

## June Program Meeting

### 50/50/50: A Passionate Birding Adventure

with

**Blair Bernson**

**June 12 • 7:00 PM**

**50/50/50 – A Passionate Birding Adventure** recounts Blair Bernson’s journey to all of the 50 United States finding 50 bird species on single days in each. Following his passion for birds and people, the journey was undertaken to get a better understanding of the great variety of beliefs, backgrounds, histories, and contexts found in our remarkably diverse country that have increasingly and sadly become a basis for an “us” versus “them” conflict. Intersecting with birders in each state, he hoped to find a unifying commonality.

The birds and the people surpassed his wildest hopes, providing memories for a lifetime, insights into how to



*Blair Bernson with Vivek Kumar*

bridge our differences, and how to better appreciate and build upon our great diversity. By the numbers, there were more than 660 species seen in the company of more than 300 people. He has no number for the many lessons learned or stories to tell. His presentation shares many of those birds, people, lessons, and stories.

**When:** June 12, 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, you can dial the phone number in your 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 received in the registration email.

**Register for Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtdeuspj8oHNRvqAj8KOP6lbR87gVHzQX8>

### ***In this issue***

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Audubon for All..... 6         | Finding a Snipe..... 7       |
| Backyard Birding Report .... 8 | Program Meeting..... 1       |
| Birding by Ear ..... 5         | Volunteers: Birding Book.. 2 |
| Conservation Report ..... 4    | Wood Creek Area..... 3       |

# Volunteers Needed: Updating our Local Birding Book

Pilchuck Audubon's book, *Birding in Snohomish County*, is currently being revised and edited for an updated edition.

Originally published in 2001, *Birding in Snohomish County* is an essential guide to all of the birding hotspots throughout the county, and we are looking for volunteers to help us compile research on a number of parks in the area. The research can be completed from home using online resources, and we also welcome inputs based on your experiences at your favorite local parks.

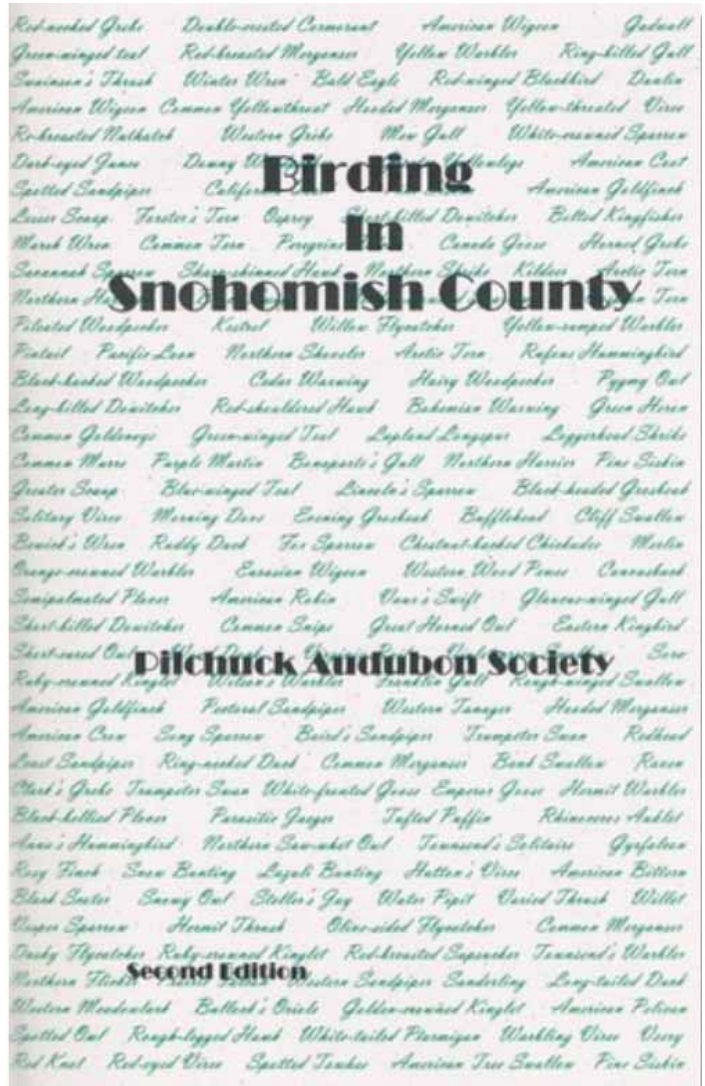
If you are interested in lending a hand as a researcher, writer, editor, or illustrator, please reach out to Mandy at [communications@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:communications@pilchuckaudubon.org). 🐦



