

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

Published by Pilchuck Audubon Society Vol. 34, No. 8 October 2007

August Weekend Bird Hike Report

by Jonathan Blubaugh

In August the Pilchuck Audubon Society conducted the second monthly Weekend Bird Hike. We took a small group to Ross Lake National Recreation Area at Newhalem on the North Cascades Highway, SR 20. We started our walk at the North Cascades National Park Visitors' Center and went three miles through forested riverside along both sides of the Skagit River. We also took a few short side trails crossing Ladder Creek and Newhalem Creek as well.

The weather was cool and cloudy with no rain (the way I like it). We took three small bridges across the Skagit River including a couple of small fun suspension footbridges.

Here's a partial list of the birds we spotted: three Vaux's

Swifts at the visitors' center, a family of three Pacific Slope Flycatchers with a fuzzy little chick just starting to grow out adult tail feathers, two raucous Stellar's Jays, two Common Ravens, seven American Crows, three Red Breasted Nuthatches, and Mountain Chickadee (heard one). One American Robin and eight Cedar Waxwings were joined by birdwatchers gorging on blackberries.

Warblers included one Yellow Warbler high overhead and a Yellow-rumped Warbler (heard one). Upon hearing the Chickadee we spotted a little black and white bird mostly obscured by fir boughs. However, Joseph's snapshot shows it was a Black-throated Grey Warbler, even the little yellow eye spot is

clearly visible. There were also one female American Redstart (lifer for me), three Dark-eyed Juncos, and a Spotted Towhee (heard one).

One highlight was the lovely doe whose image was captured by Joseph. The low light was the enormous black banana slug in the middle of the trail.

Wildflowers included Pearly Everlasting, Tansy Ragwort, blackberry, Dandelion, Foxglove,

Computer Savvy Volunteer Opportunity

Do you like "playing" with computers? Want to help Pilchuck Audubon? I've got just the thing!

I've been maintaining the database that tracks membership and fund-raising for seven years, and I need a break. Judy Lowell has been Membership Chair for five years and makes sure the *Profile* gets to you on time each month. She roo, needs a break. She's willing to continue managing the mailings but would like to pass on her other duties. Ideally, we need two people to replace us.

Skills needed for the Database Administrator -- you need to be comfortable with computers and have some familiarity with databases. We use software called "ebase" built on Filemaker Pro software. If you have used Microsoft Access you should be able to make the tran-



Photograph by Joseph Bales-Kogan

and Fireweed. Sorry, I can't tell you the varieties.

Lunch was enjoyed at a picturesque side trail developed by Seattle City Light above Ladder Creek falls. A grand time was had by all.

Details for upcoming Weekend Bird Hikes are on page 3 and online: www.pilchuckaudubon.com.

sition easily. I will train you. It helps if you are a little obsessive about details. Several other people need access to the database and information from it. Since we are now a virtual office, you will need to have easy access to a computer, printer and be able to backup files. PAS will provide the software. It takes about 10 to 15 hours a month to maintain the database.

The Membership Chair does simple data entry into the database; the new Chair will need only basic computer skills. It requires some follow-up with members with e-mail or phone calls. After you are trained it will require about 5 hours a month of your time.

If you have any interest or have any questions about what's involved, give me a call at 425.359.6268. —Ileen Weber

Friday, October 12, 7PM — Program Meeting

The Way We Grew with David Cameron

Local educator, author, and PAS member David Cameron will explain the whys and wherefores of the unique patterns of development found in Snohomish County. The physical setting, natural resources, and choices made starting in the 19th century resulted in many unintended consequences we live with to this day.

Born in Everett, Cameron currently resides in Index. He has taught history, philosophy, and anthropology; worked for the U.S. Forest Service; and been active in local heritage work, especially at Monte Cristo. He holds a PhD and was editor and a writer of the recently released *Snohomish County: An Illustrated History*.

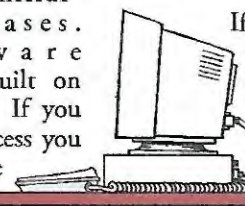
Friday, November 9, 7PM — Program Meeting

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.



