

NO DECEMBER PROGRAM MEETING



A Message from Audubon’s New CEO, Elizabeth Gray

Dr. Elizabeth Gray, a scientist and ornithologist, will be the first woman to hold the CEO title in the organization’s 116-year history. Dr. Gray has local history with Washingtonians, having studied and received degrees at the UW and other college programs here.

I am very excited to share with you that I have accepted the offer from the National Board of Directors to become [Audubon’s next CEO](#).

It was such a pleasure to be with many of you at our first virtual convention in October and I am looking forward to being together again this summer in Tacoma in July 2022.

Joining Audubon has been a homecoming for me. Birds bring me so much joy and our mission is close to my heart because my career in conservation started with birds.

I began by studying homing pigeon navigation as an undergraduate and then spent time in eastern Washington State studying Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbirds for my doctoral thesis work. When the Yellow-headed Blackbirds did not return to their breeding marshes my second field season, I knew something wasn’t right. This moment was my personal wake-up call and I decided to devote my career to conservation.

As a scientist and ornithologist, I have committed my life to working with communities and partners at the local, state, national and international levels to protect the planet. I joined Audubon from The Nature Conservancy, where I served in a variety of leadership roles, most recently as Global Managing Director for Climate. I have spent thirty years in conservation—much of it in the field working directly on science-based conservation projects.

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One of the most exciting things about Audubon is all of you—our grassroots network—no other organization can match the passion and power you bring to bird conservation. Birds are a uniting force, bringing together communities across the hemisphere. I cannot wait to work with you to advance our mission.

I find that building partnerships makes work better and more equitable. During the past six months as acting CEO, and alongside staff working groups, the Network Team, and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Jamaal Nelson, I prioritized the advancement of Audubon’s diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, including white allyship training, BIPOC community-building support, transition guidelines for transgender staff, and an increased paid time off policy. Through grants, consultant support, peer-to-peer learning, and online training we are advancing EDI efforts across our chapter network.

Continued on Page 2

National Audubon Society's New CEO

Continued from Page 1

Listening to local leadership is important to me, so in the last six months, I have elevated leadership from the field to the Executive Team. I have also begun to elevate Audubon's profile and the importance of birds at significant climate events like NYC Climate Week and the UN Climate Conference in Glasgow (otherwise known as COP26). To support all of the important work that we do, I have also focused on fundraising and to date have raised several million dollars to advance our mission.

Moving forward I will be in touch to gather your input into our next strategic plan where we will align our work to protect birds and the places they need through three interwoven pillars: Climate; Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging; and Hemispheric Conservation.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out. I would love to hear from you.

Warmly,

Elizabeth Gray, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
National Audubon Society



Dr. Elizabeth Gray, CEO, National Audubon Society.
Photo: Luke Franke/Audubon

SNOHOMISH COUNTY Road Project News

Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement



The Granite Falls Bridge #102 Replacement project on Mountain Loop Hwy is one of four Washington projects to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. The \$22.1 million RAISE grant for Bridge 102 is the largest award in Washington state and one of the largest in the country.

The Granite Falls Bridge 102 Replacement project is now fully funded and staff are working on environmental studies and design with construction targeted to begin in 2025.

To learn more, visit the project webpage at <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/608>.



Speak Up For Birds!

Virtual Advocacy Day | December 7, 2021



Belted Kingfisher
photo by OHFalcon 72

Learn how to meet with your legislator!

We need your help to pass policies that benefit birds and people. When you register, you'll join an advocacy group to meet with your state legislator on December 7th. Audubon will schedule your group's meeting and provide training to ensure you're prepared to speak for the birds!

Learn more and register



birdscan.win



Two things you can do for birds

Birds can't vote, and they can't tell legislators what they need to survive.

But you can.

On December 7, we'll be hosting our second annual *Virtual Advocacy Day*, providing birders across the state an opportunity to connect with their state legislators about Audubon Washington's 2022 legislative agenda.

There are two things I'd like to ask you to do to help Washington's birds:

- 1) [Register](#) to attend advocacy day and share [the registration page](#) with your chapter network.
- 2) [Sign up to be a district leader](#) – work with state office staff to help facilitate lobby meetings with key state legislators in your chapter's territory.

