

November Program Meeting

Seattle Merlin Project

November 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Guest Speakers:

Ben Vang-Johnson and Kim McCormick

Merlins are small falcons that live and breed in neighborhoods in and around Seattle. In 2013, Ben Vang-Johnson and Kim McCormick launched a research study of Merlins in the greater Seattle metropolitan area. At the November program meeting, Ben and Kim will present highlights of their research, including nest site characteristics, behavioral observations, and urban habitat adaptations. For more information, see:

<https://urbanraptorconservancy.org/research/seattle-merlin-project/>

When: November 13, 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



Two Merlin juvies on a gutter | Kim McCormick photo.

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.

Register for Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZAufuGrrjosG9aJeqiz7Nz0oBPpLn-CHpr0>

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2020 Audubon Christmas Bird Count



On November 15, a determination will be made regarding whether this year's CBC can be conducted safely and in compliance with state and local COVID-19 guidelines.

Save the Date

Edmonds / South County CBC

December 19, 2020

Everett / Marysville CBC

January 2, 2021



In Case You Missed It ...

It was a busy summer of online programs here at Pilchuck Audubon! While we certainly miss seeing everyone in person, one of the benefits of online programs is that we can record them. We know you all have busy lives and can't always make the live presentations, so in case you missed one, below are the links to watch our line-up of programs from this summer. Enjoy!

A Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure

Presentation by Ken Bevis, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources. [Watch the Recording](#)

Swifts Night In: Vaux's Happening, 15 million and counting. Where we've been and where we're going

Presentation by Larry Schwitters. [Watch the Recording](#)

Leque Island Estuary Restoration Project

Presentation by Loren Brokaw, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. [Watch the Recording](#)

Puget Sound Bird Fest

Presentations by Dr. Kaeli Swift, Rick Taylor, Alan Mearns, Scott Markowitz, Bev Bowe, and more!
[Watch the Recordings](#)

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 425.232.6811.

The monthly Profile is available online at

www.pilchuckaudubon.org

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New Addition to the PAS Board of Directors

Last month we highlighted three new Board members who have joined our Board since the beginning of this year, and we are pleased to announce we have another new Board member to welcome and introduce you to!

Jamie Parrott Adkins, Secretary

Jamie has always been devoted to working with wildlife and had the intention of becoming an entomologist from an early age. Following her passions, Jamie earned her BS in Marine Biology during her four years between the University of Hawaii and Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Following her undergraduate degree, she spent several years in the non-profit sector as an exotic animal keeper/trainer and diver. Jamie eventually pursued her master's degree, with the intention of working toward a management career in the zoological industry, and received her MBA from Pepperdine's Graziadio School of Business and Management. Jamie also spent part of 2010 specializing in marketing and negotiations at Pepperdine's partner business school, UCD's Michael Smurfit School of Business (Dublin, Ireland).

At the end of 2010, Jamie joined MedResults, a medical group purchasing organization, to assist in membership development, marketing, contract negotiation, and technology implementation. After 10 years, Jamie is now the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of MedResults, overseeing more than 40 vendor partnerships and 3,200 aesthetic medical member practices nationwide.



She is the former President and Chair of the Board of Directors for The Lily Sanctuary, a SoCal-based non-profit parrot sanctuary, and previously served as Vice President on the Board of Directors for MBA Women, Los Angeles chapter. Jamie is also a member of American Mensa and Mensa International, and an active member of Pepperdine's Alumni Network. Jamie and her family have long been supporters of the Audubon Society, and she hopes to further her passion for wildlife and the environment through PAS. 🦋

Jan Van Niel has passed away

The passing of Jan Van Niel on Sunday, October 18, was brought to our attention by Susie Schaefer, a long-time friend to the Van Niel family. The family will provide information to Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) in coming weeks, and an obituary will be published eventually in a future PROFILE. No memorial service is yet planned.

Jan and his first wife, Sally, were among the founders of Pilchuck Audubon Society, holding various offices. Jan was Conservation Chair at the time of his "retirement" from the PAS board in 2011. 🦋

We're awaiting outcomes of some races to be known. Some good news. Some not. Ahead of Election Day, Sarah Greenberger, National Audubon Society's Senior Vice President for Conservation Policy, sent out a letter about matters of interest at the federal level. I decided to run her letter below.

She was looking beyond the election, as are some members of the US House of Representatives, now controlled by the Democrats. Those Democrats have introduced the Ocean-based Climate Solutions Act for early initial action after the election, looking ahead to the new Congress next year.

There is also very important litigation afoot in the federal courts on matters not directly impacting our chapter but definitely important to us all.

