

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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**Friday, September 14, 7PM — Program Meeting**

## **The Blackbirds Around Us** with Jon Baker

Join our PAS Program Coordinator as he explores the fascinating world of blackbirds. Jon will survey the identification, behavior, and distribution of these smartly dressed and often-times comical birds.

**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 unrendered 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.

## **Huge "Thank You" to 'Thoners/Sponsors**

With two Birdathon teams ('Thoners) still collecting from sponsors, total income from the 2007 Birdathon is approaching \$4,000! Seven teams and solo 'Thoners participated, the newest being Kerry Neijstrom. Kerry, an AmeriCorps volunteer, is working on a project in Everett's Forest Park. She decided to become a 'Thoner and raised almost \$500!! Many thanks, Kerry!

Other 'Thoners included Jon Baker, Claire and Hilka Egtvedt, Duane Karna, Susie Schaefer, and Jan and Sally van Niel. Duane found the highest number of bird species—125—and the Egtvedt team raised the most, \$1,851.80. Many thanks to all of you for your hard work.

Another huge thank you goes to the merchants donating prizes for Birdathon (in alphabetical order): Albertson's in Mukilteo, the Everett Fred Meyer store, QFC in Harbour Pointe, Wild Bird Nest in Lynnwood, and the Wild Birds Unlimited stores in Everett and Lake Forest Park. We truly appreciate these merchants' generosity and encourage PAS members to support them with their business and be sure to let them know why.

## **Inaugural Monthly Weekend Bird Hike Trip Report**

by Jonathan Blubaugh

On Saturday, July 7 Pilchuck Audubon Society celebrated our first monthly Weekend Bird Hike. Seven members and PAS friends went up to Sunrise at Mt. Rainier National Park for a stroll. We followed an alpine loop trail over the tundra on a spectacular Northwest summer day. Our walk went 4.8



Photographs by Joseph Balev-Kogan



miles and gained 700 feet in a little over two miles. It turned out to be somewhat strenuous because it starts out from Sunrise Lodge at 6,300 feet! A shorter loop trail nearer the lodge proved perfect for those not wishing to tackle the steep grade of the longer loop.

From our vantage, we overlooked Emmons Glacier and through binoculars could clearly see climbers and their entire route up the north face to the volcano's summit. Our loop took us (to my surprise) to the top of First Burroughs Mountain just north of Mt. Rainier, then down to Frozen Lake, and finally along Sourdough Ridge back to the Lodge.

Most of the birds we saw were near the parking lot. Here's a partial list: Canada Goose (heard one), a couple of Vaux's Swifts, Olive-sided Flycatcher (heard one), a family of three Clark's Nutcrackers feeding their squawking immature, a family of Mountain Chickadees nesting on the eaves of the lodge, an American Pipit picking bugs off a snowfield, a pair of Townsend's Solitaires, a male Mountain Bluebird (superlatives are insufficient), Yellow-Rumped Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, and Dark-Eyed Junco. We also saw chipmunks, tame striped ground squirrels, and a Hoary Marmot in plain sight crossing an open meadow.

Numerous wildflowers were in full bloom. I'm not sure of any of the varieties, but here's a partial list: anemone, blueberry, dandelion, heather, glacier lily, lupine, maroon paintbrush, and spreading phlox.

Of the photos, one shows our view of the north face of Mt. Rainier with Emmons Glacier flowing into the White River. The other is of most of us posed on a snowfield near the summit of First Burroughs Mountain.



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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](mailto:kate.halstead@pilchuckaudubon.org) or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the fifth of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

**MONTHLY MAILING PARTY**

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

The *Profile* is also available online from our web site:  
[www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

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**President's Corner**

by Mike Blackbird



Recently, Australian-born conservative media mogul Rupert Murdoch bought the Dow Jones, a purchase which included *The Wall Street Journal*, a well-respected news resource, published weekly since 1889.

Murdoch's News Corp conglomerate owns Fox Broadcasting, the *New York Post*, *TV Guide*, 20th Century Fox, MySpace, and literally hundreds of mid-size and larger TV stations, broadcast networks, magazines, Internet sites, and local/regional newspapers throughout the United States, Britain, and Australia.

If history is any guide, this move is sure to diminish the voice of integrity maintained for almost 120 years by one of the nation's great newspapers.

In 1831, a young French nobleman, Alexis de Tocqueville, came to America to study the American penitentiary system. He found himself fascinated by the elements of an American society essential to the development of a successful democracy. Returning home to France, he penned an excellent book about democracy, which also happened to be an excellent book on America titled, appropriately enough, *Democracy in America*.

