

Pilchuck Audubon Profile



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Cooperative effort will save osprey nest sites

By Bob Sindelar, PAS Publicity Chair



Two osprey nests atop pilings in Union Slough, Everett, by Annette Colombini

Thanks to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), eco-friendly landowners and a lot of community support, five pairs of osprey will have new homes next spring.

Ospreys are among our largest raptors and spend spring and summer nesting in the north, then migrate to Latin America for fall and winter. The Port Gardner Bay area is home to the largest saltwater nesting colony on the west coast.

The osprey's main source of food is fish, and they most often nest on shoreline structures such as pilings and utility poles. Many of these nesting poles are being lost to deterioration from saltwater and marine borer attack. Unless these sites are replaced soon, the nesting colony could be lost.

Fortunately, the ospreys had a champion in Ed Schulz, local enthusiast and osprey researcher. He has committed himself to studying and advocating for them for 15 years. His dedication has evolved from simply watching and photographing them to building nesting platforms, banding ospreys, and, three years ago, spurring PAS to undertake a demonstration project to replace five of the most seriously deteriorated sites with solid new nest pillars and platforms.

As the project got underway, support poured in from the community. Five concrete piles to house the nesting platforms were donated by Concrete Technology of Tacoma. The piles, each 65 feet long and weighing 15 tons, were stored for free by Ed Rubatino at Shadow Development in Everett, while the rest of the project evolved. A \$10,000 grant from Boeing, an \$8000 grant from the county and \$5000 from PAS member

(See "Ospreys" on page 9)

Nov. program meeting – Fri., Nov. 14, 7 p.m.

Birds of the Bering Sea and Nome, by Ray White

Ray, PAS member and skilled travel photographer, will share his photos and knowledge of Alaska.

**Note new location
(through the end of the year):**

Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett
See map on back page.

For more information, call 425.252.0926

No program meeting in December.

**Watch www.pilchuckaudubon.org
for the most up-to-date information!**

Place seed orders by November 12

Pilchuck Audubon's twice-yearly birdseed sale is fast approaching. The sale, which also serves as a fundraiser for PAS, is scheduled for November 14 and 15.

Here's how it works: First, call Art Wait (360.563.0181) before noon on November 12 to place your order.

The seed order will be delivered to Art's house in Snohomish by noon on November 14. If you make prior arrangements with Art, you can pick up your order on Friday afternoon at his house. Otherwise, you'll need to pick up your order between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, November 15, at the Everett Transit Center parking lot.

All orders and arrangements for pick up must be made directly with Art.

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Having spent my working life as a salesman and a sales manager, I can say unequivocally that salesmen have one saving virtue: optimism. Without optimism, the daily rejection salesmen face would make it impossible to get out of bed in the morning. Politics is no different. A case could be made that optimism is a political act. Entrenched interests sow seeds of despair, confusion and apathy to prevent change. The status quo would like us to believe the issues of the day are too complex to allow even the possibility of change. I've come to understand it is a political act to sow the seed of mistrust among those who would rule.

I'm reminded of something Machiavelli wrote. Tyrants don't care if they're hated, as long as those under them do not love one another. Machiavelli understood politics from a cynical point of view because it advances the desires of the powerful.

Optimism is not silent. Optimists change things. When no one believes there is a better solution, those who benefit from the status quo are safe. When no one believes in the possibility of action, apathy becomes an insurmountable obstacle.

But, when people believe a better future can be built, that solutions are at hand and that action is possible, they create a glue that binds us together to challenge the status quo.

As members of PAS, we are fortunate to be an organization of optimists. Of the 26 Washington Audubon Chapters, Pilchuck is the only chapter to fund a Smart Growth program. Our Smart Growth Director, Kristin Kelly, has faced her share of rejection attempting to convince the past pro-development county council to address environmental concerns in their

decisions. Kristy is optimistic that the current county council's pro-environment make-up will address an anti-environment status quo that has done harm to rural Snohomish County.

