

Finches of Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge Colville, Washington

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

July Program Meeting

Guest Speaker: Michael Munts

Ten species of finches are known to occur on the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge. Although a family familiar to most of us, they are surprisingly varied in size, shape, color, and life history. Some species probably show up at just about every bird feeder in Washington, but how well do we really know these familiar birds? Michael will take an in-depth look at each of the finch species known to occur on the refuge.

Michael is originally from Sandpoint, Idaho, and has spent most of his life in the Pacific/Inland Northwest. He is the wildlife biologist at Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge. His primary specialty has been nongame birds.

Prior to Little Pend Oreille NWR, he worked for the National Park Service for 14 years at Olympic in Washington, Craters of the Moon in Idaho, and Klondike Gold Rush in Alaska. He came to Colville and Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge in 2011.

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

Where: The comfiest spot in your home!

In this issue

Former Programs.....	14
About PAS.....	14
Backyard Birding Report.....	11
Birdathon Photo Contest.....	5
Birdathon Wrap-up.....	9
Class: Fall Shorebirds.....	10
Education Chair Welcome..	12
Importance of Shared Spaces..	2
Letter to the Editor.....	4
Monthly Programs.....	12
Program Meeting.....	1
Puget Sound Bird Fest 2021	5
Waterfowl Ecology	13



Evening Grosbeak

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/tZlqdOCsqDkiHdP-Zu57tplajAc_L05bg2AA

The Importance of Shared Spaces

By Martha Jordan (Pilchuck Audubon) and Jeremy Lucas (Eastside Audubon)

John Muir once wrote “Keep close to Nature’s heart.... Wash your spirit clean”. There is little doubt that being out and enjoying nature is a soul cleanse for many people. We have different ways of enjoying what nature offers us. There is sportsman or sportswoman who wants to hunt the land or fish on the waterways that course through them. There is hiker who wants to strap on their boots and challenge themselves to get to that special spot with that special view. There is birder who grabs their binoculars and is on a quest to find that elusive bird. All of them have two things in common: They all rely on healthy natural lands, and they all must be good stewards of these shared spaces. Though these groups may not always agree on what the priority of these areas should be, one thing is clear: all of these recreational activities are not possible without these protected areas.

This article is the first of a four-part miniseries that will highlight the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (WDFW) Snoqualmie Wildlife Area units that are geographically within the Snoqualmie Valley. Although the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area encompasses lands outside the Snoqualmie Valley, we will focus on the three units that are within the Valley proper: Crescent Lake Unit near Monroe, Cherry Valley Unit near Duvall, and Stillwater Unit near Carnation. Each month we will feature one of these wildlife units in our monthly newsletter. You will learn more about these special places and ways in which you can enjoy your public lands. These lands are important to and an integral part of supporting the wildlife and fish in the Snoqualmie Valley and beyond. Many of the topics covered here are applicable to other recreational locations. For an overview of where these three wildlife areas are located, please view the map at the end of this article.

Eastside Audubon (EAS) and Pilchuck Audubon (PAS) have partnered in an endeavor to bring more attention to and encourage visits and stewardship of these important natural resource

areas. The Snoqualmie Wildlife Area spans both of our chapters service areas; thus, the same article will appear in each of our respective newsletters: *Corvid Crier* for EAS and *The Profile* for PAS.

The Snoqualmie Wildlife Area encompasses 2,774-acres divided between six units spread from near Everett south to Carnation. The entire area is located within the Snohomish River Watershed, which includes both the Snoqualmie and the Skykomish Rivers, two tributaries of the Snohomish River. In addition to the three units referenced above, this management area includes the Ebey Island, Spencer Island, and Corson Wildlife Preserve units.

The habitat varies greatly as it stretches from the uplands to Puget Sound. In general, you can expect to see upland forests, flooded agricultural land, wetlands, riparian corridors, and estuarine habitat including ponds and a lake. It should be noted that WDFW defines the primary purpose of these areas as wildlife and habitat protection first, recreational activities second. As such, certain activities, such as horseback riding, bicycling, and off-leash dog walks, are not permitted in these areas. As with any area, please take a minute to review the [rules](#).



