

Pilchuck Audubon Profile



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It's Birdathon time!

It's here, finally – May, Birdathon month! This is when several PAS members do something fun while also earning money to benefit Pilchuck Audubon. They go birding.

Birdathon isn't a "regular" birding trip – it's much more. These "Thoners" spend some time before their Birdathon trip, collecting pledges for either a specific amount per species located, or a flat, maximum amount. Then they bird anywhere in Washington for a total of 24 hours, divided among two or more days or in one marathon birding effort.

Won't you please participate this year? Get pledge sheets – from Birdathon coordinator, Hilka Egtvedt, at the May program meeting – or download from the PAS web site. Or, you can contact Hilka at 425.347.4944 or chegtvedt@comcast.net and she'll send one to you.

Then go birding, report your sightings to your sponsors, collect their pledges and get the money to Hilka. We hope to have prizes donated by several area businesses for the most bird species found, the most money raised, the largest number of sponsors, etc.

Please be a "Thoner" this year!

Help the environment: read the Profile online

By reading the *Profile* online, you're saving resources and enjoying bonus content. Maybe you can help sway your fellow PAS members to do the same? Here's what to tell them.

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

To make the change, go to www.pilchuckaudubon.org, scroll to the bottom of the home page and click the "Contact Webmaster" link. Put "Profile Online" in the subject line of the

Recall affects suet

The Scotts Company is recalling specific lots of suet products after learning they may contain peanut meal from the Peanut Corporation of America's plant in Blakely, Georgia. Some products from that plant have been contaminated with Salmonella.

Consumers can contact Scotts at 866.512.8876 or visit www.scotts.com for more information.

**May program meeting
Friday, May 8, 7 p.m.**

Grizzly Bears in the Cascades

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

Note location

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

For more information, call 425.252.0926

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

e-mail message and tell us you want to read the newsletter online. Please include your e-mail address in the body of your message, just to be safe. We'll send you a reminder when the newsletter is available on PAS's web site.

You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the online newsletter. It's a free download at www.adobe.com.

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

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

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Upcoming festivals and roadtrips

Birding in Malheur National Wildlife Refuge May 15-24, 2009 Oregon

The 10-day adventure to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in southeast Oregon is coming soon: May 15-24.

Participants will spend three days birding on the way down, three days at Malheur NWR and four days driving and birding the way back to Snohomish County. Among the birds we might see: Whitefaced Ibis, Ferruginous Hawks, Black-and-white Warblers, Lesser Goldfinches, Great Horned Owls, Clark's Grebes, Phalaropes, Bobolinks and many more.

We'll be staying in motels for the entire trip – including one with a hot spring. We expect great birding and photography on this trip.

Contact Bill Lider: 425.776.0674 or bill.lider@verizon.net.

American Alps Campaign Kickoff Event May 15, 2009 Mountaineers Club, Seattle

The American Alps Legacy Project is a campaign to complete the original conservation vision for the North Cascades. PAS members are invited to a campaign kickoff event on Friday, May 15, 6-8:30 p.m. at The Mountaineers Club, 7700 Sand Point Way NE (Magnuson Park), Seattle. Join us in exploring options for new park and wilderness lands.

Two guest speakers will highlight the kickoff event: author Art Davidson and journalist Joel Connelly. On "the kooky boundaries of the North Cascades National Park," Connelly recently wrote: "It is time to straighten out – literally – omissions made long ago."

For more information, visit www.northcascades.org or call 360.296.5159.

Ferry County birding June 5-7, 2009 Ferry County, Washington

This is always a fun and fabulous trip, filled with surprises and excitement. Contact Susie Schaefer at susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org or 425.771.8165 for more information.

Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, Falklands December 28, 2009-January 25, 2010

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

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

For more information, visit www.cheesemans.com.

