

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile



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## Environmental Lobby Day: be part of it!



Be sure your state legislators know what your environmental priorities are by attending this year's Environmental Priorities Coalition Lobby Day on Thursday, February 19.

Each year, PAS members join hundreds of other citizen lob-

byists and travel to Olympia to learn about the issues, talk to legislators and use the power of many voices to push the priorities most important to them.

This year, the Environmental Priorities Coalition and the People for Puget Sound will focus on these issues:

- **Cap and Invest** to reduce global warming emissions
- **Efficiency First** to promote energy efficiency and conservation
- **Transit-oriented Communities** for better transportation choices
- **Invest in Clean Water** to restore Puget Sound and other water bodies

Attendees will hear from legislators who are championing environmental legislation, receive training on how to lobby from top environmental lobbyists and have a chance to meet face-to-face with elected officials. You'll end the day attending a party at the governor's mansion.

Buses are available from the north end to Olympia, so you don't even have to worry about traffic or parking. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$15 for transportation, \$15 to participate and \$10 for the reception at the governor's mansion.

For more information contact Jan van Niel at 425.778.7568. To register online, visit [www.pugetsound.org](http://www.pugetsound.org).

### Photo postcard campaign

Can't attend Environmental Lobby Day? Have your photo taken with a sign reading "I stand for clean water," and People for Puget Sound will put your face on a postcard to be delivered to your legislators on lobby day.

It's a simple and fun way to make sure your voice is heard, even if you can't be there in person. Imagine the impact of hundreds of postcards showing citizens from across Washington taking a stand for clean water! Visit [www.pugetsound.org](http://www.pugetsound.org) for more details.

February program meeting Fri., Feb. 13, 7 p.m.

### Gardening for backyard birds

Join Neil Zimmerman of Seattle Audubon for this fun and informative seminar on sharing your garden with our feathered friends.

#### 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!

## Helpers sought for Goose Fest, rest stop fundraiser

The Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival is scheduled for February 28-March 1. There's always lots to see and do at this fun festival - including guided birding trips.

PAS will have a table at the festival headquarters and volunteers are needed to staff it, as well as to act as birding guides. If you can help, please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org).

### Help needed for rest stop fundraiser

Mark your calendars for another big Smokey Point rest stop fundraiser May 28-June 1. This is a fun way to raise funds for PAS, but lots of volunteers are needed. Please plan to put in a shift! If you can help, please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org).

Coming this May ...  
**Birdathon 2009**  
Give it a try!

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# President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Cassandra, in Greek mythology, was the daughter of King Priam of Troy. Apollo fell in love with her and gave her the gift of prophecy. When Cassandra failed to return his love, Apollo put a curse on her that no one would ever believe her prophecies.

The January 3 issue of *The Economist* contains a 16-page special report on the sea. It details acid waters, dying coral, melting ice caps, rising slime, a plague of plastic and a dearth of fish. The article makes clear that we must change our ways. The sea is not an infinite resource. A world of 6.7 billion souls, set to become 9 billion by 2050, can no longer ignore the possibility of widespread catastrophe by continuing to abuse the world's oceans.

I suspect, that like Cassandra, *The Economist* article will fall on the disbelieving ears of nations and their political leaders that have the most to lose from dying oceans.

In Albert Camus' novel, *The Plague*, the Algerian city of Oran is beset by the catastrophic spread of bubonic plague. The book tells the story of medical workers pulling together to fight the epidemic with limited resources.

In the meantime, authorities are slow to accept that the situation is serious and quibble over what action to take until it's too late and the death toll begins to mount.

There are those in positions of power inclined to discount the mounting evidence that the health of the sea is in danger. They contend the sea is vast and has a limitless

capacity to absorb and adjust to our neglect and exploitation. Besides, they contend, it's too expensive an undertaking even if it were true.

We've heard similar arguments about cleaning up Puget Sound, though not as ardent. When the plague is on your doorstep, it's more difficult to ignore.

When I think of the environmental epidemics Pilchuck Audubon Society has confronted as the environmental conscience of Snohomish County, I can't help but think PAS members are much like the medical workers of plague-ridden Oran. There are times when we may not have the necessary vaccine, and when we do, not enough.

Still, we refuse to give up and turn our backs on epidemics.

