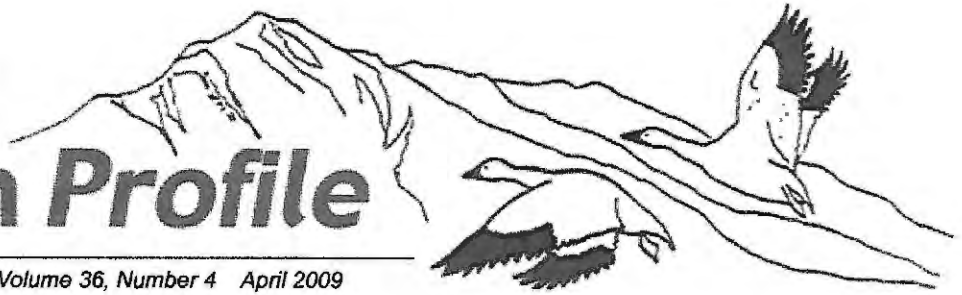


# Pilchuck Audubon Profile



Published by Pilchuck Audubon Society Volume 36, Number 4 April 2009

## Cast a vote at April program meeting

By Kathleen Snyder, Secretary, Pilchuck Audubon Society

The April 10 program meeting will also serve as PAS's general membership meeting. At that meeting, the membership will be asked to vote on by-laws changes, as well as the board of directors. We are very fortunate that our current officers are willing to continue in these roles. Susie Schaefer has been nominated for vice-president and Carolyn Lacy for treasurer. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

We have also started a year-long process of revising our by-laws. The first sections to be considered are Article V: Officers and Article VI: Board of Directors. The recommended changes were distributed at the March meeting and will be available at the April meeting, as well. Please take a moment to review them before the vote. If you need a copy, please e-mail me at [secretary@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:secretary@pilchuckaudubon.org).

## Help the environment: read the Profile online

You're reading the Profile online. You're already on board. You're saving resources and enjoying bonus content. Maybe you can help sway some of your fellow PAS members to do the same? Here's what you can tell them.

Printing and mailing the newsletter is costly. Help PAS use those funds for projects like the Save Our Swifts campaign or the Osprey Nesting Platform project. How? Take the leap and read the Profile on the web. Or, if you just can't adjust to reading it online, go to the web site, download it and print it. Either way, it will save Pilchuck the cost of printing and mailing. And, you'll enjoy additional newsletter content – including color photos in each issue.

To make the change, go to [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org), scroll to the bottom of the home page and click the "Contact Webmaster" link. Put "Profile Online" in the subject line of the e-mail message and tell us you want to read the newsletter online. Please include your e-mail address in the body of your message, just to be safe. We'll send you a reminder when the newsletter is available on PAS's web site.

You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the online newsletter. It's a free download at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

If you already read the Profile online, but aren't receiving the monthly reminder, maybe we don't have your e-mail address. Follow the instructions above to provide your e-mail address and you'll be on the reminder list, too.

Thanks for helping Pilchuck Audubon save money – and natural resources!

April program meeting, Fri., April 10, 7 p.m.

### Jane Dolliver of the UW's Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST)

COASST believes citizens of coastal communities are essential scientific partners in monitoring marine ecosystem health. Jane will discuss how, after only one training session, you can become a COASSTer, too.

May program meeting, Fri., May 8, 7 p.m.

### Grizzly Bears in the Cascades

David Knibb will talk about grizzly bears in the North Cascades and his new book, *Grizzly wars: the public fight over the great bear*. The North Cascades are designated under the endangered species act for recovery of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states. Come and learn more!

#### Note location

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

For more information, call 425.252.0926

Watch [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)  
for the most up-to-date information!

**Please plan to attend!**  
**Fall ACOW 2009**  
**October 9, 10, 11**  
**Holiday Inn, Everett**

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# President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



On most Monday and Tuesday mornings, I sit in my home office – telecommuting – while outside, birds come and go at my feeders.

A few years ago, PAS treasurer, Carolyn Lacy, told me as long as I was just sitting there, I should join the Cornell Feeder Watch and become a citizen scientist. Now, on my telecommuting days, I note the birds that come to my feeders, along with the temperature and precipitation, if any, and e-mail the information to Cornell.

I suspect I'm one of many Pilchuck Audubon members who tally the species at their feeders and submit the information to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, which is the beauty and simplicity of being a citizen scientist.

