

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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Friday, November 9, 7PM — Program Meeting Birds! From Key West to Kauai!

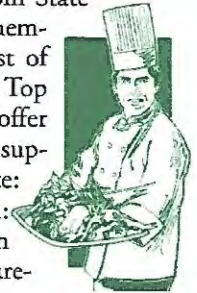
with **Joe Meche**

Joe Meche—president, birding programs coordinator, and newsletter editor of the North Cascades Audubon Society—will thoroughly entertain and educate those of us who enjoy traveling to see birds as well as those who enjoy birding the backyard.

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

Help Decide Who's Top Chef

It's a tough job, but somebody has to do it. Join State Representative Hans Dunshee, County Council members Dave Gossett and Dave Somers, and a host of others for a night of judging who is the region's Top Chef, tasting all the good food these chefs will offer paired with excellent wines. All funds raised help support the work of our Smart Growth Director. Date: Thursday, November 15, 6:30–9PM; location: Angel Arms Works, corner of 3rd & Avenue B in Snohomish. RSVP to Kristin Kelly, kristin@future-wise.org or by calling 425.923.8625.



September Weekend Bird Hike Report

by Jonathan Blubaugh



Photograph by Joseph Bales-Kogan

On Sunday, Sept. 23rd PAS members participated in the monthly Weekend Bird Hike as we visited the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The trip took us up Highway 542 to the vicinity of the Mt. Baker ski resort. We took the Chain Lakes Loop Trail. It was a little longer than I had estimated: a marathon 7.5 miles.

We went around Table Mountain, an ancient, flat, deeply eroded lava flow just north of Mt. Baker. We climbed over two small passes gaining about 1,000 feet in just less than four miles. The weather was perfect; mild, cool, and mostly cloudy.

Marching uphill was real warm, but when we stopped for lunch on the second of two ridges, a sharp breeze cooled us just as quickly! The jackets were

on and off again all day.

On the trip up, flying over I-5 near Mt. Vernon, a Great Blue Heron was spotted. We stopped along the way at the village of Deming, which was full of bird song. It was still early and warmer than we found it to be at the trail head.

We spotted a Northern Goshawk, four Steller's Jays, two American Crows, two Common Ravens, Winter Wren (heard), Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, five American Robins, three European Starlings, Cedar Waxing, two Yellow-Rumped Warblers, and one Song Sparrow.

On the trail we were amazed by the heavy crop of fruit on the blueberries all along the loop. Along wind-swept ridges, the bushes were just a few inches high varying to waist-high along sheltered slopes. All bore plenty of ripe, succulent blueberries. Frequent stops by the trip leader to gobble up his very favorite snack probably caused a considerable lengthening of the trip time.

We weren't the only ones enjoying the blueberries. We came across a Hoary Marmot high above us on a grassy slope. He too was enjoying them and by listening carefully we could hear him munching away. At one point we came across a flock of eight tame Gray Jays. On a whim I held out my hand with an offering of blueberries. Sure enough, within seconds I had Gray Jays eating blueberries out of my hand. Hana Bales-Kogan offered cashews. Oh boy, did they like that! Soon we were

swarmed by the unwary jays, perching on us and gratefully taking our goodies.

Other birds observed were Hooded Mergansers, Band-Tailed Pigeons, Vaux's Swifts, Northern Flicker, American Robins, Orange-Crowned Warblers, Dark-Eyed Juncos, White-Crowned Sparrows, and Red Crossbills.

Check out the Pilchuck web site for more trip photos by Joseph Bales-Kogan.

PAS Birdseed Bonanza

Feed your feathered friends, dirt-cheep!

Call to place your order NOW!!

Pick up on Saturday, November 3

Stock up with plenty of fresh birdseed for your favorite feathered friends at rock-bottom prices!

Call Art Wait now at 360.563.0181 to place your order.

Black Russian Sunflower • Patio Mix

Wild Bird Seed Mix • Nijer Thistle

Sunflower • & Others

Support PAS and your feeder friends! Be sure to call Art and place your order by October 30.

