

Pilchuck Audubon Profile

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Action needed to stop decline of local Ospreys

By Bill Lider

On June 27, six of us met at Legion Park to view and count the Port Gardner Bay Osprey colony. We documented 18 active nest sites and were able to observe three Osprey chicks.

There were likely more chicks hidden from view in these nests. As the chicks grow larger, they will be easier to see.



A female osprey feeds chicks while the male watches.
Photo by Annette Colombini.

At this stage in the Osprey chicks' development, they were about the size of (and

looked something like) a plucked chicken in their pin feathers. No physical abnormalities such as deformed beaks were observed in the chicks we saw during our field trip.

While 18 active nest sites is still an impressive figure for Port Gardner Bay, it represents a more than 30% decline in population in the last eight years. Since 2001, we have lost nesting Ospreys in Port Gardner at the rate of one nest per year. At the current rate, there will be no nesting Ospreys in Port Gardner Bay in 15 years!

In public workshops in Everett in May 2009, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) disclosed their documentation of an exceedingly high concentration of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in Port Gardner Bay English Sole, a bottom fish that is also a primary food source for Ospreys. Subsequently, Ecology issued a statement that the high PCB hit was an anomaly (e.g., a lab error).

Unfortunately, Ecology sampled just a couple of fish, far too small a sample to be representative. Like DDT in the 1960s, these chlorinated pollutants have the ability to bio-accumulate in the food chain to a point where they can cause cancers, birth defects, and generally disrupt reproduction of the top food chain predators such as Ospreys (and humans).

In the past, Ecology has taken comments on potentially liable party (PLP) cleanup action plans in Port Gardner Bay and will take more in the future. A PLP is a party who may have contributed to the pollution problem.

(See "Ospreys" on page 3)

September program meeting
Friday, September 11, 7 p.m.

Opening ceremony of the Puget Sound Bird Fest

Hear Dr. Kara Whittaker discuss how development is affecting the survival of songbirds in our communities. Join us in the Plaza Room above the Edmonds Public Library, 650 Main Street, for this free event.

Note: the location is changed for September only!

October program meeting
Friday, October 9, 7 p.m.

Vaux's Happening with Larry Schwitters

"Vaux's Happening" is dedicated to promoting research on the Vaux's Swifts. Larry's will talk about how they want to locate all communal roost sites statewide and conduct north and southbound censuses.

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
for the most up-to-date information.

Everyone can count. Everyone can talk.

Everyone is qualified for Swift Watch
counter and docent training.

See page 6 for more details.

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



On Father's Day, I planted flowers in a backyard flowerbed. It was a bit of a mindless chore, since I was thinking about my retirement date 10 days hence. I was preoccupied with all the loose ends that needed to be tied up before leaving my company, as well as all the tasks necessary to make a smooth transition into retirement.

While contemplating all this, I caught a slight movement in the corner of my eye. Turning, I saw – blundering toward me out of the native growth of my yard – a bit of erratic nervous energy, a Trowbridge's Shrew. I watched this weak-eyed Mr. McGoo work his way in my direction, starting and stopping, searching for tasty bits, until he bumped into my shoe.

He paused, peered at the size 11 before him with weak, uncomprehending eyes, shrugged his shoulders, turned around scurried back the way he'd come.

Watching Mr. Shrew rush about like Alice's white rabbit – late for an important date – I wondered: Does he sum up my working life?

It called to mind something Annie Dillard wrote in *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, that life is a stroll or a forced march.

Is that how I would sum up my working life, a forced march? I was close to concluding a long career as a salesman and a sales manager. You come to terms early that, in sales, you're only as good as your next sale. The plaques on my office wall illuminating a successful sales career are ancient history.

"What have you done lately?" is the operative phrase in the sales business.

I have always endeavored to balance my life. I have never wanted my sales career to define me. But, when I stop to think about it, everything I ever cared about involves salesmanship.