Wikipedia defines "citizen science" as a term for projects or an ongoing program of scientific work in which individual volunteers or networks of volunteers, many of whom may have no specific scientific training, perform or manage research-related tasks such as observations, measurement or computation.

Citizen scientist networks can gather and make a great deal of information available to scientists that otherwise wouldn't be feasible.

The longest running citizen science project in the nation is the Christmas Bird Count, which began in 1900, and which many PAS members participate in every December. The CBC is just one of the citizen science projects PAS is involved in. Another is the Port Susan Bay Important Bird Area project, in its second year. Its success depends heavily on teams of bird-

ers to count shorebirds stopping at Port Susan Bay on their spring and fall migrations. The information gained will help preserve this critical feeding stop for shorebirds.

The initial phase of the Osprey Project has come to fruition with the placement of five permanent nesting piles. In the next phase, we hope to involve student citizen scientists. Imagine an Everett grade school adopting a newly fledged osprey preparing her for her first migratory flight to Mexico in the fall.

This will be a unique osprey because she will have a tracking device placed on her mantle. Through a good part of the school year, the students will be able to track their osprey through her entire migration cycle. When the ospreys begin to return in late March and early April, I can imagine a field trip as these young citizen scientists gather on Port Gardner Bay to welcome home their osprey.

How cool would that be to garner the interest of a new generation of citizen scientists in the natural world? Won't they just be a twitter?

## Spring ACOW date change

The Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) has changed the dates for the Spring 2009 meeting from April 10-12 to May 1-3.

## 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](http://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	Kathleen Snyder	425.438.1505
Education	* Open *	
Program Coordinator	Laura Harvell Spehar	425.672.2150
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 Wait	360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson	360.659.7252
Hospitality	Virginia Clark	360.435.3750
Legal Advisor	Pete Dewell	425.259.6269
Membership Chair	* Open *	
Newsletter Editor	Annette Colombini	425.501.8125
Newsletter Mailing	Judy Lowell	425.353.8150
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### Staff

Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly	425.923.8625
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# Trip calendar

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

## Tuesday, April 7

### Guemes Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. (next to I-5). Relax and enjoy Guemes and its people, birds and dogs. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Tuesday, April 14

### Camano Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. (next to I-5). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and Four Springs Lake Preserve. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Tuesday, April 21

### Point Roberts

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. (next to I-5). Haven't visited this location recently or at this time of year. Expect the unexpected. Bring two pieces of ID: driver's license, birth certificate or passport as we have four border crossings. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Tuesday, April 28

### South Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Eastmont Park and Ride (I-5 exit 189), on the east side of the freeway. We'll aim for the 8 a.m. ferry from Mukilteo. Seventy-nine species last year. Crockett Lake is always exciting. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028

## Saturday, May 9

### Weyerhaeuser HQ, Federal Way

Meet at 7 a.m. behind Everett Mall, next to the transit center by LA Fitness (I-5, exit 189, Everett Mall Way). Carpooling encouraged. Bring lunch, water, good walking shoes, sun-screen, hat and binoculars. We'll pick a moderate loop trail. This is an all-day trip.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

*Notice to field trip participants: Field trips are open to members and non-members alike. No advance notice required unless otherwise stated in the trip description. Trips go, rain or shine. However, in case of snow or ice, contact trip leader! Bring a sack lunch, beverage, binoculars, scope and field guide if you have them. If not, we'll share. Please, no perfume or cologne. Be prepared to share gas money with carpool drivers. Pets, even leashed, are prohibited on field trips. Please leave them at home.*

## Upcoming festivals and roadtrips

### Olympic BirdFest

April 3-5, 2009

Sequim, Washington

Grab your binoculars and join the Olympic BirdFest 2009 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 3-5, 2009. Experience the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ... you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings at [www.olympicbirdfest.org](http://www.olympicbirdfest.org) or call 360.681.4076 for a brochure.

### Dubois Grouse Days

April 17-18, 2009

Dubois, Idaho

Join the friendly folks of the Upper Snake River Plain as they celebrate the unique shrub-steppe ecosystem and the animals that call it home. Dubois Grouse Days is a two-day event featuring guided tours to grouse breeding grounds to view sage and sharp-tailed grouse courtship, presentations by biologists and ranchers, arts and crafts booths and more.

All proceeds go towards conservation and education.

