

Measuring the Impact of Military Flights on the Olympic Peninsula Soundscape

May 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

May Program Meeting

Guest Speaker: Lauren Kuehne



Noise is expected in urban settings, but what happens when noise infiltrates rural and wilderness areas, even one of the country's most beloved National Parks? In this talk, environmental scientist Lauren Kuehne shares results of several years' work to measure the extent of noise pollution on the Olympic Peninsula from military training flights by some of the most powerful aircraft in the world. Transition to these aircraft (called Growlers) was completed in 2015, and flights have increased over time, along with complaints from residents and visitors. The US Navy is set to increase the number of flights again in 2021.

Ms. Kuehne will discuss results from the monitoring work as well as the broader picture of policy and regulatory processes related to aircraft noise pollution in wilderness (and urban) areas. This work has been covered in the last year by local and regional media outlets, including *The Seattle Times*, *The Tacoma News Tribune*, and *The Olympian*, so this talk is an opportunity to hear about the science directly. Ms. Kuehne will also present on a [citizen-science based research project](#), of which she is currently a part, on the Olympic Peninsula to evaluate the response of indicator birds to different forest management practices.

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To learn more about Ms. Kuehne and her work, you can visit her website here: <https://laurenkuehne.wordpress.com/>.

When: May 14, 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/tZIf-Chpz4iGNCpN2wjlqzAsHcbrXgRpSD>

President's Report

By Allen Gibbs, President, Pilchuck Audubon Society

The first session of the 2021-2022 Washington Legislature ended Sunday, April 25, with great news! I pass along to you Adam Maxwell's thanks for the victories. He is Audubon Washington's Campaign Manager for legislative and policy work. Look elsewhere in this edition of PROFILE (see Page 3) for his report.

Many thanks to the Pilchuck Audubon boards, members, and friends going back to at least 2014 when climate change, carbon emission reduction, and clean fuel standards emerged as national topics in search of Washington State advocates on behalf of birds. Some of you will remember the "wee hour" I-5 **Lobby Day** bus ride pools bringing conservationists from Bellingham, Mt. Vernon, and South Everett and then off to Olympia to meet our respective state legislators to advocate for the birds.

All of this year's successes have deep roots, and, as evidenced by a few "battle scars" earned along the way, we can celebrate! Training sessions provided by National Audubon Society and Audubon Washington have proven their worth! We have more success with fewer scars, and better relations with our legislators, even those who disagree with the "how" but now agree with the need.

Legislators of both parties have earned a rest in dealing with these exceptional times and challenges. But headlines in recent *Everett Herald* stories by columnist Jerry Cornfield suggest their rest may not be a long one. Cornfield writes the challenge is to find ways to implement funding of the cap-and-trade system, which puts a price on carbon emissions and a low-carbon fuel standard.


Governor Jay Inslee says he may call a Special Session for legislators to reach agreement on how to finish their work. That may come soon; it may come next fall, but it must be reengaged before the "short session" in January 2022.

Audubon, with many other climate change and environmental groups, will definitely pursue to the successful conclusion of these important victories! Do read Adam's report for details. ✍

TRIP CALENDAR

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

No Birding Trips in May



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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Good things come to those who persist, and over the course of the last few days, years of diligent advocacy from our Audubon network paid off with some major victories for conservation and climate. On Sunday night (April 25), legislators wrapped up an especially productive legislative session for our priorities. Here are the highlights.

Climate

In our third year of championing a Clean Fuel Standard, the state legislature proved that the third time truly is a charm. Transportation emissions (44% of Washington's carbon emissions) are a clear and present climate danger and a significant threat to bird health. This policy is a tremendous step in the right direction for birds and people, limiting emissions from transportation while making important investments in transportation electrification and cleaner-burning fuels.

Audubon Washington has been working with legislators and climate advocates for years to find an equitable path to pricing carbon pollution. This year, two significant carbon pricing bills were proposed and one of them, a cap and invest bill proposed by Governor Inslee, passed with our support.

Passage of these two policies is game-changing for Washington State's approach to climate change.

