

The White Geese of Winter March 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

March Program Meeting

Guest Speaker: Martha Jordan

Many white geese arrive each fall from their breeding grounds on Russia’s Wrangel Island to spend their winter in the Skagit Valley, Washington, and Frasier Delta, Canada. In the 1970s, this population of Snow Goose was in trouble, and much effort by Russia, Canada, and the U. S. was made to be sure they survived. They not only survived; they have thrived. The Wrangel Island population has grown exponentially over the decades and is now a concern to many waterfowl managers, farmers, and others throughout the Pacific Flyway as this increase in population creates an ever-growing throng of winter birdwatchers who drive an economic boom of ecotourism as well as a serious human-wildlife conflict with farmers and more.

This program will present information on how what we once knew about the Lesser Snow Goose no longer applies. Why are lots of snow geese now in eastern Washington? Learn about migration routes, where all these snow geese are wintering, how many there are, and the conflicts that rise with their growing numbers.

When: March 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Where: The comfiest spot in your home!



Snow Goose
© Rex Gulickard

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/tZUqcuGrrDMiH9bxDGQATGWLYfPa9cvwiwz>

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PAS Board of Directors—Volunteers Needed

Our annual officer elections in April are quickly approaching, and we are still in need of volunteers to serve on our Board of Directors. This year's election is very important to our chapter because we have several key positions open, including:

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

For unelected positions, we also are in need of:

- [Membership Committee Chair](#) (no term limit)

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 serving our chapter as our newest Board member.

If you have any questions about the positions, please reach out to Brian Zinke (director@pilchuckaudubon.org) or Allen Gibbs (conservation@pilchuckaudubon.org). 🦅

Online Birding Festivals

Wings Over Water

March 19-21, 2021

<https://www.wingsoverwaterbirdingfestival.com/>

Othello Sandhill Crane Festival

March 20, 2021

<https://www.othellosandhillcranefestival.org/>

Wings & Wetlands Festival

March 24-26, 2021

<https://www.wingsandwetlands.com/>

For those looking to expand their virtual festival activities beyond Washington state borders, this festival is near and dear to our Executive Director's heart. It is co-hosted by the Kansas Wetlands Education Center where he worked in graduate school and supports the conservation of Cheyenne Bottoms where he did his thesis research. 🦅



Sandhill Crane | Mick Thompson Photo

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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Consultant

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Webmaster	

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Executive Director/ Development Director	Brian Zinke..... director@pilchuckaudubon.org
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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>

Intermediate ID: The Little Brown Jobs

March 4, 11, 18, & 25; 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Led by Connie Sidles

If you've been confused, amused, and otherwise disabused of the notion that you'll ever be able to identify the Little Brown Jobs (also known as Little Brown Birds) that populate so many of our Northwest habitats, have no worries. Master Birder and nature author Connie Sidles will take you through the 30+ most look-alike LBJs of Washington State in four classes that will tune up your ID skills. The sparrows, finches, longspurs, and buntings that think of us as the balmy south or their year-round homes are waiting to be watched by curious humans. With the help of this class, you'll be ready and waiting to ID this challenging but rewarding group of birds.



Female Lazuli Bunting | ebird.org

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 on the UW campus. 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.

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

Who's calling, please? Introducing "birding by ear"

April 20 & 27; 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Led by Whitney Neufeld-Kaiser



Lapland Longspur | allaboutbirds.org

Identifying birds by their songs and calls can transform both your everyday life and your birding experience. This two-part class is perfect for folks who will be enjoying *Birding 101 with Elaine Chuang* at the Everett Public library on April 10 ([register for free library program](#)) or are just starting to recognize the sounds of birds in their neighborhood. We'll take a deep dive into the songs and calls of a few birds that are both common in Puget Sound and that have distinctive and diverse sounds. With the goals that (1) you'll come away having definitively mastered the sounds of at least one bird and (2) you'll have a solid foundation of skills to learn the sounds of as many birds as you fancy.

Pricing: \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members

Join Puget Sound Bird Observatory for the 2021 season of the
Regional Wetland Secretive Bird Monitoring Project

We need your help! Whether you have a few hours to offer or would like to take a deep dive into surveying wetland birds across the region, Puget Sound Bird Observatory (PSBO) project managers will match your availability with our needs for avian monitors across this project to seek out American Bittern, Sora, Virginia Rail, and Green Heron within the Puget Sound area. There will be approximately 200 wetlands that need surveying this season, each wetland has between 1 and 5 survey points with most sites having 3 points. Each point takes roughly 20 minutes to fully survey. The three survey windows for this year's effort span from March 29, 2021 to June 13, 2021 with lots of opportunity to choose dates and locations that meet your availability and willingness to travel. Additional information can be found on the website: www.pugetsoundbirds.org



COVID-19 safety protocols have been developed, including delivering full training manuals and remote tutorials for all community science participants.

