



WHERE THE GREEN FERNS GROW and the Suiattle River Flows

*Kathleen Snyder, President
with Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair
and Kathy Johnson, Forest Practices Chair*

Back when our family included small children, money for vacations was scarce. There was, however, a primitive cabin (without plumbing) that we could rent from our church up on the Sauk River. At \$10 per night, it was within our budget, and we went up many weekends to enjoy the tree swing, the water pump, the river, and area hikes. All those memories came back on a beautiful September Sunday as my husband and I drove up to the Sauk-Suiattle area to bike the flood damaged Suiattle River Road.

As you may be aware, Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) has been actively concerned with the Federal Highway Administration's rebuilding project of the washed-out areas on this road. In May 2011, PAS joined a lawsuit to halt the project until an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared as required by law. Before a judicial decision was reached, the highway department agreed to complete the EA. This was issued in May of this year. It listed three options. First was the "no action" alternative—to leave the road as is, without repairing it. The second would rebuild the road to its pre-2003 terminus at Sulphur Creek Campground, and the third would rebuild it to the road that leads to the Green Mountain trail, leaving the last four miles of road as trail to Sulphur Creek Campground.

The comments submitted by PAS supported the last option and also included suggestions that would limit some of the environmental damage that the project would entail. The highway department issued an amended EA with the same three options in August; after submitting more comments, we are awaiting its decision.

The very good news is that the amended EA included one of the recommendations submitted by PAS—that the road footprint be reduced. Two acres of older trees will be spared, but other concerns remain that cause your PAS board to be leery of this project.

(Continued on page 4)

October Program Meeting

The Wolves, the Birds, and Politics
Diane Gallegos, Executive Director
Wolf Haven International

Friday, October 12, 7 p.m.
Everett Firefighters Hall
2411 Hewitt Ave, Everett

The mission of Wolf Haven International is to conserve and protect wolves and their habitat by rescuing and providing sanctuary for displaced or captive-born wolves, promoting wolf restoration in historic ranges, and educating the public about the value of all wildlife. Diane will explain the benefits of wolves in the wild, including how their presence affects birds and what the current situation is regarding the "Wedge Pack" in northeastern Washington.

Board Meeting Location Change

Beginning in November, the PAS Board meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at a new location: the PUD building, 2320 California Street, Everett. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Kathleen Snyder at 425.438.1505.

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American Kestrel Partnership

Like American Kestrels? Want your Audubon Chapter to help study and conserve kestrels? Join The Peregrine Fund's new American Kestrel Partnership!

The American Kestrel is North America's smallest and most colorful falcon. Most of us are accustomed to seeing kestrels hunting from power lines or fence posts, or "hover hunting" in the air. Unfortunately, researchers believe the kestrel's population status is changing from "common" to "of concern". Data from the Breeding Bird Survey since 1966 suggest that populations of breeding kestrels have declined 47% across North America, with declines as steep as 88% in the New England region. The time to study and conserve the American Kestrel is before it reaches threatened or endangered status, and now you can help.

The Peregrine Fund's new American Kestrel Partnership is a research and conservation initiative supported by Audubon chapters, families, students, scouts, birders, researchers, teachers, and anyone else interested in kestrels. Since launching the Kestrel Partnership in April 2012, Indiana

Audubon, Minnesota Audubon, Audubon Texas, Golden Eagle Audubon (Boise, ID), Sacajawea Audubon (Bozeman, MT), and Yosemite Area Audubon have participated and are contributing to kestrel conservation. Your chapter can join the

Kestrel Partnership and contribute by building or buying wooden nest boxes; hanging them on posts, barns, or trees; and looking into the boxes once every one to two weeks from April through July to record the numbers of eggs and nestlings. After collecting the data, simply enter it on the American Kestrel Partnership's website, and voilà! you just contributed data to the largest kestrel research program in history! Autumn is the best time to build and

hang nest boxes so that they will be ready for kestrels in the spring, so don't wait! To participate and learn more, check out the American Kestrel Partnership's website: <http://kestrel.peregrinefund.org/>

If you are interested in becoming involved in this project for Pilchuck Audubon, contact Kathleen Snyder at 425-438-1505 or president@pilchuckaudubon.org.



Photo by Rex Guichard

About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon *Profile*, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society, is published monthly.

