

Pilchuck Audubon Profile



Published by Pilchuck Audubon Society Volume 35, Number 6 July/August 2008

Thanks to IBA volunteers

By Colleen Weber, Project Leader, Port Susan IBA Survey



Survey volunteers, Joyce Kelly and Russ Caniff, along Port Susan Bay

The spring shorebird migration survey around northern Port Susan Bay is complete, thanks to 30 volunteers who donated their time and energy to collect data. Even cold, wet weather did not deter this dedicated group. Volunteers comments after the survey were positive and almost everyone is looking forward to the next survey.

The data collected will be used for the fall migration survey, set to begin in late July or early August. It will also be shared with other organizations and submitted to national databases.

Pilchuck Audubon has been awarded funds for the next phase of this grant. We are the only chapter in Washington to receive this grant, sponsored by the Packard Foundation. The action team will tour sites along south Skagit Bay and choose ones to add to the survey. We will also look at the current sites on Port Susan Bay and combine some with south Skagit Bay, since the birds move back and forth between the areas.

We may need more volunteers for the fall survey, as the returning birds migrate more sporadically. Volunteers will need to watch at designated sites more frequently. If you're interested and can help on short notice, I want to hear from you.

Five owners volunteered their property as sites for the spring survey, which helped make it a success. Pilchuck thanks them for their part in this important project.

When asked to coordinate this grant, I had no idea how important the work would be for Port Susan Bay and surrounding areas. I was amazed how Pilchuck members responded to my request for time and expertise for this project. I am honored to have the scientific expertise on the committee to get the project completed in a professional manner. Without the seven members on this committee, this survey would not have been completed successfully.

During the coming months, I look forward to continuing to work to protect the bird habitat on the migratory flyway of the Pacific coastline from South America to the Arctic.

July program meeting – Friday, July 11, 7 p.m.

Pilchuck Audubon Society's mega birding slide show

Don't miss this fabulous slide show featuring the favorite bird photos from Pilchuck Audubon members.

And, it's not too late to submit your photos.
See details below.

Note new location:

The Everett Firefighters Association's
Firefighters Hall, 2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett.



There will be no program meeting in August.

September program meeting

Join us at Puget Sound Bird Fest

Bart Rulon, wildlife artist and photographer,
will speak to open the festival.

Friday, September 12, 6:30 p.m.

Edmonds Conference Center,
201 Fourth Avenue North, Edmonds

Calling bird photographers

Let's make July's program meeting a mega birding slide show. Pick your 10 favorite shots and e-mail them to me, your *Profile* editor, at annette.colombini@pilchuckaudubon.org. I'll put together a PowerPoint presentation to be shown at July's meeting.

Please make sure **you** took the photo and include a message with the species name, as well as where you shot the photo. Please limit the individual file size to 5 MB or smaller. If your files are that large, you'll need to e-mail them individually. If you have a flickr (or similar) account and your photos are available for public download, feel free to send me the URLs of your favorite shots and I'll download them for you.

Please have your photo files to me by July 3. If you have any questions, shoot me an e-mail. Thanks!

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



There is one universal law of history. We don't learn from history.

Some years ago, I was in Alaska on business. I took some personal time to drive from Anchorage to Seward, a small town along the shores of Resurrection Bay. I planned to take a boat trip to see the bay's puffin and murre colonies. The opportunity to see humpback whales figured in my plans, as well.

The night before the boat trip, I stayed in a Seward motel. Having just finished the book I was reading, I picked up a Chamber of Commerce magazine on the night stand and began to read about Alaska's Good Friday earthquake in 1964. I read with increasing trepidation that Resurrection Bay is a narrow body of water running east and west. The 8.4 magnitude Good Friday earthquake's motion was north to south.

Resurrection Bay was rocked from side to side like a bathtub full of water. The result was that seven, count 'em seven, tidal waves washed over Seward, with a major part of the city disappearing into the bay. The earthquake struck at 3:36 a.m., killing 115 people across the state. While the death toll was low, the destruction was massive – leaving many Alaskans homeless. I slept fitfully.

