

The Great Experiment

Volunteers of the Corvallis and Pilchuck Audubon chapters had been holding their breath since September. The Albany, OR “geoduck” was up, recorded calls were playing, and the smell was inviting. We were waiting to see if Vaux’s Swifts would find and use the new roosting tower (nicknamed the geoduck) on their migratory flight south. By the middle of October, our breath became a sigh of disappointment. Not one “Vauxie” ventured into the new tower.

This was the culmination of two years of work. We learned in 2014 that a major roosting chimney at the fire station in Albany was scheduled for demolition. The station was to be replaced by a new facility that did not need a chimney. The city of Albany, however, was willing to work with us on a replacement structure to mitigate the chimney loss. The involved parties agreed to use Swanson Park, which is three blocks from the fire station. Larry Schwitters, our 2015 Volunteer of the Year due to his extensive work with Save Our Swifts, made contact with the Corvallis Audubon Society and its Conservation Chair, Jim Fairchild. Corvallis agreed to partner with Larry and Pilchuck Audubon on the first-ever tower built specifically for roosting Vaux’s Swifts.

The original chimney was scheduled to be demolished in the summer of 2016 so our goal was to have the new tower ready for the fall 2016 migration. Since there was no formula for this project, Larry and his crew were constantly re-configuring how to get it done. Larry found a company near the site that manufactured concrete pipe. He devised a plan using these pipes as the basis for the tower. He also had to get engineering plans to submit to the Albany Planning Department for approval. The city turned out to be a real ally in getting the site, filing for the permits, and finding an excavator contractor to take on the job.

First, an 8x8-foot, 6-foot-deep, double-grave size hole was dug. The base pipe was placed into it, the hole filled in and compacted. Then five more pipe sections were lifted and fitted onto the base, making a tower 30-ft tall, with a 5-ft base. The inside of the pipes had been coated with a small-tooth troweled mortar to provide a surface onto which the birds’ claws could attach. In addition, Larry had swift guano deposited into the tower to provide the right smell to attract the birds.

Finally, a recording of swift calls was played from the base of the tower while the swift migration was going on. Corvallis volunteers monitored the tower and, although they saw swifts in the area, no Vaux’s Swifts were seen going into it.

(Continued on page 2)

NOVEMBER PROGRAM MEETING

Kim Adelson, PhD

Birds of New Zealand

Friday, November 11, 2016 • 7:00 p.m.

Everett Firefighters’ Hall

2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett ([map](#))



Kim Adelson, an avid birder who lived in New Zealand for three years, will describe some of New Zealand's most interesting birds, both living and extinct, discuss the role they play in the island’s ecology, and outline current conservation efforts.

Until about 700 years ago, the island nation of New Zealand was mammal-free. Because there were no mammalian competitors or predators—and because of New Zealand’s extreme physical isolation—its birds evolved to fill ecological niches often not available in other locations.

Dr. Adelson has a master’s degree in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. in psychology. She was a college professor for 30 years. ✧

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The Great Experiment

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You would be wrong to consider this a failure.

First, it is very possible that the swifts will find the tower during the next migration. A Chimney Swift tower in Raleigh, NC, was ignored by the migrating swifts for three migrations before conservationists started playing a recording of swifts calls, which brought the birds in. Albany had only two nights of playing the recording before blowing a speaker. Second, whether this prototype is used or not, it will inform our efforts in the future. We are evaluating the material, the shape, the way the calls were broadcast, the location, etc. Third, we realize that having a government entity involved in erecting a tower is the best, most efficient way to proceed. And fourth, if this is the prototype we use going forward, we know how much it will cost and that it is within reason (around \$10,000). This is a very small price for the chance to save a species from becoming threatened or endangered.

It is important to note that none of this would have happened if it were not for the dedicated and extensive volunteer efforts of Larry and the legacy gift of Robert Royce. Both of these men have given above and beyond what anyone could expect, and their involvement has brought us to the point of building the first Vaux's tower—an achievement that is quite amazing.

