

Pilchuck Audubon Profile



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Plan 2009 birding activities now

A number of fun and informative wildlife festivals, birding trips and meetings are planned for the first half of 2009. Don't miss out! Start planning now.

Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival January 24-25, 2009 Marblemount, Concrete

Mark your calendar! The 22nd annual Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival is scheduled for January 24-25 in Marblemount and Concrete. The theme of this year's festival is "Currents of Nature" and it will feature presentations, speakers and, of course, lots of eagles! Learn more at www.skagiteagle.org.

Vaux's Swifts planning for 2009 February 4, 2009 Monroe School District Office

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.

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 to join the group.

Don't miss the fun! Visit 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.

January program meeting Fri., Jan. 9, 7 p.m.

Port Gardner Bay Osprey update

Mike Blackbird and Bill Lider will share the latest on the plan for nesting pilings for our local Ospreys.

Community Wildlife Certification

Learn more about this exciting opportunity for communities, birds and other wildlife.

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
for the most up-to-date information!**

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

(See "2009" on page 8)

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



William Proxmire of Wisconsin, the longtime gadfly of the U.S. Senate, thrived on exposing what he determined was frivolous federal spending.

To emphasize his point, Proxmire dispensed Golden Fleece awards to spotlight what he considered government waste, fraud and abuse. He began giving out his awards quarterly in 1975 until he retired in 1988.

The media looked forward to his Golden Fleece press conferences. He loved nothing more than exposing ridiculous earmarks and would have had a field day with Alaska's bridge to nowhere. However while he was never in doubt about his award recipients, he wasn't always right.

One of Proxmire's favorite targets was ridiculing some government funded study relating to something like how many wing beats per minute were required for an African Swallow to maintain air speed velocity. The good senator had probably never heard of biomimicry.

Biomimicry is design inspired by nature, leading to application in our everyday lives. Biomimicry can result in such things as tape that imitates a gecko's skin to achieve super adhesion or a high-rise building that imitates a termite mound to achieve passive air-conditioning.

Nature is not perfect, but it is prolific. And through evolution, organisms have evolved from their existing designs to better designs. But organisms can't borrow designs from one another; they have to evolve on their own.

Well, that's not entirely correct. One organism can borrow

designs from other organisms and that's where biomimicry comes in. Using nature as a model, we can get ideas from organisms to solve our problems. Whatever we're trying to do, there are usually several organisms in nature that have already solved the problem – like how burrs stick to a dog's hair after a walk in the woods. Bingo! Velcro!

Government plays an important role in biomimicry. With no discernible economic benefit from studying some esoteric aspect of nature, only government funding will permit it.

The Department of Energy's Sandia National Laboratories are an example of the biometric process only government funding would permit. Sandia scientists studied the way sea shells grow in seawater and came to understand that self-assembling coatings were incredibly strong, transparent coatings which could revolutionize all kinds of finishes for everything from cars to contact lenses. In other words, biomimicry offers practical applications that transform everyday life because of government funding.

The next time you hear some self-righteous politician railing indignantly about a government funded study, such as the tensile strength of spider silk, you'll know he knows nothing of biomimicry.

By the way, spider silk has been studied and determined to be stronger than steel and tougher than Kevlar. But the spider that produces it is smaller than your little finger, and employs no boiling sulfuric acid or high pressure extruders.

Biomimicry is true green technology.

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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Committee chairs

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Bird Sightings	Mara Price	360.651.9234
Database	Margaret Bridge	360.862.1694
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Trip calendar

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

Tuesday, January 6

Camano Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart lot west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I5). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and points in-between and elsewhere. Lunch in a restaurant.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, January 13

Boundary Bay, Serpentine Fen, Blackie Spit, British Columbia

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. Bring your US passport or driver's license and original birth certificate. This area has always been exciting. Plus visiting OWL Wildlife Rehab greatly furthers ones raptor knowledge. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tues., January 20

Deception Pass, Campbell Lake, Rosario Beach, Cranberry Lake

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. Oystercatchers, Loons, Mergansers, LBJs, etc. Lunch in a restaurant.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, January 27

Fir Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I5. Expect almost anything, Golden Eagle, Northern Shrike, Tundra Swans, Merlin, etc. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

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.

