

## GLACIER PEAK SEISMIC MONITORING

On 17 August 2018, the Everett *Herald* published an article by Kari Bray about a US Geological Survey plan to place seismic monitoring equipment in the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area to monitor the volcano. With this equipment in place, it is hoped that scientists would be able to forewarn communities in the path of lahars of an impending eruption.

The placement of this equipment would require use of helicopters in the Wilderness Area, necessitating a waiver from the Wilderness Act prohibition against them. The Forest Service issued an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project. Pilchuck Audubon Society had submitted comments on the EA, which were accessed by the Herald’s staff.

Our comments supported the installation of seismic monitoring equipment near Glacier Peak to keep communities safe. But it is our organization’s mission to protect birds and other wildlife. So we requested that the Forest Service plan the helicopter flights to minimize their impacts on sensitive species.

Our recommended mitigation measures included avoiding flights during the peak feeding times of marbled murrelets, which is two hours before and after sunrise and sunset, and that flight paths should avoid known occupied habitat of murrelets and northern spotted owls. The noise and rotor wash of low-flying aircraft is known to stress these birds and interrupt their feeding and other behavior necessary for survival.

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## September Program Meeting

**Friday, September 14, 2018**

**7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

**Edmonds Plaza Room**

**650 Main Street, Edmonds**

### **PUGET SOUND BIRD FEST**

**Kevin Ebi, Professional Photographer**

**Keynote Speaker**

Professional nature photographer Kevin Ebi documented a year in the lives of Puget Sound-area bald eagles—one of the few eagle populations that doesn’t migrate. The resulting book, *Year of the Eagle*, tells the story of how an eagle family works together to pass on essential life skills to their young. Through a collection of stunning imagery and masterful storytelling, Kevin will share how the eaglets developed and learned to fly, survived their first winter in the upper Skagit, and learned to hunt in Hood Canal. Kevin will be selling and signing books following his presentation.

Kevin is a professional nature photographer based in Lynnwood. His work has appeared in *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, and *National Wildlife*. His image of Haleakala National Park was featured on a Forever postage stamp commemorating the National Park Service centennial. Learn more about Kevin and see his beautiful images at

<http://www.livingwilderness.com/>.



# BIRDING CLASSES

Autumn 2018 Classes  
Taught by Candy Brown

## BACKYARD BIRDS

Enhance your understanding of common birds, and improve your ability to identify them. Includes basics of anatomy, migration, reproduction, foods, and foraging. We will also discuss the best ways to attract birds to your yard. Designed for adult beginning birders, but children ages 12+ are welcome.

Tuesday, September 11, Edmonds  
at Frances Anderson Center

6:30-8:00 p.m.

\$17 for residents, \$19 for non-residents

To register, call 425-771-0230



Great Gray Owl |  
Rex Guichard

## OWLS AND RAPTORS

Class participants will learn more about the most common owls, hawks, and eagles that live here at different times of the year—or all year long. We will also discuss the habitats in which to find them.

Tuesday, October 16, Edmonds  
at Frances Anderson Center

6:30-8:00 p.m.

\$17 for residents, \$19 for non-residents

To register, call 425-771-0230 ✧



## Annual Autumn Seed Sale

October 9

Contact Carolyn Lacy for more information,  
[newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org)



## 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](mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org) or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

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### Board of Directors

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Vice President	Terry Nightingale ..	vice-president@pilchuckaudubon.org
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Avian Science	Open	
Development	Open .....	develop@pilchuckaudubon.org
Members at Large	Laurel Cheap ...	classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Kathy Johnson.....	forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
	Jay Ward .....	425.418.3226
	David Gladstone	

### Committee Chairs

Bird Sightings	Mara Price .....	360.722.5752
Citizen Science Coord.	Sherrill Miller .....	field.birds.pas@gmail.com
Communications	Kristin Kelly .....	execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org
Conservation Awards	Laurel Cheap ...	classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org
Donations	Judy Chapman.....	donations@pilchuckaudubon.org
Education	Jim Beneteau .....	membership@pilchuckaudubon.org
Field Trips	Art Wait .....	360.563.0181
Forest Practices	Kathy Johnson.....	forest@pilchuckaudubon.org
Hospitality	Open	
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Programs	Susie Schaefer.....	garden@pilchuckaudubon.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Jed Holmes.....	habitat@pilchuckaudubon.org
Webmaster	Terry Nightingale .....	webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org

### Staff

Smart Growth/PAS ExecDir	Kristin Kelly .....	execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org
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## GLACIER PEAK SEISMIC MONITORING

*Continued from Page 1*

Statewide, marbled murrelet populations have declined by 44 percent over the past 15 years, according to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife 2016 Periodic Status Review. The Northwest Forest Plan 20-Year Status and Trend Review of Marbled Murrelet Populations and Nesting Habitat found that, in Zone 1 (our local area), the population is decreasing by 3.9 percent per year.