In a partial victory, the legislature allocated budget dollars to the Department of Commerce to develop a model framework for counties to plan for a changing climate under the Growth Management Act (GMA). This will be helpful to counties that voluntarily choose to incorporate climate resilience into their comprehensive plans and, if we can pass legislation requiring the GMA incorporate climate change planning in 2022, will serve as the model climate change element under an updated GMA.

Puget Sound

The legislature funded important conservation grant programs at near-record levels, supporting acquisition and restoration projects across Puget Sound. We also helped pass legislation updating our state's shoreline regula-

tions to require landowners to use least-impactful alternatives when replacing shoreline armoring.

There is still much to be done at the state, local, and federal level, which is why we're so excited to be hiring a Puget Sound Program Manager. Help us find the right person to advance Puget Sound recovery by [sharing this job description](#).

Columbia Basin

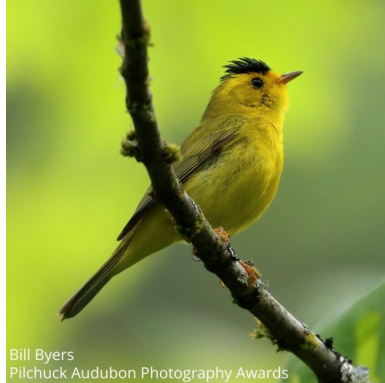
After a pandemic-related setback last year, we successfully revived funding for a program at Washington State University's Energy Program aimed at properly siting solar energy in the Columbia Plateau. Our state office conceived of this project shortly after helping to pass the Clean Energy Transformation Act. It will be modeled after [a successful process in California](#) and an exemplar for future stakeholder-driven energy-siting processes. We're confident it will help mitigate conflict in our state's sunniest region, expediting well-sited solar arrays on our way to 100% clean energy.

We also helped secure critical funding for much-needed post-fire recovery in the shrub-steppe. After last year's Labor Day fires, our volunteer network mobilized to help with immediate, post-fire seeding. Those same volunteers (and many more) showed up big during the legislative session to pass this important funding package, with 700 individuals and 50 organizations joining a sign-on letter calling for well-funded sagebrush recovery.

Environmental Justice

Another long-term effort, the HEAL Act, passed the House and Senate last week and is on its way to the Governor's desk. The HEAL Act (also known as the Healthy Environment for All Act) defines environmental justice in state law and instructs state agencies to incorporate principles of environmental justice into their day-to-day activities. We were proud to join our partners at Front and Centered, among others, to educate legislators on the importance of ensuring environmental policies also right historic wrongs.

Together we are so strong, capable of steering local, state, and federal policy toward habitat protection and a stable climate. We're immensely grateful to our network of Audubon advocates for their active commitment to protecting birds, people, and the incredible landscape that makes Washington State such a special place to call home. ✍️



Bill Byers
Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards
Wilson's Warbler | Bill Byers
Photo, Pilchuck Audubon Society
2020 Photography Awards

Birdathon Is On!

May 1-31

Birdathon has begun! But it's not too late to sign yourself or your team up to participate in our friendly birding competition and fundraiser. If you'd like to join the fun, you can [register here](#).

What is Birdathon?

Birdathon is a uniquely Audubon way to help protect native birds. It is a friendly competition to see who can see the most birds and raise the most money while doing it. Similar to a walk-a-thon, participants collect pledges from family, friends, work colleagues, and others who want to support Pilchuck Audubon. But instead of getting a pledge of \$1.00 per mile walked, participants ask for a pledge for each bird species seen by a person or team. Alternatively, you can donate a fixed amount to support a team if you're worried about them racking up a lot of species and breaking the bank!

Teams bird throughout the month of May and try to see as many species as possible. They report regularly, and we update each team's species count on our website so you can follow along.

At the end of the month we tally up the species counts and pledges made and see who comes out on top!

We had great participation last year, and we're setting our sights high again this year.



PILCHUCK AUDUBON'S
BIRDATHON
IS ON!
May 1 - 31, 2021

Join us in our most exciting fundraiser of the year!
Birding & Fundraising Competition
Photography Contest
www.pilchuckaudubon.org/birdathon

Rufous Hummingbird
Photo: Rex Guichard



Kyle Rohlfing
Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards

Barred Owl | Kyle Rohlfing Photo, Pilchuck Audubon Society 2020 Photography Awards

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 this year!

