

Volume 47, Number 9 www.pilchuckaudubon.org September 2020



A Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure

September 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Ken Bevis, WDNR

What happens when a tree dies in the forest? Follow along as we track the changes in the dead tree, from fresh dead, to hard snag, to soft snag to down log, and all of the life that follows in the decaying

wood. The important ecological role of dead trees is explored, particularly by way of habitat use by the many species. In fact, almost 40% of forest wildlife are somehow dependent and tied to dead wood for their survival. That's a lot. Suggestions for management are also included. The presentation is photo rich and might even include a song!

Ken Bevis is the Stewardship Biologist for the Washington Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Small Forest Landowner office. Ken is a lifelong hiker, hunter, fisherman, skier, bird watcher, and avid naturalist. Originally from Virginia, he has lived in Washington since 1986 and has held a variety of positions in natural resource management including the Forest Service, Yakama Indian Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (15 years), and, now, DNR. Ken has a BS in Forestry and Wildlife from Virginia Tech (1979), and a Master's in Biology from Central Washington University (1994), where he studied Cavity Nesting Birds in three eastern Washington forest types.

In this issue	eBird Class6
Arctic Refuge Lawsuit4	Mountain Loop Survey2
Backyard Birding Report8	Puget Sound Bird Fest3
Birding by Ear Class7	Swifts Night IN3
Conservation Report4	Wild Wallace Reconveyance5

He now helps landowners learn how to manage small private forest lands for wildlife on their properties. He makes frequent presentations for workshops, classes, and Washington State University Extension programs. He is a talented singer/guitar player as well. He continues to be fascinated with dead trees and works daily on finding humor in everything.

When: September 24, 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/tz0vfuGggzogGdFU6EbrfZL2CitNAAnNWUKp

Reply Due September 14, 2020

Kathy Johnson, PAS' chair of our Forest Practices Subcommittee, is PAS' representative on the Mountain Loop Highway Cadre. The cadre is comprised of county, state, and federal land managers and non-profit organizations such as PAS, Glacier Peak Institute, and recreation groups. She provided information to the PAS Board in July that the cadre, via Washington Trails Association (WTA), would soon issue a public survey, asking folks who use the highway how they now use the highway, and what, if any, improvements they would like to have done to the highway.

Here is an extract from Kathy's email sent to the board. Following her email is a link to the WTA website, which has the survey. Your PAS board agreed to help get "the word" out about the survey when it became available in August. It has been posted on the PAS website ("Advocacy" and our Facebook page). Some PAS members are also helping to post paper flyers in community centers and bulletin boards. Now, we are posting notice of the survey here in PROFILE, seeking your help in shaping the future of the Mountain Loop area.

Excerpt from Kathy Johnson's July email to the PAS Board

"This is the survey that's come out of the "Mountain Loop Highway Cadre" meetings I (and sometimes Allen) have been attending. The goal is to learn how the public uses the area and what changes, if any, they want, before creating a plan. Being the cynic that I am, I'm afraid the end result will be a proposal to widen and pave the unpaved part of the MLH, but I'm all for any process that allows us to give input to protect wildlife habitat.

"What I like about the survey—and several of us advocated for—is that there is plenty of opportunity for 'fill in' narrative answers. Because of that, instead of the 10 minutes advertised, it took me over an hour to do the survey. I included suggestions for limiting visitors on excessively overcrowded trails (e.g., Lake 22, which is set aside as a 'Research Natural Area' and is inundated with several hundreds of hikers daily), and increasing recreation opportunities by decommissioning long roads to some trailheads and building new trail or converting road-to-trail, with a trailhead on the pavement. This would disperse the human impact and also make trailhead shuttles more practical. I also asked for enforcement of the target shooting prohibition within 300 ft. of roads (and) trails, particularly on FS Rd. 41, which has become a nightmare of garbage, spent shell casings, and toxic and human waste—all of which affect wildlife as well as the human population."

Here is the <u>link to the Survey</u>. Please respond by September 14!