According to the 2015 20-year Monitoring Report for the Northwest Forest Plan, the northern spotted owl is declining at an annual rate of 3.8 percent range-wide. Here in Washington State, spotted owl populations have declined by up to 77 percent.

Unfortunately, the *Herald* article mischaracterized our position on this, associating our organization with the Montana-based Wilderness Watch organization as opposing the placement of the monitors outright. Kathy Johnson contacted Ms. Bray, who corrected her original article in the online version. We were also contacted by KIRO 7 TV news, who included a statement that we prepared for them in their broadcast.

Regrettably, the *Herald* then published an editorial about the proposal which repeated their inaccurate portrayal of our position as complete opposition. We want our members to know that our organization does, in fact, support the installation of seismic monitoring equipment near Glacier Peak. ✧



## SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 ANNUAL MUSHROOM HIKE WITH GREG HOVANDER

***Call or email Kathy to reserve your place on this hike,*** limited to 12 participants. Please include your phone number in case of last-minute changes.

Destination TBD. This will be an all-day hike with expert mycologist and pharmacist Greg Hovander. Greg is a walking encyclopedia of mycological knowledge, from identification of hundreds of fungal species, to medicinal qualities, to nutrition and cooking methods. We'll proceed at a leisurely pace at first, locating and learning about all types of fungi.

Trip leader: Kathy Johnson, 360-659-7252 or [forest@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:forest@pilchuckaudubon.org)

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## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FEAST ON THE FARM

PAS wants to thank everyone who helped make our Feast on the Farm Fundraiser a huge success. First, thanks to all our guests and your support for PAS.

We are so thankful to Mark and Judy Craven at Craven Farm for opening their doors for the third consecutive year for our event. They are most welcoming, helpful, and generous, and you should definitely visit their farm during Pumpkin Fest.

Thanks to Noah Strycker for taking time to come and give an interesting and humorous look into his adventures all over the world during his Big Year birding trek. He is presenting at the Puget Sound Bird Fest on Saturday, September 15, from 10:45 to 11:45, so we highly recommend you catch that presentation.

Thanks always goes to our sponsors, who donated more money to support the work of PAS: Snohomish Conservation District, County Executive Dave Somers, League of Women Voters of Snohomish County, Tom Campbell, Jennifer Smolen, Randy Whalen, Michelle Gundersen, and Steve Aslanian.

Of course, the Feast would just not happen without our chefs! It's not an easy task cooking in the small kitchen at the farm for more than 100 guests. Thank you to Dana Daniel, who created and cooked the Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon Piccata with Heirloom Tomato Pan Sauce and Fried Capers and Seasonal Greens, after a long day working for HopeWorks in Everett. Also, thank you to Anne Dottai of Grilla Bites in Snohomish for the Roasted Vegetables and for her help assisting with the salmon entree, and Roger Edyt of Roger's Riverview Bistro in Snohomish for the Sweet Corn Chowder. And thank you to Kristin Kelly, Executive Director of PAS, and Cindy Easterson, PAS Board President, for the Olive Oil Apple Cake with Caramel Sauce and the Nanaimo Bars.

Last, a huge thank you to our volunteers who served and cleaned up so that our guests could enjoy the food and visiting with each other! ✧

## REPORT: Bird Walk in Northern Bothell Parks near Edmonds

4 August 2018 by Douglas Resnick, Trip Leader

Martha, Suku, Lisa, Joanne, and I met in the morning at Canyon Park Park & Ride. After a last-minute phone call with other interested participants, we began our visits to Canyon Park Wetlands and Centennial Park. We observed a total of 30 species, as recorded on eBird. Suku took some interesting photos along the way.