Native demo garden closer to reality

By Susie Schaefer, Vice President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

In November, Pilchuck Audubon was awarded a grant from the Hubbard Foundation to get started on a native plant demonstration garden in Edmonds. The grant will cover the cost of plants and mulch for the garden, which will be located at the Willow Creek Hatchery.

This project is an important part of the plan for certification of Edmonds as a Wildlife Habitat Community. Other grants are being sought for other aspects of the garden, such as signage and education.

The project's steering committee is preparing a



Bleeding Heart, by Dan Hershman

detailed plan for the demonstration garden and hopes to get started removing non-native species soon. A work party will be scheduled in the next month (depending on the weather). Please watch the "programs" section of the PAS web site (www.pilchuckaudubon.org) or contact Susie Schaefer or Laura Spehar for more information.

Thank you to PAS members and others who have helped to start to make this garden a reality – especially Gary Smith, Mary Monfort and Laura Spehar.

Volunteer still needed!

Volunteer committee chair

This volunteer is responsible for recruiting, organizing and coordinating volunteers for various PAS activities and events. In addition, the volunteer chair maintains a master list of PAS volunteers and conducts surveys of the membership to gain an understanding of the skill set available from our group. The chair is also responsible for scheduling and conducting regular committee meetings and training new volunteers.

This volunteer serves on the PAS's Board which meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. The position is both fun and rewarding, as it is critical to rallying the membership in support of chapter activities.

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

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

Birding in the BC Outback: Part 5

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

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

Day 5: Nope, no bears here

Wednesday arrived with much nicer weather. On that day, we were traveling up the Honolulu Road. Someone must have been out of their mind to name it that. Don said that people driving it are out of their minds (hint, hint). However, he was driving his truck as a chase vehicle since he didn't want us on this desolate road by ourselves.

On the way out, we stopped at one of our favorite spots, overlooking a swampy, wetlands area where we had seen Yellow-rumps, Redstarts and Rufous Hummingbirds. Much to our surprise and delight, this time we heard a pair of Western Screech Owls calling!

Down the road further, we came to an area along a ditch where we had seen a pair of Solitary Sandpipers. Margaret wanted a photo. One of the birds flew up on the road but the lighting was wrong, so Margaret tried to get around the bird.

That sandpiper would not let Margaret by. The two of them danced back and forth across the road. Wilma and I were laughing like mad as Margaret did the sandpiper dance.

We arrived at the Honolulu Road and our luck changed. A crew was laying extension cords and wires with ground sensors for several miles along one side of the road. The outfit included four enormous rigs, that, when positioned correctly would seismically hunt for gas and oil. We just barely squeezed by them on the narrow road, but every time we stopped, they caught up with us, so we took off.

We played follow-the-leader until we stopped for lunch at a marshy pond where we saw Ring-necked Ducks, Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, Cedar Waxwings and a Bohemian Waxwing. Well, the rigs caught up and passed us so after another squeeze play further up the road, we were in the clear.

Then the road got really narrow. We remarked that it was a good thing we passed those monster machines or we would have been stuck behind them for two or three miles.

As we pulled into a small park area, Don and I watched a



Western Screech Owl, by Ashok Khosla



American Black Bear, by Annette Colombini

Golden Eagle take off from the side of the Nazco River. We were not finding much in the way of birds and were ready to head back to the cabin, but Don insisted that we not leave until the big rigs passed us again.

So we walked along the river's edge and there, just like magic, we found a pair of Northern Waterthrushes. I told Wilma she would have to give Don an extra hug for making us stay there.

Finally, the big rigs were out of our way and we went back down the road, stopping at another small park that looked rather unused. We pulled out some Yellowthroats; then I noticed a Spotted Sandpiper looking as if she were defending territory. I walked over to an old fire pit. Wonder of wonders, we got to see her nest with one egg and three tiny (day old) babies all curled together. At another park on the way out, we netted a very good look at a Red-naped Sapsucker.

It had been a long day so when we got back to the cabin, we had a quick meal and were settled down for the evening. We had seen at least three black bears along the road while driving, but Wilma assured us there were no bears near the cabin. "In 30 years, I have never seen bears here."

I was in the kitchen when I heard Margaret yell, "There's a bear!"

Sure enough, there was a black bear not 10 feet from the front door of the cabin! Everyone jumped up to spy what Don thought was a 2-year old bear running off.

