

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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Counters, docents needed for Swift Watch

Very soon, large numbers of Vaux's Swifts will return to roost in the old chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary in Monroe. Please help Pilchuck Audubon Society welcome these wondrous little birds back as they stop over on their southward migration.



Vaux's Swift (after being banded),
by Charles Hesse

PAS is pleased to present the Monroe Swift Watch Sept. 6-21. The fun starts with Swift Night Out on Saturday,

Sept. 6, at Frank Wagner Elementary.

Swift Night Out will feature a special swift lecture in the auditorium at 6:30 p.m., information booths, children's activities, food and fun. Docents will be available to answer questions from 6-8 p.m. But, the true highlight of the evening will be the stunning aerial performance of hundreds, if not thousands, of Vaux's Swifts.

The watch will continue from 6-8 p.m. each evening through Sept. 21. Docents and counters will be on hand each evening.

Frank Wagner Elementary is located at 638 W. Main St., Monroe. From Highway 2, turn south onto Kelsey Street, then right on Main Street.

The September program meeting will be at the opening ceremony of the Puget Sound Bird Fest

From the field to the studio: behind the scenes with wildlife artist Bart Rulon

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

Edmonds Conference Center,
201 Fourth Avenue North, Edmonds

Watch www.pilchuckaudubon.org for info about the October program meeting

Please help! We need volunteer docents and counters for each night of the watch. And because the counters need to concentrate on counting, volunteers cannot do both at the same time. We will need separate volunteers for counting and separate volunteers to act as docents.

If you can help or want additional information, please visit the PAS web site or contact Susie Schaefer at susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425.771.8165.

Bird Fest has something for everyone

Guided bird walks, fabulous speakers, a birders' marketplace and birds, birds, birds! All of this awaits you at Puget Sound Bird Fest, Sept. 12-14, in Edmonds.

The festival opens Friday, Sept. 12, with a reception and presentation by wildlife artist, Bart Rulon. Bart, who has written and illustrated several wildlife books, lives on Whidbey Island and his work has been featured in museums and galleries around the world.

His presentation, "From the field to the studio: behind the scenes with wildlife artist Bart Rulon," will serve as Pilchuck Audubon's September program, so all PAS members are encouraged to attend.

The reception runs from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Edmonds Conference Center, 201 4th Avenue, Edmonds.

But, make sure you come back on Saturday and Sunday! There will be birding cruises, guided walks, a marketplace, children's activities, speakers discussing subjects ranging

from picking birdfeeders and nest boxes to a live raptor presentation by the Sarvey Wildlife Center and much, much more. Bring the whole family!

And, if you'd like to help, volunteers are needed to fill numerous roles. For more information, contact Susie Schaefer at susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425.771.8165.

For more information about Puget Sound Bird Fest - including a detailed schedule of events - visit www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org.

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Opus, by Berkeley Breathed, can be found in the comic pages of the *Sunday Herald*. More political cartoon than the usual funnies, Breathed often cuts to the issues of the day.

One recent Sunday *Opus* was titled, "Achieving the rare and final stage of oil grief: #6 smug satisfaction." In the background is the wall of a house with Mitsubishi 185-watt solar panels visible on the roof edge. Also visible is an SMA 5000-watt inverter connected by extension cord to a speedy – but bug-like – plug-in hybrid car with the caption "cost of fill-up: \$0."

Three posters are taped to the wall of the house. One is a picture of a Saudi prince wearing dark glasses and a burnoose.

A second is a picture of the contented fat cat CEO under the Exxon banner. The third is a picture of a U.S. vice president. *Opus* and two his fellow cartoon characters, facing forward, bent over at the waist, pants at half mast are mooning the posters.

When I saw this *Opus* cartoon on a recent Sunday, I was reminded of something I wrote in my journal on an early November morning in 1973. We were living in San Diego. It was the height of the Arab oil embargo.

Gasoline was being rationed. The last number of your car's license plate determined the day you could buy gas. It was 5 a.m. I was in a long line of cars waiting to fill up.

