

Snohomish PUD Natural Resource Protections

June 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

June Program Meeting

Guest Speaker: Laura Zorick

The PUD aims to maintain our properties, lines, and facilities in the most sustainable way possible.

Supporting biodiversity ensures a healthy environment, whether it's installing a fish screen at a hydroelectric project, adjusting water temperatures to ensure proper fish development, leaving snags on our properties for birds and critters, or adding reflective materials to our power lines. Every project we undertake takes into consideration the environmental impact.



Bird flight diverter

When: June 11, 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:

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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/tZcpc-ypqjwGt1A2SQIMnsDrmVo7p6q0QGJ>



Insulator cover near nest

Membership Committee Chair Needed

We currently have a vacancy for Membership Committee Chair position and are seeking a volunteer to serve in this role. Per our bylaws, this position is also conferred a seat on our Board of Directors. To see what the position entails, please review the [position description](#).

Our membership is the backbone of our organization, so this position has a significant impact on our overall success in fulfilling our mission and conservation efforts. We're looking for someone who wants to help foster a welcoming environment and improve our outreach to communities we currently underserve. This position would also work closely with our Executive Director to achieve our goals.

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Brian Zinke at director@pilchuckaudubon.org.



Marbled Murrelet. Photo: Philip Dickinson

Marbled Murrelet | Phil Dickinson photo

TRIP CALENDAR

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



No Birding Trips in June

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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Board of Directors

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President's Report

By Allen Gibbs, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Board is tracking advisories and recommendations about returning to Audubon-sponsored in-person/hybrid hosted events. We are eager to resume "regular business." We are mindful of public health officials' directions and personal decision space as to vaccinations, masking, and social distancing, etc.

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (D-1st District) has acknowledged receipt of personal emails and letters from her PAS constituents urging her support of federal conservation issues supported by the National Audubon Society (NAS).

One request is to extend federal protection to the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NAS' position asks the Biden administration to reverse a Trump administration action which denied extended protection last December.

Another NAS request is to reverse the Trump administration's exemption of Alaska's Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Clinton Roadless Rule. The Clinton Roadless Rule (an Executive Order) prohibited road construction and logging on 58.5 million acres of the National Forest System across the US. The Trump exemption on September 24, 2020, includes the entire Tongass National Forest, which is the largest national forest (16.7 million acres) in the US. Headquarters is in Juneau. This is a temperate rainforest with many species of endangered flora and fauna.

Your PAS board on May 5, 2021, voted to support the Roadless Area Conservation Act (H.R. 279), of which Congresswoman DelBene is a cosponsor. There are 79 members of the House who are cosponsoring this bill, including all but one of Washington State's Democratic congresspersons. The one not yet signed is Marilyn Strickland of Tacoma (D-10th District). She is former mayor of Tacoma and is the newly-elected successor to Denny Heck, who is now our Lt. Governor. None of our three Republican representatives have signed.

H.R. 279 turns the Clinton Roadless Rule into federal law, which would override the Trump order. This bill "bars the Department of Agriculture from allowing the construction of roads, the reconstruction of roads, or logging in an inventoried roadless area where those activities are prohibited by the Roadless Rule (i.e., certain federal

regulations relating to roadless area managements)." That is essentially what the Clinton Roadless Rule of 2001 has done since January 2001.

H. R. 279 is now awaiting consideration in the US House committees of Agriculture and Natural Resources. DelBene encourages our continued support as the bill moves through the House and then the US Senate in the coming year. The same is true of the other Washington delegation cosponsors.

As to the Greater Sage-Grouse protection that the Trump administration did not support, a process tied to the passage of the FY 2021 federal omnibus spending bill last December denied protection of the Greater Sage-Grouse. That was the result of last year's threat to shut down the federal government by not passing Trump's omnibus appropriations bill.



Allen Gibbs

The FY 2022 appropriations bills are now being "built." Biden's 2022 Executive Budget Request was issued Friday, May 28, 2021. It will take a while to hear whether there is language directing the US Fish and Wildlife

Service in the Interior Department to add language giving the needed ESA protection. Special language may be required in the coming months as bill language is written in the Congress for budgets and appropriations. Congresswoman DelBene promises to seek that protection, so we must be alert to her future appeals for support of the new language.

