

Pilchuck Audubon Profile



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Council overturns executive's FCC veto

By Kristin Kelly, PAS Smart Growth Director

The one rule of land use planning is *nothing is ever over*. Still, it's important to celebrate victories and to keep working to make sure victories are not overturned.

History was made in Snohomish County earlier this month, when the county council voted 4-1 to override the county executive's veto of the Fully Contained Community ordinance to eliminate the policies, codes and population reserve for a new city in rural areas and on resource lands. But, the fact is, this issue could rise again in the future – as did the issue of Island Crossing – because land use in Snohomish County, around the state and the country, is also a political issue.

It perplexes me that, as a society, we want our children to be educated. We value the importance of expertise. Sometimes being an expert results in acknowledgement. But, sometimes, it is just ignored.

Land use planners – experts in their field – are hired by local governments and associated agencies. Sometimes they are hired as employees of land use consulting companies, or they strike out on their own. Sometimes, they get hired by non-profit organizations – such as Pilchuck Audubon Society or Futurewise, among others – to lobby for sound land use policies and regulations.

Within county government, Snohomish County in particular, planners use their education, experience and expertise to develop long-range plans for growing communities. They understand how to plan in order to make urban communities sustainable and to prevent unnecessary urban sprawl – and to make sure funding is in place for roads, sewers, water and other important urban services.

It is truly perplexing – and usually frustrating – to most non-planning people that they have to work so hard and spend so much of their own money fighting their local government on land use issues. Especially when government has expert planners on staff to provide advice to elected officials about how we should plan and develop the land. But, this will always be the case as long as the ultimate decision is not based on expert knowledge, but on politics.

This has been the case with Fully Contained Communities. Since 2002, when (under a pro-development county council) adding Fully Contained Communities policies and regulations to the comprehensive plan was first proposed, until now, three years after they were allowed to be law, the lesson we have to learn is what is at stake to all of us with land use.

If you've been following this issue the past month, you know

(See "FCC veto" on page 5)

October program meeting

Join the crowd at Fall ACOW
on Friday, October 9, 7 p.m., at the
Holiday Inn, 3105 Pine St. in Everett

Vaux's Happening with Larry Schwitters

**FREE
EVENT**

"Vaux's Happening" is dedicated to promoting research on the Vaux's Swifts. Larry will talk about how they strive to locate all communal roost sites statewide and conduct north and southbound censuses.

This event is free and open to PAS members, friends, guests and the general public. You do not need to be registered at ACOW to attend!

Please note the location for October only
Holiday Inn – downtown Everett
(the old Everett Pacific Hotel)
3105 Pine Street, Everett

For more information, call 425.252.0926

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

Welcome, ACOWers!

We know you're in for a busy week-end of meetings and breakout sessions. Don't forget to have some fun and enjoy our beautiful area. And come back soon!

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Swifts Night Out 2009 loads of fun

Combine a beautiful late-summer day, an enthusiastic crowd of more than 1000 and a great performance by more than 3000 migrating Vaux's Swifts and the result is another successful Swifts Night Out in Monroe on September 12. Thanks to the Save Our Swifts committee, Frank Wagner Principal Robin Fitch and everyone who helped make it a night to remember. See you next year!



Left to right: Vaux's Swifts flow into the Frank Wagner Elementary chimney (photo by Annette Colombini), a Seattle Audubon volunteer helps Henry Peters of Seattle learn about a Pileated Woodpecker (photo by Nick Peters), Stephanie Jesner of Monroe - winner of the art raffle - accepts her prize from PAS Vice President Susie Schaefer (photo by Annette Colombini).

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.

October 6 North Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the 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 bird many parks and other delightful places and expect to see lots of waterfowl and seabirds. Sixty-three species in 2008. Bring a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

October 13 Silvana Roads

Meet at 8 a.m. at the 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. Pipits, Snowy Owls, falcons, all the winter LBJs. If time allows, we may visit the Port Susan Nature Conservancy site. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

October 20 Birch Bay/Semiahmoo/Drayton Harbor

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd., next to I-5. Should see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Pack a light lunch (Wilma may feed us).

Leaders: Wilma Bayes, 360.629.2028
Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

October 27 Snohomish and outskirts

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Snohomish Park & Ride, located at the junction of Highway 9 and Bickford Ave. Enjoyable and relaxed trip. We usually have high species counts (63 last year) and surprises, even delights. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Art Wait, 360.563.0181; Virginia Clark will advise

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.