In January, after three years of overcoming obstacles, our Osprey Project came to fruition when new nesting platforms were placed in Port Gardner Bay. Our efforts to preserve the Port Susan Important Bird Area continue to gain traction. And Smart Growth director, Kristin Kelly, will continue to educate the political leaders of Snohomish County.

As a proud Audubon organization, we are committed to succeed despite mounting odds.

At the conclusion of *The Plague*, the epidemic ends and the citizens of Oran return to their self-absorbed ways.

I doubt even our children's children will have that luxury.

## 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
Webmaster	Kathy Piland.....	360.691.7695

### 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, February 3 Port Gamble to Port Townsend

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Edmonds Marsh (south of West Dayton St., turn left just before the railroad tracks). We'll take the ferry to Kingston, go through Port Gamble and across the Hood Canal Floating Bridge. On the way, we'll visit Marrowstone Island and Indian Island with views of Admiralty Inlet.

Expect to see waterfowl, seabirds and maybe Orca. This trip replaces the December 16 trip, which was canceled due to weather. The trip last year was memorable and rewarding. Lunch in a restaurant.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Tuesday, February 10 Samish Flats

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5, exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. Hunting season is over and the East and West 90, Alice Bay and Samish Island can produce five falcon species, buteos, owls, eagles, shorebirds, etc. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Tue., Feb. 17 Snoq. River Valley, Monroe-Carnation

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, a half-mile west of the fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Tuesday, February 24 Smith and Spencer Islands

Meet at 8 a.m. at Langus Riverfront Park, Everett (complicated directions, call Art if you can't find it). Should see lots of waterfowl and raptors. Walk the Langus Riverfront Trail, maybe try the Everett Sewage Ponds. Lots of walking. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

## Saturday, March 14 Illahee State Park, Bremerton

Meet at 7 a.m. behind Everett Mall, next to the transit center by LA Fitness (I5, exit 189, Everett Mall Way). Carpooling strongly encouraged. Round trip ferry toll \$23.10. Park admission free. Bring lunch, water, good walking shoes, sunscreen, hat and binoculars. We'll pick a moderate loop trail. This is an all-day trip.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

## Saturday, May 9 Weyerhaeuser HQ, Federal Way

Meet at 7 a.m. behind Everett Mall, next to the transit center by LA Fitness (I5, exit 189, Everett Mall Way). Carpooling encouraged. Bring lunch, water, good walking shoes, sunscreen, 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.*

**Coming this May ... Birdathon 2009 ... Just do it!**

## Mentoring opportunity with Habitat Steward training

Become a Habitat Steward and help children and adults learn to restore, maintain and create wildlife habitat. An intensive, hands-on training program – facilitated by the National Wildlife Federation and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – is scheduled to begin February 5.

Participants will meet for six weeks on Thursdays, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Frances Anderson Center in Edmonds, and attend two Saturday field trips.

The cost is \$20 and Habitat Stewards are asked to provide 30 hours of service in the community within a year of their training. The sponsors believe enhancing wildlife habitat throughout our communities provides limitless hands-on learning opportunities and fosters a sense of ecological awareness in children and adults alike.

For more information, contact Laura Spehar at 425.672.2150 or Boni Biery at 206.542.4722.

You can register online at [www.reczone.org](http://www.reczone.org) or call Edmonds Parks and Recreation at 425.771.0230.

## Swifts meeting set for February 4 in Monroe

Spring is just around the corner ... and you know what that means: the Vaux's Swifts will be returning to Monroe before you know it. Please help the Pilchuck, Eastside and Seattle Audubon chapters prepare to greet them properly. You won't be sorry!

Please attend an initial planning meeting on Wednesday, February 4, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Monroe School District Office second floor teachers' center. The office is located at 200 East Fremont Street, Monroe. We'll start organizing the spring count and the fall swift watch.

Thanks to the fund-raising efforts in 2008, the three local Audubon chapters have been able to contract with a structural engineer to analyze and make recommendations about the chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary School. We are working closely with the school district and will provide updated information at the February meeting.