Currently, Kristy is challenging the status quo of pro-development codes that allow Fully Contained Communities and Rural Cluster Subdivisions to utilize rural land for sprawl. Kristy is actively pursuing a moratorium on Fully Contained Communities. She is also involved with the county planning department as it re-examines policies that guide growth in our rural areas.

The ultimate optimist Kristy is not silent. And because of the support of our optimistic membership, she is changing the status quo. And that's a good thing.

Program to be rescheduled

Many of you are aware we were unable to hold our program meeting on Friday, October 10, due to problems accessing the Firefighters Hall. We realize it was a disappointment and inconvenience to a number of people – and we sincerely apologize. The problems have been resolved and the November meeting will go on as scheduled November 14.

October 10 was a chilly night to be left standing outside and we know you were looking forward to the information on the Ospreys and Community Wildlife Sanctuaries. The program will be rescheduled for early 2009. Again, we apologize for the inconvenience.

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 Wednesday 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

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Trip calendar

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

Sunday, November 2 Larabee State Park, Bellingham

Meet at 7 a.m. at 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'll hike the Fragrance Lake Loop Trail, uphill through coastal forest. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Tuesday, November 4 Everett waterfront

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Legion Park off West Marine View Drive, Everett. A relaxed, easy trip that proceeds south along the waterfront, sometimes all the way to Mukilteo. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tuesday, Nov. 11 Reifel Migratory Bird Refuge, BC

Meet at 7 a.m. at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. The refuge is in Canada, on Westham Island, at the mouth of the Fraser River. Expect waterfowl underfoot and chickadees and nuthatches fed in the hand, plus surprise species. Bring two pieces of ID: driver's license, original birth certificate, or your passport. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, November 18

South Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Eastmont Park and Ride, I5 exit 189, east side. We'll aim for the 8 a.m. ferry from Mukilteo. Crockett Lake always yields a large and varied species list and the rest of South Whidbey is great birding. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028

Tuesday, November 25

Samish Flats

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. Let's look for waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds and raptors in this world-reknown birding locale. Bring snacks. This trip will be shortened due to Thursday's holiday.

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 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.

Plan ahead for 2008 Christmas Bird Count

Holiday parties, snowmen, pretty lights ... and counting birds! Don't forget, to a lot of Auduboners, the holidays are synonymous with the Christmas Bird Count. Each year, Pilchuck Audubon participates in two Christmas counts - one each in the north and south areas of the county.

Both counts take place between mid-December and early January. Our count areas are the same each year and are divided up so a number of teams can cover the area.

We need lots of volunteers and birders of all levels are welcome. At the end of the day, we'll gather for a potluck to compile the numbers.

Teams are also encouraged to go owling early in the morning or in the evening after the potluck. Feeder and backyard counts are also helpful.

The north county count is scheduled for Saturday, December 20. So, before your calendar is filled with trips, parties and shopping, please set that date aside.

If you're interested in participating in the north county count, contact Mary Teesdale (meteesdale@hotmail.com) or Scott Atkinson (scottratkinson@hotmail.com) for more information.

The south county count will be Saturday, December 27. Please contact Jan Van Niel for more information: 425.778.7568 or sjvanniel@comcast.net.

Watch for more information in next month's *Profile* or on the PAS web site: www.pilchuckaudubon.org.

Volunteers needed!

Volunteer committee chair

This volunteer is responsible for recruiting, organizing and coordinating volunteers for various PAS activities and events.

In addition, the volunteer chair maintains a master list of PAS volunteers and conducts surveys of the membership to gain an understanding of the skill set available from our group. The 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.

Secretary

This important volunteer serves as an officer on the PAS Executive Committee, attends Board and Executive Committee meetings, takes minutes at the meetings, compiles and distributes the minutes and files them in order to maintain an historical record of PAS business.

This volunteer serves on the Pilchuck Audubon Society's Board which meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

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

Birding in the BC Outback: Part 3

By Virginia Clark, with assists from Wilma Bayes and Margaret Bridge

(Editor's note: This is the third in a multi-part chronicle of a trip to BC by "three intrepid birdwatchers." We're lucky to get to ride along!)

