

Pilchuck Audubon Profile



Published by Pilchuck Audubon Society Volume 35, Number 8 October 2008

Vaux's Swifts put on a really big show



Some of 12,000+ Vaux's Swifts in Monroe on Sept. 6, by Annette Colombini

The Vaux's Swifts must have known September 6 was a special day. They must have known the local Audubon chapters – PAS, Seattle and Eastside – along with PAWS and the Department of Fish and Wildlife were counting on them to put on a big show. They must have known Monroe Mayor Donnetta Walser had proclaimed it "Vaux's Swift Day."

Why? Because the 800 folks who spread out on blankets and lawn chairs for the Monroe Swift Watch at Frank Wagner Elementary School got quite a performance. That night, volunteer counters tallied more than 12,000 Vaux's Swifts swirling, dancing and finally dropping into the old brick chimney to roost.

The fabulous and successful event was organized by a committee of dedicated swift-loving volunteers, led by Eileen Hambleton. The evening included an informative and entertaining lecture by local swift expert, Larry Schwitters, along with booths, prizes and games. Volunteer docents helped educate the crowd while dedicated counters were kept busy by the steady stream of birds.

The Swift Watch continued nightly through September 21, with docents and counters on hand each evening. Each night's bird count is available on the PAS web site. Go to www.pilchuckaudubon.org and click on "programs" and then "swifts."

But, the work on behalf of these amazing birds is not finished yet. A plan to save the chimney and make it safe for the students is still in the works. The three local Audubon chapters requested a grant through the Toyota/Audubon program. But, the competition was overwhelming and the

October program meeting – Fri., Oct. 11, 7 p.m.

Port Gardner Bay Osprey update, by Mike Blackbird and Bill Lider

The latest on the plan for pilings for our local Ospreys.

Community Wildlife Certification Program, by PAS's new Program Chair, Laura Harvell Spehar

Laura will discuss the program, currently in process on Camano Island and in Edmonds. It's an exciting opportunity for communities, birds and other wildlife.

**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

November program meeting

Birds of the Bering Sea and Nome, by photographer Ray White

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

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

request was not granted. So, we'll soon be teaming up for some serious fundraising to save what's believed to be the second most popular roosting site on the west coast.

Many thanks to Larry and everyone who filed Vaux's Swift reports, as well as all the faithful counters in Monroe. Thanks to you, we have an unprecedented amount of data to analyze before the swifts return in the spring.

Be sure to check the PAS web site and www.vauxhappening.org for ongoing news.

In this issue

President's message2	The BC Outback.....5
Trip calendar3	2009 Malheur trip5
Help wanted3	Smart Growth report6
Weekend trip report4	Birding highlights.....7

President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Three years ago, when PAS committed to a demonstration project to preserve the biggest Osprey nesting population on the west coast, we understood it was ambitious. And, like all worthy goals, there would curves in the road to success.

But, being an eternal optimist, I expected there was no obstacle we couldn't overcome. However, I have to admit, the Everett Port Commission sure made me look at my hole card.

We thought if we had the support of the Commission, its imprimatur might influence recalcitrant property owners – like Kimberly Clark – to let us put nesting piles on their property in the mud flats of Port Gardner Bay.

We put together, I thought, a solid presentation for the commissioners. When our time on the agenda came, and as Bill Lider and I prepared to begin, one commissioner made the offhand comment that he thought birdwatchers were little more than Peeping Toms.

Not a good portend. Half-way through our presentation, another commissioner said he'd been hindered from developing a property he owned because of the Spotted Owl. He said a Spotted Owl issue is the last thing the commission cared to be involved with. Pointing out that preserving the Osprey nesting population was hardly a Spotted Owl issue because Ospreys were no longer endangered fell on deaf ears.

Bill and I left with the quiet consolation that there are Osprey nests currently on port property. When the port gets ready to develop its new marina, mitigation of the nests will be required. Whether the Port Commission likes it or not, it has Ospreys in its future. And, for that matter, the Pilchuck Audubon Society.