The day began with cool weather. The five of us walked to the Starbucks store in the Canyon Park Business Center, where we met up with Jonathan and Judy. We all then walked to the entrance to the North Creek Trail behind the business center; the trail is so labeled on maps, but I borrowed "Canyon Park Wetlands" from the name of the eBird hotspot at this locale. The trail, from the business center to 228th St. SE, runs beside the creek and past several ponds. Trees, shrubs, and grass border much of the trail. As we walked eastward, we found the ponds serving as hosts to a large number of Mallards, several Wood Ducks, two raucously interacting Belted Kingfishers, and a Pied-billed Grebe. We later saw one of the kingfishers catch a fish. In addition to the usual woodland birds, we found one Rufous Hummingbird. On our way back, we saw a Green Heron fly from one pond to the top of a nearby tree.



Green Heron

The clouds by now had dissipated and the day warmed. We bid adieu to Martha, who had a prior commitment to attend to, then carpooled to Centennial Park. South of the developed part of the park is a large grassy area bordered by trees and shrubs. As we walked along the loop trail that runs through the grass, we heard the "fitz-bew" of one, then another Willow Flycatcher. By scanning carefully, we were able to view this flycatcher several times along our walk. Of more familiar woodland birds, we found a particularly high concentration in the northeast corner of the park, where a large, fallen tree lay next to some blackberry bushes and low trees: Bewick's Wren, American Robin, White-crowned Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, and American Goldfinch.



Willow Flycatcher

We finished our birding around noon, after which we reconvened at Crystal Creek Cafe for lunch. ✧

## Hundreds of Scientists Call on Farm Bill Conferees to Reject Damaging Logging Provisions

More than 200 scientists [called on](#) congressional leaders today to reject provisions in the House farm bill that would worsen wildfire conditions in the West and weaken protections for endangered wildlife.

The scientists, with expertise in wildfire ecology and natural resource management, sent a letter to House and Senate conference committee members who are meeting to iron out differences between separate versions of the farm bill.

The must-pass farm bill includes critical nutrition programs and agricultural subsidies, but has been loaded down in the House with anti-environmental amendments. The House version would [weaken protections](#) for endangered species, undermine protection for roadless areas in national forests, suspend environmental review of logging projects and allow timber companies to clearcut up to 6,000 acres.

"Climate change, industrial-scale logging and development in the wildland-urban interface have worsened fire risk across the West. The House bill would make things worse," said Dominic A. DellaSala, chief scientist at Geos Institute. "These logging provisions won't protect homes or other structures and they won't reduce wildfires. We call on Congress to ensure that any environmental policy changes are based on science, not politics. Lawmakers should ensure that whatever they do will help protect communities while safeguarding wildlife and essential ecosystems."

Key findings of the letter:

- Fires burn more severely in previously logged areas and not in roadless and wilderness areas as claimed. Consequently, there is no legitimate reason for weakening environmental safeguards to curtail fires nor will such measures protect communities.
- Wildfire season in the West has lengthened from an average of five to seven months, and the number of large fires (>1,000 acres) has increased from 140 to 250 per year.
- Increases in acres burning can now be attributed, in part, to climate change as average annual temperatures in the West have risen by nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit since 1970s and winter snow pack has declined. This will only worsen due to rising emissions from fossil fuels and logging of forests globally.
- More than 80 percent of fires nationwide have been caused by people, and millions of homes are now in harm's way, resulting in skyrocketing suppression costs.

The scientist letter follows letters sent by [38 Senators](#) and over [100 Representatives](#) urging conferees to reject provisions in the House bill that would erode landmark environmental laws. The West is currently facing one of the most active fire seasons in recent memory. Scientists are saying decision makers should focus limited resources on home protections, not logging in remote public forests.

To read the complete letter, go to <https://tinyurl.com/pas-wf>.

## TRIP CALENDAR

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



### Tuesday, September 4

### No Scheduled Trip

Rest for the cookie lady.

### Saturday, September 8

### Western Shoreline Parks

Meet at 8:00 AM at the near the entrance to the parking lot of the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center (<https://www.communitytransit.org/busservice/transit-centers-and-parking>). We'll carpool to Kayu Kayu Ac Park, Richmond Beach Saltwater Park, Innis Arden Reserve Park, and Shoreview Park. Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811 (cell: 206-617-0019), [dresnick1@comcast.net](mailto:dresnick1@comcast.net) ✧

### Tuesday, September 11

### Blackie Spit & Boundary Bay

Meet at 7:00 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds, and scenery, and do some walking. This is a trip to Canada so bring your US Passport or Enhanced Driver's License. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### Tuesday, September 18

