

# Pilchuck Audubon Profile



Published by Pilchuck Audubon Society Volume 36, Number 9 September 2009

## County council votes against rural cities

By Kristin Kelly, PAS Smart Growth Director

On August 12, the Snohomish County Council voted to repeal all policies and regulations associated with Fully Contained Communities, eliminating the threat of a new city being built on forest lands or in rural areas.

We thank the three council members who stood up for the environment and the taxpayers of this county: Mike Cooper, Dave Somers and Brian Sullivan, as well as the Pilchuck Audubon members who contacted the council members and requested this action. More than 312 e-mails were received before the council's final public hearing on this issue. And it made a huge difference.

The next step – which will occur before you read this – is the legislation will go to County Executive Aaron Reardon for his signature. Citizens across the county and state are contacting Executive Reardon to ask for his support of this legislation.

Although Executive Reardon has favored Fully Contained Communities in the past, we hope he recognizes similar projects have not lived up to expectations in King and Pierce counties.

Those FCCs, instead, have contributed to urban-style traffic on rural roads, degraded water quality, increased greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled. They are not helping reduce these factors, as has been mandated by Washington State. FCCs also eat up forest and rural areas, which destroys habitat and trees that help sequester greenhouse gas emissions.

We hope the Executive will agree that Snohomish County need not open forest or rural lands to urban development when there is plenty of room left for development in our existing cities and urban areas.

Other ordinances the county council adopted as part of the annual comprehensive plan update included:

- Allowing a land use designation change at Point Wells from heavy industrial to planned residential development. While it would be better to have this area protected from all development, the cleanup work necessary before a mixed use center can be built will help in cleaning up Puget Sound.
- Reducing the population target for rural lands from 15 percent to 10 percent. The county must ensure that less population will live in rural areas and more in urban areas where infrastructure and services already exist. This will go far in protecting wildlife habitat – and tax dollars.
- Prevented an unnecessary urban growth area expansion of 21.5 acres in the southwest urban growth area.

September program meeting  
Friday, September 11, 7 p.m.

### Opening ceremony of the Puget Sound Bird Fest

Hear Dr. Kara Whittaker discuss how development is affecting the survival of songbirds in our communities. Join us in the Plaza Room above the Edmonds Public Library, 650 Main Street, for this free event.

Note: the location is changed for September only!

October program meeting  
Friday, October 9, 7 p.m.

### Vaux's Happening with Larry Schwitters

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

#### Note location

Everett Firefighters Hall  
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett

For more information, call 425.252.0926

Watch [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)  
for the most up-to-date information.

### Pick up sticks for the Ospreys.

When you do your fall yard cleanup, set aside some sticks for Osprey nests.

See page 3 for more details.

### In this issue

|                        |   |                            |   |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
| President's message .. | 2 | Festivals / events .....   | 4 |
| Trip calendar .....    | 3 | Swiftly's Big Flight ..... | 4 |
| Native demo garden ... | 3 | Help wanted .....          | 5 |
| PAS board meetings ... | 3 | Sightings .....            | 6 |

# President's message

By Mike Blackbird, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society



Realizing the days will begin to grow shorter as the sun begins its retreat into winter, the summer solstice has always been a bit of a downer. Another downer is seeing swallows gathering on telephone wires, preparing for their fall migration, knowing cold weather will soon follow.

But, life is an attitude so I don't dwell on these two events for long. As a matter of fact, the thought of swallows gathering on telephone lines awakens an age old question: how do birds migrate?

The astonishment that bird migration arouses in human beings can be seen in Egyptian reliefs that were carved as early as 2000 BC. One of the first to write about the subject was Greek philosopher Aristotle, in the fourth century B.C. He got it all wrong. He came up with the concept of transmutation. Robins summer in northern Europe and winter in Greece, while Redstarts summer in Greece and winter in sub-Saharan Africa. Because their size and color are similar, Aristotle assumed they were the same bird, ergo transmutation.