Also don't forget quality birdseed is always available at **Wild Birds Unlimited** in Everett, Lake Forest Park, and Monroe as well as **Wild Bird Center** in Lynnwood. Remember to tell them you are a PAS member as a percentage of your purchase is donated back to PAS.

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

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

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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.

The *Profile* is also available online from our web site:

www.pilchuckaudubon.org

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President's Corner

by Mike Blackbird



On a recent business trip to Southern California, as the plane landed, I looked out the window over the ever-expanding miasma of new home developments at the desert fringes of the Los Angeles Basin.

It seems so counter-intuitive to see such a concentration of population in a desert considering the rapid depletion of water resources. It brought to mind an old adage regarding history, "There's nothing new under the sun." And this is yet another case where ancient history may foretell what the future holds for modern peoples.

During the 11th century, the Anasazi culture covered over 115,000 square miles of territory in what are now the states of New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado. Anthropologists estimate that this sophisticated culture's population probably exceeded 100,000 at its peak.

Typical Anasazi cities of the time often included five-story buildings with over 800 rooms. Their astronomers and scientists carefully charted the solstices and the equinoxes. They established far-reaching trade routes that stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific. They built a road system in North America that would be unequalled for over 700 years.

However, by AD 1400 the Anasazi had all but vanished. What happened? The answer poignantly raises concerns for the continuance of our own civilization.

Around AD 1130, the Northern Hemisphere's climate began to change. In Europe it became known as the Little Ice Age. The Anasazi only knew things became colder and much drier than they had ever experienced before. Little did they realize the cold and sparse rain would last for more than 300 years. Eventually, they cut down every tree they could find to clear fields for crops, to build their homes, cook their food, and to keep warm during the winters. When the trees ran out and soils became depleted they imported many of the basic items of their lives. Wood, pottery, food, and animal hides. But in the end not even that would save them.

To understand what was happening to the Anasazi we need look no further than our own culture of the last 300

years. Since the arrival of Europeans, 90% of the United States' forests have leveled to build and heat our homes, and clear the land for agriculture. Now, most lumber yards procure their wood products from hundreds and thousands of miles away.

We now import more of our food than is produced here, often from distant places like China, Israel, New Zealand, and Chile. The oil to fuel our cars, run our factories, and heat our homes is shipped from the Middle East. Why? Because we too have over-utilized our resources and are now relying upon trade to supply our most basic needs.

Unfortunately, the parallels to our own time don't end there. In the thirteenth century, as shortages grew and the climate deteriorated further, the Anasazi abandoned their small towns and moved to large pueblos. In 1900, 80% of U.S. citizens lived in rural areas. Today 80% live in cities.

Similar to the demise of America's small rural towns, in the time before AD 1150 there were hundreds of Anasazi settlements, small and large, scattered across the Colorado Plateau. By AD 1400 there were just three. The rest of the Anasazi homeland was a vast no man's land. How could such a vibrant culture be reduced to just a handful of survivors?

The rise of the Anasazi began with a warm, wet climate episode resulting in a period of affluence. With affluence came rapid population growth. In the process of feeding their people they exhausted the soil, cut down the trees, over-hunted the animals. Then the climate changed.

When crops wouldn't grow they expanded trade routes. When trade routes were cut they turned to warfare to keep them open. When they couldn't keep them open, they took what they needed from their closest neighbors. Then they had to fight to protect their homes from their victims' wrath. The fight became a struggle just to stay alive.

I will leave it up to you where modern civilization is in that cycle. But several things are clear. We've over-utilized our resources, the climate is changing rapidly, and we've already begun to fight over resources.