Pilchuck Audubon Society is a good example. Joining with two Save Our Swifts committee members in a meeting with Representative Hans Dunshee, House capital budget chairman, to convince him of the importance of funding for the seismic stabilization of the chimney at the Frank Wagner School assuring student safety was salesmanship. Writing an appeal letter to PAS membership asking for donations to support PAS initiatives is a sales pitch.

Perhaps selling does define me, but with a different title. No longer am I a regional sales manager for a large health care company named after a bird. As president of Pilchuck Audubon Society, perhaps I should admit I'm a salesman for the champion for the environment in Snohomish County.

After all, an advocate is just a salesman by another name.

This time, though, it will be no forced march. As Mr. Shrew disappeared into the foliage, I put aside my trowel and strolled over to the rose arbor for a sniff.

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
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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
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Legal Advisor	Pete Dewell.....	425.259.6269
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Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly.....	425.923.8625
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Trip calendar

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

Tuesday, August 4

Anacortes

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. and next to I-5. So many beautiful birding places: lakes, beaches, marinas and even a mountain. Sixty-three species last August. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, August 11 Langus Park, Spencer Island

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

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Sunday, August 16 Iron Goat Trail, Stevens Pass

Meet at 7 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. and next to I-5. Carpooling strongly encouraged. We will hike the nearly flat eastern loop of the Iron Goat Trail (a former railbed) starting at the Iron Goat Interpretive Center. The round trip is less than 5.5 miles with a steep descent of 700 feet near the end. All day. Bring water, lunch, binoculars, sunscreen, sunglasses and a hat.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Ospreys ...

(continued from page 1)



Ospreys near Port Gardner Bay. Photo by Annette Colombini.

Unfortunately, Ecology believes they are unable to require – or even request – the PLPs fund a full-time biologist to study and monitor the health of the Osprey colony as a part of

any agreed order. It could be years before any cleanup is begun and, even then, it will likely not include monitoring.

PAS members are strongly urged to contact Andy Kallus with the Ecology Department at 360.407.7259 or akal461@ecy.wa.gov. Tell him you want the PLPs to immediately hire a full-time biologist to monitor the health of the Port Gardner Osprey colony.

Is the PCB pollution, which has accumulated in Port Gardner Bay sediments over the last 100 years, the reason for the Osprey decline? We can't be sure it is the only cause. However, collecting and sampling failed Osprey eggs and weakling chicks pushed out of the nest could go a long way in determining whether pollution is the primary cause or if we should focus our efforts in other areas such as climate change,

Tuesday, August 18 Chinook Pass and Highway 410

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Monroe Park and Ride on Hwy. 2, a half-mile west of the fairgrounds. Pass is at 5,432 feet and intersects The Cascade Crest Trail. Beautiful scenery Gray Jays, Vaux's Swifts and Mountain Chickadee. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0180

Aug 25 Portage Creek, Lake Cavanaugh, Big Lake

Meet at 8 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. and next to I-5. Virginia is going to show us her stomping grounds, including her feeders. No need to pack a lunch, she will feed us at her place.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Sept. 12-13 Puget Sound Bird Festival, Edmonds

Weekend Bird Hike Leader Jonthan Blubaugh will again lead outings at the Puget Sound Bird Festival on Saturday and Sunday. The tentative schedule is for him to serve on a pelagic trip Saturday morning, then lead a walk at Yost Park on Sunday afternoon. Watch for more information in next month's *Profile*. Or, visit www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org.

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.

habitat loss, etc. And, in turn, it could help us expedite a cleanup and prevent the loss of the Port Gardner Ospreys.

One thing is sure, we are losing Ospreys at the rate of one nesting pair per year. We need to move quickly to determine what is causing their population decline. Before it's too late.

ACOW committee needs you. Yes, YOU!

