



## **Christmas Bird Count 2019** **Edmonds/South County CBC — December 14, 2019** **Everett-Marysville CBC — December 28, 2019**

by Rick Taylor, Edmonds CBC Co-compiler

National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count began in 1900 as an alternative to Christmas day bird hunts. It 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 National Audubon Society's [Survival by Degrees](#). In addition to collecting valuable scientific data, the CBC is an enjoyable social event with teams working together over the years. Teams try to beat their records for the number of species that 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 28 and December 14, respectively. The Everett-Marysville count area is located between downtown Everett and Island Crossing, extending as far west as the southeast tip of Camano Island, while the Edmonds count, centered near Martha Lake in Lynnwood, occurs in south Snohomish County, north King County, and the southeast 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.

Also, there are presently open positions for area leaders.

New participants, whether experienced, intermediate or beginning birders, are welcome to join the counts. The Edmonds CBC also counts the massive "river of crows" as the American Crows move to their evening roost site. If you aren't comfortable with your identification skills or are available only in the afternoon, this is an excellent way to participate. 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.

- **Everett/Marysville CBC: Scott Atkinson**  
(scottratkinson@hotmail.com, tel. 425-210-2716)
- **Edmonds/South County CBC: Rick Taylor**  
(taylorrl@outlook.com, tel. 425-214-2764)

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. 🦋



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## BIRDING CLASSES

### Taught by Candy Brown

The two classes below will be held at the Frances Anderson Center, 700 Main Street, in Edmonds, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Cost for each class: \$18 for residents, \$20 for non-residents.

To register, call 425-771-0230

### WATER BIRDS — JANUARY 15

We will discuss several of the different kinds of ducks that live in the Puget Sound region as well as geese, gulls, blackbirds, herons, shorebirds, and others. We will see the unique nests they make and how their babies are very different from those of songbirds.

### MORE AMAZING BIRDS — FEBRUARY 12

Many interesting and beautiful birds visit our region at different times of the year or are permanent residents. We will look at and discuss the habits of sparrows, warblers, wrens, woodpeckers, cedar waxwings, and more. 🦅

## NO PROGRAM MEETING IN DECEMBER

JOIN US ON

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020

7:00-8:30 p.m.

### “Secretive Wetland Bird Survey”

#### Puget Sound Bird Observatory’s (PSBO) Regional Wetland Secretive Bird Survey

PSBO has been studying birds across our regional wetlands for the past 3 years but made a significant expansion of the project in 2018 in order to begin truly assessing the population trends of four under-detected, wetland-obligate species [American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), Sora (*Porzana Carolina*), Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*), and Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)] and two wetland-associated species for which there are population concerns [Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus palustris*) and Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)].

We are looking to extend and implement this project throughout the Puget Sound trough. We feel the information and assessments are crucial to land management decisions for our region’s wetland system. An area of results we feel may be of particular interest to land managers is the distribution of these species to wetland restoration sites. With this in mind, one of the key goals of this project is to make the data and analysis readily available through the Avian Knowledge Network database. 🦅

## 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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# Puget Sound Shorebird Survey – Time to Sign up!

It is time to prepare for the annual Puget Sound Shorebird Survey! This project helps us understand migratory shorebirds in Puget Sound and across 12 countries from Alaska to Chile. The annual Puget Sound Shorebird Survey, which feeds into the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey ([www.pointblue.org/pfss](http://www.pointblue.org/pfss)) and Migratory Shorebird Project ([www.migratoryshorebirdproject.org](http://www.migratoryshorebirdproject.org)), can be taken on any of these days: **December 8, 9, 10, and 11** as these dates have the best tides for conducting the surveys in the Skagit/Island areas. See the list below. Most suitable tides are in the morning, and the low tide on the 8<sup>th</sup> may be a bit too early in the morning. Ideally, we will get units in the same general area (e.g., Skagit Bay) done on the same day, but that is not essential.



*Long-billed Dowitcher*

**If you are willing to conduct a survey on one of these dates, can you please contact Matthew Reiter at mreiter@pointblue.org.** Indicate which date(s) could work for you and if you have a unit or set of units that you have done previously and would like to do again. Matthew or his Point Blue colleague, Mark Dettling ([mdettling@pointblue.org](mailto:mdettling@pointblue.org)), will get in touch with you to provide more details.