We'll be providing a special training session to help you feel comfortable in this role (total time commitment: 10-15 hours between now and mid-December).

Last year we had 80+ Audubon members meeting with 25 legislators. We'd love to build on that success this year.

Thank you for all you do,

Adam Maxwell

Campaigns Manager
802.999.2460

Audubon Washington
5902 Lake Washington Blvd S
Seattle, WA 98118
wa.audubon.org

All About Christmas Bird Counts with Elaine Chuang and Brian Zinke

Free, Online Program

Hosted by the Everett Public Library

The [Audubon Christmas Bird Count](#), or CBC, began on Christmas Day 1900 as an alternative to the current tradition at the time: a Christmas bird hunt. Instead of shooting them, enthusiasts began trying to count as many birds as possible. Ever since, information collected on the many different bird species found in North America has been vital to scientists in assessing the health of and trends in bird populations. More than half of the 588 North American bird species are in trouble from loss of habitat, climate change, and many other factors. The CBC is an excellent example of the importance of Community Science. By signing up to participate in a local count, you can help identify what actions need to be taken to protect birds and their habitats.

Christmas Bird Counts take place annually all over North America between December 14 and January 5, and here in Washington State, for example, there were 40 held in 2020. [Pilchuck Audubon Society](#) sponsors two CBCs in

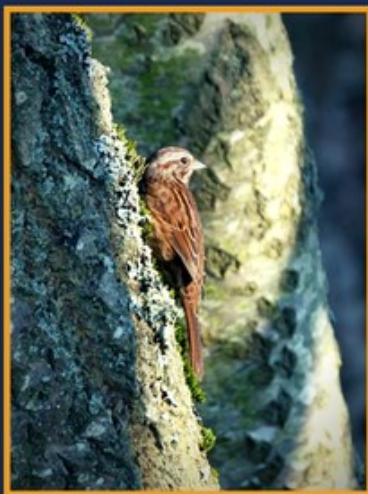
Snohomish County. The Edmonds/South County count will be on December 18 and the Everett/Marysville count will be on January 1. To learn more about our local counts and to sign up, please visit <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

Elaine Chuang is an avid participant in Community Science efforts across our region, volunteering at the drop of a hat with birding and environmental education programs such as Seattle Parks and Recreation, Pilchuck Audubon, Seattle Audubon, the Washington Ornithological Society, Puget Sound Bird Observatory, and the Woodland Park Zoo. She is a graduate of Seattle Audubon's Master Birder Class (2019).

Brian Zinke is the Executive Director for the Pilchuck Audubon Society. He's a certified Associate Wildlife Biologist®, and has worked to conserve several endangered species in Washington, Wyoming, and Kansas. 🦋

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

THURSDAY, DEC 9 @ 6:30 PM



All About
**CHRISTMAS
BIRD COUNTS**
with
**ELAINE CHUANG &
BRIAN ZINKE**



[crowdcast.io/e/birdcount](https://www.crowdcast.io/e/birdcount)



UPCOMING CLASSES

Both classes will be conducted over Zoom and recorded, so if you cannot make the live sessions you can still register to receive access to the recordings for a few weeks after each class.

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

Winter Waterfowl

January 11, 18, 25; February 8

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Pricing: \$45 for members, \$60 for non-members

Led by Connie Sidles, Master Birder

Everybody knows a Mallard, right? And Northern Shovelers are those guys with big bills, while Buffleheads are the little black-and-white “rubber duckies.”

But do you **really** know your waterfowl, even the so-called easy ones? Can you identify each species by gender, in eclipse, in flight, and by voice?

Western Washington is the winter home for more than three dozen different species of swans, geese, and ducks. It is possible to know them all, in all their guises. Let master birder Connie Sidles take you on a virtual journey through our state’s waterways to discover the ins and outs of our winter waterfowl. If time allows, we may cover a couple more webbed species such as loons.