When Tocqueville arrived, initially he wasn't convinced that the freedom of the press in existence at the time was such a good thing. However, it wasn't long before he changed his opinion, becoming convinced that a truly free press was absolutely necessary to the effective practice of democracy.

However, he also had concerns the press could become too powerful and become a threat itself to democratic principles. He saw the prevention of media hegemony as crucial to the furtherance of the independent thought and exchange necessary for a healthy democracy.

He came to embrace the volume of news and opinions found within the pages of 1830s-era American newspapers, pamphlets, and books.

He was convinced that having a large number of news resources was important, but that broad-based, independent ownership was equally crucial. Only this, he reasoned, would ensure that no one media source would become pervasive enough to develop control over what news would, or would not, be disseminated to the public.

Fast-forward to 2007. How can like-minded people act in concert when they are spread throughout the hundreds of square miles that make up Snohomish County?

How can we be effective Champions for the Environment spread out as we are? We need an independent press and media resources just like the newsletter you're reading now.

In Tocqueville's day, starting a newspaper was relatively cheap and easy although they rarely made much money. He didn't foresee the day when the number of independently-owned media resources would diminish almost to the point of extinction.

With decreasing numbers of newspapers and arbitrary political constraints being imposed on editorial independence, there is a serious question as to whether the news we are getting is cherry-picked for the best sound-bites to produce the highest ratings (and thus higher revenues), or whether we are getting, as Jack Webb used to say, "Just the facts, ma'am."

Without small, independent media resources to keep everyone informed on the real issues, it's impossible to make good decisions whether in the voting booth or the grocery store.

Pilchuck Audubon Society's membership is not huge, but they are committed to being the environmental conscience of Snohomish County. In the *Pilchuck Audubon Profile* we have an award-winning voice that teaches out to unify and educate our common interest.

While there is little danger of a News Corp hostile takeover of our little newsletter, we do ask for your support to ensure its continuance.



# September 2007 Calendar

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

## TUESDAY, SEPT 4

### POINT NO POINT

Meet 7:30AM, Edmonds Marsh; south of West Dayton St., turn left just before the railroad tracks. We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point, and Foulweather Bluff. Always lots of surprises, both in the air and on the water. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## SATURDAY, SEPT 8

### MONROE'S VAUX'S SWIFTS

Meet 5:30PM Snohomish Park & Ride, at the junction of Highway 9 & Bickford Ave. This is an evening trip to watch thousands of Vaux's swifts circle and finally enter a large chimney to roost for the night. Hugh Jennings is leading the trip for East Lake Washington Audubon; Pilchuck Audubon folks are invited to participate.

PAS coordinator: Art Wait 360.563.0181

## TUESDAY, SEPT 11

### EVERETT WATERFRONT

Meet 7:30AM, Legion Park off North Marine Drive in Everett. A very relaxed easy trip that always yields the unexpected (birds, I mean.) Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

## TUESDAY, SEPT 18

### SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

Meet 7:15AM, Eastmont Park & Ride, I-5 Exit 189, east side, aiming for the 8AM ferry from Mukilteo. Crockett Lake always yields a large and varied species list and the rest of South Whidbey is great birding. Pack a lunch.

Trip leader: Wilma Bayes 360.629.2028

## SUNDAY, SEPT 23

### MT. BAKER-SNOQUALMIE NATIONAL FOREST

Meet 8AM, Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5, Exit 200. Park away from store, close to the freeway. Carpooling strongly recommended. All day, 6.5 mile alpine loop trail. We'll attempt the "more difficult" Chain Lakes Loop Trail. Trailhead is at Heather Meadows Visitor Center at the northeast base of Mt. Baker. Bring sunglasses, sunscreen, hats, water, lunch, and bug-repellant. Bring your NW Forest Pass or we'll purchase one for each vehicle (\$5) on the way up.

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

## TUESDAY, SEPT 25

### SAMISH FLATS

Meet 7:30AM, Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5, Exit 200. Park away from store, close to the freeway. Let's look for waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds and raptors before hunting season begins in this world-reknowned birding locale. Bring a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

**Notice to Field Trip Participants:** Field trips are open to members and non-members alike. No advance notice required unless otherwise stated in the trip description. Trips go, rain or shine; however, in case of snow or ice contact trip leader! Bring a sack lunch, beverage, binoculars, scope, and field guide if you have them (if not, we'll share.) Please no perfumes or cologne. Be prepared to share gas \$\$ with carpool drivers. Pets, even leashed, are prohibited on field trips. Please leave them home.

## Rest Area Fund-raiser Huge Success!

The I-5 Fund-raiser was a huge success. It would not have been possible without the dedication of our many volunteers!

The response from those filling out evaluation forms was positive, knowing that when we help others, we also benefit. We received many praises and thanks for being here to refresh the travelers as they made

their way to their destinations.

