

Pilchuck Audubon Profile



Published by Pilchuck Audubon Society Volume 36, Number 11 November 2009

Save our Swifts earns TogetherGreen grant

One of 48 newly-announced *TogetherGreen* national innovation grants will support the launch of the Monroe Save Our Swifts campaign, a multi-year initiative to save the major migratory roosting site for Vaux's Swifts in Washington – the chimney at Frank Wagner Elementary School in Monroe.

The \$15,000 grant will pay for key educational and outreach activities in the Save Our Swifts effort, including development of an in-school science curriculum, placement of a web cam inside the chimney and development of programs to increase citizen science monitoring efforts related to the Vaux's Swifts. PAS will lead the effort in partnership with Seattle Audubon and Eastside Audubon. The grant will complement the \$100,000 allocated in 2009 by the state legislature to pay for the actual earthquake retrofit of the chimney.

"It is just wonderful to receive this *TogetherGreen* funding," said Susie Schaefer, project coordinator at PAS, "as it will really complement our existing activities. The *TogetherGreen* funds will allow us to initiate new in-school and community projects to build engagement, such as putting a web cam in the chimney. We are thrilled about that."

"Monroe Public Schools is excited about this project," said John Mannix, Assistant Superintendent. "It represents an opportunity to educate both our students and our community about these fascinating birds, and to build the school children's and community's sense of stewardship regarding their local migratory roosting site."

The Washington innovation grant is part of \$1.1 million awarded by the *TogetherGreen* initiative this year. Audubon and Toyota launched the five-year *TogetherGreen* initiative in 2008 to fund conservation projects, train environmental leaders and offer volunteer opportunities to significantly benefit the environment. Grantees were selected from scores of applicants across the country. Funds were awarded to Audubon organizations that demonstrated exceptional innovation in working with other groups on projects that will produce tangible benefits for environmental quality.

About TogetherGreen

Audubon and Toyota launched the five-year *TogetherGreen* initiative in 2008 to build the promise of a greener, healthier



future through innovation, leadership and volunteerism. Nearly 90 projects totaling more than \$2.5 million dollars have received Innovation Grants to protect land, water and energy resources nationwide. For more information, visit www.togethergreen.org.

**November program meeting
November 13, 7 p.m.**

The Western Grebe's decline

Joe Gaydos of the SeaDoc Society will talk about the decline of these iconic diving birds, once seen locally in the hundreds, but now rapidly disappearing. Come learn more about these incredible birds and what is being done to save them.

Note location

Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

No program meeting in December.

For more information, call 425.252.0926

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

Seed sale on now!

Pilchuck Audubon Society – and Art Wait, "Mr. Birdseed" – will offer birdseed for sale until early November. As always, there is a variety of seeds for sale at a good price.

All orders must be placed with Art no later than noon on Nov. 4. Reach him by phone at 360.563.0181. Seed can be picked up in Snohomish on Friday afternoon (Nov. 6), in Everett Saturday morning (Nov. 7) and in Edmonds Saturday afternoon (Nov. 7).

Place your order soon!

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President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

Nestled in the Coeur d'Alene Mountains of north Idaho, Killarney Lake is the last of the channel lakes along the Coeur d'Alene River accessible by boat. On the north end of the lake, conifer-clad Popcorn Island (the remnants of an ancient volcanic pluton) rises abruptly from the lake shielding a small peninsula – also a pluton – beyond.

On the peninsula, enfolded by old growth pines, a cabin sits on Forest Service land. The Forest Service started offering land for lease in the 1930s, in part to encourage people to enjoy nature, and also to help rangers keep watch over the land. Two friends began renting the cabin from the original builders in the 1970s. Later, they bought the cabin, continuing the land lease with the Forest Service. In all the time they've owned the cabin, they've done little to modernize it. It pretty much has remained the same from the day it was built: a bit rustic, if you will.

For many years, the farm directly behind the peninsula was owned by a family of reclusive misanthropes that denied access to the cabin by a road even more rustic than the cabin. For many years, the only way to get to the cabin was by boat. However, time, death and new owners now allow accessibility by car – provided you have little regard for your car.