For more information, contact Curtis or Nikki Keetch: [ckeetch71@hotmail.com](mailto:ckeetch71@hotmail.com) or 208.374.5179. Or, visit the web site at [www.grousedays.org](http://www.grousedays.org).

### Birding in Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

May 15-24, 2009

Oregon

Reserve your spot now for a 10-day 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:

Whitefaced Ibis, Ferruginous Hawks, Sandhill Cranes, Black-and-white Warblers, Lesser Goldfinches, Great Horned Owls, Clark's Grebes, Phalaropes, Bobolinks and many more.

You'll be staying in motels for the entire trip – including one with a hot spring. You can 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](mailto:bill.lider@verizon.net).

### Ferry County birding

June 5-7, 2009

Ferry County, Washington

This is always a fun and fabulous trip, filled with surprises and excitement. Mark your calendars now and watch the *Profile* for more information in the coming months.

### Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, Falklands

December 28, 2009-January 25, 2010

Join Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris on a once-in-a-lifetime voyage of discovery to an awe-inspiring world devoted to nature, wildlife, science and peace. From the stunning vistas of Tierra del Fuego to the busy penguin rookeries of the Falklands (Malvinas), from the dramatic landscapes of South Georgia to the ice-covered terrain of the Antarctic, this safari will have you completely captivated.

Mention you're a member of Pilchuck Audubon Society, and Cheeseman's will donate \$500 to PAS when you book your expedition.

For more information, visit [www.cheesemans.com](http://www.cheesemans.com).

# Get involved – and have fun!

## Help attack invasive plants on March 21

It will be spring sometime soon, and we're already working on the Demo Garden in Edmonds. On Feb. 16, we staged an attack on the blackberries and ivy. Thanks to great volunteers, we got a lot done. We still have a long way to go to remove more invasives and get ready for fall planting.

Further attacks are scheduled for March 21 and April 11. They are being coordinated by Keeley O'Connell – and tools and gloves are provided! It is hard work, but fun. And, you'll have a great sense of accomplishment.

If you can help on March 21 or April 11, please contact Keeley by e-mail: [koconnell@pugetsound.org](mailto:koconnell@pugetsound.org). She needs to know how many people are coming to help.

At the end of February, PAS submitted a proposal for an ALEA grant to the DFW to get the education program going at the garden site. Please contact Susie Schaefer if you want more information about this project.

## Port Susan Bay spring survey 2009

What are you doing April 9–11, April 26–28 and May 11–13? Could you clear your calendar between 5:30–11 a.m.\*

Last year, 35 people spent more than 1100 hours counting sandpipers (a stilt sandpiper among them), terns, phalaropes, and other shorebirds. The final count for the Spring Survey was 67,116 birds and 4075 shorebirds in the fall.

Our numbers supplement aerial counts in an effort to track shorebirds as they migrate from South America to Canada and Alaska. The overall goal is to track bird populations and help protect the all-important north-south flyway.

Dr. Dennis Paulson, local shorebird expert, will again provide training for the volunteers. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about birds that visit our area and share conversation with fellow birders.

Don't miss this chance to be part of what Pilchuck Audubon is all about! Contact Colleen Weber at [colleen.weber@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:colleen.weber@pilchuckaudubon.org), [harmnone2@comcast.net](mailto:harmnone2@comcast.net) or 425.778.7568.

\*The actual time will depend on the tides.

## Be a 'Thoner: it's good for you – and PAS

What's a "Thoner? Someone who helps PAS and has fun at the same time: a Birdathon participant. And what is Birdathon? It's a team sport. It's a personal quest. It's a fundraiser. It's loads of fun.

Birdathon is a unique fundraising event. Birders gather pledges from co-workers, family, neighbors, friends and other Pilchuck Audubon Society members. For example, a friend might pledge 50 cents per species. If you spot 70 species during Birdathon, then your friend makes a \$35 tax-deductible donation to PAS.

You can bird anywhere in Washington, for any combination of 24 hours in May. You'll find it to be your most exciting (because of the challenge and suspense of finding as many species as possible) and meaningful (because you are really helping PAS while having fun) birding trip of the year.

Pledge forms are available at program meetings, online at the PAS web site, or by contacting Birdathon chair Hilkka Egtvedt at [chegtvedt@comcast.net](mailto:chegtvedt@comcast.net) or 425.347.4944.

