

Pilchuck Audubon Profile



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Swifts committee chosen for award

Susie Schaefer and her fellow swifts committee members will receive Seattle Audubon's 2009 Conservation Award at their annual award celebration, scheduled for Thursday, June 18, from 6-9 p.m., at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

"We greatly appreciate and are inspired by all your work to save the Vaux's Swifts' habitat," said Jen Mullen, spokesperson for Seattle Audubon.

Guest speaker at the awards event will be David B. Williams, author of *The Seattle Street-Smart Naturalist*.

The event is a potluck dinner. For more info, please contact Jen Mullen at jennm@seattleaudubon.org or 206.523.8243.

Help PAS: renew your membership!

By Kathleen Snyder, Secretary, Pilchuck Audubon Society

Pilchuck Audubon is embarking on its first-ever membership renewal drive. This drive is necessary, in part, because PAS 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 and 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. We'll soon mail a letter to lapsed members with a reminder to renew. Many members may be unaware their membership has expired.

We don't want to discourage your NAS renewal. We simply want to encourage members to support the local chapter by renewing directly with PAS. PAS membership costs a reasonable \$25 per year. That connects you with a dynamic group of conservationists and birders who make a real difference in preserving wildlife habitat in Snohomish County.

It 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 get a letter from PAS asking for your renewal, please send in your check. If \$25 seems too little for the benefits PAS offers, additional donations will be enthusiastically accepted.

July program meeting
Friday, July 10, 7 p.m.

Sarvey Wildlife Center

Sarvey, located in Arlington, rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife. Hear more about Sarvey's educational outreach programs, art for critters, the new flight areas, work parties, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Note location

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

For more information, call 425.252.0926

Watch www.pilchuckaudubon.org
for the most up-to-date information!

PAS mourns the loss of Bob Sindelar

PAS Publicity Chair, Bob Sindelar, passed away April 24, after a battle with prostate cancer. Bob was born in Parma, Ohio. After high school in Bradenton, Florida, he enlisted in the Navy and was selected for NROTC. Following his military service, Bob moved to New York, where he worked for advertising agencies – and met his soulmate, Sheila Joan O'Brien, who he married in 1965. They later moved to Miami, Florida.

While rising to presidency of Hume-Sindelar Advertising and Marketing, Bob earned an MBA at the University of Miami. He retired in 1994, and he and Sheila moved to Mt. Dora, Florida, where they ran an antiques business, before moving to Marysville in 2004. Bob was active in the American Marketing Association and in Pilchuck Audubon Society. He also led a bible study at St. Mary's in Marysville.

He is survived by his wife, Sheila, and sons, John and Robert, their wives, Kristi and Patricia, and grandchildren, Benjamin and Sophia. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



At the beginning of every year, Pilchuck Audubon member, Sue Ward, enters Pilchuck's name in the Department of Transportation lottery for a weekend coffee station at one of the Smokey Point rest stops.

Every two or three years our name is drawn.

Unfortunately, this year, Pilchuck's Smokey Point rest stop weekend came the week *after* the Memorial Day weekend. Coupled with fewer travelers this year because of the economy, donations were almost exactly half of what they were two years ago. But you take 'em where you find 'em and hope for the best.

On the first weekend in June, beginning at noon on Friday – and for the next 72 hours – PAS volunteers made free coffee and homemade cookies available to weary travelers. Appreciative travelers generally make a donation, and by Monday, at the conclusion of our designated time, we hoped to have garnered enough donations to keep the PAS general fund in the black.

Any a businessman weighing the return on labor equity invested in such an endeavor would close down such an operation in a New York minute. But as president of an Audubon chapter, I've come to realize that the long-term success of a non-profit organization is measured, not by the bottom line, but by the blood and sweat of volunteers who generate the bottom line.

When I arrived for my 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. shift on Sunday morning, I thought it would be a good time to begin writing this column. I had intended to write about watchable nightlife stopping by for coffee because interesting denizens are about in the dead of night.