Other than that night 10 years ago in Seward, I have to admit that I've not given dying in an earthquake much thought. Perhaps because, as Americans, we've come to delude ourselves into believing we're immune to catastrophic natural disasters and that they only occur in parts of the world distant from our God-blest shores and strict building codes. Hurricane

Katrina was a wake-up call and our collective thinking began to change, but just a bit. The media flooded us with information about the importance of preparing disaster plans for our families and putting together a 72-hour disaster kit. Intellectually I understand the wisdom of having a disaster kit and I began a half-hearted lame attempt at building one.

When the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck China on May 13, I called to mind my night in Seward and my commitment to put together a survival kit after Katrina.

I did a quick inventory and found in my garage an empty 30-gallon water drum left-over from an even less than half-hearted attempt to prepare for Y2K. On the floor of my den was the half-completed disaster kit. I realized I hadn't learned anything from history.

If a 7.8 magnitude earthquake can destroy 700 schools in China in the middle of the day, killing thousands of students and if an 8.4 magnitude earthquake can send seven tidal waves crashing over an Alaska town, how can I, in good conscience, imagine my home would be immune and my family safe should the predicted Cascadia earthquake hit the Puget Sound region?

I've yet to fill the water drum, but I've almost completed my survival kit and I did buy a tent on sale at Big 5. Considering this miserable wet spring, at least if our house is destroyed in an earthquake, we'll be dry.

I'm determined, this time, to learn the lesson of history.

About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon Profile, 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.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Newsletter submissions

Submit articles to annette.colombini@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 at organicjudy@juno.com or 425.353.8150 for more information.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

The Profile is also available at www.pilchuckaudubon.org

Board of directors

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Volunteer Coordinator	* Open *	
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At Large	David Gladstone.....	425.252.0926

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Birdathon	Hilkka Egtvedt.....	425.347.4944
Bird Sightings	Mara Price.....	360.651.9234
Database	* Open *	
Field Trips	Art Wait.....	360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson.....	360.659.7252
Hospitality	Virginia Clark.....	360.435.3750
Legal Advisor	Pete Dewell.....	425.259.6269
Membership Chair	* Open *	
Newsletter Editor	Annette Colombini.....	425.501.8125
Newsletter Mailing	Judy Lowell.....	425.353.8150
Webmaster	Kathy Piland.....	360.691.7695

Staff

Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly.....	425.923.8625
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July-August 2008 trip calendar

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

Tues., July 1 C-Post Road, Fortson Ponds, Sauk River

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. We will travel Highway 530 as far as time and stamina permit. Surprises are historical on this trip. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181; Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Wednesday, July 9 Jetty Island

Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the waterfront kiosk at the 10th Street Boat Launch and Marine Park, located at 10th Street and West Marine View Drive in Everett. Head Ranger Craig Hansen has again graciously arranged a special boat trip prior to the usual 10 a.m. ferry. Osprey, eagles, gulls, seabirds, shorebirds and probably a Peregrine Falcon. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181; Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, July 15 Stevens Pass Area

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, half-mile west of the fairgrounds. Trying for summer birding success at higher altitudes. Will visit The Old Cascades Highway, Smithbrook Road and maybe the ski slopes. Warblers, grouse, sparrows, flycatchers, ravens, nutcrackers, chipmunk and hare. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181; Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Sunday, July 20 Paradise-Mt. Rainier NP

Meet at 7 a.m. behind Everett Mall, next to the transit center by LA Fitness. From I5 north or south take exit 189, Everett Mall Way. All day. Carpooling strongly encouraged. Bring lunch, water, good walking shoes, sunscreen, hat and binoculars. We'll hike the Alta Vista-Glacier Vista loop trail to Dead Horse Trail - about 3 miles, 1000-foot elevation gain. Admission \$15 or Golden Eagle pass.