## Rest stop fundraiser planned for May

Pilchuck Audubon will provide refreshments and accept donations at the Smokey Point rest area (southbound) from 2 p.m. on May 29 until 1 p.m. on June 1.

The rest area is open 24 hours a day, so we need pairs of volunteers to work four-hour shifts. If possible, please bake

or buy cookies or treats for your shift. Even if you can't help at the rest stop, please consider providing treats.

This is an easy fundraiser and it's fun to talk to folks. To sign up, please call Virginia Clark at 360.435.3750.

## Photos sought for the new PAS web site

Coming soon ... a new and improved PAS web site. Many thanks to Kathy Piland, who will seamlessly transition her web master duties to incoming web master, Carol Riddell. Carol will work with a contractor to redesign and upgrade the PAS web site. Kathy will move on to work on the PAS database and membership team.

We need help from the photographers in our midst. We

plan to update the PAS masthead and logo. We'll still have the Snow Geese and Mt. Pilchuck, but we'd like to use a photo – rather than the existing line drawing. If you have photos of Snow Geese in flight or a great shot of Pilchuck, please send them to Carol. Pick your best three and send them to her at [carol.riddell@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:carol.riddell@pilchuckaudubon.org). If your photo is chosen, Carol will need a high-resolution version.

# A tearful goodbye to Nina Carter

By Jan van Niel, Conservation Co-chair, Pilchuck Audubon Society

Audubon Washington has lost the services of Executive Director Nina Carter, an exceptional policy wonk. Nina joined Audubon Washington seven years ago after working in most of Washington State's Resource Management agencies (Forestry, Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources, Ecology, etc.). For several years, she served as policy director and coordinator of the 26 Audubon chapters' conservation efforts.

A few years ago when the then executive director of the state office left, Nina reluctantly agreed to act as interim director. At that point, she moved her protégé, Heath Packard, to the post of policy director. After a search for a new executive director failed, Nina accepted the job for the good of the state office. Last year, Heath left to take a senior position in one of the state agencies. Then, in January of this year, he accepted the position of legislature liaison for the newly elected state Commissioner of Public Lands, Peter Goldmark.

When Heath left Audubon, his place was taken over by his able understudy, Lisa Paribello, who coordinated efforts of the conservation chairs of Washington Audubon chapters. However, in December, Lisa left Audubon for a high position on the staff of a newly elected Thurston County Commissioner.

## Monroe swift season kicks off April 18

Help raise money for our Vaux's Swifts – and their Monroe chimney – at a fundraiser planned for April 18. The activities begin at 2 p.m. with a bird hike to Buck Island, led by Robin Fitch, principal of Frank Wagner Elementary. Please meet at Lewis Street Park, 615 Simons Road, in Monroe.

After the walk – from 3:15 until 3:45 p.m., we'll conduct docent and counter training at the school for those who are unable to stay for the later session.

At 4 p.m., we'll take our seats in the Frank Wagner Elementary auditorium and enjoy a brand new video about the swifts of Chapman School in Portland, Oregon, another roosting spot for migrating swifts. We'll show some video from Monroe, as well.

Suggested donations for this event are \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids younger than 18. But, all donations are welcome!

After the video, we'll conduct training for volunteer counters and docents. If we're really lucky, we'll see a few early arriving swifts.

Join millions around the world as they turn out and take action on global climate change

**Earth Hour 2009**  
**March 28, 8:30-9:30 p.m.**

For more information, visit [www.EarthHourUS.org](http://www.EarthHourUS.org).  
Turn off your lights from 8:30-9:30 p.m. on March 29!

Earth Hour is sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund  
([www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org))

Why have these wonderful people left Audubon Washington? The answer seems to be that with the loss of the last support of the state office by National Audubon, there is not enough money to pay a living wage and minimal benefits to these young and very talented people.

I am also sure that supportive grants to the state Audubon office have been harder to get as the income of the granting foundations have lessened with the declining economy; just another wonderful example of the "benefits" of the last 30 years of trickle-down economics.

Charlie Kahle, past president of Seattle Audubon and past national Audubon board member, has agreed to serve as part-time interim executive director and Miguel Perez-Gibson will be legislative lobbyist.

Nina has accepted the appointment by Governor Christine Gregoire to the administrative chair and member of the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board, where, I am sure, her many talents will be gratefully received.