Gerald Plowman photo

For more information on the wildlife area including interactive maps and directions, please click [here](#).

Birding in a Shared Space

As with any recreational activity, being safe and knowing the rules of a given area will only enhance your birding experience. These areas are designed for multiple use and enjoyed by a large number of people doing many different activities throughout the year. For example, keeping in mind that these areas are multi-use that do allow hunting, understanding when the hunting seasons are, and what can be legally hunted is important. Additionally, practicing such safety measures as wearing an orange vest or bright clothing when visiting these areas during hunting season is a must. Remember, hunters are our partners in protecting these areas and working with them and using the spaces safely and simultaneously is absolutely crucial!

Birding with Awareness ...

... means how to be more aware and if you See Something, Say Something

Too many times I hear people say that, while they were out birding or simply enjoying the outdoors, they saw something that troubled them but didn’t know what they could do about it. Or perhaps you are out enjoying your activity and outdoor time and sometimes forget to take on an active stewardship role. I, myself, have sometimes been guilty of that.

Birding with Awareness and Stewardship

Here are some tips for when you go out on these WDFW wildlife areas and how you can help with stewardship.

Before you get out of your vehicle, please remember to put your Discover Pass on your dashboard or hang it on the rearview mirror. You need a Discover Pass to park in any WDFW Wildlife Area parking lot or their boat access sites. They can be purchased anywhere WDFW licenses are sold and online.

Continued on Page 3

The Importance of Shared Spaces, con't.

One of the best ways to be an active steward is taking time to look around and familiarize yourself with your surroundings in the parking lot and as you go down the trails. What looks normal, what does not, other users, trash, vandalism, etc. Look around and perhaps take notes.

Look for readerboards and other signs in or near the parking lot that will inform you about important information regarding the wildlife unit you are visiting. This includes what is allowed or not on that particular unit. Please take time and read them, even if all you are doing is walking or taking photos or birding.

Note if there are other cars in the lot. Be aware that other activities may be happening on the unit such as hunting (big game, waterfowl, and upland bird) during certain dates, hunt dog training, or a scheduled special activity. A reminder that during the fall these areas are pheasant release sites for hunting, and special hours may apply on pheasant release days.

If you are out during hunting season, it is suggested that you wear an orange or bright pink vest, so hunters can see you.

And remember, if you take your dog into the wildlife unit with you, it must be on a leash at all times. Our wildlife areas are not off-leash dog parks.

One important fact to remember is when you visit these WDFW wildlife areas, your presence acts as a deterrent to resource abuses simply by your being there.

Taking action is, of course, the next step. Please stay safe and do not confront any individual or group if you observe activities that are not permitted or are illegal including poaching. There are ways that you can be the eyes and ears of stewardship while enjoying any recreational area.

If you see a wildlife-related issue, including poaching, there are several ways you can report the issue:

- Call 911 to report poaching in progress, a dangerous wildlife

complaint, or an emergency.