### Camano Island

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). We will bird Triangle Cove, Eide Road, English Boom, Iverson Spit, and wherever else Virginia prefers. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### Tuesday, September 25

### Sequim

Meet at 7:10 AM at Edmonds Wade James Theater parking lot. The theater's address is 950 Main St., Edmonds, 98020, just east of 9th Ave. on the south side of Main St. We'll take the ferry to Kingston and bird the voyage, the docks, go through Port Gamble and across the floating bridge. We will bird Sequim Bay, Dungeness Recreational Area, and whatever else we fancy. Lots of waterfowl, shorebirds, and surprises. Bring a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### Tuesday, October 2

### Silvana Roads

Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart lot west of Marysville (I-5 Exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). Past years, we had Northern Shrikes, a Pectoral and a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, and three falcon species. If time allows, we may visit the Port Susan Nature Conservancy site. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### Saturday, October 6

### Central Shoreline Parks

Meet at 8:00 AM near the entrance to the parking lot of the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center (<https://www.communitytransit.org/busservice/transit-centers-and-parking>). We'll visit Echo Lake Park, Ballinger Commons, and Twin Ponds Park. Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811 (cell: 206-617-0019), [dresnick1@comcast.net](mailto:dresnick1@comcast.net) ✧

## YARD SALE — Bird Stuff

### Pilchuck Audubon Society's Bird-Themed Yard Sale

Save the date of Saturday, **September 29**, for our first-ever **Yard Sale** at **Hill Park** in the City of **Snohomish** from **10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

We will have an array of bird houses, feeders, books, and more items for sale. If you would like to contribute a bird-related item to the sale, please drop it off between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. the day of the sale. We have a variety of **bird feeders, baffles, bird nest boxes, owl nest boxes, and bird books** to sell, and hope you have some things you would like to contribute.

All proceeds support PAS.



If you have items, please contact either Cindy Easterson at 425-876-1055 or email her at [president@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:president@pilchuckaudubon.org), or Kristin Kelly at 425-923-8625 or email her at [execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:execdirector@pilchuckaudubon.org).

## Join the Flock! Volunteer for the 2018 Puget Sound Bird Fest

The Puget Sound Bird Fest is just weeks away, and volunteers are needed to help greet and direct visitors, help at the registration table, and provide support for our exhibitors and speakers. Knowledge of birds is not required—just a willingness to help with this fun community event!

The three-day event kicks off with the Friday night Keynote Address on September 14 and runs through Sunday, September 16. Most activities requiring volunteer help will take place at the Frances Anderson Center in downtown Edmonds on Saturday, September 15.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call Jennifer Leach at 425-771-0227 or email [jennifer.leach@edmondswa.gov](mailto:jennifer.leach@edmondswa.gov).

See the 2018 Bird Fest schedule and learn more at [www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org](http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org). ✧



## Snohomish County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update Begins

Starting this month through the end of the year, I'm going to write about the Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan Update, a process that has started and that ultimately will be adopted in 2023. This update contains the policies and regulations which guide growth and development, transportation, capital facilities, and (probably) funding sources to ensure our cities, urban growth areas, and rural and resource lands are livable and sustainable for the next 20 years.



This month's report is centered on Washington State's Growth Management Act, the overarching set of policies and regulations with which Snohomish County and its cities must comply. In the following months, I will highlight other important elements to the Comprehensive Plan Update process in order to help you better understand how the County Council ultimately makes its decisions and what citizens can do to be better informed, involved, and active in land-use decisions and appeals.

Truly, the GMA was designed to ensure that our communities will continue to be sustainable and livable as they change with more people and jobs moving here. If we don't plan well, those assets will go away and our quality of life will decline significantly.

According to the latest forecast by the Puget Sound Regional Council, which comprises representation from King, Snohomish, Pierce, and Kitsap counties, our four-county region is now at 4 million and is expected to grow to more than 6 million by 2050. We are up against an array of issues with the current population, and it is imperative that our county and its cities take bold steps to plan for this growth so that, hopefully, we won't be sacrificing our children's and grandchildren's quality of life.

At every juncture of the Comprehensive Plan Update, the public must 1) be invited and informed of actions and recommendations, 2) have the opportunity to be involved, and 3) be able to comment. It is imperative for citizens to be party of record and have comments on the record at public hearings in order to appeal any comprehensive plan or development regulations decisions by the County Council and/or its cities.

