

SURVIVAL BY DEGREES — The time for action is NOW

National Audubon’s new climate report details grave threats to some of our most beloved species and the places they need to survive. Half of our local birds are at risk due to climate change, but we have a unique opportunity in Washington State and across our chapter region to drive change.

Join us on Friday, November 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more about the details of the Audubon’s climate report – *Survival by Degrees*. Learn how we, as Audubon members and bird enthusiasts, can take personal action and leverage political leadership to address the root causes of climate change.

Guest Speakers include:

Trina Brayard, Ph.D., Audubon Washington Director of Bird Conservation, will break down this complex and comprehensive study so that we can better understand the predictions for our own backyards or special birding areas.

Ben Silesky, Audubon Washington Field Organizer, will outline personal choices and local action opportunities to brighten the future for birds. Birds can’t fight climate change, but we can. Find out how to be a part of the solution.

Pilchuck Audubon’s **Climate Watch Roll-out** – Learn how to engage with us and conduct surveys of Red-breasted Nuthatch within your neighborhood or favorite birding areas to test and improve climate models. The next survey takes place between January 15 and February 15, 2020. With just two surveys a year, this project requires a small effort for a big payout in better understanding of how climate change is impacting birds. 🦉

November Program Meeting

Friday, November 8, 2019

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Everett Firefighters’ Hall
2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett ([map](#))



Rufous hummingbird is one of the Washington State summer residents threatened by climate change, but action now could help preserve this species range and the habitat it needs to thrive.

(Photo credit: Boe Baty)

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Red-breasted Nuthatch | Seattle Audubon

Climate Challenges For Cherry Point and the Salish Sea

The panoramic azure vistas and rocky shorelands of the Salish Sea entice us with each view of our great blue treasure and every visit to its fascinating headlands and beaches. We wonder at the awesome and complex ecosystem of tidelands, currents, winds, and water that together are home for the myriad of plants and animals that perpetually live, breath, multiply, interact, and ultimately expire all at our very fingertips.

Some of us spend our working lives as research scientists studying the complexity of the natural processes of the Salish Sea and learning how interconnected and dependent those processes are, and consider what the future might hold if current climate trends persist.

Four such specialists will come together at the annual Cherry Point Science Forum to share their recent research into trends observed with the climate, animals, plants, and geology of the Salish Sea, and Cherry Point in particular. They will also highlight for us how citizen science—the involvement of non-scientists in research projects—can make a real difference in gathering knowledge about how to better manage the spectacular, yet fragile, resources of this amazing ecosystem.

This year’s presenters include:

Susan Wood, of the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, will address Climate Change and its impacts on the Salish Sea.

Max Calloway, kelp biologist, will present his work on sea kelp throughout the Salish Sea.

Saturday, November 9
10:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Bellingham Technical College, Room G102J
3028 Lindbergh Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225 ([map](#))
(Forum is no charge; \$5 Pizza lunch will be available)
RSVP: www.aquaticreserves.org or rkaye330@gmail.com

Todd Sandell, research fishery biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will provide his research on forage fish.

The Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve (“CPAR”) is one of eight such Reserves in western Washington managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Reserves were established to promote the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of state-owned aquatic lands that are of special environmental, scientific, or educational interest.

Everyone interested can also learn about several on-going citizen science projects open to local volunteers. Projects, in part, evolved from the comprehensive management plan for the CPAR developed by DNR with input and guidance from the [Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Citizen Stewardship Committee](#).

All are welcome to join us in a “deep dive” into the natural process of the Salish Sea, to hear and see much more about the awesome underwater world that lies literally at our feet, and to learn about the challenges of climate change that are affecting the Salish Sea and Cherry Point, now and in the future. 🍷

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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Thank You for Supporting the Feast in the Forest

Those joining us for the Feast in the Forest were treated to an incredible menu, great venue, and a fabulous presentation by Paul Bannick on owls. Thank you to all who supported this fund-raising effort!

Special appreciation goes to our chefs and sponsors whose many gifts made the evening a night to remember:

Chefs: Anne Dottai, owner of Grilla Bites; Cynthia Easterson; Roger Edyt, owner of Roger's Riverview Bistro; Kristy Kelly, callkristyfirst.com

Wines Provided By: Silent Owl Winery

Tasting Sponsors: Wild Birds Unlimited Everett; Cecilia Wilson

Chef Choice Sponsors: Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers; Karen Guzak of Yoga Circle Studio and Warner Blake of Snohomish Stories; Michelle Gundersen and Randy Whalen; Snohomish Conservation District; Laura Hartman; Second Cedar; Jennifer Smolen

Individual Host Sponsors: State Representative Mike Sells; Joan Deutsch; Snohomish County Council Member Stephanie Wright; Steve Aslanian

Volunteers: Kristin Kelly, Sherrill Miller, Kathy Piland, Laurel Cheap, Elaine Chuang, Allen Gibbs, Gyda Harris, Rick and Kathy Jacobson, Julie Meghji, Gail Fagerlie, Sara Rocero, and Taylor Pesce 🍴



Mountain Loop Highway Study

Two public meetings to hear updates on this study will be held in early November.