Day 3: Bug spray in abundance and a lifer for all

On Monday, we headed for Quesnel. First, we returned to Scout Island. We hoped to see a White Pelican or two, since we'd seen four from a distance on Sunday.

Luck was really with us on this trip. Next to the Red-necked Grebes, we found a pair of White Pelicans. The grebes had their babies hunkered down on the nest, which made us wonder: Do pelicans have a taste for baby grebes?

We spent most of the day on a long stretch of gravel road west of the Fraser River, stopping many times. We saw oodles of Mountain Bluebirds, and ate lunch on the side of the road while watching a Northern Harrier.

On that same stretch of road, we got really close looks at Eastern and Western Kingbirds. Through the scope, we watched a Sharp-shinned Hawk eat a Tree Swallow. It was a fresh kill, and we could still see the whole bird.

I don't know why, but it seemed that every time we stopped for a potty break, we would find a great bird. On this day, we pulled into a side road for an emergency potty stop. Lo and behold, we heard a buzzy call and found a Clay-colored Sparrow (a lifer for all three of us)!



White Pelicans, by Patty Bruno

We arrived in Quesnel, and met up with Don. So no one had to squeeze into the back seat of the pickup, I rode with Don on our way to the cabin. Wilma called it the road to nothingness; it was wild and beautiful in its own way.

The sad part is that the pine beetles have killed thousands of acres of pine trees. After a couple of hours of driving on mostly gravel roads, we arrived at the log cabin. The minute we got out of the trucks, it was the attack of the mighty Canadian mosquito!

The cabin was very rustic, but warm and cozy with the woodstove going, and well equipped with a propane stove and refrigerator. You know the mosquitoes are bad when you find samples of 10 different repellents lined up on the window sill. Perhaps it was some scientific experiment to determine the most effective brand?

My bedroom was a little dark corner with a blue tarp wall. Margaret slept in the loft and had to climb up and down a squeaky attic ladder. The trail to the outhouse wasn't too long and you got used to the cold water.

Monday evening's outhouse sound was a grouse drumming!

To be continued ...

Malheur birding trip planned for 2009

Reserve your spot for a 10-day birding adventure to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Oregon. The trip is planned for May 15-24, 2009, and is limited to 15 people.

Among the birds you might see: Ferruginous Hawks, Sandhill Cranes, Black-and-white Warblers, Lesser Goldfinches, Great Horned Owls, Clark's Grebes, Bobolinks and many more.

Plus, you'll visit the state park and observatory in Goldendale, the Painted Hills and Fossil Bed Monument in central Oregon,

the High Desert Museum near Bend and, of course, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. You'll be staying in motels for the entire trip - including one with a hot spring.

More information regarding accommodations and fees will come in the coming months. But, you can surely expect great birding and photography on this trip.

If you're interested, contact Bill Lider to get your name on the list: 425.776.0674 or bill.lider@verizon.net.

Edmonds native plant garden update

Plans for a native plant demonstration garden in Edmonds are still underway. The garden will be developed on the grounds of the Willow Creek Hatchery across the street from the ferry toll booth. The site will require removal of non-native and invasive plants before planting can begin next spring and summer.

The grant application will be resubmitted in November and preliminary work (such as blackberry removal) should begin in



Virginia Strawberry, photo courtesy the Washington Native Plant Society

December. A number of citizens signed up to help at a meeting this past June.

By next summer, we are optimistic we'll be well on our way to making this important demonstration garden a reality.

For more information or to join our group, please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165.

Classroom awards received with enthusiasm

By Philip Zalesky

Preparations are underway for the third annual PAS Teacher Conservation Awards to be given out again this year to elementary teachers. Ten teachers in Snohomish County will be given an award of \$250 for conservation teaching projects.

The goal of the program is to instill in elementary school students the need to conserve and protect our natural resources. Teachers are judged on how well the science/conservation activities they propose meet these goals.

The feedback from teachers speaks to the success of the awards. Some awards benefit the community, as well.