That outhouse sure looked a long ways away! We spent the rest of the evening telling bear stories. I wondered what I would do if I had to go to the outhouse in the middle of the night.

Wilma's bear spray lessons (which we totally ignored) were starting to seem more important. We all agreed that care needed to be taken when taking bear spray to the outhouse.

We were to make certain that, in preparation to use the outhouse, we used the "Raid" spray before we sat – not the bear spray.

To be continued ...

Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

October 26, 2008-November 25, 2008

Bald Eagles are returning, along with Trumpeter Swans and Snow Geese. You can see the swans and geese in the Stanwood and Camano Island areas. The eagles are all over the county.

Annette Colombini's Marysville report listed 3 **House Sparrows**, 2 **House Finches**, 8 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 4 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 6 **Steller's Jays**, 8 **American Crows** flying over, 2 **Northern Flickers** and an **Anna's Hummingbird** for a total species count of 8.

Four **Bald Eagles** were spotted by Hilka Egtvedt from her Mukilteo location. Her total species count of 27 included 6 **California Quail**, 32 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, a **Fox Sparrow**, 5 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **White-crowned Sparrows**, a **White-throated Sparrow**, 20 **Pine Siskins**, 13 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** and the little **Bewick's Wren**.

Three **American Goldfinches** topped Kriss Erickson's report this month. She also listed 4 **Mallards** in her Everett yard along with 5 **American Robins**, 6 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Steller's Jays**, 3 **House Finches**, 6 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 2 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, a **Downy Woodpecker** and a **Lincoln's Sparrow** for a total species count of 14.

It's been really busy at Adeline Gildow's Camano Island location. Besides the feeder in her yard, she has views of Juniper Beach. Her total species count of 30 included 4 **Bald Eagles**, 2 **Common Loons**, 300 ducks (possible Pintails), 1000+ **Dunlin** at the tide line, 5 **Canada Geese**, 10 **Bushtits**, 11 **Mourning Doves**, 6 **Ring-necked Pheasants**, 4 **Trumpeter Swans** overhead, 13 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** at Warm Beach and 4 **Great Blue Herons**.

I hope Verna Hisey's feral cats go away soon as it is affecting the number of birds in her yard. Reporting from Lake Stevens, Verna listed 4 **Steller's Jays**, 3 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 5 **American Crows** flying over, a **Bald Eagle**, 8 **Rock Doves** and 12 **House Sparrows** for a total species count of 6.

Shelia and Michael Huber's report from Machias listed 5 **Northern Flickers**, a **Red-tailed Hawk**, 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, 10 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 2 **Spotted Towhees**, 10 **House Finches**, 2 **Purple Finches**, a **Golden-crowned Sparrow**, 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers** and 2 **Downy Woodpeckers** for a total species count of 18.



Red-tailed Hawk, by Minette Layne



Bald Eagle, by Ellen Hartmeier

Julie O'Donald listed a **Barred Owl** and a **Cooper's Hawk** in the same week from her home in Brier. Her report also included 12 **American Crows**, 6 **American Robins**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, a **Killdeer**, 3 **Northern Flickers**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Ruby-crowned Kinglets**, 3 **Band-tailed Pigeons** and a **Song Sparrow** for a total species count of 22.

The **Evening Grosbeaks** must all be in Stanwood at Mary Sinker's home. She reported 16 at her feeders along with 14 **Pine Siskins**. Her total species count of 32 also included a **Barred Owl**, a **Snowy Owl** at the Pilchuck Tree Farm, 16 **Steller's Jays**, 3 **Bewick's Wrens**, 35 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, a **Great Horned Owl** in a tree in her yard, a **White-throated Sparrow**, 2 **Varied Thrushes**, 2 **Killdeer**, 9 **Mourning Doves** and 4 **Winter Wrens**.

Darlene Walker reported 50 **Pine Siskins** from her Camano Island home this month. She also listed 2 **Bald Eagles**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 3 **Fox Sparrows**, 8 **House Finches**, 8 **Mourning Doves**, a **Rufous Hummingbird**, 6 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, a **Great Blue Heron** and 10 **Black-capped Chickadees** for a total species count of 17.