Despite the lack of support from the Commission, the Tulalip Tribes came to the project's rescue. The tribe was happy to have nesting piles placed on its Port Gardner Bay property.

Then we ran into the second obstacle. We had a budget of \$40,000 to drive the piles and had almost all the funding in hand. Unfortunately, the minimum bid was for \$75,000. A project killer, unless a White Knight could be found.

Ed Rubatino had been allowing PAS to store the pilings on his Shadow Development property on the Snohomish River. But, as the grass grew tall around the piles, his patience grew shorter. He had been more than generous and we couldn't continue to impose on his good will forever.

Meanwhile, grass wasn't growing under Lider's feet. He began a quiet campaign to convince the DNR that the Osprey project would be a public relations boon. The DNR was charged with removing the creosote laden piles, so why not put our nesting piles in place at the same time, garnering favorable publicity?

At first, DNR was cool to the idea. But, through Bill's persistence, he found an advocate in a White Lady (female equivalent of a White Knight), Lisa Kaufman, manager of the project to remove the creosote piles. Over time, Lisa warmed to Bill's entreaties and was able to find funding to place the piles during this winter's fish window.

It's not a done deal yet, and there still may yet be a curve or two in the road to success, but I'm happy to report the Osprey Project is no longer DOA.

Peeping Toms, indeed!

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

Board of directors

President	Mike Blackbird.....425.670.2491
Vice President	Susie Schaefer..... 425.771.8165
Treasurer	Carolyn Lacy.....360.668.2494
Secretary	* Open *
Education	* Open *
Program Coordinator	Laura Harvell Spehar425.672.2150
Volunteer Coordinator	* Open *
Publicity	Bob Sindelar 360.657.3604
Conservation	Jan van Niel, Jon Baker.....425.778.7568
At Large	David Gladstone..... 425.252.0926

Committee chairs

Birdathon	Hilkka Egtvedt..... 425.347.4944
Bird Sightings	Mara Price.....360.651.9234
Database	Margaret Bridge 360.862.1694
Field Trips	Art Wait360.563.0181
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	Krstin Kelly..... 425.923.8625
--------------	--------------------------------

© 2008 Pilchuck Audubon Society. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Opinions expressed are those of the credited writers and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Pilchuck Audubon Society.

Trip calendar

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

Sunday, October 5 Pt. Defiance Park, Tacoma

Meet at 7 a.m. behind Everett Mall, next to the transit center by LA Fitness (I5 exit 189, Everett Mall Way). We'll try the 5-mile outer loop trail and hope for no rain. All day. Carpooling encouraged. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Tuesday, October 7 Sequim Area

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Edmonds Marsh (south of West Dayton St., turn left just before the railroad tracks). We'll take the ferry to Kingston, go through Port Gamble and across the floating bridge. We will bird Sequim Bay, Dungeness Recreational Area and whatever else we fancy. Lots of waterfowl and even Sandhill Cranes last year. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tuesday, October 14 North Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. We will bird many parks and other delightful places and expect to see lots of waterfowl and seabirds. We saw 66 species in 2007. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Notice to field trip participants: Field trips are open to members and non-members alike. No advance notice required unless otherwise stated in the trip description. Trips go, rain or shine. However, in case of snow or ice, contact trip leader! Bring a sack lunch, beverage, binoculars, scope and field guide if you have them. If not, we'll share. Please, no 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.

Tues., Oct. 21 Birch Bay/Semiahmoo/Drayton Harbor

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. Should see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Pack a light lunch (Wilma might feed us).

Leaders: Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028
Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, October 28 Snohomish City and outskirts

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

Leader: Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Virginia will advise, as usual, and most appreciated.

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

Fall ACOW coming soon

Fall ACOW – "It's better at the beach!"

October 10-12 Long Beach, Washington

Enjoy a getaway to the coast and plan to attend the fall ACOW conference October 10-12. The conference will take place at Chautauqua Lodge in beautiful Long Beach, Washington. Enjoy relaxing accommodations, beach access and an enticing array of educational activities, meetings and speeches outlining the heart of Audubon's mission in Washington.