Brant. Photo: Brian Zinke

Brant | Photo Credit: Brian Zinke

Neotropical Migrants

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Pricing: \$55 for members, \$75 for non-members

Led by Connie Sidles, Master Birder

The neotropical arrivals will be streaming into our state as soon as spring arrives. In fact, all across the continent, billions of passerines from Central and South America are coming to breed. They all will be in their brightest spring plumage—living jewels that each has made this arduous journey on its own, driven by the need to nest.

If you’ve been overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of species that swell our year-round avian populations, then this class is for you. Come hear Connie Sidles explain how to ID warblers, vireos, flycatchers, kingbirds, shrikes, swallows, swifts, nightjars, and (if time allows) hummingbirds. They are here for only a short time, and then they leave us in late summer and fall, emptying our skies for another year.



Wilson's Warbler
Photo: Camilla Cerea/Audubon

Wilson's Warbler | Photo Credit: Camilla Cerea

BIRDING FIELD TRIPS

TRIP CALENDAR

Check our website, <https://>

www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming-trips, for the latest information.



Tuesday, December 7 Snohomish Area

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Snohomish Park & Ride on Avenue D, just off Hwy 9 and Bickford Ave. We will explore the Blackman's Lake area, Riverview Wildlife Refuge, the Snohomish Flats, and Ebey Slough. There should be lots of ducks and other waterfowl. We also anticipate seeing a variety of winter raptors and songbirds, and perhaps a shrike or two. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750.

Tuesday, December 14 Lummi Flats

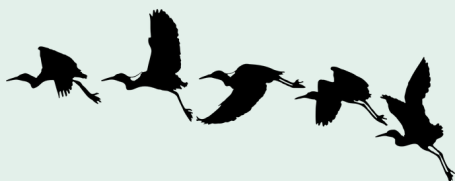
Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Quilceda Village Walmart parking lot west of Marysville (I-5 exit 200). Park away from the store, to the east, near Quilceda Blvd (next to I-5). This popular December trip to various sites on the Lummi Nation Reservation offers great chances to see Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Short-eared Owl, Northern Shrike, and many waterfowl species. A stop at Sandy Point to look for uncommon Shorebirds may be possible. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Virginia Clark, 360-435-3750.

Tuesday, December 21 Everett and Marysville

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the interior parking area at Legion Memorial Park overlooking Marine View Drive. This will be an easy trip between our local Christmas Bird Counts. After checking the park and Evergreen Arboretum for songbirds, we will look for waterfowl and unusual gulls along the waterfront and visit some of the Marysville hotspots. Pack a lunch. Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760.

Tuesday, January 4 Monroe to Carnation

Ring in 2022 with a trip through the Snoqualmie River Valley. Details to come. Trip Leader: Phil Dickinson, 336-692-3760. 🦋



Field Trip Restrictions

For those who are unvaccinated for COVID-19, we will not be able to accommodate your attendance on field trips at this time.

For those who are vaccinated:

- Masks are not needed while outdoors.
- Carpooling with individuals from outside of your house is allowed, but masks should be worn while in the vehicle.
- Maintaining 6 feet of distance between participants is highly encouraged.
- Sharing equipment is discouraged.

[Please read the full guidelines for participating in field trips here.](#) You will be required to sign an annual [liability waiver](#) and acknowledge that you agree to abide by the COVID guidelines before participating in a field trip.

If you have any questions regarding field trips or the current guidelines, please contact Brian Zinke at director@pilchuckaudubon.org. 🦋

Winter Wings Birding/Photography Festival

Klamath Falls, Oregon

February 18-20, 2022

Get ready for a 2022 Winter Wings Festival like no other! Winter Wings brings together birders and photographers to learn and explore with top-notch professionals and enthusiastic local guides. The Klamath Basin is renowned for its massive wintering population of Bald Eagles, but is prime habitat for many other raptors including owls, as well as a diversity of waterfowl.

The 2022 Festival will feature Richard Crossley, author of the Crossley ID Guides and co-author of *Ornithery: For Your Mind, Body, and Soul*. For our photography keynote we are excited to have Jennifer Leigh Warner, conservation wildlife photographer.

Join us for an extensive array of field trips, workshops, presentations, and receptions that highlight the wonders of the Klamath Basin in winter. On Friday, Feb. 18, there will be several presentations on the status of Klamath Basin wetlands and partner initiatives.