October 2007 Calendar

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

TUESDAY, OCT 2

SEQUIM AREA

Meet 7:30AM at Edmonds Marsh. South of West Dayton St., turn left just before the railroad tracks. We'll take the ferry to Kingston, go thru Port Gamble, and across the floating bridge. We will bird Sequim Bay, Dungeness Recreational Area, and whatever else we fancy. Bring a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

TUESDAY, OCT 9

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Meet 7:30AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5 Exit 200. Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd. Last year's trip yielded Pipits, Merlin, Kestrels, and Dowitchers. Pack a lunch.

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Leaders: Wilma Bayes 360.629.2028, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

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This year Greg wants to visit one of his favorite gathering grounds near May Creek. There is a maze of trails here; he will guide us through them to the best mushrooming grounds. However, neither he nor Kathy has a vehicle appropriately suited to the rough, narrow road to this area. If enough participants have relatively high clearance cars (Subarus would be good) that can carry all of us, we will do this hike. The backup destination is Heybrook Lookout.

We will meet at 9am at the Sultan Park & Ride and carpool from there. You MUST preregister for this hike by calling Kathy Johnson 360.659.7252, or e-mail katherine@earthlink.net.



SATURDAY, OCT 20 PT. DEFIANCE PARK, TACOMA

Meet 8AM, Everett Mall parking lot near Regal Cinema. From I-5 take

Exit 189, SR 99, Everett Mall. Carpooling strongly recommended. All day. We'll stroll the 5-mile Outside Perimeter Trail. It looks pretty easy. I believe it stays atop the bluffs. There will be numerous views across to Vashon Island, the Narrows, Gig Harbor, and the new bridge. Bring water & lunch. Free admission.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh 425.244.7633, aracfi@msn.com

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Help for Injured Wildlife

(not domestic animals)

The following numbers are available 24-hours a day:

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Snohomish, 425.335.0788

Deer Creek Wild Animal Rehab
Everett, 425.334.8171

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Arlington, 360.435.4817

PAWS

Lynnwood, 425.787.2500, Ext. 817



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Three locations to serve you:

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4821 Evergreen Way, Everett
425.252.2220

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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.

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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 Mailing	Judy Lowell.....	425.353.8150
Webmaster	Kathy Piland.....	360.691.7695

STAFF

Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly.....	425.252.1927
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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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Opinions expressed are those of the credited writers and do not necessarily represent the official position of Pilchuck Audubon Society.

President's Corner

by Mike Blackbird



Fundamental in our nation's history is the Public Square, where citizens gathered to discuss the issues of the day. The citizens of a city or town would gather to debate and exchange ideas on issues affecting their lives in the public square.

Today, in most town squares, the only dialogue heard is comes from pigeons expressing themselves on the statues of men on horseback.

However the public square hasn't disappeared from our lives, it's just evolved. An argument could be made that the Internet is the new public square. I believe a case can also be made that today's public square includes presidential debates and candidate forums.

Forgive me if I belabor you one more time with my personal history but it's germane to the point I want to make. I grew up in Kellogg, a small, north Idaho mining town. When the mines closed in the early 80s, my home town became a Superfund site as the local economy collapsed.

The closing of the mines eliminated 2,500 primary jobs along with an equal amount of ancillary jobs that serviced the mining company. The Shoshone County commissioners, watching the richest tax base in state collapse around their ears were willing to consider any opportunity to create new jobs.

Enter Washington Water Power, the major electric supplier in the region. At that time WWP's transformers were cooled with dioxin-laden oil. When rebuilding transformers to refurbish the casing WWP found it convenient and economic to burn out the inside of the casing.

It was illegal to burn dioxin-laden oil in the state of Washington, so the company decided to move the operation to Shoshone County's Silver Valley. It was already a Superfund site, so what's a little burning dioxin if it creates new jobs? The commissioners voted unanimously to accept WWP's proposal and the date was set to begin operations.

A number of Silver Valley residents formed a citizen's group to stop

the PCB burning plant from going online.

We realized we had three courses of action, legal, legislative, and political. Legal action can be glacial. The legislative session had just ended and wouldn't be in session for nine months with no guarantee we could see a bill passed outlawing PCB burning.

Our only short term option was political. Fortunately, it was an election year. Two of the three county commissioners were up for re-election. We arranged to hold a candidate's forum where the commissioners would be obvious by their absence.

The junior high gym filled with voters irate the commissioners were willing to perpetuate the idea that the Silver Valley was only good enough to be a perpetual Superfund site.

With fingers held high testing the political wind blowing that night, the commissioners reconsidered the PCB plant and rescinded their authorization vote.

