



In Memory of a Pilchuck Audubon Giant

By Bill Lider with Terri Hawke & Kathy Johnson



Bonnie Phillips passed away at home on May 5, 2015. She was a staunch environmentalist, a past-President of PAS, and active in Pilchuck Audubon for many years in the 1980's and 1990's. When my wife, Sally, and I moved to Snohomish County in 1978, we knew no one in the area. We had been avid birders and Audubon members before moving here and we automatically became members of PAS. I remember seeing a PAS Profile ad looking for a treasurer. Sally had bookkeeping experience so I filled the application out in her name (and without her knowledge) and sent it in. Ultimately Sally acquiesced and became Treasurer.

That is how we met Bonnie who became one of our first and best friends in Washington. Not long thereafter, Bonnie recruited me (as she did with many others) to become active in PAS as Vice President and as the Forest Practices chair. Later in 1984 when our son was born, Bonnie became like a grandmother to our son and we shared many Thanksgiving dinners with her at her wood-heated, solar home near Warm Beach.

Bonnie would not back down from an environmental challenge and helped take the US Forest Service to task on many issues, such as the Olo Too Timber Sale in Canyon Creek, northeast of Granite Falls. The USFS was using "stale" NEPA documents to justify clear cuts in excess of 160-acres while the Forest Practices Act at the time only allowed a maximum of 40 acres. Little Pilchuck Audubon won this landmark case in Federal Court in Seattle that resulted in the recall of 110-billion board-feet of timber, or about 40% of the national cut in 1988, and forcing the USFS to comply with the National Forest Practice Act. Bonnie also helped to stop the inhumane trapping of bears on the Darrington Ranger District. The USFS was trapping bears that had just emerged from hibernation. Hungry bears would chew the bark and eat the cambium layer of young Doug Fir trees when other sources of food were scarce in the spring. The monoculture Doug Fir trees planted in clear cuts made an irresistible smorgasbord. The USFS used spring-loaded cable traps that would spring a cable noose up on the bear's leg that would tighten as the bear thrashed around in its panic. Often times the bear would lose its leg in the cable trap. I still remember Bonnie giving the Darrington Ranger District "what-for" in a heated, severe scolding. After much public embarrassment, the USFS

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June Program Meeting

De-Myth-Ifying Binoculars & Scopes

Bill Cook & Russ Steele

Friday, June 12, 7:00 PM



Bill Cook has been in the optical industry for more than 40 years. He recently retired from Captain's Nautical Supply in Seattle which carried and serviced a broad range of optical equipment. He is committed to helping the consumer make sense of the complexities of binoculars and finding the right pair for each person. Also, Russ Steele, the Seattle Audubon Nature Shop Manager since 1998, will be presenting. Russ will have a selection of spotting scopes on hand and provide an overview of the selection.

7:00 - 8:30 pm
Everett Firefighter's Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett WA

For more information, leave message at 425-610-8027



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Birdathon 2015

By Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President



Osprey by Ken Longley

Congratulations to all the participants and sponsors of our best yet Birdathon which concluded May 18. Our goal of \$5,000 was met and exceeded thanks to everyone's efforts. All the money raised will go to sustaining our educational and environmental programs and advocacy efforts. If you made a pledge which needs to be paid, please contact develop@pilchuckaudubon.org. Our biggest winners were the Heron Addicts (Rick and Tina Taylor) who nailed the Most Species for the Big Month (221), Most Species for the Big Day (122), Big Month Best Bird (Baird's Sandpiper), and Big Day Best Bird (Wilson's Phalarope).

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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 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 newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21st of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.610.8027.