Sue Ward did an outstanding job organizing this event, getting the supplies, and seeing that everything was in place and ready to go! She could not have done it without the help of the many who helped staff the coffee stand 24-hours a day for the duration: Margaret Bridge, Carolyn Lacy,

Hilkka & Claire Egtvedt, Don & Wilma Bayes, Art Wait, Eunice Allan, Florence Quarterman, Stella Jones, Paula & Jack Parsons, Susie Schaefer, Dee Vixie & Peter Lawrence, Mike Blackbird, Virginia Clark, Kate & Andy Halstead, Chuck Kolesar, Elsie Sorgenfrei, Kathy & Bud Piland, Jonathan Blubaugh, Jan & Sally Van Niel, Tom Eble, Ted Carpenter & Colleen Weber.

**SATURDAY, OCT 20 ANNUAL MUSHROOM HIKE W/GREG HOVANDER**  
Location TBD. This will be an all-day hike, beginning slowly with lots of mushroom gathering and identification. Greg Hovander is an incredible mycologist with the patience to help everyone understand what goes into safe mushroom identification. Participants almost always find upwards of 90-100 or more unique species every year. Limited to 12 participants, call early to reserve your place.  
Kathy Johnson 360.659.7252, [katherine@earthlink.net](mailto: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](mailto:aracfi@msn.com)

## 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](mailto:aracfi@msn.com)

## SATURDAY, DEC 8

### HOWARTH PARK, EVERETT

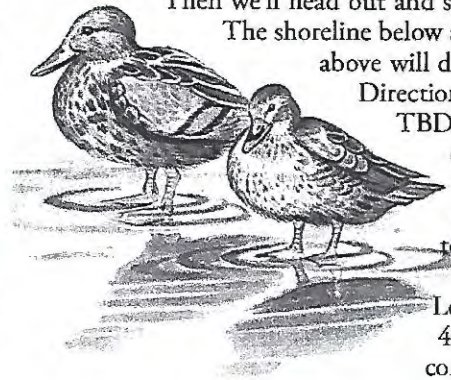
Meet 8AM, Howarth Park for this pre-Christmas Bird Count field seminar and birding warm-up. After gathering for a review of the history and purpose of the upcoming Christmas Bird Count, we'll talk about how to hear, spot, and record data on some of the more commonly confused species we can expect to encounter.

Then we'll head out and see what we come up with.

The shoreline below and the forest and its edges above will definitely be on the agenda.

Directions, meeting point, and path TBD. This is my request for experienced CBCers who would like to share their expertise on these topics to help train the next contingent of CBCers.

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





# Smart Growth Report

Kristin Kelly, Director

Although I have lived in the Pacific Northwest since 1986, one of the hardest realities for me as someone who was born and raised Kansas is that the summer heat I grew up with is so fleeting here. This week the temperatures are barely reaching 70, and it already feels like fall to me.

It's disappointing that summer has vanished in its usual rapid fashion, and while I hope everyone had as much fun as I had enjoying the abundance of the mountains, sea and wildlife that we are so lucky to have here, life for me this summer was also filled with the more mundane and incessant array of county and city policies, regulations, meetings, and hearings!

## **Snohomish County Critical Areas Ordinance**

The good news is that the County finally adopted a Critical Areas Ordinance on August 1 after four years of grueling meetings and hearings. The bad news is these regulations to protect our water quality, wildlife habitat, frequently flooded, and geologically hazardous areas will not be as protected as we had hoped.

Although I was on vacation during the week of these final hearings and the council's consideration on some last minute amendments, we submitted yet another lengthy comment letter as one of the members of the Land Protection Coalition, which included other organizations such as Futurewise, People for Puget Sound, Sierra Club, Washington Environmental Council, and active neighborhood groups such as Everett Shorelines Coalition, Stewards of Snohomish, and Citizens for a Better Mill Creek, among others.

I have not yet had a chance to analyze all the details of the adopted ordinance, but will be doing so in short order and letting those of you who are on our email list know what we support and/or oppose and what, if anything, we may try to do. If you are not yet on our email list serve, please email me at kris2cam@verizon.net and ask to be included. This is the fastest, most efficient way for me to talk to the hundreds of folks out there who want to be informed and involved in land use issues in Snohomish County and Camano Island.

## **Candidate Debates Update**

In July, Pilchuck Audubon Society, in conjunction with many groups and individuals, who have identified themselves as the Livable Snohomish County Coalition, sponsored two candidate debates and one candidate forum for the Aug. 21 primary vote. These events were co-sponsored by KSER 90.7FM Radio. The debates were for Sultan City Council Position 4, Lake Stevens City Council Position 3, and the forum was for Everett City Council Positions 4 and 7 and County Council position 2. While not well attended, the candidates showed up and answered a myriad of questions concerning growth and development, environmental protection, and the vision for our communities.