Today, Kellogg is a transformed community; the lead smelter and zinc plant have been torn down. A hundred years of contaminated soil has been removed or capped under impervious layers of clay. The stark, barren mountains of my youth have been reforested. The ugly little mining town I grew up in is now a destination ski resort.

A destination ski resort was far from the minds of those attending the candidates' forum that summer night in 1984. But I believe it does mark a pivotal moment when a group of committed Silver Valley voters served notice to their elected officials that, "enough was enough."

During run up to this November's election, there will be a number of candidate forums where voters can question candidates directly where they stand on the issues of the day.

As voters committed to the health of the environment in Snohomish County, we should take advantage of the opportunity to exhale our concerns into the political wind blowing past the upraised fingers of the candidates seeking election to the county council and county executive spots.

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Smart Growth Report

Kristin Kelly, Director

This month I'd like to focus on an Environmentally Friendly Community called Upper Ridge Cottages. It's a Low Impact Development (LID) in Everett currently being built by our Membership Director, Judy Lowell.

What is Low Impact Development (LID) you ask?

An LID is an ecologically friendly approach to site development and storm water management that aims to mitigate development impacts to land, water, and air. In addition, LID techniques can offer many benefits to a variety of stakeholders.

LID practices are built upon a premise agreed upon by storm water managers: control storm water close to the source (where it originates) and keep pollutants out of the streams.

This is accomplished by protecting native vegetation, reducing the amount of hard surfaces and compaction of soil, treating water runoff close to where it starts, and slowing the flow of water runoff so that it's similar to the volume that occurred prior to site development.

Judy Lowell, the current owner of a 1.88 acre site in the Upper Ridge Road Neighborhood of Everett, between the Boeing Everett Plant and Beverly Road, has lived on the site for over 30 years and is a passionate advocate for various environmental causes.

Not only is she an esteemed member of PAS and our Membership Chair, she is also a founder of the Sno-Isle Natural Foods Co-op in Everett. Her property is one of the last sites in the area that hasn't been subdivided to make a quick buck,

with box-style split level houses. Judy's love of nature and wanting to sustain the existing habitat as much as possible for the bird inhabitants, led her to choose a Low Impact Development and a green building approach.

The Upper Ridge Cottages are Judy's dream of creating an environmentally friendly clustered community of small cottage-like homes, which will meet the demands of providing urban density in our urban cities, and which will also appeal to people who appreciate a low impact, eco-friendly, and sustainable approach to building.

While there are a host of LID techniques to consider, Judy and her project manager's plan is to use sustainable green materials, as well as utilizing techniques to minimize the impact to the land, and better manage the storm water runoff.

Their plan is to build six 1,400-1,500 square foot two-story cottage-like homes clustered together with detached garages. The designs maximize the use of space and light and promote community interaction of like-minded environmentally enlightened people.

Market analysis shows there is indeed a demand for smaller, easier-to-maintain homes, especially for down-sizing seniors, individuals, and small families. The development will be offering two housing designs.

While Low Impact Development is slow to happen here in Snohomish County, the county—and some cities—have adopted policies and regulations that will allow for these types of development.

There have been numerous efforts around the county
...continued on page 5



Judy Lowell's home

Conservation Corner

by Sally van Niel

Grazing on Wildlife Habitat

Last *Profile*, we discussed ACOW and a meeting of the various Audubon chapters' environmental chairs. One big topic of on the agenda was grazing on state land set aside as important wildlife habitat.

Governor Gregoire arranged an agreement between the state and the Washington Cattlemen's Association after her election.

Environmentalists claim the deal allowed fragile wildlife lands to be trampled along with salmon and steelhead spawning beds are destroyed.

The agreement allowed two ranchers free grazing rights for several hundred head of cattle on state lands

that had been purchased with the idea of setting them aside for publicly accessible wildlife habitat.

The members of the Wildlife Diversity Advisory Council, advisory to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife recommend the grazing plan be reviewed by five to ten well-qualified scientists with expertise on shrub-steppe ecology plant and wildlife habitat and grazing management. Stay tuned.

Earth Justice: brief comments

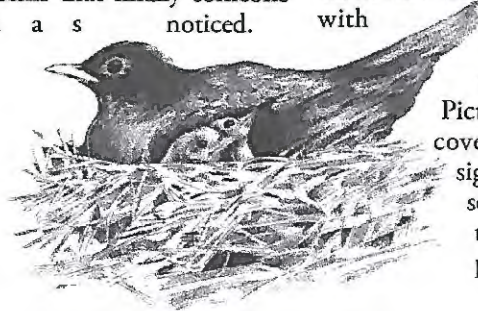
The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals just halted all oil exploration by Shell Offshore Inc. in the Beaufort Sea for the rest of 2007.