**Fall ACOW 2009
October 9, 10, 11
Holiday Inn, Everett**

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

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Trip calendar

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

Tuesday, May 5 Tennant Lake and Lake Terrell

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). Looking for Redheads, Redstarts, House Wrens, Bank Swallows, etc. The unusual and the usual. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Saturday, May 9 Weyerhaeuser HQ, Federal Way

Meet at 7 a.m. behind Everett Mall, next to the transit center by LA Fitness (I-5, exit 189, Everett Mall Way). Carpooling encouraged. Pack a lunch. We'll pick a moderate loop trail. This is an all-day trip.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425.244.7633

Tuesday, May 12 Point No Point

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 and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point and Foulweather Bluff. Waterfowl and passerines, and much beauty and serenity. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, May 19 Nisqually Wildlife Refuge

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Ash Way Park and Ride, 16327 Ash Way (I-5 exit 183, northwest of the intersection of 164th St. SW and I-5). We will travel 70 miles on I-5 during rush hour traffic. Once at the refuge, we will need to walk several miles to fully experience the delights and surprises of its marshes, tide flats, grasslands and riparian woodlands. Two hundred species have been seen here. Pack a lunch and expect a long, adventurous day.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Tuesday, May 26 Cle Elum Area

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Monroe Park and Ride, on Highway 2, a half mile west of the fairgrounds. An all-day trip. Bring lunch to augment the bakery stop. Different birds: Red-naped Sapsucker, Northern Goshawk, Calliope Hummingbird, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Magpie, Vesper Sparrow, and Cassin's Sparrow possible. Experience Cle Elum. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, June 2 Camano Island

Meet at 8 a.m. at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Camano has so many good birding areas we can never visit all of them in a day, but we'll surely go to English Boom for Purple Martins and Osprey. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181; Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, June 9 Big Four Meadows

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Frontier Village Park and Ride (9600 Market Place). From Highway 9, turn east onto Market Place (the street the Target store is on), then north into the park and ride just west of Target. A beautiful setting for our annual potluck bird trip. Bring something to share. Virginia provides hot dogs and potato salad. Expect swallows, hummingbirds, swifts, warblers, vireos and dippers. A trailhead pass will be needed, but is obtainable en route.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, June 16 Leavenworth area

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, a half-mile west of the Fairgrounds. Many species rarely seen around home. We will go up Icicle Creek and certainly try for the Calliope Hummingbird and Lazuli Bunting in Camas Meadows. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Tuesday, June 23 North Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Highlights of this trip always include waterfowl, shorebirds and seabirds - 62 species last year. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181; Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

Saturday, June 27 Port Gardner Bay Ospreys

Meet at 10 a.m. the Legion Park overlook, just off Marine View Drive. We view the active nests around Port Gardner Bay. We will also check out the osprey nest platforms recently installed by Pilchuck Audubon. Learn about the osprey, its migration and our future projects in this area. Mostly we will be driving to the nest sites, but we will also do a short one-mile round-trip hike on Smith Island.

Leader: Bill Lider, 425.776.0671

Tues., June 30 C-Post Rd, Fortson Ponds, Sauk River

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We will travel Highway 530 as far as time and stamina permit. Surprises are historic on this trip. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Art Wait, 360.563.0181

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.

Help wanted: IBA coordinator

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

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

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

If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest to Mike Blackbird at mblack2781@aol.com.

Bird walk spawns flood plain reflection

By Jonathan Blubaugh

The views expressed in this article are mine alone. I am a member of the Pilchuck Audubon Society and volunteer bird hike leader.

This year's Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival in Stanwood was a big success. I was honored to serve as a trip leader to The Nature Conservancy's Port Susan Preserve for the third year. Thanks to the Conservancy for opening up the property to our 23 guests on this year's morning tour.

In the past, we'd walked along the levee loop – about three miles. Things were different this year. Winter storms and high water breached the levee. We were still able to walk the levee, but not all the way around. The area surrounded (now only partly) by the levee was full of water. In past years, the Conservancy had managed the water level. Now Mother Nature has taken over for them. Their pump reportedly was overrun by flood waters and put out of commission (just like New Orleans).