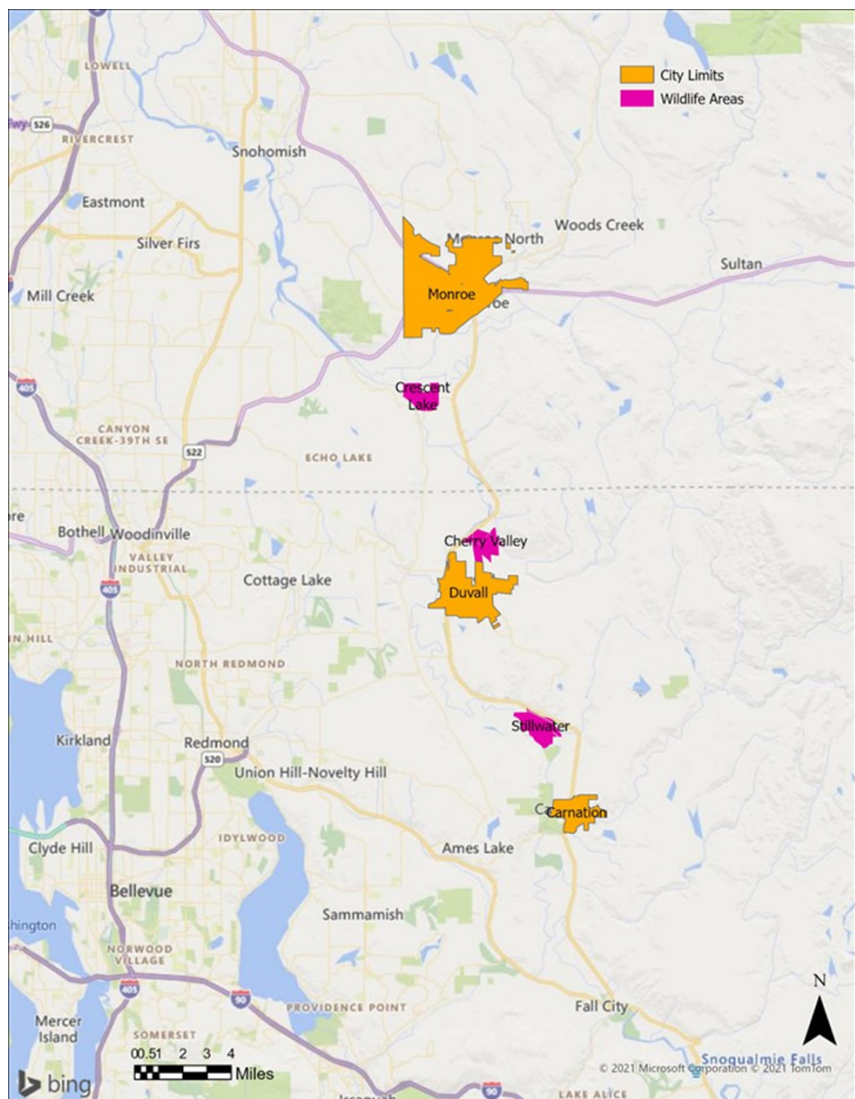
- Call 877-933-9847 for non-emergency poaching/violation reports.
- Send an email to reportpoaching@dfw.wa.gov.
- Send a text tip to 847411 (TIP411) by entering WDFWTIP, followed by a space, and then entering your report.
- Use the [online form](#) to report a violation.

If you are able and willing, bring a garbage bag and either some collection device (like a stick) or gloves, please do so. Picking up the smaller items is appreciated, especially when out on the unit. The bigger items as well as most of the garbage piles dumped at the parking lots are picked up by volunteers associ-

ated with other groups, especially the hunting groups. I keep a hiking checklist, and those items are always included in my run-through of everything I need.

REPORT garbage dumping, serious graffiti, damage to signs or kiosks, and damage to the parking lot by sending an email to the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area manager at brian.boehm@dfw.wa.gov. Or you can call Martha Jordan, a member of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area Citizen's Advisory Committee, at 206-713-3684.

With some knowledge about the shared space, regulations, and what you can do to be part of the active stewardship community, you can help protect these areas for wildlife and future generations, as well as have a great and safe time out there. [Now, get out there and bird!](#) 🦅



LETTERS

to the Editor

Hey, Edmonds Residents ...

The City of Edmonds has initiated the process to update the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) plan. This is good news. The Edmonds Parks System does not meet the national standards for the number of parks or the acres of parks serving its citizens. Edmonds has a total of 189 acres of parks according to the last PROS plan. The national median for cities our size is over 400 acres according to the National Recreation and Parks Association.

There are large areas that are not within walking distance to a park (shown in gray on the map below.) Many of these areas are where the lowest income levels and highest diversity populations live.

We need to protect and expand our park system. Edmonds is growing and large areas of the City are already underserved by parks. Our parks continue to be threatened with proposals for other uses such as parking, roads, or drainage facilities. There are few open spaces left inside the City so there is some urgency to this.