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 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, nonprofit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

Newsletter Submissions

Submit articles to newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290-1742. Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.

The *Profile* is available at www.pilchuckaudubon.org

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Trip Calendar

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

Tuesday, October 2 **Fir Island** ([map](#))

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at 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. Waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and autumn songbirds Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Friday, October 5 **Mushroom hike with Greg Hovander** **Deception Creek — Stevens Pass** ([map](#))

By popular demand, the mushroom hike is back! Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Sultan Park and Ride for an all-day hike with mycologist and pharmacist Greg Hovander. Greg is a walking encyclopedia of mycological knowledge. Not only can he identify hundreds of fungal species, but he can tell you their medicinal qualities, their nutritional value, and cooking methods. And, on top of that, he is a *fun guy*! This year, we'll hike the Deception Creek trail west of Stevens Pass, starting from the long Tonga Ridge Road, #6830. The first few hours we'll proceed at a leisurely pace, collecting and identifying fungi. Greg will hike on to a backcountry camp for a research project. There'll be an option for a longer hike. Or, you may return at your own pace. Space is limited to 12, so contact Kathy as soon as possible to reserve your spot.

Leader: Kathy Johnson 360.659.7252,
katherine@earthlink.net

Saturday, October 6 **Parks and Wetlands of the** **King-Snohomish County Line** ([map](#))

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Everett Mall, in the back, near the transit facility by LA Fitness. We'll visit Terrace Creek Park (a mile of surprisingly secluded forest in the heart of Mountlake Terrace), Kenmore's Log Boom Park on the north shore of Lake Washington, Wallace Swamp Creek Park in Bothell, and, if there's time, Bothell's North Creek Trail. Somewhere along the way, when the group gets hungry, we'll stop for lunch.

Leader: Terry Nightingale 206.619.2383,
tnight@pobox.com

Tuesday, October 9 **Silvana Roads** ([map](#))

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at 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. Pipits, 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

Tuesday, October 16 **Point No Point** ([map](#))

Meet at 7:20 a.m. at the Edmonds Willow Creek Hatchery, 95 Pine St., Edmonds. Pine Street crosses Edmonds Way (State Route 104) in downtown Edmonds (turn west off 104 to Pine St.). We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, Point No Point, and Foulweather Bluff. Always lots of surprises, both in the air and on the water. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750

Sunday, October 21 **Fidalgo Island, Deception Pass** **State Park, Anacortes Community Forest Lands** ([map](#))

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Everett Mall in back by the transit center and L.A. Fitness. Let's do the Blue Hole for rainy October. Deception Pass SP--Bowman Bay/Pass Lake Loop Trail. We'll carry bags in case there's any tsunami debris. We may need to steer clear of Cranberry Lake on the Whidbey Island side of the park due to a bacterial outbreak (to be confused with Cranberry Lake on Fidalgo Isl.) Looks like a delightful place for a picnic.

We could also walk up Mt. Erie in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands for the awesome view.

Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh 425.244.7633,
aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, October 23 **North Everett to South Marysville**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Legion Park off North Marine Drive, Everett. Explore the North Everett waterfront and the Snohomish River estuary, including Priest Point and, if time permits, the Marysville sewage ponds. View eagles, hawks, waterfowl, shorebirds, and gulls. Pack a lunch. ([map](#))

Leader: Art Wait 360.563.0181

Tuesday, October 30 **South Whidbey Island** ([map](#))

Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Eastmont Park and Ride, I-5 exit 189, east side, aiming for the 8:00 a.m. ferry from Mukilteo. Species counts are always high here. Crockett Lake is exciting and the scenery is gorgeous. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Wilma Bayes 360.629.2028



(Continued from page 1)

Where the Green Ferns Grow

1. First, while this area has not yet been found to have Northern Spotted Owls or Marbled Murrelets during the past 20-plus years, this area is designated Critical Habitat for both species and has potential to provide additional nesting sites for them in 50 or so years. Add construction noise and activity, followed by vehicle traffic, and this area may no longer be able to support these threatened/endangered species.

2. Even with realigning the road by moving sections farther away from the river, it is obvious to us that the Suiattle will continue changing its channel and washing out sections of the road. That is the nature of this river and this landscape. Compounding this is the certainty that rainfall and severe storms are likely to increase with climate change during the coming years. When does the rebuilding process become fruitless? After which washout will we finally give up?