The area inside the levee is more like a lagoon now than like mudflats (as it was before). There were no shorebirds inside this time (too deep), mostly just ducks and coots. One Bald Eagle – an adult, perched on a pole on the levee right above our heads – was fearless and tame. It was one of many eagles we saw that day. Given the tens of thousands of Snow Geese, the eagles' presence is no surprise, just their boldness around people.

On the drive to the preserve, the Snow Geese were very near shoulder of the road. So, we stopped and marveled at the crowd of birds so close at hand.

Later that day, I attended a wild goose chase, literally. The trip leader trundled onto the bus and took us to where a second massive flock was grazing alongside farm roads just north of town. The county had put up "no stopping or parking" signs, but people were still stopping anyway to view the amazing profusion of wildlife. It was just like a bear jam at Yellowstone.

Here's a sampling of what I saw throughout the day: a Great Blue Heron, ~20,000 Snow Geese, 34 Trumpeter Swans, 200 Mallards, 6 Northern Shovelers, 5 Northern Pintails, 10 Ruddy Ducks, 7 Bald Eagles, a Northern Harrier, a Red-tailed Hawk, an American Kestrel, a Merlin, 66 American Coots, 340 Glaucous-winged Gulls, one Blacked-capped Chickadee, 9 Dark-eyed Juncos, a male Red-winged Blackbird, a House Finch, and a House Sparrow.

On Saturday morning, I sat by the window of a café in Stanwood and had breakfast. Gulls were roosting on the sloped roof of a nearby business. Suddenly, the flock burst into the



Northern Pintail, by Arnette Colombini



Merlin, by Kevin Arvin

air. This caught my attention, and I soon found the Merlin who had flushed them. The tiny raptor was perched on a nearby pole after having missed his considerably larger quarry. All this drama in downtown Stanwood. What a great place for a bird festival!

In the end, I was dismayed because some expressed frustration with The Nature Conservancy. Access to the preserve is restricted. I reminded them that the preserve is private property. There is a legitimate fear of liability. The levee trail is broken. The Conservancy is under no compulsion to maintain the levee or the trail. They have demonstrated their intent to manage the property for the benefit of migrating shorebirds and wildlife that use the habitat, including maturing salmon fry.

Some simply want to blow the levee up and let the land revert to the natural mudflat it used to be before industrial agriculture. Parts of the south side of vulnerable Stanwood may only be protected by a few private levees. If true, this seemingly short-sighted situation may be amenable to the residents only by threat of litigation against those who may want to discontinue levee maintenance.

The Skagit and Stillaguamish deltas have something in common: the town of Stanwood. This is a flood plain!

I'm sure the town was founded on its present site for good reason. But with inevitable warming and upstream urbanization, water levels in the rivers and Sound are rising. After this winter's floods, I heard Stanwood residents on TV say they'd been flooded before and would keep living there anyway. That's fine. But, we taxpayers should not have to subsidize their flood insurance or the emergency response when the next flood washes them away. The land is clearly suitable for agriculture. It is suitable for habitation only by geese and sandpipers.

In their detached, unemotional and utilitarian way, the editors of *Scientific American* delivered a devastating sentence against repopulating New Orleans on its current site. It lies below sea level, bull's eye in the path of ever more frequent Atlantic hurricanes and Mississippi River floods. The industrial seaport of New Orleans must remain, due to its geography. The workers should probably commute from higher ground.

We need to reconsider the true risks of continued residency in flood-prone areas of the Skagit and Stillaguamish deltas and other clearly hazardous areas. The Big One may not arrive during our lifetime, but it is coming.

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

On March 30, the first meeting of the group was attended by a group of committed people who want to organize and

share information about the history of the marsh and a vision of it for the future.

Keeley O'Connell of People for Puget Sound gave a fascinating presentation on what has happened to the Edmonds Marsh over the last 70 years and shared some recommendations from her organization. A planning and action process is growing from this.