November 2007 Calendar

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

NOVEMBER 6

LUMMI FLATS AREA

Meet 8AM, Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5 Exit 200. Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd. Lots of waterfowl and raptors such as Short-Eared Owl, Northern Harrier, and Rough-legged Hawk. We logged 48 species last November. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

NOVEMBER 13

GEORGE C. REIFEL WATERFOWL REFUGE, BC

Meet 7:30AM, Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5 Exit 200. Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd. The refuge is in Canada on Westham Island at the mouth of the Frazier River. Expect waterfowl underfoot, chickadees and nuthatches fed in the hand, plus surprise species. Bring two pieces of ID: driver's license, original birth certificate, or your passport. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

SUNDAY, NOV. 18

ILLAHIE STATE PARK, BREMERTON

Meet 8AM, Everett Mall parking lot near Regal Cinema. From I-5 take Exit 189, SR 99, Everett Mall. Carpooling essential to cut the ferry toll (\$28.90 round trip for a vehicle under 20 ft.) All day. Bring water & food. Trail TBD. State park admission free.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh 425.244.7633, aracfi@msn.com

NOVEMBER 20

DECEPTION PASS/NORTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

Meet 7:30AM, Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5

Exit 200. Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd. Washington scenery at its best, plus songbirds, seabirds, raptors, waterfowl, and shorebirds (maybe Oystercatchers). Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

NOVEMBER 27

JOHNSON-DEBAY SLOUGH/CLEAR LAKE AREAS

Meet 7:30AM, Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5 Exit 200. Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd. In 2005 we listed four woodpecker species and both Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. In 2006, Kestrel, Merlin, and Red-tailed Hawks. Think swans. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

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

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.

Port Susan Bay IBA

By Colleen Weber

It all began with the Middle East's Six-Day War in 1967! An ornithologist witnessed the bombing of wetlands and was appalled by the devastation. It was clear there was a need to identify Important Bird Areas (IBAs) around the world and protect them.

The National Audubon Society was designated to be lead organization in the effort to identify and protect IBAs in the Western Hemisphere.

This brings us to the present—PAS is one of the local chapters selected to test a model program for protecting identified IBAs. This work is supported by a two-year grant from the Packard Foundation. Currently, we formed an Action Team to start leading this effort at Port Susan Bay.

We cannot over-emphasize

the importance of this project; from South America to the Arctic, migratory pathways must be left intact. If one area is lost, it threatens the entire migration patterns for many species.

The Action Team has a variety of tasks on its list. One is to complete a shorebird survey, counting the species and numbers of shorebirds using this habitat during the spring migration.

Now is the time to get ready for this important work. In consultation with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife we will develop a shorebird survey plan. This plan will determine dates, times, and survey locations around Port Susan Bay.

In preparation, the Action Team will conduct one or two

training sessions prior to spring migration. For the survey to be successful we would like to recruit 20-30 birders to help tally the birds.

If you are one of those frustrated people who worry about how much habitat we are losing, here is something tangible you can do! It doesn't require much time; you will get to work with other birders, meet new people, and feel good about having a positive effect on conservation efforts in our backyard.

Set aside the last week of April through the first week of May 2008 and let me know now if you are

interested in participating a little or a lot.

Future editions of the *Profile*, and our web site (www.PilchuckAudubon.org), will have more information.

Each of us, working together, can make a difference. I am reminded of the image of one drop of water; when added to more drops can mean a cup, a pail, a puddle, a stream, and a river – right up to the Puget Sound and out into the oceans that connect our world!

Volunteer Information Form

A number of forms have been returned to Colleen, our volunteer coordinator. Many thanks to those who have already responded! If you haven't had a chance yet, please do so as soon as possible! The form is on our web site: www.pilchuckaudubon.org. When completed, please return to: Colleen Weber, Volunteer Chair, 12530 Admiralty Way, J-302, Everett, WA 98204.

Smart Growth Report

Kristin Kelly, Director

Please Vote November 6

It's election time again, wow does time fly by! A very important issue on the ballot need your attention, as the outcome will definitely affect your life in the future. Please vote **No on I-960**, yet another Tim Eyman fiasco. Here are the reasons why:

There is a growing coalition opposed to Initiative 960 because it would put funding for conservation, ecosystem restoration, and existing wildlife habitat at risk.