The City should:

- Adopt an ordinance that prohibits using parks for non-park purposes
- Identify opportunities to acquire new park sites in underserved areas of Edmonds
- Create a dedicated fund and funding to acquire new park sites and develop them
- Adopt an ordinance that prohibits all street right-of-way vacations until the proposed location is analyzed for potential as a park site and identified as unsuitable for parks or open space by the Parks Director. Unopened street ROWs can make good neighborhood parks or open space.
- Preserve and protect aquatic lands. Adopt permanent, science-based buffers for the Edmonds Marsh and other aquatic habitats in the City.

Unopened street rights-of-way can become neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks or pocket parks can be small. Just large enough for a play area, tennis or basketball court.

Since they serve the neighborhood they don't need parking. New pocket parks can serve underserved areas.

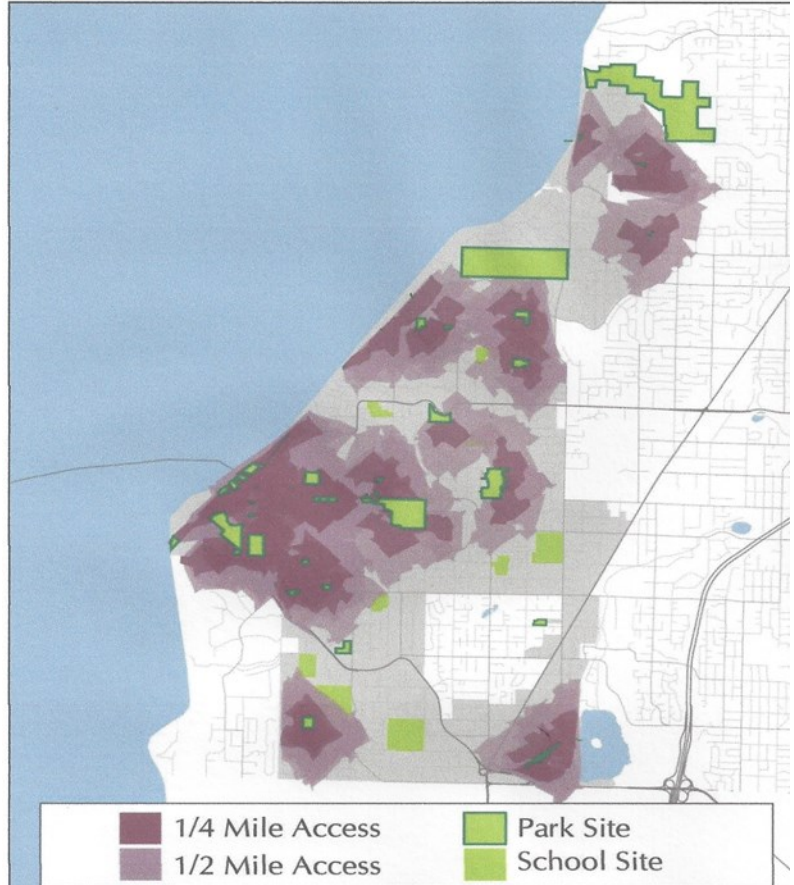
Please support the City in its effort to update the PROS plan. Let your elected officials know you support the effort and the suggestions here.

To start the PROS plan update, the City has requested that residents complete a questionnaire. The English version of the questionnaire can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/87WJ69W>. Other language versions can be found at the City's website. Please fill-out the questionnaire and let the City know you support parks and open space.

Thank you.

Bill Derry, PAS Vice-President
bderry10@gmail.com

Map 2-3: Park Access-All Edmonds Parks



The Results Are In! Birdathon Photography Contest



Photographers from across the state submitted their best bird photos from this past year, and the results were breathtaking! With record participation this year, the judges had an incredibly difficult task on their hands. Photographs were judged on the categories of technical quality, originality, and artistic merit. Our judges panel this year included a Board member from Pilchuck Audubon, a representative from the Snohomish County Arts Commission, and an Olympus Educator.

The diversity of species photographed this year showcases just how fortunate we are in Washington to live in a place with so many amazing birds. Species represented in the contest this year ranged from American White Pelican and Common Yellowthroat, to Snow Bunting, Varied Thrush, and Pigeon Guillemot!