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.

Bike to work with "Es" on May 15

Celebrating Bike to Work Day is as easy as 1-2-3. Commit to biking *one* day, on *two* wheels, for *three* reasons: exercise, environment and economy.

Bike to Work events give first-time bike commuters, die-hard regulars and fair weather cyclists a chance to celebrate together. Organizers encourage creative commutes that combine biking and buses, biking to your carpool or vanpool instead of driving, or driving part way to work (up the hills) and biking the rest.

In 2008, more than 900 county residents biked to local

Celebration Stations on Bike to Work Day, which is May 15 this year. This year, there is a new station near the Edmonds Ferry, at Brackett's Landing Park, along with stations at the Lynnwood Transit Center, UW Bothell, Everett Station, Boeing Everett, Marysville's Comeford Park and McCollum Park in Mill Creek.

Bike to Work events are funded by Community Transit, Everett Transit, Group Health, Snohomish County, Harvy's Bike Shop and many other community partners. Learn more at www.communitytransit.org.

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.

Plan to attend fall ACOW in Everett

The Fall 2009 Audubon Chapters of Washington (ACOW) meeting, hosted by Pilchuck Audubon, is scheduled for October 9-11 at the Holiday Inn, Everett. Highlights of this lively event include guest speakers, breakout sessions addressing the issue of sustainability and birding field trips – led by Pilchuck Audubon members – to local hotspots. A detailed schedule will be released this summer.

Online registration begins August 1. Please note: room reservations are the responsibility of the attendee.

Please watch our web site for up-to-date event information: www.pilchuckaudubon.org. Volunteers are still needed! Please contact Colleen van Niel, 425.778.7568 or harmnone2@comcast.net for volunteer opportunities.

Photos sought for the new PAS web site

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

We need help from the photographers in our midst. We

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

Early bird festivals a hit with PAS members

By Susie Schaefer, Vice President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Sandhill Crane, by Annette Colombini

This year, a small group of Pilchuck Audubon members attended two really great early spring bird festivals.

On March 20, we headed to Othello for the Sandhill Crane Festival. Going over the pass, it was still winter

– and we never did have nice spring weather – but that did not dampen our enthusiasm for this wonderful festival.

Our first stop was in Kittitas County, where we joined one of the festival field trips at a huge new wind farm with 122 giant wind turbines. It was a very interesting tour. We can vouch that it is very windy on the ridge there.

Once we arrived in Othello that evening, there were many festival activities to choose from. We enjoyed fantastic presentations and tours for the rest of the weekend. And of course, we were happy to see the Sandhill Cranes!

In early April, we traveled to Sequim for a fine time at the Olympic Bird Festival. On the way there, we were excited to



Black-bellied Plover, by Paul Kusmin

see Black-bellied Plovers, Loons, Black Turnstones and Harlequin Ducks – among others.

The Festival was based at the Three Rivers Audubon Center and, of course, the Railroad Bridge. We also enjoyed a wonderful salmon dinner at the beautiful Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center.

We had many choices for field trips and activities. We chose to go up the Elwha River to learn more about the almost-reality dam removal (good chance it could be started in 2010). It was a beautiful trip and we had an exciting sighting of a Green Heron at the mouth of the river.

On Sunday, we circled Protection Island by boat. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we enjoyed seeing Rhinoceros Auklets and Pigeon Guillemots (the Puffins had not yet arrived) and seals (Elephant and Harbor).

We will look forward to returning to both of these great festivals in 2010!

IBA a group effort, but it needs a new leader

By Colleen Weber, Project Leader, Port Susan Bay IBA

As the newsletter comes together, volunteers are in the midst of the 2009 Spring Shorebird Survey around Port Susan Bay. We are surveying at seven sites from the east side of the bay at Warm Beach to Triangle Cove.

Sites were selected based on bird activity during the 2008 surveys. We eliminated sites with lower bird counts and also because we had fewer volunteers available this time around.