Intrepid naturalists sailing the globe with 16th century explorers realized Aristotle was wrong, but a new argument arose. How on Earth could tiny songbirds manage to traverse such vast distances that humans were only beginning conquer? It was beyond belief. It had to mean birds hibernated. They weren't about to be bothered by where.

Real progress on patterns of bird migration wasn't made until the practice of banding birds – and small armies of bird watchers around the globe – helped establish complex maps of bird movements.

It is lack of food supply, rather than cold weather, which is behind bird migration. You need look no further than Seattle's golf courses, replete with Canada Geese that never migrate. Not so with Arctic Terns migrating from nesting grounds on the Arctic Circle to the Antarctic every year. Bobolinks fly 5000 miles from Canada to the grasslands of South America.

Bar-headed Geese achieve altitudes of 29,500 feet migrating over the Himalayan Mountains. Blackpoll Warblers take off from the Massachusetts coast in the autumn and fly over the Atlantic for 36 hours – to a point where they pick up the trade winds of the West Indies, the currents of which carry them to the coast of South America. Four days nonstop. All because a bird's gotta eat.

Different species use different kinds of navigational systems to get from one place to another. There is no single theory. Some species seem to have an innate sense of migration routes, while others need parental guidance. Circadian rhythms are a factor. It is speculated visual acuity plays a roll, using the sun and stars as compasses. Even the Earth's magnetic field weighs in with the discovery of the presence of a tiny magnetic crystal in the head of pigeons, located between the skull and the brain, perhaps giving the bird a sixth sense.

Which makes me wonder, if I put a magnet on my bird feeder, would it prevent the four Rock Pigeons (gorging themselves at the moment) from migrating to my feeder? Hmmm ...

While it might be nice to know, that's enough about the partial and conflicting explanations of bird migration – I'm simply going to allow myself to be swept up by the awe and wonder while rummaging around my garage looking for a magnet.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

### Board of directors

|                       |                         |              |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| President             | Mike Blackbird          | 425.670.2491 |
| Vice President        | Susie Schaefer          | 425.771.8165 |
| Treasurer             | Carolyn Lacy            | 360.668.2494 |
| Secretary             | Kathleen Snyder         | 425.438.1505 |
| Education             | * Open *                |              |
| Program Coordinator   | Laura Harvell Spehar    | 425.672.2150 |
| Volunteer Coordinator | * Open *                |              |
| Publicity             | * Open *                |              |
| Conservation          | Jan van Niel, Jon Baker | 425.778.7568 |
| 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](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org) for the latest information.

## Tuesday, Sept. 1

### South Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Eastmont Park and Ride, I-5 exit 189, east side. We'll aim for the 8 a.m. ferry from Mukilteo. Species counts are always high here. Crockett Lake is exciting and the scenery is gorgeous. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Tuesday, Sept. 8

### Samish Flats, Samish 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. Let's look for waterfowl, seabirds, shorebirds and raptors before hunting season begins in this world-renowned birding locale. Bring a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Tuesday, Sept. 15

### Sequim area

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, go through Port Gamble and across the floating bridge. We'll bird Sequim Bay, Dungeness Rec Area and wherever else we fancy. Lots of waterfowl and even Sandhill Cranes two years ago. Bring a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

## Tuesday, Sept. 22

### Boundary Bay, BC

Meet at 7 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. Bring your passport or enhanced driver's license. (Note: you can no longer cross the border with just a birth certificate and regular driver's license.) This area is always exciting. Plus, visiting OWL Wildlife Rehab furthers our raptor knowledge. Pack a lunch.