Given that the primary is August 21, we will have an idea of what candidates have moved on to the general election. Whoever you end up voting for, I hope each of you remembers that our local elected officials are the ones who adopt policies and regulations that guide how development occurs in our communities. As we head into the general election, it is vital

that folks find out where their city and county council candi-

dates stand on issues.

Pilchuck Audubon Society and Futurewise, again as part of the Livable Snohomish County coalition and KSER will host another candidate debate on Wednesday, Sept. 19 for both County Council positions 2 and 3 and County Executive. All candidates have said they will attend. We are still determining the best location. For more information, please contact me directly at kris2cam@verizon.net. Again, we will be focusing on growth and development issues.

## **Issues on the horizon; they may be in your backyard**

As I have mentioned in earlier newsletters, Snohomish County has embarked on updating their Unified Development Code (UDC). They have been hosting a series of public workshops every first Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Snohomish County Administration Building East Community Room located on the first floor, 3000 Rockefeller Street, Everett. You can find out more information on these workshops by logging onto the county's link: [www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/PDS/Divisions/Code\\_Development/UDC](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/PDS/Divisions/Code_Development/UDC).

County planning staff are using these workshops to gather input on development and building code changes they are considering that will help (or hinder, depending on the way the county council votes) our communities deal with the 300,000 new people who they say will move here in the next 20 years.

While the hot topics are Rural Cluster Subdivisions and Urban Residential Design Standards, the workshop schedule continues through year as follows:

9/6-Development Code Enforcement  
10/4-Drainage, Grading and Clearing Requirements for Stormwater Management; Urban Centers & Mixed Use Zones

11/1-Rural Cluster Subdivision; Residential Urban Design Standards  
12/6-Uses Allowed in Different Zones

I hear a lot from folks over how new development proposals are impacting their neighborhoods. It is crystal clear that whether you live in a rural or urban area, growth impacts weigh heavy on all of us. And despite all the problems, Washington citizens still have opportunities to become more involved in community planning than most people throughout the country. That's because Washington adopted the Growth Management Act (GMA) in 1990.

While not perfect, GMA is an important law that ensures our county and cities develop long-range plans for growth while also enabling citizens the opportunity to participate in the process. Just like having a country that allows each of us the opportunity to vote for the best candidate to represent us politically, we are lucky to have the opportunity to be involved in working with our leaders to help shape our communities. While I understand folks' frustrations about all the bad things going on, I know from experience we make a difference when we persevere. I hope each of you finds some time to get involved in the UDC update because sooner or later, your neighborhood will change.

## **And at the state level...**

Every year there are legislative attempts to weaken the GMA, and every year there are bills to strengthen it. For the next session, we will be working with other organizations on bills to strengthen GMA and protect our environment. Please stay involved as we work toward better protections that will make all our communities' and country's future brighter.



## Conservation Corner

by Jan & Sally van Niel

### ACOW - What is it?

Many issues of the *Profile* refer to ACOW. This stands for Audubon Council of Washington. This group meets in the spring and fall. Everyone is welcome to attend. The meetings are hosted in turn by the 26 Washington State Audubon chapters. This enables each chapter to arrange field trips to their special sites, as well as choose a theme for the weekend.

For example, when Tri-Cities Audubon hosted the meeting, they focused on Hanford Reach, which includes the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River. They also went into the political battles in order to get the area—Arid Lands Ecology—set aside.

Pilchuck will be host for ACOW in 2009. Be thinking of a theme for our area and places to lead field trips. The session in the spring or fall before ours will be expected to provide mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks, as well as some evening snacks after the Saturday night program.

### Global warming/ Climate change

This has become a very important issue for National Audubon Society. Scientists believe that climate change is partly responsible for the massive decline of the sea birds such as the western grebe, which has declined 95% in the last ten years.

Global warming will also impact invasive species—

those organisms brought in from elsewhere. Examples of invasive species include spartina, the East Coast bulrush that has taken over Willapa Bay, as well as the green crab which showed up in San Francisco Bay, then along the coast of Oregon, and now we are expecting it on the southern coast of Washington any time. Currently, in San Francisco Bay 90% of the organisms found are introduced species, some intentionally, most accidentally.

You will be hearing more about this issue as time goes on. NAS recently held a Global Warming Retreat in Utah while the governor of Washington established a Climate Action Team with technical working groups. Stay tuned.

## Check Out the Updated PAS Web site by Kathy Piland

As I begin my duties as webmaster, I would like to thank longtime PAS member Keith Lehn for his years of dedicated service as our chapter's webmaster. Keith modified Jamie Robertson's original site design and made it his goal to keep our site current, month after month, year after year.

