

August Program Meeting

Leque Island Estuary Restoration Project

Guest Speaker: Loren Brokaw, WDFW

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Ducks Unlimited, and local contractor Strider Construction completed construction of the Leque Island Estuary Restoration Project in late 2019. After removing the dike surrounding the island on October 14, 2019, the first high tide entered the 250-acre area of Leque Island for the first time in 135+ years, which marks the beginning of the land returning to an intertidal marsh. Leque Island is owned and managed by WDFW, and is the area one crosses going over the bridge to Camano Island.

The project is designed to benefit all species that rely on estuary habitat as part of their life cycle, including salmon, shorebirds, waterfowl, and a host of other species. In addition to habitat benefits, there is a new 0.7-mile-long elevated walking trail and a non-motorized boat launch to allow people to continue to enjoy the site. Pilchuck Audubon was a key participant in the stakeholder advisory group that provided input on the project design.

Loren Brokaw is the Restoration Projects Coordinator for WDFW in the North Puget Sound region, which extends from the Washington/Canada border south to just south of Seattle. Loren manages habitat restoration projects on WDFW lands that involve restoration of natural processes to benefit fish, wildlife, and their habitats including a local project at Leque Island. Much of his work involves partnering with local organizations, planning and executing stakeholder outreach plans, and securing grant funding to achieve habitat restoration objectives. Loren was born and raised in Stanwood, and his family has lived in the Stanwood-Camano area for five generations.

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Leque Island. Photo: Loren Brokaw

When: August 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Where: The comfiest spot in your home!

How to Join: Click the link below to register for the Zoom conference. Once you register, you will receive an email with the meeting link, password, and phone number. When you're ready to attend the meeting on Friday, you can join the meeting one of two ways:

By computer

- Click the meeting link in your email. You may be prompted to download the Zoom application if you haven't already, or you can view it using your Internet browser. Then enter the meeting ID and password to sign in.

By phone

- If you'd prefer to call in on your phone and listen to the program, dial the phone number in the registration email and enter the meeting ID and password.

Whichever way you choose to tune in, you will need the meeting number and password that you receive in the registration email.

Register for Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qcqsqTIsEtbRkV5bushKA6NwAXNpFa-w>

People's Choice Award Winner!

Congratulations to Peggy Mundy and her photograph, "Portrait of Cedar Waxwing," for winning our People's Choice Award in this year's Birdathon Photography Contest! This is the first year we've had this award, which is voted on by the public on our Facebook and Instagram pages, and created a lot of buzz and excitement!

This rounds out our photography contest this year, but if you're a photographer now is the time to start getting your shots for next year's contest! If you're new to bird photography and want to learn some basics and tips on getting better photos, we have a beginner's class on bird photography coming up in October. To learn more about the class or to register, visit our [classes webpage](#). ✧



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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- Brian Zinke director@pilchuckaudubon.org

Changes with your Pilchuck Audubon Society Board

By Allen Gibbs, Vice President and Conservation Chair

2020 has brought many changes in our lives. COVID-19 caused the Board in March to suspend all **in-person** group events including field trips, exhibits and festivals, and monthly programs at the Everett Firefighters Hall. We also cancelled our April 10, 2020, annual election. It is about that election I write.

The April election was to fill three of the four elective offices: President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Cindy Easterson, who has been our outstanding President for four years, decided for reasons of work and family needs not to seek a third term. (Read Page 4 in the August PROFILE her “**Musings from a Past President.**”) However, Cindy continued to lead the Board into June, for which we are thankful! It had been hoped the virus shutdown would have ended by then and PAS could hold a belated in-person election this summer.

Due also to press of personal business and his move some years ago from Tulalip to Seattle, **Terry Nightingale**, our Vice President for seven years, announced he could no longer fill that post. Terry joined our Board in 2013. He has volunteered, however, to continue for a while as our webmaster, working with Executive Director Brian Zinke and other Board members on some projects underway.

After patiently documenting our monthly Board meetings as Secretary for two years, **Richard Smith** has moved on to enjoy life as a great birder absent those monthly meetings in Everett.