Pilchuck Audubon will host the fall Audubon Chapters of Washington (ACOW) meeting this year. There's a lot still to do and volunteers are needed. ACOW is a great event and provides members the opportunity to learn more about other state Audubon chapters, meet new people and get involved with important conservation issues.

Please step forward and volunteer your time and talents for this event. You'll find ACOW is a fun, educational weekend spent with old friends and new people who share a common interest in birds and / or the environment. In other words: time well spent.

Don't wait. Volunteer today. Contact Colleen Weber van Niel at 425.210.5626 or harmnone2@comcast.net.

Make a difference: renew PAS membership

By Kathleen Snyder, Secretary, Pilchuck Audubon Society

Pilchuck Audubon is embarking on its first membership renewal drive, which is necessary, in part, because our relationship with the National Audubon Society (NAS) has changed. In the past, membership dues sent to NAS included a subscription to *Audubon* magazine and PAS membership. A small part of those monies was sent back to PAS.

Due to budget cuts, NAS no longer sends PAS any portion of those dues. In addition, NAS has stopped funding state Audubon offices. The Washington office is struggling to survive. The loss of funds and the downsizing of the state office are difficult for local chapters to absorb.

Thanks to new software and the dedication of Ileen Weber and Judy Lowell, we can more accurately track the membership status of current and lapsed members. Lapsed members

may have received a letter with a reminder to renew. Many members may be unaware their membership has expired.

We don't want to discourage your NAS renewal. We want to encourage support of the local chapter by renewing directly with PAS. For only \$25 a year, you're connected with a dynamic group of conservationists and birders who make a real difference in preserving wildlife habitat in Snohomish County.

Membership also includes 10 issues of the *Profile* newsletter, field trip opportunities and representation of conservation values in local politics by Smart Growth Director, Kristin Kelly.

If you've received a letter from PAS asking for your renewal, please send in your check. Additional donations will be enthusiastically accepted.

Upcoming regional festivals and events

Feast with Friends Thursday, August 27

Snohomish

The annual Feast with Friends fundraiser, featuring delicious food from local farms, is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Angel Arms Works, 230 Avenue B, Snohomish. Eight local chefs, using products from local farmers, will create yummy food for you to enjoy. Proceeds benefit Pilchuck Audubon's Smart Growth Program and Futurewise.

For more information, contact Kristy Kelly at kristin@futurewise.org or visit www.futurewise.org/snohomish to register online.

Swifts Night Out 2009 Saturday, September 12

Monroe

Join us for the second annual Swifts Night Out to celebrate the Vaux's Swifts migration through Monroe on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Frank Wagner School, 639 W. Main Street, Monroe.

Festivities begin on the lawn at 5 p.m. with educational booths. A program by local swift expert Larry Schwitters will take place in the school auditorium at 6 p.m. Afterward, take your place on the lawn to watch thousands of swifts descend into the chimney. Docents will be on hand to answer questions about the swift project and the swifts.

Last year, 800 people gathered to watch these amazing little birds. So, bring your blanket and picnic and expect a crowd!

For more information, visit www.pilchuckaudubon.org.

Puget Sound Bird Fest September 11-13

Edmonds

The spotlight is on birds at Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds, September 11-13. The event starts Friday evening with an opening reception and keynote speaker in the Edmonds Plaza Room, 650 Main Street.

On Saturday enjoy exhibits, lectures, a birders' marketplace and children's activities. There will be guided walks and field trips, including a birding cruise Saturday morning and an evening bus trip to Monroe to see thousands of Vaux's Swifts. The featured activity on Sunday will be the self-guided backyard wildlife habitat tours.

For more information, visit www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org.

Livable Snohomish County Summit Saturday, October 10

Everett

You are invited to the second Livable Snohomish County Summit and County Council Candidate Debate on Saturday, October 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the PUD Building, 2320 California Street, Everett. The theme is "Climate change and land use: planning for a livable Snohomish County."

Speakers will address climate change as it relates to urban planning, transportation and water quality. The afternoon session will feature a debate among the six candidates vying for three county council positions.