If I-960 were to pass, efforts to fund conservation or clean-up efforts would have to be approved by a two-thirds majority of legislators—and in many cases by the public as well—as a tax increase, even if the programs weren't funded by tax increases. Millions of your tax dollars would be wasted on endless ballot initiatives and expensive court battles over interpreting I-960, leaving even less funding for identified priorities.

I-960 would require special elections for hundreds of con-

servation programs, such as the State Department of Ecology's innovative grants program to improve and protect dozens of bodies of water across the state; funding needed for the Energy Freedom Fund; new revenue streams needed to support projects like the Puget Sound Partnership; and development of Cama Beach State Park in Island County.

Just think—even things as routine as increasing parking fees would require costly time to court voters. Do really want every fee increase to go through the political process?

A few of the organizations opposing this initiative include Washington Conservation Voters, Washington Environmental Council, the Sierra Club, WashPIRG, and the League of Women Voters.

Proposed State Legislation

Pilchuck Audubon Society board members voted to support two important land use bills—one to reduce global warming through better land use planning, and one to reform

Washington State's vesting law for developments.

Global warming is the top issue of our day. Almost everything we do affects how much carbon goes into the atmosphere. About 50% of that contribution comes from automobile emissions.

Unfortunately, how much we drive is directly related to develop rules and regulations. If we are to address climate change effectively, we must change those land-use practices that impact climate. Luckily, we have a great tool—the Growth Management Act (GMA)—that we can use to create responsible long-range planning to help reduce the region's carbon production.

The bill would affect land use and transportation planning by adding a climate element to the GMA, county-wide planning policies, and comprehensive plans to meet specific targets for reducing emissions.

Vesting is another problem we all encounter in our communities as development proceeds. Vesting refers to the ability of a

landowner to lock in (vest) the right to develop property consistent with existing zoning law and other development regulations, so that the development is not subject to subsequent changes in zoning or development laws.

In Washington, vesting occurs at the time an application is submitted and deemed complete, even though permits for building may not happen for years and in the meantime new regulations are established to help protect our environment.

If you read the Oct. 5 *Everett Herald*, you will read about a rush of development applications submitted just before updates to the county's Critical Areas Ordinance went into affect. That is why we need a new vesting law that would only allow vesting after a permit is granted, which is the way most of the U.S. does it.

We will keep you posted on these two bills and will be asking for your support to convince our representatives that these bills are good for Washington.

Pulling Ivy to Help the Birds

by Kerry Forest

As habitat continues to be lost by development, the quality of habitat remaining becomes ever more important. While monitoring nests for PRBO Conservation Science in California, I became interested in the relationship between songbirds and the vegetation they depend on. I observed birds using plants to forage, to build nests, and for places to hide from predators. It seemed impossible to study birds without studying plants.

This past year I've been learning about the value of urban forests and restoration techniques as an AmeriCorps volunteer for Cascade Land Conservancy and the Northwest Service Academy.

I've become aware of a serious potential loss of canopy in our region due to invasive species such as English ivy. I was inspired to start a project, the Stewards of Forest Park, to restore one of my favorite birding spots in Everett.

Walk around the trails, and you'll notice English ivy is creeping around and taking over the understory. I once thought studying plants would be easier than birds because they don't "move." But ivy has been moving into the canopy at Forest Park, threatening the survival of trees by adding tremendous weight, competing for nutrients, and making them more susceptible to disease.

Although English ivy was introduced by humans and is still being sold, some birds aren't helping the problem. To many songbirds, ivy is slightly toxic and does not provide a great source of food. However, house sparrows and European starlings eat the berries and spread it around. A few native species like jays and robins also contribute to this spread.

In addition, many landowners do not realize that ivy is ideal habitat for rats. Rats pose an additional problem to birds, as they can be nest predators.

With help from a growing cadre of volunteers, Everett Parks & Recreation Department, and Pilchuck Audubon Society,

the Stewards of Forest Park are making a difference. Join us for our next work party Saturday, November 10, 9:30-12:30; come early for a nature walk at 9AM. Bring family and friends, and get to know some great people. Refreshments are provided, but additional snack donations are always welcome.