## TRIP CALENDAR

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

**No Birding Trips in June**



## 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)

Copyright © 2020  
Pilchuck Audubon Society

## Board of Directors

|                  |                                                                                                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Acting President | Cindy Easterson ..... <a href="mailto:president@pilchuckaudubon.org">president@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>          |
| Vice President   | Open                                                                                                            |
| Treasurer        | Judy Hall..... <a href="mailto:treasurer@pilchuckaudubon.org">treasurer@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>                 |
| Secretary        | Open ..... <a href="mailto:secretary@pilchuckaudubon.org">secretary@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>                     |
| Conservation     | Allen Gibbs..... <a href="mailto:conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org">conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>         |
| Membership       | Jim Beneteau ..... <a href="mailto:membership@pilchuckaudubon.org">membership@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>           |
| Avian Science    | Martha Jordan ..... <a href="mailto:Martha.jordan@outlook.com">Martha.jordan@outlook.com</a>                    |
| Development      | Open ..... <a href="mailto:develop@pilchuckaudubon.org">develop@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>                         |
| Members at Large | Laurel Cheap ... <a href="mailto:classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org">classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org</a> |
|                  | Kathy Johnson..... <a href="mailto:forest@pilchuckaudubon.org">forest@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>                   |
|                  | Mandy Weger ..... <a href="mailto:communications@pilchuckaudubon.org">communications@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>    |
|                  | David Gladstone                                                                                                 |

## Committee Chairs

|                          |                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bird Sightings           | Mara Price ..... 360.722.5752                                                                                   |
| Community Science Coord. | Sherrill Miller ..... <a href="mailto:field.birds.pas@gmail.com">field.birds.pas@gmail.com</a>                  |
| Communications           | Mandy Weger ..... <a href="mailto:communications@pilchuckaudubon.org">communications@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>    |
| Conservation Awards      | Laurel Cheap ... <a href="mailto:classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org">classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org</a> |
| Donations                | Open ..... <a href="mailto:donations@pilchuckaudubon.org">donations@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>                     |
| Education                | Jim Beneteau ..... <a href="mailto:membership@pilchuckaudubon.org">membership@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>           |
| Field Trips              | Art Wait ..... 360.563.0181                                                                                     |
| Forest Practices         | Kathy Johnson..... <a href="mailto:forest@pilchuckaudubon.org">forest@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>                   |
| Hospitality              | Open                                                                                                            |
| Newsletter Editor        | Carolyn Lacy..... <a href="mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org">newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>            |
| Programs                 | Susie Schaefer..... <a href="mailto:garden@pilchuckaudubon.org">garden@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>                  |
| Webmaster                | Terry Nightingale ..... <a href="mailto:webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org">webmaster@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>        |

## Staff

|                                             |                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Executive Director/<br>Development Director | Brian Zinke ..... <a href="mailto:director@pilchuckaudubon.org">director@pilchuckaudubon.org</a> |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# Help Us Save Wood Creek

A couple of weeks ago the City of Everett gave notice to residents near the City's Wood Creek Property in southeast Everett that the City Council would be voting on whether to designate it as "surplus" to the City's needs. If deemed "surplus," it would permit the City to sell the property and allow parts of it to be rezoned for development. For those unfamiliar with this property, it is 92.5 acres of urban forest which is believed to house trees more than 100 years old – a very uncommon and ecologically valuable property in Everett.

