

February Program Meeting

BIRDS OF INDIA

Presented by

Sukumar Vajapeyam

Friday, February 8, 2019

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Everett Firefighters' Hall

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



Sukumar is a recent PAS member who moved to the Pacific Northwest about six months ago. He was born in India and moved to the USA when he was 21 to pursue a master's degree in Electrical Engineering. He currently works in Arlington in renewable energy and batteries. Sukumar has also lived in Austin, TX; California's Bay Area; Phoenix, AZ; and Chicago, IL. Sukumar has been to various countries on work as well as on holiday

It was a weekend in the Pantanal in Brazil after work in Sao Paulo that got him hooked on birding and bird photography. From October 2010 and December 2013, Sukumar worked in Bangalore, India, and he managed to spend quite a few weekends birding in various parks across India.



Left: Indian shorebirds;
Right: Peacock in full display.
Photos by Suku.

Sukumar's father was an amateur photographer who took, developed, and printed award-winning black-and-white photos in India in the 1950s and 1960s.

All Pilchuck Audubon programs are free and open to all Pilchuck members and to community members of all ages who have an interest in birds and environmental issues affecting birds. Program meetings are the second Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (no meetings are held



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in August and December). Most meetings are at the Firefighter Hall in Everett, located at 2411 Hewitt Avenue, which is three blocks east of the hockey arena downtown. Parking is available in a lot adjacent to the building as well as on-street parking. ✧

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

To register, call 425-771-0230

WATER BIRDS — FEBRUARY 12

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 — MARCH 13

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. ✧



The 40th Annual Klamath Basin Winter Wings Festival February 14-17, 2019

Enjoy more than 50 guided birding and photography field trips, workshops, receptions, keynotes, and more throughout the Klamath Basin in Oregon and California.

Featured speakers are Pepper Trail, George Lepp, and Julie Zickefoose.

To learn more, visit

www.WinterWingsFest.org. ✧



SAVE THE DATE

Olympic Birdfest
April 12-14, 2019

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction, raffle, gala banquet, and more. Featured speaker is John Marzluff, author and Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Washington.

Join our festival pre-trip, a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 9-11, 2019, or extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 14-16, 2019: three days exploring northwest coastal Washington. To learn more and register, visit

www.olympicbirdfest.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 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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2018 Edmonds / South County Christmas Bird Count Results

By Rick Taylor

On December 15, 2018, the 2018 Edmonds / South County Christmas Bird Count tallied a record 131 species PLUS 5 more during count week. A record 97 people counted birds in the field and 75 more counted birds in their yards and feeders. We added two new species to the CBC list—a Surfbird at the Edmonds breakwater, and a Pine Grosbeak at Valerie Wade's feeders. We counted a total of 36,725 individual birds.

Full details are in the [narrative report](#) and [tally-by-area](#) reports on the Pilchuck Audubon website. Below are the highlights from each area.

Boat Team – Duane Karna and his team had an outstanding day on the water with 40 species and 1,680 total birds. Hannah Toutonghi found and photographed both a Yellow-billed Loon and a Clark's Grebe.

Crow Teams – Dr. Douglas Wacker of UW-Bothell organized 4 teams that counted 14,890 crows as they flew into their night roost at the UW-Bothell campus.

Area 1 – Edmonds. Frank Caruso's team and 17 feeder counters recorded 84 species—the most of any of the areas. Highlights include the Surfbird on the breakwater, a Swamp Sparrow at Brackets Landing, a Harris's Sparrow at the Edmonds Marsh, and California Quail seen by Carol Riddell and at a feeder.

Area 2 – North Edmonds / Lynnwood. Jack Stephens and Alan Mearns led teams, assisted by 10 feeder counters, that recorded 63 species.

Area 3 – South Mukilteo / Paine Field / South Everett. Neil Zimmerman and team along with 9 feeder counters recorded 64 species including the count's only Greater White-fronted Goose.

Area 4 – Mukilteo / South Everett. Susie Schafer, who started this circle 35 years ago, and Sherrill Miller led 2 teams along with 6 feeder counters, finding 64 species.

