

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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## Birders Bail Baffled Bufflehead

by Bob Sindelar

On November 27, PAS' regular Tuesday birding trip, took an unexpected turn at Clear Lake, when Virginia Clark spotted a female Bufflehead frantically trying to free herself from a tangle of fishing line in a low hanging branch about eight feet off shore.

When cell calls to local

authorities produced no help, Art Wait and Bob Sindelar went searching for a boat, while Sheila Sindelar gave words of encouragement and comfort to the helpless duck, and the rest of the group tried to decide who among them might best withstand a swim in the chilly waters if it came to that.

Coming upon Clear Lake Market, Art and Bob found a sympathetic ear in Scott Thompson. Scott quickly volunteered to leave work, go home, pick up his wife's kayak and bring it back to the Bufflehead.

Sure enough, Scott showed up about fifteen minutes later with a kayak in the back of his truck. In



Margaret Bridge with injured Bufflehead and rescuer Scott Thompson

**Friday, January 11, 7PM — Program Meeting**  
**Singing in the Brain: Seasonal Change in the Neural Circuits that Control Bird Song**  
with Chris Thompson

Chris will take us inside a bird brain and share his findings on the brain circuitry that controls singing behavior as well as how seasonal changes effect the circuitry, helping explain the yearly changes in birds' songs.

Recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academies of Science, Chris has a BS in Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution and minor in Chemistry from the University of Ill, Champaign-Urbana. He's currently pursuing his PhD in Neurobiology and Behavior at the UW, working in Eliot Brenowitz's lab. Their most recent work focuses on seasonal regression of the song control system in Gambel's white-crowned sparrows.

**Note: New location—Mariner HS Library, Everett**  
See map on back page for directions to program meetings.  
For more information, call 425.252.0926.

**PLEASE JOIN A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF SALLY VAN NIEL**  
SAT. JAN. 12, 2-4PM  
JACKSON CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM  
EVERETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
2000 TOWER STREET, EVERETT

minutes he was in the water paddling toward the baffled, frightened and terrified duck. Seemingly sensing a compassionate soul, the duck quieted and allowed Scott to pick her up and clip her free of the line.

Unfortunately the fishing line had been only part of the duck's dilemma; she had somehow managed to have the fish hook piercing her neck. Bill Davey gently removed the hook and, while Margaret Bridge applied a compress to the badly bleeding bird, drove her to the nearest vet. The vet contacted a wildlife volunteer who met Bill and Margaret in Mt. Vernon. Then the Bufflehead was on her way to Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at Friday Harbor.

The trip, even though disrupted provided some good birding, including hundreds of Trumpeter Swans (and at least one Tundra). But it will always be fondly remembered for the rescue of a helpless duck. So, if you find yourself in Clear Lake, please stop in at the Clear Lake Market and give Scott a warm 'Thank you.'

Update: Wolf Hollow got the duck, treated, and gave her a warm-water bath. However, she had lost some feathers in the area where the hook had been removed, so she was no longer water proof. Wolf Hollow transferred her to PAWS (Progressive Animal Welfare Society) in Seattle where they have a better wild bird facility and are better able to care for her.

Called PAWS 12/6 to check on "our" duck, and to offer to take her up to Clear Lake when she was able to go. Turns out she was released the day before. PAWS says that, in any case, they have to do the releasing themselves.

She was released on the waterfront between North and South View Parks, Everett, across from Jetty Island. They said there was a flock of Buffleheads there when she was released.

Well, at least she recovered and is back in the wild. Hopefully, she'll find her way to her own flock and her mate.

A very special thanks goes out Bird Samaritans Scott Thompson, Bill Davey, and Margaret Bridge. Margaret Bridge M



## Pilchuck Audubon Profile

January 2008 Vol. 35, No. 1

### In this issue

Calendar.....	3	Going on the Low Carb(on) Diet 6	
Art Takes Flight.....	3	K'wanájet.....	6
Smart Growth Report.....	4	Top Chef.....	7
PAS Loses Founder & Friend.....	5	Birding Highlights.....	7

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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.