Upcoming regional festivals and events

Livable Snohomish County Summit and County Council Candidate Debate

Saturday, October 10

Everett

Please attend the second Livable Snohomish County Summit on Saturday, October 10, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the PUD Building at 2320 California Street, Everett. This is a free event. The theme is "Climate change and land use: planning for a livable Snohomish County."

**RSVP
TODAY!**

Space is limited. Please RSVP today to kristin@futurewise.org or by phoning 425.923.8625.

BirdFest and Bluegrass 2009

October 10-11

Ridgefield, Washington

Come to the Ridgefield National Wildlife refuge, 25 minutes north of Portland and take an Audubon-led bird and plant tour. Learn about Bald Eagles. Reserve a spot on a tour to view Sandhill Cranes. Shop at a birders' marketplace. Visit a replica plankhouse and see how Native Americans lived. Sample salmon at a salmon bake. Listen to Bluegrass music all day Saturday, or come to jam in a workshop.

For more info, visit www.ridgefieldfriends.com.

Help plant the Native Demo Garden in Edmonds

The Weekly Weeders have been weeding since July – getting the Native Plant Demonstration Garden in Edmonds ready for planting. A brunch and work party is planned for Saturday, October 3, for final clean up and preparation. Please plan to join us beginning at 10 a.m.

There'll be an information session for those who want to get involved in this fantastic project. Then we'll launch another attack on the persistent blackberries and other invasive plants. Bring your gloves, tools and binoculars, too.

Planting of all 240 plants is scheduled for November 7. Gary Smith of the Native Plant Society will facilitate. And with the help of several native plant stewards, Gary will train the human planters so the garden gets off to a good start.

Volunteers are still needed! We have a great core of people, but more hands and hearts are welcome to bring Nancy Moore's spectacular plan to life. The education committee will work on signage, brochures and training sessions.

This rewarding project is a good way to get involved in mak-

ing a difference for birds and other wildlife. Please join us!

Call Susie Schaefer 425.771.8165 for more information.

What's your best summer birding experience?

Our spectacular summer is coming to an end. Let's keep the summer alive by reliving our best summer birding experiences all winter long. Picture it ... snow on the ground, no power, your solar-powered flashlight in hand, reading about someone's fabulous summer birding adventure. Sounds great, huh?

To share your best summer birding experience, e-mail your story – and photos, if you have them – to annette.colombini@pilchuckaudubon.org. And keep the spirit of summer alive just a wee bit longer.

Have you visited Northwest Trek lately?

By Liven A. Peterson

The Northwest Trek Wildlife Park is located 50 miles south of Seattle near Eatonville and is a condensed version of Yellowstone Park – without the traffic and geysers. To see the wildlife, you must either walk or ride a tram.

Admission rates range from \$6.50 to \$15.50, depending on your age. Wheelchairs, strollers and lockers are available. There is a well-stocked gift shop. Light meals and snacks are available at the café and at several small stands along the walking trail.

The area covers a square mile of woodland, meadows and a few small lakes. It is divided into a “walking area” and a “tram area” – your choice. It has a good network of paved walking trails or tram routes. It is well populated with wildlife featuring big game such as bison, elk, caribou, big horn sheep, deer, moose, mountain goats, bears, wolves and lynx.

The walking tour takes hikers to several separate areas having concealed electrical wires to contain specific mammals within them. Each species area has a viewing station where hikers can watch a few animals in an area about a half acre in size. The areas are well vegetated and look quite natural. Good for photography.

The tram tour follows a curvy route through an area populated by a variety of species usually seen in small herds such as bison and elk. The animals are not confined, but roam freely



Photo courtesy of Northwest Trek

about the area. The tram driver keeps up a constant commentary to alert the passengers to the wildlife coming into view ahead.

The tram is modest in size, carrying a dozen or so passengers. The windows are open, so you must be prepared for cool breezes. The front seat near the driver is probably best. The driver will drive slowly when animals are nearby so you can take pictures. It is best to have a telephoto lens.

The usual tour takes nearly an hour. I think the best season for a visit would be in the fall when the elk and deer have full-grown antlers.

The cutest animals I saw were a pair of half-grown raccoons who were scuffling on a tree trunk a few feet off the ground near the road. They looked like plump cats with striped tails. The tram driver said that was a rare sighting.

In 1971, Dr. David Hellyer and his wife, Connie, donated this square mile of woodlands to Metro Parks, Tacoma, to manage as a wildlife park. It has since been supported by Pierce County taxes and public donations. For more information, visit www.nwtrek.org.