3. PAS recognizes that many recreationists are eager to access the campgrounds and trails that are on the Suiattle Road without having to hike or bike. Most of the 400 comments received by the Highway Dept were in support of the road rebuild. Leaving the last four miles of road as a trail, however, would not add much walking distance to reach the farthest of these spots, but would do much to mitigate the adverse impact of increased traffic and human use. It would also leave less road to maintain. This option would allow the Sauk-Suiattle tribe to reach more of its traditional use land by vehicle and the public to drive to the popular Buck Creek Campground. The last four miles could become a very accessible trail, providing a relatively easy, low-elevation hike or bike ride. We feel this option will best suit the long-term interests of our residents.

4. And of course, Pilchuck is concerned about the cumulative loss of open space/wildlife habitat in our county and beyond. The population of Snohomish County has almost doubled since 1987 when I pushed my daughters high in the tree swing next to our little cabin. Over those 25 years our farms, fields, forests, waterways, birds, and wildlife have suffered as a result. Climate change will impact wildlife populations further. As human population grows, wilderness shrinks, and there is nowhere on earth now that is untouched by its influence.

Most of your PAS board believes that the Suiattle River Road should end at the Green Mountain turnoff, which respects the needs of recreationists as well as taking into account the needs of the environment. Perhaps this is a moot argument, however, because as surely as our children grow up and move away, the Suiattle River will have the last word.

CORRECTION The September issue of the *Profile* had incorrect information. Frances Boyens is the Education Chair for Pilchuck Audubon Society. Candy Brown is one of our outstanding instructors.



Fall Birdseed Sale
Saturday, October 20
10 to Noon

Bering Sea Fisheries
3862 Railway Ave
Everett

For a price list and to place an order,
contact Carolyn Lacy
206.245.5836 / carolynlacy137@frontier.com



Weekend Bird Hike Trip Report

Puget Sound Bird Fest – Edmonds Harbor and Yost Memorial Park

by Terry Nightingale

Every year as part of the Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds, members of the Edmonds Yacht Club graciously volunteer their time and their boats for birders to explore the waters surrounding Edmonds in search of birds. On Saturday, September 8, I led one of nine such bird cruises. Our group included five adults and three avid teen birders. These young men knew their stuff—one of them identified a **Pigeon Guillemot** by its red legs and feet, even though the bird was in winter plumage that made it otherwise difficult to identify.

It was a beautiful morning to be on the water: not too hot or too cold, and sunny enough for good light but not enough to burn those of us with fair skin. The first birds to greet us were the 100 or so **Heerman's Gulls** hanging out on the jetty that protects the marina. We could clearly see their red bills and feet, and besides, Susie Schaefer had told us they were Heermann's Gulls before we left port. As we traveled north through Puget Sound, the next birds we encountered were **Marbled Murrelets** in various stages of molting from breeding plumage to winter plumage. As I'm sure many readers will already know, the murrelets belong to a family of birds known as alcids. This group was well represented on the boat tour, with species including **Rhinoceros Auklet**, and the Pigeon Guillemot already mentioned. By way of adding more members of the gull family to our checklist, our captain motored out into the channel and let us get a close look at a group of gulls we had seen feeding together. The group included the familiar **Glaucous-winged Gulls**, but also the much-smaller **Bonaparte's Gulls** in their winter plumage with just a single black dot behind their eyes to tip us off that they were Bonaparte's and not Mew Gulls. Swinging back close to shore as we started to head south, we saw a lone **Red-necked Grebe**, at least when he was above the surface of the water.



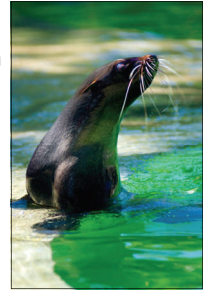
Chestnut-backed Chickadee
Rex Guichard



Another of the usual suspects are cormorants, and we saw the two most common species for the area, **Double-crested Cormorants** and **Pelagic Cormorants**. It was especially nice for the birders on board to see the two species close together and note the differences in appearance. Rounding out the tour were birds we heard or saw from shore: a dozen **American Crows**, a **Belted Kingfisher**, and a **Steller's Jay**.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the other sea life we had the privilege to observe. **Bull Kelp** was growing in shallow water close to shore, which is where we also saw two **Lion's Mane Jellies** and over a dozen **Fried Egg Jellies**.