Pilchuck Audubon has a restricted fund for swift research and conservation. We welcome donations to this fund, and we hope that you consider saving this species from decline as a good use of your money. You can mail a check to PAS (earmarked for swift research on the "For" line at bottom) or donate on-line at our website, pilchuckaudubon.org (choosing Vaux's Swifts on the Designation pull-down menu). You can also sign up to receive Larry's email updates on his website, <http://vauxhappening.org/>.

The Profile will keep you posted on this story as Pilchuck Audubon ventures into uncharted territory of Vaux's Swift conservation. ✧



Jim Fairchild and Larry Schwitters stand next to Albany's "geoduck" swift tower. (Photo by Will Wright; August 2016)

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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EVERETT BACKYARD HABITAT PROGRAM RAMPING UP

By Kathleen Snyder

One of the programs that the Pilchuck Audubon board of directors agreed to implement as a result of the Robert Royce legacy gift was for backyard habitat. Mr. Royce was passionate about the feeding and care of his backyard wildlife neighbors, so a program in support of expanding wildlife habitat was a slam dunk.

The Everett Backyard Wildlife Program committee has been meeting since June to formulate this effort. Everett was chosen due to its size, central location, and division into neighborhoods, which will facilitate organizing. The committee will hire a coordinator to carry out this project; advertising for this position started October 24 at local community colleges, Audubon chapters, and on-line sites. See the posting in this issue; this is a temporary, part-time position that might appeal to you.

The coordinator will begin January 2 and work through October. This person will do advertising, outreach, education, and statistic gathering. It is the hope of the committee to target some properties that would complement or establish "wildlife corridors"—zones that help animals move through urban/suburban areas. The program will encourage homeowners to apply for Wildlife Habitat Sanctuary status with the WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife. When approved, the program will reimburse the homeowner the \$10 application fee plus donate the wood and hardware necessary to post the sanctuary sign.

If you have an Everett address and are interested in turning your backyard into a wildlife sanctuary or are interested in volunteering on this well-funded and well-organized project, please contact me at legacy@pilchuckaudubon.org. ✧

The Backyard Habitat Committee at their last meeting—Ann Stanton, Kathleen Snyder, Barb Smith—proving that committee work is not for wimps! (Photo by Phillip Smith)



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2016

By Rick Taylor, Edmonds CBC Co-compiler

Everett-Marysville CBC – December 26, 2016

Edmonds/South County CBC – December 17, 2016

The National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, which began in 1900 as an alternative to Christmas Day bird hunts, is the longest-running, large-scale citizen science project in the world. The CBC provides important data about bird population and distribution trends. The results are tallied and submitted to the National Audubon Society. This long-term population data is used in multiple research projects like the [State of the Birds](#) and the National Audubon Society's [Birds and Climate Change Report](#). In addition to collecting valuable scientific data, the CBC is also an enjoyable social event with teams working together over the years. Teams try to beat their records for the number of species they can find in their area.



Pilchuck Audubon Society sponsors the 15-mile diameter Everett-Marysville and Edmonds Christmas Bird Counts that will occur on December 26 and December 17, respectively. The Everett-Marysville count area is located between downtown Everett and Island Crossing, extending as far west as the SE tip of Camano Island, while the Edmonds count, centered near Martha Lake in Lynnwood, occurs in south Snohomish County, north King County, and the SE tip of Whidbey Island. Some great opportunities exist to join an existing team or start a new team. Boat surveys in the Snohomish River Delta and on marine waters (weather permitting) offer a unique opportunity to see waterfowl and sea birds not easily seen from shore. Counts are made on Camano, Ebey, Spencer, Jetty, Whidbey, and Gedney (Hat) islands.

You can participate either by joining a field team of birders covering one of the 28 areas or by independently counting birds at your feeders and in your yard. New participants, whether experienced, intermediate, or beginning birders, are welcome to join the counts. The CBC Compilers can direct you to one of these areas after knowing your interests and experience.

As Snohomish County grows and more land is converted into suburban housing, feeder counts grow in importance. We would like to increase the number of people watching their feeders to ensure that we have good coverage of the urban and suburban habitat.