The **Tundra Swans** and **Snow Geese** are flying around Dick Vanderhoff's Stanwood area home. He spotted 230+ **Tundra Swans** in the fields along Norman Road, 400+ **Snow Geese** flying over, 180+ **Bonaparte's Gulls** on Port Susan Bay, 45 **California Gulls** at Kayak Park Beach along with 22 **Western Gulls**, 2 **Red-tailed Hawks** in the trees, 15 **Cormorants** flying overhead, 50+ **Black-capped Chickadees** at the feeders and in the trees, 10 **Fox Sparrows** and 4 **Bewick's Wrens** for a total species count of 13.

My total species count of 18 from Marysville included 20+ **American Crows** in the fields along 100th Street, 17 **California Quail** in the yard and woods, 16 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 5 **House Finches**, an **Evening Grosbeak**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Winter Wrens**, the usual woodpeckers: 2 **Hairy**, a **Downy** and a **Pileated**, 2 **Northern Flickers** and a single **Pine Siskin**.

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.

Weekenders make the best of a soggy day

By Jonathan Blubaugh

Our October weekend bird hike got rained out. And, for November, we had a really small turnout for the hike in Larrabee State Park: two people. Including me!

I just read a statistic that November is the rainiest month of the year in this area. As a result, I probably won't schedule weekend bird hikes in autumn next year.

We took Chuckanut Drive on our way to the park. It's a gorgeous drive any time of year, but especially in the fall when the leaves are turning color. Along the way, we found an immature Northern Harrier swooping low over farmers' fields.

For part of the drive up to Bellingham, it didn't rain, but by the time we arrived at the park, it was verging on a downpour. We'd planned to hike the Fragrance Lake Loop Trail, but even if it had been passable, we would've come back muddy and soaked. Instead, we chatted with the attendant and decided to drive the short roads in the park to see what we could see.

At the boat launch, a Common Loon and a Double-Crested Cormorant were fishing. Each caught one or two fish while we watched. Basically, the fish were impaled on the birds' bills. One surfaced with its catch, flailing the prey, and then diving again still in possession of the fish.

Although difficult to observe through the foggy windshield, rain and waves, I believe the bird may have surfaced to transfer the fish from being impaled on the bill to grasping the fish between the upper and lower bill in order to devour the meal. The bird then swallowed the fish under water. I observed one of the other fish being swallowed on the surface by the cormorant and a fish-shaped bulge in its throat.

Next, we drove to the top of the hill. The rain clouds were low and it was shrouded in fog. The attendant had warned us the road was wash-boarded and that we wouldn't be able to see anything. She was right. Apparently on clear evenings, the view across the San Juans is stunning, especially at sunset.

At the top, we stepped out briefly, splashing in mud puddles. Once out of the car we could hear a mixed flock of "Chicklets." That's a term I heard on a recent Audubon outing in Sequim. These little mixed flocks typically include the some of the more common forest species: Black-capped and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Winter Wrens, Nuthatches, Creepers, Robins, Song Sparrows, Bushtits, Downy Woodpeckers and others.



American Coot, by Annette Colombini

We couldn't see any of them because if we looked up into the crown, all we would have gotten was rain on our glasses and in our eyes.

The only birds I was fairly sure I heard were Winter Wren and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

On the drive back down the hill, a few Robins crossed the road in front of us. One perched on a low berm next to road where we could see her with our binoculars.

Both of us saw the brownish bib and orange eye stripe of a female Varied Thrush. The forest was rich with the conifer habitat they depend upon.

Still having tons of time on our hands, my guest suggested we visit Mount Erie on nearby Fidalgo Island. Knowing it was more likely to be in a Blue Hole of the Olympics' rain shadow, we pattered over to Fidalgo Island and were not disappointed. In fact, we did indeed drive out from under the rain.

On the way up to the hill, we stopped at the lake, where we saw 20 Canada Geese, 60 Bufflehead, three Hooded Mergansers, 50 American Coots and a Belted Kingfisher. We also heard a Northern Flicker, a Common Raven, another Robin and a Song Sparrow.

Mount Erie is a wonderful Anacortes city park. There's a paved road to the top. It was just at the base of the clouds. We could see for miles. There was a good breeze coming up the slope from the south.

At the summit, we were right at the dew point. It was amazing to be at the cloud base watching the wisps of fog forming at our feet and blowing up and over us while we had this tremendous vista below.