Leaders: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750; Art Wait, 360.563.0181

## Tuesday, Sept. 29

### Camano Island

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). We will bird Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit, Triangle Cove and points in-between and elsewhere. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

*Notice to field trip participants: Field trips are open to members and non-members alike. No advance notice required unless otherwise stated in the trip description. Trips go, rain or shine. However, in case of snow or ice, contact trip leader! Bring a sack lunch, beverage, binoculars, scope and field guide if you have them. If not, we'll share. Please, no perfume or cologne. Be prepared to share gas money with carpool drivers. Pets, even leashed, are prohibited on field trips. Please leave them at home.*

## Native garden brunch, work party October 3

Everyone is invited to a special brunch, planning session and work party at the Edmonds Native Plant Demonstration Garden. This fun gathering is planned for October 3, beginning at 10 a.m.



The planning committee will share the initial design plans, as well as present the fall planting schedule. After the brunch and meeting, the committee will conduct a tour of the first area to be developed.

There will be a work party that day, as well, to remove invasive weeds and add mulch. Volunteers

are asked to bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes.

The garden is located at the Willow Creek Hatchery in Edmonds, on the corner of Pine Street and Highway 104 (Edmonds Way). Turn west on Pine and park just outside the hatchery entrance. Brunch will be served in the education building.

And, bring your binoculars! The hatchery is a great birding spot. You can walk up the hill on a paved path for a view of the Edmonds Marsh.

Please RSVP for brunch to Susie Schaefer at 425.771.8165 or [susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:susie.schaefer@pilchuckaudubon.org).

## Donate sticks for Osprey nesting platforms

Have some sticks you'd like to get rid of? Get rid of your sticks and help the Ospreys, too. Donations of stick bundles are needed to "seed" the Osprey nesting platforms installed by Pilchuck Audubon Society in Port Gardner Bay last winter.

Ospreys have high nest fidelity and return to their old nests as long as they are standing. By seeding the nest with sticks, we hope to entice them to use the platforms.

We need sticks measuring 3-4 feet long and 1-1.25 inches in diameter. They should be relatively straight, with no limbs and bundled with twine. The bundles should be no larger than 1-2 feet in diameter. We'll need 8 to 10 bundles, to be installed on the platforms while the Ospreys are south for the winter (between September and March).

So, as you're doing your fall yard cleanup, please set aside some sticks for the Port Gardner Bay Ospreys.

Volunteers to help seed the nests are also needed. You'll need a boat and a ladder to reach the platforms. At high tide, the platforms are roughly 10 feet above the water.

If you'd like more information, or can help in this effort, please contact Bill Lider, at 425.776.0671 or [bill.lider@verizon.net](mailto:bill.lider@verizon.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.

# Upcoming regional festivals and events

## Swifts Night Out 2009 Saturday, September 12

Monroe

Join us for the second annual Swifts Night Out to celebrate the Vaux's Swifts migration through Monroe on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Frank Wagner School, 639 W. Main Street, Monroe.

Festivities begin on the lawn at 5 p.m. with educational booths. A program by local swift expert Larry Schwitters will take place in the school auditorium at 6 p.m. Afterward, take your place on the lawn to watch thousands of swifts descend into the chimney. Docents will be on hand to answer questions about the swift project and the swifts.

Last year, 800 people gathered to watch these amazing little birds. So, bring your blanket and picnic and expect a crowd!

For more information, visit [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org).

## Puget Sound Bird Fest September 11-13

Edmonds

The spotlight is on birds at Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds, September 11-13. The event starts Friday evening with an opening reception and keynote speaker in the Edmonds Plaza Room, 650 Main Street.

On Saturday enjoy exhibits, lectures, a birders' marketplace and children's activities. There will be guided walks and field trips, including a birding cruise Saturday morning and an evening bus trip to Monroe to see thousands of Vaux's Swifts. The featured activity on Sunday will be the self-guided backyard wildlife habitat tours.

For more information, visit [www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org](http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org).

## San Juan Islands cruise October 5-7 Departing from Sequim

Join the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society for a three-day cruise through the spectacular San Juan Islands. Depart from Sequim Bay aboard the 65-foot M/V Glacier Spirit, stay two nights at Roche Harbor Resort on San Juan Island, visit Sucia Island State Park for a picnic lunch and cruise back by way of spectacular Deception Pass. Lots of birds and hopefully orcas.