Many, many thanks to Cindy, Terry, and Richard for their leadership and contributions to birds and PAS programs!

That leaves us with only one filled office elected by the membership—Judy Hall as Treasurer since 2015. Her third term in office ends April 2021.

The PAS Board held its first Zoom meeting in May, then again in June and July. We asked Brian to work with the Board to help build the agendas and

conduct our meetings temporarily. Cindy told us in June that she could no longer continue her PAS work, so our July meeting was without Cindy.

A reading of the PAS bylaws found that the Board is authorized to elect the Vice President but not the President. It was decided to fill the Vice President seat for the remainder of the 2020-2021 term ending with the April 2021 election.

Allen Gibbs agreed to be elected to the Vice President post and to fill out that term of office. It was agreed, too, that he will continue as Conservation Committee Chair.

The work of Secretary will be shared among the Board members until a PAS member volunteers to fill the post, to maintain the official record of board meetings.

There will be a Nominating Committee appointed in December 2020 to recommend candidates for the President, Vice President, and Secretary posts, and possibly the Treasurer post, as well. Recruitment for candidates begins immediately! PAS members who would like to hold one of the four offices are encouraged to contact any Board member.

In the meantime, the PAS Board will conduct its regular business via Zoom. The Board is most grateful to have Brian Zinke, since November 2019, as our Executive Director, to handle administrative duties, and to set up PAS Zoom and other virtual gatherings. Earlier this year, Martha Jordan was elected to the Board as Avian Science Chair, and Mandy Weger elected as a Member-at-Large to be our Communications Chair.

Your PAS Board continues working on a new strategic plan. We will build upon the highly successful Birding by Ear class begun by Cindy, Brian, and others. Other educational and entertaining workshops and monthly programs will be announced in future PROFILE issues.

Looking ahead to better times for us all, and a return to group PAS events! ✨

Musings from a Past President

By Cynthia Easterson, Pilchuck Audubon Society President Emerita

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President of Pilchuck Audubon Society. With my term ending, I can't help but ponder on the events of the past four years and the areas where I hope my service has helped. I leave with on-going work to be carried out and champion the people who will complete a formal strategic plan for the organization and continue to push forward, forging new partnerships for education and collaboration.

There are a few areas I've been proud to be a part of, including securing an Audubon Collaborative Grant for improving outreach to diverse communities. As recent events have shown, we still have much work to do in the way we think about embracing and including communities of color and disadvantaged populations.

I, along with Kristin Kelly, represented Pilchuck Audubon on the Lord Hill Regional Park strategic planning group and am proud of our record in earnestly fighting to limit recreation to low-impact activities so the birds and wildlife in this public space could continue to flourish.



Birders at Lord Hill Regional Park

[\(map\)](#)

Embracing Audubon's work on understanding how birds will fare in the face of climate change, I worked diligently alongside the Washington state and sibling Audubon chapters to advance climate action legislation at the local, state, and federal level.

For me, Audubon will always be about birds, and so viewing advocacy and conservation efforts through a bird lens has always been important. Not all "environmental" actions support bird populations

or preserve bird habitat, so starting with the science that tells us where the birds are and how we can best impact change for meeting avian needs characterized the driving force behind my push for more community science. I'm proud that on my watch Pilchuck Audubon put in place monitoring at the Edmonds Marsh to help inform future land-use decisions; a significant and scientifically robust survey of the bird life at Lord Hill Regional Park; continued, strong support of the Christmas Bird Count; and engagement in Audubon's National Climate Watch project. I will continue to serve on the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Project Marine Birds Work Group, which advances sound science to improve marine bird monitoring and habitat enhancements across the Salish Sea.

As a long-time fan of Larry Schwitters and his astounding work with Vaux's Swifts, I had the pleasure to work with a great team of people to plan and implement the annual Swifts Night Out event. I will forever be grateful for the partnerships and friendships forged while working on this effort.



Vaux's Swifts entering Monroe chimney.

I, along with Pilchuck Audubon Society as a whole, have benefitted enormously from the time and talents of those in leadership and staff positions. I strongly urge your support for their work. They carry huge loads on behalf of the organization, and your help can lift up their efforts and support more success in the areas of development, education, science, advocacy, and outreach.

