

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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Classroom Awards Announced

Six classrooms at three Everett School District elementary schools have won \$250 Pilchuck Audubon Society classroom conservation awards.

From creating environmental puppet shows and recycling solutions to studying butterfly life cycles and developing environmental podcasts focused on local issues, area students are benefitting from the generosity of PAS members Phil and Laura Zalesky's yearly grants for classroom conservation projects.

Each year, up to 10 grants of \$250 each are available to Snohomish County elementary classrooms for projects designed to engage students in an active appreciation of the environment and instill a sense of the need to conserve and protect our natural resources.

For the whole story read the *Everett Herald* article at www.heraldnet.com/article/20080101/NEWS01/353810214.

Recycle Old Binoculars

Do you have an extra pair of pocket-sized or beginner binoculars that you're not using anymore?

If so, Edmonds Discovery Programs would love to give them a new home! We have several educational programs that require the use of binoculars.

With a limited budget we're not able to purchase enough to replace the worn-out ones we've been using. We'd be most grateful to receive several donated pairs. If you can help call Sally Lider, Edmonds Parks & Recreation, 425.771.0227, lider@ci.edmonds.wa.us.

Vaux Swifts Meeting

A meeting to discuss the future of Monroe's transient Vaux Swift colony will be held at the Monroe Library, Wednesday, Feb 6 at 7:00pm. Everyone welcome! For more info, contact Susie Schaefer 425.771.8165, Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net.

Friday, February 8, 7PM — Program Meeting Port Susan IBA

with Nina Carter

Nina Carter, Executive Director of Audubon Washington, will cover the IBA at Port Susan Bay and the work done by PAS to date. She will also talk about the latest developments in Olympia in the legislature, our bill on Evergreen Cities, and the top four conservation priorities for 2008.

Friday, March 14, 7PM — Program Meeting Insects Return to Mt. St. Helens

with John Edwards

Retired UW Zoology professor, John Edwards will present a talk about the marvelous insect recolonization taking place all over Mt. St. Helens.

Note: New location—Mariner HS Library, Everett

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

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Project

The project to certify the City of Edmonds as a Backyard Sanctuary is coming along nicely. Monthly meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of the month at the Francis Anderson Center in Edmonds. Next one is February 7. All Edmonds' residents are invited to join the group and help keep the process moving along.

There is more than enough to do over the two year process. We would like to have as many PAS members as possible participate. Certification of our own backyards could be a first step. Check the new website for this project <http://edmonds-backyardwildlifehabitat.org>.

Contact Laura Harvell 425.672.2150 Laura_harvell@yahoo.com or Susie Schaefer 425.771.8165 Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net to learn more.

CBC & the Ghosts of Everett Past

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Area 4 team had a little adventure in the Everett Cemetery on December 29!

Every year we check out the Everett Cemetery on the corner of Broadway and I-5 looking for birds among the interesting collection of trees and headstones. Because it was starting to get late and we were losing light, we dispersed in four different directions to cover the cemetery more efficiently.

In a relatively short time three of the four team members returned to the car. We waited and waited for our fourth member but she failed to return. After quite some time, all of sudden she appeared from behind a gravestone and happily reported she had seen a Red-Breasted Sapsucker amongst others. Next year we'll plan to pair up in the old cemetery.

PAS Birdseed Bonanza

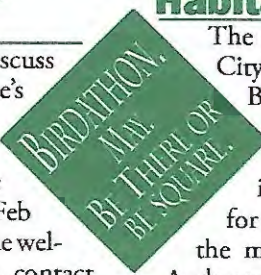
**Feed your feathered friends, dirt-cheep!
Call before February 11 to place your order!
Pick up in Everett Saturday, February 16**

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 February 11.



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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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To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926

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



After a gray and rainy week, one December Sunday morning I took a walk through the Canyon Business Park in Bothell.

Covering a large area, the developers have maintained large swaths of grass interspersed with ponds along with a significant riparian buffer along North Creek where it intersects the business park. By creating habitat where it can have the most impact they've helped mitigate some of the disfigurement of urbanization.

It was a glorious morning of sun filtering through the gray bones of the trees along the creek. In the distance a red-tailed hawk surveyed his urban domain from the bare branch of a tall cottonwood. The crisp, clear sound of the creek emptied into a quiet pool. Then I blinked in fascinated silence, surprised and thrilled by what I saw—spawning salmon!