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



An early environmentalist, Chief Sealth observed that, “Man did not weave the web of life. He is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.”

When he made that observation 150 years ago in the city that would one day bear a rendition of his name, very few paid much attention.

A hundred years later a young woman named Sally recognized the wisdom of Chief Sealth's words. Sally understood that we are not a passive witness of nature. We change the environment by our very presence and our only options in dealing with the earth are to be destructive or constructive.

She eventually committed her professional life and avocation to stewardship of the environment. And then she went one step further. She found a soulmate in her husband Jan to share her lifelong dedication.

When I joined the Pilchuck Audubon board, Sally van Niel was president. When the next board election came around she chose to give up the presidency and move to her real love, being co-chair of the Conservation Committee with Jan.

Sally and Jan were well known members of the Puget Sound environmental community. As two of the original ten charter members of Pilchuck Audubon Society they rarely missed the semi-annual state Audubon meetings, regardless of where in the state they were held.

As biologists and teachers Sally and Jan didn't stop with Pilchuck,

they shared their interest, passion, and expertise with many conservation groups, such as the Snohomish Wetlands Alliance and the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance of which Sally was a founder.

As a result of diabetes Sally developed a crippling abscess in one of her heels and leaving her confined to a wheelchair for the past few years. However, she refused to be held prisoner by it.

Her devoted caregiver (the hardest of jobs), Jan, made sure their commitments and interest in conservation never flagged. They missed few meetings or even the Christmas Bird Count.

I remember an early morning conservation breakfast in downtown Seattle just before the last election. I looked up to see Jan come into the ballroom, at 6:30am, pushing Sally in her wheelchair. I could only imagine the effort and hassle both faced to come to that breakfast but I wasn't surprised.

Professional football players are well paid and expected to play when hurt. The Sally I knew was far from being a highly paid athlete, but she was no less competitive. She played with the same zeal and determination as any Seahawk and she played hurt.

Sally made it her life's work to help youth and adults learn about the natural world around us and how much we have at stake if it disappears.

With her life and legacy, Sally van Niel bequeaths to us all some of the greatest gifts we could ask for—awareness and a conviction for action.

## SOS Save Our Swifts

by Susie Schaefer

As reported previously every year as many as 5,000 Vaux Swifts use the chimney of the Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe. Because it is an old chimney the Monroe School District is in the early planning stages for removal of the chimney. After meeting with the Superintendent it seems that this planning make take several years.

In the meantime PAS is interested in talking with interested members and others from Monroe. We have scheduled a meeting to discuss what

we can do to garner support for the Swifts and protect them and also protect the children. Portland and Sumas faced the same issue and were able to resolve the issue to the benefit of all. We need to find a way to do the same.

We scheduled a meeting to learn more start initial planning, Feb 6, 7pm at the Monroe Library, 1070 Village Way Monroe. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. For more information, 425.771.8165 or [Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net](mailto:Susie.Schaefer@verizon.net).



# January 2008 Trip Calendar

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

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 1

NO TRIP

Happy New Year!

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 22 BIRCH BAY SEMIAHMOO, DRAYTON HARBOR

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Wilma says this day will have favorable tides for waterfowl and shorebird viewing. Expect Harlequin and Long tail Ducks, Brant and maybe Snow Bunting. Lunch provided by Wilma and Don, at their waterfront cabin.

Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes 360-629-2028

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 29

SNOHOMISH CITY AND OUTSKIRTS

Meet at 8:00 AM at Snohomish Park & Ride, located at the junction of Highway 9 and Bickford Ave. Enjoyable, local and relaxed trip. We usually have high species counts and surprises, even delights. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Art Wait 360-563-0181, Virginia Clark will advise as usual, and most appreciated.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

CAMANO ISLAND

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). We will bird Stanwood Sewage Ponds, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and points in-between and elsewhere. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 15 SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND/CROCKETT LAKE

Meet at 7:15 AM at the Eastmont Park and Ride, I-5 exit 189, East side, aiming for the 8:00 AM ferry from Mukilteo. Plenty of everything; raptors, waterfowl, seabirds, etc. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes 360-629-2028

**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.

## Art Takes Flight

Art takes flight at Gallery North in February when Seattle-based artists Martha Brouwer, Sandra Kahler, and Cheryl Richey will display original mixed-media paintings that depict birds generally observed in the Northwest, as well as exotic species on view at the Woodland Park Zoo. The artists are nature lovers and honor birds as objects of art and guides to human imagination.