Area 5N – Northeast of the Snohomish River. Art Wait and his veteran team located 41 species including a record 5 Greater Yellowlegs.

Area 5S – Bob Heirman Wildlife Area and environs. Steve Giles team found 72 species including 3 not found in any other area: Tundra Swan, a single Evening Grosbeak, and an American Bittern.

Area 6 – Snohomish River Valley. Jonathan Blubaugh organized 3 teams that found 50 species including 2 Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks—only the second time that we have recorded this subspecies in 35 years. Mandy Carter took a team owling and had success with Barn and Great Horned Owls.



Area 7N – Silver Lake. Cindy Easterson's team and 4 feeder counters tallied 49 species. Valerie's Pine Grosbeak was the stand-out bird in this area.

Area 7S – Mill Creek. I organized 5 teams and 10 feeder counters in this surprisingly bird-rich suburban area. Highlights included: Green Heron, Western Screech Owl, and a Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Area 8 – Maltby / Bothell / Woodinville. Christine Dubois organized 5 teams and 4 feeder counters who tallied 62 species including a rare "Storm Wigeon".

Area 9N – Brier / Mountlake Terrace. Tiffany and Tor Linbo along with 7 feeder counters found 46 species in this entirely suburban area.

Area 9S – Lake Forest Park / Kenmore / Mountlake Terrace. Penny Koyama stepped in to lead 3 teams and 7 feeder counters in this area. They tallied 65 species including our only Canvasback, Herring Gull, and Orange-crowned Warbler.

Area 10 – Possession Point, Whidbey Island. Nathan Keen covered this small area, finding 55 species.

Mark your calendars for next year's CBC on December 14, 2019. ✧

The Edmonds Marsh Rail

Winter 2019  Edmonds Marsh Avian Habitat Use Monitoring Study News   

Seasons Reasonings

Winter in the Marsh

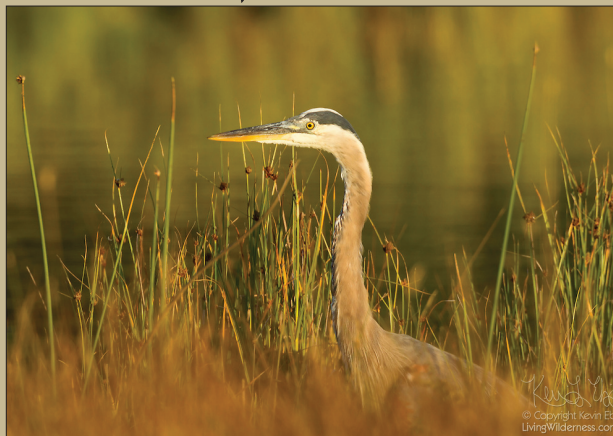
Winter in full swing here at the Edmonds Marsh! Our monitoring project has been off to a strong start. The surveys began in December, and as of the end of January, the site will have been visited four times by the monitoring team. While winter is certainly the quiet time of the year for the marsh, there has been a lot of bird activity to note. As a result, the surveyors have collected a good set of data so far.

With the warmest start to the New Year on record in the region, the marsh and its denizens have been reacting to the strange weather. During the survey in first lunar cycle of January, birds had already switched from winter contact and foraging vocalizations to full territorial breeding song. It sounded like a spring morning out in the marsh, with Chickadees, Song Sparrows, Juncos, Golden-crowned Sparrows and Virginia Rail all starting to sing full songs. The male Pileated woodpecker in the Southeast corner of the marsh was drumming above a salmonberry that had just sprouted budding leaves.

Despite the warm start, there's still a bit of winter to come, and we'll expect things to remain steady and quiet through the rest of the winter months. The surveyors are anxiously looking forward to the great data we'll collect as our spring migrants and summer residents return in the months to come.

Don't forget the volunteer surveyor training session on January 26th!

A Ten-Year Survey of the Habitat Use of Avian Visitors at Edmonds Marsh



Copyright Kevin Ebi/LivingWilderness.com

The first week of December 2018 brought a new moon and an exciting new monitoring project to the Edmonds Marsh. The Pilchuck Audubon Society kicked off a ten-year study to look at the interactions of avian visitors with the microhabitats in the marsh. With the future changes to the marsh and the surrounding wetlands, the study will give provide a fascinating set of data to document the regeneration and restoration of the Edmonds Marsh.