I've heard it said that converts are the most zealous of believers. As a relative newcomer to Seattle and Puget Sound I suspect I qualify. I often passionately proclaim to visitors that there is no more beautiful city in the world than Seattle on a sunny day. It's the only city in the world where you can see three national parks: Rainier, Olympic, and North Cascades. Author Jonathan Raban notes Seattle is the first big city in the world that people move to in order to be closer to nature.

Today 3.5 million people live in the greater Puget Sound region. By 2025 the population is expected to be 5.2 million. Ironically, with more

nature seekers moving to the area, the more nature is at risk from over-zealous developers churning forest and farmland into suburbs.

There is an alternative: by developing greater urban density we can help preserve and restore wood lots, creeks, and our myriad of tiny urban-encroached lakes.

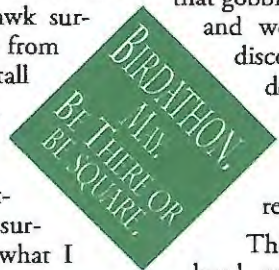
Integral to a policy of developing greater urban density are new tools designed to help farmers and forestland owners keep their lands.

Urban density and suburban sprawl are like buckets in a well. When one comes up the other goes down. If we want to discourage new sprawl that gobbles up even more farmland and woodlands, then we can't discourage intensified urban density. The challenge then becomes developing a policy that preserves the heart and soul of the region.

There's a commitment from local government, private, and non-profit groups to restore regional creeks and small lakes. Not only do fish and wildlife benefit from these wedges of nature tucked into an urban world but they provide unique outdoor classroom for future generations. They're also a marvelous retreat for residents like me on a sunny morning.

As champion for the environment, it's imperative that Pilchuck Audubon Society use its good offices to advocate for an urban density policy that preserves the spirit of the Puget Sound region.

I'm convinced this is the right policy because, while watching spawning salmon in North Creek, I hear the stream murmuring absolution.



Olympic Birdfest 2008

APRIL 4-6

SEQUIM

Visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and salmon banquet with our partner, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

New this year: A 3-day, 2-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 6-8 immediately following BirdFest...the festival with the most spectacular setting! Contact Dungeness River Audubon Center, POB 2450, Sequim, WA 98382; 360.681.4076; info@olympicbirdfest.org; www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Aleutian Goose Festival

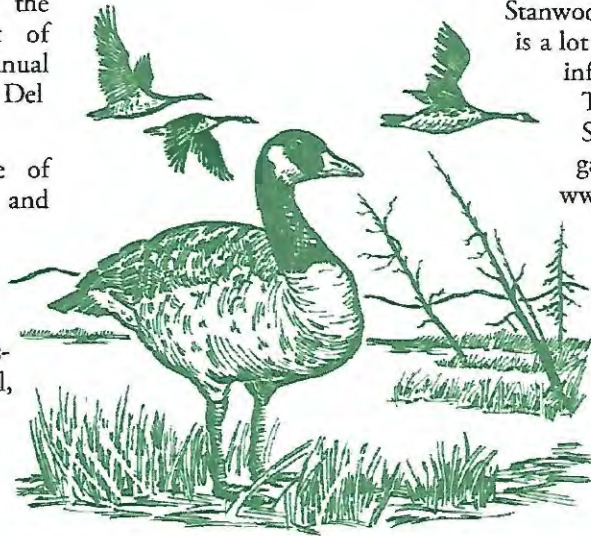
MARCH 28-30

CRESCENT CITY, CA

www.aleutiangoosefestival.org

Come celebrate Spring and the return of the once endangered Aleutian Goose to the extreme northern coast of California at the 10th Annual Aleutian Goose Festival in Del Norte County, CA.

Located in the home of Redwood National Park and the Smith River National Recreation area, the festival offers 60+ workshops/field trips, Native American Heritage, birds-birds-birds, Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelets, Pelagic trip, Smith River Drifts, Geology, Botany and more! To see it all:



Port Susan Snow Goose & Birding Festival

FEBRUARY 23-24

STANWOOD

Mark your calendars for this annual festival close to home in Stanwood. This festival starts off our bird festivals for 2008. It is a lot of fun with great activities. As usual PAS will have an information table and we will also provide birding guides. To volunteer contact Susie Schaefer 425.771.8165 Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net or Hana Bales Kogan jbkigan1@comcast.net. Be sure to check the website www.snowgoosefest.org to find out more.