More than 20 images of birds will be featured in the show, including crows, chickadees, ducks, hummingbirds, hawks, herons, kestrels, gulls, and more.

Ten percent of proceeds from the artists' commissions goes to benefit Pilchuck Audubon Society.

**Exhibit: Feb. 1-29**

**Edmonds Art Walk: Feb. 21, 5-8pm**

**Artists' Reception: Feb. 3, 1-4pm**

**Location: Gallery North  
508 Main St., Edmonds  
425.774.0946**

**www.gallery-north.com  
Hours: Mon-Sat, 10-6pm; Sun,  
12-6pm**

For information: Cheryl Richey, 206.525.1909, [car@u.washington.edu](mailto:car@u.washington.edu)



## HELP WANTED

### Newsletter Editor

After six years editing the award-winning Pilchuck Audubon Profile, our editor must pass the reins on to someone else. With an excellent stable of regular feature writers, the newsletter almost puts itself together and just needs a guiding hand with an interest in layout and editing to put it all together. The present editor is eager to train someone with the desire, but perhaps not the skills. A computer is necessary. Call Colleen Weber 425.210.5626 or e-mail: [Colleen.Weber@PilchuckAudubon.org](mailto:Colleen.Weber@PilchuckAudubon.org)

### Publicity Chair

Getting the news out about Pilchuck is the main focus of this volunteer position. You will work closely with the media giving them information about upcoming events with Pilchuck as well as any other newsworthy information our chapter wants to get out into the community. Call Colleen Weber 425.210.5626 or e-mail: [Colleen.Weber@PilchuckAudubon.org](mailto:Colleen.Weber@PilchuckAudubon.org)



Hawk Overhead by Sandra Kahler



# Smart Growth Report

Kristin Kelly, Director

As you read this Smart Growth Report, I'll be on the beach in a small Pacific coast town in Mexico, relaxing my brain and reinvigorating my soul. But I'll be back for Christmas and to prepare for a hefty workload for 2008. I'm optimistic and eager to begin working with a new County Council on a variety of important land use and development issues that need fixing.

Please mark your calendar for the swearing in ceremony of the two new County Council members, Brian Sullivan from District 2, and Mike Cooper from District 3. The ceremony is at 9am, Wed, Jan. 2 in the Council's chambers, 8th Floor of the County Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Street, Everett.

Right after the ceremony will be the council's weekly General Legislative Session (GLS). At the start of each weekly GLS meeting is public comment time and our chance to speak loud and clear that we need effective leadership on land use planning and environmental protection.

My goal is to get at least 200 people to attend. You can speak or you can just be a supportive member of the audience. Taking just 30 seconds to let the council know of your concerns will make a huge impact!

While the County has embarked on updating their Unified Development Code (UDC) to try to deal with numerous problems, they need to know the citizens want these updates to actually reflect the citizen's concerns, and not just pander to the development community.

Plus there are other issues outside of the UDC update that needs the council's attention this year. Our county needs to adopt a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) ordinance that

will really help to protect farmland, forest land and our rural areas from over-development; they need to find realistic funding solutions and implement a complete Transportation Demand Management program for solving our traffic woes; they need to secure more parks and open space in our urban areas; they need to abolish codes and practices that allow for floodplain fill and development (e.g. Island Crossing, Harvey Airfield and KRKO towers in the Upper Snohomish River Valley); and they need to finish the update to our Shoreline Management Plan, now two years overdue.

While all processes take time and nothing happens overnight, things can happen faster with active and vocal citizens. Political pressure does work! Below is a list of what will help bring Smart Growth principles to the county's long-range planning of growth, and will help get us to more livable, sustainable, communities.