Representing the mammals were a **Harbor Porpoise**, two **Harbor Seals**, and a **California Sea Lion**. If you haven't had a chance to cruise these waters, I highly recommend it!



Sunday morning I led a walk through Yost Memorial Park, another regular fixture of the Birdfest. We had a nice turnout of twelve birders, including four boys who were very excited to be outside and in the woods. Luckily our group included several locals who live in the neighborhood near Yost, and who were very helpful in pointing out the best trails to take through the park. As often happens, the parking lot at the beginning of the walk was quite productive in itself. Flitting among the branches of the conifers above the parking spaces were **Black-capped Chickadees**, **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, and **Golden-crowned Kinglets**. One member of our group spotted a **Brown Creeper** as it flew to the base of a tree and started making its way up the trunk, which gave a nice opportunity to talk about how the nuthatches go down the trunk and find different food from the creepers who travel up the trunk. Most likely another member of this mixed flock, we heard a **Downy Woodpecker** calling from a nearby tree.

A short walk down the trail brought us to a spot where a **Pacific Wren** was making its "chunk chunk" calls, and a few of us caught a fleeting glimpse of it before it disappeared into the brush. Keeping with the family theme, a **Bewick's Wren** next caught our attention with buzzing calls followed by its loud, slow trills. One of our birders heard and then saw a **Spotted Towhee** near the trail. They are always fun to see up close where you can see their red eyes and contrasting white spots against their jet-black feathers. Other than a few other forest birds we would have commonly expected to see or hear (**American Crow**, two **Mallards** flying over from a nearby pond, a pair of **Northern Flickers**, a **Song Sparrow**), the highlights were a **Pileated Woodpecker**, whom we heard making his "laughing" call, and then pecking loudly against a tree, and an **Olive-sided Flycatcher** we saw in a distant tree from a clearing near the swimming pool. While he didn't give us his signature song of "quick-three-beers", he was still identifiable by his height, his white oval chest patch, and his fly catching behavior of perching, flying off to catch a bug, and then returning to the same perch. Though we never saw the owls we had heard might be in the park, we still had a lovely walk and encountered lots of interesting birds.



PAS Classroom Teacher Conservation Awards

This is the seventh year of the Classroom Teacher Conservation awards under its chair, Laura Zalesky. The awards go to teachers in the elementary grades who are teaching conservation units in their classrooms. This year there will be one major change: the grants will increase from \$300 to \$400.

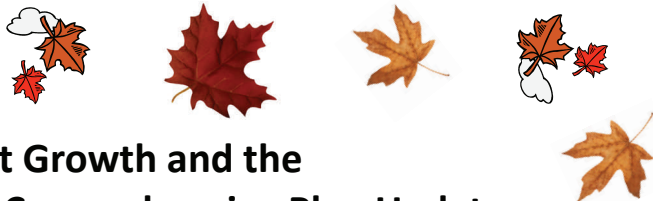
The committee has given these awards to some very interesting teaching units, involving their students in environmentally- and scientifically-oriented programs ranging from cleaning up brush and brambles along creeks to improve salmon migration to those featuring scientific studies of butterfly origin and development.

The committee has two major reasons for making these awards: First, it believes there is a need to involve young people early enough that they find a lifetime reason for protecting their environment; second, we know that schools do not always fund supplies or provide materials needed to carry out special projects. Thus, this money goes to the teachers to purchase some of the items that would be otherwise out-of-pocket expenses.

The committee has set up a computerized system that reaches every teacher in Snohomish County. The channels go through the superintendent of school districts to principals and then to teachers. This system works well most of the time, but there are break-downs of these channels more often than the committee would like. Parents and grandparents who find their student's school has not received notice of the grants should contact the school's principal.

Notices will be going out October 1. Completed applications are due back from the teacher applying for the award by November 1.

For an application and more information, contact Laura Zalesky, classroomawards@pilchuckaudubon.org.



Smart Growth and the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update

Starting this year, and revving up in 2013, will be the next 10-year update of Snohomish County and its cities' Comprehensive Plan Update. This process begins with a 20-year population growth forecast for 2015 through 2035 from the state, the 5-year Buildable Lands Report (a snapshot of how much undeveloped, partially developed, and re-developable urban land is available during the next 20 years), and an allocation of the population forecast to cities, growth areas, and rural areas. This is also the opportunity for policy, land use, and zoning changes.

