Munsen

Watershed Restoration Initiative for Washington State National Forests

Partially plagiarized (with permission from Bonnie Phillips, OFCO) by Kathy Johnson

PAS has been working with ten other environmental organizations and the Washington State Department of Ecology to resolve the crisis caused by prolonged under-funding for road decommissioning and maintenance in the watersheds of Washington State's National Forests.

This is a ten-year, \$300 million effort. Our goal is to engage Congressman Norm Dicks and other members of our delegation (i.e. Congressmen Rick Larsen and Jay Inslee) as well as Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell in supporting funding for this massive effort.

In 2000, the DOE signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Regional Office of the U.S. Forest Service covering all the Washington State National Forests. This MOA required, among other things, major road decommissioning efforts on the part of the Forest Service to bring it into compliance with the Clean Water Act. In 2005, the Forest Service reported to DOE that it would take \$300 million and 100 years at the current rate of funding to fix the problem. Each year in the meantime, more roads fail. The backlog has become simply overwhelming.

Two-thirds of the problem occurs in the rivers that empty into the Puget Sound and thus the early years' efforts will focus there. This covers the entire Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and part of the Olympic National Forest from the Strait of Juan De Fuca down the east side of the Hood Canal.

It is time for the Forest Service to stop building new roads—whether temporary or permanent—and restore the failing watersheds that are so important to our ailing Puget Sound by removing miles of old logging roads that are falling apart.

Why should PAS be concerned about failing roads? Here are just a few reasons:

- Muddy water from failing and washed-out forest roads harms endangered and dwindling runs of salmon that need cold, clear water to thrive and reproduce. These degraded waters harm the gills of salmon and trout, while fish eggs smother when silt settles into gravel beds.

- Deteriorating, unmaintained, and poorly designed national forest roads contribute sediment-laden runoff into forest streams, making them wider, shallower, and more susceptible to warming by the sun—also

harmful to fish. Record storms, predicted to increase due to global climate change, only make matters worse. As time passes, the price tag on fixing these worn-out roads only goes up.

- Many of the rivers affected supply drinking water for Puget Sound citizens. The more polluted these waters become, the costlier it becomes to render them safe for human consumption.

Currently, the Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO) is playing the coordinating role between DOE Director Jay Manning and his staff and the ten other environmental organizations, which include: Pilchuck Audubon Society; The Wilderness Society; Cascade Chapter, Sierra Club; American Whitewater; Pacific Rivers Council; Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility; Alpine Lakes Protection Society; North Cascades Conservation Council, Washington Wilderness Coalition; and The Mountaineers.

Kathy Johnson, PAS Forest Practices Chair, is the contact for PAS. She may be reached at katherine@earthlink.net.

How can you help?

Contact your US Representative and Senators and ask them to support the Washington Watershed Restoration Initiative appropriations request. Tell them that restoration of the Puget Sound areas' damaged watersheds on National Forest lands can't wait. Salmon habitats are being devastated. Delay will only lead to an inflated price tag, if not extinctions. It would also help to contact Norm Dicks, who chairs the Appropriations Subcommittees on the Interior and Environment, even if he isn't your representative. Congressional members may be emailed through their web sites.

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Urge others to support this funding to enforce the Clean Water Act to protect our drinking water, salmon and other aquatic resources.

Here's who to write:

REPRESENTATIVE RICK LARSEN

2930 Wetmore Ave, Ste. 9F
Everett, WA 98201
Phone: 425.252.3188
Toll-free: 800.562.1385
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REP. JIM McDERMOTT, 7TH DISTRICT

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SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL

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Phone: 206.220.6400
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915 2nd Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98174
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Fax: 206.553.0891
www.murray.senate.gov



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

Developers are people too...or...We have been here before

by Jon Baker

They get up like you and I, blurry eyed with hair a mess, stumbling through the kitchen for the first cup of coffee of the day. Once properly caffeinated, they set out on their day's work. Their work is to make money. The method they have chosen is turning undeveloped land into single family homes, apartments, and strip malls.