Discovery Coast Audubon invites you to discover that "Birding at the beach is better!" For more information and to download a registration form, visit www.discoverycoastaudubon.com.

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!

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.

Help stop the Robe Bog clear cut

By Bruce Barnbaum

The Department of Natural Resources is planning a clearcut of an area in Verlot, commonly known as the Robe Bog. It is located just north of the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River below Mt. Pilchuck. DNR has owned this large parcel of land – roughly 300 acres – just north of the Mountain Loop Highway for many years.

The Robe Bog is an area of intermixed forest and large wetlands. It was last logged 80 years ago, long before the DNR was created. So, today, the trees there range from nearly 80 to 120 years of age, with some more than 3 feet in diameter.

Members of the Department of Ecology were shown the land about 10 years ago and stated, "This is exactly the kind of land we'd love to preserve, because of the wetlands and the forest, which is starting to take on characteristics of an old-growth forest."

DNR now has plans to start logging this parcel, beginning with a 22.5-acre clearcut in the northeast corner. That land can – and should – be the heart of a wildlife rehabilitation plan, and should remain untouched forever.

All the land around it on the north, west and east is now owned by DNR, as well, the result of a land swap with Trillium, Corp., a timber company based in Bellingham. (DNR's newly acquired lands have all been recently logged.)

In the future, DNR can log the thousands of acres surrounding the Robe Bog parcel, while leaving wide untouched corridors along all existing streams to link the Green Mountain Ridge to the north with Mt. Pilchuck to the south, with the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River running down the middle between them as future wildlife corridors.

Marbled Murrelets, in particular, would benefit from a return of some of their devastated habitat. There are numerous trees within the Robe Bog parcel that are perfect murrelet nesting habitat. But, DNR has created a set of criteria for murrelet habitat that would be nearly impossible to meet, except in a truly ancient forest.

There must be two trees per acre over a close-knit area covering 5 acres (i.e., 10 such trees in a small 5-acre parcel) that have nesting "platforms" – either 7-foot-wide branches or an L-shaped crook in the tree itself, must be 50 feet above the ground, with additional branches above that. This tough criteria might actually be met within portions of this parcel.

We're asking Pilchuck Audubon members to write to the DNR, protesting the so-called "Turlo Tie Timber Sale," the first of several major clearcuts – called "regeneration cuts" by the DNR – in the Robe Bog parcel.

Please tell them it's long past time when some of the land and habitat taken away from the Marbled Murrelet (and perhaps the Northern Spotted Owl, as well) be returned. In a parcel that has interwoven forests and wetlands, and a forest with trees more than a century old, anything less would be exploitation, not stewardship.

Please recommend no tree removal within the Robe Bog parcel, long under the control of the DNR. This area would be far better designated a Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA), for future old-growth-dependent wildlife habitat.

Please send your letters to Bill Wallace, Region Manager, Northwest Region, 919 N. Township Street, Sedro Woolley, WA 98284-9395 or via e-mail to bill.wallace@wadnr.gov.

Saturday hikers enjoy trip to arboretum

By Jonathan Blubaugh

Our group, which this month included PAS VP Susie Schaefer, met at the arboretum visitor center. Our walk was nearly flat and not long, but we took our time so we could read the names of many of the plants. Near the beginning of the walk, we spotted two Anna's Hummingbirds fighting over nectar in the Pollination Garden.

One of the most interesting things we saw was the Mountain Ash garden. There grew scores of species of Mountain Ash trees and bushes of genus *Sorbus*. Each had different leaves, berries (not always orange) and sizes. Since many of the Mountain Ashes were in fruit, we saw robins. From under one particularly large Mountain Ash tree, we heard the sound of hail falling on its leaves. But, it was actually the tree dropping its berries. Amazing!

As we were winding our way along the path, a gentleman approached our group. And, noticing our binoculars, he asked, "Do you want to see a Barred Owl?"