- The **first meeting** will be on Wednesday, November 6, at the Granite Falls Middle School multipurpose room at 5:30 p.m., ending by 7:30 p.m. The school address is 405 N. Alder Avenue.
- The **second meeting** will be at Darrington Community Center on Thursday, November 7, at 5:30 p.m., ending by 7:30 p.m.

After a formal presentation at each meeting, an informal open house will follow to receive questions and comments from the public. These meetings will be good opportunities for Pilchuck Auduboners to learn more about the thinking of our fellow Snohomish County residents and other users of this important highway in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. It is very likely that we will eventually be asked to comment upon proposals to improve the roadway.

Kathy Piland and Kathy Johnson have represented Pilchuck Audubon at most of the four Stakeholder Group meetings beginning in 2016. Allen Gibbs has substituted for Kathy Johnson when her work schedule didn't enable her to attend meetings.

Snohomish County and the Forest Service received \$500,000 to study "... whether paving 14 miles of dirt and gravel road on the highway is a realistic option." This quote is taken from an *Everett Herald* article. Further citing the article. "The goal is to examine the environmental and economic consequences of improving that portion of the Loop. Options include paving, widening, rerouting or leaving the road as is."

Federal Highways has been a third party in the study, which is being conducted by a consulting firm that has designed the study and conducted public meetings. The firm has provided periodic updates to the Oversight Committee (the three agencies) and the Stakeholder Group, with representatives from area conservation and outdoor recreation interests, gateway community

businesses, and local governments.

There are three goals of the study.

Goal #1: Improve the safety and operation of the road facility. Goal #2: Provide a roadway facility that accommodates future traffic growth and reduces maintenance needs. Goal #3: Minimize adverse impacts to the environmental, cultural, scenic, and recreational characteristics of the study area.

This study is not a federal or Washington State environmental study. It is not intended to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) nor the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The study seeks user thoughts in reaction to the three goals. It will be up to Snohomish County and the US Forest Service whether to propose actions that achieve any desired outcomes related to the aforementioned goals. There are not now any such proposals, and there is no money available for any NEPA/SEPA projects involving the Mountain Loop Highway.

The study, nearing completion by the end of 2019 or 2020, will be presented to the county, the Forest Service, and the US Federal Highways Administration. It will be up to those agencies whether any further action is ever taken.

Audubon Washington Executive Director Search

Gail Gatton, longtime executive director of Audubon Washington, retired in September. The Audubon Washington State Board of Directors, along with the National Audubon Society office in New York City, has hired a search and recruitment firm to help fill the vacancy. This process began late last spring with Gail's notice to the state board. Advertisements will be issued soon. In the meantime, Charley Wilkinson is Acting Executive Director. She has been Audubon Washington's Development Director for several years. ✍



TRIP CALENDAR

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



Saturday, November 2 Lakes and Ponds near Mill Creek

Meet at 8:00 a.m. Ash Way Park and Ride, which is in the vicinity of I-5 Exit 183; park in the southwest area, by the southernmost entrance to the parking lot. We'll carpool to Martha Lake, Buffalo Ponds, and Silver Lake. Trip leader: Douglas Resnick, 425-776-4811 (cell: 206-617-0019), dresnick1@comcast.net.

Tuesday, November 5 Everett-to-Marysville Waterfront

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Legion Park off North Marine Drive, Everett. Explore the north Everett waterfront and the Snohomish River Estuary, including the Marysville Sewage Facility. View Osprey, eagles, hawks, waterfowl, shorebirds, and gulls. Pack a lunch.

Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750.

Tuesday, November 12 Fir 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 almost anything. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

Tuesday, November 19 Birch Bay, Semiahmoo

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. Should see migrating waterfowl and shorebirds (dowitchers, yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-tailed and Harlequin ducks). Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Wilma Bayes, 360-629-2028

Tuesday, November 26 Deception Pass 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. Maybe seabirds, shorebirds, LBJs, etc. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750

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's Bay D1, near the southwest corner of the parking lot (20100 48th Ave W, Lynnwood, WA). 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.

Washington Ornithological Society Monthly Meeting

Song recognition and hybridization in the White-crowned Sparrow

Will Brooks

November 4, 2019

The UW Center for Urban Horticulture

Two subspecies of White-crowned Sparrow have recently been discovered to nest in our Cascade Mountains. But do they interbreed, and could study of these populations using song recognition, genetic analyses, and other techniques help sort out the answer? The WOS November speaker, Will Brooks, has taken birding from a childhood hobby to the threshold of an academic career in Ornithology and is currently completing a degree in Evolutionary Biology at the University of Puget Sound.