This ruling stopped a fleet of Shell ships that were

getting ready to drill and do seismic testing right in the migration path of mother bowhead whales and their calves.

The court agreed with Earthjustice's challenge to the exploration permit. Hearings will begin in December on whether federal agencies properly assessed environmental impacts.

Shell's activities have and are threatening endangered whales, polar bears, and other marine mammals. It seems that finally someone has noticed.



Birding Trail Maps Still a Bargain at \$4.95

All four Birding Trails maps – the Cascade, Olympic, and Southwest loops plus the Coulee Corridor – are now being sold with the proceeds going toward reprinting of the popular publications and promoting the trail overall. The retail cost? Just \$4.95 plus tax and shipping. If you have (or know of) a retail outlet that would like to order some maps to sell, contact Partners/West Book Distributing Inc., Customer Service, orders@partners-west.com, 800-563-2385 or 425-227-8486.

Tidbits for the Flock

Discovery Coast birdwatchers in Pacific County have been puzzled by sightings of crows with white feathers - mostly black, but with white on the under-feathers

of the wings and intermittent white splashes elsewhere.

Pictures are at <http://www.discoverycoastaudubon.com/bird-sightings.htm>. If you have the solution to this puzzle, contact Patricia Cruse at crusep@pacifier.com.

Smart Growth

continued from page 5

and Puget Sound to encourage developers and landowners to start building in this way, while not mandating they do so. There is much for everyone to learn, and people like Judy are showing that it can be done.

Some LID benefits include:

- Reducing land clearing and grading costs
- Reducing storm water management costs
- Increasing lot and community marketability
- Balancing growth needs with environmental protection
- Preserving integrity of ecological and biological systems
- Protecting site and regional water quality by reducing sediment, nutrient, and toxic loads to water bodies
- Reducing impacts to local terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals
- Preserving trees and natural vegetation

The Upper Ridge Cottages will utilize pervious surfaces for roads and sidewalks, rain gar-

dens for water storage, capturing roof runoff, and maximizing passive heating and lighting exposures by arranging homes specifically to take advantage of site orientation.

The homes are clustered to encourage personal interaction and are a key element in the plan.

In addition, there are many green, sustainable, and renewable materials and features being used in these cottages, such as:

- Community car washing area
- Community clothes line
- Community organic garden, tool shed, & composting areas
- Community recycling center
- Compact fluorescent lights
- Drip irrigation using drought-tolerant native plants and edible landscaping

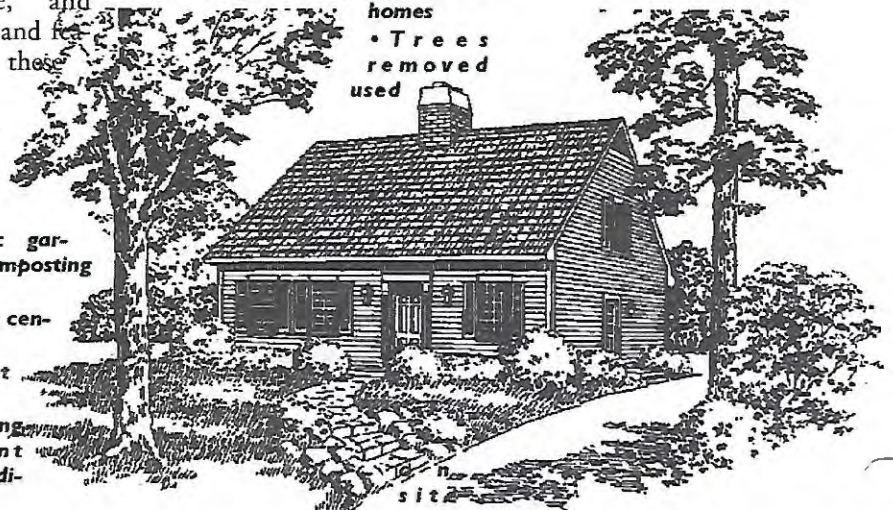
- Bamboo and cork flooring
- Formaldehyde-free cabinets & insulation
- Locally manufactured materials when possible
- Low-flush toilets and low-flow showerheads and faucets
- Minimal use of adhesives and no carpeting and nontoxic finishes on flooring and cabinetry
- No heating ducts for dust to collect and mold to grow
- No lawns to cut or maintain
- Skylights throughout the homes

- Trees removed used

- for retaining walls and trees will surround the homes
- Wetlands ownership & stewardship

All information contained in this article is courtesy of Judy and her project manager, Chuck Webster.