Incredibly, he's been doing it for so many years, no one remembers just how long it's been. Many, many thanks for all your hard work and dedication, Keith! Our chapter is forever in your debt.

Thanks also to Rob Coghill for designing our new site and for taking the time to introduce Jon Baker and me to the software program. The layout is quite appealing, with many of PAS member/wildlife photographer Michael Dossett's pictures enhancing the pages.

The new site launched the first week of July, due to the work of PAS Programs Coordinator Jon Baker. From tweaking the configuration, to transferring text from old pages to the new, to actually launching our site—Jon did it all. I appreciate and thank him for taking on and completing these tasks.

I'm looking forward to showing the WWW the many facets and activities that make PAS an exciting and relevant organization.

Take a moment, visit the updated site, and see what you think. Email me with any comments and suggestions you might have: piland4@earthlink.net

I hope you'll join me and visit our web site often.  
[www.pilchuck-audubon.org](http://www.pilchuck-audubon.org)

## I-960 Threatens Future Conservation Funding

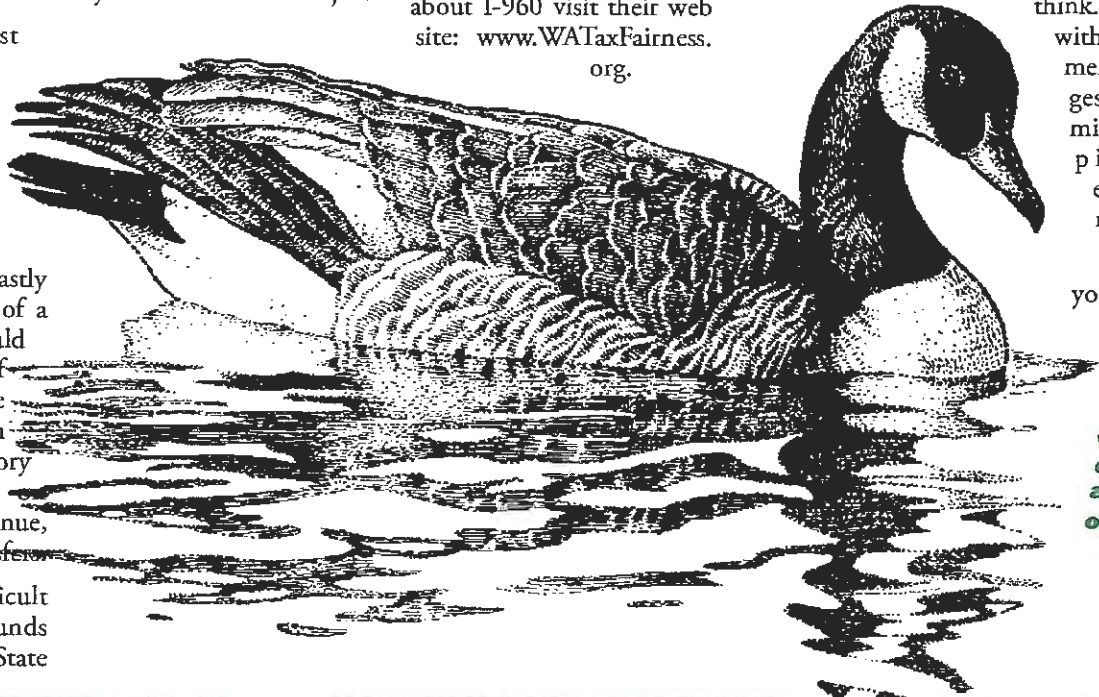
Audubon Washington is joining a growing coalition opposed to Initiative 960—in the statewide ballot this November—because it would put funding for conservation and clean-up of natural ecosystems and bird and wildlife habitat at risk.

Tim Eyman's latest initiative would make it much more difficult to obtain vital public funding for conservation. I-960 is a rigid, confusing and costly bureaucratic proposal to vastly expand the definition of a "tax increase." It would require the approval of two-thirds of the State Legislature, along with expensive public advisory votes in many cases, every change in revenue, even routine fund transfers

Department of Ecology's grants to improve and protect dozens of waters across the state. When you cast your ballot in November, imagine how hard it would be to get funding for any Audubon priority—even inflation adjust-

ments to current projects, to say nothing of new investment—if I-960 is approved.

Audubon Washington is a member of the statewide Washington Tax Fairness Coalition. To find out more about I-960 visit their web site: [www.WATaxFairness.org](http://www.WATaxFairness.org).