The monthly Profile is available online at www.pilchuckaudubon.org

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The Sitting Duck contest went to Cooked Goose (Jim Beneteau) for his 23 backyard species. The Big Month Most Pledges award went to Eggsploring Egtvedts (Claire and Hilka Egvett) for raising \$2000. The Big Day Most Pledges award went to Birderline Personalities (Jim Beneteau, Virginia Clark, Kathy Piland and Kathleen Snyder) for raising \$2400. Ken Longley (who won last year's photo contest) had the winning photo for the Big Month contest. Rex Guichard won the Big World, Big Year photo contest. Photos from Bill Fulton, Rex Guichard, Ken Longley, and Rick Brauer received runner-up recognition. All the photos can be viewed on our Pilchuck website, starting on our homepage. Finally, Raven Lunatics (Rick Brauer) received the Kitchen Sink award for Viewer's Choice photo, Best Trip Report and runner-up photo. Please enjoy his trip report on our website under Close Encounters of a Bird Kind.

Other teams and photographers who participated are: Counting Crows (Doug Resnick) who won the Nightingale Award for best team name, Brandy Ream, Pam Myers and LeRoy Van Hee.



Red-breasted Sapsuckers by Rex Guichard



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Conservation Report

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair

Legislative Update – There will be no operating budget passed for the 2015-2017 biennium come the end of the Special Session ending May 28th, so, looking ahead to another Special Session. Whether it will be a thirty-day session remains to be seen. Some degree of a state agencies' shutdown will occur if an operating budget is not passed by July 1st.

Shell Oil Good News – Good news for birds and people came last month from the Skagit County Superior Court! Shell Oil will have to conduct an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) on its proposal to expand its rail yard oil transfer facilities at its Anacortes refinery. There is the possibility of further litigation by the company, if it appeals that decision.

PAS is grateful to Skagit Audubon and its conservation chair, Tim Mann, for devoting over a year's time in research and writing of testimony about the proposal. With help from Skagit, PAS submitted a letter in support of an EIS requirement.

Originally, the county had approved the proposal. Conservation groups along with EarthJustice requested the county hold a hearing on that decision. The hearing examiner found that the EIS was needed "... to study the potential effects of a major oil-train disaster as well as an examination of emergency resources for responding to a disaster," according to a May 21st Seattle Times story.

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie (MBS) National Forest – Forest Supervisor Jennifer Eberlien has been appointed to a deputy regional forester job in California, so, will be leaving soon. Deputy Supervisor Steve Kuennen has been appointed "acting forest supervisor" until a successor is selected. Her focus here has been upon building relationships with stakeholders, with special focus upon formation of a "Conservation Community Roundtable" that meets once a year with the forest leadership team. Stakeholders talk about their respective groups' activities and interests, and comments upon forest management. It is hoped these gatherings will continue.

Sustainable Roads Fieldtrips – One field trip for the public, led by MBS engineers and other employees, was to occur on May 29, to view examples of the agency's four levels of road maintenance, ranging from maintaining roads for passenger vehicle low clearance use, to roads passable only for high clearance vehicles. The costs of doing any of this work will be discussed. At this writing, it seems that the trip will be off the Mt. Loop Highway out of Darrington. Kathy Johnson and Allen Gibbs will attend the trip. Perhaps later in the year another trip will be out of Enumclaw.

Our Swift Guru Goes National

By Aileen Wingblad, Hometown Life

Larry Schwitters is pushing 74 — and a few days ago he pushed himself to climb 151 feet up a century-old brick chimney in Farmington. In the rain. Twice.

He did it for the birds.

More precisely, he did it to continuously spy on a massive chimney swift roost — and so others across the globe can, too. Thanks to Schwitters and a few others who helped make it happen, a video camera now sits inside the towering chimney of the Historic Winery building on Grand River Avenue in Farmington, Michigan, where it's believed the largest known population of chimney swifts spends the night from spring to late fall.

"We're really grateful for his real passion for this and his sweat equity for getting it started," Detroit Audubon Society President James Bull said of Schwitter, an environmentalist credited with spreading awareness and saving habitats of swifts — particularly on the west coast.