I can't stress enough the importance of starting 2008 out on the right foot. We need to be extremely present and vocal with our elected leaders, at the county, at the city, and at the state level, in order to achieve better success with growth and development than we have the previous 15 years.

2008 for me will be a year of great opportunity, and I most definitely will need your help all along the way.

So PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, attend the swearing in ceremony and at public comment time, get up and take a few seconds to address the council on the following issues:

## **Urban Residential Design Standards**

With the recent news of a housing glut, due to overbuilding and a nationwide mortgage loan problem, development

of new homes in Snohomish County has slowed, and the inventory of new homes is large. This is a great time for the County to revamp design standards. Cities like Mill Creek, Bothell and Lake Stevens are tired of having their urban growth areas inundated with ugly homes that do not fit the design standards of their cities. And citizens living in the urban growth areas are sick and tired of losing every tree to high-density developments. The County not only needs to work closely with the cities to ensure good home design, setbacks and landscaping, they also need to adopt a long-awaited tree ordinance that would protect large stands of big trees and understory.

Rural Cluster Subdivisions have been a development tool here in Snohomish County since 1995, as a way to try to protect our open spaces, critical areas and rural beauty. However, the county in its quest to appease developers and encourage them to use the rural cluster subdivision process, offered density bonuses, where by if a bit more percentage of land was protected, they could build more houses.

The outcome has been that we are seeing a net of 1 home per 2.3 acres, which is absolutely not RURAL development and has not protected rural character. With global warming at the top of problems we need to help solve, allowing for more rural cluster subdivisions just will not get us there. Rural residents are tired of these clustered developments and are speaking out with a focus on eliminating the density bonus.

While the county is focusing on other tweaks that can be made to the code, the citizens want the density bonus at the very least to disappear. This needs to happen now in 2008, before more applications

become vested. The County Council in 2008 needs to enact an emergency ordinance and fix this now, as they are out of compliance with their comprehensive plan and the Growth Management Act, allowing for too much urban-style development and too much growth in our rural areas.

## **Transfer of Development Rights Program**

I have been in many conversations on how to get this program actually working and saving farmlands, rural lands, and forest lands. But the time for planning and discussion needs to end and work needs to happen. We have spent ten years on planning and talking on a TDR program to protect the Stillaguamish River Valley, and frankly it isn't working.

There are numerous tools out there and incentives to get developers to buy the rights of the lands we want to save and protect, and to build in our existing urban growth areas and cities. City leaders, county leaders, farmers, developers and conservation groups, all need to come to the table and agree to make it work!

If we don't do this with all earnestness and commitment, we will never protect Snohomish County from unnecessary urban sprawl, and we will lose our ability to sustain farming and forestry in this county for the future, the uncertain future we face with global warming and peak oil looming over us.

2008 needs to be the year that marks a swing of the pendulum away from developer greed and toward environmental stewardship and healthy, sustainable cities.

Join me on January 2! Speak up for Snohomish County and a better long-term vision and plan.

We are so saddened to inform everyone that a founding member and giant of Pilchuck Audubon, Sally van Niel, passed away November 21, 2007. Sally had been in the hospital little over a week before her untimely passing.

Sally van Niel has been active in Pilchuck Audubon since she helped found the chapter 35 years ago. She has served as our president several times, taking over again after Darryl Thompson died. Sally and Jan have been our co-conservation chairs for years. Just a few weeks ago, at the most recent statewide ACOW meeting in Sequim, Sally and Jan, as usual, were there. She will be missed not only in our chapter but statewide throughout the conservation community.

Born April 25, 1936 in Long Beach, CA, her father left the Navy and took a job with Seattle City Light, eventually moving to the Rockport area on the upper Skagit River. It was there she developed her passion for nature and the Pacific Northwest's beauty.

According to Jan, "She grew up at the foot of Diablo Dam. It was a small community of people who mostly worked for Seattle City Light, a wonderful town where you could wander around free of fear, and experience nature."