# The View from Here

Gonna need more birdfeeders

by Jon Baker

To pull my thoughts from an administration that erodes the Constitution and a congress that sits and watches, I have bird feeders. I must be pretty disturbed because I have doubled my inventory in the last four months. And what a distraction! Band-tailed pigeons to hummers to woodpeckers, whether warming my hands around a cup of coffee or enjoying a cold one on the deck at the end of the day there has been plenty avian drama to distract me this summer.

The woodpeckers have been burning through the suet. Not to sound like a shill, but they really like the Party Mix. I tried two other types of suet and by far, Party Mix is their favorite. Downy, hairy, northern flickers, and pileated woodpeckers have been regulars at the suet feeder. Of these, it is the pileated that have been the most fun to watch. They swoop in

from all angles and seem to stop only because the feeder is in the way.

Just as like they attack rotted trees, so too goes the suet, chunks flying about, some finding their way into the mouth. But the real fun was when the two fledglings arrived with mom. They looked like London punk rockers from the '70s in their black and white and spiked pink feathers on top. Mom didn't mind the clownish behavior and looks of her offspring and dutifully stuffed their mouths with suet. I think she knows it's just a phase and they will grow out of it.

A pair of band-tailed pigeons also enjoy what the feeders offer. They are easily startled and quick to the wing. I can never approach very close and have to be satisfied with warching through the window. They are beautiful birds. The white stripe on the nape of their neck con-

trasts with the iridescent green patch just below and the startling yellow feet are fabulous. However, the real joy of band-tailed pigeons is their voice. I like walking the yard in the morning and listening to their cooing (or is it hooing?) from invisible perches atop the firs.

The hummers are a hoot. In Russell Link's *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*, Link points out that hummers are quite territorial. One method to reduce antagonistic behavior is to create two hummingbird feeding zones in your yard. So I bought another hummer feeder and placed it opposite the first. No luck.

The rufous and Anna's hummingbirds are constantly competing. I think the problem is that they both really like the tiny snowberry flowers which are concentrated in one part of the yard. In fact, my sugar and water mixture gets only irregu-

lar attention. The cock of the hummingbird walk is the male Anna's. He aggressively chases the others away – when he is present.

Once he has moved on, others soon return. While there seem to be plenty of snowberries for all that doesn't keep him from trying. The other day a hummer zipped by my head. Right behind was the male Anna's. The two rose in tandem toward the top of a fir reminiscent of a Spitfire on the tail of a ME109 during the Battle of Britain. It reminded me of a time when we fought fascism.

Well, Amy Goodman just informed me that the Constitution took another hit. I'm gonna need more feeders.

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

## Kwənənət

The Volunteer Committee has been busy this month. We are now a committee of four. If you are interested in joining, please get in touch with me and we will welcome you at our September meeting; date, time, and place to be determined.

This column goes to press before the Volunteer Picnic, however, plans have been finalized. I am sure all who attend will have enjoyed the wonderful food, the very short program, applaud winners of the door prizes, mer, and enjoyed socializing with very special people—those Champions of the Environment, Pilchuck Audubon members and volunteers.

One of the Volunteer Committee's goals is to make sure volunteering with PAS is fun, as well as bringing our volunteers a sense of satisfaction for their time and effort.

In this newsletter, you'll find a volunteer survey to fill out and send. Hopefully, if you are reading this column you will be inspired to let us know what your interests are and how we can best match you with how you would like to help. You can really help the committee by filling it out and mailing it in. We will put the information in our database, so when an activity comes up that suits your volunteer desires, we can contact you.

This will be quite an endeavor for the few of us on the committee. If you like to meet with people, talk on the phone; then we have the perfect volunteer opportunity for you. Give me a call or tell me in the Comments section at the bottom of the survey form and I'll get in touch.

Right now, we have a project going on to survey and count the shore birds in the Port Susan

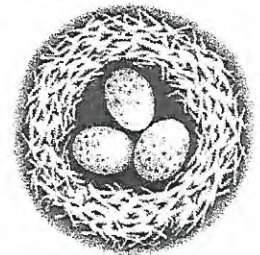
Bay IBA. There will be lots of opportunities to volunteer for the project, since it continues for the next 18 months. If you are familiar with shore birds your skills are perfect for this project. Get in touch with me and I will give you the necessary information to help with this international endeavor.

Summer is ending, school is starting, and we await fall and the coming winter months. It is different here for me as I am used to the climate of the warm, breezy winter of northern Florida. However, it is this time of year when the heat begins to subside and I looked forward to the array of fall colors on the landscape only to be followed by the winter wonderland that Michigan welcomes each year.

The PNW is very different, but just as breathtaking with the mounrains, Puget Sound,

and the wonderful people. I have been privileged to meet by joining Pilchuck Audubon. You have welcomed me with open arms, good times, and helped me meet the challenges of moving to a new and different place.