Building owner Dave White said the swifts started inhabiting the chimney in the 1990s, after the coal-burning furnace was shut down for good. Once his wife, Michelle Romans, did some

on-line investigation and found Schwitters to help, she learned about getting a good estimate of how many of the migratory birds were making the chimney their northern hemisphere hangout. A count last fall determined that some 50,000 had found their way to the chimney. The discovery, Bull said, was astounding.

"We were thrilled to find out we have within our territory the largest concentration of chimney swifts in North America. This is really special — and it's a great opportunity Larry Schwitters gave (by installing) the camera," he said.

Schwitters, who set up similar video equipment in a Portland, Ore. swift roost about five years ago, said there's plenty to learn and enjoy by watching the birds.

While there's been a delay in live-streaming the video, it's not expected to be long before it is available on www.detroitaudubon.org



Smart Growth Report

By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director

On Wednesday, June 10th at 10:30 AM, the Snohomish County Council will continue their public hearings on the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update. The council will continue to take written comments through that date and time. People can also come to the hearing and testify for 3 minutes about any part of the comp plan update.

I will be sending out an email action alert around June 3rd. It will be important for people to respond to it by sending an email to the County Council members in support of Alternative One.

Also, the Transfer of Development Rights Program is under attack by the Master Builders Association. They originally agreed to the program when it was adopted a few years ago but now they no longer want to participate. Instead of buying development credits from our farmers to forever protect farmland for future generations in exchange for more density in new subdivisions and urban growth areas, they want ONLY to get density bonuses without protecting farmland.

There are several amendments being proposed for consideration by the County Council regarding this situation. I will be assessing those amendments and putting recommendations into the action alert. I have been collaborating with Futurewise, Forterra, the Sustainable Lands Strategy, the Snohomish County Agricultural Advisory Board, farmers, the Tribes...all who agree that there should not be changes to the current TDR Program.

Please help convince the County Council, by responding to my action alert, not to change the TDR Program and to vote for Alternative One.

You can review all the documents on the council's website at: <http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/2134/Council-Hearings-Calendar>. If you have questions, please email me at kristin@futurewise.org.

In Memory of a Pilchuck Audubon Giant...

(Continued from page 1)

stopped its bear-trapping program in replanted clear cuts and left the bears in peace.

Bonnie was instrumental in stopping the US Navy from dumping toxic dredge spoils in Puget Sound when it wanted to build its Homeport in Everett and in preventing the paving of the Mountain Loop Highway in 1997.

Kathy Johnson, current PAS Forest Practices Chair and Board member, remembers Bonnie as a mentor in many ways. ***"She got me started writing letters and making phone calls to Congress and the Forest Service to preserve old growth forests. I was a shy person who had no sense of my personal power to effect change and Bonnie showed me that we all have that potential. She also was a strong advocate for women's rights and inclusiveness of all people in the environmental movement."***

Bonnie did all this and much, much more while being confined to a wheelchair with fibromyalgia, a very painful disease. She won many local and national awards for her activism and was featured in Time Magazine in December 1998 (the same issue as Wangari Maathai). The author referred to Bonnie as ***"warrior on wheels"***. She was also featured in several books about the fight to protect forests and as a conservationist. If not for Bonnie and a small cadre of determined Pilchuck Audubon activists, Snohomish County would be devoid of much of its ancient forests.

This is from a March 1993 Seattle Times article: Phillips-Howard, a Wisconsin native, moved to Seattle in the 1960s and soon was drawn to the woods. ***"I guess the forest helped me know myself,"*** she said. ***"It helped me get my value system back to where I thought it should be."***

Bonnie was an inspiration and she will be missed.

Backyard Birding Highlights

March 26, 2015 – April 25, 2015

By Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Carol and Larry Beason noted that the number of birds this month is low compared to the number of species. I noticed that the number of Chickadees & House Finches are down possibly due to seasonal changes.