# Birding in the BC Outback: Part 6

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

*(Editor's note: This is the final installment in the chronicle of a trip to BC by "three intrepid birdwatchers." Thanks, ladies, for letting us ride along!)*

## Days 6: A Red-crowned Warbler?!

Thursday came. No more bears. Don drove us over really rough road to the Enchiniko River. We found the most beautiful Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The crown was almost a fluorescent orange and was the size of a nickel. Wilma and Margaret promised to never let me live my identification down. I called it a Red-crowned Warbler.

Later, we went to the overlook at Pelican Lake. We watched Greater Yellowlegs in an unbelievable display. They were squawking away, surfing the wind and landing in the treetops! Don drove us back to another area of Pelican Lake where we again saw about 25 White Pelicans, Redstarts, Black-capped Chickadees and another Northern Waterthrush.

For the entire trip, Margaret and I discussed wanting to see certain wildlife crossing the roads while we were driving. Margaret hoped to see a grouse, while I had set my sights set on a moose. Well, on the way home, Margaret finally saw a Ruffed Grouse, so we joked on the way to the cabin that Margaret got "groused," but I didn't get "moosed." Of course, we all got "beared."

Back at the cabin, we decided to walk the driveway road once more. At the woodpecker nest tree, we walked into the woods so we could see the nest hole opening. We watched the Three-toed Woodpecker come in three times to feed the noisy youngsters. We also spied a family of Dark-eyed Juncos.

Then we drove west beyond the cabin driveway to the Batnuni Lake. We met Don at the "neighbor's" house (not particularly near) and spotted only a few Yellow-rumped Warblers. We moved on to see the cabin that Don and Wilma have been trying to purchase. It is located in a beautiful area and the cabin sits on high ground and has a porch that overlooks a lake and a large wetlands area.

In spite of a brisk breeze, we were greeted by hordes of our deadly enemy, the mosquito. Since the OFF had worn off, Wilma and I got it good. Bring on the cortisone cream!

We knew that this day would be a little shorter for birding activities, as we would be packing up, cleaning and shutting everything down in preparation for leaving early Friday morning. But, many hands made the work go quickly.



Magnolia Warbler, by Jeope Wolfe



Ruby-crowned Kinglet, by Lynn Pilewski

## Day 7: Reflecting on good times, good birding

On Friday at 6 a.m., we said our good-byes to the cabin (and the outhouse), as well as the free range cattle that wandered in through the broken fence. We stopped for breakfast in Quesnel, and then headed for home.

As the truck headed south, we reflected on all we'd seen and the good times we had. Our bird list totaled 120 species seen or heard. Margaret added four birds to her life list, Wilma added 10 and I added 13.

We talked about our favorites. Some of Margaret's were the Three-toed Woodpecker, the Solitary Sandpiper (with dance), the Magnolia Warbler and the Northern Waterthrush. Some of Wilma's favorites were the Eared Grebes, Margaret and the sandpiper dance, the Boreal Chickadees, Spotted Sandpiper babies and Redstarts.

It was very difficult for me to list favorites, although the sandpiper dance had to be the highlight, the bear even though it wasn't a bird, the beautiful Magnolia Warbler, the baby sandpipers and the Catbird.

I know that we could have gone on and on ... the one thing we all agreed on is that we had a wonderful time. In addition to the lifers, we had time to watch bird behaviors. And, because of that, we enjoyed the common birds as well as the lifers.

We pulled into Wilma's yard at 7 p.m. Friday. Our wonderful adventure was over, but an adventure that will be long remembered and cherished.

## Appendix of "lifers"

**Margaret (4):** Boreal Chickadee, Three-toed Woodpecker, Clay-colored Sparrow, Western Screech Owl.

**Wilma (10):** Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Clay-colored Sparrow, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Boreal Chickadee, Cassin's Vireo, Least Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Western Screech Owl, Magnolia Warbler.

**Virginia (13):** Black Tern, Clay-colored Sparrow, Boreal Chickadee, Magnolia Warbler, American Redstart, Western Screech Owl, Least Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Catbird, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Waterthrush, Spruce Grouse, Solitary Sandpiper.

# Upcoming regional festivals and roadtrips

## Balde Eagle Festival

February 12-14, 2009

Grand Coulee area

Enjoy guided bus tours, raptor shows, wine tasting and art and photo auctions at this year's Balde Eagle Festival near Grand Coulee Dam. Nearly 300 Bald Eagles are believed to spend winters near Grand Coulee and there are good viewing sites which are easily accessible by all.

