



## Special Birds of Mount Rainier

January 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

### January Program Meeting

Guest Speaker: Jeff Antonelis-Lapp

To most birders, Mount Rainier National Park is a mecca for subalpine and alpine birds that include Gray Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Bluebird, and many other species. It's also home to highly sought-after species that include Boreal Owl, White-tailed Ptarmigan, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch. But did you know that it and its neighboring watersheds host Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, and Streaked Horned Lark, all protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act? Join Jeff Antonelis-Lapp, Emeritus Faculty at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, as he shares the status of these key species from *Tahoma and Its People*, his natural history of Mount Rainier National Park book, published this spring by Washington State University Press. Learn more at <https://jeffantonelis-lapp.com/>.



After graduating from college, Jeff Antonelis-Lapp worked two summers at Mount Rainier National Park, igniting a connection to the mountain that endures today. He has summited the mountain, hiked all of its

mapped trails, and completed the 93-mile Wonderland Trail five times.

Jeff began writing *Tahoma and Its People* after being unable to find a current natural history for a course he planned to teach at The Evergreen State College. He conducted more than 250 days of fieldwork for the book, many of them in the company of park archaeologists, biologists, and geologists.

While at Evergreen, he taught Native American Studies, natural history, and environmental education, and served as the Library Dean before retiring in 2015.

**When:** January 8, 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/tZl5dOirpzlrGtZQSenEPJ57y9qlyGFECbDs>

### ***In this issue***

King of the Woods.....	8
Advocating for Birds.....	3
Monroe Park Survey.....	6
Backyard Birding Report....	7
Plant Sale.....	7
Demo Garden Events.....	6
Reporting Fund.....	5
GBBC Training.....	2
Former 2020 Programs.....	8
January Program Meeting. 1	Vice President's Report ..... 4

# GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT: VIRTUAL TRAINING AND SAFE BIRD COUNTING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2021

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Join us and Alan Mearns virtually at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 6, 2021, to learn about the 2021 annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Receive information that will get you ready to participate safely in the count that occurs February 12-15, 2021. First timers, beginning birders, teachers, families and kids, and others who want to brush up on their backyard bird identification skills will benefit from this one-hour workshop and have fun. The training will include what birds you are likely to see, how to practice spotting birds, and recording and entering your data online. So charge your computer, tablet, or cell phone, find your binoculars, and learn about the birds you may see in your own backyard.

Then, the following weekend, February 12-15, 2021, take some time to count birds in your own COVID-19-safe yard or apartment balcony, or, observing safe social distancing and masking, at your favorite park or beach. Enter your data online into the GBBC website at <https://www.birdcount.org/participate/>.

The GBBC is free, safe, fun, and easy for all ages. You can participate even if you have only 15 minutes to spare!

For more information on the GBBC, visit <https://www.birdcount.org/participate/>.



Alan Mearns

## ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

The Great Backyard Bird Count started in 1998 as a community-science activity that offers you and scientists a geographic snapshot of late-winter bird life locally, in the US and abroad. It provides all of us with critical information about both common and rare species and where they are at this moment in time. 🐦

## 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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## From Washington to DC: Advocating for Birds at All Levels

By Brian Zinke

Under the Trump administration, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act has faced many threats and challenges aimed at weakening the law. There has even been a last-minute effort in the waning days of the administration to finalize some of the rulings that would weaken bird protections.

Thankfully, we have a local U. S. congressman who values birds and wildlife and understands the importance of this landmark law.

Congressman Rick Larsen represents Washington's 2<sup>nd</sup> District, which covers I-5 corridor areas from Bellingham down to Lynnwood, as well as Island and San Juan counties. Like many Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic, Congressman Larsen has picked up birding as a hobby this year.

In early December, Executive Director Brian Zinke, Past President Cindy Easterson, and Christmas Bird Count Compiler Rick Taylor joined Congressman Rick Larsen and his Community Liaison Lindsey Webb at Spencer Island for a socially-distanced, masking-wearing outing to discuss birds and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.



Photo credits on this page: Lindsey Webb



Discussions included tips for identifying some of our local birds, how habitat restoration is critical for our wildlife communities, and also how different types of restoration practices can have varying effects on the different types of birds.

We also thanked him for being a cosponsor on a proposed bill titled the [Migratory Bird Protection Act](#). The purpose of the act is to solidify protections that the current administration is trying to unravel. This is a bill that we hope will pass with flying, bipartisan colors!