A number of very concerned citizens brought this to our attention, and we leapt into action. We believed the timing of the vote and the way it was proceeding was in direct conflict with Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28 regarding public access to meetings during the COVID-19 health emergency. The current health guidelines restrict in-person attendance at public meetings and large group gatherings, thus prohibiting the community to organize and voice opposition to this vote.

If sold, the development of this property would be devastating to the wildlife that inhabit the property and ecosystem services it provides. We worked with local residents to identify wildlife species that use the property and find resources on the environmental effects that development would have on an area already deemed a risk for landslides.

The initial City Council meeting with the vote on the agenda was scheduled for May 27. While we were crafting our opposition letter, local residents created enough backlash that the City added a second date, June 3, for the public to provide comments. This was a step in the right direction, but not enough.

Facing more pressure from residents, the Mayor took the item off the May 27 meeting agenda completely. A few days later, she removed it from the list of properties to be discussed at the June 3 meeting, as well.

This was a great small victory, and we are proud of the swift action our local residents took to fight for this valuable wildlife habitat. However, we are unsure of how the City will proceed to view this property in the future, so we must keep the support to save this property going because there is no such thing as "surplus" greenspace.

[Read our letter to the City Council](#)

## ***How You Can Help***

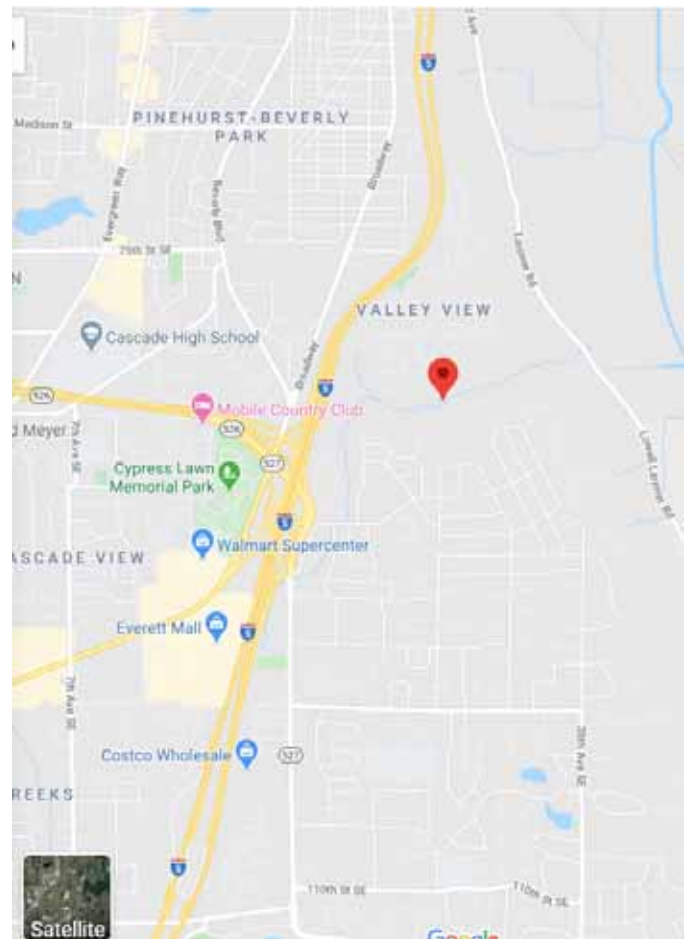
Please voice your opposition to the City selling this property and request that any decisions and deliberations on this matter take place only after the public can participate in person. Email the Everett City Council and submit your comments in opposition at: [council@everettwa.gov](mailto:council@everettwa.gov).

A local resident has set up a petition that we encourage you to sign voicing your support for the protection of the Wood Creek Property.