While I waited for my turn at the gas pump, I wrote the following in my journal:

"Maltz wrote that a crisis is an opportunity. That's why the Arab oil embargo tickles me pink. Sure we're going to be squeezed and pushed around for a while. No nation before or since can match American ingenuity. In short order, we're going to develop new methods of producing energy. New sources of energy and the methods to attain them will be very marketable to Europe and Japan. It will change our balance of payments to a plus and we'll regain our status as a world economic power threatened by no one."

The flaw in my thinking, 35 years ago, was the failure to realize the oil embargo was being politically manipulated, and as soon as OPEC got the price it wanted, the embargo would end and Americans would adjust to paying a \$1.50 a gallon for gasoline.

Today's high fuel costs are not politically motivated. China and India will pay any price for oil to support their surging economies. High gas prices aren't going away, creating a window of opportunity for 35 years of improvements in alternative energy.

An alternative energy boom could be even bigger than the information boom and the U.S. has a role to play. We need to encourage alternatives by taxing carbon (even if China and India won't) and removing subsidies that favor fossil fuels competition should do the rest.

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

President	Mike Blackbird.....	425.670.2491
Vice President	Susie Schaefer.....	425.771.8165
Treasurer	Carolyn Lacy.....	360.668.2494
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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 *	
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Trip calendar

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

Sunday, August 31 Wash. Park Arboretum, Seattle

Meet at 7 a.m. behind Everett Mall, next to the transit center by LA Fitness (I5 exit 189, Everett Mall Way). We'll park at the arboretum visitor center near the bottom of the hill and work our way up. At the top, we can decide if we want to visit the Japanese Garden, which costs \$5 (scholarships available). Back at the bottom, we'll take the Foster Island boardwalk under SR 520. All day. Carpooling encouraged. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Tuesday, Sept. 2 Samish Flats, Samish 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. Let's look for waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds and raptors before hunting season begins in this world-reknown birding locale. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, September 9 Point No Point

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 and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point and Foulweather Bluff. Always lots of surprises, both in the air and on the water. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tue., Sept. 16 Portage Creek to Lake Cavanaugh, Big Lake

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. Virginia is going to show us her stumping grounds, including her feeders. No need to pack a lunch; she will feed us at her place.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, September 23 Boundary Bay, BC

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. Bring your passport or driver's license and original birth certificate. This area has always been exciting; plus visiting OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Society) greatly furthers one's raptor knowledge. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tuesday, September 30 Camano Island

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. We will bird Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit, Triangle Cove and points in-between and elsewhere. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

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. Last year's trip flopped due to rain. All day. Carpooling encouraged. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Sunday, November 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.

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.

Weekend hikers thrown a curve at Rainier

By Jonathan Blubaugh

The Pilchuck Audubon Society's Weekend Bird Hike program resumed on July 20 with a trip to Mt. Rainier.

We planned to take the Alta Vista loop trail out of Paradise. Nearly two months ago, I was told the snow was always gone from the trails around Paradise by mid-July.

With this year's snowpack at 115% of normal, the trails were still snowed in. Since it's billed as a Weekend Bird Hike, rather than Weekend Snowshoeing, we went for our walk at Longmire and on the Van Trump Creek trail above Christine Falls instead.

Plan B turned out to be a home run. The path at Longmire is a self-guided nature trail around the historic Longmire meadow.

It was about a three-quarter mile loop. In the sunshine, we were fascinated to view the bubbling mineral springs, and were relaxed and refreshed amongst the towering conifers.



Miniature Dogwood, by Terry Nightingale

Afterwards, we drove up to the Christine Falls turnout on the road to Paradise. There, we tackled the Van Trump Creek Trail, a 1.8 mile (mostly snow-free) trail to a modest waterfall. The group wanted to get a least a little hiking in, so we tried it.