If Congressman Larsen is your representative, please reach out to his office and let him know how important birds are to you, and thank him

for his support of the Migratory Bird Protection Act. If he is not your representative, please reach out to your local representative and tell him/her you want his/her support on this bill, too!

Contact Congressman Larsen: <https://larsen.house.gov/contact/>

Find your U. S. Representative here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> 🦅

Well, 2021 promises not to lack for surprises and muddles, but it also promises better times. I hope the new federal administration will eventually find ways to revoke some of the terrible environmental Executive Orders issued by the current administration since 2017!

Fortunately, there were some darn fine actions done by the Congress, and, yes, signed by President Trump. So, kudos to the Congress and the President for the Great American Outdoors Act which included permanent authorization of the Land Water Conservation Act, providing major funding for restoration and repairs to infrastructure in our national parks especially, and lesser amounts for recreation facilities in national wildlife refuges, national monuments, and national forests.

Ahead is a too-long fight to revoke the Trump administration's opening of the Arctic Wildlife Refuges to oil and gas exploration and eventual development.

On the positive side, the administration pulled the plug for now on the proposed Pebble Mine leasing in Bristol Bay.

### **Snohomish County Council**

Close to home in the waning days of 2020, Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers vetoed a County Council vote that would have led to a loss of environmental conservation funding, according to stories in *The Everett Herald* (December 29) and *The Seattle Times* (December 29). Drawing excerpts from the stories, here is a brief report on this matter.

In November, a County Council majority voted to remove a 2.8% annual surface water fee increase, which, according to *The Herald*, was intended to give ratepayers a break in these times of pandemic financial struggles.

The fee funds county environmental programs that protect salmon and marine habitat, including those which benefit many bird species and other critters, as well as reduce flood damage.

The Tulalip Tribes said loss of what amounts to an annual inflationary increase would have meant the loss of more than \$600,000 in revenue for those environmental programs in just the first year. It could have meant a loss of more than \$13 million over the next six years.

Executive Somers said a permanent cut as passed would lose the county its ability to accomplish the projects. "Our efforts to adapt to climate change are essential to our future, and (surface water management) is the one major tool we have to help."

He said 14 county employees to work on the projects, from current and planned hires, could lose their jobs and prevent work being done.

Councilmember Stephanie Wright offered a motion to override Somers' veto. It failed.

Pilchuck Audubon Board took no position on this matter because we didn't know about the November proposal to cancel the increase. We have not opposed the fee over the years. I would say the Council majority and the Executive both made difficult decisions important to the county-level environmental projects.

### **State Legislative Session**

Based on the recent ZOOM meetings I've joined, hosted by many state outdoor recreation and conservation groups, in assessing the chances of climate change legislation being passed this session, we don't look for much success. This is the "long session," which produces a biennial budget (2021-2022 and, to some extent, for years beyond).

This is not likely to be a "green session," but not because there is no interest and support for a variety of "green priorities." The past two sessions show otherwise. Focus, understandably, will be upon funding for public health programs, unemployment support, job recovery, and education options. Feel free to add to the list of "green good works" and "non-green needs."

*Continued on Page 5*

*So, kudos to the Congress and the President for the Great American Outdoors Act.*

## PAS Endorses Environmental and Climate Change Reporting Fund

As we are all well aware, journalism is facing tremendous challenges in the digital age. Traditional funding sources are harder to secure while fewer people are reading a physical newspaper every day. This comes at a time in our society when professional, independent, and trustworthy journalism is needed more than ever.

Beginning early in 2020, PAS has been involved with several local environmental and climate advocacy groups who have a shared interest in supporting environmental and climate change reporting. Our group of organizations began discussions with Phillip O'Connor, Executive Editor of *The Everett Daily Herald*, in order to understand how we could support such reporting.

Over the course of several months, we met and discussed how we could fund a local journalist to cover topics relating to the environment and climate change. What resulted was the creation of *The Daily Herald's* Environmental and Climate Change Reporting Fund. Established in cooperation with the Community Foundation of Snohomish County, this fund provides an opportunity for the community to make tax-deductible donations to help support environmental and climate change journalism in *The Daily Herald* newsroom.