The CBC Compilers are:

Scott Atkinson (scottatkinson@hotmail.com, tel. 425-210-2716) for Everett/Marysville.

Bob Schmidt (bobs@world-wide.com, tel. 425-273-1579) and **Rick Taylor** (taylorrl@outlook.com, tel. 425-214-2764) for Edmonds/South County.

Each CBC will have a post-count potluck to share results and enjoy the evening. The compilers will provide the location and time of this event. ✧

A UNIQUE TUTORIAL FOR WOBBLY WARBLER IDENTIFICATION

By Cynthia Easterson, President

If you are like me, warbler identification is always a bit challenging. Their quick movements from branch to branch make it hard to get good looks and, even if they stay put, it seems they are in constant motion, fluffing, flicking, and bouncing in place. However, recently I was helping with a beginning bird bander training, and we had a unique opportunity to sort out some identification diagnostics between a female Yellow Warbler and a female Orange-crowned Warbler.

These two birds flew into one of our capture nets (mist nets) together. Since the initial focus is always on gentle, bird-safe extraction from the nets and because they came in together, we didn't pick up on the differences at first. It was only after we started taking a good look that we realized the subtle, but many differences between these two female species. The opportunity to view the differences up close will help me in the future when I spot them in the field and perhaps our photo journal will help others.

While the female Orange-crowned warbler does have an "orange crown", the feathers have a rusty or brownish cast which is typically hard to see, especially in the field.



Photo credit: Elaine Chuang

Other Field Marks

Additional clues that might be picked up in the field include differences in the eye, undertail coverts (sometimes visible in the birder's "warbler neck" posture), legs and bill.

DIAGNOSTIC	YELLOW WARBLER	ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER
Eye	Very round black eye with a pale, complete eye-ring	Split eye-ring and a short, faint eyeline and supercilium, which makes the eye look more ovoid in shape.
Bill	Stout bill, often with black on the upper bill or tip.	Small and sharply pointed bill uniformly colored.
Tail/Undertail Coverts	Bright yellow undertail coverts <u>and</u> tail	Yellow (but not bright yellow) undertail covert and dark tail.
Legs	Pinkish legs	Dark legs

TRIP CALENDAR

Check our website at www.pilchuckaudubon.org
for the latest information



Tuesday, November 1 Snohomish City and Outskirts

Meet at 8:00 AM at Snohomish Park & Ride, located at the junction of Highway 9 and Bickford Ave. Enjoyable and relaxed trip. We usually have high species counts and surprises. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Art Wait, [360-563-0181](tel:360-563-0181)

Tuesday, November 8 Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary British Columbia

Meet at 7:30 AM 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. The refuge is in Canada, on Westham Island at the mouth of the Frazier River. Expect waterfowl underfoot and chickadees and nuthatches fed in the hand, plus surprise species. Bring birdseed and your US Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Sunday, November 13 Marysville—Jennings Park Family Picnic and Birdwalk

Meet at Marysville—Jennings Park, 6915 Armar Rd, Marysville, WA 98270, at 1:30 PM. At about 2:00 PM after the picnic, we will take a walk through the park to see the birds and wildlife. No experience is necessary; you need bring only your curiosity and binoculars, if you have them. We have a few pairs of binoculars to lend for the event if you do not have your own. For the bird walk, bring: snacks, water, binoculars, and foul-weather gear just in case. This is a family event and children are welcome. Please no pets.

Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425-244-7633,
aracfi@msn.com

Tuesday, November 15 Samish Flats

Meet at 8:00 AM 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. Want to see what a premier winter birding area offers? Come along. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, November 22 Montlake Fill, Seattle Union Bay Natural Area

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Lynnwood Walmart lot at 1400 164th St SW (I-5 Exit 183). Park at the edge of the lot away from the store, to the west. This is one of the most productive birding areas in this vicinity. Many rarities have been observed here. If time allows, we may visit Foster Island, Magnuson Park, and other areas of North Lake Washington. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leaders: Art Wait, [360-563-0181](tel:360-563-0181);
Virginia Clark, [360-435-3750](tel:360-435-3750)

Tuesday, November 29

Birch Bay/Semiahmoo Drayton Harbor

Meet at 7:30 AM 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. Should see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds (dowitchers, yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-tailed and Harlequin ducks). Pack a lunch.