[Please Sign this Petition.](#)

[Read the original resolution for declaring certain properties "surplus."](#)

[Read the updated resolution with the Wood Creek Property removed from consideration.](#) ✍️



[Wood Creek Area, Everett, WA](#)

# Conservation Report

by Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

I've nothing original here this month to say. You are quite likely to be aware of the terrible things coming down on bird populations and their habitat from the current administration, individual members of the Congress, and some "forces of evil" not in government.

I'll share with you some key points recently made by Sara Greenberger, senior vice president, conservation policy, National Audubon Society (NAS). I've sat in on a few ZOOM meetings where she has spoken about what NAS is trying to do in response to the attacks on laws and regulations which protect birds. She notes these attacks are mostly rollbacks of existing laws and regulations, and attempting to weaken enforcement of same.

Drawing from her most recent email, here are just a few attacks among 98 efforts against federal environmental laws important to bird protection:

- ⇒ "Gutted the Clean Water Act – leaving essential wetlands and streams unprotected from water pollution.
- ⇒ "Weakened the National Environmental Policy Act – denying the public opportunities to comment upon federal projects in sensitive habitats.
- ⇒ "Continuing assaults on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, giving companies a free pass for bird deaths they cause."

It took decades to gain protections under these three federal laws. There have been efforts over the decades to weaken them, but few so aggressive and so successful. Former Interior Secretary James



Watt in the Reagan administration tried to destroy them. He tried very hard. But failed for the most part thanks to so many people caring enough to fight back!

Fortunately, in spite of this administration's efforts to appoint to federal judicial posts people who are not likely to be supportive of the laws, there are judges in place who are carefully reading the law, and not finding merit in the administration's efforts.

Here at Washington State, fortunately, things are not so grim with state environmental laws and enforcement. Difficulties? Yes.

Big hits on state, county, and local budgets and funding are making enforcement and oversight challenging. But at least the laws remain, and agencies and state officers able to enforce and defend them.

I encourage you to respond to email and Postal Service mail appeals from NAS and other bird conservation groups, asking you to sign on to letters and petitions directed to our members of the Congress. Ask those congresspersons to oppose destruction of those federal laws. Most of the Washington congressional delegation members are defenders of these laws. They need to hear encouraging words from us, thanking them for opposing the assaults.

If you aren't receiving such emails, contact me, and I will help you get on those special email lists. Check out the PROFILE box with PAS board member contact information. ✍

# Pilchuck Audubon Presents

## Birding by Ear

Listening is an act of loving birds

Online course led by Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser  
Seattle Audubon Master Birder class of 2017

Identifying birds by their songs and calls can transform both your birding experience and your everyday life. This three-part series introduces “birding by ear” (BBE) – identifying birds by their vocalizations. Register for one, two, or all three sessions.



### SESSION 1 - JUNE 9, 7:00-8:15PM

Using both non-North-American birds and Washington State birds, we'll practice "parsing" bird song - analyzing the different characteristics of a song (e.g. rhythm, tone quality) - to help with recognition and identification.

### SESSION 2 - JUNE 16, 7:00-8:15PM

Sonograms will be introduced as a tool to "see" differences between similar songs and calls, and we'll talk about the amazing variation in bird song, even within one species or one individual bird.

### SESSION 3 - JUNE 23, 7:00-8:15PM

We'll put it all together, using the tools from sessions 1 and 2 to practice distinguishing similar pairs of birds. We'll practice the reality of trying to filter out the bird singing nearby in order to hear the one far away. And we'll talk about why birds make sounds and what we can learn from listening to them.

**Appropriate for anyone who is new to BBE or wants to learn more**

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

#### Pricing:

1 session: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members

2 sessions: \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members

3 sessions: \$30 for members, \$45 for non-members

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

Email [director@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:director@pilchuckaudubon.org) to register

# Audubon for All

Earlier this year, the Pilchuck Audubon Board of Directors adopted our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement as a step toward making our Society one that is truly representative of our communities. We strive to provide a welcoming environment in which everyone can feel safe, appreciated, and heard. A plurality of voices, experiences, and ideas strengthens our communities and our conservation goals.