Martin Boyle, teacher and administrator in the one-room school in Index, has his students working on a nature trail at the beginning of the recently acquired Heybrook Ridge Trail. This trail also borders on another new acquisition – The Wild Sky Wilderness Area.

The award to Dolly Gamlyn, fourth-grade teacher at Woodside Elementary, enabled her students to raise and care for butterflies in the study of their lifecycles.



Teacher Kathi McDonald models her bird-themed socks after receiving her classroom grant from Don Healy

Kathi McDonald, third-grade teacher from Penny Creek Elementary, enthusiastically exclaimed by email: "THANK YOU for granting us this money. My grant for the nature journals, colored pencils and field guides was fantastic. My students' entries are showing they were really paying attention to plants, bugs and birds. Several listed their nature journals as part of their 'Summer Learning Plans,' too."

Also from Penny Creek came a combination history and science lesson. As Janice Northrop's fifth-grade class studied the Lewis and Clark expedition, they looked up the plants the explorers found and planted them in the front of the building.

Please encourage elementary teachers you know to apply for the award. The more teachers we can encourage means that more students are being involved in nature and conservation.

You can support this worthy endeavor by making a donation to the Teacher Conservation Award. Please send it to PAS, Carolyn Lacy, Treasurer, 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290.

Puget Sound Bird Festival earns high praise

By Susie Schaefer, Vice President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

Thanks to the PAS volunteers who worked to make this year's Puget Sound Bird Fest a big success. The weather and the birds cooperated and attendees gave the festival high marks.

The speaker on Friday was Bart Rulon whose work includes photography and paintings. Saturday's events began early, thanks to volunteer captains from the Edmonds Yacht Club and guides from PAS. Birders on the water saw more birds than ever. Highlights included Western Grebes, Phalaropes, numerous seabirds and ducks – even a Brown Pelican.

Birders who took advantage of guided walks in Yost Park, Woodway Reserve, Land's Gulch and the Edmonds Marsh were treated to fabulous birds such as three Barred Owls, a Snipe and mixed flocks of migrating passerines.

On Saturday night, Bird Fest participants were treated to a wonderful show by the Vaux's Swifts in Monroe.

The onsite activities included a presentation (with live birds!) by Sarvey Wildlife Center, as well as a variety of outstanding speakers, family activities and a birding market place.

On Sunday, Edmonds residents and visitors alike enjoyed a unique opportunity to visit their neighbors with certified backyard sanctuaries and learn how to make urban backyards welcoming and important places for birds and wildlife.

Thanks, again, to everyone who made this year's Puget Sound Bird Fest such a success. See you next year!

Weekend hikers enjoy variety of Bird Fest

By Jonathan Blubaugh

September's weekend bird hike took on an almost urban flair as part of the Puget Sound Bird Fest. Yours truly was privileged to lead two walks – one in the morning and one in the afternoon – in Yost Park in downtown Edmonds. The pre-fest publicity and perfect weather made for the largest groups in the history of our weekend trips – more than 20 for each trip.

Yost Park is a forested ravine with a seasonal stream at the bottom. I told the group I expected we'd see small mixed flocks of passerines – and my prediction was accurate.

Although I can't find my specific trip notes, I recall we spotted Chestnut-backed and Black-capped Chickadees, as well as

robins, crows, ravens and flickers. We also heard a number of Golden-crowned Kinglets.

As we walked, the quiet of the forest was interrupted by a number of very noisy birds. The group started identifying what it heard and quickly tallied a number of species. Then one of the youngsters spotted a Barred Owl. The other birds were mobbing it. Definitely the highlight of the morning walk!

The afternoon walk was also a success, although we didn't see quite as many birds as in the morning. Next year, I'm going to suggest the Yost Park walks are extended to two hours for even more opportunities to spot wildlife.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

As I listened to the vice presidential debate, it became clear that, despite how the candidates responded to the questions (or didn't respond, as the case may be), we are facing monumental problems in our country and world. Problems that require action now.

Then, the information presented at the Green Everett Sustainability Fair made it even clearer how much we need to focus on our problems locally and change how we live and do business to solve them.

