



Dead Birds Do Tell Tales: A Citizen Science Story

April 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

April Program Meeting

Guest Speaker: Dr. Julia Parrish

Hands-on citizen science offers an opportunity to collect environmental data over stretches of space and time that no research lab could hope to attain on its own. It also offers a unique opportunity for non-academics to connect with the practice of science. The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) is a 21-year-old environmental citizen science project that trains participants to identify what floats in on the tide.

COASST beached seabird data have been used in academic research and resource management, and have empowered thousands of coastal residents to monitor marine ecosystem health. Between 2014 and 2020, COASST documented a series of mass mortality events, collectively accounting for millions of birds, including a die-off of Rhinoceros Auklets in Puget Sound. Beyond the documentation of mortality events, COASST data suggest that: (1) people are highly motivated to contribute to place-based science; (2) with rigorous training, non-scientists are as good as scientists at data collection; and (3) program participants are hungry for ecosystem knowledge.

Julia K. Parrish is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of the Environment at the University of Washington, where she holds a Lowell A. and Frankie L.

Wakefield Professorship in Ocean Fishery Sciences. She is a marine biologist, conservation biologist, and specialist in citizen science. She is the founder and Executive Director of the Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team.



When: April 9, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

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.

Register for Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUufmgrDsoGddf7sNN8dbMRUkNkWjCl0iR>

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State Legislature Report — 12th Week

By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair

This brief is drawn from Adam Maxwell's weekly report for Audubon Washington.

It may be April 1 but no fooling that it is also the start of the 12th week of the Washington State legislative session. The general session ends April 25. The focus is upon passing the biennial budget (2021-2023), which means lots of very serious negotiations among stakeholders on both sides of the "aisle" in the House and Senate in Olympia. Do expect bipartisan results, including Governor Jay Inslee's participation.

Last Saturday, March 27, Adam pointed out that history was made that day. It was the first time ever that a **Clean Fuel Standard bill (House Bill 1091)** had a hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, which is significant, given that over half of the 49 senators sit on that committee. It was a hearing. It will be awhile until voting occurs.

Another top priority bill is **HB 1099 (Growth Management and Climate Change)**. It would fund a

requirement that counties plan for emissions reductions and climate resilience. The bill passed out of the Senate Committee on Housing & Local Government last week on March 24. What is different this time is the requirement of county and local governments comes with state funding, not an unfunded mandate as in the past.

The House and Senate budgets were released last week. They are being examined to determine where to focus "calls to action," to mobilize Audubon members across the state to ensure there is enough funding to support conservation actions on behalf of birds and people.

If you want to participate in the mobilization, contact Allen Gibbs, Conservation Chair, at conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org.



TRIP CALENDAR

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



No Birding Trips in April

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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Upcoming Online Class

This class will be conducted over Zoom and will be recorded, so if you can't make the live class you can still register to receive and watch the recording.

Register for class: <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes>



Who's calling, please? Introducing "birding by ear"

April 20 and 27; 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Led by Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser

Identifying birds by their songs and calls can transform both your everyday life and your birding experience. This two-part class is perfect for folks who will be enjoying *Birding 101 with Elaine Chuang* at the Everett Public library on April 10 ([register for free library program](#)) or are just starting to recognize the sounds of birds in their neighborhood. We'll take a deep dive into the songs and calls of a few birds that are both common in Puget Sound and that have distinctive and diverse sounds. With the

goals that (1) you'll come away having definitively mastered the sounds of at least one bird and (2) you'll have a solid foundation of skills to learn the sounds of as many birds as you fancy.

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

A promotional banner for the online class. The background is dark blue. At the top, it says "SATURDAY, APRIL 10 @ 10 AM" in white. Below that, the text "Pilchuck Audubon BIRDING 101 with ELAINE CHUANG" is centered in white. On the left is a photo of a blue heron, and on the right is a photo of a woodpecker. At the bottom, there are logos for Pilchuck Audubon Society, Everett Washington, and Everett Public Library. The URL "crowdcast.io/e/birding" is at the bottom left.

