



## **Pilchuck Classroom Conservation Award Winners 2012 - 2013**

*by Phil Zalesky, Conservation Awards Committee Chair*

This marks the 8<sup>th</sup> year of the Pilchuck Audubon Society Classroom Conservation Awards. A record number of applicants came from all corners of Snohomish County, from Bothell's Lockwood Elementary School to Darrington Elementary School. Each year 10 awards are given. This year twenty-seven teachers applied and the quality of the conservation projects was better than ever.

The philosophy of the awards is that exposure early in life to conservation/environmentalism may develop into a lifelong interest in conservation. In addition, teachers do not always have the capacity to underwrite their projects. Funds for special projects must come from their own pockets. This award then becomes a supplement for teachers, making it possible for them to develop their projects to the fullest extent.

Judging the awards is not an easy task for the committee. This year especially it has been difficult since we had the highest number of teacher applicants ever. The judges look for projects that will have the greatest impact. This means with new students coming into a classroom every year, it may be possible for the same teacher to win again with a similar project. The reward for the committee members involves making arrangements with the school principal and then paying a surprise visit to the teacher and students and seeing the reactions of both. Here is an example of what happened during one of this year's presentations:

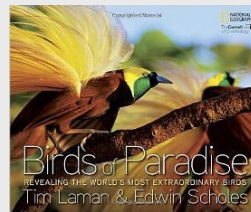
*"I was warmly received at Martha Lake Elementary this afternoon as I presented the Conservation Award to teachers Anna Walter and Erin Alfeiri. The principal had both teachers and all kids gather in one room. They didn't know what was going on but everyone exploded into applause when I was introduced - the kids were enthusiastic and the teachers hugged me with tears in their eyes. Very touching. The teachers then had the kids share with me some of what they've learned so far about climate change and the concerns for wildlife." - **Candy Brown**, Committee member*

*(Award winners announced on page 5)*

## **January Program Meeting Friday, January 11, 7 p.m. *Bats, Frogs, Dippers, and Deer!***

Join Kinoko Noborikawa and Terri Wentworth-Davis to discover wildlife projects that Snohomish County Public Works is doing. Learn about bats and dippers on bridges, amphibian monitoring in mitigation sites, and the wildlife crossing structures in Snohomish County. For more information, call 425.252.0926.

**Everett Firefighters Hall  
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett**



## **Warm up with Birds of Paradise**

National Geographic Lecture  
Monday, April 29, 7:30 pm  
Benaroya Hall in Seattle

Register early for one of PAS' 20 seats by contacting Sue Miller at 206.356.9198 or suemiller1@gmail.com.

## **Smart Growth Report**

Kristin Kelly, our Smart Growth Director, will be working hard in January on the county's process to update the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). A strong CAO is essential for local food production, farming families and wildlife habitat. She has posted an article on our website explaining the process and how you can help. It is vital that our county commissioners know that citizens are concerned on this issue.

<http://pilchuckaudubon.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&sectionid=150>

### **In This Issue**

2013 Birding..... 3	Festivals..... 3
About ..... 2	President's Message..... 2
Birding Report.... 4	Smart Growth..... 1
Feature.....1,5	Trip Calendar ..... 3

# President's Message

by Kathleen Snyder, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to **Judy Chapman**, our new Volunteer Coordinator. Judy recently found volunteers for the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey and now has graciously agreed to step into this most important leadership role. She lives on Camano Island and is very involved with the Friends of Camano Island Parks organization. Judy will spend the next few months learning to navigate our database and familiarizing herself with volunteer names and faces. Her email is [volunteer@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@pilchuckaudubon.org) and she would welcome hearing from you.

I'm looking for some members who are interested in attending the Environmental Lobby Day in Olympia on Tuesday, February 19th. This fascinating experience brings busloads of conservationists to our capital buildings where we spend the day meeting with our legislators and attending committee meetings. This year our priorities are toxic free kids and families, clean energy solutions, and conservation public works projects. Training, transportation and lunch are available. Watching and participating in our governmental process is an eye-opening and invigorating experience. Please contact me for more information at 425.438.1505.