He led us to the owl on side trail. It was awake and in plain

sight on the shady bough of a large conifer. He was well sheltered and obviously not a morning person. The gentleman, a frequent visitor to the park, told us the owls had successfully bred in the arboretum this year.



Barred Owl, by Paul Kusmin

Next, we took the boardwalk across Foster Island, under SR 520. On Lake Washington, we saw five Wood Ducks in eclipse plumage. The ducks were quite tame and barely even scattered when swarmed and splashed by canoes. I also saw what we believe was a Common Tern, a life-list bird for me.

Here's a partial list of the other birds we heard or saw: a Pied-Billed Grebe, a pair of Warbling Vireos, 21 Mallards, a Vaux's Swift, a Downy Woodpecker, a couple of Northern Flickers, six Cliff Swallows, three Black-capped Chickadees, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Bushtit, Red-Breasted Nuthatch, a Brown Creeper, a Bewick's

Wren, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, ten American Robins, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco and two Song Sparrows.

Birding in the BC Outback: Part 2

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

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

Day 2: Hitting the mother lode

We started out very early Sunday, headed for the Exeter Road. This gravel road rose out of the valley into a sparsely treed area. We spotted a Lazuli Bunting, Vesper Sparrow and many Chipping Sparrows, as well as a load of crows and ravens. Lo and behold, we were near the local garbage dump!

On the way back down the road, we stopped to watch mom and dad Common Loon feeding three little babies, including one "baby on board."

At the next stop, Wilma was excited to see a Northern Waterthrush, which actually turned out to be a female Yellow-headed Blackbird. I was excited to see the yellow-heads, except they ended up being all over the area and quite noisy and bothersome.

We next drove to Walker Valley. No need to wonder where all the ducks go in the summer: they are here. We had baby ducks, so many you couldn't tell who belonged to whom.

There were Ruddy Ducks, Goldeneyes, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Coots, Mallards, Cinnamon Teal and a group of Eared Grebes in full breeding regalia. Also, there were families of Canada Geese every place we stopped, even on a seldom-used airstrip.

Next, we headed to Canum Lake, on the advice of a great birder and writer from 100 Mile House. We drove for miles mumbling about how this guy could send us on such a trip because we were seeing absolutely NOTHING!

Then, after miles of curvy roads, we hit the mother lode – BONANZA – along a gravel side road with a roadside stream.



Lazuli Bunting, by Paul Kusmin

In a one-half mile stretch of road, we spied Yellow Warblers, a female American Redstart and a gorgeous Magnolia Warbler.

Our luck continued, as we spotted a Red-naped Sapsucker, lots of Red-shafted Northern Flickers and a male Redstart, as well as Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos. Wilma and I were really excited about the Redstarts. Later on, we found out they were pretty common.

On the way to Williams Lake, our next overnight stop, Margaret and I complained of yellow-eye syndrome and Wilma stopped at what she called an outhouse.

I went to the women's side and Margaret, who is so great at identifying birds, wandered into a room that had a little man on the door. We all got a laugh out of that! Good thing she didn't "surprise" someone. And now we know why Margaret birds by ear.

When we arrived at Williams Lake, our first stop was Scout Island. True to Wilma's promise, we got to watch a pair of Red-necked Grebes feeding and caring for very young striped babies. The little guys crawled up on mom's back and under her wing.

One little guy was fed a fish as big as he was. Unbelievably, after a struggle, he swallowed it. As we walked around the island paths, Margaret called up a Catbird with her iPod recording. We also saw lots of Yellow Warblers, Willow Flycatchers, Yellowthroats and one Eurasian Widgeon.

Later that evening, Margaret and Wilma watched Nighthawks fly over Williams Lake, while I rested my feet in the motel room and refused to move.

To be continued ...

Malheur birding trip planned for 2009

Reserve your spot now for a fantastic 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.

You'll spend three days birding on the way down, three days at Malheur NWR and four days driving and birding your way back to Snohomish County.