In addition, we changed the days of the week for surveying, which had a direct effect on the number of volunteers who could participate. And, this spring, we chose the morning high tide, which means people are at the sites as early as 6:30 a.m. for the nine days of the survey.

Dr. Dennis Paulson conducted a two-day training session for survey volunteers. The presentation will, no doubt, help our counters identify shorebirds around the bay. Seasoned birders were able to hone their skills while new recruits learned which birds may be at the shoreline and how



Greater Yellowlegs, by Richard Ruby

to identify the birds using more than one identifying characteristic.

PAS has completed one two-year grant cycle and is half way through the second two-year grant: 2008-2010. Two more surveys are planned: the second fall survey beginning late this summer and the concluding spring survey in 2010. Plans for subsequent surveys have not been finalized.

Coordinating the surveys is an involved process. Many people contribute with the actual survey, but others are needed to get the process started, refined and completed. These helpful folks include Ruth Milner, biologist with WDFW, who coordinated the dates and times of the survey. Jan van Niel and Russ Canniff selected and refined the sites. Jon Baker secured a room at Mariner High for the training and contacted Dr. Paulson to facilitate.

(See "IBA Project" on page 9)

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

Livable Snohomish County Coalition

Two years ago, I hosted the first Livable Snohomish County Summit, which brought together 200 people from regional environmental organizations, county neighborhood groups, individuals, county leaders, planners and a land use attorney to share stories of successes and failures. The event also opened networking avenues and began the formation of the Livable Snohomish County Coalition (LSCC).

Since that summit, LSCC has worked on a number of land use and environmental issues, and has helped groups and individuals working independently. A coalition provides strength in numbers, and our voice for strong land use planning policies and codes and environmental protection has indeed helped change how government does business.

One of my focuses this year is to continue work toward ensuring the LSCC grows in numbers and influence. This isn't a group itself. It's a system of networking that gives members an opportunity to share their knowledge, get information and help each other.

Last year, we formed a loose-knit leadership committee, and produced a mission statement, goals, priorities and strategies. The mission of LSCC is to help preserve the high quality of life in Snohomish County and promote livable communities through smart growth practices. If you would like a copy, please contact me.

The thrust of the coalition is the awareness that without good policies in place and with codes to carry out those policies, we are left fighting at the project level.

Project-level involvement is important. However, at that stage of the planning process, it's difficult to make changes – and it's expensive. There've been significant wins for neighborhood groups, but there have been significant losses, as well. And the costs for lawyers and consultants – and time and frustration levels – are high. Working together as a coalition at the higher level of planning will help reduce the costs in all respects.

Last year, the coalition worked on the Urban Residential Design Standards code revisions and received stronger protections for retention and replacement of trees, on Rural Cluster Subdivision code revisions and received a lesser density in the rural areas, and on Fully Contained Communities, which is still in progress. We didn't achieve all goals, but we did convince the county council to make changes that'll help create a more livable county.

There's still a lot of work to be done.

Membership to the LSCC merely requires an interest in being part of the network. Pilchuck Audubon Society is a member, of course. The work for me, this year, includes the following three items:

Finish the process for the Fully Contained Communities policy and code changes, in hopes the county council will eliminate the possibility of a new city in our rural area. While it's not the only land use issue I'll be involved with this year, it is the most pressing issue for the coalition.

Improve the LSCC web site to make it more user friendly and educational. As part of that effort, I'll work to increase the membership of LSCC, as well.

Have another successful LSCC summit. The summit is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the PUD building at 2320 California Street, Everett. This is a *free* event and will include lunch (paid for by the TogetherGreen award I received last year). There will be a county council candidate debate in the afternoon, as three positions for council are up for re-election in November. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to me at kristin@futurewise.org or call 425.923.8625.

Fully Contained Communities

The County Planning Commission usually consists of 11 members (two appointed from each of the five council districts and one at-large member appointed by the county executive), but currently has only eight members. Under the commission's bylaws, six votes are considered a majority for forwarding recommendations to the county council.