However, when I arrived and looked at the 72-hour schedule I changed my mind. I saw that Virginia Clark, a PAS charter member, and the stalwart organizer of the rest stop endeavor, had worked *four* shifts when others had failed to show for whatever reason. One of those shifts was the Sunday morning 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. shift with me.

For two nights, Virginia was working graveyard. She had baked dozens of cookies. During our shift, she made a trip to the store to buy creamer because we were out. Virginia was one tired lady.

Looking at the schedule, I realized that Virginia epitomizes why Pilchuck Audubon's place as the environmental conscience of Snohomish County is secure. It's because of volunteers like Virginia, willing to donate their time and effort, Pilchuck Audubon Society is kept in the forefront as *Champion for the Environment*.

On this hot, record-setting, June day, I raise my glass of frosty lemonade to toast all PAS volunteers ... because you're all champions.

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
Treasurer	Carolyn Lacy	360.668.2494
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Program Coordinator	Laura Harvell Spehar	425.672.2150
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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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Trip calendar

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

Tuesday, July 7

N. Everett to S. Marysville

Meet at 8 a.m. at Legion Park off N. Marine Dr., Everett. Bird the waterfront and Snohomish River estuary. Osprey, eagles, hawks, waterfowl, gulls. Sixty species in 2007. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tuesday, July 14

Stevens Pass area

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on Hwy. 2, a half-mile west of the fairgrounds. Trying for summer birding success at higher altitudes. Will visit The Old Cascades Highway, Smithbrook Rd. and maybe the ski slopes. Warblers, grouse, flycatchers, nutcrackers, chipmunk and hare. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tuesday, July 21

Deception Pass area

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. Fifty-nine species in 2007 (good for summer). So let's go. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tues., July 28 Sno River Valley, Monroe-Carnation

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride on Hwy 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, 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

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

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.

Thanks for a successful spring survey

"April 10, 2009: The weather was calm and overcast. As it got light, the shorebirds were flying in from the north and north-east and perching on the logs and stumps out in the bay.

"The water level was up to the outer dike. There were a few Greater Yellow Legs on the inside of the dike early. Then moving to the mud flats as the tide fell.

"As the water level receded, the shorebirds started to abandon the logs and stumps and spread out on the mud flats.

"The lower the water became, the wider the birds spread out. The birds were far enough out that you could make out a large number of Dunlin. There were some Least Sandpipers that came in close to identify. The Black-bellied Plovers were easy to pick out.

"Identifying other small sandpipers and plovers that might have been in the large flocks was impossible. It was a nice morning." – Shorebird survey volunteer

The spring survey for Port Susan Bay (PSB) is finished and the



Greater Yellow Legs, by Annette Colombini

totals for the nine sites have been compiled. This year, 35 volunteers counted 105,412 shorebirds on select days from April 9 through May 13. We will evaluate this survey as we plan the Fall Survey 2009 later this summer.

The success of this survey comes from the volunteers who were up before daylight on a number of days, traveling and then spending a couple of hours – minimum – looking for the birds and recording them.

Saying "thank you" for the work, time and determination does not begin to reimburse those who stepped forward. Many, however, consider it a good and important way to spend a few hours of their day as the note above indicates.

We'll contact volunteers when plans are finalized for the fall survey. Each survey brings new people for the count. If you are a birder, know some about shorebirds, then please contact me in June or July as we prepare for the next shorebird survey around Port Susan Bay.

Renewed friendships, networking at ACOW

Jan and Colleen van Niel recently attended the spring Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) meeting in Leavenworth. ACOW, with representatives from the 26 Washington chapters, meets in the spring and fall each year.

The conference begins on Friday with the gathering of the chapters' conservation chairs, who meet to discuss topics and issues pertinent to the environment.

Saturday's agenda is set by the hosting chapter. Small groups meet to focus on different topics, as well as the whole group meeting for keynote speakers both evenings.

Renewed friendships and networking goes on throughout the weekend with field trips closing the conference on Sunday.