I was heartened to hear Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson speak eloquently and sincerely, abandoning his prepared speech, and echo my thoughts about the reality that we all need to live differently and make real changes to have sustainable communities and happy, successful lives.

I learned about peak oil, peak natural gas, peak uranium and peak coal. That evidence just can't be ignored. With our federal economy in the tank, it's time to act locally to make a difference. And that means doing our part to help reduce global warming impacts. Without an environment that is healthy and sustainable, what else do we really have?

There is good news among the doom and gloom which bombards us daily. We can make substantial changes by adopting different policies and regulations and employing new technologies and ways of thinking that will move us forward and protect the earth. It's time for all of us to take action!

Locally, while there are many environmental and sustainable living organizations throughout the Puget Sound region and the state, it's time to think how we can best make all these ideas work together. **We need courageous leadership to move us in that direction!**

In our region, the number-one contributor to greenhouse gases (which exacerbate the effects of global warming) is cars. In order to tackle the problem of reducing car trips, we must focus our energy and resources on development and land use practices that make getting out of the car possible.

I recently participated in Reality Check (www.reality-check2008.org). On April 30, Futurewise, ULI Seattle, Puget Sound Regional Council and other prominent organizations gathered a diverse group of stakeholders and policy leaders to this one-day, GIS-based exercise. Reality Check was designed to analyze and develop alternative growth scenarios for our growing region and to gain attention, promote understanding and galvanize action for regional planning and transportation investment to deal with the ramifications of growth in King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap counties.

From that work, consensus on important issues was actualized. Stakeholders agreed we need to build our existing cities denser, but in a way that provides amenities Washingtonians need and want and to connect those cities with a transportation network that provides alternatives for getting around besides by car.

This year, in my work for Pilchuck Audubon and Futurewise, I will work on state legislation to help make "Transit Oriented Communities" (TOCs) a reality, sooner rather than later. Washington needs TOCs – where people can live, work, shop and play without relying on a car. By encouraging the development of affordable, compact neighborhoods where people can walk, bike or take transit to access their homes,

jobs and community services, we can significantly reduce Washington's global warming pollution. The legislative proposal we will put forward will do the following:

- Address the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in advance of inclusion in the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) in 2015.
- Reduce Washington's per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and GHG emissions by reducing our dependency on single-occupancy automobiles.
- Modify the state's planning and regulatory framework to help local jurisdictions contribute to Washington's per capita VMT and GHG emission reduction targets. Provide incentives for compact, mixed-use, affordable, transit-oriented infill development to complement this approach.

State government has committed to significantly reduce GHG emissions and VMT by 2050. Further, when faced with federal inaction, Washington joined with other states and Canadian provinces in joining the WCI, creating the first regional initiative to cap emissions from all major sources of global warming pollution. While it's up to the legislature to determine exactly how Washington will participate in the WCI, we know for sure the transportation sector will not be included in the regional emissions cap until 2015.

We can't afford to wait seven years to address the transportation sector's GHG emissions because transportation accounts for roughly half of the state's GHG emissions. Emissions from the transportation sector grow every year. As long as a rise in annual VMT continues, we'll never be able to meet the state's GHG reduction targets. We need an aggressive and complementary approach to prevent our dependency on single-occupancy vehicles from becoming our dominant uncontrolled source of GHG emissions. Washington must invest now in creating land use and transportation alternatives that reduce dependency on single-occupancy vehicles.

There is growing demand to change the way our communities are built. **By enabling and investing in compact, transit-oriented communities, Washington can reduce its VMT by 15% by 2020, reducing our GHG emissions by 20.8 MMTCO₂e. The sooner we start, the more Washingtonians will have an opportunity to live in a healthy, safe, affordable and vibrant community.**

To do this, we must create transit-oriented communities, which will accomplish the following:

Encourage urban jurisdictions to contribute to state VMT reduction goals. If urban regional transportation planning organizations (RTPOs) are accountable for meeting a portion of the adopted per capita VMT reduction targets, they'll need to adopt strategies to meet those targets. Cities and counties within the jurisdiction of the RTPOs should play a role in helping meet any VMT reduction goals set for the region.