In Sarah's letter, the paragraph about the Montana District Court, "Pendley" refers to Perry Pendley, the fellow who was *de facto* BLM Director until this summer, when the Administration nominated him to be the Director. He made many decisions during 424 days when he was serving illegally. For some decisions, the Montana federal judge ordered BLM to justify why those decisions shouldn't be thrown out.

Note that the last paragraph in Sarah's letter is a call for action against this administration's intent to allow seismic exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain. Please consider responding. Click on the blue type in Sarah's letter below—"Act now and make your voice heard." It will take you to National Audubon's letter, which you can use. You can also add your own comments. **Deadline for comment** to the Bureau of Land Management **is November 9**. If you find someone else's name and address in the form, click on the wording to the right of that name. That will take you to an empty form to fill with your own information.

About the Tongass National Forest, Pilchuck Audubon Society board voted to oppose the Administration's proposal to expand logging in that forest, joining us with National Audubon Society.

Because we were notified on October 28, there is a different Tongass National Forest matter not mentioned in Sarah's letter of October 26. Unfortunately, that is bad news. The administration has decided to exempt some of the Tongass NF Roadless Area from the 2001 Clinton Roadless Rule, which banned roadbuilding,

logging, and other activities. There were some exceptions in that 2001 rule. Look for objections and litigation by conservation and wildlife groups, which I think will prevent those activities from occurring until next year, possibly with a new administration in office.

Sarah's Letter

"While we're facing an election as potentially unprecedented as this year has been, we're still making progress for birds, the places they need, and people: A sweeping new climate bill has been introduced in the House; a federal court has invalidated harmful land-management decisions made by acting Bureau of Land Management (BLM) director William Perry Pendley; and the federal government has abandoned a planned logging project in the Tongass National Forest—the world's largest remaining intact coastal temperate rain forest. Unfortunately, the BLM released a plan on Friday to clear the path for seismic exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

"First, the good news:

"Introduced by House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Raúl Grijalva and Select Committee on the Climate Crisis Chairwoman Kathy Castor, the [Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act](#) protects and restores blue carbon ecosystems like salt marshes and mangroves—some of the most efficient resources for capturing and storing carbon. It also helps advance natural coastal infrastructure solutions that safeguard coastal communities and Tribes from flooding and storm damage; expands the [Coastal Barrier Resources Act](#); and protects 30 percent of the ocean under our nation's jurisdiction by 2030. Audubon worked with legislators to develop the bill—the first legislation of its kind—and we'll be on the Hill encouraging other House members to support and co-sponsor it.

"And the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, Great Falls Division, [invalidated three of Pendley's decisions](#): The Lewistown, Missoula, and Miles City Revised Management Plans would have opened federal lands to oil and gas development, damaging ecosystems that sequester carbon and that support the Greater Sage-Grouse and many other species. Audubon recently helped lead a group of 58 conservation organizations to urge [the Department of the Interior to review and reverse all BLM decisions and rules affected by Pendley's](#)

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illegal actions, and a federal court has already ruled he was serving as BLM director unlawfully. The District Court's decision is a promising precedent for reversal of other BLM actions under Pendley's illegal tenure, including revisions to Greater Sage-Grouse management plans in six states, controversial and misguided oil and gas leases, and management plans for Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments that damage habitat and risk land important to Tribes.

"Finally, the federal government has [decided not to appeal a court decision halting a plan to log 1.8 million acres](#) of the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska. The project would have impacted irreplaceable habitat for numerous wildlife species, including Bald Eagles, Northern Goshawks, wolves, and salmon. Audubon was a party in the original lawsuit opposing this project—and we'll continue to challenge ongoing federal attempts to open the Tongass to logging and push for protection of its old growth forest. Home to the Tlingit, Haida, and Tshimsian Peoples, the [Tongass](#) sequesters more carbon than any other type of forest on Earth.

"Now the bad news: the BLM's plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge allowing [seismic exploration in the refuge's coastal plain](#) this year. The proposed project will search for oil by sending seismic waves deep into the ground, work that will require the deployment of 90,000-lb thumper trucks, tractors, and bulldozers across areas of fragile tundra 24/7 for months on end. [Act now and make your voice heard](#). There's a 14-day comment period to tell the BLM that you oppose destructive oil exploration.

"Together, we can shape a better future for birds and the places they need. Thank you for all that you do."

Sarah Greenberger
National Audubon Society
Senior Vice President, Conservation Policy

TRIP CALENDAR

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

No Birding Trips in November



BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

August 26 to September 25, 2020

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

The Western Scrub Jay is now showing up all over our area from Everett, Mukilteo, and Lake Bosworth to Marysville. At least they are not as noisy as the Steller's Jay.