A group of brave and warmly-dressed PAS members plan to attend this event. Contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org) to join the group.

Don't miss the fun! Visit [www.eaglefestival.com](http://www.eaglefestival.com) for more information.

## Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival

February 28-March 1, 2009

Stanwood, Washington

This is always a fun festival with lots to see and do – including guided birding trips. And, remember, PAS will have a table at the festival headquarters, so we need lots of volunteers to staff the table as well as act as birding guides.

Please contact Susie Schaefer to volunteer: 425.771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org).

## Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

March 20-22, 2009

Othello, Washington

This is an event you don't want to miss! The festival features a number of birding tours and specialty tours – and they all fill up fast. Also included in the price of admission are lectures and demonstrations.

If you plan to attend, please remember it's imperative you plan ahead as lodging is limited and field trips fill up quickly. Interested PAS members may want to head over on March 20 to be there in time for Friday afternoon field trips and workshops and events on Saturday.

Visit the web site at [www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org](http://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org) or contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org) for more information.

## Workshop a good prep for lobbying efforts

The environmental community recently conducted its annual legislative workshop where leading legislators and others gave information on the issues before the legislature during the 2009 session. There was a presentation on the Environmental Lobby Day on February 19. This is an exciting experience. SO PLAN to ATTEND!

## South County Christmas Bird Count

This CBC was originally scheduled for December 27. Due to snowy road conditions, it was postponed until January 2. By then, most of the roads were clear, or at least passable without risk to life, limb or car. Some snow flurries and cold winds greeted the hardy souls who participated. Results are still coming in, so final results were not available at press time. Stay tuned, they will be in next month's *Profile*.

## 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.

## 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.

Coming this May ...  
**Birdathon 2009**  
It's good for you!

## Help for injured wildlife

(not domestic animals)

Call 24 hours a day:

Second Chance Wildlife Care Center  
Snohomish, 425-335-0788

Deer Creek Wild Animal Rehab  
Everett, 425-334-8171

Sarvey Wildlife Center  
Arlington, 360-435-4817

PAWS

Lynwood, 425-787-2500, ext. 817



# Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

As an advocate for Pilchuck Audubon Society members and others who live in Snohomish County and Camano Island, the tool I've absolutely had to improve is my communication skills, both written and oral. While writing comes pretty easy for me, speaking at public hearings and with people in important positions has made me work much harder.

I know most folks would feel as I do, that it is very, very hard to communicate your position on a topic effectively enough to get "buy-in" from those you are speaking with. I'd like to share some communication tips so you may be more inclined to write letters to the editor, write comments to electeds, and speak at public hearings on the important issues before us.

## Letters to the editor: remember your "Cs"

**Current:** Responding to a recent article in the newspaper or to a very recent event is a great way to increase your odds of being published. Refer specifically to the article by using the name of the article and date, such as, "In response to your recent article on child care ..."

You can search a newspaper's web site for recent articles, using search words like *growth*, *development*, *transportation* and *environment*. Or, collect newspapers for a few days before writing your letter. Then skim them looking for a "hook" you can hang your response on, even if it is a stretch.

**Clear and concise:** Keep your letter short and to the point. Stick to one subject and check your grammar. After you have written your letter, read it out loud and listen to it. Have you made your point clear? Can you shorten your letter and still get your point across?

Most papers will not print letters that are more than 250 words or three to four paragraphs in length. The shorter the letter, the better chance it will be published.

**Controversial:** Feel free to question or challenge what others have said or done, and even start your letter off with a catchy first sentence. However, avoid personal attacks. An argument based on merit rather than emotion tends to sway opinion.

**Contact information:** Include your address, e-mail and a daytime and evening phone number. They won't print this information, but may use it to confirm that you indeed wrote that piece of art!

## Sending e-mails to decision makers

I often send action alerts with a prescribed message to be sent to decision makers. Many of you have taken the time to click the button and send it along.

I was told – both by the Snohomish County Planning Commission chairman and the County Council chair – e-mails

with the exact same wording are not effective and are overburdening the computers and staff. I have tried a different course of action, by instead asking folks to sign onto a petition with one message, which I deliver to the county council or planning commissioners.