Dates: Friday, Feb. 18 through Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022

Host site: Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech), 3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 97601

Website: www.WinterWingsFest.org

Registration opens in mid-December on date TBA.

For information, call 877-541-BIRD (2473) or email info@winterwingsfest.org 🦋

Join us for the Christmas Bird Count!

December 18 – Edmonds/South Snohomish County CBC

January 1 – Everett/Marysville CBC

After canceling our two CBCs last year, we're excited to get back out there again this year! To ensure the safety of everyone involved, we will be implementing the following participation guidelines:

- We will not be able to accommodate unvaccinated individuals in field activities at this time. Unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to participate as feeder watchers if they live within the CBC circle boundaries.
- Carpooling will be allowed only with vaccinated individuals (all who are present should be vaccinated), and masks should be worn while in the vehicle.
- Masks will not be required when outdoors/outside of vehicles.
- Physical distancing is highly encouraged.
- Sharing of equipment is discouraged.
- [Participants must sign a liability waiver.](#)

How to get involved

Reach out to our CBC compilers and let them know you'd like to participate in this year's count.

- ⇒ Edmonds/South Snohomish County CBC Compiler: Rick Taylor (cbc.waed@pilchuckaudubon.org)
- ⇒ Everett/Marysville CBC Compiler: Scott Atkinson (cbc.waev@pilchuckaudubon.org)

For more information about the CBC, please visit our website at <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.



Camilla Cerea/Christmas Bird Count

Christmas Bird Count | Photo Credit: Camilla Cerea

The weather and the number of bird species have changed. The Varied Thrush arrived early this year.

Carole and Larry Beason's report from Snohomish listed only 34 species for October. Their count included 2 American Robin, 14 American Crow along the road, 4 Anna's Hummingbird, a Bald Eagle on a log on the lake, 18 Bufflehead, 42 Canada Goose flying over, 14 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 Double-crested Cormorant, 6 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron on the deck, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, a Hutton's Vireo, 5 Mourning Dove, 4 Northern Flicker, an Osprey over the lake, 7 Purple Finch, 24+ Red-winged Blackbird, 7 Ring-necked Duck, 2 Song Sparrow, 7 Spotted Towhee, 8 Steller's Jay, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2 Varied Thrush, and 4 Wood Duck on the lake.

Sarah and Paul Bueren's report from Edmonds listed 19 Turkey Vulture flying over, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 17 American Crow in the yard and flying over, 20 American Robin flying over, 20 Dark-eyed Junco in the yard and forest, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 5 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Northern Flicker, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 House Finch, a Red-tailed Hawk flying over, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, and a Townsend's Warbler, for a total species count of 19.



Townsend's Warbler | allaboutbirds.org

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt reported 3 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 3 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Steller's Jay, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Black-capped Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1 American Robin (other years there were large numbers on the Mountain Ash), 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Song Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 8 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Purple Finch, and 5 House Finch, for a total

species count of 19.

Maureen Schmitz's report from Everett listed 2 Spotted Towhee, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 4 American Crow, a Hairy Woodpecker, 4 White-crowned Sparrow, 2 Steller's Jay, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 American Goldfinch at the feeders and bird bath, 8 House Finch, 2 Song Sparrow, 5 Sparrow species, a Townsend's Warbler, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 14 American Robin, 2 Northern Flicker, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 12 Bushtit, 7 European Starling, a Bewick's Wren, and 2 Red-winged Blackbird, for a total species count of 21.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker's total species count of 31 included 14 American Robin, 8 Anna's Hummingbird, 11 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Bewick's Wren, 20 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Brown Creeper, 15 Bushtit, 6 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Cooper's Hawk, 38 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Eurasian Collared Dove, 3 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 4 House Finch, 10 Kinglet species, 17 Mourning Dove, 6 Northern Flicker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 8 Song Sparrow, 8 Spotted Towhee, 12 Steller's Jay, 2 Willow Flycatcher, 2 Wilson's Warbler, and 5 Pacific Wren.