In their quest to make a living they run into many problems. They have to find available land and negotiate a price in an economic climate of rising land prices. This is only the beginning. Once the land is purchased they have to spend money to put in sewers and electricity. The building is no breeze. The cost of labor and materials is rising as fast as the land. They risk a lot.

But before the first shovel of dirt is turned they have to negotiate the land use rules and apply for permits with the county. Of

course they want to put as many homes on a parcel as they can. This maximizes their return on investment. So they use their interpersonal skills and influence to get their way.

Recently, in Jerry Cornfield's *Sunday Herald* politics column he assessed the county executive race noting that Executive Aaron Reardon has cultivated donations from developers. You do not need a degree in political science to understand that this must result in the county bureaucracy assisting the developers with their projects.

But this is not a new story. During the post-WWII years. Snohomish County grew as never before. In the book *Snohomish County: An Illustrated History* Cameron, et al described the explosive growth in the south Snohomish County this way, "Without wishing it, their communities had changed within a few years, and there was nothing

they could do to stop it. Some adjusted their lifestyles. Others simply sold out to eager developers and moved to some place not affected by masses of people." Hard to imagine this was written about events of more than 50 years ago.

The point is simple, developers are just doing their job, as they always have. Their purpose is not to remove every tree. That is just a side effect of making money. And the story is an old one—development happens.

However, we in the environmental community must also do our job. Sure, we don't get paid for it, but we respond to growth and development by educating the public and being a watch dog. Our most effective strategy is through the PAS Smart Growth program.

Developers don't think about the effect of their work on the public good and quality of life. That job is left to us, to remind

our elected officials that there are other points of view.

The Smart Growth initiative understands there will be growth and development. It also understands that there are serious impacts that must be considered.

Our Smart Growth Director, Kristin Kelly understands these difficult issues and focuses on ensuring that all the players understand the implications of unfettered growth. We are fortunate to have such an effective and hard working advocate.

As a PAS member you can play an important role by contributing generously to the PAS Smart Growth program when you receive an appeal letter. Maybe we can start a new story.

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

Mountain Loop Highway Debacle

continued from page 5

- Petroleum products such as grease cartridges and hydraulic fluid were stored within 150 feet of the Sauk River, violating USFS permits. There was a spill of an undetermined amount of hydraulic fluid from the rock scaling operation not covered under the EA that was not reported.

- A grease cartridge was found in the Sauk River and removed by PAS representatives.

- A spill of high pH concrete into the Bedal Creek stream bed was not covered under current permits and was done outside of permitted fish closure windows.

- Rip rap was placed in the river, contrary to the construction plan in the EA, and in violation of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

- Trees were felled into the Sauk River while fish were spawning!

Through a FOIA request, we also learned that the USFS modified the construction contract by eliminating the planned concrete bridge, without any public or stakeholder notification. This resulted in an overall credit of \$61,700 to the contractor. Instead, far more rock was removed from the cliff face and more fill placed in lieu of the bridge at Mile Post 33.6.

Alleged safety issues that led to this change were never verified by independent outside sources nor were the public or resource agencies afforded an opportunity to comment on this cardinal change to the EA. This rock breaking and fill placement resulted in significantly larger amounts of fill entering the Sauk that were not covered under the EA or permits. The rock hammering may also have introduced high sonic energy levels and dust into the Sauk,

possibly harming fish.

In addition, the USFS placed seven cubic yards of concrete under the Bedal Creek Bridge footing to repair scour damage, even though this work was not included in the EA. This concrete was improperly placed and high pH concrete was released into the stream bed. The spill was not properly monitored, nor were appropriate agencies notified. Proper permits were not obtained for these deviations, which violates the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the USFS had with the WA State Department Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Furthermore, this repair has failed in recent storms.

Moreover, and probably worst of all, much of this work was done while ESA-listed fish were spawning in the Sauk River! This is a clear violation of the MOU

with WDFW, which requires that instream work occur only between August 1st and 15th. A biologist from the WDFW was performing surveys of Spring Chinook, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, while this work was going on. He found several redds (fish egg nests) within yards of the construction.