I've gone to the cabin for almost 30 years. When I lived in Idaho, I would go out two or three times a summer, and once



The cabin on Killarney Lake has remained much the same since it was built decades ago.

even in winter, but that's another story. Since moving to Seattle, I've tried to go at least once a year. Some years that wasn't possible. But, as I've grown older, going there has become an important touch point, one I hope to continue for many years.

This year, during the first weekend in August, I rose early, just as the sun topped Eagle Peak and long before anyone began to stir. I left the cabin armed with my binos, bird book, notepad and pen and began an annual bird walk that never fails to renew my soul.

Following the barely passable road along the lake, with Black-capped Chickadees and Dark-eyed Juncos leading the way, I saw three Double-crested Cormorants perched on a deadhead out

on the water. One had his wings outstretched to catch the first rays of the warming sun. This was a first; I'd never before seen cormorants this far inland.

Leaving the lake, at the mouth of Killarney Creek, the road takes a sharp left to follow an umbilical of land barely the width of the road – connecting the cabin's hill with the mainland. On one side is a reed covered wetland buffering this part of the lake. Among the reeds, Red-winged Blackbirds announced they're in residence.

On the opposite side of the road, the estuary of Killarney

(See "President's Message" on page 7)

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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At Large	David Gladstone	425.252.0926

Committee chairs

Birdathon	Hilkka Egtvedt	425.347.4944
Bird Sightings	Mara Price	360.651.9234
Database	Margaret Bridge	360.862.1694
Field Trips	Art Wait	360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson	360.659.7252
Hospitality	Virginia Clark	360.435.3750
Legal Advisor	Pete Dewell	425.259.6269
Membership Chair	* Open *	
Newsletter Editor	Annette Colombini	425.501.8125
Newsletter Mailing	Judy Lowell	425.353.8150
Webmaster	Kathy Piland	360.691.7695

Staff

Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly	425.923.8625
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Trip calendar

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

November 3 Serpentine Fen and Blackie Spit

Meet at 7 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds and scenery -- and to do some walking. This is a trip to Canada, so bring your passport or enhanced driver's license. The original birth certificate and regular driver's license combo is no longer valid. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

November 10 Montlake Fill (Union Bay Natural Area)

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Ash Way Park and Ride, 16327 Ash Way (I-5 exit 183). Park and Ride is located northwest of the intersection of 164th and I-5. This is one of the most productive birding areas in this vicinity. Many rarities have been observed here. If time allows, we may visit Foster Island and/or Magnuson Park. 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.

Calling all tree huggers: save the date!

The PAS Forest Practices Committee will meet Wednesday, November 4, at 6:30 p.m., in the downstairs meeting room of the Everett Public Library at 2702 Hoyt Avenue. PAS is interested in rebuilding this important, long-time committee under the leadership of Kathy Johnson.

Kathy has been involved with the committee since 1987 and is familiar with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. She has a reputation as a true champion supporting old-growth forests and roadless areas.

In this age of climate change, the old-growth forests and the species that call them home are more important than ever.

In addition to commenting on timber sales and other activities in our national forests, the FP committee has been following Forest Service and Federal Highway Administration planning and activities for the many roads washed out in the 2003 floods and later. Current and pending projects include White Chuck Road 23 repair, the Suiattle Road 26 access and travel management plan, Monte Cristo mining area cleanup,

November 17 Lummi Flats

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. Lots of waterfowl raptors such as Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier and Rough-legged Hawk. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Art Wait, 360.563.0181
Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

November 24 Deception Pass

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd. and next to I-5. We will visit all the lakes, beaches and trails near the pass. Art always enjoys this area and the birds usually cooperate. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750
Art Wait, 360.563.0181

Snohomish County Forest Transition Areas ordinance and the next Washington wilderness initiative: Cascades Wild.

PAS has been working on the watershed restoration initiative with 10 other environmental organizations and the Department of Ecology. The goal is to resolve the crisis caused by prolonged under-funding for road decommissioning and maintenance in the watersheds of the state's national forests. PAS has had a largely passive role in this, but could be more actively involved if someone shows interest.

Please join Kathy at this important meeting on November 4. The threats to our forests have not gone away with the change in administration. The philosophies of the WSFS and its multiuse of public forests have not changed, nor have old laws allowing mining and hydro in the national forests. Now is a good time to get involved and learn more. New members are welcome!