Life is good! Volunteering helps make it so. Come join us and find out what I'm talking about! Give me a call to learn what you can do to help support PAS; 425.210.5626. You'll be glad you did.



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



# Birding Highlights

May 26 through July 25, 2007

Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

It wasn't that long ago I reported that, "Spring is definitely here." And now, summer is almost over.

The **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, **Western Tanagers**, **Swallows**, and **American Goldfinches** will be heading to a warmer climate as the **Dark-Eyed Juncos** return. Although it appears some never left; there are reports of **Dark-Eyed Juncos** throughout the county. I even got a report from Lorraine and Mark of several nesting pairs in the Lake Stevens area.

Carol and Larry Beason reported 2 **Dark-Eyed Juncos** from their Lake Bosworth location. Their June report also included 5 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **Barn Swallows**, 4 **Cedar Waxwings**, 8 **Mallards** on the lake, 5 **Rufus Hummingbirds**, 6 **Tree Swallows**, 6 **Violet-Green Swallows**, a **Western Tanager**, 7 **Pine Siskins**, a **Swainson's Thrush**, and an **Osprey** for a total species count of 41.

Gail Dibernardo's Brier location yielded 20 species in June and 23 in July. She listed a family of 3 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks** at the feeder, 1 **Bewick's Wren**, 8 **Violet-Green Swallows**, 8 **Barn Swallows**, 8 **Pine Siskins**, 3 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, a **Western Flycatcher**, 2 young **Barred Owls** at Yost Park in Edmonds, a **Swainson's Thrush**, and 8 **Bushtits**.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hillka Egrvedt's total species count for June was 25 and her July count was 23. The **Anna's Hummingbirds** are still visiting her feeders with 2 reported along with 2 **Band-Tailed Pigeons**, a **Pine Siskin**, a **Red-Breasted Nuthatch** (not seen very often this summer), 4 **American Goldfinches**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 4 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, a **Brown-Headed Cowbird**, an **Olive-Sided Flycatcher**, and 2 **White-Crowned Sparrows**.

**Chickadees** and **Kinglets** topped

Kriss Erickson's list this reporting period. Her total species count from Everett was 16 in June and 10 for July. The June report listed 11 **Black-Capped Chickadees** along with 12 **Barn Swallows**, 8 **Violet-Green Swallows**, 2 **Great Blue Herons**, and a **Cedar Waxwing**. July's report listed 20 **Golden-Crowned Kinglets**, 15 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, 6 **European Starlings**, and 30 **Northwestern Crows**.

The **Evening Grosbeaks** are still visiting Adeline Gildow's yard near Juniper Beach, with 5 reported for June. Also included were 3 **Bald Eagles**, 5 **Cedar Waxwings** in the birdbath, a **Red-Breasted Nuthatch**, and 7 **Great-Blue Herons** for a total species count of 29. July's total species count of 24 included 18 **American Goldfinch**, 30 **Canada Geese**, 3 **Mourning Doves**, 9 **Rufus Hummingbirds**, 8 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, and 18 **House Finches**.

Clayton Haberman reports from a beautiful location along Tulare Way on the Tulalip Reservation. His July report listed 7 **American Goldfinch**, 5 **Double-Crested Cormorants**, 2 **Great Blue Herons**, 7 **Northwestern Crows**, 5 **Mourning Doves**, 3 **Pigeon Guillemots**, and 2 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**.

Verna Hisey is wondering where the birds have all gone from her Lake Stevens location. She only reported 8 species for June and 9 for July. Her reports listed 5

**Northwestern Crows**, 5 **House Sparrows**, a **Red-Tailed Hawk**, 2 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, 3 **Steller's Jays**, a **Bald Eagle**, a **Rufus Hummingbird**, 4 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, and 3 **Song Sparrows**.

The Huber's were talking about taking their birdfeeders down because a black bear visiting their yard in Machias. But, I guess they did not have to this year. Their total species count of 23 for June included 2 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 20 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **Violet-Green Swallows**, 4 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, and a **Brown Creeper**. July's total species count of 18 included 5 **Pine Siskins**, 9 **American Crows**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, 2 adult and 1 juvenile **Spotted Towhees**, and 4 **Northern Flickers**.

The **Western Screech Owls** are still nesting at Julie O'Donalds Brier location and in June she reported a **Barred Owl** in a tree at sunset. She has had a very busy two months with a total of 29 species in June and 31 in July. She reported 4 **Dark-Eyed Juncos** for June and July, 4 **Bewick's Wrens**, a **Pacific Slope Flycatcher**, 8 **Violet-Green Swallows**, and a **Common Nighthawk** in June. Her July report included a **Brown Creeper**, 5 **California Quail**, 3 **Cedar Waxwings**, 2 **Great Blue Herons**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, and a **Winter Wren**.