For more information on this LID, please contact them at 425.353.8150 or at upperridgecottages@hotmail.com.



Volunteer Information Form

Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email address: _____

Why have you chosen PAS? _____

What are your interests? (You may elect to check off the appropriate boxes below)

How much time commitment do you have for Pilchuck?

Weekly _____ hrs. Monthly _____ hrs. Event will determine my time ___ Yes ___ No

Are you working: ___ Full time ___ Part time ___ Retired

What are your skills?

Technical: _____

Professional: _____

Other Useful Skills: _____

The following are examples of volunteer activities. Please check off all you may be interested in:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Birding Activities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Book Sales</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Board Member/Committee Chair (Pub. & Ed.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Computer knowledge (hardware & software)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Data processing and data entry</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Meeting set-up & clean up</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mailings /newsletters</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Bureau</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Organize activities, projects, events</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Review public policies & proposed land use actions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Festivals/Events</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Habitat work</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Publicity</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Research</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Voice Mail Coordinator</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rest Stop Fundraiser</p> |
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Comments: _____

(Please fold this form in thirds, tape, stamp, and mail. Thank you).

The View from Here

Biofuel Bonanza?

by Jon Baker

This column is not intended to claim that biofuels are bad or good. What I would like to do is take an open-minded look at them.

Generally, there are two reasons for using biofuels. One is to reduce the need for imported oil and the other is to reduce the carbon emissions into the atmosphere that contribute to global warming.

Most folks agree we need to reduce our dependency on imported oil, and biofuels is a step in that direction. They will never totally replace oil but can help reduce our need for black gold.

Biofuels are particularly attractive because, as an energy source, they are readily transported and therefore can be inserted into the current fuel distribution system.

It seems that the long-haul trucking industry would be a good candidate for incentives to use biofuels.

Biofuels also use the capacity of an existing industry—agriculture—to produce the raw materials. There is also the potential to use recycled cooking oil. Recycling is good and the French fry oil smells good when combusted.

There are concerns about biofuels impact on food prices. There have already been reports about higher food corn prices as growers shift to biofuel agriculture.

This stirs the question of feeding people or cars and trucks. If indeed the cost of food goes up, do we have a moral responsibility to mitigate the cost of food for the poor? I think so.

Nevertheless, farmers will see an increased demand in their market and this will stimulate that economic sector. How it will hit us in the pocket-book and impact food distribution, we'll just have to

wait and see.

Now what about the question of carbon neutrality? Well, on the surface, biofuels are carbon neutral. The CO₂ that comes out the exhaust pipe of a biofuel burning vehicle was atmospheric CO₂ just a few short months ago. But if the machinery that is used to harvest and manufacture the biofuel is not itself powered by biofuel or other carbon neutral energy, then biofuels are not exactly carbon neutral.

But using biofuels does get us closer to carbon neutrality with the added benefit of producing less CO₂ and other greenhouse gases than oil-based fuels.

But if your primary goal is to reduce carbon emissions into the atmosphere, there are some interesting numbers.

For biofuels to replace

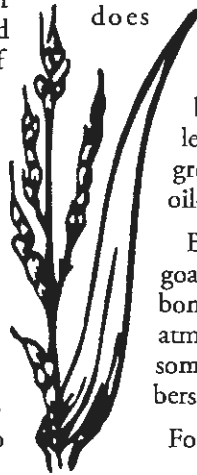
just 10% of our current petroleum use, we would have to put 43% of all US cropland into biofuel production.

To meet this goal, much more grass- and forestland would have to be converted to cropland.

However, Righeto and Spracklen (*Science*, August 17, 2007) analyzed the effect of land conversion and found that over a 30-year period, reforesting cropland would sequester two to nine times more carbon than using it for biofuels!

So if your goal is to keep CO₂ out of the atmosphere, plant trees. Their conclusion is that if the prime reason for using biofuels is carbon mitigation, it would be best to work on fuel efficiency.