Jan and Sally met while attending the University of Washington in the zoology graduate program, working on their masters' degrees. After graduation they both taught biology at Everett Community College from 1971 to 1999.

In addition to teaching, her real passion was leaving a world better than she found it. What began as one of ten original PAS members became a life work. Sally served on many councils and committees, such as the Snohomish Wetlands Alliance,

the citizens advisory group for non-game wildlife for the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, and was founder of the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance.

She was also instrumental in convincing the county to stop spraying the herbicide 2,4-D along roadways.

Preservation of the environment and the establishment of wildlife refuges became a crusade for Sally, and in turn local Audubon societies helped establish Spencer Island, a 412-acre island in the Snohomish River delta.

An avid bird watcher. Her favorite bird, the chickadee, was even given homage on the license plate of their car.

Sally is survived by her husband Jan and two daughters, Kristina Dalton and husband Shawn and Lisa and Jim McConnell.

A celebration of Sally's Life will take place Saturday, January 12, 2008; 2-4pm at the Jackson Center Conference Room, Everett Community College, 2000 Tower Street, Everett

Condolences may be sent to Jan van Niel, 4404 - 222nd St SW, Mountlake, WA 98304-4125.

## Remembering Sally

I have known Sally and Jan for the past seven years and cannot imagine PAS without her. Many of you know even more intimately than I how tirelessly she has worked to protect wildlife and habitat not only in our county, but statewide. Sometimes in conversations at meetings with her, it seemed that she knew everyone in the state who had ever served on any committee or in any capacity that was connected to conservation.

We are so grateful for all that she gave to us and wish her well on her next journey. Our hearts go out to Jan as he adjusts to this great loss. —Ileen Weber

I didn't know Sally personally, at least not since I was a baby, but she still had a role in my life. She introduced my mother, Eileen, to birding and because of that it's a huge part of both of our lives. I also spend a lot of time running at Spencer Island and am grateful that because of her work I'm able to enjoy that place and all the wonderful birds that live there. —Jessi Loerch

There's so much to say about Sally that a paragraph will never capture. Little did I know that meeting Sally in 1981 would literally change my life path. She introduced me into PAS and truly the rest is history! Audubon friends, birder extraordinaire, environmental activist, college degrees, environmental educator, and a never-ending journey of discovery filled my life. I regret that I didn't get a chance to thank her for that initial introduction. This doesn't begin to touch all of the things she did to protect wildlife and our environment. Sally is yet another that proves one person CAN make a difference. Thank you, Sally—I'm sure you're hangin' with the local chickadee flock! —Terri (Spencer) Wentworth-Davis

Since I could only identify crows and robins, I decided to audit a course on bird identification that was offered at Everett Community College. With Sally as the instructor, I got more than I ever dreamed such a class would afford me. Sally also introduced me to Pilchuck Audubon and a rich community of environmental activists that would become treasured friends.

Sally and Jan were incredibly welcoming and patient teachers on the many field trips they led where I and my two daughters (now grown) gleaned information from their vast knowledge of the natural world. Without Sally, I wonder if I ever would have found an opportunity to connect as solidly with the envi-

ronmental community as I have. Sally made a large impact on improving our natural world and a very large and treasured impact on my life. —Judy Lowell

Sally will really be missed. The first time I met her, she was teaching a Master Birder class session, I think in 1987. Though the phrase had probably been around for some time, the first time that I heard, "Think globally, act locally" was from Sally that evening. —Hilleka Egtvedt

I met Sally van Niel on the board at Pilchuck Audubon Society. I was on the board as first County Issues Chair, and then as an at-large member. From the beginning I had heard from folks nothing but great things about Sally and her husband Jan; how they were the founders of Pilchuck Audubon Society, that they were great Everett Community College teachers, and how much they worked to protect birds and habitat.

After getting to know Sally better over the last three years, I was struck with the commitment Sally had. She was never an in-your-face sort of person; but her quiet soft ways of speaking to the issues was highly respected by those who were listening.