Free, Online Program
Hosted by the Everett Public Library

To Register:
<https://www.crowdcast.io/e/birding/register>

What is it about birds that engages so many of us? Come enjoy a sampler of the many facets of birds and birding that are so captivating, and intersect a bit with life on the wing. The presentation will focus on our local avian fauna, their habits and habitats, and will include a virtual birding trip out in the field.

Elaine Chuang is a graduate of Seattle Audubon's Master Birder Class (2019) and a volunteer in Environmental Education programs with Seattle Parks and Recreation (public and school programs). She is also active in community science with organizations such as Pilchuck Audubon, Seattle Audubon, the Washington Ornithological Society, Puget Sound Observatory, and the Woodland Park Zoo. 🐦

Join us for Birdathon—our most exciting fundraiser of the year!

What is Birdathon?

Birdathon is a uniquely Audubon way to help protect native birds. It is a friendly competition to see who can see the most birds and raise the most money while doing it. Similar to a walk-a-thon, participants collect pledges from family, friends, work colleagues, and others who want to support Pilchuck Audubon. But instead of getting a pledge of \$1.00 per mile walked, teams ask for a pledge for each bird species they see. Alternatively, supporters can pledge a fixed amount to a team they fear will run up the species count!

When is it?

Birdathon begins May 1 and runs through May 31.

How can I participate?

- Compete in our friendly birding competition and collect pledges to see if your team can see the most birds and raise the most money. [Sign your team up here!](#)
- Donate/sponsor a team
- Submit your photos to our bird photography contest



We will be updating our [Birdathon webpage](#) in the coming days, so please visit it for all of this year's rules. On that page you'll find resources to register your team, print your species checklists and pledge trackers, meet our teams, find fundraising tips, and how you can support a team or Pilchuck Audubon by making a donation!

Please consider participating in this incredibly fun and important fundraiser for Pilchuck Audubon. All proceeds go toward our mission and programs throughout the year. 🐦

[Register my team!](#)

Birdathon Photography Contest

Accepting submissions
May 1 – May 31

Our Birdathon photography contest is back again this year! Enter your best bird photos from Washington for a chance to win great prizes.

All entry fees go to support our incredibly important work of protecting and giving voice to the birds, so please consider supporting us by entering or making a general donation to Birdathon. Thank you!

Official contest rules will be posted on our website in the coming weeks. 🐦



Tashi Schorr/Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards



Peggy Mundy/Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards



Kathy McCulloch Wade
Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards

PAS Officer Election

All four elected officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) are up for election this year in part due to the pandemic situation.

Background

The Vice President position has been vacant for several years. The President and Secretary positions became vacant last year, leaving only the Treasurer office filled. These vacancies do not allow us to conduct business sufficiently as required by Washington State law regarding nonprofit corporations. This coincided with the beginning of the pandemic, which prevented a general membership meeting in person last year to fill the vacant officer positions.

The PAS bylaws allow the Vice President to be Acting President to meet certain state nonprofit corporation law requirements. The bylaws also allow the PAS Board to fill vacant Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer positions temporarily to serve until the next general election, which in this case means April 2021. The bylaws do not allow the Board to fill (elect) a vacant President seat.



Allen Gibbs

Allen Gibbs and Jamie Parrott Adkins volunteered to fill the vacant Vice President and Secretary positions, respectively, until the April 2021 general membership election. They were elected by the remaining Board members per the process outlined above, and Allen is fulfilling the Acting-President role for some actions.



Jamie Parrott Adkins

Allen Gibbs and Jamie Parrott Adkins volunteered to fill the vacant Vice President and Secretary positions, respectively, until the April 2021 general membership election. They were elected by the remaining Board members per the process outlined above, and Allen is fulfilling the Acting-President role for some actions.

Current Situation

With no changes yet this year in pandemic guidelines and governor's orders yet to allow an in-person general membership PAS election meeting, the Board decided to have an online vote to fill the President and Secretary

seats (required in even years) and the Vice President and Treasurer seats (required in odd years). So by chance and the pandemic, all officer positions will be elected



Bill Derry

this April. The President and Secretary positions will serve only one year and be up for regular election in April 2022. The Vice President and Treasurer will be up for election in April 2023.