Among the birds you might see: White-faced Ibis, Ferruginous Hawks, Sandhill Cranes, Black-and-white Warblers, Lesser Goldfinches, Great Horned Owls, Clark's Grebes, Phalaropes, 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.



Black-and-white Warbler, by Arnette Colombini

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.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

With changing seasons, it's usual for local government to get serious in order to finish up as much as they can before the year's end. Along with important public hearings on Fully Contained Communities, Rural Cluster Subdivisions and Urban Residential Design Standards, please mark your calendars for the following important events.

Greening Snohomish County and the Green Everett Renewable Living Fair

Learn what you can do to protect our natural resources on a local level by attending the Sustainable Development Task Force's sustainability conference, renewable living fair and solar and green home tour.

The sustainability conference, dubbed "Greening Snohomish County," is scheduled for October 3 at Snohomish County PUD, 2320 California Street, Everett. It will feature speakers and sessions covering green remodels, gardening and much more. The green weekend continues on October 4 with the "Green Everett" renewable living fair and solar and green home tour.

For more information about these events, call 360.668.5599 or visit www.sustainablesnohomishcounty.org.

Climate change forum October 18

"Climate change: DO take it personally" is a free forum on Saturday, October 18. The forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Edmonds Community College, Black Box Theater, Mukilteo Building. Pilchuck Audubon Society and Futurewise will have tables at the event, which will feature the following speakers:

- Gregg Small, Executive Director of Climate Solutions
- Richard Gammon, Ph.D., UW Dept. of Chemistry and Oceanography
- Janice Adair, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive

Two panels of experts will answer questions. The moderator will be Liam Moriarty, KPLU Environmental Reporter.

For more information and to register, contact the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County at 425.334.8922.

Rural lands planning meetings

Snohomish County has launched a project to update its policies and regulations for managing growth and development in rural areas. The Rural Lands Planning Project is conducting a series of public meetings aimed at gathering citizen views on how county rural lands should look, feel and function.

Please attend and let your voices be heard!

- Tuesday, September 23, 6:30 p.m., at Pioneer Hall, 20722 67th Ave. NE, Arlington.
- Thursday, September 25, 6:30 p.m., in Public Meeting Room #1, Robert Drewel Building, Snohomish County Campus, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett.

Questions to be answered by the planning staff include: What is the common vision for our rural lands? Is this the vision supported by our current policies and regulations? What are the opportunities and process for change?

For more information, call Mary Hurner at 425.388.3258, or visit the county web site, www.snoco.org, and search by

"rural lands planning project." Or, contact the county by e-mail at RuralLandsProject@snoco.org.

County task force on climate

The public is invited to attend meetings of the Green Ribbon Climate Task Force on the fourth Monday of each month, from 1-4 p.m., in the First Floor Conference Room of the County Admin Building East, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett. The purpose of the task force is to develop an action plan for adapting to climate change and to achieve a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions county wide by 2020. For more information, please visit the county's web site, www.snoco.org and search by "green ribbon climate task force."

Community Transit service annexation

Community Transit's new service annexation area measure will be on the November ballot. The area includes the SR 9 corridor south of the City of Snohomish and the surrounding rural area in Clearview and Maltby. Additional public workshops are planned for the fall, where Community Transit's service plan for the Cathcart/Clearview/Maltby areas will be discussed and developed.

Please check the event calendar at www.futurewise.org for dates and times.

County Unified Development Code Workshops

Snohomish County Planning and Development Service staff continues its monthly workshops every first Thursday of the month on the first floor of the County Admin Building at 9 a.m. and again at 6 p.m. for presentations, public comments and questions on changes to the Unified Development Code.

However, the September 2008 meeting was cancelled. The next UDC public workshop will be October 2.

County council public hearings

The County Council plans a public hearing on the changes to the Rural Cluster Subdivision Code on Wednesday, October 1. The public hearing on Urban Residential Design Standards is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 15. These hearings are conducted in the council chambers, on the 8th floor of the County Admin Building, 3000 Rockefeller, Everett.