Improvement is a continuous endeavor; we are far from perfect and fully acknowledge we need to grow in this area. We are committed to making these changes and, as we educate ourselves on how best to do so, we invite and encourage everyone to participate in this growth with us. Here are a few of the many ways you can help us improve ourselves and better serve our communities:

- 1) Speak up if you see an injustice or inequity in any of our programs or policies. We want to hear from you and work with you to develop solutions.
- 2) Volunteer in our leadership ranks as a committee member or Board member.
- 3) Join our outreach team to help us reach more communities.
- 4) Say hi to birders and outdoor recreationists, and let them know they are welcome in that space.

These are just a start. We can do better, and we will do better. Thank you for your help, and please, be kind and show compassion toward one another.



Tykee James, National Audubon's Government Affairs Coordinator, leading a bird walk. Photo: Libby Marking

## Pilchuck Audubon's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement

*"Just as biodiversity strengthens natural systems, the diversity of human experience strengthens our conservation efforts for the benefit of nature and all human beings. Pilchuck Audubon must represent and reflect that human diversity, embracing it in all the communities where we work, in order to achieve our conservation goals. To that end, we are committed to increasing the diversity of our staff, board, volunteers, members, and supporters, and to fostering an inclusive environment in all of our communities, from rural to urban.*

*Equity, diversity and inclusion is not only a best practice for business, it's a strategic imperative. Our business and conservation strategies are enriched and made stronger by the contribution of the experiences, perspectives, and values of diverse individuals and communities. Protecting and conserving nature and the environment transcends political, cultural, and social boundaries, and so must Pilchuck Audubon in order to expand our reach and engage more people in protecting birds and habitat.*

*We are dedicated to providing an environment that prioritizes fairness and respect. At Pilchuck Audubon, all employees and volunteers are treated equally and are encouraged to achieve their fullest potential. We respect the individuality of each member of our community, and we are committed to an environment free of any kind of discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, national or ethnic origin, politics, or veteran status.*

*With a plurality of voices, Pilchuck Audubon will inspire more people and conserve more habitats. Respect, inclusion, and opportunity for people of all backgrounds, lifestyles, and perspectives will attract the best ideas and harness the greatest passion to shape a healthier, more vibrant future for all of us who share our planet. The birds we are pledged to protect differ in color, size, behavior, geographical preference, and countless other ways. By honoring and celebrating the equally remarkable diversity of the human species, Pilchuck Audubon will bring new creativity, effectiveness, and leadership to our work throughout our communities." ✍️*

# Finding a Wilson's Snipe at Wiley Slough

by Thomas Bancroft

"What's that," someone said, and I whipped around. Just 10 feet off the dike at Wiley Slough sat a plump, melon-sized shorebird, standing on only one foot. It sat sideways, its long bill pointing down the log, its right eye glued on us, a perfect profile. The key field marks -- white buffy eye-stripe, crown stripe, back streaks, buffy chest, and barred sides -- were all visible.

I stuttered for several seconds before "Wilson's Snipe" came out. It was rare to have such a good view, so close. For most of my sightings, this bird had exploded out of a marsh, like a cannonball. It then zig-zagged and disappeared instantly. Their extra-large flight muscles give them that chunky look and also allow them to fly extremely fast, immediately hitting top speeds. People hunt this solitary sandpiper, and successfully shooting one is tough, taking a lot of skill. The word sniper in our lexicon comes from that ability.



Last summer, Wilson's Snipes were displaying around Roger and Tiffany Lakes in the North Cascades. In the mornings and evenings, winnowing drifted through the subalpine landscape. Occasionally, I spotted a bird cruising across the sky, just barely visible in the subdued light. They make that sound with the outer tail feathers. Spreading the rectrices while flying, the resulting airflow vibrates. They modulate the tone by controlling the beating of their wings. That haunting chord is part of their territory defense and an advertisement for females.