Walter Zandi's report from Monroe listed a Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Steller's Jay, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 3 American Robin, 11 Dark-eyed Junco, 6 Northern Flicker, 5 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Spotted Towhee, a White-crowned Sparrow, 2 American Crow, 2 Mourning Dove, 3 Pine Siskin, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Pacific Wren on the roadside, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 European Starling, 2 House Finch, 7 Canada Goose overhead, and 2 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 22.

Reporting from Marysville my report listed a Anna's Hummingbird, 3 American Robin, 50+ American Crow along the road and flying around, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 10 Dark-eyed Junco, 10 House Finch, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 4 Northern Flicker, 6 Spotted Towhee, 7 Steller's Jay, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Cooper's Hawk (came by almost every day), 30+ Rock Dove on the wires, 3 Mourning Dove, a Red-tailed Hawk flying over, 4 Mallard Duck in the pond along the road, and 30+ Canada Goose flying over, for a total species count of 20.

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

Trip Report: Weekend Birdwalk to Gene Coulon Memorial Park, 7 November 2021

by Jonathan Blubaugh

Pilchuck Audubon Society visited Renton's Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park on November 7. Having often found the park to be crowded, I suggested we meet at the nearby Lowe's. But this day it was not necessary, perhaps due to the early hour and chilly temperature. Some went on ahead to the park directly, and the rest of us followed them a few minutes later.

This was the first birdwalk I had led since the viral attack more than one year ago. I organized no carpools in deference to public health guidelines. Our chapter now requires participants to be vaccinated, maintain social distancing, and sign an annual waiver.

There were eight of us as we began at the swimming hole parking lot, which was basically empty, to my surprise. In addition to some of the usual suspects (my best friends in the world), we welcomed a couple of newcomers (members of the Pilchuck chapter) to Weekend Birdwalks. They found the trip announcement in our newsletter, the Profile, which can be found at Pilchuckaudubon.org. The swimming hole parking lot started us out at the west end of the park at the very south tip of Lake Washington. That end of the park is next to a new Hyatt hotel and the Boeing Renton 737 factory, where I work on the airfield preparing the aircraft for their first flights. It's pretty much my sandbox.

Early on, a Brown Creeper was spotted scurrying up a tree trunk, and a big flock of American Robins were gorging on Mountain Ash berries. A couple of floating, anchored logs had almost three dozen Double-crested Cormorant, a few of them holding up their wings to dry. A Gadwall drake was whistling at one of several Gadwall hens. Mixed in with local, tame Mallards were three Mallard x domestic hybrids, easily spotted by their blotchy white plumage.



Gadwall Drake and Hen | Photo Credit: eBird

From there we headed north along the southeast corner of Lake Washington on ADA-grade paved trails. A Pere-

grine Falcon (which nests just inside the factory's lakeside hangar doors) attacked the Mighty Mallards, but missed. As I recall, there were an adult and an immature Bald Eagle. When one of them glided down to perch on a post in the water, the entire flock of gulls flushed, more than my count reflects. Continuing along the path, we came across the resident Canada Goose flock, 65 strong. They are utterly tame, grazing and roosting on the grass right up to the edge of trail, not bothered in the least by the people walking or jogging by. They are really pretty up close! The ganders tend to stand sentinel duty while most of the flock grazes or snoozes.



Double-Crested Cormorant | Photo Credit: allaboutbirds.org

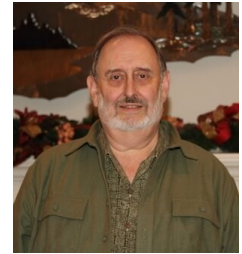
It was absolutely wonderful to be back out with our old and new Pilchuck friends after the lengthy shutdown, as you can easily understand since we all experienced it.

Wanting to gather for lunch afterward, we found a café that was mostly empty, so our afternoon ended with good food, good friends, and, God willing, a return to some type of normalcy.