Sally had many health challenges, but what always amazed me she never seemed to let that get in her way. Up until she became ill and her recent passing, she attended practically every Board meeting and numerous functions and events. It is no wonder she received so many awards. She was a true believer and a true worker toward protection of our environment. She will be deeply missed; no it's up to all of us to carry her spirit and work forward. —Kristin Kelly



*"The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live."*

—Mortimer Adler

I agree with part of this quote: our minds continue to grow through education. But my waistline continues to want to grow larger, too! Around this time of year many of us consider going on a diet to fight this bulging battle.

I'd like to suggest another New Year's resolution to fight another battle. Go on a diet to reduce your ecological footprint. Although I've already made some changes in my life, I know there are still changes I can make to weigh less on the world.

The motivations may be the similar to going on a food diet: I want to look good to my friends and colleagues, I know it'll be better for my health (and others), and it may allow me to live longer (and the planet as we know it).

It's not just a matter of having information. We know that eating lots of doughnuts and drinking lots of soda is not good for us. We also know that driving SUVs, using pesticides on lawns, and clear-cutting forests for developments are not good for the planet. With tips on being "green" becoming prevalent in the mass media, we have access to lots of information on what changes we can make.

The hardest part of changing our footprints, is it requires us to make changes when it's easier to continue to do what we have been doing our entire lives. And just like going on a diet, it is so tempting to revert to old habits. For instance, who wants to ride their bike to the store when your car is sitting right there, it's raining, and your bike is buried in your garage with a flat tire?

So the best way to diet is to make it as easy as possible to change your habits. On a food diet, you would avoid having junk food in your kitchen and instead have healthy snacks. For the low carbon emissions diet, you'll also want to make some changes to how things are set up at home and your workplace. I hang my cloth bags right next to the door so I don't forget them when I go to the store. I have my recycling right under the kitchen sink so it's easier for me to recycle something than to throw it out. I shop at my local food co-op where almost everything is organic or locally grown, and there's not a lot of non-organic options like at the larger chain stores.

My own personal goal is to make one change a month. For January, I'm going to bring my own Tupperware with me when I go out to eat. Too often I've asked for a doggy bag, thinking I'm doing the right thing by not wasting food, and have been faced with a Styrofoam container. I'll make it easier on myself by leaving a reusable container in my bag, next the travel mug, which I also carry with me.

Join me this year in making one change a month, and try to think of a way to make that change easier for you. Eventually, those changes become habit. I've come to find it strange when I get complimented for riding my bike to get around town. It's become normal for me to do so; I don't even have to think about it. Although it's nice to know that it is helping our planet.



## The First Year

I recently acknowledged my first year here in the PNW. After many years of visiting, the time was right to make the move. So far I have mispronounced every city, county, and road that is new to me. And, I grew up in the Midwest in Indian Hills Subdivision with names like Cayuga, Dowagiac, and Onondaga to name a few.

As I ventured out I have only been lost several times. Visiting the zoo in Seattle was an adventure. I told my son, when we find I-5 we won't be lost any more! The brain aerobics that happened that day left me mentally fatigued for a week.

Navigating through a new organization had adventures, too. When I volunteered for the Volunteer Chair, I had no idea I would meet such wonderful people. Everyone has been so very helpful. The committee helped to get everything organized. We have big plans ahead for the committee, and we have wonderful people on the committee that will make it happen!

At the last meeting I took a real sigh of relief. The groundwork is done. The committee is able to move on, and nothing short of a miracle happened shortly after the last newsletter with all but one of the positions opened has been filled! I re-read the last article of the Profile – was I depressed and discouraged or what! I gave myself until January and if the positions were not filled or most of them still open I would resign.

Obviously, I was not up for the task at hand! I even played out a fantasy in my head of bolting the door at the next program meeting and not letting anyone leave until every open position was filled!

Miracles happen every day! Kerry Neijstrom called

me and volunteered for the Education Chair. What a gift she is and will be. Hana Bales-Kogan stepped forward after I met with her at her home. She is such a welcome addition. Ileen Weber decided to stay on as the database chair after I resigned from the Volunteer Chair and volunteered for the Membership Chair. It made sense after Ileen extended my lease another year! There are other changes in the works. The Universe has been kind, filling positions before they are officially open. Life is good!