The Edmonds Marsh is a favored spot for birders and nature enthusiasts as a place for passive recreation and reflection. It holds the distinction of being the first stop on Audubon Washington's Great Washington State Birding Trail- Cascade Loop and enjoys a rich legacy for the many and varied species identified among the wetlands, mudflats, uplands and within the surrounding buffer areas. However,

systematically collected and documented data for how birds utilize the Marsh's varied habitats and trend data for change over time does not exist. This survey will add a lot of understanding to how the birds that breed, overwinter, and use the marsh on migration engage with the site, and will help us make more informed recommendations on how the site can be best managed for birds.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) has implemented a long-range project for data collection to monitor avian species use of the marsh and surrounding buffer habitat to better understand the value of the Edmonds Marsh to birds.

Results from this project may be used for establishing a better understanding of the dynamic marsh environment and is anticipated to provide information useful for land-use management recommendations.



Bird of the Season
Marsh Wren

Out of the corner of your eye you might just have noticed a tiny comet dashing deep into the reeds. You may here their growling buzzy trills from deep in the reed bed. The elusive Marsh Wren is always around, even through the winter, though we rarely get to see them. Marsh Wrens are secretive and highly energetic birds. Males build several nests each season and mate with multiple females, aggressively chasing off interlopers. Listen carefully during the quiet winter months for the delightful "Tick-a Tick-a Trrrrrr" and you'll soon be on to one of these delightful little year round residents.

Marsh Wren
Copyright 2019
Bill Anderson

Edmonds Marsh Monitoring Partnership Takes Flight

Pilchuck Audubon is excited to announce a wonderful new partnership that will make a long term monitoring project of the Edmonds Marsh become possible!



Through the generosity of Edmonds marsh supporters Ms. Laurie Sorensen and her husband Mr. Carroll Bryan, a long-standing gap in the knowledge of the interaction of birds with the microhabitats of the marsh will be better understood.

"Pilchuck Audubon is truly grateful to Laurie and Carroll's gift of funds to help finance a dedicated study of avian use at the Edmonds Marsh," says Cynthia Easterson, Pilchuck Audubon's president. "Birds give us a sense of place; watching the rhythms of birds throughout the day and across the change

of seasons provides us with a unique perspective on the workings of the landscape. Through this gift we can implement community science to document and grow our understanding of how birds use this urban and unique salt-water estuary. This study will give us the grounding

information we need to advocate for sound resource management, one built on science and dedicated to preserving healthy habitats for diverse bird communities within the cities where we live, work and play."

Keep watching for further news as this wonderful and effective partnership provides vital insight to the workings of the marsh!

Interested in joining the Team?

A project like this needs a lot of volunteer help! Do you have great observation skills, an attention to detail, and a love for the marsh? Volunteers can participate as often as every month, or as infrequently as once a year. If you are interested in being a part of this survey, please contact scott_markowitz@yahoo.com and get in on the action.



Contact Us:   

Scott Markowitz, Consultant Ornithologist/Survey Coordinator
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Thank you for taking a look at our project. We're sorry we weren't able to catch your attention. Just [click here to unsubscribe](#) from our newsletter mailing list. Type your email and the word unsubscribe and we'll remove you from the mailing list. We'd be grateful for any feedback you can give us on why we weren't able to connect with you!

The 'egalese...

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TRIP CALENDAR

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



Tuesday, February 5 **Fir Island and Samish Flats Area**

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. Expect almost anything. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Saturday, February 9 **Beside Snohomish River**

Meet at 8:00 AM at the Everett Mall (1402 SE Everett Mall Way), which is in the vicinity of I-5 Exit 189; park near the bus station in the parking lot south of LA Fitness. We'll carpool to Field's Riffle and to Riverview Wildlife Refuge. Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811 (cell: 206-617-0019), dresnick1@comcast.net