Audubon Meetings

The virtual 2021 National Audubon Convention scheduled this year for July 16-17 has been postponed to early October 2021. New dates are to be determined.

Audubon Council of Washington (ACOW) planning is underway for an in-person/hybrid statewide chapter meeting. Please save September 24-26, 2021, for ACOW.

National and local chapter Audubon members can attend both events. There may be a small registration fee. 📌

Thomas Eddy Restoration Project Including Bob Heirman Wildlife Park

By Martha Jordan

The Bob Heirman Wildlife Park (BHWP) is a place that was created many decades ago by Bob Heirman and a few others who wanted to preserve river access for fishing folks and to create a wildlife preserve that would be available to the public. It has, for the most part, been left undisturbed and in a natural state as it floods regularly during the winter.

Over the years, Snohomish County Parks Department put together various plans for the park. None was ever implemented except for the parking and picnic area at the top of the hill. Shadow Lake, at the base of the bluff, is the largest night roost for swans during the winter in Snohomish County. The Snohomish River has been slowly eroding the dikes in this area and repairing or replacing them is not feasible.



Swans at Shadow Lake | Martha Jordan photo

Several years ago, the County used the public process to reach out about putting a restoration plan together for fish and flood issues with some wildlife considerations. The plan was completed but never implemented. Now, a similar project is moving forward that is substantially all about fish and flood issues

due to the funding source from the Salmon Recovery Fund Board.

The major restoration planning, in its early planning phase, is in the same area of the Snohomish River including the BHWP and Thomas Eddy area of the river. Pilchuck Audubon is working with the independent contractor to provide input on this project. Later this summer, comments will be open to the general public.

You can read more about this project at

<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5816/Thomas-Eddy-Restoration-Project>.

To learn more about the Bob Heirman Wildlife Park: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Heirman-Preserve-32>.



Ducks at dusk leaving the park from back areas of Shadow Lake | Martha Jordan photo

If you have any questions or have bird sightings or other observations about the park or have suggestions for what you would like to have at the park, please contact Brian Zinke, our Executive Director, at director@pilchuckaudubon.org. 🦞

Save the Date!
Puget Sound Bird Fest
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 will most likely 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. ✍



**Puget Sound Bird Fest Poster Art Contest
Call for Entries**

Puget Sound area artists are invited to submit original artwork representative of Puget Sound birdlife to be used to promote the 2021 Puget Sound Bird Fest taking place on September 11-12. To be consistent with past poster art, a vertical art orientation works best. A \$350 prize, sponsored by the Edmonds Arts Festival Foundation, will be awarded to the winner. The winner may offer the original and/or prints for sale during the festival.

2021 Festival Theme: Auks of Puget Sound

Deadline for entries to be received is **June 25, 2021**, and the winner will be announced on July 2.

For complete contest rules, please visit the [Puget Sound Bird Fest website](#) or [download the PDF here](#). ✍



2020 Puget Sound Bird Fest poster with winning artist featured.

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

Bird species counts have gone up this period and should increase more the next period as the Spring birds return to the Northwest.

Carole and Larry Beason reported 42 species from their home at Lake Bosworth. Their report included 16 American Coot, an American Goldfinch in the thistle, 4 American Widgeon, 24 American Robin, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Bald Eagle overhead, 4 Barrow's Goldeneye, 4 Band-tailed Pigeon, 11 Bufflehead, 2 Common Loon on the lake, 1 Common Raven flying over the trees, 14 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 6 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2 Hooded Merganser on the lake, an Osprey over the lake, 2 Pileated Woodpecker at the suet, 7 Purple Finch, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 10 Red-winged Blackbird, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 10 Tree Swallow, a Varied Thrush, and 4 Wood Duck on the lake.

Hilkka Egtvedt's bird species increased to 26 this period. Reporting from Mukilteo she listed 10 Band-tailed Pigeon, 2 Mourning Dove, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Rufous Hummingbird, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, an American Robin, 2 Fox Sparrow, 2 Song Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2 White-crowned Sparrow, 9 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Purple Finch, 2 House Finch, 12 Pine Siskin, and an American Goldfinch.