Trip leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Tuesday, July 22 Fir Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. Last year's highlights were a Green Heron, Wood Warblers and Tyrant Flycatchers, 48 species total. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181; Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, July 29 Hwy 20: Rockport to Diablo Dam

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. In February, we braved snow to view eagles. Let's see what's there in summer. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, August 5 Mid-Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. This is the area between Crockett Lake and Swantown, always an exciting experience for both birding and scenery. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750
Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028

Tues., August 12 Langus Park and Spencer Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Langus Park, Everett, just past the shell house. Let's see what summer birds can be found. Last August, we had Wood Ducks, Eastern Kingbirds and Pileated Woodpeckers. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181; Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, August 19 Chinook Pass, Highway 410

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, half-mile west of the fairgrounds. We will enjoy beautiful scenery. The pass is at the 5432 foot level and intersects the Cascade Crest Trail. Gray Jays, Vaux's Swifts and Mountain Chickadees. Pack a lunch. We will try to not go all the way to Yakima this time.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181; Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Tuesday, August 26 Anacortes

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. So many beautiful birding places: lakes, beaches, marinas, and even a mountain. Fifty fascinating species last August. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181; Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Sunday, August 31 Washington Park Arboretum

Meet at 7 a.m. behind Everett Mall, next to the transit center by LA Fitness (I5 exit 189, Everett Mall Way). We'll explore the Washington Park Arboretum at the UW.

Trip leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Sunday, October 5 Pt. Defiance Park, Tacoma

More details to come in future issues of the *Profile* and on www.pilchuckaudubon.org.

Trip leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Sunday, November 2 Larabee Park, Bellingham

More details to come in future issues of the *Profile* and on www.pilchuckaudubon.org.

Trip leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

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 perfume or cologne. Be prepared to share gas money with carpool drivers. Pets, even leashed, are prohibited on field trips. Please leave them at home.

Birdathon update

Birdathon 2008 is over. It's too early for final results, but it's not too early to thank the merchants who donated prizes for participants. Please support and thank Albertson's of Mukilteo, Fred Meyer of Everett, QFC of Mukilteo, Top Foods of Everett, Wild Bird Nest of Lynnwood and the Wild Birds Unlimited Stores in Everett and Lake Forest Park.

Watch the next issue of the *Profile* for Birdathon results.

Upcoming local and regional events

Edmonds Native Plant Garden meeting June 22 Edmonds, Washington

Plans are underway for a native plant demonstration garden in Edmonds. You're invited to get together on June 22 to learn more about this important garden, which will be part of the Edmonds Backyard Wildlife Project. The garden will be a place where all can see native plants and learn how to have a native plant garden that supports birds and other wildlife – even in an urban area targeted for high-density population, such as Edmonds.

Edmonds PAS members and many others are involved in the planning. They look forward to fall when they'll also be involved in planting and maintenance of this very important garden.

For more information – or to get involved – contact Susie Schaefer (425.771.8165) or Laura Spehar (425-672-2150).

Puget Sound Bird Fest September 12-14 Edmonds, Washington

Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds is moving – to a different time of year. After three years, the event is moving from May to September. It will still feature speakers, guided walks, field trips, a marketplace, backyard wildlife habitat tours and the "On Wing" art show. So mark your calendar to be in Edmonds on September 12-14 to celebrate birds and nature.

The weather in September is sunny, so chances are good you will see some delightful – and perhaps unexpected – birds. On the waterfront and Puget Sound, best bets are Common Tern, Parasitic Jaeger and Red-necked Phalarope.

Wooded sites like Yost Park could yield migrating warblers or maybe you'll spot a Hermit Thrush feeding on ripe berries. Pectoral Sandpipers might show up at the Edmonds Marsh, along with shorebirds such as dowitchers and yellowlegs.

Bird Fest will kick off Friday, September 12, with the "On wing" artists' reception. The speaker will be artist Barton Rulon. Rulon lives and works on Whidbey Island. His art has been exhibited in museums and galleries around the world.

For more information on Puget Sound Bird Fest, visit the festival web site at www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org.

Help for injured wildlife

(not domestic animals)

Call 24 hours a day:

Second Chance Wildlife Care Center
Snohomish, 425-335-0788

Deer Creek Wild Animal Rehab
Everett, 425-334-8171

Sarvey Wildlife Center
Arlington, 360-435-4817



PAWS

Lynwood, 425-787-2500, ext. 817

Volunteers needed

Program chair

This important volunteer plans and conducts 10 monthly program meetings per year (no meetings in August and December). The program chair is responsible for arranging a presenter, submitting the meeting announcement to the newsletter editor and publicity chair and chairing the actual meeting. Finding a speaker isn't difficult; there is a network of people with contacts and suggestions.

This position serves on the Pilchuck Audubon Society's Board which meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. This position is fun and you'll meet knowledgeable people who care about their subject and are excited to share.