I want to thank everyone who participated in last month's Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The weather on 15<sup>th</sup>

for the first count was not exactly balmy. I am writing this before the second count on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> and I hope the weather that day was better. The trends that are uncovered through this project will impact avian research and projects for years to come. Again, hats off to all of you who care enough about birds and their future to brave a winter day outside on their behalf.



## Special Thanks

From Vice President, **Susie Schaefer**, to our 2012 CBC Compilers Scott Atkinson and Duane Karna and to Art and Shirley Wait for hosting the after-the-count potluck dinner at their home.

## 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](mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org) or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290-1742.

Submissions must be received by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

**To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.252.0926.**

The monthly *Profile* is available online at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

### Board of Directors

President	Kathleen Snyder.....	<a href="mailto:president@pilchuckaudubon.org">president@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Vice President	Susie Schaefer.....	<a href="mailto:garden@pilchuckaudubon.org">garden@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Secretary	Sarah Stout.....	425.252.0926
Treasurer	Carolyn Lacy.....	360.668.2494
Conservation	Allen Gibbs.....	<a href="mailto:conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org">conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Membership Chair	Margaret Bridge.....	360.862.1694
Avian Science		<i>Open</i>
Development		<i>Open</i>
Member at Large	Jay Ward.....	425.923.0005
Member at Large	Joan Poor.....	425.771.5581
Consultant	David Gladstone	

### Committee Chairs

Birdathon	Hilkka Egtvedt.....	425.347.4944
Bird Sightings	Mara Price.....	<a href="mailto:backyard@pilchuckaudubon.org">backyard@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Conservation Awards	Laura Zalesky.....	<a href="mailto:classroomawards@pilchuckaudubon.org">classroomawards@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Education	Frances Boyens.....	<a href="mailto:education@pilchuckaudubon.org">education@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Field Trips	Art Wait.....	360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson.....	<a href="mailto:forest@pilchuckaudubon.org">forest@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Hospitality	Virginia Clark.....	360.435.3750
Legal Advisor	Pete Dewell.....	206.281.8082
Newsletter Editor	Lindsay Cramer.....	<a href="mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org">newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Program		<i>Open</i>
Publicity	Judy Alles.....	360.793.1343
Volunteer Coordinator	Judy Chapman.....	<a href="mailto:volunteer@pilchuckaudubon.org">volunteer@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Webmaster	Carol Curtin.....	<a href="mailto:webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org">webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>

### Staff

Smart Growth	Kristin Kelly.....	425.923.8625
--------------	--------------------	--------------

© 2012 Pilchuck Audubon Society. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Opinions expressed are those of the credited writers and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Pilchuck Audubon Society.

# Trip Calendar

Check our calendar at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org) for the latest information

## Tuesday, January 1

No scheduled trips. Happy New Year!

## Saturday, January 5 King-Snohomish County Line

Meet at 8:00 AM 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 tucked into 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](mailto:tnight@pobox.com)

## Tuesday, January 8 Silvana Roads

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5 Exit 200. Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. Pipits, Snowy Owls, falcons, all the winter LBJs. We may visit the Port Susan Nature Conservancy site. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## 2013 Birding Adventures

by *Susie Schaefer, Vice President, Pilchuck Audubon Society*

It's only January, but I'm already looking ahead to spring and summer birding! I'm tentatively planning two trips to explore the other side of Washington:

### Klickitat County, May 18-20

### Ferry County, June 6-10

These birding adventure trips are open to all and offer an opportunity to see birds we don't usually see in Snohomish County. On past trips, we've had fun looking at wildflowers and mammals too. Trips are limited to 12 people and only three cars and reservations are on a first sign up basis.

Look for the updates on the plans for these trips in the February *Profile*. Email Susie for more information [garden@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:garden@pilchuckaudubon.org).