Sandhill Crane Festival

MARCH 28-30

OTHELLO

You will not want to miss this annual festival and see the wonderful Sandhill Cranes. This festival is always fun and filled to the brim with activities. Plan ahead and reserve motel space early as it goes fast. For more information visit www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org or contact Susie Schaefer 425.771.8165, Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net.

December Weekend Bird Hike

by Jonathan Blubaugh

Field trip Chairman Art Wait joined us for the final Weekend Bird Hike of 2007. The event took place at Howarth Park in Everett, planned as a pre-Christmas Bird Count field seminar. Each participant went on to take part in the North Everett Christmas Bird Count on the 29th.

We talked about the history and underlying ideas behind the annual Christmas Bird Count. Then discussion turned to some of the common, but easily missed or confused species that we could expect to encounter in early winter in Western Washington. We also discussed tactics and conventions used to get accurate data.

It should be noted that

Christmas Bird Counts are one of the most engaging ways to learn about birds and birding, as well as more about Pilchuck Audubon Society. We encourage everyone from novice to professional to join us each year. In three of the four CBCs I did this season the groups I counted with had and number of very successful first-time birders.

Art met us at the southwest overlook of the park where there is a sweeping overview of the harbor and sound.

After a bit of chat we undertook a brief rally of the birds that could be seen or heard from that vantage. Art then

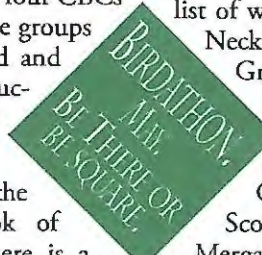
excused himself and the rest of us hiked down the short trail to the waterfront. We crossed the tall footbridge there over the railroad track to the beach.

Our investigation provided good results. Here's a partial list of what we saw: two Red-Necked Grebe, five Western Grebe, Canada Goose (heard a few), twenty American Wigeon, three Common Goldeneye, five Surf Scoter, three Red-Breasted Merganser, two Bald Eagle, a Merlin, a couple of Glaucous-Winged Gull, a Herring Gull, Northern Flicker (heard a couple), Downy Woodpecker (heard one), 26 Crow, Stellar's Jay (heard one), Bewick's

Wren (heard one), Winter Wren (heard one), two Black-Capped Chickadee, a Brown Creeper, nine Bushtit, three Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, two Townsend's Warbler, two Spotted Towhee, three Song Sparrow, and a Dark-Eyed Junco.

Ongoing scheduling of Weekend Bird Hikes may become erratic due to potential required overtime at work related to production on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

We'll most likely be joining the Stanwood/Port Susan Snow Goose Festival on February 23 or 24 for our next Weekend Bird Hike. Check the website for an announcement.



Wild Birds Unlimited

Three locations to serve you:
171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Park
206.367.1950

Mon—Sat: 10AM to 6PM

Sun: Noon to 5PM

4821 Evergreen Way, Everett
425.252.2220

Mon—Sat: 10AM to 6PM

Sun: Noon to 4PM



19915 SR2, Monroe
360.863.9173

Mon—Sat: 9:30AM to 6PM

Sun: 11AM to 5PM

These great stores will donate a portion of your purchase price to Pilchuck Audubon Society. Just let them know you're a member.

Help for Injured Wildlife

(not domestic animals)

The following numbers are available 24-hours a day:

Second Chance Wildlife Care Center
Snohomish, 425.335.0788

Deer Creek Wild Animal Rehab
Everett, 425.334.8171

Sarvey Wildlife Rehab
Arlington, 360.435.4817

PAWS

Lynnwood, 425.787.2500, Ext. 817



Got Forest? Get a Tax Break!

Washington State University (WSU) Extension and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be offering the Forest Stewardship Coached Planning class in two North Sound locations in early 2008. This popular class is designed to help forest landowners "help themselves" by equipping them with tools and resources to manage for a broad variety of objectives. The class includes evening presentations, a field day, a comprehensive Forest Stewardship Notebook and other educational reference materials, maps and aerial photos of your property, and an individual on-site consultation from a professional forester or wildlife biologist.