David Gladstone

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

Copyright © 2020 Pilchuck Audubon Society

Board of Directors

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Conservation
Membership
Avian Science
Development
Members at Large

Open.....president@pilchuckaudubon.org

Allen Gibbs...... conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org

Consultant

Committee Chairs

Bird Sightings
Community Science Coord
Communications
Conservation Awards
Donations
Education
Field Trips
Forest Practices
Hospitality
Newsletter Editor
Programs
Webmaster

Sherrill Millerfield.birds.pas@gmail.com

Mandy Weger communications@pilchuckaudubon.org

Staff

Executive Director/
Development Director

Brian Zinke <u>director@pilchuckaudubon.org</u>

Swifts Night IN

September 18, 2020 • 6:00 p.m.

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpcOihqTMvGNK0fTmbqxKU0wwVWhygCtX

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

Presentation by Larry Schwitters

For many, the transition from summer to fall is a time for gathering around the old chimney at the



Vaux's Swifts entering Monroe chimney.

Monroe Performing
Arts Center (former
Frank Wagner Elementary School) in
Monroe to watch the
dazzling display of
migrating Vaux's
Swift. Each year,
thousands of Vaux's
Swift use the chimney
as a roosting stop on

their migratory journeys, both north and south.

For several years, we've been hosting a Swifts Night Out event, where we have invited the community to gather at the school and observe those magnificent birds filing into the roost. But due to the health concerns of our communities, we're forgoing an on-site event this year.

Yet, just as the swifts have adapted to use chimneys

in place of old growth trees, we, too, are adapting and will host the first ever Swifts Night *In*! This year's event will be online via Zoom, with a presentation by our beloved swift expert, Larry Schwitters.

Larry will be presenting an update on the Vaux's Happening project and where he sees it going in the future. At the end of the presentation, we will have a question-and-answer session where you can ask Larry to impart his vast swift knowledge upon you.



Sunset will be around 7:15 that night, so we encourage you to tune in to the webcam on the chimney after the presentation to see if you can spot any swifts coming in for the night!

Click the links below to view the Vaux's Happening website and the live webcam:

<u>Vaux's Happening website</u> <u>Webcam link</u>

Puget Sound Bird Fest in Edmonds September 12-13, 2020

The program agenda for this year's festival is now available. We're thrilled that we're able to have the festival online this year, thanks to the help of many dedicated volunteers and the City of Edmonds. We hope you'll join us for one of our many activities, which include:

 Keynote speaker Dr. Kaeli Swift Webinar presentation Saturday, September 12 10:30-11:30 a.m.





- "Welcome to the Edmonds Marsh" and "A Marsh Through Time" presentations
- Kids' Corner
- Virtual Birders' HelpDesk
- "Birding is for everyone! How to get started" presentation
- Community science presentations
- And more!

To see all of this year's activities, visit the <u>Puget Sound Bird Fest website</u>.

Here is the first public report from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission about its proposed budget for the upcoming 2021 Legislative Session. Thanks to COVID-19, revenue from tax and service charges to state agencies is way down. No surprise in that. Here is a report from the Commission regarding its latest report to the governor's office. The WDFW 2021-2022 budget will be part of the governor's executive request, which will go to the State Legislature in January 2021.

Audubon Washington will join other conservation and outdoor recreation groups later this year to decide on top priorities for legislation covering budgets and spending.

What follows below is excerpted from the August 3 WDFW news release (the entire news release is available <u>here</u>). At this time, proposed cuts in services and operations mentioned in the penultimate paragraph have not been released by this PROFLE publication.

"Commission weighs service reductions as a result of the state's COVID-impacted funding projections"

"OLYMPIA – The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission spent their July 31-Aug. 1 meeting considering upcoming legislative issues – service cuts, legislative priorities, and new funding requests – for the upcoming 2021 session.

"The Commission unanimously approved advancing to the Governor's office a request for \$233 million in capital funds to support shovel-ready Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) projects. The proposed projects would span from forest heath wildfire risk reduction work to hatchery and fish management improvements, to recreation site improvements, to fencing to reduce deer and elk damage to agricultural lands. Such projects could generate an estimated 2,700 private industry jobs across the state beginning July 2021.



"The commission also reviewed proposed department legislative priorities – bills to provide the Commission federal indemnification authority to access funds for large collaborative projects similar to those of other state agencies, expand licensing options to better recruit and retain hunting and fishing participants, and stabilize Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments to local counties. The commission formally approved a department proposal to remove from state statutes inaccurate and unenforceable language that suggests a diminishment of tribal treaty rights.