The commission held two separate public hearings: one to consider elimination of FCCs and one to change some of the codes. However, the commission couldn't get the six votes needed, as only seven commissioners were present.

Fully Contained Communities are allowed, but not required, under the Growth Management Act, and are supposed to be new cities plopped into a rural area. The Puget Sound Regional Council – in their Vision 2040 – adopted a policy for the region to avoid FCCs.

The only FCC now in existence (although there are many master planned communities in King and Pierce counties) is Redmond Ridge. Outgoing King County Executive Ron Sims acknowledged it is a failure. He said if they knew then what they know now, they would not have allowed this FCC, and will not allow any in the future.

Our first position on FCCs is for elimination. And we are not alone in this. Along with a great many citizens, Community Transit, county fire commissioners, the state department on Community Trade and Economic Development, Snohomish County Tomorrow and 18 of 20 local cities are all opposed to FCCs. Four of the seven commissioners agree with us.

If we can't convince the county council to eliminate FCCs, our second position is for significant changes to the codes to ensure Snohomish County will not be flooded with urban-style traffic jams like those caused by Redmond Ridge. We also want the codes to be strengthened to ensure an FCC will provide affordable housing, environmental protections, transportation fixes, livable wage jobs, will help reduce global warming impacts and will not further burden taxpayers for infrastructure and services.

The moratorium on FCC permit applications is to end May 10. There was a rush to have the hearing on *only* the code amendment ordinance on April 22 to beat that moratorium cutoff. However, that meant the ordinance regarding the elimination was to come a month or two later.

This was just wrong in terms of good public process. During public comment time at the council's general legislative meeting on April 8, I asked the council to reconsider this timeline in order to ease the frustrations of the citizens and to ensure both ordinances would be given the same weight. Whether or

(See "Smart Growth" on page 9)

Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

It's time to get the hummingbird feeders cleaned and filled! The little **Rufous Hummingbirds** have returned. These beauties are migrants in many habitats. Wings of the adult male produce high buzzy trill in flight. His call is a high hard *chip tyuk*. The male has an orange-red central spot on the throat and the female has an orange back.

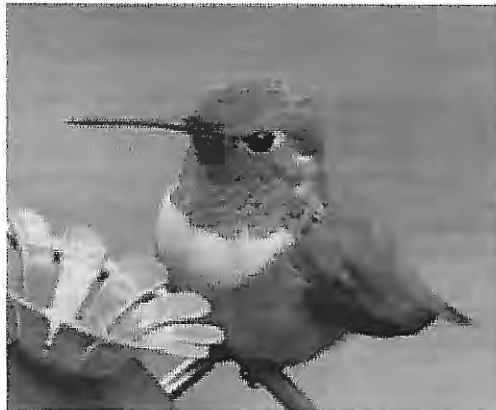
Carole and Larry Beason reported a male and 2 female **Rufous Hummingbirds** from their home near Lake Bosworth. Their species count of 34 also included 12 **Tree Swallows**, a **Varied Thrush**, 10 **Bufflehead**, 5 **Common Mergansers**, 2 **Double-crested Cormorants**, 3 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 6 **Pine Siskins**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and 7 **Red-winged Blackbirds**.

No hummingbirds at Annette Colombini's home in Marysville, but she did report a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** again, which is exciting. She also listed 2 **Varied Thrush**, 6 **Steller's Jays**, 10 **Pine Siskins**, 8 **Black-Capped Chickadees**, 12 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 4 **Rock Doves**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, 3 **American Robins** and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** for a total species count of 14.

Hilkka Egtvedt reported a **Rufous Hummingbird** and an **Anna's Hummingbird** from Mukilteo. The **Anna's Hummingbird** seems to stay year round while the **Rufous Hummingbird** returns every spring. Her species count of 28 also included 2 **Bald Eagles**, 14 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 4 **California Quail**, 13 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 5 **Pine Siskins**, a **Townsend's Warbler** and 2 **Varied Thrush**.