The 13 planning goals of the GMA are found in RCW 36.70A.020. They are not listed in order of priority and shall be used exclusively for the purpose of guiding the development of comprehensive plans and development regulations. They are:

1. **Urban Growth.** Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.
2. **Reduce Sprawl.** Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.
3. **Transportation.** Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans.
4. **Housing.** Encourage the availability of affordable housing to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.
5. **Economic Development.** Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans; promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons; promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses; recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunities; and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities.
6. **Property Rights.** Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions.
7. **Permits.** Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability.
8. **Natural Resource Industries.** Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forest lands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.
9. **Open Space and Recreation.** Retain open space, enhance recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.
10. **Environment.** Protect the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.
11. **Citizen Participation and Coordination.** Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process, and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.
12. **Public Facilities and Services.** Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.
13. **Historic Preservation.** Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance.

Visit <http://mrsc.org/getdoc/37359eae-8748-4aaf-ae76-614123c0d6a4/Comprehensive-Planning-Growth-Management.aspx> for more information on the GMA. ✨

## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

June 26, 2018 to July 25, 2018

The air has been so bad this summer. I hope it is not affecting the birds. I never thought I would be hoping for rain, but we could use some to clear things out.

Carole and Larry Beason's species count is down just a little this month to 37, which is still really good. Reporting from Lake Bosworth they listed 8 American Goldfinch, a Bald Eagle over the lake, 29 Brewer's Blackbird, 14 Bushtit, 13 Canada Goose on the lake, 2 Common Loon, 4 Evening Grosbeak, a Great-Blue Heron on the dock, a Muscovy Duck on the lake, 13 Mallard Duck on the lake, an Osprey over the lake, 40 plus Red-winged Blackbird flying through, 3 Rufous Hummingbird, 6 Song Sparrow, 3 Tree Swallow, 3 Violet-Green Swallow, and a Turkey Vulture.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt listed her 2 California Quail with 6 juveniles, 3 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Downy Woodpecker and 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 4 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a White-crowned Sparrow, 2 Western Tanager, 6 Black-headed Grosbeak, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Purple Finch, 4 Pine Siskin, and 4 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 24.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett included 12 American Robin, 2 Bewick's Wren, 3 Song Sparrow, 12 Northwestern Crow, 6 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 19 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Spotted Towhee, 5 Northern Flicker, 3 Mourning Dove, 5 Anna's Hummingbird, 28 Bushtit, 2 American Goldfinch, 32 European Starling, 2 House Finch, and a Hairy Woodpecker, for a total species count of 21.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker also had a total species count of 37. Her report included 11 American Goldfinch, 23 American Robin, 11 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 14 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Brown Creeper, 2 Cedar Waxwing, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 7 Downy Woodpecker, 6 Evening Grosbeaks, a Great-Blue Heron, 4 Hairy Woodpecker, 15 Mourning Dove, 5 Rufous Hummingbird, 6 Spotted Towhee, Sharp-shinned Hawk, 12 Steller's Jay, 4 Tree Swallow, 4 White-crowned Sparrow, a Willow Flycatcher, and a Wilson's Warbler.

Reporting from Marysville, my total species count of 23 included 10 American Robin, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 9 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Downy Woodpecker and 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 4 House Finch, 2 Cooper's Hawk, 5 Brown-headed Cowbird, 3 Northern Flicker, 12 Steller's Jay, a Bewick's Wren, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 30+ European Starling, 2 American Goldfinch, 2 Common Raven, 3 Red-tailed Hawk on the wires, and a Western Tanager.

If you are interested in participating in our Backyard Birding count, please email me at [pricemara1@gmail.com](mailto:pricemara1@gmail.com) or leave a message on my cell phone at (425) 750-8125. ✧

## SWIFT NIGHT OUT September 8

Celebrate the Vaux's Swift migration and watch thousands of birds come to roost in the chimney at Wagner Center. This is a great event for the entire family including, Children's games and crafts, wildlife education booths, Vaux's Swift Theatre, Swift headbands, ... **and, of course, the Swifts!** ✧



## GO BIRDING AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Are seabirds in the southern Salish Sea increasing or decreasing in numbers? Which species are changing their range? Help us find out. The Puget Sound Seabird Survey (PSSS) is a community and citizen science project managed by Seattle Audubon that empowers volunteer birdwatchers to gather valuable data on wintering seabird populations across the southern Salish Sea.