Through PAS, we've applied for a grant to purchase plants, tools, and signs. I'm also compiling a list of birds seen in the park to distribute to park visitors. If you've been birding in Forest Park, please let me know what you've been seeing.

For more information, visit www.sofp.org or contact Kerry Neijstrom at 425.252.5243.

Conservation Corner

by Sally van Niel

South County Christmas Bird Count

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 29. This exciting and valuable all-day event will be concluded with a potluck at the van Niel residence in Mountlake Terrace. Bring your favorite dish. There will be a big pot of soup available. Call Sally & Jan for directions and more information on how you can participate in this yearly event: 425.778.7568.

Farewell, Rocky! You will be missed!

Rocky Spencer was the large carnivore specialist for the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife. He was killed September 8 in a tragic heli-

copter accident near Yakima. Among other duties he often found himself tracking cougars and bears that came too close to humans. It was his contention that there were far more cougars in our midst than we dreamed.

His work partner was a Karelian bear dog named Mishka that helped him show that with proper precautions, humans can co-exist with bears and cougars without much trouble. The partners mentored biologists, educated the public with a focus on children, conducted Bear Shepherding, and worked together on non-lethal approaches for managing other wildlife species.

A memorial in Rocky's name has been set up at the Wind River Bear Institute, the folks that gave Mishka to Rocky back in 2003, helping launch a successful program of Wildlife Service Dogs around the west. Visit www.beardogs.org/rocky.html for more information.

In addition, a human scholarship fund has been set up in Rocky's honor to assist young people with a goal of becoming wildlife stewards. To contribute, contact the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington, 360.694.2550, www.cfsww.org.

Climate Change

Another indication of climate

change has shown up with the spotty rainfall throughout the Northwest. When we went to Salem, OR for a class reunion, we also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Biology Department at Willamette University.

One of the events was an early morning paddle-wheeler excursion on the Willamette River. The river was so shallow that we could only go a quarter mile upstream and then turn around and go downstream from the dock. I've never seen the river so low. The captain said that the day before, he had seen an elk walk across the river and not even get its belly wet!

Vaux's Swifts Go Back to School

by Susie Schaefer

On September 8th, a group of PAS members led by Art Wait joined with East Lake Washington Audubon to head to Monroe for an evening with the Vaux's Swifts at Frank Wagner Elementary School.

Many of us had heard about the migrating swifts and their night roost in the school's elderly, unused brick chimney but few of us had seen them.

The experience was fascinating and memorable. Arriving at 6PM, we observed a few birds circling the chimney high in

the sky. For the next hour and a half these birds were joined by more and more birds making big circles over and around the chimney top. As time went by we saw that when they passed the opening to the chimney, one by one they slowed and dropped into the chimney tail first.

How they organized themselves and what was going on in the chimney remained a mystery. During the course of the evening, we watched around 4,000 Vaux's Swifts enter the chimney. At the end of the roosting exhibition, a small group flew off after

getting the message there was no more room at the inn.

Several of us went back over the next few weeks to observe the birds again. One evening Art and Shirley Wait had an extra treat as a Cooper's Hawk and

a Merlin hung around the area and even sat on the chimney hoping for a swift dinner (pun intended.) As darkness set in, they flew off and the swifts quickly circled and went down the chimney like a big funnel cloud.

SOS! Save Our Swifts!

Hopefully, the birds will be back next year but we are not sure. A teacher told us the school district is planning to remove the chimney as it is old and could be a danger to children in the event of an earthquake.

After hearing this sad news, Pilchuck, Seattle, and Eastlake Washington Audubon chapters got together with Patricia Thompson of WDFW to strategize what to do if the district's engineering survey determines they will need to remove the chimney.

We need more information from Monroe bird lovers who have knowledge regarding the history of the birds in Monroe chimneys. A meeting of PAS members in Monroe and other interested members is being set up in the near future. Watch the PAS web site and Profile for more information. If you, or someone you know, has any historical information (or you'd like to be involved with preservation efforts), contact me at Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net or 425.771.8165.