For more information, please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Volunteer committee chair

This volunteer is responsible for recruiting, organizing and coordinating volunteers for various PAS activities and events. This person will work with the publicity chair and newsletter editor to promote events and volunteer opportunities.

In addition, the volunteer chair maintains a master list of PAS volunteers and conducts regular surveys of chapter membership to gain an understanding of the skill set available within our dynamic group. The volunteer chair is also responsible for scheduling and conducting regular committee meetings and training new volunteers.

This volunteer serves on the Pilchuck Audubon Society's Board which meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The position is both fun and rewarding, as it is critical to rallying the membership in support of chapter activities.

For more information, please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Database administrator and membership chair

Two important PAS volunteer positions are now open: database administrator and membership chair.

Maintaining the membership database is vital to the organization. It requires good computer skills – especially familiarity with Microsoft Word and Excel. Some database experience would be helpful, but the good news is salesforce.com donated a user-friendly software to help us. Most of the setup and customization is completed and Ileen will be available to train and help her replacement.

The membership position requires a commitment of about 10 hours per month. A membership renewal program for expired members is much needed and would probably increase the commitment to 15-20 hours per month.

It would be ideal if someone with good computer skills volunteered to take over the database and someone else volunteered to handle updating the membership information.

If you're interested or have additional questions, please contact Ileen Weber at 425.512.0760.

Vaux's Swift data exceeds expectations

By Susie Schaefer, Vice President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

Early on May 8, I took a call from Judy Alles, a very excited PAS member from Monroe. Judy and other volunteers had been counting the Swifts at Frank Wagner Elementary every night since they returned on April 16.

Judy told me she counted 21,039 swifts entering the chimney the night before. I assumed she meant 2139 and said that was a very good number.

No, she corrected, she really did mean 21,039 and went on to tell me the story of that incredible night of counting and more counting. Needless to say, this was beyond any of our wildest expectations.

Judy Alles, Leann Jacobson, Curt and Connie Young, Cathy Clark, Brian Bromster, Jim and Jerry Rettig, Dorothy Cross and a few others have been outstanding counters of our Vaux's Swift population.

The steering committee, comprised of reps from local Audubon chapters, as well as the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, has been on a fast-track learning curve because of the unexpected – but very welcome – data from the faithful counters. We have been learning about the effect of weather on roosting and use of the chimney. We have learned that all bets are off as far as the numbers of roosting swifts and the length of the migration. As of June 5, reports of more than 250 swifts coming and going were still being received.

What a spring in Monroe!

Thanks to PAS members Eileen Hambleton and Ann Dubois, a first-ever celebration of the fall migration and roosting in Monroe is being planned. Dubbed the "2008 Monroe Swift Watch," it is scheduled for Saturday, September 6. Everyone is welcome!

For two weeks following the event, we'd like to have volunteer docents available each evening. PAS members are welcome – and encouraged – to help. Swift counters will also be in demand. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

In addition, the wonderful principal of Frank Wagner Elementary, Robin Fitch, is planning an educational program. More information to come on that.

Potential docents can contact Susie Schaefer (425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@comcast.net). Volunteer counters should contact Brian Blomster at 206.790.9642. To join the committee and help on September 6, please contact Eileen Hambleton at ewhambleton@comcast.net. Leann Jacobson of Wild Birds Unlimited in Monroe can also provide additional information.

To keep up-to-date with what's happening with the swifts in Monroe, you can visit the PAS web site at www.pilchuckaudubon.org. Click on "programs."

Ferry County birding trip doesn't disappoint

By Liz and Don Healy

Over the Cascades and through the woods to Republic and Curlew we drove with Paula Parsons and Dave Bakemon. First stop was the Marblemount boat launch where we were buzzed by a loud and colorful Rufous Hummingbird. The second stop was the Winthrop sewage treatment plant to see Redheads, Wood Ducks, Violet-green Swallows and Red-winged Blackbirds – to name just a few. Third stop was the Loup Loup Campground, where we were surprised to see a black bear cub running in front us. Where was the mother?

We met Susie Schaefer outside Tonasket. It was a perfect afternoon to go four-wheeling with Misty Tacker through Dave Gladstone's 5800-acre preserve. Few birds were seen, but the vistas and terrain were impressive and Misty described the forest and range restoration projects that were taking place on the property. We did see nesting Mountain Bluebirds up close and crossbills in the distance!