We highly value the time and talent gifted us by community science participants across our region and provide all-encompassing training so that all levels of birders can participate. Helping with this unique bird surveying effort with PSBO is a great way to learn more about the birds and other wildlife in your local area. Surveying often takes you to areas that you would not normally visit and creates excellent opportunities to expand your bird sense. To participate in this effort, you will have training to develop skills such as GPS navigation, broadcast surveying, distance sampling, and habitat identification.

For additional information about the project and/or to volunteer to help with this project, please email Cindy Easterson at eastersonfamily@msn.com or call (425) 876-1055.

Membership Dues Changes Implemented

Last month we noted that our annual membership dues structure was receiving an update beginning in March. Those updates are now in effect, which 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. 🦋

The 2021 Legislature is now nearly two months into the session. The first “cutoff” was February 15. It was the last day to pass bills out of committee in houses of origin except House fiscal committees, Senate Ways and Means, and Transportation committees.

Some Audubon priority bills have died for lack of hearings. There are other cutoffs coming. “Dead now” doesn’t mean some bills won’t “rise” in different clothing later in the session. April 25 is the last day of the session.

Here is information from Audubon Washington’s excellent weekly report by Adam Maxwell. It is about Audubon’s top two policy and two budget priorities.

HB 1091 – Clean Fuel Standard: Passed out of the House Transportation Committee on February 19. House floor vote likely by the time you read this.

HB 1099 – Growth Management and Climate Change: Passed out of the House Appropriations Committee on February 22. Floor vote is expected in early March.

Conservation in the Operating Budget: It takes time for stakeholders to sort through this very complex package of often competing appropriation targets. Audubon is among those trying to restore cuts, especially to the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife conservation and restoration habitat projects. Some gains were made last session.

What’s new from last year’s session is needed restoration of shrub-steppe habitats in eastern Washington that were burned last summer. A campaign appeal to Audubon chapters on February 26 was directed to Governor Inslee and our legislators with a special ask for \$2.5 million. PAS board will vote March 2 on whether to sign a campaign letter.

Conservation in the Capital Budget: Pilchuck Audubon has a special interest in this budget!

For the third successive year, PAS may join other conservation, recreation, and wildlife organizations in getting funding for the Trust Land Transfer (TLT) program. This is to fund a top priority list of state trust transfers.

DNR did not submit that list this year, which includes the Morning Star Natural Resource Conservation Area near Spada Lake. It is part of the municipal watershed that serves most of Snohomish County’s residents and businesses. It contains uncommon forest and wildlife, including some old-growth trees.

The PAS board will vote on March 2 whether to again join many groups asking our legislators to fund

the TLT program. Other priorities are the Devil’s Lake Natural Resource Conservation Area Addition in Jefferson County, Blakely Island property in San Juan County, and Elgon Wetland in Kitsap County. Audubon chapters in those areas are supportive of the protection transfers.

This funding is for long-term infrastructure investments throughout the state in very, very long-term habitat restoration. Some of these are “for the birds,” meaning not outdoor recreation projects. There are investments for

both conservation and recreation purposes elsewhere in the state. Stakeholders agreed going into this session with agreement on an umbrella package, but not agreement on priority of funding levels. Discussions are underway, but the goal is full funding across the board as the Governor’s budget request is much less than what stakeholders want.

The campaign letter for the capital budget asks for \$1.5 million for shrub-steppe investments.

Other Legislation Being Tracked

Climate Commitment Act: The Senate Environment, Energy, and Technology Committee passed the bill by a vote of 7-3 on February 26. This is the only carbon pricing bill to pass a committee this session! Support is building toward the next Act hearing in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. So, great news!

This sets a cap on greenhouse gas emissions; sets up a market for allowances that the state’s largest emitters must purchase. Revenues from the purchase of allowances would be directed toward investment in decarbonization and climate resilience. 🌿



National Audubon’s Chapter Annual Report

With help of Cindy Easterson (Immediate Past President), Brian Zinke, and other PAS folk, it was my first time to prepare this report to National Audubon Society’s HQ. It was successfully completed mid-January. Recent word from NAS about the national 2019-2020 chapter reports is that 416 chapters participated. Early observations: 34,648 volunteers provided more than 740,000 hours in service. This engaged more than 445,000 people in communities in the US. This in spite of the pandemic taking hold last winter.