We hope you'll join us by creating your own birding team, submitting photos to our bird photography contest, sponsoring a team, or making a general donation to our Birdathon. And if you're on Facebook, you can even [create a fundraiser on our behalf!](#)

[Make a donation toward Birdathon and help us achieve our goal!](#)

[Learn more about Birdathon or follow along this month to see how our teams do!](#)

Thank you for your continued support!

Submit Your Bird Photos!

Birdathon Photography Contest

Our Birdathon photography contest is now accepting submissions!

Enter your best bird photos for a chance to win great prizes, including gift cards from our amazing sponsor [Kenmore Camera!](#)

All entry fees go to support our incredibly important work of protecting and giving voice to the birds, so please consider supporting us by entering or making a general donation to Birdathon. Thank you!

[Read the official contest rules and how to submit your photos.](#) 🖋️

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Great Backyard Bird Count Results Are In!

Since 2013, when the Great Backyard Bird Count began saving data in eBird, participation has continued to increase. This year was no different, and we broke records for participation once again! New this year was the option to submit sightings with the Merlin app, and birders flocked to the new submission method.

Here are the numbers:

- 6,436 species of birds identified
- 190 participating countries
- 379,726 eBird checklists
- 479,842 Merlin Bird IDs
- 151,393 photos added to Macaulay Library
- 300,000+ estimated global participants

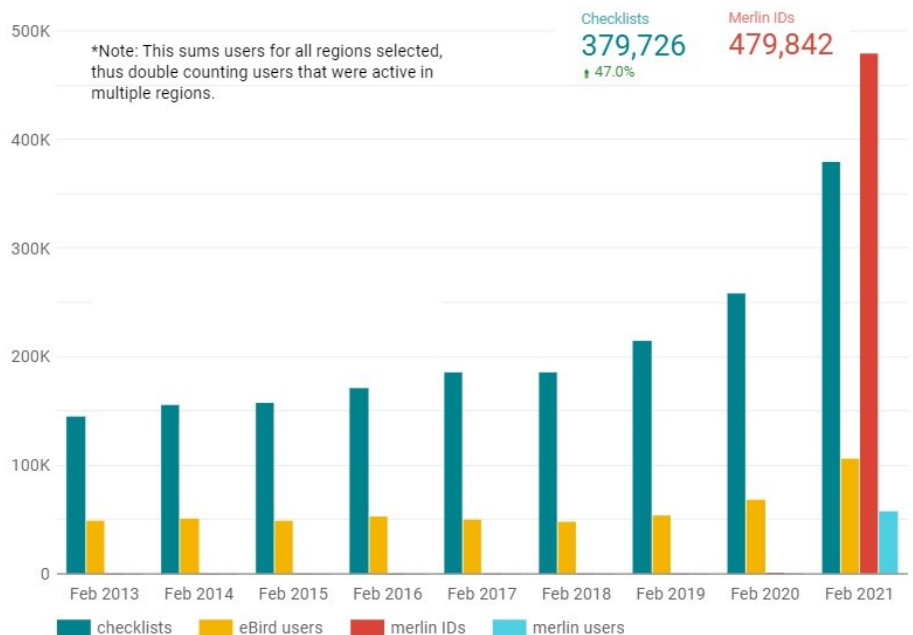
Top 3 Countries:

- United States (250,000+ checklists)
- Canada (43,465 checklists)
- India (33,438 checklists)

The Great Backyard
Bird Count



Participation from Around the World Over Time



Some Random Thoughts from Bill Derry



As the new Vice President of PAS, Bill Derry brings experience from a career in environmental issues.

Early in his career Bill worked in park planning and writing environmental impact statements (10 years). He started and managed the Snohomish County Surface Water Management Division (9 years), where he led development of watershed plans, stormwater regulations, lake restoration, flood management plans, and salmon habitat planning and restoration.

Bill then went to work for CH2MHILL where he provided consulting for local and state governments throughout the West Coast in watershed planning, stormwater utility creation and planning, stormwater design, and low-impact development design manuals (18 years). He provided training to local governments on the Department of Ecology's stormwater design manual.