Kriss Erickson reported 2 **Wood Ducks** and 3 **Mallards** in her yard near Lowell Road in Everett. Her species count of 19 included 15 **Bushtits**, 6 **American Crows**, 11 **American Coots** (near Lowell), 2 **Bewick's Wrens**, a **Winter Wren**, 2 **Western Gulls**, 7 **Black-capped Chickadees** and a **Hairy Woodpecker**.

Four **Rufous Hummingbirds** returned to Adeline Gildow's Camano Island home this month. She also spotted 7 **Bald Eagles** along Juniper Beach, 4 **Great Blue Herons** along the tidelands, 4 **Killdeer**, 200 **Trumpeter Swans** by Conway, 4 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 2 **Northern Flickers**, 2 **Golden-crowned Sparrows**,



Rufous Hummingbird, by Minette Layne



Anna's Hummingbird, by Minette Layne



House Finch, by Patty Bruno

4 **Mourning Doves** and 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** for a total species count of 27

Verna Hisey is still having trouble with the feral cats around her bird feeders. She reported only 5 species this month. She spotted 5 **Varied Thrush**, 9 **Song Sparrows**, 3 **House Sparrows**, 6 **Steller's Jays** and 20 **Black-capped Chickadees**.

Shelia and Michael Huber reported 48 **Pine Siskins** from Machias. I wondered where the Pine Siskins had gone! They reported an **Anna's Hummingbird**, 17 **American Crows**, 6 **Mourning Doves**, 16 **House Finches**, 3 **Downy Woodpeckers**, a **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** and 4 **Northern Flickers** for a species count of 21.

Last month, I reported a **Yellow Warbler** at Julie O'Donald's home in Brier. I need to correct that to a **Yellow-rumped Warbler**, which is not as bright yellow and has different wing markings. This month, she reported a male **Rufous Hummingbird** along with 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 9 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 2 **Spotted Towhees**, 4 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Townsend's Warblers**, 2 **Varied Thrush**, a **Winter Wren**, 40 **American Crows** and 10 **Canada Geese** in the Brierwood Wetlands.

Mary Sinker had another busy month at her Stanwood location. Her total species count of 34 included 4 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 17 **American Robins**, 6 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 40 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 4 **kinglet species**, 11 **Mourning Doves**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 2 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 5 **Spotted Towhees**, 5 **Varied Thrush** and 2 **Winter Wrens**.

Dick Vanderhoff reported 800+ **Tundra Swans** and 100+ **Snow Geese** in the fields along Highway 99. His total species count of 16 from his Stanwood location also included 25 **Black-capped Chickadees** on his deck and at the feeders, 4 **Red-tailed Hawks** along Highway 99, 2 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 6 **Winter Wrens**, 10+ **House Sparrows**, 4 **Varied Thrush**, 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** and 5 **Spotted Towhees**.

(See "Birding highlights" on page 9)

IBA project ...

(continued from page 6)

Ileen Weber provided technical support for recruitment. Virginia Clark provided the cookies for the training sessions ("Have food and they will come"). And, finally, the many Pilchuck members, friends of Pilchuck and members of Skagit Audubon who willingly and enthusiastically participated in this and previous surveys.

Special thanks to five homeowners around Port Susan Bay who gave us permission to survey from their property. Without their support, the survey wouldn't be as accurate.

I am honored to have acted as the leader for this special project. The surveys required a lot of time and effort that went beyond the stipend offered from the grant. However, the success of this project depended on the many volunteers who stepped forward after hearing what was needed. The success

so far – and the continued success – is a group effort that was a pleasure to lead. Now, however, it is time to turn the reins over to someone else who can lead the Action Team meetings, coordinate the surveys and take it to the next step by involving residents of Port Susan Bay.