There is a place for biofuels as we transition from oil. It is also wise to remember that in this universe, there is no free lunch. As always, if you have comments to share, please write me at jon.d.baker@gmail.com.



Kwənánət

by Colleen Weber, Volunteer Coordinator

It is time to say good-bye to summer and prepare for the routine that comes with fall, school and shorter days. Summer has been good. The volunteer committee has been working hard with Pilchuck activities.

About 25 people attended the picnic at Jennings Park. We ate wonderful food prepared by those attending. We enjoyed each other's company and the five lucky ones holding the right number left with a door prize. Thanks to Wild Bird Unlimited in Everett for donating the gift certificate. We will definitely be planning another picnic next year we hope everyone can attend.

Some of our volunteers are faithfully going to Port Susan Bay and related areas to help determine what bird species are using these waters in their

migratory flight. Thanks to: Wilma Bays, Margaret Bridge, Virginia Clark, Al Elliot, Keith Lehn, Sally & Jan Van Niel, Art Wait, and Ileen Weber. We will have many more opportunities for this project.

If you have not heard from me via e-mail and would like to volunteer, please send me an e-mail and I will put you on the list. I know that not everyone can go every time, but any who can volunteer for a time or two, when it fits into their schedule are most welcome.

If the next paragraphs sound familiar – you passed the test! Due to a slight mishap the insert was not included in the last newsletter. Please make sure you fill it out and return it to me.

You will find with this news-

letter a survey to fill out. We have made it clear, concise, and easy to complete. Hopefully, if you are reading this column or the survey, you will be inspired to let us know what your interests are and how we can best march you with how you want to volunteer.

Those who do not respond will be receiving a phone call in the months ahead to let us know your interests. You can help the committee by filling it out, folding, and then mailing it back.

We will put this information in our database so when an event comes up that you want to volunteer for, you will have the opportunity to take part.

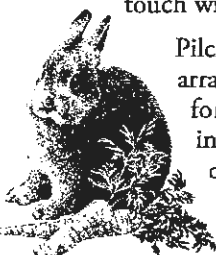
This will be quite an endeavor for the few of us on the committee. If you like to meet with

people, talk with them on the phone; then we have the perfect volunteer opportunity for you.

Give me a call (425.210.5626), or tell me in the Comments section at the bottom of the survey form and I will be getting in touch with you.

Pilchuck has an array of choices for volunteering—36 at last count. There is no doubt in my mind that you will find your niche with Pilchuck. Our job is to give you the key to unlock the opportunity.

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



Birding Highlights

July 26 through August 25, 2007

Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

August was a pretty quiet month. The number of **Black-Headed Grosbeaks** is down as they begin their migration south. **Pine Siskins** seemed to rebound and their numbers are up all over the county. The **Red-Breasted Nuthatch** is still hanging low around the coast and in Brier. Those of us in the eastern part of the county are still looking for it, although I think I hear one now and then.

Carole and Larry Beason had a very busy month with a total species count of 44. Reporting from their home at Lake Bosworth near Granite Falls they listed 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, 5 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, 16 **Canada Geese**, 3 **Northern Flickers**, 17 **Pine Siskins**, 12 **Red-Winged-Blackbirds**, 26 **Tree Swallows**, 3 **Wilson's Warblers**, 2 **Western Tanagers**, and an **Evening Grosbeak**, the only one spotted in the county.

The **Hummingbirds** just seem to love a flower called, "Agastache", that Hilikka Egtvedt has planted at her Mukilteo home. She

reported 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **Rufous Hummingbird**, 4 **American Goldfinches**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 4 **Red-Breasted Nuthatches**, 3 **Red-Tailed Hawks**, 3 **White-Crowned Sparrows**, and 5 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks** for a total species count of 21.

Clayton Haberman's views of the bay along Tulare Beach on the Tulalip Reservation provide him with a greater diversity of species. He reported 6 **Double-Crested Cormorants**, 4 **Mourning Doves**, 10 **American Goldfinch**, 60 **Canada Geese**, 8 **Pigeon Guillemots**, a **Red-Breasted Nuthatch**, 11 **Northern Rough-Winged Swallows**, 2 **White-Crowned Sparrows**, and 2 **Spotted Towhees** for a total species count of 26.