Tuesday, February 12 **Blackie Spit and Boundary Bay**

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. Expect to see waterfowl, raptors, gulls, shorebirds, songbirds, and scenery, and do some walking. This is a trip to Canada so bring your U.S. passport or enhanced driver's license. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Tuesday, February 19 **Guemes Island**

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. Ride a tiny ferry, then relax and enjoy unique Guemes Island, its people, birds, and dogs. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Tuesday, February 26 **La Conner, Swinomish Reservation, and Kiket Island**

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. Expect waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, terns, and tweety birds. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Saturday, March 2 **Five Southwest**

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 five sites in southwest Snohomish County: Veterans Memorial Park, South Lynnwood Park, Esperance Park, Chase Lake, and Yost Park. Trip Leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811 (cell: 206-617-0019), dresnick1@comcast.net

Tuesday, March 5

Silvana Roads

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. Past years we had Northern Shrike, 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 ✧

Help us to the finish line! Join us for the last season of Sagebrush Songbird Surveys

Are you attracted to a melodious early morning hike through wide-open spaces? Join us on the Sagebrush Songbird Survey, a multi-year shrub steppe avian occupancy study of the Columbia Plateau in eastern Washington. The Survey, begun in 2014, is a partnership of Audubon Washington, local chapters, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. We are poised to complete field work in 2019. We need even more volunteers looking and listening for shrub steppe birds to reach this ambitious conservation goal.

Classroom and field trainings provided in March and early April. Surveys are performed once a month in spring—one within the last two weeks of April, one within the first two weeks of May, and a final survey within the first two weeks of June.



Sagebrush Sparrow | Ivar Husa Photo

EXTRA! Get your camera ready to record your sagebrush steppe inspiration for our Sagebrush Sea Photo Contest. Your photos will tell the story of this awesome landscape and its inhabitants.

Contact Cindy Easterson at 425-876-1055 or president@pilchuckaudubon.org for details about local training for participating in this survey. In addition, there will be field training on April 6, 2019, 10am-4pm. Meeting place near Ellensburg TBA: Whisky Dick Wildlife Area from old Vantage Hwy. ✧

2019 Stanwood-Camano Snow Goose & Birding Festival

Come to enjoy and/or volunteer to help!

Mark your calendars and plan on supporting the 2019 Stanwood-Camano Snow Goose & Birding Festival to be held February 23 and 24. **We need volunteers to help staff our Pilchuck Audubon Society booth, and we schedule to make sure you have plenty of time to enjoy some of the many classes and field trips.** Contact Cindy Easterson at president@pilchuckaudubon.org to volunteer!

The shores and waters of Puget Sound surrounding the Stanwood community are internationally recognized as crucial habitat for countless birds of sea, shore, and land. Come experience one of Western Washington's most



spectacular natural events—the annual winter gathering of thousands of Snow Goose and Trumpeter Swan. In addition, there are flocks of wintering seabirds and shorebirds along with raptors that call Stanwood and Camano home.

Festival headquarters is the [Floyd Norgaard Cultural Center](#) in Stanwood, WA. Space is limited for bus tours; registration will be open soon. Check this website for updates: <https://discoverstanwoodcamano.com/calendar/snow-goose-festival-2019/>

CLASSES AND EVENTS

Shorebird I.D. Class

Sat. 2/23 9:00-10:30. Location: Masonic Hall (across from the Floyd). Free – No Registration Required.

White Birds of Winter

Sat. 2/23 10:45-12:15. Location: 3rd Floor of the Floyd (elevator available). Free – No Registration Required.

Significance of the Snows: Wrangling with Changing Traditions and the Future of Snow Geese in the Pacific Flyway

Sat. 2/23 1:00-2:30. Location: 3rd Floor of the Floyd (elevator available). Free – No Registration Required.

Live Raptors

Sat. 2/23 3:00-4:00. Location: Masonic Hall (across from the Floyd). Free – No Registration Required. *Survey Wildlife Care Center Live Raptor Educational Presentation*

The Art of Photographing Birds

Sun. 2/24 11:00-12:30. Location: 3rd Floor of the Floyd (elevator available). Free – No Registration Required.