About 9 p.m., we arrived in Curlew – just as the restaurant was closing, but we happily accepted their take-out clam chowder and homemade bread. We arrived John and Betty



Western tanager, by Liz and Don Healy

Davis' ranch-style home hungry and tired. All the motels in the area were full, so John and Betty graciously opened their home. It was like an "agriturismo holiday" in Italy and the family setting couldn't have been more warm and friendly. And, we were able to sit around and visit before and after meals. Thanks, John and Betty!

Saturday morning, Don and Ione McKnight invited us to hike their 80-acre homestead to see an unbelievable variety of birds. We hiked through thick forests, around ponds, through swampy areas along the river, across meadows, and finally back to their backyard feeders.

Our favorite finds included Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Snipe, Western Bluebirds, nesting Song Sparrows, Bullock's Orioles, a Northern Flying Squirrel, Western Wood-Pewee, Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, Western Tanagers, Cassin's Finches, Common Goldeneye with her babies, Common Yellowthroat, Clark's Nutcrackers, a Hammond's or Willow Flycatcher (the bird didn't sing, so we couldn't ID it positively), and we heard a Ruffed Grouse,

(See "Ferry County" on page 10)

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Congratulations to Elsie Sorgenfrei, longtime member of Pilchuck Audubon Society and persistent and caring steward of the land and water! She recently received the prestigious Seattle PI Jefferson Award.

And it is much deserved. Elsie, who has lived in near Lake Roesiger since 1960, probably knows more than about the lake than anyone else – its cycle, its fish, its health and what we need to do to protect it. Her journey started with a campaign for low-flow toilets in her neighborhood and her accomplishments include being a founding member of Adopt-A-Stream Foundation, a consistent monitor of the water quality of Lake Roesiger, the founder of the Lake Roesiger property owners association, and, well, the list of her accomplishments goes on and on.

Elsie calls me occasionally to discuss land use issues in the rural county. With more rural cluster subdivisions near her home and the threat of a fully contained community on Lake Roesiger, Elsie is concerned that the lake, the streams and creeks will become polluted.

At 85, she is still a devoted advocate for the environment. She just doesn't give in. Pilchuck Audubon Society is lucky to have her helping us fight the good fight. She, along with others, is fighting to eliminate the county's comprehensive plan regulations that would allow for fully contained communities and to reduce the density bonuses allowed in our rural areas, to prevent them from becoming urban subdivisions.

Fully contained communities: In a recent 5-3 vote, the county planning commission struck down a moratorium on fully contained communities applications requested by County Council Chair Dave Somers. Three of the planning commissioners were not present at this hearing, and it takes six votes of the commissioners to forward a recommendation to the council. The county council will have a public hearing on this moratorium – although it has not been scheduled yet.

Even so, we have a problem to overcome: the county executive is in favor of fully contained communities, so it will take four votes of the county council to prevent the executive from vetoing a council action approving a moratorium. In the last vote, only three county council members voted for the moratorium, with council member John Koster voting against and Dave Gossett absent.

Please contact council members John Koster and Dave Gossett and let them know you want them to support the moratorium. Nothing works more effectively than to hear from their constituents en masse. They can be contacted by email at john.koster@co.snohomish.wa.us and dave.gossett@co.snohomish.wa.us or by phone at 425.388.3494.

Rural cluster subdivisions: While we wait for the county council to schedule a public hearing for the unified development code (which will deal with changes to the rural cluster subdivision code) applications for rural clusters are still being filed. By the time this newsletter is distributed, the council will conduct a hearing to set Docket XIII. They will review more than 50 proposals, many of which are for urban growth area expansions and two for resource land conversions (from forest and farm land to homes).

Among those, again, is the McNaughton proposal for a rezone of rural land in the Lake Goodwin area. This proposal asks that the land – even land outside the boundaries of land owned or controlled by the McNaughton Group – be rezoned

from Rural 5 to Rural 5 Basic. This would allow 100% bonus density in rural cluster housing developments and possibly set the stage for even further proposed development.

Needless to say, Pilchuck Audubon Society will ask the county council to drop the McNaughton proposal, as well as all proposals to expand urban growth areas and resource land conversions.