Congratulations to our 2021 Birdathon Photography Contest winners!

Youth Category

- 1st Place Red-breasted Sapsucker by Arjun Subramanian
- 2nd Place Sandpiper by Tashi Schorr
- 3rd Place Snow Geese Flying Down – Elizabeth Albaugh

Adult Category

- 1st Place Face Off Between Short-eared Owl and Northern Harrier by Kathy McCulloch Wade
- 2nd Place Harrier Hawk by David Reddish
- 3rd Place Great Gray Owl by Kenneth Trease

People's Choice Award

Cheeky Portrait of a Black Oystercatcher by Matt D'Alessio

Want to see all of this year's contest entries?

We will be posting a slideshow of all the entries on our website in the coming days, so be on the lookout for that announcement soon!

See the winning photos on the following three pages. 📌



Save the Date!

September 11-12

The Bird Fest Planning Committee is hard at work planning the 2021 event. Due to uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, indoor activities such as presentations and workshops may be delivered online, while field activities for small groups will be offered in person. Please check back often for the latest information. Click [HERE](#) to view highlights from the 2020 Online Bird Fest.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MARIA MUDD-RUTH

The Not-So Awkward Auks

The Salish Sea is home to a fascinating family of diving seabirds known as auks, or alcids. Though often described as “awkward” or “clumsy” in field guides, these web-footed birds are amazingly well adapted to life in the air, on land, and especially at sea. Maria will talk about two of her favorite auks—the shy, cryptic, secretive, tree-nesting Marbled Murrelet (the subject of her 2005 book, *Rare Bird*) and its clownish, extroverted, burrow-nesting cousin, the Pigeon Guillemot (the subject of her next book).

Maria is the author of more than a dozen books on natural history topics for children and adults. She is the author of Rare Bird: Pursuing the Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet, a narrative natural history of an endearing and endangered seabird. Her most recent book of non-fiction, A Sideways Look at Cloud, was awarded the Nautilus Silver Medal in 2017. She lives with her husband in Olympia, Washington, where she is working on two books—on Pigeon Guillemots and on lake swimming and lake ecology in Washington. 📌



The Results Are In!
Birdathon Photography Contest



Youth Category

FIRST PLACE

Red-breasted Sapsucker
Arjun Subramanian

Arjun Subramanian/Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards



SECOND PLACE

Sandpiper
Tashi Schorr

Tashi Schorr/Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards

THIRD PLACE

Snow Geese Flying Down
Elizabeth Albaugh



Elizabeth Albaugh/Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards

Adult Category

FIRST PLACE

*Face-off Between Short-eared Owl
and Northern Harrier*

Kathy McCulloch Wade



Kathy McCulloch Wade
Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards

SECOND PLACE

Harrier Hawk
David Reddish



David Reddish
Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards

Adult Category, continued

THIRD PLACE

Great Gray Owl
Kenneth Trease



Kenneth Trease/Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards

People's Choice Award



*Cheeky Portrait of a
Black Oystercatcher*
Matt D'Alessio

Matt D'Alessio/Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards

2021 Birdathon – That’s A Wrap!

Our Birdathon fundraiser and friendly birding competition in May is one of our most exciting and anticipated events of the year, and this year was no exception. Of the 10 teams participating, four saw more than 100 species throughout the month, and two raised over \$2,000 each! Because of your generosity, our teams’ hustle, and the support from our sponsor, we recently surpassed our fundraising goal of \$10,000!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated and contributed!

This year’s Birdathon included three categories for the birding competition: Statewide Big Month, Local Big Month, and Big Day. Each team could participate in one, two, or all three categories. Below are the species totals our teams saw and fundraising totals. Congratulations to all of our teams! 🦅

Team	Statewide Big Month Species Count
Birderline Personalities	218
Counting Crows	119
Winging It	113
Birding for Our Caws	103
Eagle Eyed	93
Arjun Subramanian Photo.	93
The Egtvedts	80
Team Littlejohn	52
Hummingbird Hill Gang	49

