



## Salmonellosis in Pine Siskins

February 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

### February Program Meeting

Guest Speaker: Ian Cossman, DVM

In the last few months, we have seen a huge irruption of Pine Siskins in northern Washington as they migrate through our neighborhoods. While they have been strongly welcomed by birders, their arrival has been encumbered by an outbreak of salmonellosis. In the past month alone, we have seen at least 68 affected animals at our hospital. Fortunately, birders have the power to reduce infection rates before they ever arrive at our door. Join Dr. Ian Cossman, DVM, Wildlife Veterinarian at PAWS Wildlife Center, as he discusses the history of Salmonella (and other) outbreaks in anthropogenically supplemented populations, the ways in which bird feeders impact wild populations, and how you can help to control the current Salmonella outbreak.

Dr. Ian Cossman graduated from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 2019. He completed an internship in Small Animal Medicine at the Veterinary Specialty Center in Seattle and is currently a veterinary intern through the Partners for Wildlife program taking place at PAWS Wildlife Center. His primary background is in seabird rehab, but he also has completed field studies in Western Pond Turtle populations and has an interest in zoological and companion animal medicine.

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Cynhia Raught / Great Backyard Bird Count

Pine Siskins | Photo by Cynthia Raught

**When:** February 12, 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/tZUodeCuqDlpGtGZa9FxcmlHelq8omyiTIDbh>

# EDMONDS WILDLIFE HABITAT NATIVE PLANT DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6**

**10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

## ***Training for Great Backyard Bird Count***

Our next program will be a virtual fun program on Saturday, February 6, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. This annual event is a very special training program taught by Edmonds own Alan Mearns in preparation for the 2021 Great Backyard Bird Count, which will take place February 12-15. This virtual training is to help prepare us to participate safely in our own backyard or nearby park in this international bird count.

Alan has been giving this workshop at the Demo Garden every year for at least 10 years, but this year Alan's training will be on Zoom and will be very helpful for first timers, beginning birders, families, or anyone who wants to brush up on backyard bird identification skills and learn how to participate and report bird sightings online.

Registration for this training is needed and is available on the Pilchuck Audubon



Alan Mearns

website, [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org), on the Pilchuck Audubon home page.

For additional information, see Facebook/Edmonds Wildlife Habitat Native Plant Demonstration Garden and/or <https://www.birdcount.org/participate>.

## **About Pilchuck Audubon Society**

The Pilchuck Audubon Profile, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society, is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society.

PAS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

### **Newsletter Submissions**

Submit articles to [newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org) or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

**To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.232.6811.**

The monthly Profile is available online at

[www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)

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### **Board of Directors**

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Treasurer	Judy Hall ..... <a href="mailto:treasurer@pilchuckaudubon.org">treasurer@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Secretary	Jamie Parrott Adkins ..... <a href="mailto:secretary@pilchuckaudubon.org">secretary@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Conservation	Allen Gibbs ..... <a href="mailto:conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org">conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Membership	Vacant..... <a href="mailto:membership@pilchuckaudubon.org">membership@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Avian Science	Martha Jordan..... <a href="mailto:science@pilchuckaudubon.org">science@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Development	Jeff Hambleton..... <a href="mailto:development@pilchuckaudubon.org">development@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
Members at Large	Laurel Cheap .... <a href="mailto:classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org">classroom.awards@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
	Kathy Johnson ..... <a href="mailto:forest@pilchuckaudubon.org">forest@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
	Jay Ward ..... 425.418.5444
	Mandy Weger .... <a href="mailto:communications@pilchuckaudubon.org">communications@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
	David Gladstone

Consultant

### **Committee Chairs**

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

### **Staff**

Executive Director/ Development Director	Brian Zinke..... <a href="mailto:director@pilchuckaudubon.org">director@pilchuckaudubon.org</a>
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## Birds at the State Legislature and in Congress

By Allen Gibbs

Lots of bills have been introduced in both our State Legislature and Congress for the 2021 sessions.