## Help wanted: IBA coordinator

Immediate opening for part-time coordinator for the Grassroots Habitat Conservation for Shorebirds at IBAs on Pacific Coast of the Americas Project Proposal for Port Susan Bay, Wash. This grant is approximately half-way through the cycle and will end April 2010.

Qualifications include excellent writing skills, ability to meet with individuals and groups of people from private homeowners to government agencies in Snohomish County to organize a new grassroots citizen entity whose goal will be to protect habitat for shorebirds.

A final report is due in May 2010. There is a stipend and small expense account with this grant.

If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest to Mike Blackbird at [mblack2781@aol.com](mailto:mblack2781@aol.com).

**Please plan to attend!**  
**Fall ACOW 2009**  
**October 9, 10, 11**  
**Holiday Inn, Everett**

# Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

## Save these dates

**Sunday, April 26, 1 to 5 p.m.,** Barn Dance Fundraiser for Futurewise featuring music by Wired, at Craven Farms, 13817 Short School Road, Snohomish. Food and beverages provided. RSVP to Kristin Kelly at 425.923.8625 or [kristin@futurewise.org](mailto:kristin@futurewise.org). Minimum \$20 donation for adults, kids are free. Please bring two non-perishable food items for the food bank. All proceeds will go to Futurewise, a non-profit organization that works to protect Washington's farms, forests and open space while keeping our communities great places to live.

**Thursday, August 27, 6:30 to 9 p.m.,** Feast with Friends fundraiser for Pilchuck Audubon Society Smart Growth Program and Futurewise, at Angel Arms Works Art Studio, 230 Avenue B, Snohomish. Come enjoy the combination of local farm products and Snohomish County chefs. Please RSVP.

**Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,** Livable Snohomish County Coalition Summit and Snohomish County Council Candidate Debate, at the PUD Building, 2320 California Street, Everett. Lunch will be provided. RSVP is required.

## Fully contained communities update

The reality of a fully contained community (FCC) – a mini city of 15,000 people – is one of the most important issues the Smart Growth program is tackling in terms of how it will affect the environmental and financial stability of the county. Proponents of FCCs are spending big money in the planning and political processes so they can prosper financially. But, the losers will be you, me, our kids and the environmental integrity of our county.

On March 24, the Planning Commission will take public comment on a stakeholder process and code amendment recommendations, which was part of the deal when the County Council adopted a six-month moratorium on FCC applications. While the thrust of the March 24 hearing is to consider code changes that would or would not change the requirements that developers would have to meet, the thrust of my arguments will continue to be that allowing an FCC in this county will "suck the life out of Snohomish County."

The number-one issue affecting not just the county, the Puget Sound region, the state of Washington and not just the United States, but the entire world, is global warming! Each and every thing we do or do not do individually or collectively, will either have a positive or negative effect in tackling the most environmentally vital issue of our time.

The overwhelming message and policy issue our County Council should be making a decision on is that mega-residential developments in rural areas, no matter how well laid out, are an abomination to our efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. New, urban-sized lots should be created in urban areas, not rural areas.

If the county council and executive Aaron Reardon care one iota for the financial or environmental sustainability of our county, then they should repeal the fully contained community ordinance! The notion of a fully contained community is ludicrous. There is an illusion that these will actually be a place where folks will live, work and play exclusively. That is not the case, and one of the main proponents of FCCs – the lawyer representing the developers who are already working to transform 3000 acres of designated commercial forest land on Lake Roesiger – has even admitted in public that his idea of a FCC is nothing more than "a master planned urban community" plopped down in the middle of our most rural area.

The March 24 public hearing will focus on code amendments. I will again ask for elimination of FCCs. But, in lieu of a majority vote for elimination, I will ask the commissioners to recommend to the council our code amendments. While I am trying to participate in the process in good faith, it has never been more apparent to me that no amount of code changes will ensure the citizens and taxpayers of Snohomish County that another city of 15,000 people will do nothing more than:

- Create further congestion on our roads and the taxpayers will be asked for more money to fix it.
- Add significantly to VMTs and GHG emissions as people who live way out in the middle of the rural areas will still be driving to jobs, as livable wage jobs will not come to an FCC before all the homes.
- Further negatively impact our dwindling water resources and sacrifice wildlife habitat for a developer's financial gain.