Carol and Larry Beason's species count from their home near Lake Bosworth was 47. They listed 17 American Robins, 3 Barrow's Goldeneye, 8 Brewer's Blackbirds, 12 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 6 Bufflehead on the lake, 2 Common Loons, 3 Common Mergansers, 9 Evening Grosbeaks, 6 Mourning Doves, an Osprey over the lake, 34 Pine Siskins in the trees and feeders, 12 Red-Winged Blackbirds, 2 Ring-necked Ducks, a Red-Breasted Sapsucker, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, 2 Tree Swallows and 9 Violet-Green Swallows.

Hilka Egtvedt's total species count of 23 from her home in Mukilteo included 3 American Goldfinch, 3 Anna's Hummingbirds, 2 Bald Eagles, 5 Band-Tailed Pigeons, 2 Black-Capped Chickadees, 7 Canada Goose, 13 Dark-Eyed Junco with numbers dropping, 3 Northern Flickers, 35 Pine Siskin, 3 Purple Finch, 2 Rufous Hummingbirds, 3 Steller's Jays, 2 Violet Green

Swallows and a White-Crowned Sparrow.

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 6 American Robins, 5 Steller's Jays, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, 21 Bush Tit, 8 Western Gulls, 6 Song Sparrows, 7 American Goldfinch, 16 Black-Capped Chickadees, 6 Chestnut-Backed Chickadees, 2 Bewick's Wren, 10 House Finch, 2 Varied Thrush, 44 European Starlings, a Merlin and 2 Northern Flickers for a total species count of 25.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood looks pretty good for number of birds spotted. Her total species count of 38 included 17 American Robins, 9 Anna's Hummingbirds, 5 Bewick's Wrens, 3 Black-Headed Grosbeaks, 15 Dark-Eyed Junco, 5 Evening Grosbeaks, a Great-Blue Heron by the creek, 3 Kinglet Species, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-Breasted Nuthatch, 7 Red-Winged Blackbirds, 8 Rufous Hummingbirds, 14 Steller's Jays and 4 Tree Swallows.



Red-Tailed Hawk by Mark Bohn, USFWS

My species count is about the same from my home in Marysville. I listed 50 American Crows in the fields, 100+ Western Gulls also in the fields, 15 Dark Junco in the yard, 2 Great-Horned Owls, 40-50 Mallards in flooded fields, 2 Mourning Doves, 3 Song Sparrows, 3 Varied Thrush, a Red-Tailed Hawk flying over, a Cooper's Hawk on top of the feeders, 1 Common Raven, 3 Steller's Jays, a Pacific Wren in the woods and 3 Ring-Necked Ducks in the pond for a total species count of 24.

If you are interested in helping with our bird reporting, please email me at pricemara1@gmail.com or leave a message at (425) 750-8125.

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to Pilchuck board member Jay Ward for being chosen as a **Champion on Behalf of Habitat** by Bird Note. Jay was chosen for his backyard habitat and his efforts to erect Purple Martin gourds and Osprey nesting platforms.



In fact, he and friend, Lee Douglas, recently put up six more gourds in the waters next to Jetty Island using a ladder on a boat. The gourds were being used within a few hours of the installation and our Everett Purple Martin population is increasing yearly.

Congratulations and thank you to Jay.

Trip Calendar

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

Tuesday, June 2

Big Four Meadows

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Lake Stevens Frontier Village Park & Ride (9600 Market Place). Big Four Meadows is a beautiful setting for our annual potluck bird trip. Bring something to share. Virginia provides hot dogs and potato salad and will advise if you want to know what to bring. Expect swallows, hummingbirds, swifts, warblers, vireos and Dippers. A trailhead pass or Golden Age Pass will be needed, but is obtainable en route.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, June 9

Ellensburg Area

Meet at 6:30 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, 1/2 mile west of the Fairgrounds. We will bird portions of Umtanum Creek area, Robinson Canyon and other areas. Hope to see Yellow-breasted Chat, Warbling Vireo, Lazuli Bunting and maybe Canyon and Rock Wren. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leaders: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750, Wilma Bayes 360-629-2028