The fund was just established this fall, but is already paying dividends. Perhaps you've seen several of the recent articles authored by Julie Titone (see list below). A retired journalist, she is freelancing on environmental topics while the fund accrues enough funds to hire a journalist in the newsroom. Her articles have been fantastic and show why having a journalist covering these local topics is so vital.

If you'd like to learn more about the fund, or contribute, you can find more information at <https://www.heraldnet.com/climate-fund/>.

Articles written by Julie Titone:

- [From worriers to warriors, they're fighting climate change](#) (Oct. 19)
- [UW climate expert: We are moving into uncharted territory](#) (Oct. 19)
- [How the Port of Everett is preparing for a rising sea level](#) (Nov. 29)
- [You'll be 2 feet higher when boarding the Mukilteo ferry](#) (Nov. 30) 🖋

### GBBC February 12-15, 2021



### Vice President's Report, *continued from Page 4*

The hope is for no cuts to Department of Fish and Wildlife recreation and habitat recovery programs. It would be nice to restore General Fund spending for state parks and park services.

Budget, budget, budget! Finding the money!

We will know more about how things are likely to go by March, once revenue and cost projections are better known. That's when we will begin receiving "alerts" and calls via email and phone to contact our legislators and the governor's office to support and to oppose certain bills. The February and March PROFILES will contain news where our legislative leaders of both parties and the Inslee administration are likely to go. 🖋

### TRIP CALENDAR

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



**No Birding Trips in January**



2020 was a quiet year at the Edmonds Demo Garden because of COVID and very limited access since February, but 2021 looks much better—at least on Zoom. We have a few upcoming virtual programs and a work party (following COVID-19 protocols) to mark on your calendar.

**January 5 – February 10**  
**Snohomish Conservation District**  
**Native Plant Sale**

Please note that ordering will start on January 5 and end on February 10. Email orders can be placed on the Snohomish Conservation District website (<https://www.theplantsale.org/>). Plants can be picked up by drive-through February 27 and 28.

**January 16, 10:00 a.m.**

**Bring on the Birds**

Presented by Kim Adelson, PhD

[Register to attend \(free\)](#)

This program will discuss what you can do to attract birds and wildlife to your yard and get it certified as a wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Kim planned and developed her own yard in Olympia and will share her experiences and her yard with us. There will be time for questions at the end of her presentation. Kim is an active member of Black Hills Audubon and Washington Native Plant Society. She gave an amazing presentation last fall on Birds and Dinosaurs, which you can access on the PAS website at <https://www.pilchuckaudubon.org/monthly-programs>.

**January 23, 9:00 a.m. – noon**

**Demo Garden Work Party**

COVID-19 protocols and precautions are in place, so please contact Susie Schaefer ([susie.schaefer@comcast.net](mailto:susie.schaefer@comcast.net)) for more information and to sign up (space is limited).

**February 6, 10:00 a.m.**

**Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) Training**

Presented by Alan Mearns

[Register to attend \(free\)](#)

Alan has done this workshop for many years at the Demo Garden, and it will again be geared primarily for people who have not regularly participated in the GBBC or are not advanced birders. Alan will explain about the GBBC and cover many of the local common birds, as well as how to record sightings on eBird and how to use binoculars.



**Stay tuned**

Also, we hope to have a special program on Charles Darwin on February 12 with the Sno-Isle Regional Library System. The details for this are not yet finalized; more information will be available soon and will be posted as soon as confirmed. 🐦

**Monroe Residents – Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Survey**

Survey open from December 16 to January 15

The City of Monroe is preparing an update to our long-range plan for our community’s park, recreation, and open space system.

We are sharing this survey link in support of the city’s desire to encourage each of our residents to share his/her input. By completing the entire survey, residents are eligible to be entered in a prize drawing that will be picked at random for one of two \$50 gift cards.

Fill out the survey, and [learn more here](#).

Sincerely,

Mike Farrell  
 City of Monroe Parks Director

[Take the Survey](#)

## BACKYARD BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS

by Mara Price, Sightings Coordinator

October 26 to November 25, 2020

Here's wishing everyone a safe and joyful New Year's holiday. Enjoy the birds in your backyard.