Kriss Erickson always has large numbers of chickadees listed in her report from Everett. This period she listed 18 Black-capped Chickadee and 9 Chestnut-backed Chickadee. Her total species count of 22 also included 4 Steller's Jay, 22 Bushtit, 8 American Crow, 8 American Robin, 9 House Finch, 4 Spotted Towhee, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 5 Northern Flicker, 6 Song Sparrow, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 17 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Varied Thrush, 6 Western Gull, and 2 Red-winged Blackbird.

Also reporting from Everett, Maureen Schmitz listed 3 American Robin, 3 Steller's Jay, 2 Spotted Towhee,

2 Black-capped Chickadee, 3 Dark-eyed Junco, 5 House Finch, 7 Bushtit, 2 Bewick's Wren, 2 Varied Thrush, 5 American Crow, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, 4 American Goldfinch, 3 European Starling, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, a Bald Eagle in the trees, 2 Great Blue Heron flying over, and a Pileated



Yellow-rumped Warbler | allaboutbirds.org

Woodpecker, for a total species count of 21.

Walter Zandi's report from Monroe included a Pileated Woodpecker, 5 Steller's Jay, 4 American Robin, a Rufous Hummingbird, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Song Sparrow, 2 American Crow, a Mourning Dove in the yard, a Downy Woodpecker at the suet, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Brown Creeper on a tree trunk, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a House Finch, and a Red-breasted Sapsucker, for a total species count of 21.

Reporting from Marysville, my total species count of 26 included an American Robin, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, 6 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 House Finch, 20+ Mallard Duck in the fields, 3 Northern Flicker, 6 Rock Dove on the wires, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Spotted Towhee, 4 Steller's Jay, a Song Sparrow, 2 Great Horned Owl in the woods, 2 Varied Thrush, a Great Blue Heron flying over, a Red-tailed Hawk, 5 Pine Siskin, 4 American Crow, a White-crowned Sparrow, 3 American Goldfinch, a Cooper's Hawk, and 5 Evening Grosbeak.

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

Meet the Tiniest Owl in the World

From *BirdNote*

As twilight deepens along a dry West Texas streambed, a tiny owl peers out from a hole in a sycamore tree. It's an [Elf Owl](#), the smallest species of owl in the world.

Standing less than six inches tall, feathered in gray with big yellow eyes, the Elf Owl weighs less than an ounce and a half—a bit less than a golf ball.

And it's a determined predator. Flying out from its tree cavity at dusk, the Elf Owl hunts beetles, crickets, and spiders, plus the odd lizard or mouse. Larger prey such as scorpions—with the stingers carefully removed—may end up cached in the nest for later dining.

Elf Owls live in woodlands and desert cactus habitats in southwest Texas and southern Arizona [*Editor's note: New Mexico, too!*]. In desert habitats, they often nest in woodpecker holes in tall saguaro cactus. They depart the US by October for warmer latitudes of Mexico, where insects are more available in winter. But spring comes early to the American Southwest, and the minuscule owls return by late February or March, ready to begin their breeding season. 🦉



Elf Owl | Photo: [Bettina Arrigoni](#)/Flickr CC (BY 2.0)



In Case You Missed It ...

We certainly miss seeing everyone in person. However, one of the benefits of online programs is that we can record them. We know you all have busy lives and can't always make the live presentations, so in case you missed one, below are the links to watch our line-up of recent programs. Enjoy!

A Dead Tree's Excellent Adventure

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

Making Your Yard a Bird Haven

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

Special Birds of Mount Rainier

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

Salmonella in Pine Siskins

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

Dead Birds Do Tell Tales: A Citizen Science Story

Presentation by Dr. Julia Parrish. [Watch the Recording](#) 🦉

Pilchuck Audubon Society Membership Information

Support your local Audubon chapter by becoming a member. PAS dues are tax deductible (consult your tax professional for details). The PAS tax ID number is 91-6183664.

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