"Department staff also proposed a 2021-23 biennium budget request that includes \$10.7 million in maintenance-level funding, \$14.7 million in new enhancements, and \$30.8 million in operational service cuts. The funding cuts may be necessary as a result of an anticipated \$9 billion shortfall in state general fund and other revenue over the next several years. The Commission will further consider proposed budget cuts at their Aug. 21, 2019 meeting in time for submission to the Governor's Office in mid-September. While the Department is presenting funding options that meet statewide government reduction goals, commission members recognized the challenge of such cuts having negative impacts on local economies and how investing WDFW's activities often generates additional revenue to the State General Fund.

"The Commission also authorized the department to seek a supplemental budget request for \$589,000 to address emergent needs for the 2021 fiscal year."

Audubon Takes the Administration to Court to Save America's Arctic

The Trump administration has decided to move forward with oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Refuge and relinquish protections for millions of acres of wetlands and river corridors in the Western Arctic. Their actions would leave no portion of America's Arctic free from oil and gas development. In the span of two days, Audubon Alaska joined with a coalition of conservation organizations to file separate lawsuits to protect and defend the <u>Refuge</u> and the <u>Reserve</u>. What the administration is doing here is not only unconscionable; it is illegal. Read the entire article published in the <u>National Audubon Newsletter</u>, August 2020, here.

WILD WALLACE LAND RECONVEYANCE

Pilchuck Audubon Society has signed on to a letter from a group of local citizens asking the Snohomish County Council to reconvey approximately 5,300 acres of public State Forest Board Land near Gold Bar back to the County to create a new public park.

This land is primarily mature second-growth forest, up to 100 years old, with pockets of old growth. It connects Wallace Falls State Park to the Wild Sky Wilderness Area and the WA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Morning Star Natural Resources Area (NRCA), providing wildlife corridors and habitat between these protected forests, as well as near-future old growth forest habitat.

WA DNR plans heavy logging (primarily clearcutting) on public land around Wallace Falls State Park and Gold Bar in the near future. Two timber sales (including the Middle May sale, formerly known as the Singletary sale) adjacent to Wallace Falls State Park are planned for 2020, and several more in the area—up to 1,000 acres—by 2025.

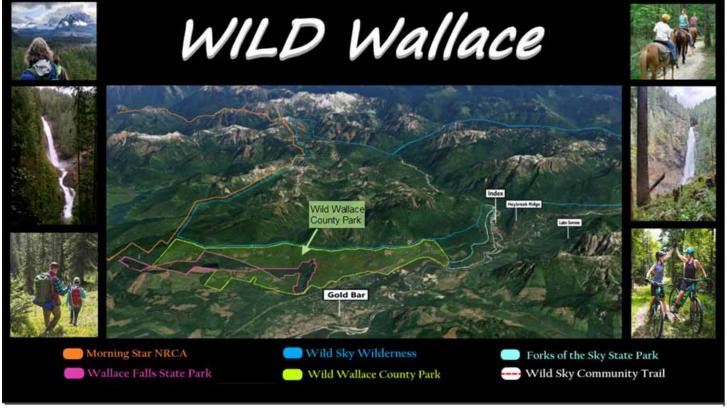
In a reconveyance, a majority of the Snohomish County Council simply votes to have the land reconveyed back to the County to use as a public park (RCW 79.22.300). There is no cost for the land, only for the administrative cost of the transfer. Contrary to the misinformation in the August 16 Everett Herald article provided by DNR representative Angus Brodie (who certainly ought to know better), no land exchange would be required.

This "Forest Board" land was deeded to the County through foreclosure in the early 1900s and turned over to the State to manage. Some revenue from timber sales on this public land goes to the counties, disbursed according to property tax for the parcel. This includes funds to schools for infrastructure (not for teacher salaries or equipment).

The loss of this small percentage of school construction funding and local tax district revenue can be recovered by other means that do not require the demolition of our children's forest legacy. Possibilities include increased local sales tax revenue from enhanced tourism, parking fees, and carbon tax credits.

The citizen's group has reached out to the Tulalip Tribes, who were quoted in the *Everett Herald* article as opposing the reconveyance. We hope that the necessary government-to-government negotiations between the County and all Tribes in the area will be initiated soon.

Please contact your County Council member and State Commissioner of Public Lands Hillary Franz and urge them to support the reconveyance of this vital wildlife habitat to protect it from logging. More information (including County Council contact info and maps of DNR's 5-year logging plan) and a petition are available at the group's website, www.skyvalleyfuture.org.