Please consider volunteering today. The needs are many, and in benefitting Pilchuck Audubon I know you will find, as I did, the act of service offers a great measure of quality to one's own life. Thank you for a great flight! ✧



Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds

September 12-13, 2020

This year's Bird Fest is going virtual! The planning committee is hard at work finalizing the details of the online fest, and the full event program will be coming soon. But we do know who the keynote presenter will be!

Keynote Presenter: Dr. Kaeli Swift

Webinar presentation
Saturday, September 12
10:30-11:30 a.m.

Something to Crow About

Crows and ravens are found on nearly every continent where they routinely infiltrate the hearts and minds of the humans who share their space. Dr. Swift will discuss some of the general aspects about crows that contribute to our affinity (and sometimes hatred) for them, with a particular emphasis on concepts that are the most frequent questions people have about crows including play, tool use, communal roosting, and funerals.



About Dr. Swift

From the time she was a young child, Dr. Swift has always loved wildlife—especially birds—and asking questions about animal behavior and



cognition. As an undergrad at Willamette University, she discovered that crows and other corvids offered the perfect marriage of these interests, and she has been hooked on them ever since. As a master's and doctoral student at the University of Washington, she dedicated herself to understanding what American crows do in response to dead crows, as well as what adaptive motivations might drive their response. Her graduate research included both field-based projects observing wild crows and non-invasive/non-lethal functional imaging studies aimed at understanding what was going on in the crow brain during these experiences. After graduating, she spent a year as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Washington studying the foraging behaviors of Canada jays in Denali National Park. She has been a lecturer in the UW's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, where she taught ornithology, conservation, and wildlife ecology. You can read her popular science articles on her blog, corvidresearch.blog. You can also find her on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook at the [@corvidresearch](https://twitter.com/corvidresearch) handle. Video, audio, and print reports of her research have been featured by *National Geographic*, PBS, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, Ologies podcast, Science Friday, and many others. ✧

Pilchuck Audubon Presents



eBird: Good for You, Good for the Birds!

Online course led by Holly Kleindienst, Tucson Audubon



How to Track the Birds You See, Find the Birds You Want to See, and Make Your Sightings Count

Have you heard of eBird? Do you think it's just for advanced or experienced birders? Come learn how this user-friendly database from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology can help you keep track of the birds you've seen, help you find the birds you want to see both at home and while traveling, and how logging the birds you see into eBird counts towards bird research and bird conservation whether you are a new birder or a lifelong lister. Through this series of four workshops you'll learn what eBird can do for you, and why, if you are out looking at birds, you should be using eBird. In the final workshop we'll cover other smartphone birding apps that can enhance and lighten your birding experience in the field.

SEPT. 2 – EBIRD 101: TRACK THE BIRDS YOU SEE, 2:00-3:15PM

- A brief overview of eBird, the largest community scientist database on Earth
 - Why you should list birds and understanding eBird checklist protocols
 - How to setup your eBird profile
- AND MORE!

SEPT. 9 – EBIRD 102: FIND THE BIRDS YOU WANT TO SEE, 2:00-3:15PM

- How to find out what birds are being seen near you or where you are going
 - How to see where a particular species is located
 - How to see what species are present at a particular time of year
- AND MORE!

SEPT. 16 – EBIRD 201: USE THE EBIRD APP TO SUBMIT CHECKLIST, 2:00-3:15PM

- How the eBird app on your phone differs from the eBird website
 - Basics of using the eBird app
 - How to edit and share a checklist
- AND MORE!

SEPT. 23 – MOBILE BIRDING APPS, 2:00-3:15PM

- How to lighten your load in the field with popular field guide apps
 - Discover apps that can help you find places to bird, or find birds you "need"
 - How to use online maps to assist your birding
- AND MORE!

**Sessions will be conducted over Zoom
(and recorded if you cannot make the live session)**

Pricing, includes all 4 sessions:

\$20 for members, \$30 for non-members

Scholarships may be available for those in need; inquire at email below

To Register:

**Register online at www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes
or email director@pilchuckaudubon.org**

Pilchuck Audubon Presents

Let's Get You Better Bird Photos!