We were glad we did. At approximately the 1.8 mile point, there is a spectacular, classic waterfall. There were many gorgeous wildflowers, among them Solomon's Seal, False Solomon's Seal, Creeping Blackberry, Miniature Dogwood, Avalanche Lily, Yellow Violet, Salmonberry, and Trillium.

Part way up the trail, we came across the site of an avalanche. Numerous large trees had been mowed down. Workers had just finished cutting up the logs that blocked the trail. There was a good-sized heap of, by then, rapidly melting snow over the trail. It was the only remaining substantial snow that low. We

(See "Mount Rainier" on page 8)

Conservation corner

By Jan van Niel, Conservation Committee Co-chair

In late July, the conservation chairs of Washington Audubon chapters agreed to two resolutions at their quarterly meeting. The first encouraged further scientific study of the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) to clearly establish what they need for a healthy habitat. Over the years, the population has decreased rapidly, an indication that current efforts are not adequate. In addition, more information is needed on the interactions between the NSO and the increasingly-abundant Barred Owl to decide between conflicting ideas about the effect of the Barred Owl on NSO numbers.

The second resolution concerned the U.S. Forest Service road along the Dosewallips River on the Olympic Peninsula. In 2002, 500 feet of road against a steep bank of poorly compacted sediments washed out. The next year, a smaller washout occurred further upstream. Now, the forest service and the highway administration want to rebuild the road. Their plan calls for rerouting the road up a steep embankment and through old growth forest. The resolution asks that alternative plans – including abandoning the road and converting it to a hiking and horse trail – be adopted. Some of the money saved could be used to build a new campground below the washout to replace some of the lost campsites.

Nina Carter, Executive Director of Washington State Audubon, reported that 73 Important Bird Areas have now been

identified within the state. These cover about 6 million acres or about 13% of the area in the state.

Initiative 985: This is Tim Eyman's latest initiative to "Decrease Traffic Congestion." It would transfer \$127 million from the state's general fund to a special fund "to improve traffic flow." Among its other measures, it would open the HOV lanes to all vehicles except for a three-hour period mornings and afternoons. It would provide funds to require traffic lights to be coordinated along major corridors (not a bad idea). However, it would also require that any tolls collected by the state must be dedicated to roads. It would no longer be possible to use any such dollars for transit or any other alternatives. This approach has always led to just more traffic congestion, not less.

The next meeting of the state conservation chairs will be on October 11 in conjunction with the annual fall Audubon Council of Washington meeting in Long Beach. These council meetings are open to any Audubon member and are both informative and great fun.

P.S. Our chapter (yes, Pilchuck Audubon) will host the council meeting in the fall of 2009! We will need lots of help from our members to keep from disgracing ourselves. Stay tuned.

Protect Reiter Foothills with online survey

How do you use the Reiter Foothills recreation area? Help protect it and make your opinions known to the Department of Natural Resources by completing an online survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine how recreational users currently use the forest and gather suggestions for improving recreation and public access.

Reiter is a 10,000-acre state forest which stretches from Gold Bar to Index, north of the Stevens Pass Highway. It borders the new Wild Sky Wilderness. There are miles of old logging rail grades similar to those found on Tiger Mountain. Like Tiger Mountain, this area is close to populated areas and is low in elevation, which enables year-round recreation.

Unlike Tiger Mountain, the Reiter Foothills area is being over used by motorized vehicles. The increased use of motorcycles,

quads, and four-wheelers has led to environmental damage in many portions of the forest.

The DNR has formed a committee to compose a management plan for the Reiter forest. The committee was heavily dominated by motorized users, with the hiking/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 September 1.

Fall migratory survey well underway

By Colleen Weber, Project Leader, Port Susan IBA Survey

Migratory shorebirds have begun to arrive during their southward journey and volunteers are back out there counting. By mid-September, we should know how the fall numbers compare with those gathered during the spring migration.

The fall shorebird survey is scheduled to end in late August. But, depending on counts and volunteer feedback, it could be extended into September.