For more information or to suggest agenda items, contact Kathy Johnson at 360.659.7252 or katherine@earthlink.net.

Demo garden planting set for November 7

After much planning and hard work, the first plants at the Native Plant Demo Garden in Edmonds will go in the ground on November 7. The work party will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a short training session by Gary Smith. After that, native plant stewards will lead teams in planting the hundreds of native specimens procured for this fantastic garden.

Volunteers spent the month of October getting the garden ready to plant. A dedicated team spent October 3 pulling blackberries (again) and other invasive weeds which had rallied since our plant removal work parties last spring. Two

great trails were also installed in October. Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who have helped so much.

And, thanks to the newly-formed education committee, signage and a brochure are currently in the works.

This project presents many volunteer opportunities -- both physical and mental -- with several standing committees. For more information, contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Port Susan Bay surveys – from all angles

We have surveyed shorebirds from land, air and now water. Ruth Milner has been doing surveys from a plane, while volunteers have been viewing on the shore. Now we also have volunteers willing to use kayaks to get a different perspective.

Marcus Roening was able to identify more than 2,000 Western Sandpipers and more than 200 Black-bellied Plovers from his trips around Warm Beach by kayak.

There were a total of 18 species identified during the fall surveys. The largest numbers came from Western Sandpipers, and then unknown peeps. Not surprisingly, the species that was present for the most number of surveys was the Killdeer.

The fall also brought counts of Dowitchers, Phalaropes (Red-necked and Wilson's), Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers, Yellowlegs and Dunlin. A sin-



Peregrine Falcon, by Matti Suopajarvi

gle Baird's Sandpiper, a couple Sanderlings and a single Red Knot were also spotted this season.

Also of interest was the Peregrine Falcon seen multiple times at English Boom. The Peregrine made it more difficult to identify the shorebirds that were flushed away by its determined swoops. However, the successful attacks were reminders of the importance of shorebirds in the food web.

Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in the surveys this year. This winter, we'll conduct informal meetings around the bay to form the Friends of Port Susan Bay Birds.

If you are interested in joining the discussions and planning, or if you would be willing to host a gathering, please contact Kerry Marl at 425.252.5243 or kerry Marl@yahoo.com.

Bird-filled days in Edmonds for Bird Fest!

The 2009 Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds was the place to be on Saturday, September 12. To start, the weather was perfect – especially when the four boats headed out of the Edmonds Yacht Club and two groups hit the trails in Edmonds for a little fall birding.

These six groups outdid themselves finding birds, and some saw marine mammals, too (harbor porpoise, Dall's porpoise, harbor seals and California sea lions).

Those on the boats had close encounters with Red-necked Phalaropes, Marbled Murrelets, grebes and Red-Throated Loons. Birders in the parks saw Pileated Woodpeckers before they even hit the trail! They they found lots of forest birds or seabirds, depending on the park, as well as a Merlin and a Cooper's Hawk.

Special thanks to the Edmonds Captains from the Edmonds Yacht Club, the excellent birding guides and skilled Pilchuck members who led the birding trips.

For those who wanted to see and learn about live raptors, the Sarvey Wildlife Center staff and birds were there for great presentations. There were workshops all weekend, giving Bird Fest goers a chance to learn from some fabulous speakers, including Gordon Orians, the greatest Red-winged Blackbird expert ever, PAS wildlife photographer Michael Dossett, champion of the Ospreys Bill Lider and NW writer Bob Morse.

There were workshops to help us track and record our own backyard birds. The only complaint was all the fantastic options made it impossible to choose!

In the Plaza Room above the library, a wonderful array of



Scrub Jay, by Bill Lider

exhibitors shared information, ideas and fun with all visitors. The kids had fun playing the migration game, dissecting owl pellets, making bird feeders and other birdy activities.

Visitors to the Edmonds Marsh were treated with old photos of the marsh and samples of marsh critters plus the birds that showed up. The large group of flocking Killdeer put on an unusual show, along with Anna's Hummingbirds, noisy Marsh Wrens, Belted Kingfishers and Great Blue Herons.

A surprise bird appeared in a group of trees at the conference location. A Scrub Jay – a rare visitor that far north – was seen by a small group of attendees.

Saturday evening, a group headed out on a chartered bus (with delicious boxed dinners from Edmonds own Olive's Restaurant) to see Vaux's Swifts in Monroe. The swifts did not disappoint!