Many participants use their plans for consideration for significantly reduced "current use" property taxes. With an approved stewardship plan also comes recognition as a Stewardship Forest, eligibility for state cost-share assistance, and qualification to become a Certified Forest under the American Tree Farm System.

Topics include: Forest ecology and silviculture; Forest health; Reforestation; Forest soils; Fish and wildlife habitat; Sustainable timber harvesting; Non-timber forest products; Forest recreation; and more!

Winter class in Silvana begins January 28th. Spring class Thursday evenings in Burlington beginning March 13th. Tuition is \$150 per family or ownership and includes all course materials. Class size is limited to ensure a quality educational experience.

For more information or to register, visit <http://snohomish.wsu.edu/forestry/> and click on 'Events' or contact: Kevin Zobrist 425.357.6017, kzobrist@wsu.edu or John Keller at 360.856.3491, john.keller@dnr.wa.gov.

Immerse Yourself in Puget Sound

Love beaches? Want to learn a ton? Then join WSU Beach Watchers in Snohomish - Skagit Counties. Beach Watchers are professionally-trained volunteers dedicated to protecting Puget Sound's fragile environment through education, research, public awareness, and example.

For the first time, the 100-hour WSU Beach Watcher training is being offered in Snohomish County. It is based out of Jennings Park in Marysville on Mondays and Thursday, 9:00AM-3:30PM from March 13 through May 4.

Training includes expert presentations, field trips and hands-on practice in coastal processes, marine organism identification, marine birds, public education, scientific monitoring, restoration practices, and much more.

In return, Beach Watchers continue learning while contributing 100 volunteer hours to scientific surveys, educating students and the public, and developing community shoreline projects. Space limited to 25; applications due February 8, 2006.

For an application or more information, contact Chrys Bertolotto, 360.333.7977, 425.338.2400, ext 5535, or chrys@wsu.edu.

Become a Waterfowl Advocate

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking nominations to fill four open positions representing Western Washington on its Waterfowl Advisory Group.

Established in 2003, the 20-member volunteer group represents a diversity of waterfowl recreation and conservation interests throughout the state and provides recommendations on duck stamp habitat project proposals, season recommendations and other waterfowl management issues. The policy group also serves as an important communication link between WDFW and its constituents.

The group, which is structured to represent both sides of the state, is currently seeking members to fill four recent vacancies representing Western Washington. Each term, which is renewable, lasts two years.

To be qualified, advisers should have a broad interest in waterfowl and be able to communicate effectively with the public. While the advisory group meets twice a year, members are also

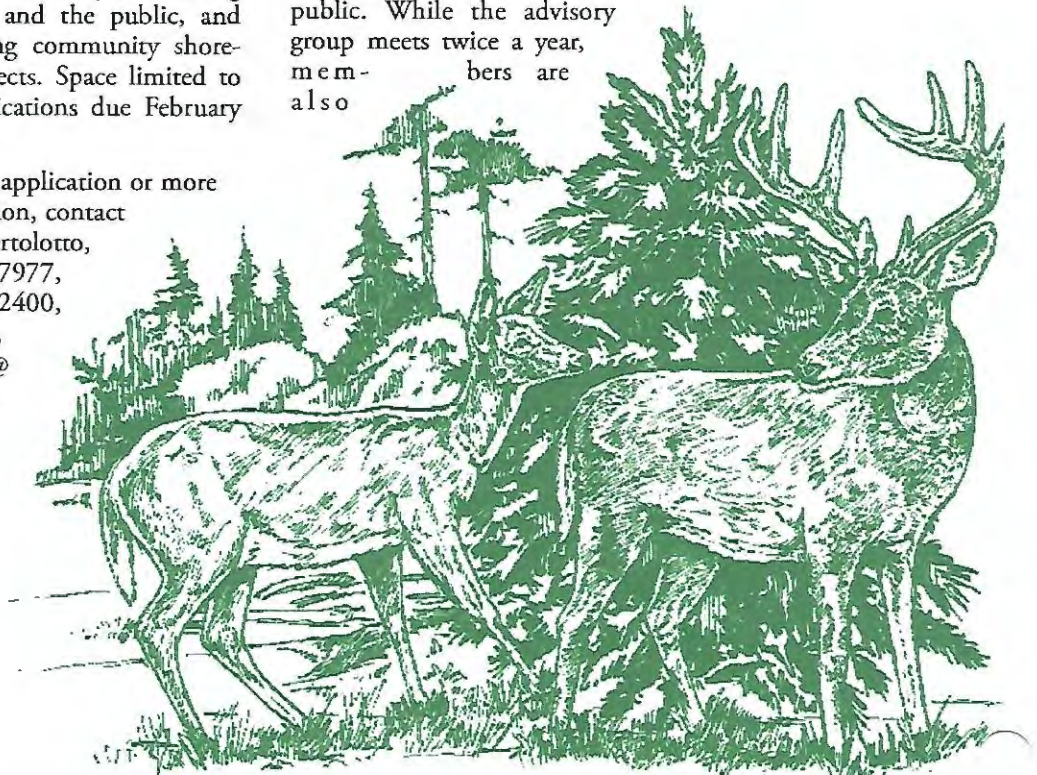
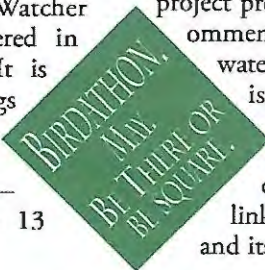
asked to periodically provide comments on written materials. Due to WDFW budget constraints, advisers are responsible for their own travel expenses.