PAS has argued all along that rebuilding this part of the Mountain Loop Highway would not be in the best interests of the public or the environment. We appealed this action (our appeal was denied) because of concerns that it would harm the environment. The lack of oversight by the USFS has resulted in exactly the type of harm we had feared.

We have hired a fish biologist to look at the violations and are considering legal action.

Birding Highlights

February 26 through March 25, 2007

Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

The **Pine Siskins** have finally returned. They were reported from one end of the county to the other. There was already a report of **Tree Swallows** near Granite Falls. Spring is definitely here.

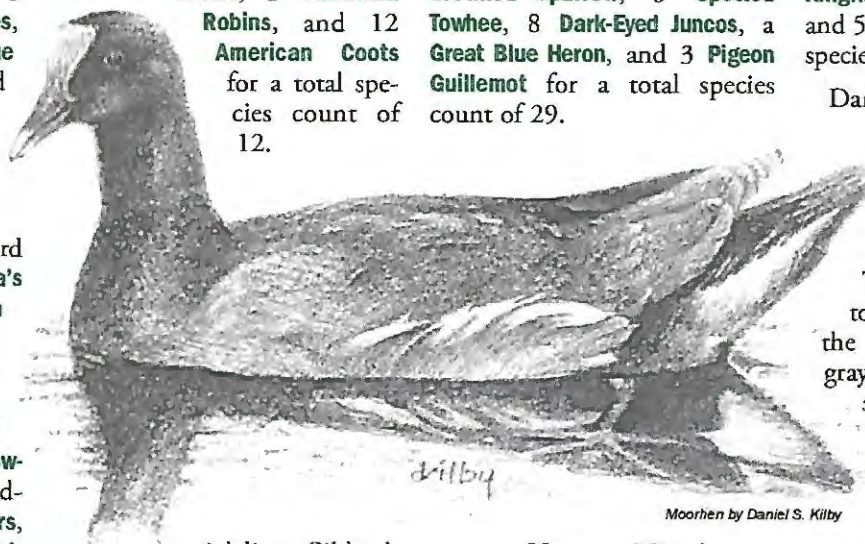
Carol and Larry Beason reported 12 **Pine Siskins** in their yard near Lake Bosworth. Their total species count of 36 also included 12 **Bufflehead**, 11 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, 5 **Spotted Towhees**, 21 **Tree Swallows**, 3 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 23 **Canada Geese**, a **Great Blue Heron**, 2 **Common Ravens**, and 9 **Common Mergansers**.

Gail Dibernardo's report from Brier near the Brier Detention Pond included 30 **Pine Siskins** in her yard and neighbor's tree, 4 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 12 **European Wigeons** in the pond, a **Brown Creeper**, 2 **Townsend's Warblers**, 15 **Mallards** (2 of which visited her small pond for a day and then left), a **Yellow-Rumped Warbler** at her suet feeder, 4 **Red-Breasted Mergansers**, 15 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 6 **Chestnut-Backed Chickadees**, and 8 **Black-Capped Chickadees** for a total species count of 27.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo included 26 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 8 **California Quail**, a **White-Crowned Sparrow**, a **White-Throated Sparrow**, 2 **Fox Sparrows**, 3 **Golden-Crowned Sparrows**, a **Bewick's Wren**, a **Bald**

Eagle, 3 **Bushtits**, and a **Pileated Woodpecker** for a total species count of 26.

Reporting from Everett near Lowell River Road, Kriss Erickson's report included 7 **Mallards** in her yard, 3 **Northern Flickers**, 8 **Western Gulls** overhead, 12 **Black-Capped Chickadees** at the feeder, 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, 4 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, **Dark-Eyed Junco**, 2 **Steller's Jays**, 8 **Band-Tailed Pigeons**, 4 **Northwestern Crows**, 3 **American Robins**, and 12 **American Coots** for a total species count of 12.