Carole and Larry Beason reporting from their home at Lake Bosworth listed 15 American Coot on the lake, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, a Bald Eagle over the road, a Belted Kingfisher flying near the shore, 30 Canada Goose on the lake, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Common Raven over the road, 12+ Dark-eyed Junco, 24+ European Starling at the feeders and in the trees, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 8 Golden-crowned Sparrow in the chicken pen, a Great Blue Heron near the shore, 4 Hooded Merganser and 10 Lesser Scaup on the lake, 16 Mourning Dove under the feeders, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 Pied-billed Grebe, 50+ Pine Siskin in the bird bath and in the trees, a Pileated Woodpecker 2 Hutton's Vireo, 24 Red-winged Blackbird, 5 Ringed-neck Duck, 9 Spotted Towhee, 2 Wood Duck on the lake and 18 Purple Finch, for a total species count of 40.

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo included 2 Bald Eagles, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2 Anna's Hummingbirds, a Downy Woodpecker, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 4 Northern Flicker, 3 Steller's Jay, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 4 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3 Bushtit, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, a Varied Thrush, 4 Spotted Towhee, 4 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a White-crowned Sparrow, 14 Dark-eyed Junco, a Purple Finch, 6 House Finch, and 12 Pine Siskin, for a total species count of 26.

Reporting from her home in Everett, Kriss Erickson listed 17 Black-capped Chickadee, 8 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Bewick's Wren, 8 Steller's Jay, 24 Bushtit, 9 American Crow, 26 American Robin, 9 House Finch, 4 Anna's Hummingbird, 4 Spotted Towhee, 4 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Song Sparrow, 123 European Starling, a Cooper's Hawk, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, and 16 Dark-eyed Junco, for a total species count of 18.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood listed 11 American Robin, 7 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 20 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Bewick's Wren, 2 Brown Creeper, 11 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 85 Dark-eyed Junco in the yard and on the feeders, 6 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Fox Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2 Great Blue Heron at the creek, 2 Great Horned Owl, 6 Hairy Woodpecker, 12 House Finch, a Killdeer in the pasture, 9 Kinglet Species, 23 Mourning Dove, 7 Northern Flicker, a Northern Pygmy Owl, 50 Pine Siskin, 8 Song Sparrow, 12 Steller's Jay, 4 Varied Thrush, and 6 Winter Wren, for a total species count of 32.

Walter Zandi's report from Monroe included a Pileated Woodpecker, 5 Steller's Jay, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 11 American Robin along the roadside, 9 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Northern Flicker, 1 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Spotted Towhee, a Song Sparrow, a Common Grackle, a Mourning Dove, and a Downy Woodpecker, for a total species count of 14.

My report from Marysville includes 12 American Robin, 6 Black-capped Chickadee, a Cooper's Hawk on the deck, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 16 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 7 House Finch, 6 Mourning Dove, 5 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Spotted Towhee, 4 Steller's Jay, a Song Sparrow, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Varied Thrush, 30+ European Starling in the fields, 6 Mallard Duck, and 20+ Pine Siskin in the pond and yard, for a total species count of 20.

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



**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.snohomishconservation.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! 📧

# King of the Woods by Dave New

Last September, Ken Bevis, the Conservation Stewardship Biologist with WA State Department of Natural Resources, presented a program meeting on "A Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure" ([Watch the Recording](#)). He also happens to be a creative musician; his web site is at KenBevis.com.

At the end of August, all traffic on the Golden Gate Bridge on our tree farm (Nourse Tree Farm between Stanwood and Arlington) was stopped so that Ken could sit on the side rail and sing two songs.

One of the songs, titled "King of the Woods," is about woodpeckers. I think you will enjoy the video we created. You will find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImcwPeKNymo>

The other song is about black bears and is titled "True Bear." Click on the link below to hear it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsATn-9JyJ4>

Both of these videos are in the public domain, so please feel free to share them with others.

Ken and his wife, Teri Pieper, live near Winthrop and are active in the North Cascades Audubon Chapter. 🍃



Ken Bevis | Teri Pieper Photo

## In Case You Missed It ...

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

**A Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure**  
Presentation by Ken Bevis, Washington Dept. of Natural Resources. [Watch the Recording](#)

**Swifts Night In: Vaux's Happening, 15 million and counting. Where we've been and where we're going**  
Presentation by Larry Schwitters. [Watch the Recording](#)

**Leque Island Estuary Restoration Project**  
Presentation by Loren Brokaw, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. [Watch the Recording](#)

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



### 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
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My employer's gift-matching form is enclosed with my contribution

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