Trip Leaders: Wilma Bayes, [360-629-2028](tel:360-629-2028);
Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Saturday, December 17

Christmas Bird Count Edmonds-Everett-Snohomish

Team Counting Crows meets at the Lowell Riverfront Trail gravel parking lot 7:30 AM. Take I-5 to the 41st St. exit in Everett and go one block east. Take a right on 3rd Ave. It jogs left to 2nd Ave. Turn left down the hill on Lenora/Lowell-Snohomish River Rd. Just after crossing the tracks at the bottom, turn left into the parking lot. Open to all. No reservations required.

Monday, December 26

Christmas Bird Count Everett-Marysville-Tulalip

Team Counting Crows meets at Gissberg Twin Lakes Park south parking lot at 7:30 AM. Take I-5 to the SR 531/Smokey Point exit. Go west on 172nd St. and take a left at the first signal into the Lakewood Crossing shopping center. Turn left into the shopping center and proceed to the I-5 frontage road, Twin Lakes Ave. Turn right and the park will be on your right. Go to the second (south) parking lot. Open to all.

Saturday, January 21

Rasar State Park

Meet at 8:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from the store to the east near Quil Ceda Blvd. and next to I-5. I have requests from a couple of people for a chance to view Bald Eagles. Rasar State Park is one place we can reasonably assume is a good place to see eagles during the salmon run on the Skagit River in January. The Skagit Eagle Festival will be underway on weekends in January. I floated down the Skagit River in January in 2007. We saw 19 eagles from the boat. But it was too cold on the water. So this time I think I would prefer to view them from the shore. Weather permitting, there are more than three miles of trails throughout the state park, including some along the water's edge. Bring: snacks, water, binoculars, and foul-weather gear, just in case. There will be an option to socialize over a late lunch at one of the cafes in the Skagit Valley.

Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425-244-7633, aracfi@msn.com

OLYMPIC BIRDFEST, April 7-9, 2017

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction and raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: noted nature photographer Bonnie Block. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 4-6, 2017.

Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon. Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 9-11, 2017: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. BirdFest registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org. ✧

The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) has announced that documents pertaining to clean-up of the Everett Shipyard site [Site] are now available for public review and comment. Old-timers have a good idea where this site is located on the Everett waterfront. For newcomers, it is in the vicinity of 1016 14th Street on Port Gardner Bay.

The Site is part of the Port of Everett's Waterfront Place Central Redevelopment Project, which has received public attention in recent years with stories in the *Everett Herald*. In the last few years, the City of Everett has held meetings about the Site. A Consent Decree was agreed upon by DOE and the potentially liable persons (PLPs) for the purpose in 2012. A Clean-up Action Plan was part of the decree.

Work began in 2014 with in-water sediment clean-up that included dredging and removal of materials and demolition of marine structures. "Crews found timber pilings, concrete, and large crushed rock that, if removed, would have threatened the stability of existing bulkheads and areas containing contaminated sediment." (Quote from the DOE public notice). By time of discovery, some 10,500 tons of contaminated sediment had already been removed.

DOE and PLPs halted work to analyze the situation and amend the Consent Decree and the Clean-up Action Plan to complete the clean-up. It is the amendments that are now being considered by this public review and comment.

At this time, no public meetings have been proposed, but they no doubt will occur. The DOE notice says that if at least 10 comment letters request public meetings, there will be public meetings. I think it is a given there will be public meetings.

Public comment letters are due at the close of business November 12.

I will draft a letter and present for approval to the PAS Board on November 1. It will not be detailed; in fact, it will be brief, because I have not had time to read the documents assembled by DOE. The letter will express our intent to become involved. It will act as a placeholder comment letter, to be certain that PAS is on all future Site clean-up communications. This will give us time to read the documents for commenting opportunities.