Photograph by Carol Riddell

The View from Here

Invisible Clear-cutting

by Jon Baker

Being a Pilchuck Audubon Society member you probably are interested in birds. Some of you are avid birders while others passive, satisfied with watching and identifying what shows up at your feeder. There are some of you who appreciate birds and wildlife but are members because you are concerned about the state of our wild places. All of us understand and know the importance of habitat to birds.

Because of this, many years ago, Pilchuck Audubon Society became involved with issues surrounding our forests. While efficient and economical, clear-cutting clearly had ecological consequences. But a growing nation looked the other way until people realized that only a fraction of the native forests remained and that we had fundamentally changed the forest ecology.

Even at that, the American people were slow to respond until a small, secretive owl

changed forestry with the help of a law called the Endangered Species Act.

I am writing today to bring to your attention something that has been going on for decades. It is unseen yet just as, or more, destructive to the earth's ecosystem than clear-cutting is to forests. And though it does not directly involve birds or forests, we in the Northwest are people of the sea and should know about this appalling practice.

Beyond the continental slope, at a depth of 600 to 6,000 feet, bottom trawling is wreaking a similar havoc to the sea floor as clear-cutting has done to our once-pristine forests.

Logging in the Northwest started with the easy pickings of the lowland forests. Once those were eliminated, they moved on to the steeper slopes of the mountains. The same thing is happening in our oceans; as the number of fish on the continental shelf declined, commer-

cial fishers looked elsewhere to make their living.

The Soviets first began to exploit the continental slope in the 1970s; as shallow-water species numbers began to plummet, other countries joined them in this deep-sea 'strip-mine' operation. These deep-water species are now common in the market. Patagonian toothfish, renamed on our menus as "Chilean sea bass" and slimehead, known to the squeamish as "orange roughy" are just a couple species now in severe decline.

What makes these species so vulnerable is that they are slow to grow and very long-lived. This means the population does not replace itself in a matter of a few years but rather in decades. The author of *Deep Trouble* (October issue of *Natural History*), Richard Haedrich says, "The fillet of 'orange-roughy' you order at a restaurant could have come from a fish born before the invention of the automobile."

Unfortunately, it gets worse. Bottom trawling involves the dragging of massive nets with maws many times the length of a football field along the sea bottom. This reduces deep-sea coral communities to rubble. The sea floor looks as though the confetti machine at a Macy's parade went berserk.

Scientists estimate it takes a millennium (yes, 1,000 years!) to build such a community. Many researchers believe a destroyed community can ever recover. It's hypothesized those destroyed coral habitats probably serve as nurseries for young slimeheads and toothfish.

Even as we learn more about these fish and ecosystems, precious little is being done to regulate the industry. I am so tired of this, must be time for another birdfeeder. Check out www.naturalhistorymag.com for more information. As always, if you have comments to share, please write me at jon.d.baker@gmail.com.

Kwənənət

BY COLLEEN WEBER, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



This is a familiar sign we've all seen in stores as we walk the streets of the city. Perhaps you have responded to such a sign. Perhaps you have posted a similar sign in your business or place of work.

We see this message in the newspaper or on the internet and seek it out when we have the need for employment or to change our work environment.

What thoughts come to mind when you see this sign? Are they good memories of the first job you had while in high school? Maybe this sign triggers memo-

ries of a person that shaped your life when you were young.

Now the sign appears again. Only this time there are no monetary gains to be made. The rewards of responding to this particular Help Wanted sign are ones that, as a member of Pilchuck Audubon Society, you most likely already have!

Feeling good because you contributed to a cause you believe in strongly. Meeting new people and revisiting people you don't normally run into. Having the satisfaction of knowing the time you spend is helping wildlife, their habitats, and our collective environment!

In the months ahead I will be highlighting different PAS volunteer opportunities available for our members. Positions that take advantage of the marvelous

array of skills and passions PAS members like you possess.