The Sunday field trip birders also saw many birds, including a Black-throated Gray Warbler, a life bird for one person. Another sighting of the Scrub Jay was a treat for the group at the Willow Creek Hatchery.

Also on Sunday, those interested in attracting birds and wildlife to their own backyards were treated to a tour of seven outstanding backyard habitats in Edmonds.

All in all, it was another fun-filled Bird Fest, with more than 60 bird species observed. Look for the final list soon at www.pilchuckaudubon.org.

Smart Growth report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

The Livable Snohomish County Summit and candidate debate on October 10 was a fantastic success. The event, financed in part with grant funding from TogetherGreen, included presentations, discussions, exhibitors and a two-hour question-and-answer session with county council candidates.

The summit theme was "Climate Change and Land Use, Planning or a Livable Snohomish County." Attendees heard from many dedicated people from the non-profit and public sectors who work on issues affecting Puget Sound and Snohomish County: from Puget Sound, to our streams and rivers, to surface water management, hydropower, transportation and transit-oriented development. The PowerPoint presentations are available at www.livablesnohomish.org.

I hope the information gained by folks at this summit will jump start them into action in the coming year, as we need to be proactive to convince our local leaders to expedite needed policy changes to reduce the impacts of global warming on our water and quality of life.

Here is some of what we learned at the summit. Watch for more in future issues of the *Profile*.

Key impacts of global warming on Washington and Snohomish County

- The *Impacts of Climate Change on Washington's Economy: A Preliminary Assessment of Risks and Opportunities* concluded that "climate change impacts are visible in Washington and economic effects are becoming apparent."
- Projected increases in average annual Pacific Northwest temperature are 2.0°F by the 2020s, 3.2°F by the 2040s, and 5.3°F by the 2080s (compared to 1970-1999).
- Some models show wetter autumns and winters, drier summers. This may result in larger flood plains.
- Water supplies in our region will see a shift in the timing of peak river flow from late spring (driven by snowmelt) to winter (driven by precipitation) and reduced levels of summer and fall storage.
- Everett's water system should be adequate through 2080s even with these effects and a 50 percent demand increase.
- Sea level rise will shift coastal beaches inland and increase erosion of unstable bluffs.
- Major ports likely will be able to accommodate rising sea level at their facilities, but adapting the trains and highways serving ports will be a significant challenge.
- Models predict increases in extreme high precipitation over the next half-century, particularly around Puget Sound.
- Rainfall patterns will be higher than our current storm water systems are designed to handle.
- Due to increased summer temperature and decreased summer precipitation, the area burned by fire regionally is projected to double by the 2040s and triple by the 2080s (relative to 1916-2006).
- King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties can expect 101 heat-related deaths in 2025, 156 in 2045 and 280 in 2085.
- Injuries and deaths from air pollution will increase.

Land use changes are required to reduce emissions and stabilize climate

Washington Climate Advisory Team (CAT) Recommendation 5

- Build and continue to redesign communities to offer real and reliable alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) over baseline by 7-15 percent in 2020, 25-50 percent in 2050.
- 7 percent VMT reduction would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8.9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MMtCO_{2e}) between 2008 and 2020.
- 15 percent VMT would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20.8 MMtCO_{2e}.
- Need land use changes in addition to cleaner fuels and more efficient vehicles.

What we need to do now

Update comprehensive plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:

- Transit supportive densities
- Plan for jobs near housing
- Do not expand urban growth areas
- Protect farmland and forest land. In 2005, these lands sequestered up to 32 percent of the state's GHG emissions
- Protect other carbon sinks, such as wetlands

Evaluate GHG for conformance with state's limits:

- Limits are 1990 level by 2020, 50 percent of 1990 level by 2050
- Comprehensive plan updates and amendments
- Developments

Allow alternative energy generation technologies in appropriate locations.

Plan for electric vehicle charging stations.

Plan and build infrastructure for walking, biking, transit.