A "Friends of Port Susan Bay" group will be created to bring together private citizens, landowners, members of organizations and any other entity that will drive it to be the "watch-dog" for protecting PSB. They will organize and continue the work started with these two grants.

This means involvement, commitment and enthusiasm of many people. If you are interested in being a part of this important project, please contact me at 425.778.7568 or harmnone2@comcast.net.

Smart Growth ...

(continued from page 7)

not to allow a new city to be built in a rural area is extremely important, and should not take a back seat to just whether or not code amendments should be adopted.

The council decided not to set the hearing on April 22. It appears they'll vote on an emergency ordinance to extend the moratorium to at least the time of the Docket XIII public hearings, so they can consider both the ordinances to eliminate FCCs or to just make changes to the current code that allows for FCCs. An emergency ordinance takes four votes.

My guess is the council will have public hearings on both these FCC ordinances either in May or June. I will keep you posted. This gives us more time to organize and get people involved in this important issue. If you have questions or ideas,

please don't hesitate to e-mail me at kristin@futurewise.org.

I will send an action alert to my e-mail list so you can be more involved in this important issue. If you are not part of my list, please send me an e-mail and I will add you.

Feast with Friends Fundraiser

Please mark your calendar for our annual Feast with Friends Fundraiser. This year's event is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the wonderful Angel Arms Works studio of Karen Guzak and Warner Blake, 230 Avenue B, Snohomish. Eight local chefs, using products from various local farmers, will create yummy food for you to enjoy. Please join us!

Birding highlights ...

(continued from page 8)

Darlene Walker's yard in Camano Island was pretty busy in March. She reported 20 **Herring Gulls** on the water, 500+ **European Starlings**, 20 **American Robins**, a **Great-horned Owl**, an **Anna's Hummingbird**, 3 **Great Blue Herons** in the water, 25 **Pine Siskins**, 6 **Fox Sparrows**, 50 **Brewer's Blackbirds** in Skagit Valley along with 2000+ **Snow Geese** and 350+ **Trumpeter Swans** for a total species count of 31.

There seems to be a large number of **American Robins** this year in my Marysville area. I counted 20 to 30 along 100th in the fields and fruit trees. The **California Quail** are do-



Spotted Towhee, by Annette Colombini

ing well with 15 under the feeders and in the woods. My total species count of 23 also included 10 **American Crows**, 17 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 4 **Mallards** in the fields, 2 **Spotted Towhees**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, a **Merlin** in the fields, 2 **Red-tailed Hawks**, a **Bald Eagle** in a tree along 67th Street and 3 **Purple Finches**.

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

Congratulations, Colleen and Jan!

We wish you much happiness!

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

Grizzly Bears in the Cascades

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

Come and learn more!

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!

Swiftest swifts arriving

Let the fun begin! The first statewide report of Vaux's Swifts came from Spokane on April 8. Last year, the first group arrived at the Frank Wagner School in Monroe on April 16.

The Save our Swifts committee worked hard on a successful fundraiser on April 18 and preparing for nightly counts for the spring migration. Many thanks to all who worked on the fundraiser, including Eileen Hambleton, Leann Jacobson, Judy Alles, Neil Zimmerman, Kathy Clark, Larry Schwitters and others. Also, a special thank you to LeVon Berg of Monroe Digital Printing who has developed a great kids' field guide on the Vaux's Swifts to go along with the coloring books she did last year.

For up-to-date information on what is happening with the Monroe swifts, check out the PAS web site: www.pilchuckaudubon.org.

Celebrate Native Plants

Governor Gregoire proclaimed May 3-9 Native Plant Appreciation Week, a celebration of the amazing diversity of Washington's 3000+ native plant species that inhabit deserts, rainforests, high alpine environments, river valleys and even backyard landscapes. Native plant ecosystems are critical to sustaining our native wildlife and the quality of Washington's environment.

Visit the Washington Native Plant Society's web site at www.wnps.org for more 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: _____

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Email: _____