Encourage local jurisdictions to consider climate change in their growth management planning. Require local communities to include reduced greenhouse gas emissions in their comprehensive plans by modifying the environmental goal of the GMA to include climate change. Adopt measures to increase walking, biking and transit use throughout the urban growth area.

(See "Smart Growth" on page 8)

Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

August 26, 2008–September 25, 2008

September seemed like a transition month for bird species. **Cedar Waxwings** made appearances throughout the county, as did **Evening Grosbeaks**. The number of **Pine Siskins** is on the rise and the **Dark-eyed Juncos** are back.

I did have one email concerning unhealthy crows in Snohomish. Lucy Harrison reported crows in her area looking sick, thin and missing a lot of feathers. She has seen them in Lake Stevens, as well. I am wondering if any one else has had the same experience with crows?

Carol and Larry Beason reported 37 **American Crows** flying over their property near Lake Bosworth. Their total species count of 40 also included 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, a **Hammond's Flycatcher**, an **Osprey**, 42 **Pine Siskins**, 3 female **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 9 **Barn Swallows**, 6 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **Hutton's Vireos**, 3 **Wilson's Warblers** and 2 **Western Tanagers**.

Gail Debernardo spotted a **Western Kingbird** in her neighbor's tree in Brier. The **Western Kingbird** is usually found in eastern Washington, not in the Puget Sound. She also reported a **Cooper's Hawk**, a **Brown Creeper**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 6 **Black-capped Chickadees**, a **Northern Flicker**, a **Bald Eagle**, 6 **Bushtits**, a **Great Blue Heron** flying over and 2 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** for a total species count of 22.

Hilkka Egtvedt was away for the reporting period, but a friend completed her report and did a very nice job. Her total species count of 25 from Mukilteo included 9 **American Goldfinches**, 11 **Band-Tailed Pigeons**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 7 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 11 **California Quail**, a **Common Raven**, 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 10 **Pine Siskins**, 10 **Steller's Jays** and a **Swainson's Thrush** and **Western Tanager** that sadly hit the window.

Cedar Waxwings topped Kriss Erickson's report from Everett. She reported 17 in her yard along with a **Horned Lark**, 3 **Barn Swallows** and 4 **Violet-green Swallows** flying over, 6 **Western Gulls**, 12 **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Hairy** and **Downy woodpeckers**, a **Bewick's Wren**, a **Lincoln's Sparrow** and 8 **Bushtits** for a total species count of 20.

Adeline Gildow reported at least 25 early **Snow Geese** flying over Camano Island. Her total species count of 30 included 11 **American Goldfinches**, 24 **Canada Geese**, a **Common Loon**, 3 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **Great Blue Herons**, about 200 **Dunlin** flying over and on the beach, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 10 **Killdeer** along the beach and a **Ring-necked Pheasant** on Juniper Road.



Red-breasted Nuthatch, by Minette Layne



Killdeer, by Annette Colombini



California Quail, by Minette Layne

Verna Hisey is still having problems with feral cats in her yard at Lake Stevens. Her total species count was only 6. She reported 12 **House Sparrows**, a **Bald Eagle**, 5 **American Crows**, 3 **Steller's Jays**, 5 **Black-capped Chickadees** and 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**.

Reporting from Brier, Julie O'Donald had a total species count of 24. Her list included 2 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 12 **Bushtits**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, a **Killdeer**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, a **Townsend's Warbler** and a **Wilson's Warbler**.

Mary Sinker is happy to report the second sighting of a life list bird: the **Northern Saw-whet Owl**. Her total species count of 32 from Stanwood also included 3 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 5 **Pine Siskins**, 12 **American Goldfinches**, 9 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, a **Great Horned Owl**, 3 **Killdeer**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** and a **Veery**.