Any group or individual may submit a nomination, including self-nominations. Nominees do not need to be affiliated with an organized group. Nominations must include:

- The nominee's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address.
- The nominee's affiliations, if any.
- Experience, including years and type of experience.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the individual or organization submitting the nomination.

Nominations must be mailed by Feb. 15, 2008 to Don Kraege, waterfowl section manager, WDFW, 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501.

For more information, call Don Kraege at 360.902.2522



February 2008 Trip Calendar

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

TUESDAY, FEB 5 EAGLE VIEWING, ETC. ROCKPORT TO NEWHALEM

Meet 7:30AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd next to I-5. Let's get our fill of eagles and see what other wildlife winters here. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

SAMISH FLATS

Meet 7:30AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd next to I-5. Hunting season is over and the East and West 90, Alice Bay and Samish Island can produce five falcon species, bureos, owls, eagles, shorebirds, etc. Bring a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

FIR ISLAND

Meet 7:30AM Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store near Quilceda Blvd next to I-5. Expect almost anything, Golden Eagle, Northern Shrike, Tundra Swans, Merlin, etc. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait 360.563.0181, Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

SMITH AND SPENCER ISLANDS

Meet 8AM at Langus Riverfront Park, Everett. For directions call Art if you can't find it. Should see lots of waterfowl and raptors. Walk the Langus Riverfront Trail, maybe try the Everett Sewage Ponds. Lots of walking. Pack a Lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750, Art Wait 360.563.0181

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

Conservation Corner

by Jan van Niel & Jon Baker

Yes, the byline is correct. With Sally's passing, Jon Baker is now working with, and learning from, Jan on the Conservation Committee. In time, Jon will take on more Conservation Committee responsibilities and as part of this transition, Jon will collaborate with Jan in preparing the Conservation Corner. Low, on to the update.

In December, Jan and Jon attended the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee meeting in Tumwater. At the meeting each chapter shared what issues they were working on and the state office presented state-wide issues and policy updates. This is the time of year when the Legislature is in session and environmental organizations work to achieve their annual goals. We present here first a review of some of the state-wide issues and then what is happening in our chapter.

More Dams?

For months, the Department of Ecology has been studying the feasibility of water storage dams in Eastern Washington. One of the sites being studied is Crab Creek. If built tomorrow, the dam would cost \$1 billion to \$2.7 billion and flood at least 5,000 acres of private property. The reservoir would cover 18 homes and thousands of acres of fish and wildlife habitat. But what is most disturbing is that no one knows how much water is needed, where the need will exist, or in many areas, how much is being used now. Keep your eye on this one and we will too. Dams should be the last option.

Northern Spotted Owl

The Northern spotted owl population continues to decline. Within study areas, the annual

rate of decline is 7.3% which can not be sustained for long. It is hypothesized that interaction with the barred owl or habitat destruction or both are responsible. Research into the question continues to search for an answer.