Need to adapt to climate change

- Make low impact development retrofits
- Require LID in new development
- Identify areas vulnerable to increased flooding and sea level rise and either place them out of bounds for development or protect them
- Retreat from high-risk coastal areas
- Conserve water and energy
- For residences near forests, take measures to protect them from forest fires
- Increase shade trees to cool urban areas
- Provide heat and air pollution education, warning and cooling areas

Birding highlights

August 26, 2009–September 25, 2009

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Large numbers of **American Goldfinches** were reported throughout the county this month from Lake Bosworth to Brier. They were probably getting ready for their flight to warmer places.

A message was received from Carolyn on Camano Island reporting 4 **White-winged Doves**, which are rare for this area. They are mostly found in the southwest. They are similar to **Mourning Doves**, but have white patches on the wings and a rounded tail with broad white tipped corners.

Carole and Larry Beason reported 24 **American Goldfinches** from their Lake Bosworth location. They also reported an unusually large number of **Evening Grosbeaks**: 41 in the yard and air. Their total species count of 42 included 8 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 15 **Mourning Doves**, 41 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 30 **Pine Siskins**, a **Hutton's Vireo**, 6 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 30 **Barn Swallows** on the dock, 2 **Orange-crowned Warblers**, 2 **Western Tanagers** and 6 **Wood Ducks**.

Gail Dibernardo reported 20 **American Goldfinches** from her Brier home. She also listed 15 **Bushtits**, a **Wilson's Warbler**, 10 **California Quail**, 2 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers**, a **Cooper's Hawk** and a **Great Blue Heron**.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt's total species count of 25 included 5 **American Goldfinches**, 15 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 11 **California Quail**, 3 **Northern Flickers**, a **Western Tanager**, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **Dark-eyed Junco**, 4 **Spotted Towhees** and a **Common Nighthawk** at Kasch Park in Everett.

Three hundred **Snow Geese** flying over Juniper Beach topped Adeline Gildow's report this month. Her 34 species also included 8 **American Goldfinches**, 6 **American Robins**, 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, 40 **Canada Geese** flying over, at least 1000 **European Starlings** on the Mark Clark Bridge, 2 **Fox Sparrows**, 2 **Killdeer**, 57 **cormorants**, 50 **Dunlin** and 6 **Great Blue Herons** along the tide line.

Shelia and Michael Huber have their feeders up again. Reporting from their home near Machias, they listed 8 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Mourning Doves**, 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers**, 2 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Northern Flickers**,



White-winged Dove, by Patty Bruno



California Quail, by Patty Bruno

5 **American Robins**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, a **Spotted Towhee**, 2 **Black-capped Chickadees**, a **Great Blue Heron** and a **Cooper's Hawk** for a total species count of 14.

Julie O'Donald was fortunate to have 2 **Swainson's Thrush** in her yard in Brier. She also reported 2 **Varied Thrush**, 2 **Barred Owls** in the trees in her yard, a **Great Blue Heron** in the pond, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, a **Goldfinch**, 5 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 6 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Spotted Towhees** and a **Pileated Woodpecker** for a total species count of 22.

Mary Sinker reported 15 **American Goldfinches** from her home in Stanwood. Also topping her list were 19 **Mourning Doves** and 13 **Cedar Waxwings**. Her total species count of 31 included 9 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, 9 **Pine Siskins**, 3 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 11 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 12 **Steller's Jays**, 5 **White-crowned Sparrows**, a **Veery**, a **Red-tailed Hawk** and 2 **Winter Wrens**.

Dick Vanderhoff's report from Stanwood included 10 **Grosbeaks**, 20 **House Finches**, 12 **Steller's Jays**, 50+ **Cliff Swallows**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 20 **Surf Scoters** along the beach, 8 **Bonaparte Gulls**, 10 **Mew Gulls**, 4 **Common Loons**, 2 **Varied Thrush** in the yard, and a **Bald Eagle** for a total species count of 26.

Two **Yellow Warblers** topped Darlene Walkers report from Camano Island. She also listed 6 **American Goldfinches**, 10 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, 2 **Common Ravens**, 3 **Great Blue Herons** in the water, 20 **Bushtits**, 10 **American Robins**, 8 **Fox Sparrows**, 12 **House Finches** and 6 **White-crowned Sparrows** for a total species count of 19.

Well, I only spotted 2 **American Goldfinches** at my feeders this month. My total species count of 24 included a **Mourning Dove**, 21 **California Quail** (their numbers are increasing), 2 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 9 **House Finches**, 2 **Great Blue Herons**, a **Wilson's Warbler** in the woods, a **Bewick's Wren** on the deck, 2 **Pine Siskins**, 12 **House Sparrows** in the berry bushes and 4 **Northern Flickers**.