Thank you for considering and for all of your support. The following sites are included in this effort:

- |                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fidalgo Bay    | Fidalgo Bay Resort (FBR)          |
| Fidalgo Bay    | NE Fidalgo (NEF)                  |
| Padilla Bay    | Casino Lagoon (CL)                |
| Padilla Bay    | Padilla Dike Trail - Bay (PDT-B)  |
| Padilla Bay    | Padilla Dike Trail Slough (PDT-S) |
| Padilla Bay    | Whitmarsh Junction (WJ)           |
| Port Susan Bay | Leque Island (LI)                 |
| Port Susan Bay | Livingston Bay (LB)               |
| Port Susan Bay | NE Port Susan (L-TFD)             |
| Port Susan Bay | North Hat Slough (TNC REST)       |
| Port Susan Bay | Sunderlin Beach (SB)              |
| Port Susan Bay | Triangle Cove (TC)                |
| Port Susan Bay | Warm Beach (WB)                   |
| Samish Bay     | Alice Bay (AB)                    |
| Semiahmoo Bay  | Semiahmoo/Drayton (SB)            |
| Skagit Bay     | English Boom (EB)                 |
| Skagit Bay     | Hayden Farm (HF)                  |
| Skagit Bay     | Jensen Access (JA)                |
| Skagit Bay     | SW Skagit (PP)                    |
| Whidbey Island | Crockett Lake (C-LAKE)            |
| Whidbey Island | East Deer Lagoon (DL-E)           |
| Whidbey Island | West Deer Lagoon (DL-W)           |
| Totten Inlet   | Kennedy Creek (KC)                |



*Dunlin*

## New Edmonds Marsh Surveyors Fledged!

Congratulations to our newly trained Edmonds Marsh Monitors, and sincere thanks for supporting this important project. On November 16, 2019, six new recruits to this project were introduced to coding habitat and bird behaviors along with the basics of point-count survey methods so that Pilchuck Audubon Society can provide scientifically collected data that will help guide future land management decisions for this historical, saltwater-influenced estuary. Looking at how birds are using the micro-habitats of the marsh and how bird populations and habitat use changes over time will help guide vegetation management and restoration efforts at this important area for shorebirds, marshbirds, songbirds, and raptors.



*Volunteers listen intently as Scott Markowitz, PAS consulting ornithologist, explains the detailed survey protocols of the marsh monitoring project.*

It's not too late to join the team, and we can use your help in order to cover the bimonthly survey effort. If you are interested, please contact Scott Markowitz, project manager for the Edmonds Marsh Long-term Monitoring Project, at [scott\\_markowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:scott_markowitz@yahoo.com) to find out when the next training will be offered. ✍



*To access several of the survey points, volunteer surveyors traverse the thick marsh vegetation, (hopefully!) avoiding deep pockets of mud.*

## TRIP CALENDAR

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



### Tuesday, December 3

#### Samish Flats

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. Want to see what this area offers? Come along. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### Saturday, December 7

#### Hotspots in Kenmore

Meet at 8:00 AM at Lynnwood Transit Center, 20100 48th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA (in the vicinity of I-5 Exit 181; see <https://www.communitytransit.org/busservice/transit-centers-and-parking>); come to Bay D1, which is near the SW corner of the parking lot. We'll carpool to the Kenmore Park and Ride, where those for whom this location is more convenient may meet us at about 8:30 AM at the bus stop shelter on Bothell Way (7346 NE Bothell Way, Kenmore, WA). We'll bird at the Park and Ride, then carpool to Log Boom Park and to Wallace Swamp Creek Park. Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811 (cell: 206-617-0019), [dresnick1@comcast.net](mailto:dresnick1@comcast.net)

### Sunday, December 8

#### Everett Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens

Meet at 1:00 PM at the Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens, (145 Alverson Blvd., Everett, WA). Join the Pilchuck Audubon Society, Academia Latina, and the North Sound Birders' Meetup for a family picnic and birdwalk at the Evergreen Arboretum and Gardens. In addition to the Arboretum, we will explore the adjacent Legion Park area with its commanding overview of Port Gardner Bay and the mouth of the Snohomish River. Bring a picnic lunch, hat, walking shoes, foul-weather clothes, water, and binoculars, if you have them. Open to all. No dogs. Trip leader: Jonathan Blubaugh, 425-244-7633, [aracfi@msn.com](mailto:aracfi@msn.com)

### Tuesday, December 10

#### Lummi Flats

Meet at 7:00 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. Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, and Snow Bunting are very likely. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

### Tuesday, December 17

#### Silvana Roads

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. 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

### Tuesday, December 24

No Trip

Merry Christmas!