Statewide Big Four for 2008

As you will read further on in Kristin's Smart Growth Report, Washington State environmental organizations have determined four priorities for this legislative session. Two of the priorities address global climate change while one focuses on urban forests and the last is focused on farms.

Port Susan Bay Important Bird Area (PSBIBA)

Spearheaded by our own Colleen Weber, work on the PSBIBA continues. Preliminary planning is complete and the committee is focused on getting volunteers to participate in bird surveys of the bay.

Weekly surveys begin in mid-April and run through mid-May. The committee is looking

for 10 to 20 volunteers. If you are interested but not confident in your identification skills, we will be holding a training session and can partner you with experienced birders. Contact Colleen Weber if you are interested or for more information.

Evergreen Cities

Declining water quality is compromising healthy communities and ecosystems around the state. We are losing urban forests and associated clean air and water as our population increases and our cities grow.

Evergreen Cities Act will develop statewide performance standards and grants enabling cities and counties to restore urban forests. It will require cities and counties to retain, restore, and establish new urban forests through local ordinances and urban forest management plans. Audubon Washington has asked the chapters to engage their local governments in an effort to gain support for the Evergreen Cities proposal.

If you want more information on any of these issues or have a local issue you would like to bring to the attention of the Conservation Committee, write Jon at jon.d.baker@gmail.com.

Help Wanted

Publicity Chair

Getting the news out about Pilchuck is the main focus of this volunteer position. You will work closely with the media providing information about upcoming events and important announcements. Call Colleen Weber 425.210.5626 or e-mail: Colleen.Weber@PilchuckAudubon.org.

Smart Growth Report

Kristin Kelly, Director

Happy 2008! Last night, Saturday the 5th, feeling a bit under the weather, I sat and watched the New Hampshire presidential debates hosted by ABC News. Listening to both the Republican and Democratic candidates debating an endless array of problems, two things stood out to me.

First, there was an online survey going on through the debate. While the number one concern of those participating was economic health, the second highest concern was not the Iraq war, but the state of our environment.

Second, both sides of the aisle seemed to agree that global warming is real and needs our attention immediately; not just in government policy, but in real actions on the ground.

Here in Washington, we can begin work now to start fixing our global warming mess without waiting for the federal leadership so frustratingly lacking the last eight years.

The 2008 state legislative session is in motion. While all four of the Priorities for a Healthy Washington should be adopted by state legislators, two in particular deal directly with climate change solutions.

Local Solutions to Climate Change

In order to achieve the State's goal to significantly reduce the pollution sources driving climate change, responsible decisions need to be made to reduce automobile usage and developing more efficient and livable communities.

The choices made in local land use and zoning plans about where a growing population will live and work and how they will get around have a huge impact the environment. Proposed legislation would amend the Growth Management Act (GMA) to add a goal of reducing climate pollution as an

important aspect of local comprehensive planning.

Local jurisdictions (counties and cities) which represent nearly 70% of the state's population are already committed to major reductions. A coordinated statewide effort will provide Snohomish County and its cities, along with others throughout the state, the necessary support to use existing tools to significantly reduce their climate impact.

Cities with more than 30,000 residents (in Snohomish County today that includes Bothell, Edmonds, Everett, Lynnwood and Marysville) and counties with more than 50,000 residents would be required to:

- Develop plans to achieve the state's global warming pollution reduction goals in their comprehensive planning;
- Evaluate current emissions and impacts of future decisions;
- Develop plans to manage growth in ways that will reduce climate changing pollution.

This new planning element would be phased in during the next comprehensive plan update cycle, which in Snohomish County is 2011. For smaller cities and counties, this action will be voluntary. Each city and county would have the flexibility to determine how to reach the goal.

Different strategies can include encouraging more compact and transit oriented development in our urban growth areas; focusing growth in areas with transit options; establishing transfer of development right programs to protect forests and farmlands; encouraging use of new technologies that reduce global warming pollution and increase efficiency; and providing more urban forest investments.

Climate Action & Green Jobs

Based on Governor Gregoire

and the 2007 legislature's goal to reduce the state's climate change pollution and increase the number of green jobs in the state, the Washington Climate Action bill creates a structure and timeline for implementing these goals, working to reduce climate change pollution, creating a program to prepare Washington workers for good jobs in the clean energy economy, and providing pathways out of poverty for lower-income communities.