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 <u>www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes</u> or email <u>director@pilchuckaudubon.org</u>

Pilchuck Audubon Presents

Birding by Ear: Tackling the Tricky Ones

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

Some pairs and trios of Pacific Northwest birds are difficult for almost everyone to distinguish by sound – at first! Using various tools of BBE – careful, analytical listening; sonograms; mnemonics – we'll tackle some of these tricky ones, highlighting the distinctions and clues that can help tell them apart. Register for one, two, or all three sessions. Folks newer to BBE might benefit from reading Nathan Pieplow's webpage: http://earbirding.com/blog/specs beforehand.









SESSION 1 - SEPT. 15, 7:00-8:15PM

- Spotted Towhee Dark-eyed Junco Chipping Sparrow Orange-crowned Warbler
- Bewick's Wren Song Sparrow

SESSION 2 - SEPT. 22, 7:00-8:15PM

- Northern Flicker Pileated Woodpecker
- Black-capped Chickadee Chestnut-backed Chickadee Mountain Chickadee

SESSION 3 - SEPT. 29, 7:00-8:15PM

- American Robin Western Tanager Black-headed Grosbeak
- Townsend's Warbler Black-throated Gray Warbler

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

To Register:

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

BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

June 26 to July 25, 2020 by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

The birds are very busy this time of year. I am constantly filling the feeders. I'm sure you must be doing the same. There were only four reports submitted this month so the Backyard Birding Highlights will be a little shorter.

Carole and Larry Beason listed a total of 42 species from home at Lake Bosworth. They reported 3 American Goldfinch, 4 Anna's Hummingbird, a Bald Eagle over the lake, 2 Barn Swallow, a Belted Kingfisher lying near the shore, 4 Black-headed Grosbeak, 19 Brewer's Blackbird under the feeders, 25 Canada Goose on the lake, 2 Cedar Waxwing, 2 Common Loon on the lake, 1 Common Raven, 3 Evening Grosbeak, 2 Great Blue Heron, 2 Hutton's Vireo, 12 Mallard Duck under the feeders, 2 Osprey over the lake, 1 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Redbreasted Sapsucker, 36+ Red-winged Blackbird, 4 Rufous Hummingbird, 5 Swainson's Thrush, and 5 Violet-green Swallow.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from her home in Mukilteo included 6 Band-tailed Pigeon, a Eurasian Collard Dove, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Hairy Woodpecker including 1 juvenile, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, a Western Tanager, 7 Black-headed Grosbeak including 3 Juveniles, 3 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Purple Finch, 6 Pine Siskin, and 3 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 24.

Reporting from Monroe, Walter Zandi listed 6 House Finch, 1 Song Sparrow, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 6 Goldfinch, 8 Black-headed Grosbeak, 4 Steller's Jay, 4 Northern Flicker, 6 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 4 American Robin, 3 Pine Siskin, 2 Varied Thrush, a Pacific Wren, and 4 Violet-green Swallow, for a total species count of 21.

My report from Marysville included 5 Anna's Hummingbird playing at the fountain, 4 American Robin, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, a Cooper's Hawk, 5 Black-headed Grosbeak, 5 House Finch, 3 Darkeyed Junco, 2 Song Sparrow, 4 Spotted Towhee, 4 Steller's Jay, 6 Mourning Dove, 2 Common Raven, 2 Great Horned Owl, 15 Violet-green Swallow, 2 Western Tanager, and 2 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 26.

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. pricemara1@gmail.com or leave a message on my

TRIP CALENDAR





No Birding Trips in September

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.

The PAS	tax I	D num	nber is 91-6183664.		
	New	Mem	ber	\$28	
	Rene	ewal		\$28	
	Lifet	ime M	lember	\$1,000	
			10 monthly payments of \$100		
			4 quarterly payments of \$250		
			1 payment of \$1,000		
	Dona	ation .	\$		
My employer will match my contribution My employer's gift-matching form is enclosed with my contribution					
Make ch	necks	payab	ole to Pilchuck Audubon Society		
Mail to:	Pilo	huck /	Audubon Society		
	142	9 Ave	enue D. PMR 198		

	31101101111311, WA 30230 1742		
Name			
Address	i		
City	State	ZIP _	
Phone			
E-mail			

Snohomich W/A 98290-1742

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.