Carole and Larry Beason's report listed a Western Scrub Jay at the suet; they also listed 4 American Crow, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, a Bald Eagle over the lake, 12+ Barn Swallow flying over, a Belted Kingfisher, 17 Canada Goose on the lake, a Common Raven in the trees, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 10 Mallard Duck near the dock, 3 Northern Flicker, an Osprey over the lake, a Pileated Woodpecker, 14 Purple Finch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 24 Red-winged Blackbird, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 14+ Violet-Green Swallow, and 8 Wood Duck on the lake, for a total species count of 36.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo also listed a California Scrub Jay, a Sharp-shinned Hawk eyeing the birds at the feeder, 10 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Steller's Jays, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Spotted Towhee, 4 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Juvenile White-crowned Sparrow, 2 Dark-eyed Junco, 5 Purple Finch, 7 House Finch, 9 Pine Siskin, and 2 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 23.

Reporting from Everett, near the waterfront, Kriss Erickson listed 22 Black-capped Chickadee, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Bewick's Wren, 12 Steller's Jay, 25 Bushtit, 8 American Crow, 4 Western Gull flying over, 7 American Robin, 9 House Finch, 5 Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Spotted Towhee, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 6 Northern Flicker, 5 Song Sparrow, and 34 European Starling, for a total species count of 15.

Mary Sinker's report from her home in Stanwood included 17 American Goldfinch, 23 American Robin, 11 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 2 Bewick's Wren, 16 Black-capped Chickadee, 14 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Brown Creeper, 9 Downy Woodpecker, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 9 House Finch, 6 Northern Flicker, 2 Olive-sided Flycatcher, 8 Pine Siskin, 11 Red-winged Blackbird, 4 Rufous Hummingbird, 4 Song Sparrow, 8 Spotted Towhee, 3 Swainson's Thrush, 4 Tree Swallow, 2 Willow Flycatcher, and 6 Wilson's Warbler, for a total

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BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from Page 5

species count of 42.

Walter Zandi's report from Monroe listed a Pileated Woodpecker, 6 Steller's Jay, 4 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 3 Pine Siskin, 3 Mourning Dove, 3 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 House Finch, 3 Northern Flicker, 3 American Crow, 4 Anna's Hummingbird, 5 American Robin, and 3 Black-capped Chickadee, for a total species count of 14.

I also spotted a California Scrub Jay on the suet at my home in Marysville. I also listed 10 American Crow, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 5 House Finch, 4 Black-headed Grosbeak, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3 Common Raven in the woods, 10 Mourning Dove, 3 Great Horned Owl including 1 juvenile, 3 Northern Flicker, 25+ Pine Siskin flying around in a ball, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, a Cooper's Hawk on the feeders, 4 Spotted Towhee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5 Steller's Jay, and 2 Song Sparrow, 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. 🐦



Making Birding Accessible for All

The lack of accessibility in the outdoors has long barred people with impaired mobility from fully participating in birding and other outdoor activities. But together we can change that!

Birdability is a crowd-sourced, interactive, digital platform cataloging the physical accessibility of birding sites and hiking trails nationwide. The goal of Birdability is to provide a resource that allows people to easily find locations where access is not a prohibitive factor. For example, for each location on the Birdability map you'll find information regarding whether:

- handicap parking is available
- the parking area is paved or gravel
- ramps are available and how steep they are
- bathrooms are available
- the trail is asphalt, concrete, hard-packed dirt, crushed stone (loose or well-packed), sand, grass, has protruding roots and rocks, etc.
- the trail has a slope and how steep it is
- tactile signs and surface markers are present
- benches are available and their frequency
- steps are present
- and more!

Birdability started as the inspirational idea of Virginia Rose, whose mission became starting a movement to get mobility-impaired people out in parks and enjoying nature through birds. Learn more about her remarkable story: <https://www.audubon.org/news/a-movement-make-birding-more-inclusive-and-accessible>.

Birding and the outdoors should not only be welcoming, but also accessible, to all. To make this a reality, we need your help documenting the accessibility features of the outdoor spaces where you hike, bird, and adventure.

Volunteer to submit data and help your friends, neighbors, and communities find places they can access and enjoy, and make accessible birding a reality.

[Visit Audubon's Birdability webpage](#) to view accessible locations near you or to submit your own! 🐦

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
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- ☐ 4 quarterly payments of \$250
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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.

Audubon in Washington Advocacy Day 2020



In the midst of public health and economic crises, climate change and habitat destruction continue to imperil birds, people, and our communities.

In 2021, legislators must chart a path toward economic recovery that equitably invests in a climate-resilient future. On **December 9**, join Audubon members from all over Washington to meet with your legislators and advocate for birds and the places they need to thrive.

Join us in the morning for coffee, then meet with your legislators before closing out the day with a happy hour. Audubon Washington will provide training, help schedule meetings, and make sure you're prepared to speak up for the birds.

[Join us and let your advocacy take flight!](#) 🦋