White-crowned Sparrow | Audubon



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

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

For information, call 877-541-BIRD (2473) or email to info@winterwingsfest.org

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

August 26, 2019 to September 25, 2019

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

There are still a lot of birds around even though it is colder and wet.

Reporting from their home at Lake Bosworth, Carole and Larry Beason reported 2 American Goldfinch, 14 American Robin, 4 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Bald Eagle circling over the lake, 50+ Barn Swallow, a Belted Kingfisher, 4 Black-headed Grosbeak, a Black Scoter and 17 Canada Goose on the lake, a Cedar Waxwing, a Common Raven flying overhead, a Great Blue Heron, 5 Hairy Woodpecker, 7 Mallard on the lake, 2 Osprey, 2 Pied-billed Grebe, a Pileated Woodpecker in the trees, 24 Purple Finch, a Red-tailed Hawk, 50+ Red-winged Blackbird, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 6 Spotted Towhee, 12+ Steller's Jay, and 12+ Violet-green Swallow, for a total species count of 38.

Hilkka Egvedt's report from her home in Mukilteo listed a Cooper's Hawk on the deck railing, 2 California Quail, a Eurasian Collard-Dove, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Steller's Jay, a California Scrub Jay, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 12 American Robin, 11 Cedar Waxwing, 3 Black-headed Grosbeak, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Purple Finch, 6 House Finch, an American Goldfinch, and a Golden-crowned Sparrow, for a total species count of 26.

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 12 Dark-eyed Junco, 6 American Robin, 3 Bewick's Wren, 43 Bushtit, 8 Northwestern Crow, 6 Western Gull, 23 Cedar Waxwing, 16 Black-capped Chickadee, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Spotted Towhee, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 5 Northern Flicker, 4 Song Sparrow, a Pileated Woodpecker, and 3 House Finch, for a total species count of 18.

Mary Sinker's report from her home in Stanwood listed 15 American Goldfinch, 9 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Barred Owl in the woods, 11 Black-capped Chickadee, a Black-throated Gray Warbler, 4 Cedar Waxwing, 9 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 55 Dark-eyed Junco, 5 Downy Woodpecker, a Great Blue Heron by the creek, 23 Mourning Dove, 5 Northern Flicker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 7 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Red-winged Blackbird, 11 Song Sparrow, 8 Spotted Towhee, 12 Steller's Jay, a Swainson's Thrush that hit the window but survived after resting, 2 Wilson's Warbler, and 4 Pacific Wren, for a total species count of 33.

My report from my home in Marysville included one of

(Continued on Page 7)

BIRD WALK AT MUKILTEO'S BIG GULCH

5 October 2019

by Douglas Resnick, Trip Leader

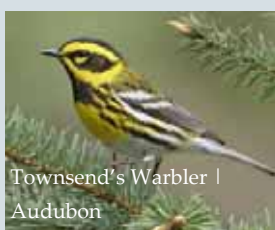
Terry, Sue, Lisa, Michelle, and I met on a cool, cloudy morning at Swamp Creek Park and Ride. From there, we carpoled to Mukilteo's 92nd Street Park. Following a trail to the southeast led us through a torii-like structure and on into the Big Gulch trail system.

Birdsong and calls were present from the outset, and they were very useful, as many of the birds chose to stay hidden in the brush or to forage high in the trees. The gulch is little developed, except for the trails; so, the brush is thick, and some of the trees have grown very tall. We often heard the sounds of Northern Flickers, Pacific Wrens, and Song Sparrows. There were also occasional cries from Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers.

The initial trail is known as the North Fork. After walking down a zigzagging set of stairways, we reached the intersection of the gulch's three main trails and turned onto the West Fork. Along this stretch, paralleling the park's creek, we were fortunate to observe some birds that came down nearly to ground level among the trees. Thus, we obtained a clear view of one of



Golden-crowned Kinglet | Cornell Lab, AllAboutBirds.org



Townsend's Warbler | Audubon

several Golden-crowned Kinglets that we had been hearing for some time as we walked, and we watched two Brown Creepers ply their craft on a stout trunk. We were pleasantly surprised by two more colorful arrivals: a Townsend's Warbler and a Red-breasted Sapsucker.

The West Fork ends at the torii opposite the wastewater treatment plant. We returned the way we had come, still listening to birds, but also paying attention to other elements of the scenery, such as the numerous mushrooms. Between brief rain showers near the end of the walk, we caught sight of a Hermit Thrush, two Spotted Towhees, and two Song Sparrows on a patch of ground near the trail.