Eagles from the Park Side

Sun. 2/24 1:00-2:30. Location: 3rd Floor of the Floyd (elevator available). Free – No Registration Required. ✧

KLICKITAT SPRING FIELD TRIP

For the past 11 years, PAS member Susie Schaefer has been arranging longer field trips to far-ranging locations in Washington and Oregon. So far this year there are plans for another trip to Klickitat County over the Memorial Day weekend, leaving Snohomish County on May 25 (Saturday) and returning May 28 (Tuesday). Plans for a one-week trip in June are started but not yet ready for publication.



Beautiful Klickitat River. | Reisenbichler Photo.

Anyone who has ever been to Klickitat County understands why we head back down there year after year. The birds, butterflies, dragonflies, mammals, wildflowers, and scenery are spectacular in the spring. Over the years, we have had great finds and adventures and think it is worth the trip to this special place. This trip is not a guided tour but rather a group adventure. We work hard to keep costs down by sharing costs for food, gas, and lodging for the four days and three nights. The group is limited to 12 people and 3 cars. We welcome new and returning birders. The owners of the three cars do not pay gas costs to make costs as fair as possible.

Sign-ups for this trip will start February 1, so send in your reservations and a statement about using your car (or not) for travel for four people. Anyone interested or wanting to know more should contact Susie, garden@pilchuckaudubon.org, or call 425-771-8165, and be prepared for fun and adventure in Klickitat County.

Look for information about the longer trip next month. ✧



Birders at Goldendale ponds. | Photo by Reg Reisenbichler.

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

November 26, 2018 to December 25, 2018

The last report of 2018 and still no Pine Siskins. Maybe they will arrive before Spring. The weather has not been that bad so I will have to do some research on what is happening to the Pine Siskins.

Carole and Larry Beason's report listed a large number of species again from Lake Bosworth. Their total species count of 40 included 3 Anna's Hummingbird; a Bald Eagle; 9 Bufflehead on the lake; 24 Bushtit along the road; 13 Canada Goose on the lake; 2 Common Goldeneye Duck, 2 Common Raven, 4 Common Merganser and 2 Double-crested Cormorant on the lake; 6 Golden-crowned Sparrow in the birdbath; a Great Blue Heron near the shore; a Great Horned Owl heard in the trees; 7 Hooded Merganser, 8 Lesser Scaup, and 9 Mallard Duck on the lake; 2 Pileated Woodpecker at the feeders; 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch; a Red-tailed Hawk over the road; 12+ Red-winged Blackbird; 6 Ring-necked Duck on the lake; Spotted Towhee; and a Pacific Wren.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt reported a Cooper's Hawk, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 6 Band-tailed Pigeon, 3 Northern Flicker, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Spotted Towhee, a Fox Sparrow, 2 Song Sparrow, a White-throated Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 9 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Purple Finch, and a House Finch, for a total species count of 22.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett included 24 American Robin, 8 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Bewick's Wren, 8 House Finch, 12 Northwestern Crow, 15 Western Gull, a Barred Owl, 9 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 14 Black-capped Chickadee, 7 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Spotted Towhee, 3 Downy Woodpeckers, 32 Bushtit, a Wood Duck, 6 Mallard Duck, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, and a Pacific Wren, for a total species count of 21.

Mary Sinker's total species count of 25 from her home in Stanwood included 27 American Robin (she always seems to get a flock on Christmas Day), 9 Anna's Hummingbird at the heated hummingbird feeder, 2 Bald Eagle, 12 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Brown Creeper, 11 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 120 Dark-eyed Junco, 5 Downy Woodpecker, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 23 Mourning Dove, a Northern Goshawk (a juvenile watching the chickens in the fenced chicken pen), a Northern Pygmy Owl, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Red-tailed Hawk, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 8 Song Sparrow, 2 White-crowned Sparrow, and 4 Pacific Wren.

My count from Marysville included 7 American Crow, 6 Black-capped Chickadee, 25 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpecker, a Red-tailed Hawk in the field, 10 Mourning Dove, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Spotted Towhee, 12 Mallard Duck in the pond along 100th St., 12 Canada Goose flying over, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Great Horned Owl in the woods, 6 Northern Flicker, 12 Ring-necked Duck, 9 Bushtit in the trees, 10 Brewer's Blackbird in the parking lot at the store, and 2 Anna's Hummingbird, for a total species count of 23.