Meetings and hearings are webcasted and archived online. Visit www.snoco.org and click on "Council Webcasts."

Support local farmers

Please remember to support your local farmers by shopping at the many farmers markets throughout Snohomish County:

Bothell: 238th and Bothell- Everett Highway (SR 527), Fridays through September 26, noon to 6 p.m.

Edmonds: 5th Avenue North and Bell Street, Saturdays through October 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Everett: 1600 West Marine Drive and 16th Street, Sundays through September 28, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monroe: 200 Block East on Main Street in back parking lot, Tuesdays through September, 2 to 7 p.m.

Mukilteo: Rosehill Community Center at 3rd and Lincoln Streets, Wednesdays through September 24, 3 to 7 p.m.

Snohomish: Carnegie Parking Lot on Cedar between 1st and Pearl Streets, Thursdays through September 25, 3 to 8 p.m.

Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

July, 2008-August 25, 2008

Last month, I mentioned swallows and a possible decline in their numbers this year. Well, the swallows returned briefly. On the few very hot days we had, I spotted large numbers of Tree Swallows and Barn Swallows along the wires on 100th Street in Marysville. But, I then received a very disturbing e-mail from Jim and Pam Smith reporting the deaths of several sets of Barn Swallow fledglings in the nesting boxes they recently purchased. The same thing occurred in the nests in their shed. This is the first year this has happened. They are asking for answers and ways to improve the chances of survival for next year. If anyone has ideas, please e-mail me.

Feral cats are a problem at some of our bird feeders. I have one that constantly sits under my feeders and recently took a **Pine Siskin**. Annette Colombini is also having problems with cats, as is Verna Hisey. There must be a humane way to get rid of them. I know there is a trap, neuter and return to wild system set up, but that would not keep them from the bird feeders. I would appreciate any suggestions.

It looks like the **Pine Siskins** have returned in large numbers. Carole and Larry Beason reported 42 at their Lake Bosworth location this month. Their total species count of 35 also included 42 **Barn Swallows**, 3 **Cedar Waxwings**, 2 **Ospreys**, 10 **Purple Finches**, 2 **Fox Sparrows**, 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 23 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 3 **Tree Swallows**, 4 **Wilson's Warblers** and 5 **Pied-billed Grebes**.

Annette Colombini's report from Marysville included 2 **Steller's Jays**, 13 **American Goldfinches**, 6 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **House Sparrows**, 2 **Barn Swallows**, 4 **American Crows**, 2 **House Finches**, 3 **Black-capped Chickadees** and 2 unidentified **hummingbirds** for a total species count of 11.

Hilkka Egtvedt reported only 3 **Pine Siskins** from Mukilteo, but she had 59 **American Crows**, along with 5 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 3 **California Quail** (adults and a juvenile), an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 3 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds** and 2 **Bewick's Wrens** for a species count of 26.

Kriss Erickson's total species count of 8 from her Everett loca-



Great Blue Heron, by Steven Garrels



Purple Finch, by Bonnie Forrester



Veery, by Charles Eldermire

tion included 23 **Bushtits**, 9 **American Crows**, 4 **American Robins**, 17 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 3 **Steller's Jays**, a **Horned Lark**, 5 **Northern Flickers** and 6 **Western Gulls**.

Adeline Gildow's numbers are low this month, as she can't put birdseed out because of a rat problem on Camano Island. She still had a total species count of 24, which included 4 **Bald Eagles** (flying over), 40 **Canada Geese** (flying over and in the yard), 6 **Cedar Waxwings**, 8 **Great Blue Herons** (on the beach), along with 300 **Dunlin**, 20 **Killdeer**, an **Osprey**, 4 **Mourning Doves**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and a **Red-tailed Hawk**.

Verna Hisey's yard is overrun with feral cats which accounts for her species count of 6 from her home at Lake Stevens. Her count included 22 **House Sparrows**, 5 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 7 **American Crows**, 5 **European Starlings**, 6 **Rock Doves** and a **Bald Eagle** flying over.