Dick Vanderhoff's report from Stanwood was a little shorter this month with a total species count of 9. He listed 25 **Bonaparte Gulls** along the beach, 2 juvenile **Downy Woodpeckers** on his deck, an **Anna's Hummingbird**, 9 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, a **Red-tailed Hawk**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 10 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** and 2 **Winter Wrens**.

More **Pine Siskins** at Darlene Walker's Camano Island home with 16 reported. Her total species count of 24 also included 12 **American Crows**, 8 **American Goldfinches**, 4 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 8 **Fox Sparrows**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 10 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**, a **Common Loon**, 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, 3 **Killdeer** and 2 **Northern Flickers**.

The **California Quail** have made a strong comeback in my yard with 16 sighted at one time. My total species count of 24 from Marysville also included a **Cooper's Hawk**, 2 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 11 **Evening Grosbeaks** on the feeders and in the yard, 15 **House Finches**, 4 **Red-tailed Hawks** overhead, a **Great-Horned Owl** in the woods, 10 **Cedar Waxwings** around the pond (just stopping over after eating berries), 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 4 **Steller's Jays** and a **Yellow Warbler** at the pond.

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

Take a few "swift" breaths, get ready for spring

By Susie Schaefer, Vice President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

As of mid-October, Vaux's Swifts are still showing up nightly in varying numbers in Monroe. All our books and other natural history information indicate the swifts have completed their migratory stops and are headed to Central and even South America.

What a year it's been! In September 2007, PAS and Eastside Audubon participated in a combined field trip to see the Vaux's Swifts at Frank Wagner Elementary in Monroe and learned the chimney was at risk.

Since then, members from PAS, Eastside and Seattle Audubon chapters have made countless additional trips to Monroe – and spent a lot of time with the amazing swifts.

We also started meeting with Ken Hoover, Superintendent of the Monroe School District, and are working together to come up with a solution that would save the chimney, but also protect the students.

It seems like only yesterday we received the e-mail from Robin Fitch, Frank Wagner Elementary's principal, telling us the swifts had arrived. That was April!

We weren't quite ready for nightly counts and reporting. But, led by our resident swift expert, Larry Schwitters, we somehow managed to do a great job counting, observing and

learning about the Vaux's Swifts for nearly eight weeks in spring and early summer.

After great community education at the big festival on September 6, the nightly counters and docents, a full school assembly and a ton of amazing publicity by Bob Sindelar, we think we have accomplished a major goal and that most everyone in the area has fallen in love with the little Vauxies.

Judy Alles has been crowned Queen of the Counters, while Eileen Hambleton gets our vote for Community Organizer of the Year.

Of course, our work continues with structural analysis and actual work to strengthen the chimney, as well as fundraising to pay for it. This winter, we hope to further analyze the mountains of data we've collected to add to the existing body of knowledge about these birds.

We will also take a few deep breaths and get ready for the spring migration.

Be sure to visit the PAS web site (www.pilchuckaudubon.org) and click on "programs" to follow our progress. Or, better yet, get involved in this ongoing and worthwhile project.

Swift docent "amazed" by the tiny birds

By Jane Wright

I had the good fortune to read about the fall migration of the Vaux's Swifts (aka the Monroe Swifts) and become a Swift Watch docent.

It turned out to be an amazing experience. When you first see the swifts gathering over the Frank Wagner chimney, you can't imagine they will all fit in there. It's mesmerizing to watch them swirl around in groups, scoping out the area, snapping up the last meal of the night before tucking into the chimney in dramatic fashion.

What amazed me most was that while it was the same event each evening, it was still a completely different experience. Each night, the numbers of swifts varied. Each swarm of swifts behaved differently depending on how many young birds were in the flock or the presence of distractions such as crows, Sharp-shinned Hawks, Merlin – even airplanes affect-

ed how and when the birds swooped into the chimney. When it was sunny and warm, they tended to stay out until the very last minute. When it was rainy and cold, they would start heading in before the docents or counters arrived at 6 p.m.

The community turned out in great numbers to see the birds. The Swift Night Out on September 6 attracted 800 folks with blankets, picnics, cameras and spotting scopes. They continued to come all month long – ranging from just a few on the cool rainy evenings to more than 200 on the nice warm ones.