## Save the Dates for Upcoming Bird Festivals

### Skagit Eagle Festival 2013

January all weekends

Skagit County

### Arlington Stillaguamish Eagle Festival

Feb 1-2

Arlington

## Tuesday, January 15 Clear Lake and Johnson-Debay Slough

Meet at 8:00 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5 Exit 200. Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. Swans, eagles, hawks and falcons. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Tuesday, January 22 Deception Pass, Campbell Lake, Rosario Beach, and Cranberry Lake

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5 Exit 200. Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. Oyster catchers, Loons, Mergansers, LBJs. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark, 360.435.3750

## Tuesday, January 29 Guemes Island

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Wal-Mart west of Marysville, I-5 Exit 200. Park away from store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd and next to I-5. Ride a tiny ferry, then relax and enjoy unique Guemes Island, its people, birds and dogs. Pack a lunch.

Leader: Virginia Clark 360.435.3750



On Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, a group of Pilchuck committee chairs and major donors enjoyed an evening of refreshments and a viewing of the film "The Central Park Effect" about the birds and birders of New York's Central Park.

### Port Susan Snow Goose and Birding Festival

February 23-24

Stanwood

### Sand Hill Crane Festival

April 5-7

Othello

### Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival

April 26-28

Hoquiam

# Backyard Birding Highlights

by *Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator*

September 26, 2012 - October 25, 2012

**Carole and Larry Beason** were very excited this month to see 3 Trumpeter Swans on Lake Bosworth. They said it was the first time in years. They also reported 90 Pine Siskin in the trees and flying all around, 8 Evening Grosbeaks at the feeder, 4 Barrow's Goldeneye, 21 Bufflehead, 16 Common Merganser, 8 Ring-Necked Ducks and 13 Hooded Merganser on the lake, a Belted Kingfisher on the dock, a Merlin on the patio, 7 Steller's Jays, 4 Varied Thrush, 10 Song Sparrows (which is extraordinary) and a Red-Breasted Sapsucker for a total species count of 45.

**John Davis'** walk through Forest Park yielded 36 species this month. He reported 80 American Crows and 24 American Robins at the forest edge, a Belted Kingfisher at the forest edge bay, a Black-Throated Gray Warbler, 10 Dark-Eyed Junco, a Fox Sparrow, 3 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, a Merlin in the trees, 6 Pacific Wren, at least 100 Pine Siskin at the forest edge and in the trees, a Townsend's Warbler, 2 Pileated Woodpeckers and 5 Varied Thrush for a total species count of 36.

**Gail Debernardo** reported 25 Band-Tailed Pigeons at the feeders and in her yard in Brier. She also listed 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, 5 American Goldfinch early in the month, Varied Thrush, 15 Dark-Eyed Junco, 9 Canada Goose and a Great Blue Heron flying over, 3 Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 4 Spotted Towhee, a Bewick's Wren, 5 Steller's Jay and 7 Black-Capped Chickadees for a total species count of 22.

**Hilkka Egtvedt** is happy to report that the little Golden-Crowned Kinglet is back in her yard on Mukilteo. Her total species count of 22 also included 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 4 California Quail, 34 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Evening Grosbeaks, 2 Fox Sparrows, 4 Golden-Crowned Sparrows, 4 Northern Flickers, 40+ Pine Siskin, 2 Song Sparrows, 6 Steller's Jays and a Townsend's Warbler.



*Townsend's Warbler by Linda Tanner*

**Kriss Erickson's** report from Everett listed 150 European Starlings in her yard. Must have been really noisy. She also reported 19 American Robins, 12 Dark-Eyed Junco, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 7 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, 3

Northern Flickers, 72 Bushtit, an Anna's Hummingbird, a Bewick's Wren, 7 American Crows, 6 Western Gulls, 2 Mallard Ducks and a Hairy Woodpecker for a total species count of 13.

Fifty+ Pine Siskin descended on **Julie O'Donald's** yard in Brier along with 12 American Crows, 2 Bald Eagles, a Barred Owl, 8 Bushtits, 2 Bewick's Wren, 2 Golden-Crowned Kinglets, 7 Band-Tailed Pigeons, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flickers, a Townsend's Warbler, 2 Red-Breasted Nuthatch and a Varied Thrush for a total species count of 23.



*Dark-Eyed Junco by Dori*

More Dark-Eyed Juncos at **Mary Sinkers** place in Stanwood. She reported 45 at her feeders and in the yard. She also listed 11 American Robins, a Bald Eagle, 2 Brown Creepers, a Great-Blue Heron at the creek, 11 Mourning Doves, 8 Spotted Towhees, 12 Steller's Jays, 2 Varied Thrush, 4 White-Crowned Sparrows, 11 Black-Capped Chickadees and 4 Pacific Wren for a total species count of 28.