Congratulations and thanks to our PAS volunteers!

Allen Gibbs 🌿

President Biden Appointments

Tom Vilsack was confirmed by the US Senate as Secretary of Agriculture on February 23 by an overwhelming majority (92-7). This will be his third term in this office. He served as Ag Secretary through both Obama administrations (2009-2017). Back then, his approval was unanimous. He has a long "to-do list" ahead and two of them, climate change and racial equity, have challenged him and his predecessors and successor (Perdue). National Audubon Society back in the Obama years tried to build an effective campaign for agricultural conservation incentives. Pretty much dismissed by the Trump administration.

Nada Culver is the new Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management. Her assignment is on policy and programs. She is first in succession to the BLM Director. She has been National Audubon's vice president of public lands and

senior policy counsel in Denver. The BLM is a major agency in the Interior Department.

Culver has worked for National Audubon on devastating Trump-era decisions involving Greater Sage Grouse protection, shrinkage of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah, and Trump making it easier to gain permits for oil and gas exploration and development. Her work prior to Audubon was with The Wilderness Society as a member of its BLM Action Center in Denver. She arrives at BLM well prepared!

Congresswoman Deb Haaland (New Mexico-D) is the Interior Secretary nominee. She continues to be harangued by some Senate Republicans on behalf of the fossil fuel industries. She will be the first Native

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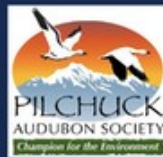
SATURDAY, APRIL 10 @ 10 AM



Pilchuck Audubon
BIRDING
101
with
ELAINE CHUANG



crowdcast.io/e/birding



Free, Online Program
Hosted by the Everett Public Library

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

What is it about birds that engages so many of us? Come enjoy a sampler of the many facets of birds and birding that are so captivating, and intersect a bit with life on the wing. The presentation will focus on our local avian fauna, their habits and habitats, and will include a virtual birding trip out in the field.

Elaine Chuang is a graduate of Seattle Audubon's Master Birder Class (2019) and a volunteer in Environmental Education programs with Seattle Parks and Recreation (public and school programs). She is also active in community science with organizations such as Pilchuck Audubon, Seattle Audubon, the Washington Ornithological Society, Puget Sound Observatory, and the Woodland Park Zoo. 🦅

December 26, 2020 to January 25, 2021

Hope everyone is cleaning their bird feeders daily to keep the birds from getting infected by salmonella carried by the Pine Siskins.

Carole and Larry Beason's report from Lake Bosworth included 14 American Coot, 8 Bufflehead, 40+ Canada Goose, 2 Common Merganser, 8 Mallard Duck, and 2 Wood Duck, all on the lake; and 5 Anna's Hummingbird, a Bald Eagle, 5 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Common Raven, 10 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Downy Woodpecker, 5 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, a Hutton's Vireo, 3 Mourning Dove, 4 Northern Flicker, 24+ Pine Siskin, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 18 Purple Finch, 30 Red-winged Blackbird, 5 Ring-necked Duck, 10 Spotted Towhee, and 4 Steller's Jay, for a total species count of 38.

Reporting from Mukilteo, Hilka Egtvedt listed a Cooper's Hawk, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, a Hairy Woodpecker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Steller's Jay, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 4 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 7 Bushtit, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, a Townsend's Warbler, 3 Spotted Towhee, a Fox Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 31 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 House Finch, and 50 Pine Siskin, for a total species count of 20.

Kriss Erickson's total species count of 19 from her home in Everett included 14 Black-capped Chickadee, 7 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 3 Bewick's Wren, 4 Steller's Jay, 23 Bushtit, 7 American Crow, 12 Western Gull, 5 American Robin, 21 Canada Goose flying overhead, 4 Spotted Towhee, 4 Downy Woodpecker, 6 Northern Flicker, 4 Song Sparrow, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 67 European Starling, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 12 Dark-eyed Junco, and 2 Mallard Duck.