Urban residential design standards: We are also waiting for the county council to schedule public hearings on changes to the unified development code. PAS member Mickie Gunderson has taken a lead role on the tree retention/replacement codes part of this update.

While Pilchuck Audubon believes the county needs a stand-alone tree ordinance for protection of large stands of trees – not only in our urban areas, but our rural areas as well – we are working with Mickie to encourage the county to adopt strong protections for large stands of trees and a replacement schedule so more trees are planted than are taken down.

If you would like more information about trees, please contact me at Kris2cam@verizon.net and I'll email you the information.

Just so you know: As most of you know, I work for two organizations here in Snohomish County: Pilchuck Audubon Society and Futurewise. Part of my job is to inform citizens of meetings and hearings pertaining to land use and environmental issues.

You can access a calendar of upcoming meeting dates on the Futurewise web site: www.futurewise.org/snohomish, under calendar. There is a link on the Pilchuck Audubon Smart Growth page, as well.

On Monday mornings at 8:45, you can hear me talk with Ed Bremer (on the Morning Show in KSER 90.7 FM) about meetings and hearings for the coming week.

And if you should receive a Futurewise Action Alert, please do what you can to respond. I forward these action alerts to our PAS members to make it easier for you to voice your opinion to our elected leaders.

Mention you're a PAS member and we'll donate a portion of your purchase back to Pilchuck Audubon Society.

Three locations to serve you:

Everett	Lake Forest Park	Monroe
4821 Evergreen Way	171 Bothell Way NE	19914 SR 2
425-252-2220	206-367-1950	360-863-9173
Mon-Sat, 10-6 Sun, noon-4	Mon-Sat, 10-6 Sun, noon-5	Mon-Sat, 9:30-6 Sun, 11-5



Wild Birds Unlimited®

Birding highlights

March 26, 2008-May 25, 2008

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

The last two months have been active with winter birds leaving and spring birds arriving. The counts are up on a number of species with the return of the **Black-headed Grosbeak**, **Hermit Thrush**, **Swainson's Thrush**, several warblers and the **Western Tanager**. First, I was surprised to see Adeline Gildow's report of 26 **Bald Eagles** at Juniper Beach in April. You would think you would have to go to Alaska to see that many **Bald Eagles** at one time. The eagles were eating a dead sturgeon that washed up.

Then there was Julie O'Donald's trip to the **Great Blue Heron** rookery in Kenmore (7346 NE Bothell Way) where she spotted 60 adults with young in the nests. The young should be out of the nests by now if you get a chance to go by there.

Carol and Larry Beason's counts were high for both months. Their total April species count from Lake Bosworth was 41 and the May count 51. April included 12 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 6 **Buffleheads**, 8 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 2 **Fox Sparrows**, 7 **Purple Finches**, 6 **Tree Swallows**, 9 **Violet-green Swallows**, 9 **American Goldfinches** and 2 **Osprey**. May's count included 12 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 7 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 3 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, 30 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings** and 2 **Swainson's Thrushes**.

Annette Colombini's lawn was crowded with 18 **American Robins** in April with most of them staying around through May. Her total April species count from her home in Marysville near the Cedar Crest Golf Course was 18. Her count included 6 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 10 **Pine Siskins**, 3 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**, a **Great Blue Heron**, a **Killdeer** and a **Spotted Towhee**. The total species count of 19 for May included 9 **American Goldfinches**, 4 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Bald Eagle**, 2 **Northern Flickers** and 2 **Tree Swallows**.

Gail Dibernardo witnessed two **Red-tailed Hawks** mating in a neighbor's tree. She also saw a **Cooper's Hawk** capture an **American Crow** in spite of the crow's family members' attempt to save it. Reporting from Brier, her total May species count of 30 included 2 **Western Tanagers**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Townsend's Warbler**, 2 **Wilson's Warblers**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, 6 **Black-capped Chickadees**, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, 2 **Brown Creepers**, 4 **American Robins**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds** and 2 **Violet-green Swallows**.