So far, that seems to be working. From time to time, I will still send action alerts, asking you to send an e-mail to decision makers. If you do respond to one of these action alerts, please consider rewriting the message in your own words, as this will have more of an effect on the decision maker.

As a PAS member, if you would like to be more actively engaged in Smart Growth's work, we need current your e-mail address in our database. Please send your name and e-mail address so I can keep you informed and involved. You can provide this information to me at kris2cam@verizon.net. Thanks so much!

## Tips for speaking at a public hearing

**Come early:** Try to arrive 15 minutes ahead of the hearing time. Be there so you hear the introductions. There are advantages to speaking early.

**Sign in when you arrive:** The judge will call witnesses to speak from the order they have signed in. An additional sign up list will be available throughout the hearing.

**Be prepared:** Even though it's not required, you may want to prepare a written statement. There is nothing wrong with reading your statement.

**Make your presentation as specific as you can:** Don't let the listeners guess what your position is. Emphasize your most important points.

**Stay on point:** If a number of individuals have made the same point, you may repeat it, but don't dwell on it. You could represent a different service area or show how the issue isn't an isolated issue. If there are many speakers, you may be asked to limit the time you speak.

**Add your own perspective:** Each person comes to a hearing with unique information or background. Give specific examples that support issues important to you.

**Speak slowly and calmly.**

**Be sworn in:** Your testimony will not become part of the record in the case unless you are sworn in as a witness.

Your help is always needed and being effective is crucial in order to get results. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

**Coming this May ...  
Birdathon 2009  
It's green family fun!**

**Birdseed sale  
planned for March  
Watch for details in the next  
issue of the PAS Profile.**

# Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

November 26, 2008-December 25, 2008

What a month. I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe holiday. I cannot remember so much snow. It certainly brought out the birds to backyard feeders.

This month also brought inquiries about hummingbirds. Marlene Sweet from Lake Stevens reported a female Rufous at her feeder, as did Jack Stansfield. Bernadette in Everett reported a pair of Anna's Hummingbirds roosting under a light on her feeders.

The Rufous Hummingbird usually spends the winter in Mexico where it is warm, but the Anna's Hummingbird will stay here all year round.

Ken Pickle emailed a great picture of a Red-breasted Sapsucker he received from his friend, Alan Mearns. It was busy drilling holes in a big fir tree, which is what they do.

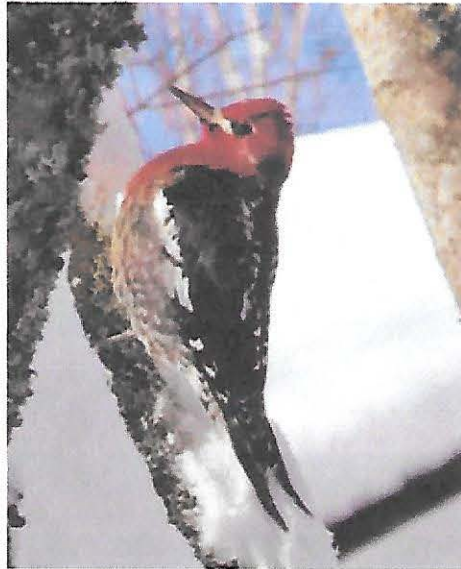
Annette Colombini had an unusual sighting of 2 Yellow-rumped Warblers in her yard in Marysville. This is unusual because they are supposed to be wintering in Panama. She also reported 8 Steller's Jays, 50+ Pine Siskins, 8 Red-winged Blackbirds, 15 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Fox Sparrows, 3 Varied Thrush, a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a Bald Eagle for a total species count of 19.

Gail Dibernardo also reported a Rufous Hummingbird at her feeders in Everett. She reported 6 Anna's Hummingbirds along with 4 Varied Thrush, 9 Spotted Towhees, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 12 Pine Siskins, 10 House Finches, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches for a species count of 25.

Hilkka Egtvedt only reported 7 Pine Siskins from her yard in Everett and is wondering where the flocks have gone. Me, too. Annette Colombini reported 50 in Marysville, Julie O'Donald reported 40 in Brier and Mary Sinker listed 23 in Stanwood. That certainly tells us where they are, but I don't know why.