Register Now for Fall 2012 ACOW

Register now for the 2012 annual meeting of Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW), hosted by Kitsap Audubon Society. This one-day meeting will be held on Saturday, October 6, at the new Poulsbo City Hall. The keynote speaker is David Yarnold, President and CEO of National Audubon Society (photo right). The new Pacific Flyway director, Michael Sutton, will also speak.



Highlights of the day include a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new and final Puget Loop map of the Great Washington Birding Trail, with Poulsbo Mayor Becky Erickson and Birding Trail Director Christi Norman.

The annual ACOW brings together leaders from the 26 Washington State Audubon chapters and Audubon Washington staff for workshops and presentations on a host of topics of interest to Audubon members throughout the state. There will be regional breakout sessions to exchange information and review progress at the state and chapter level.

Additional events are planned for those arriving on Friday or staying through Sunday, including field trips to local birding hotspots, an evening presentation on the Kitsap Forest & Bay Project, and a meeting of conservation chairs to discuss shared priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

A block of rooms with special rates from \$79-98 per night is being held at the Poulsbo Inn & Suites, conveniently located on State Hwy 305 as you enter Poulsbo. Hotel reservations may be made by calling 360-779-3921 or e-mail manager@poulsboinn.com. Audubon ACOW is the group name.

To [register online](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/263251) for the ACOW meeting, go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/263251> - password is audubon. Registration cost is \$30 and includes morning and afternoon snacks, plus a boxed lunch. To register by check, please contact Joseph Manson at (206) 652-2444 x100 or jmanson@audubon.org.



This update process is a high priority for the Smart Growth Director, and you will be hearing more through the newsletter, in updates, and through action alerts. Check the Smart Growth page on the PAS website, www.pilchuckaudubon.org, for advice on "How to Effectively Testify at Public Hearings."

Backyard Birding Highlights

Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

July 26 to August 25, 2012

Well, our short summer turned into a long summer—which was really nice. Some of the birds that usually fly south are staying around a little longer for us to enjoy. I think some of the Black-Headed Grosbeaks have already headed to Mexico, and now the Evening Grosbeaks are taking their place at the feeders.

Carole and Larry Beason reported an unusual sighting of 30 Barn Swallows floating in Lake Bosworth near their home. Their total species count of 44 also listed 24 American Goldfinch at the feeder and, in the trees, a Black-Throated Gray Warbler in the rose bush, 2 Belted Kingfishers flying over, 2 Green-Backed Herons on the lake, a Cedar Waxwing, an Osprey, 10 Red-Winged Blackbirds, 10 Spotted Towhee, 2 Turkey Vultures over the lake, a Western Flycatcher and 2 Western Tanagers.

John Davis also reports a large number of species on his walks through Forest Park in Everett. This month he reported 50 species which included 3 Anna's Hummingbirds, 3 Bald Eagles in the forest, 2 Brown Creepers, a Black-Throated Gray Warbler, 2 Cedar Waxwings (which feed on blackberries), 2 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, 2 Northern Rough-Winged Swallows, 4 Swainson's Thrush, a Vaux's Swift overhead, 2 Western Tanagers, 2 Orange-Crowned Warblers, and a Yellow Warbler.

Hilkka Egtvedt is still reporting Black-Headed Grosbeaks from her home in Mukilteo. She reported 6 Black-Headed Grosbeaks along with 6 American Goldfinch, 12 Band-Tailed Pigeons, a Bewick's Wren, 3 Dark-Eyed Junco (a few are still around), 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 8 Pine Siskin, 2 Western Tanagers, 2 White-Crowned Sparrows, 12 Bushtit, and 2 Red-Crossbills.

Sixteen was an important number to **Kriss Erickson** as she reported 16 American Robins, 16 Mallards in her yard, and 16 Black-Capped Chickadees at the feeder in her yard in Everett. Her total species count of 18 included 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 13 Bushtit, 4 Violet-Green Swallows, a Yellow Warbler, a Common Raven, 6

Mourning Doves, a Band-Tailed Pigeon, and an American Kestrel.