### Tuesday, December 31

No Trip

Happy New Year!

### Saturday, January 4

#### Richmond Beach Saltwater Park

Meet at 8:00 AM at the topmost parking lot of the park, 2021 NW 190th Street, Shoreline. If time permits, we may visit another, nearby park afterwards. Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811 (cell: 206-617-0019), [dresnick1@comcast.net](mailto:dresnick1@comcast.net)

### Tuesday, January 7

#### City of Snohomish Area

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



### Winter birds at their finest!

The Klamath Basin is renowned for its massive wintering population of Bald Eagles, but is prime habitat for many other raptors including owls, as well as a stunning abundance and diversity of waterfowl. Join us for an extensive array of field trips, workshops, presentations, and receptions that highlight the wonders of the Klamath Basin in winter.

**Dates:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 through Sunday, February 16, 2020

**Host Site:** Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech), 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 97601

**Website:** [www.WinterWingsFest.org](http://www.WinterWingsFest.org)

**Registration:** Opens December 7, 9:00 a.m. PST

**For information,** call 877-541-BIRD (2473) or email to [info@winterwingsfest.org](mailto:info@winterwingsfest.org)

## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

September 26, 2019 to October 25, 2019

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

We are now into a very wet season, but it is not freezing yet. The birds are still flocking to our backyards for food.

Carole and Larry Beason had a total species count of 42 from their home at Lake Bosworth. Their report listed 11 American Robin, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 1 Bald Eagle over the lake, 2 Belted Kingfisher flying near the shore, 30+ Canada Goose on the lake, 2 Common Raven, 9 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpecker on the suet, 2 Fox Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron by the deck, 3 Hooded Merganser, 4 Mallard Duck on the lake, 2 Northern Flicker, an Osprey over the lake, 3 Pied-billed Grebe, 11 Purple Finch, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Ring-necked Duck, 24 Red-winged Blackbird, 7 Spotted Towhee, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and 3 Wood Duck on the lake.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt listed 2 California Quail, 4 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Mourning Dove, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, a Downy Woodpecker, 4 Hairy Woodpecker, 4 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 5 Steller's Jay, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 12 American Robin, 50 European Starling, a Song Sparrow, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, a juvenile White-crowned Sparrow, 11 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Purple Finch, 9 House Finch, and 10 Pine Siskin, for a total species count of 23.

Kriss Erickson's report from her home in Everett included 14 Dark-eyed Junco, 23 American Robin, 3 Bewick's Wren, 33 Bushtit, 8 Western Gull flying over, a Cooper's Hawk, 10 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 22 Black-capped Chickadee, 9 House Finch, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, an American Kestrel, 46 European Starling, a Brown-headed Cowbird, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and 3 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 22.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker's total species count of 32 included 9 American Goldfinch, 14 American Robin, 2 Bald Eagle, a Barred Owl on October 25 at 6:30 in the morning, 2 Bewick's Wren, 15 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Black-throated Gray Warbler, a Brown Creeper, 2 Cedar Waxwing, a Cooper's Hawk, 35 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Downy Woodpecker, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 6 House Finch, 3 Kinglet Species, 34 Mourning Dove, 5 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 9 Song Sparrow, 9 Spotted Towhee, 12 Steller's Jay, and a Varied Thrush.

Reporting from my home in the hills of Northeast Marysville, I listed a total of 21 species. They included 12

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## BIRD WALK AT LAKES AND PONDS NEAR MILL CREEK

2 November 2019

by Douglas Resnick, Trip Leader

Terry, Joanie, Jerry, Lisa, and I met on a cool, partly cloudy morning at Ash Way Park and Ride. From there, we carpoled to Martha Lake, Buffalo Ponds, and Silver Lake. We reported observations of 38 species on eBird.

Our first stop was at Martha Lake Park, which is located at the south end of the lake. We began by checking out the trees and bushes along the edge of the lake, where we found plenty of kinglets, chickadees, bushtits, and siskins. Each time we came to a pier, we walked along it, in order better to view the lake and the sky above. We were rewarded by views of Common Merganser, Mallard, Pied-billed Grebe, and Bald Eagle. We completed this segment of the day's outing by walking on the paved trail closer to the street, finding starling, gull, and pigeon.