I had a great time meeting and talking to people who were interested in the swifts. If you're interested in observing the swifts and educating the community about them, I'd highly recommend becoming a docent next year. It's a lot of fun!

Smart Growth ...

(continued from page 6)

Create and encourage transit-oriented development (TOD). TOD should be required in high-capacity transit station areas and encouraged in urban growth areas in centers planned for intense development and along transit corridors with frequent service. Additionally, there should be incentives for local governments to zone for and developers to construct transit-oriented communities.

Strengthen the existing GMA requirements to provide housing for all income groups. Require that centers and areas near transit stations include housing for those income levels likely to be employed in the center or accessible by a half-hour

transit ride. Clarify that all housing plans must be implemented through effective development regulations and incentives.

Invest in solutions. The state must make a robust investment in transit-oriented communities and alternative modes of transportation. Additionally, the state should reprioritize its infrastructure spending to projects that help it meet its GHG emission reduction targets and VMT reduction goals.

I believe people cause their own problems, and only people can and must solve them. Join with me to work for the future of our planet.

Ospreys ...

(continued from page 1)

donations was secured to cover installation costs. Permit documents were prepared, pro bono, by Parsons Brinckerhoff.

However, installation bids came in higher than anticipated. Additional grants necessary to complete the project were not available, and the Osprey Project appeared doomed. "Being persistent can sometimes pay off," said Bill Lider, PAS member and Osprey Project Manager. "The Tulalip Tribes came to the project's rescue; they happily agreed to have nesting piles placed on their Port Gardner Bay property."

With sites lined up, DNR staff worked on the financial feasibility. They came up with a way to incorporate the installation of the osprey nest piles with their own project to remove creosote-treated pilings in Port Gardner and Tulalip bays. As a result, the overall Cedar Grove Compost mobilization costs were amortized over both projects. Four piles will be installed on mudflats owned by the Tulalip Tribes and one will be installed on mudflats owned by Cedar Grove. PAS will contribute \$23,000 toward the installation. The project should be completed by mid-February, 2009.

Said project manager Lider: "When our ospreys return to Snohomish County in March, at least five pairs will find brand new platforms on which to build their nests."

"With the successful completion of this demonstration project," Lider continued, "we hope other property owners will allow future replacement of existing osprey nest piles on their property, and that we're able to garner additional funds and in-kind donations to give our local osprey colony a more substantial and sustainable home in Snohomish County."

Nov. program meeting – Fri., Nov. 14, 7 p.m.

Birds of the Bering Sea and Nome, by Ray White

Ray, PAS member and skilled travel photographer, will share his photos and knowledge of Alaska.

Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett



We're pleased to be able to use the Firefighters Hall for the remainder of 2008. It's a fine facility in a great location. We do need volunteers to help clean up after program meetings. If you're able, please lend a hand.

For more information, call 425.252.0926

Watch www.pilchuckaudubon.org
for the most up-to-date information!

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 (10 issues) to Pilchuck Audubon Society's *Profile* newsletter. Cost is \$25. A special limited income category is also available for \$16.

Local PAS membership

- New member\$25
- Renewal\$25
- Lifetime PAS member..... \$1000
 - 10 monthly payments of \$100
 - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
 - 1 payment of \$1000
- Donation..... \$ _____

Make check payable to:
Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
PAS, Colleen Weber, Membership Chair
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290

NAS membership

(includes PAS membership)

- Introductory membership \$20

Make check payable to:
National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
PAS, Colleen Weber, Membership Chair
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290

NAS renewal

(includes PAS renewal)

- Renewal \$35

Make check payable to:
National Audubon Society

Mail your check and this form to:
NAS, Membership Data Center
POB 52529
Boulder, CO 80322-2529

- I'd like to save PAS money and read the *Profile* on the web at www.pilchuckaudubon.org. Please don't mail it to me. I've included my email address at right so you can let me know when each issue is available.
- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.
- I am interested in the Conservation Committee.

Name: _____

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Email: _____