They have a sexual call, too, often given on the ground by either sex. Last summer, it had me stymied for the longest time. I kept searching for the source, never finding

the bird, but finally realizing it was a snipe responding to the overhead winnowing.



The eyes on these birds are set way back on the sides of their heads. They have binocular vision out the back. Consequently, their sight is excellent while they have their bill stuck down into the mud. Their eye location is a good strategy for detecting a predator while they feed. The tip of that long bill is full of sense organs and flexible, allowing them to capture prey without having to pull it back out of the mud. Females have slightly longer bills than males.

The bird shifted position, giving us a face-on view of its pectoral muscles and the barring on its chest, but it still kept that right eye zoomed right on us. We backed slowly away, trying not to disturb it.

"Now you can tell your friends you went snipe hunting," I said to the ten people in my birding group. No one laughed; they just glared at me. 🦶

## Sounds of Wilson's Snipe

The first link below is a long recording of winnowing. The ground calls of the snipe are in the background. A Rail and a Yellow-rumped Warbler are in it, too. <https://soundcloud.com/tom-bancroft-2/wilsons-snipe-winnowing-yellow-rumped-warbler>

This second link is of a bird calling from the ground. It is their song. <https://soundcloud.com/tom-bancroft-2/wilsons-snipe-song>

## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

March 26, 2020 to April 25, 2020

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

Hope everyone is taking this time to enjoy all the birds in their backyards. To spot a beautiful Western Tanager can really brighten your day. It does mine.

Reporting from Lake Bosworth, Carole and Larry Beason listed 48 species this month. Their count included 14 American Robin, a Bald Eagle flying over, 5 Brewer's Blackbird, 12 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Evening Grosbeak, 3 Fox Sparrow, 7 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 7 Purple Finch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 24+ Red-winged Blackbird, 3 Rufous Hummingbird, 5 Song Sparrow, 6 Spotted Towhee, 6 Tree Swallow, 24+ Violet-green Swallow, 2 White-crowned Sparrow, a Pileated Woodpecker at the suet, an Osprey over the lake, and, on the lake: 8 Canada Goose, 3 Common Merganser, 5 Greater Scaup, 3 Ring-necked Duck, 4 Trumpeter Swan, and 9 Wood Duck.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo lists 2 California Quail, 5 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Steller's Jay, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Bushtit, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, 3 Spotted Towhee, a Fox Sparrow, 2 Song Sparrow, 4 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2 White-crowned Sparrow, 7 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Purple Finch, 2 House Finch, 6 Pine Siskin, and a House Sparrow (first one in the yard in many years), for a total species count of 27.

Reporting from her home along the waterfront in Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 18 Dark-eyed Junco, 8 American Robin, 2 Bewick's Wren, 5 Steller's Jay, 28 Bushtit, 15 Northwestern Crow, 7 Western Gull, 9 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 28 Black-capped Chickadee, 4 Spotted Towhee, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 5 Northern Flicker, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch, 7 Mallard Duck, 2 Common Raven, 2 Band-tailed Pigeon, and 3 Wood Duck, for a total species count of 22.

Reporting from Monroe, Walter Zandi listed a Varied Thrush, a Fox Sparrow, 4 Purple Finch, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, an Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 2 Hairy

Wood-pecker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, 3 American Robin, 2 Pine Siskin, 2 Bald Eagle flying over, 2 American Goldfinch, and 2 White-crowned Sparrow, for a total species count of 22.

My report from my home in Marysville includes 7 American Robin, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 12 American Crow, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 7 Mourning Dove, 3 Northern Flicker, 4 Spotted Towhee, 4 Steller's Jay, a White-crowned Sparrow, a Red-tailed Hawk flying over, 2 Varied Thrush, 2 Great Horned Owl in the woods, 60+ Mallard Duck in the fields, an Evening Grosbeak, a Pileated Woodpecker, and a Red-breasted Nuthatch, for a total species count of 23.

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



Black-headed Grosbeak | Mick Thompson Photo

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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.