Pilchuck Audubon to host Fall 2009 ACOW

Pilchuck Audubon will host the conference this fall. It takes a lot of effort and it's important that volunteers assist. This can be an exciting time to experience the workings of the chapters, as well as meeting with the staff at the state level.

When the ACOW committee for PAS extends the invitation to volunteer, please step forward and give your time and talents for this event. I think 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.

You do not have to wait to be called to volunteer! Call me now – Colleen Weber van Niel at 425.210.5626.

PAS awarded ALEA grant for demo garden

The Dept. of Fish and Wildlife recently awarded PAS an ALEA (Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account) grant for the Native Plant Demo Garden in Edmonds. This grant provides support for projects beneficial to the fish and wildlife of Washington.

The funds awarded to PAS will be used for an educational program at the garden. The local Edmonds group, other interested PAS members and friends will begin work in July on the development of educational materials and signage, as well as on-site workshops and demos.

The ALEA grant complements the Hubbard Family Foundation

grant received for the purchase of native plants for the garden. Mary Monfort, PAS member and native plant steward, also received a grant from the Native Plant Society for plants.

Planning and preparations are underway at the garden and planting will take place in late October or early November. Pilchuck Audubon Vice President, Susie Schaefer, said: "The garden is a very exciting project. Lots of volunteers are needed to make it a big success."

If you'd like to get involved, please contact Susie at 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Skagit wildlife access temporarily closed

Portions of the Skagit Wildlife Area are closed to public access as crews work on an estuary-restoration project at the mouth of the Skagit River. The areas affected include the public boat ramp, parking lot and the nearby loop trail. The areas were scheduled to be closed through May.

The restoration project includes finishing the construction of a setback dike inland along the border of the wildlife area, along with the installation of a new, larger tidegate farther upstream on Wiley Slough.

"This project requires a lot of heavy equipment; we don't want to put visitors at risk," said Lora Leschner, regional wildlife manager for WDFW. "We expect to re-open the closed areas in June, but we will likely close the entire Headquarters Unit later this summer to complete the project."

Work later this summer will include removing 6,500 feet of dikes and levees, allowing tides and the river to reclaim the area south of the new setback dike.

WDFW owns and manages the entire 16,708-acre Skagit Wildlife Area to preserve habitat for fish and wildlife, and provide a site for outdoor recreation.

"Our goal is to wrap up work before the general hunting season begins," Leschner said. "We recognize that hunters, hikers, birdwatchers and others have come to depend on this area for outdoor recreation."

Info on the Skagit Wildlife Area is available on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlifeareas/skagit>.

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Get involved – and have fun!

Join group to protect the Edmonds Marsh

Many birders are familiar with the Edmonds Marsh, as this small saltwater / fresh water marsh still attracts many interesting birds each season. This beleaguered marsh, surrounded by indoor tennis courts, railroad tracks, a highway and marina, is much loved by many people from Edmonds and other nearby communities.

A Friends of the Edmonds Marsh group has been formed

to preserve what is left of the marsh and to try to restore it and Willow Creek.

Interested people are invited to join us. For more information, contact Susie Schaefer at susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425.771.8165 or Laura Spehar at 425.672.2175.

Banding camp for adults coming in August

Learn how to band birds in Washington's Cascade Mountains. This six night camping trip (August 9-15) will feature riparian and mountain birding and banding at several locations with opportunities to see and possibly handle birds like Williamson's Sapsucker, Hammond's Flycatcher and MacGillivray's Warbler.

The training will focus on the basics of net placement, bird handling and net extraction, ageing and sexing, with

emphasis on molts and plumages, following NABC guidelines.

Banding will occur on six mornings with six nights of semi-remote campground camping. No birding or banding experience is necessary.

Contact Emily (emily@pugetsoundbirds.org) at the Puget Sound Bird Observatory for more information.

Volunteers needed for Puget Sound Bird Fest

If you'd enjoy seeing more than 800 Western Grebes from the water, listening to great bird-related speakers or seeing 10,000 Vaux's Swifts at the end of the day ... then join us at Puget Sound Bird Fest, Sept. 12 and 13.