Ballots were sent via email to members in good standing (paid memberships) as of April 1. For those without email service, paper ballots were mailed via the US Postal Service in late March. Candidate information is included in all election packets. Ballots (email and paper) must be received by Brian Zinke, Executive Director, **no later than April 8.**



Judy Hall

Candidates

This year we have four members who have volunteered to serve as officers:

- President – Allen Gibbs (one-year term)
- Vice President – Bill Derry (two-year term)
- Secretary – Jamie Parrott Adkins (one-year term)
- Treasurer – Judy Hall (two-year term)

Join us at our April 9 program and general membership meeting via ZOOM to hear the results live! 🐦



Tributes to Art Wait, 1930-2021

Judy Lowell

Art Wait and Virginia Clark have been Pilchuck Audubon's incredible and dedicated Field Trip Leaders for many years. I feel so fortunate to have spent hundreds of Tuesdays as a designated driver in Art's vehicle on our birding trips. Not only was Art able to answer my constant questions related to birds, but also on home maintenance and a multitude of other issues and subjects. Art led a full and fascinating life, and it has been such a pleasure to hear the stories about his life as we rode together from birding spot to birding spot. I will miss Art immensely; birding will never be the same without him.

Valerie Wade

The first day I met Art was also my first day birding with the Tuesday group. A newcomer to the state and area, I knew no one, and I had no idea what to expect. This 'Art guy' showed up late, full of bluster, but cracking corny jokes. I was assigned to his van for that day. What an eye-opener! He demanded help and attention—plus cookies. Never forget the cookies! From then on, I provided the Cookie Shuttle Service, and he provided me with priceless birding information gleaned from about 65-70 years of experience. It was a great partnership. So long as I brought him some of Virginia's delicious cookies, he would be my 'birding teacher'. If he gave me a hard time about something, I learned to do it back to him, because he could laugh at himself. He was a complex guy who astounded me with his skilled knowledge of electronics (especially for an old guy). Turns out, he used to be in charge of calibrating all of Boeing's high-tech instruments for 30-some years: impressive! He regaled us with childhood misadventures in Massachusetts and Back In The Day. They were doozies, resulting in gut-busting laughing. I was a passenger in his van for the whole seven years I have been part of Pilchuck Audubon—helping him, learning from him, and, yes, fetching him cookies. I honestly can't imagine what birding will be like without him. I choke up every time I think about it. He had a profound, wonderful effect on my life and on Pilchuck Audubon chapter. I will miss him deeply. We all will.



Arthur B. Wait
July 20, 1930 to March 8, 2021

Virginia Clark

Art and I met many years ago through Pilchuck Audubon. Many miles and many days were spent bird watching. I especially remember *Babe*, the old red Plymouth station wagon he drove. He was such a caring person. At that time in my life, I was a very large lady, and he bought a special extension so I could use the seat belt. Whenever you rode with Art, you had to prepare to spend some time going down the middle of the road. He always said, "There's no one coming."

I remember one day when Wilma Bayes, Margaret Bridge, and I were on a trip with Art; it was a damp day and the windows kept steaming up. When we complained about not being able to see out, he just said, "It's your fault, girls. It's 'maiden mist'." I still use that comment!

Art did a lot for PAS. He and I did the Breeding Bird Count survey for a number of years; that meant getting up at 3 a.m. and getting to Mukilteo by 4:00, then doing 10 miles with 20 stops of 3 minutes each for the count.

As the leader of field trips, I relied on Art to write up the monthly trips and send it to the newsletter; he kept track of all the trips and the birds we found. Art always took a role in the Christmas Bird count as well, often doing more than one circle.

Art was a wonderful and generous man. He did have an odd sense of humor and sometimes came across as cantankerous but, in reality, he was a wonderful, caring human being. After all, anyone who likes cherry pie with chocolate ice cream must be special!

**See Page 7 for
Art's obituary
and Page 8 for a tribute
from Susie Schaefer.**

Bill Davey
Art will be missed, especially
by those who knew him and
birded with him over the
years.

Ann Eachus
Sarasota, Florida
My personal memory is of him
setting off on unpaved terrain
on his scooter. It was my first
time attempting a birding trip
with mine, and I figured if he
could do that so could I, so I
followed. And I have been
enjoying 'off road' birding for
many years since. Thanks
Art.