A Western Screech Owl topped **Julie O'Donalds** report from her home in Brier. She also reported a Brown Creeper, 2 Cooper's Hawks, 4 Dark-Eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpeckers, a Hairy Woodpecker, 3 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, an Orange-Crowned Warbler, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, 12 American Robins, and a Wilson's Warbler for a total species count of 27.

Mary Sinker's July report listed 41 species, and her total species count for August was 35. Reporting from her home in Stanwood, she listed 27 American Goldfinch, 5 Barn Swallows, 11 Rufous Hummingbirds, 7 Tree Swallows and 4 Wilson's Warblers in July. In August, she reported 36 American Robins, 18 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 14 Evening Grosbeaks, 16 Mourning Doves, 9 Pine Siskin, 12 Steller's Jays, and 4 Red-Breasted Nuthatch.

Reporting from Warm Beach, **Dick Vanderhoff** reported 2 Rufous Hummingbirds on the flowers, a Red-Tailed Hawk on Marine Drive, 6 House Sparrows, 3 Black-Capped Chickadees, a Northern Flicker, a Band-Tailed Pigeon, 4 House Finch, an American Eagle flying over, and 100+ Tundra Swans in the fields along Marine Drive.

Every so often I see Glaucous-Winged Gulls sitting in the parking lot of Albertsons here in Marysville. I don't know why they are there, but you have to be careful not to run over them. My report this month includes 6 Glaucous-Winged Gulls, 20+ Tree Swallows on the wires, 2 American Goldfinch, 3 California Quail, 6 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 2 Mourning Doves, 18 Rock Doves on the wires, 2 White-Crowned Sparrows in the yard, a pesky Cooper's Hawk, a Great-Horned Owl, and 2 Purple Finch for a total species count of 26.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome. E-mail me at backyard@pilchuckaudubon.org or leave a message on my cell at 425-750-8125. If you are interested in participating in our monthly birds counts, please contact me.



Western Screech Owl
Bryant Olsen



Cedar Waxwing
Rex Guichard



Pileated Woodpecker
Rex Guichard

Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris

What To Do If You See Debris

PREPARED BY THE WASHINGTON STATE MARINE DEBRIS TASKFORCE

GENERAL GUIDANCE

Be safe: If you don't know what it is, don't touch it. Collect as much information from a safe distance as you can. Call 1-855-WACOST (1-855-922-6278).

GUIDELINES BY DEBRIS TYPE

Litter and other typical marine debris items

Common marine debris types will vary by location. If an object appears to be nonhazardous and linked to the tsunami, report it to DisasterDebris@noaa.gov. Take photos if possible and provide as much information as you can. If it's safe and practical to do so, remove the debris and recycle any plastics or metals.

Hazardous materials

Examples: Drums, fuel tanks and containers, gas cans,

gas cylinders, chemical storage totes. **Do not touch or attempt to move the item.** Give authorities a detailed report about what you've observed. Call 1-855-WACOST (1-855-922-6278) and press 1.

Aluminum canisters

10-inch aluminum insecticide canisters often are found in high tide zones. Do not open the cap since these fumigant canisters may contain small amounts of toxic phosphine gas. Call 1-855-WACOST (1-855-922-6278) and press 1.

Derelict boat or other large debris item

Do not attempt to move or remove the boat. Call 1-855-WACOST (1-855-922-6278) and press 2.

Personal effects or possessions from Japan tsunami

Items that appear to be personal belongings should be treated with respect. They should be reported with as much relevant detail as possible. Generally, these objects should be left in place for later retrieval. However, if the object appears likely to be moved by tide or wave action and it is safe to do so, consider moving the object above the high-tide line. Report these to DisasterDebris@noaa.gov.

Human remains

It is extremely unlikely any human remains from the tsunami will reach the United States. However, if you encounter any remains, immediately call 9-1-1 and give local authorities a detailed report about what you observed. Do not touch or attempt to move such items.

Unknown item

Don't touch or attempt to move the item. Give local authorities a detailed report about what you observed. Call 1-855-WACOST (1-855-922-6278) and follow the prompts.

For more information on Japan tsunami debris, visit www.marinedebris.noaa.gov/info/japanfaqs.html, http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2012/itn01_debris.html and <http://disasterdebris.wordpress.com/>.

Pilchuck Audubon Society Membership Information

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