The 2008 event took place under sunny skies and ideal conditions for observing and enjoying Pacific Northwest birdlife. Guided walks and field trips took place Saturday

morning, with more offered on Sunday in addition to self-guided backyard wildlife habitat tours.

Volunteers are needed for this year's fieldtrips, registration, habitat tours, and children's activities. For more information or to volunteer, contact Sally Linder, Edmonds Parks and Recreation Dept., 425.771.0227 or linder@ci.edmonds.wa.us.

Raptors: up-close and personal

Barbara Ogaard of the Sarvey Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will present "Raptors of the Pacific NW: Owls and Hawks," on Wednesday, July 1, from 1-2:30 p.m., at the NW Stream Center at McCollum Park in Everett.

Have an up-close-and-personal experience with two raptors – owls and hawks – and learn all about them. Barbara

is an informative and entertaining speaker, and will make this a fun event for the entire family.

Cost is \$5 for Adopt-a-Stream members and \$7 for non-members. Advance purchase is required.

For more information call 425.316.8592.

Watchers provide key info about swifts

The first swifts arrived in Monroe on April 18 and more are arriving on a daily basis. We now have good experience showing the spring migration patterns are different from the fall. In the spring, the birds enter the chimney almost any time – when they feel like it – not necessarily just before sunset. And, they don't always leave the chimney at sunrise. Their behavior appears to depend on the weather. It seems they prefer staying the chimney to flying around looking for insects when it's cold and rainy. Smart birds!

Thanks to Judy Alles and all the faithful spring counters, we have good daily counts. Also, thanks to Larry Schwitters, our wonderful swift expert, we have counts for several Saturdays

in May for all the known roosting chimneys in California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and British Columbia. We are getting a great picture of the full spring migration! Larry has formed an amazing network of chimney watchers and counters.

Plan ahead for fall for the big celebration in Monroe on Sept 12. Also Larry will be the featured speaker at the state Audubon chapters meeting (ACOW) on October 9. His presentation will be our regular October PAS program meeting. Watch the *Profile* for more information on these events.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

I love summer the northwest. The weather is wonderful, and there are so many fun things to do: from enjoying our natural environment with hiking, swimming and boating, to outdoor concerts, fairs and get-togethers with family and friends.

That's why summer is a difficult time for my work because I need the PAS membership to be involved in the on-going land use issues. And, in summer ... well, folks are like me. They would rather spend their off-work hours playing, not going to meetings, hearings and writing letters to the editor.

It would be great if local government took that into consideration and stopped scheduling public hearings during these months. But, I suppose, a lot less would be accomplished each year. I hope I can still count on our membership to be actively involved in a few things this summer.

The most pressing issue affecting the sustainability and health of our county is whether the county will allow a new city – a Fully Contained Community (FCC) – in our rural area. I have done my best to keep this issue in the forefront.

The county council has finally scheduled a public hearing to consider two ordinances that deal with FCCs – on July 8. The first is part of the annual comprehensive plan update, called "docketing," and this year it is Docket XIII.

That ordinance, introduced by Council Member Dave Somers, will eliminate FCCs from the comprehensive plan. Council Member Somers recognizes, as do PAS, Futurewise, and many folks who live in Snohomish County, that adding another city to compete with the existing 20 cities will create more problems than it will solve.

It's hard to say which of the other county council members support the elimination of FCCs, and it takes three of five votes to make it happen. Historically and recently, the public record has shown that council members Dave Gossett and John Koster are *in favor* of a new city. And, even County Executive Aaron Reardon has argued for the need to establish a new city at Lake Roesiger. That leaves council members Mike Cooper and Brian Sullivan – the newest council member, elected two years ago – to champion the elimination of FCCs with Dave Somers.

I would love it if you would take a few moments to send the council members an e-mail or call them to let them know you want them to vote to eliminate FCCs.

You can reach them by phone at 425.388.3494. Or, you can e-mail them at dave.somers@co.snohomish.wa.us, mike.cooper@co.snohomish.wa.us, brian.sullivan@co.snohomish.wa.us, dave.gossett@co.snohomish.wa.us, john.koster@co.snohomish.wa.us.