Mary Sinker was busy this month, with a total species count of 32. Reporting from Stanwood, she listed 19 **American Goldfinches**, 15 **Barn Swallows** in her yard, 14 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 8 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, 2 **Great Horned Owls**, 11 **Mourning Doves**, 5 **Tree Swallows**, 2 **Veeries**, 2 **Wilson's Warblers** and 7 **Mallards** (Mom and six ducklings walking down the middle of the road on the way to a neighbor's pond).

Julie O'Donald still has the 2 **Western Screech Owls** near her home in Brier. In addition, she also listed 2 **California Quail**, 3 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Bald Eagles** flying over, 4 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 5 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 10 **Violet-green Swallows** and 4 **Western Tanagers** for a total species count of 24.

Darlene Walker reported 30 **Pine Siskins** from her home on Camano Island. She also reported 20 **American Goldfinches**, along with 6 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, 3 **Bald Eagles**, 4 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 10 **House Finches**, 6 **Fox Sparrows**, 6 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Great Blue Heron** and a **Golden-crowned Sparrow** for a total species count of 18.

(See "Birding Highlights" on page 8)

Birding highlights ...

(continued from page 7)

Gail Dibernardo reported a variety of woodpeckers from Brier. She listed **2 Hairy Woodpeckers**, **3 Downy Woodpeckers**, **2 Red-breasted Sapsuckers**, **3 Northern Flickers** and **2 Pileated Woodpeckers**. She also reported **3 Anna's Hummingbirds**, **8 House Finches**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, a **Pacific Slope Flycatcher** and **4 Steller's Jays** for a total species count of 18.

Dick Vanderhoff's report from Stanwood was topped with **30 Pine Siskins**. His species count of 24 also included **200+ Tree and Barn Swallows** around the telephone lines, **10 Evening Grosbeaks**, **15 Dark-eyed Juncos**, **10 Band-tailed Pigeons**, **2 Pileated Woodpeckers**, an **Osprey**, **2 Belted Kingfishers**, **8 Common Murres** at Kayak Point and a



Wilson's Warbler, by Greg Pond

Great Blue Heron. He also listed a cute Mountain Beaver.

I also had **20-30 Pine Siskins** in my yard in Marysville. One afternoon, about **15 Evening Grosbeaks** stopped over on their way south. My total species count of 25 included **5 American Goldfinches**, **11 Black-headed Grosbeaks**, **7 California Quail**, **30+ Tree Swallows** along the wires on 100th Street, **2 Western Tanager**s, a **Common Raven** in the woods, **16 House Finches** and **2 Red-tailed Hawks** overhead.

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 price-mara@clearwire.net

Reiter survey extended

Help protect the Reiter Foothills by completing an online survey. The survey is designed to determine how recreational users currently use the forest and gather suggestions for improving recreation and public access. The deadline has been extended to November 30.

Reiter is a 10,000-acre forest bordering the Wild Sky Wilderness. There are miles of old logging rail grades over used by motorized vehicles, which has led to damage in many areas.

The DNR formed a committee to create a management plan for the Reiter forest. It was dominated by motorized users, with the environmental community receiving only one seat.

With the online survey, the DNR hopes to get input from the larger community. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey and help protect this important state forest. To access the survey, type this URL into your browser: www.dnr.wa.gov/RecreationEducation/Events/Pages/amp_rec_reiter_foothills_recreation_survey.aspx. The online survey will be available until November 30.

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	Mon-Sat, 10-6	Mon-Sat, 9:30-6
Sun, noon-4	Sun, noon-5	Sun, 11-5



Wild Birds Unlimited®

October program meeting – Fri., Oct. 11, 7 p.m.

Port Gardner Bay Osprey update, by Mike Blackbird and Bill Lider

The latest on the plan for pilings for our local Ospreys.

Community Wildlife Certification Program, by PAS's new Program Chair, Laura Harvell Spehar

Laura will discuss the program, currently in process on Camano Island and in Edmonds. It's an exciting opportunity for communities, birds and other wildlife.

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!