The bill would make the Washington State Department of Ecology responsible for achieving the state's emission reduction goals. It would direct Ecology to develop responsible limits on all major sources of global warming pollution in the state.

The Legislature would affirm participation in developing a regional market-based pollution trading system, like the one Washington is now helping to develop with numerous other Western states and Canadian provinces. The bill will require reporting by those responsible for the greatest amount of climate changing pollution and would create a competitive-grants-based training program, to be funded and implemented in 2009, that will train and transition workers to clean energy jobs.

Evergreen Cities

Healthy, growing urban forests help build healthy communities and people. Snohomish County does not have a tree ordinance despite the fact citizens have been screaming for years as our communities lose trees by the thousands to large subdivisions and commercial strips.

Most people know all the benefits of trees such as reducing runoff, one of the top Puget Sound pollutants, helping reduce taxpayer costs for storm

water management systems. In addition, trees absorb many of the pollutants that cause asthma and drive climate change.

The Evergreen Cities Act, if adopted, would:

- Direct the Department of Natural Resources to develop a statewide inventory/assessment of our urban forests, providing critical technical assistance for local government ordinance and forest plan development;
- Generate new revenue from utility ratepayers to develop and implement tree ordinances, forest management plans, and for utilities to increase service reliability, leveraging increased federal funds;
- Engage volunteers, conservation, homeowners and civic groups in forest plan development and implementation;
- Convene an advisory committee and create a role for eco-regional performance standards for tree retention, forest restoration, urban forest canopy, ordinances and management plan to achieve environmental objectives; and
- Provide funding for local governments to update or adopt tree ordinances and urban forest management.

Local Farms Healthy Kids

Our schools represent an enormous potential market for Washington farmers, and the best vehicle for improving kids' access to healthy food. This legislation will make Washington a national leader in providing locally grown fresh fruit and vegetables to those who need it most by:

- Easing restrictions that make it difficult for schools and institutions to buy from local farms;
- Establish a "Farm to School" program to connect schools with nearby farmers, providing

...continued on page

Birding Highlights

November 26 through December 25, 2007

Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

The weather turns cold, a few snowflakes fall, and the **Varied Thrush** returns to Snohomish County. The Varied Thrush is similar to the American Robin, but has an orangish eye stripe, orange wing bars and a wide black band (male) or gray band (female) across a rusty breast. They were spotted in Brier, Lake Stevens, and Mukilteo.

Ken Pickle of Edmonds emailed a report of a **Snow Goose** flying with a flock of **Canada Geese** near Sunser Beach. He also spotted the same flock later on the ground near Ballanger Way. He also sent a photo to confirm his sighting.

Larry and Carole Beason are reporting **Pine Siskins** again from their home near Lake Bosworth. Their total species count of 39 included 14 **Pine Siskins**, a **Hutton's Vireo**, 18 **Bufflehead** on the lake, 12 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, a **Mourning Dove**, a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk**, 11 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, a **Merlin**, a **Golden-Crowned Sparrow**, a **Ruby-Crowned Kinglet**, a **Barrow's Goldeneye** (usually seen with a group of **Buffleheads**), and finally a **Red-Breasted Nuthatch** (I'm still waiting for ours to return.)

Reporting from Brier, along the Snohomish County line, Gail Dibernardo's total species count of 23 included a **Townsend's Warbler**, 2 **Red-Breasted Nuthatches**, 12 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 20 **Bushtits**, 2 **Brown Creepers**, a **Bewick's Wren**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 12 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 40 **European Starlings**, and 9 **Northern Flickers**

in the yard.

Hilkka Egtvedt reported the **White-Throated Sparrow** again from her Mukilteo location. The **White-Throated Sparrow** is very similar to the **White-Crowned Sparrow**, but is browner and has a well-defined white throat patch. She also reported 60+ **American Crows**, 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 11 **California Quail**, 36 **Dark-Eyed Junco**, a **Fox Sparrow**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, a **Red-Breasted Nuthatch**, a **Townsend's Warbler**, and a **Varied Thrush** for a total species count of 24.