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.

In the coming weeks, as I prepare for this hearing, I'll be calling on all of you to get involved. I need you to attend the public hearing – whether or not you choose to testify. A good show of support on this issue is important.

There will be two hearings: Wednesday, July 8, at 1:30 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m., in the First Floor Meeting Room of the County Administration Building East, 3000 Rockefeller Street in Everett. *Please mark your calendar and take one evening out of your summer to help me convince the county council to stop the development of a new city at Lake Roesiger.*

Also at this hearing, the council will consider an ordinance to amend the codes that implement the FCC policies in the comprehensive plan. In lieu of convincing three council members to vote for elimination, our next best hope is to have them adopt a series of code amendments to help ensure that if an FCC is built, other people living, working and paying taxes in Snohomish County won't have to foot the bill for roads and infrastructure. But, this is clearly our second choice.

The public hearing on July 8 will also include several other docket items not related to FCCs, some of which I will be commenting on as well.

For more information about our position and a copy of past comment letters to the Snohomish County Planning Commission on these subjects, just e-mail me at kristin@futurewise.org. I would be happy to send you copies.

Other important dates!

The **Feast with Friends** fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at Angel Arms Works Art Studio, 230 Avenue B, Snohomish. The feast combines products from local farmers with local chefs and wineries for an evening of great food and conversation. Look for your invitation at the end of July. Please RSVP to kristin@futurewise.org if you can attend! The food is marvelous – don't miss it!

On Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., I host our second annual **Livable Snohomish County** summit and a county council candidate debate. This is a FREE event and includes lunch. More details to come later this summer! This is a great opportunity to find out what is going on in Snohomish County with land use and environmental protection and to network with a host of others working for a livable Snohomish County. Please RSVP to me at kristin@futurewise.org!

Now go outside and enjoy yourselves!

Merchants donate prizes for 'Thoners

Bird-a-thon results aren't quite ready. But, it's a great time to thank the generous merchants who donated gift cards for Bird-a-thon prizes. Please support these merchants and thank them for their generosity and support of Pilchuck Audubon Society: **Albertson's on Beverly Park Road just south of Mukilteo, the Everett Fred Meyer, QFC in Mukilteo, Wild Bird Nest in Lynnwood, Wild Birds Unlimited in Everett and Wild Birds Unlimited in Lake Forest Park.**

Birding highlights

April 26, 2009–May 25, 2009

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Pam Smith called regarding **Barn Swallows**. She is looking for information on the best kind of nesting boxes and the best areas to place them. She would like to encourage the swallows to return to Western Washington and hopes to help increase their numbers. If anyone has any helpful information about **Barn Swallows**, please e-mail me at pricemara@clearwire.net.

Another good month for Carole and Larry Beason with a species count of 43 from their home near Lake Bosworth. They reported 8 **Violet-green Swallows** and 6 **Tree Swallows**, but no **Barn Swallows** yet. They also listed 4 **Northern Shovelers**, 4 **Barrow's Goldeneyes**, 5 **Canada Geese**, 2 **Common Loons**, 4 **Greater Scaups**, 5 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, 3 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, a **Hammond Flycatcher**, 9 **Pine Siskins**, an **Osprey** and 3 **White-crowned Sparrows**.

Annette Colombini reported 12 species from her new location at Lake Stevens. The highlight of her report was a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, a "lifer" for her. She also listed 4 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 3 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Dark-eyed Juncos** (nesting in a hanging basket), 3 **Spotted Towhees**, 3 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 5 **American Crows**, 3 **American Robins**, 3 **Black-capped Chickadees** and 2 **Tree Swallows**. She also heard a **Swainson's Thrush** and a **Mountain Chickadee** in the woods.