Team	Funds Raised
Birderline Personalities	\$3,840
The Egtvedts	\$2,092
Hummingbird Hill Gang	\$840
Birding for Our Caws	\$744.50
Counting Crows	\$579
Eagle Eyed	\$415
Winging It	\$200
Team Littlejohn	\$152
General Support	
General Support	\$520
Photography Contest	
Photography Contest	\$925
Sponsorship	
Sponsorship	\$250
Total	\$10,557.50

Team	Local Big Month Species Count
Birderline Personalities	153
Eagle Eyed	51
Hummingbird Hill Gang	49
Birding for Our Caws	36
Team Littlejohn	19

Team	Big Day Species Count
Birderline Personalities	101
Birding for Our Caws	42
Eagle Eyed	39

Birding for Art

Art Wait, PAS’ longtime Field Trips Committee Co-Chair, birder, and dear friend to many, passed away earlier this year. The Birderline Personalities team, composed of Virginia Clark, Phil Dickinson, Frank Caruso, Graham Hutchinson, and Jim Benteau, are all Tuesday Field Trip regulars. To honor their friend, they have dedicated their Birdathon in memory of Art this year.

If you wonder how much Art meant to them, look no further than their results from Birdathon this year:

- 1st Place Statewide Big Month (218 species)
- 1st Place Local Big Month (153 species)
- 1st Place Big Day (101 species)
- 1st Place in fundraising (\$3,840)

It’s clear that this year was more than just birding for them. It was honoring their friend whose passion for birds was contagious and whose willingness to teach has had lasting impacts. And for that, we are forever grateful.

Thank you, Art. 🦅

Pilchuck Audubon Presents

Fall Shorebirds for Intermediate Birders

Online course led by Connie Sidles

AUGUST 10, 17, 24, 31, 7:00-8:30PM



Designed to be camouflaged from predators, the fall shorebirds can deceive bird-watchers too. They look so much alike! If you've thought you'll never be able to tell them apart, have no worries. The juvenile birds who hatched in the Far North will be coming through our state in late summer through fall. With the help of this class, you should be able to meet the challenge of identifying these incredible migrants, who bring with them a whiff of the far-off tundra and a hint of the places they have still to go.

Constance Sidles is a master birder and long-time member of the Seattle Audubon Society, where she has been on the Conservation Committee and Chair of the Publications Committee. She has written four books about nature focusing on her favorite “backyard,” Montlake Fill, otherwise known as the Union Bay Natural Area at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Her most recent book, *Forty-Six Views of Montlake Fill*, includes poems and Sumi-e paintings about how to find joy in the connections we make with nature and with each other.



Photo by Gregg Thompson

**Class will be conducted over Zoom
(and recorded if you cannot make the live session)**

Pricing:

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

Discount applies to Pilchuck Audubon Chapter members only

To Register:

Register online at www.pilchuckaudubon.org/classes

April 26, 2021 to May 25, 2021

What a great time of year for birding! The weather is good, and there are lots of birds now.

Carole and Larry Beason's total species count of 44 included 3 American Goldfinch, 15 American Robin, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, a Belted Kingfisher, 8 Black-headed Grosbeak, 6 Brewer's Blackbird, 9 Band-tailed Pigeon under the feeders, 8 Canada Goose on the lake, 2 Common Raven, 5 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Double-crested Cormorant, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 3 Evening Grosbeak, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, a Great Blue Heron, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 Osprey over the lake, a Pileated Woodpecker, 8 Purple Finch, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 24 Red-winged Blackbird, 4 Rufous Hummingbird, 4 Spotted Towhee, 2 Swainson's Thrush, 4 Tree Swallow, and 4 Wood Duck.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt's report included 3 Mallard Duck on the lawn, 10 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Steller's Jay, 2 American Crow, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3 Black-headed Grosbeak, 2 Western Tanager, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2 White-crowned Sparrow, 3 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Purple Finch, 12 Pine Siskin, and 3 American Goldfinch, for a total species count of 26.