Our second stop was at Buffalo Ponds. This is not a park, but an undeveloped area that includes ponds, and through which passes a single, paved trail. We walked to one trailhead from a nearby shopping area, almost immediately discovering several Wood Ducks in a pond visible from the street. In ponds visible from the trail, we saw Hooded Mergansers and Green-winged Teals. Numerous Canada Goose flew overhead, as did several Red-winged Blackbirds. One Red-tailed Hawk looked out upon the scene from a tall snag. In the background, we heard a Killdeer call.

Jerry bid us adieu, then the remainder of the party set out for Silver Lake. We parked at Hauge Homestead Park, near the south end of the lake, then walked a mostly paved trail to Green Lantern Park near the east end. The trail was alternately close to the lake and close to the street, and several piers led from the trail to positions over the water. Near the start, we found a Belted Kingfisher in a tree; it had caught a fish and was battering it against the side of the tree, perhaps in the hope of stunning or killing it, as it was still wiggling. Other notable finds included an American Coot and a Cooper's Hawk.

We finished birding around 12:30 p.m., then walked a short distance from Green Lantern Park to L'Artisan French Bakery for lunch. Later, on our way back to the car, we saw a flock of Ring-billed Gull circling near the first pier. They finally set out in more of a line, apparently chasing the one that had food. On approaching closer to the pier, we found the food source: someone feeding the Mallards. 🍗



## You can help Pilchuck Audubon earn donations just by shopping with Fred Meyer and Amazon!

Both of these companies have a nonprofit program where they donate a portion of sales to nonprofits. PAS is now registered with both, so all you have to do is link your accounts to Pilchuck Audubon Society following the steps below, and then shop as usual!



1. Get a Fred Meyer Rewards Card (if you don't already have one)
2. Go to [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards)
3. Scroll down and click on "Link your Rewards Card now" under the "Are you a Fred Meyer Customer?" heading
4. Log in or create your account
5. Once logged in, search for "Pilchuck Audubon Society" and click enroll
6. Start shopping!

1. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/smilepas>
2. Log in to your Amazon account
3. Search for Pilchuck Audubon Society and select it as your charity
4. All done!
5. When you want to shop for something on Amazon be sure to shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/> so your purchase counts. The regular Amazon website doesn't count towards donations, only the "Smile" website does. The top left of your screen should look like this:



If you'd like help setting up your accounts to donate to Pilchuck Audubon, please let Brian Zinke know at [director@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:director@pilchuckaudubon.org) and he'll help you set it up!

# Double Your Donation to PAS!

Did you know that many employers will match your donation to a nonprofit? That's right! Your \$50 donation could turn into \$100! Many folks are unaware that their employer has a gift-matching program, but oftentimes those programs just aren't well publicized. So even if you've never heard of your employer's gift-matching program, be sure to ask if there is one. If they do have a program, you could double your donation to us by filling out some simple paperwork. Simple as that!

Below is a sample of some companies in our area that have gift-matching programs. This list is not exhaustive, so please check with your employer even if your company is not listed below. Thanks for your continued support!

- Albertsons
- Allstate Insurance
- American Express
- AT&T
- Bank of America
- Bank of the West
- Boeing
- Charles Schwab
- Chevron
- Costco
- Delta Airlines
- Gap, Inc.
- Hewlett-Packard
- Home Depot
- Intel
- Kaiser Permanente
- Lowe's
- Microsoft
- Regence BlueCross BlueShield
- REI
- Safeco Insurance
- Starbucks
- State Farm
- Subaru of America
- Verizon
- Wells Fargo

*The most handsome bird of winter—coming to your garden soon!*



*Varied Thrush | Audubon*

## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

*Continued from Page 6*

American Robin, 200+ American Crow flying over, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 10 Dark-eyed Junco, 40+ Canada Goose flying over, 7 House Finch, 2 Purple Finch, 12 Mallard Duck in the pond, 4 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 6 Steller's Jay, 9 Mourning Dove, 50+ Rock Dove flying around the wires on 67<sup>th</sup> Street, 4 Spotted Towhee, a White-crowned Sparrow, and a Cooper's Hawk.

If you are interested in participating in our Backyard Birding Highlights, please email me at [pricemara1@gmail.com](mailto:pricemara1@gmail.com).

I would like to thank all of our contributors to the Backyard Birding Highlights for their support. Thanks for all you do, and have a Happy Holiday. 🍀

### 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.

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Renewal ..... \$28

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1 payment of \$1,000

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