Kriss Erickson's total species count of 6 from Everett included 2 **Mallards**, 13 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 22 **Bushtits**, 3 **Northwestern Crows**, 5 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, and a **Downy Woodpecker**.

Reporting from Lake Stevens, Verna Hisey's total species count of 12 included 16 **House Sparrows**, a **Bald Eagle**, 3 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, a **Mountain Chickadee** (very similar to the **Black-Capped Chickadee**, but has a white line over its eye), 3 **Varied Thrush**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, an **American Robin**, a **Broad-Winged Hawk** that sat on the feeder for over an hour (very similar to a **Cooper's Hawk**) and a **Northern Flicker**.

Shelia and Michael Huber's report from their home near Machias included 11 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 37 **House Finches**, 4 **Northern Flickers**, 5 **Spotted Towhees**, 9 **Black-Capped**

Chickadees, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 9 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, and 3 **Ruby-Crowned Kinglets** for a total species count of 15.

A **Yellow-Rumped Warbler** topped Julie O'Donald's list from her home in Brier. Her total species count of 18 also included 6 **American Crows**, 8 **American Robins**, 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, 12 **Bushtits**, 8 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 25 **European Starlings**, 2 **Mallards** flying low over her property, 2 **Red-Breasted Nuthatches**, a **Varied Thrush**, and 2 **Chestnut-Backed Chickadees**.

Reporting from Camano Island, with great views of Port Susan Bay, Bob Poulin listed 2 **Bald Eagles**, 13 **Surf Scoters**, 6 **Common Mergansers**, 2 **Great Blue Herons**, 22 **Barrow's Goldeneye**, 2 **Mourning Doves**, 5 **Buffleheads**, 15 **Northwestern Crows**, 10 **Glaucous-Winged Gulls**, 3 **Double-Crested Cormorants**, and 2,000+ **Western Sandpipers** for a total species count of 18.

It looks like the **Dark-Eyed Juncos** and **Mourning Doves** were gathering at Mary Sinker's place in Stanwood. She reported 37 **Dark-Eyed Juncos** and 19 **Mourning Doves**. She also listed a **Great Blue Heron**, 10 **Steller's Jays**, 15 **American Crows**, 9 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 7 **Spotted Towhees**, 5 **Song Sparrows**, a **Red-Breasted Sapsucker**, 2 **Red-Tailed Hawks**, a **Brown Creeper**, and 12 **House Finches** for a total

species count of 23.

Darlene Walker's report from Camano Island include 2 **Great Blue Herons**, 2 **Fox Sparrows**, 6 **Mourning Doves**, 12 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 40+ **Trumpeter Swans** at Skagit Valley, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 6 **House Sparrows**, 6 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, and 2 **Downy Woodpeckers** for a total species count of 12.

Things are about the same at my home in Marysville. The numbers of **Gulls** and **Mallards** have increased due to flooding in the fields along 100th Street. My total species count of 22 included 5 **American Robins**, 16 **California Quail**, 300+ **Glaucous-Winged Gulls**, 40+ **Mallards**, 22 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 16 **House Finches**, 2 **Purple Finches**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 2 **Pine Siskins**, 60+ **Rock Doves** on the wires along 67th, a **Cooper's Hawk**, and a couple of **Great-Horned Owls** in the woods at night.

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 my new e-mail: pricemara@clearwire.net.

Smart Growth ...continued from page 6

necessary information and technical assistance to both school districts and farms;

- Enact a Washington Grown Fruits and Vegetables Program to fund a fresh food snack program in schools with high num-

bers of low-income students; and

- Make it easier for low-income families to purchase locally grown food by helping farmers markets accept food stamps, increasing funding of

the Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and creating pilot projects for food banks to purchase fresh food directly from Washington farms.

As these bills come up for hearings in front of the Senate

and House committees, and hopefully on to the floor of each, I will be sending our action alerts and notices to contact your state representatives urging passage. Please help us ensure these critical initiatives pass into law.

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**February Program Meeting
 Port Susan IBA**

with **Nina Carter**

Check Web site for latest info

www.pilchuckaudubon.org

Friday, February 8, 7:00pm

Program meetings held at **Mariner High School
 Library in Everett** and are always open to the public.

**BIRDATHON.
 MAY.
 BE THERE OR
 BE SQUARED.**



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