On the hill and alongside another nearby lake, we saw a couple more cormorants, a Trumpeter Swan, a few more Bufflehead and mergansers, three Golden-crowned Kinglets, and heard both a Brown Creeper and a Dark-eyed Junco.

By being flexible, we turned lemons into lemonade.

Upcoming bird hikes (more info to come)

- March 14, Illahee State Park, Kitsap County.
- May 9, Weyerhaeuser headquarters, Federal Way.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

In 2009, growth will continue to be Washington's number one issue, despite the recent economic downturn. We face many challenges and opportunities – as our region accepts more people, homes and businesses – to make our urban communities more livable, to protect our diminishing rural lands and to protect what little we have left of our valuable forest and farmlands.

This year's Four Priorities for Healthy Washington are Cap and Invest, Efficiency First, Invest in Clean Water and Transit-oriented Communities.

While all four priorities are important to the health of our region, and while Pilchuck Audubon Society will be working toward passage of these bills, I will be working a bit harder in collaboration with the others on creating transit-oriented communities.

Washingtonians want to live in affordable, walkable communities connected by frequent, reliable transit. As our population grows, we face increased traffic congestion, diminished quality of life, and increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Transit-oriented Communities would revise the state's transportation and land-use planning framework to help local jurisdictions plan for growth in a sustainable and climate-friendly way. The bill will provide incentives for cities and developers to create affordable, livable, transit-oriented development that will provide citizens the choice to leave their cars at home.

The opportunity: building compact, transit-oriented communities will create healthier, safer, affordable and vibrant communities for Washington while reducing congestion, combating climate change and strengthening the economy.

The solution:

- Encourage urban regions to help achieve state's vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction goal. If urban regional transportation planning organizations (RTPOs) are accountable to the state for meeting a portion of per capita VMT reduction targets, they'll need to adopt strategies that help achieve reductions. Cities and counties within those urban planning regions should help meet the VMT reduction targets set for the region.
- Encourage local jurisdictions to consider climate change in their growth management planning. Require local communities to include reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

in their comprehensive plans and provide the tools and resources needed to plan for these reductions. Adopt measures to increase walking, biking and transit use in urban areas.

- Create and encourage transit-oriented development (TOD). TOD should be required near rapid transit stations. It should be encouraged in urban centers planned for intensive development and along corridors served by frequent transit. Incentives should be provided for cities and developers to create affordable, livable, transit-oriented development that will afford citizens the choice to drive less.
- Strengthen existing provisions to include housing for all income groups. Require that TOD centers include housing for those income levels likely to be employed in the center or accessible by a 30-minute transit ride. Clarify that all housing plans must be implemented through effective development incentives and regulations.
- Invest in solutions. The state needs to make a strong investment in transit-oriented communities and alternative modes of transportation. Additionally, the state should align its infrastructure spending priorities with its adopted greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and VMT reduction goals.

As the 2009 legislative session continues, I'll provide ways you can help. Here is some information to help you on your way. Please talk with you neighbors, family and friends, and most importantly, your state senators and representatives about the importance of all four priorities, and give an extra nudge for this one.

Important public hearings to continue in January

Urban Residential Design Standards Ordinance No. 08-101: January 7, 1:30 p.m., in the County Council chambers, Eighth Floor of the County Administration Building, 3000 Rockefeller Street, Everett. Public testimony is closed, but written comments will be taken until day of hearing.

Rural Cluster Subdivision Ordinance No. 08-087: January 7, 6:30 p.m., in the First Floor Meeting Room of the County Administration Building in Everett. Written comments will be taken until the day of the hearing and public testimony will be open at the hearing.

For more information on the ordinances and amendments, please visit the county's web site.

Conservation chairs outline priorities

By Jan van Niel, Conservation Co-chair

The state Audubon Conservation Chairs (WSACC) met recently to discuss priorities for the 2009 legislative session. The state office also reported Jon Soest, long time conservation chair and activist for the North Cascades AS Chapter, passed away.

In addition, Lisa Paribello, State Office Policy Director, is leaving her post to work for a Thurston County council member. Her position may not be filled immediately due to financial concerns, the result of drastically decreasing support from National Audubon and less grant monies available.

Five years ago, NAS underwrote the state office to the tune

of \$500,000. By 2008, that amount had been reduced to \$100,000. And, for next year and the future, there will be no support at all for the state office from NAS. It must be entirely self supporting.