Without an active cadre of volunteers, all the good intentions of a small budget organization such as PAS are just that—good intentions and nothing more.

You know who you are! Step forward now and be a part of a long standing organization that contributes to your well being and that of our region in so many ways.

We absolutely need you to help us fulfill our mission. If I may borrow a well-known phrase from a shoe company, Nike — **Just Do It!**

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

Turkey Day Bird Count

Yes, there is a Thanksgiving Bird Count...and you can participate! The count has been conducted since 1966.

Dr. John Hewston of Humboldt State University in Arcata California is in charge of the count and has asked Audubon Chapters for help.

The count is conducted within a 15-foot circle of your choosing for one hour. Perfect arm-chair activity for those with birdfeeders easily viewed from the warmth of your home.

If you want to participate in this fun count, contact our Bird Sightings person, Mara Price at pricemara@earthlink.net or call 425.750.8125 for more information.

Birding Highlights

August 26 through September 25, 2007

Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

As our weather is in transition from summer to fall, the birds are making their move to warmer climes. Julie O'Donald can testify to this as she spotted at least four migrating species in September on the same day. She arrived home on September 20 to find 15+ Cedar Waxwings on the red huckleberries and in the stream. She also spotted a Hermit Thrush, a Townsend's Warbler, a Wilson's Warbler, and 2 Yellow-Rumped Warblers. She actually counted 12 different species in a thirty minute period. Also included in her total species count of 25 from Brier were 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatches, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker, 15 Bushtits, a Western Screech Owl, a Killdeer, and 2 California Quail.

I would like to welcome Mary Sinker from Stanwood as our newest bird reporter. She emailed a list of 21 species that included 2 Sharp-Shinned Hawks, a Wilson's Warbler, 11 American Goldfinches, 7 Pine Siskins, 11 Black-Capped Chickadees, 2 White-Crowned Sparrows, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 12 Song Sparrows, and 16 American Robins.

Carole and Larry Beason had a large species count of 43 from their home near Lake Bosworth. Their count usually covers a large variety of bird species. This month they reported 10 Barn Swallows, 5 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 4 Evening Grosbeaks, 19 Pine Siskins, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker, 4 Spotted Towhees, a

Common Loon, an Osprey, a Canada Goose, 9 Violet-Green Swallows, 3 Golden Crown Sparrows, and a Hutton's Vireo.

Gail Dibernardo, also reporting from Brier, listed a Wilson's Warbler, a Bewick's Wren, 5 Spotted Towhees, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flickers, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatches, 10 American Goldfinches, 3 White-Crowned Sparrows, and 12 House Finches.

Kriss Erickson's Everett report included 25 Northwestern Crows, 19 Bushtits, 5 American Robins, a Mallard, 18 Canada Geese, 16 Black-Capped Chickadees, 4 Steller's Jays, a Downy Woodpecker, and a Bewick's Wren for a total species count of 10.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report only covers August 26 through September 16, but she still reported 22 species. The list from her Mukilteo home included an Olive-Sided Flycatcher working her yard, 3 Pine Siskins, 6 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 3 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 3 Rufous Hummingbirds, an Anna's Hummingbird, 8 House Sparrows, 3 White-Crowned Sparrows, and 8 Steller's Jays.

Reporting from Tulare Beach on the Tualip Reservation, Clayton Haberman listed 18 species. His count included 7 Double-Crested Cormorants, 10 Northwestern Crows, 15 Glaucous-Winged Gulls, 6 Mew Gulls, 5 American Goldfinches, 3 Great-

Blue Herons, 4 Song Sparrows, a Red-Necked Grebe, and a Red Crossbill.

Verna Hisey has been having trouble with a half dozen wild house cats around her property at Lake Sevens. The cats have been hanging around the bird feeders and have made it difficult for the birds. Her total species count of 7 included 22 House Sparrows, 5 Northwestern Crows, 2 American Robins, 5 Black-Capped Chickadees, a Bald Eagle, 3 Steller's Jays, and a Downy Woodpecker.