After we decided to survey locations at the south end of Skagit Bay, we contacted our friends at Skagit Audubon. Several volunteers from Skagit Audubon volunteered to count, as well as folks from Seattle. And, of course, our fabulous

Pilchuck volunteers were eager to sign up again, as well.

During the next four months, stakeholders – people with an interest in Port Susan Bay, like landowners, public servants or employees of agencies and organizations around the bay – will be contacted to discuss results and strategies.

If you are interested in joining Friends of Port Susan Bay, a group that will concentrate efforts on ways to maintain the bird habitat around Port Susan Bay, please contact me at colleen.weber@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425.210.5626. I look forward to your help in achieving our very worthwhile goals.

Upcoming events

Hike, wade and weed in Robe Canyon September 6 Near Granite Falls

Help the Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) remove invasive weeds from its park lands – and have fun, too. CLC protects nearly 1000 acres of wild land along the Stillaguamish River, adjacent to the Robe Canyon Historic Park.

On Sept. 6, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., the CLC will lead a group down the Old Robe Trail and across the river. Lunch will be provided as volunteers work to remove invasive Scotch Broom, which is impeding the growth of native plants along the river.

For more info or to register, visit www.cascadeland.org or call 206.292.5907.

North Cascades Rendezvous and Campout September 20-21 Newhalem Campground

Experience the grandeur of the North Cascades and meet like-minded people from the Washington conservation community at the North Cascades Rendezvous and Campout, Sept. 20-21 at the Newhalem Campground near Marblemount.

Activities include a Skagit River raft trip (pre-registration required), guided hikes, free food and beverages and much, much more! Space is limited and you must RSVP by Sept. 13.

For more info, contact Ben Greuel at ben.greuel@sierraclub.org or 206.378.0114. Or, visit www.cascadesierraclub.org.

Fall ACOW – “It’s better at the beach!” October 10-12 Long Beach, Washington

Enjoy a getaway to the coast and 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.

For more information and to download a registration form, visit www.discoverycoastaudubon.com.

Birdathon a success

Pilchuck Audubon’s Birdathoners for 2008 included six veteran individuals/teams and one rookie. While funds from sponsorships are still trickling in, estimates are the effort will raise just more than \$3500.

Susie Schaefer spotted the most species (140) and was second in money raised. The team of Claire and Hilkka Egtvedt and Kristi Halvorson found 117 species and raised nearly \$2000. Newsletter editor Annette Colombini was the Birdathon rookie this year. She recorded 54 species. Other participants included Jon Baker, Mike Blackbird, Duane Karna and the team of Jan van Niel and Colleen Weber.

A sincere thank you to the generous merchants who donated gift cards as prizes: Albertsons and QFC of Mukilteo, Fred Meyer and Top Foods of Everett, Wild Bird Nest in Lynnwood and Wild Birds Unlimited in Everett. In addition, the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Lake Forest Park donated a very special bird feeder as a prize. Please patronize these stores and thank them for supporting PAS.

Volunteers needed!

Database administrator and membership chair

The need to fill these two positions is becoming critical. The membership list hasn’t been updated for several months. That, coupled with the timing of information received from the national organization, means the information on our national members is six months or more out of date.

Maintaining the membership database is vital to the organization. It requires computer skills: basic familiarity with Microsoft Word and Excel. Some database experience would be helpful, but PAS received a donation of user-friendly database software to help us. Most of the setup and customization is complete and Ileen will be available to train and help her replacements.

The membership position requires a commitment of about 10 hours per month. The database administrator position is closely tied to membership and fundraising. The time required varies, but is minimal – possibly only a few hours per month unless tasks are shared between the membership chair and the database administrator. These two positions could also be combined as they have been in the past.

We have a membership committee, so some of the tasks are already being split up among several individuals. It is a fun group to work with.

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

Program chair

This important volunteer plans and conducts 10 monthly program meetings per year. 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.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Feast with Friends fundraiser returns

Mark your calendars! The annual Feast with Friends fundraiser and Top Chef Competition is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 6:30-9:30 p.m., in Snohomish. This fun event supports the work I do for Pilchuck Audubon Society and our companion organization, Futurewise. The setting will be the beautiful studio and home of Snohomish City Council member and renowned artist Karen Guzak and artist Warner Blake, at 230 Avenue B in Snohomish.