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

REPORT: CARKEEK PARK

12 January 2019

by Douglas Resnick, Trip Leader

Lisa, Kelly, Terry, Suku, Veena, Maya, and I met on a mild, sunny morning at the Lynnwood Transit Center. We carpooled to the Eddie McAbee entrance of Carkeek Park, where Jerry, Jonathan, and Judy met us. Our group of 10 then set out on a lollipop route along some of the park's trails. We observed 30 species of birds, as recorded on eBird; Suku and Lisa caught some of the birds on camera.

Our route was a modified version of the one suggested by the Washington Trail Association (<https://www.wta.org/>). In order to make the walk a bit less strenuous, we left out some of the scenic side trails, and followed the straightest path back on the return portion of the journey.

Carkeek Park might be described as a gulch between northern and southern hillsides. We began by walking on the only trail leading away from the Eddie McAbee entrance, Piper's Creek Trail. We departed from that trail in order to wind our way westward along the northern hillside, finally reaching the North Meadow, from which we could see Puget Sound. We stayed in view of the water, as we climbed back down to the developed, western end of the park, from which we crossed over the railroad tracks via a raised walkway, in order to reach the water's edge. Our return route ran along the bottom of the gulch.

We heard and saw numerous woodland species during the first part of the walk, including 5 Northern Flicker and a Hermit Thrush, along with numerous kinglets and chickadees. As we neared the water, passersby brought our attention to a Pileated Woodpecker and a Bald Eagle; we found two of the latter atop a conifer. From the shore, we observed a variety of birds that



were swimming in or flying over the water, including 15 American Wigeon, 4 Horned Grebe, 2 Red-necked Grebe, and numerous gulls. In addition, we found 2 Glaucous-winged Gull perched on cars in the nearby parking lot. Shoreward, and on into the wetlands east of the shore, we counted 60 American Crow and 4 Mallard. Some of the crows were splashing about in the creek's outlet. Along our return route, we were granted good views of some Pacific Wren, which earlier we had only heard.

We finished our birding around 12:30 p.m., then adjourned to Patty's Eggnest for lunch. ✧



The next GBBC is February 15-18, 2019

Bird watchers of all ages count birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are.



For more information, go to <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Page.aspx?pid=1478>

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**

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1429 Avenue D, PMB 198
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

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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.

UPCOMING EVENTS, CLASSES, and FESTIVALS farther afield

Feb 6-9 Laredo, Texas, 7th Annual Birding Festival
Bird hotspots along the Rio Grande and riparian creek systems, as well as thousands of acres of brush land at dozens of scenic South Texas ranches. Contact 956-718-1063, laredobirdingfestival@rgisc.org.

Feb 15-17 Matagorda Bay Birdfest Palacios, TX
This region is well known for its species diversity and unique ecological areas. Bird parade will feature extravagant birds—large, small, whimsical, and serious. Professional artists and amateur enthusiasts, local and regional, will all be competing for prizes and recognition. Contacts: lauriebeck@becktv.com or paula@whitney.net.

Feb 23 Burrowing Owl Festival Cape Coral, FL
These pint-sized birds burrow underground where they nest from early February through mid-July. Festival highlights include bus tours to local owl burrows, demonstrations on owl burrow maintenance, and starter burrows. There will be on-site speakers with wildlife presentations, live birds of prey, and tours through the live interactive butterfly house. Contact: Carl Veaux, 239-246-8303, cveaux@aol.com.

Feb 23 California Duck Days DFW, Davis, CA
California Duck Days is an annual northern California wetlands and wildlife festival. Families with young children tend to stay at the headquarters, enjoying many workshops and activities, while adults often like to go on half- or full-day field trips to sites around the region. Please pre-register due to limited space on field trips. Contact Yolo Basin Foundation, 530-7573780, DuckDays@yolobasin.org. ✧



Grays Harbor Shorebird and Nature Festival

May 3-5, 2019

Hoquiam, Washington

(360) 289-5048

www.shorebirdfestival.com