Tuesday, June 16

Stillaguamish & Sauk Rivers

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart W of Marysville (I-5-Exit 200). We are going to visit areas along Highway 530 near the rivers. Included are C-Post, Rd Fortson Ponds and Sauk River Boat Launch. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, June 23

Camano Island

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Quilceda Village Walmart, W of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit and wherever else Virginia prefers. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Tuesday, June 30

Mid-Whidbey Island

Meet at 7:30 AM at the Quilceda Village Walmart, W of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). This is the area between Crockett Lake and Swantown, an always exciting experience for both birding and scenery. Pack a lunch.
Trip Leaders: Art Wait 360-563-0181, Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

Upcoming Events, Festivals and Classes

Lake Tahoe Bird Festival

June 7

South Lake Tahoe

Tahoe Institute for Natural Science and the US Forest Service partner for a fun family event. Learn about local bird research, go on a bird walk, and see live birds of prey. All events take place at Taylor Creek Visitor Center in South Lake Tahoe.
http://www.tinsweb.org/calendar/eventdetail/22/-/5th-annual-lake-tahoe-bird-festival?filter_reset=1

Big Four Field Trip

June 11

Skagit Audubon

The Big Four area lies along the south fork of the Stillaguamish River, east of Granite Falls. The birding is exceptional in June and the picnic area has spectacular views of Big Four Mountain and Hall Peak. This outing will include about 2 miles of walking with a 200 ft. elevation gain.
Contact trip leader, Pam Pritzl for more information, 360-387-7024.
<http://www.skagitaudubon.org/activities/80-field-trips/122-big-four-trail-and-wetlands>

How Birds Fly through Sept 4

Seattle

The exhibit How Birds Fly is developed by The Museum of Flight in partnership with the Burke Museum, and is guest curated by Dr. Peter Cavanagh, an avid bird photographer and biomechanicist at the UW. The exhibit explores bird evolution, anatomy, and behavior, as well as the impact birds have had on human flight from the designs of Leonardo da Vinci, the Wright brothers, and even today's aerospace engineers.
<http://www.museumofflight.org/exhibits/how-birds-fly>

ABA Birding Rally

Sept 16-20

Olympic Peninsula

Registration is now being taken for this multi-day event which includes lodging and meals. American Birding Association membership is required. This event focuses on shorebirds and is based in Port Angeles. <http://events.aba.org/aba-birding-rally-olympic-peninsula/>

UPCOMING BIRD WALK

SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2015 BLOEDEL RESERVE

Meet at 8:30 AM at Ash Way Park and Ride, W Of I-5 at 164th St in Lynnwood. Park at the south end of the parking lot. We'll carpool to the Colman Dock ferry terminal in Seattle, take the ferry to Bainbridge Island.

Bloedel Reserve is a 150-acre public garden and forest preserve. After the bird viewing, participants are welcome (but not required) to join us for a little socializing over a late lunch on Bainbridge Island. We should be back to Ash Way by about 3:00-4:00 PM.

Bring snacks, water, hat, sunscreen, and foul weather gear just in case.

There is a \$15 admission fee to the reserve (or \$10 for seniors 65+).

I will gladly pay the admission fee for anyone who is unable to pay, up to the first ten participants. Our drivers will pay the ferry passage fee so if you are able to chip in to defray their expenses, it would be much appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 10th Annual Feast with Friends is scheduled from **6:30 to 9:30 PM** on **Thursday, September 3rd** at the home/art studio of Snohomish Mayor Karen Guzak!

This may be the last time the Feast is at this wonderful location!!! It's an event not to be missed.

More information will be out this summer!



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

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 \$ _____
- My employer will match my contribution!
 My employer's gift matching form is enclosed with my contribution.

Make checks payable to: Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail to: Pilchuck Audubon Society
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Send me these via email (check all that apply & include your email address above):

- Profile Newsletter Program Announcements Action Alerts

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