Liven A. Peterson is a 92-year-old Audubonite who recently moved to Everett from Boise, Idaho. His daughter and her husband took him to NW Trek and while he realizes it might be familiar to some of us, he thought it was worth another look. Thanks, Mr. Peterson, for your submission!

Iron Goat Trail definitely worth the drive



Townsend's Warbler, by Patty Bruno

The weekend bird hike on August 16 took us to the Iron Goat Trail on Stevens Pass. It was a home run! Few, if any, of us had ever seen so many tropical migrants in one day. I got my lifer Black Swift and I'm not the only one who got at least one lifer that day. It didn't hurt

that the weather was perfect. It was a big change from some wash-outs we've had over the last couple of years.

We walked the gently inclined beds of the Old Stevens Pass Highway and old Great Northern Railway. The history, including accounts of tragic winter avalanches along the tracks, added interest to the outing. It's well worth the drive.

The last portion of the trail was a steep, rocky descent of about 700 feet, but the rest of the trail wasn't bad. The entire loop is about 6 miles. You can learn more about the area at www.irongoat.org.

We counted more than 30 bird species, including two Northern-Pygmy Owls heard calling to each other. None of us had ever identified them solely by sound before, but we decided there was doubt about it. Along with the Black

swift, we spotted six Vaux's Swifts, a Rufous Hummingbird, a Northern Flicker, two Western Wood Pewees, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Willow Flycatcher, a Pacific Slope Flycatcher, five Warbling Vireos, a Steller's Jay, a Common Raven, a Cedar Waxwing, three Yellow Warblers, an Orange-crowned Warbler, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, three Townsend's Warblers, a MacGillivray's Warbler, a Wilson's Warbler, a White-crowned Sparrow, a female Purple Finch, a Bullock's Oriole, a Pine Siskin and a Red Crossbill.

Help for injured wildlife

(not domestic animals)

Call 24 hours a day



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



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

Sarvey Wildlife Center
Arlington, 360-435-4817

PAWS: Lynnwood, 425-787-2500, ext. 817

FCC veto ...

(continued from page 1)

what I'm talking about. If haven't, here's a quick rundown.

In early August, the county council voted 3-2 to eliminate Fully Contained Communities policies, regulations and population reserve of 15,000 people. The legislation was sent to the county executive, who had 10 days to sign it, not sign it or veto it. Signing means he is in full support. Not signing means he is not supportive, but will let the legislation become law. A veto means he does not support. The County Executive vetoed the legislation.

To override a veto, it takes a super majority of the council: at least 4 votes. At first, it seemed pretty hopeless. Council members Dave Gossett and John Koster seemed very adamant that they wanted Fully Contained Communities to be an option for growth in the county.

The day after the veto, 15 citizens (including me) arrived at County Executive's office unannounced to stage an informational and calm protest. The executive was not there. However, his aide, Brian Parry, agreed to meet with us. The discussion was heated at times. Citizens were angry at the veto and let the executive's aide know. Our message to the executive: *rescind your veto*.

During this conversation, and in a letter sent to the council, the executive announced that his decision to veto was based on the fact that council members Gossett (a Democrat) and Koster (a Republican) had both asked him to.

After our meeting with Parry, we went to the council's offices and spoke with Council Member Gossett. We asked to speak with Koster, too, but he was not available. We relayed to Gossett what Parry had said. Gossett said it was just not true.

The local media (*The Herald*, KUOW radio, *The Seattle Times*) carried a number of stories about the political wrangling over the issue: who was telling the truth, who lied and why. In the end, Executive Reardon wanted to rescind his veto, but there

was nothing in the Snohomish County Charter to allow it. So, he asked Council Chair Mike Cooper to do whatever he could to make sure the FCCs were eliminated. That would take a change of vote for either Dave Gossett or John Koster.

The vote was taken September 8. Dave Gossett changed his vote and John Koster did not. Koster stood by his position that Fully Contained Communities are a good planning tool for Snohomish County. Gossett was silent.

We got the vote we needed to put this issue to rest.

However, as I said, land use issues are never over. The developer could attempt an appeal to the Growth Management Hearings Board, even if he has no real argument. The developer would just fork out a lot of money for lawyers – something he has already shown he isn't afraid to do, and can obviously afford.

He may also try the political route: supporting council candidates he thinks will support his plan (something he has attempted before with little success). And, if politics change in Snohomish County government, this issue, like Island Crossing, can be brought up again in the next 10-year update to the County's Comprehensive Plan. And, the second time, like Island Crossing, may have more success.