Visit [www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org](http://www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org) for more information or to register.

## Livable Snohomish County Summit 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."

The morning will be filled with great speakers and presentations – from non-profit organizations and county officials – covering topics like urban centers and transit oriented development, transportation and transportation choices, water quality of streams and Puget Sound, hydropower and what the county is doing to meet some of these challenges.

While participants enjoy a complimentary lunch, they can peruse informational tables from various businesses and organizations and or join in a facilitated discussion.

The afternoon session will feature a county council candidate debate. Before you cast your vote, come listen to the candidates speak on issues dealing with land use and the environment.

The summit is funded by the TogetherGreen grant received by Kristin Kelly for her work with Pilchuck Audubon Society. It is co-sponsored by Futurewise, the Livable Snohomish County Coalition, Snohomish Group of the Sierra Club and the Mountain Loop Conservancy. The candidate debate is also sponsored by KSER 90.7 FM and League of Women Voters of Snohomish County.

Space is limited. Please RSVP today to [kristin@futurewise.org](mailto: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](http://www.ridgefieldfriends.com).

## Join little Swifty on his really big flight



"Time to go, little one," heard Swifty when his dad woke him one bright morning. And so starts *Swifty's Big Flight*, the story of an 8-week-old Vaux's Swift and his first southward migration.

This delightful children's book, written by Lee Jackson, combines ornithological facts, an engaging story and striking graphic illustrations. Readers follow Swifty – a little bird on a big journey – as he and his family leave

their cozy hollow for their wintering grounds in Central America. And, along the way, Swifty teaches

readers what Vaux's Swifts eat, how they catch their food, how they sleep – during flight – and where they roost when they can't find a friendly hollow.

Fans of the Monroe Swifts may already know a lot of the information presented in the story. But, you'll still find *Swifty's Big Flight* a fun read with the little ones in your life, as well as a great way to introduce them to the wonders of birding.

*Swifty's Big Flight* was written with the help of the Portland Audubon Society and features the illustrations of Ryan Alexander-Tanner. It is available at the author's web site: [www.flyingswift.blogspot.com](http://www.flyingswift.blogspot.com).

# Fall surveys at the Port Susan Bay IBA

By Kerry Marl, Port Susan Bay IBA Coordinator

During the fall shorebird surveys, you never know what you may find. One killdeer or several hundred western sandpipers may fly in your way. I think that's why it's exciting to go out to a site.

This season, we may not have been able to get to one site, Davis Slough, if not for Jan and Colleen van Niel. It was a very prickly situation, but they clipped us a way through the blackberries. Many thanks also go out to other volunteers who have brought clippers with them to maintain the path.

Due to the unpredictable nature of the fall surveys, Ruth Milner, of WDFW, suggested we go out just about every day so we don't miss any waves of birds coming through. Volunteers are asked to call her at 360.466.4345, ext. 265 if they see hundreds of shorebirds around the IBA so she can survey by air as quickly as possible.

The almost daily surveys have also allowed us to do more



Western Sandpipers, by Paul Kusmin

experimenting with the tides. Some days, it's only possible to survey during a rising tide or only during a falling tide. When either option is possible, volunteers go out either in the a.m. or p.m. – whichever is most convenient for them. At the end of the fall, we should have enough data to determine whether a rising tide or falling tide is a better time to count the shorebirds in this area.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have put in a lot of effort so far this season identifying the different peeps, or staring at a killdeer, dreaming of analyzing more difficult field marks.

I would also like to personally thank the volunteers, the action team and especially Colleen van Niel for helping me transition into the coordinator position for this project. If you would like more information, please e-mail me at [kerrymarl@yahoo.com](mailto:kerrymarl@yahoo.com) or leave a message at 425.252.5243. Thanks!