And, during the lunch, we'll have facilitated discussions, informational tables and networking.

This is a free event – and includes a free lunch – but space is limited. Reservations are required. Contact Kristy Kelly at kristin@futurewise.org or call 425.923.8625.

BirdFest and Bluegrass 2009

October 10-11

Ridgefield, Washington

Come to the Ridgefield National Wildlife refuge, 25 minutes north of Portland and take an Audubon-led bird and plant tour. Learn about Bald Eagles. Reserve a spot on a tour to view Sandhill Cranes. Shop at a birders' marketplace. Visit a replica plankhouse and see how Native Americans lived. Sample salmon at a salmon bake. Listen to Bluegrass music all day Saturday, or come to jam in a workshop.

For more info, visit www.ridgefieldfriends.com.

PAS board meetings

The Pilchuck Audubon Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month, at the Sno-Isle Natural Foods Coop meeting room (2804 Grand Ave., Everett), beginning at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the chapter's goals and priorities. For more information, contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505.

Birding highlights

May 26, 2009–June 25, 2009

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

What a great time of year for backyard birding. Almost everyone's counts are up. Sheila and Michael Huber had to take their feeders down because the neighborhood bear returned June 2. I was resistant to this when our bear appeared in 2007, but I realize now it is best. The birds find plenty to eat with the elderberries, huckleberries, and fruit trees. If a bear comes into your yard, it is best to take the feeders down rather than have them destroyed by the bear.

Sheila and Michael Huber's count from near Machias was only 20 this month because of the bear. They reported 5 **Pine Siskins**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, 4 **Downy Woodpeckers**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 3 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 2 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Mourning Doves**, 4 **American Robins**, 3 **Mallards**, 4 **Violet-green Swallows** and 2 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**.

Carole and Larry Beason's counts are still up with 40 species reported this month. Their sightings from the Lake Bosworth area included 2 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 3 **Cedar Waxwings**, 6 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **Bald Eagles**, 6 **Barn Swallows** and 9 **Violet-green Swallows**, 5 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, a **Swainson's Thrush**, 7 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Hammond's Flycatcher**, 12 **Pine Siskins** and an **Osprey**.

Hairy Woodpeckers topped Annette Colombini's from her Lake Stevens location. She counted 7 consisting of two families. Her total species count of 16 also included 2 **Swainson's Thrush**, 8 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, 6 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 11 **American Goldfinches**, 5 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Turkey Vulture** soaring overhead and a lone **Pine Siskin**. She is still hearing the **Mountain Chickadee**. She also reported some furry critters including a **Bobcat**.

Hilkka Egtvedt was away part of June, but she still listed 27 species. Her count from her Mukilteo home included 5 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **Swainson's Thrush**, 4 **American Goldfinches**, 10 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 3 **Northern Flickers**,

2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Pileated Woodpecker** and she heard an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**.



Unknown furry bird, by Mara Price



Violet-green Swallow, by Don Metzner

A **Wood Duck** with six chicks topped Kriss Erickson's report from her Everett home. Her species count of 12 included 4 **Violet-green Swallows**, 31 **Bushtits**, 3 **Western Gulls**, 30 **European Starlings**, 3 adult **Mallards** and 9 chicks, 12 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 4 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 8 **American Crows** and 6 **Black-capped Chickadees**.

Julie O'Donald's report from Brier included a **Killdeer**, a **White-crowned Sparrow**, 2 **Barn Swallows**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, a **Merlin**, a **Western Screech Owl**, 6 **American Robins**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, 4 **Dark-eyed Juncos** and a mystery bird for a total species count of 31. She would like to know if anyone knows what kind of birds fly rapidly between trees making a sharp click-like sound early in the morning. Somewhat swallow-like. It usually happens early June.