Feast with Friends is a tribute to local farmers in Snohomish and Skagit counties. It's a win-win for local farmers, local business and our work to protect resource and rural lands from over-development. The event will pair local farm products with local chefs who will create delicious food the guests can sample and savor, along with select Washington wines. Last year, the food was spectacular and plentiful, and we're sure to have more of the same this year.

Along with the wonderful food, guests can visit with others who share the commitment to protect Snohomish County now and in the future. I'm sure some elected officials will be there, as well, to talk to about your concerns. The studio and home of Karen and Warner is spectacular both inside and out. Come and visit the art studio and gardens, share great food, great wine, great conversation and vote for your favorite chef! It's a fine way to celebrate our future.

Please RSVP to Kristin Kelly at kristin@futurewise.org, or call 425.923.8625. Tickets range from \$40 to \$1000 for sponsorships. If you haven't received an invitation by mail, just call or e-mail me and I'll send one immediately. Either way, you are definitely invited!

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 of Snohomish County, 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 Department of Chemistry and Oceanography
- Janice Adair, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive

There will be two panels of experts (including Futurewise planning director Tim Trohimovich) to answer your questions. The event will be moderated by Liam Moriarty, KPLU Environmental Reporter.

For more information, please contact the League of Women Voters of Snohomish County at 425.334.8922.

Upcoming public hearings

The deadline for written comments on proposed changes to the Snohomish County Code Enforcement Division has been extended to September 10, the date of the next public hearing. If you have had an unpleasant experience with the code enforcement division, please take a few minutes and write a summary of your experience and e-mail it to Sheila McCallister at sheila.mccallister@co.snohomish.wa.us. Be

sure to note your comments pertain to the public hearing on Ordinance 08-062, Code Enforcement.

For more information on the proposed changes, visit the county web site: www.snoco.org, click on county council, and then click on long term calendar and look for hearing information on Ordinance 08-062.

We're still waiting for several important public hearings to be scheduled: code changes for Rural Cluster Subdivisions, Urban Residential Design Standards and a moratorium on Fully Contained Communities.

When these hearings are scheduled, I will issue action alerts. If you'd like to be added to my action alert e-mail list, contact me at kris2cam@verizon.net. This is the most efficient way for me to distribute important information to our membership.

Three openings on the planning commission

There are three openings on the Snohomish County Planning Commission: Districts 1 and 4, plus a county executive appointment. If you're interested in serving on the commission, which is responsible for making recommendations to the county council on land use policy and regulations, contact planning commission staff at 425.388.3285, or e-mail sally.evans@co.snohomish.wa.us.

Don't let your heart be broken

We received the following note, enclosed with a donation meant to help PAS continue the important conservation work we do. It really made us stop and think.

Today, I walked a loop near my old home and into the woods to see the heron rookery. It wasn't there - 30 trees had been cut and there were no nests. I suspect there will be houses built there, but it has always been damp low ground. My heart was broken. Enclosed is a Great Blue Heron contribution.

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

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

May 26, 2008-July 25, 2008

Is there a decline in the number of swallows reported in Snohomish County? That question was posed to me recently. I began checking the spot where I usually see them. So far this season, I have only counted 4 Barn Swallows and 6 Tree Swallows. In 2006, I reported 15 Barn Swallows and 30+ Tree Swallows in the field and on the wires along 100th in Marysville. The biggest number reported this year has come from the Camano Island/Stanwood area. If you have any ideas or comments regarding the swallows, please e-mail me.