While still in his twenties, Bill served as Vice President and Program Committee Chair for the Bighorn Audubon Society in Sheridan, Wyoming, and taught a two-hour class in ornithology at the local community college in Sheridan. He taught geology at Edmonds Community College for four years.

Bill served on the Board of Directors for People for Puget Sound for six years and was Board Chair and corporation President for three years.

Bill plays guitar and sings. He also writes, records, and performs with a band that plays rock music for dancing at parties, weddings, and bars. He says, "I also perform more mellow music solo for parties."

Welcome to Pilchuck Audubon, Bill! ✍️

I am excited to be starting a new role as vice president of the Pilchuck Audubon Society. I was asked to provide some thoughts for the newsletter as I start my new role.

After a career in environmental issues and now retired, I realize I have forgotten most of the details about birds, water and soil chemistry, hydrology, and other technical issues. But I find my thoughts coalesce around certain themes. So here goes.

A shared vision of watershed management

Working with watershed management in British Columbia in the late 1990s, I came up with the phrase "a shared vision of science-based watershed management" to guide our work. People need to be able to visualize what the outcome of our work can be. That vision must be shared and supported or our work will not be implemented. It must be science-based to provide some assurance that we are doing the right thing in the long-term, not just what is politically fashionable now. And we need plans that are adopted and implemented through a long-term, financially-supported management program. Good information leads to understanding, understanding leads to engagement in a participatory process, engagement leads to support, and support leads to implementation.

Put the forest back

To save orcas, restore salmon. To restore salmon, restore forests and riparian areas. To restore forests and riparian areas, write and enforce better land-use laws, plans, and regulations (support Futurewise). Of course, that's not all. We also need to remove some key dams and manage harvest and hatcheries intelligently.

"The hard work of hope"

Two years ago, I spoke at a watershed conference on Vancouver Island and "the hard work of hope" was one of the topics from another speaker. With unending population growth, continuing environmental decline, and indifference from people, it's sometimes hard to be hopeful. But we must be hopeful. If one teenager from Sweden can inspire people all over the world, there is hope. If we look, we see successes. For example, look at the on-going restoration of the Snohomish River delta (I had a small part in this). It's inspiring and impressive. We must stand up and continue the fight but also celebrate victories along the way.

Generational decline

In the 1990s, a French writer explained that each generation grows up and sees the environment as it is and accepts that as normal and believes that protection is what is needed. But the environment has declined continually, so, by itself, protection assures continued decline. We can never protect everything or even all the high-priority things. We must engage youth and lead them to understand that we need to restore and enhance in addition to protecting. To engage youth, we must reach out to them where they are: in schools, their social media, clubs, events, and activities. Audubon has an advantage

Continued on Page 8, Random Thoughts

I can't believe the Dark-eyed Juncos are still here. They are usually gone by now. The Pine Siskins are still around also, but not as many.

Carole and Larry Beason had an interesting start to March. They spotted their first Tree Swallows on March 8 and the first Rufous Hummingbird for the season on March 14. Their total species count of 40 included 42 American Crow, 12 American Robin, 3 Anna's Hummingbird, 3 Bald Eagle (2 immature) flying around, 6 Brewer's Blackbird under the feeders, 6 Bufflehead on the lake, 2 Common Raven, 14 Dark-eyed Junco, 3 Downy Woodpecker, 7 Golden-crowned Sparrow in the chicken yard, 4 Hooded Merganser, 6 Mourning Dove, 3 Northern Flicker, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 6 Purple Finch, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 42 Red-winged Blackbird, 3 Ring-necked Duck, 7 Spotted Towhee, 7 Tree Swallow, and 2 Wood Duck.



Mick Thompson
Pilchuck Audubon Photography Awards

Wood Duck | Mick Thompson Photo

Hilkka Egtvedt's report from Mukilteo listed a Cooper's Hawk, 4 Band-tailed Pigeon, an Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 2 Northern Flicker, 2 Steller's Jay, 2 American Crow, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Bewick's Wren, a Fox Sparrow, 2 Song Sparrow, 2 Golden-crowned Sparrow, 9 Dark-eyed Junco, a Purple Finch, 2 House Finch, and 15 Pine Siskin, for a total species count of 20.