Audubon Washington's Campaign Manager, Adam Maxwell, is closely tracking progress of some of the top bills that would benefit birds. Every Thursday, he shares the progress of the special "bird bills" in our state legislature.

You can receive his reports and have a ready-made means to let your state legislators know how you feel about the "bird bills." How to do that? Below is the link to Audubon Washington's "Join our Action Network." The Action Network also provides information about federal legislation and regulatory activities.

Use your residential address to sign up. This great system automatically identifies your personal state legislators and congresspersons to receive your comments. To sign up, click on the following link: <https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/JGKjksVTUKMSr4BoP2Nvw2/>. This information will also be located in PAS' website under "Advocacy." 🐦

### Boundary Battles

On January 27, the Washington State Redistricting Commission began the task of redrawing boundaries of the state's 49 legislative and 10 congressional districts. It is a task that occurs once in ten years.

The Commission is composed of five individuals: two Democrats, two Republicans, and a fifth member who will serve as the non-voting chair. Representing the Democrats are Brady Walkinshaw (a former state representative) and April Sims (secretary-treasurer of the Washington State Labor Council). On the Republican side are Paul Graves (a former state representative) and Joe Fain (president and CEO of the Bellevue Chamber and a former state senator).

On January 30, the four voting members met and chose the fifth member, Sarah Augustine, who will serve as the non-voting commission chair. She received a unanimous vote. Sarah Augustine is the executive director of the Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas counties. 🐦

## Who represents you? 2021 Washington State Legislature Directory

By Allen Gibbs

Do you know how to contact your two state representatives and one state senator?

Click on the links below in this article for the 21 representatives and senators whose districts include, in whole and in part, Snohomish, Island, King, and Skagit counties. Most PAS members live in one of seven legislative districts.

Photos and information about each legislator are there as well as bios, committee assignments, and their Olympia and district office email addresses, USPS addresses, and phone numbers.

When you want to contact your legislators to urge them to vote for or against legislation this session, check the House and Senate directories. You can call the Olympia and district phone numbers and leave a voicemail. If a staff member answers, leave your message with him/her.

The links will also be stored at the PAS website in the "[Advocacy](#)" section.

Here are the website links for the House and the Senate.

### Washington State House of Representatives by district numbers and names:

<https://leg.wa.gov/House/Pages/default.aspx>

You can find your Representatives either by clicking on name or district number. That will take you to their full directory information.

### Washington State Senate by alphabetical order:

<https://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Senators/Pages/default.aspx>

This will take you to the detailed Senate directory.

### Bill Information:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

You can track progress and status of bills in this session at this site. You will need the bill number to track.

### Stay Up-to-date

If you'd like to be notified of important conservation issues so you can be sure to contact your legislator, you can sign up for our Action Alert emails by updating your email preferences at the link:

<https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/email-sign-up> 🐦

## Upcoming Online Classes

Classes 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 classes:

<https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes>

### Marine Birds of Washington's Inland Waters

February 4, 7:00-9:00pm

Led by Jean Olson

We will be focusing on plumage, shape, and behavior to help you feel confident in your identifications when you look out over the water. The class will cover alcids, grebes, diving ducks, loons, cormorants, and phalaropes, with a few gulls and dabbling ducks thrown in.

Pricing: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members



Double-crested Cormorant. Photo: Brian Zinke

Double-crested Cormorant | Photo: Brian Zinke



Red-tailed Hawk | Photo: © Rex Guichard

### Introduction to Raptors of Northwest Washington

February 10, 7:00-9:00pm

Led by Sue Cottrell

Join Sue for an introduction to the 15 raptor species seen in northwest Washington. Skagit County is one of the best places in the country to see raptors in the winter. Sue will help you learn the field marks and behaviors to look for when trying to identify these birds. Sue has studied birds of prey and guided outdoor trips for more than 30 years, including trapping and banding raptors as a volunteer of the Falcon Research Group, based in Bow, WA. A resident of Whatcom County for 40 years, she is one of the lucky ones who can say she has had several "5 falcon species days". She will share her current research and photos of her latest projects working with Red-tailed Hawks and American Kestrels as part of her non-profit organization, Raptor Studies Northwest.