Jim Beneteau

Art was always a bright spot on our birding trips. I sometimes took a turn driving Art along with Carlos. I enjoyed their banter right from the start and always found Art's sense of humor delightful. And I learned a joke or two. His reminiscing was not only entertaining but frequently quite informative. In addition, I learned quite a lot about birds from Art's extensive expert knowledge. He was never condescending to a novice birder. A major lesson from Art was to always be a bit cautious about making fine distinctions between closely similar species. Thank you, Art.

January 26, 2021 to February 25, 2021

I thought the Pine Siskins had left, but then another swarm landed under the feeders. I can't wait to start filling the feeders again. I am sure the birds would like it also.

Carole and Larry Beason's report from Lake Bosworth listed 5 American Coot; 14 American Robin; a Bald Eagle flying over the lake; 6 Black-capped Chickadee, 6 Bufflehead, 7 Canada Goose, 2 Wood Duck, and 7 Common Merganser on the lake; a Cooper's Hawk; 2 Common Raven, 30 Dark-eyed Junco; 3 Downy Woodpecker; 7 Golden-crowned Sparrow; a Great Horned Owl head at dusk; 2 Hairy Woodpecker; 5 Lesser Scaup; 40 Pine Siskin; a Pileated Woodpecker; 5 Purple Finch; a Screech Owl hit by a car on the side of the road; 32 Red-winged Blackbird; 3 Ring-necked Duck; 2 Song Sparrow; 8 Spotted Towhee; 6 Steller's Jay; and a Varied Thrush, for a total species count of 36.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt listed a Sharp-shinned Hawk menacing the other birds, a Cooper's Hawk, 3 Band-tailed Pigeon, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Steller's Jay, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, 2 Townsend Warbler, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Fox Sparrow, 2 Song Sparrow, 30 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 House Finch, and 20 Pine Siskin, for a total species count of 21.

Kriss Erickson's report from her home near the Everett waterfront listed 16 Black-capped Chickadee, 6 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Bewick's Wren, 3 Steller's Jay, 20 Bushtit, 9 Northwestern Crow, 23 Western Gull, 4 American Robin, 6 House Finch, 16 Canada Goose flying overhead, 4 Northern Flicker, 5 Song Sparrow, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 43 European Starling, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 8 Dark-eyed Junco, and 2 Mallard Duck, for a total species count of 19.

Maureen Schmitz's report from Everett listed 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 26 Bushtit, 4 American Crow, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 European Starling, a Northern Flicker, 6 Pine Siskin, a Song Sparrow, 2 Bewick's Wren, a Townsend's Warbler, 4 House Finch, a Red-crowned Kinglet, an American Robin, a Nuthatch, and 2 Downy Woodpecker, for a total species count of 20.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker listed 25 American Robin, 11 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 2 Barred Owl, 2 Bewick's Wren, 17 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Brown Creepers, 14 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3 Cooper's Hawk, 175 Dark-eyed Junco, 8

Downy Woodpecker, a Fox Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 3 Great Blue Heron at the creek, 6 Hairy Woodpecker, 12 House Finch, 16 Mourning Dove, 5 Northern Flicker, 25 Pine Siskin, 225 Red-winged Blackbird (after the snow their numbers came back to normal, around 25), 8 Song Sparrow, 2 White-crowned Sparrow, 35 Spotted Towhee, 14 Steller's Jay, and 8 Varied Thrush, for a total species count of 36.

Walter Zandi's report from Monroe included a Pileated Woodpecker, 5 Steller's Jay, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 14 Varied Thrush, 17 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Northern Flicker, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Spotted Towhee, 2 Song Sparrow, a Downy Woodpecker, 6 Pine Siskin, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, and a Brown Creeper, for a total species count of 19.