Reporting from Camano Island, Adeline Gildow listed 5 **Bald Eagles**, 5 **Great Blue Herons**, 4 **Cedar Waxwings**, 4 **Mourning Doves**, 40 swallow species flying over, 3 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**, 3 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, 4 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 2 **Golden-crowned Sparrows** and 1000+ **Dunlin** for a species count of 34.

More **Violet-green Swallows** reported by Darlene Walker from Camano Island. She listed 12 **Violet-green Swallows** and 8 **Barn Swallows** in her total species count of 30. Her report also included 20 **American Goldfinches**, 8 **Pine Siskins**, 6 **Fox Sparrows**, 2 **Song Sparrows**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, 4 **Purple Finches**, 2 **Swainson's Thrush**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers** and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird**.

Mary Sinker sent in three months of reports that are pretty consistent with 32 species for April
(See "Birding highlights" on page 7)

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Fully Contained Communities

And the beat goes on ... thanks to all the Pilchuck Audubon Society members and others in Snohomish County who took the time to write an e-mail, send a letter, or came to the hearing and testified regarding new cities in our rural lands and on our resource lands. To date, the City Council has received more than 300 emails asking to repeal Fully Contained Communities from the comprehensive plan.

We have no idea if there is a majority on the council to repeal FCC policies and regulations. At a minimum, we are asking that the Council amend the FCC regulations in order to ensure any new city will not further burden taxpayers or further harm our water and air quality and wildlife habitat.

Council member Dave Gossett has proposed a set of amendments to the amendments, and other council members may also be submitting amendments for consideration.

Therefore, the County Council has scheduled another public hearing at 3 p.m. on Monday, August 10, in the Council's chambers, Eighth Floor of the County Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Street, to take public comments ONLY on the FCC amendments. That hearing also will include more public comment on amendments being proposed by the council to the Urban Centers ordinance, and comments on the Docket XIII proposal for Pacific Ridge Homes.

Then council will begin deliberations on all the FCC ordinances and Docket XIII ordinances at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12 in their chambers.

For more information on the proposed amendments, please visit the council's calendar at www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/departments/council.

Feast with Friends fundraiser

Bon appétit! The preparations for our annual Feast with Friends fundraiser, scheduled for August 27, are coming along well. So far, we have 24 sponsors, eight local chefs, 11 food producers and three wineries working to make this a fantastically delicious evening.

Sponsors include Steve Aslanian, Bruce Barnbaum, Kathy and John Dewhirst, Rep. Hans Dunshee, John First, County Council Member Dave Gossett, Ellen Gray, Mickie Gundersen, Ellen Hiatt Watson, Mark Hinchey, Fire Commissioner Mark Hintz, Cindy Howard, Candace McKenna, Julie and Karim Meghji, Kristin Petereit, Dave Ridgeway, Leon Sams, County Council Member Dave Somers, Valerie Steel of Greening Properties, Sonia Thompson, Lynnwood City Council Member Lisa Utter, Daryl Williams and Chuck Woods.

Local food producers and farmers donating their harvests include Alden Farms, Craven Farm, Bailey's Vegetables, Garden Treasures, Rents Due Ranch, Carleton Farms, Barbara Judd, Marshland Produce Market, Werkhoven Dairy Farm/Darigold, National Food Corporation and Taylor Shellfish Farms.

Local wineries donating their wares include DiStefano Cellars, Brian Carter Cellars and Griffins Crossing Winery.

Everyone is invited! Please RSVP to me at kristin@futurewise.org or call at 425.923.8625. Or, register and play online by following the links at www.futurewise.org/snohomish. Be

sure to sign up for the **Snohomish** Feast with Friends, as there are other feasts in Seattle and Spokane. And, spread the word about this fun and delicious event!

Livable Snohomish County Summit and County Council Candidate Debate

I hear, and I forget. I see, and I remember. I do, and I understand. - Chinese Proverb

You are invited – and space is limited – to the second Livable Snohomish County Summit and County Council Candidate Debate on Saturday, October 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the PUD Building, 2320 California Street, Everett.