Hilkka Egtvedt reported 30 species for April and 32 for May from her home in Mukilteo. The **White-crowned Sparrows** are still singing in her yard - with 3 reported in April. Also reported were 6 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, 11 **Bushtits**, 2 **Common Ravens** (flying over), 3 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, a **Mourning Dove**, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** and 3 **Violet-green Swallows**. Her May count included a **Barred Owl**, 8 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 7 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Evening Grosbeaks**, an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, and, unfortunately, 3 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**.



Pileated Woodpecker, by Becky Spiker



Evening Grosbeak, by Annette Colombini

Kriss Erickson enjoyed a family of **Mallards** in her Everett yard in May. Her April species count of 23 included 16 **American Coots** (near Lowell), a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and a **Double-crested Cormorant** (near Lowell), 13 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 11 **American Goldfinches**, 20 **European Starlings**, 8 **Western Gulls** (along Lowell), 4 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 8 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Wood Ducks** and a **Merlin**. The May count of 13 added 8 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, 2 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers** and the 2 adult **Mallards** with 18 chicks.

Adeline Gildow's April species count of 29 from her Camano Island home included the 26 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Ring-necked Pheasant**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 7 **American Goldfinches**, 15 **Bushtits**, a **Belted Kingfisher**, about 600 **Snow Geese** in a field near Conway, 6 **Great Blue Herons** on Juniper Flats and a nesting **Osprey** at Warm Beach.

Reporting from Lake Stevens, Verna Hisey's total species count of 15 for April included 14 **House Sparrows**, a **Hairy Woodpecker**, 5 **Steller's Jays**, 5 **Black-capped Chickadees**, a **Mountain Chickadee**, 5 **Dark-eyed Juncos** and 2 **Red-winged Blackbirds**. Her May count of 11 included 3 **American Robins**, a **Bald Eagle**, 2 **Rock Doves**, 7 **American Crows** and 2 **Northern Flickers**.

A **Vaux's Swift** topped Shelia and Michael Hubers's report for May. From Machias, their April report listed 4 **Varied Thrushes**, a **Fox Sparrow**, 14 **Pine Siskins**, 3 **Mourning**

(See "Birding Highlights" on page 8)

Birding highlights ...

(continued from page 7)

Doves, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Band-tailed Pigeon, 4 Northern Flickers, a Red-breasted Sapsucker and a Golden-crowned Sparrow for a total species count of 23. May's species count of 26 listed 9 American Goldfinches, 5 American Robins, 5 Violet-green Swallows, 4 Rufous Hummingbirds, 5 Black-headed Grosbeaks, a Red-tailed Hawk and the Vaux's Swift.

The Western Screech Owl is still in the trees at Julie O'Donald's Brier home. Her April report listed the Western Screech Owl, a Barred Owl, 2 Bewick's Wrens, a Brown Creeper, 4 California Quail, 3 Golden-crowned Kinglets, a Killdeer, a Winter Wren and a Red-tailed Hawk for a total species count of 30. May's species count of 29 was topped with her first sighting of a Black-headed Grosbeak. Also listed were 4 Great-Blue Herons, a Hermit Thrush, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, 2 Violet-Green swallows, a Wilson's Warbler and 4 Red-breasted Nuthatches.

Mary Sinker spotted another Snowy Owl at the Pilchuck Tree Farm in April. Reporting from Stanwood, her April count of 36 included 18 American Goldfinches, 9 Downy Woodpeckers, 18 Evening Grosbeaks, 2 Great-horned Owls in her yard, 4 Hairy Woodpeckers, a Brown Creeper and 3 Rufous Hummingbirds. May's count of 39 included 21 Band-tailed Pigeons, 12 Black-capped Chickadees, 24 Canada Geese, 2 Cedar Waxwings, a Great Blue Heron, 2 Killdeer, 14 Dark-eyed Juncos and 2 Red-tailed Hawks.

Welcome back, Dick Vanderhoff. Dick has volunteered to join our bird-sighting group. His April report from Stanwood includes 3 Bald Eagles, 3 Evening Grosbeaks, 15 Steller's Jays, 10-15 Ringed-billed Gulls at Kayak Point, 50+ Surf Scoters and 20 Common Murres at Port Susan Bay and 2 adult and 1 immature Pileated Woodpeckers for a total species count of 26. His May report of 32 species includes 20 Black-capped Chickadees, 3 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 6 Killdeer, a Belted Kingfisher, 2 Great Blue Herons, 5 Black-headed Grosbeaks and a juvenile Red Crossbill.