Here's a list of most of the birds that we saw: 65 Canada Goose, seven Gadwall, 30 Mallard plus 3 domestic hybrid ducks, three Ring-necked Duck, a Bufflehead, nine Common Merganser, a Western Grebe, two Anna's Hummingbird, a couple hundred American Coot, twelve Short-billed Gull (until this year known as Mew Gull), a Ring-billed Gull, 33 Glaucous-winged Gull, 35 Double-crested Cormorant, a Great Blue Heron, two Bald Eagle, heard a Northern Flicker, saw a Steller's Jay, 19 American Crow, four Black-capped Chickadee, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Golden-crowned Kinglet, the Brown Creeper, a Bewick's Wren, 25 American Robin, two House Sparrow, three Dark-eyed Junco, a Song Sparrow, a Spotted Towhee, and the peregrine. All were uploaded to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology via the eBird mobile application at the indicated link. 🦅

This past fall, two former leaders of Audubon Washington retired from many years of leadership in environmental organizations. A story about Nina Carter appeared in the November PRO-FILE. Here is a story about her predecessor, Jeff Parsons. I asked Nina and Jeff about their work and career paths for Audubon and other conservation groups, and their most recent work in Washington State agencies.

Here is Jeff Parson's autobiography in response. I first met Jeff in June 1996 at a National Audubon Society Board of Directors meeting near Leavenworth at the Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort.



Allen Gibbs

Allen Gibbs, President; Pilchuck Audubon Society

Jeff Parsons, another former excellent Audubon Washington leader

By Jeff Parsons

I feel very fortunate to have had a long career doing work that matters a great deal to me personally, which introduced me to many extraordinary people along the way. Reflecting on a career that began almost 40 years ago, when I started out as an intern in the Washington State House of Representatives, I fondly remember my time with Audubon as the most transformative and inspirational of my career. I can truly say that the people of Audubon changed my life and gave it new and fulfilling purpose.

I retired from the Puget Sound Partnership on November 1 of this year after serving as the agency's Legislative Policy Director from 2014 to 2021. I represented the agency in advocating for the state legislature to establish policies and provide funding to restore and protect Puget Sound. Successes include supporting the agency's local, state, federal, Tribal, and non-governmental partners in building their capacity to reduce and prevent water pollution, protect and restore habitat, and take other actions needed to provide for salmon recovery, southern resident orca recovery, and reopening of shellfish beds.

Prior to joining the Partnership, I was the founding executive director of the Wenatchee River Institute, and an environmental learning center located at Barn Ranch Reserve in Leavenworth. It started out as an Audubon Center, but that's another story. Simultaneously, I served on the North Central Washington Audubon Board of Directors, including a couple stints as president.



Before that, I served as executive director of Audubon Washington from 1996-2003. I was (and remain) a strong believer in the unique value and importance of Audubon's local chapters and the work they do all across the state and nation. I built the Audubon Washington State office staff from 3 to over 38 extraordinary employees who worked to support local Audubon chapters. They maintained a commitment to science-based decision-making, represented Audubon interests in the state legislature, promoted environmental education, initiated the development of the Seward Park Audubon Center, supported local partners in their development of the Dungeness River Audubon Center, and established the Washington State Birding Trails Program.

In my first stint with Audubon, I served as State Issues Coordinator for the Washington State Office of the National Audubon society from 1990-1994. In that role, I led the environmental community's lobbying efforts for enactment of Washington State's Oil Spill Prevention Act and Growth Management Act, including the requirement for statewide designation and protection of critical areas (critical wildlife habitat, wetlands, frequently flooded areas, etc.).

Prior to working for Audubon, I served in a variety of political and legislative roles, including service on staff of the initiative campaign staff for the re-election of Senator Henry M. Jackson and Governor Booth Gardner, and service in a variety of roles on the staff of the Washington State House of Representatives.

As is obvious, my work history and accomplishments were possible thanks to many mentors and fellow leaders and assistants. I owe a debt of gratitude to many friends and mentors.

Continued on Page 10

Jeff Parsons, Continued from Page 9

The late “Chuck” Moon, State Representative, 39th Legislative District, D-Snohomish, was coordinator of the House of Representative Internship Program. He selected me to serve as his intern and recommended me to the next person on this list.

The late Richard “Dick” King, State Representative, 38th Legislative District, D-Everett, chaired the House Constitution and Elections Committee and hired me, first as an intern then as Research Analyst for the Committee, and later as his Legislative Assistant when he served as House Majority Leader.