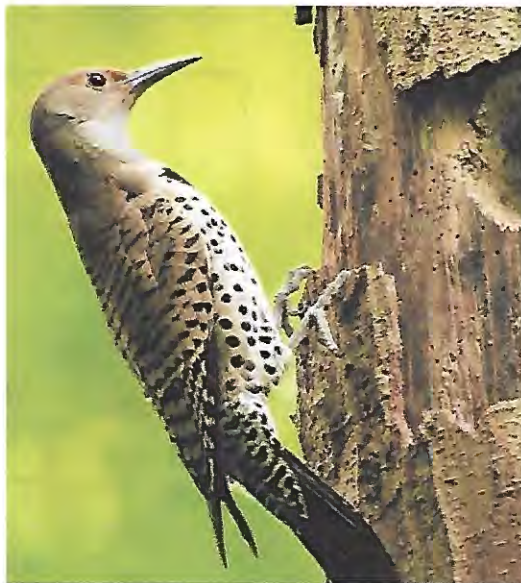
Carole and Larry Beason reported 6 Barn Swallows, 6 Tree Swallows and Violet-green Swallows near Lake Bosworth. Their June species count of 40 also included 32 Pine Siskins, 6 Rufous Hummingbirds, 7 Mourning Doves, 3 Cedar Waxwings, 7 Black-headed Grosbeaks and a Yellow-rumped Warbler. July's count included a Bald Eagle, 6 Brewer's Blackbirds, 12 Brown-headed Cowbirds, a Fox Sparrow, an Osprey, 11 Purple Finches, 16 Canada Geese, 3 Red-breasted Sapsuckers, 38 Red-winged Blackbirds and a Swainson's Thrush for a total species count of 41.

Annette Colombini's counts are a little short because she took her feeders down for a while because of a neighbor's cat, plus she's been traveling. Her species count for June from Maysville was 11 and 10 for July. Her counts included 4 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 6 American Crows, 10 American Goldfinches, 5 House Finches, 3 House Sparrows, 4 Red-winged Blackbirds, 2 Northern Flickers, a White-crowned Sparrow, a Steller's Jay, 5 American Robins and flyovers by a Bald Eagle and a Sharp-Shinned Hawk.

Gail Dibernardo is happy to report 5 Red-breasted Nuthatches (2 adults, 3 juveniles). The young nuthatches bathe in the birdbath several times a day. The adults were still feeding them in June, when her species count of 25 from Brier included 7 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Brown Creepers, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Wilson's Warblers, a Swainson's Thrush, a Black-throated Gray Warbler and 2 Red-breasted Sapsuckers (an adult feeding a juvenile). July's species count of 22 brought a Bewick's Wren, 2 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 4 Northern Flickers (also adults feeding juveniles), 5 Anna's Hummingbirds, a California Quail, 4 Steller's Jays, a Pacific Slope Flycatcher and 8 Black-capped Chickadees.



Barn Swallow, by Rebecca Richardson



Northern Flicker, by Minette Layne

Cedar Waxwings and Northern Waterthrushes topped Kriss Erickson's June species count of 19. Reporting from Everett, she listed 4 Bewick's Wrens, 2 Wood Ducks, a Lincoln's Sparrow, 8 Barn Swallows, 6 Violet-green Swallows, 12 Cedar Waxwings and 3 Northern Waterthrushes. Her July species count of 25 included 6 Western Gulls, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 White-crowned Sparrows, a Varied Thrush, 2 adult Mallards with 12 ducklings, 2 Horned Larks, 7 Chipping Sparrows, 9 American Coots, 12 Bushtits and 3 House Wrens.

Hilkka Egtvedt spotted a male Bullock's Oriole on her deck in June. It's the first one she has seen in the four years since woods near her were removed for homes. Her June report from Mukilteo also included 15 American Crows, a Red-tailed Hawk (being mobbed by crows), 2 Bewick's Wrens, 6 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Western Tanager and 4 Hairy Woodpeckers (2 adults, 2 juveniles) for a total species count of 27. July's total species count of 24 included 2 American Goldfinches, 3 Anna's Hummingbirds, 3 California Quail (2 adults, 1 juvenile), an Olive-sided Flycatcher, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 5 Violet-green Swallows, 2 White-crowned Sparrows and 2 Spotted Towhees.