Bob Poulin also has great views of the coast from his home on Camano Island. His 26 species for June included 27 **Caspian Terns**, an **Osprey**, 33 **Glaucous-Winged Gulls**, 39 **Surf Scoters**, 2 **Common Loons**, 10 **Common Mergansers**, and 6 **Tree Swallows**. For July he listed a **Belted Kingfisher**, 44 **Mew Gulls**, 50 **Western Sandpipers**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **Pigeon Guillemots**, and 4

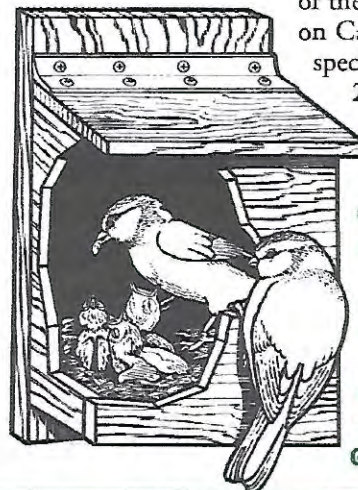
**American Goldfinch** for a total species count of 16.

Nancy Sosnove reported a **Chukar** in her Everett yard near the Snohomish River. Chukars are usually spotted in Eastern Washington. Her June report also listed 2 **American Goldfinch**, 3 **Rufus Hummingbirds**, 50 **Cliff Swallows** along the river, a **Great Blue Heron**, 4 **House Sparrows**, 2 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, and a **Black-Headed Chickadee** for a total species count of 9.

Darlene Walker listed four different kinds of sparrows from her Camano Island Home. Her June total species count included 15 **American Goldfinch**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 3 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 5 **Spotted Towhees**, 2 **Red-Breasted Nuthatches**, 5 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, 3 **Purple Finches**, and 10 **Violet-Green Swallows**. For July she listed 6 **Fox Sparrows**, 6 **House Sparrows**, 4 **White-Crowned Sparrows**, and 2 **Golden-Crown Sparrows**. Also included in her July species count of 26 were 14 **Mourning Doves**, 6 **Pine Siskins**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, and 2 **Great Blue Herons**.

The most exciting thing at my feeders in Marysville was the young black bear. He was very docile on his first visits, but on the last sortie, he managed to destroy two birdfeeders. I still have feeders up for the birds. I listed 29 species for June and 27 for July. My June count included 4 **American Crows**, 8 **Black-Headed Grosbeaks**, 4 **Purple Finches**, 3 **Red-Tailed Hawks** overhead, 2 **Western Tanagers**, and 4 **Pine Siskins**. July's count included 10 **Barn Swallows** and 6 **Tree Swallows** along 100th, 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 3 **Spotted Towhees**, and 5 **Steller's Jays**.

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





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**September Program Meeting  
The Blackbirds Around Us**

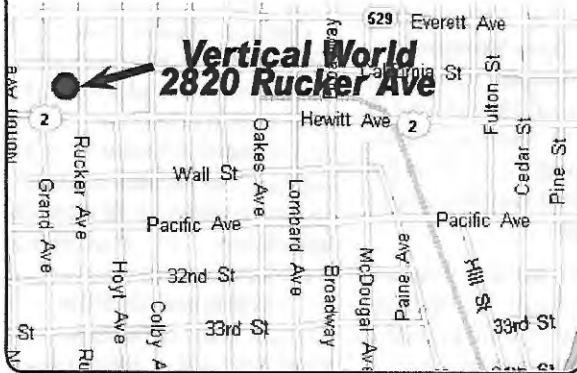
**with Jon Baker**

Check Web site for latest info

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

**Friday, September 14, 7:00pm**

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



**Audubon Membership Information**

Joint membership in National Audubon Society (NAS) and Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) includes National Audubon Society's quarterly magazine *Audubon* and Pilchuck Audubon Society's *Profile* newsletter for one year. Cost is \$20 for an Introductory Membership or \$35 for renewals. When you join National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of Pilchuck Audubon Society.

However, PAS receives *none* of your national dues to support its programs. Local membership in Pilchuck Audubon Society includes a one-year subscription (ten issues) to Pilchuck Audubon Society's *Profile* newsletter. Cost is \$25. A special limited income category is also available for \$16.

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**Local PAS Membership**

- New Member.....\$25
- Renewal .....\$25
- Lifetime PAS Member....\$1,000
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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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- I'd like to save PAS money and read the *Profile* on the Web at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org). Please don't mail it to me. I've included my e-mail address at left so you can let me know when each issue is available.
- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.
- I am interested in the Conservation Committee.