In addition, the need for more schools, parks and open space will take a low priority to rooftops and low-wage retail businesses. And there is no guarantee FCCs will provide affordable homes. The fact is that once one FCC is built, another one could be approved for development within five years.

If you are reading this before the March 24 Planning Commission hearing, please attend and speak up against FCCs. You'll find the Stakeholders Report on the county's web site ([www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org)). It is so apparent that the proponents of the FCCs (lawyers for the developers who want FCCs at Lake Roesiger and Lake Goodwin) love the current FCC codes, because they had a hand in their development. And the opponents (Pilchuck Audubon Society, Futurewise and two citizens whose rural areas will be decimated by an FCC) want changes that would hold a higher standard for another city in Snohomish County.

It isn't just PAS, Futurewise and citizens who are opposed. The policy on FCCs for Vision 2040 from the Puget Sound Regional Council says counties should "avoid" FCCs. Snohomish County has to comply with Vision 2040. And, 18 of the 20 cities in Snohomish County are opposed to FCCs, as well. Indeed they should be. Another city will compete for the limited transportation and infrastructure dollars to be sustainable.

Remember, the Planning Commission is just a recommending body to the county council. Ultimately, it's the county council members who will make the decision to eliminate FCCs. They will be having their own public hearing sometime in late April, and your participation will be even more important.

Please contact the county council members and the executive to request they repeal the FCC ordinance from the comprehensive plan. You can call them at 425.388.3494 or e-mail them at the following addresses:

Chair Mike Cooper: [mike.cooper@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:mike.cooper@co.snohomish.wa.us)

Dave Somers: [dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us)

John Koster: [john.koster@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:john.koster@co.snohomish.wa.us)

Dave Gossett: [dave.gossett@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:dave.gossett@co.snohomish.wa.us)

Brian Sullivan: [brian.sullivan@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:brian.sullivan@co.snohomish.wa.us)

Aaron Reardon: [aaron.reardon@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:aaron.reardon@co.snohomish.wa.us)

Please copy me on your correspondence at [kristin.kelly@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:kristin.kelly@pilchuckaudubon.org). Thank you for helping me help you and the future of Snohomish County.

# Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

January 26, 2008-February 25, 2009

A few weeks ago, a very large bird landed on our bird feeder. Right away we thought: hawk. But, to our surprise, it looked more like a giant dove. We quickly got our field guide and discovered it was a Band-tailed Pigeon. We had never seen one before. It's really a very pretty bird.

Roger Twito, who is new to the Audubon Society, sent an e-mail regarding the numerous **Varied Thrush** that frequent his yard near Alderwood Manor. He lives next to a forest, which is contiguous with the Swamp Creek green-belt or wetlands. Sounds like a good location for birding.

Living near Lake Bosworth, Carole and Larry Beason's report always contains a large variety of bird species. Their species count of 32 for this month included 14 **Buffleheads**, 14 **Common Mergansers**, 18 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Hooded Mergansers**, a **Pied-billed Grebe**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, 8 **Spotted Towhees**, a **Townsend's Warbler**, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, 2 **Varied Thrush** and a **Merlin**.

A **Yellow-rumped Warbler** highlighted Annette Colombini's report from Marysville. She also reported a **Bald Eagle**, 5 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 3 **House Sparrows**, 13 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Killdeer**, 6 **Pine Siskins**, 8 **Steller's Jays** and a **Northern Flicker** for a species count of 15.

Four different kinds of woodpeckers visited Gail Dibernardo's yard in Brier in February. She listed 2 **Northern Flickers**, 1 **Pileated Woodpecker**, a **Hairy Woodpecker** and a **Downy Woodpecker**. Her species count of 21 also included 17 **House Finches**, 7 **Pine Siskins**, 12 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, 4 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **Bewick's Wren** and a **Brown Creeper**.

The **White-throated Sparrow** is still visiting Hikka Egtvedt's home in Mukilteo. She also spotted her first **Rufous Hummingbird** for the year. Her species count of 27 included 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 12 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 10 **California Quail**, 4 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 2 **Townsend's Warblers** and 2 **Varied Thrush**.

Kriss Erickson, who lives near Lowell Road in Everett, reported a **Merlin** in her yard, along with 27 **Dark-eyed**



Band-tailed Pigeon, by Mara Price



Sharp-shinned Hawk, by Raymond Parsons



Yellow-rumped Warbler, by Paul Kusmin

**Juncos**, a **Winter Wren**, 2 **Lincoln's Sparrows**, 4 **Cedar Waxwings**, 17 **Black-capped Chickadees** (that's a lot of chickadees!), 13 **Bushtits**, 22 **American Coots**, 6 **Western Gulls**, 7 **Bufflehead** and 7 **American Robins** for a species count of 20.