Lots of swallows on Camano Island! Adeline Gildow listed 40+ flying over in July. She also reported 9 American Goldfinches, 8 American Robins, 8 Cedar Waxwings, 2 Fox Sparrows, 6 Great Blue Herons, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 2 White-crowned Sparrows, 4 Black-headed Grosbeaks and a Red-tailed Hawk for a total species count of 25 for July.

Reporting from Lake Stevens, Verna Hisey's total species count for both June and July was 12. She reported 6 Steller's Jays, 6 American Crows, 5 House Wrens, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Bald Eagles, 2 Barn Swallows, 3 Red-winged Blackbirds, 7 European Starlings, 2 Rock Doves, 4 Black-capped Chickadees, a Hairy Woodpecker, 4 Song Sparrows and 2 Rufous Hummingbirds.

Shelia and Michael Huber had to take their feeders down again this July because of bear activity in Machias. Their June report included 4 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 4 Rufous Hummingbirds, 16 American Robins, 23 European

(See "Birding Highlights" on page 8)

Birding highlights ...

(continued from page 7)

Starlings, 5 Barn Swallows, 4 American Goldfinches, 4 Mourning Doves, 2 Purple Finches, an Evening Grosbeak, a Red-breasted Sapsucker and a Brown-headed Cowbird for a total species count of 27.

Julie O'Donald's report from Brier listed quite a few interesting species for June. Her report included a **Western Screech Owl**, a **Willow Flycatcher**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, a **Winter Wren**, a **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 4 **Violet-green Swallows**, a **Swainson's Thrush** and 6 **Band-tailed Pigeons** for a total species count of 30. July's report brought 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 2 **Bald Eagles**, 6 **Barn Swallows**, 12 **Bushtits**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds** for a total of 28 species.

From Stanwood, Mary Sinker reported 11 **Barn Swallows** and 7 **Tree Swallows** in her yard in June along with an amazing 17 **American Goldfinches** and 12 **Black-capped Chickadees**. She also saw 2 **Great Horned Owls**, 2 **Killdeer**, 9 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 12 **Steller's Jays** and 11 **Mourning Doves**, for a total of 34 species. July's total species count of 31 included 6 **Bald Eagles** (4 juveniles), 6 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, 11 **House Finches**, a **Northern Harrier**, 2 **Red-tailed Hawks**, a **Wilson's Warbler** and 8 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**.

Also reporting from Stanwood, Dick Vanderoff listed 33 species in June that included 14 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 14 **swallows** flying over, 10 **Steller's Jays**, 4 **Ring-billed Gulls**, 12 **Pied-billed Grebes**, 2 **Great Blue Herons** and 15 **Brandt's Cormorants** at Kayak Point Beach, 10 **Bonaparte's Gulls** and 12+ **Marbled Murrelets** along Port Susan Bay.



Pied-billed Grebe, by Marty DeAngelo



Osprey female with chicks, by Arnette Colombini

July's report included 8 **Killdeer**, 12 **Gadwalls**, 3 **Sooty Terns**, 9 **Northern Shovelers**, 3 **Marsh Wrens**, 6 **American Goldfinches** and 6 **Black-capped Chickadees** for a total species count of 30.

Darlene Walker saw a **White-breasted Nuthatch** at her Camano Island home in June. She also reported a **Marsh Hawk**, 4 **Purple Finches**, 6 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 12 **Violet-green Swallows**, 4 **Barn Swallows**, 4 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and a **Swainson's Thrush** for a total of 34 species. She reported 20 **American Goldfinches** in July, along with 8 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 10 **Mourning Doves**, 8 **Fox Sparrows**, a **Cedar Waxwing**, 2 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 3 **Northern Flickers** and 3 **Rufous Hummingbirds** for a total species count of 21.