Sheila and Michael Huber are still reporting American Goldfinches from their Machias location. Their report included 9 American Goldfinches, 2 Northern Flickers, 2 Mourning Doves, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker, a Golden-Crowned Sparrow, 2 Dark-Eyed Juncos, 3 American Robins, a Red-Tailed Hawk, and 2 Downy Woodpeckers for a total species count of 14.

Bob Poulin's wonderful location along Port Susan Bay yielded a total of 19 species this month. He reported 2 Great-Blue Herons, a Belted Kingfisher, 54 Tree Swallows, 3 Mourning Doves, 3 Harlequin Ducks, at least 100 Western Sandpipers, 28 Mew Gulls, 14 Northwestern Crows, and 4 Common Loons.

Mourning Doves seem to have flocked to the Camano Island and Stanwood areas. Darlene Walker listed 12 on her report

this month. She also listed a number of House and Fox Sparrows. Her report included 4 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 8 Fox Sparrows, 12 House Finches, 8 American Goldfinches, 2 White-Crowned Sparrows, 2 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, a Bewick's Wren, and a Bald Eagle.

I don't know what is going on, but I have seen very large number of House Finches this season at my Marysville home. My total species count of 26 included 17 House Finches, 2 American Goldfinches, 8 American Robins, 15 California Quail (I think there are 2 groups), 300+ European Starlings in the fields along 100th, 5 Pine Siskins, 4 Turkey Vultures flying over the cow pasture, a Bewick's Wren, 5 Steller's Jays, a Great-Horned Owl in the woods, 2 Western Tanagers, and a Black-Throated Gray Warbler.

If you are interested in adding to *Birding Highlights*, please contact me at 425.750.8125 or e-mail pricemara@earthlink.net.

HELP WANTED

Membership Chair

Duties: Responsible for keeping membership list up to date; Send out Welcome letters to new members; Send out Renewal notices; Monthly Update of membership list; Print Profile newsletter labels

Call Colleen Weber 425-210-5626 or e-mail: Colleen.Weber@PilchuckAudubon.org

Christmas Bird Counts

The North County CBC is Saturday, Dec. 15. Mary Teesdale is the coordinator. Call 360.734.2561 to sign up.

The South County CBC is Saturday, Dec. 29 culminating

in a potluck at the van Neil residence in Edmonds. Call Jan and Sally van Neil at 425.778.7568 to sign up.

Whether you have been doing CBCs for years or if you have never done

one before, plan to do one or both this year and be a part of the world's largest and longest ongoing citizen science project!!!!



Passings

We are sad to report the untimely passing of Bob Benton, a regular attendee of our meetings along with his lovely wife Becky. He helped with the International Migratory Bird Fest and many other PAS activities. He was such a wonderful, warm and gentle person and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

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**November Program Meeting
 Birds! From Key West to Kauai!**

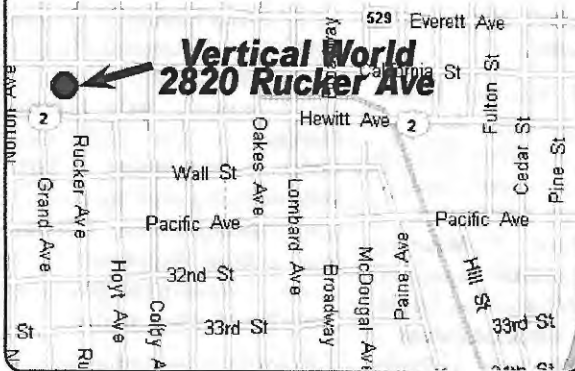
with **Joe Meche**

Check Web site for latest info

www.pilchuckaudubon.org/programs.html

Friday, November 9, 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.

Y07

Local PAS Membership

- New Member.....\$25
- Renewal\$25
- Lifetime PAS Member....\$1,000
 - 10 monthly payments of \$100
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- 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

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- I'd like to save PAS money and read the *Profile* on the Web at 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.