The theme is "Climate change and land use: planning for a livable Snohomish County." Speakers will address climate change as it relates to urban planning, transportation and water quality. This is a FREE event, including a FREE lunch.

The afternoon session will feature a debate among the six candidates vying for three county council positions. And, during the lunch, we'll have facilitated discussions, informational tables and networking.

Make your reservation today. Contact me at kristin@futurewise.org or call 425.923.8625. Interested in hosting an informational table? Please let me know as soon as possible. There are only 50 spots available.

The Livable Snohomish County Coalition web site will be active in August. Watch for more details in the next issue of the *Profile*.

For up-to-date info on weekly meeting and hearings, visit my web site www.futurewise.org/snohomish and click on calendar. Or listen each Monday morning at 8:45 a.m. on KSER 90.7-FM when I talk with Ed Bremer.

Swift counter and docent training August 20

Audubon members and friends are invited to join a team of enthusiastic and fun-loving citizen scientists as counters and docents during the Vaux's Swifts fall migration through Monroe. There's never a dull moment. Last year, there were big crowds almost every night during September and early October at Frank Wagner School.

Docent and counter training is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, at the school (located at 639 W. Main Street in Monroe). We'll be set up at the tables behind the school – or in the library if it rains. After the training, we'll ask people to sign up to fill the late August, September and October schedule.

Training is for experienced and new counters and docents. We need many volunteers for full coverage.

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

Birding highlights ...

(continued from page 5)

and June and 36 for May. Her June report from Stanwood include 22 **Mourning Doves** in her yard, 18 **American Goldfinches**, 4 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, 4 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 6 **Pine Siskins**, 12 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Tree Swallows**, 8 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Red-tailed Hawk** and a **Veery**.

Also reporting from Stanwood, Dick Vanderhoff reported 2 **White-throated Sparrows**, 6 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, 2 **Northern Flickers** (with yellow shafts), 3 **Bald Eagles**, 10-12 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **White-breasted Nuthatches** (the fledglings do look white-breasted until their color comes out), 4 **Spotted Towhees**, 6 **American Goldfinches** and 4 **Killdeer** (two adults and two chicks) for a total species count of 16.

I had a great month with a total species count of 31 from my home in Marysville. The **Western Tanager** always makes my



Western Tanager, by Dan Hershman

day with two reported at the suet feeders and in the cherry trees. Two **Evening Grosbeaks** also visited the feeder along with 7 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 4 **Purple Finches**, 7 **House Finches**, 3 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 2 **Barn Swallows**, a **White-crowned Sparrow**, a **Great-Horned Owl** and 20+ **California Quail** (2 adults and 18+ very small chicks).

Jonathan Blubaugh sent in his report from the Shorebird Festival in Ocean Shores during April. He reported 29 species, which included 2 **Ring-necked Ducks**, 4 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **Barn Swallows**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, 3 **House Sparrows**, 2 **Spotted Towhees**, a **Fox Sparrow**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** and a **Red-winged Blackbird**.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please e-mail me at pricemara@clearwire.net or leave a message at 425.750.8125.

Audubon membership information

Joint membership in National Audubon Society (NAS) and Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) includes National Audubon Society's quarterly magazine *Audubon* and Pilchuck Audubon Society's *Profile* newsletter for one year. Cost is \$20 for an Introductory Membership or \$35 for renewals. When you join National Audubon Society, you automatically become a member of Pilchuck Audubon Society.

However, PAS receives none of your national dues to support its programs. Local membership in Pilchuck Audubon Society includes a one-year subscription (10 issues) to Pilchuck Audubon Society's *Profile* newsletter. Cost is \$25. A special limited income category is also available for \$16.

Local PAS membership

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

Make check payable to:
Pilchuck Audubon Society

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

NAS membership

(includes PAS membership)

- Introductory membership \$20

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

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

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