June was a pretty busy month around my yard with a total species count of 31. My report includes 5 **American Goldfinches**, 13 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 5 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, 6 **Tree Swallows**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers** eating suet, 13 **House Finches**, 5 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** (2 adults, 3 juveniles), 4 **Pine Siskins** and a **Cooper's Hawk**. July was a little quieter with 25 species that included 2 beautiful **Western Tanagers**, 2 **Common Ravens**, 6 **American Robins**, 4 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 5 **Northern Flickers**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers** and 4 **California Quail**.

Gwen Anderson reported an **Osprey** pair and two chicks in a nest on a floodlight at the Meadowdale Athletic Complex.

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

2 **Steller's Jays**, 30+ **crows**, 6 **Ravens**, 3 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **Cliff Swallows**, 3 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Vaux's Swifts**, a **Mountain Chickadee**, 2 **Winter Wrens**, 3 **American Robins**, a **Varied Thrush**, a **Western Tanager**, a **Spotted Towhee**, 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, a **Red-winged Blackbird** and 5 **Pine Siskins**.

The mammals we saw: two **Black-tailed Deer**, a **Pika** and a **Hoary Marmot** sunning himself on a rock.

One of the **Ravens** we saw had a fairly large bone (possibly from a deer) and was offering it to one of the other **Ravens**. We thought perhaps this was a courting behavior. The bird being courted seemed uninterested. It was if she said, "Nevermore," and flew off.

lingered briefly to take in all the awesome details.

Mount Rainier ...

(continued from page 3)

Further up the trail, we began finding increasing numbers of flowers and taking pictures. There was one steep, rocky stretch out of the shade that got a bit hot. So I filled my water bottle out of a brook of fresh Cascade snowmelt.

Near the top, the winter storms had washed out a footbridge. Workers had just finished fashioning a new one out of a rough-hewn log (probably one salvaged from an avalanche). From there on, it was a short distance though blessed shade to great views of the upper falls.

Here's a partial list of the birds we saw: an **Osprey**, a **Red-Tailed Hawk**, 6 **Rock Pigeons**, a **Band-Tailed Pigeon**, **Northern Flicker**, 3 **Gray Jays** (at their natural habitat: a picnic table),

Birding in the BC Outback: Part 1

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

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

Day 1: A promising start

It all started when Wilma and Don Bayes invited Margaret Bridge and me to stay at a rustic log cabin in central British Columbia, about 70 miles west of Quesnel. Don left a day ahead of us in his truck. We three intrepid birdwatchers followed, launching our adventure early on Saturday, June 21, in the Bayes' second truck.

Yes, we had gear: Wilma packed enough food for an army, my clothes were neatly stowed in waterproof bags and Margaret wrapped her luggage items in plastic trash bags. Most importantly, we were armed: with bear spray, mosquito repellent and cortisone cream!

We were heading for the Blackwater River area and spent most of Saturday driving through beautiful territory, including the wild Fraser River Valley. We lunched at Skihist Provincial Park near the Thompson River.

I knew it would be a good trip when the first bird we saw was a Black-throated Gray Warbler!



Black-throated Gray Warbler, by Apiradee Loharungsikul



Ruddy Duck, by Patty Bruno

We arrived at our first overnight stop, 100 Mile House (an actual town, not just a house), in time to do some local birding. We hit a large pond at the visitor center. We were thrilled to see Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Canvasbacks, mother Coots feeding their little red fluffball babies, Scaup, an Eared Grebe, and Ruddy Ducks with the brightest blue bills you have ever seen. We also saw Black Terns swooping over the water.

We moved on to Centennial Park, chased down the first Orange-crowned Warbler, bagged a Pileated Woodpecker, Western Tanager, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (rare in the area). We saw the first of many Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall and Mallard ducks. We were also introduced to our most abundant flying monstrosity, the *deadly mosquito*.

The day was not over, so we three adventurers took a trip out of town to Skaday Bridge where we saw 10-12 Black Terns swooping over a field. They are beautiful in flight with their black heads and silvery-black wings. We also heard Soras calling.

To be continued ...

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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.

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