The late Vim Wright, environmental leader and member of the Citizens’ Toxics Cleanup Campaign, who graciously welcomed me into her home for the duration of my employment in the Initiative 97 (Model Toxics Cleanup) campaign, then later advocated for me to be hired by Audubon.

Tom Shoemaker, former executive director of the Washington State office of National Audubon, contracted me to represent Audubon as a lobbyist in the State Legislature. He later hired me to serve as the State Issues Coordinator for Audubon Washington.

Glenn Olson, National Audubon’s Donal O’Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy, hired me to serve as the Audubon Washington Director.

The late Helen Engle, former National Audubon Society board member (among many local, state, and national leadership positions), supported and mentored me throughout my years with Audubon. She, with others, founded Tahoma Audubon and led the campaigns to establish the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

Harriett Bullitt, environmental philanthropist and former National Audubon board member, invited me to serve on her Icicle Fund board of directors, and provided the inspiration and financial support for work

Weekend Birdwalk Schedule

Saturday, December 18

122nd Annual Christmas Bird Count

If you don’t already have plans to participate in the 122nd Annual [Christmas Bird Count](#), please consider joining Team Counting Crows for the Edmonds/South County Team Counting Crows on Sunday, December 18. We will meet rain or shine at 8:00 a.m. at the trailhead of the Lowell Riverfront Trail in Everett. Take I-5 to the 41st St. exit in Everett and go one block east. Take a right on 3rd Av. It jogs left to 2nd Av. Turn left down the hill on Lenora/Lowell-Snohomish River Rd. Just after crossing the tracks at the bottom, turn left into the gravel parking lot. All day. Open to all. No reservations required. Bring “fowl” weather gear, sturdy walking boots, water, and snacks for yourself. Also bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them.

Saturday, January 1

122nd Annual Christmas Bird Count

Meet Team Counting Crows for Everett’s Christmas Bird Count at Marysville-Gissberg Twin Lakes Park at 8:00 a.m. Take I-5 to the SR 531/Smokey Point exit. Go west on 172nd St. and take a left at the first signal into the Lakewood Crossing shopping center. Turn left into the shopping center and proceed to the I-5 frontage road, Twin Lakes Av. Turn right and the park will be on your right. Go to the second (south) parking lot. All day. Open to all. No reservations required. Bring “fowl” weather gear, sturdy walking boots, water, and snacks for yourself. Also bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them.

Sunday, January 9

Pending

Keep this date open. We are planning a Weekend Birdwalk for Pilchuck Audubon Society and friends. We need to do some scouting at our target location to see if there was flood damage and if the waters have receded. Watch this spot for an update next month.

Trip Leader: Jonathan Blubaugh

425-244-7633 • aracfi@msn.com

to establish and operate the Wenatchee River Institute.

Sheida Sahandy, former executive director of the Puget Sound Partnership, took a chance on this old man, giving me the opportunity to finish my career serving as the agency’s Legislative Policy Director, doing work that matters deeply to me.

Laura Blackmore, current executive director, Puget Sound Partnership, supported me with kindness, compassion, and respect in my final years with the Partnership.

Finally, and most importantly, Chris Parsons, my dear wife, changed my life forever and for the better, inspiring me, teaching me what it means to be a committed environmental advocate. She has selflessly supported me in all the roles I have taken on since we became partners for life over 30 years ago.

To you, my Audubon friends and cohorts, thank you for all that you do for the sake of the natural world. 🍃

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
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Pilchuck Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation registered with the Washington Secretary of State. Your contributions are tax deductible.

TRIP CALENDAR

Check our website, <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/upcoming-trips>, for the latest information

Birding Trips — See Page 6



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](#)

Measuring the Impact of Military Flights on the Olympic Peninsula Soundscape

Presentation by Lauren Kuehne

[Watch the Recording](#)

Snohomish PUD Natural Resource Protections

Presentation by Laura Zorick

[Watch the Recording](#)

Dead Birds Do Tell Tales: A Citizen Science Story

Presentation by Dr. Julia Parrish

[Watch the Recording](#)

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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