I invite PAS members to join me in reading some of the Site clean-up documents, available on the DOE website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?csid=3655>. Copies are available at the Everett Public Library on Hoyt Avenue. ✧



EVERETT BACKYARD HABITAT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Pilchuck Audubon Society seeks an energetic, self-starting individual to lead a pilot program to promote the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary certification program in Everett, Washington. The Audubon Society's primary goal for this program is to improve bird habitat in Everett, Washington. More information about the certification program is available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/backyard/>.

This is a part-time temporary position beginning January 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017, although an extension is possible. As an independent contractor, you will work an average of 20 hours per week, but actual hours will vary according to scheduled events and activities. It is anticipated that more weekly hours will be required during project start-up.

Work hours are flexible and will require weekend and evening hours to attend community events and conduct neighborhood orientations. The position pays \$25.00 per hour up to an anticipated maximum of \$21,000 plus mileage reimbursement of \$0.50 per mile. As an independent contractor, no other compensation or benefits will be paid. The successful candidate will report to the Everett Habitat Committee, which will supervise work and authorize invoices for work hours and mileage. The full job description and application are available on the Pilchuck Audubon Website at <http://pilchuckaudubon.org/>.

Oct 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS farther afield

Compiled by Rick Brauer

November 8 **Vote!** **Your Town, WA**
Whether you're making America great, or just keeping it that way, your vote matters.

November 14-19 **Haines, AK**
American Bald Eagle Festival

A unique 4-mile section of the Chilkat River in Alaska remains ice-free in November, allowing a late salmon run that attracts thousands of Bald Eagles to the site. Nearby Haines celebrates this event with a festival that, in turn, attracts birders from around the world. Beloved by photographers for "eagles on snow" photo opportunities, this festival even offers transportation to the Chilkat to/from town. <https://baldeagles.org/>

November 17-20 **Stockton, CA**
Central Valley Birding Symposium

In its 20th year, this event focuses on the birds of California's vast Central Valley. The symposium is hotel based, with plenty of field trips, speakers, demonstrations, merchandise, and even tasty hors d'oeuvres to choose from. <http://www.cvbsreg.org/>

November 21 **University Place, WA**
Class: 10 Great Birding Spots of Washington

Presented by Tahoma Audubon, this is a one-hour look at the 10 Best Birding Spots in Washington State. Topics will include locations, best time to view, what the habitat is, and what you can expect to see. Instructor David Kaynor is a member of the Washington Ornithological Society. \$15/\$17; register at <http://www.tahomaudubon.org/education> ✧

WEEKEND BIRD WALK at Camano Island State Park

By Jonathan Blubaugh

Approaching August 20, I had a dilemma. I had accidentally scheduled myself for overlapping outings. I had scheduled our weekend birdwalk on the same day as a sandpiper survey at English Boom for which I had volunteered. The solution was to do the weekend birdwalk in the morning near English Boom. Fortunately, because of the tide, I wasn't scheduled to do the sandpiper survey at English Boom until afternoon. This elegant solution allowed us to have a nice birdwalk at Camano Island State Park in the morning and complete our sandpiper survey at Island County's English Boom preserve in the afternoon.

We had five people for our morning walk, including one new guest who responded to our posting on Meetup. Despite my lack of familiarity with Camano Island State Park, there were no surprises. We started at the beach to check out the seabirds and then hiked uphill on the perimeter trail. But just like our earlier walk at Guillemot Cove, there were no seabirds to speak of. We did much better on the perimeter loop trail, coming up with about twenty species. In addition to birds, we found the state park to be sheltering a Cottontail, a Garter Snake, and a Northwest chorus frog.

After our walk through the forest, we returned to the beach for a delightful brown bag picnic lunch. Here are most of the birds we saw at Camano Island State Park: an adult Glaucous-winged Gull, a Mourning Dove, an Anna's Hummingbird, two Northern Flickers, thirteen crows, two Black-capped Chickadees, eight Chestnut-backed Chickadees, five Red-breasted Nuthatches, two Brown Creepers, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, three American Robins including an immature bird, a Yellow Warbler, five Dark-eyed Juncos including a few immature birds, and three Pine Siskins. We heard the following birds: Downy Woodpecker, Pacific Slope Flycatcher, Steller's Jay, a couple of Pacific Wrens, Bewick's Wren, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, and a Brown-headed Cowbird.