**Snow Geese** and **Trumpeter Swans** still grace the north county landscape. Adeline Gildow's report from Camano Island lists 200+ **Snow Geese** near Conway and 300+ **Trumpeter Swans** off Pioneer Highway. Her species count of 27 also included 3 **Bald Eagles** overhead at Juniper Beach, a **Belted Kingfisher**, a **Red-tailed Hawk**, 6 **Canada Geese** in her yard, 9 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 3 **Great Blue Herons**, 150 **Dunlin** on Juniper Beach, 2 **Killdeer** and 2 **Mourning Doves**.

Verna Hisey's species count of 9 from Lake Stevens included 7 **Steller's Jays**, 4 **Black-capped Chickadees**, a **Bald Eagle** flying over, 4 **Varied Thrush**, 3 **Song Sparrows**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, 5 **American Crows**, 4 **Rock Doves** and a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**.

Shelia and Michal Huber reported 23 **House Finches** this month from their home near Machias. They also reported 2 **Varied Thrush**, 27 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **Downy Woodpeckers**, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, 4 **Mourning Doves**, 3 **Pine Siskins**, 3 **Purple Finches**, 4 **Northern Flickers**, a **Great Blue Heron** and a **Cooper's Hawk** for a total species count of 22.

Julie O'Donald spotted four **Band-tailed Pigeons** at her feeder in Brier. She also listed 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, 10 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, a **Yellow Warbler**, a **Killdeer**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Spotted Towhees**, a **Townsend's Warbler**, a **Winter Wren**, 2 **Northern Flickers** and a **Pileated Woodpecker** for a species count of 24.

The Stanwood area seems to be another great location for spotting a large variety of birds. Mary Sinker's species count of 33 is a good indicator. She reported a **Snowy Owl** and 2 female **Western Bluebirds** at the Pilchuck Tree Farm. She also reported 34 **American Robins**, 12 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 46 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 7 **Mourning Doves**,

(See "Birding highlights" on page 8)

# Birding highlights ...

(continued from page 7)

33 Pine Siskins, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 11 Varied Thrush and 2 Winter Wrens in her yard. She spotted a Northern Harrier and 2 Red-tailed Hawks in a pasture near her home.

Dick Vanderhoff, also reporting from Stanwood, has a great view of Port Susan Bay. He listed 50 Western Grebes, 25 Double-crested Cormorants and 10 Common Murres on the bay. His report also included 2 Bald Eagles flying over, 6 Northern Flickers, 3 Mourning Doves, 10 Spotted Towhees, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 30 Tundra Swans in a field next to Miller Road, an Anna's Hummingbird and the first Rufous Hummingbird of the season for a species count of 14.

Darlene Walker spotted at least 40 American Robins in a field near her home on Camano Island. She also reported 450 Trumpeter Swans and 200 Snow Geese in the Skagit Valley. Her total species count of 24 included 5 Bald Eagles, 6 Fox Sparrows, 15 Pine Siskins, an Anna's Hummingbird, 20 American Crows, 12 Dark-eyed Juncos, a Varied Thrush and a White-breasted Nuthatch.

At least 22 American Robins descended on a field near my home in Marysville. My total species count of 27 included the Band-tailed Pigeon, a Merlin, 4 Mallards in the pond on 100th, 2 Fox Sparrows, 18 California Quail, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Steller's Jays, a Purple Finch, 2 Winter Wrens and 20+ European Starlings in the field nearby.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please e-mail me at [pricemara@clearwire.net](mailto:pricemara@clearwire.net) or leave a message at 425.750.8125.

April program meeting, Fri., April 10, 7 p.m.

## Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST)

COASST believes citizens of coastal communities are essential scientific partners in monitoring marine ecosystem health. Jane Dolliver will discuss how, after only one training session, you can become a COASSTer, too.

Everett Firefighters Hall  
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

We 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](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)  
for the most up-to-date information!

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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.

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- I'd like to save PAS money and read the *Profile* on the web at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org). Please don't mail it to me. I've included my email address at right so you can let me know when each issue is available.
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