Adeline Gildow's total species count of 26 included 2 **American Goldfinch**, 4 **Bald Eagles** flying over her Juniper Beach location, 4 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Pine Siskins**, 4 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 1000+ **Snow Geese**, 1,000+ **Dunlin** along Juniper Beach, 2 **White-Crowned Sparrows**, 3 **Great Blue Herons**, and 2 **Red-Tailed Hawks** on the power lines.

Clayton Haberman's report included 4 **Horned Grebes**, 3 **Red-Necked Grebes**, 2 **Common Loons**, 3 **Double-Crested Cormorants**, 4 **Chestnut-Backed Chickadees**, 5 **Common Mergansers**, 2 **Song Sparrows**, and 3 **Spotted Towhees** for a total species count of 23.

Clayton Haberman's March report included 40 **Barrow's Goldeneyes**, 4 **Bald Eagles**, 40 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Song Sparrows**, 3 **Northwestern Crows**, a **White-Crowned Sparrow**, 3 **Spotted Towhee**, 8 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, a **Great Blue Heron**, and 3 **Pigeon Guillemot** for a total species count of 29.

Warbler, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, a **Great Blue Heron**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 2 **Winter Wrens**, a **Varied Thrush**, and a **Western Screech Owl** in the woods.

Bob Poulin's report from Camano Island with views of Port Susan Bay included 5 **Bald Eagles**, 41 **Northwestern Crows**, 29 **Barrow's Goldeneyes**, 1,000+ **Western Grebes**, 32 **Glaucous-Winged Gulls**, 2 **Great Blue Herons**, 16 **Buffleheads**, a **Belted Kingfisher**, 3 **American Robins**, and 50 **Common Loons** for a total species count of 15.

Darlene Walker reported two very interesting sparrows in her yard on Camano Island; 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows** and 2 **Savannah Sparrows**.

These are both similar to the Song Sparrow, but the Lincoln Sparrow has a grayer side face and the breast streaks are much finer.

The Savannah Sparrow usually has a yellowish eyebrow stripe and pinker legs. Her total species count of 21 included

Verna Hisey's total species count of 9 from Lake Stevens included 2 **Northern Flickers**, 4 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 25+ **House Sparrows**, 3 **Varied Thrush**, 5 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, 3 **Spotted Towhees**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, a **Downy Woodpecker**, and 5 **Northwestern Crows**.

Reporting from the Machias area, Shelia and Michael Huber's report included 13 **Pine Siskins**, 13 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 5 **Northern Flickers**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, a **Mourning Dove**, 15 **American Robins**, 7 **House Finches**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, a **Varied Thrush**, and a juvenile **Bald Eagle** for a total species count of 20.

Julie O'Donald's Brier location yielded 20 species this month. Her report included a **Anna's Hummingbird**, 12 **Bushtits**, 4 **Golden-Crowned Kinglets**, 2 **Red-Breasted Nuthatches**, a **Townsend's**

species count of 21 included 2 **Red-Breasted Nuthatches**, a **Great Horned Owl**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 20 **Pine Siskins**, 50 **Tundra Swans** in Conway, 7 **Spotted Towhees**, 8 **Fox Sparrows**, and 5 **American Robins**.

Reporting from Northeast Marysville, my total species count of 24 included 5 **Bald Eagles** above the fields along 100th Street, 30+ **Mallards** in the field along 100th, 3 **Pine Siskins**, 8 **American Robins**, 5 **Northern Flickers**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 6 **House Finches**, 7 **California Quail**, 2 **Golden-Crowned Sparrows**, 5 **Northern Shovelers** in the fields, and 2 **Varied Thrush**.

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.

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



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Return Service Requested

May Program Meeting
Get to Know your LBJs
 with Virginia Clark
 Check Web site for latest info
www.pilchuckaudubon.org/programs.html
Friday, May 11, 7:00pm
 Program meetings are held at Vertical World in Everett and are always open to the public.

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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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 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198,
 Snohomish, WA 98290

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 (includes PAS membership)

- Introductory Membership \$20

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National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
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NAS Renewal
 (includes PAS renewal)

- Renewal \$35

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