Mary Sinker's report from Stanwood included 12 American Robin, 8 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 2 Barred Owl, 17 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Bewick's Wren, 2 Brown Creeper, 11 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 155 Dark-eyed Junco, 7 Downy Woodpecker, a Fox Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2 Great Blue Heron at the creek, 2 Great Horned Owl, 5 Hairy Woodpecker, 8 House Finch, 28 Mourning Dove, 7 Northern Flicker, a Pileated Woodpecker, 65 Pine Siskin, 2 Red-tailed Hawk, 75 Red-winged Blackbird, 11 Spotted Towhee, 14 Steller's Jay, 2 Varied Thrush, 4 White-crowned Sparrow, and 6 Winter Wren, for a total species count of 33.

Maureen Schmitz's report from her home in Everett

included 5 Bushtit, 5 House Finch, 2 Steller's Jay, 4 Dark-eyed Junco, a Townsend's Warbler, a Spotted Towhee, 1 Bald Eagle flying over, a House Wren, a Red-crowned Kinglet, 5 Black-capped Chickadee, 1 Varied Thrush, 9 Pine Siskin, a Bewick's Wren, a Golden-crowned Sparrow, and 3 American Crow, for a total species count of 17.

Reporting from Monroe, Walter Zandi listed a Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Northern Flicker, a Hairy Woodpecker, 18 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3 Spotted Towhee, 3 Steller's Jay, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Downy Woodpecker, a House Finch, 1 Fox Sparrow, a Song Sparrow, and a White-crowned Sparrow, for a total species count of 15.

My report from Marysville included 3 American Robin, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Cooper's Hawk (one hawk returns every day), 12 Dark-eyed Junco, 9 House Finch, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 25+ Mallard Duck in the fields, 4 Northern Flicker, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Song Sparrow, 4 Steller's Jay, 50+ Pine Siskin, 12 Tundra Swan in the fields, 6 Mourning Dove, 7 Red-necked Duck, a Pileated Woodpecker, 30+ Glaucous-winged Gull in the fields, a Varied Thrush, and 2 Great Horned Owl in the woods, 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 or call my cell phone at 425-750-8125. 📧

The Daily Herald Local Journalism Fund

This news is just in from Phil O'Connor, Executive Editor, *The Daily Herald*. More than \$250,000 in contributions has been made to the paper to help pay for its new Herald Environmental and Climate Change Reporting Fund and its earlier Investigative Reporting Fund.

With loss of advertising income during the pandemic, coupled with a long, slow decline in other revenues, the paper has not refilled behind some departing reporters and editors. Especially hard hit has been coverage of environmental and climate change news.

PAS is one of the many community environment and climate change groups supporting this effort by *The Herald* to rebuild reporting staff. Some groups have made contributions. PAS has not made a financial contribution. It does encourage financial support of same. Look especially for articles by Julie Titone. 📧

Federal Bills and Actions

American to hold a cabinet post in history! West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin (D), chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, after being quiet on her appointment, has, at this writing on February 26, declared support for her.

Federal Bills and Actions

Northern Spotted Owl Plan Freeze: “The Interior Department announced on February 23 a freeze of a controversial Trump administration plan to dramatically shrink the Northern Spotted Owl’s designated critical habitat.” This applies to BLM and National Forest System lands. (The quote is from a news release issued by Dr. John Talberth, President and Senior Economist, Center for Sustainable Economy.) So now we wait and see.

Wild Olympics Wilderness Act (HR 999): The bill passed the House of Representatives on February 26. It was part of a package of similar bills titled the “Protecting America’s Wilderness and Public Lands Act”, which provides protection to other areas around the United States. The Wild Olympics Act permanently protects 126,000 acres of public land and 19 rivers and their major tributaries on the Olympic Peninsula.

Pilchuck Audubon with other Washington Audubon chapters has supported various Wild Olympics bills over the past 15 or so years. Now-retired Congressman Norm Dicks introduced the first bill. The bill that passed was sponsored by Congressman Derek Kilmer (D-6th District). A similar bill has been sponsored by Senator Patty Murray in the Senate. Look for action on the Murray bill this year.

Bill supporters worked with local and regional stakeholders including the Peninsula timber industry and more than 800 regional businesses, farms, faith leaders, sportsmen groups, elected officials, conservation, outdoor recreation, and civic groups. More than 12,000 Peninsula residents as well as groups and individuals elsewhere in Washington state also signed petitions and wrote letters. ✍

TRIP CALENDAR

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

No Birding Trips in March



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](#)

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.

- 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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ ZIP _____
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Send me these via e-mail (check all that apply & include your e-mail address above):

- Profile Newsletter
- Program Announcements
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