My report from my home in Marysville listed 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Hairy and 2 Downy Woodpecker, 15 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 House Finch, 30+ Mallard Duck in the fields, 8 Mourning Dove, 5 Northern Flicker, 25+ Pine Siskin, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 5 Spotted Towhee, 2 Song Sparrow, 30+ Trumpeter Swan in the fields along 100th St., 3 Steller's Jay, 2 Varied Thrush, 2 Great Horned Owl hooting at each other, 8 Ring-necked Duck, and a Cooper's Hawk that was around almost every day. My total species count was 24.

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

Art Wait Obituary

Art Wait was born in Greenfield, MA, on July 20, 1930 and died on March 8, 2021 at Providence Hospital in Everett, WA. He was 90 years old.

In the 1950s, Art served in the US Coast Guard, followed by a long career at The Boeing Company, where he calibrated technical instruments. He was a passionate and consummate birder, and a long-time member of Pilchuck Audubon Society. For many years, he was the leader of the Tuesday birding field trips. He enjoyed swimming, scuba diving, bicycling, windsurfing, and *The New York Times* crossword puzzle.

Art is survived by his wife of 41 years, Shirley; 2 daughters, Lynn Wait and Lora Wait-Hoy; a grandson, Daniel Hoy; 4 step-children; 4 step-grandchildren; brothers Jack, Donald, and Bill; and a sister, Janet.

A celebration of life is planned at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to PAS. 📧

A Tribute to Art Wait from Susie Schaefer

Like everyone at PAS I will miss Art Wait—even though he teased me unmercifully, disagreed with me, and tried to get me going about something every time we had a communication about anything—major or minor, true or untrue—over many years together on many projects for PAS. Which means I personally will miss him something fierce, and really can't imagine how PAS will be able to function without him, and I know he did a lot of other things for PAS that I am not even aware of, as Art was the PAS "go to guy" for so long.

All those years of our PAS bird seed sales, there was Art arranging purchase and delivery of a huge number of bags of bird seed. He also unloaded them from the delivery truck and reloaded them for all of us to pick up at his house or later at the Park and Ride at the Everett Station. The only reason PAS made any money off the bird seed sales was because of all the work he did.

But that was only one of the jobs he took on. He took on a whole bunch of other duties, not just occasionally but all the time—hauling books for sales every month to our PAS monthly meetings, then selling them and re-loading his vehicle with the ones that did not sell right away. Also getting there early, not for the book sales, but to help set up the chairs and tables. He also picked up the PAS mail and sorted, re-mailed, or forwarded it daily or weekly, depending on volume and need.

He also took care of the radios for the field trips. He and I argued every year when I needed them for my multi-day field trips, which included arrangements for pick-up and delivery. I don't know how much money he saved PAS by his care of these radios, but I know it was a lot.

Art always helped out staffing the PAS table at PAS events all over the county (often taking more than one shift) and always transporting displays, books, stacks of information, keeping track of the sales and cash box, plus answering bird questions and providing information at the Snow Goose Festival, Edmonds Bird Fest, Monroe Swifts Night Out, Arlington Eagle Festival, and other events needing a PAS presence. There was Art talking BIRDS and Pilchuck Audubon!

Art always participated in the Christmas Bird Count, and he did more than just participate. He and Shirley hosted the potluck dinner after the count year after year. Going to Art and Shirley's house for the dinner was always so much fun no one ever wanted to leave early, and most of us stayed until very late. We all looked forward to this yearly special event at their home—certainly much more than an ordinary potluck—and there was always a big crowd.

The loss of Art Wait will leave a huge, unfillable hole in Pilchuck Audubon for a long time. Thank you, Art. We miss you! 🍀

In Case You Missed It ...

We certainly miss seeing everyone in person. However, 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 recent programs. Enjoy!

A Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure

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

Making Your Yard a Bird Haven

Presentation by Kim Adelson. [Watch the Recording](#)

Special Birds of Mount Rainier

Presentation by Jeff Antonelis-Lapp. [Watch the Recording](#)

Salmonella in Pine Siskins

Presentation by Ian Cossman, DVM [Watch the Recording](#)

Seattle Merlin Project

Presentation by Ben Vang-Johnson and Kim McCormick. [Watch the Recording](#) 🍀

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.

- Student \$15
- Senior..... \$30
- Adult \$35
- Family \$50
- Lifetime Member (one-time payment) \$1,000
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