Online course led by Steve Ball, Olympus Educator



OCTOBER 15, 7:00-8:15PM

We will review some of the bird photography fundamentals as well as tips to improve your images. Learn how to take your photos up a notch or two, and how to look at your images with a critical eye so the next time out you can improve your results.



**Sessions will be conducted over Zoom
(and recorded if you cannot make the live session)**

Pricing:

\$10 for members, \$15 for non-members

Scholarships may be available for those in need; inquire at email below

To Register:

Register online at www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes
or email director@pilchuckaudubon.org

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

May 26, 2020 to June 25, 2020

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

As the weather warms, the number of bird species increases. Now that we are staying home we have more opportunity to enjoy them.

Carole and Larry Beason's report from Lake Bosworth listed 4 American Goldfinch, 4 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle over the lake, a Belted Kingfisher near the shore, 9 Brown-headed Cowbird at the feeders, 5 Black-headed Grosbeak, 9 Brewer's Blackbird under the feeders, 35 Canada Goose on the lake, a Common Raven overhead, 3 Downy Woodpecker, an Evening Grosbeak, 5 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Osprey over the lake, 13 Purple Finch, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 24+ Red-winged Blackbird, 4 Rufous Hummingbird, 5 Spotted Towhee, 6 Steller's Jay, 2 Swainson's Thrush, 6 Violet-green Swallow, and 4 Wood Duck on the lake, for a total species count of 41.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo included 9 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Barred Owl, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 3 Hairy Woodpecker including 1 juvenile, 3 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 American Crow, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Bewick's Wren, 2 Western Tanager, 3 Black-headed Grosbeak, a White-crowned Sparrow, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, 5 Purple Finch, 7 House Finch, 6 Pine Siskin, and 6 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 28.

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 8 Dark-eyed Junco, 15 American Robin, 26 Bushtit, 7 American Crow, 5 Western Gull, 14 Black-capped Chickadee, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 5 Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Black-headed Grosbeak, 4 Spotted Towhee, 5 Northern Flicker, 2 Song Sparrow, a Common Raven, 2 Cooper's Hawk, and a Merlin, for a total species count of 19.

Reporting from Monroe, Walter Zandi listed a Pileated Woodpecker at the suet, a Red-winged Blackbird, 4 Hairy Woodpecker, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 5 American Goldfinch, 8 Black-headed Grosbeak, 3 Band-tailed Pigeon, 4 Steller's Jay, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 3 Mourning Dove, a Bald Eagle soaring overhead, and 7 Evening Grosbeak, for a total species count of 17.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood included 8 American Goldfinch, 17 American Robin, 11 Anna's Hummingbird, 50 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Barred Owl, 6 Bewick's Wren, 12 Black-capped Chickadee, 8 Black-headed Grosbeak, 11 Brown-headed Cowbird, a Brown Creeper, 8 Chestnut-Backed Chickadee, a Cooper's Hawk,

5 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Downy Woodpecker, 7 Evening Grosbeak, 2 Great Horned Owl, 7 House Finch, a Killdeer in the pasture, 5 Kinglet Species, 12 Mourning Dove, a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Red-tailed Hawk, 3 Red-winged Blackbird at the feeders, 5 Rufous Hummingbird, 12 Steller's Jay, 15 Tree Swallow, 5 White-crowned Sparrow, 2 Willow Flycatcher, and 2 Wilson's Warbler, for a total species count of 44.

Reporting from Marysville, my count included 5 Anna's Hummingbird playing in the spray from the fountain at the pond, a Bald Eagle flying over, an American Goldfinch, 7 Black-headed Grosbeak, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 4 House Finch, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Red-breasted Sapsucker, 5 Purple Finch, 5 Spotted Towhee, 5 Steller's Jay, 3 White-crowned Sparrow, and 2 Western Tanager, for a total species count of 22.

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

TRIP CALENDAR

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



No Birding Trips in August

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
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