House Sparrows are a big item at Verna Hisey's Lake Stevens location with 27 reported. She also listed 4 **European Starlings**, 3 **Steller's Jays**, 3 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 5 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, an **American Robin**, a **Song Sparrow**, 2 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, and 2 **Rock Doves** for a total species count of 9.

ing. For example one teacher teaching about the Lewis and Clark expedition had the students fashion a courtyard garden made up of plants mentioned in the journals of both men.

Another primary teacher taught reading through books purchased about nature. The highlight was teaching about owls with an additional purchase to study owl pellets. Virginia Clark who made the award and monetary presentation to the teacher got so involved with the class that she returned later to the school in Monroe to show owl and other bird pictures. Conservation at its best.

We are asking PAS members to help us this year. We found that many teachers did not hear about the \$250 conservation awards, since principals may

Reporting from Machias, Sheila and Michael Huber total species count of 18 included 7 **American Robins**, 4 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, 7 **American Goldfinches**, 9 **Pine Siskins**, 2 adult **Spotted Towhees** and a juvenile, a **Cooper's Hawk**, 2 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, and a **Swainson's Thrush**.

More **Red-Breasted Nuthatches** reported by Julie O'Donald from her Brier location. She listed 3 along with 3 **Bewick's Wrens**, 12 **Bushtits**, 4 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, **Red-Breasted Sapsucker**, a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk**, 8 **European Starlings**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, and 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds** for a total species count of 19.

With great views of Port Susan Bay, Bob Poulin's total species count of 21 included 5 **Common Loons**, 27 **Northwestern Crows**, 23 **Franklin's Gulls** (which are very similar to the Bonaparte's Gull except for the black wing tips and darker wings), 138 **Mew Gulls**, 18 **Caspian Terns**, 25 **Barn Swallows**, 10 **Pine Siskins**, and 50 **Western Sandpipers**.

not have passed along the word about the awards. If you have elementary teacher friends in Snohomish County, we ask that you contact them and encourage them to apply for the awards. They can contact the committee through one of our members at 425.337.2479.

I-960 Threatens Future Conservation Funding

I-960, Tim Eyman's latest effort, would make it much more difficult to obtain public funding for conservation. It proposes to vastly expand the definition of "tax increase."

For example, raising the parking fee at state recreational areas by 25 cents to invest in maintenance would require legisla-

Also reporting from the Camano Island area, Diane Walker listed 7 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Red-Breasted Nuthatches**, 12 **Fox Sparrows**, 10 **American Goldfinches**, 12 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Gold-Crowned Sparrows**, 3 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, a **Bald Eagle**, and a **Wilson's Warbler** for a total species count of 18.

Between **Goldfinches** and **House Finches** I have to fill my bird feeders twice a day. Total species count from my Marysville home was 26 and included 10 **American Goldfinches**, 17 **House Finches**, 16 **California Quail** (a record number this year), 4 **Northern Flickers**, 5 **Spotted Towhees**, a **Western Tanager**, an **Olive-Sided Flycatcher**, 5 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, and 4 **Hooded Mergansers** (in the pond along 100th Street).

If you are interested in adding to *Birding Highlights* or would like additional information included in the report, please contact me at 425.750.8125 or e-mail pricemara@earthlink.net.

ive action as a "tax increase." Innovative efforts to fund conservation or clean-up efforts would have to be sold to a super majority of legislators, and in many cases to the public as well, as a tax increase, even if they did not raise anyone's taxes. Actions that require a public advisory vote would be identified as a "tax increase" and allotted just 13 words in the voters' pamphlet to justify their cost.

Imagine how hard it would be to get funding for any Audubon priority, even inflation adjustments to current projects, if I-960 is approved. Audubon Washington is a member of the statewide Washington Tax Fairness Coalition.

To find out more visit www.wataxfairness.org.

PAS Classroom Conservation Award

This is the second season Pilchuck Audubon will be making awards to classroom teachers for science oriented conservation projects. This award is to instill in elementary school students an identification with nature and the need to conserve and protect our natural resources. Funds for this \$250 award to teachers has been granted to Pilchuck for these projects, for the express purpose of catching the are young while they are most impressionable and establishing a lifetime foundation toward nature and conservation.

Last year projects developed by teachers were most interest-

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October Program Meeting
The Way We Grew
 with **David Cameron**
 Check Web site for latest info
www.pilchuckaudubon.org/programs.html
Friday, October 12, 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
 - 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:
NAS
Membership Data Center
POB 52529
Boulder, CO 80322-2529

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____

- 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.