This season we will be expanding the project, yet again, this time north to the Canadian border and the San Juan Islands. We received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program through the Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife to add 15-30 new survey sites, develop an oil spill plan, and train volunteers on how to react to a spill.

You can contribute to this vital seabird science by joining the twelfth season of this exciting project. We are now recruiting enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to help us monitor the status of our local wintering seabirds. Training on survey methodology will be provided at a location near you in September and early October. Ideally, volunteers should be able to identify Puget Sound's seabird species and be available on the first Saturday of each month, October through April, to conduct a 30-minute survey. But, if determining between Lesser and Greater Scaup is a challenge, we'll team you up with more knowledgeable surveyors. To help us determine each volunteer's seabird identification skills, visit [www.seabirdsurvey.com](http://www.seabirdsurvey.com) to take our quick, fun Seabird ID quiz.



White-winged Scoter |  
Doug Schurman

Learn more, including training dates, at [www.seabirdsurvey.org](http://www.seabirdsurvey.org) and email Toby Ross, Senior Science Manager, [toby@seattleaudubon.org](mailto:toby@seattleaudubon.org), if you would like more information or to take part. ✧

**Natural History Class**

**Exploring Sucia Island by Boat and Boot** **Sept 15-16** **San Juan Islands, WA**  
 Join North Cascades Institute naturalists on this exploration of the biological riches of Sucia Island, one of the lesser-known of the San Juan Islands. This natural history voyage will focus on sailing, sea birds, history, and significance of the Salish Sea. Participants will also have the chance to learn the art of sailing and navigation on a historic vessel.  
<https://ncascades.org/signup/programs/san-juan-treasures-2-exploring-sucia-island-by-boat-and-boot> .

**Bird Festivals**

**Puget Sound Bird Fest** **Sept 14-16** **Edmonds, WA**  
 It's Pilchuck Audubon's own! And it's RIGHT HERE in Snohomish County. <http://www.pugetsoundbirdfest.org/>

**Bird in the Hand Festival** **Sept 22** **Langley, WA**  
 Feathers under a microscope, live raptors, children's activities, and more at this free event sponsored by Whidbey Audubon from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Bayview Farm and Garden, 2780 Marshview Ave, Langley. 360-320-5480.

**Monterey Bay Birding Festival** **Sept 28-30** **Watsonville, CA**  
 If you loved all those fabulous fall migrants at the Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds, you might catch the very same birds in California two weeks later. This is one of the largest bird festivals on the West Coast. <http://www.montereybaybirding.org/>

**BirdFest & Bluegrass** **Oct 5-7** **Ridgefield, WA**  
 From bird walks and bird language workshops to kayaking, Big Canoe river trips, Sandhill Crane tours and a variety of hikes (including: photo, geology, ethnobotany, and an evening hike), there is plenty to do and see at the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Alix Danielsen, Birdfest & Bluegrass Coordinator, [alix@ridgefieldfriends.org](mailto:alix@ridgefieldfriends.org), 360-887-9495.

**Ding Darling Days** **Oct 12-14** **Sanibel & Captiva Islands, FL**  
 The friends of Ding Darling Refuge put on this celebration of one of the premier national wildlife refuges in the country. There is nothing like the Gulf Coast of Florida to help with your denial that winter is on the way.

<https://www.dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/ding-darling-days>

**CraneFest** **Oct 13-14** **Bellevue, MI**  
 Michigan Audubon's festival celebrating Sandhill Cranes has a large art festival element as well. Please note that this particular Bellevue is considerably farther east than the one in Washington. <https://www.michiganaudubon.org/news-events/signature-events/cranefest/>

**HawkFest 2018**

**Pateros, WA (City Park), Saturday, September 15, 2018; 8:00 to 3:00**



*Red-tailed Hawk* | Mick Thompson

Join the Chelan and Entiat Ranger Districts, North Central Washington Audubon Society, and Hawkwatch International this fall for the ninth annual HawkFest. This family event combines free activities in Pateros Memorial Park with trips to Chelan Ridge to learn about and celebrate raptors as they journey to winter territories. At the park, participants will find vendors, live raptors, interpretive booths, and projects for kids.

More information and on-line registration for the trip to Chelan Ridge, the Wells Wildlife field trip, and the two workshops is available at [www.ncwaudubon.org](http://www.ncwaudubon.org). ✧

**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
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Make checks payable to **Pilchuck Audubon Society**

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