Darlene Walker was still seeing Snow Geese in April with 400 reported at Leque Island. Her Camano Island home was



Cedar Waxwings, courting, by Minette Layne



Rufous Hummingbird, by Becky Spiker



White-crowned sparrow, with lunch, by Annette Colombini

pretty busy also with 20 Pine Siskins, 15 American Crows, 8 Fox Sparrows, 3 Brown-headed Cowbirds (they seem to be everywhere), 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Common Tern and 6 Common Goldeneyes for a total species count of 29. Her yard was busy in May also with 4 Bald Eagles, 8 Violet-green Swallows, 30 American Goldfinches, 6 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 2 Brewer's Blackbirds, 6 Purple Finches, 4 White-crowned Sparrows and 6 Fox Sparrows for a total species count of 36.

My April species count of 26 from Marysville included 8 American Robins, 15 California Quail (the number dropped to 8 in May), 5 Dark-eyed Juncos, a Barred Owl on the suet feeder, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, a Hermit Thrush, a Bufflehead (in the catch basin near the Y) and 12 House Finches. May was a little busier with 28 species that included 5 American Goldfinches, 8 Evening Grosbeaks, 8 Black-headed Grosbeaks, a Great Blue Heron checking out the pond, 6 Pine Siskins, 10+ Tree Swallows, a Golden-crowned Sparrow and 3 Brown-headed Cowbirds.

I witnessed something I thought was unusual. An American Crow took down a House Sparrow outside the YMCA in Marysville. It proceeded to kill it and then flew off with the dead bird in its beak. I knew they eat bird eggs, but I was not aware they ate birds, too.

Jim Peterson from Granite Falls sent an email in April reporting his first sighting of a male Calliope Hummingbird. He also reported seeing more Evening Grosbeaks than he has seen in years.

I also received an email from Chuck Briggs and Riitta Kivirinta from Lake Kayak in Monroe with a list of 53 bird species covering March and April. The list included 20 Band-tailed Pigeons, 10 Black-capped Chickadees, 20 Evening Grosbeaks, a Golden Eagle, 3 Osprey, 4 Pileated Woodpeckers, a Swainson's Thrush, 6 Wilson's Snipe, 6 Violet-green Swallows, 12 Varied Thrushes and 13 Wood Ducks. It's really an amazing list for one area.

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 pricemara@clearwire.net.

Ferry County ...

(continued from page 5)

which sounded like a John Deere tractor. And if 60 species or so on their property weren't enough, Don and Ione escorted us to Republic to see Red Crossbills, plus Black-chinned and Calliope hummingbirds!

Just outside of town, at Mud Lake, we parked the car in front of some reeds and out swam several red fuzz balls following their parents – Coots and more Coots. How "coot" they were! Ruddy Ducks, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Gadwalls, Shovelers, and Scaups all put on a show during our lunch.

The last bird expedition of the day was to Lee Johnson's 80 acres to see the Three-toed Woodpecker. Unfortunately, the woodpeckers didn't show. Lee figured the female was incubating eggs and thus was not flying.

But, he did point out Black Terns swooping and diving into a marshy pond outside his log cabin. Lee has been working to rehabilitate his property for 30 years. While he led us on the walk, he detailed his



Red Crossbill, by Liz and Don Healy



Common Goldeneye and babies, by Liz and Don Healy

efforts and entertained us with stories of the checkered pasts of previous owners.

We left Lee's place, and on our return to John and Betty's home, we did view the Lewis' Woodpeckers near the Curlew Bridge. A perfect finale to our day!

Sunday, Dee Vixie and Peter Lawrence joined our group for a trip to Beaver, Bonaparte and Lost lakes. Our favorites there: a Hooded Merganser and babies, more Black Terns skimming and diving, Western Tanagers, Blue-winged Teals, Spotted Sandpipers and a pair of Common Loons.

Residents there informed us that the Bald Eagles beat us to the baby loons. But the adult loons were amazing to watch – swimming, diving and then surfacing up to 100 yards away.

A big thank you to Susie for organizing a fantastic trip. Also to Paula, Dave, John, Betty, Don, Ione, Lee, Dee, Peter and Susie for being such excellent company.

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