Reporting from Stanwood, Mary Sinker listed 31 American Robin, 7 Anna's Hummingbird, 2 Bald Eagle, 2 Barred Owl, 12 Black-capped Chickadee, 9 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 63 Dark-eyed Junco, 5 Downy Woodpecker, a Fox Sparrow, a Song Sparrow, a Great Blue Heron at the creek, 2 Great Horned Owl in the trees, 4 Hairy Woodpecker, 15 Mourning Dove, 7 Northern Flicker, a Northern Pygmy-Owl in the yard, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 3 Pine Siskin, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, a Red-tailed Hawk, 32 Red-winged Blackbird, 6 Song Sparrows, 11 Spotted

Towhee, 12 Steller's Jay, 7 Varied Thrush, 3 White-crowned Sparrow, and 4 Winter Wren, for a total species count of 38.

Maureen Schmitz's report from Everett lists 2 Steller's Jay, 2 Townsend's Warbler, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, a Bewick's Wren, 5 American Crow, 2 Black-capped Chickadee, 6 American Robin, a Pileated Woodpecker, a Northern Flicker, 1 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 House Finch, 2 Song Sparrow, a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 2 Spotted Towhee, 2 Pine Siskin, 2 Bushtit, and a Golden-crowned Sparrow, for a total species count of 17.

Reporting from Monroe, Walter Zandi reported a Pileated Woodpecker at the suet, 4 Steller's Jay, 2 Hairy Woodpecker, 7 American Robin, 3 Varied Thrush, 12 Dark-eyed Junco, 2 Anna's Hummingbird, 5 Black-capped Chickadee, 2 Spotted Towhee, a Song Sparrow, 2 American Crow, 2 Mourning Dove, 7 Pine Siskin, 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a Brown Creeper on a tree trunk, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, a House Finch, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, 3 Northern Flicker, and a Winter Wren on the roadside singing, for a total species count of 22.

My count from my home in Marysville included 14 American Robin, 4 Black-capped Chickadee, a Cooper's Hawk, 17 Dark-eyed Junco, 4 House Finch, 10 Bushtit, 20+ Mallard Duck in the fields, a Mourning Dove, 4 Northern Flicker, 5 Ring-necked Duck in a pond, 2 Pileated Woodpecker, 4 Spotted Towhee, 4 Steller's Jay, 2 Varied Thrush, a Song Sparrow, and 2 Great Horned Owl calling to each other in the woods, for a total species count of 19.

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. 🦉

Some Random Thoughts, *continued from Page 6*

here because of bird-watching activities. Young people can be interested and inspired by being taught to see the birds all around them.

Good habitat benefits multiple species

What is good for salmon is good for birds is good for our future. This seems self-evident to me. But, remembering when my college math professor said "It's self-evident," this may need some explanation. Salmon need:

- healthy oceans,
- near shore marine habitat for juveniles,
- estuaries for rearing and acclimating to salt water,
- forested riparian areas to provide food, cover, and cool water,
- clean gravel and cold water for spawning, and
- old-growth forests to provide stable and cool flows.

These are the same habitats needed by most birds. Some birds use many of these (e.g., marbled murrelets), and some are uniquely evolved to only one (spotted owls and old-growth forests).

It's a long timeline

It's a long, never-ending fight. Early in my career I had a sense that, if we just accomplished certain things, we would protect the environment. I had a sense that someday we would "get there." We develop five- and ten-year plans, but we need to think in terms of 50 and 100 years. It's taken us 150 years to get here. It will take us time to succeed.

Multiple fronts

When I was in college, I decided that there are only two ways to protect habitat: educate the public and buy the land. I saw good regulations changed or eliminated with the next election. Of course, this is an oversimplification. We need better land-use plans and better regulations. We need enforcement of those regulations, and we need funding to provide enforcement. We need private and public funding for purchase and management of habitat—without ongoing management, the habitat will be damaged by people or over-run with invasive species or degraded by other means.

None of us needs to do all these things, but each of us can help with part of it and make things better. ✍

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
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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.

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