Kriss Erickson's report from Everett listed 12 Black-capped Chickadee, 7 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Bewick's Wren, 3 Steller's Jay, 20 Bushtit, 9 American Crow, 7 American Robin, 6 House Finch, 3 Common Raven, 4 Northern Flicker, 3 Song Sparrow, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Yellow Warbler, 16 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Mallard Duck, 2 Varied Thrush, 2 Red-winged Blackbird, 12 European Starling, 5 Spotted Towhee, and 2 Hairy

Woodpecker, for a total species count of 22.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood is pretty amazing with the number of bird species. Her report listed 22 American Goldfinch, 18 American Robin, 9 Anna's Hummingbird, 36 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Barred Owl, 6 Bewick's Wren, 14 Black-capped Chickadee, 13 Black-headed Grosbeak, a Brown Creeper, 6 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Cooper's Hawk, 5 Downy Woodpecker, 8 Evening Grosbeak, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 5 House Finch, 2 Killdeer in the pasture, 17 Mourning Dove, 4 Northern Flicker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Red-breasted Sapsucker, 4 Red-winged Blackbird, 8 Rufous Hummingbird, 5 Steller's Jay, 2 Swainson's Thrush, 3 Tree Swallow, a Western Tanager, 2 White-crowned Sparrow, 2 Wilson's Warbler, and 3 Winter Wren, for a total species count of 44.

My total species count of 24 from Marysville included 2 American Goldfinch, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 7 Black-headed Grosbeak, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 4 House Finch, 4 Mourning Dove, 3 Northern Flicker, 5 Ring-necked Duck in pond off 100th street, 3 Spotted Towhee, 5 Steller's Jay, a White-crowned Sparrow, 6 Golden-

crowned Sparrow that stayed around for about a week, 3 Purple Finch, a Bewick's Wren, and a Western Tanager.

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. 🦉



Welcome to Our New Education Committee Chair!

Teddie Phillipson-Mower has more than 30 years in science and environmental education and has taught at all levels, pre-K through graduate courses. She taught both middle and high school biology and physics in Michigan, Minnesota, and Indiana before beginning her graduate work in the Biology Department and then the School of Education at Indiana University Bloomington. In addition to her faculty position in the secondary science education program at the University of Louisville, Teddie was the program director for the



Environmental Education M.A.T., the Director of the UofL Center for Environmental Education, COO for the Bluegrass Bioneers [501(c)(3)] in partnership with the Bioneers, and the Education Director for the Partnership for a Green City for which the City of Louisville, the University of Louisville, Jefferson Community College, and the Jefferson County Schools Corporation worked together for community resiliency and meeting climate disruption challenges.

Currently, Teddie works remotely for the Indiana University Bloomington Integrated Program in the Environment, coordinating the Indiana State and Regional Envirothon(s), and as project specialist for broadening environmental research impacts and participation (making research more accessible to the general public). She also consults for program evaluation, is the District Director for the Hoosier Science Teachers Association, Inc., and on the advisory board of the Indianapolis Children's Museum's Lilly Women and Girls in STEM initiative. Teddie was very active with the Sassafras Audubon Society and city and county government.

Teddie and her husband, Rick, came to Stanwood, Washington, to be with Rick's mother during the pandemic and have made the commitment to stay. 🌿

Join the Education Committee!

Do you like to share your knowledge of birds? Are you passionate about educating the general public and the next generation of citizens about conservation and the environment? We are looking for volunteers for the PAS Education and Outreach Committee.

We participate in more than 10 events a year and would like to offer more. Formally trained teachers, experienced informal educators, those who are interested in exploring an education career and/or people who are just interested in sharing their love for birds will find opportunities to connect. Contact Teddie Mower at education@pilchuckaudubon.org. Please include if you are interested in tabling, teaching at events (activities), development of kits and/or curriculum, formal presentations, school programs and/or a combination and your experience level. Don't forget to include your contact information. 🌿



Long-billed Curlew | Mick Thompson Photo

Monthly Programs: What Interests You?

Are there topics you'd like to see covered at one of our monthly program meetings? Or are there types of talks you like to hear? For instance, are you more interested in the science of birds, tales from birding trips and adventures, learning about policies and legislation that affect birds, or something else entirely?