That afternoon, with the incoming tide, Lisa Weber graciously offered to assist me in my sandpiper survey for David Hope's research at English Boom. Here's what we came up: eight Double-crested Cormorants, fifteen Great Blue Herons, two Bald Eagles including an immature bird, four Killdeer, three Bonaparte's Gulls in winter plumage, four Mew Gulls, a California Gull, five Caspian Terns, a Belted Kingfisher, nine nesting Purple Martins, three Barn Swallows, and approximately 50 Western Sandpipers about a quarter kilometer east of the designated observation site. (The sandpipers were only visible between our quarter-hourly sightings because we briefly left our post to walk the shore trail between the designated sighting times, so we couldn't include them in the formal survey result.) Birds heard include Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a Spotted Towhee. At the end of our survey at high tide, we again saw the sandpipers, this time engaged in what we interpreted as offshore flocking behavior.

Thus, I think we can say the sea birds preferred the shallows of the north tributary of the Stillaguamish River at English Boom at low tide to the much narrower beach and supposedly deeper water at the state park. ✧

SMART GROWTH

By Kristin Kelly

Smart Growth Executive Director



While many voters have already sent in their ballots, for those who haven't, I want to share with you the positive aspects of Proposition 4 and 5, put forward by the Snohomish County Charter Review Commission. As one of the 15-member commission, I brought forward and advocated for Proposition 4, and was a very vocal proponent for Proposition 5 as well. My reasons for these actions were because of my experience working on land use and environmental issues for Snohomish County as Smart Growth Executive Director.

A yes vote on **Proposition 4** would eliminate the County Council review as part of the appeal process for the county's Hearing Examiner decisions on land use and environmental appeals. My experience has been that residents who have opposed development applications on a variety of housing subdivisions or commercial buildings are at a severe disadvantage financially when going up against the county, developers, and their respective lawyers. Without an attorney, it is impossible to be effective at the Hearing Examiner appeal hearing.

Currently, after a decision on an appeal to the Hearing Examiner, the next step is a review by the County Council of the Hearing Examiner's decision. During these proceedings, the council members change from being legislators to being judges and, in attempts to be unbiased, will not talk with their constituents about the issue. Another problem for people involved in an appeal is the financial burden to pay expensive attorney fees. Many people drop the case after the County Council due to lack of resources and emotional distress, which is the result desired by the development community.

The next appeal opportunity after the County Council appeal process is Superior Court. It is true that Superior Court is expensive, but by eliminating the County Council step, some money will be saved, along with frustrations and uneasiness about not being able to speak directly to your elected county council. Politics will be eliminated, some money will be saved, and hopefully some emotional stress will be lifted.

Proposition 5 will ensure at least one County Council meeting a year in each of the five council districts, which will help those who cannot attend council meetings, all of which are during the weekday hours, have a chance to talk to their elected representatives. In addition, land use comprehensive plan amendments or updates would require evening public hearings, as currently happens with the budget hearings each year, and will give people more of a chance to speak directly to the county council about land use decisions that greatly affect our neighborhoods. ✧

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



**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 e-mail (check all that apply & include your e-mail address above):

- Profile Newsletter
- Program Announcements
- Action Alerts

Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Washington Secretary of State. Your contributions are tax deductible.



PAS VOLUNTEERING (Follow-up)

by Jim Beneteau

If you happened to try the email link in the call for volunteers last month, you noticed that it didn't work. The address should be education@pilchuckaudubon.org.

For those who would like to volunteer for other PAS activities but not necessarily for education activities, please, let us know. You can use that same email address or, alternatively, membership@pilchuckaudubon.org would also work.

PAS has volunteer activities ranging from helping with fund-raising, mailing, and staffing tables to doing surveys, leading bird walks, and helping monitor conservation issues. ✧