Pricing: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members 🦅



**Save the Date! Plant Sale on February 27 and 28, 2021**

**Preorder begins January 5 and closes February 10**

The 2021 Plant Sale will be pre-order and drive-through pick-up this year again. The shop opens in January so now is the time to start planning! Help your local birds

by adding some native plants to your yard or balcony that will serve as resources for food and shelter. For more information about the sale, visit the [Snohomish Conservation District's website](https://www.snohomishconservationdistrict.org/).

For more information on which native plants are beneficial for birds, please visit:

<https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>

From this website, you can search your personal zip code to determine the native plants in your area that would help the birds! 🦅

## Annual PAS Elections

Our April membership meeting is when we hold our annual officer elections, in accordance with our bylaws. Last year, however, we canceled our April meeting due to the emergence of COVID-19 in our communities in the weeks just prior to our regularly scheduled meeting. It appears we will be unable to have an in-person meeting again this year, so the Board of Directors will be discussing how to proceed with this year's election at our upcoming Board meeting.

### Please Consider Nominating Yourself or a Friend

This year's election is very important to our Chapter, because we have several key positions that need to be filled. We are in need of nominations for the positions of:

- President (2-year term; however, current term ends April 2022)
- Vice President (2-year term)
- Treasurer (2-year term)

If we want our Chapter to remain strong and viable for years to come, we really need some folks to offer their

time and talents to our wonderful organization. If you're intrigued about the positions but have questions or aren't sure if you'd be a good fit, please get in touch with Allen Gibbs, Judy Hall, or Brian Zinke. They would all be glad to help answer questions and provide information.

The Board is a collective of knowledge and talents, working together to further the Society's mission. Everyone has a talent to bring to the Board, and we need your help to ensure we can continue being a powerful voice for birds.

Please consider making a nomination for the Board. ✍



## Upcoming Membership Changes

In January 2020, the Board of Directors voted to update our current membership offerings and prices, but ultimately decided to delay the implementation of the changes as a result of COVID-19 impacting our communities shortly thereafter. While we are not yet out of the pandemic, we have decided to implement the changes starting at the **beginning of March 2021**.

The new membership levels and dues are as follows:

Membership Level	Annual Dues
Student	\$15
Senior	\$30
Adult	\$35
Family	\$50
Lifetime	\$1,000 (one-time payment)

We decided to make these updates for several reasons. First, we want to provide a variety of membership options to make it easier for more people to join our organization. We hope to encourage younger generations to join with our more affordable student membership, and we want to encourage families and couples to share their love of birds together with a family membership that is more affordable than multiple individual memberships. Second, we have not changed our dues structure since January 2011. In order to keep up with costs of doing business and inflation, it is necessary for us to adjust periodically to ensure long-term financial stability.

We sincerely thank you for your continued support and membership with our organization. We are so proud to serve and represent such incredible members of our communities, and we deeply value each and every one of you. ✍

*Susan Jane Brown is an attorney and wildlands program director at the Western Environmental Law Center. She is a member of several forest management collaboratives and has worked on northern spotted owl conservation for more than two decades. This opinion appeared in The Seattle Times January 22, 2021, and is reprinted with her permission.*

Spanish philosopher George Santayana remarked, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” Unfortunately, we tend to have short memories about difficult times in our history that divide our communities.

During “the timber wars,” also known as “the spotted-owl wars,” the period from roughly the late 1980s to the mid-2000s, loggers and environmentalists first fought over the listing of the diminutive northern spotted owl under the Endangered Species Act, and then over the management of the owl’s ancient forest habitat on public lands. Congress even suspended the application of environmental laws to timber harvest in the Northwest, forcing environmentalists to retreat to the forests we love, to occupy the canopies of trees older than our nation to prevent their felling to the ax.

But these measures could not forestall the inevitable court-ordered injunctions that followed what Washington District Court Judge William Dwyer called “a deliberate and systematic refusal ... by higher authorities in the executive branch of government ... to comply with the laws protecting wildlife.”