Let us know! We'd love to hear your ideas and suggestions so we can provide the programs you want to see.

Email Bill Derry (vice-president@pilchuckaudubon.org) or Brian Zinke (director@pilchuckaudubon.org) with your thoughts. Thanks!

Sparking Interest in Waterfowl Ecology, Conservation, and Management

By Kyle A. Spragens, WDFW Waterfowl Section Manager

In 2017, I was asked to participate as part of the writing team for the 2018 Update to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Since 1986, NAWMP has served as the guiding document for successful waterfowl and wetlands conservation through formalizing the shared responsibilities for these resources across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. This Plan has given rise to several critical partnerships, such as the **22 Habitat and Three Species Joint Ventures**, that strive to advance three common goals related to waterfowl populations, habitat, and people.

The **2018 NAWMP Update**, linked [here](#), was an opportunity to step back, reflect upon the previous three decades of this monumental effort, and to think ahead about how to continue to achieve these goals into the future.



It was a privilege to have the opportunity to absorb information from some of the great waterfowl minds over the past half-century and to interact with an energetic up-and-coming crop of biologists, managers, professors, and researchers, collectively the “waterfowl professionals” of tomorrow. One of my assignments was to create a section considering ‘A Need for Developing Skills and Training’ as part of this lofty and collaborative effort.

Quickly, it became apparent a couple of key aspects have significantly changed over the past 30+ years, but for which Washington state holds a unique opportunity and could play a pivotal role.

First, one of the most underappreciated foundations to the waterfowl ecology, conservation, and management profession was the number of universities that offered specialized training in waterfowl and wetland management. There have always been a limited core number of programs facilitating this fundamental training, but that number has unfortunately further reduced in the last two decades.

Second, the skillsets that define a “waterfowl professional” have concurrently broadened dramatically, as have the challenges facing waterfowl populations and their wetland habitats.

The good news is that, in many cases, a new cohort

of students have training in skills that would be extremely relevant to today’s waterfowl and wetland topics, but because of these documented declines in ‘waterfowl programs’ at universities, they have just not had an opportunity to connect the dots, for a variety of reasons. Case in point, currently, in the 12 Pacific Flyway states there are only four university programs that remain with a waterfowl-focused faculty member, all of whom are approaching retirement, and only one is a dedicated position. Not one of these is located in Washington state!

However, a group of universities known as “Cooperative Research Units” (CRUs) provide an extraordinary nexus between research and management, and Washington has the exceptional situation of having both the University of Washington and Washington State University as members of the CRUs.

The WDFW-Waterfowl Section, in keeping consistent with NAWMP recommendations, has made it a point to increase our interactions with a number of universities to reinvigorate waterfowl and wetland relevancy in the hopes of generating future projects here in Washington. Perhaps you know a high schooler or college student who has a deep passion for this resource, or you have hoped your alma mater would have more hands-on training to produce the waterfowl professionals of tomorrow.

What is the North American Waterfowl Management Plan?

More than 40 years ago, waterfowl populations in North America languished at historic lows. The waterfowl management community in the United States and Canada developed a strategy to restore them through habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement—an unprecedented recognition of the need for international cooperation to help recover these shared resources. This strategy became the [North American Waterfowl Management Plan](#).

Signed in 1986 by the U.S. and Canada and in 1994 by Mexico, the plan is the foundational bird conservation partnership upon which [many others have been built](#). Its vision of collaborative conservation is as relevant today as it was some three decades ago.

About Kyle Spragens ... In Washington State, we are fortunate to have Kyle Spragens as our WDFW Waterfowl Section Manager. Waterfowl management across the continent is far more than ducks and geese and management for hunting. Wetland and upland management/restoration and conservation is key to supporting our waterfowl populations during all seasons. Kyle is an advocate for our native waterfowl and the habitats that support them.

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
 - 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

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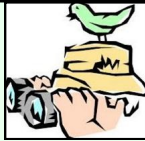
Send me these via e-mail (check all that apply & include your e-mail address above):

- Profile Newsletter Program Announcements Action Alerts

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

TRIP CALENDAR

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



No Birding Trips in July

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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