Ultimately, it always takes a commitment from the public and environmental organizations to make sure such attempts are squashed. Despite the land use expertise on the county payroll, politics rule.

I want to thank the members of Pilchuck Audubon Society who responded to my action alerts and sent messages to the County Council, the Planning Commissioner, attended hearings, etc., for helping me ensure a more livable, sustainable and environmentally healthy county for the future. Success never happens with one voice.

Birdathon results ... and a question

Birdathon 2009 is in the books. Congratulations to all who participated. You raised \$2500 to support the work of Pilchuck Audubon Society!

Duane Karna spotted the most bird species with 149 – just one species short of his goal of 150. Pretty good though, don't you think, for an accrued period of 24 hours?

Claire and Hilkka Egtvedt and Kristi Halvorson, working as a team of three, found 123 species, and raised the most money, just under \$1700. Susie Schaefer came in second with \$316.25 raised.

Other 2009 Thoners were Mike Blackbird, Carolyn Lacy, Kerry Marl and Jan and Colleen van Niel.

Again this year, we owe sincere thanks to the generous merchants who support PAS year after year with their donations of Birdathon prizes. For some, it undoubtedly was more of a sacrifice than in previous years.

So please patronize and thank Albertson's of Mukilteo, the Everett Fred Meyer store, QFC in Mukilteo, Wild Bird Nest in Lynnwood, and the Wild Birds Unlimited stores in Everett and Lake Forest Park.

And while \$2500 is an impressive amount to have raised, it pales in comparison to other chapter totals. Seattle Audubon routinely raises more than \$25,000 and Portland more than \$100,000!

If you have ideas as to how PAS can generate more interest and attract additional participants for Birdathon 2010, please contact Hilkka Egtvedt at chegtvedt@comcast.net.

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.

Birding highlights

July 26, 2009-August 25, 2009

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

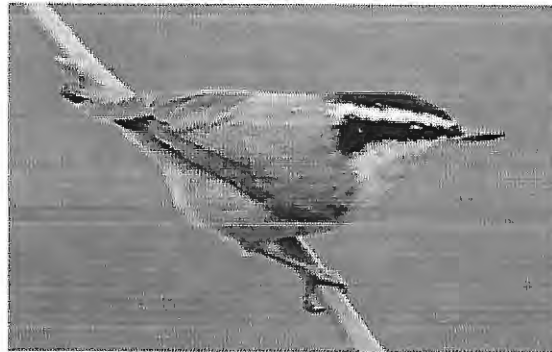
Tammy Smith called from North Marysville to report a **Lazuli Bunting** in her yard. She said it has been coming around for about two weeks. They are rare for this part of Washington, but every once in a while they make an appearance.

On August 25, I joined the PAS field trip to Portage Creek and Virginia's stomping grounds. It was a gray day, but we managed to spot quite a few birds. The highlight of the trip was lunch at Virginia's house. I was so impressed with the birds in her yard. I saw 5 **Evening Grosbeaks** (I'm lucky if I get one in my yard) and 20-30 **American Goldfinches** eating sunflower chips from her feeders. I have never seen so many goldfinches at one time.

Carole and Larry Beason are still reporting large numbers of species from their Lake Bosworth location. Their total species count of 36 included 2 **Evening Grosbeaks**, 8 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 13 **American Goldfinches**, 34 **Barn Swallows**, 9 **Violet-green Swallows**, 2 **Western Tanagers**, 2 **Cedar Waxwings**, 9 **Pine Siskins**, a **Hammond's Flycatcher**, 4 **Hooded Mergansers**, 4 **Rufous Hummingbirds** and 3 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers**.

Annette Colombini reported 17 **American Goldfinches** from her home in Lake Stevens. She also listed a **Northern Harrier**, 11 **American Robins**, a **Pileated Woodpecker**, 2 **Common Ravens**, 10 **Pine Siskins**, a **Brown Creeper**, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, a **Bald Eagle** flying over, and a **Mountain Chickadee** (that she hears) for a total species count of 18.

Gail Dibernardo's total species count of 29 from her home in Brier included 18+ **American Goldfinches** along with 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 11 **California Quail**, 70+ **American Crows** flying over, 3 **Barn Swallows**, 2 **Violet-green Swallows**, a **Pacific Slope Flycatcher** and 6 **Canada Geese**.