People have stepped forward and joined the Port Susan Bay Action Team! Yet, we have suffered such a sad loss when Sally van Niel made her final adventure and left this earthly life in November. I know Jan van Niel will remain on the committee and stay the course for the environment as we work toward the goal of making the Port Susan Bay - IBA a "work in progress."

To each of you who have helped me along the way and to each of you who stepped forward when I made the call for volunteers, I want to say, "thank you, thank you, thank you! And, a special "Thank you" to my sister, Ileen. No way could I have mastered the skills I have learned and will continue to learn as I volunteer for Pilchuck. Thank you, Ileen. The best sister anyone could ask for in this lifetime!

Now, as I resign as your Volunteer Chair, I leave knowing the work that needs to be completed will be accomplished with Hana and the rest of the committee. Please welcome her and relax knowing she will continue the important work for Pilchuck.

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



# Birding Highlights

October 26 through November 25, 2007

Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Happy and Peaceful Holidays to all. This is a sad time for Pilchuck with the passing of Sally van Niel. We should all be thankful for the people in our lives and cherish our time with them.

Many thanks to all of the Bird Sighters who have faithfully mailed their reports to me all year. Without you there would be no *Birding Highlights*.

Also, thank you to Hilikka Egtvedt, Mike Blackbird, and James Smith for sending their Turkey Day counts.

With winter fast approaching there are reports of large numbers of **Dark-Eyed Juncos** and even a few **Varied Thrush**. Of course, the **Crows** are still communing in large numbers.

Carole and Larry Beason reported 42 **American Crows** flying over their place near Lake Bosworth. They also spotted 30 **Buffleheads**, 10 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 2 **Barrow's Goldeneyes**, a **Fox Sparrow**, 5 **Northern Flickers**, 4 **Purple Finches**, 9 **Red-Winged Blackbirds**, a **Winter Wren**, 2 **Lesser Scaup**, 2 **Pine Siskins**, and 2 **Ruddy Ducks** for a total species count of 39.

The **Varied Thrush** have returned to Gail Dibernardo's

yard again this year. Reporting from Brier her total species count of 21 included 4 **Varied Thrush**, 2 **Brown Creepers**, 6 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 2 **Red-Breasted Nuthatches**, 12 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 2 **American Goldfinches**, 8 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, 3 **Spotted Towhees**, 26 **Bushtits**, and 2 **Golden-Crowned Kinglets**.

Hilikka Egtvedt reported 12 **American Crows** in her Mukilteo yard. She also reported 21 **Dark-Eyed Juncos** and a **Sharp-Shinned Hawk**. It seems when there are large numbers of birds around, the hawks show up for a meal. Her total species count of 21 also included a **Red-Breasted Nuthatch**, 4 **Golden-Crowned Sparrows**, 12 **Bushtits**, 12 **Steller's Jays**, 7 **California Quail**, an **American Goldfinch**, 4 **Northern Flickers**, and a **White-Throated Sparrow** that winters here.

Eighteen **House Sparrows** descended on Verna Hisey's feeders at her Lake Stevens home. She also spotted 5 **American Crows** flying over, 14 **Rock Doves** in the yard, a **Spotted Towhee**, a **House Wren**, 3 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 8 **Steller's Jays**, a **Hairy Woodpecker**, 4 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, and a **Bald Eagle** for a total species count of 11. She also reported a flock of about

80 little birds swirling around several times and then flying away. I would guess **Pine Siskins** because that is what they do at my house.

Reporting from Machias, Shelia and Michael Huber had a visit from a **Turkey Vulture** in November along with 8 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, a **Great Blue Heron**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 6 **Spotted Towhees**, 12 **House Finches**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, and a **Purple Finch** for a total species count of 16.

Julie O'Donald's report from Brier listed 20 **American Crows**, 6 **American Robins**, 18 **Bushtits**, 6 **Dark-Eyed Juncos**, a **Ruby-Crowned Kinglet**, a **Winter Wren**, 4 **House Finches**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, and 4 **Golden-Crowned Kinglets** for a total species count of 17.