In 1994, President Bill Clinton brokered an uneasy truce by directing federal land and wildlife managers to work together on what would become the Northwest Forest Plan. This compromise left spotted-owl war combatants grumbling about broken promises and missed opportunities.

But since then, the spotted-owl wars have cooled. Many stakeholders have laid down their weapons of war and have chosen instead to sit around a table and collaborate on public forest management. These discussions have increased the pace, scale and quality of forest restoration in our region, resulting in not only improved forest health but also community socioeconomic resilience. Although much work remains, these efforts have reduced wildfire risk, improved wildlife habitat and increased water quality throughout the Pacific Northwest.

But now all that is likely to change.

In an overtly political decision, the Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Jan. 13 [stripped](#) protections for the northern spotted owl from 3.4 million acres of federal forestlands. Career agency biologists have for years warned that the spotted owl—despite herculean efforts—continues to slide toward extinction. Fewer and fewer spotted owls are reproducing at sufficient rates to sustain the species, which is functionally extinct in the northern part of its range in Canada. The owl is also threatened by the legacy effects of past timber harvest, wildfire and its fierce competitor, the barred owl. Just weeks ago, the Fish and Wildlife Service [determined](#) that the spotted owl should be given *more* protection by uplisting it from threatened to endangered.

Eliminating 42% of spotted owl critical habitat results from a settlement between the timber industry and the Trump administration. In 2012, the industry challenged the Fish and Wildlife Service’s designation of roughly 9 million acres of critical habitat. That



Northern Spotted Owl | Photo by Scott Carpenter, Portland Audubon Society

argument found a sympathetic ear in this lame-duck administration, which worked quickly in its final days to deliver yet another sweetheart settlement deal to a favored political ally.

We’ve been here before. The timber industry fought tooth and nail against listing the spotted owl in 1990, fought each and every critical habitat designation, unlawfully influenced the owl’s recovery plan in the mid-2000s, and inked another sweetheart settlement agreement with the second Bush administration to undermine Northwest Forest Plan protections. Each time, the courts were called in to direct federal forest management, and each time, the uncertainty created by these wild, political swings caused chaos in rural, timber-dependent communities and distracted from the real need for forest restoration.

So here we are again. Political actors are catering to the timber industry and its shortsighted focus on circumventing the best available science and environmental laws at the expense of the Pacific Northwest’s iconic northern spotted owl. We absolutely can, and do, have a sustainable timber industry *and* protections for wildlife where successful collaborative efforts have made that possible.

But reigniting the Spotted Owl Wars by callously eliminating habitat essential to preventing the owl’s extinction will make that good work next to impossible. This decision will upset the careful balance Northwesterners have struck between forest management and wildlife protection, forcing advocates, once again, to return to the courtroom for battle.

As American philosopher Yogi Berra said, “It’s like déjà vu all over again.” 🦉

## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

November 26 to December 25, 2020

Well, 2020 is over with and I hope 2021 will be much better, especially when everyone gets their vaccine. At least we can still spend time watching the birds.

Carole and Larry Beason reporting from Lake Bosworth listed 18 American Robin, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, Barrow's Goldeneye, 7 Bufflehead, 21 Canada Goose, 2 Common Raven, 14 Dark-eyed Junco, 7 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 3 Hooded Merganser, 2 Lesser Scaup, 4 Mallard Duck, 3 Northern Flicker, 36+ Pine Siskin, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 14 House Finch, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 25+ Red-winged Blackbird, 5 Ring-necked Duck, 7 Spotted Towhee, 8 Steller's Jay, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk, for a total species count of 35.

Hilkka Egtvedt's total species count of 22 from Mukilteo included 2 Band-tailed Pigeon, a Barred Owl, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Steller's Jay, 3 American Crow, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 6

Bushtit, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, a Townsend's Warbler, 2 Song Sparrow, a White-throated Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 11 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 House Finch, and 40 to 50 Pine Siskin.