Red-breasted Nuthatch, by Janine Russell



Wilson's Warbler, by Minette Layne



Black-throated Gray Warbler, by Matt Knoth

A **Wilson's Warbler** made a brief appearance at Hilkka Egtvedt's home in Mukilteo. She also reported 12 **American Goldfinches**, 14 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, a **Bullock's Oriole**, 5 **California Quail**, 5 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, a **Glaucous-winged Gull**, 2 **Olive-sided Flycatchers**, 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 2 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 5 **Spotted Towhees** and 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers** for a total species count of 25.

Topping Kriss Erickson's list from Everett: 23 **Black-capped Chickadees**! She also reported a **Bewick's Wren**, 10 **Bushtits**, 4 **American Robins**, 2 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 2 **American Goldfinches**, 3 **Mourning Doves**, a **Northern Flicker**, a **Pileated Woodpecker** and 6 **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** for a total species count of 12.

Western Tanagers topped Julie O'Donald's list. She reported four along the greenbelt edge and in the trees. She also listed a **Western Screech Owl**, a **Western Wood Pewee**, a **White-crowned Sparrow**, 3 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 3 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, 20 **Bushtits**, 3 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 6 **Violet-green Swallows** and a **Killdeer** for a total species count of 28.

More **Evening Grosbeaks** and **American Goldfinches** at Mary Sinker's home in Stanwood. She reported 4 **Evening Grosbeaks** and 15 **American Goldfinches** in her yard and at the feeders. Her total species count of 35 also included 4 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 3 **Barn Swallows**, 11 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 13 **Cedar Waxwings**, 9 **Pine Siskins**, 9 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 2 **Tree Swallows**, a **Veery**, 2 **Winter Wrens** and 13 **Mourning Doves**.

Dick Vanderhoff's report was a little short this month with only 3 species reported. He

(See "Birding highlights" on page 7)

Birding highlights ...

(continued from page 6)

listed **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **2 Anna's Hummingbirds** and **3 Bald Eagles** that included a juvenile.

Darlene Walker listed 28 species from her home in Camano Island. She reported **2 Bewick's Wrens**, **3 Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **8 Fox Sparrows**, **2 White-crowned Sparrows**, **2 Common Ravens** overhead, a **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, **30 Bushtits**, **8 Dark-eyed Juncos**, **2 Song Sparrows**, **12 Mourning Doves** and **2 Brown-headed Cowbirds**.

Adeline Gildow had another good month with a total species count of 29 from her Camano Island home. She spotted **6 Bald Eagles** circling Juniper Beach, as well as **18 Canada Geese**, **2 Killdeer**, an **Osprey**, **7 Great Blue Herons** and a number of **Dunlin**. She also reported **2 Fox Sparrows**,



Ring-necked Pheasant, by Terry Gray

4 Mourning Doves, **2 Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **3 Red-winged Blackbirds** and a **Ring-necked Pheasant**.

We still have the large covey of **California Quail** visiting our backyard in Marysville. My total species count of 21 included **16 California Quail**, **7 American Goldfinches**, **12 House Finches**, **5 Black-headed Grosbeaks**, **20+ Barn Swallows** along the wires on 100th Street, **2 Red-breasted Nuthatches**, **4 Spotted Towhees**, **5 Steller's Jays**, **2 Red-tailed Hawks** overhead, **4 American Robins** and a **Pileated Woodpecker**.

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

Swift success for British Columbia nest boxes

Huge nest boxes installed in various locations in British Columbia's West Kootenays by the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) are already showing signs of success. Monitoring of the boxes during early August revealed that one box – in the Smallwood Creek area between Nelson and Castlegar – was used by a family of Vaux's Swifts. Given the early signs of success, there are high hopes for the remaining 26 boxes.

The chimney-like bird houses were built by Gerry Thompson, FWCP volunteer public representative. Although the Vaux's Swift is a relatively small bird, each box stands more than 12 feet high and required more than 50 linear board feet of cedar to construct.

"Typically, when you install new nest boxes, they aren't used

for the first few seasons," says FWCP wildlife biologist Irene Manley. "So we were thrilled when we discovered Vaux's Swifts have already taken up residence in one of them."

This particular swift is a small cigar-shaped bird that eats insects, and feeds entirely in flight. The southern portion of the Columbia Basin provides critical habitat for them. In fact, more than half their global breeding sites occur in B.C.

"The pair of adults that took up residence in our nest box successfully raised between five and seven fledglings," added Manley. "While we were observing, every five minutes or so one of the adults returned loaded with insects for the young and the cacophony of noise from the box was pretty exciting to hear."

Have an hour to give?

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. on (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.

Help wanted: 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 Ileen Weber and Judy Lowell, we can more accurately track the membership status of current and lapsed members. Lapsed members may have received a let-

ter 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: _____