Reporting from Camano Island with a view of Post Susan Bay, Bob Poulin's total species count of 22 included 9 **Northwestern Crows** along the beach, 13 **Double-Crested Cormorants**, 11 **Glaucous-Winged Gulls**, 27 **Barrow's Goldeneyes**, 9 **Common Mergansers**, a **Belted Kingfisher**, a **Great Blue Heron**, 2 **Killdeer**, 9 **Mourning Doves**, and a **Pileated Woodpecker**.

The **Dark-Eyed Juncos** took over Mary Sinker's yard and feeders at her Stanwood home. She counted 47 along with 20 **American Crows**, 17 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 2 **Sharp-Shinned Hawks**, 15 **Mourning Doves**, a **Varied Thrush**, a **Red-Breasted Sapsucker**, 9 **Kinglet** species, 6 **Spotted Towhees**, 17 **Steller's Jays**, and 4 **Downy Woodpeckers** for a total species count of 22.

I counted about 25 **Dark-Eyed Juncos** at my Marysville location, but **Pine Siskins** were the big surprise. About 60 or so swarmed around the pond several times during the month and every time my female parakeet would go crazy and started calling to them. My total species count of 25 also include 30+ **American Crows** in the fields along 100th, 7 **Brewer's Blackbirds** in the parking lot at Costco, 12 **House Finches**, 9 **American Robins**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers** who visit the suet feeder everyday now, 3 **Northern Flickers**, 3 **Song Sparrows**, and 6 **Tundra** or **Trumpeter Swans** flying in formation over the 529, or The Flats as it is known.

If you are interested in adding to *Birding Highlights*, please contact me at 425.750.8125 or [pricemara@earthlink.net](mailto:pricemara@earthlink.net).

## Top Chef & Fall Feast Fundraiser a Huge Success!

Thanks to everyone who took a night out of their busy lives to support the work of Snohomish County Futurewise and the PAS Smart Growth program. We raised well over \$6200 to support these two programs.

We also must thank all the chefs and restaurants who donated to the evening's success. The night was filled with an array of delicious food from 11 chefs. Chef Martin Misich of The Repp (formerly Sebastians) won Top Chef for his *Grilled Garlic Honey Prawn or Chili*

*Marinated Scallop*.

Other entries included:

Chef Chuck Gibbs, Chuck's Seafood Grotto, Prawns Alla Grotto; Chef Sondra McCutchen, Cabbage Patch, Assorted dessert tarts; Smashed Tomatoes, Smoked Salmon Caprese and Stuffed Mushrooms; Chef Jerri Quinby Collector's Choice, Hot Crab and Artichoke Dip; Chef Jim Taranto, Nana Carmella's, Signature House Salad; Wendy Valentine, Savory Autumn

Harvest Tartlets and Pesto Parmesan Crustinis; Chef Kristy Kelly, Kristy's Cuisine, Mediterranean Shepherd's Pie With Marinated Green Beans; Chef Gyda Harris, Sisters of Snohomish, Shredded Beef Taco Bites with Verdes Salsa; Chefs Joy Kelly and Marcie Lovelett, Marinated Grilled Chicken Skewers with Dipping Sauces; Chef Jan Nelson, Sweet and Tangy Broccoli Salad

Evergreen Cellars in Snohomish did an excellent job pairing wines with each dish.

And on top of it all, we heard from some of our elected leaders including State Representative Hans Dunshee, State Senator Steve Hobbs, newly elected County Council member Mike Cooper, Snohomish County City Council member Melody Clemans, newly elected Snohomish City Council member (and host of the event) Karen Guzak, and from Pilchuck Audubon Society President Mike Blackbird, and Futurewise Board Member Dave Bricklin.



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**January Program Meeting  
Singing in the Brain**

with **Chris Thompson**

Check Web site for latest info

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

**Friday, January 11, 7:00pm**

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

**New Location!**



**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**

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  - 10 monthly payments of \$100
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(includes PAS membership)

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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.