## Help protect undeveloped national forests



President Barack Obama is a strong supporter of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, a popular environmental policy that protects nearly 60 million acres of our last remaining undeveloped national forests. But the State of Colorado is attempting to get out of this and undercut critical protections for its 4.4 million acres of undeveloped national forests.

Backed by special interests, Colorado is offering its own weaker proposal, which opens some of the best backcountry in the Rocky Mountains to new coal mines, methane wells, and oil and gas drilling.

We need your help. Please send ask Secretary of Agriculture

Tom Vilsack, who oversees the US Forest Service, to reject Colorado's proposal and carry out President Obama's pledge to uphold the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule as the national policy to protect the nation's last undeveloped forestlands in every state.

National forests – in Colorado and every other state – belong to all Americans. Roadless forestlands are particularly vital, providing clean drinking water for millions of Americans, valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, and recreational opportunities for families. Once they're gone, they're gone forever.

With your letter of support, you can do your part to help preserve these heritage forests for future generations to enjoy.

### 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

### 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.

# Birding highlights

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

What a month! At least the birds could stay in the trees to keep cool during those very hot days – and they did. As soon as it cooled, they all rushed back to the feeders.

It looks like **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** and swallows ruled this month. **Rufous Hummingbirds** have already started their migration and the grosbeaks will soon follow.

Carol and Larry Beason reported 2 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** along with 37 **Barn Swallows** and 4 **Violet-green Swallows** from their home near Lake Bosworth. They also listed 8 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Belted Kingfishers**, 15 **Canada Geese**, 3 **Dark-eyed Juncos**, 2 **Evening Grosbeaks**, an **Osprey**, 10 **Red-winged Blackbirds**, 6 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 2 **Swainson's Thrush** and 3 **Western Tanagers** for a total species count of 36.

**Pileated Woodpeckers** topped Gail Dibernardo's count from her Brier location. She saw 4 (two adults and two juveniles) at the suet feeder. She also has 4 **Black-headed Grosbeaks** that come to the feeder daily. Her total species count of 24 included 10 **California Quail** near her yard, a **Pacific Slope Flycatcher**, 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** that included 3 juveniles, 3 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 2 **Barn Swallows**, 3 **Violet-green Swallows**, a **Brown Creeper** (haven't seen that one in a while), 3 **Dark-eyed Juncos** and 3 **Red-breasted Sapsuckers**.

Hilkka Egtvedt had a very pleasant surprise this month. She spotted 3 **Osprey** near her home, the first ones in 29 years of living in Mukilteo. She also reported 14 **Band-tailed Pigeons** along with 60 **American Crows**, 4 **California Quail** (two adults and two juveniles), 3 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, a juve-



*Brown Creeper, by Camden Hackworth*



*Pileated Woodpecker, by Eve Fraser-Corp*

June 26, 2009–July 25, 2009

nile **Pine Siskin**, 5 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Bewick's Wren**, 2 **Violet-green Swallows** and 2 **White-crowned Sparrows** for a total species count of 25.

More swallows at Kriss Erickson's Everett location. She reported 2 **Violet-green Swallows** and 3 **Barn Swallows** along with 6 **Steller's Jays**, 47 **Bushtits**, 9 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 3 **American Robins**, 6 **American Crows**, a **Northern Flicker** and 4 **Western Gulls** for a total species count of 9.

Still very busy is Adeline Gildow's Camano Island location. Her 29 species included 11 **American Goldfinches**, 8 **Cedar Waxwings** in her yard and birdbath, 5 **Mourning Doves**, 5 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 3 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 4 **Brewer's Blackbirds**, 4 **Bald Eagles** overhead, 6 **Great Blue Herons** at Juniper Beach, 4 **Killdeer** in a field at the end of the beach, 22 **House Sparrows** on a line and 20 swallow species overhead and in the yard.