**Dick Vanderhoff's** report from Warm Beach includes a Red-Tailed Hawk, 300+ Trundra Swans, 1000+ Snow Goose along Marine Drive, a Mourning Dove in the yard, a Great-Blue Heron flying over, 3 Steller's Jays and an Owl species for a total species count of 7.

When it rains a lot the fields near my home in Marysville get flooded and then the Gulls and Ducks fly in. I spotted over 100 Western Gulls in the fields this month. My total species count of 23 also included 12 American Crows in the fields, a California Quail, 12 Mallards, a Common Raven, a Pileated Woodpecker (we see him almost every day now), 2 Varied Thrush, 6 Brewer's Blackbirds in Costco parking lot, 4 Northern Flickers, 18 Rock Doves and 8 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees.

A special thanks to all of my bird sighters. I really appreciate their input. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please email me at [pricemara@clearwire.net](mailto:pricemara@clearwire.net) or leave a message at 425.750.8125.

*(Continued from page 1)*

Of particular interest to members of Pilchuck Audubon Society is that two awards went to Monroe teachers for after school Swift clubs. Pilchuck sponsors research, education and conservation of the Vaux Swifts which use the chimney at Monroe's Frank Wagner School during their spring and fall migration. Having the children involved makes this project all the more important, enjoyable and worthwhile.

The Classroom Conservation Awards program has a restricted account in our budget. Any donations received that are earmarked for this program will go into that account and only be used for that purpose. The following people have been selected as winners of 2012-2013 PAS Elementary Classroom Teacher Awards:

**Charlene Osborn**, Emerson Elementary School, Everett School District  
Nature garden at the school in which to explore ecosystems and wildlife feeding patterns

**Debra Strong**, Forest View Elementary School, Everett School District  
Interactive outdoor trail focusing on wetland protection

**Joan Litzkow**, Woodside Elementary School, Everett School District  
Sunburst "Flocabulary" curriculum and science kits for four classes

**Melissa Cumming**, Darrington Elementary, Darrington School District  
Stilly fish hatchery tour and estuary stewardship project

**Chris Brush**, Canyon Creek Elementary, North Shore School District  
Outdoor learning space with nature trail and field guides

**Janae Schott**, Frylands Elementary School, Monroe School District  
After school Swift Club to study and celebrate the Vaux Swifts

**Trisha Cooper**, Frank Wagner Elementary School, Monroe School District  
After school Swift Club to study and celebrate the Vaux Swifts

**Debra Howell**, Monte Cristo Elementary School, Granite Falls School District  
Field trip to Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center

**Paulette Manuel**, Lockwood Elementary, North Shore School District  
Work with Seattle Audubon on wetland ecology

**Anna Walters**, Martha Lake Elementary School, Edmonds School District  
Water testing and release of salmon at North Creek



*Don Healy of PAS presents Debra Strong and Holli Martinez of Everett's Forest View Elementary School with a check from the Classroom Conservation Awards to help construct an interactive nature trail.*

## Pilchuck Audubon Society Membership Information

Support your local Audubon chapter by becoming a member. PAS dues are tax deductible (consult your tax professional for details). The PAS tax ID number is 91-6183664.

- New Member..... \$28
- Renewal ..... \$28
- Lifetime Member..... \$1,000
  - 10 monthly payments of \$100
  - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
  - 1 payment of \$1,000
- Donation..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
Pilchuck Audubon Society  
Mail to PAS  
1429 Avenue D PMB 198  
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Register for Environmental Priorities Coalition Workshop

Gain the tools to stay informed and active during the upcoming legislative session.



Sat, January 12  
1pm - 5pm  
Bellevue College  
3000 Landerholm Circle SE

More event details and registration information can be found at [www.environmentalpriorities.org](http://www.environmentalpriorities.org).

Donate / Join / Renew online:

<https://www.chi-cash-advance.com/sforms/appeal1038/Contribute.aspx>