Hilkka's total species count of 29 included 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 3 Bald Eagles, 14 California Quail, 42 Dark-eyed Juncos, 4 Fox Sparrows, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 6 House Finches, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 11 Steller's Jays, a White-crowned Sparrow and a White-throated Sparrow (for the second time this fall).

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett totaled 11 species



Red-breasted Sapsucker, by Alan Mearns



Fox Sparrow, by Annette Colombini

which included 12 Northwest Crows in her yard, 6 Western Gulls, a Spotted Towhee, 11 Black-capped Chickadees, 60 Bushtits, 7 Dark-eyed Juncos, 8 House Finches, 7 American Robins, 3 Mallards, 6 American Coots and a Song Sparrow.

Trumpeter Swans and Snow Geese highlighted Adeline Gildow's report from Camano Island. She listed 1000 Snow Geese along Norman Road and 12 Trumpeter Swans at Juniper Beach. Her total species count of 32 also included 2 Red-breasted Sapsuckers, 3 Fox Sparrows, 4 Bald Eagles overhead, a Mountain Chickadee, 2 Common Loons, 2 Great Blue Herons, 6 Mourning Doves, 4 Northern Flickers, 6 Song Sparrows, 2 Killdeers and 6 Ring-necked Pheasants.

Verna Hisey is still having problems with her bird count. She reported masses of birds swirling around the feeders, which she had to fill two and three times a day. She did list Steller's Jays, American Crows, Varied Thrush, Dark-eyed Juncos and several other species.

Two Red-breasted Sapsuckers were reported by Shelia and Michael Huber from their Machias location. Their total species count of 22 also included 13 House Finches, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows, 4 Hairy Woodpeckers, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, an Evening Grosbeak, a Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Varied Thrush, a Purple Finch, 7 Spotted Towhees and a

## Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Julie O'Donald's report from Brier included the 40 Pine Siskins along with 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 50 American Crows flying over, a Barred Owl, 3 Band-tailed Pigeons, 12 Bushtits, 2 Fox Sparrows, 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Killdeer and a Varied Thrush for a total species count of 26.

The Evening Grosbeaks seem to like Mary Sinker's yard in Stanwood. She reported 15, the highest number reported in the county. She also reported 23 Pine Siskins, 12 Steller's Jays, 50 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Bewick's Wrens, 2 Winter Wrens, 11 Mourning Doves, 21 House Finches, 12 Black-capped Chickadees, 3 Varied Thrush, 6 Spotted Towhees and a Northern Harrier for a total species count of 26.

(See "Birding highlights" on page 8)

# Birding highlights ...

(continued from page 7)

There seems to be a lot going on in Stanwood. Dick Vanderhoff reported 325+ **Tundra Swans**, 50+ **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2000 or more **Snow Geese** flying over the bay, 15 **Canada Geese**, 6 **Bald Eagles** along Norman Road, 25+ **House Sparrows**, 16 **Spotted Towhees**, 2 **White-breasted Nuthatches**, 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and 25 **Steller's Jays** for a total species count of 17.

More **Snow Geese** reported by Darlene Walker on Camano Island. She spotted at least 100 overhead. She also reported 150 **Trumpeter Swans**, 7 **Mourning Doves**, 3 **Marsh Hawks**, 3 **Great Blue Herons**, 6 **Fox Sparrows**, 7 **Buffleheads**, a **Townsend's Warbler**, a **Rufous Hummingbird** and 2 **Varied Thrush** for a total species count of 25.



White-breasted Nuthatch, by Gale McCullough

The most exciting thing to report from my home in Marysville is the return of the **Trumpeter Swans** and **Snow Geese** checking out the flooded fields along 100th Street. My total species count of 24 included 6 **Trumpeter Swans**, 200+ **Snow Geese** flying overhead, hundreds of gull species in the fields, 15 **California Quail** in my yard, 25 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 3 **Fox Sparrows**, 5 **Varied Thrush**, a **Common Raven** in the woods, a **Pileated Woodpecker** and a **Cooper's Hawk**.

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](mailto:pricemara@clearwire.net).

**February program meeting Fri., Feb. 13, 7 p.m.**

## Gardening for backyard birds

Join Neil Zimmerman for this informative seminar on sharing your garden with our feathered friends.

Everett Firefighters Hall, 2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

Coming this May ...  
**Birdathon 2009**  
 More info in coming issues

## 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.

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