We reached our meeting point around noon, after having reported observing 23 species on eBird. We finished the outing with lunch at Indigo Kitchen and Alehouse. 🍴

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BRIAN ZINKE

We are delighted to introduce our new Executive Director, Brian Zinke. Brian is a wildlife biologist and will be transitioning from a position with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in Ephrata to start with us in early November.

We look forward to working with him to complete our strategic plan and to implement new programs for education and engagement. Brian has a true heart for conservation and has been working with endangered species and managed landscapes for the last few years.

A Kansas City native, Brian has slowly worked his way west, conserving nongame species of conservation concern along the way. As a certified Associate Wildlife Biologist® with a Master of Science degree in Biology, Brian has worked with three federally endangered species in Wyoming and Washington and has contributed to reintroducing populations of two of those species. His background as a biologist has allowed him to work with a wide variety of species ranging from Great Gray Owls and waterfowl to black-footed ferrets and bats, and that scientific knowledge will be invaluable to our Society.

His love of nature grew from his childhood experiences in the outdoors with his family and through the Boy Scouts. On his way to earning his Eagle Scout, he made two trips to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of northern Minnesota which cemented his passion for all things wild.

“I’ll never forget the first time I heard the Loons. Sitting by the campfire as the sun was setting, that siren-like call sifting through the fading light – there’s nothing on earth like it,” he reminisces.

Brian has devoted much of his time outside of the office to wildlife conservation nonprofits, such as The Wildlife Society, where he has served at local, regional, and national levels. He also brings to us extensive experience coordinating projects with universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations.

“I’m very honored and excited to serve as your new Executive Director. I look forward to continuing the great work the Pilchuck Audubon Society is doing and to meeting all of you very soon,” he says.

In his free time, Brian enjoys pursuing his other

passions of wildlife photography, hiking, camping, and gardening.

Kristin Kelly has continued to support our organization with her skilled guidance on issues and administrative tasks. Her



service has been invaluable, and we are grateful that she delayed her retirement to help us keep the lights on and the organization upright.

In extending this position from half-time to full-time, we look forward to new opportunities for growth in our current programs and offerings. Please give him a warm welcome and stay tuned for new programs and projects. ✍

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from Page 6

the most unusual sights as I spotted 200+ American Crow flying over, heading to their roost for the night. I also listed 2 Anna’s Hummingbird, 4 American Robin, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, a Downy Woodpecker, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, 40+ Canada Goose flying over, 5 House Finch, 5 Mallard in the pond, 4 Northern Flicker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Spotted Towhee, 6 Mourning Dove, and a White-crowned Sparrow, for a total species count of 21.

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. ✍

BE AN AVIAN MONITOR AT THE EDMONDS MARSH—TRAINING NOVEMBER 16, 2019

Join us November 19, 2019, at the Willow Creek Fish Hatchery in Edmonds to learn how to become an avian monitor at the Edmonds Marsh. Pilchuck Audubon is monitoring the birds at Edmonds Marsh to better understand how these urban oases can support bird habitat and to track how birds respond to estuary restoration efforts.

Some birding experience is helpful, but we can pair novice birders up with seasoned recruits to get you started. This community science project is only able to continue with enough volunteers to support a year-around effort, so please consider joining us. With enough volunteers, the effort to sustain this monitoring would be only a couple surveys per year for each volunteer, but we need to build our volunteer base to keep the project running. PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US.

TRAINING DETAILS: You will learn how to identify marsh birds and how to code behavior and relationship to the habitat. Join us at the Willow Creek Hatchery located in Edmonds at 95 Pine Street. Class will start at 9:00 a.m. and run for about 2 hours. RSVP to Scott Markowitz at scott_markowitz@yahoo.com.



2019 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Save the Date
Edmonds / South County CBC
 December 14, 2019
Everett / Marysville CBC
 December 28, 2019

A LIFE TO CELEBRATE, A PRESENCE MISSED

Many of you know that PAS lost a dear friend on September 29, 2019, when Sharon Wootton died after a short battle with brain cancer. She was 72. For nearly 40 years she wrote a column about the outdoors for *The Daily Herald*, often with a mention of our activities or programs. She also edited the newspaper's outdoors section for two decades and contributed countless articles for the Features department about the things she cared most about: hiking, travel, birding, and folk music.



Sharon Wootton | heraldnet.com

We will miss her writing from our weekend reading, and perhaps we'll pull out one of the two books that she wrote along with her partner, Maggie Savage: *Washington Off the Beaten Path: A Guide to Unique Places* and *You Know You're in Washington When ... 101 Quintessential Places, People, Events, Customs, Lingo, and Eats of the Evergreen State* just to recall her flair for the written word. Those who knew her will remember her for an inextinguishable zest for learning, a remarkable relationship with the outdoors and nature, and, of course, her sense of humor in almost any situation. Our lives were made better by her presence, and she will be missed. ✍

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
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