This means the future of the office, and therefore all of its work for the chapters, Audubon Nature Centers, as well as work on state legislation, will have to be supported financially by the chapters and individual donations.

(See "Conservation" on page 8)

2009 ...

(continued from page 1)

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 or call 360.681.4076 for a brochure.

Also this year! Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 5-7. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and stay at historic Roche Harbor Resort. Get program information and registration forms online at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Birding in Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

May 15-24, 2009

Oregon

Reserve your spot now for a fantastic 10-day birding adventure to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Oregon. The trip is planned for May 15-24, 2009, and is limited to 15 people.

You'll spend three days birding on the way down, three days at Malheur NWR and four days driving and birding your way

Conservation ...

(continued from page 7)

Legislative priorities: In the past, these have been called Priorities for a Healthy Washington. However, many people thought that they referred to health care issues. So, the new term for the top legislative priorities of the environmental community will be "Environmental Priorities Coalition."

Cap and Invest (led by Climate Solutions)

This legislation will set ambitious, but realistic, reduction goals for statewide – possibly even western North America – greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Emission permits would be sold to industries releasing GHG. Then, industries reducing emissions below target levels could sell their surplus permits to industries not yet meeting goals.

The funds raised by the initial sale of permits would be used to promote new, energy saving-technologies, thus generating new green jobs within the state. More on this issue in future newsletters.

Efficiency First (led by NW Energy Coalition)

This is an extension of the Green Buildings legislation passed last year. It is intended to promote low-energy, super-efficient homes, business, and public buildings. This legislation will reduce GHG emissions, save money, enhance energy security, and generate thousands of family-wage jobs in the state.

The bill will also require energy efficiency information on all buildings for sale or lease, in the same way now needed on appliances.

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.

Plus, you'll visit the state park and observatory in Goldendale, the Painted Hills and Fossil Bed Monument in central Oregon, the High Desert Museum near Bend and, of course, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

You'll be staying in motels for the entire trip – including one with a hot spring. More information regarding accommodations and fees will come in the coming months. But, you can surely expect great birding and photography on this trip.

If you're interested, contact Bill Lider to get your name on the list: 425.776.0674 or bill.lider@verizon.net.

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.

Transit-oriented Communities (led by Transportation Choices and Futurewise)

This bill will encourage urban areas to work toward the state "vehicle miles traveled" reduction goals. It will also assist local jurisdictions in considering climate change in implementing their growth management plans. It will further create transit-oriented development for all income groups.

Invest in Clean Water (led by Wash. Environ. Council and People for Puget Sound)

This is a package of targeted polluter-pay fees to protect taxpayers and ensure that polluters take responsibility for the impacts of their actions. This will also provide a new source of funds to invest in improvements to clean up our rivers and Puget Sound.

Important dates

January 10, 2009: Annual Environmental Issues Workshop (upcoming issues in the state legislature), Seattle

February 19, 2009: Environmental Lobby Day in Olympia

May 1-3, 2009: Spring ACOW in Leavenworth, (not at Sleeping Lady). Our chapter is responsible for the refreshments at all breaks and social hours.

October 10-12, 2009: Pilchuck Audubon HOSTS the Fall Audubon Council of Washington meeting at the Everett Holiday Inn. STAY TUNED! We will need lots of help!

January program meeting Fri., Jan. 9, 7 p.m.

Port Gardner Bay Osprey update

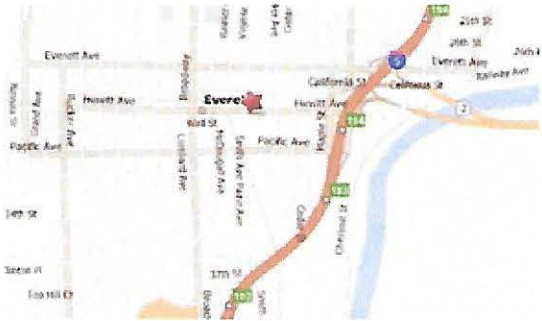
The latest on the plan for pilings for our local Ospreys.

Community Wildlife Certification

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

**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
for the most up-to-date information!**

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:
National Audubon Society

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

NAS renewal

(includes PAS renewal)

- Renewal \$35

Make check payable to:
National Audubon Society

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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____