Gail Dibernardo listed 26 species from Brier. Her report included the usual woodpeckers along with a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, 5 **Pine Siskins**, 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 9 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 3 **White-crowned Sparrows**, a **Cooper's Hawk**, 2 **Northern Harriers**, a **Pacific Flycatcher** and a **Swainson's Thrush**.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo listed 30 species, along with a sighting of a **Barred Owl** at the Narbeck Wetlands near Boeing. Her report listed 7 **American Goldfinches**, 14 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, a **Barn Swallow**, 3 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 4 **Evening Grosbeaks**, an **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, 10 **Pine Siskins**, 2



Red-breasted Sapsucker, by Paul Kusmin



Rufous Hummingbird family, by Annette Colombini



Black-headed Grosbeak, by Annette Colombini

Rufous Hummingbirds, 5 **Violet-green Swallows**, 5 **Steller's Jays** and 4 **White-crowned Sparrows**.

The **Wood Ducks** in Chris Erickson's yard have eight young ones. Now she has 10 **Wood Ducks** to report from her Everett home. Her total species count of 21 also included a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 7 **Black-capped Chickadees**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 3 **Western Gulls** overhead, 3 **Mourning Doves**, an **American Goldfinch**, 3 **Band-tailed Pigeons** and 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**.

Adeline Gildow went to Kentucky this month where she saw some really interesting bird species: a **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**, a **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Prothonotary Warbler** and **Carolina Wren**, to name a few. Her report from Camano Island listed 9 **American Goldfinches**, 7 **Bald Eagles**, 7 **Great Blue Herons** at Juniper Beach, 5 **Killdeer**, 2 **Ospreys** at Warm Beach, a **Ring-necked Pheasant**, 6 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 4 **Black-headed Grosbeaks** and more than 1000 **Dunlin** at Juniper Beach for a total species count of 32.

Verna Hisey only listed 5 species this month. The cats have taken over her yard. She only sees birds flying over. She did report **Steller's Jays**, **American Robins**, **Red-winged Blackbirds**, **Great Blue Herons** and **Crows**.

Shelia and Michael Huber's Machias location yielded 28 species which included 2 **Spotted Towhees**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, 12 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Purple Finches**, 4 **Mourning Doves**, 4 **Violet-green Swallows**, 8 **American Goldfinches**, 5 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 3 **Mallards** and a **Pileated Woodpecker**.

Julie O'Donald thinks **Barred Owls** have chased the **Western Screech Owls** away from her property in Brier. She has not seen them at all this spring. She did report 2 **Barred Owls**, along with a **Bewick's Wren**, 3 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, a **Pacific**

(See "Birding highlights" on page 8)

Birding highlights ...

(continued from page 7)

Slope Flycatcher, 2 Red-winged Blackbirds, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Swainson's Thrush, 2 Wilson's Warblers and a Winter Wren for a total species count of 30.

Dick Vanderhoff's report from Stanwood included an Osprey flying over, a 100+ Surf Scoters, 15 White-crowned Sparrows, 500 American Coots, 20 House Finches, 12 American Goldfinches, 3 Bald Eagles on the beach, 6 Golden-crowned Sparrows and 20 Black-headed Grosbeaks for a total species count of 9.

Darlene Walker reported 6 Barn Swallows and 10 Violet-green Swallows in her yard on Camano Island. Her total species count of 30 also included 2 Common Ravens, 2 Great Blue Herons in the water, a Black-chinned Hummingbird, 10 Brewer's Blackbirds, 4 Bald Eagles, 15 American Goldfinches, 6 Dark-eyed Juncos, 20 Pine Siskins, 5 Fox Sparrows and 4 Black-headed Grosbeaks.



Pacific Slope Flycatcher, by Paul Kusmin

The most unusual sighting I had this month was a Peacock. It just walked up the driveway. I did some research and found that there are wild Peacock colonies in some states including California and Florida. So I guess we have some here also. I do live in a wooded area in Marysville so there are plenty of trees available for roosting.

My total species count of 33 also included 3 American Goldfinches, 8 American Robins, 8 California Quail, 8 Black-headed Grosbeaks, 2 Mourning Doves, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Purple Finches, 2 Tree Swallows, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Bald Eagle and 2 Evening Grosbeaks.

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

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