Living near woods and water really makes a difference in the species count. Julie O'Donald has both in her Brier location. Her total species count of 35 included 5 **Band-tailed Pigeons** (two adults and three juveniles), 6 **Black-capped Chickadees** (two adults and four juveniles), a **Brown Creeper**, 6 **Dark-eyed Juncos** (including young), 2 **Golden-crowned Kinglets**, 2 **Pileated Woodpeckers**, 4 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** (adults and young), a **Townsend's Warbler**, 8 **Violet-green Swallows** on the power lines, a **Western Screech Owl**, a **Warbling Vireo** along the stream and a **Western Wood Pewee**.

Mary Sinker reported 16 **Barn**

(See "Birding highlights" on page 7)

# Birding highlights ...

(continued from page 6)

## Swallows and 4 Tree

Swallows from her Stanwood home. She also reported an exceptionally large number of **American Goldfinches** and **Rufous Hummingbirds**. Her total species count of 30 included 20 **American Goldfinches**, 11 **Rufous Hummingbirds**, 8 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a **Veery**, a **Western Tanager**, 16 **Mourning Doves**, 4 **Cedar Waxwings**, 16 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 2 **Red-breasted Nuthatches**, 2 **Evening Grosbeaks** and 9 **Song Sparrows**.

Also reporting from Stanwood, Dick Vanderhoff's total species count of 12 included 6 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, 10 **Steller's Jays**, 2 **Mourning Doves**, 4 **Spotted Towhees**, 2 **Bald Eagles** flying over, 3 **Winter Wrens**, 6 **American Goldfinches**, 6 **Pine Siskins**, 5 **Black-capped Chickadees**, 2 **Downy Woodpeckers** and a **Hairy Woodpecker**.

More swallows spotted at Darlene Walker's Camano Island home. She listed 12 **Barn Swallows** and 6 **Violet-green Swallows**



Warbling Vireo, by Paul Kusmin



American Goldfinch, by Annette Colombini

along with 6 **Fox Sparrows**, 14 **American Goldfinches**, 2 **Swainson's Thrush**, 6 **Great Blue Herons** in the water, 12 **Herring Gulls** and 20 **Killdeer** also on the water, a **Common Snipe** at Iversen Split, 2 **Anna's Hummingbirds**, 2 **Red-tailed Hawks** and 2 **Sharp-shinned Hawks** for a total species count of 34.

Nothing unusual at my Marysville home, but I did see a lot of juvenile **California Quail**. My total species count of 23 included 20+ **California Quail** (two adults and 18+ juveniles), 12 **American Robins**, 6 **House Finches**, 4 **Purple Finches**, 5 **Steller's Jays**, 3 **Red-breasted Nuthatches** (two adults and one juvenile), 4 **Brown-headed Cowbirds**, 8 **Black-headed Grosbeaks**, a lonely **Pine Siskin**, 2 **Barn Swallows** and 3 **Hairy Woodpeckers** (the juvenile drained my hummingbird feeder).

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



Barn Swallows, by Annette Colombini



Black-capped Chickadee, by Annette Colombini

Pilchuck Audubon Society  
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198  
Snohomish, WA 98290

Non-profit  
organization  
US postage paid  
Everett, WA  
Permit 41

**Return service requested**

September 11, 7 p.m.

**Join us at the opening  
ceremony of the  
Puget Sound Bird Fest**

Hear Dr. Kara Whittaker discuss how development is affecting the survival of songbirds in our communities. Join us in the Plaza Room above the Edmonds Public Library, 650 Main Street, for this free event.

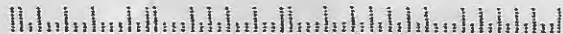
Note: the location is changed for September only!

For more information, call 425.252.0926

Watch [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)  
for the most up-to-date information!

Mukilteo Library  
4675 Harbour Pt. Blvd.  
Mukilteo, WA 98275  
Comp

9827534725 0009



## 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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- I'd like to save PAS money and read the *Profile* on the web at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://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.