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

Plan for the 2010 Olympic BirdFest in Sequim

Grab your binos and join the Olympic BirdFest 2010 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 9-11, 2010.

The stage is set ... bays, estuaries, sandy beaches, a 5-mile sand spit and an island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Wetlands, tidepools, rainforests and lush river valleys.

The players are ready ... Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons and Pygmy Owls in their fine spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours and a traditional salmon bake at the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribal Center.

Come experience the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic

President's Message

(continued from page 2)

Creek harbors a huge beaver lodge, which grows larger every year. A power pole near the middle of this narrow strip of land is home to an Osprey nest that's been there as long as I can remember. In 30 years, I wonder how many generations of Ospreys have used this nest. The current inhabitants were reluctant answer my query. Instead, rarely seeing humans afoot, the Ospreys protested my passing.

On the power line overhead, an Eastern Kingbird was on the lookout for flying tasty bits. I heard a Gray Catbird mew in the bushes along the road. Willow Flycatchers and even a Warbling Vireo flitted among the leaves.

On the mainland, the road skirts a mountain bordering Killarney Creek, quietly murmuring its way to the lake. Alarmed by my muffled approach, a pair of skittish Wood Ducks took wing. In about a half a mile, the road emerges on broad, rolling hayfields stretching to the encircling mountains.

Traversing hayfields, the road climbs the side of a hill. As I rounded the hill, a flock of Evening Grosbeaks foraged in the trees. A female Western Tanager watched in fascination. In the top of a tall evergreen, an Olive-sided Flycatcher announced an early happy hour, "three beers, three beers." Oh! A Lazuli Bunting and his mate kaleidoscope into a bush in front of me.

Surveying the pastoral scene of rolling hayfields, the verdant pine-clad mountains, the lake reflecting the dazzling rays of the early morning sun, I consumed the energy and beauty. God was in his heaven and all was right with the world.

As I heard the first bass boat of the day motor into the far end of the lake, I began my return to the cabin to cook breakfast for my bed-bound friends, who already missed the best part of this day.

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.

Peninsula ... you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by visiting the official web site www.olympicbirdfest.org, or by calling 360.681.4076 for a brochure.

Also in 2010! Follow your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 11-13, 2010. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Get program information and registration forms online at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Help wanted

Web team members

PAS will soon debut a new web site. It will have a new look and feel which we are sure you'll like. It will also be easy to use, easy to navigate and will allow purchases and donations with a few clicks of the mouse.

A new web team, comprised of enthusiastic volunteers, is working on the project now. Look for more information in the coming months.

If you have web skills and are interested in joining the team, please contact Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org.

Newsletter mailing party

Preparing the *Profile* newsletter for mailing is fun and easy. You can become an "expert" in only a few minutes while enjoying great conversation and fellowship.

No reservations needed ... just show up at 3:30 p.m. (generally) the third Wednesday of the month in the Sno-Isle Co-op classroom, on Grand Avenue between Hewitt and California in Everett. The classroom is on the lower floor, across the hall from Mekong Grocery. Shop at the Co-op before or after the mailing party and thank them for the use of their classroom!

Call Judy Lowell at 425.353.8150 for more information and to confirm the date for next month's mailing party.

Publicity chair

With Bob Sindelar's passing, the Publicity Chair position is vacant and the PAS board is looking for his successor. Bob did a great job issuing press releases, publicizing events to the community and communicating goals to our members. He left an extensive list of media contacts.

The publicity chair should plan to give 2-4 hours per month to the position - including attending board meetings the first Tuesday of the month, 6-8 p.m., in Everett.

If you enjoy communicating with others, consider joining us. Your efforts will promote the work of a dynamic, grassroots organization and be very much appreciated.

Make a difference: renew PAS membership

By Kathleen Snyder, Secretary, Pilchuck Audubon Society

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

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

Thanks to new software and the dedication of Ronda Shibata-Martinez, we can more accurately track the membership status of current and lapsed members. Lapsed members may have received a letter with a

reminder to renew. Many members may be unaware their membership has expired.

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

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

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

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: _____