Bewick's Wren | [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

Reporting from Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 18 Black-capped Chickadee, 9 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3 Bewick's Wren, 6 Steller's Jay, 12 Bushtit, 6 Western Gull flying overhead, 6 American Robin, 10 House Finch, 33 Canada Goose flying overhead, 4 Spotted Towhee, 6 Northern Flicker, 4 Song Sparrow, 87 European Starling, a Cooper's Hawk, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 18 Dark-eyed Junco, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet, for a total species count of 19.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood included 10 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 2 Barred Owl, 20 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Brown Creeper, 14 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 110 Dark-eyed Junco, 9 Downy Woodpecker, 10 European Starling (ran them off twice, and they have not been back), a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 2 Great Horned Owl, 4 Hairy Woodpecker, 8 House Finch, 9 Kinglet species, 6 Northern Flicker, 18 Mourning Dove, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Red-tailed

Hawk, 10 Song Sparrow, 12 Steller's Jay, 2 Varied Thrush, 4 White-crowned Sparrow, and 10 Winter Wren, for a total species count of 29.

We have a new bird counter from Everett, Maureen Schmitz. Her report included 50 Northern Pintail in Bayview State Park, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 10 Bushtit, 2 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 3 Anna's



Winter Wren | [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org)

Hummingbird, a Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Steller's Jay, 12 Pine Siskin, 6 American Robin, a Black-capped Chickadee, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 14 Canada Goose, 6 Red-breasted Merganser, 40 American Crow at Edgewater Beach, 4 Golden-crowned Kinglet, a Brown Creeper, a Spotted Towhee, and 20 Dark-eyed Junco, for a total species count of 19.

Walter Zandi's report from Monroe included a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Steller's Jay, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 3 American Robin, 2 Varied Thrush, 14 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Northern Flicker, an Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Spotted Towhee, a Song Sparrow, 1 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1 Mourning Dove, a Downy Woodpecker, 3 Pine Siskin, and 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, for a total species count of 16.

My total species count from Marysville included 6 American Robin, 6 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 20 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 4 House Finch, 20+ Pine Siskin, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Spotted Towhee, 3 Steller's Jay, 12 Mallard Duck in the pond, a Varied Thrush, 100+ Canada Goose in the fields, 10 Glaucous-winged Gull, 2 Great Horned Owl in the woods, 5 Tundra Swan in the fields, and 30+ Rock Dove on the wires, for a total species count of 24.

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



## Our Sincerest Gratitude: Jim Beneteau

After several years of dedicated service to the Chapter, Jim Beneteau has decided to step away from his role on the Board of Directors. He does plan to remain active with the Chapter in other ways, though!

Jim has been an incredibly active member in recent years, and we will certainly miss his leadership on the Board. Jim joined the Board in January 2015 as the Development Committee Chair, moving up from his role as a committee member. In August 2016, he transitioned to be our Membership Committee Chair, which also confers a Board position, where he continued to serve through November 2020.



In addition to his Board roles, Jim has also served as the Education Committee Chair since February 2015. He's been an integral part of our outreach efforts, including organizing our tabling events, and with our community science programs, where he co-leads our Climate Watch efforts. Furthermore, he has been pivotal in maintaining our membership and donor database throughout his years of service.

Jim has always been passionate about welcoming others into our birding community and has been dedicated to educating the public about our avian neighbors. His sense of humor and quick wit undoubtedly aided those efforts.

While we are sad to see Jim's time on the Board come to an end, we are truly appreciative for all that he has done during his tenure on it. Someday, when we and Jim have resumed our outings and other in-person activities, please take a few minutes to thank Jim for his years of service to us, and more importantly, to the birds. 🐦

### TRIP CALENDAR

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

**No Birding Trips in February**

## 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](#)

### 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](#)

### 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.

- New Member ..... \$28
- Renewal..... \$28
- Lifetime Member .....\$1,000
  - 10 monthly payments of \$100
  - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
  - 1 payment of \$1,000
- Donation.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_
- My employer will match my contribution  
My employer's gift-matching form is enclosed with my contribution

Make checks payable to **Pilchuck Audubon Society**

Mail to: Pilchuck Audubon Society  
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198  
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Send me these via e-mail (check all that apply & include your e-mail address above):

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